

*THE SOMERSET COUNTY
REGIONAL CENTER
PROVIDING UNIQUE
OPPORTUNITIES FOR
BUSINESSES & RESIDENTS*

THE REGIONAL CENTER

BRIDGEWATER • RARITAN • SOMERVILLE

A partnership for a better tomorrow
IN SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
www.regionalcenterpartnership.org

SHOPPING, RETAIL, SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

BRIDGEWATER

Bridgewater provides ample shopping opportunities including the Bridgewater Commons Regional Mall, the Village at Bridgewater Commons, and numerous big box and retail/service strip centers located in neighborhoods.



The Commons and the Village offer nearly 1.2 million square feet of retail and restaurants. The adjacent Village is a beautifully landscaped “Main Street” environment that is home to restaurants and retail.

Bridgewater Town Center, located on Route 202 is anchored by Wegman’s Supermarket, Party City, Raymore & Flanagan, Ruby Tuesday, and Olive Garden, and features numerous retail and service businesses. The Bridgewater Promenade, located

on Union Avenue (Route 28 near I-287) is a 625,000-square-foot center that includes Target; Home Depot; Bed, Bath and Beyond; Marshall’s; PetSmart; Costco; Old Navy; Michael’s Crafts; Applebee’s, Chuck-E Cheese, Hilton Garden Inn and more.

Additional neighborhood shopping and service opportunities are available at Villa Plaza on Route 28, Somerset Shopping Center at the Somerville Circle, and along the well-traveled Route 22.

RARITAN

Raritan offers both a traditional “Main Street” shopping and service district and various neighborhood centers of commerce throughout the community. The Somerville Circle Center offers a mix of national retail and services while the Raritan Mall and two neighboring strip centers on Route 206 offer grocery shopping, neighborhood services, and locally owned restaurants. Highway retail, services, and restaurants are also found along Route 202.

SOMERVILLE

Somerville’s central business district offers a traditional linear downtown environment, lined with an eclectic mix of restaurants, retail, and service opportunities. Serving

as the county seat of Somerset County and at the heart of the Regional Center, Somerville’s central business district is at the hub of commerce in Somerset County.



Downtown Somerville features nearly 50 restaurants and eateries covering numerous international cuisines from Zagat-rated dining experiences to a quick bite to eat.

In addition to having established a reputation as a regional dining destination, Somerville is renowned as a center for antiques, home furnishings, specialty retail, and service opportunities.



TRANSPORTATION

The Raritan Valley Line, with stations in Raritan, Somerville, and Bridgewater, offers a day and night one-seat ride to Newark Penn Station and a commuter and evening hour one-seat ride in and out of Penn Station Manhattan (www.njtransit.com).

The Raritan Station was built in the early 1890s, and in 1984 was added to the National Register of Historic Places. The Bridgewater Raritan Valley Line station is conveniently located next to TD Bank Ballpark. As part of the Transit Village designation, Somerville’s station was reconstructed in 2009 to install high-level platforms and make the station accessible to the disabled.

The Regional Center communities are also served by NJ TRANSIT bus service and highways I-78, I-287, US Routes 22, 202, 206 and State Highway 28. RideWise (www.Ridewise.org), the transportation management association, provides a full range of commuter services.



ARTS, CULTURE, & ENTERTAINMENT

BRIDGEWATER

The Somerset County Vocational and Technical School auditorium is home to a jazz concert series and student productions throughout the year.

The Somerset Patriots Professional Baseball Club plays a 140-game minor league season with 70 home games played at the 6,100 seat TD Bank Ballpark. The ballpark is a multi-use facility that has hosted the Big East Baseball Championship and County Baseball Tournaments. In the off-season the ballpark hosts the Big Apple Circus. Across from the Ballpark is the Van Horne House that played a critical role during the Revolutionary War, including the Battle of Bound Brook that is re-enacted annually.



RARITAN

Raritan hosts a weekly classic car show from Memorial Day to Labor Day. In September, the community hosts the annual John Basilone Parade, honoring the Raritan native and United States Marine Gunnery Sergeant who was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions at the Battle of Guadalcanal. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Frelinghuysen House serves as Raritan's public library featuring Basilone memorabilia. Other historic sites include the Raritan Train Station, Relief Hose Company No. 2 Firehouse, and the Nevius Street Pedestrian Bridge.

DUKE FARMS

Duke Farms is a 2,740 acre former estate of James Buchanan Duke and Doris Duke, located in nearby Hillsborough Township, which features nine lakes, 18 miles of trails, a LEED Platinum Orientation Center and an Orchid Conservatory. Through the beauty of its natural setting, the diversity of its wildlife, and the scope and quality of its educational programs, demonstrations and research, Duke Farms inspires people to transform their approach to conservation and to start building a more sustainable future (www.dukefarms.org).

