

County to Host Virtual Roadway Safety Study

The Somerset County Planning Division will host the second virtual public meeting to provide input for the draft Roadway Safety Study on Wednesday, September 29 from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. The goal of the study is to identify safety issues for vehicles and pedestrian crossings, bicycle paths, and green infrastructure for stormwater management. To pre-register, click on the following link <https://somerset-countyroadsafety.eventbrite.com>.

Ida Disaster Recovery Resources

FEMA has opened a Disaster Recovery Center with the Small Business Administration at the North End Firehouse #3, 169 N 8th Ave, Manville, NJ 08835.

Monday - Friday: 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Saturday-Sunday: 8a.m. - 6 p.m.

FEMA's Hurricane Ida Page:

<https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4614>

Somerset County Ida Disaster Recovery Resources at <https://www.co.somerset.nj.us/residents/disaster-health-safety-information/emergency-resources>

Elks Honor Fallen Service Members

Members of Somerville Elks Lodge #1068 gathered on August 29, 2021 to honor the memory of the 13 members of the US Armed Forces who were



killed by a terrorist explosion outside Kabul Airport in Afghanistan. The ceremony included the reading of the names of the fallen soldiers.

Transportation Secretary Visits Somerville

U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg visited Somerville to discuss the proposed Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal that will invest more than \$500 billion into infrastructure projects across the country, including passenger and commuter rail projects.

Buttigieg boarded an NJ Transit Raritan Valley Line train to a meeting with the media in Westfield.

If passed, the investment will add 2 million jobs per year over ten years.

Basilone Parade Returns

The 40th Annual John Basilone Memorial Parade returned to Raritan on Sunday, September 19, 2021 following a one-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Raritan native Basilone was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his efforts while serving as a Marine in the Pacific Theater during WWII. Additionally, the Manila Madness 5K Race on Saturday raised money for the Steeplechase Cancer Center in Somerville.

Hobbs Celebrates 100th Anniversary

Bridgewater community leaders and local residents joined the Hobbs family celebrating the centennial of Hobbstown founded in 1920. The ceremony was delayed a year due to the pandemic.

The unincorporated community within Bridgewater was founded by Amos, General, and Robert Hobbs who moved from the south to escape oppression.

Somerville Approves Marijuana Retail Sales

Somerville Borough Council unanimously approved the retail sales of marijuana at a maximum of two locations on state highways 22, 202, or 206.

Stipulations include: retail shops cannot be located within 600 feet of each other; no single entity is allowed to own both licenses; staff and customers are prohibited from lighting up or consuming edibles on premises.

Prior to applying to the Borough, the prospective licensee must obtain a license from the state.

Commissioners Name Road Honoring Kalafer

The Somerset County Commissioners honored entrepreneur, businessman, and Somerset Patriots founder Steve Kalafer by naming a street next to TD Bank Ballpark "Steve Kalafer Way."



Photo: Rod Hirsch

The street runs along the left field fence and provides access to parking for both the NJ Transit rail station and the Ballpark.

Soul Trip Opens in Somerville

Soul Trip, offering a "vacation for the soul," has opened at 26 Division Street in Somerville. Offerings range of crystals, clothing, incense, candles, and home decor, the shop also offers a "smudge section" for cleansing of an individual's personal space.

RWJUH/Somerset Rated “High Performing”

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital/Somerset has been recognized as “high performing” on the treatment of five procedures and conditions by U.S. News & World Report. Treatments and conditions include: Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), diabetes, heart failure, kidney failure, and stroke.

Skin Repair Shop Opens in Somerville

A unique approach to skin care may be found at the recently opened Third Child Wellness Boutique at 15b Division Street in Somerville.

In addition to a range of skin care products, Third Child produces and sells skin repair products online and at the brick and mortar shop. Additionally, 5% of all profits are contributed to non-profits, Steps Together, the ACLU, and the Trevor Project.

Business Openings in Raritan

Michael’s Inn, a long-time staple of the Raritan community, has reopened under new ownership. Still family owned, the bar and restaurant at 46 Thompson Street features a varied menu, full bar, and live music.

Riverwalk Physical Therapy has opened a second location at 1130 US Highway 202, Building E, Suite 7. Riverwalk PT also has an office in Basking Ridge, NJ. Independently owned and operated, Riverwalk provides the highest level of progressive and comprehensive care.

Basilico, authentic Italian Cuisine, has opened at 46 West Somerset Street. The menu represents Chef Joe Triani’s upbringing and culinary training in Italy.

New Shop Specializes in Indoor Gardening

The latest addition to Somerville’s Main Street is Spotted Leaf Plant Company specializing in indoor garden plants and supplies. Located at 46 East Main Street, the shop offers house plants, home décor items, planters and pots. Additionally they make their own soil for sale and run classes in indoor gardening.

Papa John’s to Open in Raritan

Papa John’s is planning to open its second Somerset County pizzeria in November on Route 202 in the strip center with Angelone’s Florist.

County Announces Preservation Plan Public Meetings

The Somerset County Planning Division will hold four virtual public meetings on the new County Preservation Plan. The Plan includes historic preservation, open space preservation, and farmland preservation. Meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, September 22 at 10:00 A.M.; Tuesday, September 28 at 2:00 P.M.; Thursday, September 30 at 6:30 P.M.; and Tuesday, October 5 at 6:30 P.M. Registration is available at <https://bit.ly/PublicMtg21>.

Monument Preserves Cycling History

Standing in front of Somerville Senior Citizens Housing at the corner of West End and Mountain Avenues is a concrete monument featuring the bicycle ridden by Furman Kugler when he won the inaugural Tour of Somerville in 1940 and again in 1941.



Kugler and his friend Carl Anderson, winner in 1942, both died in World War II.

Raritan & Somerville Apartments Celebrate Grand Openings

Apartment buildings within walking distance of the Raritan and Somerville NJ Transit rail stations have celebrated grand openings.

Crossings at Raritan Station at the intersection of First Avenue and Second Street featuring 276 studio, one- and two-bedroom units reported 80% first phase occupancy and Station House on Veterans Memorial Drive with 116 one- and two-bedroom units reported 60% occupancy.

Community Calendar

REGIONAL CENTER MEETING DATES

The Regional Center Partnership meetings are held virtually utilizing the Zoom application. To participate in the November 10, 2021 meeting beginning at 5:00 P.M.

Zoom Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94940563953?pwd=eC9rbU5Pa3I2YlZhZU5XVnNCT0tCdz09>

Meeting ID: 949 4056 3953

Passcode: 349851

Phone 1 929 205 6099 Passcode: 349851

Upcoming Meetings:

Wednesday, November 10, 2021 @ 5:00 P.M.

Wednesday, January 19, 2022 @ 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>

<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

Contact: Somerset County Planning Board • Post Office Box 3000, Somerville, New Jersey 08876

Phone: 908-231-7021 • www.rcpsomersetnj.org