



## News from the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders

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### November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month

*Somerset County Cancer Coalition activities planned*

**SOMERVILLE** – The Somerset County Board of Freeholders, along with the [Somerset County Cancer Coalition](#) (SCCC) and its partners, is recognizing November as Lung Cancer Awareness Month in Somerset County. Several activities are planned throughout the month to raise awareness about lung cancer.

“It’s critically important that we not only recognize the dangers of smoking and second-hand smoke, but that we do something about them. Equally important is the need to detect cancer at earlier, less dangerous stages and decrease exposure to radon to reduce the incidence of lung cancer, especially in children,” said Freeholder Peter S. Palmer, [Somerset County Public Health & Safety Department](#) liaison.

To this end, the Somerset County Board of Freeholders recently passed a “Smoke Free” policy at most county-owned properties, which went into effect on Nov. 1.

Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer in nonsmokers and the second- leading cause of lung cancer in general. For smokers, the risk of developing lung cancer is increased dramatically if they also are exposed to excess radon. According to the SCCC, lung and bronchus cancers are the No. 1 cause of cancer-related fatalities in Somerset County.

The [Somerset County Health Department](#) will have a display of lung cancer educational resources in the lobby of the county administration building, located at 20 Grove St., Nov. 15 through Dec. 1.

The health department also is offering radon kits to residents at the reduced rate of \$10. Residents can contact the Somerset County Health Department at 908-231-7155 or via e-mail at [health@co.somerset.nj.us](mailto:health@co.somerset.nj.us) for more information. Residents also can check with their local health officers for radon kits. A listing of local health departments in Somerset County can be found at [www.co.somerset.nj.us/health/localhealth.htm](http://www.co.somerset.nj.us/health/localhealth.htm).

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**Robert Zaborowski, Freeholder Director • Patricia L. Walsh, Freeholder Deputy Director**  
**Peter S. Palmer, Freeholder • Jack M. Ciattarelli, Freeholder • Patrick Scaglione, Freeholder**  
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Also, Somerset Medical Center (SMC), which is a SCCC partner, will have a display in the hospital lobby at 110 Rehill Ave. in Somerville on Thursday, Nov. 17, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The display is in recognition of the American Cancer Society's Great American Smokeout. Additionally, the hospital's Tobacco Quit Center will provide carbon-monoxide screenings for smokers. For more information on the Great American Smokeout, visit [www.cancer.org/Healthy/StayAwayFromTobacco/GreatAmericanSmokeout/index](http://www.cancer.org/Healthy/StayAwayFromTobacco/GreatAmericanSmokeout/index).

SMC also is hosting a free program on Thursday, Nov. 17, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the medical center's Steeplechase Cancer Center, located 30 Rehill Ave. in Somerville. The guest speaker is Dr. Deborah Morosini, sister to the late Dana Reeves. The presentation is titled "Transforming Tragedy into Hope." Dr. Morosini will discuss the causes of lung cancer, particularly second- and third-hand smoke, and how advocacy efforts are changing the face of lung cancer.

Light refreshments will be served beginning at 6:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required by calling 908-203-6234 or registering online at [somersetmedicalcenter.com/events](http://somersetmedicalcenter.com/events) and clicking on "Community Programs" on the right of the screen and selecting "Transforming Tragedy into Hope."

The Somerset County Cancer Coalition is made possible by a grant from the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services' Office of Cancer Control and Prevention. The Coalition encourages residents to test for radon and provide a smoke-free environment for their families. The Coalition provides smoking cessation assistance and radon information to county residents.

For more information on the SCCC, to become a member or learn about available cancer-screening locations, dates, times and eligibility, contact SCCC Coordinator Lucille Young-Talbot at 908-203-6077 or [ytalbot@co.somerset.nj.us](mailto:ytalbot@co.somerset.nj.us). Information also is available on the Somerset County Health Department website at [www.co.somerset.nj.us/health](http://www.co.somerset.nj.us/health) by selecting the Cancer Coalition from the "County Health Promotion & Wellness Activities" drop-down listing.

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