

WINTER 2023



# TOWN NEWS



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## HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

**M.L. KING DAY - JAN. 16  
PRESIDENTS' DAY - FEB. 20  
GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 7  
MEMORIAL DAY - MAY 29**

*Above photo: Pedestrian and drainage improvements on South Street from the Daly Road roundabout to the Nathan Hale Homestead are substantially complete and will provide a safer experience for both vehicles and foot traffic in this area. A State-funded LOTCIP grant covered 100% of the costs. Photo by Laura Stone.*

## Message from Lisa Thomas, Town Council Chairwoman

Dear Neighbors,  
The Town Council and I wish you a joyful New Year!

Our little community continues to make a big impact - receiving recognition for our sustainability efforts, awards for accounting practices, ongoing recognition for our Board of Education, supporting the anaerobic digester project at Hytone Farm, and partnering with civic groups to hold community events like Christmas in the Village. In addition, we are wrapping up significant projects including school roof replacements, sidewalks on South Street, and the intersection improvements at Rt. 44 and Rt. 31. The Council would like to thank all of you for supporting these efforts, including passing the road bond referendum! You will read more about projects around town in the Town Manager's column in this newsletter.

Our staff continue to use their talents and expertise to support and improve our town. Many also serve in broader capacities. I'd like to give a shout out to Coventry Fire Chief Bud Meyers who recently became the 2nd Vice-President of the CT Fire Chiefs Association. Over the next few years he will move to 1st Vice-President and then President. Congratulations to Bud and to all of our staff and volunteers who constantly strive to excel in their fields.

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*Left: The bases for the traffic light mast poles at the intersection realignment project at Swamp Road and Rt. 31 arrived in mid-December and have enhanced the look and durability of the traffic lights there. Photo by Todd Penney.*

## Council Chairwoman's Message

*Continued from Page 1*

Perhaps the biggest project ahead of us is hiring a new Town Manager to fill some very big shoes when John Elsesser retires in July. Our search for a consulting firm is underway. This will be a big change for our community and there will be opportunities for you to share your thoughts on the traits, experience, and vision you feel are important in the next Town Manager.

Please be sure to sign up for news updates by visiting the town website: (<https://www.coventryct.org/list.aspx>). You can also sign up for emergency and health alerts (<https://public.alertsense.com/SignUp/?RegionId=1747>). Both these links can be found on the [coventryct.org](http://coventryct.org) web site by searching "alerts and notifications". You will want to pay close attention to alerts over the next few months while we work through the budget process. There are many opportunities for you to have input, including the town budget hearing in March, watching department presentations of their budgets to the Town Council, emailing Council members, speaking during audience of citizens, and meeting with me during my office hours. This will be a very tight year as we manage increasing costs and reduced state funding. The Council looks to, and values, your input on our community needs.

As always, I encourage you to take time to explore our [www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org) web site to learn about what our Town departments are up to. And visit [www.coventrypublicschools.org](http://www.coventrypublicschools.org) to see our schools' achievements and projects.

Be well,  
Lisa Thomas  
Council Chairwoman

## Town Manager's Message

We had a very productive summer with a great deal of drainage, road work, and building projects. Please read the project update for highlights. While the COVID crisis is over, we still are adjusting to different ways of conducting business.

We continue to research ways to fund ambulance services which went to 24/7 coverage during COVID. This is not realistic for a volunteer service today, with increasing calls now averaging over three per day. We tried to add this to last year's budget but that was not approved. We are running an annual deficit. The community will need to decide what level of service you are willing to play for as Rescue Plan funds are used up.

We appreciate being given the resources to upgrade roads over the next four years. 5892 persons voted on the \$4,865,000 bond with 65.5% in favor. CT Water has committed to replace water mains in advance of our road reconstruction for the Pilgrim Hills subdivision. Lake area roads from the last sewer phase are also scheduled and will be similar to work done by Town crews in the Lakewood Heights area this summer.

The Library renovation project is finally out of the ground and scheduled for a late spring completion. The first building at Creaser Park has been renovated for storage and permission was received from the State to demolish the front two buildings which were unsafe. We are hoping the State funds we are using will let us start fixing one of the two remaining buildings.

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### Welcome to our newest Town employees:

**Melissa Bordonaro**, Youth Services Coordinator; **Tim Brennan**, Building Official; **Tyler Bryant**, Maintainer 1/Custodian; **Tracie Johnson**, Executive Assistant to Chief of Police; **Manuel Medina**, Planning Technician/Zoning Enforcement Officer; **Heather Neal**, Farmers' Market Co-Manager; **Elizabeth Pannhavong**, Revenue Clerk; and **Melissa Tremblay**, Farmers' Market Co-Manager. We are happy to have them on our team!

## Town Clerk's Office

As the most visited office in the Town Hall, the Clerk's office provides a link between Coventry's residents and its local governing bodies. The Town Clerk is the official keeper of the Town Seal and has the responsibility of upholding Federal Laws. The Town Charter and Connecticut General Statutes charge the staff of this office with many functions. We archive all Military Discharge, Vital, Map, and Land Records and preserve the history of Coventry by acting as the official repository of notices, agendas, and minutes for Coventry's various boards, committees, and commissions. Additionally, this office protects the integrity of election conduct by overseeing election related matters including, but not limited to, the issuance of absentee ballots and certification of official results. We look forward to seeing you stop in whether it's for documents to be notarized, getting your trade name certificate, liquor permit, marriage or sporting licenses.

### PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOTING

Pursuant to Public Act 11-173, individuals with permanent disabilities may apply for permanent absentee balloting status. This enables the elector to receive an absentee ballot application for each election, primary and referendum in the municipality.

To be eligible, an elector must file with the Town Clerk a doctor's statement certifying their inability to appear at the polls attached to an absentee ballot application. *Some restrictions apply for local votes which are less than 3 weeks' notice.* Contact the Town Clerk's Office or check the website for further instructions.

The elector will receive an annual notice to determine if they continue to reside at the listed address on their permanent absentee ballot application. *Failure to return the notice will result in removal of the permanent absentee ballot status.*

**Tolland- Mansfield Probate Court – 21 Tolland Green,  
Tolland, CT 06084 860-871-3640**



### ITS NOT TOO LATE FOR DOG LICENSING

A dog's license is their ticket home!! The State of Connecticut requires that any dog over the age of 6 months is licensed in the town you live in. Appropriate documentation required.

