



# Highlights



Name our dinosaur display at Dennis Branch Library in Newton



New Dinosaur Mascot at Louise Childs Branch Library in Stanhope

## Sussex County Library System Celebrates Dinovember

**Newton, NJ** – Sussex County Library System (SCLS) is roaring about dinosaurs this Dinovember. During the month of November, the library turns into a prehistoric playground, guaranteeing a dino-mite time for visitors of all ages.

Each SCLS branch has special Dinovember programs to engage, educate, and entertain the community. The array of dinosaur activities includes building dinosaurs from LEGO® bricks, making dinosaur jewelry,

embarking on dinosaur scavenger hunts, listening to dinosaur bedtime stories, and naming one of our new dinosaur mascots.

Dinosaurs may have gone extinct millions of years ago, but the fun at SCLS certainly hasn't. Join us in being part of this Jurassic journey and make Dinovember a roaring success!

For further information on Dinovember and other upcoming events, visit the SCLS website at [sussexcountylibrary.org/events](http://sussexcountylibrary.org/events) or contact a local library branch. Programs and events are free of charge and open to the public.



Dinosaur Scavenger Hunt at Dennis Branch Library in Newton



## CONGRATULATIONS TO COMMISSIONER DAWN FANTASIA WHO WON HER ELECTION FOR ASSEMBLYWOMAN!

SHE WILL TAKE THE SEAT BEING VACATED BY CURRENT ASSEMBLYMAN HAL WIRTHS.



### Free Spotted Lanternfly Traps Available for Sussex County Residents

The spotted lanternfly (SLF) is an invasive insect native to China, India, and Vietnam that has spread to the states of New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, New York, Connecticut and Ohio. This insect feeds on sap from over 70 different plant species and has the potential to greatly affect agricultural crops and hardwood trees. It has a strong preference for economically important plants and the feeding damage significantly stresses the plants, which can lead to decreased health and potentially death. While it does not harm humans or

animals, it can reduce the quality of life for people living in heavily infested areas.

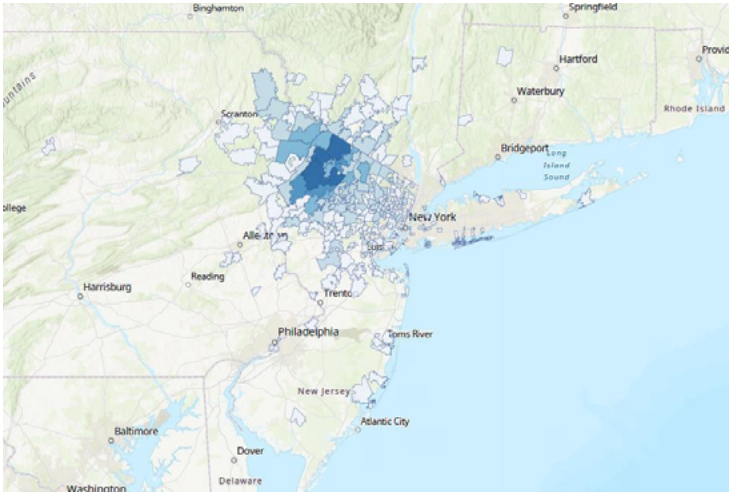
Due to the potential impact to residents and farms, the County of Sussex seized the opportunity to participate in the 2023 NJ Department of Agriculture's Spotted Lanternfly Grant for controlling this nuisance and detrimental insect in New Jersey. The Sussex County Office of Mosquito Control purchased a number of spotted lanternfly reusable traps for distribution in Sussex County. Traps were initially distributed to local commercial farms, such as fruit tree and grape producers, due to the threat this insect poses to economic crop damage.

Spotted lanternfly traps are

now available for distribution to Sussex County residents. Each Sussex County resident may acquire two circle traps, which should be installed on trees in April through October. To acquire the SLF circle traps, please visit the Office of Mosquito Control website at [sussex.nj.us/lanternfly](https://sussex.nj.us/lanternfly) to complete a registration survey. Once the survey has been completed, residents can pick up their traps at the Sussex County Office of Mosquito Control located at 150 Morris Turnpike in Frankford Township on Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome; however, residents are strongly encouraged to call the Office in advance to ensure that traps are still available and that someone will be in the office during the desired pick-up time.

