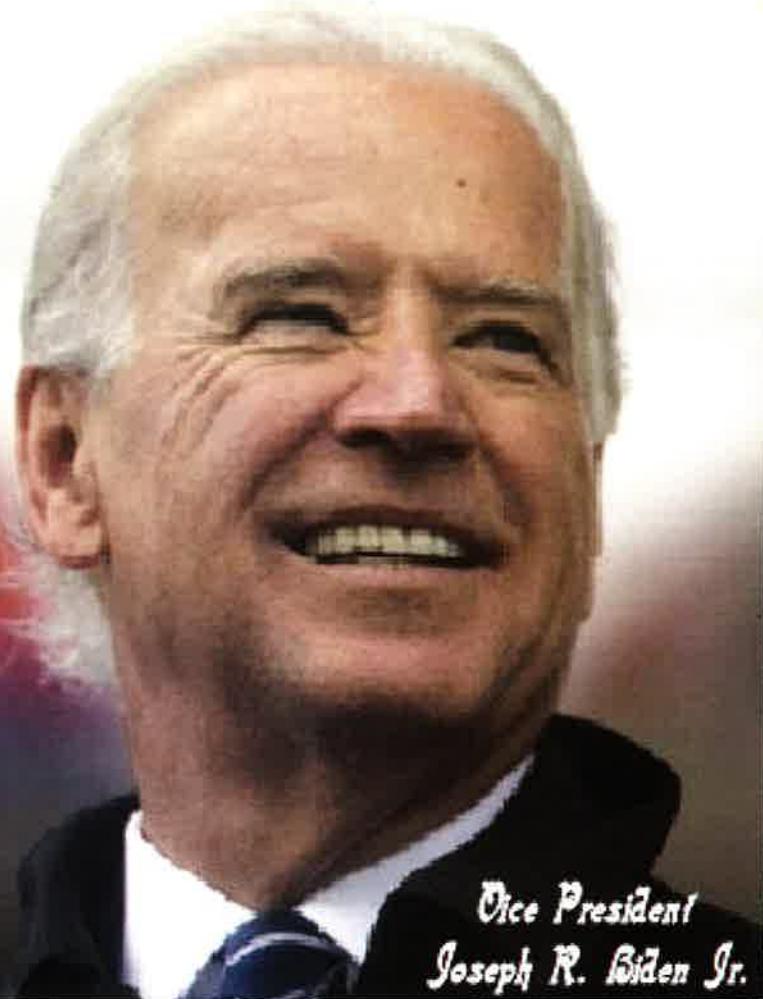


# Sussex County Return Day

*...two days after the election*

*November 4, 2010*

*Georgetown, Delaware*



*Vice President  
Joseph R. Biden Jr.*



**Delaware Electric Cooperative**  
*"We Keep The Lights On"*

*We are proud to support...*

# SUSSEX COUNTY RETURN DAY



*...and congratulate all the candidates!*

## Sussex County Return Day, Inc.

### 2010 Sussex County Return Day Officers

Rosalie B. Walls, President  
Eleanor Raye Warrington, Vice President  
Ann Couch, Recording Secretary  
Debbie Jones, Corresponding Secretary  
Allan Kujala, Treasurer

### Sussex County Return Day Board of Directors

Dan Bent	William H. Lawson	Mark Pettyjohn
James E. Bowden, Jr.	Staci Marvel	Mayor Brian Pettyjohn
Debbie Johnson	Joan D. Messick	Cathy Pepper
Terry Johnson	Susan Messick	Harold N. Short
W. Layton Johnson	Isabelle P. Morris	Kevin H. Short
Wes Jones	Hilda Parker	C. Kevin Walls

### Retired Directors

Richard M. Cahoun	Carolyn Green	Daniel L. Milburn, Sr.
Charlotte P. Campbell	George "Lope" Headley	Lawrence Sammons
Claire T. Croll	Christine Lecates	Nelson Warren
Ronald F. Dodd	William C. Lecates	

