



## **News from the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders**

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### **Somerset County's Free E-mail System Logs 5,600 Subscribers** ***County Directory, County Budget Info Now Online***

Interest continues to grow among Somerset County residents and others in keeping up with the latest news, programs and information in this central New Jersey county.

The GovDelivery® document-subscription service instituted by the Board of Freeholders in January 2003 drew 3,500 sign-ups in its first 12 months. Today it has more than 5,600 subscribers, a 60-percent increase in the past 18 months. According to Minnesota-based GovDocs Inc., which produces and leases the GovDelivery® software to government entities in the U.S. and in the United Kingdom, Somerset County's subscription figures are at the top among comparable GovDocs clients.

"GovDelivery® has become a very popular aspect of our Web site," said Freeholder Director Rick Fontana. "It's opened up a whole new way for us to communicate with residents, business people, the media and others who are interested in what's going on in Somerset County. This program also enables us to send broadcast e-mails to all subscribers in case of an emergency."

The 5,633 subscribers signed up as of June 30, 2005, to receive free e-mail updates from the county have generated 18,202 subscriptions. The county currently offers 61 items in GovDelivery®, from the Citizens' Guide and Cultural Connection to Senior Programs and What's New in Somerset County.

The top five items are foreclosure sales (2,093 subscribers), employment opportunities (1,623), the annual recycling schedule (1,120), emergency information and weather alerts (943) and bidding notices (898). In addition to e-mail bulletins, the county sends short-text messages to wireless customers who subscribe to this feature for foreclosures, emergency information and road closings.

New documents added in the past year include the county directory, county budget information, What's New in the Sheriff's Office and a number of Somerset County Library programs.

The county has saved money on postage and printing by making documents available online, rather than producing or mailing hard copies. Somerset was the first county in New Jersey to offer GovDelivery® on its Web site; Passaic County came on board last year.

To sign up for Somerset County's free e-mail notification service, go to [www.co.somerset.nj.us](http://www.co.somerset.nj.us) and click on "E-mail Subscriptions" on the left side of the page, then choose from the list of categories and documents and follow the easy instructions to become a subscriber. All e-mail addresses are kept confidential. For more information, contact the county Public Information Office at (908) 231-7020 or [publicinfo@co.somerset.nj.us](mailto:publicinfo@co.somerset.nj.us).

**Rick Fontana, Freeholder Director \* Ken Scherer, Freeholder Deputy Director**  
**Denise Coyle, Freeholder \* Peter S. Palmer, Freeholder \* Robert Zaborowski, Freeholder**  
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