



Coventry Town Council, inaugurated November 6, 2013. L to R: Joan Lewis, Secretary; Mike Griswold; Hannah Pietrantonio; Wayne Post, Vice-Chair; Jeffrey Shorts, Chair; Lisa Thomas and Micah Welintukonis.

COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT — Jeffrey Shorts

Happy New Year Coventry! The Council wishes you a safe and healthy 2014. I hope everyone had a healthy, happy holiday season.

I am honored to be your Council Chair for the next two years and can be reached at jshorts@coventryct.org. Speaking for the newly elected Town Council, we are honored to serve the Town of Coventry and you for the next two years.

We welcome any input from citizens and encourage you to provide your thoughts and ideas during the Audience of Citizens portion of any Town Council meeting or by contacting myself at the above mentioned email address. Also, if you have any interest in serving on a board or commission please let me know, as we are always looking for individuals to volunteer.

UPCOMING TOWN HALL HOLIDAYS:

Martin Luther King Day	Jan. 20
Presidents' Day	Feb. 17
Good Friday	April 18

TOWN MANAGER'S MEMO — John A. Elsesser, Town Manager

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter and learn about the many activities taking place in your town. The newsletter only comes out three times a year so we need your help in letting us update you more frequently. I can't tell you how often your town staff hears phrases such as "no one told us" or "we didn't know." We recognize that newspaper coverage and subscription is down, so we have been working on replacement means to spread the word. Our town website has a lot of information on town events, procedures and projects. If you haven't signed up for our monthly e-blasts please do so by going to the "Notify Me" section of our website at www.coventryct.org and selecting to receive the "Coventry Community Update." While you are there you can select other areas that may be of interest, such as road closure and emergency notifications, announcements of bids or jobs, and agendas and minutes for various Boards and Commissions.

Or for the tech-savvy, scan this QR code to sign up. The monthly e-blast has a timely update and schedule of town meetings and community activities. Currently we have 1525 subscribers. Our goal is to double this count.



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Speaking of goals, the newly-elected Town Council has adopted goals for their term in office. To review these goals please go to the Town Council page on the website. A link will be provided in the January e-blast. Goals are the first part of the annual budget process. Staff reviews the Council goals and sees how their current budgets need to be adjusted to assist progress towards these goals.

The community is always invited to participate in the budget process. The best time to have your voice heard is at the Budget Hearing scheduled for March 13th at Coventry High School Lecture Hall. The Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 26, 2014 and Budget Referendum for May 6, 2014.

PROJECTS UPDATE

The new rescue truck for North Coventry Fire Department was received in early December (see photo page 5). The Pucker Street Bridge replacement is heading into the permit process and construction is planned for the summer of 2015. The CT DOT Village Curve project has permits and is acquiring necessary rights of way for construction during the 2015 construction season. CT Water is planning to replace several water mains, including side streets in the Village ahead of this project. It is anticipated this work will start in the spring of 2014.

Main Street sidewalks from the hill to the middle school are scheduled for this summer and we also anticipate constructing sidewalks between First Congregational Church to the Library this summer. This will connect with the Rt. 31 Curve project.

Solar panels have been installed on the back side of CVFA firehouse. Each kilowatt generated will save about 7 cents.

PROJECTS UPDATE

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Solar carports for the Police parking lot are scheduled to start construction this winter. A grant-funded electric car charging station is available for public use in the Town Hall rear parking lot.

We continue to work toward replacing the Coventry Lake gate. Three separate grant applications are underway with the hope that one will find the mark and be approved. In the meantime we are seeking engineers to start the design and permitting process.

Working with Tolland, Mansfield and Bolton we are submitting a regional economic development grant application to target economic development strategies and prepare site-specific information for target sites. UConn's growth and their new technology park will be a focus of the study and how spin-offs could benefit our towns' economic development. These towns are also working with the Capitol Region Council of Governments to look long range at Rt. 44 and Rt. 195 as transportation corridors and how UConn's growth can be handled without clogging these State roads. Remote parking lots, shuttles, left-hand turn lanes and bikeways are some of the options which will be studied. The towns are not seeking four-lane roadways or expressways.

Town staff is also seeking federal funding to reconstruct and enhance Lake and Cross Streets. Some sight-line improvements, traffic calming and pedestrian safety enhancements are envisioned. A public involvement meeting will be held if we obtain the funds.

Infield improvements to Miller-Richardson baseball fields and resurfacing Lisicke basketball courts are planned for early spring. These are funded by a State grant.

The school district received a school security grant to allow enhancements to all schools. The Town Council provided the required match. The district also received a technology grant in the amount of \$242,006 for new/replacement computers.

COMINGS & GOINGS AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS:



Congratulations to DPW Crew Leader **Charlie Harakaly**, who graduated from the UConn School of Engineering Transfer Technology Center's Road Master program. Congratulations also to DPW Employee **Dan Smith**, who graduated from the UConn School of Engineering Transfer Technology Center's Public Works Academy. Portions of the syllabus for the Public Works Academy were created by Public Works Director **David Gofstein**, who serves on the School of Engineering T2 Advisory Committee. Welcome to **Matthew Egan**, who joined the department as a Mechanic I in December.

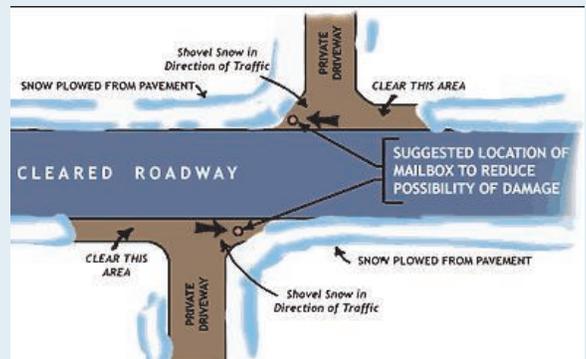
Farewell to Assistant Town Clerk **Anne Lewis**, who retired after 7 1/2 years, and welcome to **Brooke Manning** who joined the Department as Assistant Town Clerk in early December.

Farewell to Police Lt. **Nancy Thurnauer**, who retired in December after 32 years of service to the Town. We wish her well in her new career as a real estate agent. Officer **Thomas Kuhns** graduated from the Police Academy and completed field training in December.

Congratulations to Recreation Supervisor **Caterina Merriam** (formerly Caterina Torcasio) on her marriage last September. Caterina's new email address is cmerriam@coventryct.org.

MAILBOX INFORMATION: The Town of Coventry uses high discharge snow plows to effectively remove snow from the traveled portion of the road. High discharge plows throw the snow higher and further back, to clear the areas of town that have stone walls or high embankments right next to the roadway. They also make room for additional snow that may fall.

Very seldom does a snow plow physically strike a mailbox and damage it. The weight of the snow, coming off of the end of the plow is more often the culprit. You can take steps to minimize this damage! Put a physical barrier up before your mailbox such as a burlap bag strung between two posts, a deflector made of wood or similar materials. The town's policy is to repair mailboxes **only** when the plow truck physically hits the mailbox – not when the snow that comes off of the plow strikes the mailbox. The most helpful way to clear your driveway and help to protect your mail box is illustrated in the diagram to the right.



TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE



The Town Clerk's Office has a new part-time Assistant Town Clerk, her name is Brooke Manning. Brooke is replacing Anne Lewis who was Assistant for 7 ½ years and retired in November. *Photo above: saying farewell to Anne. L to R: Lori Tollmann, Assistant Town Clerk, Anne Lewis, Susan Cyr, Town Clerk.*

SPORT LICENSES – 2014

Licenses are available at the Town Clerk's Office or from the DEEP website www.ct.gov/deep/hunting. Remember, all licenses expire annually on December 31st except Lifetime Licenses and Handicapped Licenses issued before October 1, 2009. The DEEP also has the latest Connecticut Wildlife magazine full of stories and color pictures online at <http://www.depdata.ct.gov/wildlife/flip/CWmagazine/CWmagazine.html>.

NOT REGISTERED TO VOTE?

It's easy to register with the Register of Voters or the Town Clerk during regular business hours. Or you may download a registration form from the Coventry website www.coventryct.org then click on Your Government from the green header, click Registrar of Voters, click voter registration card and print the form, and mail to the Registrars of Voters, 1712 Main Street, Coventry, CT 06238.

DOG LICENSES - Don't let your doggie get caught without one! Any dog 6 months of age and over needs to have a current rabies certificate and be licensed in the town you live in.
*\$8.00 for spayed or neutered dogs (certificate of spay or neuter is needed)
*\$19.00 for unaltered dogs
*Any dog license issued after June 30th is subject to a \$1.00 per month late fee.

SHARE YOUR TALENTS

Serve on a Board or Commission. The following Boards/Commissions currently have vacancies:

Planning & Zoning Committee	Planning & Zoning Alt. Committee
Municipal Historian	Cemetery Committee
Coventryvision Committee	Conservation Commission
HUD Housing Rehab/Fair Housing Committee	
Energy Cons/Alternative Energy Advisory Committee	

You can always get an up to date list of vacancies our website www.coventryct.org

Submit your name to any of the following: *Michael Griswold, Town Council Steering Committee (860-742-5784), or Joan Oros, Republican Town Committee (860-742-9077), Dorothy M. Grady Democratic Town Committee, (860-742-0449) or Susan Cyr, Town Clerk (860-742-7966).*

"Statement of Interest to Serve on a Board or Commission" forms are also available on our website at www.coventryct.org. From the Home Page, click on Your Government on the green heading then, click on Boards & Commissions, there you will be able to fill out your form online or download the form and mail to Town Clerk, 1712 Main St., Coventry, CT 06238. Also, there you will be able to read descriptions of the Boards and Commissions, and view the current vacancy list.

PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOTING

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

To be eligible, an elector must file an absentee ballot application together with a doctor's certificate stating that they have a permanent disability and are unable to appear in person at their polling place.

File the completed documentation with the Town Clerk. Once received, absentee ballot applications will be sent out to the elector for each event for which they would be eligible to vote.

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

Some restrictions apply – contact the Town Clerk's Office at 860-742-7966 or check the website for further instructions.

REMINDERS:

Annual Rabies Clinic: We vaccinated 84 dogs in 2013! It's too early for a date but watch for more information on Channel 13, in the Town of Coventry spring newsletter and our website www.coventryct.org.

Online: Land records indexes available online and searchable back to 1712. All recorded maps are searchable. Images of all documents are also available back to 2001.



FROM THE TAX OFFICE (860) 742-4066

The 2nd installment for real estate taxes are due January 1, 2014. The last day to pay without interest is February 3, 2014. Real Estate tax bills are not mailed out for this installment; please use the second payment portion of the 3-part bill that you received in July.

Supplemental Motor Vehicle bills for a vehicle purchased, registered or plates transferred after October 1, 2012 and before August 1, 2013 were mailed in mid December and are due January 1, 2014. The last day to pay without interest is February 3, 2014.

If payment is received after February 3, 2014, the tax bill becomes delinquent and is immediately subject to 3% interest. From then on, the accrued interest will be added at the rate of 1.5% per month from the due date.

Credit card payments for tax, sewer and trash bills are processed by Official Payments Corporation. When paying by credit card, you will need your bill number, tax and updated interest amount and Coventry's jurisdiction code. Please call the tax office for these details including the toll free number and web address for Official Payments Corp. A link to Official Payments Corp. web site can be found on the Town's web page: www.Coventryct.org.

Taxpayers have an additional on-line payment option for those wishing to pay by check/debit (EFT). You will need to know the Grand List date and list number of each bill you pay. You may need to contact this office to obtain or verify this information. From the Tax Collector's page on the Town's website, choose [payments from bank account](#) for this preference. This will connect you to Webster Bank's payment link site. You can save time, gas, postage and the inconvenience of driving in bad weather by paying online or by phone.

Taxpayers owing delinquent motor vehicles must pay by cash or money order for an immediate DMV clearance. Payments by personal check will result in a delay of ten (10) business days for the DMV clearance.

PAYMENT DUE CALENDAR: **JANUARY**-Real Estate 2nd installment, Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax only if applicable. **MAY**-Sewer Assessment fee-1st installment. **JULY**- Real Estate 1st installment, and Regular Motor Vehicle, Personal Property and COVRRRA- annual (single) installment. **SEPTEMBER**- Sewer User fee- annual (single) installment. **NOVEMBER**- Sewer Assessment fee-2nd installment. Questions? Please call 860-742-4066

FROM THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

REVALUATION TEAM TO VISIT PROPERTIES IN COVENTRY



Coventry town officials remind homeowners of the revaluation project being currently conducted for the October 1, 2014 grand list by representatives of the firm, Vision Appraisal Technology started on November 1, 2013. It consists of data collectors visiting these properties confirming data. Data collectors will be wearing an identification badge and representatives will have their vehicles registered with the police department, the Assessor's and Town Manager's Office. Homeowners are encouraged to ask for this identification prior to admitting anyone into their homes. If a homeowner has any question as to the identity of a data collector, they may call the police or the Tax Assessor's office at 860-742-4067 for further confirmation. Just a reminder that the revaluation will not impact your tax bill until July 1, 2015. You will receive a change in assessment notice in late 2014 and have the opportunity to discuss with Vision Appraisal staff before final values are set.

HOUSING REHABILITATION LOAN PROGRAM

The Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program is designed for low to moderate-income homeowners, as well as landlords with low to moderate-income tenants. Funds are used for safety and public health code violations first, but may also be used by homeowners for common repair projects, including, but not limited to: septic system repairs; roofing & siding; structural deficiencies; replacement windows; plumbing; electrical; and heating systems. Residents must be income eligible (see below), be up to date on Town taxes, & have current homeowner's insurance to apply. The housing rehabilitation funds are a loan to homeowners that must be eventually paid back. Loan repayments are used to continue the Program. Low-income eligible applicants will receive a loan that is 100% deferred until the property changes ownership. Moderate-income eligible applicants will receive a loan that is 2/3 deferred and 1/3 zero percent interest paid over ten years in monthly installments.

For more information or applications, contact Peter at Community Consulting at 860-456-0782.

