



A culvert that failed on Broadway after flooding caused by Tropical Storm Elsa last July was replaced quickly. More permanent repairs are planned to this area. See the Town Manager's message for more details.



## Message from Julie Blanchard, Town Council Chairwoman

*When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say, 'I used everything you gave me'. – Erma Bombeck*

Your talented Town Council sent a budget to referendum in the spring of 2021, which passed on the first vote. Then we were able to reduce the mill rate. We are now moving forward to let the public decide on addressing the needs of updating our school roofs, and a proposal to add a girls' softball field at Miller Richardson with an upcoming referendum on election day.

We appreciate all of our talented citizens that serve on various committees, and ask that anyone who has not volunteered yet, please do so! Visit the Board & Commissions page on our website at <https://www.coventryct.org/157/Boards-Commissions> for openings, and to fill out a Statement of Interest form.

We appreciate hearing from citizens with their concerns, questions, and kudos. Please feel free to come speak during audience of citizens at our Council meetings, or send us an email! See the Town Council page on our website at <https://www.coventryct.org/225/Town-Council> for more information about our meetings, and methods to contact us.

## TOWN MANAGER JOHN ELSESSER'S MESSAGE

A busy summer has become a hectic fall. Let me start off by expressing appreciation for patience with road issues. On top of a busy summer roads schedule, we were hit by hurricanes, tropical storms, tornadoes, and major flooding. These all had to be addressed by a Public Works staff which has around the same staffing levels as 32 years ago. Look around and look at all the extra miles of roads, complex drainage systems, absorption of ownership of many lake association roads, additional parks and athletic fields and an expanded sewer system. We have been given equipment to increase efficiency, but we not need to look at staffing levels and maintenance budgets. For example, this season's storms have damaged two major culverts on Broadway and Bunker Hill, and survey work indicates that the Parker Bridge Road culvert also needs replacing. Combined these three projects could approach \$3,000,000. We have subdivisions such as Pilgrim Hills which need total drainage and road reconstruction, and the lake roads with sewer lines all need work soon. Even with funds for these projects we will need staff to oversee construction and maintain our investments. So these are issues for future budgets and we will continue to pursue grants, but right now we need your patience because we can't solve all problems at once.

The Town Council and Commissions have been busy addressing the impact of our active legislative session. On cannabis changes, the Planning & Zoning Commission has adopted a moratorium to allow study of the impact of cannabis retail locations, and under what regulations a location could be considered. The Council also

### 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. 1
- School News — pg. 14
- Explanatory text School Roof and Girls' Softball Field Projects — pg. 13
- Sample ballot for Nov. 2 Election — back cover

### TOWN HALL CLOSINGS:

Nov 11	Veterans Day
Nov 25 & 26	Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec 24 & 26	Christmas Holiday
Dec 31	New Year's Holiday

## Comings & Goings and Staff Accomplishments

Welcome to **Lesley Munshower**, who joins our staff as the new Director of Parks & Recreation, a position she formerly held at the Town of Thompson. Check in with the Recreation Office to hear about new programming initiatives under Lesley's leadership.

Farewell to Police Chief **Mark Palmer**, who retires in October after a distinguished career in law enforcement spanning four decades. His leadership will be missed. Welcome to **Aaron Calkins**, who joins our ranks as a patrol officer after serving in the New London Police Department. Aaron will do some specific Coventry field training and be in the field later this fall. A well-done goes out to Officer **Loren Santiago**, who graduated from the Police Academy in July and is now in field training through mid-fall.

Kudos to **Lori Tollmann**, Town Clerk, who has earned her certification as a Master Connecticut Town Clerk. This is Connecticut's highest level of certification for a Town Clerk. Welcome to **Mattea Whitford**, who joins the office as part-time Assistant Town Clerk 1. Mattea brings experience from her previous position in the Town Clerk's office in Andover.

Congratulations to **Sherry Chapman**, Cemetery Sexton, whose book *How Much Big is the Sky: A Memoir of a Mother's Love and Unfathomable Loss*, was a gold medal winner in the 2020 Wishing Shelf Book Awards. The judges in this annual competition awarded the book five stars in each of the rating categories. Sherry wrote the book over a period of years after the death of her son Ryan resulting from a car crash.

Congratulations to **Ida Cabral**, who completed the required certification process and was promoted to Assistant Tax Collector.

Welcome to **Cathy Mitchell**, part-time assistant at the Coventry Senior Center. Cathy is a local resident and enthusiastic supporter of our town in her other role as a partner at the Daniel Rust House Bed & Breakfast.

Congrats also to **John Elsesser**, Town Manager, for being recognized by ICMA for 40 years of municipal service.

## TOWN MANAGER'S MESSAGE

- Continued from page 1

adopted an ordinance to prohibit smoking or vaping of any product on Town property (including parks). It was already illegal in Town buildings, and also on school grounds.

To address sudden lake level increases, an ordinance allowing an emergency "no wake" declaration after rapid lake level increases was adopted to protect boaters and ski-jets from submerged docks and floating debris. This also helps to protect shoreline property owners from damage caused by wakes to their lakefront structures.

The Council adopted a statement denouncing racism and continues to work on setting up a series of community conversations on race and inclusion. We are working with the CT Conference of Municipalities and the Capitol Region Education Council on these efforts.

Sustainability issues are moving ahead with the completion of the final three Town-owned buildings to receive LED lighting conversions under an Ever-source program. Homeowners should check into the Home Energy Solutions program for greatly-reduced lighting and insulation work by contractors. We continue to work on this year's renewal of our Sustainable CT status and have been selected to get a free electric vehicle charging stations preparedness study. The Energy Conservation/Alternative Energy Committee hosted an energy fair at the Farmers' Market in August. The Market was once again selected by CT Magazine as the #1 in the State.

Tree removal has become a major issue due to Emerald Ash Borer and a recent Gypsy Moth invasion. We are working with Eversource to clear their lines of these diseased trees, but even with a substantial budget increase we are running out of funds for this fiscal year. If you want free mulch, it is available in the parking lot of the football field next to the Transfer Station on Thursdays and Saturdays. Self serve.

We are strengthening our partnership with Coventry, UK and flew their city flag to celebrate their designation as a 2021 City of Culture. We will be planting Holly bushes, which is their city plant, and are supplying daffodils to them for a reciprocal planting in their community. We expect a visit from some representatives this summer – watch for a cultural of art and poetry exchange, too.

We also hosted Connecticut economic development professionals for a Spotlight on Main Street event in September, and they were very enthralled with our progress in revitalizing our historic village. Please support your local business in this area and throughout town.

COVID-19: We appreciate all the efforts by our citizens and staff to effectively deal with COVID-19. We are close to Connecticut's average for full vaccinations at 64%. All age groups over age 25 are over the 70% level. Ages 12 to 24 are at 56%. Please urge those in this age group to become vaccinated. We have had 854 cases in town and eight deaths. This includes 23 new cases over the last two weeks, so don't assume it's over. Please respect business owners who ask that masks be worn. Watch for information on booster shots and vaccinations for younger children. Let's work together to manage this virus. A reminder that masks are required in Town buildings. We appreciate the high level of courtesy in our buildings and remind people that absentee ballots are available if you want to avoid election crowds. We are also waiting for OSHA guidance on potential mandatory worker vaccinations.

### PROJECT UPDATES:

It was a busy summer for road work, with some work still underway.

