



COVENTRY COMMUNITY UPDATE:

June 2020

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

MANAGER'S MONTHLY MEMO:

At last the recovery has started. We all need a bit more patience to stay safe and act smart.

The traditional budget process was taken out of our hands by several Executive Orders by Governor Lamont. As required, the Council has adopted a proposed budget, available to view [here](#). It calls for a reduced mil rate of 31.17 (a 1.03 mil reduction). This on average should mitigate the impacts of revaluation. Properties that increased in value greater than average may see increases, while others will see reductions. To determine how this impacts you, an online [tax calculator](#) is available.

Presentations on the budget are available on the Town's [video-on-demand system](#). Budget feedback for the Town Council can be sent via email to budgetcomments@coventryct.org. These comments must be received by May 29th. On, or about June 1st, the Council will review comments and finalize the budget to get tax bills out.

The Council adopted an interest rate reduction for non-escrowed property taxes, which will lower the interest rate of .25% per month (3%/yr.) for 90 days to allow partial payment without the normal interest rates. Look for a letter with your tax bill.

Please watch for news as we hopefully shift toward a recovery phase. You can sign up for [automatic alerts](#) regarding COVID-19 to stay informed. Please support our local businesses by buying gift cards, enjoying outside dining, take-out or curbside pickup. They have been here for our community and we need to be here for them now.

We are waiting on any summer camp and other recreation issues as long as we can and working on developing safe practices. We know for many that summer camp is an important factor in child care and enrichment, but State guidelines have not been received yet.

The Town is firming up our reopening plans and will announce them within a week, but there will be a new normal for some time. Just like you should limit your exposure, we need to do the same for our employees. We will be phasing in reopening of the Town Hall and services, but we need to get safety measures in place. The first phase will likely be by appointment. We will remind you of all the online services already available. See some quick links [here](#).

Highlights of services available online:

- An enhanced online [building permit](#) system is being readied. A self-service station is available in the downstairs foyer.
- [Land records](#)/map searches.
- Tax payments by electronic bank transfer are free of charge. Credit cards are also accepted with a convenience fee. Your balance is available [online](#).
- The [GIS mapping system](#) has been updated and data cleaned up.
- [Dog licenses](#) are encouraged by mail, but a drop-off box is available in the foyer at the rear entrance to Town Hall.

Key summer 2020 projects (some have had minor COVID delays):

- CGS parking lot replacement is underway
- Folly Lane Bridge replacement – out to bid

- Northfield subdivision drainage/road replacement: drainage work to resume in June/July with reconstruction to follow
- Underground fiber: school-to-school project – almost finished
- Community connectivity sidewalk on Main: Hemlock Point Road west to the vicinity of Winterberry – fall target
- Projects at CHS/middle school including limited HVAC updates, wall strengthening, asbestos removal, fire door upgrades
- Cumberland Farms restarted with completion targeted for June.
- The microgrid project is still moving forward – waiting for Public Utilities Regulatory ruling
- As early as next week, keyways may be cut to allow a tight joint for pavement shimming on Merrow Road, Brigham Tavern Lane, and Cooper Lane. This shimming will be followed by a chip seal.
- Cold-in-place recycling is still targeted for Depot Road, Pine Lake Shore Drive, and Old Eagleville Road this summer. Prep work may start in late May/June.

UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS:

(Note: Town facilities are closed to the public meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Check the [Agenda Center](#) on the Town website for details about observing some meetings via the [Zoom](#) application. Town Council meetings can also be viewed live on Charter/Spectrum Channel 191 or via [YouTube](#). Comments for the Audience of Citizens portion of Town Council meetings can be emailed to audience@coventryct.org.

- Mon, 6/1: Town Council meeting, 7:30 PM
- Mon, 6/8: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 PM
- Thurs, 6/11: WPCA: 6 PM
- Thurs, 6/11: Board of Education, 7:30 PM
- Mon, 6/15: Town Council meeting, 7:30 PM
- Tues, 6/22: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 PM
- Weds, 6/24: Inland Wetlands Agency, 7 PM
- Thurs, 6/25: Board of Education, 7:30 PM

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

COMING EVENTS:

(Note: Many monthly and annual events are canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the Memorial Day Parade and CoventryFest.

