



## Message from Joan Lewis, Town Council Chairwoman

I would like to thank you for electing me again to the Town Council. I am honored to serve again. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the members of the newly elected Town Council particularly those who are new to politics as well as letting you know the positions of the newly elected members. As Town Council Chair, I will lead the Council forward in the next two years. I also serve ex-officio on the Council's Steering and Finance Committees as well as Chair of the Local Emergency Coordinating Committee. In addition, I serve as the Council's representative to the School Readiness Committee where I serve as Co-Chair along with the principal of CGS.

Lisa Conant serves as Vice Chair and was appointed to the Finance Committee. Although Lisa is a newcomer to elected office, she has years of experience serving on the Board of Directors of the Manchester Early Learning Center, and as Secretary of the Board of the Lutz Children's Museum. During the course of her 25 year career in grant writing, administration and management, she has successfully developed and managed multi-million dollar budgets and projects for area non-profit organizations, as well as for the Town of Manchester and the Manchester Board of Education. She currently works as a grants and contracts specialist in the Office of the Vice President for Research at UConn, where she is responsible for ensuring regulatory compliance and proposal quality.

Jon Hand was appointed Chair of the Steering Committee and as the Council's representative to the Local Emergency Coordinating Committee. Jon is a lifelong resident of Coventry, a graduate of Coventry High School and UConn, where he earned his degree in Economics. In his professional life, he is an analyst at the Connecticut Department of Labor. His understanding of state and local labor market trends as well as his technical and trouble shooting skills will benefit the Town Council as it makes decisions about economic growth.

Carolyn Arabolos was appointed Chair of the Finance Committee. Carolyn brings with her a varied background that includes training, regulatory compliance, management and leadership, and expertise with consumer funded products (Health Savings Accounts and Flexible Spending Accounts). In her current position as Head of Financial Operations for PayFlex Systems USA, Carolyn oversees incoming revenue and assets in excess of \$1billion, manages PayFlex's investment strategy, and seeks to mitigate transactional fraud.

Michael (Mike) Sobol was appointed to the Finance Committee. Mike is also a lifelong resident of Coventry, a graduate of Coventry High School and the University of New Hampshire, and an Eagle Scout. Mike is not new to politics having served two terms on our Board of Education but is new to the Town Council. While on the Board of Education, Mike served as the Chair of its Fiscal Committee as well as Chair of the Transportation Committee and as a member of the Expulsion Committee.

Like me, Julie Blanchard and Matt O'Brien have served several terms on the Town Council in various capacities and bring that experience to this new Council. Julie will serve as the Council's Secretary and was appointed to the Steering Committee. Matt will also serve on the Steering Committee.

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

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### TOWN HALL HOLIDAYS:

|         |                        |
|---------|------------------------|
| Jan. 15 | Martin Luther King Day |
| Feb. 19 | Presidents' Day        |
| Mar. 30 | Good Friday            |

## TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE

As the projects update on page 7 demonstrates, it was a busy summer season. Looking forward we have many projects to work on for 2018. They include:

**Microgrid:** Working with the Board of Education, the Coventry Housing Authority and private consultants we are preparing a grant submission to allow the Town and School facilities to disconnect from the power grid in power failures to continue to operate using solar, batteries and natural gas-fueled generators. The grant would cover the switchgear to "island" the microgrid and the private firms would cover the other capital and installation expenses. On our end we would agree to buy electricity at below market rates (saving money).

**Bridges:** We are working on designs for the Jones Crossing culvert replacement and then we will seek funds. Folly Lane Bridge is in the final grant review process for a 100% construction grant to replace that bridge. In spring the Cider Mill Road Bridge (where Flanders Road crosses into Willimantic) will be re-decked to address pavement failure using LOCIP grant funds.

**Other grant projects:** A small park at the Depot Road Dam will be bid out for spring/summer construction. A flag courtyard in front of Town Hall will be constructed which will recognize volunteers who passed while in service to the Town. (Also see Recreational Trails on page 9).

**Other Capital projects:** There are several projects in various stages of review. The Library project needs to be addressed with a fuel tank replacement required and other renovations needed. A decision on expansion alternatives is needed. Several school projects are in the works and we are also looking at code issues such as fuel tank removal/replacement per State law, Americans With Disabilities Act requirements, energy projects and code issues with some of the high school walls.

The Ambulance Fund is purchasing a replacement ambulance due in late spring and we will be downsizing the fleet to two vehicles (selling off two). We also have replaced a 1991 engine tanker with a demonstration engine tanker at considerable savings. The 1991 truck will be sold. We also are selling off a couple of other vehicles (police cars, public works) to reduce our fleet.

**Budget:** It seems that the FY 17/18 budget process will not end. As a community we responded to deep cuts by the State and reduced our spending below last year's spending levels. We were then surprised by additional mid-year cuts called "hold backs" by the Governor. The Senate and Legislators claim they did not want additional Town Aid cuts but the adopted budget language authorized the Governor to take this action. The Town Council has discussed this issue with our delegation and sent letters to leadership calling for a special session to clarify their legislative intent. If they do not act then \$723,000 in further cuts will need to be addressed.

The Town Council Finance Committee has asked for a plan to address these potential cuts. This plan will involve:

- Additional spending cuts which may impact discretionary (not legally-required) programs for the Town and School District.
- Finding additional revenues, including a tax sale and possible use of some fund balance which could risk losing our bond rating.
- As a very last resort, use State law which allows sending out a supplemental tax bill.

To be very clear, the tax rate of 32.0 mills set last spring remains in place and is what the January second payment is based on. We reduced spending to meet that level. So please pay this bill by February 1 to avoid late fees and interest.

We also urge you to speak directly to your State officials to urge action to cancel or reduce these unexpected hold backs. See their contact information below. We will continue to work to live within our means.

John A. Elsesser  
Town Manager

### CONTACT YOUR STATE OFFICIALS:

Rep. Ackert: [tim.ackert@housegop.ct.gov](mailto:tim.ackert@housegop.ct.gov)  
Sen. Guglielmo: [Anthony.Guglielmo@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Anthony.Guglielmo@cga.ct.gov)  
Speaker of the House: [Joe.Aresimowicz@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Joe.Aresimowicz@cga.ct.gov)  
Minority Leader: [Themis.Klarides@housegop.ct.gov](mailto:Themis.Klarides@housegop.ct.gov)  
Senate President Pro-Tempore: [looney@senatedems.ct.gov](mailto:looney@senatedems.ct.gov)  
Sen. Minority Leader: [Len.Fasano@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Len.Fasano@cga.ct.gov)

### Comings & Goings and Staff Accomplishments

Police Officer **Olaph Anderson** graduated from the Police Academy in December and has begun a 12-week session of field training. We are pleased to have him on board.

# TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

860-742-4066

Taxpayers were notified in July 2017 of the possibility for an additional tax amount to be billed in January 2018 due to the State budget crisis. With the passage of the Coventry Budget Referendum on November 28, 2017, there will be **NO INCREASE TO YOUR JANUARY 2018 TAX BILL AMOUNT.**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> installment for real estate taxes is due January 1, 2018. The last day to pay without interest is February 1, 2018. 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, 2016 and before August 1, 2017 were mailed in December and are due January 1, 2018. The last day to pay without interest is February 1, 2018.

Please remember that the Webster Lockbox address in Hartford, printed on your original bills, will only process mailed payments for **CURRENT TAX BILLS:** Real Estate tax due January 2018 and Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax due January 2018. All other payments for any delinquent bills or partial payments should be mailed directly to the Coventry Tax office 1712 Main St. in Coventry 06238 for processing.

If payment is received after February 1, 2018, the Real Estate and Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax bills become delinquent and are immediately subject to 3% interest. From then on, interest is added at the rate of 1.5% per month from the due date.

