



TOWN NEWS

COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT — Elizabeth Woolf

Your newly elected Town Council has been hard at work since being sworn in on November 9. One of our first orders of business was to write and adopt Council Goals and Priorities for 2012 - 2014. This document provides direction for us and for the Town Manager and his staff. It becomes the framework for decision-making and action moving forward and keeps us working together toward the same goals. Following are highlights.

Covenant with Citizens of Coventry:

We pledge to work hard, to listen to you, to acknowledge that we have heard you and that we will consider your issues in our deliberations. We cannot promise to be all things to all people, but we will promise to communicate the “whys” of our decisions and to encourage people to ask questions.

Mission Statement:

Coventry Town Council seeks to promote and support a high quality of life for its citizens. We are dedicated to safeguarding town assets while providing sound fiscal management and excellent customer service to all citizens, the business community and Town employees.

The document then proceeds to list the following five categories: Fiscal Management, Land Use and Economic Development, Citizen Involvement and Communications, Municipal Infrastructure and Services, and Community Quality of Life. Under each of these headers, we list priorities/activities that we expect to accomplish during the two years of our term.

A few of the most notable are these:

- Enhance public safety and well-being by budgeting/adding to staff an additional police officer in 2012-2013 time frame.



- Undertake a comprehensive study of the town-wide road system to determine extent of needed repair/rebuilding of roads. Develop ten year plan complete with prioritization, projected costs and appropriate funding mechanisms.
- Decide what to do with the old town garage, based upon the report from the consultant; i.e. reuse, demolition or combination.
- Support and follow through to conclusion Coventry 300th celebration including the myriad of activities planned by the 300th Committee, the 300th Parade Committee and construction of the Nathan Hale statue. Provide regular updates at Council meetings.
- In partnership with BOE, Administration and STEPS, investigate the near term possibility and funding for establishing full day kindergarten and preschool for all 3-5 year olds.

You may obtain a copy of the entire document by visiting our town website at www.coventryct.org. Click on Boards & Commissions, then Town Council/Goals. You can find the email addresses of the individual council members there as well. We always look forward to hearing from you.

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

Happy 300th Birthday! Keep saying it all year. The 300th Anniversary events are starting (see page 9). Join in the celebration, learn about your town and take pride in three centuries of progress. Thanks to the 300th Anniversary Committee for these efforts.

Part of our heritage is the New England Town Meeting and Vote. The Coventry Town Meeting is scheduled for 10:00 AM in the Veterans Auditorium at Coventry High School on April 28, 2012. The resulting budget from the meeting is adjourned to a town-wide vote on Tuesday, May 8, 2012 between 6:00 AM and 8:00 PM. All voting will be at CVFA Fire House across from the Middle School at 1755 Main Street. Please see the Budget in Brief insert for additional budget information. More detailed information is also available online on the Town's website under the Finance Department. A limited number of budgets are also available at the Town Hall.

We also celebrate the progress we have made over the last year and look forward to upcoming successes. The North Coventry Fire House is ahead of schedule and on budget. In late spring they will move over to the new building to allow the demolition to start. The intersection realignment will wait for the close of school. We financed the project and got an interest rate of 2.88% for twenty years. Final site work for the Public Works facility is being scheduled to

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HOLIDAY TOWN HALL CLOSINGS:

Memorial Day	5/28
Independence Day	7/4
Labor Day	9/3

FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

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close out that project. The Landfill ball-fields grass is growing. Small rocks have been removed and they are ready for final top dressing and fertilizer. Bleachers are in waiting for assembly. A storage shack, goal posts and soccer board are planned to be in place for a fall 2013 opening (the grass needs a year to strengthen). Plans to improve Laidlaw Park access and accessibility are being finalized for summer construction. Work was delayed due to the storms.

We were awarded final CT DEEP approval to close on acquiring the portions of the Malon property on Pucker Street as open space and are participating with the Department of Agriculture to purchase development rights for the Reynolds Farm on Flanders Road. The Pucker Street Bridge is reaching the end of preliminary design and should be in the permit process this summer. It is expected to take several years to gain permits.

We have been able to obtain two grants for sidewalks to link sidewalks on Manning Hill (Main Street) to the Middle/High School complex, meet the required match for sidewalks for the Rt. 31 curve project (slated for 2014 from Rt. 275 to the Visitors' Center) and hopefully repair/replace sidewalks all the way to the Library. Timing on the two grants may require some construction this summer and some the following year. We have grants pending with the Kaboom! Foundation for a playscape at Laidlaw Park and improvements to the Hop River Trail, shared equipment grants and Housing Rehabilitation funds. Wish us luck!

We have also submitted data to compare how we are doing as a Town to the Center for Performance Management. This project, called CPM 101, will allow us to benchmark against similar towns. We will use the results to fine-tune our organization. 300 years of progress, but it's not time to rest on our laurels.

Watch for information in June concerning new pricing for the Opt-in Energy purchasing program, currently with Direct Energy.

HELP US CELEBRATE 300 YEARS!

“Bring Nathan Home”

The Friends of the Nathan Hale Memorial will be placing a life-size bronze statue of Captain Hale on the Veterans Memorial Green, to celebrate the 300th Anniversary of his hometown and birthplace - Coventry, Connecticut. Placing him amongst the veterans on the green where he went to church and drilled is a fitting way to salute his last full measure of devotion. Donations are sought to make the project a success and contributions are welcome at any level. Contributions of \$100 or more will be recognized on a plaque in the Coventry Town Hall and all tributes are tax deductible. Checks may be made out to: Nathan Hale Memorial, c/o Paul Jatkowski (Treasurer), 91 Upton Drive, Coventry, CT 06238. The statue is at the foundry and donations are critically needed.



For more information about this project, visit www.nathanhalememorial.com.

COMINGS & GOINGS AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

We welcome **Sarah Taylor West**, new Senior Center Coordinator. Congratulations to **John Elsesser**, who has been elected as CIRMA Chair for 2012, and to **Amy Dexter** and **Kristi Sadowski** who were appointed as Co-Directors of the Booth & Dimock Memorial Library. **Heidi Donnelley** has been appointed as Municipal Agent for the Elderly. Also a welcome to **Kathy Chapman**, new Council Clerk.



DPW staff past and present, Town staff, building committee members, residents and elected officials gathered in February 2012 for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the completion of the new DPW facility at 100 Olsen Farm Road.

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

RABIES CLINIC

Our low-cost Rabies Clinic for cats and dogs is scheduled for May 5, 2012 from 2-4 p.m. Look for reminders on **Channel 13** and our web page www.coventryct.org. Also, look under the Events and the Town Clerk headings for reminders. Please bring written proof of last rabies vaccination. This clinic is made possible through the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association.



****Vaccination of domestic animals is an important component of rabies prevention programs. Connecticut state law requires vaccination of cats and dogs.**

JUNE IS DOG LICENSE RENEWAL MONTH!

Avoid late fees... and remember to license your dogs in June!

*\$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.

* Licenses will be available during business hours beginning June 1st.

