

# Middle Smithfield Township News Bulletin ~ February 2016



Resica Falls in Winter. Photo by Steven Natiello



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570-223-8920  
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[MiddleSmithfieldTownship.com](http://MiddleSmithfieldTownship.com)

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Michael Dwyer, x123  
Mark Oney, x125

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#### Committees: [@mtownship.com](mailto:@mtownship.com)

[GolfAdvisoryCommittee@](mailto:GolfAdvisoryCommittee@) x205  
[Parks&Recreation@](mailto:Parks&Recreation@) x201  
[Litter&Beautification@](mailto:Litter&Beautification@) x202  
[HistoricalCommission@](mailto:HistoricalCommission@) x203  
[EconomicDevelopmentCommittee@](mailto:EconomicDevelopmentCommittee@) x204



## 2015 Person of the Year: Chauly Younger

Chauly Younger is a passionate gardener that brought her skills and enthusiasm to the newly created Middle Smithfield Township Community Garden on Coolbaugh Road to benefit the Bushkill Outreach.

[Read more about Chauly and the other finalists on page 3](#)

## Dear Middle Smithfield Residents and Businesses,

As we welcome in 2016, the Board of Supervisors wishes each and every resident health and happiness.

As much as many recent headlines describe the ills of our society or laud the famous people, our local community is filled with so many humble volunteers that we wish to not only applaud these individuals, but offer our thanks for the many wonderful things they selflessly do.

In this newsletter, you'll find useful articles for this winter, as well as articles about some of the many groups and individuals working hard to improve the lives of so many among us. With our Person of the Year Award, we are fortunate to once again have three finalists that do so much for others, without the need or want of praise or compensation, and their humility makes them a Special Person each Year, no matter who the winner may be.

As we reflect on the year that has passed, we look to a bright and prosperous new year filled with Hope, Happiness, and Thankfulness for the many people in our lives. The Hopes, Happiness, and Thankfulness of the organizations that our finalists give of themselves are even brighter and richer because of these wonderful volunteers.

Happy New Year!!!  
Sincerely,

## Middle Smithfield Board of Supervisors

Annette Atkinson, Chairperson \* Michael Dwyer, Vice Chairman \* Mark Oney, Supervisor

### No Tax Increase!

Supervisor Mike Dwyer's Note from the Treasurer explains how the 2016 budget was able to avoid a tax increase in 2016.

[Read More on Page 2](#)

### "It'Snow Laughing Matter"

Public Works director Mike Dwyer offers insights to a safer Winter.

[Read More on Page 3](#)

### Pick a Business!

What businesses do YOU want to see in MST? Our Economic Development Committee wants to hear YOUR thoughts!

[Read More on Page 10](#)

## Note from the Treasurer, Mike Dwyer:

2016 Budget: No Increase in Township Taxes

At the December 28, 2015 Board of Supervisors meeting, the Middle Smithfield Township 2016 Annual Budget was unanimously approved. This budget does not include an increase in township taxes, in sewer fees, or in any taxes or fees. General Funds income for 2016 is projected to be higher than 2015, due to the continued growth of our local economy. We are seeing personal income rise and anticipate commercial development to occur in 2016, as we are the only township in Monroe County that has all commercial and industrial properties within a Local Revitalization Tax Assistance Act (LERTA) zone.

The 2016 Budget reflects the township's vision to continue to improve our roads, our parks, our services and many other township amenities. We now have a comprehensive Capital Improvement plan for the entire sewer system and we expect to make long-awaited repairs and necessary upgrades. We continue to look for cost-savings wherever possible, and continue to provide the needed services that our residents and businesses have come to rely on.

The budget for 2016 also reflects our continued aggressive efforts to apply for and receive State grants. Whether from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) or other grants, we have dedicated volunteers, staff, and professionals working diligently to attain this "free" money.

The willingness of residents and business owners to contribute to the success of our township does not go unnoticed. Those who volunteer their time on our committees are commended. These are the people who want to see our township improve, work as a team, and do not ask for praise.

While we are constantly looking to improve, over the last 4 years, Middle Smithfield Township has undoubtedly taken great strides in becoming a model township for our residents, business owners, and visitors. Our fiscal policies, our eagerness to work with all businesses, and our resident- and business-friendly approach has made, and will continue to make, Middle Smithfield Township the best place to live, work and play throughout the Poconos.



A Public Works vehicle clears a Township road



## Whispering Pines Banquet Hall

Resident Discounts are Available! Call 570-223-8920

The beautiful Whispering Pines banquet hall is available for all your golf outing or private party needs. We can accommodate rehearsals, dinners, business meetings, reunions, large wedding receptions and more.



Since the Township acquired the Country Club of the Poconos Municipal Golf Course (which is attached to the Whispering Pines) in 2010, the Whispering Pines Banquet Hall has become a valuable resource for many community events such as art exhibits and veteran fundraisers as well as Person of the Year. With discounted rates for residents and registered non-profit organizations, the Whispering Pines fulfills a unique need within Middle Smithfield Township.

Our dining room area of over 2400 square feet is comprised of two rooms separated by a majestic floor to ceiling stone fireplace, providing flexibility for your event. The larger room includes a dance floor and seating for up to 160. The smaller room is perfect as a breakout room or smaller dinner needs with seating for up to 32. Each room is equipped with a TV for your audio/visual needs.

Book the Beautiful Whispering Pines Banquet Hall Today.  
Township Resident discounts are available! Call 570-223-8920  
**WhisperingPinesCCP.com**

### The Golf Advisory Committee

*These Golf Committee members volunteer for many nonprofit events at the Whispering Pines:*

- Chairperson: Ray White
- Vice Chairperson: Craig Wetherbee
- Secretary: Mike Sweeney
- Member: Pro Shop Manager Don Henry
- Member: John Smith
- Township Liaison: Holly Freese

[golfadvisorycommittee@mstowpship.com](mailto:golfadvisorycommittee@mstowpship.com), x205

## It'Snow Laughing Matter

~Mike Dwyer, Public Works Director

As we continue to be in the midst of winter, please drive carefully. Our Public Works Department is out during each storm plowing our roads and spreading treatment so our roads are passible as quickly as possible. Our township is one of the few that uses a treated salt product that works faster and lasts longer. The cost per yard for this material may be a bit more than salt, but we save on manpower, equipment wear and tear, and actually use less material than we would with just salt. Compliments are often received about the conditions of our roads, compared to even State roads and roads that see higher traffic volume.

