
THE REGIONAL CENTER

BRIDGEWATER • RARITAN • SOMERVILLE

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

May 2018



REGIONAL CENTER PARTNERSHIP HONORS

RAY BROWN

At its meeting of March 29, 2018, the Regional Center Partnership honored Ray Brown, Director of the Somerset County Park Commission, with a resolution and plaque commemorating his remarkable contributions to the Regional Center and to Somerset County. Ray retired May 1, 2018 after 25 years with the Park Commission and a total of 17 years with the County Planning Division.



Chairman Troy Fischer presents Ray Brown with a commemorative plaque.

RARITAN POST OFFICE RENAMED

Congressman Leonard Lance (NJ-07) secured passage in the U.S. House of Representatives his legislation H.R. 2815, that designates the U.S. Post Office in Raritan, New Jersey, as the "Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone Post Office." In a speech before colleagues in the House of Representatives, Congressman Lance recounted the many honors Basilone earned in service to the country.

Basilone was the only Marine of World War II to receive both the Medal of Honor and the Navy Cross.

ZOO HEALTH CLUB OPENS IN BRIDGEWATER

National fitness franchise, The Zoo Health Club opened its first New Jersey location at Somerset Shopping Center in Bridgewater. The 17,000-square-foot facility offers cardiovascular, free weights and strength training equipment; personal training; small group functional training powered by Alloy; and a wide assortment of group exercise classes.

SOMERVILLE'S MAYOR STARTS STRONG

Somerville's new Mayor, Ellen Brain, started strong with the establishment of a Traffic Safety Committee and a Parking Committee, lowered parking rates, and moved forward on the Emergency Services Complex on North Gaston Avenue.

GREENWAY NOW CONNECTS SOMERVILLE & RARITAN

The completion of another phase of the Raritan River Greenway now connects Somerville to Raritan. Individuals may now walk unobstructed from the Raritan Public Works facility on Orlando Drive, along the river, under the Route 206 bridge to Southside Park, along Peter's Brook through Somerville's parks to Immaculata High School, over Route 202/206 and into Clark's Woods.

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

A joint venture between the Regional Center Partnership and the Somerset County Business Partnership will result in the preparation of a comprehensive economic development marketing program in anticipation of future corporate interest in the Regional Center and surrounding communities.

SOMERSET COUNTY RANKED 3RD HEALTHIEST IN NJ

For the third year in a row, Somerset County has been ranked third-healthiest county in New Jersey based on a nationwide survey conducted by the University of Wisconsin in collaboration with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

The success is attributable in large part to the efforts of the County Department of Health and their focus on engaging county residents and stakeholders in good health habits and promoting policy changes to improve health and well-being.

WHOLE FOODS CONTRIBUTES TO PARK FOUNDATION

Whole Foods-Bridgewater celebrated the store's grand opening on March 23, 2018 by dedicating 5% of net sales to the Somerset County Park Foundation. Whole Foods created "5% Days" to give back to local communities by providing support to nonprofit organizations whose programs directly benefit surrounding communities. The total contribution was in excess of \$12,000.

SOMERVILLE APPROVES TRANSIT VILLAGE

Somerville Planning Board approved a transit village for a property south of the train station. Somerset Developers will build "Somerville Station" with 371 apartments, 156 townhomes, two parking garages, 4,000 square feet of retail space and a 2,600-square-foot community meeting space. Construction is scheduled to begin in Spring, 2019.

RARITAN CELEBRATES 70TH BIRTHDAY

The Raritan Birthday Bash, celebrating the borough's 70th birthday, took place on Saturday, May 5, 2018 at Frelinghuysen Park on Sherman Avenue. Residents and guests enjoyed vendors, free giveaways, prizes and more.



BEST ITALIAN RESTAURANT

da Fillippo Autentica Cucina Italiana, 132 East Main Street in Somerville, was selected as the Best Italian Restaurant in Somerset County by *Star Ledger* food writer Pete Genovese.

