



Regional Center Partnership of Somerset County, NJ



March 2022

SCBP Introduces Business Attraction Web Site

The Somerset County Business Partnership (SCBP) has announced the introduction of a new website designed to attract both businesses and employee talent to Somerset County.



The site, at www.whysomersetnj.org, is a comprehensive information resource that provides all the necessary information for those looking for introduction to Somerset County.

NJDOT Plans to Revise Somerville Intersection

Pending the results of public meetings, the NJ Department of Transportation is planning safety improvements to the intersection of East Main Street, Warren Street, Bridge Street, and Grove Street.

Among the proposed changes are: on Route 28 - ADA improvements, enhanced lighting; Grove/Warren intersection - New traffic signal, Warren Street converted to one way southbound, parallel parking on Warren Street, curb extensions, and relocation of the Warren Street crosswalk; Bridge Street intersection - new traffic signal, left turn phasing of signal, widened left turn lane westbound, and curb extensions.

Project details are available through March 9, 2022 at www.route28-pic.com. The revisions are expected to be completed in 2025.

Introducing the Somerset County Film Commission

The Somerset County Film Commission announced the launch of its website <https://filmsomersetnj.org>. The Commission will promote the county's various locations for film, television, and digital productions only a short distance from New York City. Somerset County is an ideal spot for productions looking to take advantage of New Jersey's robust tax incentive program. The website will house a database of locations across the county in addition to accommodations and craft service vendors.

Tour of Somerville to Return on Memorial Day

The Tour of Somerville bicycle race will return to the streets of Somerville on Memorial Day, Monday, May 30, 2022. After cancellation in 2020 and 2021, the full day of racing and family events begins with a family ride on the race course followed by races featuring national and international riders. The featured Kugler-Anderson Memorial Men's Race is scheduled to begin between 3:00 and 4:00 P.M.

RCP Honors Mayor Dan Hayes

The Regional Center Partnership (RCP) paid tribute to former Bridgewater Mayor and RCP Board member Dan Hayes at a recent ceremony. Partnership Chair Troy Fischer presented a certificate of appreciation for his contributions to the organization.



Raritan Economic Development Plan Earns Award

Raritan Borough received a 2021 Land Development & Planning Award from Somerset County for the Sustainable Economic Development Plan.

Utilizing a grant from the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, Raritan officials organized public meetings and analyzed economic market and other influencers. The result was the development of a "Vision Plan" utilizing high quality graphics; a "Public Outreach Summary" detailing the public feedback; and an "Implementation Toolbox" illustrating the land use, circulation, open space, architectural design and zoning elements.

St. Patrick's Parade to Honor Healthcare Heroes

The March 13 Somerville St. Patrick's Parade will honor healthcare heroes from Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Somerset by inviting employees and their families to participate in the parade. Colonel Patrick J. Callahan, Superintendent of the NJ State Police, is the Grand Marshall.

Raritan Moving Forward on Washington School Property

The Borough Council approved funds for architectural and site plan work at the Washington School property on First Avenue. The initial plan for the site was for a building to house the police and fire departments with funding options being explored. The property is part of a government district zoned for municipal uses.

Somerset County Featured in National Magazine

Somerset County, New Jersey has been featured in "Travel & Leisure" magazine among the "10 Best Cheap Vacations in the U.S."

Coming in as number 10, the magazine states, "Not far from New York City, Somerset County boasts hotel rates of just \$102.60 per night..."

The magazine highlights an abundance of parks, preserves, and gardens in addition to fresh seasonal produce and locally crafted beers.

Other top 10 cities include Oklahoma City, El Paso, Little Rock, and Raleigh-Durham.

Raritan Pizzeria Earns Highest Ratings

Raritan's DeLucia's Brick Oven Pizza has received a 9.4 rating out of a possible 10 by nationally known Barstool founder David Portnoy.

Portnoy is an internet celebrity, blogger, and founder of the sports and pop culture blog Barstool Sports. He reviews pizza joints around the country for his internet show. He called DeLucia's not only the best in New Jersey but among the best in the world.

Regional Center Partnership Elects Officers

The RCP unanimously approved the selection of the following officers to serve through 2023:

Chairman	Troy Fischer, Bridgewater Commons
Vice Chairman	Jason Dameo Dameo Trucking
Treasurer	Victoria Allen RWJ University Hospital
Secretary	James Ruggieri Somerset County Planning

Bridgewater to Upgrade Park System

Following an assessment of the township's 18 parks, 16 playgrounds, nine basketball courts, two turf fields, and open space, a list of improvements was developed that will be implemented in coming months. Improvements include additional shaded areas, repair of wooden structures with paint and replacement with low maintenance materials, placement of picnic bench locations, enhanced lighting, and neighborhood impacts. Cromwell Park walking and bike trails are being developed using Somerset County grant funds. Additionally, funding is being sought for construction of a National Fitness Campaign Court.

More Summer Entertainment in Somerville

The Downtown Somerville Alliance announced the expansion of the weekly live entertainment with "Street Sound Sundays" from June through August. From 1:00 to 4:00 P.M., entertainment will be live at the corner of South Davenport and East Main Streets; the Giardina Walkway; the corner of North Bridge and East Main Streets; and on the Historic Courthouse lawn.

Rain Barrel Rebate Program Now Available

The Somerset County Regional Center, utilizing a grant from the NJ Water Supply Authority, announced that the 2022 Raritan River Rain Barrel Rebate programs for homeowners in Bridgewater, Raritan, and Somerville is accepting rebate applications for the 9th consecutive year.

Rebates are available in the amount of \$50 for new 40- to 70-gallon rain barrels and \$100 for those that hold more than 70 gallons. Detailed information can be found on the Regional Center Partnership's website at www.rcpsomersetnj.org, by calling 908-730-0270 x233 or sending an email to rainbarrel@raritanbasin.org.

New Coffee Shop to Open in Bridgewater Commons

Gloria Jean's Coffees is scheduled to open in the Commons late spring or early summer.

With more than 600 stores in 40 countries, Gloria Jean's sources their own beans, designs their own blends, and produces their own roasts.

Community Calendar

REGIONAL CENTER MEETING DATES

The Regional Center Partnership meetings are held virtually utilizing the Zoom application. To participate in the meetings beginning at 5:00 P.M.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96752382431?pwd=TTJOanp2U0IyaTFON2cvWFRrOHFmZz09>
Meeting ID: 967 5238 2431
Passcode: 825121

Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 5:00 P.M.
Wednesday, May 18, 2022 at 5:00 P.M.
Wednesday, July 20 at 5:00 P.M.
Wednesday, September 21 at 5:00 P.M.
Thursday, November 10 at 5:00 P.M.

LINKS TO REGIONAL CENTER COMMUNITY EVENTS & PROGRAMS

Bridgewater:

<https://www.bridgewaternj.gov>

Raritan:

<https://www.raritanboro.org>

Somerville:

<http://www.somervillenj.org>
<http://www.downtownsomerville.com/>

Somerset County

<https://www.co.somerset.nj.us/about/calendar>

Regional Center Partnership of Somerset County, NJ

Bridgewater Township, Raritan Borough, Somerville Borough

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