



COVENTRY COMMUNITY UPDATE:

March 2020

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

MANAGER'S MONTHLY MEMO:

We march into spring which means budget, maybe basketball and lots of construction projects.

The Town Manager's budget should be available on March 2 and will be available online under the Finance section of the Town website. A Public Hearing is scheduled on Thursday, March 12, 2020 at 7:00 PM in the lecture hall at Coventry High School. After presentation of the proposed Town and School budgets, public comment is welcome. The Town Council will review the various requests of Coventry Public Schools, Town Manager and Capital projects and will adopt a proposed budget no later than April 6, for an Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, April 25, 2020 at 10 AM in the Veterans Auditorium at Coventry High School, and a vote by referendum on Tuesday, May 5, 2020.

This summer has a lot of construction planned. This includes replacing the Folly Lane Bridge (100% grant), Coventry Grammar School parking lot replacement, reconstruction of all the roads in the Northfields subdivision, and additional sidewalks heading north on Main Street from Cheney Lane until the \$400,000 grant runs out (approximately Winterberry Lane). Watch for a community information meeting in March on the design.

We are uncertain about whether the South Street LOTCIP grant to reconstruct sections of South Street from Seagraves Road to the vicinity of the Strong Porter Museum, and sidewalks from the round-about to at least the Nathan Hale Homestead, will take place this construction season. Funds were just released so we are working on hiring an engineer now.

The big news is that in mid-February CTDOT decided that the Town must do a full replacement of the traffic signal at Rt. 44/Bread and Milk and the proposed Swamp Road realignment, instead of just adding a signal to Swamp Road. They will pay the cost increase, but due to additional engineering and permitting, and the lead time for ordering, it will almost certainly delay construction until spring of 2021. The State also insisted on a more complex "right-in, right-out" intersection for Northfields at Rt. 44. The Town would not agree to this since emergency vehicles could not cross it and would have to go all the way to Forge Road. The State then agreed to pay for the alternative of a Northfield connector to the new Swamp Road section to be constructed. Significant property rights will need to be acquired but it works from an engineering perspective.

CTDOT has also started design work for the replacement of Hop River Road Bridge, with the possibility of construction in 2021.

Additional bond-funded road projects are also being lined up and will be presented as part of the Capital Improvement Budget.

The Town is also working with the estate of Aldema Simmons to issue a request for proposal for the adaptive reuse of Caprilands, and has completed a grant-funded building assessment of the cost to repair the existing buildings. A selection process may be made in May.

The Planning & Zoning Commission and staff have completed the mandated update to the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development, and will have public hearings on it in March.

The Plan will be available on the Town's web site soon. The four-town economic development plan will also be completed in March.

Finally, we have the reports on the Hydrilla treatment of Coventry Lake and the Fanwort treatment of Eagleville Lake. Both were successful, but treatments are recommended again for this summer.

There are also lots of quality events in your town to participate in. MARCH ON!

UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS:

- Mon, 3/2: Town Council meeting, 7:30 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Mon, 3/9: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 PM, Town Hall Conf. B
- Mon, 3/9: Special Town Council Budget meeting 7 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Thurs, 3/12: WPCA: 6 PM, DPW Conf. Room
- Thurs 3/12: Town Manager's Budget Hearing, 7 PM, CHS Lecture Hall
- Thurs, 3/12: Board of Education, 7:30 PM, School Admin Bldg.
- Mon, 3/16: Town Council meeting, 7:30 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Mon, 3/23: Special Town Council Budget meeting 7 PM, Town Hall Annex
- Mon, 3/23: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 PM, Town Hall Conf. B
- Weds, 3/25: Inland Wetlands Agency, 7 PM, Annex
- Thurs, 3/26: Board of Education, 7:30 PM, School Admin Bldg.

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

COMING EVENTS:

Weds 3/4: **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. Text FOODSHARE to 85511 to receive the mobile schedule and cancellations directly on your phone. More [info](#).

Weds 3/4: **Early Education Information Night**, 6-7:30 PM, Hale Early Education Center, 1776 Main Street. Information night for the 20-21 school year. Online registration opens 3/4 at 8 AM. [Email](#) with any questions.

Fri 3/6: **Bingo**, 6:30 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 5:30 PM. First and third Fridays of the month. Information: 860-541-1840.

Fri 3/6: **Quiet Corner Contra Dance**, 8-11 PM, Patriots Park Lodge, 172 Lake Street. Lesson at 7:45. All welcome, partner not necessary. Dance to a live band and caller. Soft-soled shoes. First Fridays of the month through June. Adults \$12, students \$6. Information: Dennis, 860-742-9498.

Sat 3/7: **Roast Beef Dinner**, 4:30-7PM (last seating 6:45), First Congregational Church, 1171 Main Street. Hosted by Coventry Boy Scout Troop 65. Adults \$14, Seniors \$12, Children (10& younger) \$8. Walk-ins welcome and take-out available. Info: troop65coventry@gmail.com.

Weds 3/18: **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. Text FOODSHARE to 85511 to receive the mobile schedule and cancellations directly on your phone. More [info](#).