- Roads chip sealed: Ripley Hill, Cooper, Gardner Tavern, Barbara, North Farms, Joshua, Nathan Hale, Upton, South Street Ext.
- Cold in Place Recycling: Carpenter, Trowbridge, South River.
- Shim Coat: Knollwood, Birchwood, Autumn.
- Work in conjunction with CT Water line replacement: Midland, Forest Hills, Woodmere (Fall/Spring).

## LAND USE OFFICE 860-742-4062

### ADOPT A ROAD PROGRAM

The Coventry Conservation Commission and Land Use Office continue to sponsor the Adopt a Road program for the community. The program entails 'adopting' a portion or all of a Town road and pick up the roadside trash that accumulates. Residents can do as much as they like and at their own pace. Free standard 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 application forms.

### AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES IN COVENTRY – EAGLEVILLE LAKES

The Town continues to take a vigilant approach to address the environmental needs of both Coventry and Eagleville Lakes. The Town has been awarded grant funding from the State of CT DEEP to address the issues with aquatic invasive species in each Lake. Coventry Lake will have another treatment this summer to address the Hydrilla situation. This year a special research and analysis program will also occur to better define a long-term approach to treatment needs. An aquatic invasive species treatment plan will be developed for Eagleville Lake, in cooperation with the Town of Mansfield. This plan will establish a cost effective and prudent approach on the treatment of Fanwort in the Lake. 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 at [etrott@coventryct.org](mailto:etrott@coventryct.org) or 860-742-4062 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. The Plan will ultimately provide a template of next steps for the Town to consider and implement. A draft of the Plan has been prepared and is in the process of being reviewed by the Committee and Staff. It is expected to be completed in October. 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. A grant has been received from the State of CT Department of Housing to prepare 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 at [etrott@coventryct.org](mailto:etrott@coventryct.org) or 860-742-4062 for further information.

### COVENTRY LAKE ZONE PAVING PROJECTS

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

### WILLIAMS PRESERVE IMPROVEMENTS

The Protected Spaces Stewardship Committee continues to make improvements to the Town's Williams Preserve property located on Cooper Lane. The property was purchased by the Town using State of CT DEEP Open Space grant funds. The Committee has dedicated many hours of labor over the past year to blaze a new leg of the trail, remove invasive vegetation and deadwood, and has recently begun the construction of a trailhead kiosk and benches. These improvements are anticipated to be installed later this fall by the Committee. Williams Preserve is located next to another open space property with trails that is owned by Joshua's Trust and called Couch Preserve. Plan a visit to this local open space gem that boasts a lovely view of the Willimantic River at the terminus of the trail.

## BUILDING DEPARTMENT 860-742-4064

**Permitting for Building and Land Use – we are here to assist you:** You can obtain Building, Electrical, Gas, Mechanical, or Plumbing permits all online through the OpenGov/View Point system for permitting. As with the other towns that utilize this permitting system, once you have gone in and 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 contact the office for information on what would be needed to apply for their specific project. You may need to come into the office to obtain certain documentation and if you bring all the other required documentation and information with you, we can assist with scanning of the documents and setting you up at our counter kiosk to apply for the appropriate permitting application(s). 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 Only permits, Home Occupations, Driveway/Apron permits, Wetlands, and 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>.

Be sure to call the office and schedule final inspections for all the projects that have open permitting. Call 860-742-4064 to schedule with Brigit or Heidi directly.

**Building and Land Use Department Hours:** Please note our new office hours that have changed in the last couple months to accommodate for the increased volume of work and working with the public to utilize the new permitting system. We have adjusted hours on Thursdays to allow for administrative office work hours in the morning. Our phones and office are shut down from 8:30 to noon on Thursdays. We are fully open to the public Monday-Wednesday 8:30-4:30, Thursday noon-6:30, and Fridays 8:30-1:30.

**Preparing your home for the upcoming season:** Woodstoves and chimneys should be checked and cleaned to assure a safe heating season. Call and schedule a cleaning of your furnace to prepare for the winter home heating season. Also, be sure to check smoke and CO detectors for proper operation. It's wise to properly maintain any and all appliances (including stand by generators) in order to prevent falling victim to carbon monoxide poisoning, a lethal house fire or other home damages that may occur from improperly maintained appliances. Some other maintenance projects that are good to focus on in the fall are cleaning out gutters (try using a silicone spatula to assist in cleaning them out. This won't scrape up your gutters and still helps to remove unwanted debris), painting the outside of your home (even if it is just the trim work or a deck), and elongating down spouts to keep water from pooling near your foundation. Working on these projects will allow you to nestle in to your snug home for the winter season that is just around the corner.

## ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

860-742-4067



### VETERANS:

You have until September 30th to file your DD214 with the Town Clerk to be eligible for an exemption for the 2021 grand list. If you have already filed, you do not need to re-file. You will receive your exemption automatically. There is also an additional veteran's exemption available for those veterans who meet income guidelines. However due to 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 had issued guidance to all Town Assessors that this year's filing, like last year for the tax relief program, will be suspended. Any taxpayers who have received this benefit will not need to reapply, leaving only new applicants again for this year. These applications must be submitted in person to the Assessor's office before October 1<sup>st</sup> 2021. Please call our

office if your income is less than \$45,800 if married or less than \$37,600 if single. We will be happy to give you more information and assist you in filling out the application.

### PERSONAL PROPERTY:

All business owners and owners of unregistered motor vehicles are required to declare their personal property by November 1st of each year. The forms will be available on the Town's web site, [www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org) and in the Assessor's Office. Please contact us for further information or if you have any questions.

### FARM AND FOREST CLASSIFICATIONS:

The intent of these classifications is to encourage the preservation of farm land and forest land. Certain qualifications apply which can be reviewed on the applications that are available on the Town's web site, [www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org) and in the Assessor's Office. For deadlines and guidance please contact our office.

*Michael D'Amicol, Assessor and Rachel Vertefeuille the Assistant Assessor are here to assist you. Please stop in or call with any questions.*

## TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

860-742-4066

The July 2021 installment of the Grand List 2020 tax bills and 2021 COVRRRA fees are now delinquent & subject to 1.5% interest per month. The first installment of the Sewer Assessment bill, due in May 2021 is also now delinquent. Please call for correct amount due on any unpaid bill. The Sewer Use bills for 2021 were mailed at the end of August and are due in full in September. If your Sewer Use payment is not received here at the Tax Office or post office postmarked by October 1, 2021, please include a 3% late fee with your October 2021 payment.

The Real Estate second installment bill due in January 2022 is **not** mailed. You should retain your two remaining copies from the original July 2021 billing; one to be presented upon payment in January 2022 and the other as your receipt. Supplemental Motor Vehicle bills, which is a different type of tax bill than the regular Motor Vehicle tax due in July, will be mailed at the end of December for January 2022 due date only to those taxpayers that registered a vehicle **after** October 1, 2020.

Credit card payments are accepted in person at the Tax Office counter as well as online through the Town of Coventry's website. Credit card payments will incur a 2.75% convenience fee. Please call the Tax Office for procedural details or check the town's website at [www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org) home page on the left side (blue circle marked Online Bill Pay). There you will find a link to pay your taxes online by credit card or from your checking account. There is no fee to pay online from your checking account.