On-line credit card payments for tax, sewer and trash bills are

now processed by Point and Pay LLC. There is a convenience fee charged by Point and Pay for credit card payments. Point and Pay fee schedule is as follows: credit cards (MC, Visa, Discover and Amex) are 2.75% fee (minimum \$2.00) and Visa debit (VISA only) is a \$3.95 flat fee. There is a link from the Tax Collector's page on the Town's website, [www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org), to make your payment by credit card.

Taxpayers have an additional on-line payment option for those wishing to pay by check. From the Tax Collector's page on the Town's website, under Online Payments choose payment 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 mail.

Taxpayers owing delinquent motor vehicles taxes must pay all motor vehicle taxes 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. Online payments will result in a delay of three (3) business days from the day your payment is processed by the Tax Office for a DMV clearance.

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

# ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

860-742-4067

Information regarding any assessments is available in our office or at the following web sites:

[www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org) – general departmental information including forms and applications

[www.coventry.mapxpress.net](http://www.coventry.mapxpress.net) – Geographical Information System (Maps) and property Information

**The Elderly or Totally Disabled Homeowner Program** begins February 1, 2018, and applications are being accepted until May 15, 2018. Our office will be sending reminder letters by the end of January 2017 to those people who have to re-file this year. Remember that this program is income driven from the state and income guidelines are set by the state for both single and married individuals. Please call if your income is less than \$43,000 if married, or less than \$35,300 if single, both must include Social Security benefits and your adjusted gross income from your 2017 Federal Income tax return.

**The Additional Veterans Program** also starts February 1, 2018 and applications are accepted until October 1, 2018. A DD214 must have been filed with the Town Clerk prior to **October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017** to be eligible for this additional exemption. If you have already filed and did not receive a letter from our office, you do not need to re-file. You will receive your exemption automatically. For additional veteran's benefits, please call if your income is less than \$43,000 if married, or less than \$35,300 if single, both must include Social Security benefits and your adjusted gross income from your 2017 Federal Income Tax return.

You will be asked to provide proof of all the income documentation regarding both of the above mentioned applications. Additional Veteran's and Homeowner applications are taken biannually.

Crumbling Foundations has been an ongoing issue for 19 Towns in the eastern part of the State. Connecticut General Statutes have allowed the Assessor's Office to revalue the property starting with the 2016 Grand List. Applications are on our website and in the office. These must be filed along with a certified Engineers report in order to receive an adjusted assessment. The deadline for the 2017 Grand List is December 1, 2018. Along with that, the State of Connecticut has started a reimbursement program for the testing of concrete foundations. If you would like to apply please use the CROG link [foundationtesting.org](http://foundationtesting.org) for the application, or call (860) 724-4277 concerning any questions you may have.

The Board of Assessment Appeals will be meeting in March of 2018. Appeal **applications must be filed no later than February 20, 2018.** The board is required to here all appeals concerning Motor Vehicle, Personal Property or Real Estate. Applications are available in the Assessor's Office or online at [www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org).

## TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

860-742-7966

Hours: M-W 8:30-4:30, Th 8:30-6:30, Fr 8:30-1:30

### OUR SERVICES

Being one of the most visited offices in the Town Hall, the Clerk's office provides the link between the residents, the local governing bodies and the boards, commissions, and committees of town government. Our main functions are the recording, indexing and copying of land record documents and maps; vital statistics (births, marriages, civil unions and deaths); official repository of notices, agendas and minutes of the various boards, committees and commissions; election related matters including but not limited to the issuance of absentee ballots; answering various questions from residents; notarizing of documents; issuing of dog, marriage, civil union, sporting licenses; and receiving for record military discharges, trade name certificates and liquor permits. We also house and safeguard all of the Town's permanent public records. *Please be advised our office can only accept cash, checks and small bills. No credit or debit cards can be accepted.*

### IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR DOG LICENSING:

\*Your dog's license is their ticket home if ever lost! 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 30<sup>th</sup> is subject to a \$1.00 per month late fee.

### SPORTS LICENSES:

2017 Licenses are available at the Town Clerk's Office or from the DEEP website [www.ct.gov/deep/hunting](http://www.ct.gov/deep/hunting). Remember, all licenses expire annually on **December 31<sup>st</sup>** except Lifetime and Handicapped Licenses issued before October 1, 2009.

## Volunteers Needed!

Volunteer and serve your community by serving on a board or committee. The town is served by many volunteer boards and commissions. If you are interested in serving on a board or commission please review the current vacancies and complete the Statement of Interest form online at [www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org). Completed forms may be submitted online or to the Office of the Town Clerk. The Council Steering Committee reviews these applications and makes recommendations for appointment to the whole council.

**Probate Court:** Tolland- Mansfield Probate Court – 21 Tolland Green, Tolland, CT 06084. Phone 860-871-3640

## COUNCIL CHAIRWOMAN'S UPDATE

– Continued from pg. 1

In late November, Coventry's 2017-2018 budget was adopted by the voters; just in time for the Council to begin work on the 2018-2019 budget. As most of you know, the 2017-2018 total budget was less than the 2016-2017 budget; and at the time I am writing this, the Town Council has requested a special session to reduce additional holdbacks from the State that will further impact the recently adopted budget. Hopefully, Connecticut's fiscal problems will begin to improve and the Administration and General Assembly will make the necessary cuts and revenue increases where warranted rather than continuing to make cuts to the towns to resolve the State's problems. If not, the budget process will be a very painful one. I am hopeful the members of our Town Council will approach the 2018-2019 budget on a bi-partisan basis and use everyone's talents to make the best decisions for our community.

In closing, my best wishes to all for a happy, healthy and safe New Year.

Joan Lewis  
Chairwoman, Town Council

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE:

Working with the Town of Bolton we are seeking permission to tie into their sewers on Rt. 44 at the Town line and have prepared various design concepts for a two-town development project. We are also wrapping up a multi-town look at Rt. 44 traffic and UConn's impact funded through the Capital Region Council of Governments. Watch for an Economic Development Preference Survey.



## COMING EVENTS & NOTABLE ITEMS

**Fri. Feb 2 — Quiet Corner Contra Dance:** Lesson at 7:30 PM, dance at 8 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 \$12, students \$6, under 12 free. Held the first Friday of the month through May 4th. Contact Dave for info: 484-844-5203 or email [cannel.dm@gmail.com](mailto:cannel.dm@gmail.com).

**MANAGER'S BUDGET HEARING**  
**Thursday, March 8, 2018**  
**7:00 pm**  
**CHS Lecture Hall**

Please attend this important meeting for a presentation on proposed budgets for 2018-19 and share your feedback with Town and School officials.

**THANK YOU FROM THE ORGANIZERS OF COVENTRY'S CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE**

A BIG Coventry Christmas in the Village "Thank You" to all businesses, organizations, students, residents, officials who were part of making this event another happy and successful time for all! The Lions Club thanks its sponsors, donors and folks who generously contributed Christmas Trees for its Auction/Festival. The Planning group **WELCOMES** your comments, ideas, thoughts on the day...and is already beginning to come together for next year's event. Please go to the Coventry Christmas in the Village Facebook page or call 860-918-5957 or 860-617-3588 if you want to join in on the planning fun.



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."

### 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 31. 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.

### WINTER NOTES FROM THE COVENTRY LAKE ADVISORY & MONITORING COMMITTEE

Winter means winter sports on the Lake. Ice fishing and ice skating or even just ice walking are some fun winter activities that can be enjoyed on Coventry Lake. However a word of caution – the ice **MUST** be **SAFE**:

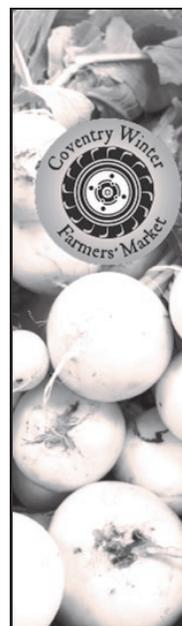
#### Safe ice for sports is listed as follows:

- \* 4 inches or more of ice is recommended
- \* Newer black ice is stronger than old milky ice
- \* Weaker ice is found near rocks, inlet/outlets, sand bar (Flats)
- \* The entire Lake should be frozen before venturing out

#### Special Winter event on Coventry Lake

- \* Saturday January 27, 2018 9:30 – 11:30 AM CT DEEP Ice Fishing Class
- \* Saturday January 27, 2018 12:00 – 3 PM CT DEEP Ice Fishing Trip on the Lake if ice is safe

Your Coventry Lake Advisory & Monitoring Committee – Charlie Brown Jr., Linda Comeau, Laurie Felix, Scott Gallo, Michael Hicks, Debby Zeppa – here to help keep Coventry Lake healthy and safe.



