



TOWN NEWS

COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT

— Jeff Shorts

Happy New Year Coventry! The Council wishes you a safe and healthy 2015. I hope everyone had a healthy, happy holiday season.

The past quarter was busy for the town. First I would like to thank everyone that came out to vote for the Bonding for Open Space. The referendum failed by just one vote on the recount. This just shows that every vote is very important. Please look for more information to come about after a consortium meeting on Thursday January 29th about Open Space in Coventry. Second, the Town held its' first Chili Fest which was a great success in a start for raising funds for the Laidlaw Park Playscape. Also, a special thanks to all those that helped adopt a family for the holidays and for those that made donations to the Clergy Fuel Fund which aids those that need emergency heating assistance.

We welcome any input from citizens and encourage you to provide your thoughts and ideas during the Audience of Citizens portion of any Town Council meeting or by contacting me by email at jshorts@coventryct.org. Also, if you have any interest in serving on a board or commission please let me know, as we are always looking for individuals to volunteer.

2015 TOWN HALL HOLIDAYS:

Martin Luther King Day	Jan. 19
Presidents Day	Feb. 16
Good Friday	April 3
Memorial Day	May 25



NEW!
Safe Disposal
for
Prescription
Medications

The Coventry Police Department announces the placement of a permanent prescription Drug Drop Box.

The Drop Box will allow residents to dispose of potentially dangerous, expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs in a safe and environmentally responsible way. The Police Department was able to secure the box through a grant from CVS Pharmacy. The Coventry Police Department would like to thank CVS for their participation in what we view as a vital public safety and public health function to our community.

The Drop Box is located in the front lobby at the Coventry Police Department. It is accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The service is free and anonymous.

*The following will **not be accepted** in the Drug Drop Box:*

1. *Opened containers of liquid will not be accepted unless they are completely sealed.*
2. *Syringes shall not be placed into the drop box.*
3. *No medications or other waste shall be permitted to be left outside of the drop box.*

*The following **are accepted** in the Drug Drop Box:*

1. *Prescriptions*
2. *Prescription Patches*
3. *Over-the-counter medications*
4. *Vitamins*
5. *Sample medications*
6. *Pet medications*
7. *Properly sealed liquid, lotion and/ or ointment medication*

TOWN MANAGER'S MEMO

— John A. Elsesser,
Town Manager

It is a new year and time for new approaches and ideas. I am asking for a few minutes of your time to become engaged with your town. Don't just sit back and observe your town, become engaged and participate. We know your time is valuable but taking a few moments now can help save you time later.

There are many levels of engagement. You can be an informed citizen and know your town using the Town website's "Notify Me" feature at www.coventryct.org. In several minutes you can sign up for monthly e-blasts about upcoming events and important notices. You can choose to receive agendas and minutes of committees of interest when they are posted or receive job openings, bids or legal notices. You can sign up for news flashes, weather alerts or road closing reports or get reminders of bulk waste pick-ups or trash schedule changes.

You can use the "Report a Concern" feature to report a pot hole, missing sign, or other concern and track the status of your issue.

- Continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS EDITION:

Projects Update	2
COVRA News	7
Coming Events	10
Human Services	11
Senior Center	12
Community News	13
Library	13
School News	14

TOWN MANAGER, *Cont. from pg. 1*

The next level of engagement is to participate in “Community Voice” to discuss community issues and share your thoughts in a structured and safe forum. Topics trending right now are community gardens, co-working space for small businesses, and your vision for economic development.

The more traditional forms of civic engagement are also still available. There is an audience of citizens at the start of each Town Council meeting where people can express their views. A Budget Hearing is scheduled for March 12th at 7 PM in the CHS Lecture Hall on the Manager’s proposed budget, and the Annual Town Meeting is April 25th at 10 AM at CHS Veterans’ Auditorium.

You are also invited to serve on a Board or Commission. We need resident electors to fill out several committees which help shape our community. See the website under Your Government > Boards & Commissions for more information.

It’s your town and we invite you to participate fully and help shape our future.

NEW THIS YEAR!

Our work plan for the new year includes new services for you. Please watch for them over the next several months. They will be announced in the monthly e-blast.

Available in January:

- An Apple E-Book on the history of Coventry written by Bill Jobbagy and converted to an E-Book by a Middle School Challenge Enrichment Class to include pictures and video. Go to the books and search for the history of Coventry, Connecticut and download.
- Textile recycling containers are available at the Transfer Station (sized for larger items) and a box at the Public Works garage on Olsen Farm Road. (See page 7). We also have added fluorescent bulbs and batteries. These items are recyclable free of charge.
- Our GIS (Geographic Information System) is changing with our merger with the Capital Region Council of Governments. The new site is live at www.coventryct.org or www.crcog.org.

Coming soon:

- Watch for a Town Trails app in early spring for your Apple and Android devices.
- We are planning a new Transparency project for spring called OPEN GOV. Our finances will be posted online with do-it-yourself charts and graphs. For a preview of similar sites see www.opengov.com.
- We are planning to become more active on Facebook and the Office of the Town Manager will join Coventry Recreation and Coventry Human Services as alternative means of staying in tune with your Town. Watch for contests to test your local knowledge.
- The State has authorized the Town to use the Public Safety Data Network free of charge to connect with South Windsor to share their GIS Dashboard to see active work zones and service requests.
- The planning has started for online video streaming of Town Council meetings through a CRCOG grant.

COMINGS & GOINGS AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

There were many staff changes over the past several months. Farewell and happy retirement to **Susan Cyr**, Town Clerk, and **Gale Hoyt**, DPW Truck Driver, who departed after 19 and 32 years of service respectively. Also leaving Town employment was Public Works Director **David Gofstein** - we wish you well. Congratulations to **Lori Tollmann**, who was promoted to Town Clerk, **Brooke Manning**, Assistant Town Clerk, who became full time, and **Dan Smith**, who was promoted to become our new Public Works Sanitation Maintainer. Welcome to **Carrie Concatelli**, Senior Center Coordinator; **Mark Kiefer**, Director of Public Works; **Charles Grossman**, Public Works Maintainer and **Troy Stout**, Public Works Maintainer. Congratulations to **Michael Hicks**, who was promoted to the rank of Sergeant with the Coventry Police Department.

On November 14, 2014, Sergeant **Michael McDonagh**, along with others throughout the state, was recognized at a breakfast event held by the CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence for his contributions in helping to ensure the safety of victims of domestic violence and ensuring that they receive the necessary services. Sergeant McDonagh was instrumental in implementing the Lethality Assessment Program screening being used by members of the Coventry Police Department. Congratulations to Sergeant McDonagh.



Above: Michael Hicks is sworn in as Sergeant at a promotion ceremony at the Coventry Police Department in November. Doing the honors is Lori Tollmann, newly promoted to the position of Town Clerk. Best wishes to both of you in your new roles.

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE



December 1st was Susan Cyr's last day here in the Town Clerk's Office. We wish her the best in her retirement!

DOG LICENSES

Don't let your doggie get caught without one! Any dog 6 months of age and over needs to have a current rabies certificate and be licensed in the town you live in.

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

SPORTS LICENSES - 2015

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

The DEEP also has the latest Connecticut Wildlife magazine full of stories and color pictures online at <http://www.depdata.ct.gov/wildlife/flip/CWmagazine/CWmagazine.html>.

SMALL BILLS PLEASE!

We appreciate bills **no larger** than a \$20. We do not keep large quantities of cash to make change! Thank you.

