



## COVENTRY COMMUNITY UPDATE:

**November 2019**

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

### MANAGER'S MONTHLY MEMO:

November is a month where we give thanks. I want to thank the over 300 volunteers who serve on Town Boards and Commissions, and our volunteer Fire and EMS services, along with all the other volunteers helping with the Farmers' Market, youth sports, Scouts, monitoring open space, and picking up roadside trash. Our town is rich with the volunteer spirit.

I want to remind voters that the elected leadership of the Town, Board of Education, Board of Assessment Appeals, and Zoning Board of Appeals are on the ballot for consideration at the Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> election. Voting will be between 6 AM and 8 PM at Coventry Grammar School and G.H. Robertson School. ([see sample ballot](#)).

Town projects updates are available twice monthly under the Town Manager's report on the Town Council agenda, so if you [subscribe](#) to Council agendas you can see more detailed information ([see sample report](#)). We are pleased to say that the Jones Crossing Bridge project is open to traffic and came in slightly under budget. A one-day closure for final paving is planned for the end of this month. A long-standing drainage project on Wright's Mill Road, catch basin repairs in the Northfields subdivision, and the Town Hall flagpole project are all starting. Crack sealing was completed and road shimming in preparation for next year's chip seal is scheduled for the end of the month/early November.

Part of giving thanks is sharing your bounty if you can. Two opportunities are Scouting for Food and Food for Golf at Skungamaug River Golf Course. Both of these annual events are scheduled for Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. (See more details below.) These two food drives re-stock our Food Bank. People are also welcome to donate to the Clergy Fuel Fund, c/o Coventry Human Services, Town of Coventry, 1712 Main Street, Coventry, CT 06238. Visit the Human Services' [web page](#) for information on the 2019 Holiday Program to give food and gifts for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Also watch for information to sign up to ring the bell to raise money for the Town's Special Needs Fund.

Several Town committees need volunteers. Go [online](#) to learn about our Boards and Commissions and submit a Statement of Interest form. You can also contact Lori Tollmann, Town Clerk at 860-742-7966 for assistance.

We especially need volunteers for:

- [Veterans Memorial Commission](#)
- [Energy Conservation/Alternative Energy Advisory Committee](#)
- [Ad-Hoc Senior Housing Alternatives Study Committee](#)
- [Cable TV Advisory Committee](#)

Finally, in mid-to-late November you will be getting mail from the Assessor's Office on the proposed change in value of your house as part of the State-mandated revaluation. Information will be included on the process and implications. Please take the time to review it. Remember that a change in your house value, either up or down, does not necessarily mean a change in your taxes, up or down. That depends on the total Grand List changes and how your value changed in comparison to other real estate. The question you need to ask is whether you think the value reflects the market. The final impact will be discussed later this winter after an initial review by the public of these values.

The Town staff hopes you have a great Thanksgiving and appreciates all the volunteer efforts to make this Town a great place to live.

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

- Mon, 11/4: Town Council meeting, 7:30 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Tues 11/5: Election Day. Polls open 6 AM – 8 PM. [More info](#)
- Weds, 11/6: Town Council Inauguration, 7:30 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Tues, 11/12: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Thurs, 11/14: WPCA: 6 PM, DPW Conf. Room
- Thurs, 11/14: Board of Education, 7:30 PM, School Admin. Building
- Mon, 11/18: Town Council meeting, 7:30 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Mon, 11/25: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 PM, Town Hall Annex

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

#### **HOLIDAYS:**

**Mon 11/11: Veterans Day holiday.** Town offices, Senior Center and Library are closed. Trash pickup on [regular schedule](#).

**Thurs & Fri 11/28 & 11/29: Thanksgiving holiday.** Town offices, Senior Center and Library are closed. Trash pickup on [holiday schedule](#).

#### **COMING EVENTS:**

Fri 11/1: **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 11/1: **Quiet Corner Contra Dance**, 8-11 PM, Patriots Park Lodge, 172 Lake Street. Lesson at 7:45. All welcome, partner not necessary. Dance to a live band and caller. Soft-soled shoes. An alcohol and tobacco-free event. **This month only** – bring a dish and join us for a pot luck supper before the dance. Adults \$12, students \$6. Information: Dennis, 860-742-9498.

