

# TOWN OF VERNON

## Office of the Mayor

14 Park Place • Vernon, CT 06066

Tel: (860) 870-3600 • Fax: (860) 870-3580

[www.Vernon-CT.gov](http://www.Vernon-CT.gov)



### MEDIA ADVISORY

October 21, 2021

#### Press Contact:

David Owens, Communications Specialist

Desk (860) 870-3574

Cell (860) 494-5973



**Daniel A. Champagne**  
*Mayor*

**Michael J. Purcaro**  
*Town Administrator*

**Dawn R. Maselek**  
*Assistant Town Administrator*

## Vernon Rocks Coalition and Vernon Police Host Drug Take Back Day at Rockville Walgreens

### *Unwanted and Unused Prescription Medications, Vapes can be Dropped Off*

**(VERNON, Connecticut)** – The Vernon Rocks Coalition and Vernon Police are hosting a Drug Take Back Day event on Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Rockville Walgreens, 188 Union Street, Vernon.

People can easily and safely drop off unwanted and unused prescription medications, as well as electronic smoking devices. People from Vernon and beyond are welcome to bring these items for free disposal.

Opioid deaths have increased during the pandemic and leftover medications in homes can place young people or those struggling with addiction at risk.

“Leftover and unneeded medications can be misused and pose a real danger,” Vernon Mayor Dan Champagne said. “This free program is a great way to make our homes and community safer.”

Although Vernon Police are co-sponsors of the event, people can dispose of medications no questions asked.

“Taking a few minutes to go through your cabinets and medicine chest and pull out medications you no longer need or use can help prevent addiction and save lives,” said Michelle Hill, Vernon’s Director of Youth Services and Chairperson of Vernon Rocks. “Bring those medications out to Walgreens on Saturday and we will make sure they are disposed of properly and safely.”

For people who cannot make it on Saturday, unneeded prescription medications can always be placed in a drop box in the lobby at the Vernon Police Department, 725 Hartford Turnpike.

In April, Vernon Rocks and Vernon Police collected 205 pounds of unwanted medications.

E-cigarettes and vapes can also be dropped off at the take back event. Batteries should be removed.

### **About the Vernon Rocks Coalition**

Vernon ROCKS is a collaboration of community stakeholders, parents, youth, and volunteers, whose focus is to prevent the use of drugs and alcohol in Vernon's youth by promoting protective factors and decreasing risk factors that contribute to substance use.

### **About the Town of Vernon**

The Town of Vernon is a celebrated place to live, work and visit. From its beautiful parks and lakes, to its vast trails and historic homes and buildings, Vernon is a resilient and thriving community that promotes the health and wellbeing of its residents and values the natural environment. With a resident population of approximately 30,000 and occupying 18.03 square miles, Vernon combines a balanced appreciation of history, and a strong economic base for growth, both residential and commercial. Located 15 minutes east of the Connecticut capital of Hartford, and 25 miles from the City of Springfield, Massachusetts, the Town of Vernon is strategically located in "New England's Knowledge Corridor" with close proximity to some of the top colleges and universities in the country.

Designated a certified Sustainable Community, the Town of Vernon offers a wide range of benefits and services to its residents. The Town of Vernon is a full-service municipality that practices a management philosophy of continuous quality improvement. To learn more about the Town of Vernon, please call (860) 870- 3670 or visit [www.vernon-ct.gov](http://www.vernon-ct.gov).

**###**