***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.**

****Remember a license is a lost dog's ticket home.**

SHARE YOUR TALENTS

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

*HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEAL
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
PERSONNEL APPEALS BOARD
AD-HOC CONSERVATION CORP COORD COMMITTEE ALTERNATE
AD-HOC COVENTRY LAKE ADVISORY & MONITORING COMMITTEE
ENERGY CONS/ALT ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ALTERNATE*

*CEMETERY COMMITTEE
COVENTRYVISION COMMITTEE
PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE
PLANNING & ZONING ALTERNATE*

Submit your name to any of the following: Joan M. Oros, Republican Town Committee (742-9077); Dorothy Grady, Democratic Town Committee (742-0449); Lisa D. Thomas, Council Steering Committee (742-9908); or Susan J. Cyr, Town Clerk (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 to the Home Page, click on Boards & Commissions, and then click on Boards & Commissions Descriptions & Statement of Interest Form.

DON'T FORGET THESE IMPORTANT DATES!

***All voting for both districts #1 & #2** will be at the Central Firehouse, 1755 Main St. Polls open from 6 AM through 8 PM.

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY- TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 2012
Republicans will vote for their candidate to run in the Presidential Election in November.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – Saturday, April 28th, at 10:00 a.m. at Coventry High School.
BUDGET VOTE - Tuesday, May 8th

Not Registered to Vote?

You may register with the Registrar of Voters or Town Clerk during regular business hours. Or you may download a registration form from the Coventry Website, and mail to the Registrars of Voters, 1712 Main Street, Coventry, CT 06238. Simply type in www.coventryct.org, then click on Town Departments, click Registrar of Voters, click Registration Information, and print the form. It's that easy!

APRIL 21ST IS OPENING DAY OF FISHING!

- *All lifetime licenses issued since October 9, 2009 are now required to renew annually.
- *All adults need to have a license to fish.
- *Children under the age of 16 do not need a license to fish.
- *Parents, please note: If you will be handling your child's fishing pole or baiting the line, Connecticut Law requires that you carry a current fishing license.

Consult the 2012 Connecticut Angler's Guides each year for updates on DEP regulations and other useful information online at www.ct.gov/dep or they should arrive in our office shortly before opening day.

Your 2012 fishing licenses are available at the Town Clerk's office or online at www.ct.gov/dep.

*Inland fishing license-\$28

*All Waters inland and marine fishing license -\$32

*Combination with hunting & fishing -\$38-this includes the option for marine license.

*Non-Resident licenses are also available at \$22 for a 3-day pass or \$55 for season license.

* Lifetime licenses are available free of charge to persons over 65.

NEWS FROM THE TAX OFFICE

Delinquent notices were mailed within the last few months for overdue taxes, sewer and COVRRRA bills. Sewer assessment bills will be mailed the end of April. Due date for the first installment is May 1st and taxpayers have 30 days to pay before late charges apply. Taxpayers are now able to use credit cards to pay, by phone or internet, tax bills as well as COVRRRA and sewer fees. This service is provided by Official Payments Corporation and they do charge a convenience fee. You will need to know your account number, correct payment amount and Coventry's jurisdiction code. Please call the Tax Office before contacting Official Payments Corp. and we will be happy to explain the procedure.

An additional on-line payment option is also available to Coventry taxpayers who wish to pay by check. From the home page on the Town website, www.coventryct.org, click on the top of the right side column titled Pay your Taxes Online. You will be offered two options and the first option is the payment from checking account. This will connect you to the Webster online banking site from which you can make a payment by check. Again, you will need the list number and grand list date of your bill. (Example: 2010R01234) A charge of fifty cents (about the cost of a stamp) per check may apply.

The Town of Coventry and its citizens have made a successful transition from the green bags to the tipper barrels over the course of this past year. Public comment has been overwhelmingly positive in favor of the tipper barrels. Citizens are reminded that the tipper barrels must stay with the property. Each barrel is identified with a serial number. If you sell your house and /or move, ***please do not take the barrels with you.*** Your annual payment (\$170-\$250) pays for the disposal/recycle service only.

The current fiscal year will end June 30, 2012. 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. Please contact this office if you have any questions concerning the status of your accounts.

PAYMENT DUE CALENDAR:

MAY – Sewer Assessment fee 1st installment.

JULY – Real Estate 1st installment; Motor Vehicle, COVRRRA and Personal Property **single** payment.

SEPTEMBER- Sewer Use Fee **single** payment.

NOVEMBER – Sewer Assessment fee 2nd installment.

JANUARY – Real Estate 2nd installment and Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax only if applicable.



Questions?
Please call 860-742-4066.

FROM THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

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

www.coventryct.org or www.wincog-gis.org

Property field cards, sketches, pictures, exemption applications and general information can be found on the Town's website. Remember, that the October 1, 2009 revaluation assessments will still be effective for the July 2012 tax bills.

The Elderly and Disabled homeowner program began February 1, 2012, and applications are being processed until May 15, 2012. Our office sent reminder letters to those people who had to re-file. A reminder that 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 \$39,500 if married, or less than \$32,300 if single; both must include Social Security benefits and your adjusted gross income from your 2011 Federal Income tax return.

Veterans must file their DD214 with the Town Clerk prior to **October 1st** to be eligible for exemption. If you have already filed, you do not need to re-file. You will receive your exemption automatically. If veterans meet income guidelines, you may be eligible for additional exemption. The program begins February 1st, and applications are processed until October 1, 2012. Please call if your income is less than \$39,500 if married, or less than \$32,300 if single, both must include Social Security benefits and your adjusted gross income from your 2011 Federal Income tax return. You will be asked to provide proof of all the income documentation regarding both of the above mentioned applications

The Board of Assessment Appeals will be meeting in September of 2012. **Applications can be filed with our office any time prior to their meeting.** The board is required to hear appeals concerning Motor Vehicle only. Applications are available in the Assessor's Office or online at www.coventryct.org.

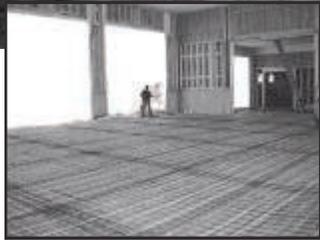
LAND INFORMATION

Additional layers of information are now available on the WINCOG GIS system. Deeds and maps will soon be available online via the Town Clerk's Land Records system.

TAX SALE

The Town has hired the law firm of Halloran & Sage to assist in conducting the first tax sale in over a decade. The sale is intended to assure that everyone pays their share of taxes. When someone does not pay everyone else is asked to pay more. A sale is occasionally necessary to make sure that there is enough value left in the property to recoup the debt. It also helps clear title issues.

NORTH COVENTRY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



The new firehouse is going up at an incredible rate. If

you haven't seen it lately, be sure to drive by. You will be amazed to see how much work has been done in just a few short months and how little work remains to be done!

In addition to the construction of a firehouse, our department website has recently been reconstructed. Log on to www.northcoventryfire.org. Among other things on the website, you will find the Department calendar, links to sites such as the CT Fire Academy, Eastern CT Fire School, and the Town of Coventry, and a gallery of photos showing the various stages of the firehouse construction. We will soon have an on-line membership application available as well.

In the event of an emergency, please **call 911**. Do not use any web-based searches to request the phone number for the North Coventry Fire Department. We do not provide round the clock staffing at the firehouse and calling the local number will only delay an emergency response. Remember to have your chimney cleaned and change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors when the clocks change.

Have a happy and healthy spring!

Above photos: construction in progress at the NCVFD main station shows new bay doors and exterior siding.

COVENTRY VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSOCIATION, INC.

Coventry Volunteer Fire Association Inc. (CVFA) would like to convey to citizens to Dial 911 for emergency services.

