Message from Joan Lewis,
Town Council Chairwoman

I am hopeful that everyone had a joyful Holiday season with family and friends. There certainly was much joy on Main Street during the annual “Christmas In The Village” event sponsored by the Coventry Lions Club. In addition to the usual happenings, Coventry’s traditional Tree Lighting was added to Christmas In The Village as was a very exciting “Torch Light Parade” sponsored by our two fire departments and emergency services. The new lighting and sidewalks in the Village also added to the festivities. On behalf of the Town Council, I would like to thank the Lions Club, our Town employees, the Coventry High School band and chorus, volunteers, and businesses who worked together to make it such a success.

I wanted to make everyone aware of two new committees recently formed by the Town Council, the Coventry Softball Fields Study Committee and the Fire Transition Study Committee. The Council is also seeking members for the Library Renovation and Improvement Committee to be formed in January. These Committees will work throughout the coming months and report back to the Council with their recommendations.

The Coventry Softball Fields Study Committee met in December. Committee members appointed by the Council are Jennifer Rodgers, Michael Blouin, Bonnie Edmondson, Matthew Harrington, Matthew Hunt, and Ashley Gagnon. Jennifer Rodgers will serve as the Chairman and Michael Blouin as Vice Chairman and Ashley Gagnon as Secretary. The Recreation Commission brought to the Council’s attention the need for additional softball fields as currently there are no Town designated fields for softball and sometimes school fields are not available or playable. The Committee’s charge is detailed but in brief it is charged to review the current and future field needs of Coventry Girls Softball.

The Town Council upon receiving the recommendation of the Fire Board as to appointees to the Fire Transition Study Committee appointed the following members: North Coventry Volunteer Fire Department, Chuck Beecher and Joshua Ziel, Coventry Volunteer Fire Department, Kenneth Boutin and Stephen Pacholski, Department 18 Emergency Services, Craig Malan and Jodie Mitchell, and Fire Administrator, James McLoughlin. The charge to this Committee is also very detailed as the departments have committed to study a possible transition to a merged state. The Committee is to plan and implement an organizational structure and policies to govern one Coventry Fire Department to increase efficiency, accountability, responsibility and improve the quality of service offered to the residents of our town. Thereafter, if a decision to proceed with a merger is determined as the best path forward, the work shall be conducted in two phases: 1) Strategic Plan; 2) Implementation. At the conclusion of each phase a report shall be made to the Town Council.

After the failure at referendum of the expansion of the Library, the Council discharged The Library Expansion Committee. After discussion and recognizing that the last renovation and expansion to the Library occurred 30 years ago, the Council unanimously agreed to form a Library Renovation and Improvement Committee. The charge to this Committee includes the renovation for necessary upgrades and refreshing electrical and technical, infrastructure, energy upgrades, code compliance, adequate bathrooms, parking, operational efficiency and addressing the water intrusion into the facility. Committee members are yet to be appointed.

In the coming months, much of the Council’s time will be spent on budget deliberations for the 2019-2020 budget. Hopefully, Connecticut’s fiscal problems will begin...
Comings & Goings and Staff Accomplishments

Farewell to Youth Services Coordinator Crystal Morrowitz, who leaves us after 10 years of service to pursue an exciting travel adventure. We wish her well and follow her blog with interest. Welcome to Sneha Patidar who will assume the position of Youth Services Coordinator on January 22nd.

Congratulations to Police Officers Jeffrey Spadjinske and Russell Iger who have been promoted to Sergeant, and to Officer Michelle Kruckoff who moves to the Detective position with the promotion of Officer Spadjinske. Welcome to Police Officer Richard Grimaldi who joins the Coventry Police Department after many years of service for the Town of Manchester.

Welcome to David Mortimer and Kevin Vincens, our new Public Works Maintainer employees. Farewell to Dan Smith, who has left the Coventry Public Works Department to pursue other endeavors.

The Town was awarded a Bronze Certification by Sustainable CT for our efforts to make Coventry a sustainable community.

The Recreation Department was awarded a loss control award for sustained risk management for a project to assure safe sports. They worked with youth sports on training, background checks and established policies to emphasize the fun aspect of sports.

COUNCIL CHAIRWOMAN’S UPDATE — Continued from pg. 1

to improve and the Administration and General Assembly will make the necessary cuts and revenue increases where warranted in the State budget so that the Towns do not see further cuts in State revenue. If not, the budget process will be a very painful one. I am hopeful the members of our Town Council will approach the 2018-2019 budget on a bi-partisan basis and use everyone’s talents to make the best decisions for our community.

In closing, my best wishes to all for a happy, healthy and safe New Year.

TOWN MANAGER’S UPDATE

Over the summer, the School Building Committee was able to replace boilers at Coventry Grammar School and G.H. Robertson School. The Library air conditioner was also replaced. Oil tank removals are scheduled for this summer at all four schools, Town Hall and the Library. New above-ground tanks will be installed at Robertson, CGS and the Library. Plans and specifications for the CHS cafeteria and air handling at both CHS/CNHMS are in final design and review. School security changes for the entrance to all schools were implemented over the summer.

This summer were able to work with the Town of Mansfield to resurface the Flanders Road/Cider Mill Road Bridge. Working together this project was done in about a week with significant savings over prepping engineering specifications and bidding it out.

In January, a task force represented by both Fire Departments and ambulance crews will be starting work to discuss the possibility of a merger of both fire agencies. A committee to study both short term and long term needs for girls’ softball fields was also established and is meeting.

The Town Council has started a recognition program of Town employees for their years of service. Recently recognized for 25 years or more of service were Town Hall employees Marge Roach, Linda Greenbacker and John Elsesser. Recognized for 20 or more years of service was Eric Trott, and for 15 or more years was Joe Callahan. Other service awards will be given to Police and Public Works employees early this year.

John A. Elsesser
Town Manager

The Town of Coventry is proud to offer an exciting program that helps you maintain a healthy lifestyle, all while holding on to more of your hard earned money. The Town of Coventry Prescription Discount Card, administered by ProAct, Inc., is a FREE program that offers discount savings on the purchase of prescription drugs. Best of all, it costs NOTHING for Town of Coventry or local taxpayers. So why pay more? Just bring this card with you to your next pharmacy visit, and let the savings begin!

- Coventry Town Council

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: How does the Town of Coventry Prescription Discount Card work?
A: Just present this FREE card to your pharmacist the next time you bring in a new prescription, or go for a refill.

