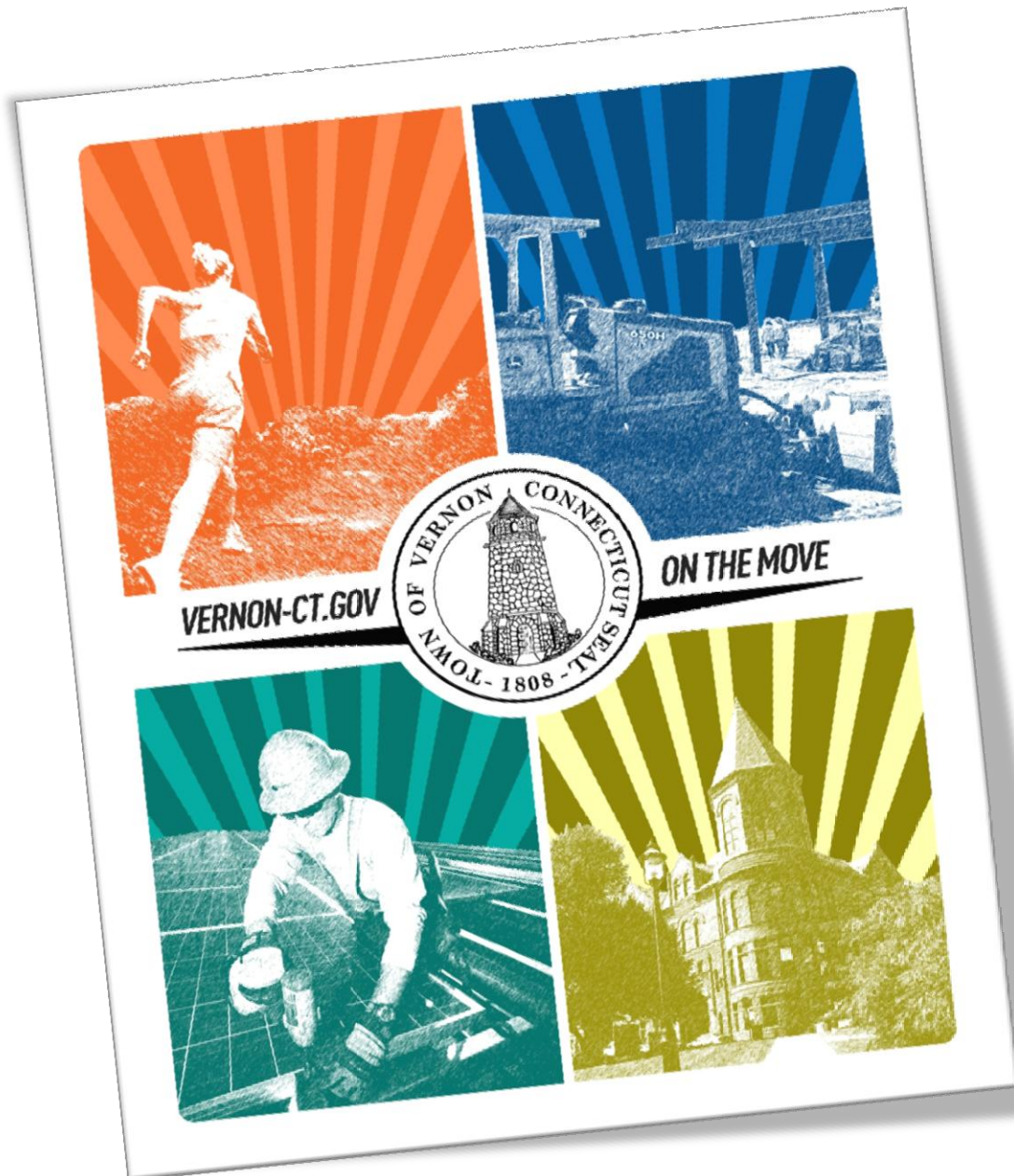


Town of Vernon, Connecticut



2012-2013
ANNUAL TOWN REPORT

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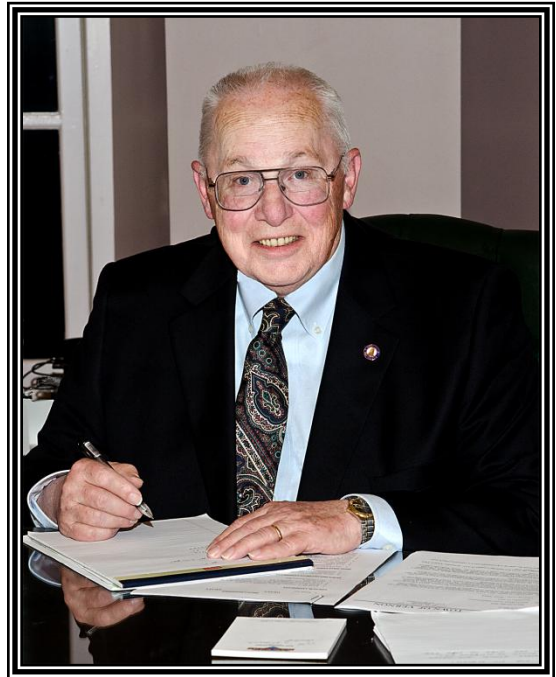
THE MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Town of Vernon
14 Park Place
Vernon, Connecticut

Dear Fellow Residents:

As we finish fiscal year 2012-2013, I am honored to present to you the Town of Vernon – Annual Town Report. Through this document, the Office of the Mayor has the opportunity to share with the citizens of Vernon the many accomplishments of the year and the changes that have taken place.

I am happy to report that the Town of Vernon has been recognized in the following areas: **"Top 100 Safest Municipalities"**; the Strong Farm, on West Road has been placed on the **State Register of Historic Places** and Superintendent of Schools, Mary P. Conway, was named **"Outstanding School Superintendent"**, by the NEAG School of Education at UCONN.



In addition to outside recognition, it is important that we recognize the work of those employees who have gone above and beyond their own position work to assist the Town. John D. Ward, Town Administrator and Dwight Ryniewicz, DPW Supervisor stepped up when their immediate supervisors became ill. It is important that these types of exemplary employees be recognized for their work on behalf of the citizens of Vernon. These two individuals did their own work and that of their supervisors for in excess of 90 days and did it well.

We had one new department head hired during the 2012-2013 fiscal year. Robert Sigan became our Data Processing Director and began the process of returning the department to a true shared entity between the Board of Education and the Town's general government. A four year technology plan was written, and a TeC Council was developed to help manage the immense amount of work needed to have this merged department run efficiently. The four year technology plan will help to regulate the purchases of the departments by setting standards and organizational guidelines relative to equipment purchasing. Standardization is the ultimate goal in everything this department does.

Moving on to our community focus during 2012-2013, we continue to work with ECHN to stay informed relative to their plans for changes at the hospital and within ECHN at large. ECHN continues to be a not-for-profit and is governed by their Board of Directors, nonetheless those choices impact the Town of Vernon and we must be ever vigilant where they are concerned.

In the center of Rockville, our attention was focused on the development of Amerbelle Mill. Most recently we have applied for a \$200,000 EPA Brownfields grant and we await word on its award. This Amerbelle Mill has recently changed hands and continues to be on the radar screen of Administration as the new owners assess their options. Amerbelle, the company, has closed its doors for business, a sad day for Vernon and its history. With the assistance of Congressman Courtney we continues to work on funding options for this project and our Economic Development Director is always working to find answers to so many of the questions surrounding this property.

In terms of new projects, the buildings directly across from Town Hall are being considered for purchase and development by a company from East Hartford, First Alliance. First Alliance is in the beginning stages of preparing plans and has brought those conceptual plans to a Town Council meeting to give us a sneak preview of their ideas. The initial scope includes from Bank of America/Court Street to the Town of Vernon Building Department/West Main Street. There will be more to report as this project develops.

In terms of the 2012-2013 budget, the Board of Education ran a \$1.5 million dollar deficit. It was an incredibly difficult project to bridge this gap in spending. The good news is that through this process we have developed procedures to modify this situation, using the Charter's strict rules of visibility and corrective action, ensuring this will not happen again. Going forward, both the General Government and BOE YTD expenditures are presented to the Town Council at the second meeting of every month. This report will give the Council the visibility they need to track spending.

In the General Government budget, as an Administration our approach was very conservative. We worked with all seven labor contracts to get the best deal possible for the employees and the taxpayers. In the future these contracts will be staggered instead of being negotiated all at the same time. This will allow future Administrations time to concentrate on individual contracts and not the block of seven. We continued to work on saving taxpayer dollars, many areas of the budget were reworked, rebid or consolidated to save valuable dollars. In this economy vendors are hungry and discounts are available for the asking. Staying on top of our contractual obligations for copiers, and consumables like cell phones has created many opportunities for budget savings.

During this process of budget development, my administration made some changes to promote efficiency with maintenance dollars, both in materials and employee hours. To build on the previous administrations sharing of the DPW Director's time with the BOE and the maintenance of their buildings, I took the next step of bringing on board all the maintenance employees of the Parks Department in an effort to bring all these functions under one roof. This is working, by all accounts, quite well. There are efficiencies both in time savings and equipment. We will continue to work this angle to get the most savings possible.

One thing we can't control is the reimbursements from the State of Connecticut and this has had a major impact on the 2012-2013 budget. We were shorted \$1.0 million dollars this year that needed to be made up. It was difficult but we got it done.

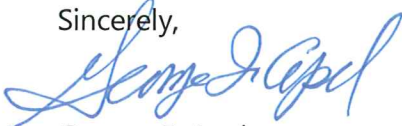
a devastating impact to the tax bills sent to our residents. While I appreciate the sentiment, we must continue to work to keep our taxes affordable for ALL the residents of Vernon.

Another factor that helps to keep your taxes down is grants that can fund projects such as roads, sidewalks and mill repair and renovation. The Town of Vernon applied for many grants this year through Capital Regional Council of Governments – to reconstruct South Street, Old Talcott Brothers Mill – renovation and the Loom City Lofts project, receiving over \$9.4 million dollars. Loom City Lofts and Old Talcott Brothers Mill are private projects, but, they enhance the appearance of the Vernon economic landscape and that is important to every taxpayer.

Going forward we are doing our best to investigate the upgrade to the Town's phone systems and to make sure we stay current with technology and economic development. We will continue to work for the best interests of the citizens of Vernon and I hope that the citizens of Vernon respect the job we are doing.

It has been my pleasure to serve the residents of Vernon this year and I look forward to keeping in touch with each and every one of you.

Sincerely,



George F. Apel
Mayor
Town of Vernon

Vernon Town Council 2012-2013



Seated Left to Right:

Virginia Gingras, Marie Herbst, Mayor George F. Apel, Deputy Mayor Brian Motola, Daniel Sullivan and John Kopec.

Standing Left to Right:

Michael Winkler, Julie Clay, Town Administrator John D. Ward, Steven Petersen, Thomas DiDio, Adam Weissberger, William Campbell and Thomasina Russell.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES



EXECUTIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Department Head:

John D. Ward, Esq., Town Administrator

Location of Department:

Town Hall
14 Park Place, 3rd Floor

Responsibilities and Duties:

The Town Administrator and his staff are directly responsible for duties as assigned by the Mayor, including the execution of administrative policies adopted by the Mayor and Town Council; the supervision and coordination of operations in the town government; performing administrative planning functions and recommendations of procedural operations that contribute to greater efficiency and economy as well as assisting in the preparation of the annual budget. The Town Administrator also recommends personnel action to the Mayor including the administration of annual performance evaluations, discipline, suspension, or removal of employees as needed.

The Executive and Administrative Office also assists elected and appointed officials in the performance of their functions as directed by the Mayor; assists new and current employees with human resource related issues, coordinates the bidding and contracts for the purchase of materials, goods and services by the Town, organizes the welcoming of new and expanding businesses to Vernon and replies to constituent requests for information.

HIGHLIGHTS

Emergency Management: On July 30 and 31 2012, key town departments and staff engaged in an **emergency drill** to review procedures for and responses to a natural disaster. The preparations and outcome of this drill proved timely as in early fall, 2012 it became necessary for the town to prepare for **Hurricane Sandy**. Although the town was spared major damage from this storm, our resources and resiliencies were tested again in February 2013 with the historic snowfall of **Blizzard Charlotte/Nemo**, which triggered the activation of the towns Emergency Operations Center with over 30 inches of snow falling during this 24-hour storm. An after action report was facilitated by our Emergency Management Director, providing opportunities to strengthen the towns planned response to such events, and to address areas which need improvement.

Budget: In December 2012, plans for the FY 2013-14 budget began by meeting with each Department assessing and adjusting budgets to reflect minimal increases. Overall the town government portion of the budget was set at zero percent (0%) increase. All departments

worked diligently to find areas where practical savings could be made, and they should be congratulated for their hard work.

In the spring of 2013, with the assistance of Collector of Revenue Terry Hjarne, a tax sale was held, resulting in a collection of \$346,256.81 for the town.

Collective Bargaining: Contract negotiations were also held with seven unions over the last year. Significant cost savings were realized by the town through the implementation of Health Savings Account plans town wide for all employees.

Contracts: Administration coordinated the issuance of twenty-one (21) Requests for Proposals last year.

Freedom of Information Requests: Administration responded to thirty-eight (38) requests for information through the Freedom of Information Act.

Grants: Administration pursued funding from the following local and federal program sources

- The Town received \$300,000 in **Community Development Block Grant** Small Cities funding to be used for town-wide Housing Rehabilitation.
- The Town also made application with the **Environmental Protection Agency** for \$400,000 in funding for the Community-Wide Assessment and Area-Wide Planning grants.
- With the assistance of our Engineering department, the town made application, and was awarded \$907,749 in funding through an STP-Urban grant with CRCOG for approximately 5,600 linear feet of sidewalks to complete "gaps" in existing sidewalks on Hartford Turnpike, Green Circle Road, Dobson Road, South Street, and Hyde Ave.
- During the 2012-2013 Fiscal Year, the Town enrolled in the **C-PACE** clean energy program, affording the town access to affordable, long-term financing for smart energy upgrades to its buildings.

Infrastructure: Funded through a combination of Federal and State grant monies, the Phoenix Street bridge project was completed and dedicated September 12, 2012. The 1.1 Million dollar project began June 28, 2011, and helped restore a piece to one of Vernon's historic mill districts.

Information Technology: In July of 2012, the town installed an implemented a new computer network consisting of virtual servers. The System has improved network reliability and speed for our users.

In the late fall of 2012, the Town Council and Board of Education approved the creation of a new a unified and integrated Vernon Data Processing Center formed to provide support and technological assistance to all Town departments inclusive of the Board of Education

departments. In November of 2012, Mr. Robert Sigan was appointed as the new Director of Information Technology and Communications. Under the direction of Chairman Mayor George F. Apel, and Vice-Chairmen Dr. Conway, the new **Technology Council (TeC)** met regularly to oversee the new department. Outcomes during the last fiscal year include the unification of town and board staff, an upgraded network, the creation of a standardized equipment list for purchases, and the adoption of a 4 year technology plan for the town.

The next phase of the town's 10 gigabyte fiber network was completed by connecting Vernon Center Middle School, Maple St. School and Center Rd. School. It is anticipated that by the end of summer 2014 Public Works, Water Pollution Control, Skinner Rd. School, Northeast School and Lake St. School will also be connected through the fiber network.

Town Council: In February 2013, Ms. Julie Clay was appointed to the Town Council, replacing Council member Judy Hany.

During the last year, the Town Council prepared and successfully passed an amendment to *Ordinance No. 111- AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE POSSESSION OR CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC LIQUORS IN TOWN PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS* to include the prohibition against drinking and/or being intoxicated in any public park in Vernon.

The Town Council approved approximately thirty updated job description revisions.

With the assistance of Councilmember Kopec, the town implemented a new policy and procedures to be used by Animal Control Officers when responding to complaints regarding barking dogs.

TOWN ASSESSOR

Department Head:

David Wheeler, CCMA II, CRA, Town Assessor

Location of Department:

Town Hall Annex – 8 Park Place, 1st Floor

Responsibilities and Duties:

The town assessor has the sole responsibility of preparing an annual grand list consisting of Real Estate, Personal Property, Motor Vehicles, Tax Exempt Properties and applying various exemptions in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes and Local Ordinances. Assessor records are updated annually as changes occur to real estate as a result of building permit inspections, new construction and/or discovery. Tax maps are updated to reflect lot splits or combining of parcels.

All Connecticut towns are mandated to perform revaluations every five year to reflect market conditions and redistribute equitable value between property classes. The recently completed revaluation is effective for October 1st 2011. The next scheduled revaluation is October 1, 2016.

Personal property refers to any property used or associated with a business operating in Vernon. Motor vehicles are also a part of the annual grand list and are taxed based on value derived from NADA pricing manuals.

The assessor's responsibility also includes administering various exemptions and tax credits for such programs as Elderly, Veterans and Disabled property owners. All programs are designed to provide some form of tax relief through assessment reductions or tax credits to those most in need or on fixed incomes. The function of the assessor and staff are governed by Connecticut General Statutes and appraisal practices with the daily operations reported to administration. Monthly reports are mandated by the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) for the State of Connecticut. Statistical data from those reports are the basis for various state grant and revenue reimbursements and pilot programs.

In many ways, think of the assessor's office as a central database of information for real estate, motor vehicles and personal property. Property record cards are available for all properties along with tax maps and property sales data.

In 2012, more real estate properties went from taxable to exempt and / or were combined into larger parcels. Decline in number of motor vehicles results from leased vehicles sold and / or removed from state.

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
Real Estate Parcels:	10,159	10,091
Personal Property Accounts:	1,408	1,469
Motor Vehicles:	26,055	25,776

2012 Grand List Summary:

Gross Real Estate Assessments:	1,500,479,120
Gross Personal Property Assessments:	75,331,270
Gross Motor Vehicle Assessments:	176,321,605
Gross Grand List:	1,752,131,995
Less Exemption:	(17,715,690)
Less BAA Corrections:	(35,440)
Net Taxable Grand List:	1,734,380,865

M-13 Report filed with O.P.M.

<u>2011 Net Grand List</u>	<u>2012 Net Grand List</u>	<u>Net Assessment Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
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1,738,521,694	1,734,380,865	(4,140,829)	-2.3%
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**New construction pro-rates, court appeal cases resolved and, Certificate of Corrections result in overall increases to the adjusted grand list as presented above. Two noteworthy personal property increases came from Utility companies, Yankee Gas and Conn. Water Company with a net assessment increase of 6,992,910. All considered as of August 1, 2013 the 2012 net grand list is up from the April 2013 figures approximately 2.0% or a 3,667,292 assessment increase since the M-13 was filed with OPM. Changes to the 2012 grand list are fluid as corrections under Connecticut General 12-55, 57 & 60 govern the actions of the assessor.

COLLECTOR OF REVENUE

Department Head:

Terry Hjarne, C.C.M.C. Collector of Revenue

Location of Department:

Town Hall Annex - 8 Park Place, 1st Floor

Responsibilities and Duties: Property taxes are the major source of funds for the Town, accounting for roughly two thirds of the Town's revenue. The Collector organizes and coordinates the collection activities of the Town. State Statutes, Town Charter, and Town Ordinances dictate the procedures to be followed for the billing and collection of Town taxes. The Collector is responsible for collecting the highest percentage of taxes available to meet budgetary requirements.

Each year the Collector receives authorization from the Town Council to have tax bills prepared from the Town's Grand List of owners of real estate, personal property, and motor vehicles. Legal notices are posted, as required by law, to advise taxpayers of the due dates and final dates of payment before penalty charges apply.

The Collector has the responsibility for maintaining accurate records of all transactions, accounting for all monies collected, and submitting all revenue to the Town Treasurer. Reports are submitted on a regular basis to both the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management as well as to the Town Clerk's Office as dictated by state statute.

Duties of the Revenue Collection Department are many and varied. In addition to accepting tax payments and issuing receipts, the department issues permits and punch cards for the Transfer

Station, takes payments for parking tickets and infractions, and accepts sewer user payments for the Vernon WPCA. Collection of sewer assessments and user fees for the Bolton Lakes Regional Water Pollution Control Authority and monthly reporting to the Authority are a responsibility of the Revenue office as well. The Revenue Collection Department is responsible for Collection and reporting of payments for C-PACE clean energy funds administered by the State of Connecticut.

DATA PROCESSING

Department Head:

Robert Sigán

Location of Department:

Town Hall Annex – 5 Park Street, 2nd Floor

Overview:

The Information Technology (IT) department is responsible for all town-wide telecommunications, infrastructure and data center operations. This includes hardware/ software support for the enterprise, 24/7 emergency support, security, disaster recovery and application support. Additionally, all town-wide departments, Town Council, Public Safety (Police, Fire, EMS & Emergency Mgt.), Water Pollution Control & Sewer Plant operations, BOE, and all school operations are supported by the department.

Technology:

The IT department has strategically worked to streamline processes, upgrade our infrastructure and leverage the economies of scale. The Town's physical servers were consolidated into a new VMware ESX environment to lower the overhead costs and provide the Town and Board of Education a reliable, high availability system. This provides flexibility and the capacity to grow with little or no costs of adding additional servers. In addition, it provides redundant disaster recovery sites that are capable of running the entire server infrastructure from one of two locations.

The next phase of the town's 10 gigabyte fiber network was completed by connecting Vernon Center Middle School, Maple St. School and Center Rd. School. It is anticipated that by the end of summer 2014 Public Works, Water Pollution Control, Skinner Rd. School, Northeast School and Lake St. School will also be connected through the fiber network.

Utilizing the States CEN network, Rockville High School, Vernon Center Middle School, Maple St. School and Center Rd. School have been connected to a 1 gigabyte internet connection. Lake St. School, Northeast School and Skinner Rd. School are anticipated to be completed by the end of 2014.

We implemented an Aruba wireless network at Rockville High School as part of the school's Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) initiative. This included 95 access points across the school that provides secure wireless networks to faculty and students.

We simplified the procurement process and deployment of desktops and laptops by standardizing the models used. This will streamline several organizational processes and improve overall support services.

The IT Department provides the overall oversight and direction for municipal departments and Board of Education to more cost-effectively and efficiently deliver services to their customers. We look forward to another successful year.

Finance and Accounting

Department Head:

James M. Luddecke, Finance Officer and Treasurer
Frank J. Zitkus, Controller
Adria Calcasola, Payroll Coordinator
Diane Luddecke, Budget Analyst
Raelene Phillips, Accountant -Procurement
Beverly States, Assistant Treasurer

Department Location:

Town Hall Memorial Building, Second Floor

Responsibilities and Duties

The mission of the Finance Department is to institute and promote comprehensive financial management designed for the coordination, control, analysis and planning dedicated to the provision of community services. Inherent in this resolve is the theory that “good” government can be defined by accountability, equity, and efficiency in the management of financial resources for the public benefit. To further this resolve is the adherence to legal, moral, and professional standards of conduct in the fulfillment of our responsibilities.

The financial statements are presented in two types of disclosure. The first, Government-Wide Financial Statements, capture the activities of the Town as a whole entity, utilizing an accrual accounting system, similar to those used in private sector companies. The second type, Fund Financial Statements, unlike the whole entity approach, utilizes a modified basis of accounting for governmental activities through separate fund and account group entities, each with its own balance sheet. Thus, from an accounting and financial management viewpoint, a governmental unit under this type of disclosure is a combination of several distinctly different fiscal and accounting entities, functioning independently of the other funds and account groups. The financial exhibits and schedules presenting both types of disclosure will be found on the final pages of this report.

The Finance Department of the Town is responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure designed to ensure that the assets of the Town are protected from loss, theft, or misuse, and to ensure that adequate accounting data are compiled to allow for the preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. The internal control structure is designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that these objectives are met. The concept of reasonable assurance recognizes that:

- the cost of control should not exceed the benefits likely to be derived and;
- the valuation of costs and benefits requires estimates and judgments by management.

All internal control structure evaluations occur within the above framework. We believe that the Town’s internal control structure adequately safeguards assets and provides reasonable assurance for the proper recording of financial transactions and for compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

In addition, the Finance Department is responsible for the following: To provide supporting documents and to assist in the preparation of the annual budget and; to establish budgetary controls to ensure compliance with the legal provisions embodied in the annual appropriated budget for the General Fund and other adopted budgets. Project-length financial plans are maintained for the Special Revenue Funds and Capital Project Funds.

Also, the Finance Department prepares the *Comprehensive Annual Financial Report*; coordinates the cash flow and investment of all Town funds; prepares the official statement for bond and note issues; manages debt service activity and structure; and manages and allocates resources for the capital improvement program; administers the pension fund, insurance and benefit programs, and purchasing programs; directs financial improvements to departments as necessary and; oversees activities in Tax Collection and Assessments.

Independent Audit

The Town Charter requires an annual audit of the books of account, financial records, and transactions of all administrative departments of the Town by independent certified public accountants selected by the Town Council. This requirement has been complied with and the auditors’ report has been included in the report.

Awards

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the Town of Vernon for its *Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)* for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012. The Certificate of Achievement is a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government reports. In order to be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, the Town of Vernon published an easily readable and efficiently organized *CAFR*, whose contents conform to program standards. The *CAFR* must satisfy both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements.

A Certificate of Achievement is valid for a period of one year only. Vernon has received a Certificate of Achievement for the last twenty-one consecutive years. We believe that our current report continues to meet the Certificate of Achievement Program's requirements and we have submitted it to the GFOA to determine its eligibility for another certificate.

General Fund Revenues and Other Financing Sources

Revenue Sources	June 30, 2013		June 30, 2012		Increase (Decrease) from 2012	
	Amount	% of Total	Amount	% of Total	Amount	%
Property taxes	\$ 58,939,088	71.99%	\$ 57,327,038	69.05%	\$ 1,612,050	2.81%
Intergovernmental	20,104,837	24.55%	22,856,032	27.53%	(2,751,195)	-12.04%
Charges for services	1,276,169	1.56%	1,341,318	1.62%	(65,149)	-4.86%
Interest on investments	1,054	0.00%	2,810	0.00%	(1,756)	-62.49%
Licenses and permits	547,833	0.67%	563,598	0.68%	(15,765)	-2.80%
Gifts and contributions	-	0.00%	-	0.00%	-	
Other revenues	434,960	0.53%	427,196	0.51%	7,764	1.82%
Total Revenues	81,303,941	99.30%	82,517,992	99.40%	(1,214,051)	-1.47%
Other Financing Sources:					-	
Transfers in	528,085	0.64%	329,180	0.40%	198,905	60.42%
Proceeds from sale of property	44,830	0.05%	172,501	0.21%	(127,671)	-74.01%
Total Revenues and Other Financing Sources	\$ 81,876,856	100.00%	\$ 83,019,673	100.00%	\$ (1,142,817)	-1.38%

General Fund Expenditures and Other Financing Uses

Function	June 30, 2013		June 30, 2012		Increase (Decrease) from 2012	
	Amount	% of Total	Amount	% of Total	Amount	%
General government	\$ 3,230,952	3.96%	\$ 3,277,010	3.95%	\$ (46,058)	-1.41%
Community development	241,139	0.30%	248,176	0.30%	(7,037)	-2.84%
Public Safety	8,169,618	10.01%	11,428,754	13.77%	(3,259,136)	-28.52%
Maintenance and Development	5,222,913	6.40%	5,272,527	6.35%	(49,614)	-0.94%
Human Services	974,251	1.19%	934,675	1.13%	39,576	4.23%
Parks, recreation, and culture	1,358,243	1.66%	1,339,374	1.61%	18,869	1.41%
Town wide	7,054,780	8.65%	6,806,996	8.20%	247,784	3.64%
Education	49,194,487	60.30%	47,317,458	57.02%	1,877,029	3.97%
Capital Outlay	57,787	0.07%	77,995	0.09%	(20,208)	-25.91%
Debt Service	4,365,302	5.35%	4,675,035	5.63%	(309,733)	-6.63%
Total Expenditures	79,869,472	97.89%	81,378,000	98.07%	(1,508,528)	-1.85%
Other Financing Uses:						
Transfers out	1,717,721	2.11%	1,605,301	1.93%	112,420	7.00%
Total Expenditures and Other Financing Uses	\$ 81,587,193	100.00%	\$ 82,983,301	100.00%	\$ (1,396,108)	-1.68%

Local Economy and Major Initiatives

Local Economy

The Town of Vernon is a residential community of 18.6 square miles located 14 miles east of Hartford on Interstate 84 in north central Connecticut. Interstate 84, traverses the Town, having four interchanges within the Town's borders, and connects with I-90, I-384, I-91 and I-291, which provide convenient highway access to all areas of Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York. Additional accessibility is provided by U.S. Route 44 and State Routes 30, 31, 74, and 83. National and international air service is provided by Bradley International Airport, which is only thirty minutes from Vernon. The well-situated access provided by Interstate 84 within the Greater Hartford area has contributed to Vernon's development as a residential suburban community and a regional commercial center for neighboring towns.

The economic base for Connecticut, as well as for Vernon, has had an overall change from that of manufacturing to retail commerce and professional services. Of the top fifteen firms in Vernon, 73.2% are employed in services, 19.6% are employed in retail sales and only 7.2% are employed in manufacturing and printing. Approximately 42.3% of this employment is with non-profit and public organizations. The largest Vernon employer is the Town of Vernon, which has 840 employees.

The second largest employer is Rockville General Hospital with 523 employees, followed by Visiting Nurse and Health Services with 505 employees, Stop and Shop with 323, Price Chopper with 221, the State of Connecticut with 204, New England Mechanical Services with 200 employees, Fox Hill Nursing and Rehabilitation with 190, Vernon Manor with 175 and Rein's Delicatessen with 155 employees.

In Vernon, the number of individuals employed by the top ten companies increased by 83 or 2.55% during the past year. There were no reported decreases in employment by the top ten employers while increases include 5 at the Town of Vernon, 47 at Visiting Nurse and Health Services, 6 at Stop and Shop and 25 at Fox Hill Nursing and Rehabilitation. Employment at the next top 5 employers increased by a net 8 employees, with an increase of 30 at Healthwise Medical Associates and decreases of 13 at Kmart and 9 and the Reminder Press.

Vernon's population for the year ended June 30, 2013, was 29,122 compared with 29,179 on June 30, 2012, a decrease of 57 or .20%. This decrease follows a decrease in population of 26 or .09% during the previous one-year period.

Approximately 82% of Vernon's labor force is employed outside the town. On a regional basis, our residents' income is derived from major insurance firms, defense industries, financial institutions and capital goods producers. The town's unemployment rate at June 30, 2013 was 7.5%, a .5% decrease from the June 30, 2012 rate of 8.0%. In recent history, the unemployment rate was 8.4% in 2011, 8.4% in 2010, 7.3% in 2009, 5.5% in 2008, 4.3% in 2007, 4.2% in 2006, and 4.9% in 2005. The unemployment rate continues to be influenced by the slow to steady growth in the overall economy. Vernon's unemployment rate compares favorably to that of the State of Connecticut, 8.1%, and for the nation, 7.8%.

The Town of Vernon generally shares the same economic health as the State of Connecticut and the Hartford region, therefore experiencing the gains in service producing sectors of the economy, as the recovery from the 2008 recession is steady. In terms of jobs, Connecticut has regained about half of the 120,000 jobs lost in the recession, which trails the national average of approximately three quarters. Contributing factors include a shrinking and aging workforce. But job growth that lags behind the national trend is not a new phenomenon; it has been a consistent feature of Connecticut's economy, as has the attribute of wages long surpassing national averages. The continued investment into bio-science, medical care, education, the small business development center and new technologies retains the potential for substantive job growth in a recession-proof corner of the economy. Taken as a whole, decisions made in Congress, have and will impact Connecticut's economic future, as will growing competition from surrounding states, such as the expansion of gaming industries in neighboring states, prospectively will impact state revenue. Connecticut, as home to one of the most developed economies in the world, can serve as a counterbalance to the uncertainty intrinsic in national and global economic outlooks, providing modest growth in the near future.

The October 1, 2012 grand list, effective for fiscal year 2013-14, decreased by .23% from the prior year, which included an increase in real property of .45%, a decrease in personal property of 9.39% and a decrease in motor vehicles of 2.17%. This follows a 9.20% decrease in the prior year grand list, which was influenced by a town wide revaluation of property. That decrease included decreases in real estate of 11.28% and 4.54% in personal property; and an increase in motor vehicles of 10.12%.

Property taxes have been supported by strong collection rates, averaging 98.30 % over the past ten years.

The number of building permits decreased from 2,017 to 1,903, and the value of those permits decreased from \$28,163,805 to \$27,638,857.

The 2013-2014 operating budget was approved by the Town Council and sent to the annual Town Meeting for adoption on April 23, 2013. The budget was petitioned to a referendum vote, held on May 7, 2013, at which the budget was not adopted. A second referendum vote on May 21, 2013 was unsuccessful; and at the third referendum held on June 4, 2013, the voters adopted the budget. The mil rate increased by 1.77 mils, or 5.26%, from 33.63 mils to 35.40 mils. We will continue to provide the voters with information to make knowledgeable decisions, as we have a responsibility to educate our residents on the programs and services presently provided, as well as those proposed.

The local economic base serves the region as a commercial, governmental, legal, and medical center. Local employment in manufacturing has been replaced by employment in these service areas. This shift is revealed in the additions to the tax base as planned development and new construction are related to retail commerce and professional services.

In November 2011, the Vernon Planning and Zoning Commission adopted an updated Plan of Conservation and Development, which became effective January 30, 2012. The updated plan focuses, in part, on revitalization of the Rockville section and on pursuing economic development opportunities at two primary interchanges on I-84, at exits 66 and 67.

The economic areas for new development are downtown Rockville, Vernon Circle, Lafayette Square, the I-84 corridor, and the Gerber Farm area.

