



News from the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders

PROGRAMS & STAFF ARE 'AT YOUR SERVICE' IN TWO NEW, MODERN BUILDINGS

Social Services Building

The newest structure serving Somerset County residents is named for a long-time public servant.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in July to officially dedicate the Senator Walter J. Kavanaugh Social Services Building in Somerville.

The late Senator Kavanaugh served in the State Senate from 1998 to 2008, where he represented the 16th Legislative District. Prior to being elected to the Senate, Kavanaugh served in the General Assembly from 1976 to 1997. With his 32 years of service in the New Jersey Legislature, his tenure was among the longest in state history. He also was known for his civic involvement in Somerville and Somerset County.

The former 1970s-era social services building at 73 E. High St. will be demolished and replaced by a parking area. The new three-story, 42,440-square-foot structure was erected just west of the previous building and has kept the same address.

The Somerset County Board of Social Services, with offices in Somerville, Franklin and North Plainfield, administers public assistance programs, including SNAP benefits (food stamps), general assistance and Medicaid. The agency also provides social services such as housing, case management, employment training, adult protective services and homemaker services.

Senior Wellness Center

Fittingly, county officials dedicated the new Senior Wellness Center at Bridgewater in May as part of Older Americans Month.

This new, state-of-the-art facility enabled the Somerset County Office on Aging and Disability Services to combine the Raritan and Manville senior centers at one brand-new,

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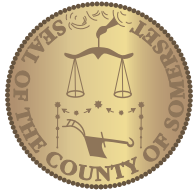


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DID YOU KNOW... ?

- Somerset County was founded in May 1688 by splitting off from Middlesex County.
- The county's current population is 332,568.
- Somerset County has preserved close to 15,000 acres of parkland and open space.



2016 Board of Chosen Freeholders



PATRICIA L. WALSH
Director

PETER S. PALMER
Deputy Director



PATRICK SCAGLIONE
Freeholder



MARK CALIGUIRE
Freeholder



BRIAN D. LEVINE
Freeholder

Constitutional Officers



BRETT A. RADI
County Clerk

FRANK J. PROVENZANO
Sheriff

FRANK G. BRUNO
Surrogate

MEET YOUR COUNTY OFFICIALS

Board of Chosen Freeholders

Elected to Three-Year Terms

Patricia L. Walsh - Joined the Board in January 2008; Freeholder Director in 2012 and 2016. Former Green Brook Mayor. Chaired the Green Brook 9/11 Memorial Committee. Member of New Jersey Federation of Republican Women. Somerset County resident for 36 years. Registered nurse employed as a visiting nurse.

Peter S. Palmer - Freeholder since January 1997; Freeholder Director in 1998, 2003, 2008 and 2013; Deputy Director in 2016. Chairs the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority and Raritan Valley Rail Coalition. Former Bernardsville Mayor. Retired insurance actuary.

Patrick Scaglione - Former Bridgewater Township Council President. Joined the Freeholder Board in January 2010; Freeholder Director in 2014. Centerbridge II Senior Housing Board President, 1997-present. Former North Plainfield resident; moved to Bridgewater in 1991. Owns a financial consulting business.

Mark Caliguire - Freeholder since 2011; Freeholder Director in 2015. Former Montgomery Mayor. Liaison to Somerset County Open Space Advisory Committee. Lawyer and former New Jersey Deputy Attorney General.

Brian D. Levine - Former Franklin Township Mayor. Freeholder since January 2015. Member of the Governor's Red Tape Review Commission and the Building One New Jersey Board of Directors. Licensed certified public accountant; owns an accounting and financial consulting practice.

Constitutional Officers

County Clerk Brett A. Radi - Elected every five years. Records land records and related legal documents; processes passport applications; administers oaths to notaries public; records business trade names. Resident of Somerville.

Sheriff Frank J. Provenzano - Elected every three years. Responsible for the County Jail; courthouse security; Sheriff's Sales; and K-9 Unit. Resident of Raritan.

Surrogate Frank G. Bruno - Elected every five years. Probates wills; acts as custodian of funds for minors' estates; handles adoptions. Resident of Branchburg.

YOUR VOTE COUNTS!



The general election for national, state, county and local government representatives will be held **Tuesday, Nov. 8**. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m.

