



Police Chief Mark Palmer (R), retired in October 2021 after 15 years of service in Coventry and a law enforcement career of over 40 years. He will be missed. Jeffrey Spadjinske (L), is serving as Acting Police Chief during the transition to a new Chief. We are appreciative of Jeff's willingness to serve in this capacity. Watch for a survey that will seek to gain input from the community into the qualities the Town should consider for our next Chief. Photo by Laura Stone.

Message from Lisa Thomas, Town Council Chairwoman

Dear Neighbors,

Our newly elected Town Council team sends you wishes for a sparkling New Year ahead. The Coventry community is so fortunate to be filled with kind, caring people who have done so much to make the winter holidays a time of giving and happiness throughout our town. I appreciate all you do to help your neighbors find joy!

Coventry voters have given this Council an overwhelming mandate to lead with honesty, integrity and respect. You have given us a mandate to be inclusive of all members of our community, to make our community as safe as possible, and to keep our residents' best interests in the forefront of all we do. As Chairwoman, I pledge that ours will be a collaborative Council where all are invited to participate in decision making. Where each member will be valued and heard. In addition to myself, the other Town Councilors are Vice-Chairman Marty Milkovic, Secretary and Steering Committee member Jon Hand, Finance Chairwoman Robyn Gallagher, Finance Committee member John French, Steering Committee Chairman Matthew Kyer, and Steering Committee member Julie Blanchard.

The Council has set goals for the 2021-2023 term that reflect that pledge and are in the best interests of our community. These goals will guide our budget development and thus will be fiscally responsible while allowing our community to continue to be the best place to live. Those goals are outlined on page 2 of this newsletter and I encourage you to visit our website (www.coventryct.org/225/Town-Council) to read the specific S.M.A.R.T. strategies we will use to help us achieve our goals. Of course, each of you is an important part of our success. We hope that you will volunteer to serve on a board or commission, to help coach a sports team, to clear and maintain trails, or serve in whatever way is best for your talents and time!

I am sincere in saying to all of you that your voice matters and we want to hear your thoughts. **A reminder that beginning on January 6th I will hold Council Chairwoman's Office Hours from 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. in the front parlor at Booth & Dimock Memorial Library.** I will hold these hours on the first Thursday of each month. Often another Council member will join me as well so that you have more of us to speak with. This will be **your** time to share thoughts and concerns. I will rotate the day and hours after several months so that we are providing a variety of opportunities to meet your needs.

Once we are elected to office, we represent ALL of you, no matter your party affiliation or your individual belief systems. I have been a parent, a teacher and an elected official long enough to know that none of us always gets 100% of what we want. But when we engage in creative problem solving and the hard work of compromise, we ensure that everyone receives some of the benefits they seek. Be well!

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TOWN HALL CLOSINGS:

Jan 17	Martin Luther King Day
Feb 21	Presidents' Day
April 15	Good Friday

TOWN MANAGER JOHN ELSESSER'S MESSAGE

Town Council Goals: 2021—2023

SMART Goals = Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time Bound

The Coventry Town Council pledges to listen to our constituents' voices and to consider all perspectives during decision making. We understand that once we are elected to office, we represent all residents no matter their age, party affiliation or individual belief systems. We recognize that none of us always gets 100% of what we want. But when we engage in creative problem solving and the hard work of compromise, we ensure that everyone receives some of the benefits they seek. We encourage full participation in our local government by residents.

Goal 1: Work Collaboratively with Town of Coventry Boards and Commissions in order to ensure efficient use of resources, financial and otherwise, to benefit all members of our community.

Goal 2: Demonstrate Strategic & Responsible Fiscal Management in order to be prepared for known expenses as well as for an uncertain future.

Goal 3: Plan for and Support Ongoing Infrastructure and Public Works maintenance, recognizing that smart investments prepare Coventry for the future.

Goal 4: Maintain High Quality Public Safety Services making the safety of Coventry citizens a priority.

Goal 5: Continue to preserve, protect and enhance our natural resources and recreation opportunities.

Goal 6: Develop a transition plan that ensures a transparent hiring process for the next Town Manager, keeping the needs of our community foremost and making it a non-partisan process.

It has been hard keeping projects moving during this COVID era. The review process has slowed many steps. But staff has continued to endeavor, and early next year many projects will be out to bid for spring/summer construction.

Roads: We have several State-funded LOTCIP projects underway. Under LOTCIP grants the State pays 100% of construction costs, with the Town responsible for the design costs. These are competitive grants selected by the Capitol Region Council of Governments.

Currently we have three grants in the pipeline:

1. **Rt. 44/Swamp Road intersection.** This project will construct a standard four-way intersection at Rt. 44/Bread & Milk Street/Swamp. The new Swamp Road alignment will also allow the intersection of Northfields/Rt. 44 to be closed, with a new connector of Northfields to the realigned Swamp to retain two intersections into the Northfields subdivision. Clearing work has started, but paving and signal lights will not be done until spring/summer.
2. **South Street.** This project is in the vicinity of Nathan Hale Homestead and will construct a section of South Street between Seagraves Street and the Homestead which lack under-drains. It will also include sidewalks from the rotary to the Homestead and Nathan Hale trails. Final plans are submitted and we expect permission to bid soon. Construction is expected to start in the spring.
3. **South Street/Swamp Road.** We have preliminary designs to modify the intersection of Swamp and South Street and make safety improvements in the curves heading toward Rt. 6. A community-input process is planned soon to allow plans to be finalized for spring bidding.

We also are submitting a LOTCIP grant application to reconstruct Daly Road from Main Street to Bellvue. The project, if funded, will include both vertical and horizontal curve improvements and sidewalks. We will find out about funding in the spring.

