

a conversation

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

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Overview

When a community takes the time to get to know itself, its Heart & Soul elements, it gains a sense of identity and purpose that will help citizens make decisions and take action to strengthen who they are.

“Only by going to, listening to, and learning from everyone - the influential and the forgotten, old timers and newcomers, young and old, rich and poor, business owners and workers, professionals and tradesmen, the noisy and the quiet, the caregivers and the gatekeepers - can shared purpose and identity live in and guide a community.”*

This evening, we will examine the many responses - thoughts and images - that have been shared by you and your Sussex County neighbors.

And from those diverse responses, we endeavor to capture the core elements that define Sussex County’s Heart & Soul. Your selection of these responses and contributions will help to paint a portrait of Sussex County.

In 1970, singer-songwriter Joni Mitchell wrote, “Don’t it always seem to go that you don’t know what you’ve got till its gone.” It is a truism that has many applications then as well as today. It is why we meet this evening.

Unless we identify what we value, or what we would regret to lose, how will we know what elements to treasure?

Thank you for participating in our conversation. Tonight is an important first step in knowing who we are.



* Adopted from the Declaration of Community Heart & Soul Beliefs ~ Orton Foundation

Agenda

Invocation

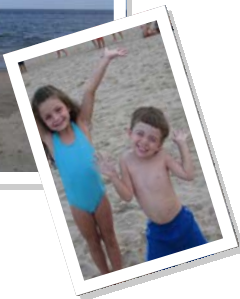
"Chicken Farms"

Dinner

Heart & Soul of Sussex Overview

Heart & Soul of Sussex

Community Response & Discussion



*"Great Blue Heron
stalking prey"*



Special Thanks to

The communities, libraries & businesses
who participated in this project:

Dan Gaffney, WGMD
Steve Crane, Browesabout Books
Greenwood Library
Yoder's Country Store
Greenwood Volunteer Fire Company Barbeque
Bridgeville Library
Jimmy's Grill
Seaford Library
Laurel Library
Bryan and Brittingham Farm Supply Store
Olde Glory Days Antiques Gumboro
Good Earth Market
Kool Bean Café & Bistro
South Coastal Library
Center for the Inland Bays
Selbyville Library
Dagsboro Southern States
Rehoboth Beach Visitor Center
Rehoboth Art League
Israel United Methodist Church
Harbeson United Methodist Church

Saint George's Parish Hall
Cultured Pearl
Hooper's Equipment
CAMP Rehoboth
Lewes Library
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Frankford Library
Milton Library
Milton Historical Society
Beacon Middle School
Millsboro Library
Messick's Store
Sussex County Office
University of Delaware Master
Gardener Office
University of Delaware College of
Marine and Earth Sciences
University of Delaware Research and
Education Center
Center for the Inland Bays Native
Plant Sale

Many thanks to the hundreds of Sussex County residents and
visitors who generously shared their thoughts, time and images
in creating this portrait.

You are the true Heart & Soul of Sussex!





Questions

Did we get it right?

What did we miss?

"Back Roads"

How important are these elements?

How should we use the Heart & Soul of Sussex County?

By the Numbers...

1,000

Comments

160

Images

40

Locations

8

Newspapers

4

Essays

1

Web site

2

Radio Broadcast

1

Sussex County



Notes

*"Dollies on the
Boardwalk"*

*"Small town
atmosphere"*



*"Chicken &
Dumpling
Church Dinners"*



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dave.wolanski

elaine ippolito

Heartandsoulofsussex

Ron MacArthur

Tonight's Caterer

Whitey's Catering, Salisbury, Md.

what defines sussex county?

IS IT OUR GEOGRAPHY, OUR HISTORY, OUR PEOPLE?

IS IT OUR RESOURCES, OUR PRODUCTS, OUR SERVICES?

IT IS ALL OF THESE THINGS AND MORE...

HEART
& SOUL
OF SUSSEX
COUNTY

ccet.udel.edu

The Heart and Soul of Sussex County is an ongoing story.

Its chapters include our memories, events, and traditions.

Its wonder is interpreted by camera lens, paintbrush, poem, essay.

Its authors and its illustrators are its very residents.

what is Sussex County to you?