

FALL 2023



TOWN NEWS



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HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

COLUMBUS DAY - OCT. 9

VETERAN'S DAY - NOV. 10

THANKSGIVING - NOV. 23 & 24

CHRISTMAS - DEC. 25 & 26

Message from Lisa Thomas, Town Council Chairwoman

Dear Neighbors,

I hope this finds you all well and settled into your autumn routines, including back-to-school. With the end of summer comes a change of seasons, including here in town as we welcome our new Town Manager Jim Drumm. I'm proud that the Town Council delivered on its promise to undertake a thoughtful, non-partisan search that took into account feedback we received from citizens and from town staff, including our Schools Superintendent. Jim brings with him a wide variety of experience managing many of the exciting projects and challenges Coventry is working on. He understands the balance between small towns and economic development, with a special interest in historic preservation. Many thanks to all of you who have already given Jim a warm welcome to Coventry, whether that has been online, at the Farmers Market, in Town Hall, or out and about the community.

In late July we held a farewell celebration for longtime Town Manager John Elsesser. John was presented with several gifts on behalf of those in attendance and the Coventry community. Joan Lewis, Co-Chair of the Dollars for Scholars Committee, announced that over \$5,500 was raised to endow a scholarship in John's name. Town Council Vice-Chair Marty Milkovic presented a gorgeous wood tray engraved with the Coventry coat of arms, and John's Executive Assistant, and professional photographer, Laura Stone presented a photo book filled with photos of John's years here. Mark Owens, Superintendent of Operations, presented John with his own "Elsesser Way" street sign on behalf of DPW. Ruth O'Neill of Song A Day Music Center donated her musical talents to the evening. At the very end, John was even given 2 vintage Coventry "Green Bags" to protect his gifts from the torrential rain!

Above: November on Coventry Lake. Photo by Laura Stone.

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Town Manager Update



James (Jim) Drumm came on board in late August as Coventry's new Town Manager, replacing John Elsesser who retired on July 1.

Relocating to Connecticut from Lancaster, PA with his wife Dawne and teenage son Kiernan, Mr. Drumm brings over 25 years of professional management experience to the role of Town Manager, including expertise in budgeting, financial management, grant writing, capital

project management, policy development, inter-government relations, emergency and disaster response, collective bargaining, community planning, and economic development. He began his career in the State of Florida in 1988, holding increasingly progressively responsible positions there including as City Manager in the cities of Zephyrhills and High Springs. He served as City Manager in the City of Brunswick, Georgia for five years before relocating to take his most recent position as Manager for Manheim Township, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Drumm holds a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Political Science with a concentration in Public Administration from the University of Florida, and a Master of Public Administration with a concentration in Public Management from the University of South Florida. He is a member of the International City County Management Association (ICMA) and was a Founding City Manager-Mentor of the ICMA Student Chapter at the University of South Florida. He has served on a variety of inter-governmental boards over the course of his career and was active in community service initiatives, including with the Rotary Club and Chamber of Commerce in the cities where he was employed. He was named Man of the Year by the Lake Alfred Chamber of Commerce in 1997 and received an Executive Director Award from the Auburndale Chamber of Commerce in 1993.

"The Town Council voted unanimously to hire James Drumm as our next Town Manager," said Lisa Thomas, Town Council Chairwoman. "We believe he brings with him the qualities that we, the community, and our staff feel are most important. In addition to his thoughtful approach to problem solving, Jim's extensive experience in human resource management, capital projects management, and understanding the needs of a rural community stood out to us as invaluable for Coventry."

"I am very pleased to have been selected as the Coventry Town Manager," James Drumm said. "I am looking forward to taking on the challenges ahead and taking the time to get around town to meet everyone," he added. "Coventry is a beautiful community with many excellent amenities, including great schools. We are excited about relocating to Coventry and becoming part of the community."

Council Chairwoman's Message

Continued from Page 1

In my spring newsletter column, I pledged that the Town Council would develop a budget that was "mindful of your wallets, while maintaining quality services and education". I'm pleased that the Council worked collaboratively to adopt on a bi-partisan motion and unanimous vote just such a budget. We are deeply grateful to you for passing the budget by a large margin at referendum. That support along with careful fiscal management has led to us holding onto our AA+ bond rating, which allows us to continue to negotiate for the best terms when we need to bond funds for large infrastructure projects.

I always like to include a shout out and thank you to town staff. We appreciate everything they do to make sure we can license our dogs, renovate our kitchens, feel safe in our community, securely cast our votes, send our kids to summer camp, keep our village vital, and so much more.

Please remember to take time to explore our www.coventryct.org website to learn about what our Town departments are up to. You can also sign up through the web site for community updates and emergency alerts. And please visit www.coventrypublicschools.org to see our schools' achievements and projects.

The Town Council and I wish you a colorful Autumn and joyous holiday celebrations in the months ahead.

Be well,
Lisa Thomas,
Town Council Chairwoman

Town Clerk's Office

OUR SERVICES:

Being one of the most visited offices in the Town Hall, the Clerk's office provides the link between the residents, the local governing bodies and the boards, commissions, and committees of town government. Our main functions are the recording, indexing and copying of land record documents and maps; vital statistics (births, marriages, civil unions and deaths); official repository of notices, agendas and minutes of the various boards, committees and commissions; election related matters including but not limited to the issuance of absentee ballots; answering various questions from residents; notarizing of documents; issuing of dog, marriage, civil union, sporting licenses; and receiving for record military discharges, trade name certificates and liquor permits. We also house and safeguard all of the Town's permanent public records.

DOGS:

Please note that dog licenses expire and are renewed in the month of June.

