



HUMAN SERVICES CIVIC & CULTURAL

The 2013/2014 school year started off on the right foot for many families with backpacks and school supplies from the “Gearing up to Learn” program coordinated by the Human Services Department. Photo by Laura Stone.

**Coventry Human Services
Social Services/Youth Services/Elderly Services
Annual Report 2014-2015**



Coventry Town Office Building

Courtney L. Chan, MSW, Human Services Administrator, cchan@coventryct.org

Brenda Bennett, Administrative Assistant, bbennett@coventryct.org

Crystal D. Morawitz, Youth Services Coordinator, cmorawitz@coventryct.org

Telephone: 860 742-5324 FAX 860 742-3505

Coventry Senior Center

Carrie Concatelli, Senior Center Director cconcatelli@coventryct.org

Leigh H. Wajda, Senior Transportation Coordinator lwajda@coventryct.org

Telephone: 860 742-3525 FAX 860 742-3506

The Coventry Human Services Department is a multi-generational service agency. The goal of our department is to allow Coventry residents to achieve and maintain personal and social well-being and to provide positive youth development programs. The Human Services Administrator holds a MSW, is a member of the National Association of Social Workers, Municipal Human Rights Officer, Secretary of CLASS, (Connecticut Local Administrators of Social Services) and attends their monthly training meetings. The Youth Services Coordinator is the Municipal Agent for Youth and staffs the Youth Service Bureau, which is funded in part through the State Department of Education. She administers the grant from the North East Communities Against Substance Abuse. We oversee the grants to regional agencies that provide services to residents.

Year Round Programs:

- Advocacy
- Adult Wellness Clinics
- Budget Counseling
- Case Management
- Civil Preparedness Emergency List
- Counseling Services
- Crisis Intervention
- Direct Services:
 - ❖ Social Services - **225** cases
- Drug and Alcohol Information
- Emergency Call List
- Energy Assistance ACCESS Applications – **95** applications
- Operation Fuel Program (winter) – **17** families

- Operation Fuel Program (summer) - **2 families**
- Clergy Fuel - **22 families**
- Food Bank – **188 requests**
- Fundraising
- Housing Information
- Information and Referrals
- Landlord/Tenant Rights information
- Special Needs Program – **25 families**

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

- **Department of Agriculture** –**80**-\$15.00 vouchers for the Farmer’s Market were distributed to Coventry seniors and persons with disabilities and who received Renter’s Rebate assistance.
- **Renter’s Rebate Program** – **77** applications were processed for senior and disabled renters in the form of checks by the State Office of Policy and Management for this program. (program runs April-October)
- **Holiday Committee:** Staff as well as volunteers from the community coordinated the distribution of donated food and gifts to residents.

Thanksgiving: **80** families, single adults, elderly and disabled residents received Thanksgiving food; **45** hot meals to Orchard Hills residents.

Christmas: **87** families, single adults, elderly and disabled received food and gifts for the holidays; **61** hot meals to Orchard Hills residents.

FUNDRAISING/DONATIONS

- **Special Needs Fund** -Donations received from individuals, churches, businesses and civic organizations. **25 families** were assisted with rental assistance, fuel, utilities, prescriptions and grocery cards.
- **Salvation Army** - Fundraising
“Bell Ringers” – \$10,742.79 total funds raised during the holiday season. 90% (\$9,668.51) of the funds raised was returned to Coventry to benefit children and families in need.

Bell Ringing Locations - Highland Park Market (87 hours) Walgreens (79 hours) Subway in the Village (32 hours) and Dunkin Donuts (38 hours).

Total Bell Ringing Hours: 236; Total #volunteers: 108 (volunteers counted for each hour of bell ringing).

On-line “Red Kettle” donation system was launched this year on the town’s website.

- **Clergy Fuel Fund** – donations received to assist residents in need of emergency heating assistance during the winter months.

EXPENDITURES FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE ~

- **Salvation Army Fund** - 22 households (56 people) were assisted with food, utilities, housing, medical, “Gearing up to Learn Program”, camp, etc. (families may be helped with more than one need depending on circumstances).
- **Fuel Assistance - Clergy Fuel Fund** - 22 families met the criteria to receive assistance. \$4,151.15 was raised through the annual holiday mail appeal. Donations have been received from generous individuals, churches, business and organizations. Funds collected help to pay for deliverable fuel and is administered by Pastor Maria Yocum, Second Congregational Church. The Human Services Office screens clients for emergency fuel eligibility, explores all other options for fuel assistance with other agencies before utilizing the Fuel Fund, authorizes fuel deliveries with vendors, coordinates deposits which are processed c/o the Finance Office and, will authorize the deliveries.

INTERN: Paige McNichols began interning in our office in October, 2014. Paige is a senior at Eastern CT State University majoring in Social Work and will be interning with our office until May, 2015. Paige was a tremendous help to our office during the holidays, meeting with clients, matching families with donors and coordinating the donation schedule for pickup and dropoff during the holiday distributions. She also helped coordinate and deliver to the residents at Orchard Hills Estates. Paige has been a huge asset to our office and increased her client intakes during her internship as well as helped out with various client-centered tasks around the office.

THE HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Representatives from the town, churches, schools, Police Dept., Recreation Dept., senior groups and other organizations attend the meetings. The public is always welcome. The Committee met on 7 occasions.

SENIOR CENTER HIGHLIGHTS

The Senior Center had 5200 visits during the fiscal year from senior and disabled area residents, including many regular visitors. This demonstrates an increase in participation from FY 2013-2014 (4969 visits) and FY 2012-2013 (3580 visits). The Senior Center is open full-time hours effective November 18, 2014.

