

SPRING 2023



TOWN NEWS



IN THIS ISSUE

**BUDGET IN BRIEF -
CENTER SECTION**

**TOWN MANAGER UPDATE -
PAGE 2**

BUILDING PERMITS - PAGE 5

**TRASH & RECYCLING -
PAGE 14**

**FOOD & RENTAL ASSISTANCE
- PAGE 16**

SENIOR CENTER - PAGE 17

**LEGAL NOTICE: ANNUAL
TOWN MEETING - BACK COVER**

**HOLIDAY CLOSINGS
MEMORIAL DAY - MAY 29
INDEPENDENCE DAY - JULY 4
LABOR DAY - SEPTEMBER 4**

Message from Lisa Thomas, Town Council Chairwoman

Happy spring! The Town Council extends warm wishes to all of you who make Coventry a special place to live.

We often think of spring as a time of new beginnings. In Coventry we are grateful for so many new opportunities and ventures on our horizon. Some of those include ribbon cutting ceremonies for two brand new Main Street businesses, Scrub Scraps and Woke Breakfast & Coffee, green grass sprouting on our 2 newly constructed youth softball fields, improvements at Miller Richardson Park, new recreation trails, completion of major infrastructure projects, and completion of the library renovation.

Perhaps the biggest “new beginning” for our town will be the selection of a new Town Manager. Our current Town Manager, John Elsesser, will retire at the end of June. He has served Coventry - and the entire State of CT - with great dedication during his 35 years here. The Town Council’s goals pledge to “Develop a transition plan that ensures a transparent hiring process for the next Town Manager, keeping the needs of our community foremost and making it a non-partisan process.” To that end, we hired a search consultant who held community input forums, established a dedicated email for community input (Randi@RandiFrank.com), met with boards and commissions, and with town staff to develop a profile of what Coventry wants in its next Town Manager. We will continue to share information on our progress.

Our town staff, Board of Education and the Town Council are working hard to develop the FY2024 budget. The Council’s first two adopted goals are to Work Collaboratively with Town of Coventry Boards and the “budget in brief” in this newsletter.

Above: Eagleville Dam in the spring. Photo by Laura Stone.

-Continued Page 2

Council Chairwoman's Message

Continued from Page 1

I am pleased to share that the Council is achieving and making progress towards its goals. Some highlights in addition to the progress shared above include:

- Bringing back to Coventry \$1,000,000 tax dollars through the Bonding Commission and a STEAP grant to construct 2 softball fields for our Youth Softball Program and complete other ADA and Title IX enhancements at Miller Richardson Park.
- We adopted a policy exempting childcare providers, both standalone centers and in-home, 100% from the local property tax. In a time when Connecticut has a severe shortage of childcare slots, this was a critical step to take. This supports working families and high quality childcare.
- We established a permanent committee on Senior and Affordable Housing to make sure that all generations are able to find homes they can afford in our beautiful town.
- We hired a new Police Chief using community input on the traits you wanted in our Police Chief. We also created a Captain position on our force in order to provide our officers with greater ability to advance their careers in Coventry.
- The Town Council has submitted testimony in support of restoring essential services at Windham Hospital and other northeastern CT hospitals. This includes restoration of labor and delivery care at three area hospitals. As Council Chairwoman, I have met regularly with members of the legislature's Public Health Committee and with the State Comptroller on this issue.
- We have supported ongoing maintenance of our recreation trails, including successfully applying for grant funding to purchase equipment and enhancements. In addition, the Council was quick to support actions needed to address an unexpected blue algae bloom in Coventry Lake.

These highlights are just a small sampling of the many accomplishments in our town this year. It is amazing just how much problem solving we and town staff were able to do in order to keep Coventry on a stable path and maintain services during a challenging post-pandemic economy. Our gratitude goes out to every single Coventry resident for helping these efforts.

Respectfully,
Lisa Thomas, Town Council Chairwoman

Town Manager's Message

I am happy to share a great deal of news in limited space. The Town, due to the efforts of your excellent staff, has done an amazing job of bringing in State and Federal grants for infrastructure projects. We just received word of two more 100% funded bridge replacements, additional support for the proposed microgrid project, and much more. Details of these many projects can be viewed under Town Manager reports on the Archive section of the Town website at <https://www.coventryct.org/290/Archives>. These grants reduce your future property tax dollars and add to the quality of life in our community.

It is also budget time, and once again, the community will be asked to vote on the proposed budget for fiscal year 2023/24. Please take time to voice your opinion, and take a few minutes to read the Budget in Brief contained in the center section of this newsletter.

We also continue to work with regional partners to gain efficiency in service provision. As a small town, we have made large impact on statewide issues such as school air quality and aid for infrastructure.

On a personal note, this will be my last newsletter column, as I am scheduled to retire July 1. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your Manager under many Town Council members. With the dedicated commitment of countless volunteers serving on Coventry Boards and Commissions and other citizens groups, the Town has an enriched sense of community. It starts with a vision and then moves on to action. I take particular pride in the transformation of the Village, which was a Town Council vision when I was hired in 1988, and we were slowly able to make progress ... with more to come. I have always encouraged starting with a vision so that we can find a path forward by working together.

I want to thank you for your support over the years. I think together we all have worked to make Coventry a better place to live and to grow.

Sincerely,

John A. Elsesser
Town Manager



**Above right: Coventry Village Sunrise.
Photo by Tim Ackert.**

Town Clerk's Office

JUNE DOG LICENSING – MAIL OR USE DROP BOX

Want faster processing?? Enclose a self-addressed envelope.

COVENTRY'S TOP DOG - Mail or drop off your license renewals along with the appropriate fee in the month of **May** and your dog's name will be entered into a drawing for the most desired **#1** tag. Coventry's Top Dog will also receive their license for **FREE!** **Send your entry between May 1st- 31st** and the winner will be notified **June 1st**. All other license entries will be processed accordingly and mailed out in the beginning of June.

- Along with payment include **current rabies certificate, proof of spay/neuter and a self-addressed stamped envelope**. GOOD LUCK!!!
- \$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.
- Licenses will not be sold until June 1st.
- Check your dog's rabies expiration date. If that date has expired, **PROOF OF A CURRENT RABIES VACCINATION** will be required to renew your dog's license.
- Help us keep our records current- If there are any changes in your dog's registration status (spay/neuter, death, change of address) please update the clerk's office at 860-742-7966, or email ltollmann@coventryct.org.

Remember a license is your lost dog's ticket home.

OFFICE CLOSED: The Town Clerk's office will be closed on April 20th from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm and all day on April 21st so that staff may attend a conference. Please plan accordingly. Thank you.

COMINGS AND GOINGS & STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Welcome to **Amber Clancy**, Senior Center Assistant, **Corey Wesoloskie**, Police Officer, and **Mark St. Germain**, Engineering Technician. Congratulations to **Bob Dexter** on his promotion to Sergeant with the Coventry Police Department, and to Officer **Olaph Anderson**, who was recently selected to be a member of the regional emergency response team, C.R.E.S.T. - Capital Region Emergency Services Team. Farewell to **Mindy Gosselin**, Inland Wetlands Agent, who has left Town employment to join the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. Farewell also to **Caterina Merriam**, Recreation Supervisor, who has left to become an Assistant Recreation Director for the Town of Enfield.



ANNUAL RABIES CLINIC

Saturday May 6, 2023 10am -12pm

Captain Nathan Hale School

1776 Main Street, Coventry

\$20 per animal

Dogs must be on leashes, cats in carriers. Proof of previous vaccination required for 3-year dose.

FISHING!!

All adults need to have a license to fish.

- Children under the age of 16 do not need a license to fish. **Parents, please note: If you will be handling your child's fishing pole or baiting the line, Connecticut Law requires that you carry a current fishing license.**

Consult the *2023 Connecticut Angler's Guide* for updates on CT DEEP regulations and other useful information online at www.ct.gov/deep. Be advised that CT DEEP is no longer printing the angler's guides that were in the Town Clerk's Offices.

2023 fishing licenses are available at the Town Clerk's office or online at CT DEEP.

- Trout/Salmon Stamp-\$5
- Hunting/ Inland Fishing-\$38
- Inland Fishing license-\$28
- All Waters Inland and Marine Fishing-\$32
- All Waters Hunting & Fishing -\$40
- Non-Resident Fishing licenses are also available at \$22 for a 3-day pass or \$55 for season license.
- **Lifetime licenses** are available free of charge to persons over 65. (Requires annual renewal)

Connecticut DEEP Bureau of Natural Resources has a Facebook page! It's *Connecticut Fish and Wildlife* and has lots of information on upcoming events, facts and beautiful pictures sent in by Facebook friends enjoying the outdoors. Check it out!

