



TOWN NEWS



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JAN 15**

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Message from Lisa Thomas, Town Council Chairwoman

Dear Neighbors,

The Town Council and I wish you a bright New Year!

We want to thank you for putting your trust in us and electing us to office this past November. It is an honor to continue to serve as your Chairwoman, and I know the entire Council is excited to work together for the best interests of our beautiful community. I plan to continue my twice monthly Council Chairwoman Office Hours. Office hours at the Senior Center will be on the 4th Thursday of each month from 10:30 - 12:00. I will schedule additional hours on a rotating basis in order to accommodate as many people as possible. These hours will be held at the Booth and Dimock Library. The first 3 months will be:

- Wednesday, January 24th from 5:00-6:30
- Thursday, February 29th from 6:30-8:00
- Saturday, March 23rd from 10:00-11:30 (this is a good time to come chat about the budget proposals!)

Over the past two years, Coventry has seen tremendous enhancements to our community. These include miles of roadwork and pedestrian safety measures, improvements to our protected spaces and trails, completion of the library repairs and renovations, school HVAC and roofing projects along with other improvements to our schools, recognitions for excellence in our schools, updated master plans for both Miller Richardson and Patriots Parks, and so much more that make our town a great place to live. The Council looks forward to continuing with these and related projects. Of course none of this would be possible without your support, so huge thanks to all of you!

*Above: Winter in Coventry Village.
Photo by Laura Stone.*

Town Manager Update

2023 was a year of changes and accomplishments in the Town of Coventry. In July the Town welcomed Julie Chapman as our new Finance Director. We saw the retirement of Town Manager John Elsesser and Planning and then Development Director Eric Trott. I came on board as the new Town Manager in August and our new Planning and Development Director, Jana Roberson, joined us in November. She was then followed by Randy Heckman who was hired as our new Building Official. Additionally, the Fire Chief position was combined with duties of the Fire/EMS Administrator position making the Fire Chief position a full time paid staff member in Coventry. Bud Meyers now serves in that role, which also includes the role of Fire Marshal for the Town. We are a small Town, but many of us in Town government wear many hats to get things done effectively but also efficiently. Many of us on the Town of Coventry management team are new, but we are excited to be here working together to maintain quality services and to improve our Town.

We saw improvements made to Miler Richardson Park with two new softball fields and we completed the long-awaited improvements at the Booth and Dimock Library. We were pleased to complete that project and to cut the ribbon in September. At Coventry High School we worked through the summer and the fall to install new roofing. This project is nearly complete with minor drainage work yet to be done.

The Town has been busy making storm water and road improvements throughout Coventry over the last two summers. This project has been funded by a \$4,865,00 bond adopted by voters in 2021. We have recently ended construction due to winter, but will get back on our road paving list in the spring.

In 2024 we have many projects moving forward. Below is an update on some of these projects that will be starting in the months ahead. For in-depth details, see my bimonthly update report in the Archive section of the Town website at www.coventry-ct.gov.

Coventry High School-Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning

(HVAC) Project: this project will construct new heating and air conditioning at the High School. Air conditioning is now needed for public school buildings due to new State requirements regulating classroom temperatures. This new equipment has technology that will actually measure the level of oxygen needed in the rooms and adjusts levels as needed. Studies show that increased oxygen levels make students more productive. The Contractor is Pro-Mech, Inc. of Bloomfield, CT. The project cost is \$11,897,800. Construction is expected to begin in late Spring of 2024.

Patriots Park Improvement Project: A Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant has been awarded by the State to the Town in the amount of \$315,000 for Patriots Park improvements.

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Council Chairwoman's Message

Continued from Page 1

Coventry has also welcomed new key leadership including Town Manager Jim Drumm, Finance Director Julie Chapman, Director of Planning and Development Jana Roberson, and Police Chief Eric Peterson. We are excited by the vision and new perspectives that they share with our community as we always strive to be the best we can be.

Please remember that the winter months can be extra challenging. At times we might need extra support with groceries or home heating. At other times, we might need extra mental health support. Don't hesitate to contact our Human Services Department for information about local and state programs that can assist. Our Human Services Department can be reached at 860-742-5324. The Department includes our Human Services Director Annmarie Sundgren, Youth Services Coordinator Melissa Bordonaro, and Senior Center Director Brenda Bennett, along with other compassionate staff. Each of these people is ready to help find the resources you need. Please visit the Human Services page on our town web site to learn more. <https://www.coventry-ct.gov/126/Human-Services>

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

As always, I encourage you to take time to explore our www.coventry-ct.gov web site to learn about what our Town departments are up to. And visit www.coventrypublicschools.org to see our schools' achievements and projects.

Be well,
Lisa Thomas, Council Chairwoman

Town Clerk's Office

OUR SERVICES:

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

ITS NOT TOO LATE FOR DOG LICENSING - A dog's license is their ticket home!! The State of Connecticut requires that any dog over the age of 6 months is licensed in the town you live in. Appropriate documentation required. The fee is \$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.

PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOTING:

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

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

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



VOLUNTEER & SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY

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

-Margaret Mead

Many opportunities exist to lend your time and expertise to a variety of Town initiatives, by serving on a Coventry Board or Commission. If you might be interested, please review the current vacancies and complete the Statement of Interest form online at www.coventryct.org/Boards-Commissions. Forms are also available in our office. The Town Council Steering Committee reviews these applications and makes recommendations for appointment.

SPORTS LICENSES AND FALL PERMITS:

2024 Licenses are available at the Town Clerk's Office or from the CT DEEP website www.ct.gov/deep/hunting. Remember, all licenses expire annually on December 31st except Lifetime and Handicapped Licenses issued before October 1, 2009.

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

Please be advised our office can only accept cash, checks and small bills. No credit or debit cards can be accepted.

Land Use Office



ERIC TROTT, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT, RETIRES AFTER 29 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE TOWN

Eric Trott retired on August 24, 2023. Trott started working for the Town of Coventry in December of 1994. During his nearly 29 years with the Town, he served as Staff to the Planning

and Zoning Commission, Economic Development Commission, and many other sub-committees. One of Trott’s proudest accomplishments was his instrumental role in bringing the Coventry Farmers’ Market over to the Town of Coventry in 2016. On August 24, 2023, State Representative Tim Ackert presented Trott with an Official Citation from the Connecticut General Assembly in recognition of Trott’s dedication and commitment to the Town of Coventry.



