



COVENTRY COMMUNITY UPDATE:

October 2018

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

MANAGER'S MONTHLY MEMO:

Fall is a fan favorite in New England and the coolness and colors of Coventry are to be enjoyed. Take a hike on one of the many Walktober events offered in town, or in the [Last Green Valley](#). Celebrate the season of ghosts and goblins. There are so many events available to reward you with the best we have to offer. Enjoy the positive power of a new season.

A few words on Town projects and key events. October first we start lowering the lake toward a goal of winter level by mid-November. Please watch your docks and boats. In late winter we will have Hydrilla survey results to see how our treatment plan worked and make plans for next year. For additional lake information look to our [web page](#) for information from the September 18th Annual State of the Lake Forum.

Summer projects are winding down with only some paving soon and crack sealing left (see list below). We will open the Williams Preserve on Cooper Lane with a grand opening walk on Sept. 27th and a repeat as a Walktober event. The mini-park on Depot Road (Mill Pond Park) is now open celebrating the Town's mill history and connection to streams and rivers. The new soccer field at Laidlaw Park is now in use and a recognition ceremony for the volunteers who made the field and playscape happen is scheduled for Sunday, October 27th at noon.

Our new ambulance is completing inspection and will be the first to use the new Department 18 designation. Watch for the 4-wheel drive deep blue ambulance. Both volunteer Fire Departments have also agreed to work together on discussing a possible transition to some form of a merged state.

In big news we received two major grants totaling \$3,000,000 covering 100% of construction costs. The first project is to realign Swamp Road with Bread & Milk Street to make a more standardized four-way signalized intersection. The second project will rebuild a section of South Street from Seagraves Road to past the Strong-Porter Museum. This will include a historically-appropriate pedestrian linkage starting at the rotary. The Jones Crossing culvert replacement is awaiting permits from the Army Corps of Engineers and spring/summer construction is planned. We have submitted a grant application that will fund 50% if awarded. We also are about to start screening for engineering services for the grant-funded replacement of Folly Lane Bridge.

Enjoy all that October offers.

UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS:

- Mon, 10/1: Town Council, 7:30 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Mon, 10/8: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Thurs, 10/11: WPCA: 6 PM, DPW Conf. Room
- Thurs, 10/11: Board of Education, 7:30 PM, School Admin. Building
- Mon, 10/15: Town Council, 7:30 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Weds, 10/24: Inland Wetlands Agency, 7:00 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Mon, 10/22: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 PM, Annex
- Thurs, 10/25: Board of Education, 7:30 PM, School Admin. Building

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

HOLIDAYS:

Monday, 10/8: Columbus Day. Town offices and Senior Center closed. Trash collection on normal schedule.

COMING EVENTS:

Sat 9/29 – Weds 10/31: **Pumpkins with a Purpose**, weekdays 12-8 PM, weekends 10 AM – 6 PM, First Congregational Church, 1171 Main Street. The church lawn will transform into a huge pumpkin patch with hundreds of different types of pumpkins, specialty gourds and fall décor for sale. The church partners with a farm located on a Navajo reservation in New Mexico that employs Native Americans. All proceeds support the community and local church missions. **Kids' pumpkin activity & bake sale on 10/21 from 12-2 PM.** More information: 860-742-8487.

Weds 10/3: **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.](#)

Fri 10/5: **Bingo**, 7 PM, First Congregational Church, 1171 Main Street. Sponsored by the Coventry-Mansfield American Legion. Bingo, snacks, and fun for everyone. 50 cents per person includes your first surprise Bingo card. Doors open at 6 PM and close at 7 PM. First and last Fridays of the Month. Information: 860-541-1840.

Fri 10/5: **Quiet Corner Contra Dance**, Free lesson 7:30 PM, Dance 8-11 PM. Patriots Park Lodge, 172 Lake Street. Dance to live music and a caller. Partner not necessary. Wear soft-soled shoes. An alcohol & tobacco-free event. Adults \$12, students \$6, under 12 free. First Friday of the month from Sept. – June. Contact Dave for info: 484-844-5203 or email cannel.dm@gmail.com.