- \$8.00 for spayed or neutered dogs / \$19.00 for unaltered dogs

*\*Any dog license issued after June 30th is subject to a \$1.00 per month late fee.\**

**SPORTS LICENCES** - 2023 licenses are available at the Town Clerk's Office or from [www.ct.gov/deep/hunting](http://www.ct.gov/deep/hunting). Remember, all licenses expire annually on December 31st except Lifetime and Handicapped Licenses issued before October 1, 2009. Please be advised our office can only accept cash, checks and small bills. No credit or debit cards can be accepted.

### VOLUNTEER & SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead*

If you are interested in serving on a Coventry Board or Commission please review the current vacancies and complete the Statement of Interest form online at [www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org). The Council Steering Committee reviews these applications and makes recommendations for appointment.

## Land Use Office

Please contact Eric M. Trott, Coventry Director of Planning and Development, at 860-742-4062 or [etrott@coventryct.org](mailto:etrott@coventryct.org), for further information or with questions.

### CANNABIS ESTABLISHMENT REGULATIONS

The State of CT adopted laws to allow for recreational cannabis to be sold and grown in our State last year. In early 2022, the Planning and Zoning Commission began deliberating on the creation of new Zoning Regulations that would permit either of these establishments at certain locations in town. The Commission voted to proceed with the drafting of regulations for these uses. The Commission adopted a moratorium on permitting any cannabis establishments earlier this year and adopted a second moratorium to allow additional time for the Commission and staff to prepare appropriate regulations. The Commission and Staff have conferred with the Town Attorney's office and have evaluated sample regulations from similar communities to consider prudent options and alternatives. A public hearing on the regulations has been scheduled with the Planning and Zoning Commission for January 9, 2023.



### NEW REGIONAL TOURISM BRAND

The Towns of Bolton, Coventry, Mansfield, and Tolland are launching a new logo and brand positioning – Connecticut's Countryside -- that reflects the strengths of the four-town region to encourage visitors and support

business growth. Connecticut's Countryside was selected from three potential brand concepts evaluated as part of a community input process, including a widely distributed survey. The Connecticut Countryside brand was the clear favorite and will be used in marketing the region. Dornenburg Kallenbach (DKA), the firm who designed the brand, also created a corresponding marketing implementation plan to guide the efforts to promote the region.

An Action Plan for Economic Vitality prepared in 2020 by AdvanceCT, in collaboration with the CT Department of Community & Economic Development, determined that the region has a significant opportunity as a desirable destination to dine, shop and play, based upon its distinctive combination of resources across the four towns, including outdoor recreation, agriculture and agri-tourism, culture and entertainment, higher education institutions, and small businesses and entrepreneurs. The plan can be viewed on the Land Use Page of the Town website.

This new collective brand for the region as a destination will be a supplement to each individual Town's marketing, and will not replace each individual Town's logo or branding.

### HOP RIVER TRAIL ALLIANCE

In June, the Towns of Andover, Bolton, Columbia, Coventry, Manchester, Vernon, Windham and the State of CT DEEP created the Hop River Trail Alliance. The entity will serve as a focal point for matters that relate to the Hop River Trail, such as maintenance, trail improve-ments, expanding connectivity to other open space amenities/ businesses, and marketing the value of the Trail in the region. The Alliance will be seeking nonprofit (501-c3) status so that it can apply for State DEEP Recreational Trails grants and other funding to support the Trail, and plans to file a Recreational Trails Grant application this winter for mile marker signage along the trail which will assist with public safety response on the Trail.

### SOUTH RIVER ROAD OPEN SPACE

This past summer, the Town purchased a significant vacant parcel of land on South River Road as open space, located at the Olson's Brook crossing of South River Road. The six-acre property is six acres possesses a significant amount of frontage on the Skungamaug River, as well as sensitive wetlands and flood plain areas. The site possesses an open field, road access - driveway, parking area, and informal walking trails along the river's edge for fishing access. The property lends itself very well to public access and enjoyment. Local land trust, Joshua's Trust, contributed \$5,000 to the purchase. The property is adjacent to a conservation easement dedicated to the American Farmland Trust. The Town is in the process of creating a property identification sign for wayfinding purposes.

### CLIMATE RESILIENCE FUND GRANT PROPOSAL

In early December, Engineering and Land Use staff submitted a \$615,000 grant proposal to the CT DEEP Climate Resilience Fund for a town wide cross-culvert inspection and analysis for all culverts 18" to 72" in diameter. This would entail hiring a consulting firm to generate town-wide mapping identifying the culverts to be inspected, meeting with officials to discuss specific concerns, performing a visual inspection of each culvert, and performing hydrologic and hydraulic computations. As weather events become more intense and more frequent, it is important to prepare for the impacts of climate change and increase resilience of town infrastructure. If awarded funding, this study will position the Town to be more proactive with culvert maintenance and repairs.

## Building Department

Please join us in welcoming our new Building Official, Tim Brennan, who started with the town in mid-October. Tim has a poignant story that he would like to share that reflects on his time as a builder and transcends into his work as a Building Official and Fire Investigator...

You put away the lawn furniture, cleaned the yard of leaves, and in the distance, you hear Old Man Winter's whistle. It will not be long until he is fully upon us. The time has come to focus on inside projects to prevent having to battle the cold. You may even prioritize a couple of these projects to have the house looking its best for holiday gatherings.

Jump back about 35 years. I was in my early 20's working on a house building crew in the eastern part of the state with 4 or 5 other guys. It was during this time that I honed my skills by learning tricks of the trade from the more experienced workers. Two of the guys did not come to work one morning. They were volunteer firefighters called out in the middle of the night to a major structure fire and were still at the scene. In the days that followed, a thorough investigation revealed the circumstances surrounding the cause of the fire. The owners moved to the country from Long Island and were excited about fixing up their recently purchased old style farmhouse. They were looking forward to raising their family in the rural setting in which it sat. They completed many improvements and planned a holiday gathering with extended family at their newly renovated house in the country. One of the last items requiring completion before moving into holiday mode was finishing old pine floors throughout the first floor of the house. On the night of the fire, the husband stayed up after everyone else went to bed coating the floors with a finish. He completed the task, cleaned up, and went to bed. A few hours later, the house was on fire. The husband, wife, and one child made it out, but two children remained inside. The husband went back inside to get the two others and none of the three made it out. It was determined that during clean up, rags and brushes used to finish the floors were placed in a bag. These contained linseed oil and generated heat upon curing and combusted. The fire spread quickly due to the uncured nature of very recently coated floors. An absolute tragedy. Without knowing further details, one would assume the father was thorough in his undertaking, completion, and subsequent clean-up of the project. This event has had a profound impact on me throughout my career in the trades and since becoming a father. I frequently drive by the now empty site in my normal routines. It often replays in my head. Especially leading up to the holidays. Ever since, I look at things like cans of wood finishes, paint, and especially garbage cans filled with project debris differently from most people. It causes a stir. Since becoming a Building Official, I have also had training and experience as a fire investigator. This has further jaded my view of unkept workspaces full of sawdust, paints, uncapped solvents, irresponsible use of extension cords, or deferred project cleanup. I have seen adverse results first hand of such sites.

