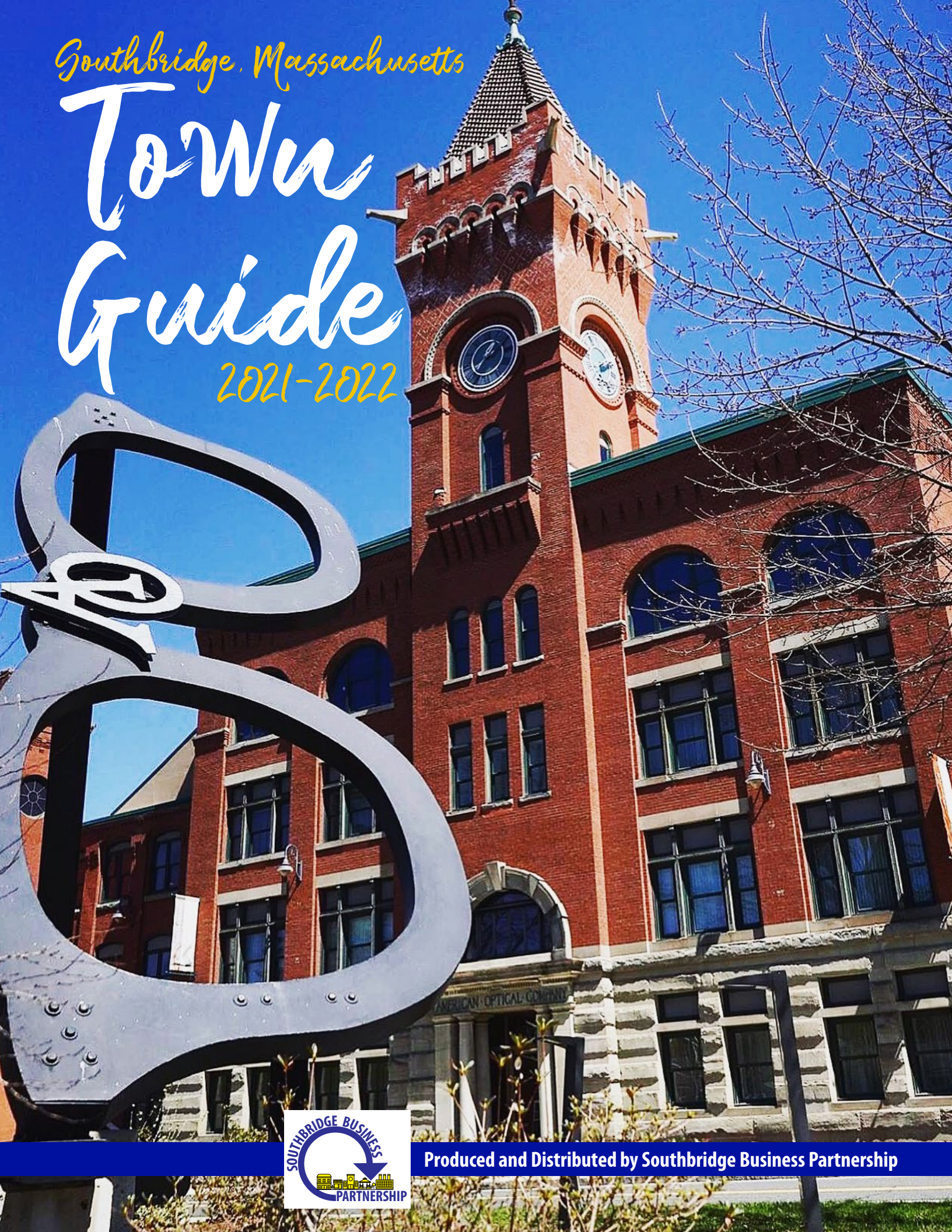


*Southbridge, Massachusetts*

# Town Guide

*2021-2022*



Produced and Distributed by Southbridge Business Partnership





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Optical Heritage Museum

## A Letter from the Southbridge Business Partnership

The Southbridge Business Partnership is organized by a volunteer group of business owners, principals and interested parties committed to enhancing the economic opportunities for old, new and potential businesses as well as non-profit groups and organizations in Southbridge, Massachusetts. This has been accomplished through collective efforts and activities that recognize success, celebrate accomplishments and support individual efforts of enterprises to become established, to grow and to prosper. SBP supports a social media network, website, newsletter and advertising opportunities for SBP 'Partners' who, by their membership, have demonstrated trust in our organization, confirmed a commitment to doing business in the Southbridge area and strengthened by our collective efforts.

The Southbridge community has to be proud of our Partner, Harrington Healthcare who made the decision to set-up a Regional Vaccination Center in our local Community Center. These vaccinations will help lead us out of this Covid-19 pandemic with a large portion of the local population (15 surrounding communities) getting vaccinated in Southbridge.

**"Having partners that actively support and stay committed to our community makes SBP stronger, therefore helping the local economy grow"**  
~ SBP President Bob Clemence

As people start leaving their homes to make their way to our businesses, we need to step-up our visibility. Recently we have started placing "Shop Local" signs in front our partners to help grow public awareness of our members. Our 1st in person Partnership Meeting will happen in 2021 as regulations are being relaxed for gatherings. We will continue to utilize Zoom where necessary and post on our website ([www.sbpartnership.org](http://www.sbpartnership.org)) and our Facebook page. Based on our trial of a Carpool Cinema last year, we are moving forward with five nights over the summer of 2021. As far as our major event, Autumn Fest we are still waiting on State proclamations concerning larger gatherings. Again watch our website for information concerning this event. News about these events are posted on our website ([www.sbpartnership.org](http://www.sbpartnership.org)), Facebook Page, SBP Newsletter and in this Town Guide.

Our organization is supported by the membership. Having partners that actively support and stay committed to our community makes SBP stronger, therefore helping the local economy grow. With this visibility we hope interest in SBP grows and we welcome more members into our group. If you have any interest in joining us, reach out and one of our 13 directors will provide you the information about the Southbridge Business Partnership.

We hope to gain your interest or satisfy your need locally by banding together. Please join us at any of our events.

Cordially,

Bob Clemence  
President, Southbridge Business Partnership

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[info@sbpartnership.org](mailto:info@sbpartnership.org) [www.sbpartnership.org](http://www.sbpartnership.org) [www.facebook.com/southbridgebusinesspartnership](https://www.facebook.com/southbridgebusinesspartnership)





**SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL**

**John D. Jovan, Jr. Chairman**

508-765-9826

[jjovan@southbridgemass.org](mailto:jjovan@southbridgemass.org)

**John L. Daniel, Vice-Chair**

508-723-4475

[jdaniel@southbridgemass.org](mailto:jdaniel@southbridgemass.org)

**David S. Adams, Councilor**

405-249-6724

[councilordavidadams@gmail.com](mailto:councilordavidadams@gmail.com)

**Joseph F. Cotrona, Councilor**

508-498-7140

[jcotrona@southbridgemass.org](mailto:jcotrona@southbridgemass.org)

**Joseph E. Daou, Councilor**

774-230-5128

[daouj77@gmail.com](mailto:daouj77@gmail.com)

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508-208-7708

[slazo@southbridgemass.org](mailto:slazo@southbridgemass.org)

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774-200-3689

[mmarketti@southbridgemass.org](mailto:mmarketti@southbridgemass.org)

**Jacquelyn M. Ryan, Councilor**

774-318-1486

[councilorjackieryan@gmail.com](mailto:councilorjackieryan@gmail.com)

**George P. Steeves, Councilor**

508-764-8042

[councilorgus@gmail.com](mailto:councilorgus@gmail.com)



**Southbridge Town Hall**

41 Elm Street

Southbridge, MA 01550

[www.ci.southbridge.ma.us/](http://www.ci.southbridge.ma.us/)

# Welcome to the Town of Southbridge

Southbridge is a diverse community, rich in history, and full of possibilities. It is located in south central Massachusetts, just minutes from Interstates 84 and 90 (the "Mass Pike") and the Connecticut border, and we are just 25 miles from Worcester Regional Airport and Worcester Commuter Rail. Southbridge has a charming, walkable downtown and several commercial districts offering diverse range of restaurants, shopping,

and specialty services. We also have a hotel and conference center to accommodate you, your guests or business associates.



**"Whether you are looking for a great place to raise a family or a location to develop a business, on behalf of all the citizens, officials and staff of the Town of Southbridge, I welcome you to visit our historic community and to explore all that Southbridge has to offer."**

**~ Town Manager Michael McCall**

Southbridge takes great pride in its many amenities, which include: a new state of the art middle/high school, three elementary schools, a private catholic school, a beautifully proportioned downtown, full service fire and police, 3,000 acre watershed with a technologically advanced filtration plant, an expanded public library, a well maintained wastewater treatment plant, a municipal airport, a YMCA, an attractive Town Common, a hospital, four large parks, trails linking to US Army Corps of Engineers dam and recreation area, a state conservation area with developed hiking trails, an arts center with galleries and amateur theater, WRTA bus service, a welcoming Community Center, and more!

Because of the partnership with our local hospital, Harrington Memorial, early on, Southbridge turned its Community Center in to a highly successful vaccination distribution site, serving citizens from across the Commonwealth. Southbridge, like many other communities in the Commonwealth during these unprecedented times, continues to deal with the disruptive and lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; however, we are beginning to see a light at the end of the tunnel.

It is this optimism that is fueling the change taking place within our community. Currently, Southbridge is undertaking several large infrastructure projects to improve its roads and utilities. A private developer is renovating the Wells School, which is breathing new life into a historic school that has been an important fixture in the community over 100 years and will afford our seniors an opportunity to downsize and remain in the community they call home. These projects are just part of the beginning of a revitalization initiative that will spur further economic development and yield economic benefits to our community.