### COVENTRY WINTER FARMERS' MARKET

11 AM – 2 PM, Coventry High School, 78 Ripley Hill Road. Over 30 vendors selling locally-grown produce, beef, chicken, pork and eggs. Also local cheese, baked goods, soap, jewelry and pottery.

Open every Sunday through March 18, 2018.

[www.coventrywinterfarmersmarket.com](http://www.coventrywinterfarmersmarket.com)

# 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)  
[dwrubel@coventryct.org](mailto:dwrubel@coventryct.org)

## WINTER TIPS

Parking on town roads and town owned parking lots is prohibited between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. from November 1 through March 31. The Public Works Department may also issue no parking bans that will not allow any parking on the roads and lots throughout the town. You may elect to receive emails or phone messages regarding parking ban and snow information by clicking on 'Notify Me' on the town's website, [Coventryct.org](http://Coventryct.org), or get your news the old fashioned way by listening 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.

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

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

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

Remember the safest way to travel during inclement weather is not to travel at all. If you must travel, reduce speeds, and use caution appropriate for prevailing conditions.

Please don't leave your trash and recycling cart at the roadside all week long. Plow trucks will be on the roads before you know it. It is difficult enough to plow in a snow storm at night with poor visibility without having to dodge carts. It is also unsightly and there is an ordinance banning this practice. Thank you.

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

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

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

All routes are checked before crews are released to insure roads are passable. Our goal is to keep our roads safe and open to traffic as well as we can, with minimal disruption to your daily activities, within the constraints of budgets, prevailing conditions, and resources available. If you have any issues with our snow removal program, please contact the department. During severe events, we make every effort to have a live dispatcher accessible.

**SNOW VS. MAILBOX:** Each winter, mailboxes may be damaged during winter maintenance operations. More often than not, damage to mailboxes is caused by snow pushing against weakened posts or hardware. If you can move your mailbox with your hand, it probably needs maintenance. Take the time to make any repairs needed so your mailbox will be strong enough to survive the winter. Proper maintenance may help to prevent damage that results in delayed mail delivery, or worse, having to make alternate delivery arrangements. Place a deflector just before the mailbox to knock the snow down before it hits the mailbox when the plow comes by.



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.

Any questions, issues or concerns regarding snow removal or winter operations should be directed to the Superintendent of Operations, Doug Reese, Public Works Department at (860) 742-6588 or email [dreese@coventryct.org](mailto:dreese@coventryct.org).

**“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.

# 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:

- CT DOT project #32-130; Main St Reconstruction. A semi-final inspection was performed by project staff on November 2, 2017. The project end date has been extended. We are requesting the State to adjust 1 or 2 manholes to match the grade of the road. The new sewer on Lake St. still needs to be cleaned by the contractor.
- Western Route 44 Sewer Planning Area: The hydraulic study of Bolton's sewer system has become more challenging than anticipated but our engineers are working hard to find alternative solutions.
- CT DOT mill & overlay Southern Main St: Paving on Main St. has been completed. Although it's a nice smooth ride we can't leave the manhole covers buried. Our contractor has raised the manholes.
- Lake and Cross Street Improvements: The project is substantially complete. We are looking into raising 2 manhole covers that are below grade of the road.

## Did You Know?

- Use of disposable cloth cleaning wipes (Clorox, Lysol, Wet Ones, etc.) has increased substantially in the US during the last 10 years and is projected to keep rising. Cloth wipes are also a leading cause of sewer blockages, backups, and overflows. Fat and grease is the other leading contribu-

tor. Together they form a mass of fibrous glue that catches other debris and grows like a snowball until it fully blocks a sewer line.

- Cotton cloth items decompose naturally in about 3 months. Synthetics such as nylon and polyester take 30-40 years to break down. It takes water less than 1 day for a flush to make it all the way through the sewer system and Treatment Plant. This is obviously nowhere near enough time for natural decomposition to break down the wipes before they clog our pumps and pipes.
- In August 2017 both pumps at the Lakeview Drive pump station became clogged with cloth items at the same time. One pump was fully blocked with a tee-shirt and the backup pump became partially blocked with cleaning wipes. We made an emergency service call and our vendor used a crane truck to pull both pumps and removed the clogs. This cost the Town \$1,000 and was only 1 incident. Town staff need to de-rag other pumps about once a week. Please help us keep your sewer use rates down by not flushing any cloth items down the drain.
- 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.
- Sump pumps are not allowed to be connected to sewers.



**TREE WARDEN:** Please contact the Tree Warden, Mark Kiefer, if you have any questions pertaining to anything related to trees owned by the Town of Coventry. Please remember as a town policy we generally do not remove healthy trees.

**All requests** for hazardous tree removal/trimming within the Town Road Right of Way **MUST** be made **IN WRITING** to the Tree Warden, Mark Kiefer. Mail to Coventry DPW at 1712 Main Street, or e-mail to

[mkiefer@coventryct.org](mailto:mkiefer@coventryct.org), or hand deliver to 100 Olsen Farm Road or the Town Hall. Include your name, address, phone number, tree location and a brief description of your request.

The Town of Coventry **Cemetery Department** administration is currently being restructured. During this time, if you have cemetery requests or concerns contact Public Works at (860) 742-6588 or email [dwrubel@coventryct.org](mailto:dwrubel@coventryct.org).

## TOWN/STATE PROJECTS

- **Lake and Cross Street Reconstruction:** The LOTCIP portion of the project is complete. Work included reconstruction and drainage improvements of approximately 1 mile of roadway. The remaining section of roadway will receive isolated full depth patching and a final surface treatment in spring 2018.
- **Village Road Improvements:** Phase II is complete except for final paving on Bradbury Lane, which will be done in spring of 2018.
- **Summer Roads Program:** Due to the uncertainty of State Town Aid to Roads (TAR) funding we reduced the 2017 Summer Road Program. Chip sealing will be completed in spring 2018 on Brewster Street, Cedar Swamp Extension, Stage Road, High Street and Reynolds Drive. Additional road work for 2018 is pending budget approval.
- **America the Beautiful Tree Grant:** Trees were planted at the Holy Grove of Nathan Hale Homestead and Cross Street as part of the grant. Additional trees will be planted on South Street in spring 2018.
- **Main Street Reconstruction:** The CT DOT Main Street Reconstruction Project has been deemed substantially complete by the DOT. A minor punch list of items will be finished in 2018.
- **Main Street Sidewalk:** The extension to Hemlock Point Road has been completed. This extends the sidewalk from the Library to Hemlock Point Road. Future grant funding is awaiting approval to extend the sidewalk to Lisicke Beach.
- **Coventry High School Tennis Court Project:** The expansion from 3 to 4 courts and resurfacing has been completed. Two new pickle ball courts were added at the basketball courts including resurfacing of the asphalt.
- **Patriot's Park Basketball Court Improvement:** The existing asphalt area was reconstructed to provide a new basketball and pickle ball court.
- **Flanders River Bridge Deck and Resurfacing Improvement:** The original scope of this project was adjusted to a full rehab when the 70% of the existing deck was found to be in poor condition. Work was completed in time to re-open the bridge before winter weather set in.
- **South Street Drainage/Pedestrian Improvements:** We will be working on design plans to improve the drainage and pedestrian area adjacent to the eastbound travel lane of South Street from the Homestead to Seagraves Road. Summer 2018 construction is planned.

