



Replacement of the Folly Lane Bridge over the Skungamaug River nears completion. Bridge rail was back-ordered, which slowed up the project a bit, but we anticipate that the bridge will be open by the time this newsletter is printed. Watch for announcements on the Town website or Town Manager's Facebook page. Photo by John Elsesser.

Message from Julie Blanchard, Town Council Chairwoman

Dear Coventry:

It is my sincere hope that everyone is staying safe had a good holiday season. The Town Council and our town staff has been working hard at altering our lives to continue to serve the public while also protecting ourselves and the public. We are struggling with making our Audience of Citizens' portion of our meeting beneficial for all. I would ask that people who want to address the Council at our meetings (via email or in person when able) speak about topics that the Council has purview over, be respectful, and address the group not individuals.

If you want to contact the whole Town Council about any matter, you can email the group by going to the Town's website coventryct.org, under Government click on the Town Council tab, scroll down and find the email the Town Council link. Letters received by the Town Council will be attached to our agenda's as correspondence to be available for review by the public.

If you want to contact individuals, our email addresses are as follows:

- jblanchard@coventryct.org
- rwilliamsjr@coventryct.org
- lthomas@coventryct.org
- jhand@coventryct.org
- mobrien@coventryct.org
- mobrienjr@coventryct.org
- lconant@coventryct.org

Our Council meetings are streamed live on YouTube and aired on Spectrum cable channel 191 on the first and third Monday of the month beginning at 7:30.

Best wishes to all,
Julie A. Blanchard, Chairwoman
Coventry Town Council

TOWN MANAGER JOHN ELSESSER'S MESSAGE

I want to start by thanking Town employees for holding things together and providing a very high level of service, in spite of COVID in our town and workforce. We are trying to continue our mission to serve community needs, but ask citizens to help us to prevent the need to further restrict our operations.

Please use remote services whenever possible. These include:

- Online deed and assessment searches
- Online payments of taxes and use bills. You can also print receipts. Online wire transfers are free.
- Online building and development permits: our PermitView software has just been expanded.
- Use the dropbox on the wall in the rear vestibule for payments (no cash).
- Call ahead and we can leave information in the vestibule for you.

We are trying to keep things safe by having most meetings remotely, but available to the public via ZOOM, or streaming. We have also taken steps to increase air filtration in conference rooms and larger areas.

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

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- Grant Projects — pg. 13
- School Projects — pg. 13
- COVID Vaccines — Back Cover

TOWN HALL HOLIDAYS:

Feb. 15	Presidents' Day
April 2	Good Friday

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

<https://crog.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html> – Geographical Information System (Maps) and property Information

The Elderly or Totally Disabled Homeowner Program begins February 1, 2021, and applications are being accepted until May 17, 2021. Our office will be sending reminder letters by the end of January 2021 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 \$45,800 if married, or less than \$37,600 if single, both must include Social Security benefits and your adjusted gross income from your 2020 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 1, 2021 and applications are accepted until October 1, 2021. A DD214 must have been filed with the Town Clerk prior to **October 1st, 2021** 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 \$45,800 if married, or

less than \$37,600 if single, both must include Social Security benefits and your adjusted gross income from your 2020 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 filing deadline for an adjustment on the grand list is December 31, 2020. 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 2021. Appeal **applications must be filed no later than February 20, 2021**. The board is required to hear all appeals concerning Motor Vehicle, Personal Property or Real Estate. Applications will be available in January 2021 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, 2021. The last day to pay without interest is February 1, 2021. Real Estate tax bills are **not** mailed out for the January installment. If you need a copy of your 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 the link to "Find your bill."

Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax bills are for vehicles purchased, registered or plates transferred after October 1, 2019 & before August 1, 2020. These supplemental bills were mailed out in December and are due January 1, 2021. The last day to pay without interest is February 1, 2021.

LOW INTEREST PROGRAM: To assist our taxpayers, the Town Council has adopted the "Low Interest Rate Program" the Governor proposed that will cover any real estate + supplemental motor vehicle tax due on January 1, 2021. You will have a grace period from January 1 to February 1 as you have had in the past. However, rather than the normal 1.5% interest rate per month charges you will be charged 0.25% interest per month on any unpaid balance until March 31, 2021. You must make some payment(s) towards the outstanding balance during January, February and/or March 2021 to qualify for this reduced interest rate. As of April 1, the interest rate on any unpaid balance will increase to the normal 1.5% per month rate, unless the Governor extends this program. We know these are difficult times for all of us. We hope you continue to be safe and well. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Credit card payments for tax, sewer & COVRA 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. *Visa debit only* is a flat fee of \$3.95. *All other debit cards* and *all credit cards* are 2.75% (minimum \$2.00) fee. There is a link from the tax collector's page on the town's website www.coventryct.org to pay by **credit card**.

Taxpayers have an additional online payment option to pay by checking account. There is a link from the tax collector's page on the town's website to pay by **bank account**. These payments are processed by Webster Bank and there is no fee.

Taxpayers owing delinquent motor vehicle taxes must pay **all** motor vehicle taxes to get DMV clearance. Pay by cash or money order for immediate DMV clearance. Online payments will be cleared 3 business days after we receive & process them (Saturday and Sunday are not business days nor are holidays). Payments made with a check will take 10 business days for DMV clearance.

The Covid 19 global pandemic has drastically changed how we conduct business for the foreseeable future. Our department continues to operate providing services to residents while physical access to the building is limited due to safety concerns. Most transactions can be conducted via the town's website, by phone, email & postal mail. This includes being able to print a receipt.