Q: Where can I use my Town of Coventry Prescription Discount Card?
A: The card is accepted by most pharmacies in Connecticut, including Walgreens, CVS, Rite Aid, Target, and Wegmans. For more information on over 20,000 participating pharmacies nationwide, please call ProAct toll free at 1-877-776-2285 or visit www.CTRxDiscountCard.com.

Q: What does the Town of Coventry Prescription Discount Card cover?
A: All prescription medications are covered, at a discount rate. Savings are also available on Vision, Lens, and Hearing services. For more information on discounts, please visit www.CTRxDiscountCard.com.

Q: Can I use the card if my prescriptions are already covered by insurance?
A: No. This card is intended to be used if you don’t have insurance, or if something is not covered by your current program. It can’t be used to discount prescriptions co-payments or deductible charges.

The Town of Coventry is offering an exciting program that helps you maintain a healthy lifestyle, all while holding on to more of your hard earned money. The Town of Coventry Prescription Discount Card, administered by ProAct, Inc., is a FREE program that offers discount savings on the purchase of prescription drugs. Best of all, it costs NOTHING for Town of Coventry or local taxpayers. So why pay more? Just bring this card with you to your next pharmacy visit, and let the savings begin!

- Coventry Town Council
Information regarding any assessments is available in our office or at the following web sites:
www.coventryct.org – general departmental information including forms and applications
www.coventry.mapxpress.net – Geographical Information System (Maps) and property Information

The Elderly or Totally Disabled Homeowner Program begins February 1, 2019, and applications are being accepted until May 15, 2019. Our office will be sending reminder letters by the end of January 2019 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 $43,900 if married, or less than $35,600 if single, both must include Social Security benefits and your adjusted gross income from your 2018 Federal Income tax return. If you qualify for the State program the Town of Coventry also has either a tax credit or a tax deferral program which has the same income requirements.

The Additional Veterans Program also starts February 1, 2019 and applications are accepted until October 1, 2019. A DD214 must have been filed with the Town Clerk prior to October 1st, 2018 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

2019 Revaluation: The Assessor’s Office would like to notify homeowners of the upcoming revaluation project for the October 1, 2019 grand list being conducted by representatives of the firm Vision Government Solutions. This process has started and more information will be available soon.

TAX COLLECTOR’S OFFICE

The 2nd installment for real estate taxes is due January 1, 2019. The last day to pay without interest is February 1, 2019. Real Estate tax bills are not mailed out for this installment. If you need a copy of your real estate tax bill, you can print one from the Town’s website (www.coventryct.org) under Online Bill Pay which will take you to the Tax Collector’s page where you will see a link to Find My Bill. If you still have your original 3-part real estate tax bill from July 2018, please note the typographical error: the January 2019 tax amount due was printed in the Total Tax Due box. January house tax amount due has historically been the same amount you paid the previous July. If you pay annual taxes less than $50 for a vacant lot, there is no tax payment due in January as the entire payment was due in July.

Supplemental Motor Vehicle bills for a vehicle purchased, registered or plates transferred after October 1, 2017 and before April 1, 2018 were mailed in December and are due January 1, 2019. The last day to pay without interest is February 1, 2019.

Please remember that the Webster Lockbox address in Hartford, printed on your original bills, will only process mailed payments for CURRENT TAX BILLS: Real Estate due January 2019 and Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax due January 2019. All other payments for any partial payments or all delinquent bill 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, 2019, 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 now processed by Point and Pay LLC. There is a convenience fee charged by Point and Pay for credit card payments. Point and Pay fee schedule is as follows: credit cards (MC, Visa, Discover and Amex) are 2.75% fee (minimum $2.00) and Visa debit (VISA only) is a $3.95 flat fee. There is a link from the Tax Collector’s page on the Town’s website, www.coventryct.org, to make your payment by credit card.

Taxpayers have an additional on-line payment option for those wishing to pay by check. From the Tax Collector’s page on the Town’s website, under Online Payments choose payment 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 mail.

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. Online 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.

Winter weather has moved in quickly this year! 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.

Are you planning on building in the spring or summer? Please consider submitting your permit application in the wintertime to allow for the time necessary to go through the review process. Once approved, the permit will be valid as long as work is started within six months!

Please call the Building Department to arrange for final inspection if you have not received a Certificate of Completion or Completion for Occupancy. We find that homeowners often think that their contractor had called to close out the work performed and many times that is not the case. Please call the office to inquire that a close out inspection has occurred for past projects and if not, to schedule one, 860-742-4064.

HAVE A SAFE & HEALTHY NEW YEAR!

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT COMPLETED:

The Coventry Historical Society Executive Board would like to offer their appreciation and gratitude to Eagle Scout Kenny Boland of Boy Scout Troop 65 for his completion of a 10’ x 12’ board and batten-sided shed built at the Brick School House site on Merrow Road, using lumber that he milled. Scouts are responsible for all stages of their projects - design, funding, and organizing labor. This building will allow the Brick School House to store needed equipment out of sight from museum visitors. Thank you to Kenny and all who helped!

Appreciation goes out to the North Coventry Volunteer Fire Department for the donation of a LUCAS device to the Town of Coventry’s Department 18 ambulance. The LUCAS device performs automatic chest compressions during CPR, improving efficiency of patient care and freeing first responders to concentrate on other life-saving measures.

Photo: R to L: Ray Eldridge, Chief, North Coventry Volunteer Fire Department; John Alosky, President, North Coventry Volunteer Fire Department; and DJ Figiela, Interim Chief, Town of Coventry Fire/EMS Department.

FIRE/EMS

WINTER SAFETY TIPS

People are at greater risk in the winter season when they spend more time cooking in the kitchen and seek to stay warm with potentially unsafe heat sources.

The threat of winter fires is real. These statistics from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) show how severe these fires can be.

- 890 people die in winter home fires each year.
- $2 billion in property loss occurs each year from winter home fires. Winter home fires result in 30 percent of all fire deaths annually.
- Cooking is the leading cause of all winter home fires.
- A heat source too close to combustibles is the leading factor contributing to the start of a winter home fire.
- 5 to 8 p.m. is the most common time for winter home fires.

You can help prevent winter weather-related home fires in your community. For additional safety and emergency preparedness tips, go to the Emergency Preparedness section on the Town website at www.coventryct.org.

