



TOWN NEWS



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HOLIDAY CLOSINGS:

**MEMORIAL DAY - MAY 26
INDEPENDENCE DAY - JULY 4
LABOR DAY - SEPTEMBER 1**

Message from Robyn Gallagher, Town Council Finance Committee Chair

With the revaluation reflecting unprecedented growth in residential home values, many taxpayers are understandably worried about increased taxes. However, the revaluation is only one-half of the taxes equation. Your taxes result from your property’s assessed value multiplied by the mil rate (one mil is one-one-thousandth of a dollar). The mil rate is set by the Town Council after a budget is passed by the taxpayers at referendum – this is so that the Town only charges those taxes necessary to cover budgeted expenditures. The Budget Referendum is scheduled for **May 6, 2025**.

The purpose of this article is to provide You – the taxpayer – information to understand the budget process including how, and when, you can get involved.

On March 4, 2025, Town Manager James Drumm and Superintendent Dr. David Petrone presented their proposed budgets. These budgets were the result of meetings with department heads and school building administrators, and reflect tough decisions made by both the Town Manager and the Superintendent. The proposed budget includes: (1) General Government operating expenses (Town departments like public works or police); (2) the Board of Education (3) Debt Service (payment on debt taken out in prior years for projects like the High School HVAC project); (4) Capital (investment in long-term assets, like equipment, buildings, and roads); and (5) Ambulance Fund Transfer.

During the March 4th meeting, Mr. Drumm explained that should his proposal be adopted, the mil rate would drop from the current level of 33.31 for real property and 32.46 for motor vehicles to 25 for both real property and motor vehicles. This drop reflects Coventry’s unprecedented grand list growth after the most recent revaluation (over 40%).

Above: Mill Brook Place in April.
Photo by Laura Stone.

Town Manager Update: James Drumm

Over this winter I have worked with our Town staff to prepare plans for programs, construction and budgets the next fiscal year. Our talented team of department directors presented a plan to increase and improve our public services. Much of these ideas were incorporated into the Town Manager's proposed budget and Capital Improvement Plan, which was presented to the Town Council in February. As the Town Manager's proposed budget was presented within days of finalizing the State's required Revaluation of property assessments, we were just learning the impacts of how the significant increase in residential property compared to other categories (commercial, industrial, vacant land), would cause a shift of the tax burden to be paid by the residential taxpayer. Additionally, the Connecticut State Assembly's 2024 legislation drastically lowered the method by which Towns could assess motor vehicles for taxation. The Town lost \$21 million in taxable revenue. This also added to the tax burden shift toward residential property owners. We learned that even if the Town did not increase spending at all, there would now be significant residential tax increases. As the Town had increased costs, such as utilities, union contracted wage increases, required IT system upgrades, and 2023 Road Bond debt payments, there was a recommendation for higher spending.

Over March the Town Council went through the budget and held meetings with department directors and the Board of Education to review their budget requests and to ask questions. Though as Town Manager I did make cuts to the department budget requests, the Town Council looked for additional cuts wanting to further reduce the impact of the tax shift on residential property owners. The Town Council voted in their proposed Budget to reduce spending by \$1,004,706. These cuts included \$765,000 to the Board of Education bringing the spending increase down to 3.1%. The Town Government reduced the budget by \$90,432, taking the total spending increase down to 2.96%. Debt Service was reduced \$68,500 resulting in a spending increase of 11.5%. Capital was amended to \$110,000, reducing the spending increase to 20.12%. The Ambulance Transfer was reduced by \$10,774, decreasing spending from last year by 3.6%.

These are significant cuts to the Board of Education and to the Town. Many were found by going through each line item and shaving off dollars where possible. The Town is again putting off the purchase of needed vehicles, such as a new small dump truck/snowplow for plowing the lake association neighborhoods; a new bucket truck for in-house tree trimming; and a new police patrol vehicle. This operating budget is very lean and can best be described as a "maintenance budget".

There is good news in this new budget year, as we continue to have many grant projects underway. Leveraging our tax dollars to receive grants makes our money go further. It is even better when the grant funds the project by 100%. One of our grant projects, the Miller-Richardson Park improvement Project, is now in construction and is expected to be substantially completed later this month. We have some projects in engineering getting ready for construction in the new budget year, such as the Main Street/Cross Street/South Steet Traffic Safety Improvements, the Main Street Sidewalk Extension Project (Hemlock Point to Winterberry), and the South St./Swamp Rd. Road Reconstruction Project.

The Town Council will also be putting forward a referendum this spring to authorize debt for construction of a water line to assist families that have had their wells contaminated by salt. The project is estimated between \$2.5 million to \$2.7 million. This project, if approved, will be funded with State Revolving Loan Funds, which have a 50% subsidy (forgivable debt) and additionally a grant that will together fund approximately 77% of the project. Construction, if approved will be scheduled for fall of 2025 or spring of 2026, depending on permitting and what contractor may be the successful bidder for the project.

I invite you all to join me and our Town Council for our Annual Town Meeting on April 26th. The meeting will be held at 10:00 AM at the Veteran's Auditorium, at Coventry High School. You will learn more about our proposed budget, our projects and our plans for improving our Town in Fiscal Year 2025-26. The information at the Meeting and the budget summary within this Newsletter will provide you the information you need to make an informed decision on May 6th when you vote on the Proposed Town Council Budget. I encourage all Town registered voters to participate. I look forward to seeing you at the Town Meeting.

Council Finance Chair's Message

Continued from Page 1

Throughout March and April, the Town Council held budget meetings with various Departments to discuss their budget in detail. Town Council asked questions about budgetary increases and the needs of the departments. These meetings were open and, indeed, many members of the public came to speak during Audience of Citizens or just to watch the Council deliberate.

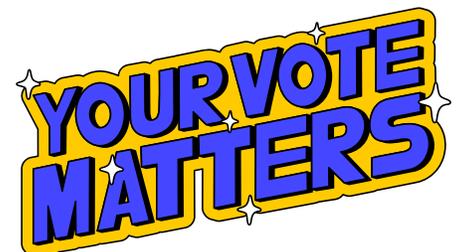
On April 7, 2025, the Town Council voted to send to referendum a budget that reduces the proposed increase in expenditures by just over \$1,000,000. This further reduces the Town Manager's proposed mil rate from approximately 25 to 24.37.

The impact this will have on residential taxpayers will vary depending on the revaluation of their home, the newly calculated value of their motor vehicles, and the number of motor vehicles owned. Looking at my own situation, my home increased in value 55% and my family owns two cars (a Toyota and a Honda). My property taxes under the current proposal increase an estimated 5.6% (about \$35/month).

The Town Council's budget will be presented at the Annual Town Meeting on April 26, 2025 at 10:00 AM in the Veterans Auditorium at Coventry High School. During the Annual Town Meeting, residents will have another opportunity to provide comments and feedback before the budget is sent to referendum.

The referendum vote will occur on Tuesday May 6, 2025 from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM at the firehouse across from Town Hall. Voting in the budget referendum is so important - budgets have passed or failed by as few as a dozen votes. Voting is your opportunity to help direct the future of Coventry. I look forward to seeing you at your polling place May 6, 2025!

Robyn Gallagher



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)

Annual Town Meeting: Saturday April 26, 2025
Budget Vote: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 – Vote at South Fire House across the street from the Middle School (1755 Main Street). *The Registrar of Voters notes that the Town will be receiving new tabulators before the referendum. Please remember to come out to vote.*

Absentee Ballots will be available in person starting Monday, April 28th during regular business hours.

PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOTING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES:

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

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

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

NOTARY SERVICES

Notary services are available in our office **EXCEPT** for the following documents:

- *Wills
- *Power of Attorneys
- *Health Directives
- *Documents being filed back into our Land Records

For other documents there is a fee of \$5, and you will need 2 forms of ID.



FISHING!

All adults need to have a license to fish.

*Children under the age of 16 do not need a license to fish. *Parents, please note: If you will be handling your child's fishing pole or baiting the line, Connecticut Law requires that you carry a current fishing license.

Consult the *Connecticut Angler's Guides* each year for updates on CT DEEP regulations and other useful information at www.ct.gov/deep. Be advised the DEEP is no longer publishing the printed Angler's Guides that were in the Town Clerk's Offices.

Your 2025 Fishing Licenses are available at the Town Clerk's office or online at www.ct.gov/deep.

JUNE DOG LICENSING:

MAIL OR USE DROP BOX.

Faster processing?? Enclose a self-addressed envelope.

- **Check your dog's rabies expiration date.**
- **INCLUDE PROOF OF A CURRENT RABIES VACCINATION** if that date has expired. This is required to renew your dog's license.
- \$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.
- Licenses will not be sold until June 1st.
- Help us keep our records current- If there are any changes in your dog's registration status (spay/neuter, death, change of address) please update the clerk's office at 860-742-7966, or email tollmann@coventry-ct.gov

***Remember a license is your lost dog's ticket home. ***

COVENTRY'S TOP DOG!

