

Coventry, Connecticut

TOWN NEWS



COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT — Elizabeth Woolf

Happy New Year Coventry! From our Council table to your homes and businesses, we send you our most sincere wishes for a safe and healthy 2012. We also send our very best wishes to all of our town and school employees who work hard every day serving our community.



Your newly elected Town Council looks forward to its new two year term with determination and enthusiasm! In order to get started, we will be holding special meetings during January and February to carve out Council Goals and Priorities for 2012-2013.

We would welcome any input from citizens and would encourage you to provide your ideas during the Audience of Citizens portion of a Town Council meeting or by e-mail to council-chair@coventryct.org. Some town council members will be at LJ's BBQ and Country Kitchen on Thursdays from 5 - 6 PM to hear from citizens with concerns. LJ's is located at 2208 Boston Turnpike in Coventry. This is open to all residents of Coventry and will take place every Thursday, except on holidays.

You may also ask to be contacted by a council member to discuss your ideas by calling 1-860-742-6324 and leaving your name and phone number. We will return your call promptly. If you wish to review the Council goals for 2010-2011, call the above number to request a copy. Once the new goals and priorities are finalized, they will be published in our Spring 2012 Town Newsletter.

We sincerely thank you for having entrusted us with both the privilege and

responsibility to serve you and look forward to a productive two years.

Speaking on behalf of the Council, it has been an honor to have served you these past two years. We send our warmest, best wishes to you and your family for a happy, healthy holiday season!

Left: Newly elected Town Council members, L to R: Julie Blanchard, Joan Lewis, Steven Hall, Elizabeth Woolf, Mike Griswold, Jeff Shorts and Lisa Thomas.

TOWN MANAGER ARTICLE — John A. Elsesser, Town Manager

Happy Birthday and Happy New Year: we will celebrate both what is new and embrace our heritage as we enter the celebratory year of our 300th anniversary. First, what's new: we welcome the new Town Council (*see photo*) and Board of Education, and also David Petrone, School Superintendent. We celebrate the new Public Works facility (*see photo on back cover*) and watch with joy as the North Coventry Fire Station rises out of the ground. We also celebrate the grass growing on two new fields built atop the closed landfill (*see photo on back cover*). It was a very busy fall and will be a busy birthday year. (*Please see article on planned 300th committee events on pg. 11*).

This fall also saw the completion of school roofs at Robertson, Grammar and Hale Middle School. Renovations of 80 units at Orchard Hills Senior Housing



Look for this colorful new logo in conjunction with 300th anniversary events.

were completed with new windows, siding, toilets, heat pumps, exterior lighting, storm doors and more. This project will save tenants a great deal on energy expenses. To assure better access, automatic door openers have been added to the Town Hall, Senior Center and Library. Assistive listening equipment is now available in the Town Hall Annex and Conference Room B at the Town Hall.

Proposals have been accepted locking in trash and recycling fees for the next five years. The more you recycle the more we can restrain cost increases. We will pay \$60 a ton to dispose of trash and get a \$25 per ton credit for recycling. Please recycle and save. A proposal was also awarded to install a large solar photovoltaic system on the new Public Works garage. This will be paid for through buying the electricity generated by the units for use at the building at a 20% discount from current electric rates (set annually). In other words, green power

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HOLIDAY TOWN HALL CLOSINGS:

Martin Luther King Day	1/16
President's Day	2/20
Good Friday	4/6

FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

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at 80% of electric rates with no capital costs.

The Town also has installed new operating software for finances which will improve distribution of information to departments. The Town Clerk's office has installed a new land records system which will allow on-line access to almost thirty years of deeds. The on-line permit system will be expanded to include zoning permits. We continue to try to allow more access to town information electronically. Over 115,000 pages were viewed on the Town's website over the last two months (about 19,000 are the home page) with almost half of the traffic outside of Town Hall hours.

The coming year will focus on future plans for the Bradbury Lane Public Works Facility, a comprehensive sewer facilities study dealing with plant capacity and potential expansion areas. An energy study of school and town buildings has started as well as plans to look at a new School/Town telephone over the existing computer network (VOIP) which may allow reduced telephone expenses.

Several grants are in development including two for continuing sidewalk work and three regional grants for potential regional economic development enhancements to the online GIS/Assessment system and a regional risk management study.

COMINGS & GOINGS AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

We welcome **David Gofstein** as Director of Public Works. David has an extensive background in the public works field as well as expertise in emergency management logistical operations. Congratulations to DPW employee **Rick Landry** for completion of the Roadmaster certification program. This course takes several years to complete and expands knowledge of Public Works operations and duties with classes in drainage, asphalt, safety and communications among others. We also offer best wishes to **Constance Anderson** who has resigned as Council Clerk.

HELP US CELEBRATE 300 YEARS!

The Friends of the Nathan Hale Memorial will be placing a life-size bronze statue of Captain Hale on the Veterans Memorial Green, to celebrate the 300th Anniversary of his hometown and birthplace - Coventry, Connecticut. Placing him amongst the veterans on the green where he went to church and drilled is a fitting way to salute his last full measure of devotion. Donations are sought to make the project a success and contributions are welcome at any level. Contributions of \$100 or more will be recognized on a plaque in the Coventry Town Hall and all tributes are tax deductible. Checks may be made out to: Nathan Hale Memorial, c/o Paul Jatkowski (Treasurer), 91 Upton Drive, Coventry, CT 06238. For more information about this project, visit www.nathanhalememorial.com.



The 300th Anniversary Parade Committee is seeking sponsorships and donations to provide exciting music and entertainment at the parade, which is scheduled for September 29, 2012. The committee is taking pre-orders for Nathan Hale Mountain Laurels, which will be available this spring, limited edition Pandora-style European charm bracelet beads in the green and gold Coventry colors, and tote bags with the 300th anniversary logo. To place an order, visit the Parks & Recreation website at www.coventryrec.com or call (860) 742-4068. For sponsorship package information, contact Laura Stone the Town Manager's office, (860) 742-6324.

AFTER THE STORMS

We have weathered the weather but there are still things to do to wrap up and clean up and keep an eye on the future. Suggestions:

- Call Charter cable to ask for a refund for days without service (decided on a case-by-case basis).
- If you did not have power by noon on Saturday November 5th you are eligible for a credit on your electric bill (see CL&P website).
- Brush will be accepted every day until 5 PM at the South Street gravel pit (near Plains Rd.) free of charge until April 30. It will then be closed and brush accepted only for a fee at the Transfer Station or contact the Fire Marshal for burn permit information.
- If you are willing to help others haul brush or are physically or financially unable to clean up your yard, please call Human Services at 860-742-5324. They will try to match volunteers with requestees.
- Consider purchasing a power pack to recharge cell phones and/or run small medical equipment such as CPAP machines. They cost under \$100 and are rechargeable.
- Make sure you sign up your cell phone and email on the Coventry Alerts system (see web page).
- Replenish your emergency kit with fresh water, canned foods and batteries.



TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

SPRING-TIME REMINDERS

- *Annual Rabies Clinic We vaccinated 78 dogs in 2011. It's too early for a date but watch for more information on Channel 13, in the spring newsletter and our website www.coventryct.org.
- Attention Dog Owners The Town Clerk's Office is collecting e-mail addresses of current dog owners. We would like to be able to send out reminders via e-mail in the future. This would save time and money in these economic times. Please send us an e-mail with your name, address and dog's name to ltollmann@coventryct.org.
- Dog Licenses June 1st – June 30th don't forget to bring in or send a copy of your dog's updated rabies certificate with your renewals. Our information is as good as the information you provide for us. So don't forget! We can't license any dog with an expired rabies vaccine.
- Annual Town Meeting Saturday, April 28, 2012 @ 10:00 a.m. Check out our website for more information.