When plowing is being done, there is no place to put the snow other than the road shoulder. Residents often ask us to avoid their lawn or driveway which is impossible. The maintenance of our roads is necessary to allow for emergency vehicles and motorists to drive safely. One consideration is that when plowing or shoveling your driveway, put as much of the snow to the left of your driveway (looking at your house) so that when plows come down the road, large piles of snow are not pushed back.



## 2016 Road Improvement Schedule

~ Mike Dwyer, Public Works Director

In 2012, the Board of Supervisors and Public Works Department established a 10-year Road Improvement Schedule. This schedule, as it implies, plans for improving 10% of the 74-miles of township owned roads each year to accomplish improvements of all of our roads every 10-years. We are a year ahead of schedule! Since 2012, we have actually completed over 45% of our roads and more are scheduled in 2016.

In 2016, we are considering the following improvements:

- Upper Lakeview Drive.....spot pave and tar and chip
- Timber Mountain Drive/  
Marjorie Court.....pave
- Wooddale Road.....tar and chip
- Coolbaugh Road (Crown Point to Park)...tar and chip
- Frutchey Drive.....pave
- Tego Lake.....pave
- Besecker Drive.....pave
- Pocono Drive.....tar and chip

In addition, as always, we will repair and maintain all township roads within the township.



We have created a list of helpful hints for winter driving:

- Check the battery and charging system for optimum performance.
- Check the antifreeze
- Check that heaters, defrosters and wipers work properly.
- Check the tire tread depth and tire pressure. Bald tires do not make it up hills very well, no matter how much material is put down on the road.
- Check the oil and filter and be diligent about changing them at recommended intervals.
- Check the brakes.
- Check to see that exterior and interior lights work and headlights are properly aimed.

One final note, in order for the PWD Employees to do the best job possible, stranded vehicles should not be parked on the road during snowstorms. Middle Smithfield Township will have parked vehicles towed at the owners expense.

The question you may have are: How can all this get done when the average single family residence in our township pays \$250 or less PER YEAR in municipal taxes? How is all this work funded when 85% of the township pays less than \$450 a YEAR in township taxes? In Pennsylvania, the State taxes fuel. The tax received by the State is distributed to each municipality based on population (15,997) and miles of road (73.38). These funds, known as "Liquid Fuels Funds" have increased over the last few years and, in 2016, we expect to receive over \$490,000. Part of these funds are used to pay for equipment but the primary use is for road materials and labor.

We are always concerned about our roads and make every effort to have them cleared in winter as quickly as possible. As portions of our liquid fuels funds are used to pay for salt, cinders, etc for winter maintenance, we hope that winter will be kind to us and we can pave more roads each year.

We are also pleased to inform our residents and business owners that the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation has committed to paving Route 209, from the Smithfield border to the Pike County line, scheduled for late 2016/early 2017. This improvement, which has likely not been performed in over 2 decades, is long overdue. This paving project will only enhance the pathway project we hope to accomplish in 2017 (but you will have to read another article about that in this newsletter). See "Multimodal..." article on page 7)

# The Next Great:

# Chauly Younger



Chauly Younger

Chauly Younger is a passionate gardener that brought her skills and enthusiasm to the newly created Middle Smithfield Township Community Garden on Coolbaugh Road to benefit the Bushkill Outreach. Between her efforts educating and supporting her fellow gardeners and encouraging active participation in the gardens park, Chauly's dedication encouraged many new and experienced gardeners to grow more and give back.

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Embracing and promoting the "Grow a Row" program for the needy, Chauly inspired a community effort that led this year to the donation of more than 150 pounds of fresh

vegetables to friends, neighbors and to the amazing folks at Bushkill Outreach.

You'll always see her in the garden, in her tie-dyed attire, doing her own carpentry (building raised beds and trellises), giving away free seeds to gardening newcomers and offering up gardening tips as needed... and on those few occasions when she's not in the garden, she's on Facebook continuing to inspire a world of budding gardeners. Chauly came to this country as a refugee from Viet Nam in 1980 and has chosen to give back to this wonderful country by acting to help the needy.



Chauly Younger's Community Garden Box Plots

## Community Gardens Park

### It Began With a Single Seed

Every great project starts with just a seed of an idea, and Middle Smithfield Township planted the seeds for this new Community Gardens Project that has already begun to help grow and engage our vibrant community.

Now, the Gardens Park has seen its first successful summer, with classes and a common interest bringing residents together into a stronger and happier community. In fact, the Gardens Park produced **over 150 pounds of donated produce** in this first year alone!

[mstCommunityGardensPark.com](http://mstCommunityGardensPark.com)



## The Bushkill Outreach

The Bushkill Outreach is a monthly Food Pantry for emergency distributions now serving about 1,200 people on a monthly basis. Bushkill Outreach is a Pennsylvania state registered food pantry serving people in need in Middle Smithfield Township in Monroe County and Lehman Township in Pike County. The Outreach has been serving people in the community for over 35 years. It started out as a community social center whose members began to help out a few local families in need around the holidays.

[www.BushkillOutreach.org](http://www.BushkillOutreach.org)



For more information about the 2015 Person of the Year, visit:  
[www.mstPersonOfTheYear.com](http://www.mstPersonOfTheYear.com)

PERSON  
OF THE YEAR

MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP

AWARD

# Two Very Awesome *Finalists*

After pouring through dozens of resident nominations involving some of Middle Smithfield's finest volunteers, the independent panel of judges accomplished the impossible and chose a Person of the Year and 2 finalists to receive a total of \$3,500 toward their charities.

## Michelle Cacko - East Stroudsburg Youth Association and KidsPeace

Michelle has been a big part of the independent bikers of PA and their annual KidsPeace Toy run for about the past 5 years, taking it over this past year after the passing of our founder Owen Strauss.