**Holiday Trash Schedule:** No trash pick-up holidays are set until Memorial Day 2018. **The Household Chemical Waste Drop-Off Facility** is closed for the winter, reopening April 21, 2018.

**Monthly oversized waste pickup:** Residents are allowed to place up to **three** non-metal oversized waste items that are too large to fit in your tipper cart at the curb each month for collection. **Place items at the curb by 6:30 a.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month.** This collection may/may not follow the daily waste & recycling pickup schedule. Acceptable materials:

- 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.

**Curbside pickup of metals and electronics has been discontinued. Bring scrap metal and electronics to the Transfer Station.**

**“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? (Some driveway length restrictions apply.) 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 (860) 742-5324 to find out if you or someone you know might qualify.

**Cart broken?** If your tipper cart’s lid fell off or is missing a plug...if your cart’s tire fell off or is wiggly, call All American Waste at (860) 289-7850 and make arrangements to have it repaired. Public Works has plugs for the medium and large size carts if you need one.

**Dumpsters are available** for major cleanup projects through our COVRA contract with All American Waste. Residents may contact All American Waste at (860) 289-7850. Be sure you specify you are a Coventry resident to get the special contracted rate. Rentals are for up to 30 days. After 30 days a \$5/day rental fee applies. These containers are to be used by residents for special projects complying with the COVRA regulations and are not to be used for disposal of normal municipal solid waste.

- 6 cubic yard dumpster - \$150 haul / \$80 ton of disposal
- 15 cubic yard dumpster - \$175 haul / \$80 ton of disposal
- 30 cubic yard dumpster - \$175 haul / \$80 ton of disposal

## TRANSFER STATION

325 Main Street

**Open December through March: Thursday 10-4 pm & Saturday 9-3 pm**  
**Open April through November: Thursday noon-6 pm & Saturday 9-3 pm**  
**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 refrigerant \$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.
- Appliances without refrigerants.
- Scrap 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

**Call Public Works at (860) 742-6588 for more details or check your COVRA calendar.**

### TEXTILE RECYCLING PROGRAM

The Town is starting its fourth year with Bay State Textile for Textile Recycling by extending its contract through CCSWA/CRCOG. Acceptable items for recycling through this program are footwear, clothing, accessories, linens and stuffed animals. For instance, a stained t-shirt or torn bath towel becomes a wiping cloth, a lone sock becomes pillow stuffing, worn out denim jeans are used to produce household insulation, a teddy bear is used for car seat stuffing and so on. Everything will be accepted from gently used to ripped or with broken zippers. It is important, however, that they be clean, dry and bagged. Recycling these materials should, conceivably, reduce our tonnage disposal fees. Collection boxes are located at the town’s transfer station, Public Works Department on Olsen Farm Road and at the Town Hall next to the Annex. We receive revenues averaging \$80/month for approximately 1600 lbs. of textiles.



**Please do NOT throw plastic bags/film/wrap into the recycling carts.** (These items actually contaminate the load.) These items **ARE** recyclable, however, through Plastic Film Recycling drop-off boxes located in and around Connecticut. Here are a few local options for you...

|                      |                       |                          |
|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Highland Park Market | 1721 Route 44         | Coventry 860 742-7361    |
| Stop & Shop          | 1391 Main Street      | Willimantic 860 456-8768 |
| Big Y 141            | Storrs Road           | Mansfield 860 456-8051   |
| Big Y                | 33 Fieldstone Commons | Tolland 860 872-0304     |
| Price Rite           | 60 Cantor Drive       | Willimantic 860 450-1624 |
| Price Chopper        | 1220 Storrs Road      | Mansfield 860 553 6555   |

The following plastic and film items can be dropped in the containers at these locations... please be sure they are clean and dry... bread bags, napkin/paper towel/bathroom tissue/diaper wrap, produce bags, newspaper bags, grocery bags, pallet wrap or stretch wrap, dry cleaning bags, snack or beverage cases wrap, retail bags, plastic air pillows used for shipping fragile packages, food storage (zip lock) bags, any other film packages marked with the recycle emblem. Call Public Works if you have any questions or go on the company’s website at [www.plasticfilmrecycling.org](http://www.plasticfilmrecycling.org).

**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 more info. Please call (860) 742-6588 Monday through Friday 7 am to 3 pm for more info. **Paint** is now recycled through a state program. For more info go to [www.paintcare.org](http://www.paintcare.org). Drop-off locations include: England Hardware in Bolton, Mansfield Supply in Mansfield, True Value Home Center in Willimantic, Sherwin Williams in Willimantic and O. L. Willard in Willimantic.

## LAND USE OFFICE

860-742-4062

### STATE OF CT DEEP - RECREATIONAL TRAILS GRANT PROPOSAL

The State of CT DEEP has awarded the Towns of Bolton and Coventry \$110,632.00 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 State of CT DOT as open space. Since 2013, the towns of Andover, Bolton and Coventry worked with the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation (CT DOT) to pursue the conveyance of the former RTE 6 Expressway properties that were acquired to allow for the construction of a new highway through the towns. The expressway project did not proceed beyond design and permitting and 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. The BSC Group has been hired to work with the towns to prepare the plan and preliminary design. A public meeting has been tentatively scheduled for January 18, 2018 in the CHS Lecture Hall to seek input on the project. Please contact Eric Trott at

[etrott@coventryct.org](mailto:etrott@coventryct.org) or 860-742-4062 if you have any questions.

### MILLBROOK GREENWAY EXTENSION – DEPOT ROAD

The Town was awarded \$57,560.00 from the State of CT DEEP Recreational Trails Program. The funds will be used to continue the Mill Brook Greenway trail system, which is planned from Coventry Lake, through Historic Coventry Village, to the Willimantic River. The grant focus will be on the former Decew property located on Depot Road as well as another Town property that fronts on the Willimantic River. The project entails the creation of a parking area, installation of a low impact trail, viewing landing, guiderails, picnic table and benches, landscaping and historic interpretive signage on the Decew site. The property is the former site of a large industrial facility that was powered by the Mill Brook. The project will serve to celebrate the unique mill history on the site and the Mill Brook which was very significant to the development of Coventry Village. An improved parking area will be installed on the other Town property. At this time preliminary design plans have been prepared. Over the winter final plans will be prepared, a contractor will be chosen and construction will begin when the weather allows in the spring of 2018. Questions on the project can be directed to Eric M. Trott, 860-742-4062 or [etrott@coventryct.org](mailto:etrott@coventryct.org).