Carrie Concatelli was hired as the new Senior Center Coordinator and began working with us in November, 2014. Carrie comes to us with a Masters Degree in Social Work and has a wealth of knowledge in senior services through her work with Connecticut Community Care, Inc. where she worked as a Regional Supervisor and coordinated home care and a variety of other services for seniors. Most recently, she worked as the Resident Services Coordinator for Rose Commons, a senior housing facility in Vernon, CT. Carrie has completed her CHOICES certification and will be a tremendous asset to our senior population.

Due to inclement weather, the Senior Center was closed 11 times for either a full or half day closure between January and March.

Basic weekly programming includes:

- Regular games of cribbage, billiards, setback and kaluki.
- Use of craft space for quilting, quilling (paper rolling) or beading.
- The group fitness class meets twice a week; 666 seniors participated in 59 classes held between November and June.
- Silver Sneakers group fitness class began in May; 30 seniors participated in five classes in May and June.
- Zumba Gold group fitness class began May; 45 seniors participated in seven classes in May and June.
- The fitness room is open during all Senior Center hours for any senior who has completed a fitness packet. Twenty one new participants completed the requirements and 312 seniors used the equipment.

Basic monthly/seasonal programming includes:

- Packing for the Troops is a joint program with American Legion Post 52 to send monthly care packages to local soldiers who are currently deployed.
 - A local traveling duplicate bridge group began playing monthly as of April.
- Senior Club meets monthly for a club meeting and either lunch or entertainment.
- Lunches provided by Thames Valley Community Council on Action (TVCCA) are offered either monthly or twice a month to encourage senior nutrition. There were 440 lunches prepared for seniors during the 17 meals held during the year.
- Out To Lunch Bunch is held monthly, seasonally between March and October, to take seniors to local restaurants.
- Day trips are held seasonally between April and October. Travel included Danbury Historical Society and Railway Museum, fall foliage picnic at Quabbin State Park, Butterfly Wings Conservatory, picnic at Harkness Beach, Museum of Connecticut History and Elizabeth Park.
- A wellness nurse from Visiting Nurse and Health Services of Connecticut visits twice a month to provide blood pressure and blood sugar screenings and answer medical questions.
- Dr. Morgan provides podiatry evaluations every other month; he completed exams for 42 seniors.
- Licensed Massage Therapist Deb Turner completed 127 massage or reflexology appointments.
- Spa Day appointments for reduced cost haircuts or nail clipping are offered every other month; 86 seniors received this service.
- AARP Tax Aide provided free tax preparation for 56 tax returns between February and April.
- AARP Smart Driver provided a safe driving course in the fall and spring with 24 total participants.

Special programming includes:

- Welcome home reception for local soldier; 18 seniors.

- Halloween costume party; 30 seniors.
- Veteran's Day tribute with American Legion Post 52; 32 seniors.
- Holiday luncheon with a performance by Song-A-Day Music School; 34 seniors.
- Spread the Cheer intergenerational program in collaboration with Youth and Family Services; 10 seniors helped 40 children select and wrap gifts for loved ones.
- Warm Up Winter potluck lunch; 16 seniors.
- Volunteer Appreciation luncheon; 29 seniors.
- Older American's Month lunch sponsored by October Kitchen, LLC; 28 seniors.
- Memorial Day cookout; 31 seniors.

Elderly services includes:

- CHOICES counseling provides unbiased assistance with Medicare questions and enrollment. Volunteer Penny Whitaker completed 40 appointments and Senior Center Coordinator Carrie Concatelli provided 14 appointments.
- Municipal Agent for the Elderly provides information and referral to community resources for seniors. Senior Center Coordinator Carrie Concatelli assisted 35 individuals or families.
- Volunteer Moe Collins served as a Veteran's Advocate for nine seniors.

COVENTRY RIDES TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

Days of Vehicle Usage: 259
 # of People Riding: 59
 # of One-Way Trips: 1496
 # Volunteer Hours: 807
 # Miles Total: 8916

Volunteers Drivers: Dave Lamore*, Dick Frye*, Bill Hoffman*, Ken Stein*, Bill Wajda*, Kim Homans*, David McCrory*, Bill Root*, Tim Ackert, Brian Coss*, Christine Coss, John Thayer*, Howard Habern, Elaine Gelin, Diane Zeppa, Jim Wicks, Joyce Wicks, Debbie Locke and Gerry Haugh who joined our team last fall.

Private car volunteers include: Carol Moriarty*, Dick Gawitt*, Claudette Polhemus*, David McCrory*, Bill Wajda*, Jane Homick, Cathy Root* and Bill Root*, Karen Renfro, Monica Maneri, Pat Tufts, Trena Gale and Lori Boucher.

The weather during February and early March sharply curtailed transportation for seniors and disabled residents. In spite of this, one-way rides increased from 1378 in FY 14 to 1496 in FY 15. In February, transportation was provided on only 8 days. The 15-passenger mini-bus was limited to main arteries only and was not used for the entire month. Sidewalks and driveways were dangerous to negotiate so seniors stayed in their homes.

Volunteer drivers are asked to drive one morning a month (about four hours). However, the increase in programming at the Senior Center has increased the number of requests for transportation. At this time, requests for afternoon transportation cannot be provided without additional drivers.

* Indicates five or more years of volunteer service.