Taking the reins from Eric is Jana Roberson, AICP. Ms. Roberson has experience in Coventry, having worked with the Town on several projects in the past and most recently worked as the Director of Community Development/Town Planner in Brooklyn, CT. Ms. Roberson is a certified land use planner and recently obtained a M.P.S. in Community and Economic Development from Pennsylvania State University, a program

specifically tailored for rural areas. She resides in Willimantic with her husband and son. Please contact Jana Roberson, Director of Planning & Development, at jroberson@coventry-ct.gov or 860-742-4062 for questions or information.



FAMILY AND GROUP DAY CARE HOMES

The Planning and Zoning Commission recently adopted changes to the Zoning Regulations concerning family and group day care homes.

The changes ensure that family and group day care homes are allowed by zoning permit in any residence that meets the State of CT licensing criteria. While made in accordance with state statutes, the Planning and Zoning Commission found that the changes would help foster an atmosphere where it is good to raise children and was consistent with the Plan of Conservation and Development that encourages the provision of child day care services.



Inland Wetlands & Watercourses

Coventry is rich in inland wetlands and as a community, it is our responsibility to be good stewards to this natural resource. Inland wetlands recharge our groundwater, reduce the risk of flooding, filter out pollutants, and create valuable habitat for our native flora and fauna. Inland wetlands may not always appear wet. If you aren’t sure if you have inland wetlands on or near your property, there are resources at Town Hall that can serve as a jumping off point. It is extremely important to identify wetlands boundaries because it helps our community make informed decisions about development and minimize our impact. Please feel free to contact our Inland Wetlands Agent, Lindsay Beutler, at lbeutler@coventry-ct.gov or 860-742-4062, if you have any questions or concerns.



DIMITRI’S RESTAURANT FAMILY RETIRES AFTER 50 YEARS OF FINE FOOD

The Coventry landmark and fine food gathering spot spanning five decades will soon be open under new ownership, but the contribution of the Gitsis and Salinsky families is appreciated by all who have enjoyed their food and the sense of community that they nurtured.

As the new owners prepare to create their own legacy, we would like to raise our glasses to the original Dimitri’s family!

Building Department

The Coventry Building Dept. would like to remind residents to have their heating systems checked and cleaned to eliminate potential problems during the winter months. Chimneys should be cleaned and inspected to allow for proper draft and to vent by-products of combustion to the open atmosphere. Every winter season, local fire departments are kept busy responding to chimney fires and carbon monoxide alarms mostly caused by improper maintenance of heating equipment.

Heavy wet snow and ice storms can cause power outages at any time. Portable generators should be used with caution and all manufacturer specifications and installation instructions must be followed. Stand-by or back-up power systems must be isolated from the buildings electrical service. During power outages, extreme caution must be taken when using candles and lanterns indoors. Never leave a candle burning unattended. Being prepared for storm-related problems that can occur at anytime is the best policy the code enforcement division can relay to the public.

Are you planning on building in the spring or summer? Please consider submitting your permit application in the wintertime to allow for the time necessary to go through the review process. Once approved, the permit will be valid as long as work starts within six months!

HAVE A SAFE & HEALTHY NEW YEAR!

Winter Notes from Coventry Lake Advisory & Monitoring Committee

Winter is here! A time to continue to enjoy activities on Coventry Lake. Remember that the ICE MUST BE SAFE to enjoy ice fishing, ice skating, and just ice walking! Safe ice is determined by:

- 4 inches or more of ice
- Newer black ice is stronger than old milky ice
- Weaker ice is found near rocks, inlets/outlets and sand bar (flats)
- The entire lake should be frozen before venturing out

Check for ice fishing information from CT DEEP

- <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Fishing/General-Information/Ice-Fishing>
- Some years ice fishing classes are offered – check the link above

There continued to be good news during the summer of 2023. There was not a repeat of the 2022 cyanobacteria public health warning. The Secchi disk readings were above average all summer. Fourteen readings were taken over 5 months as part of the Volunteer Co-Op Water Sampling program. In addition Coventry Lake Advisory & Monitoring also conducted water quality sampling with the support from GZA, environmental water experts, from June to October. Hydrilla was not treated in the summer of 2023. No hydrilla was seen in 2022 and the experts suggested not to do a whole lake treatment. In late August 2023 North East Aquatic Research reported finding a handful of small hydrilla plants. A treatment plan for 2024 is now being put together. Watch for details in the spring of 2024.

Canadian geese were discussed this summer as the flock was very large after a favorable winter and early spring season. One idea for lakefront owners who have Canadian geese nesting on their property is to register with the US Department of Agriculture to addle the eggs. Registration is open to homeowners who have active nests on their property. The registration is free and only a report of how many eggs were addled is required.

Register here:

- <https://epermits.fws.gov/eRCGR/geSI.aspx>

Information:

- https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/wildlifedamage/operational-activities/sa_waterfowl/ct_50_cfr1



**PLEASE
WELCOME OUR
NEW BUILDING
OFFICIAL, RANDY
HECKMAN!**

Randy has been a Building Official for the past 5 & 1/2 years in Bolton/Andover/Willington/Ashford (Bolton serves multiple towns). Prior to being a Building Official, Randy had been in the construction business for 37 years and once owned his own gas station in Vernon. He currently is the Continuing Education Coordinator of the Northeast Connecticut Building Official Association, and Vice President of the Connecticut Building Official Association as well. We are excited to have Randy's expertise to round out our dedicated staff, and encourage Coventry's citizens and contractors to get to know him through your projects.

Special Thanks to our retired Building Official, Joe Callahan, for assisting us during this vacancy.

FACEBOOK:

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/
GROUPS/245119282764856](https://www.facebook.com/groups/245119282764856)

COVENTRY'S WEBSITE:

[WWW.COVENTRY-CT.GOV/234/
LAKE-ADVISORY-MONITORING-
COMMITTEE](http://WWW.COVENTRY-CT.GOV/234/LAKE-ADVISORY-MONITORING-COMMITTEE)

EMAIL QUESTIONS TO:

[COVENTRYLAKEADVISOR@
COVENTRYCT.ORG](mailto:COVENTRYLAKEADVISOR@COVENTRYCT.ORG)

Veterans Corner

CT VETERANS DAY RACE

Coventry welcomed the 8th annual CT Veterans Day Race on Saturday, November 4th with great pride and enthusiasm. Hundreds gathered at Patriots Park to celebrate and honor our CT veterans. The overall first place winners were Megan McCollum (27:06 time) from Windsor, CT and Nathan Fisk (24:23 time) from Bolton, CT.

