



New plum trees are coming to the Veterans Memorial Green on Arbor Day. See details in the Town Manager's column on page 2.



## Message from Julie Blanchard, Town Council Chairwoman

Dear Coventry Citizens:

“In every community, there is work to be done.  
In every nation, there are wounds to heal.  
In every heart, there is the power to do it.”

– **Marianne Williamson**

**I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well. It is my sincere hope that we are nearing the end of this tragic pandemic.**

The Town Council has been focused on our budget for next year. We expect to vote on the budget that will go to Town Meeting on April 24. We are hoping to hold an in-person referendum in May. The coming year's budget is complicated by the steps we took last year to make certain we did not raise taxes. We used fund balance, temporarily froze some open positions, froze raises for 6 months for some employees and postponed the purchase of some capital items. We also have significant increases in our contributions to health insurance (we are self-insured) and pension plan this year, due to large health claims and poorer than projected pension performance.

You have probably heard that the federal government passed the American Rescue Plan (ARP) which will provide money to our town and to our schools. We are waiting to learn the precise amounts and get the guidance that determines how and on what the money can be spent. If it is possible, we will try and use some of those funds to help offset the proposed increase in our spending. As always we will do everything we can to keep our taxes low and provide quality services.

If you would like to send in comments about our budget please email them to: [budgetcomments@coventryct.org](mailto:budgetcomments@coventryct.org) and they will be delivered to every Town Council member and attached to our minutes.

It is great to see that the number and pace of vaccinations being given are increasing quickly. Connecticut is on track to have everyone 16 or older who would like to get one, have the opportunity to be vaccinated by late May. The Governor is beginning to loosen COVID restrictions because the positivity rate has remained around 3 percent and hospitalizations and deaths have dropped dramatically from just a few weeks ago. We are hopeful that our economy can open more and people who need to can get back to work soon.

We met with the Board of Education on Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup> and congratulated the Superintendent and the Board for having kept our schools open and having given our children (and their parents) the option of in person learning or remote learning since September. We applaud their foresight and leadership that enabled them to do what many other school districts were not able to. Our schools have received ongoing funds from the federal government through ESSER I grant funds and the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) and they were allocated an estimated \$521,000 in grant funds by the rescue package that Congress passed in December. The Board is using some of those funds to pay for Covid related expenses that still need to appear in next year's budget and additional funds for the following year. The Schools will receive additional funds from the ARP. We are waiting to learn what the timing of those funds will be and what the possible uses for them can be – hoping some funds can be used to positively impact next year's proposed budget as well.

- Continued on page 2

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Building & Permits .....	3
Tax & Assessing .....	4
Library .....	5
COVRA News .....	7
Human Services .....	10
Senior Center .....	11

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Manager's Message—pg. 2
- Budget in Brief—pgs. 12 & 13
- School News — pg. 14
- Annual Town Meeting — Back Cover

### TOWN HALL HOLIDAYS:

May 31	Memorial Day
July 5	Independence Day (Observed)
Sept. 6	Labor Day

## Comings & Goings and Staff Accomplishments

Congratulations to **Janette Smith**, who just marked her 45th anniversary of employment with the Booth & Dimock Memorial Library.

Appreciation and welcome to **Ray Eldridge**, who has stepped up to serve as the Town's Deputy Emergency Management Director.

Welcome to **Mindy Gosselin**, who has joined our staff as a part-time Inland Wetlands Control Officer. Mindy had served the town in this role as a sub-contractor for a year, and we were delighted to be able to bring her on board as a Town employee.

Police Officer **Nathan Provost** has completed his State of Connecticut certification work and field training, and has assumed his regular police officer duties.

Farwell to **Olivia Beausoleil**, who has resigned from the Coventry Police Department. She was a valuable member of our staff and will be missed.

Farewell to **Wendy Rubin**, Director of Parks and Recreation, who is retiring after 13 years of employment with Coventry, and a Recreation career spanning 45 years. Wendy's last day will be June 30, 2021. We wish her well in this next chapter of her life.



**WANT TO CHANGE YOUR TIPPER BARREL SIZE?** In response to citizens' requests, we are offering the opportunity to exchange your tipper barrels at the reduced fee of \$25. If you would like to swap, contact the Tax Office **before May 12, 2021** at 860-742-4066. **The swap order must be requested through the Tax Office and paid to All American Waste by May 12, 2021 in order to receive this reduced price.** The swap will occur the last two weeks of June in conjunction with the billing cycle for the new fiscal year. Consider upsizing your recycle barrel. There is no increase in your annual bill for a larger recycle barrel.

## TOWN COUNCIL CHAIRWOMAN'S MESSAGE

- Continued from page 1

So things are improving and hopefully in the coming months things will get back to "more normal." In the meantime, I encourage you all to let us know your thoughts on the budget and also to continue to practice social distancing, washing your hands and wearing masks as appropriate, while vaccinations continue. Please continue to be diligent and stay safe.

Best wishes to all,

Julie A. Blanchard, Chairwoman

## TOWN MANAGER JOHN ELSESSER'S MESSAGE

As we approach the second summer of dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, we see encouraging signs that our community is on the rebound. While we cannot afford to be complacent, those citizens who want to receive a vaccination can get one, events are coming back and restaurants are starting to reopen – albeit on a reduced scale for some. Please see pages 12 and 13, and the back cover of this issue, for the Budget in Brief and Legal Notice. The Annual Town Meeting will take place on April 24 at 10 AM at CHS Veterans Auditorium. Social distancing and masks are required. We urge you to support our local businesses – maybe by dining alfresco, purchasing something special at a local antique shop or garden center, filling up your gas tank, or checking out a retail establishment you might not have visited before. Please do take action to get vaccinated to help protect yourself and your fellow citizens so we can put this pandemic totally behind us. Get information on the State website portal at <https://portal.ct.gov/Vaccine-Portal>.

Watch for a few old favorites, and some new events this spring and summer. A tree planting dedication ceremony will take place in honor of former Coventry Tree Warden Chuck Conkling on Arbor Day, April 29, with the planting of four ornamental plum trees on Veterans Memorial Green. Stop by and see the new trees, perhaps while enjoying the Memorial Day Parade, which will take place on May 31 at 10 AM. While reduced in scale this year, the parade will happen – and a military flyover is anticipated.

.....

Watch for a few old favorites,  
and some new events this spring  
and summer.

Coventry Cares, the nonprofit organization that runs CoventryFest, has announced that late June is still too soon for the annual large-scale festival and fireworks event. They hope to schedule something for late summer. In the meantime, they are holding a Food Truck Festival on May 8 from 11 AM – 4 PM at Coventry High School. Learn more about their plans for other community events on their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Coventry-CT-Cares-Inc>.

The Coventry Parks & Recreation Department is planning to resume many spring and summer programs, including summer camp, that had to be postponed due to COVID in 2020. See what they have to offer in their spring/summer program brochure at <https://www.coventryct.org/457/Parks-Recreation>.

- Continued on page 9

## LAND USE OFFICE 860-742-4062

### SUNDAY, APRIL 25 – RID LITTER DAY!

In honor of Earth Day 2021, the Coventry Conservation Commission is proudly sponsoring a Rid the Litter Day! This year's Rid Litter Day will take place on Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, weather permitting. Take pride in our town and help clean up our parks, trails, roadways and neighborhoods. Spring is the perfect time to remove any unwanted trash and litter that has accumulated on our streets and properties over the long winter season. Whether you are an individual, group or organization, all are welcome and encouraged to participate. If you are interested in taking part in this event, free garbage bags can be picked up at the Land Use Office at the Town Hall. Masks are encouraged to be worn by all participants in areas where social distancing cannot be maintained. For additional information, please contact the Land Use Office at (860) 742-4062.