INCOME GUIDELINES (gross income, at or below)

Number in Family	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Low Income	29950	34200	38500	42750	46200	49600	53050	56450
Moderate Income	45100	51550	58000	64400	69600	74750	79900	85050

FROM THE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

Two of the leading causes of fires in homes are cooking and heating equipment. People can protect themselves from fire by taking some basic safety precautions:

Cooking Safety:

Pay particular attention while cooking, especially when using oils and grease. Cooking appliances should be kept clean of grease build-up, which can easily ignite. Applying a lid to a small grease fire is usually the most effective and safest method of controlling it. Trying to carry a pan that's on fire is extremely dangerous because it can ignite clothes or spill, causing severe burns. If the fire is inside your oven, turn off the heat and leave the door closed to cut off the fire's air supply. Young children should be kept away from cooking appliances to prevent any mishaps. It's always a good idea to use back burners when possible and keep pot handles turned to the inside so they won't be pulled or knocked over. Check stoves and other appliances before going to bed or leaving your home to make sure that the units are left in the "off" position.

Heating Safety:

Electric heaters should have automatic safety switches to turn them off if tipped over. They also should carry the UL approval label. Be sure to check cords before plugging in the heater. If frayed, worn, or broken, do not use. Either replace the heater or have an electrician replace the cord. Just putting tape on the cord is not enough to prevent overheating and fire. Never use extension cords with portable heaters. To supply a heater with a small, ordinary household extension cord will cause the cord to overheat and burn. Keep all materials that can burn at least 36 inches away from the unit.



Wood stoves and other wood-burning devices are popular heating systems. Before investing in one for your home, think as much about safety as you will about the ease of use, efficiency and appearance. Have your stove installed by a professional. Keep a tight fitting screen or glass doors in front of the stove or fireplace at all

times. Special retaining screens can keep children and pets away from wood stoves and prevent burns. Dispose of ashes in metal containers, never in paper bags, cardboard boxes, or plastic wastebaskets. Be sure to wet ashes down to cool them thoroughly. Remember, ashes can retain enough heat to cause a fire for several days, so take no chances.

Although these tips should help prevent a fire, know the signs of danger. Loud roars, sucking sounds and shaking pipes mean trouble and danger. If you hear these sounds, get everyone out of the house. Quickly shut off the fire's air supply by closing any air-intake vents in the firebox. Close the damper. Call the fire department from a nearby phone.



A MESSAGE FROM NORTH COVENTRY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Winter is upon us and with that comes heating our homes. Whether it be oil, propane, wood or other heat sources, it's important to remember a few safety tips when using these products.

- Have your chimney cleaned and inspected at least annually
- Dispose of ashes properly – do not dispose of them in Town garbage cans or in a place where brush fires can start – Remember: ashes may look safe but they can still retain heat to start fires – metal storage containers are best
- Make sure you have a working smoke and CO detector with fresh batteries changed twice a year (when you change your clocks in the spring and fall)
- If you smell propane exit the area immediately and call 911 away from the odor– do not turn on/off electrical devices where you smell gas – for more information you can go to <http://www.safegas.org/tips/tips.html>.

When an alarm sounds from your CO detector, please keep all windows closed, **exit the building immediately** closing the door behind you and **call 911**. By keeping everything closed, it will assist us in finding any potential CO leaks.

We can't find your house! Having house numbers visible to the street and emergency personnel is important when you call 911. This can save several minutes in case of emergencies. Please take some time to look at where your house numbers are located. If you need assistance, feel free to call us and we can help.

Let it snow! Snow can be a picturesque scene in the winter time. However it can also hamper emergency equipment and personnel when you need us. Please make sure your driveways are cleared wide enough to allow ambulances, fire trucks and police vehicles to enter safely. It's also a good idea to keep walkways clear so emergency personnel can get to your house from the driveway.

The members of the North Coventry Volunteer Fire Department hope you had a great holiday season. We wish everyone a healthy and safe 2014. If you have any questions, comments or want a tour of our station, please visit our website at <http://www.northcoventryfire.org/html-contact-form.php> or call 860-742-1606.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Address: 100 Olsen Farm Road Phone: (860) 742-6588

Director: David Gofstein dgofstein@coventryct.org
Supt. of Operations/Tree Warden: Doug Reese dreese@coventryct.org
Administrative Secretary/COVRRRA: Donna Wrubel dwrubel@coventryct.org
WPCA Technician: Mike Ruef* mruef@coventryct.org
Subdivisions and Project Engineer: Todd Penney* tpenney@coventryct.org
* Office located at Town Hall

WINTER SEASON INFORMATION



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

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

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

All routes are checked before crews are released to insure roads are passable. Our goal is to keep our roads safe and open to traffic as well as we can, with minimal disruption to your daily activities, within the constraints of budgets, prevailing conditions, and resources available.

THE HOUSEHOLD CHEMICAL WASTE DROP-OFF FACILITY will most likely reopen on May 3, 2014. It is usually open on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month from mid April through early November from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., however, the 3rd Saturday in April 2014 when the facility should open is Easter weekend. This regional facility is located on Hancock Road in Willington and will receive one gallon or less of each liquid material and 100 pounds of dry material. Coventry residents' use of the facility is paid through COVRRRA revenues and requires no additional fees. Proof of residency is required. Commercial users **MUST CALL AHEAD** (860) 289-2296 for appointment and fee schedule.

Typical material accepted at this facility includes:

- Fluorescent light bulbs
- Ni-Cad (Nickel Cadmium) recyclable batteries only (alkaline batteries go in the trash)
- Mercury thermometers and thermostats
- Floor, oven and drain cleaners
- Aerosol cans with hazardous contents
- Contaminated or stale gasoline
- Wood strippers, solvents, paint, paint thinner and wood preservatives

WINTER TIPS

Please take care to place your Tipper Carts in the driveway end. They need to be close to the road for the trash collection vehicle to grab them, and behind the curb line for protection from snow removal equipment. It is illegal to place them in the travel portion of the roadway.

Parking on town roads and town owned parking lots is prohibited between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. from November 1 through March 31. The Public Works Department may also issue no parking bans that will not allow any parking on the roads and lots throughout the town. Please listen to local radio and watch area television stations for information about snow parking bans.

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

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

Do not discharge sump pumps into any roadway. This is the cause of many localized icing conditions!

Placing snow in the road is dangerous, and can include penalties up to a lien against your property. A Town ordinance obligates the property owner, so if your driveway contractor or neighbor deposits snow in the road from your property, you are still held responsible. It only takes a few more minutes to push it up beyond a curb line or stockpile it on some unused land away from the travel portion of the roadway.

The Town of Coventry does not supply sand or salt for public use.

Any questions, issues or concerns should be directed to the Superintendent of Operations, Doug Reese, Public Works Department at (860) 742-6588 or email dreese@coventryct.org.

TRANSFER STATION

325 Main Street

Open every Thursday December through March 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
and every Saturday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Closed holidays.

Proof of residency is required.

Materials acceptable with cost:

- Construction and demolition debris. Free of cardboard, metal and garbage.
- Land clearing debris; stumps & brush.
- Appliances with CFC's (Freon) \$10 each, no weigh-in necessary.
- Tires – automobile size – on or off rim \$5 each.

Materials acceptable no cost:

- All Electronics
- Appliances without CFC's (Freon)
- Scrap metal materials (**metal tanks must be cut open and crushed**).
- Gas grill propane tanks for recycling
- Leaves for composting

Materials NOT acceptable:

- Garbage or recyclable items picked up curbside
- Grass clippings
- Furniture
- Hazardous waste

Call Public Works (860) 742-6588 for more details or check your COVRRR CALENDAR.