Once again, the Webster Bank Lock Box in Hartford will be processing **CURRENT TAX PAYMENTS ONLY** during January 2022 for Real Estate 2<sup>nd</sup> half tax due and Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax due. Please include your current payment coupon with your check and mail to Town of Coventry, Dept. 336, P.O. Box 150417, Hartford, CT 06115-0417. All other payments (partial, late, sewer and delinquent COVRRRA) should be mailed directly to the Coventry Tax at 1712 Main St., Coventry, CT 06238.

Taxpayers owing delinquent motor vehicle taxes must pay by cash or money order for an immediate DMV clearance. Payments by personal check will result in a delay of ten (10) business days for the DMV clearance. Online payments will delay your DMV clearance for three (3) business days from the date your payment is processed.

Any Coventry taxpayer having difficulty paying their taxes on time is strongly encouraged to contact the Tax Office to discuss payment arrangements.

**CALENDAR OF PAYMENTS:** **SEPTEMBER:** Sewer Use single annual payment due. **NOVEMBER:** Sewer Assessment 2<sup>nd</sup> installment due. **JANUARY:** Real Estate tax 2<sup>nd</sup> installment due. Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax due only if applicable. **MAY:** Sewer Assessment fee 1<sup>st</sup> installment due. **JULY:** Motor Vehicle, COVRRRA and Personal Property single annual installment due. Real Estate 1<sup>st</sup> installment due.

# TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

860-742-7966

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

## OUR SERVICES

Being one of the most visited offices in the Town Hall, the Clerk's office provides the link between the residents, the local governing bodies and the boards, commissions, and committees of town government. Our main functions are the recording, indexing and copying of land record documents and maps; vital statistics (births, marriages, civil unions and deaths); official repository of notices, agendas and minutes of the various boards, committees and commissions; election related matters including but not limited to the issuance of absentee ballots; answering various questions from residents; notarizing of documents; issuing of dog, marriage, civil union, sporting licenses; and receiving for record military discharges, trade name certificates and liquor permits. We also house and safeguard all of the Town's permanent public records.

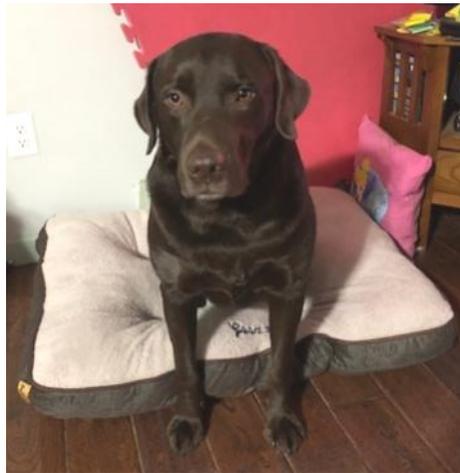
## DOGS

**\*All dogs six months of age and older are required by the law to be licensed, and then renewed annually by June 30<sup>th</sup>.** The fees for September are \$11 for spayed/neutered dogs and \$22 for non-spayed or neutered. Pursuant to State Statutes, an additional \$1 per month penalty is assessed for each month after the June 30th deadline that your dog is not licensed. Remember you can mail your dog's renewal along with **updated documentation** if applicable, as indicated on the renewal letter mailed to you in May. We also ask that you send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with sufficient postage to ensure the delivery of your dog tags.

**\*New dog owners** must provide a current rabies certificate and for altered dogs, evidence of neutering or spaying.

**QUESTIONS?** Please call the Town Clerk's office.

**SPORTS LICENSES & FALL PERMITS** are available at the Town Clerk's office or online at [www.ct.gov/dep/sportsmenlicensing](http://www.ct.gov/dep/sportsmenlicensing). For hunting or trapping licenses, you must provide proof that you held a resident hunting or trapping license within the last 5 years, or a certificate from a Connecticut Conservation Education/Firearms course. You can find Firearms Safety courses listed online at [www.ct.gov/dep](http://www.ct.gov/dep). Remember Deer/Turkey Kill Tags are now in the Connecticut Hunting and Trapping guides. The 2021 guides are available in our office during regular business hours. 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.



## COVENTRY'S TOP DOG!

*Congratulations to Dexter, who received the coveted #1 dog tag, chosen at random from on-time dog license renewals in June. Dexter lives with the Jesse Hayes family.*

## MUNICIPAL ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2021

We will be voting for: Town Council, Board of Education, Board of Assessment Appeals, Zoning Board of Appeals, Zoning Board of Appeals Alternates.

**In person** voting will take place from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the following:

**District #1-** G.H. Robertson School, 227 Cross St.  
**District #2-** Coventry High School, 78 Ripley Hill Rd.

Absentee Ballots become available **October 1, 2021** by getting your application to us ASAP, it will help us to get them prepared and mailed out to you in a timely manner.

**Register to vote online, use this link:** <https://voterregistration.ct.gov/OLVR/welcome.do>

**Unsure if you are registered, use this link:** <https://portaldir.ct.gov/sots/LookUp.aspx>

## INFORMATION FROM THE REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

The Registrars of Voters for the Town of Coventry will hold the November 2, 2021 election in The George Hersey Robertson School for those voting in District 1 and in the Coventry High School for District 2. Pre pandemic, District 2 voted at the Coventry Grammar School but due to distancing protocols, the location has been changed to the High School. The November 2021 election guidelines require that we continue to follow all regulations outlined in the Safe Polls Plan. The Registrars will notify voters through the media, the town newsletter, the town website, Facebook, and an e-blast during election week. If any voter has a question about their polling location, they may call the Registrars of Voters, 860-742-4061.

The Registrars have completed the annual canvass for 2021 and in an effort to maintain the accuracy of the voter lists, request that voters fill out a new voter registration card if they move in town, out of town, add or eliminate a Post Office box, change their name or change their political party. All changes may be made on line at <https://voterregistration.ct.gov/OLVR> or on forms available in the Town Hall, in the Library, the Senior Center and in the Registrar of Voters office.

Marjorie L. Roach (D)  
[mroach@coventryct.org](mailto:mroach@coventryct.org)

John R. Roberts (R)  
[jroberts@coventryct.org](mailto:jroberts@coventryct.org)

**Congratulations to Mary Jane Williams,** a June graduate of Coventry High School received a \$250 scholarship from ROVAC (Registrar of Voters Association of CT). This scholarship fund was established in memory of Judy Beaudreau who was the Registrar in Vernon and a long time ROVAC member. Judy believed in encouraging student involvement in working at the polls on election day with the hope that understanding the process and the importance of community involvement would foster a commitment to voting. At each conference, registrar's donate to the Scholarship fund. (No funds from towns or cities are in this fund.) Last year another Coventry student, Meredith LaMalva received a ROVAC scholarship.



### Returning Absentee Ballots:

We strongly encourage you to utilize the secure ballot drop box, which is near the entrance to our office. This will insure that we receive your ballot in a timely manner.

# 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)

## LOTICIP L032-0003 – SWAMP ROAD REALIGNMENT PROJECT:

After a long drawn-out design, rights of way, and permitting process; the Town has bid and will be awarding a contract to the successful low bidder to start the much anticipated realignment of Swamp Road opposite of Bread & Milk Street at the end of in October. We will be looking at a construction duration to June 2022. Most of the work done in the Fall of 2021 will involve very little traffic disruption when the new legs of Swamp and Northfield Roads will be constructed without the tie ins. Utility work will take place in the winter months and spring of 2022 will involve the transitions and brand new traffics signals. Todd Penney, Town Engineer, will handle the construction administration and can be reached at (860) 742-4078 or by email at [tpenney@coventryct.org](mailto:tpenney@coventryct.org) during construction with any questions.

