



Message from Julie Blanchard, Town Council Chairwoman

Dear Citizens:

My wish is that everyone experience a happy, healthy New Year!

Based on the recent elections it is apparent that our entire country is polarized. There is a great divide in our nation, that must be healed. All of us need to channel some of our personal feelings into an effort to work toward a better community, State, and Country. We need a grassroots effort to heal our nation. Let Coventry be our commonality of purpose working together as volunteers in unison for the common good. We all love our community, so let us set an example. Please show your support by volunteering to serve on a board or commission; contact the Town Clerk or look on the Town website for opportunities and vacancies.

Congratulations to President-elect Trump, U.S. Senator Blumenthal, Congressman Courtney, State Senator Guglielmo, State Representative Ackert and our Registrars of Voters Marjorie Roach and Pamela Sewell. There are 8,219 people registered to vote in Coventry and 6,894 voted. That means that 84% of our citizens voted; your voice was heard. For more detailed results see the News section of the town website at: Coventryct.org.

The Town Council recently adopted a Senior Tax Abatement Program giving some senior citizens over 65 another option to reduce their tax payments. The option is available based on income qualifications. Applications will be processed through the Assessor's Office in the Town Hall.

The Town of Coventry will be facing some significant financial challenges as we work on the next budget. The State faces a substantial fiscal crisis and State aid and/or grants to Coventry could be reduced. Locally we have rising costs and contracts creating an increasing burden on our budget. The Town Council has already taken steps to become more efficient, reduce costs and control spending. A new local issue of crumbling foundations will soon lower our overall grand list value and could become an expanding burden for Coventry as a community.

Please contact us with any ideas, suggestions or concerns. You may reach the Town Council through our website at Coventryct.org, go to the Your Government tab and down to the Town Council tab. You may email the entire Town Council or individual members from this page, the Town Manager's office can be reached at 860-742-6324, or by attending a Town Council meeting at 7:30 on the first and third Monday of each month (unless Monday is a holiday) to speak during the Audience of Citizens' portion of our meeting.

Every New Year we dream of a better world for us and ours. This year let us take up the onus to make the world a better place for you, me and everyone else.

Julie A. Blanchard
Chairwoman, Town Council

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TOWN HALL HOLIDAYS:

Jan. 16	MLK Day
Feb. 20	Presidents' Day
April 14	Good Friday
May 29	Memorial Day

Comings & Goings and Staff Accomplishments

Farewell to Senior Center Transportation Coordinator **Leigh Wajda**, who has arranged rides for our senior citizens for many years. See the Senior Center page for plans for that program. We welcome **Emma King**, Senior Center Coordinator, who returns to Coventry where she grew up with a wealth of experience in senior programs.

Finance Director **Beth Bauer** has announced her retirement, pending in March 2017. She will be sorely missed. Under her leadership, the Town has again received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015 from the Government Finance Officers Association. This is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting and represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

Congratulations Police Chief **Mark Palmer** who has been appointed to the Police Officer Standards and Training Council, where his expertise will benefit the entire state. Welcome to **Olivia Beausoleil**, who has joined the Department and will begin Police Academy training this month. We are recruiting for a second officer in the spring.

At the 2016 Annual Convention of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, the Town of Coventry received a Municipal Excellence award for the renaissance of Coventry Village. The award included a \$1,000 prize which will be used to further enhance the Village area. Stay tuned for details.

Last but not least, farewell to **Lisa Thomas**, who resigned from the Town Council after nine years of service. The remaining term of her seat has been filled by **Justin Trzaskos**, who you may know from his role as president of the Coventry Arts Guild. Welcome aboard!

TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE

As winter sets in the Town starts working on what promises to be a difficult budget. Predictions of significant State aid cuts will be felt in either Town and Education service reductions or higher taxes. Your voice in helping make these decisions are more important than ever. You will need to share your feelings particularly at the State level.

After the Town Manager's budget, including the Board of Education budget, is released a public hearing is held. This is the best time to share your feelings. Save the date of March 9, 2017 at 7:00 PM in Coventry High School Lecture Hall. Comments to the Town Council are welcome through the end of March (see Council Chairwoman's letter on front page) and the Council's budget goes to Town Meeting on April 22, 2017 and Referendum (May 2, 2017).

Other significant concerns include the opioid epidemic. Arming our first-responders with Narcan alone is not a solution. We need to break the cycle and stop people from starting inappropriate drug use and move toward treatment. Working with our neighbors through Eastern Highlands Health District a forum and resource fair is scheduled for February 8th. See back page for more information.

Please help us decide what businesses we want by completing the Economic Development Survey (see page 9).

PROJECT UPDATE

The State Main Street project has basically reached a winter shut down. Some off-road drainage work may continue. We expect the road work and sidewalk completion in spring/summer. The delay of the culvert installation in front of Meet Me on Main has also delayed getting utilities to the Tracy Shoddy Mill.

The State-funded sidewalks in front of Coventry High are installed with spring touch-up and tree planting pending. Funds are available to extend from the new crosswalk to Hemlock Point Road.

The Lake/Cross Street project was delayed to allow design tweaks and to incorporate extra State money for additional pavement work. It will be bid this winter for a spring start. This project will fill in the missing link of sidewalks on Lake Street from Main to Monument Hill and improved intersection safety and school crosswalks.

The Library Building Committee continues to work on obtaining necessary State approval for Council consideration on proceeding to referendum. A State grant is installing a new fiber optic connection to the Library which will reduce current Internet/transport costs.

The lake gate replacement project is underway with hopes of getting concrete poured before winter firmly settles in. We still have control of the lake and can raise the level if construction is delayed too long.

The Town is waiting for delivery of a used Quint (ladder truck with water) and a tanker truck for our Town fire services. Both are

firsts for us and have been recommended by several consultants for over ten years. The volunteers will need to undergo a lot of training to use these apparatus. They are the start of a replacement plan for vehicles over 20 years old.

We continue to work on transferring the ambulance operation to the Town and await a decision from the State Department of Health. We are served during the weekdays by a paid staffing agency which has greatly increased our response time. Volunteers still respond to night, weekend and multi-ambulance calls. They need your help so please consider becoming a volunteer EMT or firefighter.

We are on the home stretch of acquiring the development rights for 89 acres of the Reynolds Farm on Flanders Road. A generous grant from the State matched with funds from the CT Farmland Trust, Joshua's Tract and our own open space fund made this possible. We expect ownership within the month. We also are finally getting toward the finish line for the Williams open space purchase for 62 acres between Cooper Lane and the Willimantic River. Still need the sign off from several heirs to clean up the title.

The Building Energy and Efficiency Committee is moving from the natural gas conversion project to other building code, security and energy construction projects. It is anticipated that by spring a detailed review of needs and costs will be completed for consideration.

TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

860-742-4066

The 2nd installment for real estate taxes are due January 1, 2017. The last day to pay without interest is February 1, 2017. 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, 2015 and before August 1, 2016 were mailed in mid December and are due January 1, 2017. The last day to pay without interest is February 1, 2017.

Please remember that the Webster Bank Lockbox address in Hartford, printed on your original bills, will only process mailed payments for **CURRENT TAX BILLS**: Real Estate tax due January 2016 and Supplemental Car tax due January 2016. All other payments for any delinquent bills or partial payments should be mailed directly to the Coventry Tax office 1712 Main St. in Coventry 06238 for processing.

If payment is received after February 1, 2017, the Real Estate and Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax bills become delinquent and are immediately subject to 3% interest. From then on, interest is added at the rate of 1.5% per month from the due date.

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: www.Coventryct.org.

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. On line payments will result in a delay of three (3) business days from the day your payment is processed by the Tax Office for a DMV clearance.

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

860-742-4067

The Elderly or Totally Disabled Homeowner Program begins February 1, 2017, and applications are being accepted until May 15, 2017. Our office will be sending reminder letters by the end of January 2017 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 \$42,900 if married, or less than \$35,200 if single, both must include Social Security benefits and your adjusted gross income from your 2016 Federal Income tax return. There is a new option this year for a local tax credit of 50% of the State program.

The Additional Veterans Program also starts February 1, 2017 and applications are accepted until October 1, 2017. A DD214 must have been filed with the Town Clerk prior to **October 1st, 2016** to be eligible for this additional exemption. If you have already filed and did not receive a letter from our office, you do not need to re-file. You will receive your exemption automatically. For additional veteran's benefits, please call if your income is less than \$42,900 if married, or less than \$35,200 if single, both must include Social Security benefits and your adjusted gross income from your 2016 Federal Income Tax return.

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

Crumbling Foundations has been an ongoing issue for 19 Towns in the eastern part of the State. Connecticut General Statutes have allowed the Assessor's Office to revalue the property starting with the 2016 Grand List. Applications are on our website and in the office. These must be filed along with a certified Engineers report in order to receive an adjusted assessment. The annual deadline for the Grand List is December 1 each year. Seventeen households used it this year.

The Board of Assessment Appeals will be meeting in March of 2017. Appeal **applications must be filed no later than February 20, 2017**. The board is required to here all appeals concerning Motor Vehicle, Personal Property or Real Estate. Applications are available in the Assessor's Office or online at www.coventryct.org.

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

860-742-7966

IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR DOG LICENSING: New dog owners must provide a current rabies certificate and for altered dogs, evidence of neutering or spaying. **QUESTIONS?** Please call the Town Clerk's Office at 742-7966.

SHARE YOUR TALENTS WITH YOUR TOWN

Serve on a Board or Commission. The following Boards/Commissions currently have vacancies:

Ad-Hoc Town Protected Spaces Stewardship
Cable Television Advisory Committee
Cemetery Commission
Coventry HS Walls Code Compliance Building Committee
CoventryVision
Hud Housing Rehab/ Fair Housing Commission
Inland Wetlands Agency Alternate
Insurance Advisory
Library Expansion Building Committee
Municipal Historian
Personnel Appeals Board
Planning and Zoning Alternate
School Energy and Building Efficiency Building Committee Alternate
Veterans Memorial Committee
Youth Advisory Board
Zoning Board of Appeals

You can always get an updated list of vacancies and descriptions of the committees on the town website at www.coventryct.com. You can also volunteer to serve in the Fire or Ambulance service.

Submit your name to any of the following: *Thomas Pope, Town Council Steering Committee & Republican Town Committee (860-742-3193), 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 found on the green heading. You can find the form under Boards and Commissions from there it can be filled out online or printed and

SPORTS LICENSES

2017 licenses are available at the Town Clerk's Office or from the DEEP website www.ct.gov/deep/hunting. Remember, all licenses expire annually on **December 31st** except Lifetime and Handicapped Licenses issued before October 1, 2009.

CONNECTICUT MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION STAMP ART CONTEST

Artists are invited to enter the contest by submitting an original piece of artwork that depicts a waterfowl species (duck, goose, or brant) that occurs in Connecticut. The winning entry will be featured on the 2018 Connecticut Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp.

Legislation that became effective on July 1, 2016 established the **Resident Game Bird Conservation Stamp** (which replaces the Pheasant Stamp and turkey permits) and made changes to the **Connecticut Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp**. The Resident Game Bird Conservation Stamp is required to hunt any resident game birds in Connecticut, including pheasants, ruffed grouse, partridge, quail, AND wild turkey. The Connecticut Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp is required for anyone hunting waterfowl, rails, snipe, woodcock, and crows.

These new changes are not in the printed version of the 2016 Hunting & Trapping Guide.

CRUMBLING CONCRETE FOUNDATIONS:

A very significant issue is emerging in our region. Houses built with concrete from certain suppliers had a mineral called pyrrhote which over time appears to cause a chemical reaction which cracks the concrete and diminishes the structural strength. Coventry had almost 2,000 houses built during this period and many additions. Using a very conservative assumption of 30% of these houses having impact we are looking at around 600 houses. Currently the recommendation for remedy is total foundation replacement including footings. This may change as more knowledge of the chemical reaction becomes known. Total replacement is estimated between \$150,000 to \$200,000. The Council is considering waiving building permit fees for replacement.

The Town is working diligently with our neighboring communities to develop solutions and seek aid. Currently 17 houses in our town have applied for reductions of their assessment (December 1 deadline annually). Working with the Capitol Region Council of Governments, we obtained bids for testing and engineering services and vetted contractors. Proposed legislation for a relief fund is being prepared for consideration but the State's fiscal position will be an obstacle and strong public support will be needed. We are also seeking Federal grants.

Please go to the Town's website, www.coventryct.org, for updated information. See the spotlight column on the right-hand side.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

860-742-4064

The Building Department would like to remind residents to prepare for weather emergencies before they happen.

- Generators and supplemental heating equipment should be serviced prior to use to ensure safe operation when needed. Generators must not back feed to the power grid. Approved transfer switches are required to protect the utility line crews.
- Residents are also encouraged to read all operating instructions on gas log sets and vent-free L.P. heaters. These units should not be used beyond the limits of their listing. Carbon Monoxide detectors should be placed outside of sleeping areas in all households that burn fossil fuels.

- Chimneys should be cleaned prior to use and as often as needed during the heating season to remove creosote accumulations from wood burning appliances.

Apply for spring projects during the winter months when there is more time to review lengthier projects that are meant to start in the spring, such as additions and new home builds. Approved permits are valid for work to begin within 6 months of issuance date.