We strongly encourage you to pay online at www.coventryct.org or by mail. You can also drop off your payments/correspondence in the drop box located in the Town Hall rear entrance vestibule (not the ballot box outside the building).

If there is a need for you to physically come into the building, please call us 860-742-4066 so we may assess your situation. There are protocols for entering the building and many services can be accommodated online, on the phone, or by email. Thank you.

Payment Due Calendar: **January**-Real Estate 2nd installment & Supplemental Motor Vehicle if applicable. **May**-Sewer assessment fee – 1st installment. **July**-Real Estate 1st installment, Motor Vehicle, Personal Property and COVRA Trash. **September**-Sewer user fee (annual). **November**-Sewer assessment fee – 2nd installment. Questions? Please call 860-742-4066.

LAND USE OFFICE

860-742-4062

REGIONAL ECONOMIC VITALITY ACTION PLAN

The Towns of Bolton, Coventry, Mansfield and Tolland have cooperatively completed a regional economic vitality action plan that provides guidance on steps the towns can take independently and collectively to find mutual success. The Plan is designed to better develop and promote key industry areas and to grow strategic partnerships, with the end goal of retention, expansion, and attraction of businesses to and within the region. As these businesses become more successful, the region will see job growth, increased investment, and increased tax revenue at the local level. The Towns hired AdvanceCT (formerly the CT Economic Resource Center (CERC)) as the consultant to assist in the preparation of the action plan. Please contact Eric Trott at etrott@coventryct.org or 860-742-4062 for further information.

PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

The Coventry Planning and Zoning Commission completed and adopted the revision to the Town Plan of Conservation and Development with an effective date of July 1, 2020. 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. A subcommittee of the Commission and Town Staff worked on the preparation of the document for over three years. This included a community survey, map preparation, public visioning sessions, and extensive analysis of key data and information to provide a detailed framework for the Town's future. The community is encouraged to visit the Land Use Office page on the Town website (www.coventryct.org) to view the document. Please contact Eric Trott at etrott@coventryct.org or 860-742-4062 for further information.

BOLTON LAKES AND WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Town of Coventry has joined the Towns of Bolton, Tolland, and Vernon in the preparation of a Bolton Lakes and Watershed Management Plan. All four towns are located in the Bolton Lakes watershed. The Plan will include water quality analysis, lake assessment, and watershed modeling. The goal is to insure that the four towns are aligned with watershed land use decisions and natural resource management activities. A kick off meeting is being scheduled and is expected to occur in early December. Work will continue over the next year with the preparation of the draft Plan. A citizen survey is also being prepared that will be shared with each of the communities in the near future. Please contact Eric Trott at etrott@coventryct.org or 860-742-4062 for further information.

NATHAN HALE GREENWAY

In 2019, the Towns of Bolton and Coventry completed the work to plan and design a multi-purpose, low impact trail on the properties that were obtained from the State of CT DOT and originally planned for the RTE 6 Expressway, as open space. This feasibility study provides the baseline for the development of the Nathan Hale Greenway, which has the potential to connect with other pedestrian amenities in the region such as the Hop River Trail. The Town is in the process of preparing one of the parcels in the corridor of linked properties for a low impact trail. Plans are underway with Hull Forest Products to implement a forest management plan activity that will serve as the initial path from where the skid rows are established to perform the forestry activities. This no cost approach serves to properly address the needs of the trees on the property long term, and facilitate the implementation of the feasibility plan. Please contact Eric Trott at etrott@coventryct.org or 860-742-4062 for further information.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

860-742-4064

The Coventry Building Dept. would like to remind residents to have their heating systems checked and cleaned to eliminate potential problems during the winter months. Chimneys should be cleaned and inspected to allow for proper draft and to vent by-products of combustion to the open atmosphere. Every winter season, local fire departments are kept busy responding to chimney fires and carbon monoxide alarms mostly caused by improper maintenance of heating equipment.

Heavy wet snow and ice storms can cause power outages at anytime. Portable generators should be used with caution and all manufacturer specifications and installation instructions must be followed. Stand-by or back-up power systems must be isolated from the buildings electrical service. During power outages, extreme caution must be taken when using candles and lanterns indoors. Never leave a candle burning unattended. Being prepared for storm-related problems that can occur at anytime is the best policy the code enforcement division can relay to the public.

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!

HAVE A SAFE & HEALTHY NEW YEAR!

WINTER NOTES FROM COVENTRY LAKE ADVISORY & MONITORING COMMITTEE

Winter is here and time for winter activities on Coventry Lake. With COVID-19 concerns we are still having to social distance but if the lake freezes people can get outside and enjoy ice fishing, ice skating and even just ice walking! Remember 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 bars (flats)
- * The entire lake should be frozen before venturing out

Check for ice fishing ZOOM classes run by CT DEEP at:

- * <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Fishing/CARE/COVID-19-Updates-CARE-Program>
- * Then take your new skills out on the lake for some fishing fun if the ice is SAFE!

If the Lake is not frozen and boating season starts early, **REMEMBER life jackets are required to be WORN on all non-motorized vessels until May 31, 2021.**

Coventry Lake's invasive aquatic plant, hydrilla, continues to deteriorate. See page 8 for more news on the results of the 2020 treatment plan.

Coventry Lake in 2020 saw an immense growth in boating due to COVID-19. People were able to get out daily and not just the weekends. Please **READ the CT Boater's Guide** and then adhere to the rules! Make our lake a safe place to boat! The Guide can be found online at: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Boating/Connecticut-Boaters-Guide>. Help make our lake a safe place to boat!

