




**Sussex Rural
Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Currents

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**FATHER
JOHN'S
ANIMAL HOUSE**

SINCE 1999

MAKE ADOPTION YOUR OPTION

Your Donations Save Lives!

Father John's Animal House has a need for supplies to provide the best level of care possible to the animals in their shelter. If you plan on donating to our pet supply drive at Franklin Sussex Auto Mall, please consider dropping off some of these much-needed items by **July 28th**.

ANIMAL SUPPLIES

(POULTRY FLAVORED FOOD STRONGLY PREFERRED)

- **Kitten: Dry & Wet Food***
- **Puppy: Dry & Wet Food***
- **Adult Dog: Dry Food***
- **KMR (Kitten Milk Replacement)**
- **Adult Dog: Small Bites Dry Food**
- **Adult Cat: Dry & Wet Food**
- **Soft Training Treats - Dog**
- **Non-clumping Clay Litter**

MISC. SUPPLIES

- **Pill Pockets (Any Size)***
- **Canned Pumpkin Puree**

Anticipated supply shortages make items in red most needed

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Our Board of Directors

Chairman	-	Jack Haggerty, Jr.
Vice Chairman	-	William Kovach
Sec./Treasurer	-	Ronald Dupont
Barbara Miller		Thomas Madsen
Joseph Barca		Brad Sparta
Michael Abate		
President & CEO	-	Christopher P. Reese

Less Talk, More Walks Pet Supply Drive

Donate at Franklin Sussex Auto Mall

June 17th - July 28th

to benefit Father John's Animal House



For a list of needed items, visit sussexrec.com/collections

Less Talk, More Walks

By: Claudia Raffay, Director of Marketing & Member Services
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"Concern for Community" is one of the seven principles that guide all rural electric co-ops. At Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative, we take this principle very seriously. Our employees, management, and board of directors live and work right here in this community. Just like the community members who banded together to form SREC in 1937, we want to make sure that our impact is positive, uplifting, and meets specific needs of the community.

"Concern for Community" means making the wellbeing of world around us a priority. In late 2017, SREC established the CAP\$ (Community Action Plan) fund from monies collected from unclaimed capital credits. Since establishing our CAP\$ fund, SREC has put almost \$100,000.00 back into the community in donations and sponsorships. Our Employee Directed Giving program directs thousands of dollars a year to local non-profits and empowers our employees to choose which organizations to support. We support youth soccer clubs and baseball teams, non-profit organizations that benefit our members, and the community organizations that work tirelessly to make a difference.

Through our educational programs, we teach young students and scouts about energy and electric safety. We support local graduates through scholarships and this year gave out over \$10,000 to a group of 18 students from three area high schools. We also have a long history of participation in the National Rural Electric Youth Tour, where high school juniors from across the county are given a free trip to Washington, D.C. Following a hiatus due to the pandemic, we hope to offer this trip once again to students in the near future.

When possible, we work alongside our members to maximize the difference we can make in our community. In the past, we have gathered donations from members to support charitable organizations like Family Promise of Sussex County, the Sussex County Division of Social Services, Pass It Along, and Father John's Animal House. We saw great support from our community in the last pet supply drive held in early 2020. In total, SREC employees and members collected 330 pounds of food, supplies, toys, and treats to be used in supporting Father John's animals while they wait to be adopted.

This year, we will be holding another supply drive titled the "Less Talk, More Walks Pet Supply Drive." From Friday, June 17th to the morning of Thursday, July 28th, we will be

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Less Talk, More Walks

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gathering donations and are hoping to beat our 2020 record! Therefore, we are encouraging all members of the community, not just SREC members, to donate!

We are partnering with other organizations to make this drive as successful as possible. In addition to working with iHeart Media Sussex in the planning and promotion of this event, we have teamed with Franklin Sussex Auto Mall to serve as the drop-off site for donations. We are hoping that the accessibility of Franklin Sussex Auto Mall encourages more people to donate! Small donations will also be accepted at SREC's office during the supply drive.

This cause is important to us here at SREC because our employees don't just talk the talk, we walk the walk. Half of us own at least one rescue animal and several have adopted from Father John's. Our Manager of Engineering Mike Osborne even adopted the puppy from Father John's who was featured in 102.3 WSUS's Pet of the Week segment which was filmed at our office to kick off our last supply drive. Biscuit is happy in his forever home with the Osborne family.