Circle traps placed on trees are an effective and environmentally safe way for controlling infestations. Circle traps are reusable, easy to install, and trap both nymph and adult stages. Please reach out to the Office of Mosquito Control at 973-940-5225 to obtain additional information or for assistance with the registration survey.





2023 Attendance Map



**Project:** Harvest, Honey, & Garlic Festival

**Milestone Achievement:** The County of Sussex, through the Division of Planning and Economic Development, coordinates and produces the Harvest, Honey, and Garlic Festival. This annual event provides direct and indirect economic benefits to the local economy. Preparations continue. This work was completed in two days.

**Milestone Status:**

- Coordinate festival and event management including traffic, parking, marketing campaign, and setup.
- Coordinate event management and day-of operations on October 21, 2023.
- Traffic & parking management support provided by Sussex County DPW and Bridge & Traffic staff.
- Approximately 4200 people from the region attended the 2023 Festival.

**Next Steps:**

- Review notes for 2024 Harvest, Honey, & Garlic Festival.
- Secure 2024 date with the SC Fairgrounds.
- Post Festival Review meeting with staff.

**23rd Annual Salute to Military Veterans**

**Augusta, NJ** – The Sussex County Board of County Commissioners, Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Senior Services and the Veterans Committee presented the 23rd Annual Salute to Military Veterans Parade on Sunday, November 5, 2023 at the Sussex County Fairgrounds in Augusta, NJ.

The program featured a parade showcasing veterans of all branches of the service, military vehicles, civic groups, community bands, and local high school bands. Highlights of the day included the reading

of essays written by local students, a Prisoner of War (POW) and Missing in Action (MIA) solemn remembrance, and a 21-Gun Salute by members of the Ogdensburg VFW. Members of the Sussex County Board of County Commissioners presented commemorative pins to all veterans in attendance.

This annual tribute to our military veterans allows Sussex County to publicly recognize the contributions and sacrifices our veterans and their families have made for our country.

For additional information, please contact the Sussex County Division of Senior Services at 973-579-0555, ext. 1221 or [seniorservices@sussex](mailto:seniorservices@sussex).



## SCHEDULED RABIES CLINICS

Note: Vaccinate only healthy cats and dogs at clinics. Ferrets, rabbits, wolf-hybrids, and other animals will NOT be vaccinated at clinics. Contact your veterinarian for instructions on vaccination of these animals.

**As a pet owner you are responsible for licensing your pet, even if a clinic is unavailable in your municipality.**

Other options for rabies vaccinations include: a veterinary hospital, a clinic in another town/ municipality, or a participating pet supply store. You will need to contact each facility for a schedule as they are not walk-in establishments. If you choose any of these options, please make sure to retain your rabies certificate. This will be needed to license your pet.

[Learn More About Rabies](#)

It is strongly advised that you contact the municipality where you live to determine vaccination/licensing due dates, fees, and requirements.

Each municipality below will link you to its corresponding website.

### Andover Township

January 5, 2024  
5:00pm - 7:00pm

### Newton

November 18, 2023  
Call for more information

### Lafayette Township

November 18, 2023  
9:00am - 12:00pm

### Wantage Township

November 17, 2023  
6:00pm - 7:30pm

### Other municipalities TBD

It is strongly advised that you contact the municipality where you live to determine vaccination / licensing due dates, fees, and requirements.





## Sussex County Public Health Nursing Leads Healthy Kids Effort

**Newton, NJ** – The Sussex County Office of Public Health Nursing was one of the recipients of Atlantic Health’s Spring 2023 grant. Newton Medical Center accepted applications from local organizations seeking grant funding for projects that focus on the health priorities of the communities Newton Medical Center serves. The Office of Public Health Nursing utilized this funding to collaborate with various community partners to provide a six-week program focusing on children’s health and exercise. Partners include the Franklin Elementary School, Sussex County YMCA, Sparta Food Pantry, Sussex County Social Services Backpack Snacks for Kids program, Franklin Weis Dietician and Sussex County Skylands Ride.

