



This photo of a rainbow behind the solar carport at Town Hall was selected as a photo of the month by Sustainable CT last fall. For more information about Coventry's Sustainable CT milestones, see the back cover of this newsletter. Photo by John Elsesser.



TOWN NEWS WINTER 2020

Message from Julie Blanchard, Town Council Chairwoman

Dear Citizens:

Happy New Year!

As your newly elected Town Council Chairwoman I would like to thank you all who voted during our local election in November.

Our town crest contains the motto *Altiora in Votis* which translates to “I pray for the higher things.” I am praying for a year filled with health, happiness, prosperity, comradery, and even free time. We reside in a Town where the focus is on most things remaining the same. We appreciate the country setting, beautiful sunsets, compassionate neighbors, and peace.

Our newly elected Town Council has been sworn in and have begun working for the citizens of Coventry. By the reading of this letter we will have set out Goals (see page 4 for a summary), and I encourage everyone to go the Town Council’s page on the Town’s website at coventryct.org, look over our goals in detail and feel free to email me jb Blanchard@coventryct.org or find the tab to email the whole council with your thoughts, compliments, or complaints.

To any citizens that I have not met yet personally, I look forward to meeting you.

Julie A. Blanchard
Chairwoman Town Council

TOWN MANAGER’S UPDATE:

John A. Elsesser (JElsesser@coventryct.org)

We start the year with many important projects. Please watch for information on these through our monthly e-blasts and news alerts (subscribe on the Notify Me section of our website at www.coventryct.org/list.aspx. We are wrapping up the revaluation project and have completed the informal review process. If you feel that the new value is not reflective of what you could sell your property for, you still can file for a hearing with the Board of Assessment Appeals later this winter. Revaluation does change values based on comparison of many factors and sale data. Overall our total of values have increased. It is too early to know the actual impact, until the full budget is prepared. The impact of revaluation will be discussed as part of the budget process. In the meantime, it is improper to multiply today’s mil rate with the new value. That is inaccurate.

Other changes include an expansion of our online permitting, which is underway with hopes for a spring announcement. Our regional Geographic Information System (GIS) is also being upgraded and is available via the Town’s website. It gives general property information and representative topographic and wetlands information.

We are starting the process to apply for a renovation grant for Orchard Hills under the Community Development Block Grant program. These are extremely competitive grants.

This year we are joining the recognition of the 100th year of women obtaining the right to vote. We have a small committee coordinating, led by Lori Tollmann, Town Clerk. If you have a family story or idea on how to celebrate this anniversary or want to help, email Lori at ltollmann@coventryct.org.

The Fire Transition Study Committee presented their preliminary report about whether a merger of the two independent fire agencies is the most appropriate way to continue the long tradition of volunteer fire service, and if so, how to best structure it and transition to a new model. This must include proper incentives to retain and recruit members. They recommended proceeding with a goal of a July 1, 2020 interim merger.

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

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- 2020 Census—Back cover

TOWN HALL HOLIDAYS:

Feb. 17 Presidents’ Day

April 10 Good Friday

Comings & Goings and Staff Accomplishments

Congratulations to Fire and EMS Administrator **James McLoughlin**, who received his certificate as a Certified Connecticut Municipal Official (CCMO) at the annual convention of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities in December. The CCMO curriculum enhances leadership skills by teaching participants how to work collaboratively, solve problems, build partnerships and work across political and organizational boundaries.

Congratulations to **Ida Cabral**, Revenue Collection Clerk, for completing the coursework to become a Certified Tax Collector.

Farewell to **Courtney Chan**, Human Services Administrator, who is leaving Town employment at the end of January to work in the private sector. We wish her well in this new endeavor.

Congratulations to Amanda Backhaus and the Finance Office staff for receiving a Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). This is the 11th year in a row that Coventry has received this distinction.

Town Manager **John Elssesser** has been appointed to the Statewide Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations.

Farewell to **Leah Whitaker**, Senior Center Assistant, who has accepted a position in the Recreation Department for the Town of South Windsor. Welcome to **Catherine Alfano**, the new Assistant at the Senior Center, who began work just before the holidays.



(Above): Sgt. Jeffrey Spadjinske and Officer Kelsey Carpenter sort some food collected by the Coventry Police Department to assist Human Services with both Thanksgiving meals and the Coventry Food Bank.

CAPITAL PROJECTS (from the desk of the Town Engineer, Todd Penney – tpenney@coventryct.org)

LOTICIP GRANTS

The LOTICIP Grant program is funded from the State's Bonding Commission and is administered by the State's Council of Governments. Coventry is a member town of the Capital Region Council of Governments (CRCOG). We have been successful in obtaining 3 CRCOG Endorsed projects and are only waiting on 1 final Commitment to Fund from Connecticut Department of Transportation (CDOT). **These grants fund 100% of construction and inspection.**

The two projects in design and permitting are:

- **Folly Lane Bridge Replacement:** The project will replace the functionally obsolete bridge, one lane with a two-way roadway coupled with the fact that both the superstructure and substructure of the bridge are only rated just slightly higher than the Connecticut Department of Transportation's structurally deficient standard. Current cost estimates are projected at \$1,500,000 total construction. (Summer 2020 construction.)
- **Swamp Road @ Boston Turnpike Intersection Improvements:** This project addresses operational deficiencies and safety concerns at the existing intersection of Swamp Road and realigns it opposite of Bread and Milk Street at Boston Turnpike into a traditional four-way intersection. The improvements will include traffic signal modifications to include the new leg, make adjustments to the Northfield Road intersection, add additional sidewalk and storm water infrastructure. The project will impact three (3) existing abutters requiring a total acquisition of one of the parcels. Current cost estimates are projected at \$1,500,000. The State will now require a complete signal replacement which could delay construction until 2021.

The third project still awaiting CDOT's Commitment to Fund is:

- **South Street Roadway and Pedestrian Improvements:** The project addresses the failing and deficient road surface and drainage infrastructure from Seagraves Road to the Strong-Porter House and adds a pedestrian infrastructure from the roundabout to the Hale Homestead while being sensitive to the Scenic Road designation of the corridor. The requested grant application value is \$1,580,400. (Summer 2021.)

OTHER PROJECTS

Hop River Bridge Replacement: The Town received notification this summer 2019 from CDOT that our application to replace the Hop River Bridge was accepted under the Federal Local Bridge Program (FLBP). In CDOT's analysis of the project, it determined that the project met the needs of have CDOT take over the engineering, permitting and construction documents phase of the project. This qualification will save the two towns the Program's required 20% funding match (shared with the Town of Columbia) while still having the necessary input on the design progression.