Private car drivers are called upon for requests to locations beyond the scope of the Coventry program. These requests are primarily for medical appointments in Hartford, Farmington, and Glastonbury. Private car drivers also assist when all the daily requests cannot all be met by the van/bus schedule.

Coventry's State Matching Grant for Elderly and Disabled Demand Responsive Transportation (MGP) from the Connecticut Department of Transportation was fully funded for FY15. Grant funds provide operating expenses for the Coventry Transportation Program's two vehicles (fuel, repairs and maintenance, coordinator salary), extended DAR hours provided to Coventry residents before and after regular DAR hours of operation (transportation for medical appointments and employment); Senior Wellness Trips for elderly and disabled residents of Coventry (affordable handicap-accessible day trips) and the Mileage Reimbursement Program (allows reimbursement of mileage expenses to riders for transportation to medical facilities and related services beyond what is currently provided by the Coventry Transportation Program.)

The Program continues to offer transportation for senior citizens and disabled residents on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays to locations in Coventry, Manchester, Tolland, and Vernon. Wednesday transportation is provided primarily for Lunch Bunch, TVCCA Lunches at Senior Center and Senior Club. Sunday and evening transportation is provided upon request. Transportation is provided for medical appointments, employment, nutritional and other types of counseling, shopping and personal errands, voting, education, Senior Center and other social activities, town events and entertainment.

Word-of-mouth seems to be our best form of advertisement. Handouts and mailings are provided for the residents of Orchard Hills, Senior Club members and the Coventry Senior Center/Transportation Mailing List. Brochures are available in offices and businesses throughout Coventry.

Special low-cost "Wellness" Trips continue to be offered to senior citizens and the disabled. Transportations costs associated with these trips are paid for with MGP Department of Transportation Grant funding, allowing the cost of the trips to be kept very affordable. The average cost of these trips is between \$12 and \$15 dollars with lunch included on some trips. The following trips were offered this year: Danbury Historical Society and Railway Museum, Fall Foliage Picnic Trip to Quabbin State Park, Butterfly Conservatory in Deerfield, MA, Harkness State Park Picnic, and the Museum of CT History/Elizabeth Park. Handicap-accessible coach transportation was used for these trips.

Coventry's 14-passenger mini-bus has provided transportation for smaller, local wellness trips. "Lunch Bunch" trips to local restaurants were offered monthly in spring, summer and fall. We have recently begun taking small groups of seniors to locations in the Hartford Metro Area via the State's new Fastrack Bus System. Seniors can purchase CT Transit tickets for *67½ cents* for a one-way ride. The new Bus system provides seniors and disabled residents with another options for independent travel.

The Coventry Rides Transportation Program is supported by funding from the Town of Coventry and grants from the Department of Transportation.

REGIONAL GRANTS

CT Legal Services (\$925.00 grant) Legal services provided at “no charge” to low income residents, 1-800 453-3320. 1-800-296-1467.

Dial-A-Ride: (\$14,469.00 grant) Door-to-door transportation service for Coventry residents. Service is offered throughout the Windham Region (10 towns). A 48-hour notice is required. A fee donation of \$2.00 per ride is requested. Each year they provide more than 2,200 rides. 860-456-1462

Meals On Wheels (\$3,710.00 grant) TVCCA Senior Nutrition Program provides home-delivered meals to residents who are unable to provide their own meals. A medical referral is necessary.
1-800-953-1365

NECASA (Northeast Communities Against Substance Abuse) (\$300 grant). They monitor and provide technical support to the local prevention councils and oversight of the \$2,400 town grant. They distribute discount cards with prevention information to all fifth and eighth grade students. 860-779-9253

Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Eastern CT (\$1,000 grant) Provides information, prevention education, support and advocacy for victims of sexual assault.
456-3595

United Services (\$2,000.00 grant) Local funding is matched by state funding to provide child abuse prevention treatment programs, Domestic Violence programs, shelters, group therapy and other services. 860-456-2261

Hockanum Valley Community Council (\$1,500 grant) Counseling services and general referral assistance (case management) to a growing number of clients. Clients without insurance or state funding are assisted regardless of their payment abilities which require a constant stream of externally sourced income to fund the programs.

Visiting Nurse and Health Services of CT, Inc. (Budget: \$2,500, fee for service funding) Provides skilled nursing, home health aides, homemaker-companion services, medical social work, speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy adult daycare and meals programs to homebound residents and elder wellness programs and the flu vaccine program. 860-872-9163

YOUTH SERVICES

Administrative Function:

- Submitted final reports and grant applications for SDE YSB Entitlement and Enhancement grant, in addition to DMHAS/NECASA grant.

Direct Service Programs:

- 15 Camperships were awarded to 10 families; allowing youth to attend summer that otherwise would not be able to.
- Assisted 1 family, register 1 child for Salvation Army Camp Connri, located in Ashford, CT. The week-long, over-night camp is free to qualifying families, funded by the Salvation Army.

