

Coventry, Connecticut



TOWN NEWS

COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT — Elizabeth Woolf

Happy New Year Coventry! From our Council table to your homes and businesses, we send you our most sincere wishes for a safe and healthy 2013. We also send our very best wishes to all of our town and school employees who work hard every day serving our community.

The Council looks forward to the second year of its two-year term and pledges to carry out our responsibilities with responsiveness and determination. We are strongly committed to protecting the town's interests and will work hard to do so.

We sincerely thank you for having entrusted us with both the privilege and responsibility to serve you. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us by e-mail at councilchair@coventryct.org or by phone at 1-860-742-6324.



Bald Eagle on Coventry Lake, December 2012. Photo by Ray Chicoine.

TOWN MANAGER'S MEMO — John A. Elsesser, Town Manager

The Town continues to look toward ways we can interact beyond normal Town Hall hours. We are listening to people who feel it is not as easy to find things on our web site as they would like. So we entered a contest for an "Extreme Make-over" and await hearing how we fared. If we don't win we will try to "tweak" our existing site to be more theme-based versus department-based.

We continue to seek appropriate grants to help support initiatives beyond our reach. We received \$300,000 for Housing Rehabilitation, and funds to conduct a risk management assessment and purchase a portable pot-hole patcher with towns in our area. We were awarded funds for a large solar array for Public Works (see photo pg. 2) and are applying to participate in a pilot program called Solarize Connecticut to reduce the cost of residential installations for interested Coventry households. We also have grants pending for Regional Economic Development with Mansfield and Tolland (and UConn); development of Rt. 6 with Bolton, Andover and Columbia; enhancing emergency operations and Town security systems; and a regional transfer station. We have a pending grant which would fill the sidewalk gap on Lake Street and provide speed control signage on Main Street. We also are awaiting word on a grant to upgrade the Lake sluiceway.

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PROJECTS UPDATE:



This fall we wrapped up building projects including North Coventry Fire Station, Robertson chimney and the Public Works facility. Thanks to the Building Committees. Accessibility was improved at Laidlaw Park, and Miller Richardson Football Field is complete with grass strengthening for fall 2013 use. Several sidewalk grants were received and are in design. Currently scheduled for summer construction include connecting the Middle School to the sidewalk on the hill to the Village. Also planned for construction are sidewalks from First Congregational Church to the Library. The Main Street Curve project will connect the sidewalk segments in the summer of 2014.

Other projects include evaluating athletic lighting for the High School track field, selling the old Public Works facility, updating Recreation ordinances, indexing old land records to allow electronic searches, starting revisions to tax maps and preparing for Revaluation in 2014.



2013 HOLIDAY TOWN HALL CLOSINGS:

Martin Luther King Day	Jan. 21
Presidents' Day	Feb. 18
Good Friday	Mar. 29

FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

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Budget: This year, more than ever, the Town will need your help to let your State elected officials know that reductions in state grants to towns often result in property tax increases. You can go to CCM-ct.org for information and follow them on Facebook. This will let you know what is being proposed and which committee is controlling it. The process can move fast. Citizen input is valued more than testimony from Towns directly.

Here are the dates for our budget process:

Town Manager's Budget Hearing:

March 14, 2013

Annual Town Meeting:

April 27, 2013

Proposed Budget Vote:

May 7, 2013

Let us keep in touch. Please sign up for Coventry e-blasts. It only takes a few minutes and it provides the Town a quick and cost-effective means to keep you informed. We send out monthly e-blasts with lists of meetings and important community events. In emergencies this is the best way for us to reach you (especially by Smart Phone.) Please sign up at www.coventryct.org - click the box on the left-hand side that says "email updates."



Swearing-in ceremony for our new Police Officer. L to R: Mark Palmer, Chief of Police; Steven Hall, Town Council Member; Russell Iger, Police Officer; Elizabeth Woolf, Town Council Chair; John Elsesser, Town Manager.

COMINGS & GOINGS AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Congratulations to **Heidi Donnelly** and **Walter Solenski** upon their retirements. We wish you well in this new chapter of your lives.

Welcome to **Heidi Leech**, new Permit Technician in the Land Use Department, and **Russell Iger**, our new Police Officer.

Brenda Bennett has transferred from the Land Use Department to the Human Services Department. We are fortunate that she will bring a background in social services to her new role with the Town.

North Coventry Fire Department is pleased to announce that *Fire Chief Magazine* has awarded Station 11 a Notable Volunteer Station Design project in the November 2012 edition of their magazine. While we didn't win one of the top 3 awards, the design was recognized on a national basis. We have already received one call about our design from NY department. Thanks to everyone who made this happen including the Town Manager, Town Council, building committee, construction crews, department members, and our Town citizens who came out in support of this project. We should all be proud of this accomplishment.

Michael D'Amicol, our Assessor, is on active duty with the National Guard in Afghanistan. If you would like to drop him a card with well wishes, his mailing address is: SSG. Michael D'Amicol, 143rd MP Company, FOB Andar, APO AE 09311.



Installation of the new solar array at the Public Works facility.

ENERGY SAVINGS

It's not too late to sign up for the opt-in electrical program sponsored by the Town. Direct Energy will sell you electricity at 6.7¢ per kWh (6.6¢ if over 65) or 100% green power at 7.1¢. This price is valid through August 2013. No cost to sign up or to leave early. Go to www.coventryct.org for more information.



TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

DOG LICENSES

Did you get a new furry friend or forget to license the one you already had? The law requires that dogs 6 months and over need to be current on their rabies vaccinations and be licensed in the town they live in. Don't get caught without one!

- *\$8.00 for spayed or neutered dogs
- *\$19.00 for unaltered dogs.
- * Any dog license issued after June 30th is subject to a \$1.00 per month late fee.