I would anticipate that the Engineering Phase will take 12+ months with construction being set for 2021 construction season at the earliest. Stay tuned.

Northfield Neighborhood Infrastructure Rehabilitation

The Town determined it was prudent to rehabilitate the road infrastructure following the Connecticut Water Company's (CWC) replacement of their aging water distribution network. The Town obtained funds from CWC in lieu of permanent trench patching which will be used for reconstruction. The Town has started the improvements by letting out the first phase of the replacement of aged catch basins. The start of the 2020 construction will see the remainder of the catch basin work completed and the road reclaimed and then repaved. New bituminous concrete will be added and backed with topsoil to have a completely new road network. These roads were completed in the late 1960's. All of the subdivision roads will be impacted: Forge Road, Ash Brook Drive, Oakwood Drive, Fieldstone Lane, Shady Lane, Northfield Road, and Brookside Lane.

This type of collaboration with CWC was completed for the Coventry Village roads back in 2015 and 2016.

The Town will be performing improvements to the CWC water main upgrades on Old Eagleville Road and School Street, performed in 2018, this upcoming summer as well.

Community Connectivity Grant – Main Street Sidewalk Extension

This project has unfortunately been delayed due to the other major capital projects under construction this past summer or in design. It is anticipated to be ready to have the required public involvement sometime in the later winter months of February or March.

The project will continue the bituminous concrete sidewalk in the westerly direction from its current terminus at Hemlock Point Drive. Based on the grant funding level we only expected to get as far as the private driveway known as Winterberry Avenue. Our ultimate goal will be to the Daly Road intersection. This goal is consistent with the Town's Conservation and Development Master Plan to have sidewalk infrastructure that encircles the Coventry Lake area: Cross Street to Lake Street to Main Street to Daly Road to South Street.

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

860-742-4067

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

www.coventryct.org – general departmental information including forms and applications

www.coventry.mapxpress.net – Geographical Information System (Maps) and property Information

The Town of Coventry and Vision Government Solutions are nearing the completion of the Town's reassessment program (revaluation), which has been underway throughout the past year. All property owners will be notified by mail of the new valuations which are effective as of October 1st, 2019. Assessment notices were sent presenting the new proposed assessment as well as the previous assessment of the property. Concerns may be discussed with the Assessor, or appeals filed with the Board of Assessment Appeals. Valuation information will be available at the Vision Appraisal web site www.vgsi.com and on the Town of Coventry's website www.coventryct.org. Information will also be posted in the Town Hall for public viewing.

The Elderly or Totally Disabled Homeowner Program begins February 3, 2020, and applications are being accepted until May 15, 2020. Our office will be sending reminder letters by the end of January 2020 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 \$45,100 if married, or less than \$37,000 if single, both must include Social Security benefits and your adjusted gross income from your 2019 Federal Income tax return. If you qualify for the State program the Town of Coventry also has either a tax credit or a tax deferral program which has the same income requirements.

The Additional Veterans Program also starts February 3, 2020 and applications are accepted until October 1, 2019. A DD214 must have been filed with the Town Clerk prior to **October 1st, 2019** 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 \$45,100 if married, or less than \$37,000 if single, both must include Social Security benefits and your adjusted gross income from your 2019 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. Along with that, the State of Connecticut has a reimbursement program for the testing of concrete foundations. If you would like to apply please use the CROG link 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 2020. Appeal applications must be filed no later than **February 20, 2020**. The board is required to hear all appeals concerning Motor Vehicle, Personal Property or Real Estate. Applications will be available in January 2020 in the Assessor's Office or online at www.coventryct.org.

TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

860-742-4066

The second (2nd) installment for real estate taxes is due January 1, 2020. The last day to pay without interest is February 3, 2020. Real Estate tax bills are **not** mailed out for the January installment. If you need a copy of your real estate tax bill, you can print one from the Town's website (www.coventryct.org) under Online Bill Pay, which will take you to the Tax Collector's page. Here you will see a link to Find My Bill. Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax bills are for vehicles purchased, registered or plates transferred after October 1, 2018 and before August 1, 2019. These SMV tax bills were mailed out in December and are due January 1, 2020. The last day to pay without interest is February 3, 2020.

Please remember the address for the P.O. Box in Hartford, printed on your original bills, is only for payments for **CURRENT TAX BILLS**: Real Estate tax due January 2020 and Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax due January 2020. All other payments for any partial payments or all delinquent bill payments should be mailed directly to the Coventry Tax office 1712 Main St. in Coventry 06238 for prompt processing. If payment is received after February 3, 2020, 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. 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.

Credit card payments for tax, sewer and trash bills are accepted here in the office as well as online and are 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, 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 our 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.

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

TOWN COUNCIL GOALS, 2020-2021

Below is a brief summary of goals set out by the current Town Council. For a detailed overview, visit the Town Council page of the Town website at www.coventryct.org.

1. Prioritize town projects on “Needs” vs. “Nice to have” without negatively affecting long-term planning.
2. Work to maintain the current tax rate *or lower it* while providing sufficient resources for needed services and projects.
3. Support infrastructure projects to support residents and existing businesses, encourage and attract new businesses, fix insufficiencies/construction errors and improve town services and ability to respond to emergencies. Oversee the protection of the Town’s investments by maintaining all town equipment, buildings, and infrastructure.
4. Continue our efforts to improve sports facilities. Conduct a study to determine additional needs.
5. Continue lake management treatments to contain and eradicate the Hydrilla and fanwort invasive species. Work with the State’s new program that provides a dedicated stream of funding for invasive plant treatments and secure the maximum amount of funding we can through this program.
6. Protect our rural character while working to support our existing businesses and create an environment that will help attract new business.
7. Support striving toward Sustainable CT Gold Certification, when available.
8. Continue to support our Open Space Stewardship Committee in efforts to continue to improve and maintain Town-owned land.
9. Support continued investment in Forestry management for public safety.
10. Continue to explore partnerships for open space acquisition.
11. Work with the Board of Education to continue to improve security in our schools including consideration of one or more resource officers.
12. Continue to support the police department. Continue to support their technological capabilities that enhance their ability to perform their duties more efficiently and safely.
13. Continue to work with our Volunteer Fire Departments to develop a single Volunteer Fire Department serving the entire Town of Coventry. Work with the Fire and Emergency Service Department to retain current members, attract new members, and make certain they have the resources needed to properly train them, and support the equipment and apparatus needs of the department while managing costs effectively.
14. Explore, when appropriate, opportunities to work with other towns including possibly providing Public Safety services to other towns for appropriate fees.
15. Increase transparency where possible and ensure that the Council has the proper time to review and/or vet what is proposed.
16. Continue joint Town Finance/BOE fiscal committee meetings and have an open dialogue with the Board of Education to obtain comprehensive information for the Town Council and community.
17. Continue to work with Bolton/Vernon and the State to secure permission for the extension of the Bolton/Vernon sewer line into Coventry along Route 44. Focus on the need to improve failed septic issues and the potential for future economic development.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT 860-742-4064

There is some indication that we may have a brutal winter. The following tips may help to keep us safe and protect our properties if this winter proves to be a messy one.

