



## COVENTRY COMMUNITY UPDATE:

**February 2021**

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

### MANAGER'S MONTHLY MEMO:

Just because it's February, don't be a groundhog. Venture out of your home, even if it's virtually. I think if you read this update, you will find many innovative programs for you and your family. We need to drive down the recent COVID spikes to give us time to get vaccinated. Please be patient as supply issues get resolved. For updated COVID information, please go to the State of Connecticut's [COVID website](#), or to our [Eastern Highlands Health District website](#). We continue to tweak our Town Hall operations for both the safety of our employees and the public. We request that if you can conduct your business remotely, please do. We need to limit the number of people in our building. Try [paying your taxes](#), or searching for [land records](#) and [assessing](#) information online. We expanded our building and land use permit system, too. See the Town website [Building Office](#) page for more details. You can also sign up for automatic COVID alerts from the Town in the Alerts section of our [Notify Me](#) service.

On Friday, January 29 in the driveway loop at Town Hall, we will have a drive-through food distribution event from 10 AM – 12 PM. This is for Coventry residents only, so please bring identification verifying your residency. No appointment necessary, just drive up and receive a box of food.

The Booth & Dimock Memorial Library remains open and continues to offer curbside service at the following hours: Tuesday 10-3, Wednesday 2-7, Thursday 2-7, and Friday 10-3. The Library is open for curbside service and computer appointments only on Saturday 10-1. See below for more information on Library programs and services.

Watch for your winter newsletter in a few weeks. It will be full of updates on Town projects and programs.

### 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](mailto:audience@coventryct.org) by 4:00 PM on the day of the meeting.**

- Mon, 2/1: Town Council meeting, 7:30 PM
- Mon, 2/8: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 PM
- Thurs, 2/11: WPCA: 6 PM
- Thurs, 2/11: [Board of Education](#), 7:30 PM
- Tues, 2/16: Town Council meeting, 7:30 PM
- Mon, 2/22: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 PM
- Weds, 2/24: Inland Wetlands Agency, 7 PM
- Thurs, 2/25, [Board of Education](#), 7:30 PM

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

### HOLIDAYS:

- Mon 2/15: **Presidents' Day**. Town offices closed. Trash pick-up on normal schedule

## COMING EVENTS:

Weds 2/3: **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](#).

Mon 2/1-3/29: **Art-Venture Virtual Program**. 4:15-5:15 PM. For kids grades K-5. Join Art-Ventures, a division of Mad Science New England, for these fun and innovative virtual art programs from the comfort of your home. These programs will keep kids engaged through live streaming, interactive ZOOM classes! Each session includes eight one-hour classes. Cost: \$115. A list of supplies will be provided to obtain on your own, or you can purchase the materials from [Art-Ventures](#) for local pickup. Siblings can also join on the same screen for \$33. This session: Art-Ventures in the Rainforest. Art explorers trek through the rainforest on a jungle safari, discovering the wondrous and rare creatures that call it home. Journey into the world of parrots, jungle cats, snakes, tree frogs, butterflies and more, and experiment with whimsical and original art forms and techniques to build rain sticks, metal art reptiles and colorful backpacks. Details and registration information in the Parks & Recreation catalog [here](#).

Weds 2/3 – 2/24: **Virtual Cooking Classes for Kids**, 4:30-5:30 PM. For kids grade 3-7. Join registered dietitians from Food Explorers for new sessions of Virtual Cooking Classes for Kids! Exploring food encourages children to learn through sensory experiences, hands-on activities and working together to create delicious results. February's program: Snack Attack! Make some delicious after-school snacks. These aren't just your average snacks; you'll learn a new recipe each week with the help of a registered dietitian. Recipes include: Baked Avocado Fries, Chewy Granola Bars, Mac & Cheese Cups, and Chocolate Chickpea Truffles. A grocery list will be provided after registration. All recipes use simple and easy-to-find ingredients. \$50. Details and registration information on the Parks & Recreation catalog [here](#).

