



## TOWN MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

Spring is here! The weather is warmer, flowers are starting to bloom, and it's time again to go outside! I encourage everyone to spend time on the Hop River Trail and our other trails, the Thornton Brook Preserve and elsewhere in our parks. However, we may still have a few cool days or those rainy days ahead, and so then I would say make a trip to the Booth & Dimock

Library. Find a cozy corner and read a book. Or, perhaps while at the library you could check into your family's history and ancestry online with the help of Ancestry.com, which for those that don't know, is a well-known computer application which is available to the public. If you wish to combine exercise and community service, you can join us on April 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, for the Town spring clean-up, "Rid Litter Day." See below for more information on how to get involved. Maybe this spring you would rather stay home and clean out that garage or shed? Remember if you are thinking about spring cleanup at home, you can use the Town's transfer station to dump those unwanted items, including tires, old electronics, and paint. Spring is a great time to get out and start new projects.

Town staff is planning and preparing for a spring-summer season of construction with new drainage projects in the Pilgrim Hills subdivision. a bridge replacement over Hop River and more road resurfacing work throughout the Town. Additionally, the Town is preparing for another season of treating Coventry Lake to eradicate the hydrilla that has taken root over the few years. This invasive plant, if not kept under control, will damage the quality of the lake water and potentially be detrimental to fish, birds and other wildlife that depend on the lake. It could also negatively impact the recreational use of the lake. Those visiting Lisicke Beach will see construction of a new retaining wall and repair to the old steps leading to the beach, making it easier and safer to access the cool waters of the lake on that hot summer day. There are many other projects in design or being planned that you will hear about in the months ahead.

This month at Town Hall, the Town Council has completed the department budget presentations. They are preparing their final adjustments to the Town and Board of Education budgets. This month, we will be preparing to take our Town Council adopted budget to the Town Meeting for consideration. The Town Meeting is unique to traditional New England towns. Instead of representative democracy which is used throughout the

nation and is today often used in Connecticut, it is direct democracy where every Town registered voter or a non-resident in-town property owner, can vote. At this meeting everyone is invited to attend to see my presentation of the Town Budget and the Board of Education budget by School Superintendent David Petrone. The Town Meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2024, at 10:00 AM at the Coventry High School Veterans Auditorium. Votes may be taken at the Town Meeting, but historically, the community will be able to vote on the Town Council's budget. This year the vote will take place on May 7<sup>th</sup> at the CVFA Fire House (across from Town Hall). I hope everyone comes out to participate and that everyone that's eligible comes out to vote.

I hope to see you all around Town. Perhaps at the town Meeting or perhaps on a Sunday walk on the Hop River Trail. Should you wish to contact me, please email [jdrumm@coventry-ct.gov](mailto:jdrumm@coventry-ct.gov) or call the office at 860-742-6324. Frequent updates are also posted to the Town Manager's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CoventryCTTownManager>.

Sincerely,

James Drumm

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## UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS:

- Mon, 4/1: **Town Council Meeting**, 7:30 PM. Town Hall Annex.
- Mon, 4/8: **Planning & Zoning Commission** meeting, 7 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Thurs, 4/11: **Board of Education Meeting**, 7:00 PM, School Admin. Building
- Mon, 4/15: **Town Council Meeting**, 7:30 PM , Town Hall Annex.
- Mon, 4/22: **Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting**, 7 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Weds, 4/24: **Inland Wetlands Agency Meeting**, 7:30 PM, Town Hall Annex..
- Thurs, 4/25: **Board of Education Meeting**, 7:00 PM, School Admin. Building
- Sat, 4/27: **Annual Town Meeting**, 10 AM, CHS Veterans Auditorium

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





## COMING EVENTS:

Tues 4/2: **Presidential Preference Primary**, 6 AM - 8 PM, South Fire Station, 1755 Main Street. **BOTH DISTRICTS 1 AND 2** will vote at the Fire House (located across the street from Captain Nathan Hale Middle School). See below for information about early voting, or visit the [Registrar of Voters webpage](#).