- Purchase and install a carbon monoxide detector and place it outside of the rooms where you sleep.
- Replace the batteries in existing smoke detectors and test for proper operation.
- DO NOT try to heat your dwelling with unvented heating equipment.
- Locate portable generators outside and away from windows, doors and vents.
- Have generator connections installed by a licensed electrician. Proper permits and inspections can eliminate the potential to back feed utility lines.
- Shut generator down and let unit cool down prior to refueling.
- Store gasoline in UL listed containers and store outside in detached sheds.
- DO NOT leave burning candles unattended.
- When power is lost, try to remember to shut off your main breaker and individual circuit breakers. During prolonged outages, we may not remember what appliances may have been on when the power was lost.

Are you planning on building in the spring or summer? Please consider submitting your permit application in the wintertime to allow for the time necessary to go through the review process. Once approved, the permit will be valid as long as work starts within six months!

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.



COVENTRY RIDES Transportation Program

The Coventry Rides Transportation Program offers FREE local transportation to residents over 60 and persons with disabilities. Rides can be scheduled for **Monday, Tuesdays, & Thursdays from 9:00-1:00.**

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

- 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.
- 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, as well as to all towns in the Windham District. They are our town’s designated transit service. Rides can be requested by calling **860-456-2223 ext. 4.**

If you would like to schedule a ride or discuss transportation options, please contact Sarah Leete, Transportation Coordinator, at 860-742-3525.

LAND USE OFFICE

860-742-4062

COVENTRY VILLAGE PARTNERS

Subsequent to the success of the Arts of Main event that was held in Coventry Village for the second year in August of 2019, the committee of organizers and supporters have continued to work together since the event to consider ways to sustain the positive momentum that was generated to support Historic Coventry Village. The committee, now called The Coventry Village Partners representing the Town of Coventry, was accepted into the CT Main Street Center for 2019. The CT Main Street Center is a nonprofit organization that supports communities throughout Connecticut to create vibrant, healthy and sustainable downtowns. The Partners continue to meet every other week and are actively planning events and working on project that involve Coventry Village, its businesses, various community assets and supporters. If you would like to learn more about ways you can be involved, please contact Eric Trott at etrott@coventryct.org or 860-742-4062.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN

The Towns of Bolton, Coventry, Mansfield and Tolland continue to work cooperatively to create a regional economic development action plan that provides guidance on steps the towns can take independently and collectively to find mutual success. It also offers opportunities to build on the planning that has occurred involving the towns, like the Eastern Gateways Transportation Study that analyzed the RTES 44 and 195 corridors for future transportation needs. The Towns hired the CT Economic Resource Center (CERC) as the consultant to assist in the preparation of the action plan. CERC and the Towns hosted a regional workshop in September to brainstorm on common themes between the towns, such as agriculture, water-based recreation, hiking-biking-recreation-open space, UCONN, marketing. Interviews with business owners and other community stakeholders have occurred since the workshop to take a deeper dive into the issues. A draft of the report is anticipated in early 2020 and will be discussed with the Economic Development Commission. Please contact Eric Trott at etrott@coventryct.org or 860-742-4062 for further information.

STUDENTS CLEAN UP LOCAL ROADS

A special thank you goes to Gabriel Kendall and his High School Civics class that performed a roadside clean-up on the roads near the Coventry High School in September of this year. The following students were involved and appear in the photo on the right (left to right): Emma Smith, Grace Zima, Olivia White, Connor Sharp, and Konner Boucher.



PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

The Coventry Planning and Zoning Commission is in the final stages of drafting a revision to the Town Plan of Conservation and Development. The Plan is required to be revised at least once every ten years. It serves as the primary guidance document for future decision making involving all aspects of the Town. Visioning sessions on topics such as economic development, housing and open space/environment were held during regular Commission meetings over the final months of 2019. Public hearings on the final document are anticipated in early 2020, with an adoption of the Plan scheduled prior to May 2020. Please contact Eric Trott at etrott@coventryct.org or 860-742-4062 for further information.

CAPRILANDS

The Town began an architectural and engineering assessment of the historic buildings at the former Caprilands site on Silver Street. Caprilands served as a major destination in Coventry for many years and was run by Adelma Simmons, a world renowned herbalist, educator, and writer of many books on the growth and use of herbs. Adelma passed away in 1997 and her Estate has remained in Probate as it continues to be administrated. The Town was granted a \$20,000 historic structure assessment grant from the State Historic Preservation Office in order to conduct the study. The study will assist in the ultimate adaptive re-use of the property by providing a detailed analysis on the current status of the historic buildings and how they can be improved. A draft of the report is anticipated in early 2020. Please contact Eric Trott at etrott@coventryct.org or 860-742-4062 for further information.

BUSINESS NEWS

The new owners of the Cumberland Farms chain green-lighted the construction project, which is well underway. Weather has cooperated and at this time they anticipate an early May opening. Signs are up to start employee recruiting. Watch for grand opening celebrations.

The Economic Development Commission has started a unique 12-week Facebook mentoring workshop, and is scheduling another Google workshop on small businesses training for late spring.

We continue to strive for permission to extend the Bolton Lake sewer system into our town to allow higher-quality development on Rt. 44 near the Town line.

The Town Council will be considering options for a Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant, and consideration is being given to working with CT Water to construct a water tower to increase water pressure in the Village area, to allow use of fire hydrants and sprinkler systems. This would reduce insurance costs and allow for mixed residential and commercial use in the same structure.

Share your thoughts on economic development with Eric Trott, Director of Planning & Development, 860-742-4062, etrott@coventryct.org; or John Ellsesser, Town Manager, at 860-742-6324, JElsesser@coventryct.org.



During December, the display case at the Booth & Dimock Memorial Library featured a collection of Caprilands painting and publications by the late Adelma Grenier Simmons. The display was designed by the Coventry Historical Society.

COMING EVENTS & NOTABLE ITEMS

Feb. 7 — Quiet Corner Contra Dance: Patriots Park Lodge, 172 Lake Street. Lessons at 7:45, dance at 8 P.M. Dance to caller & live music. Partner not necessary. Adults: \$12, Students \$6, under 12 free. First Friday of the month through June. Information: knowdj@charter.net or 860-742-9498.



