



COVENTRY COMMUNITY UPDATE:

September 2020

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

MANAGER'S MONTHLY MEMO:

Summer flew by, impacted with COVID-19 issues, some harsh weather, but still a lot of progress with town projects. We ask everyone to keep up the good work in keeping our town safe.

We are wrapping up summer roadwork and waiting for some line striping and crosswalk painting on a few roads. The capital bond projects are on track with completion of the grammar school parking lot. The Northfield subdivision roads reconstruction drainage is ready for mid-September milling of the remainder of the roads, then by mid-October setting catch basin tops to the final height, final wear coat of pavings, curbing and backfill, and hydro seeding grass.

Starting in early September, Tunxis Trail, Mohegan Trail, Violet Trail, Spring Trail, Birch Trail, Laurel Trail, Catalina Drive, Dimock Road and Orcutt Road will be graded out with 3 inches of cold bituminous overlay, followed by a chip seal surface in late September. A few less dirt roads to maintain.

Folly Lane Bridge replacement is underway with the bridge closed until at least December. The State's engineer will be hosting a project information meeting in late September for the replacement of Hop River Road Bridge, targeted for next summer. We are awaiting CT DOT plan review for the Swamp Road intersection realignment and Northfields intersection relocation, but still hope for an April project start.

On August 27 at a special Town Meeting, the Town was authorized to purchase land adjacent to the Public Works garage (some for future Town use; some for open space). Two projects were also forwarded for referendum consideration at the November vote: the Library renovation grant match and school roofs for the high school and addition at GH Robertson School, and alarm replacement at the high school/middle school complex. More to come in the upcoming Town newsletter.

We also are finishing the installation of new, partially grant-funded, video equipment for the Town and Board of Education to replace old and unreliable equipment for cable broadcasting and video streaming. In exciting news, we have also been awarded a \$3 million grant to improve the curves on the westerly end of South Street, including the intersection with Swamp Road, and the elimination of a big dip in Swamp Road. A grant application was also just submitted for consideration for assistance in funding a methane venting system at the football field atop the closed landfill and also to make surface improvements to that field and the adjacent area. These two multi-purpose fields could support football, soccer, or lacrosse.

We are also working on FEMA and other grants to cover COVID-19 expenses and Storm Isaias.

We have had some delays in the Community Connectivity Main Street sidewalk grant, and await response on our application for a crosswalk blinker at Ripley Hill and Main. Please see the upcoming newsletter for even more project updates.

It was a busy, tense summer. Thank you for working with us for the safety and improvement of our community.

UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS:

(Note: Most Town facilities are open to the public but with limited persons allowed. Check the [Agenda Center](#) on the Town website for details about observing some meetings via the [Zoom](#) application. Town Council meetings can also be viewed live on Charter/Spectrum Channel 191 or via [YouTube](#). Comments for the Audience of Citizens portion of Town Council meetings can be emailed to audience@coventryct.org by 4:00 PM on the day of the meeting.

- Tues, 9/8: Town Council meeting, 7:30 PM
- Thurs, 9/10: WPCA: 6 PM
- Thurs, 9/10: [Board of Education](#), 7:30 PM
- Mon, 9/14: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 PM
- Mon, 9/21: Town Council meeting, 7:30 PM
- Weds, 9/23: Inland Wetlands Agency, 7 PM
- Thurs, 9/24: [Board of Education](#), 7:30 PM
- Mon, 9/28: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 PM

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

COMING EVENTS:

(Note: Many monthly and annual events are canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. See the [Parks & Recreation page](#) on the Town website for recreational options, or the [Booth & Dimock Library's website](#) for virtual offerings.)

Weds 9/2: **Mobile Foodshare**, 10-10:30 AM, First Congregational Church, 1171 Main Street. An outdoor food distribution service for persons of low income. Text FOODSHARE to 85511 to receive the mobile schedule and cancellations directly on your phone. More [info](#).

Weds 9/16: **Mobile Foodshare**, 10-10:30 AM, First Congregational Church, 1171 Main Street. An outdoor food distribution service for persons of low income. Text FOODSHARE to 85511 to receive the mobile schedule and cancellations directly on your phone. More [info](#).

Sat 9/26: **Shred-it Event**: 9 AM – noon, Coventry Public Works, 100 Olsen Farm Road. Dispose of your paper clutter. Free for Coventry residents, valid ID required. Limit: 2 bags per household. Info: 860-742-6588.