### Honorary Directors

Joseph Booth	Joan R. Deaver	Michael H. Vincent
George B. Cole	Vance C. Phillips	Samuel R. Wilson, Jr.
David Baker, County Administrator		

### In Memoriam Of Past Return Day Presidents, Directors, Committee and Volunteers

*Hazel "Jean" West, Return Day President, 1966 – 1990*

Senator Thurman Adams	Dallas Green	Senator William Roth
Peter F. Brown	Edie Hemphill	Carl R. Walls
Governor Elbert N. Carvel	Richard T. Hudson	Russell V. Warrington
George F. Couch	Nutter D. Marvel	Governor Sherman Tribbitt
Marshall Craft	Ellery L. Parker	
Ray Ellerman	John Purnell	

# Sussex County Return Day, Inc.

## 2010 Sussex County Return Day Committee

Frances Baker  
Wayne Baker  
Trey Bowden  
Bill Bradley  
Peggy Dougherty  
Bob Fletcher  
Captain Ralph Holm, GPD  
Joan Hitchens  
Alvin Holston  
Michael Holston  
Jerry Jones  
Rachael Jones  
William Lecates  
Jillian Messick  
Ronnie Mumford

Vanessa Pettyjohn  
Col. Ret. Fenton Ray  
Elaine Reynolds  
Dora Short  
James Sinnott  
Chuck Snyder  
Chief William Topping, GPD  
Leonard Tylecki  
Tony Walls  
Alan Warrington  
Rusty Warrington  
Jonathan Wells  
Bill Wood  
Pat Zimmerman

## 2010 Sussex County Return Day Volunteers

Kay Wood Bailey  
Penuel Barratt  
Paula Barto  
Nancy Boyce  
Sky Brady  
Matt Brittingham  
Maryleen Cathell  
Sandy Coverdale  
Craig Eaton  
Hank Engberg  
Phyllis Flowers  
Elaine Frey  
Francis Frey  
Beth Gray  
Stewart Gray  
Stella Hickman  
John Leroy Horseman  
Ricky Hudson  
Cindy Humphries  
Lili Kohr  
Mamielee Lankford  
Alfred "Al" Larson

James Larson  
Judy Lawson  
Kris Lawson  
Kurt Lawson  
Kelly Malone  
Janet Marvel  
Pastor John Marvel  
Regina Marvel  
Denise Matz  
Harry Milburn  
Lillian Mills  
Dave Moore  
Lori Niblett  
Kenny Niblett  
Amy Parker  
Lana Parket  
Joey Pepper  
Zack Pettyjohn  
Alvinza Pickins  
Madeline Pickins  
Melissa Richardson  
Mary Ann Ryan  
Cassidy Seabolt  
Charles Short  
Jack Short  
Pat Short  
Nancy Simpson  
Jim Sluter  
Terry Timmons  
Kenny Towers  
George Tribbitt  
Biffy Walls  
Craig Walls  
Harvey Walls  
Joseph Walls  
Stephanie Walls  
Tina Walls  
Amber Welch  
Scott Welch  
Karen Whitaker  
Robin Williams  
Dave Wilson  
Harley Wilson  
Karen Workman

## "Return Day in Delaware"

Excerpts from a New York Tribune article dated:

### **Georgetown Delaware November 10, 1860**

(Earliest known newspaper article about Return Day known to exist, from the "Georgetown collection" of Jim Bowden)

"The carnival obtains a degree of importance in Catholic countries, and festivals, anniversaries and galas, invested with interest, are celebrated in nearly all regions with distinctive features, to give character to the display in each locality; but none of these commemorative occasions, probably, are more eminently marked with a peculiar cast than is "Return Day" in old Sussex ....

Known only here, it has become an institution of the county, and is inseparably connected with its history; it is essentially the big day, and cannot be approximated, in point of interest for numbers and notoriety, by any other.