The program titled “Empower U” offers children in Grades 6, 7, and 8 the ability to attend the YMCA on six different Fridays throughout the fall 2023 season. As the children arrive at the YMCA, they receive a healthy snack donated by the

**SUSSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF HEALTH  
OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING**

# KNOW YOUR NUMBERS!

**COMPLETE METABOLIC PROFILE BLOOD SCREENING**


INCLUDES: LIPID PROFILE TESTS (CHOLESTEROL), GLUCOSE (BLOOD SUGAR), LIVER FUNCTION TESTS, KIDNEY FUNCTION TESTS, COMPLETE BLOOD COUNT...and more

*Blood work helps us find problems you cannot see from the outside*

**DATE:**  
**SATURDAY, December 2,  
2023**

**LOCATION:**  
**SUSSEX COUNTY OFFICE OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING  
201 Wheatsworth Road, 1<sup>st</sup> floor  
Hamburg, NJ 07419**


**TIME: 8:30AM-10:30AM**



Call for an appointment  
973-579-0570 x 1211

**FEE: \$50.00-Cash or check only. Please make checks payable to  
County of Sussex**

Medicare and Medicaid are not accepted / We do not bill private insurance



**Sussex County Office of Public Health Nursing**  
**(973) 579-0570**  
**Ext 1211 for English-Ext 1248 for Spanish**

County Backpack Snacks for Kids program. The children then experience a different work out class every week with a designated instructor. In the first two weeks, the children had an opportunity to participate in a Pilates class and a Defender class. The children then had an

opportunity to do circuits in the weight room with assistance and received instruction on how to use the equipment properly. Upon leaving the program on Friday evenings, the children are provided with a bag of food donated by the Sparta Food Pantry, which

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# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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allows the children to assist in making a healthy meal for their family. The Franklin Weis Dietician provided recipe cards with healthy fun recipes for families.

Each child that signed up for the program and completed the YMCA orientation received an “Empower U” t-shirt, shorts, sweatpants, gym bag and water bottle. The goal of this program is to help kids

feel comfortable in a gym setting, confident in their appearance and encourage healthier choices. Although the program is only six weeks, the hope is that many families and students will sustain their healthier lifestyle with the help of the YMCA’s free membership program.

The YMCA offers free memberships to any child, grades six through eight, in the country. According to the YMCA, research

has shown that middle school is a critical time in a young person’s life when exposure to risk factors greatly increases. The free program supports and encourages youth to live a healthy lifestyle and make responsible choices.

This program demonstrates the positive impact that a community can make when resources come together. Every partner plays an integral role in making the program successful.

## DIVISION OF ENGINEERING

**Project:** Replacement of Sussex County Bridge X-54 carrying Oil City Road, Wantage Township.

**Milestone Achievement:** Work continues to progress with the Contractor completing the installation of the precast concrete rigid frame segments. Work will continue on forming and pouring the concrete wingwalls, pylons and curb, and then remaining backfill and roadway reconstruction items.

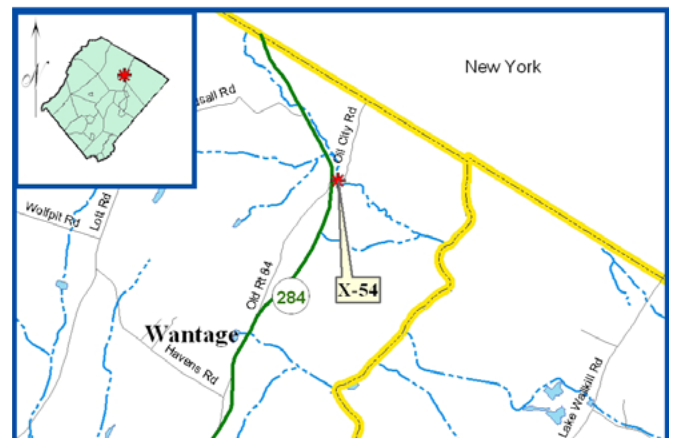
**Milestone Achievement:**

- Close Road
- Install Soil erosion and stream control
- Demolish existing superstructure
- Install Sheeting & Cofferdam
- Install Precast Concrete Rigid Frame
- *Form and Pour cast in place concrete wingwalls, pylons, and curb*
- ◇ Backfill excavations
- ◇ Complete Roadway items (paving, guide rail, bridge rail, etc.)
- ◇ Open Road