If a dog license is not received or post marked by June 30th, pursuant to Sec. 22-338, General Statutes, State of Connecticut, a \$1.00 penalty will be added each month the dog is not registered. This fee is added on the first of each month^h

| Month | Cost Per Dog as of First of Month | |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| | Spayed / Neutered | Unaltered |
| July | \$9.00 | \$19.00 |
| August | \$10.00 | \$20.00 |
| September | \$11.00 | \$21.00 |
| October | \$12.00 | \$22.00 |
| November | \$13.00 | \$23.00 |
| December | \$14.00 | \$24.00 |
| January | \$15.00 | \$25.00 |
| February | \$16.00 | \$26.00 |
| March | \$17.00 | \$27.00 |
| April | \$18.00 | \$28.00 |



***All dogs six months of age and older are required by the law to be licensed, and then renewed annually by June 30th.**

***New dog owners** must provide a current rabies certificate and for altered dogs, evidence of neutering or spaying. **QUESTIONS?** Please call the Town Clerk's Office at 860-742-7966.



Coventry's Top Dog!!
Congratulations to Bruiser
 Bruiser lives the Gendreau Family

SPORTS LICENSES AND FALL PERMITS are available at the Town Clerk's office or online at www.ct.gov/dep/sportsmenlicensing. For hunting or trapping licenses, you must provide proof that you held a resident hunting or trapping license within the last 5 years, or a certificate from a Connecticut Conservation Education/Firearms course. You can find Firearms Safety courses listed online at www.ct.gov/dep. Remember Deer/Turkey Kill Tags are now in the Connecticut Hunting and Trapping guides.

CHANGE OF POLLING PLACE:

The November 7, 2023 election and all subsequent November elections will be held at Coventry High School, 78 Ripley Hill Road. All voters in District 1 and District 2, along with Election Day Registration will vote at this location. Poll are open from 6 AM 8 PM. **Absentee ballots** become available October 6, 2023. Applications are available at <https://portal.ct.gov/sots> or the Town Clerk's office. We strongly encourage you to utilize the secure ballot drop box near the back entrance to Town Hall, to ensure we receive your ballot in a timely manner.

Except for the November elections, voting will continue to be held in the two Main Street fire stations.

Call the Coventry Registrars of Voters at 860-742-4061 if you have any questions.

Land Use Office

Please contact the Land Use Office at 860-742-4062 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.



The Town of Coventry, Coventry Village Partners, Coventry Arts Guild, Coventry Cares, and other community stakeholders are excited to announce the annual Arts on Main Street Fest that is scheduled for September 16,

The Town of Coventry, Coventry Village Partners, Coventry Arts Guild, Coventry Cares, and other community stakeholders are excited to announce 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. This FREE event will include live music entertainment, art vendors from around the region, a food truck court to compliment the restaurants that will be open during the event, poet's corner, professional puppet show, and a variety of free arts activities, David Hayes sculpture field tours, and much more. Many of the Village businesses will be supporting the event and having their own special offerings during the day as well. A FREE shuttle from Patriots Park will transport guests to the event due to limited parking. Visit the following link for more info: <https://coventryartsguild.org/events.html>

ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS

Earlier this year, the Planning and Zoning Commission adopted new Zoning Regulations to enable the establishment of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) in Coventry to encourage diversity in housing affordability and to better meet the needs of families. The units can be attached to a dwelling or detached and are permitted in all residential zones. A maximum of one unit per lot is permitted. While they are not required to be an affordable unit, they certainly can serve that purpose. There are some specific guidelines that the ADU proposal must comply with including: the floor area of the ADU cannot be any less than 30% of the net floor area of the dwelling or 1000 square feet - whichever is less; must comply with the dimensional requirements for the zone it is located; design and construction of the ADU must be consistent with the appearance of the dwelling; Zoning, Building, Health approvals are necessary. The Land Use Staff is happy to review proposed projects to determine how they would prospectively comply with the applicable Regulations.

Coventry Lake Advisory & Monitoring Committee

The Coventry Lake Advisory and Monitoring Committee and Coventry Land Use Staff have established a new citizen support program to perform routine testing and sampling of Coventry Lake in an effort to gain important data on the Lake to be able to better address Lake health issues, such as cyanobacteria. The Committee and Staff will train and educate interested citizens on the protocols of the program and how to use the required equipment. This program is great way for citizens to be involved and help maintain 'eyes on the Lake' to optimize management activities.

This is the 6th season that Coventry Lake has been battling the invasive aquatic plant hydrilla. The good news is no hydrilla had been found in 2022 and none also as of August 1, 2023. The lake had its standard 3 doses of 90 days of the herbicide fluridone in the summer of 2022 as well as a pre and post aquatic plant surveys. For 2023 the experts agreed just to do two aquatic plant surveys. The first was completed in mid-July 2023 and no hydrilla was found. The second aquatic plant survey will take place in the fall. If any plants are found spot treatment will occur.

As of August 1, 2023 the water quality test results have shown no reoccurrence of the toxic cyanobacteria bloom that occurred in the summer of 2022. The experts along with the Co-op Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring team continue to have eyes on Coventry Lake with weekly Secchi disk reading and monthly water quality test sampling.

It is fall and Coventry Lake Advisory & Monitoring wants to remind everyone that it is time to CLEAN DRAIN DRY your vessels and boating equipment. It is recommended not to use soap within the watershed due to the phosphorous. Wash with white vinegar and dry in the sun. Check out CT DEEP's site for other tips: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Fishing/General-Information/Aquatic-Invasive-Species>

Find Coventry Lake Advisory & Monitoring on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/245119282764856>

Questions or concerns reach us at: coventrylakeadvisor@coventryct.org

Building Department

PERMITS, INSPECTIONS AND YOUR INVESTMENT

Why do I need building permits and inspections?

Many homeowners ask themselves this question when beginning a project on their house. While the primary purpose is to safeguard public safety, health and welfare, they are also a means to protect your investment. Getting work properly permitted and inspected not only assures it meets the minimum requirements of the State Building Code, but it may also impact a homeowner financially.

