



COVENTRY COMMUNITY UPDATE:

February 2015

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

MANAGER'S MONTHLY MEMO:

We are already deep in the winter months and the February blues. Let's brighten up and think Valentine's Day thoughts about what you love about Coventry. Email your love note about the Town to lovecoventry@coventryct.org. We will be sharing on my new [Facebook page](#). Please "like" the page for more timely notices about Town happenings.

In the newsletter and last month's e-blast we announced a drug disposal box in the Police station vestibule. Please take the time to properly dispose of your un-needed prescription drugs. It is better for the environment and the community. Opiates (e.g. OxyContin) are often a gateway drug to heroin. People of all ages, income levels and background get hooked on painkillers and move on to cheaper highs such as heroin. There are some killer stains of heroin on the streets. This is a statewide problem but we also see it here. We are exploring equipping our Police with [Narcan](#) to combat overdoses but need help in combatting this illness. Help us with the simple first step of getting prescription painkillers off the streets.

The Town's [Annual Audit](#) is complete and online for review. We once again received an "unqualified opinion." The good news is we accomplished two major Town Council goals of getting to a more acceptable fund balance and pension funding. We will be refinancing some old debt service to lower interest rates. Our fiscal strength will help assure a very competitive rate.

If you want to start thinking about spring, planning is underway for community gardens at Creaser Park for this spring. Contact Recreation at 860-742-4068. This is a joint project with the Coventry Agricultural Committee.

UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS:

- Tues, 2/2: Town Council Meeting: 7:30 PM, Town Hall Annex.
- Mon, 2/9: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Thurs, 2/12: Board of Education, 7:30 PM, School Admin. Building
- **Tues**, 2/17: Town Council Meeting: 7:30 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Mon, 2/23: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Weds, 2/25: Inland Wetlands Agency, 7:30 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Thurs, 2/26 Board of Education, 7:30 PM, School Admin. Building

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

HOLIDAYS:

Monday, 2/16: Presidents' Day holiday. Town Hall and schools closed. Trash pick-up on regular schedule.

COMING EVENTS:

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| Sat | 1/31 | Ice Fishing Derby , 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Patriots Park Lodge, 172 Lake Street. CT Department of Environmental Protection is holding their annual ice fishing derby! Ice fishing jigs will be available for use or you can bring your own, and fishing instruction and demos will be available. Free! Fun for the whole family. More info . |
| Sat | 1/31 | Valentine's Day Card Workshop , 1:00 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Make a unique Valentine's Card with Dawn Zillich. There will be several card designs to choose from, all materials will |

be provided by the library. This free program is open to adults and teens, please call the library at 860-742-7606 to register. In case of snow, the workshop will be held on February 7th.

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| Sun | 2/1 | 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 | 2/2 | Movie Mondays , 1:30 – 3:30 PM, Coventry Senior Center Lounge, 172 Lake Street. Groundhog Day starring Bill Murray and Andie MacDowell. Info: 860-742-3525. |
| Weds | 2/4 | Memoir Workshop , 9:30 – 11:30 AM, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. Creative writing is a great way to tell stories, and what better subject than you? Memoir workshops are an opportunity to share your best stories. Each month we will offer a different theme to start your creativity flowing, or select a topic of your own! Memoirs can be any length, from a paragraph to several pages. This is a self-directed group. Bring some of your writing and work on it with the help of your peers. Also, feel free to share your finished pieces during the workshop, or gather them together to form a collection for yourself or your loved ones. February's suggested theme is "A time I fell in love." Was it a person, a place, or something else? Was it a brief moment or the love of your life? When you think of this time, is it heartwarming or heartbreaking? The possibilities are endless! Or come with finished writing to continue January's theme "Something New" or a second theme the group developed called "What I would tell my 21-year-old self." No prior writing experience is needed to participate, and join in at any time. |
| Thurs | 2/5 | Hips & Knees! 10:30 AM, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. What is your image of a nursing home? Do you think of it as a place for long term care? While nursing homes can provide that care, short-term "sub-acute" stays are becoming the norm for most people, as they work with physical and occupational therapists to return to the community. In fact, it is very common to go to a nursing home following a knee replacement or a hip replacement! Join us for a presentation by guest speaker Karen Duhamel, MSN, MS, RN, the new Director of Admissions for Vernon Manor HealthCare Center. She will discuss what it is like during the recovery period after replacement surgery and show a brief video to show you the recent renovations at Vernon Manor. Sign up at the front desk to attend. |
| Thurs | 2/5 | Harry Potter Party , 3:30-5:30 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Harry Potter games, crafts, and snacks. Drop in and visit your favorite world. Ages 9 and up welcome. Website . |
| Fri | 2/6 | Father-Daughter Valentine's Dance , 7:00 – 9:30 PM, Capt. Nathan Hale Middle School gym, 1776 Main Street. This popular, semi-formal event is back for another year of valentine's fun! This year's festivities will include professional DJ services providing the music for dancing, refreshments for sale, games & art projects, and fathers and their daughters will have the opportunity to have their picture taken as a souvenir of the evening by Capstone Photography! As always, daughters are FREE! Fathers \$10 with pre-registration or \$15 at the door. More info on Recreation website . |
| Sun | 2/8 | 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 | 2/9 | Movie Mondays , 1:30 – 3:30 PM, Coventry Senior Center Lounge, 172 Lake Street. Sleepless in Seattle with Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan. Info: 860-742-3525. |

