



# Highlights

## Sussex County New Jersey

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## Board of County Commissioners

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## Active Reports of West Nile Virus in Sussex County

Sussex County Mosquito Control officials are working steadily to neutralize pockets of West Nile Virus activity detected in the County. They are targeting these areas with daily treatments to standing water and are conducting ultra-low volume (ULV) truck-mounted applications nightly.

Residents who experience high adult-mosquito activity are encouraged to contact the Office of Mosquito Control by submitting a service request on the County’s website so that the appropriate measures can be promptly taken. Requests can be made at [www.sussex.nj.us/mosquito](http://www.sussex.nj.us/mosquito) under “Request Service.”

Under the right conditions, mosquitoes can mature within a week. Therefore, Office of Mosquito Control urges Sussex County residents to proactively reduce conditions conducive to mosquito habitats. Remember to **Dump, Drain & Defend:**

- Clean roof gutters at least annually
- Remove any unnecessary containers from the property (flowerpots/trays, tires, toys, boats, buckets)
- Drain and rinse birdbaths twice a week
- Aerate and/or stock ornamental ponds with fish
- Configure tarps to drain rainwater
- Close pools when not in use (Pool covers collect rainwater, providing a habitat for mosquitoes.)

Residents can also protect themselves from mosquito-borne diseases by staying indoors, wearing long sleeves and pants when outdoors, and applying EPA-registered mosquito repellents according to the label requirements.

For more information about the products used by the Office of Mosquito Control or how to protect yourself and your loved ones, please call

*Continued on page 2*



Continued from page 1

973-940-5225 or visit [www.sussex.nj.us/mosquito](http://www.sussex.nj.us/mosquito).

Additionally, the Sussex County Division of Health, Office of Mosquito Control is investigating a positive Jamestown Canyon Virus (JCV) sample of adult mosquitoes in Green Township. Jamestown Canyon Virus has been found in adult mosquitoes in Sussex County since 2019. The Office urges residents to protect themselves from mosquito bites by applying EPA-registered repellents and

returning indoors at dusk and dawn during peak mosquito activity. The Sussex County Office of Mosquito Control will continue to trap and test adult mosquitoes for disease in addition to conducting ULV truck applications within the areas of known disease prevalence. Please visit the links below for more information.

<https://www.cdc.gov/jamestown-canyon/index.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dvbd/media/stopmosquitoes.html>

## SHERIFF'S OFFICE OF SUSSEX COUNTY

Sheriff Michael F. Strada is pleased to announce the promotion of Sheriff's Sergeant Scott Haggerty to Lieutenant in the Sussex County Sheriff's Office Bureau of Law Enforcement

A lifelong resident of Sussex County and a 1987 graduate of High Point Regional High School, Lieutenant Haggerty began his law enforcement career in May 2003 when he was hired as a Corrections Officer by the Sussex County Sheriff's Bureau of Corrections. In June of 2004, he was hired as a Sheriff's Officer and assigned to the Courthouse Security and Prisoner Transportation Unit of

the Bureau of Law Enforcement. He remained in this assignment until September of 2006 when he was assigned to the Sheriff's Community Policing Unit. From 2018 until 2020, Lieutenant Haggerty was assigned to the Sheriff's Detective Bureau, where his duties included background investigations, criminal and civil warrant service and entries, and fugitive apprehension. Lieutenant Haggerty is currently assigned to



the Special Services Unit.

Sheriff Strada would like to congratulate Lieutenant Haggerty on his promotion and is proud of the work that he has accomplished with the Sussex County Sheriff's Office.



Sheriff Michael F. Strada, Supervising PST Stephanie House & Communications Director Mark Rozek.

Sussex County Sheriff Michael F. Strada and Sussex County Communications Director Mark Rozek announce the recent promotion of Stephanie House to the position of Supervising Public Safety Telecommunicator

Stephanie House has been a PST with the Sussex County Communications Center since November 2016. She is an APCO Certified Training Officer (CTO), an NECI certified 9-1-1 Instructor (BTC) and an Emergency Medical Dispatch Instructor (EMD). As a BTC & EMD instructor, Stephanie provides the core basic training certifications to those interested in a Public Safety Telecommunicator career.





## DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

### Teen and Tweens Find a Place at SCLS

**Newton, NJ** – The Sussex County Library System (SCLS) is thrilled to announce its lineup of upcoming programs designed specifically for teens and tweens this fall. These events aim to provide a welcoming and exciting space at the library for young minds to explore, connect, and grow as part of the library's commitment to lifelong learning.



Teen volunteer reads to participants in the Book Buddies Reading Program at the Dennis Branch.

Teens and Tweens are invited to join the library for upcoming programs such as:

- [Teen Switch Time at Dorothy Henry](#)
- [Dungeons and Dragons programs at Franklin Branch](#)
- [Teen Poetry and Music Salon at Dorothy Henry](#)
- [Be-TWEEN the Pages Book Club at Main Library](#)
- [Fiber Arts Craft Time at Dorothy Henry](#)
- [Video Game Night at Louise Childs](#)
- [Wellness Wednesday for Teens at Sussex-Wantage](#)
- [Mystery Bag Art Challenge at Dennis Branch](#)

Teens also can earn service hours by volunteering as well as joining the Teen Advisory Boards available at multiple branches.

Teens and Tweens can make new friends, develop lifelong skills, and explore passions in a safe and supportive environment. There is a place for everyone at the library! Visit the SCLS website at [www.sussexcountylibrary.org](http://www.sussexcountylibrary.org) or contact a local library branch to learn more about all upcoming programs and events. Programs and events are free of charge and open to the public.

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

### DIVISION OF COMMUNITY AND YOUTH SERVICES

#### Sussex County Annual Public Hearing on Transportation

The annual public hearing on transportation services for Sussex County residents provided by the County of Sussex will be held at noon on Thursday, September 21, 2023, via Zoom with a call-in option. People or agencies will have an opportunity to make comments during the hearing on the planning, administration, and operation of the transportation services of Skylands Ride.

Interested parties may submit oral or written testimony and recommendations at or before noon on September 21, 2023. Written comments should be addressed to Nick Kapetanakis, County of Sussex, Transportation Public Hearing, Administrative Center, One Spring Street, Newton, NJ 07860.

An open meeting will immediately follow the public hearing. Please [click here](#) for instructions to attend the annual public hearing.



## Sussex County Skylands Ride Receives Seven New Buses

Sussex County Skylands Ride was established in 1981 as a Federal Highway Demonstration Project to offer rural public transportation to the residents of the County. Over the years, the service has evolved into a multi-faceted operation serving a number of programs and public sectors. The service began with two buses and four staff members and has grown to operate more than 20 fleet vehicles and employ 30 staff. Skylands Ride buses average a combined total of approximately 750,000 miles driven on county roads each year, providing about 113,000 rides to Sussex County residents.



On July 28, 2023, Sussex County Skylands Ride accepted the final delivery of seven new passenger buses. These buses were purchased through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds allocated by the Board of County Commissioners to support Skylands Ride in providing safe, reliable transportation options to Sussex County residents. These seven buses hold between

12 and 18 passengers each and will be replacing vehicles already in service.

To learn more about transportation options available through Skylands Ride, please call 973-579-0480 or visit [www.sussex.nj.us/](http://www.sussex.nj.us/) and select [Skylands Ride/Public Transportation](#) from the dropdown menu under the Departments tab.

## DIVISION OF SENIOR SERVICES

### A Matter of Balance

The Sussex County Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Senior Services is offering **A Matter of Balance** class at Liberty Towers located at 32 Liberty Street in Newton on Wednesdays, beginning September 13 and ending November 1, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. **A Matter of Balance** program is designed to reduce the fear of falling and increase activity levels among older adults. Participants learn to set realistic goals to increase activity, change their environment to reduce fall risk factors, and learn simple exercises to increase strength and balance. The program consists of eight (8) sessions, held once a week, that are facilitated by pairs of trained coaches.

