

Community Profile - Our Town – Beacon Falls

We are one of the youngest towns in the State of Connecticut (incorporated in 1871), situated in the heart of the Naugatuck Valley; a convenient commute to major cities yet (located right off of Route 8) peacefully "far from the maddening crowd". Beacon Falls is a picturesque town with beautiful view of the hills in the valley.

We are a small, yet active town. We have numerous civic organizations, a volunteer fire department, and active youth organizations in town. The school system engages the town through their arts and sports programs.

Our parks and trails afford many opportunities to enjoy the beauty of southern New England. I invite you to picnic in Matthies Park, enjoy a game of tennis at the Pent Road Recreation Complex, kayak on Toby's Pond, fish the Naugatuck River, or hike in our newest gem, Lantern Ridge.

- **Town Facts** - The town of Beacon Falls, with a population of 6,049 is located in southwest Connecticut where it is bisected by the Naugatuck River. The area, 9.8 sq. miles, an Indian camping ground on which many relics such as arrowheads have been found, was first settled by colonists from Derby in 1678. The town was incorporated in 1871 on lands from each of the bordering towns: Bethany, Naugatuck, Oxford, and Seymour. Beacon Falls' principle industries include agriculture, warehouse storage and manufacture of plastic molding and small hardware. Website: www.beaconfalls-ct.org
- **Heritage** - Due to its strong sense of community, Beacon Falls was incorporated from Bethany, Oxford, Naugatuck, and Seymour in 1871. The first friction matches were made here in 1834 by Thomas Sanford, who later sold his "recipe" for \$10.00; the Diamond Match Co. ultimately acquired the formula. The town was named after Beacon Hill, which historians say was a lookout for colonists to signal the movements of hostile Indians.
- **Geography**
 - According to the United States Census Bureau, the town has a total area of 9.9 square miles (26 km²), of which, 9.8 square miles (25 km²) of it is land and 0.1 square miles (0.26 km²) of it (1.01%) is water.
 - The village of Pine Bridge, once known as Pines Bridge, is located within the town, south of the town center. Beacon Falls has been known as Beacon Falls Station, Beacon Falls Village, and the Beacon Falls Postal District within Bethany.
 - The Beacon Falls train station is on the Waterbury branch of the New Haven line of Metro-North Railroad – with service to/from New York City.
 - On the National Register of Historic Places
 - Depot Street Bridge - added March 9, 2007
 - Home Woolen Company - added November 29, 1984
 - On the State Register of Historic Places
 - Rimmon School - One room schoolhouse ca. 1830, Pinesbridge Road (RT-42)

- Tracy S. Lewis House - Home of the Beacon Falls Rubber Shoe Company President. Originally built ca. 1855 by the American Hard Rubber Company, 35-37 Wolfe Avenue
- Schools - Beacon Falls is home to Woodland Regional High School, which opened in 2001. Woodland is part of Regional School District #16 (Beacon Falls and Prospect), which also consists of Long River Middle School (P), Laurel Ledge Elementary School (BF), and Prospect Elementary School (P).

PERCEPT DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY

As part of our Intentional Interim Ministry Process, the church recently purchased a detailed demographic study from the Percept Group. The Percept Group has been in existence for over 30 years supplying thousands of churches with demographic resources to help engage in mission within their context. Percept adds value to typical demographic data by integrating data about the religious attitudes, preferences and behaviors of the American people. Brief highlights from the Percept Group Study include:

Observations

- We live in a small community that has low population density and has experienced 8.6% growth since 2000. Future population growth is projected to remain stable.
- Racial/ethnic diversity is relatively low. We are mostly Caucasian (80.6%). Hispanics/Latinos account for 9.6% of the total population and is projected to be the fastest growing group (17.2%) in the next five years.
- Income is 43% above National Average and Education is also above National Average (92% high school and 33.6% college grads).
- The area can be described as somewhat traditional due to the above average presence of married persons and two-parent families.
- The top three generations are: Survivors [ages 37 to 57], (29.7%); Millennials [ages 23 to 38], (24.5%); and Boomers [ages 58 to 75], (24.2%); while Generation Z [ages 14 to 23] makes up 10.4%.
- Primary concerns: time for recreation and leisure, finding life direction, retirement opportunities, parenting skills, satisfying job/career and aging parent care.

Positives

- The area represents stable employment (63% employed and 31.5% not in labor force).
- Based upon the average annual household income of nearly \$105,000 and the likely contribution behavior in the area, the giving potential is very high.
- Age diversification is younger and broader than anticipated.

Challenges

- Overall, the likely faith involvement level and preference for historic Christian religious affiliations is somewhat low when compared to National Averages.
- Involvement in their faith is decreasing (24.6%) and some are not involved at all (39.8%).
- Maintaining personal health and achieving long-term financial security seem to be the two biggest attraction models for the church.
- Married couples compose 73.2% of households and single parent households compose 26.1%.