- Tues 2/10 **Minecrafting!** All afternoon, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Join us in the Teen Zone and play Minecraft on the library's server, and make your very own creepers & zombies to take home! [Teen Zone Event Calendar](#).
- Weds 2/11 **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 2/11 **TVCCA Community Luncheon**, 12 PM, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. Join us for delicious meals twice a month! Enjoy crab stuffed flounder, sweet potato fries, sugar snap peas and fudge brownie. The flounder lunch will be \$7. Tickets need to be purchased at the Senior Center by Wednesday, February 4. If you are joining us for a TVCCA lunch, you can also purchase a ticket for takeout to bring a meal home with you for later. Please note that final meal counts are needed a week prior to the lunch and we can no longer offer refunds after the reservation deadline. We will save your meal in the refrigerator until Friday. Please call the Senior Center at 860-742-3525 for more information.
- Sun 2/15 **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 2/18 **Memoir Workshop**, 9:30 – 11:30 AM, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. Creative writing is a great way to tell stories, and what better subject than you? Memoir workshops are an opportunity to share your best stories. Each month we will offer a different theme to start your creativity flowing, or select a topic of your own! Memoirs can be any length, from a paragraph to several pages. This is a self-directed group. Bring some of your writing and work on it with the help of your peers. Also, feel free to share your finished pieces during the workshop, or gather them together to form a collection for yourself or your loved ones. February's suggested theme is "A time I fell in love." Was it a person, a place, or something else? Was it a brief moment or the love of your life? When you think of this time, is it heartwarming or heartbreaking? The possibilities are endless! Or come with finished writing to continue January's theme "Something New" or a second theme the group developed called "What I would tell my 21-year-old self." No prior writing experience is needed to participate, and join in at any time.
- Thurs 2/19 **After-school Craft: Chinese New Year**, 4-5 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Learn about and help celebrate the Chinese New Year while making a fun and colorful craft. All ages, no registration required. [Library website](#).
- Sun 2/22 **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 2/23 **Movie Mondays**, 1:30 – 3:30 PM, Coventry Senior Center Lounge, 172 Lake Street. **The American President** starring Michael Douglas and Annette Bening. Info: 860-742-3525.
- Tues 2/24 **Pajama Story Time**, 6:15 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Join us for an evening story time for the whole family featuring stories read by special guests in our community. Wear your pj's and bring a snack! All ages, no registration required. [Library website](#).
- Weds 2/25 **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 2/25 **TVCCA Community Luncheon**, 12 PM, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. Join us for delicious meals, now twice a month! Enjoy a roast beef sandwich on a Kaiser roll, minestrone soup and a chocolate chip cookie. The roast beef sandwich lunch is \$5. Tickets need to be purchased at the Senior Center by Wednesday, February 18. If you are joining us for a TVCCA lunch, you can also purchase a ticket for takeout to bring a meal home with you for later. Please note that final meal counts are needed a week prior to the lunch and we can no longer offer refunds after the reservation deadline. We will save your meal in the refrigerator until Friday. Please call the Senior Center at 860-742-3525 for more information.