Other projects:

- **Community Connectivity sidewalks.** This project will extend sidewalks on Main Street to approximately Winterberry Lane. We await final approval from the State Historic Preservation Office for bidding in spring and completion this summer.
- **Landfill methane venting.** A State STEAP grant will fund the majority of the cost of installing methane venting at the closed landfill, and restoring the playing fields. Bidding is anticipated in February for a spring start.
- **Booth & Dimock Library renovation project.** The Library modification project, funded with a 50% State grant, is also anticipated to be bid out in February for a spring start.
- **School roof replacements.** Roof replacements for George Hersey Robertson School and Coventry High School, funded with up to a 55% grant, are scheduled for a February bid and start as schools get out for the summer. Planning on school ventilation is still underway.
- **New Girls Softball Field / Transfer Station relocation.** These projects are also being finalized for a February bid and a spring start. The transfer station project is being funded by American Rescue Plan funds.
- **Replacement of Hop River Bridge.** This project is at the 90% design state and depending on permitting may also start construction this summer. This is funded by an 80% Federal Local Bridge grant with the Town of Columbia sharing a portion of the match.
- **Sewer pipe lining.** The Water Pollution Control Authority is lining the sewer pipe under Coventry Lake in the area of Patriots Park as part of routine maintenance. They will also be rebuilding major components of the clarigester equipment at the plant.

TOWN MANAGER JOHN ELSESSER'S MESSAGE

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A new 30 ft. by 30 ft. **pavilion** is on order to be constructed at the Laidlaw Park soccer complex. This is funded by some State grant money. The Soccer Association contributed and some funds were also given by the Town Council.

We have also been authorized to seek bids for a \$1.5 million grant **renovation of Orchard Hills Senior Housing**. The Department of Housing has also authorized grant money for **touchless bathroom renovations** at the Senior Center and community buildings at Orchard Hills.

Other News:

Please keep a watch out for **Community Conversations on Race and Equity**, still in its planning stages for a spring roll-out. If you are interested in being part of the planning process, please contact Annemarie Sundgren in the Human Services Department at asundgren@coventryct.org.

Interested in serving your town on a Board of Commission? We have lots of opportunities for you to participate. Go to the Town website at www.coventryct.org/157/Boards-Commissions to see openings and fill out a Statement of Interest form. At the time of printing, we currently need folks for Inland Wetlands, School Energy & Building Efficiency Building Committee, Ad-hoc Protected Spaces Stewardship Committee, and Cable Television Advisory Committee.

We are starting the process of **hiring a new Police Chief**. See the town website for a survey to share your input about the attributes you believe the new chief should have.

The Town Council approved **Honorary Charter lifetime memberships** to Coventry Fire & EMS Department (Department 18) to past chiefs Richard Cooper, Peter Krawetsky, and Robert Beault.

The Economic Development Commission has prepared an **Employee Recognition Awards program** for good service in our local business establishments. Nominations are open until March 1, 2022. Please vote to recognize excellent service at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/W6QD7VF>.

Watch for Facebook posts for the **sale of old Town vehicles** and equipment through GovDeals. Old trucks, vans, and more which are no longer needed by the Town.

For cleaner parks, the Town has purchased a sweeper to pick up goose poop next spring/summer. It will be towed by a used small Japanese Mitsubishi KEI vehicle, purchased used at our local JDM Imports. This 4-wheel drive vehicle will also service parks and open space needs, and we hope to add a plow for smaller areas such as parking lots and sidewalks.



Comings & Goings and Staff Accomplishments

Jeffrey Spadjnske has been named Acting Police Chief with the retirement of Chief Palmer, and will guide the department during the transition to a new chief. We appreciate his willingness to serve in this capacity.

Farewell to retiring employees **Linda Greenbacker**, Tax Collector; after 32 years of service, **Joe Callahan**, Building Official, after 22 years of service; and **Sherry Chapman**, Cemetery Sexton, after four years of service. Their expertise will be missed.

Welcome to **Evan Stone**, part-time Transfer Station Operator with the Public Works Department.

Congratulations to Library Assistant **Peggy Norris** on her 40th year of employment with the Booth & Dimock Memorial Library. The Library appreciates all you have done for us!

Congratulations to **Colin Dunnack** and **Michael Mangiafico**, who were promoted to the position of Public Works Maintainer II in September 2021.

Town Resident Recognition:

William Jobbagy was awarded by CivicPlus as a recipient of a Small Town America Civic Volunteer Award. Citations were presented by the Town Council and State officials on December 6, 2021.

John "Jack" Lacek was recognized as the last World War II American Legion Post member on December 4, 2021 with the dedication of a bench in front of Town Hall.

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

- Captain Hale Financial, 1776 Boston Turnpike, offering personalized financial services.
- Watch for Hale Barber shop, opening soon in the Ackert Electric building in Coventry Village.

Please support Coventry's wide variety of local businesses. Thank you.

Left: The new Town Council takes the oath of office on November 3, 2021. L to R: Marty Milkovic, Jonathan Hand, Robyn Gallagher, Lisa Thomas, Julie Blanchard, John French, Matthew Kyer. Photo by Laura Stone.

LAND USE OFFICE 860-742-4062

SENIOR HOUSING STUDY

The Senior Housing Alternatives Study Committee and Town Staff worked over the past two years to prepare a report examining the needs for senior housing in Coventry. The report probes the matter by providing details on national and local trends, the various options of facilities, cost considerations, funding mechanisms, and target sites. The report also provides insight on local preferences that were gathered by a community survey that was conducted which elicited a significant response from seniors in town. The report provides a roadmap for decision making in order to support the need to expand the housing choices for seniors in Coventry. The report is available on the Land Use Office page on the Town of Coventry website.

BOLTON LAKES WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

Coventry participated in the development of the Bolton Lakes Watershed Management Plan with the towns of Bolton, Vernon, and Tolland. A State of CT DEEP grant was received by the Town of Bolton to hire a consultant to develop the Plan. Local firm, Northeast Aquatic Research (NEAR) was hired as the consultant for the project. This is the same consultant Coventry works with to address the hydrilla infestation at Coventry Lake. The State of CT DEEP reviewed the Plan and provided comments which are in the process of being incorporated into the final draft. The Plan provides a detailed analysis of the overall watershed that involves all four towns and a variety of recommendations that can be considered over time by the four towns to implement that assist in supporting good watershed health. Coventry possesses the largest watershed area associated with the Lakes. The Plan is expected to be completed by the end of 2021 and will be posted on the Land Use Office page on the Town website.

