Bernards Township 2020 Profile

Area: 24.5 sq. miles
Population: 26,743 (2010 Census); 28,682 (Current Estimate)

2020 Municipal Budget $39,537,750.49

2020 Library Budget $2,381,557.00

2020 Tax Levy: $140,383,339.09
  County $22,083,714.23, School $93,113,446.00
  County Open Space $2,088,786.22, Municipal $20,715,835.64
  Library $2,381,557.00

2020 Tax Rate/$100: $2.094
  County $.330, School $1.389, County Open Space $.032
  Municipal $.308, Library $.035

Police Force: 38

Form of Government: Township Committee

James Baldassare, Jr.
Mayor
Term Expires 12/31/2020

Joseph F. Esposito
Deputy Mayor
Term Expires 12/31/2021

John Carpenter
Term Expires 12/31/2020

Joan Bannan Harris
Term Expires 12/31/2021

Janice M. Fields
Term Expires 12/31/2022
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LOCATION OF SERVICES</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BERNARDS TOWNSHIP MEETING DATE SCHEDULE</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N. J. REPRESENTATIVES</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOMERSET COUNTY</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBLIC SAFETY</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOSPITALS</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POST OFFICES <a href="http://WWW.USPS.COM">WWW.USPS.COM</a></td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UTILITIES</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCHOOLS</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLEGES</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOUSES OF WORSHIP</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORGANIZATIONS</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPECIALIZED HOUSING</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRANSPORTATION</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RECREATION PROGRAMS</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIBRARIES</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HISTORIC SITES LISTED ON THE STATE AND NATIONAL REGISTERS OF HISTORIC PLACES</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HISTORIC DISTRICTS</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A BRIEF HISTORY OF BERNARDS TOWNSHIP</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BERNARDS TOWNSHIP TOWN HALL</td>
<td>22</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Location of Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mailing Address:</th>
<th>1 Collyer Lane, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Main Phone:</td>
<td>908-766-2510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency (Police, Fire, First Aid):</td>
<td>911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web:</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bernards.org">www.bernards.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>1 Collyer Lane</td>
<td>908-766-2510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Systems Administrator</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayor &amp; Township Committee Office</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks, Recreation, Pool, Golf</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pool Commission</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prosecutor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchasing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Citizens Information</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax Assessor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax Collector</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Township Clerk</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Train &amp; Bus Decals</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violations Bureau/Court Admin</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Voter Registration</td>
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</table>

**ENGINEERING SERVICES BUILDING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building Inspector</td>
<td>277 S. Maple Avenue</td>
<td>908-204-3018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulky Waste Disposal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction Permits</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Commission</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bureau Fire Prevention</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grounds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inspections</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pill Hill Recycling Center</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planner</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Planning Board</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Works</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roads</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sewerage Authority</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoke Detector Test Scheduling</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Zoning Board</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning Officer</td>
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**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animal Warden</td>
<td>262 S. Finley Avenue</td>
<td>908-204-3070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board of Health</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog &amp; Cat Licenses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental or Health Complaints</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental or Health Inspections</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local Assistance Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marriage Licenses</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Registrar of Vital Statistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Septic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Welfare</td>
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<td>Well Water</td>
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</table>

**POLICE BUILDING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animal Warden</td>
<td>1 Collyer Lane</td>
<td>908-766-1122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board of Health</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog &amp; Cat Licenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental or Health Complaints</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental or Health Inspections</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency Management</td>
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<td>Handicap Parking Placards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Records</td>
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<tr>
<td>Security Alarm Permits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Traffic Control</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weapon Permits</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP LIBRARY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BERNARDS TOWNSHIP LIBRARY</td>
<td>32 S. Maple Avenue</td>
<td>908-204-3031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basking Ridge, NJ 07920</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**COMMUNITY SERVICE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMMUNITY SERVICE</td>
<td>31 Stonehouse Road</td>
<td>908-766-9748</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basking Ridge, NJ 07920</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

N. J. Representatives
U.S. Senators
Cory Booker  
www.booker.senate.gov  
Washington D.C.  
141 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-3224  

Newark, New Jersey  
Gateway One  
11-43 Raymond Plaza West, Suite 2300  
Newark, NJ 07102  
Phone: (973) 639-8700  