### ADOPT A ROAD PROGRAM

The Coventry Conservation Commission and Land Use Office continue to sponsor the Adopt a Road program. The program entails 'adopting' a portion or all of a Town road and picking up the roadside trash that accumulates. Residents can do as much as they like and at their own pace. Free garbage bags are available in the Land Use Office and can be disposed of at the Public Works Garage at no charge. Please contact Eric M. Trott at 860-742-4062 or [etrott@coventryct.org](mailto:etrott@coventryct.org) for further details and forms.

### REGIONAL ECONOMIC VITALITY ACTION PLAN

The Towns of Bolton, Coventry, Mansfield and Tolland have 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. A 4-Town Steering Committee to oversee the plan implementation, and Subcommittees have also been formed to focus on the action items. The action items include: the development of a 4-Town community calendar, regional open space – recreational destination map and brochure; regional destination tours map and guide; and development of a local currency campaign. Please contact Eric Trott for further information.

### COVENTRY FARMERS' MARKET

The Farmers' Market Operating Committee is currently planning for an in-field Market this season at the Nathan Hale Homestead. The site logistics and management of the operation are being carefully considered in order to facilitate a safe and enjoyable atmosphere. Vendor selections will occur during the spring prior to the Market season opening on June 6. Please visit the Coventry Farmers' Market Facebook page for details.

### AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES IN COVENTRY AND EAGLEVILLE LAKES

The Town continues to be vigilant in addressing the environmental needs of both Coventry and Eagleville Lakes. The Town has submitted two requests for grant funding with the State of CT DEEP to address the issues with aquatic invasive species. Coventry Lake will have another Hydrilla treatment this summer. This year a special research and analysis program will also occur to better enable a long term approach to treatment needs. An aquatic invasive species treatment plan is proposed for Eagleville Lake, in cooperation with the Town of Mansfield. This plan will better enable a defined and cost effective approach for the treatment of Fanwort. In both lakes, the aquatic invasive species can have significant negative impacts to the overall function of the ecosystem, recreational enjoyment, as well as property values. Please contact Eric Trott for further information.

### SENIOR AND OTHER AFFORDABLE HOUSING NEEDS

The Senior Housing Alternatives Study Committee continues its work to develop a plan to address the needs of the community for senior housing. A citizen survey was conducted last year, and the results have been collected and are in the process of being analyzed to better understand the specific desires of the seniors in town. The plan will ultimately provide a template of next steps for the Town to consider and implement. A draft of the plan is expected later this spring and a presentation will occur with the Town Council. Pursuant to the requirements of the State of CT, the Town will also be preparing an affordable housing plan. This plan will examine and address the broad range of housing needs for our community and provide for specific action steps to implement the plan. The Planning and Zoning Commission will ultimately be responsible for regulatory modifications that are suggested among other avenues for plan implementation. Please contact Eric Trott for further information.

## BUILDING DEPARTMENT 860-742-4064

**New way to obtain permitting for Building and Land Use:** You can obtain Building, Electrical, Gas, Mechanical, or Plumbing permits all online! As of December 2020, we have joined surrounding towns to work with OpenGov and their View Point system for permitting. Once you have created a user name and password, it can be used for all towns that participate with this online permitting system. In order to make the permitting process as streamlined as possible, we encourage all applicants to utilize the online system for their permitting needs. You can also access permitting for the Land Use Department at this online site as well under the Zoning Module. Here you can access Zoning permits, Home Occupations, Driveway/Apron permits, and Wetlands, Zoning Board of Appeals (and coming soon PZC) permitting! Go online to: <https://coventryct.viewpointcloud.com> and check it out! **Do you need to access the Eastern Highland Health District for permitting?** They too are online with the same type of system (use the same user name and password). Their online address is: <https://easternhighlandshealthdistrict.viewpointcloud.com>.

**Please be patient:** Our phones and office have been bogged down with learning a new permitting system, training staff and the public on it, and working out some of the kinks that come with a new integrated system. Things do not always migrate over seamlessly and we are working hard to provide you with the best information possible. If you try to reach our office and we are not directly available, please leave a message and we will do our best to return your call within 24 hours. If you need an inspection, please be sure to leave the details as to where, what for, and your name and number. We respectfully ask for a minimum of 24-48 hours advance notice of the day you are looking for an inspection. If you would like to come into our office to get assistance with the permitting system, filing permitting, payments, or to view street files, we kindly ask that you call ahead (860-742-4064 or 4062) and schedule a time with our office staff to come in person. Due to social distancing guidelines, we are only allowed two other individuals in the office at a time, besides staff.

**Want your building plans?** The Building Department is only responsible for retaining building plans on projects for a maximum of two (2) years. **So, if you have a new house that has had a Certificate of Use and Occupancy between July 1, 2017 to December 31, 2018,** and would like the building plans for it, please call Brigit at 860-742-4064 with your name, address & daytime phone number and we will contact you within a few weeks to let you know if there are building plans available for pick up. At that time, you will be given 2 weeks to pick up the plans. Plans that are not picked up will be discarded under the State's disposal method.

## ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

860-742-4067

Public records for the Assessor's Office can be viewed using the following link:

<http://www.mapgeo.com/crcogct/> - CROG website last updated daily for ownership and assessment. January 14, 2021 for pictures and sketches.

Property field cards, sketches, pictures, exemption applications and general information can be found on the Town's website. **Remember, that property cards on the Vision Appraisal website were updated through January 2021 at [www.vgsi.com](http://www.vgsi.com).**

**The Elderly and Disabled Homeowner program** began February 1, 2021. This is the information we mailed out in regards to the participant in the Homeowner's Tax Relief Program.

Due to unforeseen issues with the COVID-19 virus and its impact on day to day business with social distancing, the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management has issued guidance to all Assessors that this year's filing for the tax relief program will be suspended. This means that if you are currently receiving the benefit and received a letter from us telling you to refile for the 2020 Grand List you should not. If you already filed the paperwork, we will use the income you provided. For new filers only, we are going to use the 2020-year income to calculate the new benefit. Everyone that received a benefit for last year's grand list and still owns his or her property will get a benefit. Most benefits will not change.

The Town of Coventry also offers a local tax relief program which mirrors the income limits of the state benefit. The program is offered as both a tax credit, that is equal to half of the state benefit, or it is a deferral, where a lien is filed on the Town Clerk's land records until it is paid or the property is sold at which time the deferred taxes must be paid.

Taxpayers who wish to remain on the Local Tax program with the option where the Town gives you 50% of the State benefit without having to reimburse the town will not have to do anything. If for some reason, you would like to change the Local Tax program to the option, which matches the State benefit and is filed as a lien against the property, should call us in the office prior to May 14, 2021.

Remember, this program is income driven and guidelines are set by the State for both single and married individuals. Please contact our office if your income is less than \$45,800 if married, or less than \$37,600 if single, both must include Social Security benefits from your SSA-1099 and your adjusted gross income from your 2020 Federal Income tax return.

