



## COVENTRY COMMUNITY UPDATE:

**December 2019**

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

### MANAGER'S MONTHLY MEMO:

As another year seems to be racing toward conclusion, we need to balance our family, work, and community activities. Please take time to enjoy the season.

The Town welcomes a new [Council](#) with Julie Blanchard being appointed as Chairman, Matthew O'Brien, Sr. as Vice Chairman, and Richard Williams as Secretary. Matthew O'Brien, Sr. will chair the Finance Committee and is joined by Lisa Thomas and Richard Williams. Matthew O'Brien, Jr. will chair the Steering/Liaison Committee, joined by Jonathan Hand and Lisa Conant.

We have pretty much wrapped up this construction season's work, except for some touch-up work remaining. Jones Crossing Road Bridge is open, some roads are shimmed in anticipation of chip seal next summer, and drainage issues on Deborah Drive and Wrights Mill Road are repaired. The Town Hall flagpole project just needs a bit more electrical work and delivery of an additional bench. Please note that the granite stone wall is from the Village, reusing curbing from Main Street. Work will continue in the Northfields subdivision to repair catch basins in anticipation of road reconstruction next year. The CT Water main project in Northfields is still underway, but getting closer to completion.

Stop by the Winter Farmers' Market for gifts and specialty foods each Sunday at the high school, 11 AM – 2 PM. Don't forget to stroll along Main Street on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> for Christmas in the Village, with highlights including the tree lighting and fire truck light parade (see below). Participate in Wreaths Across America, honoring our veterans, at Coventry Cemetery on Main Street on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

Finally, watch your mail in early December for a notice 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. Use the informal review process to get questions answered. 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.

### UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS:

- Mon, 12/2: Town Council meeting, 7:30 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Tues, 12/9: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Thurs, 12/12: WPCA: 6 PM, DPW Conf. Room
- Mon, 12/16: Town Council meeting, 7:30 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Mon, 12/23: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 PM, Town Hall Annex

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

### HOLIDAYS:

**Tues 12/24 & Weds 12/25: Christmas holiday.** Town offices closed. Trash pickup on [holiday schedule](#) from 12/25-12/28.

## COMING EVENTS:

Sun 12/1: **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](#).

Through 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!

Fri 12/6: **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 12/6: **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 12/7, Sun 12/8: **Christmas Fair**, First Congregational Church of Coventry, 1171 Main Street. Sat 9-3, Sun 12-4. Baked goods, holiday décor, hand-crafted gifts, tin cup raffle, big raffle, and more. Food from the Cozy Café on Saturday and pizza from Wicked Slide on Sunday until the tree lighting at 5:30. Information: 860-742-8487 or visit the Church Facebook page.

Sat 12/7: 43<sup>rd</sup> **Annual PTO Craft Show**, 9 AM-3 PM, Coventry High School, 78 Ripley Hill Road. Over 50 crafters, luncheon, bake sale, music, take-a-chance table, holiday shopping. Admission \$2, kids and students are free. Info: Catherine Alfano, 203-606-8999.

Sun 12/8: **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 12/8: **16<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas in the Village**, 12-4 PM, Main Street. Horse and wagon rides, live musical performances, pony rides, crafts, holiday dance performances, visit with Santa, chocolate festival, Lions Club Christmas tree and holiday decor auction, crafter exhibition, Artists' Open Studio, youth art show, kids' cookie decorating and make & take crafts, specials from many Village merchants, holiday market at First Church, refreshment booths along the route, a special exhibit on Caprilands Farm and Adelpa Simmons by the Coventry Historical Society, and much more. Torchlight parade and tree lighting ceremony at 5:30 PM. More information at 860-918-5957, 860-617-3588, or the [Lions Club Facebook page](#).

Sun 12/8: **Piano Concert by Jason Castonguay**, 2:30 PM, Second Congregational Church, 1746 Main Street. \$15 adults/\$30 family. Information: 860-742-1616.

