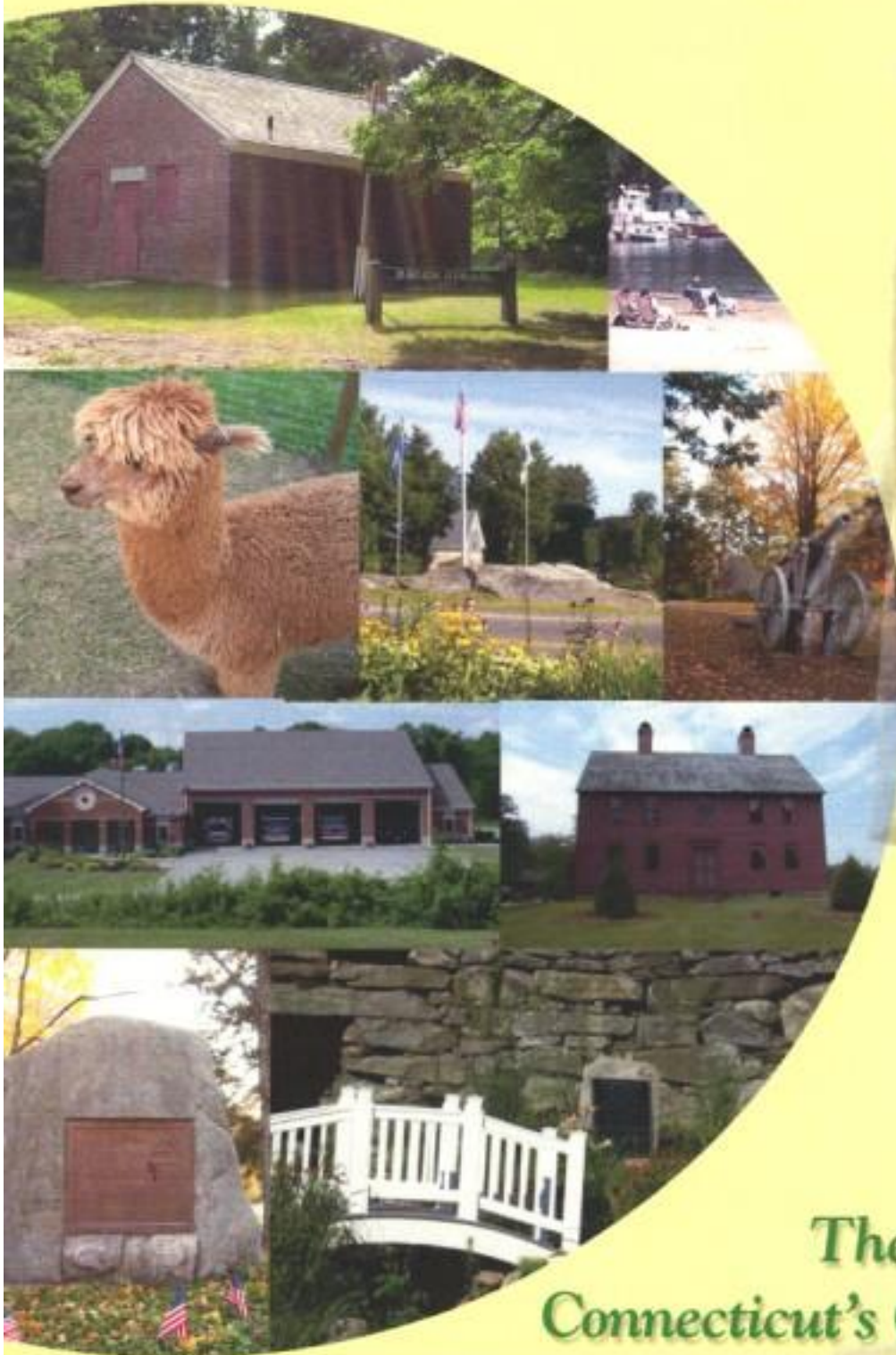


Coventry's History Can Be Your Future



Coventry...
The Gateway to
Connecticut's Quiet Corner

THE TOWN OF COVENTRY, the Gateway to the Quiet Corner, offers rural ambience and historic character, while providing modern conveniences and opportunities in the emerging marketplace east of the Connecticut River. The birthplace of Nathan Hale invites you to grow your business with us. Located 22 miles east of Hartford, the State's capital city, and 26 miles northwest of Norwich, Coventry is primarily a rural residential community of approximately 37 square miles. 2014 demographics show Coventry with 12,500 residents in 4,653 homes. A population of 193,000 exists within 10 miles of town. Our median household income is \$92,308, well above the State average. 64% of the population is in the key demographic age group of 18-65, with 23% children and 11% seniors. 44% of the adults have continued their education past high school. The Partnership for Strong Communities recently ranked Coventry as first in the state for housing affordability.