**Veterans** must file their DD-214 with the Town Clerk prior to **October 1<sup>st</sup>** to be eligible for exemption. If you have already filed, you do not need to re-file. You will receive your exemption automatically. If veterans meet income guidelines, you may be eligible for an additional exemption. The program began February 1<sup>st</sup>, and applications are processed until October 1, 2021. 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 from your SSA-1099 form 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

**The Income and Expense forms** will be mailed out by April 15th. The forms are to be filled out and returned to our office **no later than June 1, 2020.**

## TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

860-742-4066

Tax Office (**860 742-4066**) Delinquent notices were mailed within the last few months for overdue taxes, sewer and COVRRRA bills. Intent to lien notices for overdue Real Estate taxes, COVRRRA and Sewer Use charges will be mailed in March/April. Liens will be filed in April/May against those properties, which are not paid current. Sewer assessment bills will be mailed the end of April. Due date for the first installment is May 1 and taxpayers have 30 days to pay before late charges apply.

Credit card payments for tax, sewer, and COVRRRA 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 charged a flat rate of \$3.95. All *other debit* and *all credit cards* charged 2.75% (minimum \$2.00) fee. There is a link from the Tax Collector's page on the town's website [www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org) to pay by **credit card**. There is another link on the Collector's page if you prefer to pay online from your **bank account**. Webster bank processes those payments and there is **no convenience fee**. Please feel free to call the Tax Office before making your online payments and we will be happy to walk you through the procedure. Please keep in mind those online payments by check or credit card can take up to ten (7) days to process due to weekends and holidays. Scheduling online payments during the last few days of any month may cost you in additional late fees.

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

The COVID 19 pandemic has drastically changed how we conduct business for the near future. Coventry Town Hall 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 and postal mail. This includes being able to print yourself a paid receipt. We strongly encourage paying online at our website [www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org), by mail or use the convenience of the drop box permanently installed inside the rear vestibule entrance to Town Hall. **Please do not use the ballot box located outside for payments.** If there is a need for you to physically come into the building, please call us at 860-742-4066 so we may assess your situation and explain the entrance procedures.

The current fiscal year will end June 30, 2021. In accordance with state statutes, liens will be filed before the end of the current fiscal year against properties with any outstanding balances on real estate taxes and sewer use charge and Trash fees. Please contact this office if you have any questions concerning the status of your accounts.

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

## TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

860-742-7966

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

### ANNUAL RABIES CLINIC CANCELLED

Do to Covid-19 we were unable to schedule the Rabies Clinic. Please make other arrangements for expired rabies dates before dog licensing in June.

**JUNE DOG LICENSING – MAIL OR USE THE DROP BOX ONLY.** Enclose a self-addressed envelope for faster processing.

**COVENTRY'S TOP DOG:** Send in your license renewal along with the appropriate fee in the month of May and your dog's name will be entered into a drawing for the most desired **#1 tag**. Coventry's Top Dog will also receive their license for **FREE!** Send your entry between **May 1<sup>st</sup>- 31<sup>st</sup>** and the winner will be notified **June 1<sup>st</sup>**. All other license entries will be processed accordingly and mailed out in the beginning of June. Along with payment include *current rabies certificate, proof of spay/neuter and a self-addressed stamped envelope.*

- \* \$8.00 for spayed or neutered dogs.
- \* \$19.00 for unaltered dogs.
- \* Any dog license issued after June 30<sup>th</sup> is subject to a \$1.00 per month late fee.
- \* Licenses will not be sold until June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- \* Check your dog's rabies expiration date. If that date has expired, **PROOF OF A CURRENT RABIES VACCINATION** will be required to renew your dog's license.
- \* Help us keep our records current - if there are any changes in your dog's registration status (spay/neuter, death, change of address) please update the clerk's office at 860-742-7966, or email [tolmann@coventryct.org](mailto:tolmann@coventryct.org).
- \* *Remember a license is your lost dog's ticket home.*

### FISHING SEASON IS OPEN!!

- \* All adults need to have a license to fish.
- \* Children under the age of 16 do not need a license to fish. **\*Parents, please note: If you will be handling your child's fishing pole or baiting the line, Connecticut Law requires that you carry a current fishing license.**
- \* Consult the 2021 Connecticut Angler's Guides each year for updates on DEEP regulations and other useful information online at [www.ct.gov/deep](http://www.ct.gov/deep) or pick up a copy in our office.
- \* *Your 2021 fishing licenses are available at the Town Clerk's office or online at [www.ct.gov/deep](http://www.ct.gov/deep).*
- \* Trout/Salmon Stamp-\$5
- \* Hunting/ Inland Fishing-\$38
- \* Inland Fishing license-\$28
- \* All Waters Inland and Marine Fishing-\$32
- \* All Waters Hunting & Fishing -\$40
- \* Non-Resident Fishing licenses are also available at \$22 for a 3-day pass or \$55 for season license.
- \* Lifetime licenses are available free of charge to persons over 65. (Requires annual renewal)
- \* Check out the Connecticut DEEP Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CTFishAndWildlife/>! It has lots of information on upcoming events, facts and beautiful pictures.

## 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. A new storytime program, Journey Through the Classics, explores classic children's literature. Recordings will be posted every Wednesday and Friday evening. Lastly, every Sunday the extraordinary Miss Rachel will post a printable hand-drawn coloring page, copies are also available at the library. Make sure to get a copy and share your finished product with us! All of these programs are available for free on our Facebook page!

For adults, the Library's is offering two new foodie programs. The first program is Tea Explorers, where participants can learn about the history of, as well as sample different types of tea. The second program is Spice Life, where participants will explore different spices, the culture they represent, health benefits that can be derived from them, and test different recipes. Both of these programs are available via curbside pickup. The program bags will include everything you need to fully participate. To reserve your bag, please call the Library.

The Library is currently selling pens, face masks, tote bags, and t-shirts. The full amount from each purchase will be given to the Library Renovation & Improvement Committee as an effort to help supplement the Library's Renovation Project. The Library is also accepting donations for this cause, which can be made by check to Booth & Dimock Memorial Library or on PayPal @BDMLibrary.

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

Booth & Dimock Memorial Library

1134 Main St.

860-742-7606

[www.coventrypl.org](http://www.coventrypl.org)

Facebook @BDLibrary



Above: Steve the Cat, Tony Rigatoni the Leopard Gecko, and Piper the Puppy pose with some of their favorite books, as part of our Pet Book Review series.

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

## DPW PROPOSED SUMMER ROAD WORK PLAN 2021/21 (Subject to Covid-19 delays)

### Full Depth Reclamation with Bituminous Overlay:

- North Farms Road (from Joshua Lane To Cul-de-sac)
- Hickory Drive (Water Front Manor)
- Juniper Drive
- Lake Shore Drive
- High Meadow Lane
- Ridgebrook Drive

### Cold in Place Recycling with 1.5 inch hot overlay:

- South River Road
- Trowbridge Road
- Carpenter Road

### Bituminous Shimming:

- School Street (remaining half)
- John Hand Drive
- Knollwood Drive
- Birchwood Drive
- Meadow Trail

Portions of the above roads will be full width (both lanes) shimmed 1.5 inches compacted in preparation for a Chip Seal final course. Public Works crews will prepare roads, make drainage repairs and cut keyways for all full width shimming to be done by state bid contractor.

### Roads to be Chip sealed:

- North Farms Road
- Barbara Drive
- John Hand Drive (Bellevue)
- Antrim Road
- Lancaster Road
- Ripley Hill Road
- Cooper Lane
- Pilgrim Hills Subdivision
- Nathan Hale Drive
- Upton Drive
- South Street Ext.
- Eastview Drive
- Gardner Tavern Road

Public works Crews will prep and make drainage repairs to prepare for the State Bid Chip Seal.

### Crack Sealing:

The crack sealing program this year will cover roughly 10 miles of roads. The list of roads will be determined this spring. Prior to crack sealing taking place the Public works Crews will sweep the selected roads and notice will be put out for the residents.