LOW-INCOME PROGRAM FOR DOG OR CAT VACCINATIONS/STERILIZATION

For FY 2013, vaccination/sterilization voucher benefits are scheduled to be provided for low-income CT citizens who meet the criteria for one of seven programs as defined by the Department of Social Services (DSS). Citizens who qualify will need to complete a Low-Income Application and submit it to the APCP. Approved individuals will be eligible to receive vaccination/sterilization benefits for up to two (2) vouchers per household. For FY 2013, up to 10% of APCP income will be used to fund this program. Click on this link to download a [FY 2013 Low-Income Program application](#). (Info provided by the <http://www.ct.gov/doag/cwp/view>)

2013 SPORTS LICENSES

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

NEW! Hunters can now download their Harvest Tags from the DEEP website.

SPRING TIME REMINDERS

Annual Rabies Clinic	We vaccinated 102 dogs in 2012. It's too early for a date but watch for more information on Channel 13, in the Town of Coventry Newsletter and our website www.coventryct.org
Dog Licenses	June 1 st –June 30 th don't forget to bring in or send a copy of your dog's updated rabies certificate with your renewals. Our information is as good as the information you provide for us. So don't forget! We can't license any dog with an expired rabies vaccine.
Attention Dog Owners	The Town Clerks Office is collecting e-mail addresses of current dog owners. We would like to be able to send out reminders via e-mail in the future. This would save time and money in these economic times. Please send us an e-mail with your name, address and dog's name to ltollmann@coventryct.org .
Annual Town Meeting	Saturday, April 20, 2013 @ 10:00 a.m. check out our website for more information.

Effective July 1, 2013: same day registration will be available for Connecticut citizens. This will enable citizens ages 18 and over to register on Election Day and other voting dates. You still can register with the Registrar of Voters or the Town Clerk during regular business hours. Residents can also still download a registration form from the Coventry website. Visit www.coventryct.org then click on Town Agencies, click Registrar of Voters, click registration information, and print the form, and mail to the Registrars of Voters, 1712 Main Street, Coventry, CT 06238.

VOLUNTEER AND SERVE YOUR TOWN!

The following Committees have openings:

- *Parks & Recreation Alt.
- *Coventry Conservation Corps Coordinating Committee
- *Coventry Conservation Corps Coordination Committee Alt.
- *Energy Conservation/Alt Energy Advisory Committee Alt.
- *Coventryvision Committee
- *Personnel Appeals Board
- *Planning & Zoning Alt.
- *Youth Advisory Board
- *Veterans Memorial Committee
- *WACAP Board of Directors
- *Windham Regional Community Council Representative
- *Regional Federated Services for Older Americans

If interested please contact Lisa D. Thomas Town Council Steering Committee (860-742-9908), or Joan Oros, Republican Town Committee (860-742-9077), Dorothy M. Grady Democratic Town Committee, (860-742-0449) or Susan Cyr, Town Clerk (860-742-7966). Go to our website at www.coventryct.org to fill out a "Statement of Interest to Serve on a Board & Commission" form. It's easy; just go the [Home Page](#), click on [Boards & Commissions](#), and then click on [Board & Commissions Descriptions & Statement of Interest Form](#).

MORE FROM THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE



PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOTING

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

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

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

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

FROM THE TAX OFFICE (860) 742-4066

The 2nd installment for real estate taxes are due January 1, 2013. The last day to pay without interest is February 1, 2013. Real Estate tax bills are not mailed out for this installment; please use the second payment portion of the 3-part bill that you received in July.

Supplemental Motor Vehicle bills for a vehicle purchased, registered or plates transferred after October 1, 2011 and before September 30, 2012 were mailed in mid December and are due January 1, 2013. The last day to pay without interest is February 1, 2013.

If payment is received after February 1, 2013, the tax bill becomes delinquent and is immediately subject to 3% interest. From then on, the accrued interest will be added at the rate of 1.5% per month from the due date.

Taxpayers are now able to use their credit cards through Official Payments Corp. by telephone and/or the Internet to pay tax, sewer and trash bills. When paying by credit card, you will need your bill number, tax & interest amount and Coventry's jurisdiction code. Please call the tax office for these details including the toll free number and web address for Official Payments Corp. A link to Official Payments Corp. web site can be found on the Town's web page: www.Coventryct.org.

TAX SALE UPDATE

Significant progress has been made with the top twenty properties proposed for a tax sale. We have cut the list in half with only ten properties remaining unpaid. All owe at least five years of back taxes totaling \$560,000. A sale is proposed for early June 2013.

FROM THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

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

www.visionappraisal.com – Property Record Cards for Real Estate
www.coventryct.org – general departmental information including forms and applications

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

The Elderly and Disabled homeowner program begins February 1, 2013, and applications are being accepted until May 15, 2013. Our office will be sending reminder letters by the end of January 2013 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 \$40,900 if married, or less than \$33,500 if single, both must include Social Security benefits and your adjusted gross income from your 2012 Federal Income tax return. Since we have not heard from the State on what they will be doing on the income levels this year, please call to double check the income level if your income level is within 5,000.

Veterans must have already filed their DD214 with the Town Clerk prior to **October 1st** to be eligible for exemption. If you have already filed, you do not need to re-file. You will receive your exemption automatically. For additional veteran's benefits, please call if your income is less than \$40,900 if married, or less than \$33,500 if single, both must include Social Security benefits and your adjusted gross income from your 2012 Federal Income tax return. You will be asked to provide proof of all the income documentation regarding both of the above mentioned applications. Additional Veteran's applications are taken biannually along with the homeowners program. Again, since we have not heard from the State on what they will be doing on the income levels this year, please call to double check the income level if your income level is within 5,000.

The Board of Assessment Appeals will be meeting in March of 2013. Appeal **applications must be filed no later than February 21, 2013**. The board is required to here all appeals concerning Motor Vehicle, Personal Property or Real Estate. Applications are available in the Assessor's Office or online at www.coventryct.org.

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

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

PAYMENT DUE CALENDAR:

JANUARY-Real Estate 2nd installment, Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax only if applicable. **MAY**-Sewer Assessment fee-1st installment. **JULY**- Real Estate 1st installment, and Regular Motor Vehicle, Personal Property and COVRRR- annual (single) installment. **SEPTEMBER**- Sewer User fee- annual (single) installment. **NOVEMBER**- Sewer Assessment fee-2nd installment. Questions? Please call 860-742-4066.