Many adults are not aware of the laws pertaining to minors involved in medical situations and/or accidents. Any person under the age of 18 years old can not sign a release of medical services. Coventry Volunteer Fire makes every effort to contact the parents/guardian to advise of the emergency, no care will be delayed or stopped. If a parent/guardian can not be located or is not within a reasonable distance from a non-life threatening emergency, transport will occur. It is important for your children to be aware of the hospital of choice. In a life threatening emergency the appropriate hospital determined by the medical evaluation will be used.

Coventry's Fire Station is available for tours both day and night time for children and adults. Learn about Fire Trucks and Ambulances, sit in the cab of an Engine Tanker or learn about Medical interventions with the assistance of highly skilled Volunteers. For young children we have Firefighter Gear which they can have pictures taken in. Fire Prevention is important and families should practice a few times a year an escape plan and a "Meeting Place". Smoke detectors should be cleaned and batteries replaced.

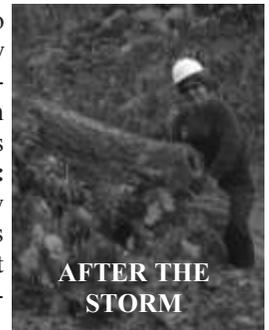
With the weather getting warmer, children and adults should remember to drink plenty of water for hydration during outside activities. Also Bees and other insects will be buzzing about. Individuals on medications or who have allergies can assist the Fire Department by keeping a list of medications and allergies with them. Children should always be supervised when participating in water activities.

The Spring thaw will begin soon, some roads will become covered with moving water, it is important NOT to travel on any road with moving water on it; even a few inches of water can carry a vehicle some distance. Each year Coventry Fire deploys its Swift Water Team to assist individuals who drive into moving or high still water and become stranded.

If you are interested in becoming a member of Coventry Volunteer Fire Association Inc., please contact any member of the CVFA or visit our web site at www.coventryfire.org for an application. The main phone number is 860-742-3510.

Congratulations to Katherine Brierly, a senior at Coventry High School, who was named National Junior Firefighter of the Year for 2012. Katherine joins two other Coventry junior firefighters, Jennifer Krawetzky in 2008 and Michelle Alyssa Carilli in 2010, in receiving this honor. Katherine was selected from a nationwide search of approximately 2,000 candidates.

So the two storms are over - what now? **First:** it's time to prepare for the next event. Sign up for Town E-Blasts (monthly updates on Town events) and Coventry Alerts (a reverse notification system for phones, cell phones, emails and texts). Both are easy to do. Go to www.coventryct.org and look for the links in the green boxes on the left-hand side of the page. **Second:** Allow CL&P to do enhanced tree trimming in the right of way in front of your property. They will be starting trimming this spring. While we all love trees, we have learned that they don't mix well with power lines. On a positive note, we expect FEMA funds will cover the Town's expenses for the two storms.



AFTER THE STORM

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The Department of Public Works will be starting many of our annual work projects in the up-coming months such as roadside mowing, cleaning catch basins, drainage repairs and ditch cleaning. With the temperate weather we have experienced this winter, we have been able to start some of these projects earlier than normal.

Public Works is in the process of sweeping all town roads. You can view the schedule on the town web site www.coventryct.org or call Public Works for more information at (860) 742-6588.

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
Subdivisions and Projects Engineer: Todd Penney* tpenney@coventryct.org
WPCA Technician: Mike Ruef** mruef@coventryct.org
Administrative Secretary/COVRRRA: Donna Wrubel dwrubel@coventryct.org

*The Town Engineer/Wetlands Agent, Todd Penney, will have an office in the Coventry Public Works Facility in addition to an office in the Town Hall Land Use Office. The objective is to allow the Town Engineer to work more efficiently on the Town's Capital Improvement Projects and Public Works Projects. The projected hours will be from 8am to 2pm at the DPW Office and from 2pm to 4pm at the Land Use Office. As always, it is beneficial to call in advance to arrange an appointment to meet with him at 860-742-4062 or email him at tpenney@coventryct.org.

** Office located at Town Hall



While the winter has been mild, we are using the time to spruce up some of our beautiful parklands and our trail system. We urge you to get outdoors this spring and enjoy Coventry!

Connecticut laws protect trees in Town Right of Ways and properties. Planting, pruning or removal of trees within the Town Right Of Ways (ROW) at roadside requires approval of the Tree Warden. State Statute requires a written request for permission to remove or plant. Unapproved work in the ROW is subject to fines and damages. **Call before you cut.** Rights of Way vary from road to road. Trees removed unlawfully are subject to a fine equal to the appraised value of the tree. An eighteen inch diameter White Oak can appraise for over \$6000. Be safe and call (860) 742-6588 if in doubt at all or email dreese@coventryct.org. **Call, DO NOT EMAIL the Tree Warden** in emergency situations. For off-hours emergencies, call the Police Department at (860) 742-7331.

INSECT PEST ALERT

Be on the lookout for the Asian Long-horned Beetle. This is an important insect pest that is devastating to trees especially Maples.

This insect entered the US through New York City and has spread most recently to Central Massachusetts near Worcester. It is very difficult to control and has the potential of wiping out large areas of forest. If you spot the insect please call the Tree Warden, Doug Reese, at (860) 742-6588 and the proper authorities will be contacted. For more information and photo see Public Works web page at www.coventryct.org.



With spring just around the corner, please check your property and road frontage for trees damaged during the two storms that hit us hard in the fall. Damage may be hard to see.

WPCA

Despite a challenging fall and winter due to equipment failures at the Wastewater Treatment Plant things are flowing smoothly again. We are working diligently on proactive measures to replace other equipment that has exceeded its useful life expectancy and to implement backup systems to avoid potentially serious situations.

Sewer Connections: We all know by now that the State put Coventry under a Consent Order to install sewers around Coventry Lake and mandated all properties within the sewer district be connected. The connection deadline has passed. We have been working with the Town Attorney and legal proceedings will begin in the spring with a Public Hearing where property owners will have an opportunity to ask questions and voice opinions.

If you own a property with a structure on it which you believe could be classified as "uninhabitable" you may be eligible for a temporary connection waiver. Please contact Mike Ruef, the WPCA Technician/Operator at 860-742-4064 or mruef@coventryct.org for details. Limited financial assistance for sewer connections may be available for low income households through HUD and USDA. Please contact the WPCA Technician/Operator for more details.

Illegal connections of sump pumps and other sources of clean water continue to be a major problem in our public sewer system. We know it's very easy to discharge your sump pump into your sewer line but we really need your help combating this problem. The increased amount of water going to the Wastewater Treatment Plant during rain events is pushing us past our capacity; upsetting the treatment process and damaging expensive equipment. The best way to deal with 'clean water' is to discharge it over land away from the road. If this isn't an option you may apply for a no-fee road cut permit from the Engineering Department and tie into existing storm drainage/catch basins.

Sewer Expansion Feasibility Study: Areas of concern are Cheney Lane, Hemlock Point, Upper Oak Grove, Route 44 at the Bolton town line, and the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Funding for these proposed expansions and upgrades will be challenging in today's economy. A public information meeting will be scheduled in the spring as we get the study wrapped up. Email Mike Ruef for updates if you are interested in attending the informational meeting.

General Information related to the WPCA can be found on the Water Pollution Control Authority page on the Town website (www.coventryct.org). The link to our page can be found towards the bottom of the Boards & Commissions sidebar.