Rockville Section:

The former Rockville mills section has made a transition from being primarily an industrial and commercial center to being a professional and governmental center. It is the site of local government, education, and State of Connecticut administrative offices and courthouses. The initial development of downtown Rockville occurred over one hundred years ago, creating its distinctive Victorian urban character and invaluable architecture. However, this also creates the need for reinvestment and modernization. Currently, the Planning and Zoning Commission is considering the establishment of a Village District Zone in the Rockville downtown area in an effort to ensure that future development is encouraged, but also be compatible with the historic attributes and character of this area. In addition to improvements to municipal and state buildings, the following recent advancements have been made.

The Town of Vernon has actively supported the redevelopment of the Village Street area adjacent to Rockville General Hospital in supporting the Vernon Nonprofit Housing Corporation's (VNHC) rehabilitation of eleven structures on the street, by providing Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to assist first time home buyers. The houses controlled by VNHC have received environmental remediation and new roofs. The VNHC has renovated and sold 7 units on Village Street, is currently renovating 2 others and has erected an additional 4 units on vacant lots. To further this effort of reinforcing neighborhood rehabilitation activities, Village and Orchard Streets have recently been reconstructed.

The Rockville Public Library at 52 Union Street received approval in April 2009 for a new addition to the existing facility. Construction commenced in June 2013. In support of this effort, the Town worked with the Library to transfer resources from the Alice Maxwell Trust fund; and waived the \$45,210 building construction permit. At One Ellington Avenue, a carriage house to an existing long-vacant mansion was converted to seven apartments for veterans. Conversion of the mansion into ten similar units began in the fall of 2012 and was dedicated in August, 2013. An additional four units have been approved by the Town during the fiscal year.

A long-time vacant building at 176 Union Street was sold and has undergone major renovations and, subsequently, was opened as a new restaurant in early 2012. Another vacant structure was recently converted into a convenience store / deli at 60 Prospect Street, which has cultivated a village feel to this neighborhood.

In October, 2008, the Vernon Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) adopted zoning regulations for a comprehensive multi-family development zone. The PZC approved a preliminary plan in April, 2010 within this zone for 35 units on a 16-acre site at 41 Pleasant Street. It is anticipated that as market conditions improve with a boost in capital lending, an application for final approval will be submitted to build these units.

In October, 2010, the PZC revised an adaptive re-use zoning regulation originally developed for conversion of obsolete mill buildings and made it applicable to any structure in Rockville built no later than 1910 and containing a minimum of 5,000 square feet. This amendment will allow old buildings that have outlived their original uses to be returned to economically viable uses. There are four Mill properties that are in the process of being redeveloped and may make use of this provision (Talcott Mill, Hockanum Mill, Amerbelle Mill and Roosevelt Mill). These projects are in various stages of redevelopment.

Vernon Circle Area, Routes 30 and 83: Hartford Turnpike / Talcottville Road:

The Vernon Circle area continues to make a positive adjustment to the regional shopping center development in the Buckland Hills section of Manchester, and Evergreen Park in South Windsor, just one highway exit west on I-84. The Tri-City Plaza has a successful retail mix of value-oriented stores.

The State of Connecticut completed the reconstruction and safety improvements along a section of Talcottville Road (Route 83). This project extends from the I-84 off ramp, northerly to Pitkin Street and provides for improved operations and safety, by the addition of a center landscaped median, lane additions and traffic signal additions and modifications. This project, 100% funded by the State, supports and enhances the commercial and retail developments in the area.

The K-Mart Plaza, located on Pitkin Road and Route 30, and the Goodyear Tire Plaza, 378 Kelly Road, although both endured transition phases of businesses closing and new businesses opening, remain stable and attractive developments in promising locations. Scooter Pros, 99 Restaurant, Stop and Shop and Economy Oil on Hartford Turnpike; and Dunkin Donuts, the Sunoco and Citgo service stations, Taco Bell, McDonald's, all on Talcottville Road, as well as Johnnie's Mobil on West Street, have all been renovated in recent years.

In the past year, several auto dealerships have been remodeled with additions. At 704 Talcottville Road, Olenders Automotive is constructing an additional 8,900 square foot addition scheduled for completion in 2013. This project received approval for a three-year tax abatement phase-in; at 777 Talcottville Road, Scranton Motors has added

6,250 square feet to the existing structures; at 21 Hartford Turnpike, Key Hyundai has merged two lots and completely rebuilt their 20,737 square foot structure; and at 14 Hartford Turnpike, Suburban Subaru completed a 13,144 square foot renovation along with a 1,720 square foot addition in the current year. Also completed was an addition to Ray Seraphin Ford at 100 Windsor Ave, adding 2,862 square feet of space for a Quick Lane service center.

A proposed 70 room hotel, (Home 2 Suites project), to be located at 355-361 Kelly Road across from Holiday Express, has been approved which would include upgraded service facilities. The Candlewood Suites project received approval for a seven-year phase-in tax abatement. Plans to renovate the Holiday Express include a ground floor indoor pool, eliminating the first-floor rooms, and a new third floor resulting in a net increase of 4 rooms. Although the Colony Banquet Hall and Restaurant closed in December 2007, plans have been approved for a 70-room Marriot Spring Hill Suite Hotel in place of the Colony Restaurant on Hartford Turnpike. Presently, the project is non-active. Completion of these developments will strengthen the Vernon Circle area overall. There is a clear pattern that as the vacancies in Vernon Circle become occupied, the available space on the periphery is being filled and is becoming more attractive for extended development.

An 84-residential unit complex at Talcott Mill, 47 Main Street, is under reconstruction. In addition, an enhancement project was just completed along Main Street and Elm Hill Road in the historic section of Talcottville. Improvements include the development of a walking trail with informational signage, period lighting, the construction of an information center Kiosk, selective plantings, and entrance signage to the area. The project was 100% funded by the two federal grants, with exception of approximately \$12,800 for engineering and inspections costs.

A 3-acre portion of 400 Talcottville Road was subdivided to create 404 Talcottville Road where an 18,750 square foot Tractor Supply Company store was constructed in October 2012. The store offers a welcome addition to Vernon's retail base and offers a range of products not found elsewhere in Vernon. Also at 400 Talcottville Road, a two-story, 6,500 square foot medical office is under construction. The site at 404 Talcottville Road was re-subdivided into two parcels, including a proposed 9,000 square foot Dollar General store that will occupy 426 Talcottville Road.

The new owners of the former Heartland Plaza at 425 Talcottville Road continue restoration improvements and have made a remarkable visual change to the property. This highly visible and long time vacant and blighted commercial structure has undergone a vibrant and aesthetically pleasing overhaul. The upgraded site, currently including an upscale exercise facility, Cardio Express; a Verizon Wireless center; and with other tenants anticipated, has dramatically improved the marketability of the area.

A new Cumberland Farms convenience store and gasoline station at 333 Talcottville Road was completed in September, 2013. The store contains 4,514 square feet of retail space within an attractively designed building. Also in the area, an 8,372 square foot Liquor Store was constructed at 482 Talcottville Road in 2011. Pervious pavement was utilized within the parking areas, consistent with Low Impact Design (LID) principles.

In the current year, approval was granted by the Town for an 8,250 square foot multi-use retail store located at 444 Hartford Turnpike with construction scheduled for 2014.

The Santini Villas apartment complex, recently added 32 high-end residential units and a club house to their 1085 Hartford Turnpike development, and the construction of 66 units was completed at 1031 Hartford Turnpike. In addition, numerous condominium units with nearby access to Routes 30 and 83 have been recently constructed.

Stop & Shop, after making substantial renovations at its Windsorville Road store location, constructed a fuel station at 793 Talcottville Road, which is adjacent to the supermarket. Also, The Garden Barn, located at 212 West Street, has recently expanded their operation, doubling the useable space.

Lafayette Square:

The Lafayette Square commercial area has been experiencing steady development. The 28,000 square foot complex at 10 Hyde Avenue, known as 30 Lafayette Square, was purchased and the new owners rejuvenated the property, both interior and exterior, inclusive of architectural improvements to the building façade. In June 2010, the owners received approval to add a building containing a 1,800 square foot restaurant for a Dunkin Donuts and a 2,800 square foot area of retail space within the plaza. The building has been completed and opened early in 2011. Two proposals for assisted living elderly facilities of approximately 100 units each have been approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC), but no action has occurred. At 75 Hyde Avenue, construction continues for 76

luxury townhouse units at the new Bridlewood development. As part of this approval, the developer has offered to construct sidewalks from the new development along Route 30 to the Northeast School to safely accommodate school children. 56 Hyde Avenue was also converted last year from a dilapidated residential structure into a similar sized, yet completely modern, commercial building occupied by a dog grooming salon. At the shopping plaza on East Street, the Red Apple Supermarket gutted the interior and was completely renovated; and neighboring Nature's Grocer, a natural and organic food facility dedicated to a wheat and gluten free environment, recently expanded its store within the plaza. The store attracts customers from adjacent towns. Moore's Automotive received approval for a 1,227 square foot addition to its commercial building, along with other site improvements.

I-84 Corridor:

The I-84 corridor offers potential for office park development around the Exit #66 interchange and retail development around the Exit #67 interchange. Home Depot had received approval to build on the site but has since abandoned their plans. The site may, however, be marketed with the approval plan in place. The Town is considering a Tax Increment Financing District that would bring water and sewer lines up to the sites.

On the north side of Exit 67, the Planning and Zoning Commission significantly reduced a setback requirement within the mixed-use zone that substantially expands the buildable area within the zone.

The industrial park off Exit 66 continues to undergo minor development. A bulk propane distribution facility was approved late in 2009, and its construction was completed in 2011. A small addition was approved in 2010 for a vacant building in the park, which was purchased for the relocation of a business from a neighboring town.

Gerber Farm:

With co-investments from the Town of Vernon, a bridge and access road for the new Hockanum Boulevard was constructed several years ago. The bridge and road provides access to the approximately 275-acre Gerber Farm area for development. The developer constructed a 424-luxury rental unit complex, the Mansions at Hockanum Crossing, and three industrial buildings amounting to 64,000 square feet. Subsequently, the construction of Mansion 2 occurred, a 280 luxury apartment complex. Nine additional apartment buildings were constructed at Mansions II, 95 Hockanum Boulevard during the past year. The project's total net assessment, considering its real estate and personal property is approximately \$61,725,320, ranking as the largest taxable property in the Town of Vernon.

Mill Properties (Amerbelle, Hockanum, Roosevelt and Talcottville Mills):

Industrial development continually proves to be the most difficult economic challenge for municipalities in Connecticut as manufacturers leave the state and available employment declines. The decline of industry in Vernon relates to the lack of industrial land and the obsolescence of existing facilities, as well as to the general diminishing of manufacturing employment. With only 7.6% of the town zoned for commercial and industrial use, the town continues to pursue the possibility of merging parcels of land for industrial development while facing the additional task of addressing the redevelopment of older mill properties.

The Town received a \$9,000 state technical assistance grant to provide architectural adaptive reuse drawings for Talcott Mill. The drawings were to be used to apply for federal and state tax credits and to establish potential construction costs for reuse of the mill. Owners of the former Talcottville Mill, on 47 Main Street, have received approval for Federal and State historic property tax incentives and grants to allow them to convert the now vacant deteriorating site into an 84-unit residential complex. The project received local approvals in September 2012 and the estimated construction start date of this project is in the spring of 2014. Owners of a planned project planned for 68 residential units at 215 East Main Street, the remediated former Roosevelt Mill site, have also received historic property tax credits and plans to commence construction in 2014. Two businesses currently occupy a portion of the Hockanum Mill at 200 West Main Street. The owner plans on renovating and developing a warehouse in support of a computer retail store, along with maintaining leases for other businesses. Amerbelle Mill located at Brooklyn and East Main Streets, ceased operations and closed in August 2012. The Town Council has authorized \$150,000 to secure and winterize the complex due to public safety concerns. Control over the Mill has been transferred to a private developers group familiar with adaptive reuse projects.

For the past three years, the economy has felt the impact of the inability that federal lawmakers demonstrate in managing fiscal matters. The budget showdown, debt ceiling crisis, the fiscal cliff, and ultimately the sequester that led to a government shutdown, which ended in sixteen days, just one day before the country would have exhausted its borrowing capacity. This type of crisis management resulted in a downgrade of the U.S. credit rating and continues to influence the overall economic recovery below its long-run potential, contributing to slower GDP growth. Funding to keep the U.S. government running has been authorized only through January 15, 2014, while the debt ceiling has been lifted through February 7th. Thus continued uncertainty about government spending plans

is likely to constrain investment and hiring, at the very least, with those companies that contract with the government, consequently, an impact felt in Connecticut. If Congress can resolve the budgetary and debt limitation issues without drama, it will offer a much more favorable backdrop for hiring and capital investment. And the prospect that the economy will continue to attain gradual growth at the end of the next twelve months is reasonable. Lacking a comprehensive economic recovery package, the overall economy will need to benefit from actions already in place, such as financial regulatory controls; health care relief; taxing multi-nationals, while rewarding companies that maintain jobs here rather than abroad; stabilizing energy prices; reductions to the U.S. trade deficit; the end of the recession in Europe; job creation programs; and moderate gains in the housing market. Improvements were achieved during 2013 in the Gross Domestic Product, employment and business spending, but the growth, as anticipated, did not accelerate as it normally has during past recoveries, as this remains the slowest recovery in the past seventy years. For over three decades, the erosion of federal domestic spending has placed a serious burden on the budgets of state and municipal governments, and the spending pressures of global terrorist security and military operations, has exacerbated the situation. The continued reduction of military activity, among other aspects, will help to remedy deficit spending. Yet as that occurs, a myriad of natural disasters and the related cost, has exposed how vulnerable the economy remains to unexpected events. Investments in infrastructure and education; and the continuance of the federal government discounting credit for community banks willing to make new business loans, especially to young entrepreneurs, will have a positive effect; and the approval of a new stimulus and jobs program, will factor into a prospective long-term approach to economic recovery and stability.

For the Town of Vernon, successful and continued pursuit of the economic development cited in this section enables the town to take advantage of any gradual business expansion and demand for developmental sites, thus greeting the future with a stable tax base strengthened by those objectives.

Major Initiatives

General Government:

Renovations at the Town Hall Memorial Building continue, following the completion of extensive renovations to the third floor, which cost of \$1,864,873. These improvements included an expanded Town Council Chambers and administrative offices. Funding was primarily supported by three state grants. During the fiscal year, \$75,000 was authorized by the Town Council for an improved Town Council Chambers audio/visual system. This project has yet to commence.

Renovations to the second floor mezzanine and former Town Council Chambers to serve the Finance Department commenced during the fiscal year and were substantially completed in October 2013. For a variety of reasons, inclusive of the movement of other departments in and out of Town Hall, this project had been deferred for twelve years. This concludes the renovations to the second floor. Funding for this project was provided by \$90,000 available from a designation in the Town Capital Non-Recurring Fund, along with an operating budget allocation of \$24,605.

The projects that ensued on the first floor include shelving for Town Clerk's office vault was completed at a cost of \$29,723. There is an additional allocation of \$16,111 for current modifications and \$190,000 is available major improvements to increase storage space by expanding the vault. Another project, funded in the amount of \$55,000, authorized building renovations at 55 West Main Street to house the Planning, Engineering and Economic Development Coordinator offices. Renovations are nearly completed with \$51,884 expended to date. With the movement to 55 West Main Street, along with the Registrar of Voters to Center 375, from the first floor of Town Hall, a newly constructed, and much needed conference room was completed at the space that was vacated for the Probate Court; and in addition, the Social Services Department moved from a rented facility to the first floor.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements to town facilities continued, and will proceed with available funds of \$102,389.

Other recent renovations include the expenditure of \$16,165 of State LOCIP grant funds for the replacing the Town Hall Annex building roof. The Town Data Center, located on the second floor of the Annex, operates as an internal service fund, and consolidates the general government and education IT functions. The Data Center was recently renovated to integrate and house the former school technology personnel, expanding the staff from four to ten. In response to expanding technology demands, the Town executed a four-year \$660,000 operating lease for the data center to acquire servers and storage that enabled the establishment of a unified network. The project was completed in October, 2012. The Town also approved \$83,965 to implement a new document management system

for both the general government and school system, with one of the objectives to reduce physical storage requirements. Also, the general government and school system invested in time and attendance software and hardware at an approximate cost of \$143,125. The system will be hosted by an external company.

The Data Center is in its final stages of an optic fiber infrastructure project that is connecting the greater part of general government and school system buildings. The majority of the project is being funded through the internal service fund, along with a \$200,000 town allocation provided in the capital non-recurring expenditures account. Grant funds through the State of Connecticut have also been sought. Project completion is anticipated by the end of fiscal year 2015.

Community Development:

In a continued effort to support and initiate interest in economic development in town, \$40,000 was appropriated to the Economic Development special revenue fund during the year to finance targeted advertising and marketing efforts. Annual appropriations to this Fund commenced in 1999 and have funded several property reuse studies, retail façade improvements and the most recent Plan of Conservation and Development and its Downtown Association. A fiscal year 2013/14 appropriation of \$39,600 further supports these efforts.

The town received a \$300,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) award for housing rehabilitation during the fiscal year. This new project has just commenced and has recently been supplemented with an additional \$400,000 CDBG housing rehabilitation grant award in fiscal year 2013/14.

The Town is in the tenth year of a new housing rehabilitation grant / loan program that utilizes funds derived from former programs that produced loan program income. Participants that meet income requirements are eligible for projects involving owner occupied housing. A total of \$24,352 was expended this past fiscal year, with \$54,126 as the available balance. In June 2010, the Town Council approved a designation of \$250,000 of this available program income to fund phase III reconstruction improvements to Prospect Street. Such funding was fully utilized in fiscal year 2011/12.

During the current year, a Blight Reduction Special Revenue Fund was established to purchase or demolish blighted and unsafe structures in town. Proceeds from the sale of town-owned properties will fund these activities. Receipts of \$42,579 are currently available in this Fund. In recent years, the Town Council approved funding totaling \$199,927 for the demolition of certain foreclosed, blighted or fire damaged properties at Ward, Lawrence, McLean and High Streets, due primarily to public safety concerns; in addition to assisting the properties return to a collectable tax status and for provided parking use by the local hospital.

In August 2012, the operations at the Amerbelle Mill ceased. The Town Council authorized \$75,000 to winterize the building for public safety concerns. An additional \$75,000 was approved to further secure the Mill. A court injunction permits the Town access to the property. Prior to its closing, the Town secured and utilized a \$125,000 state grant to conduct an engineering and architectural feasibility study to determine the most effective building improvements for the Amerbelle Mill. In addition, the town received an additional \$196,000 federal grant to fund a roof replacement and additional building improvements, which were recently completed. A group of developers familiar with adaptive reuse have taken control over the complex.

As noted above, in the past year, the Town received a \$9,000 state technical assistance grant to provide architectural adaptive reuse drawings for Talcott Mill. In the less recent past, the Town received two state grants totaling \$1,200,000 which provided funding for selective site demolition and environmental remediation at the currently vacant Roosevelt Mill located at 215 East Main Street. These grant funds were preceded by federal Brownfield cleanup funds utilized for a site evaluation and remediation project recently completed. It is envisioned that the property will be redeveloped for future mixed use. Financing is currently being sought to move the project forward.

Also, the Town used a \$20,000 state grant award to fund a feasibility study of the Citizens Block. The town-owned Citizens Block is a primarily vacant commercial and mixed use 1879 building, adjacent to the 1867 senior center building, located next to Town Hall. This study required the use of \$17,303 from the town's Economic Development Fund to complete.

Public Safety:

The fire department's 155 members, the largest volunteer force in the state, enable the town to apply the savings from personnel costs to equipment needs. Although the members are not employees, the Town has recognized their commitment to protecting the lives and property of our residents, and has established a Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP). This is a non-qualified employer retirement plan that commenced on January 1, 2000. To attain normal retirement, a minimum of ten years of credited service is required, with maximum credited service of thirty years. Since inception, the Town has made its employer contribution to an investment fund set up exclusively for this program as follows:

Year	Employer Contribution
2000 through 2010	\$968,467
December 31, 2011	\$34,123
December 31, 2012	\$45,237

During the fiscal year, three fire trucks were acquired with proceeds of a lease purchase agreement at a cost of \$1,479,761. Accessory equipment for the trucks was purchased for \$25,380. Also during the year, the town fully expended a \$195,435 federal Firefighters Assistance Grant for the purchase of firefighting and protective equipment, emergency training equipment and a soft-shell emergency rehab portable structure. Funds totaling \$51,000 were encumbered at year-end to purchase a vehicle for the Fire Marshal and Police Captain. In addition, construction of a police firing range was completed using General and State Asset Forfeiture funds.

In May 2013, the town council authorized the use of state Local Capital Improvement Funds for a \$250,000 Police Digital Radio System Upgrade, a \$225,000 Fox Hill Communication Center Renovation and a \$16,450 Fire Monitoring and Suppression System in the equipment systems room of the Police Department.

In the past fiscal year, the Town received and utilized a \$300,000 Department of Justice COPS Tech grant and a \$100,000 state LoCIP grant to fund a digital Police radio system. The Town also used a federal Homeland Security grant award to fund the purchase of an \$85,428 emergency generator at the Vernon Center Middle School (recently used during the October 29, 2011 snow storm which resulted in an area power outage of 10 days).

The Town recently received and utilized four federal grants totaling \$156,309 for two police department vehicles, digital video equipment and in-car laptops and cameras; partial grant funding for a hybrid vehicle was also received. A federal \$2,826 DUI enforcement grant was used to fund DUI enforcement equipment. The Town Council approved \$44,000 for remediation of the police firing range. Two federal grant totaling \$16,716 were used to purchase emergency management equipment. During the year, the Town approved \$27,701 for a fire department air compressor; and \$30,000 to complete the \$105,000 radio project undertaken by the fire department to comply with the FCC narrow banding requirement. Other prior year grants have funded firefighter, ambulance and emergency management equipment and fire station improvements.

From February, 2011 to February, 2013, a period of twenty five months, five weather events have resulted in federally declared disasters making the Town eligible to received FEMA Public Assistance. The events included two historic snowstorms, in terms of record snowfall, a tropical storm resulting in damaging winds and flooding, a surprise October snowstorm that resulted in unprecedented tree damage and Superstorm Sandy which caused substantial tree damage as well. The town's Emergency Operations Center and Shelter locations were utilized for each event. Claims for Superstorm Sandy and Storm Charlotte were prepared in 2013 and the Town has successfully recouped approximately 75% of the costs of the five storms from FEMA to a total reimbursement of \$3,227,230, over the past three fiscal years. In addition, \$22,831 was recouped from the Federal Highway Transportation Administration for debris cleanup of federal-aid roads.

For the animal control facility, there is a remaining allocation of \$12,347 from a prior year \$58,000 appropriation to enclose the dog runs and expand the shelter; as well as a \$48,100 appropriation to construct an incinerator and \$17,000 for animal control shelter caging. Subsequent to June 30, 2013, the \$48,100 was re-designated by the Town Council for animal control renovations and caging.

Maintenance and Development:

On November 2, 2004 voters approved a public improvement bond authorization, and prior to June 30, 2011 the Town had issued four general obligation bonds: \$10,300,000 on February 15, 2007, \$5,000,000 on February 1, 2008, \$720,000 on February 12, 2009; and \$3,755,000 on April 12, 2011. In April 2012, the Town refunded several debt issues including several prior public improvement bond issues. The total amount of public improvement bonded (general purpose and sewer bonded) defeased debt was \$13,174,000. The April 11, 2012 refunding issue includes \$12,517,000 of public improvement bonded debt. The authorizations / expenditures for the above projects are as follows:

Project	Amount Authorized	Expended Current Year	Expended Cumulative
Roads; sidewalks; and bridge reconstruction	\$ 19,103,000	\$ 379,056	\$ 17,939,590
Improvements to waste treatment plant	1,295,000	-	-
Improvements to sewer system	1,211,000	-	1,055,536
Issuance costs		-	182,301
Accrued note interest		-	712,745
Total:	\$ 21,609,000	\$ 379,056	\$ 19,890,172

The roadway improvements include the reconstruction / repaving of 22 town roads, replacement of sidewalks, and the renovation of two (2) bridges, on West Main Street and Bolton Road. Sidewalks have been constructed at Peterson Road at a cost of \$165,583. The sewer improvement projects have been completed and consist of relining a critical sewer line on Route 30; sewer repairs at twenty (20) various roads; and the replacement of the Dart Hill pump station equipment. The authorization to upgrade the waste treatment plant, to meet or surpass designated nitrogen limits, will not be utilized. The roadway improvement program is 99% complete.

In addition to the roadway improvement expenditures incurred by the Public Bond Improvements Fund noted above, the town's Town Aid Road special revenue fund expended \$207,562 during the year, including \$160,352 for paving and crack sealing of various town roads.

In the Town's Capital Nonrecurring Fund, \$26,457 was expended during the fiscal year utilizing the remainder of a \$240,000 state LoCIP grant for additional roadway repairs and improvements. In the prior year an \$800,000 authorization for roadway repairs and improvements was completed; which was preceded by another \$141,000 LoCIP grant, fully utilized for road improvements.

To address the rising pavement costs, the Town applied for offsetting grants in the recent past, and was awarded a \$500,000 federal CDBG grant to upgrade High Street and two CDBG grants totaling \$750,000 to upgrade Prospect Street. In addition, available CDBG program funds of \$250,000 were utilized to finance the third phase upgrade of Prospect Street. The efforts from the Vernon Department of Public Works to complete several roads during the course of the road improvement project, has saved the Town considerable costs.

The Town has received a grant from the State Department of Transportation (DOT) in conjunction with the Capital Region Council of Governments (CROG) for the reconstruction of a portion of South Street from Vernon Avenue to West Street. The grant is funded by the federal STP Urban funding program and is in the amount of \$3,257,700. Funding is provided through 80% federal, 10% state and 10% local funds. Survey activities were initiated in June 2013 and preliminary roadway design is underway. The town has funded the \$20,000 required match for estimated design costs. This project complements significant roadway and sidewalk improvements on a portion of nearby Vernon Avenue that were constructed by the State DOT in the recent past.

A \$925,000 federal STP grant has been awarded through CRCOG for the construction of various new sidewalks throughout the Town. A local match of \$185,000, or 20%, is required. In addition, a \$25,000 appropriation is available in the Town Capital Non-Recurring Fund for sidewalk construction.

Subsequent to fiscal year-end, the Town Council approved an ordinance to finance certain road reconstruction and improvements over a six year period with an authorization of bonds and notes not to exceed \$27,637,000. The proposal anticipates improvements to approximately 220 roadways. The ordinance requires voter approval and a referendum is set for January 28, 2014.

Construction work for the **River Street and Spring Street Bridges** has recently been completed. An 80% federal / 20% state grant provided funding for the \$1,947,948 replacement cost of the Spring Street Bridge and an 80% federal / 20% state grant provided funding for the \$1,581,268 River Street Bridge reconstruction project.

The **Bolton Road Bridge** reconstruction, completed in a prior year at a cost of \$986,754, was partially grant funded, while funding for the replacement of the **Phoenix Street Bridge** is provided by an 80 % federal / 10% state grant amounting to \$1,251,000. The 10% local match is funded by a \$145,000 Special Act state grant, avoiding the need to issue debt for this November 2008 referendum-approved project. Redesign costs of \$1,772 for this bridge were incurred during the fiscal year with available Town Capital and Non-Recurring Funds, and reconstruction costs, totaled \$10,182 for the fiscal year. The bridge reconstruction was completed in the summer of 2012 at a final cost of \$1,397,346.

Design costs, now estimated at \$332,490, for the **West Main Street Bridge** are 80% federally funded and 20% locally funded through the Public Bond Improvements Fund. \$258,089 has been expended to date. The reconstruction cost, estimated at \$1,950,000, is also eligible for the 80% federal grant award; the 20% local requirement will be funded partially with available funds in the Public Bond Improvements Fund. The project has received all state, federal and local approvals; and has been advertised for construction bids, to be opened in January 2014. The construction date for this project is scheduled for April 2014.

The estimated cost for the replacement of the **Main Street Bridge** over the Tankerhoosen River is \$3,283,200. Funding for the replacement will be by an 80% federal grant of \$2,626,560, with the remaining 20%, or \$656,640, to be locally funded. Local funds of \$250,000 are currently appropriated and available in the Town Capital Non-Recurring Fund with the remaining \$406,640 recently authorized by Town Council to be provided by a state LoCIP grant. A November 2008 referendum to authorize such local funding was unsuccessful, therefore requiring identification of these two local funding sources. Consultants have submitted qualifications for the design of the project. The selection process is currently underway.

In addition, the DOT is currently designing the replacement of the existing bridge over the Hockanum River on Windsorville Road. All costs associated with this project for design and construction will be state administered and state funded.

There is also a \$40,000 appropriation available in the Town Capital Non-Recurring Fund for design of the Dart Hill Road bridge reconstruction project.

The Town continues to address major *rolling stock* demands in an effort to replace equipment and vehicles that have met their useful life. Besides being better equipped to serve the residents of Vernon, a favorable result of this effort is the reduction to overall maintenance budgets for the subsequent year.

During the fiscal year, the town entered into two capital lease purchase agreements totaling \$2,010,000 for the acquisition of two fire pumper trucks, a fire rescue truck, an automated refuse / recycling truck, an excavator, a loader mounted snow blower and a parks tractor. In addition, a new capital lease will be issued to finance five dump trucks at a cost of \$430,489 that have been acquired via internal funding, as well as three pickup trucks at a cost of \$105,959 and plows and truck bodies for new trucks at a cost of \$404,764. A parks dump truck, acquired in fiscal year 2013/14 at a cost of \$38,253, will also be included in the new capital lease.

Also during the fiscal year, a \$36,505 portable lift for fire apparatus was purchased along with a front loading refuse truck at a cost of \$60,055. Funds have also been encumbered to purchase a new vehicle for the Fire Marshal, \$26,120, and Police Captain, \$24,880. In addition, three police vehicles, at \$26,656 each, were purchased with a FY 2012/13 original budget appropriation; and the Cemetery department purchased a replacement pickup truck at a cost of \$28,333.

In the recent past, appropriations funding the purchase of new refuse and recycling tote containers for the Town's newly implemented automated refuse and single stream recycling program were approved. Available funds in the Town Capital Non-Recurring Fund were utilized to fund the \$279,000 purchase of refuse tote containers and the \$170,740 purchase of recycling tote containers. Further authorizations amounting to \$319,590 were approved to purchase additional refuse and recycling totes. These costs are being reimbursed to the Fund from the General Fund over a five year period. In addition, a federal grant was obtained to fund the \$108,756 purchase of additional recycling containers.

To further support this new program, the Town Council re-designated \$100,000 of available funds in the Town Capital Non-Recurring Fund to fund the purchase of two used automated side-loading refuse / recycling trucks and authorized the use of Town Capital Non-Recurring Funds to fund the \$214,839 purchase of a new automated side-loading refuse truck. A \$48,105 refuse truck was also purchased by the General Fund. In addition, as noted above, a \$224,633 refuse truck was acquired via lease purchase; and a \$60,055 front loading refuse truck was also purchased with available funds. An additional re-designation of \$60,000 was used to construct a new transfer station compactor to handle the additional recyclable collections. This has produced significant annual savings in hauling fees. Also, an asphalt hot patch reclaimer was obtained in a prior year capital lease.

Items also acquired in the prior fiscal year, include an \$119,380 roadside mower with funding from the CL&P Municipal Brush Control program; a \$30,790 hybrid vehicle supported by partial funding of \$8,168, from the Connecticut Clean Energy program; and two police vehicles at a cost of \$48,216, supported in part by the use of available Town Capital Non-Recurring Funds of \$28,516. In the recent past, the Town also purchased a new \$27,700 pickup truck and a used \$31,000 bucket truck for Public Works; three police cruisers were obtained through a \$67,500 capital lease; two new, low-emission lawn tractors totaling \$15,640 for the Vernon Cemetery department were purchased with partial funding from a \$6,255 state lawn equipment exchange fund grant which required the scrap metal recycling of the mowers replaced. Other recent acquisitions include an Animal Control vehicle (\$19,898), a used backhoe for Parks and Recreation (\$44,725), a used fire department vehicle (\$2,495), a fire department trailer (\$3,633), a trailer for park and recreation (\$3,789), eleven GPS chemical control units for use in snow / ice removal (\$90,036) and, via capital lease, three (3) new dump trucks, one (1) refuse packer, a sweeper, vac-all and a recycling truck were acquired.

The Town Capital Non-Recurring Fund has a \$25,000 appropriation to upgrade generators at three town locations.

The Ambulance Medical Services account in the Special Revenue Fund reserves funds to periodically replace each of the three ambulances that the department maintains. Reserves, accumulated over the past several years, were used to fund the replacement of all three ambulances in current operation.

Bolton Lakes Wastewater Disposal: The Town of Vernon and the neighboring Town of Bolton entered into a consent order with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CTDEP) on October 14, 1999, requiring the towns to take the necessary steps to address wastewater disposal alternatives for the Bolton Lakes area. The design and construction costs of a sewer system are estimated to be \$21,699,000, with 29% or \$6,293,300 attributable to Vernon and the remainder to Bolton. Federal and state grants are estimated to offset approximately 57% of the costs, reducing Vernon's share to \$2,737,000, prior to the levy of assessments. Voters in both towns approved a special referendum held on September 27, 2005, regarding ordinances that guarantee funding for the project. Plans and funding applications have been completed. Construction, which is to be phased in over a five-year period to maximize grant-funding sources, commenced in the Bolton area in the spring of 2009 and in Vernon in 2012. Project work in Vernon is anticipated to be completed in 2015.

Parks and Recreation:

Recreation programs remain very popular with our residents as demand and participation increases. The town has 582 acres dedicated to recreation, which consist of 26 parks, 35 miles of trails, two pools, two beaches on lakes providing swimming, a camp, boat launch, picnic areas, and fishing and ice skating. Additionally, the Town has a teen center, numerous playgrounds, baseball and softball diamonds, soccer fields, and tennis and basketball courts. The department is also responsible for maintaining the athletic fields throughout the public school system, which includes a lighted football field and track.