Please call the Building Department to arrange for final inspection if you have not received a Certificate of Completion or Completion for Occupancy.

NEWS FROM THE COVENTRY FIRE DEPARTMENT

The North Coventry Volunteer Fire Department wants to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season! During these winter months, we have some home safety tips to share.

We would like to remind all building owners that you should have your heating appliances inspected and serviced. If you are doing a new install, please discuss this with the Fire Marshal and Building Official before any work is started. Furnaces, wood stoves, and chimneys are examples of heating components that need yearly attention. Proper disposal of ashes is

“If you have not already done so, change your smoke detector batteries. It is good practice to do this when you change your clocks.”

important and many times over looked. Use a metal container and let them cool before further disposal. Never use a flammable container (including tipper barrels) and do not leave them near your home or other combustible materials.

If you have not already done so, change your smoke detector batteries. It is good practice to do this when you change your clocks. The National Fire Protection Association recommends changing your entire smoke detector after ten (10) years of use. Don't forget about the carbon monoxide detectors. At a minimum, it is recommended to have 1 of each device on each level of your home.

Are your house numbers visible? Can you see them in the daylight AND at night time? If the answer is no, think about the Emergency Services trying to find your house at night, in the rain or snow. We offer reflective house number signs at a non-profit cost starting at \$10.00 each. Contact us through our website, <http://www.northcoventryfire.org> for more information and an order form.

From our families to yours, have a safe and wonderful New Year!!!

FROM THE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

With recent house fires that have occurred throughout Connecticut, here is some interesting and useful information about being fire smart with electricity throughout your home.

Did you know...

- There are nearly 47,800 home electrical fires each year.
- About half of these fires involve lighting equipment or home electrical wiring.
- Home electrical fire deaths peak between midnight and 6 a.m.
- Nearly half (46%) of electrical fire deaths happen December through March.

Here are a few words of advice on the matter...

- Plug only **one** heat producing appliance (i.e. coffee maker, space heater, microwave) directly into a wall outlet at a time.
- Extension cords should only be used temporarily. Have an electrician install additional wall outlets where you need them.
- Never use an extension cord with a heat producing appliance!

~Have a safe and happy 2017.

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

Please do not throw plastic bags / film / wrap into the recycling carts. (These items actually contaminate the load.) These items **ARE** recyclable, through Plastic Film Recycling drop-off boxes located in and around Connecticut – here are a few local options for you...

Highland Park Market	1721 Route 44	Coventry	860 742-7361
Stop & Shop	1391 Main Street	Willimantic	860 456-8768
Big Y 141	Storrs Road	Mansfield	860 456-8051
Big Y	33 Fieldstone Commons	Tolland	860 872-0304
Price Rite	60 Cantor Drive	Willimantic	860 450-1624
Price Chopper	1220 Storrs Road	Mansfield	860 553 6555



The following plastic and film items can be dropped in the containers at these locations...please be sure they are clean and dry...Bread bags, napkin/paper towel/bathroom tissue/diaper wrap, produce bags, newspaper bags, grocery bags, pallet wrap or stretch wrap, dry cleaning bags, snack or beverage cases wrap, retail bags, plastic air pillows used for shipping fragile packages, food storage (zip lock) bags, any other film packages marked with the recycle emblem. Call Public Works if you have any questions or go on the company's website at www.plasticfilmrecycling.org.

2016 ROAD WORK AND CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Road/Hardscape Bond: The Road/Hardscape Bond work is nearly complete. Work included improvements to 17 miles of town roadways, reconstruction of parking lots at Town Hall and CHS along with construction of the Pre-School parking lot. The Bond will be completed in 2017 with approximately 10 miles of chip seal to town roadways and construction of a new tennis court at CHS in the spring of 2017.

Village Road Improvements: Phase II of the village reconstruction is complete except for final paving on Bradbury Lane. Paving will be completed in spring of 2017.

The Connecticut Department of Transportation Main Street Project began in April 2016. The Project involves the complete reconstruction of Main Street from the First Congregational Church to the intersection of Lake Street and Stonehouse Road. Vertical and horizontal roadway alignment and significant storm water improvements along with streetscape amenities are expected to be completed by November 2017.

Coventry Lake Dam Improvements: Work has begun on the Coventry Lake Dam and will continue into winter as weather allows. Completing of the project is expected in spring 2017.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

Projects Update:

- Main Street Reconstruction: The majority of sewer work related to the project has been completed and tested. The few remaining sewer items are outside of the roadway and will be completed in the spring.

- We have been working with our engineers and officials from Bolton and Manchester to implement an inter-municipal agreement for the western Route 44 Sewer Planning Area in order to be prepared for any future development in this area. Bolton has indicated interest in entering into an agreement but a hydraulic study of Bolton's sewer system needs to be performed before we can move forward. We continue to work with our engineers to refine the scope of the study.

We Need Your Help:

Lately we have been noticing a startling increase in the 2 leading causes of sewer blockages; cloth wipes and grease. Grease sticks to the insides of sewer pipes like glue and builds up causing the usable flow line to shrink. Eventually grease can completely block a pipe causing backups and overflows. Cloth items like wipes do not break down in the system like toilet paper and get hung up on pipe joints, bends, and imperfections inside the pipe. This catches other debris causing it to get stuck and build up, leading to blockages. Wipes also jam up our pumps wasting valuable time and resources to remove. Simply put poo and pee go down the drain. Grease, wipes, and other cloth items go in the trash.

Sump pumps and other illegal "clean water" connections continue to be a problem. The clean water takes up precious capacity in the sewer system and limits the number of new connections we can allow into the system, which would help to defray operating costs and spread them over a larger user base. We are working hard to identify sources of clean water and to remove them but we still need your help. If you know you have clean water connections into the system or are unsure we would be happy to help you investigate and/or offer alternative methods for getting the water out of and away from your house. Voluntary inspections will never result in fines or other penalties, we just want the water out of our 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 subscribe to WPCA Agendas & Minutes by clicking on 'Notify Me' and entering your email or mobile number.

TRANSFER STATION

325 Main Street

Hours of operation: every Thursday December through March 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and every Saturday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Closed holidays. Proof of residency is required. Website: <http://www.coventryct.org/index.aspx?nid=220>

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

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.

Materials acceptable no cost:

- All electronics
- Appliances without CFC's (Freon)
- Scrap metal materials (metal tanks must be cut open and crushed)
- Gas grill propane tanks for recycling

TEXTILE RECYCLING

The Town is starting its third year of a contract with Bay State Textiles for textile recycling. Acceptable items for recycling are footwear, clothing, accessories, linens and stuffed animals. For instance, a stained t-shirt or torn bath towel becomes a wiping cloth, a lone sock becomes pillow stuffing, worn out denim jeans are used to produce household insulation, a teddy bear is used for car seat stuffing and so on. Everything will be accepted from gently used to ripped or with broken zippers. It is important, however, that they be clean, dry and bagged. Recycling these materials should reduce our tonnage disposal fees. Collection boxes are located at the town's transfer station, Public Works Department on Olsen Farm Road and at the Town Hall next to the Annex. We receive revenues averaging \$70 / month for approximately 1400 lbs. of textiles.