Michelle has been an active part in the East Stroudsburg Youth Association starting as team mom four years ago and now honored to be the General Manager of such a great community organization. They are trying hard to keep registration costs low for all of their sports but it is difficult with rising costs of insurance and equipment maintenance and other organizational fees most people don't know exist. Keeping the Caviler Family strong, the East Stroudsburg Youth Association has been participated in more community events, including marching in the St Patricks Day Parade where they hand out candy to the public and their 2nd annual Community Day this past august that featured fun and games for the kids, vendors for some shopping, and a successful food drive! Michelle looks forward to continuing to be an active part of this 43 year strong organization.



Michelle Cacko and



The **ESYA** is an organization that is successfully helping develop and prepare the children of the East Stroudsburg community for the East Stroudsburg High School Varsity and JV sport programs.

The Independent Bikers of Pennsylvania are taking to the open road to gather toy donations and raise awareness for KidsPeace. "KidsPeace is a private charity serving the behavioural and mental health needs of children, families, and communities.

[www.esyaspports.com](http://www.esyaspports.com) • [www.KidsPeace.org](http://www.KidsPeace.org)



## Timothy O'Donnell - Kiwanis Club of the Poconos Daybreak



Tim O'Donnell is an active member of both the Kiwanis Club of the Poconos Daybreak and in the community, who fosters a passion for education.

As the Kiwanis Club celebrated its 100th anniversary this year, Tim grew especially interested in celebrating the Kiwanis' long history with new programs for children. He found the perfect tie-in when he realized that the local National Parks Service would also be celebrating their 100th anniversary next year. Since then, he has led the

initiative with the local leaders of the National Parks Service, the Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC), Middle Smithfield Elementary, East Stroudsburg University, and many other local education centers to create partnerships and programs that would allow children to learn the most about our rich natural features. Tim's goal is to give every kid in Middle Smithfield the chance to gain knowledge about their home.

The **Kiwanis Club** of the Poconos ~ Daybreak is active in schools and communities. The club was established in March 1976. Originally the club's name was the Kiwanis Club of Stroudsburg-Daybreak. However in 1994, it was changed to the Kiwanis Club of The Poconos-Daybreak.

Thank you to all of the 2015 Sponsors!

### **GOLD**

**King, Spry, Herman, Freund & Faul**

**SFM Consulting LLC**

**Sheeley Insurance**

**T&M Associates**

### **SILVER**

**Matergia & Dunn**

**Gilmore Associates**

### **BRONZE**

**Bushkill Group- piano music**

**Richards Tree Farm- seasonal decor**

### **RAFFLE PRIZES**

**Bushkill Group: Tree Top Villas 3 day 2 night stay**

**Pocono Palace: 3 day 2 night stay**

**Mountain Valley Vineyard: Wine Basket of Cheer**

**Country Club of the Poconos: 2016 golf membership**

# Pixel-Perfect Photography at the next Photography Exhibit

Holly Freese, Community and Municipal Projects Coordinator

After two years of incredible success, Middle Smithfield Township and the Pocono Photo Club will host the third annual photography exhibit, once again open and free to the public! With more theme categories, this year's exhibit promises to be bigger and better. The exhibit will kick off with an opening reception on April 8th at 6pm and continue through May until June 1st. The exhibit will be held in the Whispering Pines Banquet Hall in the Country Club of the Poconos Clubhouse on 1445 Big Ridge Drive.

This year, exhibit attendees can expect to see a theme of local restaurants to tie in with 2016 Shop Local Restaurant Week. Of course, the beautiful photographs of flora, fauna, vistas, still life, and people of the Pocono region will still be on display. Like last year, every photograph will be an original of a local photographer, and every photograph displayed will be for sale.

A reception will be held on Friday, April 8, 2016 from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. to kick-off the exhibit. Come join us and meet some of the most talented and enthusiastic local photographers as they share the compelling stories behind their photography. Converse with photographers and learn their inspiration for each photograph.



## EDC- Paving the Way for Better Business

Judy Acosta, Economic Development Committee Liaison

The Economic Development Committee in Middle Smithfield Township has the opportunity to speak with both business owners and residents throughout the year. Whether it's a business owner looking for ideas on how to get more people in their door or a resident with a suggestion on how to improve the community, it is the committee's pleasure to offer assistance.

As the committee works to expand these programs in 2016, they are looking to the residents and business owners/managers for their input and assistance:

If you participated in our Shop Local Holiday Event in 2015, please take a moment to complete a short 6 question survey online. You can type the following link into your web browser, then choose "Holiday Survey" to access this survey:

[mstShopLocal.com/Survey](http://mstShopLocal.com/Survey)

(or call Judy at x128)

Business Owners/Managers can complete an Economic Development Business Survey online as well, or contact Judy to request a printed version. (570-223-8920 ext. 128)

The committee is seeking your input specifically to help expand and improve current programs and increase your success. You can type the following link into your web browser, then choose "Business Owner/Manager" to access the business owner/manager survey:

[mstShopLocal.com/Survey](http://mstShopLocal.com/Survey)

If you are a business owner, business manager or a resident with a knack for business, why not come to monthly meetings held on the second Monday of the month at 6:30 pm at the township building. Many hands make light work, and fresh ideas or suggestions are always welcome.

Please feel free to contact Judy Acosta at 570-223-8920 ext. 128 if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions. She looks forward to assisting the committee in their mission to serve and improve the community in 2016.

### Economic Development Committee:

Chairperson: Bob Hetu  
Vice Chairperson: Carrie E. Wetherbee  
Secretary: Carl Wilgus  
Member: Gina Bertucci  
Member: Beverly Brown  
Township Liaison: Judy Acosta  
[EDC@mstownship.com](mailto:EDC@mstownship.com) x204



Middle Smithfield Township  
[mstShopLocal.com](http://mstShopLocal.com)

we will continue to educate our existing businesses on the new LERTA tax abatement program. We will also continue outreach to commercial realtors to ensure they are fully aware of MST's commitment to business. In 2016 our committee will evaluate our current business breadth and aggressively target new businesses that will fill gaps and compliment our existing base.

### How can you help?

Shop local first; find our local business directory at  
[mstShopLocal.com](http://mstShopLocal.com)

Follow the committee on facebook and twitter @MSTEDC and  
[@MSTshoplocal](http://MSTshoplocal)

Download our mobile app for smart phones called "where MST"  
[www.FindItInMST.com](http://www.FindItInMST.com)

## MST Means Business

Robert Hetu, Economic Development Committee Chairperson

The township Economic Development Committee (MSTEDC) is excited to continue past momentum into 2016. Our Shop Local holiday event will be continued in 2016 as our local residents step up to support local business. Restaurant week was a great success and as a result will be repeated in April 2016. We plan to add a new event in May involving a scavenger hunt and our celebrity Marshall's Creek Mastodon! All of these events provide free advertising for our business community.

