



Town Manager's Message:

March madness is about more than basketball. The Town will be very busy with budget, construction, grants, and the process to hire a new Town Manager.

Let me start with the proposed budget. The Manager's proposed budget is scheduled for release on March 6, and a public presentation/hearing is scheduled for 7:00

PM on March 9 in the high school lecture hall. The Board of Education has already forwarded their requested operating budget at 3.89% (\$1,111,869 increase). The full budget will be impacted by high inflationary increases, loss of State aid for education (projected), unresolved ambulance expenses, and the end of Federal aid for COVID impacts. We ask that you stay involved and learn about the issues and make suggestions on priorities.

The schedule calls for the Council to complete the budget no later than April 3 for an Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, April 22 at 10:00 AM in the high school Veterans Auditorium, and vote on Tuesday, May 2, 6 AM - 8 PM in the two fire houses.

We are also scurrying around on grants and capital projects. The warm weather has allowed work on softball field #1 to resume, and we just got the State's authorization to put softball field #2 out to bid. (We are still waiting on the State for the other Miller Richardson project.)

For detailed information about Town projects, see the bi-monthly [Town Manager's Project Update memo](#) on the Town website. Some key highlights:

- **The Library renovation project** is moving full steam ahead after staffing and supply chain delays. March will be very busy and the Library will be relocating their services to Mill Brook Place during March to avoid construction conflicts (see the Library section below.)
- CT Water will be working to get the **Pilgrim Hills subdivision project** started, with water mains first.
- **Sewers will be extended** from Bolton into Coventry along Rt. 44 with the receipt of a \$1.2 million grant, allowing more opportunities for existing/new businesses, and housing. Design work this year.

- The [Senior and Affordable Housing Committee](#) will be kicking off to address areas of significant need.
- We welcomed **two new business**, Scrub Scraps and Woke Breakfast, to Coventry Village and many other businesses which will fill in existing spaces are in the pipeline.
- Many **grant applications** are in the works, including microgrid, HVAC for CHS, aerial ladder truck, safety/ADA, trails, road and sidewalk improvements, bridge repair/replacement, sewer expansion and more.

Kudos to Town staff: DPW employee Erik Johansen received a promotion to Mechanic 2, Police Officer Robert Dexter was promoted to Sergeant, and our Finance Office received a Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from [GFOA](#) for the 13th year in a row.

Thanks for sharing your love of Coventry during our recent campaign. Responses can be viewed on the Town Manager's [Facebook page](#).

So, a busy month is ahead, but despite the workload we expect great progress.

UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS:

- Mon, 3/6: [Town Council](#) meeting 7:30 PM
- Thurs, 3/9: [Manager's Budget Hearing](#), CHS Lecture Hall, 7:00 PM
- Mon, 3/13: [Planning & Zoning Commission](#), 7 PM
- Tues, 3/20: Town Council meeting 7:30 PM
- Mon, 3/27: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 PM
- Thurs, 3/30: Board of Education, 7:00 PM



For a complete monthly calendar of other Board & Commission events, click [here](#).



COMING EVENTS:

*National Vietnam War
Veterans Day Ceremony:
March 29*

Weds 3/1: **Mobile Foodshare**, 10-10:30 AM, First Congregational Church @ St. Mary's, 1600 Main Street. An outdoor food distribution service for persons of low income. Text FOODSHARE to 85511 to receive the mobile schedule and cancellations directly on your phone. More [info](#).

Fri 3/3 & 3/17: **BINGO Night**, first and third Fridays of the month, doors open at 5 PM, BINGO starts at 6 PM. First Congregational Church, 1171 Main Street. Presented by the American Legion Post 52. 50¢ entry fee, must be 18 or older to play. Raffles, prizes and refreshments available. [Email](#) for info.

Fri 3/3: **Quiet Corner Contra Dance**, 8-11 PM, intro lesson at 7:45. Patriots Park Lodge, 172 Lake Street. Adults \$12, students \$6. Partner not necessary. Wear soft-soled shoes and light layered clothes. Mask optional sign in/waiver required. Music by the Wild Notes. Dances called by Don Heinold. Info, contact Dennis: knowdj@frontier.com. [Website](#).

Sun 3/5: **Coventry Winter Farmers' Market**, 10 AM - 12:30 PM, Coventry High School, 78 Ripley Hill Road. Over 30 vendors featuring everything from locally-grown produce, freshly-baked goods, and hand-crafted items. [Website](#).

Tues 3/7, Sat 3/11: **50% off Sale - games, puzzles, toys, CDs and DVDs**, 9 AM - 11 AM Tues, 9 AM - 1 PM Sat, Noah's Closet, 1746 Boston Turnpike. Children's clothing (newborn to size 10), coats, toys, puzzles, and games. Donations of children's clothing is welcome on Tuesdays 9-11 AM and Saturdays 9 AM-1 PM. Call Saturday for more information, 860-742-1616. [Website](#).