## 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.

## LEAF AND BRUSH DISPOSAL:

DPW is requesting that residents refrain from disposing leaves and yard waste into ditches, catch basin structures and culverts. It is vital to keep these areas clear and open to convey storm water in peak flow rain events. If you have a structure in front of your property please help clean the top off. DPW swept the entire town and cleaned all of the basin tops off in the spring, but the grates still get covered over and plugged with organic debris. Leaves can be disposed of at the Transfer Station at no charge and brush may be cut up into 3 foot lengths, bundled and tied, 30-lbs. maximum and put out for bulk pickup on the second Monday of the month.

## RECYCLING OPTIONS Donate—Recycle—Don't Throw Away

**Bye Bye Mattress** is a mattress recycling program. The program was established by law and is operated by Mattress Recycling Council, a nonprofit that uses a recycling fee collected on each mattress and box spring sold, making recycling easier in our communities. Whether a retailer takes it back with your new purchase or you drop it off at the Transfer Station, the Bye Bye Mattress program converts your old product from waste to recycling. As a result, our landfills and incinerators are less crowded as old mattresses are recycled into new, useful products. **Residents can drop off their old mattress at no cost at the Coventry Transfer Station on Main Street.**

**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.

**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. Hours: M-F, 7 AM—3 PM.



## SHRED EVENT

October 16, 2021

9 AM—Noon

Coventry Public Works  
100 Olsen Farm Road

Free for Coventry residents only.

Limit: a couple or bags or boxes  
of paper per resident.

Questions?  
Call 860-742-6588

## TRANSFER STATION: 325 MAIN ST.

Winter Thursday hours begin October 2, 2021: 10 AM–4 PM

Open Saturday 9 AM – 3 PM all year long.

Closed holidays. Proof of residency is required.

Now accepting electronic payments 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 (if excessive damage or wet \$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

### 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.



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

### OTHER DISPOSAL OPTIONS:

#### “IN-YARD” TRASH/RECYCLING SERVICE AVAILABLE:

Do you know someone who might benefit from having their trash or recycling cart picked up right



at their back door? No more struggling to wheel their carts to the curb!! The town has a few slots for special needs people who are elderly or handicapped and have no one living with them or visiting regularly who can assist them with this task (no additional fees involved). 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 \$175 haul/\$98 ton, 15 cubic yard dumpster for 30 days rental at \$195 haul/\$98 ton, and 30 cubic yard dumpster for 30 days rental at \$195 haul/\$98 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 discounted rate.

## HOUSEHOLD CHEMICAL WASTE DROP-OFF FACILITY

This regional facility is located at 57 Hancock Road in Willington. (860) 684-3163.

**Open 10/16—THEN CLOSED FOR THE SEASON!!**

*Covid-19 procedures: wear a mask, stay in your vehicle with windows up, have ID ready to show through window.*

*Have your materials accessible in the trunk or back of pickup truck, no containers will be returned to you.*

Prepare the materials by:

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

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

**Improper disposal of chemical waste is a problem! When hazardous wastes are poured down the sink or toilet, dumped “out back”, poured into a street drain or put out into the trash, they eventually make their way into our water supply. When in doubt, call Public Works at 860-742-6588.**

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.

# WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY (Sewer Department)

## COVRRRA

COVRRRA questions can be answered by calling Public Works at (860) 742-6588 or e-mail to [dwruhel@coventryct.org](mailto:dwruhel@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, rolled carpet or reclining chair w/metal removed. **No electronics or mattresses curbside:** Electronics and mattresses/box springs will not be picked up at the curb. These must be brought to the transfer station for recycling. See page 7 for transfer station information.

**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. Push the lid plugs in periodically to keep them snug 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, and must remain at the property location that is billed for this service.

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

Thursday, November 25 –  
Thanksgiving Day

Christmas and New Year's holidays  
WILL HAVE NO SCHEDULE  
CHANGES!

### 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.

### WHY DO WE TREAT WASTEWATER?

- There are two main reasons we treat wastewater: to protect people and to protect aquatic wildlife.
- All wastewater treatment plants ultimately put treated water back into oceans, rivers, or aquifers. A small percentage of wastewater is "reclaimed" or treated to such a high degree that it can be used for irrigation or even as drinking water.
- Wastewater contains pathogens that are passed in the waste of sick people. Common water-borne pathogens include hepatitis, typhoid, diphtheria, cholera, and polio. Wastewater workers are vaccinated for these diseases. To protect downstream recreational users (swimming, fishing, canoeing), wastewater is disinfected before it is released into water bodies. The most common ways we disinfect wastewater are with chlorine or UV light.
- Protecting aquatic wildlife is a little harder. Wastewater contains high amounts of nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P). All gardeners know these are two of the three main macronutrients in plant fertilizer. When you dump fertilizer into water it stimulates plant growth – algae. This is known as an "algae bloom." The problems begin when the algae die. As microorganisms consume the dead algae, they use up lots of the dissolved oxygen in the water. This leaves no oxygen for fish, clams, lobsters, etc. who leave the area or perish.
- As life on earth evolved so did natural waste treatment. Bacteria living in the soil consume nitrogen from animal waste and release it as nitrogen gas. Air is 78% nitrogen gas. Wastewater treatment plants mimic natural bacterial treatment – but at a highly accelerated rate. This is accomplished by giving certain bacteria just the right conditions to thrive: pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen, and food.
- The next challenges facing wastewater treatment plants are heavy metals and pharmaceuticals, but technologies are being developed to remove these too.



### Lessons:

- If you or your dog are walking in the woods and you need to relieve yourself, do it far away from any water bodies. Let the soil bacteria do their job.
- Don't pour old medications down the drain – fish don't have a prescription for them! Old medications can be disposed of in the "Medication Drop Box" located in the Coventry Police Department lobby. Free. No questions asked.

### 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 2

- Town-wide pavement condition survey under way.
- Culverts: repairs to Broadway and Bunker Hill. Planned replacements if funding approved: Broadway, Bunker Hill, Parker Bridge.

## State-Funded Projects (LOTICIP):

- Swamp Rd/Rt. 44 intersection: Bid opening Sept. 28, construction fall/spring 2022.
- South Street: Seagraves/Homestead – bid in fall for spring construction.
- South Street/Swamp Road: Late winter bid. Summer 2022 construction envisioned.
- Main Street sidewalks: Springdale to approximately Wintergreen. Winter bid/spring construction.
- Hop River Road Bridge: 80% designed, permitting this winter. Maybe construction summer 2022.

## Parks:

### • Patriots Park:

- Lease extensions with UConn for women's varsity crew, men's club crew and sailing club. Lease includes use of docks for Community Rowing.
- Playscape mulched.
- LED lighting upgrade in Lodge/Senior Center. Coming soon: grant-funded, touchless bathrooms and doors to address COVID concerns.
- Purchased a tow-and-collect sweeper to remove goose poop.
- Food Bank rebuilt to allow customer selection shopping again – reopening later this year.

### • Laidlaw Park:

Getting ready to construct a pavilion between the soccer fields (mostly grant-funded), and improve accessibility and drainage.