NIKE GRIND is a sneaker recycling program that has been available to residents since 2003. There are bins at the lower level front entrance of the Town Hall, Public Works Facility and Transfer Station for your use in recycling sneakers throughout the year. Also for your convenience there are bins at the four schools in town as well as the Booth & Dimock Library. Remember, no cleats please.

Nike Grind Rubber, from outsoles and manufacturing byproducts, helps make football, baseball and soccer fields, as well as golf products, weight room flooring and running tracks. **Nike Grind Foam**, from midsoles, is used in synthetic basketball courts, tennis courts and playground surfacing. **Nike Grind Fluff**, from textile and leather uppers is used for padding under hardwood basketball floors.

Call Public Works (860) 742-6588 with questions or e-mail dwrubel@coventryct.org.

HELP WANTED

If you like to be outdoors, enjoy physical work, have a valid drivers license and are 18 or older, we are looking for you. The Public Works Department has an opening (pending budget approval) for a summer laborer paying \$10.00 per hour with up to a 40 hour work week. Apply at Public Works or call (860) 742-6588.

Summer Road Program: As this is written we are modifying and updating our program for summer 2012. Pending budget approval we expect to utilize, based on our matrix, a combination of strategies which include:

- Crack Sealing
- Leveling and chip seal in some areas
- Gutter milling and thin or structural overlay, where retaining curb reveal is desirable
- Reclaiming the surface course, re-profiling to reestablish grade and pitch, and a structural overlay

Roadside Mowing: Residents may call and request that the Department not mow in front of their home. If you do request this you will be responsible to ensure safe travel of motor vehicles and pedestrian traffic. If residents have concerns please contact the Public Works Department at (860) 742-6588 or visit the Town's Web-site and email the Department directly.

Lake Wangumbaug: The lake level elevation is measured and adjusted at the Lake Street gate house. Currently the gate is lowered to allow for the level of the lake to rise naturally in preparation for spring and summer recreational activities. In anticipation of long range forecasts by researchers who have studied the lake for decades, we will be bringing the lake level up to summer level (93.0 feet) by early April this year. Call Doug Reese at Public Works (860) 742-6588 or dreese@coventryct.org.



TRANSFER STATION: 325 Main Street

The Transfer Station is open all year long every Thursday 3 to 6:30 pm and every Saturday 9 to 3 excluding holidays.

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:

- Gas grill propane tanks for recycling
- Leaves for composting
- Electronics
- Metal materials (**metal tanks must be cut open and crushed**)

Materials NOT acceptable:

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

**COME TO THE TRANSFER STATION FOR SOME FREE COMPOST.
BRING YOUR OWN SHOVEL/BUCKET.**

HOUSEHOLD CHEMICAL WASTE DROP-OFF FACILITY is open from 9 until 2 pm on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month beginning April 21, 2012 through November 3, 2012. It will be closed Labor Day weekend. Coventry is one of a dozen or so towns to share this regional facility located on Hancock Road in Willington. There is no fee for residents at this facility – commercial users must call ahead for an appointment and fee schedule. For more information call (860) 742-6588 or (860) 684-3163.

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

COVENTRY'S BEST KEPT SECRET: "In yard" trash/recycling service available -- Do you know someone who might benefit from having their trash or recycle cart picked up right at their back door? (A mutually agreed upon location somewhere along the driveway may be necessary for those extra long driveways.) No more struggling to wheel their carts to the curb!! The town has a **few** slots for those special needs people (no additional fees involved) who are elderly or handicapped and have no one living with them or visiting regularly who can assist them with this task. Call Human Services (860) 742-5324 to apply for this service.

Trash or recycling pickup missed? Call All American Waste at (860) 289-7850. 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. **PLEASE CALL DURING THE WEEK OF THE PICKUP TO RECTIFY THE SITUATION.**

TRASH/RECYCLING HOLIDAYS

May 28th - Memorial Day
July 4th - Independence Day
September 3rd - Labor Day

OVERSIZED WASTE PICKUP: On the 2nd Monday of every month residents may place at curbside by 6:30 am up to three oversized items to be picked up for free. These items must be large and not metal and must be out on Monday regardless of your regular trash day. Examples are dresser, mattresses or recliner chairs w/metal removed. ****NO ELECTRONICS**** Electronics will not be picked up at curbside. Coventry residents must bring their electronics to the town's transfer station for recycling.

Additional Services available from All American Waste (rates apply 8/1/11 – 7/31/12) If residents need to dispose of non-metal oversized items and cannot wait until the next monthly pickup they now have the option of scheduling a single residence bulky pickup of these items at any time for an additional fee of \$175.00 for three items, \$225 for six items and \$350 for up to ten items. Residents will need to pay for this special pickup at the Public Works Garage, 100 Olsen Farm Road, before it is scheduled. Call (860) 742-6588 for additional information.

For major cleanup projects, the current COV-RRA contract for curbside pickup with All American Waste also includes pricing for 6 cubic yard dumpster for 30 days rental at \$150 haul/\$80 ton, 15 cubic yard dumpster for 30 days rental at \$175 haul/\$80 ton, and 30 cubic yard dumpster for 30 days rental at \$175 haul/\$80 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.

The Public Works Department has a trash dumpster and a single stream recycling dumpster for residents who have trash or recycling in excess of their carts, didn't get the trash and/or recycling out on time or are going on vacation. To use the trash dumpster you must either bring your trash in town green bags or pay \$1 for each nongreen bag that you toss in. We do sell green bags at Public Works if you find you will be needing them on a regular basis. Bring the "green bags" and recycling to Public Works during work hours for disposal. Residents must stop in the office (7 am – 3 pm) for the dumpster key.

COMING EVENTS

April 21 - Village Clean-up Project: 9 AM. Seeking volunteers to clean up Main Street and side roads in Coventry Village. Meet at First Congregational Church, 1171 Main Street. Bring your own gloves. T-shirts, bags & water provided. To volunteer contact Tim Ackert at 860-742-5287.

April 21 & 22 - Rid Litter Weekend: The Conservation Commission encourages residents to do roadside cleanups along their property and neighborhood. This is a great opportunity for civic groups and neighborhood organizations to organize cleanup crews. Spring is a perfect time to remove some of the trash and litter that has accumulated on our streets and properties over the long winter season. The Commission will provide free garbage bags that can be picked up at the Land Use Office at Town Hall.

Coventry Daffodil Beautification Project: The Village Improvement Society initiated this Town wide Project in 1993. Since then approximately 223,000 daffodil bulbs have been planted throughout Coventry. We have donated and planted thousands of bulbs in public places and residents have participated by purchasing bulbs to plant on their properties. To order bulbs for fall delivery, call Judy at 860-214-9567. We continue to hold our price at \$3.50 per dozen. What a glorious way to welcome spring! Take a drive around to enjoy our "Daffodil Town".

May 5 - Coventry Lions Document Shredding: 9 AM - 5 PM. High School parking lot, 78 Ripley Hill Road. A professional shredding company will help the public dispose of personal and financial documents that should not be disposed of in your regular trash. \$5 for a small box, \$10 for a grocery bag or paper box size, \$15 for larger containers. Proceeds support Lions' scholarships and other community service projects.

