

WINTER 2025



TOWN NEWS



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HOLIDAY CLOSINGS:

**MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY -
JAN. 20**

PRESIDENTS' DAY - FEB. 17

GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 18

Message from Lisa Thomas, Town Council Chairwoman

Neighbors, Happy New Year! The Town Council and I hope you had a joy filled holiday season with loved ones. We extend our gratitude to all of our town departments and community organizations that brought dazzling lights, merriment, and food and toy donations to our community.

As we look forward to the New Year with fresh resolutions, here are some community based ideas we encourage you to add to your list:

- Welcome and support your neighbors, whether next door or at the other end of town.
- Support community events sponsored by groups such as the Coventry Arts Guild, the Lions Club of Coventry, and our many small businesses.
- Consider volunteering on one of our boards and commissions. You can learn about them at our town website, coventry-ct.gov. Hover over the "government" tab and then click "boards and commissions" for a current list of vacancies. If you have background or interest in these groups, please contact Steering Sub-Committee Chair Jon Hand (jhand@coventry-ct.gov).
- Help us reduce the cost of waste hauling by taking your unwanted textiles (and those that can't be donated elsewhere) to the textile recycling bins at town hall and public works. If we all do this, we can reduce our tonnage and perhaps our household fees. Not sure which textiles can be recycled? Look at the list on the bin or search "textile recycling" on the town website.

Above photo: Coventry Lake in winter. Photo by Konrad Mroczek.

Please note: Beginning in January 2025, Town Council meetings will begin at 7:00 PM instead of 7:30 PM.

Town Manager's Update

Winter is here as we end a very productive year, and we begin what will be a very active year in 2025. The Town staff is getting ready for our upcoming budget season, and we are sharpening our pencils to make sure that we can provide the quality services Coventry residents have come to expect at a reasonable and fair tax rate. I know some property owners have received their new appraisals on their properties, and I want to assure you that just because your property increased in value by 13%, 35% or maybe even 50%, that does not mean that your tax bill will increase anywhere near that amount. Just like in past years when the values increased, the Town Council will set the tax rate at a lower level to bring in only the amount of taxes that will be needed to operate the Town. In our Town's budget process that rate cannot be set early, as it is set in late spring after the adoption of the budget. Currently department directors are putting in their requests for funding. The Town Manager's proposed budget, after preparation in February, will be presented in a public hearing on Tuesday March 4, 2025 at Coventry High School. At that point residents will have an estimate at where the tax rate may be set, however the final tax rate will likely be adopted by Town Council in May 2025.

But before we jump ahead to the next budget, The Town of Coventry still has some projects in our current budget which are underway today. The Coventry High School HVAC project, which is a large project improving air quality in all the administrative offices and almost every classroom, began last spring. The contractor is Pro-Mech inc. of Bloomfield, CT. This project is still on-going and is still on schedule. This \$12 million project is subsidized with a \$6.6 million State grant. Miller-Richardson Park has an American Disabilities Act (ADA) improvement project now under construction involving improvements to safety, parking, and sidewalks. The contractor is All-State Landscaping. This project totals \$590,000 with \$5,000,000 coming from State grant funds. This project is currently suspended until April due to the dry weather conditions of fall and now the winter weather that halted the production of asphalt. It will be a nice addition to the park, when completed in spring. Additionally, we will be completing our final phase of the School Street drainage project this winter into early spring, weather permitting. Phase One of the project was completed by Gerber Construction and Phase Two will be done by Coventry Public Works Department crews. This project, though small, will solve a long-standing drainage problem for the neighborhood.

The Town has for years been successful with grant projects. Many of our recent grant projects are in engineering this winter and will be ready to go out for bids in spring and then be ready for summer construction. The first of these projects is the Main Street Sidewalk project. This Community Connectivity Grant project will provide a sidewalk which will run along Main Street from Hemlock Point near Coventry High School to Winterberry near Lisicke Beach. This long-awaited project was held up last year due to the CDOT engineering review but is ready to go forward. This is part of a larger planned project to circle Coventry Lake with a walkable pathway. The second project is the Main Street/South Street Pedestrian Crossing Project. This project, a Transportation Rural Improvement Program (TRIP) grant project, will provide safety signage, flashing lights and curb ramps at crossings on Main Street in the village and Cross Street and some sidewalks on South Street. The third project, the South Street/Swamp Street Road Improvement Project, is a large road re-construction project that

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<https://www.proactmedsavings.com/proact/rx-savings-card>

Council Chairwoman's Message

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- Visit me during my twice monthly office hours to share your ideas, concerns, Coventry memories, etc. Watch the "Town of Coventry CT, Town Manager's" Facebook page and the Community Updates on the town web site for time and location each month. My hours are usually the last Thursday of the month, 11:00 a.m. at the Senior Center and then varying late afternoon and evening times at Booth and Dimock Library. All ages are invited!
- Sign up for news updates by visiting the town website and selecting Notify Me. You can also sign up for emergency and health alerts (especially helpful during the winter months). Both these links can be found on the coventry-ct.gov web site by searching "alerts and notifications".
- Visit the "emergency preparedness" page of the town web site and use the checklists and contact information to help answer your safety questions throughout the year. You will find it listed under the "Government" tab.
- Check in with our schools (www.coventrypublicschools.org) to see the excellent happenings there.