Sat 3/11: **Corned Beef & Cabbage Family Dinner**, 5-6:30 PM, St. Mary Church Hall, 1600 Main Street. Join St. Jude Council for corned beef & cabbage, Red Bliss potatoes, carrots, bread and butter, dessert, and coffee, tea, hot chocolate, or lemonade. \$20. Tickets sold at the door. Take-out available. Reservations not required. More info: Rick Parr, rick.parr@hotmail.com or 860-742-9818 (before 3/11) or Dan Garafola at dgarafola.smpc@live.com.

Sun 3/12: **Coventry Winter Farmers' Market**, 10 AM - 12:30 PM, Coventry High School, 78 Ripley Hill Road. Over 30 vendors featuring everything from locally-grown produce, freshly-baked goods, and hand-crafted items. [Website](#).

Weds 3/15: **Mobile Foodshare**, 10-10:30 AM, First Congregational Church @ St. Mary's, 1600 Main Street. An outdoor food distribution service for persons of low income. Text FOODSHARE to 85511 to receive the mobile schedule and cancellations directly on your phone. More [info](#).

Thurs 3/16: **"A Walk Down Caprilands Memory Lane" - Coventry Historical Society's Stew & Story**, 6:30 PM, Second Congregational Church Community House, 1746 Boston Turnpike. Join the CHS for this annual program, which will feature a variety of homemade soups and stews, appetizers, breads, desserts, and drinks. Some of the recipes will come from their collection of Adelmia Grenier Simmons' Caprilands books. Enjoy conversations among former employees about what it was like to work at Caprilands Herb Farm during the golden years of that remarkable place. \$5 for members, \$15 non-members payable at

the door. Registration required, RSVP with number attending by [email](#) or 860-712-4278. More info on [Facebook](#).

Sat 3/18: **Corned Beef & Cabbage Drive Thru/Take-out Dinner**, Second Congregational Church of Coventry, 1746 Boston Turnpike. Menu: corned beef and cabbage, potatoes, carrots, and dessert. \$16 adults, \$9 children. Place orders at 860-742-1616 or [email](#) and indicate pick-up time of 5 PM, 5:30 PM, or 6 PM. Correct amount of cash or check required. Drive down from church parking lot the the Community House located across from Highland Park.

Sun 3/19: **Coventry Winter Farmers' Market**, 10 AM - 12:30 PM, Coventry High School, 78 Ripley Hill Road. Over 30 vendors featuring everything from locally-grown produce, freshly-baked goods, and hand-crafted items **LAST WINTER MARKET OF THE SEASON. STOCK UP ON YOUR FAVORITES UNTIL THE SUMMER MARKET BEGINS IN JUNE!** [Website](#).

Tues 3/21 & Sat 3/25: **50% off winter clothing**, 9 AM - 11 AM Tues, 9 AM - 1 PM Sat, Noah's Closet, 1746 Boston Turnpike. Children's clothing (newborn to size 10), coats, toys, puzzles, and games. Donations of children's clothing is welcome on Tuesdays 9-11 AM and Saturdays 9 AM-1 PM. Call Saturday for more information, 860-742-1616. [Website](#).

Weds 3/29: **Mobile Foodshare**, 10-10:30 AM, First Congregational Church @ St. Mary's, 1600 Main Street. An outdoor food distribution service for persons of low income. Text FOODSHARE to 85511 to receive the mobile schedule and cancellations directly on your phone. More [info](#).

Weds 3/29: **Council Chair's office hours**, 5-6 PM, Town Hall Conference Room B, 1712 Main Street. Ask questions and share feedback with Town Council Chairwoman Lisa Thomas during this monthly session.

Weds 3/29: **National Vietnam War Veterans Day Ceremony**, 5 - 5:30 PM, Veterans Memorial Green, 172 Lake Street. Join a ceremony to honor and remember our Vietnam War veterans at the CT Vietnam Memorial Monument. Guest speaker: Commissioner Thomas Saadi, CT Dept. of Veterans Affairs. Pay-as-you go refreshments immediately following at Lakeview Restaurant. If attending at the restaurant, please RSVP to Jamie by Monday, March 27 to secure appropriate seating. Email: VietnamWarVeteransDay@gmail.com, or call 860-985-2064.

Fri 3/31: **Drive-through Food Distribution**, 10-11 AM, Coventry Town Hall, front driveway. For residents in need of food. Proof of residency required. Contact Human Services Department for more information, (860) 742-5324.

COVENTRY PARKS & RECREATION:

Camp Wangumbaug 2023 – Registration opens March 1st! To register and for more information [click here](#).

Kids Running Club – NEW!

