



SOUNDINGS

SEPTEMBER 2025



UPCOMING EVENTS

MEETINGS

SEP 15-19: GD CONFERENCE
SEP 30: COUNCILLOR TRAINING
OCT 20: RI AFL-CIO CONVENTION
OCT 20-24: UAW NATL. SKILLED TRADES CONFERENCE
OCT 24: CONNECTICOSH
NOV 6-7: CT AFL-CIO CONVENTION

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SEP 19: STAND DOWN 2025
OCT 10-13: CAMPING WKND
OCT 15: UNITED FOR GEMMA GALA BENEFIT
OCT 25TH - MDA MOVIE NIGHT
NOV 1: CORNHOLE-FOXWOODS
NOV 7-9: GREAT WOLF LODGE
NOV 8: UAW 9A VETS DINNER DANCE

RETIREEES LUNCH

SEP 11: GREAT NECK CC
OCT 9: VENICE RESTAURANT
NOV 13: LAKE OF ISLES

IN THIS ISSUE:

- LOCAL HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS
- UPCOMING MDA EVENTS
- NEW MDA PRIDE LOGO & APPAREL
- GO VISIT A SUBMARINE MUSEUM
- SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS
- MDA MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS
- THANK YOU JOE COURTNEY



MDA RECENT RETIREES

**MDA-UAW
LOCAL 571**

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MDA-UAW Local 571 Union Hall, 394 Toll Gate Rd, Groton, CT 06340 (860)448-0552

MDA-UAW LOCAL 571 RECENT RETIREES



<i>Debra Morrisette</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>T/A Metrology Sr Spec</i>
<i>Wayne Washington</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>Arrgt S/Des Sr Spec</i>
<i>Joseph Marmaud</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>Design Tech-Arrgt</i>
<i>Shahnaz Nizami</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>Elect Sr Designer</i>
<i>Jeffery Vary</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>Design Tech-Piping</i>
<i>Glenn Dyson</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>Elect Sr Designer</i>
<i>James Ferris</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>Piping Sr Designer</i>
<i>Norman Talbot</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>Structural Sr Chargeman</i>
<i>Troy Williams</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>Mech S/Des Sr Spec</i>
<i>Joseph Buttacavoli</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>Arrgt S/Des Sr Spec</i>
<i>Erik Bronson</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>Electrical Designer</i>



This newsletter will also be available on the MDA-UAW Web Page. We appreciate your feedback and any comments you have to make us better at how we communicate MDA-UAW news.

GET INVOLVED
If you would like to volunteer or get involved in any of our committees, events or volunteer efforts contact, the Union Hall at 860-448-0552.



Local Union Communication Association



UPCOMING MEETINGS & MEMORIAM



2025 RETIREE LUNCHEONS

SEP 11	Great Neck Country Club, Waterford, CT
OCT 9	Venice Restaurant Westerly, RI
NOV 13	Lake of Isles North Stonington, CT
DEC 11	Great Neck Country Club, Waterford, CT

MDA-UAW LOCAL 571 2025 MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

EVENT	DATE	TIME	PLACE
Executive Board	Sep 8	3:00PM	Mystic Marriott
General Membership	Sep 8	4:30PM	Mystic Marriott
Executive Board	Oct 6	3:30PM	Mystic Marriott
Executive Council	Oct 6	4:30PM	Mystic Marriott
Executive Board	Nov 3	3:30PM	Mystic Marriott
Executive Council	Nov 3	4:30PM	Mystic Marriott
Executive Board	Dec 15	3:00PM	Mystic Marriott
General Membership	Dec 15	4:30PM	Mystic Marriott

IN MEMORIAM FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS



ALEXANDER WOODS (MEMBER)

Alexander Scott Woods, 34, Groton, died Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024. He worked for 16 years at EB as a senior designer. He will be missed by all that knew him.



MEGAN SULLIVAN (MEMBER)

Megan Marie Sullivan, 40, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, June 21st, 2025 in Groton, CT. Known for her sassy personality and quick wit. She definitely knew how to make others laugh and keep them on their toes.