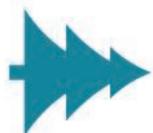
- Corrugated cardboard in the specially marked cardboard dumpster
- Leaves for composting
- Textiles

Materials NOT acceptable:

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

**Call Public Works
(860) 742-6588 for more
details or check your
COVRA calendar.**

The Household Chemical Waste Drop-Off Facility is closed for the winter, reopening May 6th, 2017.



**“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 unstaffed sites: Laidlaw Park on Merrow Road and the Miller Richardson Athletic Field (take Route 31 to South Street Extension then a right at the stop sign) look for the signs. Please leave only the tree; **take plastic bags/netting home to dispose with normal garbage.** The trees will be chipped up and used in landscaping next spring. All American Waste will not pick up trees curbside.

WINTER TIPS

Parking on town roads and town owned parking lots is prohibited between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. November 1 through March 31. Public Works may also issue no parking bans that will not allow any parking on the roads and lots throughout the town. You may elect to receive emails or phone messages regarding parking ban and snow information by clicking on 'Notify Me' on the town's website, coventryct.org, or get your news by listening to local radio or watching area television stations for parking ban information.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Any **questions**, issues or concerns should be directed to the Superintendent of Operations, Doug Reese, at (860) 742-6588 or email dreese@coventryct.org.

TRASH & RECYCLING

The following general guidance is provided to assist you in properly disposing of your solid wastes and preparing your recyclables for curbside pickup by the Town's contracted hauler, All American Waste. Detailed information is available at the Public Works garage at 100 Olsen Farm Road or the website at <http://www.coventryct.org/index.aspx?NID=221>. If you have specific questions please contact the Public Works Department at (860) 742-6588 between the hours of 7 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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

Holiday Trash / Recycling Pickup Schedule Changes ONLY for the following date: No service on Memorial Day, Monday, May 29, 2017. Resume service May 30, 31 and June 1, 2, and 3.

Optional Services by All American Waste (rates extended through 7/31/2020): The cost of "as-scheduled" curbside pickup of oversized waste such as mattresses, bureaus or couch, per pickup, and transportation shall be \$175 for three items, \$225 for six items and \$350 for up to ten items per instance.

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

- 6 cubic yard dumpster - \$150 haul / \$80 ton of disposal
- 15 cubic yard dumpster - \$175 haul / \$80 ton of disposal
- 30 cubic yard dumpster - \$175 haul / \$80 ton of disposal

Coventry's Best Kept Secret: "In yard" trash/recycling service available:

Do you know someone who might benefit from having their tipper carts picked up right at their back door? No more struggling to roll them to the curb!! The town has a few slots for those special needs people (no additional fees involved). Call Human Services (860) 742-5324 to find out if you or someone you know might qualify.

Waste acceptable for weekly pickup in gray tipper cart:

- Household garbage and solid wastes.
- Plastic bags.

Recyclable items acceptable for bi-weekly pickup in blue tipper cart:

*****NO PLASTIC BAGS*****

- newspapers/catalogs/magazines
- direct mail/envelopes (all types)
- paper/paperboard (i.e. cereal or shoe boxes)
- shredded paper (can be put in paper bag)
- milk & juice cartons (i.e. aseptic packaging)
- cardboard/brown paper bags
- food and beverage plastic bottles/plastic containers #s 1-7
- soda/juice/water bottles (glass or plastic)
- food containers
- glass bottles/jars (any color)
- aluminum cans/clean foil
- metal cans (tin/steel/aluminum)

Next to the recycling cart:

- Automotive batteries; one bi-weekly.

On top of the trash cart under the lid:

- Auto or light truck tire; removed from rim, one per week.

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

Material acceptable for monthly oversized waste pickup (non-metal material that is too large to be placed in your tipper cart, of residential nature such as furniture).

Residents are allowed to place up to **three** non-metal oversized waste items (for example: table, couch, mattress) at the curb each month for collection as part of the program. No electronics, they can be taken to the transfer station for free disposal. **All residents need to place their items at the curb by 6:30 a.m. on the 2nd Monday of the month.** This collection may/may not follow the daily waste & recycling pickup schedule.

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

Quarterly Curbside Metal Pickup has been discontinued since June 2010.

- Scrap Metal and appliances must be brought to the Coventry Transfer Station at 325 Main Street at no cost. Appliances with CFC's (Freon) are \$10 each.
- Antifreeze must be brought to Coventry Department of Public Works at 100 Olsen Farm Road. Please call (860) 742-6588 Monday through Friday 7 am to 3 pm for more info.

LAND USE OFFICE

860-742-4062

MUNICIPAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

The Town was recently awarded the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities' (CCM) 'Municipal Excellence Award' for all of the creative and collaborative efforts that the Town has demonstrated over the past twenty years in the renaissance and enhancement of Historic Coventry Village. Improvement of the quality of town service, development of effective ways to solve common problems, application of money saving measures such as grant funding leveraging, as well as community and Town Staff involvement were all recognized with the award. The Town Manager and Chair of the Town Council received the award at an annual exhibition sponsored by CCM.

EASTERN GATEWAYS TRANSPORTATION STUDY

The towns of Bolton, Coventry, Mansfield, and Tolland and the University of Connecticut are partnering with the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) to study the RTE 44 and 195 transportation corridors. These corridors have been identified as needing a comprehensive transportation plan that provide sustainable solutions to meet the current and future travel demand anticipated for the communities. Key considerations for the study include: enhancing safety, capacity, access management, connectivity, and multimodal options, while factoring in smart growth planning, fostering livable, economically sustainable communities, as well as complete streets. The study is being prepared with the consulting firm of Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc. in association with WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff and Ninigret Partners. A Technical Advisory Committee consisting of municipal staff from each town, representatives from UCONN, as well as special interest groups will help guide the overall process of the plan development. A study website (<http://www.cteasterngateways.com>) has been launched that serves as a clearinghouse of information with the ability to sign up for regular newsletter updates. A video of a public forum held in Coventry on December 1, 2106

on the project is available on the Town website at the following link: <https://coventryct.viebit.com/player.php?hash=32v9SvnoboSD>

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SURVEY

The Coventry Economic Development Commission has released a local business survey in an effort to better understand the needs of the businesses in town. The survey is available via Survey Monkey and can be accessed via the town website home page at www.coventryct.org. The results of the survey will be carefully evaluated by the Commission and staff and will provide specific guidance on tasks that can be undertaken to respond to the priority issues that are identified in the survey responses. Please contact Eric Trott at etrott@coventryct.org or 860-742-4062 if you have any questions or to schedule a business visitation with a Commission member.