- Gearing Up to Learn, Back to School Program, assisted 29 Coventry families with backpacks, school supplies and Payless shoe cards. 62 children started the school year off on the right foot as a result of this program.
- Positive Connections Mentoring program matched 8 high school students with 8 Robertson School 3rd, 4th and 5th graders. The group met on Tuesdays from November through June. In addition to their strong commitment to homework, the group was engaged in many arts and crafts, teambuilding, and cultural activities.
- Held individual Youth Job Bank appointments for 17 new members to go over program policies, procedures and job skills overview.
- Staff from *CPR-O Heart* offered Babysitter 101 Training for 16 middle and high school students.
- Provided drop in office hours as part of open door policy to middle and high school youth.
- The 7th annual “Spread the Cheer” holiday program for Coventry Grammar School students was held on December 10th, 2014. Youth Services and the Senior Center collaborated once again, allowing 37 students to pick out gifts for family members. Senior center volunteers helped with wrapping, disbursing snacks and helping students shop, while arts and craft activities were supervised by high school students who volunteered as part of their community service component. All items were donated by community members. This continues to be a very successful program that fills up quickly, and allows multiple generations to interact and work together.
- The 2nd Annual Promaganza was held on March 28th, 2015. 14 Coventry girls attended, picking from over 100 (donated) dresses, shoes, and accessories. Many local businesses donated services (dry cleaning, salon services, alterations, etc) which were raffled off.
- At-Risk Boys Program – A five week, collaborative program between Youth Services, CNHMS and Booth and Dimock Library for 8 middle school boys was again rolled out this quarter. The goal of the program was to connect students with positive adult role models and engage them with opportunities in the community. Students learned woodworking techniques, basic electronics, mechanical design, and customized printing of parts using the library’s 3d printer, which culminated in each of them creating their own full operational pinball machine.
- “Banana Splits” Divorce Group – A five week program for 5 Coventry Grammar School students was offered by Youth Services and the CGS Social worker in the spring of 2015. The goal of the program was to provide support, and enhance coping and problem solving skills to students who have divorced parents.
- Project Graduation invitations were created and mailed to all students in the class of 2015. On June 20, 2015, 87 students attended Project Graduation at the Mansfield Community Center to celebrate their accomplishments.

• Youth & Family Cases	31 cases
• Community Service	16 cases
• Community Restitution	2 cases
• Youth Job Bank Requests	27
• Youth Job Bank Matches	24
• Youth Job Bank Members Trained	17
• Juvenile Review Board	1 cases
• Counseling Clients	8



Students from GHR created and donated holiday treats to residents at Orchard Hills.



Coventry Housing Authority Annual Report 2015

The Coventry Housing Authority is a non-profit public corporation that operates Orchard Hill Estates I & II Elderly Housing complex. The Authority consists of five volunteer Commissioners appointed by the Town Council. We report continued occupancy of all 80 units.

The current census is 57 female and 33 male tenants; 9 couples are included in this census. There are 58 single apartments and 22 double apartments. Of the 80 apartments, 8 are fully handicapped accessible units. All are one bedroom and all are equipped with emergency alarms as well as smoke detectors.

Current income limits are as follows:

HUD Project

One Person	\$18,400
Two Persons	\$21,000

State Project

One Person	\$46,100
Two Persons	\$52,650

Laurie Pinkston is the Executive Director. She takes care of all administrative and accounting for both projects. Julie Bradley is the Resident Service Coordinator. She assists tenants with Title 19 applications, does tenant assessments, sets up homemaking and home health aide services, and copies and prepares all information for the Renters Rebate program. The Coventry Housing Authority is also an Energy Assistance site for Orchard Hill Estates working in conjunction with the Access Agency in Willimantic. Julie is in charge of gathering all the information for this program as well.

We have a monthly blood pressure and blood sugar screening clinic. This clinic is available to all Coventry residents as well. The Coventry Senior Center provides us with a schedule of events and the Town van is used frequently for transportation for the residents.

The current operating budget is \$373,421. which is a Per Unit Monthly Cost of \$378. and includes property taxes of \$18,681. paid to the Town of Coventry and an annual sewer fee of \$3755 paid to the WPCA.

The Authority maintains representation on the Coventry Fair Housing Committee and on the Housing Rehabilitation Commission.

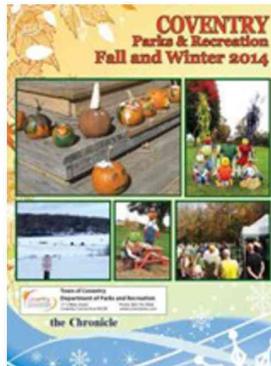
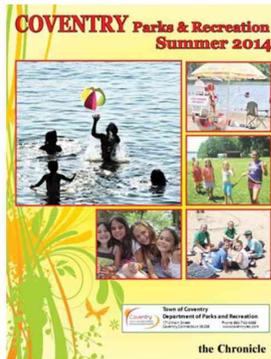
Coventry Parks & Recreation Annual Report FY 2014-2015

www.coventryrec.com

July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015

2014-2015

Publications:



Initiatives and Partnerships

Playful City USA & Let's Move Campaigns: Working with our School Principals, Food Service Director, STEPS, EHHD and Jessica Stanizzi, Let's Move Regional Office to assess our current status and develop goals for Let's Move! We currently have reached Bronze Level status on one goal, and Gold Medal Status on another.

Net proceeds from last year's Harvest Run will be used to purchase curriculum for **Active Living, Health Lifestyles** programs to be used at the pre-school, elementary school, after school programs.

We were awarded **2015 Playful City USA** status making this our fifth year in a row! Ms. Rubin composed a letter for local businesses to promote Playful City USA, endorsed by the Economic Development Commission.

Recreation has had active participation in the Eastern Highland Health District Plan4Health initiative

to develop a planning toolkit for local towns to make them healthier.

The current Parks & Recreation **Emergency Action Plan (ERP)** was updated after review by CIRMA Risk Management Consultative Services to assist in ensuring that staff and participants are safe during a variety of human and environmental-made situations.

Ms. Rubin assisted the newly formed **Community Rowing** group to offer a rowing program to general public. She also negotiated an agreement with **UConn Sailing Club** to use Lisicke Beach.

