



# TOWN NEWS



## IN THIS ISSUE:

**TOWN MANAGER UPDATE - PAGE 2**

**TOWN CLERK - PAGE 3**

**BUILDING PERMITS - PAGE 5**

**FOOD & ENERGY ASSISTANCE - PAGE 12**

**SENIOR CENTER - PAGE 13**

**SCHOOL NEWS - PAGE 14**

**COMING EVENTS - PAGE 16**

## HOLIDAY CLOSINGS:

**MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY - JAN. 19**

**PRESIDENTS' DAY - FEB. 16**

**GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 3**

## Message from Lisa Thomas, Town Council Chairwoman

Neighbors, the Town Council and I hope you had a joy filled holiday season with loved ones. We are grateful for your trust and support as we embark on our 2025-27 term of office. It is an honor to continue to serve as your Chairwoman, and I know the entire Council is excited to work together for the best interests of our beautiful community. We are also thankful for our town staff and community organizations who provide critical support and enrichment for our town.

The Town Council has set its goals for the 2025-27 term. Those goals are: 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.

- Establish a Coventry Citizens Government Academy to provide residents with information about, but not limited to, the Town Manager-Town Council Government structure, town department functions, the budget process, and projects management.
- Create a long term strategic plan for town owned buildings and community infrastructure needs. (e.g. sewage treatment facility upgrade, roads, Transfer Station, master planning for town parks, school buildings, Town Hall)
- Develop a strategic plan for economic development including attainable and workforce housing while maintaining historic and rural character
- Review existing boards and commissions' establishing charges or ordinances to determine whether they are up to date, still active, or duplicative.

*Above photo: Patriots Park Beach in winter. Photo by Laura Stone.*

## Town Manager Update

The year 2025 is over, and as we look back there has been much accomplished. The Town of Coventry had very productive year. We saw major improvements to safety and the condition of our State and local roads. Route 44 was completed in August and various other Town roads and drainage basins were repaired throughout the summer and fall. With the assistance of State grants the Town was able to make roadway, sidewalk and parking improvements to Miller-Richardson Park, repair a 20-year-old drainage issue in the Village on School Street, and treat Coventry Lake with an herbicide to combat the spreading of hydrilla. Grant funding paid for 60% to 80% of these projects. The Town completed the nearly two-year long project of installing new ventilators, heating and air conditioning in the classrooms at Coventry High School. This \$12.5 million project was funded over 52% with State grant funds.

The Town has for years been successful with grant projects. Many of our recent grant projects are in engineering this winter and will be ready to go out for bids in spring and then be ready for summer construction. The first of these projects is the Plains Road Water Line Project. Voters approved this \$2.6 million project in May 2025. The project will provide clean potable water to homes along Plains Road that have been impacted by salt contamination. The Town has been able to secure approximately 77% in grants and subsidies to reduce the cost to our taxpayers. Our second project is the Main Street Sidewalk project. This Community Connectivity Grant project will provide a sidewalk which will run along Main Street from Hemlock Point near Coventry High School to Winterberry near Lisicke Beach. This long-awaited project was held up last year due to the CTDOT requiring additional easements for retaining walls. It is now ready to go forward. This is part of a larger planned project to circle Coventry Lake with a walkable pathway. The third project is the Main Street/South Street Pedestrian Crossing Project. This project, a Transportation Rural Improvement Program (TRIP) grant project, will provide safety signage, flashing lights and curb ramps at crossings on Main Street in the village and Cross Street and some sidewalks on South Street. The fourth and most complicated project, the South Street/Swamp Street Road Improvement Project, is a large road re-construction project that will re-align the road and improve safety. This project is funded by the Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP) in the amount of \$2.4 million.

During 2025, the Town has been evaluating the effectiveness of our technology and making improvements. We upgraded the antiquated tax collection software with a savings in our annual cost and partnered with the Board of Education to replace our shared computer network servers. As the workload increases each year for our administrative staff, we are continuing to see how we can do things smarter using new technology.

The Town staff is now looking ahead to our upcoming budget season, and we are sharpening our pencils to make sure that we can provide the quality services Coventry residents have come to expect at a reasonable and fair tax rate. Currently department directors are putting in their requests for funding. The Town Manager's proposed budget, after preparation in February, will be presented at a public hearing on Thursday March 5, 2026, at the Lecture Hall in Coventry High School. At that point residents will have an estimate at where the 2026-27 tax rate may be set, however the final tax rate will likely be adopted by Town Council in May 2026 after the public adoption of the 2026-27 Town Council Proposed Budget.

Looking ahead to our next budget, the Town has additional capital improvement projects funded by State and Federal grants, many including road and bridge improvements. These projects are in preliminary engineering and are anticipated to reach construction stage in 2027, 2028 or in later years of the Capital Improvement Budget. You can find more information about these projects on my bi-monthly projects/issues update memo, which can be found on our website at <https://www.coventry-ct.gov/Archive.aspx?AMID=112&Type=&ADID=>. You can also learn about what's happening with the Town by signing up for monthly eblasts at <https://www.coventry-ct.gov/list.aspx>.

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## Council Chairwoman's Message

*Continued from Page 1*

- Continue working in collaboration with agencies such as Council of Small Towns (COST), Capital Region Council of Governments (CRCOG), Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM), the Board of Education, and other surrounding municipalities to find opportunities for cost savings while providing high quality services to residents.

Please remember that the winter months can be extra challenging. At times we might need extra support with groceries or home heating. At other times, extra mental health support. Don't hesitate to contact our Human Services Department for information about local and state programs that can assist. Our Human Services Department can be reached at 860-742-5324. Please visit the Human Services page on our town web site to learn more. (<https://coventry-ct.gov/126/Human-Services>).

You can stay in the know by signing up for news updates through the town website: [News and Updates](#). You can also sign up for [emergency and health alerts](#). Both these links can be found on the coventry-ct.gov web site by searching "alerts and notifications". The Town Council values your input and there are many opportunities for you to share thoughts by emailing Council members (TownCouncil@coventry-ct.gov), speaking during audience of citizens, and meeting with me during my office hours. My office hours are published in the Community Updates on the web site and on the Town Manager's Facebook page.

As always, I encourage you to take time to explore our [www.coventry-ct.gov](http://www.coventry-ct.gov) web site to learn about what our Town departments are up to. And visit [www.coventrypublicschools.org](http://www.coventrypublicschools.org) to see our schools' achievements and projects.

I wish you all a bright and peaceful New Year!