Thurs 2/4-4/1: **Art-Venture Virtual Program**. 4:15-5:15 PM. For kids grades K-5. Join Art-Ventures, a division of Mad Science New England, for these fun and innovative virtual art programs from the comfort of your home. These programs will keep kids engaged through live streaming, interactive ZOOM classes! Each session includes eight one-hour classes. Cost: \$115. A list of supplies will be provided to obtain on your own, or you can purchase the materials from [Art-Ventures](#) for local pickup. Siblings can also join on the same screen for \$33. This session: Monsters & Mermaids Fantasy Art. Art explorers venture into a fantasy kingdom where fairies flit through the skies and zombies roam the streets. Decorate witch or wizard hats, sculpt clay witches or wizards on broomsticks, design ceramic skulls, paint unicorn or dragon banks, create t-shirts, canvas art, hand puppets and more. Details and registration information in the Parks & Recreation catalog [here](#).

Sun 2/7: **Coventry Winter Farmers' Market**, 10 AM – 1 PM, Community Center at Patriots Park, 124 Lake Street. November 15, 2020 – March 14, 2021. Roasts, steaks, turkey, chicken, pies, produce, baked goods, cheeses, sweet and savory choices and more. [Website](#).

Fri 2/12: **Virtual Family Games – Valentine Jukebox**, 7-8 PM. Coventry Parks & Recreation is teaming up with Keith Alan Productions to offer a new virtual program designed to inspire parents and kids with the music both love! Each playing team will get their own, one-of-a-kind bingo card to play along. Listen to 25 seconds of a song, be able to name that song, and locate it on your bingo card. The first team to match the pattern of the games yells BINGO! \$15. Register [here](#).

Sat 2/13: **Keep Calm and Craft on!** 11 AM – 12 PM. Join Coventry's own Yasmine Forte as she leads kids in grades 3-5 in fun, easy, themed craft activities on Saturday mornings. Order

your “craft kit” chock-full of materials needed to complete the projects, and join Yas for a ZOOM class as she walks you through how to complete each project. The \$10 kits can be picked up at the Parks & Recreation office during regular office hours. February’s theme: Valentine’s Day. [Register](#) early – space is limited!

Sun 2/14: **Coventry Winter Farmers’ Market**, 10 AM – 1 PM, Community Center at Patriots Park, 124 Lake Street. November 15, 2020 – March 14, 2021. Roasts, steaks, turkey, chicken, pies, produce, baked goods, cheeses, sweet and savory choices and more. [Website](#).

Weds 2/17: **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](#).

Sun 2/21: **Coventry Winter Farmers’ Market**, 10 AM – 1 PM, Community Center at Patriots Park, 124 Lake Street. November 15, 2020 – March 14, 2021. Roasts, steaks, turkey, chicken, pies, produce, baked goods, cheeses, sweet and savory choices and more. [Website](#).

Sun 2/28: **Coventry Winter Farmers’ Market**, 10 AM – 1 PM, Community Center at Patriots Park, 124 Lake Street. November 15, 2020 – March 14, 2021. Roasts, steaks, turkey, chicken, pies, produce, baked goods, cheeses, sweet and savory choices and more. [Website](#).