Camden  
One Port Center  
2 Riverside Drive  
Suite 505  
Camden, NJ 08101  

Robert Menendez  
www.menendez.senate.gov  
Washington D.C.  
528 Senate Hart Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-4744  

Newark, New Jersey  
Gateway One  
11-43 Raymond Plaza West, Suite 1100  
Newark, NJ 07102  
(973) 645-3030  
(973) 645-0502 (fax)  

Barrington, New Jersey  
208 White Horse Pike, Suite 18  
Barrington New Jersey, 08007  
(856) 757-5353; (856) 546-1526 (fax)  

Congressman - District 7  
Congressman Tom Malinowski  
http://malinowski.house.gov/  

Washington DC Office  
426 Cannon HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-5361  
Fax: (202) 225-5361  

New Jersey 21st Legislative District  
Senator Thomas H. Kean Jr.  
Senator Thomas H. Kean Jr.  
425 North Ave. East, Suite C  
Westfield, NJ 07090  
(908) 232-3673  

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

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

Somerset County Freeholders  
20 Grove Street  
Somerville, NJ 08876  
www.co.somerset.nj.us  
Brian D. Levine, Director  
Patricia Walsh, Deputy Director  
Brian Gallagher  
Shanel Robinson  
Sara Sooy
Community Services & Highlights

Somerset County
Somerset County's Free E-Newsletter  www.co.somerset.nj.us/newsletter
Email Updates on more than 90 items on the County Website  www.co.somerset.nj.us/subscribe.html
Resource Somerset  www.LeadershipSomerset.org
Somerset County Environmental Center  www.somersetcountyparks.org/parksfacilities/ecc/ecc.html
Somerset County Park Headquarters  www.somersetcountyparks.org/geninfo/information.html
Somerset County Riding Stables  www.somersetcountyparks.org/parksfacilities/stable/lss.html

Public Safety
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, POB 98  Liberty Corner, NJ 07938
Liberty Corner First Aid  www.lcfas.org  908-647-1145  Martinsville Rd., POB 57  Liberty Corner, NJ 07938

Hospitals
Morristown Hospital  www.atlantichealth.org/morristown/  973-971-5000  100 Madison Avenue  Morristown, NJ 07960
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 [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post Office</th>
<th>Zip Code</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basking Ridge Post Office</td>
<td>908-766-0611</td>
<td>21 Brownlee Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Basking Ridge, NJ 07920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty Corner Post Office</td>
<td>908-647-0841</td>
<td>8 Church Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Liberty Corner, NJ 07938</td>
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</table>

Utilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Website</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cable/Internet</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cablevision.com">www.cablevision.com</a></td>
<td>732-356-1300 or 908-766-5008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric</td>
<td><a href="http://www.firstenergycorp.com">www.firstenergycorp.com</a></td>
<td>800-545-7741</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garbage</td>
<td><a href="http://www.kohlerwasteservices.com">www.kohlerwasteservices.com</a></td>
<td>908-903-9031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.republicservices.com">www.republicservices.com</a></td>
<td>800-273-7539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.raritandisposal.com">www.raritandisposal.com</a></td>
<td>1-800-342-5783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pseg.com">www.pseg.com</a></td>
<td>1-800-436-7734</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recycling</td>
<td><a href="http://www.co.somerset.nj.us/recycle">www.co.somerset.nj.us/recycle</a></td>
<td>732-469-3363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sewer</td>
<td>Sewage Authority</td>
<td>Bernards Twp. Sewerage Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>908-204-3020 (Administrative)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>908-647-2460 (Plant)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>908-204-3078 (Payment)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cablevision.com">www.cablevision.com</a></td>
<td>732-356-1300 or 908-766-5008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.verizon.net">www.verizon.net</a></td>
<td>1-800-837-4966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1-800-652-6987</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Schools