SHARE YOUR TALENTS: Serve on a Board or Commission. At press time, the following Boards/Commissions had vacancies:

Municipal Historian	Cemetery Committee
Coventryvision Committee	Conservation Commission
HUD Housing Rehab/Fair Housing Committee	Building Code Board or Appeals
Human Rights Commission	Veteran's Memorial Committee
Library Expansion Building Committee Alt.	Cable TV Advisory Committee
Parks & Recreation Committee Full & Alt.	Personnel Appeals Board
Planning & Zoning Committee Alt.	
Energy Cons/Alternative Energy Advisory Committee Full & Alt.	
School Energy & Building Efficiency Building Committee Full & Alt.	
Ad-Hoc Coventry Conservation Corp Committee Full & Alt.	
Ad-Hoc Coventry Lake Advisory & Monitoring Committee	

You can always get an up to date list of vacancies our website www.coventryct.org > Your Government > Boards & Commissions.

Submit your name to any of the following:

Michael Griswold, Town Council Steering Committee (860-742-5784), or Karen Post, Republican Town Committee (860-742-8589), Dorothy M. Grady Democratic Town Committee, (860-742-0449) or Lori Tollmann, Town Clerk (860-742-7966).

"Statement of Interest to Serve on a Board or Commission" forms are also available on our website at www.coventryct.org. From the Home Page, click on Your Government on the green heading then, click on Boards & Commissions, there you will be able to fill out your form online or download the form and mail to Town Clerk, 1712 Main St., Coventry, CT 06238. Also, there you will be able to read descriptions of the Boards and Commissions, and view the current vacancy list.



PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOTING

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

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

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

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

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

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

The 2nd installment for real estate taxes are due January 1, 2015. The last day to pay without interest is February 2, 2015. Real Estate tax bills are not mailed out for this installment; please use the second payment portion of the 3-part bill that you received in July.

Supplemental Motor Vehicle bills for a vehicle purchased, registered or plates transferred after October 1, 2013 and before August 1, 2014 were mailed in mid December and are due January 1, 2015. The last day to pay without interest is February 2, 2015.

If payment is received after February 2, 2015, the Real Estate and Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax bill becomes delinquent and is immediately subject to 3% interest. From then on, the accrued interest will be added at the rate of 1.5% per month from the due date.

On-line credit card payments for tax, sewer and trash bills are processed by Official Payments Corporation. When paying by credit card, you will need your bill number, tax and updated interest amount and Coventry's jurisdiction code (1721). From the Collector's page on the Town's website, there is a quick link to Find Your Bill or you may call the tax office for these details including the toll free number and web address for Official Payments Corp. A link to Official Payments Corp. web site can be found on the Town's web page:

Taxpayers 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. If you cannot find your bill, check the quick link to Find Your Bill from the Collector's page on the website. You may need to contact this office to obtain or verify this information. From the Tax Collector's page on the Town's website, choose payments from bank 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 taxes must pay all motor vehicle taxes by cash or money order for an immediate DMV clearance. Payments by personal check will result in a delay of ten (10) business days for the DMV clearance.

CALENDAR OF PAYMENTS:

JANUARY-Real Estate 2nd installment, Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax only if applicable.
MAY-Sewer Assessment fee-1st installment.
JULY- Real Estate 1st installment, and Regular Motor Vehicle, Personal Property and COVRRRA- annual (single) installment.
SEPTEMBER- Sewer User fee- annual (single) installment.
NOVEMBER- Sewer Assessment fee-2nd installment.

**FROM THE
ASSESSOR'S OFFICE**

WHO'S AT THE DOOR?

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

www.visionappraisal.com – Property Record Cards for Real Estate

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

www.wincog-gis.org – Geographical Information System (Maps)

The Elderly and Disabled homeowner program begins February 1, 2015, and applications are being accepted until May 15, 2015. Our office will be sending reminder letters by the end of January 2015 to those people who have to re-file this year. Remember that this program is income driven from the state and income guidelines are set by the state for both single and married individuals. Please call if your income is less than \$42,200 if married, or less than \$34,600 if single, both must include Social Security benefits and your adjusted gross income from your 2014 Federal Income tax return.

Veterans must file their DD214 with the Town Clerk prior to **October 1st** to be eligible for exemption. If you have already filed, you do not need to re-file. You will receive your exemption automatically. For additional veteran's benefits, please call if your income is less than \$42,200 if married, or less than \$34,600 if single, both must include Social Security benefits and your adjusted gross income from your 2014 Federal Income tax return. You will be asked to provide proof of all the income documentation regarding both of the above mentioned applications. Additional Veteran's applications are taken bi-annually along with the homeowners program.

The Board of Assessment Appeals will be meeting in March of 2015. Appeal **applications must be filed no later than February 20, 2015**. The board is required to hear all appeals concerning Motor Vehicle, Personal Property or Real Estate. Applications are available in the Assessor's Office or online at www.coventryct.org.



RIGHT OF WAY Enhancements to your property along the roadside must be placed far enough back from the road to insure that they will not become a sight-line obstruction for your driveway, your neighbor's, an intersection or traffic control device. Please remember the

Town does have a Right-of-Way extending from 5 to 25 feet beyond the road edge on all Town Roads. Trees should not be planted within this zone. This area must also be kept clear of fixed obstructions such as fences or stone walls. Please call Public Works at 860-742-6588 to obtain this setback measurement for your particular road before doing landscaping or major plantings in this area.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

The Coventry Building Dept. would like to remind residents to have their heating systems checked and cleaned to eliminate potential problems during the winter months. Chimneys should be cleaned and inspected to allow for proper draft and to vent by-products of combustion to the open atmosphere. Every winter season, local fire departments are kept busy responding to chimney fires and carbon monoxide alarms mostly caused by improper maintenance of heating equipment. The bigger issue with chimneys, of course, is the risk of carbon monoxide accumulation. Install a carbon monoxide detector outside of sleeping areas, as well as smoke detectors in all bedrooms, and keep plenty of spare batteries on hand for both. Supplemental heaters, woodstoves, propane appliances and pellet stoves should be checked prior to use for proper venting and make-up air. Never use unvented gas logs or free-standing unvented heaters longer than suggested in their instruction's manual. Also, if your home has a furnace, make sure that you replace the furnace filter monthly.

Heavy wet snow and ice storms can cause power outages at anytime. Portable generators should be used with caution and all manufacturer specifications and installation instructions must be followed. Stand-by or back-up power systems must be isolated from the buildings electrical service. During power outages, extreme caution must be taken when using candles and lanterns indoors. Never leave a candle burning unattended. Being prepared for storm-related problems that can occur at anytime is the best policy the code enforcement division can relay to the public.

Are you looking for ways to reduce your energy costs? A home energy audit may be a way to reduce costs and increase the efficiency of your home. The Home Energy Solutions (HES) program is an innovative solution to reducing your home's energy bill supported by the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund and administered by CL&P. For more information, call 1-877-WISE-USE (1-877-947-3873). As with any home improvement, it's an up-front investment that will more than pay itself off later in terms of lower energy bills.

FROM THE FIRE MARSHAL Noel Waite, 860-742-4064

Heating hazards: In 2011, heating equipment was involved in an estimated 53,600 reported U.S. home structure fires, with associated losses of 400 civilian deaths, 1,520 civilian injuries, and \$893 million in direct property damage. These fires accounted for 14% of all reported home fires.

Facts & figures (Based on 2007-2011 annual averages:)

- Space heaters, whether portable or stationary, accounted for one-third (33%) of home heating fires and four out of five (81%) of home heating fire deaths.
- The leading factor contributing to home heating fires (28%) was failure to clean, principally creosote from solid-fueled heating equipment, primarily chimneys.
- Placing things that can burn too close to heating equipment or placing heating equipment too close to things that can burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattress, or bedding, was the leading factor contributing to ignition in fatal home heating fires and accounted for more than half (53%) of home heating fire deaths.
- Half of all home heating fires occurred in December, January and February.

