



COVENTRY COMMUNITY UPDATE:

March 2019

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

MANAGER'S MONTHLY MEMO:

With the release of the Governor's on February 20th, a clearer picture is beginning to emerge about the impact to municipalities and your tax bill. Of note:

- State education aid (ECS) was reduced by \$542,288
- The State is giving us a bill for 25% of the teachers' pension - \$80,784
- This is a combined proposed increase of \$623,072 on local property taxes or potential service reductions

The Town's proposed budget for fiscal year 2019-20 will be presented to the community at the annual Manager's [budget hearing](#), scheduled for Thursday, March 7th at the Coventry High School lecture hall. The hearing is your chance to ask questions and get clarification about the budget, and we encourage you to attend. Stay in touch with the [Manager's Facebook page](#) for fast-breaking developments.

The consultant's draft report on the treatment for Hydrilla in Coventry Lake was received, and as we anticipated, they recommended we continue to treat the lake, with some of the cove areas getting a higher concentration. The draft report is under review at CT DEEP, but you can view the preliminary findings [here](#). A final version will be released later this spring.

Although snowfall has been lower this year than the last few, we are never truly out of the woods until April. As of this writing, we anticipate finishing the season with adequate supplies of road treatment material and within budget for employee overtime.

Also with the approach of spring comes the annual distribution of the Northeast Connecticut edition of the Yellow Pages directory to your mailboxes. In this digital age, you have the option to "opt-out" of receiving this. The deadline to opt out is 3/25/19 at this [link](#).

UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS:

- Mon, 3/4: Town Council, 7:30 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Thurs, 3/7: [Manager's Budget Hearing](#), 7 PM, CHS Lecture Hall
- Mon, 3/11: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 PM, Town Hall Conf. Room B
- Mon, 3/11: Town Council Budget Meeting, 7 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Thurs, 3/14: WPCA: 6 PM, DPW Conf. Room
- Thurs, 3/14: Board of Education, 7:30 PM, School Admin. Building
- Mon, 3/18: Town Council, 7:30 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Mon, 3/25: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 PM, Town Hall Conf. Room B
- Mon, 3/25: Town Council Budget Meeting, 7 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Weds, 3/27: Inland Wetlands Agency, 7:00 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Thurs, 3/28: Board of Education, 7:30 PM, School Admin. Building

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

COMING EVENTS:

Fri 3/1: **Bingo**, 6:30 PM, First Congregational Church, 1171 Main Street. Sponsored by the Coventry-Mansfield American Legion. Bingo, snacks, and fun for everyone. 50 cents per person

includes your first surprise Bingo card. Doors open at 5:30 PM. First and third Fridays of the month. Information: 860-541-1840.

Fri 3/1: **Quiet Corner Contra Dance**, Beginner workshop 7:45 PM, Dance 8-11 PM. Patriots Park Lodge, 172 Lake Street. Dance to live music and a caller. Partner not necessary. Wear soft-soled shoes and light layered clothing and bring a water bottle. Adults \$12, students \$6, under 12 free. First Friday of the month from Sept. – June. Contact Dave for info: 484-844-5203 or email cannel.dm@gmail.com.

Sat 3/2, **Tea & Calligraphy Workshop**, 1-4 PM, Patriots Park Lodge, 172 Lake Street. Calligraphy: From the Greek, meaning “Beautiful Writing.” A class in the Uncial hand used in The Book of Kells and the Lindisfarne Gospels. Instructions in the basics of calligraphy, its tools and traditions. We will also make St Patrick’s Day Cards using this style of lettering. Lettering guides and a booklet compiled by Kathleen Lepak, “Notes on Calligraphy” will be provided. A \$15.00 materials fee is required to purchase supplies prior to the class. Fee: \$25 Coventry Arts Guild Members or \$30 Non-Members (Plus \$15 Material Fee). Please secure your seat by completing the [online registration](#) by February 15th. For any questions, you may contact Kathy via email at: kathylepak@charter.net.

