



COVENTRY COMMUNITY UPDATE:

January 2021

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

MANAGER'S MONTHLY MEMO:

A new year is here, and hopefully much better than 2020. While the great news of a vaccine is welcome, we need to continue to exercise patience and diligence. It is clear that things will be getting worse before they get better. Please choose to wear a mask, social distance, and limit your social circles. We know this will be very difficult holiday season, but the COVID Grinch can't try to steal your season joy if you are on the "nice" list.

The Town is looking at our COVID plan, and we will likely need to tighten up direct service. We are asking that IF you can connect with the Town online, please do. A reminder that many services and resources are available at www.coventryct.org, including:

- Land records/maps
- Tax & COVRRRA payments. No charge for e-checks, and you can print a receipt after it is processed.
- Drop box inside rear door vestibule for tax payments, Town Clerk, and Assessor's office (please, do not leave cash in the drop box)
- Many meetings are available online – view agendas for upcoming meetings [here](#), and recordings of many meetings [here](#).
- Drop box for food for the Coventry Food Bank at the side door vestibule. Call Human Services for an appointment if you are in need of food or energy assistance, 860-742-5324.
- Building and land use permits: a greatly-expanded View Permit system went live on December 14th. For more information, see the [Building Office page](#) of our website.

Important tax payment update: To assist our taxpayers, the Town has adopted the "Low Interest Rate Program" the Governor directed, which will cover any real estate and supplemental motor vehicle payments due on **January 1, 2021**. You will have a grace period from January 1st to February 1st, as you have had in the past. However, rather than the normal 1.5% interest rate per month charges you will be charged 0.25% interest per month on any unpaid balance until **March 31, 2021**. You **must** make some payment(s) towards the outstanding balance during January, February and/or March 2021 to qualify for this reduced interest rate. As of **April 1st**, the interest rate on any unpaid balance will increase **back** to the normal 1.5% per month rate, unless the Governor extends this program.

Please sign up for automatic COVID alerts through the "[Notify Me](#)" feature of our website, since we are in a rapidly-changing environment.

The New Year will see great progress. Highlights include:

- \$1.5 million grant for renovations at Orchard Hills Estates.
- Construction of grant-funded sidewalks on Main Street from Hemlock Point to around Winterberry Lane.
- Grant-funded reconstruction on South Street from west of Seagraves to the Homestead, including sidewalks from the round-about to the Homestead.
- Grant-funded methane venting and recreational field restoration of the sports fields at the closed landfill.

- Grant-funded realignment of the Swamp Road intersection on Rt. 44, including a new Northfields Road connector.
- The third and final year of the road bond work is being planned out for an early spring start.
- We hope to have a design/build firm hired soon, and get the Library project going. The State Bond Commission authorized funds on December 17th.
- Architects/engineers are being hired for school roofs at the high school and Robertson School, and heating/ventilation work at the high school and middle school.
- Hop River Bridge replacement: we are finishing up design and permitting for a summer 2022 construction.

A very full year, with great progress for the future.

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, 1/4: Town Council meeting, 7:30 PM
- Mon, 1/11: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 PM
- Thurs, 1/14: WPCA: 6 PM
- Thurs, 1/14: [Board of Education](#), 7:30 PM
- Tues, 1/19: Town Council meeting, 7:30 PM
- Mon, 1/25: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 PM
- Weds, 1/27: Inland Wetlands Agency, 7 PM
- Thurs, 1/28, [Board of Education](#), 7:30 PM

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

HOLIDAYS:

- Fri 1/1: **New Year's Day**. Town offices closed. Trash pick-up on [holiday schedule](#).
- Mon 1/18: **Martin Luther King Day**. Town offices closed. Trash pick-up on normal schedule

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.)

Sat 1/2: **Keep Calm and Craft on!** 11 AM – 12 PM. Join Coventry's own Yasmine Forte as she leads kids in grades 3-5 in fun, easy, themed craft activities on Saturday mornings. Order your "craft kit" chock-full of materials needed to complete the projects, and join Yas for a ZOOM class as she walks you through how to complete each project. The \$10 kits can be picked up at the Parks & Recreation office during regular office hours. January's theme: Winter. [Register](#) early – space is limited!

Sun 1/3: **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 1/13: **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 1/10: **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 1/17: **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 1/27: **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 1/24: **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 1/31: **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](#).

NEWS FROM THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE:

The Elderly or Totally Disabled Homeowner Program begins February 1, 2021, and applications are being accepted until May 17, 2021. Our office will be sending reminder letters by the end of January 2021 to those people who have to re-file this year. Remember that this program is income driven from the state and income guidelines are set by the state for both single and married individuals. Please call if your income is less than \$45,800 if married, or less than \$37,600 if single, both must include Social Security benefits and your adjusted gross income from your 2020 Federal Income tax return. If you qualify for the State program, the Town of Coventry also has either a tax credit or a tax deferral program which has the same income requirements.

The Additional Veterans Program also starts February 1, 2021 and applications are accepted until October 1, 2021. A DD214 must have been filed with the Town Clerk prior to **October 1st, 2021** to be eligible for this additional exemption. If you have already filed and did not receive a letter from our office, you do not need to re-file. You will receive your exemption automatically. For additional veteran's benefits, please call if your income is less than \$45,800 if married, or less than \$37,600 if single, both must include Social Security benefits and your adjusted gross income from your 2020 Federal Income Tax return.

You will be asked to provide proof of all the income documentation regarding both of the above-mentioned applications. Additional Veteran's and Homeowner applications are taken biannually.

Crumbling Foundations has been an ongoing issue for 19 Towns in the eastern part of the State. Connecticut General Statutes have allowed the Assessor's Office to revalue the property starting with the 2016 Grand List. Applications are on our [website](#) and in the office. These must be filed along with a certified engineer's report in order to receive an adjusted assessment. The

filing deadline for an adjustment on the grand list is December 31, 2020. Along with that, the State of Connecticut has a reimbursement program for the testing of concrete foundations. If you would like to apply please use the CROG link foundationtesting.org for the application, or call (860) 724-4277 concerning any questions you may have.

The Board of Assessment Appeals will be meeting in March of 2021. Appeal **applications must be filed no later than February 20, 2021**. The board is required to hear all appeals concerning Motor Vehicle, Personal Property or Real Estate. Applications will be available in January 2021 in the Assessor's Office or online at www.coventryct.org.

To list your event in this bulletin, contact Laura Stone at LStone@coventryct.org by the 15th of the previous month.