In closing, please remember that the winter months can be extra challenging. At times we might need extra financial or healthcare support. Did you know there are two free services available that provide support for healthcare and prescription costs? One is "ProAct" through CT Conference of Municipalities and the other is Array Rx through the State Comptroller's office. Don't hesitate to contact our Human Services Department for information about these and other local and state programs that can assist you. Our Human Services Department can be reached at 860-742-5324.

I wish you and your family a bright New Year!

Town Clerk's Office

Lori Tollmann – Town Clerk
 Brooke R. Manning – Assistant Town Clerk
 Lori Beecher – Assistant Town Clerk
 860-742-7966 (#3 on menu)
 Hours: M-W 8:30-4:30, Th 8:30-6:30, Fr 8:30-1:30

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 State & 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.

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 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.*

TOLLAND - MANSFIELD PROBATE COURT:

21 Tolland Green, Tolland, CT 06084. 860-871-3640



IT'S 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.**

- \$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.



2025 Licenses are available at the Town Clerk's Office or from the DEEP website at www.ct.gov/deep/hunting. Remember, all licenses expire annually on December 31st except Lifetime and Handicapped Licenses issued before October 1, 2009. *Please be advised our office can only accept cash, checks and small bills. No credit or debit cards can be accepted.*



VOLUNTEER AND SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY:

If you are interested in serving on a Coventry Board or Commission, please review the current vacancies and complete the Statement of Interest form online at www.coventry-ct.gov. The Town Council Steering Committee reviews these applications and makes recommendations for appointment.

Land Use Office

Heidi Leech appointed as Planning Technician/Zoning Enforcement Officer



Heidi Leech, a twelve-year veteran of the Land Use and Building Department, has been promoted to Planning Technician/Zoning Enforcement Officer! She previously served as the Building/Land Use Administrative Assistant.

Ms. Leech brings a depth of knowledge of the work from her many years of experience working in the department.

She is very familiar with the Zoning Regulations and permitting processes and has worked closely supporting the Land Use Boards and staff for many years. She also knows many local contractors and people in the community.

Ms. Leech recently completed Permit Technician training with the Connecticut Building Officials Association and will be seeking certification through the Connecticut Association of Zoning Enforcement Officers.

Please welcome Heidi Leech to her new position! You may still catch her at her desk in the front office while we are seeking a replacement Building/Land Use Administrative Assistant.

Please contact Jana Roberson, Director of Planning & Development, at jroberson@coventry-ct.gov or Heidi Leech, Planning Technician/ Zoning Enforcement Officer, at hleech@coventry-ct.gov or call 860-742-4062 for questions or information.



What is a Road Right-of-Way?

Have you ever wondered where your land ends and where the publicly-owned land along a road starts? It usually isn't the edge of the pavement! The land alongside a town road, often called the "right-of-way", is publicly-owned land of the Town of Coventry. The State of Connecticut owns the right-of-way adjacent to state routes. The width of the right-of-way varies but is typically 50 feet wide or 25 feet from the centerline of the road. These dimensions hold true for nearly all of the road developed after the World War II era. Roads in place prior to WWII, and there are quite a few in Coventry, have varying width. A right-of-way is wider than the road to provide room for proper drainage, maintenance, utilities, sidewalks, bikeways, or future improvements. A property boundary survey is the most authoritative source of information when identifying the edge of the right-of-way.

Property owners may not be aware that their private property rights do not apply to the right-of-way even though they maintain it. For example, the Coventry Road Regulations Section 120B.4 states that "Ornamental landscape features including, but not necessarily limited to boulders, grouping of rocks, statues, signs, exterior lighting (except required street lights), walls, basketball hoops and other obstructions, shall be prohibited within the road right-of-way, medians, sight line easements, storm drainage easements or other easements."

Some individuals have used the right-of-way to store personal items or to obstruct on-street parking. Please do not place obstructions in the town right-of-way for the health and safety of the citizens of Coventry.

Inland Wetlands & Watercourses

Coventry is rich in wetlands and watercourse and as a community, it is our responsibility to be good stewards to these natural resources. There are several cost-effective ways to protect these biodiverse and valuable natural resources. The easiest method is to give wetlands and watercourses a vegetated buffer between your landscaping and the resource. Leaving at least a 25ft buffer of natural vegetation between your lawn/landscaping the wetlands or watercourses provides shade for streams, reduces streambank erosion, as well as provide food and habitat for animals. A vegetated buffer also creates a barrier that intercepts nutrient run-off from lawn fertilizers which contribute to the cyanobacteria blooms in Coventry Lake (Figure 1). Another added benefit to planting a shoreline vegetated buffer is it obstructs the Canada Geese's view of your lawn, which reduces the likelihood of them seeking refuge on your property.

