

RWJ Plans Somerville Expansion

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Somerset is proposing a two-story, 76,000 square foot expansion above the emergency room



building. The space will be used for a new Orthopedic Center of Excellence including 35 private rooms and a state-of-the-art rehab gym. The expansion will also include a 10-bed Rapid Decision Unit of the observation of Emergency Department patients. The project is pending Somerville Zoning Board approval.

Downtown NJ Honors Somerville Exhibits

Downtown NJ, an organization dedicated to ensuring the vitality of the state's downtowns, has recognized Somerville and the Downtown Somerville Alliance for the educational walkthrough exhibits that were featured on the Division Street pedestrian mall.

In 2021 two separate exhibits paid tribute to Black History Month and trailblazers in the LGBTQ movement.



BRHS Ranking Announced

Bridgewater Raritan High School (BRHS) has been ranked as the 80th top high school in the state according to the latest *U.S. News & World* report. BRHS received an overall score of 90.83 out of 100.

In addition to the ranking in New Jersey, BRHS is the 196th rated High school in the New York metropolitan area and 1,636 nationally. The report looked at 17, 843 schools nationally and 406 schools in New Jersey.

Among ranking criteria are college readiness, reading and math proficiency and performance.

Somerville Approves South Bridge Street Redevelopment

The Somerville Planning Board approved construction of 58 apartments at 23-37 South Bridge Street. The structure will include 91 parking spaces underground and 770 square feet of retail cafe space at ground level. Four buildings will be demolished including the former Lip's Lounge.

Raritan Approves WWII Memorial

The Borough Council approved a WWII memorial exhibit planned for the Municipal Building and designed and implemented by residents Bruce Doorly and Donald Caola. The exhibit will display the names of the Raritan men and women who served in WWII. It will include where they lived, their branch of service, and any awards they may have received. The display will be presented in the Community Room of the Municipal Building.

Bridgewater Plans Heart Sculpture Project

Bridgewater Township has announced plans for "Hearts of Bridgewater," a public art project funded by a Regional Center Creative Placemaking Grant.

The first three of a planned 11 artistically designed heart sculptures will be placed at the Bridgewater Commons, Somerset Shopping Center, and Bridgewater Promenade. They will display "the art of love-expressions from a diverse community showing heart for each other..."

Somerset Patriots Announce Cultural Series of Games

The Somerset Patriots announced their participation in minor league baseball's "Copa de la Diversion" program under the identity of Zorros de Somerset. The Copa de la Diversion is a season-long event series that will embrace the culture and values that resonate with the Hispanic and Latino communities. The Zorros schedule is June 26 at 1:05 P.M.; July 7 at 7:05 P.M.; and August 26 at 7:05 P.M.

Somerset County Designates "Freedom Square"

The Somerset County Board of Commissioners proclaimed solidarity with the people of Ukraine by designating the property at the corner of East Main and Mechanic Streets in Somerville as "Freedom Square." The proclamation read "Proclaiming solidarity with the people of Ukraine and condemning the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation.

Somerville Summer Stage Concerts

Somerville's Summer Stage concerts in Division will return on Saturday, May 28, 2022. All free concerts will begin at 6:00 P.M. The schedule includes:

June 18 - Three Piece Nugget
June 25 - The RPG Project

July 2 - The Green Planet Band
July 9 - John Busse
July 16 - Sweet Fanny Adams
July 23 - Two Broke Vets
July 30 - Mail Order Bride NJ

August 6 - Cailin
August 13 - Dizaster Horse
August 20 - Johnny Charles featuring Tracy Sousa
August 27 - Dan Harrison

September 3 - Nick Ryan and the Mess
September 10 - Diamond Eye Jack
September 17 - The Bob Lanza Blues Band
September 24 - King Elvis - Tribute Show
October 1 - The Outcrops
October 8 - Radiocon

Outdoor Furniture Store to Open

Fortunoff Backyard Store will open in the Somerset Shopping Center, occupying the former Pier 1 location.

The store will open in time for the spring season while planning for a complete renovation of the facility later in the year.

Builder Proposes Residential Development in Somerville

A developer has proposed 174 apartments in two-story buildings at the former Baker & Taylor site on Kirby Avenue along the Raritan Valley rail line. If approved, the project will include 59 one-bedroom units and 116 twp-bedroom units.

Bridgewater Among Best Places in NJ

Bridgewater Township was again named one of the best places to live in New Jersey according to Niche.com. The web site uses up-to-date data from dozens of sources including the Department of Education, FBI, and the U.S. Census. Rankings are based on cost of living, higher education, housing, public schools, diversity, nightlife, and more.

Somerville Approves Upscale Steakhouse

The Planning Board approved the construction of Thee Oaks Steakhouse at the corner of South Bridge and East Main Streets. A three-story structure on the western portion will house Three Oaks with a two-story entrance foyer, open kitchen, a second-floor bar, and third-floor seating with a retractable roof. Opening is planned for the summer of 2023.

Somerville Park to Get Upgrade

Chambres Park on Southside Avenue will get a \$2.5 M upgrade utilizing federal funds from a \$1.5 trillion spending package.

The park upgrade will include a grass baseball/softball field, a grass soccer field, picnic area, and basketball court.

Somerville Public Safety Complex to be Completed in 2024

The borough's new police and fire headquarters on North Gaston Avenue and East Cliff Street is scheduled for completion in 2024.

Plans for the \$31 million building are being finalized and construction should be in the fall of 2022. The facility will house police and fire departments, the Office of Emergency Management, and an office for the local rescue squad.

The construction will be funded by Payments in Lieu of Taxes agreements with local developers.

Bridgewater to Develop Outdoor Fitness Court

The township is moving forward on the development of a free-to-the-public Outdoor Fitness Court. The project is part of the 2022 National Fitness Campaign (NFC) and will be funded by grants from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation "Exploring the Future to Build a Culture of Health" and NFC grant. Similar facilities are in Green Brook and Toms River,

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=TTJ0anp2U0IyaTFON2cvWFRrOHFmZz09>
Meeting ID: 967 5238 2431
Passcode: 825121

Wednesday, May 18, 2022 @ 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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