



## Message from Julie Blanchard, Town Council Chairwoman

Dear Citizens:

Please participate in the budget process this spring. Turmoil at the State level has contributed toward a very challenging budget season. We urge you to attend the Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, April 22, 2017, 10 AM in the Coventry High School Veterans Auditorium. The meeting will be adjourned to a budget referendum vote on Tuesday, May 2nd, where citizens will vote on two questions: the Town Budget and the Booth & Dimock Memorial Library building expansion project. Please see the Budget in Brief document in the center section of this newsletter for more details.

Please join your community to honor our fallen heroes at the annual Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 29th. The parade kicks off at 10 AM from GH Robertson School. See the Coming Events section on page five of this newsletter for more information and a list of other notable events.

Senior citizens, please take note that the Town Council authorized an additional tax credit option that may provide some savings for you. Details can be found in the Assessor’s Office article on page three.

Best wishes,  
Julie A. Blanchard

### TOWN MANAGER UPDATE

The Town tries to stay in touch with our residents but we still have people tell us we don’t share enough information or respond to every Facebook question. Given the structural aid changes the State is proposing it is more important than ever to stay tuned in to your Town and State. So, here are some ways to do so:

- The simplest way to share an opinion or get an answer is to call or email the Town Manager (JElssesser@coventryct.org or 860-742-6324.)
- If you want to be informed about coming events and notable items, please sign up for Coventry Community Update - our monthly e-blast, by going to the Town website: [www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org). Look for the blue “Notify Me” button on the left hand side of the page. While you are there you can also sign up to receive agendas, minutes, job openings, emergency alerts or bid announcements—when we post them they are automatically sent to you.
- The Town Manager’s office does maintain a Facebook page at [facebook.com/CoventryCTTownManager](https://facebook.com/CoventryCTTownManager). We post updates there periodically, particularly for “breaking news”, so you might want to “like” or “follow” the page. While we do try to tune in to other Facebook pages from time to time to see what dialogue our citizens are engaging in, there are several such forums there and keeping up with all of them is not practical. A question or comment to me on one of those pages may not be seen or responded to in a timely manner, so I encourage you to use official channels if you want social media engagement.
- Town Council meetings are broadcast live on Charter channel 191 and streamed live on the Internet. Click the blue button on the Town website that says “CoventryVision” for links to those resources. If you can’t find something on our website, try the search feature

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#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Project Updates — pg. 2
- Farmers’ Market Opening Day—pg. 5
- Budget in Brief — center section
- Crumbling Concrete Foundations —pg. 11

**TOWN HALL HOLIDAYS:**

May 29	Memorial Day
July 4	Independence Day
Sept. 4	Labor Day

## Comings & Goings and Staff Accomplishments

Congratulations to **Noel Waite**, Fire/EMS Administrator, who achieved his Certified Fire Investigator (CFI) credentials from the International Association of Arson Investigators.

Town Manager **John Elsesser** has been appointed as Chairman of the E9-1-1 Commission. The Commission was established by State statute to advise the Division of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications in the planning, design, implementation and coordination of the statewide emergency 9-1-1 telephone system.

Officer **Robert Dexter** has recently joined the Capitol Region Emergency Services Team (CREST) as a tactical officer after a rigorous selection process. The CREST team is composed of selected officers from nine towns to provide on an as-needed basis, highly trained and skilled tactical units with specialized vehicles, weapons and equipment. The CREST team operates under a written agreement with the participating towns and specific policies and procedures. CREST can quickly respond to critical incidents such as hostage situations, barricaded and armed persons, and high risk suspect apprehension and warrant service. **Sergeant Chris Fiore** and **Officer Michelle Hicks** have been CREST negotiators for some time. Officer Dexter is the first Coventry officer to join CREST as a tactical officer. We want to thank all of the officers assigned to CREST for their commitment and dedication to this important assignment.

Welcome to **Amanda Backhaus**, who has joined us as Town Finance Director. Amanda brings a wealth of knowledge to her new role with a background in accounting and as a municipal auditor.

Congratulations to Parks & Recreation Director **Wendy Rubin**, who has met the requirements to become a Certified Park and Recreation Professional from the National Recreation and Park Association.

## TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE

— Continued from pg. 1

on the upper-right-hand corner of the page—it is robust and you will usually find what you are looking for in the top one or two links displayed in the search results.

- You can also get “Up To” updates for Library, Parks & Recreation and other non-profit events. From our website, hover over “Come Visit” in the green bar at the top of the page, and click on “06238 Calendar.”
- Interested in Town finances? Our checkbook and other financial data is open for your review on OpenGov. You can see how your money is spent and create your own charts and graphs. Visit the Finance Department webpage (Under “Your Government”) and click on the link that says “Access Current Financial Data.”
- All town meetings are open to sit in and learn about what the many Boards and Commissions are doing. You may decide that active participation is the best way to be involved, so a list of current vacancies on Boards and Commissions and a Statement of Interest form is available on the website. From the green bar at the top of the page, click on “Your Government” > “Boards and Commissions.”

We are trying in many ways to share what we do every day as well as creating a feedback loop to make sure we are on the right path. We thank you for tuning into your hometown and helping us steer the course.

John A. Elsesser  
Town Manager

## PROJECTS UPDATE

There are many construction projects underway and starting. Please look at the Public Works section of the newsletter for the planned road work for this construction season. The biggest project will be improvement work on sections of Lake and Cross Streets which is 100% funded under a State LOCIP grant. The project will improve road and pedestrian safety and clean drainage run-off prior to discharging into the lake. We had numerous bids for this project and they are under local and State review. We expect the project to start in late May and be finished by fall.

Natural gas is flowing and the Town Hall, Annex and School Administration building are connected. The High School and Middle School will be connected over spring school break week. Coventry Fire and the Police station will be connected in early May. We expect to receive rebates to offset some of the boiler costs.

The lake gate project was completed on time to close the gate as we normally do on April first, to start raising the lake to summer level. Final landscaping and paving will be scheduled as it gets warmer.



*The lake gate project.*

The sidewalk project in front of the High School will be finished over the next several months. The grant will allow us to extend the sidewalk to Hemlock Point and around the corner a bit toward the High School entrance. A tree grant will enable us to plant trees along the route. Bids for the CHS tennis court were rejected since they came in too close to our funding limit. The scope of work is being adjusted and the project will be re-bid. It is planned to start the project after High School graduation.

We are meeting this month with CT DOT to select our new senior van, which is 80% federally-funded and match included in the current year's budget. We are also planning to proceed with a flag pole stone scape at the Town Hall and making improvements to our newest park next to the dam on Depot Road. These projects are also both grant funded.

The State Main Street project is starting up for the final construction season. We are awaiting completion of the pond in front of Meet Me on Main/Ackert Electric to get utilities to the stone Tracy Shoddy Mill. Using a Main Street grant, this building will be an available space for special events with a large meeting room, bathrooms and a small kitchen. Please support your local businesses during construction.

Other grant-funded projects are also in the works to provide environmental and cultural enhancements. See the Land Use page for details on a couple of these projects.

## TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

860-742-4066

Delinquent notices were mailed within the last few months for overdue taxes, sewer and COVRRRA bills. Intent to lien notices for COVRRRA were mailed in March and liens were filed in April against those properties which were not paid current. Sewer assessment bills will be mailed the end of April. Due date for the first installment is May 1<sup>st</sup> and taxpayers have 30 days to pay before late charges apply. An on-line payment option is also available to Coventry taxpayers who wish to pay from their bank account. From the home page on the Town website, [www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org), click on the left blue box titled Online Bill Pay. You will be offered two options for online payments and the first option is the payment from a bank account. This will connect you to the link to find your bill. You can pay one or more bills. Once you have selected your bills and added them to your cart, you will proceed to checkout. At checkout, you will be at the Webster online bill pay site where you will be directed to set up your bank information. A charge of fifty cents per check may apply. Taxpayers are also able to use credit cards to pay their bills online or through a toll free phone number. This service is provided by Official Payments Corporation and they do charge a convenience fee. A link to their website can be found on the Town of Coventry's website, [www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org). The toll free phone number for Official Payments is: 1-800-2PAYTAX (1-800-272-9829). You will need to know your list number, correct amount due and Coventry's jurisdiction code which is 1721. Please call the Tax Office before contacting Official Payments Corp. and we will be happy to explain the procedure. Please keep in mind those online payments by check or credit card can take up to ten (10) days to process due to weekends and holidays. Scheduling online payments during the last few days of any month may cost you in addi-

tional late fees due to the delay in moving your funds by your bank or credit card company.