RECREATIONAL TRAILS GRANT PROPOSAL

Since 2013, the towns of Andover, Bolton and Coventry worked with the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation (CT DOT) to pursue the conveyance of the former RTE 6 Expressway properties that were acquired to allow for the construction of a new highway through the towns. The expressway project did not proceed beyond design and permitting and ultimately was not constructed. The goal was for the towns to own the property and preserve it as open space and enable a future multi-purpose, low-impact trail system. Approximately 277 acres were conveyed to the Town earlier in 2016. The Towns of Bolton and Coventry are cooperatively working on a State of CT DEEP Recreational Trails Grant application to seek funding to hire a consultant to plan and design a multi-use trail system on the former CT DOT property. The Town's hope is provide a positive ending to a long, controversial matter in Eastern Connecticut that affected many residents. Please contact Eric Trott at etrott@coventryct.org or 860-742-4062 if you have any questions.



Main Street, ca 1912. A view looking southeast along Main Street. With Wellwood's store (currently Coventry Arts & Antiques) on the left. Note the trolley car, the sidewalks and the intersection with Mason Street.

HISTORIC PHOTOS PROJECT

The Town was awarded a 'Telling Stories that Matter' grant from the Last Green Valley earlier this summer. The goal of The Last Green Valley was to fund projects that 'preserve, interpret, promote or market historical and cultural resources...to bring stories from the Last Green Valley to life.' The grant funding is being used to accomplish a number of tasks to promote awareness of historic images which demonstrate the rich historic past of the town that were donated by John Welles Brainard to the Town a year ago. Fifteen 2' x 3' enlargements will be permanently mounted, approximately 200 standard sized photos will be bound in photo albums, all of the known Coventry photos will be loaded into a web based interactive digital platform. In all mediums, the photos will be identified by local historic experts, including members of the Coventry Historical Society. But there will be an opportunity for interactive comments and input on the web based platform. Easels will display the images. Keep in touch with the Town's website about details on a grand showcase of the images at a special event in the spring. Please contact Eric Trott at etrott@coventryct.org or 860-742-4062 if you have any questions.

WINTER FARMERS' MARKET

Sundays now through mid-March, enjoy the Coventry Winter Farmers Market, from 11AM to 2PM in the Coventry High School cafeteria. A variety of special events and educational programs have been scheduled. Follow the Winter Market's Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/CoventryWinterMarket.

COVENTRY YOUTH SERVICES

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 snow shoveling? 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 a 45 minute appointment. During the meeting, program policies and procedures, in addition to basic job skills, safety measures and other key components to landing a job will be covered.

PROMAGANZA! -

Now accepting donations of prom dresses, shoes, accessories and services (hair, nails, alternations, etc.) for the 4th 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.

Lending Library –

Coventry Youth Services is home to a (free) lending library featuring a variety of topics for teens, adults and parents. Over 100 titles give insight into today's issues around parenting, youth struggles, and tricky conversations. Please stop by Human Services to browse our titles, and check out a book.

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

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

860-742-5324

WORRIED ABOUT WINTER HEATING COSTS?

The Connecticut Energy Assistance Program is designed to help offset the winter heating costs of Connecticut's lower income households, specifically those households whose incomes fall at or below 60 percent of the state median income. On behalf of eligible households, the winter heating assistance pays for such heating sources as oil, natural gas, electricity, propane, kerosene, coal, wood and wood pellets. Homeowners and renters may apply. Households eligible for the winter heating program may also be eligible to receive weatherization assistance. This can help conserve energy and lower heating bills.

Appointments can be made at the ACCESS, Inc. (Willimantic area) (860) 450-7423 or Coventry Human Services (860) 742-5324 (for Coventry residents) by appointment only on Tuesdays and Thursdays, space is limited.

OPERATION FUEL, INC.

The Coventry Human Services is a partnering agency with Operation Fuel to accept applications for emergency energy assistance for winter deliverable fuel and summer electric utilities. All other heating programs must be utilized prior to taking an application for this program. Please note, this is not an entitlement program and applicants will be awarded grants on a first come, first serve basis. Operation Fuel is a non-profit agency.

CLERGY FUEL FUND

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

FOOD BANK

The Coventry Food Bank is well stocked and the holiday program was a success with the help and support of donations from the annual "Scouting for Food" through the Boy Scout Troop & Pack 65, who collected and sorted over 5,000 non-perishable items and the Skungamaug Golf Club, owned by Susan & John Motyka, with their "Food in Lieu of Green Fees" event in November.

We are always accepting donations for the food bank. The need can vary by the month/season so please call ahead with your donation. The food bank is always in need of and stocked with peanut butter/ jelly, cereal, spaghetti sauce, pasta, soup, tuna, personal hygiene items and cleaning supplies. Thank you to our local residents, churches, schools, business and civic groups who have made a donation. **Please remember we cannot distribute expired canned items so please check expiration dates.**

If you are in financial crisis and are in need of food, please contact Coventry Human Services to schedule an appointment.

THE SALVATION ARMY

The Holiday Bell Ringers are coordinated by the Human Services Office in partnership with The Salvation Army. Thank you to all our Bell Ringers who donated their time to ring and thank you to all the local businesses that participated ~ Highland Park Market, Dunkin Donuts, Subway and Walgreens. 90% of all the money raised is returned to the town to help Coventry residents in need of emergency fuel assistance, food, housing and medical assistance, camp scholarships, Back-to-School gift cards and school supplies.

"THANK YOU" FROM THE COVENTRY HUMAN SERVICES OFFICE

We had a very successful holiday distribution. With the support and donations from residents, businesses, schools, PTOs, local banks, grocery store, churches, scouts, clubs, legions and associations the Thanksgiving and Holiday Season was very special for many families in need. Prepared meals were delivered by high school student mentors and their mentees to residents of Orchard Hills for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. The Ryan Ramirez Memorial Fund graciously donated live Christmas trees to 15 Coventry families. We would also like to thank the students and adult volunteers who helped with both the holiday distributions. We would not have been able to do this program without your dedication and hard work!

RENTERS REBATE

The Renters' Rebate Tax Relief Program offered through the State of Connecticut, Office of Policy & Management for the elderly and totally disabled renters in CT will run from April, 2017-October, 2017. Please remember to retain your 2016 Social Security 1099, SSD, pension, interest, dividend and Income Tax Return, rent/lease, out-of-pocket fuel payments and Eversource Usage History. Applicants must provide proof of information for the 2016 program year. Qualifying income limits will be provided prior to the opening of the program.

