

Bernards Township 2023 Profile

Area: 24.5 sq. miles
Population: 27,830 (2020 Census); 27,747 (Current Estimate)

2023 Municipal Budget \$43,249,257.05

2023 Library Budget \$2,575,958.00

2023 Tax Levy: \$146,653,208.43
County \$23,344,513.27, School \$96,429,865.00
County Open Space \$2,333,676.26, Municipal \$ 21,969,195.90
Library \$2,575,958.00

2023 Tax Rate/\$100: \$1.886
County \$.300, School \$1.240, County Open Space \$.030
Municipal \$.283, Library \$.033,

Police Force: 39

Form of Government: Township Committee



Jennifer L. Asay
Mayor
Term Expires 12/31/2024



Janice M. Fields
Deputy Mayor
Term Expires 12/31/2025



Andrew J. McNally, Esq.
Term Expires 12/31/2024



Ana Durante McCarthy
Term Expires 12/31/2026



Gary Baumann
Term Expires 12/31/2026

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Location of Services

Mailing Address:

1 Collyer Lane, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Main Phone:

908-766-2510

Emergency (Police, Fire, First Aid):

911

Web:

www.bernards.org

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

1 Collyer Lane
Basking Ridge, NJ
Phone: 908-766-2510

ENGINEERING SERVICES BUILDING

277 S. Maple Avenue
Basking Ridge, NJ
Phone: 908-204-3018

Administration
Computer Systems Administrator
Finance
Mayor & Township Committee Office
Parks, Recreation, Pool, Golf
Personnel
Pool Commission
Prosecutor
Purchasing
Senior Citizens Information
Tax Assessor
Tax Collector
Township Clerk
Train & Bus Decals
Violations Bureau/Court Administrator
Voter Registration

Building Inspector
Bulky Waste Disposal
Construction Permits
Engineering
Environmental Commission
Bureau Fire Prevention
Grounds
Inspections
Pill Hill Recycling Center
Planner
Planning Board
Public Works
Roads
Sewerage Authority
Smoke Detector Test Scheduling
Zoning Board
Zoning Officer

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

262 S. Finley Avenue
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Phone: 908-204-3070

POLICE BUILDING

1 Collyer Lane
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Non-Emergency 908-766-1122

Animal Warden
Board of Health
Dog & Cat Licenses
Environmental or Health Complaints
Environmental or Health Inspections
Local Assistance Board
Marriage Licenses
Registrar of Vital Statistics
Septic
Welfare
Well Water

911 Information
Accident Reports
Detective Bureau
Emergency Management
Handicap Parking Placards
Records
Security Alarm Permits
Traffic Control
Weapon Permits

BERNARDS TOWNSHIP LIBRARY

32 S. Maple Avenue
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Phone 908-204-3031

COMMUNITY SERVICE

31 Stonehouse Road
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Phone 908-766-9748

Bernards Township Meeting Date Schedule

Agricultural Advisory	Meets 3 rd Thursday after 1 st Monday, Quarterly
Board of Adjustment:	Meets 1 st Wednesday after first Monday of Month; special meetings 2 nd Thursday after the 1 st Monday in January through June and September through November
Board of Health:	Meets 2 nd Thursday after 1 st Monday of Month (no meetings in July, August, and November)
Charter Day Committee	3 rd Monday of Month January, February, March, then bi-weekly April through Charter Day (Daytime meetings)
Deer Management	Meets 1 st Thursday after 1 st Monday, Monthly
Environmental Commission:	Meets 4 th Monday of Month
Golf Advisory Board	Meets 3 rd Monday in March, May, July, September & October (call to confirm dates)
LEPC & Flood Mitigation	Meets 3 rd Wednesday after 1 st Monday in January, May and September (Daytime Meetings)
Library Board:	Meets 4 th Wednesday after 1 st Monday of month (no meetings in July and August)
Municipal Court:	Meets Tuesdays
Municipal Alliance/Youth Service	Meets 1 st Tuesday after 1 st Monday, Monthly except July & Aug. (6-7:30 PM)
Parks, Pathways & Recreation	Meets 1 st Monday, Monthly (except when a Holiday then on 2 nd Monday)
Personnel Subcommittee	Call of the Chair
Planning Board	Meets 1 st & 3 rd Tuesdays after 1 st Monday, Monthly
Pool Commission	Meets 4 th Monday, Monthly
Police Subcommittee	4 th Tuesday after 1 st Monday, Monthly (Prior to TC Meetings)
Sewerage Authority	Meets 2 nd Tuesday after 1 st Monday (prior to TC Meetings) 6:30 PM
Shade Tree Commission:	Meets 2 nd Wednesday after 1 st Monday, Monthly
Township Committee	Meets 2 nd & 4 th Tuesdays after 1 st Monday, Monthly



N. J. Representatives

U.S. Senators

Cory Booker

www.booker.senate.gov

Washington D.C.