Our tagline is "MST means business!" To help grow and expand our tax-base (to help reduce taxes for local residents),

## Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant Application - 209 Sidepath Project.

Mike Dwyer, Treasurer and Public Works Director,

Middle Smithfield Township is seeking funds to be used for a Sidepath Project along Route 209 in our township. The Sidepath concept would include the installation of a 6 foot wide pathway for pedestrian and bicycle facilities along the entire length of Route 209 within the Township. This project perfectly complements Penn Dot's 2016 plans to pave 209.

The Multimodal Transportation Fund provides grants to encourage economic development and ensure that a safe and reliable system of transportation is available to the residents of the Commonwealth.

PennDOT provides these grant funds that can be used for the development, rehabilitation and enhancement of transportation assets to existing communities, streetscape, lighting, sidewalk enhancement, pedestrian safety, connectivity of transportation assets and transit-oriented development. Grants are available for projects with a total cost of \$100,000 or more and cannot exceed \$3,000,000 for any project.

What we have applied for is the maximum \$3,000,000. If awarded, we will proceed with the design and construction of pervious pathways, roughly 6' wide (similar to sidewalks) from the Smithfield township line to Municipal Drive as Phase One, and then apply for this grant again to complete 209 from Municipal Drive to the Lehman township line.



Proud GOLD Sponsor of the 2015 MST Person of the Year Event



## KING, SPRY, HERMAN, FREUND & FAUL, LLC

ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS

### Your Full-Service Law Firm

King, Spry, Herman, Freund & Faul, LLC, is a general practice law firm dedicated to providing both public and private sector clients with high-quality, cost-effective representation across a wide spectrum of legal matters.



[www.KingSpry.com](http://www.KingSpry.com)

Have your charity golf tournament at Country Club of the Poconos Golf Course [www.ccppagolf.com](http://www.ccppagolf.com)



*Let us help you raise funds for your charitable organization!*

What irony – just when folks need services the most – funding is cut, and it's harder than ever to raise money. We're happy to help! Our course will contribute to fundraisers. Sign up for one or more of these upcoming tournaments for 2016 (check our website, we're always adding more!)

- Pocono Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center
- Mady's Angels
- St. John's Knight of Columbus
- Marshalls Creek Fire Company

**Host your charitable fundraiser at CCP Golf**

Call Kevin in the Pro Shop at 570-223-8099

Like CCP Golf at [Facebook.com/CCPgolf](http://Facebook.com/CCPgolf) and follow @ccpgolf on Twitter.

# ***Looking Forward . . . to a great 2016!***

## **2016 Events**

Find new events and all event updates at [MiddleSmithfieldTownship.com/Calendar](http://MiddleSmithfieldTownship.com/Calendar)

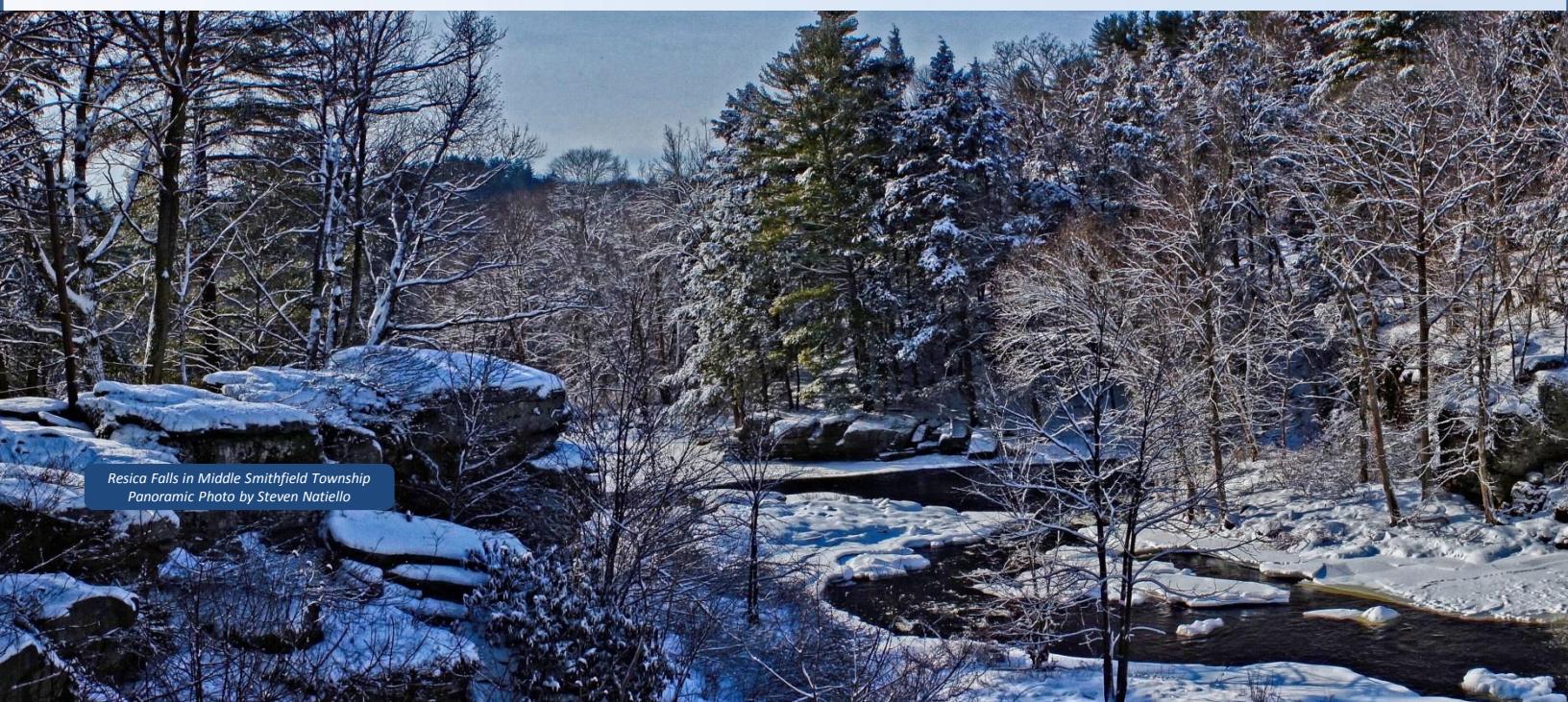
TBD-- Easter Egg Hunt  
4/1-- Golf Course Opens (weather permitting)  
4/2-- Homeowners Association Meeting  
4/8-- Restaurant Week EatLocal.com  
4/8-- Pocono Photo Club Exhibit Opens  
4/16-- 1000 Feet of Street litter cleanup  
4/25-- Leaf Collection begins  
5/6-7-- "Dumpster Day" Spring Cleanup & Freecycle  
5/12-13-- Freecycle  
5/20-- Leaf Collection ends  
7/14-- Mid-Year Report to the Public  
8/20-- Memory Makers Luncheon  
9/10-- Home Owners Association Meeting

