



# Bernards Township 250th Anniversary

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## Upcoming Events:

**May 24: Hands Across Bernards:** At 7:00 p.m. sirens will sound to honor the signing of the Bernards Township Charter exactly 250 years ago! Step outside and join your neighbors to sing "Happy Birthday" and commemorate the occasion. Area church bells will ring at 7:03 p.m. to conclude the event.

**May 25: The Northeast Navy Pops Ensemble** will offer a concert at Ridge High School. Voluntary donations in the form of local business gift cards will be collected at the door.

**June 13: "June in June"** - Join June Kennedy, township historian, and the Historical Society of the Somerset Hills for never-before-seen Bernards Township artifacts, to be displayed at the Library.

*Have you ever seen this local landmark?*



*Last fall residents, businesses and civic groups planted commemorative 250 Anniversary Daffodil bulbs, and this spring their work paid off as thousands of daffodils bloomed across town!*

## Charter Day May 15

Stop by the **250 Booth** at the corner of S. Finley and Henry Streets to see:

- **Storyboards** of vintage photographs and printed memorabilia
- **Original books and travel brochures** about Bernards Township history created by our 3rd graders.
- **Bernards Bucks**, designed by Ridge High School art students. For a \$20 donation, you'll receive a set of 7 different **Bernards Bucks**, plus an additional one on which you can write a "message to the future" to be included in the 250 Anniversary Time Capsule.
- **Collectible postal envelopes** - Choose from two designs, depicting either Basking Ridge or Liberty Corner. Have your envelope "canceled" at the Postal Service booth at West Henry Street and Brownlee Place.

Also visit **Westminster Hall** in the B. R. Presbyterian Church to see:

- A **ceramic tile mural** depicting the capture of General Lee at Widow White's Tavern, created by the Ridge High School Advanced Ceramics Class. Each student designed at least two 8x8 inch tiles which will form the 4x5 foot mural. Click [here](#) for photos from this exciting project!
- **Oral histories** of many of our local residents, compiled by members of the Ridge High History Club.
- A **student art show**, including pieces celebrating the 250th anniversary.
- A **digital slide show** of the many events which have occurred this year commemorating the anniversary.

**Did you locate this local landmark?** It marks the site of the Somerset Hills Airport located on Lord Stirling Road from 1932-1981. During World War II the airport served as a U.S. Army Air Force flight instruction facility. Local residents recall a cow pasture in the middle of the airport during the 1960's and 70's!



## Did you know . . . ?

In 1889 a lecture "for ladies only" was delivered at Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church by Dr. Mary F. Newgeon of New York. The subject was "**The Perils and Possibilities of American Womanhood**" and covered topics including "Non-compatibility in matrimony; the philosophy of bodily symmetry, health and vigor; how to cure disease and prolong life and avoid the infirmities of old age." The lecture was illustrated with life-size paintings and encouraged attendance by "intelligent and sound thinking ladies."

Click [here](#) to see a copy of the original brochure advertising the lecture.

[www.bernards.org/250th Anniversary](http://www.bernards.org/250th_Anniversary)