NOT REGISTERED TO VOTE?

It's easy to register with the Register of Voters or the Town Clerk during regular business hours. Or you may download a registration form from the Coventry website.

Just simply type www.coventryct.org then click on Town Agencies, click Registrar of Voters, click registration information, print and complete the form, and mail to the Registrars of Voters, 1712 Main Street, Coventry, CT 06238.



SMALL BILLS PLEASE!

We appreciate bills no larger than a \$20. We do not keep large quantities of cash to make change.

VOLUNTEER AND SERVE YOUR TOWN!

There are openings on the following Town Committees and Commissions:

MUNICIPAL HISTORIAN CEMETERY COMMISSION
COVENTRYVISION COMMITTEE PARKS & RECREATION COMM ALT.
PLANNING & ZONING ALT. PERSONNEL APPEALS BOARD
AD-HOC COVENTRY CONSERVATION CORP COMMITTEE MEMBER & ALT
AD-HOC COVENTRY LAKE ADVISORY & MONITORING COMMITTEE
HUD HOUSING REHAB/FAIR HOUSING COMMITTEE
ENERGY CONSERVATION/ALT. ENERGY ADVISORY COMM ALT.

If interested please contact Lisa D. Thomas Town Council Steering Committee (742-9908), or Joan Oros, Republican Town Committee (742-9077), Dorothy M. Grady Democratic Town Committee, (742-0449) or Susan Cyr, Town Clerk 742-7966. Go to our website at www.coventryct.org to fill out a "Statement of Interest to Serve on a Board & Commission" form. It's easy; just go the Home Page, click on Boards & Commissions, and then click on Board & Commissions Descriptions & Statement of Interest Form.

SPORTS LICENSES MAKE GREAT PRESENTS!

2012 Sport licenses and permits are available at the Town Clerk's office during regular business hours, or online at www.ct.gov/dep/sportsmenlicensing. Remember, all licenses expire annually on December 31 except Lifetime Licenses and Handicapped Licenses issued before October 1, 2009.

DID YOU KNOW? The DEEP has an educational section on their website for Children 3 & up? They have coloring pages, animal quizzes, and information on animals. So check out the fun on the DEEP website www.ct.gov/dep/sportsmenlicensing, under student resources.

NEWS FROM THE TAX OFFICE

The 2nd installment for real estate taxes is due January 1, 2012. The last day to pay without interest is February 1, 2012. Real Estate tax bills are not mailed out for this installment; please use the second payment portion of the 3-part bill that you received in July.

Supplemental Motor Vehicle bills for a vehicle purchased, registered or plates transferred after October 1, 2010 and before September 30, 2011 were mailed in mid December and are due January 1, 2012. The last day to pay without interest is February 1, 2012.

If payment is received after February 1, 2012, the tax bill becomes delinquent and is immediately subject to 3% interest. From then on, the accrued interest will be added at the rate of 1.5% per month from the due date.

Taxpayers are now able to use their credit cards through Official Payments Corp. by telephone and/or the Internet to pay tax, sewer and trash bills. When paying by credit card, you will need your bill number, tax & interest amount and Coventry's jurisdiction code. Please call the tax office for these details including the toll free number and web address for Official Payments Corp. A link to Official Payments Corp. web site can be found on the Town's web page: www.Coventryct.org.

Taxpayers now have an additional on-line payment option for those wishing to pay by check/debit (EFT). You will need to know the Grand List date and list number of each bill you pay. From the Tax Collector's page on the Town's website, choose payments from checking account for this preference. This will connect you to Webster Bank's payment link site. You can save time, gas, postage and the inconvenience of driving in bad weather by paying online or by phone.

The Tax Office staff is available to assist delinquent taxpayers develop a payment plan to reduce their indebtedness. Please call to make an appointment for a confidential consultation.

PAYMENT DUE CALENDAR:

JANUARY-Real Estate 2nd installment, Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax only if applicable. **MAY**-Sewer Assessment fee- 1st installment. **JULY**- Real Estate 1st installment, and Regular Motor Vehicle, Personal Property and COVRRRA- annual (single) installment. **SEPTEMBER**- Sewer User fee- annual (single) installment. **NOVEMBER**- Sewer Assessment fee- 2nd installment.

Questions?
Please call 860-742-4066.

FROM THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Information regarding any assessments is available in our office or at the following web sites.

www.coventryct.org – general departmental information including forms and applications

www.wincog-gis.org – Geographical Information System (Maps)

The Elderly and Disabled homeowner program begins February 1, 2012, and applications are being accepted until May 15, 2012. Our office will be sending reminder letters by the end of January 2012 to those people who have to re-file this year. Remember that this program is income driven from the state and income guidelines set by the state for both single and married individuals. Please call if your income is less than \$39,500 if married, or less than \$32,300 if single, both must include Social Security benefits and your adjusted gross income from your 2011 Federal Income tax return.

Veterans must file their DD214 with the Town Clerk prior to **October 1st** to be eligible for exemption. If you have already filed, you do not need to re-file. You will receive your exemption automatically. For additional veteran's benefits please call if your income is less than \$39,500 if married, or less than \$32,300 if single, both must include Social Security benefits and your adjusted gross income from your 2011 Federal Income tax return. You will be asked to provide proof of all the income documentation regarding both of the above mentioned applications. Additional Veteran's applications are taken biannually along with the homeowners program.

The Board of Assessment Appeals will be meeting in March of 2012. Appeal **applications must be filed no later than February 20, 2012.** The board is required to hear all appeals concerning Motor Vehicle, Personal Property or Real Estate. Applications are available in the Assessor's Office or online at www.coventryct.org.

FINANCIAL REPORTS AVAILABLE

The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ending 6/30/2011 has been completed and is available on the Town's web site under the Finance department web page. The audit was conducted in accordance with State law by Blum Shapiro, an independent audit firm.

IMPORTANT DATES

**Public Hearing on Town,
School and Capital Budget:**
March 15, 2012

Annual Town Meeting
April 28, 2012



NORTH COVENTRY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

On Saturday, November 19, the North Coventry Fire Department held the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Station 11. Members of the fire department were joined by the Town Manager, Town Council members, family, and town residents to kick off the project. We invite you to stop by to watch the progress, which is changing on a daily basis. Again, we thank everyone for their support of our new firehouse.

Please remember to change the batteries in your smoke detectors if you didn't do so when the clocks changed and remember to always keep a close eye on candles and portable heaters when in use.

Have a happy and safe winter season,

The Members of the North Coventry Fire Department



Celebrating the start of construction for the new Station 11



Architect's rendering of new station

COVENTRY VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSOCIATION, INC.

The most important message Coventry Volunteer Fire Association Inc. (CVFA) would like to convey to the citizens is to dial 911 for emergency services. By calling 911 the Emergency Medical Dispatcher can direct your call to the appropriate service.

