



COVENTRY COMMUNITY UPDATE:

May 2016

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

MANAGER'S MONTHLY MEMO:

It's ok to love May. Youth sports are in play, gone is the winter gray. You have things to do today. Well, poetry is not really my thing, but it gets tough to write these introductions every month. So here is a list of things to mark on your calendar and add to your list of why you love Coventry. It is not too late to get your "Love Coventry" [window decal](#) by writing to lovecoventry@coventryct.org to tell your story.

I'll share my story. I love the Memorial Day Parade. I'm not a veteran and don't come from a military family, but walking in the parade is such a part of the American experience. Seeing families along the roads, kids waving flags, bands playing ... it just makes me proud to be part of the community and country. Don't miss it.

Also don't forget to exercise your right to vote on the annual Town budget on Tuesday, May 3rd at both main fire house buildings from 6 AM to 8 PM. Budget information is available on the Town [webpage](#) and a new feature called [OpenGov](#) is available to let you look at spending over time in the Town side of government. The checkbook is open for your viewing and analysis.

A couple of important issues to watch: Lots of construction is underway. Sign up for road closure alerts on the [Notify Me](#) section of the website. We await more information from CT DEEP on [Hydrilla](#) treatment in the lake, but in the meantime please be very careful about cleaning your boats before and after use in our lake. If you are cleaning up washed-up invasive plants, dispose by drying them out and bagging for disposal in the trash. DO NOT place in a mulch pile or bring to the Transfer Station. They need to be burned at the trash to energy plant or seeds will spread.

Finally, the Town has sent [letters](#) to over 1500 residents whose houses were constructed between 1983 and 2003. This is a period which some houses are showing signs of rapid concrete foundation failures. We have asked State officials to inform citizens on the progress of a multi-state agency task force and a [meeting](#) is set to give an update to residents of Coventry, Mansfield, Willington and Tolland on Wednesday, May 11th at 6:30 PM at E.O. Smith High School auditorium, 1235 Storrs Road, Mansfield. A question-and-answer session will follow the presentation.

So, enjoy all that May brings to you.

UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS:

- Mon, 5/2: Town Council Meeting: 7:30 PM, Town Hall Annex. **Stream Council meetings live over the Internet! Tune in [here](#).**
- Tues, 5/3: [Budget Referendum](#), Polls open 6 AM – 8 PM.
- Thurs, 5/5: WPCA Meeting, 6:45 PM, DPW Conf. Room.
- Mon, 5/9: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 PM, Town Hall Conf. Room B
- Thurs, 5/12: Board of Education, 7:30 PM, School Admin. Building
- Mon, 5/16: Town Council Meeting: 7:00 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Mon, 5/23: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 PM, Town Hall Conf. Room B
- Weds, 5/25: Inland Wetlands Agency, 7:30 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Thurs, 5/26: Board of Education, 7:30 PM, School Admin. Building

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

HOLIDAYS:

Monday, 5/30: Memorial Day. Town offices, schools and Senior Center closed. Trash collection on [holiday](#) schedule.

COMING EVENTS:

