
THE REGIONAL CENTER

BRIDGEWATER • RARITAN • SOMERVILLE

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

May 2019



RWJ UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL/ SOMERSET AGREES TO “TAX” PAYMENT

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital/Somerset and the Borough of Somerville have agreed to a payment in lieu of taxes amounting to \$2.5 million over an 8-year period.



Based on a 2016 court decision and lawsuit filed by the NJ Hospital Association on behalf of 35 hospitals, the settlement includes a lump sum payment of \$1 million to cover 2016 to 2018 with an additional \$311,000 annually through 2023, at which time the agreements will be renegotiated.

UNCLE JULIO’S TO OPEN AT BRIDGEWATER COMMONS

Uncle Julio’s - Mexican from Scratch will open at the former location of McCormick & Schmick at the Bridgewater Commons.

The chain, based in Irving, Texas, has 35 restaurants nationwide. The Bridgewater location will be the first in the northeast.

The casual, upscale full-service restaurant features a made-from-scratch menu of fresh ingredients, mesquite-grilled meats, and hand-crafted margaritas.

RARITAN STREET SMART CAMPAIGN A SUCCESS

The Raritan PD pedestrian safety awareness campaign run last summer has proven successful. The effort features 119 hours of pedestrian safety enforcement resulting in 193 warnings and 50 summons issued.

Results showed a 69 percent decrease in the number of turning drivers who did not stop for pedestrians at Somerset and Loomis Streets and a 27 percent increase in the number of pedestrians using the crosswalk at Somerset and Anderson Streets.

Further education may still be needed focusing on jaywalking and cell phone use.

BRIDGEWATER SELECTED AS “HEALTHY TOWN”

The New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute has designated Bridgewater as one of eight “Healthy Towns” for 2018.

The recognition is based on the identification of community health needs, organizing a Mayor’s Wellness Committee, and highlighting actions taken to make the community healthier.

Bridgewater identified nutrition, physical activity, and mental health as key concerns. Programs to address these issues included health fairs featuring the “Eco-Blast,” the “Mayor Goes to Camp” programs, the “Benefits of Walking Lunch & Learn,” and two Mental Health First Aid trainings.

WEST MAIN STREET DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL

Somerville Planning Board approved a plan presented by Edgewood Properties for the development of West Main Street between South Davenport Street and South Doughty Avenue.



The plan includes 153 apartments in a five-story building with 29,721 square feet of retail and 9,152 square feet of restaurant space. Also planned is a three story building on South Davenport Street with 11,686 square feet of retail, a fitness center, and a rooftop pool. A 521-space parking deck will include 292 reserved spaces and 229 public spaces.

SOMERVILLE’S FIRST BREWERY OPENS

Village Brewing opened at its 17,000 square foot space on West Main Street following two years of planning, development, and construction.

The brewery will offer a mix of beer styles brewed on site in addition to serving beer from other New Jersey craft breweries.

Village will also offer a full dining menu in the 210-seat dining room. Event space on the lower level will be able to accommodate 150 to 200 guests.

RWJ UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL SOMERSET ANNOUNCES TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

RWJUH Somerset will convert two single-family homes in proximity to the hospital into homes for eligible individuals or families for up to 24 months.

Eligible patients must have a chronic or acute disease that causes financial hardship that makes them unable to afford housing or have a limited access to health care and earn below the USHUD guidelines.

2019 PEDESTRIAN SAFETY GRANT PROJECTS

The Phase 2 Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Grants Projects have been approved. All proposals implement elements of the Regional Center Strategic Plan.

BRIDGEWATER- Develop a town-wide Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety Travel Plan.

RARITAN - Prepare an update to the 2003 Circulate Plan Element of the Master Plan with a focus on pedestrian and bicycle safety.

SOMERVILLE - Install high-visibility pedestrian Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons at one or two designated locations along West Main Street depending on cost and NJDOT requirements.

EVENINGS WITH DAN

Informal sessions with Mayor Dan Hayes

Wednesday, June 12 at 7:30 P.M.
Conference Room 102B
Municipal Building

REGIONAL CENTER MEETING DATES

The Regional Center Partnership meets in the 2nd floor Engineering Conference room at 20 Grove Street in Somerville.
Wednesday, July 17, 2019 @ 5:00 P.M.
Wednesday, September 18, 2019 @ 5:00 P.M.
Thursday, November 7, 2019 @ 5:00 P.M.

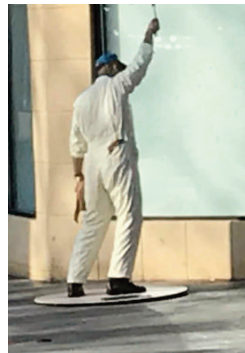
REGIONAL CENTER ORGANIZATIONS EARN ARTS GRANTS

The Somerset County Cultural & Heritage Commission and the Board of Chosen Freeholders awarded Local Arts Program Grants to Somerville's Coffee House Project (\$2,000) for general operating support; Adult Day Center of Somerset County in Bridgewater (\$1,000) for a two-part art and music program for individuals with disabilities; Bridgewater Township (\$605) for a public mural project; and Middle Earth (\$4,500) for the Art House Initiative Program.

SEWARD JOHNSON SCULPTURES APPEAR IN SOMERVILLE

Eight life-sized bronze sculptures depicting ordinary people doing ordinary things are found throughout Somerville's central business district through June 30. The creations of sculptor Seward Johnson, the artwork is on loan from the Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton Township.

Former Mayor Ellen Brain led the effort to secure a \$15,000 grant from the Regional Center Partnership to fund the display.



COMMUNITY CALENDARS

MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS

MONDAY, MAY 27

Bridgewater - American Legion Post #327 parade at 11:00 AM, beginning at Beach Avenue

Martinsville VFW Post 6588 Memorial Day observance at 11:00 AM at Chimney Rock Park in Martinsville.

Raritan - Ceremony at 11:00 AM at Veterans Memorial Park, Somerset Street

Somerville - Parade at 9:00 AM at Grove Street

RARITAN HOSTS WORKSHOP

In February, Raritan Borough hosted a Wayfinding and Streetscape Improvement Workshop to get public input regarding design preferences for the wayfinding and streetscape improvements to be installed between the train station and the Raritan River. The workshop included a walking tour of the wayfinding route from the train station to downtown and the riverfront. The Borough presented the feedback from the workshop to the engineers at a recent meeting with NJDOT to discuss the implementation of the streetscape improvements.

PROUD FAMILY HEALTH CENTER EXPANDS

The PROUD Family Health Center at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital (RWJUH) in Somerville, serving the LGBTQIA (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex, asexual) patients has expanded their location to enable greater patient services.

Two years ago, PROUD was New Jersey's first primary care facility to serve the alternative population. The success of the program necessitated expansion from Family Practice to 128 Rehill Avenue in the borough. Prior to its opening, patients had to travel to New York City or Philadelphia for delivery of care with "dignity and respect".

TOUR OF SOMERVILLE

CYCLING FESTIVAL

Somerville Sprints

Sunday, May 26 - 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.
West Main Street

Monday, May 27

Parade - 9:00 A.M.

East High Street, West Main Street,

Family Fun Ride - 9:45 A.M.

West Main Street

Tour of Somerville Races

10:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.
West Main Street & West High Street

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