If your yard is already devoid of indigenous vegetation in favor of lawn grass, consider replacing some of the lawn closest to wetlands or watercourses with native plants. The most cost-effective way of sourcing native plants is to grow them from seed over winter by a method called "winter sowing" (Figure 2). The UCONN College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources published a newsletter on winter sowing in January of 2024, you can find it here: <https://homegarden.cahnr.uconn.edu/2024/01/01/planning-your-gardens-and-other-january-news/>.

If you want to plant more mature native plants, keep an eye out for North Central Conservation District's Annual Native Plant Sale.

Please feel free to contact our Inland Wetlands Agent, Lindsay Beutler, at 860-742-4062, if you have any questions or concerns.



Figure 1: Example of vegetated buffer



Figure 2: Example of a 'winter sowing' method

Building Department 860-742-4064



As New Englanders, we know all too well that, snowstorms can severely damage our electrical distribution system and change the landscape of our communities with downed trees and heavy snow loads. We are also accustomed to the effects of thaw and freeze cycles in the way of many homeowners experiencing ice dam situations. Here are some tips for this winter:

- Keep on top of the snow and roof rake regularly to allow for the roof to fully thaw during a warm day and possibly reduce the effects of the freeze-thaw cycle at night.
- If ice dams are an issue for you and you have been vigilant with excess snow removal on your roof, it can possibly be an issue of not enough, too much or improperly installed insulation.
- Keep areas around stand-by generator free and clear of snow.
- DO NOT try to heat your dwelling with unvented heating equipment.
- Don't forget to clear paths to gas tanks and fill pipes for your oil tanks. Many suppliers will no longer deliver if pathways are not cleared to these areas.
- Locate portable generators outside and away from windows, doors and vents.
- Have generator connections installed by a licensed electrician.
- Shut portable generators down and let unit cool down prior to refueling.
- When power is lost, try to remember to shut off your main breaker and individual circuit breakers. During prolonged outages, we may not remember what appliances may have been on when the power was lost.

Are you planning on building in the Spring or Summer? Please consider submitting your permit applications early to allow for the time necessary to go through the review process. Once approved, the permit will stay valid as long as work starts within six months!

From the Registrar of Voters Office

UPDATE: Early Voting for the November 5, 2024 Presidential Election saw a large turnout of electors. Over the 14 days of Early Voting, 3,471 voters came to the Registrars Office to vote. We had 290 Absentee Voters and 3,773 chose to vote on Election Day. This represented 83.19% of eligible voters in town.

This general election was the first sizeable election for Early Voting. We experienced long lines and on several days, long waits. However, Election Day was relatively quiet with few lines and only minor wait times.

We would like to thank all who came out to vote for their patience and understanding. Over the next several months, we will be looking into ways to improve our Early Voting procedures.

Winter Notes from the Coventry Lake Advisory & Monitoring Committee

It is winter and hopefully people will be able to enjoy activities on Coventry Lake. The most important thing to remember is that the ICE MUST BE SAFE!

Safe ice is defined as being:

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

Check the link below to learn about ice fishing from CT DEEP: <https://portal.ct.gov/deep/fishing/general-information/ice-fishing>

REMEMBER LIFE JACKETS ARE TO BE WORN when boating on all non-motorized vessels from OCTOBER 1 through MAY 31.

Did you miss the 2024 State of the Lake Forum in September? The presentations on Canadian geese and the health of Coventry Lake can be found at this link: <https://www.coventry-ct.gov/590/State-of-the-Lake>. There continued to be good news regarding water quality on Coventry Lake in 2024. Coventry Lake Advisory & Monitoring participated in water quality sampling with the limnologist group GZA. As part of the CO-OP Volunteer Sampling program 6 water samples and 20 Secchi disk readings were taken over 7 months (May – November). No health warnings needed to be issued.

The invasive aquatic plant, hydrilla, needed to be treated in 2024 after experts recommended a pause in 2023. A \$75,000 grant through the CT DEEP Aquatic Invasive Species program helped to cover part of the treatment costs. The first survey in July did show more colonies in sections near Woodland Rd. Cove but the final survey in late October showed that the colonies were diminished or non-existing. The Town is preparing a plan of treatment for 2025 and applying for grants.

Need to contact Coventry Lake Advisory and Monitoring? Find us on:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/245119282764856>.

Coventry's website: <https://www.coventry-ct.gov/234/Lake-Advisory-Monitoring-Committee>

Email questions to: coventrylakeadvisor@coventry-ct.gov.