Land Use Office

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

ADOPT A ROAD PROGRAM

The Coventry Conservation Commission and Land Use Office continue to sponsor the Adopt a Road program for the community. The program entails 'adopting' a portion or all of a Town road and pick up the roadside trash that accumulates. Residents can do as much as they like and at their own pace. Free standard garbage bags are available in the Land Use Office and can be disposed of at the Public Works Garage at no charge once a citizen is registered in the program.

COVENTRY AND EAGLEVILLE LAKES ZONE PAVING PROJECTS

Property owners who intend to perform paving projects in the Coventry and Eagleville Lakes region involving driveways, walkways, patios or other areas are encouraged to inquire with the Land Use Office about impervious surface requirements that exist in the Zoning Regulations. Impervious surfaces are ones that do not allow for the percolation of surface water, such as structures and bituminous paving. The zoning regulations contain limits on how much area can be covered by impervious surfaces in order to manage the stormwater that is generated which ultimately affects the environmental health of the Lakes. The unpermitted installation of a paved surface on a lot can impact the future ability to perform other construction projects. Copies of the regulations are available on the Town's website on the Land Use Office page.

CONNECTICUT'S COUNTRYSIDE

In late 2022, the Towns of Bolton, Coventry, Mansfield, and Tolland launched 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. This is an important step in implementing the Action Plan for Economic Vitality prepared in 2020 by AdvanceCT for the Towns of Bolton, Coventry, Mansfield in Tolland, in collaboration with the CT Department of Community & Economic Development. The Plan provides guidance on how the region possesses a significant opportunity to serve as a desirable destination to dine, shop and play, based upon its distinctive combination of resources across the four towns. These resources include outdoor recreation, agriculture and agri-tourism, culture and entertainment, higher education institutions, and small businesses and entrepreneurs. In January 2023, a Four Town Summit was held with nearly 60 attendees representing a wide variety of stakeholders from each town, as well as other regional partners. A presentation was provided that detailed all the accomplishments since the Plan was completed two years ago. Break-out sessions were conducted to gain guidance and feedback on priorities that will be executed in the coming months. A video of the forum, copy of the Plan, details on the accomplishments and priorities can be viewed by visiting the Land Use Page on the Town of Coventry website.

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY STUDY COMMITTEE

In February 2023, the first meeting of the Ad-Hoc Senior and Affordable Housing Alternatives Study Committee was convened. This Council appointed volunteer Committee will be working with the Land Use Office and Human Services Office to review the completed Senior Housing Alternative Study Committee Report and Town of Coventry Housing Affordability Plan and move forward with the various recommendations contained in those resources. Also, the Committee will review concepts, potential locations, funding sources, evaluate potential partners and other informational needs. The overall goal of the Committee is to encourage the establishment of more housing affordability options for all citizens in Coventry. Copies of the Report and Plan can be found on the Land Use page of the Town of Coventry website.



HOP RIVER TRAIL ALLIANCE

In June 2022, 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 amongst the member towns, such as maintenance, trail improvements, expanding connectivity to other open space amenities/ businesses, and marketing the value of the Trail in the region. The Alliance has completed and submitted an application seeking nonprofit (501-c3) status. In March 2023, the Alliance prepared a submitted a State of CT DEEP Recreational Trails to install trail signage and mile marker signage along the trail which will assist with public safety response on the Trail. More details are to come as the newly formed Alliance continues the momentum it has created in 2022. Volunteers are welcome to be involved in the projects planned for the coming year!

RID LITTER WEEKEND - APRIL 22 & 23:

To coincide with Earth Day celebrations, the Coventry Conservation Commission encourages residents to do roadside cleanups along their properties and neighborhoods to remove trash or litter that may have accumulated over the winter. This is a great opportunity for civic groups. Free garbage bags available at the Land Use office.

Building Department

BENEFITS OF A PERMIT:

What is a Building Permit? A building permit gives you legal permission to start construction of a building project in accordance with approved drawings and specifications. **When Do You Need a Permit?** The best way to find out if you need a permit is to call us at 860-742-4064 and discuss your plans before beginning construction.

Permits are usually required for the following:

- New Buildings (and any related mechanical permits related to the project)
- Additions (bedrooms, bathrooms, family rooms, etc. and any related mechanical permits related to the project)
- Residential Work (foundation replacement, decks, garages, fireplaces, pools, sheds, etc.)
- Renovations (basement or garage conversions, kitchen expansions, Roofing, Siding, Windows, Doors etc.)
- Electrical Systems
- Plumbing Systems (water heaters, etc.)
- HVAC (heating, ventilating and air-conditioning, oil tanks) systems
- Gas (setting/replacing tanks, piping, etc.)
- Commercial (remodels/renovations/repairs, tenant fit out for new ownership, etc. and any related mechanical permits related to the project)

Remember: Your home or business is an investment. If your construction project does not comply with the adopted codes, the value of your investment could be reduced. Property insurers may not cover work done without permits and inspections. If you decide to sell a home or building that has had modifications without a permit, you may be required to tear down the addition, leave it unoccupied or make costly repairs. Your permit also allows the code official to protect the public by reducing the potential hazards of unsafe construction and ensuring public health, safety and welfare. By following code guidelines, the completed project will meet minimum standards of safety and will be less likely cause injury to you, your family, your friends or future owners.

PERMITTING ONLINE: We are rapidly entering our busiest time of year. Please contact our office to discuss your project and to get the materials you will need for your permitting submittal online. Typically, if there aren't any submittal issues or land placement issues, review and approvals from multiple departments take approximately 2-3 weeks. Any work and inspections need to have a fully issued permit to move forward. As always, we have the computer kiosk and scanner in our office to assist you with your application process. You just need to bring all the appropriate materials and submittals with you for us to assist (or in some cases, email us some of the PDF uploads before you come to the office for assistance). Please call our office at 860-742-4064 to discuss your upcoming project. To access the online permitting portal, go to: <https://coventryct.viewpointcloud.com>.

Do you need to access the Eastern Highland Health District for permitting?

They too are online with the same type of system (use the same username and password). Their online address is: <https://easternhighlandshealthdistrict.viewpointcloud.com>.



WANT YOUR BUILDING PLANS?

The Building Department is only responsible for retaining building plans on projects for a maximum of two (2) years. **So, if you have a new house that has had a Certificate of Use and Occupancy between July 1, 2019 to December 31, 2020,** and would like the Building Plans for it, please call Brigit at 860-742-4064 with your name, address & daytime phone number and we will contact you within a couple days to let you know if there are building plans available for pick up. At that time, you will be given 2 weeks to pick up the plans. Plans that are not picked up will be discarded under the State's disposal method. Permitting applications with plan submittals after December 31, 2020, is all electronic and plans are accessible through the online permitting portal.

Veterans Corner

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR SUSAN BYSIEWICZ VISITS COVENTRY

Connecticut's Lt Governor Susan Bysiewicz, accompanied by CT Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner Thomas Saadi, will be presenting special recognition to Coventry's Vietnam Veterans on Monday, April 24th, at the Veteran's Auditorium at 5 p.m. Town Council Chair, Lisa Thomas, is coordinating the ceremony.

Coventry is proud to honor over 200 Vietnam War veterans who call Coventry home. In 2014, the Town of Coventry was given the distinguished honor of being named a Purple Heart Town. Five of Coventry's veterans, who received the Purple Heart over several wars, were honored at the ceremony. One of these veterans, William Pearson, is a Vietnam War veteran.

It's important to all residents who are veterans to provide a copy of their DD-214 to the Town Clerk so we can communicate pertinent news and events. There are possible tax exemptions to veterans who submit their DD-214. Call 860-742-7966 for more information.



COVENTRY'S MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

The American Legion Post 52 will be hosting the annual Coventry Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 29th at 10 a.m. The Town of Coventry truly thankful for the Legionnaires and their commitment and fortitude to host the parade. They have a great ceremony planned that will take place at Veterans Memorial Park across from Patriots Park. The parade will regroup and continue to march down Main Street following the ceremony. Please come out and enjoy!

Memorial Day is reserved to celebrate and remember all those brave men and women who died while serving our great country. They are our heroes! But we must also take a moment to remember those who gallantly served in the military and came home but are no longer with us.

