



TOWN MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

According to the calendar, spring is around the corner, but I can't just see it yet. Our Town Public Works Crews have been much busier this winter preparing our roads with salt and plowing snow. We currently have 20 people in the Public Works Department, and 18 of the employees are licensed and are on the call-in list to plow for every snow event that we have. Some of our

staff members have been plowing snow in Coventry for many years. Some are new and are just getting the hang of it, but they all are a part of this important team that keeps our streets clear and safe in winter. I thank them all for their great work!

This month Town staff will be working with the Town Council to make adjustments to the Town Manager's proposed Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget. The Town has seen some cost increases in utilities, fuel, supplies, and building materials over the last 12 months with inflation in the northeast region increasing by 3.7%. We are again experiencing increases in payroll with the continued increase in minimum wage. Though the Town wishes to keep program fees affordable for residents, this will make it harder to fund Recreation programs, Coventry Lake beach operations, and staffing at the Library. In some cases, we will have to look at rate increases to cover our costs. Entry-level high school students are receiving nearly the same pay as full-time staff members that have served the Town for several years. This has caused the Town to reconsider and amend its compensation plan to retain some of our staff in service and program positions. Again this year, it is not an employer's job market, and we are struggling to fill staff positions that once had 40-50 applicants. We are also seeing cost increases due to scheduled salary increases in our negotiated collective bargaining agreements.

On the other hand, there is good news to share with our residents regarding our budgeting. In reviewing our projects, we are pleased to announce we have around \$31 million in grant projects lined up for design and/or construction over the next year. Last year we constructed the Hop River Bridge with a grant in the amount of \$3.6 million. Some of these projects are progressing from engineering to construction and are rolling over in the budget from last year, and others are new. The projects are Bunker Hill Road Bridge Replacement, Brigham Road Bridge Replacement, Depot Road Bridge Replacement, Flanders Road Bridge Replacement, South and Swamp Road Safety

Improvements, Daly Road Safety Improvements (including sidewalks), flashing crosswalks on Main Street/Cross Street in the Village, and a Village Water Tower (to provide water volume and pressure for fire suppression systems). Also funded will be the second year of the prescribed three-year fluoridone treatment of Coventry Lake to combat hydrilla. This is being partially funded with a matching State grant of \$75,000 from the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP).

The Town will also continue its traditional annual funding of \$290,000 toward road paving. We match this to the Town Aid Roads (TAR) Funding distributed to us each year by the State. Since that level of funding does not go far, in 2023 voters approved a road bond to improve our roads, drainage and two bridges. We have seen much of this funding being used in the last two years all over town. This next year we will use our remaining 2023 Road Bond dollars to continue street paving and bridge repairs. This year the 2023 Road Bond payment will begin, so, we will see a jump in in the cost of the Town's debt service in the proposed budget, to cover the cost of having nice new paved roads. Though FY2025-26 may see a spike in Town debt, I am pleased to report that debt service after the FY2025-26 budget year will begin to significantly drop off as the Town is scheduled to satisfy old debt service over the next couple of years.

As we discuss our FY 2025-26 Proposed Budget, we welcome you to our Budget Hearing at 7:00 PM on March 4th at Coventry High School to learn more about our budget challenges and how we plan to meet the Town's goals and service objectives. Other Budget meetings will be held throughout March. If you are interested in attending them, you can check our [website](#) for the Town Council agendas.

Should you wish to contact me, please email 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

UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS:

- Mon, 3/3: **Town Council Meeting**, 7:00 PM. Town Hall Annex.
- Tues, 3/4: **Town Manager's Budget Hearing**, 7:00 PM, High School Lecture Hall
- Mon, 3/10: **Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting**, 7:00 PM, Town Hall Conf. Room B.
- Mon, 3/10: **Town Council Budget Meeting**, 7:30 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Thurs, 3/13: **Board of Education Meeting**, 7:00 PM, School Admin. Building
- Tues, 3/17: **Town Council Meeting**, 7:00 PM, Town Hall Annex.
- Mon, 3/24: **Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting**, 7:00 PM, Town Hall Conf. Room B.
- Mon, 3/24: **Town Council Budget Meeting**, 7:30 PM, Town Hall Annex



- Weds, 3/26: **Inland Wetlands Agency Meeting**, 7:00 PM, Town Hall Annex.
- Thurs 3/27: **Board of Education Meeting**, 7:00 PM, School Admin Building.
- Thurs 3/31: **Town Council Special Budget Meeting**, 7:00 PM, Town Hall Annex.