Veterans Corner

CT Veterans Day Race: Hundreds gathered at Patriots Park in Coventry on Saturday, November 2nd, for the 9th annual CT Veterans Day Race. The Park was full of excitement, energy and patriotism with over 300 participants registered for either the 4-mile race, 3-mile walk, or 3-mile rucksack on a perfect autumn day. The community of Coventry also came out to cheer the runners and walkers along the route from Patriots Park to South Street, Judd Road, Nathan Hale Road, Bunker Hill Road and back to Patriots Park. Many participants remarked about the spirit and patriotism Coventry showed to them.

This year the CT Veterans Day Race was selected by the Veterans Day National Committee in Washington, D.C. as the regional site for the Veterans Day Commemoration. The opening ceremony was patriotic and motivating with the UConn Army ROTC providing the color guard followed by Rubyfruit A Cappella Choir, also from UConn, performing the National Anthem. Meaningful remarks were provided by retired Marine Corps Sergeant Major, John Ploskonka, about "what is a veteran".

Active-duty Marines and Soldiers set up their static displays in the park and enjoyed sharing their stories and knowledge with over 600 guests in Patriots Park. The park was filled with pride and respect for veterans. Since the race began in 2016, over \$105,000 has been donated directly to 18 different CT Veteran Service Organizations. Veterans Day is a great time for all Americans to salute our military veterans and say, "thank you," but also to discover a way to support the thousands of veterans in need.

Veterans Parking Signs: The Town approved the request from the Veterans Commission to purchase parking signs for "Veteran Parking Only" to be placed at designated town buildings to express gratitude to our military veterans for their sacrifice and service.

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.

National Vietnam War Veterans Day: In 2017, the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act designated March 29th as the date to remember and honor all who served in the Vietnam War. Join us on Saturday, March 29, 2025, at 4 p.m. when Coventry will host a brief ceremony at the CT Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Assessor's Office

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

REVALUATION 2024 PROJECT UPDATE:

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).

This project, with our vendor, Vision Government Solutions, should be concluded as of your reading this newsletter. Assessment Change notices went out on December 5th, and Informal hearings were held, for any questions regarding the changes made. Through this process and continued review further changes may have been made to assessment, that would include any increases or decreases, with a final assessment notice for the grand list going out in mid-January.

If any taxpayer disagrees with their new assessment, the next step is to file an appeal with the Board of Assessment Appeals, with application being taken between February 1 and February 20, 2025. In any appeal, you are required to provide and defend what you believe the value should be; often this would be in the form of a Real Estate appraisal with an effective date of October 1, 2024.

An important reminder, with the significant increase in the RE Grand List, a reduction in tax/mill rate is expected.

CHANGES TO MOTOR VEHICLE VALUATION:

Effective this year, for July 2025 bills, motor vehicles will be valued based on their Original Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) and then a depreciation schedule based on the year of the vehicle. This will create a predictable reduction in assessment each year, down to a minimum of 500. Some vehicles may reach that minimum before the twentieth year.

VETERANS:

Also, for this tax year, the Connecticut General Assembly passed PA 24-46/HB 5491 increasing benefits for Disabled Veterans having a service-related permanent and total disability. If you have not recently filed your most current VA disability letter, we advise you to do so as soon as possible to ensure you are receiving all the benefit you are eligible for.

Helpful Links:

- www.coventryct.org - general town and departmental information including forms and applications
- coventry.mapxpress.net for GIS Maps and 2023GL Assessment Data
Parcel line updates are in progress and ongoing-This is the most current data.
- <https://gis.vgsi.com/coventryct> - Vision Government Solutions. You may review your new assessment and parcel data here.

John Preisner, Assessor and Rachel Vertefeuille, Assistant Assessor, are available for any questions at 860-742-4067, or email: assessor@coventry-ct.gov.

Town Employee News

Congratulations to Fire Chief **Bud Meyers**, who was sworn in as President of the Connecticut Fire Chief's Association in November. Farwell to **Stephanie Fox**, Accountant, who has left employment with the Town of Coventry to perform similar duties in another town, and welcome to **Stacy Blake-Geist**, who joined the Town of Coventry as Accountant in December. Congratulations to **Danielle Baker**, who was promoted from Transfer Station Operator to the position of Public Works Maintainer 1/Custodian, and welcome to **Alex Grossman**, who is being promoted from a seasonal DPW employee to Transfer Station Operator. Congratulations also go out to **Heidi Leech**, who was promoted from Building/Land Use Administrative Assistant to the position of Planning Technician/Zoning Enforcement Officer.

Tax Collector's Office

860-742-4066

The second installment for real estate taxes is due January 1, 2025. The last day to pay without interest is February 3, 2025. 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.coventry-ct.gov 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, 2023 & before August 1, 2024. These supplemental bills were mailed out in December and are due January 1, 2025. The last day to pay without interest is February 3, 2025.

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 2025 & supplemental motor vehicle tax due January 2025. 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 3, 2025 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.