Three federal grants totaling \$578,088 to fund design and construction enhancements in the Talcottville section of town have now been fully utilized. The improvements include a kiosk, period lighting, sidewalks, signage and other land improvements. Extensive renovations to the Vernon Community Arts Center were completed this year at a

final cost of \$1,794,846 and were funded entirely by two state grants. A \$27,620 designation of Downstream Funds continues to be utilized to fund invasive aquatic species surveys, management studies and removal from Valley Falls and Gages Brook Ponds, Walkers Reservoir, Middle and Lower Bolton Lakes and the Hockanum Marshes. Of the designation, \$13,140 has been expended to date. The Town Council also authorized \$16,000 for repairs to the Fox Hill Tower at Henry Park, of which \$3,713 have been expended to date. In May 2012, the town council authorized the use of \$18,500 in state LoCIP grant funds to fund roof replacements at Camp Newhoca. Also during the year, the town received a generous \$114,250 contribution from the Russell Hartmann Trust to fund a pavilion at Henry Park.

The State Bonding Commission has authorized \$605,000 for design and construction activities on the Valley Falls and Walkers' Reservoir dams. The Town's Capital Non-Recurring Fund also has a \$12,000 appropriation available for the proposed Valley Falls Park Dam reconstruction.

Recent park improvements included the following: Valley Falls Nature Center improvements, \$69,040, funded by state LoCIP grants; \$4,800 from the Downstream Fund to finance a completed Baseline Aquatic Study of the Dobsonville, Talcottville, Valley Falls and Eckers Ponds and Walkers Reservoir; replacement of restrooms at Valley Falls Park; renovations to Valley Falls Barn; trail improvements; improvements at Talcott Park; renovations to the Community and Horowitz Pools; \$715,112 of improvements at Rockville Central Park, funded by federal and state grants; \$283,000 of state grant funded restorations at the Vernon Historical Society Grange; Rockville Downtown and Train Depot and Mill rails-to-trails projects, which were funded by two federal grants totaling \$51,870; and three tree grants totaling \$7,167 expended to fund replacement of historic trees at Talcott and Henry Parks; and at Center 375. Also, the Parks Department expended \$11,400 for new refuse and recycling receptacles.

Education:

On March 29, 2005, voters approved three referenda questions for the renovations to school buildings and facilities and prior to June 30, 2011 the Town had issued four school bonds: \$2,515,000 on February 15, 2007; \$16,040,000 on February 1, 2008; \$10,155,000 on February 12, 2009; and \$1,600,000 on April 12, 2011. In April 2012, the Town refunded several debt issues including several prior school bond issues. The total amount of school defeased debt was \$23,016,000. The April 11, 2012 refunding issue includes \$22,168,000 of school bonded debt. Bond anticipation notes of \$3,730,000 were issued on April 11, 2012 and were retired on October 11, 2012, with the receipt of school construction progress payments from the State of Connecticut. The authorizations and expenditures are as follows:

Project	Amount Authorized	Expended Current Year	Expended Cumulative
Rockville High School - Additions & renovations	\$ 34,657,000	\$ 6,589	\$ 30,732,342
Vernon Center Middle School - Renovations	11,519,000	-	10,783,543
Center Road School	4,420,600	-	4,281,052
Lake Street School	5,828,800	-	4,958,686
Maple Street School	3,743,200	-	2,643,296
Northeast School	3,556,000	-	2,933,689
Skinner Road School	4,597,400	-	4,012,396
Total Elementary Schools - Additions and renovation	22,146,000	-	18,829,119
Issuance costs		-	338,891
Accrued note interest		29,011	1,175,907
Total:	\$ 68,322,000	\$ 35,600	\$ 61,859,802

The school building commission that was formed as of December 6, 2005, oversaw these completed projects. The recorded state progress payment reimbursements received as of June 30, 2013, is \$30,496,717. In addition, June 30, 2013, school progress receivables of \$124,599 have subsequently been received.

In addition to the school bond improvement authorization, several recent appropriations from the Education Capital Non-Recurring Fund have funded various school projects. Year-end education transfers to this Fund of \$394,000,

\$53,306 and \$50,404 in the previous three fiscal years have provided funding for these appropriations which include two \$100,000 appropriations to repair the Vernon Center Middle School chimney; \$80,000 to replace the boiler at the Education Central Administrative building; \$10,000 to fund a Rockville High School boiler replacement insurance deductible; \$50,000 to construct a natural gas line to the Education's Central Administration building; \$25,000 for the Center Road School's gym wall repointing, just completed; \$50,000 for Center Road School's bridge roofs replacement; and \$50,000 for Rockville High School bathroom repairs.

In addition, a \$146,390 state grant is funding vocational education equipment. Of this amount, \$133,546 has been expended to date. Current available resources for future education projects total \$364,943.

Other prior year-end transfers funded recently completed Education Capital Non-Recurring Fund projects and include the \$337,186 repair and repointing of the Board of Education administration building, the \$76,104 repaving of the Board of Education parking lot and the \$44,000 track resurfacing project at the Rockville High School.

The School system has received approval for a "Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Program" 2012 federal grant, as administered by the Connecticut Department of Transportation in conjunction with the Capitol Region Council of Governments.. The \$491,470 grant provides funding for pedestrian access upgrades for students to the Skinner Road Elementary School and includes sidewalks, trails, signage and pedestrian bridge improvements. A design consultant will be selected shortly to perform engineering design activities associated with this project.

In addition, the Vernon school system was awarded a \$386,394 state school security competitive grant to fund safety and security improvements at each of the Vernon schools. When combined with the required local match of \$151,828, the total amount available is \$538,222.

Long-Term Financial Planning

In the prior year, the Town refunded \$36,190,000 of general obligation bonded debt in April 2012 with a \$34,685,000 general obligation bond issue. The refunding resulted in a net present value savings of \$2,789,733; and net budgetary savings of \$3,716,215. Bond Anticipation Notes of \$3,730,000, outstanding at June 30, 2012 for school facilities renovations, were retired in October 2012 with the receipt of school construction project grants. In addition, in August 2012, the Town entered into capital leases for the acquisition of several public safety and public works vehicles. The \$2,010,000 in capital leases were used to acquire two fire pumper trucks, a fire rescue truck, an automated refuse / recycling truck, an excavator, a loader mounted snow blower and a parks tractor.

We will continue to revise the six-year capital improvement plan to address community demands, understanding that the budgetary constraints imposed by varied economic factors requires the diligent pursuit of grants and alternative resources to fund capital needs.

Relevant Financial Policies

The Town's financial policies have been applied consistently with the prior year and had no notable current year effect on the financial statements. There were no developments at the State level that impacted the current year financial statements.

OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

This annual report consists of a series of financial statements. The statement of net position and the statement of activities (Exhibits A and B, respectively) provide information about the activities of the Town as a whole and present a longer-term view of the Town's finances. Fund financial statements and notes are presented in Exhibits C to K. For governmental activities, these statements tell how these services were financed in the short-term as well as what remains for future spending. Fund financial statements also report the Town's operations in more detail than the government-wide statements by providing information about the Town's most significant funds. The remaining statements provide financial information about activities for which the Town acts solely as a trustee or agent for the benefit of those outside of the government.

Government-Wide Financial Statements

The analysis of the Town as a whole begins with Exhibit A and B, found in the Basic Financial Statements section of this report. The statement of net position and the statement of activities report information about the Town as a whole and about its activities for the current period. These statements include all assets and liabilities using the accrual basis of accounting, which is similar to the accounting used by most private-sector companies. All of the current year's revenues and expenses are taken into account regardless of when cash is received or paid.

These two statements report the Town's net position and changes in them. The Town's net position, the difference between assets and liabilities and deferred inflows of resources, is one way to measure the Town's financial health, or financial position. Over time, increases or decreases in the Town's net position is an indicator of whether its financial health is improving or deteriorating. The reader needs to consider other non-financial factors, however, such as changes in the Town's property tax base and the condition of the Town's capital assets, to assess the overall health of the Town.

In the statement of net position and the statement of activities, we divide the Town into two types of activities:

- *Governmental activities* — Most of the Town's basic services are reported here, including education, public safety, maintenance and development of streets and buildings, sanitation, human services, recreation, public improvements, community planning and development, and general administration. Property taxes, charges for services, and state and federal grants finance most of these activities.
- *Business - type activities* — The Town charges a fee to customers to help it cover all or most of the cost of certain services it provides. The Town's operation of the wastewater treatment facility and rentals at Center 375 are reported here.

Fund Financial Statements

The fund financial statements begin with Exhibit C and provide detailed information about the most significant funds — not the Town as a whole. Some funds are required to be established by Charter. However, the Town Council establishes many other funds to help control and manage financial activities for particular purposes (like the Ambulance Services Fund, Sewer Assessments Fund, and Cemetery Operations) or to show that it is meeting legal responsibilities for using funds for those purposes, and other money (like grants received for education from the State and Federal governments and accounted for in the Special Revenue Fund). The Town's funds are divided into three categories; governmental, proprietary and fiduciary.

- *Governmental funds (Exhibits C, D and E)* — Most of the Town's basic services are reported in governmental funds, which focus on how money flows into and out of those funds and the balances left at year-end that are available for spending. These funds are reported using an accounting method called modified accrual accounting, which measures cash and all other financial assets that can readily be converted to cash. The governmental fund statements provide a detailed short-term view of the Town's general government operations and the basic services it provides. Governmental fund information helps you determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance the Town's programs. The relationship (or differences) between governmental activities (reported in the statement of net position and the statement of activities) and governmental funds is described in the reconciliation on Exhibits C and E.
- *Proprietary funds (Exhibits F, G and H)* — When the Town charges customers for the services it provides, whether to outside customers or to other units of the Town, these services are generally reported in proprietary funds. Proprietary funds are reported in the same way that all activities are reported in the statement of net position and the statement of activities. In fact, the Town's enterprise funds (a component of proprietary funds) are the same as the business-type activities reported in the government-wide statements, but provide more detail and additional information, such as cash flows, for proprietary funds. Internal service funds (the other component of proprietary funds) are used to report activities that provide supplies and services for the Town's other programs and activities — such as the Town's Data Processing Internal Service Fund.

- *Fiduciary funds (Exhibits I and J)* — The Town is the trustee, or fiduciary, for its employees' pension and Other Post Employment Benefit plans. It is also responsible for other assets that, because of a trust arrangement, can be used only for the trust beneficiaries. All of the Town's fiduciary activities are reported in separate statements of fiduciary net position and changes in fiduciary net position. These activities are excluded from the Town's other financial statements because the Town cannot use these assets to finance its operations. The Town is responsible for ensuring that the assets reported in these funds are used for their intended purposes.

Supplementary Schedules

The schedules that follow the exhibits provide additional detail of revenue and expenditures for the General Fund.

CONTACTING THE TOWN'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The financial section of the annual report is designed to provide citizens, taxpayers, customers, investors, and creditors with a general overview of the Town's finances and to show the Town's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this section or need additional financial information, contact the Finance Department, Town of Vernon, 14 Park Place, Vernon, Connecticut, 06066.

COMPARATIVE GENERAL FUND OPERATING STATEMENT
BUDGET AND ACTUAL (BUDGETARY BASIS)

	Fiscal Year 2012-2013				Fiscal Year 2013-14 Adopted Budget
	Revised Budget	Actual	Outstanding Encumbrances	Variance Over (Under)	
REVENUES					
Property taxes	\$58,306,456	\$58,939,088	\$0	\$632,632	\$61,280,115
Intergovernmental	19,982,560	20,104,837	0	122,277	19,200,180
Charges for services	1,049,533	1,276,169	0	226,636	1,046,963
Licenses and permits	544,500	547,833	0	3,333	545,550
Gifts and contributions	0	0	0	0	0
Fines and penalties	10,000	18,615	0	8,615	16,200
Investment income	44,780	1,054	0	-43,726	40,070
Other	441,596	416,345	0	-25,251	409,807
Total Revenues	80,379,425	81,303,941	0	924,516	82,538,885
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES					
Operating transfers in	219,735	572,915	0	353,180	260,575
Total revenues and other financing sources	\$80,599,160	\$81,876,856	\$0	\$1,277,696	\$82,799,460
EXPENDITURES					
Current:					
General government	\$3,670,310	\$3,230,952	\$344,416	\$94,942	\$3,248,290
Community development	248,860	241,139	7,438	283	295,252
Public safety	8,448,802	8,169,618	167,090	112,094	7,948,994
Maintenance and development	5,544,130	5,222,913	115,778	205,439	5,409,909
Human services	993,833	974,251	10,510	9,072	950,004
Parks, recreation and culture	1,395,624	1,358,243	23,912	13,469	1,295,843
Town wide	7,397,629	7,054,780	119,534	223,315	7,246,711
Education	49,277,216	49,194,487	82,128	601	50,494,787
Capital improvements	313,590	57,787	55,000	200,803	265,565
Debt service	4,498,543	4,365,302	133,236	5	5,644,105
Total expenditures	81,788,537	79,869,472	1,059,042	860,023	82,799,460
OTHER FINANCING USES					
Operating transfers out	1,725,221	1,717,721	7,500	0	0
Total expenditures and other financing uses	\$83,513,758	\$81,587,193	1,066,542	\$860,023	\$82,799,460
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other financing sources over expenditures and other financing uses		\$289,663			-
June 30, 2012, encumbrances liquidated			1,066,542		
Increase (Decrease) in Unreserved Fund Balance		\$289,663	\$0	\$289,663	
Designation for:				0	
Increase (Decrease) in Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance				\$289,663	

TOWN OF VERNON, CONNECTICUT

GENERAL FUND

SCHEDULE OF REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2013

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance - with Final Budget
	Original	Final	Actual	
Property Tax Levies				
Current year property taxes	\$ 57,104,456.00	\$ 57,104,456.00	\$ 57,156,822.54	\$ 52,366.54
Prior year tax levies	380,000.00	380,000.00	740,188.57	360,188.57
Supplemental motor vehicle tax	592,000.00	592,000.00	655,477.23	63,477.23
Interest on delinquent taxes	220,000.00	220,000.00	373,164.64	153,164.64
Warrant revenue	7,000.00	7,000.00	7,866.70	866.70
Liens	3,000.00	3,000.00	5,568.04	2,568.04
Total Property Tax Levies	58,306,456.00	58,306,456.00	58,939,087.72	632,631.72
Intergovernmental				
Civil preparedness	7,100.00	7,100.00	7,937.14	837.14
FEMA Public Assistance October Storm Alfred	-	-	33,082.31	33,082.31
FEMA Public Assistance Hurricane Sandy	-	-	34,699.08	34,699.08
FEMA Public Assistance Strom Charlotte	-	-	115,284.80	115,284.80
Bullet Proof Vest grant	2,500.00	2,500.00	6,072.00	3,572.00
Community services block grant	20,436.00	20,436.00	20,581.00	145.00
Education cost sharing - Alliance district	248,797.00	248,797.00	-	(248,797.00)
Education cost sharing	17,645,165.00	17,645,165.00	17,609,809.00	(35,356.00)
Public pupil transportation	160,860.00	160,860.00	153,162.00	(7,698.00)
Non-public pupil transportation	19,360.00	19,360.00	12,857.00	(6,503.00)
Vocational agriculture	107,667.00	107,667.00	107,667.00	-
Student based supplement grant	128,580.00	128,580.00	128,580.00	-
Special education - Excess student based grant	-	-	35,536.00	35,536.00
School construction grants - Principal	115,843.00	115,843.00	115,843.10	0.10
School construction grants - Interest	1,750.00	1,750.00	1,749.67	(0.33)
School progress payments	-	-	-	-
Medicaid reimbursement	40,000.00	40,000.00	48,751.80	8,751.80
Medicaid retro reimbursement	-	-	260,000.00	260,000.00
Pilot - Colleges and hospitals	318,886.00	318,886.00	304,100.33	(14,785.67)
Pilot - State owned property	206,084.00	206,084.00	197,040.16	(9,043.84)
Pilot - Shelter rent	25,000.00	25,000.00	63,352.61	38,352.61
Tax Relief - Elderly circuit breaker	142,000.00	142,000.00	135,044.56	(6,955.44)
Tax Relief - Disability exemption	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,106.12	106.12
Tax Relief - Veterans exemption	24,000.00	24,000.00	20,632.99	(3,367.01)
Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan grant	218,273.00	218,273.00	193,050.31	(25,222.69)
Property tax relief grant	286,000.00	286,000.00	243,020.24	(42,979.76)
State revenue sharing	120,309.00	120,309.00	120,309.14	0.14
Telephone tax sharing	68,000.00	68,000.00	58,451.97	(9,548.03)
Municipal video trust account	10,500.00	10,500.00	23,549.93	13,049.93
Judicial reimbursement - Parking	50.00	50.00	350.00	300.00
Judicial reimbursements	200.00	200.00	720.00	520.00
Special reimbursements - Permits	200.00	200.00	183.60	(16.40)
State DUI grant	38,000.00	38,000.00	19,693.42	(18,306.58)
Motor vehicle violation surcharge	10,000.00	10,000.00	12,915.00	2,915.00
Historic document preservation grant	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,500.00	500.00
Other - State grants	8,000.00	8,000.00	11,205.14	3,205.14

TOWN OF VERNON, CONNECTICUT

GENERAL FUND

SCHEDULE OF REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2013

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		Actual	Variance - with Final Budget
	Original	Final		
Total Intergovernmental	19,982,560.00	19,982,560.00	20,104,837.42	122,277.42
<u>Charges for Services</u>				
Town Clerk recording fees	465,000.00	465,000.00	386,390.41	(78,609.59)
Vital statistics	500.00	500.00	-	(500.00)
Historic document preservation	12,500.00	12,500.00	14,613.00	2,113.00
Farmland preservation surcharge	-	-	180,227.00	180,227.00
Printing and copying fees	200.00	200.00	178.00	(22.00)
Finance administration fee	11,000.00	11,000.00	11,000.00	-
Planning and zoning fees	7,000.00	7,000.00	5,963.00	(1,037.00)
Conservation fees	2,000.00	2,000.00	1,687.00	(313.00)
Assessor fees	2,000.00	2,000.00	1,122.50	(877.50)
Tax Collection fees	20,000.00	20,000.00	-	(20,000.00)
Police - Special services	10,000.00	10,000.00	100,980.99	90,980.99
Applicant testing fees	-	-	6,055.00	6,055.00
Fingerprint fees	2,500.00	2,500.00	-	(2,500.00)
Other public safety	4,000.00	4,000.00	20.00	(3,980.00)
Fire Marshal services	500.00	500.00	740.00	240.00
Historic properties certification	-	-	100.00	100.00
Refuse Energy Community Outreach	-	-	20,000.00	20,000.00
Recycling	50,000.00	50,000.00	29,279.00	(20,721.00)
Recycling bin promotion	1,370.00	1,370.00	4,020.00	2,650.00
Bulky waste pickup	11,000.00	11,000.00	10,194.94	(805.06)
Other - Maintenance and development	12,000.00	12,000.00	7,737.20	(4,262.80)
Yankee Gas - Administration allocation	1,700.00	1,700.00	1,120.00	(580.00)
Energy application administration	8,663.00	8,663.00	-	(8,663.00)
Housing rehabilitation administration	600.00	600.00	772.36	172.36
Recreation - Other	-	-	4,892.77	4,892.77
Tuition - Special education	53,000.00	53,000.00	111,291.66	58,291.66
Tuition - Vo-Ag	341,000.00	341,000.00	319,680.00	(21,320.00)
Tuition - Special education Vo-Ag	29,000.00	29,000.00	46,604.00	17,604.00
Tuition - Individual	-	-	-	-
School use activity	-	-	-	-
Other - Education	4,000.00	4,000.00	11,500.00	7,500.00
Total Charges for Services	1,049,533.00	1,049,533.00	1,276,168.83	226,635.83
<u>Licenses and Permits</u>				
Building permits	448,000.00	448,000.00	460,804.16	12,804.16
Zoning Review	-	-	325.00	325.00
ZBA Fees	4,000.00	4,000.00	2,760.00	(1,240.00)
Zoning Permits	4,000.00	4,000.00	3,925.00	(75.00)
Town Clerk license surcharge	3,000.00	3,000.00	1,957.00	(1,043.00)
Refuse licensing	5,500.00	5,500.00	4,000.00	(1,500.00)
Transfer station permits	70,000.00	70,000.00	64,045.00	(5,955.00)
Driveway & road cut Permits	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,017.00	17.00

TOWN OF VERNON, CONNECTICUT

GENERAL FUND

SCHEDULE OF REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2013

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		Actual	Variance - with Final Budget
	Original	Final		
Total Licenses and Permits	544,500.00	544,500.00	547,833.16	3,333.16
<u>Fines and Penalties</u>				
Parking tags	9,500.00	9,500.00	15,214.80	5,714.80
Returned check charge	-	-	3,400.00	3,400.00
Zoning citations	500.00	500.00		(500.00)
Total Fines and Penalties	10,000.00	10,000.00	18,614.80	8,614.80
<u>Gifts & Contributions</u>				
Friends of Hockanum River Linear Park	-	-	-	-
Summer camp scholarships	-	-	-	-
CT Historical Commission	-	-	-	-
Total Gifts and Contributions	-	-	-	-
<u>Interest on Investments</u>				
General Fund income from investments	44,000.00	44,000.00	1,005.55	(42,994.45)
Post employment	680.00	680.00	37.23	(642.77)
Teachers' Retirement Board	100.00	100.00	10.50	(89.50)
	44,780.00	44,780.00	1,053.28	(43,726.72)
<u>Other Revenue</u>				
Purchasing card reimbursement	44,000.00	44,000.00	9,437.30	(34,562.70)
Rental income - Annex	24,000.00	24,000.00	24,000.00	-
Senior Center - Rental income	-	-	168.88	168.88
Rental management	50,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00	-
Rental income other	-	-	35,500.00	35,500.00
Medical insurance reimbursements	174,720.00	174,720.00	138,231.88	(36,488.12)
Insurance reimbursements	-	-	1,200.00	1,200.00
Gasoline reimbursements	85,827.00	85,827.00	100,827.26	15,000.26
Tolland - East / East Main Street sewers	30,949.00	30,949.00	30,949.20	0.20
Lease - Ellington pump station	6,100.00	6,100.00	6,680.95	580.95
Miscellaneous	26,000.00	26,000.00	19,349.37	(6,650.63)
Total Other Revenue	441,596.00	441,596.00	416,344.84	(25,251.16)
Total Revenues	80,379,425.00	80,379,425.00	81,303,940.05	924,515.05

TOWN OF VERNON, CONNECTICUT

GENERAL FUND

SCHEDULE OF REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2013

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance - with Final Budget
	Original	Final	Actual	
Other Financing Sources				
Transfers in:				
Special Revenue Fund	-	-	4,307.00	4,307.00
Recreation programs	55,000.00	55,000.00	55,000.00	-
Sewer assessments - Ordinance # 167	60,000.00	60,000.00	60,000.00	-
Sewer assessments - Ordinance # 201	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	-
Capital projects	-	-	-	-
Ambulance services	82,000.00	82,000.00	82,000.00	-
Investment income - Insurance exchange	250.00	250.00	20.43	(229.57)
Investment income - Town Aid for Roads	300.00	300.00	8.48	(291.52)
Investment income - School readiness	210.00	210.00	-	(210.00)
Investment income - Sewer Assessments	400.00	400.00	15.83	(384.17)
Medical savings reserve	-	-	300,000.00	300,000.00
Refunding bond proceeds	-	-	6,602.69	6,602.69
Investment income - WTP debt service fund	1,575.00	1,575.00	131.34	(1,443.66)
Proceeds from sale of property	-	-	44,829.50	44,829.50
Total Other Financing Sources	219,735.00	219,735.00	572,915.27	353,180.27
Total	\$ 80,599,160.00	\$ 80,599,160.00	\$ 81,876,855.32	\$ 1,277,695.32

Budgetary revenues are different than GAAP revenue because:

State of Connecticut "on-behalf" contributions to the Connecticut State Teachers'

Retirement System for Town teachers are not budgeted

5,170,568.00

Total revenues and other financing sources as reported on the statement of
revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance - governmental funds - Exhibit D:

\$87,047,423.32

TOWN OF VERNON, CONNECTICUT

GENERAL FUND

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2013

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Expenditures	Outstanding Encumbrances	Total Expenditures & Encumbrances	Variance with Final Budget
<u>General Government</u>						
Town Council	\$12,245.00	\$12,663.28	\$8,492.88	\$2,634.43	\$11,127.31	\$1,535.97
Probate Court	13,080.00	26,716.65	14,652.59	12,000.00	26,652.59	64.06
Executive and Administrative	664,886.00	698,741.82	628,979.43	35,063.97	664,043.40	34,698.42
Law	134,000.00	191,482.78	132,275.60	34,436.68	166,712.28	24,770.50
Registration	81,200.00	82,826.90	81,234.81	997.90	82,232.71	594.19
General Election	35,700.00	46,492.95	43,313.62	3,113.48	46,427.10	65.85
Primary	20,300.00	27,030.50	25,957.90	0.00	25,957.90	1,072.60
Referendum	6,600.00	18,000.00	16,405.29	393.42	16,798.71	1,201.29
Finance Administration	466,369.00	517,520.82	485,290.05	29,595.37	514,885.42	2,635.40
Independent audit	51,100.00	51,250.00	49,570.00	1,250.00	50,820.00	430.00
Treasury	21,455.00	38,165.00	1,538.00	26,600.00	28,138.00	10,027.00
Purchasing	9,950.00	16,081.57	9,182.09	6,650.00	15,832.09	249.48
Assessment	252,470.00	261,800.00	255,818.41	5,000.00	260,818.41	981.59
Refunds - Tax adjustments	25,000.00	50,000.00	46,445.38	0.00	46,445.38	3,554.62
Collector of Revenue	212,311.00	226,080.27	215,726.31	10,058.71	225,785.02	295.25
Revaluation	25,000.00	25,000.00	1,455.14	23,540.00	24,995.14	4.86
Town Clerk	259,895.00	457,029.79	423,084.47	22,865.01	445,949.48	11,080.31
Board of Assessment Appeals	2,800.00	2,800.00	2,400.00	0.00	2,400.00	400.00
Water Pollution Control Authority	10,969.00	10,969.00	10,969.00	0.00	10,969.00	-
Greater Hartford Transit District	3,647.00	3,793.27	3,793.27	0.00	3,793.27	-
Data Processing	698,580.00	905,864.42	774,367.35	130,216.95	904,584.30	1,280.12
Total General Government	3,007,557.00	3,670,309.02	3,230,951.59	344,415.92	3,575,367.51	94,941.51
<u>Community Development</u>						
Town Planner - Administration	\$241,979.00	\$248,859.66	\$241,138.55	\$7,437.50	\$248,576.05	\$283.61
Community and Economic Development	-	-	-	-	0.00	-
Total Community Development	241,979.00	248,859.66	241,138.55	7,437.50	248,576.05	283.61
<u>Public Safety</u>						
Police	\$5,846,064.00	\$6,098,761.10	\$5,978,873.33	\$62,310.46	\$6,041,183.79	\$57,577.31
School Crossing Guards	62,120.00	62,120.00	59,458.00	0.00	59,458.00	2,662.00
Traffic Authority	311,960.00	397,952.31	321,480.87	76,152.19	397,633.06	319.25
Fire Fighting and Administration	1,186,838.00	1,227,269.85	1,188,503.38	25,857.57	1,214,360.95	12,908.90
Fire Marshal	93,617.00	96,757.00	96,310.46	115.00	96,425.46	331.54
Building Inspection	250,079.00	263,450.16	255,169.91	0.00	255,169.91	8,280.25
Emergency Management	44,870.00	171,782.22	140,226.04	2,655.00	142,881.04	28,901.18
Animal Control	126,660.00	130,710.00	129,596.01	0.00	129,596.01	1,113.99
Total Public Safety	7,922,208.00	8,448,802.64	8,169,618.00	167,090.22	8,336,708.22	112,094.42

TOWN OF VERNON, CONNECTICUT

GENERAL FUND

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2013

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Expenditures	Outstanding Encumbrances	Total Expenditures & Encumbrances	Variance with Final Budget
<u>Maintenance and Development</u>						
Public Works Administration	\$609,189.00	\$656,066.57	\$651,515.37	\$1,474.63	\$652,990.00	\$3,076.57
General Maintenance	1,254,819.00	1,259,489.53	1,225,070.48	18,825.27	1,243,895.75	15,593.78
Equipment Maintenance	807,681.00	813,484.65	760,453.82	18,791.81	779,245.63	34,239.02
Maintenance of Governmental Buildings	758,968.00	766,002.06	721,669.55	21,507.01	743,176.56	22,825.50
Snow Removal	195,470.00	279,195.00	271,055.27	0.00	271,055.27	8,139.73
Refuse Collection and Disposal	1,045,699.00	1,023,106.37	891,895.04	44,708.72	936,603.76	86,502.61
Recycling	313,660.00	315,871.02	284,334.25	9,538.00	293,872.25	21,998.77
Condominium Refuse	5,046.00	5,046.00	4,680.01	0.00	4,680.01	365.99
Tree Warden	10,650.00	10,650.00	9,696.48	0.00	9,696.48	953.52
Leaf Collection	124,287.00	114,287.00	102,431.02	159.00	102,590.02	11,696.98
Engineering Administrative Services	293,140.00	300,931.89	300,111.82	774.00	300,885.82	46.07
Total Maintenance and Development	5,418,609.00	5,544,130.09	5,222,913.11	115,778.44	5,338,691.55	205,438.54
<u>Human Services</u>						
North Central District Health	\$124,706.00	\$124,706.00	\$124,705.35	\$0.00	\$124,705.35	\$0.65
Visiting Nurses & Health Services	12,249.00	12,249.00	12,249.00	0.00	12,249.00	-
Hockanum Valley Community Council	165,000.00	182,000.00	181,819.00	0.00	181,819.00	181.00
Child Guidance Clinic	11,000.00	11,000.00	11,000.00	0.00	11,000.00	-
Exchange Club - Prevent Child Abuse	8,000.00	8,000.00	8,000.00	0.00	8,000.00	-
Tri-County ARC	7,000.00	7,000.00	7,000.00	0.00	7,000.00	-
MARC, Inc. of Manchester	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	-
Shelter Services	14,700.00	16,016.00	6,036.00	5,300.00	11,336.00	4,680.00
Connecticut Legal Services	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	-
Hartford Interval House	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00	-
YWCA Sexual Assault Clinic	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	-
Hockanum Valley School Readiness	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	-
Social Services Administration	248,840.00	271,950.00	260,139.73	10,919.71	271,059.44	890.56
Youth Services	215,119.00	228,794.00	226,690.30	57.18	226,747.48	2,046.52
Senior Center	124,716.00	125,618.09	122,612.01	1,732.60	124,344.61	1,273.48
Total Human Services	947,830.00	1,003,833.09	976,751.39	18,009.49	994,760.88	9,072.21
<u>Parks, Recreation, and Culture</u>						
Recreation Administration	\$419,299.00	\$441,676.76	\$439,480.05	\$1,358.50	\$440,838.55	\$838.21
Public Celebration	20,000.00	25,484.00	20,265.21	5,218.00	25,483.21	0.79
Parks Maintenance	603,473.00	601,153.25	571,189.16	17,335.63	588,524.79	12,628.46
Arts Commission	11,640.00	11,810.00	11,808.95	0.00	11,808.95	1.05
Historical Society	5,500.00	5,500.00	5,500.00	0.00	5,500.00	-
Rockville Public Library	310,000.00	310,000.00	310,000.00	0.00	310,000.00	-
Total Parks, Recreation, and Culture	1,369,912.00	1,395,624.01	1,358,243.37	23,912.13	1,382,155.50	13,468.51
<u>Town Wide</u>						
Social Security and Medicare	\$943,000.00	\$936,157.00	\$920,212.33	\$0.00	\$920,212.33	\$15,944.67
Pension	2,251,074.00	2,418,945.25	2,407,608.29	\$11,336.96	2,418,945.25	-

TOWN OF VERNON, CONNECTICUT

GENERAL FUND

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2013

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Expenditures	Outstanding Encumbrances	Total Expenditures & Encumbrances	Variance with Final Budget
Group Insurance	2,747,189.00	2,755,694.00	2,479,834.27	80,288.10	2,560,122.37	195,571.63
Unemployment Compensation	25,000.00	58,252.83	45,008.73	13,244.10	58,252.83	-
Municipal Insurance	865,125.00	958,865.00	948,328.72	7,976.63	956,305.35	2,559.65
Contingency	170,000.00	51,571.73	42,332.67	0.00	42,332.67	9,239.06
Housing Authority Sewer Subsidy	50,500.00	55,758.91	49,070.64	6,688.27	55,758.91	-
Vernon Cemetery Commission	162,384.00	162,384.00	162,384.00	-	162,384.00	-
Total Town Wide	7,214,272.00	7,397,628.72	7,054,779.65	119,534.06	7,174,313.71	223,315.01
Subtotal - General Government	26,122,367.00	27,709,187.23	26,254,395.66	796,177.76	27,050,573.42	658,613.81
<u>Capital Improvements</u>						
Capital Improvements - Town	200,000.00	313,590.00	57,787.29	55,000.00	112,787.29	200,802.71
Total Capital Improvements	200,000.00	313,590.00	57,787.29	55,000.00	112,787.29	200,802.71
<u>Debt Service</u>						
Debt Service Principal Payments	3,224,590.00	3,173,590.00	3,126,102.28	47,486.36	3,173,588.64	1.36
Debt Service Interest Payments	1,328,952.00	1,324,952.00	1,239,199.89	85,749.70	1,324,949.59	2.41
Total Debt Service	4,553,542.00	4,498,542.00	4,365,302.17	133,236.06	4,498,538.23	3.77
Subtotal - Cap. Improve. / Debt Service	4,753,542.00	4,812,132.00	4,423,089.46	188,236.06	4,611,325.52	200,806.48

