



COVENTRY COMMUNITY UPDATE:

August 2020

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

MANAGER'S MONTHLY MEMO:

Whoever came up with the expression “lazy days of summer” didn’t live in a “COVID Coventry.” Between all the changes due to COVID-19, and many capital projects and issues, this has been a busy, hectic summer. I want to send a shout-out of appreciation to our Town staff for working as a team to develop safe ways to continue to assist and provide services to the public. I also want to thank the public for your understanding that things have changed. Together we are successfully adjusting to this virus. The adjustment will continue as new issues arise. We hope we can continue to find safe solutions to move forward, especially in educating our students. Please enjoy August and stay safe.

Projects: The Coventry Grammar School parking lot is scheduled for paving during the week of July 20 and finish work will follow. Paving work continues on Northfields and Oakwood, and the drainage work is scheduled over the next few weeks for the balance of this subdivision. Old Eagleville, Depot Road and Pine Lake Shores work is expected over the next few weeks to finish those roads up, too.

The Folly Lane Bridge will be closed for replacement August 1 through December 2020. Please follow detours. Summer work at the schools is underway, including some asbestos removal work at Coventry High School to allow cafeteria changes, wall strengthening at Veterans Auditorium and the band room to comply with codes, and heating unit replacement in the middle school gym.

A Special Town Meeting is expected to be called on Thursday, August 27, 2020 to consider sending several capital projects to referendum in conjunction with the November 3, 2020 election. These include replacing sections of the roof at the high school complex and the addition and gym at GHR Robertson School. Alarm system replacement at the high school and middle school complex will be included in this question. Additionally, funding may be requested to match the State Library grant to address water intrusion, code issues, and some building efficiency items. Watch for more information.

UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS:

(Note: Most Town facilities are open to the public 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@coventryct.org by 4:00 PM on the day of the meeting.

- Mon, 8/3: Town Council meeting, 7:30 PM
- Tues, 8/11: [Presidential Primary](#), CHS Gymnasium, 78 Ripley Hill Road for both Districts 1 & 2. Polls open 6 AM – 8 PM.
- Thurs, 8/13: WPCA: 6 PM
- Mon, 8/10: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 PM
- Mon, 8/17: Town Council meeting, 7:30 PM
- Tues, 8/24: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 PM
- Weds, 8/26: Inland Wetlands Agency, 7 PM
- Thurs, 8/27: Special Town Meeting, 7 PM, CHS Veterans Auditorium, 78 Ripley Hill Road.

- Thurs, 8/27: 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. 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.)

Weds 8/5: **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 8/19: **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](#).

ABSENTEE BALLOTS AND VOTING INFORMATION FOR THE AUGUST 11, 2020

PRIMARY: Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Ned Lamont signed an executive order allowing voters registered in a major party in Connecticut to vote absentee in the August 11, 2020 Primary. Connecticut Secretary of State Denise Merrill mailed every registered Democrat and Republican in the state an application that will need to be filled out and returned in order to obtain an absentee ballot for the Primary. Beginning July 21, 2020, all voters who request an absentee ballot will receive ballots in the mail, which will also include a postage-paid return envelope. Coventry also has a secure ballot drop box, located at the back entrance to Town Hall, to allow voters to deliver their absentee ballots in person without close personal contact. Ballots can also be mailed to the Town Clerk's office at Town Hall. For those who would still like to appear in person to cast their vote, the polling location for both District 1 and District 2 voters will be open at the Coventry High School, 78 Ripley Hill Road. Polling place hours are 6 AM – 8 PM. Protocols for safe voting have been put in place. All voters must wear a mask in the polling place. We request that children do not enter the building for their safety. Physical distancing will be maintained and there will be a limit to the number of people inside the polling location. For voters who are temporarily disabled and were unable to submit their absentee ballot, curbside voting will be available. Please note there will be no Election Day registration for the primary. If registering by mail, the application must be postmarked by August 6. In-person registration closes at noon on August 10. For questions, contact the Registrar of Voters at 860-742-4061.

OPINIONS SOUGHT ON COVENTRY SENIOR HOUSING: Make sure your opinions on housing needs for Coventry seniors are heard! The Town-Council appointed Senior Housing Alternatives Study Committee is seeking to understand what seniors want for housing in Coventry. They have developed a survey to get feedback about the demand for senior housing, living unit formats, locations, price points, features, and timing. The results will be used to develop specific plans for the Town to more fully meet these needs and preferences. Please submit your responses by July 31st at this [link](#).

NEWS FROM THE BOOTH & DIMOCK MEMORIAL LIBRARY: Booth & Dimock Library is open for curbside pickup during following hours:

Tuesday 10-3

Wednesday 2-7

Thursday 10-3

Saturday 10-1

Appointments to use the computers can be made by calling the Library Tuesday-Thursday at 860-742-7606. To sign up for summer reading, click this [link](#):

GEARING UP TO LEARN PROGRAM OFFERS SCHOOL SUPPLIES TO COVENTRY FAMILIES: Backpacks and school supplies are available to Coventry families who meet income guidelines. Appointments are available from Monday, August 10th to Thursday, August 13th. To apply for the program, contact Sneha L'Heureux at Coventry Human Services, 860-742-5324. No walk-in's will be accepted. **Want to donate supplies?** Backpacks, lunch boxes, notebooks, loose leaf paper, folders pencils, binders, pens, crayons, etc. are happily accepted and may be dropped off at Coventry Human Services during regular business hours.

COMMENTS SOUGHT ON REGIONAL ECONOMIC VITALITY PLAN: The Towns of Bolton, Coventry, Mansfield, and Tolland worked with AdvanceCT to create a [Regional Economic Vitality Action Plan](#). Through an extensive process of document and data review, focus groups, and one-on-one interviews, AdvanceCT developed a robust library of input to inform the plan. The recommendations that follow reflect the vision of those residents and businesses located in the region that were engaged as part of this process, and which we hope represents a broader set of ideas in the region as a whole. This plan is designed to better develop and promote key industry areas and to grow strategic partnerships, with the end goal of retention, expansion, and attraction of businesses to and within the region. The Town is requesting feedback from the public on this document until 5pm on Friday, August 21, 2020. Please send any comments to Sadie Colcord at scolcord@advancect.org. The final version of the action plan will be presented at a public information session at 7pm on Wednesday, September 16th via Zoom. More information to come on accessing the public session.

FOOD BANK AVAILABLE FOR RESIDENTS IN NEED: The [Coventry Human Services Department](#) is running a limited food bank within Town Hall on Wednesdays and Fridays. 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.

FROM THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE: Department of Motor Vehicles registration issues have been a major issue with the July 2020 tax bills. If you haven't received a bill for your July 2020 motor vehicle taxes, check to ensure your vehicles are registered. We have been fielding many calls from taxpayers – the prevalent issue is that there is a gap, or the vehicle registration has expired. If this is the case, please contact the Assessor's office at 860-742-4067.

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!

“FLUSHABLE” WIPES STILL A PROBLEM: COVID-19 important notice: Wipes go in the trash, not down the drain. 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>.

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.

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.