Many fire departments are experiencing serious fires, injuries, and deaths as the result of compulsive hoarding behavior. The excessive accumulation of materials in homes poses a significant threat to firefighters fighting fires and responding to other emergencies in these homes and to residents and neighbors. Often, the local fire department will be contacted to help deal with this serious issue. Since studies suggest that between three and five percent of the population are compulsive hoarders, fire departments must become familiar with this issue and how to effectively handle it.

Why is hoarding an issue for the fire service?

Hoarding can be a fire hazard. Many occupants die in fires in these homes. Often, blocked exits prevent escape from the home. In addition, many people who are hoarding are injured when they trip over things or when materials fall on them.

Responding firefighters can be put at risk due to obstructed exits, falling objects, and excessive fire loading that can lead to collapse. Hoarding makes fighting fires and searching for occupants far more difficult.

Those living adjacent to an occupied structure can be quickly affected when a fire occurs, due to excessive smoke and fire conditions.

(Information cited from NFPA.org)

NO SNOWMOBILING HERE!! Snowmobiles are not to be operated on Town and School properties. The runners on the sleds cause damage to the turf and it is not fair for a few to increase the maintenance costs for everyone. Please do not ski, snowmobile or use All Terrain Vehicles on snow covered roads. You may collide with a plow truck. Please! Never let children play in the snow banks next to the roadway. Plow operators may not be aware of them, especially if the children are digging into the snow banks.



EVENT SIGNAGE PERMITS NEEDED: You must have a permit from the Land Use Office (860) 742-4062 to place an event sign on the Town Green on Route 31 at Route 44 (First Niagara Bank). They will not permit any commercial signs. Absolutely no signs can be placed on the Town Green on Stage Road at Route 44 (across from Highland Park Market) or the Town Green on Lake Street (across from Patriots Park).

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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

Director/Tree Warden:	Mark Kiefer	mkiefer@coventryct.org
Supt. of Operations:	Doug Reese	dreese@coventryct.org
Administrative Secretary/COVRRRA:	Donna Wrubel	dwrubel@coventryct.org
Subdivisions & Projects Engineer:	Todd Penney*	tpenney@coventryct.org
WPCA Technician:	Mike Ruef	mruef@coventryct.org

*Office located at Town Hall

SNOW REMOVAL

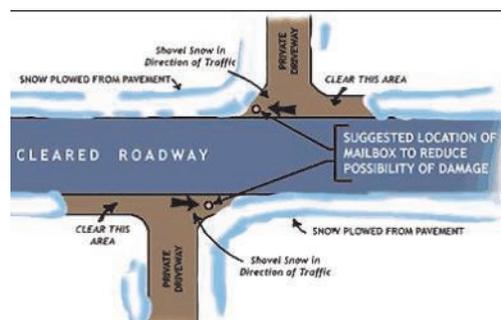
The Public Works Department at the Town of Coventry generally attempts to treat the surface of town roads just before or during the first one half inch of snow falls. In keeping with state of the art anti-icing protocols, treated salt is generally all that is utilized. Treating of roadways is adjusted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

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

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

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

Driveways should be cleared of snow without throwing, plowing or pushing the snow onto the roadway. This creates a hazardous situation which may result in a ticket per Town Ordinance Section 86-07. The most helpful way to clear your driveway and help to protect your mail box is illustrated in the diagram to the right:



WINTER TIPS

Please take care to place your Tipper Carts in the driveway end. They need to be close to the road for the trash collection vehicle to grab them, and behind the curb line for protection from snow removal equipment. It is illegal to place them in the travel portion of the roadway.

Parking on town roads and town owned parking lots is prohibited between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. from November 1 through March 31. The Public Works Department may also issue no parking bans that will not allow any parking on the roads and lots throughout the town. Please listen to local radio and watch area television stations for information about snow parking bans.

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

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

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

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

The Town of Coventry does not supply sand or salt for public use.

TRANSFER STATION: 325 Main Street

December through March every Thursday 10-4 / All Saturdays 9-3 / Closed holidays

Disposal rate: \$10 first 250 lbs. and \$0.30 for each additional 5 lbs.

Proof of residence is required

Materials acceptable:

- ◆ Construction and demolition debris (rates apply). No cardboard, metal or garbage.
- ◆ Land clearing debris; stumps & brush (rates apply)
- ◆ Appliances with CFC's (Freon) \$10 each, no weigh-in necessary
- ◆ Tires - on or off rim \$5 each

FREE OF CHARGE:

- ◆ Electronics
- ◆ Scrap metal (**metal tanks must be cut open and crushed**)
- ◆ Gas grill propane tanks for recycling
- ◆ Leaves for composting
- ◆ Corrugated cardboard in the specially marked dumpster
- ◆ Fluorescent bulbs, batteries
- ◆ Textiles

Materials NOT acceptable:

- ◆ Garbage
- ◆ Recycling items
- ◆ Furniture
- ◆ Hazardous waste (oil, antifreeze)

Look on our website for links regarding curbside pick-up schedules and "A/B" street listings for recycling.

NEW! TEXTILE RECYCLING

The Town has signed a contract, through CCSWA / CRCOG, with Bay State Textile for Textile Recycling. Why recycle textiles? According to the EPA, textile recycling has a major impact on reducing greenhouse gasses. And yet ... clothing is not typically considered a recyclable. While 2 million tons are recycled each year, there is a long, long way to go! Nearly 100% of donated textiles are recycled! They are separated into three grades:

45% usable clothing – this is often sold in local thrift stores, raising money for charities and providing bargain clothing for us and for our neighbors. (You can dress yourself pretty well shopping at Salvation Army Family Stores.)

30% wiping cloth grade – these thrift store rejects are baled and sent to rag graders to be sorted based on condition, color, quality and material type. Absorbent rags are cut and sold to commercial operations (machine shops, car washes, marinas, etc.) as wiping cloths.

20% fiber conversion grade – these materials can't be used and are shredded and reprocessed into fibers for furniture stuffing, insulation, soundproofing and carpet padding. Even zippers and buttons are captured and recycled. Shredded polyester is granulated and spun into new fabric.

Acceptable items for recycling through this program are footwear, clothing, accessories, linens and stuffed animals and throw rugs (not wall-to-wall). For instance, a stained t-shirt or torn bath towel becomes a wiping cloth, a lone sock becomes pillow stuffing, worn out denim jeans are used to produce household insulation, a teddy bear is used for car seat stuffing and so on. Everything will be accepted from gently used to ripped or with broken zippers. It is important, however, that they be clean and dry.

Recycling these materials should, conceivably, reduce our tonnage disposal fees. A trailer size collection box is available at the town's transfer station and a typical size clothing drop box available at the Public Works Department on Olsen Farm Road.

SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL AND RECYCLING INFORMATION

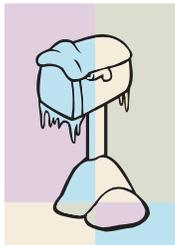
It is important you keep 3 feet of space between the carts and away from any poles, wires, tree limbs or mailboxes, etc. The room is needed so the truck is able to pick the carts up without any delay or damage to obstacles. Please take care to place your Tipper Carts in the driveway end. They need to be close to the road for the trash collection vehicle to grab them and behind the curb line for protection from snow removal equipment. It is illegal to place them in the travel portion of the roadway.

Trash not picked up? If materials are not picked up from the curbside, residents are asked to please call All American Waste first at (860) 289-7850 and give them a chance to correct the problem or provide information on why the item was left.