We at the Town of Coventry Building Department continue to encourage you to engage in the projects you dream of completing, big or small. Just make sure to include safety. When you take a minute to step back and appreciate what you just completed, take an additional minute to make sure to properly clean up your workspace and correctly dispose or store all chemicals. Make sure heat producing tools, like glue guns, are cooled and stored.

Check out this link online for a very useful homeowner checklist on home safety measures:

<https://www.realsimple.com/home-organizing/organizing/home-safety-checklist>





## Veterans Corner

Saturday, Nov. 5th, was a beautiful day at Patriots Park. Hundreds of people gathered for the 7th annual CT Veterans Day Race. The overall first place winners were Bridget Dougherty (26:27 finishing time) from New London and Lane Thornton (22:54 finishing time) from Tolland. There were participants from all over CT and neighboring states.

This was a record-breaking year for both participants and sponsors. The goal of the CT Veterans Day Race is to not only raise funds for CT Veteran Service Organizations (VSO), but to also make friends and raise awareness of the current needs of the veteran community.

We also celebrated a great war hero, Lyman Gibbs of Willimantic, a WWII purple heart veteran. He served with the 302nd Infantry Regiment, 94th Infantry Division from 1943-1946, under General Patton at the Battle of the Bulge. Over 500 participants and spectators sang Lyman Gibbs a very loud and spirited Happy Birthday to celebrate his 100th birthday.

The 2022 Race committee donated \$16,600 to 8 different VSOs, plus collected thousands of daily essential items for the Backpacks for Life program. The team also collected hundreds of non-perishable food items for the "Vittles for Vets" food pantry at Veterans Base Camp in Chaplin.

The Coventry H.S. National Honor Society assisted in organizing the donation drive for the daily essential items. They collected the items as well as sorted them and assembled them into three main kits for 43 backpacks. These backpacks will go directly to CT homeless veterans. This was a town-wide event in support of all of Connecticut's veterans. Special recognition for a job well done goes to Coventry's Dept. of Park & Recreation, Dept. of Public Works, Coventry Police Dept., and Coventry Fire Department who directly supported the event to make it a spectacular, memorable, and safe event.

Above photo by Ellie Garvie.

## Assessor's Office

The Assessor's office is responsible for administering all exemption programs and the assessment of all Real Estate, Motor Vehicles, and Personal Property, which includes business property, unregistered motor vehicles, and vehicles registered out of state.

### Helpful Links:

[www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org) – general town and departmental information including forms and applications

<https://crcog.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ed798533e6fd4304b2bef1f28e95c06f>

– Geographical Information System (Maps) and property Information

**The Elderly and Totally Disabled Homeowner Program** application period begins February 1, 2023, until May 15, 2023. To qualify, applicants must be 65 years old (or older) as of December 31, 2022, or Totally Disabled, and meet income requirements. Our office will be sending letters and applications the first week of February to those who have asked for the application in advance and to those who are due to re-file for the 2022 Grand List year. Again, this program is income driven with the state of Connecticut setting the maximum limits for both single and married individuals. The limits have increased to \$49,100 if married, and \$40,300 if single. Your income includes all Social Security benefit and your adjusted gross income as filed on your 2022 Federal Income tax return. If you qualify for the State program the Town of Coventry offers a tax credit or a tax deferral program with the same income requirements.

**The Additional Veterans Program** also starts February 1, 2023 and applications are accepted until September 30, 2023. A DD214 must have been filed with the Town Clerk prior to October 1st, 2022 to be eligible for this additional exemption. If you have already filed and did not receive a letter from our office, you do not need to re-file. You will receive your basic exemption automatically. You may apply for additional veteran's benefits, if you meet the income requirements, noted in the Elderly Homeowner program noted above.

If you are a 100% disabled veteran as determined by the Department of Veterans Affairs you may qualify for additional benefits with income based on adjusted gross income only (does not consider the full amount of your social security benefit): Unmarried \$18,000, married \$21,000 (joint income).

You will be asked to provide proof of all income (tax return) regarding both of the above mentioned applications. Additional Veteran's and Homeowner applications are taken biannually.

**The October 1, 2022 Grand List** will be finalized and filed by January 31, 2023 and assessment change notices mailed shortly after. These notices will remind taxpayers of their right to appeal.

The Board of Assessment Appeals will be meeting in March of 2023. **Appeal applications must be filed no later than February 20, 2023.** The board is required to hear appeals concerning Motor Vehicles, Personal Property and Real Estate. Applications will be available in January 2023 in the Assessor's Office and online at [www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org).

**Questions? Please call 860-742-4067.**

## Events

**ARTS ON MAIN 2022:** The Town of Coventry and Coventry Arts Guild collaborated again, and added Coventry Cares to our team, to orchestrate the Arts on Main street festival in September in Historic Coventry Village, after a two year hiatus. The Festival serves as one of the several destination events that are hosted in the Village each year that provides an opportunity for local citizens and visitors from the region to visit our historic town center, frequent our local businesses and appreciate the Village charm. This year's event included: live local music, art vendors, an interactive art installation, poet's corner, sidewalk chalk, face painting, interactive music installation, food truck court, historic quilt display, dance performance, student music performance, unique car display, local author book signing, David Hayes sculptures. We are grateful to all of our event sponsors, businesses and individuals who supported this wonderful event and look forward to Arts on Main 2023!