## CAPITAL PROJECTS FROM THE OFFICE OF THE TOWN ENGINEER

**Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons:** Contractor has been awarded for the project to install the solar powered Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) at the Ripley Hill Road and Main Street Crosswalk. The RRFBs equipment is expected to be delivered in early April with installation to follow shortly after. Total duration to install should only take one week.

**Folly Lane Bridge Replacement:** The \$1.1 million bridge replacement project will be finishing up in late April/ early May with expansion joints, top course paving, end wall staining and turf establishment. The bridge opened up to traffic in January 2021 after being closed to facilitate construction in August 2020.

**Swamp Road @ Boston Turnpike Intersection Improvements:** This project should be out to bid in early May of 2021 and anticipating starting construction in July/August. The Town expects the project to carry over to May 2022 due to long lead times for the new traffic signal equipment required with realignment of Swamp Road opposite of Bread & Milk Street (aka Route 31 N). There will be a heavy overhead utility work required as well. All demolition of the Swamp Road and Northfield Road will be done in 2022 after the new intersections opens up.

**South Street Roadway and Pedestrian Improvements:** The project has encountered minor delays in the environmental permitting and Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey. Project will not be out to bid until July this summer. The project may not start until 2022 construction season.

**Hop River Bridge Replacement:** The Project continues to go through the permitting and design phases this summer. Construction will not start until 2022 and maybe 2023.

## SPRING STREET SWEEPING SCHEDULE:

The Public Works Department has scheduled street sweeping to begin on or about 3/15/21 weather permitting. There are five sweeping districts in Town. The order in which the streets will be swept are by District, and are as follows: District 5, District 4, District 3, District 1, and District 2. Please see the Street Sweeping District Map at right.



The Department requests that all property owners refrain from raking yard waste such as sticks, leaves and dead grass into the street. DPW **will not sweep up windrows** of yard debris raked and swept to the gutter of the street. The introduction of these materials can damage the equipment and hinder timely program completion. The intent of the program is to sweep up sediment and particulates that are detrimental to storm water quality. Raked up yard waste **excluding sticks** can be brought to the Transfer Station for composting year round during the open hours of operation. Please avoid parking vehicles in the roadway during the sweeping program. Please call Mark Owens, Superintendent of Operations, if you have any street sweeping questions or concerns Monday thru Friday 7:00am -3:00pm at (860) 742-6588 or email [mowens@coventryct.org](mailto:mowens@coventryct.org).

## TRANSFER STATION: 325 MAIN ST.

Thursday hours, April–September: noon – 6 PM

Open Saturday 9 AM – 3 PM all year long.

Closed holidays. Proof of residency is required.

**The Town now has the option for you to pay your fee at the Transfer Station electronically with a debit or credit card.**

### 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.  
**DOORS MUST BE REMOVED FROM REFRIGERATORS.**
- Tires – automobile size – on or off rim \$5 each.

### Materials acceptable no cost:

- Textiles—clean, dry, contained in bag
- Gas grill propane tanks for recycling
- Single stream recyclables (e.g., bottles, cans, cardboard, paper)
- Leaves for composting
- Mattress and box springs (dry only, if wet/mangled or futon \$10 fee applies)
- Electronics, fluorescent light bulbs, batteries
- Appliances without refrigerants (stove, washer, dryer)
- Metal materials (**metal tanks must be cut open and crushed**).

### Materials NOT acceptable:

- Garbage
- Grass clippings
- Furniture
- Hazardous waste

**Come to the Transfer Station for some free compost. Bring your own shovel/bucket. Wood chips are available for a limited time for non-commercial use. Limited quantities per customer.**

**Transfer Station: Commercial Users Must Remember ...** The Town of Coventry Transfer Station is not intended for commercial use 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.

**Used motor oil and antifreeze** should be brought to the Public Works facility at 100 Olsen Farm Road, which is equipped with a used motor oil furnace.

## HOUSEHOLD CHEMICAL WASTE DROP-OFF FACILITY

This regional facility located at 57 Hancock Road in Willington opens for the 2021 season on April 17. The facility has reduced its schedule to being open only once per month: 4/17, 5/15, 6/19, 7/17, 8/21, 9/18 and 10/16. **STAY IN YOUR AUTOMOBILE per new COVID rules.** The attendant will assist you. (860) 684-3163.

Prepare the materials by:

- ✓ Packing carefully in original containers only, seal and label
- ✓ Do not mix materials
- ✓ Drive carefully to prevent tipping
- ✓ No smoking while handling and transporting materials
- ✓ Residential limits of 10 gallons liquid and 100 pounds dry materials

As a Coventry resident you may bring residential quantities of hazardous waste to the facility at no cost but bring proof of residency.

Other FAQ's:

- ✓ **Medication:** Do not flush down the toilet or drain. Many prescriptions may be disposed of at the Coventry Police Department (860) 742-7331.
- ✓ **Asbestos:** Double bag and seal this material. One cubic foot can be disposed with trash. For large quantities, contact an asbestos removal company.
- ✓ **Explosives, fireworks, ammunition:** Contact your state police barracks.
- ✓ **Water reactive materials:** For peroxides and metallic sodium, contact a licensed environmental contractor.
- ✓ **Biologically active materials:** Contact a licensed medical & infectious waste contractor.

## RECYCLING OPTIONS

### FAQ'S :

### Mattress recycling program (Bye Bye Mattress)

\*Can I drop-off my mattress/box spring for free at the transfer station? *Yes, we are a collection site.*

\*I didn't buy a mattress recently, can I still drop-off or recycle it for free? *Yes, any mattress no matter when it was purchased is now eligible for free drop-off or recycling.*

\*Will All American Waste or the town pick up my mattress/box spring at the curb for me? *No, there is no curbside pick-up for individuals.*

\*Can I drop-off other bedding related items for free too? *No, only mattresses and box springs are accepted. Futons, sofa beds, crib mattresses, air mattresses and car beds along with other sleep related items are not eligible.*



**Textile Recycling** is available in Coventry at the following three locations: transfer station when open, next to the Annex behind the Town Hall anytime and Public Works on Olsen Farm Road anytime. Textiles can be donated in any condition as long as they're clean and dry. Must be contained in bags.

**A paper shredding event** will be scheduled for Fall 2021. Check your COVRRRA calendar for the date.

**Coventry residents may recycle their paint** at the Regional Household Chemical Waste Drop-Off Facility in Willington, Mansfield Supply on Route 195 in Mansfield, England Hardware on route 44 in Bolton or Sherwin Williams in Willimantic.

**Recycled at Coventry Public Works Facility:** Car batteries, Motor oil, Transmission oil, #2 fuel oil, Brake fluid, Kerosene, Gas cylinders, Diesel fuel, Antifreeze.

## WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY (Sewer Department)

### Contact Us:

Mike Ruef, WWTP Operator

Phone: 860-742-4064

Email : [mruef@coventryct.org](mailto:mruef@coventryct.org)

Online: [www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org)

The link to the WPCA page of the website can be found by clicking on Your Government > Boards & Commissions > Water Pollution Control Authority.

### General Information:

- The Town of Coventry's Wastewater Treatment Plant was built in 1985. We are rated to treat 200,000 gallons of wastewater per day. The plant is located off Main Street south of Depot Rd.
- Our sewer system extends from the plant up Main Street to the High School, and around most of the Lake. The sewer system looks like branches of a tree, with larger pipes in the "trunk line" and smaller pipes coming off it. In total we have over 16 miles of sewer pipe in town. The largest pipes are 15 inches in diameter.
- We also have 2 pumping stations that push the wastewater up over hills where it can flow by gravity down to the plant. The Treatment Plant has its own pumping station that moves incoming wastewater up to the process tanks.
- We have over 1,000 of the best customers in the country. A special thanks to everyone who read our articles and letter about how wipes damage sewer systems. Problems from wipes seem to have lessened since the start of 2021, thank you!!