Sat 11/2: **Food for Golf**, Skungamaug River Golf Course, 104 Folly Lane. Bring donations of food for the Coventry Food Bank in lieu of greens fees. Play golf and help your neighbors in need at the same time. Call for tee times: 860-742-9348. [Website](#).

Sat 11/2: **Scouting for Food**. Bags for the purpose of donating canned food were distributed at mailboxes over the weekend. Use the bags for your donation and place by your mailbox or at the end of your driveway by 10 AM on 11/2. If you miss that time, donations may be brought to the Scouts who will be at the Community Center at Patriots Park from 10 AM – 1:30 PM. After this date, bring your donations to the Human Services Office during business hours. Call Human Services at 860-742-5324 for more information.

Sat 11/2: **Coventry Chili Fest**, 12-2 PM, Coventry High School, 78 Ripley Hill Road. Enter your chili for \$25. Prizes will be awarded. Taste the chili for \$10. Ages 6 and under Free. \$7 for seniors/student ID. Sponsored by Coventry Lion's Club. Info: 860-985-3558 or [www.Facebook.com/CoventryLionsClub](http://www.Facebook.com/CoventryLionsClub).

Sun 11/3: **Intro to Hearth Cooking**, 11 AM-2PM, Nathan Hale Homestead, 2299 South Street. A beginner's class on hearth cooking. Covers basic fireplace and cooking tools including Dutch

oven cooking, a hanging pot, cooking skillets and tin kitchen. Each guest will be given a keepsake recipe book to take home. \$25/\$20 CTL members. Reservations required at 860-742-6917 or [hale@ctlandmarks.org](mailto:hale@ctlandmarks.org).

Tues 11/5: **Election Day**, 6 AM – 8 PM. District One votes at G.H. Robertson School, 227 Cross Street. District Two votes at Coventry Grammar School, 3453 Main Street. [Registrar of Voters webpage](#).

Tues 11/5-Tues 12/3: **Letters to Santa**. Accepting letters to Santa for delivery just in time for the “big day.” Drop boxes will be located in the Town Hall and Booth & Dimock Library, and at the Coventry tree lighting event. Letters can also be mailed to: Santa Claus, c/o Coventry Recreation, 1712 Main Street, Coventry, CT 06238. Be sure to include your name and return address if you want Santa to write you back!

Weds 11/6: **Veterans Day Tribute**, 12 PM, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. In honor and recognition of Coventry veterans. Ceremony at noon followed by fellowship and lunch. Information: 860-742-3525.

Through 11/8: **7<sup>th</sup> Annual Scarecrow Contest**: The scarecrows are up at the green near Dunkin’ Donuts. [Vote](#) for your favorite on the Parks & Recreation website.

Fri 11/8: **Christmas Fair**, 6-9 PM, St. Mary Church Hall, 1600 Main Street. Also Saturday, 11/9 from 10 AM – 2 PM. Santa’s Toy Shoppe, jewelry, stitchery, Christmas, religious and Geppetto’s. Doll collectors’ visit the Country Store. Activity area for children to make free crafts. Food and baked goods available both days. Raffle table. Free admission. Info: 860-742-6355.

Fri 11/8: **Baked Fish Dinner**, 6 PM, First Congregational Church, 1171 Main Street. Hosted by First Church and American Legion Post 52. Cost \$12. Information: 860-742-8487.

Sat 11/9: **Church Fair**, 9 AM-3PM, Second Congregational Church of Coventry, 1746 Boston Turnpike. Bake Shoppe, crafters, Cabot cheese raffle, white elephant, holiday décor, children’s activities, Noah’s Closet featuring Barbie dolls and accessories. Luncheon starting at 11 AM. Free admission. Information: 860-742-1616.

Sat 11/9: **CT Veterans Day Patriot Race**, 9:45 AM, Patriots Park, 124 Main Street. Opening ceremony at 9:45 AM, race begins at 10 AM. Four-mile certified course. A Junior Patriot Race takes place at 9:15 AM for children. Proceeds support many veteran services organizations. Information: [www.ctveteransdayrace.com](http://www.ctveteransdayrace.com).