SANDRA GOODE-FERGUSON (RETIREE)

Sandra Marie Goode Ferguson, 82, passed away July 12, 2025. Sandra worked at EB for 43 years and retired in May 2015. Sandra was loved by all who knew her.



JAMES FLETCHER (RETIREE)

James Willis Fletcher, 82, passed on Sunday, June 22, 2025, at the L&M Hospital in New London. James retired with more than 50 years of loyal service to EB. He was an avid golfer and loved to sing and play the guitar.



SANTOS JONES (MEMBER)

Santos Jones, 68, died August 12, 2025 in New London. He was employed as a senior pipe designer at EB in Groton. He will be missed by all that knew him.



DONALD NOEL (RETIREE)

Donald P. "Ducky" Noel of Mystic, 85, passed away Aug. 9, 2025. Ducky worked at Electric Boat, first as a carpenter and then entered in the field of design. Having worked at Electric Boat from 1962 to 2018, he retired as a design tech after 55 years.



SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

JOHN F SAFFOMILLA & E. ROY COLVILLE 2025 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS DINNER

Congratulations!

MDA-UAW Local 571 is pleased to announce this years recipients of the John F. Saffomilla and E. Roy Colville Scholarship. Scholarship Awards of \$3,000.00 were given to seven graduating high school seniors, who met qualifying guidelines. The award dinner was held at Tony D's on Tuesday July 1, 2025.



*Jacob Russell
son of:
Lisa Russell
UConn - Comp. Science*



*Jordyn Hartman
daughter of:
Janina Hartman
Avery Point - Psychology*



*Anna Maynard
daughter of:
Jessica Thomas
Eastern - Elem. Education*



*Justin Sieng
son of:
Tim Sieng
URI - Business*



*Lillian Claspell
daughter of:
Rachael Claspell
URI - Intl. Relations*



*Alex Hankey
son of:
Debra Hankey
Ithaca College - Film*



*Nicholas Sauder
son of:
Silvia Sauder
URI - Finance*



SUBMARINE HISTORY



GO VISIT A SUBMARINE MUSEUM

We are lucky to have a museum dedicated to the first commissioned nuclear power ship in the United States right here in Groton, CT. The NAUTILUS was decommissioned on March 3, 1980 after a career spanning 25 years and over half a million miles steamed.

Did you know there are currently twenty-five different submarine museums in the United States that you can explore? Eight of the twenty-five boats were built with pride right here at EB. Most are decommissioned, retired submarines, saved from being scrapped after being deemed unfit for further military service to the Navy.

Many of them saw action during World War II or played a role in the Cold War and/or Vietnam. Some were used for training, experimenting, or research for the development of today's submarine force. Each museum submarine is unique in her own way. Many hold various records, some were used in movies, and a few have rare operational, functioning equipment.