Community Garden @ Creaser Park: Working with the Agricultural Committee & Town Planner, with on-site meetings to review garden layout, irrigation plan, communications with DEEP for lease requirements, soil preparation, a new entry sign, assigning plots, and installing fencing.



Town Planner Eric Trott & Ms. Rubin collaborated on an **"Arts Catalyze Placemaking Grant"**, which was successfully approved for a \$6000 award to hire expert consultants to help plan for the future. Barbara Ally, Consultant for Arts Plan, facilitated & attended the Arts Forum which resulted in the formation of the *Coventry Arts Guild*.

Staff Involvement

Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association recommended Ms. Rubin as their representative to the Commission on Children's Task Force on Youth Concussions, Public Act 14-66. She currently serves on their Legislative Committee.

Ms. Merriam currently serves on the Connecticut Recreation & Parks Association Camp Section and Camp College Planning Committee.

A Special Thanks to...

The *United Bank Foundation of CT* (formerly *Rockville Bank Foundation*) for their continued support of our Sunset Sounds Summer Concert Series! The 2014 series included concerts by *Red Satin Band, Eight Mile River Band, Eight to the Bar, & Shaded Soul Band!*



Parks & Beaches

Beach Operations

By instituting a new scheduling program using smart phone technology, we saved the administrative staff hours upon hours of scheduling headaches. With over 35 employees that are part-time and often have other jobs, scheduling can be quite a challenge. Our thanks go to Boat Patrol Officer Norm Meikle for his assistance throughout the summer; he organized Search & Rescue training for our Lifeguards in conjunction with the regional Dive Team.

Lisicke Beach

We hosted a "Lisicke Beach Renovation Celebration & Smoke

Free Parks Initiative Media Event" in July to show off the newly renovated basketball court and hard-scaping improvements, as well as the new smoke free park signage we received with a grant from *Ryan's Fund*.

Miller Richardson

Little League volunteers worked hard throughout the summer watering the newly installed sod for the in-fields. CYBA

provided over \$20,000 in cash and in-kind services.

Creaser Park

Boy Scout Troops 57 and 65 have leased Building 4 as their

new Scout Headquarters with plans to improve the park.

Patriots Park

Repaired 1 picnic table; took one out of service; obtained fencing estimates for gate at Community Center driveway; installed new fence rails at Caretaker House; installed energy efficient; brighter lights in the Lodge kitchen.

A new custodian was hired for the weekend and on-call building rentals.

Replaced carpet in the Lodge with vinyl plank flooring. Seasonal park maintainers painted the pavilion, fence, and picnic tables and landscaped the park by trimming bushes, trees, weeding, etc.



Trails/Outdoor Education

A three year agreement with www.mytowntrails.com is providing our residents with more trail information, mapping and other interactive features with an app that can be used on a mobile device or home computer.

You can easily search or browse trails by trail name, town, difficulty level, or permitted recreational use!



Laidlaw Park Playscape Project

With the final video completed by our seasonal employee/ graphic arts student, Kayson Butler, we were able to launch our crowdsourcing project on Neighbor.ly.

The fundraising campaign came to a close with \$1228 raised. This was short of our goal, so we are looking at new methods of grants and fundraising opportunities.

Thanks to the Town Council Capital Budget allocation, the first phase of the project has been purchased, and is expected to be ready for use by the 2016 Spring Soccer season!

Recreation Daze, Before & After School Program

Since the fall of 2013, Parks & Recreation staff have been working in concert with the Board of Education to offer the Afterschool program in compliance with State of CT Child Care Licensing Requirements. In October of 2014, staff learned of a change in Legislation, deeming Municipal Agency-run programs exempt from

State Licensing. As of the 2015-2016 school year, Parks & Recreation will resume sole oversight of the program. We thank the Board of Ed. and our school-liaison Michelle Mullaly for their support of our program.



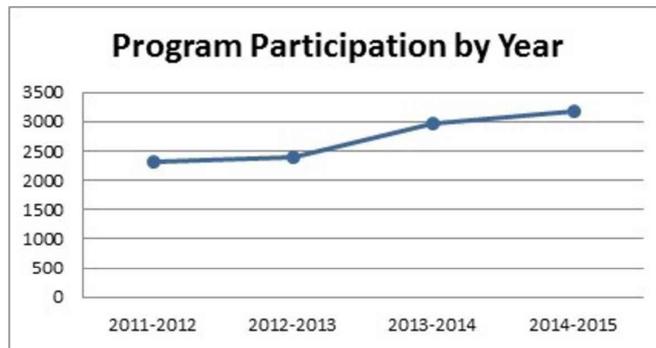
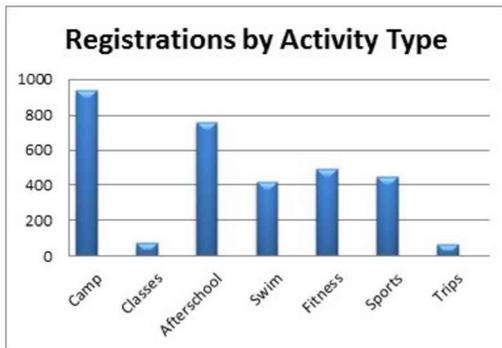
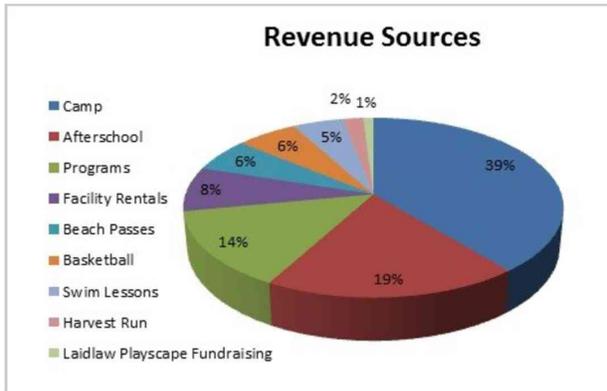
Making the Connections for After School

Megan Yanez resumed her role as Program Director this year, along with support staff Emily Robinson, Dan Manzi, and Eli Trott. Enroll-

ment was up, with 28-29 kids attending daily; except on Wednesdays, when the program was full at 30 kids!