NORTH COVENTRY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Winter is upon us and with that comes heating our homes. Whether it be oil, propane, wood or other heat sources, it's important to remember a few safety tips when using these products.

- Have your chimney cleaned and inspected at least annually.
- Dispose of ashes properly – do not dispose of them in Town garbage cans or in a place where brush fires can start – Remember: ashes may look safe but they can still retain heat to start fires – metal storage containers are best.
- Make sure you have a working smoke and CO detector with fresh batteries changed twice a year (when you change your clocks in the spring and fall).
- If you smell propane exit the area immediately and call 911 away from the odor– do not turn on/off electrical devices where you smell gas – for more information you can go to <http://www.safegas.org/tips/tips.html>.

We can't find your house! Having house numbers visible to the street and emergency personnel is important when you call 911. This can save several minutes in case of emergencies. Please take some time to look at where your house numbers are located. If you need assistance, feel free to call us and we can help.

Let it snow! Snow can be a picturesque scene in the winter time. However it can also hamper emergency equipment and personnel when you need us. Please make sure your driveways are cleared wide enough to allow ambulances, fire trucks and police vehicles to enter safely. It's also a good idea to keep walkways clear so emergency personnel can get to your house from the driveway.

The members of the North Coventry Volunteer Fire Department hope you had a great holiday season. We wish everyone a healthy and safe 2013. If you have any questions, comments or want a tour of our station, please visit our website at <http://www.northcoventryfire.org/html-contact-form.php> or call 860-742-1606.

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

Winter fire safety tips

Heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fires during the winter months. In fact, half of all home heating fires occur in December, January, and February. According to NFPA's Home Fires Involving Heating Equipment report, heating equipment was involved in an estimated 57,100 reported home structure fires in 2010, resulting in 490 civilian deaths, 1,530 civilian injuries, and \$1.1 billion in direct property damage.

It's never too early to begin preparing for the heating season. A few helpful tips to check off your list and get ahead of the winter freeze.

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.

And don't forget the fire prevention check list:

1. Check and clean all smoke detectors and change the batteries.
2. Clean and inspect all wood burning appliances, chimneys and smoke pipes.
3. Clean and inspect the dry vent pipes and lint screens. The chemicals from some scented dryer sheets will clog the screens. Wash them with soap and warm water.

A MESSAGE FROM THE NEW CHIEF OF CVFA

Dear Coventry Residents,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Chief of CVFA. I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you in the past, whether at local sporting events, church functions, fire prevention programs, or during an emergency or some other time of need. I am proud to serve our community along with the 78 dedicated active members and officers that volunteer their time to make Coventry a safer and better place to live.

I started my fire service career in 1980 and served 15 years with the Manchester Fire Department. After getting married and moving to Coventry, I joined CVFA in 2000 as a Firefighter/EMT. I became a Line Officer in 2003, and served as Assistant and Deputy Chief since 2007.

My wife Diane and I recently celebrated our 20th Wedding Anniversary. We have four sons, Ryan, Alex, Eric and John and we all enjoy living here in Coventry.

I look forward to serving you and thank you for supporting CVFA.

Finally, if you would like to know more about our organization or have questions about opportunities to volunteer that maybe right for you, please contact me at ken.boutin@coventryfire.org or check out www.facebook.com/cvfafirefighterken.

Sincerely,
Ken Boutin

TIPS ON DRESSING FOR COLD WEATHER

As you prepare to be outside in severe cold weather, please remember the following:

- Mittens provide more warmth to your hands than gloves.
- Most of your body heat is lost through your head so wear a hat, preferably one that covers your ears.
- Dress in warm layers so you can remove items if you get too warm.
- Recognize the symptoms of hypothermia that can be a serious medical condition: confusion, dizziness, exhaustion, and severe shivering. Seek medical attention immediately if you have these symptoms.
- Recognize frostbite-warning signs: gray, white, or yellow skin discoloration, numbness, waxy feeling skin. Seek medical attention immediately if you have these symptoms.
- Wear waterproof, insulated boots to help avoid hypothermia or frostbite by keeping your feet warm and dry and to maintain your footing in ice and snow.
- Get out of wet clothes immediately and warm the core body temperature with a blanket or warm fluids like hot cider or soup. Avoid drinking caffeine or alcohol if you expect you or someone you are trying to help has hypothermia or frostbite.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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

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

WINTER SEASON INFORMATION

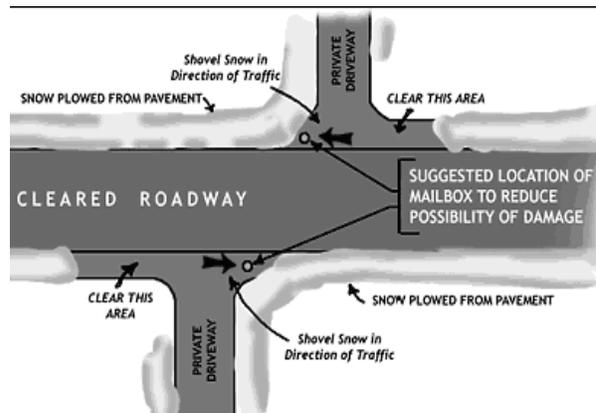
Snow Removal: The Public Works Department at the Town of Coventry generally attempts to treat the surface of town roads just before or during the first one half inch of snow falls. In keeping with state-of-the-art anti-icing protocols, salt is the primary weapon. Treating of roadways is adjusted to maintain 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 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, centers of roads are opened up. Streets 24 feet in width will 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 center 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.

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



MAILBOX VS. PLOW:

The Town of Coventry uses high discharge snow plows to effectively remove snow from the traveled portion of the road. High discharge plows throw the snow higher and further back, to clear the areas of town that have stone walls or high embankments right next to the roadway. They also make room for additional snow that may fall.