Coventry Lions Mothers' Day Roses Sale: Coventry Lions will be selling bouquets of long-stem roses for Mothers' Day. \$15. Support Lions' scholarships and other community service projects. Orders will be taken in advance from any Lions member or by calling Dick at 860-742-9344 or Gary at 860-742-6128.

May 11 - CECC Annual Golf Tournament: 9AM, Skungamaug Golf Club. \$100 includes golf, cart, lunch & prizes. To sign up, visit www.scrambleforourschool.com or call (860) 742-5859.

May 12 - Garden Club Plant Sale on the Green: 8 AM - 1 PM. Rt. 44 across from Highland Park Market.



300th ANNIVERSARY EVENTS! (See full schedule on 300th web page at www.coventryct.org)

May 19 - 300 Years of Coventry Quilts: 1 - 4 PM. Strong Porter Museum, 2382 South Street. Sponsored by Coventry Historical Society. Rain date 5/20. For more info, call Ginney Dilk at 860-742-9656.

Sept. 8 - Anniversary Jubilee Day of Play: 9 AM - 7PM. Patriots Park. Free. Pinewood Derby, Family Relay Triathlon, Face Painting, Pony Rides, Doll Carriage & Wagon Parade, Picnic Contest, Hank Keane Tribute Concert, Pie Auction, Contra-dance Lesson and Bonfire. More info at www.coventryrec.com.

Sept. 22 - Gala Ball: 6PM, Georgina's Restaurant, 275 Boston Turnpike, Bolton. Dinner, music and dancing. Cash bar. \$45. Advance tickets required. Contact Joyce Bonney at 860-742-0332 or jebonney@sbcglobal.net.

Sept. 29 - 300th Anniversary Parade: 10AM. Memorial Day route. "Coventry Past, Present & Future" 4 divisions from each century in our history: 1700s, 1800s, 1900s, 2000 & Beyond, plus an Escort Division. Marching bands, period music, floats and entertainment featuring the Shriners Funsters, vintage fire trucks and more. (Rain date 9/30, 2 PM.) Info: 860-742-4068.

Sept. 30 - Deadline to submit photos to photo contest. Seeking seasonal views of Coventry. Submit to 300th Anniversary Committee, c/o Coventry Town Hall, 1712 Main Street, Coventry CT 06238. More info on 300th anniversary web page at www.coventryct.org.

Oct 6 - Tea & Fashion Show: Patriots Park Lodge. \$20. Enjoy tea & pastries while watching a fashion show featuring clothing spanning the years between 1712 - 2012 accompanied by background music from the period. For more information visit the 300th anniversary web page at www.coventryct.org.

May 18 - 20 - Fiber Arts Festival: Nathan Hale Homestead, 2299 South Street. Fri 1-6 PM, Sat & Sun 10 AM - 6 PM. \$5, members free. Spinners, knitters, weavers, quilters will gather with their hand work. Raffle, refreshments, children's activities and demonstrations. Info: 860-742-6917 or www.ctlandmarks.org.

May 28 - Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast: 7-10 AM, First Congregational Church, 1171 Main Street. \$5 per person, \$12 per family. Children under 5 free. Sponsored by the Coventry Lions Club. Proceeds benefit the Coventry Scholarship Program.

May 28 - Memorial Day Parade: 10 AM. Kicks off at G.H. Robertson School on Cross Street, stopping at Veteran's Memorial Green for services, and continuing down Lake Street to Main Street and up to Bradbury Road. Sponsored by American Legion Post 52.

June 1 - Candlelight Evenings at the Homestead - Bundling & Bedsteads: Tours at 6 & 8 PM. Learn about courtship & marriage practices of the past and enjoy beer, wine, cider and refreshments including an 18th century-style wedding cake. \$20 members \$25 non-members. Info: 860-742-6917 or www.ctlandmarks.org.

June 3 - Walk into History: 3 PM. Walk the 18th-century road that the Hale family used to take their livestock to market in Norwich, CT. Heavy rain cancels. Geared to families and new hikers. Leashed dogs permitted. Trails are not wheel-chair accessible. FREE. Part of the CT Trails Day 2012 Celebration organized by CT Forest & Park Association. Meet at Hale Homestead. For more information see www.ctwoodlands.org.

June 30 - Coventryfest: 3-10 PM, Patriots Park. Music, games, vendors, food, fun and fireworks. Coordinated by Coventry Knights of Columbus. Info at www.coventryfest.org.

July 27 - Revolutionary War Encampment, "Hail at the Homestead": 11 AM - 4 PM. \$5. Country Barn Dance at 7 PM. \$10. Info: 860-742-6917 or www.ctlandmarks.org.

WHERE IS THE RECREATION BROCHURE?

The Recreation summer brochure is being mailed separately to all households in an initiative to provide timely information about upcoming programs. Advertising content in the brochure will enable us to save money on printing costs. Watch for the brochure in your mailbox soon.

LAND USE OFFICE

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.

TRAIL MAPPING AND BROCHURES

The Land Use Office, Parks and Recreation Office and Conservation Commission worked collaboratively to create new trail mapping brochures for Patriots Park Woods and Mill Brook Park Town properties. The brochures contain detailed guidance on navigating the individual trails, links to other important features, information on the background and importance of each site and standard trail rules. Efforts are underway to finalize maps for the Riverview Trail Park, Creaser Park and Laidlaw Park trails. These maps will be placed on the Town website in the very near future for easy download and viewing on your computer or smart phone.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM AND GRANT

Last year, a number of key stakeholders worked diligently to prepare a Town of Coventry Safe Routes to School Plan which facilitated the preparation and submittal of a Safe Routes to School Grant request to the State of CT Department of Transportation. The grant proposal involves the construction of sidewalks on Main Street that will connect the High School/Middle School complex with the sidewalks that currently end at Paden Road. The Plan also involves the initiation of various programs and physical improvements that encourage student walkability and bikability to school. The plan provides a clear agenda for action items and efforts that apply to the Coventry Grammar School, GH Robertson Intermediate School and Capt. Nathan Hale Middle School. The Town learned in February that it has been chosen to be on the 'short list' of approved projects. Several administrative steps are required next to secure the funding, such as a public forum which will be held within the next 90 days. Details on this forum will be forthcoming. Please contact Eric M. Trott, at 860-742-4062 or etrott@coventryct.org for further details.



REGIONAL GRANT FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

The Land Use Office spearheaded efforts to prepare a State Office of Policy and Management Regional Performance Incentive Grant in December to seek funds to secure regional economic development services. The Towns of Coventry, Mansfield and Tolland propose to share an economic development staff that would serve each of the municipalities. The staff would work to create a 'brand' for the three Towns that would serve as a positive image and emphasize the unique qualities and resources of each Town. In addition, the staff would focus on collaborating with the new UCONN Technology Park and attract relative services for the Towns. Lastly, efforts would be made to assist the Towns with business retention and the attraction of appropriate development to key target sites that would be marketed by each Town. A decision on the grant is expected in early 2012 and the grant will provide funds for one year of services and encourage the Towns to continue the effort on a collaborative basis.

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 picking up the roadside trash that accumulates. Folks 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 at 742-4062 or etrott@coventryct.org for further details and application forms.

LAND USE WEBSITE

The Land Use Office has recently improved and expanded its portion of the Town website. Efforts have been made to create more effective tabs and pages that contain useful information, links to important resources and guidance on a variety of land use related matters. A new map library has been added that has many printable maps that contain unique and interesting data regarding the Town and more maps are to be added in the future. Also, the Land Use Guidebook can be found that provides a 'one stop shop' of information on the various processes involved in the building and development process. These resources and many others can be found by clicking on 'Planning and Zoning' on the Town website homepage at www.coventryct.org.