Come out and enjoy the parade and take time to "remember" our fallen, to honor the families they left behind, and to celebrate with friends and family for the freedom that they fought for. **Join the Lions Club from 7-10 a.m. at First Congregational Church on Main Street for a pancake breakfast while you wait for the parade. All proceeds go to benefit Coventry Lions service projects.**

Assessor's Office

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

The Elderly and Totally Disabled Homeowner Program Application Period is NOW Until May 15th!

The application period began on February 1st, and letters were mailed in January to those already on the program and due to reapply. To qualify, applicants must be 65 years old (or older) as of December 31, 2022, or Totally Disabled, and meet income requirements. 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 benefits and your adjusted gross income as filed on your 2022 Federal Income tax return. If you qualify for the State program you also qualify for the Town of Coventry tax credit or a tax deferral program as well. This benefit will be applied for the tax bills due July 1, 2023.

The Additional Veterans Program application period also began February 1, 2023 and applications are accepted until September 30, 2023. If not already filed, A DD214 must be filed with the Town Clerk prior to October 1st, 2023 to be eligible for this additional exemption. Those already in the program and due to refile should have received a letter from our office in January. This program is also income driven with the same income requirements as the Elderly Homeowners 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.

Assessment Data and Tax Maps

We are just beginning a major project to improve and access our online property information and tax maps this is also known as GIS (Geographic Information System). The work being done includes adding newly created parcels such as subdivisions and parcel splits; it also includes parcels that have been combined, correcting line errors and parcel shapes. Each parcel will have a link to a property record card, which includes current ownership and assessment. Again, this is a work in progress.

The link to this information is:

https://coventry.mapxpress.net/ags_map/

Questions?

**Please call 860-742-4067 or visit us at
<https://www.coventryct.org>.**

Tax Collector

Delinquent notices were mailed within the last few months for overdue taxes, sewer and COVRRRA/Trash bills. Intent to Lien notices for overdue Real Estate taxes, COVRRRA/Trash and Sewer Use charges will be mailed in March/April. Liens will be filed in April/May against those properties, which are not paid current. Sewer Assessment bills will be mailed the end of April. Due date for the first installment is May 1 and taxpayers have 30 days to pay before late charges apply.

Online Payments from the Tax Collector's page on the town's website www.coventryct.org. There is a link on the Tax Collector's page to pay online from your **bank account**. Webster bank processes those payments and there is no convenience fee, deadline 8pm. There is another link from the Tax Collector's page to pay by **credit card**. Point and Pay LLC processes debit & credit card payments. There is a convenience fee charged by Point and Pay for credit/debit card payments. Visa debit only is charged a flat rate of \$3.95. All other debit and all credit cards charged 2.75% (minimum \$2.00) fee. Please feel free to call the Tax Office before making your online payments and we will happy to assist.

Online Payments through your Bank/Financial Institution: We strongly discourage you from paying in this way. Your payment may not be mailed when you expect it to be & these payments come to us without a postmark. Please allow ample time for mail delivery to avoid interest charges or additional late fees.

Any individual needing an immediate **DMV clearance** in order to register any vehicle is reminded to pay by cash or a money order at the Tax Collector's office. Check payments may delay your DMV clearance up to ten (10) business days. Also, paying online by credit/debit card or bank account through the town's website can take up to seven (7) days to clear with DMV due to weekends and holidays. Please plan ahead & call us with any concerns or questions.

Most transactions can be conducted via the town's website, by phone, email and postal mail. This includes being able to print a paid receipt. We strongly encourage paying online at our website by mail or use the convenience of the drop box permanently installed inside the rear vestibule entrance to Town Hall. Please do not use the ballot box located outside for payments.

Citizens are reminded that the tipper barrels are owned by All American Waste, the Town's contracted hauler. The barrels must stay with the property to which they have been assigned. Each barrel is identified with a serial number for a specific property address. If you sell your house and /or move, **please do not take the barrels with you**. Your annual payment pays for the disposal/recycle service only.

The current fiscal year will end June 30, 2023. In accordance with state statutes, liens will be filed before the end of the current fiscal year against properties with any outstanding balances on real estate taxes and sewer use charge and Trash fees. Please contact this office if you have any questions concerning your accounts.

Questions? Please call 860-742-4066.

WANT TO CHANGE YOUR TIPPER BARREL SIZE?



In response to citizens' requests, we are offering the opportunity to exchange your tipper barrels at the reduced fee of \$25.

If you would like to swap, contact the Tax Office before May 17, 2023 at 860-742-4066. The swap order must be requested through the Tax Office and paid to All American Waste by **May 17, 2023** in order to receive this reduced price.

The swap will occur the last two weeks of June in conjunction with the billing cycle for the new fiscal year. Consider upsizing your recycle barrel. There is no increase in your annual bill for a larger recycle barrel.

PAYMENT DUE CALENDAR:

MAY – Sewer Assessment fee 1st installment.
JULY – Real Estate 1st installment; Motor Vehicle, COVRRRA and Personal Property **single** payment.
SEPTEMBER– Sewer Use Fee **single** payment.
NOVEMBER – Sewer Assessment fee 2nd installment.
JANUARY – Real Estate 2nd installment (we do not rebill) and Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax only if applicable.

Coming Soon!

COVENTRY FARMERS' MARKET

Mark your calendars for June 4 for the opening day of the 2023 Coventry Farmers' Market! We will be celebrating our 20th season this year and will be kicking it off with some special activities to recognize this landmark occasion. Also, we are excited to have our new Co-Market Managers, Heather Neal and Melissa Tremblay, joining us as we plan for the upcoming season. They were both hired late summer 2022 and jumped right into the excitement. Please visit the Market's website for more news and information at: www.coventryfarmersmarket.org.

ARTS ON MAIN

The Town of Coventry, Coventry Village Partners, Coventry Arts Guild, Coventry Cares, and other community stakeholders are excited to begin planning for the annual Arts on Main Street Fest that is scheduled for **September 16, from 11am to 3pm**. The event is a fun filled day for families and all ages held in Historic Coventry Village that celebrates artistic and creative expression in various forms. Plans include the following for this **FREE** event - live music entertainment, art vendors from around the region, a food truck court to compliment the restaurants that will be open during the event, a variety of free arts activities and much more. Village businesses will be having their own special offerings during the day as well. More details to come!

VISITORS CENTER OPENS: Located at 1195 Main Street in historic Coventry Village, The Visitors Center is open weekends 10 AM - 2 PM from May 6 through October. The Center is stocked with local memorabilia and travel brochures, and is operated entirely by volunteers. To volunteer, call Pat at 860-742-7847.



DAFFODIL BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT: Since this town-wide effort by the Village Improvement Society began in the early 1990's, 382,195 daffodil bulbs have been planted in Coventry! To order bulbs, call July at 860-214-9567.

CHURCH SANCTUARY VIEWING AND PROGRAM: Join the Coventry Historical Society on May 18 at 7pm, at First Congregational Church in the village, for a viewing of the reconstructed sanctuary after its 3 year closure, and a discussion on early Coventry church ministers. Guest speaker: Christian Cuthbert, who has studied early New England ministers including Jonathan Edwards, about whom he has put together a video series (<https://www.youtube.com/@exploringedwards8172/featured>). Dr. Cuthbert will help bring into perspective how some of Coventry's early ministers compared to New England ministry, in general. The program is free, and refreshments will follow the presentation.

News from Parks and Recreation

Registration OPEN for Summer Camp!

Camp Wangumbaug (Camp W) is a traditional day camp held at Patriots Park for children in Grades K - 6 (Fall of 2023). Children participate in group games, arts & crafts, swimming and more. Camp runs from 9am - 4pm with optional morning care and evening care hours available.

Specialty Camps Offered for Summer 2023:

Lego Camp
Volleyball Camp
Flag Football Camp
Basketball Camp
ArtVentures Camp
Soccer Camp
Multisport Camp
Food Explorers Camp
Mad Science Camp
Preschool Camp

Resident Beach Stickers go on sale starting May 1st. **NEW** for 2023: Resident Beach Stickers will be available for sale at the Parks and Rec Office at the Town Hall on three Saturdays in May. May 6th, May 13th, and May 20th from 9am - noon.



Family Fun Night in Patriots Park: June 15th and 29th. Head to Patriots Park on a Thursday evening for live entertainment - bring a picnic dinner, sit back and enjoy the show! These events are provided in partnership with Coventry Youth Services.