Any individual needing an immediate DMV clearance in order to register any vehicle is reminded to pay by cash or money order at the Tax Collector's office. Check payments (in person or online) and online credit card payments may delay your DMV clearance up to ten (10) business days.

Citizens are reminded that the tipper barrels are owned by All American Waste, the Town's contracted hauler, and must stay with the property to which it has 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 (\$165-\$245) pays for the disposal/recycle service only.

The current fiscal year will end June 30, 2017. 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. Please contact this office if you have any questions concerning the status of your accounts.

**PAYMENT DUE CALENDAR:** **MAY** – Sewer Assessment fee 1<sup>st</sup> installment. **JULY** – Real Estate 1<sup>st</sup> installment; Motor Vehicle, COVRRRA and Personal Property **single** payment. **SEPTEMBER**- Sewer Use Fee **single** payment. **NOVEMBER** – Sewer Assessment fee 2<sup>nd</sup> installment. **JANUARY** – Real Estate 2<sup>nd</sup> installment and Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax only if applicable.

## ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

860-742-4067

Public records for the Assessor's Office can be viewed using the following links:  
[http://coventry.mapxpress.net/ags\\_map/](http://coventry.mapxpress.net/ags_map/) - Coventry Map Xpress updated daily  
or <http://www.mapgeo.com/crcogct/> - CRCOG website last updated February 2016

Property field cards, sketches, pictures, exemption applications and general information can be found on the Town's website. **Remember, that the property information is no longer available on the Vision Appraisal website.**

**The Elderly and Disabled homeowner program** began February 1, 2017, and applications are being processed until Monday, May 15, 2017. Our office sent reminder letters to those people who have to re-file. Remember, this program is income driven from the State and income guidelines are set by the State for both single and married individuals. Please contact our office if your income is less than \$42,900 if married, or less than \$35,200 if single, both must include Social Security benefits from your SSA-1099 and your adjusted gross income from your 2016 Federal Income tax return. The Town of Coventry also offers a local tax relief program which mirrors the income limits of the state benefit. The program has changed this year and it is offered as either a tax credit, that is equal to half of the state benefit, or it is a deferral equal to the State level, where an interest-free lien is filed on the Town Clerk's land records until it is paid or the property is sold at which time the deferred taxes must be paid.

**Veterans** must file their DD-214 with the Town Clerk prior to **October 1<sup>st</sup>** to be eligible for exemption. If you have already filed, you do not need to re-file. You will receive your exemption automatically. If veterans meet income guidelines, you may be eligible for Additional exemption. The program began February 1<sup>st</sup>, and applications are processed until October 1, 2017. Please call if your income is less than \$42,900 if married, or less than \$35,200 if single, both must include Social Security benefits from you SSA-1099 form and your adjusted gross income from your 2016 Federal Income tax return. You will be asked to provide proof of all the income documentation regarding both of the above applications.

# TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

860-742-7966

**RABIES CLINIC**  
**Saturday May 20<sup>th</sup> 2017**  
**Capt. Nathan Hale School**  
**1776 Main Street**  
**Coventry, CT 06238**

**\*\*Vaccination of domestic animals is an important component of rabies prevention programs. Connecticut state law requires vaccination of cats and dogs.**

Our Low Cost Rabies Clinic for cats and dogs is scheduled for Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 p.m. The fee is \$20.00 per vaccination. Cash only please. Please bring written proof of last rabies vaccination. This clinic is made possible through the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association.

## **JUNE IS DOG LICENSE RENEWAL MONTH!**

**\*\*MAKE YOUR #1 DOG , COVENTRY'S #1 DOG\*\***

**Send in your dog's license renewal 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 Tag #1. The Top Dog will also receive their license for FREE! Please have your entry in by May 26th and the winner will be notified by June 1<sup>st</sup>. All other license entries will be processed accordingly and mailed out in the beginning of June. Along with payment please include *current rabies certificate, proof of spay/neuter and a self-addressed stamped envelope. GOOD LUCK!!!!***

- \* \$8.00 for spayed or neutered dogs
- \* \$19.00 for unaltered dogs.
- \* Any dog license issued after June 30<sup>th</sup> is subject to a \$1.00 per month late fee.
- \* Licenses will not be sold in the office until June 1<sup>st</sup> .
- \* **Check your dog's rabies expiration date. If that date has expired, *NEW WRITTEN* proof of a current rabies vaccination is required to renew your dog's license.**
- \* 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.

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

## **THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE IS AVAILABLE TO NOTARIZE**

In accordance with Connecticut General Statutes:

- You must appear in person to sign document
- Provide 2 forms of proper identification:
  - Such as a driver's license or a photo ID, and a **signed** credit or debit cards (social security card or birth certificate cannot be used as a form of ID)
  - These ID's have to be current and not expired.

We are UNABLE to notarize the following documents:

- **ANY document** being recorded into the Coventry Land Records
- Wills- living or general wills
- Birth, death or marriage certificates not on file in our office

\* There is a \$5.00 fee for this service (cash or check).

## **IT'S FISHING SEASON!!**

All lifetime licenses issued since October 9, 2009 are now required to renew annually.

- \* 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 2017 Connecticut Angler's Guides each year for updates on DEEP regulations and other useful information online at [www.ct.gov/deep](http://www.ct.gov/deep) or pick up a copy in our office.

*Your 2017 fishing licenses are available at the Town Clerk's office or online at [www.ct.gov/deep](http://www.ct.gov/deep).*

- \* Hunting/ Inland Fishing-\$38
- \* Inland Fishing license-\$28
- \* All Waters Inland and Marine Fishing-\$32
- \* All Waters Hunting & Fishing - \$40
- \* Non-Resident licenses are also available at \$22 for a 3-day pass or \$55 for season license.
- \* Lifetime licenses are available free of charge to persons over 65. (Requires annual renewal)

Connecticut DEEP Bureau of Natural Resources has a Facebook page! It's Connecticut Fish and Wildlife and has lots of information on upcoming events, facts and beautiful pictures sent in by Facebook friends enjoying the outdoors. Check it out!

## **DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN LOOK AT COVENTRY'S LAND RECORDS ONLINE?**

*You can do this by going to the Town website at [www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org) and visiting the Town Clerk's webpage, clicking on Land Record Database under the Quick Links. Follow the prompts to the Search page, and enter the property owner's name. Viewing is free. Documents can be printed for a fee with a credit card.*

## COMING EVENTS & NOTABLE ITEMS

**April 22 & 23—Rid Litter Weekend:** The Coventry Conservation Commission is sponsoring a Rid Litter Weekend to coincide with annual Earth Day celebrations. The Conservation Commission is encouraging residents to do roadside cleanups along their property and neighborhood. This is a great opportunity for civic groups and neighborhood organizations to organize cleanup crews. The spring season is a perfect time to remove some of the trash and litter that has accumulated on our streets and properties over the long winter season. The Commission will provide free garbage bags that can be picked up at the Land Use Office at Town Hall.

**Fri. May 5 & June 2 — Quiet Corner Contra Dance:** Lesson at 7:30 PM, dance 8-11 PM. Patriots Park Lodge, 172 Lake Street. Dance to a caller and live music. Partner not necessary. Wear soft-soled shoes. An alcohol and tobacco-free event. Adults \$10, students \$5, families \$20. Contact Dave for info: 484-844-5203 or email dcannell@freeshell.org.

**MOTHERS DAY ROSES SALE:** The Coventry Lions Club is sponsoring a Mothers' Day Roses Sale. One dozen long stem roses bouquet is selling for \$18. Roses can be ordered by calling Cindy at 742-8709 or Gary at 742-6128. Orders can be picked up on Saturday May 13 at the parking lot at Coventry HS between 9am and noon. All proceeds go to supporting Lions Club scholarships and other community service activities.



The Coventry Arts Guild is now One Year Old and moving forward! It is welcoming new members, artists, sponsors, volunteers! Upcoming events include: **Music Instrument "Petting Zoo"** on May 20, **Watercolor classes** on June 17, August 19, November 11...and the **2nd Annual Arts in the Park Festival** on September 9! Interested?? Contact: [info@coventryartsguild.com](mailto:info@coventryartsguild.com), also [Facebook.com/coventryartsguild](https://www.facebook.com/coventryartsguild).

**May 29 — Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast:** 7-10 AM, First Congregational Church on Main St. ( Rte. 31). The Coventry Lions Club is sponsoring their annual Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast. Breakfast will consist of sausage, pancakes, and eggs. The price for breakfast is \$5.00 per person or \$12.00 per family with children under 5 for free. Enjoy breakfast while waiting for the parade. All proceeds go to benefit the Coventry Scholarship Program.