NEW DAVID HAYES SCULPTURE IN COVENTRY VILLAGE

A new addition to the Coventry Village landscape occurred in September with the installation of a fifth David Hayes sculpture. David Hayes is a world renowned sculptor who resided in Coventry for many years. Town Staff worked with the Coventry Arts Guild and the David Hayes Foundation to facilitate the preparation and moving of "The Rooster" to the historic barn property on Main Street across the street from the street clock at the Teleflex facility. The barn property was conveyed to the town recently by the State of CT DOT. The Town is currently considering adaptive re-use possibilities for the barn and site. The Town is grateful to the Foundation for lending the community such beautiful works of art to enhance the Village.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLAN

Coventry is the recipient of a \$15,000 grant from the State of CT Department of Housing in order to prepare an affordable housing plan for the town, which is now required by CT General Statutes. A request for proposals was released in November to seek consultants to assist in the preparation of the plan. The plan will examine the current housing situation in the town, make recommendations on changes to the Zoning Regulations that will help facilitate affordable housing projects, consider potential sites to support attainable projects, and possible funding mechanisms will be explored. Public forums and discussions will be hosted to gain community input in order to help educate the community on this significant issue that is affecting all Connecticut communities. The project is expected to be initiated in early 2022 and be completed during the spring of 2022.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT 860-742-4064

As New Englanders, we know all too well that, snow storms can severely damage our electrical distribution system and change the landscape of our communities with downed trees and heavy snow loads. We are also accustomed to the effects of thaw and freeze cycles in the way of many homeowners experiencing ice dam situations. The following tips may help to keep us safe and protect our properties.

- Keep on top of the snow and roof rake regularly to allow for the roof to fully thaw during a warm day and possibly reduce the effects of the freeze cycle at night.
- If ice dams are an issue for you and you have been vigilant with excess snow removal on your roof, it can possibly be an issue of not enough, too much or improperly installed insulation.
- Keep areas around stand-by generator free and clear of snow.
- DO NOT try to heat your dwelling with unvented heating equipment.
- Don't forget to clear paths to gas tanks and fill pipes for your oil tanks. Many suppliers will no longer deliver if paths are not cleared to these areas and this can potentially leave you in a chilly predicament.
- Locate portable generators outside and away from windows, doors and vents.
- Have generator connections installed by a licensed electrician. Proper permits and inspections can eliminate the potential to back feed utility lines.
- Shut portable generators down and let unit cool down prior to refueling.
- When power is lost, try to remember to shut off your main breaker and individual circuit breakers. During prolonged outages, we may not remember what appliances may have been on when the power was lost.

HAVE A SAFE & HEALTHY NEW YEAR!



Please join us in wishing our long time Building Official, Joseph Callahan, a happy retirement. After almost 23 years serving the Town of Coventry and its residents, Joe is looking forward to starting the next chapter of his life. Joe's last day was December 31, 2021 and he will be greatly missed. We wish him all the best!

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

860-742-7966

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

OUR SERVICES

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

IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR DOG LICENSING!

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

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

SPORTS LICENSES:

2022 Licenses are available at the Town Clerk's Office or from the DEEP website www.ct.gov/deep/hunting. Remember, all licenses expire annually on **December 31st** except Lifetime and Handicapped Licenses issued before October 1, 2009.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

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

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

PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOTING:

Pursuant to Public Act 11-173, individuals with **permanent** disabilities may apply for **permanent** absentee balloting status. This enables the elector to receive an absentee ballot application for each election, primary and referendum in the municipality.

To be eligible, an elector must file an absentee ballot application together with a doctor's certificate stating that they have a permanent disability and are unable to appear in person at their polling place.

File the completed documentation with the Town Clerk. Once received, absentee ballot applications will be sent out to the elector for each event for which they would be eligible to vote.

The elector will receive an annual notice to determine if the elector continues to reside at the address on their permanent absentee ballot application. Failure to return the notice will result in removal of the permanent absentee ballot status.

Some restrictions apply for local votes which are less than 3 weeks' notice – contact the Town Clerk's Office or check the website for further instructions.

COVID UPDATE

As of the date that this was written (12/17/21), there have been 1,107 cases of COVID in Coventry, and eight deaths. Over the last two weeks, we had 103 new cases ... the worst in the region by almost 9%.

Please don't succumb to COVID fatigue. Remain vigilant, wear facemasks in crowds (required in Town buildings), get vaccinated and boosted, and be considerate of others. The last year has been too stressful to re-live. Please be thoughtful and considerate.

For information about vaccination and booster shot clinics in our area, please go to the Eastern Highlands Health District's website at EHHD.org. They share information on clinics that they sponsor and others in the region. They also keep current on testing locations, including phone numbers. Up-to-date guidance is also available through them.



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
100 Olsen Farm Road • 860-742-6588

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

Bill Watkins
Mark Owens
Donna Wrubel
Todd Penney

wwatkins@coventryct.org
mowens@coventryct.org
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tpenney@coventryct.org

WINTER TIPS:

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

Remove basketball hoops from road right of way so as not to hinder snow removal.

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

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

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

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

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

The town's policy is to repair mailboxes **only** when the plow truck physically hits the mailbox – not when the snow that comes off of the plow strikes the mailbox.

SNOW REMOVAL:

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

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

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

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

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

TRANSFER STATION: 325 MAIN ST.

Winter Thursday hours October—March: 10 AM—4 PM

Spring/Summer hours April—September: noon—6 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.
- Tires – automobile size – on or off rim \$5 each.

Materials acceptable no cost:

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

Materials NOT acceptable:

- Garbage
- Grass clippings
- Furniture
- Hazardous waste

Transfer Station: Commercial Users Must Remember the facility is not intended for commercial users although small repair/remodeling contractors doing work for Coventry residents may be allowed limited use to dispose of materials incidental to their work within the limits of the Town of Coventry. Proof of residency and **building permits, as applicable**, will be checked as part of normal facility operations to insure the facility waste stream remains residential in nature.



“THE HOLIDAYS ARE OVER; NOW WHAT DO I DO WITH MY CHRISTMAS TREE?”

Christmas trees may be dropped off at the Transfer Station near the intersection of Plains Roads & Rt. 31 when the facility is open or there are two un-staffed sites: Laidlaw Park on Merrow Road and the Miller Richardson Athletic Field (take Route 31 to South Street Extension then a right at the stop sign) look for the signs. Please leave only the tree; take plastic bags/netting home to dispose with normal garbage. The trees will be chipped up and used in landscaping next spring. All American Waste will not pick up trees curbside.