**The Lions Club of Coventry** would like to thank the community for their support for our two fall community events- Chili Fest and Christmas in the Village. A BIG "Christmas in the Village Thank You" to all the organizations, businesses, supporters and individuals that ONCE again...made this town tradition happen! Hopefully it filled you with the Holiday Spirit! Ideas, comments, questions, reflections, helping hands...all are welcome as plans are pondered for 2023...which is the 20th year for this event. Contact us at 860-617-3588 or 860-918-5957.

All proceeds from Lions Club fundraising gets funneled back into the Coventry community in a variety of ways. We hope citizens will continue to support us in our spring Roses sales, Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast, and Comedy Night. Information regarding Lions events and updates can be found on the Lions Club of Coventry Facebook page or website. Our motto is "We Serve" and we are always looking to welcome new members to our volunteer group.

**Coventry Scholarship Foundation Dollars for Scholars** will be conducting its annual fund drive during the month of February. Mailings will be made to Coventry residents to raise funds to be distributed to Coventry students who are graduating in June 2023. All applicants who complete the scholarship application process will receive monies to help them further their education. Last year more than \$60,000 was awarded to graduates. More information can be found on our website [coventry.dollarsforscholars.org](http://coventry.dollarsforscholars.org)

The Coventry Conservation Commission and the Coventry Conservation Corps is sponsoring the annual "**Stone Wall Maintenance Weekend**" on March 25-26. This would be a perfect time for property owners to do some maintenance to increase the visibility of stone walls on their property.

## Tax Collector

The second installment for real estate taxes is due January 1, 2023. The last day to pay without interest is February 1, 2023. Real Estate tax bills are **not** mailed out for the January installment. If you need a copy of your bill, you can print one from the town's website [www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org) under online bill pay, which will take you to the tax collector's page. Here you will see the link to "Find your bill" (under Quick Links).



Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax bills are for vehicles purchased, registered or plates transferred after October 1, 2021 & before August 1, 2022. These supplemental bills were mailed out in December and are due January 1, 2023. The last day to pay without interest is February 1, 2023.

Please remember the address for the PO Box in Hartford, printed on your original bills, is only for payments for **CURRENT TAX BILLS:** Real Estate tax due January 2023 & supplemental motor vehicle tax due January 2023. All other payments for any delinquent bills or partial payments should be mailed directly to: Town of Coventry Tax, 1712 Main St, Coventry, CT 06238 for prompt processing.

If payment is received after February 1, 2023 the real estate & supplemental motor vehicle installment will become delinquent and will immediately be subject to 3% interest. From then on the accrued interest will be added at the rate of 1.5% per month (18% annually) from the Date Due. The minimum interest charge is \$2.00.

Credit card payments for tax, sewer & COVRRRA trash bills are accepted here in the office as well as online and are processed by Point and Pay LLC. There is a convenience fee charged by Point and Pay for credit card payments. Visa debit only has a flat fee of \$3.95. All other debit cards and all credit cards have a 2.75% fee (minimum \$2.00). There is a link from the tax collector's page on the town's website [www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org) to pay by **credit card**.

Taxpayer's have an additional online payment option to pay by checking account. There is a link from the tax collector's page on the town's website to pay by **bank account**. These payments are processed by Webster Bank and there is no fee.

Taxpayers owing delinquent motor vehicle taxes must pay **ALL** motor vehicle taxes to get DMV clearance. Pay by cash or money order for immediate DMV clearance. Online payments will be cleared 3 business days after we receive & process them (Saturday and Sunday are not business days nor are holidays). Payments made with a check will take 10 business days for DMV clearance.

**The COVID 19 global pandemic has changed how we conduct business. We strongly encourage you to pay online at [www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org) or by mail. You can also drop off your payments/correspondence in the drop box located in the Town Hall rear entrance vestibule (not the ballot box outside the building). We are always willing to help answer questions by phone or email.**

### Payment Due Calendar:

**January**-Real Estate 2nd installment & Supplemental Motor Vehicle if applicable. **May**-Sewer assessment fee - 1st installment. **July**-Real Estate 1st installment, Motor Vehicle, Personal Property and COVRRRA Trash. **September**-Sewer user fee (annual). **November**-Sewer assessment fee - 2nd installment.

**Questions? Please call 860-742-4066.**

## Department of Public Works



### Snow Removal:

The Public Works Department at the Town of Coventry 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, treated salt is generally all that is utilized. 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 that used for sand/salt mixtures used in 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, the centerlines of roads are opened up. Streets 24 feet in width will generally 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 centerline 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. If you have any issues with our snow removal program, please contact the department. During severe events, we make every effort to have a live dispatcher accessible.

Any questions, issues or concerns regarding snow removal or winter operations should be directed to the Superintendent of Operations, Mark Owens, Public Works Department at (860) 742-6588 or email [mowens@coventryct.org](mailto:mowens@coventryct.org).

### Winter Tips:

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. You may elect to receive emails or phone messages regarding parking ban and snow information by clicking on 'Notify Me' on the town's website, [www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org).

Remove basketball hoops from road right of way so as not to hinder snow removal.

It is helpful to mark edges of property that are close to the right of way with reflective snow markers. Many 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 or neighbor 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.

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.

Each winter, mailboxes may be damaged during winter maintenance operations. 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. Proper maintenance may help to prevent damage that results in delayed mail delivery, or worse, having to make alternate delivery arrangements. Place a deflector just before the mailbox to knock the snow down before it hits the mailbox.

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.

## COVRRRA

Call Public Works (860) 742-6588 for more details or check your 22/23 COVRRRA CALENDAR.

**Household Chemical Waste Drop-Off Facility** This regional facility located on Hancock Road in Willington is closed for the winter, reopening April 15, 2023.

**Used motor oil, antifreeze and car batteries** should be brought to the Public Works Facility at 100 Olsen Farm Road. The facility is equipped with a used motor oil furnace. Please call (860) 742-6588 for more info.

**“The holidays are over; now what do I do with my Christmas tree?”** Christmas trees may be dropped off at the recently relocated Transfer Station on Olsen Farm Road 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.

**Holiday Trash/Recycling Pickup Schedule Changes ONLY** for the following date: No service on Memorial Day, Monday, May 29, 2023. Resume service May 30 through June 3.