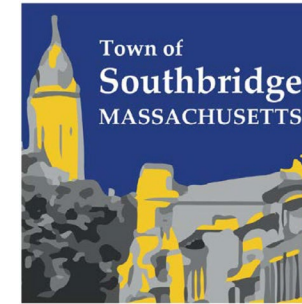
Because of its long history of manufacturing optical products, Southbridge is known as the "Eye of the Commonwealth," but Southbridge also has its eye on the future. Through thoughtful planning, Southbridge seeks to foster a live-work-play environment through great schools, housing, potential commercial and industrial development, and beautiful open and conservation spaces, which will attract visitors, new residents and economic development opportunities.

Whether you are looking for a great place to raise a family or a location to develop a business, on behalf of all the citizens, officials and staff of the Town of Southbridge, I welcome you to visit our historic community and to explore all that Southbridge has to offer.

Sincerely,

Michael McCall

Southbridge Town Manager



Visit [www.ci.southbridge.ma.us](http://www.ci.southbridge.ma.us) for more information

## Town Hall Phone Numbers

Department	Telephone	Department	Telephone
Accounting/Finance Department	508-764-5400	Liquor Licensing Board	508-764-5405
Airport Commission	508-764-2155	Police Department	508-764-5420
Assessor	508-764-5404	Recreation	508-764-6459
Cable Access	508-765-1525	Retirement Board	508-765-4903
Collector	508-764-5410	School Department	508-764-5450
Council on Aging	508-764-5436	Town Clerk	508-764-5408
Department of Public Works	508-764-5403	Town Manager	508-764-5405
Economic Development and Planning	508-764-5402	Trash & Recycling Program	508-764-4252
Economic Development Commission	508-764-5402	Treasurer	508-764-5401
Fire Department	508-764-5430	Treasurer / Collector	508-764-5410
Health Department	508-764-4252	Veteran's Agent	508-764-5436
Human Resources	508-764-5405	Wastewater Department	508-764-4927
Inspection Services	508-764-5412	Water Department	508-764-3207
Library	508-764-5426		

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## Southbridge Police Department

1 Mechanic Street • Southbridge, MA 01550

 EMERGENCY DIAL 911

 Non Emergency: 508-764-5420

 [www.ci.southbridge.ma.us/police-department](http://www.ci.southbridge.ma.us/police-department)

 [www.facebook.com/SouthbridgePD](https://www.facebook.com/SouthbridgePD)

**Southbridge Police Department Mission:** The Southbridge Police Department will dedicate itself to work in partnership with the community to fight crime, reduce fear and improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods. By embracing a mutual relationship of support, we remain committed to solving the community's problems and maintaining the public trust.

The Police Department services include: community policing, bicycle patrol, crime scene services, detective unit, domestic violence/family services unit, honor guard, K-9 unit, patrol division, school resource/juvenile officer, animal control officer and auxiliary police

**Southbridge Cops & Kids:** The Southbridge Police Department's Cops N Kids Program is a year-round effort to reduce juvenile delinquencies and build stronger relationships with Southbridge's youths. Initiated over 20 years ago, this program has seen proven results. In recent years, juvenile delinquency rates have dropped over 85%. Cops N Kids has grown into a multi-faceted approach to transform the young people of today into the citizens we need for tomorrow.



**"Together WE can make a difference and together WE will."**  
~ Deputy Chief Jose A. Dingui

The program, hosting approximately 150 youths from different walks of life, incorporates academics and athletics with youth agencies and juvenile diversion techniques. For the past five years we have focused our efforts during the summer months. Statistics show youths, aged 9 to 16 years of age, traditionally see a rise in juvenile delinquencies when they are left unsupervised while their parents are at work. In addition, we have partnered with the Project Bread program, which provides breakfast and lunch for these children at no cost, and the Worcester District Attorney's Office and the Juvenile Probation Office visit the program once a week to provide related classes and mentoring. The program also employs college students, who are themselves alumni of this program, to serve as mentors and role models.

Most importantly, we provide a safe and caring environment when these children are most at risk. Our officers are dedicated to the future of Southbridge that is embodied in these children.



**"It's a pleasure to serve the community that I grew up in. We are very fortunate to have a police department where many officers also grew up in the community, so we ALL have a vested interest at working to help our community succeed. We also have a diverse population and our members reflect that diversity and we continue to work every day at building better relationships with the people that we serve."**

~ Chief Shane D. Woodson

**Domestic Violence/Family Services:** This specialized unit was established in 1996 within the Southbridge Police Department. Officers are frequently sent to violence related training courses to continually monitor and modify our departments anti-violence programs. Officers act as liaisons between our department and different organizations to ensure continuity of safety for the victims. Those contact organizations include: New Hope, Day Break, Battered Shelters, Department of Social Services, Catholic Charities, Southbridge Community Coalition and local hospitals.

Officer Gerald Arvelo is responsible for monitoring all domestic violence related investigations. His duties include filing all domestic violence related paperwork, and keeping restraining orders within the town of Southbridge up to date. He is responsible for follow-up investigations, including home visits and phone calls. He is also responsible for filing all paperwork to other agencies as may be required depending on the incident.

The unit is on call 24 hours a day and is often used to provide transportation for victims to court. The unit is also able to provide cell phones to victims who are in need of communication services. Please contact Officer Arvelo at the Southbridge Police Department with any questions or concerns, or a situation that needs attention.

 **For immediate service for a domestic violence situation in progress please dial 911.**

**Animal Control:** The Animal Control Officer's (ACO) focus is on educating the public on proper animal care, and rescuing animals from dangerous and/or abusive situations. The Southbridge Police Department currently employs one full-time ACO who is in charge of handling services ranging from investigating animal cruelty, animal fighting rings, sick or injured animals of any origin and providing shelter to animals that are found.

## Southbridge Fire Department

24 Elm Street • Southbridge, MA 01550

 EMERGENCY DIAL 911

 Non Emergency: 508-764-5430

 [www.southbridgefire.com](http://www.southbridgefire.com)

 [facebook.com/Southbridge-Fire-Department-1770091179741459](https://www.facebook.com/Southbridge-Fire-Department-1770091179741459)

**Southbridge Fire Department Mission:** As a team of highly trained and dedicated professionals, it is our mission to provide the highest standard of service to all those who may seek our help. We are a service provider and we stand ready to provide fire suppression, fire prevention and education, rescue services and advanced emergency medical care. We will faithfully provide these important services, promptly and safely, to any person that resides in, works in, or visits our community.

As a family of individuals committed to serving others, we will always provide for the welfare of our members through a healthy and rewarding work environment. We are dedicated to respect, integrity, compassion and leadership amongst ourselves so that we may proudly serve others.



**"Living in Southbridge the majority of my life, I appreciate it's diversity, feel the pride, and can only hope to add to it's strength. I am excited to continue working with you all, for a prosperous Southbridge."**  
~ Deputy Fire Chief Joseph Hulyk



**The Southbridge Fire Station was constructed in 1899 on the site which formerly housed a tavern, a blacksmith shop, and a large elm tree for a cost of \$23,000. The station was designed for horse-drawn equipment and manned by a volunteer fire department. The building was renovated in 1940 and 1961 with additional bays constructed to house the department's growing inventory of equipment. In 1989, the building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.**



**"This fire department is rich with history and tradition. I enjoy leading the members of this great department every day. I lead with the hopes and prayers that we all go home safely with their families after every incident."**  
~ Chief Paul Normandin

**S.A.F.E:** The Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) Program is a state initiative to provide resources to local fire departments to conduct fire and life safety education programs in grades K-12. The mission is to enable students to recognize the dangers of fire and more specifically the fire hazards tobacco products pose.

**Key Fire Safety Behaviors:** There are 23 Key Fire Safety Behaviors that should be taught in age and developmentally appropriate ways, such as: Stop, Drop, and Roll, making and practicing home escape plans, reporting fires and emergencies, crawl low under smoke, smoke detector maintenance, kitchen safety, holiday safety and more.

Fire and life safety is easily combined with math, science, language arts, health, and physical education lessons. Integration into the existing curriculum topics is essential.

**Proven Success:** Since the S.A.F.E. Program was initially funded, there have been 310 documented YOUNG HEROES – children who put into practice the fire and life safety lessons they learned in the classroom during a real life emergency to save themselves or others. Many families claim they are alive today because their youngsters "made" them install smoke alarms and practice a home escape plan, or reported an emergency, or persuaded a grandmother to 'stop, drop, and roll'. Child Fire Deaths have drop 72% Since S.A.F.E. started.