NOTE FROM THE TREE WARDEN:

Please contact the Tree Warden at Public Works if you have any questions pertaining to anything related to trees owned by the Town of Coventry. Please remember as a town policy we generally do not remove healthy trees.

All Requests for hazardous tree removal/trimming as well as requests for healthy tree removal/trimming within the Town Road Right of Way **MUST** be made **IN WRITING** to the Tree Warden. Mail to Coventry DPW at 1712 Main Street, email Deputy Tree Warden, Mark Owens, at Mowens@coventryct.org or hand deliver to 100 Olsen Farm Road or the Town Hall. Include your name, address, phone #, tree location and a brief description of your request.

MONTHLY BULK WASTE PICKUP

Material acceptable for monthly oversized waste curbside pickup: Non-metal material that is too large to be placed in your tipper cart such as furniture is collected curbside. Residents are allowed to place up to **three** non-metal oversized waste items (see examples below) at the curb each month for collection as part of this program.

Mattresses, Box springs, scrap metal / appliances and electronics are not acceptable curbside items and must be brought at no cost to the Coventry Transfer Station.

All residents need to place their items at the curb by 6:30 a.m. on the 2nd Monday of the month. This collection may/may not follow the daily waste & recycling pickup schedule.

- Furniture such as table, couch or dresser
- Brush; trimmed to 3ft. lengths, bundled & tied, 30-lbs. maximum.
- Wood lumber; length & width less than 4 ft., less than 4 in. nominal size, 30-lbs. maximum.

PAINT RECYCLING

Paint is now recycled through a state program. For more info go to www.paintcare.org. Drop-off locations include: England Hardware in Bolton, Mansfield Supply in Mansfield, True Value Home Center in Willimantic, Sherwin Williams in Willimantic and O. L. Willard in Willimantic.

HOUSEHOLD CHEMICAL WASTE DROP-OFF FACILITY

This regional facility located on Hancock Road in Willington is closed for the winter, reopening April 2022.

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

COVRRRA

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

No Holiday Trash / Recycling Pickup Schedule Changes until Memorial Day, Monday, May 30, 2022.

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

If your cart's lid fell off or is missing a lid plug or if your cart's wheel fell off or is wiggly, call All American Waste at (860) 289-7850 and make arrangements to have it repaired.

SPECIAL NEEDS TRASH/RECYCLING PICK-UP SERVICE AVAILABLE: Get your tipper carts picked up right at your back door. (Some driveway length restrictions apply.) No more struggling to roll them to the curb!! No additional fees involved. Call Human Services at (860) 742-5324 to find out if you or someone you know might qualify.

TEXTILE RECYCLING:

The Town is starting its eighth year with Bay State Textile for Textile Recycling. Acceptable items for recycling through this program are footwear, clothing, accessories, linens and stuffed animals. For instance, a stained t-shirt or torn bath towel becomes a wiping cloth, a lone sock becomes pillow stuffing, worn out denim jeans are used to produce household insulation, a teddy bear is used for car seat stuffing and so on. Everything will be accepted from gently used to ripped or with broken zippers. It is important, however, that they be clean, dry and bagged. Recycling these materials should, conceivably, reduce our tonnage disposal fees. Collection boxes are located at the town's transfer station, Public Works Department on Olsen Farm Road and at the Town Hall next to the Annex. Last fiscal year the town received revenues averaging \$152 / month for approximately 3,043 lbs. of textiles / month.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY (Sewer Department)

Contact Us:

Mike Ruef, WWTP Operator

Phone: 860-742-4064

Email: mruef@coventryct.org

Online: 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.

Attack of the Fatberg!

- Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) are a common problem plaguing wastewater treatment plants across the world and Coventry is no different. Several years ago a blob of grease the size of a bus was found in a London sewer and the term 'fatberg' was coined. A YouTube search for those with a strong stomach brings up videos of crews in hazmat suits walking through sewer tunnels to clear the fatbergs. Here in Coventry our largest sewer mains are only 12-15 inches in diameter so fortunately we're not walking around down there.
- FOG acts like glue coating the sides of our underground tanks and sewer lines. Non-flushable & flushable wipes, plastic wrappers, feminine hygiene products, and other debris gets trapped in the FOG. This creates a tough waterproof mass that chokes down the available room in the sewer lines that wastewater needs to flow through.
- FOG and the debris it accumulates does not break down, even with the addition of chemical treatments and emulsifiers. Manual removal with hand tools and septic pumping trucks is costly but necessary.
- We can all do our part to reduce the amount of FOG in our sewer system by avoiding use of garbage disposals, using adequate sink drain screens, and dumping the strainer into the garbage when full, not down the drain. Also scrape greasy dishes into the trash and pour cooled cooking oil/grease into the trash.

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. We are also working hard to secure financial assistance for annual sewer use bills. Contact Mike Ruef for details.

DUMPSTERS AVAILABLE

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

- 6 cubic yard dumpster - \$175 haul / \$98 ton of disposal (CC deposit \$273 = haul charge + 1 ton)
- 15 cubic yard dumpster - \$195 haul / \$98 ton of disposal (CC deposit \$391 = haul charge + 2 ton)
- 30 cubic yard dumpster - \$195 haul / \$98 ton of disposal (CC deposit \$587 = haul charge + 4 ton)

Payment is to be made by credit card only. Refund to credit card will be made if customer balance amount is lower than deposit taken.

TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

860-742-4066

The second (2nd) installment for real estate taxes is due January 1, 2022. The last day to pay without interest is February 1, 2022. Real Estate tax bills are **not** mailed out for the January installment. If you need a copy of your real estate tax bill, you can print one from the Town's website (www.coventryct.org) under Online Bill Pay, which will take you to the Tax Collector's page. Here you will see a link to Find My Bill.

Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax bills are for vehicles purchased, registered or plates transferred after October 1, 2020 and before September 30, 2021. These SMV tax bills were mailed out in December and are due January 1, 2022. Last day to pay without interest is February 1, 2022.

