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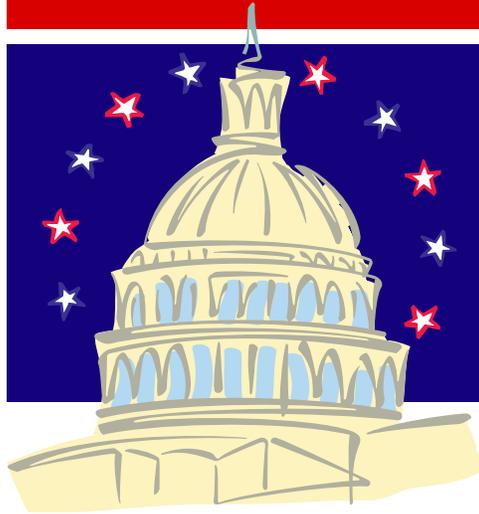
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from the Board of Chosen

# NEWS FREEHOLDERS

Vol. 24 No. 2

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## SOMERSET COUNTY FREEHOLDERS HONOR WWII VETERANS



**M**ore than 2,000 people attended Somerset County's "Salute to World War II Veterans" on May 22 at the Garden State Exhibit Center in Franklin Township.

Some 700 veterans or their family representatives, plus guests, turned out for the ceremonial event hosted by the Somerset County Board of Freeholders.

In all, more than 2,200 veterans registered for the specially commissioned medal and lapel pin presented to the county's WWII veterans. Those who could not attend will receive their medals by mail.

Freeholder Director Robert Zaborowski hosted the ceremony and was accompanied by his colleagues, Freeholder Deputy Director Peter S. Palmer and Freeholders Denise Coyle, Rick Fontana and Ken Scherer.

"Today, almost sixty years after the end of World War II, it is sometimes difficult for us to appreciate the magnitude of that conflict and of the sacrifices made by those who fought it," Freeholder Director Zaborowski said.

"Nothing less than world peace was at stake. Every veteran in this room put his or her life on hold to ensure that our nation would not surrender to those bent on destroying it, and that our European allies would not suffer the same fate.

"Still others – thousands of others

– gave their lives so that their comrades and their countrymen might survive and go on to create a better, stronger nation and world," he said.

The freeholders joined the other dignitaries – including the Rev. DeForest Soaries Jr., 16<sup>th</sup> District Assemblymen Kip Bateman and Peter Biondi, Col. Emil Philibosian, deputy commissioner of the state Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, county Sheriff Frank J. Provenzano Sr. and Surrogate Frank Bruno – in presenting the medals.

Other presenters included Lt. Col. Robert G. Kenny, U.S. Air Force Reserves; Ronald McClear, Commander, American Legion Post 12, Somerville; Andrew Henkel, District 15 Commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Robert B. Newell, Somerset County Commander, American Legion; Master Gunnery Sgt. Gregory Nitkowski, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.); and Capt. Patricia Richter, N.J. Department of Military & Veterans Affairs

Dr. Soaries, former New Jersey secretary of state, offered the opening prayer. Lt. Commander Errico Ianniello, a U.S. Navy chaplain, led the closing prayer. John Graf Jr. of Bedminster sang the national anthem and James O'Reilly of Manville played taps.

The Somerset County Police Pipe

and Drum Band performed a medley of patriotic music at the beginning of the program and "Amazing Grace" after the medals had been presented. The National Guard Colonial Color Guard presented and retired the colors.

Freeholder Director Zaborowski presented medals on stage to Dolores Basilone, sister of the late John Basilone, one of Somerset County's most decorated WWII veterans, and to retired Lt. Col. Juanita Costa, a former U.S. Army nurse who at 99 is the county's oldest known surviving WWII veteran. He also presented a medal to county Veterans Services Director John Havay for his late brother, George Havay, who was killed in action during the war.

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# SMART GROWTH SURVEY SEEKS PUBLIC OPINION

The Somerset County Planning Board wants to hear from you.

County residents are invited to complete a comprehensive survey on topics such as traffic and transportation, development and redevelopment strategies, protection of natural resources and promotion of the county's diverse cultural and historic heritage.

These questions and more are part of the "Somerset County Community Survey" now available on the county's Web site at [www.co.somerset.nj.us](http://www.co.somerset.nj.us).

"Our goal is to create a plan for Somerset County that helps us to manage all of our resources better so that we can protect our quality of life, and that of our children," said Freeholder Denise Coyle, planning liaison. "The public's ideas and suggestions are vital to the success of this initiative.

"Smart growth is critical to maintaining healthy communities

and protecting the environment," she said. "It is also important to economic growth and the concept of sustainability."

"Creating Quality Communities Together" is the theme of the county's strategic planning initiative. One of the project's hallmarks is its extensive community involvement process through the use of public surveys, focus groups and other tools to obtain public input.