#### **BOOTH & DIMOCK MEMORIAL LIBRARY – SERVICES AND PROGRAMS:**

- Weekly programs and book reviews for all ages are available on the Library’s Facebook page, [@BDLibrary](#). For school-aged children, the Library continues to offer a series of monthly Curriculum Booster Programs, which include Mathmagical Mondays, Science Thursdays, and Adventures in Non-Fiction.
- Journey Through the Classics – Join Miss Christa and Miss Rachel for story time as they read through some wonderful classic children’s books, chapter by chapter! Videos will be posted to the Library’s Facebook page every Tuesday and Friday evening.
- Take Your Child to the Library Day – While the Library will have to celebrate Take Your Child to the Library Day a little differently this year, we hope that many families will stop by and pick up a Write Your Own Story Kit. These kits will be available to pick up at the Library beginning February 6, 2021 as supplies last. Each kit will include a blank booklet and pack of crayons so you can create your own picture book at home! The Library would love for you to share your creations with them on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#)!
- Therapy Lights – Getting the winter blues? Check out one of the Library’s happy lights! Light therapy lamps are designed to mimic spring and summer light levels. Reading, working, or relaxing in front of them for only 20-30 minutes per day have shown to lessen the effects of season affective disorder (SAD).
- Tea Explorers – A new monthly program where you will learn about the history of tea, and pick up tea samples at the Library to try at home! This program is available by visiting the Library or calling for curbside service, 860-742-7606.
- Spice Life – Even a hint of spice can have a profound influence on a recipe! Each month we will explore a different spice, the cultures it represents, health benefits that can be derived from it, and share and discuss new recipes virtually. Spice samples are available by visiting the Library or calling for curbside service.

#### **VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS & EMTS NEEDED:**

The [Town of Coventry Fire and EMS](#) is looking for a few good neighbors to become a volunteer firefighter or EMT. Members must be 18 years or older. Junior members 14-17 years old. Click [here](#) for a flyer.

#### **NEWS FROM THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT:**

The Coventry Food Bank is operating out of Town Hall on an appointment-only basis. Pick-ups can be scheduled for Wednesday 9-4, or Friday 9-1, by calling Human Services at 860-742-5324. Foodshare and the Connecticut Food Bank have also announced three additional sites to replicate the Rentschler Field Drive-Thru Food Distribution model, with locations in Norwich, Norwalk, and New London. Click [here](#) for details.

#### **NEWS FROM THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE:**

**The Elderly or Totally Disabled Homeowner Program** begins February 1, 2021, and applications are being accepted until May 17, 2021. Our office will be sending reminder letters by the end of January 2021 to those people who have to re-file this year. Remember that this program is income driven from the state and income guidelines are set by the state for both single and married individuals. Please call if your income is less than \$45,800 if married, or less than \$37,600 if single, both must include Social Security benefits and your adjusted gross income from your 2020 Federal Income tax return. If you qualify for the State program, the Town of Coventry also has either a tax credit or a tax deferral program which has the same income requirements.

**The Additional Veterans Program** also starts February 1, 2021 and applications are accepted until October 1, 2021. A DD214 must have been filed with the Town Clerk prior to **October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021** to be eligible for this additional exemption. If you have already filed and did not receive a letter from our office, you do not need to re-file. You will receive your exemption automatically. For additional veteran's benefits, please call if your income is less than \$45,800 if married, or less than \$37,600 if single, both must include Social Security benefits and your adjusted gross income from your 2020 Federal Income Tax return.

You will be asked to provide proof of all the income documentation regarding both of the above-mentioned applications. Additional Veteran's and Homeowner applications are taken biannually.

**Crumbling Foundations** has been an ongoing issue for 19 Towns in the eastern part of the State. Connecticut General Statutes have allowed the Assessor's Office to revalue the property starting with the 2016 Grand List. Applications are on our [website](#) and in the office. These must be filed along with a certified engineer's report in order to receive an adjusted assessment. The filing deadline for an adjustment on the grand list is December 31, 2020. Along with that, the State of Connecticut has a reimbursement program for the testing of concrete foundations. If you would like to apply please use the CROG link [foundationtesting.org](http://foundationtesting.org) for the application, or call (860) 724-4277 concerning any questions you may have.

The Board of Assessment Appeals will be meeting in March of 2021. Appeal **applications must be filed no later than February 20, 2021**. The board is required to hear all appeals concerning Motor Vehicle, Personal Property or Real Estate. Applications will be available in January 2021 in the Assessor's Office or online at [www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org).

*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.*