Be well,  
Lisa

## Town Clerk's Office

Lori Tollmann – Town Clerk  
 Brooke R. Manning – Assistant Town Clerk  
 Lori Beecher – Assistant Town Clerk  
 860-742-7966 (#3 on menu)  
 Hours: M-W 8:30-4:30, Th 8:30-6:30, Fr 8:30-1:30

### OUR SERVICES:

As one of the most visited office in the Town Hall, the Clerk's office provides a link between Coventry's residents and its local governing bodies. The Town Clerk is the official keeper of the Town Seal and has the responsibility of upholding State & Federal Laws. The Town Charter and Connecticut General Statutes charge the staff of this office with many functions. This office archives all Military Discharge, Vital, Map, and Land Records for the town's residents. The Clerk's office preserves the history of Coventry by acting as the official repository of notices, agendas, and minutes for Coventry's various boards, committees, and commissions. Additionally, this office protects the integrity of election conduct by overseeing election related matters including, but not limited to, the issuance of absentee ballots and certification of official results. We look forward to seeing you stop in whether it's for documents to be notarized, getting your trade name certificate, liquor permit, marriage or sporting licenses.

### 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 for each election, primary and referendum in the municipality.

To be eligible, an elector must file with the Town Clerk a doctor's statement certifying their inability to appear at the polls attached to an absentee ballot application. *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.

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



### VOLUNTEER & SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY:

***"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."*** -Margaret Mead

If you are interested in serving on a Coventry Board or Commission, please review the current vacancies and complete the Statement of Interest form online at [www.coventry-ct.gov](http://www.coventry-ct.gov). The Council Steering Committee reviews these applications and makes recommendations for appointments.



### 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 is licensed in the town you live in. **Appropriate documentation required.**

- \$8.00 for spayed or neutered dogs / \$19.00 for unaltered dogs

\*Any dog license issued after June 30<sup>th</sup> is subject to a \$1.00 per month late fee.\*

### SPORTS LICENSES:

2025 Licenses are available at the Town Clerk's Office or from the DEEP website [www.ct.gov/deep/hunting](http://www.ct.gov/deep/hunting). Remember, all licenses expire annually on December 31<sup>st</sup> except Lifetime and Handicapped Licenses issued before October 1, 2009.

*Please be advised our office can only accept cash, checks and small bills. No credit or debit cards can be accepted.*

## Land Use Office

### What are the Coventry Land Use Regulatory Boards and what do they do?

#### Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC)

The purpose of the Planning and Zoning Commission is to protect public health, safety and welfare through the administration of the zoning and subdivision regulations and the preparation of the Plan of Conservation and Development. The Commission is responsible for reviewing development applications (i.e., subdivision, special permit, text/map amendment, site plan review) as well as guiding and managing land use activities. The Commission reviews and updates the zoning regulations, subdivision regulations, Plan of Conservation and Development, and zoning map, and reviews 8-24 applications per CT General Statutes. The Director of Planning and Development is Staff to PZC.

#### Inland Wetlands Agency (IWA)

The Inland Wetlands Agency provides regulatory oversight for all activities (land disturbances as defined by the Regulations) involving wetlands, water bodies, and watercourses, including defined upland review areas from the wetlands, water bodies, and watercourses. The IWA reviews enforcement activities directed by the Wetlands Agent. The IWA reviews and updates its regulations. The IWA is responsible for administering the State's Aquifer Protection Regulations as directed by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP).

The Wetlands Agent is responsible for ensuring that the Town of Coventry's wetlands regulations are complied with and directs enforcement activities when necessary. The Wetlands Agent reviews all zoning and building permit applications to determine if they involve regulated wetlands activities and inspects properties for proper installation of erosion and sedimentation controls. The Environmental Planner/Wetlands Agent addresses routine wetlands inquiries and Staffs the Inland Wetlands Agency.

#### Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)

The Zoning Board of Appeals is responsible for the review of requests for variances from the Zoning Regulations as well as appeals of decisions of the Zoning Enforcement Officer. The Planning Technician/Zoning Enforcement Officer provides staff support to the ZBA.

If you have questions about Zoning Regulations or the need for a variance, please contact Heidi Leech, Planning Technician/Zoning Enforcement Officer at [hleech@coventry-ct.gov](mailto:hleech@coventry-ct.gov) or 860-742-4062.

#### INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES

Coventry is rich in wetlands and watercourse and as a community, it is our responsibility to be good stewards to these natural resources. There are several cost-effective ways to protect these biodiverse and valuable natural resources. The easiest method is to give wetlands and watercourses a vegetated buffer between your landscaping and the resource. Leaving at least a 25ft buffer of natural vegetation between your lawn/landscaping the wetlands or watercourses provides shade for streams, reduces streambank erosion, as well as provide food and habitat for animals. A vegetated buffer also creates a barrier that intercepts nutrient run-off from lawn fertilizers which contribute to the cyanobacteria blooms in Coventry Lake (see photo at right). Another added benefit to planting a shoreline vegetated buffer is it obstructs the Canada Geese's view of your lawn, which reduces the likelihood of them seeking refuge on your property.

If your yard is already devoid of indigenous vegetation in favor of lawn grass, consider replacing some of the lawn closest to wetlands or watercourses with native plants. The most cost-effective way of sourcing native plants is to grow them from seed over winter by a method called "winter sowing." The UCONN College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources published a newsletter on winter sowing in January of 2024, you can find it here: <https://homegarden.cahn.unc.edu/2024/01/01/planning-your-gardens-and-other-january-news/>.

If you want to plant more mature native plants, keep an eye out for North Central Conservation District's Annual Native Plant Sale.

Please feel free to contact our Inland Wetlands Agent, [Lindsay Beutler](mailto:Lindsay.Beutler), at 860-742-4062, if you have any questions or concerns.



#### IS IT BLIGHT?

As we enter the season when the leaves have fallen from the trees you may find that you are now seeing accumulated debris or structures that have fallen into a state of disrepair that weren't visible before. You may be asking yourself if it is blight. Coventry's Blight Ordinance #232 can be found on the Land Use Department page at the link below. It provides detailed information to help identify what is considered blight. The ordinance is designed to protect, preserve, and promote public health, safety and welfare; and to preserve and protect property values within the town.

If you have a concern that needs to be reported, a blight complaint can be submitted through the online permitting system link, also found on the Land Use Department page. The Complaint - Blight application also identifies the steps taken by the Zoning Enforcement Officer to resolve complaints.

<https://www.coventry-ct.gov/199/Blight>

For questions or information, contact Jana Roberson, Director of Planning & Development, at [jroberson@coventry-ct.gov](mailto:jroberson@coventry-ct.gov) or Heidi Leech, Planning Technician/Zoning Enforcement Officer, at [hleech@coventry-ct.gov](mailto:hleech@coventry-ct.gov) or call 860-742-4062.



