



George F. Apel  
Mayor

# TOWN OF VERNON

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**March 22, 2013**

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## VERNON'S CENTRAL PARK STATUE DOWN FOR INSPECTION

**(Vernon, CT)** – The replica of the Dr. Henry Daniel Cogswell Fountain, an historic sculptural piece located in Rockville's Central Park has been removed for inspection at the request of Mayor George F. Apel. *"This morning, the iconic Cogswell statue has been removed by our Department of Public Works. The statue has experienced isolated damage, rusting and several stress fractures since its installation as part of the renovation and beautification of Central Park in Rockville in 2004"* Mayor Apel said. *"This was a major initiative undertaken by our Parks and Recreation Department, Town Administration, the Vernon Historical Society and Local Historic Properties Commission. I deeply regret that it has not withstood the environmental challenges as promised by the Contractor."*

The restored statue had been in place since its renovation in 2005, after an absence of more than six decades. The first Cogswell statue was installed in Rockville in 1883 in honor of Henry Cogswell's cousin, William Cogswell, a local builder. Mayor Apel has requested an Inspection and Engineering survey be conducted to determine the overall durability and cost of upkeep for the sculpture.

Henry Cogswell was a millionaire dentist, temperance crusader and philanthropist. He pledged to erect a fountain for every 100 saloons across the country. The original monument sent to Rockville was topped with a life-sized statue of Cogswell holding a glass of water in one hand and a copy of the Temperance Pledge in the other.

The original statue was donated to a scrap metal drive during World War II.

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