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ShopRite of Byram

90-80 Route 206 North,
Byram Township, NJ 07874
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ShopRite of Flanders

90 Bartley Rd, Flanders, NJ 07836
973-252-5160

ShopRite of Newton

127 Water St, Newton, NJ 07860
973-383-6900

ShopRite of Mansfield

Rt. 57 West & Allen St, Hackettstown, NJ 07840
908-852-1200

ShopRite of Succasunna

281-021 Rte. 10 Roxbury Mall
Succasunna, NJ 07876
973-584-1322

ShopRite of Sparta

18 N Village Blvd, Sparta Township, NJ 07871
973-729-6900

ShopRite of Franklin

NJ-23, Franklin, NJ 07416
973-827-6135



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Sussex County

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Lakeland Bank



Letter from the President

It's so good to be back with a new issue of Sussex County magazine! For decades the Chamber published its annual magazine without fail until the pandemic forced a pause in production for a few years. We're back now and better than ever.

Our theme for the magazine this year is "Live, Work, Play."

In this issue we'll talk about a new development project that's brought upscale apartments, along with a Starbucks, Chipotle and Panera Bread, to Water Street in Newton. Across town, Thorlabs, Inc.'s new Quantum Leap building is a welcome expansion for a company that's continuing to grow, in both its physical space and employee count. We'll discuss Sussex County as a growing hub for large scale events that draw visitors from all over the tri-state area, and bring world-renowned talent in the culinary arts, music and more to our beautiful county.



Services in our county are growing too. Elizabethtown Gas is expanding its reach and will now be able to serve more residents here. Planet Networks continues its expansion of internet and phone service throughout Sussex County and JCP&L filed a new infrastructure improvement program with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("BPU") that will strengthen the backbone of its local electric system and provide the foundation for smart grid capabilities in the future.

Improvements and upgrades such as these make our county more attractive to current residents and to those looking to relocate here. Our update on the local real estate market in this issue indicates that Sussex County's proximity to major highways, good schools, outdoor recreation, and open space are strong selling points. The housing prices in the region reflect the demand with most homes staying on the market for a little more than a month and receiving multiple offers.

As the area's largest business membership organization, the chamber is a busy place. A large part of the chamber's role is to support our vibrant business community. Our awards program, now in its 36th year, is the chamber event that gives everyone the chance to pause and applaud the many achievements of those in both the private sector and in the nonprofit community. In this issue you'll find out more about this year's award winners and their contributions of excellence.

Each year the Chamber also hosts the Sussex County Day celebration. Our 2023 event saw the highest attendance to date, which is wonderful because the net proceeds from this event help fund both our student scholarships and a Professional Development Scholarship program that we offer to member company employees. It's so wonderful to see all the different ways that local employees are working to advance their education and progress in their careers.

The past few years have not been easy for anyone. And yet...here we are. Lifting each other up in this special place we call home. Showing our support by showing up and celebrating how wonderful it is to live, work and play in Sussex County.

Sincerely,

Tammie A. Horsfield

Tammie Horsfield
President

ARTIST

Donna Gratkowski



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CHAMBER COMMITTEES 2023

Education

Develops short and long-range programs including internships, work study, college/business partnerships, scholarships, and cooperative education in support of high-quality education at all levels.

Human Resources Development

Shares "Best Practice" ideas and provides educational programming to enhance and support companies in attracting and retaining qualified employees.

Non-Profit

Fosters relationships, provides opportunities to network, shares ideas, forms partnerships, and helps create collaborative relationships with for-profit chamber members for the benefit of both.

Sussex County Trails Partnership

Focuses on increasing the use of outdoor recreational trails and parks, to enhance the health and wellbeing of the community. Organizes trail maintenance events.

Technology

Monitors technology-related issues and provides information about technological advancements focusing on what businesses need to know to use available technology to enhance business growth.

Tourism

Works to promote and encourage collaborative marketing efforts to attract visitors to the area. Members assist in planning tours for the media and tour operators.

Wellness

Promotes the physical, emotional, and social well-being and well-being of our business community.

Women In Business

Brings together women from a variety of fields and business environments to provide opportunities for personal and professional growth through networking and educational programming.

Young Professionals

Assists young/junior professionals with relationship building through mentoring opportunities, educational programs, and networking events.

CHAMBER AFFILIATES 2023

Branchville-Frankford-Lafayette Chamber Council

Chair: Cindy Nolte, Fresh Look on Life

Central Sussex County Chamber Council

Chair: Robert Charlton, Nisivoccia LLP

Franklin-Hardyston Chamber Council

Chair: Keri Marino, First Hope Bank

Southern Sussex County Chamber Council

Chair: Cathy Kut, Realty Executives Exceptional Realtors

Sparta Chamber Council

Chair: William P. Askin, Askin & Hooker LLC

Sussex Wantage Chamber Council

Chair: Tom Madsen, Tom Madsen LLC
Co-Chair: Claudia Raffay, Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative

CHAMBER HAPPENINGS



DeBoer's Auto

CHAMBER MEMBERS AWARDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2023-2024

Making Headlines

BRIDGE MARINA in Lake Hopatcong was recognized by **Tripadvisor** as a 2023 Travelers' Choice award winner for its hospitality-focused boating services on Lake Hopatcong and Sandy Hook Bay, including boat rentals, boat lessons and boat club.



Bridge Marina



DEBOER'S AUTO (Hamburg) secured the prestigious **American Automobile Association (AAA) Best in Auto Repair** award in 2023. Over 143 exceptional nominees vied for the top spot, but DeBoer's Auto managed to outshine them all.

KOKOPELLA HIGH TOUCH OUTPLACEMENT

and its founder and director **Maya Ollson** were ranked by **Manage HR Magazine** as the **top outplacement services company of 2023**.



Maya Ollson

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Making Headlines

Continued from page 11

The attorneys of **LADDEY, CLARK & RYAN LLP** were recognized with various awards over the past 12 months including:

- **Fredric Knapp** recognized for Lifetime Achievement by The New Jersey Law Journal in its New Jersey Legal Awards 2023.
- **Thomas Ryan** and **Andrew Fraser** were included on the list of **2024 Best Lawyers in America** and **Timothy Dinan, Travis Nunziato** and **Meghan Steingall** were recognized as **Best Lawyers "Ones to Watch" in 2024**.



Angelo Bolcato

- **Angelo Bolcato, Andrew Fraser, and Thomas Ryan** were included on the list of **2023 New Jersey Super Lawyers**, and **Travis Nunziato** and **Meghan Steingall** were included on the list of **2023 New Jersey Super Lawyers Rising Stars**.



MOUNTAIN CREEK'S PARENT COMPANY, SNOW PARTNERS was named a **2023 Top US Workplace** and a **Top Workplace in New Jersey** for the second year running in the Energeage

National Top Workplaces survey.

Kat Polizos of **MOUNTAIN CREEK** was named a **Top 10 Under 30** by *Ski Area Management Magazine*, recognizing her as one of the top up and coming stars within the ski resort industry.



Kat Polizos



TOWN 2 AUTO BODY AND TOWING INC (Hamburg) was recognized in the **Top 10 Body Shops In New Jersey** as listed in New Jersey Alliance, which is the official publication for AASPNJ (Alliance of Automotive Service Providers/NJ).

The **SPARTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY** hosted the NJ League of Historical Societies for its annual meeting – the first time this meeting has been held in Sussex County in over 15 years.

PAM VREELAND, a Sparta, New Jersey Realtor® with Realty Executives Exceptional Realtors®, was named **Realtor® of the Year 2023** by the Sussex County Association of Realtors®.



Pam Vreeland

VISIONS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION has reached \$10 million in community impact over the past 10 years through its **Visions Cares initiative** which provides grants, volunteer hours and in-kind donations to local causes.

WINTER4KIDS has been named a finalist for the **NJBIZ 2023 Business of the Year Award** in the Non-profit category (1-100 employees). Awards are given to companies and organizations that have made significant contributions to help communities grow and prosper and who share a commitment to professional excellence, business growth and their communities.

WINTER4KIDS CEO Schone Malliet was a **2023 NJBIZ ICON Award Honoree**.



Schone Malliet

Leaders over the age of 60 are recognized from various New Jersey industries and these individuals are honored for their work throughout their careers — not just in their respective fields, but in the state's larger business community as well. ■



Local Individuals and Companies Recognized at Annual Awards Luncheon

The Sussex County Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to announce the recipients of its prestigious Toast to the Stars Awards for 2023. Each year, the Chamber recognizes exceptional businesses and individuals who have made significant contributions to the community and demonstrated excellence in their respective fields.

The Toast to the Stars Awards are presented in 15 categories, including Quality in Business, Quality in Living, Entrepreneur of the Year, and Lifetime Achievement. These awards recognize the hard work, dedication, and innovation of local businesses and individuals who have made a positive impact on the community.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all the 2023 Toast to the Stars Award winners. Your commitment to excellence and your contributions to Sussex County are truly inspiring.

"It is always a pleasure to bring our local businesses together to celebrate each other's successes," said Chamber of Commerce President Tammie Horsfield. "This annual event allows us to highlight the many businesses, organizations and individuals that

make Sussex County such a wonderful place to live, work, play and prosper."

Chosen from an outstanding list of nominees, the Chamber award recipients for 2023 were:

BUSINESS INNOVATION AWARD
Norwescap

Norwescap, located in Sussex Borough, brought together government representatives, local leaders, business owners, and residents to identify strengths and challenges within the community. These discussions resulted in the creation of the Sussex Borough Cultural and Community Center (SBCCC) which officially opened in Spring 2022. The SBCC provides an innovative array of programs and services to help individuals, families, and the community thrive.

BUSINESSPERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD
Becky Carlson, Center for Prevention & Counseling, Newton, NJ

As Executive Director at the Center for Prevention & Counseling since 2015, Becky Carlson successfully managed the agency's

continued on the next page

Descriptions of Annual Chamber Awards

BUSINESS INNOVATION AWARD

Awarded in recognition of a company initiating new ideas or approaches to doing business and challenging the status quo with outside-the-box thinking.

BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD

Awarded in recognition of a distinguished business leader with an established track record of significant accomplishments in business and/or community service.

CHAIRMAN'S AWARD

Awarded in recognition of an individual or organization that has made an extraordinary contribution to Sussex County in at least the past 12 months.

CHAMBER CHAMPION AWARD

Awarded to a Chamber member who continuously goes above and beyond in contributing their time and talent to the organization.

CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARD

Awarded in recognition of a business or organization that best demonstrates that it has the customer at the heart of the business.

DAVID C. HERZENBERG AWARD

This award is a tribute to an organization or individual making a significant contribution to the health and welfare of area residents.

ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

Awarded to a business leader with exceptional vision who demonstrates outstanding enterprise, innovation, and entrepreneurial flair.

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CHAMBER HAPPENINGS

Continued from page 11

prevention counseling and recovery support services, grants, and initiatives, both fiscally and programmatically. Stewarding a 123% increase in the agency's operating budget, she led a staff increase of nearly 100%, which now includes 58 caring and talented professionals.

CHAIRMAN'S AWARD Senator Steve Oroho



Senator Steve Oroho

Senator Steve Oroho has unfailingly dedicated the last 22 years to serving others and has always worked hard to keep Sussex County a great place to live, work and play. Senator Oroho, currently serving his fifth term in the New Jersey State Senate, represents the 24th legislative district in the northwestern part of the state which comprises all of Sussex County, along with parts of northern Warren and Morris Counties.

