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# THE REGIONAL CENTER

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BRIDGEWATER • RARITAN • SOMERVILLE

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

January 2019



## BRIDGEWATER INVESTIGATING REDEVELOPMENT NEAR BALLPARK

Bridgewater Township, at the request of the Somerset County Improvement Authority, will conduct a study to determine if the land near TD Bank Ballpark, home of the Somerset Patriots, is in an area in need of redevelopment.



The intention of the Patriots and the County is to develop the property to help fund necessary improvements and upgrades to the ballpark so that it remains competitive in the market while continuing to not utilize taxpayer funds.

## FUNDING SUPPORT FOR SUBURBAN DISADVANTAGE STUDY

With support from the Regional Center, the Somerset County Business Partnership is continuing to educate state elected officials on the need for reforms to the Grow NJ business retention and attraction incentive program. With the Grow NJ program expiring in June, 2019, new or revised business incentives legislation has become a topic of discussion in Trenton. Analysis has documented a need for a retention component with the programs and the significant disadvantage that currently exists for suburban areas of the state based on certain provisions within the existing legislation.

## SOMERVILLE REORGANIZES DSA

The Borough has passed an ordinance restructuring the Downtown Somerville Alliance (DSA), forming a new Board comprised of the Borough Business Administrator, one Council member, and five people who are either residents, business or property owners in the Special Improvement District (SID). The ordinance establishes the non-profit corporation, Downtown Somerville Alliance, Inc., as the District Management Corp. The organization's mission is to provide services benefitting "the businesses, employees, residents, and consumers in the SID."

## RARITAN PURSUING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Utilizing a grant from the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA), Raritan will be engaging professionals to develop an economic development plan for the area between the NJ Transit rail station and the Raritan River including Somerset Street and the former Stop & Shop site on Orlando Drive.

Raritan's Comprehensive Downtown Revitalization and Redevelopment Strategy proposal was accepted by NJTPA for inclusion in the Planning for Emerging Centers Program.

Raritan's Emerging Centers grant award is a tremendous achievement for Raritan and represents the third consecutive grant award to be awarded to a Somerset County municipality following Bound Brook and Green Brook who also were awarded Emerging Centers grants in Rounds 1 and 2.

## PEDESTRIAN SAFETY CHALLENGE GRANTS WILL CONTINUE

The Regional Center Partnership will institute Phase II of the Pedestrian Safety Challenge Grant program.

The Phase I program provided \$15,000 grants to the three member communities in 2018. Raritan received funds for a program for police to partner with RideWise to implement an eight-week pedestrian safety education and enforcement campaign along West Somerset Street. Somerville received funds for signage improvements at crosswalks near the middle and high schools. Bridgewater upgraded 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.

In Phase II each town will use the funding to either expand upon an existing pedestrian safety enhancement project or pursue a new pedestrian safety-related initiative. This will help advance the Regional Center Strategic Plan goal of making the Regional Center a bicycle and pedestrian haven.

## DENNIS SULLIVAN SWORN IN AS SOMERVILLE MAYOR

Long-time Somerville Councilman Dennis Sullivan was sworn in as Mayor of Somerville. Mayor Sullivan previously served on Borough Council from 1995 to 2003 and from 2004 to the present.

## RAIN BARREL REBATES TO CONTINUE IN 2019

The Regional Center Partnership and the NJ Water Supply Authority will continue the Raritan River Rain Barrel Rebate program for homeowners in Bridgewater, Raritan, and Somerville.

\$50 rebates are available for 40 to 70 gallon barrels and \$100 for 70+ gallons. Barrels must be maintained for at least two years to qualify. Over \$5,000 in rebate payments have been awarded since 2011. Information is available at [www.regionalcenterpartnership.org](http://www.regionalcenterpartnership.org).

## MEXICAN GRILL OPENS IN SOMERVILLE

Chicali Mexican Grill has opened at 12 West Main Street in Somerville. Owned and operated by the Morales family, Chicali joins family restaurants in Freehold and Montclair.