COMMERCIAL USERS MUST REMEMBER... The facility is not intended for commercial uses 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 insure the facility waste stream remains residential in nature.



“THE HOLIDAYS ARE OVER; NOW WHAT DO I DO WITH MY CHRISTMAS TREE?”

Christmas trees may be dropped off at the Transfer Station near the intersection of Plains Roads & Rt. 31 when the facility is open or there are two un-staffed sites: Laidlaw Park on Merrow Road and the Miller Richardson Athletic Field (take Route 31 to South Street Extension then a right at the stop sign) look for the signs. Please leave only the tree; take plastic bags/netting home to dispose with normal garbage. The trees will be chipped up and used in landscaping next spring. All American Waste will not pick up trees curbside.

NO SNOWMOBILING HERE!!

Snowmobiles are not to be operated on Town and School properties. The runners on the sleds cause damage to the turf and it is not fair for a few to increase the maintenance costs for everyone. Please do not ski, snowmobile or use All Terrain Vehicles on snow covered roads. You may collide with a plow truck. Please! Never let children play in the snow banks next to the roadway. Plow operators may not be aware of them, especially if the children are digging into the snow banks.

HOLIDAY TRASH / RECYCLING PICKUP CHANGES ONLY for the following date: No service on Memorial Day May 26, 2014. Resume service May 27, 28, 29, 30 & 31.

SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL AND RECYCLING INFORMATION

It is important you keep 3 feet of space between the carts and away from any poles, wires, tree limbs or mailboxes, etc. The room is needed so the truck is able to pick the carts up without any delay or damage to obstacles. Please take care to place your Tipper Carts in the driveway end. They need to be close to the road for the trash collection vehicle to grab them and behind the curb line for protection from snow removal equipment. It is illegal to place them in the travel portion of the roadway.

If materials are not picked up from the curbside, residents are asked to please call All American Waste at (860) 289-7850 to give them a chance to correct the problem or provide information on why the item was left.

See the Public Works webpage at www.coventryct.org for a list of items that can go in the trash and recycling tipper carts.

Next to the carts:

- Automotive batteries; one bi-weekly.
- Auto or light truck tire; removed from rim, one per week.

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

Residents are allowed to place up to **three** non-metal oversized waste items at the curb each month for collection as part of the program. No electronics, they must go to the transfer station. This collection will be on the 2nd Monday of each month. **All residents need to place their items at the curb by 6:30 a.m. on the 2nd Monday of the month.** This collection may/may not follow the daily waste & recycling pickup schedule.

- Furniture such as table, couch or mattress
- Brush; trimmed to 3ft. lengths, bundled & tied, 30-lbs. maximum.
- Wood lumber; length & width less than 4 ft., less than 4 in. nominal size, 30-lbs. maximum.

LAND USE



TOWN BIKE PLAN

The Conservation Commission continues work to create a bike plan for the Town. The Commission has evaluated other municipal bike plans and has also started considering evaluation tools that provide a basis for determining what roads or trails would be most appropriate for certain biking capacities. The plan will include a mapping component which delineates specific routes in town that are conducive for bikers of different capacities. Several routes have been created that connect existing recreational, open space amenities or other points of interests and destinations. The public is welcomed and encouraged to be part of the process in the plan and route development, which will include a dedicated public forum at some point in the future when a draft has been developed. Questions regarding the project can be directed to Eric M. Trott, Director of Planning and Development at etrott@coventryct.org or 860-742-4062.

LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Coventry Lake Advisory & Monitoring Committee continues work to create a Lake Management Plan for Coventry Lake. The Plan will contain a variety of components that include a current status report on the Lake, threats and problems, analysis of users and impacts as well as goals for the future protection of the Lake. The Committee conducted a lake recreation use and community concern survey via Survey Monkey over the summer. The results of the survey are being evaluated by the Committee and they will be incorporated into the Plan. Some of the results were shared at the annual State of Coventry Lake public forum that was held in September. Questions regarding the project can be directed to Eric M. Trott, Director of Planning and Development at etrott@coventryct.org or 860-742-4062.

OPEN SPACE TRAILS AND BROCHURES

The Land Use Office worked with a number of volunteer groups over the spring and summer to perform trail maintenance, improvement and blazing activities at Patriots Park Woods (Cross Street), Laidlaw Park (Marrow Road) and Thornton Brook Preserve (Pucker Street). The Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and 4H volunteers performed a variety of tasks to enhance these open space trails to encourage hiking and appreciation of these town properties. The Town of Coventry greatly appreciates the efforts of these volunteers! Land Use Staff is in the process of developing trail map brochures for Laidlaw Park and Thornton Brook Preserve which will be available on the Parks and Recreation website over the winter. Please visit www.coventryrec.com to access them.

EVENT SIGNAGE PERMITS

REQUIRED: You must have a permit from the Land Use Office (860) 742-4062 to place an event sign on the Town Green on Route 31 at Route 44 (New Alliance Bank). They will not permit any commercial signs. Absolutely no signs can be placed on the Town Green on Stage Road at Route 44 (across from Highland Park Market) or the Town Green on Lake Street (across from Patriots Park). Thank you for your cooperation.

RIGHT OF WAY: Enhancements to your property along the roadside need to be placed far enough back from the road to insure that they will not become a sight-line obstruction for your driveway, your neighbor's, an intersection or traffic control device. Please remember the Town does have a Right-of-Way extending from 5 to 25 feet beyond the road edge on all Town Roads. Trees should not be planted within this zone. This area must also be kept clear of fixed obstructions such as fences or stone walls. Please call the Public Works Department to obtain this setback measurement for your particular road before doing landscaping or major plantings in this area.

NEWS FROM THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY (WPCA)

- Clarigester tank #1 was cleaned and inspected in October. Staff made minor repairs. Our consulting engineer recommended replacement of some steel parts that are showing signs of corrosion. The parts have been ordered and will be ready for installation after the next cleaning.

- A buried manhole in an easement at 50 Lake St was located and brought up to grade.

- The CT Water Company has hired a contractor to replace all of the water mains in the Village beginning in the spring of 2014. We are working with them to prevent damage to sewer lines in the area.

- Our GIS consultant has completed work on the Sewer Service Area Map. The next step will be to create a detailed collection system map which will be used to track inspections and prioritize repairs.

Sewer Expansion Feasibility Study:

The report from the Wastewater Management Study by WMC Engineers was submitted to the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) in August and we are still awaiting a formal response. We have applied for additional reimbursement of \$5,700 from the Clean Water Fund grant.

Sewer Connections:

The WPCA is continuing to work with unconnected residents in small groups to get them hooked up. We are looking at how other Towns have implemented Orders to Connect. If you have not yet connected to sewers please contact Mike Ruef at 860-742-4064 or mruef@coventryct.org for more info.

General information related to the WPCA can be found on the Water Pollution Control Authority page on the Town website (www.coventryct.org). The link to our page can be found by clicking on Your Government > Boards & Commissions > Water Pollution Control Authority. You may now subscribe to WPCA Agendas by clicking on 'Notify Me' and entering your email or mobile #.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN COVENTRY

BUDGET DATES

Please be involved in the budget process. Please join us for the annual **Public Hearing** on the FY 2014/2015 budget on Thursday, March 13, 2014 at 7 PM in the Lecture Hall at Coventry High School. This is your opportunity to ask questions and share feedback with Town and Board of Education officials. The **Annual Town Meeting** will take place on Saturday, April 26, 2014 at 10 AM in the auditorium at Coventry High School. The **budget referendum** will be on May 6, 2014. Make your voice count!