Mail or drop off your license renewals along with the appropriate fee in the month of **May** and your dog's name will be entered into a drawing for the most desired #1 tag. **Coventry's Top Dog will also receive their license for FREE! Send your entry between May 1st- 31st and the winner will be notified June 1st.** All other license entries will be processed accordingly and mailed out in the beginning of June.

- Along with payment include **current rabies certificate, proof of spay/neuter and a self-addressed stamped envelope.** GOOD LUCK!!!

Land Use Office

PERMITS FIRST!

Before starting a project like clearing land, building a structure, or even starting a new business, check with the Building and Land Use Department to ensure that you are applying for any required permits. The Building and Land Use department can help



you determine if the work you are planning will require a permit. Many permits require inspections to be completed at different stages of your proposed project. Starting the permitting process first can save you time and money.

Our staff is happy to assist you with your permitting needs. Please feel free to contact 860-742-4062 with questions. Zoning and Wetlands Regulations can be found on our website at <https://www.coventry-ct.gov/189/Land-Use>.



COVENTRY FARMERS' MARKET: The Coventry Farmers' Market's 23rd season will begin on Sunday, June 1st at the Nathan Hale Homestead! Mark your calendar for a summer and fall full of fun! Follow us on Instagram at @CoventryFarmersMarketCT, on Facebook or the CFM website www.coventryfarmersmarket.org!

June	
1	Opening Day: All Roads/Trails Lead to CFM
8	Gardening: Cultivate and Connect
15	BBQ and Libations
22	Berry Jubilee
29	Charcuterie 101
July	
6	Sweet Treats
13	Wellness Market
20	Youth Market
27	Spice Up Your Summer
August	
3	Celebrating Coventry!
10	National Farmers' Week
17	Annual Corn Roast
24	Fiber and Potters Market
31	Savor n' Sip Sunday
September	
7	Dog Days
14	Going Green with Town of Coventry's Energy Committee
21	Celebration of National Honey Month
28	CT Cheese Day
October	
5	Apple Harvest/Fire Prevention
12	National Farmers' Day
19	Holiday Market
26	Pumpkin Harvest Celebration

Inland Wetlands & Watercourses

A Note from your Wetlands Agent: Delay Your Spring Garden Clean-Up

Some of our native pollinators are still quietly tucked into the leaf litter and hollow stems of vegetation from last season, so please consider putting the garden gloves back on the shelf for a couple more weeks. These overwintering insects rely on your "messy garden" to survive and will emerge once evening temperatures are consistently above 50 degrees Fahrenheit. The Xerces Society references the timing of fruit tree blooms as another indicator of when it's safe to start cleaning up your garden (Figure 1).

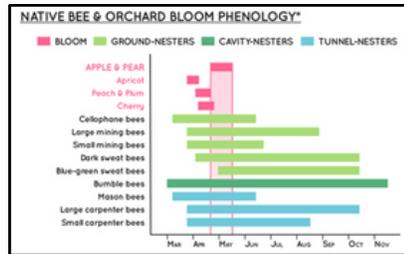


Figure 1: Waiting to clean up the garden until after pears and apple blossoms have faded will protect a strong majority of native bees from losing overwintering resources. (Chart: Xerces Society, Wild Pollinators of Eastern Apple Orchards and How to Conserve Them)
*Timing is generalized for the eastern U.S. and will vary according to your latitude and microclimate.
<https://xerces.org/blog/dont-spring-into-garden-cleanup-too-soon>

Accommodating our sensitive invertebrates not only promotes their biodiversity and pollination rates, but also provides an important food source for our birds, amphibians, reptiles, etc. Outside of your garden, many of these critters can be observed thriving in and around Coventry's inland wetlands and watercourses. Please feel free to contact our Inland Wetlands Agent, Lindsay Beutler, at 860-742-4062 or lbeutler@coventry-ct.gov, if you have any questions.

Protected Spaces Stewardship Committee

Fresh Air Walks

Join us for 1 hour, moderately-paced guided walks on town open space properties led by the Protected Spaces Stewardship Committee. Register at the Parks and Recreation website for confirmation details.

- Thornton Brook Preserve (Friday 4/25 9:00 am)
- Williams Preserve (Saturday 5/3 9:00 am)
- Riverview Trail Park (Saturday 6/14 9:00 am)

Fresh Water Paddle

Explore Eagleville Lake and a section of the Willimantic River on a guided paddle. Learn about a management plan to address aggressively growing invasive aquatic plants for this quiet waterbody shared by the towns of Coventry and Mansfield. Participants will need to BYOB(oat). Registration information and trip details for the mid-June (either Sat. 6/14 or 6/20) daytime paddle will be available on the Parks and Recreation website. Requests for hands-on volunteers to engage in "pulling parties" through the following summer months will be announced in the next town newsletter.

Earth Day/Week Happenings

- Native Tree Planting Event on Earth Day 4/22 (town property location TBD)
- Recreation Trail improvement projects on the Rolling Woods Trail, Laidlaw Park Trail, and Creaser Park Trails
- Recreation Trail volunteer Spring clean up on town public access trails across town

Do you have an interest in joining up with our active Trail Volunteer Corps for one or more of these events? Email the Committee at openspacestewardship@coventry-ct.gov with your contact information to request event details.

Williams Preserve Update: A walking trail footbridge installation is planned along the popular Yellow Trail. Final construction timeline scheduling is contingent on Spring weather, wet ground and stream flow conditions. Updates will be posted at the Preserve's trailhead kiosk adjacent to small parking area across from #179 Cooper Lane. A temporary trail detour may be necessary during the short construction window.

Building Department



Spring Into Action: As better weather approaches, many homeowners are having thoughts of home improvements and/or exterior maintenance. Now is the time to inspect the condition of your home's exterior components. Gutters can break away from their supporting hangers due to excessive weight from ice and snow buildup. Settlement around foundations can cause ponding against the wall and cause water problems in basement spaces. Check caulking materials around building openings and replace if bond is broken. These tasks can eliminate future structural damage.

Permitting: With winter ending, we are rapidly approaching our busy season. If you are considering a building project this year, be sure to submit your application as soon as possible. The review process for applications can take longer during the busy construction season and is based on a first-come, first-served basis. Permits are required before any structure is built, enlarged, altered or changed in its use as well as for new installation, increase or relocation of any part of the plumbing, heating or electrical system of a structure. All permits can be applied for online at <https://coventryct.portal.opengov.com>. If you are unsure if your project will require a permit, please contact the Building Department at 860-742-4064. Permits are usually required for the following:

- New Buildings (and any related mechanical permits related to the project)
- Additions (bedrooms, bathrooms, family rooms, etc. and any related mechanical permits related to the project)
- Residential Work (foundation replacement, decks, garages, fireplaces, pools, sheds, etc.)
- Renovations (basement or garage conversions, kitchen expansions, Roofing, Siding, Windows, Doors etc.)
- Electrical Systems
- Plumbing Systems (water heaters, etc.)
- HVAC (heating, ventilating and air-conditioning, oil tanks) systems
- Gas (setting/replacing tanks, piping, etc.)
- Commercial (remodels/renovations/repairs, tenant fit out for new ownership, etc. and any related mechanical permits related to the project)

By using the following link:

<https://coventryct.portal.opengov.com/search>, you can search your address to confirm if there are any open outstanding permits for your property. If you have a permit that needs to be closed out, please call our office to schedule an appointment to have the Building Official come out to your home. We can be reached at 860-742-4064.

Do you need to access the Eastern Highland Health District for permitting? They too are online with the same type of system (use the same username and password). Their online address is: <https://easternhighlandshealthdistrict.viewpointcloud.com>.

Spring Notes from Coventry Lake Advisory & Monitoring Committee

It was a good winter to enjoy the chance to ice fish, ice skate, and cross country ski. Now on to spring activities. Important concepts to keep in mind as the weather improves:

- Coventry was awarded a \$75,000 DEEP Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) grant to treat hydrilla for 2025.
- DEEP AIS grants had been funded through 2024 with a \$5 fee on a motorized vessel registered in CT. Starting in 2025 the AIS fee will require boaters to purchase either an Individual AIS Stamp for \$7 or purchase a Vessel AIS decal for \$25. Purchases are made using a Conservation Identification Number on the DEEP Online Sportsmen Licensing system or at Coventry Town Hall. Full details can be found at: <https://portal.ct.gov/deep/boating/faqs/faq-ais-stamp>
- Spring is a time for yard work. If you plan to do lakefront landscaping checkout the app from UConn on rain gardens. <https://rgapp.nemo.uconn.edu/> Rain gardens help to stop nutrient run off into the lake, thus less food for aquatic plants and cyanobacteria. Also be sure your fertilizers are 0 phosphate.
- In addition to stopping run off into Coventry Lake, all boaters should remember that DEEP recommends CLEAN DRAIN DRY all boats (motorized and non-motorized) and boating equipment to help reduce the spread of aquatic invasive species. Refer to this link for more information: <https://portal.ct.gov/deep/fishing/general-information/aquatic-invasive-species>
- Remember that lifejackets are required to be worn from October 1 through May 31 in manually powered vessels.
- Do you have Canadian geese nesting on your property? If yes, you should apply for a permit to addle the goose eggs to help reduce the goose population on Coventry Lake. The permit is free and the application can be found at this link: <https://www.fws.gov/ercgr/>

Coventry plans to treat Coventry Lake with fluridone in 2025 as a few colonies of hydrilla were found again in 2024. Once the plan is finalized there will be detailed announcements.