Curbside pick up for bulk objects is conducted on the 2nd Monday of every month. Residents may put up to 3 bulk items each month. (Bulk items are described as nonmetal and very large. Examples: mattress, bureau, couch). Want a reminder? Sign up on the Notify Me section of the Town website at www.coventryct.org. There is no curbside pick up for scrap metal, electronics, appliances or antifreeze. All this type of material is acceptable at the Transfer Station except for antifreeze which should be brought to Public Works at 100 Olsen Farm Road. Call ahead (860) 742-6588.

Detailed information is available at the Public Works Department at 100 Olsen Farm Road. Please contact the Public Works Department at (860) 742-6588 between the hours of 7a.m. and 3p.m., Monday through Friday. Or email at dwrubel@coventryct.org.

NEWS!! Now included for recycling at no cost at the town's residential transfer station, 325 main street, are Universal waste lamps (fluorescent bulbs) and **batteries of any type!!**. These can now be included with Electronics such as computers, monitors, televisions and printers. Also stereo equipment, peripherals, VCR & DVD players, video game machines, copiers, small appliances and other electronic devices.



MAILBOX INFORMATION:

Each winter, mailboxes may be damaged during winter maintenance operations. The Town of Coventry uses high discharge snow plows to effectively remove snow from the traveled portion of the road. High discharge plows throw the snow higher and further back, to clear the areas of town that have stone walls or high embankments right next to the roadway. They also make room for additional snow that may fall. Very seldom does a snow plow physically strike a mailbox and damage it. The weight of the snow, coming off of the end of the plow is more often the culprit. You can take steps to minimize this damage!

Put a physical barrier up before your mailbox such as a burlap bag strung between two posts, a deflector made of wood or similar materials. Place a deflector just before the mailbox to knock the snow down before it hits the mailbox. More often than not, damage to mailboxes is caused by snow pushing against weakened posts or hardware. If you can move your mailbox with your hand, it probably needs maintenance. Take the time to make any repairs needed so your mailbox will be strong enough to survive the winter. Proper maintenance may help to prevent damage that results in delayed mail delivery, or worse, having to make alternate delivery arrangements.

Flying snow makes it look like snow plow trucks are traveling much faster than they are, but the average speed of travel is less than 20 m.p.h. Even at this speed, the force of the snow being pushed off the road can damage mailboxes and other roadside items.

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

NOTE FROM THE TREE WARDEN: Please contact the Tree Warden, Mark Kiefer, if you have any questions pertaining to anything related to trees owned by the Town of Coventry. Please remember as a town policy we generally do not remove healthy trees. **ALL REQUESTS** for hazardous tree removal/trimming as well as requests for healthy tree removal/trimming within the Town Road Right of Way **MUST** be made **IN WRITING** to the Tree Warden, Mark Keifer. Mail to Coventry DPW at 1712 Main Street, e-mail MKiefer@coventryct.org, fax (860) 742-5467 or hand deliver to 100 Olsen Farm Road or the Town Hall. Include your name, address, phone #, tree location and a brief description of your request.

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

WPCA PROJECTS UPDATE

- Annual tank cleaning/inspection went well last fall. We hired a contractor to assist with repairs and completed the work in house.
- The Safe Routes to Schools sidewalk project began last fall and is expected to be completed in the spring. Manhole covers will be adjusted to meet the grade of the new sidewalk.
- No major projects are scheduled for this winter.

Sewer Blockages/Ownership/CBYD: If your sewer line is draining slowly and/or backing up and you believe the problem is in the sewer main please call Public Works at 860-742-6588 (M-F 7-3) or Coventry Police at 860-742-7331 outside of normal work hours. They will dispatch someone from the sewer department to investigate. The Town owns and is responsible for the sewer mains under the road and you are responsible for sewer lines on your property. For this reason we mark the location of Town owned sewers with green paint/flags when a CBYD request is submitted but **do not** mark sewers on private property. If you (or your contractor) plan on doing any digging please contact us and we'll provide a copy of your sewer 'as-built' plan.

Sewer Easements: The Town has permanent easements where sewer mains need to cross private property. In these cases the Town owns the sewer main and we need access to the easements for routine and emergency sewer work. If the Town has an easement through your property please be reminded not to park vehicles or pile brush in the easement; anything preventing our trucks from accessing the easement will be removed with a backhoe and you will be charged for this expense, as well as being liable for any damage sustained to your property while it is removed. Thank you for your understanding as we work to continually improve our emergency response procedures and the reliability of the Town's sewer system.

Treating “Clean” Water: Sewer users are reminded that sump pumps, roof leaders, yard drains, etc. should not be connected to the sewer system. These sources of clean water add up, especially during rainstorms, and push our system past its design capacity. The simplest way to get rid of clean water is to pipe/pump it onto the ground away from the road. If this is not an option you may obtain a no fee road cut permit from the Town Engineer's office (860-742-4078) and tie into the Town's storm drain system.

Sewer Connections: If you have not yet connected to sewers please contact Mike Ruef at 860-742-4064 or mruef@coventryct.org for more info. Low interest/deferred loans for sewer connections may be available for homes that meet federal income guidelines.

General information related to the WPCA can be found on the Water Pollution Control Authority page on the Town website (www.coventryct.org). The link to our page can be found by clicking on Your Government > Boards & Commissions > Water Pollution Control Authority. You may now subscribe to WPCA Agendas by clicking on 'Notify Me' and entering your email or mobile number.

LAND USE

STRATEGIC ARTS PLAN

In July, The Town of Coventry received word that it was awarded a \$6,000.00 Arts Catalyze Placemaking – Arts Leadership Grant from the Office of the Arts – Department of Economic and Community Development. The purpose of the grant is to prepare a strategic arts plan for the town by working with the artists in the community to create a cohesive strategy of visions, goals and recommendations to advance the arts. Professionally facilitated meetings and brainstorming sessions will begin in January 2015. Any artist wishing to be involved with the effort can contact Eric M. Trott, Director of Planning and Development, at 860-742-4062 or etrott@coventryct.org or Wendy Rubin, Director of Parks and Recreation, at 860-742-4068 or wrubin@coventryct.org.

EAGLEVILLE LAKE AQUATIC INVASIVES

The Towns of Coventry and Mansfield have been awarded \$14,000.00 from the State of CT DEEP to address an aquatic invasive species infestation in Eagleville Lake. In the fall of 2012, the CT Agricultural Experimental Station performed an inspection and identified very high levels of Fanwort, an aquatic invasive. The Towns have partnered to share in the required match for the grant and will work together to educate the public on the problem and create a plan to address it. Both towns possess recreational features on the shores of Eagleville Lake, which is a dammed impoundment area associated with the Willimantic River. The Willimantic River is a State designated Greenway, due to its environmental and recreational significance. Questions regarding this project can be directed to Eric M. Trott at 860-742-4062 or etrott@coventryct.org.

MAIN STREET INVESTMENT GRANT

The Town of Coventry has been awarded \$405,000.00 from the State of CT Department of Housing - Main Street Investment Grant program. The funds will be used to perform a number of significant projects to enhance the historic South Coventry Village, including: building improvements to the historic Tracy

Shoddy mill to facilitate its adaptive reuse as a community space; extension of sidewalks on Main Street beyond what is being constructed by the State of CT Department of Transportation and another State of CT Department of Economic and Community Development grant; improvements to Mill Brook Park – gazebo, bridge, landscaping; creation of a small park at the curve by the Teleflex building – landscaping, street clock, benches, pedestrian pathway. Many of these improvements are expected to occur in 2015. Questions can be directed to Eric M. Trott at 860-742-4062 or etrott@coventryct.org.