Feb. 7 — Father Daughter Valentines Dance: 7-9:30 PM, CNHS gym, 1776 Main Street. Any parent, guardian, grandparent of “special someone” and their daughters are invited to this special, semi-formal where lasting memories are made! Professional DJ for dancing, photographer on hand for portrait sittings at a nominal fee. \$12 pre-register, \$15 at door for fathers. Daughters are free. Info: Parks & Recreation Department, 860-742-4068.

Feb. 8 — Family Ice Fishing Class & Practice: 10 AM—3 PM, Patriots Park Lodge/Coventry Lake, 172 Lake Street. Enjoy time outdoors while getting a FREE, in-depth ice fishing class. State certified instructors from CT DEEP will cover ice safety, clothing, rules and regulations, fish identification, bait and tackle, and more. If ice conditions are safe, an outside ice fishing practice will be offered on Coventry Lake with all equipment and bait provided following the class. Dress in layers and wear boots for the outdoor portion of the event—no sneakers allowed. Bring your own lunch. Pre-registration required on the Parks & Recreation page of the Town website at www.coventryct.org.

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 is sponsoring the annual “Stone Wall Maintenance Weekend” on March 28. 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 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.

SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION'S DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS PHONE-A-THON

The Coventry Scholarship Foundation, a Dollars for Scholars affiliate, will conduct its 27th annual Phone-a-Thon from March 16-March 18. Coventry residents will be called and asked to make a contribution to the tax-deductible fund, and businesses will be contacted by letter. This community event benefits any graduating senior who is a Coventry resident. Last year over \$50,000 was distributed. Volunteers are greatly needed. Call 860-742-6633.

THE ORGANIZERS OF COVENTRY'S CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE

A BIG Coventry Christmas in the Village “Thank You” to all businesses, organizations, students, residents, and Town 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. We hope all enjoyed the Fire Departments’ “Holiday Torch Light Parade” and tree lighting! 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.

GIRLS' SOFTBALL FIELD INITIATIVES

The Girls’ Softball Committee, appointed by the Town Council, has recommended several locations be considered to construct fields for use by girls’ softball teams. The Town is working with an engineer to develop costs to allow comparisons between the locations. Watch for more details later this year.

UPDATE ON CRUMBLING CONCRETE FOUNDATIONS GRANTS:

The 100th house has been repaired and 67 houses tested under the CRC-OG testing program. Applications are open for assessment on a first-come, first-served basis. See the Spotlight section on the home page of the Town website for more details. As of this writing, we are also down to one slot for a lower-income person for the free CDBG test (see page 4 for more information.)

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 and click the box next to “Coventry Community Update.”

NEWS FROM THE BOOTH & DIMOCK MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Booth & Dimock Memorial Library will be hosting dozens of fun events throughout January and February. In addition to our special programming, we will continue to offer our regular services including home delivery of materials, one-on-one tech assist sessions, and professional reference assistance. We would also like to remind everyone that closings due to weather will be posted on our website – coventrypl.org, Facebook, ctweather.com, WFSB, and WILI-AM.

For Adults:

Join us for crafternoons on Wednesdays at 4pm. On February 12th we will make Valentine Heart Hangers.

In partnership with the Society of Financial Awareness, we will be offering a series of seminars on Tuesdays at 6pm. On February 11 we learn how to understand 401K rollovers.

On Saturday, February 22nd at 1pm local author Deborah Levison will come to discuss her book *The Crate*.

For Teens and Tweens:

Open gaming, every Friday from 3pm-5pm. Come and game on the library's big screen with our PS4 and Nintendo Switch

Teen De-Stress Mess, on Friday February 21st at 3pm is a fun and messy way for teens to ease some student stress.

Work to gather clues and witnesses to solve our Teen Murder Mystery on Thursday, January 23rd at 6pm.

Our Tween Advisory Board is recruiting members! TWAB gets to plan events, choose books to buy, and help make the library a great place! Everyone in grades 4-8 are welcome to join, just stop by our meeting on February 13th at 4:30.

TWAB sponsored programs:

Will it Waffle, back by popular demand, will take place Wednesday, January 29 at 4:00pm.

Librarian Bootcamp – Learn how to be a librarian in this special program designed by TWAB on Tuesday, February 18 at 4:00pm

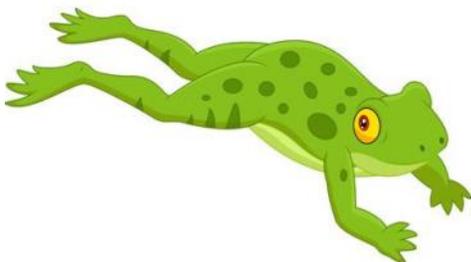
For Children:

Baby Bookworm Storytime – Every Tuesday at 10:15.

Toddler Time Storytime – Every Tuesday at 11:15.

Play & Learn Playgroup – a fun and unstructured playgroup for children birth to five. Every Wednesday at 10:30.

Messy Munchkins is our proven popular multi-sensory playgroup. Friday February 21st at 10:30am.



We will host a **leap day special** on Saturday February 29th at 1pm. Learn why we celebrate Leap Day and make some fun leap frog crafts to take home!

WINTER NOTES FROM THE COVENTRY LAKE ADVISORY & MONITORING COMMITTEE

Winter means winter sports on Coventry 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 February 8, 2020 10 AM – 12 PM CT DEEP Ice Fishing Class
- Saturday February 8, 2020 12 PM – 3 PM CT DEEP Ice Fishing Trip on the Lake if ice is safe

Coventry Lake Advisory & Monitoring is pleased to announce that in 2019 excellent results showed that hydrilla was reduced to just one colony and much of the invasive aquatic plant, Eurasian milfoil, was also reduced. The native plants appeared untouched by the treatment with fluridone. The treatment in 2019 was the same as 2018, 3 treatments over 90 days around the perimeter of the lake to a depth of 12 feet of water. For 2020 the same 3 treatment over 90 days with fluridone is being proposed. The treatment so far appears to be highly successful.

One concern that all lake users can help out with is plastic items in the water. Plastic water bottles, plastic straws, and plastic bags should never be left in the water. Remember: have fun on the water but leave nothing but ripples behind. Dispose of any foreign material properly.

Questions?? Concerns?? Need information on the Coventry Lake?? Coventry Lake Advisory & Monitoring can help you find answers:

- Find us on Facebook: Coventry, CT-Coventry Lake Advisory Committee- 'Lake Wangumbaug'
- Find us on Coventry's Website: <https://www.coventryct.org/234/Lake-Advisory-Monitoring-Committee>
- Email questions to: CoventryLakeAdvisor@CoventryCt.org

SPORTS LICENSES:

2020 Licenses are available at the Town Clerk's Office or from the DEEP website www.ct.gov/deep/hunting. Remember, all licenses expire annually on **December 31st** except Lifetime and Handicapped Licenses issued before October 1, 2009.