The first consideration for homeowners is consequences with their insurance company. When an unpermitted addition or renovation is damaged by a flood or fire, claims may not be covered. A common example of this is a basement that was finished without obtaining permits and is flooded by a burst water pipe. Insurance companies may not recognize the work as ever being performed because it was undocumented, installed illegally, and therefore doesn't exist to them.

A second consideration is in the sale value of your home. With the current real estate market in Connecticut, a routine stop for real estate agents, attorney's offices, and prospective buyers is the local Building Department. They review files to verify projects such as additions, remodels, finished basements, and decks have been permitted and inspected before finalizing the sale. When discrepancies are found with unpermitted work, or incomplete inspections and open permits are discovered, the sales are oftentimes delayed until the permitting issues are corrected. While some of these issues are a simple fix, others are more financially burdensome and are used to negotiate a lower sale price to account for the corrections.

I found there are open permits or no permits...what now?

Most importantly don't panic. The Building Department staff will work with you to determine what needs to be done to get your project properly permitted and finalized. Many times, with open permits, it's as simple as having a final inspection. In cases where no permits have been pulled or work has been concealed, we will work with you and your contractors to find the least intrusive manner to make the corrections. Please reach out to the Building Department at any time to determine if a permit is required or if you have any other building related questions. We can be reached directly at 860-742-4064 or you can access a plethora of useful information on our Building Department website page (including the online permitting portal) at:

<https://www.coventryct.org/123/Building-Department>



SOME SEASONAL WRAP UP TIPS TO PROTECT YOUR HOME GOING INTO FALL...

Call your service provider to get your annual maintenance on your heating system. Wood stoves and chimneys should also be checked and cleaned to assure a safe heating season. Clean that chimney prior to winter accumulation of snow and ice on roof. Also, be sure to check smoke detectors for proper operation. It's wise to properly maintain any and all of these appliances in order to prevent falling victim to carbon monoxide poisoning or a lethal house fire.

To help defray some of those rising utility costs, fall is a great time to insulate areas. Caulking and sealing around door and window casings on exterior walls can reduce energy consumption. Door sweeps and gasket devices are also available at local home centers and hardware stores. Or if you are ready for a newer appearance to your home, windows and doors now have increased energy saving factors. Lastly, solar panels have been a popular energy saving choice amongst Coventry homeowners this past year.

Veterans Corner



UPGRADES TO VETERANS MEMORIAL GREEN

We are excited to share that several upgrades have been made to Veterans Memorial Green. Thanks to the Town and John Twerdy, all the park benches have been repaired with new wood. They look amazing! Also, the cannon wheels and the flagpole replacements are underway and will be replaced soon. Join us next May to help with the annual clean-up of Veterans Memorial Green to beautify it for Memorial Day. Many hands make light work. Contact: coventryvmec@gmail.com for more information.

VETERANS -- SUBMIT YOUR DD-214

It's important to all residents who are veterans to provide a copy of their DD-214 (discharge papers) to the Town Clerk. There are possible tax exemptions for Coventry veterans, but the documentation must be on file. There are many veteran events in the region and the Coventry Veterans Memorial & Events Commission is working with the region to identify and communicate those events to our veterans. Check out: [facebook.com/groups/coventryveterans](https://www.facebook.com/groups/coventryveterans). The Human Resources Administrator, Annemarie Sundgren, is the Municipal Veteran Representative for Coventry. Did you know that the PACT Act is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances. If you have any questions about veteran resources, please contact Annemarie at asundgren@coventryct.org or call 860-742-5324.

CT VETERANS DAY RACE

The 8th annual CT Veterans Day Race will be held at Patriots Park on Saturday, November 4, 2023 beginning with the patriotic opening ceremony at 9:45 a.m. and race start at 10:00 a.m. Check out: ctveteransdayrace.com for information on how to participate in the 4-mile certified race, or the 3-mile walk or ruck, or to be a sponsor. All proceeds go to CT veteran service organizations servicing needy veterans.

Assessor's Office

VETERANS:

Veterans have until September 30th to file your DD214 with the Town Clerk to be eligible for an exemption for the 2023 Grand List. You must have served at least 90 days during a time of war. If you have already filed, you do not need to re-file. You will receive your exemption automatically each year.

If you are a disabled Veteran with a VA rating at 10% or more you are eligible for increased benefits. If you have filed previously and there is an increase in rating please submit your new rating letter to this office. I will mention that if you have turned or are 65 years old with a rating of at least 10% we can increase your benefit to the 100% level.

There is also an Additional Veteran's Exemption available for those Veterans who meet income guidelines. These applications must be submitted in person to the Assessor's office before October 1, 2023. Please call our office, 860-742-4067 if your income is less than \$49,100 if married or less than \$40,300 if single. We will be happy to give you more information and assist you in filling out the application.

The assessor will be visiting the Senior Center for a Veterans Coffee Hour on September 12th at 9:30am to discuss all available exemptions, including fast approaching deadlines for application! RSVP's to Senior Center are appreciated, 860-742-3525.

OTHER EXEMPTIONS – FILING DEADLINE OCTOBER 1, 2023:

Totally Disabled and Legally Blind exemptions are available with a one-time application necessary.

PERSONAL PROPERTY:

All business owners and owners of unregistered motor vehicles or vehicles registered out of state but are most often located in Coventry are required to declare their personal property by November 1st of each year. The forms will be available on the Town's web site, www.coventryct.org and in the Assessor's Office. Please contact us for further information or with any questions you may have.

FARM AND FOREST CLASSIFICATIONS:

The intent of these classifications is to encourage the preservation of farm land and forest land. Certain qualifications apply which can be reviewed on the applications that are available on the Town's web site, www.coventryct.org and in the Assessor's Office. If you are considering applying for the Forestland designation, please note that you must have a completed Foresters Report completed by October 1, 2023. For application deadlines and guidance please contact our office.