**Above photo:** Example of vegetated buffer.

## Building Department



The Coventry Building Department would like to remind residents to have their heating systems checked and cleaned to eliminate potential problems during the winter months. Snowstorms can severely damage our electrical distribution system and change the landscape of our communities with downed trees and heavy snow loads. Heavy wet snow and ice storms can cause power outages at any time. Here are some helpful tips:

- 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-thaw 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 pathways are not cleared to these areas.
- Locate portable generators outside and away from windows, doors and vents.
- Have generator connections installed by a licensed electrician.
- 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.



**Are you planning on building in the Spring or Summer?** Please consider submitting your permit applications early to allow for the time necessary to go through the review process. Once approved, the permit will stay valid as long as work starts within six months! To get a building permit, go online to: <https://coventryct.portal.opengov.com>.

It is common to have old permits that have not been closed out. Did you know you can search your address to confirm if there are any outstanding permits for your property by going to <https://coventryct.portal.opengov.com/search>. If you have a permit that needs to be closed out, please call our office to schedule an appointment to have the Building Official come out to your home. We can be reached at 860-742-4064.

## Winter Notes from the Coventry Lake Advisory & Monitoring Committee

Winter is here! Hopefully Mother Nature will provide us with ice to enjoy another season of recreational fun on Coventry Lake. Make sure the ice is safe:

- 4 inches or more to be safe
- Newer black ice is stronger than old milky ice
- Weaker ice is found near rocks, inlets/outlets and sand bar (flats)
- The entire lake should be frozen before venturing out

Remember the saying **Leave No Trace**? That saying includes on the winter ice of Coventry Lake. Leave no ice fishing buckets, no remains from campfires and no trash. Both were seen remaining on the ice in 2024 and found either floating or sunk to the bottom. Help keep Coventry Lake's waters clean.

The Annual September Forum was a joint venture with Inland Wetlands Agency Low Impact Development Working Group (LID). Great ideas on how homeowners can do simple landscaping techniques to help protect the lake from further health decline. On Saturday, May 16, 2026 there will be a workshop hosted by LID and Lake Advisory along with North Central Conservation District. Save the date and watch for details in the spring of 2026.

Hydrilla was treated again with the herbicide fluridone in 2025. There were no visible plants after the September treatment. This is a positive sign but in the spring a survey must be completed to see if any plants emerge. The Town is developing a plan for 2026 and applying for an Aquatic Invasive Species grant (AIS).

Did you purchase your CT DEEP Invasive Species Stamp in 2025? The money to fund the AIS grant were no longer collected as part of the boat registration in Connecticut. Motorized vessels using inland waterways need to use CT DEEP Online Sportsman Licensing System. PLEASE make sure this valuable source of funds to fight aquatic invasive plants does not shrink. Coventry has benefited from receiving grants of \$75,000 in both 2024 and 2025. More information can be found at CT DEEP' website: <https://portal.ct.gov/deep/boating/faqs/faq-ais-stamp>.

**Need to contact Coventry Lake Advisory and Monitoring?** Find us on:

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/245119282764856>
- Coventry's website: <https://www.coventry-ct.gov/234/Lake-Advisory-Monitoring-Committee>
- Email questions to: [coventrylakeadvisor@coventry-ct.gov](mailto:coventrylakeadvisor@coventry-ct.gov)

## Veterans Corner



**New Monuments at the Veterans Memorial Green:** The Veterans Memorial & Events Committee (VMEC) are seeking volunteers to establish working groups in support of the Desert Storm Monument and Global War

on Terror Monument and invites community members, veterans, and local leaders who are passionate about these monuments to contact us at [CoventryVMEC@gmail.com](mailto:CoventryVMEC@gmail.com). The mission is to organize local fundraisers for the two separate monuments that will join the other veteran war monuments on Coventry's Veterans Memorial Green.

These monuments serve as powerful symbols of remembrance, reflection, and honor to the brave men and women who served from Coventry. The cost of the two monuments is approximately \$150,000. The VMEC sub-committee accepts Venmo at @CoventryMonuments or send a check to Coventry War Monuments, 984 Main Street, Coventry, CT 06238 payable to "Coventry Monuments". (A non-profit organization, EIN 39-3975463).

Thank you to all who served our great country and to the families and community who supported them.

### 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the CT Veterans Day Race:

Thank you, Coventry, for making this a record year for the 2025 CT Veterans Day Race. The Park & Recreation Dept., Dept. of Public Works, Fire & EMS Dept., and Police Dept. all went above and beyond to support this event and honor our veterans. Nearly 600 patriotic friends filled Patriots Park and 358 registered to participate in either the 4-mile race, 3-mile walk, or 3-mile ruck. The oldest runner was 82 years old and the youngest was 7! We even had one active-duty serviceman from Coventry that is currently deployed overseas who participated virtually!

From the proceeds of this year's race event, a total of \$33,000 was distributed to eight different Veteran Service Organizations in CT. We are proud to celebrate our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Coventry, hometown of our own hero and veteran, Captain Nathan Hale. We are honored to continue this great event to bring awareness to the successful veterans who continue to serve in their communities; as well as bring awareness to the needs of those veterans less fortunate. Save the date for November 7, 2026!

## Town Employee News

Welcome to **Sarah Baez**, Senior Center Administrative Assistant, and **Mike Heimer**, Deputy Emergency Management Director. Congratulations to DPW Director **William Watkins**, who has completed the Connecticut Municipal Local Traffic Authority Program, and Building Official **Randy Heckman**, who was re-elected as President of the Connecticut Building Officials Association, and is also heading a State board with CT DAS Commissioner Michelle Gilman to promote educational parameters to develop a path from high school to an associate degree that could lead to a career as a Municipal Building Official. Congratulations also to DPW employees **Troy Stout**, who has been promoted to Mechanic II, and **Lee Davey**, who has been promoted to Operator. Farewell and best wishes to DPW employee **Erik Johansen**, who leaves Town employment with over 22 years of service.

## Assessor's Office

The Assessor's office is responsible for administrating all exemption programs and the assessment of all Real Estate, Motor Vehicles, and Personal Property, which includes business property, unregistered motor vehicles, and vehicles registered out of state.

### Helpful Links:

[www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org) – general town and departmental information including forms and applications  
NEGeo: [coventry.mapxpress.net](http://coventry.mapxpress.net) for Maps and 2024GL Assessment Data.

