



# Regional Center Partnership of Somerset County, NJ



March 2021

## White House Moves to Support Hudson River Tunnel

The White House has moved to allow New Jersey and New York to use loans borrowed from the federal government for the Gateway Hudson River Tunnel Project.

The project will satisfy a key economic development need for communities along the Raritan Valley Line (Bridgewater, Somerville, & Raritan) by affording greater access to Manhattan for commuters while eliminating the need to switch trains at Newark's Penn Station.

The multi-billion dollar effort will build new rail tunnels under the Hudson, rehabilitate the existing 108-year old tunnels, build a new Portal Bridge over the Hackensack River, and expand New York's Penn Station.

## Raritan to Welcome Two New Businesses

Bridgewater Footcare podiatrist practice and Foley Prep, an academic tutoring service for all ages, will be welcoming clients in Building 2 at the Raritan Valley Professional Center on Route 28 across from Raritan Valley Country Club.

## Tour of Somerville Postponed

Due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 Tour of Somerville, traditionally run on Memorial Day, has been rescheduled to Labor Day, Monday, September 6, 2021. The event will be part of a multi-race weekend with races in Easton, PA, Basking Ridge, Bernardsville, and Raritan.

## Pfizer Continues Remediation of FINDERNE Superfund Site

Representatives of Pfizer provided an update on the status of the American Cyanamid Superfund site, 435 acres in proximity to TD Bank Ballpark.

Citing accomplishments including improved site management, expanded security and signage, and construction of a large water treatment facility, plans were revealed for remediation of impoundments 1 and 2. These



areas were used to store the byproduct of the manufacturing process. Plans for 2021 through 2025 call for excavation and removal of the impoundment content to an offsite facility for destruction.

Once the site has been remediated, it will be made more aesthetically pleasing with the introduction of clean soil and plantings.

## Raritan Launches New Website

Raritan has launched an economic oriented website, [www.makeraritan-yours.com](http://www.makeraritan-yours.com), designed to serve as a source of information and to advocate for current and new businesses.

The purpose of the site is to revitalize and develop economic growth of existing businesses while attracting new commerce and cultural opportunities that will complement and further benefit the quality of life enjoyed by all who live and visit Raritan.

## Rain Barrel Rebate Program Now Available

The Somerset County Regional Center, utilizing a grant from the NJ Water Supply Authority, has announced that the 2021 Raritan River Rain Barrel Rebate programs for homeowners in Bridgewater, Raritan, and Somerville is accepting rebate applications for the 9th consecutive year.



Rebates are available in the amount of \$50 for new 40- to 70-gallon rain barrels and \$100 for those that hold more than 70 gallons. Detailed information can be found on the Regional Center Partnership's website at [www.regionalcenterpartnership.org](http://www.regionalcenterpartnership.org), by calling 908-730-0270 x233 or sending an email to [rainbarrel@raritanbasin.org](mailto:rainbarrel@raritanbasin.org).

## Patriots Upgrade TD Bank Ballpark

As the Somerset Patriots prepare to welcome the NY Yankees as their new Double AA affiliate, the Somerset Patriots are making major improvements to TD Bank Ballpark in Bridgewater.

Improvements include the addition of two new structures on the west side of the ballpark that will house a batting cage, maintenance facility, and gym. Changes are also being made to improve both the home and visitors clubhouses.

## Easter Bunny Celebration at the Bridgewater Commons

The Bridgewater Commons Mall will celebrate Easter from March 20 through April 3, 2021 from 11:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. Monday to Thursday; 11:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. Friday and Saturday; and 11:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. on Sunday. Activities include photos with the Magical Easter Bunny; Bunny Shop VIP Pass; Easter Bunny Auditions for Pets; "Hoppy Hour" on Thursday, March 25 and April 1 from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.

## Somerville Reviewing Major Downtown Development

The Somerville Planning Board is in the process of reviewing plans for a development at the corner of East Main Street and South Bridge Street that will be anchored by a three-story steak house and food gallery. The restaurant will offer rooftop dining with a retractable roof.

A concurrent discussion will allow the relocation of the Sunrise Luncheonette four storefronts to the east in the former location of Tatyana's Fitness.

## One of NJ's Top 25 Italian Dishes Found in Somerville

NJ.com has selected Malloreddus at da Filippo's in Somerville as one of the top 25 Italian dishes in New Jersey.

Malloreddus is a Sardinian-style gnocchi topped with shrimp.

## Somerville Shop Among Yelp's Top 100

Yelp recently released its "Top 100 Places to Eat in 2021," with Somerville's Fresh Tiki Bar on Division Street included at number 63.

Fresh Tiki Bar is an ice cream shop with the addition of smoothies, açai bowls, candies, chocolate, hot cocoa bombs and other treats.

## Somerville Builds Pickleball Courts

Somerville has reconstructed two old tennis courts on Veterans Memorial Drive, creating one tennis court and three pickleball courts. Pickle ball is a paddleball sport combining elements of tennis, badminton, and table tennis.



The courts are open to the public on a first come, first served basis with social distancing protocols required. The Somerville Recreation Department will offer clinics, leagues, and tournaments when conditions allow.

## Food Pantry Relocates to Raritan

Helping to meet the food insecurity need for Somerset County families, the Feeding Hands Food Pantry relocated from Somerville to 45C Route 206 off Orlando Drive. The accessible location will allow Raritan and other Somerset County residents to apply for assistance and pick up food products once a month.

## Somerville's Unique Celebration of Black History Month

A 75-foot walk-through exhibit on Division Street commemorated Black History Month in February by paying homage to seminal people and events by African Americans.



## Somerset Patriots to Open the Season on May 4

The Somerset Patriots will open their first season as the NY Yankees Double A affiliate on Tuesday, May 4 against the Harrisburg Senators.

The Patriots will play a 120-game season with all series made up of six games played from Tuesday to Sunday at TD Bank Ballpark in Bridgewater.

## Somerville Cancels St. Patrick's Parade

For the second consecutive year, the Somerville St. Patrick's Parade Committee has canceled the March parade due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2022 parade is scheduled for March 13, 2022.

## Community Calendar

### REGIONAL CENTER MEETING DATES

The Regional Center Partnership meetings are held virtually utilizing the Zoom application. To participate in the March 17, 2021 meeting beginning at 5:00 P.M.

#### Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89783968613>  
Meeting ID: 897 8396 8613  
One tap mobile  
+1-929-205-6099 Access Code:  
89783968613#

#### Upcoming Meetings:

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 @ 5:00 P.M.  
Wednesday, May 19, 2021 @ 5:00 P.M.  
Wednesday, July 21, 2021 @ 5:00 P.M.  
Thursday, September 9, 2021 @ 5:00 P.M.  
Wednesday, November 10, 2021 @ 5:00 P.M.

### LINKS TO REGIONAL CENTER COMMUNITY EVENTS & PROGRAMS

#### Bridgewater:

<https://www.bridgewaternj.gov>

#### Raritan:

<https://www.makeraritanoyours.com/events>

#### 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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