NEW TOWN TRAILS MAPPING AND APP

The Town has recently become involved with the ‘My Town Trails’ app, which is a clearinghouse of information about municipally owned hiking trails in Connecticut. The launch of the app is expected in Mid-May of 2015. The app will publish detailed information about the trails, including: site mapping, background information about the trail, trail rules, interactive user feedback, location tracking, alerts, and user achievements. A new trail map and brochure for the Thornton Brook Preserve on Pucker Street has been completed by the Land use and Recreation Departments. This will be included in the new app and on the Parks and Recreation website (www.coventryrec.com). Please visit www.mytowntrails.com for more information or contact Eric M. Trott at 860-742-4062 or etrott@coventryct.org.

2014 COVENTRY LAKE FORUM

The 2014 Coventry Lake Forum, presented by the Coventry Land Use Office and the Coventry Lake Advisory & Monitoring Committee, took place in September with approximately 25 people in attendance.

Dr. Michael Dietz, CT NEMO (Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials) Project Director discussed the importance of rain gardens as an option in storm water runoff management. Dr. Dietz recommended that anyone interested in building a rain garden on

their property visit the website: www.nemo.uconn.edu/raingardens.

Dr. Robert Kortmann, President of Eco Systems Consulting Service, Inc. gave his yearly “State of the Lake” health report. Dr. Kortmann said that the water clarity this year was particularly good, and testing showed that the lake’s chemistry was very good and likely contributed to the clarity of the water.

Dr. Kortmann was asked to comment on the Town’s use of salt and chemical products during the winter. He said that while none of these products are particularly good for a body of water, their potential impact at present seems modest—especially because these products are used in the winter when the temperatures are very low. Dr. Kortmann will keep looking at the long-term impact of these products. He said that public safety is paramount, and that the town cannot discontinue the treating of roads.

Dr. Kortmann discussed the greater quantity of vegetation in the lake this year, especially in shallow areas of the lake. He said that tape grass (*Vallisneria americana*) was very abundant this year, growing from 3 feet to 7 feet out from the shorelines. There were also patches of “green algae” in the more shallow areas of the lake. Big Leaf Pondweed was also prevalent in some areas of the lake and was not identified as being in the lake by DEEP in 2008 when their last report of invasive plants was issued. The DEEP’s preliminary findings from their July plant survey also indicated an increase in milfoil. Although some of this plant life may be bothersome, most of the lake is quite deep and not prone to nuisance weed growth. Dr. Kortmann said that when DEEP’s final report is completed, it will be of interest to all.

Dr. Kortmann concluded by saying that he is most worried about the introduction of Fanwort—not presently found in Coventry Lake. He explained that it is found in many lakes around Coventry (notably Eagleville Lake), and he feels that it may be only a matter of time before it is accidentally transported to Coventry Lake.

COMING EVENTS AND NOTABLE ITEMS

COVENTRY SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

The Coventry Scholarship Foundation, a Dollars For Scholars affiliate, will conduct its 24th annual Phone-A-Thon starting Monday, March 16th through Wednesday, March 18. Coventry residents will be called and asked to make a contribution to the tax deductible fund, and businesses will be contacted by letter. Anyone wishing to help with the phone calls or mailings is asked to call 742-6633. This is a community event that benefits any graduating senior who is a Coventry resident. Last year over \$50,000 was distributed. Volunteers greatly needed.



PUCKER STREET BRIDGE

The long-awaited Pucker Street Bridge replacement has been authorized to go out to bid. Bids will be opened in late January with hopes of an April construction start. This will give maximum construction time possible with the hope of avoiding a winter shut down. Traffic will be detoured during construction using Babcock Hill and Flanders Rivers roads. The new bridge will be two-lane, built in a truss style. Sign up for road closure information under "Notify Me" on the Town's website at www.coventryct.org.



Ice Fishing Derby January 31, 2015 Patriots Park Lodge 172 Lake Street 9 AM - 12 PM

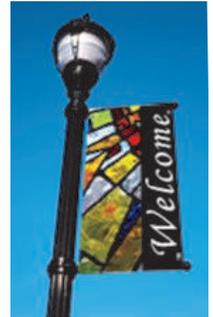
The CT Department of Environmental Protection is holding the annual ice fishing derby! Come and join us for some winter fun at Coventry Lake. No registration is required.

- Prizes will be awarded for the biggest fish!
- This is designed to be a family derby, so bring the entire family out for a morning of fun!
- Ice fishing jigs will be available for use or you can bring your own, and fishing instruction and demos will be available.

More information: Parks & Recreation Office, 860-742-4068.

RT. 31 VILLAGE CURVE PROJECT

A decade in the making, the Rt. 31 Main Street reconstruction project has all necessary permits and is finalizing plans to go out to bid this year. Work could start as early as fall of 2015. The project will reconstruct Main Street between Rt. 275 to just short of the First Congregational Church. The new design will soften the curve and reduce the slope. The travel lanes will be narrowed and cross walks installed. Patterned sidewalks will be installed and period lighting, banner poles, benches and bike racks included. Some curb cuts will be eliminated to increase safety. Water mains are being replaced now in advance of the projects and will be capable of supporting fire hydrants if a water tank is installed at a future time. The project will take up to two years to complete and traffic will remain open during construction with some delays expected. For a presentation and update on the project, see the October 30th Public Information Meeting video located at www.coventryct.org. Click on the Coventryvision box on the home page and follow the link for "Video on Demand."



HOUSING REHABILITATION LOAN PROGRAM

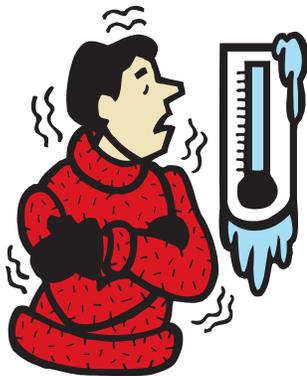
The Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program is designed for low to moderate-income homeowners, as well as landlords with low to moderate-income tenants. Funds are used for safety and public health code violations first, but may also be used by homeowners for common repair projects, including, but not limited to: septic system repairs; sewer connections; roofing & siding; structural deficiencies; replacement windows; plumbing; electrical; and heating systems. Residents must be income eligible (see below), be up to date on Town taxes, have enough equity in the home to cover the lien & have current homeowner's insurance to apply. The housing rehabilitation funds are a loan to homeowners that must be eventually paid back. Loan repayments are used to continue the Program. Low-income eligible applicants will receive a loan that is 100% deferred until the property changes ownership. Moderate-income eligible applicants will receive a loan that is 2/3 deferred and 1/3 zero percent interest paid over ten years in monthly installments.

For more information or applications, contact Peter at Community Consulting at 860-456-0782.

INCOME GUIDELINES (gross income, at or below)

Number in Family	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Low Income	30000	34300	38600	42850	46300	49750	53150	56600
Moderate Income	44750	51150	57550	63900	69050	74150	79250	84350

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT



WORRIED ABOUT WINTER HEATING COSTS?

Call Human Services for more information about this year's Connecticut Energy Assistance Program. The Connecticut Energy Assistance Program is a federal and state funded program. Appointments have already started at the ACCESS Agency. It is strongly encouraged to get an appointment made at ACCESS as soon as possible. Coventry Human Services will also be taking applications for Coventry residents by appointment only on Tuesdays and Thursdays, space is limited.

One-time emergency deliveries may be made in cases of *financial crisis* through the Coventry Clergy Fuel Bank which is funded solely by donations. Interviews are taken by appointment and approved by the Human Services Office. As with all energy assistance programs, receiving energy assistance is not an entitlement, and proper identification/ documentation is required. Approvals are not guaranteed.

Residents can contribute to the "Clergy Fuel Fund". 100% of the money raised goes towards heating costs for Coventry residents. Contributions can be mailed to Coventry Human Services, c/o Clergy Fuel Fund, 1712 Main Street, Coventry, CT 06238.