SOMERVILLE Y IMPROVEMENTS

The Somerville YMCA, built in 1960, has announced the completion of major improvements to the facility. The \$1.8 million project includes renovating the Wellness Center to be larger, modern, and more open; remodeling locker rooms for improved accessibility and modern amenities; improving climate control and ventilation for the Wellness Center and the locker rooms; adding a sprinkler system; and revitalizing the fitness and multi-purpose space.

2018 BRIDGEWATER FARMER'S MARKET

The Bridgewater Farmer's Market will return to the Somerset County Library Branch at 1 Vogt Drive on Sundays, from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

RARITAN WILD SUMMER NIGHTS

The Raritan Events Committee has partnered with DJ Bruce Doorly of Moonlight Memories for "Summer Nights at Frelinghuysen Park" on Sherman Avenue. Enjoy dancing, prizes, and good friends from 4:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. on:

Wednesday, July 11 & 25

Monday, August 6 & Tuesday, August 14

SOMERVILLE'S COBALT APARTMENTS EARN AWARD

Cobalt Apartments, a four-story 117-unit residential structure located on a parcel that included a junk yard and metal fabrication facility, earned a 2017



Somerset County Land Development award.

Located in Somerville's transit village

area, amenities include a club-quality fitness gym, outdoor courtyard, club room with recreation dining and entertainment facilities, and a smart-phone intercom.

REGIONAL CENTER RAIN BARREL REBATES

The Regional Center Partnership, utilizing a grant from the New Jersey Water Supply Authority (NJWSA), is accepting applications from homeowners in the Regional Center communities for rain barrel rebates in the amount of \$50 for 40 to 70-gallon rain barrels and \$100 for those that hold more than 70 gallons.



Rebates are awarded on a first come, first served basis. Detailed information can be found on the Regional Center Partnership website at www.regionalcenterpartnership.org, by calling 908-730-0270 x233 or sending an email to rainbarrel@raritan-basin.org.

COMMUNITY CALENDARS

MEET THE ARTISTS - ARTS ON DIVISION

Thursday, May 24 to Saturday, May 26
4:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.

75TH TOUR OF SOMERVILLE RACE WEEKEND

Saturday - Bound Brook Criterium
Sunday - Somerville Main Street Sprints
Monday - Tour of Somerville Races

CLASSIC CARS RETURN TO SOMERVILLE

Beginning Friday evening, May 25, and continuing all summer long, classic cars will line Somerville's Main Street in Central Jersey's largest weekly car show.

REGIONAL CENTER PARTNERSHIP AWARDS PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ENHANCEMENT GRANTS

The Regional Center Partnership has awarded Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Challenge Grants to the three communities. Grants were made available for up to \$15,000 per community.

Raritan will receive funds for police to partner with RideWise to implement an eight-week pedestrian safety education and enforcement campaign along West Somerset Street. An additional project will improve traffic striping at various locations.

Somerville will receive funds for signage improvements at crosswalks near the middle and high schools. Police will partner with RideWise to provide in-school pedestrian and bike safety education.

Bridgewater will upgrade Township-owned traffic signals along Commons Way at Garretson Road, Fifth Street, Prince Rodgers Avenue, and Crossings Boulevard to include pedestrian crossing signals and countdown times.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

BRIDGEWATER 7:30 P.M. MUNICIPAL COMPLEX

Thursday, June 7, 2017

Monday, June 18, 2018

RARITAN 6:30 P.M. MUNICIPAL BUILDING

Tuesday, June 12, 2018

Tuesday, June 26, 2018

SOMERVILLE 7:00 P.M. POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Monday, June 4, 2018

Monday, June 18, 2018

BRIDGEWATER Evenings with Dan - Visit with Mayor Hayes

Wednesday, June 20 @ 7:30 P.M.,
Municipal Building; Room 102B
www.bridgewater.gov/calendar

SOMERSET COUNTY SENIOR WELLNESS CENTER

876 East Main Street, Bridgewater
(908) 203-6101
Open Monday - Friday
9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

THE REGIONAL CENTER

BRIDGEWATER, RARITAN, SOMERVILLE • SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

Contact: Somerset County Planning Board • Post Office Box 3000, Somerville, New Jersey 08876

Phone 908-231-7021 • www.regionalcenterpartnership.org