

Stratford
Connecticut

*A town
for all
seasons*

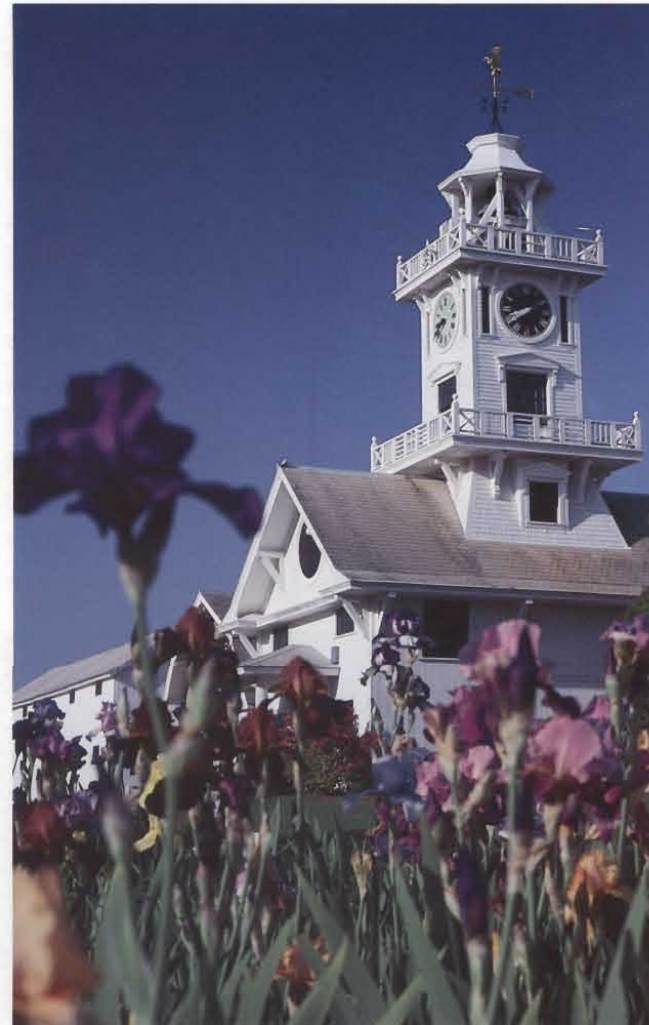


Stratford Connecticut is a thriving suburban community of 54,000 located on Long Island Sound. Within an hour's drive of New York it is the easternmost town in Fairfield County. Nationally, Stratford is best known as home to the American Shakespeare Theatre, the Sikorsky Division of United Technologies and Avco Lycoming Textron. ■

Although it is a mature community with outstanding municipal services, Stratford has more land zoned for industry than any other town in Connecticut. Almost all this property is within five minutes of either the Connecticut Thruway or Merritt Parkway. Much of it also has direct rail access and is close to the Sikorsky Memorial Airport. ■

Stratford traces its colorful history to 1639. At that time a group of 25 families settled near Mac's Harbor at the mouth of the Housatonic River. Since its adventuresome founding the town has grown into a well-balanced community which combines lower, middle and upper income housing. Its large selection of affordable homes is one reason many companies have chosen to locate here. Another is the combination of outstanding cultural, recreational, and sports facilities. ■

Today there is an abundance of prime, vacant industrial and commercial property available. It comprises more than a third of all such property in the six-town Greater Bridgeport region. Careful



zoning has added to the value of this land, as Stratford's growth has been carefully controlled by a continuously updated Master Plan. ■

LOCAL TAXES:

Stratford's relatively low taxes reflect the long-term strength and stability of the industrial and home tax base. Surveys have consistently shown the vast majority of businesses to be pleased with municipal services. During the past decade taxes have actually risen at a lower rate than inflation. In real terms property taxes have actually decreased over this period. ■

When the League of Women Voters studied all Connecticut local governments, it found the

Town Manager system to be the most efficient. As practiced in Stratford this has meant a municipal and business structure which works closely together. The result is a consistently high level of services at minimum cost. ■

TRANSPORTATION:

■ **Highway:** The Connecticut Thruway (Interstate 95), the Merritt Parkway (Route 15) and two other major highways (Route 25 and 8) provide Stratford with easy access to the entire Northeast corridor. The recent elimination of tolls on the Thruway has made travel to and from Stratford even more convenient. ■ **Truck and Auto:** Sixty Class I and II motor carriers have Connecticut



operations. Twenty of these maintain terminals within a ten mile radius of Stratford. Regularly scheduled limousine service takes travellers directly to the three major New York area airports.