Like Coventry Human Services on Facebook and see what's new in the office.

SENIOR CENTER

172 Lake Street • 860-742-3525

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

The Coventry Senior Center welcomes seniors 60 years and older to enjoy a variety of social, educational and wellness programs. There is no membership required and many of our events are low to no cost! The Center is open Monday-Friday 9am-4pm. Come enjoy a cup of coffee and games in our beautiful lounge overlooking Coventry lake or join one of our weekly card or billiards matches! To see our monthly calendar visit the Senior Center page on the Town website or contact Emma King, Senior Center Coordinator at 860-742-3525. New events and programs are being added for 2017!

A HUGE thank you to all the volunteers and donors who made this year's SPREAD the CHEER a success!



KEEP THOSE NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS WITH OUR HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAMMING!

- Enjoy a delicious (and healthy!) meal with friends and neighbors during our twice monthly TVCCA Bistro Lunches - see center calendar for dates and meal selections!
- Get in those steps during a group fitness class (held twice a week!) or use the fitness equipment in the center's gym overlooking the lake.
- Have a health question? A wellness nurse from ECHN *Visiting Nurse & Health Services of Connecticut* is available monthly for FREE blood pressure or blood sugar checks, and to answer any medical questions. Podiatry Foot Care is also available by appointment.
- Treat yourself! Schedule a manicure or professional haircut during monthly 'spa' days. Or relax with a massage or reflexology appointment!

TAX PREPARATION

Unfortunately due to volunteer schedules the center will not be offering on-site tax preparation through the AARP Tax Aide Program. Senior Center staff is working to identify community partnerships to continue this important service. Please call the center directly with any questions or concerns.

WE NEED YOU!

Have a program idea, or a talent you would like to share? Let us know! Senior Center staff is always looking for program leaders and volunteers. This is YOUR Senior Center; let us know what YOU want to see!

TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

As many in town know, Leigh Wajda, coordinator (and founder!) of the transportation program retired at the end of December. Her shoes will be hard to fill, and human services staff are working diligently to identify staffing solutions that will address the needs of the program and its riders. In the interim WRTD (Windham Regional Transit District) will be providing dispatch assistance to coordinate ride schedules, and our amazing team of volunteer drivers will be taking folks where they need to go! We THANK Leigh for her years of dedication to this vital program; we wish her all the best in her retirement! Further instructions on how to request rides during this interim period will be available via the Senior Center page on the town website.

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

COVENTRY STEPS

Coventry STEPS would like to acknowledge and thank the following individuals and businesses for their contributions to Coventry STEPS.

Thank you to Chantel Hines and her daughter for stuffing all of the Birth Packets which are sent out by the Town Clerk's Office to each Coventry family that has a new baby. Also, thank you to State Representative Tim Ackert for volunteering your time at the Farmers Market Booth this summer!

Thank you to Stacie Simko, Karen Skudlarek, Jillian Miner, Joan Lewis, Maria Genca, Maureen McNally and Mary Sposito, for your support of STEPS.

We would also like to thank the following businesses for their contributions of time, money or support: Farmers Cow, Questers Way, Ackert Electric, Coventry Pizza and Affordable Fuel for supporting STEPS. If you or your business would like to partner with Coventry STEPS to advance our mission that "ALL Coventry Children are Healthy, Nurtured and Engaged and Successful Learners," please contact Kathryn Hassler at coventrysteps@yahoo.com.

PRESCHOOL OPENINGS:

Coventry is fortunate to receive two state grants from the Office of Early Childhood (School Readiness and Smart Start) which both support high quality preschool education. There are still some preschool openings at CECC for this school year! Parents are often surprised at how much tuition assistance is available (based on family size and income). The cost for the entire school year **could be** as low as \$200! The school also has some reduced tuition spaces for non-residents so be sure to tell friends and family members that live outside of Coventry about this opportunity! Registration for this year is still open and registration will begin in March for the 2017-2018 school year. Call now 860-742-4550 or visit www.coventryecc.org for more information.

CALLING ALL FAMILIES WITH BABIES BORN IN 2016!!!

Do you have a young child??? Have you signed up on the Coventry STEPS early childhood (birth through age 5) email list? If not, then make sure you register before the end of January. Four lucky families with 2016 babies will be randomly chosen and will win a 10 pack of play passes to Questers Way!

Visit <http://earlychilddevelopmentct.com/sign-up-for-information/>. Once you sign up, you will receive PERIODIC email updates with news, resources and events. If you signed up with an older child, you need to register again if you have another child! GOOD LUCK!!!

COVENTRY SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION:

The Coventry Scholarship Foundation Dollars for Scholars is celebrating the completion of its 25th year of operation. Over the past 25 years the Foundation has distributed over \$734,000 to Coventry students who have pursued post-secondary education. The total number of 1505 students have been awarded scholarships over that time period. Because of the Dollars for Scholars affiliation, many of the scholarship awards have been matched by the accepting college. Also, each year book awards have been distributed to any former recipient who is entering their senior year of college. The Scholarship Foundation coordinates most of the local civic awards as well as honoring 46 past residents with memorial scholarships in their name.

Over the past 25 years, no student who has completed a scholarship application has been turned down. All HS seniors who reside in Coventry, regardless of what HS they attend, are eligible to apply. The main source of funding for scholarships comes from an annual phonathon that takes places in March. Other sources of funding comes from donations for memorial scholarships, book recycling at the Second Congregation Church parking lot, sales of named bricks for HS walkway, and collection of pennies for education at the Grammar School. The Foundation appreciates the overwhelming generosity of Coventry residents over the past 25 years. New volunteers and residents interested in serving on the CSF board are greatly welcome.

Anyone interested in contributing to the Scholarship Foundation can mail a contribution to: CSF, 78 Ripley Hill Rd, Coventry, CT 06238. Anyone interested in creating a memorial scholarship can contact Lynn Goodwin at 860-742-6988.



COMING EVENTS & NOTABLE ITEMS

ICE FISHING DERBY

January 28, 2017
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. The event is free and 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.

In the event of inclement weather or unsafe ice conditions, the event will be cancelled. A decision will be made by Thursday, January 26th. More information: Parks & Recreation Office, 860-742-4068.

Fri. Jan. 20 —Family Ice Fishing Class
6:30—8:30 PM, Coventry High School Lecture Hall, 78 Ripley Hill Rd. Spend some quality time with your family and friends for a fun hands-on introduction to this social wintertime sport. Adults must accompany children under age 15 to class. Gain the skills needed to participate in the annual derby this year! FREE. Info: www.coventryrec.com.