CHAMBER CHAMPION AWARD Catherine Kut, Realty Executives Exceptional Realtors, Sparta, NJ



Catherine Kut

Cathy is truly a VIP volunteer, lending a hand at almost every single Chamber event. She is ready, willing, and able to take on any task...just because she wants to help. Cathy has served as the Chairwoman of the Sussex County Day Exhibitor Committee since the event began almost a decade ago.

CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARD The Chocolate Goat, Lafayette, NJ

Priding itself on great customer service, the Chocolate Goat Gift Shoppe in Lafayette feels to many visitors like an extension of their home. Store owners Jennifer and Stephanie Koza have been treating customers with respect, helpfulness, and kindness since they opened their doors in 1998.

ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

**Robert Boyle,
Planet Networks,
Newton, NJ**



Robert Boyle

Robert Boyle is the CEO and founder of Planet Networks, a premier provider of cutting-edge fiber Internet communications, cloud computing, security, telephony, and networking services. Planet Networks is currently on target to offer Sussex County residents another option for internet and phone service by the end of 2024.

HEALTHY LIVING AWARD

Farmers Market at the Shoppes at Lafayette (Lafayette, NJ), Sparta Farmers Market (Sparta, NJ), Sussex County Fairgrounds Farmers Market (Augusta, NJ), Hopatcong Farmers Market (Hopatcong, NJ)

Farmers Markets are an important staple in Sussex County offering residents' access to fresh, locally grown food and locally made or sourced products. Farmers Markets preserve the county's rural livelihoods and farmland, stimulate the local economy, and increase access to nutritious food.

DAVID C. HERZENBERG AWARD Chelsea at Sparta, Sparta, NJ

The Chelsea at Sparta offers health and wellness programs designed to promote physical, mental, and spiritual well-being for all its senior residents. The goal is to provide services that help promote independence while still allowing residents access to quality care when they need it.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

**Richard Lecher,
SCARC, Inc.,
Newton, NJ**



Richard Lecher

Richard C. Lecher, Ph.D. has been the President and Chief Executive Officer of SCARC, Inc. since 1972. Previously a special education teacher, Dr. Lecher came to SCARC as its first Chief Executive, after the organization had

operated with volunteers for the first 15 years of its history. SCARC currently serves more than 600 children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families throughout their lives.

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR AWARD Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Intervention Services (DASI)

For almost four decades, DASI has offered services that have included a safehouse, transitional housing, outreach center, legal advocacy, counseling, sexual assault response team, domestic abuse response team, support groups, poetry and prose, trauma-informed yoga, offender programs, and community education programs for sufferers of domestic and sexual violence.

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY EVENT OF THE YEAR AWARD

NJ State Fair/Sussex County Farm & Horse Show, Augusta, NJ

A 501 (c)3 organization with no governmental funding, the NJ State Fair/Sussex County Farm & Horse Show was established in 1940 and has been providing agricultural exhibits, livestock shows, horse shows, 4H exhibits, honeybee demonstrations, home and hobby exhibits, a fun carnival, demolition derbies and monster trucks, vendors, crafts, and of course delicious fair food, ever since.

QUALITY IN BUSINESS AWARD Crystal Springs Resort, Hardyston, NJ and HQW Architects, Sparta, NJ

Crystal Springs Resort is the northeast's largest four-season golf, spa and culinary resort and an iconic destination that draws thousands of visitors to Sussex County every season. Crystal Springs boasts 10 seasonally inspired dining venues highlighted by 4-star Restaurant Latour and its world-famous Wine Spectator Grand Award-winning wine cellar.

HQW Architects was founded in 1971 by three friends from Syracuse University who decided to create an architecture firm based on the principles of innovative design, quality construction, uncompromising attention to detail, and most importantly,



NJ State Fair

the development of unique solutions to satisfy each of their client's individual requirements. Five decades and countless projects have led the company to a beautiful new office in Sparta, NJ designed by the HQW team.

QUALITY IN LIVING AWARD Benny's Bodega, Newton, NJ and Ridge and Valley Conservancy, Newton, NJ

Set up like a store, or bodega, shoppers at Benny's Bodega can come in and get items they need- free of charge and free of any shame or embarrassment that comes with "getting help." It's stocked and funded by community donations and staffed by volunteers. Its mission is to give a hand to families that fall into the gap of making too much to receive assistance but not making enough to survive or thrive.

Ridge and Valley Conservancy is an accredited land trust that works in Sussex and Warren counties to preserve open space and protect the incredible biodiversity of our region. The organization currently maintains 2,500 acres of protected land across both counties and has helped to protect more than 5,000 acres in its thirty-year history.

RISING STAR AWARD Lidia Zdunek

Lidia, a business banker with Lakeland Bank, has been very involved in the

community and taken on numerous roles and responsibilities with the Sussex County Chamber of Commerce. She served on the Young Professionals Steering Committee as Chairwoman from 2017-2020 and will serve as the new chairwoman of Women in Business Committee in 2024. Lidia has served on the Chamber Board of Trustees for the past 6 years and was the Chairwoman of the Board in 2021.



Lidia Zdunek

WORKPLACE OF THE YEAR AWARD Thorlabs

Thorlabs proudly recognizes employees as a key part of the company strategy and strives to provide an engaging, safe, and welcoming work environment. It also provides benefits at all Thorlabs U.S.-based locations that include 401k plans with matching, health care, dental, and vision plans, paid time off, full tuition reimbursement, paid parental leave, flexible spending accounts for medical and dependent care, gym memberships and wellness programs, paid time off for volunteering, success sharing, merit increases and anniversary awards, an employee referral program, life insurance and supplemental benefits, short term disability, long term disability, and a legal assistance program. ■

Descriptions

CONTINUED

HEALTHY LIVING AWARD

Awarded in recognition of an innovative business that supports the health of its consumers and community within its core business model and mission.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Awarded in recognition of an individual that has made an extraordinary, long-term contribution to the community.

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR AWARD

Awarded in recognition of outstanding accomplishments by a nonprofit organization with a reputation for excellence.

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY EVENT OF THE YEAR AWARD

Awarded in recognition of conceiving, planning, and implementing an outstanding event for the Sussex County area.

QUALITY IN BUSINESS AWARD

Awarded in recognition of a business organization which began as a small enterprise and has continued in its original form for many years or grown larger as a result exceptional quality of service.

QUALITY IN LIVING AWARD

Awarded in recognition of a non-profit organization whose activities produce broad personal benefits for large numbers of County residents and contribute significantly to the quality of life in Sussex county.

RISING STAR AWARD

Awarded to an emerging leader whose achievements reflect exceptional growth in their profession and high potential for future impact.

WORKPLACE OF THE YEAR AWARD

Awarded in recognition of a company that exhibits outstanding commitment to workplace quality and strives to create the best possible workplace for its employees.

Chamber Announces Professional Development Scholarship Winners

The Sussex County Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the winners of its annual Professional Development Scholarships. This scholarship program offers financial consideration for courses, conferences, webinars, and other educational programs for owners and employees of Sussex County based businesses which are also members of the Chamber. Scholarships are for tuition and training in support of building and strengthening employee skills.

This year the ten Professional Development Scholarship winners are from a wide range of Sussex County for-profit and non-profit companies.

THE 2023 WINNERS ARE:

- **Carla Brunelle**, Newton High School (Newton, NJ)
- **Elizabeth Fusco**, Newton High School (Newton, NJ)
- **Erika Hewston**, Peters Valley School of Craft (Layton, NJ)
- **Kelsey Kistle**, Kistle Realty (Branchville, NJ)
- **Cindy Nolte**, Fresh Look on Life (Augusta, NJ)
- **Athena Storm**, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Intervention Services (DASI) (Newton, NJ)
- **Kristina Thompson**, The Center for Prevention & Counseling (Newton, NJ)
- **Henry Torres**, Fredon School (Fredon, NJ)
- **William Vierbuchen**, Camp Nejedra Foundation (Stillwater, NJ)
- **Eric Volandt**, SCARC, Inc. (Augusta, NJ)



Funds to support the Professional Development Scholarship Program come in part from proceeds raised at the Chamber's annual Sussex County Day event held each year in September at the Sussex County Fairgrounds.

“The Chamber understands the importance of continuing professional development for employees at area companies. We also understand the financial strain that pursuing this education can bring, and that is why we decided it was so important to offer scholarships to cover tuition and training costs.” —Tammie Horsfield. Chamber President

READ ON TO LEARN WHAT SOME OF THE RECIPIENTS HAD TO SAY ABOUT THEIR LEARNING EXPERIENCES.

From Bill Vierbuchen, Executive Director, Camp Nejedra Foundation (Stillwater, NJ)

“It seems all of us have less time and more to do! After years of using a typical “to do list” that never got completed, I enrolled in an organizational program called “Getting Things Done” (GTD) with funding from a Chamber Professional Development scholarship. Thanks to the chamber’s support, I’ve really been able to improve efficiency and overall productivity at Camp Nejedra. I appreciate the chamber’s commitment to continuing professional development.”

From Erika Hewston, Gallery Director, Peter’s Valley School of Craft (Walpack, NJ)

“I used the scholarship to help cover the cost of tuition for a course towards my master’s degree in art administration. Specifically, the course taken with scholarship funds was in persuasive communication and discussed how to create and maintain ethical discourse between other businesses and with consumers and potential donors. This program is helping my career and in my current role as Gallery Director at a nonprofit art organization as I can implement new tools and adapt my leadership style as I learn new skills.”

From Kelsey Kistle, Broker/Salesperson, Kistle Realty LLC (Branchville, NJ)

“Thanks to the Chamber Professional Development Scholarship, I was able to put funds toward my efforts of obtaining my Brokers license for real estate. To obtain the license, I had to attend virtual schooling for 150 hours to cover ethics, agency, office management and core course topics, and pass a class exam, as well as a state exam. During the schooling I learned so much more about our local real estate market and how a higher-level professional, such as a Broker, can assist in maintaining protection for the community by keeping the consumers and the agents around them well educated and informed on ethics, current events, violations, and good practice. I really love what I do and having this license has helped me become a better, more informed manager and agent to serve and protect my community.”

From Cindy Nolte, Founder, Fresh Look on Life (Augusta, NJ)

“Being a small business owner, I do not have the benefit of a company paid tuition reimbursement program. While I pride myself on the fact that I never stopped learning since I received my MA in Education and bachelor’s degree in business, it can be challenging to compete with other larger businesses who have a much larger budget than me for expenses. I used the scholarship I received to further my progress in completing my MBA. The courses I completed focused on management and leadership theories in the context of service organizations as well as innovation. These insights are invaluable for my work as a consultant, coach, and speaker for businesses and organizations.” ■

Cindy Nolte



Steering Around Bus Driver Shortage

Scholarship Helps Newton High with CDL Training

A lack of bus drivers was hampering a Newton High School special education program focused on teaching life skills and employability skills to adult students with mild to moderate disabilities.

Transportation is crucial to this community-based program where local retailers, restaurants, and job sites are the classroom. Giving students real-world experience and the opportunity to practice their skills in a supportive environment is crucial to their success.

Explaining how the scholarship funds will help students, Newton High School Principal Jeff Waldron first commended the chamber saying, “The Sussex County Chamber of Commerce has demonstrated its commitment to education and the community through awarding its Professional Development Scholarships.”

Continuing, Waldon explained the scholarship’s impact, “This scholarship has helped address the growing school bus driver shortage by providing funds to invest in school bus driver training for two teachers. As a result, the A.C.H.I.E.V.E Transition Program, which relies on daily travel for students with special learning needs to various businesses in the community, can continue without any disruptions due to a lack of drivers. We are grateful to the Chamber for its support and dedication to enhancing education in the community.”