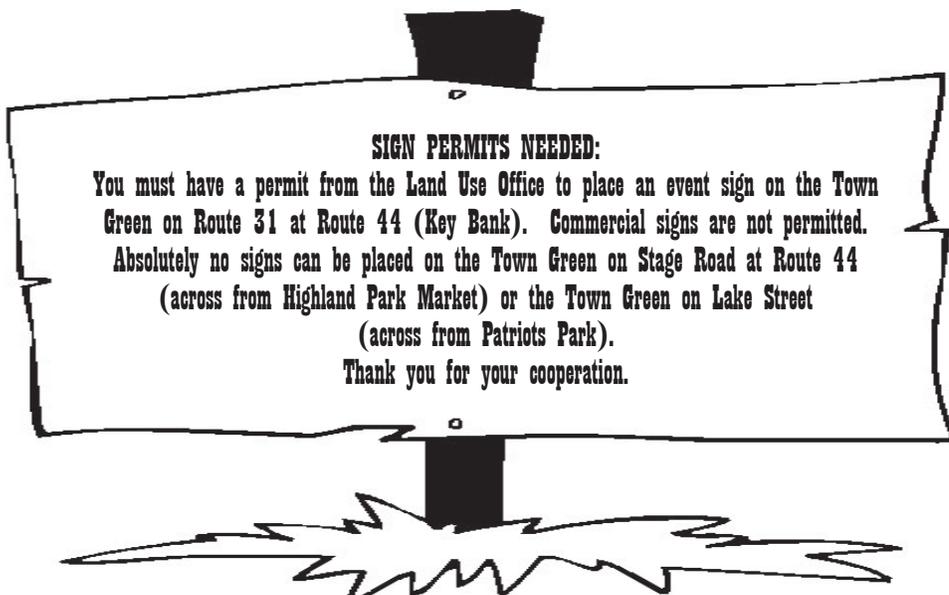
### CITIZENS' BUSINESS AND DEVELOPMENT PREFERENCE SURVEY

The Coventry Economic Development Commission is in the process of finalizing a citizens' business and development preference survey for release in early 2018. The survey will be conducted via Survey Monkey. The goal of the survey is to gain input from the community on the types of businesses that are desired, where they should be located, shopping habits, and opinions on growth in the town. Numerous media outlets will be used to broadcast the release of the survey including: town website, press releases, eblast, flyers, and social media. Please stay tuned for the release of the survey and participate in the effort. The Commission will evaluate the results of the survey and make recommendations to the Planning and Zoning Commission's Subcommittee that is tasked in revising the Town Plan of Conservation and Development. Please contact Eric Trott at [etrott@coventryct.org](mailto:etrott@coventryct.org) or 860-742-4062 if you have any questions.

### HISTORIC PHOTOS PROJECT

In September, the Town hosted a grand showcase of the historic photos of the town that were prepared via the 'Telling Stories That Matter' grant that was received from The Last Green Valley. There are five 24" x 36" individual images and four themed collages of the same sizes. Each photo and collage has a description that provides details of the unique image from the town in the early 1900's. You can also view online galleries on the images on the Town website, [www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org)> ComeVisit>Photo Gallery.

The community is welcome to visit the Land Use Office to view the collection of images, by appointment. Also, the images can be made available to loan to a community group by request. Please contact Eric Trott at [etrott@coventryct.org](mailto:etrott@coventryct.org) or 860-742-4062 to schedule a viewing or rental.



## COVENTRY YOUTH SERVICES

**Counseling Services** – Free counseling services are available to Coventry middle and high school aged 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 facing. To set up an appointment, contact Crystal Morawitz, Youth Services Coordinator.

### **Youth Job Bank-**

**For Adults:** Could you use some help with snow shoveling? 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 12-18 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 a 45-minute appointment. During the meeting, program policies and procedures, in addition to basic job skills, safety measures and other key components to landing a job will be covered.

**PROMAGANZA!** - Now accepting donations of prom dresses, shoes, accessories and services (hair, nails, alternations, etc.) for the 5th Annual Promaganza! This event helps offset expenses for youth at CHS who otherwise might not be able to attend the Junior and Senior proms. Items can be dropped off at Coventry Human Services, 1712 Main Street.

**Youth Advisory Board: Members Needed!** - Coventry Youth Services Advisory Board meets once a month to discuss and plan youth programs and initiatives. We are looking for at least one youth representative (middle or high school aged) to serve on the board. Community Service hours will be given to youth board members. We are also looking for Coventry adults who are interested in becoming part of the board.

**For more information on any of the programs listed above, please contact Youth Services Coordinator, Crystal Morawitz at 860-742-5324, or email [cmorawitz@coventryct.org](mailto:cmorawitz@coventryct.org).**

## HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

860-742-5324

### **WORRIED ABOUT WINTER HEATING COSTS?**

*The Connecticut Energy Assistance Program* is designed to help offset the winter heating costs of Connecticut's lower income households, specifically those households whose incomes fall at or below 60 percent of the state median income.

On behalf of eligible households, the winter heating assistance pays for such heating sources as oil, natural gas, electricity, propane, kerosene, coal, wood and wood pellets. Homeowners and renters may apply. Households eligible for the winter heating program may also be eligible to receive weatherization assistance. This can help conserve energy and lower heating bills.

Appointments can be made at the ACCESS, Inc. (Willimantic area) (860) 450-7423 or Coventry Human Services (860) 742-5324 (Coventry residents) by appointment only on Tuesdays and Thursdays, space is limited.

### **OPERATION FUEL, INC.**

The Coventry Human Services is a partnering agency with Operation Fuel to accept applications for emergency energy assistance for winter deliverable fuel and summer electric utilities. All other heating programs must be utilized prior to taking an application for this program. Please note, this is not an entitlement program and applicants will be awarded grants on a first come, first serve basis. Operation Fuel is a non-profit agency.

### **CLERGY FUEL FUND**

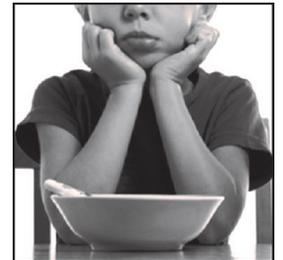
Residents wishing to contribute to the "Clergy Fuel Fund" may do so by sending in their donation to the Coventry Human Services c/o Clergy Fuel Fund, 1712 Main Street, CT 06238. The donations are used to assist Coventry families in need of emergency heating and experiencing financial crisis. Residents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

### **FOOD BANK**

The Coventry Food Bank is well stocked and the holiday program was a success with the help and support of donations from the annual "Scouting for Food" through the Boy Scout Troop & Pack 65, who collected and sorted non-perishable items and the Skungamaug Golf Club, owned by Susan & John Motyka, with their "Food in Lieu of Green Fees" event in November.

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

***If you are in financial crisis and are in need of food, please contact Coventry Human Services to schedule an appointment.***



### **THE SALVATION ARMY**

The Holiday Bell Ringers are coordinated by the Human Services Office in partnership with The Salvation Army. Thank you to all our Bell Ringers who donated their time to ring and thank you to all the local businesses that participated ~ Highland Park Market, Dunkin Donuts and Walgreens. 90% of the money collected is returned to town to help Coventry residents in need of emergency fuel assistance, food, housing and medical assistance, camp scholarships, Back-to-School gift cards and school supplies.

### **"THANK YOU"**

### **FROM THE COVENTRY HUMAN SERVICES OFFICE**

We had a very successful holiday distribution. With the support and donations from residents, businesses, schools, PTOs, local banks, grocery store, churches, scouts, clubs, legions and associations the Thanksgiving and Holiday Season was very special for many families in need. Prepared meals were delivered by high school student mentors and their mentees to residents of Orchard Hills for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. The Ryan Ramirez Memorial Fund graciously donated live Christmas trees to 15 Coventry families. We would also like to thank the students and adult volunteers who helped with both the holiday distributions. We would not have been able to do this program without your dedication and hard work!

**Like Coventry Human Services on Facebook and see what's new in the office.**

# SENIOR CENTER

172 Lake Street • 860-742-3525

The Coventry Senior Center welcomes residents, 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's website or contact Emma King, Senior Center Coordinator at 860-742-3525.

## CHOICES HEALTH INSURANCE COUNSELING

The Coventry Senior Center has CHOICES counselors available YEAR-ROUND to answer Medicare questions, assist in planning for an upcoming retirement or interpret paperwork.

*Medicare Advantage Disenrollment period-* From January 1, 2018 thru February 14, 2018 Medicare Advantage plan members can leave their plans and switch to Original Medicare with a Part D Prescription Drug Plan. If you would like more information on this special disenrollment period, please call the Senior Center at 860-742-3525.

## MONTHLY HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAMMING

- Join us for a meal with friends and neighbors during our twice monthly lunches or go with our "Out to Lunch" crew for a meal at a local restaurant. Meal details are in our monthly newsletter – download it directly from [www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org).
- Get in those steps during our weekly group fitness class! Classes meet on Tuesday and Thursdays from 9:30-10:30 and is led by certified instructor, Mary Hurley. A mix of seated strength training and light cardio, this class is great for all levels!
- Stretch out at our Friday afternoon YOGA class led by local yoga teacher, Anna Glowacki.

