



## COVENTRY COMMUNITY UPDATE:

May 2015

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

### MANAGER'S MONTHLY MEMO:

Reminder to attend the [Annual Town Meeting](#) on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM at the Veterans Auditorium at Coventry High School. The Council voted on the [FY 2015/2016 budget](#) which calls for an overall spending increase of 1.98% and a tax increase estimated at 1.47% or an estimated mil rate change of .45 mils. The referendum is scheduled for Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> with [voting](#) at the fire stations. Polls are open from 6 AM to 8 PM.

May is a very full month of opportunities for seniors, teens, and everyone in between. Please take a few moments to review the many events. I will highlight the Farmers' Market forum on May 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at Patriots Park Lodge; two [community arts forums](#) on April 28<sup>th</sup> and May 20<sup>th</sup> in the Town Hall Annex at 7:00 PM and a Public Information Meeting on the Lake and Cross Street project on May 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at CHS Lecture Hall. These forums are all a chance to learn about and provide input into these three projects.

Many other projects are also ongoing. Pucker Street Bridge is closed for replacement until December, Safe Routes to School sidewalks on Main Street will be finishing up. The water main replacement on Main Street will be starting up again and the full curve realignment project is moving closer to going out to bid. To stay in touch with these projects and more, "like" our [Facebook](#) page or subscribe to Alerts through the [Notify Me](#) feature on our website.

On Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, the Town Council appointed Julie Blanchard as a new Council member and selected Lisa Thomas as Chairwoman. Julie previously served eight years on the Council including four as Chairwoman, and two years on the Board of Education. Lisa has served on the Council since 2007.

Finally, don't forget to review the Coventry Recreation spring/summer brochure which was sent out a couple weeks ago. It is also available [online](#).

### UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS:

- Sat, 4/25: [Annual Town Meeting](#), 10 AM, CHS Veterans Auditorium
- Mon, 5/4: Town Council Meeting: 7:30 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Tues, 5/5: [Budget Referendum](#), Polls open 6 AM – 8 PM.
- Thurs, 5/7: WPCA Meeting, 6:45 PM, DPW Conf. Room
- Mon, 5/11: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Thurs, 5/14: Board of Education, 7:30 PM, School Admin. Building
- Mon, 5/18: Town Council Meeting: 7:30 PM, Town Hall Annex
- **Tues, 5/26:** Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Weds, 5/27: Inland Wetlands Agency, 7:30 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Thurs, 5/28: Board of Education, 7:30 PM, School Admin. Building

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

### HOLIDAYS:

**Monday, 5/25: Memorial Day.** Town offices, schools and Senior Center closed. Trash collection on [holiday](#) schedule.

### COMING EVENTS:

- Fri 5/1 **Annual Used Book Sale**, 10 AM - 6 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Support the Booth & Dimock Memorial Library and get a few new used books in the process! Proceeds go toward library events and museum passes. Donations of gently used books and DVDs can be made during normal library hours through April 24<sup>th</sup>. Preview April 30<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 PM: free to members or \$7 admission. Event also continues on 5/2 from 10 AM – 3 PM.
- Fri 5/1 **Duplicate Bridge**, 12:45 PM, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. There is an established traveling duplicate bridge group in the area. Coming to the Senior Center once a month on the first Friday of the month. Come join the fun! Info: 860-742-3525.
- Sat 5/2 **Town-wide Tag Sale**, 8 AM – 4 PM. Join the fun visit all of the local tag sales in our 5<sup>th</sup> annual event! More info [here](#).
- Sat 5/2 **Fishing Derby**, 8 AM – 2 PM, Manchester Coon & Fox Club, North River Road. \$100 for longest trout caught, trophies by age group. Adults \$19, Children under 16 \$8. No license required. Breakfast, lunch and beverages available. For more information, call 860-604-4467.
- Sat 5/2 **Hale Homestead opens for the season**, 2299 South Street. During May, open weekends and on Memorial Day from 12-4:00 PM. [Website](#).
- Mon 5/4 **NEW CLASS! Silver Sneakers**, 9:30 – 10:30 AM, Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. Start the week off right. Certified Instructor Patty Flubacher guides participants through a series of exercises to increase strength and improve balance and flexibility. Exercises can be modified for all levels. Please wear comfortable clothing and athletic shoes. Silver Sneakers is covered through several health insurance companies. For those without qualifying insurance, the class is \$2 per week when paying in advance for the month, or \$3 per class for drop-in participants. The advance price for May is \$6 since there is no class on Memorial Day. Advance payment due the first class of the month. Mondays: 5/4, 5/11 & 5/18. Info: 860-742-3525.
- Tues 5/5 **NEW CLASS: ZUMBA Gold**, 12:30 – 1:15 PM, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. Love to dance and want to join the fun? Take the ongoing ZUMBA Gold class every Tuesday with certified instructor Patty Flubacher. Wear comfortable clothes and appropriate shoes and be ready to move! This class is covered under Silver Sneakers for those with qualifying health insurance. Other participants are welcome: \$2 per class when paid in advance for the month and \$3 per class for drop-in participants. The advance price for May is \$8 and is due the first class of the month. Tuesdays 5/5, 5/12, 5/19, 5/26. Info: 860-742-3525.
- Tues 5/5 **Tile Coaster craft in the Teen Zone**, 3 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Make vintage coasters with pictures of your choice – from Instagram or elsewhere. Makes a great Mother’s Day gift. Teen Zone [website](#).
- Tues 5/5 **Every Child Ready to Read**, 6:15 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. An information session for parents or caregivers of children ages 0-5. Explore ways to promote literacy at home through reading, writing, singing, playing and talking. Childcare will be provided in the children’s room and every parent or caregiver in attendance will take home an early literacy gift bag. Registration encouraged. Call 860-742-7606.
- Weds 5/6 **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](#).
- Thurs 5/7 **Mo Willem’s Party**, 4-5 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Do you love Pigeon, Elephant, or Piggie? If so, don’t miss this

