



COVENTRY COMMUNITY UPDATE:

December 2015

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

MANAGER'S MONTHLY MEMO:

Oh, the hectic holiday season! Take some time to enjoy town events and think of helping others. It is always a busy time and our residents spread the cheer and help their neighbors. Think about signing up to "ring the bell" or adopt a family for Christmas (call Human Services, 860-742-5324). Help light the tree at Town Hall on Wednesday, December 2, hear the high school band and see Santa. Walk Main Street for Christmas in the Village on Sunday December 6, including the Lions' Club Christmas Tree Auction and Polar Express train ride at Patriots Park. Watch for information on Stuff-a-Truck, a joint collection of toys between our Police & Fire Departments on December 5 in the parking lot at Highland Park Market.

On a different note, the Town's Economic Development Commission is hosting a workshop to get our town on the map. It is a free workshop to share how local businesses can get listed on Google Maps for free. Google is providing some free merchandise to attendees. The workshop will be held on December 2 at 7:30 AM in the Town Hall Annex. This workshop will be followed up later this winter with a free critique of your web page and how to get more search hits.

UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS:

- Thurs, 12/3: WPCA Meeting, 6:45 PM, DPW Conf. Room. Includes a [Public Hearing](#) on a proposed increase in annual sewer use fees.
- Mon, 12/7: Town Council Meeting: 7:30 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Thurs, 12/10: Board of Education, 7:30 PM, School Admin. Building
- Mon, 12/14: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Weds, 12/16: Inland Wetlands Agency, 7:30 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Mon, 12/21: Town Council Meeting: 7:30 PM, Town Hall Annex

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

HOLIDAYS:

11/26 & 11/27 - Thanksgiving Holiday. Town Hall, schools, Library and Senior Center closed. Library closes at 5 PM on 11/25. Trash pick-up on [holiday](#) schedule.

12/24 & 12/25 - Christmas Holiday. Town Hall, schools, Library and Senior Center closed. Library closes at 5 PM on 12/31. Trash pick-up on [holiday](#) schedule beginning 12/25.

COMING EVENTS:

- | | | |
|------|-------|--|
| Fri | 11/27 | Shop, Sip & Celebrate , 12:00 – 4 PM, Friday 11/27 & Saturday 11/28. Tour the Homestead, participate in a hearth cooking demo, shop for gifts and enjoy a snack. Website . |
| Weds | 12/2 | Workshop – "Let's Put Coventry on the Map," 7:30-9:30 AM, Town Hall Annex, 1712 Main Street. Coventry Economic Development Commission will help local businesses extend their Internet marketing strategies to other media outlets and get registered on Google for easier client searching. This will help the businesses of Coventry to grow and establish a web presence for the future. Light refreshments will be provided. RSVP to Eric Trott, 860-742-4062 or email etrott@coventryct.org . |

- Weds 12/2 **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 12/2 **Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony**, 6:30 PM, Town Hall, 1712 Main Street. Participate in the lighting of our Town Hall tree! Enjoy music, caroling, a visit from Santa, refreshments and more. More info [here](#).
- Thurs 12/3 **Cook Book Club**, 6 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Join us the first Thursday of every month at 6:00 PM for dinner and a discussion of our cookbook author of the month. Cookbooks are available for checkout at the front desk. If you like, try out a recipe and bring a sample to share with our group. This month's author: Martha Stewart.
- Thurs 12/3 **Public Hearing, proposed increase in annual sewer use fee**, 6:45 PM, Public Works Facility Conference Room, 100 Olsen Farm Road. More information [here](#).
- Fri 12/4 **Gaming Club**, 3-5 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. The Teen Zone is the place to be on Fridays for games of all kinds! Minecraft, Magic: The Gathering, board and card games, videogames, and more! Dec. 4th: Minecraft Challenge. Dec. 11th: Board games. Dec. 18th: Magic: The Gathering. Info: 860-742-7606. More teen events at the Library [event calendar](#).
- Sat 12/5 **39th Annual PTO Craft Show**, 9 AM - 3 PM, Coventry High School, 78 Ripley Hill Rd. More than 50 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 benefit the Coventry PTO organization. Info: Denise Twerdy at 860-742-6479.
- Sun 12/6 **Coventry Winter Farmers' Market**, 11 AM – 2 PM, Coventry High School cafeteria. Fresh produce, prepared foods, CT-grown products, artisans and more. [Website](#).
- Sun 12/6 **Christmas in Coventry Village**, 12-4 PM, Main Street (Rt. 31). Welcome in the holiday season throughout the historical section of Main Street as vendors, businesses, community groups offer a variety of activities, events and specials throughout the afternoon. The Lions Club will host its annual Decorated Tree Auction. Santa pays a visit with the children! Horse and wagon rides! "Polar Express" train rides! Storytime! Refreshments! Giveaways! Holiday Music! Youth Art Show! Great shopping and so much more. A schedule of events will be available at local businesses as the day nears. Visit the Christmas in Coventry Village [Facebook Page](#) for ongoing updates. For more information, please contact Cindy Houser, 860-617-3588/cjhouser@sbc.global; Barbara Barry, 860-742-7160 or Ruth O'Neil 860-742-6878 / songaday@hotmail.com. Donations are welcome and may be made c/o First Niagara Bank, PO Box 415, Coventry, CT 06238.
- Sun 12/6 **Church Fair**, 12-4 PM, First Congregational Church, 1171 Main Street. First Congregational Church of Coventry is celebrating Christmas in the Village with a Church Fair in the lower level of the church. ATTIC TREASURES, a new silent auction and tin cup raffle including autographed sports memorabilia, Lake Compounce passes, a \$100 gift card to Bob's Discount Furniture and much more, plus a HUGE raffle with prizes including Disney World tickets, a hot-air balloon ride, Kindle Fire tablet package, and other great prizes (drawing to be held at 3:30pm). GINGERBREAD HOUSE display. Browse and shop for a wide variety of antiques, crafts, gift baskets, jewelry, baked goods, Cabot cheese, books,

wreaths, and unique vendors - all for your holiday-shopping enjoyment! Coventry High School Chorus will sing Christmas carols in the sanctuary and Can-Dance Studio will dance in the social hall. Please join us in the heart of Historic Coventry Village and feel the holiday spirit! Info: 860-742-8127.

- Sun 12/6 **Christmas in the Village Sale**, 12-4 PM, Thrift & Gift Shop, 1364 Main Street (lower level next to Panda Garden). The Thrift & Gift Shop is celebrating Christmas in the Village by offering 50% off the entire store. New items put out daily. Clothing, household items, jewelry, books, toys, linens, craft items and more. All profits are turned back to the local community. Cash only. Do some holiday shopping right in the Village! Info: 860-742-8127.
- Tues 12/8 **Design your own cookie cutters**, 1:30 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Have you wanted to take some time to explore the 3D printer, but didn't know where to start? Join us for a quick overview of the machine, then delve straight into designing. Create your own cookie cutters and we will print them for you. Registration requested. 860-742-7606.
- Weds 12/9 **Spread the Cheer! 3-5 PM**, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. An annual inter-generational collaboration between Coventry Senior Center and Coventry Youth and Family Services. This is a chance for children to select gifts for their loved ones and have them wrapped. There is a need for volunteers to run the gift table, help wrap presents, serve refreshments and for set-up and clean-up. Call the Senior Center at 860-742-3525 to sign up. *Donations of gifts and wrapping supplies will be accepted at the Senior Center on Wednesday, December 2 and Thursday, December 3.*
- Weds 12/9 **After School Club**, 4 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. A new club for school age kids (K-5) that meets every other week. Join us for a different project or activity each week! Check our [Facebook page](#) or [website](#) for information for what we plan on doing each week. Dec. 9th & 23rd.
- Sat 12/12 **Pancake Breakfast with Santa**, 8 – 11 AM, Coventry High School cafeteria, 78 Ripley Hill Road. Bring your camera! Pancakes, sausage, juice, milk, hot chocolate and coffee will be served. "Take-a-Chance" table. Admission: Adults & children 10 and older \$8; Seniors \$6; Children 3-9 \$5; Children 2 and under – free. Sponsored by Coventry High School Project Graduation. Info: Jennifer Moulton, 860-742-0304.
- Sun 12/13 **Coventry Winter Farmers' Market**, 11 AM – 2 PM, Coventry High School cafeteria. Fresh produce, prepared foods, CT-grown products, artisans and more. [Website](#).
- Mon 12/14 **Library Information Session**, 11 AM, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. The Building Committee will discuss proposed plans for the expansion at Booth and Dimock Library. Come ask questions and hear more about the plans. Call 860-742-3525 to sign up.
- Tues 12/15 **Coloring, Coffee and Conversation**, 11 AM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Coloring has been found to reduce stress, foster a sense of well-being and helps you relax. Stop by the Library for a cup of coffee, some good conversation and morning spent coloring. Get started now, with this Starred Mandala. December 15 – February 23. Info: 860-742-7606.
- Weds 12/16 **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 12/17 **Lego® Club**, 2-3 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. We provide the bricks -- you provide your imagination. Each monthly meeting will now include a challenge! Info: 860-742-76-6. (*LEGO® is a trademark of the LEGO Group, which does not sponsor, authorize or endorse this program.*)
- Sun 12/20 **Coventry Winter Farmers' Market**, 11 AM – 2 PM, Coventry High School cafeteria. Fresh produce, prepared foods, CT-grown products, artisans and more. [Website](#).
- Mon 12/21 **Holiday Party & Caroling Extravaganza**, 11:30 AM, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. Join us for a spectacular holiday meal. Then stay tuned at 12 p.m. when we will be joined by special guests, the **Connecticut Yuletide Carolers**. They will fill the air with festive songs and even teach us a little history of these familiar tunes. In order to make sure we have enough food and seats for everyone please call 860-742-3525 or stop at the front desk to pick up your free “ticket” to this event.
- Sun 12/28 **Coventry Winter Farmers' Market**, 11 AM – 2 PM, Coventry High School cafeteria. Fresh produce, prepared foods, CT-grown products, artisans and more. [Website](#).