TOWN OF VERNON, CONNECTICUT

GENERAL FUND

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2013

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Expenditures	Outstanding Encumbrances	Total Expenditures & Encumbrances	Variance with Final Budget
<u>Education</u>						
Regular instruction	\$18,056,488.00	\$18,069,384.42	\$18,125,982.82	\$2,653.98	\$18,128,636.80	\$ (59,252.38)
Special Education instruction	4,553,611.00	4,565,603.11	4,503,266.63	10,867.55	4,514,134.18	51,468.93
Continuing Education	219,714.00	219,714.00	219,714.00	0.00	219,714.00	-
Special Education program support	2,486,237.00	2,765,707.00	3,502,621.94	0.00	3,502,621.94	(736,914.94)
Social Work services	523,049.00	523,049.00	699,350.33	0.00	699,350.33	(176,301.33)
Guidance services	705,747.00	706,269.94	695,364.01	0.00	695,364.01	10,905.93
Health services	415,088.00	415,164.06	396,837.74	0.00	396,837.74	18,326.32
Psychological services	561,354.00	561,393.34	548,583.80	0.00	548,583.80	12,809.54
Speech pathology & audio services	500,129.00	527,069.00	597,225.45	500.00	597,725.45	(70,656.45)
Instructional program support	40,561.00	53,899.49	33,688.97	140.30	33,829.27	20,070.22
Library / Media services	338,400.00	341,818.76	302,986.34	1,012.60	303,998.94	37,819.82
Curriculum development	1,444,128.00	1,422,255.91	1,247,501.99	58,630.05	1,306,132.04	116,123.87
Superintendent's office	474,697.00	522,425.52	542,913.77	1,491.32	544,405.09	(21,979.57)
Board of Education - Elected	126,932.00	133,420.72	72,076.20	0.00	72,076.20	61,344.52
Principal office services	2,097,531.00	2,106,517.85	2,009,064.27	638.19	2,009,702.46	96,815.39
Business office	423,437.00	437,760.02	545,105.59	4,006.25	549,111.84	(111,351.82)
Capital Reserve	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Building / Plant operations	4,002,810.00	4,211,008.81	3,846,005.98	1,842.64	3,847,848.62	363,160.19
Student transportation services	2,352,195.00	2,386,129.24	2,440,265.33	0.00	2,440,265.33	(54,136.09)
General control	187,865.00	208,060.30	113,125.20	242.74	113,367.94	94,692.36
Information systems	340,000.00	489,798.13	489,798.13	0.00	489,798.13	-
System-wide fringe benefits	7,800,664.00	8,095,962.24	7,796,215.03	102.42	7,796,317.45	299,644.79
Extra curricular student activities	491,588.00	494,129.82	466,792.98	0.00	466,792.98	27,336.84
Reserve for negotiations	20,675.00	20,675.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20,675.00
Total Education	\$48,162,900.00	\$49,277,215.68	\$49,194,486.50	\$82,128.04	\$49,276,614.54	\$601.14
Total Expenditures	79,038,809.00	81,798,534.91	79,871,971.62	1,066,541.86	80,938,513.48	860,021.43

TOWN OF VERNON, CONNECTICUT

GENERAL FUND

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2013

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Expenditures	Outstanding Encumbrances	Total Expenditures & Encumbrances	Variance with Final Budget
<u>Other Financing Uses</u>						
Transfers Out:						
Education - Transfer out					\$0.00	\$ -
Education - Capital Reserve	-	-		-	0.00	-
Education - Building / Plant Operations	18,097.00	18,097.11	18,097.11	-	18,097.11	-
Town Clerk - Preservation surcharge	-	4,871.00	4,871.00	-	4,871.00	-
Planning - Open Space	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	-	10,000.00	-
Community & Economic Development	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	-	40,000.00	-
Capital Improvements - Town	187,965.00	337,965.00	337,965.00	-	337,965.00	-
Vernon Cemetery Commission	-	-	-	-	0.00	-
Debt Service - WTP Principal Payments	1,203,108.00	1,203,108.00	1,203,107.73	-	1,203,107.73	0.27
Debt Service - WTP Interest Payments	101,181.00	101,181.00	101,180.55	-	101,180.55	0.45
Total Other Financing Uses	1,560,351.00	1,715,222.11	1,715,221.39	-	1,715,221.39	0.72
Total Expenditures and Other Financing Uses	80,599,160.00	\$ 83,513,757.02	\$ 81,587,193.01	\$ 1,066,541.86	\$ 82,653,734.87	\$ 860,022.15

Budgetary expenditures are different than GAAP expenditures because:

State of Connecticut "on-behalf" payments to the Connecticut State Teachers' Retirement System for Town teachers are not budgeted

5,170,568.00

Encumbrances for purchases and commitments ordered but not received are reported in the year the order is placed for budgetary purposes, but in the year received for financial reporting purposes

(1,066,541.86)

Total expenditures and other financing sources as reported on the statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances - governmental funds - Exhibit D

\$ 86,757,761.01

TOWN OF VERNON, CONNECTICUTSTATEMENT OF NET ASSETS
June 30, 2013

	GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES	BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES	TOTAL
<u>ASSETS</u>			
Current Assets:			
Cash	\$ 8,595,916	\$ 2,522,596	\$ 11,118,512
Investments	7,137,388	4,419,848	11,557,236
Receivables (net):			
Property taxes	1,072,814		1,072,814
Intergovernmental	3,083,782		3,083,782
Other	970,572	1,497,608	2,468,180
Internal balances	(404,898)	404,898	-
Other assets	80,647		80,647
Total current assets	20,536,221	8,844,950	29,381,171
Noncurrent assets:			
Restricted assets (temporary):			
Cash	98,034		98,034
Investments	412,914		412,914
Total Restricted assets	510,948	-	510,948
Restricted assets (permanent):			
Cash	5,000		5,000
Investments	1,691,935		1,691,935
Total Restricted assets (net)	1,696,935	-	1,696,935
Receivables (net):			
Property taxes	798,004		798,004
Loans	196,666		196,666
Total Receivables (net):	994,670	-	994,670
Other noncurrent assets:			
Net pension asset	421,164		421,164
Capital assets (net of accumulated depreciation):			
Land	8,324,925	1,267,840	9,592,765
Construction in progress	20,845,064		20,845,064
Intangible assets (net of accumulated amortization)	39,190	24,500	63,690
Buildings and improvements	83,061,346	1,423,487	84,484,833
Improvements other than buildings	2,297,150	39,119	2,336,269
Machinery and equipment	9,634,644	1,877,373	11,512,017
Infrastructure	31,037,000	5,478,353	36,515,353
Total capital assets (net of accum. depreciation)	155,239,319	10,110,672	165,349,991
Total noncurrent assets	158,863,036	10,110,672	168,973,708
TOTAL ASSETS	179,399,257	18,955,622	198,354,879

(Continued)

TOWN OF VERNON, CONNECTICUT

STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS

June 30, 2013

	GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES	BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES	TOTAL
<u>LIABILITIES</u>			
Current liabilities:			
Accounts payable	\$ 1,825,486	\$ 195,336	\$ 2,020,822
Accrued payroll and related liabilities	326,395		326,395
Accrued interest payable	567,141		567,141
Bond and notes payable	4,109,052		4,109,052
Capital lease payable	218,702		218,702
Compensated absences	1,001,551	115,591	1,117,142
Retirement obligations	680,795		680,795
Claims payable and other	464,593		464,593
Total current liabilities	9,193,715	310,927	9,504,642
Noncurrent liabilities:			
Bonds and notes payable and related liabilities	40,839,643		40,839,643
Capital lease payable	1,579,841		1,579,841
Compensated absences	3,038,496	357,028	3,395,524
Retirement obligations	2,448,869		2,448,869
Claims payable and other	661,776		661,776
Net OPEB obligation	1,994,992	54,999	2,049,991
Total Noncurrent liabilities	50,563,617	412,027	50,975,644
TOTAL LIABILITIES	59,757,332	722,954	60,480,286
<u>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</u>			
Deferred charge on refunding	1,410,936		1,410,936
Advance property tax collections	109,695		109,695
TOTAL DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	1,520,631	-	1,520,631
<u>NET POSITION</u>			
Net investment in capital assets	\$ 107,081,145	\$ 10,110,672	117,191,817
Restricted for:			-
Endowments:			-
Nonexpendable	1,696,935		1,696,935
Expendable	510,963		510,963
Grant programs	409,496		409,496
Sewer assessment	89,392		89,392
Cemeteries	184,036		184,036
Housing and community development	29,450		29,450
Education	157,770		157,770
Unrestricted	7,962,107	8,121,996	16,084,103
TOTAL NET POSITION	118,121,294	18,232,668	136,353,962

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2013

	EXPENSES	PROGRAM REVENUES			NET (EXPENSE) REVENUE AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION		
		CHARGES FOR SERVICES	OPERATING GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS	CAPITAL GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS	GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES	BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES	TOTAL
Governmental Activities:							
General government	\$ 5,907,367	\$ 1,033,606	\$ 11,205	\$ 13,424	\$ (4,849,132)		\$ (4,849,132)
Community development	419,554	8,422	20,581	49,950	(340,601)		(340,601)
Public safety	12,414,267	1,092,752	40,640		(11,280,875)		(11,280,875)
Maintenance and development	8,841,241	590,490	205,203	334,043	(7,711,505)		(7,711,505)
Human services	1,310,967				(1,310,967)		(1,310,967)
Parks, recreation and culture	2,657,811	778,727	234,475		(1,644,609)		(1,644,609)
Education	63,366,856	984,549	28,870,799	438,512	(33,072,996)		(33,072,996)
Interest on long-term debt	1,626,972		537,752		(1,089,220)		(1,089,220)
Total general government activities	96,545,035	4,488,546	29,920,655	835,929	(61,299,905)	-	(61,299,905)
Business-type activities:							
Sewer user	5,644,174	6,198,859				554,685	554,685
Center 375 (building rental)	186,503	165,268				(21,235)	(21,235)
Total business-type activities	5,830,677	6,364,127	-	-	-	533,450	533,450
Total	\$ 102,375,712	\$ 10,852,673	\$ 29,920,655	\$ 835,929	(61,299,905)	533,450	(60,766,455)
General revenues:							
Property taxes					58,971,919		58,971,919
Grants and contributions not restricted to specific programs					1,671,664		1,671,664
Investment income					135,297	724	136,021
Miscellaneous					1,005,114	206,990	1,212,104
Gain on sale of assets					44,449		44,449
Total general revenues					61,828,443	207,714	62,036,157
Change in Net Position					528,538	741,164	1,269,702
Net Position at July 1, 2012					117,592,756	17,491,504	135,084,260
Net Position at June 30, 2013					\$ 118,121,294	\$ 18,232,668	\$ 136,353,962

TOWN OF VERNON, CONNECTICUTGOVERNMENTAL FUNDSBALANCE SHEET
June 30, 2013

	GENERAL	DEBT SERVICE	PUBLIC BOND IMPROVEMENTS	SCHOOL BOND IMPROVEMENTS	NON-MAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS	TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
<u>ASSETS</u>						
Cash	\$ 5,700,066	\$ 180,000	\$ 712	\$ 452,412	\$ 2,102,745	\$ 8,435,935
Investments	3,368,016	131			4,835,131	8,203,278
Receivables (net):						-
Taxes	1,754,356					1,754,356
Intergovernmental	680,736	1,208,340		236,850	957,856	3,083,782
Other	187,458				756,902	944,360
Loans					196,666	196,666
Due from other funds	3,746,953		661,000		183,376	4,591,329
Inventory					36,257	36,257
Total Assets	<u>\$ 15,437,585</u>	<u>\$ 1,388,471</u>	<u>\$ 661,712</u>	<u>\$ 689,262</u>	<u>\$ 9,068,933</u>	<u>\$ 27,245,963</u>
<u>LIABILITIES</u>						
Accounts and other payables	\$ 1,225,307		\$ 36,402	\$ 112,251	\$ 424,287	\$ 1,798,247
Accrued wages and benefits	326,395					326,395
Due to other funds	844,442	131	474,906	267,000	2,208,758	3,795,237
Total liabilities	<u>2,396,144</u>	<u>131</u>	<u>511,308</u>	<u>379,251</u>	<u>2,633,045</u>	<u>5,919,879</u>
<u>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</u>						
Unavailable revenues:						
Property taxes	1,498,156					1,498,156
Advance property tax collections	109,695					109,695
Grants	29,400	1,208,340				1,237,740
Loans					196,666	196,666
Sewer assessments and user charges					2,723	2,723
Ambulance charges					689,505	689,505
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>1,637,251</u>	<u>1,208,340</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>888,894</u>	<u>3,734,485</u>
<u>FUND BALANCES</u>						
Nonspendable					1,733,192	1,733,192
Restricted					1,381,107	1,381,107
Committed			150,404	310,011	2,608,452	3,068,867
Assigned	1,388,542	180,000			712,047	2,280,589
Unassigned	10,015,648				(887,804)	9,127,844
Total fund balances	<u>11,404,190</u>	<u>180,000</u>	<u>150,404</u>	<u>310,011</u>	<u>5,546,994</u>	<u>17,591,599</u>
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources and Fund Balances	<u>\$ 15,437,585</u>	<u>\$ 1,388,471</u>	<u>\$ 661,712</u>	<u>\$ 689,262</u>	<u>\$ 9,068,933</u>	<u>\$ 27,245,963</u>

TOWN OF VERNON, CONNECTICUT
RECONCILIATION OF FUND BALANCE
TO NET POSITION OF GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES

JUNE 30, 2013

AMOUNTS REPORTED FOR GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES IN THE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION (EXHIBIT A) ARE DIFFERENT FROM THE GOVERNMENTAL FUND BALANCE SHEET, THE DETAILS OF THIS DIFFERENCE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

TOTAL FUND BALANCE (EXHIBIT C, PAGE 1)	\$	17,591,599
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CAPITAL ASSETS USED IN GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES ARE NOT FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND, THEREFORE, ARE NOT REPORTED IN THE FUNDS:

Beginning capital assets		156,679,481
Less internal service fund capital assets		(428,770)
Current capital asset additions		4,150,040
Less internal service fund capital assets additions		(48,445)
Depreciation expense		(5,390,546)
Less internal service fund capital assets depreciation		117,194
Disposal and sale of capital assets		(199,656)
Less internal service fund disposal and sale of capital assets		381

OTHER LONG-TERM ASSETS ARE NOT AVAILABLE TO PAY FOR CURRENT PERIOD EXPENDITURES AND, THEREFORE, ARE DEFERRED IN THE FUNDS:

Property tax and sewer assessment interest and lien accrual		691,462
Property tax, sewer assessment, grant, ambulance services and community development block grant receivable - accrual basis change		3,624,790
Allowance for doubtful accounts		(575,000)
Net pension asset		421,164

INTERNAL SERVICE FUNDS ARE USED BY MANAGEMENT TO CHARGE THE COST OF VARIOUS SELF-INSURED RISK PREMIUMS AND DATA PROCESSING OPERATION TO INDIVIDUAL DEPARTMENTS:

The assets and liabilities of the internal service funds are included in governmental activities in the statement of net position		(640,144)
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SOME LIABILITIES, INCLUDING BONDS PAYABLE, ARE NOT DUE AND PAYABLE IN THE CURRENT PERIOD AND, THEREFORE, ARE NOT REPORTED IN THE FUNDS:

Bonds, notes and related liabilities		(39,335,000)
Deferred charge		(1,410,936)
Accrued interest payable		(567,141)
State of Connecticut Clean Water Fund notes		(5,613,695)
Compensated absences		(4,040,047)
Less internal service fund compensated absences		17,762
Capital leases		(1,798,543)
Net OPEB liability		(1,994,992)
Retirement obligations		(3,129,664)

NET POSITION OF GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES

118,121,294

TOWN OF VERNON, CONNECTICUT

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2013

	GENERAL	DEBT SERVICE	PUBLIC BOND IMPROVEMENTS	SCHOOL BOND IMPROVEMENTS	NON-MAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS	TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
Revenues:						
Property taxes	\$ 58,939,088	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 58,939,088
Intergovernmental	25,275,405			304,965	6,526,009	32,106,379
Assessments					4,683	4,683
Charges for services	1,842,617				2,513,372	4,355,989
Gifts and contributions		537,752			244,135	781,887
Income on investments	1,054	131			133,991	135,176
Other	416,345				584,086	1,000,431
Total revenues	86,474,509	537,883	-	304,965	10,006,276	97,323,633
Expenditures:						
Current:						
General government	3,230,952				17,333	3,248,285
Community development	241,139				60,713	301,852
Public safety	8,169,618				1,009,045	9,178,663
Maintenance and development	5,222,913				399,497	5,622,410
Human services	974,251				82,285	1,056,536
Parks, recreation and culture	1,358,243				664,880	2,023,123
Town wide	7,054,780					7,054,780
Education	54,365,055				6,918,036	61,283,091
Debt service	4,365,302	1,662,040		29,011		6,056,353
Capital outlay	57,787		379,056	6,590	3,610,070	4,053,503
Total expenditures	85,040,040	1,662,040	379,056	35,601	12,761,859	99,878,596
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	1,434,469	(1,124,157)	(379,056)	269,364	(2,755,583)	(2,554,963)
Other financing sources (uses):						
Lease purchase of equipment					2,010,000	2,010,000
Sale of assets	44,830					44,830
Transfers in	528,085	1,304,288			413,433	2,245,806
Transfers out	(1,717,721)	(6,734)			(521,351)	(2,245,806)
Total other financing sources (uses)	(1,144,806)	1,297,554	-	-	1,902,082	2,054,830
Net change in Fund Balances	289,663	173,397	(379,056)	269,364	(853,501)	(500,133)
Fund Balances at July 1, 2012	11,114,527	6,603	529,460	40,647	6,400,495	18,091,732
Fund Balances at June 30, 2013	\$ 11,404,190	\$ 180,000	\$ 150,404	\$ 310,011	\$ 5,546,994	\$ 17,591,599

TOWN OF VERNON, CONNECTICUT

RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES
IN FUND BALANCES OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS TO STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2013

AMOUNTS REPORTED FOR GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES IN THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

(EXHIBIT B) ARE DUE TO:

NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES - TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS (EXHIBIT D) \$ (500,133)

Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the Statement of Activities, the cost of those assets are allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense. This is the amount by which capital outlays exceeded depreciation in the current period:

Capital outlay	4,101,595
Depreciation expense	(5,273,352)

Total	(1,171,757)
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The net effect of various miscellaneous transactions involving capital assets (i.e., sales, trade-ins and donations) is to increase net position. In the Statement of Activities, only the *loss* on the sale of capital assets is reported. However, in the governmental funds, the proceeds from the sale increase financial resources. Thus, the change in net position differs from the change in fund balance by the cost of the capital assets sold

(199,275)

Revenues in the Statement of Activities that do not provide current financial resources are not reported as revenues in the funds, and revenues recognized in the Fund Financial Statements are not recognized in the Statement of Activities:

Change in property tax, sewer assessment, grant, ambulance services and community development block loan receivable - accrual basis change	(310,783)
Change in property tax and sewer assessment interest and lien revenue	2,729

Total	(308,054)
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The issuance of long-term debt (e.g., bonds, leases) provides current financial resources to governmental funds, while the repayment of the principal of long-term debt consumes the current financial resources of governmental funds. Neither transactions, however, have any effect on net position. Also, governmental funds report the effect of premiums, discounts, and similar items when debt is first issued, whereas these amounts are deferred and amortized in the Statement of Activities. The details of these differences in the treatment of long-term debt and related items are as follows:

Debt issued or incurred:	
Capital lease	(2,010,000)
Principal repayments:	
General obligation bonds and notes payable	4,401,643
Deferred charges	94,064
Capital lease payable	257,566

Total	2,743,273
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TOWN OF VERNON, CONNECTICUT

RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES
IN FUND BALANCES OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS TO STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2013

Some expenses reported in the Statement of Activities do not require the use of current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as expenditures in the governmental funds:

Compensated absences	\$	263,390
Retirement obligations		42,215
Net OPEB obligations		(297,466)
Accrued interest payable		<u>(323,892)</u>
Total		<u>(315,753)</u>

Internal service funds are used by management to charge costs of various self-insured risk premiums and Data Processing operations to individual departments

280,497

The net revenue of the activities of the Internal Service Fund is reported with governmental activities

(260)

CHANGE IN NET POSITION OF GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES (EXHIBIT B)

\$ 528,538

TOWN OF VERNON, CONNECTICUTSTATEMENT OF NET ASSETS - PROPRIETARY FUNDS

JUNE 30, 2013

	BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES			GOVERNMENTAL
	SEWER	NON-MAJOR		ACTIVITIES
	USER	CENTER	TOTAL	INTERNAL
		375		SERVICE FUNDS
ASSETS:				
Current assets:				
Cash	\$ 2,480,457	\$ 42,139	\$ 2,522,596	\$ 263,015
Investments	3,337,157	1,082,691	4,419,848	1,038,959
Receivables (net)	1,496,238	1,370	1,497,608	26,212
Prepaid expense	-	-	-	27,820
Total current assets	7,313,852	1,126,200	8,440,052	1,356,006
Capital assets (net):				
Land and land improvements	838,180	645,711	1,483,891	
Buildings and plant	4,213,500	1,874,857	6,088,357	
Machinery and equipment	8,573,316	25,207	8,598,523	256,486
Infrastructure	10,661,856		10,661,856	245,734
Intangible - computer software	49,000		49,000	387,279
Accumulated depreciation	(15,376,444)	(1,394,511)	(16,770,955)	(529,859)
Capital assets (net)	8,959,408	1,151,264	10,110,672	359,640
Total assets	16,273,260	2,277,464	18,550,724	1,715,646
LIABILITIES:				
Current liabilities:				
Accounts and other payables	183,477	11,859	195,336	16,791
Claims payable			-	464,593
Due to other funds	14,439		14,439	775,531
Accrued compensated absences	115,591		115,591	6,955
Total current liabilities	313,507	11,859	325,366	1,263,870
Noncurrent liabilities:				
Claims payable	-	-	-	661,776
Accrued compensated absences	357,028		357,028	10,797
Net OPEB obligation	54,999	-	54,999	
Total noncurrent liabilities	412,027	-	412,027	672,573
Total liabilities	725,534	11,859	737,393	1,936,443
NET POSITION:				
Net investment in capital assets	8,959,408	1,151,264	10,110,672	359,640
Unrestricted	6,588,318	1,114,341	7,702,659	(580,447)
Total Net Position	\$ 15,547,726	\$ 2,265,605	17,813,331	\$ (220,807)
Adjustment to reflect the consolidation of internal service fund activities related to enterprise funds			419,337	
Net position of business-type activities (Exhibit A)			\$ 18,232,668	

TOWN OF VERNON, CONNECTICUTPROPRIETARY FUNDSSTATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN FUND NET ASSETS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2013

	BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES			GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES
	NON-MAJOR			INTERNAL SERVICE FUNDS
	SEWER USER	CENTER 375	TOTAL	
Operating Revenues:				
Charges for services	\$ 5,543,764	\$ 165,268	\$ 5,709,032	\$ 1,739,767
Gifts and contributions			-	1,409,268
Other:			-	
Septic fees	573,923		573,923	
Delinquent interest	71,828		71,828	
Miscellaneous	9,344		9,344	48,555
Total operating revenues	6,198,859	165,268	6,364,127	3,197,590
Operating Expenses:				
Wages and benefits	2,093,032		2,093,032	504,019
Repairs, maintenance and rentals	457,932	17,664	475,596	394,878
Utilities	1,647,305	44,985	1,692,290	11,844
Supplies and materials	511,046	19,165	530,211	2,265
General and administrative	386,326	61,076	447,402	221,818
Claims incurred			-	1,641,921
Depreciation	514,916	43,613	558,529	117,194
Total operating expenses	5,610,557	186,503	5,797,060	2,893,939
Operating income (loss)	588,302	(21,235)	567,067	303,651
Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses):				
Investment income	547	177	724	121
Insurance and other reimbursements	206,990		206,990	
Loss on disposal of capital assets	-	-	-	(381)
Net Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)	207,537	177	207,714	(260)
Income (loss) before capital contribution	795,839	(21,058)	774,781	303,391
Capital contributed	-	-	-	13,424
Change in Net Position	795,839	(21,058)	774,781	316,815
Total Net Position at July 1, 2012	13,920,869	2,306,148		(537,622)
Total Net Position at June 30, 2013	\$ 14,716,708	\$ 2,285,090		\$ (220,807)
Adjustment to reflect the consolidation of internal service fund activities related to enterprise funds			(33,617)	
Net assets of Business-type activities (Exhibit B)			\$ 741,164	

TOWN OF VERNON, CONNECTICUT
STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
FIDUCIARY FUNDS
DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND JUNE 30, 2013

	PENSION TRUST FUNDS DECEMBER 31, 2012	OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS TRUST FUND JUNE 30, 2013	PRIVATE PURPOSE TRUST FUND JUNE 30, 2013	AGENCY FUND JUNE 30, 2013
ASSETS:				
Cash	\$ -	41,946	\$ 275,633	\$ 464,205
Investments, at fair value (pooled):				
Pooled fixed income		\$ 229,045	237,941	178,537
Mutual funds:				
Domestic equity	21,176,722			
International equity	5,810,673			
Corporate bond	8,957,746			
Money market	43,888			
International bond	119,774			
Guaranteed investment account	12,949,049			
Total investments	49,057,852	229,045	237,941	178,537
Accounts receivable		404	33,548	-
Due from other funds				66
Total assets	49,057,852	271,395	547,122	642,808
LIABILITIES:				
Accounts and other payables	20,830	109,680		641,274
Due to other funds		4,654		1,534
Unearned revenue		40		
Total Liabilities	20,830	114,374	-	642,808
NET POSITION:				
Held in trust for pension and OPEB benefits and other purposes	\$ 49,037,022	\$ 157,021	\$ 547,122	\$ -

TOWN OF VERNON, CONNECTICUT**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION****FIDUCIARY FUNDS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND JUNE 30, 2013**

	Pension Trust Funds December 31, 2012	Other Post Employment Benefits Trust Fund June 30, 2013	Private Purpose Trust Fund June 30, 2013
Additions:			
Contributions:			
Employer	\$ 3,199,500	80,000	\$ -
Employee	1,332,034		
Retirees		947,787	
State		129,077	
Private			53,582
Other		4,915	
Total contributions	4,531,534	1,161,779	53,582
Net investment income	4,787,526	12	7,245
Total additions	9,319,060	1,161,791	60,827
Deductions:			
Benefit payments / annuity purchases	4,340,495	1,081,779	
Refund of contributions	74,631		
Administrative expense	178,039		
Awards			26,771
Total deductions	4,593,165	1,081,779	26,771
Change in Net Position	4,725,895	80,012	34,056
Net Position at January 1 and July 1, 2012	44,311,127	77,009	513,066
Net Position at December 31, 2012 and June 30, 2013	\$ 49,037,022	\$ 157,021	\$ 547,122

TOWN CLERK/REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS

Department Head:

Bernice K. Dixon, CCTC, CMC, Town Clerk

Location of Department:

Town Hall Memorial Building, First Floor, Room 2

Connecticut State Statutes and the Town Charter govern the duties and responsibilities of the Office of the Town Clerk/Registrar of Vital Statistics. The Town Clerk's Office recorded and processed 6,821 land record documents pertaining to real estate, including 390 property transfers, from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013. These records encompass 68 volumes and approximately 23,800 pages. In addition, 112 maps, 61 veterans' discharges, 515 notary related transactions, 98 trade names, and 38 liquor permits were filed, recorded and processed. There were 435 sporting licenses, 2181 dog licenses, and 3 kennel licenses issued. The office is actively involved in the preparation and the conducting of all elections, primaries, and referenda of which there were four. Campaign finance reports are also filed with and maintained by the Town Clerk's Office.

The Town Clerk in Vernon is, by virtue of the State Statutes, also the Registrar of Vital Statistics. In this capacity during this fiscal year, the office issued and/or received from other towns 327 births, 103 marriages, 0 Civil Unions, 358 deaths, 260 burial permits, 86 cremation permits, and 0 disinterment permits; and also issued 3189 certified copies of birth, marriage and death records.

SERVICES OFFERED:

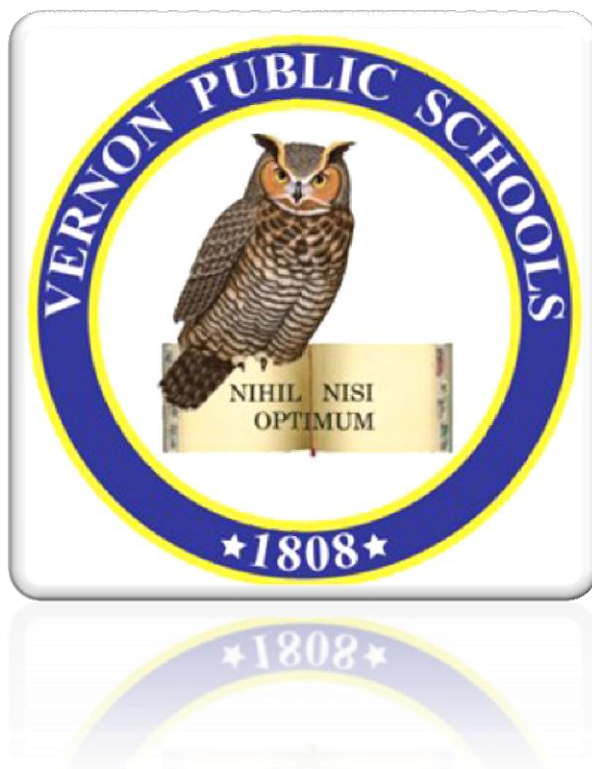
- Absentee Ballot Issuance
- Dog License Issuance
- Election Preparation
- Land and Map Recordation
- Marriage/Civil Union License Issuance
- Notary Public Services
Registration/Certification
- Schedule of Regular Meeting Date
Filings
- Sporting License Issuance
- State Conveyance Tax Return Processing
- Trade Name Registration
- Liquor Permit Registration
- Veteran Registration
- Certified Copies of Vital Records
(*Birth, Marriage, Civil Union, Death*)
- Voter Registration/Identification Cards

RECORDS MAINTAINED AND INDEXED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION:

- Burial Book/Sexton's Returns
- Election/Referendum Statistics
- Elected and Appointed Officials Data
- Land and Map Records
- Liquor Permits
- Minutes /Agendas of Town Meetings
- Town Code of Ordinances
- Trade Name/DBA Records
- Veteran Discharge Records
- Vital Statistics Indexes
- Writs and Claim Notification

REPOSITORY OF: Miscellaneous Agreements and Contracts, Annual Reports, Budgets, Campaign Finance Filings, and Other Miscellaneous Correspondence, Minutes and Information.

EDUCATION



VERNON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Superintendent: Mary P. Conway, Ed. D.

Assistant Superintendent: Deborah Murasso

Members of Board of Education:

Dean Houle, Chairperson

Anne Fischer, Vice Chairperson

Kyle Percy, Treasurer

Laura Bush, Secretary

Michele Arn

Amarjit Buttar

Terri Goldich

David Kemp

William Nicholson

Responsibilities and Duties: The authority, the duties and the responsibilities of the Board have been established by the Connecticut statutes, federal laws, and the town charter. The Board of Education scheduled regular meetings on the second and fourth Mondays of each month with the exception of July, when it did not meet, and August and December when it met only once. In addition, Board committees met throughout the year to deal with budget, policy, facilities, and negotiations.

School Data:

The following is a list of the five elementary schools and in parenthesis is the October 1, 2012 enrollment for each school:

- Center Road School (495)
- Lake Street School (280)
- Maple Street School (337)
- Northeast School (323)
- Skinner Road School (332)

All elementary schools contain grades Preschool-5.

There are two schools that enroll students in grades 6-12.

- Vernon Center Middle School (697) accommodates students in grades 6-8.
- Rockville High School (976) accommodates students in grades 9-12.

The total enrollment for the district was 3,440. The total budget for the 2012-2013 school year was \$48,180,997.

District Mission Statement

The Vernon Public Schools, in partnership with family and community, is committed to provide a quality education, with high expectations, in a safe environment where all students become independent learners and productive contributors to society.

Goals

1. Build and improve relationships and partnerships with family and community.
2. Increase the achievement of every student through high quality curriculum, instruction and assessment.
3. Promote safe environments that are socially, emotionally, and physically conducive to learning.

Student Achievement:

As a result of local testing policies and state and federal mandates, Vernon students in grades 3 through 8 and grade 10 participated in a demanding scope of testing experiences. The careful, accurate analysis of test results provided the basis for the improvement of teaching and learning. *School Improvement Plans (SIP)* and the *District Improvement Plan (DIP)* documented the actions designed to support the mission, goals, and the Strategy for Improvement of the Vernon schools to improve achievement for all students. During the 2012-13 school year, the following trends were reflected in district testing:

...On the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT):

	Mathematics		Reading		Writing		Science	
	% at/above goal		% at/above goal		% at/above goal		% at/above goal	
	2006	2013	2006	2013	2006	2013	2008	2013
Grade 3	59.8	52.8	63.1	50.0	57.5	50.9		
Grade 4	57.7	59.3	62.6	63.6	64.7	58.3		
Grade 5	55.4	67.2	62.2	63.9	63.6	57.9	55.5	55.6
Grade 6	49.7	57.8	56.9	62.9	62.7	56.8		
Grade 7	56.4	54.6	69.3	66.1	58.7	43.4		
Grade 8	54.2	60.3	59.0	61.8	61.2	59.0	42.5	55.2

- In **mathematics**, the percent of students scoring at/above goal increased in grades 4, 5, 6, and 8 over baseline data established in 2006.
- In **reading**, the percent of students scoring at/above goal in grades 4, 5, 6, and 8 increased over baseline data established in 2006.
- In **writing**, data show a decline in the percent of students scoring at/above goal.
- In **science**, the percent of students in grade 8 scoring at/above goal increased incrementally over baseline data established in 2008.