TBD-- Shop Local Labor Day  
10/15-- 1000 Feet of Street littler cleanup  
10/7-8-- Fall cleanup and Freecycle  
10/22-- Trunk or Treat  
10/24-- Leaf Collection begins  
10/12-- Fossil Day, Marshall's Creek Mastodon  
10/13-15-- Freecycle  
11/18-- Leaf Collection Ends  
11/18-- Person of the Year & Volunteer Appreciation  
11/19-- Shop Local Holiday  
11/26-- 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Tree Lighting at Echo Lake  
12/1-- Presentation of the 2017 Budget to the Public

## **2016 Meeting Schedule** *(meetings subject to change)*

Board of Supervisors\* ..... 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month... 7:00p  
Main BOS workshop..... every Friday..... 8:00a  
Central Sewer Workshop..... 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month..... 9:00a  
Economic Development Advisory Committee..... 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month,..... 6:30p  
Golf Course Advisory Committee..... 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month..... 8:00a  
Historical Commission..... 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month..... 9:00a  
Oak Grove Multi-Municipal Composting Board ..... 1/11,4/11,7/11,10/10 ..... 10:00a  
Planning Commission..... 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month..... 7:00p  
Parks and Recreation Board ..... 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month,..... 6:00p  
Regional Park Commission at Smithfield Township ..... 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month..... 7:00p

\* Except for November and December: visit our website at [MiddleSmithfieldTownship.com/Calendar](http://MiddleSmithfieldTownship.com/Calendar) for full details.



Recent graduate looking for career experience?  
High school student needing community involvement to apply for college?  
Retired executive?  
Re-entering the workforce and need recent experience?

***Join a committee,  
whether for a year or just  
one event or project***

## **Committees**

570-223-8920, extensions as marked

### **Planning Commission, x112**

**PlanningCommission@mstownship.com**

A volunteer board charged with advising the Supervisors and guiding land use and development at the municipal level, the Planning Commission reviews all plans submitted by developers.

### **Golf Course Advisory Board , x205**

**GolfAdvisoryBoard@mstownship.com**

The main goals are to facilitate stewardship of municipal golf course.

### **Parks and Recreation Board x201**

**Parks&Recreation@mstownship.com**

Stewardship of township parks & recreation activities.

### **Litter and Beautification** x202

**Litter&Beautification@mstownship.com**

Meets with the Parks board. Dedicated to beautifying the township.

### **Economic Development Committee x204**

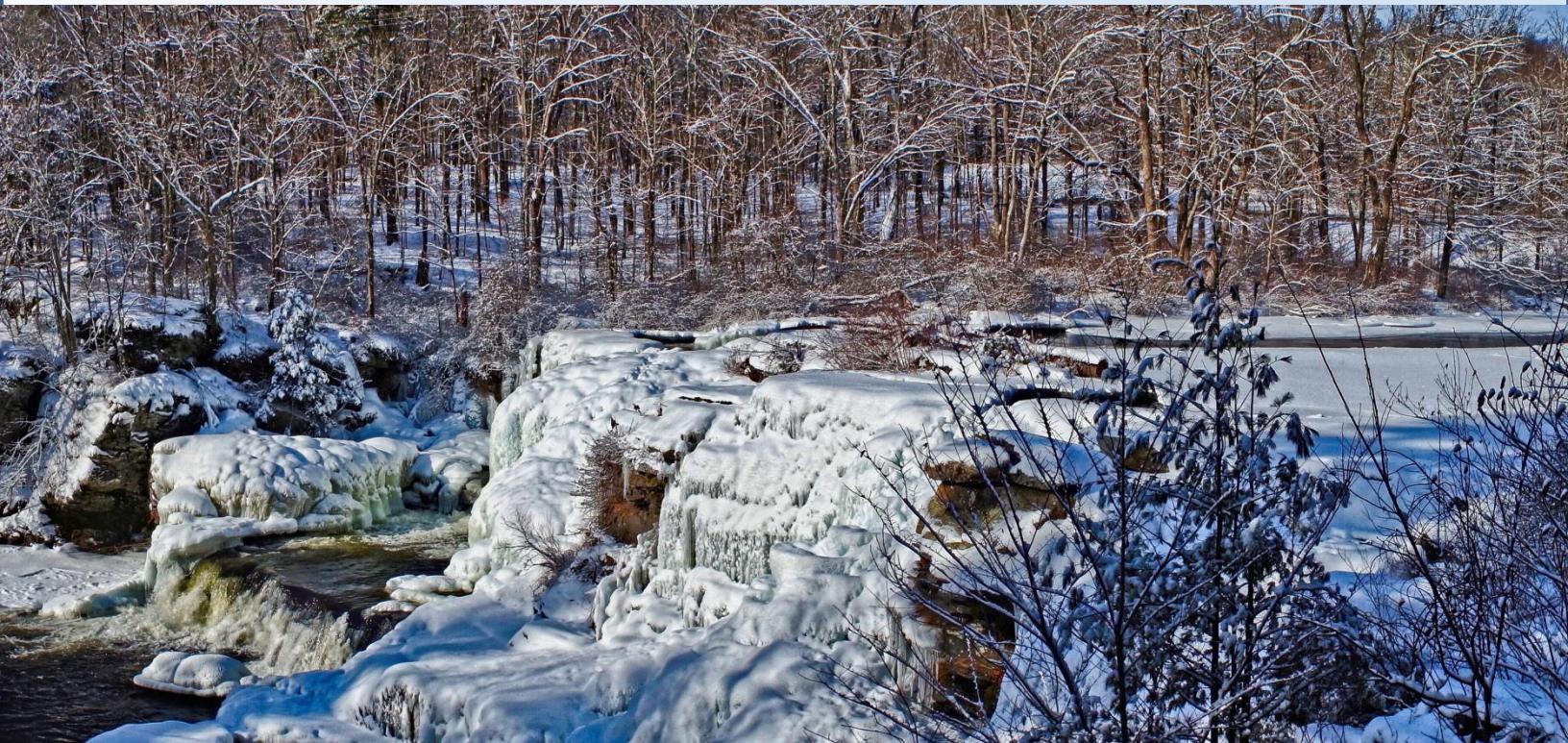
**EconomicDevelopmentCommittee@mstownship.com**

