



TOWN OF VERNON

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Academy of Art & Learning Opens Childcare Center in Town-owned 375 Hartford Turnpike

New Facility Brings Needed Daycare Slots to Vernon

(VERNON, Connecticut) – The Academy of Art & Learning has opened a childcare facility serving 108 children in the town-owned building at 375 Hartford Turnpike. The center, which formally opened Monday, is using space once used by a YMCA childcare facility.

Mayor Dan Champagne and other Town leaders joined center staff on Saturday to celebrate its opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The Academy of Art & Learning also held an open house.

“We wanted to put this town-owned space to good use and at the same time knew there was a tremendous need in Vernon for additional childcare,” Mayor Champagne said. “Pauline Fortier of the Academy of Art & Learning contacted the town about leasing 375 Hartford Turnpike. The Town Council unanimously approved a multi-year lease and here we are, with a beautiful and renovated facility to serve local families.”

The Town took on some improvement work, such as installing LED lighting fixtures to save energy. Fortier also had extensive work done, at her expenses, to ready the space.

“Adding new childcare spots to Vernon is really a big deal for families and we are pleased to be able to do it,” Fortier said.

The work to get the facility in shape took about seven weeks and it passed its state inspection last week.

Academy of Arts & Learning occupies more than 8,000 square feet of space in the building that was once Vernon Elementary School.

The building, known as Center 375, also houses park and recreation programs, Vernon's Public Works Department, the Vernon office of the North Central District Health Department, the Registrars of Voters and an optometrist's office.

About the Town of Vernon

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

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

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