*Parcel line updates are in progress and ongoing-this is the most current data.*

**The Elderly and Totally Disabled Homeowner Program** application period begins February 15, 2026, until May 15, 2026. To qualify, applicants must be 65 years old (or older) as of December 31, 2025, or Totally Disabled, and meet income requirements. Our office will be sending letters and application letters in the first week of February to those who have asked for the application in advance and to those who are due to re-file for the 2025 Grand List year. Again, this program is income driven with the state of Connecticut setting the maximum limits for both single and married individuals. The limits have increased to \$56,500 if married, and \$46,300 if single. Your income includes all Social Security benefits and your adjusted gross income as filed on your 2025 Federal Income tax return. If you qualify for the State program the Town of Coventry offers a tax credit or a tax deferral program with the same income requirements.

**The Additional Veterans Program** also starts February 15, 2026, and applications are accepted until September 30, 2026. Your discharge paperwork must have been filed with the Town Clerk prior to October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 to be eligible for this additional exemption in the next tax year. 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 basic exemption automatically. You may apply for additional veteran's benefits, if you meet the income requirement, noted above.

If you are a 100% disabled veteran as determined by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) you may qualify for additional benefits with income based on adjusted gross income only (does not consider the full amount of your social security benefit): Unmarried \$18,000, married \$21,000 (joint income).

You will be asked to provide proof of all income (tax return) regarding both of the above-mentioned applications. Additional Veteran's and Homeowner applications are taken biannually.

Further, if you are 100% disabled, Permanent & Total, Service Related, also documented by the VA, we will need the documentation and the completion of a simple form by January 1, 2026, for exemption of your dwelling unit, or motor vehicle (No income requirement).

**The October 1, 2025 Grand List** will be finalized and filed by January 31, 2026, and assessment change notices mailed shortly after. These notices will remind taxpayers of their right to appeal.

**The Board of Assessment Appeals** will be meeting in March of 2026. **Appeal applications must be filed no later than February 20, 2026, by 1:30pm.** The board is required to hear appeals concerning Motor Vehicles on the Supplemental Motor Vehicle List, Personal Property and Real Estate. Applications will be available in February 2026 in the Assessor's Office and online at [www.coventry-ct.gov](http://www.coventry-ct.gov).

## Tax Collector's Office

### 860-742-4066

The second installment of your 2024 grand list real estate taxes are currently due! Remember the Tax Office does not rebill for the second installment, please make sure your payment is received in our office on or before February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026.

Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax bills are for vehicles purchased, registered or plates transferred after October 1, 2024 & before August 1, 2025. The supplemental bills were mailed out in December and are due January 1, 2026. The last day to pay without interest is February 2, 2026

If payment is received after February 2, 2026, the real estate & supplemental motor vehicle installment will become delinquent is subject to interest. Interest will be added at the rate of 1.5% per month (18% annually) from the original due date, minimum interest of \$2.00.

#### Do you need to update your mailing address?

**Real Estate** bills are sent to the address of record for the property owner as of the previous October 1st or to a mortgage/escrow company if they request it. If you are a new owner since Oct 1 of last year, you may receive a copy of the bill from the Tax Collector as well. To update a real estate mailing address, please complete a CHANGE OF ADDRESS form with the Assessor's Office.

**Personal Property** bills are sent to the most recent address provided by the taxpayer. To update the Personal Property mailing address, please see the Assessor. If the account is for an LLC, partnership, or corporation, please update the address with the Secretary of State's office first and provide confirmation of the change to the Assessor.

**Motor vehicle** bills are printed with the address provided by DMV. All Connecticut residents with a vehicle registration, driver's license, or non-driver ID card must update the DMV within 48 hours of any change of address. Change of address requests can now be completed on the DMV website: <https://portal.ct.gov/DMV/DMV-Services/Change-Of-Address>

#### PAYMENT DUE CALENDAR:

**JANUARY** - Real Estate 2<sup>nd</sup> installment and Supplemental Motor Vehicle Tax only if applicable.

**MAY** - Sewer Assessment fee 1<sup>st</sup> installment.

**JULY** - Real Estate 1<sup>st</sup> installment; Motor Vehicle, COVRA and Personal Property single payment.

**SEPTEMBER** - Sewer Use Fee single payment.

**NOVEMBER** - Sewer Assessment fee 2<sup>nd</sup> installment.

Additional information is available on our website [www.coventry-ct.gov](http://www.coventry-ct.gov).

## News from Parks & Recreation



#### Arts on Main

An estimated 750 people enjoyed a beautiful fall day on September 20<sup>th</sup> in Coventry Village enjoying live music, poetry readings, craft vendors, face painting, art exhibits, martial arts' demonstrations, dance performance and more. The crowd enjoyed live music from local musicians- The Zeltones, Manos de Runba, Gio LoRicco, Jim Farley, RJ, The CHS Jazz Band and Jeff Beausoleil. Artists Barbara and Tim Timberman offered an Interactive Children's Art Installation for children to draw, paint and create! The Coventry Arts Guild hosted One Act Plays and Poetry readings in Mill Brook Place. Thank you to the event sponsors: Ackert Electric, Arbortech, Bidwell Tavern, Coventry Lions Club, CT Valley Orthodontics, Hale's Barber Shop, Meadowbrook Wine & Spirits, Preserved Antiques, Woke Breakfast, Wasabi, Maple Brook Studio, Edmondson's Farm, M&T Bank and Coventry Public Market. Additional thank you to Coventry Fire/EMS, Booth & Dimock Library, CHS Music Department, First Congregational Church, Ackert Electric, Song-a-Day Music, JDM Imports, Coventry Historical Society, Coventry DPW, Can Dance Studio, Silver Dragon Tai Chi, Kobukai Jujitsu & Coventry CT Cares.

**The 2025/2026 Youth Basketball season has started!** This year over 103 kids in grades K - 2 are participating in Instructional Basketball on Saturday mornings and over 165 kids in grades 3 - 8 are participating in Rec and Travel League Basketball. Thank you to Coventry Board of Education for providing gym space and to the Coventry Youth Basketball Association Board for their countless volunteer hours of coordination!

**Now taking winter & spring reservations for the Lodge and Millbrook!** Both rental facilities are ideal for a baby shower, bridal shower, birthday party, retirement party, or graduation party! Book your next special event with Coventry Parks and Rec!

**REGISTRATION FOR CAMP WANGUMBAUG OPENS THURSDAY MARCH 5th!**

**Winter/Spring Edition of 06238 Program Guide hitting homes in January!** Parks and Recreation continues to add new programs each season!

**Summer Employment Applications NOW available!** Applications can be found on the town website for season position including: beach gate attendants, lifeguards, park maintenance, camp leadership positions, and camp counselors.