The main goals are to increase healthy economic growth of existing businesses and attract new businesses to our township.

### **Historical Commission** x203

**HistoricalCommission@mstownship.com**

This group doesn't just preserve artifacts, but historic sites and the memories of our long time residents.



Go paperless, fill this survey out online! Visit [mstShopLocal.com/survey](http://mstShopLocal.com/survey)

# Economic Development Resident Survey

Middle Smithfield Township Economic Development Committee wants to hear from YOU...the residents of Middle Smithfield Township. Please take a few minutes to complete this brief survey to help us improve our community.

## Question 1 of 3

Did you know Middle Smithfield Township has an Economic Development Committee whose vision is to create a diverse business community?

YES

NO

## Question 2 of 3

Our Business Directory consists of five (5) categories. Which of the categories listed below would you like to see expanded in Middle Smithfield Township?

Shop - More options to shop for more cool things, please!

Eat - More delicious menus to choose from.

Play - I want more fun things to do close to home

Live - More resources for my family & home. (household/personal services)

Stay - I want to vacation without having to drive for hours.



## Question 3 of 3

If you could choose what businesses were included in our community, what would they be? You can list as few or as many as you'd like. You can list a specific business or a type of business.

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Thank you for taking the time to share your opinions with our office. It is our desire to improve the community through economic growth and development. If you would like to join us in that mission, please attend one of our monthly meetings held on the second Monday of the month at 6:30pm at the township building (147 Municipal Drive).

Middle Smithfield Township Economic Development Committee

Drop off or mail this survey: Township office at 147 Municipal Drive or mail it to 147 Municipal Drive, East Stroudsburg PA 18302

## Middle Smithfield: More than just a COG in the wheel

The Board and Staff of Middle Smithfield Township believes very strongly in working together with Monroe County and regional groups to represent the needs of and best serve our residents:

Mike Dwyer is Chairperson of the Pocono Mountain Council of Governments (COG), a regional group created to foster a cooperative effort to resolve problems, determine policies, and formulate plans that are common and regional. They also achieve economy of scale for all members by forming a buying block for items such as salt and cinders for a volume discount. MST Township Secretary Michele Clewell also serves on the COG board.

Mike Dwyer, is the MST voting delegate to PSATS (Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors). Delegates vote on resolutions that help set PSATS' legislative agenda for the year ahead as they work to represent the interests of the citizens to state government. Michael was also recently elected chairperson of the by PSATS to the their committee for townships with populations of over 10,000.

Annette Atkinson is one of 20 Board Members of the newly formed Monroe County Women's Commission (see article on page 13) whose mission is to identify and meet the concerns and needs of women and girls of Monroe County.

Annette Atkinson is Secretary of MCATO (Monroe County Association of Township Officials) a group formed to discuss issues of local and regional importance, and, with strength in numbers, present resolutions to PSATS, who in turn approaches state government with concerns of townships. County associations also hold at least one conference each year, which includes training opportunities, guest speakers, and exhibits by vendors of local government goods and services.

## A Word from your New Supervisor



Happy New Year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank township Residents for electing me to serve as Supervisor. It is an honor and a privilege to represent all of you. I will work tirelessly over the next six years to reward your trust.

I also want to compliment my opponent for running an honest and fair campaign. In spite of our different opinions on some issues, I believe we agree that our service to the township must always be about the needs of the people. Mr. Ferro continues to serve the township in various roles, and I look forward to working with him.

Finally, I want to thank my family, friends and all the volunteers who stepped up to spread my message and assist me in the campaign process. I couldn't have done it without each and every one of you.

Your support and teamwork was the key to our success. I am humbled and honored by the faith you had and continue to have in me.

I am excited and eager to start working with the current Supervisors. Please remember that I am always willing to listen to your thoughts and ideas. Feel free to reach out at any time either to the township office at ext. 125 or by e-mail at [money@mstownship.com](mailto:money@mstownship.com).

Thank you,  
Mark Oney, Supervisor

*Congratulations to all newly elected officials in Middle Smithfield Township!*



Elected Officials from the 2015 election are sworn into office at the Monroe County Courthouse on January 4, 2016



Joyce Fenical and Regina Ireland-Auer are sworn into office as the elected Middle Smithfield Township auditors.

## Kettle Creek Features MST Photographer

Holly Freese, Community and Municipal Projects Coordinator

A photograph by Middle Smithfield Township resident Andrea Henley is featured as the cover of a calendar for Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center.

Andrea has lived in the Poconos all her life and grew up with nature and a camera in her hand. She said this gave her a chance to explore all nature had to offer.

After a lot of encouragement from her family and friends, she finally decided to enter her photos in the Kettle Creek photo contest where they will also be on display at the environmental center in July.

Henley said her favorite subject to photograph is insects, but mostly dragonflies. "They are interesting when you can get close to them," she said. "The textures and features on such little things always amaze me. I know most people are grossed out by them, but they are so very interesting to watch and photograph."



The calendar featuring Henley's photo is available for \$10 at the education center in Bartonsville. For more information visit [mcconservation.org](http://mcconservation.org) or call 570-629-3061.

