

# TOWN OF VERNON

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## Rockville Public Library Celebrates National Poetry Month with Special Program this Thursday

### *Event Honors Vernon's Poet Laureate and Rockville High Creative Writing Teacher*

**(VERNON, Connecticut)** – The Rockville Public Library will mark National Poetry Month at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 20, by honoring Vernon's poet laureate and a Rockville High School creative writing teacher who for 20 years has inspired Vernon students to write. They and other guests will read their poetry.

Caitlin Chatterton is a senior at Rockville High School who excels in the classroom, on the athletic fields and as a creative writing student. She was named Vernon's poet laureate in November.

Caitlin's creative writing teacher, Victoria Nordlund, will be honored for her work as a poet and as a teacher who has created a community of artists in Vernon. She will read from her two books of poetry.

They will be joined by a third poet, John L. Stanizzi of Coventry, who is a teacher, the author of 10 poetry collections and a former New England Poet of the Year.

The event will also have an open mic so that others can share their poetry.

"This program is a way to highlight poetry and to bring attention to the wonderful work that Victoria and the other teachers in the creative writing program at Rockville High School are doing," said Jennifer Johnston-Marius, director of the Rockville Public Library. "Victoria and her colleagues have built a community of artists here in Vernon. It's one of the many things that makes Vernon such a special and creative community."

The Vernon Town Council unanimously appointed Caitlin as Vernon's Poet Laureate in November.

Johnston-Marius consulted with the Vernon Public Schools and recommended Caitlin to Mayor Dan Champagne and the Town Council. She cited Caitlin's participation in the Creative Writing Program, her participation in local and state poetry events and that fact she has been published.

In addition to writing, Caitlin is a Humanities Scholar at Rockville High School and a three-sport athlete who plays soccer, basketball and lacrosse.

“Caitlin is a remarkable representative for all of the good things that happen in our schools and in our community,” Johnston-Marius said.

Nordlund has taught at Rockville High School for 33 years and has been teaching creative writing for 20 years. Nordlund brings guest speakers in to talk to students about the craft of writing. Novelists, playwrights, screenwriters, poets, and other writers describe how they got started, their writing process, their frustrations and helps students understand the creative process.

Her students write poetry, short stories, fiction and non-fiction. They have dominated competitions and have earned Rockville High School statewide and national acclaim.

What’s behind the students’ success is a teacher who is a poet herself, committed to helping her students find their voices and express themselves in various forms of writing, and pushes them to publish and share their writing. Nordlund was New England Poet of the Year in 2016.

“The creative writing courses build a community where people feel safe to express their feelings and to be who they are,” Nordlund said. “It lets people develop their own voice.”

Refreshments will be served and Nordlund’s and Stanizzi’s books will be available for sale and autographing.

For more information, please visit [www.rockvillepubliclibrary.org](http://www.rockvillepubliclibrary.org).

### **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 more than 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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