

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



MEDIA ADVISORY

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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 Recognized for Excellence in Financial Reporting *Town Earns Award for 30th Straight Year*

(VERNON, Connecticut) – For the 30th straight year, the Town of Vernon’s Finance Department has been recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) with a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

“It’s critical for government to be open and accountable to residents and taxpayers,” Vernon Mayor Dan Champagne said. “Ensuring our financial reports are in proper order and accessible to those who want to review them is a hallmark of accountability and open government.”

The award followed an examination of Vernon’s annual comprehensive financial report for the year ended June 30, 2020. An impartial panel of judges found the work of Vernon’s Finance Department continued to meet high standards and demonstrate a constructive “spirit of full disclosure” in communicating the Town’s financial condition.

“This continued recognition by GFOA is testimony to Vernon’s ongoing commitment to responsible and transparent financial planning,” said Jeff O’Neill, Vernon’s Finance Officer and Treasurer. “Creating a comprehensive financial report that meets GFOA’s exacting standards is a significant accomplishment and consistent with Vernon’s values, including transparency and accountability. The achievement is also a testament to the work of Vernon Controller Frank Zitkus, who does an exceptional job preparing and presenting the report each year.”

Town Administrator and Emergency & Risk Manager Michael Purcaro said Vernon’s Finance Department plays a crucial role in the daily operation of Town government through careful management of revenue and expenses and the guidance it offers each day on how tax dollars are best utilized.

“Just as important is the continued oversight that comes after the fiscal year ends, through the preparation of financial reports and the annual audit,” Purcaro said. “The excellence demonstrated each day by Jeff, Frank and all of our colleagues in the Finance Department is why Vernon continues to earn this prestigious award.”

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.

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