When I received a recent newsletter from Father John's Animal House, I was amazed to learn that in 2021 a total of 840 animals were brought to the shelter, 71 being local strays and 398 having been surrendered from Sussex County households. While 764 of these animals were adopted during 2021, these figures were a steep increase from the previous year. When I spoke with Garret Barcheski from Father John's, I found out that currently they are operating 70% higher than normal with the number of animals in and out of the shelter. July and August are typically the time of year when shelters see the highest need for donations and this need has increased due to supply chain issues, gas prices, and rising costs affecting people's ability to donate. Father John's is also taking on more responsibility for our area's animals in need. They have recently begun partnerships with municipalities to take in their shelters' animals and effectively turn them into no-kill shelters. They are also expanding their in-house spay and neuter operations to cut down on overpopulation of stray animals.

Having worked with Father John's in the past, we saw another opportunity to generate support for a good cause. Just like our approach to power outages, we determined the problem, figured out how to fix it, and put a plan into place. This is how the idea for the Less Talk, More Walks Pet Supply Drive came together.

For those of you who feel helping people should come before helping animals, I ask you to consider the number of programs available to help people from many different sources. Also, consider that adopting an animal companion is proven to improve mental health. Father John's does what it can to help people keep their pets instead of surrendering them when times are difficult. The companionship of a pet is beneficial to mental health during challenging circumstances and the act of surrendering your pet, even if you feel it would give them a better opportunity for a stable home, can be harmful to both your pet and family's wellbeing. Helping animals does not mean people don't get helped. Studies show that those who donate to charitable causes to help animals in need are also more likely to support other charitable causes as well.

There are many great animal-centric non-profits in our community that are deserving of support. Our employees have supported Skylands Animal Sanctuary, One Step Closer Animal Rescue (OSCAR), and the Avian Wildlife Center. We have maintained good relationships with each organization and if you would prefer to give to these shelters, we highly encourage you to do so directly. However, we will note that Father John's Animal House shares resources with other shelters in the area if they have a surplus of supplies. We hope to see a strong show of support in the Less Talk, More Walks Pet Supply Drive that can end with many of our local shelters "sharing the wealth."

Remember that direct action is the best way to make a difference. It is easy to slip into the role of a "keyboard warrior" who shares calls to action on social media and makes comments about what others should do, but we all have the power to change the world. When we come together as one community to support a good cause, we can accomplish amazing things.

If you're looking for a new pet, consider adopting from Father John's! On July 28th, we will cap off the drive with another Pet of the Week episode filmed at our donation site, Franklin Sussex Auto Mall. Let's make sure it will be a collection worth celebrating!



The kick-off event for our supply drive began with a 6/16 Pet of the Week taping at SREC's office. Pictured left to right are Claudia Raffay (with Sassy the kitten), Dr. Karen Bullock from Wantage Veterinary Hospital, Steve Allan from 102.3 WSUS, Spanky the dog, and SREC President & CEO Chris Reese.



2022 Online Meeting Recap

By: Steve Sokolowski, Marketing Associate
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As you may know, Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative's plans for our 2022 Annual Meeting are different than in previous years. After a cancellation of our Annual Meeting in 2020 due to the pandemic and a shift to an Online Meeting in 2021, we are innovating our Annual Meeting into a two-pronged Annual Meeting Event. Our 2022 Online Meeting was shared on Monday, June 6th on our website at www.sussexrec.com/annual-meeting. We are now building up to an in-person Member Appreciation Event that we will hold at the NJ State Fair on Monday, August 8th.

We are very excited for our upcoming Fair event and will offer more details about it later in this article. First, however, I would like to walk through the contents of our Online Meeting, which served as the business portion of our Annual Meeting Event, for the benefit of those who were unable to check it out.

Board of Directors Election

On June 6th, our general counsel Tom Ryan of Laddey Clark & Ryan LLP made the announcement of the results of our 2022 Board of Directors Election. Each year, one seat from each of our three districts comes up for reelection. This year two directors, Brad Sparta from District 1 and Joe Barca from District 2, were up for reelection. Our seat in District 3 was open, and we had two candidates for our members to choose from in our voting process – Michael Abate and Michael Gall.

Our election was conducted by mail during the month of May. Each of our members received a ballot and made their selections from each district's candidates. Overall, there were 1,022 ballots cast. Brad Sparta received 908 votes for his reelection and Joe Barca received 919. For the contested District Three seat, Michael Abate was selected as our new director, receiving 516 votes. Michael Gall received 391. We welcome Michael Abate to our board of directors and look forward to working with him in service of our members.