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. Very seldom does a snow plow physically strike a mailbox and damage it. The weight of the snow coming off of the end of the plow is more often the culprit. You can take steps to minimize this damage!

Place a deflector just before the mailbox to knock the snow down before it hits the mailbox, such as a burlap bag strung between two posts, a deflector made of wood or similar materials.

Flying snow makes it look like snow plow trucks are traveling much faster than they are, but the average speed of travel is less than 20 m.p.h. Even at this speed, the force of the snow being pushed off the road can damage mailboxes and other roadside items. The town's policy is to repair mailboxes **only** when the plow truck physically hits the mailbox – not when the snow that comes off of the plow strikes the mailbox.

WINTER TIPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RIGHT OF WAY: Enhancements to your property along the roadside need to be placed far enough back from the road to insure that they will not become a sight-line obstruction for your driveway, your neighbor's, an intersection or traffic control device. Please remember the Town does have a Right-of-Way extending from 5 to 25 feet beyond the road edge on all Town Roads. Trees should not be planted within this zone. This area must also be kept clear of fixed obstructions such as fences or stone walls. Please call the Public Works Department to obtain this setback measurement for your particular road before doing landscaping or major plantings in this area.



“THE HOLIDAYS ARE OVER; NOW WHAT DO I DO WITH MY CHRISTMAS TREE?”

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

NO SNOWMOBILING HERE!!

Snowmobiles are not to be operated on Town and School properties. The runners on the sleds cause damage to the turf and it is not fair for a few to increase the maintenance costs for everyone. Please do not ski, snowmobile or use All Terrain Vehicles on snow covered roads. You may collide with a plow truck. **Please! Never let children play in the snow banks next to the roadway.** Plow operators may not be aware of them, especially if the children are digging into the snow banks.

NO MORE NIKE GRIND PROGRAM

The Connecticut Recyclers' Coalition has decided after almost 10 years to discontinue participation in the NIKEGRIND Reuse-a-Shoe program. As a result, The Town of Coventry will also be unable to continue with the program effective immediately. The Town urges its residents to donate their gently-used sneakers and shoes to shelters, Goodwill or the Salvation Army.

FROM THE DESK OF THE WPCA TECHNICIAN

The new emergency standby generator at the Wastewater Treatment Plant has been installed and tested. We also updated critical electrical systems that will significantly increase reliability of the Plant in the event of a power outage.

We have submitted the sewer expansion feasibility study/report to CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) for review and approval. Areas of concern are Cheney Lane, Hemlock Point, Upper Oak Grove, Rt. 44 from the Bolton Town line to Twin Hills Drive, and a Wastewater Treatment Plant retrofit or connection to the Windham sewer system.

A public informational meeting has been scheduled for Thursday February 7, 2013 at 6:45 P.M. in the Town Hall Annex, 1712 Main Street. Consultants from WMC Engineers as well as representatives from CT DEEP will be present to provide an overview of the report and answer technical questions.

TRANSFER STATION: 325 Main Street

The facility will now be open the same schedule all year long: every Thursday 3 to 6:30 or **DUSK** and every Saturday 9 to 3. Closed holidays. Proof of residency is required.

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

Materials acceptable with cost:

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

Materials acceptable no cost:

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

Materials **NOT** acceptable:

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

Call Public Works (860) 742-6588 for more details or check your COVRRRA CALENDAR.

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

Typical material accepted at this facility includes:

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

SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL AND RECYCLING INFORMATION

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

If materials are not picked up from the curbside, residents are asked to please call All American Waste ASAP at (860) 289-7850.

Waste acceptable for Weekly pickup in gray tipper cart:

- Household garbage and solid wastes.

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

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

Next to the carts:

- Automotive batteries; one bi-weekly.
- Auto or light truck tire; removed from rim, one per week.

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

Over-sized waste pickup is the 2nd Monday of the month. Items should be at curb by 6:30 AM. Collection may or may not follow the daily waste pick-up.



Get a new TV for Christmas? Please don't put the old one at the curb. All electronics must go to the transfer station for recycling, free of charge.

LAND USE

TOWN BIKE PLAN

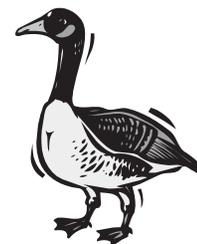
The Conservation Commission has recently initiated the process of creating a bike plan for the Town. The Commission has begun evaluating other municipal bike plans and has also started considering evaluation tools that provide a basis for determining what roads or trails would be most appropriate for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

CT RIDES

CTrides is the state's free commuting program, working on behalf of the Connecticut Department of Transportation, to provide a resource for those who work and live in the state of Connecticut to find their best commuting options. The options range from public transportation to telecommuting, carpooling and vanpooling, along with walking and cycling. The program encourages people to look at any other option for getting to work and around in their personal lives besides driving alone. They also know that it isn't feasible for everyone to commit to never driving alone, which is why CTrides provides numerous options that are flexible and convenient. They have a 24-hour customer service staff at 1-877-CTRIDES (287-4337), with a live chat on their website (www.ctrides.com),

along with an email for inquiries at info@ctrides.com. Another highlight is the free rewards program, whose link is on the CTrides website, which rewards people for the green commuting that people do in their personal and work lives.

From the Coventry Lake Advisory & Monitoring Committee:



GEESE AT COVENTRY LAKE

Some Coventry residents are concerned about geese at Coventry Lake and its parks, primarily because their droppings are a significant and unpleasant nuisance. If you do not want geese on your lawn try these things:

- Don't feed them. Harass them.
- Plant native vegetation that is taller than they are. If they can't see far they do not feel safe and will seek better grounds.
- Change your grass to tall fescue. Geese like it less than other grass types.
- Place a barrier or fence between the water and grassy feeding areas. Geese prefer to walk, not fly, and barriers "trip" them up.
- Apply Methyl Anthranilate (trade name ReJeX-IT AG-36; try Amazon.com to purchase) to grassy areas used by the geese – following the label instructions. Methyl Anthranilate is a natural compound found in plants. It tastes sweet to humans, but is distasteful to many bird species, including Canada geese.