Here are upcoming deadlines pertaining to this election:

October 18, 2016

Voter Registration Deadline, *last opportunity to register to vote in the General Election.*

November 1, 2016

Deadline to apply for a Mail-In Ballot by Mail for General Election

November 4, 2016

Deadline for Application to Receive General Election Mail-In Ballots by Electronic Means for Qualified Overseas Civilian and Military Voters

November 7, 2016

Deadline for In-Person Mail-In Ballot Applications for General Election



For more information, contact the **Somerset County Board of Elections** at **908-231-7084** or **ElectionBd@co.somerset.nj.us**

or visit either:
www.co.somerset.nj.us/elections
or **www.njelections.org**

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE!

How can recycling save money and protect the environment?

The more glass, metal, newspapers, junk mail, plastic bottles and cardboard you put out at the curb for recycling, the less that has to go to a landfill. This saves on transportation costs and dumping fees .

Besides twice-monthly curbside recycling collections, Somerset County provides a number of opportunities throughout the year to get rid of household hazardous waste and unwanted or outdated medications. These drop-off programs are FREE for all Somerset County residents!

Learn more about where, when, what and how you can recycle by visiting **www.co.somerset.nj.us/ recycle**



Every sector of the Somerset County community needs adult leaders – people who are informed, engaged, connected and willing to lead positive change.

Adults who live or work in Somerset County are invited to apply for the **Leadership Somerset Class of 2017**. The application deadline is **October 31, 2016**.

Benefits of the program include networking with community leaders, discovering Somerset County resources, exploring capacities of positive leadership, enhancing team and leadership skills and making an impact in the community.

Leadership Somerset meets once a month, on a weekday, starting in January. Sessions are full days, starting between 8-8:30 a.m. and ending by 5:00 p.m.

The majority of the cost to attend the year-long adult leadership program is underwritten by the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders. Leadership Somerset participants are asked to contribute a program fee of \$350 for the year, which covers participation in all sessions, materials and meals. Limited scholarships based on financial need are available. Applicants will be notified by December.

Established in 2000, Leadership Somerset is sponsored by the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Somerset County Business Partnership, Raritan Valley Community College and the United Way of Northern New Jersey.

Learn more at **www.leadershipsomerset.org**



The North Branch of the Raritan River meanders through a scenic stretch at Natirar.

FALL 2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 14 - November 16

Fall Yoga

North Branch Park, Bridgewater
908.722.1200 ext. 226

www.somersetcountyparks.org

October 2

1770s Festival

Environmental Education Center
Lord Stirling Road, Basking Ridge
908.766.2489

www.somersetcountyparks.org

October 8 & 9

Weekend Journey Through The Past

Sponsored by the Cultural & Heritage Commission
(see article at right)

www.SCHistoryWeekend.com

November 8

General Election

Your vote counts! Polls will be open from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m.

908.231.7084

www.co.somerset.nj.us/elections

December 2-28

39th Festival of Trees

Environmental Education Center
Lord Stirling Road, Basking Ridge
908.766.2489

www.somersetcountyparks.org

Find other events and a Weekend Top 10 at www.VisitSomersetNJ.org

WEEKEND JOURNEY THROUGH THE PAST

Don't miss Somerset County's 11th Annual Weekend Journey through the Past, an opportunity to step into and experience the county's rich history.

Up to 30 historic sites countywide will be open free to the public of all ages on Saturday, Oct. 8, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 9, from noon to 4 p.m.

Experience the sights and sounds of the 18th century with costumed re-enactors, house tours and activities; living-history re-enactors; open-hearth cooking; colonial tavern life and games; interactive activities, such as signing an actual enlistment document with quill and ink; special collections and exhibitions; traditional blacksmithing; 19th-century firefighting wagons and apparatus; antiques sales; craftspeople demonstrating period decorative crafts; live theater and period music performances; genealogical resources; participatory colonial dance instruction; daily chores of 18th-century life; military history; demonstrations; local history video, and so much more.

For details visit the event website at www.SCHistoryWeekend.com



NEW-AND-IMPROVED WEBSITE IS USER-FRIENDLY

Somerset County government rolled out a brand-new website earlier this year at www.co.somerset.nj.us

“The website has been completely redesigned and reorganized, making it more user-friendly,” said Freeholder Director Patricia Walsh. “You’ll notice a more streamlined homepage with easy access to information that the public requests most frequently. Also, the website is designed to display on mobile phones and tablets as well as desktop computers.”



After a competitive proposal review process, the county hired Vision Internet of Santa Monica, Calif., to revamp the site. An in-house website project team guided the redesign and personnel from each county department and division contributed to their respective pages.