Rec. Daze concluded on the last day of school, (6/18), with a pizza party, moon bounce, games and snacks! Staff were also able to distribute the '15-'16 program brochure and announce when registration would begin (July).

The Numbers



Special Events: What's New!

First Ever Chili Fest

ChiliFest Chairman Jeff Shorts handled recruitment of sponsors & cooks, while Rec staff supported the program behind the scenes. The event was held on November 1st, with about 110 in attendance and 10 chili cookers. Judges Sondra Astor Stave and Janet Osorio awarded prizes as follows:

On-Site Chefs - 3rd Place: Savings Institute, 2nd Place: Titanium RE, 1st Place: Prime Residential Commercial - 3rd Place: Ackert Electric, 2nd Place: Teddy & Deb, 1st Place: Dimitri's
People's Choice Award - Savings Institute

Winners of the Scarecrow Contest were announced at the Chili Fest as well!



Polar Express

Staff met with Lions Club/Christmas in the Village committee. Mike Antonellis, Town Zoning Official developed GIS mapping to assist us, and an on-site logistics meeting was held with the Scouts, Library staff, STEPS and CECC who volunteered to relocate their cookie decorating event to the Lodge as well!

The event was held on Sunday, December 7th, 1pm-3pm at the Patriots Park Lodge. Our sponsors, STEPS and Councilman



Shorts joined our collaborating groups: CECC, Troop 57, and the Booth & Dimock Library with cookie decorating, arts & crafts, door prizes, informational handouts, refreshments, and the reading of the Polar Express Story. We estimate that approximately 300 people were in attendance! We received a lot of positive feedback and are looking forward to next year.

2nd Annual Coventry Harvest Run 5K, Kids Fun Runs, Pumpkin Play Day and Farm Day Festival

The Harvest Run was combined with Pumpkin Play Day and the Farm Day Festival this year. Race Director Ayako Mitchell and representatives of the Coventry Agriculture Committee, Nancy Hanks, Bonnie Jean Gordon, and Bev York of Hale Homestead helped pull together many community groups to volunteer and participate.

179 runners participated in the 5K in spite of the torrential downpours!



Camp Wangumbaug!

The 2014 Camp season concluded on Friday, August 15th. Enrollment once again rose in both the Mini's Half-Day program, and the Full-Day Camp. However, Counselor-In-Training registrations were down slightly. It was another successful season, under the direction of Matt Kyer, Camp Director and First Grade Teacher here in Coventry. Kids enjoyed this year's trips and activities, and parent feedback was very positive. Staff debriefed following the close of the season, in anticipation of planning for the 2015 season.



2015 Planning: Activities, trips, and performers were planned and booked by Mid-February, in time for the Camp Brochure publication and release. Registration began in early-March. New staff hiring was conducted in April, with trainings beginning in May.

The first week of Camp, held June 22nd - June 26, started the season off with a bang, with our largest opening week in years; 113 Full-Day Campers! The Mini & CIT program continue to struggle, with only 2 Minis and 12 CITs enrolled. Staff continue to look ahead; with 2 additional minimum wage increases planned (in 2016 & 2017), staff are working on budget planning & fee assessment.

Camp Wangumbaug Enrollment				
	2011	2012	2013	2014
Minis Totals	90	42	58	63
CIT Totals	130	128	136	98
Full-Day Totals	602	602	639	745
TOTAL	822	772	833	906

Youth Basketball

In our second year since the CYBA disbanded, we had 38 Kindergarten and First Graders in our *Mighty Mites Program*, 23 boys and girls in our Grade 2 Instructional, 5 travel teams, and a total of 208 kids altogether in the Recreational Leagues for grades 3-8, (11 boy's teams and 8 girl's teams). Gyms were secured; try-outs, player skill assessments and Play Drafts were conducted. We assisted some rookie coaches with training resources, interviewed & hired 4 gym supervisors, set up Background Checks & National Alliance for Youth Sports training for all coaches.

Practices began in December; and Games began in January against our neighbors in Hebron, Mansfield, and Bolton. This winter was dominated by snow cancellations and rescheduling games & practices!



Coventry Parks and Recreation Department fosters active lifestyles, social well-being, and environmental stewardship.

It is our vision to have well maintained and actively used parks, open spaces, and trails that provide opportunities for all citizens to maintain active, healthy lifestyles; while appreciating our community's natural resources and preserving them for future generations. Community spirit is fostered by the town's diverse cultural fabric; facilitated and coordinated in quality recreational programs, facilities, services and special events.