**May 29 - Memorial Day Parade:** 10 AM. Kicks off at G.H. Robertson School on Cross Street, stopping at Veteran's Memorial Green for services, and continuing down Lake Street to Main Street and up to Bradbury Road. Sponsored by American Legion Post 52. On Sunday, May 28, wreath-laying services will be held at 2 PM at St Mary's Cemetery, Main St., proceeding to the New Cemetery, Center Cemetery -Rt.#44, Grant Hill Road, Silver St. and Wrights Mill Road Cemeteries, and Nathan Hale Cemetery on Lake Street.

**June 24 - CoventryFest:** 4-10 PM, Patriots Park. Music, games, vendors, food, fun and fireworks. Coordinated by Coventry Knights of Columbus, American Legion Post 52 and the Boy Scouts. Rain date June 25. Info at [www.coventryfest.org](http://www.coventryfest.org).

**VISITORS' CENTER TO OPEN FOR THE SEASON:** The Coventry Visitors' Center, located in the village at 1195 Main Street, will re-open weekends from 10-2 PM beginning April 22, 2017. The Center is stocked with local history books, maps, Coventry mugs and memorabilia, as well as local and regional travel brochures. In addition to again showcasing an extensive exhibit of the Town's mill history, there will be a new display featuring the October 1994 "Destruction of the Visitors' Center". Call Pat (860-742-7847) or Jo Ann (860-742-9734) if you would like to be a volunteer Coventry ambassador. The Visitors' Center is managed by members of the Village Improvement Society.

## COVENTRY FARMERS' MARKET OPENING DAY 2017

Opening Day for the Coventry Farmers' Market is on June 4... right around the corner! Much of the market's success is due to the volunteers who help to make it work seamlessly each week. Interested in coming out to help? We're looking for volunteers for a wide range of roles including:

- \* Food Sampling Stations
- \* Break Down Team
- \* Parking Patrol

As a bonus for volunteering, we offer wooden nickels worth \$1 at any of our CFM vendors for every hour of volunteer time!

If you are interested in learning more about volunteering, please email [epagliuco@coventryct.org](mailto:epagliuco@coventryct.org). Don't forget to follow us for the latest market info on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/coventryfarmersmarket](https://www.facebook.com/coventryfarmersmarket)), Instagram ([www.instagram.com/coventryfarmersmarket](https://www.instagram.com/coventryfarmersmarket)) and Twitter ([twitter.com/coventryfarmmkt](https://twitter.com/coventryfarmmkt)). Sign up for our newsletter at [www.coventryfarmersmarket.org](http://www.coventryfarmersmarket.org).



Opening Day 2016. Photo by Laura Stone.

### DAFFODIL BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT:

April is the month when cheerful yellow faces pop up all around town, as a result of the Daffodil Beautification Project. Of the 350,000 daffodils planted since the project began in 1993, Village Improvement Society members and friends have donated and planted approximately 100,000 daffodils in public places around Coventry. Coventry residents can participate and purchase bulbs to plant in Coventry. Bulbs may be ordered now at \$3.50 per dozen, for October delivery. They are available in two varieties: Dutch Master (all yellow) and a mixture drawn from 2500 varieties. To order bulbs, call Judy at 860-214-9567.

Get monthly notices of upcoming events by subscribing to the Town's e-blast. Visit the "Notify Me" section of the website at [www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org) and click the box next to "Coventry Community Update."

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
100 Olsen Farm Road • 860-742-6588

Director / Tree Warden  
Superintendent of Operations  
Admin. Secretary / COVRRRA

Mark Kiefer  
Douglas Reese  
Donna Wrubel

[mkiefer@coventryct.org](mailto:mkiefer@coventryct.org)  
[dreese@coventryct.org](mailto:dreese@coventryct.org)  
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**TRANSFER STATION**

325 Main Street

**2017 SUMMER ROAD  
IMPROVEMENTS  
(Subject to budget)**

**Roads to be Chip Sealed:**

1. Grant Hill Road
2. Flanders Road
3. Flanders River Road
4. Springdale Avenue
5. Brewster Street
6. North River Road (Rt. 31 to Rt. 44)
7. Cedar Swamp Road (Bolton Branch to Vernon Branch)
8. Cedar Swamp Extension
9. Babcock Hill Extension
10. CVFA parking lot

**Bituminous Asphalt Shimming:**

Portions of the following roads will be full width (both lanes) shimmed 1.5 inches compacted in preparation for a Chip Seal finish course in 2018:

1. Daly Road
2. Broadway (North Farms to Carpenter Road)
3. Richmond Road (chip seal first)
4. Antrim Road and Lancaster Road
5. North Farms Road and Barbara Drive
6. Satari, Zeya and Noor Drive
7. Ridgebrook Drive

**Bituminous Asphalt Overlay:**

1. Bradbury Lane
2. Cross Street: (South Street to G.H.R.)

**WANT TO CHANGE YOUR TIPPER BARREL SIZE?** In response to citizens' requests, we are offering another opportunity to exchange your tipper barrels for a different size at the reduced fee of \$25. If you would like to swap, contact the Tax Office at (860) 742-4066 for various options and rates. **The swap order must be requested and paid for by May 17, 2017 in order to receive this reduced price.** The swap will occur the last two weeks of June in conjunction with the billing cycle for the new fiscal year. Consider upsizing your recycling barrel. There is no increase in your bill for a larger recycle barrel.

**Spring Ahead!** Transfer Station hours of operation from April through November will be every Thursday from noon until 6 pm and every Saturday from 9 am until 3 pm (excluding holidays). Proof of residency required.

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

**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:**

- Textiles – clean, dry, contained in a bag.
- Gas grill propane tanks for recycling.
- Corrugated cardboard in the specially marked cardboard dumpster.

- Leaves for composting.
- Electronics, fluorescent light bulbs, batteries.
- Metal materials (**metal tanks must be cut open and crushed**).

**Materials NOT acceptable:**

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

**Come to the Transfer Station for some free compost. Bring your own shovel/bucket.**

Spring is here and the Coventry Cemetery Committee would like to ask plot owners to remove all fall and Christmas ornamentation so that spring clean-up and mowing can begin. Thank you for your cooperation.

**CLEAN THAT CLOSET !!** The Textile Recycling Program managed by Bay State Textile has provided The Town of Coventry three collection boxes to recycle textiles. One is located at our transfer station, one next to the Annex behind the Town Hall and the other is located at Public Works, 100 Olsen Farm Road. **All** of the following items are acceptable and can be donated in any condition as long as they're clean and dry. Must be in bags: *belts, blankets, boots, bras, coats, comforters, curtains, draperies, dresses, flip flops, Halloween costumes, hats, jackets, jeans, jerseys (sports), napkins (cloth), pajamas, pants, pet beds, pet clothing, pillow cases, pillows, purses, scarves, sheets, shirts, shoes, shorts, skirts, slippers, socks, stuffed animals, suits, sweaters, sweatpants, sweatshirts, table linens, ties, towels, t-shirts, undergarments.*

**Donate – Recycle – Don't throw away**

# WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

## Contact Us:

Mike Ruef, WWTP Operator, 860-742-4064, email [mruef@coventryct.org](mailto:mruef@coventryct.org)

[www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org): the link to the WPCA page can be found by clicking on Your Government > Boards & Commissions > Water Pollution Control Authority

## Projects Update:

- Main Street Reconstruction: Sewer work in the roadway complete, several items off the road to finish up this year. Lake Street sewer extension substantially complete.
- Western Route 44 Sewer Planning Area: Working with consultants to finalize scope for hydraulic study of Bolton's sewer system.
- Southern Main Street Paving: Waiting on project schedule from CT DOT. Town ready to rehab 24 manholes in the road.

## We Need Your Help:

We are running out of ways to say it but sometimes good people put bad things into our sewer system. We could list all the things we **aren't** supposed to put down the drain but that would waste paper so here's a much shorter list of things that are **ok** to put into the sewer system (or a septic system): **bodily waste, toilet paper, water from washing** (bathing, dishes, laundry—not sump pumps). That's it. Anything else we flush causes damage to the system and/or wastes resources to remove.

**Lake Wangumbaug:** The Lake Gate Project is now complete. The new sluice gate has been closed to allow for the level of the lake to rise naturally in preparation for spring and summer recreational activities. We will monitor the lake level and adjust the gate accordingly in order to bring the lake up to summer level. Call Doug Reese at Public Works (860) 742-6588 or email [dreese@coventryct.org](mailto:dreese@coventryct.org).