The town's commitment to economic development has been realized by ongoing improvements to the zoning regulations, which include expanded districts to accommodate the needs of the community and mechanisms for clear and streamlined processes. Two of the focus areas of town include the Route 44 corridor which has convenient access to routes I-84 and I-384, close proximity to the Vernon/Manchester marketplace and a traffic count of 20,000 vehicles per day. The other area is the Historic South Coventry Village with its multiple mill sites, shops and restaurants and good infrastructure.

Coventry has convenient access to Bradley International Airport and the interstate highway system, and is within two hours of Boston, New York City and major New England ski areas by automobile. Although the community has several small commercial areas, including North Coventry (Route 44 near Bolton, and in North Coventry Village), and the Historic South Coventry Village, home-based businesses are strongly supported and contribute to Coventry's economic base. Among Coventry's amenities and attractions are its historic sites (including the Hale Family Homestead), a nationally recognized Farmers' Market, a vineyard, antique shops, two public beaches, two 18-hole golf courses and a State boat launch on Coventry Lake. Regional amenities include: Wadsworth Athenaeum, Hartford Stage, Bushnell Memorial Auditorium, Mystic Seaport and Aquarium, Mark Twain House, Connecticut Convention Center, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Mohegan Sun and Foxwoods Casinos and easy access to the Connecticut and Rhode Island shorelines.

Coventry is adjacent to the University of Connecticut Storrs Campus, and the newly developed Storrs Center Downtown. Other notable Connecticut institutions of higher learning within a short distance include Trinity College, Wesleyan University, Yale University, Central, Southern and Eastern Connecticut State Universities, Manchester Community and Technical College and the University of Hartford.

HISTORY OF COVENTRY

The area that is now the Town of Coventry was originally occupied by the Mohegan Indians who named our lake "Wangumbaug" or "crooked pond" due to its curved shape. The earliest settlers of Coventry were families that traveled down the Connecticut River from Northampton, MA to Hartford. The first house in Coventry was built about 1700. Coventry is the birthplace of Nathan Hale, whose patriotism during the American Revolution distinguishes him as Connecticut's official State Hero. Nathan Hale is famous for his last words "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country." In the late 1800's and early 1900's, Coventry was a bustling mill village making a wide

variety of items including cotton, wool, and silk products, ammunition, windmills, machinery, paper boxes, wagons, etc.

FIRE PROTECTION

The South Coventry Volunteer Fire Association provides primary fire protection for the first fire district and ambulance services throughout the town. There is an active membership of over forty members trained in fire-fighting and emergency medical services. There is also a Lifestar Air Ambulance available when needed. The North Coventry Volunteer Fire Department provides primary fire protection for the second fire district and rescue services throughout the town.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Coventry Police Department is a full-time, full-service accredited law enforcement agency. The Department is staffed at all times, and the station encourages people to call with requests of service, to report a crime or suspicious activity, or to make a simple inquiry. The department also provides a lake patrol for boating safety. A new police station facility became operational in June of 2006.

COVENTRY'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Coventry Public School programs and practices reflect a serious focus on the continuous improvement of student academic accomplishments. The analysis of the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (APT) results indicate that Coventry students continue to improve in a variety of test areas. Many new programs, such as the Academic Assistance program, have been administered over the past several years to help students. These programs provide guidance, monitoring, and tutorial assistance to struggling students. High school practices are continuously being re-evaluated to provide for greater instructional focus and attention to academics. Reading and math intervention programs at both Coventry Grammar School and G.H. Robertson Intermediate School are being developed and implemented to ensure that grade level competent learners are sent to Captain Nathan Hale Middle School. Coventry Public School students continue to win awards across the state and are recognized for their outstanding accomplishments in a wide variety of areas.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