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



The Winter Farmers' Market wraps up on March 9th.

COMING EVENTS:

Sun 3/2: **Coventry Winter Farmers' Market**, 10 AM - 12:30 PM, indoors at Coventry High School, 78 Ripley Hill Road. Celebrating its 10th year, the CWFM offers everything from locally-grown produce, hand-crafted soaps, and freshly-baked bread. Check out their [website](#) for more information.

Tues 3/4: **50% Off Everything in the Shop Sale**, 9 AM - 11 AM, Noah's Closet, 1746 Boston Turnpike. Noah's Closet sells gently-used children's clothing, toys, shoes, and baby equipment. Donations of gently-used children's items are welcome on Tuesdays 9 AM - 11 AM and Saturdays 9 AM - 1 PM. Info: 860-742-1616 or visit [website](#).

Tues 3/4-3/25: **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.

Weds 3/5: **Ash Wednesday Service**, 7 PM, First Congregational Church of Coventry, 1171 Main Street. All are welcome. Info: 860-742-8487 or email firstchurchcoventryct@gmail.com.

Fri 3/7 & 3/21: **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 3/7: **Quiet Corner Contra Dance**, 1st Friday of every month September-June. Patriots Park Lodge, 172 Lake Street. Dance 7:30 – 10:30, beginner workshop at 7:15. Live Caller and band. All dances are taught. Partner not necessary. Soft soled shoes, Light layered clothes & a water bottle. Snacks welcome .For more information see [website](#) or contact Dennis at 860-742-9498 or .knowdj@frontier.com

Sun 3/9: **Coventry Winter Farmers' Market**, 10 AM - 12:30 PM, indoors at Coventry High School, 78 Ripley Hill Road. Celebrating its 10th year, the CWFM offers everything from locally-grown produce, hand-crafted soaps, and freshly-baked bread. Check out their [website](#) for more information. **LAST MARKET OF THE WINTER SEASON!**

Weds 3/12: **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 3/14: **Famous Baked Fish Dinner**, 6 PM, 1171 Main Street. Presented by the First Congregational Church of Coventry & American Legion Post 52. Baked cod, baked potato, coleslaw, Italian bread and drink. \$15 per plate. Take-out available. Info: 860-7428487 or email firstchurchcoventryct@gmail.com.

Sat 3/15: **Drive-thru/Take Out St. Patrick's Day Dinner**, Second Congregational Church of Coventry, 1746 Boston Turnpike. Corned beef and cabbage, potatoes, carrots, and dessert. \$18. Place orders by calling 860-742-1616 or email secondchurch@sbcglobal.net and indicate pick-up time of 5 or 5:30 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 3/18: **50% Off Winter Clothes**, 9 AM - 11 AM, Noah's Closet, 1746 Boston Turnpike. Also Sat 3/22 from 9 AM - 1 PM. Noah's Closet sells gently-used children's clothing, toys, shoes, and baby equipment. Donations of gently-used children's items are welcome on Tuesdays 9 AM - 11 AM and Saturdays 9 AM - 1 PM. Info: 860-742-1616 or visit [website](#).

Thurs 3/20: **Stew & Story, Coventry Glassworks - 1815-1848**: 6:30 PM, Second Congregational Church Community House, 1746 Boston Turnpike. Presented by the Coventry Historical Society. Guest speaker: 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. The event will begin with a variety of homemade soups and stews, appetizers, breads, desserts, and drinks. While it is traditional to bring your own bowl and spoon, a supply will be available. Cost: \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members, payable at the door. Registration required, available electronically in March via [CHS website](#), [Facebook](#), or by calling or texting 860-450-2331 with names and number of people attending.

Fri 3/21: **Comedy Dinner Fundraiser**, 6:30 PM, Manchester Country Club, 305 S. Main Street Manchester. Laugh the night away with Headliner Max Dolocelli while supporting the Coventry Lion's Club. Tickets are \$60 and include dinner. Tickets and more information at this [link](#).