SERVE YOUR TOWN ON A BOARD OR COMMISSION: Current vacancies: Conservation Commission, Coventry Vision Committee, Ad-Hoc Farmers' Market Operating Committee and more. See the [Town website](#) for more information and to download a Statement of Interest form.

LETTERS TO SANTA: Kids, let Santa know just how good you have been this year! From November 10th to December 8th, we will be accepting letters to Santa for delivery just in time for the “big day.” Drop boxes will be located in the Town Hall and Booth & Dimock Library and at the Town Hall tree lighting ceremony on December 2nd. You may also mail your letter to: Santa Claus, c/o Coventry Recreation, 1712 Main Street, Coventry, CT 06238. Be sure to include your name and return address if you want Santa to write you back!

HOLIDAY DONATIONS: As we begin to plan for the upcoming holiday season, please take a moment to consider how your family or business can make a difference by adopting a family or senior in need this holiday season. If you would like to hear more about the many opportunities available, please contact Coventry Human Services at 860-742-5324. **The Holiday Committee and the Human Services Office** welcomes turkeys, chickens, hams, stuffing and other holiday food, packaged or fresh for the holiday baskets. The December holiday distribution date is Friday, December 18th. Please call in advance if you plan on dropping off a frozen item to ensure room in our freezers.

CLERGY FUEL FUND: The *Clergy Fuel Fund* has begun the gift of caring for the 2015-2016 winter season. The fund assists Coventry residents in need of emergency heating assistance and 100% of the dollars raised remains in town. Our goal is to help our clients utilize all other resources available that provides emergency heating assistance in order to ensure that *our* funds are available during the coldest winter months. For more information, contact Coventry Human Services at 860-742-5324.

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING: Attention all past and present bell ringers, Coventry Human Services is coordinating the annual “Red Kettle” fundraising activities at local Coventry businesses. For more information on the kettle locations, schedules and availability, please contact the office at 860-742-5324. Please join us beginning Friday, December 4 through Thursday, December 24. The proceeds from the fundraiser directly support our programs and 90% of all proceeds return to the community.

ENERGY PROGRAM: The Coventry Human Services office is accepting energy applications for winter heating on Tuesdays and Thursdays by appointment only. Please call 860-742-5324 for more information about the Access Fuel Assistance Program and income guidelines.

3rd ANNUAL PROMAGANZA! Coventry Human Services is now accepting donations of prom dresses, shoes, accessories and services (hair, nails, alterations, etc.) to help offset the cost of attending prom for Coventry High School students. Items can be dropped off at Coventry Human Services during office hours, 1712 Main Street. For more information call 860-742-5324.

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