



## COVENTRY COMMUNITY UPDATE:

April 2017

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

### MANAGER'S MONTHLY MEMO:

A quick reminder that the Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for 10 AM on April 22, 2017 at the CHS Veterans' Auditorium. Budget information will be available on the Town's website following Town Council adjustments. Watch for the spring newsletter for a Budget in Brief, too. There also will be a question to authorize a \$5,400,000 addition and renovation to the Booth & Dimock Library. This will be offset by a \$1,000,000 State Library grant and other funds are being sought. Both the budget and Library question are scheduled for a vote on Tuesday, May 2, 2017 between 6 AM and 8 PM at both fire houses.

The lake gate project is in the home stretch and we plan to start raising the lake level. The Lake & Cross Street paving and safety project is out to bid and likely won't start until June (\$1.4 million – 100% grant). The summer road schedule is being finalized with the budget but some roads will be chip-sealed in May/June. [Sign up for road closing e-blasts](#) for automatic notification about these projects when a closing or major delay is anticipated – it might save you some time and frustration.

A word of deep appreciation to the Coventry Volunteer Fire Association, who worked hard over the last year to transfer the license to administer the ambulances to the Town. They turned over ownership of the vehicles and cash balances from the billing services. The ambulances are now being run by the Town as Coventry Fire/EMS. Volunteers from Coventry Volunteer Fire and North Coventry Volunteer Fire will staff nights and weekends, and a temporary staffing agency will provide weekday coverage. This will give our volunteers a break and provide fast response time. Due to the volunteers' efforts no increase is being requested in next year's budget to fund this changeover. Questions can be referred to Noel Waite, Fire/EMS Administrator, at 860-742-4064.

Working with both Fire Services, the Town has taken steps to modernize our fire fleet. We have a gently used Quint (ladder & pumper/tanker truck) which is in town and being readied for action. This will help get water to the right place. We also have ordered our first tanker truck to provide more water to fire scenes. Older pieces will be retired. Both of these pieces of equipment were purchased far below original estimates and will help with homeowner's insurance ratings. Thanks to the joint department truck committee for developing a plan which saved over \$500,000 while improving safety!

### UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS:

- Mon, 4/3: Town Council Meeting: 7:30 PM, Town Hall Annex.
- Mon, 4/10: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Thurs, 4/13: WPCA Meeting, 6:00 PM, DPW Conf. Room
- Thurs, 4/13: Board of Education, 7:30 PM, School Admin. Building
- Mon, 4/17: Town Council Meeting: 7:30 PM, Town Hall Annex
- **Sat, 4/22: Annual Town Meeting, 10 AM, CHS Veterans' Auditorium**
- Mon, 4/24: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Weds, 4/26: Inland Wetlands Agency, 7:00 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Thurs, 4/27: Board of Education, 7:30 PM, School Admin. Building