717 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-3224

Newark, New Jersey

One Gateway Center
23rd Floor
Newark, NJ 07102
Phone: (973) 639-8700

Camden

One Port Center
2 Riverside Drive, Suite 505
Camden, NJ 08101
Phone: (856) 338-8922

Robert Menendez

www.menendez.senate.gov

Washington D.C.

528 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: (202) 224-4744

Jersey City, New Jersey

210 Hudson Street
Harborside 3, Suite 1000
Jersey City, NJ 07311
(973) 645-3030

Barrington, New Jersey

208 White Horse Pike, Suite 18
Barrington New Jersey, 08007
(856) 757-5353

Congressman - District 7

Congressman Tom Kean, Jr.

<http://kean.house.gov/>

Washington DC Office

251 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: (202) 225-5361

Bernardsville District Office

75 Claremont Road, Suite 206
Bernardsville, NJ 07924
Phone: (908) 547-3307

New Jersey 21st Legislative District

[Jon M. Bramnick](http://www.jonbramnick.com)

251 North Ave. West, 2nd Floor
Westfield, NJ 07090
(908) 232-2073

Assemblywoman Michele Matsikoudis

180 South Street, Suite 202
New Providence, NJ 07974
(908) 679-8889

Assemblywoman Nancy F. Munoz

57 Union Pl., Suite 310
Summit, NJ 07901
(908) 918-0414

Somerset County Commissioners

20 Grove Street

Somerville, NJ 08876

www.co.somerset.nj.us

Shanel Y. Robinson, Director

Douglas Singleterry, Deputy Director •

Sara Sooy

Melonie Marano

Paul M. Drake

Community Services & Highlights

Somerset County

Somerset County's Free E-Newsletter	www.co.somerset.nj.us/newsletter	
Resource Somerset	www.LeadershipSomerset.org	
Somerset County Environmental Center	https://www.somersetcountyparks.org/environmental-education-center	
Somerset County Parks	https://www.somersetcountyparks.org/parks-facilities	
The Stable at Lord Stirling Park	https://www.somersetcountyparks.org/stable-lord-stirling-park	

Public Safety

Basking Ridge Fire Company and First Aid Squad	www.brffc.com 908-766-9874	30 Washington Avenue Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Bernards Township Bureau of Fire Prevention	Fire Prevention Bureau 908-204-2511	277 S. Maple Avenue Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Bernards Township Police	BT Police 908-766-1122	1 Collyer Lane Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Liberty Corner Fire Company	www.libertycornerfire.org 908-647-3530	95 Church Street P.O. BOX 98 Liberty Corner, NJ 07938

Hospitals

Morristown Hospital	www.atlantichealth.org/morristown/ 973-971-5000	100 Madison Avenue Morristown, NJ 07960
Overlook Hospital	www.atlantichealth.org/overlook/ 908-522-2000	99 Beauvoir Avenue Summit, NJ
Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Somerset	http://www.rwjuh.edu/rwjuh/home.aspx 908-685-2200	110 Rehill Avenue Somerville, NJ 08876
Veterans' Affairs Medical Center	www.newjersey.va.gov/ 908-647-0180	Lyons, NJ 07939

Post Offices

Basking Ridge Post Office	www.usps.com 908-766-0611	21 Brownlee Place Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Liberty Corner Post Office	908-647-0841	8 Church Street Liberty Corner, NJ 07938
Lyons Post Office	800-275-8777	151 Knollcroft Rd. Lyons, NJ 07939
Village Station Post Office	800-275-8777	566 Allen Rd. Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Utilities

Cable/Internet

www.optimum.com
1-866-347-4784

Optimum

<https://www.verizon.com/local/new-jersey-fios/>
1-800-837-4966

Verizon

Electric

www.firstenergycorp.com
1-800-662-3115

JCP&L (First Energy)

Garbage

www.interstatewaste.com
1-866-DIAL-IWS

Interstate Waste Services (IWS)

www.republicservices.com
1-844-737-8254

Republic Services

<http://www.pintoserviceinc.com/>
1-973-778-6573

Pinto Service Inc.

Gas

www.pseg.com
1-800-436-7734

Public Service Electric/Gas Co.