	CLASS	LAUNCHED	BUILDER	CURRENT LOCATION
USS Drum (SS-228)	Gato	5/12/1941	Portsmouth Naval Shipyard	Mobile, AL
U-505 (German)	IX-C	5/24/1941	Deutsche Werft AG	Chicago, IL
USS Silversides (SS-236)	Gato	8/26/1941	Mare Island Naval Shipyard	Muskegon, MI
USS Bowfin (SS-287)	Balao	12/7/1942	Portsmouth Naval Shipyard	Honolulu, HI
USS Croaker (SS-246)	Gato	12/19/1942	Electric Boat	Buffalo, NY
USS Cod (SS-224)	Gato	3/21/1943	Electric Boat	Cleveland, OH
USS Batfish (SS-310)	Balao	5/6/1943	Portsmouth Naval Shipyard	Muskogee, OK
USS Pampanito (SS-383)	Balao	7/12/1943	Portsmouth Naval Shipyard	San Francisco, CA
USS Ling (SS-297)	Balao	8/15/1943	Cramp Shipbuilding Co.	Hackensack, NJ
USS Lionfish (SS-298)	Balao	11/7/1943	Cramp Shipbuilding Co.	Fall River, MA
USS Cavalla (SS-244)	Gato	11/14/1943	Electric Boat	Galveston, TX
USS Cobia (SS-245)	Gato	11/28/1943	Electric Boat	Manitowoc, WI
USS Razorback (SS-394)	Balao	1/27/1944	Portsmouth Naval Shipyard	N. Little Rock, AR
USS Becuna (SS-319)	Balao	1/30/1944	Electric Boat	Philadelphia, PA
USS Torsk (SS-423)	Tench	9/6/1944	Portsmouth Naval Shipyard	Baltimore, MD
USS Requin (SS-481)	Tench	1/1/1945	Portsmouth Naval Shipyard	Pittsburgh, PA
USS Clamagore (SS-343)	Balao	2/25/1945	Electric Boat	Mt. Pleasant, SC
USS Albacore (AGSS-569)	Albacore	8/1/1953	Portsmouth Naval Shipyard	Portsmouth, NH
USS Marlin (SST-2)	T-1	10/14/1953	Electric Boat	Omaha, NE
USS Nautilus (SSN-571)	Nautilus	1/21/1954	Electric Boat	Groton, CT
USS Growler (SSG-577)	Grayback	4/5/1958	Portsmouth Naval Shipyard	New York, NY
USS Blueback (SS-581)	Barbel	5/16/1959	Ingalls Shipbuilding Co.	Portland, OR
B-39 (Russian)	Foxtrot	4/15/1967	Admiralty Shipyard	San Diego, CA
USS Dolphin (AGSS-555)	Dolphin	6/8/1968	Portsmouth Naval Shipyard	San Diego, CA
B-427 (Russian)	Foxtrot	6/22/1971	Sudomekh Shipyard	Long Beach, CA





SOLIDARITY PICNIC



SOLIDARITY PICNIC





IN THE KNOW



Holiday Dinner Dance at Foxwoods Saturday, December 6, 2025

Discounted rooms are available.

*Please use the provided link below to
book your room. Rooms tend to go fast,
so book soon if you are attending.*

[FOXWOODS HOTEL RESERVATION LINK](#)

DON'T DO IT ON YOUR OWN..

If you or a family member is struggling with addiction, depression, anxiety, or everyday stresses, there are free resources to help. EAP is a free, confidential support service that helps you find solutions to life's most common issues 24/7.

This benefit is for all EB employees and their family, whether or not you have EB health insurance plan with United healthcare. The EAP is for emergent mental health issues that require short term counselling and can be used for up to eight sessions per person, per issue, per year, at no cost to you.

- Managing relationships
- Emotional stress and anxiety
- Parenting & family problems
- Substance abuse and recovery
- Behavioral health



12TH ANNUAL *Camping*

**MDA-UAW LOCAL 571
COLUMBUS DAY WEEKEND
OCTOBER 10TH - 13TH**

**NATURE'S CAMPSITES
VOLUNTOWN, CT**



GREAT FAMILY EVENT!

**Cornhole | Canoeing | Fishing
Hiking | Basketball | Horseshoes
Bocce Court | Shuffleboard
2 Playgrounds**



Pig Roast Saturday night

Open to All - 5:00 PM



Pot Luck Sunday



Special Trick or Treating

Weekend Event

Walk-Ins for Saturday & Sunday are FREE!

Sign up with the Union Hall

Camping Sites Available

Contact the Union Hall at 860-448-0552



GREAT WOLF LODGE FAMILY WEEKEND

NOVEMBER 7 - 9, 2025



Two nights available at
\$150 per night.

Each night includes:

One room (Sleeps up to 6)

- Two queen beds
- One pullout couch

One waterpark pass per guest

- good all day of check-in
and check-out

Day Passes Available at \$50
per person.

- Pass good only for date
purchased

Registration Deadline:

September 19, 2025

Call the Union Hall at 860-448-0552 to sign up!!