Dear Residents and community members of Coventry,

As we approach the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 2026, the Town of Coventry is proud to announce the formation of the **America 250 | Coventry CT Committee**. This committee is dedicated to planning and coordinating events that honor our nation's rich history and inspire future generations.

Our mission is to create an inclusive and meaningful celebration that reflects the diverse stories and contributions of all Americans. We aim to engage our community that highlights Coventry's unique role in America's history.

In the coming months, watch for details about events including *Breakfast with George Washington*, *Buttons in the Brook*, *A Paper Boat Float*, *A Game Nathan Hale Played*, *Tax Collection at the Bidwell Tavern*, and more.

Please reach out to John Holmy for further information at [jholmy@coventry-ct.gov](mailto:jholmy@coventry-ct.gov).

Sincerely,  
America 250 | Coventry CT  
Committee

## Booth & Dimock Memorial Library

The Booth & Dimock Memorial Library is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10AM-8PM, Friday from 10AM-6PM, and Saturday from 10AM-3PM, and offers tons of free services including high-speed wi-fi, work and study space, children's playgroups, and programs for all ages. Sign up for a library card and gain access to tens of thousands of books, movies, video games, and e-books all for free! Stop by the library or go to [www.coventrypl.org/card](http://www.coventrypl.org/card) to get your library card today!

Did you know that the Library no longer collects late fines? If you have a long-overdue library book, we would love to get it back! Any overdue items returned to the library will be accepted with no fines or fees, and any borrowing restrictions will be lifted!

As we head into the coldest months of the year, weather closings will be listed on our website, Facebook pages, and WFSB News.

The Library offers regular programming for children, teens, and adults. For an up-to-date listing of all our programs and their full descriptions, please visit [www.coventrypl.org/events](http://www.coventrypl.org/events).

Last winter Coventry read 631 books between the months of December and February! Can we beat our record this year? All ages are encouraged to visit our website to log your books for the 2026 Winter Reading Challenge and maybe even find your next read based on other's reviews!

Once a month we host **Sunday Matinee at the Movies**, a film event that celebrates the shared movie going experience by watching hidden gems you may have never seen before. This winter season, movies are taking place on 12/28, 1/18, and 2/15 starting at 2PM. Winter blues got you down? We have light therapy lamps available for check out to help simulate sunlight! Later in the winter the adult section will have fun treats to get you through the winter doldrums.

Teens can explore their love of cutesy art by attending our monthly **Kawaii Art Club**, where you can work on your own projects or get prompts from Miss Rachel. **Teen Cooking Class** continues on 12/16 (holiday cookies), 1/20 (buttery Parmesan orzo), and 2/17 (tortilla pizzas) where you can learn simple and delicious recipes and basic cooking skills to use in college and beyond. Registration is required each month. We are partnering with Madison from Human Resources for an interactive **Internet Safety** workshop for teens to learn tricks and tips for staying safe while chatting with friends and engaging with the digital world on 1/6 at 5PM.

Once a month children can take part in our **Read to Dogs** program to help build confidence in reading aloud. You can sign up for your time slot on our website. Valentine's Day will be extra special as we have a real life princess visiting the library! Come meet Elsa at our **Fairy Tale Ball** on 2/14 at 11AM for an hour of stories, songs, and crafts! **Take Your Child to the Library Day** encourages families everywhere to take their children to their local library! This year, the Children's Room will have a full day of special crafts set up so stop by anytime between 10:00 and 3:00 on Saturday February 7th to celebrate Take Your Child to the Library Day with us!

### Booth & Dimock Memorial Library

1134 Main St. Coventry, CT

Phone: 860-742-7606

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

Email: [bdlibrary@coventry-ct.gov](mailto:bdlibrary@coventry-ct.gov)

# Department of Public Works

Director/Tree Warden  
Town Engineer  
Admin. Secretary / COVRRRA  
Engineering Technician

Bill Watkins  
Todd Penney, P.E.  
Dianna Grindle  
Mark St. Germain, P.E.

wwatkins@coventry-ct.gov  
tpenney@coventry-ct.gov  
dgrindle@coventry-ct.gov  
mstgermain@coventry-ct.gov



## 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 'Alerts and Notifications' on the town's website, [Coventry-ct.gov](http://Coventry-ct.gov).

Please 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

For more Coventry Public Works information and updates scan the QR Code below



## A Note From the Tree Warden:

Please contact the Tree Warden at Public Works if you have any questions pertaining to anything related to trees owned by the Town of Coventry. Please remember as a town policy we generally do not remove healthy trees. **All Requests** for hazardous tree removal/trimming as well as requests for healthy tree removal/trimming within the Town Road Right of Way **MUST BE MADE IN WRITING** to the Tree Warden. Mail to Coventry DPW at 1712 Main Street, email Tree Warden, William Watkins, at [wwatkins@coventry-ct.gov](mailto:wwatkins@coventry-ct.gov) 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.

## Textile Recycling

The Town is starting its eleventh 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 Public Works Department on Olsen Farm Road and behind the Town Hall next to the Annex.



### 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 snow removal program, please contact the department. During severe events, we make every effort to have a live dispatcher accessible.

**Please don't leave trash and recycling bins at the curb all week long.** Snowstorms at night can make plowing extremely challenging. The combination of poor visibility, heavy snow accumulation, and the need to navigate around obstacles like carts, can make it difficult to clear roads efficiently and safely. It is also unsightly and there is an ordinance banning this practice.

Any questions, issues or concerns regarding snow removal or winter operations should be directed to the Director, William Watkins, Public Works Department at (860) 742-6588 or email [wwatkins@coventry-ct.gov](mailto:wwatkins@coventry-ct.gov).

### COVRRRA:

Call Public Works (860) 742-6588 for more details or check your 25/26 COVRRRA calendar for details about trash/recycling collection.

**Missed Trash Pick-up?** If you missed your regular scheduled pick up or have questions regarding pick up, please contact **All American Waste at 860-289-7850**.

**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 and make arrangements to have it repaired.

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

- 6 cubic yard dumpster - \$195 haul / \$120 ton of disposal (CC deposit \$315 = haul charge + 1 ton)
- 15 cubic yard dumpster - \$215 haul / \$120 ton of disposal (CC deposit \$455 = haul charge + 2 ton)
- 30 cubic yard dumpster - \$215 haul / \$120 ton of disposal (CC deposit \$695 = haul charge + 4 ton)

Extra charges will apply for tires (\$20 auto / \$35 truck), mattress or box spring (\$30 each) and air conditioners or refrigerators (\$50 each). 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.

### The holidays are over; now what do I do with my Christmas tree?

Christmas trees may be dropped off at the Transfer Station on Olsen Farm Road when the facility is open or at the Public Works Building, look for location signage. 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.