YOUTH SERVICES PROGRAMS

PROMAGANZA!

Now accepting donations of prom dresses, shoes, accessories and services (hair, nails, alternations, etc.) for the 2nd annual Promaganza! This event helps offset expenses for youth at CHS who otherwise might not be able to attend the Junior and Senior proms. Items can be dropped off at Coventry Human Services, 1712 Main Street.



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, etc.) that youth may be having. To set up an appointment, contact Crystal Morawitz, Youth Services Coordinator.

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: Any student in grades 7-12 interested in becoming part of the job bank should contact Youth Services to schedule an appointment. We will 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 completed this step, they can become part of the youth job bank pool.

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

"THANK YOU" FROM THE COVENTRY HUMAN SERVICES OFFICE

We had a very successful Thanksgiving and Christmas distribution. Residents, businesses, schools, and churches all made this season very special for families in need. Our office was able to get over 80 families adopted for Thanksgiving and over 85 adopted for Christmas. We also delivered prepared meals to residents in Orchard Hills for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. We also received many donations from local schools, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, First and Second Congregational Church, Highland Park Market, and The Ryan Ramirez Memorial Fund with a donation of Christmas trees. We would also like to thank the volunteers who helped us with both distributions; we would not be able to help as many residents without your dedication and hard work!

SALVATION ARMY

The Salvation Army Bell Ringers are coordinated by the Human Services office in partnership with The Salvation Army. Thank you to everyone who donated their time to ring. Thank you to all the local businesses that participated, Highland Park Market, Dunkin Donuts, Subway, CVS, and Walgreens. 90% of the money raised comes back to our town to help Coventry residents.

FOOD BANK

If you are in financial crisis and are in need of food, please contact Human Services to schedule an appointment. We are always accepting donations for the food bank. The need can vary by the month/season so please call ahead with your donation. The food bank is stocked with peanut butter/ jelly, cereal, spaghetti sauce, pasta, soup, tuna, and various hygiene and cleaning supplies. Thank you to our local residents, churches, schools and other groups that have made donations. **Please remember we cannot distributed expired canned items so please check expirations dates.**

SENIOR CENTER NEWS

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

COME JOIN THE FUN!

The Coventry Senior Center welcomes Seniors 60 years and older to enjoy a variety of social, educational and wellness programs. Join us for recreational activities and instructional classes, luncheons and health services. There are no membership or entry fees required to participate. The Senior Center is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Stop in to see us at our beautiful location in Patriots Park or give us a call for more information at 860-742-3525. To see our monthly calendar and special events, visit our page on the Town website.

LOOK WHAT'S NEW!

The Senior Center is pleased to offer new extended hours. The Center is now open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Our new Senior Center Coordinator, Carrie Concatelli, joined the Senior Center in November. Carrie has a Masters in Social Work and has experience with care management of home care services and recently developed services programs for senior housing. Carrie plans to add more ongoing programming and special presentations. If there is something you would like to see added to the regular schedule, come in to talk to us or call Carrie at 860-742-3525.

Free Rides!

Senior Van Program

Coventry, Manchester, Vernon and Tolland

Monday, Tuesdays & Thursdays

Medical Appointments
Shopping/Personal Errands
Senior Center

Wednesdays

Senior Center Only

Sundays

Coventry Area Only

Please call the Senior Transportation Coordinator at 860-742-3525 to schedule rides at least 48 business hours in advance of your ride.

To become a volunteer driver, please call 860-742-3525 for more information.

For transportation to Willimantic, please contact Dial-A-Ride at 860-456-1462.

HEALTH AT THE CENTER!

The Wellness Nurse is available twice per month to test blood pressure and blood sugar, as well as answer any medical questions you may have and connect you to the appropriate local resources. Call the Senior Center for more information.

There is a Podiatric Foot Clinic with Podiatrist Dr. Anthony Morgan to provide evaluation and toenail clipping. Dr. Morgan accepts Medicare and private insurance; bring your insurance card to your appointment. For all questions regarding fees and insurance coverage, call Dr. Morgan's office at 860-537-5520. Please call the Senior Center for information or to schedule an appointment. Upcoming Foot Care: **January 8 and March 26, from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. by appointment only.**

WELLNESS AT THE CENTER!

Spa Days are scheduled throughout the year. Michelle DeLuco of Kennedy & Co. Salon & Spa offers spray bottle variety haircuts, clipper cuts and eyebrow or beard trimmings. The price is \$10 for haircuts, payable directly to Michelle at the time of the appointment. Hope Charette of Hope & Wellness Salon offers nail clipping, manicures and pedicures. Nail clipping is \$10 and an additional \$10 for scrub and polish, payable to Hope at the time of the appointment.

Massage Therapy & Reflexology sessions are scheduled throughout the year. Deb Turner, L.M.T offers table massage or reflexology by appointment. There is a \$15 fee payable directly to Deb at the time of the appointment.

Please call the Senior Center to schedule an appointment.

EXERCISE AT THE CENTER!

Are you committed to increasing your health and fitness this winter? Come in from the cold for two exercise options at the Center.

Our exercise class is offered Tuesdays and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., and is taught by Certified Instructor Mary Hurley. Mary guides participants through various exercises that also include music and jokes. Exercises can be modified to accommodate beginners or advanced participants.

For those who prefer individual fitness, our fitness area is truly a room with a view—one that makes you forget you are exercising. It features a stair stepper, treadmill and stationary bike as well as mats, exercise balls and hand-held weights for your use. Stop by the Senior Center to pick up a Fitness Center Packet that includes all the information you need to get started. Attendance at an Equipment Orientation Session is mandatory before using the Fitness Center.

SENIOR COMMUNITY LUNCHEONS THROUGH TVCCA!

We are thrilled to announce that the Senior Center will now be offering Community Luncheons twice per month for seniors. The lunches are prepared by Thames Valley Council for Community Action and they are not only nutritious, but delicious as well! The lunches cost \$3, \$5 or \$7 depending on the menu. Tickets for the lunch must be purchased in advance and are available at the Senior Center. Upcoming Luncheons: **January 14, January 28, February 11, February 25, March 11, March 25. Lunches are from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

COMMUNITY NEWS

COVENTRY RIDES SENIOR TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

The goal of the program is to allow all Coventry citizens to live as independently as possible by providing transportation for medical and personal needs. Since the Program began in 2006 we have provided nearly 8000 rides for Coventry's elderly and disabled residents.

We have several new drivers, who have allowed us to provide an additional day of transportation for our riders. Special thanks to the dedicated volunteer drivers who offer their time to help others. Our current team of volunteer drivers includes, Tim Ackert, Lori Boucher Brian Coss, Christine Coss, Dick Frye, Trina Gale, Dick Gawitt, Elaine Gelinias, Gerry Haugh, Bill Hoffman, Kim Homans, Jane Homick, Dave Lamore, Debbie Locke, Jane Luthi, Monica Maneri, David McCrory, Carol Moriarty, Claudette Polhemus, Karen Renfro, Bill Root, Cathy Root, Ken Stein, Jack Thayer Pat Tufts, Bill Wajda, Jim and Joyce Wicks, and Diane Zeppa. These people keep the van on the road three days a week and on weekends.

The Program provides rides for the elderly and disabled to locations in the Coventry, Manchester, Vernon and Tolland areas. Rides are provided for medical, personal, social and educational purposes.

Low cost Wellness Trips are also offered on a regular basis. Commercial coaches are used for longer trips and trips out of state. Recent trips have included a Fall Foliage and Picnic at Quabbin State Park in Massachusetts, a visit to the Danbury Historical Society and the Danbury Railway Museum, a trip to the Connecticut Historical Society, a spring picnic at Hammonasset State Park, Blithewold Mansion in Bristol, Rhode Island, as well as trips to the Windham Theater Guild and the Manchester Community College Older Adults Programs.

