



# TOWN NEWS

## COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT — Elizabeth Woolf

Each year our Town undergoes its annual budgeting process for its anticipated revenues and expenditures needed to operate all of the services it provides in the coming fiscal year. Most of the key dates in the process occur in late winter and early spring, culminating in the Public Hearing on the Town, School and Capital Budget in March, the Annual Town Meeting in April and the referendum to vote for the Budget in May.

The March meeting offers citizens an opportunity to be heard! to raise questions, offer opinions and recommendations **before** the Council adopts the final Budget and sends it to Referendum. Citizens may also express their views during the Audience of Citizens at our regularly scheduled Council meetings. And, because the actual Council Meetings are televised live on Channel 13, there is ample opportunity for citizens to keep informed. Citizen participation is key to the Council's ability to make informed decisions that reflect the interests of the community. It allows us to understand what the public's priorities are and what they are willing to pay for. The exchange of ideas and information provides us with a framework for our decision-making.

It is critically important for citizens to understand the **whole** story of the budget before casting a vote on Tuesday, May 7. Become informed! Obtain a copy of the Budget proposal at the Town Hall or read it on the Town web site at [www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org). Attend and participate at the upcoming Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 27 at the High School in Veteran's Auditorium at 10:00 a.m. Please get out and **VOTE** on May 7! The polling places will open at 6:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. at the following locations: District 1 – CVFA fire station, 1755 Main St. across from Town Hall; District 2 - North Coventry Fire station,



*Photo Caption: Town officials, staff and representatives from the Solarize Coventry initiative celebrate the start of Coventry's participation in this initiative that will save residents money on solar power installations. For more information or a free site evaluation to see if your home is suitable for solar, visit <http://solarizect.com>.*

3427 Main St. across from Coventry Grammar School. Please do not park in front of the fire bay doors.

***“To make democracy work,  
we must be a nation of  
participants, not simply  
observers. One who does  
not vote has no right  
to complain.”***

— Louis L'Amour

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## TOWN MANAGER'S MEMO

— John A. Elsesser, Town Manager

It's a busy spring. Please review the Budget insert and plan to attend the Saturday, April 27th Town Meeting at 10 a.m. in Veterans Auditorium. The budget vote will be Tuesday, May 7th. Several things to update you on and several reminders of opportunities:

The Town applied for and was selected to participate in a Solarize CT program to reduce the price of adding solar photovoltaic panels to your house. The program takes advantage of grants, tax credits and quantity discounts to dramatically lower the cost. Free, no commitment estimates are available. Please see

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### 2013 TOWN HALL

#### & TRASH PICKUP HOLIDAYS:

Memorial Day	May 27
Independence Day	July 4
Labor Day	Sept. 2

## FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

— *Continued from Page 1*

the Town website for all the details. The program expires on July 12th. If you want to see how the new Solar panels at Public Works are performing a link is also available on the Town website.

Working with both Fire Departments the Town will be getting assistance from the Capital Region Council of Governments to make further progress on implementing the recommendations from the Matrix Study several years ago. Working together we can enhance the volunteer tradition and develop a strategic plan to enhance the volunteer service. A fraud audit is also underway.

The Town and Board of Education employees are also being offered Health Risk Assessments as the first step in a Wellness initiative designed to have healthier employees and less serious medical claims.

Through a competitive process the Town has sold the former Public Works facility on Bradbury Lane to Earth Dynamics, a local contractor. The sale includes retaining an easement for the Millbrook Walkway and proceeds will assist in completing this section of the walkway. A forum on design options will be scheduled in early summer to receive community input.

Don't forget to take advantage of CCM's Pro-Act Discount Insurance program for uninsured prescriptions, eye glasses and pet medicines. Join the 111 Coventry residents who used it 201 times for an average savings of 39% for a total of \$5,705.31 in five months. For more information, see [www.ctrxdiscoutcard.com](http://www.ctrxdiscoutcard.com).

The Town has also received two more solar photovoltaic grants which will assist in the construction of solar car ports at the Police Station and a roof top system at Coventry Volunteer Fire Station. We also were able to purchase computers for the Town and Schools at a 30% additional discount through a regional grant in conjunction with the Town of South Windsor. Working with WINCOG we will be receiving shared pot-hole patching equipment and pavement milling equipment.

The Council also adopted a resolution to participate in a new State program, C-PACE, which allows commercial and non-profit organizations to obtain secured priority loans for energy efficiency and renewable energy. See [www.c-pace.com](http://www.c-pace.com) for more information.

We are still waiting on learning about grants submitted for the lake gate upgrades and additional Main Street enhancements which included radar speed signs. We have received a regional grant to purchase pot hole patchers and pavement milling equipment which we hope to have by summer. We also are expecting FEMA funds for recent storm events to offset snowplowing and clean-up expenses. We are also working with the Town of Columbia on a Hop River Trail grant.

### DIRECT ENERGY WORKING TO RESOLVE BILLING ERRORS

For those participating in the Opt-In Energy program, please review your electric bill to make sure you are paying the correct kWh rates (0.0660 for senior citizens, 0.0670 for individuals and small businesses, and 0.0720 for Green Power. A major computer error caused improper billing. If your rate is not correct please contact the Manager's office at 860-742-6324 and we will assist.

### COMINGS & GOINGS AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

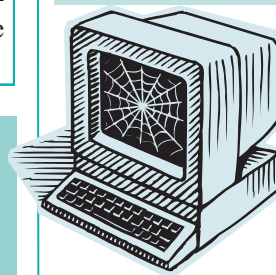
Welcome to **Thomas Kuhns**, our new Police Officer who was hired to replace **Walt Solenski**, who retired in December. Thomas is at the Police Academy and will be on the force late this year. We see Walt from time to time but now that the fish are biting he hasn't been around as much... **Russ Iger** continues to do well at the Police Academy and will be on the force this fall.

**Monica Bragdon** has been promoted to Facilities Crew Leader at the Department of Public Works. **Beth Bauer** and **John Elsesser** have been appointed to the State MORE Commission. **John Elsesser** has also been elected Vice President of the Council of Small Towns.

## PROJECTS UPDATE

The initial plan review by the State for completing the sidewalks from the Rt. 31 hill to the CHS/CNHMS complex are underway. It is hoped that construction will be complete by school opening. Finishing touches are slated for the Miller-Richardson football field with a ribbon-cutting planned for late June. A shed at Patriots Park will replace the old "candy store," paid for by the UConn Men's Crew team who will use space in the garage behind the band shell. The replacement rescue truck for North Coventry Fire has been ordered and will be delivered around December. After almost a year of State process the contract to hire the engineer for the Pucker Street Bridge replacement has been completed. The earliest construction could start would be summer 2014.

The Rt. 31 Curve Reconstruction project continues forward. Officially slated for 2014 construction it will need a speedy permit review to allow this. Another grant will continue sidewalks past the project end (First Church driveway) to the Library. The Town has received a grant to convert exterior building and parking lot lighting to more efficient LED lights.



### NEW & IMPROVED WEBSITE!

We are excited to be building a better website for our community. Last winter, Coventry entered an "Extreme Website Makeover" contest by CivicPlus, a national leader in developing websites for municipalities, and we won a free makeover and two years of hosting. Not only is this a significant savings, we have seen a preliminary layout for the new site and can report we think you will be very pleased with the finished result. Expect to see many new interactive features, such as online request tracking and the ability to receive news department updates, bid postings and job announcements customized by your areas of interest. Stay tuned for details about the launch date of our new website - coming to your computer in late May.

# TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – APRIL 27, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. at Coventry High School in the Veterans Auditorium**

**BUDGET VOTE – MAY 7, 2013**

**JUNE IS DOG LICENSE MONTH – Don't forget to license your furry friends!!! \*\*Remember a license is a lost dog's ticket home.**

AVOID late fees... and remember to license your dogs in June! AVOID the lines.....You can renew your dog's license through the mail. Just include updated rabies certificate, your check, and self-addressed stamped envelope. Postage should be sufficient to the number tags being mailed.

- \* \$8.00 for spayed or neutered dogs.
- \* \$19.00 for unaltered dogs.
- \* Any dog license issued after June 30<sup>th</sup> is subject to a \$1.00 per month late fee.
- \* Licenses will be available during business hours beginning June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- \* **Check your dog's rabies expiration date. If that date has expired, It is your responsibility provide our office with a NEW written proof of a current rabies vaccination to renew your dog's license.**

**NEW DOGS**-To license your new dog our office needs to have a current rabies certificate and proof of spay or neuter.

## LAND RECORDS ONLINE

Coventry Land Records are available on-line and can be searched for free by logging on to the internet at <http://www.searchiqs.com/Coventry.html>.

