

## **Southborough Library**

### **Mission Statement**

*The Southborough Library is an innovative, inspirational, and dynamic center dedicated to lifelong learning and interests. The library provides services, programs, collections, and technology to the local community. The building serves as a welcoming environment, facilitates equal access, and provides collaborative space to the public.*

### **General Overview of Library Services**

The Southborough Library provides books and other materials to residents of the town to check out and borrow. Any resident of Massachusetts qualifies for a library card. The library has four public computers with Internet access upstairs. There are three catalog terminals to search for books and materials, two iPads for the catalog, a black & white printer, and free Wi-Fi for the public. The library also hosts a pay-per-use copy machine and a self-service fax machine. The library provides access to a self-checkout machine upstairs. Visit the Southborough Library website at [www.southboroughlib.org](http://www.southboroughlib.org) to search the catalog and request items, download e-books and audiobooks, live chat with staff, or access online electronic resources. Departing e-resources in 2023 include *Skillshare* and *Beanstack*. Staff routinely provide Reader's Advisory service, suggesting books for library users to read. Library card holders also have access to downloadable e-books and electronic audiobooks on their personal e-readers, smartphones, and tablets via the C/W MARS Overdrive service at [cwmars.overdrive.com](http://cwmars.overdrive.com).

Thanks in large part to The Friends of the Southborough Library, the library offers reduced price passes to many cultural museums and educational attractions across Massachusetts. The Southborough Library offers two circulating telescopes for patron checkout, as well as an expanded collection of circulating puzzles and board games. Thanks to grant support from the Southborough Community Fund, the library offers twelve circulating ukuleles in the Teen Room. Thanks to state grant funding, the library has two circulating gardening kits that include tools for the novice and experienced horticulturalist. The successful Library Seed Exchange also continued for the fourth consecutive year with an outdoor in-person launch event. The library's outdoor Story Walk continues to attract new outdoor users and enhance youth literacy. Approximately 6,325 residents of Southborough have active library cards.

### **Delivery and Interlibrary Loan**

Southborough is a member of the Central/Western Massachusetts Automated Resource Sharing (C/W MARS) network. Through the consortium's interlibrary loan service, cardholders can request materials that Southborough does not directly own but still has access to via a statewide delivery service. Unless there is a pending waitlist, books and materials are typically received in just a few days. Users are notified by email, phone, or text when the material arrives. To search the full C/W MARS catalog and place holds, visit <http://bark.cwmars.org>. Users may also access books outside the C/W MARS network via the statewide Commonwealth Catalog at <https://commonwealthcatalog.org>.

### **Board of Trustees**

The Library Board of Trustees consists of Marguerite Landry (Chair), Jane Davis (Vice Chair), David C. Ekberg, Janet Maney, Kim Regan, and Amy Yazdani. The board works very closely with library director Ryan Donovan with the ongoing evaluation and implementation of library services, in addition to aiding the director with library policy and long-term strategic planning efforts. The board meets at least once a month, and sometimes more frequently during the annual budgeting season.

### **Library Staff**

Besides providing direct public service to patrons, staff activities include purchasing and processing books, planning programs, deaccessioning material collections, creating booklists and displays, processing curbside service requests, working with and learning from our regional library consortium, promoting existing electronic resources, updating records in the automated catalog, and offering computer and e-reader help. Staff also seek out and write grants; in 2023, the library received multiple grant awards from the Southborough Cultural Arts Council and the Southborough Community Fund.

## *Southborough Library (continued)*



### ***Library Programs***

This year, the library hosted a variety of both in-person and virtual ongoing programs. They included a monthly virtual book club, story times for children, Baby & Toddler Time, Tuesday Tech Time, and Crafternoons for middle and high school students. Special events, such as the annual Candidates' Night event, also continued. The Rotary Club of Southborough and the Southborough Poetry Workshops continued as monthly in-person evening events. New programs have continued to be offered at the library. A professional cooking instructor has been leading online classes to show how to make delicious meals from around the world, which have received positive feedback and enthusiasm from participants. Southborough Recreation continued to help maintain online and in-person registrations in partnership with the library. As weather allowed, the library held several successful outdoor programs for children including regular weekly preschool story times, baby yoga sessions, and continued a popular Friday morning singalong series called Kids Jam.