**Employment.** If you like outdoor physical work, have a valid driver's license and are 18 or older, we are looking for you. The Public Works Department has an opening (pending budget approval) for a summer laborer paying \$10.10/hr. for 40 hour week. Accepting applications immediately. For more info call (860) 742-6588.

## Did You Know?

- It is about 27,000 feet from the highest point of the sewer system (Main St @ Daly Rd) to the wastewater treatment plant. It takes about 4 hours for a flush at the Penalty Box to make it to the treatment plant.
- The term "flushable" wipes is not industry controlled, it is simply put on packaging by manufacturers to sell products. Sure you can "flush" wipes down the toilet but they absolutely positively will clog up something eventually; your house sewer, the sewer main in the street, or the pumps at the wastewater treatment plant.
- Since the wastewater treatment plant came online in 1986 we have treated about 950 million gallons of water!
- Low interest/deferred loans for sewer connections are available for households within the sewer service area that meet federal income guidelines. Contact Mike Ruef for details.



**Tree Warden:** Connecticut laws protect trees in Town Right of Ways and properties. 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. Call before you cut. Rights of Way vary from Road to Road. Trees removed unlawfully are subject to a fine equal to the appraised value of the tree. The Tree Warden's email address is [mkiefer@coventryct.org](mailto:mkiefer@coventryct.org). 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.

## TOWN/STATE PROJECTS

**Main Street Reconstruction: (CDOT #32-130):** Connecticut Department of Transportation's project second and final construction season will restart in April. The Project will continue with the roadway realignment work, sidewalk and streetscape work, and the remaining storm drainage improvements. The major utility companies will also be performing their necessary overhead relocation work to accommodate the revised roadway alignment. The corridor will remain open to traffic, but delays can be expected due to alternating one-way traffic by Traffic control personnel. Construction is anticipated to be complete by November 2017. Please support your local businesses during construction.

**Lake and Cross Street Improvement (LOTICIP):** This Town project expects to start construction in May/June. Paving improvements, sidewalk construction, stormwater improvements and traffic calming will be implemented. The corridor will remain open to traffic, but delays can be expected due to alternating one-way traffic by Traffic control personnel.

**Main Street Streetscape/Sidewalk Project (CDOT #32-145):** The Project's landscaping improvements will be installed during the same time as the Main Street Reconstruction project.

**Main Street Sidewalk Extension Project (CDOT #32-147):** The project will be extended to the Hemlock Point Road in the spring when the contractor returns for restoration work to establish and stabilize grass slope by the High School soccer field.

**Coventry High School / Tennis Court Expansion Project:** The project adds a fourth tennis court adjacent to the existing three courts. The bids are being analyzed and an award will be made in a couple of weeks. The project will start at the end of the school year.

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

Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup> – Memorial Day  
Tuesday, July 4<sup>th</sup> – Independence Day  
Monday, September 4<sup>th</sup> – Labor Day

### WHAT GOES IN THE RECYCLING CART?



All the following items are ok to put in the blue tipper cart. They should be empty and rinsed clean: *Paperboard boxes, corrugated cardboard & paper bags, mail, paper-back books & phone books, file folders, office paper, magazines, catalogs, newspapers & inserts, jar lids and bottle caps, paper egg cartons, #1 – 7 plastic food and beverage containers, aluminum foil and pie pans, beverage cans, empty aerosol cans, paper milk / juice cartons, glass beverage / food bottles & jars.*



All the following items are NO-NO'S for the blue tipper cart: **NO! PLASTIC BAGS. NO! ELECTRONICS. NO! STYROFOAM / COOLERS. NO! FOOD / TRASH.**

**Curbside Monthly Oversized Items Pickup:** On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month residents may place at curbside by 6:30 am up to three oversized items to be picked up for free. These large nonmetal items must be out on Monday regardless of your regular trash day. Examples are dresser, mattress or recliner chair w/ metal removed.

**Coventry's Best Kept Secret -- "In yard" trash/recycling service available:** Do you know someone who might benefit from having their trash or recycle cart picked up right at their back door? (A mutually agreed upon location somewhere along the driveway may be necessary for those extra long driveways.) No more struggling to wheel their carts to the curb!! The town has a **few** slots for those special needs people (no additional fees involved) who are elderly or handicapped 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.

**COVRRRA questions?** Call Public Works at (860) 742-6588 or e-mail [dwrubel@coventryct.org](mailto:dwrubel@coventryct.org).

## HOUSEHOLD CHEMICAL WASTE DROP-OFF FACILITY

57 Hancock Road - Willington, CT 06279 - Phone: (860) 684-3163  
Open from 9 am to 2 pm on the first and third Saturday of the month from **May 6, 2017 through November 4, 2017.**  
**Closed July 1, 2017 and September 2, 2017.**

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

As a Coventry resident you may bring residential quantities of hazardous waste to the facility at no cost but bring proof of residency. If you operate a small business in a MidNEROC town, then contact the MidNEROC Administrator at (860) 289-2296 to find out if you qualify as a "conditionally exempt small quantity generator" and to make an appointment. There is a fee for this service.

Chemical Waste is a problem! When hazardous wastes are poured down the sink or toilet, dumped "out back", poured into a street drain or put out into the trash, they eventually make their way into our water supply.

### Acceptable Materials

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Bug spray                | Engine/radiator flushes                  |
| Mercury thermometers     | Fire starters                            |
| Dry cleaning fluid       | Chemistry kits                           |
| Fluorescent bulbs        | Paint (latex, oil or lead based)         |
| Arts & crafts supplies   | Rust preventative                        |
| Rechargeable batteries   | Wood preservative                        |
| General purpose cleaners | Solvents                                 |
| Hazardous Aerosol cans   | Degreasers                               |
| Drain cleaners           | Wood strippers                           |
| Metal polishes           | Paint thinner                            |
| Floor cleaners           | Fertilizers with pesticides & herbicides |
| Oven cleaners            | Herbicides                               |
| Wax & polishes           | Muriatic acid                            |
| Tile cleaners            | Pesticides                               |
| Toilet cleaners          | Insect spray                             |
| Gasoline                 | Pool chemicals                           |

### Nonacceptable Materials

- √ **Medication:** Do not flush down the toilet or drain. Many prescriptions may be disposed of at the Coventry Police Department (860) 742-7331 or for further information <http://www.ct.gov/dep/lib/dep/p2/individual/consumerpharmdisposalfactsheet.pdf>
- √ **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.

### Recycled through your town

- |               |             |                  |
|---------------|-------------|------------------|
| Car batteries | Motor oil   | Transmission oil |
| #2 fuel oil   | Brake fluid | Kerosene         |
| Gas cylinders | Diesel fuel | Antifreeze       |

**Road Sweeping Schedule for the Spring of 2017** is available by calling the Public Works Department at (860) 742-6588.

## LAND USE OFFICE

860-742-4062

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SURVEY

The Coventry Economic Development Commission completed the first round of a local business survey to better understand the needs of the businesses in town. The survey was available via Survey Monkey. The results of the survey are being carefully evaluated by the Commission and staff and will provide specific guidance on tasks that can be undertaken to respond to the priority issues that are identified in the survey responses. The initial reaction is that businesses would like the opportunity to gain more training assistance on marketing and advertising. In response to that, the Commission will be scheduling small business workshops in 2017. The first one is being tentatively scheduled for the morning of May 12 in the Town Hall Annex and will focus on using social media - Facebook tools to help one's business. Visit the Town website to learn more details about the forum. The Commission is also doing one-on-one business visitations with several businesses in town, which will provide even further insight into the needs of the business community. Please contact Eric Trott at [etrott@coventryct.org](mailto:etrott@coventryct.org) or 860-742-4062 if you have any questions or to schedule a business visitation with a Commission member.

### HISTORIC PHOTOS PROJECT

The Town was awarded a 'Telling Stories that Matter' grant from the Last Green Valley in 2016. The goal of the grant was to fund projects that 'preserve, interpret, promote or market historical and cultural resources...to bring stories from the Last Green Valley to life.' The grant funding is being used to promote awareness of historic images which demonstrate the rich historic past of the town that were donated by John Welles Brainard to the Town a couple years ago. Fifteen 2' x 3' enlargements will be permanently mounted, and 200 standard sized photos will be bound in photo albums. Many photos have been loaded up to the Town's website ([www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org)). Click on 'Come Visit' > 'Photo Gallery'. In all mediums, the photos will be identified by local historic experts, including members of the Coventry Historical Society. Display easels have been purchased to properly display the images. The first 'soft opening' of the photos was at the Booth Dimock Library during the Christmas in the Village event and was met with great enthusiasm. A sampling of photos are in the hallway outside the Building/Land Use Department as well. Keep in touch with the Town's website about details on a grand showcase of the images at a special event at the Tracy Shoddy Mill, behind Meet Me on Main in Historic Coventry Village in the spring. Please contact Eric Trott if you have any questions.