Members of the community can assist the fire department by changing their smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector batteries each time daylight saving time occurs. Maintaining smoke and carbon monoxide detectors by testing and cleaning according to the manufacturer's recommendations will provide for a safe operating detector. Coventry Volunteer Fire has partnered with Energizer to provide a limited number of 9 Volt batteries to give to low income residents for smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

Coventry Volunteer Fire sent 16 members to Zoar Outdoor specializing in swift water rescue. These highly trained individuals can perform training in Connecticut's streams and rivers with fast moving current. In September the team was called into action with an incident on the Willimantic River at the Coventry/Mansfield town line.

The tropical storm and blizzard caused over 350 requests for emergency service with most of the calls being wires down. In a normal week Coventry Fire responds to 30 calls for service. It is important to remember never to touch or get close to wires on the ground. The volunteers at Coventry Fire respond to each incident assisting residents.

Coventry Fire prepared for each storm with the Emergency Utility Vehicle and two Quads so that no area of town was inaccessible. The EUV can transport a patient to an ambulance from an isolated or remote area.

Coventry Volunteer's 75th anniversary was a success; we thank all residents for their support. This was a prelude to the State Firefighters Convention which will be held September 2014, with a parade, carnival and celebration of firefighters from around Connecticut.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I personally wish to thank the citizens of Coventry for having the wisdom and forethought to support the future of the Town by constructing the new Public Works facility. The entire department is committed to demonstrate your investment was a wise one on a daily basis. By the time you are reading this, we should be operating from 100 Olsen Farm Road, at the end of Fern Road. Any services provided at our former location (46 Bradbury Lane) will be available at the new facility; telephone numbers will remain unchanged.

*David R. Gofstein
Director of Public Works*

RIGHT OF WAY

Enhancements to your property along the roadside need to be placed far enough back from the road to insure that they will not become a sight-line obstruction for your driveway, your neighbor's, an intersection or traffic control device. Please remember the Town does have a Right-of-Way extending from 5 to 25 feet beyond the road edge on all Town Roads. Trees should not be planted within this zone. This area must also be kept clear of fixed obstructions such as fences or stone walls. Please call the Public Works Department to obtain this setback measurement for your particular road before doing landscaping or major plantings in this area.

New Address: 100 Olsen Farm Road Phone: (860) 742-6588

Director: David Gofstein dgofstein@coventryct.org
Supt. of Operations/Tree Warden: Doug Reese dreese@coventryct.org
Subdivisions and Projects Engineer: Todd Penney* tpenney@coventryct.org
WPCA Technician: Mike Ruef* mruef@coventryct.org
Administrative Secretary/COVRRRA: Donna Wrubel dwrubel@coventryct.org
**office located at Town Hall*

FROM THE DESK OF THE WPCA TECHNICIAN

Sewer Connections: We all know by now that the State put Coventry under a Consent Order to install sewers around Coventry Lake and mandated all properties within the sewer district be connected. The connection deadline has passed. We have been working with the Town Attorney and legal proceedings will begin in the spring with a Public Hearing where property owners will have an opportunity to ask questions and voice opinions.

Illegal connections of sump pumps and other sources of clean water continue to be a major problem in our public sewer system. We know it's very easy to discharge your sump pump into your sewer line but we really need your help combating this problem. The increased amount of water going to the Wastewater Treatment Plant during rain events is pushing us past our capacity; upsetting the treatment process and damaging expensive equipment. The best way to deal with 'clean water' is to discharge it over land away from the road. If this isn't an option you may apply for a no-fee road cut permit from the Engineering Department and tie into existing storm drainage/catch basins. Do not discharge sump pumps into the roadway directly; this is the cause of many localized icing conditions!

Sewer Expansion Feasibility Study: We are wrapping up our sewer expansion feasibility study. Areas of concern are Cheney Lane, Hemlock Point, Upper Oak Grove, Route 44 at the Bolton Town line, and the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Funding for these proposed expansions and upgrades will be challenging in today's economy.

If you own a property with a structure on it which you believe could be classified as "uninhabitable" please contact the WPCA (Water Pollution Control Authority) Technician/Operator at (860) 742-4064 or mruef@coventryct.org. Limited financial assistance for sewer connections is available for low income households through HUD and USDA. Please contact the WPCA Technician/Operator for more details.

General Information related to the WPCA can be found on the Water Pollution Control Authority page on the Town website (www.coventryct.org). The link to our page can be found towards the bottom of the Boards & Commissions sidebar.

NOTE FROM THE TREE WARDEN

We have had an inordinate amount of work and requests for the services of the Tree Warden. We have been answering these calls on a priority basis. This year has been challenging, but we remain committed to clearing the road edges of town tree storm debris. Please contact the Tree Warden, Douglas Reese, if you have any questions pertaining to anything related to trees owned by the Town of Coventry. Please remember as a town policy we generally do not remove healthy trees.

ALL REQUESTS for hazardous tree removal/trimming as well as requests for healthy tree removal/trimming within the Town Road Right of Way **MUST** be made **IN WRITING** to the Tree Warden. Mail to Coventry DPW at 1712 Main Street, e-mail dreese@coventryct.org, fax (860) 742-5467 or deliver to 100 Olsen Farm Road or the Town Hall. Include your name, address, phone number, tree location and a brief description of your request.



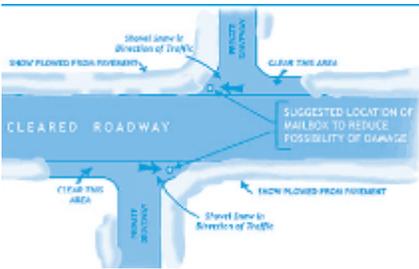
SNOW REMOVAL

The Public Works Department generally attempts to treat the surface of town roads just before or during the first one half inch of snow falls. In keeping with state of the art anti-icing protocols, salt is the primary weapon. Treating of roadways is adjusted to maintain safety within the constraints of budgets, prevailing conditions, and resources available. There is a lag time from chemical application to mechanical removal that varies with each storm, so the frequency of seeing a snow plow may seem different than the past, and may even vary storm to storm.

In most instances, the plowing of roadways will not begin until 2 to 3 inches of snow has fallen. Our goals are to keep the main roads open for police, fire and ambulance. During extended events, centers of roads are opened up. Streets 24 feet in width will be kept open with one pass (plow width) in each direction until the storm has passed. Narrower streets may only receive one pass of the plow down the center of the road until the storm abates. If weather predictions indicate severe cold weather and freezing rain, snow may be left on the street until we are certain icing will not be a problem. Only then will crews remove snow from travel surfaces.

After the snow stops falling, crews will push back the snow, clear cul-de-sacs and finish minor roadways. It usually takes 4 to 6 hours after the end of a moderate snow event to complete all plow routes and clearing of town property. This may vary from event to event significantly for many reasons. This final phase could be delayed from 8 to 24 hours after the storm has passed to the next business day depending on how long the crews have been working and what weather conditions are expected.

All routes are checked before crews are released to insure roads are passable. Our goal is to keep our roads safe and open to traffic as well as we can, with minimal disruption to your daily activities, within the constraints of budgets, prevailing conditions, and resources available.



MAILBOX INFORMATION

The Town of Coventry uses high discharge snow plows to effectively remove snow from the traveled portion of the road. High discharge plows throw the snow higher and further back, to clear the areas of town that have stone walls or high embankments right next to the roadway. They also make room for additional snow that may fall.

Very seldom does a snow plow physically strike a mailbox and damage it. The weight of the snow, coming off of the end of the plow is more often the culprit. You can take steps to minimize this damage! More often than not, damage to mailboxes is caused by snow pushing against weakened posts or hardware. If you can move your mailbox with your hand, it probably needs maintenance. Take the time to make any repairs needed so your mailbox will be strong enough to survive the winter.