As part of the redesign, the county now is offering emergency email and text alerts via Nixle.com. To sign up for this free service, click on the Emergency Alerts button in the center of the county homepage at www.co.somerset.nj.us

To sign up for wireless alerts only, text SCNJALERTS to 888777. If you were already receiving emergency-alert emails or texts from Somerset County, there is no need to re-register.

NEW BUILDINGS SERVING THE PUBLIC

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modern location.

“With its proximity to the Adult Day Center, the opening of this center completes the vision Somerset County has had for a senior campus that serves the needs of residents as they go through the various stages of aging,” said Freeholder Director Patricia Walsh. “This is just one example of many successful public/private partnerships that save taxpayer dollars, enhance services and improve the quality of life for our residents.”

“Our Senior Wellness Centers provide lifelong enrichment opportunities, not only for residents who participate in our programs but for the community as well,” said Freeholder Deputy Director Peter S. Palmer, alternate human services liaison. “We do this by offering nutritious meals and a variety of programming that keeps people’s minds stimulated, their bodies active and their spirits elevated. These programs are intended to help residents live independently and age in place safely.”



Somerset County senior centers offer a wide range of experiences intended to positively impact overall health. Choices of four lunch menus (hot and cold, with and without meat) are served daily at centers, which are funded in part through the Older Americans Act and the county Board of Chosen Freeholders. Many of the programs and activities are made possible through partnerships, volunteers and the generosity of donors who pay instructor and presentation fees.

For more information, contact the Somerset County Office on Aging and Disability Services at (908) 704-6346 or toll-free at 1-888-747-1122.

BE PREPARED FOR DISASTERS

The Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the county's departments and divisions are concerned about the health and safety of Somerset County residents on a daily basis, as well as during emergencies and natural disasters.

"We urge residents to do what they can to be prepared for emergencies," said Freeholder Director Patricia Walsh. "It can take three or more days before organized efforts are available to assist residents. The safety of your family can be greatly affected by your personal efforts to be prepared."

Preparation includes having non-perishable, ready-to-eat foods on hand, for both people and pets. A "go-kit" with a supply of food, water, up-to-date medications, clothing and other necessities is essential if you are forced to evacuate your home for any reason.

September is National Disaster Preparedness Month. A comprehensive list of links can be found on the county's website at <http://www.co.somerset.nj.us/residents/disaster-health-safety-information>

If you do not have internet access, call the Somerset County Office of Emergency Management at 908-725-5070 or the Somerset County Department of Health at 908-231-7155.

SOMERSET COUNTY RESIDENTS HELP FIGHT HUNGER THROUGH CURBING HUNGER MONTH, BOBO FRIDAYS

Somerset County Freeholder Director Patricia Walsh thanks everyone who has contributed and continues to donate to the county's two anti-hunger campaigns.

"Your generosity has meant so much to clients of the Food Bank Network and other Somerset County food banks and food pantries," she said. All of the food-support agencies have seen a steady increase in demand since the start of the economic recession over eight years ago. Today, the Food Bank Network serves close to 1,400 families a month.

The 22nd annual Curbing Hunger Month food drive brought in just over 65,000 pounds of food this past June. Curbing Hunger started as a pilot program in Somerset County in 1995 and was expanded to several other counties in New Jersey. Since then, more than 2.3 million pounds of food have been collected statewide, valued at over \$3.8 million. More than 2 million pounds have been collected in Somerset County alone.

The "Buy One, Bring One" or "BOBO Fridays" ongoing food collection started by Freeholder Walsh in July 2010 has reaped more than 29 tons of donations to date. BOBO Fridays bins are located at many county, municipal and library locations. Visit <http://bit.ly/BOBO2016> for the list. You can donate any time during regular business hours at any location.



A Guide to Somerset County Government Offices

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3000, Somerville, NJ 08876-1262

Main Offices: County Administration Building, 20 Grove Street, Somerville, NJ

Human Services Offices: 27 Warren Street, Somerville, NJ • **Website:** www.co.somerset.nj.us

For other county offices not listed below, call 908-231-7000 or email publicinfo@co.somerset.nj.us