**Textile Recycling** The Town is starting its ninth year with Bay State Textile for Textile Recycling. Acceptable items for recycling through this program are footwear, clothing, accessories, linens and stuffed animals. For instance, a stained t-shirt or torn bath towel becomes a wiping cloth, a lone sock becomes pillow stuffing, worn out denim jeans are used to produce household insulation, a teddy bear is used for car seat stuffing and so on. Everything will be accepted from gently used to ripped or with broken zippers. It is important, however, that they be clean, dry and bagged. Recycling these materials should, conceivably, reduce our tonnage disposal fees. Collection boxes are located at the Public Works Department on Olsen Farm Road and behind the Town Hall next to the Annex. Last fiscal year the town received revenues averaging \$156 / month for approximately 3,133 lbs. of textiles / month.

**Paint** is now recycled through a state program. For more info go to [www.paintcare.org](http://www.paintcare.org). Drop-off locations include: **\*\*\*NEW\*\*\* Coventry Transfer Station**, England Hardware in Bolton, Mansfield Supply in Mansfield, True Value Home Center in Willimantic, Sherwin Williams in Willimantic and O. L. Willard in Willimantic.

**DUMPSTERS** - For major cleanup projects, the current COVRRRA contract with All American Waste also includes pricing for 6, 15 and 30 cubic yard dumpsters. Residents contract directly with All American Waste at (860) 289-7850. Be sure you specify you are a Coventry resident to get this special rate. Dumpsters are for up to 30 days. After 30 days a \$5/day rental fee applies. These containers are to be used by the residents for special projects complying with the COVRRRA regulations and are not to be used for disposal of normal municipal solid waste.

- 6 cubic yard dumpster - \$175 haul / \$98 ton of disposal (CC deposit \$273 = haul charge + 1 ton)
- 15 cubic yard dumpster - \$195 haul / \$98 ton of disposal (CC deposit \$391 = haul charge + 2 ton)
- 30 cubic yard dumpster - \$195 haul / \$98 ton of disposal (CC deposit \$587 = haul charge + 4 ton)

Payment is to be made by credit card only. Refund to credit card will be made if customer balance amount is lower than deposit taken.

**Material acceptable for monthly oversized waste curbside pickup.** Non-metal material that is too large to be placed in your tipper cart such as furniture is collected curbside. Residents are allowed to place up to three non-metal oversized waste items (for example: table, couch, dresser) at the curb each month for collection as part of this program. Mattresses, Box springs, scrap metal / appliances and electronics are not acceptable curbside items and must be brought (at no cost) to the Coventry Transfer Station. 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.

- Furniture such as table, couch or dresser
- Brush; trimmed to 3ft. lengths, bundled & tied, 30-lbs. maximum.
- Wood lumber; length & width less than 4 ft., less than 4 in. nominal size, 30-lbs. maximum.

**Please don't leave your trash and recycling cart at the roadside all week long.** Plow trucks may be on the roads and it is difficult enough to plow in a snow storm at night with poor visibility without having to dodge carts. It is also unsightly and there is an ordinance banning this practice.

**If your cart's lid fell off** or is missing a lid plug or if your cart's wheel fell off or is wiggly, call All American Waste at (860) 289-7850 and make arrangements to have it repaired.

**“In yard” trash/recycling service available --** Do you know someone who might benefit from having their tipper carts picked up right at their back door? (Some driveway length restrictions apply.) No more struggling to roll them to the curb!! The town has a few slots for those special needs people (no additional fees involved). Call Human Services (860) 742-5324 to find out if you or someone you know might qualify.

**Note from the Tree Warden:** Please contact the Tree Warden at Public Works 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, email the Tree Warden, Mark Owens, at [Mowens@coventryct.org](mailto:Mowens@coventryct.org) or hand deliver to 100 Olsen Farm Road or the Town Hall. Include your name, address, phone #, tree location and a brief description of your request.



The Transfer Station has been relocated to Olsen Farm Road and is available for town residents only. The facility is not intended for commercial users 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 hours of operation: every Thursday, October through March, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., every Thursday, April through September, noon to 6 p.m. and every Saturday (all year long) 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Closed holidays. Proof of residency is required.

**Materials acceptable with cost:**

- Construction and demolition debris. Free of
- Land clearing debris; stumps & brush.
- Appliances with refrigerants \$10 each, no weigh-in necessary.
- Tires – automobile size – on or off rim \$5 each.
- Propane tanks and fire extinguishers for recycling.

**Materials acceptable no cost:**

- All Electronics
- Appliances without refrigerants
- Scrap metal materials (metal tanks must be cut open and crushed).
- Corrugated cardboard, bottles and cans, in the specially marked mixed use recycling dumpster
- Mattress and Box springs
- Leaves for composting
- Paintcare(new or old paint, stain or varnish)

**Materials NOT acceptable:**

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

## WPCA

### Water Pollution Control Authority (Sewer Department)

**Financial Assistance Program for Sewer Use Bills:**

- The Federal Government has created an assistance program to help low income households pay their annual sewer use bills!
- Coventry residents can begin applying right away. Priority is given to households with overdue/delinquent balances.
- This program is similar to the CT Energy Assistance Program and the same income guidelines apply:

HOUSEHOLD SIZE*	MAXIMUM INCOME LEVEL (PER YEAR)
1	\$ 39,761
2	51,996
3	64,230
4	76,465
5	88,699
6	100,933
7	103,227
8	105,521

*\*For households with more than eight people, add \$2,252 per additional person.*

- If you already apply for energy assistance (CEAP) through the Access Agency make sure you check the box for water/sewer assistance.
- You can apply online directly by searching “CT LIHWAP” and following links to the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program.
- Coventry Human Services can also help you with the application by calling 860-742-5324 or emailing [dgrindle@coventryct.org](mailto:dgrindle@coventryct.org).

**Financial Assistance for Sewer Connections:**

Low interest/deferred loans for new sewer connections are also available for households within the sewer service area that meet federal income guidelines. **Contact Mike Ruef , WWTP Operator, for details at 860-531-2913 or [mruef@coventryct.org](mailto:mruef@coventryct.org)**

The link to the WPCA page can be found on the Town website at [www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org) > Your Government > Boards & Commissions > Water Pollution Control Authority

## News from Parks and Recreation

The 2022/2023 Youth Basketball season has started! This year, over 100 kids in grades K – 2 are participating in Instructional Basketball on Saturday mornings and over 175 kids in grades 3 – 8 are participating in Rec League and Travel League Basketball. Thank you to Coventry Board of Education for continuing to provide gym space for this program and the Coventry Youth Basketball Association Board for their countless volunteer hours of coordination!