James McLoughlin, Fire-EMS Administrator jmcloughlin@coventryct.org

For more information visit https://www.text911ct.org.
COMMUNITY SURVEY
The Planning and Zoning Commission is in the process of preparing a revision to the Plan of Conservation and Development for the Town. This resource provides guidance on all aspects of the town and is updated every ten years. Part of the process of revising the Plan will involve a community survey. This was done in preparation of the current Plan which was adopted in 2010. A statistically valid survey was conducted by National Citizen Survey who has been hired to perform the survey again. They offer a unique benchmarking analysis by providing data comparisons with other similar communities in the country. The survey is scheduled to begin in February of 2019 and be completed in May of 2019. The Town will be asking custom questions to gain specific guidance from the community on housing, economic development and town project prioritization. Please take the time to respond to this important opportunity to have your voice in the future planning of the community. Please contact Eric Trott at 860-742-4062 or email etrott@coventryct.org with questions.

CT DEEP - RECREATIONAL TRAILS GRANT PROPOSAL
The State of CT DEEP has awarded the Towns of Bolton and Coventry $110,632.00 of Recreational Trails Program Grant funds which will facilitate the planning and design of a potential multi-purpose trail on the properties that were obtained from the State of CT DOT as open space. 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 Towns now owns the property and will preserve it as open space and enable a future multi-purpose, low-impact trail system. Approximately 277 acres were conveyed to Coventry earlier in 2016. The BSC Group has been hired to work with the Towns to prepare a plan and preliminary design. Public meetings were held in January in Bolton and Coventry to seek input on the project. Both Towns have collected the responses and input that have been received and are in the process of reviewing and evaluating the comments as well as preliminary layout options in order to find balanced solutions. The Town will be reaching out to property owners whose residences may be in close proximity to the prospective preferred trail alignment to set up times to meet and discuss options. A second public forum will be held in both towns in early 2019. Please contact Eric Trott if you have any questions.

COVENTRY VILLAGE MAIN STREET PARTNERS
Subsequent to the success of the Arts of Main event that was held in Coventry Village in August, the committee of organizers and supporters have continued to work together since the event to consolidate ways to sustain the positive momentum that was generated to support Historic Coventry Village. The committee has met regularly since August and have pursued acceptance into the CT Main Street Center. The CT Main Street Center is a nonprofit organization that supports communities throughout Connecticut to create vibrant, healthy and sustainable downtowns. The Center provides resources, education, networking and other services to assist the Town in its effort to work with local businesses, civic groups, and community stakeholders. The Center applies a unique programmatic formula that is based on the National Trust for Historic Preservation which is used by communities across the country. If you would like to learn more about ways you can be involved, please contact Eric Trott.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN
The Towns of Bolton, Coventry, Mansfield and Tolland have initiated efforts to work cooperatively to create a regional economic development plan that provides guidance on steps the towns can take independently and collectively to find mutual success. It also offers opportunities to build on the planning that has occurred involving the towns, like the Eastern Gateways Transportation Study that is analyzing the Route 44 and 195 corridors for future transportation needs. A request for proposals is being developed to hire a consultant to assist the towns in the preparation of the plan and will likely be released in early 2019. Please contact Eric Trott for further information.

BUDGET NEWS:
We are in the budget process for the July 1 fiscal year. No one knows what changes will be made to local aid and the State continues to struggle. Save the date for the Town Manager’s budget hearing on March 7, 2019.

The Town Council is also considering a spring road bond for road and bridge improvements for the next three-year period.

POLICE TECHNOLOGY UPDATES:
The Town Council has authorized the Coventry Police Department to take advantage of an offer to utilize the State Police radio system instead of having to update our existing tower sites. This new system will improve communication by eliminating many dead spots and allowing direct communication with State Police and our neighboring UConn and Willimantic Police Departments. We hope the new system will be operational this summer.

COMPOST BINS AVAILABLE:
Compost bins are still available at a cost of only $20 on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact Public Works at 860-742-6588. Watch for new courses in composting this winter.

GRANTS:
The Police Department was able to obtain a grant to replace in-car video recorders for the police cruisers.

CHECK OUT OUR IMPROVED WEBSITE!
The Town website was upgraded this fall and offers streamlined features to quickly help you find what you’re looking for, and an improved experience on mobile devices. Kudos to staff members Laura Stone, Amanda Backhaus and Caterina Merriam who served on the migration committee for this six-month project. In addition to the technological improvements, we think the new site is very visually appealing and easy to navigate as well. See it at www.coventryct.org.
COVENTRY WINTER FARMERS’ MARKET

The Coventry Winter Farmers’ Market is open for the season every Sunday from 11 AM to 2 PM at Coventry High School. The market runs until March 17, 2019. The market features Connecticut-grown produce, meats, eggs and cheese. Also, cupcakes, baked goods, jams, prepared foods, dog treats and hand-made soaps. A rotating selection of craft vendors also.

Website: www.www.coventrywinterfarmersmarket.com

MANAGER’S BUDGET HEARING

Thursday, March 7, 2019
7:00 pm
CHS Lecture Hall

Please attend this important meeting for a presentation on proposed budgets for 2019-20 and share your feedback with Town and School officials.

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. We hope all enjoyed the “Holiday Torch Light Parade” and tree lighting! 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.

COMING EVENTS & NOTABLE ITEMS

Sat. Jan. 26 — Family Ice Fishing Class and Practice: 9:30 AM – 3 PM, Patriots Park Lodge, 172 Lake Street. CT DEEP will conduct a FREE ice fishing class that introduces you to this fun winter sport! The class will cover ice safety, clothing, rules and regulations, fish identification, bait and tackle and local fishing spots. If the ice is safe, a practice session will follow the class with all equipment and bait provided. Class: 9:30 – 11:30 AM, Practice session: 12 – 3 PM. Bring your own lunch. Pre-registration required and more information available on the Parks & Recreation page of the Town website at www.coventryct.org.

Fri. Feb. 1 — Quiet Corner Contra Dance: lesson at 7:45 PM, dance at 8:00 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 $12, students $6, under 12 free. Held the first Friday each month from Sept.—June. Contact Dave for info at 484-844-5203 or email cannel.dmi@gmail.com.

Thurs. March 21—Annual “Stew and Story”, 6:30 PM, Second Congregational Church Community House, Boston Turnpike. A variety of stews and breads will be served followed by dessert. Bring your own mug and spoon. Dinner served at 6:30 PM followed by the story at 7:30 PM. The speaker will be Liliana Damasceno and her talk is titled “What if 18th Century Artifacts Could Tell Their Stories?” $10 donation requested. Sponsored by the Coventry Historical Society. Call for reservations: 860-742-7277.