ELECTED OFFICIALS & COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

	EMAIL ADDRESS or WEBSITE	TELEPHONE
Board of Chosen Freeholders*	FreeholdersOffice@co.somerset.nj.us	908-231-7030
County Administrator / Clerk of the Board	AdministratorsOffice@co.somerset.nj.us	908-231-7040
Deputy Clerk of the Board	FreeholdersOffice@co.somerset.n.us	908-231-7030
Public Information Office	PublicInfo@co.somerset.nj.us	908-231-7020
County Clerk*	CountyClerk@co.somerset.nj.us	908-231-7006
Sheriff*	Sheriff@co.somerset.nj.us	908-231-7140
Surrogate*	SurrogatesOffice@co.somerset.nj.us	908-231-7003

*elected county officials

HUMAN SERVICES:

Office on Aging & Disability Services	OfficeAging@co.somerset.nj.us NJ EASE toll-free senior hotline:	908-704-6346 1-888-747-1122
Community Development	CommDev@co.somerset.nj.us	908-541-5756
Human Services	HumanServices@co.somerset.nj.us	908-704-6300
Mental Health Center	MentalHealth@co.somerset.nj.us Toll-free number:	908-725-2800 1-888-744-4417
Rutgers Cooperative Extension	http://somerset.njaes.rutgers.edu	908-526-6295
Veterans Services	VeteranServices@co.somerset.nj.us	908-704-6329
Volunteer Services	Crosby@co.somerset.nj.us	908-704-6358
Youth Services	Youth@co.somerset.nj.us	908-704-6333

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

Finance / Treasurer	FinanceDiv@co.somerset.nj.us	908-231-7631
Human Resources	HumanResources@co.somerset.nj.us	908-231-7120
Purchasing	PurchasingDiv@co.somerset.nj.us	908-231-7045

PUBLIC WORKS:

Engineering	EngineeringDiv@co.somerset.nj.us	908-231-7024
Planning		
Planning Board	PlanningBd@co.somerset.nj.us	908-231-7021
Cultural & Heritage Commission	CulturalHeritage@co.somerset.nj.us	908-231-7110
Solid Waste Management	SolidWaste@co.somerset.nj.us	908-231-7109
Recycling Center / Curbside Program	RecyclingDiv@co.somerset.nj.us	732-469-3363
Roads / Mosquito Control / Traffic Safety	RoadDiv@co.somerset.nj.us	908-541-5021
Transportation	TransportationDiv@co.somerset.nj.us Toll-free number:	908-231-7116 1-800-246-0527

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

Emergency Management	EmergencyMgmt@co.somerset.nj.us	908-725-5070
Health	HealthDiv@co.somerset.nj.us	908-231-7155

AFFILIATED AGENCIES:

Business Partnership	www.scbp.org	908-218-4300
College, Raritan Valley Community	www.raritanval.edu	908-526-1200
Election Board	ElectionBd@co.somerset.nj.us	908-231-7084
Library	www.sclsnj.org	908-526-4016
Park Commission	www.somersetcountyparks.org	908-722-1200
Prosecutor	www.scpo.net	908-231-7100
Social Services & Food Stamps	SocialServices@co.somerset.nj.us	908-526-8800
Superintendent of Schools	www.co.somerset.nj.us/schools	908-541-5700
Tax Board	TaxBd@co.somerset.nj.us	908-541-5701
Vocational & Technical Schools	www.scvths.org	908-526-8900

EMERGENCY NUMBERS:

County Dispatch / Communications (police / fire / medical emergencies only)		9-1-1
Psychiatric Emergency Screening Service (24/7 mental health line)		908-526-4100

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage Paid
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Permit # 1

**SOMERSET COUNTY
BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS**

20 Grove Street
P.O. Box 3000
Somerville, New Jersey 08876

Phone: 908-231-7030
Fax: 908-231-8754

FreeholdersOffice@co.somerset.nj.us

Website: www.co.somerset.nj.us



**SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF
CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS**

Somerset County is governed and managed by a Board of Chosen Freeholders. The board consists of five members; one or two are elected each year from the county at large to serve three-year terms.

Unlike a mayor or municipal elected official, a Freeholder represents all 332,568 county residents.

The Board of Freeholders holds regular public meetings the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 7 p.m. in the county administration building at 20 Grove St. in Somerville. Agenda sessions, which also are open to the public, are held the same days at 4:30 p.m. Items discussed at each agenda session will be voted on at the regular meeting that takes place two weeks later.

To view minutes and agendas, select the Government tab on our website at www.co.somerset.nj.us

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www.co.somerset.nj.us

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and our e-newsletter
<http://bit.ly/SCeBulletins>

Sign up for text alerts for emergency
information and road closings
<http://bit.ly/SCNixle>

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