### EASTERN GATEWAYS TRANSPORTATION STUDY

The towns of Bolton, Coventry, Mansfield, and Tolland, and the University of Connecticut are partnering with the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) to study the RT. 44 and 195 transportation corridors. These corridors have been identified as needing a comprehensive transportation plan that provides sustainable solutions to meet the current and future travel demand anticipated for the communities. Key considerations include: enhancing safety, capacity, access management, connectivity, and multimodal options, while factoring in smart growth planning, fostering livable, economically sustainable communities, as well as complete streets. The study is being prepared with the consulting firm of Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc. in association with WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff and Ninigret Partners. A Technical Advisory Committee consisting of municipal staff from each town, representatives from UCONN, and special interest groups will help guide the overall process of the plan development. A study website (<http://www.cteasterngateways.com>) has been launched that serves as a clearinghouse of information with the ability to sign up for regular newsletter updates. A video of a public forum held in Coventry on December 1, 2016 on the project is available on the Town website under "CoventryVision." The project is scheduled to be completed during the summer of 2017. Please contact Eric Trott if you have any questions.

### COVENTRY LAKE ZONE PAVING PROJECTS

Property owners who intend to perform paving projects in the Coventry Lake region involving driveways, walkways or other areas are encouraged to inquire about impervious surface requirements that exist in the zoning regulations. Impervious surfaces are ones that do not allow for the percolation of surface water, such as structures and bituminous paving. The zoning regulations contain limits on how much area can be covered by impervious surfaces in order to manage the stormwater that is generated, which ultimately affects the environmental health of Coventry Lake. The installation of a paved surface on a lot can impact the future ability to perform other construction projects. Copies of the regulations are available on the Town's website under Planning and Zoning or the Land Use Office. Questions can be directed to Mason Perrone, Planning Tech/Zoning Agent, [mperrone@coventryct.org](mailto:mperrone@coventryct.org) or 860-742-4062.

### ADOPT A ROAD PROGRAM

The Coventry Conservation Commission and Land Use Office continue to sponsor the Adopt a Road program for the com-

munity. The program entails 'adopting' a portion or all of a Town road and picking up the roadside trash that accumulates. Residents can do as much as they like and at their own pace. Free garbage bags are available in the Land Use Office and can be disposed of at the Public Works Garage at no charge. Please contact Eric Trott at for further details and application forms.

### TOWN RECEIVES AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL GRANT

The Town has been awarded \$7,800 from the State of CT DEEP America the Beautiful Forestry Program. The funding will facilitate the planting of maple trees at the Nathan Hale Homestead to enable sugar maple tapping and relative education. Trees will be planted in the 'Holy Grove' greenspace in front of the Homestead to replace diseased and distressed trees that had to be removed. Also, trees will be planted along the South Street right-of-way in conjunction with a drainage project between The Nathan Hale Ancient Fife and Drum Corps property and the Homestead and potentially in the vicinity of the Historic Strong Porter House. The project will likely be executed in the fall 2017. Questions can be directed to Eric Trott.

### RECREATIONAL TRAILS GRANT PROPOSAL

The State of CT DEEP has awarded the Towns of Bolton and Coventry \$110,632 of Recreational Trails Program Grant funds which will facilitate the planning and design of a potential multi-purpose, low impact trail on the properties that were obtained from the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CT DOT) as open space. Since 2013, the towns of Andover, Bolton and Coventry worked with CT DOT to pursue the conveyance of the former RT. 6 Expressway properties that were acquired to allow for the construction of a new highway through the towns. The expressway project ultimately was not constructed. The goal was for the towns to own the property and preserve it as open space and enable a future multi-purpose, low-impact trail system. Approximately 277 acres were conveyed to Coventry earlier in 2016. The funds will be utilized to hire a consultant to plan and design a multi-use trail system on the former CT DOT property between Bolton, Coventry and possibly Andover. A Request for Proposals is currently being prepared to consider potential firms to prepare the plan and preliminary design. The Town's hope is to provide a positive ending to a long, controversial matter in Eastern Connecticut that affected many residents. Please contact Eric Trott if you have any questions.

## COVENTRY YOUTH SERVICES

**Counseling Services** – Free counseling services are available to Coventry youth and their families at Youth Services. A licensed clinical social worker provides brief, solution-focused therapy and can address numerous struggles (depression, stress, self-esteem, divorce, etc.) that youth may be having. To set up an appointment, contact Crystal Morawitz, Youth Services Coordinator.

**Babysitters Training** – This annual training will be held in June. Please contact Youth Services if you are between the ages of 12 and 18 and interested in taking this training. Registration information will be available online and in schools mid-May.



**Campership Donations** – We are requesting donations for the 2017 summer campership fund. All donations go to help families in need pay for the Parks and Recreation Summer Adventure Camp. Checks can be made payable to The Town of Coventry. The number of camperships available is based on donations received.

**Camp Connri** – The Salvation Army's Camp Connri, located in Ashford, will soon be accepting applications for youth ages 8-12 to attend the 2017 overnight summer camp. Due to the community's generous donations collected through Bell Ringing efforts in December, Coventry Youth Services is able to send children to this camp at no cost or low cost based on financial eligibility. Applications are available in the Human Services office.

**“Gearing up to Learn” Back to School Program** – provides new backpacks, school supplies and Payless Shoe cards to Coventry families with school aged children, who meet the income guidelines. Please watch Coventry cable channel 191 and the local newspapers after July 18<sup>th</sup> for more information.

*For more information on any of the programs listed above, please like and share Coventry Youth Services on Facebook, or contact the Youth Services Coordinator, Crystal Morawitz, at 860-742-5324.*

## HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

860-742-5324

### FOOD BANK

The Coventry Food Bank is available to any individual or family experiencing difficult times and may need help with food. We have a variety of staple foods in stock which include: cereal, pasta, soup, canned vegetable, peanut butter/jelly and school snacks. We are solely a donor funded program and receive generous donations from many local residents, churches, schools, civic organizations and groups. If you are in need and wish to utilize the food bank, please call the Coventry Human Services Office to schedule an appointment.

### FOODSHARE

Mobile FoodShare is an outdoor food distribution for persons in need and is available every other Wednesdays from 10-10:30 at the 1st Congregational Church, 1171 Main Street, Coventry. Food choices vary from week to week but usually include bread and several types of fresh produce. Other items may also be offered depending on availability. Please remember to bring a bag or box with you to carry your food. If you have any questions please call FoodShare at 860-286-9999 or [www.foodshare.org](http://www.foodshare.org).

### RENTER'S REBATE PROGRAM OFFERED FOR ELDERLY & DISABLED RENTERS

Connecticut's Elderly Renters' Rebate Program provides direct, partial reimbursement to lower income elderly or disabled renters to help offset a portion of their rent and utility expenses. The

program, administered by Office of Policy and Management, provides for payments ranging up to \$900 for qualified married persons and up to \$700 for qualifying single persons. The rebate amount is based on a graduated income scale and the amount of rent and utility payments (excluding telephone) made in the calendar year prior to the year in which the renter applies. In order to qualify, married persons must have an annual income not greater than \$42,900 and single persons must have an annual income not greater than \$35,200. Eligible person may apply between April 1-October 1 each year and should contact the Coventry Human Services Office to schedule an appointment.

**The State of Connecticut  
Renters' Rebate Program Hotline  
is 860-418-6377**

### OPERATION FUEL ~ SUMMER UTILITIES

The Human Services will also be taking applications for Operation Fuel, an emergency energy assistance program for households that are in financial crisis. This will be for summer electric utilities, only. Financial crisis is defined as “the inability of a family to pay for an outstanding gas or electric bill, a household faced with the decision to choose between paying for their energy needs, buying food, paying rent or mortgage, paying medical bills as a result of unemployment, limited or fixed income, illness, death, or other emergencies”. Please contact the Human Services Office for further details and income guidelines.