Recycling

www.co.somerset.nj.us/recycle
732-469-3363

Somerset County Recycling Program

Sewer

[Sewerage Authority](#)
908-204-3020 (Administrative)
908-647-2460 (Plant)
908-204-3078 (Payment)

Bernards Twp. Sewerage Authority

Telephone

www.optimum.com
1866-347-4966

Optimum

www.verizon.net
1-800-837-4966

Verizon

Water

www.amwater.com
1-899-269-2837

New Jersey
American Water Company



Schools

Public Schools

Board of Education	www.bernardsboe.com 908-204-2600	101 Peachtree Road Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Cedar Hill Grades K-5	https://cedarhill.bernards.boe.com 908-204-2633	100 Peachtree Road Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Liberty Corner Grades K-5	https://libertycorner.bernards.boe.com 908-204-2550	61 Church Street Liberty Corner, NJ 07938
Mount Prospect Elementary Grades K-5	https://mountprospect.bernards.boe.com 908-470-1600	111 Hansom Road Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Oak Street Grades K-5	https://oakstreet.bernards.boe.com 908-204-2565	70 W. Oak Street Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
William Annin Grades 6-8	https://williamannin.bernards.boe.com 908-204-2610	70 Quincy Road Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Ridge High School Grades 9-12	https://ridgehigh.bernards.boe.com 908-204-2585	268 S. Finley Avenue Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Somerset County Vocational & Technical Schools	www.scvths.org 908-526-8900	14 Vogt Dr., P.O.B. 6350 Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Private Schools

Albrook Montessori School Ages 2-12 years	www.albrookschool.org 908-580-0661	361-A Somerville Road Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Bonnie Brae Residential Treatment Center for Adolescent Boys	www.bonnie-brae.org 908-647-0800	3415 Valley Road P.O. BOX 825 Liberty Corner, NJ 07938
Pingry School Grades 7-12	www.pingry.org 908-647-5555	131 Martinsville Road, Basking Ridge, NJ 08836
St. James School Grades K-8	www.sjsbr.org 908-766-4774	200 S. Finley Avenue Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Pre-Schools

Albrook Montessori School Ages 2-12	www.albrookschool.org 908-580-0661	361-A Somerville Road Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Chabad Jewish Center Preschool	www.chabadcentral.org 908-604-8844	3048 Valley Road Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
The Children's Corner	www.lcpc.org 908-647-0340	45 Church Street Liberty Corner, NJ 07938
Gentle Shephard Christian Pre-School	www.gentleshepherdpreschool.net 908-766-1430	350 Lake Road Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Little Footprints Learning Center	www.littlefootprintsnj.com 908-647-0011	520 King George Road Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Pre-Schools (continued)

Somerset Hills Montessori	www.somersethillsmontessori.org 908-221-0797	173 Madisonville Road Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Sunshine Preschool & Infant Care	www.sunshinepreschool.net 908-604-2707	3575 Valley Road Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
The Tree House Child Caring Center	thpreschool.com 908-221-1619	1 E. Oak Street Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Colleges

Raritan Valley Community College	www.raritanval.edu 908-526-1200	118 Lamington Rd. Branchburg, NJ 08876
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Houses of Worship

Millington Baptist Church	www.millingtonbaptist.org 908-647-0594	520 King George Road Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Bishop Janes United Methodist	http://bjumc.org/ 908-766-1108	22 S. Finley Avenue Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Chabad Jewish Center	www.chabadcentral.org 908-604-8844	3048 Valley Road Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Congregation B'nai Israel	www.cbibr.org 908-204-1412	40 Whitenack Road Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Covenant Chapel (Reformed Episcopal)	www.covenantrecnj.org 908-766-6174	127 W. Oak Street Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Fellowship Deaconry	http://www.fellowshipdeaconry.org 908-647-1777	3575 Valley Road Liberty Corner, NJ 07938
Presbyterian Church of Liberty Corner	www.lcpc.org 908-647-0340	45 Church Street, P.O. Box 55 Liberty Corner, NJ 07938
Somerset Hills Baptist Church	www.somersethillsbaptist.org 908-647-7090	510 Mount Airy Road Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Somerset Hills Lutheran Church	www.shlc.net 908-766-2858	350 Lake Road Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
St. James Catholic Church	www.saintjamesbr.org 908-766-0888	184 S. Finley Avenue Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
St. Mark's Episcopal Church	www.stmarksbr.org 908-766-9058	140 S. Finley Avenue Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
The Presbyterian Church of Basking Ridge	www.brpc.org 908-766-1616	1 E. Oak Street Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Organizations