- Love Country music? "Two Step" over to *Line Dancing* on Thursday afternoons lead by instructor Susan Beeching!
- Have a health question? A wellness nurse from ECHN *Visiting Nurse & Health Services of Connecticut* is available monthly for FREE blood pressure or blood sugar checks, and to answer any medical questions. Podiatry Foot Care from Colchester Foot Specialists is available quarterly by appointment.
- Treat yourself! Schedule a manicure or professional haircut during monthly 'spa' days. Massage and Reflexology appointments are now available monthly!

**Mark your calendars! Coming this spring – in collaboration with the Parks & Recreation Department – PICKLEBALL!**

Further details on monthly programming can be found in the Center's monthly program newsletter. Download the newsletter at [www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org) or receive it directly to your inbox by signing up for our Senior Center e-blast at <http://www.coventryct.org/list.aspx>. Registration for all monthly services can be made by calling the Center at 860-742-3525 or stopping by – we would love to see you!

**Emma King, MSW  
Senior Center Coordinator  
860-742-3525 ext. 4800  
eking@coventryct.org**

The Lions Club of Coventry was actively involved in several community service projects this past fall. The Lions put a new coat of stain on the deck and stairs of the Patriots Park band shell. Also, the Lions are supporting the Conservation Commission's anti-littering campaign by donating anti-littering signs that will be installed at strategic locations throughout town. Anyone interested in joining the Lions can call 860-617-3588.

## COVENTRY RIDES TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

The Coventry RIDES Transportation Program offers FREE local transportation to residents over 60 and those with disabilities. Rides can be scheduled for **Mondays, Tuesday, & Thursday from 9:00-12:30.**

**\*\*Rides can be requested no later than 48 hours prior and no more than 2 weeks in advance.\*\***

- We will start the year with a new grant-funded van. The van service travels to points outside Coventry, to communities not served by the WRTD (Windham Region Transit District) Dial-a-Ride program. Examples include: Manchester, Tolland, Vernon, & Bolton. We are working to expand our geographical region.
- Rides for Senior Center programs (such as haircuts, lunches or massage appointments) **MUST** be scheduled in advance by calling for a ride.
- As a reminder, WRTD (Windham Region Transit District) Dial-a-Ride services are available for Coventry to Coventry transit (i.e. if you are travelling anywhere in Coventry). This means any local Coventry transportation. They are our town's designated transit service. Rides can be requested by calling **860-456-2223 ext. 4.**

The Program is excited to welcome Sarah Leete, Transportation Coordinator. Sarah coordinates the daily schedule and coordinates with the team of volunteer drivers. If you would like to schedule a ride or discuss transportation options, please contact Sarah at the information below.

**Sarah Leete  
Transportation Coordinator  
860-742-3525 ext. 4801  
sleete@coventryct.org**

## A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE/EMS ADMINISTRATOR

Now that the holidays have passed and our new year's resolutions have been made; it's time for a little safety reminder when it comes to down time in the home.

Candles have become very popular in the past years; traditionally, candles were used more often during the holidays, but this is no longer the case. Decorative candles are now used year-round.

Candles should not be used as a primary source for light during emergencies. A better alternative during these situations are flashlights or battery operated lanterns. If candles are used in the home for decorative or lighting purposes, the Coventry Fire-EMS Department suggests the following:

- ◆ Never wear loose fitting clothing around any open flames
- ◆ Remove all combustibles at least 36 inches from any open flame
- ◆ Place the candles on tables that are not easily knocked over
- ◆ Never use candles in close proximity to draperies
- ◆ Never leave the home with candles burning
- ◆ Keep children and pets away from candles, educate children on the dangers of an open flame in the home and what to do if their clothes or the house catches on fire (stop, drop and roll, establish an escape plan, crawl low in smoke and once you are out of the dwelling, stay out and dial 9-1-1.)
- ◆ Only use candles with a good wide base or a stable candle holder
- ◆ Extinguish candles before sleeping
- ◆ Decorative items at the base of the candle are easily ignited, consider the consequences if the flame were to come in contact with decorations.
- ◆ Purchase candles with a base that is large enough to collect dripping wax
- ◆ Extinguish candles when they have burned within two inches of their base
- ◆ Test your smoke detectors to make certain the detectors are operational

While not a fire hazard, the soot generated from using candles can leave a residue on unprotected surfaces such as walls. Keep this in mind when considering the use of candles in your home.

- James McLoughlin  
jmccloughlin@coventryct.org

## NEWS FROM THE NORTH COVENTRY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Winter is upon us. With it brings a change in weather and how we all go about our daily lives. One such instance is heating our homes. We urge all residents to use caution during the heating season. Proper disposal of hot coals or ash is important. Use only a metal container and never leave it near the house. Wait until the coals/ash are cool to the touch before dumping them. Make sure all of you smoke detectors are working. If you did not change the batteries when you changed the clocks, this is a friendly reminder. It does not hurt to vacuum the smoke detectors to keep them clear of any dust or cobwebs. Carbon Monoxide detectors are also important. Be sure the batteries are up to date and these units are also kept clean. If your detectors are 10 years old or more, it is time to replace them. Please call 911 if your detectors activate. Let us come and check to be sure there really is no issue. We have special metering devices and thermal cameras to aid in determining if there is an emergency or not.

NCFD has turned 70! We have celebrated with a small dinner at the station on November 27, 2017. We look forward to another 70 years.

We have been busy in the community with events at the Farmers Market, Touch A Truck, and Fire Prevention. Our membership was once again involved in the Human Services food donation for the holiday season. We delivered several boxes of food and a turkey. We sponsored a family for the holiday season as our members teamed up to donate gifts. Together with the Coventry Police and Coventry Volunteer Fire Department we had another Stuff A Truck/Cruiser event. We are proud to be part of this community and to see those in need taken care of.

You should have received a letter in the US Mail for the biennial fundraiser. This year we are raising funds for a CPR assist device. As of the writing of this newsletter we are almost 1/3 of the way to our goal. Every dollar counts, and we thank all of you that have and can support this effort.

In closing, enjoy the winter weather and remember with every day spring is getting closer. 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*

## BUILDING DEPARTMENT 860-742-4064

The Building Department would like to remind residents to prepare for weather emergencies before they happen.

- Generators and supplemental heating equipment should be serviced prior to use to ensure safe operation when needed. Generators must not back feed to the power grid. Approved transfer switches are required to protect the utility line crews.
- Residents are also encouraged to read all operating instructions on gas log sets and vent-free L.P. heaters. These units should not be used beyond the limits of their listing. Carbon Monoxide detectors should be placed outside of sleeping areas in all households that burn fossil fuels.
- Chimneys should be cleaned prior to use and as often as needed during the heating season to remove creosote accumulations from wood burning appliances.

Apply for spring projects during the winter months when there is more time to review lengthier projects that are meant to start in the spring, such as additions and new home builds. Approved permits are valid for work to begin within 6 months of issuance date.

Please call the Building Department to arrange for final inspection if you have not received a Certificate of Completion or Completion for Occupancy. We find that homeowners often think that their contractor had called to close out the work performed and many times that is not the case. Please call the office to inquire that a close out inspection has occurred for past projects and if not, to schedule one, 860-742-4064.



# BOOTH & DIMOCK MEMORIAL LIBRARY

1134 Main Street • 860-742-7606 • www.CoventryPL.org

Society is changing in the way it consumes information. Libraries are evolving with these changes to serve the public and to continue to fulfill their role in leveling the playing field for all who seek information and access to technologies. Today's public libraries are thriving technology hubs that millions rely on as their first or only choice for Internet access and digital content. In addition to books, magazines, DVDs, computers, games, software and other multimedia materials, libraries provide access to e-books and e-book readers. Getting a Library card is free and our trained staff are waiting to assist you.