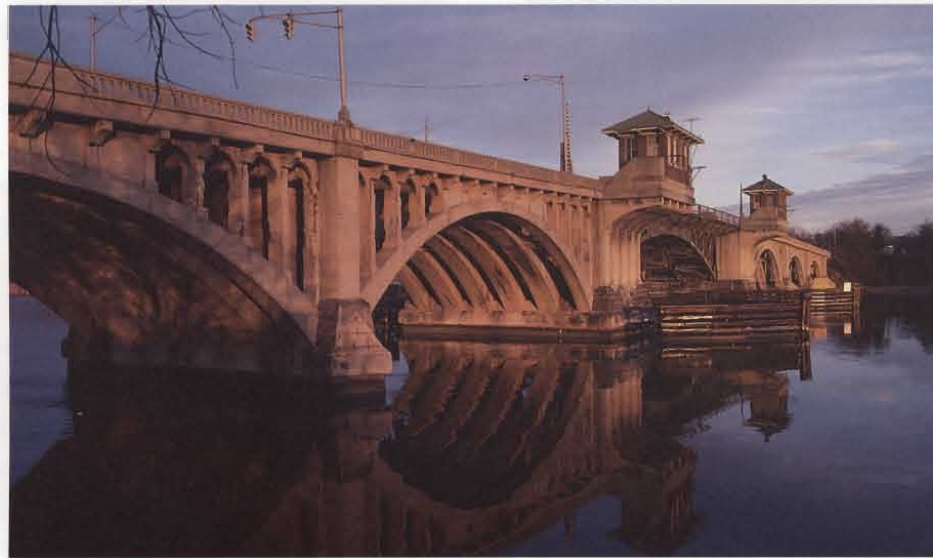
■ **Rail:** Stratford is on the main line of both the Metro-North and Amtrak passenger systems. Increases in commuter traffic have resulted in both additional train service and more complete parking facilities. In addition to many rail sidings there is trailer-on flatcar service available in neighboring Bridgeport. ■ **Air:** Sikorsky Airport is both a major commuter center and home to corporate aircraft. Business Express and Piedmont Airlines offer direct flights to Boston, New York, Washington and Baltimore. Through major

hub connections such as this the Stratford traveller can go virtually anywhere in the country with only one change of flight. Charter service meets the daily needs of individual businesses.

■ A modern, well-appointed air terminal with meal service, a lounge, control tower, and weather station serve as hub of the airport activities. Stratford is also one of eight regional centers for the national air control system.

■ Recognizing the need to train technicians for local industries, the state has established a new school for aircraft mechanics. ■ **Water:** The adjacent Bridgeport deep water harbor provides excellent docking and terminal facilities for

either domestic or overseas shipping. ■





LABOR FORCE:

Stratford is an integral part of the Bridgeport labor market, the most concentrated pool of available workers in Connecticut. Stratford's own labor market comprises 24,000 of the more than 18,000 people available locally. While the majority of this pool is engaged in manufacturing, a shift to service and high technology industries has developed in recent years. ■

Projections continue to show increased growth in this area. Overall experts expect a 35% increase in the labor force and a 24% growth in overall population by the year 2000. The United States government has identified Fairfield County and Boston as the two fastest growing sections of New England. ■

UTILITIES:

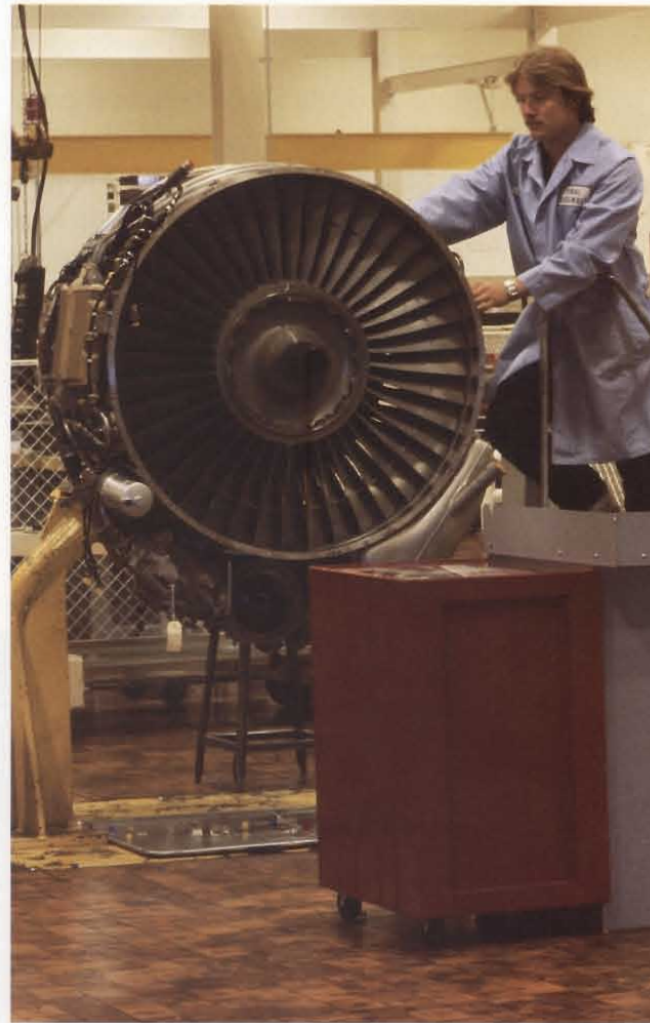
■ **Water:** The Bridgeport Hydraulic Company provides an abundant supply of quality water daily for more than 85,000 customers. Ten reservoirs and seven well-fields ensure that this supply will be adequate for all anticipated future growth. BHC water is soft, low in total solids and requires minimal chemical analysis, all ideal qualities for industrial use. ■ **Telephone:** Through its Stratford Service Center the Southern New England Telephone Company provides rapid and efficient service. A number of private providers have recognized Stratford's importance by building their own national or regional headquarters in

the area. This abundance of expertise and service has proven especially important in the growing data communications field. ■ **Gas:** Southern Connecticut Gas Company supplies natural gas to a twenty town service area. To ensure an adequate supply and keep costs low the company constructed a liquified natural gas storage facility. This permits the liquification of pipeline natural gas in summer to be used during peak winter demand. ■ **Electricity:** Four United Illuminating generating stations provide 4.5 kilowatt hours of power to the area. The electric company is a member of NEPOOL, the regional planning agency for achieving maximum electric power and reliability. It continuously monitors available power, selecting the best possible combination of generation and transmission. ■

STRATFORD AS A COMMUNITY

The public education system provides a balanced curriculum for primary and secondary school students. Stratford has also developed an outstanding continuing education curriculum. This provides both enrichment opportunities and offers basic educational training. A strong Catholic school network is available for those desiring a parochial education. The area also boasts many of the nation's finest college preparatory schools. ■

Within the Stratford public system there are special programs in speech therapy, for the



physically handicapped, socially disadvantaged, educable, trainable mentally retarded, emotionally disturbed and chronically homebound child. ■

Vocational-technical schools offer full-time secondary level programs in more than 30 trades. These programs provide both an alternative for the non-college bound student and a fertile source of new, well-trained business employees. ■

Six area colleges and universities provide strong undergraduate and graduate programs. Sacred Heart University is a commuting institution with special emphasis on job preparation for the business world. Housatonic Community College offers low-cost preparation for either

further education or the job market. The University of Bridgeport serves areas business through excellence in technical and engineering programs. Bridgeport Engineering Institute specializes in technical training for the student who combines work and education. Fairfield University is an outstanding liberal arts institution, and Yale University is one of the finest schools in the entire country. ■

There is also an abundant selection of commercial schools teaching computer, mechanical, business and secretarial skills. ■

RECREATION:

Stratford takes full advantage of its Long Island



Sound location. Three public beaches provide swimming and fishing opportunities. Five marinas, a fishing pier and public launching ramp cater to the boating enthusiast. Housatonic Boat Club specializes in sailing, while the Pootatuck Yacht Club caters to the power boat enthusiast. Both are family-oriented clubs with strong youth programs. ■