Finally, you can addle the eggs or remove nests, though these measures require a federal permit. The permit can be secured on-line via <https://epermits.fws.gov/eRCGR/geSI.aspx>.

Additional information about discouraging geese can be found at: <http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?A=2723&Q=325942>

WINTER WORDS OF ADVICE FROM YOUR COVENTRY BUILDING OFFICIAL...

If you haven't had your chimney inspected and thoroughly cleaned yet, it's time. Call a professional before that first fire. A professional chimney-cleaning service will perform an intensive inspection of your chimney and reduce the risk of gas leaks, system failures, even small explosions. While he or she is on the job, make sure you have a chimney cap installed to keep out critters seeking refuge from the cold. The bigger issue with chimneys, of course, is the risk of carbon monoxide accumulation. Install a carbon monoxide detector outside of sleeping areas, as well as smoke detectors in all bedrooms, and keep plenty of spare batteries on hand for both. Supplemental heaters, woodstoves, propane appliances and pellet stoves should be checked prior to use for proper venting and make-up air. Never use unvented gas logs or freestanding unvented heaters longer than suggested in their instruction's manual. Also, if your home has a furnace, make sure that you replace the furnace filter monthly.

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

The winter months are the precisely the time when you look forward to relaxing and spending a little time in front of the fireplace, in the safety of your own homes. Staying alert will help you and your family stay safe and comfortably enjoy this season.

PLANNING ON BUILDING IN THE SPRING/SUMMER? HELPFUL SUGGESTION:

As the winter season approaches, construction activity usually slows down allowing more time for office staff to review applications. Submitting permit packets during the slower season allows for faster turnaround times for approval. Work on approved permit applications must start within six months of the issuance date, not the date when applications are submitted for review. If you need any assistance call Brigit or Joe in the Building Department, (860-742-4064).

COMING EVENTS

THANK YOU to all the Coventry and surrounding town residents who participated in joining us celebrate Coventry's 300th Anniversary.

We would like to extend our sincerest **THANKS** to all the area businesses for their generous donations and support to the various events held during the year. Your contribution had an impact on the success of each event.

Many Thanks to our Sub-committee, known as the Parade Committee, for the time and hard work that went into organizing the 300th Parade, which was a success!

We hope that everyone enjoyed themselves as much as we did planning each and every event.

Thank you from all of us.

Sincerely,

Andrea Ader
Joyce Bonney
Ginney Dilk
Bill Jobbagy



STONE WALL MAINTENANCE WEEKEND

The Coventry Conservation Commission and the Coventry Conservation Corps is sponsoring the annual "Stone Wall Maintenance Weekend" on March 30-31 (rain date April 6-7). This would be a perfect time for property owners to do some maintenance to increase the visibility of stone walls on their property. Many of the stone walls throughout Coventry are in disrepair and/or are overgrown with brush and invasive plants. Homeowners can improve the "curb appeal" of their property by sprucing up their stone walls, especially those that border town roads. This can be turned into a great community project for neighborhoods or community service groups. The Coventry Conservation Corps will participate by sending a work crew to some town-owned property with stone walls in need of maintenance.

WINTERFRESH MARKET

The Coventry Regional Farmers Market will hold the WinterFresh Market every Sunday from 11 AM - 2 PM through the end of February at the Coventry High School. Over 30 local farmers and specialty food producers and artisans will be there with fresh, local food and wares.

Our January 27 CSA Fair (held concurrently with the WinterFresh market) will allow you to shop options, ask questions of the farmers and food producers, and reserve a CSA (Consumer Supported Agriculture) share if you find one (or more?) that's a good fit for you! Many CSA's can be picked up right at the market.

COVENTRY SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION PHONE-A-THON

The Coventry Scholarship Foundation, a Dollars For Scholars affiliate, will conduct its 22th annual Phone-A-Thon starting Monday, March 18th through Wednesday, March 20. Coventry residents will be called and asked to make a contribution to the tax deductible fund, and businesses will be contacted by letter. Anyone wishing to help with the phone calls or mailings is asked to call 860-742-6633. This is a community event that benefits any student who is a Coventry resident. Last year over \$45,000 was distributed. Volunteers are greatly needed.

EVENT SIGNAGE PERMITS REQUIRED

You must have a permit from the Land Use Office (860) 742-4062 to place an event sign on the Town Green on Route 31 at Route 44 (New Alliance Bank). They will not permit any commercial signs. Absolutely no signs can be placed on the Town Green on Stage Road at Route 44 (across from Highland Park Market) or the Town Green on Lake Street (across from Patriots Park). Thank you for your cooperation.

JOIN THE LIONS CLUB!

Are you looking for an opportunity to give something back to your community? The citizens of Coventry have a longstanding tradition of community service and assistance to those among us in need. The Coventry Lions Club is a community service oriented organization that is committed to serving in a variety of ways. If you would like to consider joining our organization or just attend one of our monthly meetings please call Dick Giggey at 742-9344. Don't pass up this opportunity to help make Coventry the best community it can be for all its residents. New male and female members are welcome.

PARKS & RECREATION NEWS

Thanks to everyone that braved the cold & wind for our Annual Tree Lighting. Special thanks to our helpers that make the evening so much fun: Department of Public Works: Monica Bragdon. Emcees: Liz Woolf, Town Council Chair & Jen Byne, Recreation Commission Chair. Coventry High School Band: Ned Smith, Director. Coventry High School Chorus: Melissa Rood, Director. Coventry School Food Services: Beth Pratt, Director. North Coventry Fire Department: Noel Miller, Fire Chief. Santa's Helpers (Lighting of the tree): Faith & Nancy Conti Capstone Photography. Sound: Dave Brown and of course, Santa Claus!

Be sure to look for our Winter/Spring Program brochure which will be due out mid-January which is direct mailed to every household in Coventry. Hold that date! Don't miss our next big event – Our most popular **Annual Father Daughter Dance** which is scheduled for Friday, February 8th.