The objective of the plan is to provide a regional framework for addressing changing land use and economic and demographic patterns. It is intended to direct the location and form of development, redevelopment and preservation within the county through the next 20 years, reflecting a logical and efficient "smart growth" approach to strategic planning.

The plan is also expected to support existing countywide

smart growth initiatives such as the Economic Development Incentive Program, the county and municipal Planning Partnership Grant Program and the Regional Center Partnership and will be organized around a set of smart growth guiding principles.

In addition to the county Web site, the survey can be picked up at local libraries and municipal buildings. Copies also will be mailed or faxed upon request. A Spanish version is available.

Public meetings will be held this fall as an additional opportunity for community participation. The dates for these meetings will be announced soon and will be posted on the county's Web site.

For more information, contact Laurette Kratina at the Somerset County Planning Board at [planningbd@co.somerset.nj.us](mailto:planningbd@co.somerset.nj.us) or (908) 231-7021.

## 2002 SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS



**Robert Zaborowski**  
Freeholder Director



**Peter S. Palmer**  
Freeholder Deputy Director



**Denise Coyle**  
Freeholder



**Rick Fontana**  
Freeholder



**Ken Scherer**  
Freeholder

## Hazardous Waste Drop-offs

### Popular with Residents

If half-full cans of oil-based paints or stains are sitting in your basement and outdated lawn chemicals are stacked in your garage, your storage space is a stockpile for household hazardous waste.

If you can't find an immediate use for these products – for example, paints often can be donated to church or civic groups – mark your calendar for one of this year's remaining Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Days sponsored by the Somerset County Board of Freeholders and the Division of Solid Waste Management.

The fourth and fifth drop-off programs for 2002 are scheduled for Aug. 3 at the Franklin Township Sewerage Authority, 70 Commerce Drive, Somerset, and Oct. 26 at the South County Public Works Facility, 410 Roycefield Road, Hillsborough.

All drop-offs are held on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The program is free to Somerset County residents with proof of residency. For a brochure that lists some of the materials that are accepted or for directions, call (908) 231-7031.

"This has been a tremendously popular program with our residents," said Freeholder Rick Fontana, recycling and solid waste program liaison. "We've made it as convenient as possible by expanding the number of drop-off days and varying the locations around the county."

Somerset County's Household Hazardous Waste program began in 1987 as a means of keeping toxic material out of solid waste facilities. With a grant from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Somerset County began collecting

banned or outdated pesticides such as DDT and Chlordane at one site in Bridgewater.

By 1990, a Hillsborough site was added and the county was now holding four drop-off days. In order to cover more of the county's geographical area, Basking Ridge was added in 1994 as a northern drop-off point and Franklin Township was added in 1996 to cover the southeastern portion of the county. In 2001, the program was expanded to five collection days.

In 1987, the first collection was attended by approximately 300 households who disposed of 19 tons of materials. In 2001, 2,959 county residents dropped off approximately 181,500 pounds – some 90 tons – of materials for proper disposal, including 390 propane tanks, 2,700 gallons of used motor oil, 850 gallons of anti-freeze, 55,500 pounds of dry-cell batteries and 589 car and wet-cell batteries.

For more information, contact the county Division of Solid Waste Management at (908) 231-7031 or [solidwaste@co.somerset.nj.us](mailto:solidwaste@co.somerset.nj.us).

## Senior Initiative Addresses Key Issues

The Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders has sponsored the formation of a "Partnering For Our Aging Future" steering committee and six workgroups to address issues the county will face in providing services and support to the rapidly growing over-60 population.

The projected demand for eldercare services is expected to outpace the government's ability to provide many needed services as the "baby boomer" generation moves into its senior years.

Currently, residents age 60 and up

account for 11.2 percent of Somerset County's 300,000 population. The county's senior population is expected to grow 45 percent by 2010.

"Somerset County is committed to providing the best possible service to our older adults and to planning ahead for the challenges that increased service demands will bring," said Freeholder Deputy Director Peter S. Palmer, human services liaison. "We can achieve much success by working together to develop innovative approaches to these issues."

The "Partnering For Our Aging Future" initiative has established workgroups on housing, caregivers, workforce, wellness, transportation and access to develop action plans to address senior service issues. Members of the workgroups represent the senior population, non-profit and for-profit providers of services to the elder population, Somerset County government and municipal government.

Goals identified by the workgroups include increasing senior housing availability, expanding caregiver support services, developing caregiver training, recruiting and training more home health aides, creating a repository of information about senior wellness programs and implementing recommendations from an Elderly Mobility Study.

To support the need for easily accessible information about senior services and support, Somerset County will create a "Partnering For Our Aging Future" Web site dedicated to seniors and their caregivers.