Association of University Women (AAUW)	www.aauwnj.org 908-685-3695	PO Box 5 Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
American Legion Post 216		151 Route 206 S. Gladstone, NJ 07934
Basking Ridge Business Alliance	https://brbanj.org/ (908) 758-3242	5 Lyons Mall #325 Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Basking Ridge Garden Club	www.brgenj.com	
Bernards Municipal Alliance	www.bernardsalliance.org 908-204-2523	262 S. Finley Avenue Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Big Brothers / Big Sisters of Hunterdon, Somerset & Warren Counties	https://unitedwaynnj.galaxydigital.com/agency/detail/?agency_id=13865 908-689-0436	2 West Washington Ave. Suite 210 Washington, NJ 07882
Bonafides of Somerset Hills	www.thebonafidesofsomerset hills.org	P.O. Box 91 Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Boy Scout Troop 54		45 Church St. Liberty Corner, NJ 07938
Boy Scout Troop 555		Somerset Hills Lutheran Church 350 Lake Rd. Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Bernards Township Regional Chamber of Commerce	www.bernardstwpregionalchamber.org 908-766-6755 Al Licata	P.O. Box 11 Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Chamber of Commerce (County) Somerset County Business Partnership	www.scbp.org 908-218-4300	360 Grove Street Bridgewater, NJ 08807
Cub Pack 55		St James Church 184 South Finley Ave. Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Farmstead Arts	www.farmsteadartscenter.org 908-636-7576	450 King George Rd. PO Box 155 Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Girl Scouts of Rolling Hills	www.girlscouts-rh.org 908-725-1226	Attn: Membership 1171 Rte. 28 North Branch, NJ 08876
Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge	fws.gov/refuge/great_swamp (973) 425-1222	32 Pleasant Plains Rd. Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Great Swamp Watershed Association	http://www.greatswamp.org/ 973-538-3500	568 Tempe Wick Rd. Morristown, NJ 07960
Judith G. Wharton Music Center	www.whartonarts.org 908-790-0700	60 Locust Ave. Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922
Junior Woman's Club of Somerset Hills	njsfwc.org/the-club-pages/somerset-hills/	P.O. Box 52 Bernardsville, NJ 07924

Kiwanis Club of Somerset Hills	https://www.kiwanis.org/	1948 Washington Valley Rd Martinsville, NJ 08836
Knights of Columbus	www.kofc2393.org	
League of Women Voters of Somerset Hills	www.lwvnj.org	
Lions Club of Bernards	https://e-clubhouse.org/sites/bernards/	P.O. Box 352 Bernardsville, NJ 02924
Make-a-Wish Foundation – New Jersey Chapter	https://wish.org/nj/our-chapter	
Newcomers & Neighbors of Somerset Hills	www.nnshclub.org	
Passaic River Coalition	http://www.passaicriver.org/ 973-532-9830	330 Speedwell Ave. Morristown, NJ 07960
Raritan Headwaters Association	www.raritanheadwaters.org/ 908-234-1852	2121 Larger Cross Rd. Bedminster, NJ 07921
Senior Wellness Center	https://seniorcenter.us/sc/somerset_county_senior_wellness_center_bernards_basking_ridge_nj 908-204-3435	202 Mt. Airy Road Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Somerset County 4-H	https://4histops.org/ 908-526-6644	310 Milltown Road Bridgewater, NJ 08807-3587
Somerset Hills Kennel Club	www.somersethillsskc.org 908-304-8086	14 Salters Farm Road Tewksbury, NJ 07830
Somerset Hills YMCA	www.somersethillssymca.org 908-766-7898	140 Mount Airy Road Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
The Historical Society of Somerset Hills	www.historicalsocietyofsomerset hills.org 908-221-1770	P.O. Box 136 Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Trilogy Repertory	www.trilogyreperatory.com	P.O. Box 199 Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
U.S. Golf Association	www.usgamuseum.com 908-234-2300	77 Liberty Corner Road Liberty Corner, NJ 07938
Visiting Nurse Association of Somerset Hills Somerset Hills Hospice	www.visitingnurse.org 973-379-8400	200 Mt. Airy Road Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Specialized Housing



Affordable Housing
Bernards Township
(Central Jersey Housing
Resource Center)

www.cjhrc.org
908-446-0036
2cjhrc@gmail.com

92 East Main St.
Suite 407
Somerville, NJ 08876

Avidd/Bethel Ridge Group
Home

www.bethelridgenj.org
973 664-1770

175 South Maple Avenue
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Fellowship Village Continuing
Care Retirement Community

www.fellowshipvillage.org
908-580-3800

8000 Fellowship Road
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Ridge Oak Senior Housing

www.ridgeoak.org
908-221-0266

150 Manchester Drive
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Matheny Community Residence

matheny.org
908-234-0011

33 N. Maple Avenue
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Transportation



Lakeland Bus Line

www.lakelandbus.com
973-366-0600

425 E. Blackwell Street
Dover, NJ 07801

New Jersey Division
of Motor Vehicles

www.nj.gov/mvc

General Information
(Administrative Offices)

New Jersey Division
of Motor Vehicle Services
(Local Office – Somerville)

www.nj.gov/mvc
609-292-6500

10 Roosevelt Place
Somerville, NJ 08876
(Off Rt. 28)

New Jersey Division
of Motor Vehicles
(Inspection Station)

www.nj.gov/mvc
609-295-6500

Flemington VIS
181 Routes 31 & 202
Flemington, NJ 08822

New Jersey Transit Train

www.njtransit.com
973-275-5555

Newark Airport

www.newarkairport.com

Newark, NJ

RideWise
(transportation management
agency for Somerset County)