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

Find us on Facebook:

- * <https://www.facebook.com/groups/245119282764856>

Find us on Coventry's Website:

- * <https://www.coventryct.org/234/Lake-Advisory-Monitoring-Committee>

Email questions to:

- * CoventryLakeAdvisor@CoventryCt.org

COVENTRY SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS PHONE-A-THON

The Coventry Scholarship Foundation, a Dollars For Scholars affiliate, will conduct its 28th annual Phone-A-Thon in March again this year. Coventry residents will be called or sent a mailing and asked to make a contribution to the tax deductible fund, and businesses will be contacted by letter. This is a community event that benefits any graduating senior who is a Coventry resident. Last year over \$50,000 was distributed. Information about the Foundation can be found at online at coventry.dollarsforscholars.org or on Facebook. Volunteers are greatly needed.

Students may start completing our scholarship application online as Feb. 1, 2021. The deadline for submission is March 14, 2021. Any HS senior from Coventry regardless of what school they attend is eligible to apply.

Although the Lions Club of Coventry has had to cancel or postpone most of their annual fundraisers, we have continued to support many of our local community service activities and organizations. The Lions Club has recently donated \$500 to each of our local schools to use as they see fit, especially this year as schools have had to expend funds for COVID preparations.

At this point in time, our fundraisers will be the sale of a flower bouquet for Valentines Day and our annual Mothers Day roses. Community support for these projects is greatly appreciated. Updates can be found on the Lions Club of Coventry Facebook page or our website lionsclubofcoventry.org.

WINTER FARMERS' MARKET LOCATED AT COMMUNITY CENTER

The 2020-21 season of the Coventry Winter Farmers' Market is being held at the Community Center at Patriots Park and will run through early March. See the Market's website for more information at:

www.coventrywinterfarmersmarket.com

NEWS FROM THE COVENTRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Coventry Historical Society continues to accept visitors at the Strong-Porter Museum to view the exhibit entitled, Adlema Grenier Simmons and Her Famous Caprilands Herb Farm. The museum is open on Sundays from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm by appointment only. Appointments may be made on alternate days. Due to Covid-19 groups are limited to 4 people to allow for social distancing and masks are required. If you are interested in arranging for an appointment to see this exhibit, email us at: info@ctcoventryhistoricalsociety.org and a member of the society will contact you, or call Susan Way at (860)-712-4278.

In memoriam:

The Coventry Historical Society was saddened to hear the news of the passing of Bob Visny. Bob was a great contributor to CHS and a long time member. Among many other projects, Bob oversaw the moving of the blacksmith shop from the Fife and Drum property to the Strong-Porter Museum and the restoration of three of our horse drawn wagons. He often shared his vivid memories of attending the Brick School House on Mellow Road. Bob was serving as Vice President of the Historical Society at the time of his death. He will be greatly missed by the community and the Coventry Historical Society.

CHRISTMAS IN COVENTRY VILLAGE

Thank you for celebrating Christmas in the Village (and the Town!) all December long. Thank you for supporting our local businesses and restaurants and community organizations that had special holiday offerings during the month. Thank you to all who participated in the Coventry Lions Club on-line Christmas Tree contest and to those who donated prizes. Thank you for keeping this holiday tradition alive for our residents and our community. The planning committee looks forward to hosting all the popular Christmas in the Village activities come next year. Your help and participation is so very, very welcome. Contact the Coventry Lions Club Facebook page to be involved or call 860-617-3588 or 860-918-5957.

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

860-742-7966

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

**DUE TO COVID-19
PLEASE CALL BEFORE VISITING
OUR OFFICE.
WE MAY BE ABLE TO HELP YOU
OVER THE PHONE.**

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.

ITS 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.

SPORTS LICENCES: 2021 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.

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. 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.

NEWS FROM THE BOOTH & DIMOCK MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Booth & Dimock Memorial Library is open Tuesday 10-3, Wednesday 2-7, Thursday 2-7, and Friday 10-3. The Library is open on Saturday 10-1 for curbside pick-up and computer appointments only. To make a curbside order simply call the library or login to our online catalog. Please call to make a computer appointment.

For children, the Library is offering a series of Curriculum Booster programs suitable for school aged children. The series includes Mathmagical Mondays, Adventures in Non-Fiction, and Science Thursdays. For children ages birth to toddler we offer storytimes three times a week. All of the programs mentioned here and additional programming are available on our Facebook page.

The Library's Mystery Book Club is continuing to meet on ZOOM, and welcomes new members. If you are interested in joining the Mystery Book Club, please contact the Library. If you have never used ZOOM before and would like to learn, the Library has hard -copies of user guides and reference sheets available to take home (and can be ordered through curbside pick-up!)

We are very excited to offer a new item to check out: Therapy Lights! Therapy lights are portable lamps used to improve sleep, mood, focus and energy. Therapy lights may help to improve Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). Login to our catalog or call for more information.

If you would like to receive information about upcoming programs or services follow us on Facebook, or email bdlibrary@coventryct.org to get on our e-newsletter mailing list.

Booth & Dimock Memorial Library
1134 Main St.
860-742-7606
www.coventrypl.org
Facebook @BDLibrary



Above: Veteran, local resident, and Library employee Manny Rodrigues poses by the POW-MIA table displayed at the library for Veterans Day.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

100 Olsen Farm Road • 860-742-6588

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

Bill Watkins
Mark Owens
Donna Wrubel
Todd Penney

wwatkins@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.
- 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.

Mailboxes:

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.