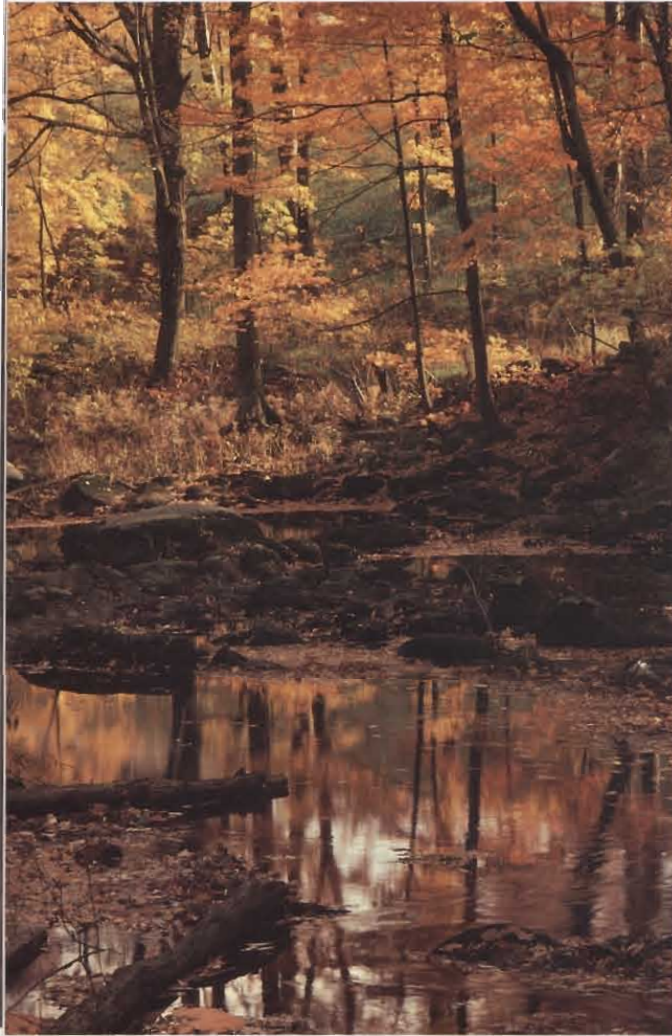
Roosevelt Forest offers 250 unspoiled acres for camping, hiking, picnicking and education. Stratford is one of the few communities in the entire nation to own its own forest. ■ Boothe Memorial Park's scenic landscape and historic buildings combine a public park with an architectural museum. Employee groups utilize Boothe's

buildings and grounds for meetings and outings. During winter it is a popular spot for cross-country skiing and sledding. ■

Two outstanding private golf courses, Oronoque and Mill River, are complemented by a new municipal par-three layout. ■ Year-round programs offer a wealth of opportunity for both child and adult. The Stratford Recreation Department offers swimming, basketball leagues, hockey, badminton, soccer, tennis, volleyball and nature study programs. ■

The Stratford YMCA is a hub of family recreation and lesson programs throughout the year. Regular courses include: swimming and diving, acrobatics, martial arts, dancing, fitness, platform





tennis, golf, and arts and crafts. The nursery school gives pre-school children broad social and educational development. The nationally acclaimed American Shakespeare Theatre has developed its own unique, classic style. ■ Sterling House Community Center offers low cost, high-quality programs which attract sellout registrations. ■ Many local companies take advantage of private racquetball and nautilus clubs to encourage employee physical fitness. ■

Stratford has paid special attention to the needs of its senior citizens. The Baldwin Center provides social, recreational, health and education programs. Long recognized as a leader in low-cost senior citizen housing, Stratford has increased its commitment through construction of new units. ■ The municipal library combines with the senior citizen building and Sterling House to form a municipal center of activity. It is active evidence of a strong commitment to taxpayer service. ■

Stratford is especially proud of its police, fire, and Emergency Medical Services. Their combined efforts have been responsible for a continued excellent rating with insurance companies. ■ Medical care is provided by four outstanding hospitals: Bridgeport, St. Vincent's, Park City and Milford. One of the world's top medical research facilities, Yale-New Haven is within twenty minutes. ■

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