### YOUTH JOB BANK-

**For Adults:** Could you use some help with spring clean up, inside or outside? Need a babysitter; lawn mower, or other odd-jobs around the house done? Hire a student from the Youth Job Bank! Youth Job Bank students range in age from 13-18 years old and can assist with yard work services, clean homes, provide animal care, babysit and more!

**For Youth:** Any student in grades 7-12 interested in becoming part of the job bank should contact Youth Services to schedule an appointment. We will go over program policies and procedures, in addition to learning basic job skills, safety measures and other key components to landing a job. Once students have completed this step, they can become part of the youth job bank pool.

**For information, contact Youth Services Coordinator, Crystal Morawitz at 860-742-5324.**



**SENIOR CENTER**  
172 Lake Street • 860-742-3525

**CELEBRATE SPRING – COME ON DOWN TO  
THE SENIOR CENTER!**

The Coventry Senior Center welcomes seniors 60 years and older to enjoy a variety of social, educational and wellness programs. There is no membership and many of our events are low to no cost! The Center is open Monday-Friday 9am-4pm. Come enjoy a cup of coffee and games in our beautiful lounge overlooking Coventry lake or join one of our weekly card or billiards matches! To see our monthly calendar visit the Senior Center page on the Town website or contact Emma King, Senior Center Coordinator at 860-742-3525.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**May 22, 2017 – Memorial Day Cook-Out – 12:00 pm** – Come enjoy hamburgers and hotdogs overlooking the lake at our annual feast with music from Bruce John!

**June 19, 2017 – End of Spring BRUNCH – 10:00 am** – Celebrate the end of spring with a delicious array of breakfast treats.

**Our OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH is back – the first Wednesday of the month. Come join our crew for a lunch at an area restaurant – call the center to find out where we are going this month (it’s always a surprise!)**



**Stay in touch with the senior center! Sign up for our e-blast newsletter on the town’s website or call the center for more information on how to stay connected!**

**CRUMBLING CONCRETE FOUNDATIONS: UPDATE**



A lot of progress is being made to raise the visibility of the crumbling concrete issue. Towns working through the Capitol Region Council of Government, State elected officials and non-profit groups have testified and submitted proposed legislation, and homeowners have told heart-breaking stories about

the impacts of having your home slowly cave in as the foundation cracks and fails through no fault of your own.

The legislative session is now in the home stretch and spending priorities are being set. Given the State’s financial situation, money for foundations will likely mean less spending elsewhere. State elected officials from outside our region are not as sympathetic since they are not tuned into this crisis as much. If you have friends and relatives down-state, we recommend you ask them to advocate on your behalf by calling or emailing their State Representatives and Senators.

We are one State and it is our region’s turn for help. It may not be upgraded train cars or new bridges but it is just as important to the Connecticut economy. Stay tuned for updates. Go to the Spotlight section on the home page of the Town website at [www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org) for links to additional information and resources.

**BUILDING  
DEPARTMENT**  
860-742-4064

**Spring Into Action:** Ideas of home improvements and exterior maintenance “spring” into action as better weather approaches. 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. Elbows at downspouts can become clogged from fall’s leaf debris. 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.

**Obtaining a Permit...** Residents are encouraged to secure their contractors and apply for permits as soon as possible for their upcoming spring and summer projects. Many contractors are eager to assist you with new projects. If you are considering a building project this year, be sure to submit your application 2-3 weeks in advance. The review process for applications can take longer during the busy construction season and is based on a first-come, first-served basis. So drop by the Building Department to pick-up your permit packet and a copy of your plot plan. We are more than happy to take a few minutes to discuss your project with you and get you started.

**Want your Building Plans?** The Building Department is only responsible for retaining building plans on projects for a maximum of two (2) years. We are then allowed to dispose of them. Beginning July 1<sup>st</sup> and ending September 30, 2017, the Building Department is allowing property owners to obtain the building plans for residential construction only. You must own the property to obtain the building plans. A Certificate of Use and Occupancy must have been issued for the structure prior to June 1, 2015. Please call Brigit at 860-742-4064 with your name, address & day-time phone number and we will contact you within few days to let you know if there are building plans available. At that time, you will be given 2 weeks to pick up the plans. Plans that are not picked-up will be discarded under the State’s disposal method.

## FROM THE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

**Open Burning is commonly performed in the spring. Here is some information to keep in mind during this season of burning...**

Early spring time weather typically includes daily changes in forest fire danger and can easily catch residents off guard. While many experience scattered showers with occasional pockets of moderate but brief rains, relative humidity in the low teens and strong winds quickly dry residual dead or cured vegetation from the previous winter to create ground conditions very conducive for fire ignition and spread. These daily variations will last until forest under growth greens during May.

Residents need to know that any permit to burn brush is not valid when the Forest Fire Danger is rated high, very high, or extreme. Anyone spotting a forest fire should remain calm and dial 911 to report the fire as quickly as possible to the local fire Department.

**Please remember that Open Burning Brush Fire Permits can be obtained in the Land Use/Permitting Office in Town Hall Monday – Friday during Town Hall hours.** They are good for 2 weeks and are free. They are only permitted to single family home properties.

### Forest Fire Prevention Tips

- Make a fire safe zone around your house. Clean flammable vegetation and debris from at least 30' around the house and any outbuildings.
- Prune away the lower limbs of evergreens that are within the fire safe zone. Evergreens catch fire easily during dry periods and burn quickly.
- Remove any limbs which overhang the roof or chimney. Regularly remove leaves and needles from gutters. Use fire resistant roofing materials.
- Don't store firewood in the fire safe zone.
- Make sure firefighters can find and access your home. Mark your house and roads clearly and prune away limbs and trees along your driveway which do not allow fire truck access.
- Have an escape plan and practice it.
- Follow state and local open burning laws.
- Stay with outside fires until they are completely safe and dead out, and dispose of wood ashes in a metal bucket, soaking them with water before dumping them.

## NEWS FROM THE COVENTRY FIRE DEPARTMENT

The North Coventry Volunteer Fire Department has been in operation since 1947. Please help us celebrate our 70-year birthday! The fire service is steeped in tradition and with that comes many stories. We have seen many changes in the Town and many faces come and go, each with their own story and purpose. We continue to provide the high-quality care and quick response in these trying times of low volunteerism. We are proud to be your volunteers.

By the time you read this, our new Quint (ladder) truck should have been delivered. You may recall hearing about this truck. It is a slightly used apparatus from the Town of Rocky Hill. This truck is a huge addition to the fire service in Coventry. We will be spending the spring months training with hopes to have it in service in the early summer. You may see us out driving quite a bit. This is all part of the training. This is a very specialized apparatus and will require the experienced operators many hours behind the wheel to become comfortable and proficient with the operation and handling. As an example of the complexity, not only do the front tires steer, the rear tires also steer. This creates a whole different mindset and approach to any driving habit one may have. You may see us training at larger buildings on a constant basis. This is due to the need to learn how to position the truck so the 105-foot ladder will be beneficial to the operations we face when the real call comes in. If you see us training at the station, stop in and say HI, we can answer any questions you may have.

We have talked about training and the never-ending need to keep our skills sharp and to adapt the ever-changing world we live in. We currently have 4 members that have begun the State of CT Firefighter 2 certification process. This is an 80 + hour class that involves a more in depth curriculum that includes extrication, use of foam for firefighting, building preplans, report writing, tactical approaches to firefighting, just to name a few topics. Most of this education is being done in-house. This is a step in the process of becoming a certified instructor or a Fire Line Officer.

Have you seen the sun? We hope to have sun more often than not now that we have our solar panels installed and operational. We have a very large array on one half of the roof of our apparatus bays. We are glad to have joined the Town in the pursuit of renewable energy to help reduce costs.

Please remember to Pull to the Right and Stop when emergency vehicles are approaching. Watch our sign for safety messages and reminders. Visit us on Facebook-North Coventry Volunteer Fire Department.

Stay safe out there!

The Members of the North Coventry Volunteer Fire Department

## CVFA

The Coventry Volunteer Fire Association (CVFA) – the volunteer fire department across from the town hall – has undergone some significant changes over the last year.

In November, 2015, we voted to turn over the authority and responsibility for providing ambulance service in Coventry (called the PSA) to the town. While we were and always have covered calls well, dwindling numbers of volunteers and an increasing number of medical calls meant that providing a secure future for staffing ambulance response in Coventry was not guaranteed. Predictably reliable service for the town was our goal for the future.