TRANSFER STATION: 325 MAIN ST.

Thursday hours, October-March: 10 AM – 4 pm

April-September: noon – 6 PM

Open Saturday 9 am – 3 pm all year long.

Closed holidays. Proof of residency is required.

To assist during COVID, we now take debit/credit cards.

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
- Mattress and box springs
- Leaves for composting
- Textiles

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 or if your cart's wheel 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

Materials NOT acceptable:

- Garbage or recyclable items picked up curbside
- 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.

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

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

COVRRRA

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

Household Chemical Waste Drop-Off Facility: This regional facility located on Hancock Road in Willington is closed for the winter, reopening April 17, 2021.

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.

“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.

Holiday Trash/Recycling Pickup Schedule Changes ONLY for the following date: No service on Memorial Day, Monday, May 31, 2021. Resume service June 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Textile Recycling: The Town is starting its seventh 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. Last fiscal year the town received revenues averaging \$185 / month for approximately 3692 lbs. of textiles / month.

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.

NOTE FROM THE TREE WARDEN:

Please contact the Tree Warden at Public Works 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. Mail to Coventry DPW at 1712 Main Street, email Tree Warden, Mark Owens, at Mowens@coventryct.org or hand deliver to 100 Olsen Farm Road or the Town Hall. Include your name, address, phone #, tree location and a brief description of your request.

“In yard” trash/recycling service available! Do you know someone who might benefit from having their tipper carts picked up right at their back door? No more struggling to roll them to the curb!! (Some driveway length restrictions may apply.) The Town has a few slots for special needs people (no additional fees involved) who are elderly or handicapped to assist with this task. Call the Human Services Office at (860) 742-5324 to apply for this service.



Above: Hydrilla, an aquatic invasive plant, was discovered in Coventry Lake several years ago. The Town has been chemically treating the lake every season. Eradication of this tenacious plant will require a multi-year effort.

LAKE STUDY:

We have all the reports in from our three lake consultants for Hydrilla. The treatment plan continues to be successful and is recommended to continue with the same plan. Emphasis will be given to a small patch of Hydrilla off of Woodland Road, which is near a stream, due to the rapid flow of water.

Grant applications to fund the treatment for 2021 are being prepared.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

Contact Us:

Mike Ruef, WWTP Operator, 860-742-4064, email mruef@coventryct.org, online: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:

- Public Works has completed paving of several gravel roads with sewers on them. With paving complete we are working to rehab and raise 10 sewer manholes.
- Fall was cleaning time at the sewer dept. We cleaned and inspected the underground wet well tank, the grit chamber, and distribution box #1 at the Treatment Plant. We also cleaned several residential sewer pumps.
- We “jetted” 5,000 feet of sewer main and cleaned & inspected 26 manholes on Main Street between Town Hall and Rt 275/Lake St. We found 1 “problem manhole” coming from the High School/Middle School that had accumulated flushable wipes and face masks. This manhole will be inspected frequently but the rest of the area does not need to be cleaned again for 20 years.

Another Wipes Blockage!

We had another 8” pipe at the Treatment Plant become completely blocked by flushable wipes. This had never happened until March of 2020 and this is the **third time** since March we’ve had a complete blockage. Wipes are the biggest operational challenge we have ever faced. Wipes manufacturers are misleading consumers by marketing their products as “flushable”. They may be “flushable” but they are definitely not “treatable”. Please do not flush any type of wipe down the drain. Throw them in the trash. Continued abuse of our sewer system will lead to sewer main blockages and sewage backups into basements. If you flush wipes your basement or first floor is most likely to be the first to flood with sewage. We know Coronavirus was the original culprit but toilet paper is back in full supply. We are trying really hard not to increase sewer use fees during this difficult time but unfortunately the selfish actions of some individuals may necessitate purchase of expensive machinery to remove wipes. Please.

Wipes are a huge problem for sewer systems in the US and the rest of the world.

Miami (video): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGYJ4YNHQFU>

Philadelphia: <https://apnews.com/article/c063f6c45f7e7f7870b61936f77f3d34>

New Jersey: <https://www.bloomberg.com/press-releases/2020-03-23/suez-reminds-residents-to-throw-wipes-in-the-garbage-so-called-flushable-wipes-clog-the-sewer-system>

California: <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/environment-and-energy/avoid-fatbergs-dont-flush-wipes-due-to-virus-california-says>

Australia: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-05-31/island-of-wet-wipes-clog-up-darwin-wastewater-sewage-pond/12300758>

Maryland/DC: <https://www.npr.org/local/305/2020/03/27/822494597/people-are-using-more-wipes-because-of-coronavirus-clogging-sewers>

London (video): <https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-england-london-43066688>

Europe: <https://www.euractiv.com/section/energy-environment/opinion/time-to-banish-wet-wipes-from-our-sewers/>

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.

TOWN MANAGER JOHN ELSESSER'S MESSAGE

- Continued from page 1

Visitors entering Town Hall need to check in to provide contact tracing information. This is expanding to the Building/Development group.

We have added touchless options at the Transfer Station for non-cash payments.

The Senior Center is by appointment only for assistance or fitness equipment use. Medical transportation is still available.

Food assistance from Human Services is curbside by appointment. Drop-offs are welcome in the lower left-side vestibule.

We are upgrading software to "CivicSend" to enhance our web-related communications.

See the back cover of this publication for COVID vaccination information.