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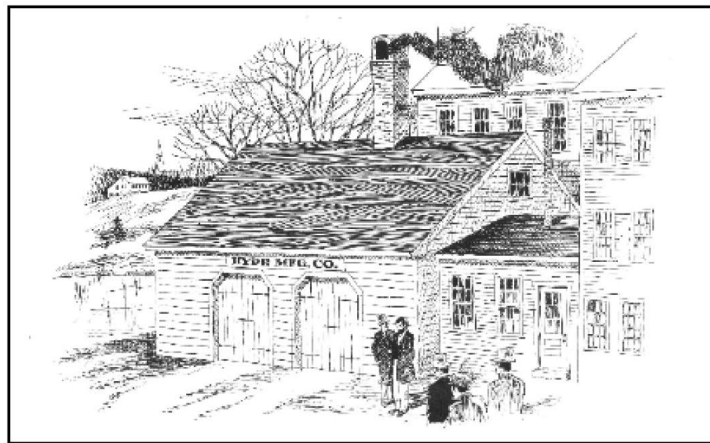
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185 West Main Street | Dudley, MA 01571 | (508) 461-9077

[www.sturbridgecoffee.com](http://www.sturbridgecoffee.com)



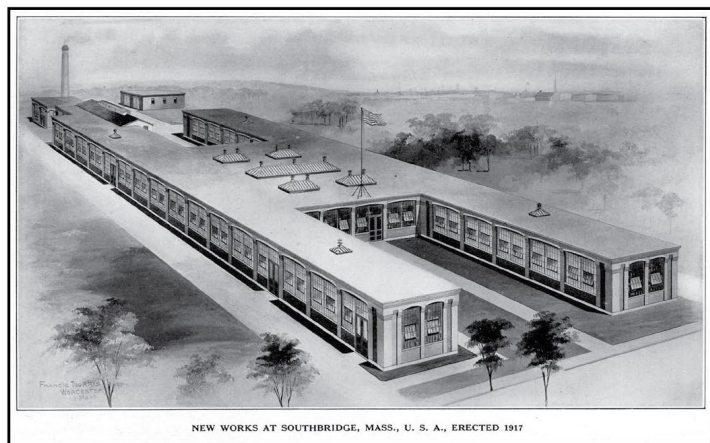




1874



1880



1917



Today

# A Part of the Southbridge Community 145th Anniversary

In 1875, Isaac P. Hyde chose Southbridge as home to his knife manufacturing business. And it has been a partnership ever since. As Southbridge grew, Hyde grew, moving beyond knives alone to quality hand tools, and innovative product lines for contractors and homeowners alike.

Today, Hyde has spread globally as the HYDE Group, with an expanded family of companies. Together, our products reach 44 countries around the globe. But we never lost sight of where we began, and where we remain — Southbridge, Massachusetts.

**The HYDE Group. Proud to be working together for Southbridge.**



## Southbridge Public Schools

[www.SouthbridgePublic.org](http://www.SouthbridgePublic.org)  
[www.facebook.com/Southbridge.Public](https://www.facebook.com/Southbridge.Public)



The goal of the Southbridge Public Schools is to support cohesive PreK-12 programming so that all students can achieve their full potential. It is the district's goal to develop students who are knowledgeable and skilled, socially competent, civic minded, creative and healthy, and to model a commitment to being lifelong learners.

It is the District's mission that ALL students will experience a world-class education and will graduate as engaged citizens who demonstrate the essential skills required for success in college and career.

Southbridge Public Schools comprises six schools with approximately 2,000 students. The district is currently in State receivership due to a designation in 2015 of "chronically under-performing" status by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Receiver and superintendent Jeffrey A. Villar, Ph.D., was appointed in February 2018.

Receivership brings with it a variety of resources that assist the community in providing children with a dependable quality education. One example is a long-term partnership with the University of Connecticut to develop Southbridge Public Schools as a national demonstration site for successful implementation of PBIS strategies (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports). Additionally, the district's successful 21st Century After-school program provides enrichment and support for the school-day curriculum. The district is also the recipient of a number of significant grants that allow for secondary redesign, curriculum enhancements, and improved culture and climate.

The Central Office Administration consists of a Receiver/ Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent, Director of Technology, Director of Special Education, Director of Elementary Curriculum, Chief of Staff and the Business/ Operations Partner.

### Southbridge Public Schools

**Grades PreK - 1**  
Eastford Road School  
120 Eastford Road  
Southbridge, MA 01550  
508-764-5460

**Grades 2-5**  
Charlton Street School  
220 Charlton Street  
Southbridge, MA 01550  
508-764-5475

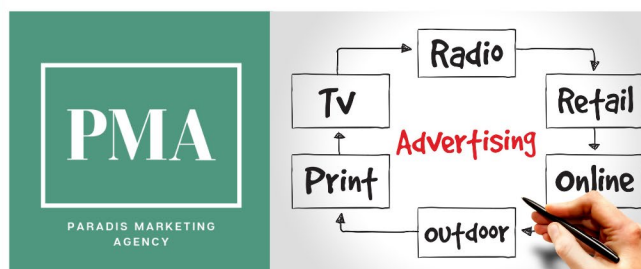
**Grades 6-12**  
West Street School  
156 West Street  
Southbridge, MA 01550  
508-764-5470

**Grades 6-12**  
Southbridge Middle High School  
132 Torrey Road  
Southbridge, MA 01550  
508-764-5440

**Grades 6-12**  
Southbridge Academy  
25 Cole Avenue  
Southbridge, MA 01550  
508-764-5414, ext. 103

**Central Office**  
132 Torrey Road  
Southbridge, MA 01550  
508-764-5414

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**Tia Durand-Paradis**  
Lead Consultant / Designer

774-200-6740 [in](#) [t](#) [i](#) [f](#) [p](#)





# Southbridge Private Schools

## Trinity Catholic Academy

11 Pine Street • Southbridge, MA 01550

508-765-5991

[www.trinitycatholicacademy.org](http://www.trinitycatholicacademy.org)

[www.facebook.com/TCABobcats/](https://www.facebook.com/TCABobcats/)

Trinity Catholic Academy, a Pre-K to Grade 8 school, promotes academic excellence, athletics, and the arts with respect, compassion, and service among our diverse family, inspired by the communion of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. Founded over 100 years ago, Trinity Catholic Academy continues to provide a quality and developmentally appropriate academic education and is fully accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

Founded by St. Mary's Parish in 1889, Trinity Catholic Academy integrates Catholic Doctrine, social justice, and moral integrity into everyday experiences. They offer a diversified curriculum, with smart classrooms, physical education, fine arts, cultural awareness, interscholastic sports and an after-school program.

## ViewPoint Christian Academy

26 Ellis Road • Southbridge, MA 01550

508-764-2219

<https://www.viewpointchristian.org/>

[www.facebook.com/viewpointchristianacademy](https://www.facebook.com/viewpointchristianacademy)

ViewPoint Christian Academy is a ministry of ViewPoint Christian Church and exists to assist families in discipling their children for Jesus Christ. ViewPoint Christian Academy has enrolled students from various denominational backgrounds and have programs for grades K-12. ViewPoint is accredited by the National Association of Private Schools.



**ATTENTION CATHOLIC MEN!**

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SOUTHBRIDGE COMMUNITY?**

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*For information on our mission and  
becoming a member of the Knights of Columbus*

Meetings Held at Notre Dame Rectory  
2nd Tuesday of every month at 7pm

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Athletics

After School Program

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Southbridge, MA 01550  
(508) 765-5991

[trinitycatholicacademy.org](http://trinitycatholicacademy.org)

[www.facebook.com/TrinityBobcats](https://www.facebook.com/TrinityBobcats)

Call 508-765-5991 today for more information.



Southbridge High School • 132 Torrey Road • Southbridge, MA 01550

508-453-3800

<https://www.qcc.edu/qcc-southbridge>

[www.facebook.com/quinsigamondcommunitycollege](https://www.facebook.com/quinsigamondcommunitycollege)

Quinsigamond Community College was established in 1963 to provide access to higher education to residents of Central Massachusetts and today serves over 13,000 full and part-time day and evening students. The College offers over 120 associate degree and certificate career options in 8 areas of study:

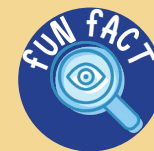
- Business, Financial and Hospitality Management
- Computer and Information Technology
- Education
- Engineering and Engineering Technology
- Healthcare
- Installation, Maintenance and Repair Technologies
- Liberal Arts/Sciences and General Studies
- Public and Social Services

The College also offers a wide variety of non-credit courses, workshops, and seminars through its Center for Workforce Development and Continuing Education. And, over 300 non-credit and nearly 100 credit courses are offered on-line.

QCC at Southbridge (satellite location) offers:

- Courses in the Liberal Arts, Social Sciences, Mathematics & Science and more
- Part time schedule options
- Financing options for everyone
- Transfer paths to four-year colleges

The College is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE). Individual programs of study are also fully accredited by various agencies.



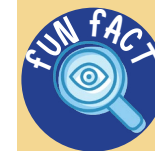
Southbridge was first settled by Europeans in 1730. In 1801 a poll parish, named the Second Religious Society of Charlton, and popularly called Honest Town, was formed from the west part of Dudley, the southwest part of Charlton and the southeast part of Sturbridge. In 1816 this parish was incorporated to become the township of Southbridge. Among the first settlers was Moses Marcy, who owned a home on the site of what is now Notre Dame church and was elected to Congress, and the Dennison family. Water power from the Quinebaug River made Southbridge a good location for sawmills and gristmills in the 18th century, and textile mills in the 19th century. After the Civil War, many immigrants of Irish and French Canadian descent came to work and live there; by the 1930s they had been joined by Poles, Greeks, Italians and others.

Southbridge has a long history of manufacturing optical products, earning it the unofficial title "Eye of the Commonwealth", in reference to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Under the Wells family, the American Optical Company ("AO") became the world's largest manufacturer of ophthalmic products, and at its height employed more than 6,000 people around the world. Many of its workers were exempted from the draft during World War II since they were doing vital defense work, including

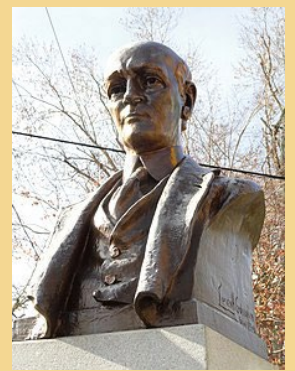


American Optical Company  
Southbridge Mass U.S.A

making Norden bombsights and even some work on the atomic bomb. The site of the former AO (The AO shut down in 1984) now houses the Southbridge Hotel & Conference Center and historical touches reflecting the building's 160 heritage as the home of eyeglass manufacturer can be seen throughout the social areas.