...On the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT): Percent of Students At / Above Goal

	Mathematics	Science	Reading	Writing
2011	36.8	39.4	33.6	41.0
2012	39.5	39.9	35.5	48.7
2013	41.5	43.1	34.1	45.7

- And on the grade 10 CAPT, the percent of students at/above goal in **mathematics** and **science** increased incrementally from 2011 to 2013.
- In **reading** and **writing** the data shows an increase from 2011-2012 and a decline from 2012-2013 in the percent of students scoring at/above goal.

...On Connecticut's Waiver from No Child Left Behind

Connecticut's Waiver from No Child Left Behind has established a new accountability metric to track the progress of schools and districts in raising student achievement. The "Performance Index" (between 0 and 100) counts performance and progress of all students in tested grades. Using data from previous years (including 2011-12), the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) set differentiated performance targets for districts and schools for the 2012-2013 school year. As of September 10, 2013 the Connecticut State Department of Education has not posted updated targets for any district.

Vernon's District Performance Targets for the 2012-13 School Year are as follows:

Connecticut State Department of Education				
CMT District Performance Targets for the 2012-2013 School Year				
VERNON				
Indicator	Participation Rate (2011-12)	DPI (2011-12)	Baseline DPI (3-year Avg.)	DPI Performance Target (2012-13)
District Performance Index (DPI)	100.0%	75.9	75.4	76.4
DPI: Students with Disabilities	100.0%	38.6	38.3	41.3
DPI: Eligible for Free or Reduced Price Lunch	100.0%	62.0	61.2	63.4
DPI: Black	100.0%	62.8	62.6	64.7
DPI: Hispanic	100.0%	58.9	57.2	59.8
DPI: English Language Learners	100.0%	49.0	40.0	43.0
DPI Subject: Reading	99.5%	75.4	73.4	74.6
DPI Subject: Mathematics	99.9%	78.1	78.3	79.1
DPI Subject: Writing	99.6%	76.6	76.5	77.5
DPI Subject: Science	99.8%	72.7	73.5	74.7

Professional Learning

To ensure that Vernon educators are provided with high quality, rigorous professional development experiences linked to advancing student learning, the Vernon Public Schools planned and implemented a variety of meaningful and relevant in-service activities to address individual and department needs; to support curriculum, instruction, and assessment practices; and to achieve the *School and District Improvement Plans*, aligned to our three district goals (BOE Goal #1, BOE Goal #2, and BOE Goal #3). What follows is a summary of the professional development activities provided during the 2012-13 school year:

Staff/Professional Development Days

A combination of activities that supported the goals of *District and School Improvement* were planned and facilitated by members of Vernon's administrative team on the four scheduled staff/professional development days as outlined on the 2012-13 school calendar: August 27, 2012, November 6, 2012, February 15, 2013, and April 1, 2013, as well as on specially arranged times during and after the school day. Activity topics included *The First Days of School: Preparing for a Year of Professional Learning*, *Standard-Based Curriculum Development*, *School Climate*, *PD360/Common Core 360 (School Improvement Network)*, *Senior Leadership Teams*, and *Teacher Educator and Mentoring (TEAM)*.

Teacher Induction Series

Supporting new teachers in the critical induction years through the state-mandated *TEAM (Teacher Educator and Mentoring)* Program was the focus of a series of after school support sessions provided for first and second year teachers. The purpose of these sessions was:

- to keep new teachers informed of the requirements and professional responsibilities they have toward certification;
- to share updates from the Connecticut State Department of Education TEAM Program;
- to discuss elements of effective teaching, classroom management, cooperative learning, lesson mastery, positive expectations, and differentiated instruction; and
- to provide new teachers a forum to network with their colleagues.

"The mission of the TEAM Program is to promote excellence, equity and high achievement for Connecticut students by engaging teachers in purposeful exploration of professional practice through guided support and personal reflection."

TEACHER EDUCATOR AND MENTORING GOALS INCLUDE:

- Refining beginning teachers' practice utilizing research-based best practices in the classroom;
- Developing reflective practitioners who are able to critically assess their practice using professional standards and set professional growth goals;
- Cultivating an understanding of professional responsibilities as an educator and promoting a sense of professionalism;
- Easing the beginning teacher's transition into the teaching profession in order to end teacher isolation and retaining quality teachers; and
- Providing teachers and districts resources to support teacher induction.

Embedded Professional Learning – Teams

During collaborative grade level/department time, all staff participated in monthly meetings to practice and implement the data team protocol: identifying a skill or competency giving the greatest number of students following difficulty based on assessment data; discussing ways to more effectively teach to that area of weakness; selecting a strategy or solution that they believe has the greatest potential for impact; and committing as a team to experimenting with the new strategy, assessing its impact, and being ready to report back on student results at the next meeting.

Curriculum Development

To support the continuous review of the K-12 educational program, a curriculum review and development cycle was established for the purpose of renewing curriculum every five years. The intent of the cycle's process (Evaluate, Develop, Implement 1-2-3) is designed to provide a systematic method for the purposes of:

- Examining curriculum for its alignment to national, state, and district standards.
- Identifying curriculum needs.
- Engaging teachers in the curriculum review and development process.
- Ensuring a vertical and horizontal coordination of curriculum K-12.
- Providing a structure that supports a comprehensive approach to curriculum evaluation, development, and implementation.
- Developing assessments to measure the success of the curriculum and Vernon students.

As defined in *Greater Expectations: A Curriculum Development Handbook for the Twenty-first Century*, the cycle of program review for the 2012-13 school year was as follows:

Mathematics, K-12	Implementation, Year 2
Science, K-12	Development
English/Language Arts, K-12	Implementation, Year 1
Social Studies, K-12	Evaluation
World Language, 7-12	Evaluation
Fine Arts, K-12	Development
Applied Sciences, 6-12	Implementation, Year 2
Physical Education/Health	Implementation, Year 3
Library Media/School Counseling	Implementation Year 3

Of significance was Vernon Board of Education approval of the following curriculum documents, aligned to the new Common Core State Standards and/or National Standards:

Business and Computer Science

- Introduction to Computer Programming I
- Office Applications I
- Office Applications II

English/Language Arts, K-12

- Early College Experience (ECE) Writing through Literature
- Early College Experience (ECE) Seminar in Academic Writing
- Advanced Creative Writing
- Young Adult Literature

Family and Consumer Science

- Education Practicum, Grade 12
- Independent Living, Gr. 9-12
- Baking I & II

Rockville High School

- Meteorology
- ECE (Early College Experience) Biology

Social Studies

- ECE (Early College Experience) Modern European History

Technology Education

- Principles of Engineering I
- Principles of Engineering II
- Architectural Drafting

Music (District)

- The Connecticut Association of Schools and the Westfield Corporation presented arts awards to Grade 5 students from each Vernon elementary school and two seniors from Rockville High School. These students were selected as recipients, based upon their leadership, outstanding performance and ability in the performing arts.
- Four VCMS students and nineteen RHS students were selected to participate in their respective CT Eastern Region Music Festivals. Students were selected through individual auditions which were scored by a panel of professional educators. The selected RHS students rehearsed and performed in a concert in January at UConn, alongside students from 38 other schools in the region. The selected VCMS students had a similar rehearsal and concert experience in March.
- One RHS student was selected, through audition, to participate in the 2013 CT All-State Music Festival at the Connecticut Convention Center in April. Another RHS student was selected to the 2013 United States Eastern Division Music Festival held at the Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts in April. This marks the first time in over ten years that an RHS student has been selected for this prestigious national festival.
- The Rockville High School Music Department presented five concerts involving the Symphony Band, Jazz Ensemble, Vocalistas, Vocal Motion, and Carolers. The RHS Marching Band performed at five home football game and six competitions, including the largest ever Rockville Festival of Bands, the CT Veterans' Parade and the Rockville Memorial Day Parade. The RHS Pep Band performed at four boys' basketball games, the Vernon Manor Nursing Home, and a softball fund-raiser for cancer research. The RHS Jazz Ensemble competed in the Annual Fermi High School Jazz Festival in February and received the highest score out of all the performing ensembles.
- The VCMS Music Department presented four concerts involving the Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Grade Bands, Choruses, Jazz Band, and Flute Choir.
- The RHS Music Department and Marching Band Booster Club hosted the 2013 CT Eastern Region Music Festival in March. Nearly five hundred students from thirty-five

middle schools took part in this two-day festival, concluding with a gala concert in the RHS Auditorium.

- The music staff was very involved during the summer and throughout the school year with curriculum development for most every course offered at RHS and VCMS.

Visual Arts

Vernon Visual Arts students improved their achievement in understanding content-based vocabulary from 52% to 90%.

The Vernon Community Arts center partnered with Vernon Public School Art students by hosting an extensive students art exhibit and reception during March, which is Youth Art Month. The Vernon Board of Education continues to expand its permanent Art collection of student works, which can be viewed in its meeting chambers and in the business office, many were donated over the summer.

Many of our art students at the secondary level participated in the Connecticut Scholastic Art Awards program. Our students were placed in 4 categories and won a total of 23 awards; one student even received a Scholarship to the Hartford Art School. Over 1500 pieces of student artwork were submitted to this juried, statewide visual arts competition, while only 350 were selected.

42% of Rockville High School students were enrolled in Visual Arts classes throughout the school year. The sustained enrollment demonstrates students' continued interest in gaining knowledge and skills in the visual arts.

A total of 30 Rockville High School Art students participated in a classroom study of Impressionism, culminating in an all-day field trip to the Hillstead Museum in Farmington, CT. At the invitation of the Hillstead, the full day visit included a historical and visual tour through the museum and students creating their own art work on the magnificent grounds. This opportunity was provided by the Savings Bank of Manchester Foundation.

This year VCMS and RHS clay classes teamed up to create clay bones for an art installation that took place in April in Washington DC. One Million bones is an art activist association that brings awareness to human genocide and unfair human treatment across 3rd world countries. Patty Bengston and Sherri Nevins went down to DC to volunteer to help place the bones in the art installation.

Vernon Art staff began an entire curriculum revision and update as this second year Evaluation Phase of Vernon's Five Year Curriculum Development model and plan. Art staffs worked collaboratively to design and define what all students should know and be able to do in Vernon's Visual Arts Program, K-12 while aligning their studies and performance to twenty first century learning skills. We currently have finished many courses at RHS and VCMS, and look forward to finishing up this year.

CENTER ROAD SCHOOL - Mrs. Jocelyn Poglitsch, Principal
Mr. Michael DeBellis, Assistant Principal

Since Center Road School sits in the center of Vernon, we draw students from all parts of this economically diverse town to form a learning community. Due to the combined efforts of the staff, students, and parents, our children have ongoing opportunities to learn about, appreciate, and enjoy the special qualities of people from a variety of racial, ethnic, and economic backgrounds. Yearly, with the help of the PTO, we make a conscious effort to provide a variety of multicultural programs for the enjoyment and enrichment of the entire school population. These programs are part of an ongoing effort to heighten awareness and promote appreciation for different cultures and their customs as well as compliment the curriculum. For example, fourth graders attended a program specific to the Native Americans of Connecticut presented by an expert in the field. Our second graders enjoyed Motoko, who presented a program that tied directly to their curriculum unit on Japan. Other multi-cultural productions that were offered to the entire student body highlighted various cultures throughout the world. Our entire fifth grade class participated in a low elements challenge course designed by our school's psychologist and social worker to encourage acceptance and cooperation. Our curriculum continues to offer students at all grade levels opportunities to learn about various racial and ethnic groups. Kindergarten and grade one are introduced to cultural awareness through the study of families and neighborhoods. Grade two students study Japan and Native Americans of the southeast. Units on Africa and an introduction to immigration are studied in grade three. Grade four learns about Native Americans in depth and is exposed to famous women of color. In grade five, students learn about early America and the contributions and roles of persons of historical importance from all ethnic and racial backgrounds. In addition, Center Road School houses one of the elementary ELL centers for the town. On a daily basis, our pupils have the opportunity to interact with children from a variety of cultural backgrounds. This fosters a climate of understanding and acceptance of which we are proud.

At Center Road School, we value the role parents and guardians play in their children's education and believe that children have the best chance of success when the school and the parents work together on their behalf. Every parent is automatically a member of the PTO. They are invited to attend monthly PTO meetings, the first of which is dedicated to new parents and kindergarten parents. The PTO coordinates a parent volunteer program and hundreds of hours each year are devoted to helping in a variety of ways including classroom and library helpers, field trip chaperones, and assistance with events. The PTO maintains a website that allows the sharing of information. In addition, they send out weekly updates and reminders about school-wide events via email. The PTO supports and enhances our curriculum through arranging assembly programs, sponsoring field trips, and coordinating a reading program that encourages and rewards daily reading. They also hold evening events that promote family involvement and a sense of community such as Family Reading Night, the Ice Cream Social, and Family Game Night as well as the annual Saturday School Fair. Parents and teachers work together to complete an annual review of a Parent Involvement Policy and Parent / School Compact. These include what will be done to build and maintain the school's and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement and encourage the consideration of practices to overcome barriers which may limit parent participation in the educational process. Our teachers work to support parent

participation. Welcome Back Night, which occurs at the beginning of the year, allows teachers to introduce parents to the curriculum and make them aware of teacher expectations. Regular communication with parents is the norm at Center Road School. Teachers make phone calls, write notes, use e-mail, produce weekly newsletters, make themselves available for meetings, share progress reports, and encourage parents to be classroom volunteers. Center Road also has a website, to help keep parents informed. Twice a year, we conduct Report Card Conferences giving parents an opportunity to discuss their children's progress with all of their teachers. The school library hosts a parent resource section that parents can access anytime. It contains books and videos on a variety of topics. We appreciate the continued support of the parents and guardians to promote increased student achievement and to foster a climate of respect and a feeling of community within Center Road School.

This year, in accordance with a district initiative, the Center Road School staff continued to establish an Encore block for all grade levels. This daily 30 minute block provides intervention as well as enrichment for literacy. There were six cycles during the year. At the end of each cycle, the progress of each student was assessed and decisions about interventions were reviewed and changed as needed. The collaboration of regular education, special education, and reading teachers is an integral part of this model at Center Road School. The continued use of guided reading and co-teaching has allowed us to meet many of the needs of our special education population within the regular education setting. Increased instructional time for reading through the integration of social studies and science curriculum-related nonfiction trade books has been successful. We continued to learn about and plan the implementation of the Common Core State Standards in Language Arts and Math. Teachers met in grade-level teams for full-day meetings to write lesson plans collaboratively. In addition, our school-based leadership team continued to create the Center Road School improvement plan. The leadership team works to coordinate all the curriculum efforts, develop a school-wide vision, and enhance communication across all of the staff.

Center Road School is the largest elementary school in the town of Vernon. This Pre-K through grade five school houses a student population of approximately 500 students and a dedicated staff of 85 adults. We host a number of programs for the town including a K-5 ELL program, a preschool program, a behavioral program, and a program for students with autism. To support student achievement we offered an extended day kindergarten and a variety of reading interventions using research-based programs. We regularly offer enrichment activities for our students including Vernon Reads, Invention Convention, Math Olympiads, and accelerated reader. For six weeks beginning in April, we offered recess enrichment clubs for students in grades 1-5. The clubs were run by parent volunteers and teachers. The activities included Drama, Paper Science, French, German, Creative Writing, and Cheerleading. Through CAS, our 5th grade students participate in Marine Science Day and Leadership Conference. Extracurricular activities include safety patrol, service club, writing club, morning exercise club, recess jogging club, intramurals, school newspaper, yearbook, chorus, and band. Center Road School is an integral part of the community. Our grounds and building provide playing fields and space for town league sports activities and scout troops. Through our school-wide Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) initiative, students are taught to demonstrate our core values of being Respectful, Responsible, and Reliable. Our anti-bullying curriculum, Second Step, is

used in every classroom Prek-5. All classrooms, Pre-K through grade five, have updated computers and internet access. A computer lab is also available for whole class use. Yearly our students contribute to the local food pantry, the firefighter's toy collection, the American Heart Association, and Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. We strive to live up to our motto, "Be the Best That You Can Be"!

LAKE STREET SCHOOL – Mr. Robert Testa, Principal

At Lake Street School, we believe in the connections between home school partnerships, a positive school climate and student achievement.

Lake Street School enjoys a strong partnership with families and educators in the education of our students. This partnership centers on continual communication of academics, activities and student progress. Opportunities for communication include weekly website updates, Parent Newsletter, participation of administrator and staff at PTO meetings, weekly electronic communication (Thursday folders), parent information nights, Math and Literacy Night. On-going communications occur on a more personal level with nightly homework agendas, phone calls and emails regarding student progress.

A foundation of our partnership with families is the revised LSS Home School Compact for Achievement. This agreement between families and school connects our commitment to student learning and achievement for all students.

Our School Climate committee drives the positive climate results that are evident in the classrooms and hallways of LSS. We begin our days with Morning Meetings, classroom and school wide to reinforce school wide expectations and explore ways to meet those expectations in a variety of situations. Student achievement is recognized in monthly assemblies organized by fifth grade students who are members of our Pride Club. These students exemplify our expectations on a daily basis, as positive role models for all students. ROAR, our Check-In/Check Out system, assists students identified as benefiting from Tier 2 support.

All classes enjoy an uninterrupted 120 minute Literacy block, with the components of Reader's and Writer's Workshop. The Writer's Workshop model of writing instruction was implemented, K-5, to increase literacy achievement through targeted instruction and increased opportunities with text. Following a mini-lesson, Teachers confer individually with students to assess learning and target future instruction. The Writer's Workshop instructional model fosters student engagement and discourse, making personal connections through writing fiction and non-fiction.

Based upon the success of Reader's Workshop in grades 3-5, LSS is expanding the Reader's Workshop model to K-5 for the 2013-14 academic year. Students learn how to select "Just Right" books, fiction and non-fiction, increasing reading stamina over time. This model increases learning of content area through text, further increasing student engagement. Instruction is more individualized through the use of multiple texts.

Teachers collaborate weekly at grade level meetings. The focus of these meetings is to target student achievement through deeper knowledge of curriculum and assessment of student needs. As we delve deeper into Reading Workshop, collaboration enriches instruction through the sharing of strategies and resources for a guaranteed and viable curriculum.

Student achievement is monitored in a variety of ways: our SRBI process, Building Leadership Team and grade level meetings. Classroom and Resource teachers collaborate to determine targeted strategies to support student learning. Achievement results and progress towards school goals are shared with parents at PTO meetings and in the monthly newsletter.

MAPLE STREET SCHOOL – Dr. Lois Possell, Principal

A highlight of Maple Street School's continued involvement with a School Family Community Partnership (SFCP) grant was the completion of a Welcoming School Walkthrough. With the help of school personnel, parents/guardians, and community members (including business owners, police officers, faith leaders, local politicians), teams of individuals toured the school building and grounds, interviewed key personnel and students, and examined procedures and materials (e.g., handbooks, entry and dismissal procedures) from the perspective of making the school as welcoming and accessible as possible. The overall findings overwhelmingly pointed to positive aspects of the school climate (e.g., how friendly and welcoming staff and students were; an accepting, family atmosphere) and overall procedures. Recommendations for minor improvements to the grounds (e.g., signs) and materials were made and the SFCP addressed these recommendations. In addition, Maple Street School continued to welcome parents/guardians and families to an Open House, Learning Fair, and Student Showcase. A comprehensive monthly newsletter highlighted academic and behavioral successes and initiatives in a variety of areas including literacy and school climate, and provided key information relative to health and PTO news.

Maple Street School continued to utilize a variety of means to address community issues. The school continued to partner with the Eastern Connecticut Health Network (ECHN) to house a Family Resource Center that provided support to young children and families. Examples of continued school initiatives included the Bookmobile that brought books to students throughout the town during the summer months, and providing backpacks of food and personal care items to selected students to bring home to their families on a weekly basis. The Community School was functional for the entire school year, bringing services to students and families in six key areas – health, mental health, youth development/after-school opportunities, life-long learning, parent enrichment/engagement, and community engagement. Among many programs and services, students continued to participate in a wide variety of enrichment activities, a dinner program was provided, and GED classes were offered for parents. The Community School was also instrumental in partnering with First Choice Health Services which received grant funding to put School-Based Health Clinics at both Maple Street School and Rockville High School. The Maple Street Community School also continued to partner with many volunteers from community organizations including the Rockville Community Alliance, the Vernon School Readiness Council, and Union Congregational Church.

The School Improvement Plan focused on three key areas which mirrored the Board of Education Goals – literacy, school climate, and parent and community involvement. Literacy interventions focused intensively on kindergarten and Grade 1 students who needed additional support. A second teacher was trained in Reading Recovery strategies. Data showed tremendous growth for these students. Instruction in all grades focused on students meeting Common Core State Standards. Teachers and support staff at each grade level continued to work collaboratively to improve Tier I instruction and provide Tier II and Tier III intervention to students as needed. Students at all grade-levels showed significant growth on the Fountas and Pinnell benchmark assessment and universal screens. The Building Leadership Team functioned extremely well to examine data and tackle new learning to address ways to improve instruction and student achievement. School climate initiatives included a full year of House meetings and events, weekly PBIS rewards recognizing students for following the Bear Necessities, and monthly surveys of students in grades 3-5 on key climate indicators. Classroom teachers continued to implement the 2nd Step program at all grade-levels. The Community Garden, offering of GED courses and other parent activities, and creation of a Community School Advisory Group were examples of activities geared toward enhancing parent and community relations.

Maple Street School continued to provide numerous initiatives, programs, and levels of support to meet the varied needs of its students and families. Partnering with families and the community, and with the help of numerous volunteers, the Community School continued to thrive and grow. Maple Street School students continued to receive additional support from Title I teachers and literacy teachers. All kindergarteners again received extended-day programming which provided students with additional learning time, lunch, and additional specialty area class time. The Family Resource Center, a Primary Mental Health Program grant, and the School Family Community Partnership continued to provide special services to students and families. The school continued to hold monthly meetings to highlight positive behavior. Teachers, support staff and administration continued their strong, positive relationship with the PTO to provide many wonderful activities and supports to students and families.

NORTHEAST SCHOOL – Mrs. Brenda Greene, Principal

The focus at Northeast School in 2012/12 was to accelerate student achievement by 1) creating a safe, orderly, and positive learning environment at the school; and 2) promoting parent/school communication and parent/student involvement at home. Together we established a school culture that sought to bring out the best in all of our children and adults.

The Northeast staff delivered consistency, structure, and high expectations to our students. We implemented a school-wide behavior system, which systematically set high expectations for student work and behavior. Teachers communicated regularly with parents, and kept a monthly log of parent contacts. We tightened school procedures, e.g. for dismissal, to ensure the safety of students and staff. We hired a door greeter to monitor building entryways and hallways. All these changes set the tone for a strong and purposeful learning environment.

We chose a new Northeast motto around which the school and community could rally. Parents and the community voted to change (from "Kids Under Construction") to a positive, 21st century motto of "Learners Today, Leaders Tomorrow." The new motto expresses the high expectations Northeast has for its students, and the upward trajectory of our student achievement.

Northeast introduced successfully our School Governance Council, designing and conducting meetings around concrete Northeast needs. The Council met formally eight times, and accomplished many tasks for the School. We updated the Parent/Student handbook with new policies and procedures. We modified the Northeast Parent/Student/ School Compact to reflect changes made for the 2012-2013 school year. We promoted the School Climate Survey at parent events, which greatly increased parent participation and productive feedback.

Northeast has a dedicated, supportive community, and family events were well attended in 2012-13. We hosted year a Family Dance Night, Science Fair, two Literacy Nights, and a Math Night, to bring families to Northeast. The two Family Reading Nights were themed, with many activities to promote parent/child interaction and engagement. The Holiday Program was well attended, with the audience enjoying musical performances from our 3rd-5th graders. We also offered an Afterschool Chess Club for fifth grade students at Northeast, promoting problem-solving skills and strategic thinking.

Northeast School hosted its First Annual Family Picnic, attracting over 150 families who played games, won prizes, and mingled with staff. The PTO funded multiple assemblies that were well received by students; the Lutz Museum and the Laser Light Show for bullying prevention are examples of these engaging assemblies.

Northeast also welcomed a community program of volunteers titled "Vernon READS", where adult volunteers visited Northeast School once a week to read with and support struggling readers.

Overall, Northeast's fundamental strength is its team effort. The teaching staff worked closely with colleagues and the principal to define the differentiated needs of all, and to design supports for individual students. The communication between the principal and staff was/is critical in the day-to-day operations of Northeast. We embraced an inclusive environment for our special education students. The staff continues to learn new ways to differentiate instruction, and to modify assignments so that every student can achieve a motivating sense of personal achievement. We have had great success in meeting the needs of our high percentage of special education population, while challenging all students in a compassionate, nurturing learning environment where students actually "feel" the academic and emotional support each day.

Northeast updated our School Improvement Plan (SIP) to align with the District Improvement Plan. Based on this Plan, we refined instruction in each classroom. Teachers at Northeast teach students, not a subject. We created lessons with minimal (15 minutes or less per class) direct instruction, and a heavy emphasis on small-group and project work, in all subjects. Teachers used multiple resources to teach students, with Common Core Standards as a guide. Grade-

level teams met and collaborated around these standards. We applied Universal Screens, the Fountas & Pinnell Reading Assessment, and the Degrees of Reading Power (DRP) assessment to monitor student progress and highlight student needs.

As a net result, Northeast School can celebrate its academic success, as reflected on the Connecticut Mastery Test. We are gratified that the hard work of students, parents, and staff led to an increase in all test subjects, at all grade levels. This increase can be attributed in large part to our positive school culture and parent-teacher communication. Northeast was a special place in 2012/13 where staff worked together and focused on connecting with and teaching students – not subjects. Everyone in the Northeast community is looking forward to build on our success in 2013-14.

SKINNER ROAD SCHOOL - Mrs. Kristie Bourdoulous, Principal (July 2012 – January 2013)
Mr. Christopher Ozmun, Interim Principal (January 2013-March 2013)
Mrs. Sandye Simon, Principal (March 2013 – Present)

Skinner Road School (SRS) values the home/school connection and finds creative ways to connect with parents both in school and outside of school. Parents have several opportunities to come to school to meet with teachers including the First Day Celebration, Open House, two parent/teacher conferences and are encouraged to request a meeting anytime they would like to discuss any issues. As a Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports (PBIS) school, SRS families are provided with brochures and information to support their children at home, as Skinner Road School S.T.A.R.s. As a school that believes it takes us all to raise our children, parents are encouraged and welcome to participate in the numerous school activities during and after school hours. Parents are very active in the school and are welcome into school to monitor their child's progress in all academic and social areas. Parents have access to email addresses of teachers (Firstname.Lastname@vernonct.org) and can call the office and contact teachers or the principal. The website has been updated and is accessed regularly by the community to keep in contact with the Skinner Road School community.

Skinner Road School provides each child with a handbook and monthly newsletter. In each of these publications there are ideas for ways that parents can promote good study habits and encourages parents to contact the school if there are any questions. The Skinner Road School website is now updated and will be an additional source of information for parents. The Skinner Road School PTO meets monthly and encourages parents to become involved in school functions and seeks support to provide activities to students. The Skinner Road School PTO has been a huge support for students and staff. This past year the PTO purchased chairs for the staff lounge and new computer chairs for the computer lab. The community is filled with many very dedicated parents who support the academic, social and emotional growth of the SRS Students!

The Skinner Road School community works to improve reading, writing and math skills in all grades for all students. This has been accomplished through the hard work of the teachers and support staff members who have focused on the continuous improvement of instruction, as monitored through the SRBI process.

During the 2012-2013 school year, time was spent building strong team structures. A school-based leadership team was strengthened and empowered to create the SRS school improvement plan. The leadership team helps to coordinate all curriculum efforts, developing a school-wide vision, and communicating at each grade level to implement the plan. Data is disaggregated and analyzed based on subgroups and instruction is adjusted accordingly, through the SRBI process. Special education services are provided in the regular education classroom unless a specific need cannot be addressed there. Students are benefiting by the team teaching model and effective use of resources. Our School Instructional Plan continues to set high standards for all students with a targeted emphasis on reading and extra support for those students who receive support through the free and reduced lunch program.

During the 2012-2013 school year, the Vernon Public School Network process of "Instructional Rounds" continued to help focus our work, providing coherence and continuous improvement in instruction through ongoing analyses and learning. We continue working together to make instructional improvements and are ready to meet the challenges ahead of us.

This school year has shown continued refinements to the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program. The PBIS Team supports all students and staff in the building. This team includes the school psychologist, school social worker, principal, teachers, and assistants. Through this effort and with the support of all staff, SRS students work to reach for the S.T.A.R.s - truly being Safe, Truthful, Academic, and Respectful! Through focused, dedicated and hardworking staff and students, Skinner Road School continues to excel and soar as S.T.A.R.s!

VERNON CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL **Mr. Michael Cain, Principal**
Mr. James Harrison, Assistant Principal
Mr. Jason Magao, Assistant Principal

We welcomed many new staff members; Mrs. Woodruff (sixth grade math), Miss Gallo (reading teacher), Mrs. Girard (reading and language arts consultant), Miss Morello (seventh grade math), Mrs. Hoyt (sixth grade science), Mrs. Pierce (seventh grade science), Mr. Reardon (business education), Mrs. Tuller (special education) and we also welcomed Miss Ford (special education). Sadly, we said goodbye to Mrs. LaPointe, Mrs. Bard, and Ms. Earley after many years of service in Vernon. We wish them the best of luck in retirement.

VCMS SOARS for Hunger

VCMS Soars for Hunger was a huge success at VCMS. The students and staff worked tirelessly to raise the money to fund our school wide packing event. We had a great time on April 11 when the staff from Feeding children everywhere repurposed our auditorium into a hopping assembly line! We ultimately exceeded our goal, and successfully packed more than 24,000 meals for hungry families. The majority of our meals are headed for Uganda this summer, but 2,000 of those meals we packed will stay here in Vernon to help in our own community.

Spelling Bee

The VCMS 2013 Spelling Bee took place on Monday, June 17. Forty one students from all three grades participated in the Bee, spelling a total of 360 words. At the very end, when we were down to two students, the words that decided the winner of the bee were "cemetery", "wholly",

and “writhe”. The second place winner was awarded a new Thesaurus. The VCMS Super Speller for 2013, winner of first place, received a new Thesaurus, as well as a Cross gift pen.

Grades 6, 7, 8 Highlights

Teams from all grade levels participated in a variety of activities throughout the year. We held our 4th Annual Hip Hop Culture and Workshop day. This year's event featured a presentation of an educational hip hop history and leadership lesson delivered by the keynote speaker, Mr. Patrick Hayes of Flying Squirrel Productions. The presentation was accompanied by Mr. Owens, a Social Studies teacher at VCMS and DJ Neb. All three masters of ceremony, equipped with local and professional dancers, created an interactive event for the eighth grade that promoted the S.O.A.R core values.

Science and LA classes collaborated on researching a famous scientist and then preparing a speech based on that scientist's contributions to society. Speeches were presented to the team. Social Studies and Language Arts Classes collaborated on a couple of projects:

Good vs. Evil project-focus was on researching reliable sources and writing a persuasive essay on why a particular historical figure was good or evil.

My Brother Sam is Dead- this book was read by the students and then they had to perform skits that focused on bias and points of view

Field Day- Each homeroom created a team name and wore a particular colored shirt and competed against each other in activities such as hula hoop contests, relay races and tug of war. After, two VCMS students, DJ'd the event and we had a dance while some kids played flag football.

Math

Sixteen students from VCMS were among the nearly 150,000 students worldwide to participate in the Math Olympiads program this year. They participated in a series of five monthly contests, of five problems each, between the months of November and March. They attended practice sessions and worked at solving unusual and difficult problems with creative thinking. All of these students were recognized with certificates of participation, and ten of the students received patches for scoring in the top 50% of all students worldwide. Three students received trophies in a three-way tie for top individual school scorer.

Science

The 7th grade Science teachers designed a project where the students worked in collaborative groups with students from different teams. In groups of three or four students' researched six different food preservation methods, wrote a one page summary, and produced a PowerPoint presentation which they presented on their given topic. For three days students from all 7th grade teams worked productively with both their team teachers and those from the other two teams. In their groups each student signed a contract to identify what role they would be taking on within their group. The roles helped students focus on their personal responsibilities as well as their responsibility to the group.

The Bermuda Workshop completed its forty fifth year. An introductory meeting was held in November, followed by an application process including an oral (January) and written interview

(December). Students' 8th grade 3rd and 4th quarter grades, team recommendations, science teacher recommendations and EG grades are all included when determining which students are selected for the workshop. Selected students attend two pool sessions at the YMCA in Ellington and nine after school meetings before the workshop in May. The students have a book report and select two organisms which they give oral reports/power points on to the group. Once we reach the Bermuda Institute of Ocean Studies, their job continues. This workshop is not run by anyone at BIOS. It is run by the teachers from Vernon and the chaperones. Our daily schedule starts at 7a.m. and ends at 10p.m. It is a wonderful opportunity for the students to be immersed in hands-on science.

Thirty-two sixth and seventh graders participated in the national Pringles Challenge, a challenge to create an innovative shipping package to mail a single potato chip across the country without being damaged. Students worked for two months testing various designs to create the lightest, smallest possible package to do the job. We exchanged packages with Orangewood K-8 School in Phoenix, Arizona. Upon receiving the packages, students measured and scored the projects.