You may also search the records through a link on the Coventry website at [www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org). From the Home Page, follow the link under property information. No password is required. Indexes from 1885 and images from 2003 to date are available for viewing and may be printed for a fee.

## SHARE YOUR TALENTS

Serve on a Board or Commission. Submit your name to any of the following: Joan M. Oros, Republican Town Committee (742-9077); Dorothy Grady, Democratic Town Committee (742-0449); Lisa D. Thomas, Council Steering Committee (742-9908); or Susan J. Cyr, Town Clerk (742-7966). The following Boards/Commissions currently have vacancies:

Municipal Historian  
Coventryvision Committee  
Insurance Advisory  
Planning & Zoning Alternate  
Veterans Memorial Committee

HUD Housing Rehab/Fair Housing Committee  
Regional Federated Services for Older Americans  
AD-HOC Coventry Conservation Corps  
AD-HOC Coventry Conservation Corps Alternate  
Windham Regional Community Council Representative

Building Code Board or Appeals  
Conservation Commission  
Personnel Appeals Board  
Youth Advisory Board  
WACAP Board of Directors

## OPENING DAY OF FISHING IS APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup>

Your 2013 fishing licenses are available at the Town Clerk's office or online at [www.ct.gov/dep](http://www.ct.gov/dep).

- \* Inland fishing license-\$28
- \* All Waters inland and marine fishing license -\$32
- \* Combination with hunting & fishing -\$38-this includes the option for marine license.
- \* Non-Resident licenses are also available at \$22 for a 3-day pass or \$55 for season license.
- \* Age 65+ Annual licenses are available free of charge to persons over 65.

## PLEASE NOTE:

- AGE 65+ ANNUAL LICENSES (these were issued after October 9, 2009) **NEED TO BE RENEWED EVERY YEAR.**
- LIFETIME LICENSES (issued before October 9, 2009) **DO NOT NEED TO BE RENEWED**-unless you purchase a Marine License or Hunting Permits.

**PRO-ACT PRESCRIPTIONS FOR PETS:** We have received several inquiries from people who unsuccessfully attempted to use their discount cards for pet prescriptions at the veterinarian's office. What you need to do is get a prescription from your vet and take it to a participating pharmacy to be filled. For a list of pharmacies, see [www.ctrxdiscountcard.com](http://www.ctrxdiscountcard.com).



## RABIES CLINIC

**May 4, 2013 2-4 p.m.**

**Capt. Nathan Hale Middle School**

Our Low Cost Rabies Clinic for cats and dogs is scheduled for Saturday, May 4, 2013 from 2-4 p.m. Look for reminders on **Channel 13** and our web page [www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org). Also, look under the Events and the Town Clerk headings for reminders. Please bring written proof of last rabies vaccination. This clinic is made possible through the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association.



## FROM THE TAX OFFICE (860) 742-4066

Delinquent notices were mailed within the last few months for overdue taxes, sewer and COVRRRA bills. Sewer and COVRRRA liens were filed in early April against those properties which were not paid current. Sewer assessment bills will be mailed the end of April. Due date for the first installment is May 1<sup>st</sup> and taxpayers have 30 days to pay before late charges apply. Taxpayers are able to use credit cards to pay tax bills as well as COVRRRA and sewer fees. This service is provided by Official Payments Corporation and they do charge a convenience fee. A link to their website and a toll free phone number can be found on the Town of Coventry's website. You will need to know your account number, correct payment amount and Coventry's jurisdiction code. Please call the Tax Office before contacting Official Payments Corp. and we will be happy to explain the procedure.

An additional on-line payment option is also available to Coventry taxpayers who wish to pay by check. From the home page on the Town website, [www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org), click on the top of the right side column titled **Pay your Taxes Online**. You will be offered two options and the first option is the payment from checking account. This will connect you to the Webster online banking site from which you can make a payment by check. Again, you will need the list number and grand list date of your bill. (Example: 2011R01234) A charge of fifty cents per check may apply.

Citizens are reminded that the tipper barrels are owned by the Town's contracted hauler (All American Waste) and must stay with the property to which it has been assigned. Each barrel is identified with a serial number for a specific property address. If you sell your house and /or move, ***please do not take the barrels with you.*** Your annual payment (\$170-\$250) pays for the disposal/recycle service only.

The current fiscal year will end June 30, 2013. In accordance with state statutes, liens will be filed before the end of the current fiscal year against properties with any outstanding balances on real estate. Please contact this office if you have any questions concerning the status of your accounts.

Taxpayers now have an additional on-line payment option for those wishing to pay by check/debit (EFT). You will need to know the Grand List date and list number of each bill you pay. From the Tax Collector's page on the Town's website, choose payments from checking account for this preference. This will connect you to Webster Bank's payment link site. You can save time, gas, postage and the inconvenience of driving in bad weather by paying online or by phone.

Taxpayers owing delinquent motor vehicles bills must pay by cash or money order for an immediate DMV clearance.

### TAX SALE UPDATE

Coventry's Tax Sale of delinquent properties is on schedule to be held in June of 2013. As of late February 2013, seven properties have been removed from the sale list because the delinquent taxes, fees, and associated legal costs have been paid. A number of interested parties have contacted the Tax Office inquiring as to the process for bidding on the remaining properties. This Tax Sale is being held in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes and strict legal guidelines. All inquiries are referred to [www.cttaxsales.com](http://www.cttaxsales.com) because this website answers most questions as to how tax sales are conducted in Connecticut.

## FROM THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Public records for the Assessor's Office can be viewed using the following links: [www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org) or [www.wincog-gis.org](http://www.wincog-gis.org)

Property field cards, sketches, pictures, exemption applications and general information can be found on the Town's website. Remember, that the October 1, 2009 revaluation assessments will be effective still for the July 2013 tax bills.

**The Elderly and Disabled homeowner program** began February 1, 2013, and applications are being processed until May 15, 2013. Our office sent reminder letters to those people who have to re-file. Remember, this program is income driven from the State and income guidelines are set by the State for both single and married individuals. Please contact our office if your income is less than \$40,900 if married, or less than \$33,500 if single, both must include Social Security benefits from your SSA-1099 and your adjusted gross income from your 2012 Federal Income tax return.

**Veterans** must file their DD-214 with the Town Clerk prior to **October 1<sup>st</sup>** to be eligible for exemption. If you have already filed, you do not need to re-file. You will receive your exemption automatically. If veterans meet income guidelines, you may be eligible for Additional exemption. The program began February 1<sup>st</sup>, and applications are processed until October 1, 2013. Please call if your income is less than \$40,900 if married, or less than \$33,500 if single, both must include Social Security benefits from your SSA-1099 form and your adjusted gross income from your 2012 Federal Income tax return. You will be asked to provide proof of all the income documentation regarding both of the above mentioned applications

The Board of Assessment Appeals will hear appeals in the month of September concerning Motor Vehicle only. Applications are available in the Assessor's Office or online at [www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org).

**The Income and Expense forms** will be mailed out by April 15th. The forms are to be filled out and returned to our office **no later than June 1, 2013.**

### PAYMENT DUE CALENDAR

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



### WANT TO CHANGE YOUR TRASH BARREL SIZE?

In response to citizen requests, we are offering a one-time opportunity to exchange your tipper barrels for a different size at the reduced fee of \$25. If you would like to swap, contact the Tax Office at (860) 742-4066 for various options and rates. They will help you with the next step. **The swap order must be requested and paid for by May 21, 2013 in order to receive this price.** The swap will occur the last week of June in conjunction with the new fiscal year.

## **NORTH COVENTRY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Several members of our Department have been working very hard over the last couple of years. After countless hours of research, cost cutting and hard work, a new heavy rescue vehicle is on order.

The Truck Committee with help from the Town Manager went out to bid in January 2013 and on January 31, 2013 the bid opening occurred. Three bids were received and after additional review by the committee the bid was awarded to Rescue One. What started out as an estimated project cost of \$750,000 was reduced to \$600,000. The financing will be done through a lease purchase agreement.

The Department can now house a larger vehicle that meets the needs of our community. For example we can now store additional equipment like an ice sled for winter water rescues. Currently we have to take the time during a water rescue emergency to load the ice sled into the back of the existing heavy rescue truck. This delays our response by as much as 10 – 15 minutes. The new vehicle is expected to last at least 25 years.

Special thanks to Town Manager John Elssesser and the Coventry Town Council for supporting our request so we can continue to provide excellent service to our community.

Remember to call 911 for fire, police or medical emergencies. Using a local phone number or searching the internet to find a local number will only delay our response.