Weds 6/10: **Mobile Foodshare**, 10-10:30 AM, First Congregational Church, 1171 Main Street. An outdoor food distribution service for persons of low income. Text FOODSHARE to 85511 to receive the mobile schedule and cancellations directly on your phone. More [info](#).

Weds 6/24: **Mobile Foodshare**, 10-10:30 AM, First Congregational Church, 1171 Main Street. An outdoor food distribution service for persons of low income. Text FOODSHARE to 85511 to receive the mobile schedule and cancellations directly on your phone. More [info](#).

FOOD BANK AVAILABLE FOR RESIDENTS IN NEED: The [Coventry Human Services Department](#) is running a limited food bank within Town Hall. If you are a Coventry resident in need, please contact our office at 860-742-5324. Food pick-up is by appointment only, please call the office to set up a time. [Online donations](#) can also now be accepted if you would like to support the food bank with a monetary contribution.

SENIOR CENTER PROGRAMMING: Unfortunately, the first phase of the State of CT re-opening plan does not include the Senior Center. At this time, we are still here for our residents in need of transportation to medical appointments and can help facilitate this through our [Transportation Program](#). If you are in need, or know someone in need of food or picking up groceries, please give us a call at 860-742-3525. As the State works on a plan to reopen senior centers, and as soon as we know it is safe to do so, we will let you know. In the meantime, stay safe, be well, and we miss you!

NEWS FROM THE BOOTH & DIMOCK MEMORIAL LIBRARY: The Library will begin curbside services on May 26th! Hours will be Tuesdays 10am-3pm, Wednesdays 2pm-7pm, and Thursdays 10am-3pm. To order materials, call the library at 860-742-7606 during our new open hours, or reserve books on our website. Please limit orders to 10 items that are owned by BDML. A valid Booth & Dimock Library card is required. We will also offer curbside printing services. For full details, visit <http://www.coventrypl.org/curbside.html>.

Virtual programming is being offered on our [Facebook page @BDLibrary](#). Every week we have story times, Science Thursday, Virtual Art Classes, and more! We will begin registration for our Summer Reading program "Imagine Your Story" on June 9th. Stay tuned for more details!

REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAMS IS POSTPONED: COVID-19 Update: Summer Registration is POSTPONED (Swim Level Testing & Summer Enrichment Programs remain open for registration). A new date will be announced as soon as is practical. Town Parks remain open, however playgrounds/park structures and basketball courts are CLOSED. [Beaches are open](#) with limitations and resident stickers are available [online](#). Please continue to abide by CDC recommendations for social distancing at all times while at Town Parks (6-feet apart). Check the Parks & Recreation [web page](#) for updates.

GET COUNTED IN THE 2020 CENSUS: Coventry has accepted a challenge from the Town of Tolland to see who counts more. To win, we need to have more of our citizens complete the Census information by June 1 than Tolland. Benefits of winning: 1) No Census worker will come to your house, 2) Our Public Safety folks will get pizza, and 3) Bragging rights that we count more than Tolland. You all got the Census information mailed to your homes over a month ago. It only takes a few minutes to complete it. Complete the census [here](#).

HOMEOWNER'S TAX RELIEF PROGRAM SUSPENDED: Due to unforeseen issues with the COVID-19 virus and its impact on day-to-day business, the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management has issued guidance to Assessors that this year's filing for the tax relief program will be suspended. This means if you are currently receiving the benefit and received a letter from the Assessor's office telling you to re-file for the 2019 Grand List, you should not. If you already filed the paperwork, we will use the income you provided. If you have not yet filed, we will use the 2017-year income to calculate the new benefit. Everyone who received a benefit for last year's Grand List and still owns their property will get a benefit. Most benefits will not change. Taxpayers who wish to remain on the Local Tax program with the option where the Town gives you 50% of the State benefit without having to reimburse the Town will not have to do anything. If for some reason you would like to change the Local Tax program to the option which matches the State benefit and is filed as a lien against the property, you should call the Assessing Office at 860-742-4067 prior to May 15, 2020.

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.