### • Miller Richardson Park:

- Completed first section of field irrigation (grant-funded) on the major league baseball field. See also explanatory text on page 13 for vote on girls' softball (information also online under Legal Notices for Town Meeting presentation on project).
- Football field almost out to bid to install methane venting to assist in grass growth, which will include leveling out rear practice field and additional topsoil.

### • Creaser Park:

- Nine holes of disc golf up and running.
- Working with CT DEEP on future of cabins.
- A good season for community gardens.

**Forestry Management:** The first phase of forestry management for the Nathan Hale Greenway is complete. Additional work is planned when the areas dry up due to heavy rains.

## Other Projects:

The Town has received permission to use grant funds to improve accessibility at the Glass Museum, Strong Porter Museum, and Hayes Art Museum. We will work with the museums to scope out work they may be interested in.

## Grant Applications Pending or In-Process:

- T-Mobile grant for mobile charging/WiFi in Patriots Park.
- Trails grant for bike/hike on dirt sections of Nathan Hale Drive and Bear Swamp Road to Andover to link via "Share the Road" to Hop River Trail through Andover to access Rt. 6.
- Next LOTICIP grant: will be asking for funds for Daly Road from Main to Knollwood, including sidewalks. Waiting for word on a sidewalk grant from Cheney Lane to Daly Road through Congressman Courtney's office, which was submitted as a Community Project.
- Orchard Hills renovations: We await final State paperwork to allow bidding for the \$1.5 million renovations of senior housing at Orchard Hills.
- The Library addition/renovation project is nearing going out to bid for a late winter construction start.

## FALL NEWS FROM COVENTRY LAKE ADVISORY & MONITORING COMMITTEE



It is fall and time to CLEAN DRAIN DRY your vessel and equipment. It is recommended not to use soap due to the phosphorous. Wash with white vinegar and dry in the sun. Checkout CT DEEP's site for other tips: [https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/Boating/boating\\_guide/part6pdf.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/Boating/boating_guide/part6pdf.pdf).

This was the 4<sup>th</sup> season that Coventry Lake had applications of a systemic pesticide, fluridone, to treat the invasive aquatic plant, hydrilla. The first applications was July 23<sup>rd</sup> and then additional applications in August and September. The Town of Coventry was awarded in 2021 a \$50,000 grant from DEEP's Grants for Aquatic Invasive Species Control which is funded by the \$5 surcharge on boat registrations. The funds will be used both for the treatment of hydrilla and for a study of the hydrilla tubers. The study will be performed by Northeast Aquatic Research to explore the sediment where the large beds were located to see if any tubers remain. This will help to establish long-term monitoring quadrants looking for spouts that are not easily seen from the surface.

The torrential rains from Storm Elsa in July caused extreme high water in a very short amount of time. Many lakefront residents did sustain damage or loose personal property. We need to thank Coventry Police Department for maintaining safe protocols on the lake during this period and Coventry Public Works for keeping the dam/sluceway free of debris. Lakefront owners need to secure property before any storm and boaters need to be aware of the dangers of submerged rocks and floating debris in this type of emergency situation. Be courteous and avoid creating damaging boat wakes that can cause additional surges onto the flooded shoreline when there high water.

Find us on Facebook at Coventry, CT-Coventry Lake Community-'Lake Wangumbaug' or address questions to [CoventryLakeAdvisor@CoventryCT.org](mailto:CoventryLakeAdvisor@CoventryCT.org).

### FOOD BANK

If you are in financial crisis and in need of food, please call to schedule an intake and make an appointment to utilize the Food Bank. Pick-ups are scheduled for Wednesdays and Fridays. **\*Emergency Appointments are scheduled on an "as-need" basis.**

We are always accepting donations and the need can vary by the month/season so check out our Facebook page or give us a call periodically for our needs and wants! We are always in need of cereal, juice, spaghetti sauces, peanut butter and jelly. We also need paper goods such as paper towels and toilet paper as well as personal hygiene items such as tooth paste, deodorant, soap, shampoo and conditioner.

Thank you to our many volunteers who help throughout the year from stocking shelves, shopping and having extra hands during the busy holiday months. Without their support, the food bank, at its current level of service, would not be possible. We would also like to thank our students and staff of the Coventry High School, Vocational Transition Community Based Program for their weekly support.

**\*\*\*\*Please remember..... check expiration dates as we cannot distribute expired items.**

### CLERGY FUEL FUND

Residents who wish to make a contribution to the "Clergy Fuel Fund" can mail their contribution to Coventry Human Services c/o "Clergy Fuel Fund".

100% of the money raised is used to assist Coventry families in need of "emergency" fuel assistance once all other resources (ACCESS Energy Program and Operation Fuel) have been exhausted. We require proof of 1 out-of-pocket fuel payment. **Your contribution can make a difference this winter!**

### HOLIDAY "ADOPT A FAMILY" PROGRAM

If you are a family or individual in need of some help at the holidays, please call the office to schedule an intake. 860-742-5324.

### HOLIDAY DONATIONS

The holidays are quickly approaching and there are many families and individuals who will benefit from your generosity at Thanksgiving and the Holiday Season.

- Donate food, canned goods, or fresh fruit and vegetables
- Donate toys, coats, mittens/hats and gift cards.
- Call for information on how you can "Adopt a Family" for the holiday.

Monetary donations can be made in lieu of food or gift item. Please mail your contribution to Coventry Human Services, 1712 Main Street, Coventry, CT.

## HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

860-742-5324

### CONNECTICUT ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Energy Assistance program is designed to offset winter heating costs for low-income (below 60% of state median income) households.

#### What do I do if I want to apply for help?

To apply for assistance, applicants must schedule an appointment and provide copies of required documents for all household members (ALL documentation needs to be brought to the appointment, if not the appointment will need to be rescheduled). Please contact office for specific details.

We strongly encourage applicants to make an appointment with ACCESS Agency or Coventry Human Services early as space is limited. Coventry Human Services is scheduling appointments on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Appointments will be rescheduled if proper documentation is not provided at the initial intake.

\*Program follows CT Poverty Guidelines, please call the office to see if you qualify.

## COVENTRY YOUTH SERVICES

**Please note: all information is subject to change due to Covid-19.**

### Community Service:

Human/Youth Services often has a variety of community service opportunities for students (holiday programs, bell ringing, etc) in addition to numerous suggestions of other projects/agencies where students may obtain community service hours.

### Safe@Home and Safe Sitter Essential Course:

Class registration will be through the Coventry Parks and Recreation. Please keep a look out in 06238 for class dates and fees.

Safe Sitter Essentials® is designed to prepare students in grades 6-8 to be safe when they're home alone, watching younger siblings, or babysitting. The Instructor-led class is filled with fun games and role-playing exercises. Students learn:

- Safety Skills: Students learn how to prevent unsafe situations and what to do when faced with dangers such as power failures or weather emergencies.
- Child Care Skills: Students learn tips to manage behavior that will help them stay in control of themselves and the children in their care. Students also learn the ages and stages of child development, as well as practice diapering.
- First Aid & Rescue Skills: Learning skills such as choking rescue and CPR\* is often students' favorite part of the class. Students also learn a system to help them assess and respond to injuries and illnesses. **\*please note: you will not receive a First Aid and CPR certification**
- Life & Business Skills: The ability to screen jobs, discuss fees, and greet employers will set students up for success now and in the future. Students practice these skills through various role plays.