UAW Region 9A Summer School program was held in New York City, July 25th and 26th, 2025. Eight MDA members took part in workshops and panel discussions to learn about what is happening in Region 9A and what the future of the labor movement looks like. Topics included strategizing for political power, NAFTA and grievance handling.



MDA members Kim Deschamps and JoAnna McClenathan also presented panels related to their experience working to organize strike duty sign-up and organizing strategies in preparation of a potential strike.

MDA Local 571 members in attendance included Casey Alger, Craig Kelley, Evan Sperry, JoAnna McClenathan, Anne Wurzbacher, Kim Deschamps, Patrick Breen and Jim Newman.

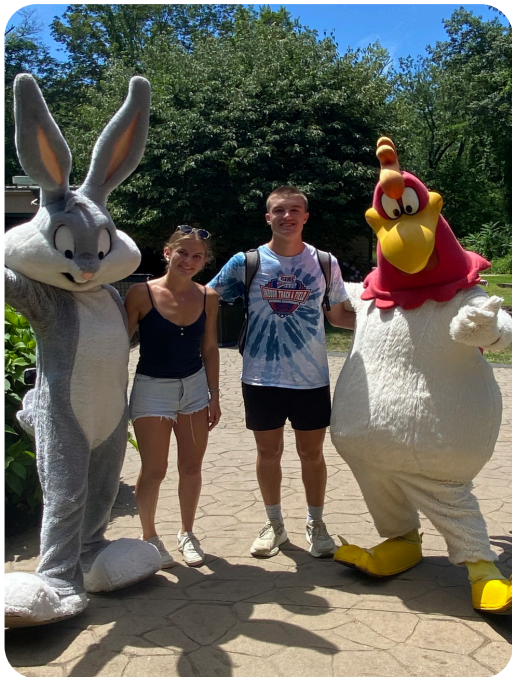


Summer Hire Intern Program (SHIP) kicked off this year on June 6th, 2025. Twenty interns had 6 weeks paired with MDA mentors and worked beside them throughout the summer. They are full MDA members with all rights and benefits that we all earn every day. The interns had the opportunity to visit the Nautilus Museum, and also experienced the Labor History Museum in Willimantic. The program is intended to offer high school juniors who do not plan on attending college, the opportunity to have a good job to jump right into after they graduate. The program ran through August 22, 2025. Thank you mentors and all others that make this program so successful!!!





SIX FLAGS SUMMER OUTING



SIX FLAGS SUMMER OUTING





RUN TO HOME BASE



The “Run to Home Base” is an annual fundraiser providing vital funds for the clinical care and support for our veterans and their families who are impacted by the invisible wounds of war. Several MDA members stepped up to the plate on July 26, 2025, to help the EB team raise over \$115,000 in donations. This donation will help traumatic brain injury programs, intensive clinical program for families who have lost their loved one due to service or suicide, and regional outpatient care programs.



Congratulations to Ella Stephenson (18yo) placed 15th overall in 5K & 2nd in the women’s 18-21 age division

Congratulations to Greyson Stephenson (15yo) placed 2nd overall in 5K & 1st in the under-18 division

OVER
\$73,000
RAISED!!

5th Annual

RAINMAKER
EXPO
CENTER!!

MDA UAW LOCAL 571 CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

Hosted by:

FOXWOODS CASINO

4 Round Robin games into Double Elimination!!

CASH PAYOUTS, RAFFLES, AIRMAIL, FOOD & DRINKS

QUESTIONS OR MORE INFO EMAIL:

WILLIAM LOUIS - BillLouis571@yahoo.com

Saturday, November 1, 2025

8:00 AM - Registration/Warm-Ups

9:30 AM - Opening Ceremony

10:00 AM - Bags Fly

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED!

Register on SCOREHOLIO!

\$80

Per Team

Backyard
Division

New Players Only!