**Félix Gatineau**  
(11/12/1857–  
12/21/ 1927)  
was a French-  
Canadian  
statesman  
and historian



in his adopted hometown of Southbridge. He was born in Sainte-Victoire-de-Sorel, Quebec, and arrived in Southbridge in 1877. Among his many deeds, he was a state representative in Massachusetts in 1906, 1920-21 and 1927, and led several French-Canadian societies. His written works include L'Histoire des Franco-Américains de Southbridge and L'Historique des Conventions Générales des Canadiens-Français aux Etats-Unis. A statue was erected in his honor and dedicated on September 1, 1927, at a fork in a main road in Southbridge by the Union Saint-Jean-Baptiste d'Amérique, as he was one of the society's founders. The Gatineau bust often serves as a wayfinder, with locals directing people "Félix to the left" or "Félix to the right."





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### Our Response to COVID-19

As many media companies reduced or even eliminated their physical presence, Vocero Hispano expanded its reach into the Hispanic community. As an Essential business we have been consistent and on schedule every week during the Covid pandemic, remaining a consistent presence in Southbridge and throughout Massachusetts.

“It is our duty and responsibility to act decisively against this threat for those who rely upon us to keep them informed. We are not just planning to survive, we are pressing forward, and will be a stronger organization at the end of this crisis” said Pablo D. Santiago, President / CEO of Vocero Hispano Newspaper, Inc.

#### About Vocero Hispano Newspaper, Inc.

Vocero Hispano Newspaper, Inc., is a free statewide weekly Hispanic-language newspaper. Established in 1990, it offers content that is objective, informative and of general interest to the Hispanic community. Vocero Hispano is printed every Friday and distributed statewide. It is also available in a digital version at VoceroHispano.com. **Contact us:** 1-866-VHN-NEWS. **Advertise with us:** advertising@vocerohispano.com

### Southbridge Holiday Visions

[southbridgeholidayvisions@yahoo.com](mailto:southbridgeholidayvisions@yahoo.com)  
[www.facebook.com/SouthbridgeHolidayVisions](https://www.facebook.com/SouthbridgeHolidayVisions)



Every year a group of volunteers work to create and spread holiday spirit in town. All are welcome to help with painting and creating as well as set-up. ! Many of the characters you see throughout town were skillfully painted on large, sturdy wood backgrounds and were the work of the late Rudy DiGregorio who owned a floral shop on Worcester Street. Each year, the spirit and decorations have grown. They have a distinct character with large Christmas characters painted onto sturdy wood. The decorations have been created and distributed by volunteer “elves” for about a decade by Southbridge Holiday Visions, a group of citizens of Southbridge who provide the service free of charge to the town.



On the Saturday following Thanksgiving, a holiday parade travels down Main Street, arriving at the Town Common for a tree lighting, Santa visits, hot cocoa, cookies, children’s activities and entertainment for all to enjoy.



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# Festival of {Giving} Trees

100 South Street • Southbridge, MA 01550

[fogtmarketing@gmail.com](mailto:fogtmarketing@gmail.com)

508-479-2350

[www.sparklingtrees.com/](http://www.sparklingtrees.com/)

[www.facebook.com/fogtsouthbridge](https://www.facebook.com/fogtsouthbridge)



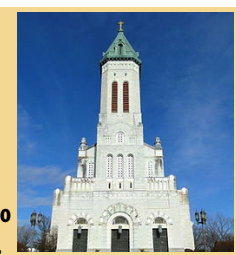
Celebrating their 24th year in 2021, this four day family event is designed to be a holiday activity. The mission is to raise money to help the Silent Spring Institute [www.silent.spring.org](http://www.silent.spring.org), the Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition [www.mbcc.org](http://www.mbcc.org) and the Cancer Center at Harrington Hospital to fight the battle against breast cancer and to help fund cancer research. Over these years, the Festival of {Giving} Trees has raised and donated over \$695,000 to these beneficiaries.

The Festival of {Giving} Trees features more than 100 uniquely decorated trees on display under one roof. Some are elegant, nostalgic and breathtaking. Some are humorous, some are traditional and some are really hip. The only thing they have in common is that they are all different and they are all sparkling! And each and every one of them are taken home by lucky raffle winners.



**Notre Dame Parish** was founded in 1869 to serve the needs of the French Canadian community of Southbridge who migrated here beginning in the 1830s. A frame wood church was built shortly thereafter. The second Pastor Msgr Georges Elzar Brochu began to raise funds for a much larger church in the 1880s.

In 1895 Msgr Brochu purchased land at the corner of Main and Marcy for the new church. Part of the purchase agreement stipulated that the church could not actually be built until after the death of Mr. Marcy, the prior owner. As a result, Msgr Brochu, who died in 1904 was unable to begin construction which was eventually undertaken by his successor, Msgr Louis O. Trigonne after Mr. Marcy died in 1908. Notre Dame Catholic Church was built from 1912–1916 and added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1989. The organ at Notre Dame Church was built in 1916 by the Casavant Frères Pipe Organ Company of Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec, Opus 64 and is one of the largest and most complete instruments of any Catholic church in the State of Massachusetts.



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# Harrington Healthcare System

100 South Street • Southbridge, MA 01550

508-765-9771

[www.harringtonhospital.org/](http://www.harringtonhospital.org/)

[www.facebook.com/HarringtonHospitalTLC](https://www.facebook.com/HarringtonHospitalTLC)

Founded in 1931, Harrington Hospital has always operated as a nonprofit institution governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, serving the best interests of the public. Harrington HealthCare System has more than 40 office locations across 24 zip codes in south central Massachusetts and northeastern Connecticut. From inpatient care to primary care and everything in between, they are accessible, comprehensive, and value high-quality patient satisfaction. Their vision is to continue a long tradition of caring and expand our comprehensive inpatient and outpatient services along with community outreach programs. Harrington HealthCare System includes:

- Harrington Hospital in Southbridge provides medical and surgical inpatient care, 24-hour emergency services, inpatient adult psychiatry, an intensive care unit and comprehensive outpatient services;
- Harrington HealthCare at Webster, an outpatient facility anchored by the 24/7 Remillard Family Emergency Department and new 16-bed inpatient co-occurring disorders unit. Additional services include primary care and specialty physicians, diagnostic imaging, laboratory, cardiology, gastroenterology, same-day surgery and an advanced sleep lab;
- Three additional major medical office buildings—Harrington HealthCare at Charlton, Harrington HealthCare at 169, also in Charlton, and Harrington HealthCare at Spencer – which houses primary care and specialty physicians, diagnostic imaging, laboratory, physical therapy, outpatient behavioral health, audiology, and a Wound Care Center with hyperbaric oxygen chambers;
- Harrington Physician Services, primary care and multi-specialty physician group, consists of more than 60 physicians located in offices in Brimfield, Charlton, Dudley, Southbridge, Spencer, Sturbridge and Webster;
- UrgentCare Express at Harrington, a walk-in medical center for non-life-threatening illnesses and injuries, open seven days per week in Charlton and Oxford;
- The Cancer Center at Harrington in Southbridge, that allows patients to receive advanced, local oncological and hematology care, including chemotherapy, radiation and pain management. The service is joint venture partner with 21st Century Oncology.

# Harrington HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

*Compassionate Quality Care*

The Harrington Auxiliary is a dedicated, volunteer group dedicated to supporting our community. The Auxiliary and Volunteer Department create fund-raising projects, community events, holiday sales and health seminars to support patients and augment hospital needs.



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**Harrington HEALTHCARE SYSTEM**

*Compassionate Quality Care*

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**On June 17, 1930, Industrialist Albert B. Wells urged lens plant workers to donate to Harrington Hospital's drive.**

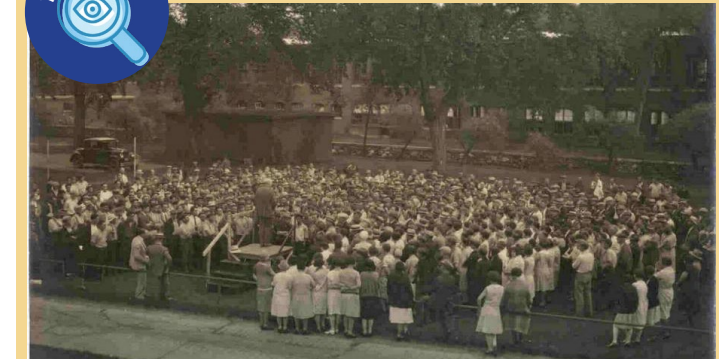


Photo courtesy of Jacob Edwards Library and the Southbridge Historical Society (<https://www.dickwhitney.net/RBWSouthbridgeHHosp.html>)





### Our Current Partners

When seeking resources, we encourage you to contact our partners, as they share the common goal of enhancing the economic growth and opportunities for our community. All listings are in Southbridge, unless otherwise noted.