Tues 11/12: **Visioning Session, Plan of Conservation & Development**, 7 PM, Town Hall Annex, 1712 Main Street. The Planning and Zoning Commission will host community visioning sessions on pertinent sections of the Plan of Conservation and Development revision. This will include housing, economic development and environment and open space. Please contact Eric Trott, Director of Planning and Development for more information at 860-742-4062 or [etrott@coventryct.org](mailto:etrott@coventryct.org).

Weds 11/13: **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](#).

Sat 11/16: **Book Signing and Reading by Local Author**, 6-8 PM, Coventry Arts & Antiques, 1140 Main Street (park in lot across the street). Sherry Chapman will read from her recently published book, *HOW MUCH BIG IS THE SKY: A Memoir of a Mother's Love and Unfathomable Loss*. The reading will be followed by a book discussion and signing. Bring the book with you if you have it. Copies available for sale at the event. A portion of the proceeds will benefit [Ryan's Memorial Fund](#). Information: 860-498-0352.

Sun 11/17: **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 11/17/19 through 3/15/20. [Website](#).

Sun 11/24: **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 11/17/19 through 3/15/20. [Website](#).

Weds 11/27: **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](#).

#### **HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT:**

- **ENERGY ASSISTANCE:** The office is now accepting energy applications for winter heating on Tuesdays and Thursdays by appointment only. Please call 860-742-5324 for more information and guidelines.
- **HOLIDAY PROGRAM:** The holidays are right around the corner and we have already begun receiving calls from groups and individuals who want to help with food and gifts for our Coventry residents in need during the holiday season. Our goal is to help as many of our friends and neighbors as possible so they too may enjoy a happy holiday season. For this to happen we need your help! Donations of Thanksgiving food and food/gifts for the December holidays are very much needed. For some organizations and families, “adopting” a family or an individual for the holidays has become a tradition. We hope to have more groups and /or families begin this tradition of sharing. Click [here](#) for an application or contact the Human Services office 860-742-5324 for more information.

#### **OTHER SENIOR CENTER EVENTS DURING OCTOBER:**

- Thurs 11/7-11/21, **Zumba Gold**, 5:15-6:15 PM, Patriots Park Lodge, 172 Lake Street. Instructor: Sheila Carroll, Zumba Licensed and ACE Certified. \$20 per 5-class punch card/\$5 per drop-in class.
- Mon 11/14, **“Thankful” Card Making**, 10 AM. Hosted by Jan Weston, Ms. Connecticut Senior America 2019 and a resident of Coventry. All levels welcome and sessions are FREE!
- Mon 11/18, **Book Club**, 1-2 PM. November's Book: *H is for Hawk*.
- Thurs 11/21, Fri 11/22, **Get Creative with Instructor Nina Yilmaz**. All levels welcome, no experience required. Materials and supplies provided. Bring a smock or old shirt and a creative open mind! \$5. Thursdays: 4:30-6 PM, Fridays: 9:30-11 AM.

**Call 860-742-3525 for more information about Senior Center events.**

**DONATIONS SOUGHT FOR WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA:** The Coventry Cemetery Commission is accepting donations for wreaths for veterans to be laid at the Wreaths Across America ceremony at Coventry Cemetery on December 14<sup>th</sup> at noon. Donations of \$15, check made out to Wreaths Across America, can be sent to the Town of Coventry, Finance Department,

1712 Main Street, Coventry, CT 06238. Name of veteran and cemetery (Coventry, Nathan Hale, Grant Hill, St. Mary's) must be noted. All wreaths will be distributed at the ceremony and you will be responsible for placement at other cemeteries. More information: Claudine Vieten, 860-742-6750. To make an online non-specific donation, enter the Coventry Cemetery Commission code: CTCCCC at the organization's website: [www.wreathscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org). Deadline for donations is Nov. 30.

**CHRISTMAS TREE DONATIONS SOUGHT:** The Lions Club of Coventry is looking for 4-foot or smaller artificial Christmas trees for its Christmas in the Village extravaganza on December 8<sup>th</sup>. To donate a tree please call Gary at 860-742-6128 for pick-up.

**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.

*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.*