\$100

Per Team

Competitive
Division

125 MAX SPR

\$100

Per Team

Social
Division

110 MAX SPR

\$120

Per Team

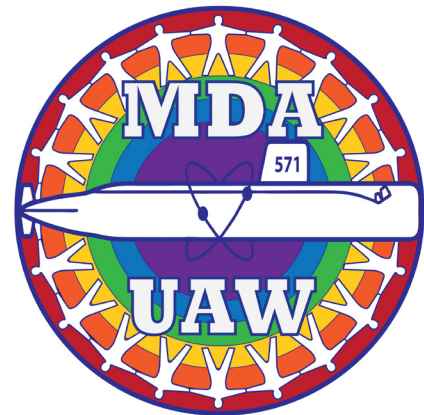
Advanced
Division



NEW

GET YOUR NEW MDA
SWAG

MDA's newest Pride logo
on any apparel product
in our catalog
you pay 50% of cost
call union hall to order
860-448-0552





THANK YOU JOE COURTNEY

*Rep. Courtney Statement on Finalized MDA-UAW
Agreement
May 27, 2025 Press Release*

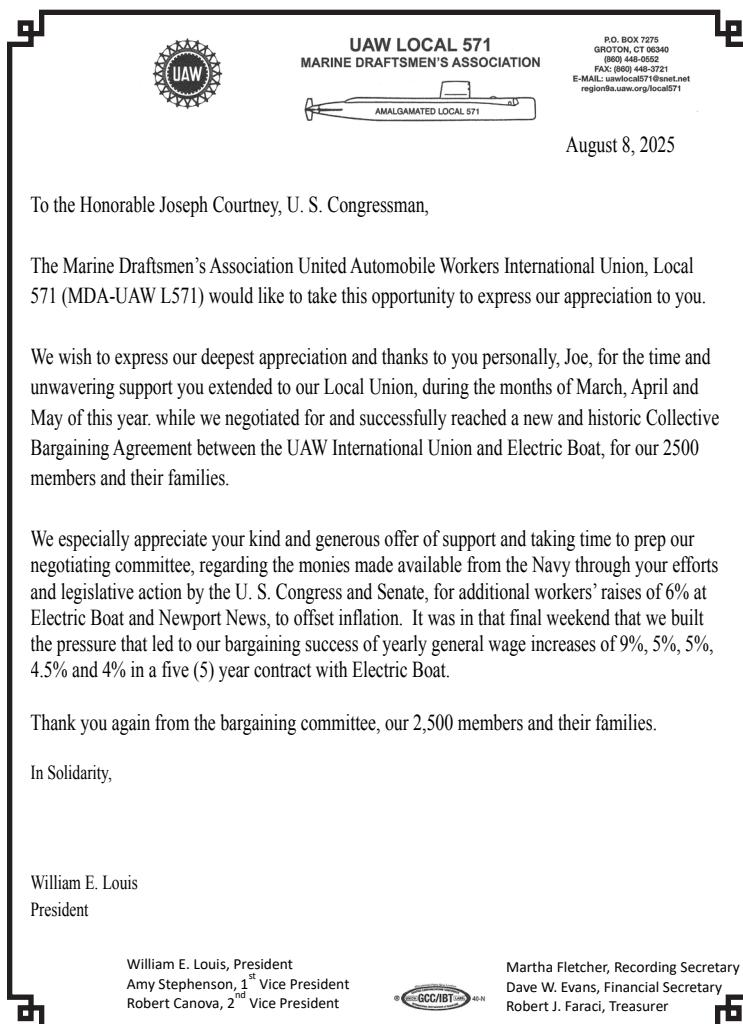
Congressman Joe Courtney issued the following statement after Electric Boat workers, part of the Marine Draftsmen's Association (MDA-UAW) overwhelmingly agreed to a new five-year union contract.