Please remember the address for the P.O. Box in Hartford, printed on your original bills, is only for payments for **CURRENT TAX BILLS**: Real Estate tax due January 2022 and Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax due January 2022. All other payments for any partial payments or all delinquent bill payments must be mailed directly to the Coventry Tax office 1712 Main St. in Coventry 06238 for prompt processing.

If payment is received after February 1, 2022, the Real Estate and Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax bills become delinquent and are immediately subject to 3% interest. From then on, interest is added at the rate of 1.5% per month from the due date.

Credit card payments for tax, sewer and trash bills are accepted here in the office as well as online and are processed by Point and Pay LLC. There is a convenience fee charged by Point and Pay for credit card payments. Point and Pay fee schedule is as follows: credit cards (MC, Visa, Discover and Amex) are 2.75% fee (minimum \$2.00) and Visa debit (VISA only) is a \$3.95 flat fee. There is a link from the Tax Collector's page on the Town's website, www.coventryct.org, to make your payment by credit card.

Taxpayers have an additional on-line payment option for those wishing to pay by check. From the Tax Collector's page on the Town's website, under Online Payments choose payment from bank account for this preference. This will connect you to our Webster Bank's payment link site. You can save time, gas, postage and the inconvenience of driving in bad weather by paying online or by mail.

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

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



5G AND BROADBAND: Our local cellphone carriers for 5G coverage are seeking authorization to upgrade towers for 5G equipment. Check online carrier web pages for current service before you buy a new device. With the merger of T-Mobile and Sprint, the FCC required space be made available for other carriers, and DISH Network is seeking space on several towers. Several third-party vendors such as Consumer Cellular and Spectrum run on major networks at lower monthly costs. Consider shopping around.

Frontier is finally starting a process to bring fiber to our community, which should be an improvement to copper wire DSL. Did you know that Spectrum's base speed is now 100 mps? If you don't ask for a speed upgrade, you won't get it. A new modem may be required, provided free by Spectrum. Run a free line speed test to check your speed. We recommend CEN (a State agency) at <https://ctedunet.speedtestcustom.com/>.

WINTER NOTES FROM COVENTRY LAKE ADVISORY & MONITORING COMMITTEE

Winter is here and time for winter activities on Coventry Lake. If the ice freezes people will be ice fishing, ice skating, snowshoeing, and cross country skiing. Ice walking is also an enjoyable activity. However a word of caution – **THE ICE MUST BE Safe!**

Safe ice for sports is listed as follows:

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

DEEP has an ice fishing video called *Let's Go Ice Fishing* and a Blog called *Ice Fishing 101*. These can be found on DEEP's website, <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Fishing/General-Information/Ice-Fishing>. Also check from December – February for the following:

- ◆ The CT DEEP Fisheries Division - **CT Aquatic Resources Education (CARE)** program offers Learn to Ice Fish classes from December through February. They will cover safety on the ice, how to dress for the cold, where to go, ice fishing equipment, baits, techniques, and tactics during the ZOOM class. Experts will be available to answer all your ice fishing questions. Check back for a schedule of classes and ice fishing events in December.
- ◆ All participants will be invited to register for an instructor-led ice fishing trip (pending safe ice) following completion of the ZOOM class. Ice fishing trips are limited to the first 20 people who register. We will email you an invitation with dates and details after the ZOOM class!

The initial update after the 2021 hydrilla treatment is again very encouraging. Look for the full report in January 2022.

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

- ◆ Find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/245119282764856>
- ◆ Find us on Coventry's Website: <https://www.coventryct.org/234/Lake-Advisory-Monitoring-Committee>
- ◆ Email questions to: CoventryLakeAdvisor@CoventryCt.org

CLERGY FUEL FUND

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

FOOD BANK

The Coventry Food Bank is well stocked and the holiday program was a success. We had support with donations from the annual "Scouting for Food" through the Boy Scout Troop & Pack 65, who collected and sorted non-perishable items. Also Skungamaug Golf Club, owned by Susan & John Motyka, with their Food "Fore" Golf event, which raised funds for Coventry residents in need.

We are always accepting donations for the food bank. The need can vary by the month/season so please call ahead with your donation. The food bank is always in need of peanut butter/ jelly, cereal, spaghetti sauce, pasta, soup, tuna, personal hygiene items and cleaning supplies. Thank you to our local residents, churches, schools, business and civic groups who have made a donation. **Please remember we cannot distribute expired items so please check expiration dates.** If you are in financial crisis and are in need of food, please contact Coventry Human Services to schedule an appointment. (860) 742-5324.

"THANK YOU" FROM THE COVENTRY HUMAN SERVICES OFFICE

We had a very successful holiday distribution. With the support and donations from residents, businesses, schools, PTOs, local banks, grocery store, churches, scouts, clubs, legions and associations, the Thanksgiving and Holiday Season was very special for many families in need. Thank you to those who helped in delivering the Orchard Hill Holiday meals. Would also like to Thank Coventry Police & Fire Department for the stuff a truck event. They collecting an amazing amount of toys! We would not have been able to do this program without your dedication and hard work!

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

860-742-5324

WORRIED ABOUT WINTER HEATING COSTS?

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

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

Coventry residents may call Human Services (860)742-5324 for an appointment, which are scheduled for Tuesdays and Thursdays. Appointments can also be made at ACCESS, Inc. (Willimantic area) (860) 450-7400.

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

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

COVENTRY YOUTH SERVICES

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

Safe@Home and Safe Sitter Essentials® Course:

Class registration will be through the Coventry Parks and Recreation. Please keep a look out in the 06238 publication 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.

For more information on any of the programs listed above, please contact Youth Services Coordinator, Sneha L'Heureux at slheureux@coventryct.org or 860-742-5324.

SENIOR CENTER

172 Lake Street • 860-742-3525

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

Cathy Mitchell, Senior Center Assistant: cmitchell@coventryct.org

DON'T GET CABIN FEVER THIS WINTER! CHECK OUT A PROGRAM AT THE SENIOR CENTER!

The Coventry Senior Center welcomes seniors 55 years and older to enjoy a variety of social, educational and wellness programs. There is no membership and many of our events are low to no cost!

Join one of our weekly cards games, mahjongg, bingo, billiards, fitness classes or schedule use of the fitness room while overlooking the lake!

