



Regional Center Partnership of Somerset County, NJ



July 2020

REGIONAL CENTER BUSINESSES, GROUPS & INDIVIDUALS COME THROUGH IN A TIME OF NEED

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the support within the Regional Center communities made a very difficult time a little easier. Following are some examples of the actions taken by neighbors helping and supporting neighbors. This list is but a representation of the enormous support shown.

- Bridgewater students provided snacks and other comforts to nurses at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center.
- Somerville's Shawn Temple organized FLAG (Front Line Appreciation Group) that raised in excess of \$4,350 being spent at local restaurants to prepare meals for doctors, nurses, and medical staff at RWJUH/Somerset.
- Samaritan Homeless Interim Program (SHIP) served 8,113 meals in March.
- Somerset Patriots collected Personal Protective Equipment at TD Bank Ballpark from April 6 to April 10, 2020. Items were donated to the RWJ Barnabas Health network. Additionally, an online auction of Patriot memorabilia raised funds for RWJUH/Somerset.
- Somerville Elks, Somerville Moms, Scout troops, church groups, and others are delivering food to RWJUH/Somerset.
- Rick St. Pierre, owner of Verve Bar & Bistro, initiated a "Virtual Tip Jar" to raise money for distribution to out of work food employees. Other Somerville restaurants have joined the effort.
- Somerville Elks organized a procession of nearly 200 cars to drive past RWJUH/Somerset in a expression of gratitude to hospital workers and staff.
- The Somerset County Freeholders and the Somerset County Business Partnership established a task force to develop economic recovery strategies to support local businesses.
- Somerville's Verve Bar & Bistro provides free Community Soup every Wednesday through Saturday from 4:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.
- Ryan Ozolins, Somerville's "Donut Man," set up his portable donut making machine in various food establishments, making donuts for sale and donation to local hospitals.
- Somerville Elks served free meals to support Elks members, RWJUH/Somerset, first responders, and more. Meals were made available from 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

RARITAN CREATING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR SOMERSET STREET

Raritan's Economic Development Committee is developing the Somerset Street Economic Development Plan to encourage residents to support the local businesses. The first step was convening a meeting focused on the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) Sustainable Economic Development Plan.

RARITAN COMPANY DEVELOPS FIRST TAKE-HOME COVID-19 TEST

The U.S. Food & Drug Administration has authorized Raritan's Labcorp to test samples that are self-collected by patients using the company's COVID-19 Test home collection kit.

The FDA Commissioner assured that the at-home test is as safe as samples taken in a doctor's office, hospital, or testing site.

BRIDGEWATER INSTALLS ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS

Bridgewater Township has opened two electric vehicle charging stations, one at the municipal complex on Commons Way and the other at the library on North Bridge Street. The stations were funded by grants from the NJDEP "It Pays to Plug In" program. The fee for charging will be \$1.50 for the first two hours and \$2.50 per hour after that.

Additional charging stations may be found on East High Street in Somerville across from the Kavanaugh Social Services Building, Duke Farms and MetLife on Route 22 in Bridgewater.

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REGIONAL CENTER COMES THROUGH IN A TIME OF NEED (CONT.)

- Bridgewater Recreation provided a series of exercise videos designed for people practicing social distancing.
- Raritan initiated a “Hearts of Thanks” program, urging residents to place hearts in their window to recognize the efforts of all workers. In addition, the “Virtual Easter Bunny & Egg Event” urged children to draw a bunny with an “R” for Raritan, place it in a window and take a picture to be posted on the Borough web site.
- Somerville McDonald’s donated 1,000 Be Our Guest meal cards to the employees at RWJUH/Somerset.
- The Somerville YMCA provided free Grab & Go meals to Somerville Public School children who receive free and reduced lunch.
- Mannion’s Pub & Restaurant donated 80 prepared meals to RWJUH/Somerset.
- Project Pub donated fried chicken & mac & cheese dinners to RWJUH/Somerset
- Salad House & JP’s Deli donated meals to RWJUH/Somerset.
- Somerville launched www.somervilleathome.com, a web site supporting local businesses.
- Bridgewater Mayor Matt Moench organized a virtual Small Business Forum to provide support for the small business community.
- Somerville Guitarist David Dedrick streamed a live concert to raise money for the Front Line Appreciation Group (FLAG) in Somerville.
- Bridgewater native Steven “Cheech” Chiochi donated 35 pounds of “Cheech’s Own” coffee to police stations, first responders, and hospitals.
- Mike’s Courtyard Kitchen has been coordinating breakfast, lunch, and dinner deliveries to staff at RWJUH/Somerset supported by customer donations.

BRIDGEWATER MOM ORGANIZES PEOPLE TO SEW 100,000 MASKS

Bridgewater’s Jennifer Loughran started making face coverings to help doctors and nurses treating COVID-19 patients. As the need grew, she recruited nearly 100 friends and relatives, The Mask Squad of Somerset County, to sew and distribute 100,000 masks. Along with the masks, the group is making ear relief straps, surgical caps, and headbands and has included police and first responders in the distribution network.

BRIDGEWATER ESTABLISHES VETERAN’S AID COMMITTEE

Bridgewater Council has established a Veteran’s Advisory Committee to support men and women who have served in any branch of the U.S. military. The committee will seek any opportunity to honor veterans by finding new and interesting ways to provide services and help them “continue to contribute to the betterment of the community.”

SOMERVILLE HOPES TO SCHEDULE 2020 STARLIT CINEMA SERIES

The Downtown Somerville Alliance (DSA) is moving forward with plans for the summer on Division Street, in particular, the Starlit Cinema free movie series. The DSA has distributed a survey asking the public to choose 6 of 12 movies for presentation.

If circumstances permit, on Thursday nights at 8:30 P.M. in July and August movies will be shown on a giant screen with a state-of-the-art sound system, with social distancing measures enforced.



COMMUNITY CALENDARS

REGIONAL CENTER MEETING DATES

The Regional Center Partnership meetings are held virtually utilizing the Zoom application. To participate in the July 15, 2020 meeting beginning at 5:00 P.M.

Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88477632020>

Meeting ID: 884 7763 2020

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,88477632020# US-(NY)

Wednesday, September 16, 2020 @ 5:00 P.M.

Thursday, November 12, 2020 @ 5:00 P.M.

Wednesday, January 20, 2021 @ 5:00 P.M.

STARLIT CINEMAS (PENDING)

Free Family Movie Night

Division Street, Somerville

Thursdays at 8:30 P.M.

July & August

Social Distancing & Masks required

SOMERVILLE SUMMER STAGE

Free Concert Series

Division Street, Somerville

Saturdays from 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

Through September 26

Social Distancing & Masks required

Regional Center Partnership of Somerset County, NJ

Bridgewater Township, Raritan Borough, Somerville Borough

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