You can assist in keeping the lake healthy. If you see an algae bloom or changes in aquatic plant growth contact: coventrylakeadvisor@coventry-ct.gov providing name, date, location of concern, and a photo.

From The Fire Dept.

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. Signs can be ordered through Fire-EMS Department, for more information call 860-531-2915.

Town of Coventry Fire-EMS Dept

Reflective House Number Sign Order Form

\$15 per sign

Perfect addition to your home

These make great gifts for your family and friends

WE WANT TO SEE YOU HELP US; HELP YOU

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

Address Number Requested:

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

Mounting preference: Horizontal or Vertical (circle one)

Date Received: _____ Check # _____ Cash _____
 Date Completed: _____ Date delivered: _____

MAIL ORDER FORM AND PAYMENT TO:
 TCFD
 1699 South St
 Coventry, CT 06238
<https://www.coventryct.org/138/Fire-Departments>

COVENTRY VISITORS' CENTER & VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY:

The Coventry Visitors Center, located at 1712 Main Street, will be open April 5th through October from 10 to 2 on Weekends. This small brick structure was built in 1876 as Town office space for officials, and to provide security for town records. In 1989 the town council voted for the building to be adaptively reused as a Visitors' Center. Since then, it has been organized and staffed by community volunteers and coordinated by the Village Improvement Society.

A variety of Coventry- related items, including multiple Caprilands books are available for sale. An often-requested item, the recently reprinted History of Coventry by Bill Jobbagy is available. Our main display this season, provided by the Coventry Historical Society, will feature works of local photographer, Charles Coombs (1852-1936).

The Village Improvement Society sponsors the **Coventry Daffodil Beautification Project** annually. Nothing says spring more than the thousands of daffodils that will soon be blooming around our town. To order Dutch Master (all yellow) or a giant mixture for fall planting, call Judy at 860-214-9567.

If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please call Pat at 860-742-7847.

Assessor's Office

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

REVALUATION 2024 PROJECT UPDATE:

The project is complete. The overall Real Estate assessments up over 500 million, which equates to a 54.8% increase in total RE value. Our residential average increase is up 58%. With that said, the mill rate will come down, and taxes will not increase at that same rate. Tax will still be a product of the cost to run the town and the budget process.

There are many properties that have increased in value above the average, that may have made no changes over the past five (5) years since the last revaluation; in most of those cases it appears that their value was lower than it should have been, and the correction is reflected in the new assessment. In many other cases, the "old" assessment may have been higher than it should have been. The re-appraisal is the correction for these cases, and again to bring equity to all taxpayers.

Other changes that affect the total grand list include a new state-mandated method to value motor vehicles using Manufacturers Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) and a predictable depreciation schedule. Values are starting and remaining lower than with the methodology using book value over the past many years. If your vehicle was on last year's list, your assessment will be lower this year, and the mill rate will be lower, equating to your MV tax will be lower than it was.

OTHER INFORMATION

The Elderly and Totally Disabled Homeowner Program Application Period is Now Until May 15th. The application period began on February 1st, and letters were mailed in February to those already on the program and due to reapply. To qualify, applicants must be 65 years old (or older) as of December 31, 2024, or Totally Disabled, and meet income requirements. This program is income driven with the state of Connecticut setting the maximum limits for both single and married individuals. The limits have increased to \$55,100 if married, and \$45,200 if single. Your income includes all Social Security benefits and your adjusted gross income as filed on your 2024 Federal Income tax return. If you qualify for the State program you also qualify for the Town of Coventry tax credit or a tax deferral program as well. This benefit will be applied for the tax bills due July 1, 2025,

The Additional Veterans Program application period also began February 1, 2025, and applications are accepted until September 30, 2025. If not already filed, a DD214 must be filed with the Town Clerk prior to October 1, 2025, to be eligible for this additional exemption. Those already in the program and due to re-file will have received a letter from our office this past February. This program is also income driven with the same income requirements as the Elderly Homeowners program noted above.

Staff news



*Congratulations to **Bill Watkins**, Public Works Director, for achieving his certification as a CT Municipal Official. Bill was recognized for this accomplishment at the 2024 Convention of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities.*

Welcome to **Patty Cortes**, our new Building/Land Use Administrative Assistant, and to **Nate Stebbins**, Police Officer. Farwell to **Loren Santiago**, Police Officer, **Julie Chapman**, Finance Director, **Chris Small**, Assistant to the Town Accountant, **Rachel Vertefeuille**, Assistant to the Assessor, and **Carrie Zahner**, Collector of Revenue. We wish you all well in the next chapters of your careers.

Tax Collector's Office

860-742-4066

Delinquent notices were mailed within the last few months for overdue taxes, sewer and COVRRRA/Trash bills. Intent to Lien notices for overdue Real Estate taxes, COVRRRA/Trash and Sewer Use charges will be mailed in March/April. Liens will be filed in April/May against those properties, which are not paid current. Sewer Assessment bills will be mailed at the end of April with a due date of May 1.

Online Payments from the Tax Collector's page on the town's website www.coventry-ct.gov: There is a link on the Tax Collector's page to pay online. Point and Pay processes electronic check, debit & credit card payments. There is a convenience fee charged by Point and Pay. Electronic check is \$0.95, debit is charged a flat rate of \$3.95, credit card is charged 2.75% (minimum \$2.00) fee. Please feel free to call the Tax Office before making your online payments and we will be happy to assist.

Online Payments through your Bank/Financial Institution: We strongly discourage you from paying in this way. Your payment may not be mailed when you expect it to be and these payments come to us without a postmark. Please allow ample time for mail delivery to avoid interest charges or additional late fees.

We encourage paying online at our website www.coventry-ct.gov, but also accept payments by mail or using the convenience of the drop box permanently installed inside the rear vestibule entrance to Town Hall. Please do not use the ballot box located outside for payments. Please bring your bill or statement when paying in person.

Any individual needing an immediate **DMV clearance** to register any vehicle is reminded to pay by cash or a money order at the Tax Collector's office. Check payments may delay your DMV clearance up to ten (10) business days. Also, paying online by credit/debit card or bank account through the town's website can take up to seven (7) days to clear with DMV due to weekends and holidays. Please plan ahead and call us with any concerns or questions.

The current fiscal year will end June 30, 2025. In accordance with state statutes, liens will be filed before the end of the current fiscal year against properties with any outstanding balances on real estate taxes and sewer use charges and trash fees. Please contact this office if you have any questions concerning your accounts.

PAYMENT DUE CALENDAR: MAY – Sewer Assessment fee 1st installment. **JULY** – Real Estate 1st installment; Motor Vehicle, COVRRRA and Personal Property single payment. **SEPTEMBER**– Sewer Use Fee single payment. **NOVEMBER** – Sewer Assessment fee 2nd installment. **JANUARY** – Real Estate 2nd installment (we do not rebill) and Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax only if applicable.



Want to change your tipper barrel size?

We are offering the opportunity to exchange your tipper barrels at the reduced fee of \$25 (normally \$75). If you would like to swap, contact the Tax Office before **May 14, 2025** at 860-742-4066. **The swap order must be requested through the Tax Office and paid to All American Waste by May 14, 2025 in order to receive this reduced price.** The swap will occur in late June in conjunction with the billing cycle for the new fiscal year. A change in the size of your trash tipper barrel will result in a change to your annual fee. Consider upsizing your recycling barrel. There is no increase in your annual bill for a larger recycling barrel.

Residents are reminded that the tipper barrels are owned by All American Waste, the Town's contracted hauler. The barrels must stay with the property to which they have been assigned. Each barrel is identified with a serial number for a specific property address. **If you sell your house and /or move, please do not take the barrels with you.** Your annual payment pays for the disposal/recycle service only.

News from Parks & Recreation

Registration is OPEN for Summer Camp! Camp Wangumbaug (Camp W) is a traditional day camp held at Patriots Park for children in Grades K – 8 (Fall of 2025). Children participate in group games, arts & crafts, swimming and more. Camp runs from 9am – 4pm with optional morning care and evening care hours available.

Specialty Camps Offered for Summer 2025:

- Volleyball Camp
- Flag Football Camp
- Basketball Camp
- ArtVentures Camp
- STEM and Play Soccer Camp
- Food Explorers Camp
- Minds in Motion Camp
- Clancy's Fitness Camp

Resident Beach Stickers go on sale starting May 1st. Resident Beach Stickers will be available for sale at the Parks and Rec Office at the Town Hall or at Lisicke Beach. \$25 first vehicle/\$12 each additional vehicle. Please bring your vehicle's registration.