COMMUNITY VOICE

Communication with the Town goes both ways. Please share your ideas with the Town and your fellow citizens by using the "Community Voice" feature of the town's website at www.coventryct.org. In this section you will be able to comment on initiatives, topics and ideas or suggest new ones.

Currently, Community Activity ideas, Economic Development ideas, Housing & Neighborhood Enhancements, Infrastructure & Equipment Improvements and Quality of Life Improvements are being discussed. The current featured item is the draft of the Ad-Hoc Open Space Committee's report.

To join in the conversation, click on the blue box labeled "Community Voice" on the left side of the Town website's home page. Join and share.



Ice Fishing Derby January 25, 2014 Patriots Park Lodge 172 Lake Street 9 AM - 12 PM

The CT Department of Environmental Protection is holding the annual ice fishing derby! Come and join us for some winter fun at Coventry Lake. No registration is required.

- Prizes will be awarded for the biggest fish!
- This is designed to be a family derby, so bring the entire family out for a morning of fun!
- Ice fishing jigs will be available for use or you can bring your own, and fishing instruction and demos will be available.

More information: Parks & Recreation Office, 860-742-4068.

COVENTRY SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION PHONE-A-THON

The Coventry Scholarship Foundation, a Dollars For Scholars affiliate, will conduct its 23rd annual Phone-A-Thon starting Monday, March 17th through Wednesday, March 19. Coventry residents will be called and asked to make a contribution to the tax deductible fund, and businesses will be contacted by letter. Anyone wishing to help with the phone calls or mailings is asked to call 742-6633. This is a community event that benefits any graduating senior who is a Coventry resident. Last year over \$45,000 was distributed. Volunteers greatly needed.

STONE WALL MAINTENANCE WEEKEND

Nothing says "New England" more than the stone wall. The rural character of Coventry is often defined by the existence and visibility of our numerous stone walls. The stone wall is our visual reminder of our rural cultural heritage and past agricultural traditions.

The Coventry Conservation Commission and the Coventry Conservation Corps is sponsoring the annual "Stone Wall Maintenance Weekend" on March 29-30 (rain date April 5-6). This would be a perfect time for property owners to do some maintenance to increase the visibility of stone walls on their property. Many of the stone walls throughout Coventry are in disrepair and/or are overgrown with brush and invasive plants. Homeowners can improve the "curb appeal" of their property by sprucing up their stone walls, especially those that border town roads. This can be turned into a great community project for neighborhoods or community service groups. The Coventry Conservation Corps will participate by sending a work crew to some town-owned property with stone walls in need of maintenance.

The Conservation Commission is very mindful of stone wall preservation and consistently makes recommendations pertaining to the preservation of significant historical and natural resources, such as stone walls. These beautiful landforms are integrated into our rural landscape and should be valued and preserved. Every stone wall has its own unique character and adds to rural character of our town. The Coventry Conservation Commission sponsors this annual community activity.



HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

WORRIED ABOUT WINTER HEATING COSTS?

Call Human Services at 860-742-5324 for more information about this year's Connecticut Energy Assistance Program. The Connecticut Energy Assistance Program is a federal and state funded program. Appointments have already started at the ACCESS Agency. It is strongly encouraged to get an appointment made at ACCESS as soon as possible. Coventry Human Services will also be taking applications for Coventry residents by appointment only on Tuesdays and Thursdays, space is limited.

One-time emergency deliveries may be made in cases of *financial crisis* through the Coventry Clergy Fuel Bank which is funded solely by donations. Interviews are taken by appointment and approved by the Human Services Office. As with all energy assistance programs, receiving energy assistance is not an entitlement, and proper identification/ documentation is required. Approvals are not guaranteed.

Residents can contribute to the "Clergy Fuel Fund" to help support your neighbors. 100% of the money raised goes towards heating costs for Coventry residents. Contributions can be mailed to Coventry Human Services, c/o Clergy Fuel Fund, 1712 Main Street, Coventry, CT 06238.

FOOD BANK

If you are in financial crisis and are in need of food please call Human Services to schedule an appointment.

We are always accepting donations for the food bank. The need can vary by the month/season so please call ahead with your donation. The food bank is stocked with peanut butter/ jelly, cereal, spaghetti sauce, pasta, soup, tuna, and various hygiene and cleaning supplies. Thank you to our local residents, churches, schools and other groups that have made donations. Please remember we cannot distributed expired canned items so please check expiration dates.

SEEKING PROM DRESSES

Coventry Human Services is collecting gently used prom dresses, shoes, and accessories (current styles preferred) for girls attending prom in 2014. For more information or to drop off items, contact the office at 860-742-5324.



Drivers Needed for Coventry Rides! Senior Transportation Program

The Human Services Office is in need of additional volunteer drivers to support the Coventry Transportation for seniors and disabled residents. This program provides people, who can no longer drive, with a way to live independently and remain in their own homes.

We ask for only ONE MORNING PER MONTH to help Coventry's senior and disabled residents. Weekend and evening drivers are also needed. There are no licensing costs for you becoming a driver. This is a very rewarding opportunity to help Coventry's elderly and disabled citizens. Remember, you or someone you know, may need this program someday!

Please call 860-742-3525 today for more information.

"IN YARD" TRASH/RECYCLING SERVICE AVAILABLE

Do you know someone who might benefit from having their tipper carts picked up right at their back door? No more struggling to roll them to the curb!! The town has a few slots for those special needs people (no additional fees involved). Call Human Services at (860) 742-5324 to find out if you or someone you know might qualify.

A HUGE THANK YOU GOES OUT TO...

The **Scouting for Food Drive** by Coventry Boy Scout Troop 65 and 57, Cub Pack 65 and 57 and Girl Scouts of Coventry again benefited the Coventry Human Service's Food Bank. The Scouts had their pick up on Saturday, November 2nd. The scouts, leaders, parents and friends spent the morning picking up food bags, sorting, and storing the non-perishables for the food bank. This is one of their largest fundraisers of the year and it helps stock our food bank for the holidays. We appreciate all the efforts that go into a fundraiser of this size and to the community that supports this effort.

The Skungamaug River Golf Course's Annual "Golfing for Food Day." Coventry Human Services was delighted that the Food Bank was again the beneficiary of the Annual Skungamaug River Golf Course "Food for Golf" on Saturday, November 2nd at 104 Folly Lane in Coventry. In lieu of green fees, donations of non-perishable food items and personal hygiene items were accepted for the Coventry Food Bank. John & Susan Motyka and the club staff sorted and delivered the items to the Human Services Food Bank. This program has been a tremendous success over the past years and a great way to spend a fall day golfing and benefiting the community at the same time. We would like to thank John & Susan, club staff and all the participants who donated food and their time to this effort.

We're on Facebook! Find us by searching for Coventry Human Services. "Like us" to stay informed of programs and services.

SENIOR CENTER NEWS

172 Lake Street, Coventry, CT • (860) 742-3525

AARP Tax Aid: Tax Aid Appointments will once again be available at the Senior Center! This is a free service provided by AARP and they are prepared to file electronic returns as well as the traditional 'paper and pencil' returns. All information is kept confidential. Appointments will be available **February 5th & 19th, March 5th & 19th and April 2nd from 9am-12:00pm**. Please call the Senior Center to schedule your appointment.

