



COVENTRY COMMUNITY UPDATE:

February 2020

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

MANAGER'S MONTHLY MEMO:

February celebrates Groundhog Day and this year, Leap Year. So while a lot of Town events have the same cyclical feel we also will be leaping forward. February is the month that the Board of Education finishes up their budget, and the Town incorporates their request for a budget and forwards it to the Town Council in early March. The budget is presented to the public at the Manager's Budget Hearing, which will take place on March 12, 2020 at 7 PM the Lecture Hall at Coventry High School.

We leap forward on many projects, so please take the time to read the Winter newsletter, which will be in your homes in early February. It will outline many Capital projects, revaluation, and Town Council goals. A couple of the larger projects include getting ready to go out to bid for the Folly Lane Bridge, finishing up preliminary design for Community-Connectivity-funded sidewalks on Main Street from Hemlock Point toward Winterberry Lane, and you will likely see walls going up at the Cumberland Farms site. CT Water's contractor should have finished up water line replacement and the Town will continue the catch basin replacements and is scheduling a spring reconstruction of the roads in that subdivision. We continue to work on the Swamp Road intersection relocation with CT DOT and are no longer certain the project will be able to start this summer.

Take pride that Coventry was selected as the "best town in the State to buy a house" by GoBankingRates.com, in a [national survey](#).

This year we are joining the recognition of the 100th year of women obtaining the right to vote. We have a small committee coordinating, led by Lori Tollmann, Town Clerk. If you have a family story or idea on how to celebrate this anniversary or want to help, email Lori at ltollmann@coventryct.org.

This year is also the time for residents to complete Census 2020 forms. This time, for the first time, the Federal Government is asking for information to be submitted online. Watch for more information in the mail and from the Town Manager's office in February/March. Having every person counted matters. For more information about the 2020 census, visit: <https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Lt-Governor/Working-Groups/2020-Census-Connecticut-Complete-Count-Committee>.

UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS:

- Mon, 2/3: Town Council meeting, 7:30 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Tues, 2/10: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Thurs, 2/13: WPCA: 6 PM, DPW Conf. Room
- Thurs, 2/13: Board of Education, 7:30 PM, School Admin Bldg.
- **Tues, 2/18:** Town Council meeting, 7:30 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Mon, 2/24: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Weds, 2/26: Inland Wetlands Agency, 7 PM, Annex
- Thurs, 2/27: Board of Education, 7:30 PM, School Admin Bldg.

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

HOLIDAYS:

Monday, 2/17: Presidents' Day. Town offices closed. Trash pickup on [regular schedule](#).

COMING EVENTS:

Sat 2/1: Take Your Child to the Library Day, 1 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Celebrate with a Llama in the Library! Information: 860-742-3525.

Sun 2/2: 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 2/23/20. [Website](#).

Weds 2/5: 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](#).

Fri 2/7: 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 2/7: Father Daughter Valentines Dance: 7-9:30 PM, CNHS gym, 1776 Main Street. Any parent, guardian, grandparent of “special someone” and their daughters are invited to this special, semi-formal where lasting memories are made! Professional DJ for dancing, photographer on hand for portrait sittings at a nominal fee. \$12 pre-register, \$15 at door for fathers. Daughters are free. Info: Parks & Recreation Department, 860-742-4068.

Fri 2/7: 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. First Fridays of the month through June. Adults \$12, students \$6. Information: Dennis, 860-742-9498.

Sat 2/8: Family Ice Fishing Class & Practice: 10 AM—3 PM, Patriots Park Lodge/Coventry Lake, 172 Lake Street. Enjoy time outdoors while getting a FREE, in-depth ice fishing class. State certified instructors from CT DEEP will cover ice safety, clothing, rules and regulations, fish identification, bait and tackle, and more. If ice conditions are safe, an outside ice fishing practice will be offered on Coventry Lake with all equipment and bait provided following the class. Dress in layers and wear boots for the outdoor portion of the event—no sneakers allowed. Bring your own lunch. Pre-registration required on the Parks & Recreation page of the Town [website](#).

Sun 2/9: 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 2/23/20. [Website](#).

Tues 2/11: Financial Awareness Seminar, 6 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Tonight's topic: Understanding 401K rollovers. Information: 860-742-7606.

Sat 2/15: Woodland Walk, 1-2:30 PM, Thornton Brook Preserve, Pucker Street. Meet in parking area. Bring the family or a friend along for some fresh air and exercise. Dress warmly for the weather and ground conditions. Hot beverages will join us on this woodland stroll. Heavy

snow or severe cold cancels. Hosted by the Coventry Protected Spaces Stewardship/Conservation Commission. For more information, contact Eric Thomas, 860-742-9908.

Sat 2/15: **Pot Roast Dinner**, 4:30-6:30 PM, Second Congregational Church of Coventry Community House, 1746 Boston Turnpike. \$14 adults, \$13 for seniors, \$7 for youngsters between 6 & 8. Under 6 free. Reservations can be made at 860-742-1616. Take-out available.

Sun 2/16: **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 2/23/20. [Website](#).

Weds 2/19: **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](#).

Sun 2/23: **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 2/23/20. [Website](#).

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Sat 2/29: **Leap Day Special Event**, 1 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Bring your children to the library and learn why we celebrate Leap Day, and make some fun leap frog crafts to take home. Information: 860-742-7606.

TAX PREPARATION ASSISTANCE AT THE SENIOR CENTER: The Senior Center is happy to welcome back the AARP Tax Aid Program on a limited schedule this tax season. Volunteers will be on-site for tax preparation on four dates: February 24, March 9, March 23 and April 6. One-hour appointments will begin at 9 am-noon and will fill up quickly so please contact the office AT 860-742-3525 to reserve your appointment. Valid ID and proof of Social Security will be required at the time of appointment.

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.
- **CLERGY FUEL FUND:** Residents wishing to contribute to the Clergy Fuel Fund to assist Coventry families in need may do so by sending a donation to the Coventry Human Services Department, c/o Clergy Fuel Fund, 1712 Main Street, Coventry, CT 06238. The fund provides a one-time emergency fuel delivery during the year. Persons wishing to participate in the program can contact the Human Services Department at 860-742-5324 for information and income guidelines.

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 by the 15th of the previous month.