

TOWN OF VERNON

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Vernon to Honor Fallen Firefighters

Fox Hill Tower and Vernon Fire Stations to be Illuminated in Red Light to Observe National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Light the Night Event

(VERNON, Connecticut) – Fox Hill Tower in Vernon’s Henry Park and Vernon fire houses will be illuminated in red Thursday evening (May 4, 2023) to honor firefighters who have died in the line of duty.



The annual Light the Night event is organized by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. May 6-7 is National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend.

“Every day Vernon’s volunteer firefighters put their lives on the line to answer calls and keep our community safe,” Vernon Mayor Dan Champagne said. “It is important to recognize the commitment of our firefighters, and to remember those our nation has lost in the line of duty.”

This is the fourth year Vernon will participate in Light the Night. Parks and Recreation crews will illuminate Fox Hill Tower and firefighters have placed red lights at fire stations.

“Firefighters know that when they answer a call, even one that seems relatively routine, there is a risk,” Town Administrator and Emergency and Risk Management Director Michael Purcaro said. “We will always honor those who have lost their lives in the service of others. They truly are heroes.”

Vernon has not lost a firefighter in the line of duty, a record for which the department is proud.

“The work we do can be difficult and dangerous,” Fire Chief Stephen Eppler said. “We work hard so that our people are well-trained, and we approach each incident with the safety of everyone at the forefront.”

Seventy nine firefighters died in the line of duty in 2022 and there have been 27 deaths so far in 2023.

Light the Night is typically held in October but was moved ahead this year. Several landmarks around the nation are expected to be illuminated in red Thursday night as part of the observance, including the World Trade Center in New York and the Willis Tower in Chicago.

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.

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