

TOWN OF VERNON

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 9, 2024

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Children, Adults Invited to Create Poetry for My Vernon CT Poetry Contest

VERNON, Connecticut – The My Vernon CT poetry contest welcomes entries from Vernon students and adults.

The program is intended to highlight what makes Vernon special, and to inspire each writer to focus on an element of Vernon and what it means to them.

Poems must be original. Writing with assistance of artificial intelligence is not permitted.

“Vernon is a town of beauty and character that should provide writers with plenty of inspiration,” Mayor Dan Champagne said. “Fox Hill Tower and Henry Park have always been important to me – from my days as a child on Village Street in Rockville, when I was older and would run to the tower every day as I prepared for Army basic training, and as a police officer patrolling Vernon. There are so many other places people can find special – our trails, Valley Falls, Vernon’s history, restaurants and other places.”

There are four divisions for entries: students in grades 3 to 5, 6 to 8 and 9 to 12, as well as adults.

Michelle Hill, Vernon’s youth services director, urged people of all ages to participate.

“Writing is great for your mind,” Hill said. “It forces you to think, to revise and consider the relationships between words. Best of all, the end product is a piece of art created by you. We hope many people join us in thinking and writing about Vernon.”

Requirements include:

- Entries must be 25 lines or less and typed single-spaced.
- Poems must focus on one place or aspect of Vernon.
- Writers can choose whether to rhyme or not rhyme.
- Poems must be unpublished.

- Each writer can submit up to two poems.
- Manuscripts must have the writer’s name, grade this school year or age, address and contact information.
- The deadline is May 15.
- Prizes will go to the top selected entries.

“In the past, My Vernon CT was primarily for children,” said Pegi Deitz Shea, a local writer who was Vernon’s first poet laureate. “Now we’d like adults to join in and write about what makes Vernon special to them.”

Poems can be submitted to: vernonpoems@vernon-ct.gov.

The program is sponsored by the Town of Vernon as part of its Sustainable CT program. The goal is to use art to inspire Vernon’s young people and to build a sense of community.

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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