John Preisner, Assessor and Rachel Vertefeulle, Assistant Assessor are here to assist you.

Please stop in, call, or email us at:

assessor@coventryct.org with any questions.

Tax Collector's Office

860-742-4066

The July 2023 installment of the 2022 Grand List tax bills and 2023 COVRRRA/Trash fees are now delinquent and subject to 1 ½ % interest per month. The first installment of the sewer assessment bill due in May 2023 is also now delinquent. Please call or go on the town website for correct amount due on any unpaid bill. The sewer use bills for 2023 were mailed at the end of August and are due in full in September. If your sewer use payment is not received within 30 days of the due date, applicable interest is due.

The real estate second installment bill due in January 2024 is not mailed. You should retain your two remaining copies from the original July 2023 billing: one to be presented upon payment of the January 2024 installment and the other as your receipt. Supplemental motor vehicle bills will be mailed at the end of December for January 2024 due date.

Credit card payments for tax, sewer, and COVRRRA trash bills are accepted here in the office as well as online and are processed by Point and Pay. There is a convenience fee charged by Point and Pay for credit and debit card payments. Debit is charged a flat rate of \$3.95. All credit cards charged 2.75% (minimum \$2.00) fee. Payments made by bank account (electronic check) is \$0.95. There is a link from the Tax Collector's page on the town's website www.coventryct.org to pay by **card** or **bank account**. Please feel free to call the Tax Office before making your online payments and we will be happy to walk you through the procedure.

Once again, the Webster Bank Lockbox will be processing current tax payments only during January 2024 for Real Estate 2nd half tax due and Supplemental Motor vehicle tax due. Please include your current payment coupon with your check and to Town of Coventry, Dept 336, PO Box 150417, Hartford CT 06115-0417. All other payments (partial, late, sewer, COVRRRA/Trash) should be mailed directly to the Town of Coventry, 1712 Main St., Coventry CT 06238.

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 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.

We strongly encourage paying online at our website www.coventryct.org, 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.**

PAYMENT DUE CALENDAR:

SEPTEMBER - Sewer Use Fee single payment. **NOVEMBER** - Sewer Assessment fee 2nd installment. **JANUARY** - Real Estate 2nd installment and Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax only if applicable. **MAY** - Sewer Assessment fee 1st installment. **JULY** - Real Estate 1st installment; Motor Vehicle, COVRRRA and Personal Property single payment.

Other Town News

COMINGS AND GOINGS & STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Farewell to **Amanda Backhaus**, Finance Director, who has taken a position in her hometown of Mansfield. Happy retirement to **Kevin Vail**, Police Officer, **Jim McLoughlin**, Fire/EMS Administrator, **Mike Cote**, Police Dispatcher, and **Eric Trott**, Director of Planning & Development. Welcome to **Julie Chapman**, Finance Director, **Megan Yanez**, Assistant Recreation Director, **Lindsay Beutler**, Inland Wetlands Agent, and **Dan Spiewakowski**, Police Officer.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MEETING, SOUTH/SWAMP ST. LOTCIP PROJECT:

September 18, 2023

6:30 PM

Town Hall Annex

1712 Main Street

STATE OF COVENTRY LAKE FORUM

September 20, 2023

7:00 PM

Mill Brook Place, 1267 Main St.

Dr. Robert Kortmann will speak on the state of Coventry Lake.

Watch for more details.

PROJECT UPDATES:

BUNKER HILL RD. CULVERT REPLACEMENT

Hired Jacobson Engineering to design replacement. 50% grant & 50% from recent Road Bond. Anticipate project in summer 2024.

STATE BONDING FOR MILLER RICHARDSON ACCESSIBILITY & EQUITY PROJECT
Hired Barton & Loguidice Engineering to work with Parks & Recreation Commission on setting priorities. Work planned for summer 2024.

Coming Soon!

OCT. 15, CROP HUNGER WALK, 1 PM: Coventry Fire Station 208, 1645 South Street/Judd Road. This annual walk raises money for world hunger. It's a 2.4 mile circle starting and ending at the firehouse, or walk an alternate 1/2 mile route on South St. Register and/or donate online at <https://events.CropHungerWalk.org/2023> and join our team "First & Second Churches of Coventry Walk." Registration also available on the day of the event at 12:30. Info: Laura Young, LBYoung1964@gmail.com

NOV. 4, CHILI FEST, 12-2 PM: Sponsored by the Coventry Lions Club, the Chili Fest will take place at Coventry High School. Prizes will be awarded. Admission: \$10 adults, \$7 seniors and student ID, free for age 6 and under. More info: <https://lionsclubofcoventry.org>.

DEC. 3, CHRISTMAS IN COVENTRY VILLAGE, 12-4 PM: Welcome the holiday season along historical Main Street as well as Patriots Park. Enjoy a variety of activities, events and specials, including the Decorated Tree Festival, photos with Santa at Coventry Arts and Antiques, horse and wagon rides, Arts Guild members show, music, refreshments, shopping, torchlight parade, lighting of the Christmas holiday tree, and more. For more information about participating or helping, contact Cindy Houser, 860-617-3588, Barbara Barry, 860-803-7163, or Ruth O'Neil, 860-918-5957. Donations are welcome and may be made by contacting one of the above coordinators.

DEC. 16, WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA, 12 PM, COVENTRY CEMETERY: Our 6th year of honoring our veterans. Donations for each wreath are \$17 and can be ordered in several ways. Donate for a specifically named veteran's grave by sending a request with the veteran's name and the cemetery, and a check made out to Wreaths Across America to Coventry Cemetery Commission, 1712 Main Street, Coventry, CT 06238. This address can also be used for donations for all veterans in Coventry. Order wreaths online at www.wreathscrossamerica.org/CTCCC and follow instructions. you MUST use code CTCCC for your donation to be matched to Coventry's cemeteries. All payments MUST be made by Nov. 20 to be counted for this year.