Fri 10/5 & Sat 10/6: **Haunted Corn Maze**, 7-9 PM, Nathan Hale Homestead, 2299 South Street. Start with a moderately scary walk through the corn maze brimming with spooks in the dark. This hair-raising, spine tingling event will either be a night to remember or a nightmare you may wish to forget. Last tour leaves at 9 PM. Not recommended for children under 8. \$10 per person, \$30 per family. Rain date 10/7. [More info.](#)

Sun 10/7: **Coventry Farmers' Market**, 11 AM – 2 PM, Nathan Hale Homestead, 2299 South Street. Join us for the 15th season as the market carries on the tradition of being one of the largest farmers' markets in Connecticut, featuring some of the best of Connecticut-grown, Connecticut-made products around at one of the most unspoiled countryside settings in the state. *Theme: Potters' Market and Farm-to-Shaker.* [Website.](#)

Sun 10/7, 10/14, 10/21 & 10/28, **Walktober Sunday Market Strolls**, 11 AM – 2 PM, Nathan Hale Homestead and State Forest grounds, 2299 South Street. Start the morning early with a self-guided stroll through the woods, or enjoy an afternoon walk on the 4.8 mile loop and adjoining trails. Be sure to stroll the Coventry Farmers' Market too, for locally-grown and produced products. [Website.](#)

Sun 10/7, **Walktober Coventry Village History Walk**, 1-3 PM, meet at Welles Agency parking lot, Lake and Cross Street. So much remains in South Coventry Village from the 19th century when water-powered mills provided hundreds of jobs and produced a remarkable variety of products, some of which would help transform the nation. Walk past mill sites, mill owners' and workers' homes, churches, general store, and a hotel built when the Village thrived. Sponsored by the Coventry Historical Society. Info: 860-742-9401. [Website.](#)

Weds 10/10: **Monthly Lunch Program**, 12 PM, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday at the Lodge. Today's menu: Pot Roast with carrots, onions and potatoes, dessert. \$6. RSVP and payment due by Oct. 5. Info: 860-742-3525.

Thurs 10/11: **Healthy Balance Series**, 5:15-6:15, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. Yoga Instructor Bill Goodale will lead this intro to meditation. Develop the skill of paying attention to your inner and outer experiences with acceptance, patience and compassion. Mindful meditation is effective for managing stress, anxiety, pain and depression as well as a wide range of other health-related concerns. \$5 payable at the door. Bring a yoga mat, blanket, eye mask and wear comfortable clothing. Extra mats are available at the Center. Info: 860-742-3525.

Thurs 10/11 & Fri 10/12: **Things that go Bump in the Night**, 7 PM, Nathan Hale Homestead, 2299 South Street. The evening features a special candlelight tour, room-by-room, all the way up to the dark & dreary attic. Hear the traditional, long standing Homestead ghost stories & the Hale staff's spooky Homestead stories, as featured on the Syfy channel's Ghost Hunters. Includes light refreshments. Also held on 10/18 & 10/19. Reservations required at 860-742-6917 or hale@ctlandmarks.org.

Sat 10/13: **Tour, Old South Burying Ground**, 1 PM, South Street. The "orphan stones" have been identified. Tour the cemetery and meet Sara Vance, the woman who identified the stones and learn how and what methods she used. Ruth Shapleigh Brown, head of the CT Gravestone Network, will be imparting her unique knowledge of this cemetery and oversee the return of two footstones to their rightful place. Sponsored by the Coventry Cemetery Commission. [More information.](#)

Sun 10/14: **Coventry Farmers' Market**, 11 AM – 2 PM, Nathan Hale Homestead, 2299 South Street. Join us for the 15th season as the market carries on the tradition of being one of the largest farmers' markets in Connecticut, featuring some of the best of Connecticut-grown, Connecticut-made products around at one of the most unspoiled countryside settings in the state. *Theme: National Farmers' Day.* [Website.](#)

Mon 10/15: **Walktober – Where is Hop River?** 11 AM – 1 PM, park at Hop River Road Rail Trail. 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. 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. [Website.](#)

Weds 10/17: **AARP Smart Driving Class**, 9 AM – 1 PM, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. With Instructor Hames Hatch. Pre-registration with payment is required. Cost: \$15 AARP members, \$20 non-members. This is a classroom course, no written tests, no road test! Info: 860-742-3525.