Taxpayers 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 & COVRRRA 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.coventry-ct.gov 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 COVRRRA Trash. **September**-Sewer user fee (annual). **November**-Sewer assessment fee - 2nd installment. Questions? Please call 860-742-4066.

Coming Events & Notable Items



THE COVENTRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS - COVENTRY GLASSWORKS 1815-1848
Thursday, March 20, 6:30 pm
Second Congregational Church
Community House

Please join the CHS for our annual Stew & Story program. Our guest speaker will be Rick Ciralli, a collector and dealer who specializes in antique Coventry glass and assisted in the establishment of the Museum of Connecticut Glass on North River Road. Guests are invited to bring one or several interesting glass finds for Rick's evaluation after the presentation. Our event will begin with a variety of homemade soups and stews, appetizers, breads, desserts, and drinks. Cost is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members payable at the door. Registration required, available electronically in March via CHS website <https://ctcoventryhistoricalsociety.dreamhosters.com/> or Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/coventryhistory> or by calling or texting 860-450-2331 with names and number of people attending. We welcome you to join the Coventry Historical Society - membership forms will be available the night of the event.

COVENTRY LIONS CLUB EVENTS:

- Thank you to everyone who participated in Coventry's **Christmas in the Village** on December 8th.
- The Lions Club is sponsoring a **Valentine's Day Roses Sale**. Orders will be delivered. Orders can be placed online by using the Coventry Lions website at lionsclubofcoventry.org. All proceeds go to supporting Lions Club scholarships and other community service activities.
- The Lions Club is sponsoring a **Comedy Night show** at Manchester Country Club on Friday March 21. A buffet will be served. All proceeds go to community projects supported by the Coventry Lions. For tickets or information, go to the Lions Club of Coventry website, Facebook page, or contact any Lions Club member.

STONE WALL MAINTENANCE WEEKEND:

The Coventry Conservation Commission and the Coventry Conservation Corps is sponsoring the annual "Stone Wall Maintenance Weekend" on March 29-30. This would be a perfect time for property owners to do some maintenance to increase the visibility of stone walls on their property. For information, call the Land Use Department at 860-742-4062.



Department of Public Works

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

Bill Watkins
Todd Penney, P.E.
Dianna Grindle
Mark St. Germain, P.E.

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



For more Coventry Public Works information and updates scan the QR Code below



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.

Textile Recycling

The Town is starting its eleventh 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.

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, Coventry-ct.gov.

Please 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.



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 snow removal program, please contact the department. During severe events, we make every effort to have a live dispatcher accessible.

Please don't leave trash and recycling bins at the curb all week long. Snowstorms at night can make plowing extremely challenging. The combination of poor visibility, heavy snow accumulation, and the need to navigate around obstacles like carts, can make it difficult to clear roads efficiently and safely. It is also unsightly and there is an ordinance banning this practice.

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.

COVRRRA:

Call Public Works (860) 742-6588 for more details or check your 24/25 COVRRRA calendar for details about trash/recycling collection.

Missed Trash Pick-up? If you missed your regular scheduled pick up or have questions regarding pick up, please contact All American Waste 860-289-7850.

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 and make arrangements to have it repaired.

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 - \$250 haul / \$120 ton of disposal (CC deposit \$490 = haul charge + 2 ton)
- 30 cubic yard dumpster - \$250 haul / \$120 ton of disposal (CC deposit \$750 = 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.

The holidays are over; now what do I do with my Christmas tree?

Christmas trees may be dropped off at the Transfer Station on Olsen Farm Road when the facility is open or at the Public Works Building, look for location signage. 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.

Transfer Station

100 Olsen Farm Road

The facility is for town residents only and 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.

Cash, check and 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
- Clean & dry Mattress and box springs
- Leaves for composting
- Paintcare (new or old paint, stain, or varnish)

Materials NOT acceptable:

- Grass clippings
- Hazardous waste

Did you know used motor oil can be picked up with your recyclables? Up to six quarts in non-breakable container with screw-on lid, can be left next to your recycle bin. Be sure to mark as containing oil. Used motor oil and antifreeze can also be brought to the Public Works Facility or Transfer Station, 100 Olsen Farm Road. 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 items need to be placed 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.

Household Chemical Waste Drop-Off Facility: The regional facility located on Hancock Road in Willington is closed for the winter, reopening April 19, 2025.

WPCA

Water Pollution Control Authority (Sewer Department)

Old Medications: As a reminder please do not flush old medications down the drain. Pharmaceuticals are not removed by wastewater treatment systems and can have harmful effects on fish and other wildlife. The Coventry Police Dept. has a safe disposal bin for old medications in their lobby at 1585 Main Street. This service is completely free, no questions asked.

Project Updates:

- 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. We are currently in discussions with Bolton about costs and maintenance.
- The treatment plant upgrade study has been completed and concluded that upgrading our plant will be less expensive than connecting to Willimantic and better for the Town in the long term. The total cost is around \$30 million. We are eligible for DEEP grants and are exploring additional grant sources. Our next step is environmental review which will take about 2 years.



