



News from the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders

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Sustainable Raritan River Initiative Kicks Off Nov. 10

NEW BRUNSWICK – Because the Raritan River is Somerset County’s principle water feature and a defining element in the county Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan, the Somerset County Board of Freeholders invites community leaders to a Rutgers University **Sustainable Raritan River Initiative symposium on Tuesday, Nov. 10.**

The symposium will be held from **6 to 8:30 p.m.** at **E.J. Bloustein Graduate School of Planning and Public Policy**, located at 33 Livingston Ave. Advance registration is required. Contact Project Director Judy Shaw at (732) 932-5475, ext. 720, or judy.shaw@rutgers.edu.

The goal of the conference is to get input on the challenges and opportunities the river presents for Somerset County, Middlesex County and the eighteen towns located along the Raritan River corridor.

“The Raritan River corridor is a key component of the County’s plan for a network of interconnecting greenways to link the diverse County park system. Preservation of this corridor is critical for the protection of environmentally sensitive areas, providing areas for recreational development, preserving local character and saving tax dollars by controlling development,” said Freeholder Peter S. Palmer. “The Sustainable Raritan River Initiative symposium is the perfect opportunity to bring together municipal and County stakeholders to work together to achieve the common goal of preserving this important river corridor.”

Bloustein School is sponsoring a two-semester graduate studio, consisting of 12-14 students each semester. The purpose of the studio is to produce a comprehensive Raritan River Corridor Study and Vision Plan and to give graduate students hands-on planning experience.

As part of the study, graduate students will review master plans, interview key stakeholders, assess community needs and goals and develop a common vision and implementation strategy for the river corridor.

For information or to register, contact Judy Shaw, Project Director of the Sustainable Raritan River Initiative, at (732) 932-5475, ext. 720.