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.”

CEMETERY COMMISSION ANNOUNCES CLEAN-UP DATES

The Coventry Cemetery Commission has established annual clean-up dates for the five town-managed cemeteries. The affected cemeteries will be cleared of dead potted plants, damaged or out-of-season decorations, and debris at the discretion of the Commission three times annually on March 1st, August 1st and December 1st. If you have seasonal decorations that you would like to preserve, please be sure to remove them prior to any upcoming clean-up date.

The five town managed cemeteries are:
- Coventry Cemetery, 392 Main Street
- Nathan Hale Cemetery, 100 Lake Street
- Grant Hill Cemetery, 489 Grant Hill Road
- Old South burying Ground, 3373 South Street
- Carpenter Cemetery, Silver Street

The Coventry Arts Guild is gearing up for another year of workshops, musical performances, exhibits, social events and festivals. Our Annual Members Art Exhibit is in the planning stages for Mill Brook Place this spring. We have three dates booked for the Coventry Winter Market to begin with – December 9th, January 20th and February 17th, in preparation for upcoming workshops and our membership drive, which begins now and continues throughout January. Membership is open to all for a small fee of $20.00 for the year. Whether you are a visual artist, musician, performer, writer or a patron of the arts, we are certain that you will enjoy what we have planned for this year.

Visit us soon at the Coventry Winter Farmers’ Market, catch up with us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/coventryartsguild/, or email us at info@coventryartsguild.org. Join now and help bring the arts to Coventry.
The Lions Club of Coventry has completed another successful year of community projects and fundraisers. Community events sponsored by the Lions include Christmas in the Village, Chili Contest, and the Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast. We greatly appreciate the support the citizens of Coventry have given to our sponsored events.

The Lions Club policy emphasizes the return of funds back into the community. The following is a sample of some of the activities and organizations we gave some support to this past year: Holiday Committee, Patriots Park campherships, Food Bank, Fuel Bank, Coventry Scholarship Foundation, Coventry Fest, Booth & Dimock Library, Coventry Farmers Market, Boys Scouts and Girl Scouts, Coventry Arts Commission, bike racks for town parks, Village Improvement Society, and the Senior Center.

We are a growing club that always welcomes new members. Anyone interested in getting involved with our community oriented organization can contact Lions Club President at 860-617-3588.

BUSINESS NEWS

Welcome to the following new Coventry businesses:

- **Country Way Realty**, 1276 Main Street. A full-service real estate company. 860-742-5768.
- **Coventry Village Professional Building**, 1153 Main Street. Professional office space for rent. 860-341-2776.
- **eyeTrade**, 1197 Main Street. Affordable trend-setting designer eyewear. 860-498-0717.

Best wishes to the following long-time Coventry businesses owners upon their retirements. We wish you many happy golden years!

- Memory Lane Antiques
- Sanborn Service Station

The building that housed Reid’s Grill & Creamery is back on the market. Please share this great location if anyone in your network is looking to start or relocate a business.

We all miss the businesses that occupied Vinton Village Plaza prior to the fire that occurred last July. The Town is waiting for plans to fix the building. In the meantime, Can Dance Studio has relocated to Ackert Hall in Coventry Village. If you’re craving a piece of pizza from Wicked Slice, visit their sister store, Da Vinci in Hebron.

WINTER NOTES FROM THE COVENTRY LAKE ADVISORY & MONITORING COMMITTEE

Winter means winter sports on the Coventry Lake. Ice fishing and ice skating or even just ice walking are fun winter activities that can be enjoyed on Coventry Lake. However a word of caution – the ice MUST be SAFE:

- **Safe ice for sports is listed as follows:**
  - 4 inches or more of ice is recommended
  - Newer black ice is stronger than old milky ice
  - Weaker ice is found near rocks, inlet/outlets, sand bar (Flats)
  - The entire Lake should be frozen before venturing out

**Special Winter event on Coventry Lake**

- **Saturday January 26, 2018**
  - 10:00 – 12 AM CT DEEP Ice Fishing Class
- **Saturday January 26, 2018**
  - 12:00 – 3 PM CT DEEP Ice Fishing Trip on the Lake if ice is safe

2017 and 2018 have been a challenge for the new lake gate. Droughts are causing extreme lows and excess rainfalls are causing extreme highs. Public Works is doing what they can to maintain summer and winter levels but are at the mercy of Mother Nature. Lakefront owners need to learn to prepare for the unpredictable swings in the water levels.

In 2018 the hydrilla in Coventry Lake was treated 3 times over a 90 day period with a systemic herbicide, fluridone. The treatments were whole lake treatments covering the shorelines out to a depth of 18 feet. The preliminary report in late September showed stunted growth of the hydrilla and very little impact on the native aquatic plants. The final 2018 report will be available during the 2019 winter allowing time to find the resources for the hydrilla treatment in the summer 2019.

Contact us with questions at coventrylakeadvisor@coventryct.org.

Coventry Lake Advisory & Monitoring Committee – helping to help keep Coventry Lake healthy and safe.

HOUSING REHABILITATION LOAN PROGRAM

Would you be interested in receiving financial assistance from the Town for repairs to your home? The Town of Coventry has funds available for its Housing Rehabilitation Program. The program funds repair projects that include, but are not limited to: septic systems, roofing and siding, structural deficiencies, replacement windows, insulation, plumbing, electrical and heating systems. Low-income eligible applicants will receive a loan that is no interest and no payments until the property transfers ownership and 1/3 zero percent interest paid over ten years in monthly installments. To be eligible, you must have homeowner’s insurance, not exceed 90% loan to value ratio, and the household yearly gross income must not exceed the amounts below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number in Family</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low Income</td>
<td>33,900</td>
<td>38,750</td>
<td>43,600</td>
<td>48,400</td>
<td>52,300</td>
<td>56,150</td>
<td>60,050</td>
<td>63,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate Income</td>
<td>50,350</td>
<td>57,550</td>
<td>64,750</td>
<td>71,900</td>
<td>77,700</td>
<td>83,450</td>
<td>89,200</td>
<td>94,950</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information or to request an application, contact the Program Coordinator, at 860-456-0782 or peterhuckins@charter.net. All information provided to the Housing Rehab Program will be confidential.
TOWN CLERK’S OFFICE
860-742-7966
Hours: M-W 8:30-4:30, Th 8:30-6:30, Fr 8:30-1:30

OUR SERVICES

Being one of the most visited offices in the Town Hall, the Clerk’s office provides the link between the residents, the local governing bodies and the boards, commissions, and committees of town government. Our main functions are the recording, indexing and copying of land record documents and maps; vital statistics (births, marriages, civil unions and deaths); official repository of notices, agendas and minutes of the various boards, committees and commissions; election related matters including but not limited to the issuance of absentee ballots; answering various questions from residents; notarizing of documents; issuing of dog, marriage, civil union, sporting licenses; and receiving for record military discharges, trade name certificates and liquor permits. We also house and safeguard all of the Town’s permanent public records.