Start the New Year off right! Parks and Recreation offers a variety of health & wellness classes for all ages and abilities! Tai Chi Thursday morning & Tuesday evenings, Yoga Wednesday & Thursday evenings, and Simply Fit Saturday mornings! **FREE Trial Classes offered in January!**

**Now taking winter & spring reservations for the Lodge & Millbrook.** Both rental facilities are ideal for a baby shower, bridal shower, birthday party, or graduation party. Book your next special event with Coventry Parks and Recreation!

**REGISTRATION FOR CAMP WANGUMBAUG OPENS Wednesday March 1st.**

**Winter/Spring Edition of 06238 Program Guide** hitting homes in January! Parks and Recreation continues to add new program offerings each season!

**Summer Employment Applications: NOW Available!** Applications can be found on the town website for seasonal positions including: beach gate attendants, lifeguards, park maintenance, camp specialists, and camp counselors.

## Booth & Dimock Memorial Library



*In November, the Library Board of Trustees recognized library employees who have worked at the library for more than 10 years. We would like to extend our continued thanks and appreciation to the following employees for their years of service and dedication to our community: Manny Rodrigues, 10 years; Donna Murphy, 18 years; Joyce Peterson, 35 years; Margaret Norris, 40 years; Janette Smith, 46 years. Thank you!*

**Top row left to right:** Margaret Norris, Donna Murphy, Janette Smith.

**Bottom row left to right:** Joyce Peterson, Manny Rodrigues

Construction continues at the Library! We remain open with normal hours of Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 10AM-8PM, Friday 10AM-6PM, and Saturday 10AM-3PM. Current information about library hours, programs, or services can be found online at [www.coventrypl.org](http://www.coventrypl.org), or on our Facebook @BDLibrary.

As we prepare for winter storms and snowy weather, a reminder that any library closings will be announced on our Facebook, website, and WFSB. Even if we're closed, our online resources will remain available! Check out an e-book or e-magazine on OverDrive with your library card. And if you're feeling the winter blues, check out one of our therapy lights. Therapy lights mimic the sunshine and can help treat Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD).

We continue to offer a regular rotation of programs for children and adults. Each month at the library adults can participate in book clubs, Spice Life, or Tea Explorers. Children have a monthly opportunity to read to dogs through Cold Noses, Warm Hearts, participate in Sing, Stomp, & Story, attend our science themed Curiosity Corner, or attend a Saturday Storytime. Any additional special programs will be announced on our, website, or in-house!

## Winter Notes from Coventry Lake Advisory & Monitoring Committee

Winter is here and is it time for winter activities on Coventry Lake. When the lake freezes people can enjoy ice fishing, ice skating and even just ice walking! Remember the ICE MUST BE SAFE!!!

- Safe ice for sports is listed as follows:
  - 4 inches or more of ice is recommended
  - Newer black ice is stronger than old milky ice
  - Weaker ice is found near rocks, inlet/outlets, sand bars (Flats)
  - The entire lake should be frozen before venturing out
- Check for ice fishing ZOOM classes run by CT DEEP at:
  - <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Fishing/General-Information/Ice-Fishing>
  - Then take your new skills out on the lake for some fishing fun if the ice is SAFE!
- If the Lake is not frozen and boating season starts early **REMEMBER life jackets are required to be WORN on all non-motorized vessels from October 1 through May 31.**

Summer 2022 had an unusual event on Coventry Lake, a public health warning was issued on July 22, 2022 by Eastern Highlands Heath District due to the high level of blue-green algae (cyanobacteria). The health warning was for people and animals to be aware of possible severe illness if they came in contact with the blue-green algae bloom. Coventry Lake remained under the health warning limiting most water activities starting on July 22, 2022. Patience was the only treatment involved and the warning was terminated on August 8, 2022. Coventry's experts are continuing to watch the lake's blue-green algae levels. The September Forum contained valuable information regarding the blue-green algae bloom. The articles can be found on Coventry Lake Advisory & Monitoring's website. Use this link: <https://www.coventryct.org/590/State-of-the-Lake-2022> to read the articles.

Hydrilla continues to diminish. The 2022 full report including the recommendations for the 2023 treatment program will be available in early in 2023 On Coventry Lake Advisory & Monitoring's website.

**Find us on Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/245119282764856>

**Find us on Coventry's Website:**

<https://www.coventryct.org/234/Lake-Advisory-Monitoring-Committee>

**Email questions to:**

[CoventryLakeAdvisor@CoventryCt.org](mailto:CoventryLakeAdvisor@CoventryCt.org)

## Human Services Office



### WORRIED ABOUT WINTER HEATING COSTS?

The Connecticut Energy Assistance Program is designed to help offset the winter heating costs of Connecticut's lower income households, specifically those households whose incomes fall at or below 60 percent of the state median income.

On behalf of eligible households, the winter heating assistance pays for such heating sources as oil, natural gas, electricity, propane, kerosene, coal, wood and wood pellets. Homeowners and renters may apply. Households eligible for the winter heating program may also be eligible to receive weatherization assistance. This can help conserve energy and lower heating bills.

Appointments can be made at the ACCESS, Inc. (Willimantic area) (860) 450-7400 or online at [accessagency.org](http://accessagency.org). Coventry residents may call Human Services (860)742-5324 for energy appointments being held on Tuesday or Thursday.

### CLERGY FUEL FUND

Residents wishing to contribute to the "Clergy Fuel Fund" may do so by sending in their donation to the Coventry Human Services c/o Clergy Fuel Fund, 1712 Main Street, CT 06238. The donations are used to assist Coventry families in need of emergency heating and experiencing financial crisis. Residents may be entitled to a one-time emergency delivery during the year. Participants must provide proof of gross income, DSS benefits and liquid assets including: checking, savings, annuities, retirement benefits and proper identification. Approvals are not guaranteed.

### FOOD BANK

The Coventry Food Bank is well stocked and the holiday program was a success with the help and support of donations from the schools, churches and Coventry residents. Huge thank you to Boy Scout Troop & Pack 65 for holding their annual "Scouting for Food" where they collected and sorted almost 6k non-perishable items, Skungamaug Golf Club, owned by Susan & John Motycka, with their "Food in Lieu of Green Fees" event which raised funds for Coventry residents in need and to everyone who donated this holiday season!