Spring Notes from the Coventry Lake Advisory & Monitoring Committee

Spring is here and soon Coventry Lake will again be a beehive of recreational fun. Summer of 2022 was a new experience as Coventry Lake had its first Public Health Warning restricting contact with the lake's waters due to a high level of toxic cyanobacteria (blue-green algae). Since that event, there has been an increased interest in monitoring the lake. Dr. Robert Kortmann, GZA Senior Consultant - Applied Limnologist, is concentrating his attention on the seasonality of the lake waters. The optimistic view in late winter 2023 by Dr. Kortmann is the lake waters are much clearer than at this same time in 2022 indicating less cyanobacteria in the water column.

Seasonal Fluctuations: In the summer of 2021, a hurricane and then three tropical storms occurred which resulted in a large post-turnover cyanobacteria bloom observed in October through November 2021. Once the very short winter ice on the lake melted in February 2022, observations revealed an abundance of cyanobacteria from the fall bloom remained in the water column. The warm spring weather caused the cyanobacteria to create a large toxic bloom by July 2022. This bloom, which caused the Public Health Warning restrictions, died off in less than 3 weeks as the main source of food, phosphorous, was at a low point of 13-15 µg/L (toxic blooms usually occur when the count is greater than 25 µg/L). The summer/fall of 2022 did not have the hurricane/tropical storm cycle as in 2021. Fall observations revealed only small amounts of cyanobacteria scum pockets on the lake waters.

Dr. Kortmann continues to watch the lake waters as spring approaches. The signs are positive so far: die off in summer of 2022, minor signs of cyanobacteria in the water in fall of 2022, a warmer winter but with some occasional icing in 2023, and continued very low phosphorous levels.

This winter, Dr. Kortmann has worked over the winter with Town of Coventry staff and Coventry Lake Advisory and Monitoring to plan to have more frequent eyes on the lake with a **co-op volunteer water monitoring program**.

Please be a part of this important program. If you see any algae blooms write to: coventrylakeadvisor@coventryct.org. Include: Name, date, location of bloom, and picture of the algae bloom. Coventry Lake Advisory & Monitoring would also appreciate the same information regarding any new or different aquatic plant growth you see. Watch for additional updates on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/245119282764856>.

Budget in Brief

Proposed Fiscal Year 2023/24 Budget
Town Meeting: Saturday April 22, 2023
 10:00 A.M. Veterans Auditorium,
 Coventry High School, Ripley Hill Road



Overview

Responding to the expectations of Coventry residents for better and more efficient services, Town and Board staff reviewed programs and services and prepared budget proposals that address the stated goals of the Town Council and Board of Education. Existing services have been maintained and infrastructure repairs, services to students, seniors, and public safety have been given a priority. The Town Manager’s recommended budget demonstrated that most agency budgets were submitted with only modest increases. Staff levels were evaluated and remain consistent with the current year. The full budget was reviewed and modified by the Town Council, resulting in a reduction from requests of \$520,950.

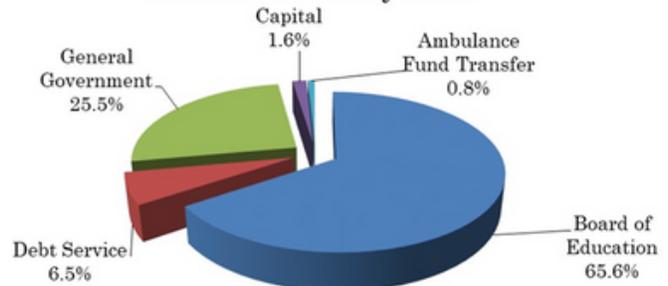
“The Town Council’s budget proposals for the Town, Board, Capital and Debt Service call for a 3.15% spending increase.”

The Budget Process



The Town Council’s budget proposals for the Town, Board, Capital, Debt Service, and Ambulance Fund transfer call for a \$1,378,045 spending increase from the prior year adopted budget. The proposed budget will require an increase to the current mil rate of 0.59 mils or 1.89%, resulting in a rate of 31.74 mils. Based on this increase, the average increase to the mil rate over the past three years is 0.19 or 0.6%, compared to inflation at 5.6%. The proposed budget has been sent to the Annual Town Meeting scheduled for Saturday, April 22, 2023, in the CHS Veterans Auditorium at 10:00 A.M. The adjourned Town Meeting vote is scheduled for Tuesday, May 2, 2023.

Where Your Money Goes



Budget Summary

The expenditure part of the budget is broken down into the areas of General Government, Board of Education, Debt Service, Capital and the Ambulance Fund Transfer totaling \$45,081,990, an increase of \$1,378,045 or 3.15% compared to the adopted FY22-23 budget. A breakdown of the budgets are illustrated below.

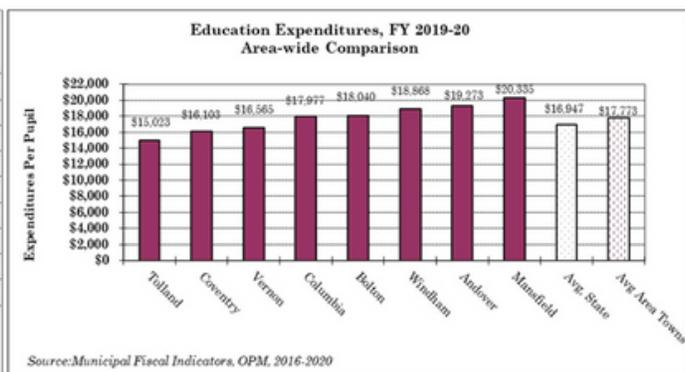
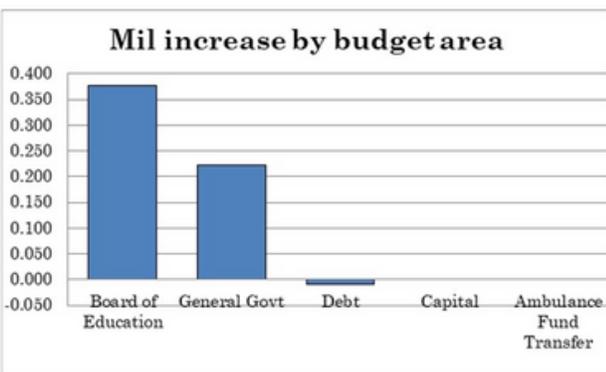
Budget Area	Adopted Budget FY 22-23	Requested Budget FY 23-24	\$ Change	% Change
General Government	\$10,973,292	\$11,491,730	\$518,438	4.72%
Board of Education	\$28,712,461	\$29,594,330	\$881,869	3.07%
Debt Service	\$2,932,192	\$2,909,930	(\$22,262)	(0.76%)
Capital	\$723,500	\$723,500	\$ -	0.00%
Ambulance Fund	\$362,500	\$362,500	\$ -	0.00%
Total	\$43,703,945	\$45,081,990	\$1,378,045	3.15%

Town Operating Budget Summary

The Town operating budget recommended for FY24 is \$11,491,730; an increase of \$518,438. This is a reduction of \$205,000 or 1.76% from the Town Manager proposed budget. The largest driver to this increase is personnel services which increased \$503,293 or 6.18%. Health insurance increased 9% (\$144,400) due to increased claim trends. Town’s required pension contribution, as calculated by our actuary, increased by \$70,089 or 15%. No additional staff were proposed in the FY24 budget. One police officer position, which had previously been funded 50% through grant funds, is now once again 100% funded by the General Fund. This position has been frozen until January 1. Contingency was increased by \$10,000 due to three union contracts expiring on June 30, 2023. Other drivers behind the Operating Budget increase include general inflation increases, as well as increased technology needs, costs in gasoline and diesel fuel. This budget is a bare minimum budget in order to maintain the current level of services provided by the Town. Any additional reductions to the Town Operating Budget will likely result in staff layoffs and/or a reduction in services provided to Town residents.

Board of Education Summary

The Board of Education budget was reduced \$230,000 by the Town Council and is proposed at \$29,594,330; an increase of \$881,869 or 3.07% from their originally adopted FY23 budget. Details are available on the web at www.coventrypublicschools.org.



To learn more about the fiscal year 2023/24 proposed budget, you can view the full Town budget document online at www.coventryct.org under Finance. Copies of the Town and Board of Education budgets are also available for viewing in the Coventry Town Clerk's office during regular office hours.

YOUR OPINION COUNTS!

If you have questions or concerns about the FY 23/24 proposed budget, please don't hesitate to email budgetcomments@coventryct.org or call the Town Manager's Office at 860-742-6324.