SAVE THE DATE: Coventry Fireworks Saturday June 28, 2025, at Patriots Park (rain date Sunday June 29, 2025). This event is made possible by generous donations from local businesses, organizations, and community members. If you wish to donate, please make checks out to "The Town of Coventry" and mail them to the Town Hall attention Parks and Rec. Donations can also be made online at <https://secure.rec1.com/CT/coventry-ct/catalog>.



CT Historical Society Spring Happenings

Annual Tag Sale Sat 5/3, 8 AM, Strong Porter House Museum, 2382 South St.

May Members' Meeting Thurs 5/15, 7 AM, Strong Porter House Museum. Learn about some of the items in CHS' collection. Membership forms available at the museum.

Father's Day Annual Sundae on a Sunday ice cream social, 6/15, 1-3, PM, CHS' Brick School House Museum, 1019 Merrow Rd. All fathers get a free sundae! All others \$3 until we run out. Museum open to visitors.

Planned for this summer, watch for details to come - **July Farm Day** at Strong Porter House Museum and **August Annual Caprilands Luncheon** at Strong Porter House Museum

For more information visit <https://www.facebook.com/coventryhistory/>

America 250 | Coventry CT Committee

The Town Council recently created an America 250 Committee. The committee includes members of civic organizations as well as members at large from our community. We will be reaching out to community groups, businesses, and organizations for your thoughts and ideas to:

"The purpose of the America 250 | Committee is to plan and coordinate community events and displays commemorating the signing of the Declaration of Independence and celebrating Coventry's contributions, experiences, and history since that historic day that a new nation was formed on July 4, 1776."

Watch for announcements about upcoming events.

Lions Club Events

Mother's Day Roses Sale. Cost \$25/dozen. Orders delivered Saturday May 10 between 9 AM - noon. Place orders by May 4. Details at lionsclubofcoventry.org. All proceeds support Lions Club scholarships & community service activities.

May 26 - Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast, 8-11 AM, First Congregational Church, 1181 Main Street. Breakfast will consist of sausage, pancakes, and eggs. \$10 per individual/\$20 per family. Have breakfast while waiting for the **parade, which kicks off at 10 AM**. All proceeds benefit the Coventry Lions service projects.

Booth & Dimock Memorial Library

The Booth & Dimock Memorial Library is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 10-8, Friday 10-6, and Saturday 10-3. The Library will be closed on June 19th in observance of Juneteenth. 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!



We are excited to now offer a sound-dampening study nook - made possible by a Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities Grant through the American Library Association. The \$10,000 grant has been used to improve library service for our neurodivergent community members, and has funded the addition of new large print books, alternative seating including a yoga ball chair, memory kits to check-out, new signage, noise cancelling headphones, and staff training.

As the school year comes to an end, we are looking forward to special programs for studying and summer reading! We are proud to offer our first **Long Night Against Procrastination** on Friday, May 30. Final exams are close, and from 6:00 - 9:00 students can lock-in for a marathon after-hours study session. Librarians will be ready to help with study questions, and we'll have group and private study space, snacks, a sensory de-stressing room, and lots of snacks! Once exams are done and school is out, we will kick off our Summer Reading Program with our **Annual Ice Cream Social** - date and details to be announced! Lastly, we look forward to the official start of summer with **Make Music Day**. Join us on June 21 at 11:00 for a fun musical program for all ages with special guests from Song-A-Day Music!

For the most up to date information on all of the wonderful programs and services offered at Booth & Dimock Library, please visit www.coventrypl.org

Booth & Dimock Memorial Library
1134 Main Street
Coventry, CT 06238
860-742-7606
bdlibrary@coventry-ct.gov
www.coventrypl.org

COVENTRY CELEBRATES MAKE MUSIC DAY. SATURDAY, JUNE 21



Booth and Dimock Library, 11 AM. The Song-a-Day Music Center will feature student performances followed by an on the spot Kazoo and Rhythm Instrument Parade around the library grounds. Free and open to all ages. For more info contact the Song-a-Day Music Center at 860 918 5957 or the library at 860-742-7606.

Later in the day from 3-8 P.M. the Coventry Arts Guild will host an Open Mike at Mill Brook Place. Performers of all ages and musical genres are invited to come and share their talents. For more info and to sign up contact the CAG at timbermant@sbcglobal.net.

Other musical surprises to be scheduled during the afternoon on Main Street. For the latest information as June 21 nears, contact 860-918-5957.

International Make Music Day takes place in over 800 cities worldwide on the first day of summer, encouraging free music for all. For more information visit makemusicday.org.

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

DPW SPRING ROAD WORK PLAN 2025:

Public Works will begin our spring construction season performing drainage repairs on the following roads:

- Standish Rd
- Highland Rd
- View Trail
- Birch Rd
- Lake Rd
- Laurel Trail
- North Ayers Rd
- South Ayers Rd
- Bellevue Dr
- John Hand Dr
- West Shore Dr
- Lathrop Dr



Once all drainage repairs are completed the roads will be assessed for the appropriate pavement treatment. This is typically full depth reclamation with 3 inches of new asphalt. Some roads may only receive a 1.5-2-inch pavement overlay. This is determined by the road condition.

Crack Sealing: The crack sealing program this year will cover roughly 10 miles of roads. The list of roads will be determined this spring. Prior to crack sealing taking place, the public works crews will sweep the selected roads, and notice will be put out for the residents.

DPW Summer and Fall Construction plans are ongoing. DPW is currently looking at the condition of our roadways and determining the appropriate pavement treatments. As plans are finalized, they will be available on our website and on our new Facebook page or by calling Public Works, 860-742-6588.

Spring Street Sweeping Schedule:



The Public Works Department has scheduled street sweeping to begin on or about 3/24/25 weather permitting. There are five sweeping districts in Town. The order in which the streets will be swept are by District, and are as follows: District 5, District 1, District 2, District 3, and District 4. Please see the Street Sweeping District Map on the town's website or contact DPW (860) 742-6588 or Director at wwatkins@coventry-ct.gov.

The Department requests that all property owners refrain from raking yard waste such as sticks, leaves and dead grass into the street. **DPW will not sweep up windrows of yard debris raked and swept to the gutter of the street.** The introduction of these materials can damage the equipment and hinder timely program completion. The intent of the program is to sweep up sediment and particulates that are detrimental to storm water quality. Raked up yard waste **excluding sticks** can be brought to the Transfer Station for composting year round during normal hours of operation. Please avoid parking vehicles in the roadway during the sweeping program.

A paper shredding event will be scheduled for the Fall of 2025.
Check your
COVRRRA calendar (included with your July bill) for the date.



A Note From the Tree Warden:

Planting, pruning or removal of trees within the Town Right of Ways (ROW) at roadside requires approval of the Tree Warden. State Statute requires a written request for permission to remove or plant trees in the ROW area. Unapproved work in the ROW is subject to fines and damages.

The Tree Warden's email address is wwatkins@coventry-ct.gov. Do not use email to contact the Tree Warden for emergencies – call Public Works at (860) 742-6588 or the Police Department at (860) 742-7331.

Budget in Brief

Proposed Fiscal Year 2025/26 Budget
Town Meeting: Saturday April 26, 2025
 10:00 A.M. Veterans Auditorium,
 Coventry High School, Ripley Hill Road

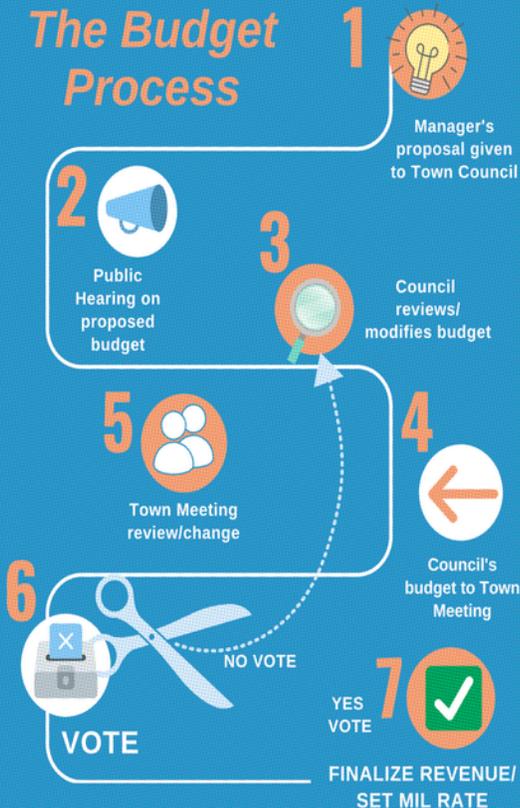


Overview

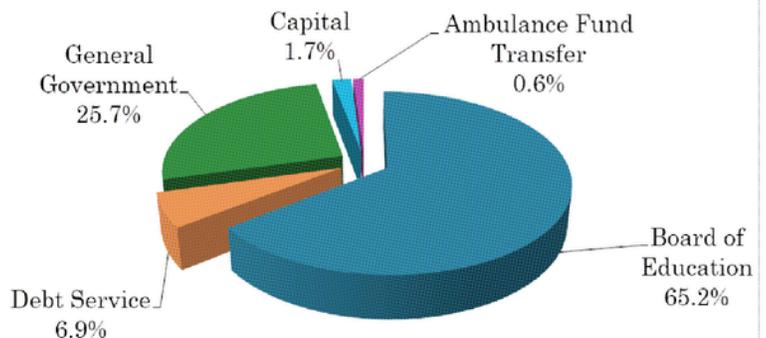
Revaluation of real property and new State laws reducing the taxable value of motor vehicles has created a tax burden shift toward the residential taxpayer. Responding to the concerns of higher residential taxes due to the State mandated revaluation and expectations of Coventry residents for maintaining quality services, Town and Board staff reviewed programs and services and prepared budget proposals that address the stated goals of the Town Council and Board of Education. Though scaled back, existing services have been maintained. Priority has been given to infrastructure repairs, services to students, seniors, and public safety. The Town Manager's recommended budget demonstrated that most department budgets were submitted with modest increases.