**Fire Strategic Plan** - the Town, Coventry Volunteer Fire Association and North Coventry Volunteer Fire Department have agreed to work on a strategic plan to further implement and fine-tune the recommendations of the Matrix Fire Study (available on the Town website). We are being assisted by the Capitol Region Council of Governments who will complete a SWOT analysis, review existing studies, policies and procedures and measure against best practices for volunteer fire services. Working together we envision a positive outcome for our community.

## **A joint statement of Coventry Volunteer Fire Association and North Coventry Volunteer Fire Department**

To Town of Coventry residents:

Although the Town of Coventry is served by two separate and distinct volunteer fire companies, the Coventry Volunteer Fire Association and the North Coventry Volunteer Fire Department, rest assured that we both have and will continue to work jointly to provide fire and emergency medical services to the Town of Coventry.

As you are aware we are working through an unacceptable situation which has severely impacted members' lives and created a lot of bad publicity. Although there is a lot of work to be done; please be assured we are taking every action possible and making corrections to prevent this type of situation from ever happening again. We have highly trained and very dedicated volunteers that will continue to respond to all emergencies in Town and provide the best emergency services to you, the residents of the Town of Coventry.

We thank you all for your past support and ask for your understanding and continued support as we head into the future. If anyone has any questions or would like to visit the firehouses please feel free to contact us anytime at the numbers listed below.

Sincerely,

Ken Boutin, Chief  
Coventry Vol. Fire Association.  
860-742-3510

Noel Miller, Chief  
North Coventry Fire Department  
860-742-1606

## **FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE Noel Waite, 860-742-4064**

Spring is here and the time for clean-up of yard debris from this past winter is upon us. To clean up these brush piles and garden clearings, a burn permit must be obtained by the property owner. The permit allows for burning of brush only, is free and good for 2 weeks. Forms can be found at the Town Hall in the Land Use and Permitting Office during regular Town Hall hours or on the Coventry website on the Fire Marshal's page (note that these must be signed by a burn official prior to burning). These may be granted from Noel Waite or Brigit Tanganelli, Burn Officials on premise at Town Hall. For permits after hours, you may contact Robert Breault at 860-573-5969 or Reggie Hutchins at 860-742-5798, to make arrangements. Please note that burning without a permit is not allowed and violators will be fined. While sprucing up your surroundings, please reference the following fire prevention check list:

- Clean and check all smoke detectors along with changing out their batteries.
- Clean and inspect all wood burning appliances, chimneys and smoke pipes.
- Clean and inspect dryer vent pipes and lint screens. Chemicals from some scented dryer sheets will clog the screens. Wash them with soap and warm water.
- Clear the area around outdoor fire pits prior to burning.
- Hot ashes should never be placed in tipper barrels! You should properly dispose of them in a covered metal ash container away from combustible materials.

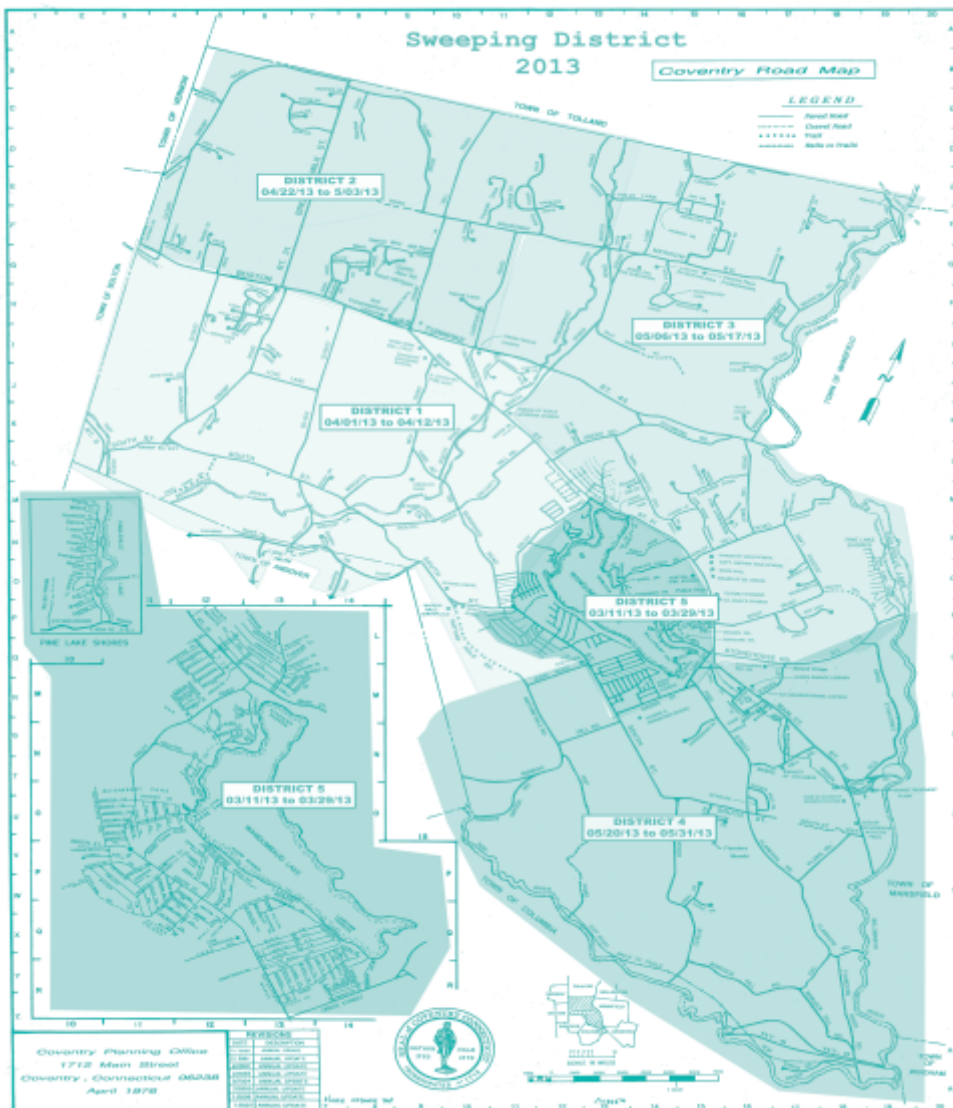
# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

**Address:** 100 Olsen Farm Road **Phone:** (860) 742-6588

Director: David Gofstein [dgofstein@coventryct.org](mailto:dgofstein@coventryct.org)  
Supt. of Operations/Tree Warden: Doug Reese [dreese@coventryct.org](mailto:dreese@coventryct.org)  
Administrative Secretary/COVRR: Donna Wrubel [dwrubel@coventryct.org](mailto:dwrubel@coventryct.org)  
WPCA Technician: Mike Ruef\* [mruef@coventryct.org](mailto:mruef@coventryct.org)  
Town Engineer/Wetlands Agent: Todd Penney [tpenney@coventryct.org](mailto:tpenney@coventryct.org)  
\* Office located at Town Hall

The Department of Public Works will be starting many of our annual work projects in the upcoming months such as roadside mowing, cleaning catch basins, drainage repairs and ditch cleaning. With the weather we have experienced this winter, we have been very busy with winter operations. We are currently performing maintenance on the equipment that we will be using this summer.

Also residents may call and request that the Department not mow in front of their home. If you do request this you will be responsible to ensure safe travel of motor vehicles and pedestrian traffic. If residents have concerns please contact the Public Works Department at (860) 742-6588 or visit the Town's Web-site and email the Department directly.



**Street Sweeping:** We will start our street sweeping program during March, weather permitting. We request that homeowners do not sweep leaves into the roadways. It is much better if you take these leaves to the Transfer Station at 325 Main Street. There is no cost to drop off leaves and while you are there, take advantage of our leaf compost program. You can pick up some compost for your garden at no cost!

*Left: Enjoy viewing our new street sweeping map. All dates are approximate and subject to change depending on the weather and the equipment.*

**JOBS:** If you like to be outdoors, enjoy physical work, have a valid driver's license and are 18 or older, we are looking for you. Public Works has an opening (pending budget approval) for a summer laborer paying \$10.00 per hour with up to a 40 hour work week. Accepting applications immediately. For more info call (860) 742-6588.

**SUMMER ROADS:** In 2012, we began in earnest a road reconstruction program in order to catch up on years of deferred maintenance. Thousands of square yards of pavement were rehabilitated through in place reclamation, regrading, enhanced compaction, and newly placed binder and surface courses of bituminous concrete.

While significantly more expensive on a square yard basis, when life cycle costs are added in the equation rehabilitation becomes the least expensive alternative. A comprehensive reassessment of surface conditions is underway, with paving scheduled for late summer-early fall.