A.C.H.I.E.V.E students had the opportunity to follow their classroom experiences with work experience at local businesses throughout the school year. The participating businesses included Sussex County Chamber of Commerce members’ ThorLabs, Inc., Benny’s Bodega, Newton ShopRite, and the The Weekend Bag Program. This gave the students valuable hands-on experience and a chance to apply what they learned in the classroom in a real-world setting.



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QUALITY IN BUSINESS



Above: Water Street Lofts Aerial; Below: Apartment interior

Building Projects Fuel Economic Growth

NEW APARTMENTS, RETAIL AND RESTAURANTS COME TO NEWTON

During the past two years exciting building projects in Newton have had a significant impact on the local economy and community. The construction of the Quantum Leap building on Sparta Avenue heralded another expansion of Thorlabs, Inc., while redevelopment of a prime parcel of property on Water Street brought new upscale housing and fast casual dining options to residents. Additionally, the arrival of national retailers to renovated storefronts in both the Hampton Plaza and the Hampton Mall has energized shoppers.

121 WATER STREET Newton, NJ

Local company Dykstra Associates was the leading consultant

for 121 Water Street, an exciting mixed-use community project located in Newton, NJ. The 5-acre redevelopment area located between ShopRite and Weis Supermarkets in Newton, was the former site of G & H Service, Inc. Using the Town of Newton's forward-thinking utilization of the redevelopment regulations, the stage was set for this development to occur on an underutilized lot. Now it is home to three upscale apartment buildings known as the Water Street Lofts, along with two commercial buildings offering fast-casual dining options Chipotle, Panera Bread, and Starbucks.

Leasing of the one hundred apartments is currently underway with 25% leased and full occupancy expected by the second quarter of 2024. When asked where new residents are from, Owen Dykstra, Principal



and Director of Engineering at Dykstra Associates, noted that roughly 50% already called Sussex County home and 50% came from outside of the County.

Individuals touring the property will find attractive amenities including lots of windows to allow in natural light, a roof deck and lounge, electric vehicle car chargers, valet trash, and high-end finishes. Impressive too is the state-of-the-art building access and security

continued on the next page



QUALITY IN BUSINESS



Founded in 1989, Thorlabs is headquartered in Sussex County and is home to its mechanics, optics, fiber optics, advanced systems technology, and laser division teams. On-site manufacturing takes place at the Newton headquarters.

Continued from page 19

technology incorporated throughout the project. Dykstra, in discussing the apartments, encourages those looking to make a move to visit wslhome.com to learn more, saying, “This is an amazing project, and we are very proud to offer this quality of living experience to existing residents and newcomers to Sussex County.”

THORLABS, INC. Newton, NJ

When the ribbon was cut on Thorlabs’ Quantum Leap building at 43 Sparta Avenue, it brought an additional 150,000 square feet of manufacturing and office space to the existing footprint the company has in Newton.

“Thorlabs is an innovative Northern New Jersey business that is continuing to expand their incredible facilities in Newton,” said Congressman Josh Gottheimer (NJ-5), who was present at the event. “The ingenuity and creativity taking place at Thorlabs has led to thousands of jobs for New Jersey and is continuing to help to revitalize and invest in Sussex County.”

The new global headquarters is a gleaming building with large windows and multiple balconies with red steel accents. Home to the Leadership Team, Human Resources, Marketing, IT, Sales and Technical Services, and Communications, it also houses manufacturing and engineering space for the Advanced Systems Technology team and the Optomechanics team, whose



“The ingenuity and creativity taking place at Thorlabs has led to thousands of jobs for New Jersey and is continuing to help to revitalize and invest in Sussex County.”

— Congressman
Josh Gottheimer (NJ-5)

manufacturing space now spans nearly the entire first floor of the building at 43 Sparta Ave, plus existing space at Route 206 in Andover.

Products manufactured on-site at Quantum Leap range from specialized screws; various mechanical components, such as mirror mounts used inside lasers, to PCB boards, detectors, and other electronic systems.

SHOPRITE OF SUSSEX Sussex, NJ

ShopRite celebrated the grand opening celebration for its newest state-of-the-art, full-service supermarket, the ShopRite of Sussex at 1 Wiebel Plaza, on Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2023.

The ShopRite of Sussex is owned by RoNetco Supermarkets, Inc., a family-owned company with nearly a century in the grocery business and now nine ShopRite stores in northwestern New Jersey. The new ShopRite offers customers a one-stop shopping experience with a wide selection of groceries, including ShopRite’s award-winning Bowl & Basket, Wholesome Pantry and Paperbird Own Brands, locally sourced foods, and a variety of fresh-prepared and restaurant-style meals. The store will employ over 250 full- and part-time associates.

“RoNetco Supermarkets has a long history of commitment to the communities where our ShopRite stores operate, and we are very excited to officially be a part of the



Above: The ShopRite of Sussex, owned by RoNetco Supermarkets Inc., holds an opening celebration for the new state-of-the-art, full-service supermarket; Below: New stores now open at the Hampton Mall

great Sussex community,” said Dominick J. Romano, Co- President & C.O.O. of RoNetco Supermarkets, Inc.

Distinctive features of the store include a True Value Hardware, a unique one-stop-shop, with the first of its kind hardware selection in a ShopRite store. The True Value Hardware department will have everything customers need for DIY and home improvement projects.

There is also a fresh, walk-in seafood market designed as a temperature-controlled, in-store market offering customers a wide variety of fresh seafood delivered daily. Seafood specialists at the counter can help with selection and recipe ideas, and steam orders for free while customers’ shop.

With an emphasis on reducing its eco-footprint, the new ShopRite of Sussex features energy-efficient refrigeration and lighting, with LED lighting throughout the store and its parking lot.

HAMPTON MALL AND HAMPTON PLAZA Newton, NJ

Shoppers at the Hampton Mall on Route 206 are enjoying a group of new retailers and a facelift to the building that houses them. During renovations, the building got a



PHOTO CREDIT: LISABURGHART

fresh new facade featuring stone and brick. The storefronts have new, more expansive windows along with black awnings and decorative outdoor lighting. Retailers Five Below, Game Stop, and Old Navy joined the existing Friendly’s restaurant, along with Marshall’s, Home Goods, Pet Smart, and others.

Across the parking lot, the Hampton Plaza also added new stores including arts and crafts retailer Michaels, which replaced the Bed Bath & Beyond store that closed in 2020. The 13,366-square-foot store is the

company’s first in Sussex County. USA Wine Traders Club, a New Jersey-based discount beer, wine, and liquor store, also opened.

Hampton Mall and Hampton Plaza are separate shopping centers owned by different investors: Martin Realty and Development owns the Hampton Mall and the Kennedy Companies, Inc own Hampton Plaza (from Firestone to Staples/Subway). Since the two centers share road access and have adjacent parking, people often mistakenly believe they are one property. ■



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QUALITY IN BUSINESS

Above: Lounge space for visiting employees; Below: Historical photo of early insurance workforce

Selective Insurance Returns to Two Broad Street

COMPANY PURCHASES THE SAME BUILDING FOR A SECOND TIME IN 91 YEARS

In need of additional training space and accommodations for employees, Selective Insurance Company of America purchased a building in Branchville, NJ that it had previously owned in the 1930's.

With the headquarters of the company being located in Branchville, training for employees from the numerous branch offices took place here. However, there were no truly convenient overnight facilities for a large group, let alone a place they could gather "off-campus" to discuss different issues they faced in their day-to-day work.

It was the need for such a facility that prompted the company to look back to the building in which the firm began.

In November 2019, Wantage Avenue Holdings bought the property from Lakeland Bank, N.A., which was the successor by merger of The First National Bank of Branchville. Wantage Avenue Holdings is a subsidiary of Selective Insurance Group Inc. Once the building was acquired, the company hired the

firm Smith Maran Architects of Montclair to prepare the site plan and the conceptual architectural plans required for the planning board.

The architects went to great lengths to maintain the exterior appearance of the original building and preserve the overall harmony of the historic streetscape in the middle of the borough. In the middle of the design process, Wantage Avenue Holdings decided to engage a second design firm, HQW Architects from Sparta, to make a new interior plan and alter the addition's exterior in the footprint approved by the Borough Planning Board.

One of the first site improvements that



had to be undertaken was the removal of an old garage from the rear of the property. The firm removed a generator that was housed in the garage and then donated it to Branchville Borough.

The first floor was designed to accommodate all the day-to-day needs for meetings and training facilities. This level includes a large meeting room that can accommodate up to 40 individuals, a large lounge, reception area, and a large galley. The meeting room and lounge includes all the modern electronic and communication facilities needed to assure

continued on the next page

A New Use For The Original D.L.B. Smith Building In Branchville, NJ

By Wayne T. McCabe, President, Sussex County Historical Society

During the 1950s and 1960s, Branchville, NJ resident L. Brevort Odell authored several publications regarding the history of Branchville and particularly Selected Risks Insurance Company.

In celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the formal establishment of the insurance company, Odell wrote, at considerable length, about the founder of the company, Daniel L. B. Smith and the growth of the firm. It is well known that Smith operated a general store in a long and narrow two-story wood-framed building located in the middle of the borough.

Through a series of events, Smith came into possession of "a bunch of insurance renewals" from a friend who was moving away from the area and giving up his insurance agency. Although initially not giving much credence to the pile of paperwork, Smith soon realized that there was a business value to these documents. The result of this epiphany was the establishment of an insurance agency, which would ultimately lead to the founding of Selected Risks.

Odell noted that on April 26, 1926 was the day when the insurance company was officially formed. The central focus of the company was to properly service the insurance needs of individuals and companies in rural areas. The officers of the new company were: Dr. L. B. Hoagland, President; D. L. B. Smith, Vice President; and, Marvin A. Pierson, Secretary. From its inception 1930, the official Home Office of Selected Risks was located in Washington, New Jersey, Hoagland's hometown. The administrative office was in Branchville, occupying a



portion of D. L. B. Smith's general store. The Home Office and the administrative office were merged in 1931 into Branchville, it's real "home."

In 1966, Odell wrote "Both the Home Office and the old general store were operated under the same roof for a while, but as the insurance business grew, the store space was gradually reduced until there was no room left for it. Mr. Smith sold the good will of his store to Clinton Smith who moved the grocery end of the business to a newly erected corner store across the street, where it operated until the late 1950s as Smith's Market. The location of the market and adjoining one-story buildings had once been the site of the picturesque Branchville Hotel."

At the time of its founding, the Home Office had one assistant. Odell noted that when it was moved to Branchville in 1931, there were 26 employees. By 1937, the number of employees had expanded to 61.

It was during 1936 that the old long and narrow building underwent a substantial physical expansion. The building was widened for the

entire length of the structure, the exterior walls were sheathed in brick, and the design of the front entrance was changed from the traditional Victorian storefront to include four massive pilasters that framed the new central double-door and transom entrance, flanked by large plate glass windows. The second floor of the front now had substantial paired double-hung windows. A clock was set into the tympanum that surmounted the new building front. The physical expansion of the building permitted the staff to continue to grow, meeting the demands of an ever-increasing client base. That is, until, once again there was no more space available. Also, during the 1930s, the company expanded through the development of branch offices in New Jersey, and later in numerous other states.

By 1950, it was generally understood that the company had to make a significant shift by expanding the office facilities. The decision was to locate the new building on a prominence overlooking the entire Borough of Branchville. By the middle of 1952, the sitework had begun on the new building and site improvements. It was by the end of November in 1953 that all of the employees were occupying the new facilities, leaving the original building vacant.

It was not until November 1957 that Selected Risks Indemnity Company sold Two Broad to 49 Main Street Corporation, whose principal was Paul Koch, Esq. of Franklin. In turn, in May 1981, 49 Main Street Corporation sold the property to Mack and Esther Grabow (married) and Eva Grabow (widow).