## Transfer Station

### 100 Olsen Farm Road

The facility is for town residents only and 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 ensure the facility waste stream remains residential in nature.

Thursday hours October - March: 10 AM - 4 PM  
 Thursday hours April - September: 12 PM - 6 PM  
 Open every Saturday from 9 am until 3 pm  
 Closed most holidays.  
 Cash, check and electronic payments available.

#### Materials acceptable with cost:

- Construction and demolition debris. Free of cardboard, metal and garbage.
- Land clearing debris; stumps & brush.
- Bulk Waste such as Furniture
- Propane Tanks and fire extinguishers for recycling
- Appliance with refrigerant \$10 each, no weigh-in necessary.  
 \*\*PLEASE - DOORS MUST BE REMOVED FROM REFRIGERATORS\*\*
- Household garbage bags - \$2 per bag.

#### Materials acceptable no cost:

- All Electronics including fluorescent bulbs and rechargeable batteries
- Appliances without refrigerants
- Scrap metal materials (**metal tanks must be cut open & crushed**)
- Corrugated cardboard, bottles and cans
- Clean & dry Mattress and box springs
- Leaves for composting
- Paintcare (new or old paint, stain, or varnish)

#### Materials NOT acceptable:

- Grass clippings
- Hazardous waste

**Did you know used motor oil can be picked up with your recyclables?** Up to six quarts in non-breakable container with screw-on lid, can be left next to your recycle bin. Be sure to mark as containing oil. Used motor oil and antifreeze can also be brought to the Public Works Facility or Transfer Station, 100 Olsen Farm Road during business hours. Please call (860) 742-6588 for more info.

**Material acceptable for monthly oversized waste curbside pickup:** Non-metal material that is too large to be placed in your tipper cart such as furniture is collected curbside. Residents are allowed to place up to three non-metal oversized waste items (for example: table, couch, dresser) at the curb each month for collection as part of this program. Mattresses, Box springs, scrap metal, appliances and electronics are **not** acceptable curbside items and must be brought (at no cost) to the Coventry Transfer Station. All items need to be placed 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 (also now acceptable with cost at Transfer Station)
- 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.

**Household Chemical Waste Drop-Off Facility:** The regional facility located on Hancock Road in Willington is closed for the winter, reopening April 18, 2026.

## WPCA

### Water Pollution Control Authority (Sewer Department)

It's been a busy fall in the sewer department!

- Congratulations to Charlie Grossmann on completing the CT Roadmaster Program from T2 Training and Technical Assistance Center in the CT Transportation Institute at UCONN. 11 years of hard work went into this achievement!
- Paving School Street and Oak Grove involved lots of coordination between WPCA & Public Works so we could inspect & repair our manholes before and during paving. It's a scramble but ensures the best final product and prevents the need to dig up a newly paved road.
- Town Crews cleaned 11,000 feet of sewer main and 52 manholes in Waterfront Manor with our jetter machine. Next year is Lakeview Terrace.
- We cleaned, inspected, and repaired clarifier / digester tank #2 at the treatment plant from September - November. Skips Wastewater Services won the contract to perform cleaning and WPCA staff Mike & Charlie performed inspections and repairs. The pH inside the digester is around 4.0 which is highly corrosive to the original steel. Repairs are made with all stainless steel parts and hardware. Two-part marine grade epoxy coating is used on non-replaceable parts.
- Have we mentioned that flushable wipes are a no-no? Please don't flush any wipes, throw them in the trash.

#### Low Interest Loans for Sewer Connections:

Low interest/deferred loans for new sewer connections may be available through HUD based on income eligibility. Contact Mike Ruef for details.

#### Contact Us:

Mike Ruef, WWTP Operator 860-531-2913  
[mruef@coventry-ct.gov](mailto:mruef@coventry-ct.gov)

[www.coventry-ct.gov](http://www.coventry-ct.gov): the link to the WPCA web page can be found by clicking on Your Government > Boards & Commissions > Water Pollution Control Authority



# Human Services Office



**860-742-5324**

**Annemarie Sundgren - Administrator**  
**Austyn Dolce - Human Services Coordinator**  
**Madison Baranoski - Youth Services Coordinator**

## FOOD BANK AND HOLIDAY PROGRAM



The Coventry Food Bank is well stocked, and the holiday program was a success. We received a surplus of donations from town organizations, groups, schools, churches, businesses, and residents.

We are always accepting donations for the food bank. The need can vary by the month/season so please call ahead. We accept pantry items, toiletries, cleaning products, and pet food/items. We also accept both refrigerated and frozen foods and drinks.

If you are in financial crisis and need food assistance, please contact Coventry Human Services to schedule an appointment at (860) 742-5324.

We had a very successful holiday distribution. We were able to help over 60 households with Thanksgiving and Christmas food. In addition, 34 families with children received gifts from generous donors through our Adopt-a-Family program. We received 75 Turkeys from Twin Hills Country Club and more from Coventry residents.

Another part of the holiday program was delivering Thanksgiving and Christmas meals to Orchard Hill residents. They were cooked and prepared by Coventry Public Market.

**Please follow Coventry Human Services on Facebook to stay updated!**

**We always accept monetary donations - cash, check, and gift cards.**

**You can donate online at any time via the Coventry Parks & Recreation donation page:**

**<https://secure.rec1.com/CT/coventry-ct/catalog>**

## 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 is scheduled for Tuesdays and Thursdays. Appointments can also be completed at ACCESS in Willimantic (860) 450-7400.

### 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, CT06238. The donations are used to assist Coventry families year-round 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 income, and a current bank statement for all accounts. Approvals are not guaranteed.

### 'THANK YOU' FROM THE COVENTRY HUMAN SERVICES OFFICE

The holiday season is much brighter for residents in need due to your donations! We would like to thank town organizations, groups, schools, churches, businesses, and residents. Also, thank you to Coventry Police & Fire Department for the Stuff-a-Truck event. Thank you to everyone's generosity, dedication, and hard work to make our yearly holiday program a continued success!



## Coventry Senior Center

The Coventry Senior Center is committed to providing adults 55+, a welcoming, inclusive and supportive environment to participate in recreational, educational and wellness programs. 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 older adult citizens in Coventry.