Podiatric Footcare Clinic: Podiatrist Dr. Anthony Morgan will be at the Senior Center to provide toenail clipping and podiatric evaluation. Dr. Morgan accepts Medicare and private insurance, so please remember to bring your insurance card with you to your appointment. For all questions regarding fees and insurance coverage, please call Dr. Morgan's office directly at (860) 537-5520. Please call the Senior Center for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Feb 13th & May 8th from 9:30am-12pm

The **Fitness Center** is up and running! Stop by the Senior Center to pick up a Fitness Center Packet, which has all the information you need to get started! Attendance at an **Equipment Orientation Session** is mandatory before using the Fitness Center; the next orientation sessions will be **February 3rd and April 7th at 10:30am**. Please call the Senior Center to register or for more information.

Spa Days: Michelle DeLuco of Kennedy & Co. Salon & Spa will be here to offer spray bottle variety haircuts, clipper cuts and eyebrow or beard trimming. The price for haircuts is \$10, payable directly to Michelle at the time of the appointment. Hope Charette of Hope & Wellness Salon will also be here to offer nail clipping, manicures & pedicures. The price for nail clipping is \$10; add scrub and polish for an additional \$10, payable directly to Hope at the time of the appointment. Please call the Center

to make an appointment or for more information.

February 10th & April 14th from 9:30am-12pm

TVCCA Community Luncheons: We are thrilled to announce that the Coventry Senior Center will be hosting a Community Luncheon once per month for Coventry Seniors! The lunches will be prepared by Thames Valley Council for Community Action and they are not only nutritious, but delicious as well! The lunches will cost either \$3.00, \$5.00 or \$7.00, depending on the menu that day. Reservations and tickets *must* be purchased in advance at the Senior Center. We will provide transportation; if you will need this service, please let us know when you purchase your ticket. Upcoming lunch dates are **February 26th, March 26th, April 30th and May 28th**.

Massage Therapy & Reflexology Sessions: Increase blood flow to all major organs and relieve muscle tension in your neck, shoulders & lower back with a 20 minute chair massage by Deb Turner, L.M.T. Or, treat your feet and increase joint mobility & balance through body awareness with a reflexology session. Appointments are available between 9:30am and 1:30pm in the Health Room. There is a \$15.00 fee payable directly to Deb at the time of the appointment. Upcoming dates are **January 21st, February 18th, March 18th, April 15th & May 20th**. Please call the Senior Center to schedule an appointment.

Save these Dates!

African Culture Presentation & Luncheon: Travel to Africa without ever getting on a plane! African Native Rita Wagener will captivate you with her informative and fun presentation on African culture! Rita will take you on a journey as she shares the customs of her motherland, including traditional African fashion and dancing. Lunch will be provided. Please call the Senior Center to register by January 31st.

Feb 7th from 11am-1pm

Out to Lunch Bunch: Join us the first Wednesday of the month at a local restaurant for great food, great conversation and a fun time with friends! Local favorite restaurants are on the list and your suggestions are always welcome! The cost for meal and tip is on your own. Please call the Senior Center for more information or to sign up.

March 5th, April 2nd, May 7th

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon: April is National Volunteer Appreciation Month! Join us for this special occasion as we honor and celebrate all of the dedicated volunteers who have made such a difference in the Senior Center over the past year! Lunch will be provided. Please call the Senior Center by April 2nd to register.

April 9th from 11am-1pm

Reminders

The Wellness Nurse is available twice per month to test blood pressure and blood sugar, as well as answer any medical questions you may have and connect you to the appropriate local resources. Call the Senior Center for more information.

Moe Collins, our Veteran's Advocate is available Wednesdays by appointment. Please call the Senior Center to schedule an appointment or for more information. **CHOICES** refers to Connecticut's program for Health insurance assistance, Outreach, Information and referral, Counseling and Eligibility Screening. This program offers Seniors assistance on health insurance concerns and helps older adults understand and exercise their rights, receive benefits to which they are entitled, and to make informed choices about life concerns. Volunteer CHOICES counselors are now available by appointment at the Senior Center. Please call to make your appointment or for more information. If you are interested in becoming a CHOICES volunteer, please call Senior Resources at 1-800-690-6998.

NEWS FROM THE BOOTH & DIMOCK MEMORIAL LIBRARY



For more information on any programs and services, please contact the Library at 860-742-7606 or visit our website at www.CoventryPL.org.

THE BURNING QUESTION OF NATHAN HALE

Tuesday, February 25th at 7:00 pm

Was there a connection between Nathan Hale and the great fire which nearly destroyed New York City the day before his capture? This lecture will provide new insight into Hale's life, death and heroism. Presented by Connecticut State Historian, Professor Walter Woodward.

The Booth & Dimock Memorial Library is on Pinterest. Follow us at [Pinterest.com/BDLibrary](https://www.pinterest.com/BDLibrary) for research tips, job search resources, booklists and more.

Join us for a Pinterest Party on **Tuesday, February 4th at 6:30pm**

We will do a quick demonstration / class on how and why to use Pinterest followed by a great Pinterest project.

MAKER COMMUNITY & 3-D PRINTER



In November, the Board of Trustees began fundraising for a 3-D Printer—the first step towards a Booth & Dimock Maker Space. Already possessing the spirit of a Maker community—creativity, innovation and collaborative learning, we can't wait to take this first step and hope you are as excited as we are. Community members will be able to design prototypes and print other materials.

THE VERY READY READING PROGRAM: 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Research shows that reading books to children from birth and having books present in the home are two of the greatest indicators for later success in learning to read. How can you help? Bring your child to the library and sign up for the Very Ready Reading Program: 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten! For ages Birth – 5.

How it works:

Sign up in the Children's Department to receive your Reading Journal and bag of goodies! Each time you read 100 books, bring your Reading Journal to the library for a prize and your next set of journal pages. After finishing 1,000 books, your child will receive a special prize and an invitation to a "graduation" party!

For more information, visit or call the Children's Department. Information is also available online at www.CoventryPL.org/1000Books.

PLAY & LEARN EARLY LITERACY PLAYGROUP

Our Playgroup is an opportunity for children to make new friends as their adults network with each other. Developmentally appropriate toys, crafts, sensory materials, books, musical instruments and activities provide a literacy rich environment that will help with future reading success! *For ages birth to 5. Older siblings are welcome. No registration is required.*

Time: 10:30 – 11:30 AM
Dates: Wednesday, Feb. 5, 12, 19 & 26

BABYGARTEN

Time: 10:15—11:00 AM
Dates: February 4, 11, 18 & 25

TERRIFIC TUESDAYS

Time: 11:30 – 12:00 NOON
Dates: February 4, 11, 18 & 25

ICE SAFETY ON COVENTRY LAKE

*A message from the Coventry Lake
Advisory & Monitoring Committee*

Winter is here and a skim of ice has been noted on small parts of Coventry Lake. The ice invites a variety of activities: skating, fishing, snowmobiles. How do you know if it's safe to be on the ice? Emergency Rescue professionals say the safest approach is to assume that it never is safe, but ice that can support activities is often too much fun to avoid. According to the Massachusetts Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Environmental Law Enforcement, a few rules of thumb apply to ice thickness, as follows:

- 2" ice - One person on foot
- 3" ice - Group, in single file
- 5" ice - Group (6-8 people) together
- 7½" ice - Passenger car (2 ton gross)
- 8" ice - Light truck (2½ ton gross)

There are no Town of Coventry ordinances restricting the use of the frozen lake for snowmobiling or ATV riders. However, the snowmobiles must be registered and meet equipment specifications and other operating regulations. Keep a substantial buffer between your machine and skaters, ice hikers, and ice fishermen: accurate steering on ice is difficult at best and control can be easily lost.

