



COVENTRY COMMUNITY UPDATE:

December 2020

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

MANAGER'S MONTHLY MEMO:

The COVID Grinch will not steal our holiday season. While different decisions will be made to stay safe until modern medicine can step in, an old-fashioned mask and social distancing can be our present to our fellow townsfolk. Think of your neighbors and, if you can, be generous to donate toys, food, and funds. Below you will see opportunities to share, and our [Human Services office](#) is also gratefully accepting donations to share. If you have been hard-hit by COVID and need help this year, please call them at 860-742-5324. Keep the holiday spirit alive and keep a smile under your mask.

Our capital projects keep moving along. We hit our second-year target for the three-year road bond work. Folly Lane Bridge is nearing completion. Public information meetings are planned for the South Street LOTCIP project (near Hale Homestead), Hop River Bridge replacement, and the Community Connectivity sidewalk project on Main Street north of Ripley Hill.

We are working with a forestry company to thin sections of the Nathan Hale Greenway, especially of Ash trees. We received a grant to provide methane venting at the former landfill and are including enough top soil to make the playing fields better. We have acquired some open space next to the Public Works garage, which will provide connectivity to the Nathan Hale Forest, Daly Road (via Knollwood), and Talcott Hill Road and Main Street (via Fern Road).

We are advertising for architects for school roofs, engineers for improved heating and ventilation at the high school/middle school, and design build firms for the Library renovation.

We appreciate all our residents are doing to work together to help your neighbors and make the adjustments required due to COVID.

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, 12/7: Town Council meeting, 7:30 PM
- Thurs, 12/10: WPCA: 6 PM
- Thurs, 12/10: [Board of Education](#), 7:30 PM
- Mon, 12/14: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 PM
- Weds, 12/16: Inland Wetlands Agency, 7 PM
- Mon, 12/21: Town Council meeting, 7:30 PM

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

HOLIDAYS:

- Thurs 12/24-Friday 12/25: **Christmas holiday**. Town offices closed. Trash pick-up on normal schedule 12/24, holiday schedule 12/25.

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 in-person hours and virtual offerings.)

12/4-12/21: **A Tour of Holiday Lights:** Participate in a multi-town holiday decorating contest by decking your exteriors by 12/4, and take a drive to see them all with a map published of all the participants once the locations are finalized. For details and to sign up to participate, see this [link](#).

Sat 12/5: **Fill a Boot for Cancer:** 9 AM – 1 PM, Dunkin Donuts and Highland Park Market parking lots. Town of Coventry Fire/EMS personnel will contact a “fill a boot” fund drive. Proceeds benefit PJ Day for the Kids at Connecticut Children’s Hospital.

Sun 12/6: **Coventry Winter Farmers’ Market,** 10 AM – 1 PM, Community Center at Patriots Park, 124 Lake Street. November 15, 2020 – March 14, 2021. Roasts, steaks, turkey, chicken, pies, produce, baked goods, cheeses, sweet and savory choices and more. [Website](#).

Weds 12/9: **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](#).

Sat 12/12: **Stuff-a-Cruiser, Truck, or Ambulance,** 9 AM – 1 PM, Fire Department, 3427 Main Street. Accepting donations of new and unwrapped toys or gifts for children. All gifts will be given to the Coventry Human Services Department for distribution to children in Coventry.

Sun 12/13: **Coventry Winter Farmers’ Market,** 10 AM – 1 PM, Community Center at Patriots Park, 124 Lake Street. November 15, 2020 – March 14, 2021. Roasts, steaks, turkey, chicken, pies, produce, baked goods, cheeses, sweet and savory choices and more. [Website](#).

Sun 12/20: **Coventry Winter Farmers’ Market,** 10 AM – 1 PM, Community Center at Patriots Park, 124 Lake Street. November 15, 2020 – March 14, 2021. Roasts, steaks, turkey, chicken, pies, produce, baked goods, cheeses, sweet and savory choices and more. [Website](#).

Weds 12/23: **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](#).

Sun 12/27: **Coventry Winter Farmers’ Market,** 10 AM – 1 PM, Community Center at Patriots Park, 124 Lake Street. November 15, 2020 – March 14, 2021. Roasts, steaks, turkey, chicken, pies, produce, baked goods, cheeses, sweet and savory choices and more. [Website](#).

CHANGES TO CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE FOR 2020: The annual Coventry Christmas in the Village will be celebrated in a very different manner this year as a result of the COVID-19 circumstances. Traditionally held on the first Sunday in December, this year townspeople and guests are encouraged to support local businesses throughout the entire month of December. All community activities, especially those where people would congregate, will not be scheduled. However, businesses not only along Main Street but throughout the town, will welcome shoppers and will offer holiday specials. Gifts certificates are available at many of Coventry’s restaurants. The evergreen tree at the First Congregational Church in the Village will be lit during the holiday season, for guests to enjoy during their visit.

The Coventry Lions Club, rather than hosting its annual Christmas Tree Festival, is conducting an online community-wide decorated Christmas tree contest. Submit your entry [here](#), or visit the Coventry Lions Club [Facebook page](#) for details. The Lions Club is the official sponsor of Coventry's Christmas in the Village.

Christmas in the Village was started in 2003 by the Coventry Village Improvement Society. This is the 17th year for the event. The Lions Club and the many other individuals and organizations that coordinate this event look forward to offering many of the usual activities normally planned again in the future. For more information on Christmas in the Village, past, and present, call the event coordinators at 860-918-5957 or 860-617-3588.

FOOD AND GIFT DONATIONS FOR THE DECEMBER HOLIDAYS: For many families and organizations, helping those less fortunate during the holidays has become an annual tradition. During these hard times of COVID, the Human Services Department has had to make some changes to the program to ensure social distancing protocols are met. However, the need is greater than ever. If you would like to help, see this link: [Holiday Food Donations](#).

NEWS FROM THE BOOTH & DIMOCK MEMORIAL LIBRARY: The Library is open for browsing and curbside pick-up Tuesday 10-3, Wednesday 2-7, Thursday 2-7, Friday 10-3, as well as Saturdays 10-1 for curbside pick-up and computer appointments only. The Library will be closed December 24-26, and will be open from 10-3 on December 31.

For school-aged children, the Library is offering a series of Curriculum Booster virtual programs, including Adventures in Nonfiction, Mathmagical Mondays, and Science Thursdays. A new program for children, "Sparkle Days," begins Monday December 21 and will continue throughout the winter season. This virtual program series is all about discovering new things in winter. Through fun story times, crafts, and other activities posted to the Library's Facebook page, children will learn about the winter solstice and all the wonders of the season!

The Mystery Book Club will be reading *The Christmas Mystery: A Detective Luc Moncrief Story* by James Patterson with Richard DiLallo. The book will be available to check out at the Library and the book club will meet on Zoom in mid-December, date TBA. New members are always welcome!

Check the Library [website](#) or visit their [Facebook page](#) for updates and more information about Library programs.

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.