Safe@Home is a 90-minute class designed to prepare students in grades 4-6 to be safe when they're home alone. Class teaches students how to practice safe habits, how to prevent unsafe situations, and what to do when faced with dangers such as power failures or weather emergencies. Students are also introduced to the Safe Sitter® First Aid Chart and learn a system to help them assess and respond to injuries and illnesses.

Safe@Home provides excellent instruction on staying safe inside the house, outside the house, online, and with others. However, preteens mature at their own pace and parents need to make sure they're ready for the responsibility.

# SENIOR CENTER

172 Lake Street • 860-742-3525

Brenda Bennett, Senior Center Coordinator: [bbennett@coventryct.org](mailto:bbennett@coventryct.org)

Cathy Mitchell, Senior Center Assistant: [cmitchell@coventryct.org](mailto:cmitchell@coventryct.org)

## Center Regular Hours:

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

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

The purpose of the Center is to provide adults 55+/year and older a welcoming, inclusive and supportive environment to participate in recreational, educational and wellness programming and to engage in our community. The Center is committed to these core principles, focusing on the integration of best practices in program development and continued community collaboration. We are here to meet the needs of our active adult citizens in Coventry. Check out our monthly *Calendar of Events and Highlights* on the Town's website at [www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org) or "Friend" us on our Facebook page.

**We are excited to introduce Cathy Mitchell**, our new Senior Center Assistant. Cathy is a Coventry resident who joined our team October 4, 2021. She will be at the Center Mon-Thurs. Please drop in to say hello and welcome Cathy!!

## Weekly Regularly Scheduled Programs

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Chair Yoga 10am Open Billiards 10am	Bingo 10am Open Billiards 10am	Tai Chi 9:30AM Setback 10am	Mahjongg 9:15am Fit Fusion with Angie 10am Open Billiards 11am

**Haircuts with Lynn:** October 18, November 22, December 20 at 9 am. Lynn offers haircuts, barber services which also includes: mustache/beard trimming for \$15. House calls are also available for \$25. If you would like more information or to schedule an appointment, give us a call.

**Book Club:** The 3rd Monday of each month from 1pm-2pm. Call the Center to see which book we're reading and join us.

### "WHAT'S NEW WITH MEDICARE FOR 2022"

Please join us at the Center on Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 a.m. for an informational session on presented by our certified CHOICES Counselor. RSVP is required.

### JAM SESSION at the Senior Center!

Do you play an instrument and enjoy music? Do you want to jam with other musicians in a casual environment? Bring your instrument and come down! 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at 11am! **ALL ARE WELCOME! RSVP IS REQUIRED.**

### CHOICES HEALTH INSURANCE COUNSELING

**Medicare Open Enrollment is October 15-December 7 – and you have CHOICES!**

The annual Medicare Open Enrollment period is October 15 – December 7. During this time any Medicare enrollee can change Medicare plans including Medicare Part D Drug Plans. For many individuals this is the only opportunity during the year to make coverage changes.

The Coventry Senior Center is host to a certified CHOICES counselor. CHOICES is a FREE counseling program that helps Connecticut residents understand their Medicare coverage and other healthcare options. A CHOICES counselor can help review Medicare documents, and insure that you are enrolled in plan that meets your healthcare needs, including Medicare Supplemental Plans, Medicare Advantage Plans and Medicare Part D Drug Plans. Additionally, counselors can also help enroll individuals into the Medicare Savings Program, which can assist in the payments of Medicare benefits.

If you would like to review your health insurance options, please call us at 860-742-3525 to make a confidential appointment with a certified CHOICES Counselor.

### COVENTRY RIDES TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

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

**\*\*Rides can be requested no later than 48 hours prior.\*\***

- The van service travels to points outside Coventry, to communities not served by the WRTD (Windham Region Transit District) Dial-a-Ride program. Examples include: Manchester, Tolland, Vernon, & Bolton.
- Rides for Senior Center programs (such as haircuts, lunches or massage appointments) **MUST** be scheduled in advance by calling for a ride.
- As a reminder, WRTD (Windham Region Transit District) Dial-a-Ride services are available for Coventry to Coventry transit, as well as to all towns in the Windham District. They are our town's designated transit service. Rides can be requested by calling **860-456-2223 ext. 4.**

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

## NEWS FROM THE BOOTH & DIMOCK MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Booth & Dimock Memorial Library is open for regular hours!

Tuesday – Thursday 10 AM-8 PM  
Friday 10 AM-6 PM  
Saturday 10 AM-3 PM  
Sunday & Monday CLOSED

All unvaccinated visitors, as well as *all* visitors to the children's room, must wear a mask while at the library or attending a library program.

The Booth & Dimock Memorial Library would like to recognize Barbara Hall for her many years of services to the library and wish her a happy retirement!

The Library continues to offer a variety of in-person, take & make, and virtual programs. We are happy to announce that storytime and our fan-favorite Messy Munchkin programs are back to being offered in-person. To see an updated listing of dates and times, please visit our website at [www.coventrypl.org](http://www.coventrypl.org) or visit our Facebook @BDLibrary. The library is also offering a variety of passive, in-person programs available at the library, including scavenger hunts and coloring challenges!

Our foodie take & make programs, Spice Life and Tea Club, are offered monthly and come with all necessary supplies. To sign up for these programs, please call the library at 860-742-7606.

After a long year of unknowns and never-before-seen challenges, we are happy to continue to service the community and welcome you all back into the library. For continued updates on our offerings please stop by, call us, or visit our website or Facebook.

1134 Main Street  
860-742-7606  
[www.coventrypl.org](http://www.coventrypl.org)  
@BDLibrary

## COMING EVENTS & NOTABLE ITEMS



**Oct 14, 7-9 PM: Things That Go Bump in the Night**, Nathan Hale Homestead, 2299 South Street. Get into the "spirit" of the season as you shiver and shudder through a special candlelight tour that will take you around the Hale Homestead property, past the corn field, and hear traditional, long-standing Homestead ghost stories. The moonlit tour will feature spooky encounters as featured on the Syfy Channel's Ghost Hunters. Not recommended for young souls. Appropriate footwear and reliable flashlights strongly recommended. Admission \$20; \$15 for CT Landmarks members. Reservations required as space is limited. Register at <https://bump-in-the-night-2021.eventbrite.com>. Additional dates on 10/15, 10/21, 10/22, 10/28 & 10/29.



**Nov 6, 12-2 PM: Coventry Chili Fest**, Coventry High School, 78 Ripley Hill Road. Sponsored by the Coventry Lions Club, the Chili Fest is back for another year. Prizes will be awarded for participants.

Watch for information on the Lions' Facebook page: <https://facebook.com/CoventryLionsClub>.

**BUSINESS NEWS:** Welcome to the following new businesses in town:

- Atlantis Fresh Market (at former Citgo station on Main Street).
- Michael's Penalty Box has reopened after a temporary COVID closure.
- Tardif Farm & Feed on Flanders Road.

Please support Coventry's local businesses. Thank you.

