



## COVENTRY COMMUNITY UPDATE:

**September 2016**

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

### MANAGER'S MONTHLY MEMO:

What a hot and busy summer! We appreciate the patience you have had as every turn seemed to reveal more road work. We are on the home stretch with some asphalt shimming and chip seal still planned over the next several weeks, followed by more crack sealing and line striping. The road bond has been completed and a presentation will be made at a September Town Council meeting on the results. Details will be provided in the fall Town newsletter, too.

Other major projects are out to bid, including the \$1.4 million grant project for Lake and Cross Street improvements which should start this fall with some off-road winter work, but most road work will likely be in spring. The grant-funded late gate project is out to bid with a planned October 1 start date. Watch for information about an early lake level lowering as that date nears. We are also finally out to bid on the completion of the grant-funded sidewalk on Main Street from the middle school to Ripley Hill Road.

With all the mention of these grant projects, you might wonder how much grant funding the Town has been successful in obtaining to enhance our infrastructure while minimizing tax burdens on our residents. This and other useful information is at your fingertips through our OpenGov financial platform, which brings transparency into the Town's portion of the budget. Click this [link](#) to see an overview of grant funding for the past several years. There are many useful pre-created reports in OpenGov that provide a snapshot of frequently-requested information, and you can take a tutorial at this [link](#) to learn how to create your own reports in areas of interest.

In other construction news, the CNG gas pipeline project is also impacting roads. They are concentrating on work in the school area to complete prior to school opening. They still await permits for work on Rt. 44 from Lewis Hill Road to Mansfield Depot, which will likely be in September and October. The Energy & Building Efficiency Building Committee is out to bid on boiler replacement (or conversion) for the high school and middle school. Once the gas is actually flowing work will begin to replace the oil-burning equipment.

Meanwhile, a soccer field was added at Laidlaw Park with the first irrigation system on a Town field, and parking improvements were also made. The first phase of the new playscape has been installed. Some more fencing work is scheduled for September for Miller Richardson baseball field. The deck at the Senior Center was replaced and the State-funded Main Street project continues with the Town grant-funded portion, including sidewalks to the Library, a new gazebo in Mill Brook Park and renovations to the Tracy Shoddy Mill almost completed.

While it has been a busy summer getting things built we didn't avoid policy matters. We also continue to work on important issues such as [crumbling concrete foundations](#), opioid drug misuse, senior property tax relief options and association road issues.

We also can take pride in our town. CHS successfully completed its accreditation (details available [here](#)), Coventry Police Department received the CALEA reaccreditation Gold Standard with Excellence, and the Town was named the number one solar-friendly community in the State. The [Coventry Farmers' Market](#) is having a good year.

Don't forget you can participate in Solarize Coventry and get pre-negotiated solar installation rates for your home. Learn more by attending the September 21<sup>st</sup> presentation at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall Annex. For details about the Solarize Coventry program click [here](#).

#### **HOLIDAYS:**

Monday, 9/5: Labor Day. Town offices closed. Trash pickup delayed by one day for the remainder of the week.

#### **UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS:**

- **Tues**, 9/6: Town Council Meeting: 7:00 PM, Town Hall Annex
- **Thurs**, 9/8: WPCA Meeting, 6:45 PM, DPW Conf. Room
- **Thurs**, 9/8: Board of Education, 7:30 PM, School Admin. Building
- **Mon**, 9/12: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 PM, Town Hall Annex
- **Mon**, 9/19: Town Council Meeting: 7:00 PM, Town Hall Annex
- **Mon**, 9/26: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 PM, Town Hall Annex
- **Weds**, 9/28: Inland Wetlands Agency, 7:30 PM, Town Hall Annex
- **Thurs**, 9/29: Board of Education, 7:30 PM, School Admin. Building

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

#### **COMING EVENTS:**

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|-------|------|---|
| Weds  | 8/30 | <b>Workshop: Solarize Coventry</b> , 7:00 PM, Town Hall Annex. Have you thought about going solar for your home? Find out more about the second round of this popular program at an informative workshop. More <a href="#">info</a> .   |
| Thurs | 9/1  | <b>Back-to-School Party</b> , 3:00 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Teens: go back to school in style! Cover and decorate textbooks, design bookmarks, create personalized buttons and backpack decorations! Snacks provided. For grades 6-12. Library <a href="#">event calendar</a> .   |
| Sun   | 9/4  | <b>Coventry Farmers' Market at Hale Homestead</b> , 11 AM – 2 PM, 2299 South Street. 65 full-time and 10 guest vendors. Live music, demonstrations. <b>Theme: Dog Days</b> . More <a href="#">info</a> on Facebook. <a href="#">Website</a> .   |
| Tues  | 9/6  | <b>Eat Dessert First</b> , 1 PM, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. A celebration of Coffee Ice Cream Day, with other offerings as well. Free. Register by calling 860-742-3525 by Sept. 2.   |
| Tues  | 9/6  | <b>Bad Art Night</b> , 6:30 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Adults. Work without inhibitions and create for creativity's sake. There is no right or wrong. Canvases, paint and other supplies will be provided. Awards will be given in categories such as "Crowd Favorite," "Most Glitter" and more. Feel free to bring some snacks along with your friends! Library <a href="#">event calendar</a> . |
| Weds  | 9/7  | <b>Mobile Foodshare</b> , 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 <a href="#">info</a> .  |
| Thurs | 9/8  | <b>Cookbook Club</b> , 6:00 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Adults: new members are always welcome for culinary camaraderie at our Cookbook Club. This year we will meet the second Tuesday of the month. Make a recipe and join us for dinner and conversation. This month: any farm-to-table recipe. Library <a href="#">event calendar</a> .  |
| Fri   | 9/9  | <b>Messy Munchkins</b> , 10:30 AM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. A multi-sensory playgroup that encourages participation from both caregiver and child. *Some activities may get messy so please dress accordingly.* Ages 4 & under. Library <a href="#">event calendar</a> .  |

- Fri 9/9 **Afterschool Magic**, 3 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Teens: do you love *Magic: The Gathering*? Have you ever wanted to learn how to play? Bring your deck or use one of ours! [Website](#).
- Sat 9/10 **First Annual Arts in the Park Festival**, 10 AM – 4 PM, Patriots Park, 124 Lake Street. A day of art and music. All day long performances, art exhibitions, children’s activities, vendors, food trucks and hands-on activities. Sponsored by the Coventry Arts Guild. [Info](#).
- Sat 9/10 **CT Landmarks presents Cocktails at the Homestead**, 5:30 – 8:30 PM, Nathan Hale Homestead, 2299 South Street. Tickets \$75. Call 860-247-8996 ext. 23 for reservations. Purchase tickets online and get more info [here](#).
- Sun 9/11 **Coventry Farmers’ Market at Hale Homestead**, 11 AM – 2 PM, 2299 South Street. 65 full-time and 10 guest vendors. Live music, demonstrations. Reps from [Solarize Coventry](#) will be present with information about the program. **Market Theme: Homesteading Skills**. More [info](#) on Facebook. [Website](#).
- Weds 9/14 **Pizza Party**, 12 PM, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. Free. Register by calling 860-0742-3525 by Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Weds 9/14 **Mandala Stones**, 1:00 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Adults. Representing wholeness and the connection between inner worlds and outer reality, mandalas have become quite popular. At this workshop we will design mandalas and paint some of our simpler designs onto stones. Library [event calendar](#).
- Thurs 9/15 **Homeschool group**, 10:15 AM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. A monthly homeschool meeting where we will collaborate, learn, experiment, and create! Each month we will be working on a different topic or skill. All homeschoolers ages 7-17 are invited to attend. Library [event calendar](#).
- Thurs 9/15 **Anime**, 6:00 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Calling all otaku! Check out the newest in anime and catch up on some cult classics. Themed snacks provided. For grades 6-12. Library [event calendar](#).
- Fri 9/16  
& Sat 9/17 **Haunted Corn Maze**: 7:00 – 9:00 PM, Nathan Hale Homestead, 2299 South Street. A moderately scary walk through the corn maze brimming with spooks in the dark. Created by Young Friends of Hale, this annual event features a different maze every year. Last tour leaves at 8:30 pm. Not recommended for small children. \$10 per person or \$30 per family. Sunday, Sept. 27 rain date. The Corn Maze minus the ghosts & ghouls will be available for tours mid Aug to Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> during regular Homestead hours. Hale Homestead [event calendar](#).
- Sun 9/18 **Book Signing; Alex Bugaeff**: 11 AM – 4PM. Author of *Pilgrims to Patriots*, *A Grandfather Tells the Story*, & *American Amazons: Colonial Women Who Changed History*, Bugaeff will be on site with books available for sale & signing during the Coventry Farmers’ Market at the Hale Homestead. Hale Homestead [event calendar](#).
- Sun 9/18 **Coventry Farmers’ Market at Hale Homestead**, 11 AM – 2 PM, 2299 South Street. 65 full-time and 10 guest vendors. Live music, demonstrations. **Theme: Apples, Apples, Apples!** More [info](#) on Facebook. [Website](#).
- Tues 9/20 **Understanding your Medicare Benefits**, 11 AM – 1 PM, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. A presentation by Laura Crews from Senior Resources Agency on Aging. For anyone turning 65 in the near future, learn about signing up for Medicare, penalties to watch for and find out if you qualify for a money-saving program. Free. Register by calling 860-742-3525 by Sept. 16.

- Tues 9/20 **iPad Info**, 6:00 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Adults: does your child have an iPad for school? Learn about e-books for iPads and how to use them, plus more great iPad tips. Library [event calendar](#).
- Tues 9/20 **Annual State of the Lake Forum**, 7 PM, Patriots Park Lodge, 172 Lake Street. The Town of Coventry and Coventry Lake Advisory & Monitoring Committee are sponsoring this annual forum where residents can hear about the health of the lake, learn about the hydrilla treatment and be updated on the lake gate outlet project. Click [here](#) for an event flyer. For more information email [coventrylakeadvisor@coventryCT.org](mailto:coventrylakeadvisor@coventryCT.org).
- Weds 9/21 **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 9/21 **Workshop: Solarize Coventry**, 7:00 PM, Town Hall Annex. Have you thought about going solar for your home? Find out more about the second round of this popular program at an informative workshop. More [info](#).
- Thurs 9/22 **Board to Death**, 6PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Tabletop gaming fun for adults. Bring your friends. [Website](#).
- Fri 9/23  
& Sat 9/24 **Haunted Corn Maze**: 7:00 – 9:00 PM, Nathan Hale Homestead, 2299 South Street. A moderately scary walk through the corn maze brimming with spooks in the dark. Created by Young Friends of Hale, this annual event features a different maze every year. Last tour leaves at 8:30 pm. Not recommended for small children. \$10 per person or \$30 per family. Sunday, Sept. 27 rain date. The Corn Maze minus the ghosts & ghouls will be available for tours mid Aug to Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> during regular Homestead hours. Hale Homestead [event calendar](#).
- Sun 9/25 **Coventry Farmers' Market at Hale Homestead**, 11 AM – 2 PM, 2299 South Street. 65 full-time and 10 guest vendors. Live music, demonstrations. **Theme: Fiber Fest**. More [info](#) on Facebook. [Website](#).
- Tues 9/27 **Fairy Party**, 4:00 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Grab your fairy dust and wings and join us as we enter a magical fairy world. We will be celebrating some favorite fairy books as well as doing some fairy crafts and activities. All ages. Library [event calendar](#).
- Tues 9/27 **Bullet Journals**, 6:30 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Adults. Bullet Journaling is a new way to get your life organized while also taking time to appreciate each day. Learn how to bullet journal and how you can incorporate it into your daily life. Library [event calendar](#).
- Weds 9/28 **ASK: After School Kids**, 4:00 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. Library [event calendar](#).
- Weds 9/28 **Healthy Me: School Lunches**, 6:30 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Join Julie Peterson with ProHealth for an informative workshop on packing healthy and delicious school lunches. Tips for adults packing their own lunches will be included as well. Library [event calendar](#).
- Thurs 9/29 **Banned Book Week Movie Night**, 5:00 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Adults. Celebrate the *Freedom to Read* with a movie based on a classic challenged book. Drop by the Library (bring your dinner if you want) to watch *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Share your thoughts on

why your favorite banned book made an impact on your life. Library [event calendar](#).

**NEWS FROM THE COVENTRY FARMERS' MARKET AT HALE:** CFM is excited to be a part of *American Farmland Trust's Farmers Market Celebration*. They are accepting recommendations for the best farmers' markets in America and we are on the list!

Visit <http://markets.farmland.org>, search for us by zip code, and recommend your hometown market as one of the best in the country! The contest ends at midnight on September 21, so endorse your local farmers' market today as "best in class" and show you care about keeping local farmers and farmland healthy and prosperous.

We are also thrilled to have been chosen by the State of CT Department of Agriculture to kick off its *Farm to Chef Week* at our September 18 market, which is also the market's apple themed day. We'll have a strong set of culinary chef demos from some of our region's top chefs using local products, including many from our very own vendors.

**COVENTRY VISITORS' CENTER:** Have you ever been to our Coventry Visitors' Center? If not, you are missing a very interesting display of Coventry's Mill History and *much more*. Travel guides, maps, and brochures of local and regional interest are provided for visitors. Interesting items of local interest, as well as gifts and books are available for sale. The Center is located at 1195 Main Street, across the street from the old Bidwell Hotel. The Center is staffed by volunteers of the Village Improvement Society, and is open *most* Saturdays and Sundays from 10 AM to 2 PM from April to mid-October. You may contact the Center by phone at 860-742-1085 during these hours. We hope to see you there!

**COVENTRY'S DAFFODIL BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT:** Who could have predicted that a Cadette Girl Scout Silver Award project would eventually blossom into the Village Improvement Society's town wide Daffodil Beautification Project? In 1990, troop co-leaders Bobbie Namm and Pat Pelkey helped the Scouts plant 325 daffodil bulbs at the Nathan Hale Homestead and 200 saplings in the Nathan Hale Forest. This effort not only helped earn troop members their Silver Award, but also First Prize, Junior Division, in the Northeastern Connecticut Visitor's District "Pride of the Quiet Corner" Contest. When the troop later disbanded as the girls entered high school, younger troops were enlisted to continue planting bulbs around historic buildings and stone walls. The project, however, was lacking an official sponsor.

In 1993, the newly formed Village Improvement Society was looking for a long-term project that would encompass the entire town. Planting daffodils seemed to be a perfect match, and the Daffodil Beautification Project officially began. Each year since then, large quantities of bulbs have been ordered. (4000 to as many as 50,000 a year) The original goal of planting 200,000 daffodils in Coventry by the year 2000 was reached. This accomplishment was celebrated with a Daffodil Festival at Patriots Park.

Of the 350,000 daffodils planted since the project began, VIS members and friends have donated and planted approximately 100,000 in public places around Coventry. Since this is a service project and not a fund raiser, purchases are limited to residents who plan to plant purchased bulbs in Coventry. Bulbs may be ordered now at \$3.50 per dozen, for October delivery. They are available in three varieties: Dutch Master (all yellow); Scarlett O'Hara (deep yellow with orange centers); and a mixture drawn from 2500 varieties. To order bulbs, call Judy at 860-214-9567.

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