Also, something new for you – be sure to follow us on Pinterest! Our Pinterest Boards are a great resource for ideas about everything fun! We are always pinning new and interesting ideas to each of our Pinterest boards, including our own activities here in Coventry, and what others are doing! Follow us at <http://pinterest.com/coventryrec/>.

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

COVENTRY RIDES SENIOR TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

Coventry's Senior Van Program is now beginning its eighth year. Our new 14-passenger mini-bus has seen an entire year of service. The Program has provided over 6500 rides for Coventry's elderly and disabled residents. The goal of the program is to allow all Coventry citizens to live as independently as possible by providing transportation for medical and personal needs.

Special thanks to the dedicated volunteer drivers who offer their time to help others. Our current team of volunteer drivers includes, Tim Ackert, Brian Coss, Christine Coss, Dick Frye, Dick Gawitt, Bill Hoffman, Kim Homans, Dave Lamore, Debbie Locke, Jane Luthi, Monica Moneri, David McCrory, Carol Moriarty, Karen Renfro, Bill Root, Cathy Root, Barbara Louise Rose, Ken Stein, Jack Thayer and Bill Wajda. These people keep the van on the road three days a week and on weekends. They also provide special wellness trips to local events throughout the year.

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

The Coventry Senior Transportation Program provides rides for the elderly and disabled to locations in the Coventry, Manchester, Vernon and Tolland areas. Rides are provided for medical, personal, social and educational purposes. Rides to locations in the Willimantic and Mansfield areas are provided by the WRTD Dial-A-Ride Program.

Low cost Wellness Trips are also offered on a regular basis. Commercial coaches are used for longer trips and trips out of state. Recent trips have included Holiday Fantasia Lights in Hartford, Fall Foliage Trip to the Clara Barton Museum with a lunch stop in Putnam, as well as trips to the Windham Theater Guild and the Manchester Community College Older Adults Programs. These Wellness Trips are provided to seniors and disabled citizens at very low cost. Transportation for these special trips is paid for with a grant from the Connecticut Department of Transportation.

Mileage Reimbursement can also be provided for transportation to medical facilities and related services beyond what is currently provided by the Coventry Senior Transportation Program. This program provides reimbursement of mileage expenses for volunteers using their own vehicles, who assist the disabled and residents age 60 and over. Mileage Reimbursement funding is also provided by the Connecticut Department of Transportation Grant Please call for additional information.

The Coventry Rides Senior Transportation Program is currently funded by the Town of Coventry and with grants from the Connecticut Department of Transportation.

For more information about the Senior Transportation Program, to schedule a ride or to join our volunteer drivers team, please call the Transportation Coordinator, Leigh Wajda, at the Coventry Senior Center at least 48 hours in advance. The number is 860-742-3525.

Coventry Human Services would like to thank everyone who was able to donate and adopt families for our Holiday Program. For Thanksgiving and Christmas combined we were able to serve over 500 individuals with the help of over 200 donors. This truly could not have happened without your generosity. We would also like to thank the many volunteers who were able to make this program a success!

Attention Coventry Seniors! Free Transportation Available



Are you no longer able to drive? Do you need a ride to your doctor? Would you like to go grocery shopping or shopping at the mall? Do you have other errands to do? Would you like to spend a little time at Senior Center?

The Coventry Rides! senior handicap-accessible van and our new handicap-accessible mini-bus will take you where you need to go in the Coventry, Manchester, Vernon, and Tolland. We make regular trips to all of these towns.

It's easy and our drivers are the best! Please call Coventry Senior Center for a ride at 860-742-3525 at least 48 hours ahead to schedule a ride.

If you need to go to the Willimantic Area, please call Dial-A-Ride at 860-456-1460.

SENIOR CENTER NEWS

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

Announcements:

Volunteer Opportunities are available at the Senior Center! Come find out how you can get involved and share your talents! We are specifically in need of receptionists, group facilitators or class instructors, but have a variety of other exciting possibilities as well! Please see Sarah for more information or to apply.

The **Fitness Center** is up and running! Stop by to pick up a Fitness Center Packet, which has all the information you need to get started! Attendance at an Equipment Orientation Session is mandatory before using the Fitness Center; orientation sessions will be held monthly or as needed. Please call the Center to register or for more information.

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

We've added a couple of new exciting groups to our weekly schedule! Join the **Scrabble Group** on Mondays at 12:30pm to play, stretch your brain, have some fun and visit with friends! Join the **Book Discussion Group** on Mondays from 9-10am for some enlightening conversation - a great way to start your week!

Reminders:

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

The Veteran's Advocate is available Wednesdays by appointment. Please call the Senior Center to schedule or for more information.

Upcoming Events:

Winter Luncheon: Join us for a mid-winter luncheon with great friends and great food! Please call the Center to reserve your seat by January 16th.

January 23rd at 12pm

Podiatric Footcare Clinic: Podiatrist Dr. Anthony Morgan will be at the Senior Center to provide toenail clipping and podiatric evaluation. Dr. Morgan accepts Medicare and private insurance, so please remember to bring your insurance card with you to your appointment. For all questions regarding fees and insurance coverage, please call Dr. Morgan's office directly at (860) 537-5520. Please call the Senior Center for more information or to schedule an appointment.

January 31st from 9:30am-12pm

VNAEast Footcare Clinic: Toenail Clipping will be provided by VNAEast Nurse Mary Hess. There is a \$15 fee payable directly to Mary Hess at the time of the appointment. Please call (860) 456-7288, ext. 201 to schedule an appointment; please see Sarah with questions or for more information.

January 31st from 1-3pm

Spa Day: Michelle DeLuco of Kennedy & Co. Salon & Spa will be here to offer spray bottle variety haircuts, clipper cuts and eyebrow or beard trimming. The price for haircuts is \$10, payable directly to Michelle at the time of the appointment. Faith Charette of Hope & Wellness Salon will also be here to offer nail clipping, manicures & pedicures. The price for nail clipping is \$10; add scrub and polish for an additional \$10, payable directly to Hope at the time of the appointment. Please call the Center to register or for more information.