"Ratification of a historic five-year contract in a landslide vote required a lot of intense advocacy and dialogue between the roughly 2,500 MDA-UAW Local 571 members and Electric Boat management. The record contract signals that these employees are respected and valued – which will achieve the urgent goal of robust hiring and retention. It also highlights that the workload of the designers will endure in the coming years given the strong demand for submarines by the U.S. Navy and Congress. This "reset" of the wage structure for this unique workforce is exactly what Congress intended last December with special funding for the submarine industrial base.

Rep. Courtney secured the authority in the FY25 National Defense Authorization Act for the Secretary of the Navy to increase wages for non-executive shipyard workers. In April, Rep. Courtney called on the Secretary of the Navy to exercise the new authorities and funding to deliver the wage increases Congress and the Navy agree are urgently required. On April 30, the Navy acted on its new authority and awarded General Dynamics Electric Boat a \$12.4 billion for the construction of two Virginia class boats, productivity improvements at shipyards, and workforce support at nuclear-powered vessel programs.

In addition to the new MDA Local 571 contract, the special funding from Congress enabled pay raises for two additional

*Excerpt from: May 27, 2025 press release: ~
Courtney.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/
rep-courtney-statement-finalized-mdawaw-agreement*



*Official letter sent to Congressman Joe Courtney on behalf of
the 2025 MDA Negotiating Committee Aug 8, 2025*



*Jose Melara - Region 9A Service Rep., Amy Stephenson - MDA 1st VP,
Brandon Mancilla - Region 9A Director, Joe Courtney - US Congressman,
Bill Louis - MDA President*

MDA RECREATION COMMITTEE FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT:

THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW



OCTOBER 25TH
7 PM – 9:30 PM

The MDA has bought out the movie theatre for this showing of the Rocky Horror Picture Show. Only 80 seats available!!

Don't forget your props!! A list of approved props included!!

Mystic Luxury Cinemas
27 Coogan Blvd
Mystic, CT 06355



To reserve your spot contact the Union Hall @ 860-448-0552
No pre-reserved seat locations.



LOCAL HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS



The Seaside Shadows Downtown Mystic Ghost Tour is a 1 hour and 45 minute walking tour encompassing about one mile. This tour is a blend of history and mystery. Tours include tales of the true, gruesome and historic past of Mystic, CT – a walk on the darker side if you will and tales of the true paranormal encounters at these haunted locations today. Offered 7 nights a week at 4:00pm and 7:00pm.

The Moonlit Mystic Graveyard Ghost Tour is a 1 hour and 45 minute walking tour of one of Mystic's historic burial grounds. Guests will hear stories of war captains, patriots, abolitionists, and even tales of vampires tied to New England's epidemic scares. Offered Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays at 7:00pm. Saturday night 9:45pm tours added in October.

Ticket prices range between \$30 - \$35 per person.

[Visit Seaside Shadows Haunted tours for more info](#)



The Dark Manor haunted house is voted Connecticut's scariest haunted house. Did you know that Dark Manor offers a low-scare matinee in the broad daylight for children! Guide yourself through the outdoor haunt, wander past the mausoleums, and soak up the haunt scenes! And if you're brave enough, come back at night to see it in full action.

Buy tickets at door or online. Admission: \$15 (online includes additional fees)

Scheduled No-Scare Matinee Times at The Dark Manor

Saturday, October 18, 12:00pm - 5:00pm

Sunday, October 19, 12:00pm - 5:00pm

Saturday, October 25, 12:00pm - 5:00pm

Sunday, October 26, 12:00pm - 5:00pm



The Dinosaur Place once again transforms into Pumpkin Passage - a magical wonderland of lights, pumpkins, and friendly dinosaurs. This annual Halloween event is now bigger than ever. Tickets for this event must be purchased online and no tickets will be available at the door. Two and under are free.