Please consider donating one morning a month to this very worthwhile program and remember that you may one day need to take advantage of this free program. To volunteer, please call the Transportation Coordinator at Senior Center, 860-742-3525.

For more information about the Senior Transportation Program, to schedule a ride or to join our volunteer drivers' team, please call the Transportation Coordinator, Leigh Wajda, at least 48 hours in advance. The number is 860-742-3525. *The Coventry Rides Senior Transportation Program is currently funded by the Town of Coventry and with grants from the Connecticut Department of Transportation.*



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.

VALENTINE'S DAY CARDS WORKSHOP

Saturday, January 31st at 1PM

Make a unique Valentine's Card with Dawn Zillich. There will be several card designs to choose from, all materials will be provided by the library. This free program is open to adults and teens, please call the library at 860-742-7606 to register. In case of snow, the workshop will be held on February 7th.

TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE

Individual technology assistance sessions can be scheduled on Wednesday afternoons and evenings. Topics include assistance with smart phones, tablets, ebook, 3D printing etc.

WINTER READING BINGO

During the months of December, January and February, teens in grades 6-12 can participate in the Winter Blues Reading Bingo. Completing squares on the board—by reading—can win you prizes! Visit the teen desk to sign up or for more information.

NERD GIRL AFTERNOON OUT

January 23rd from 3PM—6PM

Come and talk about your favorite fandom, make great crafts and more. Join us for pizza and fun. Rain date of January 30th. Hosted by the Teen Zone.

MINECRAFTING!

February 10th All Afternoon

Play Minecraft on the library's server, and make your very own creepers & zombies to take home! Hosted by the Teen Zone.

LIVE ACTION VIDEO GAME EVENT

February 17th from 3PM—5PM

Bring your favorite tablet games like *Plants vs. Zombies*, *Angry Birds*, and *Fruit Ninja* to life in this live action game event. Hosted by the Teen Zone.

HARRY POTTER BOOK DAY

February 5th from 3:30PM-5:30PM

Harry Potter games, crafts, and snacks. Drop in and visit your favorite world. Ages 9 and up welcome.

BABYGARTEN

Tuesdays 10:15AM

Storytime for ages birth to 35 months and their caregivers that focuses on enriching your young child's life and supporting pre-literacy with nursery rhymes, songs, activities, and books. No registration.

PRE-SCHOOL STORYTIME

Tuesdays 11:30AM

Storytime for ages 3-5 and their caregivers that includes books, songs, rhymes, and a small craft or activity that helps to develop school ready skills. No registration.

EARLY LITERACY PLAY GROUP

Wednesdays from 10:30AM—11:30AM

A play group that includes developmentally appropriate toys, sensory materials, musical instruments, and other activities that provides a rich literary environment. Also gives the opportunity for children to become more sociable and parents to network.

SPY ACADEMY

January 6, 13, 20, 27 from 4PM—5PM

TOP SECRET! Learn how to be the best spy and detective in this four week after school program. Each week we will do different activities from creating an obstacle course, to solving mysteries, and putting our stealthy skills to the test! Spy Academy is open to all the best secret agents, age 6 to 11. Registration required.

TAKE YOUR CHILD TO THE LIBRARY DAY:

Saturday,

February

7th,

All Day

Crafts,

a scavenger hunt and activities throughout the day! Don't miss Bring Your Child to the Library Day!



EARLY LITERACY TIP FROM THE CHILDREN'S ROOM

Children learn about their world and language in many different ways. Singing helps to develop listening and memory skills, as well as how to identify different parts of words. Make up songs during mundane activities such as driving to the park, doing dishes, or picking up toys to instill a love of language at a young age.



COVENTRY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairman; Mary Kortmann, Vice-Chairman; Mary Minor, Secretary;
Eugene Marchand, William Oros, Denise Ryan and Michael Sobol



BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS: The Board of Education generally meets on the second and last Thursday of each month. Unless noted on the agenda, all meetings are held in the School Administration building at 7:30 p.m. Regular Board meetings for 2015 are: January 8, January 29, February 12, February 26, March 12, March 26, April 9, April 30, May 14, May 28, June 11, June 25, July 9, July 30, August 13, August 27, September 10, September 24, October 8, October 29, November 12, and December 10. Unless noted on the agenda, all meetings are held in the School Administration building at 7:30 p.m.

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

COVENTRY PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2014-2015 GOALS: It is the mission of the Coventry Public Schools to prepare every student for life, learning and work in the 21st century. Embracing this vision, we began the 2014-2015 school year with a continued focus on technology initiatives, instructional improvement and creating a learning environment where students and staff feel safe and respected.

Goals and plans of each school administrator are in support of the Board of Education goals for the Coventry Public Schools. Below are excerpts from goals across the district which represent just a few of the many plans for improvement for the 2014-2015 school year.

Coventry Grammar School (CGS):

- Provide continuous outreach and support of the newly developed Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) special education program through ongoing meetings with staff and parents, through program planning, and monthly reviews with district administrators.
- Promote health and wellness opportunities for students and families throughout the year through partnerships and programming that involve school and community based organizations.
- Expand opportunities for partnerships with area universities to support social and academic development of K-2 students.

George Hersey Robertson School (GHR):

- Establish a Principal’s Forum comprised of students to brainstorm methods to promote cooperation, assertion, responsibility, empathy, and self-control (CARES) in all areas of the GHR learning community: classroom, hallway, cafeteria, and playground.
- Develop age appropriate behavior levels with embedded reflection opportunities to promote positive behaviors.
- Develop internal structures to provide in-house collegial mentoring as well as encourage teachers to mentor future educators from surrounding colleges and universities.

Capt. Nathan Hale School (CNH):

- Implement revised science curriculum 6-8, which includes newly developed STEM (Science Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) classes in grades 6 & 7 as well as newly developed science assessments.
- Establish a Student Council that will support and promote a positive school culture that includes promoting school wide events that enhance student learning, school spirit and a stronger sense of community for the middle school as a whole.
- Work collaboratively with teaching staff through the new teacher evaluation process; assist with goal setting, professional growth commitments and support needed for staff learning opportunities including our Instructional Rounds Process that lead to stronger instructional practices and increased student achievement.

OPEN DOOR MEETINGS

Come meet the Superintendent of Schools, David Petrone. As the Superintendent of Schools, one of my 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. I invite you to keep informed about education in our town by attending any of my remaining Open Door meetings this school year.

- Thursday, 2/5 at 1:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, 3/17 at 11:30 a.m.
- Monday, 5/4 at 5:30 p.m.

All of these informal gatherings will be held in the Administration Building conference room at 1700 Main Street. If you are unable to attend one of these scheduled events, but would still like to meet, please phone our office at 860-742-7317 x2. Thank you!

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES:

Coventry Public Schools has always benefited from the generous efforts and talents of community and parent volunteers. If you are interested in sharing your time and talents with our school community, please contact one of the four principals.

YOUR SERVICE IS NEEDED!

The Coventry Board of Education and Town Manager have identified the need for energy efficiency repairs and related electrical and other improvements at the four schools in town, the Town Hall, the Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, and other town facilities. In response to that need, the Town Council has established the **School Energy and Building Efficiency Building Committee**. Members are needed for this committee! If you have experience in the HVAC field, your expertise would be greatly appreciated. For more information or to submit your interest in serving, please contact the Superintendent’s Office or the Town Clerk’s Office directly at 860-742-7966.