Proud GOLD Sponsor of the 2015 MST Person of the Year Event

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#### Stroudsburg Location

518 Sarah Street.  
Stroudsburg, PA 18301

Tel: 570-421-1191  
Fax: 570-421-1617

Tel: 717-432-4905  
Fax: 570-421-1617

#### Hours

Monday - Friday  
8:30 am to 4:30 pm

## Eagle Scout Completes Veterans' Memorial

at Echo Lake Park ~ Christopher Rain, Parks & Recreation

Liaison

East Stroudsburg High School North senior Joseph Schuon of Boy Scout Troop 87 reported that the Veterans Memorial is completed as his primary Eagle Scout project. Schuon spent 100 hours on the project, which included erecting a flag pole and 12 inch by 12 inch emblems on five different boulders of a branch of the military. In the middle is a granite pyramid dedicated to those who served. Schuon only needs one more merit badge for hiking. A Scout since third grade, he plans on attending East Stroudsburg University starting next fall for studies in secondary education in the field of science.



## Find "it" in Middle Smithfield



Find the best places to eat, play, stay, shop, and live in Middle Smithfield Township with the WhereMST app

Get the latest MST Shop Local discounts, instant directions, information, and more with the FREE WhereMST mobile app for smartphones! Available on Android and iPhone, it has never been easier to stay connected to the community. Download it at:

[Find it in MST .com](http://FinditinMST.com)

# Monroe County Now has a Women's Commission!

~ Annette Atkinson, Supervisor

As one of the 20 board members, I am happy to announce the birth of the Monroe County Women's Commission, brainchild of Maria Geffers, who co-chairs the Commission with Suzanne McCool.

Guided by the use of data and through partnerships, the Women's Commission seeks to identify the concerns and needs of Monroe County women and girls and serves as an advisory council to the Monroe County Commissioners by providing opportunities to empower women and girls to reach their highest potential.

The Women's Commission's vision is to serve as a catalyst for change by drawing on the passion, spirit, and strengths of women to create a more equitable and supportive community. The focus of the M.C. Women's Commission is supporting Educational and Economic/Entrepreneurship Opportunities, and developing Mentorship opportunities for our women and girls in Monroe County.

Look for more news during Women's History Month, March of 2016, but in the meantime, you can check back at :

Womens Commission of Monroe County PA .com  
Facebook.com/MonroeCountyWomensCommission

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SFM serves municipalities in the Lehigh Valley and Pocono region, providing building code and zoning enforcement services, as well as land use consultation, ordinance development, and expert testimony.

## CONTACT

SFM CONSULTING LLC  
Shawn F. McGlynn  
Building Code Official and Zoning Officer  
Telephone: 484-330-9088  
Email: smcglynn@sfmconsultingllc.org  
[www.SFMconsultingllc.org](http://www.SFMconsultingllc.org)



## Middle Smithfield Township PRE-Historical Commission

Holly Freese & Historical Liaison Chantel Wilder

2015 proved to be an exciting and successful year for the township's Historical Commission. The committee met every goal that was set at the beginning of the year and managed to fit in a couple of unexpected events with great success.

One of the committee's biggest events, Memory Makers, focused on the Flood of 1955 and the resilience of the Pocono spirit. Author, Mary Shafer, was a guest speaker at the event along with other guests who lived through the flood and shared their stories. The event turned out a crowd of about 130 people, making it one of the committee's most memorable events.

The biggest news for the Historical Commission this year was the arrival of the historical marker that will mark the location of where the Marshall's Creek Mastodon was discovered. The fossil was discovered by John W. Leap, his wife Claire, and his employee Paul Strausser on July 5<sup>th</sup>, 1965.

The installation of the marker will be announced in the spring of 2016, with a dedication ceremony planned for the fall, around National Fossil Day (October 12).

### The Historical Commission:

- Chairperson: Carrie Wetherbee
  - Vice Chairperson: Robert Huffman
  - Secretary: Diane Huffman
  - Member: Kim Williams
  - Member: Danny Younger
  - Township Liaison: Chantel Wilder
- HistoricalCommission@mstowship.com , x203

A replica of the foot of the Mastodon can usually be found at the township building, but will be on loan at the Monroe County Public Library from March until May. Also, look for more information coming soon about the May Mastodon Madness Scavenger Hunt. To close out the year and celebrate their accomplishments, the Historical Committee held a holiday luncheon at the township building on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>. At this event the historical marker was unveiled and made the front page of the Pocono Record.

Even with the New Year here, remember that you can still see the historical map of the county donated this past year by Mal and Marge Law, of the Pocono Indian Museum, on display at the township building. There are also 2016 Middle Smithfield historical calendars still available for a suggested donation of \$3, which include historical photos of the township, important meeting and event dates and all federal holidays.



## MST in the Zone-ing

Judy Acosta, Zoning Administration

2015 was a busy and productive year for the Zoning Office. The most widely advertised and anticipated item was the adoption of the new Sign Ordinance. The Zoning Office will be working hard over the next few months to ensure all commercial property owners, as well as the business owners, receive information on the revised Sign Ordinance and its impact on their signage. An inventory will be taken of all signs along the commercial corridor in an effort to clean up the community of non-permitted signs.

The Zoning Office also had a big year for enforcement and property clean up. Many property owners worked with the Zoning Office to bring their property into compliance in 2015. At the same time, the township moved forward on a project that resulted in the demolition of four dilapidated single family dwellings that were both unsightly and unsafe. The Zoning Office is happy to work with all HOAs and POAs in identifying unsafe structures and ensuring the safety of MST residents.

The Economic Development Committee is also working with the Zoning Office to bring information to local realtors that will assist them in filling the vacant properties both in the commercial and residential districts. By making it clear as to what type of business or dwelling can exist on a specific parcel, the property owner or realtor can target a specific audience for either a sale or a rental. This joint effort looks to improve the community overall.

Not sure if you need a permit? The Zoning Office is here to assist you daily so please feel free to contact the Zoning Office with any questions or concerns you may have.

### Zoning Office:

- Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer: Shawn McGlynn, SFM Consulting, LLC [zoning@mstownship.com](mailto:zoning@mstownship.com) • 570-223-8920, x126
- Zoning Administration: Judy Acosta [jacosta@mstownship.com](mailto:jacosta@mstownship.com) • 570-223-8920 x128

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[www.TandMassociates.com/](http://www.TandMassociates.com/)

## Planning Commission– 2015 Year in Review

Michele Clewell, Planning Commission Liaison

With a new year, there are new ideas.