SEE YOU AT THE LAKE FORUM

Our recent winter was certainly a dud, especially compared to last year. We saw forsythia blooms in early March. But what happens when climate is so disrupted that normal seasonal cycles are turned on their ear? How does nature respond? How, specifically, does Coventry Lake respond? Here in the northeast, the dynamics of lake ecosystems depend on the familiar cycle of cold winters and warm summers, among many other things. Drastic changes to that pattern can bring drastic results. We'll just have to see, as the weeks of 2012 go by and the lake's vital signs are monitored.

The Coventry Lake Advisory & Monitoring Committee is working with the Land Use Office to present a forum on the lake's current health. We do this in the spirit of last year's forum which carried forward the efforts of the CLEAN Team student lake advocacy group, and the Town Council's declaring July to be Coventry Lake Awareness Month.

The forum will feature new information and reports, plus greater public participation. It's happening at Patriots Park Lodge in September. The details were still being filled-in when *Town News* went to print, but you can count on learning the latest about a range of threats to the Lake and its watershed, what's being done about them and what the public can do. Experts in fields germane to lake management will speak, and printed and other materials will be available. Along with assessment of the Lake's water quality and general health, topics of concern are likely to include new efforts to control the spread of invasive plants in the Lake; the impact of phosphate fertilizer use in the Lake basin and alternatives available to property owners, as well as possible control measures by the town; plus problems caused by the growing geese population around the Lake, and what we can do about it. We're looking forward to engaging presentations, as well as lively feedback from those attending.

Look for details about the forum through various town-wide media in the coming weeks. Your involvement is our best hope for keeping the Lake a centerpiece of the community. See you there.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

(860-742-4064 - Joe or Brigit)

Spring has sprung and you have pep in you step so you are probably preparing your spring home spruce-up list. Here are some suggested maintenance items to consider putting on your list...



Decks, Air Conditioners, Gutters, Tree Maintenance, Roofs and Attics:

Please visit our Building Department page under Seasonal News (www.coventryct.org) for more comprehensive information on these items. Taking time to look for and correct these issues early on can combat costly repairs in the future. Start small with one little project at a time, but allow for your renewed spring energy to pull you out of the winter doldrums and focus on a worthwhile investment ... your home.

Permitting: Has your tax rebate prompted you to make improvements to your home (your most valued investment)? Your dream of a new pool, deck, shed, or addition could become a reality this construction season. If you are considering a building project this year, be sure to submit your application 2-3 weeks in advance. The review process for applications can take longer during the busy construction season and is based on a first-come, first-served basis. So drop by the Building Department to pick-up your permit packet and a copy of your plot plan. We would be happy to take a few minutes to discuss your project with you and get you started.

Don't Forget: permits are required **before any** structure is built, enlarged, altered or changed in its use and also for new installation, increase or relocation of any part of the plumbing, heating or electrical system of a structure. There is a **\$100 fine** for those who start work without a permit!

C of C/ C of O: Has your project from prior years been given a final inspection? If you don't have a Certificate of Completion or a Certificate of Use and Occupancy, call to schedule a final inspection.

Want your Building Plans? Beginning June 1st and ending September 30, 2012, the Building Department is allowing property owners to obtain the building plans for residential construction only. The owner must show proof of their residence (driver's license) to obtain their building plans. You must own the property to obtain the building plans. A Certificate of Use and Occupancy must have been issued for the structure prior to March 1, 2010. Please call Brigit at 860-742-4064 with your name, address & daytime phone number and we will contact you within few weeks to let you know if there are building plans available. At that time, 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.

HISTORIC COVENTRY VILLAGE ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG

In celebration of Coventry's 300th, the Land Use and Parks and Recreation Departments are partnering with the State Archeologist to conduct an archaeological dig at the Old Meeting House site at the corner of High and Lake Streets, across from the Memorial Green. The site served as the Old Congregational Church and ultimately a Town meeting house. The structure burned down in 1897 after standing for about 100 years.

The State Archaeologist, Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni, and his office's volunteers will conduct the site investigation and will provide details of the methods that they are employing to examine the site for artifacts. Town Planning Staff will also be available to share some details on the history of the site and efforts that the Town takes to recognize historic and archaeologically sensitive sites and protect them.

The event is scheduled for Saturday, September 22, 2012 at 10 AM at the site. Parking is available at the Patriots Park Lodge upper lot across Lake street. Two tours for up to 30 individuals are planned for 10:00 AM and again at 11:00 AM. Please register for the event with the Parks and Recreation Office at 860-742-4068 or online at www.coventryrec.com. Questions can be directed to Eric M. Trott, at 860-742-4062 or Caterina Torcasio, at 860-742-4068.

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

FOOD BANK

For those of you that do not know about our food bank it is available to those who are going through difficult times and may need help with food. We have a variety of foods in stock like cereals, pastas, soups, canned vegetables, peanut butter and jelly and different school snacks. Everything that comes to our food bank is donated by local residents, churches, schools and other groups. If you are in need of the food bank please call our office at 860-742-5324 so we can set up an appointment for you.

DONATIONS TO THE FOOD BANK



Please call ahead if you would like to donate to the food bank to inquire about what is needed at the

time. If you would like to make a large donation and need help bringing it in to our office it is important to schedule a time when one of our staff members will be able to help you bring it in. We cannot take anything that is expired or that has been opened. Our thanks go to all who contribute to the food bank, the many individuals and the ongoing support of the area churches and schools. Without the generous outpouring of donations we would not have been able to provide for the increased need in the community during this difficult time. We appreciate the time and treasure we receive daily.

Thank you.

COUNSELING SERVICES

Free counseling services are available to Coventry youth and their families in Youth Services. A licensed clinical social worker provides brief, solution-focused therapy and can address numerous struggles that face youth in our community. For more information on these services, or to set up an appointment, contact Crystal Morawitz, Youth Services Coordinator at 860-742-5324.

YOUTH JOB BANK

For Adults: Could you use some help with spring clean up, inside or outside? Need a babysitter, lawn mower, or other odd-jobs around the house done? Hire a student from the Youth Job Bank! Youth Job Bank students range in age from 12-18 years old and can assist with yard work services, clean homes, provide animal care, babysit and more!

For Youth: The annual **Youth Job Bank Training** will be held in June **ONLY** if enough students express interest. New members are required to attend this meeting to go over program policies and procedures, in addition to learning basic job skills, safety measures and other key components to landing a job. Once students have attended training they become part of the active youth job bank pool of potential employees. *Any student in grades 7-12 who have never attended the Youth Job Bank Training, but are interested in becoming part of the job bank should contact Youth Services as soon as possible, 860-742-5324.*

CAMPERSHIP DONATIONS

We are collecting donations for the 2012 summer campership fund. All donations go to help families in need pay for the Parks and Recreation Summer Adventure Camp. Checks can be made payable to The Town of Coventry. The *deadline to apply for summer camperships is May 30th*, and requires submission of the Parks and Recreation registration form, campership request form and camp deposit fee paid in full.

CAMP CONNRI

The Salvation Army's Camp Connri, located in Ashford, will soon be accepting applications for youth ages 7-11 to attend the 2012 summer camp. Coventry Youth Services is able to send several children to this camp due to the community's generous donations to the Bell Ringing Fund in December. Applications are available in the Human Services office.