*Lake Wangumbaug: the lake level elevation is measured and adjusted at the lake street gate house. The gate will be lowered to allow for the level of the lake to rise naturally in preparation for spring and summer recreational activities as soon as the ice pack is diminished. This will prevent any property damage from the ice, if the level is raised too soon. In anticipation of long range forecasts by researchers who have studied the lake for decades, we will be bringing the lake level up to summer level (93.0 feet) by early April this year. Call Doug Reese at Public Works (860) 742-6588 or [dreese@coventryct.org](mailto:dreese@coventryct.org).*

**PARKS / TRAILS:** You may see a recycling tipper cart at a town park. The town is trying to become automated and improve the methods of handling trash or recycling at some of its park locations.

Last year, we cleared around a half mile of the Hop River trail, and hope to be able to clear another half mile this year. Preliminary discussions are underway for a regional trail grant for significant reconstruction in 2014; as talks progress we will keep users informed.

Master plan design, and localized area repairs are undergoing in Laidlaw Park. Miller Richardson fields will be receiving new benches and bleachers. The new Football field is expected to open in the 2013 season, and high school football field lighting is scheduled to be installed by the summer.

**TREES:** Connecticut laws protect trees in Town Right of Ways and properties. Planting, pruning or removal of trees within the Town Right of Ways (ROW) at roadside requires approval of the Tree Warden. State Statute requires a written request for permission to remove or plant. Unapproved work in the ROW is subject to fines and damages. Call before you cut. Rights of Way vary from Road to Road. Trees removed unlawfully are subject to a fine equal to the appraised value of the tree. An eighteen inch diameter White Oak can appraise for over \$6000. The Tree Warden is here to help. Be safe and call (860) 742-6588 if in doubt at all. Thank You! The Tree Warden's email address is [dreese@coventryct.org](mailto:dreese@coventryct.org). Do not use email to contact the Tree Warden for **emergencies** – call Public Works at (860) 742-6588 or the Police Department at (860) 742-7331.

#### INSECT PEST ALERT

Be on the lookout for the Asian Longhorned Beetle. This pest is devastating to trees, especially Maples. It entered the US through New York City and has spread most recently to Central Massachusetts near Worcester. It is very difficult to control and has the potential of wiping out large areas of forest. If you spot the insect please call the Tree Warden, Doug Reese, at (860) 742-6588 and the proper authorities will be contacted. For more information and photo see Public Works Web page.

The Town Engineer/Wetlands Agent, Todd Penney, has an office in the Coventry Public Works Facility in addition to an office in the Town Hall Land Use Office. The objective is to allow the Town Engineer to work more efficiently on the Town's Capital Improvement Projects and Public Works Projects. The projected hours will be from 8am to 2pm at the DPW Office and from 2pm to 4pm at the Land Use Office. As always, it is beneficial to call in advance to arrange an appointment to meet with him at 860-742-4078 or email him at [tpenney@coventryct.org](mailto:tpenney@coventryct.org).

The solar array is up & running! Watch the results in real time at <https://www.mypvpower.com/dashboard/2226>.

#### WPCA PROJECTS UPDATE

Repairs to Clarifier/Digester unit #2 were completed on January 11, 2013 by R.H. White Construction Company. The repairs were completed on schedule and were inspected by Silva Engineering and Ovivo/Dorr-Oliver (the equipment manufacturer).

Sewer Expansion Feasibility Study: A public informational meeting to discuss the progress of the sewer expansion feasibility study was held on February 7<sup>th</sup> with about a dozen residents in attendance. Consultants from WMC Engineers and a representative from the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) assisted Town staff in answering questions from the public. We are working with WMC Engineers to complete another revision to the report, which will be submitted to CT DEEP for review. A significant challenge has come to light in the route 44 area; the CT Office of Policy and Management is in the process of revising the State Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) but CT DEEP must use the current (but inaccurate) POCD guidelines to review the report. We are working with these two State Agencies to find a solution that is mutually agreeable to all parties.

General information related to the WPCA can be found on the Water Pollution Control Authority page on the Town website ([www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org)). The link to our page can be found by clicking the Boards & Commissions sidebar and scrolling down.

## TRANSFER STATION: 325 Main Street

**NEWS:** in 2011 the transfer station extended the hours of operation to be open every Thursday and Saturday (excluding holidays) all year long. Now in 2013 the town will alter the hours of operation once again to improve availability to the residents. From March through October the station will be open on Thursdays from noon until 6 pm. Beginning in November and running through February the station will be open on Thursdays from 10 am until 4 pm. The station will continue to be open every Saturday from 9 am until 3 pm all year long (excluding holidays). Proof of residency is required.

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

### Materials acceptable with cost:

- Construction and demolition debris. Free of cardboard, metal and garbage.
- Land clearing debris; stumps & brush.
- Appliances with CFC's (Freon) \$10 each, no weigh-in necessary.
- Tires – automobile size – on or off rim \$5 each.
- Corrugated cardboard in the specially marked cardboard dumpster

### Materials acceptable no cost:

- gas grill propane tanks for recycling
- leaves for composting
- Electronics
- Metal materials (**metal tanks must be cut open and crushed**)

### Materials **NOT** acceptable:

- Garbage or recyclable items picked up curbside
- Grass clippings
- Furniture
- Hazardous waste

**HOUSEHOLD CHEMICAL WASTE DROP-OFF FACILITY** Will reopen on April 20, 2013. It is usually open on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of the month from April through November from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. This regional facility is located on Hancock Road in Willington and will receive one gallon or less of each liquid material and 100 pounds of dry material. Coventry residents' use of the facility is paid through COVRRRA revenues and requires no additional fees. Proof of residency is required. Commercial users **MUST CALL AHEAD** (860) 289-2296 for appointment and fee info.

### Typical material accepted at this facility includes:

- Fluorescent light bulbs
- Ni-Cad (Nickel Cadmium) recyclable batteries only (alkaline batteries go in the trash)
- Mercury thermometers and thermostats
- Floor, oven and drain cleaners
- Aerosol cans with hazardous contents
- Contaminated or stale gasoline
- Wood strippers, solvents, oil based paint, paint thinner and wood preservatives

Call Public Works (860) 742-6588 with COVRRRA questions or email [dwrubel@coventryct.org](mailto:dwrubel@coventryct.org).

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

## SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL AND RECYCLING INFORMATION

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month residents may place at curbside by 6:30 am up to three oversized items to be picked up for free. These items must be large and not metal and must be out on Monday regardless of your regular trash day. Examples are dresser, mattress or recliner chair w/metal removed.

**NO ELECTRONICS** will be picked up at curbside. Bring electronics to the transfer station for recycling.

If residents need to dispose of nonmetal oversized items and cannot wait until the next monthly pickup, you have the option of scheduling a single residence bulky pickup at any time for an additional fee of \$175.00 for three items, \$225 for six items and \$350 for up to ten items. Residents will need to pay for this special pickup at the Public Works Garage before it is scheduled. Call (860) 742-6588 for information.

For major cleanup projects, All American Waste offers a 6 cubic yard dumpster for 30 days rental at \$150 haul/\$80 ton, 15 cubic yard dumpster for 30 days rental at \$175 haul/\$80 ton, and 30 cubic yard dumpster for 30 days rental at \$175 haul/\$80 ton. Additional rental after 30 days will be billed at \$5 per day. Residents contract directly with All American Waste at (860) 289-7850. Be sure you specify you are a Coventry resident to get this contract rate.

The Public Works Department has a trash dumpster and a single stream recycling dumpster for residents who, occasionally, have trash or recycling in excess of their carts. To use the dumpster you must pay \$1 for each bag that you toss in. Residents must stop in the office (7 am – 3 pm) for the dumpster key.

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



# LAND USE

## TOWN BIKE PLAN

The Conservation Commission has recently initiated the process of creating a bike plan for the Town. The Commission has begun evaluating other municipal bike plans and has also started considering evaluation tools that provide a basis for determining what roads or trails would be most appropriate. The plan will include a mapping component which delineates specific routes in town that are conducive for particular users, many of which will likely connect existing recreational, open space amenities or other points of interests and destinations. The public is encouraged to be part of the process in the plan development, which will include a public forum in the future when a draft has been developed. Questions regarding the project can be directed to Eric M. Trott, Director of Planning and Development at [etrott@coventryct.org](mailto:etrott@coventryct.org) or 860-742-4062.