Sat 3/22: **Legopalooza**, 2-4:30 PM, Second Congregational Church Community House, 1746 Boston Turnpike (across from Coventry Public Market). Come join us for an afternoon of LEGO® fun! Each \$5 ticket includes LEGO® building, LEGO® car racing, Lego®-themed activities for all ages, vendors, a raffle, and bake sale. Purchase your ticket at the door. \$20 for a family of 5+! Please contact Second Congregational Church Office at 860-742-1616 for more information. All proceeds will benefit the missions of Second Congregational Church.

Weds 3/26: **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](#).

Thurs 3/27: **Office hours with Town Council Chair Lisa Thomas**, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM, Senior Center, 172 Lake Street, and 7:00-8:00 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Ask a question or share a concern with Lisa at this monthly opportunity for conversation with Town Council Members. This month will focus on budget topics.



COVENTRY PARKS & RECREATION:

Camp Wangumbaug 2025 – Registration opens March 6th! Back this year – TRAILBLAZERS for Grades 6 – 8!

Specialty Camps – Registration opens March 6th! Choose from a variety of program offerings; Cooking, Sports, Art, Science!

Upcoming Spring Programs:

- April Vacation Daze, April 14th – 17th 8am – 5pm, \$200 Grades K-5
- Kids' Night Out, March 21st 6:30 – 9:00pm \$18/child Grades K – 5
- Town Wide Tag Sale – Registration OPEN \$20/home – May 3rd
- Nantucket Daffodil Festival – April 26th - \$195/person
- Community Garden Plots - \$30 – 3 plots available

Program registration: <https://secure.rec1.com/CT/coventry-ct/catalog>

Summer Jobs: Applications available NOW through March 31st • Camp Counselors • Lifeguards • Swim Lesson Instructors
Apply Online @ <https://www.coventryct.gov/Jobs.aspx>

DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS:

Since 1992, Coventry Scholarship Foundation Dollars for Scholars, Inc.® has awarded more than \$1,000,000 to graduating high school seniors who live in Coventry. Last year seniors received over \$90,000 to help defray the cost of post-secondary education. Perhaps most importantly, every graduating senior who applies by the deadline is awarded a scholarship.



[Donate through this code to support the Dollars for Scholars program.](#)

Our foundation relies on the generosity of donors like you to fund these educational awards. You may designate your tax-deductible donation to a specific scholarship by going online to coventry.dollarsforscholars.org and clicking the “Donate Now” button or scan the QR code above which will take you directly to the donation page.

We deeply appreciate the generosity of those who have supported us over the past thirty-three years. We are proud to assist Coventry’s students as they graduate from high school and continue their education. We believe investing in the educational future of Coventry students will strengthen their lives and contribute to the well-being of the community. To those of you not familiar with our organization, we hope that you will take a few minutes to review our information and consider becoming a donor.

WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS. Without them this organization won't be able to continue. If interested please email: thompsonjaime04@gmail.com



BOOTH & DIMOCK MEMORIAL LIBRARY:

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 will be closed on March 25 and March 26 while we rearrange and re-shelve parts of the children’s area. 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!

For the most up to date information on all of the wonderful programs offered at the Library, please visit www.coventrypl.org/events or www.facebook.com/BDLibrary.

Adult Programs:

Intro to Genealogy – March 1 at 10:30 – Join us in our final class in our four-part genealogy series. Learn how to bring your research, evaluate sources, and ask the right questions.

Mystery Book Club – March 7 at 1:30 – Each month we will read and discuss a mystery book from the Time Magazine’s list of “The 100 Best Mystery and Thriller Books of All

Time.” March’s book is *The Turn of the Key* by Ruth Ware. Copies of the book are available to check out at the library.

Sunday Matinee Movies – March 16 at 2:00 – A monthly cinematic event intended to remind participants of the communal experience of watching movies, and introduce the audience to exciting films they may never have seen before! For a list of titles, please visit the library’s website.

Wednesday Night Book Club – March 19 at 6:30 – This book club meets at 6:30 on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. March’s book is *The Readers of Broken Wheel Recommend* by Katarina Bivald. Copies of the book are available to check out at the library.

Genealogy Club – March 20 at 11:30 – Calling all genealogy lovers! Join us to talk research and trade tips. No registration required. Bring research or questions you’d like to share with the group.