SOMERVILLE

Free public entertainment opportunities abound year-round in Downtown Somerville. On Thursday evenings in the summer musicians entertain on the Division Street pedestrian mall in the heart of the central business district. As the Borough's designated "Arts District," Division Street is home to outdoor entertainment, art shows, and performances through the year. The state's only Street Performer Festival kicks off the event season in May followed by summer-long free concerts and outdoor movies on Division Street. On Friday evenings, Cruise Night brings more than 100 classic and restored automobiles to Main Street in the region's most popular classic car show.

The annual Fall Jazz Festival features world class jazz musicians performing in an all-day outdoor concert on the historic Court House Green, drawing thousands of visitors. A Farmer's Market is held every Thursday from June through October. The annual Tour of Somerville bicycle race on Memorial Day and the St. Patrick's Parade round out a series of exciting annual events with additional events scheduled for most weekends.

The Wallace House was completed in 1776 and used by General Washington for his headquarters during the Middlebrook Cantonment of 1778-1779. The house is an excellent example of Georgian architecture and has been fully restored. The Old Dutch Parsonage housed the first ministers of the first Dutch Reformed congregation in the Somerville/Raritan area. The Parsonage is also associated with the founding of Old Queens College and Seminary (now Rutgers University and The New Brunswick Theological Seminary). The Somerville Fire Museum, constructed in 1888, has been restored and houses firefighting equipment, memorabilia, and a wealth of historical photos.

Somerset County's annual *Weekend Journey Through the Past*, held each fall, offers a great opportunity to visit 30 fascinating historic sites, many of which are located in the Regional Center (www.SCHistoryWeekend.com).

SOMERSET COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Somerset County is governed and managed by a Board of Chosen Freeholders consisting of five members. The heart of the government operations is located in the Regional Center in proximity to Somerville's central business district. County government provides road and bridge maintenance, curbside recycling collection, transportation services for elderly and disabled residents, adult day care, education, recreation and nutrition programs for seniors, a county park system, regional planning initiatives, and many others.

County government also includes three elected Constitutional Officers: the County Clerk (records deeds and processes passport applications), Sheriff (serves summonses and operates the County Jail); and Surrogate (handles wills and adoptions). For information see www.co.somerset.nj.us.

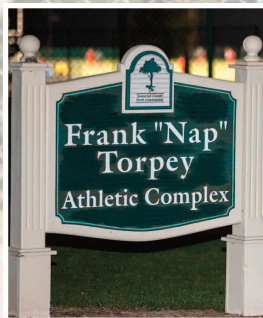


MEDICAL & LEGAL SERVICES

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Somerset, located in Somerville, is a nationally accredited, 355-bed regional medical facility providing a variety of comprehensive emergency, medical/surgical and rehabilitative services to Central Jersey residents. The Hospital also offers a broad range of community programs, from health fairs and screenings to seminars and support groups. The adjacent nationally recognized Steeplechase Cancer Center provides comprehensive outpatient cancer treatment services (www.rwjuh.edu). As a campus of New Jersey's premier academic medical center, the hospital offers Somerset County residents expanded access to cutting-edge medical research and leading health care specialists.



With Somerville serving as the Somerset County seat, the Regional Center enjoys an abundance of attorney offices and legal service agencies. In addition, Somerville is home to the County court system and the offices of the County Clerk, Surrogate, and Sheriff.



RECREATION

Recreation opportunities abound in the Regional Center, overseen by both the municipalities and the Somerset County Park Commission. Park Commission facilities include the Torpey Athletic Complex with a lighted baseball and softball field and multi-purpose turf field; Duke Island Park, a 350-acre general use park in Bridgewater along the Raritan River; and the Green Knoll complex which includes tennis courts and an 18-hole golf course (www.somersetcountyparks.org).

The Greenway system wanders through all three communities and provides a pedestrian and bicycle connection with pedestrian access over local highways. Somerville has constructed a wheels park for skateboarders and BMX cyclists. All three communities have active parks and recreation departments

EDUCATION

All three Regional Center communities have well-respected and highly rated K-12 public school systems with equally respected parochial school options. Raritan supports its own elementary school before sending its middle and high school students to Bridgewater. The Somerset County Vocational & Technical Schools (www.scvths.org) provides a quality Core Curriculum education while preparing students for careers in numerous vocations and trades. Raritan Valley Community College has a branch in Bridgewater (www.raritanval.edu).

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