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

## COMING EVENTS:

- Sat 4/1 **Breakfast and Egg Hunt with the Easter Bunny**, 8-11 AM, CHS cafeteria, 78 Ripley Hill Road. Proceeds benefit Project Graduation. Adults/kids 10 & over - \$8, Kids 3-9 - \$5, Kids under 2 free. Egg hunt free with breakfast or \$5 per child. Egg Hunt begins at 9:30 AM. Info: 860-930-6489.
- Sat 4/1 **Annual Trout Derby**, 8 AM – 2 PM, Manchester Coon & Fox Club, 617 North River Road. Ticket sales starting at 7 AM. Adults \$19, under 16 \$8. Stocked private pond, No license, no limit. \$100 for longest trout, trophies to 3<sup>rd</sup> place in adult & 3 age groups under 16 years. Breakfast, lunch & beverages available. Bait for sale. Bring your own chairs. Info: 860-604-4467.
- Mon 4/3 **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Resource Fair**, 10 AM – 2PM, Patriots Park Lodge, 172 Lake Street. Coventry Youth Services, Coventry Grammar School, and Coventry Senior Center are hosting this free day filled with speakers, resource booths and lunch! This event is open to all grandparents raising grandchildren in Coventry and surrounding towns. Please contact Nora Ingle, intern at Coventry Human Services, 860-742-5324 with any questions. Click [here](#) for a flyer.
- Weds 4/5 **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. More [info](#).
- Weds 4/5 **Lunch Bunch is back!** Join the crew at the 99 Restaurant on 295 Hartford Turnpike in Vernon at 12 PM. Order off the menu so bring your own \$\$\$. Please sign up in the lobby at the Senior Center so we can let the restaurant know how many to expect! Info: 860-742-3525.
- Thurs 4/6 **Taste Korea: Korean Cuisine Full of Wisdom and Nature**, 6 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main St. The Korean Spirit and Culture Promotion Project (KSCPP) will demonstrate making four dishes and serve a meal to the attendees. Other information on Korean Culture will be provided. Brought to Coventry through the generosity of the Porter Library. Registration is required. [Library event calendar](#).
- Fri 4/7 **Quiet Corner Contra Dance**, Patriots Park Lodge, 172 Lake St. Lesson 7:30 PM, dancing 8-11 PM. Live band & caller. Partner not necessary. Wear soft-soled shoes. Adults \$10, students \$5, families \$20. Info: 484-844-5203.
- Sat 4/8 **Princess in Black Tea Party**, 1:30 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main St. *Wanted: Monster-fighters for Fancy Tea Party.* You are invited to a fancy tea party! Please dress in your fanciest tea party clothes! We will play lovely party games and eat the most proper tea party snacks. We will also be FIGHTING MONSTERS! [Library event calendar](#).
- Mon 4/10 **Informational meeting: Proposed cell tower at Skungamaug Golf Course**, 7:00 PM during Planning & Zoning Commission meeting, Town Hall Annex.
- Mon 4/10 **Conversations with Veterans' Advocate Moe Collin**, 1 PM, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. Come meet Moe Collins, Coventry resident and volunteer veterans' advocate. Moe has previously worked at the DAV (Disabled American Veterans organization) as a Veterans' Service Representative, assisting veterans apply for appropriate benefits. He currently volunteers his time at the Newington VA Medical Center where he manages The Veteran's Closet, a free clothing and personal care item store for homeless and needy Veterans. Moe will be available at the center on an as needed basis to help Coventry veterans apply for or understand their Veteran benefits. He has a LIFETIME of experience—come with questions!

Sign up in the lobby or just stop by and introduce yourself. Info: 860-742-3525.