WANT NOTICES OF WEATHER-RELATED CLOSINGS AFFECTING TOWN SERVICES? Sign up to receive automatic alert notices on the “[Notify Me](#)” section of the Town’s website. Lots of other subscription options available here too, including job postings, newsletters, bid notices, meeting agendas, our new Senior Center monthly newsletter and more.

BJ’S FUNDRAISER FOR COVENTRY GRAMMAR SCHOOL: Join or renew your BJ’s membership at a discount and support Coventry Grammar School at the same time! Details [here](#).

WINTER READING BINGO: Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. During the months of January and February, teens in grades 6-12 can participate in the Winter Blues Reading Bingo. Complete squares on the board – by reading – to win prizes! Visit the Teen Desk to sign up or for more information.

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.

SAFE RETURN PROJECT LAUNCHED: The Coventry Police Department is proudly to announce the launching of Project: SAFE RETURN. The Police Department is working in partnership with the Coventry School District to implement a program that will aide in the quick and safe return of children or adults who have wandered from their caregivers and are potentially at risk of harm. Project Safe Return specifically benefits persons who are challenged because of autism, dementia, or other conditions. This program consists of a form that is to be filled out by the caregiver about the person with autism and then is submitted to CPD along with a recent picture. At Coventry Police HQ the information will be put into our computer data system under the person’s name and address. If we have an incident at that address or with that name, the information will come up under our FLAG system. We then will have access to the relevant information that was given us in the completed form. The school district distributed these packets to families with school age children who have autism during October conferences. It is our hope that all families who have family members that would benefit from this program receive this packet, fill it out, and return it as soon as possible to CPD. The sooner we have it in our system, the safer your family member will be.

Here’s an example of how the program will work: Coventry Police Dispatch receives a 911 call from a mother who states that her 5 yr. old son has wandered off her property. This mother is very distraught and the dispatcher has to obtain important information from her regarding her child and the facts surrounding the missing child. It is often difficult to calm the mother and get the information we need. This will take several minutes and it would slow the process of locating the child. Our program will solicit all the relevant information from the caregivers BEFORE the child goes missing. When Mom calls 911 and tells us her name and address, we will be able to

pull up all the information we need, along with a current photo of the child (or adult). This information will then be passed on to all the patrol officers on duty through our in- car laptops. It will be broadcast as an Amber Alert, distributed to the Media via FAX, and it will go out statewide via teletype. We will also use the Everbridge System, which is a reverse 911 message that would go out to surrounding areas to be on the lookout for the endangered person. That way everything is put into place quickly with all the relevant information at hand.

If you feel you will benefit from the Safe Return Program stop by Coventry Police Department to pick up the informational packet.

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM AT COVENTRY HIGH SCHOOL: The Coventry High School Early Childhood Education class will operate a preschool program at the High School from Thursday, February 12th through Thursday June 4th. The program will be held Thursdays 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. The cost is \$50.00 per child to cover supplies and snacks for all sessions. Occasionally the class will meet on Friday from 12:30-2:00 instead or extra because of our schedule. The high school students as a part of their early childhood education class will work with the preschoolers in a variety of instructional and play activities supervised by their teacher. Nutritional snacks will also be served. We will have an outdoor experience in our enclosed courtyard also (weather permitting). To be eligible, children must be between the ages of three and five years old and be toilet trained. Children will be chosen on a first come first serve basis, so call as soon as possible. There are only twelve spots available. If you are interested, please call Mrs. Susan Clark at school, 860-742-7346 x 136 or email sclark@coventryct.org. Leave your name, phone number or email and street address, and the age of your child. You will be sent an application to be filled out and returned with a \$10.00 deposit for a place to be held for your child. Checks can be made out to CHS activity fund. The balance of the remaining \$40.00 will be due by February 26th.

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