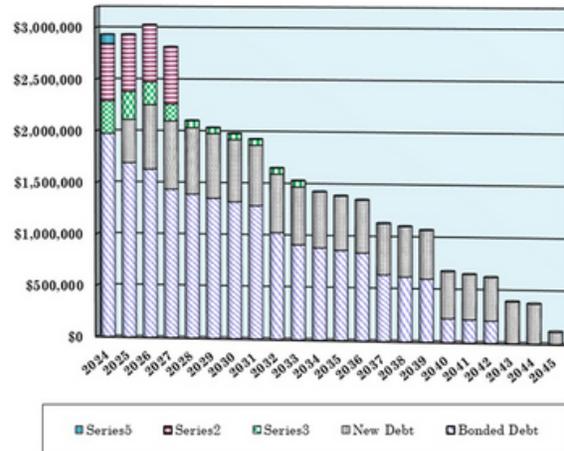
TAX RELIEF FOR SENIORS

Guidelines for additional tax relief for qualified Coventry seniors and disabled persons are available in the Town Assessor's Office. This includes a local tax credit program. Call 860-742-4067.

Debt Service

Debt Service represents 6.5% of the Town budget. This is far below a common threshold of 10% for Towns. For FY24, there is a proposed decrease of \$22,262 or -0.76% from the prior year. This decrease is due to the full repayment of a FY17 lease in FY23, offset by decrease in bond premiums used. Also included in the FY24 budget is a capital lease for a large dump truck and a police vehicle. Looking forward, the Town anticipates bonding for both road work and School HVAC replacement in FY24. While this will lead to increased debt service budgets for FY25 and FY26, it is important to know that our projected debt service is anticipated to decline each year going forward, which will allow for additional debt issuance or savings to taxpayers.

Projected Debt Service by Year



Capital Projects

1 Summer Road Program (partial-see also Town Aid)	\$ 290,000
2 Network refresh	45,000
3 Education Computer Upgrades	50,000
4 Classroom Furniture	25,000
5 Town Hall Computer Upgrades	44,000
6 SCBA Fire Paks	24,000
7 Fire Gear	25,000
8 Fire Hose/equipment	20,000
9 Open Space Fund	15,000
10 CNREF	20,000
11 Lake Management	75,000
12 Revaluation	65,000
13 GIS Upgrades	10,000
14 Keyless Lock/Security - DPW	20,000
TOTAL	\$ 723,500

The proposed capital projects budget for the General Fund for FY24 totals \$723,500, a **zero increase** from the prior year. Of this increase \$120,000 is related to capital projects for the Board of Education. This represents a reduction of \$96,500 made by the Town Council.

In addition to the capital project budget outlined in the General Fund, several capital projects are proposed through grants, including Town Aid Road, (\$290,000), Local Capital Improvement Program (\$101,000), potential HVAC Replacement (\$3,000,000) and potential multiple bridge and road repairs (\$,3941,650).

The Capital budget also includes a \$1,000,000 bond proposal which will be used for public water supply and fire suppression to address contamination concerns. Please refer to the Capital Budget section of the budget for additional details.

Transfer to Ambulance Fund

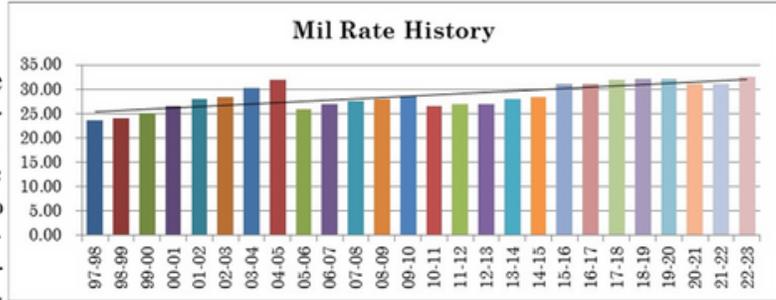
The FY24 budget separates out the transfer to the Ambulance Fund as a separate budgetary line. It is proposed to transfer \$362,500 to the Ambulance fund to fund the ambulance coverage currently provided to residents on a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week basis.

When the Town transitioned to 24/7 coverage, there was hope the revenue generated could sustain these services. It is clear with current reimbursement rates, the fund is not able to cover these costs (Medicare reimbursement is 50% of charges, Medicaid reimbursement is 30% of charges). To fully fund the ambulance operations the Town would need to transfer \$500,000.

Ambulance services are an important service that the Town provides to its residents. Without 24/7 ambulance coverage, residents will rely on mutual aid from other Towns and/or volunteer EMS crews. This will cause a significant increase in response times, which are very important in emergency situations.

Revenues

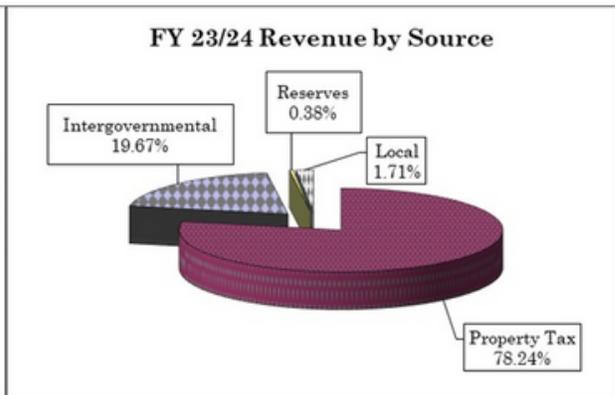
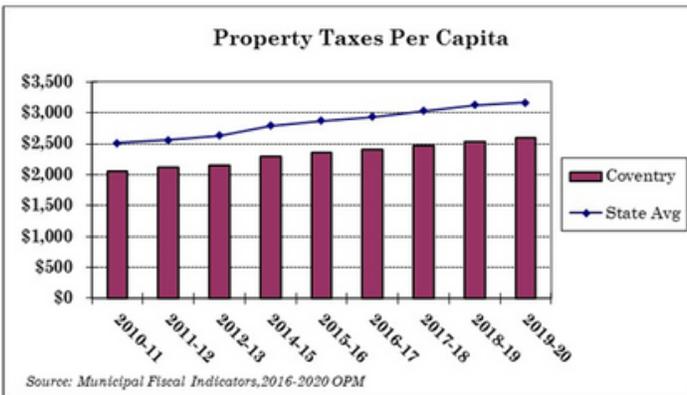
The property tax is the major revenue source (78.24%) for Coventry. The proposed budget is an increase of 3.5% from the prior year. The proposed mil rate is 31.74 for real estate and personal property, a 0.59 mil or 1.89% change from the prior year. This will generate a monthly increase of \$8.70 and an annual increase of \$104 to the average homeowner. The proposed mil rate increase would put the Town at a three-year mil rate increase average of only 0.6% mil per year. This is very far below inflation.



Intergovernmental revenues, mostly State aid, are the second largest revenue source (19.67%) of revenues for Coventry. This is an increase of 0.48% from the prior year adopted budget. These revenues are based on the assumed State budget which is not yet final. The Town Council has decided to assume the Town will held harmless on ECS funding from the State. This resulted in an increase to revenue of \$130,000. In addition, the Town Council authorized an additional \$200,000 in American Rescue Plan funding, for a total ARPA spend of \$325,000. This will be a one time revenue source that will not be available in future years. This eliminates the Town’s remaining ARPA funds that were received.

Other local revenues consist of a variety of fees for permits, services and interest earnings. This area, which represents 1.71% of the Town’s budget, is expected to increase \$104,350 from the prior year. Increases are caused from increased activity in the building department as well as increased interest revenue based on current market conditions.

Lastly, our proposed revenue budget for FY24 includes use of \$175,000 from fund balance. This stems from the Town’s COVID 19 financial impact plan that was previously adopted to help mitigate the impact of the pandemic. This amount remains unchanged from the FY23 budget and represents 0.38% of total revenue.



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TAX RELIEF FOR SENIORS

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Application Deadline: May 15, 2023.

Department of Public Works

Director
Town Engineer
Supt. Operations/Tree Warden
Admin. Secretary / COVRRRA
Engineering Technician

Bill Watkins
Todd Penney, P.E.
Mark Owens
Donna Wrubel
Mark St. Germain, P.E.

wwatkins@coventryct.org
tpenney@coventryct.org
mowens@coventryct.org
dwrubel@coventryct.org
mstgermain@coventryct.org

Mark St. Germain, P.E. was hired 2/6/2023 as a part time Engineering Technician. His responsibilities include driveway and road cut permits as well as general engineering duties. You can reach Mark at (860) 498-4129 or mstgermain@coventryct.org.