Physical Education

In the fall, Runner's Club was open to all grade levels and all running abilities. Fifty students participated in the Runner's Club in a variety of ways. Some students ran with the cross country team, several ran after school during intramurals to run their miles. It was a great success. We were also given the opportunity to participate in the Hartford Marathon's student event called the ING Run for Something Better. The students had to complete 25 miles prior to the event and at Hartford's Bushnell Park completed their final mile—in the pouring rain this year! I'm looking forward to continuing this next year. The Hartford Marathon Group has contacted us to help organize next year's ING event which will move its' location to Rentschler Field. They are hoping to add a larger health/wellness component and have it for 2 days so more schools will have an opportunity to participate. Throughout the year, several other intramural activities took place from toning and fitness to volleyball and team handball. This year Ultimate Frisbee was new and was very well received.

The Relay for Life Team is in its 8th year at VCMS. During this time we have been able to raise over \$65,000 for the American Cancer Society. Team VCMS achieved "platinum" status as the top fundraising team bringing in \$12,300. This year, the 8th graders were challenged to organize their own fundraising activities. Chelsea Chatterton organized a Friendly's Night in which several staff members and families from the district participated in. Chelsea was able to raise \$298.26 for the ACS. Another 8th grader, LauraLee Costello, had a plant sale and organized her own "shake the can event" to reach her goal of raising over \$1,000 on her own this year. Team VCMS planned a few "shake the can" money collection events at local grocery stores on the weekends to help younger team members add to their donation totals. Through the years, Priscilla Bard, Crystal Pierce, and Marybeth Mickewicz have always been huge supporters of this event. They have helped at after school meetings and most importantly at the event held in June at South Windsor High School. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to feel a connection to the community as well as learning how to give back.

The Relay For Life Team sponsored 3 "Activity Nights" as a fundraiser and also to help improve school connectedness for our students. We were able to hold 3 nights and the response from students was terrific. The first night was a family activity night which drew 200 students and some parents. We were able to donate that money to Hockanum Valley/Cornerstone Soup Kitchen for the holiday season. The later 2 nights were for students only and we continue to average around 200 students per event. This year we were able to also add another activity night called the "Neon Dance" which was open to all grades. This event was fantastic. We were able to have a pair of 8th grade brothers DJ the event. It was the first time that all 3 grades had a dance together and it was a great success. All proceeds went to the American Cancer Society. Many staff members volunteered their time to make the evenings enjoyable for all, while providing a safe environment for our students to socialize.

Art

The art department has had a very active school year again. There were wonderful displays of two dimensional and three dimensional works in the hallway showcases as well as in the portrait showcase frames throughout the building.

Mrs. Nevins continued to have an Arts based homeroom this year. Students who have strong artistic talent but struggle in other academic or social areas are asked to join her in homeroom to use time in the morning on creating art. Mrs. Nevins continues to hope that by offering this special time to these selected students she will be able to offer a safe place for them to come in the morning and set their day off on a successful path.

The annual Vernon Public Schools art show was at a new location in the Vernon Community Arts Center (VCAC). This show started with an amazing opening night and continued through the month of March. The show was a great success again this year. Two dimensional and three dimensional artwork created by more than 75 students in the sixth, seventh and eighth grades, was represented in this annual event.

Congratulations to eight of VCMS's student artists whose artwork was selected by Mrs. Nevins and Mr. Giard for jury in this year's Connecticut Scholastic Arts Awards Competition. We are pleased to announce that two of the eight were recognized for their creativity and artistic ability by the Scholastic judges this year. A 7th grader took the Silver medal in the Ceramic category as well as an 8th grader earning an Honorable Mention in the sculpture category.

In May, ten students were selected to join Mrs. Nevins and Mr. Giard on a field trip to the University of Hartford's "Arts in the Middle" arts conference. The students and teachers were able to attend two personally selected workshops as well as enjoy lunch together. Students were exposed to college level art studios and instructors. The workshops included everything from figure drawing, watercolor painting, mixed media painting, printmaking, pen and ink drawing, duct tape art, as well as landscape painting, metal mask-making and book making. The group thoroughly enjoyed this adventure. We are looking forward to experiencing this event again next school year.

For the second year in a row the SBM Charitable Foundation funded a program at the Hill-Stead Museum for a student visit to the museum free of admission fees and transportation expenses in May! Mrs. Nevins and Mr. Giard were able to take the 7th grade and 8th grade EPOCH Art groups and a couple of other talented art students for a fun filled, art education experience on their beautiful property in Farmington. Students took a tour of the Hill-Stead's Impressionism collection, attended a mono-printing workshop and then created art in their gardens. This trip was followed up by a visit of the Hill-Stead staff and workshop teacher at VCMS in June. During this workshop students were called back into the art room to add a second layer to their original mono-prints. Each student ended up with a matted print from their experience. We were also fortunate to join some art students and staff from Rockville High School and visit the New Britain Museum of American Art to see an exhibit of the stained glass artist Louis Tiffany. We hope that we will be able to make these annual trips.

This year, Mrs. Nevins continued the classes titled EPOCH Art. Again, talented 7th and 8th grade art students were invited to participate in the development of community based art experiences for the group. During this time the group worked as fine artists on projects that increase visual arts awareness in our school community to include a designed and created tree for entrance into the Wadsworth Atheneum's Festival of Lights and Traditions. This tree sold at auction and raised \$100 for the Wadsworth's programming. The 7th grade group also worked on a mural for installation in the main hallway, a wall mural for the 8th grade girl's bathroom, and a Rainforest mural spearheaded by a talented student in 6th grade last year that is now part of this class. The 8th grade students started the year off strong by joining the One Million Bones installation project. They worked with Mrs. Nevins and Mr. Miller to educate the entire 8th grade about genocide and the project. They organized and led bone making workshops at VCMS and VCAC which led to the creation of more than 700 bones – each bone raising a dollar towards the cause. Students also divided their efforts into other community art projects that include the painting of the art room chairs with historical reference paintings, a mural in the boys 7th grade bathroom, a Eric Carle inspired workshop at the Hockanum Valley Pre-School, designing of yearbook pages, inspirational pieces for an 8th grader in need, as well as other smaller pieces created throughout the year in this group of 27 dedicated artists. EPOCH art students also spent time this year developing their own personal artistic style. This time helped each of the students to connect to their own art – allowing them to look forward to their future as Rockville High School art students. We believe that they will be motivated to continue to use their talents in the Vernon community as well as any community that they become a part of in their futures.

Every year the VCMS art staff selects outstanding student artwork to become additions to the permanent collections of the Middle School's Auditorium Gallery. This year Mrs. Nevins selected a scratch art self-portrait created by an eighth grade student as well as a seventh grader's illustration of words. Mr. Giard selected an illustration/painting composition created by a seventh grade student. All of these students have graciously donated their work this year. They will be recognized for their "Excellence in Art" at the Evening of Excellence in June.

The art staff is looking forward to another year of creative art making and successful artistic achievements next year.

Above and Beyond After School Program

The Above and Beyond Program had another successful year providing an extended day program with both learning and enrichment opportunities for over fifty students in grades six through eight. The program is designed to support the students' academic and social needs, while also supporting the needs of working parents.

School to Career

Career Day took place at VCMS on Thursday, May 30. VCMS School to Career Coordinator Laura DeMartino organized the event for students in grade 7. A kick-off assembly was held in the morning with UConn Engineering students and recent graduates serving as the key-note speakers. They spoke to the entire 7th grade about various ways engineering touches our everyday lives and the many differing careers that are available in the field. Students were also able to choose four careers from a list of two dozen for afternoon sessions. Based on these selections, students then attended small group presentations by "career ambassadors" who work in each of those fields. Some of the available career presentations were: police officer, nurse, veterinarian, military, journalist, auto technician, artist, bank manager, air traffic controller, engineer, archeologist, dancer, EMT, architect, preschool teacher, X-ray technician, lawyer, fitness instructor, chef, and photographer. The students learned a lot from the volunteer "career ambassadors" and are enthusiastic about exploring more career and education options in the 8th Grade Career class. VCMS is very grateful to all those volunteers from the community who took time to come and speak to the students.

Music

Four vocalists and three instrumentalists auditioned and performed in the Eastern Region Middle School Music Festival in March at Rockville High School. The Clarinet Choir and Jazz Band showcased their work at the annual March Ensembles Concert. The middle school bands all performed their annual holiday concert in December and their May performance also featured the Flute Choir and some featured sixth grade soloists. The middle school choruses performed their annual holiday concert in December and their May performance also featured the Select Chorus.

Library

The library acquired over four hundred new books and thirty-five new videos. Over five thousand books were circulated along with over thirteen thousand students throughout the school year. Four hundred and twelve non-reading classes and over one thousand individual students utilized the library for academic and computer research keeping the library computer lab busy.

Three hundred fifty-eight books were discarded as we continue to make the collection more current and the shelves easier to browse.

The library houses the 25 computer mobile lab for easy access for all teachers.

The library was host to 2 book fairs and many weeks of testing.

The library was given many wonderful team projects to display.

Student Council

The VCMS student council is open to all six, seventh, and eighth grade students and meets monthly. The students are a service organization with ties to the community. Elections for officers took place in September and a yearly calendar was developed. Some of the activities that student council participates in include:

- Elections
- Sixth grade social – *to welcome incoming sixth graders to VCMS*
- Open House guides
- Spirit week to support fall sports
- Fundraiser
- Monthly food drives for HVCC
- Fall Advisor Workshop through CT Association of Student Councils
- Halloween dance
- Student council dinner
- Officer/members installation ceremony
- Coats for Kids Drive for “kids” of all ages
- Annual autumn food drive competition to benefit HVCC & Cornerstone Soup Kitchen
- Turkey baskets for less fortunate VCMS families
- Mitten tree
- Toys for Tikes
- Senior citizen dinner
- Officers Leadership Workshop at Wesleyan University
- Valentine’s Day celebration
- Spring fund raiser
- Staff Appreciation week- includes a breakfast
- Fifth Grade Open House guides
- Ninth grade class elections
- Grade Eight Dance
- Annual spring food drive competition to benefit Tri-Town Pantry

VCMS Drama

The VCMS Drama Club had another highly successful year. The fall talent show, written by the 8th graders, involved almost 50 students. The spring play, *Be My Ghost*, was incredibly popular. About 40 students were involved with the production. We had three performances, one Friday evening and two on the following Monday during the school day for the entire student body.

Book Club

In the last 12 months, the VCMS Book Club has read and discussed sixteen books, various articles, and explored several genres and themes. The Book Club meets once or twice a month and is for both students and adult staff. In the fall, the Book Club traveled with the RHS Book Club to meet author Neal Shusterman and hear him speak in Hartford.

The books read were **Divergent** (dystopian story about a future where people choose one of four factions), **Matched** (in the future computers and the government decide who people marry), **The Grimm Legacy** (fairy tales and a modern-day magical museum), **Unwind** (troubled teenagers, society expectations, and organ donation), **The Running Dream** (amputation, sports, and tolerance), **Stormbreaker** (adventure and espionage), **I am A Genius of Unspeakable Evil and I Want to be Your Class President** (middle school drama and manipulation), **Between Shades of Gray** (historical fiction about Siberia and genocide during Stalin’s reign), **Out of My Mind** (cerebral palsy, discrimination and giftedness), **Where the Red Fern Grows** (classic story

of a young boy, his dogs, and coon hunting in the Ozarks), **Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children** (orphans, time travel, and war), **Thank You M'am** (Langston Hughes short story about honesty), **Pictures of Hollis Woods** (foster families and Alzheimer's disease), **Things Not Seen** (invisibility, blindness, and physics), **Trash** (dump site villages, government corruption, and poverty), and **The Breadwinner** (Taliban rule in Afghanistan).

ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL – Mr. Eric Baim, Principal

Dr. Susan Andrews, Assistant Principal

Mr. Edward Brewer, Interim Assistant Principal

Agricultural Education

- Sixty-four full time students and thirty-eight semester students were enrolled in the Agricultural Education Program.
- Over 40 students participated in various state level FFA activities and competitions throughout the year, including the CT State FFA Convention, career development events and leadership conferences.
- Six students from the Rockville Chapter received their State FFA Degree; two students won a State FFA proficiency for their SAEP's and advanced to the national competition level.
- A graduating senior was awarded a \$1,500 college scholarship from the National FFA.
- Three students were selected to participate in the Bermuda Internship Program.
- Students conducted a "Fill the Bucket" food drive for the Hockanum Valley Community Council and collected and donated 1,160 items.
- There were over 200 attendees at the Welcome Freshmen Picnic.
- Ag Ed staff presented numerous recruitment programs to sending towns.
- The Agricultural Education 8th Grade Open House night was attended by over 100 students and parents.
- Other activities held included the SAEP Fair and the FFA Awards Banquet.
- Staff and students attended a legislative hearing at the State Capitol to advocate for increased Ag Ed program funding.
- Several successful fundraisers were held including the Poinsettia Sale, Wreath Sale, Red Robin, Easter Lily Sale, and Bedding Plant Sale.
- The Ag Ed staff participated in various professional workshops throughout the year.
- Through an approved State Equipment Grant, the Ag Ed Department was able to obtain a John Deere tractor, a MAC computer lab, and other items to enhance education. Funding was also obtained through the State Agri-Science and Technology Grant to provide additional support for maintenance and acquisition of educational equipment that directly supports instruction.
- Staff continued their efforts to revise the curriculum to meet state and national standards for Agricultural Education

Art

- 42% of Rockville High School students were enrolled in Visual Arts classes throughout the school year.
- Vernon Visual Arts students improved their achievement in understanding content-based vocabulary from 52% to 90%.

- The Vernon Community Arts Center partnered with Vernon Public School art students by hosting an extensive student art exhibit and reception during March, which is Youth Art Month.
- The Vernon Board of Education continues to expand its permanent art collection of student works, which can be viewed in its meeting chambers and in the business office.
- Many Art students participated in the Connecticut Scholastic Art Awards Program, which recognizes outstanding student achievements and accomplishments in the visual arts, and won a total of 23 awards; one student received a scholarship to the Hartford Art School. Over 1,500 pieces of student art work are submitted to this juried, statewide visual arts competition, while only 350 are selected.
- Thirty RHS Art students participated in a classroom study of Impressionism, culminating in an all-day field trip to the Hillstead Museum in Farmington.
- RHS and VCMS Clay classes teamed up to create clay bones for the One Million Bones art installation that took place in Washington, D.C. in April. One Million Bones is an art activist association that brings awareness to human genocide and unfair human treatment across third world countries.
- Vernon Art staff began an entire curriculum revision and update during this second year evaluation phase of Vernon's Five Year Curriculum Development model and plan. Art staff members worked collaboratively to design and define what all students should know and be able to do in Vernon's Visual Arts Program, while aligning their studies and performance to twenty first century learning skills.

Business and Computer Science

- The department completed two major renovations of classrooms, which were made possible by the generosity of the Sykes Foundation.
- New approved curriculum was implemented fully this year.
- The department continued its professional development by attending classes and conferences related to programming, technology, utilizing mobile devices in the classroom, and emerging softwares. The department also facilitated numerous workshops in topics such as integrating Apple products in the classroom, utilizing Google applications, and Cloud computing.
- The Business and Computer Science Departments at RHS and VCMS secured over \$50,000 in grant money through Sykes and Perkins Grants to continue the refurbishment of classrooms and labs at both schools.
- Numerous awards and scholarships were given to students, including a state recognized CPA award, as well as the Thomas F. Martucci Memorial Scholarship.
- The staff opened up their classroom labs to other teachers and helped support their department initiatives. Labs were made available twice a week in the fall and spring until 6:00 p.m. for student and faculty use.

English

- In May, Victoria Nordlund and thirty Creative Writing students traveled to multiple elementary schools throughout the district to read original illustrated children's stories to third graders. Students also recited their original poetry to sixth, seventh, and eighth grade classes at VCMS.

- Creative Writing students had the opportunity to meet and work with many published authors.
- Students in the Creative Writing program participated and won awards in numerous state and national competitions.
- Out of 1,000 entries, *Connecticut Student Writer* selected nine Creative Writing students' prose and poetry pieces for publication in its magazine. RHS students also received four honorable mentions in poetry and prose,
- The work of three Creative Writing students was published in the *Aerie International Journal*.
- English teachers worked on multiple professional and curriculum developments and served on multiple committees in support student instruction.

Family and Consumer Sciences

- Over 300 students were enrolled in Family and Consumer Sciences classes, including early childhood education, baking, culinary, fashion, and sewing. Students were taught in a primarily lab-based atmosphere discovering and learning about important life and career skills.
- Students in the culinary and baking classes catered many school events.
- Several students developed out-of-class business plans to experience the business side of culinary and baking careers. Eight students were recognized at the Connecticut Cake Competition.
- Staff and student competitions (Cupcake Wars and the RHS Chili Contest) were held.
- Year activities included Empty Bowls, which raised \$1,000 for the soup pantry, the Cupcake Extravaganza, which raised \$2,500 for the food pantry, and the Senior Citizen Luncheon.
- Students in Early Childhood Education classes planned and operated two separate nursery schools for the community. Parent conferences for children in the nursery school program were also conducted.

Library/Media

- There were 27,901 student visits to the RHS Library during the school year; over 4,300 total materials were checked out and over 1,800 equipment and media items were borrowed or used.
- 583 classes were hosted in the library during the school year; 508 classes used the library computers during the year.
- The DESTINY Automation System was acquired and used for the library catalog, circulation, and research.
- The library was used for many training sessions and computer testing in addition to everyday educational library information use.
- The library provided audiovisual taping, recording, and sound systems to support many school events throughout the year.

Mathematics

- The Math Department focused on developing common assessments for Algebra 1A, College Algebra, College Geometry, and College Algebra 2.

- Teachers viewed videos provided by PD 360 to broaden strategies for reaching reluctant learners and continuing to strategize on improving differentiation in the classroom.
- Teacher Mary Leslie was appointed to the role of Math Interventionist to focus on students failing College Algebra 1 or College Algebra 2. Students worked with Mrs. Leslie and volunteer tutors from the National Honor Society to help strengthen basic skills and increase understanding of algebraic concepts. All students demonstrated improved quarter grades and overall understanding.
- The ALEKS software package was implemented by grant money provided by the MCC College Access Grant. This self-paced program was used with all Advanced Math classes and with intervention students to allow them to work at their own pace and track their increased mastery.
- Co-teaching continued with the Special Education Department.
- After school activities were again offered in preparation for the SAT.
- The Math Team had a very successful year, finishing second in their league and was invited to compete at the state level competition for the third year in a row. One student member of the team also qualified to compete on the regional team at a national competition held at Penn State University in June.
- Four students participated in the annual Math Competition at Worcester Polytechnic Institute; one of these students was awarded a scholarship to WPI based on performance at this competition.
- Six staff members attended the national convention sponsored by NCTM in October, which helped develop a better understanding of common core and how this major shift in standards will affect teaching, learning, and assessing.

Music

- Music students were presented with arts awards by the Connecticut Association of Schools and the Westfield Corporation. These awards were presented based on student leadership, outstanding performance, and ability in the performing arts.
- Nineteen RHS students were selected to participate in the CT Eastern Region Music Festival.
- One RHS student was selected, through audition, to participate in the 2013 CT All-State Music Festival. Another student was selected to participate in the 2013 United States Eastern Division Music Festival. This marks the first time in over ten years that an RHS student has been selected for this prestigious national festival.
- The Rockville High School Music Department presented five concerts by the Symphony Band, Jazz Ensemble, Vocalistas, Vocal Motion, and Carolers.
- The RHS Marching Band performed at five home football games and six competitions, including the largest ever Rockville Festival of Bands, the CT Veterans' Parade, and the Rockville Memorial Day Parade.
- The RHS Pep Band performed at four boys' basketball games, the Vernon Manor Nursing Home, and a softball fundraiser for cancer research.
- The RHS Jazz Ensemble competed in the Annual Fermi High School Jazz Festival and received the highest score out of all the performing ensembles.
- The RHS Music Department and Marching Band Booster Club hosted the 2013 CT Eastern Regional Music Festival in March.

- The Music Department continued to be very involved in curriculum development throughout the school year.

Physical Education and Health

- The Athletic Parents' Group and Athletic Hall of Fame Committees were implemented.
- The Athletic Council provided opportunities and a forum for student leaders to voice their sports team issues.
- Students received numerous athletic awards and scholarships.
- The K-12 Health and Physical Education staff planned to work on curriculum revision during the summer of 2013.
- The School Wellness Council met on a monthly basis to explore how to initiate positive change among students and staff.
- Rockville High School has been recognized by the CCC for sportsmanship awards.

Science

- Edward Brewer, Science Department Head, was promoted to Interim Assistant Principal in November 2012.
- AP Chemistry students performed well on the 2013 AP Chemistry Test, earning an average score of 4.0.
- The RHS Envirothon Team finished second in the state-wide competition this year.
- Teachers participated in several professional committees at RHS
- Special lab sessions for upperclassmen and TALC students were held for students needing additional work to complete the Science Department Performance Task required for graduation.

School Counseling

- The School Counseling Department successfully held several events including Open House, Financial Planning and College Planning evenings, 8th Grade Orientation Evening, the Top Ten Scholar Luncheon, and Undergraduate Awards Evening.
- Over \$266,341 was awarded to graduating seniors during the Senior Scholarship Awards Evening.
- Through a grant, a one year counselor position was created to concentrate on incoming ninth grade students with attendance, academics, and social adjustment issues.
- The department continued to work on its developmental guidance curriculum and implementation of various lessons.
- The department worked on implementing a College Knowledge Program in cooperation with Manchester Community College through a grant. A schedule of small group meetings was established with grade 9 students facilitating their interests, learning style, and academic plan for post-secondary opportunities.
- Counselors attended various college information sessions in the area to stay abreast of new initiatives and programs available to RHS students.

Social Studies

- Members of the department participated in many committees to include evaluating the attendance policy, SRBI, and NEASC.

- The department continued to promote various school activities by mentoring students and advising student interest groups such as Student Council and Yearbook after school and on weekends.
- All staff members participated in PD 360 and reached all benchmarks established.
- The department completed its first year of the five year curriculum cycle. The department's entire curriculum was evaluated. Changes to the scope and sequence were presented to and approved by the Board of Education. These included 9th Grade Global Studies I and II, 10th Grade Civics and Contemporary World Issues, 11th Grade United States History, Honors, AP, and Cultures. All 12th Grade electives were semesterized and opened to both 11th and 12th grade students..
- Five department members completed a summer Teaching American History Grant, in which they traveled to Washington, D.C. and researched civil rights topics and monuments.

Special Education

- The Special Education Department continued to monitor and adjust special education to maximize educational benefit for students.
- Training throughout the year assisted the department in focusing on providing targeted instruction based on measurable IEP goals and objectives.
- Staff received training and technical assistance throughout the year in Strategic Tutoring and Proficiency in Sentence Writing, which are both part of the University of Kansas model of instruction for special education students.
- Curriculum time was used to reorganize service delivery to provide more targeted instruction based on IEP goals and objectives. The newly developed plan includes direct instruction in specialized learning strategies for grade 9 and grade 10 students. Grade 11 and Grade 12 students will be given more individualized direct instruction related to IEP goals and transition needs. The department also provided life skills, math, and language arts instruction as part of the new plan.
- A continuum of services continued to be offered through the Resource Program, Co-Teaching, the ASEP Program, the ABL Program, and the Transition Program.
- The department's community involvement remained strong with many community-based learning activities. Through the ABL Program, Essential Skills, Work Experience, and Friends Club, students have participated in shopping, bowling, swimming, horseback riding, college tours, mechanics, culinary, retail, and computer repair.
- The Unified Sports Program became even more popular this year. Students participated in soccer and basketball

Technology Education

- The Technology Department worked on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) initiatives in collaboration with other departments that may lead to a STEM academy concept.
- The RHS Green Team won the CL&P \$20,000 grand prize video award in 2011-2012.
- With the help of the CL&P grant funding, renovation began on the new STEM education lab at RHS. This unique facility will be equipped with 3D printers, engineering, and fabrication equipment, CHC machinery, and eventually additional science and

mathematics resources that will enable full curriculum integration across the disciplines to place. Science and Math students will be able to work in collaboration with technology and engineering

World Languages

- World Languages students traveled to Germany for three weeks as part of the on-going German-American Partnership Program (GAPP).
- Staff members participated in various professional development throughout the year, including the World Languages Curriculum Leadership Committee, the ECE Seminar at UCONN, the CT COLT Conference, and the New England Conference on Multicultural Education.
- Chinese classes were offered to students as part of a partnership with the Confucius Institute CCSU.
- Three students were inducted into the National German Honors Society.
- French students took the Grand Concours
- Several students received various World Languages awards throughout the year, such as Excellence in Spanish Award, Polygot Award, CT COLT Excellence Award for Spanish.

HUMAN SERVICES



VERNON HOUSING AUTHORITY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mr. Peter Olson, Chairman

Ms. Karen Roy-Guglielmi, Commissioner

Mr. Raymond Powers, Resident Commissioner

Mr. J. Michael O'Neil, Vice Chairman

Ms. Nancy Osborn, Commissioner

HOUSING AUTHORITY STAFF

Administration

Jeffrey Arn, *Executive Director*

Bobbi Kruglik, *Finance Manager*

Housing & Programs

Linda McComber, *Housing & Programs Manager*

Donna Webber, *Resident Services Coordinator*

Noreen Keeler, *Housing Programs Coordinator*

Lydia Kornas, *Section 8 Coordinator*

Francis J. Pitkat Congregate

Sue Lapierre, *Congregate Housing Manager*

State of CT DSS HCV & Rental Assistance Program

Dorothy Morin, *Program Supervisor*

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

Franklin Park East and Windermere A.D.A. Renovations

The Vernon Housing Authority began A.D.A. accessibility renovations to three apartments at Franklin Park East, two apartments and the Community Room at Windermere Court. These renovations include; the installation of accessible ramps; accessible bathrooms with roll-in showers; accessible Kitchens; and accessible parking areas. In addition as part of this project an emergency electrical generator is being installed at Windermere to power the Community Room in case of a power outage this will allow for a place of refuge for our elderly and disabled residents. This \$382,500 project was mandated as part of the conversion of these properties to our federally funded portfolio. The funds for these renovations are coming from our Capital Fund Program and project reserves. The use of project reserves is intended to keep our reserve levels at or below the HUD recommended amounts. Project completion is slated for July 2013.

Court Towers Security Camera Installation

The Vernon Housing Authority began the installation of a new digital 30 camera security surveillance system at Court Towers. This system is being installed in order to improve our capabilities of monitoring our residents' safety and improve our lease enforcement abilities. This has been necessitated by the increased amount of residents generated by our enhanced occupancy numbers. The system includes 30 digital cameras, one server, two monitoring stations and remote viewing capabilities. The funding for this project is coming exclusively from

project reserves. The use of project reserves is intended to keep our reserve levels at or below the HUD recommended amounts. Project completion is slated for July 2013.

CHFA Capital Plan Pilot

The Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) is developing a capital plan in preparation for distributing funding as part of the State's commitment to reinvest into the state financed housing stock. The VHA was asked to be a part of a pilot group of housing authorities that will test the assessment of the existing developments. The process will include a capital needs assessment, management assessment and market analysis. This program is in process.

Appointments to the Board of Commissioners

Chairman Peter Olson was reappointed to an additional five year term by the Vernon Town Council in February 2012. This year Mr. Olson attained 23 years of service on the Board of Commissioners. He has diligently served the residents of Vernon by being actively involved in the VHA's success in providing quality affordable housing opportunities.

Housing Advocacy & Associations

The VHA continues to be committed to advocating for public housing. VHA executive director Jeffrey Arn remains an active Executive Board member for the Connecticut Chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (CONN-NAHRO) and serves as Vice President of their Housing and Legislation Committee. This has required Mr. Arn to be involved in advocating for and/or opposing legislation on a State level representing CONN-NAHRO.

2012 Resident Services

The Vernon Housing Authority enhances our ability to provide a positive living environment through a commitment to resident services. This is achieved by dedicating a full time staff member to work directly with our residents and also by organizing events and activities.

This past year, the VHA has assisted more than one hundred and fifty residents with different services that they have needed. The list of services includes; Homemaking Service, Home Health Aides, Transportation Services, Public Assistance Programs, Mental Health Services, Medicare/Health Insurance, Visiting Nurses Service, Protective Services & Community Meals.

We teamed with the Town of Vernon Department of Social Services to sign up our residents for the rental rebate program. Over two hundred of our residents took advantage of this offer allowing them to supplement their limited budgets.

In addition to services we have provided community relations through health clinics, entertainment and community functions. Clinics & functions at all of our senior and disabled housing sites included; Blood Pressure Clinics, Foot Care Clinics, Fire Marshal Safety Presentations, Summer Picnics, Holiday Parties, Ice Cream Socials, Musical Entertainment, Bingo, Pizza Parties, Breakfasts, Dinners and other miscellaneous game playing functions.

At Court Towers we continued the operation of the Gift and Coffee Shops as a service for our residents. These are able to continue operation thanks to our resident volunteers including; Ray Powers, Margaret Finn, Irene Kozlowski, Pat Boreyko, Doris Farr & Linda Arietti.

HUD Housing Choice Voucher Management Assessment

The VHA has maintained the status of being a High Performing Agency with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in the management of the Section 8 Program. The VHA was assessed for the year ending 2012 and received 93 of 100 possible points.

Public Housing Assessment System

The VHA has maintained the status of being a standard performer for the year ending 2011 and had not yet received our scoring for 2012.

Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)

The Housing Authority of Town of Vernon was able to increase the amount of PILOT payment made to the town in 2012 due to the recent federalization of two properties. The conversion of Franklin Park East and Windermere Court from State funded properties to federally funded has allowed us to once again make PILOT payments on these properties. In addition the percentage paid on our other federal properties has increased from 5 to ten percent. This is possible because HUD will fund up to ten percent of our shelter rents less utilities for PILOT payments, whereas, the State did not provide any funding for PILOT payment. The PILOT payments made in 2012 & 2011 are listed below:

<u>Property Designation</u>	<u>2012 Pilot Payment</u>	<u>2011 Pilot Payment</u>
Court Towers, Franklin Park West & Scattered Sites	\$35,634	\$15,917
Franklin Park East	\$9,206	\$1,374
Windermere Court	\$7,975	\$600
Francis Pitkat Congregate	<u>\$10,537</u>	<u>\$9,419</u>
Total Payment	\$63,352	\$27,310

As demonstrated above the VHA has been able to increase our value to the Town of Vernon by not only providing more affordable housing to our residents but also increasing the amount of money we are able to give the Town in our PILOT payment.

NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Department Head:

Michael A. Pirro, M.P.H., M.P.A., R.S.
Director of Public Health

Location of Department:

375 Hartford Turnpike, Room 120

The North Central District Health Department provides Vernon with full -time health department services and is on call seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day for emergencies. The Department is governed by a Board of Directors (Board of Health) in accordance with the

General Statutes of Connecticut. Katherine Voss, Diane Wheelock and David Skoczulek (Chairman), serve as representatives to the Board.

The Health Department is staffed by a Director of Public Health, a Chief of Environmental Services, and Director of Food & Institutional Services (all are Registered Sanitarians), a Health Educator, nine sanitarians; a support staff of 2.5 clerical workers and a part-time bookkeeper. The Department has a Medical Advisor and contracts for auditing and legal services.

The primary mission of the NCDHD is disease prevention, surveillance and health promotion in the district's population. The District is responsible for programs in a number of areas including:

- Preventing epidemics and outbreaks of diseases; undertaking epidemiological investigations, follow-up and working to prevent the spread of communicable diseases such as tuberculosis, hepatitis, sexually transmitted diseases and the like.
- Inspection of restaurants, other food service establishments and facilities and the epidemiological investigations follow-up and prevention of the spread of food borne diseases.
- Safety inspections of schools, convalescent homes and other institutions.
- Water quality testing of bathing areas.
- Review, testing and approval of new septic systems, as well as the review and approval of plans for system repairs and/or expansion.
- Review of laboratory testing of well water for approval of new wells for homes.
- Provision of laboratory testing of drinking water, paint samples for lead, blood, stool and other samples such as insects and birds as may be necessary in the investigation of outbreaks and illnesses.
- Investigation of complaints in regard to public health hazards, nuisances, rodent or insect control.
- Inspection of housing units in response to physician's positive lead blood tests in children.
- The provision and support of health education and prevention programs.
- Monitoring the health status of the population.
- Assistance to the Department of Environmental Protection upon request for help in collection of samples or for follow-up or investigation of specific problems.
- Development and implementation of Regional Points of Dispensing (POD) clinics to dispense medications or vaccinate for post exposure to biological agents, pandemic influenza or other natural outbreaks; all hazard emergency response plan to respond to, mitigate and recover from natural and manmade disasters to protect the populations of the district.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Director continues to review all communicable disease reports from labs, physicians and hospitals pertaining to residents of Vernon and follows up on any cases that need to be followed to stop any potential transmission. Vernon is served out of the Vernon office at 375 Hartford Turnpike, Room 120. Our main headquarters are in Enfield at 31 North Main Street.

In general, building activity is down throughout the District. In Vernon, while new construction activity of buildings on septic systems or wells has slowed, the number of building additions submitted for review has increased. No new subdivision soil test applications were received.

- 2 - Permits to Discharge were issued to date
- 9 - Well Permits were issued.
- 2 - New septic system permits with corresponding soil test and plan review.
- 6 - Repair septic system permits with corresponding soil test and plan review.
- 45 - Building additions (decks, pools, sheds, garages, etc.) were reviewed.

The Health District enacted Barber Shop, Beauty Salon and Nail Salon Regulations pursuant to state statutes to license and inspect these salon facilities. In Vernon, 37 salons were inspected and licensed this past year with re-inspections conducted as necessary.

The District inspects complaints related to housing, trash, rodents and insects, sewage and water quality, and the food service industry (restaurants, etc.).