Consider putting a physical barrier up before your mailbox such as a burlap bag strung between two posts, or a deflector made of wood or similar materials.

Driveways should be cleared of snow without throwing, plowing or pushing the snow onto the roadway. This creates a hazardous situation which may result in a ticket per Town Ordinance Section 86-07. The most helpful way to clear your driveway and help to protect your mail box is illustrated in the above diagram.

The town's policy is to repair mailboxes only when the plow truck physically hits the mailbox – not when the snow that comes off of the plow strikes the mailbox.

“The holidays are over; now what do I do with my Christmas tree?”

Christmas trees may be dropped off at the Transfer Station near the intersection of Plains Roads & Rt. 31 when the facility is open, or there are two un-staffed sites: Laidlaw Park on Merrow Road and the Miller Richardson Athletic Field (take Route 31 to South Street Extension then a right at the stop sign) - look for the signs. Please leave only the tree; take plastic bags/netting home to dispose with normal garbage. The trees will be chipped up and used in landscaping next spring. All American Waste will not pick up trees curbside as the waste processing plant cannot burn them.

WINTER TIPS

Please take care to place your Tipper Carts at the end of your driveway. They need to be close to the road for the trash collection vehicle to grab them, and behind the curb line for protection from snow removal equipment. It is illegal to place them in the travel portion of the roadway.

Parking on town roads and town owned parking lots is prohibited between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. from November 1 through March 31. The Public Works Department may also issue no parking bans that will not allow any parking on the roads and lots throughout the town. Please listen to local radio and watch area television stations for information about snow parking bans.

It is helpful to mark edges of property that are close to the right of way with reflective snow markers. May times it is difficult to distinguish the edge of the roadway when snow has blanketed the area.

Do not discharge sump pumps into any roadway. This is the cause of many localized icing conditions!

Placing snow in the road is dangerous, and can include penalties up to a lien against your property. A Town ordinance obligates the property owner, so if your driveway contractor deposits snow in the road from your property, you are still held responsible. It only takes a few more minutes to push it up beyond a curb line or stockpile it on some unused land away from the travel portion of the roadway.

The Town of Coventry does not supply sand or salt for public use, so please purchase some for your use.

Another tip for winter is to make sure that you carry with you when traveling a shovel and deicer, along with a small emergency kit, blanket, hat and gloves in case you do become stuck out on the roadways during a winter event.

Remember the safest way to travel during inclement weather is not to travel at all. If you must travel, reduce speeds, and use caution appropriate for prevailing conditions.

Any questions, issues or concerns should be directed to the Superintendent of Operations, Doug Reese, Public Works Department at (860) 742-6588 or email dreese@coventryct.org.

**PLEASE HAVE A
SAFE AND
ENJOYABLE
WINTER SEASON.**



TRANSFER STATION: 325 Main Street

COMMERCIAL USERS MUST REMEMBER...The facility is not intended for commercial uses although small repair/remodeling contractors doing work for Coventry residents may be allowed limited use to dispose of materials incidental to their work within the limits of the Town of Coventry. Proof of residency and **building permits, as applicable**, will be checked as part of normal facility operations to insure the facility waste stream remains residential in nature.

The facility will now be open the same schedule all year long: every Thursday 3 to 6:30 or dusk and every Saturday 9 to 3. Closed holidays. Proof of residency is required.

Materials acceptable with cost:

- Construction and demolition debris. Free of cardboard, metal and garbage.
- Land clearing debris; stumps & brush.
- Appliances with CFC's (Freon) \$10 each, no weigh-in necessary.
- Tires – automobile size – on or off rim \$5 each.
- corrugated cardboard in the specially marked cardboard dumpster

Materials acceptable no cost:

- All Electronics including appliances without CFC's (Freon) and scrap metal materials (**metal tanks must be cut open and crushed**).
- gas grill propane tanks for recycling
- leaves for composting

Materials NOT acceptable:

- Garbage or recyclable items picked up curbside
- Grass clippings
- Furniture
- Hazardous waste

Call Public Works (860) 742-6588 for more details or check your COVRRRA CALENDAR.

QUARTERLY METAL PICKUP HAS BEEN DISCONTINUED SINCE JUNE 2010.

- Scrap Metal and appliances must be brought to the Coventry Transfer Station at no cost.
- Antifreeze must be brought to Coventry Department of Public Works at 100 Olsen Farm Road by appointment. Please call (860) 742-6588 M-F 7 am to 3 pm.

OVERSIZED WASTE PICKUP: Residents are allowed to place up to **three** non-metal oversized waste items (i.e., table, couch, mattress) at the curb each month for collection as part of the program. No electronics, they must go to the transfer station. This collection will be on the 2nd Monday of each month. **All residents need to place their items at the curb by 6:30 a.m. on the 2nd Monday of the month.** This collection may/may not follow the daily waste & recycling pickup schedule.

- Brush; trimmed to 3ft. lengths, bundled & tied, 30-lbs. maximum.
- Wood lumber; length & width less than 4 ft., less than 4" nominal size, 30-lbs. maximum.

HOUSEHOLD CHEMICAL WASTE DROP-OFF FACILITY will reopen on April 21, 2012. It is usually open on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. This regional facility is located on Hancock Road in Willington and will receive one gallon or less of each liquid material and 100 pounds of dry material. Coventry residents' use of the facility is paid through COVRRRA revenues and requires no additional fees. Proof of residency is required. Commercial users **MUST CALL AHEAD** (860) 289-2296 for appointment and fee schedule. Typical material accepted at this facility includes:

- Fluorescent light bulbs
- Ni-Cad (Nickel Cadmium) recyclable batteries only (alkaline batteries go in the trash)
- Mercury thermometers and thermostats
- Floor, oven and drain cleaners
- Aerosol cans with hazardous contents
- Contaminated or stale gasoline
- Wood strippers, solvents, oil based paint, paint thinner and wood preservatives

SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL AND RECYCLING INFORMATION

It is important you keep 3 feet of space between the tipper carts and away from any poles, mailboxes, etc. The room is needed so the truck is able to pick the carts up without any delay or damage to obstacles. Please take care to place your carts in the driveway apron. They need to be close to the road for the trash collection vehicle to grab them and behind the curb line for protection from snow removal equipment. It is illegal to place them in the travel area of the roadway.

The following general guidance is provided to assist you in properly disposing of your solid wastes and preparing your recyclables for pickup by the Town's contracted hauler, All American Waste. Detailed information is available at the Public Works garage at 100 Olsen Farm Road. If you have specific questions please contact the Public Works Department at (860) 742-6588 between the hours of 7 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday.

If materials are not picked up from the curbside, residents are asked to please call All American Waste ASAP at (860) 289-7850 to give them a chance to correct the problem or provide information on why the item was left.

Waste acceptable for weekly pickup in gray tipper cart:

- Household garbage and solid wastes.