Public Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Website</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cedar Hill</td>
<td><a href="http://cedarhill.bernards.boe.com">http://cedarhill.bernards.boe.com</a></td>
<td>100 Peachtree Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades K-5</td>
<td></td>
<td>Basking Ridge, NJ 07920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty Corner</td>
<td><a href="http://libertycorner.bernards.boe.com">http://libertycorner.bernards.boe.com</a></td>
<td>61 Church Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades K-5</td>
<td></td>
<td>Liberty Corner, NJ 07938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Prospect Elementary</td>
<td><a href="http://mountprospect.bernards.boe.com">http://mountprospect.bernards.boe.com</a></td>
<td>111 Hansom Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades K-5</td>
<td></td>
<td>Basking Ridge, NJ 07920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak Street</td>
<td><a href="http://oakstreet.bernards.boe.com">http://oakstreet.bernards.boe.com</a></td>
<td>70 W. Oak Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades K-5</td>
<td></td>
<td>Basking Ridge, NJ 07920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Annin</td>
<td><a href="http://williamannin.bernards.boe.com">http://williamannin.bernards.boe.com</a></td>
<td>70 Quincy Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades 6-8</td>
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<td>Basking Ridge, NJ 07920</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ridge High School</td>
<td><a href="http://ridghigh.bernards.boe.com">http://ridghigh.bernards.boe.com</a></td>
<td>285 S. Finley Avenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades 9-12</td>
<td></td>
<td>Basking Ridge, NJ 07920</td>
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<tr>
<td>Somerset County Vocational &amp; Technical Schools</td>
<td><a href="http://www.scvths.org">www.scvths.org</a></td>
<td>14 Vogt Dr., P.O.B. 6350</td>
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Private Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Website</th>
<th>Address</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albrook Montessori School</td>
<td><a href="http://www.albrookschool.org">www.albrookschool.org</a></td>
<td>361-A Somerville Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ages 2-12 years</td>
<td></td>
<td>Basking Ridge, NJ 07920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonnie Brae</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bonnie-brae.org">www.bonnie-brae.org</a></td>
<td>Valley Road , POB 369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential Treatment Center for Adolescent Boys</td>
<td></td>
<td>Basking Ridge, NJ 07920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lord Stirling Special Education</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lordstirling.org">www.lordstirling.org</a></td>
<td>Lord Stirling Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Basking Ridge, NJ 07920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pingry School</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pingry.org">www.pingry.org</a></td>
<td>Martinsville Road, POB 366</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades 7-12</td>
<td></td>
<td>Martinsville, NJ 08836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. James Parochial School</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sjsbr.org">www.sjsbr.org</a></td>
<td>200 S. Finley Avenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades K-8</td>
<td></td>
<td>Basking Ridge, NJ 07920</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

Children’s Corner
www.lcpc.org
908-647-8401
45 Church Street
Liberty Corner, NJ 07938

Gentle Shephard
Christian Pre-School
www.shlc.net/gentle-shepherd-christian-preschool
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

Somerset Hills Montessori
www.somersethillsmontessori.org
908-221-0797
173 Madisonville Road
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Sunshine Preschool & Infant Care
info@sunshinepreschool.net
908-221-2707
3575 Valley Road
Liberty Corner, NJ 07938

The Tree House Child Caring Center
www.thetreehouseinc.org
908-221-1619
1 E. Oak Street
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

The Weintal Preschool
www.weintalpreschool.org
908-204-1294
40 Whitenack Rd.
Basking Ridge, NJ 0792

Colleges

Philadelphia College of Bible
908-604-2707
3575 Valley Road
Liberty Corner, NJ 07938

Raritan Valley Community College
www.raritanval.edu
908-526-1200
Rte. 28 & Lamington Rd.
North Branch, NJ 08876
### Houses of Worship

**Millington Baptist Church**  
[www.millingtonbaptist.org](http://www.millingtonbaptist.org)  
520 King George Road  
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920  
908-647-0594

**Bishop Janes United Methodist**  
22 S. Finley Avenue  
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920  
908-766-1108

**Chabad Jewish Center**  
[www.chabadcentral.org](http://www.chabadcentral.org)  
3048 Valley Road  
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920  
908-604-8844

**Congregation B’nai Israel**  
[www.cbibr.org](http://www.cbibr.org)  
40 Whitenack Road  
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920  
908-204-1412

**Covenant Chapel**  
[www.covenanctchapel.org](http://www.covenanctchapel.org)  
127 W. Oak Street  
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920  
908-766-6174

**Evangelical Fellowship Chapel**  
908-647-1979  
3575 Valley Road  
Liberty Corner, NJ 07938

**Fellowship Deaconry**  
[http://www.fellowshipdeaconry.org](http://www.fellowshipdeaconry.org)

**Presbyterian Church of Liberty Corner**  
[www.lcpc.org](http://www.lcpc.org)  
45 Church Street, P.O. Box 55  
Liberty Corner, NJ 07938  
908-647-0340

