
THE REGIONAL CENTER

BRIDGEWATER • RARITAN • SOMERVILLE

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

November 2018



BRIDGEWATER'S HOBBSTOWN HAS AN IDENTITY OF ITS OWN

To commemorate the centennial anniversary of the Hobbs family's original settlement in Bridgewater, the Township Council passed a resolution designating the original section of the neighborhood "Hobbstown" as an unincorporated section of the community.

It began in 1920 when Amos Hobbs, an African-American tenant farmer, purchased land with his brothers that was referred to as Somerville Manor, setting up their residence on what is now part of North Bridge Street.

The neighborhood of Prince Rodgers Avenue, Sussex Avenue, Mercer Street, Richard Street, Monmouth Avenue, Hudson Street, Henry Street and Hoagland Court is now officially recognized as Hobbstown.

SOMERVILLE'S FIRST MURAL

A mural on the side of Redelico's Paint at 118 West Main Street was created as a tribute to the late Raymond Brown, Jr. who died in a scaffolding accident while painting a mural in Miami.



Created by his friends and fellow artists Doug Hoekzema and Bhakti Baxter, the three-story image faces the United Reformed Church.

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED FOR FRONTIER ROAD & ROUTE 22

Bridgewater Township land use boards will review applications for four new hotels, restaurants, and a banquet hall.

A developer has proposed constructing two hotels and three restaurants on the site of the former Days Inn on Route 22 east in Bridgewater. Another developer has proposed plans to build two more hotels, a restaurant, a banquet hall, and an adult day care center on Frontier Road in Bridgewater.

Together, if approved, the two projects would add 479 new hotel rooms to the area. The Frontier Road project includes a 126-room Marriott Courtyard and a 123-room Marriott Element. The Days Inn site will include a Residence Inn and a Springhill Suites, both Marriott brands.

COOPERATIVE EFFORT RESULTS IN LAND PRESERVATION

A cooperative effort on the part of Bridgewater residents, Somerset County government, Bridgewater Township, Crossroads of the American Revolution Association, and the D&R Greenway Land Trust, the 32-acre Wemple property on Foothill and Steele Gap Roads will be preserved for



future generations. The property will be part of the Bridgewater Open Space inventory.

FOCUS ON COMPETITIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

The "Suburban Disadvantage" report was presented to a combined meeting of the Somerset County Freeholders and the Regional Center Partnership. Accompanied by a presentation "Ensuring the Economic Competitiveness of Somerset County", leadership examined the Grow NJ initiative and its impact on Somerset County.

While Grow NJ has helped Somerset County retain over 4,500 jobs, Somerset County received disproportionately less Grow NJ aid despite similar conditions with other regions.

To address the issue, the Regional Center will be seeking changes to the NJ business retention and attraction incentive programs to ensure the Regional Center has a more equal opportunity for job retention and creation.

SOMERVILLE APPROVES MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

Somerville approved a redevelopment agreement for a transit village on property south of the train station.

Somerset Development is proposing to construct 371 apartments, 156 townhomes, 2 parking garages, 4,000 square feet of retail space, and 2,600 square feet of community meeting space.

Also approved for construction is a luxury apartment complex on the former Baker & Taylor site on Kirby Avenue that will include 174 units.

SOMERVILLE OPENS “GREEN SEAM” RECREATION AREA

Somerville officially opened the 17.5 acre “Green Seam” passive recreation area off Route 206.



The “Green Seam” is the first step in the transformation of the former municipal landfill.

SOMERVILLE RECEIVES HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANT

The Borough of Somerville received a \$126,147 grant from the Board of Chosen Freeholders to restore the exterior cornice of the Municipal Building by repairing and painting the existing wood cornice, relining the built-in gutters, and providing new cap flashing in limited areas.

MUNICIPAL YOUTH SERVICES GRANTS

The Somerset County Freeholders awarded a total of \$106,090 in grant funding to Municipal Youth Services Commissions. Bridgewater/Raritan received \$7,500 and Somerville \$8,430.

SOMERVILLE 5K TURKEY TROT

Thursday, November 22, 2018
9:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon
Engine Company #1, East Main Street

SANTA COMES TO SOMERVILLE

Saturday, November 24 at 12:00 Noon
Division Street

PICTURES WITH SANTA AT SANTA'S WORKSHOP

Bridgewater Commons
7 Days a week through
Monday, December 24

QUICKCHEK “FRESHER MODEL” OPENS IN RARITAN

QuickChek has opened its “fresher model” convenience store off the Somerville Circle in Raritan. The site includes the 5,496 square foot store and 16 fueling stations.

More than 50 percent of the new store features fresh food and beverages including freshly made grab-and-go food and market items, fresh baked goods, a soup station, and fresh healthy snack and fresh fruit.

Also featured is both outdoor and indoor seating with phone and laptop charging stations, and free wi-fi.

EPA FINALIZES CLEANUP PLAN FOR AMERICAN CYANAMID

The final cleanup plan for the American Cyanamid site in Bridgewater has been approved by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The \$74 million cleanup will address the residual acid tars, benzene, and other chemicals on the Superfund Site. More than 44,000 tons of hazardous waste will be collected and destroyed and 2.3 million gallons of contaminated liquid will be collected and treated.

COMMUNITY CALENDARS

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

Saturday, November 24, 2018
Support local retail merchants in
Bridgewater, Raritan, & Somerville

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, December 5, 2018 @ 5:30 P.M.
Wednesday, January 16, 2019 @ 5:00 P.M.

WASHINGTON SCHOOL MONUMENT DEDICATED

Somerset County officials dedicated a monument on the site of the former Washington School on First Avenue in Raritan. The ceremony marked the transfer of the property from the County to Raritan Borough. The 17-foot monument was created using bricks, a cornerstone, and ornamental windows from the former school building.

RARITAN'S CONNECTION TO THE END OF WW I

November 11, 2018 marks the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day when World War I ended in Europe. Though the war ended in 1918, it took longer for America to make it official with the Knox-Porter Resolution. The document was signed by President Harding on July 2, 1921 in Somerset County where he was playing golf at the time.



A plaque located near Burger King on Route 28 in Raritan marks the location of the Frelinghuysen home where President Harding signed the Resolution.

EVENINGS WITH DAN

Sit down with Bridgewater Mayor Hayes on Nov. 20 at 7:30 P.M. at the Bradley Gardens Firehouse & Dec. 19 at 7:30 P.M. at the Municipal Building

SANTA COMES TO RARITAN

Sunday, December 2 at 12:00 Noon

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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