Light refreshments will be provided at each session. Registration is required. Please contact the Sussex County Division of Senior Services to register or obtain additional information at 973-579-0555.

### Walk with Ease

The Sussex County Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Senior Services is offering a **Walk with Ease** program at the Franklin Senior Center located at George Labance Road in Franklin, NJ. Classes will be held every Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., through October 4, 2023. Participants will learn about successful physical activities for individuals with arthritis, managing arthritis, and developing a personal aerobic program. Individuals with arthritis or without arthritis who would like to begin a regular walking program should attend.

Attendance is free, but registration is required. Please contact the Sussex County Division of Senior Services to register or obtain additional information at 973-579-0555.



## DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

### Adult Protective Services

Adult Protective Services (APS) is one of several state and federal programs administered by the Division of Social Services in Sussex County. APS is a social services program focused on helping elderly adults and adults with disabilities live with dignity and respect by investigating allegations of abuse, neglect, self-neglect, and exploitation.

Social Services currently has four APS/Adult Services Social Workers assigned to the APS unit. Social Workers assigned to this unit must complete a six-month APS training sponsored by Rutgers and the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Aging Services, in addition to receiving in-house training. Sussex County Social Services received 277 APS referrals in 2022; 62 of them were investigated, 22 did not meet APS criteria but were opened for Adult Services case management. In addition, the agency filed for guardianship of four cases to advocate for those who are not able to advocate for themselves.

Most seniors and adults with disabilities live

independently without assistance. However, some face abuse or neglect by others and need trained professionals to advocate on their behalf. Others may simply be struggling with routine activities and benefit from in-home support services to maintain their health and independence. APS helps by assessing each individual's unique needs, then developing a service plan to maintain his/her safety, health, and independence.

An APS worker is **not** authorized to:

- Remove a vulnerable adult from his or her home without a court order.
- Force an adult with capacity to accept services.
- Move an individual to an alternate living situation without his/her agreement or a legal representative's agreement

If you suspect abuse, please contact Sussex County Social Services at 973-383-3600 or 911 if it is an emergency. Referrals can be made anonymously.

## DIVISION OF HEALTH

### Sussex County Division of Health Educates Residents About Emergency Preparedness

The mission of the Sussex County Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health is to *protect, promote, maintain, and improve the health and quality of life for Sussex County citizens and visitors through a responsive, well-managed and organized community effort.* As part of this mission, the Division of Health attends various events throughout the year as a preventative and educational approach to advocating for the health and wellness of Sussex residents.

On Tuesday, August 1, 2023, staff from the Health Division attended the National Night Out event in Franklin. The Division participated as a vendor to provide the public with information on all its available programs and services with a focus on the topic of emergency preparedness. Staff distributed emergency planning checklists to attendees along with first aid kits and COVID-19 test kits. Medical Reserve Corps information was also provided, and a signup sheet was available



for volunteer opportunities.

To learn more about the services available through the Division of Health, call 973-579-0370 or visit [www.sussex.nj.us/health](http://www.sussex.nj.us/health).





## Sussex County Division of Health Participates in the 2023 Sussex County Farm and Horse Show

The Sussex County Farm and Horse Show, also known as the New Jersey State Fair, draws people from both near and far to partake in the festivities and bask in the rural scenery that our residents enjoy every day. The Division of Health, Office of Public Health Nursing seizes this opportunity each year to participate in the fair to promote, educate, and interact with the public about its programs and services.



Children's Day

A Community Health Worker was stationed at the Health Division's booth in the County Building throughout the week to provide visitors with educational

information about healthy eating, sticker activities for children, and answer general questions.

Public Health Nursing staff attended Children's Day on the 8th of August to promote sun safety to both children and parents. Sunscreen packets, lip balm, and UV index bracelets were distributed to children and parents and a fun activity was available for the kids. The Special Child Health team hosted an arts and crafts activity with children to promote fine motor skills and following directions.

Public Health Nursing also attended Senior Day on the 10th of August to educate the public about its services with a focus on tick-borne diseases. Attendees were provided with helpful tick identification brochures, wallet cards, and tick removal kits for both people and pets.

Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) volunteers attended the fair to promote the MRC and offer an



MRC Recruitment table amongst other Division of Health Educational Tables



Senior Day

opportunity for new member recruitment. The MRC consists of volunteers who help respond during emergencies to keep their communities safe.

To learn more about the programs and services available through the Office of Public Health Nursing, call 973-579-0570 or visit [www.sussex.nj.us/nursing](http://www.sussex.nj.us/nursing).

## Free Health Screenings and More at Healthy Living Festival

**Newton, NJ** – The Sussex County Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Senior Services, Newton Medical Center, and United Methodist Communities at Bristol Glen cordially invite you to attend the 14th Annual Healthy Living Festival. This free informational event will take place on Friday, September 22, 2023, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at United Methodist Communities at Bristol Glen, 200 Bristol Glen Drive, Newton, NJ.

The program consists of numerous complimentary

health screenings and educational presentations sponsored by a variety of healthcare providers. Each informational seminar is 15 minutes long and will be repeated throughout the day. These sessions will include such subjects as Healthy Eating, Stroke Awareness and Medicare Coverage. In addition, various exhibitors will be on hand to provide information regarding their programs/services.

The Division of Senior Services promotes the enhancement of quality

*Continued on page 7*



Continued from page 6

of life for all our seniors through educational programming and evidence-based service provision. This program offers seniors a free opportunity to get valuable health screenings and learn more about programs available to them in the community. A continental breakfast and buffet lunch will

be provided for active participants who take advantage of at least 1/3 of the available screenings and presentations.

Please contact the Division of Senior Services for additional program information or to pre-register, which is required to attend the buffet lunch at 973-579-0555, ext. 1277 or [sbrunda@sussex.nj.us](mailto:sbrunda@sussex.nj.us).

## Vaccine Programs for Children and Adults



The Sussex County Office of Public Health Nursing offers immunizations to our underserved and at-risk populations through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program and the 317-Funded Adult Program. These programs ensure that all children, adolescents, and adults are vaccinated in accordance with the ACIP-recommended schedule, which is the best way to protect individuals and communities against vaccine-preventable diseases. The VFC and 317 programs make vaccines available to children, adolescents, and adults who might otherwise go unvaccinated because of an inability to pay for the vaccine. The New Jersey VFC program works to ensure that processes are as streamlined as possible and that providers have timely access to vaccines for their patient populations.

The Office of Public Health Nursing hosts Child Health Conferences (Well-Child Clinics) and Health Check Clinics monthly throughout the year, except for the months of April and July.

The Office of Public Health Nursing held two such clinics on August 22:

A **Child Health Clinic** was located at the Office of Public Health Nursing, 201 Wheatsworth Road, Hamburg. It offered well-child care for children from birth to 5 years old (school entry) and included age-appropriate parent guidance, physical exams, vaccinations, and screenings (lead levels and anemia). Services were free for the uninsured.

Additionally, a **Health Check Clinic** was held at the same location and offered vaccinations for adults and school-aged children. There was no fee for vaccines if patients were uninsured or had select insurance policies.

Office of Public Health Nursing clinics are by appointment only, and pre-registration is required. To obtain clinic schedules, visit the Public Health Nursing website at [www.sussex.nj.us/nursing](http://www.sussex.nj.us/nursing) and call 973-579-0570 to schedule an appointment.

## Women's Health Clinic

The Sussex County Division of Health, Office of Public Health Nursing sponsored a Women's Health Screening on August 31 at the Office of Public Health Nursing, 201 Wheatsworth Road, Hamburg. Screenings included a ThinPrep Pap test, pelvic exam, HPV testing, clinical breast exam, follow-up mammogram and colorectal testing.

The screening clinic was available to Sussex County residents who lack insurance to cover routine screenings and participants in the NJ Cancer Education and Early Detection (NJCEED) program.

To learn more about Women's Health Clinics or the array of services available through the Sussex County Office of Public Health Nursing, visit [www.sussex.nj.us/nursing](http://www.sussex.nj.us/nursing).