



## COVENTRY COMMUNITY UPDATE:

**January 2019**

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

### MANAGER'S MONTHLY MEMO:

Best wishes for a happy and joyous New Year. Let's all try to enjoy the positive aspects of our community. Many are expressing joy of some personal or community happening only to be attacked on Facebook by those believing that being negative is a better option. If the Town needs to make improvements the best way to let us know is to email me at [Jelsesser@coventryct.org](mailto:Jelsesser@coventryct.org).

We have had a lot of concern about the winter lake level. We opened the lake gate fully in late September (a little early). Record rainfall and fully-charged underground springs have caused a slower lowering of the level. We acknowledge it is still too high but we can't open the gate further without damaging buildings downstream. We are only now approaching the top end of our targets. We can consider starting drain downs earlier in the fall but we have concerns with impacts to boating and boat mooring based upon experience with an early drain down prior to construction several years ago. We will start a little earlier next year and slow the drain down if it drops too quickly. This is a delicate balance between lake use and property damage.

Help is finally coming for houses with crumbling concrete foundations. Be advised that aid is first-come, first served for completed applications received starting January 10<sup>th</sup>. Review the [web site sample application](#) to learn the information needed. It is predicted that available funds will run out by May. More has been authorized but not yet been made available. In advance of January 10, you can ask questions by emailing [info@crumblingfoundations.org](mailto:info@crumblingfoundations.org).

Please also remember that a printer's error on the real estate tax bills show a total due of the full payment. Please pay the second payment due amount only. You can also verify the amount by going to the Tax Collector's page [online](#). The deadline for payment without penalty is February 1, 2019.

### UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS:

- Mon, 1/7: Town Council, 7:30 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Mon, 1/14: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Thurs, 1/10: WPCA: 6 PM, DPW Conf. Room
- Thurs, 1/10: Board of Education, 7:30 PM, School Admin. Building
- Tues, 1/22: Public Hearing: intent to demolish the caretaker's house at Patriots Park, 7 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Tues, 1/22, Town Council, 7:30 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Weds, 1/23: Inland Wetlands Agency, 7:00 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Mon, 1/28: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 PM, Town Hall Annex

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

### HOLIDAYS:

**Tues, 1/1: New Year's Day.** Town offices and Senior Center closed. Trash collection on [holiday](#) schedule and delayed by one day for remainder of week.

**Mon 1/21: Martin Luther King Day.** Town offices and Senior Center closed. Trash collection on [normal](#) schedule.

### COMING EVENTS:

Fri 1/4: **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 third Fridays of the month. Information: 860-541-1840.

Fri 1/4: **Quiet Corner Contra Dance**, Beginner workshop 7:45 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 and light layered clothing and bring a water bottle. 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](mailto:cannel.dm@gmail.com).

Sun 1/6: **Coventry Winter Farmers' Market**, 11 AM – 2 PM, Coventry High School, 78 Ripley Hill Road. Connecticut grown produce, meats, eggs, and cheese. Also cupcakes, baked goods, jams, prepared foods, dog treats and hand-made soaps. A rotating selection of craft vendors each week. 2018-19 season runs through 3/17/19. [Website](#).

Weds 1/9: **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.

Weds 1/9: **Senior Lunch Program**, 12 PM, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. Today's menu: Shepherd's Pie, dinner roll, dessert. \$5. RSVP and payment due by Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Info: 860-742-3525.

Sun 1/13: **Coventry Winter Farmers' Market**, 11 AM – 2 PM, Coventry High School, 78 Ripley Hill Road. Connecticut grown produce, meats, eggs, and cheese. Also cupcakes, baked goods, jams, prepared foods, dog treats and hand-made soaps. A rotating selection of craft vendors each week. 2018-19 season runs from 11/18/18 through 3/17/19. [Website](#).

Sun 1/20: **Coventry Winter Farmers' Market**, 11 AM – 2 PM, Coventry High School, 78 Ripley Hill Road. Connecticut grown produce, meats, eggs, and cheese. Also cupcakes, baked goods, jams, prepared foods, dog treats and hand-made soaps. A rotating selection of craft vendors each week. 2018-19 season runs from 11/18/18 through 3/17/19. [Website](#).

Weds 1/23: **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.

Weds 1/23: **Senior Lunch Program**, 12 PM, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. Today's menu: Roasted chicken, red potatoes, broccoli and biscuit. \$5. RSVP and payment due by Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>. Info: 860-742-3525.

Sat 1/26: **Family Ice Fishing Class & Practice**, 9:30 AM – 3 PM, Patriots Park Lodge, 172 Lake Street. CT DEEP will conduct a FREE ice fishing class that introduces you to this fun winter sport! The class will cover ice safety, clothing, rules and regulations, fish identification, bait and tackle and local fishing spots. If the ice is safe, a practice session will follow the class with all equipment and bait provided. Class: 9:30 – 11:30 AM, Practice session: 12 – 3 PM. Bring your own lunch. Pre-registration required and more information available [here](#).

Sun 1/27: **Coventry Winter Farmers' Market**, 11 AM – 2 PM, Coventry High School, 78 Ripley Hill Road. Connecticut grown produce, meats, eggs, and cheese. Also cupcakes, baked goods, jams, prepared foods, dog treats and hand-made soaps. A rotating selection of craft vendors each week. 2018-19 season runs from 11/18/18 through 3/17/19. [Website](#).

Mon 1/28: **NEW Book Group – Coffee, Donuts & a Book**, 1 PM, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. A new book group is forming at the Senior Center in collaboration with the Booth and Dimock Library. Our first book, on January 28, 2019, is *Plum Island* by Nelson DeMille, Book 1 of the John Corey Series, a thriller in our back yard of northern Long Island. You can pick up your copy of the book at the Library. Mark your calendar for the following book club meeting on February 25, 2019. Info: 860-742-3525.

Thurs 1/31: **NEW – Thursday Night Fitness with Mary**, free demo at 5:30 PM, Coventry Senior Center, 172 Lake Street. Boost your endurance, build your strength, and challenge your balance with this combination of shadow kick boxing and weight training movements. Format: timed intervals for all fitness levels. Session dates: 2/7, 2/14, 3/7, 3/21, 3/28 (with makeup snow dates 4/4 and 4/11). Participants register for \$50 or \$10 for drop-in fee. Info: 860-742-3525.

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

**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 can be found in the [Spotlight](#) column on the home page of the Town website.

**CHECK OUT THESE PROGRAMS AT THE SENIOR CENTER:**

- **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.
- **THE AARP TAX PROGRAM RETURNS:** The Senior Center is pleased to bring you FREE tax preparation assistance for your Federal and State tax returns. A team of highly trained tax volunteers will be here four Mondays (weather permitting), **February 25, March 11, March 25, April 8** by appointment only. There are multiple appointments available each day from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Please call the Center at 860-742-3525 to schedule your appointment.

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

**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.**