Fri. Feb 3— Quiet Corner Contra Dance: Lesson at 7:30 PM, dance 8-11 PM. Patriots Park Lodge, 172 Lake Street. Dance to a caller and live music. Partner not necessary. Wear soft-soled shoes. An alcohol and tobacco-free event. Adults \$10, students \$5. Held the first Friday of the month through May 5th. Contact Dave for info: 484-844-5203 or email dcannell@freeshell.org

March 2017—Stew & Story talk presented by the Coventry Historical Society. Bill Jobbagy of Coventry will provide a presentation on the old gas and service stations of Coventry dating back to 1922. Date and location to be announced. Watch for additional information in a future Town e-blast.

THANK YOU FROM THE ORGANIZERS OF COVENTRY'S CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE

A BIG Coventry Christmas in the Village Thank You to all businesses, organizations, students, residents, officials who were part of making this event another happy and successful time for all! The Lions Club thanks its sponsors, donors and folks who generously contributed Christmas Trees for its Auction/Festival. The Planning group WELCOMES your comments, ideas, thoughts on the day...and is already beginning to come together for next year's event. Please go to the Coventry Christmas in the Village Facebook page or call 860-918-5957 or 860-617-3588 if you want to join in on the planning fun.

COVENTRY SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS PHONE-A-THON

The Coventry Scholarship Foundation, a Dollars For Scholars affiliate, will conduct its 24th annual Phone-A-Thon starting Monday, March 14th through Wednesday, March 16. 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 are greatly needed.

MANAGER'S BUDGET HEARING Thursday, March 9, 2017 7:00 pm CHS Lecture Hall

Please attend this important meeting for a presentation on proposed budgets for 2017-18 and share your feedback with Town and School officials.

Get monthly notices of upcoming events by subscribing to the Town's e-blast. Visit the "Notify Me" section of the website at www.coventryct.org and click the box next to "Coventry Community Update."



BOOTH & DIMOCK MEMORIAL LIBRARY

1134 Main Street • 860-742-7606 • www.CoventryPL.org

The library has a free new digital magazine service available! Zinio allows you to read a variety of magazines right from your own device or tablet. This includes full color magazines with interactive audio and video for children and popular titles for all. Visit the library website to learn more.

Upcoming library events:

ADULTS

Warning: Anything You Say or Do May Appear in My Next Book

Memorable characters make memorable books. Join Deborah Ann Davis, author of *Fairly Safe* and *Fairly Certain*, for an edu-training presentation on where she finds her characters and how she develops them along with the plot.

Wednesday, January 25th at 6:30pm

Tech Tuesdays at 6pm

December 20- 3D print cookie cutters

January 10- New device Q&A

February 7- 3D Printer



Dying for Love

A local theatre troupe will be planning to use the Library for a special performance! But, before the curtain goes up, tragedy strikes! Join your fellow audience members and try to solve the mystery of Austin Jane's murder. Registration required.

Thursday, February 16th at 6pm

TEEN ZONE

Anti-Valentine's Day Party

Cut the cute and make anti-valentine's cards, decorate broken heart cookies, and play themed games.

Thursday, February 9 at 3pm

Minecraft

Join us on the library's server for some casual building or complete a build challenge!

Fridays: January 20, February 17 at 3pm

Homework Help

Do you need help working on a project or need a different place to study? Come to the library! Talk with Chris in the Teen Zone to set up an appointment.

CHILDREN'S ROOM

Drive in Movie

Make and decorate a cardboard box car and then settle in to watch *The Secret Life of Pets*

Car making starts at 2:30, movie at 3pm.

Wednesday, January 25th

Family Fort Night

Build forts in the library after hours and then enjoy some stories and activities as a family.

Friday, February 24 from 5:45pm-8pm

Dr. Seuss Party

Celebrate all things Dr. Seuss in this all ages storytime and celebration. We will be enjoying some favorite Dr. Seuss stories, crazy crafts, and a snazzy snack!

Wednesday, March 1 at 4pm

A MESSAGE FROM THE COVENTRY LAKE ADVISORY & MONITORING COMMITTEE

Coventry Lake is the centerpiece of our community and steps were taken in 2016 to maintain the Lake's health:

- The aquatic invasive plant hydrilla was treated in August. The initial reports by CT State and local limnologists are that the treatment caused no serious impact and the hydrilla was dying. Look for more updates in 2017.
- The lake gate project has started. The lake is at a very low level, the brick gate house has been removed ready for the concrete pour (December). Look for the finishing of the project in the Spring of 2017.
- Interested in reading more about Coventry Lake? Find information on the health of the lake, aquatic plant identification, hydrilla, and other great articles: www.CoventryCT.org > Your government > Boards and Commissions > Lake Advisory & Monitoring > Resources
- Want to join a working group regarding identifying aquatic plants or maybe tracking sediment run-off? Contact the Committee by email at coventrylakeadvisory@coventryct.org
- Just want to share pictures or sightings on Coventry Lake? Do you have a question about Coventry Lake? Contact the committee by email at: coventrylakeadvisory@coventryct.org

After the buffleheads ducks and mute swans enjoyed their early winter frolic on the Lake it is hoped 2017 will bring improved lake health.

Your Coventry Lake Advisory & Monitoring Committee – awarded the **2016 CRCOG Regional Sustainability Award** – Charlie Brown Jr., Jack Clausen, Linda Comeau, Scott Gallo, Leslie Shor, Jerry Zak, Debby Zeppa



The lake gate project has started.



Get access to the Town's financial system (updated monthly) with OpenGov. Look for a link under the Finance Department's page on the Town website at www.coventryct.org. You can look at multiple years of data, both expenses and revenue, and filter to the level you want. Built-in graphics allow you to visualize your inquiry. This includes access to our Accounts Payable checkbook and special funds. For questions or suggestions, please contact Beth Bauer, Coventry Finance Director, at 860-742-3528 or by email at bbauer@coventryct.org.



OPEN DOOR MEETINGS 2016-2017: Come meet the Superintendent of Schools, David Petrone. As the Superintendent of Schools, one of his initiatives is to meet with as many parents and members of our Coventry community as possible. Open communication is a key component for true collaboration. All parents and community members are invited to keep informed about education in our town by attending any of the remaining Open Door meetings this school year:

Monday, January 30 at 1:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 23 at 5:00 p.m. – Budget Focus

Monday, May 1 at 6:00 p.m. – Budget Focus

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.

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.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES: Flexible hours/days with a wide variety of experiences. **Teacher, Para-Educator, and School Nurse Substitutes:** Please visit our website at www.coventrypublicschools.org for additional information. **Cafeteria Substitutes:** Call Beth Pratt at 860-742-4535. **Bus Drivers/Substitutes:** Call M & J Bus Co. at 860-742-0344.