- Continued on page 15

GOALS

- Continued from page 14

Coventry High School (CHS)

- Continue to implement and review Connecticut Core State Standards curriculum in English and math; analyze student progress on standards achievement on all performance assessments and continue to develop and implement performance tasks.
- Continue and expand positive parent and community partnerships through the use of Advisory Council and Athletic Advisory to engage stakeholders in workshops and discourse on a variety of educational topics.
- Engage local college leadership in developing enhanced clinical and pre-professional programs and creating internship programs at the graduate level to support our students and recruit new educators.

We are continuing our efforts to maintain and promote a learning environment that encourages openness and collaboration by utilizing the district website, school newsletters, and presentations at PTO meetings to expand communications with parents, community stakeholders, and the general public about topics and initiatives related to teaching and learning in Coventry Public Schools.

Our technology team is examining best practices to communicate between home and school to identify areas to implement digital enhancements ensuring accurate information is exchanged in a timely manner to enhance student learning and provide a safe and positive learning environment.

Our athletics department is establishing a Captain's Council composed of high school student athletes to explore the strengths and challenges being experienced in teaching sportsmanship, appropriate behavior, ethics, values, character development, and leadership.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS AND INFORMATION

Keeping families informed is a top priority at Coventry Public Schools. With the start of this school year, we switched to a new software vendor called SCHOOL MESSENGER. This system allows us to send a **telephone message** to families providing important information about school emergencies.

We use SCHOOL MESSENGER to notify families of school emergencies, closings, delayed openings, and unplanned early releases. In the event of an emergency at school, you can have peace of mind knowing that you will be informed as soon as possible by phone. In addition, the system will phone homes if a child is absent from school and the nurse has not received parent notification (attendance call).

CLOSINGS, LATE OPENINGS, UNPLANNED EARLY RELEASES: These announcements are carried on radio stations WILI (98.3 FM, 1400AM), WTIC (96.5 FM, 1080AM), WRCH (100.5 FM), WZMX (93.7), WKSS (95.7), and WWYZ (92.5). Announcements are also carried on the television stations WFSB Channel 3, WVIT Channel 30 (cable channel 4), and WTNH Channel 8.

90 Minute Delay Notes

- CECC AM – 10:00 a.m. start time
- Grades K - 5: CGS & GHR – 10:00 a.m. start time
- Grades 6 - 12: CNH & CHS – 9:10 a.m. start time

Early Release Notes – *Emergency/Weather-related*

- AM CECC releases at regular time - NO PM CECC
- **All other grades** end at Early Release times
- NO afternoon/evening activities on school grounds



FUN WINTER IDEAS FOR KIDS

Winter in Connecticut with young children can sometimes feel as though it is going to last forever, especially if you don't like the cold! Here are some ideas from Coventry STEPS to keep your children learning, exploring and moving throughout the winter months! Only one idea involves the use of technology for your little one!

- Make home made play-doh
- Make pine cone bird feeders
- Make an indoor obstacle course
- Have a dance off in your living room
- Play a game (Uno, Sorry, Trouble, checkers, etc...)
- Have an indoor picnic
- Play "keep it up" with a balloon
- Cook something together
- Make slime with cornstarch and water
- Build a toothpick and marshmallow structure
- Get outside when the weather cooperates and have fun!
- Visit the Booth & Dimock Library for a story time and then borrow some great books to read to your little one at home!
- Check out the Little Explorer's Play Group, offered by Parks and Recreation!
- Visit Gonoodle.com for "brain break" ideas! There are lots of fun dances and ideas to get the kids moving especially when you can't get outside!

What is Coventry STEPS? STEPS is an advocacy group consisting of parents, education providers, local and state leaders all committed to ensuring that Coventry children are Nurtured, Healthy, and Engaged & Successful Learners!

Visit www.coventrysteps.com for more information about STEPS as well as early childhood programs, services and events in Coventry!

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES: Flexible hours/days with a wide variety of experiences. **Teacher, Para-Educator, and School Nurse Substitutes:** Please visit our website at www.coventryps.org for additional information. **Cafeteria Substitutes:** Call Beth Pratt at 742-4535. **Bus Drivers/Substitutes:** Call Stephanie Greenleaf at M & J Bus Co. at 742-0344.

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

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

GRANTS RECEIVED

- * **Open Space:** A grant for \$262,600 to purchase 61.76 acres of open space between Cooper Lane and the Willimantic River. This will be matched by \$132,000 of Town funds from an open space account and \$15,000 from Joshua's Trust.
- * **DUI Enforcement:** A grant for \$18,975 for enforcement of driving under the influence infractions to cover overtime expenses.
- * **Aquatic Invasive Species:** A grant for \$14,000 to treat Fanwort in upper Eagleville Lake. The match will be split evenly between Mansfield and Coventry.
- * **Speed Enforcement:** \$6,400 for police overtime for speed enforcement and to purchase a speed warning and monitoring sign.
- * **Main Street Investment Fund:** \$405,000 for Main Street projects including finishing the rehab of Tracy Shoddy Mill, a gazebo and bridge for Mill Brook Park, street clock for Main Street and extend sidewalks.
- * **Catalyst Arts:** A \$6,000 grant to study and plan for enriching the arts community in our town.
- * **CDBG Housing Rehabilitation:** \$500,000 to be shared with the Town of Columbia for housing code upgrades for low and moderate income households (see information at www.coventryct.org.)
- * **Nutmeg Network:** \$15,300 to connect Town Hall to CHS Media Center with fiber to gain an Internet network.
- * **Pathways to UConn:** \$450,000 budget (no match) to hire consultant to review State roadways to UConn Storrs campus through Coventry, Tolland, Bolton and Mansfield.
- * **Historic Records:** \$4,000 to provide safe storage for vital statistics and other Town Clerk's records.

GRANTS UNDERWAY

- * **STEAP:** Main Street - \$400,000 to match local share of streetscape for upcoming Rt. 31 Village Curve project. Will also extend sidewalks to the Library.
- * **Lake Gate:** \$475,000 to replace late gate and create a focal point highlighting our mill village heritage.
- * **Pucker Street Bridge:** We have necessary permits and have been authorized to bid the replacement of Pucker Street Bridge. The project is 80% Federal with the balance split 2/3 Coventry, 1/3 Columbia. Grant expected to be \$1.8 million.
- * **Lake & Cross Streets:** Design work underway for \$1,217,000 grant to make safety and environmental improvements to Lake & Cross Streets. Work to include sidewalks from Main to Monument Hill. Improved sidewalks and school crosswalks will be installed near G.H. Robertson School including bike lanes. Drainage improvement for pre-treatment prior to discharge into lake will be installed near boat launch driveway and the intersection of Lake and Cross at the green will be standardized.
- * **Safe Routes to School** sidewalks to Capt. Nathan Hale Middle School are in winter shutdown and will be completed in the spring. They will connect to the sidewalks on the Rt. 31. hill.

GRANTS PENDING

- * **Development Rights:** We still are waiting to hear on the Purchase of Development Rights for the Reynolds Farm on Flanders Road.
- * We have re-submitted a grant with Bolton, Tolland and Mansfield for an **Economic Development Action Plan** to align our economic growth with UConn's growth, particularly the Technology Park (\$160,000).
- * We have submitted two grants for **regional equipment sharing** for a 30% subsidy: A) computer equipment for Town/schools with Tolland and South Windsor; B) a catch basin cleaner with the Town of Mansfield.
- * **America the Beautiful** grant for streetscape trees along the new sidewalk at Town Hall.
- * **STEAP grant:** to rehabilitate the Hop River Road Bridge - \$450,000 (Columbia also submitted a \$450,000 grant to allow a \$900,000 project).
- * **Emergency Management** grant - \$6,100 to cover our share of local emergency operations annual expense.