**Dec. 5, 12-6 PM: Christmas in Coventry Village and Annual Holiday Tree Lighting**, Main Street in Coventry Village. Mark this day on your calendars, as preparations are underway to resume and continue this holiday tradition throughout the historic section of Main Street as well as at Patriots Park. The Lions Club, organizer and sponsor of the day, will host its annual decorated tree auction. Santa pays a visit to the children. Vendors, businesses and community groups offer a variety of activities, events, and specials. Holiday store time! Refreshments! Give-a-ways! Lots of holiday music and entertainment! Great shopping! The event culminates with a holiday parade by the Fire Department—transporting Santa to the site of the tree lighting ceremony at 5 PM. A schedule of events will be available at local businesses as the day nears, as well as on the Lions Club Facebook page. The event will adhere to health and safety guidelines that will be in place at the time, and is subject to change. If you are interested in participating, helping, donating, or to get more information, please contact:

Cindy Houser, 860-617-3588  
[cjhouser54@sbc.global.net](mailto:cjhouser54@sbc.global.net)

Barbara Barry, 860-803-1763  
[307barbara@charter.net](mailto:307barbara@charter.net)

Ruth O'Neil, 860-918-5957  
[songaday@hotmail.com](mailto:songaday@hotmail.com)



*Above: A selection of trees available at a previous decorated tree auction during the annual Christmas in the Village event.*



### Wreaths Across America Ceremony

December 18, 2021  
12:00 PM  
Coventry Cemetery

Cost for each wreath: \$15  
Payments due by Nov. 19  
Info: [www.wreathscrossamerica.org/](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/)  
CTCCCC

**Explanatory text prepared pursuant to CGS Sec. 9-369b  
For Tuesday, November 2, 2021  
Referendum Questions**

**Question 1:** “Shall the resolution making an appropriation of \$325,000 for the planning, design, and construction of a new softball field and related improvements along Plains Road, be approved? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_”

**Background:** The Town Council accepted the recommendation of the Girls’ Softball study committee to seek authorization of the Town to borrow funds to allow the construction of a softball field along Plains Road to expand Miller Richardson Park for use by Coventry Girls Softball. The Committee studied various locations for suitability, including future expansion, and cost. If approved construction is anticipated during the spring/summer of 2022.

Cost estimates were prepared by Anchor Engineering and include cost for the construction of a basic softball field, parking, and some road safety improvements. The planned borrowing of \$325,000 will require estimated debt payments on the median home, with an assessed value of \$176,890, of an average of \$ 3.89 per year (range \$5.31 to \$1.77) through the year of 2042.

**Question 2:** “Shall the resolution increasing each of the appropriation and bond authorization by \$3,900,000 from \$2,780,000 to \$6,680,000 for the replacement of roofs and fire alarms at various Town schools and the High School/Middle School Complex, be approved? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_.”

This project requests additional borrowing authority of \$3,900,000 for school roof replacements at Coventry High school and the G.H. Robertson School addition, both installed in 1999. A State School Construction grant of 50.5% of the roof project, approximately \$3,375,000, is anticipated. This request is in addition to the previously approved amount of \$2,780,000. The planned total net borrowing is \$3,305,000, with a total project cost estimate of \$6,680,000. The project will require estimated debt payments, on the median home-assessed value of \$176,890, of an average of \$ 34.23 per year (range \$45.99 to \$26.53 through the year of 2042. The need for additional funds is based on the recommendation of the architect due to a combination of increased scope of work and current market pricing. If the referendum is approved, bidding would take place over the winter/spring with a summer 2022 construction planned.

The foregoing questions will be submitted to the legal voters of the town for a vote on Tuesday, November 2, 2021 during the hours between 6:00 o’clock (a.m.) and 8:00 o’clock (p.m.) (EST); that the voting take place in the polling places established in voting districts #1 & #2; and that those voters entitled to vote by reason of section 7-6 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, as amended, may vote at District #1. Absentee ballots will be available at the office of the Town Clerk, as provided by law. The polling places are as follows:

- District 1 - George Hersey Robertson School, 227 Cross Street
- District 2 - Coventry High School, 78 Ripley Hill Road



## COVENTRY BOARD OF EDUCATION

### MEMBERS:

Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairman; William Oros, Vice-Chairman; Eugene Marchand, Secretary; Mary Kortmann; Michael Sobol; 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 remaining regularly scheduled meetings for 2021 are as follows: October 28, November 11, and December 9. Unless noted differently on the agenda, all meetings are held in the Administration Building Conference Room and can be viewed on Channel 194.

To watch previously recorded Board of Education meetings, please visit [www.coventryct.viebit.com](http://www.coventryct.viebit.com) to access the Town of Coventry's Video On Demand Library.

**OPEN DOOR MEETINGS:** Come meet with Superintendent of Schools, David J. Petrone, Ed.D. His ongoing practice is to meet with as many parents and members of our Coventry community as possible. Open communication is a key component for true collaboration. All of these informal gatherings will be held in the Administration Building Conference Room at 1700 Main Street. All parents and community members are invited to keep informed about education in our town by attending any of his Open Door meetings in the new school year. The remaining date for first semester of the 2021-2022 school year is Thursday, November 11 at 4:30 p.m.

### IN THE PRESS:

We are excited to share some recent district headlines with you:

- CHS Junior Alex Krause Participates in 2021 U.S. National Track and Field Championship
- 3 CHS Seniors rocked the Academic Category in this year's Brain Dance Competition
- 2 Teachers, Rachel Chirico and Matt Kyer were awarded Innovative Grants for 2021-2022 school year

You can find the full press releases for these highlights and more on our website at: <https://www.coventrypublicschools.org/district/news>

### PROJECTS:

- The microgrid project is reaching a critical phase. Private funding is being arranged and if obtained will allow pricing to be negotiated to allow the Town/School and Housing Authority to be off-grid using solar, and natural gas electric generation. The project will use the heat from electric generation to assist in heating the high school/middle school. Batteries will control peak demand charge issues. These facilities, including 80 units of electrically-heated senior housing, will not lose power in storms.
- The school roofs project at CHS & GHR needs additional bonding funds (see explanatory text on pg. 13), but if approved will be bid out early next year for summer construction. The building committee for the middle/high school heating/ventilation project is nearing design completion and may also need additional funds due to new COVID protocols. Working toward a goal of work this summer. Consideration of air condition is also an issue.
- Several school code projects were finished this summer. Waiting on a possible grant for a new fire alarm system at the high school/middle school.

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

There are flexible hour and/or day schedules with a wide variety of experiences available.

**Teachers and para-educators** please contact Kelly Educational Staffing at 860-439-0081, and **School Nurse substitutes** please visit our website at [www.coventrypublicschools.org](http://www.coventrypublicschools.org) for additional information.