"The Town Council's budget proposals for the Town, Board, Capital and Debt Service call for a 3.74% spending increase."

The Budget Process



Where Your Money Goes



The Town Council reviewed and modified the Town Manager's proposed budget resulting in a reduction of \$1,044,706 from requests. The Town Council's budget proposals for the Town, Board, Capital, Debt Service, and EMS (Ambulance) Fund transfer call for a \$1,743,314 spending increase from the prior year adopted budget. Due to revaluation, the proposed budget will require a decrease of the current mil rate of 33.31 mils or a decrease of 28.7%, to a rate of 24.37 mils. The proposed budget has been sent to the Annual Town Meeting scheduled for Saturday, April 26, 2025, in the CHS Veterans Auditorium at 10:00 A.M. The adjourned Town Meeting vote is scheduled for Tuesday, May 6, 2025.

Budget Summary

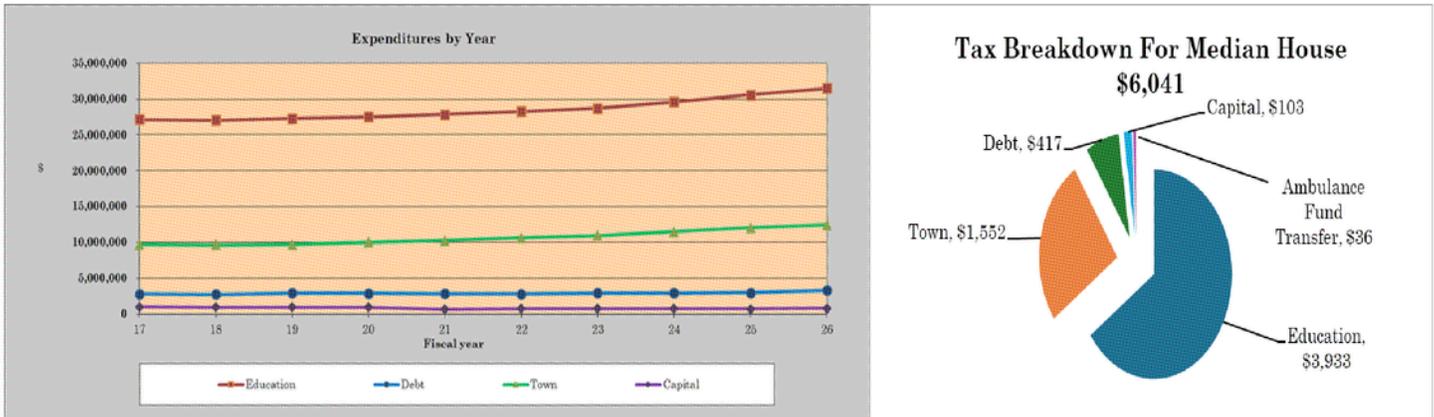
The expenditure part of the budget is broken down into the areas of General Government, Board of Education, Debt Service, Capital and the EMS (Ambulance) Fund Transfer totaling \$48,333,348, an increase of \$1,743,314 or 3.74% compared to the adopted FY24/25 budget. A breakdown of the budgets are illustrated below.

Budget Area	Adopted FY24/25	Requested FY25/26	\$ Change	% Change
General Government	\$ 12,050,160	\$ 12,407,208	\$ 357,048	2.96%
Board of Education	30,599,700	31,520,374	920,674	3.01%
Debt Service	2,972,506	3,314,306	341,800	11.50%
Capital	668,748	803,314	134,566	20.12%
(EMS)Ambulance Fund Trns	298,920	288,146	(10,774)	-3.60%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 46,590,034	\$ 48,333,348	\$ 1,743,314	3.74%

Town Operating Budget Summary

The Town operating budget recommended for FY26 is \$12,407,208; an increase of \$357,048. This is a reduction of \$1,044,706 or 2.12% from the Town Manager's proposed budget. The largest driver to this increase is personnel services which increased \$324,729 or 3.58%. Health insurance increased 9% due to increased claim trends. The Town's required pension contribution increased \$41,000 or 5.5%. This budget maintains the current level of staffing. Other drivers behind the Operating Budget increase include general inflation increases, increased costs in electricity, gasoline and diesel fuel. This budget has already had significant cuts. It is a lean budget but it can maintain the current level of services provided by the Town. Any additional reductions to the Town Operating Budget would very likely result in staff layoffs and would include a reduction in services provided to Town residents.

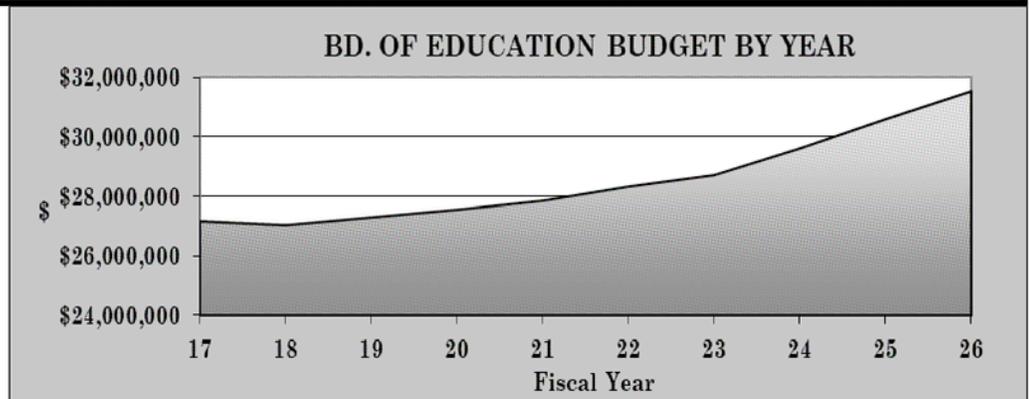
The median assessed house value (\$247,900) in Coventry, with this budget, would have a tax bill of \$6,041. The pie chart below shows where this money goes. Additionally the graph shows the Town's level of spending over ten years.



Board of Education Summary

The Board of Education budget was reduced \$765,000 by the Town Council and is proposed at \$31,520,374, an increase of \$920,674 or 3.01% over the adopted FY24/25 budget.

Details are available on the web at coventrypublicschools.org

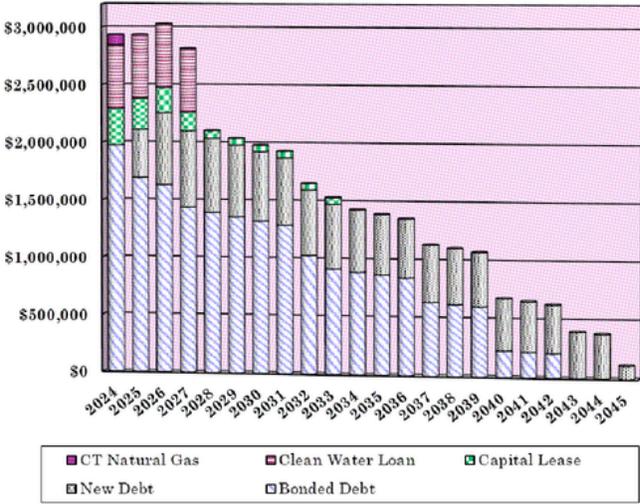


Debt Service

Debt Service represents 6.9% of the Town budget. This remains below the common threshold of 10% for Towns. For FY26, there is a proposed increase of \$341,800 or 11.5% from the prior year. This increase is due to debt payments being added for the 2023 Road Bond and the CHS HVAC project, which is currently being installed. This is not only a nice improvement for students, it also provides compliance with recent State laws establishing indoor air quality standards for schools in Connecticut.

Though debt service has increased, it is important to know that our projected debt service is anticipated to decline in FY27 and in the years going forward, which will allow for additional debt issuance or savings to taxpayers.