In honor of Caregivers Month in November, the county will conduct an Open House/Expo on senior services, with exhibits and break-out rooms for seniors, caregivers and baby-boomers approaching "senior status."

## Free Family Fun at 2002 4-H Fair

Celebrate the national centennial of 4-H at the 2002 Somerset County 4-H Fair.

The fair will be held Wednesday through Friday, Aug. 14 -16, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily at North Branch Park on Milltown Road in Bridgewater.

This fair is a showcase for a wide variety of 4-H animal projects, including alpacas, goats, sheep, horses cows, rabbits, poultry and dogs. However, the scope of 4-H also includes Chinese culture, remote control cars, twirling and flags, go karts, rockets, clowns and puppets, herpetology, model trains and

planes and other project areas.

There will be professional entertainment at the showmobile each evening. Schedules of daily events and maps of the fairgrounds are available at the information tent.

County government and the Park Commission, Rutgers Cooperative Extension and commercial advertisers will have displays and information. A large selection of meals and snacks will be available in the food tent, provided by over 30 community organizations.

To continue the 55-year tradition of "free family fun," there will be no admission or parking fees and no midway or carnival rides.

The Somerset County 4-H Association, in support of the 4-H Youth Development Program of Rutgers Cooperative Extension, sponsors the fair. 4-H members and club leaders, volunteer fair managers and parents work together to make this the largest event in Somerset County.

"Avoid the fuss, ride the bus!" To make getting in and out of the fairgrounds as easy as possible, free shuttle buses will run from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. each day of the fair from the Raritan Valley Community College parking lot.

For more information about the fair, how to join 4-H or to volunteer, call the 4-H office at (908) 526-6644.

## 20 Recreation Projects Receive County Grant Funds

Twenty programs will benefit from the 2002 round of funding through Somerset County's Youth Athletic and Recreation Facility Grant Program.

"We started this program in 2000 in response to the damage that many municipal ballfields had suffered following the previous year's drought," said Freeholder Ken Scherer, who spearheaded the grant program. "Many towns just didn't have the wherewithal to repair their damaged fields, and we didn't want to see their kids miss out

on some much-needed recreational opportunities."

Due to the enthusiastic response from local officials, the freeholders agreed to continue the annual grant program, he said. "We've seen the growing demand for youth athletics and we want to be able to help provide towns with the ability to create safe ballfields and other facilities for their children."

This year's grants total \$310,000 for programs in 20 of the county's 21

municipalities. Millstone does not have eligible facilities of its own, but an additional amount was earmarked for Docherty Park in Hillsborough, since Millstone youth participate in the township's recreation programs.

Each grant is for \$15,000, with the exception of the Hillsborough allocation, which totals \$25,000. Additional local funding is provided for 11 of the projects. Towns and facilities receiving the county grant funds are:

- Bedminster** – Pluckemin Schoolhouse Park
- Bernards** – Harry Dunham Park and Pleasant Valley Park
- Bernardsville** – Bernardsville Pool
- Bound Brook** – Ben Maggio Recreation Center/Codrington Park
- Branchburg** – White Oak Park
- Bridgewater** – Alfred Brown Park and Prince Rodgers Park
- Far Hills** – Far Hills "Belcher Fairgrounds"
- Franklin** – Consvooy Park, Castleton Park and Inman Park
- Green Brook** – Park Avenue Ballfields, Park Avenue/Lenox Avenue, Roller Hockey Rink

- Hillsborough** – Docherty Park
- Manville** – Lincoln Park
- Montgomery** – Schafer Tract
- North Plainfield** – Marinaro Property
- Peapack-Gladstone** – Municipal Field No. 1, Liberty Park, Municipal Building Gymnasium and Firehouse Basketball Court
- Raritan** – Frelinghuysen Park
- Rocky Hill** – Tennis Courts
- Somerville** – Vanderveer School Basketball Court
- South Bound Brook** – Memorial Park Service Building
- Warren** – Baseball Field M-4
- Watchung** – Mobus Field and Camp Endeavor

## Senior Initiative Addresses Key Issues - continued from page 3

The "Partnering For Our Aging Future" steering committee includes representatives from the Cooperative Housing Corporation, New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, RideWise, Ridge Oak, Sadat Associates, Shiloh Pentecostal Church, Somerset County, Somerset County

Coalition on Affordable Housing, Somerset County Cultural Diversity Coalition, Somerset County Office on Aging, Somerset County Office on Aging Advisory Council, Somerset Medical Center, Somerset Savings Bank, VNA of Somerset Hills and the Visiting Nurse First Care.

For more information, contact John Middleton, workgroups coordinator, at (908) 231-7692 or Patricia S. Clark, director of policy and organizational development, at (908) 231-7113.