### 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.

## COVRRRA

COVRRRA questions can be answered by calling Public Works at (860) 742-6588 or e-mail to [dwrubel@coventryct.org](mailto:dwrubel@coventryct.org).

**Curbside Monthly Oversized Items Pickup:** On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month residents may place at curbside by 6:30 am up to three oversized items to be picked up for free. These large nonmetal items must be out on Monday regardless of your regular trash day. Examples are dresser, Futon or recliner chair w/metal removed. **No Electronics Curbside:** Electronics will not be picked up at curbside. Coventry residents must bring their electronics to the town's transfer station for recycling.

**Excess trash and recycling?** The Public Works Department has dumpsters for residents who occasionally have trash or recycling in excess of their carts. To use the trash dumpster you must pay \$1 for each bag that you toss in. Bring your trash and recycling to Public Works during work hours for disposal. Residents must stop in the office (7 am – 3 pm) for the dumpster key.

**Pickup missed?** Call All American Waste at (860) 289-7850 if your curbside trash or recycling is not picked up. This direct communication allows for pickup arrangements to be made. This same number should be called if you have monthly items out that don't get picked up or if your cart is broken. PLEASE CALL DURING THE WEEK OF THE PICKUP TO RECTIFY THE SITUATION.

**Tipper cart broken?** Call All American Waste at (860) 289-7850 for information. Plugs for lids are available at Department of Public Works. Push them in snugly and inspect them regularly so they stay tight. This will ensure your tipper cart lid stays on your cart.

Homeowners are reminded that the tipper carts are owned by All American Waste, the Town's contracted hauler. **The barrels must stay with the property to which they have been assigned.** Each barrel is identified with a serial number for a specific property address. If you sell your house and /or move, **please do not take the barrels with you.** Your annual payment pays for the disposal/recycle service only.

**Coventry's Best Kept Secret -- "In yard" trash/recycling service available:** Do you know someone who might benefit from having their trash or recycle cart picked up right at their back door? (A mutually agreed upon location somewhere along the driveway may be necessary for those extra long driveways.) No more struggling to wheel their carts to the curb!! The town has a **few** slots for those special needs people (no additional fees involved) who are elderly or handicapped and have no one living with them or visiting regularly who can assist them with this task. Call Human Services (860) 742-5324 to apply for this service.

**For major cleanup projects,** the current COVRRRA contract for curbside pickup with All American Waste also includes pricing for 6 cubic yard dumpster for 30 days rental at \$150 haul/\$90 ton, 15 cubic yard dumpster for 30 days rental at \$175 haul/\$90 ton, and 30 cubic yard dumpster for 30 days rental at \$175 haul/\$90 ton. Additional rental after 30 days will be billed at \$5 per day. Residents contract directly with All American Waste at (860) 289-7850. Be sure you specify you are a Coventry resident to get this contract rate.

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

- Monday, May 31st – Memorial Day
- Monday, September 6<sup>th</sup> – Labor Day

### EMPLOYMENT:

If you like outdoor physical work, have a valid driver's license and are 18 or older, we are looking for you. The Public Works Department has an opening for a summer laborer paying \$16/hr. for 40 hour week. Accepting applications immediately. For more info call (860) 742-6588.



### TREE WARDEN:

Planting, pruning or removal of trees within the Town Right of Ways (ROW) at roadside requires approval of the Tree Warden. State Statute requires a written request for permission to remove or plant trees in the ROW area. Unapproved work in the ROW is subject to fines and damages.

The Tree Warden's email address is [mowens@coventryct.org](mailto:mowens@coventryct.org). Do not use email to contact the Tree Warden for **emergencies** – call Public Works at (860) 742-6588 or the Police Department at (860) 742-7331.

# TOWN MANAGER JOHN ELSESSER'S MESSAGE

- Continued from page 2

The Coventry Farmers' Market is hoping to proceed with an in-field experience this year and will make announcements about their plans as the June 6, 2021 opening day approaches. We extend our appreciation to all those who supported the drive-through Market offerings last year to support local food producers.

While the flagpole courtyard in front of Town Hall was improved over a year ago now, the dedication ceremony we had planned was postponed due to COVID last year. An event is planned for Flag Day on June 14. Watch for details about this and other coming events in the Town's monthly e-blast, Coventry Community Update. If you have not subscribed to receive the e-blast, you can sign up at <https://www.coventryct.org/list.aspx>.

On the environment front, we are working to keep Coventry's premier natural resource, Lake Wangumbaug, healthy with an awareness campaign about what residents can do to protect the watershed area of the lake. Learn more and take the Watershed Health Pledge at <https://www.coventryct.org/formcenter/pledge-forms-14/watershed-health-pledge-64>. Residents who take the pledge can receive a car window-cling decal featuring Wongy, Coventry Recreation's lake monster mascot, to demonstrate your commitment to protecting the health of Coventry Lake.

## Watershed Health Pledge

Improvement projects are going strong. See page six of this issue for an overview of summer road work and capital projects. Page seven provides details about seasonal recycling of hazardous materials and other services available at the Transfer Station to properly dispose of your unwanted materials.

A reminder to those who may need to spruce up the home front: Coventry's Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program is designed for low and moderate-income homeowners, or landlords with low and moderate-income tenants, to address safety and public health code violations, as well as provide funds for necessary house repairs. It covers common repair projects including but not limited to, septic system repairs, sewer connection, roofing & siding, structural deficiencies, replacement windows, plumbing, electrical, and heating systems. Get details and fill out an online application at <https://www.coventryct.org/DocumentCenter/View/650/Coventry-Housing-Rehab-Application-Information?bidId=> or contact the Town's Program Administrator, Peter Huckins at Community Consulting, at 860-456-0782, for more information.

### BUSINESS NEWS:

- Husky Pizza is open in Coventry Village.
- Courtside Nutrition is open in Vinton Village next to Wick-ed Slice, serving healthy shakes and teas. Watch for a new nail salon, MJ Nail Spa, under construction next door.
- Dollar General is open on Rt. 44 across from CVS.

Please support Coventry's local businesses. Thank you.



### SPRING NOTES FROM COVENTRY LAKE ADVISORY & MONITORING COMMITTEE

Spring means yard work so think about how you can make an impact on keeping Coventry Lake healthy by using these tips:

1. The best way to keep our lake healthy is **NOT to fertilize** therefore avoiding nutrient runoff into the lake. If you do fertilize make sure to use a **ZERO phosphate** fertilizer.
2. If you plan to do some lakefront landscaping check out the great app from UConn on rain gardens – one of the best ways to avoid nutrient run-off into the lake. <https://nemo.uconn.edu/raingardens/>
3. Report algae blooms and any unusual aquatic weed growth to: [coventrylakeadvisory@coventryct.org](mailto:coventrylakeadvisory@coventryct.org)
4. When preparing boats (motorized or non-motorized) and equipment for summer use remember DEEP recommends **WASH DRAIN DRY**. Instructions can be found at [https://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2696&q=322690&deepNav\\_GID=1630](https://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2696&q=322690&deepNav_GID=1630)
5. A reminder: Dispose of personal trash properly, not in the lake. Check boats and trailers for any foreign materials and dispose of those properly as well.