COVENTRY BOARD OF EDUCATION: The Coventry Board of Education would like to welcome back Mary Minor as a member. Michael Griswold stepped down in the fall, and Mary was appointed to fill that vacant spot. The current Board of Education members are as follows: William Oros, Chairman; Jennifer Beausoleil, Vice-Chairman; Michael Sobol, Secretary; Frank Infante; Mary Kortmann; Eugene Marchand; and Mary Minor.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS: The Board of Education generally meets on the second and last Thursday of each month. Regular Board meetings for 2017 are: January 12, January 26, February 9, February 23, March 9, March 30, April 27, May 11, May 25, June 8, June 22, July 20, August 10, August 31, September 14, September 28, October 12, October 26, November 9, and December 14. Unless noted on the agenda, all meetings are held in the Administration Building Conference Room 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 2016-2017 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 2016-2017 year with a continued focus on technology initiatives, instructional improvement and creating a learning environment where students and staff feel safe and respected.

Goals for each school administrator are in support of the Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools' Goals for the Coventry Public Schools. Each department's goals for the school year can be found on our website at www.coventrypublicschools.org. Below are the Superintendent's Goals for the 2016-2017 school year.

1. **Identify, define, and measure the critical skills and attributes that are required for success and align systems to continuously improve student performance and achievement.**
 - Continue the process of disaggregating Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC) and SAT data to inform pedagogy and the development, redesign, and alignment to the Connecticut Core Standards (CCS) of formative and performance based assessments.
 - Revise the science curriculum to align to the Next Generation Science Standards to articulate and coordinate skills vertically and incorporate 21st century experiences K-12.
 - Plan, strategize and implement the recommendations from the Assessment Reduction Committee for year two.
 - Continue the refinement and development of a PreK-12 autism program and develop a five year strategic plan designed to address current and future needs by working with internal and external stakeholders focusing on the needs of students on the autism spectrum.
 - Continue the work with key stakeholders to analyze essential data to develop and refine the district improvement plan to include multiple measures of student performance that will continue to provide the foundation and through-line for all initiatives related to instruction and student achievement.
 - Strengthen partnerships with two area districts and Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU) to continue exploring the possibility and financial and cultural impact of establishing a dual enrollment for credit program.
 - Work with district and preschool staff to organize and complete the NAEYC reaccreditation process, demonstrating continued compliance with the 10 NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards.
 - Oversee and assess the additional Smart Start classroom and evaluate the current structure of the preschool and special education program to ensure the program maintains the needs of pre-school students, parents and the community.

- Work with key stakeholders and the district's Technology Committee to develop action plans to implement year two of the Technology Plan and ensure continued effective integration of technology into curriculum, instruction, and assessment.
- Continue to pursue outside funding sources to support district initiatives in an effort to reduce the overall funding necessary in the district budget to implement or continue district priorities and initiatives.
- Work with district and community stakeholders to ensure the successful transition of our Chinese teacher and ensure the successful development of a middle school world language program that looks to future needs.
- Begin the process of exploring, and possibly developing, a five year strategic plan to implement a 6-12 STEM track.

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

- Continue working with local law enforcement personnel in developing safety programs to increase student awareness of current and future challenges they may experience inside and outside of school.
- Work with district personnel, town agencies, and safety experts to continue the development of a plan to redesign site entryways to further address best practices related to student safety.
- Evaluate ongoing student management data as it relates to the middle school's Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) framework, while promoting positive school climate and increasing educational outcomes for all students through year one of the alternative education program and participation in the Juvenile Review Board (JRB) process.
- Grow district connections with area businesses to increase the exposure of the quality programs occurring at each of the sites.
- Monitor the status of the noncompliance issues noted in the Voluntary Corrective Action Plan as a result of the Office of Civil Rights inspection and report.
- Develop centralized social media outlets to enhance and expand positive parent and community communications.
- Refine and expand the Smart Start summer program to address the needs of students ages 3 to 5 to ensure the district fulfills the requirements of the Smart Start grant.
- Explore and evaluate, with key stakeholders, town personnel and outside organizations, the impact current climate and proactive response strategy protocols have on safety, student engagement and achievement, and overall student and staff well-being.
- Evaluate the teacher-inspired Innovative Grant projects which impact student learning and achievement.

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

- Evaluate the "Most Valuable Patriot" program created to recognize and honor staff who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and have gone the extra mile to prepare students with the skills they need to succeed in the 21st century.
- Monitor and refine our internship programs with surrounding colleges and universities to validate that the initiatives continue to mutually benefit our students as well as individuals entering the field of education.
- Continue our pursuit to provide rigorous and customized systemic learning opportunities consistent with the district's mission statement and goals and expand professional learning experiences for teachers and administrators with a goal of increasing the district's vertical alignment at each site and department.
- Work with the University of Connecticut to ensure the successful first year implementation of the student teaching program as we become an official site district for the university.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS AND INFORMATION

TWITTER:

We are now on Twitter! As part of our ongoing efforts to connect to families and the community, you can follow Coventry Public Schools on Twitter. To follow us search for @SchoolsCoventry. Or, you can also connect to our account directly from the website.

SCHOOL MESSENGER INFORMATION:

Keeping families informed is a top priority at Coventry Public Schools. We continue to use a software called SCHOOL MESSENGER for this purpose. This system allows us to send a telephone message, email and text 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.

2 HOUR DELAY NOTES

HEEC/CECC (PreK): No AM Part-day Program; Before Care starts at 9:15 a.m.; School Day Program starts at 10:45 a.m.; Lunch Bunch starts at 11:00 a.m.; PM Program starts at 12:00 p.m.
 Grades K - 5: CGS & GHR – 10:30 a.m. start time
 Grades 6 - 12: CNH & CHS – 9:40 a.m. start time

EARLY RELEASE NOTES

– *Emergency/Weather-related*
 HEEC/CECC (PreK): Programs end at 11:00 a.m. (No PM Part-day)
All other grades end at Early Release times
 NO afternoon/evening activities on school grounds

TOWN OF COVENTRY
1712 MAIN STREET
COVENTRY, CT 06238



ECRWSS
POSTAL PATRON
COVENTRY, CT 06238



THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC: *Our Communities, Our Concern*

SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday, February 8, 2017

Tolland High School, Auditorium 1 Eagle Hill, Tolland

5:30 PM doors open for Resource Fair **6:30 PM** featured speaker address begins

Featured Speaker Greg Williams, national recovery leader, director of the award-winning film *The Anonymous People*, and the recently released film *Generation Found*

Panel Discussion with Audience Question and Answer

Resource Fair will include NARCAN demonstration and training, drug take-back station, and representatives from local support programs & service agencies.



Eastern Highlands Health District

Open to all

More information coming in January 2017

Snow Date February 28, 2017