Further details on monthly programming can be found in the Center's monthly program newsletter. Download the newsletter at www.coventryct.org or receive it directly to your inbox by signing up for our Senior Center e-blast at <http://www.coventryct.org/list.aspx>.

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

- Get in those steps during one of our weekly group fitness class! Classes meet every Monday-Friday, all levels welcome; \$5.00 fee.
- Podiatry Foot Care from Colchester Foot Specialists is available quarterly by appointment. On-site podiatry appointments are scheduled quarterly with Dr. Morgan. 2022 Schedule: February, May, July, September, December in 2022.
- Treat yourself! Schedule a professional haircut, manicure or massage - monthly appointments are available.

Further details for monthly programming can be found in the Center's monthly Newsletter. Download the newsletter at www.coventryct.org or receive it directly to your inbox by signing up for our Senior Center e-blast at <http://www.coventryct.org/list.aspx>. Registration for all monthly services can be made by calling the center at 860-742-3525.

AARP SAFE DRIVING COURSE Will re-open starting January 3, 2022.

There may not be an in-person course in Coventry this year but courses are added every day. Please continue to check back. In the meantime, you can take the course online from the comfort and safety of your own home. **Use promo code DRIVINGSKILLS to receive 25% off the online course.**

AARP TAX AIDE PROGRAM

Friday, 2/25: 9 AM—2 PM

Friday, 3/11: 9 AM—2 PM

Friday, 3/25: 9 AM—2 PM

Friday, 4/8: 9 AM—2 PM

Call 860-742-3525 to schedule an appointment. No walk-ins.

OPEN HOUSE SERIES:

Thursdays 1/27, 2/24, 3/31: 9:30—11:00 AM. Tour the Center and learn about our programs and services.

CHOICES HEALTH INSURANCE COUNSELING

The Senior Center has a Volunteer CHOICES Counselor who is available to answer your Medicare questions. Call the Center to schedule your appointment.

The CHOICES Program (CT'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 **FREE** 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.

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

COVENTRY RIDES TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

Sarah Leete, Transportation Coordinator; sleete@coventryct.org
Hours: Call and leave a message, your call will be returned within 48 business 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. Program hours are Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am-1pm. Please call at least 48 business hours in advance to schedule a ride, and by 1pm on Thursday for rides the following Monday. 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.

NEWS FROM THE BOOTH & DIMOCK MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Booth & Dimock Memorial Library is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 10-8, Friday 10-6, and Saturday 10-3. For the continued safety of our staff and all our patrons, we are currently asking that all visitors to the library wear a mask. In the event the Library needs to close due to weather, we will announce the closing on our website, Facebook, WFSB, and WILI AM radio. Phones will not be answered if the Library is closed.

Keep an eye out for these new children's programs!

Imagination Stations: A story time and free art program. This program promotes the use and development of the imagination as we read stories and created with themed art supplies.

Science Explorers: Join us as we explore various science topics through hands-on activities! Suitable for all ages, this program is meant to introduce science topics in a fun, self-exploratory way.

Music & Movement: Does your child love to dance it out? Join us for a fun program where we explore instruments, dance, song, and really get the wiggles out!

Frequent **Take & Make** programs will be available on a first-come-first-serve basis in the Library's vestibule.

Interested in a winter challenge? The Booth & Dimock Memorial Library is challenging Coventry to read **500 books this winter**. For more information, or to sign up, contact the library or visit our website.

For up-to-date information, visit us online, on Facebook, or in person! We look forward to seeing you soon!

Booth & Dimock Memorial Library
1134 Main Street
860-742-7606
www.coventrypl.org

COMING EVENTS & NOTABLE ITEMS

STONE WALL MAINTENANCE WEEKEND

Nothing says "New England" more than the stone wall. The rural character of Coventry is often defined by the existence and visibility of our numerous stone walls. The stone wall is our visual reminder of our rural cultural heritage and past agricultural traditions.

The Coventry Conservation Commission is sponsoring the annual "Stone Wall Maintenance Weekend" on March 26. This would be a perfect time for property owners to do some maintenance to increase the visibility of stone walls on their property. Many of the stone walls throughout Coventry are in disrepair and/or are overgrown with brush and invasive plants. Homeowners can improve the "curb appeal" of their property by sprucing up their stone walls, especially those that border town roads. This can be turned into a great community project for neighborhoods or community service groups.

The Conservation Commission is very mindful of stone wall preservation and consistently makes recommendations pertaining to the preservation of significant historical and natural resources, such as stone walls. These beautiful landforms are integrated into our rural landscape and should be valued and preserved. Every stone wall has its own unique character and adds to rural character of our town. The Coventry Conservation Commission sponsors this annual community activity.

CT VETERANS DAY PATRIOT RACE A SUCCESS

Saturday, November 6th, was a beautiful day for the CT Veterans Day Patriots Race! Over 200 runners gathered in Patriots Park for the annual event! The overall first place winners for the male and female divisions were Kristen Dennis from Coventry with a 28:25 finishing time, and Scott Bushey from New Haven with a 22:15 finishing time.

Congratulations to the Race Committee, including Race Director Peter DePaola Sr. for a successful and fun event. Their goal is to not just raise funds for Veteran Service Organizations in CT, but to raise friends and awareness of the needs of the veteran community. This year they donated \$14,000 to 8 different VSOs in Connecticut, plus collected a couple thousand daily essential items for the homeless veteran community.

A special thank you to Department of Public Works staff for their work on preparing Patriots Park for this community event!

THANK YOU FROM THE LIONS CLUB OF COVENTRY

The Lions Club of Coventry would like to thank the community for their support for our two fall community events - Chili Fest and Christmas in the Village. All proceeds from our fundraising gets funneled back into the Coventry community in a variety of ways. We hope citizens will continue to support us in our spring Roses sales. Information regarding Lions events and updates can be found on the Lions Club of Coventry Facebook page. Our motto is "We Serve" and we are always looking to welcome new members to our volunteer group.

DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS

Coventry Scholarship Foundation Dollars for Scholars will be conducting its annual fund drive during the month of February. Mailings will be made to Coventry residents to raise funds to be distributed to Coventry students who are graduating in June 2022. All applicants who complete the scholarship application process will receive monies to help them further their education. Last year more than \$60,000 was awarded to graduates.