Projected Debt Service by Year



Capital Projects

1. Summer Road Program (49.6 % of Town Aid Road)	\$ 285,000
2. BOE Network Refresh	\$ 100,114
3. Student Computer Upgrades	\$ 35,000
4. Town Computer Upgrades	\$ 145,000
5. SCBA (FD Air Tanks)	\$ 24,000
6. FD Personal Protective Gear	\$ 13,000
7. Fire Hose/Equipment	\$ 12,000
8. CNREF	\$ 70,000
9. Lake Management (water quality treatments)	\$ 119,200
Total	\$ 803,314

The proposed capital projects budget for the General Fund for FY26 totals \$803,314, a 20.12% increase from the prior year. Of this budget, \$135,114 is related to capital projects for the Board of Education. This plan represents a reduction from the Town Manager’s proposal of \$110,000.

In addition to the capital project budget outlined in the General Fund, several capital projects are proposed through grants, including Town Aid Road, (\$290,000), Local Capital Improvement Program (\$154,000). The Capital budget for FY 26 includes a bond proposal which would be used for fire alarms at GHR and CGS, new communication-intercom systems for the four Coventry schools, an Ambulance, and other equipment. The Town Council is planning a future referendum for these items. Please refer to the Capital Improvement budget, within Section 11 of the Budget for additional details.

Transfer to EMS (Ambulance) Fund

The FY26 budget separates out the transfer to the EMS (Ambulance) Fund as a separate budgetary line. It is proposed to transfer \$288,146 to the EMS (Ambulance) Fund to assist in funding the ambulance coverage currently provided to residents on a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week basis. This service has historically been all volunteer, but in recent years the Town has had to add paid staffing to cover shifts with the decrease of volunteerism in Coventry and throughout the nation. The Town is about to complete our first year of having paid Town staff provide in-house EMS-Ambulance Service. Last summer, the Town hired 4 fulltime staff members and several part-time staff members to supplement the shift hours provided by the Volunteer Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). Previously the Town used a private EMT service to staff the unfilled volunteer hours. Last year the Town estimated that over \$71,000 could be saved by ending the contracted services and bringing the service in-house. Though the first year is not complete, we have seen a trend of lower expenses. This has resulted in a budget reduction in FY26 of \$10,774 or a reduction of 3.6% to the EMS budget. The Town continues to save due to the on-going committed service of our remaining volunteers!

Revenues

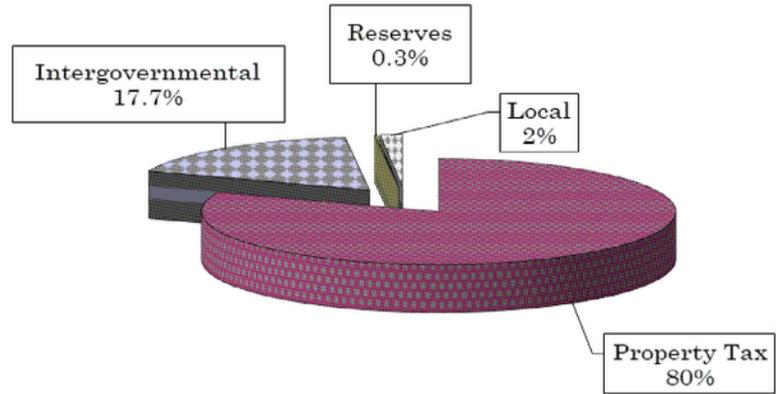
The property tax is the major revenue source (81.22%) for Coventry. The proposed budget is an increase of 3.74% from the prior year. The proposed mil rate is 24.37 for real estate, personal property, and motor vehicles., which is a 8.94 mil decrease or a -28.7% change from the prior year. Due to increased assessed value in property this year, one mil in FY26 equals \$1,568,369 as compared to \$959,615 in FY25.

Coventry currently has a much lower tax rate than most towns in the area. This is especially true when you consider that we offer 24/7 Police and EMS (Ambulance) services. Even with the spending increase in our overall budget of 3.74%, our Town will still have a tax mil rate lower than comparable Towns in our immediate area. This would include our neighbors, Tolland and Windham.

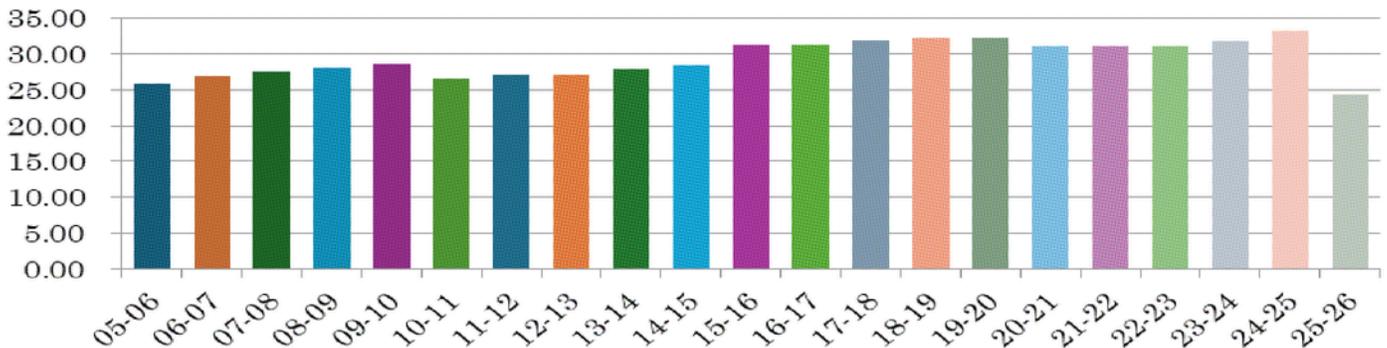
Intergovernmental revenues, mostly State aid, are the second largest source (17.43%) of revenues for Coventry. The amount anticipated to be received in FY26 is \$8,425,380. This is a decrease of \$166,973 or 1.94% from the prior year adopted budget. These revenues are based on the Governor's proposed budget. The majority of the State cuts for Connecticut towns, including Coventry, are tied to Special Education. There has been much debate between the Governor and the General Assembly on whether these funds will be restored to towns. The Town is required to provide Special Education services by State law, so missing revenues must be made up locally to cover the cost of these programs.

Other local revenues consist of a variety of fees or permits, services and interest earnings. This revenue, which represents 1.5% of the total budget, is estimated to be \$730,050. This is an increase of \$15,450 or 2.16%. The increase is estimated due to increased interest revenue and increased building permit activity.

FY 25/26 Revenue by Source



Mil Rate History



To learn more about the fiscal year 2025/26 proposed budget, you can view the detailed Town budget document online at www.coventry-ct.gov under Finance. Copies of the Town and Board of Education budgets are also available for viewing in the Coventry Town Clerk's office during regular office hours.

YOUR OPINION COUNTS!

If you have questions or concerns about the FY 25/26 proposed budget, please don't hesitate to call the Town Manager's Office at 860-742-6324 or email:

budgetcomments@coventry-ct.gov



TAX RELIEF FOR SENIORS

Guidelines for additional tax relief for qualified Coventry seniors and disabled persons are available in the Town Assessor's Office. This includes a local tax credit program. Call 860-742-4067.

Application Deadline: May 15, 2025.

Household Chemical Waste Drop-Off Facility:

This regional facility located at 57 Hancock Road in Willington will be open for the 2025 season on April 19th. They are open 9:00am- 2:00pm the 3rd Saturday of each month from April- October. As a Coventry resident you may bring residential quantities of hazardous waste at no cost but bring proof of residency. (The license must reflect a member town.) All waste MUST be in the trunk or rear compartment of the vehicle (NONE in passenger area). Your trunk, hatch or tailgate should be unlocked or open. Further information can be found online at DPW webpage or by contacting facility directly at 860-965-1910.

Prepare the materials by:

- Packing carefully in original containers only, seal and label.
- Do not mix materials
- Drive carefully to prevent tipping
- No smoking while handling and transporting materials
- Residential limits of 10 gallons liquid and 100 pounds dry materials

Other FAQ's:

- **Medication:** Do not flush down the toilet or drain. Many prescriptions may be disposed of at the Coventry Police Department (860) 742-7331.
- **Asbestos:** Double bag and seal this material. One cubic foot can be disposed with trash. For large quantities, contact an asbestos removal company.
- **Explosives, fireworks, ammunition:** Contact your state police barracks.
- **Water reactive materials:** For peroxides and metallic sodium, contact a licensed environmental contractor.
- **Biologically active materials:** Contact a licensed medical & infectious waste contractor.

COVRRRA:

COVRRRA questions can be answered by calling Public Works at (860) 742-6588 or email dgrindle@coventry-ct.gov.

Pickup missed? Call All American Waste at (860) 289-7850 if your curbside trash or recycling is not picked up. This direct communication allows for pickup arrangements to be made. All American Waste should also be contacted directly if you have monthly items out that don't get picked up or if your cart is broken.

"In yard" trash/recycling service available:

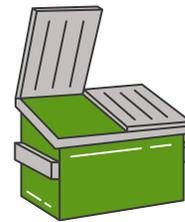
Do you know someone who is struggling with their trash bins and might benefit from having the carts picked up right at the door? (A mutually agreed upon location along the driveway may be necessary for extra long driveways.) The town has a few slots for those with a **medical need** (no additional fees) and have no one living with them or visiting regularly who can assist them with this task. Call Human Services (860) 742-5324 to apply for this service.

