



COVENTRY COMMUNITY UPDATE:

September 2014

...a periodic update of news and events around town.

MANAGER'S MONTHLY MEMO:

The Town Council has called a Special Meeting for Thursday, August 28, 2014 at 7:00 PM in the lecture hall at Coventry High School to consider a resolution to authorize bonding of \$1,000,000 for the purchase of open space for conservation and recreation and/or conservation easements. This Town Meeting will be adjourned to a November 4th ballot question at the election. You are invited to attend this meeting to learn more and share your feelings.

We have had a couple of good weeks of success in obtaining grants. We received a State STEAP grant for \$475,000 to reconstruct the lake gate system. Due to permitting and design the earliest this work could take place would be next fall. We also received \$500,000 to continue our housing rehab program for low/moderate income people. (Click [here](#) for more information.) Several smaller grants were also received to purchase a new electronic speed control sign, a planning grant for strengthening the arts community, an historic documents preservation grant and a solar power grant for Town Hall.

Lake summer/early fall will be busy for construction. Road work is planned for the second week of September. Love Lane, portions of Swamp and Swamp Extension, the paved portion of North School (between Dunn & Grant Hill), major sections of Hop River Road and the driveway to Merrow Road substation and a small portion of Merrow to Goose will be reclaimed and/or repaved. Solar panels are planned for installation on several schools through a power purchase agreement under the Small Z-Rec program. The long-awaited sidewalk on Main Street from the hill to the Middle School is planned for an October start.

For more news about what has been happening at Town Hall, see our most recent [Quarterly Report](#).

UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS:

- Thurs, 8/28: Special Town Meeting: Consideration of Bonding for the Purchase of Open Space, 7:00 PM, CHS Lecture Hall
- Tues, 9/2: Town Council Meeting: 7:30 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Thurs, 9/4: WPCA, 6:45 PM, DPW building
- Mon, 9/8: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Thurs, 9/11: Board of Education, 7:30 PM, School Admin. Building
- Mon, 9/15: Town Council Meeting: 7:30 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Mon, 9/22: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Tues, 9/23: Board of Education, 7:30 PM, School Admin. Building
- Weds, 9/24: Inland Wetlands Agency, 7:30 PM, Town Hall Annex

For a complete monthly calendar of other Board & Commission events, click [here](#).

HOLIDAYS:

Monday, 9/1: Labor Day. Town Hall offices and schools closed. Trash pick-up on [holiday](#) schedule.

COMING EVENTS:

Tues 9/2 **Passport to Connecticut Libraries**, Booth & Dimock Library, 1134 Main Street. Libraries all over Connecticut are participating in this exciting

program to make people aware of the power of their library card. Take your passport to at least five participating libraries to be eligible to win a \$150 gift card for adults or a \$100 gift card for children.

