



COVENTRY COMMUNITY UPDATE:

October 2020

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

MANAGER'S MONTHLY MEMO:

October is a special month, with the real feel of fall. This update shows many socially-distanced outdoor opportunities, some in conjunction with The Last Green Valley's "Walktober" initiative. Walktober is celebrating its 30th year. Visit the LGV [Walktober](#) site for more information. Enjoy the outdoors before it is too cold. Try out disc golf at Creaser Park. Buy a pumpkin; make a scarecrow to decorate the Town. Enjoy fall.

You should also make your voting plan for the November 3 election. You should have received an absentee ballot application. If you choose this approach, please do not delay. The application, and eventually the ballots, can be dropped in a secure drop box at the rear entrance of Town Hall (smile for the camera). If you choose to vote in person, District 1 (southern section of town) will continue to use G.H. Robertson School as the polling place. District 2 (northern section of town) has been moved to Coventry High School gym – use the gym entrance only and the parking lot on the left side of the building. There will be two referendum questions for consideration, on Library renovations and school doors/alarm replacements. See the fall Town [newsletter](#), delivered to each home last week, for an explanatory text, or refer to the Town [website](#) for the Special Town meeting presentations.

We are wrapping up this year's road projects. The road reconstruction in the Northfields subdivision is still on track for completion in late October/early November. Folly Lane Bridge replacement should be completed by December. The Swamp Road intersection realignment is on track for this coming spring/summer.

Thank you for working with us to keep our town safe as we work through COVID issues. We ask you to stay diligent and protect others by practicing social distancing, washing your hands frequently, and wearing a facemask. We will get through this. If you need food or fuel assistance, contact the Human Services Department at 860-742-5324. They are gearing up for the holiday food drives, so watch for announcements about donation opportunities. We are a caring community. Please help others while staying safe.

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.

- Mon, 10/5: Town Council meeting, 7:30 PM
- Thurs, 10/8: WPCA: 6 PM
- Thurs, 10/8: [Board of Education](#), 7:30 PM
- Tues, 10/13: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 PM
- Mon, 10/19: Town Council meeting, 7:30 PM
- Weds, 10/28: Inland Wetlands Agency, 7 PM
- Mon, 10/26: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 PM
- Thurs, 10/29: [Board of Education](#), 7:30 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.)

9/27-10/31: **Pumpkins with a Purpose**, First Congregational Church, 1131 Main Street. Weekdays 12-8, weekends 10-5. The church lawn will transform into a huge pumpkin patch with hundreds of different types of pumpkins and specialty gourds for sale. The church partners with a farm located on a Navajo reservation in New Mexico that employs local Native Americans. All proceeds support community and local church missions. Please wear masks and practice social distance when visiting. Information: 860-742-8487.

Weds 9/30: **Walktober – Where is Hop River Village**, 6:45 PM. Hop River was an important mill village in its day. Now, you have to know where to look to even find the dams, rail bed and mill sites. Come help find the clues and learn about this slice of history. Walk the rails and learn about Hop River Village, once an important mill village. See two factory sites and the dam. This is a scenic fall walk on the Hop River Rail Trail. Sponsored by [Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum](#). Easy walk. Registration at 860-617-3308. [Walktober information & calendar](#).

Fri 10/2: **Walktober – Reading the 18th Century Landscape**, 4:30-8 PM, Nathan Hale Homestead, 2299 South Street. Join Hale Homestead staff for an easy stroll into history as you are guided through the Hale Family Farm. The last leg of the journey takes you into the Nathan Hale State Forest on the “road to Norwich”, the 18th century dirt road that the Hale family used to drive their livestock to market. Heavy rain cancels. [Registration](#) or call 860-742-6917 for information. [Walktober information & calendar](#).

Weds 10/14: **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](#).

Thurs & Fri 10/15 & 10/16: **Things That Go Bump in the Night**, 7-9 PM, Nathan Hale Homestead, 2299 South Street. Get into the “spirit” of the season! Shiver and shudder through a special candlelight tour that will take you around the property. Peek into the rooms, illuminated by candlelight, and hear the traditional, long-standing Homestead ghost stories. The moonlit tour will feature the Hale Staff’s spooky encounters, as featured on the Syfy channel’s *Ghost Hunters*. Prepare to be scared while surrounded by the very history that spawned the stories. Appropriate footwear and reliable flashlights strongly recommended. Admission is \$20; \$15 for CTL Members. [Reservations](#) required. Also scheduled on Thurs & Fri 10/22 & 10/23, and Thurs & Fri 10/30 & 10/31.