DEPARTMENT 18—COVENTRY FIRE/EMS:

*James McLoughlin, Fire/EMS Administrator;
Bud Meyers, Interim Chief*

ET 118 has been returned from a major retrofit to extend its life (vs. replacing). A pick-up truck has been outfitted to replace the small rescue truck. It should be ready for operation in February. The old rescue truck will replace an old brush truck with electrical problems.

The Fire Transition Study Committee has prepared recommendations for budget consideration for a series of changes to incentive volunteer participation. If you are interested in being a Fire/EMS volunteer, go to <https://www.coventryct.org/138/Fire-Departments> for an application.

FARMERS' MARKET:

Plans are being discussed on how to have a safe, but more active, Farmers' Market this summer. Watch for announcements.

NEW BUSINESSES:

- Husky Pizza is planning to move into the building where Bea's Country Kitchen was in Coventry Village.
- A new restaurant is going through the permit process to move into the building where Reid's was at the intersection of Rt. 31 and Lake Street.
- Dollar General is underway and should be open on Rt. 44 by early spring.
- We are sad to lose Rusty Relic, Swiss Cleaners, Nailed It, and Coventry Fitness. Please support your local businesses.
- We are working with some interested parties looking for locations in town.
- Special congratulations to Dr. Michael Keenan, who is retiring after serving the Coventry community for 36 years. We have been stressing to Hartford Health Care the need for medical services in town.
- CVS has created a Health Hub to expand their services and products they offer. This includes COVID testing by appointment.

Comings & Goings and Staff Accomplishments

Welcome to **Bill Watkins**, Director of Public Works, who joined our staff in mid-January. Bill brings a wealth of experience to his role, most recently as Assistant Director of Public Works for the Town of Clinton.

We also welcome **Alexa Gorlick**, Zoning Enforcement Officer, to our team. Alexa brings a Masters in Geosciences from Fort Hayes State University and experience with GIS software, making her a good fit for our Land Use Department.

Congratulations to **Richard Grimaldi**, who has been appointed to fill the position of Detective at the Coventry Police Department. This is a rotating assignment that becomes available approximately every two years. Detective **Michelle Krukoff** will return to the patrol division upon the completion of her term. We also welcome **Nathan Provost** and **Loren Santiago** to the CPD. Nathan Provost was a police officer in Gaithersburg, MD for the past eight years, and served in the US Marines and US Coast Guard. He will undergo three weeks of compliance training through the end of January, at which time he will begin his field training program before taking on his duties as a police officer. Loren Santiago served in the US Army and was a tank commander in the Middle East. As a new recruit, he will attend the CT Post academy, which began in early January. Upon graduation, he will participate in a 12-14 week field-training period before taking on his duties as a police officer.

Welcome to **Tiffany Lazor**, who has joined our staff as Senior Center Assistant. Tiffany has a customer service and fitness center background, which will be an asset to Coventry's seniors. She is already at work helping to develop virtual programming at the Center.

Congratulations to Youth Services Coordinator **Sneha L'Heureux**, who has returned from maternity leave after the birth of her first child.



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 Skungamaug Golf Club, owned by Susan & John Motyka, with their "Food in Lieu of Green Fees" event which raised funds for Coventry residents in need.

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 items so please check expirations 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 Human Services Office in partnership with The Salvation Army coordinates the distribution of pre-packaged food boxes. Distribution of over 250 boxes to our senior/disabled Orchard Hill residents has occurred from May 2020- present. We'd like to extend our gratitude to Salvation Army for their continued support of our community.

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.

Due to Covid-19, there are no in-person appointments. Coventry residents may call Human Services (860)742-5324 for phone appointment only on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

"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. Thank you to those who helped in 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!

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

**You may also donate online at any time
via the Coventry Parks & Recreation donation page:
<https://secure.rec1.com/CT/coventry-ct/catalog>**

The Town of Coventry is proud to offer an exciting program that helps you maintain a healthy lifestyle, all while holding on to more of your hard earned money. The Town of Coventry Prescription Discount Card, administered by ProAct, Inc., is a FREE program that offers discount savings on the purchase of prescription drugs. Best of all, it costs NOTHING for Town of Coventry or local taxpayers. So why pay more? Just bring this card with you to your next pharmacy visit, and let the savings begin!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: How does the Town of Coventry Prescription Discount Card work?

A: Just present this FREE card to your pharmacist the next time you bring in a new prescription, or go for a refill.

Q: Where can I use my Town of Coventry Prescription Discount Card?

A: The card is accepted by most pharmacies in Connecticut, including Walgreens, CVS, Rite Aid, Target, and Wal-Mart. For more information on over 55,000 participating pharmacies nationwide, please call ProAct toll free at 1-877-776-2285 or visit www.CTRxDiscountCard.com.

Q: What does the Town of Coventry Prescription Discount Card cover?

A: All prescription medications are covered, at a discount rate. Savings are also available on Vision, Lask, and Hearing services. For more information on discounts, please visit www.CTRxDiscountCard.com.

Q: Can I use the card if my prescriptions are already covered by insurance?

A: No. This card is intended to be used if you don't have insurance, or if something is not covered by your current program. It can't be used to discount prescription co-payments or deductible charges.

QUESTIONS?

Call ProAct toll free at 1-877-776-2285 or visit www.CTRxDiscountCard.com.

PRESENT THIS CARD AT THE PHARMACY TO START ENJOYING SAVINGS ON YOUR NEW OR CURRENT PRESCRIPTIONS.