- Weds 9/3 **Out to Lunch Bunch**, 10:45 AM, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. Do you enjoy going out to lunch? Join us the first Wednesday of the month at a local restaurant for great food, great conversation and a fun time with friends! Meet us at the Senior Center at 10:45 AM, or let Leigh know if you need a ride on the van. The cost for meal and tip is on your own. Please call the Center at 860-742-3525 to sign up ahead of time so that we can make arrangements with the restaurant and organize transportation.
- Weds 9/3 **A Smithsonian Exhibition – “The Way We Worked”**, Weds.-Sun., 12- 4 PM, Nathan Hale Homestead, 2299 South Street. This exhibit draws on the National Archives’ rich photographic collections showing 130 years of changing work in America. Runs through September 14. Free. [Website](#).
- Sat 9/6 **Dinner at the Homestead**, 5-10 PM, Nathan Hale Homestead, 2299 South Street. Connecticut Landmarks celebrates the rich agricultural heritage of the Nathan Hale Homestead and the freshness of local food. Dinner at the Homestead will include great friends, great food, and great wine for a magical night in this splendid historic setting. Call (860) 247-8996 ext. 23 for reservations. Rain date: Sunday, September 7th at 4 PM.
- Sun 9/7 **Coventry Regional Farmers’ Market**, 11 AM – 2 PM, Nathan Hale Homestead, 2299 South Street. Theme: *Cider & Spirits*. [Website](#).
- Tues 9/9 **An Evening with Robert H. Steele, author of *The Curse***, 7:00 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. *The Curse* is a novel set against the explosion of casino gambling that hit Connecticut during the 1990s, when two Indian tribes built the world’s two biggest casinos in the southeastern corner of the state. More [info](#).
- Weds 9/10 **Mobile Foodshare**, 10-10:30 AM, First Congregational Church, 1171 Main Street. An outdoor food distribution service for persons of low income. Please bring your own grocery bag. More [info](#).
- Sat 9/13 **Chicken Barbeque Community Supper**, 4:30-6:30 PM, First Congregational Church, 1171 Main St. Chicken, baked potato, corn on the cob, coleslaw, desserts, drinks. \$12 adults, \$10 seniors. Takeout available. Info: 860-742-8487.
- Sun 9/14 **Coventry Regional Farmers’ Market**, 11 AM – 2 PM, Nathan Hale Homestead, 2299 South Street. Theme: *Fiber Twist & Bead Bash*. [Website](#).
- Tues 9/16 **What is your dog telling you?** 6:30 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Presented by Phil Klein, certified dog listener, this is a free program geared to help us understand our dogs better and provide us with tips on managing our dog’s behavior.
- Tues 9/16 **Annual Coventry Lake Forum**, 7 PM, Patriots Park Lodge, 172 Lake Street. Learn about rain gardens and the use of salt around the lake. The annual State of the Lake assessment report will also be presented. More details below.
- Weds 9/17 **Lego® Club**, 4-5 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. We provide the bricks, you provide your imagination! Ages 5+ Drop-in’s welcome, no registration required. Info [here](#).
- Fri 9/19 **Talk Like a Pirate Day**, 4-5 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Aaargh mateys! A pirate-inspired event including crafts, games, snack, and a scavenger hunt. Registration required. Registration begins Sept 1. Open to children through grade 5. Library [website](#).

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| Sun | 9/21 | Coventry Regional Farmers' Market , 11 AM – 2 PM, Nathan Hale Homestead, 2299 South Street. Theme: <i>Rise & Shine Wellness Fair</i> .
Website . |
| Weds | 9/24 | Mobile Foodshare , 10-10:30 AM, First Congregational Church, 1171 Main Street. An outdoor food distribution service for persons of low income. Please bring your own grocery bag. More info . |
| Fri | 9/27 | Haunted Corn Maze , 7-9 PM, 9/27 & 9/28, Nathan Hale Homestead, 2299 South Street. Last tour leaves at 8:30 PM. Rain date Sun. 10/6. Website . |
| Sun | 9/28 | Coventry Regional Farmers' Market , 11 AM – 2 PM, Nathan Hale Homestead, 2299 South Street. Theme: <i>Maker's Market & Farm to Shaker</i> .
Website . |
| Tues | 9/30 | Performance: Getting into Work with Sea Tea Improv , 3:00 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Presented in collaboration with Connecticut Humanities and as part of CT at Work, Sea Tea Improv will share the art, skill and fun of improvisation with an eye to the future. <i>Workshop for teens 10/7</i> . Teens will develop self-confidence, clear diction and the importance of thinking on your feet—and how to implement these techniques when you interview for a job. Teen Zone website . |

BEACH CLOSING SCHEDULE: Both Patriots Park & Lisicke Beach will be closed Monday, 8/25 through Friday, 8/29. The beaches will re-open for the Labor Day weekend, Saturday 8/30 through Monday, 9/1, from 9 AM – 7 PM. Beaches close for the season at 7 PM on 9/1.

SPONSORS AND PARTICIPANTS SOUGHT FOR COVENTRY CHILIFEST: The Coventry ChiliFest takes place on Saturday, November 1, from 12-3 PM at CHS soccer field. Enter to participate and see how your favorite chili recipe stacks up against the competition! Sponsors are also sought for the event, with levels ranging from \$50-\$500. Call the Coventry Parks & Recreation Department at 860-742-4068 for an application or more information. Click [here](#) for the event flyer.

HELP NATHAN HALE HOMESTEAD WIN THE AIA PEOPLES' CHOICE AWARD: The American Institute of Architects' Peoples' Choice Awards will involve choosing among 8 nominated outstanding historical buildings, one in each CT county, for its 2014 *CT Treasures* award. The building nominated for Tolland County is our very own Nathan Hale Homestead. Voting will be online at the AIA website: www.aiact.org between September 8 and September 30, 2014.