More information can be found on our website,
coventry.dollarsforscholars.org



*Above: Youth crossing the finish line at the CT Veterans Day Patriots Race on November 6, 2021.
Photo by Ben Jordan.*

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

860-742-4067

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

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

<https://croc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ed798533e6fd4304b2bef1f28e95c06f>

– Geographical Information System (Maps) and property Information

The Elderly or Totally Disabled Homeowner Program begins February 1, 2022, and applications are being accepted until May 16, 2022. Our office will be sending reminder letters by the end of January 2022 to those people who have to re-file this year. Remember that this program is income driven from the state and income guidelines are set by the state for both single and married individuals. Please call if your income is less than \$45,800 if married, or less than \$37,600 if single, both must include Social Security benefits and your adjusted gross income from your 2021 Federal Income tax return. If you qualify for the State program the Town of Coventry also has either a tax credit or a tax deferral program which has the same income requirements.

The Additional Veterans Program also starts February 1, 2022 and applications are accepted until September 30, 2022. A DD214 must have been filed with the Town Clerk prior to **October 1st, 2022** to be eligible for this additional exemption. If you have already filed and did not receive a letter from our office, you do not need to re-file. You

will receive your exemption automatically. For additional veteran's benefits, please call if your income is less than \$45,800 if married, or less than \$37,600 if single, both must include Social Security benefits and your adjusted gross income from your 2021 Federal Income Tax return. You will be asked to provide proof of all the income documentation regarding both of the above mentioned applications. Additional Veteran's and Homeowner applications are taken biannually.

Crumbling Foundations has been an ongoing issue for 19 Towns in the eastern part of the State. Connecticut General Statutes have allowed the Assessor's Office to revalue the property starting with the 2016 Grand List. Applications are on our website and in the office. These must be filed along with a certified Engineers report in order to receive an adjusted assessment. The filing deadline for an adjustment on the grand list is December 1, 2021. Along with that, the State of Connecticut has a reimbursement program for the testing of concrete foundations. If you would like to apply please use the CROG link foundationtesting.org for the application, or call (860) 724-4277 concerning any questions you may have.

The Board of Assessment Appeals will be meeting in March of 2022. Appeal **applications must be filed no later than February 18, 2022**. The board is required to hear all appeals concerning Motor Vehicle, Personal Property or Real Estate. Applications will be available in January 2022 in the Assessor's Office or online at www.coventryct.org.

NEWS FROM PARKS AND RECREATION

860-742-4068



Basketball is BACK! Coventry Parks and Recreation is thrilled to have the Instructional, Rec League, and Travel League Basketball programs return after a one year hiatus. This year, over 75 kids in grades K – 2 are participating in Instructional Basketball on Saturday mornings from November – March. Over 150 kids in grades 3 – 8 are participating in either the Rec League or Travel League. With a lot of adjustments, this season was made possible thanks to the Coventry Board of Education for allowing access to gym space and the Coventry Basketball Association Board for their countless volunteer hours of coordinating! We are ready for a GREAT season!

Start the NEW YEAR off right! Parks and Recreation offers a variety of health & wellness classes for all ages and abilities! **Tai Chi** Tuesday evenings, **Yoga** Wednesday evenings, **Simply Fit** Saturday mornings! Give our office a call to sign up for a FREE trial class!

Winter Farmers Market moves to the Lodge! Come down to Patriots Park on Sundays from 10am – 12:30pm to shop local vendors.

Winter/Spring Edition of **06238 Program Guide** hitting homes soon! Parks and Recreation continues to add new program offerings each season!



COVENTRY BOARD OF EDUCATION:

The following Board of Education members were elected in November to a two-year term:

Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairperson; Eugene Marchand, Vice-Chairman; Mary Kortmann, Secretary; Peter DePaola; Emma Eaton; Courtney Rossignol; and Christina Williams.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS:

The Board of Education generally meets on the second and last Thursday of each month. The regularly scheduled meetings for 2022 are as follows: January 13, January 27, February 10, February 24, March 10, March 31, April 28, May 12, May 26, June 9, June 16, July 28, August 25, September 8, September 29, October 13, October 27, November 10, and December 8. Unless noted on the agenda, all meetings are held in the Administration Building Conference Room at 7:00 p.m. and can be viewed on Channel 194.

OPEN DOOR MEETINGS:

Come meet the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. David J. Petrone. As the Superintendent of Schools, one of his initiatives is to meet with as many parents and members of our Coventry community as possible. Open communication is a key component for true collaboration. All parents and community members are invited to keep informed about education in our town by attending any of the remaining Open Door Meetings this school year:

- Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at 1:30 p.m.
- Monday, May 2, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

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

COVENTRY BOARD OF EDUCATION GOALS: 1.) Identify, define, and measure the critical skills and attributes that are required for success and align systems to continuously improve student performance and achievement; 2.) Maintain and promote a positive and respectful learning community; 3.) Recruit, retain and develop high quality staff at every level.

COVENTRY PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2021-2022 GOALS: It is the mission of the Coventry Public Schools to prepare every student for life, learning and work in the 21st century. Embracing this vision, we began the 2021-2022 school year with a continued focus on technology initiatives, instructional improvement, and creating a learning environment where students and staff feel safe and respected. Goals for each school administrator are in support of the Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools' goals for Coventry Public Schools. Below are the Superintendent's goals for the 2021-2022 school year:

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

1.1. Develop and implement a comprehensive plan related to reopening schools which addresses safety and operations, teaching and learning including assessment strategies to identify gaps in learning as a result of distance learning, social and emotional programming, scheduling, professional development, school activities and events, and the needs of parents and families.

1.2. Continue the process of disaggregating Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC) and Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) data to inform pedagogy, curriculum revisions, pacing, and the refinement of practices related to integration of formative and performance based assessments into teaching and learning.

1.3. Continue the work associated with Coventry Public Schools' Portrait of the Graduate, including the development of Pre-K through 12 rubrics for each of the five competencies that students should acquire before they graduate and an associated implementation plan.