In July 1981, the Grabows sold the building to Stephen Sims, who subsequently added his wife (Alison) to the title. In April 1992, the Sims sold it to The First National Bank of Sussex County, which later merged into Lakeland Bank. ■



Meeting Space at Two Broad Street

Selective Insurance Returns to Two Broad Street

Continued from page 23
visiting employees the ability to carry out their work. Meals served in the galley are provided from the full-service cafeteria located in the main office complex in the borough.

In the end, the second floor is accessible by sets of stairs at both the front and rear of the building and by an elevator that runs from the parking lot level up to both the first and second floor levels. The second floor includes eleven nicely appointed guestrooms and a pantry at the end of the floor close to the elevator. Both the first and second floor levels include a total of 5,500 square feet.

Michael Lanza, Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer was involved in the acquisition and site planning for the facility. He said that it was paramount that the exterior features be maintained, notably at the front entrance and the arrangement of windows throughout the sides of the building facing both Broad Street and Mill Street. By maintaining these primary architectural features, the appearance of the middle of the commercial core of the borough would be maintained.

The Wallkill Group served as the general contractor for this project. E.M. Electrical Contractors, Inc. installed all

the electrical services, while T.M. Brennan Contractors, Inc. of Hamburg installed all the mechanical improvements to the renovated building. One significant change Brennan installed was the conversion of the oil burner heating system over to a natural gas heating system.

One thing that the company encourages is for the visiting employees to tour the commercial shops in Branchville. Lanza noted that the entire facility is regularly booked with visiting employees throughout the year.

This revitalized space allows employees additional opportunities to congregate, collaborate, and facilitate professional growth and development in the training center. Additionally, completing the 2 Broad Street project brings the insurance company one step closer to creating a campus environment for their visiting employees while encouraging them to utilize the wonderful businesses that make up this community.

Today, the insurance company has more than 2,640 employees, with more than 800 of them based in the home office in Branchville. ■

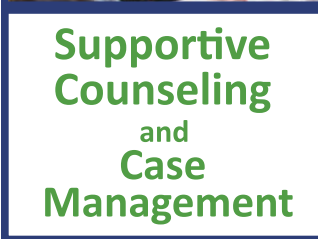
By Wayne T. McCabe, President, Sussex County Historical Society

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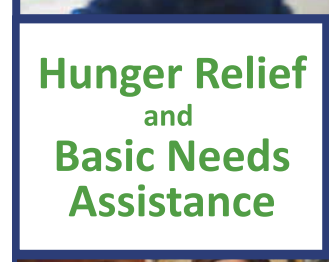
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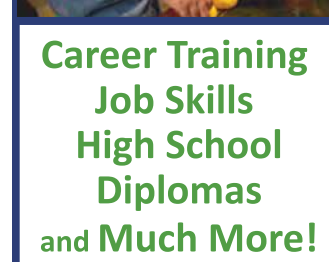
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Elizabethtown Gas Expands in Sussex County

RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES GAIN ACCESS TO NATURAL GAS

Sussex County residents may have seen work crews and Elizabethtown Gas employees installing natural gas lines in sections of Sparta and Byram Townships this past summer, and in other municipalities over the past 12 months. The projects provide new natural gas services to residents and businesses in those areas.

Elizabethtown Gas currently has gas lines in 18 towns in Sussex County and provides natural gas to more than 300,000 customers in seven counties across northern New Jersey. The company has been ranked #1 by JD Power in Customer Satisfaction with Residential Natural Gas Service in the East among Midsized Utilities for 8 years in a row.

In addition to installing the gas main lines, the company has built a service center on Route 94 in Lafayette Township.

Elizabethtown Gas is currently offering energy efficiency programs and resources for residents that have recently acquired access to natural gas and have an interest in converting.

They include:

- Appliance Rebates – Rebates up to \$100 on the purchase of ENERGY STAR certified clothes washer and \$200 on the purchase of eligible gas dryers are available.
- HVAC and Water Heating Rebates – Residents purchasing Energy Star® certified high-efficiency HVAC and/or Water Heating systems may be eligible for rebates up to \$750 for eligible Water Heaters or up to \$1,750



Elizabethtown Gas wins AMA safety award



for eligible HVAC Equipment.

- Financing options include 0% APR financing for up to \$15,000 for 7 years with the On-Bill Repayment Program (OBRP).

A Participating Contractor is required to qualify for financing and the OBRP financing incentive. Chamber members R. Poust Heating & Cooling, Inc. (Sparta)

and T. Daniel Specialty Heating (Landing) are both participating contractors with Elizabethtown Gas. ■

LEARN MORE



Elizabethtown Gas is not the only service expanding or improving in Sussex County. Planet Networks continues its expansion of internet and phone service throughout Sussex County, and JCP&L filed a new infrastructure improvement program with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities that will strengthen the backbone of its local electric system and provide the foundation for smart grid capabilities in the future.

Business Marks 150 Years

WOLFE GRANITE MEMORIALS, A COMMUNITY STAPLE

Wolfe Granite Memorials celebrated its Sesquicentennial in 2023. Established in 1873 by A.E. Wolfe on Bank Street in Sussex, NJ, as A.E. Wolfe Marble Works, the company relocated in 1903 to the current location at 86 Main Street in Sussex.

It has changed hands 10 times over the years but has always retained the Wolfe name.

Nancy Bookbinder, the current owner, purchased the business in 2002 from her parents, Elsie and John De Block who had owned the business for 22 years.

“Over its 150 years, Wolfe Granite Memorials has provided an estimated 20,000 memorials for local families, placed in over 150 different cemeteries throughout the tri-state area,” noted Bookbinder. “We also offer portrait etchings, porcelain portraits, memorial benches, granite vases, bronze plaques, eternal lights, civic memorials, columbariums and mausoleums.”

Wolfe is responsible for creating the Civic Memorial at Sussex County Community College as well as a memorial at Woodbourne Park in Wantage.

“I think of this business as a sensitive, compassionate service,” explained Bookbinder. “A memorial reflects the legacy of the person who has passed and helps the family move from grief to positive memories.”

The Borough of Sussex recognized the 150th anniversary of the company with a resolution presented to Bookbinder, honoring Wolfe Granite Memorials as a “enduring, staple business of the community.” ■



“A memorial reflects the legacy of the person who has passed and helps the family move from grief to positive memories.”

— Nancy Bookbinder

Top: Civic Memorial at Sussex County Community College; Middle: Sussex County Public Safety Memorial at the Sussex County Public Safety Training Academy; Left: Nancy Bookbinder, owner of Wolfe Granite Memorials, is honored with a town resolution from Sussex Borough.

***All memorials were designed by Wolfe Granite Memorials.**

19,000 solar panels cascade down the mountainside at Crystal Springs Resort.



Crystal Springs Expands Solar Initiative

THE NORTHEAST'S LARGEST RESORT-BASED SOLAR FARM IS IN HAMBURG

Cystal Springs Resort continues its environmentally conscious efforts to increase its sustainability initiatives throughout its property. In late 2019, the Resort commenced commercial operations of the largest resort based solar farm in the Northeastern United States. Developed in partnership with New Jersey based Marina Energy, the 25-acre solar field has over 19,000 solar panels and has the annual capacity to generate 3.5 megawatts of electricity, which is more power than is consumed annually by the Resort's two hotels.

Development of this solar farm aligns with other efforts taken by the resort in pursuit of ongoing environmental stewardship, such as its partnership with Jersey Central Power &

Light (JCP&L) and the New Jersey Audubon Society to create new habitat for bees, butterflies, and birds on one of its six golf course properties. Crystal Springs Resort is also a member of the New Jersey Audubon Corporate Stewardship Council, which emphasizes voluntary environmental stewardship, sustainability, conservation partnerships and public education.

“We recognize that our guests visit us, not only for our wide array of amenities, but



also for enjoyment of the Resort's beautiful natural surroundings, so it is only fitting that we should take steps to minimize our impact on the environment to help preserve it for generations to come,” says Resort Chief Marketing Officer, Chris Mulvihill. “While we are taking many other steps in the area of sustainability such as the use of LED lighting, paper straws, locally sourced menu ingredients, and biodegradable organic laundry detergent, we really like to be able to use superlatives when we describe the Resort, so I am very pleased to be able to say that New *continued on the next page*



Left to right (back): NJ Assemblyman Kevin J. Rooney, NJ State Senator Steve Oroho, NJ Assemblymen Hal Wirths
Left to right (front): Andrew Mulvihill, Julie Mulvihill, Chris Mulvihill (owners and operators of Crystal Springs Resort)

Solar Farm

Continued from page 29

York City's closest resort is now also the Northeast's largest solar powered resort."

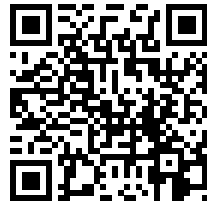
On an annual basis, the solar farm provides clean, renewable energy that more than offsets electricity consumption at the resort's 280 room Grand Cascades Lodge and 175 room Minerals Hotel combined. The project has qualified for net metering

under New Jersey's solar program which means the Resort always maintains a stable source of electricity supply by drawing from the grid at night and other low solar generation periods and providing excess energy to the grid after all resort consumption has been satisfied during the day.

With criticism mounting on the wastefulness of the conference and meetings industry, Mulvihill said that a large consideration driving this project was the Resort's desire to position itself as a best option for New York City organizations seeking to reduce the

**WATCH
THE VIDEO**

*19,000 Solar
Panels in action*



Crystal Springs Resort Receives State Recognition for Sustainability Achievements, Resort Commended in NJ Joint Legislative Resolution

In late fall 2023, the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey recognized Crystal Springs Resort in Sussex County for its extraordinary commitment to sustainability and development in an eco-conscious and community friendly manner, highlighted by its standing as the largest solar powered resort on the Eastern Seaboard.

New Jersey State Senator Steve Oroho along with Assemblymen Hal Wirths and Kevin Rooney presented the Joint Resolution acknowledging the Resort's commitment to sustainability. The Resolution recognized Crystal Springs Resort for having developed the largest resort based solar field in the Eastern United States. It also commended the Mulvihill family for a wide array of sustainability initiatives they have enacted over the years in their development and operation of the Resort, providing long-term benefit to the local community, Sussex County and the State of New Jersey.

Additionally, the Resolution recognized various successful partnerships in which Crystal Springs Resort has engaged. Highlights consist of the creation of a pollinator corridor in association with JCP&L and the New Jersey Audubon Society, the preservation of bog turtle habitats in conjunction with the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, sourcing menu ingredients from local growers and producers, and developing programs to encourage Resort guests to visit local farms.

QUALITY IN BUSINESS

environmental impact of their offsite meetings.

"Offsite meetings and company retreats are a big part of our business, and it's important to understand that taking 100 executives on jets to meet in a remote location not only costs money and time; it also has a major environmental cost. By contrast we can send a group shuttle service to Manhattan and have a company's team at our resort in less time than it takes to get through airport security. So, it is great to now be able to tell our conference clients that not only do their attendees not have to fly, but they can also wake up in the morning knowing they slept in a solar powered hotel."

In addition to taking steps to lessen its guests' impact on the environment, the Resort has also developed several offerings with themes of sustainability including local farm tours, guided nature hikes, foraging classes, and the construction of bee hives to support the rebuilding of the local bee population.

"While we recognize that the primary purpose of a company's offsite meeting may be to provide training, updates on new product rollouts and other corporate initiatives, it never hurts to enhance an event with additional experiences that can give attendees a connection with nature and inspire them to be better stewards of our environment," said Mulvihill. "After all, happy, inspired employees tend to be more productive." ■

Article provided by Crystal Springs Resort.