**Somerset Hills Baptist Church**  
[www.somersethillsbaptist.org](http://www.somersethillsbaptist.org)  
510 Mount Airy Road  
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920  
908-647-7090

**Somerset Hills Lutheran Church**  
[www.shlc.net](http://www.shlc.net)  
350 Lake Road  
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920  
908-766-2858

**St. James Catholic Church**  
[www.saintjamesbr.org](http://www.saintjamesbr.org)  
184 S. Finley Avenue  
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920  
908-766-0888

**St. Mark’s Episcopal Church**  
[www.stmarksbr.org](http://www.stmarksbr.org)  
140 S. Finley Avenue  
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920  
908-766-0510

**The Presbyterian Church of Basking Ridge**  
[www.brpc.org](http://www.brpc.org)  
1 E. Oak Street  
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920  
908-766-1616
Organizations

Association of University Women (AAUW)  
www.aauwnj.org  
POB 5  
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

American Legion Post 216  
151 Route 206 S.  
Gladstone, NJ 07934

Basking Ridge Business Alliance  
www.ridgebusiness.org  
(908) 766-9300  
5 Lyons Mall #325  
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Basking Ridge Garden Club  
www.brgcnj.com  
21 Allen Street  
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Bernards Municipal Alliance  
www.bernardsalliance.org  
908-204-2523  
262 S. Finley Avenue  
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Big Brothers / Big Sisters of Hunterdon & Somerset Counties  
908-730-7773  
79 Beaver Ave.  
Clinton, NJ 08809

Bonafides of Somerset Hills  
www.thebonafides.org  
908-647-3741  
Mary Lynne Norris  
POB 91  
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Boy Scout Troop 54  
Greg Healy  
908-391-2113  
ghealy@att.com  
65 Ramapo Dr.  
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Boy Scout Troop 555  
Thomas Aiken  
Assistant Scout Master  
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)  
www.scbp.org  
908-725-1522  
www.somercountychamber.org

Cub Scout Pack 451  
Greg Healy  
908-391-2113  
ghealy@att.com  
65 Ramapo Dr.  
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Cub Pack 54  
Ken White  
908-604-2467  
kennethwhite@yahoo.com  
89 Harrison Brook Dr.  
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Farmstead Arts
farmsteadartscenter@gmail.com
www.farmsteadartscenter.org
347-9ARTS4U
(1-347-927-8748)
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
http://www.fws.gov/refuge/great_swamp/
241 Pleasant Plains Rd.
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Great Swamp Watershed Association
http://www.greatswamp.org/
973-538-3500
PO Box 300
New Vernon, NJ 07976

Judith G. Wharton Music Center
www.whartonmusiccenter.org
908-790-0700
Andrew Nitkin Registrar
60 Locust Ave.
Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922

Junior Woman’s Club of Somerset Hills
http://gfwc.homestead.com
Junior Women’s Club
POB 52
Bernardsville, NJ 07924

Kiwanis Club of Somerset Hills
908-735-2683
John Greene
POB 246
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Knights of Columbus
www.kofc.org
908-766-6163
14 Brook Avenue
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

League of Women Voters of Somerset Hills
www.lwvnj.org
908-766-0747
181 Mountain Road
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Lions Club of Bernards
POB 352
Bernardsville, NJ 02924

New Neighbors
908-647-3610
Linda Arnold
POB 281
Liberty Corner, NJ 07938

Newcomers & Neighbors of Somerset Hills
nnshpresident@gmail.com
www.nnshclub.org
POB 161
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Passaic River Coalition
http://www.passaicriver.org/
973-532-9830
330 Speedwell Ave.
Morristown, NJ 07960

Resource of Somerset County (Domestic Violence Services)
www.resourcecenterofsomerset.org
427 Homestead Rd.
Hillsborough, NJ 08844-1400

Raritan Headwaters Association
www.raritanheadwaters.org/
908-234-1852
2121 Larger Cross Rd.
Bedminster, NJ 07921