Above - Public Works / WPCA crew cleaning sewer mains on Woodland Road with our "jetter" machine.

Low Interest Loans for Sewer Connections:

Low interest/deferred loans for new sewer connections may be available through HUD based on income eligibility. Contact Mike Ruef for details.

Contact Us:

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

860-531-2913

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 Senior Center

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 active adult citizens in Coventry.

Address: Patriots Park, 172 Lake Street, Coventry, CT 06238

Mailing Address: 1712 Main Street, Coventry, CT 06238

Phone: 860-742-3525

Hours of Operation:

Monday-Thursday 9am-4pm and Friday 9-1pm

Staff

Brenda Bennett, Coordinator; bbennett@coventry-ct.gov

Jessica Richardson, Senior Center Assistant; jrichardson@coventry-ct.gov

SENIOR CENTER PROGRAMS & COMING EVENTS:

AARP TAX AIDE FOR 2024 TAX RETURNS

FEBRUARY 21, MARCH 7, 21 AND APRIL 4

For over 50 years, AARP Foundation Tax-Aide has been **helping low to moderate income taxpayers file their taxes for free**. The volunteer-based program not only helps taxpayers with their taxes but also fosters community engagement. We are pleased to bring you **FREE** tax preparation assistance for your Federal and State tax returns for participants with "simple" tax returns. A team of highly trained tax volunteers will be here (weather permitting) by appointment only. There are multiple appointments available each day from 9:00am-noon. If you are interested, please contact the Senior Center for further information and to schedule your appointment.



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Located at the Coventry Senior Center, this **FREE** program is led by Jim Mercurio, Counselor, Hartford Healthcare. Join us the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month from 10-11:30am. All are welcome! Sign up is appreciated. For more information and questions, call the Senior Center Coordinator.

CHOICES HEALTH INSURANCE COUNSELING

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

FITNESS ROOM

Overlooking Lake Wangumbaug, our fitness room is **FREE** and open daily! The fitness room offers: a recumbent bike, a treadmill, an elliptical machine and weights! **Schedule your workout time with staff!**

COVENTRY RIDES TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

Staff:

Sarah Leete, Transportation

Coordinator; sleete@coventry-ct.gov

Kerry Kilbourne, Van Driver

Transportation Hours: Call and leave a message. Your call will be returned within 48 business hours. **Rides must be scheduled at least 48 business hours in advance and no later than noon on Thursday for a Monday ride!**

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.

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)

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.

LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Bingo	Cornhole	Jewelry Class	Knit, Crochet, Sewing	Mahjong	Book club	Poetry and Short Story Share	Jam Session	Sewing Group	Out to Lunch Bunch	Chess Club
Tuesday 1am	Friday 11:30am	3 rd Wednesday of each month 10am	2 nd Wednesday of each month 10am	Thursday 9:30am	4 th Wednesday of each month 1:30pm	Last Friday of each month 12:30-1:15pm	2 nd & 4 th Wednesday 10:45am	Thursdays 1pm	Wednesday of each month 11:30am	Friday once per month at 11am

PERSONAL CARE

Monthly Haircuts	Monthly Massages	NEW Foundation Footcare
Fridays each month. By appointment only \$20 due directly to vendor	\$40 for 1/2hr, \$60 for 1 hour. By appointment only, payment due directly to vendor	Registered Nurse, Certified Foot Care Specialist. \$40 due at time of appointment.

FITNESS CLASS SCHEDULE

Monday CHAIR YOGA	Tuesday STRENGTH & BALANCE	Wednesday TAI CHI	Thursday STRENGTH/BALANCE	1st & 3rd Friday CARDIO DRUMMING
10am	9:30am	9:30am	9:30am	10am
				\$3.00

Cost \$5.00 each

Human Services Office



860-742-5324

Annemarie Sundgren - Administrator
Austyn Dolce - Human Services Coordinator
Madison Baranoski - Youth Services Coordinator

CLERGY FUEL FUND

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

FOOD BANK

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 expiration 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.

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.

"THANK YOU" FROM THE COVENTRY HUMAN SERVICES OFFICE

We had a very successful holiday distribution. We are grateful for the continued support and generous donations from residents, businesses, schools, PTOs, churches, scouts, clubs, legions and associations. Of particular note, we received 75 Turkeys and many additional food items due to the generosity of the ownership of Twin Hills Country Club. The holiday season is much brighter for residents in need due to your donations!! Thank you to those who helped in delivering the Orchard Hill Holiday meals. We would also like to Thank Coventry Police & Fire Department 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!

Like Coventry Human Services on Facebook and see what is new in the office.

