



COVENTRY COMMUNITY UPDATE:

March 2018

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

MANAGER'S MONTHLY MEMO:

March is arriving which means winter is almost over and it's time for the Town to focus on our annual budget. The Town Council will be receiving the proposed budgets for the Town, Board, Debt Service and Capital formally at their March 5, 2018 meeting. Copies will be available at the Town Hall and online later this week. The public's chance to learn more and to make comments for Town Council consideration is at the Public Hearing scheduled for Thursday, March 8th at 7:00 PM in the high school lecture hall. This is also scheduled to be televised live on the School's Charter Cable channel (194) and for re-play on the Town's website.

In other news, after many years the Town was able to acquire 57 acres of open space behind Cooper Lane and the Willimantic River with grant funds from CT DEEP, a generous contribution from Joshua's Land Trust and a match from our Open Space fund.

The Town completed the first year of fully operating the ambulance and appreciates the efforts of our volunteers for providing service on nights and weekends. We have ordered a new ambulance with a late spring delivery planned, are selling off one ambulance now and one after delivery to reduce the fleet to two.

Our new engine tanker is in service (see photo at end) and the old one is up for sale. Don't forget to check your homeowner's policy for accurate ISO ratings. Some people have called complaining about large increases because the ratings were wrong. Most of the town is rated 5 or 6 due to our ability to get water on the scene with engine tankers and tanker trucks. For questions contact Jim McLoughlin, Fire/EMS Administrator, at Jmcloughlin@coventryct.org.

Another reminder that funds are available through the Council Region Council of Governments for reimbursement of testing expenses for households that may be affected by crumbling concrete foundations, and CDBG funds have been awarded for new core sampling. For details about the CRCOG program click [here](#). Details about the CDBG program will be announced soon. Watch the Spotlight column on the home page of the [Town website](#) for details.

UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS:

- Mon, 3/5: Town Council Meeting: 7:30 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Thurs, 3/8: Public Hearing, WPCA Sewer Assessment, 6 PM, DPW Conf. room
- Thurs, 3/8: Manager's Budget Hearing: 7 PM, CHS Lecture Hall
- Mon, 3/12: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 PM, Town Hall Conf. B
- Mon, 3/12: Town Council Special Budget Meeting: 7 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Mon, 3/19: Town Council Meeting: 7:30 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Mon, 3/26: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 PM, CHS Lecture Hall
- Mon, 3/26: Town Council Special Budget Meeting: 7 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Weds, 3/28: Inland Wetlands Agency, 7:00 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Weds, 3/28: Board of Education, 7:30 PM, School Admin. Building

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

HOLIDAYS:

Friday, 3/30: Good Friday. Town offices, schools and Senior Center closed. Trash collection on regular schedule.

COMING EVENTS:

- Thurs 3/1 **World War I: The War That Won't Go Away**, 6:15 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. April 6, 2017 marked the 100th anniversary of American involvement in World War I. It is hard to imagine a historical event in the 20th century whose long-term consequences for Western Civilization have been as profound as those of World War I, the event ironically called "the war to end all wars." This presentation will focus on the long term problems unleashed by the Great War—many of which still plague us today. It will also touch upon Connecticut's role in the Great War. Presented by Connecticut resident Phil Devlin, a retired English teacher and author of the "The Week in History" column for Patch.com. [Library event calendar](#).
- Fri 3/2 **Quiet Corner Contra Dance**, Lesson 7:30 PM, Dance 8-11 PM. Patriots Park Lodge, 172 Lake Street. Dance to a caller and live music. Partner not necessary. Wear soft-soled shoes. An alcohol & tobacco-free event. Adults \$10, students \$5, families \$20. Contact Dave for info: 484-844-5203 or email cannel.dm@gmail.com.
- Sat 3/3 **Coventry Boy Scout Troop 65's Roast Beef Dinner Fundraiser**, 4:30-7:00 PM, Knights of Columbus, Snake Hill Road. Roast beef, mashed potatoes, carrots, salad, bread, beverage and dessert. Adults: \$12, Seniors: \$10, children 10 and under: \$6. Last seating at 6:45 PM. Reservations at 860-308-0494. Walk-in's are welcome. Take-out is available.
- Sun 3/4 **Coventry Winter Farmers' Market**, 11 AM – 2 PM, Coventry High School, 78 Ripley Hill Road. Over 30 vendors selling locally-grown produce, beef, chicken, pork and eggs. Also local cheese, baked goods, soap, jewelry and pottery. See [website](#) for a complete list. Every Sunday through March 18, 2018.
- Weds 3/7 **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 3/8 **Manager's Budget Hearing**, 7 PM, CHS Lecture Hall, 78 Ripley Hill Road. Presentations of the Town Manager's and Board of Education's proposed budgets for FY 2018/2019.
- Fri 3/9 **Teen Gaming Club**, 3 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Play some of your favorite board or video games, or try something new on the Library PS4 and Nintendo Switch. [Library event calendar](#).
- Sat 3/10 **LEGO Palooza!** 1-3 PM, Second Congregational Church, 1746 Boston Turnpike. Come join us for an afternoon of LEGO fun. Lego and Duplo building, Lego car racing, Lego themed activities for all ages, raffle prizes, photos & refreshments. Tickets in advance are \$10 or \$15 at the door. For tickets contact secondchurch@sbcglobal.net. Snow date: 3/24.
- Sun 3/11 **Coventry Winter Farmers' Market**, 11 AM – 2 PM, Coventry High School, 78 Ripley Hill Road. Over 30 vendors selling locally-grown produce, beef, chicken, pork and eggs. Also local cheese, baked goods, soap, jewelry and pottery. See [website](#) for a complete list. Every Sunday through March 18, 2018.
- Tues 3/13 **Succulents: How to Grow Them**, 6:30 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. The March meeting of the Coventry Garden Club will feature Jeff Woodward from Woodward Greenhouses in Chaplin, who will give a demonstration on planting and caring for a succulent container garden. They are the easiest containers in the world to maintain. If you have hypertufa planter or something similar, bring it along as Jeff is bringing

supplies and plants for purchase and he will help you design the perfect succulent garden. He will also bring a few containers for purchase if you do not already have one, and maybe he will bring a completed garden or two as well. [Garden Club Facebook page](#).

- Tues 3/13 **The Immigration Quandary – Discussion**, 7 PM, Second Congregational Church Community House, 1746 Boston Turnpike. Immigration, emigration and refugees present difficult problems for the United States and Europe. The issues, the driving forces and possible policy alternatives will all be explored. This 4th discussion in the series will be presented by Prof. Emeritus Paul Goodwin. Information: secondchurch@sbcglobal.net.
- Fri 3/16 **Messy Munchkins**, 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 and under. [Library event calendar](#).
- Sat 3/17 **Calligraphy Workshop, “Uncial Hand”**, 10 AM – 1 PM, Patriots Park Lodge, 124 Lake Street. Learn this Celtic style of calligraphy, used in the *Book of Kells* and the *Lindisfarne Gospels*, a good style to learn on St. Patrick’s Day. \$30 for Arts Guild members, \$35 non-members. All supplies, lettering guides and booklet, “Notes on Calligraphy”, will be provided. For a printable registration form, click [here](#). More info: trzaskosirina@gmail.com.
- Sat 3/17 **Corned Beef Dinner**, 4:30 – 6:30 PM, Second Congregational Church Community House, 1746 Boston Turnpike. Adults: \$14; Seniors: \$13; children 6-8: \$6; under age 6: free. Reservations recommended at 860-742-1616. Take-outs are available.
- Sat 3/17 **Corned Beef & Cabbage Fundraising Dinner**, 5 PM, St. Mary Church Hall, 1600 Main Street. Hosted by the Knights of Columbus. Golden Harp Irish Step Dancers will entertain. Tickets can be purchased at the door. Adults: \$15; Seniors: \$10; Children under 10: \$5; under 6 free. Immediate family maximum \$50. To-go orders available beginning at 4:30 PM.
- Sun 3/18 **Coventry Winter Farmers’ Market**, 11 AM – 2 PM, Coventry High School, 78 Ripley Hill Road. Over 30 vendors selling locally-grown produce, beef, chicken, pork and eggs. Also local cheese, baked goods, soap, jewelry and pottery. See [website](#) for a complete list. Last winter market of the 2018 season.
- Weds 3/21 **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](#).
- Thurs 3/22 **Slime**, 4 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Experiment with different slime making supplies and make your own slime. Grades 4-8 are welcome at this TWAB sponsored even. [Library event calendar](#).
- Fri 3/23 **Teen Gaming Club**, 3 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Play some of your favorite board or video games, or try something new on the Library PS4 and Nintendo Switch. [Library event calendar](#).
- Sat 3/24 **Thread City Dancers**, 11:30 AM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Join some of the students at Thread City Dancers for a dance demonstration, craft and story. Ages Pre-K and up. [Library event calendar](#).
- Thurs 3/29 **Great Orange Apes: Tales from a Year of Orangutan Research in Central Borneo**, 6 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Recently returned from a year conducting wild primate field research in the heart of Indonesian Borneo, Connecticut native Katherine Meier is eager to share her unique experiences. Meier worked as a research assistant