Rotary Club of Bernardsville
908-295-7235

Senior Arts & Talents Of Somerset County
908-647-3295
3020 Valley Rd.
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Senior Wellness Center
www.co.somerset.nj.us/senior.html
908-204-3435
202 Mt. Airy Road
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Somerset County 4-H
http://somerset.rce.rutgers.edu/4h/
310 Milltown Road
145 Rte. 206 S.
Gladstone, NJ 07934
908-234-1828

Somerset Hills Kennel Club  www.somersethillskc.org

Somerset Hills YMCA  www.somersethillsymca.org
140 Mount Airy Road
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
908-766-7898

Somerset/Hunterdon Chapter of Make-a-Wish Foundation  www.wish.org
800-252-9474

The Historical Society of Somerset Hills  www.historicalsocietyofsomerset.org
POB 136
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
908-221-1770

Trilogy Repertory  www.trilogyrepertory.com
POB 199
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

U.S. Golf Association  www.usgamuseum.com
77 Liberty Corner Road
Far Hills, NJ 07931
908-234-2300

Upper Raritan Watershed Association  http://www.raritanheadwaters.org
908-234-1852
Box 273, 2121 Larger Cross Rd.
Gladstone, NJ 07934

Visiting Nurse Association of Somerset Hills  www.visitingnurse.org
200 Mt. Airy Road
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
908-766-0180

Somerset Hills Hospice  mail@visitingnurse.org

Women’s Club of Bernardsville  908-766-3289
25 Fairview Dr. E.
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Specialized Housing
Bernards Township
Affordable Housing
(Jersey Central Housing Resource Center)
908-704-9659
Bernards Township
Affordable Housing
(Jersey Central Housing Resource Center)
908-704-9659

Bethel Ridge Group Home
www.bethelridgenj.org
908-221-0852 or 908-221-0801 (Corp.)
175 South Maple Avenue
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Fellowship Village Continuing Care Retirement Community
www.fellowshipvillage.org
908-647-7600 or 1-800-458-6715
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
www.matheny.org
908-204-0950
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
1-888-486-3339
General Information
(Administrative Offices)

New Jersey Division of Motor Vehicle Services
www.nj.gov/mvc
1-800-333-3879
(Off Rt. 28)

New Jersey Division of Motor Vehicles
www.nj.gov/mvc
1-888-486-3339
Flemington VIS
181 Rtes 31 & 202

Plainfield VIS
1600 S. Second St.

Randolph VIS
160 Canfield Dr. (off Rte 10)
New Jersey Transit Train  
www.njtransit.com  
973-275-5555

Newark Airport  
973-961-6000  
Newark, NJ

RideWise  
RideWise Transportation  
908-704-1011  
Somerset County  
20 Grove St.  
Somerville, NJ 08876

Taxi / Limo Services  
www.metro1limo.com  
973-220-2000  
Metro 1  
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

         908-696-9616  
Cedars Car Service, Inc.  
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

         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  
www.bernards.org  
908-204-3003  
A variety of programs and activities for all ages including basketball, girls softball, anti 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  
908-359-1000  
908-561-4400  
908-575-8997  
908-756-1925  
www.Njfishandwildlife.com  
Kmart, Hillsborough  
Ray's Sport Shop  
N. Plainfield  
Walmart, Manville  
Walmart, Watchung

Jr. Red Devils Football Club  
www.jrreddevilsflagfootball.com  
Girls & Boys, Ages 3-8  
7 on 7 Non-contact  
Practice begins September

Mavericks Soccer Club  
www.ridgemavericks.com  
Youth – Registration in spring

Wrestling  
www.ridgeyouthwrestling.com  
Instructional club for grades K-8. Registration in October
Ridge Ice Hockey Association
Jr. Devils
www.ridgehockey.net
Grades 6-8

Ridge Youth Sports, Inc.
Football /Cheerleading andBoys
Lacrosse
www.ridgeyouthsports.com
Grades K-8
Grades 2-8

Somerset Hills Bulldogs
Football & Cheerleading
www.somersethillsbulldogs.com
Youth football boys and girls
ages 5-14 & Cheerleading –
Registration in spring

Somerset Hills Lacrosse Club
www.somersethillslacrosse.com
Grades 4-8 – Registration in
November

Somerset Hills Soccer Club
www.shsc.net
Youth soccer for boys and girls
Intramural: grades K-8
Travel:U8-U14