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

IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR DOG LICENSING!

A dog’s license is their ticket home!! The State of Connecticut requires that any dog over the age of 6 months 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: 2019 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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED -

Volunteer and serve your community by serving on a board or committee. The town is served by many volunteer boards and commissions. If you are interested in serving on a board or commission please review the current vacancies and complete the Statement of Interest form online at www.coventryct.org. Completed forms may be submitted online or to the Office of the Town Clerk. The Council Steering Committee reviews these applications and makes recommendations for appointment to the whole Council.

ORDINANCES:

Interested in our local ordinances? They are available on the Town’s website at www.coventryct.org. Hover over the Government tab at the top and click on “Charters & Ordinances” which is the first item in the right-hand column. You can find helpful laws and some historic gems such as an 1810 law which allows swine to roam on highways and common areas (but not boars) as long as they have a ring in their nose:

**Sec. 14-3. - Swine.**

All swine, boars excepted, may be allowed to go at large on the highway or commons, provided they have a ring in their nose and pigs under three months old without rings. If any boar over three months old shall be found going at large on the highways or commons in the town, it shall be the duty of the haywards appointed by the town, and it shall be lawful for any landholder in the town, or by their order, to impound any such boar in the pound nearest the place where so found. The owner of such boar shall pay the sum of $2.00 for each boar before the boar shall be released from the pound. Three-quarters of the sum shall be paid to the person who shall impound such boar, and one-quarter of the sum shall be paid to the poundkeeper for his fee. The liberation or discharge of such boar from the pound or other disposition of the boar, when impounded, shall be regulated and conducted in conformity with G.S. § 22-368 et seq.

LAND RECORDS ONLINE:

Need to find a deed or a map? Many are available online. On the Town’s web site, go the Department tab and select Town Clerk and click on the Quick Link titled “Land Record Database.”
LOTcip grants
The Office has been relatively successful with our region, Capital Region Council of Government, (CRCOG) LOTcip grant funding for 2018. LOTcip is the acronym for Local Transportation Capital Infrastructure Program which awards 100% construction expenditures for capital infrastructure improvements on eligible local bridges (>20 foot spans) and road corridors (CDOT classified urban collectors). Coventry’s eligible corridors are:

South Street Corridor (west to east): South Street starting at Willimantic Turnpike (CT RT 6), then continuing south on Flanders Road, then continuing south on Flanders River Road and ending at the Town line with Columbia.

Lake Street Corridor (south to north): Cross Street starting at South Street, then continuing north on Lake Street and ending at Main Street (CT RT 31).

Swamp Road Corridor (south to north): Swamp Road starting at South Street and ending at Boston Turnpike (CT RT 44).

Based on the eligibility above and current needs our infrastructure the Town submitted applications:

1. Folly Lane Bridge Replacement: The project will replace the functionally obsolete bridge, one lane with a two-way roadway coupled with the fact that both the superstructure and substructure of the bridge are only rated just slightly higher than the Connecticut Department of Transportation’s structurally deficient standard. The requested grant application value is $1,419,600.

2. Swamp Road @ Boston Turnpike Intersection Improvements: This project addresses operational deficiencies and safety concerns at the existing intersection of Swamp Road and realigns it opposite of Bread and Milk Street at Boston Turnpike. The improvements will include traffic signal modifications to include the new leg, make adjustments to the Northfield Road intersection, add additional sidewalk and storm water infrastructure. The project will impact three (3) existing abutters requiring a total acquisition of one of the parcels. The requested grant application value is $1,419,600.

3. South Street Roadway and Pedestrian Improvements: The project addresses the failing and deficient road surface and drainage infrastructure from Seagraves Road to the Strong-Porter House and adds a pedestrian infrastructure from the roundabout to the Hale Homestead while being sensitive to the Scenic Road designation of the corridor. The requested grant application value is $1,580,400.

We are pleased to report that Coventry received approval/endorsement status from CRCOG for all three projects. CRCOG is charged with submitting all endorsed projects to CDOT for final Commitment to Fund as CDOT has final control of funding. As of mid-December, Coventry has received its Commitment to Fund on the Folly Lane Bridge Project only. The Swamp Road Project application was only recently (November 2018) submitted to CDOT by CRCOG and it is anticipated that the South Street Project application will only be submitted once CDOT has awarded the Commitment to Fund for Swamp Road project due to staffing shortage at CDOT. The Town anticipates the Commitment to Fund letters in early 2019 for Swamp Road and Summer of 2019 for South Street.

Based on those schedules, the Town would anticipate a construction schedule for Folly Lane Bridge in 2020, Swamp Road in 2020 and South Street in 2021, but each of these could change either a year sooner or later. Stay tuned.

A 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 Kiefer. Mail to Coventry DPW at 1712 Main Street, e-mail mkiefer@coventryct.org, or hand deliver to 100 Olsen Farm Road or the Town Hall. Include your name, address, phone number, tree location and a brief description of your request.
Winter Tips:

Parking on town roads and town owned parking lots is prohibited between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. from November 1 through March 31. The Public Works Department may also issue no parking bans that will not allow any parking on the roads and lots throughout the town. You may elect to receive emails or phone messages regarding parking ban and snow information by clicking on ‘Notify Me’ on the town’s website, Coventryct.org, or get your news the old fashioned way by listening 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.

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 reflector 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.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

Projects Update:

Western Route 44 Sewer Planning Area: We are continuing to work with the Bolton Lakes Regional WPCA, our Town Attorney, and our consulting Engineers to create a plan and agreements to extend sewers from Bolton into Coventry on Route 44. Having sewers available could increase development potential which would generate tax revenue for the Town. The tradeoff is that installing sewers is a large upfront investment so we are proposing private funding by developers.

Treatment Plant tank rehab: Bi-annual inspections of the underground tanks at the Treatment Plant have shown deterioration of the concrete walls and steel mixing mechanisms. We are having the concrete and steel tested by corrosion specialists to determine if repairs or complete rebuild are the best option.