**You may also donate online at any time via the Coventry Parks & Recreation donation page:
<https://secure.rec1.com/CT/coventry-ct/catalog>**

Coventry Youth Services

Positive Connections: Positive Connections is a school-based mentoring program that connects responsible Coventry High School juniors and seniors as mentors with George Hersey Robertson students. Mentors emphasize the significance of participation, academic success, community membership, and the importance of staying in school. Mentors gain leadership skills by leading activities, modeling positivity, and supporting their mentees. Mentors and mentees engage in weekly activities to strengthen their rapport, increase self-esteem, and improve school-related attitudes.

Recess-Based Mentoring: Recess-Based Mentoring connects trained community volunteers with Coventry Grammar School students to engage in play-based activities that foster social-emotional learning. Volunteers are trained in developmentally appropriate mentoring practices and methods to support students in navigating social interactions and self-regulation. Mentors engage mentees in weekly activities that promote skill-building, communication, and having fun. All volunteers will have background checks completed prior to mentoring.

Safe@Home: Safe@Home is a 90-minute program designed for students in grades 4-6 to prepare them to be safe when they are home alone. Students learn how to practice safe habits, how to prevent unsafe situations, and what to do when faced with dangers such as power failures or weather emergencies. Students are also introduced to the Safe Sitter® First Aid Chart and learn a system to help them assess and respond to injuries and illnesses. The program is designed to prepare students for their first steps towards independence.

Safe Sitter: Safe Sitter is a program designed to prepare students in grades 6-8 to be safe when they are home alone, watching younger siblings, or babysitting. The instructor-led class is filled with fun games and role-playing exercises to ensure that students are comfortable using the skills they learn. Students will learn how to prevent unsafe situations, what to do when faced with dangers such as power failures or weather emergencies, tips to manage behavior that will help them stay in control of themselves and the children in their care, learn skills such as choking rescue and CPR, as well as how to screen jobs, discuss fees, and greet employers to set students up for success.

If your student is interested in learning more or volunteering, please contact the Youth Services Coordinator, Madison Baranoski at mbaranoski@coventry-ct.gov.

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, and offers tons of free services including high-speed wi-fi, work and study space, children's playgroups, and programs for all ages. Sign up for a library card and gain access to tens of thousands of books, movies, video games, and e-books all for free! Stop by the library or go to www.coventrypl.org/card to get your library card today!

Did you know that the Library no longer collects late fines? Did you know that we'll accept any return no matter how overdue it is? If you have a long-overdue library book, we would love to get it back! Any overdue items returned to the library will be accepted with no fines or fees, and any borrowing restrictions will be lifted!

As we head into the coldest months of the years, weather closings will be listed on our website, Facebook pages, and WFSB News.

The Library offers regular programming for children, teens, and adults. For an up-to-date listing of all our programs and their full descriptions, please visit www.coventrypl.org/events. Read more to learn about some of our special winter programs!

We are offering a new book club for adults! **Book Banter**, on January 28 and February 24 at 11:00, is a book club without an assigned book! We pick the genre, you pick what you want to read, and we meet to discuss. In January we'll discuss crime fiction, and in February we'll discuss romance books. Special this winter for adults includes our **Introduction to Genealogy Series** on February 8, 16, 22, and March 1 from 10:30 - 12:00, where participants learn the basics of genealogy including how to begin your research, evaluate sources, and ask the right questions to get your answers!

Teens are welcome to join us during exam week at 3:00 for special destressing programs, including **Nail and String Art** (1/15), **Teen Destress Mess** (1/16) **Teen Pompompalooza** (1/17 and each participant will get credit for 1 hour of volunteer service). We have our brand-new **Teen Supper Club** on January 21, February 18 at 5:00 where you can learn simple, nutritious, delicious recipes and basic cooking skills to use in college and beyond. Registration is required for each month. January's recipe is rice and beans, and February's recipe is parmesan zucchini orzo.



Take Your Child to the Library Day, an international initiative to encourage families everywhere to take their children to their local library, started --- years ago right here in Connecticut! This year, the Booth & Dimock Memorial Library's Children's Room will have a **Very Special Scavenger Hunt** set up for one day only with extra special prizes! Stop by anytime between 10:00 and 3:00 on Saturday February 1 to celebrate Take Your Child to the Library Day with us!

Booth & Dimock Memorial Library
Address: 1134 Main St. Coventry, CT
Phone: 860-742-7606
Website: www.coventrypl.org
Email: bdlibrary@coventry-ct.gov

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 2025 are as follows: January 30, February 13, February 27, March 13, March 27, April 10, April 24, May 8, May 29, June 12, June 26, July 31, August 28, September 11, September 25, October 9, October 30, November 13, and December 11. 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.

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



- Coventry Board of Education awarded Level II CABA Board of Distinction Award
- Coventry Board of Education Vice-Chairperson Receives CABA's Certificated Board of Education Member Designation
- Capt. Nathan Hale School Girls and Boys Soccer wins Northeast Middle School Athletic Conference Title
- Coventry High School Student, Mya Ransford, named Commended Student in the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program

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

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:

- Friday, January 17, 2025, at 10:00-11:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, April 30, 2025, 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.