**Physical Address:** Patriots Park, 172 Lake Street, Coventry, CT 06238

**Mailing Address:** 1712 Main Street, Coventry, CT 06238

**Phone:** 860-742-3525

**Website:** [www.coventryct.org/SeniorCenter](http://www.coventryct.org/SeniorCenter)

**"Friend" Us:** [www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057527714694](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057527714694)

### Staff:

Brenda Bennett, Coordinator; [bbennett@coventry-ct.gov](mailto:bbennett@coventry-ct.gov)

Sarah Baez, Senior Center Assistant; [sbaez@coventry-ct.gov](mailto:sbaez@coventry-ct.gov)

### Hours of Operation:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9am-4pm and Friday 9am-1pm

### Ways to Receive our Monthly Newsletter...

To view our month newsletter online, visit the Senior Center page on the Town's website; "Like" us on Facebook and/receive the monthly newsletter by providing us with your email. To sign up, contact Brenda Bennett, Senior Center Coordinator at 860-742-3525 or [bbennett@coventry-ct.gov](mailto:bbennett@coventry-ct.gov).

### Inclement Weather:

Information regarding program cancellations will be shared on the Coventry Senior Center Facebook page as well as WFSB Channel 3 news. The Town Manager will announce building closures due to inclement weather. The Senior Center will occasionally send out a ROBO call/announcement with all program cancellation and inclement weather announcements.



**NEW YEAR, NEW YOU! THE FITNESS ROOM IS OPEN AND FREE!** We have updated our commercial grade fitness equipment! We now have 2 recumbent bikes, a treadmill and an elliptical exercise machine. \*The Fitness Room is FREE ~ cancel your gym membership! \*It's as easy as calling the front desk to schedule your workout time! \*Don't let inclement weather prevent you from getting in your steps! **Just join the Center complete a fitness packet to get started.**

## COVENTRY RIDES TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

**Staff:** Sarah Leete, Transportation Coordinator; [sleete@coventry-ct.gov](mailto:sleete@coventry-ct.gov), Call 860-742-3525 and leave a message. Your call will be returned within 48 business hours.

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.

**Rides must be scheduled at least 48 business hours in advance and no later than noon on Thursday for a Monday ride.** Coventry Rides is funded with grants from 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.

### SENIOR CENTER COMING EVENTS:

**Join us in Welcoming  
State Representative Tim Ackert to the  
Coventry Senior Center  
Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> from noon-1:30pm**

Representative Ackert will provide Legislative updates and Public Acts affecting seniors.

A light lunch will be served.

RSVP is appreciated.

### AARP Tax Aide for 2025 Tax Season

We are pleased to bring our senior community FREE tax preparation assistance for your "simple" Federal and State tax returns.

A team of highly trained tax volunteers will be here (weather permitting).

**Fridays ~ February 27, March 13 March 27  
and April 10**

There are multiple appointments available each day from 9am-noon.

**By appointment only, no walk-ins please!**

Call the front desk to schedule your appointment 860-742-3525.

### CHOICES Health Insurance Counseling

The Coventry Senior Center is host to a certified CHOICES counselor. CHOICES is a **FREE** program that helps Connecticut residents understand their Medicare coverage and other healthcare options. A CHOICES counselor can help review Medicare documents and ensure that you are enrolled in a 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, call the Center to make a confidential appointment.

### Grief Support Group

This **FREE** program is led by Jim Mercurio, Counselor, Hartford Healthcare.

**Join us the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month from 10-11:30am.**

### What is a grief support?

A support group is designed to be inter-spiritual, facilitating current psychological methods of providing a therapeutic opportunity. All are welcome!

### SEEKING DRIVER FOR THE SENIOR RIDES

**PROGRAM:** Part time. Starting salary \$19.00 per hour, hours vary per week based on demand. No benefits. Provide comprehensive, efficient transportation for the Town's elderly and/or persons with a disability. This includes driving a handi-capped accessible van and/or bus up to 14 passengers. Apply online or send completed Town application form to Office of Town Manager, Coventry Town Hall, 1712 Main Street, Coventry, CT 06238. Position open until filled.

# Coventry Public Schools

**COVENTRY BOARD OF EDUCATION:** The Board of Education members are Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairperson; Mary Kortmann, Vice-Chairperson; Emma Eaton, Secretary; Megan Boshuyzen; Joshua Clark; Mark Larson; and Courtney Rossignol.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS:** The Board of Education generally meets on the second and last Thursday of each month. The regularly scheduled meetings for 2026 are as follows: January 29, February 12, February 26, March 12, March 26, Monday, April 6, April 30, May 14, May 28, June 11, June 25, July 30, August 27, September 10, September 24, October 8, October 29, November 12, and December 10. Unless noted on the agenda, all meetings are held in the Administration Building Conference Room at 7:00 p.m. and can be viewed on Channel 194.

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

**COVENTRY BOARD OF EDUCATION MISSION STATEMENT:** It is the mission of the Coventry Public Schools to prepare every student for life, learning and work in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**COVENTRY PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2025-2026 MAJOR INITIATIVES:** Coventry Public Schools established five core beliefs: Empowering Learners, Diversity & Equity, Belonging, Building Capacity, and Partnerships. Guided by these beliefs, the district focuses its work through three District Drivers: Deeper Thinking & Learning, Authentic Work, and Collective & Individual Identity. Each Driver includes major initiatives for the 2025-2026 school year.

- **Deeper Thinking & Learning:** When students are engaged in deeper thinking and learning, they develop knowledge and skills, build conceptual understanding, establish ownership, and transfer learning to new situations.
  - Implement Wit & Wisdom in Grades K-3 providing ongoing professional development to support its implementation.
  - Implement Eureka Math2 in Grade 8 and additional strategies for ongoing mathematics program
  - Improvement in Grades 6-8.
  - Continue work on developing a district definition and framework for high quality instruction aligned to District Drivers and the Portrait of the Graduate as well as to Coventry Public Schools identified research based high yield instructional strategies.
  - Continue development of the dual enrollment program.
  - Begin to integrate responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into teaching and learning using best pedagogical approaches and providing support and resources including a policy and guidelines for student and educator use.
  - Continue the process of disaggregating Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC), the Next Generation Science Standards Assessment (NGSS), and the 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.
  - Evaluate the impact on new assessments in reading and mathematics on intervention programming K-5.
  - Continue to maintain and utilize transition data to support students' successful progression between grade levels.
- **Authentic Work** connected to curricular standards engages students with real-world challenges, empowering them to make informed decisions that benefit the community.
  - Explore opportunities to refine and enhance the integration of the Portrait of the Graduate competencies across grade levels and content areas, promoting student ownership and students as leaders of their own learning.
  - Integrate the Authentic Innovator Rubric into learning tasks in the content areas.
  - Install new greenhouse at Coventry High School, continuing to provide an immersive learning environment and authentic learning experiences for students studying hydroponics and aquaponics.
  - Explore opportunities to provide additional enrichment programming outside of school hours.
- **Collective & Individual Identity:** We honor the beliefs, values and experiences of each individual while fostering an inclusive, safe, and healthy community.
  - Implement the school climate legislation including the development of school climate improvement plans required by legislation.
  - Continue implementation of the K-2 Social, Emotional, Behavioral program with a focus on providing professional training and integrating best practices.