Somerset Hills YMCA
140 Mount Airy Road
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
908-766-7898
www.somersethillsymca.org
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
4 Little League baseball fields &
area flooded for ice skating in
winter

Bernards Township
Community Center
289 South Maple Avenue
908-204-3003
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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dead River Trail</td>
<td>Wooded area with a rustic trail for walking use only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West of Acken Road, north of</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>power lines</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunham Park</td>
<td>Picnic shelter, indoor pavilion, roller hockey rink, softball/baseball field,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somerville &amp; Liberty Corner</td>
<td>sand volleyball court, disc golf course, bocce court, barrier-free playground,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roads</td>
<td>bike/jogging path, nature trail, multipurpose field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty Corner</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Family Woods</td>
<td>Passive recreation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allen Road</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmstead Park</td>
<td>Multipurpose field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King George Road</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty Corner Tennis Courts</td>
<td>2 Tennis courts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church St. &amp; Mine Brook Rd.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lord Stirling Park Riding Stables</td>
<td>Full program of public riding instruction in English horsemanship for youth and adults. Seasonally the stables offer reserved hay rides, sleigh rides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>256 S. Maple Avenue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manchester Drive Athletic Field,</td>
<td>Multipurpose field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manchester Dr.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCollum Farm</td>
<td>Passive recreation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Park</td>
<td>Multipurpose fields (2 lighted)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain &amp; Martinsville Roads</td>
<td>1.25 mile paved bike/jogging path; 4 LL/softball fields (2 lighted)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak Street Tennis Courts</td>
<td>2 Tennis Courts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Oak Street</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pleasant Valley Park</td>
<td>Multipurpose fields, softball &amp; baseball fields, tennis courts, picnic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valley Road</td>
<td>shelter, warming hut, stocked pond (no fishing permit required), pond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>shelter, walking trail, amphitheater, platform tennis courts, basketball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>court, sand volleyball court, barrier-free playground, fitness cluster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pleasant Valley Pool</td>
<td>50 Meter “Z” shaped pool w/diving tank, training pool w/ slide, wading pool,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valley Road</td>
<td>water &amp; play area, concession stand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebel Hill Park</td>
<td>Neighborhood park with soccer/softball field, tennis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairview Drive S.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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, shuffle board 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

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Libraries

Bernards Township Library  
www.bernardslibrary.org  
32 S. Maple Avenue  
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920  
908-204-3031

Somerset County Library  
www.somerset.lib.nj.us  
N. Bridge St. & Vogt Dr.  
Bridgewater, NJ 07920  
908-526-4016

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Name</th>
<th>State Register</th>
<th>National Register</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alward Farm House (Chimney Ash Farm)</td>
<td>February 5, 1986 (ID #2468)</td>
<td>March 13, 1986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Chimney Ash Farm Road</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basking Ridge, NJ 07920</td>
<td></td>
<td>Colonial era farmhouse represents the simple and primitive lifestyle of early settlers. Built c.1740, it is one of...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Entered in State Register</td>
<td>Entered in National Register</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>---------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church</td>
<td>October 24, 1974 (ID #2470)</td>
<td>December 31, 1974 (NR Reference #74001190)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boudinot-Southard Farmstead</td>
<td>September 11, 2009 (ID #4955)</td>
<td>December 18, 2009 (NR Reference #09001101)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead</td>
<td>June 9, 2003 (ID #4200)</td>
<td>May 5, 2004 (NR Reference #03000868)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lord Stirling Manor Site</td>
<td>December 1, 1976 (ID #2475)</td>
<td>May 22, 1978 (NR Reference #78001795)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Brick Academy</td>
<td>November 25, 1975</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Historic Districts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District Name</th>
<th>Entered in State Register</th>
<th>Entered in National Register</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Franklin Corners Historic District</td>
<td>December 12, 1974 (ID #2472)</td>
<td>May 12, 1975 (NR Reference #75001159)</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty Corner Historic District</td>
<td>August 16, 1991 (ID #2473)</td>
<td>October 11, 1991 (NR Reference #91001477)</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lyons Veterans Administration Hospital Historic District</td>
<td>April 29, 2013 (ID #2476)</td>
<td>July 3, 2013 (NR Reference #13000461)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 for 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 outbuildings, and the two historic districts.

Two transportation-related events changed Bernards Township. In 1872 the railroad 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 school house 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.