

Raritan Planning for the Future of Downtown

The Borough of Raritan has engaged community members to participate in the “Downtown Raritan Sustainable Economic Development Plan Virtual Workshop.” The initiative is intended to begin to take steps to promote downtown commercial activity, enhance residential development, and better leverage the Borough’s natural and open spaces.

The virtual, multi-lingual workshop, hosted on the project website, DowntownRaritan.com, goes live on November 4th and continues through the end of the month.



www.DowntownRaritan.com

Citizen input through the virtual workshop sessions will result in actionable steps to shape recommendations and plan the future of Downtown Raritan.

Designed with the look and feel of classic video games, the workshop includes interactive activities that allow participants to share their vision for Downtown, identify strengths and weaknesses in the downtown, and evaluate potential enhancements to Somerset Street and surrounding areas.

Updates on the plan development will be posted on social media and available at www.DowntownRaritan.com.

Sculpture Honors Kalafer & Lyle

The Somerset Patriots Baseball Club has unveiled a stature honoring founding Chairman Steve Kalafer and the team’s long-time manager Sparky Lyle at the entrance to TD Bank Ballpark. Both men currently enjoy Emeritus status.



(l-r) Sparky & Mary Lyle; Steve, Josh, Suzanne & Jonathan Kalafer

CityMD Opens in Raritan

CityMD, a walk-in urgent care facility, has opened its first Somerset County office at 503 Route 202 north in Raritan. The comprehensive, quality-care facility offers complete medical services including three forms of COVID-19 testing, Rapid Test, PCR, and Serum Antibody IgG.

Jerky Store Opens in Somerville

Adding to Somerville’s well-known culinary reputation is Somerville Provisions & Dry Goods Co. and the Somerville House of Jerky at 14 Division Street. The new shop will provide gourmet hot sauces, condiments, craft foods, nuts, jams, teas, candies, and over 50 types of jerky.

2020 Challenge Grants Announced

The Regional Center announced the awarding of the 2020 matching fund municipal challenge grants.

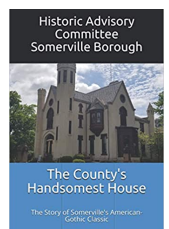
Bridgewater will use the funds to reinvigorate the “Shop Bridgewater” program in which residents obtain “Shop Bridgewater” cards that will allow them to enjoy discounts at participating Township merchants.

Raritan will receive funds to support a traditional Christmas Market that will make available holiday merchandise, gifts, and refreshments. A second initiative will fund the Economic Development Committee to allow selection of various store fronts and seek applicants to set up retail operations for a period of six months.

Somerville will utilize the funds on a project in partnership with the Downtown Somerville Alliance to establish a location for pop-up retailers.

Somerville Borough Hall History Available

A revised and expanded guidebook and history of Borough Hall, also known as “the Daniel Robert House,” describes the people and events that led to the building’s National Register listing.



“The County’s Handsomest House—Somerville’s American Gothic Classic” is available through Amazon Books at https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08HS5KCFP?ref_=pe_3052080_397514860. Proceeds will support ongoing preservation of the building.

Somerville Landfill to Become Solar Farm

Somerville Borough Council approved a proposal to construct a solar farm on the former landfill site off Route 206 and adjacent to the “Green Seam” park. The project will begin at some point before May 2022.

The electricity generated from the farm will support the needs of businesses and residents throughout the Borough. In January 2019, the NJ Board of Public Utilities approved rules for community solar projects allowing community members to easily access solar power.

Bridgewater Ranked 31st Best Place to Live

Money magazine ranked Bridgewater as #31 in the annual “Best Places to Live in America” list for 2020.

To qualify, towns must have a population of at least 25,000 with selection based on data points including economic factors, housing, cost of living, diversity, health and safety, education, weather and lifestyle, and amenities.

Fireman’s Museum Reopens

The Somerville Fireman’s Museum at 23 North Doughty Avenue has reopened following the COVID-19 mandated closure.



Located in a restored 1888 firehouse, the museum offers a 185 year look at Somerville Firefighting. The museum is open for guided tours every Saturday from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon or by appointment. Information is available by emailing sfdno3@aol.com

Somerville MVC Office Now Appointment Only

The Somerville office of the Motor Vehicle Commission on Roosevelt Place in the Borough has transitioned to appointment only as of Monday, November 2, 2020.

The office, located in a residential neighborhood, has resulted in numerous problems over the years including parking issues and litter as people waited in long lines for service.

Appointments may be made at www.NJMVC.com.

Bridgewater Zinburger to Re-Open as New Bar/ Restaurant

Zinburger, formerly located at 550 Corporate Boulevard in Bridgewater and closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, will re-open in December or January as Tommy’s Tavern and Tap.

Following the model of Tommy’s in Freehold, Sea Bright, and Staten Island, the restaurant will feature an extensive sushi menu, coal-fired pizza, and craft beer in an “industrial-chic” setting.

BBQ Restaurant & Market Opens in Somerville

Oink And Moo BBQ Market has opened at 63 West Main Street in Somerville, adding to the eclectic mix of food options in the Borough.

Oink And Moo is a fast-casual restaurant and market featuring all BBQ needs. Also available are meats for home barbequing including whole chickens, pork butts, and ribs.

DSA Provides Rebound Grants

The Downtown Somerville Alliance (DSA) has launched the “DSA Small Business Rebound Fund” to support businesses in the Special Improvement District suffering during the COVID-19 pandemic. Applications for a portion of the available \$50,000 may be found at www.DowntownSomerville.com.

The DSA has also provided support for local businesses through increased advertising and marketing efforts, establishment of a dedicated website, www.somervilleathome.com, to provide current information, paid for Parklets to expand outdoor dining, and hired a retail consultant to get ahead of possible vacancies.

Community Calendar

REGIONAL CENTER MEETING DATES

The Regional Center Partnership meetings are held virtually utilizing the Zoom application. To participate in the November 12, 2020 meeting beginning at 5:00 P.M.

Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86706351718>
Meeting ID: 867 0635 1718
One tap mobile
+19292056099,,86706351718# US-(NY)

Upcoming Meetings:

Thursday, November 12, 2020 @ 5:00 P.M.
Wednesday, January 20, 2021 @5:00 P.M.

LINKS TO REGIONAL CENTER

COMMUNITY EVENTS & PROGRAMS

Bridgewater:

<https://www.bridgewaternj.gov>

Raritan:

<https://www.raritanboro.org>

Somerville:

<http://www.somervillenj.org/content/4060/4459/default.aspx#gsc.tab=0>
<http://www.downtownsomerville.com/>

Somerset County

<https://www.co.somerset.nj.us/about/calendar>

Regional Center Partnership of Somerset County, NJ

Bridgewater Township, Raritan Borough, Somerville Borough

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