Keep in mind that it is impossible to judge the strength of ice by its appearance, thickness, daily temperature, or snow cover alone. Ice strength is actually dependent on all four factors, plus water depth under the ice, the size of the water and water chemistry, currents, and distribution of the load on the ice. Do not assume uniform ice thickness. Do not cross cracks with open water. Wear a life jacket. Life vests or float coats provide excellent flotation and protection from hypothermia (loss of body temperature). Go with a buddy and keep a good distance apart as you walk out. Bring a cell phone to call 911 should an accident happen. Avoid alcoholic beverages, which increase your chances for hypothermia and impair your judgment.

Finally, if you fall in, DON'T PANIC! Call for help. Cold water can have a rapid effect on mental and physical functions, so you must act quickly. Kick your legs while grasping for firm ice. Try to pull your body up. Once your torso is on firm ice, roll towards thicker ice, spreading yourself across the ice to better distribute your weight. Remember: ice you have previously walked on should be the safest. After you reach safe ice, you need to warm up as quick as you can to prevent hypothermia. Seek help and shelter immediately.

Remember, only you are responsible for your own safety.

COMMUNITY NEWS

COVENTRY RIDES SENIOR TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

The goal of the Coventry Rides Senior Transportation Program is to allow all Coventry citizens to live as independently as possible by providing transportation for medical and personal needs.

Now in our ninth year, the program has provided over 7500 rides for Coventry's elderly and disabled residents. In the last fiscal year alone, we provided over 1400 rides.

Special thanks to the dedicated volunteer drivers who offer their time to help others. Our current team of volunteer drivers includes Tim Ackert, Brian Coss, Christine Coss, Dick Frye, Bill Hoffman, Kim Homans, Dave Lamore, Debbie Locke, David McCrory, Bill Root, Ken Stein, Jack Thayer and Bill Wajda. Private car volunteers include, Lori Boucher, Trena Gale, Dick Gawitt, Monica Moneri, Carol Moriarty, Claudette Polhemus, Karen Renfro, Cathy Root, and Penny Whitaker.

These people have given hours of their time to continue transportation services on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, and they have increased their commitment in order to provide additional transportation services for Senior Center events on Wednesdays and for special events and wellness trips on weekends and evenings.

New volunteer drivers are desperately needed. To offer transportation services five mornings per week requires 22 drivers. Please consider donating one morning a month to this very worthwhile program, and remember, that you may one day need to take advantage of this free transportation program. To volunteer, please call the Transportation Coordinator at Senior Center, 860-742-3525.

The program provides rides for the elderly and disabled to locations in the Coventry, Manchester, Vernon and Tolland areas. Rides are provided for medical, personal, social and educational purposes. Rides to locations in the Willi-

COVENTRY STEPS

If you are interested in sending your child to preschool in the 2014-2015 school year, but are concerned about the cost, there may be assistance for your family. Coventry is a recipient of the annual School Readiness Grant from the State Dept of Education, which helps families from below State Median Income send their children to preschool on a sliding fee scale. Assistance varies from family to family, based on income and family size, but a family of four, earning under \$76,000 can qualify for some assistance. All of the School Readiness spaces are at the Coventry Early Childhood Center (CECC). If you are interested in learning more about the School Readiness program, please contact CECC at 742-5859.

For information and resources for parents of young children, please visit the Coventry STEPS website, www.coventrysteps.com. You will find information about play groups, car seat safety, library information, the Coventry Community Plan for Children Birth to Age 8 and the Coventry Resource Guide for parents with young children.

Coventry STEPS is pleased to be co-sponsoring, along with Mansfield Advocates for Children, a People Empowering People Class (PEP) beginning this winter. PEP is a parent leadership class which is focused on values, communication skills, problem solving skills, parenting skills, leadership skills, action planning and community opportunity. PEP is also for parents who want to **learn more about their communities; advocate for young children & families, meet new people and get involved. It is a FREE ten week class and will commence with a community service project. The class will be held in Mansfield on Tuesday evenings beginning in mid to late January. Dinner and free childcare for your children will be provided. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please contact Kathryn Hassler, STEPS Coordinator at coventrysteps@yahoo.com or 377-5203.**

Congratulations to the Coventry Early Childhood Center (CECC) which recently received their 5 year accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). This is a tremendous accomplishment for a preschool and requires meeting very rigorous standards in areas including: Curriculum and Assessment, Teaching Staff, Physical Environment and Partnerships with Families. According to the NAEYC website "Accreditation systems are a major part of NAEYC's efforts to improve early childhood education; they allow programs to provide the best learning experiences for young children and their educators by meeting national standards of quality."

mantic and Mansfield areas are provided by the WRTD Dial-A-Ride Program.

Low cost Wellness Trips are also offered on a regular basis. Commercial coaches are used for longer trips and trips out of state. Recent trips have included the Lyman Allyn Art Museum in New London, the New England Air Museum in Windsor Locks, the Shoreline Trolley in East Haven, and a tour of Historic Hartford as well as trips to the Windham Theater Guild and the Band Shell Concerts, and Manchester Community College Older Adults Programs. These Wellness Trips are provided to seniors and disabled citizens at very low cost. Transportation for these special

trips is paid for with a grant from the Connecticut Department of Transportation.

Mileage Reimbursement can also be provided for transportation to medical facilities and related services beyond what is currently provided by the Coventry Senior Transportation Program. This program provides reimbursement of mileage expenses for volunteers using their own vehicles, who assist the disabled and residents age 60 and over. Mileage Reimbursement funding is provided by the Connecticut Department of Transportation Grant. Please call for additional information.



COVENTRY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairman; Mary Kortmann, Vice-Chairman; Mary Minor, Secretary;
Eugene Marchand, William Oros, Denise Ryan, Michael Sobol



BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS: The Board of Education generally meets on the second and last Thursday of each month. Regular Board meetings for 2014 are: January 9, January 30, February 13, February 27, March 13, March 27, April 10, April 24, May 8, May 29, June 12, June 26, July 10, July 31, August 14, August 28, September 11, September 23, October 9, October 30, November 13, December 4, and December 11. Unless noted on the agenda, all meetings are held in the Town Hall Annex building at 7:30 p.m.



COVENTRY BOARD OF EDUCATION GOALS:

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

COVENTRY PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2013-2014 GOALS: It is the Mission of the Coventry Public Schools to prepare every student for life, learning and work in the 21st century. Embracing this vision, we began the 2013-2014 school year with a continued focus on technology initiatives, instructional improvement and creating a learning environment where students and staff feel safe and respected.

Goals and plans of each school administrator are in support of the Board of Education goals for the Coventry Public Schools. Below are excerpts from goals across the district which represent just a few of the many plans for improvement for the 2013-2014 school year.