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 on the Boards and Commission page of the Town website at 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 860-871-3640.

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

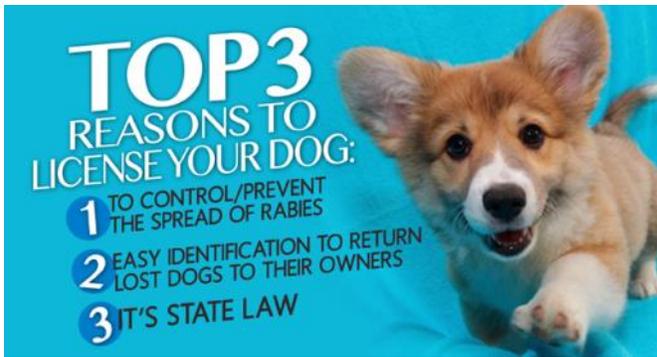
860-742-7966

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 that 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!

A dog's license is their ticket home!! The State of Connecticut requires that any dog over the age of 6 months to have a current rabies certificate and be licensed in the town you live in.

- \$8.00 for spayed or neutered dogs (certificate of spay or neuter is needed)
- \$19.00 for unaltered dogs.
- Any dog license issued after June 30th is subject to a \$1.00 per month late fee.

HOUSING REHABILITATION LOAN PROGRAM

Would you be interested in receiving financial assistance from the Town for repairs to your home? The Coventry Housing Rehab 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 the amounts below:**

Number in Family	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Low Income	35,350	40,400	45,450	50,450	54,500	58,550	62,600	66,600
Moderate Income	52,850	60,400	67,950	75,500	81,550	87,600	93,650	99,700

For more information or to request an application, contact the Program Coordinator, at 860-456-0782 or peterhuckins@charter.net. All Information provided to the Housing Rehab Program will be confidential.



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

100 Olsen Farm Road • 860-742-6588

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

Mark Kiefer
Mark Owens
Donna Wrubel
Todd Penney

mkiefer@coventryct.org
mowens@coventryct.org
dwrubel@coventryct.org
tpenney@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.
- Remove basketball hoops from road right of way so as not to hinder snow removal. They are illegal anyway.
- It is helpful to mark edges of property that are close to the right of way with reflective snow markers. Many times it is difficult to distinguish the edge of the roadway when snow has blanketed the area.
- Do not discharge sump pumps into any roadway. This is the cause of many localized icing conditions!
- Placing snow in the road is dangerous, and can include penalties up to a lien against your property. A Town ordinance obligates the property owner, so if your driveway contractor or neighbor deposits snow in the road from your property, you are still held responsible. It only takes a few more minutes to push it up beyond a curb line or stockpile it on some unused land away from the travel portion of the roadway.
- 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.
- 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. 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.

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.

Any questions, issues or concerns regarding snow removal or winter operations should be directed to the Superintendent of Operations, Mark Owens, Public Works Department at (860) 742-6588 or email mowens@coventryct.org.

DPW 2020 ROAD PROJECTS

Full Depth Reclamation with Bituminous Overlay:

Northfields Subdivision, Hickory Drive

Cold in Place Recycling with 1.5 inch Hot Overlay:

Depot Road and Pine Lake Shores Drive

Bituminous Shimming:

Brigham Tavern Road, Ridgebrook Drive, Nathan Hale Road, Nathan Hale Drive, Upton Drive and South Street Extension, John Hand Drive, Knollwood Drive, Birchwood Drive.

Portions of the above roads will be full width (both lanes) shimmed 1.5 inches compacted in preparation for a Chip Seal final course.

Roads to be Chip Sealed:

North Farms Road, Joshua Lane, Barbara Drive, Ridgebrook Dr., Mellow Road, Gable Road, John Hand Drive, Antrim Road, Lancaster Road, Nathan Hale Drive, Upton Drive, South Street Extension, Gardner Tavern Road, Eastview Drive.

Bituminous Cold Overlay with Double chip Seal:

Violet Trail, Meadow Trail, Spring Trail, Laurel Trail, Birch Trail, Maple Trail, Forest Hills Drive, Dimock Road, Catalina Drive, Orcutt Road.

Crack Seal: Approximately 20 miles of selected roads to be determined for Crack Sealing.

NORTHFIELD NEIGHBORHOOD INFRASTRUCTURE REHABILITATION

The Town determined it was prudent to rehabilitate the road infrastructure following the Connecticut Water Companies (CWC) replacement of their aging water distribution network. The Town obtained funds from CWC in lieu of permanent trench patching. The town has started the improvements by letting out the first phase of the replacement of aged catch basins. The start of the 2020 construction will see the remainder of the catch basin work completed and the road to reclaimed and then repaved. New bituminous concrete will be added and backed with topsoil to have a completely new road network.

These roads were completed in the late 1960's. All of the subdivision roads will be impacted: Forge Road, Ash Brook Drive, Oakwood Drive, Fieldstone Lane, Shady Lane, Northfield Road, Brookside Lane.

This type of collaboration with CWC was completed for the Coventry Village roads back in 2015 and 2016.

The Town will be performing improvements to the CWC water main upgrades on Old Eagleville Road and School Street performed in 2018 this upcoming summer as well.

“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 unstaffed sites: Laidlaw Park on Mellow 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
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:

- Treatment Plant tank rehab: Bi-annual inspections of the underground tanks at the Plant have shown deterioration of the concrete walls and steel mixing mechanisms due to the corrosive nature of wastewater. There is no indication of “crumbling concrete”. In September 2019 we hired a firm to perform corrosion testing & analysis on the steel and concrete in the clarifier/digester tanks. The results from these tests will allow us to determine if annual spot repairs, major rehab, or complete re-build of the digesters is the most cost effective solution to operate the aging tanks. While the tanks were out of service we performed additional inspections, maintenance, and light repairs.
- Sustainability: We are moving forward with an energy efficient lighting upgrade program through Eversource & World Energy similar to other Town Buildings.

Financial Assistance for Sewer Connections:

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.

NOTE FROM THE 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 as well as requests for healthy 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, e-mail 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.

