



# THE REGIONAL CENTER

Summer  
2013

BRIDGEWATER • RARITAN • SOMERVILLE

A partnership for a better tomorrow

IN SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

## 2013 RAIN BARREL REBATE PROGRAM UNDERWAY

The Somerset County Regional Center Partnership, utilizing a grant from the New Jersey Water Supply Authority (NJWSA), has continued the Peters Brook Watershed Rain Barrel Rebate Program for the third year.

The program encourages residents living in the Watershed area to purchase and install rain barrels by offering rebates up to \$200.

Rain barrels provide ecological and financial advantages by conserving water for household use, easing stream erosion by reducing the volume of runoff entering to streams and rivers during storms, and reducing pollutants accumulated from impervious surfaces, particularly roads and parking lots. In urban areas like the Regional Center, rainwater runoff from hard surfaces flows directly into streams, depositing these pollutants.

To be eligible for the rebate, rain barrels must have a capacity of at least 40 gallons, have a closed design or screen top, have a system to direct excess water away from the foundation,

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## DISASTER PREPAREDNESS CONFERENCE READIES COMMUNITY FOR THE UNEXPECTED

The Regional Center Partnership hosted the Business Continuity Planning Forum on July 22. The session was held in tandem with Somerset County's presentation of the updated All-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The forum focused on providing business leaders and residents with the information necessary to prepare a pre-disaster plan.

The Somerset County All-Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies projects that can be undertaken to reduce damages from natural hazards including flooding, drought, extreme cold and heat, snow, ice, hail, and wind.

The Business Continuity Forum presented details on how businesses can plan for disaster, steps necessary to prepare for business disaster recovery, and resources available to assist in plan development.

Speakers included Bernard Jones, Business Continuity Officer for City University of New York, Jhovanny Rodriguez, Vice-President of Synetek Solutions, and Walter Hansen, President of ATON Computing, Inc.

## 2012 ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENT REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

The 2012 Annual Achievements Report highlighting a year of accomplishments by the Somerset County Regional Center is now available online at [www.regionalcenterpartnership.org](http://www.regionalcenterpartnership.org) or by calling 908-231-7021.



### IT WILL HAPPEN AGAIN... IS YOUR BUSINESS READY?

MARK YOUR CALENDARS - YOUR PREPARATION WILL BEGIN ON  
Monday, July 22, 2013

6:00 P.M. Presentation  
Somerset County  
All-Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

7:00 P.M. Presentation  
Regional Center Partnership  
Business Continuity Planning Forum

Freeholder's Meeting Room  
3rd Floor • 20 Grove Street • Somerville, NJ

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## MUNICIPAL PLAN ENDORSEMENT INITIATIVES

Taking the final steps to Regional Center Plan Endorsement, the three Regional Center communities have applied for grants to facilitate completion of the process.

**Bridgewater** - Assistance for preparation of a Sustainability Statement and update of the final Planning & Implementation Agreement (PIA).

**Raritan** - Finalize the Natural Resource Inventory, complete the Open Space & Recreation Plan, and prepare a Stream Corridor Protection Ordinance.

**Somerville** - Prepare a Natural Resource Inventory, prepare a Stream Corridor Conservation Ordinance, update the PIA, and prepare a Sustainability Statement.

These actions are necessary during a current two-year period granted by the State to accomplish certain tasks required by the Plan Endorsement process. Upon completion of the Action Plan items, the Somerset County Regional Center will be re-established for an additional ten years. Completion of Plan Endorsement will help position the Regional Center's competitive standing for state and federal incentives and resources.



*Freeholder Deputy Director Patrick Scaglione, liaison to the Regional Center Partnership, joins Freeholder Pat Walsh (center) and representatives of the Somerset County Park Commission at the ribbon-cutting for the Raritan River Greenway Bikeway Peter's Brook Connection off South Bridge Street north of U.S. Route 206.*

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF DUKE FARMS FOUNDATION

Michael Catania, recently appointed Executive Director of the Duke Farms Foundation, visited the Regional Center Partnership to meet local leaders and discuss the history and vision for the major tourist attraction adjacent to the Regional Center in Hillsborough Township.

The mission of Duke Farms is to be “a model of environmental stewardship in the 21st century, and to inspire visitors to become informed stewards of the land.” He referred to Duke Farms as “a living model of sustainability” that attracted 350,000 visitors last year. He explained the on-site bicycle program, the availability of meeting rooms, and the shuttle bus from the Somerville train station.