In addition to over 500 participants and spectators in the Park, we welcomed active-duty Marines, Soldiers and National Guardsmen to display their equipment. Deputy Commissioner of CT Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Joe Danao, was the guest speaker. The Coventry National Honor Society also collected and sorted donated daily essential items for the Backpacks for Life program. While the race was underway, the students completed 50 military-grade backpacks ready for distribution for homeless veterans this season.

AFGHANISTAN IRAQ VETERANS WAR MEMORIAL

We are excited to share that a memorial is underway and will be located at Rogers Park in Danbury, CT. Coventry is the proud home of the Vietnam Veterans War Memorial, and many worked arduous hours to fundraise to build this monument here. There are currently over 50 Global War on Terror (GWOT) veterans in Coventry who will appreciate this monument. The link to support this monument is:

www.ctafghaniraqmemorial.org/services.

VETERANS CRISIS LINE

The updated 24/7 Veterans Crisis Line for veterans and their loved ones is simple: Dial 988 then press 1. Or other options are text direct to 838255 or chat live at www.veteranscrisisline.net. You don't have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to connect.

COVENTRY LIONS GIVE BACK TO COMMUNITY:

The Lions Club of Coventry, the premier service organization in Coventry, has provided funding in the past year to various community groups and projects. Some of the groups that received charitable assistance from the Lions were: Coventry Scholarship Foundation, Human Services, Food and Fuel banks, Holiday Committee for Thanksgiving and Christmas, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, Coventry football, baseball, and softball, the Farmers Market, the Arts Guild, Patriots Park camperships, Lake Community Rowing, and Project Graduation. Our motto is "We Serve" and through our service we are able to provide assistance to others. The Lions are appreciative of all the support the Coventry community has given for our fundraising projects such as our Chili Fest, Christmas in the Village, Mothers Day Roses sale, and Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast. The Lions are always welcoming new members. Interested individuals can get more information on our website or Facebook page, or call 860-888-5172.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the **Christmas in the Village** event on December 3. Although the rainy weather was less than ideal, it lifted our spirits to see everyone's smiling faces as they attended the many offerings available throughout the afternoon.

Assessor's Office

COVENTRY, CT REVALUATION ANNOUNCEMENT

Pursuant to Connecticut State Law, every municipality must complete a new town-wide revaluation every five (5) years. Coventry last implemented a town-wide revaluation for the October 1, 2019 Grand List and therefore is required to implement a new town-wide revaluation for the October 1, 2024 Grand List which will be implemented at the end of January (2025).

The Town went out to bid for Revaluation Services earlier this year. After receiving the bids, the project was awarded to Vision Government Solutions (VGSI). VGSI has prior experience in Coventry having been the vendor that completed revaluations in Coventry for the 2009, 2014, and 2019 Grand Lists.

The majority of the revaluation regulations and process are governed by state statute and at least once every ten years, each town must "fully inspect" each property. Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 12-62 defines "fully inspect" as "viewing the inside of each property".

Pursuant to C.G.S. Sec. 12-62(b) (4) the Assessor may accept a Data Mailer Questionnaire in lieu of inspecting the interior of the property and, as part of this 2024 revaluation project, Coventry has opted to send out Data Mailer Questionnaires rather than attempt to visit and ask all of our property owners to allow us inside their property

Data Mailers will be sent out to all property owners in February/March 2024 and we ask that property owners return them immediately, or as soon as possible after receiving them.

For each property owner that does not return the Data Mailer Questionnaire, and whose property has not been inspected in the last ten years, Connecticut law requires our vendor to send a Data Collector Employee out to the property and request to inspect the interior. Each physical inspection will add a cost of \$26 to the project. Returning the mailer will save tax dollars.

There are five (5) phases of a revaluation. Data Collection, which includes the "full inspection" or "Data Mailer" process, is the first phase. The other four phases are: Market Analysis, Valuation, Field Review, and Informal Hearings.

The second phase, Market Analysis, will begin later this month. As part of Market Analysis, the vendor will be looking at all the "Sale properties" (those which have sold between October 2023 – September 2024). These properties will be used to determine the fair market value of every other property in town as of October 1, 2024. Since many times a new owner will make changes to the property they recently purchased, an ideal situation is when we are able to get a snap shot of exactly what sold in close proximity to the sale date.

It is not uncommon for new home owners to see someone taking a photo of their home in the six months after they purchase it and VGSI employees will be in the field inspecting sale properties. Many times the Assessor's office will want to drive by and look at the home as well as real estate appraisers try to use comparable sales of no longer than six months old when they are performing appraisals and they will drive by and take their own photos. The Market Analysis phase will be ongoing through the majority of the project.

If anyone has any questions or concerns regarding any phase of the revaluation process, please feel free to contact Town Assessor John Preisner directly at 860-742-4067 or jpreisner@coventry-ct.gov.

Tax Collector's Office

860-742-4066

The second installment for real estate taxes is due January 1, 2024. The last day to pay without interest is February 1, 2024. Real Estate tax bills are **not** mailed out for the January installment. If you need a copy of your bill, you can print one from the town's website www.coventryct.org under online bill pay, which will take you to the tax collector's page. Here you will see the link to "Find your bill" (under Quick Links).

Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax bills are for vehicles purchased, registered or plates transferred after October 1, 2022 & before August 1, 2023. These supplemental bills were mailed out in December and are due January 1, 2024. The last day to pay without interest is February 1, 2024.

Please remember the address for the PO Box in Hartford, printed on your original bills, is only for payments for CURRENT TAX BILLS: Real Estate tax due January 2024 & supplemental motor vehicle tax due January 2024. All other payments for any delinquent bills or partial payments should be mailed directly to: Town of Coventry Tax, 1712 Main St, Coventry, CT 06238 for prompt processing.

If payment is received after February 1, 2024 the real estate & supplemental motor vehicle installment will become delinquent and will immediately be subject to 3% interest. From then on the accrued interest will be added at the rate of 1.5% per month (18% annually) from the Date Due. The minimum interest charge is \$2.00.

Taxpayer's have an online payment option to pay by checking account (electronic check). These payments are processed by Point & Pay and the fee is \$0.95.

Credit card payments for tax, sewer & COVRA trash bills are accepted here in the office as well as online and are processed by Point & Pay. There is a convenience fee. Debit Cards have a flat fee of \$3.95. Credit Cards have a 2.75% fee (minimum \$2.00).

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

We strongly encourage you to pay online at www.coventryct.org or by mail. You can also drop off your payments/correspondence in the drop box located in the Town Hall rear entrance vestibule (not the ballot box outside the building). We are always willing to answer questions by phone or email.