Weds 10/17: **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 10/18: **Healthy Balance Series**, 5:15-6:15, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. Yoga Instructor Bill Goodale will lead this session. Yoga Nidra is a state of consciousness between waking and sleeping, like the "going-to-sleep" stage. This yogic goal of both paths, deep relaxation (yoga nidra) and meditation are the same, a state of meditative consciousness called samadhi. \$5 payable at the door. Bring a yoga mat, blanket, eye mask and wear comfortable clothing. Extra mats are available at the Center. Info: 860-742-3525.

Sat 10/20: **Roast Turkey Dinner**, 4:30 – 6:30 PM, Second Congregational Church Community House, 1746 Boston Turnpike. Adults \$13, seniors \$12, kids 6-8 \$6, kids under 6 free. Take-outs available. For reservations call (860)742-1616.

Sun 10/21: **Coventry Farmers' Market**, 11 AM – 2 PM, Nathan Hale Homestead, 2299 South Street. Join us for the 15th season as the market carries on the tradition of being one of the largest farmers' markets in Connecticut, featuring some of the best of Connecticut-grown, Connecticut-made products around at one of the most unspoiled countryside settings in the state. *Theme: Holiday Shopping Market.* [Website](#).

Tues 10/23: **Dental Hygiene Program**, 10:45 AM, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. Dental students from Goodwin College will be at the Center for a lecture and screening. RSVPs appreciated at 860-742-3525.

Weds 10/24: **Monthly Lunch Program**, 12 PM, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday at the Lodge. Today's menu: Meatloaf & gravy, mashed potatoes. \$4.75. RSVP and payment due by Oct. 19. Info: 860-742-3525.

Thurs 10/25: **Guest Speaker/Storyteller**, 3 PM, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. Raouf Mama, Ph.D, an award-winning storyteller, will tell folktales from his native Benin in West Africa and from other parts of the world in English, French, Yoruba and Fon. Both entertaining and inspirational, Dr. Mama's style of presentation blends stories with poetry, music and dance, and amazing dramatic voices. Dr. Mama is a "Distinguished Professor of English" at Eastern Connecticut University. Refreshments will be served. More info: 860-742-3525.

Weds 10/31: **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](#).

Sun 10/28: **Coventry Farmers' Market**, 11 AM – 2 PM, Nathan Hale Homestead, 2299 South Street. Join us for the 15th season as the market carries on the tradition of being one of the largest farmers' markets in Connecticut, featuring some of the best of Connecticut-grown, Connecticut-made products around at one of the most unspoiled countryside settings in the state. *Theme: Harvest Somethin' Pumpkin.* [Website](#).

Sun 10/28: **Walktober Old Coventry Center and Nathan Hale Cemetery**, 1-3 PM, park at Patriots Park, 172 Lake Street. Take a walk around the old center of Coventry around the Green and learn which families built and lived in the surrounding houses. Which was the Rose Tavern, which was the Lyman Tavern and where did the First Congregational Church originally stand? Where was the town's first grist mill? It's a short walk from there to the Nathan Hale Cemetery, the last resting place of most of these first Coventry families. This is the heart of Old Coventry. Sponsored by the Coventry Historical Society. Info: 860-742-5271. [Website](#).

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT: ENERGY ASSISTANCE AND HOLIDAY PROGRAM: The office is now accepting energy applications for winter heating on Tuesdays and Thursdays by appointment only. Please call 860-742-5324 for more information and guidelines.