## CHAIR ROSE EVANS RETIRES FOLLOWING DECADES OF LEADERSHIP & CONTRIBUTION TO SOMERSET COUNTY

Rose Evans, longtime Chair of the Regional Center Partnership and volunteer in numerous county-wide initiatives, has entered into retirement, leaving behind a lifetime of accomplishment in Somerset County.

Ms. Evans was an original member of the Regional Center Partnership and served as Chair from 2005 until 2013. A Freeholder resolution recognized her for “leadership, insight and dedication” that has contributed to the completion and implementation of the Regional Center Strategic Master Plan and other initiatives including the Somerville Landfill Redevelopment Plan, the Orlando Drive/Raritan Greenway Implementation Plan, the Route 22 Long and Short-Term Improvement Plans, the Chimney Rock Road Interchange, the Route 202 Corridor Assessment & Multi-Mobility Plan, the Raritan River & Peters Brook Greenways, and the Andrew Lobosco and Clarks Woods pedestrian bridges.

Assuming the role of chairman is Troy Fischer, Senior General Manager of the Bridgewater Commons. Moving into the vice-chair position is Glenn McCreesh, Vice-President of Operations for Somerset Medical Center. In addition, Jason Dameo of Dameo Trucking has assumed an At-Large Private/Institutional Sector position with the Regional Center Partnership.



*Freeholder Director Peter Palmer (l) presents retiring Regional Center Partnership Chair Rose Evans with a Resolution of Appreciation for her years of service as Somerville Mayor Brian Gallagher (r) looks on.*

## TOGETHER 202: REIMAGINING COMPLETE COMMUNITIES

A presentation by Robert Freudenberg, New Jersey Director for Regional Plan Association explained that Together 202 is one of three demonstration projects that are part of the Together North Jersey regional planning initiative. The Together 202 project is a collaboration between Hunterdon and Somerset Counties and the municipalities along the Route 202 corridor between Flemington and Somerville. A major objective of the initiative is to create a vision for land uses to enable the corridor to remain business-friendly. The corridor has been designated as a Priority Growth Investment Area as part of the Somerset County's Investment Framework.

Together 202 is an ongoing three-phase planning initiative focusing on land use and transportation issues. Phase 1 involves research and analysis of existing conditions along the Route 202 corridor; Phase 2 focuses on outreach to those who live, work and shop along the Route 202 corridor and Phase 3 seeks to analyze key findings and identify opportunities to improve connectivity between land uses to maximize optimal transportation along the corridor.

### RAIN BARREL (cont. from page 1)

have a spigot not higher than 3" from the bottom of the barrel, and must be made of a sturdy material and installed on a solid level base. Homeowners must pledge to maintain the rain barrel for at least two years to be eligible for the rebate.

The Peters Brook Watershed encompasses parts of the Regional Center communities of Bridgewater Township, Somerville and Raritan Boroughs. Residents should confirm that they are located within the watershed boundary by calling 908-685-0315 x234, by sending an email to [rainbarrel@raritanbasin.org](mailto:rainbarrel@raritanbasin.org). Detailed information can be found on the Regional Center Partnership's website at [www.regionalcenter-partnership.org](http://www.regionalcenter-partnership.org), by calling 908-685-0315 x234 or sending an email to [rainbarrel@raritanbasin.org](mailto:rainbarrel@raritanbasin.org).

## REGIONAL CENTER AMENITIES BROCHURE

The Regional Center Amenities brochure has been added to the library of Regional Center publications that includes various Annual Reports, Business & Employment, Shopping, Recreation Opportunities, and the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy results.

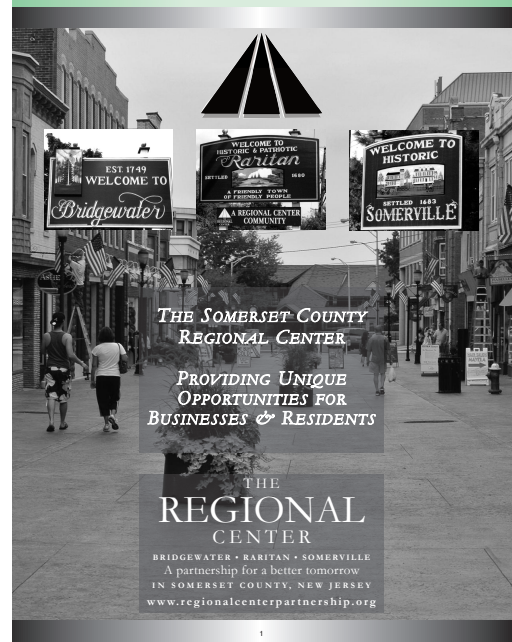
The Amenities brochure highlights the unique advantages and opportunities that make the Regional Center an ideal location to live, shop, work, and recreate.