Payment Due Calendar: **January**-Real Estate 2nd installment & Supplemental Motor Vehicle if applicable. **May**-Sewer assessment fee - 1st installment. **July**-Real Estate 1st installment, Motor Vehicle, Personal Property and COVRA Trash. **September**-Sewer user fee (annual). **November**-Sewer assessment fee - 2nd installment. *Questions? Please call 860-742-4066.*

Other Town News

COMINGS AND GOINGS & STAFF

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Welcome to **Jana Roberson**, our new Director of Planning & Development, who joins us following the retirement of Eric Trott. and **Randy Heckman**, Building Official, who replaces **Tim Brennan**, who left employment with the Town of Coventry to take a position closer to home. Welcome also to **Josh Anderson**, Recreation Assistant, who will supervise our Before & After School and Camp Wangumbaug programs. We also welcome two new officers to the Coventry Police Department: **Riley Johnson** and **Nick Murphy**, who enrolled in the Police Academy in December. Following their graduation, Riley and Nick will participate in a 12-16 week field training program before assuming their duties as Police Officers.

Congratulations to **John Elssesser**, former Town Manager, who received the Joel Cogen Lifetime Achievement award at the CCM annual convention in November. The award is given to those who have dedicated a significant amount of time to their community over an extended period of time.

Fire Chief **Bud Meyers** was selected to represent the Connecticut Fire Chief's Association at the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Fire Chiefs' Forum in November 2023. The forum is an opportunity for the presidents of Fire Chief Associations from throughout North America to network with colleagues and NFPA staff to discuss items of mutual interest. Bud was the sole Connecticut representative at the forum, which provides executive-level discussion on emerging issues, challenges, new technology, standards and other relevant issues. Congratulations to Bud on this professional distinction - we know he served the State of Connecticut very well at this event.

The Booth & Dimock Memorial Library would like to recognize the following employees who achieved milestone tenures in 2023: **Nora Dexter** - 11 years; **Juliana Didero-Mullen** - 5 years, **Kayla Fontaine** - 5 years; **Rachel Hora** - 5 years; **Margaret Khan** - 5 years; **Tasha Murtha** - 5 years; **Aubrey Bond** - 5 years. Thank you for all your contributions to our wonderful library and community!

News from Parks and Recreation

ARTS ON MAIN 2023! An estimated 1000 people enjoyed a beautiful fall day in Coventry Village – visiting the craft vendors, enjoying live music, puppet shows, face painting, art exhibits and more. The Red Lion Burger, First Church Awesome Dogs, Twin Beaks Fried Chicken, and A Cup Cake for Later served up some delicious food while the crowd enjoyed live music from Horizon Blue, Whiskey Rebels, Stomp N' Holler The Coventry Arts Guild and Coventry Public Schools both showcased their works on display. Artists Barbara and Tim Timberman offered an Interactive Children's Art Installation for children to draw, paint and create! The Poets' Corner at Millbrook Place and was a huge success featuring Antoniette Brim Bell, the CT State Poet Laureate. Modern Times Theater puppet show was another highlight with a humorous performance at the Library. Thank you to the event sponsors: Bidwell Tavern, Coventry Arts & Antiques, Persevered Antiques, CT Valley Orthodontics, Nathan Hale Antique Center, Hale's Barber Shop, Coventry Lions Club, Meadowbrook Wine & Spirits, and JDM Imports. Additional thank you to Coventry Fire/EMS, Booth & Dimock Library, Human Service Dept, Laura Stone Photography, Coventry Public Schools Music & Art Department, First Congregational Church, Song-a-Day Music, Historical Society, Can Dance Studio & Coventry CT Cares.

The 2023/2024 Youth Basketball season has started! This year over 80 kids in grades K – 2 are participating in Instructional Basketball on Saturday mornings and over 180 kids in grades 3 – 8 are participating in Rec and Travel League Basketball. Thank you to Coventry Board of Education for providing gym space and to the Coventry Youth Basketball Association Board for their countless volunteer hours of coordination!

State the New Year off right! Parks and Recreation offers a variety of health & wellness classes for all ages and abilities! Tai Chi Thursday morning & Tuesday evenings and Yoga Wednesday & Thursday evenings. **FREE Trial Classes in January!**

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

REGISTRATION FOR CAMP WANGUMBAUG OPENS MONDAY MARCH 4th!

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

Summer Employment Applications NOW available! Applications can be found on the town website for season position including: beach gate attendants, lifeguards, park maintenance, camp leadership positions, and camp counselors.

Booth & Dimock Memorial Library

The Booth & Dimock Memorial Library is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10-8, Friday from 10-6, and Saturday from 10-3. Snow closing will be posted on our website at www.coventrypl.org, our Facebook @BDLibrary, and on WFSB. The Library will be closed on March 29 in observance of Good Friday.

We are excited to offer two new programs beginning in 2024. Stop by the library to get a **BDRewards** punch card and earn prizes just for visiting the library! A brand-new **Mystery Book Discussion** series is beginning on January 5. This book group will meet on the first Friday of each month at 1:30 to discuss books from the *Times 100 Best Mysteries and Thrillers* List!

Check out the following programs for children, teens, and adults. More programs or updates to our schedule can be found on our website or Facebook page!

Children's Programs

- **Playgroup** – Every Wednesday at 10:30. Encourage your child to socialize in an environment with lots of toys for free play!
- **Chapter Book Storytime** – Every Friday at 4:30. A storytime for late elementary or early middle school children.
- **Sing, Stomp, and Story** – January 11, February 8, and March 7 at 11:00. Listen to music and dance around with Miss Christa!
- **Evening Storytime** – January 25, February 22, and March 14 at 6:30. Join us for a calming bedtime story hour with Miss Rachel.
- **Messy Munchkins** – January 26, February 16, and March 22 at 11:00. A multi-sensory playgroup that encourages participation from both caregiver and child.
- **Saturday Games and Puzzles** – January 20 at 1:00
- **Fairy Tale Ball** – February 3 at 11:00. Celebrate **Take Your Child to the Library Day!** Come dressed as your favorite fairy tale character, or in your best dance clothes!
- **Children's Valentine Making** – February 13 all day. Stop by the library anytime between 10AM and 8PM to make valentines!
- **Saturday Crafts with Miss Rachel** – March 16 all day

Teen Center

Learn more about the Teen Center – serving teens 12-18 or grades 6-12, through any of the following forums:

- Teen Center emails: <https://subscribepage.io/q1a3d3>
- Discord invite: <https://tinyurl.com/bdteensdiscord>
- Remind invite: <https://tinyurl.com/bdteensremind>
- Teen Center website: www.coventrypl.org/teens