Did You Know?

The word “sewer” can be used to describe either storm sewers that collect rainwater from roads and parking lots or sanitary sewers that convey sewage from sinks and toilets. Storm sewers discharge the rainwater into the nearest river or waterbody. Sanitary sewers go to Treatment Plants where the sewage is treated mechanically, biologically, and chemically before being tested and discharged into rivers.

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.

Any questions, issues or concerns regarding snow removal or winter operations should be directed to the Superintendent of Operations, Mark Owens, Public Works Department at (860) 742-6588 or email mowens@coventryct.org.
As always, feel free to contact Donna Wrubel at the Public Works Department at (860) 742-6588 or e-mail dwrubel@coventryct.org for any assistance needed with your waste management.

Material acceptable for monthly oversized waste curbside pickup. (Non metal material that is too large to be placed in your tippertop 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 must go to the transfer station. 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 3'ft. lengths, bundled & tied, 30-lbs. maximum.
- Wood lumber; length & width less than 4 ft., less than 4 in. nominal size, 30-lbs. maximum.

Please don’t leave your trash and recycling cart at the roadside all week long. Plow trucks may be on the roads and it is difficult enough to plow in a snow storm at night with poor visibility without having to dodge carts. It is also unsightly and there is an ordinance banning this practice.

If your cart’s lid fell off or is missing a lid plug...if your cart’s tire fell off or is wiggly, call All American Waste at (860) 289-7850 and make arrangements to have it repaired. Public Works has plugs for the medium and large size carts if you need one.

Paint is now recycled through a state program. For more info go to www.paintcare.org. Drop-off locations include: England Hardware in Bolton, Mansfield Supply in Mansfield. True Value Home Center in Willimantic, Sherwin Williams in Willimantic and O. L. Willard in Willimantic.

DUMPSTERS - For major cleanup projects, the current COVRAA 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 $3/day rental fee applies. These containers are to be used by the residents for special projects complying with the COVRAA 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

“In yard” trash/recycling service available for individuals with special needs: Do you know someone who might benefit from having their tipper carts picked up right at their back door? (Some driveway length restrictions apply.) No more struggling to roll them to the curb!! The town has a few slots for people with special needs (no additional fees involved). Call Human Services (860) 742-5324 to find out if you or someone you know might qualify.

Materials acceptable with cost:
- Construction and demolition debris. Free of cardboard, metal and garbage.
- Land clearing debris; stumps & brush.
- Appliances with refrigerant $10 each, no weigh-in necessary.
- Tires – automobile size – on or off rim $5 each.

Materials acceptable no cost:
- All electronics
- Appliances without refrigerants
- Scrap metal materials (metal tanks must be cut open and crushed)
- Gas grill propane tanks for recycling
- Corrugated cardboard, bottles and cans, in the specially marked mixed use recycling dumpster
- Leaves for composting
- Textiles

Materials NOT acceptable:
- Garbage or recyclable items picked up curbside
- Grass clippings
- Furniture
- Hazardous waste

We are pleased to announce the delivery of a 6 yard mixed use recycling dumpster (bottles, cans, cardboard) at the Transfer Station, replacing the existing 4 yard that was often overflowing.

Commercial users must remember that the transfer station 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.

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

The Household Chemical Waste Drop-Off Facility in Willington is closed for the winter, reopening May 4, 2019.

TEXTILE RECYCLING PROGRAM
The Town is starting its fifth year with Bay State Textile for Textile Recycling. Acceptable items for recycling through this program are footwear, clothing, accessories, linens and stuffed animals. For instance, a stained t-shirt or torn bath towel becomes a wiping cloth, a lone sock becomes pillow stuffing, worn out denim jeans are used to produce household insulation, a teddy bear is used for car seat stuffing and so on. Everything will be accepted from gently used to ripped or with broken zippers. It is important, however, that they be clean, dry and bagged. Recycling these materials helps to 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 $127 / month for approximately 2533 lbs. of textiles / month.

PLASTIC BAGS: Please do NOT throw plastic bags / film / wrap into the recycling carts. (These items actually contaminate the load.) These items ARE recyclable, at Plastic Film Recycling drop-off boxes located in and around Connecticut. Here are a few local options for you...

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 5655

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.

Since July 2018 Willimantic Waste has been estimating the percentage of residue per recycling load and charging the town $95 per ton for this recycling contamination. Unfortunately, Coventry residents have been averaging 11 tons per month of residue (contamination) or a charge of $1012 per month. Please help us reduce this contamination by properly disposing of your plastic material.
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) 450-7400 or Coventry Human Services (860) 742-5324 (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.

Coventry RIDES Transportation Program

The Coventry RIDES Transportation Program offers FREE local transportation to residents over 60 and those with disabilities. Rides can be scheduled for Mondays, Tuesdays, & Thursdays from 9:00-12:30.

**Rides can be requested no later than 48 hours prior and no more than 2 weeks in advance.**

- The van service travels to points outside Coventry, to communities not served by the WRTD (Windham Region Transit District) Dial-a-Ride program. Examples include: Manchester, Tolland, Vernon, & Bolton. We are working to expand our geographical region.
- Rides for Senior Center programs (such as haircuts, lunches or massage appointments) MUST be scheduled in advance by calling for a ride.
- As a reminder, WRTD (Windham Region Transit District) Dial-a-Ride services are available for Coventry to Coventry transit (i.e. if you are travelling anywhere in Coventry). This means any local Coventry transportation. They are our town’s designated transit service. Rides can be requested by calling 860-456-2223 ext. 4.

Sarah coordinates the daily schedule and coordinates with the team of volunteer drivers. If you would like to schedule a ride or discuss transportation options, please contact Sarah at 860-742-3525.

Sarah Leete, Transportation Coordinator
860-742-3525 ext. 4801
sleete@coventryct.org

HELP WANTED
The Coventry Senior Center is very much in need of volunteer drivers a few hours per month. Looking for a rewarding opportunity to help Coventry’s elderly and disabled citizens? For more information please contact the Transportation Coordinator at 860-742-3525.

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 and Walgreens. 90% of the money collected is returned to 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.
Don’t get Cabin Fever this winter! Check out a program at the Senior Center! We welcome seniors 55 years and older to enjoy a variety of social, educational and wellness programs. There is no membership and many of our events are low to no cost! Come enjoy a cup of coffee and games in our beautiful lounge overlooking Coventry Lake. Join one of our weekly cards games, beginners’ bridge lessons, Mahjongg, Writing for Fun, bingo, billiards, folk music group, Wii bowl match or just stop by to enjoy a book or puzzle.

