



*Daffodils brighten the exterior of Mill Brook Place in Coventry Village. Grant funds were used to renovate the structure or use as a public meeting space, and the historic building has become a popular venue for meetings, exhibits and parties. When physical events can resume, rentals can be arranged through the Coventry Parks & Recreation Department. Photo by Laura Stone.*



## Message from Julie Blanchard, Town Council Chairwoman

I am writing this article in April. Coventry, the State of Connecticut, and the United States are in the grips of the Coronavirus epidemic and have experienced the shuttering of many businesses, the laying off of millions of employees including Coventry residents, and the massive effort to socially distance ourselves from everyone around us in the hopes of stemming the spread of the coronavirus. Our schools are closed through late May, at this point, with hope but no certainty about when they would re-open. “Distance learning” for our school children is underway. Many of us are working remotely now, if possible. So many changes so quickly. It is natural that we are all concerned, uneasy and uncertain about the immediate future and we all have many questions.

I want to commend our Town Manager, John Elsesser, and our Superintendent of Schools, David Petrone, for the leadership they have demonstrated during this unprecedented crisis. They are doing everything they can, in conjunction with our Governor and state legislature, to keep us safe.

I would also ask you to show your support and gratitude for all of our first responders (police, fire and EMS) and remember that they put their safety and lives on the line for us every day and this crisis represents additional concerns and risks for them.

The federal government has approved economic relief packages that are delivering money directly to workers, providing loans to small and large businesses, and ramping up the production of necessary medical equipment and supporting our healthcare workers. There are reports of medications and treatments that are showing great promise in mitigating the impacts of the virus. Our state government has taken steps to strengthen our health system’s ability to respond to this crisis and to limit the spread of the virus by limiting our social contact. Hopefully things are beginning to improve, as it seems today.

We have many reasons to be hopeful and even grateful. We will get through this and we will emerge even stronger than before. Use this time wisely. Help and support one another and try and remain positive while we work through this crisis.

Beginning on March 19<sup>th</sup> the town hall was closed to the public and we encourage the public to visit the Town website: [www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org) if you need to obtain a building permit or hunting & fishing licenses or register for recreation activities or perform a land record search or access records. You will find that the majority of your needs can be met online. Our Town Hall employees are working behind closed doors and will answer your calls and your emails. They will help guide you through our online services.

Please visit the Town website frequently because new information will be posted there and things are changing rapidly. Questions can be directed to the town departments by calling 860-742-7966.

In the meantime, the Town Council is still operating. We are holding meetings, based on changes in the laws made by the Governor, with the option for our members to attend and even vote on issues remotely. Meetings are physically closed to the public, but our meetings can be viewed live on TV or streaming on your computer. The video of each meeting and the minutes will be available on our website within a few days of the meeting (barring unforeseen circumstances).

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**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

- Revaluation —pg. 3
- Capital Projects — pg. 4
- 2020 Census— pg. 11
- COVID-19 Update — back cover

**TOWN HALL HOLIDAYS:**

May 25	Memorial Day
July 3	Independence Day (observed)
Sept. 7	Labor Day

## Comings & Goings and Staff Accomplishments

**Congratulations go out to Charles Grossmann**, who has been studying very hard for over a year and recently passed the CT DEEP Waste-water Operator Certification Exam. He is now officially a CT Class I Wastewater Operator.

On March 13, 2020 **Sergeant Jeffrey Spadjinske** graduated from the 279th session of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. The session consisted of men and women from 49 states and the District of Columbia, 32 countries, five military organizations, and eight federal civilian organizations. Internationally known for its academic excellence, the National Academy offers 10 weeks of advanced communication, leadership, and fitness training. Participants must have proven records as professionals within their agencies to attend. FBI Academy instructors, special agents, and other staff with advanced degrees provided the training; many instructors are recognized internationally in their fields. Since 1972, National Academy students have been able to earn undergraduate and graduate credits from the University of Virginia, which accredits many of the courses offered. A total of 52,795 graduates have completed the FBI National Academy since it began in 1935.

Welcome to **Annemarie Sundgren**, who joined our staff as Human Services Administrator on April 20. Annemarie brings a wealth of expertise to her role, having most recently served as Community Services Coordinator for the City of Bristol.

Farwell to **Karen Dory**, part-time Assistant Town Clerk, who left our office for a full-time position in a neighboring town. We will miss her friendly and efficient service.

## TOWN COUNCIL CHAIRWOMAN'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

On April 6 the Town Council unanimously adopted a resolution delaying the Annual Budget pursuant to an Executive Order issued by the Governor. The new timeline and process calls for a Council's proposed budget to be forwarded to the public on or about May 18th. The Town Manager and Superintendent will present an electronic presentation of the revised Town and School budget no later than May 21, 2020. Citizens eligible to vote in the usual budget referendum may submit comments on the Council's proposed budget no later than May 29, 2020. This can be done by mail or email sent to [budgetcomments@coventryct.org](mailto:budgetcomments@coventryct.org). The Council will review those comments and make adjustments they feel necessary on or about June 1st. The Governor's Executive Order will not allow a Town Meeting or Adjourned Town Meeting referendum. If this changes in a timely manner the resolution details a process to revert to a more normal Town Meeting and Adjourned vote.

The Governor issued another Executive Order that directed the Town to select an action on tax relief. We could either extend the due date without penalty for 90 days for certain taxpayers or we could reduce the late penalty interest rate to .25% per month for 90 days for certain taxpayers. The Council voted to move forward with the "Low Interest Rate Program" detailed in Section 6 of the Governor's EO 7s. This program will apply to your real estate, motor vehicle or personal property tax and any municipal water, sewer or electric rate, charge or assessment. The due date for your tax payment of July 1st will remain the same and you will still have the normal grace period (this year until August 3rd) to pay with no interest or penalty. If you do not pay the entire balance by August 3rd you will be charged interest at .25% per month until October 1st. If you still have a balance after that it will the interest would revert to the current rate of 1.5% per month, unless the program is extended by the Governor. So watch for further news or sign up for Town e-blasts on the Notify Me page of the Town website at [www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org).