**Cost:** \$1,379,443.15



Installation of Precast Concrete Rigid Frame (Bridge) Segments



## WSUS, WNNJ, WHCY, AND SHOPRITE TEAM UP IN THE 16TH ANNUAL STUFF THE BUS FOOD DRIVE TO BATTLE HUNGER IN SUSSEX COUNTY

**Newton, NJ** – WSUS, WNNJ, and WHCY radio personalities will be spearheading the Stuff the Bus campaign against hunger in Sussex County for the sixteenth year in a row. ShopRite and Lakeland Bank will join the effort once again this year to host this annual event that benefits the Sussex County Social Services food pantry. Donations of non-perishable food and turkeys will be accepted November 17 - 19. 102.3 WSUS, 103.7 WNNJ and 106.3 The Bear radio talents will be onsite at Lakeland Bank on Friday; the Franklin, Sparta, and Sussex ShopRite locations on Saturday; and the Byram, Newton, and Sussex ShopRite locations on Sunday. Sussex County Skylands Ride buses will also be onsite at the locations below so people who wish to donate will be able to “stuff the bus.”

Stuff the Bus is an annual event that helps to restock shelves at the Sussex County Social Services food pantry, ultimately feeding countless residents in need and helping to restock local pantries throughout Sussex County. Each year, thousands of pounds of food are collected from the generous residents and businesses of Sussex County. The need has never been greater due to so many economic factors. On average, the Social Services food pantry distributes food to over two thousand people each month and the number continues to rise. The pantry assists people such as

elderly residents on a fixed income, working families trying to make ends meet and hard-working individuals who just need a little assistance each month.



If you are out and about the weekend before Thanksgiving, please consider donating at one of the six locations listed below. The food pantry is often in need of peanut butter, jelly, tuna, canned meals, cereal, boxed mashed potatoes, pasta/spaghetti, pasta sauce, canned fruits and vegetables, hearty soups, ramen noodles, and healthy snacks like granola bars. Donations of toiletries, personal hygiene items, and baby diapers/wipes are always appreciated and often in short supply. Food and pet-related donations will be accepted during the hours listed below or special arrangements can be made for after-hours donations by calling 973-383-3600. Please visit the Sussex County website for the most up-to-date information regarding this food drive at [www.sussex.nj.us](http://www.sussex.nj.us)



### Friday, November 17, 2023, 4 p.m.–6 p.m.

- Lakeland Bank, 7 Town Center Drive, Sparta

### Saturday, November 18, 2023, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

- ShopRite of Byram, 90-80 Route 206 North, Byram Township, NJ
- ShopRite of Franklin, 270 Route 23, Franklin, NJ
- ShopRite of Newton, 127 Water Street (Route 206), Newton, NJ
- ShopRite of Sparta, 18 North Village Boulevard, Sparta, NJ
- ShopRite of Sussex, 1 Wiebel Plaza, Sussex, NJ

### Sunday, November 19, 2023, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

- ShopRite of Byram, 90-80 Route 206 North, Byram Township, NJ
- ShopRite of Franklin, 270 Route 23, Franklin, NJ
- ShopRite of Newton, 127 Water Street (Route 206), Newton, NJ
- ShopRite of Sparta, 18 North Village Boulevard, Sparta, NJ
- ShopRite of Sussex, 1 Wiebel Plaza, Sussex, NJ

If anyone is in need of food for themselves or their family, they can stop by the Division of Social Services located at 83 Spring Street in Newton, NJ, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.



## National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week

National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week was October 22-28, 2023, and the Office of Public Health Nursing conducted presentations across the county throughout October to educate residents and raise awareness about childhood lead poisoning. The presentations focused on the importance of testing the blood lead levels of children at age one and age two. It educated on the signs and symptoms of lead poisoning as well as how to identify potential lead sources within the home.

