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# THE REGIONAL CENTER

BRIDGEWATER • RARITAN • SOMERVILLE

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

January 2020



## SPEAKER ADDRESSES IMPORTANCE OF GATEWAY PROJECT

Stephen Sigmund, Chief of Public Outreach for the Gateway Development Corporation was the keynote speaker at RideWise's annual recognition breakfast. Mr. Sigmund addressed the importance of the Gateway Project and its implications for Somerset County. The Gateway Program is a multi-billion dollar infrastructure initiative to build a new rail tunnel under the Hudson River, a new Portal Bridge over the Hackensack River, an expansion of New York's Penn Station and other ancillary projects.



## NEW SOMERVILLE ROAD TO CONNECT ROUTE 206 TO TRANSIT VILLAGE

Borough officials have approved a road from Route 206 north to the center of the transit village under construction in proximity to the train station. The road will follow the right-of-way of the abandoned Central Railroad line. Only right turns from Route 206 north and right turns onto Route 206 north will be permitted.

The road will lead into the Somerset Station transit village that will include 370 apartments, 156 townhomes, two parking garages, 4,000 square feet of retail space and a community center.

## REGIONAL CENTER MAYORS LOOK TO THE FUTURE

All three Regional Center municipalities elected Mayors in the November, 2019 election. The results return one incumbent, Somerville's Dennis Sullivan, and two newcomers, Bridgewater's Matt Moench and Raritan's Zach Bray, to the leadership positions.

Looking to the future, Mayor Moench stated that his administration "will be fearless" fighting for Bridgewater residents. He announced that he is creating an asset management team to study the state of the township's roads and create a master plan and will "continue the fight against overdevelopment."

Mayor Bray stated that it is time to think differently than in the past decade by restoring Somerset Street and the surrounding area as a viable location for business success by first addressing the lack of parking. He is also focused on resurrecting the Raritan mall beginning with attracting a grocery store to the site.

Somerville Mayor Sullivan stated that Somerville "will continue to move forward" with focus on new construction and infrastructure improvements. He committed \$1 million to road repairs, sewer upgrades, and maintenance of parks and buildings. From a public safety perspective he will work to lower speed limits on local and county roads.

## RARITAN TO WELCOME LEARNING EXPERIENCE CHILD CARE CENTER

The Learning Experience - Academy of Early Education is under construction just off the Somerville Circle next to Quick Chek.

The national chain develops and implements innovative child care and early education programs. Also offered are before and after-school programs designed for elementary school age students.

## SOMERVILLE HIRES REDEVELOPER FOR PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX

Somerville Borough Council has approved the hiring of FD Stonewater of Arlington, Virginia as the redeveloper of the Gaston Avenue site for the new Public Safety Complex. The building is expected to combine the police department, fire department, and the Somerset County 911 emergency call center.



Residents and fire company volunteers will be consulted over the next few months. The facility will be funded by the yearly payments in lieu of taxes of \$311,000 provided by Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Somerset.

## RWJUH SOMERSET TO OFFER FREE CARDIAC SCREENINGS FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES

Free cardiac screenings for student-athletes ages 14 to 18 will be offered on Saturday, February 1, 2020 from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon at the family practice facility at 110 Rehill Avenue in Somerville.

To help prevent sudden cardiac death, the cardiac screenings will include cardiovascular history and physical exam, blood pressure screening, body metrics, and an electrocardiogram.

## SOMERVILLE ADDRESSES SAFETY ISSUES

A number of changes have gone into effect to improve pedestrian safety. Borough Council has passed an ordinance lowering the speed limit on Veteran's Drive to 25 mph. To enhance safety at the Motor Vehicle Commission office on Roosevelt Place left turns from North Gaston Avenue to Schoolhouse Lane are prohibited during certain hours.

The NJ Department of Transportation has addressed the intersection of North Gaston and Union avenues by restriping and recalibrating the traffic signal. The intersection of East Main and Grove Streets was restriped in 2018.

## BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP OFFERS NEW PROGRAMS FOR 2020

The Somerset County Business Partnership has announced new programs to fulfill the mission of leading the business community to prosperous and sustainable future.

- Web Site Job Board
- Growing Your Business Special Interest Group
- Executive Roundtable

Information is available at [www.scbp.org](http://www.scbp.org) or by calling 908-281-4300

## RARITAN IMPLEMENTS BENCH MURAL PROJECT

Utilizing a Regional Center Challenge Grant for Creative Placemaking, Raritan has completed the Raritan Bench Art Project on the 100-year old benches in the business district. The vinyl art applications depict historical features from Raritan Borough's history.



This bench depicts the historic event of July 2, 1921 when President Warren G. Harding signed the Knox-Porter Resolution officially ending United States involvement in World War 1. The resolution was signed on the estate of Joseph S. Frelinghuysen in Raritan formerly located near the Somerville Circle (Easton Turnpike where Burger King is now).

## CENSUS PROGRAMS COMING

Beginning January 18 and running through April a series of public events hosted by Somerset County will be held at various locations to raise awareness about the importance of participating in the 2020 Census. Events will feature various non-profit service providers along with a variety of games and activities. More information to follow.

## ONE SEAT RIDE FEASIBILITY STUDY ORDERED

The NJ Assembly unanimously passed a bill requiring NJ Transit to conduct a feasibility study focused on expanding the direct one-seat ride to Manhattan on the Raritan Valley Line during peak commuter hours. The off-peak single ride service was suspended in 2018 and restored in November of 2019.

## ANOTHER APARTMENT PROPSAL IN SOMERVILLE

Planning Board will hear a proposal to build a four-story residential addition behind 94-98 West Main Street east of the United Reformed Church.

## SOMERVILLE INTRODUCES DRAFT MASTER PLAN UPDATE

The Somerville Planning Board has introduced the borough's Master Plan Update following a year-long process.

The document addresses the infrastructure with focus on neighborhoods, housing, public safety, roadways, traffic, the central business district, parking, land use, and future development.

Also featured are the West Main Street, Kirby Avenue, Eastern Central Business District, Gaston Avenue, and Station Area Landfill Redevelopment Plans.

## 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, March 18, 2020 @ 5:00 P.M.
- Wednesday, May 20, 2020 @ 5:00 P.M.
- Wednesday, July 15, 2020 @ 5:00 P.M.
- Wednesday, September 16, 2020 @ 5:00 P.M.
- Thursday, November 12, 2020 @ 5:00 P.M.
- Wednesday, January 20, 2021 @ 5:00 P.M.

### BRIDGEWATER INDOOR FARM MARKET

Bridgewater Library, Vogt Drive  
Sundays, February 9 & March 8 2020  
11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

### SOMERSET COUNTY SENIOR WELLNESS CENTER

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

## THE REGIONAL CENTER

BRIDGEWATER, RARITAN, SOMERVILLE • SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

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