Did you receive a new electronic device for the holidays? Want to know how to “skype” with family and friends or need to know how to retrieve those pictures from your phone? The third Monday of each month, Kayla, the Reference Librarian from Booth & Dimock will be in the Center for Tech Monday.

Keep those New Year’s Resolutions with our Health and Wellness Programming!

- Join us for a meal with friends and neighbors during our twice monthly luncheons or go with our Out to Lunch Bunch crew for a meal at a local restaurant. Meal details are in our monthly newsletter – download it directly from www.coventryct.org.
- Get in those steps during our weekly group fitness class! Classes meet every Tuesday and Thursdays from 9:30-10:30 and is led by Certified Instructor Mary Hurley. With a mix of seated strength training and light cardio this class is great for all levels!
- Line Dancing with Susan Beeching on Thursdays at 4:00pm. This beginner level class is for everyone!
- Stretch out at our Wednesday 3:00pm YOGA class led by local yoga instructor Lindsey Sienkiewicz. All levels are welcome.
- 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 from Colchester Foot Specialists is available quarterly by appointment. On-site podiatry appointments can be scheduled quarterly with Dr. Morgan. Dr. Morgan will be here in March, May, July, October and December in 2019.
- Treat yourself! Schedule a professional haircut or manicure/pedicure during our monthly spa day. Massage appointments are now available twice a month.

Further details on monthly programming can be found in the Center’s monthly newsletter. Download the newsletter at www.coventryct.org or receive it directly to your inbox by signing up for our e-blast at http://www.coventryct.org/list.aspx. Registration for all monthly services can be made by calling the center at 860-742-3525.

CHOICES – Volunteer Counselor Penny Whitaker is at the Center on Wednesdays and meets with clients by appointment. Please contact the Center to schedule your appointment. The CHOICES Program (Connecticut’s programs for Health Insurance, Outreach, Information and Eligibility Screening) is designated as the official State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) for Connecticut. It is funded in large part by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services. It provides unbiased information and counseling, on Medicare, Medicaid, Medicare Managed Care, Medicaid Savings Program, Long Term Care Insurance and other related state and federal programs. The CHOICES program works in cooperation with the CT Department of Social Services, Elderly Services Division and the Center for Medicare Advocacy and is administered by the five Area Agencies on Aging in Connecticut. Area Agencies on Aging are private, not-for-profit organizations which serve the needs of older adults or individuals with disabilities. The CHOICES program is a focal point for information, program development and advocacy.

Tax Preparation

The Center is happy to welcome back the AARP Tax Aid Program on a limited schedule this tax season. Volunteers will be on-site for tax preparation on four dates: February 25, March 11, March 25 and April. One hour appointments will begin in 9 am noon and will fill up quickly so please contact the office to reserve your appointment. Valid ID and proof of Social Security will be required at the time of appointment.

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!

To see our monthly calendar visit the Senior Center page on the Town’s website, “Like” us on Facebook or contact Brenda Bennett, Senior Center Coordinator at 860-742-3525 for more information. Look for new events and programs being added for 2019!

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 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS: Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairwoman; Eugene Marchand, Vice-Chairman; William Oros, Secretary; Frank Infante; Mary Kortmann; Peter Larson; and Kelly Sobol.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS: The Board of Education generally meets on the second and last Thursday of each month. The regularly scheduled meetings for 2019 are as follows: January 10, 2019, February 14, 2019, March 14, 2019, April 11, 2019, May 9, 2019, June 13, 2019, July 25, 2019, August 29, 2019, September 12, 2019, September 26, 2019, October 10, 2019, October 30 (Wednesday), November 14, 2019, and December 12, 2019. Unless noted on the agenda, all meetings are held in the Administration Building Conference Room at 7:30 p.m. and can be viewed on Channel 194.

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

COVENTRY PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2018-2019 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 2018-2019 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 for each school administrator are in support of the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools’ goals for 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 2018-2019 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, curriculum revisions, pacing, and the refinement of practices related to integration of formative and performance based assessments into teaching and learning.
   - Engage all stakeholders in the development of Coventry Public Schools’ Portrait of the Graduate, a vision statement that articulates the skills and competencies students should acquire before they graduate, and develop an implementation plan.
   - Develop a plan for the integration of additional interdisciplinary standards based projects and student passage presentations.
   - Integrate Eureka Math and Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) aligned science learning tasks into curriculum at the Hale Early Education Center.
   - Continue to refine our approach to teaching and learning to work toward the adoption of a mastery-based approach in order to support the development of students that are equipped for the challenges of the 21st century.
   - Expand the implementation of Student Led Conferences K-12 and utilize feedback data from all stakeholders to evaluate their efficacy and refine the approach to student goal setting to involve students in looking at their own work and assessment data and in revising goals periodically.
   - Implement the newly designed model for interventions in reading and math in grades 9-10, incorporating best practices in scientifically researched based interventions.
   - Implement Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) curriculum developed for grades 4-5, 7-8, 10-11 and engage in assessment development for those grade levels.
   - Review the recently developed CREC Consortium formative and summative assessments for grades K-3, 6, and 9, evaluate their alignment to the most recent information about the CSDE Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Assessment for grades 4-5, 7-8, and 10-11, and implement the CREC Assessments into teaching and learning as appropriate.
   - Work with key stakeholders and the District Technology Committee to implement and evaluate one of the Technology Plan to ensure continued effective integration of technology into curriculum, instruction, and assessment.
   - Monitor with key stakeholders and the technology committee, the multiple ways instructional and communication technology are reshaping the educational experience as we implement the first year of Chromebooks.
   - Engage in a review of Technology Department roles and services to evaluate the structure and delivery of services and make recommendations for the 2019-2020 school year.
   - Finalize a comprehensive special education five year program plan with a focus on maximizing services and reducing expenses.
   - Continue the work related to the development of the Autism Program to include the review and refinement of program practices and the delivery of services that would include students PreK-12.
   - Develop and implement program-wide procedures to ensure consistent Behavioral Intervention Plan (BIP) delivery for our PreK-12 Autism Program.
   - Continue implementation of the Chinese language program at the Capt. Nathan Hale School and begin implementation of the three year high school program.
   - Review the newly adopted CSDE K-12 Computer Science Framework and utilize it to inform the five-year strategic plan for computer science programming.
   - 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.
   - Expand the resources in Alpine Achievement to include intervention and additional assessment data and further integrate its role in teaching and learning.
   - Develop State Assessment protocol to ensure maximization of instructional time.
   - Explore the possibility of partnering with Goodwin College to support students that wish to pursue a career in manufacturing.
   - Further develop the Vocational Training program at Coventry Academy to enhance students’ general labor market preparation and work performance and support the partnership of Coventry Public Schools with community businesses.

