

# TOWN OF VERNON

## Office of the Mayor

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# Vernon Officials Explore Bringing Farmers Market Back to Town

## *Town Officials ask Residents to Complete Online Survey on Town Website*

**(VERNON, Connecticut)** – The Town of Vernon is working to determine whether the public is interested in having a farmers market in Vernon beginning in summer 2023.

Vernon Social Services Director Matt Hellman and Youth Services Director Michelle Hill have done some preliminary research with local farmers markets and community organizations and are now seeking information from the public.

“Having fresh fruits and vegetables readily available to our community benefits our residents and the local farmers who grow those items,” Mayor Dan Champagne said. “As the economic center of Tolland County, it makes sense to have a farmers market here in Vernon.”

Hellman said a farmers market would likely be located in the Rockville section of town so that is accessible to people who rely on public transportation to get around. Rockville has had farmers markets in the past, but for a variety of reasons they were discontinued.

Hellman said he is hoping residents, through their responses to a survey on the town website, can help town officials work with farmers to develop a market that will overcome challenges previous markets faced.

“We know people are passionate about locally grown food, local agriculture, and having a farmers market back in Vernon,” Hellman said. “We are hoping those folks, by responding to the survey, can help us develop a plan that will benefit everyone and be successful.”

Timing and what day to have a market need to be worked out, Hellman said.

“We don’t want to compete with farmers markets in surrounding towns,” Hill said. “We want to give those vendors another outlet here in Vernon, while providing our community with a variety of vendors offering diverse products.”

The survey can be found on the front page of the town website, [www.vernon-ct.gov](http://www.vernon-ct.gov). For people who do not have internet access, copies of the survey can be found at the Rockville Public Library, 52 Union St, Vernon.

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

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

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

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