Spring Street Sweeping Schedule:

The Public Works Department has scheduled street sweeping to begin on or about 3/20/23 weather permitting. There are five sweeping districts in Town. The order in which the streets will be swept are by District, and are as follows: District 5, District 4, District 3, District 1, and District 2. Please see the Street Sweeping District Map on the town's website under Public Works.

The Department requests that all property owners refrain from raking yard waste such as sticks, leaves and dead grass into the street. DPW will not sweep up windrows of yard debris raked and swept to the gutter of the street. The introduction of these materials can damage the equipment and hinder timely program completion. The intent of the program is to sweep up sediment and particulates that are detrimental to storm water quality. Raked up yard waste excluding sticks can be brought to the Transfer Station for composting year round during the open hours of operation. Please avoid parking vehicles in the roadway during the sweeping program. Please contact Mark Owens, Superintendent of Operations, if you have any street sweeping questions or concerns: Monday through Friday 7:00am -3:00pm at (860) 742-6588 or email mowens@coventryct.org.

Tree Warden:

Planting, pruning or removal of trees within the Town Right of Ways (ROW) at roadside requires approval of the Tree Warden. State Statute requires a written request for permission to remove or plant trees in the ROW area. Unapproved work in the ROW is subject to fines and damages. The Tree Warden's email address is mowens@coventryct.org. Do not use email to contact the Tree Warden for emergencies – call Public Works at (860) 742-6588 or the Police Department at (860) 742-7331.

FAQ'S - Mattress recycling program (Bye Bye Mattress)

- Can I drop-off my mattress/box spring for free at the transfer station? Yes, we are a collection site.
- I didn't buy a mattress recently, can I still drop-off or recycle it for free? Yes, any mattress no matter when it was purchased is eligible for free drop-off or recycling.
- Will All American Waste or the town pick up my mattress/box spring at the curb for me? No, there is no curbside pick-up for individuals.
- Can I drop-off other bedding related items for free too? No, only mattresses and box springs are accepted. Futons, sofa beds, crib mattresses, air mattresses and car beds along with other sleep related items are not eligible.

Trash Holiday Schedule: All American Waste will observe the following legal holidays thereby altering curbside pickup accordingly:

Monday, May 29th – Memorial Day
Tuesday, July 4th – Independence Day
Monday, September 4th – Labor Day

Textile Recycling is available in Coventry through Bay State Textiles. There is a bin located next to the Annex behind the Town Hall accessible anytime and two at Public Works on Olsen Farm Road also accessible anytime. 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. Textiles can be recycled in any condition as long as they are clean and dry. Must be contained in bags.

A SHRED EVENT will be scheduled for Fall 2023. Check your COVRRRA calendar, which will come with your trash bill in July, for the date.

Employment. If you like outdoor physical work, have a valid driver's license and are 18 or older, we are looking for you. The Public Works Department has an opening for a summer laborer paying \$16/hr. for 40 hour week. Accepting applications immediately. For more info call (860) 742-6588.

Household Chemical Waste Drop-Off Facility

This regional facility located at 57 Hancock Road in Willington, will be opening for the 2023 season on April 15. The facility is open once per month: 4/15, 5/20, 6/17, 7/15, 8/19, 9/16 and 10/21. **STAY IN YOUR AUTOMOBILE.** Keep the windows up, hold your Coventry address license to the window and pop the trunk. One of the attendants will assist you. More info can be found at www.coventryct.org > government > departments > public works > hazardous waste drop off facility.

Prepare the materials by:

- Packing carefully in original containers only, seal and label
- Do not mix materials
- Drive carefully to prevent tipping
- No smoking while handling and transporting materials
- Residential limits of 10 gallons liquid and 100 pounds dry materials

As a Coventry resident you may bring residential quantities of hazardous waste to the facility at no cost but bring proof of residency.

Other FAQ's:

- **Medication:** Do not flush down the toilet or drain. Many prescriptions may be disposed of at the Coventry Police Department (860) 742-7331.
- **Asbestos:** Double bag and seal this material. One cubic foot can be disposed with trash. For large quantities, contact an asbestos removal company.
- **Explosives, fireworks, ammunition:** Contact your state police barracks.
- **Water reactive materials:** For peroxides and metallic sodium, contact a licensed environmental contractor.
- **Biologically active materials:** Contact a licensed medical & infectious waste contractor.

Recycled at Coventry Public Works Facility:

Car batteries, motor oil, transmission oil, #2 fuel oil, brake fluid, kerosene, gas cylinders, diesel fuel, antifreeze.

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.

COVRRRA questions can be answered by calling Public Works at (860) 742-6588 or email dwrubel@coventryct.org.

Curbside Monthly Oversized Items Pickup:

On the 2nd Monday of every month residents may place at curbside by 6:30 am up to three oversized items to be picked up for free. These large nonmetal items must be out on Monday regardless of your regular trash day. Examples are dresser, futon or recliner chair w/metal removed. No electronics, metal or mattresses curbside: Electronics, metal and mattresses will not be picked up at curbside. Coventry residents must bring their electronics, metal and mattresses to the town's transfer station for recycling.

Excess trash and recycling? The Public Works Department has dumpsters for residents who occasionally have trash or recycling in excess of their carts. To use the trash dumpster you must pay \$1 for each bag that you toss in. Bring your trash and recycling to Public Works during work hours for disposal. Residents must stop in the office (7 am - 3 pm) for the dumpster key.

Pickup missed? Call All American Waste at (860) 289-7850 if your curbside trash or recycling is not picked up. This direct communication allows for pickup arrangements to be made. This same number should be called if you have monthly items out that don't get picked up or if your cart is broken. **PLEASE CALL DURING THE WEEK OF THE PICKUP TO RECTIFY THE SITUATION.**

Tipper Cart broken? Call All American Waste at (860) 289-7850 for information. Plugs for lids are available at Department of Public Works. Push them in snugly and inspect them regularly so they stay tight. This will ensure your tipper cart lid stays on your cart.

Homeowners are reminded that the tipper carts are owned by All American Waste and must remain at the property location that is billed for this service.

Coventry's Best Kept Secret - "In yard" trash/recycling service available:

Do you know someone who might benefit from having their trash or recycle cart picked up right at their back door? (A mutually agreed upon location somewhere along the driveway may be necessary for those extra long driveways.) No more struggling to wheel their carts to the curb!! The town has a few slots for those special needs people (no additional fees involved) who are elderly or handicapped and have no one living with them or visiting regularly who can assist them with this task. Call Human Services (860) 742-5324 to apply for this service.

Paint recycling: Residents can now recycle paint, deck coatings, primers, sealers, urethanes, waterproofing, stains and rust preventatives, no fees at the town Transfer Station. This program is funded by a fee (referred to as the PaintCare fee) which is applied to the purchase price of new paint sold in the state.

Book recycling: Discover Books has placed a drop box at the public works driveway into the transfer station. Residents may bring books to put in the container. The books will then be recycled, redistributed or resold.

Transfer Station

100 Olsen Farm Road - Spring Ahead! Transfer Station hours of operation from April through September will be every Thursday from noon until 6 pm and every Saturday from 9 am until 3 pm (excluding holidays). Proof of residency required.

The town now has available the option to pay your fee at the transfer station electronically.

Materials acceptable with cost:

- Construction and demolition debris. Free of cardboard, metal and garbage.
 - Land clearing debris; stumps & brush.
 - Fire Extinguishers \$6 each
 - Appliance with refrigerant \$10 each, no weigh-in necessary.
- **PLEASE - DOORS MUST BE REMOVED FROM REFRIGERATORS****
- Tires – automobile size – on or off rim \$5 each.

Materials acceptable no cost:



- Textiles – clean, dry, contained in a bag (bin located on driveway to transfer station)
- Books – recycled, redistributed or resold (bin located on driveway to transfer station)
- Paint, deck coatings, primers, sealers, urethanes, waterproofing, stains and rust preventatives

- Gas grill propane tanks for recycling
- Single stream recyclables (for example bottles, cans, cardboard, paper)
- Leaves for composting (*bring leaves but **no compost** available at this time*)
- Mattress and box spring (dry only, if wet / mangled or futon \$10 fee applies)
- Electronics, fluorescent light bulbs, batteries
- Appliance without refrigerant (stove, washer, dryer)
- Metal materials (metal tanks must be cut open and crushed).