- For kids in grades 3-5, 3:30pm-4:40pm
- Mondays & Fridays, 3/27 – 6/2 @ GHR Gym
- \$95 Per Child, Register [click here](#)



Upcoming Spring Programs for Kids – For more information & to register, [click here](#)

- Ninjaneering w/LEGO® Materials
- Art-Ventures: Around the World
- Mad Science: Space & Beyond
- Skyhawks Flag Football

Summer Jobs: Applications available NOW through March 30th

- Camp Director
- Camp Counselors
- Lifeguards/WSI
- Park Maintainers
- Gatekeepers

Apply Online @ <https://www.coventryct.org/Jobs.aspx>



PROJECT GRADUATION SEEKING DONATIONS:

Coventry Project Graduation is a fun and safe event for our graduating seniors. The goal is to provide an exciting, fast-paced, all-night party that is free of alcohol and drugs, where students can celebrate their achievement in a truly safe environment. Additionally, this is an all-night event that keeps our students off the roads on an evening that traditionally has a higher risk of motor vehicle accidents.

All expenses are covered by Coventry Project Graduation volunteer fundraising and community donations, and your generous support is appreciated! Please mail checks payable to "Coventry Project Graduation", 78 Ripley Hill Rd, Coventry CT 06238. Donations also accepted through Venmo: @CHSProjectGraduationCT, and GoFundMe: "Coventry Project Graduation - Class of 2023". Contact Denise Twerdy at denni515@charter.net with questions.



KEEPING IT GREEN - GENTLE HINTS FOR RECYCLING

Want to know about what's IN and what's OUT for recycling in Coventry? take a look

at recyclelect.com or www.scrarra.org. These websites will let you ask about a specific item or material. Or, download the free SCRRA app to your smart device, or contact Coventry Public Works at 860-742-

6588. Recycling saves our Town money and is good for the environment. In general, all recycled items should be **empty, rinsed out, clean, and open**. Do not shred, box, bag or bundle items.

March Recycling Focus – Plastic (part #4): Cups, plates, bowls, utensils, bags, packaging from food delivery services, and other compostable or biodegradable plastic are NOT recyclable in Connecticut. Consider composting them with other organic materials. Otherwise, place these items in the trash.

This message is a public outreach effort by the Town of Coventry's Energy Conservation/Alternative Energy Advisory Committee. For more information about the committee, see this [link](#).

COVENTRY HUMAN SERVICES:

EXTRA SNAP BENEFITS TO END:

In March 2023, the additional COVID-19 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits people have been receiving during the public health emergency will come to an end, and the monthly benefit amount will return to the normal amount. There will be no second deposit in the middle of the month. For additional details [click here](#).



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. Some Sewer Use fee aid is also available to income-qualified households.

Appointments can be made at the ACCESS, Inc. (Willimantic area) (860) 450-7400 or online at 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

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 expiration dates.***



NEWS FROM THE BOOTH & DIMOCK MEMORIAL LIBRARY:

The Booth & Dimock Memorial Library is moving to Mill Brook Place! The library will be closed March 2-7 while we move down the street to Mill Brook Place, 1267 Main Street (located in the stone building across the street from The Bidwell Tavern). The Library will be open March 8 - March 31 at Mill Brook Place Wednesday 10-3,

Thursday 10-3, and Friday 1-6. We are offering a small selection of browsing materials, programs for all ages, full inter-library loan services, reference services, and general library assistance. Wi-fi will be available, but we will not be able to offer public computers, copying, faxing, or printing. Additionally, book returns can only be made at Mill Brook Place during our open hours, and not during construction times (8 AM - 3 PM) at the Library. Don't worry, there are no late fees.

Check out our March Programming Schedule! All programs happening at Mill Brook Place!

- March 9 at 11am - Sing, Stomp, & Story! Pre-School aged children and caregivers are invited to join Miss Christa for a monthly themed music and movement program.
- March 10 at 4pm - Friday Crafternoon! This all age program will be offered weekly on Fridays at 4pm. Join us for the first installment as we make Donut Magnets.
- March 15 at 11am - Paws and Pages Story Time. Join us for a special story time program with the CT human Society. Sign up is required and can be done by calling or visiting the library.
- March 17 at 4pm - Friday Crafternoon, Fabric Collage
- March 23 at 11am - Book Banter! Adults are welcome to come and chat about what you've been reading. This may be the start of a new book club!
- March 24 at 4pm - Friday Crafternoon, Bird Feeders
- March 31 at 4pm - Friday Crafternoon, Sun Catchers

Keep an eye out for more programs or take & make activities!

Booth & Dimock Memorial Library
Mailing Address: 1134 Main Street
March Physical Location: Mill Brook Place 1267 Main Street
Phone: 860-742-7606
Email: bdlibrary@coventryct.org
Website: www.coventrypl.org
Facebook [@BDLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/BDLibrary)



COVER PHOTO:

Pedestrian safety improvements along South Street from the rotary to the Nathan Hale Homestead are complete and should look great this spring. Photo by Laura Stone.

To list your non-profit organization's event in this bulletin, contact Laura Stone by [email](mailto:laura@coventrypl.org) by the 15th of the previous month.

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