My hope is that we have all been heeding the guidance we have received from our Town, State and Federal officials and that we really are beginning to turn the tide on this crisis. More wide spread testing for the virus, continued work on promising treatments, the increased availability of badly needed medical supplies such as tests, masks, gloves, booties, medical devices; the limitation of elective medical procedures to free up medical resources and beds, an increase in telemedicine, and hopefully economic relief for our workers and companies should all be in place by the time you read this newsletter.

I just want to assure you that your Town Government and Town staff are working hard to help all of us get through this crisis. We are in good hands and we will get through this together.

Please remember these important dates. May 18<sup>th</sup> – Council will pass a proposed budget. May 21<sup>st</sup> – the Town Manager and Superintendent of Schools will hold an online meeting to present the budget. May 29<sup>th</sup> – the last date for you to comment on the proposed budget. June 1<sup>st</sup> or June 2<sup>nd</sup> – the Council will adjust the budget, if needed, and pass it.

Stay safe and be well.  
Julie Blanchard, Town Council Chairwoman

## HOUSING REHABILITATION LOAN PROGRAM

**Would you be interested in receiving financial assistance from the Town for repairs to your home?** The Coventry Housing Rehab 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 changes ownership. Moderate-income eligible applicants will receive a loan that is 2/3 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 a household yearly gross income within the annual guidelines.**

For more information or to request an application, contact the Program Coordinator, at 860-456-0782 or [peterhuckins@charter.net](mailto:peterhuckins@charter.net). All Information provided to the Housing Rehab Program will be confidential.



# ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

860-742-4067

Public records for the Assessor's Office can be viewed using the following links:

<http://coventry.mapxpress.net> - Coventry Map Xpress updated daily or <http://www.mapgeo.com/crcogct/> - CRCOG website last updated November 2019

Property field cards, sketches, pictures, exemption applications and general information can be found on the Town's website. **Remember, that the property will be available on the Vision Appraisal website through January 2021 at [www.vgsi.com](http://www.vgsi.com).**

**The Elderly and Disabled Homeowner program** began February 1, 2020, and applications are being processed until Wednesday, May 15, 2020. Our office sent reminder letters to those people who have to re-file. Remember, this program is income driven from the State and income guidelines are set by the State for both single and married individuals. Please contact our office if your income is less than \$45,100 if married, or less than \$37,000 if single, both must include Social Security benefits from your SSA-1099 and your adjusted gross income from your 2019 Federal Income tax return. The Town of Coventry also offers a local tax relief program which mir-

rors the income limits of the state benefit. The program is offered as both a tax credit, that is equal to half of the state benefit, or it is a deferral, where a lien is filed on the Town Clerk's land records until it is paid or the property is sold at which time the deferred taxes must be paid.

**Veterans** must file their DD-214 with the Town Clerk prior to **October 1<sup>st</sup>** to be eligible for exemption. If you have already filed, you do not need to re-file. You will receive your exemption automatically. If veterans meet income guidelines, you may be eligible for Additional exemption. The program began February 1<sup>st</sup>, and applications are processed until October 1, 2020. Please call if your income is less than \$45,100 if married, or less than \$37,000 if single, both must include Social Security benefits from your SSA-1099 form and your adjusted gross income from your 2019 Federal Income tax return. You will be asked to provide proof of all the income documentation regarding both of the above mentioned applications

**The Income and Expense forms** will be mailed out by April 15th. The forms are to be filled out and returned to our office **no later than June 1, 2020.**

# TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

860-742-4066

Delinquent notices were mailed within the last few months for overdue taxes, sewer and COVRRRA bills. Intent to lien notices for overdue Real Estate taxes, COVRRRA and Sewer Use charges will be mailed in March/April. Liens will be filed in April/May against those properties, which are not paid, current. Sewer assessment bills will be mailed the end of April. Due date for the first installment is May 1 and taxpayers have 30 days to pay before late charges apply. On-line payment options are available to Coventry taxpayers who wish to pay from their bank account or with a credit card. From the home page on the Town website, [www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org), click on the blue button titled **Online Bill Pay**. This will take you to the Tax Collector's page. In the middle of the Tax Collector's page, there is a paragraph titled Online Payments. You will be offered two options for online payments and the first option is the payment from a bank account. This will connect you to the link to find your bill. You can pay one or more bills. Once you have selected your bills and added them to your cart, you will proceed to checkout. At checkout, you will be at the Webster Bank online bill pay site where you will be directed to set up your bank information. A charge of fifty cents per check may apply. The second option to make an online payment with your credit card is in the same paragraph. Click on the underlined words credit card. This will connect you to the link to find your bill. Once you have selected your bills and added them to your cart, you will proceed to checkout. At checkout you will be at the Point & Pay online bill pay site. Point & Pay is our authorized vendor for processing credit card payments online and in our office. A convenience fee of 2.75% will be charged for credit card payments and if using a Visa (only) debit card the fee is a flat \$3.95. Please feel free to call the Tax Office before making your online payments and we will be happy to explain the procedure.

Please keep in mind those online payments by check or credit card can take up to ten (10) days to process due to weekends and holidays. Scheduling online payments during the last few days of any month may cost you in additional late fees due to the delay in moving your funds by your bank or credit card company.

Any individual needing an immediate DMV clearance in order to register any vehicle is reminded to pay by cash or money order at the Tax Collector's office. Check payments and credit card payments may delay your DMV clearance up to ten (10) business days.

The current fiscal year will end June 30, 2020. In accordance with state statutes, liens will be filed before the end of the current fiscal year against properties with any outstanding balances on real estate taxes and sewer use charge and Trash fees. Please contact this office if you have any questions concerning the status of your accounts.

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

**WANT TO CHANGE YOUR TIPPER BARREL SIZE?** In response to citizens' requests, we are offering the opportunity to exchange your tipper barrels at the reduced fee of \$25. If you would like to swap, contact the Tax Office **before May 13, 2020** at 860-742-4066. **The swap order must be requested through the Tax Office and paid to All American Waste by May 13, 2020 in order to receive this reduced price.** The swap will occur the last two weeks of June in conjunction with the billing cycle for the new fiscal year. Consider upsizing your recycle barrel. There is no increase in your annual bill for a larger recycle barrel.

