



Regional Center Partnership of Somerset County, NJ



May 2021

Raritan Plans Revitalization

Utilizing a grant from the New Jersey Transportation Association's Planning for Emerging Centers Program, Raritan officials unveiled a plan for revitalization in the borough.

Developing the land along the Raritan River is key to future economic development and a people-oriented future for the borough.

It is hoped that by 2031, Raritan will have public spaces that allow residents and visitors to enjoy the outdoors.

Plan elements include: Prioritizing Nevius Street for bicycles and pedestrians, allowing closure for community events, creating a gateway to Duke Farms, and completion of the Raritan River Greenway; Implementation of safety and streetscape improvements on Somerset Street; making Thompson and Anderson Streets one way to enhance bicycle and pedestrian safety; and development of "missing middle" housing including two- three- and four bedroom homes. The plan is available at www.downtownraritan.com.

Bridgewater Rooftop Restaurant/Bar Opens

A rooftop bar and restaurant at the AC Hotel across Route 202/206 from the Bridgewater Commons has opened for business.

The Bradford is a 7,000 sq. ft. facility with both indoor and outdoor seating offering a variety of small plates and entrée options designed for sharing and brought to the table continuously throughout the meal.

Somerville Installs Pedestrian Crossing Warning

An overhead pedestrian crossing warning sign with strobe lights has been installed on West Main Street and Union Street in the borough.

Somerville utilized a Regional Center Partnership Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Challenge Grant to finance part of the cost to install the Permanent High Visibility Pedestrian Signage at the crosswalk.

The safety improvements include dual permanent high-visibility pedestrian signage with two signs installed at the intersection (one in each direction). The warning to drivers is initiated by a pedestrian push button.

The cost of the project was shared by the grant, the Borough of Somerville and New Jersey Department of Transportation with NJDOT handling the installation.

Rain Barrel Rebate Program Now Available

The Somerset County Regional Center Partnership, 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 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. Information can be found at www.rcpsomersetnj.org, by calling 908-730-0270 x233.

Somerville Publishes History of Borough Hall

The Somerville Historic Advisory Committee has published *The County's Handsomest House -Somerville's American Gothic Classic*, a history of borough hall from 1888. The colorful in-depth history begins when it was built by New York businessman David Robert through the sale to the Somerville Elks and ultimately to the municipality in 1958.

The book is available at amazon.com.

Bridgewater to Celebrate Founders Day

On May 15th, Bridgewater will host the 1st Annual Founders Day to celebrate the rich history of Bridgewater and its importance in the landscape of the nation. The event provides an opportunity for families to learn more about the town. It is hoped that the event will grow into a community day.

Bridgewater Recognized for Safety

An analysis of crime statistics and data from the FBI by SafeWise determined that Bridgewater Township is the second safest municipality in Somerset County (behind Warren Township) and 95th safest out of 565 in the state.

Somerville Classic Car Show to Return

Somerville has scheduled the weekly Classic Car Show on Friday nights from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Each Friday beginning May 28 at 6:00 P.M., classic cars will line Main Street, side streets, and parking lots for the 30th year.

Bridgewater Among Top High Schools in NJ

U.S. News and World Report has named Bridgewater-Raritan Regional High School as 69th best high school in New Jersey and 1,566 nationally. The survey ranks more than 17,800 high schools throughout the country. The purpose of the rankings is to provide insight into academic performance among underserved groups, showing how well schools support these students.

Somerville to Schedule Improvements to Veterans Memorial Drive

Traffic and safety improvements on Veterans Memorial East are scheduled to begin in 2022. Utilizing a \$670,000 grant from the Safe Routes to School program, improvements will include one travel lane in each direction, a center turn lane, bike lanes, curb replacement, driveway aprons as needed, pavement repair and resurfacing, and handicap ramps at Hamilton Street. The project will extend from South Bridge Street to the corner of East Main Street.

Bridgewater Hallmark Store Expands

Norman's Hallmark at the Somerset Shopping Center on the Somerville Circle has added 1,500 sq. ft. of space, creating a 6,000 sq. ft. store with a wider selection of card and gift items.

Starlit Cinema Returns to Division Street

The Downtown Somerville Alliance has announced that the Thursday evening Starlit Cinema movie series will return for the summer of 2021. Movies will be shown on the outdoor screen from July 1 through August 24, 2021 with COVID-19 protocols in place. The movie schedule is yet to be announced.

Townhouses Planned in Raritan

The Raritan Borough Council has approved a conceptual plan to construct 15 townhouses on the current site of the Raritan Rescue Squad on LaGrange Street.

Upon passage of an ordinance, a portion of Reimer Street will be vacated to allow open space to be part of the development. Details will be reviewed by the Planning Board.

Two New Restaurants Opens in Somerville

Mo Grill & Sweets, a Mediterranean grill and takeout restaurant featuring hala foods and indigenous sweet treats opened at 23 Division Street in Somerville.

Following the relocation of Seoulville to the north side of West Main Street, Tango, featuring Spanish cuisine, opened in its former location on the south side of West Man Street.

Asian Festival Planned

Celebrating Asian Pacific Heritage Month, Somerville will host a festival on Division Street on Saturday, May 27 from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Summer Stage Concert Schedule

The Downtown Somerville Alliance has released the concert schedule for Summer Stage on Division Street. Concerts run from 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. on Saturdays.



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| May 29 | The Outcrops |
| June 5 | Tyrone Stackhouse |
| June 12 | Sweet Fanny Adams |
| June 19 | The Frost Kings |
| June 26 | Mail Order Bride |
| July 3 | Bob Lanza |
| July 10 | Nick Ryan & the Mess |
| July 17 | John Busse |
| July 24 | The Bryan Hansen Band |
| July 31 | The Broadcasters |
| August 7 | Zaire |
| August 14 | The School of Rock |
| August 21 | Venture to Zen |
| August 28 | Raidbow Fresh |
| September 4 | Sun Dog |
| September 11 | The Outcrops 12-3 Bob Lanza 4-7 |
| September 18 | Terrance Haupt |
| September 25 | Ready Set Go |
| October 2 | Mike Holland as Elvis |

www.downtownsomerville.com

Community Calendar

REGIONAL CENTER MEETING DATES

The Regional Center Partnership meetings are held virtually utilizing the Zoom application. To participate in the May 19, 2021 meeting beginning at 5:00 P.M.

Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89783968613>
Meeting ID: 897 8396 8613
One tap mobile
+19292056099,,89783968613# US-(NY)

Upcoming Meetings:

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.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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