Excess trash and recycling? The Transfer Station has compactors for residents who occasionally have trash or recycling in excess of their carts. It is \$2 for each trash bag that you put in the compactor. No cost for single stream recycling. The Transfer Station is available Thursdays and Saturdays for this service.

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

Monday, May 26th – Memorial Day
Friday, July 4th – Independence Day
Monday, September 1st – Labor Day

Tipper Cart broken? Call All American Waste at (860) 289-7850 for information. Plugs for lids are available at Department of Public Works. Push them in snugly and inspect them regularly so they stay tight. This will ensure your tipper cart lid stays on your cart. Homeowners are reminded that the tipper carts are owned by All American Waste and must remain at the property location that is billed for this service.



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
- 15 cubic yard dumpster - \$215 haul / \$120 ton of disposal
- 30 cubic yard dumpster - \$215 haul / \$120 ton of disposal

Payment is to be made by credit card only.

Transfer Station

100 Olsen Farm Road - Spring Ahead! Transfer Station hours of operation from April through September will be every Thursday from noon until 6 pm and every Saturday from 9 am until 3 pm. Check your COVRRRA calendar for more information. Proof of residency required.

Payments can be made with cash, check, credit or debit card.

Materials acceptable with cost:

- Construction and demolition debris. Free of cardboard, metal and garbage.
- Bulk waste such as furniture
- Land clearing debris; stumps & brush.
- Fire Extinguishers \$6 each
- Appliance with refrigerant \$10 each, no weigh-in necessary.
- ****PLEASE - DOORS MUST BE REMOVED FROM REFRIGERATORS****
- Tires - auto /\$5 each, truck \$12/each and construction \$100/each
- Propane tanks 1 lb. \$2 / 5 & 10 lb. \$4 / 20 lb. \$5 / 30 lb. \$6 / 40 lb. \$8
- Household garbage \$2 per bag

Materials acceptable no cost:

- Paint, deck coatings, primers, sealers, urethanes, waterproofing, stains and rust preventatives
- Single stream recyclables (for example bottles, cans, cardboard, paper)
- Leaves for composting
- Automobile batteries
- Mattress and box spring (dry only, if wet / mangled or futon \$20 fee applies)
- Electronics, fluorescent light bulbs, NiCad batteries
- Appliance without refrigerant (stove, washer, dryer)
- Metal materials (**metal tanks must be cut open and crushed**).

Materials NOT acceptable:

- Grass clippings
- Hazardous waste

Commercial Users Must Remember...

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

Curbside Monthly Oversized Items Pickup: On the 2nd Monday of each month residents may place at curbside by 6:30 AM up to three oversized items to be picked up for free. **These items are now allowed at transfer station also!** These large nonmetal items must be out on Monday by 6:30 am regardless of your regular trash day. Examples are dresser, futon or recliner chair w/metal removed.

No electronics, metal or mattresses curbside: Electronics, metal and mattresses will not be picked up at curbside. Coventry residents must bring their electronics, metal and mattresses to the transfer station for recycling.

Used motor oil, transmission oil, #2 fuel oil, brake fluid, kerosene, diesel fuel and antifreeze can be brought to the transfer station, Public Works Facility at 100 Olsen Farm Road or left besides your recycle bin in non-breakable container with screw on lid with contents marked.. Please call (860) 742-6588 for more info.

Baystate Books has a drop box across from the Public Works parking lot into. All dropped off books will then be recycled, redistributed or resold. Please don't leave books outside the bin.

Textile Recycling: There is a bin located next to the Annex behind the Town Hall and at the Public Works driveway on Olsen Farm Road accessible anytime. Acceptable items include 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. Textiles can be recycled in any condition but must be clean and dry. **Must be contained in bags.**

WPCA

Water Pollution Control Authority (Sewer Department)

“FLUSHABLE” WIPES STILL A PROBLEM:

Wipes go in the trash, not down the drain. Wipes are clogging pipes, pumps, and valves on a regular basis. Even ‘flushable’ wipes do not break down in the short time it takes a flush to pass through our treatment system. In 2024 we had to spend thousands of your dollars unclogging pumps jammed with wipes and other trash.



We found this flyer online but we have found every single one of these items in Coventry's small sewer system.

Plumbers will tell you that business is booming right now thanks to wipes clogging household pipes and fixtures. It won't happen right away but when a few wipes start building up they will either clog your house plumbing, your leaching field, or the Town's sewer system. Whether you have a septic system or are tied into the Town's sewers you will end up paying for wipes removal and/or flooded basement cleanup, either straight from your wallet or in your annual sewer use fees. Ignore the hype, don't flush wipes!

Right: an 8 inch backflow valve at our treatment plant, fouled with wipes, that wasn't opening or closing.



Low Interest Loans for Sewer Connections:

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

Contact Us:

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

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

Human Services Office



860-742-5324

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



FOOD BANK

The Coventry Food Bank is available to any Coventry individual or family experiencing difficult times. We have a variety of food/items in stock which include cereal, pasta, soup, canned vegetables, peanut butter/jelly, rice, snacks, toiletries, and more. Please call our office as Food Bank is by appointment only. 860-742-5324

FOODSHARE

Mobile FoodShare is an outdoor food distribution for persons in need and is available every other Wednesday from 10-10:30 AM at St. Mary's Church, 1600 Main Street, Coventry. Food choices vary from week to week but may include bread and several types of fresh produce. Other items may also be offered depending on availability. No appointment is necessary. Please remember to bring a bag or box with you to carry your food. If you have any questions, please call FoodShare; 860-286-9999 or www.foodshare.org.

Dates that FoodShare will be in Coventry this spring and summer:

- April 23
- May 7, 21
- June 4, 18
- July 2, 16, 30
- August 13, 27



Please follow Coventry Human Services on Facebook for updates and events!

RENTER'S REBATE PROGRAM FOR ELDERLY & DISABLED RENTERS APRIL 1st - OCTOBER 1st, 2025

Connecticut's Elderly Renters' Rebate Program is an income-based program that provides a one-time payment to renters based on the rent and utilities paid in 2024. The recipient or spouse must be 65 years of age or older, or 18 years of age or older and receive Social Security Disability benefits and must meet a one-year state residency requirement. Proof of all income (SSA 1099) and rental expenses for 2024 must be provided. The program is open April 1st through October 1st and eligible residents should contact the Coventry Human Services Office to schedule an appointment.

CAMPERSHIP PROGRAM

Coventry Youth Services will begin taking applications for financial assistance for Camp Wangumbaug. The program is for Coventry residents only, and families will be rewarded based on financial need. Families will need to provide income, bank statements, and proof of residency. Please contact Youth Services to schedule an appointment.

GEARING UP TO LEARN

Youth Services will be offering Gearing up to Learn to Coventry residents who meet income guidelines. Backpacks and school supplies will be available. Please call us to learn more.

PREVENTION DAY IN THE PARK

Coventry Human Services established a Local Prevention Council to develop and implement substance misuse prevention education and programming. We will be holding Prevention Day in the Park on May 29th, from 4-7 p.m. It's a community health fair at Patriots Park with local resources and providers offering health screenings and engaging activities. RSVP on the Coventry Human Services Facebook page!



Coventry Senior Center

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

The Coventry Senior Center is committed to providing adults 55+, a welcoming, inclusive and supportive environment to participate in recreational, educational and wellness programs. The Center is committed to these core principles, focusing on the integration of best practices in program development and continued community collaboration. We are here to meet the needs of our adult citizens in Coventry.

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

Mailing Address: 1712 Main Street, Coventry, CT 06238

Telephone: 860-742-3525

Staff:

Brenda Bennett, Coordinator; bbennett@coventry-ct.gov
 Jessica Richardson, Senior Center Assistant; jrichardson@coventry-ct.gov

Senior Center Hours of Operation: M, T, W, TH 9 AM-4 PM and Friday 9 AM-1 PM

LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Bingo	Cornhole	Jewelry Class	Knit, Crochet, Sewing	Mahjong	Book club	Writings and Ramblings	Jam Session	Sewing Group	Out to Lunch Bunch	Chess Club
Tuesdays 1am	Fridays 11:30am	3 rd Wednesday of each month 10am	2 nd Wednesday of each month 10am	Thursdays 9:30am	4 th Wednesday of each month 1:30pm	4 th Wednesday of each month 12:30pm	2 nd & 4 th Wednesday 10:45am	Thursdays 1pm	One Wednesday of each month 11:30am	3 rd Friday each month 11am

PERSONAL CARE

Monthly Haircuts	Monthly Massages	Monthly ~ Foundations 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 the time of appointment.

FITNESS ROOM

Overlooking Lake Wangumbaug, enjoy use of the fitness room, it's FREE and open daily! The fitness room offers: a recumbent bike, 1 treadmill, an elliptical machine and weights!

How do I join?

- You must be a member of the Senior Center
- Complete a Fitness packet
- Provide medical clearance with your doctor
- Schedule an orientation with staff

Schedule your workout time with staff!