**Cafeteria substitutes** call Beth Pratt, Food Services Director, at 860-742-4535.

**Bus drivers/substitutes** call Nicole Irvine, Manager, at M & J Bus Company at 860-742-0344 for more information.



# 2021-2022 Coventry Public Schools Calendar

August 0	September 21	October 19	November 19
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 <span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">30</span> <span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">31</span>	S M T W T F S 1 <span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">2</span> 3 4 5 <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">6</span> 7 8 9 10 11 12 13  15 16 17 18 19 20 21  23 24 25 26 27 28  30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5  7 8 9 10 <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">11</span> <span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">12</span> 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 <span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">2</span> <span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">3</span> <span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">4</span> <span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">5</span> 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 <span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">24</span> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">25</span> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">26</span> 27 28 29 30
December 17	January 20	February 18	March 23
S M T W T F S 1 2 <span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">3</span> 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">23</span> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">24</span> 25 26 <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">27</span> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">28</span> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">29</span> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">30</span> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">31</span>	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">17</span> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">18</span> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">19</span> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">20</span> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">21</span> 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 <span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">4</span> 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">21</span> <span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">22</span> 23 24 25 26 27 28	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 <span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">11</span> 12 13 14 15 <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">16</span> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">17</span> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">18</span> 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
April 16	May 21	June 8	
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">11</span> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">12</span> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">13</span> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">14</span> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">15</span> 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">30</span> 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">6</span> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">7</span> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">8</span> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">9</span> <span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">10</span> 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Symbols</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Early Release ALL Schools</li> <li> Early Release HEEC, CGS &amp; GHR ONLY</li> <li> Exam Schedule CHS ONLY</li> <li> NO School, Staff Development Days</li> <li> NO School, Holidays or Vacations</li> </ul>

**Student Days = 182 / Staff Days = 187**

**August 2021**

30 - 31 Staff Development

**September**

**1 Students - Full Day**

6 No School, Labor Day

14 CGS Open House

22 CNH Open House

22 HEEC Open House

29 GHR Open House

**October**

6 CHS Open House

11 No School, Columbus Day

12 No School, Staff Development

**November**

2 No School, Staff Development (Voting in the Schools)

3-4-5 All Schools Early Release - Conferences

24 All Schools Early Release

25-26 Thanksgiving Holiday

**December**

3 All Schools Early Release Staff Development

23 All Schools Early Release

24-31 No School December Break and New Years Day Observed

**January 2022**

17 No School, MLK Day

18-19-20-21 CHS Exam Schedule

**February**

4 All Schools Early Release Staff Development

21 No School, Presidents' Day

22 No School, Staff Development

**March**

11 All Schools Early Release Staff Development

16-17-18 HEEC, CGS & GHR Early Release - Conferences

**April**

11-15 No School, April Break & Good Friday

**May**

30 No School, Memorial Day

**June \***

6-7-8-9 CHS Exam Day Schedule

10 (or last day of school) All Schools Early Release

11 Graduation

**Grades PK - 5  
Trimester Marking Periods & Report Card Distribution**

Period 1 ends **Nov 24** / Report Cards out on **Dec 3**  
Period 2 ends **March 4** / Report Cards out on **March 11**  
Period 3 ends **June 3** / Report Cards out on **June 10**

**Grades 6 - 12  
Quarter Marking Periods & Report Card Distribution**

Period 1 ends **Nov 5** / Report Cards out on **Nov 12**  
Period 2 ends **Jan 21** / Report Cards out on **Jan 28**  
Period 3 ends **April 1** / Report Cards out on **April 8**  
Period 4 Grades **6-8** ends **June 3** / Report Cards out on **June 10**  
Period 4 Grades **9-12** ends **June 10** / Report Cards out on **June 20**

\* **Some** June dates are tentative, based upon the number of days to be made up.

**School Phone Numbers**

Hale Early Education Center (preK)..... 742-4550  
Coventry Grammar School K-2 (CGS)...742-7313  
G. H. Robertson School 3-5 (GHR)..... 742-7341  
Capt. Nathan Hale School 6-8 (CNH)... 742-7334  
Coventry High School 9-12 (CHS)..... 742-7346  
Administration Building..... 742-7317

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

BOE Approved: 02/25/2021



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

## Remember to vote on Election Day: November 2, 2021

See sample ballot below, and page 5 of this newsletter for more information.

<b>State of Connecticut</b> <b>Official Ballot</b>		Coventry, Connecticut					Municipal Election					November 2, 2021					Sheet 1 of 1				
 VOTE ON THE QUESTION(S) <input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO 1. **Shall the resolution making an appropriation of \$325,000 for the planning, design, and construction of a new softball field and related improvements along Plains Road, be approved?		<input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO 2. **Shall the resolution increasing each of the appropriation and bond authorization by \$3,900,000 from \$2,780,000 to \$6,680,000 for the replacement of roofs and fire alarms at various Town schools and the High School/Middle School Complex, be approved?																			
OFFICE →		1 2 3 4 5 TOWN COUNCIL Vote for Up to Five					6 7 8 9 BOARD OF EDUCATION Vote for Up to Four				10 11 BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS Vote for Up to Two		12 13 14 15 16 ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS Vote for Up to Five				17 18 19 ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS ALTERNATES Vote for Up to Three				
PARTY ↓																					
DEMOCRATIC PARTY		<input type="radio"/> 1A MATTHEW KYER	<input type="radio"/> 2A JONATHAN B HAMB	<input type="radio"/> 3A ROBYN ELISE GALLAGHER	<input type="radio"/> 4A MARTY MILKOVIC	<input type="radio"/> 5A LISA D THOMAS	<input type="radio"/> 6A JENNIFER ELLA DUNBAR BEAUSOLEIL	<input type="radio"/> 7A EUGENE T MARCHAND	<input type="radio"/> 8A EMMA BRIGG EATON	<input type="radio"/> 9A MARY S KORTMANN	<input type="radio"/> 10A RONALD E DEXTRADEUR	<input type="radio"/> 11A JILL G WOOD REVICKZY	<input type="radio"/> 12A ELIZABETH E BAUER	<input type="radio"/> 13A VALDIS VINKELS	<input type="radio"/> 14A SYDNEY JOSEPH SEALE	<input type="radio"/> 15A CLAIRE C TWERDY	<input type="radio"/> 16A CHERYL ANN RESHA	<input type="radio"/> 17A PATRICIA R SCHNEIDER	<input type="radio"/> 18A WILLIAM J ZENKO	<input type="radio"/> 19A	
REPUBLICAN PARTY		<input type="radio"/> 1B CAROL CHIPKIN	<input type="radio"/> 2B MATTHEW O'BRIEN, JR	<input type="radio"/> 3B JULIE BLANCHARD	<input type="radio"/> 4B JOHN FRENCH	<input type="radio"/> 5B MATTHEW O'BRIEN, SR	<input type="radio"/> 6B RICHARD WILLIAMS, JR	<input type="radio"/> 7B PETER DEPAOLA	<input type="radio"/> 8B COURTNEY ROSSIGNOL	<input type="radio"/> 9B CHRISTINA WILLIAMS	<input type="radio"/> 10B CAROLYN GERRITY	<input type="radio"/> 11B CASSIE SLOSSAR	<input type="radio"/> 12B MICHAEL GERRITY	<input type="radio"/> 13B THOMAS DELICCO	<input type="radio"/> 14B CAROL MARCINEK	<input type="radio"/> 15B ROBERT CHIPKIN	<input type="radio"/> 16B WILLIAM HALL	<input type="radio"/> 17B PATRICIA HODGE	<input type="radio"/> 18B	<input type="radio"/> 19B	
WRITE-IN VOTES		<input type="radio"/> 1C	<input type="radio"/> 2C	<input type="radio"/> 3C	<input type="radio"/> 4C	<input type="radio"/> 5C	<input type="radio"/> 6C	<input type="radio"/> 7C	<input type="radio"/> 8C	<input type="radio"/> 9C	<input type="radio"/> 10C	<input type="radio"/> 11C	<input type="radio"/> 12C	<input type="radio"/> 13C	<input type="radio"/> 14C	<input type="radio"/> 15C	<input type="radio"/> 16C	<input type="radio"/> 17C	<input type="radio"/> 18C	<input type="radio"/> 19C	

Be sure to read the instructions on the reverse side of this ballot, it will help you in voting.

# SAMPLE