Pharmacy Billing Information
Member # TNC005799
(All family members to be processed under cardholder's ID 01 person code.)
RESTAT Bin # 600471 | RX Grp # TNC
PROACT PHARMACY HELPDESK 1-877-776-2285
RESTAT HELPDESK 1-800-248-1062 (After hours and weekends)
Vision and EyeBenefits Info: visit www.CTRxDiscountCard.com
Hearing only: 1-866-956-5400 | LASIK only: 1-877-201-3852

(This card has been pre-activated and is ready for immediate use.)

- * Accepted at Most Pharmacies Nationwide
- * One Card Covers an Entire Family
- * No Sign-Up or Registration
- * Free for You and Free for the Town of Coventry



Endorsed by the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities

SENIOR CENTER

172 Lake Street • 860-742-3525

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

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>.

Yes, we are open and here for you! Though our doors may not be open for walk-ins, we are still providing direct services by appointment for energy applications, use of the fitness room, public computers, sewing room and billiards. Just call ahead to schedule your appointment, Monday-Friday, 9-noon. We are committed to providing you with a safe environment in accordance with the state COVID guidelines. Here is what's been happening at the Center.

- We are open by appointment for one-on-one use of the building facilities.
- We are currently running our transportation program for those individuals needing to get to their medical appointments or in need of a prescription pickup.
- Our building's ventilation system has been thoroughly cleaned and we have self-certified with the State of CT and adhering to all Sector Rules and Certification for Reopening.
- Through grant funding, we will be upgrading our building to "touchless" appliances (lights, faucets, toilets, doors).

Please understand the Center may adjust, without notice, to closing the facility and will do our best to communicate these updates through our website, Facebook page, emails and monthly newsletters.

For in-person visits to the Center, we ask you follow the following protocols:

- Please wear a mask covering both your nose and mouth at all times.
- When in the building, please be mindful of the 6' separation signs throughout the building to keep you and our staff safe.
- Health Screenings will be required prior to entering the building and prior to a transportation pickup. The health screen includes: asking if you have a fever of 100.4 or more, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, muscle aches or headaches, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, fever, gastrointestinal symptoms such as diarrhea or vomiting, congestion or runny nose, fatigue and have you travelled out of state. If our staff or participant say "yes" to any symptom, we are asking you to "stay home."

COVENTRY RIDES TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

Sarah Leete, Transportation Coordinator; sleete@coventryct.org
Hours: Call and leave a message, your call will be returned within 48 hours.
Telephone #: 860-742-3525

Coventry Rides Transportation Program provides free handicap-accessible service for Coventry Seniors and residents with disabilities to the towns of Bolton, Tolland, Vernon, and Manchester.

As a result of the pandemic, the priority will be given to those with medical appointments. We have currently suspended rides for errands, shopping, the bank, employment etc.

The Coventry Rides Program is funded with grants from the CT Department of Transportation and the Town of Coventry.

WRTD – Dial-a-ride WRTD (Windham Region Transit District)
Dial-a-Ride services are available for Coventry-to-Coventry transit, as well as to the 9 towns within the Windham region. Reservations can be scheduled a minimum of one business day in advance and up to two weeks prior. To schedule a ride or for more information call 860-456-2223.

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 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.

AARP OFFERINGS:

Tax Preparation

February 22, March 8, March 22, April 5, 2021, Senior Center Lodge

AARP has been working hard for months to come up with various models that would allow us to operate the "traditional" in-person method (with PPE and social distancing guidelines in place) to a "no-contact" method. Ongoing discussions continue as we explore several models to make the program successful for the upcoming year. Please contact the Senior Center for further information and to schedule your appointment.

Safe Driving Course

Tentative Classroom Instruction is planned for March, 2021, Senior Center Lodge

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. Call the Senior Center for further information.

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!

BEAUTIFICATION INITIATIVES:

MEMORIAL TREE FUND

We want to let the public know that in honor of our former Tree Warden, Chuck Conkling, a memorial tree fund has been established with a priority of planting a new generation of trees on the Veterans' Memorial Green. Donations can be sent to the Coventry Forestry Management Fund, c/o Coventry Finance Department, 1712 Main Street, Coventry, CT 06238. Please note Conkling trees in the memo line.



Cannonized: *We want to thank Greg Webster for painting our two cannons located at the Nathan Hale Cemetery and the Veterans' Memorial Green. He volunteers his hobby to towns around the state. We love when volunteers stop up to help.*

HAPPY TRAILS

Take a hike in one of our Town open spaces.

Go to: www.coventryct.org/482/Town-Parks-Maps-Brochures for guidelines and trail maps. More are coming this spring.

PROJECTS UPDATE:

In spite of COVID-19, the Town has pressed forward on many projects, many funded by grants. These include buildings, roads and bridges, and policies.

ROADS AND BRIDGES:

- Road Bond: We completed most of the scheduled second year of the Road Bond, with reconstruction of the Northfields subdivision the biggest project. Minor touch-up of grass this spring is anticipated. The final year of the Road Bond may be modified due to water mains work in a couple of years by CT Water in the Lakeview Heights area.
- The LOTCIP-funded Swamp Road intersection work is still on track for summer 2021 construction, with bids anticipated in late spring. This will include relocating Northfields to the relocated Swamp Road and closing it off to Route 44. Major traffic impacts are not envisioned, since the new road will be constructed in a new location, allowing the old road to remain open during most of the construction.
- The LOTCIP-funded Folly Lane Bridge replacement is re-opened, with a few days of final touch-up planned in spring. (See photo, page 1)
- The two-town Hop River Road Bridge replacement is into final design under an 80% Federal Bridge Grant program. Plans should be complete by fall 2021 with construction planned for summer of 2022.
- We are awaiting a grant contract for improvements to the intersection of South Street and Swamp Road, and the dip in Swamp Road. This is a 100% construction grant, and will make the curves on South Street heading toward Route 6 safer. Construction is planned for the summer of 2022.
- The Community Connectivity sidewalk project from Hemlock Point to around Winterberry Lane is almost ready for a public information meeting, and planned for construction this summer.
- We are waiting for bids for a recently-permitted pedestrian-activated crosswalk light for installation at the intersection of Main Street and Ripley Hill Road. It will be solar powered with LED blinkers.