## TRAIL MAPPING AND BROCHURES



The Land Use Office, Parks and Recreation Office and Conservation Commission worked collaboratively to create new trail mapping brochures for Patriots Park Woods, Mill Brook Park, Riverview Trail Park and Creaser Park Town properties. The brochures contain detailed guidance on navigating the individual trails, links to other important features, information on the background and importance of each site and standard trail rules. These maps are located on the Coventry Parks and Recreation website at the following link: <http://www.coventryrec.com/info/facilities/>

## COVENTRY LAKE ZONE PAVING PROJECTS

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

## FROM YOUR COVENTRY BUILDING OFFICIAL...

**Things to Look For Around the House...** As Old Man Winter continues to melt away, property owners are encouraged to inspect the exterior conditions of their buildings for possible damage caused by heavy snow, ice build-up and water pooling. Check conditions of gutters and downspouts for proper secure attachments to fascias and walls. Rain leaders can split at their seams from expansion of ice and blockage of downspouts. Elbows and splash pools should be checked for proper placement and direction. Residents are encouraged to inspect their roofs for possible damage caused by snow rakes and shovels, if these methods were used for roof snow removal. Broken shingles, nail pops and tears in valleys could occur from snow removal and should be addressed. Pooling of water can build up around the foundation walls causing water intrusion into basement spaces. Sump pumps should be checked for proper operation. Location of pumped discharge should be free from obstructions. Please be mindful that discharge water should not cross your property line or discharge into the roadway.

**Obtaining a Permit...** The high winds, rains and snowstorms this past winter have slowed or completely stopped construction activity at many job sites. Residents are encouraged to secure their contractors and apply for permits as soon as possible for their upcoming spring and summer projects, as many contractors are eager to assist you with new projects. If you are considering a building project this year, be sure to submit your application 2-3 weeks in advance. The review process for applications can take longer during the busy construction season and is based on a first-come, first-served basis. So drop by the Building Department to pick up your permit packet and a copy of your plot plan. We would be happy to take a few minutes to discuss your project with you and get you started.

**Want your Building Plans?** The Building Department is only responsible for retaining building plans on projects for a maximum of two (2) years. We are then allowed to dispose of them. Beginning July 1<sup>st</sup> and ending September 30, 2013, the Building Department is allowing property owners to obtain the building plans for residential construction only. The owner must show proof of their residence (driver's license) to obtain their building plans. You must own the property to obtain the building plans. A Certificate of Use and Occupancy must have been issued for the structure prior to June 1, 2011. Please call Brigit at 860-742-4064 with your name, address and daytime phone number and we will contact you within few weeks to let you know if there are building plans available. At that time, you will be given 2 weeks to pick up the plans. Plans that are not picked-up will be discarded under the State's disposal method.

## SPRINGTIME REMINDERS FROM THE COVENTRY LAKE ADVISORY & MONITORING COMMITTEE

**Goose problems?** Apply to the federal government for a permit to addle eggs at the following website: <http://epermits.fws.gov/eRCGR/geSI.aspx>

**Fertilizing?** Apply only **ZERO** phosphate fertilizers – the middle number on the fertilizer bag. It should read for example 32-0-4.

**Interesting sightings on the lake?** Let the Committee know what you see and where by emailing us at: [coventrylakeadvisory@coventryct.org](mailto:coventrylakeadvisory@coventryct.org).

**ADOPT A ROAD PROGRAM:** The Conservation Commission and Land Use Office continue to sponsor the Adopt a Road program, where you can 'adopt' a portion or all of a Town road and pick up the roadside trash that accumulates. Folks can do as much as they like and at their own pace. Free standard garbage bags are available in the Land Use Office and can be disposed of at the Public Works Garage at no charge. Please contact Eric M. Trott at 742-4062 or [etrott@coventryct.org](mailto:etrott@coventryct.org) for further details and application forms.

# COMING EVENTS

**Mothers' Day Roses Sale:** Bouquets of long-stem roses for \$15. Support Coventry Lions' community service projects. Orders will be taken in advance from any Lions member or by calling Dick at 860-742-9344 or Gary at 860-742-6128. Pick up on Saturday May 11th, 9 AM - noon at high school parking lot.

**May 10 - CECC Annual Golf Tournament, "Scramble for our School"** - 9AM, Skungamaug Golf Club. \$100 includes golf, cart, lunch & prizes. To sign up, visit [www.scrambleforourschool.com](http://www.scrambleforourschool.com) or email [cecc07@yahoo.com](mailto:cecc07@yahoo.com).

**May 12 - Garden Club Plant Sale on the Green:** 8 AM - 1 PM. Rt. 44 across from Highland Park Market.

**May 19 - Brick Schoolhouse Reopens:** Merrow Road at Goose Lane. 1-4 PM on the first and third Sundays of the month through early October. Free admission. Donations welcome. Info: Ginney Dilk, 860-742-9656 or email [gdilk@aol.com](mailto:gdilk@aol.com).

**May 27 - Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast:** 7-10 AM, First Congregational Church, 1171 Main Street. \$5 per person, \$12 per family. Children under 5 free. Sponsored by the Coventry Lions Club. Proceeds benefit community projects. Donations of used eyeglasses welcome. Info: Paul Sanderson, 860-742-5823.

**May 27 - Memorial Day Parade:** 10 AM. Kicks off at G.H. Robertson School on Cross Street, stopping at Veteran's Memorial Green for services, and continuing down Lake Street to Main Street and up to Bradbury Road. Sponsored by American Legion Post 52. On Sunday, May 26, wreath-laying services will be held at 2 PM at St Mary's Cemetery, Main St., proceeding to the New Cemetery, Center Cemetery-Rt.#44, Grant Hill Road, Silver St. and Wrights Mill Road Cemeteries, and concluding at the Nathan Hale Cemetery on Lake Street. Info: Bob Kramer, 860-742-7608.

**June 1 - Strong Porter Museum Reopens:** 2382 South Street. Every Sunday from 12-3 PM through October 5th. Free admission.

**June 16 - Sundae on a Sunday at the Brick Schoolhouse.** Merrow Road at Goose Lane. Toppings include fresh strawberries and homemade hot fudge sauce. Sundaes are \$1.50 each; Dad's are free.

**June 29 - Coventryfest:** 3-10 PM, Patriots Park. Music, games, vendors, food, fun and fireworks. Coordinated by Coventry Knights of Columbus. Rain date June 30. Info at [www.coventryfest.org](http://www.coventryfest.org).

## HAPPENINGS AT HALE HOMESTEAD

The Nathan Hale Homestead on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, offering an exciting 2013 season of programs, events and historic house tours. The event season will kickoff with *Tea with Elizabeth Hale* on Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, where participants enjoy an intimate tea party in the old kitchen, where Elizabeth rocked Connecticut State Hero Nathan Hale and his eleven siblings. Then *Walk into History* on Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> as the Homestead participates in Connecticut Forest & Park Association's CT Trails Day.

The Hale Homestead will once again host the **Coventry Regional Farmers' Market**, Connecticut's largest and most diverse farmers' market, on Sundays from June through October from 11 AM - 2 PM. Discover fresh organic, heirloom and ethnic foods from local farms along with the works and wares of local artisans and enjoy family activities, demonstrations, classes and themed tours and more at the Nathan Hale Homestead. Opening Day is June 2nd. For more information about the Market, visit their website at [www.coventryfarmersmarket.com](http://www.coventryfarmersmarket.com).

*The Candlelight Evenings at Hale* series will begin on Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup> with *Beer, Bubbly and Beverages: What they drank in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and why*, and continue on Friday, July 5<sup>th</sup> with *Where Have All the Soldiers Gone*. Includes a special historical-themed tour, and tastings including a sampling of switchel and syllabub, mead and Madeira.

*Colonial Life Exploration for Kids*, taking place from July 22<sup>nd</sup> to July 26<sup>th</sup>, invites children ages 8 - 12 to travel back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century for a week of summer fun and experience a week living as the Hale children did over two hundred years ago.

*Hale at the Homestead* on July 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> will include a **Revolutionary War military encampment** with tactical demonstrations, craft demonstrations, children's activities and more, hosted by the Nathan Hale Ancient Fife and Drum Corps. At the *Musical Muster* on July 28<sup>th</sup>, over a dozen Fife and Drum Corps from Southern New England will present a parade featuring an assortment of fifes and wooden rope tension snare and bass drums.

*The Nathan Hale Homestead is a Connecticut Landmark historic museum located at 2299 South Street. Open for tours May through October. Phone: 860.742.6917. Visit their website at [www.ctlandmarks.org](http://www.ctlandmarks.org).*

## RECREATION DEPARTMENT NEWS

The Town Ordinances for Parks and Recreation were recently revised, and now allow for alcoholic beverages with written permission of the commission, limited to designated areas. The Lodge and Community Center indoor spaces are designated as the only places where alcohol will be allowed at town parks, and the Market Barn at Hale Homestead will also be allowed to host events with alcohol. For the complete ordinance revisions: <http://bit.ly/ZOFI15>.