The holidays are right around the corner and we have already begun receiving calls from groups and individuals who want to help with food and gifts for our Coventry residents in need during the holiday season. Our goal is to help as many of our friends and neighbors as possible so they too may enjoy a happy holiday season. For this to happen we need your help! Donations of

Thanksgiving food and food/gifts for the December holidays are very much needed. For some organizations and families, “adopting” a family or an individual for the holidays has become a tradition. We hope to have more groups and /or families begin this tradition of sharing. Please contact the Human Services office 860-742-5324, the town [website](#) or Human Services [Facebook page](#) for an application.

CHECK OUT THESE PROGRAMS AT THE SENIOR CENTER:

- **TECH Q&A:** In collaboration with the Booth & Dimock Library, the Center is happy to announce a once-a-month (Monday) sign up at the Senior Center to ask our librarian any questions you may have about technology. “Are you having difficulties downloading an app, uploading pictures, want to join in on the social media craze or maybe just having equipment issues?” List your questions and have our Reference Librarian assist and answer them for you. The time is TBD.
- **YOGA** with Instructor Bill Goodale – every Wednesday from 3-4 PM in the Lodge. This class is specially designed for individuals of all abilities. Each class is \$5, payable at the door – no need to sign up in advance!
- **NEW! HEALTHY BALANCE SERIES:** Yoga instructor Bill Goodale will be offering two nights of wellness on October 11th and 18th. See details above.
- **NEW! CAMERA CLUB!** Calling all amateur photographers! Coventry Parks & Recreation, in conjunction with the Coventry Senior Center, is looking to start a brand new photography club for adults looking to learn from each other and take some awesome photos! The club is open to both experienced photographers and those just getting started. Digital cameras will be made available (up to 10), however you are welcome to bring your own equipment. For those just getting started, and those more experienced photogs looking for a refresher course, keep an eye out for a workshop series with local photographer and teacher, Dot Drobney on October 11, 25 and November 8 from 4:30-6 PM.
- **THE RETURN OF LINE DANCING!** If you haven’t been to line dancing on Thursdays from 4-5 PM, you are missing out! The beginner-level class is for everyone! Though the moves may seem complicated at first, the more you dance the easier they become. Instructor Susan Beeching breaks down each dance step by step, and guides you through each song. \$5 per session payable at the door, or [pre-register](#) for \$3 sessions with Parks & Recreation.
- **ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:** Are you in need of oil, propane, or electrical heat assistance this winter? The Senior Center is now accepting energy applications for the Access Agency in Willimantic. Please call the office for income eligibility information and documentation requirements.

Call 860-742-3525 for more information on all Senior Center events.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS SOUGHT: Coventry Food Bank is in need of some items. Please consider donating the following: snacks for school, juice, jello, mixed vegetables, baked beans, canned fruit, condiments, instant potatoes, jelly, cereal, canned chicken, pasta sauce, and deodorant. Please no expired items. Deliver to Coventry Human Services during regular office hours. Info: 860-742-5324.

FREE ONLINE PARENTING CLASSES: A free resource to help parents reduce family stress, get kids to listen and cooperate, and build strong connections without raising your voice. Register at this [link](#).

CRACK SEALING TO TAKE PLACE THIS MONTH. Crack sealing will be done in mid-October on the following roads: South Street (South River to Silver), South River Road, Swamp Road, Love Lane, Cedar Swamp Road, Bolton Branch Road, Dunn Road, Judd Road, Nathan Hale Road, Bunker Hill Road, Parker Bridge Road, Pucker Street, and Babcock Hill Road for a

total of 17.4 miles. For questions or concerns regarding road work, contact the Public Works Department at 860-742-6588.

RELIEF FOR HOMEOWNERS EXPERIENCING CRUMBLING CONCRETE

FOUNDATIONS: Funds are available through the Council Region Council of Governments for reimbursement of testing expenses for households that may be affected by crumbling concrete foundations, and CDBG funds have been awarded for new core sampling. A portion of the CDBG program funds is set aside for income-eligible persons. For details about the CRCOG program click [here](#). For details about the CDBG program click [here](#). More information about the crumbling concrete issue 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.