



COVENTRY COMMUNITY UPDATE:

December 2014

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

MANAGER'S MONTHLY MEMO:

The holiday season is upon us and we appreciate the generosity of our community helping over 70 families have a joyous Thanksgiving meal. If you want to help your neighbors please consider ringing a bell, donating funds for fuel or a donation to the Food Bank.

To celebrate the season we invite you to the annual tree lighting and a start of a new tradition. A new tree has been planted between the Middle School and Town Hall driveway. We will be able to say we were there the first year it was lit. Children can actually reach the branches to add an ornament. Please join us Wednesday, December 3rd at 6:30 PM to see Santa arrive on a fire truck, hear the High School chorus and band and put you in the mood.

A big weekend follows with the PTO Craft Fair at CHS on Saturday and Christmas in the Village on Sunday. New this year is a Polar Express train ride at Patriots Park (see below). Celebrate our Village and shop locally.

A few words about important Town issues. Change notices for the state-mandated revaluation have been mailed. Resources are available to verify the proposed value (see notice). If you do not agree with the value please schedule an informal review with Vision Appraisal Services starting December 1. Revaluation is about equalizing the value of real estate to make sure property owners pay their fair share of the total collection. In general, the values of the housing market have declined by an average of 8%. **Revaluation does not increase the amount of money the Town receives in taxes – it just reallocates the burden to reflect current property values.** We cannot at this point calculate a comparable mil rate since values will not be finalized until after these hearings are complete and we must add in motor vehicles and personal property to create the Grand List. When this is complete you will be provided a calculator online to compare the pre-revaluation to post-revaluation tax impact. So given the average house values have gone down, it is reasonable to assume that the mil rate will go up, but again that will not necessarily mean a higher tax bill; that will depend on your assessment compared to all others. So the most important task for this month is reviewing the information received in the mail for accuracy and determining based on your research and opinion whether the proposed value for your house is fair. If not, please go to a hearing with the reasons why it is not. Information about the process and additional data can be found on the [Assessor's page](#) of the website. Thank you for your participation in this important process.

Don't forget that CoventryVision has moved from Charter channel 13 to channel 191 (Education is now on channel 194). Charter's digital conversion has created some problems with our live broadcasts of meetings. We are already working to resolve this with Charter. The meetings are available for viewing online at [Pegcentral](#). The Council Steering Committee is starting to look at whether the Charter conversion has created other problems in our Town with cable and Internet service. Charter feels things are fine and urges individual customers to call them to resolve individual problems (1-800-GetCharter). If this has not worked please drop me an email at Jelsesser@coventryct.org. Please put Charter in the subject line.

Please also see below information about a new prescription drug disposal box at the Police Station.

A final word about safety during this season. Remember hunting season is open so we suggest wearing orange while walking or running in or near woods. Keep live trees watered and check all electrical lighting wires for safety. Remember to inspect your chimney and heating system and smoke and c.o. detector batteries. Have a safe and joyous December.

UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS:

- Mon, 12/1: Town Council Meeting: 7:30 PM, Town Hall Annex. **Public Hearing at 7 PM on proposed additional property tax exemption for disabled veterans**
- Thurs, 12/4: WPCA, 6:45 PM, DPW building
- Mon, 12/8: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Thurs, 12/11: Board of Education, 7:30 PM, School Admin. Building
- Mon, 12/15: Town Council Meeting: 7:30 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Weds, 12/17: Inland Wetlands Agency, 7:30 PM, Town Hall Annex

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

HOLIDAYS:

Wednesday & Thursday, 12/24 & 12/25: Christmas holiday. Town Hall offices, Senior Center and schools closed. Trash pick-up on regular schedule Wednesday, [holiday](#) schedule for remainder of week.

COMING EVENTS:

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| Tues | 12/2 | Exercise Class , 9:30 – 11 AM, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. Formerly called Chair Exercise Class, this class will now be called Exercise Class because it encompasses many movements that can be modified to fit your current ability. Join this low-impact class focused on stretching, light resistance and improving balance. Weights and exercise bands are provided. In our continuing efforts to provide a safe and comfortable class, we are continuing the trial of certified exercise instruction throughout the month of December. Dress comfortably and get ready to move! Feel free to bring along a joke to share with the class during the break! <i>Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout December. No class on December 30th.</i> Info: 860-742-3525. |
| Weds | 12/3 | 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 . |
| Weds | 12/3 | TVCCA Community Luncheon , 12 PM, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. Join us this month for a delicious meal of spaghetti and meatballs, garlic bread, salad, fudge brownie and beverages. The cost of the meal is \$5. Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, tickets need to be purchased at the Senior Center by noon on Tuesday, November 25. Please call the Senior Center at 860-742-3525 for more information. |
| Weds | 12/3 | Snow Globes , 3 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Make your own winter wonderland. For teens. Library website teen calendar . |
| Weds | 12/3 | Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony , 6:30 PM, Town Hall, 1712 Main Street. Participate in the lighting of our NEW tree! Music, caroling, a visit from Santa, refreshments and more. More info here . |
| Sat | 12/6 | Annual PTO Craft Show , 9 AM - 3 PM, Coventry High School, 78 Ripley Hill Rd. More than 60 crafters from all around New England, along with a bake sale and take-a-chance table. Lunch served by the Family and Consumer Services Department of Coventry High School. Strolling minstrels will entertain. Admission is \$2 for adults and free for children. |

All proceeds from the Craft Show are shared equally among Coventry's four schools. Info: Laurie LaBrec, 860-657-6424.