We are always accepting donations for the food bank. The need can vary by the month/season so please call ahead with your donation. The food bank is always in need of peanut butter/ jelly, cereal, spaghetti sauce, pasta, soup, tuna, personal hygiene items and cleaning supplies. Thank you again to our local residents, churches, schools, business and civic groups who have made a donation. **Please remember we cannot distribute expired items so please check expirations dates.**

If you are in financial crisis and are in need of food, please contact Coventry Human Services to schedule an appointment. (860) 742-5324.

### "THANK YOU" FROM THE HUMAN SERVICES OFFICE

We had a very successful holiday distribution. With the support and donations from residents, businesses, schools, PTOs, local banks, grocery store, churches, scouts, clubs, legions and associations, the Thanksgiving and Holiday Season was very special for many families in need. Thank you to those who helped in delivering the Orchard Hill Holiday meals. Would also like to Thank Coventry Police & Fire Department for the stuff a truck event. They collected an amazing amount of toys! We would not have been able to do this program without your dedication and hard work!

**Like Coventry Human Services on Facebook and see what's new in the office.**

**You may also donate online at any time via the Coventry Parks & Recreation donation page: <https://secure.rec1.com/CT/coventry-ct/catalog>**

## Coventry Senior Center

172 Lake Street • 860-742-3525

Don't get cabin fever this winter! Check out a program at the Senior Center! The Center welcomes seniors 55 years and older to enjoy a variety of social, educational and wellness programs. There is no membership and many of our events are low to no cost! Join a weekly mahjongg, bingo, dominoes, corn hole, or fitness class, or schedule use of the fitness room overlooking the lake!



**CHOICES** – The Center has a Volunteer CHOICES Counselor who is available to answer your Medicare questions. Call the Center to schedule your appointment. The CHOICES Program (Connecticut's programs for Health insurance, Outreach, Information and Eligibility Screening) is designated as the official State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) for Connecticut. It is funded in large part by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services. It provides FREE unbiased information and counseling, on Medicare, Medigap, Medicare Managed Care, Medicaid, Medicare Savings Program, Long Term Care Insurance and other related state & federal programs. The CHOICES program works in cooperation with the CT Department of Social Services, Elderly Services Division and the Center for Medicare Advocacy and is administered by the five Area Agencies on Aging in Connecticut. Area Agencies on Aging are private, not-for-profit organizations which serve the needs of older adults or individuals with disabilities. The CHOICES program is a focal point for information, program development and advocacy.

**PROGRAM CANCELLATIONS:** *We know these Coventry roads can be tricky when it snows – check WFSB Channel 3 for weather closing information. When in doubt – CALL before you venture out!*

### COVENTRY RIDES TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

Sarah Leete, Transportation Coordinator; sleete@coventryct.org

Hours: Call and leave a message, your call will be returned within 48 business hours. Telephone: 860-742-3525

**Coventry Rides Transportation Program** provides free handicap-accessible service for Coventry Seniors and residents with disabilities to the towns of Bolton, Tolland, Vernon, and Manchester. Program hours are Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am-1pm. Please call at least 48 business hours in advance to schedule a ride, and by 1pm on Thursday for rides the following Monday. The Coventry Rides Program is funded with grants from the CT Department of Transportation and the Town of Coventry.

**WRTD – Dial-a-ride WRTD** (Windham Region Transit District) Dial-a-Ride services are available for Coventry-to-Coventry transit, as well as to the 9 towns within the Windham region. Reservations can be scheduled a minimum of one business day in advance and up to two weeks prior. To schedule a ride or for more information call 860-456-2223.

### KEEP THOSE NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS WITH OUR HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAMMING!

- **Get in those steps during one of our weekly group fitness class!** Classes meet every Monday-Thursday, all levels welcome; \$5.00 fee.
- **Podiatry Foot Care** from Colchester Foot Specialists is available quarterly by appointment at the Center with Dr. Anthony Morgan. 2023 Schedule: 2/16, 4/27, 7/6, 9/14, 11/30
- Treat yourself and schedule a professional **haircut or massage** - monthly appointments are available.

### Check out these other programs:

- **Book Club** meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 1 PM.
- **Tech Tuesday**, the 3rd Tuesday of each month, by appointment. Did you get a new device as a gift and need help getting started? Bring device, charging cords and instruction manuals!
- **Tax Preparation**, 2/15, 3/10, 3/17, 3/31 at the Lodge. AARP provides free tax preparation assistance for middle to low-income taxpayers, with special attention to people aged 60 and over. Appointments available from 9 AM - noon. Call 860-742-5324 to schedule your appointment. Valid ID and proof of Social Security required.

# Coventry Public Schools

**COVENTRY BOARD OF EDUCATION:** The Board of Education members are Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairperson; Eugene Marchand, Vice-Chairperson; Mary Kortmann, Secretary; Peter DePaola; Emma Eaton; Courtney Rossignol; and Christina Williams.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS:** The Board of Education generally meets on the second and last Thursday of each month. The regularly scheduled meetings for 2023 are as follows: January 12, January 26, February 9, February 23, March 9, March 30, April 27, May 11, May 25, June 8, June 29, July 27, August 31, September 14, September 28, October 12, October 26, November 9, November 30, and December 14. Unless noted on the agenda, all meetings are held in the Administration Building Conference Room at 7:00 p.m. and can be viewed on Channel 194.

## COVENTRY BOARD OF EDUCATION GOALS:

It is the mission of the Coventry Public Schools to prepare every student for life, learning and work in the 21st century. Embracing this vision, we began the 2022-2023 school year with a continued focus on technology initiatives, instructional improvement, and creating a learning environment where students and staff feel safe and respected. Goals for each school administrator are in support of the Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools' goals for Coventry Public Schools. Below are a few highlights from the Superintendent's goals for the 2022-2023 school year:

### 1. Identify, define, and measure the critical skills and attributes that are required for success and align systems to continuously improve student performance and achievement.