The Middle Smithfield Township Planning Commission expects to work closely with the Board of Supervisors and the Zoning Department in 2016. The expectation is to revise the SALDO (Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance), which has not been revised in 20 years) as well as a comprehensive review of the current zoning ordinance. (see zoning article above)

2015 saw several concept plans as well as subdivision plans and sewage planning modules. The Planning Commission also worked with the Supervisors, Zoning Department and the Economic Development Committee on the passage of the LERTA as well as the Sign Ordinance.

The main focus of the Planning Commission has been reviewing and making recommendations to the Board of Supervisors about planning within the township.

# AARP

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Volunteers  
Tax –Aide: Serving Taxpayers

## Free Tax Help!

For taxpayers with low and middle income,  
with special attention to those age 60 & up

At the Middle Smithfield Township Building,  
Tuesdays, 9am-12noon  
February 5<sup>th</sup> to April 11<sup>th</sup>

## New Year, New Parks

from The Parks and Recreation Committee,

*Abigail Graham, Chairperson;*

*Michelle Dellavalle & Jenna Componovo, Board Members*

2015 was a busy year for MST Parks and Recreation with the opening of two brand new township parks. At its new location on Leroy's Lane, the relocated Dog Park remains the township's most-visited park. Expanded parking and improved features such as higher fences, a walking path and available water have brought lots of new pups out to play and hopefully more in 2016. In addition, Eagle Scout candidate from Boy Scout Troop 87, Dustin Diaz, will be constructing a reflecting area and flag pole at the Dog Park this Spring.

The newest park that was developed in 2015 was the new MST Community Gardens Park on Coolbaugh Road, which brought residents together in a shared love of gardening as well as community outreach, and rivaled the Dog Park in activity and attendance. The committee was especially happy to share in the excitement of one gardener, Chauly Younger, who won the MST 2015 Person of the Year award (see article on pages 4 and 5). Chauly was recognized for her work and dedication in supporting the Bushkill Outreach as part of the "Grow a Row" participation introduced by Parks Board Member Michelle Dellavalle, the lead coordinator for the Community Gardens Park. This program encourages gardeners to donate one row of the produce they grow to local food banks, and this year the committee hopes to "grow" their gardeners' donations. Another Eagle Scout candidate from Boy Scout Troop 83, James Senholzi, is in the midst of constructing a storage shed for all of the garden tools.

At Resica Falls Park, 2015 saw new flower beds and improvements to the nature trail, thanks to volunteers from East Stroudsburg Little League Softball and Girl Scout Troop 50691.

Echo Lake Park was enhanced by the addition of a scenic, nine-hole disc golf course located around the perimeter of the park. Echo Lake Park also celebrated the addition of a beautiful Veterans Memorial, thanks to the efforts of local Eagle Scout Candidate Joe Schuon of Boy Scout Troop 87. Look for announcements on the date of the dedication ceremony in 2016.

Looking ahead into 2016 the Parks and Recreation Committee is planning to support active lifestyles through the addition of playground and fitness at Echo Lake Park and playground equipment at the new Community Garden thanks to the efforts of Parks Board Vice Chair Jenna Componovo. With a population of almost 16,000 residents and national obesity rates on the rise for both adults and children, such equipment will help to provide clean, safe and fun places for residents to congregate, foster community, and build a sense of wellness and love for physical activity.

Residents can also look forward to the return of popular events such as the 10th year of the township's annual Egg Hunt in March, Trunk or Treat in October and the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Tree Lighting in December. These events were a huge success in 2015 and the committee looks forward to making them even better in the year to come.

Come out and play with MST Parks and Recreation in 2016!

## National Geographic in Middle Smithfield Township

The Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau is working the Middle Smithfield Township on a GeoTourism project that will launch in May. We are asking local residents to share their favorite locations, activities and events with us. It's easy simple and fun and a great way to share our community with others. Just go to <http://delawareriver.natgeotourism.com/> and follow the directions.

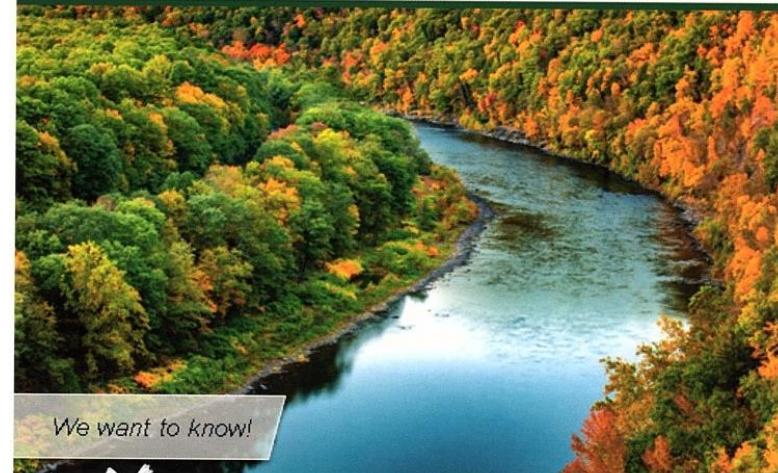
**CARL WILGUS**

**Economic Development Committee Member  
President / CEO, Pocono Mountains Visitors  
Bureau**

**570-421-5791**



What's so special about your place?



We want to know!

National Geographic is creating a map of the Scenic, Wild Delaware River's unique local businesses and attractions.

You are invited to nominate your favorite places of interest, local businesses, events, music, stories, etc. to be included on the map! It's FREE to be on the map and your nomination will help to tell the story of the region to travelers.

To nominate, visit:

**DelawareRiver.NatGeotourism.com**

**For further information, assistance, or questions contact:**

John Beljean, [jbeljean@npca.org](mailto:jbeljean@npca.org), 570-460-4468  
Oliver Spellman, [ospellman@npca.org](mailto:ospellman@npca.org), 212-244-6085

Photo: Shutterstock, Image 326761055 - Upper Delaware River

### Parks & Recreation Committee:

- Chairperson: Abigail Graham
- Vice Chairperson: Michelle Dellavalle
- