



COVENTRY COMMUNITY UPDATE:

March 2017

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

MANAGER'S MONTHLY MEMO:

March is the formal start of the Town Council's budget review. The Public Hearing is scheduled for Thursday, March 9th at 7:00 PM in the lecture hall at Coventry High School. This year the budget is not really impacted by increased spending but by changes in State financing. The State proposed budget adds teachers' retirement expenses of \$1,338,950, cuts excess special education funds by \$778,000 which increases the Board of Education's budget, eliminates taxation on personal property under \$10,000 in value (\$40,000), and reduces the Education Cost Sharing grant. It also caps motor vehicle taxes at 32 mils, shifting taxation to houses and eliminates the property tax credit on income taxes for lower wage earners.

Plus we need to make up for cuts last year, made by the State after our budget was adopted and another round of mid-year cuts. We have estimated the State budget changes if adopted will require over a 4.2 mil increase due to \$3,798,100 in lost revenue and new charges.

This is nothing short of a shift of State responsibilities onto local property taxes. The recent education ruling (under appeal) held that the State's responsibility to provide for education of students is not delegable by the State under its constitution, so how does this shift to towns pass that test?

So, what can you do? Please share your opinion with State policy leaders. Call or email:

1. Senate Leadership:
 - a. Democratic leadership at 860-240-8600. Email Looney@senatedemsct.gov.
 - b. Republican leadership at 860-240-8800. Email Len.Fasano@cga.ct.gov
2. House Leadership:
 - a. Joe.Aresimowicz@cga.ct.gov
 - b. themis.klarides@housegop.ct.gov
3. Appropriations Committee:
 - a. Osten@senatedems.ct.gov
 - b. Paul.Formica@cga.ct.gov
 - c. Toni.Walker@cga.ct.gov
4. Finance Committee:
 - a. Fonfara@senatedems.ct.gov
 - b. Scott.Frantz@cga.ct.gov

Send copies to your State elected officials:

1. Sen. Anthony Guglielmo: Anthony.Guglielmo@cga.ct.gov
2. Rep. Tim Ackert: Tim.Ackert@housegop.ct.gov

You are all welcome to attend our budget hearing but your voice at the State level is more important than ever.

Projects Update: The late gate project is in the final stages and we still are on track for starting to raise the lake April 1st, which is the traditional time. We have finally received approval to put

the Lake and Cross Street project out to bid with construction anticipated to start in early June and completed this summer. The State Main Street project will be starting in full swing as soon as asphalt plants open which is typically early April, but off-road work is already underway. Please support your local businesses during construction.

UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS:

- Thurs, 3/2: Public Hearing, Community Block Grant Development Program, 6:30 PM, Town Hall Conference Room B.
- 3/6: Town Council Meeting: 7:30 PM, Town Hall Annex.
- Thurs, 3/9: WPCA Meeting, 6:00 PM, DPW Conf. Room
- **Thurs, 3/9: Town Manager's Budget Hearing: 7:00 PM, CHS Lecture Hall, 78 Ripley Hill Road**
- Thurs, 3/9: Board of Education, 7:30 PM, School Admin. Building
- Mon, 3/13: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 PM, Town Hall Conference Room B
- Mon, 3/13: Town Council Special Budget Meeting: 7:00 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Mon, 3/20: Town Council Meeting: 7:30 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Weds, 3/22: Inland Wetlands Agency, 7:00 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Mon, 3/27: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 PM, Town Hall Conf. B
- Mon, 3/27: Town Council Special Budget Meeting: 7:00 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Thurs, 3/30: 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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| Thurs | 3/2 | Trivia Nights , 7 PM, Booth & Dimock Library, 1134 Main St. Library event calendar . |
| Fri | 3/3 | Quiet Corner Contra Dance , Patriots Park Lodge, 172 Lake St. Lesson 7:30 PM, dancing 8-11 PM. Live band & caller. Partner not necessary. Wear soft-soled shoes. Adults \$10, students \$5, families \$20. Info: 484-844-5203. |
| Sun | 3/5 | Coventry Winter Farmers' Market , 11 AM – 2 PM, Coventry High School cafeteria. Fresh produce, prepared foods, CT-grown products, artisans and more. Website . |
| Tues | 3/7 | Teen Tech Week , 3 PM, Booth & Dimock Library, 1134 Main St. During Teen Tech Week, get hands-on experience with a build challenge and some of our latest digital projects! Today's topic: DIY Smartphone projector. Library event calendar . |
| Weds | 3/8 | 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 | 3/8 | Wednesday Crafternoons , 1 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main St. D.I.Y. Oatmeal soap. Library event calendar . |
| Weds | 3/8 | Teen Tech Week , 3 PM, Booth & Dimock Library, 1134 Main St. During Teen Tech Week, get hands-on experience with a build challenge and some of our latest digital projects! Today's topic: Raspberry Pi demo. Library event calendar . |
| Thurs | 3/9 | Teen Tech Week , 3 PM, Booth & Dimock Library, 1134 Main St. During Teen Tech Week, get hands-on experience with a build challenge and some of our latest digital projects! Today's topic: Intro to Scratch. Library event calendar . |

- Thurs 3/9 **Town Manager's Budget Hearing**, 7 PM, CHS Lecture Hall, 78 Ripley Hill Road. Presentations by the Town Manager and Board of Education on their proposed budgets for FY 2017/18. Citizens are encouraged to attend and ask questions or share concerns. Info: 860-742-6324.
- Fri 3/10 **No School Day Movie**, 2 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main St. Watch *The Jungle Book (2016)* on the library big screen! *Some snacks provided* (kid's room). [Library event calendar](#)
- Sun 3/12 **Coventry Winter Farmers' Market**, 11 AM – 2 PM, Coventry High School cafeteria. Fresh produce, prepared foods, CT-grown products, artisans and more. [Website](#).
- Tues 3/14 **Tech Topics — Microsoft Office Alternatives**, 6:30 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main St. Learn how to use computers, popular computer programs, and mobile devices. Tech Classes are held **Tuesdays at 6:30pm** and then the same class is offered **Wednesdays at 12:30pm**. If you have a laptop, tablet or smartphone, feel free to bring them. [Library event calendar](#).
- Thurs 3/16 **Soup in a Jar**, 6:30 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main St. Back by popular demand, this time we will be making Friendship Soup and going home with a mason jar full of ingredients to make at home. We will also have some premade soup to sample at the event. Registration requested. Space is limited. [Library event calendar](#)
- Sun 3/19 **Coventry Winter Farmers' Market**, 11 AM – 2 PM, Coventry High School cafeteria. Fresh produce, prepared foods, CT-grown products, artisans and more. **Stock up! It's the last winter market of the season.** [Website](#).
- Weds 3/21 **Teen Builds**, 3 PM, Booth & Dimock Library, 1134 Main St. Come to the Library and make something awesome! Today's topic: DIY Tetris magnets. Library [event calendar](#).
- Weds 3/22 **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 3/22 **Raising Backyard Chickens**, 6 PM, Booth & Dimock Library, 1134 Main St. Michael J. Darre, Ph.D., P.A.S., Extension Poultry Specialist at UConn will provide information on how to choose poultry for your flock, basic management information on housing and environment, feeding and nutrition, and health and disease management. Questions about rearing poultry are welcomed. Visit <http://web.uconn.edu/poultry/poultrypages/> for information on poultry. Library [event calendar](#).
- Tues 3/28 **I Survived the Library**, 4 PM, Booth & Dimock Library, 1134 Main St. Learn about some of the famous historical events that happened in the *I Survived* series and then go from station to station doing experiments and crafts that go along with the books! If you LOVE the I Survived books you will not want to miss this. (kid's room). Library [event calendar](#).
- Tues 3/28 **Tech Topics — Protecting Yourself Online**, 6:30 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main St. Learn how to use computers, popular computer programs, and mobile devices. Tech Classes are held **Tuesdays at 6:30pm** and then the same class is offered **Wednesdays at 12:30pm**. If you have a laptop, tablet or smartphone, feel free to bring them. [Library event calendar](#).
- Thurs 3/30 **For the Sake of the Country: Female Spies During the Civil War**, 7 PM, Booth & Dimock Library, 1134 Main St. When we think of the role women played during the American Civil War, people typically think of laundresses, nurses, and home front duties. One of the most interesting roles some

exceptional women held during the war were as spies. Join Matthew Bartlett as he lectures about two Union and two Confederate women who risked everything for their country. Brought to Coventry through the generosity of the Porter Library. Library [event calendar](#).

WINTER SAND/SALT MIX FUNDRAISER: Boy Scout Troop 65 fundraiser. \$8 for 5 gallon bucket. Sold at various community locations and pick-up available most Monday nights from 7-8:30 PM at Knights of Columbus Hall, Snake Hill Road, lower level back door by lower level parking lot. Delivery available for 2 or more buckets. Questions/orders: Jean Jennings, 860-308-0494 – call or text.

COVENTRY ARTS GUILD SEEKING MEMBERS: The Coventry Arts Guild is gearing up for their 2017 season and is seeking members. For a brochure about the Guild and an application form, click [here](#).

4TH ANNUAL PROMAGANZA! Now accepting donations of prom dresses, shoes, accessories, and services (hair, nails, alterations, etc.) Your donations help give a teen the chance to attend prom who might not otherwise be able to go. Items can be dropped off at Coventry Human Services, 1717 Main Street, during business hours. For 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.