### Tues 4/2-4/30: **T.O.P.S. - TAKE OFF POUNDS**

**SENSIBLY**, 5:15-6:45 PM, Second Congregational Church, 1746 Boston Turnpike (Rt. 44). A non-profit weight loss support group. See [website](#) or call 860-944-4945 for info concerning weekly dues (determined by each chapter) and yearly membership fee set by the TOPS organization.

Fri 4/5 & 4/19: **BINGO Night**, first and third Fridays of the month, doors open at 5 PM, BINGO starts at 6 PM. First Congregational Church, 1171 Main Street. Presented by the American Legion Post 52. 50¢ entry fee, must be 18 or older to play. Raffles, prizes and refreshments available. [Email](#) for info.

Fri 4/5: **Quiet Corner Contra Dance**, 7:30-10:30 PM, Patriots Park Lodge, 172 Lake Street. Newcomer workshop at 7:15. Adults \$13, Students \$6. Partner not necessary. Live music by the First Time String Band and caller Jen Jasenski, all dances taught. Bring water, wear soft-soled shoes, and dress in layers. For more information contact Dennis: [knowdj@frontier.com](mailto:knowdj@frontier.com). or see [website](#).

Weds 4/10: **Mobile Foodshare**, 10-10:30 AM, First Congregational Church @ St. Mary's, 1600 Main Street. An outdoor food distribution service for persons of low income. Text FOODSHARE to 85511 to receive the mobile schedule and cancellations directly on your phone. More [info](#).

Fri 4/12: **Famous Baked Fish Dinner**, 6 PM, 1171 Main Street. Presented by First Congregational Church & American Legion Post 52. Featuring baked cod, baked potato, coleslaw, Italian bread & drink. \$15 per plate. Take-out available. Info: 860-742-8487 or email [firstchurchcoventryct@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurchcoventryct@gmail.com).

Thurs 4/18: **Coventry's Congregational Churches and its Splits**, 7 PM, Second Congregational Church, 1746 Boston Turnpike (Rt. 44). The Puritan settlers of Coventry worshipped together in the Village. In time, there were two Congregational Churches, and then three, fluctuating between two and three over the years. Join the Coventry Historical Society for a **free talk** about our town's entwined early history with its Congregational Churches. More information on [CHS Facebook page](#).

Sat 4/20 & Sun 4/21: **Rid Litter Weekend**. Coinciding with annual Earth Day celebrations, the Conservation Commission is encouraging residents to do roadside cleanups along their properties and neighborhoods. This is a great opportunity for civic groups and neighborhood organizations to organize cleanup crews. The spring season is a perfect

time to remove some of the trash and litter that has accumulated on our streets and properties over the long winter season. The Commission will provide free garbage bags that can be picked up at the Land Use office at Town Hall. More info: 850-742-4062.

Sat 4/20: **Drive-thru/take-out Dinner**, Second Congregational Church of Coventry, 1746 Boston Turnpike. Roast pork, potatoes, carrots, bread, and dessert. \$15. Place orders by calling 860-742-1616 or [email](#) and indicate pick up time of 5, 5:30 or 6 PM. Correct amount of cash or check is required. Drive down from church parking lot to the Community House located across from Highland Park.

Tues 4/23: **50% Off Spring Clothing** (newborn to size 10), 9-11 AM, Noah's Closet, 1746 Boston Turnpike. Also on Saturday 4/27 from 9 AM - 1 PM. Noah's Closet is a children's second-hand resale shop, offering clothing, toys, books games, puzzles, DVDs, CDs and furniture. Donations of clean gently-used items for children are welcome on Tuesday & Saturday mornings. Call for info 860-742-1616 on Saturday mornings. [Website](#).

Weds 4/24: **Mobile Foodshare**, 10-10:30 AM, First Congregational Church @ St. Mary's, 1600 Main Street. An outdoor food distribution service for persons of low income. Text FOODSHARE to 85511 to receive the mobile schedule and cancellations directly on your phone. More [info](#).