For 25 years, the CVFA provided tax-free ambulance service to Coventry residents. We paid for our three ambulances, all our EMT training, medical supplies, and even an EMS portion of things like building heat and fuel through billing. Indeed, in the last year of service, because daytime volunteers were becoming scarce, the CVFA itself paid a third-party staffing company to provide qualified, trained EMTs to staff our ambulances during the day, with volunteer crews on second ambulance calls and evening and night time responses.

As of February 20, 2017, after a long and drawn out process with the State of Connecticut, the PSA and responsibility for ambulance service has been taken over by the town. To help the town succeed with this process, the CVFA donated not only the monies we were using to support ambulance service in Coventry, and all necessary EMS equipment, but we also donated our three, fully equipped, in-service ambulances to the town. These gifts represent decades of tradition and hard work by members, EMTs, EMRs, and firefighters of the Coventry Volunteer Fire Association.

For the past year, or so, that the transfer of the PSA took, the CVFA worked diligently to make the transfer of care as smooth as possible and as easy as possible for the town. Our goal was for our patients not to notice any drop in the quality of care they have been accustomed to. Now that the town has the helm, many CVFA EMTs will continue to ride the ambulance. You should see many of the same faces you are used to seeing on Coventry's ambulances, and perhaps a few more. Going forward, we are pleased with the work we have done and the way in which we worked to help the town over this hurdle. We are proud of the decades of ambulance service we have provided to our town, residents, neighbors, and friends. We look forward eagerly to supporting the town's new direction with ambulance service for the residents of Coventry.

## BrainHQ

BrainHQ™ is an e-learning solution that is clinically proven to improve cognitive performance, helping adults think faster, focus better, remember more, and enjoy life. All 32 exercises and 890+ levels of brain training are now accessible 24/7 on computers, tablets, and smartphones to Coventry residents. Sign up online now at [www.coventrypl.org](http://www.coventrypl.org) or make a free Tech Assist Appointment to get started. Classes will also be offered Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30pm and Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm at the Library.



## Summer Reading: Build a Better World

Another excited and fun filled summer at the Library will kick off on June 14<sup>th</sup> with an Ice Cream Social and registration event sponsored by the Board of Trustees. Be sure to visit our website ([www.coventrypl.org](http://www.coventrypl.org)) in June to find out about all of the free events happening all summer, plus reading programs for all ages!



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### Earth Day Celebration

Celebrate our wonderful planet with crafts and activities for kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade!

**April 22, 10:30am-noon**

### Annual Used Book Sale

The Annual Used Book Sale will be held on the following dates. All proceeds support Library programs and services.

**Thursday, April 27: 5:00pm - 7:30pm**

**Friday, April 28: 10:00am - 6:30pm**

**Saturday, April 29: 10:00am-2:00pm**

## Cut the Cord!

Is your cable, phone and internet bill one of the highest in your household? Are you tired of switching providers or arguing with yours when your short-term introductory rates expire and your bill more than doubles? The world of internet-based entertainment can replace your costly cable (and phone) service for a fraction of the price... and give you more choices besides! Presented by James Gifford, a Tolland resident with more than thirty years of experience in consumer electronics, home entertainment systems and Internet computing, including equipment design & programming. He's also a writer whose focus is on practical consumer economics.

**Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30pm**

## Teen Spa

Treat Yo' Self at a fun and crafty spa day with Kristi and Meg. We will make bath bombs, lip gloss, body scrub, and attempt fancy nail painting ideas. Teen Zone events are open to those in grades 6-12.

**May 26<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm**

## Passport Fair

Apply for a passport or renew a passport with the United States Post Office® at a fair hosted at the Booth & Dimock Memorial Library. You will need to bring an application form, evidence of citizenship, two forms of ID and payment. For questions regarding passports contact the National Passport Information Line at 1-877-487-2778 or [travel.state.gov](mailto:travel.state.gov).

**Tuesday, June 6<sup>th</sup> from 12pm - 4pm**

## An Author Visit with Sarah Prager

Sarah Prager is dedicated to raising awareness of LGBTQ history through writing, speaking, and her app, *Quist*. Being able to do that is what gets her up in the morning. That, and coffee. Lots of coffee. Her first book, *Queer, There, and Everywhere*, will be published by HarperCollins Children's on May 23, 2017. The book tells the stories of 23 individuals from queer history for a young adult audience.

**Tuesday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm**

**The Library Building Expansion Project will be on the May 3, 2017 referendum vote. See details in the Budget in Brief document contained in this newsletter or view the Spotlight section on the Town's website at [www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org).**

## SPRING REMINDERS FROM COVENTRY LAKE ADVISORY & MONITORING COMMITTEE

Do you live on Coventry Lake or are you a user of Coventry Lake? Then the following tips will be of interest to you.

1. Spring means aquatic weed growth. Join the fun to learn what is growing in front of your lakefront property and help watch for new aquatic weeds. Contact: [coventrylakeadvisory@coventryct.org](mailto:coventrylakeadvisory@coventryct.org)
  2. Spring means geese nesting. Apply for a federal government permit to addle eggs at <http://epermits.fws.gov/eRCGR/geSI.aspx> or create a barrier by using low shrubs or fencing along the lake shore.
  3. Spring means lawn work. The best way to keep our lake healthy is not to fertilize therefore avoiding nutrient runoff into the lake. If you do fertilize make sure to use a **ZERO** phosphate fertilizer.
- 
4. Spring means landscaping. If you plan to do some lakefront landscaping check out the great app from UConn on rain gardens – one of the best ways to avoid nutrient run-off into the lake - [www.nemo.uconn.edu/raingardens](http://www.nemo.uconn.edu/raingardens)
  5. Spring is the best time to fight Phragmites. Cut the stalks down around June 15, cover with black plastic, and remove the plastic in 100 days. These steps lead to stunted growth and spreading of this invasive plant.
  6. Watch for announcements on July Lake Awareness activities and the annual Lake Forum on September 19, 2017.

Your Coventry Lake Advisory & Monitoring Committee –Charlie Brown Jr., Jack Clausen, Linda Comeau, Scott Gallo, Leslie Shor, Jerry Zak, Debby Zeppa – here to help keep Coventry Lake healthy.

## VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT FOR CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE EVENT:

Spring is sprung, and so also is the planning for 2017 Christmas in the Village scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 3. Lots of help is needed in many areas to make this event even more fun than 2016! Go to [www.facebook.com/CoventrysChristmasInTheVillage](http://www.facebook.com/CoventrysChristmasInTheVillage) or call 860-617-3588 or 860-918-5957 to get more info!



**COVENTRY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS:** William Oros, Chairman; Jennifer Beausoleil, Vice-Chairman; Michael Sobol, Secretary; Frank Infante, Mary Kortmann, Eugene Marchand, and Mary Minor.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS:** The Board of Education generally meets on the second and last Thursday of each month. The remaining regular Board meetings for 2017 are: April 27, May 11 and May 25, June 8 and June 22, July 20, August 10 and August 31, September 14 and September 28, October 12 and October 26, November 9, December 14. Unless noted on the agenda, all meetings are held in the Administration Building Conference Room, 1700 Main Street, beginning at 7:30 p.m. and can be viewed on Frontier Communications cable Channel 194. To watch previously recorded Board of Education meetings, please visit [www.coventryct.viebit.com](http://www.coventryct.viebit.com) to access the Town of Coventry's Video on Demand Library.

**OPEN DOOR MEETINGS:** Interested in learning more about our schools? Come meet with Superintendent of Schools, David J. Petrone. One of his 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. Keep informed about education in our town by attending any of his Open Door meetings this school year. All of these informal gatherings will be held in the Administration Building Conference Room at 1700 Main Street. The remaining date is Monday, May 1 at 6:00 p.m., where the proposed 2017-2018 budget will again be the focus.

**GRADUATION:** Provided that we have no further school closures this spring, graduation will be held on Saturday, June 17, 2017, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Weather permitting, the ceremony will be held outside at Coventry High School. In case of inclement weather, graduation will be held in the Veterans Auditorium with closed circuit coverage in the Lecture Hall at the high school.

**2017-2018 SCHOOL CALENDAR APPROVED:** The Board of Education approved the 2017-18 Coventry Public Schools calendar at the February 23, 2017 Board meeting. K-5 afterschool programs will again be offered on the three early release staff development days on December 7, 2017, January 24, 2018, and April 10, 2018. The approved 2017-2018 calendar can be found on our website at [www.coventrypublicschools.org](http://www.coventrypublicschools.org).