- Tues 4/11 **Tech Topics**, 6:30 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main St. Learn how to use computers, popular computer programs, and mobile devices. Tech Classes are held **Tuesdays at 6:30 pm** and then the same class is offered **Wednesdays at 12:30 pm**. If you have a laptop, tablet or smartphone, feel free to bring them. **April 11th and 12th - Digital Organization.** [Library event calendar.](#)
- Weds 4/12 **Coventry Reads Photo Display and a Reception**, 6:30 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main St. Join the Board of Trustees for the opening of the *Coventry Reads* Photo Display and a reception to give back to the community. Libraries are more about doing than borrowing – more about connecting than simply plugging in – today’s libraries are transforming. For education, jobs, or lifelong learning, the resources at your library can transform your life. Info: 860-742-7606.
- Weds 4/12 **TVCCA Bistro Lunch**, 12PM, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. Turkey with Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Stuffing with Cranberry, & Fudge Brownie—it’s a Thanksgiving in April! Meal is \$6 and reservations are due by Wednesday April 5, 2017. Reservations can be made by stopping by the Senior Center, Monday-Friday 9:00am-4:00pm. Info: 860-742-3525.
- Thurs 4/13 **Annual Flower and Plant Sale**, North Coventry Volunteer Fire Department fire house, 3427 Main Street. Thursday 4/13 from 2-6 PM, Friday 4/14 from 12-6 PM and Saturday 4/15 from 8 AM – 6 PM.
- Thurs 4/13 **No School Day Movie**, 2 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main St. Watch *Finding Dory* on the library big screen! Some snacks provided. [Library event calendar.](#)
- Thurs 4/13 **Dungeons & Dragons**, 3 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main St. Create a character and see where adventure takes you! In the Teen Zone. [Library event calendar.](#)
- Fri 4/18 **Green Screen Vacation Photos** in the Teen Zone, 3 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main St. [Library event calendar.](#)
- Weds 4/19 **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. More [info](#).
- Sat 4/22 **Annual Town Meeting**, 10 AM, CHS Veterans’ Auditorium, 78 Ripley Hill Road. Presentations by the Town Council and Board of Education on their proposed budgets for FY 2017/18. Citizens are encouraged to attend. The meeting will be adjourned to a referendum vote on May 2, 2017. Info: 860-742-6324.
- Sat 4/22 **Earth Day Celebration**, 10:30 AM – noon, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main St. Celebrate our wonderful planet with crafts and activities! [Library event calendar.](#)
- Mon 4/24 **Bereavement Social Support Group for Men**, 9:30 – 10:30 AM, Coventry Senior Center Lounge, 172 Lake Street. Join Emma, Senior Center Coordinator, and Nora, Human Services Social Work Intern, for the first meeting of a new social support group specifically for men. This group is an opportunity to meet others who have experienced the loss of a loved one, spouse or partner. The group will be very informal in nature, and peer-led. Just come and meet some new people! Coffee AND DONUTS will be served! Info: 860-742-3525.
- Tues 4/25 **Tech Topics**, 6:30 PM, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main St. Learn how to use computers, popular computer programs, and mobile devices. Tech Classes are held **Tuesdays at 6:30 pm** and then the same

class is offered **Wednesdays at 12:30 pm**. If you have a laptop, tablet or smartphone, feel free to bring them. **April 25th and 26<sup>th</sup> - Backing Up Your Computer.** [Library event calendar.](#)

- Weds 4/26 **TVCCA Bistro Lunch**, 12 PM, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. Ravioli with Meatballs, Garden Salad, Garlic Bread, & Carrot Cake. Meal is \$6 and reservations are due by Wednesday April 19, 2017. Reservations can be made by stopping by the Senior Center, Monday-Friday 9:00am-4:00pm. Info: 860-742-3525.
- Thurs 4/27 **Annual Used Book Sale**, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main St. The Annual Used Book Sale will be held on the following dates:  
**Thursday, April 27 from 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm**  
**Friday, April 28 from 10:00 am - 6:30 pm**  
**Saturday, April 29 from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**  
Info: 860-742-7606.

**TOWN WIDE TAG SALE - DEADLINE TO PARTICIPATE IS THIS MONTH:** If you have an excess of unused items taking up valuable space in your basement or garage, consider participating in the annual town-wide tag sale. The Parks & Recreation Department will do the advertising for you, and your contribution will help benefit a good cause – the Camp Scholarship Fund. The tag sale takes place on May 6, 2017 and the deadline to sign up is April 25<sup>th</sup>. Details [here](#).

**COMMUNITY GARDENS AT CREASER PARK:** Now in its 3<sup>rd</sup> season, the community gardens at Creaser Park will be staked and ready for action in mid-April (weather permitting). Plots are \$20. For more information and to sign up for a plot, visit the Parks & Recreation [website](#).

**RID LITTER WEEKEND:** The Coventry Conservation Commission is sponsoring a Rid Litter Weekend on April 22 & 23. This coincides with annual Earth Day celebrations. The Conservation Commission is encouraging residents to do roadside cleanups along their property and neighborhood. This is a great opportunity for civic groups and neighborhood organizations to organize cleanup crews. The spring season is a perfect time to remove some of the trash and litter that has accumulated on our streets and properties over the long winter season. The Commission will provide free garbage bags that can be picked up at the Land Use Office at Town Hall. Info: 860-742-4062.