BUDGET:

The Town/School budget is in the early development stages. In early February we will receive information on State Aid in the Governor's proposed budget, but early hints are it will be fairly steady. We have pressing cost increases for health insurance and pension, as well as multiple COVID-19 impacts, which will make this year more difficult.



The Budget Hearing is set for March 11 at 7 PM. The format is uncertain at this time. The Governor is also considering whether to allow a traditional Town Meeting due to crowd size. Our Town is pushing through our lobbying organizations to let at least the traditional vote to proceed. We will keep you informed as this issue is resolved.

BUILDINGS:

The first stage of walls strengthening for wind building codes at Coventry High School was completed and additional acoustic scanning of other walls conducted over Christmas break to allow engineering for any necessary improvements. The buildings are safe, but may need some reinforcement to meet current codes. Five sets of fire doors at the high school are also being upgraded for full code compliance during spring break. Pricing for replacing the high school/middle school fire alarm system is being obtained for summer installation. New heating/ventilation units for the middle school gym and control system for the high school office area are on order. An architectural firm has been hired to design roof replacements for the additions at both Robertson School and Coventry High. While it is hoped for summer construction, it depends on the speed of plan design and State approval.

The School Building Committee is in the final stages of selecting an engineering firm for the improvements to the ventilation system at the high school and middle school. The initial concept is no longer adequate due to new COVID-19 air handling requirements, so we await a revised design and hope that State/Federal funds may be offered to enhance air quality.

The school lighting conversion projects to LED for all schools was paused due to COVID. The high school and middle school were completed. The projects at the grammar school and Robertson school have just started up. Under this Ever-source program, this program is funded by the energy savings. The wastewater treatment plant was also just completed.

The Town is waiting for grant paperwork for a STEAP grant to install methane venting at the closed landfill, \$1.5 million to renovate units at Orchard Hills, and the match for the Library renovation. Once we get these agreements, we will complete designs and get them out to bid.

Minor repairs to one building at Camp Creaser are planned for this spring under a small State grant. The crawl space will be modified to eliminate water/infiltration and some interior changes made.

The roof at the Community Center in Patriots Park was replaced, also using a State grant program.

Electronic door locks have been replaced at the Town Hall and all fire stations, to increase flexibility and security.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION SPONSORS LOCAL BUSINESS SUPPORT PROJECT

An EDC member, who is also a Professor at Nichols College, has spearheaded a project to directly support some of Coventry's small businesses by providing student intern assistance. The students focused on improvements to websites, email campaigns with customers, as well as social media platforms. In many cases professional video work was incorporated into the upgrades. The services were provided at no cost to the businesses and enabled significant enhancements to the business's ability to connect with their existing customers and new ones as well. This is extremely im-

portant during the time of the pandemic, but it also will support the businesses long term by providing more internet visibility. The businesses involved in the project include: Coventry Arts and Antiques, Song a Day Music, Daniel Rust House, Meadowbrook Wine and Liquors, EyeTrade, Coventry Lion's Club, Image Works, and Ackert Electric. A showcase of the work performed will occur at a future EDC meeting.

OTHER PROJECTS:



- The first draft of the Senior Housing Alternatives Study Committee was completed, including results of a community survey.
- The Girls' Softball Study Committee continues to study and cost out locations for new fields. A recommendation for Town Council consideration is expected soon.
- Watch for a ribbon-cutting of the nine-hole disc golf course at Creaser Park in spring. The course is open for use now.
- Public Works has switched over to the statewide radio system, which is free to towns to use and provides better communications.
- The Town continues to finalize a forestry management plan for sections of the open space given to the Town by the CT Department of Transportation. It is important to remove the blighted Ash trees while they have value. The tree skid roads will provide a well-worn trail for access, and some funds for signage.
- Plans are in place to complete the irrigation system at Miller Richardson before the start of the baseball season. This also is a State-funded project.
- The Fire Department merger continues to proceed well, with regular appointments scheduled for July 1. Thanks to the Town Council Steering Committee and interim staff for making the first six months of the transition strong.



COVENTRY BOARD OF EDUCATION: 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 2021 are as follows: February 11, February 25, March 11, March 25, April 8, April 29, May 13, May 27, June 10, June 24, July 29, August 26, September 9, September 30, October 14, October 28, November 11, and December 9. Please check the agenda for meeting location and start time. All Board meetings can be viewed on Channel 194. To watch previously recorded Board of Education meetings, please visit www.coventryct.viebit.com to access the Town of Coventry's Video On Demand Library.