Staff:

Wendy L. Rubin, CPRP, Director of Parks & Recreation
Caterina Merriam, Recreation Supervisor

Parks & Recreation Commission:

Todd Messier, Sean Butler, Antonia Conti, Marie Gallo-Hall & Jennifer Rodgers



Find us Online!
www.coventryrec.com



Parks and Recreation: an Essential Component of the Community

Coventry's park system includes 5 unique parks covering more than 170 acres of land and miles of hiking trails. These parks and open spaces make Coventry a more beautiful and livable place. Such spaces also serve to sustain and protect our ecosystem for current and future generations through the preservation of habitat, improvement of air and water quality, and encouragement of civic pride.

Parks and Recreation operates a range of facilities devoted to providing health, recreation, and education opportunities, including: community centers, arts venues, athletic facilities, beaches, basketball courts, and playgrounds. Recreational programming and special events offered within and outside of these facilities enrich the lives of all people.

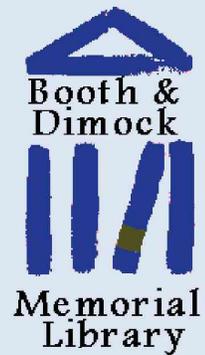
Parks and Recreation delivers quality customer service through its employees, its most valued resource, who are charged with creating an environment that is safe, beneficial and fun for all. We value the community's commitment and support, including volunteer efforts on behalf of Parks and Recreation, and we constantly seek new and innovative ways to help serve the public.

BOOTH & DIMOCK MEMORIAL LIBRARY



ANNUAL REPORT

2014-2015



Booth & Dimock Memorial Library
Annual Report
July 2014 – June 2015



MISSION

The Booth & Dimock Memorial Library provides materials and services to help all residents of the community meet their informational, educational, cultural, and creative needs.

Amy Dexter, Co-Director
Kristi Sadowski, Co-Director & Head of Teen Services
Meg Schiebel, Head of Children's Services

Cover Photo

Centennial Summer Reading Carnival, August 2014

Photo Credit, Lyle Evans

1134 Main Street, Coventry, CT 06238
www.CoventryPL.org

Phone: 860-742-7606
E-Mail: BDLibrary@coventryct.org

HIGHLIGHTS

Centennial Carnival The Booth & Dimock Memorial Library wrapped up their 100th year of service to the Town of Coventry with an end-of-summer Centennial Carnival. With over 300 people in attendance, young and old alike participated in literary themed carnival games, listened to music by local students, left with balloon animals, and dunked-the-librarians in a Dunk Tank. Thank you from the Board of Trustees and the Library Staff for allowing us to serve such a great community.

Comic Con To kick off the 2015 “Every Hero Has a Story” Summer Reading Program, the Library hosted an all-day all-ages Comic Con, which was attended by over 450 people. Workshops were provided on Cosplay, Cartoon Anatomy, Comic Construction, Video Game Creation, and Coding. A skype visit with Nutmeg Book nominated author Laura Lee Gulledge, gaming tournaments, crafts, and a costume contest rounded out the day.

Laura Farnum Booth The portrait of Laura Farnum Booth is on display at the Booth & Dimock Memorial Library and is on loan from the Coventry Historical Society. Laura Farnum of Salisbury married the Reverend Chauncey Booth of Coventry. They were the grandparents of Henry Dimock, who left money creating the Booth & Dimock Memorial Library Association and the original Main Street building. Both of these portraits are available for viewing in the Library’s front parlor. They were painted by Erastus Salisbury Field, who also has works in the National Portrait Gallery.



*Photographs: Centennial Carnival Dunk Tank, Comic Con
Cosplay Contest Winners, Portrait Re-Unification Ceremony.*

HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED

Google Maker Camp The Booth & Dimock Memorial Library was selected as a Google Maker Camp Affiliate for the Summer 2014 free virtual camp. The Library was provided with tools and resources that were used in Maker Mornings and other creative and collaborative learning craft programs.

Improv Workshops As part of the CT At Work traveling exhibit, the Connecticut Humanities Council co-sponsored two programs with the Sea Tea Improv troupe. Teens attended this performance and workshop to develop skills such as self-confidence and clear diction.

Catalog Upgrade The online catalog was updated once again this year. Now, using HTML5, renewing and reserving items on the go has never been easier.



Photographs: Intergenerational Tea Party, Mo Willems Party, Board Games in the Teen Zone

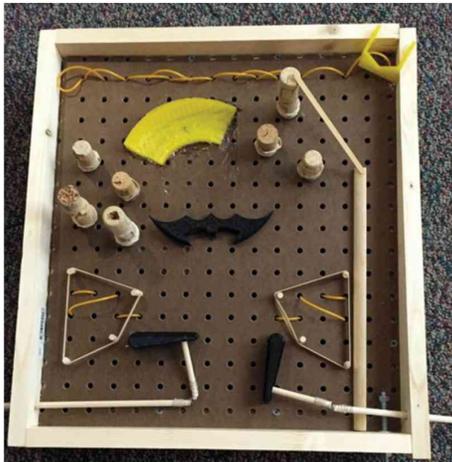
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Booth & Dimock Memorial Library supports, collaborates, and depends upon the other agencies and organizations in Coventry to provide the best possible service to the community. Below are some of the partnerships from fiscal year 2014-2015.