DAFFODIL BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT: In 1993 the newly-formed Village Improvement Society was looking for a long-term project that would include the entire town. Planting daffodils seemed like the perfect match, and the Daffodil Beautification Project officially began. Since then, 382,195 bulbs have been planted throughout Coventry! Dutch Master (all yellow) and a giant mixture of bulbs are available this year at \$5 per dozen. To order, call July at 860-214-9567.

News from Parks and Recreation

Camp Wangumbaug (Camp W) had a successful summer serving over 85 campers per week for 8 weeks. In addition to Camp Wangumbaug, the Parks and Rec Department ran 12 specialty camp programs including Art Camp, Soccer Camp, Cooking Camp, Lego Camp, Fitness Camp, Multisport Camp, and Science Camp. A BIG THANK YOU to the Camp Wangumbaug staff for their hard work providing an amazing camp experience to so many campers this summer!

Patriots Park and Lisicke Beach saw big crowds on the sunny days we had in between many thunderstorms. A BIG THANK YOU to the lifeguards, gatekeepers, and swim lesson instructors for a GREAT SEASON!

Welcome to our new Assistant Recreation Director, Megan Yanez. Megan is new to this position, however she is not new to Coventry Parks and Rec. She has held numerous part time and seasonal positions since 2013, mostly recently as the Summer Camp Director from 2018 - 2022. Megan also has experience working with children with special needs as a paraprofessional at Coventry Grammar School.

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

SAVE THE DATE for Arts on Main: Saturday, September 16th. Live music, food trucks, art vendors, face painting, puppet show, and more free family fun!

SAVE THE DATE for Halloween on Main: Saturday, October 21st with a rain date of Saturday, October 28th.



Booth & Dimock Memorial Library

The Library is fully open! After a year of having our downstairs closed, our newly renovated children's and teen space is open to the public. Library hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 10-8, Friday 10-6, and Saturday 10-3.

Our newly renovated library includes a brand-new teen area, new community room, puzzle parlor, local history area, study space, and more! Stop by the library to borrow a book, use the internet, study or work quietly, or enjoy one of our many programs!

Fall Children's Programs:

- Play Group - Every Wednesday at 10:30 AM
- Crafts with Miss Rachel - September 30 and November 18 at 1:00 PM
- Chapter Book Story Time - Every Tuesday beginning 9/26 at 4:30 PM. Our first book will be *Bunnica*.

Fall Adult Programs

- The Shaman & The Snowman - Thursday November 16 at 6:00PM. Author Charles Rosenay will be here to delight us with spooky tales from his book *True Ghost Stories of Connecticut*. Paranormal expert Nick Grossman will then lead us on a paranormal investigation in the library. Will there be spirits present? Join us and find out!

Lastly, make sure to drop by the Library during the Arts on Main Festival on Saturday September 16! We'll be here with make-your-own puppets and a poetry writing station!

Caprilands Legacy Continues

The Coventry Historical Society is happy to announce that the Tolland Probate Court has ruled that the Coventry Historical Society will be the beneficiary of the residue of the Estate of Adema Grenier Simmons that will include the right to sell her remaining books and to reprint those in short supply. Some of these have been out of print and unavailable to the public for many years. This bequest comes with the provision that any proceeds from sales of the books will be used to further the intent of Mrs. Simmons' Will and promote the Legacy of Caprilands. Books have been placed for sale at the Strong Porter Museum at 2382 South St, Coventry; The Coventry Visitors' Center at 1195 Main St, Coventry; Coventry Arts & Antiques at 1140 Main St, Coventry; Nathan Hale Farm & Feed at 2050 Boston TNPk, Coventry; Edmondsons' Farm & Nursery 2627 Boston TNPk, Coventry; Woodland Gardens, at 168 Woodland St., Manchester; and the Perennial Herb and Book Shop at 867 Main St. Manchester. Please check with these locations for the availability of titles.

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
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mowens@coventryct.org
dwrubel@coventryct.org
mstgermain@coventryct.org



Town/State Projects:

LOTICIP - Swamp Road at Boston Turnpike Intersection Improvements Project: Completed.

LOTICIP - South Street Roadway and Pedestrian Improvements Project (Phase 1): Completed. Ribbon cutting at the Farmer's Market 20th Anniversary Celebration (*see photo above, with Town Engineer Todd Penney and Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz cutting the ribbon along with other State and local officials*).

LOTICIP - Swamp Road and South Street Improvements Project: Project went through the data collection (survey, wetland delineation, soil borings) Preliminary Design submittal in July. Information Meeting Sept. 18, 6:30 PM, Town Hall Annex.

FLBP - Hop River Road Bridge Project: Bids opened in April and project awarded to ROTH Contracting in May of 2023. Clearing and Utility work in July/August 2023. Bridge closure, detour and replacement to start in spring 2024.

CCGP - Main Street Sidewalk Extension to Lisicke Beach: No activities done on the project in this quarter due to other project timing demands. Late fall construction 2023 still planned.

Softball Field No.1 at Transfer Station: Project was completed and accepted by Town in May 2023 with ribbon cutting ceremony held in June.

Softball Field No.2 at DPW Laydown Yard: Earth Dynamics LLC of Coventry CT was low bidder. Work started in June. Project expected to be complete and accepted in September.

2021 DEEP Rec Trail Grant: No construction activities took place. Engineering analysis for Bear Swamp Road section from Nathan Hale Road to Rufus Brook. Public meeting should be held in Quarter Three.

Tree Removal and Disposal of Leaves & Yard Waste:

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.

DPW is requesting that residents refrain from disposing leaves and yard waste into ditches, catch basin structures and culverts. It is vital to keep these areas clear and open to convey storm water in peak flow rain events. If you have a structure in front of your property please help clean the top off. DPW swept the entire town and cleaned all of the basin tops in the spring, but the grates still get covered over and plugged with organic debris. Leaves can be disposed of at the Transfer Station at no charge and brush may be cut up into 3 foot lengths, bundled and tied, 30-lbs. maximum and put out for bulk pickup on the second Monday of the month.