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

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 ensure that you are enrolled in a plan that meets your healthcare needs, including Medicare Supplemental Plans, Medicare Advantage Plans and Medicare Part D Drug Plans. Additionally, counselors can also help enroll individuals into the Medicare Savings Program, which can assist in the payments of Medicare benefits.

If you would like to review your health insurance options, call to make a confidential appointment.



COVENTRY RIDES TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

Staff: Sarah Leete, Transportation Coordinator; sleete@coventry-ct.gov
Van Driver: Kerry Kilbourne
Telephone: 860-742-3525

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. Please 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 is funded with grants from the CT Department of Transportation and the Town of Coventry.

WRD (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.

Grief Support Group

This FREE program is led by Jim Mercurio, Counselor, Hartford Healthcare. Join us on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month from 10-11:30 AM. All are welcome! For more information and questions, call the Senior Center Coordinator.

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 the remainder of 2025 are as follows: 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.



CURIOSITY CLUBS/SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS:

We are excited to offer Summer Enrichment Programs focused on STEM, Reading, and the Arts for K-5 students, with some opportunities for middle schoolers. Programs will run in morning slots with one-week sessions.

- June sessions: June 16, 23 at the complex and one elementary school
- August sessions: August 11, 18 at the complex only

Program details and registration information will be available by April 21, 2025.

GRADUATION: Graduation is scheduled for Saturday, June 7, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. Weather permitting, the ceremony will be held outside at Coventry High School.

2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR: By the time this newsletter reaches homes, the Board of Education should have approved the 2025-2026 Coventry Public Schools calendar, which can be found on our website at <https://www.coventrypublicschools.org> under “Quicklinks.”

WORKING PAPERS: All children under the age of 18, who have secured employment, are required to have “working papers.” To acquire these papers, please have a form of identification and verification of employment in writing from your employer stating what your specific work duties will include and bring them to the office at Coventry High School. You do not need to be a student at Coventry High School, only a resident of Coventry, to get working papers from the high school office. Should there be no one available at the high school, you may bring your information to the Superintendent’s Office. If there are any questions regarding working papers, please call the Coventry High School main office at 860-742-7346.

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.

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION: Interested in volunteering in any of the schools in district? To become a volunteer, please contact the building principals for more specific information. Their contact information can be found at <http://www.coventrypublicschools.org/district/volunteer>.

PASSAGE PRESENTATION PROJECTS AT THE CAPT. NATHAN HALE MIDDLE SCHOOL (CNH): As we wrap up our Grade 7 Passage Presentation Project, we are excited to share an update that highlights the key elements and learning outcomes achieved by our students, as well as the impact on our community.

At the heart of the project, each student began by completing a Goal Setting Sheet that has been integrated into their 7th grade portfolio. These goal statements provided a personal roadmap that guided their exploration and problem-solving throughout the project.

In social studies, students conducted in-depth research on the Amazon Rainforest, focusing on topics of environmental concern selected from an approved list. This research culminated in creative, choice-based presentations that not only enhanced their investigative skills but also connected global issues to local contexts.

The science component pushed students to use the engineering design process to solve a problem related to the environmental concern they researched in the Amazon Rainforest. Students had previously built skills with this process by designing, building, and testing flameless heaters that used exothermic chemical reactions to heat meals or serve as hand warmers. With the experience gained in this project, students designed a prototype device that could solve a problem in the Amazon Rainforest.

Our English Language Arts curriculum engaged students in a series of Canva lessons designed to foster changemaker mindsets. Within these lessons, students were asked to research an area of focus based on the United Nations Development Goals and create an infographic about their findings. This led to the crafting of thoughtful letters to local government officials and agencies, where students articulated community issues like pollution, hunger, and clean water challenges and proposed actionable solutions. These letters have already sparked conversations with local leaders about community improvement.

In addition, students reflected on their growth as problem solvers, adding a reflective paragraph to their portfolios that underscores their journey from setting personal goals to making meaningful community connections. As we conclude this year's iteration of the Passage Presentation projects, we continue to reflect on the successes in engaging and challenging students to think critically and act locally, while also considering areas for improvement that will continue to provide authentic and choice-based opportunities for our Grade 7 students.



**WE ARE EXCITED TO SHARE
RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS ACROSS
OUR DISTRICT:**

- Coventry BOE Vice-Chairperson Receives CABE's Certificated Board of Education Member Designation
- Capt. Nathan Hale Middle School students Earn Top Honors at Windham Regional Arts Council Music Competition
- Coventry High School Students Recognized for Excellence at Connecticut Regional Scholastic Arts Competition
- Coventry High School Students Showcase Talent at Charter Oak Music Festival in Fall of 2024

For press releases and more details, visit <https://www.coventrypublicschools.org/district/news>.



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.

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 ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS.

If interested please email:
thompsonjaime04@gmail.com



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

COVENTRY TOWN NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2025

LEGAL NOTICE-TOWN OF COVENTRY
 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING & NOTICE OF ADJORNED TOWN MEETING
 APRIL 26, 2025

The legal voters of the Town of Coventry and those property owners qualified to vote in Town Meetings pursuant to Section 7-6 of General Statutes of the State of Connecticut are hereby notified and warned that the Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Coventry will be held Saturday April 26, 2025 at 10:00 AM in the Veterans Auditorium of Coventry High School, Ripley Hill Rd, Coventry, CT to discuss and take action on the following items

Item #1: To hear the Town Council's estimate of expenditures for the fiscal year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Item #2: To consider and take action on the Town Council's recommendation for the 2025-2026 fiscal year appropriation, pursuant to Section 9-1 of the Town Charter, the final vote shall be adjourned by the Moderator to May 6, 2025.

Town of Coventry

Council Recommended Budget for FY 2025-2026

Expenditures	2025		2026	
	Adopted Budget	Actual YTD	Town Manager	Council
General Administration	\$ 2,179,360	\$ 1,701,119	\$ 2,253,832	\$ 2,249,887
Public Safety	\$ 2,945,060	\$ 2,605,708	\$ 3,128,516	\$ 3,110,636
Public Works	\$ 2,783,912	\$ 2,283,576	\$ 2,911,316	\$ 2,876,509
Human Services	\$ 364,771	\$ 261,280	\$ 360,291	\$ 358,291
Civic and Cultural	\$ 754,217	\$ 582,950	\$ 811,995	\$ 780,195
Sundry	\$ 3,022,840	\$ 2,472,711	\$ 3,031,690	\$ 3,031,690
General Government	\$ 12,052,185	\$ 9,907,344	\$ 12,497,640	\$ 12,407,208
Board of Education	\$ 30,599,700	\$ 20,907,796	\$ 32,285,374	\$ 31,520,374
Debt Service	\$ 2,972,506	\$ 2,140,206	\$ 3,382,806	\$ 3,314,306
Capital	\$ 668,748	\$ 653,248	\$ 913,314	\$ 803,314
Ambulance Fund Transfer	\$ 298,920	\$ 298,920	\$ 298,920	\$ 288,146
Total Expenditures	\$ 46,590,034	\$ 33,907,514	\$ 49,378,054	\$ 48,333,348
Revenues				
Property Tax	\$ 37,113,081	\$ 36,715,064	\$ 40,102,624	\$ 39,107,918
Intergovernmental	\$ 8,549,353	\$ 2,106,806	\$ 8,425,380	\$ 8,425,380
Local	\$ 757,600	\$ 719,992	\$ 730,050	\$ 730,050
Use of Fund Balance	\$ 170,000	\$ -	\$ 120,000	\$ 70,000
Total Revenues	\$ 46,590,034	\$ 39,541,862	\$ 49,378,054	\$ 48,333,348

If revenues are calculated at a collection rate of 99.34%; a proposed mil rate of 24.37 will be required.

Item #3: To authorize the Town Manager to enter into an agreement with the Commission of Transportation for Town Aid Funds for roads available to the Town of Coventry under Chapter 240 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

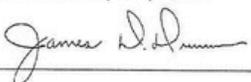
Item #4: To take action on the Town Council's recommendation on the FY 2025 Capital Improvement Plan and to authorize the Town Manager to make application pursuant to Title 7, Chapter 11b of the Connecticut General Statutes for funding for eligible projects under the Local Improvement Program (LOCIP).

Item #5: To authorize the Town Manager and the Town Treasurer to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of tax collections to meet current expenditures.

Item #6: To consider and take action on the Town Council's resolution entitled "Resolution appropriating not to exceed \$2,722,500 for the construction of a water line on South Street Extension and Plains Road, authorizing the Town to enter into a Project Funding Agreement with the State of Connecticut, and authorizing the issuance of Bonds and notes to finance the appropriation" pursuant to Section 9-1 of the Town Charter, the final vote shall be adjourned by the Moderator to May 6, 2025.

20 summary copies of the proposed budget are available in the Town Clerk's Office, 1712 Main St., Coventry, CT 06238 or can be viewed online at www.Coventry-ct.gov.

Dated this 14th day of April, 2025



James D. Drumm, Town Manager



Lori Tollmann, Town Clerk