At early morn of the day on which Georgetown is to become the Mecca of citizens from every section of the country, persons begin to invade the town ....

The impression left upon the mind of one who had for the first time witnessed Return Day in Sussex, if not unqualifiedly agreeable in every particular, would be enduring."

## 2010 Return Day Program of Events

9:00 a.m. to 4:30 P.M. ARTS, CRAFTS & INFORMATIONAL VENDORS  
(Parking lot 122 East Market Street)

9:00 a.m. to 4:30 P.M. FOOD VENDORS  
(East Laurel St. & North & South Race St.)

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. MUSIC & DANCING BY -  
D.J. SKY BRADY  
Main Stage - The Circle

10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. SUSSEX COUNTY YOUTH ENTERTAINMENT  
Delaware Electric Cooperative Stage -  
119 E Market St.

9:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. RECEPTION FOR CANDIDATES &  
HONORED GUESTS  
Delaware Technical Community College  
Wm. Carter Partnership Center  
(18788 Seashore Hwy.)

11:30 a.m. DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY BAND  
The Circle - In front of Main Stage

11:30 a.m. MAYORS HATCHET TOSS  
*Mayors of Sussex County*  
(Old Courthouse- S. Bedford St)

12:00 p.m. MISS DELAWARE 2010 - Ms. Kayla Martel  
The Circle - In front of Main Stage

12:30 p.m. THE REMINDERS- Ed Shockley, Kevin Short &  
John Thompson on the Main Stage located  
on The Circle

1:30 p.m. RETURN DAY PARADE ROUTE  
Sussex Central Middle School West Market St,  
to King St., to East Pine St, back to the School

3:45 p.m. CEREMONIES ON THE CIRCLE  
The Circle - On the Main Stage

4:00 p.m. READING OF THE RETURNS  
*Town Crier - W. Layton Johnson*  
Courthouse Balcony - at 1 The Circle

4:30 p.m. OX ROAST  
Free Open Pit Barbecued Ox & Bison  
Sandwiches at 17 South Race St. next to Domino's

## 2010 Ceremonies on The Circle

*National Anthem*  
Greg Fuller, Sussex County Register of Wills

*Invocation*  
Pastor Janet Trout, Truth & Life Center, Georgetown

*Greetings*  
Steve Hammond, WBOC TV, Master of Ceremonies

*Welcome*  
Brian Pettyjohn, Mayor of Georgetown

*Introduction of:*  
*Distinguished Guests, State, National & Sussex County Candidates & Incumbents*  
Steve Hammond

*"America the Beautiful" Medley*  
Tammy Trout, Soloist

*Reading of Election Returns*  
W. Layton Johnson, Town Crier, former Mayor of Georgetown

*"God Bless the U.S.A."*  
Kassie Warrington, Soloist

*Burial of the Hatchet*  
Ed R. O'Connor, Chairman, Sussex County Democratic Committee  
Ron Sams, Chairman, Sussex County Republican Committee  
Gwendolyn Jones, Chairman, Sussex County Libertarian Party  
Wolfgang Von Bamgard, Chairman, Sussex County Independent Party

*Benediction*  
Reverend Tim Dukes, Central Worship Center, Laurel

## 2010 Ox Roast Sponsors

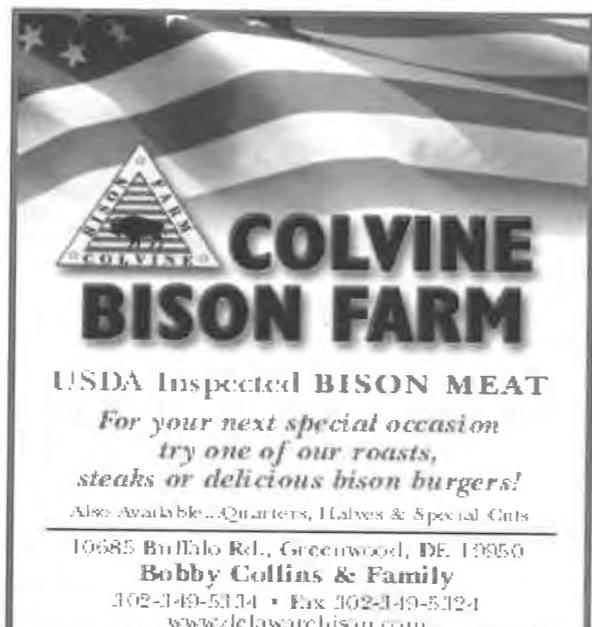


**CARL M. FREEMAN FOUNDATION**  
GIVING GRANTS AND GUIDANCE

**JOSHUA M. FREEMAN FOUNDATION**  
BUILDING BUILDINGS, BUILDING DREAMS.

## **BAR Farms**

"Local Beef Melts in Your Mouth"    Lewes, Delaware 302-645-6665



Your proud supplier of Bison meat for Sussex County Return Day

## **Ox Roast 2010**

Dedicated to the memory of Ellery Parker



This picture was taken the year John F. Kennedy was elected President, 1960. Ellery volunteered to do the Ox Roast with help from a couple of classmates of 1951, and friends alike.

The wheel on the spit was donated by Boots Wilkins off an old hay rake of his. Ellery then welded the wheel on the spit, which made it much easier to turn the Ox. The Historical Society has a commemorative shotgun depicting historical events of Sussex County engraved on it. An inlay of Ellery's picture is on the gun with many other memories signifying the rich history that Return Day stands for; friends, family and a gathering to announce the leadership that has led our great country, time in and time out.

## **Wednesday Night Entertainment**

Sponsored by Delaware National Bank and Megee Motors

**Big Hat No Cattle- 7-8 PM, 9-10 PM**  
**The Funsters — — 8-9 PM, 10-11 PM**

## **Ox Roast Contributing sponsors:**

Sheriff Eric Swanson, Mark Pettyjohn, "Hot Rod Hoagies" and Walmart

# 2010 Sussex County Return Day Sponsors

## 2010 Sussex County Return Day Sponsors

Baker Petroleum  
David A. Banks, Inc.  
Bay Road Package Store  
Law Office of John F. Brady  
C & D Plumbing, LLC  
CHARDON LTD JEWELERS  
A.P. Croll & Son  
Complete Lawn Care, Inc.  
Complete Tree Care, Inc.

Georgetown Historical Society  
Richard Lankford, Sr., Contractor & Builder, Inc.  
Melvin L. Joseph Construction Company  
Catherine A. Pepper, Longaberger Independent Branch Leader

## PATRONS

George Barnett  
Ken Bock  
Maryleen Cathell  
Gwendolyn Jones  
Susan Kremer

League of Women Voters  
Arlene Littleton  
Kent McDay  
Dora B. Short  
Harold N. Short

Harvey & Biffy Walls  
Marty & Joyce Westen  
Bill Whitaker  
Karen Whitaker

## THANK YOU

Artesian Water  
DJ Sky Brady  
Kevin Brumley  
George & Jeanette Carey  
DelDOT  
Delaware State Police  
DEMA  
DNREC  
First State Awards, LLC  
Todd Hammond

Indian River School District  
Jolly Trolley Family  
Jukebox Jim  
K & L Sales  
Laurel Volunteer Fire Department  
Milton Volunteer Fire Department  
Mount Aire  
Parker Block  
RACES  
Rogers Graphics

City of Seaford  
Joe Sears, Scenic Solutions  
Rogers Signs  
Sports at the Beach  
Sussex County 911 Center  
Sussex Tech  
Joe Thomas  
Town of Georgetown

Georgetown Community Bible Church  
Georgetown Volunteer Fire Company  
Roxana Volunteer Fire Department, Rehab Unit  
Sussex County Communications Support Section  
Sussex County Building & Grounds Department  
Sussex County Emergency Operations Center  
Sussex County Mapping Department