Sewer Trivia:

- **What is the world's oldest Sewer system?** We can trace the oldest sewer system all the way back to around 3000 B.C.E. in the Indus River Valley in India! It consisted of underground drains made of brick that collected sewage and usually carried to the nearest waterbody.
- **When was the first toilet paper invented?** During the Song Dynasty, 2-foot-by-3-foot paper sheets were the made specifically for the emperor's “toilet time”, although toilet paper did not begin circulation until 1857. In 1890, Scott Paper decided to put toilet paper on a roll, but were so embarrassed by its risky nature that they refused to put their name on it. Now, Americans average using 49,000 sheets of toilet papers, equivalent to about 2.8 miles, each year!
- **Who was the inventor of the first flushing toilet?** The first modern flush toilet was invented by Sir John Harington of England in 1586 – however he was laughed at for the ridiculous idea. Flushing toilets did not become popular until the 1880's when plumber Thomas Crapper updated the system and unknowingly provided its famous nickname. BUT, flush toilets can actually be traced back 5,000 years ago with several ancient civilizations, like the Romans!



TRANSFER STATION: 325 MAIN ST.

Winter hours through March: Thursday 10 am – 4 pm

April through November: Thursday noon – 6 PM

Open Saturday 9 am – 3 pm all year long.

Closed holidays. Proof of residency is required.

COVRRRA:

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

Material acceptable for monthly oversized waste curbside pickup.

Non-metal material that is too large to be placed in your tipper cart such as furniture is collected curbside. Residents are allowed to place up to **three** non-metal oversized waste items (for example: table, couch, dresser) at the curb each month for collection as part of this program. *Mattresses, Box springs, scrap metal / appliances and electronics are not acceptable curbside items and must be brought at no cost to the Coventry Transfer Station. All residents need to place their items at the curb by 6:30 a.m. on the 2nd Monday of the month.* This collection may/may not follow the daily waste & recycling pickup schedule.

- Furniture such as table, couch or dresser
- 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.

Please don't leave your trash and recycling cart at the roadside all week long. Plow trucks may be on the roads and 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.

If your cart's lid fell off or is missing a lid 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.

DUMPSTERS - For major cleanup projects, the current COVRRRA contract with All American Waste also includes pricing for 6, 15 and 30 cubic yard dumpsters. Residents contract directly with All American Waste at (860) 289-7850. Be sure you specify you are a Coventry resident to get this special rate. Dumpsters are for up to 30 days. After 30 days a \$5/day rental fee applies. These containers are to be used by the residents for special projects complying with the COVRRRA regulations and are not to be used for disposal of normal municipal solid waste.

- 6 cubic yard dumpster - \$150 haul / \$90 ton of disposal
- 15 cubic yard dumpster - \$175 haul / \$90 ton of disposal
- 30 cubic yard dumpster - \$175 haul / \$90 ton of disposal

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

Memorial Day, Monday, May 25, 2020.
Service resumes on May 26.

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:

- All Electronics
- Appliances without refrigerants
- Scrap metal materials (**metal tanks must be cut open and crushed**).
- Gas grill propane tanks for recycling
- Corrugated cardboard, bottles and cans, in the specially marked mixed use recycling dumpster
- *****NEW***** mattress or box spring
- Leaves for composting
- Textiles

Materials NOT acceptable:

- Garbage
- Grass clippings
- Furniture
- Hazardous waste

Commercial users must remember that the transfer station 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.

Recycled at Coventry Public Works facility: Car batteries, motor oil, transmission oil, #2 fuel oil, brake fluid, kerosense, gas cylinders, diesel fuel, antifreeze.

The Household Chemical Waste Drop-Off Facility

57 Hancock Road - Willington, CT 06279 - Phone: (860) 684-3163

Closed for winter. Reopens April 18, 2020.

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



TEXTILE RECYCLING

The Town is starting its sixth year with Bay State Textile for Textile Recycling. 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. In 2018 the town received revenues averaging \$108 / month for approximately 2157 lbs. of textiles / month.

PAINT RECYCLING

Paint is now recycled through a state program. For more info go to 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.

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, Skungamaug Golf Club, owned by Susan & John Motyka, with their "Food in Lieu of Green Fees" event and Food Drives at all the Coventry Schools! A HUGE thank you to the Coventry Transition Vocational Program aka Food Bank Crew. Countless hours sorting all the donations brought into the office and we couldn't be more thankful for them!

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.

"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. The Ryan Ramirez Memorial Fund graciously donated live Christmas trees to Coventry families.

We would like to thank the students and adult volunteers who helped with holiday distributions. Thank you to the mentoring program for delivering the Orchard Hill Holiday meals. Would also like to Thank Coventry Police & Fire Department for the stuff a truck event. They collecting an amazing amount of toys! We would not have been able to do this program without your dedication and hard work!

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) 450-7400 or Coventry Human Services (860) 742-5324 (Coventry residents) by appointment only on Tuesdays and Thursdays, space is limited.

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.

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING PROGRAM

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 donate their time to ring and thank you to all the local businesses that participate ~ Highland Park Market, Dunkin Donuts and Walgreens and, new this year, Wicked Slice. 90% of the money collected is returned to town to help Coventry residents in need of emergency fuel assistance, food, housing and medical assistance.

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

COVENTRY YOUTH SERVICES:

Campership Donations- We are requesting donations for the 2020 summer campership fund. All donations go to help families in need pay for Parks and Recreation Camp Wangumbaug. Checks can be made payable to The Town of Coventry. The number of camperships available is based on donations received. Watch for more information later this winter.

Camp Connri - The Salvation Army's Camp Connri, located in Ashford, will soon be accepting applications for youth ages 8-12 to attend the 2020 overnight summer camp. Due to community 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.

*****For more information on any of the programs and much more, be sure to like and share Coventry Youth Services on Facebook, or contact Youth Services Coordinator, Sneha L'Heureux 860-742-5324.***

SENIOR CENTER

172 Lake Street • 860-742-3525

Brenda Bennett, Senior Center Coordinator: bbennett@coventryct.org

Catherine Alfano, Senior Center Assistant: calfano@coventryct.org

Hours:

Monday-Wednesday 9:00am-4:00pm

Thursday 9:00-6:00pm, Fridays 9:00-1:00pm

Don't get Cabin Fever this winter! Check out a program at the Senior Center!

The Coventry Senior Center welcomes seniors 55 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!

Come enjoy a cup of coffee and games in our beautiful lounge overlooking Coventry Lake. Join one of our weekly cards games, cribbage, Mahjonn, bingo, billiards, folk music group, Wii bowl, monthly book club, monthly popcorn and a movie or just stop by to enjoy a book or puzzle.

Did you receive a new electronic device for the holidays? Want to know how to "skype" with family and friends or need to know how to retrieve those pictures from your phone? The third Monday of each month, Kayla, the Reference Librarian from Booth & Dimock will be in the Center for *Tech Monday*.

Keep those New Year's Resolutions with our Health and Wellness Programming!