**OPEN DOOR MEETINGS:** 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 Superintendent's remaining

Open Door Meetings this school year:

- Friday, February 13, 2026, at 10:00-11:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at 5:30-6:30 p.m. (Budget Q&A)

These meetings will be held via Zoom. The link is provided on the Coventry Public Schools website under District, Superintendent, Open Door Meetings (<https://www.coventrypublicschools.org/district/superintendent/open-door-meetings>).

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.

**CLOSINGS, LATE OPENINGS, UNPLANNED EARLY RELEASES:** In addition to parents receiving messages through School Messenger, this information is posted on the district website, and Twitter. These announcements are also 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) and on the television stations WFSB Channel 3, WVIT Channel 30, and WTNH Channel 8.

- Support individual students in their growth and development through refinement of Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) processes and procedures across schools.
- Continue outreach for international students and other tuition paying students.
- Endeavor to mitigate the effects of teacher fatigue and support teacher retention through a variety of strategies that promote teacher well-being.
- Review the structure of the business office to create skill-based roles rather than generalist roles.
- Continue the comprehensive planning of improving physical buildings to a point where decision-makers are equipped to support or reject proposed actions.
- Continue research and refinement concerning best practices in communication about school threats.
- Maintain the annual School Safety Forum presented to parents and the general public to outline and explain the coordinated efforts taken by the district and police department to ensure the safety of our schools.
- Develop and implement a new preschool classroom.
- Engage teachers at Coventry High School in utilizing the New England Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges' (NEASC) "Vision for Learning Process" to guide the NEASC Self-Reflection process to prepare for NEASC reaccreditation.
- Research the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) related to financial operations to evaluate if efficiencies can be realized.

All initiatives align with our District Beliefs and support the Board of Education's goals. A dedicated webpage with additional details is available on our district website at <https://www.coventrypublicschools.org/district/superintendent/25-26-strategic-plan>. For questions, please contact the Superintendent's Office at 860-742-7317 x2.



We were pleased to hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the completion of construction for the CHS HVAC Replacement Project on October 29, 2025. The project received \$6,602,148 in funding through the first round of the State of Connecticut's "HVAC for Public Schools" Grant Program. This project upgrades the HVAC system throughout the school, providing fresh air and comfortable temperatures for students. Thanks to the State of Connecticut and the Department of Administrative Services for supporting clean air for Coventry students. Thanks also to:

- Eversource Energy
- Pro-Mech, Inc.
- Innovative Construction and Design Solutions
- Aramark
- Coventry School Energy and Building Efficiency Building Committee
- Coventry Town and Public Schools staff
- Coventry Town Council
- Coventry Board of Education

Above photo L to R: James Drumm, Coventry Town Manager; John Elsesser, Building Committee Member; Jonathan Hand, Coventry Town Council; Michelle Gilman, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Administrative Services; Susan Bysiewicz, Lt. Governor, State of Connecticut; Lisa Thomas, Chairwoman, Coventry Town Council; Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairperson, Coventry Board of Education; David Petrone, Superintendent, Coventry Public Schools; Alex Taylor, Coventry Special Projects Manager; Mary Kortmann, Coventry Board of Education; Eugene Marchand, Coventry Board of Education; Joseph Malon, Building Committee Member, Jennifer Reilly, Building Committee Member; Cherie Trahan, Coventry Finance Director; Emma Eaton, Coventry Board of Education. Photo by Laura Stone.

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**  
Flexible hours/days with a wide variety of experiences.

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

**Cafeteria Substitutes:**

Call Beth Pratt at 860-742-4535.

**Bus Drivers/Substitutes:**

Call DATTCO Bus Co. at 860-838-7351.

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



- Coventry Board of Education awarded Level II CABE Board of Distinction Award
- Coventry Board of Education Chairperson receives CABE's Master Board Member of Education (MBME) Designation
- Coventry Board of Education receives Bonnie B. Carney Award of Excellence

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



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

COVENTRY TOWN NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2026

## Coming Events

**THE COVENTRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY** presents the following wintertime programs. For more information visit <https://www.facebook.com/coventryhistory/> closer to the program dates.

- **Thomas Knowlton and Knowlton's Rangers** Jan 15: 7pm – Knowlton's Rangers was the first Intelligence organization in the American military, formed in 1776 by General George Washington, led by Colonel Thomas Knowlton and included Nathan Hale among its ranks. Join us at the Booth & Dimock Library for a program on the life of Thomas Knowlton, see the typical "uniform" and associated accoutrements used by the Rangers, and listen to period music by members of the Nathan Hale Fife & Drum Corps. Free and open to the public.
- **Black History Month** Feb 19: 7pm – Join us for our third presentation in our series for Black History Month in the Community House at Second Congregational Church. Free and open to the public.
- **Stew & Story** March 19: 6:30pm - Coventry's Mill Brook, a modest stream and its mighty mills. How this babbling burbling brook impacted our Town's development and history. Join us at Millbrook Place for our annual Stew & Story program, which will begin with a variety of homemade soups and stews, appetizers, breads, desserts, and drinks. Watch for more details closer to the event regarding registration and tickets.

**STONEWALL MAINTENANCE WEEKEND:** The Coventry Conservation Commission is sponsoring the annual "Stone Wall Maintenance Weekend" on March 28 - 29. This would be a perfect time for property owners to do some maintenance to increase the visibility of stone walls on their property.

**LIONS CLUB OF COVENTRY UPCOMING EVENTS:** Please stay tuned for the following events sponsored by the Coventry Lions: Valentine Day Roses Sale in February. Also, our annual Comedy Night this spring. Details for both of these events will be posted on the Lions webpage and on Facebook when available. All proceeds from Lion's fundraisers get distributed back to community.

## Town Manager Update

*Continued from Page 2*

As citizens of Coventry, we are proud of our old historic town. However, our age means we do have some old and failing infrastructure. As we begin the budgeting process, our staff continues to seek State and Federal grants to make our local dollars go further. Unfortunately, not everything needed to operate a Town is funded by grants. Winter is "Budget Season" at Town Hall, and so we will be working with our departments, agencies and Town Council to address our Town goals as we work to build the 2026-27 Annual Budget. I encourage you all as citizens to become informed about the Town's budget and to participate in the process.

Sincerely,

James Drumm

## Manager's Budget Hearing

**THURSDAY**  
**March 5, 2026**  
**7 PM**

**High School  
Lecture Hall**