**MANDARIN CHINESE COMES TO CAPT. NATHAN HALE MIDDLE SCHOOL!** Capt. Nathan Hale Middle School (CNHMS) has joined two seemingly different cultures from opposite sides of the globe to promote understanding, education and unity! CNHMS was awarded a Chinese teacher fellowship from the U.S. Department of State to participate in the 2016-2017 Teachers of Critical Languages Program (TCLP). TCLP is funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs which promotes international mutual understanding through a wide-range of academic, cultural, private-sector, professional, and sports exchange programs. TCLP is implemented by American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS, an international nonprofit organization that prepares individuals and institutions to succeed in an increasingly interconnected world.

Mr. Gu Wenming arrived in Coventry, on August 4, 2016 and has been teaching Mandarin Chinese classes to students in Grades 6, Grade 7, and Grade 8. Several Grade 9 Coventry High School students participate in one of the middle school Chinese classes. Gu Wenming is one of a total of 24 teachers who have been selected from China and Egypt for participation in TCLP for the 2016-2017 academic school year. These teachers are spread out across the United States.

- Continued on page 15

## MANDARIN CHINESE COMES TO CAPT. NATHAN HALE MIDDLE SCHOOL— *Continued from page 14*

In addition to teaching their native languages, TCLP exchange teachers work to establish strong ties with teachers, students, parents, and members of the community by sharing information about their home countries and cultures. Mr. Gu spends time each week at the George Hersey Robertson Intermediate School working with Grade 3-5 students on basic Chinese greetings and culture as well as teaching students Tai Chi. He has also done outreach working with Preschool students at the Hale Early Education Center as well as at the Booth and Dimock Library.

*“Mr. Gu spends time each week at the George Hersey Robertson Intermediate School working with Grade 3-5 students on basic Chinese greetings and culture as well as teaching students Tai Chi.”*

In January Mr. Gu traveled with 47 CNHMS students and 6 adult chaperones to New York City to visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art Asian Gallery, they ate a traditional Chinese lunch, and then shopped in the markets of Chinatown. Many items purchased in Chinatown were shared with the entire CNHMS community on January 27 when CNHMS students and families celebrated the Chinese New Year. Students were able to experience traditional Chinese foods during their school lunch as well as attend a school-wide assembly showcasing CNHMS students and Mr. Gu performing traditional Chinese songs, lion and dragon dances, acrobatics, and a Tai Chi demonstration led by Mr. Gu. The public was invited to an evening celebration that also included a taste of China. Chinese candied fruits, cookies and tea were served, and Mr. Gu and his wife Susan made over 300 dumplings for the event!

Capt. Nathan Hale Middle School has a long history of interest and involvement with Chinese culture and international exchanges with Chinese educators and students. In 2012 and 2016, CNHMS hosted students and teachers from Qingdao. Chinese students attended classes, shared their experiences and perspectives on learning. In 2013 some CNHMS students and teachers visited Qingdao No. 57 Middle School and in April 2017 several students, parents, and CNHMS' world language teacher, Debby Page, will again visit Qingdao.

### SCHOOL READINESS



Coventry has been a recipient of the Office of Early Childhood School Readiness Grant since 2005. School Readiness helps to ensure that all families, regardless of income, have access to a high quality preschool program for their young child. All of the School Readiness spaces are currently located at the Coventry Early Childhood Center. Coventry is currently reapplying for the School Readiness Grant. Other Coventry preschool programs are invited to

inquire and apply for School Readiness funds. Please contact Kathryn Hassler at [coventrysteps@yahoo.com](mailto:coventrysteps@yahoo.com) for more information.

**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 in writing from your employer stating you have secured employment 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.



**FOLLOW US ON TWITTER!** As part of our ongoing efforts to connect to families and the community, you can follow Coventry Public Schools on Twitter. To follow us search for “@SchoolsCoventry.” Or, you can also connect to our account directly from our website at [www.coventrypublicschools.org](http://www.coventrypublicschools.org). Look for the Twitter symbol on the lower left hand side of the webpage. Be the first to know of school closing due to weather, an early release from school, or a delayed opening!

**VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES:** Coventry schools want you! Come and be a part of our school community! Whatever your interest, if you would like to volunteer in the schools, please contact one of the four principals.

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:** There are flexible hour and/or day schedules with a wide variety of experiences available. **Teacher, Para-educator, and School Nurse Substitutes:** Please visit our website at [www.coventrypublicschools.org](http://www.coventrypublicschools.org) for additional information. **Cafeteria Substitutes:** Call Beth Pratt, Food Services Director, at 860-742-4535. **Bus Drivers/Substitutes:** Call Dave Dexter, Manager, at M & J Bus Company at 860-742-0344.

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



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

**LEGAL NOTICE-TOWN OF COVENTRY  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING & NOTICE OF ADJOURNED TOWN MEETING  
APRIL 22, 2017**

The legal voters of the Town of Coventry and those property owners qualified to vote in Town Meetings pursuant to Section 7-6 of the 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 22, 2017 at 10:00 A.M. in Veterans Auditorium, 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, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

**Item #2:** To consider and take action on the Town Council's recommendation for the 2017-2018 fiscal year appropriation, pursuant to Section 9-1 of the Town Charter, the final vote shall be adjourned by the Moderator to May 2, 2017.

**Town of Coventry  
Council Recommended Budget for FY 17-18**

Expenditures	2016	2017	2017	2017	2018	2018	2018
	Actual	Adopted Budget	Actual YTD	Est. Actual	Agency Request	Town Manager	Council
General Government	\$ 1,555,274	\$ 1,580,067	\$ 1,135,537	\$ 1,580,067	\$ 1,639,679	\$ 1,646,021	\$ 1,634,121
Public Safety	2,191,520	2,519,198	1,809,021	2,519,198	2,576,162	2,554,437	2,547,437
Public Works	2,205,725	2,300,771	1,815,297	2,300,771	2,384,604	2,372,864	2,361,864
Human Services	279,664	292,434	214,482	292,434	307,572	306,582	297,222
Civic & Cultural	534,583	553,218	536,504	553,218	575,039	574,909	573,209
Sundry	2,336,747	2,434,856	1,878,386	2,434,856	2,272,150	2,272,150	2,262,350
General Government Total	9,103,513	9,680,544	7,389,227	9,680,544	9,755,206	9,726,963	9,676,203
Debt Service	2,637,332	2,760,106	2,604,717	2,760,106	2,775,434	2,775,434	2,754,014
Board of Education	26,865,581	27,141,365	18,522,212	27,141,365	28,415,225	28,415,225	27,181,365
Teacher's Pension	-	-	-	-	-	1,357,867	271,573
Capital	\$ 877,980	\$ 968,787	\$ 767,646	\$ 968,787	\$ 995,500	\$ 995,500	\$ 932,800
<b>Expenditures Total</b>	<b>\$ 39,484,406</b>	<b>\$ 40,550,802</b>	<b>\$ 29,283,802</b>	<b>\$ 40,550,802</b>	<b>\$ 41,941,365</b>	<b>\$ 43,270,989</b>	<b>\$ 40,815,955</b>
<b>Revenues</b>							
Property Tax	\$ 29,305,320	\$ 29,866,751	\$ 29,609,405	\$ 29,866,751	\$ 32,893,527	\$ 34,223,151	\$ 31,745,617
Intergovernmental	9,884,108	10,151,501	5,190,146	10,151,501	8,454,888	8,454,888	8,456,088
Local	538,350	532,550	483,220	532,550	592,950	592,950	614,250
<b>Revenues Total</b>	<b>\$ 39,727,778</b>	<b>\$ 40,550,802</b>	<b>\$ 35,282,771</b>	<b>\$ 40,550,802</b>	<b>\$ 41,941,365</b>	<b>\$ 43,270,989</b>	<b>\$ 40,815,955</b>

If revenues remain unchanged and collection rates of 98.71% is used; a proposed mil rate of 33.12 will be required.

**Item #3:** To authorize the Town Manager to enter into an agreement with the Commissioner 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 2018 Capital Improvement Plan and to authorize the Town Manager to make application pursuant to Title 7, Chapter 116b of the Connecticut General Statutes for funding for eligible projects under the Local Capital 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 \$5,400,000 For The Planning, Design, Renovation, Construction, Reconstruction And Improvements To The Booth And Dimock Memorial Library And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$5,400,000 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriation And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose.", pursuant to Section 9-1 of the Town Charter, the final vote shall be adjourned by the Moderator to May 2, 2017.

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.Coventryct.org](http://www.Coventryct.org).

Dated at Coventry, CT this 5<sup>th</sup> day of April 2017.

John A. Elsesser, Town Manager

Lori Tollmann, Town Clerk