



COVENTRY COMMUNITY UPDATE:

December 2016

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

MANAGER'S MONTHLY MEMO:

The busy holiday season is upon us with many activities to get you in the mood for Christmas, Hanukkah or New Year's. See the calendar for all your community offers. Last-minute gifts are available at the PTO Craft Fair (12/3), Christmas in the Village (12/4) or the Winter Farmers' Market (12/4, 11 & 18). Buy local and support your friends and neighbors. Enjoy the Town Hall tree lighting on 12/7 or have Breakfast with Santa (12/10). Consider helping your neighbors with food or fuel, or help ring the bell to help out. The spirit of giving is alive in our town.

Monthly notable items:

- Lisa Thomas resigned from the Town Council after 9 years of service. We wish her well.
- Coventry High School Boys' Soccer won the State Class S Championship. Congratulations!
- The Town of Coventry won the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities' first Municipal Excellence Award in our size category, including a \$1,000 cash prize, to be put toward the Village project in memory of Rose Fowler and Arnold Carlson.
- We received retirement notices from Leigh Wajda, part time senior van transportation coordinator (December 30, 2016) and Beth Bauer, Director of Finance (March 17, 2017). Both will be greatly missed.
- We anticipate finally closing on the Reynolds Farm (Flanders Road) development project purchase, protecting almost 90 acres of farmland from development with significant funds from the State of CT, CT Farmland Trust and a local share of just over \$40,000.
- The Coventry Lake Gate project is underway to replace the aged, leaking structure.
- The State Main Street project is taking shape and will go into a winter paving – shutdown with the final work in the spring. The main culvert work is scheduled for December.
- The Lake and Cross Street safety and road project will be out to bid this month for spring work.
- The CHS sidewalk project is almost complete with final work planned in spring.
- With the installation of irrigation at Laidlaw Soccer field (labor donated by Water Wizards) the grass finally took and a new soccer field will become a field of dreams for next year.
- Speaking of water, the State has issued a first-ever drought watch as a result of rainfall deficits over the past several years. See details [here](#) and please conserve where you can.
- The deadline to participate in Solarize Coventry is December 1st. Click [here](#) to see if your home is suitable for solar. **If you are considering a contract now is the time to finalize it before the rate increases.**

HOLIDAYS:

Friday, 12/23 & Monday, 12/26: Christmas holiday. Town offices and Senior Center closed. Trash pickup on regular schedule.

UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS:

- Mon, 12/5: Town Council Meeting: Town Hall Annex. 7:00 PM – Public Hearing for consideration of additional property tax credit for Coventry seniors. 7:30 PM – regular meeting.

- Thurs, 12/8: WPCA Meeting, 6:45 PM, DPW Conf. Room
- Thurs, 12/8: Board of Education, 7:30 PM, School Admin. Building
- Mon, 12/12: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Weds, 12/21: Inland Wetlands Agency, 7:30 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Mon, 12/19: Town Council Meeting: 7:30 PM, Town Hall Annex

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

COMING EVENTS:

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| Thurs | 12/1 | Connecticut Civilian Conservation Corps Camps , 6:30 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main St. Author Marty Podskoch will lead a presentation based on his new book, which will be available for purchase. The Civilian Conservation Corps was created under the “New Deal” to relieve the poverty and unemployment of the Depression. Twenty-one camps were set up in Connecticut. Workers built trails, roads, campsites, dams, stocked fish, built and maintained a fire tower observer’s cabin & telephone lines, fought fires, & planted millions of trees. Library event calendar . |
| Thurs | 12/1 | Public Forum: Eastern Gateways Study , 7 PM, Town Hall Annex, 1712 Main Street. This forum is part of a grant being administered in partnership with the Capital Region Council of Governments to address increasing travel demand along the Rt. 44 and 195 corridors. Potential opportunities to improve mobility include pedestrian, biking and mass transit solutions. Please visit www.cteasterngateways.com or contact Eric Trott, Coventry Director of Planning at 860-742-4062 or etrott@coventryct.org if you have questions. Click here to view a flyer for the event. |
| Fri | 12/2 | After School Movie , 2 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main St. Skip the line at the theater! Bring your friends. Snacks provided. Presented by the Teen Zone. Movie: <i>Spirited Away</i> . |
| Sat | 12/3 | Pancake Fundraiser for Boy Scout Troop 65 , 8-10 AM, Applebee’s Restaurant, 93 Storrs Road (Eastbrook Mall). \$5/ticket. Breakfast includes 3 pancakes, 2 slices bacon and unlimited drinks. Call 860-742-5435 for tickets. Walk-in’s welcome. |
| Sat | 12/3 | PTO Craft Show , 9 AM – 3 PM, Coventry High School, 78 Ripley Hill Rd. Over 50 crafters, bake sale, take-a-chance table, strolling minstrels. Lunch will be served. \$2 adults, children free. Info: 860-742-6479. |
| Sun | 12/4 | Christmas in Coventry Village , 12-4 PM. Welcome in the holiday season throughout the historical section of Main Street as vendors, businesses and community groups offer a variety of activities, events and specials throughout the afternoon. The Lions Club will host its annual decorated tree auction. Santa pays a visit with the children! Horse and wagon rides! “Polar Express” train rides! Story time! Refreshments! Giveaways! Holiday music! Great shopping! A schedule of events will be available at local businesses as the day nears. Visit the Coventry Village Facebook page for ongoing updates. If you are interested in participating or would like more information contact Cindy Houser, 860-617-3588 or email cjhouser@sbc.global , Barbara Barry, 860-742-7160 or Ruth O’Neil, 860-742-6878, email songaday@hotmail.com . Donations to Christmas in the Village are welcome and may be made c/o First Niagara Bank, P.O. Box 415, Coventry, CT 06238. |
| Sun | 12/4 | Holiday Market , 12-4 PM, First Congregational Church of Coventry, 1171 Main Street. First Church is celebrating Coventry's Christmas in the Village with a Holiday Market on both levels of the church. Buy a slice of pizza |