The Parks and Recreation Commission voted to open the beaches on June 22<sup>nd</sup> this year, the weekend before the school summer vacation starts. Beach permits will go on sale on May 1<sup>st</sup>. For more information, go to the Parks & Recreation website: [www.coventryrec.com](http://www.coventryrec.com).

The Market Barn at Nathan Hale Homestead is now available for rental and also allows for limited alcoholic beverages. For details on rentals, to see pictures of the facility in use, and to get ideas for a barn wedding or other event, check out the Parks & Recreation Pinterest pages at <http://bit.ly/11oB1JV>.

The Recreation Spring/Summer brochure is now mailed separately from this newsletter. Watch your mailboxes for it in mid-April.

## SOLARIZE COVENTRY EVENTS

Want to know more about the possibility of solar power for your home? Solarize Coventry will be at the following events with informational literature and knowledgeable installers to help you decide if solar power is right for you:

4/27: **Annual Town Meeting**, CHS Veterans Auditorium, 10 AM

5/4: **Solarize open house** - see panels being installed! Time and location TBD - watch our website for details.

6/2: **Coventry Regional Farmers' Market**, 11 AM - 2 PM, Nathan Hale Homestead.

6/16: **Sundae on a Sundae**, Brick School House, 1-4 PM.

## Coventry Daffodil Beautification Project:

The Village Improvement Society initiated this Town wide Project in 1993. Since then approximately 223,000 daffodil bulbs have been planted throughout Coventry. We have donated and planted thousands of bulbs in public places and residents have participated by purchasing bulbs to plant on their properties. To order bulbs for fall delivery, call Judy at 860-214-9567.

# HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

## FOOD BANK



For those of you that do not know about our food bank it is available to those who are going through difficult times and may need help with food. We have a variety of foods in stock like cereals, pastas, soups, canned vegetables, peanut butter and jelly and different school snacks. Everything that comes to our food bank is donated by local residents, churches, schools and other groups. If you are in need of the food bank please call our office at 860-742-5324 so we can set up an appointment for you.

## RENTER'S REBATE PROGRAM IS OPEN FROM APRIL-OCTOBER, 2013 FOR ELDERLY & DISABLED RENTERS

State law provides a reimbursement program for Connecticut renters who are elderly or totally disabled, and whose incomes do not exceed certain limits. Persons renting an apartment or room, or living in cooperative housing or a mobile home may be eligible for this program. Renters' rebates can be up to \$900 for married couples and \$700 for single persons. The renters' rebate amount is based on a graduated income scale and the amount of rent and utility payments (excluding telephone) made in the calendar year prior to the year in which the renter applies. Application may be made at the Human Services Office by appointment. Call 860-742-5324.

## COUNSELING SERVICES

Free counseling services are available to Coventry youth and their families at Youth Services. A licensed clinical social worker provides, brief, solution-focused therapy and can address numerous struggles (depression, stress, self-esteem, divorce, substance abuse, etc) that youth in our community have. To set up an appointment, contact Crystal Morawitz, Youth Services Coordinator.

## CAMPERSHIP DONATIONS

We are collecting donations for the 2013 summer campership fund. All donations go to help families in need pay for the Parks and Recreation Summer Adventure Camp. Checks can be made payable to The Town of Coventry. The *deadline to apply for summer camperships is June 10<sup>th</sup>*, and requires submission of the Parks and Recreation registration form, campership request form and camp deposit fee paid in full.

## CAMP CONNRI

The Salvation Army's Camp Connri, located in Ashford, will soon be accepting applications for youth ages 7-11 to attend the 2012 summer camp. Coventry Youth Services is able to send several children to this camp due to the community's generous donations to the Bell Ringing Fund in December (\$15,279.29). Applications are available in the Human Services office.

## BABYSITTERS TRAINING

This annual training will be held in June. Please contact Youth Services if you are between the ages of 12 and 18 and interested in taking this training. Registration information will be available in May.

## YOUTH JOB BANK

**For Adults:** Could you use some help with spring clean up, inside or outside? Need a babysitter; lawn mower, or other odd-jobs around the house done? Hire a student from the Youth Job Bank! Youth Job Bank students range in age from 12-18 years old and can assist with yard work services, clean homes, provide animal care, babysit and more!

**For Youth:** The annual **Youth Job Bank Training** will be held in June **ONLY** if enough students express interest. New members are required to attend this meeting to go over program policies and procedures, in addition to learning basic job skills, safety measures and other key components to landing a job. Once students have attended training they become part of the active youth job bank pool of potential employees. *Any student in grades 7-12 who have never attended the Youth Job Bank Training, but are interested in becoming part of the job bank should contact Youth Services at 860-742-5324 as soon as possible.*

## "GEARING UP TO LEARN" BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Gearing up to Learn provides new backpacks, school supplies and Payless Shoe cards to Coventry families with school aged children, who meet the income guidelines. Please watch cable channel 13 and the local newspapers after July 20<sup>th</sup> for more information.

*For more information on any of the programs offered by Youth Services, please contact Youth Services Coordinator, Crystal Morawitz at 860-742-5324.*

## EMERGENCY CALL LIST

The Coventry Human Services Office in conjunction with the Emergency Management Director is updating the list of Coventry residents who in the event of a natural disaster, such as a hurricane or major storm, **may need special assistance**. Included on this list will be handicapped persons or frail elderly who live alone. When an emergency situation presents itself, the office will contact each person on the list to confirm their safety. If you believe that you or someone you know should be on this list, please contact the office at 860-742-5324 to obtain a "Special Needs Form" or visit the Human Services Department section of the Town website. We will add the name to our list and forward the information onto **911**. Our project goal is to complete this list by Spring, 2013.



# SENIOR CENTER NEWS

172 Lake Street, Coventry, CT • (860) 742-3525

## NEW GROUPS

Do you enjoy going out to lunch? Join the **Out to Lunch Bunch** on the first Wednesday of the month at a local restaurant for great food, great conversation and a fun time with friends! Local favorites are on the list – Bidwell Tavern, Coventry Pizza, Meet me on Main, Olive Garden – and your suggestions are welcome! We'll meet at the Senior Center at 10:45am; we will use the van if possible, but will also need to car pool together due to the response so far. The cost for meal and tip is on your own. Please call the Senior Center for more information.

The **Knitting Group** meets Tuesdays at 9:30am. Bring your own knitting and/or crocheting, or learn how to knit and enjoy the company of others!

New players are always welcome to join our weekly **Card & Billiards games!** If you are new to Cribbage, Setback or Kaluki and would like to learn, on the spot instruction is available; there is no need to register - just show up ready to play (and ready to have some fun!)

We are looking at ways to add to our program here at the Senior Center and we need your input! Do you have other ideas or suggestions on how we can expand our program to meet your needs? Please call Sarah at 860-742-3525 and voice your opinions!

Do you have a special talent, hobby or forte you'd like to share? We are always looking for guest speakers and/or instructors to lead workshops here at the Senior Center! Topics could include, but are not limited to, art, music, local history, gardening, and on and on! A beautiful lake-front facility and a guaranteed fun-loving audience await you! Please call Sarah at 860-742-3525!

## Save the Date!!

The Senior Center is turning 5!! Join us May 22<sup>nd</sup> as we celebrate our Anniversary! Please call the Senior Center for more information.



The **Fitness Center** is up and running! We currently have a treadmill, an elliptical and an exercise bike for Seniors to use at their own pace and schedule while the Senior Center is open. Stop by to pick up a Fitness Center Packet, which has all the information you need to get started! Attendance at an Equipment Orientation Session is mandatory before using the Fitness Center. Please call the Center for upcoming dates or more information.

**CHOICES** refers to Connecticut's program for Health insurance assistance, Outreach, Information and referral, Counseling and Eligibility Screening. This program provides Seniors with assistance on health insurance enrollment, concerns and/or issues. Volunteer CHOICES counselors are now available by appointment at the Senior Center. Please call to make your appointment or for more information. If you are interested in becoming a CHOICES volunteer, please call Senior Resources at 1-800-690-6998.

## TOWN OF COVENTRY ADA NOTICE

The Town of Coventry does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services, or activities. The Town of Coventry does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices. This notice is provided by Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Questions, concerns, complaints, or requests for additional information regarding the ADA may be forwarded to the Town of Coventry's designated ADA Compliance Coordinator. John A. Elsesser, ADA Compliance Coordinator, 1712 Main Street, Coventry, CT 06238, 860-742-6324, Mon-Wed 8:30am-4:30pm, Thurs 8:30am-6:30pm, Fri 8:30am-1:30pm. Individuals who need auxiliary aids for effective communication in programs and services of the Town of Coventry are invited to make their needs and preferences known to the ADA Compliance Coordinator. Please give three to five days advance notice to request auxiliary aids or other services. This notice is available upon request in large print, on audiotape and in Braille from the ADA Compliance Coordinator.