Highlighted amenities include Shopping, Retail, and Service; Arts, Culture, and Entertainment; Medical and Legal Services; Recreation; Education; Government; and Transportation.

All reports and brochures are available online at [www.regionalcenterpartnership.org](http://www.regionalcenterpartnership.org) or by calling 908-231-7021.



*Short term safety improvements at Route 22 east and Mountain Avenue have recently been completed. Additional improvements are ongoing.*



## MUNICIPAL UPDATES

### SOMERVILLE

Somerville has launched a “Somerville Direct” smart-phone application facilitating the reporting of pot holes, fallen trees or other community concerns through the Internet, their iPhones, iPads or Android devices.

Anticipated development in Somerville includes Weiss Properties’ multi-story residential building on Veterans Memorial Drive; the LITGO proposal for a 4-building development of 34 townhouses and 142 mid-rise apartments off Kirby Avenue and Haynes Street; and a 16-unit apartment building on West High Street. NJ Transit will soon announce a developer for a major mixed-use development surrounding the train station next to the Somerville landfill redevelopment area.

Mayor Gallagher reported that the retail component of the JSM/Edgewood Properties development on West Main Street will open in September of this year with an expected opening of the residential component in October of this year.

### BRIDGEWATER

Pending land development projects include the PSE&G transmission station upgrade on Polhemus Lane, an energy upgrade project at Met Life, a solar-panel project at Fischer Scientific, a proposed re-use of the former AAA office on Commons Way into a jewelry store, a proposed 7-Eleven at East Main Street & FINDERNE Avenue, a proposed CVS Pharmacy at Union and FINDERNE Avenue, and a Wawa at Union Avenue (Route 28) and Chimney Rock Road.

### RARITAN

Raritan is utilizing a Regional Center Planning Assistance grant to design a wayfinding system that will link the Raritan River Greenway to Somerset Street, the New Jersey Transit rail station, and Duke Farms. The work will involve mapping routes and developing wayfinding concepts that will compliment the streetscape.

## REGIONAL CENTER 2013 MEETING DATES

Wednesday, September 18th @ 5:00 PM

Thursday, November 13th @ 5:00 PM

All meetings take place in the County Administration Building Engineering Conference Room, 2nd Floor, 20 Grove Street, Somerville, New Jersey.

## 2013 REGIONAL CENTER OFFICERS & BOARD

Chair: Troy Fischer

Vice-Chair: Glenn McCreesh

Treasurer: Freeholder Director Peter Palmer

Secretary: James Ruggieri (non-voting position)

### At-large Private/Institutional Sector Representatives

Troy Fischer, Chair, Senior General Manager, Bridgewater Commons\*

Glenn McCreesh, Vice Chair, Vice-President of Operations, Somerset Medical Center\*

James Driscoll, Site Manager, Workplace Solutions, Johnson & Johnson Company\*

Jason Dameo, General Manager, Dameo Companies

### Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders

Patrick Scaglione, Freeholder\*

(Freeholder Director Peter Palmer, Alt.\*)

### Somerset County Planning Board

Robert Bzik, Director of Planning, Somerset County

Bernie Navatto, Chair, Somerset County Planning Board

### Bridgewater Township

Mayor Daniel J. Hayes, Jr.\*

Councilwoman Christine Henderson-Rose

Planner Scarlett Doyle

Henry E. Reynolds, Jr., local private sector representative

### Raritan Borough

Mayor Jo-Ann Liptak\*

Councilwoman Denise Carra

Planner David Maski

Don Christensen, local private sector representative

### Somerville Borough

Mayor Brian Gallagher\*

Councilman Phil Decker

Planning Board Vice-Chair Lisa Yates

Rick St. Pierre, local private sector representative

### Somerset County Business Partnership

Michael Kerwin, President/CEO

(John Maddocks, Alternate)

### Somerset County Park Commission

Ray Brown, Secretary/Executive Director

(Cynthia Sullivan, Alternate)

\*RCP Executive Committee member

## THE REGIONAL CENTER

BRIDGEWATER, RARITAN, SOMERVILLE • SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

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