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 BOARD OF EDUCATION MISSION STATEMENT: It is the mission of the Coventry Public Schools to prepare every student for life, learning and work in the 21st century.

COVENTRY PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2024-2025 MAJOR INITIATIVES: Like most quality organizations, Coventry Public Schools (CPS) continues to work to enhance practices, further building on the achievements that have already been made. Over the past two years, the district has spent many hours identifying the beliefs of this educational organization. With that, the focus was gradually shifted to accurately reflect the work that is currently being done. The five beliefs were identified - **Empowering Learners, Diversity & Equity, Belonging, Building Capacity, and Partnerships.**

This led to the development of three new District Drivers - **Deeper Thinking & Learning, Authentic Work, and Collective & Individual Identity.** These Drivers reflect where the focus of the District currently lies. Within each Driver are major initiatives for the 2024-2025 school year. Those are as follows:

-CONT. NEXT PAGE

MAJOR INITIATIVES - CONT. FROM PREVIOUS PAGE:

- **Deeper Thinking & Learning:** When students are engaged in deeper thinking and learning, they develop knowledge and skills, build conceptual understanding, establish ownership, and transfer learning to new situations.
 - Design an implementation plan and provide professional development for the implementation of Wit & Wisdom.
 - Implement Eureka Math Squared in Grade 7 and additional strategies for ongoing mathematics program improvement in Grades 6-8.
 - Develop a district definition of high quality instruction aligned to District Drivers and the Portrait of the Graduate as well as to CPS identified research based high yield instructional strategies.
 - Continue development and expansion of the dual enrollment program.
 - Implement the new Coventry Public Schools Educator and Leader Evaluation Plan.
 - Implement additional processes and targeted support systems to improve academic achievement for students transitioning between schools.
 - 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.
- **Authentic Work** connected to curricular standards engages students with real-world challenges, empowering them to make informed decisions that benefit the community.
 - Integrate the Portrait of the Graduate rubrics for the Authentic Innovator at each school and all of the Portrait of the Graduate competencies into each content area across the curriculum.
 - Refine interdisciplinary passage projects at each school to include additional opportunities for students to practice more of the competencies and additional opportunities for them to showcase their projects.
- **Collective & Individual Identity:** We honor the beliefs, values and experiences of each individual while fostering an inclusive, safe, and healthy community.
 - Develop a Kindergarten to Grade 5 Social, Emotional, Behavioral Education Plan Proposal.
 - Continue efforts to recruit and support Open Choice students.
 - Enhance efforts to recruit, hire, and retain diverse staff through the implementation of the Increasing Educator Diversity Plan.
 - Continue outreach for international students and other tuition paying students.
 - Develop and execute a facilities option for NEASC recommended item at Coventry High School.
 - Develop a 10 year comprehensive plan for school buildings.
 - Promote high standards of student behavior to support a school climate where students are responsible and respectful.

All Major Initiatives, within the Drivers, connect back to the District Beliefs, all of which support the Board of Education goals. A web page dedicated to this work is underway, where status reports will be made available. Finally, as is the custom, an achievement presentation will be shared with the Board of Education at the last BOE meeting in March and an Achievement Report will be uploaded to the web page along with related artifacts.

If you have any questions about this work, please contact the Superintendent's Office at 860-742-7317 x2.

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 DATTCO Bus Co. at 860-838-7351.



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

COVENTRY TOWN NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2025

Town Manager's Message -

Continued from page 2

will re-align the road and improve safety. This project is funded by the Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP) in the amount of \$2 million. Finally, another grant with safety features will be the installation of curve signs on roads throughout town including Cedar Swamp Rd, Dunn Rd, Grant Hill Rd, Hop River Rd, Riley Mtn. Rd, Woodbridge Rd, Cooper Ln, Lewis Hill Rd, Talcott Hill Rd, Daly Rd, Flanders Rd, South St, Wrights Mill Rd, Lake St, and Snake Hill Rd.

The Town has additional capital improvement projects funded by State and Federal grants, many including road and bridge improvements. These projects are in preliminary engineering and are anticipated to reach construction stage in 2026. You can find more information about these projects on my bi-monthly projects/issues update memo, which can be found on our website at <https://www.coventry-ct.gov/290/Archives>.

We are proud of our old historic town. But our age means we do have some old and failing infrastructure. As we begin the budgeting process, our staff continues to seek State and Federal grants to make our local dollars go further. Unfortunately, not everything needed is funded by grants. Winter is "Budget Season" at Town Hall, and so we will be working with our departments, agencies and Town Council to address our Town goals as we work to build the 2025-26 Annual Budget. I encourage you all as citizens to become informed about the Town's budget and to participate in the process.

Sincerely,
James Drumm



Above photo: Coventry Lake from Lisicke Beach.
Photo by Laura Stone.