Materials NOT acceptable:

- Garbage
- Grass clippings
- Furniture
- Hazardous waste

Commercial Users Must Remember... The Town of Coventry Transfer Station is not intended for commercial use 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.

WPCA

Water Pollution Control Authority (Sewer Department)

Did you know? Why & how we clean sewer mains:

- Sewer mains are the pipes buried underground that collect wastewater from homes and buildings and convey it to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Our sewer mains vary in size from 8 inches in diameter to 15 inches and are designed to pitch downhill so that wastewater flows by gravity down to the Treatment Plant. Debris accumulates in sewer mains and needs to be cleaned out periodically to prevent buildups that can lead to a blockage. Sewer blockages cause basement flooding and/or manhole overflows. The leading causes of sewer blockages are grease from foods and wet wipes (even flushable wipes which do not break down quick enough).
- Sewer cleaning is accomplished with a machine called a “Jetter” truck. The main components of a jetter are a water tank, pump to create pressure, and a long hose on a reel (like a garden hose but much thicker). The hose has a special nozzle on the end with holes (jets) that shoot most of the water backwards. As the pump sends high pressure water (up to 3,000 psi) through the hose and out the nozzle the backwards facing jets propel the hose hundreds of feet up the sewer mains. As the hose is reeled back in the jets on the nozzle blast the insides of the pipe, drawing debris back towards the truck.
- Debris is either captured in a wire basket or sucked out of the sewers with a large vacuum pump which is often part of the jetter. There are many videos on YouTube that demonstrate sewer jetting if you like Dirty Jobs and gross stuff!
- In Coventry we divided our sewer system into 10 areas and jet one area per year. It takes about a week. We send everyone in the area we’re jetting a flyer a couple weeks before we start with details on the process and what to expect.

Financial Assistance for Sewer Bills and Sewer Connections: Financial assistance for sewer use bills for households that meet federal income guidelines is available from the State. Low interest/deferred loans for new sewer connections are also available. **Contact Mike Ruef , WWTP Operator, for details at 860-531-2913 or email mruef@coventryct.org.**

The link to the WPCA page can be found on the Town website at www.coventryct.org > Your Government > Boards & Commissions > Water Pollution Control Authority

Human Services Office



RENTER'S REBATE PROGRAM APRIL 1st -OCTOBER 1st, 2022 FOR ELDERLY & DISABLED RENTERS

Connecticut's Elderly Renters' Rebate Program provides direct, partial reimbursement to lower income elderly or disabled renters to help offset a portion of their rent and utility expenses. The program, administered by Office of Policy and Management, provides for payments ranging up to \$900 for qualified married persons and up to \$700 for qualifying single persons. The rebate amount is based on a graduated income scale and the amount of rent and utility payments (excluding telephone) made in the calendar year prior to the year in which the renter applies. The program is open April 1st through October 1st and eligible residents should contact the Coventry Human Services Office at 860-742-5324 to schedule an appointment.

**The State of Connecticut
Renters' Rebate Program Hotline
is 860-418-6377.**



**Coventry Human Services Office
Like us on Facebook!**

FOOD BANK

The Coventry Food Bank is available to any individual or family experiencing difficult times and may need help with food. We have a variety of staple foods in stock which include: cereal, pasta, soup, canned vegetable, peanut butter/jelly and school snacks. We are solely a donor-funded program and appreciate the generous donations from many local residents, churches, schools, civic organizations and groups. If you are interested in donating to Coventry Food Bank, please contact our office for more information.

If you are in need and wish to utilize the Food Bank, please call Coventry Human Services to set up appointment.

FOODSHARE

Mobile FoodShare is an outdoor food distribution for persons in need and is available every other Wednesdays from 10-10:30 at the St. Mary's Church, 1600 Main Street, Coventry. Food choices vary from week to week but usually include bread and several types of fresh produce. Other items may also be offered depending on availability. No appointment is necessary. Please remember to bring a bag or box with you to carry your food. If you have any questions please call FoodShare at 860-286-9999 or www.foodshare.org

Dates that Foodshare will be in Coventry this spring and summer:

April 26

May 10, 24

June 7, 21

July 5, 19

August 2, 16, 30

September 13, 27

Booth & Dimock Memorial Library

The Library is under construction! Please visit our website or Facebook page for updates on our hours, programs, and events.

Have a question about your smart phone, tablet, or iPad?

Let Kayla, Reference Librarian, assist you with your questions. One-on-one 15-minute appointments available at the Senior Center on the 3rd Tuesday of each month beginning at 2 PM. Call the Center at 860-742-3525 to schedule your appointment.

Booth & Dimock Memorial Library

1134 Main Street

860-742-7606

Website: www.coventrypl.org

Facebook: @BDLibrary

Coventry Senior Center

172 Lake Street, Patriots Park • 860-742-3525

The Coventry Senior Center is committed to providing adults 55+, a welcoming, inclusive and supportive environment to participate in recreational, educational and wellness programs. The Center is committed to these core principles, focusing on the integration of best practices in program development and continued community collaboration. We are here to meet the needs of our adult citizens in Coventry.

Websites: www.coventryct.org/SeniorCenter
 “Friend” Us: Coventry Senior Center on www.facebook.com.

Staff:

Brenda Bennett, Coordinator; bbennett@coventryct.org
 Amber Clancy, Senior Center Assistant;
aclancy@coventryct.org

Hours of Operation:

Monday - Thursday 9am-4pm and Friday 9-noon.

Sign up for our digital Newsletter: The Senior Center is going paperless! Help us go green by signing up with your email. To update your information and/or receive the monthly newsletter, please call (860) 742-3525. No computer, no problem! Paper copies of the newsletter can be picked up at the Senior Center during our operation hours.

CHOICES Health Insurance Counseling

The Coventry Senior Center is host to a certified CHOICES counselor. CHOICES is a FREE counseling program that helps Connecticut residents understand their Medicare coverage and other healthcare options. A CHOICES counselor can help review Medicare documents, and insure that you are enrolled in plan that meets your healthcare needs, including Medicare Supplemental Plans, Medicare Advantage Plans and Medicare Part D Drug Plans. Additionally, counselors can also help enroll individuals into the Medicare Savings Program, which can assist in the payments of Medicare benefits.

If you would like to review your health insurance options, please call us at 860-742-3525 to make a confidential appointment with a certified CHOICES Counselor.

AARP SAFE DRIVING COURSE

Friday, April 21: 9am-1pm

Offered by AARP Driver Safety, the nation's 1st and largest refresher course designed specifically for older drivers. If you, your friends or family members may benefit from the course, we encourage you to take the opportunity to update your driving knowledge and skills. No written or road tests! You may qualify for a discount on your auto insurance. \$15 with AARP membership cards, \$20 non-members. Pre-registration and payment is required.

NEW! Cardio Drumming

Work up a sweat and join us for a fun hour of cardio drumming. Follow along with the instructor for an upper body workout while drumming along to your favorite tunes. Class is for all levels and space is limited! Sign up now at the front desk. **Free Trial Date:** Friday April 21st 10:30 am.

See the Center's monthly newsletter and calendar for other leisure activities, clubs, and personal care offerings.

COVENTRY RIDES TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

Staff: Sarah Leete, Transportation Coordinator;
sleete@coventryct.org

Hours: Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9am-1pm.
 Your call will be returned within 48 hours.

Phone: 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. Rides must be scheduled at least 48 business hours in advance and no later than 1p.m. on Thursdays for a Monday ride.

Coventry Rides is funded with grants from the CT Department of Transportation and the Town of Coventry.

WRTD - Dial-a-ride WRTD (Windham Region Transit District) 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.

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 remaining regularly scheduled meetings for 2023 are as follows: 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.

2023-2024 SCHOOL CALENDAR APPROVED: The Board of Education approved the 2023-2024 Coventry Public Schools calendar at their February 23, 2023 meeting. The approved 2023-2024 calendar can be found on our website at <https://www.coventrypublicschools.org/quicklinks/2324-calendar>.

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, 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 the Superintendent's office at 860-742-7317, Ext. 2.

BUDGET: Budget development for the next school year is well underway. To keep up to date with this work, follow this link to the budget information page on the website: <http://www.coventrypublicschools.org/boe/budget>.

GRADUATION: Graduation is scheduled for Saturday, June 10, 2023, details to come later this spring. Weather permitting, the ceremony will be held outside at Coventry High School.