- Continue the process of disaggregating Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC), the Next Generation Science Standards Assessment (NGSS), and the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) data to inform pedagogy, curriculum revisions, pacing, and the refinement of practices related to integration of formative and performance based assessments into teaching and learning.
- Develop improvement plans in Grades 6 and 8 to address mathematics achievement as measured by performance on the SBAC and in Grade 11 to address science achievement as measured by performance on the NGSS.
- Continue to bolster programs Pre-K through 12 to provide opportunities to grow achievement in high performing students and explore enhancements to the Challenge and Enrichment Program.
- Continue to promote Coventry's specialized programs to attract out-of-district tuition students as a revenue stream to support conservative budgets.
- Begin the adoption of the large-scale changes involved in migrating students' Individualized Education Programs (IEP) and 504 plans, to the newly mandated Connecticut Special Education Data System (CT-SEDS), including providing professional development for changes related to practice.
- Continue to evaluate and refine interventions in reading and math to support academic recovery by incorporating additional researched based interventions and programs as needed to improve student learning.
- Explore the possibility of resuming educational visits to support partnerships with schools in China.
- Complete the NAEYC re-accreditation process at the Hale Early Education Center (HEEC) by demonstrating HEEC's continued adherence and commitment to the highest level of early childhood classroom and program standards.

**OPEN DOOR MEETINGS:** Open communication is a key component for true collaboration. All parents and community members are invited to keep informed about education in our town by attending any of the Superintendent's remaining Open Door Meetings this school year:

- Wednesday, January 25, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. – budget focused

These meetings will be held via Zoom. The link is provided on the Coventry Public Schools website under District, Superintendent, Open Door Meetings (<https://www.coventrypublicschools.org/district/superintendent/open-door-meetings>). If you are unable to attend one of these scheduled events, but would still like to meet, please phone our office at 860-742-7317, Ext. 2.

## COVENTRY BOARD OF EDUCATION GOALS, continued:

### 2. Maintain and promote a positive and respectful learning community.

- Expand curriculum at each school to include at least two experiential learning opportunities that focus on character development and fostering values, attitudes, and actions that promote a welcoming and accepting school climate to discourage bullying behaviors.
- Continue to support the Open Choice program and continue efforts to reduce racial, ethnic, and economic isolation and develop a more diversified student body.

### 3. Recruit, retain, and develop high quality staff at every level.

- Continue recruitment of a diverse candidate pool for hiring and utilize grant funding to continue initiatives with staff related to diversity, inclusion, and culturally relevant pedagogy to support inclusive teaching practices and inclusive school climates that are welcoming to all staff and students.
- Identify the need for teacher training on aspects of differentiation of instruction and provide professional development to maximize student learning.

## EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS AND INFORMATION

**CLOSINGS, LATE OPENINGS, UNPLANNED EARLY RELEASES:** In addition to parents receiving messages through School Messenger, this information is posted on the district website, and Twitter. These announcements are also carried on radio stations WILI (98.3 FM, 1400AM), WTIC (96.5 FM, 1080AM), WRCH (100.5 FM), WZMX (93.7), WKSS (95.7), and WWYZ (92.5) and on the television stations WFSB Channel 3, WVIT Channel 30 (cable Channel 4), and WTNH Channel 8.

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:** Flexible hours/days with a wide variety of experiences.

### Teacher, Para-Educator, and School Nurse

**Substitutes:** Please visit our website at <https://www.coventrypublicschools.org/district/human-resources> for additional information.

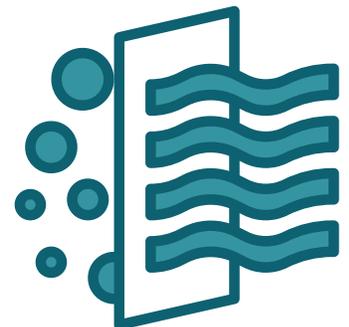
**Cafeteria Substitutes:** Call Beth Pratt at 860-742-4535.

**Bus Drivers/Substitutes:** Call M & J Bus Co. at 860-742-0344.



The microgrid project is still being fine-tuned. A significant Federal grant was requested to lower the local cost and new operators are considering the project.

Working collaboratively with school staff and officials, the Town is seeking funding to **enhance air quality at Coventry High School**. The State is requiring local authorization for the project and a vote is scheduled for January 10, 2023. The Town Council has committed that if we do not get the grant, the project would be narrowed back to the original scope and not include expanded air conditioning.





**\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*  
POSTAL PATRON  
COVENTRY, CT 06238**

COVENTRY TOWN NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2023

## Town Manager's Message

*Continued from Page 2*

Our Open Spaces working group helped improve walking trail markers with upgrades and signage, sponsored by Eastern Highlands Health District in the Laidlaw Park, Woodmont Road area. Staff submitted a Sustainability drainage grant (*see the Land Use page*) to address increasing rainfall, which last year damaged three culverts. Your staff continues to excel in trying to fund essential needs through outside funding sources.

### Projects Update:

#### LOTICIP (A100% State-funded grant program):

- Rt. 44/Swamp Road, and South Street/Homestead are substantially complete with only spring touch-up work needed.
- We are interviewing engineering firms for the South Street/Swamp Road reconstruction project with construction likely in 2023.
- We are waiting for permission to hire engineers for the Daly Road reconstruction project.
- The next LOTICIP grant application will be submitted to complete Daly to and including the roundabout. We should find out in late spring if it is selected.



### Other Projects:

- **Miller Richardson:** Softball Field #1 is waiting for spring for completion. Softball Field #2 will be out to bid soon for spring construction. State bond money projects are being refined by the Recreation Commission for spring/summer construction.
- **Hop River Bridge:** The Town and State are in discussion on this project. Due to permit delays, the project has been delayed until the summer of 2024. Some prep work may occur this summer.
- **Nathan Hale Trails grant:** Work started on the Hale Forest Trails grant to fix up the Nathan Hale and Bear Swamp recreational right-of-ways. The final product will be a six-foot-wide stone dust path connecting the Homestead to Bear Swamp Road in Andover, which will allow a share-the-road access to the Hop River Trail with a safe Rt. 6 crosswalk light on Long Hill Road.
- **The Main Street Connectivity Project** was put on hold for the major road projects but plans will be finalized and bid for spring construction.
- In conjunction with CT Water, the Town submitted **two major water supply grant and loan applications** to allow interconnection and water supply to the South Street area and also the Upton subdivision and South Street Extension. These projects are complex and it is likely a community vote will be required before proceeding. Much more to come over the next several months.

*Left: Another view of the pedestrian improvements along South Street from the roundabout to the Nathan Hale Homestead. Photo by Laura Stone.*