1.4. Further our work connected to Student Led Conferences to expand the use of digital portfolios.

1.5. Work with key stakeholders and the District Technology Committee to implement year one of the Technology Plan to ensure continued effective integration of technology into curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

1.6. Continue collaborating with Goodwin University on the refinement of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Curriculum in Grades 6 and 7 aligned to the State Department of Education (SDE) Computer Science Framework and evaluate the alignment of the Grade 8 Technology Education Curriculum to technology and computer science courses and pathways at Coventry High School.

1.7. Continue to bolster programs Pre-K through 12 to provide opportunities to grow achievement in high performing students, to the extent possible, under current or future instructional models.

1.8. Continue attracting out-of-district students to Coventry's specialized programs as a revenue stream to support conservative budgets.

1.9. Evaluate state science assessment data to determine the next steps for instruction and formative assessment in the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Curriculum for grades 4-5, 7-8, and 10-11.

1.10. Prioritize and address the action steps in the Special Education Plan developed in response to the areas of opportunity identified in the

District Management Group (DMG) study with a singular focus on support for students with intensive needs.

1.11. Prepare for the large-scale change from the district's current platform that manages students' Individualized Education Programs (IEP) and 504 plans, to the Connecticut Special Education Data System (CT-SEDS) for full implementation by July 1, 2022, as required by the State Department of Education.

1.12. Explore the possibility of developing opportunities for students in our 18-22 year old program to attend college courses.

1.13. Implement measures to evaluate and refine interventions in reading and math and incorporate best practices in scientifically researched based interventions.

1.14. Develop a comprehensive plan to manage and monitor the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II and American Rescue Plan (ARP/ESSER) funds with a focus on constructing strategies to avoid future financial challenges as resources expire

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

2.1. Enhance opportunities for students related to diversity, equity, and justice at each school.

2.2. Implement the Aperture Education Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL)-aligned social and emotional learning system to provide a universal screener for all students K-12, and use the data to support students' social and emotional growth through strength-based strategies to further address needs students have experienced as a result of the pandemic.

2.3. Support the new Open Choice program and continue efforts to reduce racial, ethnic, and economic isolation and develop a more diversified student body.

2.4. Explore next steps related to attracting international students to Coventry by vetting agencies that support international student experiences.

2.5. Continue the work of the District Attendance Committee to reduce chronic student absenteeism and establish consistent procedures aligned with recommendations from the State Department of Education (SDE) Bureau of Special Education.

2.6. Develop a comprehensive plan to implement the work outlined in the two security grant applications to ensure required completion dates are met, if the grants are awarded.

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

3.1. Provide additional cultural competence training for all teachers in each school to support them in recognizing unconscious bias, understanding the role of culture in education, and using students' cultures as a basis for learning.

3.2. Continue efforts to retain quality staff by evaluating options for recognition, development, or partnerships to ensure successes are celebrated and staff are supported as they refine their craft.

3.3. Continue to pursue opportunities to actively recruit certified and non-certified applicants to promote diversity in the candidate pool which leads to the hiring of a more diversified staff.

3.4. Develop a plan to utilize the leadership talent of teachers who have completed year two of the Coventry Leadership Academy.

3.5. Continue to provide comprehensive, targeted, and differentiated training for para-educators.

CLOSINGS, LATE OPENINGS, UNPLANNED EARLY RELEASES:

In addition to parents receiving messages through School Messenger, these announcements are carried on radio stations WILI (98.3 FM, 1400AM), WTIC (96.5 FM, 1080AM), WRCH (100.5 FM), WZMX (93.7), WKSS (95.7), and WWYZ (92.5). Announcements are also carried on the television stations WFSB Channel 3, WVIT Channel 30 (cable Channel 4), and WTNH Channel 8.

2-Hour Delay Notes:

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

Grades K - 5: CGS and GHR – 10:30 a.m. start time.

Grades 6 - 12: CNH and CHS – 9:40 a.m. start time.

Early Release Notes – Emergency/Weather-related

HEEC (PreK): No PM PreK. AM PreK and School Day closes at 10:00 a.m.

All other grades end at Early Release times.

NO afternoon/evening activities on school grounds.

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

•Joseph Blake, Coventry High School Principal, 860-742-7346, or jblake@coventryct.org

•Dena DeJulius, Capt. Nathan Hale School Principal, 860-742-7334, or ddejulius@coventryct.org

•Jennifer DeRagon, George Hersey Robertson School Principal, 860-742-7341, or jderagon@coventryct.org

•Ronda Carrie, Coventry Grammar School Principal, 860-742-7313, or rcarrie@coventryct.org

•Lois Hasty, Preschool and Early Childhood Education Coordinator, 860-742-4550, or lhasty@coventryct.org

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

Flexible hours/days with a wide variety of experiences.

Teacher, Para-Educator, and School Nurse Substitutes: Please visit our website at www.coventrypublicschools.org/district/human-resources for additional information.

Cafeteria Substitutes: Call Beth Pratt at 860-742-4535. **Bus Drivers/Substitutes:** Call M & J Bus Co. at 860-742-0344.

TOWN OF COVENTRY
1712 MAIN STREET
COVENTRY, CT 06238



ECRWSS
POSTAL PATRON
COVENTRY, CT 06238

Recognition for Local Employees

Inspired by the service of a local employee? Did someone go above and beyond in the performance of their duties? The Coventry Economic Development Commission is ringing in the New Year with an Employee Recognition Campaign to recognize local employees for their outstanding service, and highlighting the value of buying local. Nominations are open through March 1, 2022. A number of local businesses in town will be displaying this flyer, too. The top recognized employees will be awarded with a certificate of recognition, a photo op and will be featured on the Town of Coventry's website.

If the QR code doesn't work for you, you can find the survey at this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/W6QD7VF>.

Please reach out to Pamela Rochette by email at tmintern@coventryct.org with any questions you may have.

Make someone's day!



EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

TOWN OF COVENTRY
~2022~

The Coventry Economic Development Commission would like to recognize local employees for their outstanding service to our customers in Coventry!

Nominations open January 1, 2022 and close March 1, 2022.



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/W6QD7VF>

Complete the nomination survey by scanning the QR code above.

If you have any questions please contact Pamela Rochette at tmintern@coventryct.org

VISIT THE TOWN WEBSITE AT WWW.COVENTRYCT.ORG