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

# CAPITAL PROJECTS

(from the desk of the Town Engineer, Todd Penney –  
[tpenney@coventryct.org](mailto:tpenney@coventryct.org))

## LOTICIP GRANTS

**Folly Lane Bridge Replacement:** The Town is expecting to start the construction of the bridge project in June of 2020. We are expecting a 6-month construction schedule. Folly Lane will be closed to thru traffic for much of the construction schedule. Detour signage will be placed from North River Road to Mellow Road to Goose Lane and vice versa.

**Swamp Road @ Boston Turnpike Intersection Improvements:** Construction scheduling has been set back ~8 months to April 2021 due to CDOT requirement to replace the entire signal.

**South Street Roadway and Pedestrian Improvements:** Commitment to Fund from CDOT was just received at the end of February. We will not anticipate any construction activities until 2021. Town staff will be selecting consultant engineering firms to design, permit and develop construction documents summer 2020.

## CONNECTICUT CONNECTIVITY GRANT

**Main Street Sidewalk Extension toward Lisicke Beach:** Design has been initiated and a public involvement meeting is expected to happen in March 2020. The Town anticipates construction to start near the end of August 2020 with a construction schedule of 6 to 8 weeks.

## BUILDING DEPARTMENT 860-742-4064

**Obtaining a Permit...** This COVID-19 situation has certainly thrown everyone for a loop, but worry not, we are still here to assist you! In fact, the Building and Land Use Departments have continued to be super busy! Homeowners and builders must be noticing projects that need their attention, now that more people are home and seeing what can be worked on during this stay-at-home time. Larger, multi-department review projects will still take 2-3 weeks to review and approve, so you are highly encouraged to submit applications and plans as soon as possible for upcoming projects. Here is what you need to know, so that we can assist you in the best way possible...

- Call our office first to discuss your project (860-742-4064). This way we can put together needed materials for you to come pick up and fill out for submission.
- We have set up a work station with all the necessary applications and forms to be filled out. It is on the left side of the building, in the glass entryway. There is even a table, chair, and pens for your convenience; along with the drop off tray to submit permitting information and a secured lock box for payments.
- Most larger projects are paid for after the review process. In these cases, we will call you once your permit is ready for payment and pick up. Just let us know your check number in advance and we will have everything ready and waiting for you for a quick exchange of payment for permitting!
- During Town Hall hours, there is always someone in the front office. So, if you have any questions, please feel free to knock on the door of the side entry way and we will be happy to talk to you through the glass door and assist you. Please keep in mind that we may be on a phone call and will be with you as quickly as possible.

**Was a project for your home or a new build completed and granted a CO between July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018 and you would like your building plans back?** The Building Department is only responsible for retaining building plans on projects for a maximum of two (2) years. We are then allowed to dispose of them. Beginning July 1<sup>st</sup> and ending September 30, 2020, the Building Department is allowing property owners to obtain the building plans for residential construction only. Please call Brigit or Heidi at 860-742-4064 to request your plans and we will let you know if there are building plans available (sometimes we are only given one set, which would have been given to the builder at the time the permit was issued). You will be given 2 weeks to pick up the plans. Plans that are not picked-up will be discarded under the State's disposal method.

**Things to Look for Around the House...** Spring means spruce up time and property owners are encouraged to inspect the exterior conditions of their buildings for possible damage caused by weather conditions from the past year. Check conditions of gutters, rain leaders, and downspouts for proper secure attachments to fascia and walls and for any splitting or blockages. Elbows and splash pools should be checked for proper placement and direction. Residents are encouraged to inspect their roofs for possible damage. Broken shingles, nail pops and tears in valleys could occur and should be addressed. Pooling of water can build up around the foundation walls causing water intrusion into basement spaces. Sump pumps should be checked for proper operation. Location of pumped discharge should be free from obstructions. Please be mindful that discharge water should not cross your property line and if a drywell is to be installed, permitting is required with the EHHD.

# LAND USE OFFICE

860-742-4062

## REGIONAL ECONOMIC VITALITY ACTION PLAN

The Towns of Bolton, Coventry, Mansfield and Tolland continue to work cooperatively to create a regional economic vitality action plan that provides guidance on steps the towns can take independently and collectively to find mutual success. The Towns hired AdvanceCT (formerly the CT Economic Resource Center (CERC)) as the consultant to assist in the preparation of the action plan. A regional brainstorming workshop was held in September 2019 and interviews with community stakeholders occurred subsequent to then to further analyze the issues. The report is anticipated to be available in April and will be discussed with the Economic Development Commission. Please contact Eric Trott at [etrott@coventryct.org](mailto:etrott@coventryct.org) or 860-742-4062 for further information.

## PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

The Coventry Planning and Zoning Commission has completed the working draft revision to the Town Plan of Conservation and Development. The Plan is required to be revised at least once every ten years. It serves as the primary guidance document for future decision making involving all aspects of the Town. Visioning sessions on topics such as economic development, housing, and open space/environment were held during regular Commission meetings over the final months of 2019. Public hearings on the final document are planned for May 26. The community is encouraged to visit the Town website ([www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org)) to view the draft document and provide input on this important community resource. Please contact Eric Trott for further information.

## CAPRILANDS

The Estate of Adelma Grenier Simmons in conjunction with the Town of Coventry has released a Request for Proposals to consider applicants that are interested in purchasing the former Caprilands property and establish an appropriate adaptive re-use. The deadline for applications is anticipated to be in early May. Interviews of prospective candidates will be conducted and a final proposal will be selected. The Town

hired Evelyn Cole Smith, Architects LLC to perform an architectural and engineering assessment of the historic buildings at the former Caprilands site on Silver Street that was funded by a State grant. This study will assist in the potential redevelopment of the site. Caprilands served as a major destination in Coventry for many years and was run by Adelma Simmons, a world renowned herbalist, educator, and writer of many books on the growth and use of herbs. Adelma passed away in 1997 and her estate has remained in Probate as it continues to be administrated. Please contact Eric Trott for further information.

## ADOPT A ROAD PROGRAM

The Coventry Conservation Commission and Land Use Office continue to sponsor the Adopt a Road program for the community. The program entails 'adopting' a portion or all of a Town road and pick up the roadside trash that accumulates. Residents can do as much as they like and at their own pace. Free standard garbage bags are available in the Land Use Office and can be disposed of at the Public Works Garage at no charge. Please contact Eric M. Trott further details and application forms.