- Sun 12/7 **Coventry Regional Farmers' Market, Winterfresh Market**, 11 AM – 2 PM, Coventry High School cafeteria, 78 Ripley Road. Indoor market featuring local produce and artisan wares. [Website](#).
- Sun 12/7 **Christmas in Coventry Village**, 12-4 PM, Main Street (Rt. 31). Horse & wagon rides, chocolate bazaar, Santa Claus, living nativity, crafters, pony rides, old-fashioned country cupboard, Christmas tree festival at the Library, food, music and dance recital. Sponsored by Coventry Lions Club. Info: 860-742-7160.
- Sun 12/7 **Polar Express at Christmas in the Village**, 1-3 PM, Patriots Park Lodge, 172 Lake Street. Take a ride on the Polar Express! Enjoy a reading of the famed story, arts & crafts, refreshments and a train ride through Patriots Park. Get in the spirit by wearing your favorite (warm) pajamas! \$2 per person. Age 3 and under ride for FREE! Info: www.coventryrec.com.
- Mon 12/8 **Lifeline Presentation**, 11 AM – 2 PM, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. Guest speaker Nancy Cucca from A Caring Hand will speak to us about a new type of emergency response system (or "lifeline") that uses GPS technology. This means that the emergency button works even when you are not at home. Other new technology features are part of some emergency buttons, such as automatic fall detection. Come hear about how technology could help increase your safety, whether at home, outside, or out-and-about. Please note: emergency response systems are available from many different providers. Info: 860-742-3525.
- Tues 12/9 **Chair Massage and Reflexology Sessions with Deb Turner, L.M.T.**, 9:30 AM – 2 PM, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. Come and experience the many health benefits for yourself (and see why Deb is so well loved among Coventry Seniors!) Increase your blood flow to all major organs and relieve muscle tension in your neck, shoulders and lower back with a 20 minute chair massage. Or, treat your feet and increase joint mobility and balance through body awareness with a reflexology session. There is a \$15 fee payable directly to Deb at the time of the appointment. Please call the Center at 860-742-3525 to schedule your appointment. *Tuesdays 12/9 and 12/30.*
- Weds 12/10 **Senior Holiday Lunch**, 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. We will provide an entrée. Please sign up to bring your favorite festive appetizer or dessert. Info: 860-742-3525.
- Thurs 12/11 **Winter Crafts**, 2-4 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. A "crafter-noon" all about the holiday season! Open to all ages, no registration required. Run by the Children's Room. [Website](#).
- Fri 12/12 **Minute to Win it**, 3 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Fast thinking and funny skills unite in this quick competition. For teens. [Teen Calendar](#).
- Sat 12/13 **Stuff A Truck Drive**, 8 AM – 4 PM, North Coventry Volunteer Fire Department, Station 11, 3427 Main Street.
- Sat 12/13 **Breakfast with Santa**, 8 AM – 12 PM, CHS cafeteria, 78 Ripley Hill Road. Bring your Camera! (Pancakes, sausage, juice, milk, hot chocolate, coffee will be served) and "Take a Chance" Table Sponsored by Coventry High School Project Graduation and Coventry Youth Services. Adults and children 10 and older - \$8 Seniors - \$6 Children 2-9 - \$5 Children under 2 – Free. Any questions please call Jennifer Moulton at 860-742- 0304.

- Sun 12/14 **Coventry Regional Farmers' Market, Winterfresh Market**, 11 AM – 2 PM, Coventry High School cafeteria, 78 Ripley Road. Indoor market featuring local produce and artisan wares. [Website](#).
- Mon 12/15 **Beading with Midge**, 10 AM – 12 PM, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. Midge is coming for a holiday beading workshop. You will have the option of making a snowflake ornament, a star ornament, a snowflake sun catcher, a star sun catcher, an angel key ring, angel earrings or an angel necklace. Please sign up by December 10 with your choice(s) and the beads will be purchased from Midge during the workshop. Register by calling 860-742-3525.
- Weds 12/17 **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](#).
- Weds 12/17 **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. [Website](#). *LEGO is a trademark of the LEGO Group, which does not sponsor, authorize, or endorse this program.
- Sun 12/21 **Coventry Regional Farmers' Market, Winterfresh Market**, 11 AM – 2 PM, Coventry High School cafeteria, 78 Ripley Road. Indoor market featuring local produce and artisan wares. Shop locally for your holiday gifts & table. [Website](#).
- Sun 12/28 **Coventry Regional Farmers' Market, Winterfresh Market**, 11 AM – 2 PM, Coventry High School cafeteria, 78 Ripley Road. Indoor market featuring local produce and artisan wares. [Website](#).
- Weds 12/31 **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](#).