For more information visit www.crystalgolfresort.com

About Crystal Springs Resort

The Northeast's largest four-season golf, spa and culinary resort, Crystal Springs is located in the Kittatinny Mountains in northern New Jersey, 43 miles from New York City. The two-hotel resort (Grand Cascades Lodge and Minerals Hotel) is known for its culinary program, hosting the internationally recognized New Jersey Wine & Food Festival and boasting 10 seasonally inspired dining venues that feature over 200 locally sourced menu items, highlighted by 4-star Restaurant Latour and its world famous Wine Spectator Grand Award-winning wine cellar. Other amenities include two full-service luxury day spas (rated #1 & #2 in N.J. by Spas of America); state-of-the-art Minerals Sports Club; multiple indoor and outdoor heated pools, including the tropical Biosphere Pool Complex with lush foliage and freeform nature pools, and six championship caliber golf courses including New Jersey's #1 public course, Ballyowen. In addition to serving thousands of hotel guests, Crystal Springs Resort annually hosts hundreds of weddings, special events and corporate meetings.



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Fall is a beautiful season at Crystal Springs in Hamburg, NJ.



PHOTO CREDIT: LOHITRANASINGHE

Live, Work,
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Sussex County's rural landscape and country roads offer luscious scenery around every corner.

Homebuyers Head to New Jersey

TOP FIVE REASONS TO CONSIDER A MOVE TO SUSSEX COUNTY

Sussex County draws families and individuals from around the tri-state area and beyond. Only forty miles from NYC and awash in natural beauty, the area offers an excellent quality of life. With so many companies allowing employees to work remotely, the desirability of living in Sussex County has only increased over the past three years.

IT'S BEAUTIFUL
Sussex County's natural beauty and wide-open spaces draw home buyers looking for greater access to the outdoors.

IT'S FAMILY-FRIENDLY
Sussex County is a family-friendly place with excellent schools and tons of activities for children of all ages.

IT'S CLOSE TO NEW YORK CITY
The excitement and culture of New York City are just a short 40-mile drive from most towns in Sussex County.

IT'S PEACEFUL (AND QUIET)
Less exposure to constant noise often has positive effects on physical health.

IT'S RECREATIONAL
Residents enjoy four seasons of fun in Sussex County. There are plenty of opportunities for hiking, biking, swimming, fishing and more at the county's six state parks. Looking for something more adventurous? Mountain Creek has you covered any time of the year. Head there for ziplining, mountain biking, skiing, snowboarding and snowtubing. Did we mention the water park built into the mountain? They have that too.

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973-729-6111
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QUALITY IN LIVING



PHOTO CREDIT: LOHIT RANASINGHE

“Median home prices in the county rose approximately 4% and our inventory is still very low.”
— Cathy Kut, Branch Manager, Realty Executives Exceptional Realtors in Sparta



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The Realtor's Report

Will Home Prices Drop in 2024? Probably Not.

Higher mortgage rates and home prices combined with a lack of inventory continue to impact the Sussex County real estate market. The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage rates hit a 20 year high during the third quarter of 2023, putting some would-be home buyers out of the market. But even with inflated home prices and interest rates, the shortage of homes for sale boosted competition for listed properties and drove sales prices higher.

“Multiple offers on well-priced homes are still common,” said Cathy Kut, Branch Manager for Realty Executives Exceptional Realtors in Sparta. “The crazy frenzy we had back in 2023 has subsided so we are not seeing 25 offers on a property or needing the police to keep the 60 sets of buyers showing up at an open house under control, but houses are selling and closing fast, most in under 45 days.”



Katherine Kut

“Median home prices in the county rose approximately 4% and our inventory is still very low,” said Kut. “We have been in a seller's market since the pandemic. In a balanced real estate market, we have a four-to-six-month supply of homes. Today we have a 2.6-month supply. There are just not enough homes for sale for the buyers out there.”

Although home prices may level off in 2024, a challenging market is expected to continue until inflation is under control, mortgage rates fall, and inventory returns to a more “normal level.”

“Approximately fourteen million Americans refinanced their homes at all-time low rates during the pandemic years of 2020 and 2021. We do not expect inventory to rise until interest rates fall back into the low 5% range. It is at this lower interest rate that sellers should be willing to sell their homes and give up their current below 3% mortgage rates,” states Kut.

County Burgeoning Hub for Events

FESTIVALS FEATURING FOOD AND POPULAR MUSIC

By Lisa Burghart

The County's large spaces and great venue options offer endless opportunities for popular seasonal celebrations as well as niche annual festivals, fairs, concerts, and outdoor attractions. Of course, everyone eagerly awaits summer's biggest draw, the New Jersey State Fair, Sussex County Farm and Horse Show in Augusta. Between the cotton candy, games of chance, farm animals, and the demolition derby, it's where farm meets fun with carnival rides, great agricultural and educational exhibits, and so much more.

That, however, is just the start! With over 340,000 green acres, Sussex County

is host to over a dozen large scale events that attract visitors from the tri-state region and beyond. Some started as small, local celebrations of a heritage holiday, like the original Lake Mohawk Country Club's German Christmas Market and Mountain Creek's Oktoberfest. Others were large, rocking events that just get bigger and better with time.

GERMAN CHRISTMAS MARKET OF NEW JERSEY

This well-known favorite holiday event, started as a fundraiser for local charities, offering German food, arts, and crafts along



Rock, Ribs and Ridges

Sparta's Lake Mohawk boardwalk. Starting with a few hundred shoppers enjoying the authentic made-in-Germany stollen, other specialty foods, and locally crafted décor items, the holiday market was mostly attended by Sparta residents.

It was one of those best-kept secrets only the locals knew about. Word quickly spread

and it grew to become New Jersey's largest German Christmas Market.

Having outgrown its home of 20 years, it is now held at the spacious Sussex County Fairgrounds. The larger venue allows for live music, horse-drawn carriage rides, pony rides, a wide selection of vendors, and more places to enjoy an authentic hot meal or drink on a chilly December day. A treat for adults and children, the electric train set on display delights all.

SPARTA NJ RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL

James Kimball knows a good renaissance joust when he sees one and he was determined to create one close to home. With his woodland setting at Camp Sacajawea, Kimball envisioned a weekend celebration of all things Renaissance with knights on horseback, jousts, competitions, and costumed sprites, fairies, magicians, and fire-breathers adding to the fun.

One weekend was not enough. He added a second and then a third medieval weekend. As the somewhat niche interest continues to expand, who knows what might be next?

ANNUAL OKTOBERFEST

This is the classic welcome-fall experience: German beer, big pretzels, knockwurst, bratwurst, sauerkraut, and more. Combine it with good music and you have New Jersey's largest Oktoberfest right here in Sussex County.

Mountain Creek's Annual Oktoberfest is a big lawn party with games, activities, ski lift rides, live bands, and so much more. Overlooking the golden yellows, rich oranges, bright reds of the tree-covered mountains of the area, the scenery alone is worth the visit, but combining it with the music, food, and festival vibe, it is a perfect day.

ROCK, RIBS AND RIDGES

Fourteen years ago, it was decided that the beautiful mountain ridges, hills, and greenery of Sussex County would be the backdrop for a BIG celebration of southern rock and great BBQ ribs. With multiple stages, the three-day weekend features top southern rock bands, pitmasters and piping hot BBQ ribs all in a verdant setting.

With camping and RV hooks ups available, the event utilizes much of the Sussex County Fairgrounds.

PETERS VALLEY CRAFT FAIR

Now in its 53rd year, this once small American Craft show was initially held on the Peters Valley School of Craft's lawn. Fueled by steady growth, it is now located at the sprawling Fairgrounds. Widely regarded as one of the highest quality art and craft



NJ State Fair

2024 Events

May 3-5
NEW JERSEY WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL
Crystal Springs Resort
Hamburg, NJ
crystalgolfresort.com

May 4
FOOD TRUCK AND BEER FESTIVAL
Skylands Stadium
Augusta, NJ
skylandsstadium.com

June 28-30
ROCK, RIBS, AND RIDGES
Sussex County Fairgrounds
Augusta, NJ
rockribsridges.com

Augusta 2-10
NJ STATE FAIR
Sussex County Fairgrounds
Augusta, NJ
sussexcountyfairgrounds.org

September 7-8, 14-15, 21-22
SPARTA NJ RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL
spartarenfaire.com

September 15
SUSSEX COUNTY DAY
Sussex County Fairgrounds
Augusta, NJ
sussexcountyfairgrounds.org

September 21-22
ANNUAL OKTOBERFEST
Mountain Creek
Vernon, NJ
mountaincreek.com

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continued on page 39

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QUALITY IN LIVING

Hub for Events

Continued from page 37

shows in the area, over 100 artisans from all over the U.S. are selected for excellence and originality in twelve different media.

The Craft Fair makes an enjoyable day with ongoing artist demonstrations, live music, great food, and kid's art activities.



NJ State Fair

WILD WEST HAUNTINGS

Combine the best of the west – at Wild West City – and the best of Halloween, and you get the Haunted Wild West Fest by day and Wild West After Dark by night.

Families enjoy the annual fun of spooky daytime train rides, western shows with traditional costumed cowboys and cowgirls, petting zoo, and more. As the sun goes down, the fright goes up for the more adventurous. Frightening train rides, a headless horseman, ghosts, graveyard walks, and action-packed shows add to the Halloween thrills. Both celebrations run during the entire month of October.

NEW JERSEY WINE AND FOOD FEST

Crystal Springs Resort is world-famous for its gourmet Restaurant Latour and renowned wine cellar. Turn that elegance and deliciousness into a festival and you get the New Jersey Wine and Food Festival. It's gourmet all the way with top chefs, top food producers, and top shelf food and wine. The best part is that you get to meet and mingle with the chefs. Held on the Resort property, the springtime views of the surrounding mountains, golf courses, and the property itself are breath-taking.

Also held at the Resort is the annual Crystal Springs Music Fest. With 5 bands, dinner, and drinks, it is set on the rolling lawn later in the year in celebration of autumn. Fun lawn games, tractor rides to the pumpkin patch, hot air balloon rides, and more keep the fun going all day and night.

HOLIDAYS AT SKYLANDS STADIUM

Home to the local Minor League Baseball team (Go Miners!), Skylands Stadium also hosts two much-anticipated holiday events each year. Throughout October, the Jack O'Lantern Experience features over 6,000

carved pumpkins all aglow. Combined to make animals, dinosaurs, famous characters, and more, the jack o'lanterns are placed in wondrous settings. Kids love the petting zoo and adults enjoy the 30+ craft beers.

The annual Light Show and Christmas Village is a must-see holiday tradition. Imagine a one-mile-long drive-thru light show with 2 million lights, family photos with Santa, lots of vendors, a winter beer garden, and a special holiday food menu. Enjoy roasting S'mores on the fire pit, hot cocoa and coffee.

LOCAL FAVORITES JUST KEEP GROWING!

Two local events that celebrate the best of community spirit and agricultural bounty continue to exceed attendance expectations each year. The Sussex County Harvest, Honey & Garlic Festival provides exposure to the public for many food producers in the region. Vendors highlight the bounty of the season with fresh produce, pantry items, honey and bee products, and anything with garlic!

