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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

July 2019



## EPA ISSUES ECONOMIC BENEFITS REPORT ON CYANAMID SUPERFUND SITE

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued a report, “Reuse and the Benefit to Community - American Cyanamid Co. Superfund Site.”

EPA and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) took early action to address a 140-acre portion of the site on the eastern portion of the Regional Center. The result was the development of the Bridgewater Promenade and TD Bank Ballpark, revitalizing the local economy with jobs, new businesses, tax revenues, and increased local spending.

Known as the Hill property, the 140-acre site is valued at \$133 million and provides about \$2 million in property tax revenue. In addition, the site provides more than 1,400 jobs and \$37.9 million in wages.



The report commended Somerset County, Bridgewater, and the DEP for their efforts transforming the property.

Property owner Wyeth continues to explore future use options for the remaining site including light industrial and recreational uses.

## SOMERVILLE GREEN SEAM EARNS COUNTY AWARD

The Green Seam Resoration project on the former Somerville landfill on Route 206 is the recipient of the 36th Annual Land Development and Planning Awards from the Somerset County Planning Board.

The park-like project is a feature of the 80-acre formerly blighted site. The recognition is for planning and implementation of the project that resulted in remediation of the stream corridor in Somerville’s Landfill Redevelopment Area.

## TRADER JOE’S TO OPEN IN BRIDGEWATER

The rumors are true. Trader Joe’s corporate has announced that they are planning to bring Trader Joe’s to the Bridgewater Promenade in the former location of Golfsmith.

There is no schedule at this time for the opening of the specialty food store that is currently operating in North Brunswick, Westfield, and West Windsor.

## ENTRIES SOUGHT FOR SENIOR ART EXHIBIT

The Somerset County Freeholders have issued a call for county residents age 60 and over to submit their original art creations to be displayed at the Cultural & Heritage Gallery in the County Administration Building at 20 Grove Street in Somerville.

Deadline to register is July 16 for the exhibit that will be on display from July 30 to September 13, 2019. For information visit <http://bit.ly/SrArtShow2019>.

## RWJUH EARNS ‘A’ SAFETY GRADE

RWJ University Hospital Somerset has earned an ‘A’ grade in hospital safety according to the Spring 2019 rating of the Leapfrog Group. The rating system is based on errors, accidents, injuries, and infections.



Leapfrog is a national nonprofit organization driving a movement for giant leaps forward in the quality and safety of American health care.

## FOOD DONATIONS NEEDED TO CURB HUNGER

During the summer months, food supplies are traditionally low when school lunch programs close and there are no holiday food drives. To help alleviate this annual shortage donations are requested to help boost food supplies at the Food Bank Network, at the Franklin Food Bank and other local food pantries that serve Somerset County residents. The most-needed items are Parmalat milk, canned meat and fish, “meals-in-a-can” such as pasta, stews and meaty soups, canned tomato sauce, canned fruits, and peanut butter and jelly in plastic jars. Donations are accepted at the County Administration Building, Bridgewater and Somerville Libraries, and the Somerset County Park Commission Headquarters.

## SENATE BILL TARGETS ONE-SEAT RIDE

A bill has been introduced in the NJ State Legislature that would require NJ Transit to conduct a feasibility study on restoring the one-seat ride from the Raritan Valley Line to New York City. The Raritan Valley Line has stops in all three Regional Center communities.

The temporary experiment with the one-seat ride on off-peak hours was recently terminated.

The Regional Plan Association performed a study on the one-seat ride that determined that towns with the one-seat ride are more desirable and see an increase in residential property values.

The bill has unanimously passed the State Senate Transportation Committee.



Raritan Train Station on the Raritan Valley Line

## LOCAL RAIL INITIATIVE GOES PUBLIC

The Raritan Valley Line Mayors Alliance distributed flyers at Newark Penn Station asking riders to contact state legislators to advocate for the one-seat ride and the construction of a new tunnel to New York City.

The Mayors are lobbying for the service and tunnel to support the multi-million dollar developments along the rail line.

## SOMERVILLE MOVES FORWARD ON NEW MUNICIPAL COMPLEX

The borough is taking the next step toward building a new municipal complex on North Gaston Avenue with the demolition of one of the buildings on the recently purchased property. Due to the condition of the building that formerly served as a restaurant and bank, it will be demolished. Detailed plans for the complex are still in development.

## DSA BUDGET APPROVED

The 2019 operating budget for the Downtown Somerville Alliance (DSA) was approved by the Borough Council. The \$673,210 will be used to fulfill the mission of the DSA, promoting, enhancing, and revitalizing Somerville's central business district.

The DSA will raise \$560,000 through an assessment on property owners with the balance raised through event ticket sales and sponsorships.

## RARITAN SEEKING ARTIFACTS

Raritan's Historic & Cultural Committee is seeking items of cultural or historical interest, particularly anything pertaining to WWI and WWII, and/or sports in Raritan at that time. All materials can be received at the reception desk at the municipal building or by contacting Jim Fidacaro at: [teachercgb@aol.com](mailto:teachercgb@aol.com).

## SOMERVILLE TRANSIT VILLAGE MOVING FORWARD

Somerset Station, a transit village project that will include apartments, townhomes, retail stores, and a community center has acquired the funding necessary to move forward.

The Somerset Developers project will include 14 buildings, each 4 to 6 stories in height with 371 apartments, 156 attached town houses, and two parking garages.

Somerset Station will be built behind the train station on the northern border of the former landfill site.

## RWJ SOMERSET OPENS FIRST TRANSITIONAL HOUSING UNIT

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital (RWJUH) Somerset has opened the first "Healing Home," temporary housing for individuals with a chronic illness and their families.

The RWJUH Healing Homes Social Impact and Community Investment initiative serves Somerset County residents who are not receiving the healthcare that they need due to financial constraints.

Appliances and furniture were donated by Flemington Department Store and Barry's Appliance.

## COMMUNITY CALENDARS

### 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.

### BRIDGEWATER FARMER'S MARKET

Somerset County Library  
1 Vogt Drive  
Every Sunday  
11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

### DIVISION STREET, SOMERVILLE STARLIT CINEMA

Thursdays July 11 to August 29  
8:30 P.M.

### SUMMER STAGE

Fridays/Saturdays, through  
September 28 at 6:00 P.M.  
[www.downtownsomerville.com](http://www.downtownsomerville.com)

### 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)