
THE REGIONAL CENTER

BRIDGEWATER • RARITAN • SOMERVILLE

A PARTNERSHIP FOR A BETTER TOMORROW IN
SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

March 2018



THE COMMUNITY BENEFITS OF PUBLIC MURALS

A presentation by Mural Artist Larissa Danowitz detailed the benefits of “Public Murals & Placemaking,” explaining how public art can serve as a catalyst for positive change in a community.

Describing examples of potential sites for mural art in the Regional Center communities, she explained that murals increase socialization, stimulate an economy by attracting people, enhance public spaces, and incorporate community history. She added that public art murals will “Leverage the power of the arts, inspire a sense of culture, and evoke creativity in the community.”



The Regional Center Partnership agreed that there is a great benefit to public art for creative placemaking, a process that leverages the power of the arts, culture, and creativity to help bring the community together, support tourism and the local economy, and help attract people to downtown and Main Street areas.

In March the Partnership plans on releasing Challenge Grant applications offering up to \$15,000 per Regional Center community to pursue creative placemaking activities. Eligible projects and activities include using public art as a catalyst to revitalize downtowns or neighborhoods; creating an arts or cultural business incubator or apprenticeship program; using the arts to transform a perceived community liability into a community asset; development of an activity or project that encourages greater engagement with the arts in parks, farmers’ markets, or other natural, unique ecological or recreational assets; and development of a creative placemaking plan.

PUBLIC HEALTH BENEFITS OF URBAN TREES

How do trees improve public health in American cities?
<http://www.governing.com/papers/How-Cities-Can-Harness-the-Public-Health-Benefits-of-Urban-Trees-91697.html>

SOMERSET COUNTY AMONG MOST POPULAR DESTINATIONS

GatewayMavins.com has selected Somerset County as one of the “most popular cities and towns in the Northeast” based on the number of page views as reported by Google Analytics.

HUFFPOST SAYS SOMERVILLE “TERRIFIC MAIN STREET TOWN”

Noting that Somerville was ahead of the Main Street movement when forming a Special Improvement District 30 years ago, HuffPost selected Somerville as one of the “15 Terrific Main Street Towns in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic USA.”

ICONIC RARITAN MOTEL BEING REPLACED

The Gateway Motel on the Somerville Circle in Raritan Borough has been demolished to make way for a new QuickChek convenience store and eight pump gas station. The 5,496 square foot facility will have 13 indoor seats and eight outdoor seats.

The preliminary plan is to construct a 12,203 square foot building that will house four retail units. Access to the site will be on Route 206 southbound and from the ramp that accesses the circle from Route 202.

CHIMNEY ROCK CROSSING TO OPEN IN MARCH

Chimney Rock Crossing at Route 22 West & Chimney Rock Road in Bridgewater will open in March led by Whole Foods. Following will be The Container Store, World Market, Verizon Wireless, Tempur-Pedic, Blaze Pizza, Chipotle, The Habit Burger Grill, Ulta, European Wax Center, Spavia, and TD Ameritrade.

NOTICE:

The Regional Center Rain Barrel Rebate Program has been extended through October 2018. Residents in Bridgewater, Raritan & Somerville are eligible for rebates up to \$200. Information is available at www.regionalcenterpartnership.org.

NEW JERSEY'S BEST BARTENDERS REMAIN IN SOMERVILLE

Verve's Nick Regimbal has kept the tradition having the of best bartender in New Jersey in Somerville with a victory in the statewide Iron Shaker competition. Nick defeated six accomplished bar men and women to advance to the regional finals, following in the Verve bar man footsteps of Steve Fette and the late N. Brian Mack.