Sat 10/17: **Town-wide Tag Sale Fall Edition**, 8 AM – 4 PM. Join in this annual event and get cash for those items you no longer need. \$20 to participate. Registration deadline 10/7. For registration and other details, visit the Parks & Recreation website at [this link](#).

Sat 10/17: **Outdoor Craft Fair**, 8 AM – 1 PM, St. Mary Church parking lot, 1600 Main Street. Handmade items including assorted floral and clothespin wreaths, jewelry, stitchery including mittens, scarves, afghans and Quilling designs. Canopies will be spaced with social distancing observed and masks required. Call Janice for more information at 860-742-6355.

Mon 10/19: **Walktober - Uplands to Lowlands – a Sloping Walk**, 10 AM – 12 PM, Williams Preserve, Cooper Lane. Enjoy a moderate walk on a former small family farm reverted to field

and forest on a town preserve with access to upper Eagleville Lake. A 100 m elevation drop (and gain) on a well-marked trail loop. Register by calling 860-930-7515. Sponsored by the Town of Coventry. [Walktober information & calendar](#).

Weds 10/28: **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](#).

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

ORDER DAFFODIL BULBS FOR FALL PLANTING: The Daffodil Beautification Project, sponsored by the Village Improvement Society, is in full swing this fall. This town-wide service project has resulted in the planting of hundreds of thousands of daffodil bulbs in Coventry for enjoyment by the public! To order Dutch Master (all yellow) or Giant Mixture at \$4.50 per dozen, call Judy at 860-214-9567.

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: [The Booth & Dimock Memorial Library](#) is open on Tuesday & Thursday 10-3, and Wednesday 2-7. We are also offering curbside pick-up on Tuesday & Thursday 10-3, Wednesday 2-7, and Saturday 10-2.

The Library is offering a new slate of programming, which includes the following:

Storytime Classroom: Join Miss Christa for a fun and interactive Storytime Classroom! A new classroom will be posted to the Booth and Dimock Memorial Library Facebook page every Tuesday morning at 10:15am. This interactive classroom will include a storytime song with Miss Christa, as well as ebooks picks and book picks that can be requested for curbside pickup from Booth and Dimock!

Wednesday Evening Storytime: Cozy up every Wednesday evening for a story read by Miss Rachel! New read-aloud videos will be posted every Wednesday evening on the Booth and Dimock Memorial Library Facebook page at 6:00pm.

Friday Morning Storytime: Look out for a new story read-aloud video from Miss Christa every Friday morning! Videos will be posted on the Booth and Dimock Memorial Library Facebook page on Fridays at 10:15am.

Science Thursday: Join Miss Rachel every Thursday morning for Science Thursday! A new STEAM-based activity, book review, or video will be posted on the Booth and Dimock Memorial Library Facebook page Thursdays at 11:00am.

Mathemagical Mondays: Join Miss Rachel for a math enrichment program for school-age children! We will explore some of the ways in which math is a part of our everyday lives. We will be doing activities that look at the connection between math, nature, and art. A new activity will be posted on the Booth and Dimock Memorial Library Facebook page on the second and fourth Monday of each month.

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 are 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 has published recommendations on the Re-Opening of Senior Centers, we have developed a plan to do so. We will self-certify with the Department of Economic and Community Development and with the approval of our Town Manager and Eastern Highlands Health District, we will implement our plan mid-October. While in-person programming will remain by appointment only, Open House sessions will be scheduled to acquaint all with our new policies and procedures. We are very excited to see your smiling faces!

PLANNING UNDERWAY FOR CHRISTMAS IN COVENTRY VILLAGE 2020: The “core planning team” for the annual Coventry holiday event has been meeting, deliberating, and seeking direction at the local and state level, as to how this tradition can be carried out given the current circumstances. The team is working closing with the CT DECD’s “Re-Open Connecticut” guidelines as they determine what and what cannot take place. Under consideration is a “holiday open house” concept to take place throughout the weekend of December 5 and 6. Questions, ideas, and concerns are welcome. Please contact Cindy Houser, cjhouser54@gmail.com, 860-617-3588; Barbara Barry, 307barbara@charter.net, 860-803-7163; or Ruth O’Neil, songaday@hotmail.com, 860-918-5957 to share your thoughts. Follow the Lions Club Facebook page for updates.

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.