### Town of Coventry

A Housing discrimination complaint may be filed with the Town of Coventry's Fair Housing Officer  
Eric Trott, 1712 Main Street  
Coventry, CT 06238



**WE DO BUSINESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
THE FEDERAL FAIR HOUSING LAW**  
(The Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988)

**It is illegal to Discriminate Against  
Any Person Because of Race, Color,  
Religion, Sex, Handicap, Familial  
Status, or National Origin**

- In the sale or rental of housing or residential lots
- In advertising the sale or rental of housing
- In the provision of real estate brokerage services
- In the financing of housing
- In the appraisal of housing
- Blockbusting is also illegal

**Anyone who feels he or she has been discriminated against may file a complaint of housing discrimination:**

**1-800-669-9777 (Toll Free)  
1-800-927-9275 (TTY)**

**U.S. Department of Housing and Urban  
Development  
Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing &  
Equal Opportunity  
Washington, D.C. 20410**

# COMMUNITY NEWS



## NEWS FROM THE BOOTH & DIMOCK MEMORIAL LIBRARY

For more information on any programs and services, please contact the Library at 860-742-7606 or visit our website at [www.CoventryPL.org](http://www.CoventryPL.org).

### THE ANNUAL USED BOOK SALE IS COMING

Wednesday, April 24  
from 3:00pm-8:00pm

*Member Preview or \$7.00 Admission*

Thursday, April 25  
from 10:00am-8:00pm

Friday, April 26  
from 1:00pm-6:00pm

Saturday, April 27  
from 10:00am-2:00pm

### EVENTS FOR TEENS

#### Comic Creation

Create your own comic book, work with others to create one fantastic comic book or just discuss the comics you love, Wednesday, May 1 at 3:00pm.

#### Top Chef

Just like the TV show, use ingredients we provide to make delicious snacks, Thursday, May 9 at 3:00pm.

#### Volcanoes!

Build a paper mache Volcano and let it dry over the weekend. Come back on Tuesday and we will watch them erupt, Friday, May 24 at 3:00pm AND Tuesday, May 28 at 3:00pm.



#### Gaming Club, Teen Advisory Board, Craft Club and Anime Club

Check our website <http://www.coventrypl.org/teen-services/events> for upcoming dates.

### FROM THE CHILDREN'S ROOM

**Babysgarten** for children ages birth to 35 months will be held on the following dates: May 7, 14 & 21 from 10:15 - 11:00am.

**Terrific Tuesdays** for children ages 3-5 will be held on the following dates: May 7, 14 & 21 from 11:30am to Noon.

**Lego Club** will meet on Wednesday, May 22 at 4:15pm.

**All Aboard Playgroup\***  
Saturday, May 18 from 10:30 - 11:45am

All are invited to join us for our monthly playgroup where children of all abilities can socialize and play with a variety of toys, games, sensory materials, puzzles, crafts and more. Siblings are welcome. Playgroup is open to residents of other towns. We encourage registration (to help us better serve your child's needs). Call 742-7606 for more information.

*\*Funded by The Institute of Museum and Library Services, the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas.*

### BOOK CLUBS

Ask us about our Book Discussion groups for Adults. They meet monthly at the Library.

### CHECK OUT YOUR POWER CONSUMPTION - AVAILABLE AT THE LIBRARY!

Kill A Watt™ EZ units are now available for check-out. This is an easy-to-use consumer power meter allowing the user to accurately measure power consumption of household appliances and to determine the actual cost of power consumed. The unit will also project, in real time, the cost of continued use of the appliance in time periods of Hour, Day, Week, Month, and Year. Once you see the results you'll be ready to save some money by unplugging devices that drain electricity when not powered on.

### WELCOME TO COVENTRY!

We are pleased to announce our newest businesses in Town:

**Art Star Tattoo Company** - 1276 Main Street. (860) 428-7597. Call for hours. Website: [www.artstartattoo.com](http://www.artstartattoo.com).

The new restaurant at the site of the former Daisy's Creamery (next to Coventry Corners Plaza) is undergoing renovations to add indoor seating and anticipates a late spring opening. They will be serving breakfast, lunch and dinner.



### AN OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS IN COVENTRY VILLAGE

Terrific weather graced the annual Old Fashioned Christmas in Coventry Village on December 2, 2012, bringing record crowds strolling up and down Main Street! We have heard many positive comments and reports by those who attended! Many thanks to those who donated Christmas trees for the Lions Tree Auction.

We welcome your comments and ideas. We are looking for more people to be involved in 2013. If you are interested in being part of the organizing group, please contact one of us. We plan to have an informal meeting in the spring. We look forward to hearing from you!

Cindy Houser (860-617-3588), [cjhouser@sbcb.global](mailto:cjhouser@sbcb.global); Leanne Royer (860-983-8815), [leanne13@msn.com](mailto:leanne13@msn.com); Ruth O'Neil (860-742-6878), [info@songadaymusic.com](mailto:info@songadaymusic.com).

**Ooops!** Our last issue inadvertently omitted one of the 300th Anniversary Committee members' names from their article to the community. Our apologies and sincere thanks to **Beverly Rice** for all of her efforts in planning Coventry's 300th anniversary events.



## COVENTRY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairman; Mary Kortmann, Vice-Chairman; Mary Minor, Secretary;  
Todd Cancelliere, Eugene Marchand, William Oros, Denise Ryan



**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS:** The Board of Education generally meets on the second and last Thursday of each month. Regular Board meetings for 2013 are: April 25, May 9 & 30, June 13 & 27, July 11 & 25, August 8 & 29, September 12 & 26, October 10 & 24, November 14, and December 12. Unless noted on the agenda, all meetings are held in the Town Hall Annex building at 7:30 p.m.



### FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN UPDATE

Approximately 125 children celebrated a very big milestone last fall – their first day of full-day kindergarten at Coventry Grammar School! In 1986, Robert Fulgham's bestselling book *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten* touched a chord with its simple messages: Share everything. Play fair. Put things back where you found them. Clean up your own mess. Those lessons sound quaint today as 45 states move toward implementing Common Core

Standards that shift the focus for kindergartners to mastering a new list of skills such as solving addition and subtraction word problems, analyzing and comparing two- and three-dimensional shapes, reading for information and participating in shared research and writing projects. After study and review of the current research and the expectations that are part of newly aligned kindergarten curriculum, the Coventry Board of Education made the decision to support the full-day kindergarten initiative for the 2012-2013 school year.

The full-day kindergarten classes at the Coventry Grammar School provide the essential bridge from preschool to first grade. The six kindergarten classrooms are focusing on building the strong foundation in core skills that are giving their students the academic confidence that will lead them to their future school success. The teachers have created classrooms of purposeful hands-on learning through a schedule that was developed in anticipation of having additional time in the kindergarten day. From the introduction of math concepts to a language arts program rich in phonics, reading strategies and writing skills, the kindergarten program is dedicated to developing confident, poised learners. Our students are benefitting from individualized, teacher attention and an extended schedule that allows them ample time to reinforce new skills.

To fully broaden the opportunities for learning, the kindergarten students have participated in educational field trips, school assemblies and have had the opportunity to participate in the related arts and the computer lab on a weekly basis. Working collaboratively as well as independently, they are sharing and learning from each other.

Research has shown that full-day kindergarten plays a vital role in a child's educational development. With the spring season upon us, we are witnessing the boost in cognitive learning, creative problem solving and social competence through the daily actions of our happy and engaged kindergarten students. We are grateful for the support of the community as we join school systems throughout the state in the development of a kindergarten program that prepares students for learning in the 21st century.

**GRADUATION:** Barring any unforeseen circumstances, the 2013 Coventry High School graduation ceremony will take place on Saturday, June 22 at 10:00 a.m. Weather permitting, the ceremony will be held outside at Coventry High School. In case of inclement weather, graduation will be held in the Veterans Auditorium with closed circuit coverage in the Lecture Hall at the high school.

### OPEN DOOR MEETINGS

Interested in learning more about our schools? Come meet with Superintendent of Schools, David J. Petrone. One of his initiatives is to meet with as many parents and members of our Coventry community as possible. Open communication is a key component for true collaboration. Keep informed about education in our town by attending any of his Open Door meetings this school year. All of these informal gatherings will be held in the Administration Building conference room at 1700 Main Street. Next meeting: Thursday, May 2 at 4:00 p.m.