- All month in January, drop in the work on a **puzzle**.
- **Open Gaming** – Every Friday 3:00-5:00. Our Switch, PS5, and PCs are open for gaming!
- **Bad Art Night** – Mini Edition – January 10 at 5:00. Compete to create the worst cursed barely art imaginable. It's our most popular craft program miniaturized.
- All month long in February, drop in to draw on our **scribble table**.
- **Spaghetti and Marshmallows** – February 6 at 5:00. Today we play with our food. See what you can make out of dry spaghetti and squishy marshmallows.
- **Just Dance Party** – February 20 at 4:00. We're eating popcorn and playing Just Dance 2024. Don't forget to stretch!
- All month long in March, drop in to grab a bag of air dry clay and submit your creation to our **Mini Sculpture Contest!**
- **Mario Party** – March 12 at 4:00. Mario Day is March 12, but we're celebrating in our own time! Bring a friend and join our game of Mario Party! There will be popcorn!
- **Blacklight Painting** – March 27 at 5:00. Neon paint, black canvases, and black lights.

Adult Programs

Mystery Book Discussion – First Fridays at 1:30

- January 5 – *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* by Agatha Christie
- February 2 – *Devil in a Blue Dress* by Walter Mosley
- March 1 – *The Maltese Falcon* by Dashiell Hammett

Wednesday Night Book Club – Third Wednesdays at 6:30

Spice Life – Register to join our spice club and receive a monthly spice sample, history and information on the spice, and share recipe ideas!

Tea Explorers – Register and receive a new tea each month, along with history and information about the tea.

Booth & Dimock Memorial Library
1134 Main Street
860-742-7606
www.coventrypl.org
bdlibrary@coventry-ct.gov

Department of Public Works

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

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

wwatkins@coventry-ct.gov
 tpenney@coventry-ct.gov
 dwrubel@coventry-ct.gov
 mstgermain@coventry-ct.gov



Congratulations to our Public Works employees for their successful completion of continuing education programs:

ABOVE, L to R: Rich Watts, Colin Dunnack, Eric Hurlburt, Cris Cefaratti, Mike Mangiafico, Erik Johansen, Troy Stout. Cris graduated from the Public Works Academy and the others graduated from The Road Master Program. Completion of these programs requires a significant amount of commitment, and we are proud of them for their efforts. DPW Director Bill Watkins' goal is to have all DPW staff complete the Road Master program within the next 3-4 years. There are 7 more employees working toward that goal.

The Connecticut Public Works Academy is an introductory level training program for those public works staff that are new to public works and road maintenance, and provides updated information on the latest in best practices and technologies. The program is comprised of a series of six weekly sessions covering the core competencies necessary to be a successful public works professional:

- Professionalism & Communication Skills
- Operational Safety
- Road Fundamentals
- Chainsaw Safety and Storm Clean Up
- Work Zone Safety and Flagger Certification
- Winter Operations and Safe Snow Plowing

Participants are required to complete all six sessions in order to complete the Academy.

The Connecticut Road Master Program is a series of workshops designed to provide municipal highway personnel with knowledge of the fundamentals of modern road maintenance management procedures and techniques. The program is appropriate for municipal road maintenance supervisors at all levels and those who may assume supervisory positions in the future. There are seven required workshops:

- Basics of a Good Road
- All About Asphalt Pavements
- Principles of Drainage for Local Roads
- On-the-Job Safety and OSHA Regulation for Local Road Personnel
- Work Zone Safety for Maintenance Operations on Local Roads
- Planning and Managing Local Road Snow and Ice Control Activities
- Effective Communication Skills

Participants may also choose two elective workshops from any of the Road Master elective offerings during the time they are participating in program. Examples of elective topics include:

- Construction Math and Plan Reading;
- ATSSA Flagger Certification;
- Backhoe Safety and Operations;
- Surveying Methods for Local Roads;
- Maintenance of Gravel Roads
- Defensive Driving for Public Works

A Note From the Tree Warden:

Please contact the Tree Warden at Public Works if you have any questions pertaining to anything related to trees owned by the Town of Coventry. Please remember as a town policy we generally do not remove healthy trees. **All Requests** for hazardous tree removal/trimming as well as requests for healthy tree removal/trimming within the Town Road Right of Way **MUST** be made **IN WRITING** to the Tree Warden. Mail to Coventry DPW at 1712 Main Street, email Tree Warden, William Watkins, at wwatkins@coventry-ct.gov or hand deliver to 100 Olsen Farm Road or the Town Hall. Include your name, address, phone #, tree location and a brief description of your request.

COVRRRA:

Call Public Works (860) 742-6588 for more details or check your 23/24 COVRRRA calendar for details about trash/recycling collection.

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 - \$195 haul / \$120 ton of disposal (CC deposit \$315 = haul charge + 1 ton)
- 15 cubic yard dumpster - \$215 haul / \$120 ton of disposal (CC deposit \$455 = haul charge + 2 ton)
- 30 cubic yard dumpster - \$215 haul / \$120 ton of disposal (CC deposit \$695 = haul charge + 4 ton)

Extra charges will apply for tires (\$10 auto / \$15 truck), mattress or box spring (\$20 each) and air conditioners or refrigerators (\$30 each). 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.

Household Chemical Waste Drop-Off Facility:

The regional facility located on Hancock Road in Willington is closed for the winter, reopening April 20, 2024.

Winter Tips:

Parking on town roads and town owned parking lots is prohibited between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. from November 1 through March 31. The Public Works Department may also issue no parking bans that will not allow any parking on the roads and lots throughout the town. You may elect to receive emails or phone messages regarding parking ban and snow information by clicking on 'Alerts and Notifications' on the town's website, Coventryct.org.

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

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

Do not discharge sump pumps into any roadway. This is the cause of many localized icing conditions! Placing snow in the road is dangerous, and can include penalties up to a lien against your property. A Town ordinance obligates the property owner, so if your driveway contractor or neighbor deposits snow in the road from your property, you are still held responsible. It only takes a few more minutes to push it up beyond a curb line or stockpile it on some unused land away from the travel portion of the roadway.

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

Each winter, mailboxes may be damaged during winter maintenance operations. More often than not, damage to mailboxes is caused by snow pushing against weakened posts or hardware. If you can move your mailbox with your hand, it probably needs maintenance. Take the time to make any repairs needed so your mailbox will be strong enough to survive the winter. Proper maintenance may help to prevent damage that results in delayed mail delivery, or worse, having to make alternate delivery arrangements. Place a deflector just before the mailbox to knock the snow down before it hits the mailbox.