Two reports are available on the Town website regarding the health of Coventry Lake. Take some time to read them as spring approaches. There are some key takeaways for lake users to keep in mind so that everyone contributes to maintaining the health of our lake. The reports can be found at:

1. Coventry Lake Hydrilla Management Report 2020 Treatment Plan by North East Aquatic Research: <https://www.coventryct.org/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/10835?fileID=14318>
2. Coventry Lake: Lake monitoring results by Ecosystems. Dr. Robert Kortmann: <https://www.coventryct.org/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/10921?fileID=14436>

There was increased boat usage in the 2020 season. Concerns were raised about safety on the lake. Take time to read the CT Boaters Guide found at: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Boating/Connecticut-Boaters-Guide> Remember that **boats** shall **NOT** operate in excess of **Slow-No-Wake** within **100 feet** of a shore, dock, pier, float or anchored vessel and **personal watercrafts** must maintain **Slow-No-Wake** within **200 feet** of said objects unless they are towing a water skier. **PWCs are prohibited from crossing or jumping the wake of another vessel when within 100 ft.**

BE SAFE - RESPECT OTHERS -  
HAVE FUN !

## FOOD BANK

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

## FOOD BOX DISTRIBUTION

Coventry Drive Up Food Distribution will be held on Friday, April 30th from 10am -11:30am at Coventry Town Hall. This is available for any Coventry resident who is in need of additional food. No appointment is required to participate. Please bring proof of residency. Food box will be distributed in front of Town Hall. Please follow directional signage.



Mobile FoodShare is an outdoor food distribution for persons in need and is available every other Wednesdays from 10-10:30 at the 1st Congregational Church, 1171 Main Street, Coventry. Food choices vary from week to week but usually include bread and several types of fresh produce. Other items may also be offered depending on availability. No appointment is necessary. Please remember to bring a bag or box with you to carry your food. If you have any questions please call FoodShare at 860-286-9999 or [www.foodshare.org](http://www.foodshare.org)

### **Dates that Mobile Foodshare will be in Coventry this Spring and Summer:**

April 14, 28  
May 12, 26  
June 9, 23  
July 7, 21  
August 4, 18  
September 1, 15, 29

## HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

860-742-5324

### **RENTER'S REBATE PROGRAM APRIL 1<sup>st</sup> –OCTOBER 1st, 2020 OFFERED FOR ELDERLY & DISABLED RENTERS**

Connecticut's Elderly Renters' Rebate Program provides direct, partial reimbursement to lower income elderly or disabled renters to help offset a portion of their rent and utility expenses. The program, administered by Office of Policy and Management, provides for payments ranging up to \$900 for qualified married persons and up to \$700 for qualifying single persons. The rebate amount is based on a graduated income scale and the amount of rent and utility payments (excluding telephone) made in the calendar year prior to the year in which the renter applies. The program is open April 1st through October 1st and eligible residents should contact the Coventry Human Services Office to schedule an appointment.

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

Coventry Human Services Office  
Like us on Facebook!



## COVENTRY YOUTH SERVICES

### **Campership Scholarship and Donations:**

Coventry Youth Services continues to work with Coventry Parks and Recreation to raise funds to provide financial assistance to children and families who otherwise could not afford to attend summer camp. None of this would be possible without the generous support from our community. **All funds for this scholarship program are raised through donations from community members, organizations & businesses.** We are accepting donation for the 2021 Campership fund. Checks can be made payable to the Town of Coventry.

Each family that applies for assistance meets with the Coventry Youth Services Coordinator, to determine eligibility (no family is guaranteed assistance). There is no set scholarship amount given; rather, each case is looked at individually and amounts are awarded based on a variety of factors, such as family income, family size, current circumstances etc. The number of campership's available is based on the donations received.

**To apply for a campership or make a donation, please call Coventry Human Services at 860-742-5324 and speak with Sneha L'Heureux, Youth Service Coordinator.**

**We will not be accepting Campership appointments until Camp Registration is open. Campership program will be dependent on if camp runs due to Covid.**

### **Gearing up to Learn- Back to School Program:**

This program provides new backpacks and school supplies to Coventry families with school aged children, who meet income guidelines. We appreciate any donation of school supply and backpacks for this program.

More information regarding date and times for this program will be posted on our Facebook page and website by mid-July.

**If you have any other questions, please call Coventry Human Services.**

**\*\*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 at 860-742-5324.**

## SENIOR CENTER

172 Lake Street • 860-742-3525

Brenda Bennett, Senior Center Coordinator: [bbennett@coventryct.org](mailto: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](http://www.coventryct.org) or receive it directly to your inbox by signing up for our Senior Center e-blast at <http://www.coventryct.org/list.aspx>.

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's 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](mailto: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.

CHOICES (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.



### **AARP SAFE DRIVING COURSE**

Tentative classroom instruction is planned for October 2021  
Senior Center Lodge

On-line Opportunity ~  
AARP is offering a 25% discount to take the Driver Safety Course online. Go to their website  
[@www.aarpdriversafety.org](http://www.aarpdriversafety.org)  
Promo code for 25% discount:  
DRIVINGSKILLS

# Budget in Brief



**Proposed Fiscal Year 2021/22 Budget**  
**Annual Town Meeting: Saturday April 24, 2021**  
 10:00 A.M. Veterans Auditorium,  
 Coventry High School, Ripley Hill Road

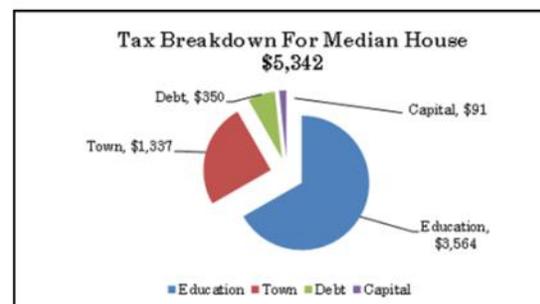
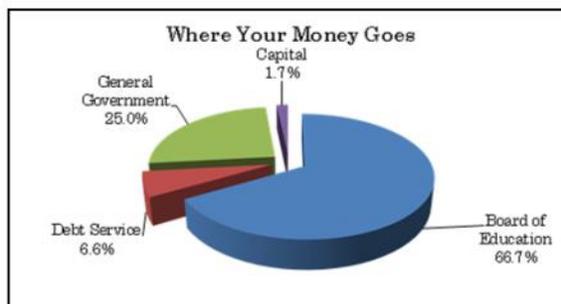
## Overview & Budget Summary

The Town Council's budget proposals for the Town General Government, Board of Education, Capital and Debt Service call for \$42,423,130 in spending, an increase of \$815,105 (1.96%) from the prior year adopted budget. The proposed budget will require an increase of 0.17 to the current year mil rate of 31.17.

A breakdown of the budgets are illustrated below:

Budget Area	Adopted Budget	Requested Budget	\$ Change	% Change
	FY 20-21	FY 21-22		
General Government	\$10,249,009	\$10,615,700	\$366,691	3.58%
Board of Education	\$27,866,548	\$28,305,819	\$439,271	1.58%
Debt Service	\$2,828,468	\$2,781,581	(\$46,887)	(1.66%)
Capital	\$664,000	\$720,030	\$56,030	8.44%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$41,608,025</b>	<b>\$42,423,130</b>	<b>\$815,105</b>	<b>1.96%</b>

The proposed budget was reviewed and adjusted by the Town Council and has been sent to the Annual Town Meeting scheduled for Saturday, April 24, 2021, in the CHS Veterans Auditorium at 10:00 A.M. The adjourned Town Meeting vote is scheduled for Tuesday, May 4, 2021.