- Tues 5/3 **AARP Driver Safety Classroom Course**, 9 AM – 1 PM, Coventry Senior Center, 175 Lake Street. \$15 for AARP members/\$20 for non-members. Participants may be eligible for an auto insurance discount for taking this course. Register by calling 860-742-3525 by 4/29.
- Tues 5/3 **Duct Tape Feathers**, 3:00 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Make feathers out of duct tape to be used in book marks or necklaces. Don't want to make a feather? Make your own duct tape accessory! Presented by the [Teen Zone](#).
- Weds 5/4 **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 5/4 **Geocaching**, 1:00 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Geocaching is a great way to get outside and discover something fun in the process! We'll cover the basics of geocaching, helpful apps to use, and great geocaching sites in the area! Info: 860-742-7606.
- Weds 5/4 **Public Hearing, Proposed Rate Increases for Patriots Park and Lisicke Beach**, 6:30 PM, Town Hall Conference Room B. The Coventry Parks & Recreation Commission is holding a public hearing to seek input from the public regarding proposed rate increases. For detailed information, click [here](#).
- Thurs 5/5 **Cookbook Club**, 6:30PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Join us for dinner and a discussion of our cookbook author of the month, Carla Hall, or bring your favorite recipe. If you like, try out a recipe and bring a sample to share with our group. Info: 860-742-7606.
- Sat 5/7 **Town-wide Tag Sale**, 8 AM – 4 PM. Join the fun visit all of the local tag sales in our 5th annual event! More info [here](#).
- Sat 5/8 **Mothers' Day Tea – Downton Abbey Style**, 2-4 PM, Nathan Hale Homestead, 2299 South Street. High tea with 4-course servings & choice of teas served by butler and scullery maid. \$25/person, \$20/CTL members. Info: 860-742-6917.
- Tues 5/10 **Teen Maker Club: Raspberry Pi**, 3 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Let's take a Raspberry Pi and turn it into a music streaming device! Teen Zone [website](#).
- Tue 5/10 **Mindfulness for the Stressed and Depressed**, 6:30 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. If you are interested in learning a tool for better living, join Stephen Cuddy when he introduces mindfulness to those having difficulty managing stress or who are depressed or anxious. Mindfulness can be defined as the quality or state of being conscious or aware of something or as a mental state achieved by focusing awareness on the present moment while calmly accepting feelings, thoughts and bodily sensations. Mr. Cuddy holds several certifications from the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). More [info](#).
- Weds 5/11 **TVCCA Bistro Lunch**, 12 PM, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. Chicken Marsala, mashed potatoes, peas and carrot cake. The meal is \$5 and must be ordered by Wednesday, May 4 through the Senior Center Office. Call 860-742-3525 to sign up.

- Weds 5/11 **Update: Crumbling Concrete Foundations**, 6:30 PM, E.O. Smith High School Auditorium, 1235 Storrs Road, Mansfield. Some houses constructed in Eastern Connecticut between 1983-2003 are experiencing rapid deterioration and spider cracking in their concrete foundations which can make the homes unsafe. The State is conducting a study to try to determine causes and the possible number of homes involved. A meeting has been scheduled. Expected presenters include officials from the CT Department of Consumer Protection, insurance carriers and Lt. Governor Wyman. For additional information on this issue, please visit the Department of Consumer Protection's website at <http://www.ct.gov/DCP/concrete> or call 860-713-6100.
- Fri 5/13 **Sensory Playgroup**, 10:30 AM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. A multi-sensory playgroup that encourages participation from both caregiver and child. Ages 6 months—5 years. *Some activities may get messy so please dress accordingly.* Library Kids [website](#).
- Fri 5/13 **Father-Daughter Dance – The Remix**, 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 fun! This year's festivities will include professional DJ services providing the music for dancing, refreshments for sale, 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](#).
- Sat 5/14 **"King's Feast" Community Supper**, 4:30 – 6:30 PM, First Congregational Church, 1171 Main Street. \$12 adults, \$10 seniors, \$6 children ages 6-12. Free for children 6 and under. Takeout available for \$12. Info: 860-742-8487.
- Sun 5/15 **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](#).
- Tues 5/17 **Salt Dough Beads**, 3:00PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. This make-at-home alternative to clay can still create some beautiful beads or other sculptures. Make the dough and sculpt at the library. Take home to bake and decorate. Presented by the [Teen Zone](#).
- Tues 5/17 **Happy Un-Birthday**, 4:00 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Do you know when your Un-Birthday is!? It's every day of the year that isn't your actual birthday! Come celebrate everyone's un-birthday with snacks, games, and fun activities at this Un-Birthday Party. Presented by the [Children's Room](#).
- Weds 5/18 **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 5/18 **Wednesday Night Book Club**, 7 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Held in the front parlor, this month's selection is *How It All Began* by Penelope Lively. Info: 860-742-7606.
- Thurs 5/19 **Board to Death**, 6PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Are you looking for a group to game with? A chance to try out new and different games? Then join or table top gaming group with games like Ticket to Ride, Settlers of Catan, Munchkin, Pandemic and more. Info: 860-742-7606.
- Thurs 5/19 **Book Page Flowers**, 6:30 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Create a beautiful bouquet out of paper and old books. Registration requested by calling 860-742-7606.