**WANT TO CHANGE YOUR TIPPER BARREL SIZE?** In response to citizens' requests, we are offering another opportunity to exchange your tipper barrels for a different size at the reduced fee of \$25. If you would like to swap, contact the Tax Office at (860) 742-4066 for various options and rates. They will help you with the next step. **The swap order must be requested and paid for by May 17, 2017 in order to receive this reduced price.** The swap will occur the last two weeks of June in conjunction with the billing cycle for the new fiscal year. Consider upsizing your recycling barrel. There is no increase in your annual bill for a larger recycle barrel.

**RENTER'S REBATE PROGRAM OFFERED FOR ELDERLY & DISABLED RENTERS:** Connecticut's Elderly Renters' Rebate Program provides direct, partial reimbursement to lower income elderly or disabled renters to help offset a portion of their rent and utility expenses. The program, administered by Office of Policy and Management, provides for payments ranging up to \$900 for qualified married persons and up to \$700 for qualifying single persons. The rebate amount is based on a graduated income scale and the amount of rent and utility payments (excluding telephone) made in the calendar year prior to the year in which the renter applies. In order to qualify, married persons must have an annual income not greater than \$42,900 and single persons must have an annual income not greater than \$35,200. Eligible persons may apply

between April 1-October 1 each year and should contact the Coventry Human Services Office at 860-742-5324 to schedule an appointment.

**THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED HOMEOWNER PROGRAM** began February 1, 2017, and applications are being processed until Monday, May 15, 2017. The Assessor's Office sent reminder letters to those people who have to re-file. Remember, this program is income driven from the State and income guidelines are set by the State for both single and married individuals. Please contact our office at 860-742-4067 if your income is less than \$42,900 if married, or less than \$35,200 if single, both must include Social Security benefits from your SSA-1099 and your adjusted gross income from your 2016 Federal Income tax return. **The Town of Coventry also offers a local tax relief program which mirrors the income limits of the state benefit. The program has changed this year and it is offered as a tax credit, that is equal to half of the state benefit, or as a deferral, where a lien is filed on the Town Clerk's land records until it is paid or the property is sold at which time the deferred taxes must be paid.**

**VISITORS' CENTER OPENS FOR THE SEASON THIS MONTH:** The Coventry Visitors' Center, located in the village at 1195 Main Street, will re-open weekends from 10 AM -2 PM beginning April 22, 2017. The Center is stocked with local history books, maps, Coventry mugs and memorabilia, as well as local and regional travel brochures. In addition to again showcasing an extensive exhibit of the Town's mill history, there will be a new display featuring the October 1994 "Destruction of the Visitors' Center." Call Pat (860-742-7847) or Jo Ann (860-742-9734) if you would like to be a volunteer Coventry ambassador. The Visitors' Center is managed by members of the Village Improvement Society.

**DAFFODIL BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT:** April is the month when cheerful yellow faces pop up all around town, as a result of the Daffodil Beautification Project. Of the 350,000 daffodils planted since the project began in 1993, Village Improvement Society members and friends have donated and planted approximately 100,000 daffodils in public places around Coventry. Coventry residents can participate and purchase bulbs to plant in Coventry. Bulbs may be ordered now at \$3.50 per dozen, for October delivery. They are available in two varieties: Dutch Master (all yellow) and a mixture drawn from 2500 varieties. To order bulbs, call Judy at 860-214-9567.

**COVENTRY ARTS GUILD SEEKING MEMBERS:** The Coventry Arts Guild is gearing up for their 2017 season and is seeking members. For a brochure about the Guild and an application form, click [here](#).

**LIVE STREAMING VIDEO LINK HAS CHANGED:** If you have been watching Town Council meetings live on the Internet with a bookmarked link, please be aware that with a recent equipment upgrade, the link to watch live over the Internet has changed. The new link is <http://crcog.devosvideo.com/show?video=6e4e00b64bee>. Meetings also air live on Charter Cable, Channel 191.

**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.**