GHR C.A.R.E.S.: The George Hersey Robertson Intermediate School (GHR) prides itself on high student achievement and on fostering student growth emotionally, physically, socially, and culturally. Our school-wide vision states, "Our engaging and respectful environment fosters responsibility, citizenship and lifelong learning." With a philosophy of GHR C.A.R.E.S. (cooperation, assertion, responsibility, empathy, and self-control), we support the development of the whole child.

To spread our message of kindness, we have hosted an Upstander Assembly, embraced a whole school mentor text entitled Not Quite Narwhal, and created a Kindness chain in February. We also promoted student empowerment in many ways, including Grade 5 Student Council, the Kindness Squad, and Office Volunteers. Members of Student Council and the Kindness Squad write and deliver morning announcements, serve as hallway monitors at dismissal, and have taught younger students about various disabilities, kindness, and inclusion. Due to practices such as this, GHR was recognized as having Exemplary School Climate Practices by the CT Association of Schools (CAS) last spring. The recognition was awarded to three schools across CT, based on positive school climate practices and strong connections with kids and families.

-Cont. next page

GHR C.A.R.E.S. cont.

To further enrich the experiences of our students, we are making a very concerted effort to increase students' opportunities to pursue areas of interest. This school year, enrichments and clubs are run both during the school day and after-school. For example, our Library Media Specialist just finished a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) enrichment on Fridays after school, accommodating nearly 70 GHR students over the course of the year. Our Secret Society of Readers, to name another, is a student led and generated book club that met regularly during their existing lunch to discuss a common book of choice. Our Challenge and Enrichment teacher is spearheading a Chinese Exchange group, in which students have become pen pals with our partner school in China, created FlipGrid videos to share our interests and traditions, and exchanged cards for Lunar New Year. Newly created this year, our Office Volunteers help greet students as they enter GHR every day and ensure safe behavior in the hallway, doling out Kindness cards to students demonstrating CARES. We also have student volunteers operate the school store on Fridays, and we have about 20 students involved in our new Cheerleading squad. From Invention Convention and Girls Who Code to Ski Club and Band, there are opportunities that appeal to a variety of students as they pursue different interests and find their passions.

Our partnerships with families and the community are essential to supporting kids at GHR. Monthly, representatives from the Coventry Police Department eat lunch with our students to build strong relationships. Families have joined students for Parent's Day in Physical Education, collaborated on our active PTO, volunteered at our weekly School Store, participated in monthly spirit days, attended concerts, and helped in classrooms through events such as Mystery Reader and seasonal events like upcoming field day. We now look forward to showcasing the home-school partnership through Student Led Conferences in March, in which students share their goals and a digital portfolio of evidence to showcase their growth. GHR continues to support a culture of continuous growth, and we value the support of our Coventry families and larger community!



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.

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION: Interested in volunteering in any of the schools in district? To become a volunteer, please contact the building principals for more specific information. Their contact information can be found at <http://www.coventrypublicschools.org/district/volunteer>.

GOOD NEWS BOX: We are excited to share some recent district headlines with you:

- Capt. Nathan Hale School NELMS Spotlight School Designation Continues!
- Coventry BOE Receives CABA Board of Distinction Award Again!
- Coventry Rises in Niche Rankings 2023 - #1 District in Tolland County!
- Coventry Students Participate in the Charter Oak Music Festival
- Coventry High School Band participated in the American School Band Director Festival

You can find the press releases for this highlight and more on our website at <https://www.coventrypublicschools.org/district/news>. Check it out today!

WORKING PAPERS: All children under the age of 18, who have secured employment, are required to have "working papers." To acquire these papers, please have a form of identification and verification of employment in writing from your employer stating what your specific work duties will include and bring them to the office at Coventry High School. You do not need to be a student at Coventry High School, only a resident of Coventry, to get working papers from the high school office. Should there be no one available at the high school, you may bring your information to the Superintendent's Office. For questions, please call the Coventry High School main office at 860-742-7346.

LIONS CLUB MOTHERS' DAY ROSES SALE:

Orders can be placed online by May 1 at the Coventry Lions website, lionsclubofcoventry.org, or by contacting a Lions Club member. Orders will be delivered on Saturday, May 13 between 9 AM - noon. Details on Coventry Lions website or Facebook page. **All proceeds go to supporting Lions Club scholarships and other community service activities.**



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

COVENTRY TOWN NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2023

LEGAL NOTICE-TOWN OF COVENTRY
 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING & NOTICE OF ADJOURNED TOWN MEETING
APRIL 22, 2023

The legal voters of the Town of Coventry and those property owners qualified to vote in Town Meetings pursuant to Section 7-6 of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut are hereby notified and warned that the Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Coventry will be held Saturday, April 22, 2023 at 10:00 A.M. in the Veterans Auditorium of Coventry High School, Ripley Hill Rd, Coventry, CT to discuss and take action on the following items:

Item #1: To hear the Town Council's estimate of expenditures for the fiscal year July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

Item #2: To consider and take action on the Town Council's recommendation for the 2023-2024 fiscal year appropriation, pursuant to Section 9-1 of the Town Charter, the final vote shall be adjourned by the Moderator to May 2, 2023.

Town of Coventry
 Council Recommended Budget for FY 23-24

Expenditures	2022	2023	2023	2023	2024	2024	2024
	Actual	Adopted Budget	Actual YTD	Est. Actual	Agency Request	Town Manager	Council
General Government	\$ 1,871,968	\$ 1,943,963	\$ 1,457,962	\$ 1,930,266	\$ 2,027,995	\$ 2,019,240	\$ 2,009,240
Public Safety	2,467,716	2,684,070	2,031,479	2,684,070	2,880,455	2,844,360	2,794,360
Public Works	2,614,005	2,660,473	2,094,414	2,656,293	2,924,525	2,803,870	2,753,870
Human Services	299,274	332,186	240,738	330,262	354,475	354,475	351,975
Civic & Cultural	630,275	693,000	672,358	697,394	744,325	728,165	723,165
Sundry	2,501,834	2,659,600	2,208,202	2,659,600	2,972,120	2,947,120	2,859,120
General Government Total	10,385,072	10,973,292	8,705,153	10,957,885	11,903,895	11,697,230	11,491,730
Debt Service	2,749,655	2,932,192	2,556,815	2,932,192	2,947,910	2,898,880	2,909,930
Board of Education	28,302,046	28,712,461	17,618,281	28,681,781	29,824,330	29,824,330	29,594,330
Capital	877,078	723,500	723,500	723,500	820,000	820,000	723,500
Ambulance Fund Transfer	\$ 240,000	\$ 362,500	\$ 362,500	\$ 362,500	\$ 362,500	\$ 362,500	\$ 362,500
Expenditures Total	\$ 42,553,851	\$ 43,703,945	\$ 29,966,249	\$ 43,657,858	\$ 45,858,635	\$ 45,602,940	\$ 45,081,990
Revenues							
Property Tax	\$ 32,863,240	\$ 34,039,280	\$ 33,748,005	\$ 34,039,280	\$ 36,552,439	\$ 36,151,744	\$ 35,270,794
Intergovernmental	8,953,486	8,823,865	4,995,430	8,823,865	8,411,046	8,536,046	8,866,046
Local	815,587	665,800	673,454	665,800	720,150	740,150	770,150
Use of Fund Balance	-	175,000	-	128,913	175,000	175,000	175,000
Revenues Total	\$ 42,632,313	\$ 43,703,945	\$ 39,416,889	\$ 43,657,858	\$ 45,858,635	\$ 45,602,940	\$ 45,081,990

If revenues remain unchanged and a collection rate of 98.75% is used; a proposed mil rate of 31.74 will be required.

Item #3: To authorize the Town Manager to enter into an agreement with the Commissioner of Transportation for Town Aid Funds for roads available to the Town of Coventry under Chapter 240 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Item #4: To take action on the Town Council's recommendation on the FY 2024 Capital Improvement Plan and to authorize the Town Manager to make application pursuant to Title 7, Chapter 116b of the Connecticut General Statutes for funding for eligible projects under the Local Capital Improvement Program (LOCIP).

Item #5: To authorize the Town Manager and the Town Treasurer to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of tax collections to meet current expenditures.

20 summary copies of the proposed budget are available in the Town Clerk's Office, 1712 Main St., Coventry, CT 06238 or can be viewed online at www.Coventryct.org.

Dated at Coventry, CT this 3rd day of April 2023.

John A. Elsesser, Town Manager

Lori Tollmann, Town Clerk