

June 2019

VERNON ROCKS COALITION

Your monthly news & updates



"We have to come together and speak honestly about what the barriers are within our community - and then tear them down. It's really that simple." - Tarana Burke

[Visit our Website](#)

Coalition Corner: Congrats Grads!



RHS Senior Carl



RHS Senior Skylar

The Vernon ROCKS Coalition would like to appreciate our Seniors; **Carl**, and **Skylar** on their graduation from Rockville High School!! Both of them have been instrumental in the

coalition and as members of Real Talk continuously dedicating their time to our efforts.

Through their own grit and hard work, they have both been active in many clubs, sports, and events while keeping up with their rigorous school work. They have been leaders among their peers and are examples of amazing youth who have excelled while being substance-free.

They have both decided to continue their schooling by earning bachelors degrees. Skylar will be attending **Coastal Carolina** going in undecided for her major but we are sure she will do great things! Carl who graduated in the **Top 10** of his class will be attending **Dartmouth** for his undergraduate degree, majoring in Mechanical Engineering!

Graduating high school and going on to college is an exciting time in a youth's life. We hope they will grow and develop, continue to learn and expand their minds, create countless memories and laughs and go on to be happy and successful. We are so proud of them for all the hard work they have done to bring them to this moment in their life, and we cannot wait to see where they will go with their lives!

Celebrate Graduation Right

During graduation season there will be lots of parties and cookouts to celebrate the new graduates and to kick off summer. It is important to keep in mind that Social Hosting is never allowed. Social Hosting is the act of providing minors alcohol to consume on your premises or providing a location for them to drink alcohol.



There is the perception in our society that by providing youth drinks while under the supervision of adults it somehow makes it acceptable, but supporting this notion is never okay.

Allowing and providing alcohol for youth to consume on your property decreases the youth's perception that drinking is harmful, by allowing it even just once you are encouraging the continued use of it. Underage drinking is detrimental to a developing brain, and even at age 18 the human brain is not fully developed and drinking could have impacts on memory, motor skills and coordination. Most importantly it is against the law, adults of drinking age that social host can face time in prison or jail, financial penalties or both if they are convicted.

This summer be the party that provides a safe, substance-free environment for your graduates so that their life beyond high school is filled with success and health. The coalition would like to extend our congratulations to the Rockville High School Class of 2019.

Rockville ROCKS Community Block Party Was a Hit!



On May 18th we held our second

annual community block party, Rockville ROCKS.

It was an amazing day we could not have asked for better weather. The purpose of the block party was to provide the residents of Vernon with resources and let them know what services and organizations are available for them and their families. This year we were able to provide resources to approximately 300 community members!

We also wanted the event to be fun and be an opportunity where the Vernon ROCKS Coalition could interact with the people we serve. We had a bounce house, face painting, games, a vape-themed escape room called "Escape the Vape" and crafts. We provided catering from Little Marks BBQ food truck and Kona's shaved ice, all free of charge to the community!

We hope all who attended had a great time and were able to learn something about the resources available in the community! We can't wait for next years!

2019 Annual Coalition Luncheon

VERNON ROCKS COALITION

In June the coalition will be hosting its Second Annual Coalition Luncheon!

We have this luncheon at a local restaurant to do something special and thank all the members for the hard work and dedication they have put into the coalition for the entire year!

Prior to the event, we have nominations for Coalition Member of the Year, it is to recognize a member of the coalition who has gone above and beyond, constantly helping, providing feedback and trying their best to make Vernon youth substance free.

Last year, Lieutenant Bill Meier was the recipient of this prestigious award. We cannot wait to see who receives it this year!

We also take the time to honor the seniors who have graduated in 2019 and thank them for all the hard work they have done on top of their other responsibilities. Their schedules were jam-packed this year, finishing up their last year of high school but they made the coalition and keeping their peers' substance-free a priority!

Older Adults and Understanding Opioids

Mark your calendars! On August 29th, the coalition will be hosting a presentation to discuss Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and older adults.



Pictured above Program Coordinator Kaitlin Carafa, Vernon Mayor Dan Champagne, and Coalition Chairperson Michelle Hill.

OUD is an emerging health trend among older adults. During the presentation, we will discuss why the older population is more susceptible to OUD including some factors that exacerbate it and how to prevent misuse.

It will take place at 10 AM at the Vernon Senior Center on 8/29/2019.

If you or a loved one is having trouble with substance abuse check out the available resources in the area

If you are aware of an underage party or illegal activity follow the link and submit the anonymous form below, and the Vernon ROCKS Coalition will work with the Vernon Police Department to prevent or stop the activity.

Are you are interested in becoming more involved with the Vernon ROCKS Coalition we are always looking for more members. You can join by visiting our website!

[Get Help](#)

[Report it Here](#)

[Get Involved](#)