## Town Operating Budget Summary

The Town operating budget recommended for FY 21/22 is \$10,615,700; an increase of \$366,691 or 3.58%. No increases are proposed for Town General Fund fees, including sewer fees. COVRRRA fee increases are proposed at \$10.00 per barrel. The largest increases in the Town budget pertained to contractual personnel costs and related benefits. Our health insurance experience has required rates to increase by 10%, which equates to \$92,800. Our pension contribution increased \$32,500 due to changes in actuarial assumptions relating to mortality. If these costs were removed from the budget, the Town would need a 0.50% increase from the prior year.

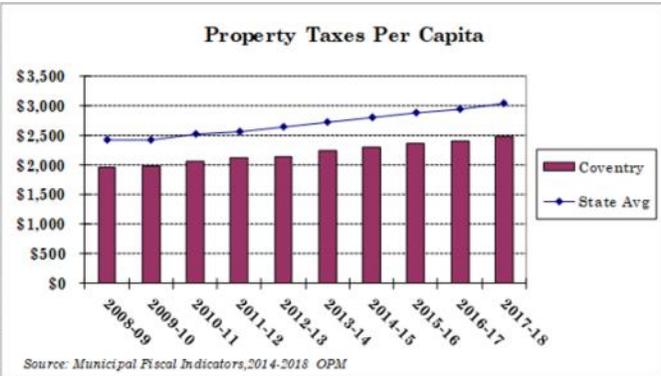
## Board of Education Budget Summary

The Board of Education budget is proposed at \$28,305,819; an increase of \$439,271 or 1.58% from their adopted FY 21 budget. This is a decrease of \$125,000 from the Board of Education's original FY 22 budget request. Details are available on the web at [www.coventrypublicschools.org](http://www.coventrypublicschools.org).

## Revenues

The property tax is the major revenue source (77.67%) for Coventry. Please find additional information regarding the tax impact to individual property owners below in the mil rate discussion.

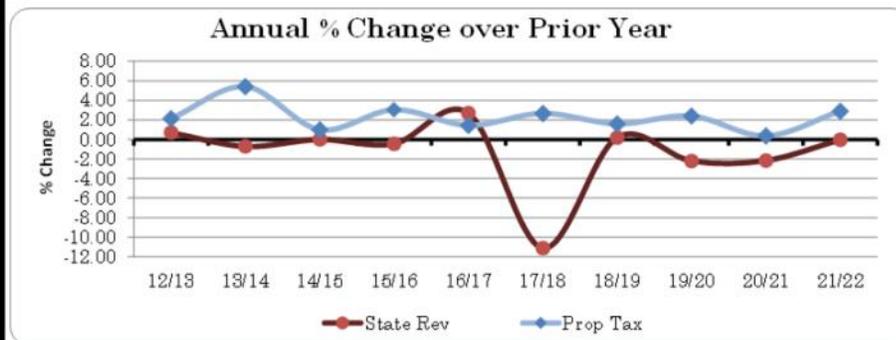
Intergovernmental revenues, mostly State aid, are the second largest source (20.39%) of revenues for Coventry, a reduction of 0.02% from the prior year adopted budget. These revenues are based on the assumed State budget which is not yet final. The assumed State budget includes the assumption that the phase-in of Education Cost Sharing Fund changes will be paused for FY 22, which if reverted would result in a decrease of intergovernmental revenue of approximately \$150,000.



Other local revenues consist of a variety of fees for permits, services and interest earnings. This source of revenue is expected to decrease by \$1,500, or 0.24%. The FY 22 budget also includes the use of fund balance in the amount of \$200,000. This is the second year in a three-year plan to phase out the use of fund balance.

## Mil Rate & Revaluation

Assessed value is 70% of the October 1, 2020 fair market value. The 2020 grand list increased by 1.60% from the prior year, which resulted in \$498,141 in grand list tax growth. Calculated on the new grand list, one mil will now raise \$1,026,102 of taxes. The Town Council's proposed budget requires a mil rate of 31.34 to balance the budget, an increase of 0.17 (0.55%) from the FY 21 approved mil rate.



This chart shows the mil rate increase over time in relation to reductions in State aid. Note, even in years of dramatic State aid reductions, the full decrease in State aid was not passed on in mil rate increases.

(not adjusted for revaluation effects)

To learn more about the fiscal year 2021/22 proposed budget, you can view the full Town budget document online at [www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org) under Finance. Copies of the Town and Board of Education budgets are also available for viewing in the Coventry Town Clerk's office during regular office hours.

### YOUR OPINION COUNTS!



If you have questions or concerns about the FY 21/22 proposed budget, please don't hesitate to email John Elsesser, Town Manager at [Jelsesser@CoventryCT.org](mailto:Jelsesser@CoventryCT.org) or call the Town Manager's Office at 860-742-6324.

### TAX RELIEF FOR SENIORS

Guidelines for additional tax relief for qualified Coventry seniors and disabled persons are available in the Town Assessor's Office. This includes a local tax credit program. Call 860-742-4067.

**Application Deadline: May 14, 2021.**



**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 remaining meetings for the upcoming year are as follows: 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 or on Coventry Public Schools Live YouTube Channel. To watch previously recorded Board of Education meetings, please visit [www.coventryct.viebit.com](http://www.coventryct.viebit.com) to access the Town of Coventry's Video On-Demand Library.

**2021- 2022 SCHOOL CALENDAR APPROVED:** The Board of Education approved the 2021-2022 Coventry Public Schools calendar at the February 25, 2021 Board meeting. The approved 2021-2022 calendar can be found on our website at <https://www.coventrypublicschools.org/quicklinks/2022-calendar>.



Above: Students with VR technology.  
(Photo taken prior to COVID pandemic.)

**COVENTRY PUBLIC SCHOOLS LIBRARY MEDIA PROGRAM:**

Coventry Public Schools is fortunate to have a strong Library Media Center program where our four building Library Media Specialists support all students, teachers, administration and community members. We strive to make our Library Media Centers vibrant hubs of active learning within our buildings and community.

Along with providing a diverse and rich array of books and resources, the department focuses on six primary areas to foster learning within the school environment, community, and world: Digital Citizenship, Library Orientation, Research, Literature Appreciation, Sharing New Knowledge, and Curricular Connections. Our K-5 program, led by Mr. Matthew Kyer at Coventry Grammar School (CGS) and Ms. Torrie Phillips at GHR, meets with every classroom at least once a week where students checkout books and teachers deliver literacy and media lessons, including our remote students through webcams and Google Meets. In addition, Mr. Kyer and Ms. Phillips support our work with Computer Science by providing instruction in Project Lead the Way at Grades K and 4. Our 6-12 program, led by Ms. Marybeth Murdoch at Capt. Nathan Hale School (CNH) and Mr. Bryn Mutch at Coventry High School (CHS), supports students, staff and community members through a blended approach consisting of a dedicated Digital Citizenship class for all sixth graders, collaboration with classroom teachers on curricular projects, and individualized support to all stakeholders as needed. Book checkout is coordinated through English teachers this year or through individual student request. We also offer remote assistance to our learners and work to prepare students for college and career, through integration of college-level research resources through the UConn Early College Experience program.