RideWise Transportation
908-704-1011

Somerset County
360 Grove St.
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Taxi / Limo Services

908-542-1881

Bernards Township Car and
Limousine Service, Inc.
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Recreation Programs

Babe Ruth Baseball

www.baberuthleague.org

908-604-2220

For boys and girls ages 13-15

Registration in February

Basking Ridge

Little League

www.ridgebaseballclub.com

Youth baseball for boys & girls

6-12 - Registration in November

Bernards Township Recreation

1 Collyer Lane

Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

<http://www.bernards.org/departments/recreation>

908-204-3003

A variety of programs and activities for all ages including basketball, girls softball, ant hockey, drama classes, tennis, summer camp, fitness, computer programs, karate, music, volleyball, golf, trips, senior citizen and therapeutic recreation services, and much more. Call for more details.

Fishing & Hunting Licenses

www.Njfishandwildlife.com

Wrestling

<https://www.ridgewrestling.org/#/>

Instructional club for grades K-8. Registration in October

Ridge Ice Hockey Association

Jr. Devils

www.ridgehockey.net

Ridge Youth Sports, Inc.
Football /Cheerleading and
Boys Lacrosse

www.ridgeyouthsports.com

Grades K-8

Grades 2-8

Somerset Hills Lacrosse Club

www.somersethillslax.com

Grades 4-8 – Registration in November

FCBERNA

<https://www.fcberna.com/>

Youth soccer for boys and girls
Intramural: grades K-8
Travel:U8-U14

Somerset Hills YMCA

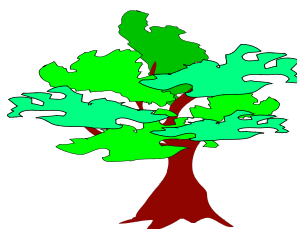
140 Mount Airy Road

Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

www.somersethillsymca.org

908-766-7898

Extensive leisure programs.
Competitive programs in swimming, gymnastics.



Parks and Recreation Facilities

*For a Complete Listing of Township Parks and Recreation Facilities visit
www.bernards.org*

Allen Street Gazebo Intersection of Allen Street & North Finley Avenue		Place to relax and enjoy a brown bag lunch
Astor Fields 1 Collyer Lane (behind municipal building)	908-204-3003	3 multipurpose fields
Basking Ridge Country Club 185 Madisonville Road	908-766-9200	Private 18-hole golf course and swimming pool – Members only
Ridge Baseball Complex Valley Road Bernards Township Community Center 289 South Maple Avenue	908-204-3003	4 Little League baseball fields & area flooded for ice skating in winter Activity room holds up to 35 people. Recreation room holds up to 50 people.
Coakley-Russo Memorial Golf Course (V.A.) Valley Road	908-204-3003	9-Hole Course – Memberships available.
Dead River Trail West of Acken Road, north of power lines		Wooded area with a rustic trail for walking use only
Dunham Park Somerville & Liberty Corner Roads Liberty Corner	908-204-3003	Picnic shelter, indoor pavilion, roller hockey rink, softball/baseball field, sand volleyball court, disc golf course, bocce court, barrier-free playground, bike/jogging path, nature trail, multipurpose field
English Family Woods Allen Road		Passive recreation
Farmstead Park King George Road Liberty Corner Tennis Courts Church St. & Mine Brook Rd.	908-204-3003	Multipurpose field 2 Tennis courts
Lord Stirling Park Riding Stables 256 S. Maple Avenue	908-766-5955	Full program of public riding instruction in English horsemanship for youth and adults. Seasonally the stables offer reserved hayrides, sleigh rides.

Manchester Drive Athletic Field, Manchester Dr.	908-204-3003	Multipurpose field
McCollum Farm		Passive recreation
Mountain Park Mountain & Martinsville Roads	908-204-3003	4 Multipurpose fields (2 lighted) 1.25-mile paved bike/jogging path; 4 LL/softball fields (2 lighted)
Oak Street Tennis Courts West Oak Street	908-204-3003	2 Tennis Courts
Pleasant Valley Park Valley Road	908-204-3003	Multipurpose fields, softball & baseball fields, tennis courts, picnic shelter, warming hut, stocked pond (no fishing permit required), pond shelter, walking trail, amphitheater, platform tennis courts, basketball court, sand volleyball court, barrier-free playground, fitness cluster
Pleasant Valley Pool Valley Road	908-204-3003	50 Meter "Z" shaped pool w/diving tank, training pool with slide, wading pool, water & play area, concession stand
Rebel Hill Park Fairview Drive S.	908-204-3003	Neighborhood Park with soccer/softball field, tennis courts, barrier free playground, picnic tables
Schmidt Park Pond Hill Road	908-204-3003	Passive recreation – hiking trails, fishing with permit
Somerset County Environmental Education Ctr 190 Lord Stirling Road	908-766-2489	Nature walks, environmental programs and exhibits, classes
Sons of Liberty Farm Allen Road		Passive recreation, hiking trails, fishing (no permit required)
Southard Park North Maple Avenue	908-204-3003	Picnic shelter, soccer/softball field, basketball court, stocked pond for fishing (no permit required), sand volleyball court, barrier-free playground and bocce court, ice skating in winter, shuffleboard court.
War Memorial Field South Maple Avenue		Paws Park Dog Run (dogs must be licensed), multipurpose field, baseball & softball fields
Washington Ave. Athletic Field Washington Avenue		Soccer/Softball field
Whitenack Woods		Passive recreation