Recyclable items acceptable for bi-weekly pickup in blue tipper cart:

- newspapers/catalogs/magazines
- direct mail/envelopes (all types)
- paper/paperboard (i.e. cereal or shoe boxes)
- milk & juice cartons (i.e. aseptic packaging)
- cardboard/brown paper bags
- plastic bottles/plastic containers #s 1-7
- soda/juice/water bottles (glass or plastic)
- food containers
- glass bottles/jars (any color)
- aluminum cans/clean foil
- metal cans (tin/steel/aluminum)

Next to the carts:

- used motor oil- **up to 6-quarts/bi-weekly**, in original or non-breakable containers with screw on lids, taped, (max 5-quart in size; mark as containing oil; *No antifreeze containers*).
- Automotive batteries; one bi-weekly.
- Auto or light truck tire; removed from rim, one per week.

TRASH/RECYCLING HOLIDAYS

The trash/recycling pickup schedule will not be altered until May 2012 for Memorial Day.

LAND USE OFFICE & BUILDING DEPARTMENT

COVENTRY LAKE AQUATIC INVASIVES GRANT AND LAKE COMMITTEE

Over the winter, the Land Use Office will complete the implementation of a grant from the CT Federation of Lakes for \$2,100.00 to conduct a Coventry Lake Invasive Aquatic Plant and Fertilizer Education Project. Plans have been finalized to design, print and distribute educational materials and informational signage at access points around the lake. Last summer, the Town Council adopted a resolution to create a Coventry Lake Monitoring and Education Committee that will be a subcommittee of the Conservation Commission. The Committee has begun monthly meetings with the members that have been appointed thus far. If you would be interested in serving, Statement of Interest forms are available on the Town website or Town Clerk's Office. Questions regarding this project can be directed to Eric M. Trott at 860-742-4062 or etrott@coventryct.org.

OPEN SPACE SUCCESSES

The Town of Coventry continues to administer an Open Space Acquisition Grant from the CT DEP in the amount of \$105,000.00 that will facilitate the purchase of a 35.89 acre parcel on Pucker Street as permanently protected open space. The parcel is a significant one due to its connectivity to several other Town open space areas and contains a portion of the Thornton Brook, which serves to create a substantial protective corridor for the water resource. Walking trails currently exist on-site. A closing on the purchase is anticipated in early 2012.

In November, the Town endorsed a purchase and sales agreement along other State and non-profit agency partners in order to purchase the development rights on 99 acres of the Reynolds Farm on Flanders Road. The Town leveraged \$30,000.00 with \$193,650.00 from the State of CT Department of Agriculture; \$30,000.00 from the CT Farmland Trust; and \$15,000.00 from Joshua's Tract

Conservation and Historic Trust for a total of \$268,650.00. This is a significant and exciting collaborative effort that will serve to provide for the permanent protection of prime farmland soils on an active farm along the Willimantic River.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM AND COMMITTEE

Last year a number of key stakeholders worked diligently to prepare a Town of Coventry Safe Routes to School Plan which facilitated the preparation and submittal of a Safe Routes to School Grant request to the State of CT Department of Transportation. The grant seeks funds to construct sidewalks on Main Street that will connect the High School/Middle School complex with the sidewalks that currently end at Paden Road. The program involves the initiation of various programs and physical improvements that encourage student walkability and bikability to school. The plan provides a clear agenda for action items and efforts that apply to the Coventry Grammar School, GH Robertson Intermediate School and Capt. Nathan Hale Middle School. The Safe Routes to School Committee will be scheduling meetings in the upcoming months to bring the plan to fruition and welcome new members and volunteers. Please contact Eric M. Trott, at 860-742-4062 or etrott@coventryct.org for further details.

ZONING REGULATION AMENDMENTS

The Planning and Zoning Commission will be holding public hearings during the winter of 2012 on a variety of amendments to the Zoning Regulations that are intended to provide enhanced flexibility and clarity. The Commission recently completed substantial revisions to the zoning and subdivision texts this summer and is preparing final language on the next round of changes. Some of the changes involve flood plain criteria, placement of accessory structures and filling and grading activities. Please contact Eric M. Trott, at 860-742-4062 or etrott@coventryct.org for further details.



POWER OUTAGE SAFETY TIPS

Let's hope that Mother Nature is kind to us this winter as we all recover from last winter's record snowfall, Tropical Storm Irene and the October snow storm that severely damaged our electrical distribution system and changed the landscape of our communities. The media covered many stories with tragic consequences during these prolonged power outages. The following tips may help to keep us safe and protect our properties.

- Purchase and install a carbon monoxide detector and place it outside of the rooms where you sleep.
- Replace the batteries in existing smoke detectors and test for proper operation.
- DO NOT try to heat your dwelling with unvented heating equipment.
- Locate portable generators outside and away from windows, doors and vents.
- Have generator connections installed by a licensed electrician. Proper permits and inspections can eliminate the potential to back feed utility lines.
- Shut generator down and let unit cool down prior to refueling.
- Store gasoline in UL listed containers and store outside in detached sheds.
- DO NOT leave burning candles unattended.
- When power is lost, try to remember to shut off your main breaker and individual circuit breakers. During prolonged outages, we may not remember what appliances may have been on when the power was lost.

Hopefully, we will all be better prepared next time and will remember to make safe decisions to protect our families and properties.

NEWS FOR SENIORS



ACTIVITIES AT THE COVENTRY SENIOR CENTER 172 LAKE STREET

Regular Programs:

- **Secret Chef:** First Wednesdays
- **Veterans Advocate:** Wednesday afternoons by appointment
- **“Ask the Nurse”:** First Thursday
- **Wellness Programs:** Blood Pressure Screening and Blood Sugar Screening twice a month.
- **Foot care:** Second Wednesday 9a.m. – 1: p.m. February
- **Cribbage:** Monday mornings
- **Billiards:** Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings
- **“Let’s Talk” Discussion Group:** Monday Mornings @ 10 a.m.
- **Setback:** Thursday and Friday afternoons @ 1 p.m.
- **Quilting Class:** Friday mornings
- **Exercise class:** Tuesday and Thursday mornings
- **Military Care Packages:** Packing Day – First Fridays
- **Movies & Lunch:** Mondays

Special Activities:

- **Western Ho-Down:** Monday, January 23, 2012 Noon – 3:00 p.m.
- **AARP Tax Preparation:** February 7th & 21st; March 13th & 27th; April 4th; make up date April 11th if needed.



YOUTH JOB BANK

Are you a community member in need of a little extra help around the house? Are you still struggling with snow clean up? Hire a student from the Youth Job Bank! Youth Job Bank students range in age from 12-18 years old and can assist with yard work services, clean homes, provide animal care and baby sit! Call Youth Services at 742-5324 if you are a youth interested in joining the work force, or a community member in need of services.

COVENTRY RIDES SENIOR TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

After six years, Coventry’s Senior Van Program has changed its name slightly to reflect the acquisition of a new vehicle. The program is now Coventry Rides Senior Transportation Program. A new 14-passenger mini-bus has arrived and should be in service before this article is published. Drivers are currently completing their training and are looking forward to driving the new bus. Look for the white mini-bus with the Coventry logo on the sides. The new bus will provide easier access for wheelchair passengers, a more comfortable ride for all and will replace the aging Coventry Van. The new mini-bus was purchased with a \$40,000 grant from the Connecticut Department of Transportation and matching funds from the Town of Coventry.

The Coventry Senior Transportation Program, now in its seventh year, has provided nearly 6000 rides for Coventry’s elderly and disabled residents. The goal of the program is to allow all Coventry citizens to live as independently as possible by providing transportation for medical and personal needs. The Program provides rides for the elderly and disabled to locations in the Coventry, Manchester, Vernon and Tolland areas. People needing transportation to the Willimantic and Mansfield areas can use the WRTD Dial-A-Ride Program. Rides are provided for medical, personal, social and educational purposes. The program is currently funded by the Town of Coventry and with grants from the Connecticut Department of Transportation.

The success of this program can be directly attributed to the dedicated volunteer drivers who offer their time to help others. Our current team of volunteer drivers includes Tim Ackert, Annie Bobbitt, Brian Coss, Christine Coss, Max Ferguson, Dick Frye, Dick Gawitt, Mary Ellen Hetrick, Bill Hoffman, Kim Homans, Dave Lamore, Debbie Locke, Jane Luthi, David McCrory, Carol Moriarty, Karen Renfro, Bill Root, Cathy Root, Barbara Louise Rose, Ken Stein, Jack Thayer and Bill Wajda. These people keep the van on the road three days a week and on weekends. They also provide special wellness trips to local events throughout the year.

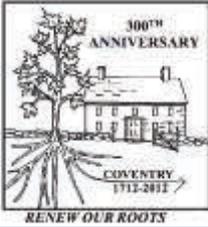
New volunteer drivers are always needed. The demand for transportation beyond the current schedule is growing. We are looking for additional drivers who hold a Public Passenger License Endorsement or who are willing to obtain this endorsement. There is no cost to the volunteer. Please consider donating one morning a month to this very worthwhile program and remember, that you may one day need to take advantage of this free program. To volunteer, call the Transportation Coordinator at 860-742-3525.

Low cost Wellness Trips are also offered on a regular basis. Commercial coaches are used for longer trips. Recent trips have included the Lower East Side Tenement in New York City, Senior Outing in Cheshire, Connecticut, the New Britain Museum of Art, Manchester Community College Lectures and the Hebron Fair. Transportation for these special trips is paid for with a grant from the Connecticut Department of Transportation.

Mileage reimbursement can also be provided for transportation to medical facilities and related services beyond what is currently provided by the Coventry Senior Transportation Program. This program provides reimbursement of mileage expenses for volunteers using their own vehicles, who assist the **disabled and residents age 60 and over**. Mileage reimbursement funding is also provided by the Connecticut Department of Transportation Grant. Please call for additional information.

For more information or to schedule a ride, please call the Transportation Coordinator at least 48 hours in advance. The number is 860-742-3525.

COMING EVENTS



COVENTRY TURNS 300!

Coventry will be celebrating its 300th anniversary in 2012. Many events are planned by the town and various community organizations. Please visit the Town website for information and updates. A tri-fold brochure, with currently planned events, will be published and distributed.

THE 2012 COVENTRY AMAZING RACE

Start gathering your teams now! Race will be held on **Saturday, March 31, 2012**. Modeled after the popular TV show, teams will race to follow clues based on their knowledge of Coventry. Teams must register between March 1st and 15th with Ginney Dilk at 860-742-9656 or gdilk@aol.com. As a minimum teams must have 4 people: 1 GHR third or fourth grader, 1 Coventry teenager (13-19 yrs), 1 Coventry senior citizen (i.e. over 65) and 1 person who has lived in town for at least 20 years.

Want to play but don't have a team? Ginney will be collecting names of individuals who want to play in each category and will be happy to pass out the names to needy teams. Each team is limited to one vehicle with additional people limited only by the number of seatbelts. See the 300th Anniversary website at www.coventryct.org for more details.

PARTICIPANTS SOUGHT FOR 300TH ANNIVERSARY PARADE

The 300th Anniversary Parade Committee is seeking organizations to march or enter a float in the 300th Anniversary Parade, which is scheduled for 10 AM on **Saturday, September 29, 2012** (rain date Sunday, September 30 at 2 PM). For an application, visit the 300th Anniversary page of the Town website or contact Carla Kennedy, Marching Unit Coordinator via email at ckennedy@coventryct.org. **Deadline to apply is January 30, 2012.**



Stone Wall Maintenance Weekend

Nothing says "New England" more than the stone wall. The rural character of Coventry is often defined by the existence and visibility of our numerous stone walls. The stone wall is our visual reminder of our rural cultural heritage and past agricultural traditions.

The Coventry Conservation Commission and the Coventry Conservation Corps is sponsoring the second annual "Stone Wall Maintenance Weekend" on **March 30- April 1** (rain date April 6-8). This would be a perfect time for property owners to do some maintenance to increase the visibility of stone walls on their property. Many of the stone walls throughout Coventry are in disrepair and/or are overgrown with brush and invasive plants. Homeowners can improve the "curb appeal" of their property by sprucing up their stone walls, especially those that border town roads. This can be turned into a great community project for neighborhoods or community service groups. The Coventry Conservation Corps will participate by sending a work crew to some town-owned property with stone walls in need of maintenance.

The Conservation Commission is very mindful of stone wall preservation and consistently makes recommendations pertaining to the preservation of significant historical and natural resources, such as stone walls. These beautiful landforms are integrated into our rural landscape and should be valued and preserved. Every stone wall has its own unique character and adds to rural character of our town. The Coventry Conservation Commission hopes to make this an annual community activity.

FAMILY ICE FISHING DERBY

CT Department of Environmental Protection will be holding an ice fishing derby on **Saturday, January 28** from noon to 3 PM! Ice fishing jigs will be available for use or you can bring your own, and instruction and demos will be available.

- Prizes will be awarded for the biggest fish, and snacks will be served courtesy of the Parks & Rec. Dept.
- This is designed to be a family derby, so bring the entire family out for a morning of fun!
- Ice fishing jigs will be available for use or you can bring your own, and fishing instruction and demos will be offered.
- Meet at Patriots Park Lodge. No pre-registration required.

Info: 860-742-4068 or www.coventryrec.com

DOCUMENT SHREDDING

The Coventry Lions will be providing an opportunity for Coventry residents to shred documents that need to be disposed of. A date to be determined will be announced by early spring.

COVENTRY SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION PHONE-A-THON

The Coventry Scholarship Foundation, a Dollars For Scholars affiliate, will conduct its 21st annual Phone-A-Thon starting **Monday, March 19th through Thursday, March 22**. Coventry residents will be called and asked to make a contribution to the tax deductible fund, and businesses will be contacted by letter. Anyone wishing to help with the phone calls or mailings is asked to call 742-6633. This is a community event that benefits any student who is a Coventry resident. Last year over \$43,000 was distributed. Volunteers are greatly needed.

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

THANK YOU FROM THE HUMAN SERVICES OFFICE



The winter holidays were made merrier with the help of all of the residents who donated food, mittens, hats, socks, personal care items, toys, gift cards and money. Volunteers Florence Lajeunesse, Hannah Pietrantonio, Phyllis Bishop, Vicky Wegryn and others helped with moving, packing and distributing all the food and gifts. Over 50 families and 62 single, elderly and persons on disability were assisted. We received help from many groups, including First Congregational, Second Congregational, St. Mary Church, the Prince of Peace Church, the Lions Club, the Coon and Fox Club, the schools and the PTO's, many Girl Scout and Brownie Troops, Highland Park Market, CVS, First Niagara Bank, Rockville Bank, the Post Office, the Ryan Ramirez Memorial Fund, and many, many individuals.

The Food Bank is well stocked with over 3,000 non perishable items collected and sorted by **Boy Scout Troop & Pack 65 and Boy Scout Troop & Pack 57 and Coventry Girl Scouts**. The **Skungamaug Golf Club, owned by Sue & John Motyka**, donated truck loads of food from their "food in lieu of green fees" event in November. The Second Congregational Church, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church and many, many individuals have been very generous with food donations also. Our stocked shelves have been invaluable to households in need of the most basic family need, food for their families. Thank you!

The **Special Needs Fund** received donations from civic groups and organizations, student groups and individuals. Donations were received from the Coventry High School FCCLA, the Thrift and Gift Shop, the First Congregational Church Friendly Circle, the Second Congregational Church Gleaners Group, Knights of Columbus, Lion's, the AETNA Foundation, and the United Way anonymous donations. Many generous contributions were received from individuals. The children in our town are certainly learning about caring and sharing with the examples set by their parents, grandparents, teachers and other adults in their community.

The Salvation Army "Bell Ringers" are coordinated by Cindy Houser and Courtney Chan. We want to say thank you to each of the "Bell Ringers" and to Highland Park Market, First Niagara Bank, CVS, and Walgreens for providing our very busy locations. Thank you each and everyone one who helped. We use the money for the "Gearing Up to Learn" program, summer camp, rental and mortgage payments, utility bills, food, prescriptions and other emergency needs of residents. Our treasurer is Cindy Houser of First Niagara Bank. THANKS to all!!!

The **WISH Fund** raised over \$8,000 from more than 100 individuals, businesses, organizations and church families. This fund pays for deliverable fuel. 100% of the money raised goes directly to help residents.

We are in awe of the generosity of Coventry residents. You are always there for us so that we can help our neighbors. We are proud to work in such a caring community. And so, from all of us here and all the families and individuals who benefit from your thoughtfulness -- THANK YOU.

May you and your family have a happy and healthy 2012!

Sincerely,
Courtney

Courtney L. Chan, MSW
Human Services Administrator

Heidi

Heidi M. Donnelly
Administrative Assistant

Crystal

Crystal D. Morawitz
Youth Services Coordinator

WORRIED ABOUT WINTER HEATING COSTS?



Call the Human Services Office at (860) 742-5324 for more information about this year's Connecticut Energy Assistance Program. The Connecticut Energy Assistance Program is a federal and state government funded program. The Human Services office in Coventry is taking applications by appointment for residents in Coventry. Operation Fuel applications will begin in January.

One time emergency deliveries for Coventry residents may be made through the Coventry Clergy Fuel Bank that is funded in part through the WISH Fund. Applications for assistance are taken and approved through the Human Services Office.

COVENTRY'S BEST KEPT SECRET:

**"In yard" trash/recycling service
is available**

Do you know someone who might benefit from having their tipper carts picked up right at their back door? No more struggling to roll them to the curb!! The town has a few slots for those special people (no additional fees involved). Call Human Services (860) 742-5324 or Public Works (860) 742-6588 to find out if you or someone you know might qualify.



REMEMBER

Renter's Rebate will be starting in May. Senior and Disabled renters please remember to save your year end 1099's from Social Security, pensions, interest, dividends and also your 2011 income tax returns if you file them.

COMMUNITY NEWS

HOW MUCH IS A HEALTHY COVENTRY LAKE WORTH TO YOU?

Common sense tells us it's worth a lot. Reliable studies bear that out. In fact, it's not a stretch to say our lake is Coventry's most valuable asset, especially if you count the costs we'd face trying to bring it back from the degrading effects of pollution, invasive water plants or even a slight shift in chemical balance. Fortunately there are as many ways to protect our lake as there are people who use and enjoy it. And today there's a new group in town that's dedicated to doing just that—by reaching out to the people with information and guidance in treating our lake with respect. We're the Coventry Lake Advisory & Monitoring Committee, a subset of the Conservation Commission. Our mission is to advocate on a wide range of lake issues such as best lake management practices, monitoring lake quality and viability, and assessing threats to the lake while preserving its purity, beauty and ongoing fitness for recreation—as far into the future as we can see. If you'd like to help us in our work, please contact the Town Clerk's office. We would welcome you on the committee.



COVENTRY WINTERFRESH FARMERS' MARKET OPEN FOR 4TH YEAR!

More than 30 local farmers and specialty food producers will be at Coventry High School, 78 Ripley Hill Road from 11-2 on Sundays through the end of February. The selection of fresh foods, baked goods, dairy, meat and ready-to-go meals is amazing. The focus is on local, fresh, sustainable and delicious.

Exciting new programs this year include workshops teaching how-to can fruit preserves and jellies, make gourmet mustards, create felted scarves from re-purposed sweaters, bake bread and more. Local producers and artisans share their knowledge and expertise and participants go home with new skills and products. Classes are 2 hours long, priced at just \$25 per class and can be accessed online to sign up at: <http://coventryfarmersmarket.eventbrite.com/>.

The market's popular Handmade & Home-grown Swaps will be also held once a month through the winter.

To stay up to date on activities and the schedule of events, you can visit www.coventryfarmersmarket.com or sign-up on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/coventryfarmersmarket.com.

Photo by Liss Flint.

The Booth & Dimock Memorial Library has worked tirelessly to ensure our place as a community hub. And never has our success been as apparent as during the devastating Hurricane Irene and Winter Storm Alfred recovery efforts. During those two weeks we were happy to welcome the old friends and new faces that came to get warm (or cool off), check their email, charge their phones or laptops and simply enjoy a location with electricity.



The Library opened additional hours after Winter Storm Alfred and offered family movie events and teen activities to help stave off boredom. We encourage you to visit our website at www.CoventryPL.org or call us at [860-742-7606](tel:860-742-7606) to find out about our year round youth activities, some of which are listed below.

During these weeks we also became painfully aware that our current Internet access workstations do not meet the needs of our patrons, especially during times of extreme town-wide need. With this year's Membership donations, we hope to substantially increase the number of Internet accessible workstations available. We offer our sincerest thanks and appreciation to those of you who have already contributed and to those who may in the future.

Exciting Upcoming Events at the Booth & Dimock Memorial Library:

CURIOUS GEORGE READING PROGRAM

The single most important activity for raising a successful reader is reading aloud with your child! Stop by the Children's Room to pick up your Curious George Reading Program bag to get started (while supplies last). Each bag contains a free gameboard, sticker, and bookmark. Each week the library will have a new craft and early literacy tip to share with families participating in the program. There will be incentives for adults and children alike!

The program is both a Read With Me program for children who do not yet read on their own, and an Early Reader program for beginning readers. Being ready to read starts with babies - no child is too young to sign up! For more information, visit the Children's Room or www.CoventryPL.org (where you can register online and download a gameboard and activity sheets).

BABYGARTEN

Babygarten is a fun, exciting and informational program for children (ages birth through 2 years) and their caregivers. It will run in multiple 6-week sessions during the year. Babygarten focuses on how nursery rhymes, songs, and books can enrich a child's life from the very beginning and provide them with a foundation for the future. NO REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. The next 6-week session begins on Tuesday, Jan. 10 @ 10:15 AM.

TERRIFIC TUESDAYS

Children ages 3-5 and their caregivers are invited to come to our preschool story times! Our Terrific Tuesday story times are a fun and engaging way for children to build early literacy and social skills, gain confidence, and experience a growing sense of independence as well as develop a love of reading and books. Younger siblings are welcome. No registration is necessary. The first Terrific Tuesdays story time of 2012 begins Tuesday, Jan. 3 @ 11:30 AM.