16TH DISTRICT ELECTED OFFICIALS

Senator Kip Bateman

908-526-3600
senbateman@njleg.org

Assemblyman Andrew Zwicker

(609) 454-3147
asmzwicker@njleg.org

Assemblyman Roy Freiman

(908) 450-7064
rfreiman@njleg.org

TORPEY COMPLEX EARNS ANOTHER STATEWIDE AWARD

The Baseball Field at the Frank "Nap" Torpey Athletic Complex in Bridgewater is the recipient of the 2017 Sports Field Managers of New Jersey (SFMNJ) "Field of the Year" award.



The 2017 award complements the 2013 award for the softball field, and is the second time that the baseball field has earned the honor, having also been recognized in 2011.

STREET SMART SOMERVILLE

The Street Smart pedestrian safety campaign in Somerville resulted in a 23% increase in the rate of drivers stopping for pedestrians in crosswalks, a 10% increase in the rate of cyclists observing traffic laws, and a 4% increase in the rate of pedestrians using crosswalks.

Street Smart Somerville is a partnership between RideWise, the Somerville Police Department, and local merchants.

BREW PUB COMING TO SOMERVILLE

What may be the largest brew pub in New Jersey will be opening in the former Somerville Antiques Center on West Main Street.



Village Brewing will brew a variety of craft beers and carry some of the best craft brews from across the region.

The facility will also serve classic American cuisine and cocktails. Village Brewing is expected to open in the summer of 2018.

REGIONAL CENTER MEETING DATES

The Regional Center Partnership meets bi-monthly in the 2nd floor Engineering Conference room at 20 Grove Street in Somerville.

Wednesday, January 17, 2018 @ 5:00 P.M.
Wednesday, March 21, 2018 @ 5:00 P.M.
Wednesday, May 16, 2018 @ 5:00 P.M.
Wednesday, July 18, 2018 @ 5:00 P.M.
Thursday, September 20, 2018 @ 5:00 P.M.
Thursday, November 8, 2018 @ 5:00 P.M.
Wednesday, January 16, 2019 @ 5:00 P.M.

COMMUNITY CALENDARS

SOMERSET COUNTY SENIOR WELLNESS CENTER

876 East Main Street, Bridgewater
(908) 203-6101
Mon.-Fri., 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
<http://co.somerset.nj.us/government/humanservices>

SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

3rd Annual Business Makers Day
featuring Mike Michalowicz
Friday, March 9, 2018
8:30 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.
Bridgewater Branch, 1 Vogt Drive
<http://sclsnj.libnet.info/events>

MAXIMIZE YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Somerset County Business Partnership
360 Grove Street Bridgewater
Tuesday, March 20, 2018
4:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.
<http://web.scbp.org/events>

BRIDGEWATER

Evenings with Dan -

Visit with Mayor Hayes

Wednesday, March 21 @ 7:30 P.M.,
and Wednesday, April 18, 2018
Municipal Building; Room 102B
www.bridgewater.gov/calendar

BOBO FRIDAYS FOOD COLLECTION

Friday, March 16, 2018

Friday, April 20, 2018

Various locations including
County Administration Building

THE EASTER BUNNY VISITS RARITAN

Saturday, March 31, 2018

Frelinghuysen Park, Sherman Avenue
Time TBD

Free candy & prizes

<http://www.raritanboro.org/departments/recreation/>

SPRING YOGA

Somerset County Park Commission
355 Milltown Road, Bridgewater
10-week programs begins April 4, 2018
908-722-1200
www.somersetcountyparks.org

SOMERSET PATRIOTS OPENING DAY

Friday, April 27, 2018 at 7:05 P.M.
Somerset Patriots vs. Road Warriors
www.somersetpatriots.com

TASTE OF SOMERSET

The Palace at Somerset Park
Monday, May 21, 2018 - 6:00 P.M.
Proceeds benefit PeopleCare Center
for Nonprofits

KUGLER-ANDERSON MEMORIAL TOUR OF SOMERVILLE

Sunday, May 27-Somerset St., Raritan
Monday, May 28-Main St., Somerville

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BRIDGEWATER, RARITAN, SOMERVILLE • SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

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