- Join us for a meal with friends and neighbors during our twice monthly luncheons or go with our *Out to Lunch Bunch* crew for a meal at a local restaurant. Meal details are in our monthly newsletter – download it directly from www.coventryct.org
- Get in those steps during our weekly group fitness class! Classes meet every 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!
- Join on Thursdays from 5:15-6:15pm for Zumba Gold taught by Sheila Carroll, Zumba Licensed and ACE Certified. \$20/5-class punchcard or \$5 drop-in.
- Stretch out at Chair Yoga on Mondays at 10am or Wednesday 3:00pm or traditional YOGA class led by Yoga Instructor Tami Toscano. No pre-registration required, \$3 drop-in fee.

- 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. On-site podiatry appointments can be scheduled quarterly with Dr. Morgan. Dr. Morgan will be here in March, May, July, October and December in 2020.
- Treat yourself! Schedule a professional haircut or pedicure during our monthly spa day. Massage appointments are also available twice a month on Wednesday and Thursday.
- Do you enjoy being creative and making things by hand? Then join us for monthly for *Crafternoon*, jewelry making, and painting.

Further details on monthly programming can be found in the Center's monthly program newsletter. Download the newsletter at 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.

AARP SAFE DRIVING COURSE

Wednesday, March 11th
from 9am-1pm
Senior Center Lodge

Offered by AARP Driver Safety, the nation's 1st and largest refresher course designed specifically for older drivers. If you, your friends or family members may benefit from the course, we encourage you to take the opportunity to update your driving knowledge and skills. No written or road tests! You may qualify for a discount on your auto insurance. \$15 with AARP membership cards, \$20 non-members. Pre-registration and payment is required.

CHOICES – Volunteer Counselor Penny Whitaker is here at the Center on Wednesdays and meets with clients by appointment. Please contact the Center to schedule your appointment.

The CHOICES Program (Connecticut's programs for Health insurance, Outreach, Information and Eligibility Screening) is designated as the official State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) for Connecticut. It is funded in large part by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services. It provides unbiased information and counseling, on Medicare, Medigap, Medicare Managed Care, Medicaid, Medicare Savings Program, Long Term Care Insurance and other related state & federal programs. The CHOICES program works in cooperation with the CT Department of Social Services, Elderly Services Division and the Center for Medicare Advocacy and is administered by the five Area Agencies on Aging in Connecticut. Area Agencies on Aging are private, not-for-profit organizations which serve the needs of older adults or individuals with disabilities. The CHOICES program is a focal point for information, program development and advocacy.

TAX PREPARATION

The Center is happy to welcome back the AARP Tax Aid Program on a limited schedule this tax season. Volunteers will be on-site for tax preparation on four dates: February 24, March 9, March 23 and April 6. One hour appointments will begin at 9 am-noon and will fill up quickly so please contact the office to reserve your appointment. Valid ID and proof of Social Security will be required at the time of appointment.

WE NEED YOU!

Have a program idea, or a talent you would like to share? Let us know! Senior Center staff is always looking for program leaders and volunteers. This is YOUR Senior Center; let us know what YOU want to see!

To see our monthly calendar visit the Senior Center page on the Town's website, "Like" us on Facebook or contact Brenda Bennett, Senior Center Coordinator at 860-742-3525 for more information. Look for new events and programs being added for 2019!



We know these Coventry roads can be tricky when it snows – check WFSB Channel 3 or WVIT Channel 30 for weather closing information. But when in doubt – CALL before you venture out!



COVENTRY BOARD OF EDUCATION: The following Board of Education members were elected in November to a two-year term: Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairman; William Oros, Vice-Chairman; Eugene Marchand, Secretary; Mary Kortmann; Barbara Paré; Christina Williams; and Robert Williams.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS: The Board of Education generally meets on the second and last Thursday of each month. The regularly scheduled meetings for 2020 are as follows: January 9, January 30, February 13, February 27, March 12, March 26, April 7 (Tuesday), April 30, May 14, May 28, June 11, June 25, July 30, August 27, September 10, September 24, October 8, October 29, November 12, and December 10. 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.

COVENTRY PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2019-2020 GOALS: It is the mission of the Coventry Public Schools to prepare every student for life, learning and work in the 21st century. Embracing this vision, we began the 2019-2020 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. Below are the Superintendent's goals for the 2019-2020 school year:

- 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.**
 - Continue the process of disaggregating Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC) and SAT data to inform pedagogy, curriculum revisions, pacing, and the refinement of practices related to integration of formative and performance based assessments into teaching and learning.
 - Continue the work associated with Coventry Public Schools' Portrait of the Graduate, including the development of Pre-K-12 rubrics for each of the five competencies that students should acquire before they graduate and an implementation plan.
 - Further our work connected to Student Led Conferences to expand the use of digital portfolios.
 - Explore the refinements to the newly designed model for interventions in reading and math in grades 9 and 10, incorporating best practices in scientifically researched based interventions.
 - Evaluate state science assessment data to determine the effectiveness of the recently implemented Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) curriculum for grades 4-5, 7-8, and 10-11.
 - Work with key stakeholders and the District Technology Committee to implement and evaluate year two of the Technology Plan to ensure continued effective integration of technology into curriculum, instruction, and assessment.
 - Implement a comprehensive special education five year program plan with a focus on maximizing services and reducing expenses.
 - Support the recently established partnership with the Confucius Institute to ensure the successful transition and

acclimation of our visiting teacher from China to support the Chinese language program at the Capt. Nathan Hale School and Coventry High School.

- Implement the newly adopted courses and programs aligned to the State Department of Education (SDE) Computer Science Framework, and identify additional programmatic needs to inform the five-year strategic plan for computer science programming.
- Review related arts curriculum (Technology Education, STEM classes, and digital citizenship) at the Capt. Nathan Hale School and plan for possible curriculum revisions to support the computer science framework for grades 6-8.
- Implement the partnership with Goodwin College to support students who wish to pursue a career in manufacturing.
- Develop a three year comprehensive plan to redesign academic programming, incorporate additional social and emotional learning, and include more personalization of learning at Coventry Academy.
- Develop an action plan to attract female students to a STEM track at the 6-12 level.
- Secure a F1 Visa certification to explore the possibility of accepting international students at the high school.
- Continue to bolster programs Pre-K through 12 to provide challenging opportunities for our highest performing students.
- Conduct a financial analysis of what the district should charge non-resident students who might request to attend specialized programs, such as Coventry Academy or the autism program.
- Further develop partnerships with area districts to explore how programs can be consolidated and reorganized.
- Explore the possibility of developing opportunities to attend college courses for students in our 18-21 year old program.
- Work with EASTCONN to develop advanced training opportunities for a Tier 1 initiative at Coventry Grammar School.
- Formulate a comprehensive and thoughtful approach to address areas of opportunity identified in the District Management Group (DMG) study.