\*Active partner list as of Town Guide publication date

**A&M Tool & Design Co.**  
64 Mill Street

**Cornerstone Bank**  
253 Main Street

**Fins and Tales**  
858 Main Street

**It's About Time Dry Cleaning**  
40 Hamilton Street

**Masis Staffing**  
131 E. Main Street  
Webster, MA

**Aucoin Ryan Realty**  
201 South Street

**Dave's Pest Control**  
113 Main Street,  
Sturbridge

**Flood's Automotive & Tire Center**  
93 Hamilton Street

**Jones & Jones Realty**  
PO Box 773,  
Sturbridge

**Metro Bistrot**  
176 Main Street

**Big Bunny Market**  
942 Main Street

**Dexter-Russell Inc.**  
44 River Street

**Friends of Jacob Edwards Library**  
236 Main Street

**Kaleidoscope Florals**  
52 Lebanon Hill Road

**Micknucks Fresh Marketplace**  
570 Main Street  
Sturbridge

**Center of Hope**  
100 Foster Street

**Dunk N Foam It Carwash**  
908 Main Street

**Gateway Players**  
111 Main Street

**Knights of Columbus DeTriana Council #199**  
PO Box 176

**Midstate Welding Inc.**  
150 Commercial Drive

**Central Mass South Chamber of Commerce**  
46 Hall Road,  
Sturbridge

**EXIT Real Estate**  
Carmen Chipman  
23 Fiskdale Road  
Brookfield

**Green Meadows Farm**  
64 Mill Street

**Kubala Home Improvement**  
5 Pell Street, Ludlow

**Mindcare Agency, PC**  
100 Central Street

**Choice1 Temps**  
505 South Main Street  
Webster

**ExtruPharm, LLC**  
114 Pleasant Street  
Southbridge

**Harrington Hospital / Gift Shop**  
100 South Street

**LaSalle Reception Center**  
279 Hamilton Street

**Norcom Mortgage**  
135 Main St,  
Sturbridge

**Cohasse Country Club**  
393 Eastford Road

**Festival of Giving Trees**  
at LaSalle Center

**Hyde Group Inc.**  
54 Eastford Road

**Law Office of Robert G. Caprera**  
32 Everett Street

**Optical Heritage Museum**  
12 Crane Street

**Colonial Copy Center**  
22 Central Street

**I Am T Shirts**  
45A Sturbridge Road  
Charlton

**Main Street Tire**  
393 E. Main Street

**Optimum Technologies**  
114 Pleasant Street

**The Ruth Wells Center for the Arts**  
111 Main Street

**Southbridge Farmers Market**  
942 Main Street

**Sturbridge Coffee Roasters**  
210 Hamilton Street

**Verne Bioanalytics LLC**  
114 Pleasant Street

**Our Bright Future, Inc**  
50 Hammond Hill Road  
Charlton

**Savers Bank**  
270 Main Street

**Southbridge Garden Club**  
PO Box 912

**Sturbridge Host & Hotel**  
366 Main Street  
Sturbridge

**Veterans Council of Southbridge**

**Oxford Insurance Agency**  
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**Schott North America Lighting and Imaging**  
122 Charlton Street

**Southbridge Hotel & Conference Center**  
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**Super Clean Laundromat & Dry Cleaners**  
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**VFW Post 6055 Southbridge**

**Paradis Marketing Agency**  
319 Main Street

**Soper Construction Company**  
113 Plympton,  
Sturbridge

**Southbridge Public Schools**  
25 Cole Avenue

**The Last Green Valley**  
203 Main Street  
Danielson, CT

**Vocero Hispano Newspaper**  
44 Hamilton Street

**Paw Plaza LLC**  
1 River Rd, Sturbridge

**Southbridge Bicycles**  
900 Main Street

**Southbridge Tech Incubator**  
114 Pleasant Street

**Town of Southbridge Town Hall**, 41 Elm St.

**Voguecare Electrolysis and Skin Care**  
39 Elm Street

**Renaissance Medical Group**  
11-15 Sandersdale Rd

**Southbridge Braces**  
39 Elm Street

**Southbridge Tire Company**  
136 Central Street

**Trinity Catholic Academy**  
11 Pine Street

**YMCA of Central MA Tri-Community Branch**  
43 Everett Street

**Right Choice Health Group**  
100 Central Street

**Southbridge Credit Union**  
205 Main Street

**Starkweather & Shepley**  
258 Main Street  
Sturbridge

**United Way of Southbridge, Sturbridge and Charlton**  
176 Main Street

**Southbridge Downtown Beautification Project**  
Town Hall, 41 Elm St.

**SOUTHBRIDGE FARMERS MARKET**  
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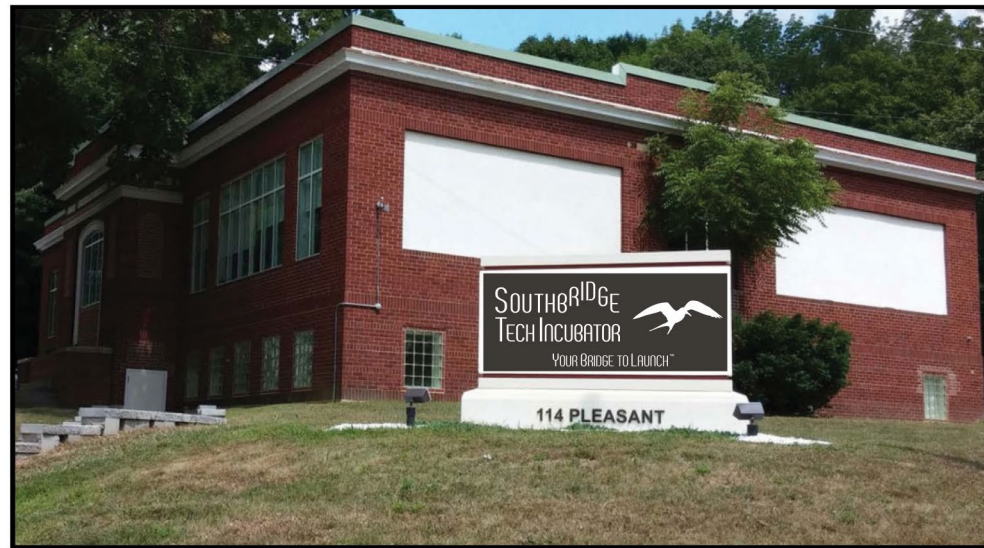
**The Southbridge Business Partnership (SBP) is a group of business owners with the common goal of enhancing the economic growth and opportunities for Southbridge businesses. Interested in joining or learning more? Visit [www.sbpartnership.org](http://www.sbpartnership.org) for details.**





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esullivan@c21ne.com | <https://SouthbridgeTechIncubator.com/>

## Southbridge Council on Aging/ Senior Center

Casaubon Senior Center • 153 Chestnut Street • Southbridge, MA 01550

508-764-1469

<https://www.ci.southbridge.ma.us/council-on-aging>

[facebook.com/Southbridge-Casaubon-Senior-Center-301318480225297](https://facebook.com/Southbridge-Casaubon-Senior-Center-301318480225297)

Southbridge Council on Aging Board of Directors Mission is to link needs with services and to promote wellness programs that educate and empower senior citizens to maintain their quality of life. An additional mission is to raise community consciousness concerning the services, programs, and activities that are offered at the Casaubon Senior. Services Coordinated by the Council on Aging and Senior Center (please visit their website for information): Social Events and Classes, such as Walking Club, Low Impact Exercise, Latino Group, Tai Chi, Lunch Club, Brain Game, Pitch, Scrabble, and Senior Bingo; Annual flu shots; Assistance for Seniors with Medicare, Medicaid, and open enrollment insurance issues; SHINE services including help with all health insurance questions, prescription drug plans, Social Security, Medicare and Mass Health.



Chapin Block on the corner of Hamilton and Crane streets, Southbridge, acquired the name Flat Iron due to the shape of the building. Built by Francis Luther (F. L.) Chapin and Mr. Cheney as a commercial emporium. A rare view of the clock is provided which was subsequently removed. The shingle and clapboard siding with the dentil work on two levels, are of note. Sign for J. Goldstein & Co. New York Dry Goods & Clothing House, sign for M. L. Brainard, Watchmaker & Jeweler, sign for Optician on the glass of one of the store fronts and sign for Ladies' Cream Cafe on a wooden sign, announce some of the business ventures operating in the building. In front are some hitching posts for horses at the side of the curb. When in operation, the Southbridge Sturbridge Street Railway used to pass in front of this building. The building was refurbished in 2004.



Photo courtesy of the Photographic Collection of the Jacob Edwards Library (<https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/fb494n71c>)

**Seniors Program / TRIAD S.A.L.T (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together):** The Southbridge Police Department has been involved with the TRIAD S.A.L.T. since 1994. The program is designed to reduce victimization of seniors within the community. It addresses the needs and concerns of seniors within the community by allowing the opportunity to express those concerns to law enforcement. It also provides seniors with valuable information pertaining to their own safety, and providing them with information relative to scams which are being conducted throughout the area. Members of the S.A.L.T. Council are police and seniors from Southbridge, Sturbridge and Charlton. For information regarding to the S.A.L.T. Council you can contact: Officer Charlie Bergeron-Pennachio at Southbridge Police at 508-764-5420.

