
THE REGIONAL CENTER

BRIDGEWATER • RARITAN • SOMERVILLE

A PARTNERSHIP FOR A BETTER TOMORROW IN
SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

September 2019



BRIDGEWATER APPROVES ROUTE 22 DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

The Bridgewater Planning Board recently approved major hotel construction on Route 22 eastbound between Adamsville Road and Morgan Lane.

A four-story Choice Hotel with 117 rooms and a lobby bar and restaurant will be constructed at the corner of Morgan Lane, east of Houlihan's. A Goddard School housing 156 students will share the site.

The township has previously approved two Marriott brands, a Residence Inn and a Springhill Suites on the former site of the Days Inn, west of the newly approved project. Four restaurants are also approved for the site.

PATH TO CONNECT RARITAN TO DUKE FARMS

The pedestrian/bicycle greenway connecting Raritan's Nevius Street pedestrian bridge to the north gate of Duke Farms in Hillsborough is now under construction and is expected to be completed this month.



The path runs along River Road. The north gate is located at the bend in River Road.

BASILONE PARADE CELEBRATES RARITAN HERO

The 2019 John Basilone Parade is scheduled for Sunday, September 22, 2019 beginning at 1:00 P.M. on Somerset Street in Raritan Borough.

The event is the only parade in America honoring a war hero, celebrating Raritan's WWII soldier who is a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, Navy Cross, and Purple Heart. The military style parade will take place rain or shine and conclude with a ceremony at Basilone Statue.

BRIDGEWATER AMONG TOP 100 PLACES TO LIVE

Bridgewater Township is ranked among the 100 best places to live in New Jersey according to *NJ Monthly*.

Bridgewater is ranked 77th out of 565 municipalities based on home values, property taxes, crime rate, school performance, and a lifestyle factor. Raritan was ranked 146 and Somerville ranked 341.

TD BANK TO CLOSE SOMERVILLE LOCATION

TD Bank has announced that it will close its branch located at 50 West Main Street in Somerville effective Friday, November 15, 2019.

The turn-of-the-century building was formerly occupied by Somerset Trust Company and is renowned for its corner clock.

TD Bank locations in Bridgewater and Raritan will remain open.

PLANNING DIRECTOR EARNS SUSTAINABLE RARITAN AWARD

Somerset County Planning Director Walter Lane, AICP/PP, and Regional Center Partnership Board member, has been recognized as a champion of the Raritan River for his "outstanding achievement in efforts to revitalize, restore, and protect the Raritan's resources and promote the area as a premier place to live, work, and raise a family."

Lane has focused efforts on advancing the County's planning priorities and his leadership has addressed the key issues originally outlined in the Sustainable Raritan River Action Plan.

SOMERSET COUNTY/ SOMERVILLE PARTNERSHIP LEADS TO TOD DEVELOPMENT

A partnership between the Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Borough of Somerville has resulted in a Transit Oriented Development (TOD) on a portion of the former landfill site next to the train station.

The Freeholders leveraged resources including:

- Providing planning and engineering for the Davenport Street tunnel
- Funding and facilitating community visioning sessions
- Providing funding through the Economic Development Incentive Program for planning and environmental analysis.

The result is the construction of a mixed-use TOD project including business and residential development.

SOMERVILLE STATIONHOUSE APARTMENTS BREAK GROUND

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held for the Stationhouse Apartments at 44 Veterans Memorial Drive. Plans call for 117 apartments in two connected 4-story buildings with a mix of studio, one- and two bedroom units. The project will have underground parking, a courtyard, and balconies.

The property formerly housed NJN Publishing and the Messenger Gazette.

CHICKEN FINGER JOINT COMING TO BRIDGEWATER

Sticky's Finger Joint, a New York City based chicken finger joint, will soon open in the Village at the Bridgewater Commons.

Sticky's offers local, fresh, antibiotic-free chicken fingers with 25 homemade dipping sauces.

7-ELEVEN COMING TO RARITAN

Raritan will welcome the borough's third convenience store when 7-Eleven opens in the strip mall on Route 202 north between Second Avenue and Anderson Street.

The store will join QuickChek stores located on Somerset Street and on the Somerville Circle.

VILLE FILM FEST

Friday to Sunday, October 4 to 6 at United Reformed Church, St. John's Church; Verve Bar & Bistro, Project Pub, Cheech's Own Coffee

BASILONE PARADE

Sunday, September 22, 2019 at 1:00 P.M. Somerset Street, Raritan

SOMERVILLE JAZZ FEST

East Main Street between Bridge & Grove Streets
Sunday, September 15
1:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.

SOMERVILLE HOSPITAL AMONG BEST IN STATE

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Somerset has again been rated among the top hospitals in New Jersey according to *U.S. News and World Report*. The hospital was ranked number 9 in New Jersey and 22 in the Metro area. It was also recognized as "High Performing" in the field of orthopedics.

EPA HONORS COUNTY FOR CYANAMID REDEVELOPMENT

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) commended Somerset County and the NJDEP for their efforts in transforming the 570-acre former American Cyanamid chemical plant on the eastern border of the Regional Center in Bridgewater.

The 140-acre Hill Property housed research labs and parking and the 430-acres south of the railroad tracks contained the manufacturing facility.

The Hill Property is now home to the Bridgewater Promenade and TD Bank Ballpark, valued at \$133 million and providing \$2 million in property tax revenue.

Property owner Wyeth is exploring options for the remaining property ranging from light industrial to recreational uses.

COMMUNITY CALENDARS

REGIONAL CENTER MEETING DATES

The Regional Center Partnership meets in the 2nd floor Engineering Conference room at 20 Grove Street in Somerville.

Wednesday, September 18, 2019 @ 5:00 P.M.

Thursday, November 7, 2019 @ 5:00 P.M.

Wednesday, January 15, 2020 @ 5:00 P.M.

BRIDGEWATER FARMER'S MARKET

Somerset County Library
1 Vogt Drive
Every Sunday
11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

BRIDGEWATER APPROVES FRONTIER ROAD DEVELOPMENT

Planning Board has approved two hotels, a restaurant, a catering facility, and an adult daycare center on 17 acres next to the Bridgewater Sports Arena.

The project will begin with the construction of a Courtyard by Marriott and a Holiday Inn Express. Construction of a 357-seat restaurant will follow as will the banquet hall and adult daycare center.

SOMERVILLE WELCOMES DIY SHOP

Adding to the unique mix of stores in Downtown Somerville, Nailed It Do It Yourself Studio recently opened at 46 East Main Street, across from the Historic County Courthouse.

The store inventories stools, workbenches, hand and power tools, paint, and other supplies necessary for craft and home improvement projects. Additionally, the store provides instructions, plans, and needed materials for a variety of projects.

SOMERVILLE SCHOOLS RECOGNIZED

The Somerville School district was recognized as a Lighthouse District, for substantial improvement in academic achievement. Somerville is one of nine districts and two charter schools statewide to be honored.

SUMMER STAGE

Fridays/Saturdays on Division Street through September 28 at 6:00 P.M.
www.downtownsomerville.com

SOMERVILLE 5K TURKEY TROT

Thursday, November 28, 2019
<https://runsignup.com/somerville5k>

SOMERSET COUNTY SENIOR WELLNESS CENTER

876 East Main Street, Bridgewater
(908) 203-6101
Open Monday - Friday
9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

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BRIDGEWATER, RARITAN, SOMERVILLE • SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

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