Great British Baking Tour – March 25 at 7:00 – Join our virtual program with UK travel/relocation consultant and former UK resident Claire Evans for a delightful culinary tour of the UK inspired by *The Great British Baking Show* television series. Learn about making a proper cup of tea, regional specialties, their origins, and the particular parts of the UK they hail from. **Registration required.**

Tea Explorers – Members of Tea Explorers receive a new tea to try each month. Each tea comes with background information. Contact the library to register.

Spice Life – Members of Spice Life receive a new spice to try each month. Each spice comes with background information. Contact the library to register.

Teen Programs

*** Note, teen programs are reserved for youth in grades 6-12, or ages 12-17.**

Rubber Dukorating – March 7 at 1:00 – It’s an early release day! Use fabric, hot glue, paint, or sharpies to turn your rubber duckie into your dream duck! Make a cute outfit or an awesome cosplay. Up to you!

Teen Dungeons and Dragons – March 13 and 27 at 4:00 - Join our party for a Teen DnD! We can provide your character, or you can bring your own leveled up to our current level. Find our current level, character creation help, and more at www.coventrypl.org/teendnd

Teen Finger-Painting – March 14 at 1:00 – Missing the kid-old-days when all you had to think about was what you wanted for snack time? Travel back in time for only but a moment, leave your responsibilities at the door, and just finger-paint. KayFo might read you a story while you do.

Special Tween Event, **Grades 3-7!** Mini D&D – March 21 at 4:00 – A kid-friendly introduction to Dungeons and Dragons! We’ll choose a character, learn how to play, and play through a mini adventure.

Bubble Art – March 28 at 4:00 – Miss Rachel will show you how to make art by printing with paint bubbles!

Children's Programs:

Play Group – Every Wednesday at 10:30 – Immerse your child in the enchantment of reading at our Play Group! Enjoy free-play and the chance to socialize with other kids, all while nurturing a lifelong love for books. Join us for a delightful adventure of imagination and fun!

New Book Story Time – March 4 at 6:30 – Join us for a fun, relaxed story time where we showcase some of the new picture books we've gotten in for the month!

Sing, Stomp, & Story – March 6 at 11:00 – Join us for a music and movement story time. In this program, we start off by reading a fun book and follow it up with music, instruments, and lots of dancing!

Diary of a Wimpy Kid Trivia – March 7 at 1:00 – It's an early release day! Test your Diary of Wimpy Kid knowledge with a fun trivia game at the library!

Homeschool Hangout – March 13 at 11:00 – This free-play program is the perfect way to gather and meet other homeschooling or self-directed learning families! We'll have crafts and toys available for children of all ages to play with.

Make Your Own Leprechaun – March 14 at 1:00 – Join us in the children's room to build your own leprechaun trap just in time for St. Patrick's Day!

Sweet Dreams Storytime – March 18 at 6:30 – All ages are welcome to join Miss Rachel for a relaxing evening story.

Science Thursday: Acid/base Art – March 20 at 4:00 – Paint with different liquids on paper treated with red cabbage juice. See how acids like lemon juice and bases like baking soda paste create different colors on the special paper! Perfect for grades 1-5, but all are welcome!

Ready, Set, Seed Story Time – March 22 at 11:00 – Join us for some seed-y stories and learn how to make your own wildflower seed bombs!

Messy Munchkins – March 28 at 11:00 – Bring your little ones to enjoy some sensory play! Different sensory stations will be available for kids to use and get as messy as they want. Be sure to wear your play clothes!

Booth & Dimock Memorial Library
1134 Main Street
Coventry, CT 06238
860-742-7606

www.coventrypl.org

bdlibrary@coventry-ct.gov

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE-EMS DEPARTMENT:

When seconds matter, help us help you. Inclement weather, especially at night can make it difficult to locate an address. Clearly visible addresses help us find you quickly. Consider a reflective address sign if you don't already have one. They can be ordered through the Fire-EMS Department at this [link](#):



A reminder from the Water Pollution Control Authority: Wipes are the number one cause of costly plumbing clogs and sewer backups. Even 'flushable' wipes don't always break down. Throw wipes out in the trash.



Banner photo: Purple crocus emerging through the snow - a welcome harbinger of spring.

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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