Sat 3/2, **16th Annual BSA Troop 65 Roast Beef Dinner**, 4:30-7 PM, First Congregational Church, 1171 Main Street. Served family style: roast beef, mashed potatoes, carrots, salad, rolls, dessert, beverage. Last seating 6:45 PM. \$12 adults, \$10 seniors, \$6 children 10 and under. Take-out available. Tickets/reservations: 860-308-0494.

Sun 3/3: **Coventry Winter Farmers’ Market**, 11 AM – 2 PM, Coventry High School, 78 Ripley Hill Road. Connecticut grown produce, meats, eggs, and cheese. Also cupcakes, baked goods, jams, prepared foods, dog treats and hand-made soaps. A rotating selection of craft vendors each week. 2018-19 season runs through 3/17/19. [Website](#).

Sun 3/3: **Make-a-Wish CT 5K Road Race**, 11 AM, Coventry High School, Ripley Hill Road. All proceeds will go to the Make-A-Wish CT foundation to help change the lives of children with critical illnesses. All ages and running levels welcome. Prizes for top finishers. Snow date 3/9. [Registration and information](#).

Weds 3/6: **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. Text FOODSHARE to 85511 to receive the mobile schedule and cancellations directly on your phone. More [info](#).

Thurs 3/7: **Manager’s Budget Hearing**, 7 PM, CHS Lecture Hall, 78 Ripley Hill Road. Presentation of the proposed Town Manager and Board of Education budgets for FY 2019/2020 to the community. This is the public's opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback prior to the Town Council's adoption of their proposed budget. [More info](#).

Sat 3/9: **Community Supper**, 4:30-6:30 PM, First Congregational Church, 1171 Main Street. Menu: corned beef & cabbage, honey carrots, creamy polenta, dinner rolls and dessert. \$12 adults, \$10 seniors, \$6 kids. Free for kids under age 7. Info: 742-8487.

Sat 3/9: **80’s Murder Mystery Night**, 6-10 PM, Manchester Country Club, 305 S. Main Street, Manchester. Buffet and cash bar. Tickets \$30 per person. Order tickets at 860-985-3558. This event is a fundraiser to support the Coventry Lions Club’s community service projects.

Sun 3/10: **Coventry Winter Farmers' Market**, 11 AM – 2 PM, Coventry High School, 78 Ripley Hill Road. Connecticut grown produce, meats, eggs, and cheese. Also cupcakes, baked goods, jams, prepared foods, dog treats and hand-made soaps. A rotating selection of craft vendors each week. 2018-19 season runs from 11/18/18 through 3/17/19. [Website](#).

Tues 3/12: **Cardboard Kingdom**, 4 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Grades 4-8. Come build unique structures out of our cardboard! [Library event calendar](#).

Weds 3/13: **Senior Lunch Program**, 12 PM, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. St. Patrick's Day corned beef & cabbage. Entertainment provided by Song-A-Day Music. \$7. RSVP and payment due by 10 AM March. 7th. Info: 860-742-3525.

Weds 3/13: **Information Night**, 6-7:30 PM, Hale Early Education Center, 1776 Main Street (behind the Coventry Town Hall). An opportunity for families to visit the NAEYC-accredited preschool, meet the staff members, ask questions and learn about programs for 3 and 4-year-old children. Half-day and school-day programs are available, as well as before and after school care. Tuition assistance may be available for families who qualify. Online registration for the 2019-20 school year will open on March 14th at this [link](#). Call 860-742-4550 for additional information.

Sat 3/16: **Mister Roger's Birthday: Puppets!** 10:30 AM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. [Library event calendar](#).

Sat 3/16: **Corned Beef Dinner**, 4:30-6:30 PM, Second Congregational Church Community House, 1746 Boston Turnpike. \$14 adults, \$13 seniors, \$6 children between 6-8, Free for children under age 6. Reservations recommended at 860-742-1616. Take-out available.

Sun 3/17: **Coventry Winter Farmers' Market**, 11 AM – 2 PM, Coventry High School, 78 Ripley Hill Road. Connecticut grown produce, meats, eggs, and cheese. Also cupcakes, baked goods, jams, prepared foods, dog treats and hand-made soaps. A rotating selection of craft vendors each week. 2018-19 season runs from 11/18/18 through 3/17/19. [Website](#).