party! Along with reading some hilarious books, we will be playing games, making crafts, and having a snack all based on the Mo Willem's most popular characters. Just remember – don't let the Pigeon crash the party!  
Info: 860-742-7606.

- Thurs 5/7 **Farmers Market Public Forum**, 7 PM, Patriots Park Lodge, 172 Lake Street. A forum to gain community input on the creation of continued farmer's market presence at the Hale Homestead. A facilitated meeting with break-out sessions and consensus discussions are planned for the event which will help shape the next market. For questions contact Eric M. Trott at 860-742-4062 or email [etrott@coventryct.org](mailto:etrott@coventryct.org). View event [flyer](#).
- Thurs 5/7 **Together Again**, 7 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Unveiling of portrait of Laura Farnum Booth, on loan from CT Historical Society, next to her husband Timothy Dimock's portrait. Refreshments to follow. More [info](#).
- Fri 5/8 **CECC Scramble for our School Golf Tournament**: 10 AM shotgun start, Skungamaug River Golf Club, Folly Lane. Prizes, contests, food and fun. Visit [www.scrambleforourschool.com](http://www.scrambleforourschool.com) to register to play or to become a sponsor.
- Sat 5/9 **Garden Club Plant Sale on the Green**, 8 AM – 12 PM, At the Garden on the Green, corner of routes 31 & 44, across from Highland Park Market. Hanging baskets, plants from members' gardens, annuals & perennials, herbs, tomato plants, bulbs, gifts for Mother's Day. Info: Carole Miller, 860-335-3139.
- Sat 5/9 **Coventry Energy Fair**, 10 AM – 2 PM, Coventry High School, 78 Ripley Hill Road. Have fun and learn how you can save energy and money. Demonstrations on energy-saving technology, display of electric & hybrid cars, clean power purchasing and more. Prize drawings and ribbon-cutting for the new solar panels at Coventry Schools. Presented by the Coventry Energy Advisory Committee. Info: 860-742-4062. [Flyer](#)
- Sat 5/9 **Roast Pork Community Supper**, 4:30 – 6:30 PM, First Congregational Church, 1171 Main Street. Cost: \$12 for adults, \$10 seniors, \$6 children 6-12. Takeout available: \$12. [Email](#) for more info.
- Weds 5/13 **TVCCA Community Luncheon**, 12 PM, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. Enjoy meatloaf with gravy, mashed potatoes, Caesar salad and carrot cake. \$5. Tickets need to be purchased at the Senior Center by Wednesday, May 6. 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.
- Weds 5/13 **After-school Craft: Printmaking**, 4-5 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Experiment with different types of printmaking to create your own unique piece of art. Ages 3 & up. Info: 860-742-7606.
- Sat 5/16 **Tea Party**, 10:30 AM – 12 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Are you longing for the days of your youth? Do you want to have a fancy tea with the grown-ups? Whether you're 3 or 93, all ages are welcome at the Library tea party! Come enjoy tea and delectable finger foods. Dressing up encouraged but not required, and don't forget, pinky up!
- Sat 5/16 **Rabies Clinic**, 2-4 PM, Capt. Nathan Hale Middle School, 1776 Main Street. \$20 cash per animal. Bring written proof of previous vaccination. Dogs on leashes and cats in carriers. More info [here](#).