from Wicked Slice! Stop in for a free hot cocoa! Tag sale, silent auction and tin cup raffle including Lake Compounce passes, a \$100 gift card to Bob's Discount Furniture and much more, plus a huge raffle with prizes including Disney World tickets, an "I Spy" quilt, Kindle Fire tablet package, greens fees at Skungamaug River Golf, and more (drawing at 3:30 PM). Browse and shop for a variety of antiques, crafts, jewelry, baked goods, books, and unique vendors. Plus we will hold your purchases for you throughout the event! Email for info: Firstchurchfair@hotmail.com.

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| Sun | 12/4 | Coventry Winter Farmers' Market , 11 AM – 2 PM, Coventry High School cafeteria. Fresh produce, prepared foods, CT-grown products, artisans and more. Website . |
| Tues | 12/6 | Tech Tuesdays , 6 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main St. These hands-on workshops are intended to help you navigate the vast and growing world of technology. If you have a laptop, tablet or smartphone, feel free to bring them. Tonight's topic: Zinio. Borrowing magazines from the Library to your mobile device or computer has never been easier. Library event calendar . |
| Weds | 12/7 | ASK: After School Kids , 4 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. A new club for school age kids (K-5) that meets every other week. Join us for a different project or activity each week! Check our Facebook page or website for information for what we plan on doing each week. |
| Weds | 12/7 | Chinese Storytime , 6 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Learn about Chinese culture and stories from special visitor Mr. Gu. This is an all-ages family event, and an experience you do not want to miss. Library event calendar . |
| Weds | 12/7 | Annual Town Hall Tree Lighting Ceremony , 6:30-8:30 PM, Town Hall, 1712 Main Street. Participate in the lighting of our Town Hall tree! Enjoy music, caroling, a visit from Santa, refreshments and more at the middle school immediately following the tree lighting. More info here . |
| Thurs | 12/8 | DIY Holograms , 4 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Work together or on your own to complete this monthly Maker challenge in the Teen Zone! Library event calendar . |
| Thurs | 12/8 | Cookbook Club , 6 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. New members are always welcome for culinary camaraderie at our Cookbook Club. This year we will meet the second Thursday of the month. Make a recipe and join us for dinner and conversation at the library. Tonight's topic: "Holiday Favorites." Library event calendar . |
| Fri | 12/9 | Messy Munchkins , 10:30 AM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main St. A multi-sensory playgroup that encourages participation from both caregiver and child. *Some activities may get messy so please dress accordingly.* Ages 4 and under. Library event calendar . |
| Fri | 12/9 | B.D. Arcade , 3-4 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main St. Drop in after school between 3-4pm for some of your favorite Wii, PS2, PS4, and PC games. Grades 6-12. Library event calendar . |
| Sat | 12/10 | Pancake Breakfast with Santa , 8-11 AM, CHS Cafeteria, 78 Ripley Hill Rd. Pancakes, sausage, juice, milk, hot chocolate and coffee will be served. Take-a-chance table. \$8 adults and children 10 and older, \$6 seniors, \$5 children ages 3-9, free for children under 2. Sponsored by Coventry High School Project Graduation. Info: 860-742-0304. |
| Sun | 12/11 | Coventry Winter Farmers' Market , 11 AM – 2 PM, Coventry High School cafeteria. Fresh produce, prepared foods, CT-grown products, artisans and more. Website . |