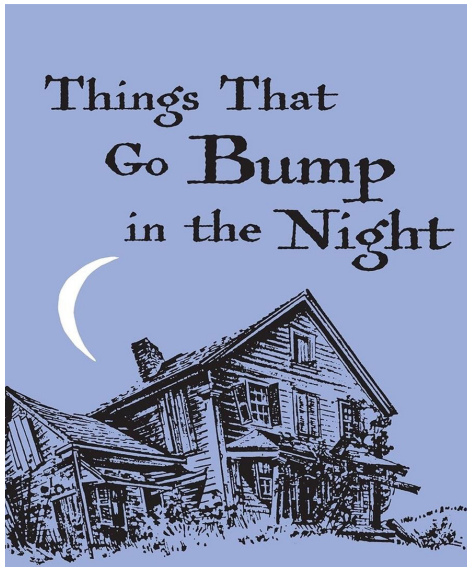
Toddler-friendly trail of lights and fun family activities are awaiting you this October at the dinosaur-themed adventure park every Friday, Saturday & Sunday - plus select Thursdays with the reduced rates! Choose lights instead of frights!

Select Thursdays in October: 5:00pm - 8:00pm tickets \$21 child/ \$19 adult

Friday - Sunday in October: 5:00pm - 9:00pm tickets \$29 child/ \$27 adult

[Visit Pumpkin Passage for Online ticket Sales](#)

LOCAL HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS

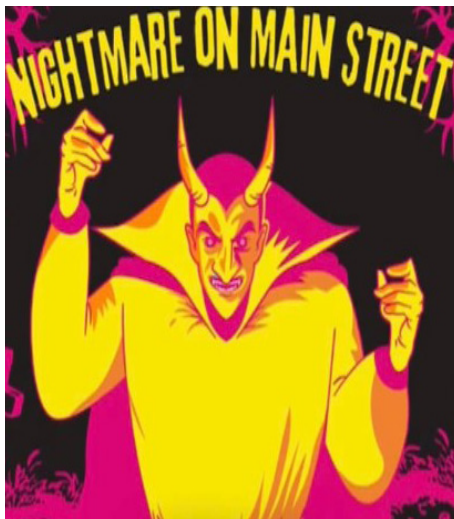


Things that Go Bump in the Night at the Nathan Hale Homestead in Coventry, CT is a candlelit tour around the property. Hear long-standing and new Homestead ghost stories from staff members and spooky encounters reported by guests, as featured on the Syfy channel's Ghost Hunters. This tour is not for the faint of heart or young children! Reservations are required as space is limited.

All tours begins at 7:00pm and bring a flashlight

tickets \$25 - \$30

Friday, September 26, 7:00pm - 9:00pm
Friday, October 10, 7:00pm - 9:00pm
Friday, October 17, 7:00pm - 9:00pm
Saturday, October 18, 7:00pm - 9:00pm
Friday, October 24, 7:00pm - 9:00pm
Saturday, October 25, 7:00pm - 9:00pm



Nightmare on Main in Willimantic is a theatrical tour event where visitors are guided past staged scenes with actors portraying characters in haunting stories from history. This year's theme is "Nightmares" which will explore mostly true stories that have caused anxiety, terror, frightening dreams, and sleepless nights.

Tours will run rain or shine and will start every 20 minutes between 7:00 and 9:40pm, All tickets are \$18. The event is moderately scary, but not unduly bloody or violent. Content is appropriate for ages 12 and up.

Friday, October 3, 7:00pm - 9:40pm
Saturday, October 4, 7:00pm - 9:40pm
Friday, October 10, 7:00pm - 9:40pm
Saturday, October 11, 7:00pm - 9:40pm
Friday, October 17, 7:00pm - 9:40pm
Saturday, October 18, 7:00pm - 9:40pm



Visit Spooktoberfest & Food Truck Festival at Washington Park, Groton

Live Band (TBA) performing from 3pm to 7pm on Saturday
Live Band (TBA) performing from 2pm to 6pm on Sunday
Food Truck Convoy
Crafts & goods vendors
Trick or Treating at the Food, Craft & Goods Vendors
Bounce Houses, Face Painting, Henna Tattooing & More

Event offers free admission and free parking.

Saturday, October 25, 2:00pm to 8:00pm
Sunday, October 26, 12:00pm - 7:00pm