The Sussex County Chamber of Commerce's own community celebration, Sussex County Day, draws large crowds each year at the Fairgrounds. Held in September, the afternoon is filled with fun (and mostly free) activities for families including arts and crafts for kids, opportunities to learn about community services, non-profit organizations, and municipal resources and services. Local vendors and food trucks, along with fundraising games and challenges make it a fun day for the family. ■

2024 Events

Continued from page 37

September 21-22
54TH ANNUAL PETERS VALLEY CRAFT FAIR
 Sussex County Fairgrounds
 Augusta, NJ
petersvalley.org



September 28 - October 31
JACK O'LANTERN EXPERIENCE
 Skylands Stadium
 Augusta, NJ
skylandsstadium.com

October 5- 27
HAUNTED WILD WEST FEST - DAYTIME
 Wild West City
 Byram Twp., NJ
wildwestcity.com

October 4-26
WILD WEST CITY AFTER DARK
 Wild West City
 Byram Twp., NJ
wildwestcity.com

October 19
SUSSEX COUNTY HARVEST, HONEY & GARLIC FESTIVAL
 Sussex County Fairgrounds
 Augusta, NJ
sussexfarmvisits.com

November 22 - January 6
SKYLANDS STADIUM LIGHT SHOW & CHRISTMAS VILLAGE
 Skylands Stadium
 Augusta, NJ
skylandsstadium.com

December 6-8
GERMAN CHRISTMAS MARKET OF NJ
 Sussex County Fairgrounds
 Augusta, NJ
germanchristmasmarketnj.com



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Four Seasons of Adventure in Sussex County

COME FOR A DAY OR STAY FOR A WEEK

Enjoy the ultimate getaway in Sussex County whether you are a local or a visitor! Branded as the Sussex Skylands, Sussex County offers exciting day trips and overnight excursions in all seasons. It's the perfect place to take a break from it all to relax and rejuvenate.

"Sussex County offers everything from fun festivals and thrilling sports and water activities to appealing agritourism attractions, delicious culinary experiences and peaceful walks in the woods," said Tammie Horsfield, president of the Sussex County Chamber of Commerce and Sussex Skylands Destination Marketing Organization in Newton. "The best part is that the fun is year-round."

Following are just some of the great activities that will make for a memorable trip to Sussex County:

HIKE THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL

Just over 72 miles of the 2,200-mile Appalachian Trail, which spans from Georgia to Maine, runs through Warren, Sussex and Passaic counties," Horsfield said. "This nationally renowned destination for hiking and nature appreciation includes significant paths through numerous towns in Sussex County, including the 1.5-mile Pochuck Boardwalk and its 110-foot-long wooden suspension bridge in Vernon Township." On this raised boardwalk, visitors will be lifted above the

marshy bog below and will enjoy walking the bridges along the beautiful, wild Appalachian Trail.

Horsfield noted that the idea for the Appalachian Trail — which was completed in 1937 and runs through 14 states — was first conceived at a meeting in the Sussex County town of Andover in the 1920s by local regional planner Benton MacKaye, who suggested the construction of trails along the Appalachian Mountains to help residents enjoy nature and escape the grind of city life. "There's a marker at the famed meeting site on Sparta-Stanhope Road to note this historical landmark," Horsfield said.

continued on the next page

Four Seasons of Adventure

Continued from page 41

DINE IN STYLE

“Visitors will enjoy Industry Restaurant & Bar in Sparta, a brand new and very unique eatery that offers signature dishes with a twist,” Horsfield said. The restaurant’s innovative menu features shareable appetizers, sides, and entrées as well as craft cocktails and a large selection of beers on tap. And don’t miss the appealing décor — in a nod to the area’s industrial and farming-related founders, Industry Bar & Restaurant proudly displays many

historical pieces of now-retired industrial equipment, including a vintage industrial scale, pieces of process equipment used by manufacturers in Sparta and surrounding towns, and old advertisements and branded signs on the walls.

Also in Sparta, tap into Krogh’s Restaurant & Brew Pub, a longtime favorite destination that now features its new “Krogh’s Nest” rooftop bar. “Offering live music and great views of glistening Lake Mohawk, the elevated bar is the perfect warm-weather perch,” Horsfield said.



Peaceful zipliner at Mountain Creek

ANTE UP FOR ADVENTURE

Mountain Creek is four season central. A true “mountain playground” located in Vernon, visitors enjoy skiing, snowboarding and snowtubing when the snow falls, and a waterpark carved out of the mountainside in the heat of summer along with the Mountain Creek bike park and zipline.

Let Lake Hopatcong Adventure Co. help you enjoy the beauty on and around Lake Hopatcong, New Jersey’s largest freshwater lake, through such fun

activities as hydrobiking, biking, hiking, paddleboarding or kayaking. “Take your biking excursion really, really off-road via a ride on the water with LHAC’s hydrobikes,” said Horsfield, who recommends following up that activity with a tasty meal lakeside at Lake Hopatcong’s Windlass Restaurant, a local landmark offering spectacular views.

For history buffs, “the Sterling Hill Mining Museum in Ogdensburg is full of mining history and includes a mine tour,” Horsfield said of the historic facility, which welcomes 40,000 visitors annually and works to preserve artifacts from the town’s genesis as a center of zinc and iron mining activities in the 19th century. “It’s definitely a one-of-a-kind place.”

EXPLORE CRYSTAL SPRINGS RESORT

“Crystal Springs Resort offers so much for those in need of a getaway,” confirmed Michelle Abate, Director of Marketing at Crystal Springs Resort, a 4,000-acre destination in Hamburg that features two hotels (the Grand Cascades Lodge and Minerals Hotel), great golfing, 10 restaurants (including its Crystal Tavern, 4-star Restaurant Latour, and seasonal farm-to-table Chef’s Garden), two spas, and a variety of seasonal activities.

“Whether for an overnight stay or day visit,” Abate concluded, “there are plenty of fun activities to enjoy at our four-season resort!”

MAKE YOUR HOLIDAYS SPECIAL

From great restaurants and unique shops to antiquing opportunities, quaint Christmas markets and much more, Sussex County is the ultimate holiday destination.

The holidays are a beautiful time of year, and the many fun retail, cultural and culinary attractions in Sussex County will help make your holiday experience even more special. While they are all open year round, they shine extra brightly during the holidays.

“Sussex County is filled with unique shops, outstanding restaurants and gorgeous farms run by talented and creative individuals,” said Horsfield. “It’s Mom and



Skydive Sussex

Pop at its best, and whether you come for a day trip or a longer excursion during the holidays, you’ll be glad you did!”

The following are some not-to-miss attractions in Sussex County during winter and holiday season.

The Lafayette Mill Antiques Center houses more than 55 vendors offering a great selection of antiques, collectibles and unique items housed in a more-than-a-century-old former log mill.

The Shoppes at Lafayette typically celebrates the holidays with its annual Christmas Village with vendors selling unique gifts in the indoor Village Hall and outdoors on the Village Green, while the Village Shoppes themselves also feature specials and a wide variety of gifts and treats. The Village is also home to The Lafayette House, an early American-themed restaurant which houses both the restaurant and the pub-inspired Marquis Tavern, where the menu includes American favorites, specials, and local brews on tap by Angry Erik Brewing

While in Lafayette, be sure to stop at The Chocolate Goat for delicious chocolate treats (including decadent imported Neuhaus Belgian chocolates) as well as an eclectic collection of candy, specialty tea and coffee, candles, accessories, home décor, baby items and more — all of which make great gifts for the holidays. Also located in Lafayette is Pandora’s Box Toys & Collectibles, which buys and sells vintage toys, video games, comics, vinyl records and other collectibles and offers something special to catch anyone’s eye.

Locals and visitors to Sussex County

will enjoy a stop at the quaint Farmer’s Daughter restaurant and market in downtown Newton. The market features a broad range of sophisticated country gifts and décor items, and the adjacent restaurant offers an upscale farm-to-table menu.

Peters Valley School of Craft is world-renowned for its high-quality arts and craft instruction and hands-on workshops in a variety of specialized techniques, including woodworking, metal smithing, ceramics, fiber arts and other disciplines. Artists’ work is offered for sale during the gallery’s annual Handmade Holiday Market which starts in November and runs through the end of the year.

Launched by a couple from Rutherford, NJ and still owned by the original family, The Walpack Inn restaurant is a cherished and not-to-miss Sussex County destination for many seeking the eatery’s famous prime rib, seafood, and iconic bread. Set on 40 acres, the property includes a small inn for guests, who will relish the location’s rustic charm and scenic views.

The family-owned Ideal Farm and Garden Center, which once boasted one of the world’s largest dairy herds on their original 3,400 acres, remains a great destination for fall and winter produce fresh from the farm, Christmas trees (pick-your-own or pre-cut), greenery, meats, bakery goods, and more.

With its scenic landscape and plethora of indoor and outdoor activities, New Jersey’s beautiful Sussex Skylands region is the ultimate destination for fun recreation year-round. ■

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Lake Hopatcong Adventure Company

SCCC to Offer Community Journalist Certificate

PARTICIPANTS TO GAIN PRACTICAL SKILLS

Sussex County Community College (SCCC) in Newton will be offering a free certificate focusing on helping community members develop themselves as community journalists with the skills to cover community-centered news happening in their hometowns and county. The certificate is called *Becoming a Community Journalist* and will be offered at SCCC in Spring 2024.

The program will offer a hands-on exploration of how journalism works. Participants will learn the tools needed for understanding the local issues that are affecting themselves and their neighbors and how to report important stories with and for their communities.

The Certificate's instructor will be Professor Cheryl Conway. Conway teaches Journalism I and 2 at SCCC and has decades of experience as a reporter and editor for community newspapers and magazines.

Conway said, "I want the participants to begin thinking like journalists and be prepared to effectively engage with their neighbors and local government. Our aim is to prepare them to become more civically active and get involved in the community media ecosystem."

Dr. Nancy Gallo wrote the grant application on behalf of SCCC and its Center for Lifelong Learning and is the grant's administrator. Gallo, who is also the Center's director, said, "We are so appreciative to the New Jersey Council for the Humanities for choosing SCCC as a worthy recipient of this grant."

SCCC was one of only three community colleges statewide chosen to participate.

Gallo added, "This grant promises to have far-reaching and long-term benefits for our county and its citizens. The certificate is designed to teach journalism skills and design practices for anyone in greater Sussex County who wants to share stories and



information that their communities need to thrive."

The New Jersey Council for the Humanities designed the grant with input from the Journalism + Design program at the New School.