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

“The holidays are over; now what do I do with my Christmas tree?” Christmas trees may be dropped off at the recently relocated Transfer Station on Olsen Farm Road when the facility is open or there are two un-staffed sites: Laidlaw Park on Merrow Road and the Miller Richardson Athletic Field (take Route 31 to South Street Extension then a right at the stop sign) look for the signs. Please leave only the tree; take plastic bags/netting home to dispose with normal garbage. The trees will be chipped up and used in landscaping next spring. All American Waste will not pick up trees curbside.



Snow Removal:

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

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

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

All routes are checked before crews are released to insure roads are passable. Our goal is to keep our roads safe and open to traffic as well as we can, with minimal disruption to your daily activities, within the constraints of budgets, prevailing conditions, and resources available. If you have any issues with our snow removal program, please contact the department. During severe events, we make every effort to have a live dispatcher accessible.

Any questions, issues or concerns regarding snow removal or winter operations should be directed to the Director, William Watkins, Public Works Department at (860) 742-6588 or email wwatkins@coventry-ct.gov.

Textile Recycling

The Town is starting its tenth year with Bay State Textile for Textile Recycling. Acceptable items for recycling through this program are footwear, clothing, accessories, linens and stuffed animals. For instance, a stained t-shirt or torn bath towel becomes a wiping cloth, a lone sock becomes pillow stuffing, worn out denim jeans are used to produce household insulation, a teddy bear is used for car seat stuffing and so on. Everything will be accepted from gently used to ripped or with broken zippers. It is important, however, that they be clean, dry and bagged. Recycling these materials should, conceivably, reduce our tonnage disposal fees. Collection boxes are located at the Public Works Department on Olsen Farm Road and behind the Town Hall next to the Annex. Last fiscal year the town received revenues averaging \$186 / month for approximately 3,588 lbs. of textiles / month.

Transfer Station

100 Olsen Farm Road

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

Thursday hours October - March: 10 AM - 4 PM

Thursday hours April - September: noon - 6 PM

Open every Saturday from 9 am until 3 pm

Closed most holidays.

Electronic payments available.

Materials acceptable with cost:

- Construction and demolition debris. Free of cardboard, metal and garbage.
- Land clearing debris; stumps & brush.
- Bulk Waste such as Furniture
- Propane Tanks and fire extinguishers for recycling
- 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 bags - \$2 each bag in trash compactor

Materials acceptable no cost:

- All Electronics including fluorescent bulbs and rechargeable batteries
- Appliances without refrigerants
- Scrap metal materials (**metal tanks must be cut open & crushed**)
- Corrugated cardboard, bottles and cans
- Mattress and box springs
- Leaves for composting
- Paintcare (new or old paint, stain, or varnish)

Materials NOT acceptable:

- Grass clippings
- Hazardous waste

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

Material acceptable for monthly oversized waste curbside pickup: Non-metal material that is too large to be placed in your tipper cart such as furniture is collected curbside. Residents are allowed to place up to three non-metal oversized waste items (for example: table, couch, dresser) at the curb each month for collection as part of this program. Mattresses, Box springs, scrap metal / appliances and electronics are not acceptable curbside items and must be brought (at no cost) to the Coventry Transfer Station. All residents need to place their items at the curb by 6:30 a.m. on the 2nd Monday of the month. This collection may/may not follow the daily waste & recycling pickup schedule.

- Furniture such as table, couch or dresser (also now acceptable with cost at Transfer Station)
- Brush; trimmed to 3ft. lengths, bundled & tied, 30-lbs. maximum.
- Wood lumber; length & width less than 4 ft., less than 4 in. nominal size, 30-lbs. maximum.

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

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

WPCA

Water Pollution Control Authority (Sewer Department)

Sewer System General Information:

- The wastewater treatment plant and original sewers were built in 1985 to comply with a 1971 CT Dept of Environmental Protection consent order. Sewers were expanded in several phases in response to another consent order in 1999. "Consent order" means the Town consented to the orders and did not challenge them in court. Some Towns who did not consent to sewers paid hefty fines. After sewers were constructed and the majority of homes connected DEP found the town to be in compliance with both orders and closed them.
- The treatment plant is located off southern Main St and has primary treatment followed by groundwater discharge. Final treatment and disinfection occurs naturally in the soil.
- The sewer collection system extends through Coventry Village, up to the High School, and around most of Coventry Lake. We have about 16 linear miles of sewer lines, 400 manholes, and 2 main pump stations.
- There are 962 properties connected to the sewer system and we treat an average of 150,000 gallons per day.
- Our biggest operational challenge is pumps and pipes getting clogged with wet wipes. Even 'flushable' wipes do not break down as fast as manufacturers claim. There are no laws or regulations against putting the word 'flushable' on wipes packaging. Cooking oils and grease are the second greatest cause of blockages. Wipes and grease removal are our largest avoidable expense.

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 for details.

Contact Us:

Mike Ruef, WWTP Operator 860-531-2913
mruef@coventry-ct.gov

Website: www.coventry-ct.gov: the link to the WPCA page can be found by clicking on Your Government > Boards & Commissions > Water Pollution Control Authority

Coventry's Best Kept Secret:

"In yard" trash/recycling service available -- Do you know someone who might benefit from having their tipper carts picked up right at their back door? (Some driveway length restrictions apply.) No more struggling to roll them to the curb!!

The town has a few slots for those special needs people (no additional fees involved). Call Human Services (860) 742-5324 to find out if you or someone you know might qualify.

Human Services Office

WORRIED ABOUT WINTER HEATING COSTS?



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

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

Coventry residents may call Human Services (860)742-5324 for an appointment, which are scheduled for Tuesdays and Thursdays. Appointments can also be made at ACCESS, Inc. (Willimantic area) (860) 450-7400.

FOOD BANK

The Coventry Food Bank is well stocked and the holiday program was a success. We had support with donations from the annual "Scouting for Food" through the Boy Scout Troop & Pack 65, who collected and sorted non-perishable items. Big thanks to all the schools for their food drives. Also Skungamaug Golf Club, owned by Susan & John Motyka, with their Food "Fore" Golf event, which raised funds for Coventry residents in need.

We are always accepting donations for the food bank. The need can vary by the month/season so please call ahead with your donation. The food bank is always in need of peanut butter/ jelly, cereal, spaghetti sauce, pasta, soup, tuna, personal hygiene items and cleaning supplies. Thank you to our local residents, churches, schools, business and civic groups who have made a donation.

Please remember we cannot distribute expired items so please check expirations dates.