Weds 9/30: **Mobile Foodshare**, 10-10:30 AM, First Congregational Church, 1171 Main Street. An outdoor food distribution service for persons of low income. Text FOODSHARE to 85511 to receive the mobile schedule and cancellations directly on your phone. More [info](#).

Weds 9/30: **CARE: ZOOM & Fish**, 6:30-7:30 PM. Bring your family and friends and join the CT DEEP CARE "Learn to Fish" program for a fun, virtual & hands-on introduction to the basics of fishing. This new format includes a 60-minute at-home instructional session, followed by on-site fishing trip right on Coventry Lake! For ages 8 and up. **More about our Class:** Taught by State Certified Fishing Instructors; Learn the basics: equipment, bait, rules & regulations, how and where to fish and how to care for your catch; Practice casting and tying knots; Perfect your skills on a fishing trip! Fishing equipment will be available to borrow; All participants must wear masks & practice social distancing measures while fishing; Registration is REQUIRED for access to the ZOOM Link; Space is LIMITED, so be sure to register early! In-person fishing at Patriots Park: Friday, October 2, 4:30 PM – dark. [Details and registration](#).

ENTRIES SOUGHT FOR ANNUAL SCARECROW CONTEST: The 9th Annual Scarecrow Contest is coming up in October, and registration is now open to all families, schools and businesses in Coventry. There is no fee to enter and prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners. Registration deadline: 10/8. [Details and registration link.](#)

CAPRILANDS EXHIBIT AT STRONG PORTER MUSEUM: It has been a year since the Coventry Historical Society was invited to assist in the cleaning out of the Caprilands Homestead. As part of the process, items were set aside to aid in the Historical Society's mission to preserve the Caprilands experience and the spirit of Adelma Grenier Simmons. An exhibit is now ready for viewing at the Strong Porter Museum (South Street across from the Nathan Hale Homestead). The museum will be open on Sundays from 11 AM – 3 PM by appointment only for groups of up to four people in order to maintain social distancing. Facemasks are required. If you would like to schedule a tour on an alternate day, you may. Email info@ctcoventryhistoricalsociety.org to schedule an appointment.

NEWS FROM THE BOOTH & DIMOCK MEMORIAL LIBRARY: Booth & Dimock Library is open with limited hours and continues to offer curbside pickup. Adjusted hours are:
Tuesday 10-3
Wednesday 2-7
Thursday 10-3
Saturday 10-1 (curbside pickup only)

See the Library [website](#) for more information.

FOOD BANK AVAILABLE FOR RESIDENTS IN NEED: The [Coventry Human Services Department](#) is running a limited food bank within Town Hall on Wednesdays and Fridays. If you are a Coventry resident in need, please contact our office at 860-742-5324. Food pick-up is by appointment only, please call the office to set up a time. [Online donations](#) can also now be accepted if you would like to support the food bank with a monetary contribution.

SENIOR CENTER PROGRAMMING: The reopening of the Center is a top priority when it is safe to do so. We know many of you have asked "When?" We are listening closely to the Governor's Orders and trying to get direction for a safe reopening. Please know we will be taking steps to ensure we adhere to all public health and safety measures, which will include following all CDC guidelines for social distancing and wearing our facemasks, many of which have been hand-made by our volunteers - THANK YOU! For now, we are allowing drive- up window service! You can schedule a time to pick up or drop off items at the Center, such as masks, puzzles and craft supplies.

We are still here for our residents in need of transportation to medical appointments and can help facilitate this through our [Transportation Program](#). Please leave your name, telephone number, and someone will return your call within 24 business hours. As the State works on a plan to reopen senior centers, and as soon as we know it is safe to do so, we will let you know. In the meantime, stay safe, be well, and we miss you!

"FLUSHABLE" WIPES STILL A PROBLEM: COVID-19 important notice: Wipes go in the trash, not down the drain. Please do not flush any type of wipe or even paper towels down the drain; they absolutely will not break down in the Town's sewers or your septic system. Throw them in the trash. Check out this short video for a neat demonstration of wipes vs toilet paper: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eFW2DzS99uM&feature=youtu.be>.

GET COUNTED IN THE 2020 CENSUS: It's not too late to complete your Census

information online, but the Sept. 30, 2020 deadline is approaching. It only takes a few minutes to complete the survey. Click [here](#) to start.

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.