Libraries



Bernards Township Library

www.bernardslibrary.org
908-204-3031

32 S. Maple Avenue
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Somerset County Library

www.somerset.lib.nj.us
908-526-4016

N. Bridge St. & Vogt Dr.
Bridgewater, NJ 07920

Historic Sites Listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places

Alward Farm House (Chimney Ash Farm) 1 Chimney Ash Farm Road Basking Ridge, NJ 07920	Entered in State Register February 5, 1986 (ID #2468) Entered in National Register March 13, 1986 (NR Reference #86000388)	Colonial era farmhouse represents the simple and primitive lifestyle of early settlers. Built c.1740, it is one of the first structures in Bernards Township.
Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church 1 E. Oak Street Basking Ridge, NJ 07920 www.brpc.org 908-766-1616	Entered in State Register October 24, 1974 (ID #2470) Entered in National Register December 31, 1974 (NR Reference #74001190)	Greek Revival style church built in 1839. A stately white oak tree over 600 years old stands in the churchyard where 35 Revolutionary War veterans are buried. Sanctuary, church yard and tree on State and National Registers
Boudinot-Southard Farmstead 135 North Maple Ave Basking Ridge, NJ 07920	Entered in State Register September 11, 2009 (ID #4955) Entered in National Register December 18, 2009 (NR Reference # 09001101)	
Coffee House (Turner Homestead) 214 N. Maple Avenue Basking Ridge, NJ 07920	Entered in State Register March 28, 1977 (ID #2471) Entered in National Register November 7, 1977 (NR Reference #77000906)	Built in 1804, the house is an example of a New Jersey frame farmhouse which later served as a crossroads tavern, meeting place and stagecoach route.
Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead King George Road Basking Ridge, NJ 07920	Entered in State Register June 9, 2003 (ID #4200) Entered in National Register May 5, 2004 (NR Reference #03000868) COE: May 14, 2001	Built between 1750 and 1840, the Farmstead and three historic agricultural structures are part of Old Farmstead Park, a 36.5-acre property along the Passaic River. The Farmstead's buildings are early examples of English and modified Dutch framing. The Farmstead is site of a classical school founded by the Rev. Samuel Kennedy; later relocated several times and finally housed in the Brick Academy. The 1740 home was also residence of founding father

		of State of NJ, Col. Ephraim Martin. Later home of prominent Stelle landowners. Property in agricultural use for more than 250 years. Other buildings include large English barn and wagon barn.
Lord Stirling Manor Site 96 Lord Stirling Road Basking Ridge, NJ 07920 908-766-2489	Entered in State Register December 1, 1976 (ID #2475) Entered in National Register May 22, 1978 (NR Reference #78001795)	Two brick buildings are all that remain of the Lord Stirling/William Alexander estate. Research has established these were auxiliary buildings related to farm life (granary, farm office, perhaps used by domestic servants). Archeological digs are ongoing on site which is owned by the Somerset County Park Commission.
The Brick Academy 15 W. Oak Street Basking Ridge, NJ 07920	Entered in State Register November 25, 1975 (ID #2467) Entered in National Register July 21, 1976 (NR Reference #76001185)	Originally built to house the Basking Ridge Classical School in 1809. This is the oldest existing Federal style building in Bernards Township; it was Public School District #12 from 1852-1903; it then was a union hall and served as the municipal building 1924-1975. It is the present home of The Historical Society of Somerset Hills.

Historic Districts

Franklin Corners Childs Road & Route 202 Basking Ridge, NJ	Entered in State Register December 12, 1974 (ID #2472) Entered in National Register May 12, 1975 (NR Reference #75001159)	Consists of 50 acres including 13 structures, and its focal point, the Van Dorn Mill, c.1843, one of the finest examples of stonework in N.J. First residents were farmers and millers, settled in mid-1700s. Present mill replaced original one of 1768 which supplied Washington's troops with grain. Operational until World War II.
Liberty Corner Historic District	Entered in State Register August 16, 1991 (ID #2473) Entered in National Register October 11, 1991 (NR Reference #91001477)	Consists of 142 acres; 84 contributing 7 non-contributing buildings, 1 stone bridge and liberty pole site, centerpiece is Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church, built 1868-69, an Italianate structure.
Lyons Veterans Administration Hospital Historic District 151 Knollcroft Rd. Basking Ridge, NJ 07920	Entered in State Register April 29, 2013 (ID #2476) Entered in National Register July 3, 2013 (NR Reference #13000461)	