The Sussex County Return Day Committee would like to thank everyone who has attended, donated, participated, sponsored and worked to make this day successful. In a very short period of time Return Day has grown into a national event; it is not just a "Sussex County thing" anymore. Without the generosity and tenacity of the people named in this program book, another great American tradition would be lost. **Thank YOU!**

# 2010 Return Day Parade

## GRAND MARSHALL

Honorable Dr. Harriet Smith Windsor  
Secretary of State 2001-2009

## HONORARY PARADE MARSHALS

Honorable V. George Carey, Representative of the 36th District, 1984-2010  
Colonel Thomas F. MacLeish, Retired, Delaware State Police  
The Family of Chad Spicer, daughter Aubrey and parents Norman and Ruth Ann Spicer

## AMBASSADORS

Helen Williams – Senior Ambassador  
Alicia Walls – Teen Ambassador  
Karen Walls – Senior Youth Ambassador  
Christina Diehl – Junior Youth Ambassador  
Carla R. Walls – Escorting President, Rosalie B. Walls,  
in honor of grandfather, Carl R. Walls

## PARADE ANNOUNCERS

**MAIN STAGE**  
Sue Anderson, Carriage Announcer  
Dan Gaffney, Main Stage Parade Announcer  
Steve Hammond, Master of Ceremonies  
Bill Whitaker, Antique Classic & Rod Vehicles, Announcer

## YOUTH STAGE

Susie Kremer, Announcer

## PARADE JUDGES

Lewis W. Briggs Delaware State Police, Retired	Dr. Kevin Carson Superintendent Woodbridge High School
Ms. Janet Lee Secretary Centenary Methodist Church, Retired	Staci Northam-Smith Past President Ladies Auxiliary Sussex County

Joe Thomas  
Director of Sussex County E.O.C.

Jamie Turner  
Director of DEMA

Rusty Warrington  
Sussex County Inspector

Bonnie Workman  
Executive Director Apple-Scapple Festival

## FIRE EQUIPMENT JUDGES

Dick Dempsey Cheswold Volunteer Fire Company	George Greenly Goodwill Volunteer Fire Company
Wayne Hutchinson Dover Fire Marshall	Grover Ingle Delaware State Fire Marshall
Rodney Marvel Georgetown Volunteer Fire Company	Robert Ricker Georgetown Volunteer Fire Company

## History of Return Day

Although the date of the first "Return Day" in Georgetown is uncertain, it could have been as early as 1791. The State Law in 1791 removing the county seat from Lewes to a new place later named Georgetown required all votes to be cast in the county seat on election day. "Poor traveling conditions and interest in the outcome of the political contest may have resulted in an extended stay by voters."

"Then, as now, interested persons would visit the county seat to hear the announcement of the official results." In 1811, voting districts in the individual hundreds were established, but the Board of Canvassers, presided over by the Sheriff, would meet two days later in Georgetown to announce the final returns.

Naturally the gathering of two or three thousand politicians, supporters and curious on-lookers made for a very festive atmosphere. J. Thomas Scharf in 1888 described "Return Day" in the *History of Delaware* as one of the customs peculiar to the people of Sussex, from time immemorial, is to hold high carnival on the day when the results of a general election are announced.

By early morning, Sussex county folks from every nook and corner, and even from Maryland, could be seen coming to the county seat in almost every conceivable manner to observe "Return Day". Some walking, others on horseback, and still others in carriages, coaches, gigs, and farm wagons, drawn by ox, horse, or mule. Many of the vehicles were gaily decorated with bright colors or flags.

On most Return Days, large strips of muslin were extended from one side of the court house to the other in the years of presidential elections. The names of the states that had gone one way or another were painted on the muslin with the approximate majorities.

A court bailiff would step upon the old court-house balcony, address the hundreds of anxious politicians, supporters, and curious on-lookers who stood below him on the Public Square, and cry out the results of the canvass court of election.