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

CLERGY FUEL FUND

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

"THANK YOU" FROM THE COVENTRY HUMAN SERVICES OFFICE

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

DONATIONS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

You can support programs offered by Coventry Human Services at any time via an online donation through the Coventry Parks & Recreation donation page:

<https://secure.recl.com/CT/coventry-ct/catalog>



Contacting us: 860-742-5324

Administrator - Annemarie Sundgren, asundgren@coventry-ct.gov
 Administrative Assistant - Dianna Grindle, dgrindle@coventry-ct.gov
 Youth Services - Melissa Bordonaro, mbordonaro@coventry-ct.gov



Please like or follow Coventry Human Services on Facebook to see what is new in the office.

Coventry Senior Center

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

Don't get Cabin Fever this winter! Check out a program at the Senior Center!

The Coventry Senior Center welcomes seniors 55 years and older to enjoy a variety of social, educational and wellness programs. There is no membership and many of our events are low to no cost!

Join one of our weekly mahjongg, bingo, dominoes, corn hole, fitness classes or schedule use of the fitness room while overlooking the lake!

Keep those New Year's Resolutions with our Health and Wellness Programming!

Get in those steps during one of our weekly group fitness class! Classes meet every Monday-Friday, no pre-registration required, all levels welcome!

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Chair Yoga with Carol \$5.00	Strength & Balance with Shelley \$5.00	Tai Chi with Joe \$5.00	Fitness with Anna \$5.00	Chair Yoga with Carol 1st/3 rd \$5.00 Cardio Drumming 2 nd /4 th \$3.00

2024 TRIPS WITH DENISE'S DESTINATIONS

March 24th ~ **Fireplace Feast at Salem Cross Inn** with sleigh ride, welcome reception tour of the Inn, prime rib roast over fireplace, \$141

April 12-14th ~ **3 days in Lancaster, PA**; Sight & Sound Theatre for "Daniel", Kitchen Kettle Village, meal with Amish family, Old Windmill Farm; stop in Philadelphia \$645

April 24th ~ **Music of Elton John with Greg Ransom** at Villa Louisa, Bolton (no bus, drive yourself); \$82

For more information, contact Denise at 860-456-4737.

WAYS TO RECEIVE OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER....

To view our monthly newsletter on-line, visit the Senior Center page on the Town's website; "Like" us on Facebook and/or receive monthly newsletters by providing us with your email. To sign up, contact Brenda Bennett, Senior Center Coordinator at 860-742-3525 OR bbennett@coventry-ct.gov.

PROGRAM CANCELLATIONS

We know these Coventry roads can be tricky when it snows – check WFSB Channel 3 for weather closing information.

**When in doubt –
CALL before you venture out!**

TAX PREPARATION

**AARP Tax Aide Program
Senior Center Lodge**

Dates: Fridays, February 16, March 8, March 22 and April 12

The AARP Tax-Aide program provides FREE tax preparation assistance for Federal and State tax returns for middle to low-income taxpayers with special attention to those people aged 60 and over. Appointments will be in-person from 9am-noon. Valid ID and proof of Social Security will be required at the time of appointment.

Please call the Senior Center at 860-742-5324 to schedule your appointment and for further details.



COVENTRY RIDES TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

Staff: Sarah Leete, Transportation Coordinator; sleete@coventry-ct.gov
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. Program hours are Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am-1pm. Please call at least 48 business hours in advance to schedule a ride, and by 1pm on Thursday for rides the following Monday.

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

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

Coventry Public Schools

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS: The Board of Education generally meets on the second and last Thursday of each month. The regularly scheduled meetings for 2024 are as follows: January 11, January 25, February 8, February 29, March 14, March 28, April 11, April 25, May 9, May 30, June 13, June 27, July 25, August 29, September 12, September 26, October 10, Wednesday October 30, November 14, and December 12. Unless noted on the agenda, all meetings are held in the Administration Building Conference Room at 7:00 p.m. and can be viewed on Channel 194.

COVENTRY BOARD OF EDUCATION GOALS: 1.) Identify, define, and measure the critical skills and attributes that are required for success and align systems to continuously improve student performance and achievement; 2.) Maintain and promote a positive and respectful learning community; 3.) Recruit, retain and develop high quality staff at every level.

COVENTRY PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2023-2024 GOALS: It is the mission of the Coventry Public Schools to prepare every student for life, learning and work in the 21st century. Embracing this vision, we began the 2023-2024 school year with a continued focus on technology initiatives, instructional improvement, and creating a learning environment where students and staff feel safe and respected. Goals for each school administrator are in support of the Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools' goals for Coventry Public Schools. Below are a few highlights from the Superintendent's goals for the 2023-2024 school year:

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

- Continue the process of disaggregating Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC), the Next Generation Science Standards Assessment (NGSS), and the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) data to inform pedagogy, curriculum revisions, pacing, and the refinement of practices related to integration of formative and performance based assessments into teaching and learning.
- Begin to develop a 10-Year Comprehensive Visioning Plan for education in Coventry Public Schools to include the development of district guiding beliefs and further investigation and alignment of the Portrait of the Graduate to frameworks related to system capacity and coherence.
- Refine improvement plans in Grades 6 and 7 to address mathematics achievement as measured by performance on the SBAC to result in student growth by 15 percentage points from the spring 2023 SBAC to 2023-2024 math interim assessment blocks.
- Continue the work associated with the Portrait of the Graduate, including the development of Pre-K through 12 rubrics for the Authentic Innovator competency and integration of rubrics for the Empowered Citizen competency into teaching and learning.
- Finalize development of and implement the interdisciplinary passage presentation projects which incorporate the Portrait of the Graduate competencies at Coventry Grammar School, G. H. Robertson School, and Capt. Nathan Hale School.
- Continue to support reading achievement and provide best practice in reading instruction through the development of a K-3 Literacy Plan which focuses on refinements to instruction, curriculum, and assessment and a sequence of topics for professional development informed by the research on the science of reading.
- Work with key stakeholders and the District Technology Committee to implement year three of the District Technology Plan and develop the 2024- 2027 Technology Plan to ensure continued effective integration of technology into curriculum, instruction, and assessment.
- Continue to grow achievement of high performing students by increasing their participation in enrichment opportunities and programs by 5% over the 2022- 2023 school year.
- Articulate explicitly the high school program opportunities related to the number of Career Pathways at Coventry High School.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS AND INFORMATION

CLOSINGS, LATE OPENINGS, UNPLANNED

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

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES: Flexible hours/days with a wide variety of experiences. Teacher, Para-Educator, and School Nurse Substitutes: Please visit our website at <https://www.coventrypublicschools.org/district/human-resources> for additional information. Cafeteria Substitutes: Call Beth Pratt at 860-742-4535. Bus Drivers/Substitutes: Call M & J Bus Co. at 860-742-0344.