## COVENTRY LAKE ZONE PAVING PROJECTS

Property owners who intend to perform paving projects in the Coventry Lake region involving driveways, walkways or other areas are encouraged to inquire with the Land Use Office about impervious surface requirements that exist in the zoning regulations. Impervious surfaces are ones that do not allow for the percolation of surface water, such as structures and bituminous paving. The zoning regulations contain limits on how much area can be covered by impervious surfaces in order to manage the stormwater that is generated which ultimately affects the environmental health of Coventry Lake. The installation of a paved surface on a lot can impact the future ability to perform other construction projects. Copies of the regulations are available on the Town's website under Planning and Zoning or the Land Use Office. Questions can be directed to the Land Use Office at 742-4062.

## WATCH FOR EVENT UPDATES:

Due to COVID-19, many events planned for this spring and summer have been rescheduled or canceled. Please watch for UPDATES. Known cancellations at this time include:

- A Google Marketing for Business class
- Conclusion of Facebook Marketing class
- Daffodil Daze event in Coventry Village
- Memorial Day Parade
- CoventryFest

Watch for information on summer Recreation offerings at a later date.

## UPDATE ON PUBLIC ACT 19-190 "THE INVASIVE SPECIES STICKER"

The "Lakes, Rivers, and Ponds Account" had received approximately \$16,000 of revenues so far and that will continue to increase as 2020 boat registrations continue to be processed. It is anticipated that the annual revenues will be approximately \$400,000 to \$500,000. The funds will be used for three major initiatives:

1. Because of the rapid spread of the highly invasive plant Hydrilla in the Connecticut River, funds will be used to increase the presences of BEAs – Boating Education Assistants – particularly at the State ramps on the Connecticut River to reduce transport of the plant out to other inland waterbodies.

2. Funds will be used to partially fund a State Invasive Plant Coordinator. This position was funded in the past but was lost due to State budget cuts. It is an important position to help facilitate the work of the CT Invasive Plants Council and other invasive species initiatives.

3. Last but not least, approximately 70% of the funds would be used for a grant program for State and municipal governments, and non-governmental organizations to apply to. Grants would be awarded for AIS projects including management, education, and research projects on AIS and cyanobacteria blooms.

The CT DEEP has committed to developing an Oversight Committee for this program by April 15th which will include CT DEEP staff, a member of the CFL, a member of the CT rivers communities, and others. A tentative timeline for the grant program has been developed.

In addition to the three-prong approach of the State's AIS initiative funded through PA 19-190, the CT DEEP is looking to add another prong to be funded through their Supplemental Environmental Projects Fund (would not require AIS fee funds). This would be a "Rapid Response" component where timely responses to new introductions of AIS could occur before an invasive species could become established and difficult, if not impossible, to remove. This is a much welcomed addition to the State's plan.

**NEWS FROM THE  
BOOTH & DIMOCK MEMORIAL  
LIBRARY**

Booth & Dimock Memorial Library is happy to welcome two new librarians—Christa Kiedaisch and Jennifer Chretien. Christa is our new children’s librarian. She has her Masters in Library Science from Kent State University and an undergraduate degree in English from UConn. She loves making slime and reading from our graphic novel collection. Jenn is our new adult librarian. She is certified in Genealogical Research from Boston University and also holds Masters degrees in Library Science and History from the University of Rhode Island. Welcome to Coventry!

**At the time of newsletter production, the Booth & Dimock Memorial Library is closed until further notice due to the COVID-19 epidemic. During this time, the building will be completely closed to the public, and our phone lines will go directly to voice mail. If you wish to contact the library, please send an email to [mkhan@coventryct.org](mailto:mkhan@coventryct.org). We will try our best to get back to you in a timely fashion.**

**Any checked out materials will have due dates automatically extended, and no fines will be accrued during this period. You will not be able to place reserves or requests through our catalog during the closure, but our electronic services will still be available on this website 24/7, and our book drop will remain open. We asked at this time that you do not return items from other libraries, and that no donations are left in the bookdrop or outside of the building.**

**The library is offering virtual story times on our Facebook page every Thursday at 10:15 a.m., Wednesday at 6:00 p.m., and Friday at 10:15 a.m. Keep an eye out for other fun Facebook posts and programs, including arts and crafts and science projects for children and adults!**

**The Library offers a large selection of e-materials, including new releases, that can be checked out with your library card. To access these electronic resources, or apply for an online library card, please visit our website at [www.coventrypl.org](http://www.coventrypl.org). All instructions and important links are on our homepage.**

**TOWN CLERK’S OFFICE**

860-742-7966

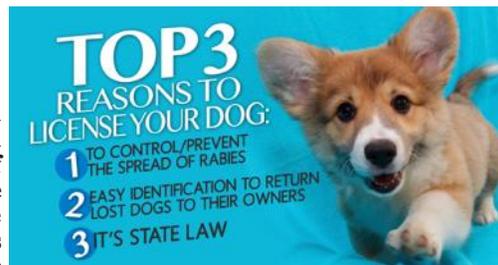
Hours: M-W 8:30-4:30, Th 8:30-6:30, Fr 8:30-1:30

***RABIES CLINIC CANCELED  
due to the COVID-19 virus  
No new date planned***

**NOTARY SERVICES SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE:**  
We are **unable** to notarize documents at this time due to the COVID-19 virus.

**JUNE IS DOG LICENSING MONTH!**

**\*\* COVENTRY’S TOP DOG \*\* Mail in your license renewal along with the appropriate fee in the month of May and your dog’s name will be entered into a drawing for the most desired #1 tag. Coventry’s Top Dog will also receive their license for FREE! Please have your entry in by May 31<sup>st</sup> and the winner will be notified by June 1<sup>st</sup>. All other license entries will be processed accordingly and mailed out in the beginning of June. Along with payment please include *current rabies certificate, proof of spay/neuter and a self-addressed stamped envelope*. **GOOD LUCK!!!!****



- \* \$8.00 for spayed or neutered dogs
- \* \$19.00 for unaltered dogs.
- \* Any dog license issued after June 30<sup>th</sup> is subject to a \$1.00 per month late fee.
- \* Licenses will not be sold in the office until June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- \* **Check your dog’s rabies expiration date. If that date has expired, *NEW WRITTEN* proof of a current rabies vaccination is required to renew your dog’s license.**
- \* Help us keep our records current- If there are any changes in your dog’s registration status (spay/neuter, death, change of address) please update the clerk’s office at 860-742-7966.

