
THE REGIONAL CENTER

BRIDGEWATER • RARITAN • SOMERVILLE

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

September 2018



RARITAN BEGINS DOWNTOWN PEDESTRIAN SAFETY CAMPAIGN

Utilizing Regional Center Challenge Grant funding, Raritan Borough initiated a Street Smart NJ pedestrian safety education campaign to reduce pedestrian/ motor vehicle accidents on Somerset Street.

In the 11-year period between 2006 and 2016, there were 22 accidents involving pedestrians and vehicles.

The timely program will enhance safety as Raritan plans to develop a pedestrian path between the NJ Transit rail station and Duke Farms.

The program includes streets signage, posters, tip cards, social media outreach, and other educational materials.

SOMERVILLE APPROVES 2 NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

Somerville has approved two residential developments that are expected to return \$23 million to the borough over the next 25 years.

The Borough approved PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) agreements for TFE Properties to construct 58 one-bedroom and 116 two bedroom units on the former Baker and Taylor site on Haynes Street and for Weiss Properties project on Davenport Street with 60 units. The Davenport Project is under construction and the TFE project remains on the Planning Board agenda.

COUNTY SEEKING INPUT ON WALKING, BIKING, & HIKING

Somerset County is seeking public input for the Countywide initiative to improve bike and trail path connections, making them more user-friendly, more accessible, and safer.

The intention of the plan is to support the development of a network of bicycle and pedestrian facilities, trails, and greenways across Somerset County that will improve access to education, employment, and quality of life opportunities.

Information and the survey is available at <http://bit.ly/walkbikehikemap>.

CREATIVE PLACEMAKING PROJECTS APPROVED

The Regional Center Partnership has approved Placemaking Grants in the amount of \$15,000 each for Raritan and Somerville.

The Raritan project will entail a makeover of the Borough's 100-year old benches with art depicting the history and culture of the community such as tributes to long-term businesses.

The Somerville project proposes to work with Seward Johnson Atelier to develop a rotating schedule of sculptures displayed throughout the central business district.

REGIONAL CENTER PARTNERSHIP APPROVES STRATEGIC PLAN

In July, the Regional Center Partnership approved a resolution adopting the *Somerset County Regional Center Strategic Plan*.

The purpose of the Plan is to inform and guide the Regional Center Partnership when focusing resources to implement priority projects over the next five years. The Plan is also designed to be used by the three municipalities to help advance their master plan goals.

The Strategic Plan consists of three main components: a concise Vision statement for the Regional Center, a description of the four themes that characterize the entire Background Report, and a list of top priorities for the Regional Center for possible implementation in the next five years.

The four themes are: Health & Wellness; Resiliency; Embracing the Raritan River; and Job Growth & Private Sector Investment.

The Plan is available at www.regional-centerpartnership.org/strategic-plan.html.

RARITAN AWARDED \$360K FOR SEWER PIPE REPAIR

Raritan Borough was awarded a \$360,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency to improve the town's water infrastructure by repairing or replacing decaying sewer pipes.

The federal funds are part of the New Jersey Clean Water State Revolving Fund program and the New Jersey Drinking Water Revolving Fund.

GRAND OPENING AT CHIMNEY ROCK CROSSING

September 15, 2018 marks the official Grand Opening of Chimney Rock Crossing on Route 22 West in Bridgewater.



New stores opening at the Crossing include Land's End, Paris Baguette, Frutta Bowls, Lash Lounge, Club Pilates, and Bella Lifestyle Nail Salon joining Whole Foods, the Container Store, and Nordstrom Rack.

SOMERSET COUNTY RANKS HIGH IN THE NATION

It is generally acknowledged that the Regional Center is the heart of Somerset County. Therefore the following nationwide county rankings by Niche reflect life in the Regional Center: Best for Families - #29 out of 2,758 Best to Live in America - #44 out of 2,769 Best Public Schools - #57 out of 2,772 Healthiest - #60 out of 2,772.

The report is available at <http://niche.com/places-to-live/c/somerset-county-nj/rankings>

SOMERVILLE JAZZ FEST

Sunday, Sept. 16, 2018 at 1:00 P.M.
East Main Street between
North Bridge & Grove Streets

DIVISION STREET - SOMERVILLE

Summer Stage - Live Music
Saturdays through, Sept. 29 at 6:00 P.M.
Comedy Night
Saturday, September 15 at 8:00 P.M.

BRIDGEWATER FARMER'S MARKET

Every Sunday at 11:00 A.M., through
October 21 - Library Parking Lot on
North Bridge Street

SOMERVILLE IMPLEMENTS SCHOOL PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS

Utilizing funding through the Regional Center Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Challenge Grant Pilot Program, Somerville installed new pedestrian signage at the crosswalks in the area of Somerville High and Middle Schools. The signage improvements will improve pedestrian safety for students walking to and from the schools. Somerville Police are partnering with RideWise Transportation Management Agency (TMA) to provide in-school bike and pedestrian safety education.

The goal of the Challenge Grant Program is to make the Regional Center more pedestrian and bicycle-friendly and to enforce the work of RideWise efforts in cooperation with the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority StreetSmart campaign.

BASILONE FIELD HOSTS SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Somerset County was recognized for its annual support of the Special Olympics which are held at the John Basilone Memorial Field in Bridgewater.

The event annually hosts about 375 special needs athletes who compete in a variety of competitions.

COMMUNITY CALENDARS

RARITAN HALLOWEEN PARTY

October 27, 2018 at 4:30 P.M.
Raritan Municipal Building
Corner of Church & First Streets

REGIONAL CENTER MEETING DATES

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

Thursday, November 8, 2018 @ 5:00 P.M.
Wednesday, January 16, 2019 @ 5:00 P.M.

ARBOR GLEN TO CHANGE OWNERSHIP

Arbor Glen, a retirement community on 28 acres with 299 total units on Monroe Street in Bridgewater has changed ownership and name.

Des Moines, Iowa based Life Care Services (LCS) purchased the property and has renamed the facility Laurel Circle. The company has pledged \$8 million in capital improvements. Included in the plans is an addition of private rooms with bathrooms at the health center and expansion of the health and wellness facility and programs.

Additionally, LCS has begun the development of The Delaney at Bridgewater, a senior community with 223 units on Frontier Road off Chimney Rock Road in Bridgewater.



RARITAN RIVERFEST & DUCK RACES

Raritan Borough has scheduled the annual Riverfest and Duck Races for Sunday, October 14 from 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. at Canal Street Riverfront Park. Duck Races begin at 4:00 P.M. Over 50 vendors will be present.

BASILONE PARADE

Sunday, September 23 at 1:00 P.M.
Somerset Street, Raritan

EVENINGS WITH DAN

Sit down with Bridgewater Mayor Hayes on October 17 at 7:00 P.M. at the Martinsville Community Center

SOMERSET COUNTY SENIOR WELLNESS CENTER

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

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