2023-2024 GOALS - CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

- Continue to develop and promote curricular and extracurricular opportunities for STEM learning including the addition of a Computer Science aligned Project Lead the Way module in Grade 3 and an engineering curriculum at the Hale Early Education Center.
- Continue providing collaborative structures and professional development for Pupil and Staff Support Services staff to refine their skills in developing IEPs aligned to the State Department of Education Special Education Data System (CTSEDS) system, to address the continuous updates to the CT-SEDS platform.
- Continue refinements to intervention programming and the use of grant funding to address skill gaps and to provide additional learning opportunities and programming for an additional 5% of students.
- Provide additional opportunities K-12 for students to learn about and explore a variety of careers by partnering with families, the community at large, and area universities.
- Expand the opportunities for Coventry High School students to earn college credits through dual enrollment classes with support from the Dual Credit Expansion Grant by an additional 20%.

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

- Continue to provide curricular and experiential opportunities that support students in developing self-awareness, self-management, decision-making, social-awareness, and relationship skills.
- Continue to support the Open Choice program, now in year-three, and continue efforts to reduce racial, ethnic, and economic isolation and develop a more diversified student body.
- Grow the international students program participation rate by 20% and monitor the progress of the students attending Coventry High School.
- Continue refinements to emotional and behavioral services provided, through the use of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) School Mental Health Specialist Grant by effectively allocating resources to support students' programming.
- Establish a committee of internal and external stakeholders to evaluate current facilities and develop a long-term plan to support future learning.

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

- Engage teachers and administrators in the development and completion of a Teacher Evaluation Plan that aligns with new state guidelines.
- Continue recruitment of a diverse candidate pool to increase diverse certified staff by 5% and utilize grant funding to continue initiatives with staff related to diversity, inclusion, and culturally relevant pedagogy to support inclusive teaching practices and inclusive school climates that are welcoming to all staff and students.
- Continue to find opportunities to build teacher leadership capacity and to utilize the leadership talent of 80% of teachers who have attended the Coventry Leadership Academy.

OPEN DOOR MEETINGS:

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

- Wednesday, January 18, 2024, at 4:30-5:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 24, 2024, at 5:30-6:30 p.m. – budget focused

These meetings will be held via Zoom. The link is provided on the Coventry Public Schools website under District, Superintendent, Open Door Meetings (<https://www.coventrypublicschools.org/district/superintendent/open-door-meetings>).

If you are unable to attend one of these scheduled events, but would still like to meet, please phone our office at 860-742-7317, Ext. 2.

**WE ARE EXCITED TO SHARE SOME RECENT DISTRICT HEADLINES WITH YOU:**

- Coventry Niche Ranking 2023 - #1 District in Tolland County!
- Mary Kortmann, Board of Education Secretary, recognized by CABA
- Coventry Public Schools awarded \$20,000 CSDE Dual Credit Expansion Grant
- Coventry High School ranked #42 best public high school in Connecticut

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!



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

COVENTRY TOWN NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2024

Town Manager's Message

-Cont. from page 2

The project totals \$350,000, including a \$5,000 donation from the Coventry Lions Club and the municipal match of \$30,000. The project involves improvements to the band shell, a playground replacement, fencing and geese deterrent measures. Due to this and other proposed improvements to Patriots Park, the Town will embark on a master planning process for the park, inviting all stakeholders and residents to participate in sharing ideas and concepts. This process will begin in early 2024, after a professional consultant has been selected.

Coventry Lake/lake Wangumbaug Hydrilla Control Project: Since 2015 the Town has worked with consultants to combat the growth of hydrilla. Hydrilla is an invasive aquatic plant, spotted here 9 years ago. The Town has been active in working with aquatic plant experts in treating the lake to attempt to eradicate the plant. Staff has been meeting recently with these experts to prepare a herbicide treatment for summer 2024.

South Street/Swamp Road Project: This is a major project that will improve safety on these roads and will raise the elevation of the intersection of South Street and Swamp Road. Final engineering plans are being developed. Bids will be received in spring 2024 with construction planned for summer 2024 and summer of 2025. A pledge was made by Town staff that no road surfaces on South Street and Swamp Road would remain gravel during the 2024-25 winter season.

HOP River Bridge Project: The contract has been signed with Rotha Contracting Company, of Avon, CT. Prep work has been done and steel bridge parts have been ordered. Utilities have been moved, with the exception of Frontier cable. The contractor is planning on an April demolition of the existing bridge. The closure will last through summer as the new bridge is constructed. This is 100% grant funded at \$3.6 million.

Bunker Hill Bridge Replacement (Rufus Creek): This is a small bridge/culvert on Bunker Hill road at Rufus Creek. This project is in design with Jacobson Engineering. Construction and tentatively scheduled for construction in summer of 2024.

We have other infrastructure projects that will likely be ready for construction in late 2025 or in 2025. We are an old historic town with some antiquated infrastructure that needs repairs and updating. As we evaluate and prioritize the potential projects, we continue to look for State and Federal grants so that we can make our local dollars go further in making these improvements. For our management staff, winter is "Budget Season" and we will be working together with Town Council to address our goals as we work to build the 2024-25 Annual Budget.

Help our First Responders Find Your Home More Promptly During Times of Emergency

Town of Coventry
Fire-EMS Dept

Reflective House
Number Sign Order
Form

\$15 per sign

Perfect addition to
your home

These make great
gifts for your family
and friends

**MAIL ORDER FORM AND
PAYMENT TO:**
TCFD
1659 South St
Coventry, CT 06238
<https://www.coventryct.org/3377/Departments>

**WE WANT TO SEE YOU
HELP US; HELP YOU**

Order Information:
Name:
Address:
City: State: Zip:
Phone Number:
Address Number Requested:

If address has fewer than 5 digits, start at the left and X boxes not used

Mounting preference: Horizontal or Vertical (circle one)
Date Received: Check # Cash
Date Completed: Date delivered

Consider purchasing reflective house numbers for your property, to help emergency personnel quickly identify your home, especially after dark or during power outages. You can obtain them from the Town of Coventry Fire-EMS Department by filling out this form and mailing it to the Coventry Fire-EMS Department.

(A full-size copy of the form is available on our website.) Find it at
<https://www.coventry-ct.gov/DocumentCenter/View/4760/Reflective-House-Sign-Order-Form?bidId=>