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

Thursday, November 23rd – Thanksgiving Day
Monday, December 25th – Christmas Day
Monday, January 1st – New Year's Day



Household Chemical Waste Drop-Off Facility:

57 Hancock Road in Willington. Open 9/16/23 and 10/21/23 - THEN CLOSED FOR SEASON!!!

See the DPW section of the Town website for a list of acceptable materials. 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. **There is also a small business program.** Email MidNEROC@cox.net for information, or call 860-965-1910.

Chemical Waste is a problem! When hazardous wastes are poured down the sink or toilet, dumped "out back", poured into a street drain or put out into the trash, they eventually make their way into our water supply. If you have doubt whether or not a material is hazardous you could call Public Works at (860) 742-6588.

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 COVRRRA contract for curbside pickup with All American Waste also includes pricing for 6 cubic yard dumpster for 30 days rental currently at \$175 haul/\$98 ton, 15 cubic yard dumpster for 30 days rental at \$195 haul/\$98 ton, and 30 cubic yard dumpster for 30 days rental at \$195 haul/\$98 ton. Additional rental after 30 days will be billed at \$5 per day. Residents contract directly with All American Waste at (860) 289-7850. Be sure you specify you are a Coventry resident to get this discounted rate.

Bye Bye Mattress is a mattress recycling program. The program was established by law and is operated by Mattress Recycling Council, a nonprofit that uses a recycling fee collected on each mattress and box spring sold, making recycling easier in our communities. Whether a retailer takes it back with your new purchase or **you drop it off at the Transfer Station**, the Bye Bye Mattress program converts your old product from waste to recycling. As a result, our landfills and incinerators are less crowded as old mattresses are recycled into new, useful products. Residents can drop-off their old mattress at no cost at the Coventry Transfer Station on Olsen Farm Road.

Textile Recycling is available in Coventry at the following locations: next to the Annex behind the Town Hall anytime and Public Works on Olsen Farm Road anytime. Textiles can be donated in any condition as long as they're clean and dry. Must be contained in bags.

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, rolled carpet or recliner chair w/metal removed. If you don't want to wait for this event you are now able to bring your furniture / oversized items to the Transfer Station on Olsen Farm Road - however rates will apply.

No Electronics Curbside: Electronics will not be picked up at curbside. Coventry residents must bring their electronics to the town's transfer station for recycling. **No Mattresses Curbside:** Mattresses and boxsprings will not be picked up at curbside. Must be brought to the Transfer Station for recycling.

Excess trash and recycling? The Transfer Station is now able to accept excess bags of trash and recycling! The fee is \$2.00 per bag for trash and recycling free. Check your COVRRRA calendar for open days / times. 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 \$2 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 - 2:45 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. Push the lid plugs in periodically to keep them snug 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.

COVRRRA questions should be directed to Public Works at (860) 742-6588 or email dwrubel@coventryct.org.

Transfer Station

100 Olsen Farm Road - winter hours begin October 5, 2023.

Thursday hours April - September: noon - 6 PM

Thursday hours October - March: 10 AM - 4 PM

Open every Saturday from 9 am until 3 pm (excluding holidays).

Proof of residency required. Electronic payments available.

Materials acceptable with cost:

- Construction and demolition debris. Free of cardboard, metal and garbage.
 - Land clearing debris; stumps & brush.
 - Furniture - rates apply
 - Fire Extinguishers \$6 each
 - Propane Tanks - rates vary by size
 - 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.
 - Garbage - \$2 each bag

Materials acceptable no cost:

- Single stream recyclables (for example bottles, cans, cardboard, paper)
- Leaves for composting
- Electronics, fluorescent light bulbs, batteries
- Paint, primers, stains, shellacs, rust preventatives
- Mattress and box spring (\$20 fee if excessive damage or wet)
- Appliance without refrigerant (stove, washer, dryer)
- Metal materials (metal tanks must be cut open and crushed).

Materials NOT acceptable:

- Grass clippings
- 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.

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

WPCA

Water Pollution Control Authority (Sewer Department)

Wastewater Management Plan:

- Tighe & Bond has been working on our Wastewater Management [Facilities] Plan. The facilities plan will evaluate if it is more cost effective to upgrade our wastewater treatment plant or decommission the plant and send all flow to Willimantic for treatment. We looked at areas around the Lake for potential sewer expansion to make sure whatever option we choose has sufficient capacity for appropriate future growth.
- We decided to perform this major study now because our discharge permit expired over 25 years ago and CT DEEP could mandate a plant upgrade at any time. In 2019 we had several visits from DEEP that indicated they were getting very close to giving us a new permit. Our plant will need a major upgrade to meet modern treatment limits.
- The plant was built in 1985 and the infiltration basin treatment system is nearing the end of its useful life, similar to a septic leaching field. We do not have enough land to construct additional basins and even if we did our consultants believe it is very unlikely that DEEP would allow this.
- The State is getting millions of dollars in wastewater infrastructure grants from the Federal Government and we need to have a plan in place to take advantage of the grants before they are awarded to other towns.
- Upgrading our plant or connecting to Willimantic would benefit the environment and give us more capacity for development in appropriate areas which generates tax revenue.
- The facilities plan study cost is \$207,100. We were approved for a 55% Clean Water Fund grant so our share is \$93,195.