\*\*\*Remember a license is your lost dog’s ticket home.\*\*\*

**1920**      **2020**

**WOMEN'S VOTE CENTENNIAL**

**WE ARE CELEBRATING  
WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE**

2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, guaranteeing and protecting women’s constitutional right to vote.

This historic centennial event represents a 72-year fight to achieve the milestone of democracy and the relevance of women’s equal rights today.

**The first women of Coventry to have voting rights voted in a Town election held in October 1920.**

# PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

100 Olsen Farm Road • 860-742-6588

Director / Tree Warden  
Superintendent of Operations  
Admin. Secretary / COVRRRA  
Town Engineer

Mark Kiefer  
Mark Owens  
Donna Wrubel  
Todd Penney

[mkiefer@coventryct.org](mailto:mkiefer@coventryct.org)  
[mowens@coventryct.org](mailto:mowens@coventryct.org)  
[dwrubel@coventryct.org](mailto:dwrubel@coventryct.org)  
[tpenney@coventryct.org](mailto:tpenney@coventryct.org)

## HOUSEHOLD CHEMICAL WASTE DROP-OFF FACILITY

57 Hancock Road - Willington, CT 06279 - Phone: (860) 684-3163

**CLOSED UNTIL JUNE, 2020.**

**Call beforehand to verify opening.**

**Closed September 5, 2020.**

### Prepare the materials by:

- ✓ Packing carefully in original containers only, seal and label
- ✓ Do not mix materials
- ✓ Drive carefully to prevent tipping
- ✓ No smoking while handling and transporting materials
- ✓ Residential limits of 10 gallons liquid and 100 pounds dry materials

As a Coventry resident you may bring residential quantities of hazardous waste to the facility at no cost but bring proof of residency.

If you operate a small business in a MidNEROC town, then contact the MidNEROC Administrator at (860) 289-2296 to find out if you qualify as a "conditionally exempt small quantity generator" and to make an appointment. There is a fee for this service.

Chemical Waste is a problem! When hazardous wastes are poured down the sink or toilet, dumped "out back", poured into a street drain or put out into the trash, they eventually make their way into our water supply. If you have doubt whether or not a material is hazardous you could call Public Works at (860) 742-6588.

### Other FAQ's:

- ✓ **Medication:** Do not flush down the toilet or drain. Many prescriptions may be disposed of at the Coventry Police Department (860) 742-7331.
- ✓ **Asbestos:** Double bag and seal this material. One cubic foot can be disposed with trash. For large quantities, contact an asbestos removal company.
- ✓ **Explosives, fireworks, ammunition:** Contact your state police barracks.
- ✓ **Water reactive materials:** For peroxides and metallic sodium, contact a licensed environmental contractor.
- ✓ **Biologically active materials:** Contact a licensed medical & infectious waste contractor.

## DPW SUMMER ROAD WORK PLAN 2020/21

(Subject to COVID-19 Delays)



**Full Depth Reclamation with Bituminous Overlay:** Northfields Subdivision and Hickory Drive.

**Cold in Place Recycling with 1.5 inch Hot Overlay:** Depot Road and Pine Lake Drive.

**Bituminous Cold Overlay with Double Chip Seal:** Violet Trail, Meadow Trail, Spring Trail, Laurel Trail, Birch Trail, Maple Trail, Forest Hills Drive, Dimock Road, Catalina Drive and Orcutt Road.

**Bituminous Shimming:** Brigham Tavern Road, Ridgebrook Drive, Nathan Hale Road, Nathan Hale Drive, Upton Drive, South Street Extension, John Hand Drive, Knollwood Drive and Birchwood Drive.

Portions of the above roads will be full width (both lanes) shimmed 1.5 inches compacted in preparation for a Chip Seal final course. Town DPW will prepare roads, make drainage repairs and cut keyways for all full width shimming to be done by State Bid Contractor.

**Roads to be Chip Sealed:** North Farms Road, Joshua Land, Barbara Drive, Ridgebrook Drive, Merrow Road, Gable Road, John Hand Drive, Antrim Road, Lancaster Road, Nathan Hale Drive, Upton Drive, South Street Extension, Gardner Tavern Road and Eastview Drive.

**Crack Seal:** Approximately 20 miles of selected roads to be determined for Crack Sealing.



Connecticut's Public Act 13-42 (as amended) requires mattress manufacturers to create a statewide recycling program for mattresses and box springs discarded in the state. Mattress Recycling Council (MRC) developed and manages the program known as Bye Bye Mattress. MRC funds its Connecticut activities through a \$9 per unit recycling fee collected from consumers when they buy a mattress or box spring. Visit [ByeByeMattress.com](http://ByeByeMattress.com) to learn more or contact 1-855-700-9973.

### FAQ'S:

- Can I drop-off my mattress/box spring for free at the transfer station? *Normally, we are a collection site, but the transfer station is closed due to COVID-19. Temporary drop-off available at DPW facility during business hours.*
- I didn't buy a mattress recently, can I still drop-off or recycle it for free? *Yes, any mattress no matter when it was purchased is now eligible for free drop-off or recycling.*
- **Will All American Waste or the town pick up my mattress/box spring at the curb for me? No, there is no curbside pick-up.**
- Can I drop-off other bedding related items for free too? *No, only mattresses and box springs are accepted. Futons, sofa beds, crib mattresses, air mattresses and car beds along with other sleep related items are not eligible.*

**COVRRRA QUESTIONS** can be answered by calling Public Works at (860) 742-6588 or e-mailing [dwrubel@coventryct.org](mailto:dwrubel@coventryct.org).