—Continued pg. 15
2. Maintain and promote a positive and respectful learning community.

- Evaluate and refine the special education 18 to 21 year old program to ensure best practices are being employed to ensure students are successful in the community after program completion.

- Develop a plan to integrate appropriate social emotional learning practices, restorative practices, and trauma informed practices for all PreK-12 students.

- Work with law enforcement and town emergency personnel to refine and finalize a comprehensive three year security plan to continue enhancements to address the ongoing need for advancements related to school safety and security.

- Refine district practices and procedures to ensure effective and consistent safety protocols are in place for non-traditional employees and volunteers.

- Begin the process of conducting a study of the allocation of Coventry’s Related Services staff contact time with students.

- Develop a comprehensive plan that includes coaches receiving enhanced learning opportunities to promote student well-being in addition to the required modules and protocols.

- Enhance communication with parents and other stakeholders and promote student, school, and district achievements by highlighting initiatives through short videos posted on the website and on social media.

- Develop marketing materials that will showcase to surrounding towns available program offerings that target high needs populations.

- Create parent support documents to successfully facilitate the process leading up to and beyond the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) meeting.

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

- Explore the feasibility of adopting other CSDE approved alternative teacher evaluation models.

- Implement year two of the teacher leadership development plan to involve a cadre of teachers in building leadership capacity.

- Continue the development of district protocols and practices for the hiring process of certified staff to ensure the recruitment and interviewing of top candidates, and to maximize efficiencies.

- Implement year one of the non-tenure review process and evaluate the effectiveness of the program.

- Evaluate the first year implementation of Eastern Connecticut State University Dual Enrollment courses.

| OPEN DOOR MEETINGS: | 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 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: Tuesday, January 15, 2019, at 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 27, 2019, at 3:00 p.m., and Monday, May 6, 2019, at 5:00 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, Ext. 2. |

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS AND INFORMATION

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.

CLOSINGS, LATE OPENINGS, UNPLANNED EARLY RELEASES: In addition to parents receiving messages through School Messenger, these announcements are carried on radio stations WLLI (98.3 FM, 1400AM), WTIC (96.5 FM, 1080AM), WRCH (100.5 FM), WZMX (93.7), WKSS (95.7), and WYZZ (92.5). Announcements are also carried on the television stations WFSB Channel 3, WVT Channel 30 (cable Channel 4), and WTNH Channel 8.

2 Hour Delay Notes
HEEC (PreK): No AM Part-day Program; Before Care starts at 9:00 a.m.; School Day Program starts at 10:45 a.m.; Lunch Bunch starts at 11:00 a.m.; PM Program starts at 12 Noon.

Grades K - 5: CGS and GHR – 10:30 a.m. start time.
Grades 6 - 12: CNH and CHS – 9:40 a.m. start time.

Early Release Notes – Emergency/Weather-related
HEEC (PreK): No PM PreK. AM PreK and School Day closes at 10:30 a.m.

All other grades end at Early Release times. NO afternoon/evening activities on school grounds.

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES: Coventry Public Schools has always benefited from the generous efforts and talents of community and parent volunteers. The process is easy to become a volunteer. Coventry residents who would like to become a volunteer in any one of our schools in district must first apply online at https://www.applitrack.com/coventry/onlineapp/default.aspx?Category=Volunteers. Currently there are two volunteer job listings, Volunteer Coach which is JobID: 1534, and School Volunteer which is JobID: 1535. The online application process is a step-by-step procedure.

When the application is completed, Applitrack will send a notice to all five of our schools that there is a new volunteer application for the Administrator to review and approve. Volunteers will then be contacted by any one of the Administrators listed below for next steps:

- Joseph Blake, Coventry High School Principal, 860-742-7346, or jblake@coventryct.org
- Dena DeJulius, Capt. Nathan Hale School Principal, 860-742-7334, or ddejulius@coventryct.org
- Jennifer DeRagon, George Hersey Robertson School Principal, 860-742-7341, or jderagon@coventryct.org
- Ronda Carrie, Coventry Grammar School Principal, 860-742-7313, or rcarrie@coventryct.org
- Lois Hasty, Preschool and Early Childhood Education Coordinator, 860-742-4550, or lhasty@coventryct.org

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES: Flexible hours/days with a wide variety of experiences. Teacher, Para-Educator, and School Nurse Substitutes: Please visit our website at www.coventrypubschoolsub.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.
MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL CONCRETE FOUNDATION TESTING PROGRAM

The Town of Coventry has been awarded funding for the purpose of providing core testing on concrete foundations throughout the Towns of Coventry, Ashford, Tolland, Willington, Columbia, Bolton and Union. The Concrete Foundation Testing Program is funded by a Community Development Block Grant from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and administered through the CT Department of Housing.

Each eligible household will be offered a grant not to exceed $5,000 for up to four core samples. The Program is responsible for coordinating the testing between the homeowner and contractor. Once the testing is complete the Program will pay the contractor directly.

In order to eligible, the property to be tested must be in one of the seven towns listed above, built on or after 1983, and evidence of homeowner’s insurance must be provided.

In addition, at least 51% of the people served must meet the income guidelines of 80% or below median income. Therefore, 49% of the people served can exceed 80% median income after the 51% is met. For your reference, the current income guidelines state that 80% of median income is as follows:

**INCOME GUIDELINES:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number in Family</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gross Annual Income</td>
<td>50350</td>
<td>57550</td>
<td>64750</td>
<td>71900</td>
<td>77700</td>
<td>83450</td>
<td>89200</td>
<td>94950</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Program will address households that are at or below median income first. Households that are above will be added to a waiting list and addressed as we meet or exceed the 51% threshold. In order to determine your household’s income an application must be completed and submitted to the Program along with certain income documentation.

Once a household is deemed eligible, the Program will notify the homeowner as to what their next step is.

The Program will not reimburse for core testing that has already been completed.

Funding will be returned to the State if it is not used and the Program will no longer be available.

If you have any questions or would like to request an application to the Program please contact the Program Coordinator, at 860-456-0782 or peterhuckins@charter.net. All information provided to the Program is kept confidential.