One of the District's main functions in Vernon is the licensing and inspection of food service facilities providing protection against food borne illness to the public. There were 130 facilities plus seven public schools licensed during this period with 263 inspections, 24 re-inspections and 35 "other" food inspections conducted. Seven plans and their related inspections were submitted for review for new or renovations to existing food service facilities.

During the past year, we received 72 temporary event permit applications. Each temporary event application received by our office is evaluated by a staff inspector. Depending on the complexity of the proposed food service, our department will inspect evening and weekend events as needed.

The Health District is responsible for conducting follow-up interviews and on some occasions, follow-up inspections related to possible food borne illness. The food borne alerts form (single cases and the enteric disease interview form (confirmed cases) are both confidential and are submitted to the State Health Department for review.

In addition to routine food service inspections, well water supply reviews for food service and other related food service inspections, we respond to and investigate food related complaints and possible food borne illness reports received by the department. The department also responds to and provides follow-up to, certain food recalls. NCDHD extended the due date for food service re-licensure to provide owners extra time due to the extreme conditions caused by Super Storm Sandy.

Each year, 19 public swimming pools are inspected and the pools are licensed. Each year, our department inspects and licenses four Hotel/Motels. NCDHD inspects 15 day care facilities for annual safety and environmental health issues. The water quality (bacteria levels) at Valley Falls Park, Camp NewHoca and NewHoca Park (Bolton Lake) are monitored by our Department. Water samples taken at the beach are sent to the State Health Department Laboratory for testing. Water quality was generally satisfactory this past year; however, there were periodic problems at Valley Falls Park where heavy rain caused the bacteria levels to rise quickly and generally, within two days, these levels dropped back to safe swimming levels

Health Education Report

In 2012-2013, North Central District Health Department offered health education programs to all residents throughout the Health District. The goal of NCDHD's health education efforts is to improve the health conditions and behaviors of each community member through the promotion of healthier lifestyles, education on chronic disease prevention, and support of strong health policies and environmental changes. Our health education programs seek to reduce the incidence of preventable diseases and increase the well-being of the community.

A.C.T.I.V.E. (Activity Class to Improve Vitality In Everyone)

- From September to December 2012 nine fitness classes were held throughout the district and offered to all residents.
- Classes offered throughout the district included an Intermediate Tai Chi Class, Yoga, Splash in' Action Class (water fitness), and an A.C.T.I.V.E. aerobics class.
- Classes successfully engaged older participants who probably would not consider joining a gym.

PUTTING ON AIRS Asthma Program

- In 2012-2013, NCDHD conducted 14 in-home visits.
- NCDHD serves Ellington, Stafford, Vernon, and Windham/Willimantic through the State's Region 3.
- The Health Educator and one of the sanitarians are trained to provide in-home assessments for the Putting on AIRS program.

COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION GRANT (CTG)

- Supported town representation on a county-wide coalition to support capacity building and strategic planning of CTG Initiative.
- Initiated community needs assessment of policies and environmental assets in the community supporting Healthy Eating & Active Living, Tobacco-Free Living, and Quality Preventive Services.
- All Health Education programs are open to residents in our member towns.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE/BIO-TERRORISM SECTION

During the period July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013, the Emergency Response/Bio-Terrorism section of the North Central District Health Department worked very closely with the Vernon Department of Emergency Management. We have consulted with Emergency Manager, Michael Purcaro, regarding training, drills (IMPACT), winter storms, power outages and chemical spills.

During the 2013 blizzard, the NCDHD worked closely with Vernon's Office of Emergency Management and other town agencies to ensure the public's health. The Health Department was present in the Emergency Operations Center, on conference calls, in the shelter and at daily briefings.

This section also participated in DEMHS (Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security) Region 3 emergency planning meetings, work groups, Public Health

Emergency Preparedness Plans and the Mass Dispensing Area Plan, to ensure Vernon's public health, safety and the proper response to a disaster.

During the July 2013 Statewide Drill, the NCDHD was available to the Vernon Emergency Operations Center throughout the exercise for inputs or questions. The Health District's Headquarters in Enfield was also activated throughout the course of the four day exercise in the event the Health Director's input was required.

The State Department of Public Health conducted its annual review of the Department's Mass Dispensing Plan and we received a passing grade. The District is responsible for the safe and effective delivery of counter-medication to approximately 176,000 people in the case of a bioterrorism attack or pandemic outbreak.

The NCDHD has partnered with the Capital Region Medical Reserve Corp as well as the Connecticut Region 4 Medical Reserve Corp. These partnerships offer the citizens of Vernon another avenue to volunteer to assist their community or another when there is a need. The Medical Reserve Corp is open to both medical and non-medically trained individuals and additional training is free.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

The inspections and investigations are listed on the following page. It should be noted that raw numbers are no indication of time spent or the relative complexity of inspections; therefore a comparison is only possible in the most general sense.

North Central District Health Department
Vernon Year End Report
2012-2013

	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
Soil Tests (Total)	7	2	8
New	3	0	0
Repair	4	2	8
Septic Permits			
New	2	1	2
Repair	3	5	6
Septic Inspections	17	19	26
Well Permits	8	15	9
Additions Reviews (on well/septic)	41	50	45
Plans Reviewed:			
Subdivisions (Total Lots)	19	0	0
New Plot Plans	5	1	0
Repairs	4	5	8
Wells Only	4	2	0
Well Water Test Reviews	9	8	2
Permits to Discharge	4	6	2
Food Licenses Issued	127	122	130
Temporary Food Permits	70	46	72
Food Service Inspections (Total)	254	265	263
Food Service Reinspections			24
"Other" Food Service Inspections			35
Plans Reviewed for Food	11	12	7
Food Orders Issued	15	13	28
Complaints (Total)	168	149	128
Garbage 7 Refuse	26	21	9
Housing	64	69	55
Rodents & Insects	17	24	14
Sewage Overflow	9	10	8
Water Quality	1	2	3
Food Complaints	15	12	22
Salon Complaints	2	1	1
Food Related Illness Complaints	5	4	4
Miscellaneous	12	6	12
Complaint Orders Sent	25	39	15

Vernon Inspections
July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013

Type of Inspection	Numbers
Swimming Pools	19
Hotel/Motel	4
Day Cares	16
Schools	7
Salons	37
Bathing Beach Sampling Valley Falls Park Camp New Hoca New Hoca Park	approximately 70 samples per season

LEAD

0-4 ug/dL	5-9 ug/dL	10-14 ug/dL	15/19 ug/dL	20-65 ug/dL
482	57	7	2	2
	After venous re-test, 23 required follow-up	After venous re-test, 4 required follow-up	After venous re-test, no one required follow-up	After venous re-test, no one required follow-up

The Department monitors the blood lead level test reports through the State Health Department monitoring system "MAVEN". Blood lead levels above 5 ug/dL start to receive varying degrees of attention.

5-14 ug/dL - Receive a letter with educational material and a request for a follow-up venous blood test within 90 days.

14-19 ug/dL - Receive a letter with additional material and require a follow-up venous blood test with a home visit to evaluate potential lead hazards.

20+ ug/dL - Require epidemiological investigation and home environmental inspection for those children with positive results following confirmed venous blood test results.

SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER

Department Head:

Paula Claydon

Location of Department:

26 Park Place

Mission Statement:

The Senior Center is committed to assisting Vernon seniors by providing programs and activities that meet their needs and address their concerns. The Center offers opportunities for socialization, recreation, and learning, health and fitness programs, transportation, entertainment and trips, volunteer opportunities, and information and referral.

PRESENTATIONS

The Center has provided monthly presentations throughout the year. These programs address a variety of senior issues with the goal of providing information and education.

LEISURE ACTIVITIES:

- Bingo
- Book Club
- Birthday Celebrations
- Card Games – pinochle, set back, bridge, canasta and cribbage
- Computer Lab
- Entertainment & Luncheons
- Games – chess, dominos, mah jongg, and scrabble
- Golf league
- Knitting
- Movies
- Newcomer's Club
- Noon Institute
- Pool
- Presentations
- Shuffleboard
- Trips – One day and Multi-Day
- Wii Bowling

INSTRUCTIONAL CLASSES:

- Computer Classes
- Drawing & Painting Class
- Exercise
- Line Dancing
- Tai Chi
- Wii Bowling
- Yoga
- Zumba

HEALTH & WELLNESS PROGRAMS:

- Blood pressure, blood sugar & cholesterol screening.
- Flu Clinics
- Foot Care
- Hearing screening
- Health Fair

TRANSPORTATION

Senior bus provides weekly shopping trips, bi-monthly mall shopping, and special events. Senior car provides seniors transportation for out of town medical appointments.

OTHER SERVICES

- AARP Income tax preparation
- CHOICES
- Driver safety course
- Library
- Medical equipment on loan

REFERRALS TO OTHER AGENCIES

The Center has been designated by the North Central Area Agency on Aging as a "Community Focal Point" for seniors. If the Center does not provide a particular service that a senior needs, a referral is made to another agency for assistance.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers are important to the Center, providing support to assist with the daily functioning and special events. A Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon is held each year in recognition of their service.

ADVISORY BOARD

The members of the Senior Center are appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Council. The Board meets once a month to discuss concerns or items of interest to the seniors. They act in an advisory role for the Center and provide the Director with information and suggestions on various senior issues, activities and programs.

This past year, a total of 1179 unduplicated number of seniors participated in programs and activities offered by the Senior Center. This is an 18% increase over the previous year.

SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Department Head:

Marina C. Rodriguez, AICP

Location of Department:

14 Park Place - 1st Floor

Mission Statement:

The Social Services Department's mission is to promote the social well-being of the community, self-sufficiency and improve the quality of life for Vernon residents. The Department provides a variety of social service programs such as crisis intervention and case management, benefits counseling and advocacy, intake site for energy assistance applications, emergency fuel and utility assistance, limited emergency assistance, fee waiver for summer camp programs, and information and referral.

The Department provides staffing for the Human Services Advisory Commission to assist the Commission with its initiatives and manages the grants allocated to private, non-profit human services agencies serving Vernon residents. The Department administers the Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program for home repairs to qualifying Vernon homeowners, and manages State grants for social services.

Summary of Department Services:

- The Department provided case management and crisis intervention for over 120 cases.
- Emergency assistance was given to 45 cases toward rent, medicine and other needs.
- The Department processed 749 applications for energy assistance, Tri-Town Fuel Bank/Operation Fuel.
- The Department processed 658 applications for Renter's Rebate for low income persons 65 years & older and those with social security disability; and benefit and health insurance counseling for 194 seniors.
- The Department received 64 requests for housing rehabilitation loans; currently 10 rehab projects are underway.
- The Department addressed over 1,300 contacts for information & referral service.

YOUTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Department Head:

Alan M. Slobodien

Location of Department:

9 Elm Street

MISSION STATEMENT: The Vernon Youth Services Bureau (YSB) is a community based agency dedicated to providing education, information and referral, prevention, intervention, and crisis services which promote the health and well-being of youth and families in Vernon.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- All children have potential to be successful
- The community needs to be successful
- *We can make a difference*

The YSB has the charge of coordinating the continuum of youth services within Vernon per section §10-19m of the Connecticut General Statutes, "*Youth Service Bureau means an agency operated directly by one or more municipalities or a private agency designated to act as an agent of one or more municipalities for the purpose of evaluation, planning, coordination and implementation of prevention, intervention and treatment services for delinquent, pre-delinquent, pregnant, parenting and troubled youth, and for the provision of opportunities for youth to develop positively and to function as responsible members of their communities.*" These functions include: Management and Administration, Needs Assessment, Community Resource Development, Community Involvement and Advocacy. In addition, the YSB provides direct service programs such as the Truancy Intervention Program, After School and Summer Programs, Youth Employment, Summer Nutrition and Peer Advocate Programs. The YSB is an integral partner of the Vernon School Readiness Council that focuses on students in pre-school-third grade. Through developing a network of strong cooperative working relationships, the YSB takes the lead in positive youth development initiatives and works closely with other service providers that

include non-profit agencies, town departments, Vernon Police and the Vernon Public Schools. The YSB was also a lead agency in the development of the Vernon Community Plan for Youth, Birth to Eighteen. This plan provides a blueprint to the goal of "All Vernon Children Birth to Eighteen are safe, healthy and productive" was introduced to the community at its unveiling ceremony in June 2011. In June 2013 a community plan update dinner highlighted successes of the plan since its implementation.

The YSB is the lead agency that manages the summer nutrition program, a federally funded program providing free nutritious lunches to youth 18 and younger. In the summer of 2012 over 6,000 lunches were served at four lunch sites: Henry Park, Talcott Park, Maple Street School and Park West Apartments. Program success results in large part to a strong volunteer component and by youth employed in the YSB Summer Youth Employment Program.

The Youth Services Bureau provides the following core program components:

- After-School & Summer Programs
- Youth and Family Advocacy Services
- Peer Advocate Program
- Crisis Intervention Services
- Truancy Intervention Program
- Information & Referral Services
- Community Planning Projects
- Summer Nutrition Program
- Youth Employment Programs

Key partners include:

- Vernon Public Schools
- Indian Valley YMCA
- Hockanum Valley Community Council
- Union Congregational Church
- Vernon Police
- Vernon Social Services
- KIDSAFE CT
- PTOs
- Superior Court, Juvenile Matters
- Parks and Recreation Department
- ECHN Family Resource Center
- Vernon School Readiness Collaborative
- Vernon Drug and Alcohol Prevention Council
- Rockville Hospital
- State Department of Education
- ERASE
- Local Service Organizations
- Capital Region Workforce Development Board
- Capital Region Education Council
- CT Youth Services Association
- Vernon Community Network
- Rockville Community Alliance
- Volunteers

Funding Secured via YSB Grant Writing/Fund Raising

1. State Department of Education – YSB Grant	\$ 23,085
2. State Department of Education – Enhancement Grant	\$ 6,111
3. Local Prevention Council Grant	\$ 4,245
4. School Readiness Grant	\$ 174,500
5. Graustein Memorial Fund – Community Planning	\$ 50,000
6. Summer Youth Employment	\$ 24,000
7. Summer Nutrition Program	\$ 18,000
8. Key Hyundai – Book Mobile	\$ 1,900
Total	\$ 301,841

MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT



BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Department Head:

Harry Dan Boyko, Building Official

Location of Department:

55 West Main Street

MISSION: Provide solution oriented services to the community thorough the application of professional skills, adopted plans, and standards which facilitate the growth of the local economy and enhance the quality of life and preserve the natural environment for current and future generations.

Responsibilities and Duties:

To provide enforcement of the State Building Codes, town Zoning Regulations and other Town Ordinances.

Summary of Activities:

A total of 1903 permits were issued between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013 with an estimated construction cost of \$27,638,856.75. Of this, 16 were issued for single family dwellings with an estimated construction cost of \$1,998,000.00. **Total building permit fees collected: \$478,525.14**

Of the total permit fees collected, any co fees or zoning review fees (for permit approval purposes) are included and obtained with the payment of the initial building permit application.

The Zoning Enforcement Officer has indicated that for the period July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013, a total of 12 Zoning Board of Appeals Applications were received and a total of \$2,760.00 was collected; 12 zoning compliance letters have been prepared and a total of \$300.00 was collected; 23 citations were issued and a total of \$3,400.00 was collected. **Total zoning fees collected: \$6,460.00**

Inspections:

An average of 633 inspections are performed each month. An estimated 7,594 inspections were performed for fiscal year July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013.

CEMETERY DEPARTMENT

Department Head:

Alan B. West, Superintendent

Location of Department:

22 Cemetery Avenue

Commission Members:

Jean Luddy, Chairperson

Norine Edwards

Scott Brown

Bradford Keune

Vacancy

Responsibilities and Duties:

The Cemetery Department is responsible for overseeing all services performed within the boundaries of the cemeteries. Services include funerals, selling of lots, and placement of monuments, keeping of records, and reporting all burials to the Town Clerk office on a monthly basis. The department also maintains the grounds and burial sites in the five cemeteries.

Burials July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013:

Full Burials: 49

Cremation Burials: 38

Lot Sales July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013: 71 Lot Sales

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Department Head:

Shaun Gately, Coordinator

Location of Department:

55 West Main St.

Responsibilities and Duties:

The Economic Development Coordinator: Plans, organizes, and administers economic development efforts to strengthen the tax base, improve employment, and stimulate business activity; Provides continuing technical assistance to boards, commissions, developers and businesses; Provides consultation to assist in the retention and expansion of existing businesses; Administers commercial or industrial development projects; and Seeks out new community-compatible businesses.

Summary of Activities:

During the past year the Economic Development department has worked towards continuing to make Vernon a more competitive place to conduct business. Ongoing efforts to reach out to the business community, and collaborate with other Government agencies are essential and will continue. The redevelopment of our older Mill buildings remains a high priority, and currently 3

Mill Properties are in the pipeline for redevelopment. The addition of Tractor Supply Co. on Rte 83 as well as Scooter Pros, a new Cumberland Farms, and a proposed Dollar General shows the strength of our retail corridors. Rebranding efforts are under way with the "**On the Move**" tagline. Vernon, CT is not a community that sits around waiting for things to happen. We get on the trails and create adventure; we are not only on the grid, but an integral part of it; our town was formed by innovative people, and will continue to be shaped by the innovators of tomorrow. Vernon, CT is **On the Move**.

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

Department Head:

Terry D. McCarthy, P.E. Town Engineer

Location of Department:

55 West Main Street – 2nd Floor

The mission of the Engineering Department is to provide accessible, dependable and timely professional and technical services to all municipal departments, agencies, commissions, businesses and residents. To operate a professional office with well trained staff and modern equipment capable of being self-sufficient, flexible and adjustable to meet the challenge of the ever changing needs of the municipality in a cost effective manner.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES:

- Issuing Road excavation and driveway permits
- Providing field inspections of sanitary sewer installations
- Providing review of ongoing erosion and sedimentation control installations
- Providing staff support to the Inland Wetlands Commission and the Planning and Zoning Commission
- Providing detailed technical reviews of site plan and subdivision plan submissions to the Inland Wetlands Commission and the Planning and Zoning Commission
- Providing final site inspections on site development and subdivision construction
- Providing review, oversight and coordination with ongoing infrastructure improvements within the Town
- Provide timely assistance as necessary to Town Residents and Businesses.

From July 1, 2012 to June 30th, 2013 the engineering department issued a total of 98 driveway and roadway cut permits. In addition the engineering department performed inspections on approximately 57 sanitary sewer installations.

Significant infrastructure improvements on going within the Town include:

- **Design of the Replacement of the West Main Street Bridge over the Hockanum River** is ongoing. As of June 30th, 2013 the final design of the bridge was approximately 95 % complete. The overall scope of the project has changed to a total bridge replacement based on determinations of the

existing bridge condition. The project is currently scheduled to be advertised for construction in late September 2013 with a scheduled construction start date of April 1st, 2014.

- **Construction of the Phoenix Street Bridge over the Tankerhoosen River:**

The original anticipated construction completion date of May 18th, 2012 was extended into June of 2012 as a result of delays during construction from both Hurricane Irene and Storm Alfred in the fall of 2011. The construction was however successfully completed with Phoenix Street reopened to traffic in July of 2012. A formal ribbon cutting ceremony was held on Wednesday September 12th, 2012.

- **Main Street Bridge over the Tankerhoosen River:**

The Town has received Qualification Statements from eleven (11) consulting engineering firms on May 3rd, 2012 to provide design services for the replacement of the Main Street Bridge. The Qualification Statements are under review. Five (5) firms will be shortlisted for formal interviews. The project is funded by the State/Federal Funds (80%) and Town Funds (20%).

- **Historic Talcottville Improvements:**

This project is complete. The necessary paperwork to close out the project has been completed. This project was funded 100% by State and Federal funds.

- **Roadway Bond Projects:**

Projects funded by the Roadway bond project are substantially complete including the reconstruction of Hatch Hill Road and the final phase of Prospect Street. The entire length of Prospect Street from Union Street to East Main Street has now been reconstructed.

- **Reconstruction of South Street:**

The Town received a grant from the State of Connecticut through the STP Urban Funding Program to reconstruct a section of South Street from Vernon Avenue westerly to West Street. A public Informational Hearing was held on May 2nd, 2012. The project has been endorsed by a Town Council Resolution. Design Consultants were interviewed and Cardinal Engineering Associates from Meriden Connecticut were selected. Survey activities have been initiated while design service fees will be negotiated.

- **Skinner Road School Grant (Safe Routes to School Program):**

The Town of Vernon through their Board of Education received a grant of approximately \$491,000 from the Connecticut DOT to implement various improvements at the Skinner Road School to increase the safety of students attending the school. The project was turned over to the Town's Engineering Department for implementation. A scoping meeting will be scheduled in the near future to determine the actual work to be performed. A design consultant will have to be selected by the Town to perform the work.

- **On-Going Site Plan Reviews:**

The Engineering Department continued throughout the year to provide detailed technical and field reviews of various site development projects in Town. Major completed projects included among others the Tractor Supply Development, the Key Hyundai expansion, the Santini condominium/apartment expansion at Route 30, the Suburban Subaru expansion, the Cumberland

Farms Development at the corner of Route 83 and Hockanum Boulevard, the Correia Way Subdivision, the Economy Oil expansion on Hartford Turnpike, Olender's Expansion on Talcottville Road and the addition of a new gas station at 793 Talcottville Road to support the adjacent Stop and Shop.

- **Sidewalk Construction**

The Town applied for and received a grant from the State for approximately \$900,000 to construct new sidewalks at various key locations in Town.

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Department Head:

Bruce W. Dinnie, Director

Location of Department:

Lottie Fisk Building at Henry Park, 120 South Street

Teen Center at Center 375 Hartford Turnpike

The Parks and Recreation Department coordinates a wide range of programs and special events throughout the year. Brochures are provided 4 times a year containing program description and registration information. Email blasts are sent out periodically to those who have current email addresses listed with the VP&R. All our programs can be registered on-line.

The Vernon Parks and Recreation continues its efforts to make your online experience easier. We have revamped our website to be more user friendly. Visit the website at www.vernon-ct.gov/parks and explore the Parks and Recreation Department's page to view the many new and exciting programs.

Our Flickr account that was created and implanted two years ago now contains over 33,700 pictures, doubling last year's numbers.

We have added the Town's Parks information to a new app that is available for smart phones. The app is called 'Find A Park' and uses the phones current location from GPS to locate parks in your current location. You can search by amenities or location areas.

The Save A Life program- was created to provide those in the community that cannot afford to take swim lessons the opportunity to do so for free. The community has supported this program extremely well.

Send a Kid to Camp program – Is for those families that cannot afford to send their child to camp have the opportunity to do so for free or at a discounted rate. The community has supported this extremely well

Summer Camp participation increased at all sites. Not only did we see an increase from our residents, but non-residents from Ellington, Tolland and Manchester as well. The book mobile was started where the campers had the opportunity to read or be read to.

Aquatic swim lessons and open swim was another hit with thousands of patrons using the facilities at Community Pool, Horowitz Pool, Valley Falls and Newhoca Park.

Teen Center numbers stayed about the same from the previous year at 450.

The REK (Recreation and Education for Kids) continues to provide families with an excellent option for their children to enjoy activities after school.

Special events were added to the REK programs to increase the participant's enjoyment. Programs such as Yoga were added to increase the recreational experience of each child.

Youth basketball girl's league was formed with surrounding towns so these participants had a league to play in. Lack of participation in girl's recreational basketball is a problem being faced by a large number of surrounding towns. This league was formed with Vernon, Ellington, Windsor Locks, Hartland and Granby.

A 5th grade boy's developmental travel basketball team was formed.

Adult softball, one of the largest in the area had 107 teams registered during the season.

This Department has expanded programs for children and adults, offered new and exciting trips and has improved the traditional programs such as Summer Camps, Swim Lessons and Summer Highlights. New Preschool, Youth, and Adult classes were added.

The Vernon P&R through the ***Friends of Parks and Recreation*** work closely with all the youth sports organizations on field improvements, participation issues and budgets.

Our Department is very proud of the Special Events that are offered throughout the year for all ages. These events draw thousands of people each and every year.

July in the Sky Fireworks is one of the largest displays in the State. Thank you to Rockville Bank Foundation and Price Chopper, they are the title sponsors.

Summer Days Carnival is sponsored by Vernon Parks and Recreation, Rockville Exchange Club and the Vernon Lions Club. All three organizations give all proceeds right back into the community.

The second **Winterfest** was held in December. Due to some inclement weather many of the activities were postponed. Tree lighting, singing, a parade of the fire engines all decorated with lights and potentially fireworks are planned for next year's event.

The traditional **Memorial Day Parade** was fun for all involved.

Over 70 garden plots taken in the Community Gardens program.

As for our Maintenance crew, they continue to excel in making our Parks and Facilities the pride of Vernon. Besides all the baseball, softball, soccer, lacrosse, and football fields that are maintained, they are responsible for all the Parks in Vernon such as Valley Falls, Henry Park, Community Field, Newhoca Park, Camp Newhoca and all of the school grounds.

Our Park Maintenance crew also played a vital role in clearing and cutting and trimming the many trees that fell during Storm Sandy. The Park Maintainers worked numerous hours and went above and beyond the call of duty clearing roads, parks and the miles of the Rails to Trails.

- Landscaping and beautification of Parks and Schools were implemented.
- Repairs to the Fox Hill War Memorial Tower continue.
- Vernon Depot grant on the Rails to Trails historical signs has been completed.
- Vernon Greenway Volunteers and the Conservation Commission worked on combating invasive species of aquatic plants and land plants.
- Trail grant with Hockanum River Linear Committee including a small watercraft launched a Historical exhibit at the Sewer Treatment Plant.
- Maintenance highlights also include: additional picnic areas throughout the park with grills.
- Valley Falls purchased a new Guard shed.
- The Henry Park Playscape was removed; the new one is scheduled to be installed in the fall of 2013.

Remember, Parks and Recreation, where the benefits are endless...

The Parks and Recreation Department extend a sincere thank you to all volunteers and instructors of our many programs.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Department Head:

Leonard K. Tundermann, AICP, Town Planner

Location of Department:

55 West Main Street

Responsibilities & Duties:

The Planning Department works to enhance property values and preserve natural and historic resources in balance with the development of a strong economic base and the furtherance of sound planning principals. The Planning Department performs duties and meets its responsibilities in accordance with the Connecticut General Statutes and the Vernon Code of Ordinances and Regulations. During 2012-2013 the Department worked with the Planning & Zoning Commission and the Engineering Department to develop Low Impact Development (LID) standards and requirements for inclusion in Vernon's zoning and subdivision regulations. The Department continued to assist various land use and development commissions in administering policies and regulations and revising regulations to promote the sound long-range development and the general welfare and safety of the community. This included working with staff of the CT Office of Policy and Management (OPM) and staff of the Capitol Region Council of Governments in a cross-acceptance process as OPM prepared its 2013-2018 conservation and development policies plan for the state.

The Town Planner works with the Economic Development Coordinator to promote economic development by assisting local and prospective businesses meet location and building needs. The Town Planner also directs administration of the housing assistance program, which provides limited loans to eligible homeowners to undertake essential repairs. Planning staff provide administrative and professional services to the Planning & Zoning Commission, Inland Wetlands Commission, Conservation Commission, and the Town Administration. The Department works closely with the Engineering and Building Departments, the Fire Marshal, and the Water Pollution Control Department to ensure that development plans comply with regulations and codes, and works with the Zoning Enforcement Officer to ensure that the Zoning Regulations are enforced. The Planning Department provides guidance regarding land use and development policies, regulations, and procedures; provides pre-development assistance; and responds to requests for information. The Planning Department is also the lead agency for the 2010 U.S. Census and for the FEMA flood insurance mapping.

<u>Applications processed</u>	<u>2012-13:</u>
Planning and Zoning Commission:	43
Minor Modifications:	13
Inland Wetlands Commission:	16

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Department Head:

Robert J. Kleinhans, Director

Location of Department:

375 Hartford Turnpike

Operating Hours:

Monday through Friday
7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Public Works Department provides the residents of Vernon with a wide range of services.

The Director oversees the Public Works Department with a Lead Foreman, two Road Foremen, a Refuse & Recycling Supervisor and a Vehicle & Equipment Supervisor who supervise 37 employees. An Administrative Secretary, an Administrative Clerk and a Clerk Dispatcher staff the Public Works Office.

The maintenance and repair of approximately 125 miles of town-owned roads, the maintenance and repair of all storm sewers on town-owned roads and rights-of-way, refuse and recycling collection, all traffic line painting and street sign maintenance, snow and ice removal, bridge inspection and maintenance, and the general maintenance of 25 town-owned buildings and properties are just a few of the many priorities for which the Public Works Department is responsible.

One of the three foremen also serves as the Town Tree Warden and oversees problems that involve town-owned trees in addition to supervising the trimming, care and removal of trees throughout our town. New trees are planted each year.

Department also provides several special services for the residents such as the year round scheduled bulky waste pickup, the spring sweeping program, and fall leaf collection. Another service that most residents are unaware of is that the Public Works Department is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, for all department related emergencies such as blocked storm sewers, flooding during rain storms, road related problems and assisting the Police and Fire Departments during their emergencies.

The Hotline (860-870-3506) and the website give residents up-to-date information on services provided by the department.

Last year the Public Works Department handled almost 30,000 phone calls including emergencies, educating the public about our programs, and addressing resident concerns.

As a community service, the Public Works Department plays an active role in assisting various local organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce and various beautification programs, school groups and social groups.

HIGHLIGHTS

Building and Grounds: The principal function is to provide for the maintenance, repair and operational expenditures of town buildings and grounds. Upgrading and maintaining public buildings to make them both functional and attractive is the primary goal of the Public Works Department. There are two maintainers for all building repairs and maintenance and one custodian located at the Town Hall. In FY 2012-2013, 301 requests from Town departments for various maintenance issues were logged in.

Major projects undertaken in FY 2012-2013 were as follows:

- 1) Center 375 - Public Works - Shower Room installed, Men's and Ladies Room remodeled.
- 2) Center 375 - Public Works - Foremen's Office and Refuse & Recycling Supervisor's Office were repainted and carpeting was replaced.
- 3) Center 375 - Stairs installed from employee parking lot to garage area.
- 4) Center 375 - Shed at Community Softball Field repaired and repainted.
- 5) Center 375 - Trash Garage - two new unit heaters installed.
- 6) Town Hall - Phase I of Finance Department upgrade completed -remodeled mezzanine area
- 7) Town Hall - Council Chambers - water damage repaired
- 8) Town Hall - Maintenance Garage - new furnace installed
- 9) Energy-efficient lighting installed at Police Department, Annex, 55 West Main Street, and all firehouses.

Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance: The Public Works Department maintains all department equipment along with equipment from the Parks & Recreation Department, Engineering Department, Building Department, Tax Assessor, Fire Department, Ambulance Department, Fire Marshal, Police Department, Board of Education, Senior Center and occasionally WPCA in the vehicle maintenance facility located at 383 Hartford Turnpike. In this facility, four mechanics and one part-time employee perform all major vehicle rebuilding and preventive maintenance on 240 major vehicles as well as 200 smaller machines such as asphalt rollers, leaf machines, snow blowers, pumps and mowers.

The department's four mechanics and one part-time mechanics' helper perform such tasks as welding, total engine and transmission repairs and replacements, scheduled preventive maintenance on all equipment, and complete equipment restoration and overhaul. They are responsible for the maintenance of all emergency generators that are located in several Town buildings.

The following equipment was purchased in FY 2012-2013:

- 1) One 2012 Doosan DX190W - \$129,762.
- 2) Two International 7500 dump/plow trucks - \$176,740 each.
- 3) Three International 7400 dump/plow trucks - \$149,495 each.
- 4) Three 2012 Ford F-350 foremen's utility/plow trucks - \$35,319 each.
- 5) One Whacker 1150 mini-loader with mounted snow blower \$87,288.

Bridges: All bridges are inspected during the year and Public Works handles any problems that arise including inspections before and after heavy rain to remove any debris that will restrict the flow of water, repair any undermining or washouts caused by heavy rains and inspection of all railings, fences or guard rails for damage and painting.

Sweeping: An estimated of 400 cubic yards of road sediment was collected. There has been a continued effort to reduce the amount of sediment. The Public Works Department is currently using different anti-icing products and has eliminated the use of sand for winter operations except for emergency use or severe ice conditions.

Drainage: The Public Works employees cleaned approximately 230 catch basins. With the anti-icing products being used during winter operations and no sand being used, a reduction in sediment collection is being noticed. As part of the cleaning process, each structure is evaluated and documented for its condition for repair or upgrade.

Ten sinkholes were repaired throughout town during this time period as well as seven catch basins and eight catch basin tops had to be replaced.

Road Work: In addition to filling potholes and minor road repair throughout the Town, total reconstruction of Hany Lane, Coldspring Drive, and Welles Road to improve drainage and road surface were completed.

A new water line was installed at the Animal Control Facility on Windsorville Road.

Trees: In October 2012, with Hurricane Sandy on the way, DPW crews prepared for tree damage. However, our area was spared the brunt of the damage, while the shoreline took the hit. In return of the favor from Storm Alfred the previous year when East Lyme sent a crew to help us clear the roads of trees and debris, we sent a crew to help. This crew assisted them in tree damage and tree debris cleanup.

With another early winter storm on November 8, 2012 together with Hurricane Sandy, we were seeing some damage, a lot of what appeared to be damage from the previous year that was now prevalent. This damage appeared to be the result of the heavy snows that we had in 2012 - limbs that had been cracked and rebounded after the snow melted or fell off the limbs. The damage was not visible and was enough for the limbs to eventually die off or fail and become dangerous hangers. The DPW tree crew continued to address these issues throughout the year. Trees along the trails also received some of this after-effect damage and were addressed.