- Tues 12/13 **Pokémon Party**, 4 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main St. Join us to celebrate the release of Pokémon: Sun and Moon and the 20th anniversary of Pokémon! Party will include some Pokémon crafts, activities, and end with a Pokémon throwback TV episode! Grades 4 and up. [Library event calendar](#).
- Weds 12/14 **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. More [info](#).
- Thurs 12/15 **Creative Gift Wrapping**, 6:30 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main St. Ever wanted to experiment with some of the creative gift wrap and bows you see on Pinterest? Join us to try out fancy and unique wrapping options. [Library event calendar](#).
- Sun 12/18 **Coventry Winter Farmers' Market**, 11 AM – 2 PM, Coventry High School cafeteria. Fresh produce, prepared foods, CT-grown products, artisans and more. [Website](#).
- Tues 12/20 **Tech Tuesdays**, 6 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main St. These hands-on workshops are intended to help you navigate the vast and growing world of technology. If you have a laptop, tablet or smartphone, feel free to bring them. Tonight's topic: Cookie Caster. Digitally design cookie cutters and have the opportunity to print them on the 3D printer. [Library event calendar](#).
- Weds 12/21 **ASK: After School Kids**, 4 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. A new club for school age kids (K-5) that meets every other week. Join us for a different project or activity each week! Check our [Facebook page](#) or [website](#) for information for what we plan on doing each week.
- Weds 12/21 **Wednesday Night Book Club**, 7 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. Held the 3rd Wednesday of the month at in the front parlor. New members are always welcome. Books are available at the main desk. Tonight we will pick selections for 2017.
- Thurs 12/22 **Comics Club**, 4 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main St. A book club all about comics! Read the book before each meeting and join us for a discussion, snack, and activity. Grades 3-5. This month: *Star Wars: Jedi Academy* by Jeff Brown. [Library event calendar](#).
- Thurs 12/22 **Board to Death**, 6 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main St. Tabletop gaming fun for grown-ups. Bring your friends. [Library event calendar](#).
- Tues 12/27 **Artist to Artist: Alan Menken & Michael Mitnick**, 2 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main St. Best known for his scores to *The Little Mermaid*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Aladdin* and *Pocahontas*, multiple Academy Award winner Alan Menken discusses artist process with emerging playwright and songwriter Michael Mitnick. This *Lincoln Center Local* free screening was previously recorded on June 3, 2015. [Library event calendar](#).
- Weds 12/28 **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. More [info](#).
- Thurs 12/28 **Lego® Club**, 2 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street. We provide the bricks -- you provide your imagination. Each monthly meeting will now include a challenge! Ages 5 & up. (*LEGO® is a trademark of the LEGO Group, which does not sponsor, authorize or endorse this program.*) [Library event calendar](#).

Fri 12/30 **B.D. Arcade**, 3-4 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main St.
Drop in after school between 3-4pm for some of your favorite Wii, PS2,
PS4, and PC games. Grades 6-12. Library [event calendar](#).

BUSINESS SURVEY: The Coventry Economic Development Commission has released a local business survey in an effort to better understand the needs of the businesses in town. The survey is available at the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CoventryEDCsurvey>. The results of the survey will be carefully evaluated by the Commission and staff and will provide specific guidance on tasks that can be undertaken to respond to the priority issues that are identified in the survey responses. Please contact Eric Trott at etrott@coventryct.org or 860-742-4062 if you have any questions or to schedule a business visitation with a Commission member.

CLERGY FUEL FUND 2016: The Clergy Fuel Fund assists Coventry residents in need of emergency heating assistance and 100% of the dollars raised remains in the town. To make donations please make checks payable to “Clergy Fuel Bank” and mailed c/o Coventry Town Hall, Finance Office, 1712 Main Street, Coventry, CT 06238. Please contact Coventry Human Services for more information, 860-742-5324.

HOLIDAY “ADOPT-A-FAMILY” PROGRAM: The holiday season is here and there are many families and individuals who could benefit from your generosity. The Human Services Department will be accepting turkeys and all the trimmings, toys, coats, mittens/hats and gift cards for ages birth to 18. Please call 860-742-5324 to indicate how you can help. Freezer space is limited, so please call ahead if you are making a large donation of frozen turkeys. **Donations requested by December 13.** If you wish to make a monetary donation in lieu of a food or gift item, please mail your contribution to: The Holiday Committee, c/o Coventry Human Services, 1712 Main Street, Coventry, CT 06238. **If you are a family or individual in need of some help at the holidays, please call the office for a brief interview at 860-742-5324.**

BELL RINGERS NEEDED: If you are interested in being a 2016 bell ringer we are switching completely to an online system this year, in an attempt to simplify the sign up process. Bell ringing will go through Saturday, December 24, 2016. You can choose to ring on any of the days between the hours of 9 AM and 8 PM. Please pick the dates and times that work for you and your families. Please click on the link below where all the details and program options are listed. www.SignUpGenius.com/go/4090A4CACA922A0FA7-bell1

LETTERS TO SANTA: Kids, let Santa know just how good you have been this year! From now through December 6th, we will be 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 Town Hall tree lighting ceremony in early December. You may also mail your letter 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!

To list your event in this bulletin, contact Laura Stone at LStone@coventryct.org by the 15th of the previous month.