2022 Chairman's Address and Financial Report

The Chairman of SREC's Board of Directors Jack Haggerty Jr. delivered his Chairman's Address in a pre-recorded video speech. In this speech, he discussed recent tree-related outages and what we have been doing to increase reliability of service. This includes the contracting of a professional arborist and a major project to place underground transmission lines in a vital part of our system, which was shared with *Currents* readers in June's issue. Mr. Haggerty also spoke on the rising cost to purchase power that SREC is encountering. Before discussing the potential of a capital credit retirement at the end of the year, Mr. Haggerty took a moment to remark on the tragic passing of one of our long-time directors, Ray Cordts, in March and the upcoming retirement of Frank Betley, the CEO of Allegheny Electric Cooperative, our power supplier, and the PREA, our statewide association.

In a separate video, our board's new secretary/treasurer Ronald Dupont gave a brief financial report for the 2020-2021 calendar year. Mr. Dupont reported on the results of an audit from independent firm Buffamante Whipple Buttafaro, P.C. (BWB). He also covered that for the fiscal year ending on December 31, 2021, our operating revenues were reported at approximately \$21.2 million and total operating expenses and interest expense totaled \$20.5 million, resulting in a margin of \$700 thousand.

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The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL www.sussexrec.com/annual-meeting. The page title is "2022 Online Meeting". Below the title, there is a navigation bar with a "2022 Online Meeting" link. A blue arrow points from the text "Want to view our 2022 Online Meeting videos? Visit www.sussexrec.com/annual-meeting." to the video thumbnails. The thumbnails are arranged in a 2x4 grid, each featuring a play button icon and a Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative logo. The thumbnails are labeled as follows:

- 2022 Annual Meeting Introduction
- 2022 Chairman's Address
- 2022 Q&A Pt. 1 - Electric Vehicles
- 2022 Q&A Pt. 2 - Renewable Energy
- 2022 Annual Meeting Introduction
- 2022 Financial Report
- 2022 Board Election Results
- 2022 Q&A Pt. 3 - Cost of Power
- 2022 Q&A Pt. 4 - Battery Storage

2022 Online Meeting Recap

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Questions & Answers

Also included in our Online Meeting, was a six-part series where our President & CEO Chris Reese answered questions submitted by members. We would like to thank all members who participated by submitting their questions. These short videos cover the topics of electric vehicles, renewable energy in our power mix, the cost of power, battery storage projects, residential solar power, and our tree trimming efforts. I recommend checking out these videos if you are interested in any of these topics. You can find them, along with the rest of our Online Meeting, at www.sussexrec.com/annual-meeting.

Member Appreciation Event at the NJ State Fair

Registration for our in-person Member Appreciation Event at the NJ State Fair is only open until July 8th! If you are reading this before that date, be sure to register at www.sussexrec.com/annual-meeting to reserve up to two free tickets to the Fair for Monday, August 8th, plus a member appreciation gift and a \$10 bill credit that you will be able to claim at our tent. If you don't have internet access, please call our office before this deadline and we can get you registered for the event and reserve your tickets!



Once we receive all reserved tickets, you will be contacted to let you know that you can pick up your tickets at our office. While we considered sending tickets by mail, we want to avoid a situation where anyone has their tickets lost in the mail. Not sure you'll be able to pick up your tickets during business hours? You'll have no need to worry – all leftover tickets will be brought with us to the Fair to be picked up by registrants at the Fair's will-call booth on the day of our event.

Our tent will be set up on Park Road, in between the two main entrances to the Fairgrounds. SREC's employees, directors, and CEO will be staffing our tent at the Fair from 11 am to 8 pm on August 8th. We welcome you to stop by to chat with us, ask questions, and pick up your member appreciation gift! By claiming your gift, your name will be added to our prize drawing which we will be holding at 7:30 pm that night. You do not need to be in attendance at the time of the drawing in order to win a prize. We are very excited about this upcoming event and we hope that we get to see you at the Fair!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know the combined use of large appliances like dishwashers, clothes dryers and washing machines account for the largest percentage of electricity use in the average U.S. home? Take small steps to save energy when using these appliances.

Only run full loads in the dishwasher, and thoroughly scrape food from dishes before loading. Dry towels and heavier cottons separate from lighter-weight clothing, and clean the lint screen after every use. Wash clothing in cold water to save energy used to heat water.

Source: EIA and DOE



DISCONNECT/ RECONNECT



SREC offers members FREE Disconnect/Reconnect service from 8am - 2:30pm, Monday-Friday

When your electrician needs to work behind the SREC-owned meter on your home, call us at 973-875-5101 to schedule service



Lightning was powering through the clouds outside. Thanks to your planning, their story time, and life as you know it, continued inside.



Cummins Connect Series home standby generators

Safeguard against power line failure with a Cummins standby generator. Call your authorized Cummins dealer today so you are prepared for when the next storm arrives.

Powering your life. 



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