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 2020-2021 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 2020-2021 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 2020-2021 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.**
 - 1.1 *Develop and implement a comprehensive plan related to reopening schools which addresses safety and operations, teaching and learning including refinements to distance learning, assessment strategies to identify gaps in learning as a result of distance learning, social and emotional programming, scheduling, professional development, school activities and events, and the needs of parents and families.*
 - 1.2 *Generate and evaluate assessment data from the beginning of the year to inform pedagogy and pacing in ELA, science, and mathematics.*
 - 1.3 *Continue the work of engaging students in setting goals under current conditions, tracking their progress on learning, and sharing out that progress with parents and families in place of student led conferences.*
 - 1.4 *Work with key stakeholders and the District Technology Committee to implement year three of the Technology Plan and to develop the next three year Technology Plan to ensure continued effective integration of technology into curriculum, instruction, and assessment.*
 - 1.5 *Develop and implement a Chinese enrichment program in Grade 5.*
 - 1.6 *Continue collaborating with Goodwin University on the development of STEM Curriculum in Grades 6 and 7 aligned to the State Department of Education (SDE) Computer Science Framework and evaluate the alignment of the Grade 8 Technology Education Curriculum to technology and computer science courses and pathways at Coventry High School.*
 - 1.7 *Explore dual enrollment options and programming leading to an Associate's Degree at Goodwin University.*
 - 1.8 *Continue to engage female students in pursuing a STEM track at the 6-12 level.*
 - 1.9 *Continue to bolster programs Pre-K through 12 to provide opportunities to grow achievement in high performing students, to the extent possible, under current or future instructional models.*
 - 1.10 *Continue attracting out of district students to Coventry's specialized programs as a revenue stream to support conservative budgets.*
 - 1.11 *Prioritize and address the action steps in the Special Education Plan developed in response to the areas of opportunity identified in the District Management Group (DMG) study with a singular focus on the IEP process.*
2. **Maintain and promote a positive and respectful learning community.**
 - 2.1 *Enhance opportunities for students related to diversity, equity, and justice at each school.*

- 2.2 *Develop and implement additional tiered interventions to further address social and emotional learning needs students have experienced as a result of the pandemic.*
- 2.3 *Engage in planning and working with the Coventry community with the goal of establishing an Open Choice program with the start of the 2021-2022 school year to reduce racial, ethnic, and economic isolation and develop a more diversified student body.*
- 2.4 *Continue working with community leaders in order to provide a coherent and unified approach to the challenges we face as a community in the area of funding, maintenance, security, and health safety.*
- 2.5 *Work with the various employee groups to explore the possibility of moving the Columbus Day holiday off of the school calendar.*
- 2.6 *Explore next steps related to attracting international students to Coventry by vetting agencies that support international student experiences.*
- 2.7 *Further refine all facets of our district security plan under the direction of the new District Security Specialist.*

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

- 3.1 *Provide cultural competence training for all teachers in each school to support them in recognizing unconscious bias, understanding the role of culture in education, and using students’ cultures as a basis for learning.*
- 3.2 *Continue efforts to retain quality staff by evaluating options for recognition, development, or partnerships to ensure successes are celebrated and staff are supported as they refine their craft.*
- 3.3 *Continue to pursue opportunities to actively recruit certified and non-certified applicants to promote diversity in the candidate pool which leads to the hiring of a more diversified staff.*
- 3.4 *Partner with EASTCONN to explore options for completing year two for Cohort Three of the Coventry Leadership Academy.*
- 3.5 *Continue to provide comprehensive, targeted, and differentiated training for para-educators.*



PARENT Q & A SESSIONS: Come join the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. David J. Petrone for a virtual Q & A session. As the Superintendent of Schools, one of his initiatives is to maintain open communication with parents and community members. While these meetings are traditionally held in person, this year they will be held virtually. Meeting links will sent out in parent email communications prior to each meeting date.

Meetings can also be accessed through the superintendent’s webpage on the district’s website at www.coventrypublicschools.org.

The remaining dates are as follows:

Third Quarter: Thursday, April 8, 2021 from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
 Budget Focus: Monday, May 3, 2021 from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

If you are unable to attend one of these scheduled events, but would still like to speak to the Superintendent, please phone his office at 860-742-7317, Ext. 2.

WEATHER RELATED SCHOOL CLOSURES - REMOTE LEARNING DAYS:

If you have not heard, there has been much talk across the state about weather related school cancellations and having students participate in remote learning on those days. In Coventry, at the November 12 Board of Education meeting, there was consensus from the Board to have this in place as a **pilot** program for this school year.

Going forward this year, whenever possible, we will engage in remote learning in place of a traditional snow day. We will use our School Messenger system to send alerts to families via phone message, email, and text message. Additionally, we will post this with the usual media outlets, where available. Please note, we will still have the option of calling for a delayed opening, or an early release if needed, due to inclement weather or even, for a traditional cancellation should there be major power outages across the state. If we have the need to exercise any of these options, remote learning would not be available to students. For further information, please see the district’s webpage: Coventrypublicschools.org/district/hourslocations.

Please know, the only exception to this is for our students at the Hale Early Education Center (HEEC). Due to the age of our students there, remote learning is not feasible at this time. If schools go to remote learning due to inclement weather, HEEC will have a traditional snow day, which will be made up in June.

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.

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



COVID 19-VACCINATIONS:

Working with the Eastern Highlands Health District, we are prepping for vaccinations. Most people will be best served by signing in through the State.

When your eligible group is allowed to sign up, go to portal.ct.gov/coronavirus/COVID19-vaccinations to log into the VAMS system and choose a vaccination location and time. This is their easiest method. For those without internet capabilities, consider asking for the assistance of family, friends, or Town staff. Alternatively, you will be able to call 211 ... but expect delays. This is a major undertaking and patience is required.

In the meantime, please wear your masks, follow rules for public gatherings, and practice social distancing. We have made it this far, and can see a better future. Please be patient to get there.

VISIT THE TOWN WEBSITE AT WWW.COVENTRYCT.ORG