## ZINBURGER OPENS IN BRIDGEWATER

Zinburger Wine and Burger Bar is opening on Route 202/206 in Bridgewater, opposite the Bridgewater Commons. Named one of "The Top 50 Emerging Restaurant Chains" by *FSR Magazine*, Zinburger, an upscale burger and wine restaurant, features a variety of gourmet burgers, salads, and milkshakes along with a full-service bar with wine, cocktails and local beer.

## RARITAN BASEBALL & SOFTBALL REGISTRATION

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

## RARITAN MESSAGING SYSTEM

Stay informed...

Text SWIFT911 to 99538

## RARITAN YOUTH SOCCER PROGRAMS

Spring & summer programs in partnership with United Soccer Academy.

<http://www.raritanboro.org/2018/12/recreation-announces-plans-for-soccer-summer-camp/>

## BRIDGEWATER APPROVES NEW HOTELS

An application to redevelop the former Days Inn site on Route 22 east received Township Planning Board approval. The project proposes a 127-room Residence Inn by Marriott, a 103-room Marriott SpringHill Suites, restaurant pad sites, and medical office space supported by over 550 parking spaces.

## PEDIATRIC CARE CENTER TO OPEN IN BRIDGEWATER

PM Pediatrics, a nationwide chain of pediatric urgent care centers, will open in the former restaurant on the corner of eastbound Route 22 and North Bridge Street. The facility will treat children only from infants to adolescence and will be open 365 days a year from 12:00 noon to 12:00 midnight.

## COUNTY INTRODUCES RECYCLING APP

Somerset County has launched Recycle Coach, a free mobile app that is designed to make recycling and solid waste information easily accessible while promoting the "go green" goal of reducing, reusing, and recycling within the community. The app provides personalized collection schedules based on a person's place of residence. It may be downloaded through Google Play, the Apple Store, or at [www.co.somerset.nj.us/recycle-coach](http://www.co.somerset.nj.us/recycle-coach).

## COMMUNITY CALENDARS

### 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, March 20, 2019 @ 5:00 P.M.

Wednesday, May 15, 2019 @ 5:00 P.M.

Wednesday, July 17, 2019 @ 5:00 P.M.

Wednesday, September 18, 2019 @ 5:00 P.M.

Thursday, November 7, 2019 @ 5:00 P.M.

Wednesday, January 15, 2020 @ 5:00 P.M.

## RARITAN PLANS WORKSHOP



Wayfinding and Streetscape Improvement Workshop

February 2, 2019  
8:30am - 12:30pm  
Raritan Train Station

AGENDA

8:30AM	LIGHT BREAKFAST AND SIGN-IN
9:00AM	INTRODUCTIONS & BACKGROUND OF THE PROJECT
10:00AM	WALKING TOUR: TRAIN STATION TO RIVER
11:00AM	DISCUSSION: IDEAS FOR LOCATIONS OF SIGNS, LIGHTING, STREET TREES, OTHER IMPROVEMENTS
12:00PM	WRAP-UP AND NEXT STEPS

## RARITAN PLACEMAKING GRANT

Raritan's Historic & Cultural Committee is continuing to solicit design proposals for the Raritan Borough Bench Art Creative Placemaking Challenge Grant project. The goal is to "wrap" the benches in the spring and have an unveiling at an arts festival. The project is being funded through the Regional Center Partnership Challenge Grant Program for Creative Placemaking.

## SALTED LIME OPENS IN SOMERVILLE

A Latin-inspired menu is available at the recently opened Salted Lime at 43 East Main Street in Somerville. Offering cuisine from South and Central America, Salted Lime has a spacious bar with a creative cocktail menu that compliments the regional fare.

## EVENINGS WITH DAN

Wednesday, February 20, 2019

Wednesday, March 20, 2019  
7:30 P.M.

Conference Room 102 B  
Municipal Complex

## 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](http://www.regionalcenterpartnership.org)