Booths, stalls and stands were erected near the courthouse, where all kinds of edibles, such as Delaware biscuit, hot corn pone, opossum and rabbit meat, fish and oysters, could be procured.

There was a big celebration in 1936 when Franklin D. Roosevelt won in a landslide and the Democrats carried the State for the first time in many years. Return Day was cancelled altogether in 1942 because of World War II. However, it was too good an event to let die in Sussex County where traditions are important. In 1952, a group of interested citizens of both the Republican and Democrat parties joined together to revive this great tradition.

## From the Candidates and Elected Officials

John F. Brady, thanks for your support!

Gerald L. Brady, your support was appreciated!

Senator George Bunting, Jr., thank you!

John Carney, Jr., thank you for your support!

Christopher Coons, thanks for your support!

Dennis V. Cordrey, your support was appreciated!

Chris Counihan, Democratic Candidate, 5th Senate District,  
thanks for your support!

Gregory Fuller, Sr., thanks for your support!

State Representative Gerald W. Hocker, 38th District,  
thanks for your support!

Robert Johnston, thanks for your support!

Harvey & Jeannie Kenton, thanks for your support!

Ruth Briggs King, thanks for your support!

John Kowalko, Jr., thanks for the privilege of serving you!

Clifford "Biff" Lee, thanks for your support!

Michael Lindquest, thanks for your support!

Russ McCabe, thank you!

Betty Lou McKenna, thanks for your support!

Trinidad Navarro, thank you for everything!

Harold Jack Peterman and Friends to Elect Jack Peterman,  
thanks for your support!

Edward S. Osienski, to all volunteers and supporters, thank you!

Clerk of the Peace George Parish appreciates your continued support!

Pete Schwartzkopf, thanks for your support!

Daryl Scott, thanks for your support!

Sheriff Eric Swanson, thanks for your support!

Glen Urquhart, thanks for your support!

Rene'e Taschner, thanks for your support!

Robert Walls, thanks for your support!



Reflecting over the years gone by, I can't help but realize how so very fortunate we are to be living in a country where we can cast a ballot for the candidate of our choice. We have the freedom to choose! Then, in celebration of that freedom; two days later after the ballots are counted, we gather in Georgetown, the County Seat, to hear the Town Crier read the **RETURNS** from the Court House balcony. After the **RETURNS** are read, we literally witness the symbolic "burying of the hatchet" bringing an end to the "mudslinging" and the campaign.

Writing this letter I understand the feeling of what it would be like to accept an award, such as an Oscar or Emmy. You know you have little time to talk, many people to thank, but you just can't seem to begin naming people for fear of missing someone. That being said, I would like to thank everyone who has worked together as a team to make this day of tradition possible. I cannot begin to do all of this alone; I am so grateful to my fellow officers, directors, committee and volunteers, all who have devoted countless hours to make this biennial event a success.

I will close with one GREAT BIG THANK YOU!

I wish you many Happy Returns,

*Rosalie B. Walls*

Rosalie B. Walls, President  
Sussex County Return Day, Inc.



**Welcome to Georgetown~Home of the County Seat**

**The Mayor & Council of Georgetown**

**Mayor**  
**Brian Pettyjohn**

**Councilmembers**  
**Charlie Koskey ~ Sue H Barlow**  
**Bob Ricker ~ Annie Besche-Martin**

**Town Hall ~ 39 The Circle ~ Georgetown, De 19947**  
**Telephone (302)856-7391~ Fax (302)856-6348**  
**[www.georgetowndel.com](http://www.georgetowndel.com)**



## SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

2 THE CIRCLE, P.O. BOX 589 • GEORGETOWN, DE 19947

*Sussex County Council*  
*Welcomes you to Return Day 2010!*

**SAMUEL R. WILSON**

District One

**JOAN DEAVER**

District Three

**VANCE PHILLIPS**

District Five



**MICHAEL VINCENT**

District Two

**GEORGE B. COLE**

District Four

**DAVID BAKER**

County Administrator