Mon 12/9: **Gift Wrapping & Shopping Services**, 3-5 PM, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. Coventry High School National Honor Society will be at the Center to help make shopping and gift wrapping easier. Bring your list and students will assist with shopping ideas, help with

online purchases and gift wrapping. Wrapping paper will be provided! Sign up at the front desk. Information: 860-742-3525.

Weds 12/11: **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 12/11: **Monthly Lunch Program and Yuletide Carolers**, 12 PM, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. Today's menu: stuffed pork loin, scalloped potatoes, roasted carrots and onions, dinner roll and dessert. \$6.50. RSVP by Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>. Followed by the CT Yuletide Carolers at 12:30 PM – beautiful holiday music sung a cappella in 4-part harmony. FREE. All are welcome. Info: 860-742-3525.

Fri 12/13: **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, 12/14: **Pancake Breakfast with Santa**, 8-11 AM, Coventry High School cafeteria, 78 Ripley Hill Road. Hosted by Project Graduation. Admission: \$8 adults and children 10 and older; \$6 seniors; \$5 children ages 2-9; free for children under age 2. Information: Joanne McHugo, 860-742-8689 or Sandy Loalbo, 860-212-5358.

Sat 12/14: **Wreaths Across America**, 12 noon, Coventry Cemetery, 392 Main Street. The Coventry Cemetery Commission will be hosting the Wreaths Across America event again this year. Coventry Cemetery is one of thousands across the U.S. and around the world that will be honoring our veterans on this day and at this time by laying wreaths and remembering each and every veteran. Distinguished speakers include: Tim Ackert, State Representative; Jamie DePaola, Ret. Sergeant Major, USMC; and Tom Flowers, Immediate Past Commander, American Legion. The Coventry High School Band, led by Hannah Cole, will play and members of American Legion Post 52 and V.F.W. Post 10589 will lay ceremonial wreaths at the flags of all seven services: Army, Navy, Air Force Marines, Coast Guard, Merchant Marines, MIA's and POW's. The Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts will assist in laying wreaths on the graves of all 82 veterans buried in this cemetery. All are welcome, come honor our veterans, those that have died, those that served, and those who are serving now. ALL parking will be at Miller-Richardson Ball Field and shuttle buses will be provided. Buses will be available from 11:00 AM on a continuous loop to the cemetery. There will be NO parking in the cemetery. Handicapped parking will be available. For more information, call: 860-742-6750.

Sat 12/14: **Spaghetti, Meatball & Sausage Dinner**, 4:30-6:30 PM, Second Congregational Church of Coventry Community House, 1746 Boston Turnpike. \$12 adults, \$11 for seniors, \$6 for youngsters between 6 & 8. Reservations can be made at 860-742-1616. Take-out available.

Sun 12/15: **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](#).

Mon 12/16: **Jewelry Making with Cheryl**, 11:15 AM, Coventry Senior enter. FREE. RSVP appreciated at 860-742-3525.

Weds 12/18: **Holiday Celebration**, 12 PM, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. Join us for a festive afternoon with friends, holiday spirit and entertainment by Bruce John. Enjoy delicious

appetizers and desserts; sign up to bring a dessert. FREE. All are welcome. RSVP is required. Info: 860-742-3525.

Thurs 12/19: **Movie & Popcorn**, 1 PM, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. Today's movie: *Christmas in Connecticut*, a 1945 American Christmas romantic comedy. FREE. Info: 860-742-3525.

Sun 12/22: **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 12/29: **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](#).

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

- **ENERGY ASSISTANCE:** The office is 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 here. 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 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 DECEMBER:**

- Thurs 12/5-12/19, **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 12/16, **Book Club**, 1-2 PM. December's Book: *Still Life* by Louise Penny.
- Thurs 12/19, Fri 12/20, **Get Creative Painting workshop 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.**

#### **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.*