FOOD BANK ITEMS NEEDED: The Coventry Human Service Food Bank shelves are in need of restocking. We are in need of the following non-perishable and personal hygiene items: cereal, canned fruit, kid snacks/crackers, pancake mix, syrup, gluten free, salt free, sugar free items, coffee/tea, condiments, Beefaroni, applesauce, boxed potatoes, napkins, paper towels, napkins, dish soap, deodorant, razors, toilet paper, laundry detergent, and shampoo/conditioner. To donate, drop by the Human Services office during regular hours. **Please remember we cannot distribute expired canned items so please check expiration dates.** If you are in financial crisis and need food, please call Human Services at 860-742-5324 to schedule a brief interview and appointment to utilize the Food Bank. Fall Food Bank hours are Tuesdays, 8:30-10:30 AM and Thursdays, 12-2 PM.

BELL RINGERS NEEDED: The Coventry Human Services Office and the Salvation Army are looking for “Bell Ringing” volunteers. 90% of the donations to the “kettle” remains in town to help support Coventry residents in need of emergency assistance such as utilities, housing, food, prescriptions, camp scholarships and the “Gearing Up To Learn” program. Please call Human Services at 742-5324 if you would like to be a “bell ringer” or a Salvation Army volunteer. Many

families and individuals have made this activity part of their holiday tradition of neighbors helping neighbors. Please give a couple of hours of your time to help Coventry residents in need throughout the year.

ANNUAL LAKE FORUM: Tuesday, 9/16, 7 PM at Patriots Park Lodge, 172 Lake Street. Michael Dietz, CT NEMO Program Director and a water resources educator, will demonstrate an app designed to help homeowners create rain gardens. NEMO (Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials) was created in the early 1990's to provide information, education and assistance to local land use boards and commissions on how they can accommodate growth while protecting their natural resources and community character. Rain gardens are usually depressions about 6 inches deep that collect storm water runoff from roofs, driveways or yards and allow water to infiltrate into the ground rather than run through lawns or into bodies of water. Dr. Robert Kortmann, Coventry resident and President of Ecosystem Consulting Service, will deliver his annual State of the Lake assessment and discuss the use of salt around the lake during the winter and its effect on the water quality. If a preliminary report is available from DEEP regarding their July invasive plant survey, Dr. Kortmann may speak about those results.

SCHOOL READINESS: There are still several part time-part day School Readiness spaces available at the Coventry Early Childhood Center for this school year. The School Readiness Grant from the State Department of Education helps financially eligible families with tuition assistance for their 3 and 4 year old children. Assistance depends on family income. For example, a family of four can earn up to \$75,000 to qualify for some assistance. If you are interested in learning more about the School Readiness program, please contact CECC at 860-742-5859.

VENDORS SOUGHT FOR THIRD ANNUAL HARVEST FARM FAIR: Coventry Agricultural Committee is excited to announce its third annual Harvest Farm Fair, to be held on October 4th at Nathan Hale Homestead, 2299 South Street. The Committee is seeking vendors with an agricultural interest to participate in the event. Visit their [Facebook](#) page for more details. Questions? Call Nancy Messino at 860-942-0603 or BonnieJeanne Gordon at 860-729-4317.

STORYTIMES AT THE LIBRARY: Storytime at the Booth & Dimock Memorial Library lays the foundation for early literacy and school preparedness. Storytimes are not only fun and educational for the children, but can also act as a resource for parents and caregivers to continue literacy techniques at home. Each storytime is developed with a specific age range in mind and is intended to foster the love of reading in the child as well as the whole family.

Babygarten

Tuesdays 10:15 AM

Storytime for ages birth to 35 months and their caregivers.

Pre-School Storytime

Tuesdays 10:15 AM

Storytime for ages 3-5 and their caregivers

Early Literacy Play Group

Wednesdays 10:30 AM—11:30 AM

A developmentally appropriate play group.

TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE: Make an appointment for individual technology assistance on Wednesday afternoon and evenings this fall. Appointments are 30 minutes in length and topics cover using the 3-D Printer, eBook assistance on personal devices and basic computer software. Call 860-742-7606.

VIDEO-ON DEMAND: Watch a Coventry Conversations interview with Bill Zenko and Kathleen Ryan, and view Town meetings and other special programming from your computer - no cable TV required! Click here to visit [Pegcentral](#) online.

To list your event in next month's bulletin, contact Laura Stone at LStone@coventryct.org by the 15th of the month.