2. Maintain and promote a positive and respectful learning community

- *Identify additional needs for the full integration of appropriate social emotional learning practices, restorative practices, executive functioning practices, and trauma informed practices for all Pre-K through 12 students.*
- *Continue the work related to the three year security plan, by including key elements into the Fiscal Year 2021 budget.*
- *Redesign facility maintenance and routine cleaning plans to maximize efficiencies and improve overall operations.*
- *Form a District Attendance Committee to reduce chronic student absenteeism and establish consistent procedures aligned with recommendations from the SDE Bureau of Special Education.*
- *Explore, develop, and recommend a plan for the inclusion of more minority students at Coventry Public Schools.*
- *Evaluate processes and procedures for bus route development and communication.*

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

- *Evaluate first year of changes to Coventry's teacher evaluation tool.*
- *Develop a plan to utilize the leadership talent of teachers who recently completed year two of the teacher Leadership Academy.*
- *Evaluate and refine the district protocols and practices for the hiring process of certified staff with a focus on the development of a plan for recruitment of minority candidates.*
- *Provide comprehensive, targeted, and differentiated training for para-educators.*
- *Redesign non-certified support staff evaluation instruments to better reflect current times and specific role expectations.*

OPEN DOOR MEETINGS: Come meet the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. David J. 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:

Thursday, February 6, 2020, at 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 31, 2020, at 9:30 a.m.

Monday, May 4, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.

All of these informal gatherings will be held in the Administration Building Conference Room at 1700 Main Street. If you are unable to attend one of these scheduled events, but would still like to meet, please phone our office at 860-742-7317, Ext. 2.

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.

CLOSINGS, LATE OPENINGS, UNPLANNED EARLY RELEASES: In addition to parents receiving messages through School Messenger, 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 9:00 a.m.; School Day Program starts at 10:45 a.m.; Lunch Bunch starts at 11:00 a.m.; PM Program starts at 12 Noon.

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

Early Release Notes – Emergency/Weather-related

HEEC (PreK): No PM PreK. AM PreK and School Day closes at 10:30 a.m.

All other grades end at Early Release times.
NO afternoon/evening activities on school grounds.

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES:

Coventry Public Schools has always benefited from the generous efforts and talents of community and parent volunteers. Interested in volunteering in any of the schools in district? To become a volunteer, please contact the building principals for more specific information.

- Joseph Blake, Coventry High School Principal, 860-742-7346, or jblake@coventryct.org
- Dena DeJulius, Capt. Nathan Hale School Principal, 860-742-7334, or ddejulius@coventryct.org
- Jennifer DeRagon, George Hersey Robertson School Principal, 860-742-7341, or jderagon@coventryct.org
- Ronda Carrie, Coventry Grammar School Principal, 860-742-7313, or rcarrie@coventryct.org
- Lois Hasty, Preschool and Early Childhood Education Coordinator, 860-742-4550, or 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 <https://www.coventrypublicschools.org/district/human-resources> for additional information.

Cafeteria Substitutes: Call Beth Pratt at 860-742-4535.

Bus Drivers/Substitutes: Call M & J Bus Co. at 860-742-0344.

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



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

TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE *(cont. from page 1)*

Trash and recycling has issues which need to be addressed. Our collection contract is up for renewal or re-bidding. Worldwide recycling markets have disappeared so what was generating revenue is now an expense to process (but still less than trash). Statewide the largest trash-to-energy plant has reached its useful life and a new plant could cost twice as much per ton than we pay now. Our own transfer station is aging and we have some cracking in concrete blocks (any guesses why?) so we are looking at whether a more central location makes sense before we decide to repair it.

One of the biggest projects we are working on is a microgrid/combined heat plant to serve all the public buildings between the high school and the Police station, including 80 units of elderly housing at Orchard Hills. The project has received a \$4 million grant to allow these buildings to disconnect from the power grid and use electricity generated on-site via the natural gas lines recently installed, and solar at Orchard Hills. The waste heat will provide heat for the high school/middle school complex. This may also be able to provide chilled air for these buildings. During power outages these buildings will have electricity. In normal conditions it will reduce demand charges and the private sector partners we are working with will be required to beat market electric rates.

Last year's bond project approval has allowed underground oil tanks at larger buildings to be removed, and if necessary, replaced. Jones Crossing Road Bridge and pavement is substantially complete. The library boiler and air conditioner were replaced as well as air handling at the preschool. This summer required upgrades to five sets of fire doors between the old section of the high school and middle school should be installed. Additionally, some asbestos tile removal at the high school is planned in conjunction with some cafeteria renovations. The largest project remaining is the replacement of heating unit ventilation in the high school and middle school. We paused this project to make sure it will take advantage of new possibilities that the microgrid project offers. The parking lot expansion and replacement at Coventry Grammar School is also planned for this summer.

We have lots of small projects in various stages. These include:

- 1) Crosswalk beacons (solar powered) at the intersection of Main Street and Ripley Hill.
- 2) Completion of 9-holes of disc golf at Creaser Park—waiting for signage for the first six holes. Spring opening anticipated.
- 3) Installation of a "Welcome to Coventry" sign on the Town green at the corner of Boston Turnpike and Main Street. The sign was provided free by a vendor we do business with when an order was canceled. We bought the letters.
- 4) Interior LED lighting: In conjunction with Eversource we have changed all the interior lighting at all four firehouses, the high school and middle school. Next up are CGS and GHR schools, the water pollution control plant, and the Library. (Town Hall, Police and the School Admin building were completed several years ago.) The program provides a grant and zero-interest loan with the balance paid out of future energy savings.
- 5) Town Hall flagpole: Using LOCIP grant funds, granite curbing from Main Street, and electrical work donated by Ackert Electric, this project is now complete. We will have a dedication ceremony on Flag Day.



Coventry is proud to have received Silver Certification in the Sustainable CT initiative. Achieving this represents a great deal of foresight and hard work by Town staff. We received our award at the CCM Annual Convention in December. A side benefit of obtaining the Sustainable CT Silver Certification: we are eligible for crowd-sourced funding and are looking at a greenhouse project in conjunction with our Community Gardens. Watch for a CoventryVision video on last year's growing season coming out soon. For more information about the Sustainable CT initiative, see their website at: www.sustainablect.org.



This year is also the time for residents to complete Census 2020 forms. This time, for the first time, the Federal Government is asking for information to be submitted online. Watch for more information in the mail and from the Town Manager's office in February/March. Having every person counted matters. For more information about the 2020 census, visit: <https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Lt-Governor/Working-Groups/2020-Census-Connecticut-Complete-Count-Committee>.