at the Tuanan Orangutan Research Station where she spent her days following wild orangutans, collecting behavioral and physical data, and contributing to long-term research that focuses on the nutrition and health of wild orangutans. Her talk covers an overview of orangutan geography, biology and describes the cutting-edge ecological research being doing on wild orangutans. From fire ants to fatal fights, you'll leave this talk with a better understanding of one of the world's most important ecosystems, its myriad biodiversity, and, of course, an intimate look into the wild lives of the world's only Asian great ape. [Library event calendar](#).

Sat 3/31

Come Read to the Dogs, 11 AM – 2 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Sign up for a 10 minute reading slot to read to one of the Healers with Halos Therapy Dogs and their handlers (sponsored by Bolton Veterinary Hospital). The Dogs and their handlers have received extensive training and are certified. Open to those in grades K-3. Registration Required. Info: 860-742-7606.

ONLINE PARENTING CLASSES: A free resource to help parents reduce family stress, get kids to listen and cooperate, and build strong connections without raising your voice. Details [here](#).

DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS PHONE-A-THON: The Coventry Scholarship Foundation, a Dollars for Scholars affiliate, will conduct its 26th annual Phone-A-Thon starting Monday, March 12th through Wednesday, March 14. Coventry residents will be called and asked to make a contribution to the tax deductible fund, and businesses will be contacted by letter. Anyone wishing to help with the phone calls or mailings is asked to call 742-6633. This is a community event that benefits any graduating senior who is a Coventry resident. Last year over \$50,000 was distributed. Volunteers are greatly needed.

COVENTRY COMMUNITY GARDEN: Registrations for people new to the Coventry Community Garden will begin on March 31st. The 10 x 20 foot plots are available to town residents and the cost for each space is \$20. Each plot will be staked and ready to plant by Memorial Day weekend (weather dependent). Water will be available for watering cans or hoses. The gardens are located at Creaser Park on Case Road. Membership in the Coventry Community Garden includes access to garden programs and lectures with Master Gardener Bill Oros. Some volunteer work is anticipated for garden members. For more information, the Community Garden guidelines and contracts, see the Recreation [page](#) of the Town website.

HISTORIC PHOTO EXHIBIT ON DISPLAY: The images of historic Coventry, created in an exhibit through the Last Green Valley's "Telling Stories That Matter" initiative, will be on display at Coventry Arts & Antiques, 1140 Main Street. The exhibit consists of nine large display panels that depict the people and places of Coventry at the turn of the 20th century. View them throughout the month of March from 11 AM – 4 PM, Thursday – Sunday.



NEW ENGINE TANKER IN SERVICE: The Town has purchased a 2017 Spartan Engine Tanker and has placed it into service. The new "ET211" is located at the North Coventry firehouse; 3427 Main St. With this purchase, we have moved Engine 111 to the South St. firehouse and renamed it Engine 108. Notification to the county dispatch center and the surrounding fire chiefs has been made.

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