Thurs 3/19: **Stew and Story: The Caprilands Experience**, 6:30 PM, Second Congregational Church of Coventry Community House, 1746 Boston Turnpike (Rt. 44). Join the Coventry Historical Society as they tell more of Adelman Simmons' story. They also hope to gather some of her neighbors and friends to relate tales and anecdotes about Caprilands and the woman who became a world-renowned herbalist. A variety of stews, including vegetarian, bread, desserts and beverages will be served. Suggested donation: \$8 members; \$10 non-members, \$6 ages 6-12. Bring a mug or bowl and a spoon! Reservations appreciated but not required. Call 860-977-4831 or [email](#) for a reservation.

Sat 3/21: **Penguin Plunge**, Registration 9 AM, Plunge: 11 AM, Coventry Lake at Patriots Park, 124 Lake Street. This event raises funds for **Special Olympics Connecticut's** year-round programs of sports training and athletic competition for people with intellectual disabilities. Your participation provides funding to support over 12,000 athletes and unified partners who participate in Special Olympics Connecticut's year-round training and competition in 26 sports. For more information and to register, see this [link](#).

Sat 3/21: **Corned Beef Dinner**, 4:30-6:30 PM, Second Congregational Church of Coventry Community House, 1746 Boston Turnpike. \$15 adults, \$14 for seniors, \$7 for youngsters between 6 & 8. Under 6 free. Reservations can be made at 860-742-1616. Take-out available.

Tues, Thurs, Sat, 3/24, 26, 28: **50% off Sale**, Noah's Closet Children's Shop, Second Congregational Church, 1746 Boston Turnpike (Rt. 44). Information: 860-742-1616 or visit <https://secondchurchcoventryucc.org/noah-s-closet>.

Sat 3/28: **Pancake Breakfast with the Easter Bunny**, 8 – 11 AM, CHS Cafeteria, 78 Ripley Hill Road. Admission: \$8 adults & children 10 and older; \$6 for seniors, \$5 children ages 2-9; free for children under age 2. Proceeds benefit Coventry High School's Project Graduation. Information: Joanne McHugo, 860-742-8680 or Sandy Loalbo, 860-212-5358.

Sat 3/28: **Legopalooza**, 1-3 PM, Second Congregational Church of Coventry Community House, 1746 Boston Turnpike (Rt. 44). An afternoon of Lego building, racing, and creating. Includes vendors, raffle prizes, pizza, and a framed photo and gift bag for each child to take home. Tickets \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. [Email](#) for tickets or more information.

Sat 3/28: **Early Spring Walk**, 1-3 PM, Creaser Park, 100 Case Road. Join the Town's Protected Spaces Stewardship Committee for a transitional season guided walk. Birds, bugs, and buds are on the viewing wish list. This is a relatively easy, 1-mile walk along the Skungamaug River and the woodland trail system. Meet at the posted trail map in the parking lot. Dogs on leashes and under control are welcome with their owners. Heavy rain or snow cancels. For more information, contact Eric Thomas at (860) 742-9908.

Sun, 3/29: **National Vietnam War Veterans' Day ceremony**, 1-3 PM, Veterans Memorial Green (across from Patriots Park, 172 Lake Street). Join American Legion Post 52 for a ceremony to honor and remember our Vietnam War veterans at the CT Vietnam Memorial Monument. Light refreshments will be served following the ceremony. RSVP: Jamie DePaola, 860-985-2064 or email VietnamWarVeteransDay@gmail.com.

Sun, 3/29, **Make-A-Wish 5K Road Race**, 12 PM, Coventry High School, 78 Ripley Hill Road. Help raise money for a great cause! All proceeds will go to the Make-A-Wish CT Foundation to help grant wishes and change the lives of children with critical illnesses! This is a great race for people of all ages and all running levels, and prizes will be awarded to the top finishers! Call Connor Ratte (race director) at 860-942-2052 or [email](#) for any questions. Register [online](#).

CEMETERY CLEAN-UP: The Coventry Cemetery Commission will be conducting a spring clean-up on or about March 1st. If you've placed seasonal items that you wish to keep, please remove them prior to the first of the month. Items may be removed at the discretion of the Commission.

TAX PREPARATION ASSISTANCE AT THE SENIOR CENTER: The Senior Center is happy to welcome back the AARP Tax Aid Program on a limited schedule this tax season. Volunteers will be on-site for tax preparation on these remaining dates: March 9, March 23 and April 6. One-hour appointments will begin at 9 am-noon and will fill up quickly so please contact the office AT 860-742-3525 to reserve your appointment. Valid ID and proof of Social Security will be required at the time of appointment.

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT:

- **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.
- **CLERGY FUEL FUND:** Residents wishing to contribute to the Clergy Fuel Fund to assist Coventry families in need may do so by sending a donation to the Coventry Human Services Department, c/o Clergy Fuel Fund, 1712 Main Street, Coventry, CT 06238. The fund provides a one-time emergency fuel delivery during the year. Persons wishing to participate in the program can contact the Human Services Department at 860-742-5324 for information and income 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, including a link to financial assistance for repairs, 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.