February 4th from 9:30am-12pm

Advanced Directives: Lynn Bellware, Administrative Director at Mansfield Center for Nursing, will offer a presentation on Advanced Directives. Please call the Center to register. Light refreshments will be served.

February 6th at 10:30am

Valentine's Day Sock Hop: Join us for an afternoon filled with fun and love! Lunch will be provided. Please call the Center to reserve your seat by February 6th.

February 13th at 12pm

VNAEast Footcare Clinic: Toenail Clipping will be provided by VNAEast Nurse Mary Hess. There is a \$15 fee payable directly to Mary Hess at the time of the appointment. Please call (860) 456-7288, ext. 201 to schedule an appointment; please see Sarah with questions or for more information.

February 14th from 1-3pm

Coming Soon:

Live Well Workshops: The Live Well Program is a series of workshops designed to help people with ongoing health conditions take control of their lives and feel better. If you have a health condition such as diabetes, arthritis, heart disease, or chronic pain, or you care for someone who does, join us for this series of six workshops where you'll get the support you need, find practical ways to deal with pain and fatigue, discover better nutrition, understand new treatment choices and learn better ways to talk with your doctor and family about your health. There is no charge for this program, and we hope to offer it to Coventry Seniors in January or February. Please call the Center for more information or to reserve your spot.

COMMUNITY NEWS



NEWS FROM THE BOOTH & DIMOCK MEMORIAL LIBRARY

MAKE YOUR OWN TRUFFLES

Learn how to make your own gourmet chocolate truffles just in time for Valentine's Day. Join us Wednesday, February 6 at 7:00 for a presentation by chocolatier Maria Brandriff. Please call the library at 860-742-7606 to register.

EVENTS FOR TEENS

Be sure to visit www.CoventryPL.org for the most current information on the great teen events at the Library this winter. Back by popular demand are the Gaming Club, Chess Club, Anime Club and Movie Afternoons. New this winter is a series of Crafts for Teens, Minute to Win It event, Survivor Scavenger Hunt and more! Please call 860-742-7606 for more information.

From the Children's Room

BABYGARTEN

Babygarten is a fun and informational program for children (ages birth to 35 months) and their caregivers. It runs in multiple 6-week sessions during the year. Babygarten focuses on how nursery rhymes, songs, and books can enrich a child's life from the very beginning and provide them with a foundation for

the future. Siblings are welcome. Registration is not required.

Time: 10:15—11:00 AM
Dates: Feb. 5, 12, 19 & 26,
March 5 & 12

TERRIFIC TUESDAYS

Children ages 3-5 are invited to join us for our Tuesday AM story times! No registration is necessary. Siblings are welcome. Please note: there will be no story time on the fifth Tuesday of any month.

Time: 11:30 – 12:00 NOON
Feb. 5, 12, 19 & 26

ALL ABOARD! PLAYGROUP*

Saturday, Jan. 12: 10:30 -11:45 AM
Saturday, Feb. 23: 10:30-11:45 AM

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

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

ICE SKATING AND ICE FISHING SAFETY TIPS

Coventry Lake is not monitored or tested for ice thickness and safety. There is a sign posted when Patriots Park skating pond is determined to meet the criteria for skating. The ice has been checked and when inspected was at least 4 inches thick. However, please be aware that conditions may change. You must use your own judgment and follow the basic safety tips below:

- Skate at your own risk.
- Ice thickness is not consistent. Water currents, particularly around narrow spots, bridges, inlets and outlets, are always suspect for thin ice.
- New ice is usually stronger than old ice. As the ice ages, the bond between the crystals decays, making it weaker, even if melting has not occurred.
- Beware of ice covered with snow. Snow can insulate ice and keep it strong, but can also insulate it to keep it from freezing. Snow can also hide cracks, weaken and open ice.
- Slush is a danger sign, indicating that ice is no longer freezing from the bottom and can be weak or deteriorating.
- NEVER skate alone. Always have at least two people present.
- Children should NEVER be allowed to skate on a pond unsupervised.
- Beware of ice around partially submerged objects, such as trees, logs, brush, embankments or dam structures.
- Skating is not allowed after dark.
- Do not congregate in one area of the ice.
- Stay away from cracks, seams, pressure ridges, slushy areas and darker areas that signify thinner ice.
- Ice fishing is not allowed at designated skating areas.
- Wear a helmet.

HOUSING REHABILITATION LOAN PROGRAM

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

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

INCOME GUIDELINES (gross income, at or below)

Number in Family	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Low Income	30700	35100	39500	43850	47400	50900	54400	57900
Moderate Income	45500	52000	58500	65000	70200	75400	80600	85800



COVENTRY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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



BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS: The Board of Education generally meets on the second and last Thursday of each month. Regular Board meetings for 2013 are: January 10, January 31, February 14, February 28, March 14, Wednesday, March 27, April 11, April 25, May 9, May 30, June 13, June 27, July 11, July 25, August 8, August 29, September 12, September 26, October 10, October 24, November 14, December 12. Unless noted on the agenda, all meetings are held in the Town Hall Annex building at 7:30 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS INFORMATION

Coventry Families:

It is the Mission of the Coventry Public Schools to prepare every student for life, learning and work in the 21st century. As Superintendent of Schools, I am determined to see that Coventry creates a learning environment where this is more than possible – it is the standard for each classroom.

Coventry is a community with a unique profile. We have just over 1,700 students enrolled in our public school system, which consists of a diverse population in a rural area. Despite various differences, there is one important quality that unites all of our students – the potential to reach peak academic performance. Our administrative team is making sure our students, teachers, and support staff have the tools they need to generate each child’s full academic potential.

If you have not done so already, I encourage you to visit any one of our schools and see our programs in action. Visit with the principals and talk with teachers and students to get an up close and personal feel for the outstanding programs Coventry has to offer. In addition, please know I am always available for conversation. Do not hesitate to contact my office if you wish to discuss any facet of Coventry’s instructional organization.