There are many recreational activities within the Town of Coventry ranging from boating on Coventry Lake to pickup basketball at the High School and Lisicke Beach. The recreational activities in the town are suited to all ages. The Captain Nathan Hale School and High School Complex located on Main Street and Ripley Hill Road is a 90-acre parcel that includes outdoor track, two basketball courts, three tennis courts, two multipurpose fields, two soccer fields, two baseball fields, a football field, a softball field, and a picnic area. The Coventry Grammar School located on Main Street has a half-mile walking trail, two playgrounds, nature trails, and a soccer field covering six acres of land. The G.H. Robertson School on Cross Street has walking trails, a soccer field, a baseball field, and a playground that cover the surrounding seven acres. Laidlaw Park on Merrow Road has a half-mile walking trail, a softball field and two soccer fields. The park stretches over 37 acres and is handicap accessible. Creaser Park on Case Road has over two miles of walking trails, two fishing ponds, a dog-walk area, three rentable cabins, and a picnic pavilion stretching across 57 acres of land. Eagleville Lake on Stonehouse Road has a canoe launch, fishing access, and a picnic area. The Nathan Hale Forest which is owned and managed by the State of CT DEEP consists of over 1610 acres with walking trails. Millbrook Park on Wall Street consists of 7.5 acres within historic South Coventry Village. The park links to Main Street and offers a low impact

circular loop, called the Mill Brook Greenway. Riverview Trail Park is a beautiful riverfront trail located on Mellow Road which offers fishing, canoeing, and biking opportunities. The Town continues work to expand hiking trail opportunities on the many open space parcels that it owns.

HISTORIC SOUTH COVENTRY VILLAGE

Historic South Coventry Village, located along Main Street stretching from Monument Hill to Armstrong Road, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Mill Brook has been a main focus of Coventry Village's development since the first settlers built their homes near the Village Green on Lake Street in 1712. During the 19th century it became the centerpiece of one of the most vital small mill districts in New England, boasting 17 waterpower privileges along its two-mile course. By the mid-20th century, most of the mills no longer remained, but the fabric of the Village has remained intact. The Village has many well preserved houses and industrial landscapes. The buildings in Coventry Village have a wide variety of styles including Colonial, Greek Revival, Italianate, and Queen Anne. Other historic properties in the Village are the Bidwell Tavern, Bidwell Hotel, Boynton's Mill, the Town Green, Tracy Shoddy Mill, as well as the Booth and Dimock Library. South Coventry Village offers antique shops, restaurants, a Town supported Visitor's Center, as well as, collectable boutiques, and an antique auction market. Two miles from the Village is the Hale Family Homestead, a well-preserved museum and recreation area and the home of the Coventry Farmers' Market during the summer months. Adjacent to the Homestead is one of the Coventry Historical Society's museum and information center called the Strong-Porter Farm.

COVENTRY FARMERS' MARKET

The Town is assuming operation of the highly successful Farmers' Market at the Hale Homestead in 2016 after it was managed by a non-profit organization for many years. The Market is regarded as one of the best farmers' markets and attractions in Connecticut. It is a weekly celebration of locally grown products, handmade items and provides musical

entertainment and educational opportunities in a historic rural setting.

VISITOR'S CENTER

The Visitor's Center is located in the heart of Historic South Coventry Village and is housed in an 1876 building that once contained the Town administrative offices. The Visitor's Center serves as a clearinghouse for local information on destinations and points of interest. Additionally, the Visitor's Center supports local artisans by providing showcase space. The facility is served by volunteer hosts who assist visitors to the community and region.

LAKE WANGUMBAUG

Lake Wangumbaug, also known as Coventry Lake, is a 375 acre, spring-fed lake. It is popular for its multiple public beaches where the community can relax, swim, or use their own private boats. Lisicke Beach, located on Main Street is a public beach with lifeguards, public bathrooms, picnic pavilion, basketball court and beach volleyball. Patriots Park provides an excellent area for retreats, with a guarded beach for swimming, playground, picnic area pavilion, lodge facilities, community center, recreational fields, skating pond with a warming hut, and band shell for summer concerts. The park is also handicap accessible. The State of Connecticut has a boat launch that provides access for boaters and vehicle parking. The Town's annual "Coventry Fest" celebration occurs in Patriot's Park each year.

THE BOOTH AND DIMOCK MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Booth and Dimock Memorial Library is located in the Historic South Coventry Village on Main Street. The library provides materials and services to help all residents of the community meet their recreational, educational, and informational needs. Fiction and nonfiction, selected quality reference sources, periodicals, high speed internet access, museum passes, non-print materials, workshops and special events are available. The Library will also provide access to the resources of other libraries through interlibrary loans.

Coventry's History Can Be Your Future
Contact Us Today at (860) 742-4062
or visit our website at www.coventryct.org/edc

TOWN OF COVENTRY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

For more information contact Director of Planning and Development, Eric M. Trott, at etrott@coventryct.org or at 860-742-4062.

For further town information, visit www.coventryct.org.