PREPARE FOR WINTER AND SUPPORT THE BOY SCOUTS: On Sunday, December 7th during the Christmas in the Village event (noon-4 PM), Boy Scout Troop 65 will be selling 5 gallon buckets of sand/salt mixture for \$8 each as a fundraiser. The Scouts will be located in front of First Congregational Church, 1171 Main Street. If you know of an elderly or disabled person who could benefit from this, but is not able to pick up the buckets themselves, the Scouts will deliver at no additional charge (2-bucket minimum). Contact Kristin at ktingey@sbcglobal.net for more information.

“SPREAD THE CHEER” PROGRAM: This year marks the 7th Annual “Spread the Cheer” program, a Coventry Youth Services-sponsored intergenerational program between Coventry Grammar School students, Coventry High School students, and seniors at Coventry Senior Center. Seniors help the CGS students “shop” and wrap gifts for special adults in the students’ lives. Youth Services is seeking donations of new/unused gifts, appropriate for students in grades K-2 to give to their parents/grandparents/guardians. Some ideas include, but are not limited to, candles (flame and flameless), baseball hats, gloves, ice-scrapers, etc. Donations are needed by December 5th. More info: Crystal Morawitz, 860-742-5324 or cmorawitz@coventryct.org.

HOLIDAY “ADOPT-A-FAMILY” PROGRAM: The holiday season is here and there are many families and individuals who could benefit from your generosity. The Human Services Department will be accepting turkeys and all the trimmings, toys, coats, mittens/hats and gift cards for ages birth to 18. Please call 860-742-5324 to indicate how you can help. Freezer space is limited, so please call ahead if you are making a large donation of frozen turkeys. If you wish to make a monetary donation in lieu of a food or gift item, please mail your contribution to: The Holiday Committee, c/o Coventry Human Services, 1712 Main Street, Coventry, CT 06238. **If**

you are a family or individual in need of some help at the holidays, please call the office for a brief interview at 860-742-5324.

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” remain 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.

COVENTRY GRAMMAR SCHOOL MITTEN TREE: Looking for another way to help a needy family this holiday season? It is a CGS tradition to help Coventry Human Services fulfill the holiday wishes of children in Coventry with donations chosen from the Mitten Tree. Just pick a mitten off the tree located in the hallway just past the main office. Each mitten is labeled with either a gift card amount from select stores, or a toy desired and the age of a child. Please drop off your unwrapped gift to Coventry Grammar School by December 18th. There are drop-off boxes located in the hall above the gymnasium. For your convenience, the PTO will have a limited number of gift cards available in small denominations to fill the needs of some of the mittens on the tree. These include \$5 Barnes and Noble, \$10 CVS, \$10 Target and \$10 Walmart. For more information contact Marie at mlr0608@yahoo.com or Karen at greencoffeedog72@gmail.com. These gift cards help the Scrip Fundraising Program – the school gets a portion of the sale!

PROMAGANZA! Now accepting donations of prom dresses, shoes, accessories and services (hair, nails, alternations, etc.) for the 2nd annual Promaganza! This event helps offset expenses for youth at CHS who otherwise might not be able to attend the Junior and Senior proms. Items can be dropped off at Coventry Human Services, 1712 Main Street. Sponsored by Coventry Youth Services. For more information, call 860-742-5324.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG DROP BOX AVAILABLE: The Coventry Police Department would like to announce the placement of a permanent prescription Drug Drop Box in the Police Department front lobby. It is accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The prescription Drug Drop Box will allow residents to dispose of potentially dangerous, expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs in a safe and environmentally responsible way. The Police Department was able to secure the box through a grant from CVS Pharmacy. The Coventry Police Department would like to thank CVS for their participation in what we view as a vital public safety and public health function to our community. People wishing to dispose of unwanted, expired, or unused prescription drugs can drop them in the prescription Drug Drop Box in the front lobby at the Coventry Police Department. The service is free and anonymous.

The following will not be accepted in the Drug Drop Box:

1. Opened containers of liquid will not be accepted unless they are completely sealed.
2. Syringes shall not be placed into the drop box.
3. No medications or other waste shall be permitted to be left outside of the drop box.

The following are accepted in the Drug Drop Box:

1. Prescriptions
2. Prescription Patches
3. Over-the-counter medications
4. Vitamins
5. Sample medications
6. Pet medications

7. Properly sealed liquid, lotion and/or ointment medication

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