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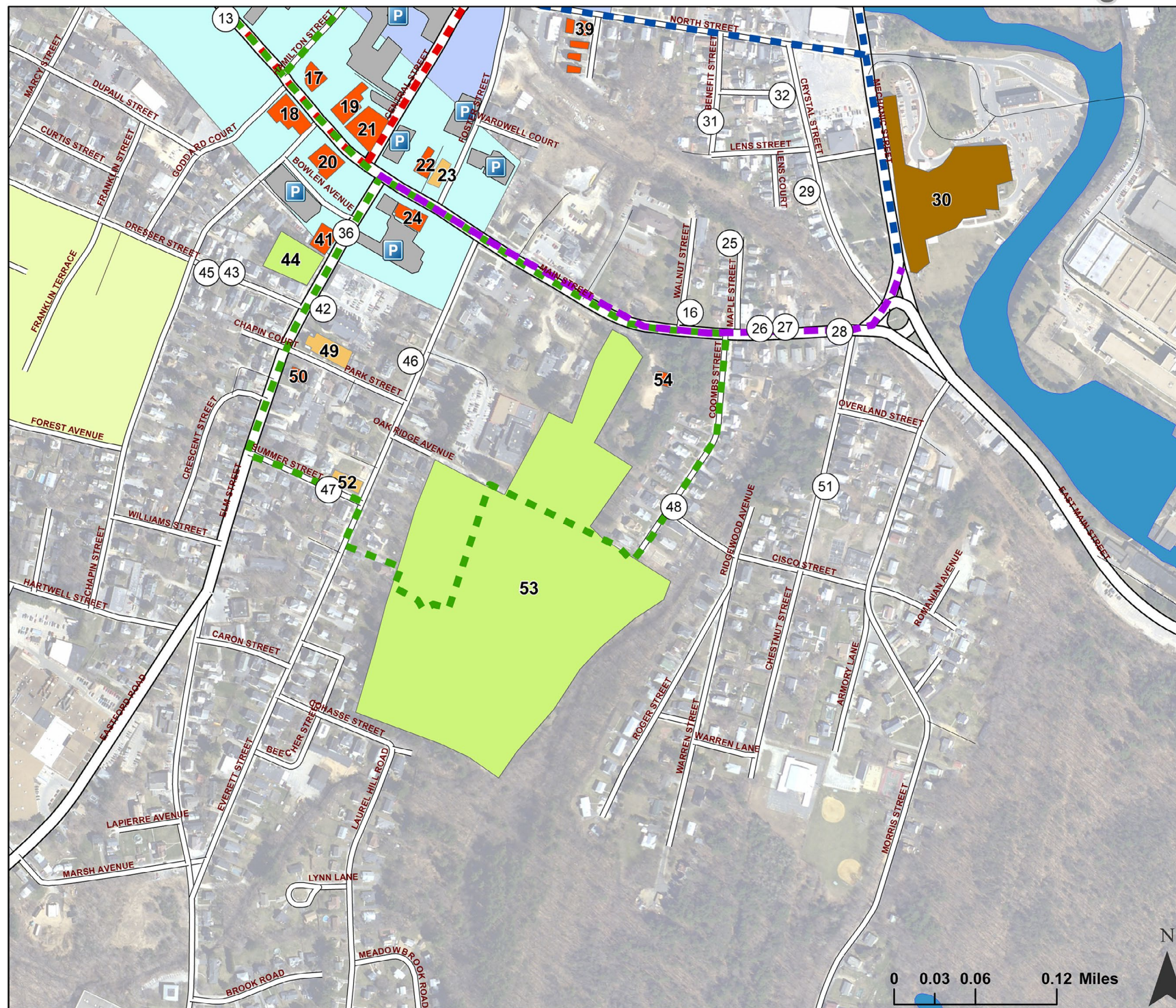




# Historic District of Downtown Southbridge

## SELECTED HISTORIC SITES

- 2, Spanish American War Monument
- 4, Theodore Harrington House
- 7, Liberty Litchfield House
- 8, E.B. Cummings
- 9, Marcy Marker
- 10, Gatineau Marker
- 14, Notre Dame Catholic Church
- 15, Methodist Church
- 17, Whitford Building
- 18, Barnes Block
- 19, Hotel Newman
- 20, Edwards Department Store
- 21, Ammidown Store
- 22, Ammidown Building
- 23, Central Baptist Church
- 24, National Bank
- 30, American Optical Complex
- 34, Sacred Heart Church
- 37, Central Mills
- 38, St George's Orthodox Church
- 39, Flats Houses
- 40, Railroad Depot
- 41, Fire House
- 44, Veterans Memorial
- 49, Congregational Church
- 50, Hartwell House
- 52, St. Hedwig's Church
- 53, Oak Ridge Cemetery
- 54, Dresser House - QVCAH



## OTHER HISTORIC SITES

- ① Comins-Wall House, 42 Hamilton St.
- ③ J.M. Cheney Rental House, 32 Edwards St.
- ⑤ A. Kinney House, 42 Edwards St.
- ⑥ Beechwood, 495 Main St.
- ⑪ J.J. Oakes House, 14 South St.
- ⑫ Mrs. R. Marcy House, 64 South St.
- ⑬ E. Merritt Cole House, 386 Main St.
- ⑯ House at 18 Walnut Street.
- ⑳ Maple Street Historic District, Maple St.
- ㉑ House at 70-72 Main Street.
- ㉒ House at 64 Main Street.
- ㉓ Building at 52 Main Street.
- ㉔ House at 59-63 Crystal Street.
- ㉕ House at 34 Benefit Street.
- ㉖ House at 3 Dean Street.
- ㉗ George Sumner House, 32 Paige Hill Rd.
- ㉘ Building at 38-42 Worcester Street.
- ㉙ Tiffany-Leonard House, 25 Elm St.
- ㉚ Southbridge Town Hall, 41 Elm St.
- ㉛ H.C. Wells Double House, 28-30 Dresser St.
- ㉜ E.M. Phillips House, 35 Dresser St.
- ㉝ LaCroix-Mosher House, 56 Everett St.
- ㉞ Sylvester Dresser House, 29 Summer St.
- ㉟ House at 91 Coombs Street.
- ㊱ Alpha M. Cheney House, 61 Chestnut St.

## TRAILS

- Central Mills- Sacred Heart trail - (~1 mi)
- Central Village trail extension - (~1.8 mi)
- Central Village trail - (~0.5 mi)
- Connector trail (~0.4 mi)

## HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE

- Historic Church
- Historic Mills
- Historic Residential and Commercial
- Open Space- Memorial

## HISTORIC DISTRICTS

- Central Mills District
- Central Village
- Chapin Hill
- Sacred Heart District





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## WRTA: Worcester Regional Transit Authority



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508-791-9782

<https://www.therta.com/>

[www.facebook.com/theWRTA](https://www.facebook.com/theWRTA)

The Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA) is a regional transit system that services the City of Worcester and the surrounding 36 communities in the Central Massachusetts area with a bus fleet. The second largest regional transit authority in Massachusetts, the WRTA offers reliable, comfortable, and safe transportation for traveling to work, shopping, school, medical appointments, and leisure activities. The WRTA also provides Paratransit service for the elderly and disabled, as well as a variety of special services for those groups in the entire service area. The WRTA introduced a new route serving Southbridge, Dudley, and Webster in August 2020.

## SCM Elderbus



[info@scmelderbus.org](mailto:info@scmelderbus.org)

Reservations and inquires: 800-321-0243

General business: 508-248-4299

<http://www.scmelderbus.org/>

[www.facebook.com/scm.elderbus](https://www.facebook.com/scm.elderbus)

SCM Elderbus is a private non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization. Incorporated in 1974, the Company initially provided transportation to medical appointments for senior residents of a single community. Under the auspices of the Worcester Regional Transit Authority, today the organization provides transportation services to seniors and the disabled residing in twenty-one communities in central Massachusetts.



**Southbridge station is a former train station built by the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad (NYNH&H). The building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1989 as New York, New Haven & Hartford Passenger Depot. Southbridge's railroad service began in 1866, with service provided by the Blackstone and Southbridge Railroad. The track originally extended further to the northwest, nearer the Hamilton Woolen Company mill complex, where there once stood passenger and freight depots and an office building. After a series of mergers, the service was taken over by the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad in 1907. This depot was built by that railroad in 1910, and served as a passenger station until 1930.**



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### Southbridge Places of Worship

- Central Baptist Church** 256 Main Street | 508-764-6365  
<https://cbcsouthbridge.org/>
- Church of Christ** 6 Dupaul Street | (860) 617-7159  
<https://www.facebook.com/Southbridge-church-of-Christ-584363048379648/>
- Elm Street Congregational Church** 61 Elm Street | 508-764-8058  
<https://www.facebook.com/ElmStreetChurch>
- Faith Baptist Church** 515 Dennison Drive | 508-764-6132  
<https://fbcsouthbridge.com/>
- First United Methodist Church** 449 Main Street | 508-764-6501  
<https://www.fumcsouthbridge.org/>
- Holy Trinity Episcopal Church** 446 Hamilton Street | 508-765-9559  
<https://www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org/>
- Iglesia E Mesias** 20 Dupaul Street | 774-230-1555
- Kingdom Bridge Church of God** 487 Worcester Street  
<https://www.facebook.com/KingdomBridgeChurchofGod>
- St. George Greek Orthodox Church** 55 North Street | 774-230-5557  
<http://agiosgiorgos.com/cms/>
- St. John Paul II Parish** 446 Main Street | 508-765-3701  
<https://www.stjp2parish.org/>
- Saint Michael's Romanian Orthodox Church** 16 Romanian Avenue | 508-765-5276  
<https://www.stmichaelorthodox.com/>
- Saint Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church** 126 Morris Street | 508-764-6226  
<http://www.stnicholasma.org/>
- Sovereign Grace Chapel** 449 Main Street | 508-892-1023  
<https://www.sovereigngracema.org/>

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### YMCA: Tri-Community Family Branch

43 Everett Street • Southbridge, MA 01550

- [jloutier@ymcaofcm.org](mailto:jloutier@ymcaofcm.org)
- 508-765-5466
- <http://www.ymcaofcm.org/>
- [www.facebook.com/tricomYMCA](http://www.facebook.com/tricomYMCA)



Since 1882, the YMCA has built a strong reputation for striving to meet the health, fitness and social challenges of area residents while focusing attention on serving at-risk children and families. The YMCA offers pre-school and after-school child care, older adult services, teen programs, rehabilitation, health and wellness programs, family activities, literacy, and so much more!

#### Annual Leonide J. Lemire Road Race

Every year, on July 4, the Leonide J. Lemire Road Race takes place in Southbridge. This 4.9 mile run/walk is the second oldest, continuous, road race in America, dating back to the 1950's when 17 runners competed in the first race.



**FUN FACT** In 1972, the current YMCA building opened on Everett Street. Prior to that, the YMCA was on Main Street, and that 70+ year old building was demolished in 1975.