A Brief History of Bernards Township

Bernards Township is where the following events occurred:

- The Rev. George Whitefield, English evangelist, preached to 3,000 people under the white oak tree of the Presbyterian Church, during the Great Awakening of 1740.
- Lord Stirling (William Alexander) built his palatial estate, Stirling Manor, here. Local people called it The Buildings, because of its size; the road was called Building Lane.
- Washington and Lafayette picnicked, and colonial troops rested under the old oak tree in Basking Ridge Presbyterian Churchyard.
- Young men attended a small private academy, entered the College of New Jersey, and became prominent in State and National history.
- Uniforms were sewn for the Northern soldiers during the Civil War and four years after the war, the Chief Surgeon of the Union Army built a home two blocks away. Also, axles for the mess wagons onto the battlefields were made in a hub and spoke factory here.
- Liberty Corner was a popular summer resort, with vacationers staying at local homesteads and dairy farms. A carriage would meet guests at the Lyons depot.
- Governor Woodrow Wilson made a speech on the village green in Basking Ridge prior to World War II.
- Colonel John Jacob Astor IV donated stones to build the Methodist Church, 14 years before he perished in the sinking of the Titanic in 1912.
- Samuel Owen of Newark, a pharmaceutical magnate, built his English Tudor mansion in 1912, now Town Hall.

The Lenni-Lenape Indians, a branch of the Delaware (part of the Algonquin Nation) were the first known inhabitants of the Bernards Township area. Scattered throughout are traces of these people: arrowheads, tomahawks, hearthstones, hammerheads and camp rubble, which indicate long occupation. One of the most widely used Indian areas was near Madisonville Road--a major campsite was the present AT&T location on North Maple Avenue. A burial ground is known to have existed on the east side of Childs Road on the hillside across from the Indian Graves Brook.

The area was purchased by John Harrison, agent of King James II of England in 1717, from Chief Nowenoik of the Lenapes, a real estate package of 3,000 acres for \$50. The remainder of the Township's land was bought later that year by William Penn. Early settlers were Scotch, Irish and English. Harrison's Purchase or Harrison's Neck was the property's designation. In 1733 the name Basking Ridge first appeared in ecclesiastic records of the Presbyterian Church and is recorded as being derived from the fact that "the wild animals of the adjacent lowlands were accustomed to bask in the warm sun of this beautiful ridge." Baskeridge and Baskenridge were commonly used.

By 1740 a list of settlers included names as Alward, Annin, Conkling, Cross, Dayton, and Lewis. At the time of the American Revolution, as many as 100 men from Bernards answered the call to arms. Revolutionary troops came from Bound

Brook through Annin's Corner and Basking Ridge en route to Morristown. During this time, a liberty pole was placed on the village green, with Annin's Corner renamed Liberty Corner. Basking Ridge was thought to be a secure place from the British Army as it was only seven miles away from the center of Washington's army at Jockey Hollow. General Charles Lee, second in command, was captured by British forces at the Widow White's Tavern in December 1776. (This is at the corner of Colonial Drive and South Finley Avenue.) A local street, Old Army Road, was so named because it was the path trod through the country from Jockey Hollow to the Vealtown Tavern in Bernardsville by American troops.

In 1750 a classical school, designed to prepare young men for college, was established in Basking Ridge by Dr. Samuel Kennedy, fourth pastor of the Presbyterian Church, and later run by his successor, Dr. Robert Finley. The school, known as the Basking Ridge Classical School for almost 50 years, was conducted in the ministers' homes. Through contributions and partly at Dr. Finley's expense, the Brick Academy was built in 1809. Pupils came from many other states, as well as New Jersey; residents provided lodgings. The Academy was known as having contributed more men "to the bench, the bar and the pulpit". Students entered their junior year at the College of New Jersey (Princeton University). Among the Academy students were Samuel Southard, governor of New Jersey, U.S. Senate president and acting vice-president under President Tyler; William Lewis Dayton, vice-presidential candidate with John C. Fremont in 1856, and President Lincoln's Minister to France during the Civil War; Robert Field Stockton, hero of the Mexican War; Theodore Frelinghuysen, U.S. Senator, vice-presidential candidate with Henry Clay in 1844 and president of Rutgers College.

There are twelve Houses of Worship of nine denominations. The Township has two historic districts: Franklin Corners and Liberty Corner. There are eight listings on the State and National Registers: The Brick Academy, Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church, Van Dorn Mill, Coffee House Corners (Turner Homestead), Chimney Ash Farm (Alward Homestead), Lord Stirling Estate out-buildings, and the two historic districts.