BABYSITTERS TRAINING

This annual training will be held in June. Please contact Youth Services if you are between the ages of 12 and 18 and interested in taking this training. Registration information will be available in May.

NOMADS

This high school sanctioned club devoted to adventure activities is open to all Coventry high school students. The club takes at least one trip a month, which is determined by student interest. To date the group has gone indoor rock climbing, indoor trampolining, horse-back riding, whitewater rafting, skiing, hiking and much more. For trip information or to sign up for any of these activities, contact Coventry high school guidance counselor, Heather Mackintosh at 742-7346 or Youth Services, 742-5324.

"GEARING UP TO LEARN" BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

This program provides new backpacks, school supplies and Payless Shoe cards to Coventry families with school-aged children, who meet the income guidelines. Please watch Coventry cable channel 13 and the local newspapers after July 20th for more information.

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

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

Depression affects more people than any other mental health condition, more than 19 million Americans each year. If you've been experiencing symptoms of depression for two weeks or longer, you might benefit from seeing a mental health professional. If you have questions, contact Courtney Chan, MSW, Director of Human Services at 860-742-5324. You can also call 211 Infoline or visit www.211.org for listings of mental health professionals in your area.

NEWS FOR SENIORS

RENTER'S REBATE PROGRAM IS OFFERED FOR ELDERLY & DISABLED RENTERS

The State Renter's Rebate Program assists eligible low income renters (65 and over or persons with disabilities) with a possible rebate ranging from \$50 - \$900. The program runs from **May 15, 2012** through **September 17, 2012**. Coventry residents should call 742-5324 for more information or to set up an appointment.

CHOICES (Connecticut's Health, Outreach, Information, Counseling & Eligibility Screening) is a program that helps seniors or the disabled who are on Medicare. Choosing the right program can be confusing. Please call to speak to Heidi at 742-5324 for more information, applications, or an appointment for help with any health insurance questions.



ATTENTION COVENTRY SENIORS!

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 the 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, Tolland region. We make regular trips to all of these towns. It's easy and our drivers are the best!

Please call Coventry Senior Center at 860-742-3525 at least 48 hours ahead to schedule a ride.

ACTIVITIES AT THE COVENTRY SENIOR CENTER 172 LAKE STREET - (860) 742-3525

Regular Programs:

- Veterans Advocate: Wednesday afternoons by appointment
- "Ask the Nurse" first Thursday
- Wellness Programs: Blood Pressure Screening and Blood Sugar Screening twice a month.
- Foot care second Wednesday 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Cribbage: Monday mornings
- Billiards: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings
- "Let's Talk" Discussion Group: Monday Mornings @ 10 a.m.
- Setback/cards/games: Thursday and Friday afternoons @ 1 p.m.
- Quilting Class: Friday mornings
- Exercise class: Tuesday and Thursday mornings
- Military Care Packages Packing Day: First Fridays
- Mondays Movies & Lunch: April- Movies with April In the Title; May-Spring in the Air; June, July & August- to be announced.
- Our Veterans' Advocate, Maurice Collin, is available to assist you with questions or problems regarding benefits and programs available for veterans and their families. Call the Senior Center for an appointment.
- Coming events for summer: Horseshoe pit will reopen; table gardening is a possibility; more info on letterboxing; storytellers; and much more with new ideas coming with our new coordinator.

Monthly Specials:

- Friday, April 27, 2012 – "Singing in the Rain" Party (Date Tentative)
- Wed., May 30, 2012 – "Open the Deck" BBQ (Date Tentative)



COVENTRY'S NEW HANDICAP-ACCESSIBLE MINI-BUS "HITS THE ROAD"

At long last on Friday, February 10, 2012, the new Coventry handicap-accessible mini-bus for senior and disabled persons made its inaugural trip with a dozen seniors on board. At the helm was veteran driver, Kim Homans who showed off her driving skills by taking the group on a short drive around town. The ride was

comfortable and quiet and passengers were impressed with the amount of storage bins for groceries and packages, too.

Watch for the new mini-bus! The color is white with the Coventry Logo and telephone number on the sides. Look carefully as it closely resembles the WRTD Dial-A-Ride buses.

The new mini-bus was purchased with funding from the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation and the Town of Coventry.

Please call Coventry Senior Center at 860-742-3525 to schedule a ride or for more information on any transportation options.

COMMUNITY NEWS



NATHAN HALE HOMESTEAD

The Nathan Hale Homestead will reopen for tours on Saturday, May 19th and offers an exciting calendar of spring and summer events. Connecticut Landmarks invites you to the Homestead to step back in time to the 18th century, to an age of reason and change. Several of the Homestead's events will tie into Coventry's tercentenary celebration. See page 9 for a list of 2012 spring and summer events. Look for new bathrooms and a gift store.

MEMBERS SOUGHT FOR CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Annual "An Old Fashioned Christmas in Coventry Village" held on December 5 of 2011 was well attended. Many positive comments were heard on how much enjoyment was had by those who visited up and down Main Street for the event.

It was through the efforts of participating businesses and organizations that this special day in Coventry was such a success. Many thanks to those who donated Christmas trees for the Lions Tree Auction.

Many thanks, also, to Rose Fowler, one of the founding organizers of the event for steering the skeletal planning committee with the many details Christmas in the Village involves. Rose, now residing in Lebanon, will not be part of organizing the event this year but will provide a Planning Guide for the Steering Committee.

The planning committee for 2012 is now forming, with a meeting planned in early spring. Volunteers, suggestions and ideas are welcome. If you are interested in being part of this organizing group please contact Cindy Houser (First Niagara Bank, Coventry Village) 860-742-7321 CynthiaHouser@fnfg.com or Ruth O'Neil (Song-a-Day Music Center) 860-742-6878/info@songadaymusic.com.

NEWS FROM THE BOOTH & DIMOCK MEMORIAL LIBRARY



COVENTRY TEENS READ

In January 2012, the Booth & Dimock Memorial Library challenged the teenagers of Coventry to create a "New Year's Read-o-lution," instead of a resolution. Each teen was encouraged to set an appropriate reading goal. They were then provided with a method of tracking the books they read. On each visit to the library they can record the books they have finished since their last visit in a notebook in the Teen Zone. This way the total number of books read by participating Coventry teens can be recorded. If the participating Teens read 1,500 books in 2012, the Library will host a special event of some sort for those that were able to meet their personal reading goal. As of March 1st 2012, 301 books have been reported read by nearly 20 teenagers. Popular books include, The Hunger Games, Bruiser, Scat, the Harry Potter series, and the many manga series available at the Library.

JUST A FEW OF THE UPCOMING EVENTS

Living History Event—Company F 14th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry will help us honor the 150th anniversary of the Civil War with period costumes, encampment, a cooking demonstration, children's games and military drills. Saturday, April 28 from 10:00am – 3:00pm. Front lawn.

Annual Book Sale—The annual used book sale will be held April 26-April 28 at the Booth & Dimock Memorial Library. Bake Sale to be held on Saturday, April 28.

Laser Tag and Lock In—Offered in conjunction with Coventry Youth Services, the Library will open its doors for Coventry students in grades 6-8 on Friday, May 18 from 5:45pm- 10:00pm for laser tag, pizza, movies and games. Registration is required and begins April 13. Registration forms can be acquired through Coventry Human Services or at the Library.