Images courtesy of Whitney Web Page - Southbridge History & More ([www.dickwhitney.net](http://www.dickwhitney.net))





## Jacob Edwards Library

236 Main Street • Southbridge, MA 01550

[mmorris@cwmar.org](mailto:mmorris@cwmar.org)

Main Number: 508-764-5426

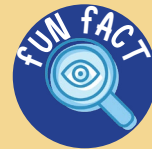
Children's Department: 508-764-5427

<https://www.jacobedwardslibrary.org/>

[www.facebook.com/jacobedwardslibrary](https://www.facebook.com/jacobedwardslibrary)

The Jacob Edwards Library enjoys a rich legacy of excellent service and is committed to the promotion of reading, education, literacy, culture, and lifelong learning for persons of all ages in our community.

The first public library was established in the Town of Southbridge by public vote in 1870. In 1872, Holmes Ammidown, Esq. established and leased space on Main Street for the use of the town library. Through the generous bequest of Jacob Edwards, a new facility was erected on the current location of the Library in 1914. Having long outgrown its original building, a major addition was added to the library in 1966; this wing included the current Reading Room, Director's Office, and the Holmes Ammidown History Room. A major expansion and renovation was completed in 2000, thus increasing the library facility to its current size of 33,000 sq. ft.



A library card allows patrons to check out books, movies, audio books, CDs, video games and more. FreeBooks, eAudiobooks and magazines are available for download. The library has free WiFi and public computers and a print/copy/scan station. The Children's Room has toys and games. Regular programs and special events include story times, crafts, guest speakers, author visits, book club, concerts, and art displays. The Library also offers a limited number of free passes and discount coupons to the general public.

The Friends of the Jacob Edwards Library is the fundraising arm of the Library. They are a non-profit organization that raises money for items such as library programs, books, furniture, subscriptions, museum pass memberships and other materials as needed.

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## Southbridge Recreation

(508) 764-6459

<https://www.ci.southbridge.ma.us/recreation>

[www.facebook.com/SouthbridgeRec](https://www.facebook.com/SouthbridgeRec)

Southbridge Recreation provides high quality, affordable recreation programs and maintains safe and accessible fields and facilities.

### Recreation Department Fields and Parks include:

<b>Andrew J. Petro Pool, 15 Randolph Street</b>	Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) owned swimming facility. Operated by the Tri-Community YMCA Phone Number: (508) 764-2709.
<b>Charlton St Recreation Area Evergreen Street</b>	Under the Jurisdiction of the School Dept; playground, open space field, football field with lights, large asphalt pad, gazebo
<b>120 Eastford Road Playground</b>	Under the Jurisdiction of the School Department; playground
<b>Ed McCann Fields at Henry Street, Worcester Street</b>	Baseball, softball, basketball courts, playground
<b>262 High Street (The Rez)</b>	Ice skating rink managed in partnership with The Friends of the Rez. Contact: 508-764-4849
<b>Joe Capillo Park: Paige Hill Road</b>	Basketball court, BMX/skate park, 1/4 mile walking path
<b>622 Main Street</b>	Playground
<b>168 Morris Street</b>	Baseball/softball, basketball court, playground, Cole Forest hiking trail
<b>Walcott Street</b>	Playground
<b>156 West Street</b>	Baseball, soccer/field hockey, tennis courts, playground area (West St. School), Heritage Trail River Walk & Nature Trail (connects to Westville Lake Recreation Area)
<b>Town Common: 1 Mechanic Street</b>	Gazebo/bandstand for concerts or festivals, weddings; contact Town Manager's office

The Adopt a Park program allows groups and individuals the opportunity to enhance our community by assisting with the maintenance and beautification of our town's parks or recreation facilities, helping reduce litter and the effects of vandalism, and increasing community promotion of these valuable resources.

The Southbridge Trail Committee builds, maintains, and promotes the use of recreational trails within the town. They prepare maps of the trails which are available on the Trail Committee's page of the town website as well as at trail heads and on the Friends of Southbridge Trails Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1775214562721807>).

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On Sept. 30, 1958, JFK made a campaign stop in Southbridge at the urging of the town's Democratic Party leaders. He greeted people on a downtown sidewalk before making a stump speech at the corner of Main and Central streets.



Photo courtesy of <http://www.dickwhitney.net/>

On the day JFK Kennedy spoke in downtown Southbridge, he was accompanied by his wife Jacqueline and his remarks included a push for an increase in the minimum wage, to \$1.25 an hour. The itinerary for the day shows other campaign stops in Spencer, Webster and Uxbridge.

The image above shows him speaking in front of Billis Diner, which at the time, was part of the Maci Building, or the Masonic Building, at 92 Main St. The brick building, once anchored by the C.A. Dresser House hotel, was a key part of Southbridge's downtown for seven decades.

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Southbridge Strand Theater opened in 1926 and closed in 1965 after 39 years of continuous film entertainment. The brick structure was erected in 1916 by the Blanchard brothers for use as a dance hall and roller skating rink. It

was originally known as The Hippodrome and movie idols such as the late Rudolph Valentino performed there for special shows.

It was widely known for its outstanding vaudeville entertainment and athletic events.

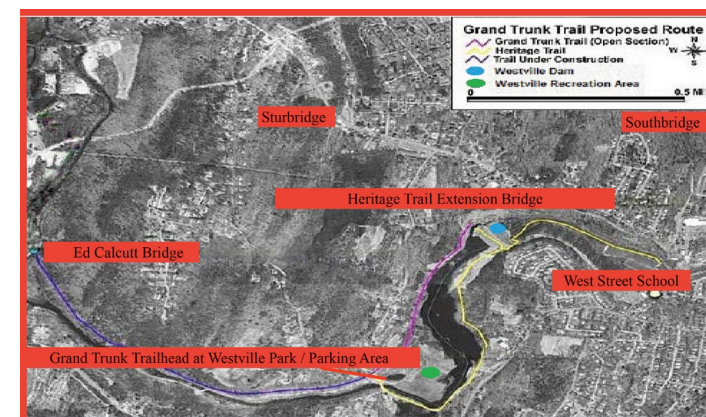


Photo courtesy of Optical Heritage Museum

## Westville Lake Recreation Area

<https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/Westville-Lake/>

Westville Lake Recreation Area lies just outside downtown Southbridge. The facility's easy access distinguishes Westville Lake as a popular outdoor recreation area. The Quinebaug River, once harnessed for mills and factories at several locations within the park, now meanders uninhibited through forests and wetlands for several miles on its way to Westville Lake. The old Grand Trunk Railroad parallels the Quinebaug River and is a popular walking trail. The river and its tributaries serve as the center of activity for many species of animals. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers owns and manages 578 acres of land at Westville Lake. Field, forest, and wetland environments provide habitats for a variety of wildlife species.



The developed park includes a three acre athletic field enjoyed by softball and soccer enthusiasts as well as the occasional kite flyer. Several picnic tables and grills are situated throughout the recreation area. Two large picnic shelters accommodate group gatherings and can be reserved for a fee. The picnic shelters have multiple tables, two large grills, electrical outlets, and a wonderful view of the lake and dam. There is no fee to enter or use Westville Recreation Area, however there are some fees charged to reserve some park facilities such as the small picnic shelter, large picnic shelter and ball fields

Anglers can find an abundance of warm water fish in the lake including large-mouth bass and panfish. The State of Massachusetts stocks the Quinebaug River above the dam with trout creating a popular fly-fishing location. For boating and canoeing enthusiasts, two boat launches provide easy access to the lake and the slow-moving portions of the river. There are more than three miles of trails with terrain varying from the flat rail bed of the Grand Trunk to rolling hills of the Community Trail. During the winter months, though the entry gates are closed, the recreation area remains a popular destination due to its offering of ice skating, sledding, snow shoes and cross-country skiing. Pets are welcome but must be leashed at all times and pet owners are responsible for cleanup and disposal of all pet waste.

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The Strand Theatre in the 1940s. Photo courtesy of Optical Heritage Museum  
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**Cub Scout Pack 140**  
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**Chamber of Central Mass South**  
 46 Hall Road, Sturbridge, MA  
 (508) 347-2761  
[cmschamber.ning.com/](http://cmschamber.ning.com/)  
[cmschamber](https://www.facebook.com/cmschamber)

Committed to improving the business climate in our area and promoting the success of members and enhancing regional prosperity through networking, education and promotion.

**Gateway Players Theater**  
 61 Elm Street, PO Box 171  
 (508) 764-4531  
[www.gatewayplayers.org/](http://www.gatewayplayers.org/)  
[facebook.com/GatewayPlayers](https://www.facebook.com/GatewayPlayers)  
[info@gatewayplayers.org](mailto:info@gatewayplayers.org)

Founded in 1975, Gateway provides quality community theater productions and other events to the greater Southbridge community.

**Girl Scouts of Central & Western MA**  
 Cyndi Davis – Membership Services  
 508-749-3612  
[www.gscwm.org](http://www.gscwm.org)  
[cdavis@gscwm.org](mailto:cdavis@gscwm.org)

**Improved Order of Red Men of Massachusetts (Nipmuck Tribe 131)**  
 324 Main Street  
 508-765-1199  
 Fraternal beneficiary association

**Pilsudski Polish American Club**  
 18 Ballard Court  
 508-764-4746  
[pilsudski-polish-american-club.club.business.site/](http://pilsudski-polish-american-club.club.business.site/)  
 Member only social club

**Southbridge Eagles #334**  
[www.southbridgeeagles334.com](http://www.southbridgeeagles334.com)  
 "People Helping People."