- Thurs 5/19 **Mystery Book Club**, 7PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Held in the front parlor, this month's selection is *The Marseille Caper* by Peter Mayle. Info: 860-742-7606.
- Sat 5/21 **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](#).
- Sat 5/22 **Car Wash for Camp Scholarships**, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM, First Congregational Church parking lot, 1171 Main Street. Let the Youth Group make your car sparkle! Free will donation raises money for camp scholarships.
- Mon 5/23 **Memorial Day Luncheon**, 12 PM, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. Featuring all the grilling favorites. FREE. Sign up by calling 860-742-3525. Rain date 5/27.
- Tues 5/24 **Comics Club**, 4PM-5PM. Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. A book club for comic and graphic novel lovers. Read the book beforehand and come ready to discuss it and do an activity. For grades 2-5. April's book selection is *Zita the Space Girl* by Ben Hatke. Copies are available at the [Children's Room](#) desk.
- Weds 5/25 **TVCCA Bistro Lunch**, 12 PM, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. Spinach, bacon and cheese quiche, garden salad, potato salad and apple pie. The meal is \$5 and must be ordered by Wednesday, May 18 through the Senior Center Office. Call 860-742-3525 to sign up.
- Weds 5/25 **Smartphone Photography**, 1:00PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Do you use your smartphone to take pictures? Would you like to learn to take pictures? We'll discuss useful camera apps, phone settings, and photo storage options. Info: 860-742-7606.
- Mon 5/30 **Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast**: 7-10 AM, First Congregational Church, 1171 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 5/30 **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 29, 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.

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.

CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS SOUGHT: Camp Wangumbaug (formerly known as Coventry Recreation Summer Day Camp) is celebrating 36 years of providing fun-filled recreational experiences for Coventry children. Coventry Youth Services continues to work with Coventry Parks and Recreation to raise funds to provide financial assistance to children who otherwise could not afford to attend summer camp. As in past years, the camp is divided into eight one-week sessions. The cost for each session will be \$120.00 per child (which includes the t-shirt fee, but does not include the trip fee of \$25.00). Sessions are as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| June 20 – June 24 | Through the Decades Week/Science Center of CT |
| June 27 - July 1 | Into the Wild Week/Roger Williams Park Zoo |
| July 4 - July 8 | America the Beautiful Week/NO TRIP: Hawaiian Luau |

July 11 - July 15	Fantastic Fantasy Week/Quassy Amusement Park
July 18- July 22	All the World's a Stage Week/Cinemark Movie Theater
July 25 – July 29	Fun & Games Week/Callahan's Bowl-O-Rama
Aug 1- Aug 5	Set Sail Week/Mystic Aquarium
Aug 8- Aug 12	At the Circus Week/NO TRIP: Camp Carnival

Last year \$2200.00 provided 18 children with partial or full scholarships. Past contributions have allowed many Coventry children to enjoy their summer in a fun, safe, and supervised environment. We appreciate any amount you are able to contribute toward supporting this program. Checks should be made payable to **THE TOWN OF COVENTRY** and mailed to Coventry Youth Services, 1712 Main Street, Coventry, CT 06238.

INTRODUCING THE TWIN PROGRAM: Do you need a TWIN, someone you can Trust While In Need? The Coventry Senior Center is helping to form partnerships between seniors in Coventry. What does a TWIN do? Some of the tasks could be friendly phone calls, safety checks, social visits (in home, out to lunch, shopping, outings, etc.) A TWIN is a mutually beneficial relationship, whether you are living alone and want more socialization or if you are already very active and want to keep busy! Call the Senior Center at 860-742-3525 to get an application.

WANT TO CHANGE YOUR TIPPER BARREL SIZE? In response to citizens' requests, we are offering another opportunity to exchange your tipper barrels for a different size at the reduced fee of \$25. If you would like to swap, contact the Tax Office at (860) 742-4066 for various options and rates. They will help you with the next step. **The swap order must be requested and paid for by May 18, 2016 in order to receive this reduced price.** The swap will occur the last two weeks of June in conjunction with the billing cycle for the new fiscal year. Consider upsizing your recycling barrel. There is no increase in your annual bill for a larger recycling barrel. Citizens are reminded that the tipper barrels are owned by All American Waste, the Town's contracted hauler, and must remain with the property to which it has been assigned. Each barrel is identified with a serial number for a specific property address. If you sell your house and/or move, *please do not take the barrels with you.* Your annual payment (\$170-\$250) pays for the disposal/recycle service only.

COMMUNITY GARDENS AT CREASER PARK: Plots now available for \$15. Information and online purchases [here](#).

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