Coventry Grammar School (CGS):

- Ensure that 100% of all English Language Arts (ELA) and math resources meet the grade level expectations outlined in the newly aligned Common Core State Standards (CCSS) at all grade levels
- Engage in district and school-wide forums regarding the acquisition and integration of technology into

daily instruction to accelerate learning and to facilitate creativity and innovation

- Increase our opportunities to communicate and network with families, community members and the public in an effort to provide information and opportunities for all students by 20% as measured by a school survey to be completed in the spring
- Provide on-going opportunities and training for staff that monitor and support the implementation of the new teacher evaluation instrument

George Hersey Robertson School (GHR):

- Continue the alignment in the English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics curriculum, instruction, and assessment to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), with a focus on instructional strategies utilized and Common Formative Assessment (CFA) and performance task development
- Collaborate with stakeholders to develop a Mission Statement and Positive School Climate Plan for the GHR learning community
- In addition to professional development on MyMath resource utilization and the use of iPads in the elementary classroom, provide teachers with a minimum of 3 professional development opportunities focused on writer's workshop
- Provide teachers with the support necessary, specifically in the areas of goal writing and revision and evidence gathering, to fully under-

stand the evaluation process as outlined in the Coventry Professional Learning Plan

Capt. Nathan Hale School (CNH):

- Advance the implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) curriculum in all English Language Arts and Math classrooms; articulate and implement the CCSS across disciplines in preparation for the Smarter Balanced Assessment
- Continue to increase the use of digital resources and technology skills (iPad implementation) as assessed through district and building level assessments ensuring students are using a variety of media and formats to communicate information and ideas effectively to multiple audiences, and that students use technology resources for solving problems and making informed decisions
- Support and expand effective working relationships with PTO, including staff, parent community and the general public through multiple means of communication including the CNH/CHS Joint Parent Presentations, Career Day, CNH website, PowerSchool and quarterly newsletter
- Work collaboratively with teaching staff through the new teacher evaluation process; assist with goal setting, professional growth commitments and support needed for staff learning opportunities that lead to stronger instructional practices and increased student achievement

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COVENTRY BOARD OF EDUCATION GOALS:

- Continued from page 14

Coventry High School (CHS):

- Implement Common Core State Standards curriculum in English and math; evaluate performance task alignment to standards and performance task structure to Smarter Balanced Assessment items
- Implement the iPad initiative in Grade 10 to enhance students' development of 21st century learning skills and to support identified student learning outcomes
- Continue to develop a positive partnership with parents by providing evening workshops and trainings on topics of interest to parents
- Establish structures and processes for the implementation of the new teacher evaluation instrument including the necessary education, training, and supports for teachers

OPEN DOOR MEETINGS 2013-2014:

Come meet the Superintendent of Schools, David Petrone. As the Superintendent of Schools, one of my initiatives is to meet with as many parents and members of our Coventry community as possible. Open communication is a key component for true collaboration. I invite you to keep informed about education in our town by attending any of my remaining Open Door meetings this school year.

Tuesday, February 4 at 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, March 26 at 2:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 1 at 6:00 p.m.

All of these informal gatherings will be held in the Administration Building conference room at 1700 Main Street. If you are unable to attend one of these scheduled events, but would still like to meet, please phone our office at 860-742-7317 x2. Thank you!

As a district, we have wasted no time in our efforts to make progress in achieving our objectives in each goal area. Prior to the start of the school year, our newly formed technology team spent the summer preparing to pilot multiple programs to increase the use of technology and enrich the instructional experience for both staff and students.

Our instructional improvement initiatives take a multifaceted approach by aligning curriculum to meet state standards and implementing teacher evaluation practices that allow for the coaching and development of staff. Administrators and certified staff are working collaboratively to make sure staff members have the tools they need to prepare our students for success.

We are continuing our efforts to maintain and promote a learning environment that encourages openness and collaboration through the refining of the Safe School Climate Plan. Special funding from the state and town will supply the needed resources for school safety improvement plans that were developed through the collaborative efforts of the district and the community.

Coventry school staff members consider it an honor to serve the children of Coventry Public Schools and will continue to work collaboratively with families and the community to ensure they receive the best education possible in a safe environment preparing them for the challenges of college and career.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS AND INFORMATION

ALERTNOW INFORMATION: Keeping families informed is a top priority at Coventry Public Schools. The ALERTNOW notification system is in its third year of use. This system allows us to send a **telephone message** to families providing important information about school emergencies.

We use ALERTNOW to notify families of school emergencies, closings, delayed openings, and unplanned early releases. In the event of an emergency at school, you can have peace of mind knowing that you will be informed as soon as possible by phone. In addition, the system will phone homes if a child is absent from school and the nurse has not received parent notification (attendance call).

CLOSINGS, LATE OPENINGS, UNPLANNED EARLY RELEASES:

These announcements are carried on radio stations WILI (98.3 FM, 1400AM), WTIC (96.5 FM, 1080AM), WRCH (100.5 FM), WZMX (93.7), WKSS (95.7), and WWYZ (92.5). Announcements are also carried on the television stations WFSB Channel 3, WVIT Channel 30 (cable channel 4), and WTNH Channel 8.



**TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN OF COVENTRY
1712 MAIN STREET
COVENTRY, CT 06238**

*****ECRWSS***
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COVENTRY, CT 06238**

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STORRS, CT
PERMIT NO. 106**

Help us avoid being fined for contaminated recycling. Only authorized recyclables can go into the blue barrels. The worst violations are electronics (dispose free at the Transfer Station), plastic bags (paper bags are ok) and waste. The system only works with understanding and honesty. Thank you.

Single Stream Recycling

You can place all **acceptable** recyclables in one bin!



Paperboard boxes



Opened mail & greeting cards



Loose metal jar lids & steel bottle caps



Paper egg cartons



Rinsed #1-7 plastic tubs & screw-top jars



Rinsed plastic bottles & jugs



Paperback books



File folders



Phone books



White & color office paper



Rinsed clean, balled aluminum foil & pie pans



Rinsed glass bottles & jars



Empty aerosol cans



Magazines, brochures & catalogs



Newspapers & inserts



Corrugated cardboard & paper bags



Rinsed cans



Rinsed paper milk/juice cartons





WILLIMANTIC
WASTE PAPER CO., INC.

www.WilliWaste.com
1-800-286-5335

PROHIBITED ITEMS



Plastic Bags



Styrofoam & Coolers



Electronics



Food Waste & Trash

Plastic Bags

Trash / Food Waste / Garbage

Unacceptable Paper – Wax paper, soiled paper, soiled napkins & paper, pet food bags & dryer sheets, shredded paper

Unacceptable Plastics – Non Bottles Plastics (Examples: Garden hose, trash & zip lock bags, cereal box bags, bubble wrap, clear plastic wrap, potato chip bags, single cheese wrappers, soiled plastic bottles & bags, Styrofoam, coolers, straws, silverware)

Unacceptable Aluminum – Soiled aluminum foil, soiled tin cans

Unacceptable Cardboard – Soiled pizza boxes & soiled cardboard (Examples: Grease, mold, paint)

Unacceptable Glass – Windowpane glass, plated glass, windshield glass, ceramics, candle glass

Unacceptable Items Miscellaneous – Pillows, clothing items, furniture, sheet rock, wood, yard waste