There is always something happening for teens at the Booth & Dimock Memorial Library with programs designed for fun, to make your teens think, and to foster a sense of community. 2012 offers a wintertime Library Luau, a Jeopardy style trivia event and several craft programs in addition to the Gaming Club, Anime Club, Teen and Junior Advisory Boards.

eBOOKS FROM THE LIBRARY

eBooks came to the Booth & Dimock Memorial Library in December thanks to a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services for the program Reading 2.0 for Older Adults. Now all you need is a Coventry Library card to borrow our eBooks from anywhere, including your home! Until July 2012, this program is reserved for Coventry residents over the age of 50, and we ask for your understanding at this time.

Reading 2.0 for Older Adults allows us to offer monthly tutorial classes at the Library and at the Coventry Senior Center. For a complete list of classes, to access the downloadable eBooks or for other program information please visit www.CoventryPL.org.



BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS: The Board of Education generally meets on the second and last Thursday of each month. Regular Board meetings for 2012 are: January 12 & 26, February 9 & 23, March 8 & 29, April 12 & 26, May 10 & 31, June 14 & 28, July 12 & 26, August 9 & 30, September 13 & 27, October 11 & 25, November 8 & 29, and December 13. Unless noted on the agenda, all meetings are held in the Town Hall Annex building at 7:30 p.m.

A MESSAGE FROM THE NEW ACTING SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Coventry Families:

This is my first opportunity to address the Coventry community as the new Acting Superintendent. I have had the great fortune to get to know so many of you over the years and I am so grateful for the warm reception I have received. I am honored to serve as your new Superintendent and vow to do my very best to keep up and even surpass the high standards that Dr. Bernard set for this office and our public schools.

For the last eleven years, I have enjoyed working in Coventry as a building administrator and I am looking forward to working here for many years to come. It has been more than evident during my tenure here that Coventry is a community with strong family values, which are unmistakable in its commitment to striving for a first-class school system. For those who may not know me, before arriving in Coventry, I was a teacher in Manchester. In addition to my teaching responsibilities, I served as Principal of the Manchester Credit Diploma Program, an educational program designed for students who faced difficulties in a traditional high school setting. In 2000, I was hired to serve as the Assistant Principal at the Capt. Nathan Hale School here in Coventry. In 2005, I was provided an opportunity to work as the Principal of the G. H. Robertson Intermediate School. In 2010, I returned to the Capt. Nathan Hale School as Principal.

I would describe myself as a pragmatist who is dedicated to doing whatever works best for students. I plan to focus on expanding and improving a learning community that fosters individual inquiry, emphasizes learning by doing, educates for social responsibility, celebrates success and acknowledges effort. I know this will not be easy. Our resources are likely to be stretched as never before. We will be increasing our reliance on data to form our decisions and ensure that our resources are used to the greatest advantage.

In my many years as an educator, one truth has revealed itself over and over again – open communication is critical for success. Thus, I hope to meet or speak with as many parents and community members as possible during the next few months. I invite the entire community to become an active partner in the education of our children. Please check out the Superintendent’s page on our website at www.coventrypublicschools.org for upcoming dates when my door will be “open” for conversations where anyone is welcome. If you would like a personal one-to-one meeting, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (860) 742-7317 x2.

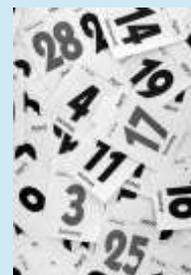
In closing, let me express my belief that all students can succeed in school, given the right support and academic stimulation. As your Superintendent, I plan to work collaboratively with the community, parents, students, and our school staff as we strive to make Coventry Public Schools one of Connecticut’s most outstanding districts. Thank you for your strong support of our schools. Again, it is my privilege to serve you, and I look forward to becoming an integral part of our community.

Sincerely,
 David J. Petrone

CHANGES TO THE SCHOOL CALENDAR

With both storm Irene and storm Alfred, the beginning of the school year had a rough start, to say the least. The Board of Education had to revise the calendar multiple times. The most up to date version can be found on our website at www.coventrypublicschools.org.

Families should note the originally planned staff development days (no school) of January 27 and March 23 have now been made into **half school days** for students and half staff development days for staff. The schedule for those days will NOT follow the usual “early release” schedule, but will be shorter, half days. On both January 27 and March 23 students in grades 1-5 will be in school from 8:30 – **11:40 a.m.** and students in grades 6-12 will be in school from 7:40 – **11:00 a.m.** The **kindergarten** schedule for January 27 and March 23 will be as follows: **AM kindergarten** will be in session from 8:30 – **10:00 a.m.** and **PM kindergarten** will be in session from 10:10 – **11:40 a.m.**



ALERTNOW INFORMATION

Keeping families informed is a top priority at Coventry Public Schools. The ALERTNOW notification system is in its third year of use. This system allows us to send a **telephone message** to families providing important information about school emergencies.

We use ALERTNOW to notify families of school emergencies, closings, delayed openings, and unplanned early releases. In the event of an emergency at school, you can have peace of mind knowing that you will be informed as soon as possible by phone. In addition, the system will phone homes if a child is absent from school and the nurse has not received parent notification (attendance call).

E-BLAST INFORMATION

In addition to the ALERTNOW system, the Town of Coventry and the Coventry Public Schools are using email to get information out to the public. Anyone can sign up to receive email e-blast updates on town information and on school emergencies/closings. Check out the school website at www.coventrypublicschools.org to access the link to sign up to receive this information.



CHINA EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Coventry Public Schools is continuing its exchange relationship with China this school year. Coventry will have the very first visit of Chinese students in late January! The group of twelve (12) students and four (4) teachers will arrive on January 26 and depart on February 2, 2012. They are traveling from the Number 57 Middle School in Qingdao, Shandong. We look forward to continuing a productive and fulfilling collaboration with our friends from China.



CLOSINGS, LATE OPENINGS, UNPLANNED EARLY RELEASES

These announcements are carried on radio stations WILI (98.3 FM, 1400 AM), WTIC (96.5 FM, 1080 AM), WRCH (100.5 FM), WZMX (93.7), WKSS (95.7), and WWYZ (92.5). Announcements are also carried on the television stations WFSB Channel 3, WVIT Channel 30 (cable channel 4), and WTNH Channel 8.

90 Minute Delay Notes

CECC AM – 10:00 a.m. start time

Grades K - 5: CGS & GHR – 10:00 a.m. start time

Grades 6 - 12: CNH & CHS – 9:10 a.m. start time

Early Release Notes – *Emergency/Weather-related*

NO PM Kindergarten & NO PM CECC

AM Kindergarten/CECC releases at regular time

All other grades end at Early Release times

NO afternoon / evening activities on school grounds

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Flexible hours/days with a wide variety of experiences.

Teacher, Para-Educator, and School Nurse Substitutes: Call the Business Office at 742-7317 x3.

Cafeteria Substitutes: Call Beth Pratt at 742-4535.

Bus Drivers/Substitutes: Call Stephenie Greenleaf at M & J Bus Co. at 742-0344.

TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN OF COVENTRY
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COVENTRY, CT 06238

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PERMIT NO. 106

NEW & IMPROVED!



Aerial photo of the new DPW facility at 100 Olsen Farm Road. Staff began moving into the new space during December 2011, consolidating operations into a more central and energy efficient location.

Aerial photo of the new ball fields atop the closed landfill shows grass beginning to grow. We anticipate the fields will be ready for sports league use during 2012.



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