Our educational system strengthens students’ knowledge and confidence in core academic subjects and equips them with 21st century skills. Always a work in progress, our curriculum is being designed to compel students to move towards reaching their life goals. We want our Coventry children to be competitive, productive members of the new global society.

I am privileged to have this wonderful opportunity to serve as the leader of this school district. As your Superintendent, I plan to continue to work collaboratively with the community, parents, students, and our school staff as we strive to make Coventry Public Schools one of Connecticut’s most outstanding districts. Thank you for your strong support of our schools.

Sincerely,

David J. Petrone
Superintendent of Schools

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.

OPEN DOOR MEETINGS 2013:

Come meet the Superintendent of Schools, David Petrone: As the Superintendent of Schools, one of my initiatives is to meet with as many parents and members of our Coventry community as possible. Open communication is a key component for true collaboration. I invite you to keep informed about education in our town by attending any of my remaining Open Door meetings this school year.

Friday, February 15 at 10:00 a.m.
Thursday, March 21 at 2:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 2 at 4:00 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 x2. Thank you!

BUDGET Q & A SESSIONS 2013:

Have you ever had questions about how your public school system manages your taxpayer dollars? It is the intent of the Coventry Public Schools to not only be extraordinarily prudent and efficient, but to also keep the public well informed. In that interest, we will be holding two public Budget Q & A sessions this spring.

Wednesday, March 27
from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 10
from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

These sessions are held in the Library/Media Center at the Capt. Nathan Hale School and Coventry High School.

GENERAL INFORMATION

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES:

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

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

Flexible hours/days with a wide variety of experiences.

Teacher, Para-Educator, and School Nurse Substitutes:

Call the Business Office at 742-7317 x3.

Cafeteria Substitutes:

Call Beth Pratt at 742-4535.

Bus Drivers/Substitutes:

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

COMING EVENTS:

February 15, 2013
Valentine's Dance Band
Coventry High School

February 18, 2013
President's Day, NO SCHOOL

March 28, 2013
Staff Development, NO SCHOOL

March 29, 2013
Good Friday, NO SCHOOL

April 15 – 19, 2013
April Recess, NO SCHOOL

May 11, 2013
Senior Prom, St. Clements Castle, Portland, CT

May 29, 2013
Chorus Spring Concert,
Auditorium 7:00 p.m.

June 15, 2013
Graduation
Dates subject to change.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS AND INFORMATION

ALERTNOW INFORMATION: Keeping families informed is a top priority at Coventry Public Schools. The ALERTNOW notification system is in its third year of use. This system allows us to send a **telephone message** to families providing important information about school emergencies.

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

E-BLAST INFORMATION: In addition to the ALERTNOW system, the Town of Coventry and the Coventry Public Schools are using email to get information out to the public. Anyone can sign up to receive email e-blast updates on town information and on school emergencies/closings. Check out the school website at www.coventrypublicschools.org to access the link to sign up to receive this information.

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

90 Minute Delay Notes

CECC AM – 10:00 a.m. start time

Grades K - 5: CGS & GHR – 10:00 a.m. start time

Grades 6 - 12: CNH & CHS – 9:10 a.m. start time

Early Release Notes – *Emergency/Weather-related*

AM CECC releases at regular time / NO PM CECC

All other grades end at Early Release times

NO afternoon / evening activities on school grounds

Coventry Parks & Recreation Department would like to remind everyone how to have a safe & fun winter. Children should bundle up and enjoy the outdoors.

- Helmets are essential for many outdoor winter activities. The risk of head injury is too great to leave the helmet in a closet at home. Helmets prevent or reduce the effects of 53 percent of the head injuries suffered by children while skiing, skating or snowboarding.
- Before heading out, it is important to remember a few key items in addition to the hat and gloves. Safe Kids USA provides a few tips:
- Always wear sport-specific, properly fitting safety gear when participating in winter sports.
- Kids should always wear helmets when they ski, sled, snowboard and play ice hockey. There are different helmets for different activities.
- Parents should wear helmets too. Remember, your children learn safety habits by watching you.
- Dress in layers and wear warm, close-fitting clothes. Make sure that long scarves are tucked in so they don't get entangled in lifts, ski poles or other equipment.
- Stay hydrated. Drink fluids before, during and after winter play.
- Kids — or caregivers — who become distracted or irritable, or begin to hyperventilate, may be suffering from hypothermia or altitude sickness, or they may be too tired to participate safely in winter sports. They need to go indoors to warm up and rest.
- Children under 6 should not ride a snowmobile, and nobody under 16 should drive one. All snowmobile drivers and passengers should wear helmets designed for high-speed motor sports. A bike helmet isn't sufficient for a four-wheeled motorcycle that can go up to 90 miles per hour.

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

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

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NEW OFFERING FOR COVENTRY RESIDENTS:

Pro Act Prescription Discount Card. In conjunction with the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, the Town has agreed to participate in a prescription discount card program offered by Pro Act, Inc. If you misplaced the September mailing including your card, you can reprint it from their website at www.CTRXDiscountcard.com. A limited number are also available in the literature rack near the Town Manager's office at the Town Hall. The primary focus of the program is to provide discounts on prescription drugs for persons without health insurance coverage, but it also provides discounts for vision and hearing programs. It can also be used for prescriptions for your pets. It does not cover deductibles or co-payments for insured persons. Savings are estimated at an average of 45% off of the pharmacy's regular price. Many pharmacies are signed up to participate, including CVS, Walgreen's and now Wal-Mart.

In the first two months of the program, 42 residents used the cards for 76 prescriptions, saving almost \$2,000 and an average of 40%.

Everyone is eligible regardless of age or income. There are no claim forms, sign-ups or fees. Just present the card to the participating pharmacy or participant. The program is free to you and to the Town of Coventry. For more information please see www.CTRXDiscountcard.com. You can also print out a eye care/hearing card from this site.