Trimming of trees throughout Vernon continued as part of our regular maintenance. Approximately 22 trees were removed for hazard or health issues. As a result of the Governor's Storm Committee, the utility companies have been very proactive in trimming and tree removal around the power lines and have also begun an "Enhanced Trimming Program". This program is for primary lines and critical area lines and addresses trees further back from the lines for trimming and removals versus the regular maintenance. The Tree Warden meets with the tree trimming arborists for areas that will be addressed in regards to town right-of-ways.

Snow: The winter of FY 2012-2013 began early with the first measurable snow fall on November 8, 2012. The remainder of the winter proved to be more than the winter of 2011-2012. Snowfall accumulated for the season to a total average for our area of 97 inches. With the "Blizzard of 2013" (Storm Nemo or Storm Charlotte), we were challenged with accumulations of an average of 30 inches of snow. This amount of snow fall created many challenges during and after the storm. During the storm, snow fell too fast for crews to effectively maintain routes and the equipment was not able to push that amount of snow off the edge of roads. Crews worked aggressively to make sure all roads were passable for emergency vehicles. In days following the storm, crews worked to widen roads with a loader-mounted snow blower, pay loaders, bobcats and other equipment.

Our last storm was in early March 2013 and left us with another good amount of approximately 24 inches. Approximately 1, 337 tons of salt was used to keep the roads safe for vehicle use.

Leaf Collection: The Public Works Department spent a total of 26 days collecting 18,000 cubic yards of leaves (including leaf bins and bagged leaves that collected) on town-owned streets. A total of \$127,054 for labor and fuel was spent for this service.

Refuse and Recycling: The Vernon Transfer Station continues to offer Vernon residents an affordable disposal option for most unwanted household items. A total of 1,366 tons of bulky waste was received in FY 2012-2013. Metal items discarded equaled 184.7 tons including 180 appliances containing Freon gas which was safely removed before disposal. Four trailer loads totaling approximately 1,200 tires were recycled. Residents also recycled 60 lead acid batteries. There were 705 gallons of waste oil and 450 gallons of antifreeze received at the facility for recycling.

The **brush disposal program** in Vernon is true recycling – 7,000 cubic yards of incoming brush were processed into a mulch product which in turn was offered back to residents free of charge. The Christmas tree curbside collection and tree drop-off yielded an estimated 3,000 trees which were also processed into mulch. The mulch delivery program consisted of 41 deliveries generating additional revenue of \$2,580.

The Town of Vernon continues to offer the residents a **free drop-off for electronics**. The amount of electronics recycled in 2012-2013 was 68.87 tons.

The **bulky waste** compactor is working well and continues to decrease the number of container hauls required to dispose of bulky waste. Less container hauls require less funding for the hauling contract in the budget.

The Town's **hazardous waste program** saw 192 carloads of household hazardous waste brought to the CREOC facility in Manchester. The weekly scheduled bulk pick-up program for bulky waste and metal generated \$10,180 in additional revenue. A total of 259 collections were scheduled.

All Vernon residents have wheeled carts for refuse and recycling with the exception of some condominium complexes. Total single stream recycling tonnage collected through Vernon's curbside collection was 2,655 tons in FY 2012-2013. 6621.1 tons of MSW were collected and disposed of by Vernon Public Works in 2012-2013.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL DEPARTMENT

AUTHORITY MEMBERS:

Chairman Everett R. Weaver
Vice Chairman Gary Leavitt
John K. Anderson
Richard Madden

Past Chairman Adam B. Weissberger
Past Vice Chairman Melissa Shannon
Elizabeth Yang

Regular Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month in the Conference Room at the Water Pollution Control Facility to review assessments, regulations, sewer user charges; developers permit agreements and matters concerning the sewer collection system and the wastewater treatment plant.

DEPARTMENT HEAD:

David R. Ignatowicz

LOCATIONS:

Water Pollution Control Authority- 8 Park Place

Wastewater Treatment Plant - 100 Windsorville Road

RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES:

The Water Pollution Control Authority consists of five members appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Town Council. All members may serve a maximum of two consecutive full terms of three years each. The Authority has all the powers and duties as set forth in Chapter 103 of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut and shall exercise its powers and duties throughout the Town.

The Authority is responsible for the maintenance and operation of the sewage collection system, the wastewater treatment facility, the issuance of fees and collection of fees such as sewer user charges, special sewer assessments, sewer connection and inspection fees, plus the enforcement of laws, rules and regulations under the Authority's jurisdiction.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES:

The Wastewater treatment plant is an advanced treatment facility designed to process an average of 7.1 million gallons of wastewater per day. Sewage is collected from Vernon, Tolland and Ellington and portions of Manchester and South Windsor through 112.9 miles of sewer lines of various sizes. There are also 7 pumping stations that assist the conveyance of flow to the plant. During the past year approximately 1.15 billion gallons of raw sewage was treated with an average flow of 3.16 million gallons per day. In addition to this, 7.80 million gallons of septic

tank waste was transported to the plant for disposal and 85,874 gallons of permitted non-residential wastewater was transported to the plant via tanker trucks and successfully treated.

The plant operates under State and Federal regulations as stipulated in the Town's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, CT-0100609. Treated water is discharged into the Hockanum River, classified by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection as a water quality limited stream. This requires a high degree of treatment from the Vernon plant because it makes-up such a large portion of the river's flow.

The requirements for Vernon's wastewater treatment include reducing the amount of suspended solids, biochemical oxygen demand and ammonia-nitrogen, all of which are present in wastewater. Once the wastewater enters the plant it goes through three distinct stages of treatment. Primary treatment consists of separating the solids from the water by a gravity settling process. Next, the water flows to aeration basins to a biological process (secondary treatment). Organic matter that remains in suspension in the water after primary treatment is used as food for microorganisms in the aeration tank. By providing adequate oxygen through air diffusers, the microorganisms are able to reproduce and breakdown most of the organic matter into very simple elements. Excess microbes are removed from the waste-stream as sludge. The Vernon plant is unique because powdered activated carbon is added to the secondary treatment system. The carbon not only adsorbs refractory compounds in the wastewater, but also creates more surface area where a higher degree of biological activity can occur in a relatively small basin. In the final stage of treatment, the water goes through sand filters followed by disinfection using a chlorine solution. This destroys any pathogenic or disease causing bacteria. After disinfection, any residual chlorine is removed. Before the treated water is discharged to the Hockanum River, the dissolved oxygen content in the water is raised to a minimum of 7 parts per million by the use of fine bubble air diffusers.

The key indicators that determine how well a sewage treatment plant is operating are the removal of BOD (Biochemical Oxygen Demand) and suspended solids. When bacteria or "bugs" found in wastewater utilize suspended or dissolved organic matter as food, they also use up the dissolved oxygen in the water. The amount of bug food (or strength of sewage) in wastewater is measured by incubating a sample mixed with aerated water for five days. The more food the bugs in the sample consume, the more dissolved oxygen they use up. We measure the drop in oxygen and call it Biochemical Oxygen Demand. The Vernon plant averaged 99.11% removal of BOD and 98.92% removal of suspended solids indicating successful treatment of the incoming wastewater. The treatment plant is designed to achieve nitrification. That is, to convert organic and ammonia-nitrogen which are normally found in sewage, to a more stable form called nitrate prior to being discharged from the plant. Due to its stability, it does not stress the dissolved oxygen levels naturally found in the Hockanum River, which otherwise could adversely affect aquatic life. The Federal EPA and CT DEP have adopted limits for the number of pounds of nitrogen per day that will be allowed to be discharged from treatment plants tributary to the Long Island Sound. This will require the plant to go beyond converting ammonia to nitrate. It will necessitate the reduction of nitrogen by converting it to a gaseous state, a process called de-nitrification.

In January 2008 a planning study conducted by the engineering firm Malcolm Pirnie (now Acadis Engineering) of Middletown, CT for the Town of Vernon was submitted to the CT DEEP for review and approval. The study recommended plant modifications and process alternatives for achieving nitrogen reduction. Since that time, the Town has determined that it is more cost effective to purchase nitrogen credits through the DEEP nitrogen trading program in order to comply with its nitrogen discharge limits. In the near future however, the Town of Vernon will be required to upgrade the treatment plant to treat another nutrient in addition to nitrogen. EPA and the CT DEEP have proposed a limit of 0.14 milligrams per liter of phosphorus in the plant's effluent discharge. The Town is currently awaiting a determination of its NPDES permit limits and will need to address a significant plant upgrade for nutrient reduction to include both nitrogen and phosphorus.

In addition to operating the treatment facility and sewer collection system twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, the Water Pollution Control Department continues on-going maintenance of flushing and cleaning of the sanitary sewer mains on town-owned streets and rights-of-way in Vernon. The Water Pollution Control Department also responded to 1,319 Call-Before-You-Dig requests, as required, during the fiscal year.

The Town of Vernon and neighboring Town of Bolton entered into a consent agreement with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection on October 14, 1999, requiring the towns to take the necessary steps to address wastewater disposal alternatives for the Bolton Lakes Area. In response, the Towns created the Bolton Lakes Regional Water Pollution Control Authority in 2003. The BLRWPCA has worked with the engineering firm of Fuss & O'Neill of Manchester, CT to design a low pressure sewer system that will facilitate off-site wastewater disposal and send wastewater from the Middle and Lower Bolton Lakes Area to the Town of Manchester for treatment. The Regional Authority is made up of representatives of Vernon and Bolton and has worked closely with the CT DEEP, OPM and USDA Rural Development to forge operating procedures, design plans, inter-municipal agreements, and has sought financing options that could provide the most cost effective benefit to our residents.

The plan for the installation of sewers is to construct them in five phases, over a five year period. This will allow the BLRWPCA to maximize grant and loan opportunities from various sources. Phases one, two and three of the project are complete. Phase four is under construction and phase five will be bid in the late fall of 2013. The total project cost is estimated to be \$21,959,000 and should be completed in 2014.

Vernon has inter-municipal sewer agreements with those contributing communities who utilize the treatment plant and who support the cost of annual operation and maintenance through sewer user charges. In addition, contributing communities pay a portion of the capital cost of the treatment plant based on their allocated portion of the plant design capacity. Of the plant's design capacity of 7.1 million gallons/day, 90,000 gallons per day is allocated to Manchester; 115,280 gallons per day to South Windsor and 400,000 gallons per day to Tolland. In July of 2012, the Town of Ellington requested an additional allocation of 380,000 gallons per day to the 1,020,000 gallons currently allotted to them. Successful negotiations between Vernon and Ellington resulted in Ellington's allocation being increased to 1,400,000 gallons per day or about

20% of the plant's design capacity. The inter-municipal sewer agreement was signed by both towns in April 2013. A total of 5,094,720 gallons per day is allocated to Vernon.

The operations and maintenance budget for the plant and the sewer collection system approved by the Water Pollution Control Authority and the Town Council for fiscal year 2012/13 was \$5,763,740. Revenues to fund the budget are generated through a dedicated sewer user charge in which users are billed on a quarterly basis. The charge for sewer use was set at \$5.86/1000 gallons of metered water used. For the average household, this equated to a charge of \$76.00 per quarter. The sewer user charge was increased 3%, the first increase since 2009, and was due largely to the loss of revenue created by the closing of Amerbelle Textiles in July 2012.

What makes the whole process work is the dedication and professionalism of the entire department staff; from those who process billing information, revenues and expenditures, to the certified operators, mechanics and laboratory personnel who take samples and analyze wastewater, repair pumps, maintain buildings and grounds, clean pipes, maintain generators and pump stations and who understand the importance of providing clean water and protecting our environment as well using our allocated financial resources as efficiently as possible.

PUBLIC SAFETY



ANIMAL CONTROL DEPARTMENT

Department Head:

Craig P. Segar, Animal Control Officer
Jerold W. Casida II, Assistant Animal Control Officer

Location of Department:

100 Windsorville Road

The Animal Control Facility is located at 100 Windsorville Road adjacent to the Water Pollution Control Facility, and is open from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Saturday through Tuesday, and holidays. On Wednesday through Friday we are open from 7:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M.

Responsibilities and Duties:

The officers within the Animal Control Department enforce state laws and town ordinances pertaining to animals. This department also responds to complaints involving sick wildlife. This department maintains the Animal Control Facility, and we care for the animals sheltered there.

Summary of Activities:

During the fiscal year 2012-2013, the Animal Control Department responded to 1217 calls for service. Of those calls, 66 involved raccoons, 249 involved cats, 687 involved dogs, and 215 involved other animals. We impounded 108 cats/kittens and 139 dogs/puppies. Of the cats, kittens, dogs, puppies that were handled during this fiscal year, 101 were redeemed back to their owners, 74 were adopted to new owners, 38 were found deceased, and 34 were euthanized. This department tested 7 animals for rabies and 1 tested positive for the disease.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Department Head:

William Call, Fire Chief

Location of Department: 280 West Street

Locations of Stations: Vernon Center Station, 720 Hartford Turnpike
Dobsonville Station, Birch Road
Talcottville Station, 100 Hartford Turnpike
John Ashe Station, 25 Nye Street
Fitton Station, Prospect Street
Public Safety Building, 280 West Street

RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES:

The Town of Vernon Fire Department is a volunteer service agency that provides fire, rescue, hazardous materials and basic life support transport emergency medical services to the community. The Department provides those services utilizing six stations and approximately 212 members. There are 150 firefighters, 11 special service members, 40 ambulance members, and 8 auxiliary members. The Department operates 7 engines, 2 heavy rescues, 2 aerial trucks, 1

mobile air unit, 3 ambulances, 1 command vehicle, 1 pickup with trailer, and 2 ATV units that are firefighting and EMS transport equipped. We also operate a special hazards vehicle and decontamination unit provided by the State of Connecticut. All 3 new Pierce Velocity vehicles are in service.

In 2011 - 2012 the Fire Department's budget was approximately \$1,143,819 of which approximately \$640,000 was dedicated to the Connecticut Water Company for the use and maintenance of all fire hydrants in the community. In 2011, we were fortunate to have leftover funds from the 2011 FEMA grant. The funds were used to purchase an inflatable rehabilitation shelter.

The Vernon Ambulance is a division of the Fire Department. They are charged with providing Basic Life Support transport service for the community. Service is provided 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The service utilizes two state certified ambulances that are available at the Public Safety Building. A third state-certified ambulance is available as a back-up at the Vernon Center Station on Hartford Turnpike. In 2011, the ambulance division's budget was approximately \$1,168,542. Income generated from billing for services was approximately \$1,000,000.00. The ambulance has been the busiest entity of the Department in that 86% of all calls are for EMS service. On most days, the ambulance is staffed full-time from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., and a second ambulance is staffed from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. These crews are paid hourly (non-benefited) for their time. Nights and weekends are covered with at least one ambulance fully staffed, and crews are also paid an hourly wage for their time. There are no full-time employees, and only the two supervisors are considered part-time Town employees.

This past year, in conjunction with the Fire Marshal's office, the department has identified the major fire target hazards in Town, and preplanning by the members will be ongoing.

FIRE MARSHAL

Department Head:

Ray Walker, Fire Marshal

Location of Department:

55 West Main Street

RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES:

The Office is staffed with 1 full time Fire Marshal supported by 4 part time Deputy Fire Marshals. The Deputies provide a total of approximately 7 hours of service weekly performing a variety of services including fire scene investigations, presentation of public education programs, the inspection of buildings, and assistance during special events such as the Town's July fireworks show. The Deputies allow the Office to provide 24/7 responses for 365 days a year. The Office also continues the inter-town mutual aid assistance program with South Windsor.

The Office conducted over 1,100 inspections of existing buildings and worked with the Building Department to review plans and permits and conduct needed fire safety inspections for approximately 100 projects of new construction work. The Office also investigated numerous fires including structures, motor vehicles, and open burning. There were no fire fatalities.

Also during FY 2012-2013 the Fire Marshal's Office operations were again impacted by two major storms and FM Walker served as the Planning Section Chief at the Town's EOC.

The cooperation between the Fire Marshal and the Building Official has extended to other land use related departments. This cooperative environment has resulted in increased levels of customer service and allows the Fire Marshal's Office to respond to emergencies and other unexpected calls for service.

Several initiatives over the past years remain in effect. These include working with CT Water Co to improve the availability of water for firefighting, the ongoing inspection of multifamily residential buildings, expanding the Knox Box keyed entry system, and inspections of the vacant mill complexes. These will continue thru FY 2013-2014.

FM Walker continues to serve on the Board of Directors for the International Fire Marshals Association and teaches for the National Fire Academy. FM Walker also participates in various regional and national professional organizations.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Department Heads:

James Kenny, Chief of Police

Stephen Clark, Captain of Police

Location of Department:

725 Hartford Turnpike

RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES:

The Police Department for the Town of Vernon is charged with the mission of the preservation of the peace and the protection of the citizens and their property. We are tasked with the detection and investigation of criminal activity, apprehension of offenders, resolution of conflict and to assist those in need or who cannot care for themselves.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES:

Fiscal year 2012-2013 saw the retirements of five long time Vernon Police Officers and dispatchers. Officer Kevin Slater retired from the department after 18 years of service, Sergeant Christopher Meyer, 28 years of service; Records Supervisor Louis Palshaw, 14 years of service; Dispatcher LeAnne Mullen, 24 years of service and Dispatcher Theresa Daignault, 24 years of service.

The department added six new officers during the fiscal year. Officers Michael Anthony, Brandon Zawadski, Ethan Roberge, Gregory St. Pierre and Andrew Hannaford completed the course of instruction at the police academy. Officer Jeffrey Condon joined the department on a lateral entry from the Wallingford Police Department and Officer Joshua Welles joined the department on a lateral entry from the Washington DC Metro Police Department.

The department welcomed back Records Clerk Dawn Andrews from a year military deployment with the United States Army. Sergeant Andrews was deployed to Afghanistan as part of the military's Operation Enduring Freedom. Welcome back Dawn!

The department continued its participation in the Metro Traffic Task Force by conducting DWI and Seat Belt enforcement patrols and checkpoints funded by federal and state grants monies. In addition to the traffic enforcement aspect of the Task Force, one department member is participating in the Task Force accident reconstruction squad. This is a multi-department squad of on call accident re-constructionists who have advanced accident investigation training with specialized equipment and are able to respond to members towns to assist in the investigation of serious injury and fatality motor vehicle accidents.

The department has continued its participation in the Capitol Region Emergency Service Team (CREST). This team is a multi-jurisdiction special weapons and tactics (SWAT) team made up of officers from 10 communities that have received advanced training to handle high risk warrant service and deal with hostage situations. Four members of the department participate as team members with Captain Clark being team commander. During the fiscal year CREST responded to a number of armed barricaded person situations and participated in two federal multi-town search warrants targeting narcotic traffickers and gang members.

PLANNING AND TRAINING:

The Vernon Police Department devoted over 8,000 hrs. to training during the year. Three new Police Officers started or completed all or part of their basic training and supervised field training programs. New Officers complete a Basic Recruit Training Program of over 800 hrs. at the Connecticut Police Academy. After graduation they must complete a Supervised Field Training Program of over 560 hrs. During the Supervised Training Program, officers receive one-on-one training and supervision from specially trained Field Training Officers. Recruit Officers work through four phases of increasingly difficult and challenging fieldwork and are subject to daily evaluations. All new officers must successfully complete this demanding program in order to receive their Connecticut Police Officer Certificate. Renewal of this certificate through mandatory in-service training is required for all officers every three years. New dispatchers must complete state mandated training in Emergency Telecommunication, Emergency Medical Dispatch and Connecticut On-Line Law Enforcement Communications System as well as a similar Training Program.

The police department conducts in-service training to maintain police officer certification and to meet various state and federal training mandates. Vernon participates in the Capitol Region In-Service Training Program, in which officers receive training required for recertification by the Police Officer Standard and Training Council (POSTC). Training subjects include officer safety,

use of force, domestic violence, sexual violence, legal updates, bigotry and bias crimes, civil liability, juvenile law, gangs, human relations, and other subjects. All officers from the Chief of Police down take part in the department in-house training program consisting of five additional training days spaced throughout the year. This year training included transition to the new Glock pistol, classroom and range training, baton and OC, blood-borne pathogens- TB, Hazards material and meth lab awareness, handcuffing-arrest and control tactics, Taser, vehicle pursuit, breaching tools, ballistic shield, and Bean Bag Shotgun. All officers received training in Immediate Action-Rapid Deployment tactics for active violence incidents. The officers then participated in simulated drills where they responded to an active violence scenario with live role players. Officers were armed with FX Simunition weapons, breaching tools and first aid supplies. During the scenario officers encountered different threats and obstacles and had to apply their training and experience to resolve the incident. This training requires officers to make use of force decisions and to apply force against live role players under realistic conditions. All Officers trained and qualified with their pistol, H&K G36 patrol rifle, X26 Taser, Bean Bag Shotgun, baton, OC, and the Stinger Spike system tire deflation system. Additional training is required to maintain certification in the Intoxilyzer, Medical Response Technician or Emergency Medical Technician and the COLLECT system.

13 Officers are certified as instructors through the Police Officer Standard and Training Council. Subject areas include use of force, firearms, patrol rifle, impact munitions, shooting decisions, tactical use of weapons, arrest and control, handcuffing, OC spray, Baton, medical response technician, building searches, hazardous material, radar-laser, weapons of mass destruction, vehicle stops, personal protection equipment, and Taser. Some officers hold certification through equipment manufacturers and private training companies. Officers must teach yearly to maintain their state certification.

Officers attend free training classes at the Connecticut Police Academy and other locations in subjects including interview and interrogation, driving while intoxicated, sexual assault investigation, drug interdiction, crime scene investigation, critical incident management, undercover drug investigation, instructor development, field training officer, basic and special weapons and tactics, computer forensic.

The Police Department pays for training in specialized areas and to maintain various advanced instructor certifications. Employees receive training in homicide investigation, child abuse, emergency response to terrorism, crisis negotiation, traffic crash reconstruction, blood-borne pathogens and tuberculosis, Taser, firearms maintenance, train-the-trainer and internal affairs investigations, leadership and other subjects.

Additional hours are devoted to maintaining and training the department's two canine teams. The dogs and handlers train monthly with other canine teams in the area and recertify yearly. The on-duty canine teams are available to assist other departments as needed.

The department continues to cooperate with other area police departments by contributing officers and resources to regional teams. The department has a commander, three tactical officers and two negotiators on the Capitol Region Emergency Service Team (CREST). One

officer is assigned to the Metro Traffic Service Team, and one officer is assigned to East Central Narcotic Team. The officers are on-call and require training to maintain their proficiency.

DETECTIVE DIVISION:

During the last fiscal year, the detective division was commanded by Lieutenant William Meier. The detective division currently has one sergeant and four detectives assigned to it. In addition, one officer assigned to the East Central Narcotics Task Force and one evidence technician report to the detective division commander.

The detective division investigated/assisted with 248 cases in fiscal year 2012-2013. In addition to criminal complaints, detectives completed 31 background investigations. As a result, six police officers and one dispatcher were hired. Detectives provided assistance to the patrol division by processing crime scenes and interviewing witnesses and suspects. Detectives worked closely with the States Attorney's Office as well as other state and federal agencies. The following is a breakdown of investigations conducted during the fiscal year.

<u>Crime Type</u>	<u>New Cases</u>	<u>Crime Type</u>	<u>New Cases</u>
Assaults	4	Larceny	17
Assist other agency	17	Missing persons	2
Background investigations	31	Narcotics	6
Bad checks	7	Other/miscellaneous	23
Burglary	33	Robbery	7
Cell phone/computer exams	23	Sex assault	16
Child abuse	10	Sex offender registry violations	5
fire/arson	2	Untimely deaths	4
Fraud	19	Weapon violations	7
Identity theft	1	Writ services	14

PATROL DIVISION:

The patrol division continues to try and maintain adequate staffing to replace officers who have left due to retirement or resignation. Officer vacancies take approximately twelve months to fill with new hires due to the length of the academy and field training mandated by the State of Connecticut. The Patrol Division is staffed by 1 Lieutenant, 7 Sergeants and 26 officers.

The patrol division has one officer (Officer Van Tasel) assigned as a community police officer (CPO) in the Rockville section of town. In the summer of 2012, Officer Marra was assigned to work as a second CPO in Rockville. Due to the success of the program, Officer Patrizz was assigned as a second CPO in May 2013. Officer Patrizz served in CPO throughout the summer of 2013.

Officer Luke Gallant was promoted to sergeant on 09/30/12. Six patrol officers have been hired in the fiscal year. Four have completed field training and are working independently. Two are still on field training and are scheduled to complete training in October 2013.

Officers have worked 23 shifts of dedicated DUI patrols/checkpoints. Funding was provided to the police department from the Connecticut Department of Transportation. Vernon officers also supported two rounds of Click it or Ticket campaigns. Funding was provided by the Connecticut Department of Transportation.

RECORDS DIVISION

During the calendar year of 2012, the Vernon Police Department recorded 19, 454 calls for service which included both criminal and non-criminal matters. 893 arrests were made during the year. The following is a summary of crimes reported to the U.S. Department of Justice under the National Incident Based Reporting System for the Year 2012. The number in parentheses reflects the change from the previous year.

Aggravated Assault	28	(+12)	Incest	1	(-1)
All Other Larceny	77	(+13)	Intimidation	9	(+4)
All Other Offenses	334	(+84)	Kidnap/Abduction	3	(+2)
Arson	2	(+1)	Liquor Laws	13	(+2)
Bad Checks	6	(+2)	Motor Vehicle Theft	9	(-13)
Burglary	67	(-1)	Pornography	1	(-1)
Counterfeiting	10	(-31)	Purse Snatching	1	(+1)
Credit Card Fraud	12	(0)	Robbery	8	(0)
Vandalism	94	(+12)	Shoplifting	53	(-1)
Disorderly Conduct	288	(-67)	Simple Assault	152	(+16)
DUI	142	(+35)	Statutory Rape	3	(-2)
Drug Equipment	66	(-3)	Stolen Property	2	(+1)
Drug/Narcotics	168	(-31)	Theft from Building	49	(+1)
Embezzlement	6	(+2)	Theft from Vehicle	62	(+18)
Family Offenses	47	(-11)	Theft of MV Parts	3	(-6)
Forcible Fondling	6	(0)	Trespassing	50	(+28)
Forcible Rape	5	(-2)	Weapons Laws	14	(-5)
Forcible Sodomy	6	(0)	Welfare Fraud	1	(-1)
Impersonation	5	(+1)	Wire Fraud	1	(-2)

Traffic related matters for the year 2012 included:

Accidents-Fatal	1	<u>Citations Issued</u>	
Accidents – Personal Injury	114	Infraction Tickets	1002
Accidents – Property Damage	666	Misdemeanor Summons	510
Accidents – Private Property	213	Written Warnings	2310
		Town Parking Tickets	1384

In addition to the investigation of crimes, the Police Department also responded to numerous non-criminal calls for service during the year. A *partial* list is shown below:

911 Hang- Up Calls	224	Noise Complaints	373
Alarms	1140	Pistol Permits	220
Assists- Miscellaneous	644	Other Permits	54
Motorist Assists	345	Runaways	32
Assists to Other Agencies	334	Fingerprinting (Civil)	39
Fires	203	Suspicious Persons	292
Found Property	144	Suspicious Situations	1003
Harassment	272	Suspicious Vehicles	387
Public Hazards	338	Untimely Deaths	22
Medical Assists	2855	Welfare Checks	358
Missing Persons	76		

During the fiscal year money from a variety of sources flows through the Police Records Unit to be deposited in Town accounts. The Letter of Conduct is new this year. In the past we did not charge for this letter. Many employers and landlords request that a person obtain from the police department where they live, a record of criminal activity. This letter is provided upon request and a fee of \$5.00 is collected.

The following fees were collected by the Records Division during the fiscal year 2012-2013. Statistics compiled by Brian Smith, Records Supervisor, Vernon Police Department

Reports (Freedom of Information)	\$ 2,803.09
Fingerprinting (Civil)	\$ 5,120.00
Alarm Fines	\$ 980.00
Outside Work	\$72,894.86
Pistol Permits	\$ 18,970.00
<u>Other Permits</u>	<u>\$ 1,060.00</u>
TOTAL:	\$101,827.95

SPECIAL PROGRAMS:

East Central Narcotics Task Force

The department is continuing its membership in the East Central Narcotics Task Force (ECNTF). The officer assigned by the department is a member of the four town task force with the mission of long term narcotic investigations in Manchester, Vernon, Glastonbury and South Windsor. Members of ECNTF are cross sworn in each community and actively cooperate with members of the Vernon Police Department detective division.

Activity for Vernon Officer

Total cases	79
Total arrests	24
Total search	13

School Resource Officer-Rockville High School

The full time assignment of a Vernon Police Officer to the Rockville High School began in 1994 and a partnership between the Vernon Board of Education and Police Department continues through today. Officer Steven Langlais was selected to be the SRO for the high school starting the 2012-13 school year at Rockville High School.

The position of school resource officer has evolved into an integral part of the education process at the high school. The SRO works with administrators, staff and students as part of the day to day operations at the school. The SRO provides law enforcement; law related education and law related counseling to both staff and students as part of their daily routine. The SRO works with school administration and department staff to implement a canine drug search of the school twice a year to help reinforce the Board of Education's drug free school policy.

This year the SRO received specialized training to improve school security in the wake of the Newtown school shooting. The SRO conducted a school district wide review of security at the town's school building. The results of the review and recommendations were forwarded to the Board of Education for their action.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Department Head:

Michael J. Purcaro, Emergency Management Director

MISSION / DESCRIPTION

The Town of Vernon, Office of Emergency Management's (OEM) mission is to plan, prepare for and mitigate the effects of natural, manmade, or national security emergencies/disasters; educate the public on preparedness; coordinate and support responses to and recovery from emergencies/disasters; collect and disseminate critical information; and seek and obtain funding and other aid in support of the overall preparedness of the Town of Vernon. To fulfill this mission, the OEM recognizes and utilizes the four phases of emergency management:

PREPAREDNESS: Actions taken in advance of an emergency/disaster to develop operational capabilities and facilitate response operations. These measures include the development of plans, procedures, warning and communications systems, and mutual aid agreements and emergency public information.

RESPONSE: Actions taken during or after an emergency/disaster to save lives, minimize damages and enhance recovery operations. These measures include activation of emergency operation centers, plans, emergency communications system, public warning, mass care, shelter, search and rescue, and security measures.

RECOVERY: Actions taken over the short or long term to return vital life support systems to minimum standards or to return life to normal or improved levels. These measures include damage assessment, supplemental assistance, economic impact studies, and mitigation of damages sustained.

MITIGATION: Actions that can be taken to eliminate or reduce the degree of long-term risk. These measures include public education, hazard vulnerability analysis and consideration of zoning/building laws and resolutions.

In all phases, the OEM works with its Federal, State, and Local partners to ensure a **comprehensive emergency management system**.

The OEM insures the Town's state of readiness with the development and maintenance of the **Emergency Operations Plan**.

BUDGET COMMENTARY

Careful consideration was made in the preparation of the OEM FY2013 budget, utilizing the following business logic model:

1. Identify OEM emergency preparedness and response priorities;
2. Analyze the current and past budget year allocations and utilization of funds;
3. Align current budget year funds with OEM emergency preparedness and response priorities;
4. Prepare Fiscal Year 2012-2013 budget with a focus on supporting emergency preparedness and response priorities that are manageable within the current fiscal environment and existing Town government infrastructure, and that will produce measurable outcomes.

The Town of Vernon, Office of Emergency Management's (OEM) continues to pursue and secure grant funding and other aid in support of the overall preparedness of the Town of Vernon.

MAJOR OBJECTIVES ACCOMPLISHED

1. Developed and maintained the Town's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).

- a. Revised the town's EOP and secured the annual and statutorily required review and approval of the EOP by the State Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.
- b. Provided ICS educational and training opportunities to emergency response personnel, elected and appointed Town officials.
- c. Completed required VFD Target Safety/NFPA online training courses.
- d. Vernon Citizen Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.) in partnership with the Towns of Ellington and Somers:
 - i. Conducted recruitment and training classes.

- ii. Monthly training conducted on various topics including joint training with the Fire Department.
- iii. Provided public safety support to various local and mutual-aid events.
- e. Activated Town EOC in response to major emergencies and provided operational support to Incident Command.
- f. Worked in partnership with the American Red Cross to establish Vernon as a Regional Sheltering location.
- g. Worked in partnership with the State Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security and participated in the 2013 Statewide Hurricane Exercise and regional tornado drill.
- h. Worked in partnership with the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) to create and host I.M.P.A.C.T 2013 (Integrated Municipal Preparedness and Collaborative Training) – a full-scale regional mass casualty exercise at Rockville High School on August 15, 2013.
- i. Revised the Vernon section of the 5-year CRCOG Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. Hosted a regional CRCOG Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan meeting with participating municipalities.
- j. Hosted a regional FEMA training on disaster planning and mitigation.

2. Enhance emergency response capabilities in the following priority areas:

- a. Public warning/information dissemination systems:
 - i. Conducted regularly scheduled public warning/siren system testing throughout the year.
 - ii. Received training on and facilitated the use of the Everbridge Public Notification System (Reverse 911) in response to local emergencies.
 - iii. Participated on quarterly J-SMART satellite telephone/radio tests led by the U.S. Department of Justice.
 - iv. Participated on regular DEMHS Region-3 high-band radio tests.
- b. Purchased equipment utilizing grant awards to enhance the town's Fire and EMS response capabilities.

- c. Purchased equipment utilizing grant awards to enhance inter/intra departmental/agency emergency communications.
- d. Implemented a Town-wide real-time weather monitoring and alerting system.

3. Sought and obtained funding and other aid in support of the overall preparedness of the Town of Vernon by developing relationships with key public and private sector emergency preparedness and response organizations. The following grant awards were secured this fiscal year:

- a. Emergency Management Performance Grant in the amount of ~ \$14.5K.
- b. Federal Emergency Management Agency Assistance to Firefighter's Grant in the amount of ~ \$195K.