**Monthly Curbside Pickup of Over-sized items:** On the **2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month** residents may place at curbside by 6:30 am up to three over-sized items to be picked up for free. These large nonmetal items must be out on Monday regardless of your regular trash day. Examples are dresser, Futon or recliner chair w/metal removed. **Electronics will not be picked up at curbside.** Coventry residents must bring their electronics to the town's transfer station for recycling.

**Tipper Cart Broken?** Call All American Waste at (860) 289-7850 for information. Plugs for lids are available at Department of Public Works. Push them in snugly and inspect them regularly so they stay tight. This will ensure your tipper cart lid stays on your cart. **Homeowners are reminded that the tipper cards are owned by All American Waste and must remain at the property location that is billed for this service.**

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

**Excess trash and recycling?** The Public Works Department has dumpsters for residents who occasionally have trash or recycling in excess of their carts. To use the trash dumpster you must pay \$1 for each bag that you toss in. Bring your trash and recycling to Public Works during work hours for disposal. Residents must stop in the office (7 am – 3 pm) for the dumpster key.

**For major cleanup projects,** the current COVRRRA contract for curbside pickup with All American Waste also includes pricing for 6 cubic yard dumpster for 30 days rental at \$150 haul/\$90 ton, 15 cubic yard dumpster for 30 days rental at \$175 haul/\$90 ton, and 30 cubic yard dumpster for 30 days rental at \$175 haul/\$90 ton. Additional rental after 30 days will be billed at \$5 per day. Residents contract directly with All American Waste at (860) 289-7850. Be sure you specify you are a Coventry resident to get this contract rate.

## TRANSFER STATION: 325 MAIN ST.

**CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID-19**

Normal Spring hours, April–November: Thursday noon – 6 pm

Open Saturday 9 am – 3 pm all year long.

Closed holidays. Proof of residency is required.

### 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:

- Textiles – clean, dry, contained in a bag
- Gas grill propane tanks for recycling
- Single stream recyclables (for example bottles, cans, cardboard, paper)
- Leaves for composting
- Mattress and box spring (dry only, if wet / mangled or futon \$10 fee applies)
- Electronics, fluorescent light bulbs, batteries
- Appliance without refrigerant (stove, washer, dryer)
- Metal materials (**metal tanks must be cut open and crushed**).

### Materials NOT acceptable:

- Garbage
- Grass clippings
- Furniture
- Hazardous waste

**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.

**Recycled at Coventry Public Works facility:** Car batteries, motor oil, transmission oil, #2 fuel oil, brake fluid, kerosene, gas cylinders, diesel fuel, antifreeze.



### NOTE FROM THE TREE WARDEN:

Planting, pruning or removal of trees within the Town Right of Ways (ROW) at roadsides requires approval of the Tree Warden. State Statute requires a written request for permission to remove or plant trees in the ROW area. Unapproved work in the ROW is subject to fines and damages. The Tree Warden's email address is [mkiefer@coventryct.org](mailto:mkiefer@coventryct.org). Do not use email to contact the Tree Warden for **emergencies** – call Public Works at (860) 742-6588 or the Police Department at (860) 742-7331.

### 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!! (Some driveway length restrictions may apply.) The town has a few slots for those special needs people (no additional fees involved) who are elderly or handicapped to assist with this task. Call the Human Services Office at (860) 742-5324 to find out if you or someone you know might qualify.

**Trash Holiday Schedule:** All American Waste will observe the following legal holidays thereby altering curbside pickup accordingly:

Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup> – Memorial Day  
Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup> – Labor Day

## TEXTILE RECYCLING

Textile Recycling is available in Coventry at the following three locations: transfer station (when open), next to the Annex behind the Town Hall anytime and Public Works on Olsen Farm Road anytime. Textiles can be donated in any condition as long as they're clean and dry. Must be contained in bags.

Donate – Recycle – Don't throw away

## PLASTIC BAG RECYCLING

Please do **NOT** throw plastic bags / film / wrap into the recycling carts. (These items actually contaminate the load.) These items **ARE** recyclable, however, through 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, Fieldstone Commons, Tolland  
860 872-0304

Price Chopper, 1220 Storrs Road, Mansfield  
860 553 6555

Kohl's, 95 Storrs Road, Willimantic 860 456-4700

The following plastic and film items can be recycled 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](http://www.plasticfilmrecycling.org).



## PAPER SHREDDING

A shred event will be scheduled for Fall 2020. Check your COVRRRA calendar, which is mailed with your COVRRRA bill, for the date.

## HELP WANTED

If you like outdoor physical work, have a valid driver's license and are 18 or older, we are looking for you. The Public Works Department has an opening for a summer laborer paying \$11/hr. for 40 hour week. Accepting applications immediately. For more info call (860) 742-6588.

## WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

### Contact Us:

Mike Ruef, WWTP Operator, 860-742-4064, email [mruef@coventryct.org](mailto:mruef@coventryct.org)  
[www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org): the link to the WPCA page can be found by clicking on Your Government > Boards & Commissions > Water Pollution Control Authority

### Projects Update:

- **Treatment Plant tank rehab:** In September 2019 we hired a firm to perform corrosion testing & analysis on the steel and concrete in the clarifier/digester tanks. The results from these tests show that the tanks are structurally sound but are experiencing heavy corrosion from the acidic nature of wastewater sludge. They recommend sand blasting and applying a specialized coating to the concrete and steel that will prevent further corrosion and provide many more years of life for the tanks and mixers. Staff are working with our consulting engineers to put a bid together.
- **Sustainability:** The Treatment Plant is next on the list for an energy efficient lighting upgrade program through Eversource & World Energy similar to other Town Buildings.

### Annual Reminders:

- Please do flush: wash water, human waste, toilet paper.
- Please do **not** flush: anything other than the above **but particularly no:** dental floss, cigarette butts, food waste, oils or grease, wet wipes, long hairs, paper towels, & feminine hygiene products. Use adequate drain screens in sinks, showers, and tubs. Dump strainer in garbage when full, not down the drain. Avoid use of garbage disposals. Scrape greasy dishes into trash. Pour cooled cooking oil/grease into trash. All of these "do not flush" items are harmful to the wastewater treatment system and may cause system failures which would be costly to the taxpayers.

