



MODERN TIMES

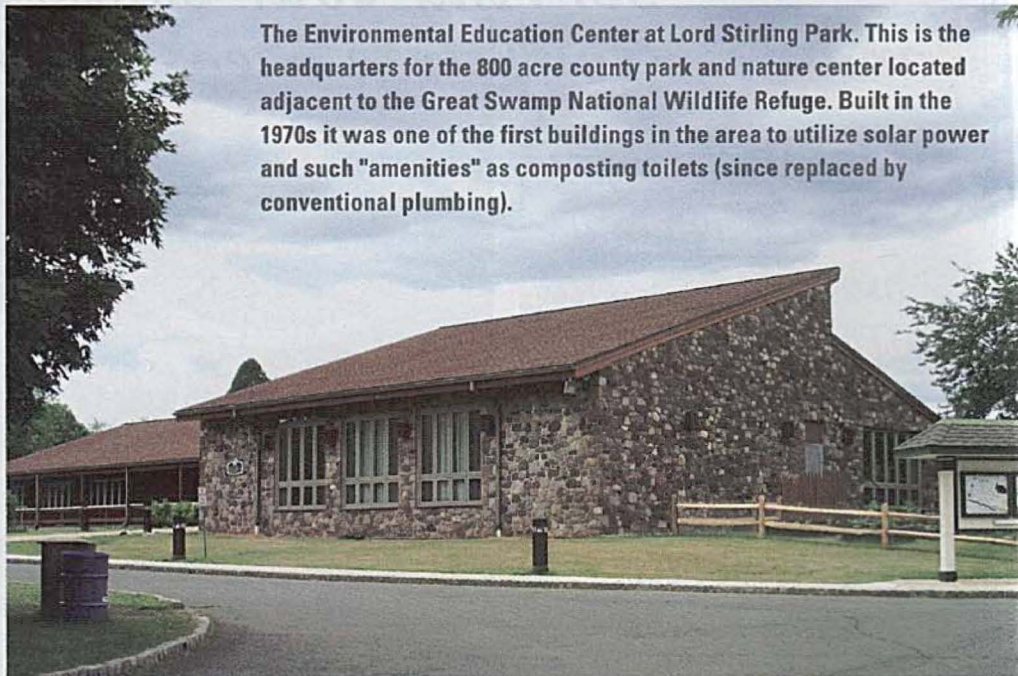
In 1921 what is now Far Hills Borough separated from Bernards and in 1924 Bernardsville Borough did the same. The current borders of Bernards were established at that time.

The current form of township government was established in 1946 when the state passed the Wagner Act, revising and standardizing the various forms of municipal government.

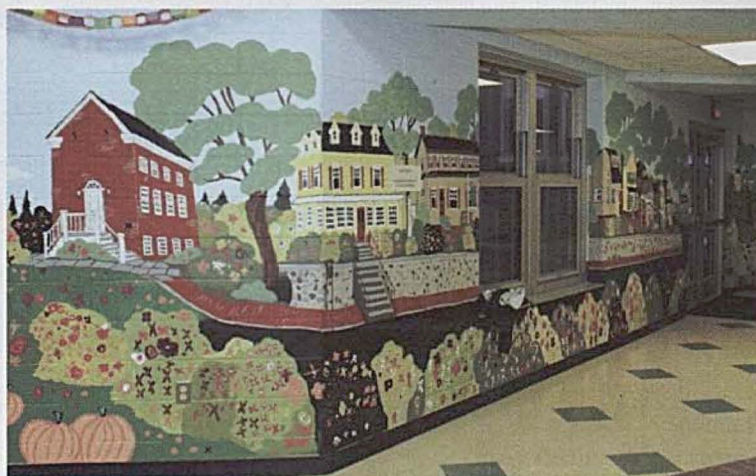
With the coming of the automobile in the early 20th Century, Bernards became freely accessible and was incorporated into the rapid development and suburbanization of New Jersey. In the 1960s two interstates were built partially within the town limits, I 78 and I 287. These prompted major firms, including AT&T, then the world's largest corporation, to relocate major employment centers into the area. Other companies put headquarters in nearby Bedminster and Peapack-Gladstone. A population hovering around 9,000 people soon shot upwards, driven by the construction of townhomes and other development at The Hills and in various parts of town. As the township enters the 21st century the population is approaching 28,000 people.

Currently Bernards is a mostly residential community, bolstered by corporate office parks and professional buildings, several retail centers, the Verizon Center covering 300 acres on the north end of town and the Millington Quarry.

The town's agricultural past is represented by a few small family farms as well as the English Farm, still occupying its place in Liberty Corner, permanently preserved as farmland by an arrangement with the family and the township in 2008. Historic preservation efforts continue at both the Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead and the Brick Academy. Numerous historic homes in town are listed on the county and state historical register, still occupied today by families who choose to live in Bernards Township.



The Environmental Education Center at Lord Stirling Park. This is the headquarters for the 800 acre county park and nature center located adjacent to the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. Built in the 1970s it was one of the first buildings in the area to utilize solar power and such "amenities" as composting toilets (since replaced by conventional plumbing).



Students at Oak Street School participated in the creation of a large-scale mural celebrating Bernards Township's long and colorful history. This year also marks the 70th Anniversary of the school. The mural was designed by local artist and school parent, Caren Frost Olmsted and was unveiled in March.

(Photo by Hilary Klimek)

Students from the Ridge High School History Club researched local history with the help of Town Historian June Kennedy and made presentations to third grade classes in all the elementary schools. Seen here at Liberty Corner School.

(Photo by Hilary Klimek)