Route 44 Sewer Expansion:

- Bolton Gateway (Route 44) Sewer Project: This sewer expansion project will help protect groundwater quality and facilitate commercial redevelopment for 21 properties on Route 44 near the Bolton Town line.
- Congressman Joe Courtney selected our project out of many applications and it was approved for a \$1.2 million EPA grant. The grant will cover the majority of costs and make our project feasible. We need to complete the full EPA grant application as soon as it becomes available to us. Since Federal money is involved EPA has strict requirements to prevent waste and fraud. All building materials must be made in the USA.
- While we wait for the grant application window to open we are working out construction and maintenance details with the Bolton Lakes sewer system, which we are tying into.
- Our next steps towards installing sewers will be signing agreements with the Bolton Lakes WPCA, applying to Manchester for formal approval since they will receive and treat wastewater from the project area, establishing regulations, performing design work, and obtaining DOT permits. We hope to begin construction towards the end of 2024.

Human Services Office

WORRIED ABOUT WINTER HEATING COSTS?



Connecticut Energy Assistance Program:

The Energy Assistance program is designed to offset winter heating costs for low-income (below 60% of state median income) households.

What do I do if I want to apply for help?

To apply for assistance, applicants must schedule an appointment and provide copies of required documents for all household members (ALL documentation needs to be brought to the appointment, if not the appointment will need to be rescheduled) - Please contact office for specific details. We strongly encourage applicants to make an appointment with ACCESS Agency or Coventry Human Services early as space is limited. Appointments will be rescheduled if proper documentation is not provided at the initial intake.

**Program follows CT Poverty Guidelines; please call the office to see if you qualify.*

POSITIVE CONNECTION MENTORING PROGRAM: MENTORS NEEDED!!

Are you a mature, responsible, well-rounded high school student who enjoys working with children? If so, then you may be the perfect fit to serve as a mentor. Why become a mentor? You can make a difference in a child's life, give back to your community, gain and expand your leadership skills, and prepare yourself for a possible future career involving children. This can also serve as your required community service hours needed for graduation! As a mentor, you will assist your assigned mentee with homework, participate in various arts & crafts, sports, and games, attend field trips, plan and lead activities, and serve as a role model to all mentees in the program.

The program will run from October through May, meeting every Thursday afternoon from 2:30-4:30 at G.H. Robertson School. You will be assigned a mentee for the duration of the program based on your interests and strengths. For more information, or to complete an application, please contact Melissa Bordonaro, Youth Services Coordinator at 860-742-5324.

FOOD BANK

Coventry Food Bank is available to any individual or family living in town that is experiencing difficult times and is need of assistance with food. We have a variety of pantry and toiletries items. Please contact our office to schedule a brief intake and a food bank appointment.

We are solely a donor-funded program and would not be provide for this community without the generous donations from our residents, churches and schools. Thank you for you continued support!! If you would like to donate to the food bank, we are always in need of: cereal, kids snacks, pasta/pasta sauce, mac and cheese, peanut butter/jelly, rice, laundry soap, personal care (toothbrush, deodorant, shampoo/conditioner).

The needs of the Food Bank can change depending on the month/season so follow us on Facebook for updates or give the office a call for updated list. Remember we cannot distribute expired items so please check expiration dates!

CLERGY FUEL

Residents who wish to contribute to the Clergy Fuel Fund can mail their donation to Coventry Human Services c/o Clergy Fuel Fund. 100% of the money raised is used to assist Coventry families in need of emergency fuel assistance once all other resources have been exhausted. We require proof of 1 out-of-pocket fuel payment. Your contribution can make a difference this winter!

HOLIDAY "ADOPT A FAMILY" PROGRAM

If you are a family or individual in need of help this holiday season, we can help with a holiday meal or even gifts for the children in the house (birth to 18 if still in high school). Please call our office to set up an appointment to discuss your needs.

HOLIDAY DONATIONS

The holidays are quickly approaching! Many families and individuals will benefit from your generosity this holiday season.

How can you help?

- Donate a turkey or ham**
- Donate canned goods, fresh fruit and vegetables, dessert
- Donate new unwrapped toy
- Donate gift cards (Walmart, Amazon, Target, Grocery Store, Gas cards, ect.)
- Call for information or you can "Adopt a family" for the holiday
- Monetary donations can be made in lieu of food or gifts. Please mail your donation to Coventry Human Services- 1712 Main Street, Coventry, CT 06238

Freezer space is limited, please call ahead if you are making a large donation of frozen turkeys or hams

Contacting us:

860-742-5324 Humanservices@coventryct.org
 Administrator- Annemarie Sundgren asundgren@coventryct.org
 Administrative Assistant- Dianna Grindle dgrindle@coventryct.org



Please follow Coventry Human Services on Facebook for updates on future programs or events!

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

Hours of Operation:

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

CHOICES HEALTH INSURANCE COUNSELING

Medicare Open Enrollment Begins October 15th

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 a 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.

Medicare Open Enrollment will take place October 15 - December 7. Since costs, coverage and health networks can change each year, this is a good time to review your current plan and options. All people on Medicare can make changes during this time period to best meet their needs for 2024.

Please call us at 860-742-3525 to make an appointment with a certified CHOICES Counselor.

VETERANS DAY TRIBUTE

Wednesday, November 8th, 12 PM

Hosted by the Coventry Senior Center and American Legion Post 52 to honor and recognize our Coventry veterans and their families. Ceremony at noon followed by fellowship and lunch at the Senior Center.

FALL TRIPS:

Call the Center for more info or to register.

- Oct 4th: **Essex River Cruise**, Essex, MA. 90 minute cruise, lunch at the Village Restaurant. \$142
- Nov. 8th: **"Elvis in the Building,"** Aqua Turf, Southington. 11 AM - 3:30 PM. \$52
- Nov. 14th: **All American Variety Show**, La Bella Vista, Waterbury. Salute to our veterans featuring Joe Arminio & the Family. Family-style meal. \$120.
- Nov. 19th: **Radio City Christmas Show**, \$168.
- Dec. 5th: **Silver Bells & Diamonds Holiday Show**, Aqua Turf, Southington. Family-style meal. \$119.

