

March 1, 2007

For Immediate Release:

4-H Building To Be Constructed At Sussex County Fairgrounds

The Sussex County 4-H Educational Exhibit Hall Committee, Inc. (a group of dedicated 4-H volunteers) proudly announces that they will be breaking ground on the construction of a 4-H Exhibit Hall on the grounds of the NJ State Fair/Sussex County Farm and Horse Show (Augusta, NJ) on or about April 7. The building will display projects and exhibits by Sussex County 4-H clubs during the annual fair. Additionally it will host educational demonstrations and presentations at the Bill Bennett Learning Center by 4-H members, volunteers and others during the fair.

The exhibit hall will be named in honor of Phoebe and Ralph Shotwell, two life-time supporters of the Sussex County 4-H program. Phoebe Shotwell leads a 4-H cooking club, *Yeastie Beasties* and has been a 4-H volunteer leader for over fifty-five years. Through their dedication to the Sussex 4-H program it is estimated the Shotwells have impacted over 3,000 county youth over the years.

The 4-H program in Sussex County has grown to more than 700 members participating in 63 clubs. Size constraints have limited the ability of 4-H Clubs to exhibit at the fair. Exhibit Hall Committee Chair Neil Flaherty notes, "This building will give more 4-H clubs, and their members, the opportunity to share what they have learned with the public. Everybody benefits from this experience."

In addition to the 10 day Fair, the building will be available for use by 4-H clubs for clinics, shows, and other educational programming. The 4-H Exhibit Hall will also be available to local organizations for their functions, arranged through the NJ State Fair.

MORE



Family and Consumer Sciences
Agriculture and Resource Management
4-H Youth Development

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Costs for the building are projected to be \$175,000. The 4-H Exhibit Hall Committee has already sponsored fundraising events and received private donations in support of the project. The Committee has raised over \$55,000 in pledges and donations towards the project. It will be hosting fundraising events and seeking additional donations in the months ahead. These include a Tricky Tray fundraiser scheduled for March 30 at Pope John Paul XXIII in Sparta.

Completion of the 4,800 sq. ft. building is scheduled for Mid-July, in time for a grand opening prior to the 2007 NJ State Fair/Sussex County Farm and Horse Show in August.

To learn more about this project, or how you can help, please contact Neil Flaherty at (973) 948-1295 or Michelle Teitsma at 973-948-3040.

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The Phoebe and Ralph Shotwell 4-H Exhibit Hall at the Sussex County Fairgrounds

Augusta, New Jersey
Planned Completion, July 2007

Client:
Sussex County 4-H Educational Exhibit Hall, Inc.
Newton, New Jersey

Contractor:
T.M. Brennan Contractors, Inc.
Hamburg, New Jersey