Mon 3/18: **Coffee, Donuts & a Book**, 1 PM, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. A new book group has formed at the Senior Center in collaboration with the Booth and Dimock Library. Our book for March is *White Houses: A Novel* by Amy Bloom. You can pick up your copy of the book at the Library. Info: 860-742-3525.

Tues 3/19: **Scrabble Start-Up**, 6 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Meet other people who love to play Scrabble and discuss the possibility of regular Scrabble Days at the Library. [Library event calendar](#).

Weds 3/20: **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. Text FOODSHARE to 85511 to receive the mobile schedule and cancellations directly on your phone. More [info](#).

Weds 3/20: **AARP Smart Driving Class**, 9 AM – 1 PM, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. Join the Senior Center for an AARP Smart Driver Class with instructor James Hatch. This is a classroom course, no written tests, no road test! AARP Members - \$15.00 Non-AARP Members - \$20.00 Reservation and payment due prior. Contact the Senior Center at 860-742-3525. [More information](#).

Weds 3/27: **Senior Lunch Program**, 12 PM, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. Beef stew, roll, dessert. Guest entertainer Sean Kennelly, "Aging with Laughter." \$5. RSVP 860-742-3525.

Fri 3/29: **Dog Man Party!** 4 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Celebrate the book series *Dog Man* by Dav Pilkey. [Library event calendar](#).

COVENTRY SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION - DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS PHONE-A-THON: The Coventry Scholarship Foundation, a Dollars for Scholars affiliate, will conduct its 27th annual Phone-a-Thon starting Monday, March 11th through Wednesday, March 13th. 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.

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SEEKING FEEDBACK ABOUT WHAT HEALTH ISSUES ARE PRIORITIES FOR COMMUNITY RESIDENTS: The Connecticut Department of Public Health is updating its State Health Assessment, which is a document that helps shape future health policy and programming for the state. As part of this effort, the Department is inviting residents to provide input about what health issues are priorities for their communities. The online Community Health Priority Survey is anonymous and provides the opportunity to share your opinions about community needs, as well as the opportunity to weigh in on where Connecticut should prioritize resources to improve the health of your community. The survey closes on March 15 and is available in English and Spanish. Take the survey [here](#).

COVENTRY CEMETERY COMMISSION: CLEAN-UP DATES: Coventry Cemetery Commission has established annual clean-up dates for the five Town-managed cemeteries. The affected cemeteries will be cleared of dead potted plants, damaged or out-of-season decorations, and debris at the discretion of the Commission three times annually: on March 1st, August 1st and December 1st. If you have seasonal decorations that you would like to preserve, please be sure to remove them prior to any upcoming clean-up date. The five cemeteries are: Coventry Cemetery – 392 Main Street, Nathan Hale Cemetery – 100 Lake Street, Grant Hill Cemetery – 489 Grant Hill Road, Old South Burying Ground – 3373 South Street, and Carpenter Cemetery – Silver Street. [About the Cemetery Commission](#).

RELIEF FOR HOMEOWNERS EXPERIENCING CRUMBLING CONCRETE FOUNDATIONS: Funds are available for reimbursement of testing expenses for households that may be affected by crumbling concrete foundations. More information about the crumbling concrete issue, including a link to financial assistance for repairs, can be found in the [Spotlight](#) column on the home page of the Town website.

CHECK OUT THESE PROGRAMS AT THE SENIOR CENTER:

- **ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:** Are you in need of oil, propane, or electrical heat assistance this winter? The Senior Center is still accepting energy applications for the Access Agency in Willimantic. Please call the office at 860-742-3525 for income eligibility information and documentation requirements.
- **THE AARP TAX PROGRAM RETURNS:** The Senior Center is pleased to bring you FREE tax preparation assistance for your Federal and State tax returns. A team of highly trained tax volunteers will be here four Mondays (weather permitting) **March 11, March 25, April 8** by appointment only. There are multiple appointments available each day from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Please call the Center at 860-742-3525 to schedule your appointment – spots are filling up fast!

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