**Southbridge Food Share**  
 79 Elm Street  
 508-764-6583 (call to verify hours)  
[SouthbridgeFoodShare](https://www.facebook.com/SouthbridgeFoodShare)

**Southbridge Garden Club**  
 111 Main Street  
[SouthbridgeGardenClub](https://www.facebook.com/SouthbridgeGardenClub)  
[southbridgegardenclub1953@gmail.com](mailto:southbridgegardenclub1953@gmail.com)  
 Hosts the Annual Holiday Green Sale

**Southbridge Historical Society**  
 508-764-8042  
[SouthbridgeHistoricalSociety](https://www.facebook.com/SouthbridgeHistoricalSociety)  
[medoyle3@yahoo.com](mailto:medoyle3@yahoo.com)  
 Creating awareness of local history and historic preservation

**Southbridge Italian Club**  
 20 North Street  
 508-909-6980  
[www.southbridgeitalianclub.com](http://www.southbridgeitalianclub.com)  
[ITAM-Southbridge-Italian-Club-106510194739785](https://www.facebook.com/ITAM-Southbridge-Italian-Club-106510194739785)

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**Southbridge Lions Club, District 33-A**  
 508-764-2040  
[Southbridge-Lions-Club-130340780419999](https://www.facebook.com/Southbridge-Lions-Club-130340780419999)  
[southbridgelions@gmail.com](mailto:southbridgelions@gmail.com)  
 Service is at the core

**Southbridge Little League**  
[SouthbridgeLittleLeague](https://www.facebook.com/SouthbridgeLittleLeague)  
[glenlatour69@gmail.com](mailto:glenlatour69@gmail.com)

**Southbridge Parent Teacher Association**  
[www.southbridgepublic.org](http://www.southbridgepublic.org)  
[groups/300543319989616](https://www.facebook.com/groups/300543319989616)  
 Creating opportunities for stronger family engagement, community involvement, and student achievement

**Southbridge Pop Warner Football & Cheer**  
 Doug Lazo, President, 774-230-0824  
 Cheryl St. Pierre, Cheer Coordinator, 508-344-7827  
[Southbridge-Pop-Warner-Football-116482491737815](https://www.facebook.com/Southbridge-Pop-Warner-Football-116482491737815)  
 Program for ages 5 - 16

**Southbridge Youth Soccer**  
[www.sportsmanager.us/southbridgesoccer.htm](http://www.sportsmanager.us/southbridgesoccer.htm)  
[SouthbridgeSoccer](https://www.facebook.com/SouthbridgeSoccer)  
[southbridgesoccer@yahoo.com](mailto:southbridgesoccer@yahoo.com)  
 Youth soccer program

**Southbridge Rotary Club**  
 Meet Wednesdays at 12:05 at Southbridge Hotel & Conference Center  
[rotary7910.org/clubinfo/southbridge](http://rotary7910.org/clubinfo/southbridge)  
[southbridgerotary](https://www.facebook.com/southbridgerotary)  
 Community service and friendship

**Southbridge Veterans Council**  
 153 Chestnut Street  
 (405) 249-6724  
[www.ci.southbridge.ma.us/veterans-agent](http://www.ci.southbridge.ma.us/veterans-agent)  
[southbridgeveteranscouncil](https://www.facebook.com/southbridgeveteranscouncil)  
[sbveteranscouncil@gmail.com](mailto:sbveteranscouncil@gmail.com)  
 Advocate and support for Veterans, their spouses, and dependent children

**Southbridge Women's Club**  
 508-764-2816  
[southbridgewomensclub.org](http://southbridgewomensclub.org)  
 Fosters a sense of community and friendships

**St John Paul II Food Pantry**  
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 508-765-3701  
[stjp2parish.org/food-pantry](http://stjp2parish.org/food-pantry)  
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**St Luke's Guesthouse**  
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[StLukesGuesthouse](https://www.facebook.com/StLukesGuesthouse)  
[stlukesguesthouse@gmail.com](mailto:stlukesguesthouse@gmail.com)  
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**The Ruth Wells Center for the Arts**  
 111 Main Street  
 508-764-3341  
[www.ruthwellscenter.com/](http://www.ruthwellscenter.com/)  
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[tradewinds.club](https://www.facebook.com/tradewinds.club)  
 Helping individuals with disabilities and other disadvantages realize their full potential

**Tri-Community Exchange Club**  
[Tri-Community-Exchange-Club-147460346040363](https://www.facebook.com/Tri-Community-Exchange-Club-147460346040363)  
[sbibinski@cornerstonebank.com](mailto:sbibinski@cornerstonebank.com)  
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**United Way of South Central Mass**  
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<https://www.uwscm.org/>  
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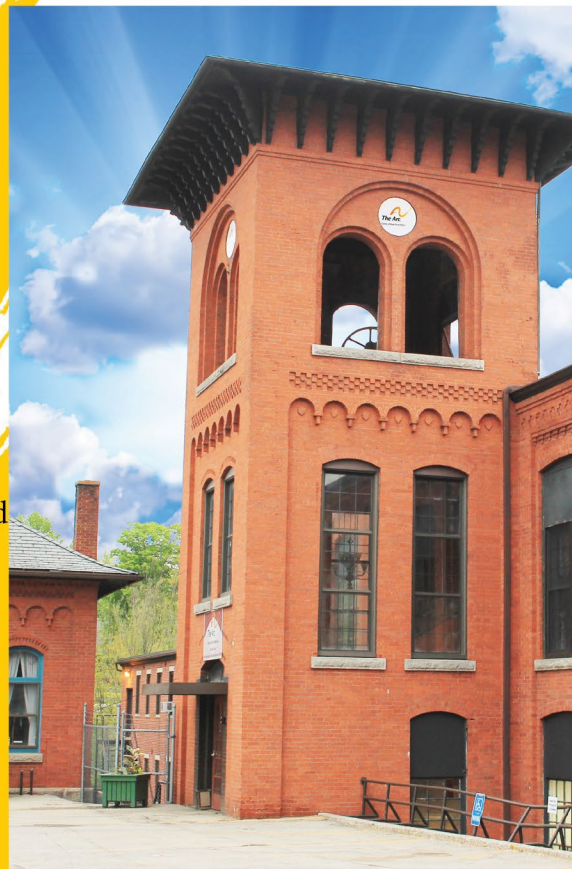
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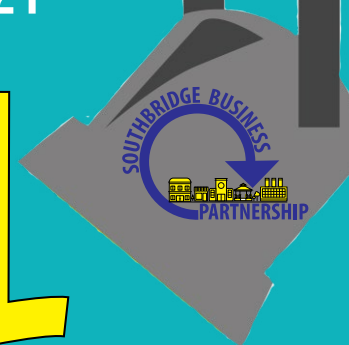
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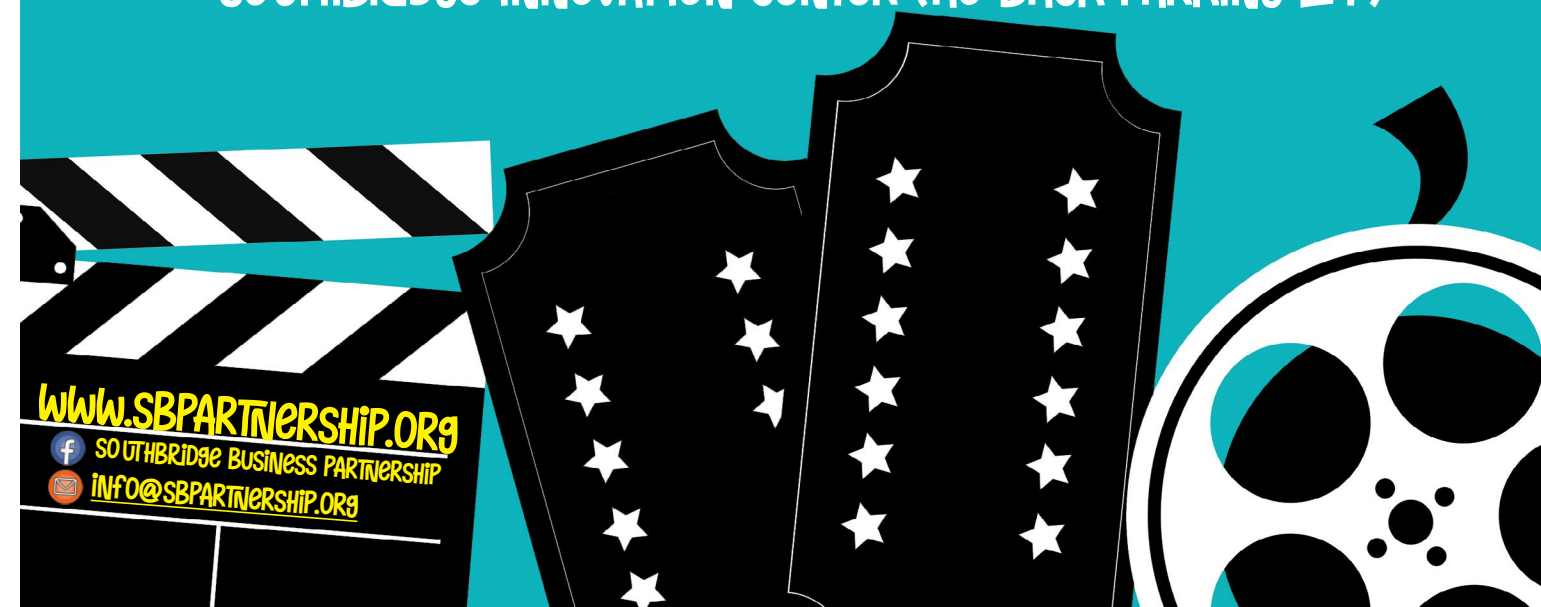
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