



## COVENTRY COMMUNITY UPDATE:

**July 2020**

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

### MANAGER'S MONTHLY MEMO:

Take time to celebrate Independence Day without the fireworks. What a change a few months and a public health emergency can make. Please stay vigilant and cautious to prevent any relapse. We want to move forward. The Town is reopening and adjusting as we can. PLEASE mail or pay your bills online. Our Town Hall cannot accommodate lines of people and we will need to limit the number of folks able to pay in person.

The summer will still have construction projects, including:

- Reconstruction of the Northfields subdivision. Work delayed by COVID-19 interruptions is restarting. Three contractors will finish up drainage and road milling, and paving will begin.
- Other road work is planned for the week of July 13<sup>th</sup> on Depot and Old Eagleville Road. Watch for Road Alerts closer to the start date.
- We have semi-final plans for the Swamp Road intersection project and are scheduling an additional public information meeting for July 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Cumberland Farms is hoping to be open by the end of July.
- The Main Street Community Connectivity sidewalk project will have a public information meeting the first week in August.
- At long last the disc golf course at Creaser Park will open. Three more signs are due in for all the holes to be playable.

Watch for information about another EDC-sponsored workshop on using YouTube to grow your business. It is tentatively planned for the morning of July 13 as a Zoom meeting. See more details below.

Please stay smart, stay healthy through the summer.

### UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS:

**(Note: Most Town facilities are open to the public by appointment only due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Town Hall will be reopening but with limited persons allowed. 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@coventryvt.org](mailto:audience@coventryvt.org) by 4:00 PM on the day of the meeting.**

- Mon, 7/6: Town Council meeting, 7:30 PM
- Thurs, 7/9: WPCA: 6 PM
- Mon, 7/13: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 PM
- Mon, 7/20: Town Council meeting, 7:30 PM
- Weds, 7/22: Inland Wetlands Agency, 7 PM
- Tues, 7/27: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 PM
- Thurs, 7/30: Board of Education, 7:30 PM

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

### HOLIDAYS:

**Independence Day:** Town Hall closed at 4:30 PM on Thursday, July 2, and all day on Friday, July 3. Trash collection on holiday schedule on July 4.

**COMING EVENTS:**

**(Note: Many monthly and annual events are canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. See the [Parks & Recreation page on the Town website](#) for recreational options, or the [Booth & Dimock Library's website](#) for virtual offerings and their Summer Reading Program.)**

Sat 7/4 – Fri., July 24: **Flag Field for Heroes**, Opening Ceremony: Sat., July 4, 10 AM. Nathan Hale Homestead, 3399 South Street. Connecticut Landmarks' Nathan Hale Homestead is honoring heroes this July with the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual *Flag Field for Heroes* presented in partnership with the Coventry Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Coventry American Legion. Purchase an American Flag in honor of a military service member, veteran or hero. Each flag includes a tag with the hero's name, rank, and time served (if available). The hero's name will also be added to a binder listing the flag row and column to help you find your hero's flag in our *Flag Field*. At the *Opening Ceremony*, enjoy a dramatic presentation of the Declaration of Independence by Museum Interpreters on the front steps of the Homestead, a poem about Connecticut's State Hero Nathan Hale, and patriotic fife music in honor of Independence Day. Cost is \$10 per flag; the *Opening Ceremony* is free. For more information and to purchase a flag, contact 860-742-6917 or [hale@ctlandmarks.org](mailto:hale@ctlandmarks.org). In order to protect the health of staff, visitors, and community, all visitors must wear masks and adhere to social distancing guidelines. The historic house museum interior and gift shop will remain closed to the public. The *Flag Field for Heroes* will be on display from Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup> through Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup>.

Weds 7/8: **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](#).

Mon 7/13: **Forum, "How you can use YouTube to grow your business,"** 10 AM. For more details or to register, contact Eric Trott, Director of Planning & Development, at 860-742-4062 or email [etrott@coventryct.org](mailto:etrott@coventryct.org).

Weds 7/22: **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](#).

**SHOW YOUR RED, WHITE & BLUE PRIDE IN THIS CONTEST!** Decorate your house, car, door, tree, or other outdoor area and compete to win prizes in this fun contest coordinated by Coventry Parks & Recreation and Human Services. Deadline for submissions is 7/2. Details [here](#).

**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION SITE TO REOPEN JULY 18:** The MidNEROC HHW facility will be reopening this month. Please see information at this [link](#) regarding temporary procedures and the 2020 schedule.

**"FLUSHABLE" WIPES STILL A PROBLEM: COVID-19 important notice: Wipes go in the trash, not down the drain.** Our small community has really stepped up and stuck together during this difficult time. We are wearing uncomfortable face masks and using extra sanitizer to help keep our essential store workers safe. We are cleaning and disinfecting like never before. But, like the pictures we've seen online of discarded masks and gloves littering our planet, cleaning wipes have become a major problem in our sewer system. Even 'flushable' wipes do not break down in the short time it takes a flush to pass through our treatment system. Wipes are clogging pipes, pumps, and valves on a regular basis. We nearly had two overflows at our Wastewater Treatment Plant due to 8-inch diameter pipes becoming plugged with massive wads

of wipes! Plumbers will tell you that business is booming right now thanks to wipes clogging household pipes and fixtures. It won't happen right away but when a few wipes start building up they will clog either your house plumbing, your leaching field, or the Town's sewer system. Whether you have a septic system or are tied into the Town's sewers, you will end up paying for wipes removal and/or flooded basement cleanup, either straight from your wallet or in your annual sewer use fees. We've taken care of our essential workers, delivery drivers, and less fortunate neighbors. Now it's time to take care of checkbooks by properly disposing of wipes. **Please do not flush any type of wipe** or even paper towels down the drain; they absolutely will not break down in the Town's sewers or your septic system. **Throw them in the trash.** Check out this short video for a neat demonstration of wipes vs toilet paper:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eFW2DzS99uM&feature=youtu.be>.

**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!

**GET COUNTED IN THE 2020 CENSUS:** It's not too late to complete your Census information online. This will avoid a Census worker coming to your house. You all got the Census information mailed to your homes several months ago. It only takes a few minutes to complete it. Click here to start.

**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](mailto:LStone@coventryct.org) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the previous month.*