If you are interested in registering for the *Becoming a Community Journalist Certificate*, please check the Center for Lifelong Learning's webpage on the SCCC website for further information about the certificate, specific start date and how to register. The Certificate will be offered in person and online beginning in Spring 2024. The in-person workshops will meet 8 consecutive Tuesdays on the SCCC campus. The online version of the Certificate is offered asynchronously and will also be taught by Prof. Conway. Further information is available by calling 973-579-0555 ext. 1277. ■



2023-2024 Sussex County Chamber of Commerce

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donnagratkowski.com

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973-823-1464
paintedgrapenj.com

Peters Valley School of Craft Inc.
Layton, NJ
973-948-5200
petersvalley.org

Skylands Museum of Art
Lafayette, NJ
212-563-2044
skylandsmuseum.org

Sussex County Arts & Heritage Council
Newton, NJ
973-383-0027
scahc.org

ATTORNEYS
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askinlaw.com

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elenorabenz.com

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orlandoesq.com

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mdsfirm.com

Olinski Law
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olinskilaw.com

Schenck, Price, Smith & King
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spsk.com

The Law Offices of Robert C. Brady, P.C.
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peoplesfirmllc.com

Ullman & Mikulka Attorneys at Law
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973-579-9700
faudivorcelaw.com

ATTRACTIONS
Dingmans Shooting Range
Dingmans Ferry, PA
570-828-7468
dingmansshootingrange.com

Franklin Mineral Museum
Franklin, NJ
973-827-3481
franklinmineralmuseum.com

German Christmas Market of New Jersey
Sparta, NJ
973-534-8628
germanchristmasmarketnj.com

Growing Stage-The Children's Theatre of NJ
Netcong, NJ
973-347-4946
growingstage.com

Kittatinny Valley State Park
Newton, NJ
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nj.gov/dep/parksandfor
ests/parks/kittatinny
valleystatepark.html

Lake Hopatcong Adventure Company
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Lake Hopatcong Cruises LLC
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lhcruses.com

Lake Hopatcong Mini-Golf Club
Lake Hopatcong, NJ
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lhgolfclub.com

Mountain Creek Ski Resort & Waterpark
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Mountain Creek Zip Tours
Vernon, NJ
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zoomziplines.com

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Newton, NJ
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Rock, Ribs and Ridges Festival
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973-882-8240
rockribsandridges.com

Skydive Sussex
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973-702-7000
skydivesussex.com

Skylands Stadium LLC
Frankford, NJ
973-383-7644
skylandsstadium.com

Space Farms Zoo & Museum
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973-875-5800
spacefarms.com

Sparta NJ Renaissance Festival
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908-917-7120
spartanjenfaire.com

Sterling Hill Mining Museum
Ogdensburg, NJ
973-209-7212
sterlinghillminingmuseum.org

Sussex County Fairgrounds
Augusta, NJ
973-948-5500
newjerseystatefair.org

Sussex County Youth Orchestra/NJAM
Andover, NJ
973-786-5837
scyo.org

Tomahawk Lake Waterpark
Sparta, NJ
973-398-7777
tomahawklake.com

Wild West City
Stanhope, NJ
973-347-8900
wildwestcity.com

AUTOMOTIVE DEALERS, REPAIRS & SERVICE
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973-579-2600
openroad.com

Central Auto Liquidators
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centralautoliq.com

DeBoer's Auto
Hamburg, NJ
973-827-4047
deboersauto.com

Franklin Sussex Auto Mall Inc.
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fsautomall.com

McGuire Chevrolet
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973-383-1300
mcguirechevy.com

Midtown Collision LLC
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973-383-9796
midtown-collision.com

Road Trip RV Service, LLC
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973-903-0104
facebook.com/roadtrip
rvservice

Solar Tire & Automotive Service
Lafayette, NJ
973-579-3355
solartireandautomotive.com

Subaru World of Newton
Newton, NJ
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J.P. Morgan Chase
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chase.com/
commercialbanking

Lakeland Bank
Sparta, NJ
908-210-5065
lakelandbank.com

Provident Bank
Wantage, NJ
844-256-7328
provident.bank

TD Bank
Franklin, NJ
973-827-0551
tdbank.com

Visions Federal Credit Union
Augusta, NJ
973-895-6761
visionsfcu.org

BANQUET & WEDDING FACILITIES
Bear Brook Valley
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973-241-1001
bearbrookvalley.com

Crystal Springs Country Club
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crystalgolfresort.com

Lake Mohawk Country Club
Sparta, NJ
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lakemohawkcc.com

Minerals Hotel & Spa at Crystal Springs
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crystalgolfresort.com/
stay/minerals-hotel/

North Shore House
Newton, NJ
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northshorehouse.com

Perona Farms
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peronafarms.com

Rock Island Lake Club
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rockislandlakeclub.com

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njbia.org

Sussex County Chamber of Commerce
Newton, NJ
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sussexcountychamber.org

Sussex-Warren Human Resource Management Association
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sussexwarrenhrma.org

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delawareriver
campground.com

Harmony Ridge Farm & Campground
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campground.com

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locations/camp/
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Fairview Lake YMCA Camps
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Crystal Tavern at Crystal Springs
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Dominick's Pizza
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thefarmersdaughternj.com

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Walpack Inn, Inc.
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Wesselhof Farm Market
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160drivingacademy.com

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alpinemontessori.com

Andover Regional School District
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andoverregional.org

Broadstep Academy-NJ, Inc.
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fboc.org

Fredon Township School
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973-383-4151
fredon.org

High Point Regional High School Bd. of Education
Sussex, NJ
973-875-7205
hpregonal.org

Kittatinny Regional High School
Newton, NJ
973-383-1800
krhs.net

Lenape Valley Regional High School Bd. of Ed.
Stanhope, NJ
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lvhs.org

Newton High School
Newton, NJ
973-383-7573
newtonnj.org

Ogdensburg School
Ogdensburg, NJ
973-827-7126
obboe.org

Stillwater Township School District
Stillwater, NJ
973-383-6635
stillwaterschool.net

Sussex County Charter School
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973-383-3250
sussexcharter.org

Sussex County Community College
Newton, NJ
973-300-2100
sussex.edu

Sussex County Department of Education
Sparta, NJ
973-579-6996
sussex.nj.us/cn/webpage.cfm?t-pid=1560

Sussex County Educational Services Commission
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sussexesc.org

Sussex County Technical School
Sparta, NJ
973-383-6700
sussextech.org

Sussex-Wantage Regional School District
Sussex, NJ
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swregional.org

Wallkill Valley Regional High School
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pwpinc.biz

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Primerica - Trapp Team
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primerica.com/terriandmarktrapp

Sterling Financial Group
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973-729-1234
sterlingadvice.com

Terra Nova Asset Management
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212-355-1234
terranovalusa.com

The Grace Financial Group
Sparta, NJ
973-729-9861
thegracefinancialgroup.com

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advanceddri.com

Restoration 1 of Morris County LLC
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restoration1nj.com

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servprogreatersussexcounty.com

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alphafitnessnj.com

Crunch Fitness - Stanhope
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Minerals Sports Club at Minerals Hotel & Spa
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Pure Barre Sparta
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973-512-4722
purebarre.com/location/sparta-nj

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FUEL DISTRIBUTORS, PRODUCTS & PROGRAMS
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Eastern Propane Corporation
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973-697-3111
easternpropane.com

Fairclough Fuel
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973-383-5832
faircloughfuel.com

Fredericks Fuel
Oak Ridge, NJ
973-697-4774
fredericksfuel.com

Hart & Iliff Fuel and Energy Systems
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hartandiliff.com

Suburban Propane
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Yankee Propane
Florida, NY
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yankeepropane.com

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Goble Funeral Home
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goblefuneral.com

Iliff-Ruggiero Funeral Home
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iliff-ruggierofuneralhome.com

Smith-McCracken Funeral Home
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sussexcountychamber.org

For additional information call: (973) 579-1811
Email: mail@sussexcountychamber.org

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thenewjerseygiftingco.com

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crystalgolfresort.com

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Franklin, NJ
855-977-6473
crystalgolfresort.com/golf/courses/black-bear/

Cascades Golf Club
Hamburg, NJ
855-977-6473
crystalgolfresort.com/golf/courses/cascades/

Crystal Springs Golf Club
Hamburg, NJ
855-977-6473
crystalgolfresort.com/golf/courses/

Farmstead Golf & Country Club
Lafayette, NJ
973-383-1666
farmsteadgolf.com

Lake Mohawk Golf Club
Sparta, NJ
973-729-9200
lakemohawkgolfclub.com

Minerals Golf Club at Crystal Springs Resort
Vernon, NJ
855-977-6473
crystalgolfresort.com/golf/courses/minerals/

Newton Country Club
Newton, NJ
973-383-4817
newtoncountryclub.org

Skyview Golf Club
Sparta, NJ
973-726-4653
skyviewgolf.com

Wild Turkey Golf Club at Crystal Springs
Hardyston, NJ
855-977-6473
crystalgolfresort.com/golf/courses/wild-turkey/

GOVERNMENT & GOVERNMENT AGENCIES
Board of County Commissioners - Sussex County
Newton, NJ
973-579-0240
sussex.nj.us

County of Sussex
Newton, NJ
973-579-0250
sussex.nj.us

County of Sussex, Department of Weights & Measures
Lafayette, NJ
973-940-0614
sussex.nj.us

District 24 Legislative Office
Sparta, NJ
973-300-0200
njleg.state.nj.us/legislative-roster

New Jersey Economic Development Authority
Trenton, NJ
844-965-1125
njeda.gov

State of NJ Division of Child Protection & Permanency
Newton, NJ
973-383-8400
state.nj.us/dcf/about/divisions/dcpp

Sussex County Clerk's Office
Newton, NJ
973-579-0900
sussexcountyclerk.org

Sussex County Community & Youth Services
Newton, NJ
973-948-6000
sussex.nj.us

Sussex County Department of Health and Human Services
Hamburg, NJ
973-579-0370
sussex.nj.us

Sussex County Dept. Environmental & Public Health Svcs
Newton, NJ
973-579-0370
sussex.nj.us

Sussex County Division of Senior Services
Newton, NJ
973-579-0555
sussex.nj.us/seniorservices

Sussex County Food Pantry
Newton, NJ
973-383-3600
sussex.nj.us

Sussex County Library System
Newton, NJ
973-948-3660
sussexcountylibrary.org

Sussex County Skylands Ride
Hardyston, NJ
973-579-0480
sussex.nj.us

Sussex Warren Chronic Disease Coalition
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973-579-0570
sussexagainstcancer.org

USDA Rural Development
Mount Laurel, NJ
856-787-7700
rd.usda.gov/nj

Workforce Development Board of Northwest New Jersey
Morristown, NJ
973-829-8661
mswwdb.org

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973-229-1975

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cannabisclubhousenj.com

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cbdofnewton.com

North Lake Supply
Augusta, NJ
570-807-1589
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atlanticambulance.org

Blue Ridge Rescue Squad Inc
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facebook.com/blueridgerescuesquad.org

Branchville Family Chiropractic
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973-948-5556
bfchiro.info

Drayer Physical Therapy Institute
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drayerpt.com

Equine Therapy of NJ
Blairstown, NJ
201-919-6180
aeroflexequine.com

Fresh Look On Life
Augusta, NJ
973-383-6847
freshlookonlife.com

Garden State Treatment Center
Sparta, NJ
973-512-3305
gardenstatetreatmentcenter.com

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drsoehl.com

Newton Health & Wellness
Newton, NJ
973-300-1850
newtonhealthandwellness.com

Zufall Health Center
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973-862-6650
zufallhealth.org

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Comparison Insurance Agency - Nicole Feichtl
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Jamieson Insurance c/o Scirocco Group
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sciroccogroup.com

Middleton & Company Insurance
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middletoninsurance.com

New York Life Insurance - Anthony Sessa
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newyorklife.com/agent/amsessa

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phoenixinsgrp.com

Provident Protection Plus, Inc.
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providentprotectionplus.com

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qesurance.com

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973-948-3000
selective.com

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siamedicare.com

State Farm Agent - Alex Aguado
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alexaguado.com

State Farm Agent - Glenn Jones
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glennajones.com

The Mitchell Insurance Agency
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themitchellagency.com

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973-383-2421
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973-875-7200
farmside.com

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Crystal Springs Resort
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Grand Cascades Lodge at Crystal Springs
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855-977-6473
crystalgolfresort.com

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973-300-2554
thorlabs.com

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web-cote.com

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973-827-2525
iheartmedia.com

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973-852-0300
wmbctv.com

New Jersey Herald
Middletown, NY
973-383-1500
njherald.com

NJ Advance Media
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732-902-4300
njadvancemedia.com

Straus News
Sparta, NJ
973-300-0890
strausnews.com

TAPintoSparta.net and TAPintoNewton.net
Sparta, NJ
973-729-1158
tapintosparta.net

The Journal Group
Milford, PA
908-578-3138
sussexcountyjournal.com

MEDICAL GROUPS, CLINICS & HOSPITALS
Atlantic Health - Newton Medical Center
Newton, NJ
973-579-8308
atlantichealth.org/newton