Weds 4/24: **Office Hours with Town Council Chairwoman Lisa Thomas**, 5:30-7:00 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Share a concern or ask questions at this monthly meeting.

Sat 4/27: **Family Kids' Walk**, 10 AM - Noon, Coventry High School, 78 Ripley Hill Road. Sponsored by the American Legion District #4 in support of Connecticut Children's Medical Center. Donations encouraged - the goal is to raise \$5,000. 100% of proceeds go directly to CCMC. Rain date: 4/28/24. For information contact Commander Frank Poirier, 860-929-9244 or email [frank.poirier@outlook.com](mailto:frank.poirier@outlook.com).

Sun 4/28: **Piano concert featuring Jason J. Castonguay**, 3 PM, Second Congregational Church, 1746 Boston Turnpike. Jason, blind at birth, began studying classical piano at the age of 4. He has performed with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra and the New Britain Symphony Orchestra. In addition to the piano, Jason plays the harp and sings. He is truly a gifted musician. For more information on this free concert, call the Second Congregational Church office at 860-742-1616, open Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Or visit the church website: [secondchurchcoventryucc.org](http://secondchurchcoventryucc.org) The church is wheelchair accessible and open to everyone.

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**Early Voting  
Presidential  
Preference Primary**

March 26-28 &  
March 30, 2024  
10 AM - 6 PM  
Registrar's Office  
Coventry Town Hall  
1712 Main Street

Curbside voting available  
Info: 860-742-4061



## EARLY VOTING FOR PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY:

Early voting for this primary will be held from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm on the following days:

- Tuesday, March 26, 2024
- Wednesday, March 27, 2024
- Thursday, March 28, 2024
- Saturday, March 30, 2024

The location for Early Voting is the Registrars Office located in the Coventry Town Hall, 1712 Main Street. Curbside voting will also be available at the Early Voting location at the marked parking spaces located in the back of the building on the side adjacent to the School Administration Building. These locations are within view of the Registrars Office. Coventry residents can also call 860-742-4061 when they arrive to let the Registrars know that curbside voting is needed. A valid form of CT identification will be required for early voting.



Join us on April 11th for  
breakfast and a trip to Logee's  
Plants for Home & Garden.  
See details below.

## COVENTRY SENIOR CENTER:

April 17<sup>th</sup>, 11:30a.m. – **Story Telling with Diana Perkins**  
– RSVP is appreciated, light refreshments will be served.

April 18<sup>th</sup>, 9:30a.m. – **Veterans Coffee Hour**, Open to the public, all are welcome! Join us for a presentation by Chief Eric Peterson for an informative session to maintain your lifestyle and independence. Protect yourself while your out-n-about, on the road and at home!

April 24<sup>th</sup>, 11:30a.m. – **History of Actor's Colony with John Holmy, Town Historian**, RSVP is appreciated, light refreshments will be served!

April 24<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 – **Book Club** discussion of *Lioness: Golda Meir and the Nation of Israel* by Francine Klagsbrun. Pick up your copy at the Booth & Dimock Library, available now!

April 25<sup>th</sup>, 11am-noon ~ **Conversations with Lisa Thomas.**

## TRIPS:

Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup> – **Breakfast at Blondie’s Diner, Willimantic followed by a trip to Logee’s Plants for Home & Garden**, Danielson. RSVP is required by 4/8

Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 11:30a.m. – **Out to Lunch Bunch ~ Camille’s Wood Fired Pizza**, Tolland. Sign up to take the van or meet at the restaurant. RSVP by Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>

## HEALTH & WELLNESS OPPORTUNITIES:

**Haircuts by Paula:** Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 10-11:30am by appointment only, \$20 due at time of appointment. Call to schedule your appointment or sign up at the front desk!

**Massages with Michelle:** Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup> and April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 11am-3pm by appointment only, \$60/hour due at time of appointment.