Despite laws established in the 1970s to make people aware of the poisonous effects of lead, poisoning in children remains a common yet preventable environmental health problem in the United States. Most children with lead poisoning do not show any outward symptoms unless blood-lead levels become extremely high. Some symptoms include headaches, stomachaches, nausea, tiredness, and irritability. Since the symptoms of lead poisoning are similar to those of flus or viruses, the only way to know if your child is poisoned is to have a doctor perform a simple blood test.

Lead poisoning is much more serious when children are exposed. Since their bodies are not fully developed, lead poisoning can cause brain,

liver, and/or kidney damage in addition to slowed development, learning or behavior problems, hearing loss, and restlessness.

The amount of lead in blood is referred to as the blood lead level, which is measured in micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ ). If a child is reported to have a blood lead level greater than or equal to  $5 \mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ , the local health department will send a public health nurse to the home to assist with education and to ensure that the child receives appropriate medical attention. In addition, if your child has a confirmed blood lead level of greater than or equal to  $10 \mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ , you will be contacted by someone from the environmental health department for a lead risk assessment to confirm the source of the lead and provide information for professional removal of the lead.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) currently uses a blood lead reference value (BLRV) of 3.5 micrograms per deciliter to identify children with blood lead levels that are higher than most children's levels. However, in New Jersey, BLRV is 5.0 and will soon be matching the CDC value.

Since treatment options for lead poisoning are limited, it is best to prevent lead poisoning before it has a chance to occur. Lead poisoning is preventable with proper:



**Nutrition** - Several foods have a high content of iron (such as eggs, cooked beans, or red meats), calcium (such as cheese, yogurt, or cooked greens), and vitamin C (such as citrus fruits, green peppers, or tomatoes). Adequate intake of these nutrients minimizes lead absorption in children's bodies.



**Housekeeping** - Teach and practice healthy home habits, such as hand washing before eating and sleeping, shoe removal, washing children's toys or other chewable surfaces, purchasing "lead-free" mini-blinds, and wet mopping and drying floors and surfaces.



**Personal Care** - Wash your hands and your children's hands frequently.

To learn more about childhood lead poisoning and prevention, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at [www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/](http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/).





## Center for Lifelong Learning November and December Offerings at Sussex County Community College

**Newton, NJ** – The Center for Lifelong Learning at Sussex County Community College (SCCC), a collaboration between the Sussex County Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Senior Services, and Sussex County Community College, hosted a free lecture earlier this month, presented by one of SCCC’s faculty. The partnership will observe its 8th Anniversary in December.

The Center for Lifelong Learning presented “A President in Paradise: Harry S. Truman and the Key West Little White House” on Friday, November 10 in the Performing Arts Atrium at SCCC. Professor Raymond Frey took attendees on a figurative trip to Key West and the Little White House.

Dr. Raymond Frey is an adjunct professor of Politics at SCCC and a professor of History and University Historian at Centenary University. He has been invited to speak at President Truman’s Little White House three times and has appeared as a

distinguished speaker at the Truman Presidential Library in Missouri. Dr. Frey is considered to be one of the foremost experts on the Truman presidency.

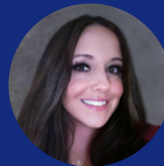
Be our guests on Friday, December 8, 2023, from noon to 1:45 p.m., in the Performing Arts Atrium at SCCC, as we celebrate the 8th Anniversary of the Center for Lifelong Learning partnership between SCCC and the Sussex County Division of Senior Services. Please join us for a buffet lunch in the beautiful Performing Arts Atrium. Sussex County seniors will have an opportunity to meet the Senior Services and Center for Lifelong Learning staff and learn about the programs and services that are available through the Division of Senior Services, SCCC and the Center for Lifelong Learning.

This event is free but pre-registration is requested and space is extremely limited. Please contact the Division of Senior Services at (973) 579-0555, ext. 1277 to register or obtain additional information.

## YOUR BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



**CHRIS CARNEY**  
DIRECTOR  
TERM: 1/22 - 12/24



**DAWN FANTASIA**  
COMMISSIONER  
TERM: 1/22 - 12/24



**HERBERT YARDLEY**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
TERM: 1/21 - 12/23



**WILLIAM HAYDEN**  
COMMISSIONER  
TERM: 1/21 - 12/23



**JILL SPACE**  
COMMISSIONER  
TERM: 1/23 - 12/25