The library has continued to develop opportunities for Southborough teens with a large increase in volunteering options, through partnerships with The Friends of the Southborough Library, local nonprofits, and direct outreach to schools in the district. Local teens have had the opportunity to take on leadership roles designing craft sessions for younger children, contributing to the development of teen programs, and offering tutoring sessions about technology. A new range of programs was offered throughout the year such as a mindful exercise program, a Dungeons & Dragons session, therapy dog visits, and a bake-off for Southborough's blossoming, talented young bakers. The library has also started innovative ways for teens to contribute to the library autonomously. Teens can send in book reviews for the large expanse of selected new YA books and contribute to crafting projects from home. The selection of new tools, such as a Cricut machine, new comfortable seating, and young artists' submission of chosen artwork, has improved the culture of inclusion, innovation, and enrichment that make the Teen Room in Southborough Library an environment patrons enjoy.

### ***Southborough Library Fund***

In 2011, members of the Library Board of Trustees helped to establish the Southborough Library Fund, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt fund under the umbrella of the Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts. As the library prepares to undertake the planning and design of a new or renovated space, the Fund can help to supplement the costs of this effort through individual giving. Donations can be mailed to: Southborough Library Fund, P.O. Box 141, Southborough, MA 01772 or made online at: <https://cfncm.org/donate-now/southborough-library-fund> and providing your information.

### ***The Friends of the Southborough Library***

Since 1972, the Friends of the Southborough Library have been raising supplemental funds for library initiatives, such as youth programming that has not traditionally been supported by the municipal budget. The Friends hold 501(c)3 nonprofit status. The library would like to acknowledge and thank the Friends' leadership for their service: President Beth Melo, Vice-President Kathy Gittins, Secretary Mary Tinti, Treasurer Prudence Webster, and Book Sale Chair Diana Tremblay. Want to help support the Southborough Library? Join the Friends. They meet monthly on a Wednesday evening at 7:30 PM. Meetings are on Zoom. For more information, email [friendsofsouthboroughlib@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofsouthboroughlib@gmail.com).

### ***What is New at the Southborough Library in 2023***

To meet emerging user needs, the library launched a new and revised website in October 2023. The update features highlighted museum passes and new books, as well as a better integration of our weekly newsletter. Additionally, events are listed in a new, easily accessible format. The library had high-definition security cameras installed at entryways and exits of the facility, as well as in the Teen Room. These to help ensure safety at the library for staff and patrons and provide the opportunity to monitor the Teen Room. The library also expanded the Spanish and Spanish/English bilingual books in the Children's collection and created an adult Spanish book section. Progress has been made cataloging local history items this year, featuring materials such as school yearbooks; Town of Southborough annual reports, town meeting warrants, and assessor's reports; books about Southborough and Worcester County; and school district reports.

### Contact Information

**Phone:** 508-485-5031 **Website** <http://www.southboroughlib.org>

**Twitter:** @SouthboroughLib **Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/southboroughlib>

**Hours:** Monday, Friday & Saturday, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM

Library Closed Saturdays in July and August

	FY20^	FY21^	FY22	FY23
Total material holdings	199,903	237,253	253,055	279,289
Direct circulation (not including inter-library loans)	114,976	97,347	141,894	154,082
Inter-library loans processed through Southborough (sending and receiving)	21,848  (8,834 received, 13,014 provided)	28,755  (12,817 received, 15,938 provided)	25,928  (11,775 received, 14,153 provided)	25,621  (11,365 received, 14,256 provided)
e-book circulation	10,524	14,542	13,475	13,498
Total attendance at adult/young adult programs	2,508	786	1,541	1,886
Total attendance at children's programs	4,720	2,096	2,381	3,909
Fines & fees collected and turned back to the town^	\$885.00	\$25.00	\$296.00	\$486.00

*^FY20/FY21 Statistics were adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic & subsequent building closure.*

### Staff Acknowledgements

Ryan Donovan, Kim Ivers, Marianna Sorensen, Leah Selleck, Carol Logan, Libby Goodreau, Kathy Kolenda, Kelly Winand, Kathy Schoener, Jenny D'Innocenzo, Jamie Hayes, Deb Moore, Diane Wallace, Marjory O'Neill, Claudia Roche, Madrid Elena Cunningham, Maya Regan, Autumn Stewart, Maggie Mercadante, Mia Boloz, Jackson Harris, Maggie Fitzgerald & Alicia Winske.



**SOUTHBOROUGH LIBRARY**

Contact the library here: <https://www.southboroughlib.org/Pages/Index/226976/contact-us>