For more information on these events and others, please contact the Booth & Dimock Memorial Library at 860-742-7606 or visit our website www.CoventryPL.org.

THE COVENTRY REGIONAL FARMERS' MARKET WILL RETURN TO NATHAN HALE HOMESTEAD FOR ITS 5TH YEAR IN THIS LOCATION AND ITS 9TH ALTOGETHER

This will be the first year of a 10 year lease. The barn won in The Great Barn Giveaway sponsored by W.H. Silverstein, Inc., Farmers' Market Coalition and American Farmland Trust Barn will be placed in the Market Field with an anticipated groundbreaking of early summer.

The Market has been cited as Connecticut's BEST farmers' market by Yankee Magazine, Boston Magazine and American Farmland Trust.

Market Organizers have already set the themes and dates for 22 Market Events each Sunday from June 3rd to October 28th and are looking forward to a wonderful year. We thank the Town of Coventry, CT Landmarks and all of our fans for all their support and extend an invitation to come enjoy the market for another event-full year!

See www.coventryfarmersmarket.com for info.





COVENTRY BOARD OF EDUCATION

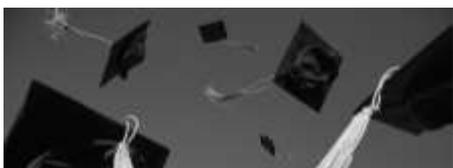
Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairman; Mary Kortmann, Vice-Chairman; Mary Minor, Secretary;
Todd Cancelliere, Eugene Marchand, William Oros, Denise Ryan



BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS: The Board of Education generally meets on the second and last Thursday of each month. The remaining regular Board meetings for 2012 are: April 12 & 26, May 10 & 31, June 14 & 28, July 12 & 26, August 9 & 30, September 13 & 27, October 11 & 25, November 8 & 29, and December 13. Unless noted on the agenda, all meetings are held in the Town Hall Annex building at 7:30 p.m.

OPEN DOOR MEETINGS: Come meet the new Superintendent of Schools, David Petrone. As he begins his tenure, one of his initiatives is to meet with as many parents and members of our Coventry community as possible. Open communication is a key component for true collaboration. Keep informed about education in our town by attending any of his Open Door meetings this school year. All of these informal gatherings will be held in the Administration Building conference room at 1700 Main Street. Remaining 2011-12 dates are: Wednesday, April 11 at 3:30 p.m.; Friday, May 4 at 9:30 a.m.; and Thursday, May 31 at 6:00 p.m.

2012-13 SCHOOL CALENDAR APPROVED: The Board of Education approved the 2012-13 Coventry Public Schools calendar at the February 9 Board meeting. The calendar can be found on our website at www.coventrypublicschools.org. The start date for students is Tuesday, August 28. Items to note include a new schedule for early release days. This new schedule will include ALL early release days: Students in grades K-5 will be in school from 8:30 – 11:40 a.m. and students in grades 6-12 will be in school from 7:40 – 11:00 a.m.



GRADUATION: Barring any unforeseen circumstances, the Coventry High School graduation ceremony will take place on Saturday, June 23, at 10:00 a.m. Weather permitting, the ceremony will be held outside at Coventry High School. In case of inclement weather, graduation will be held in the Veterans Auditorium with closed circuit coverage in the Lecture Hall at the high school.



CHINA EXCHANGE PROGRAM: Coventry Public Schools had the very first visit of Chinese students in late January. Twelve (12) Chinese students and four (4) teachers were hosted in Coventry homes. Students visited Boston, saw examples of the local farming industry, attended a Connecticut Whale hockey game, visited UCONN and were treated like members of the Coventry families for a full week. There was a farewell potluck dinner where a group picture was taken. We are looking forward to having Coventry students visit China in the spring of 2013.

WORKING PAPERS: All children under the age of 18, who have secured employment are required to have “working papers.” To acquire these papers, please have a form of identification and verification in writing from your employer stating you have secured employment and bring them to the office at Coventry High School. You do not need to be a student at Coventry High School, only a resident of Coventry, to get working papers from the high school office. Should there be no one available at the high school, you may bring your information to the Superintendent’s Office. If there are any questions regarding working papers, please call the Coventry High School main office at 742-7346.

NCLB REPORTS: When the district receives this year’s report, it will be made accessible for public viewing. Copies will be available at the schools, the Booth & Dimock Library, and the school administration building. You will find a link to the information on our website www.coventrypublicschools.org.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

There are flexible hour and/or day schedules with a wide variety of experiences available.

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.

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

**POSTAL PATRON
COVENTRY, CT 06238**

**PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
STORRS, CT
PERMIT NO. 106**

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING & NOTICE OF ADJOURNED TOWN MEETING
APRIL 28, 2012**

The legal voters of the Town of Coventry and those property owners qualified to vote in Town Meetings pursuant to Section 7-6 of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut are hereby notified and warned that the Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Coventry will be held Saturday, April 28, 2012 at 10:00 A.M. in Veterans Auditorium, Coventry High School, Ripley Hill Rd., Coventry, CT.

The Adjourned Town Meeting vote will be May 8, 2012 from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The polling place for all voting, District 1 & 2, will be at the CVFA Firehouse, 1755 Main Street.

**Town of Coventry
Council Recommended Budget for FY 12-13**

EXPENDITURES	2011 Actual	2012 Base Budget	2012 Actual YTD	2012 Est. Actual	2013 Agency Request	2013 Town Manager	2013 Council
GENERAL							
ADMINISTRATION	1,363,518	1,386,841	1,066,763	1,386,841	1,447,070	1,428,457	1,438,457
PUBLIC SAFETY	1,982,035	2,104,230	1,476,464	2,103,130	2,196,763	2,159,038	2,159,038
PUBLIC WORKS	1,899,454	2,018,068	1,454,567	2,017,793	2,109,243	2,051,428	2,051,428
HUMAN SERVICES	228,220	237,907	155,837	237,807	257,228	251,522	239,022
CIVIC & CULTURAL	467,133	467,809	449,101	463,309	498,911	479,968	480,468
SUNDRY	2,413,699	2,375,390	1,880,213	2,375,390	2,445,161	2,349,161	2,337,874
General Government Total	8,354,059	8,590,245	6,482,945	8,584,270	8,954,376	8,719,574	8,706,287
Debt Service	2,159,320	2,686,709	2,276,488	2,686,709	2,824,466	2,803,966	2,803,386
Board of Education	24,530,568	24,889,828	21,030,168	24,889,828	25,025,931	25,025,931	24,965,931
Capital	488,611	556,425	529,739	556,425	823,325	808,325	763,325
Expenditures Total	35,532,558	36,723,207	30,319,340	36,717,232	37,628,098	37,357,796	37,238,929
REVENUES							
Property Tax	25,477,042	26,278,835	25,950,911	26,278,835	26,975,959	26,975,959	26,837,249
Intergovernmental	8,893,206	9,925,364	5,220,495	9,920,364	10,002,437	10,002,437	9,996,042
Local	683,000	519,008	321,140	518,508	379,400	379,400	405,638
Revenues Total	35,053,248	36,723,207	31,492,546	36,717,707	37,357,796	37,357,796	37,238,929

If revenues remain unchanged and a collection rate of 97.8 is used; a proposed mil rate of 27.0 will be required.



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