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

Phone: 860-742-3525

Hours: Call and leave a message. Your call will be returned within 48 hours.

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. As a result of the pandemic, the **priority will be given to those with medical appointments**. We have currently suspended rides for errands, shopping, the bank, employment, etc.

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: 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.

OPEN DOOR MEETINGS: Superintendent of Schools, David J. Petrone, Ed.D. will continue his practice of holding Open Door Meetings for the public. Open communication is a key component for true collaboration. Once again, all of this year's informal gatherings will be held virtually via ZOOM. The link for meetings will be posted on the Superintendent Webpage under **OPEN DOOR MEETINGS**. All community members are invited to keep informed about education in our town by attending any of these Open Door meetings. The dates for the 2023-2024 school year are:

- Thursday, October 19 from 11:00 a.m. - 12 noon
- Thursday, January 18 from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 24 from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS AND INFORMATION CLOSINGS, LATE OPENINGS, UNPLANNED EARLY RELEASES: In addition to parents receiving messages through SchoolMessenger, these announcements are carried on radio stations WILI (98.3 FM, 1400AM), WTIC (96.5 FM, 1080AM), WRCH (100.5 FM), WZMX (93.7), WKSS (95.7), and WWYZ (92.5). Announcements are also carried on the television stations WFSB Channel 3, WVIT Channel 30 (cable Channel 4), and WTNH Channel 8. For more information on start and end times during unexpected delays or early releases, please see our website.

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES: Coventry Public Schools has always benefited from the generous efforts and talents of community and parent volunteers. Interested in volunteering in any of the schools in district? To become a volunteer, please contact the building principals for more specific information.

- Joseph Blake, Coventry High School Principal, 860-742-7346, or jblake@coventryct.org
- Ross Sward, Capt. Nathan Hale School Principal, 860-742-7334, or rsward@coventryct.org
- Jennifer DeRagon, George Hersey Robertson School Principal, 860-742-7341, or jderagon@coventryct.org
- Heidi Davis, Coventry Grammar School Principal, 860-742-7313, or hdavis@coventryct.org
- Lois Hasty, Preschool and Early Childhood Education Coordinator, 860-742-4550, or lhasty@coventryct.org

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

- Coventry Teachers Awarded Innovative Grants for 2023-2024 School Year for educational initiatives in science, technology, engineering, and the arts.
- Welcome Heidi Davis as new Coventry Grammar School Principal.
- Capt. Nathan Hale School Girls Softball and Boys Baseball Teams Win Northeast Middle Athletic Conference Titles.

You can find the full press releases for these highlights and more on our website at:

<https://www.coventrypublicschools.org/district/news>



2023-2024 Coventry Public Schools Calendar

| August 2 | September 20 | October 20 | November 19 |
|--|---|--|---|
| S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 | S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 | S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 | S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 |

| December 16 | January 21 | February 19 | March 20 |
|---|--|--|---|
| S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 | S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 | S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 | S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 |

| April 17 | May 22 | June 6 |
|---|--|--|
| S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 | S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 | S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 |

- Symbols**
- Early Release ALL Schools
 - Early Release HEEC, CGS & GHR ONLY
 - Exam Schedule CHS ONLY
 - NO School, Staff Development Days
 - NO School, Holidays or Vacations

Student Days = 182 / Staff Days = 187

- August 2023**
28 - 29 Staff Development
30 Students - Full Day
- September**
4 No School, Labor Day
7 CGS Open House
13 HEEC Open House
13 CNH Open House
21 GHR Open House
27 CHS Open House
- October**
6 No School, Staff Development
9 No School, October Break
- November**
7 No School, Staff Development (Voting in the Schools)
8-9-10 All Schools Early Release - Conferences
22 All Schools Early Release
23-24 Thanksgiving Break
- December**
1 All Schools Early Release Staff Development
22 All Schools Early Release
25-29 No School December Break

- January 2024**
1 New Years Day
15 No School, MLK Day
16-17-18-19 CHS Exam Schedule
- February**
2 All Schools Early Release Staff Development
19 No School, Presidents' Day
20 No School, Staff Development
- March**
8 All Schools Early Release Staff Development
13-14-15 HEEC, CGS & GHR Early Release - Conferences
29 Good Friday
- April**
15-19 No School and April Break
- May**
27 No School, Memorial Day
- June ***
3 - 7 CHS Exam Day Schedule
8 Graduation
10 (or last day of school) All Schools Early Release

Grades PK - 5
Trimester Marking Periods & Report Card Distribution

Period 1 ends Dec 1 / Report Cards out on Dec 8
Period 2 ends March 8 / Report Cards out on March 15
Period 3 ends June 3 / Report Cards out on June 10

Grades 6 - 12
Quarter Marking Periods & Report Card Distribution

Period 1 ends Nov 3 / Report Cards out on Nov 10
Period 2 ends Jan 19 / Report Cards out on Jan 26
Period 3 ends Mar 28 / Report Cards out on Apr 5
Period 4 Grades 6-8 ends June 3 / Report Cards out on June 10
Period 4 Grades 9-12 ends June 10 / Report Cards out on June 21

* **Some** June dates are tentative, based upon the number of days to be made up.

School Phone Numbers

Hale Early Education Center (preK)..... 742-4550
Coventry Grammar School K-2 (CGS)...742-7313
G. H. Robertson School 3-5 (GHR)..... 742-7341
Capt. Nathan Hale School 6-8 (CNH)... 742-7334
Coventry High School 9-12 (CHS)..... 742-7346
Administration Building..... 742-7317

www.coventrypublicschools.org



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

COVENTRY TOWN NEWSLETTER

FALL 2023

Highlights from John Elsesser's Retirement Celebration:

We bid farewell to Town Manager John Elsesser at a celebration on July 28, 2023, where friends and colleagues from all stages of his professional career attended to wish him well. *Photos by Thomas Hurlbut Photography.*