- Sun 5/17 **Brick Schoolhouse reopens**, 1-4 PM, Merrow Road at Goose Lane. First and third Sundays of the month mid-May through early October. Free admission, donations welcome. More [info](#).
- Weds 5/20 **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](#).
- Thurs 5/21 **“The Victorian Lady” fashion presentation and ice cream social**, 7 PM, Patriots Park Lodge, 172 Lake Street. Learn about the fashion, home life and etiquette of Victorian men and women. \$15. Presented by the Coventry Historical Society. Information: 860-465-9437 or email [info@ctcoventryhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@ctcoventryhistoricalsociety.org).
- Mon 5/25 **Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast**: 7-10 AM, First Congregational Church, 1172 Main Street. Sausage, pancakes and eggs. \$5 per person or \$12 per family. Children under 5 are free. Come enjoy breakfast while waiting for the parade. All proceeds benefit the Lions Club Coventry Scholarship Program.
- Mon 5/25 **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. On Sunday, May 24, wreath-laying services will be held at 2 PM at St Mary’s Cemetery, Main St., proceeding to the New Cemetery, Center Cemetery-Rt.#44, Grant Hill Road, Silver St. and Wrights Mill Road Cemeteries, and Nathan Hale Cemetery on Lake Street.
- Tues 5/26 **LED Art in the Teen Zone**, 3 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Paint, pen or collage, your artistic creation will be lit up with an LED sticker circuit. Teen Zone [website](#).
- Weds 5/27 **TVCCA Community Luncheon**, 12 PM, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. Enjoy chicken sausage with peppers and onions, rice pilaf, garden salad and fudge brownie. \$5. Tickets need to be purchased at the Senior Center by Wednesday, May 20. 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 5/31 **Opening Day, Coventry Regional Farmers’ Market**: Every Sunday from June - October on the grounds of the Nathan Hale Homestead, 2299 South Street. [Info](#).

**CALLING ALL COVENTRY ARTISTS AND ANYONE INTERESTED IN THE ARTS!**

We are holding a [public forum](#) to begin the development of a cultural arts plan for the community with a professional consultant funded through a State of CT Dept. of Economic and Community Development Grant. Tuesday, Date: April 28, 2015, 7:00pm, Town Hall Annex, 1712 Main Street. This is the first of two public forums – the follow up forum is scheduled for May 20, 2015. Please contact Eric M. Trott at 860-742-4062 [etrott@coventryct.org](mailto:etrott@coventryct.org) or Wendy Rubin at 860-742-4068 [wrubin@coventryct.org](mailto:wrubin@coventryct.org) with questions.

**SCREEN-FREE WEEK MAY 4-10:** A series of events organized by Coventry STEPS, Coventry Parks & Recreation and Booth & Dimock Memorial Library to encourage families to turn off televisions, smartphones, tablets and gaming consoles for seven days and explore opportunities to read, play, think, create and be more physically active. Info and events [here](#).

**NEW PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS AVAILABLE:** The Coventry Early Childhood Center (CECC) has new affordable preschool programs available, including School Day (6 hours/day) Part day (2.5 hours/day) and before and after school. Financial Assistance is available to Coventry families who qualify. A family of four can earn up to \$78,000 to qualify for assistance. Please call CECC at 860-742-5859 or visit them online at [www.coventryecc.org](http://www.coventryecc.org).

**COVENTRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY WANTS TO DISPLAY STORIES AND PHOTOS OF COVENTRY LAKE!** Do you have pictures of activities, fishing, boats or boating excursions, family picnics, swimming events, ski shows or a fishing derby? The Coventry Historical Society is preparing an exhibit for display at the Strong Porter Museum on South Street. All photographs will be considered for the exhibit. To submit, provide descriptions of the activity, with dates and photographer's name if known, names of people, places and things that will help the display come alive. If you have stories to go with the pictures that would be great. You may send duplicates or the originals and CHS will make copies and return the originals to you. Mail to Coventry Historical Society, P.O. Box 534, Coventry, CT 06238. When mailing photographs please use proper mailing containers to protect the pictures. Deadline for submission is June 1, 2015. For more information, call Pat at 860-465-9437.

**COVENTRY DAFFODIL PROJECT:** Help beautify our town by planting daffodils around stone walls and yards. \$3.50 per dozen. To order, call 860-214-9567. Sponsored by the Village Improvement Society.

**To list your event in next month's bulletin, contact Laura Stone at [LStone@coventryct.org](mailto:LStone@coventryct.org) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.**