- ◆ Touch-a-Truck at Chili Fest
- ◆ Technology Classes at the Senior Center
- ◆ Stories with Miss Meg at the Polar Express during Christmas in the Village
- ◆ Forensics with the Coventry Police
- ◆ Coventry STEPS & School Readiness Involvement
- ◆ 1st Place for Non-Profit/ Community Division of Coventry Scarecrow Contest
- ◆ After School Pinball Building Group
- ◆ Outreach from Children's Room to local daycares.
- ◆ Collaborative events with the Coventry Garden Club

Coventry Public Schools

- ◆ Kindergarten Visits to Library
- ◆ CECC Field Trip to Library
- ◆ CECC Hike
- ◆ First Grade Visit During Library Card Sign-Up Month
- ◆ Summer Reading Presentations to Grades K-8
- ◆ High School Library Card Sign-Up Booth
- ◆ Library Presence at School Open Houses



Photographs: Completed Pinball Machine, Miss Meg visiting a Day Care

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Programs for Birth-Pre-School

Babygarten, Preschool Story Time, Play and Learn: Early Literacy Playgroup, Music & Movement, Pajama Story Time, Early Literacy Workshop for Parents and Caregivers

Programs for School Age Children

Lego Club, Pete the Cat Party, Mo Willems Party, Take Your Child to the Library Day Celebration, Squirt Gun Painting, Stop Motion Animation, Harry Potter Party, All Ages Tea Party, Hero Crafts, Science Lab, Read It & Eat Book Club, Maker Mornings, Movie Afternoons, Creative Kids Crafts, Shrinky Dinks, Pirate Party, Pumpkin Decorating, Scavenger Hunts, Spy Academy, Drive in Movie, Yoga, R.E.A.D.S Dogs, Butterfly Hatching

Programs for Teens

Gaming Club, Mad Scientist Party, Explosions, Solar Oven S'Mores, Egg Drop Experiment, Coventry Police Forensics Presentation, Anime, Crafts, Light Photography, Improv Performance and Workshop, Minecraft, Cookie Making, Paracord Bracelets, Star Wars Snowflakes, Magic: The Gathering, Stop Motion Animation, Crafts, Movies, Board Games

Programs for Grown Ups

Book Club, Mystery Book Club, Genealogy Club, Cookbook Club, Connecticut Authors Trail Author Visit, Terrarium Workshop, Let's Get You Hired!, Dog Whisperer, Individual Tech Assistance, Community Supported Farming, Money Smarts

Programs for All

Teddy Bear Picnic, Passport to Connecticut Libraries, Arm Knitting, Comic Con

Photographs (from top to bottom): Pumpkin Painting, Music & Movement, Egg Drop Experiment, Exploding Watermelon, Cookbook Club



IMPORTANT STATISTICS

Circulation of Materials	98,281
In Library Circulation	22,930
Reference Transactions	5,675
Library Visits	57,357
Registered Borrowers	9,632
New Registered Borrowers	449
Public Access Computer Half Hour Sessions	20,789
WiFi Uses	1,117
InterLibrary Loan Statistics	
Items Borrowed from other Libraries	3,107
Items Lent to Other Libraries	840
2014 Summer Reading	
<i>Adult Summer Reading</i>	
Registrants	31
Books Read	141
<i>Young Adult Summer Reading</i>	
Registrants	59
Books Read	415
<i>Children's Summer Reading</i>	
Registration	340
Books Read (birth-grade 2)	4,285
Pages Read (grades 3-5)	129,648
Collections	
Total Physical Collection	50,714
Adult Print Books	23,515
Teen Print Books	3,846
Children's Print Books	23,282
Audio Books, Music CDs	2,166
DVDs	3,235
Magazines, Newspaper Subscriptions	70
Video Games, Kits, Museum Passes and other Non-Traditional Materials	359
Databases	45
Digital Collection Holdings	2,451

WHAT WE DID WITH YOUR

TAX DOLLARS, 2014-2015

REVENUE	\$ 438,461
\$423,134	
\$15,237	Town Funds
Grants from State of Connecticut, Member Donations, Fines, Printing, Contributions	
EXPENSES	\$ 436,587
\$307,394	
\$35,248	Salaries, Benefits, Payroll Taxes
\$5,684	Materials
\$33,837	Programs
\$20,250	Utilities
\$7,207	Building and Grounds
\$10,879	Supplies
\$3,898	Computer/Equipment Maintenance
\$12,190	Computer/Equipment Acquisitions
	Administrative & Miscellaneous

Additional funds for specific projects
were received from:

School Readiness Council
Association Membership
Annual Used Book Sale
Memorial Donations



Photo: Hatching Butterflies in the Children's Room

STAFF MEMBERS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Library Staff:

Amy Dexter, M.L.S. – Co-Director

Kristi Sadowski, M.L.S. – Co-Director & Head of Teen Services

Meg Schiebel, M.L.S. – Head of Children’s Services

Chris Carney, M.S.I.S.

Nora Dexter

Laura Diller, M.L.S.

Carol Edmonds

Joanne English

Benjamin Garcia

Jacob Garcia

Barbara Hall

Roslyn Kornfeld

Marisa Mucha

Donna Murphy

Margaret Norris

Joyce Peterson

Manuel Rodrigues

Emma Russo-Savage

Janette Smith



Professional Development

Staff Members attended the following Professional Development Meetings

- ◆ Connecticut Library Association Conference
- ◆ Connecticut Library Association Special Meetings
- ◆ Book Expo America
- ◆ Eastern Connecticut Young Adult Roundtable
- ◆ InterLibrary Loan Roundtable
- ◆ Director’s Roundtable
- ◆ Aspen Institute Connecticut Dialogue



Kristi Sadowski & Christopher Carney made presentations on the Library’s Makerspace and 3D Printing program at a special Connecticut Library Association joint Roundtable and at two Connecticut Education Network classes.

Meg Schiebel was chosen for the 2017 Intermediate Nutmeg Book Selection Committee.