All four Library Media Specialists are also active participants on the District Technology and District Literacy Committees, as well as regularly collaborate with the staff at Booth & Dimock Library to support yearlong learning. Each specialist also provides professional development to teachers and support to families and has played a pivotal role in supporting learning during this pandemic. Additionally, they participate in regional and state library and literacy associations such as the Connecticut Association of School Librarians, the Nutmeg Committee, and various Connecticut Library Advisory Committees. Collectively, these experiences help shape programming for students that complements and aligns with district initiatives and best practices.



Above: Library Media Center activity.  
(Photo taken prior to COVID pandemic.)

In addition to supporting curriculum and learning, our Library Media Specialists are active community members through organization and participation in numerous school and community-based events. Throughout the year, the department coordinates author visits (this year virtually), literacy events, and the highly popular annual District STEAM Night for families. The Library Media Program also supports the school summer reading programs, coordinates with Booth & Dimock Library to celebrate the Nutmeg nominees, and actively pursues grants to enhance our programming. The Library Media Program has initiated grants such as the installation of two Little Free Libraries (at CGS and GHR), development of an Innovation Station for hands-on learning, and enhancing our Social Emotional Learning Resources for students, teachers and families.

**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 usually Open Door Meetings traditionally held in person, this year they will be held virtually. Meeting links will be 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 or the reopening webpage at [www.coventrypublicschools.org/2020-district-reopening](http://www.coventrypublicschools.org/2020-district-reopening).

The remaining date is as follows:

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.

**BUDGET:**

Budget development for the next school year is well underway. To keep up to date with this work, follow this link to the budget information page on the website: <http://www.coventrypublicschools.org/boe/budget>.



**Hale Early Education Center is now open for enrollment** for the 21/22 School Year. HEEC is fully accredited through the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). All of our teachers are dual certified in regular and special education. For those children with needs, we have a full-time speech and language clinician on-site, and physical and occupational therapists who come to the center to provide services.

HEEC offers morning and afternoon part-day classes, full school day classes, Before Care and After Care services, and a Lunch Bunch.

To register follow this link: <https://www.coventrypublicschools.org/schools/heec/2021-2022-preschool-registration>.

Please call or email Dr. Lois Hasty ([lhasty@coventryct.org](mailto:lhasty@coventryct.org)) with any questions.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**EMPLOYMENT**

**OPPORTUNITIES:**

Flexible hours/days with a wide variety of experiences.

**Teacher, Para-Educator, and School Nurse Substitutes:**

Please visit our website at [www.coventrypublicschools.org/district/human-resources](http://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.

**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.

**FACEBOOK:**

Have you heard? Coventry Public Schools now has an official Facebook page! To follow us search for **Coventry Public Schools**. Or, you can also connect to our account directly from the website.

**WORKING PAPERS:** All children under the age of 18, who have secured employment, are required to have “working papers.” To acquire these papers, please have a form of identification and verification of employment in writing from your employer stating what your specific work duties will include and bring them to the office at Coventry High School. You do not need to be a student at Coventry High School, only a resident of Coventry, to get working papers from the high school office. Should there be no one available at the high school, you may bring your information to the Superintendent's Office. If there are any questions regarding working papers, please call the Coventry High School main office at 860-742-7346.

**GRADUATION:**

Graduation is scheduled for Saturday, June 12, 2021; details to come later this spring.

TOWN OF COVENTRY  
1712 MAIN STREET  
COVENTRY, CT 06238



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

LEGAL NOTICE-TOWN OF COVENTRY  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING & NOTICE OF ADJOURNED TOWN MEETING  
APRIL 24, 2021

The legal voters of the Town of Coventry and those property owners qualified to vote in Town Meetings pursuant to Section 7-6 of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut are hereby notified and warned that the Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Coventry will be held Saturday, April 24, 2021 at 10:00 A.M. in the Veterans Auditorium of Coventry High School, Ripley Hill Rd, Coventry, CT to discuss and take action on the following items:

Item #1: To hear the Town Council's estimate of expenditures for the fiscal year July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

Item #2: To consider and take action on the Town Council's recommendation for the 2021-2022 fiscal year appropriation, pursuant to Section 9-1 of the Town Charter, the final vote shall be adjourned by the Moderator to May 4, 2021.

Town of Coventry  
Council Recommended Budget for FY 21-22

Expenditures	2020	2021	2021	2021	2022	2022	2022
	Actual	Adopted Budget	Actual YTD	Est. Actual	Agency Request	Town Manager	Council
General Government	\$ 1,773,266	\$ 1,763,075	\$ 1,419,342	\$ 1,763,075	\$ 1,827,620	\$ 1,833,420	\$ 1,833,840
Public Safety	2,555,946	2,628,101	2,111,936	2,663,101	2,730,275	2,830,525	2,747,791
Public Works	2,431,102	2,553,607	1,995,051	2,508,607	2,654,218	2,614,123	2,598,123
Human Services	274,268	304,101	218,673	304,101	321,301	323,041	323,041
Civic & Cultural	604,126	606,425	463,463	606,425	626,975	629,475	627,375
Sundry	2,219,448	2,393,700	1,970,792	2,393,700	2,490,530	2,490,530	2,485,530
General Government Total	9,858,156	10,249,009	8,179,257	10,239,009	10,650,919	10,721,114	10,615,700
Debt Service	2,739,772	2,828,468	2,528,868	2,828,468	2,819,881	2,828,381	2,781,581
Board of Education	27,151,688	27,866,548	12,487,174	27,778,253	28,430,819	28,430,819	28,305,819
Capital	\$ 1,060,159	\$ 664,000	\$ 664,000	\$ 664,000	\$ 766,630	\$ 766,630	\$ 720,030
<b>Expenditures Total</b>	<b>\$ 40,809,775</b>	<b>\$ 41,608,025</b>	<b>\$ 23,859,299</b>	<b>\$ 41,509,730</b>	<b>\$ 42,668,249</b>	<b>\$ 42,746,944</b>	<b>\$ 42,423,130</b>
<b>Revenues</b>							
Property Tax	\$ 31,861,641	\$ 32,020,145	\$ 32,062,671	\$ 32,020,145	\$ 33,528,336	\$ 33,407,031	\$ 32,948,217
Intergovernmental	8,834,592	8,692,030	4,613,539	8,692,030	8,555,563	8,555,563	8,690,563
Local	650,350	585,850	593,341	649,250	584,350	584,350	584,350
Use of Fund Balance	-	310,000	-	310,000	-	200,000	200,000
<b>Revenues Total</b>	<b>\$ 41,346,583</b>	<b>\$ 41,608,025</b>	<b>\$ 37,271,551</b>	<b>\$ 41,671,425</b>	<b>\$ 42,668,249</b>	<b>\$ 42,746,944</b>	<b>\$ 42,423,130</b>

If revenues remain unchanged and collection rates of 98.77% is used; a proposed mil rate of 31.34 will be required.

Item #3: To authorize the Town Manager to enter into an agreement with the Commissioner of Transportation for Town Aid Funds for roads available to the Town of Coventry under Chapter 240 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Item #4: To take action on the Town Council's recommendation on the FY 2020 Capital Improvement Plan and to authorize the Town Manager to make application pursuant to Title 7, Chapter 116b of the Connecticut General Statutes for funding for eligible projects under the Local Capital Improvement Program (LOCIP).

Item #5: To authorize the Town Manager and the Town Treasurer to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of tax collections to meet current expenditures.

20 summary copies of the proposed budget are available in the Town Clerk's Office, 1712 Main St., Coventry, CT 06238 or can be viewed online at [www.Coventryct.org](http://www.Coventryct.org).

Dated at Coventry, CT this 7<sup>th</sup> day of April 2021.

John A. Elsesser, Town Manager

Lori Tollmann, Town Clerk