Cunico Health & Wellness Center
Newton, NJ
973-948-7595
cunicohealthandwellness.com

Newton Urgent Care
Newton, NJ
973-383-9898
atlantichealth.org/conditions-treatments/urgent-care/atlantic-urgent-care.html

Sparta Cancer Center
Sparta, NJ
973-729-7001
spartacancer.com

The Orthopedic Institute of New Jersey
Sparta, NJ
908-684-3005
orthopedicnj.com

MICROFILMING, SCANNING, IMAGING, RECORD RETENTION
TAB Group
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973-786-5522
tabgroup.com

MORTGAGE LOANS
Cross Country Mortgage, LLC
Sparta, NJ
848-863-7670
ccm.com/victoria-browne

Crown Home Mortgage - Ken Aulicino
Milford, PA
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Hopatcong, NJ
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hopatcong.org

Borough of Ogdensburg
Ogdenburg, NJ
973-827-3444
ogdensburgnj.org

Borough of Sussex
Sussex, NJ
973-875-4831
sussexboro.com

Branchville Borough
Branchville, NJ
973-948-4626
branchville.us

Byram Township
Stanhope, NJ
973-347-2500
byramtwp.org

Frankford Township
Augusta, NJ
973-948-5566
frankfordtownship.org

Franklin Borough
Franklin, NJ
973-827-9280
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Green Township
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908-852-9333
greentwp.com

Hampton Township
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973-383-5570
hamptontownshipnj.org

Hardyston Township
Hardyston, NJ
973-823-7020
hardyston.com

Lafayette Township
Lafayette, NJ
973-383-1817
lafayettetwp.org

Sandyston Township
Sandyston, NJ
973-948-3520
sandystontownship.com

Sparta Township
Sparta, NJ
973-729-8485
spartanj.org

Town of Newton
Newton, NJ
973-383-3521
newtontownhall.com

Vernon Township
Vernon, NJ
973-764-4055
vernontwp.com

Wantage Township
Wantage, NJ
973-875-7192
wantagetwp.com

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS
200 Club of Sussex County
Newton, NJ
973-729-0056
200clubofsussexcounty.com

Benny's Bodega
Newton, NJ
973-531-7582
bennysbodega.com

Birth Haven Inc
Newton, NJ
973-579-7979
birthhaven.org

Bridgeway Behavioral Health Services
Newton, NJ
908-383-8670
bridgewaybhs.org

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Paterson
Clifton, NJ
973-737-2077
ccpaterson.org

Community Options Enterprises-Morris, Essex, Sussex
Denville, NJ
973-872-7111
comop.org

Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Intervention Services
Newton, NJ
973-579-2386
dasi.org

Family Partners of Morris & Sussex Counties
Mt. Arlington, NJ
973-940-3194
familypartnersms.org

Family Promise of Sussex County
Newton, NJ
973-579-1180
familypromisesussex.org

Father John's Animal House
Lafayette, NJ
973-300-5909
fatherjohns.org

Foodshed Alliance
Blairstown, NJ
908-362-7967
foodshedalliance.org

Ginnie's House
Newton, NJ
973-579-0770
ginnieshouse.org

Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey
Riverdale, NJ
973-248-8200
gsnnj.org

Girls On The Run NJ North
Sparta, NJ
973-919-4687
gotrnjn.org

Harvest House
Sussex, NJ
973-875-6445
harvesthousenj.org

League of Women Voters - Sussex Highlands
Sparta, NJ
973-919-6944
lwwshnj.wordpress.com

Market Street Mission - Sussex County
Newton, NJ
973-606-0232
marketstreet.org

National Alliance on Mental Illness - Sussex Affiliate
Sparta, NJ
973-214-3182
namisussex.org

Newton Medical Center Foundation
Newton, NJ
973-579-8309
atlantichhealth.org/about-us/foundations-auxiliaries/newton-foundation.html

Norwescap
Phillipsburg, NJ
908-454-7000
norwescap.org

Pass It Along
Lafayette, NJ
973-726-9777
passitalong.org

Patriots' Path Council, Boy Scouts of America
Cedar Knolls, NJ
973-765-9322
ppcbsa.org

Paulinskill Valley Trail Committee
Andover, NJ
973-477-0206
explorewarren.org/content/paulinskill-valley-trail-committee

Project Self-Sufficiency
Newton, NJ
973-940-3500
projectselfsufficiency.org

Rebecca's Homestead Inc.
Wantage, NJ
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rebeccahomestead.com

Ridge and Valley Conservancy
Newton, NJ
908-362-7989
ridgeandvalleyconservancy.org

SCARC Foundation, Inc.
Augusta, NJ
973-383-7442
scarfoundation.org

SCARC Guardianship Services, Inc.
Augusta, NJ
973-383-5804
scarcguardianship.org

SCARC, Inc.
Augusta, NJ
973-383-7442
scarc.org

Sojihuggles Children's Foundation
Newton, NJ
973-300-9878
sojihuggles.org

Sparta Education Foundation
Sparta, NJ
800-905-7331
spartaeducationfoundation.org

Sparta UNICO Foundation
Sparta, NJ
862-266-7039
unico.org

Special Olympics New Jersey
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609-896-8000
sonj.org

Sussex County Habitat for Humanity
Newton, NJ
201-317-9883
sussexcountyhfh.org

Sussex County League of Municipalities
Newton, NJ
973-768-0632

Sussex County Sheriffs Crimestoppers, Inc.
Newton, NJ
973-579-0850
sussexcountysheriff.com

Tamerlaine Sanctuary & Preserve
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917-414-2408
tamerlaine.org

The Center for Prevention and Counseling
Newton, NJ
973-383-4787
centerforprevention.org

The Smile of Hopatcong
Hopatcong, NJ
862-707-8188
smilefil.org

The Weekend Bag Program Inc.
Andover, NJ
973-713-8277
weekendbagsprogram.com

Train Creative / The Sparta Train Station
Sparta, NJ
973-940-3330
traincreative.org

United Way of Northern New Jersey
Morristown, NJ
973-993-1160
unitedwaynj.org

Walkill Valley Rotary
Sussex, NJ
718-757-4595
njrotary.org/clubinfo/walkill-valley

Winter4Kids
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winter4kids.org

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Pinnacle Virtual Services LLC
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Virtuplace
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virtuplaceusa.com

PAYROLL & TAX SERVICES
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LFCS Consulting, LLC
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Mary Kay Cosmetics - Tina Hulsman
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Sussex County Republican Committee
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cometmanagement.com

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973-726-7800
faircloughrealtors.com

Freedom Realty Group, Inc.
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kistlerealty.com

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completecarebarnhill.com

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homesteadrhcc.com

Limecrest Subacute & Rehabilitation Center
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limecrestrehab.com

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valleyviewrhc.com

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bonchef.com

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Griffin & Howe
Andover, NJ
973-398-2670
griffinhowe.com

Lafayette Mill Market
Lafayette, NJ
973-383-8170
millantiques.com

Main Lake Market
Lake Hopatcong, NJ
973-663-0544
mainlakemarket.com

Orr's Clothes for Country Living
Branchville, NJ
973-948-3210
orrclothing.blogspot.com

Pandora's Box Toys and Collectibles
Lafayette, NJ
973-827-3003
pandorasboxnewjersey.business.site

Pet Supplies Plus
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petsuppliesplus.com

Staples
Newton, NJ
973-579-7009
staples.com

The Chocolate Goat
Lafayette, NJ
973-300-5553
chocolategoat.com

The Cupboard Shop
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201-401-1919
thecupboardshopnj.com

The Shoppes at Lafayette
Lafayette, NJ
973-255-9044
theshoppesatlafayette.com

Walmart #2090
Franklin, NJ
973-209-4242
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973-300-1859
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SECURITY SYSTEMS & SERVICES
Abcode Security Inc.
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973-827-9088
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SPS, Security Product Systems
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SENIOR CITIZEN HOUSING
Belle Reve Senior Living
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Lehigh Cement Company
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lehighcement.com

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Highlands Self Storage & Wine Storage
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highlandselfstorage.com

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Roneto Supermarkets Inc.
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973-927-8300
shoprite.com

Weis Markets, Inc.
Sunbury, PA
570-286-4571
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Cruise Planners - Suite Travel Designers
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 973-948-9694
 suitetraveldesigners.com

Indian Head Canoes
 Augusta, NJ
 800-874-2628
 indianheadcanoes.com

Spear Travel Group
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 speartravelgroup.com

TRANSPORTATION
Avenues in Motion
 Cedar Knolls, NJ
 973-267-7600
 avenuesinmotion.org

Sussexpress LLC
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 sussexpressllc.com

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 mathnasium.com/sparta

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UTILITIES
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JCP&L, a FirstEnergy Corp.
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 973-300-2929
 firstenergycorp.com

Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative
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 973-875-5101
 sussexrec.com

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 973-579-1155
 caringvets.com

East Coast Equine Veterinary Services
 Tranquility, NJ
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 ecevs.com

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2023-2024 Member Milestones

BENNY'S BODEGA
 Stomping out the stigma of needing a hand up for 5 years.

BRAEN STONE
 2024 marks the quarry's 120th year in business.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES, DIOCESE OF PATERSON
 The 50th Annual Wiegand Farms Golf Classic tees off in 2024.

CP ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
 Providing successful engineering solutions to its clients for 40 years.

THE CUPBOARD SHOP
 Enjoying its 1-year anniversary in The Shoppes at Lafayette.

DRAYER PHYSICAL THERAPY
 Offering personalized physical therapy treatments to Sussex County for 20 years.

FAMILY PROMISE OF SUSSEX COUNTY
 Securing housing stability and sustainability for those in crisis for 25 years.

FATHER JOHN'S ANIMAL HOUSE
 2024 marks 25 years serving pets and the community.

METROPOLITAN WINDOW FASHIONS
 Proudly celebrating its' 90th anniversary in 2024 as a third-generation family business that has been serving customers since 1934.

MOUNTAIN CREEK
 Offering outdoor recreation in all seasons for 60 years.

PAMELA ZACHOWSKI, KELLER WILLIAMS INTEGRITY
 Marking 10 years in the real estate industry.

R.S. PHILLIPS STEEL
 2024 marks 90 years in business with four generations of Phillips.

SHOPRITE OF BYRAM
 Supplying top quality groceries to Sussex County for 25 years.

SIMPLE CLEAN
 Delivering excellence in cleaning solutions to Sussex County businesses for 10 years.

SPARTA CANCER CENTER
 Providing exceptional care in northwest New Jersey for 20 years.

SPARTA CHAPTER OF UNICO NATIONAL
 Part of a 101-year-old organization started in 1922, Sparta UNICO celebrated its 25th Anniversary in 2023.

SUSSEX COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
 Building homes, fostering hope, and empowering families for 30 years.

SUSSEXPRESS LLC
 Proudly providing individual, group and corporate transportation services for 15 years.

TOWN II AUTO BODY
 In business for 35 years at the Wantage location.

VALOR BOOKKEEPING
 August 2023 marked the 1-year anniversary.

WINTER4KIDS
 August 2024 marks the 10th anniversary of sharing with over 14,000 kids the mission to help develop attitudes about self, health, opportunity, mastery and the outdoors.

WOLFE GRANITE MEMORIALS
 For over 150 years, Wolfe Granite Memorials has provided 20,000 memorials for local families.

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The Sussex County Chamber of Commerce received funding through a grant from the New Jersey Department of State, Division of Travel and Tourism.



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Who We Are

Thorlabs is committed to our customers, employees, and community. We strive to better Sussex County by creating local jobs and giving back to the community.