**Financial Assistance for Sewer Connections:** *Low interest/deferred loans for sewer connections are available for households within the sewer service area that meet federal income guidelines. Contact Mike Ruef for details.*

## SPRING NOTES FROM COVENTRY LAKE ADVISORY & MONITORING COMMITTEE

Spring is here and soon all the summer activities will start. Some things to keep in mind:

1. Spring means lawn work. The best way to keep our lake healthy is not to fertilize therefore avoiding nutrient runoff into the lake. If you do fertilize make sure to use a **ZERO** phosphate fertilizer.
2. Spring means landscaping. If you plan to do some lakefront landscaping check out the great app from UConn on rain gardens – one of the best ways to avoid nutrient run-off into the lake - [www.nemo.uconn.edu/raingardens](http://www.nemo.uconn.edu/raingardens)
3. Spring means aquatic weed growth. Report algae blooms and any unusual aquatic weed growth to: [coventrylakeadvisory@coventryct.org](mailto:coventrylakeadvisory@coventryct.org)
4. Spring means preparing boats (motor or paddle) and equipment for summer use. Remember DEEP recommends WASH DRAIN DRY. Instructions can be found at [https://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2696&q=322690&deepNav\\_GID=1630](https://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2696&q=322690&deepNav_GID=1630)
5. A reminder: Dispose of personal trash properly, not in the lake. Check boats and trailers for any foreign materials and dispose of those properly as well. Have FUN but leave nothing but ripples behind.
6. Starting in 2020 a \$5.00 fee is being collected on all Connecticut registered boats. This fee will be put in a special fund to be used for projects involving restoration and habitation of lakes, ponds, and rivers, treatment to control Aquatic Invasive Species and cyanobacteria, as well as education and outreach programs to promote AIS awareness in Connecticut. Boats with out-of-state registrations used on Connecticut inland water bodies will be required to buy a stamp for \$20.00.

The good news is that the 2019 Hydrilla Report stated that in the fall of 2019 only ONE colony of hydrilla was found. The fluridone treatment appears to be working. 2020 will continue with the same full lake treatment of the littoral area applied in three fluridone treatments over 90 days starting in the early summer. Watch for announcements.

## FOOD BANK

The Coventry Food Bank is available to any individual or family experiencing difficult times and may need help with food. We have a variety of staple foods in stock which include: cereal, pasta, soup, canned vegetable, peanut butter/jelly and school snacks. We are solely a donor-funded program and appreciate the generous donations from many local residents, churches, schools, civic organizations and groups.

A collection box is located at Town Hall in the glass vestibule outside the Building Department (north side of building, lower level).

**If you are in need and wish to utilize the Food Bank, please call Coventry Human Services to set up an intake appointment.**

## MOBILE FOODSHARE

Mobile FoodShare is an outdoor food distribution for persons in need and is available every other Wednesdays from 10-10:30 at the 1st Congregational Church, 1171 Main Street, Coventry. Food choices vary from week to week but usually include bread and several types of fresh produce. Other items may also be offered depending on availability. No appointment is necessary. Please remember to bring a bag or box with you to carry your food. If you have any questions please call FoodShare at 860-286-9999 or [www.foodshare.org](http://www.foodshare.org).

**Dates that Foodshare will be in Coventry this Spring and Summer:**

- **April 29**
- **May 13, 27**
- **June 10, 24**
- **July 8, 22**
- **August 5, 19**
- **September 2, 16, 30**

## INFOLINE 2-1-1

2-1-1 is your one-stop connection to the local services you need; from utility assistance, food, housing, child care, after-school programs, elder care, crisis intervention and much more. 2-1-1 is always ready to assist you in finding the help you need. Dial 2-1-1 or search online.

Text CTCOVID to 898211 for updates!

## HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

860-742-5324

### RENTER'S REBATE PROGRAM APRIL 1<sup>st</sup> –OCTOBER 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 OFFERED FOR ELDERLY & DISABLED RENTERS

Connecticut's Elderly Renters' Rebate Program provides direct, partial reimbursement to lower income elderly or disabled renters to help offset a portion of their rent and utility expenses. The program, administered by Office of Policy and Management, provides for payments ranging up to \$900 for qualified married persons and up to \$700 for qualifying single persons. The rebate amount is based on a graduated income scale and the amount of rent and utility payments (excluding telephone) made in the calendar year prior to the year in which the renter applies. The program is open April 1st through October 1st and eligible residents should contact the Coventry Human Services Office to schedule an appointment.

**The State of Connecticut  
Renters' Rebate Program Hotline is 860-418-6377**

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

## COVENTRY YOUTH SERVICES:

### Campership Scholarship and Donations

Coventry Youth Services continues to work with Coventry Parks and Recreation to raise funds to provide financial assistance to children and families who otherwise could not afford to attend summer camp. None of this would be possible without the generous support from our community. **All funds for this scholarship program are raised through donations from community members, organizations & businesses.** We are accepting donation for the 2020 Campership fund. Checks can be made payable to the Town of Coventry.

Each family that applies for assistance meets with the Coventry Youth Services Coordinator, to determine eligibility (no family is guaranteed assistance). There is no set scholarship amount given; rather, each case is looked at individually and amounts are awarded based on a variety of factors, such as family income, family size, current circumstances etc. The number of campership's available is based on the donations received.

**To apply for a campership or make a donation, please call Coventry Human Services and speak with Sneha L'Heureux, Youth Service Coordinator.**

**We will not be accepting Campership appointments until Camp Registration is open.**

### Camp Connri

The Salvation Army's Camp Connri, located in Ashford, will soon be accepting applications for youth ages 8-12 to attend the 2020 overnight summer camp. With community donations collected through Bell Ringing efforts in December, Coventry Youth Services is able to send children to this camp at no cost or low cost based on financial eligibility. Applications will soon be available in the Human Services office.

### Gearing up to Learn- Back to School Program

This program provides new backpacks and school supplies to Coventry families with school aged children, who meet income guidelines. We appreciate any donation of school supply and backpacks for this program. More information regarding date and times for this program will be posted on our Facebook page and website by mid-July.