**Contact the Senior Center at 860-742-3525 for more information about programs & events.**

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## COVENTRY PARKS & RECREATION:

**Camp Wangumbaug 2024 – Registration open!** To register and for more information [click here](#).

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

- **April Vacation Daze**, April 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 8am – 5pm, \$220 Grades k-5
- **GHR After School Fitness Club**, Monday’s and Friday’s 4/22-5/31 \$95
- Grades 2-5, **Food Explorers Spring Desserts**, Tuesdays 4/23-5/14 4pm-5pm \$75.



Spots still open for a plot at **Coventry Community Garden!** Only \$30, [click here](#) to sign up.

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**BOOTH & DIMOCK MEMORIAL LIBRARY:**  
**Library Mini Golf is returning to the newly renovated Booth & Dimock Memorial Library!** Come play mini golf *inside* the library on Sunday April 7 from 10:00-4:00. The suggested donation is \$5 per family, and includes 18 holes of mini golf, a slice of pizza, and a soft drink for each person. We'd like to thank Eversource for sponsoring this event, Wicked Slice Pizza for providing pizza, and Highland Park Market for providing soft drinks.

For more information, visit [www.coventrypl.org/minigolf2024](http://www.coventrypl.org/minigolf2024)

The Booth & Dimock Memorial Library is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10:00-8:00, Friday from 10:00-6:00, and Saturday from 10:00-3:00. The Library offers an extensive collection of reading materials, one-on-one technology assistance, printing, copying, and faxing services, public computers and free wi-fi, reference assistance, and more!

Please note that the library has a new email address! [bdlibrary@coventry-ct.gov](mailto:bdlibrary@coventry-ct.gov)

For the most up to date information on all of the wonderful programs offer at the Library, please visit [www.coventrypl.org/events](http://www.coventrypl.org/events) or [www.facebook.com/BDLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/BDLibrary).

Booth & Dimock Memorial Library  
1134 Main Street  
Coventry, CT 06238  
860-742-7606  
[www.coventrypl.org](http://www.coventrypl.org)

[bdlibrary@coventry-ct.gov](mailto:bdlibrary@coventry-ct.gov)

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## TRANSFER STATION - SPRING/SUMMER HOURS BEGIN THIS MONTH:

Thursday hours change to noon - 6 PM effective April 4th. Saturday hours 9 AM - 3 PM year-round. Closed holidays.

For more information visit the [Transfer Station page](#) on the Town website.





## DETOUR FOR HOP RIVER BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT TO BEGIN:

Motorists are advised that the **required project detour of Hop River Road is on schedule to begin on April 1, 2024**, allowing for the eventual opening of the bridge to vehicular traffic by the end of the 2024 construction season (December). The detour is extensive and will utilize Route 6, Pucker Street, South

Street and Bunker Hill Road.

[Detour map](#)

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## NEWS FROM THE COVENTRY VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY:

**DAFFODIL BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT:** Since this project, sponsored by the Village Improvement Society, began in 1993, approximately 384,195 daffodil bulbs have been planted in Coventry! To order bulbs at \$6/dozen for fall planting, call Judy at 860-214-9567. Varieties include Dutch Master (all yellow) or a Giant Mixture.



**COVENTRY VISITORS' CENTER:** Located in historic Coventry Village, the Visitors' Center was built in 1876 to house the Town offices. It has served as a Visitors' Center since the early 1990's and has been operated by the Village Improvement Society since 2006. The Center is stocked with local history books, Capriland's books and a variety of Coventry memorabilia as well as local and regional travel brochures.

The Center is open weekends, 10 AM to 2 PM from late April through October. Any questions, call Pat at 860-742-7847.

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## COVER PHOTO:

*Coventry Village in April. Photo by Laura Stone.*

**To list your non-profit organization's event in this bulletin, contact Laura Stone by [email](#) by the 15th of the previous month.**

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1712 Main Street, Coventry, CT 06238