Two transportation-related events changed Bernards Township. In 1872 the railroad was completed, opening the area to those who wished to live in the country and work in the metropolitan environment. Almost 100 years later, construction of Route 287 and later Route 78, two Interstate Highways, made commuting much easier for those seeking to live in residential climate.

Liberty Corner, settled since 1722, still maintains its gentle rural atmosphere. However, large housing developments are under construction in that village. In the later part of the 19th Century, it was famous for its summer resorts.

Bernards Township Town Hall **Collyer Lane, Basking Ridge, New Jersey**

High on the ridge encircled on three sides by public roads stands an English Tudor style mansion. Built in 1912, this Basking Ridge landmark was the home of four wealthy families--Owen, Lee, Bissell and Astor, before it was purchased by Bernards Township in 1968. Commonly called the Astor Mansion after its last owner, this is the Bernards Township seat of government. The original choice 100 acres have



a commanding view of Collyer Lane, South Finley Avenue and South Maple Avenue. The entire tract extended to the northern boundary of Homestead Village and included what is now War Memorial Field, plus the properties of Cedar Hill School and Ridge High School.

This residence, built of brick laid in Flemish bond, was the dream of Samuel Owen of Newark, a pharmaceutical manufacturer and gentleman farmer. The manor house contained 20 rooms, had an attached servants' quarters for the head outside man, an unfinished third floor storage and servants' quarters, an attached three stall garage and a small building for garden equipment. There also were two auxiliary structures on the grounds--a gate or carriage house on South Finley Avenue and the estate manager's cottage on South Maple Avenue.

The Owens named their new home, "Cedar Hill" and spent six months there and the remainder in Newark. Alice Burford Owen was related to Sir James Horlick, president of Horlick Malted Milk Products. To reflect his wife's British ancestry, Mr. Owen attempted to reproduce an English country home with beautiful brick-walled formal gardens, a rambler rose-covered arbor and a rose garden. A handsome native stone wall surrounded the entire acreage.

Features of the house include a red tiled roof, French and pocket doors, mahogany and birdseye maple paneling, etched crystal and brass wall sconces, unique moldings, green and rare red marble fireplaces with large marble hearths. The Owen family crest appears on the fireplace wall in the crystal chandeliered dining room. Townspeople were invited to picnic in Owen's woods; 35 acres were planted with 5,000 peach and 1,500 apple trees. Cedar Hill Farm provided summer jobs for local students and at harvest time, for residents.

Trustees of the Owen estate sold the property to Mr. and Mrs. George Ludlow Lee Sr. in 1940. Mr. Lee was owner/treasurer of the Red Devil Tool Company of Irvington, 1937-1950; he later became chairman of the board, renamed Red Devil, Inc., now at Union, N.J. Mr. Lee served on the Bernards Township Planning Board and was its vice-chairman in 1944. He and his wife, Dulcinea Harrison Smith Lee, continued operation of the flourishing fruit farm, where local markets and roadside stands were supplied with the produce.

In 1946, 28 acres were divided into two tracts: 11.3 acres Lee retained in its natural state; 17 acres including the house were sold to Eugene V.N. Bissell and Zita Gatlin Bissell. John Jacob Astor VI bought the smaller tract of 11.3 acres from Lee in 1947. In the mid-50s, Lee donated 60 acres of land to Bernards Township Board of Education to build Cedar Hill School and Ridge High School with their associated athletic fields. An additional 12 acres were sold to the Neill Card Post #114, American Legion, War Memorial Foundation, for its field on South Maple Avenue.

Mr. and Mrs. Bissell renamed the estate "Maple Way" and lived there from 1946-1950. Mr. Bissell was executive vice-president of the Continental Grain Company in New York City. They sold the property to John Jacob Astor VI in 1950. Mr. Astor acquired an additional 17 acres from the Bissells, adding to his original 11.3 from the Lees. He lived in the mansion infrequently but employed a staff to run it. Vacated in 1960, it remained unoccupied for eight years before Bernards Township purchased the hilltop house and 28 acres for \$140,000 in 1968. (Mr. Astor was the son born posthumously to Colonel John Jacob Astor IV, who perished in the sinking of the Titanic in 1912.)

An addition to the mansion (a new police wing in 1974) and further remodeling paved the way for the relocation of Bernards Township's government, which had been housed in an 1809 Federal style schoolhouse on West Oak Street. In 1975, for the first time Township offices were in a centralized location.

This picturesque real estate is almost entirely surrounded by public and semi-public lands. To the rear is the Board of Education property; across Collyer Lane is the St. James Church and School; and on the opposite side of South Maple Avenue is Lord Stirling Park, which includes the Somerset County Environmental Education Center and Riding Stables, covering almost 1,000 acres.