Here are a few exciting events this Winter at the Booth & Dimock Memorial Library. For a complete list of our events visit <http://www.coventrypl.org/events> or at [www.coventryct.org/06238](http://www.coventryct.org/06238).

### Library Escape Room!

Have you ever wanted to do an Escape Room? Are you an old pro at them? Come try out our Library Escape Room on **January 24th**. Sign up for a time slot by January 20th either individually or as a team or family on our website at [www.coventrypl.org/escape](http://www.coventrypl.org/escape). There are openings in three categories: Tween, Teen, and Adult.

### Reviving 5,000 years of Chinese Civilization

China is a country rich in culture, history, and tradition. This presentation introduces the important aspects of traditional Chinese philosophy, and the destruction of the tradition as the revival of the authentic culture through Shen Yun Performing Arts. Presented by the CT Chinese Culture Association. **Thursday, January 18 at 6:30pm**

### Book Art

Create a 3-dimensional shape using discarded books! All supplies will be provided. Demonstration by Jan Weston. **Tuesday, January 30 at 6:00pm**

### YouTube Paint Night

Bring your friends for this fun evening painting with YouTube sensation the ArtSherpa. Registration required by calling the Library. Supplies will be provided. **Thursday, February 1 at 5:30pm**

**CSI in the Library:** Experiment with fun CSI stuff like fingerprinting, blood spatter analysis, and other Forensic Science activities. This is a tween event and is open to those in grades 4-8. **Friday, January 19, 4pm**

**Fairy Tale Ball:** You are cordially invited to our very first Fairy Tale Ball! Attendees may come dressed up for this very momentous occasion in their shiny suit of armor, sparkly ball gown, or as their favorite fairy tale character! Join us for an afternoon of fun and fantasy where you can dance to your heart's content, create enchanting crafts, or test your skill at the medieval games. This event is part of International Take Your Child Library Day Ages 3-10. **Saturday, February 3, 1-3pm**

**Sing & Stomp:** Join us for an active music enriched program for anyone under the age of 5! Sing & Stomp is a noisy half hour of songs, dance, and fun props.

**Wednesdays, 10:30-11:10am, Jan 3-Feb 14**

## PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISCOUNT PROGRAM OFFERS SAVINGS

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) offers this benefit to participating member communities.

- Available to any resident regardless of age, income or current health coverage.
- FREE for Coventry and FREE for participants.
- Every prescription medication, including some pet medications are eligible for a discount.

To use the benefit, simply present the discount card at a local participating pharmacy when filling a new prescription and start saving. Cards are available at Town Hall or print a replacement at their website: <http://ctrxdiscountcard.com>. For questions call the 24-hour hotline at 877-776-2285.



The Coventry Scholarship Foundation, a Dollars For Scholars affiliate, will conduct its **26th annual Phone-A-Thon** starting Monday, March 12th through Wednesday, March 14. 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 \$50,000 was distributed. Volunteers greatly needed.

## HOUSING REHABILITATION LOAN PROGRAM



**Would you be interested in receiving financial assistance from the Town for repairs to your home?** The Town of Coventry has funds available for its Housing Rehabilitation Program. The Program funds repair projects that include, but are not limited to: septic systems, roofing and siding, structural deficiencies, replacement windows, insulation, plumbing, electrical and heating systems. Low-income eligible applicants will receive a loan that is no interest and no payments until the property changes ownership. Moderate-income eligible applicants will receive a loan that is 2/3 no interest and no payments until the property transfers ownership and 1/3 zero percent interest paid over ten years in monthly installments. **To be eligible, you must have homeowner's insurance, not exceed 90% loan to value ratio, and the household yearly gross income must not exceed amounts below:**

| Number in Family | 1      | 2      | 3      | 4      | 5      | 6      | 7      | 8      |
|------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Low Income       | 32,100 | 36,700 | 41,300 | 45,850 | 49,550 | 53,200 | 56,900 | 60,550 |
| Moderate Income  | 47,600 | 54,400 | 61,200 | 68,000 | 73,450 | 78,900 | 84,350 | 89,800 |

For more information or to request an application, contact Peter Huckins, Program Coordinator, at 860-456-0782 or [peterhuckins@charter.net](mailto:peterhuckins@charter.net). All Information provided to the Housing Rehab Program will be confidential.



**COVENTRY BOARD OF EDUCATION:** The following Board of Education members were elected in November to a two-year term: Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairman; Eugene Marchand, Vice-Chairman, Mary Minor, Secretary; Frank Infante; Mary Kortmann; Peter Larson; and William Oros.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS:** The Board of Education generally meets on the second and last Thursday of each month. The regularly scheduled meetings for 2018 are as follows: January 11, January 25, February 8, February 22, March 8, March 28 (Wednesday), April 12, April 26, May 10, May 31, June 14, June 28, July 12, August 30, September 13, September 27, October 11, October 25, November 8, and December 13. Unless noted on the agenda, all meetings are held in the Administration Building Conference Room at 7:30 p.m. and can be viewed on Channel 194.

**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.

**OPEN DOOR MEETINGS:** Come meet the Superintendent of Schools, David Petrone. As the Superintendent of Schools, 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. All parents and community members are invited to keep informed about education in our town by attending any of the remaining Open Door Meetings this school year:

- Tuesday, January 30, 2018, at 1:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 27, 2018, at 3:00 p.m. (Budget Focus)
- Monday, May 7, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. (Budget Focus)

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, Ext. 2.

**VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES:** Coventry Public Schools has always benefited from the generous efforts and talents of community and parent volunteers. The process is easy to become a volunteer. Coventry residents who would like to become a volunteer in any one of our schools in district must first apply online at <https://www.applitrack.com/coventry/onlineapp/default.aspx?Category=Volunteers>. Currently there are two volunteer job listings, Volunteer Coach which is JobID: 1045, and School Volunteer which is JobID: 1253. The online application process is a step-by-step procedure. Fingerprinting is a requirement of anyone who is employed, or volunteers for, Coventry Public Schools, but the fee will be waived.

When the application is completed, Applitrack will send a notice to all five of our schools that there is a new volunteer application for the Administrator to review and approve. Volunteers will then be contacted by any one of the Administrators listed below for next steps:

- Joseph Blake, Coventry High School Principal, 860-742-7346, or [jblake@coventryct.org](mailto:jblake@coventryct.org)
- Dena DeJulius, Capt. Nathan Hale Middle School Principal, 860-742-7334, or [ddejulius@coventryct.org](mailto:ddejulius@coventryct.org)
- Beth Giller, George Hersey Robertson Intermediate School Principal, 860-742-7341, or [bgiller@coventryct.org](mailto:bgiller@coventryct.org)
- Ronda Lezberg, Coventry Grammar School Principal, 860-742-7313, or [rlezberg@coventryct.org](mailto:rlezberg@coventryct.org)
- Lois Hasty, Preschool and Early Childhood Education Coordinator, 860-742-4550, or [lhasty@coventryct.org](mailto:lhasty@coventryct.org)

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:** Flexible hours/days with a wide variety of experiences. **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 at 860-742-4535. **Bus Drivers/ Substitutes:** Call M & J Bus Co. at 860-742-0344.

## EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS AND INFORMATION

**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 the website.

**SCHOOL MESSENGER INFORMATION:** Keeping families informed is a top priority at Coventry Public Schools. We continue to use a software called SCHOOL MESSENGER for this purpose. This system allows us to send a telephone message, email, and text message to families providing important information about school emergencies.

We use SCHOOL MESSENGER 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.