**If you have any other questions, please call Coventry Human Services.**

**\*\*For more information on any of the programs and much more, be sure to like and share Coventry Youth Services on Facebook, or contact Youth Services Coordinator, Sneha L'Heureux at 860-742-5324.**

# SENIOR CENTER

172 Lake Street • 860-742-3525

Brenda Bennett, Senior Center Coordinator: [bbennett@coventryct.org](mailto:bbennett@coventryct.org)

Catherine Alfano, Senior Center Assistant: [calfano@coventryct.org](mailto:calfano@coventryct.org)



## FROM THE COORDINATOR

As you know, the Center is temporarily closed and offering essential services only due to the COVID-19 epidemic. With health and safety being the top priority, our team is still reporting to work on a rotating and modified schedule. You are welcome to call the office if you need assistance, information or guidance, and we will do our best to help. Your patience is appreciated. Please leave us a message and we will get back to you ASAP. Please, we want to hear from you!

As we deal with this unprecedented crisis, I want you all to take care of yourselves. Please remember to practice self-care, whether it's walking, exercising, reading, practicing mindful meditation or enhancing your creativity ... it's important not to let the news channels consume you!

We are continuing to reach out via email and social media, sharing resources and services for you to use. If you have yet to provide the Center with your email address, please consider it so we can send you updates. The Town's notification system is also a valuable resource—sign up on the Notify Me page at [www.coventryct.org/AlertCenter](http://www.coventryct.org/AlertCenter). You can receive information via your cell phone or email.

Remember to reach out to our Senior Center community, friends and neighbors who may be alone, and let's care for each other and we will get through this.

We miss everyone and can't wait for the day when we can be together and celebrate. Please stay safe and healthy!

Warmest Regards,

Brenda Bennett  
Senior Center Coordinator

## ENERGY ASSISTANCE APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED

As part of ongoing efforts to support Connecticut residents as much as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Social Services has extended the application deadline for the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) through Monday, June 1, 2020. CEAP applications submitted through the mail-in process must have been initiated by program staff over the phone by June 1st, or if submitted by an applicant without prior agency contact, must be postmarked by June 1st.

For details, visit: <https://portal.ct.gov/dss/Economic-Security/Winter-Heating-Assistance/Energy-Assistance---Winter-Heating>.



The Town has accepted a challenge from the Town of Tolland to see who counts more. To win, we need to have more of our citizens complete the Census information by June 1 than Tolland. Benefits of winning: 1) No Census worker will come to your house, 2) Our Public Safety folks will get pizza, and 3) Bragging rights that we count more than Tolland. You all got the Census information mailed to your homes over a month ago. It only takes a few minutes to complete it.

### MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION

We know that getting to your appointment is important, and the Senior Center is continuing this transportation service. However, we reserve the right to ask "how are you feeling" and respectfully request that you tell us if you have a cough or a fever.

Please help us keep our transportation staff safe. Leave us a message and someone will call you back.

Two days' notice is appreciated.

860-742-3525



### STAY CONNECTED WITH US!

**Follow us on Facebook:**

[www.facebook.com/Coventry-Senior-Center](https://www.facebook.com/Coventry-Senior-Center)

**Website:** [www.coventryct.org/136/Senior-Center](http://www.coventryct.org/136/Senior-Center)

**Do you want emails** with helpful information from the Coventry Senior Center?

Email [bbennett@coventryct.org](mailto:bbennett@coventryct.org) to sign up!



TOWN OF COVENTRY  
1712 MAIN STREET  
COVENTRY, CT 06238



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

## TOWN MANAGER JOHN ELSESSER'S MESSAGE

### COVID-19 UPDATE

**COVID-19 UPDATE:** I want to thank our staff and volunteers for pulling together to reinvent local government in a short time. Many decisions were made and then adjusted as needed to balance public needs and public health safety. We are trying not to overwhelm you with information, but we do send out Facebook messages and web alerts as needed. I also want to thank the citizens both for their understanding that things have changed and their generosity in providing food, money and support to help their neighbors in need. Please support our local businesses any way you can now, and later as they are allowed to reopen. Our community relies on them all.

**BUDGET:** Watch for information on the proposed budget process which has changed under State Executive Orders. You can go online to calculate tax impact using a tax calculator to compare this year's taxes to next year's. Remember this was a revaluation year so the impact will vary based on whether your house value went up or down at the same rate as others in town. The Council plans to revise the budget and develop a proposed budget on or around May 18 for a presentation online on Thursday, May 21. Citizens can email comments on the proposed budget to [budgetcomments@coventryct.org](mailto:budgetcomments@coventryct.org). Comments received by May 29th will be reviewed by the Council and a final budget adopted in early June to allow tax bills to go out on time.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT MERGER:** The Fire Transition Study Committee has recommended and the Town Council has accepted the merger of Coventry Volunteer Fire Association and North Coventry Volunteer Fire Department into Coventry Fire/EMS: Department 18. There will be a one-year interim period with a new blended organizational structure. The first interim Fire Chief will be Bud Meyers, who will fill out the organizational chart. The Fire Chief will answer to the Town Manager. This new volunteer structure will emphasize town wide teamwork, training, and recruitment/retention. The Fire Associations will choose to become a supportive group or possibly dissolve. Much thanks to all involved in the discussions and planning. Change is very hard but this is an exciting restart of a long-standing volunteer tradition.

**PROJECTS UPDATE:** On top of COVID issues we are continuing to push projects forward to support construction. We are out to bid for unit ventilators and HVAC projects at the high school/middle school. We also hope to get contracts in place at CHS for some additional asbestos removal, fire door improvements and wall strengthening (for wind) at the auditorium and band room. The CGS parking lot replacement is slated for a June start. We are waiting for final authorization to put the grant-funded Folly Lane Bridge out to bid, too. The reconstruction of the roads in the Northfields subdivision has slowed up to the some COVID issues but catch basin work should be underway soon and the full project completed this season.

Planning continues on softball fields, Library renovation, and will start on CHS roof replacement (it is 22 years old and starting to leak). Planning for the microgrid project to allow the public buildings from CHS to the Police Station (including Orchard Hills) to generate its own power through natural gas, solar and batteries continues. It is hoped that this public/private project will be finalized within the next couple of months to take advantage of a \$4,000,000 grant. It must make economic sense and be technically feasible to proceed.