### 2013-14 SCHOOL CALENDAR APPROVED

The Board of Education approved the 2013-14 Coventry Public Schools calendar at the February 14 Board meeting. The calendar can be found on our website at [www.coventrypublicschools.org](http://www.coventrypublicschools.org). The start date for students is Wednesday, August 28, 2013. The "new" early release schedule will continue into the next school year. This schedule includes ALL early release days: Students in grades K-5 will be in school from 8:30 – 11:40 a.m. and students in grades 6-12 will be in school from 7:40 – 11:00 a.m.

### NCLB REPORTS

When the district receives this year's report, it will be made accessible for public viewing. Copies will be available at the schools, the Booth & Dimock Library, and the school administration building. You will find a link to the information on our website [www.coventrypublicschools.org](http://www.coventrypublicschools.org).



## VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES:

Coventry schools want you! Come and be a part of our school community! Whatever your interest, if you would like to volunteer in the schools, please contact one of the four principals.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

Flexible hours/days with a wide variety of experiences.

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

Call the Business Office at 742-7317 x3.

### Cafeteria Substitutes:

Call Beth Pratt at 742-4535.

### Bus Drivers/Substitutes:

Call Stephenie Greenleaf at M & J Bus Company at 742-0344.

## WORKING PAPERS

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

## BOTTLE AND CAN DRIVE

Bring your empty bottles and cans to be recycled!

Coventry Fire Station across from Captain Nathan Hale Middle School

Saturday April 27th 2013  
8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

*Proceeds benefit Project Graduation for the all-night, alcohol and drug-free party for graduating seniors*

## SCHOOL READINESS

Coventry has been a recipient of the State Department of Education School Readiness Grant since 2005. The School Readiness Grant allows children, ages 3 and 4, from families below State Median Income to have a high quality preschool experience.

Coventry is currently reapplying for the School Readiness Grant for the fiscal year 2014. Currently, all of the School Readiness spaces are located at the Coventry Early Childhood Center.

For more information about the School Readiness Grant opportunities for families and early childhood providers, please contact CECC at 860.742.5859.

## STEPS UPDATE

STEPS is Coventry's Early Childhood Collaborative that works to ensure that All Coventry Children, Birth to Age 8 are Nurtured, Healthy & Engaged and Successful Learners. STEPS is generously funded by the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund and the State Department of Education.

In November of 2012, STEPS published a comprehensive Community Plan for children birth to age 8, which addresses three domains: Nurtured, Healthy and Education. The full Plan is available on our website [www.coventrysteps.com](http://www.coventrysteps.com). The Plan outlines trends in the data related to those three areas as well as strategies aimed at addressing areas of concern.

There is a lot of data and information in the Plan that led each committee to develop certain strategies. Below is a brief overview of the proposed Nurturing strategies that the committee is currently working on.

### Nurturing strategies include:

1. The development of a comprehensive team to support families in need (this could include the Schools, the Police, Human Services, DCF, clergy, etc.).
2. The development of a Family Resource Center, which would not only benefit families in crisis, but all families with young children in the community. We have heard time and time again that families with young children do not have an adequate support network. This is a great way to build community, connect families with each other, and provide valuable information and resources to all families.

The other areas of focus (Health and Education) will be featured in future Newsletters! If you are interested in learning more about STEPS or would like to join our efforts, please contact Kathryn Hassler at [coventrysteps@yahoo.com](mailto:coventrysteps@yahoo.com) or at 860.377.5203.

## DID YOU KNOW...

...That any Connecticut resident can sign their child (4 months to age 5) up for the Ages and Stages Monitoring Program? This is a free program offered by the State of Connecticut Child Development Infoline and it is a great opportunity for you to learn more about your child's development. Should you decide to enroll, the Child Development Infoline will send you a questionnaire at specific intervals- 4 months, 6 months, 9 months, 12 months, 15 months, etc... You work with your child to complete the questionnaire on areas including health, behavior, development and learning and then return the results. The Child Development Infoline scores it and if there are any areas of concern they will contact you to discuss the results and their concerns. The more you know about your child's development, the better prepared you will be for your child's future! If you would like more information, you can contact The Child Development Infoline at 1.800.505.7000.

**TOWN COUNCIL  
TOWN OF COVENTRY  
1712 MAIN STREET  
COVENTRY, CT 06238**

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

**PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
STORRS, CT  
PERMIT NO. 106**

**LEGAL NOTICE-TOWN OF COVENTRY  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING & NOTICE OF ADJOURNED TOWN MEETING  
APRIL 27, 2013**

The legal voters of the Town of Coventry and those property owners qualified to vote in Town Meetings pursuant to Section 7-6 of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut are hereby notified and warned that the Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Coventry will be held Saturday, April 27, 2013 at 10:00 A.M. in Veterans Auditorium, Coventry High School, Ripley Hill Rd., Coventry, CT to discuss and take action on the following items:

Item #1: To hear the Town Council's estimate of expenditures for the fiscal year July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014.

Item #2: To consider and take action on the Town Council's recommendation for the 2013-2014 fiscal year appropriation, pursuant to Section 9-1 of the Town Charter, the final vote shall be adjourned by the Moderator to May 7, 2013.

**Town of Coventry  
Council Recommended Budget for FY 13-14**

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>2012 Actual</b>	<b>2013 Adopted Budget</b>	<b>2013 Actual YTD</b>	<b>2013 Est. Actual</b>	<b>2014 Agency Request</b>	<b>2014 Town Manager</b>	<b>2014 Council</b>
<b>GENERAL</b>							
ADMINISTRATION	1,475,886	1,438,457	886,962	1,439,067	1,446,759	1,431,599	1,431,599
PUBLIC SAFETY	2,021,665	2,159,038	1,357,615	2,162,148	2,325,323	2,236,851	2,240,101
PUBLIC WORKS	1,871,054	2,051,428	1,293,966	2,047,288	2,124,469	2,109,293	2,109,293
HUMAN SERVICES	218,944	239,022	149,063	239,022	244,170	243,670	243,670
CIVIC & CULTURAL	467,729	480,468	271,110	480,468	506,320	499,628	503,128
SUNDRY	2,274,523	2,337,874	1,879,796	2,407,874	2,508,346	2,501,438	2,501,438
<b>General Government Total</b>	<b>8,329,801</b>	<b>8,706,287</b>	<b>5,838,512</b>	<b>8,775,867</b>	<b>9,155,387</b>	<b>9,022,479</b>	<b>9,029,229</b>
<b>Debt Service</b>	<b>2,644,228</b>	<b>2,803,386</b>	<b>2,803,386</b>	<b>2,251,616</b>	<b>2,803,386</b>	<b>2,691,226</b>	<b>2,687,519</b>
<b>Board of Education</b>	<b>24,950,798</b>	<b>24,965,931</b>	<b>11,330,455</b>	<b>24,965,931</b>	<b>26,124,425</b>	<b>26,124,425</b>	<b>26,049,425</b>
<b>Capital</b>	<b>492,830</b>	<b>763,325</b>	<b>763,325</b>	<b>662,682</b>	<b>791,400</b>	<b>791,040</b>	<b>696,040</b>
<b>Expenditures Total</b>	<b>36,417,657</b>	<b>37,238,929</b>	<b>20,735,678</b>	<b>36,656,096</b>	<b>38,874,598</b>	<b>38,629,170</b>	<b>38,462,213</b>
<b>REVENUES</b>							
Property Tax	26,531,309	26,837,249	26,091,826	26,837,249	28,290,639	28,290,639	28,123,682
Intergovernmental	10,035,828	9,997,042	5,008,596	9,997,042	9,925,693	9,925,693	9,925,693
Local	545,657	404,638	332,902	404,638	412,838	412,838	412,838
<b>Revenues Total</b>	<b>37,112,794</b>	<b>37,238,929</b>	<b>31,433,324</b>	<b>37,238,929</b>	<b>38,629,170</b>	<b>38,629,170</b>	<b>38,462,213</b>

If revenues remain unchanged and a collection rate of 97.85 is used; a proposed mil rate of 27.97 will be required.

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

Item #4: To take action on the Town Council's recommendation on the FY 2014 Capital Improvement Plan and to authorize the Town Manager to make application pursuant to Title 7, Chapter 16b of the Connecticut General Statutes for funding for eligible projects under the Local Capital Improvement Program (LCIP).

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

The Adjourned Town Meeting vote will be May 7, 2013 from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The polling places will be:

**District 1** - Coventry Volunteer Fire Station, 1755 Main Street

**District 2** - North Coventry Volunteer Fire Station, 3427 Main Street

**\* PARK IN DESIGNATED AREAS AND DO NOT BLOCK BAY DOORS \***