### 2 Hour Delay Notes

HEEC (PreK): No AM Part-day Program; Before Care starts at 9:15 a.m.; School Day Program starts at 10:45 a.m.; Lunch Bunch starts at 11:00 a.m.; PM Program starts at 12:00 Noon

Grades K - 5: CGS and GHR – 10:30 a.m. start time  
Grades 6 - 12: CNHMS and CHS – 9:40 a.m. start time

### Early Release Notes – *Emergency/Weather-related*

HEEC (PreK): Programs end at 11:00 a.m. (No PM Part-day)

**All other grades** end at Early Release times

**NO** afternoon/evening activities on school grounds

**COVENTRY PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2017-2018 GOALS:** It is the mission of the Coventry Public Schools to prepare every student for life, learning and work in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Embracing this vision, we began the 2017-2018 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 for each school administrator are in support of the Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools' goals for Coventry Public Schools. Each department's goals for the school year can be found on our website at [www.coventrypublicschools.org](http://www.coventrypublicschools.org). Below are the Superintendent's goals for the 2017-2018 school year:

**Identify, define, and measure the critical skills and attributes that are required for success and align systems to continuously improve student performance and achievement.**

- Continue the process of disaggregating Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC) and SAT data to inform pedagogy and the development, redesign, and alignment to the Connecticut Core Standards (CCS) of formative and performance based assessments.
- Establish the Hale Early Education Center (HEEC) as a Coventry Public Schools program, aligning all approaches to teaching and learning and all processes and procedures to district practice.
- Work with district and HEEC staff to organize and complete the NAEYC reaccreditation process, demonstrating continued compliance with the 10 NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards, utilizing the Self-Study process as an opportunity to continue aligning curriculum and instruction to the Connecticut Early Learning Standards.
- Plan and implement Student Led Conferences K-12 and utilize feedback data from all stakeholders to evaluate their efficacy and refine the approach to student goal setting to involve students in looking at their own work and assessment data and in revising goals periodically.
- Implement the newly designed model for interventions in reading and math K-8 for general education students and for students identified for special education services, employing research based programs and materials, evaluate the use of scientifically researched based interventions at Coventry High School (CHS), and refine the CHS intervention model to incorporate best practices.
- Study the efficacy of changes to reading interventions K-8 through the analysis of multiple sources of student achievement data.
- Implement Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) curriculum developed for Grades K-3, 6, and 9, engage in assessment development for those grade levels, and revise the science curriculum for Grades 4, 7, and 10.
- Work with key stakeholders and the district's Technology Committee to implement year three of the Technology Plan and to develop a subsequent three year Technology Plan to commence with the 2018-2019 school year to ensure continued effective integration of technology into curriculum, instruction, and assessment.
- Engage in a review of Special Education services to evaluate the structure and delivery of programs and services including transition planning and make recommendations for the 2018-2019 school year.
- Continue the refinement and development of a Pre K-12 autism program and develop a five year strategic plan designed to address current and future needs by working with internal and external stakeholders focusing on the needs of students on the autism spectrum.
- Work with district and community stakeholders to ensure the successful transition of our new Chinese teacher and develop a plan to sustain the Chinese language program in 2018-2019.
- Develop a five year strategic plan to implement computer science programming and provide additional Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (STEM) programming K-12.
- Enhance opportunities for students to enrich their learning based on their talents and interests.
- Investigate best practices in mastery based learning, their feasibility for our programs, and develop a vision for mastery based learning in Coventry Public Schools.
- Continue to pursue outside funding sources to support district initiatives in an effort to reduce the overall funding necessary in the district budget to implement or continue district priorities and initiatives.
- Strengthen partnerships with two area districts and Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU) to continue exploring the possibility and financial and cultural impact of establishing a dual enrollment for credit program.
- In partnership with the University of Connecticut NEAG School of Education, implement internship projects for NGSS, Team Building and Service Learning Internship, and Transition Support.
- Utilize Alpine Achievement to refine data analysis, establish district processes and protocols, training timelines, and expectations for each school site.
- Engage in curriculum revisions for ELA and mathematics K-5, articulating and coordinating skills vertically, and incorporating 21<sup>st</sup> century experiences K-12.

**Maintain and promote a positive and respectful learning community.**

- Refine the Alternative Education Program at the Capt. Nathan Hale Middle School (CNHMS) with a focus on continued curriculum renewal, the development of a service learning component, and transition planning for students moving from alternative education at CNHMS to CHS.
- Continue to align the Coventry Academy program to best practices in alternative education.
- Engage in a review of the literature and network with best practices employed in other districts related to a K-5 alternative program, and track district data to identify needs of our students.
- Evaluate refinements to school websites to support communication with parents and families.
- Tap community resources to develop quarterly parent seminars on topics developmentally related to students.
- Explore appropriate social emotional learning practices, restorative practices, and trauma informed practices for K-5 students.

**Recruit, retain, and develop high quality staff at every level.**

- Continue to use the Professional Development/TEVAL Committee to support professional development planning and to refine practices related to the implementation of the TEVAL plan.
- Develop a teacher leadership development plan to involve a cadre of teachers in building leadership capacity.
- Explore further approaches to provide recognition and appreciation to teachers.
- Evaluate protocols for the hiring process of certified staff to ensure the recruitment, interview of top candidates, and to maximize efficiencies.
- Evaluate the feasibility of developing a non-tenured review process for non-tenured teachers.

TOWN OF COVENTRY  
1712 MAIN STREET  
COVENTRY, CT 06238



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

## CRCOG Crumbling Foundations Testing Reimbursement Program

[foundationtesting.org](http://foundationtesting.org)

### Program Overview



This is a reimbursement program for visual inspection and core testing for failing concrete foundations due to pyrrhotite.

The state has allocated \$5,000,000 in bond funding to cover this program for homeowners who may or may not be impacted with failing foundations.

This program is administered by the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) through the Department of Housing.

### Who is eligible?



#### What kind of tests?

- Visual Inspections (by a licensed engineer)
- Core tests (up to 2 cores)
- Inspections or tests performed after July 1, 2015



#### How much is reimbursed?

- Visual Inspections: 100% up to \$400
- Core testing: 50% up to \$2,000



#### Who / Which Homes?

- Homeowners (including condos and PUD's)\*
- Homes or additions built on or after 1983
- Homes within 20 miles of 10 Meadow Lane, Stafford, CT\*\*

\* The owner of the foundation must apply for reimbursement. For Condos and PUDs the owner of the unit is not necessarily the owner of the foundation.

\*\* This is JJ Mottes' address. Homes outside of the 20 mile radius **may** be considered at a later date and will be put on a waiting list.

### How do I apply?



#### [foundationtesting.org](http://foundationtesting.org)

**On-line applications will be processed more quickly than paper applications.**



Foundation Testing, CRCOG  
241 Main Street, 4th Floor  
Hartford, CT 06106

Please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the address above for the paper form.



#### You will need:

- A copy of the report
- Proof of homeownership (for Condos, proof you own the foundation)
- Invoice or documentation of the costs
- Pictures, if the report did not include pictures
- For additions, documentation of when the addition was built

**CRCOG** CAPITAL REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
Working together for a better region.

Contact Us  
[foundationtesting.org](http://foundationtesting.org)  
e-mail: [foundationtesting@crcog.org](mailto:foundationtesting@crcog.org)  
phone: (860) 724-4277

### CRUMBLING FOUNDATIONS:

There will be two foundation testing programs. The one offered through the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) is up and running. The CDBG program is still awaiting State action and likely will not be available until late January.

For information on the CRCOG program see the flyer at left. There are differences between the programs so choose the one that works best for you.

### CRCOG:

Dates: Now—12/31/2020

Test Dates: 7/1/15 to present

Test Type: Core & Visual

Grant: 50% up to \$2,000

Payment: Reimbursement

Income Limits: None

Contact: [foundationtesting.org](http://foundationtesting.org)

860-724-4277

### CDBG:

Dates: Est. 2/1/18—6/30/18

Test Dates: Pre-approved Only

Test Type: Core only

Grant: 100% up to \$5,000

Payment: Direct to Contractor

Income Limits: Must be Low to

Moderate Income

Contact: TBA—go to

[www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org), see Spotlight column on home page for updates.