

October 2019

VERNON
ROCKS
COALITION

Your monthly news & updates

Happy Halloween from the Vernon ROCKS Coalition! Enjoy this month's newsletter that highlights recent news stories regarding substance use, upcoming events in Vernon, and learn about National Substance Abuse Prevention Month!



National Substance Abuse Prevention Month

October is Substance Abuse Prevention Month. A month dedicated to preventing substance misuse and ending overdoses in our country. Through early intervention and prevention, we can reduce the rates of substance use in our community. By implementing awareness, education, healthy alternatives, and enforcement activities, our coalition aims to prevent substance misuse before it turns into a serious threat to adolescents' well-being and life. You can read the President's proclamation for observance [HERE](#).

In the News

Purdue Pharma Files
Bankruptcy

CT 21+ Tobacco Laws
Take Effect This Month

Purdue Pharma,
the makers of
Oxytocin, have
filed for Chapter
11 bankruptcy to



protect themselves from the numerous lawsuits they face in the wake of the opioid epidemic. Now drug makers who face similar

litigation look to Purdue as an example of how to minimize the damage.

Read more about Purdue's filing [HERE](#), and how it impacts other drug makers [HERE](#).



October 1st kicked off Connecticut's new tobacco laws. The laws now make it illegal for anyone under the age of 21 to purchase tobacco products, e-cigarettes and all vapor products. If retailers sell to anyone below this age they will face repercussions such as fines.

The full bill is linked [HERE](#)

Outbreak of Lung Injury Associated with E-Cigarette Use



[READ](#) the CDC's latest press release regarding the growing concern of lung injury related to the use of e-cigarettes.

Events

DEA National Drug Take Back Day



Stop by the Rockville Walgreens on **October 26th** from **10am-2pm** to drop off your unused and unwanted prescriptions. According to the 2017 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 6 million Americans misused controlled prescription drugs. The study shows that a majority of abused prescription drugs were obtained from

family and friends, often from the home medicine cabinet. By properly disposing of these medications you are helping prevent others from accessing these medications.

3rd Annual 3 on 3 Community Basketball Tournament



The coalition will be hosting its 3rd Annual

Become Part of the Solution Annual 5k Race



THIS SATURDAY is the **Annual Become Part of the Solution 5k Race**.

Registration will kick off at 7 AM with the race beginning at 8:30 AM. This event is hosted by our coalition partner, BPS, to help raise funds to get people struggling

3 on 3 Basketball Tournament on **November 15th** after school in the RHS gymnasium. The tournament is a school-wide event where students can play against RHS staff and Vernon Police officers. The purpose of the tournament is to provide opportunities for healthy alternatives to substance use and help foster relationships with youth and adults in the community! Last year we had a great turnout and we are hoping this year is even better!

with addiction into recovery throughout Connecticut including inpatient acute care, post inpatient rehabilitation, and post-rehabilitation housing.

To register for the event or find out more click [HERE](#).

Coalition Corner



Cairo currently attends Manchester Community College on a track to transfer to Central Connecticut State

University to earn her Bachelor's in Psychology. Through studying Psychology and developing an understanding of the mind, she hopes to be able to better serve others in a way that supports their mental health, ideally through nonprofit work.



As the coalition's VISTA, Cairo is focused on capacity building and increasing awareness of substance abuse through the creation of presentation and training materials for the coalition and the community.

What enticed you to serve as an AmeriCorps VISTA?

"My desire to serve as an AmeriCorps VISTA stemmed from my love of service. Instead of being in a position of direct service, I wanted to gain an understanding of exactly what goes into programs designed to support the community. Through my position as VISTA, I am able to see service as a full cycle rather than just the end result."

What is your favorite part about being a member of the coalition?

"My favorite part about being a member of the coalition is being able to meet new people with such varying perspectives. Seeing the dedication so many people by being involved in the coalition encourages me to support the community as if it were my own."

What do you hope to accomplish

in your year of service?

“During my year of service, I hope to develop an understanding of capacity-building and how to tailor programs and efforts to best match the needs of a given community. I also hope to leave a lasting impact on Vernon youth by developing resources and programs that will increase their awareness and encourage positive decision-making habits.”



What is your hope for the coalition?

“My hope for the coalition is for it to continue to expand by ensuring an inclusive space where community members of all backgrounds can express their thoughts and ideas that support the mission of Vernon ROCKS.”

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

[Get Help](#)

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.

[Report it Here](#)

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 Involved](#)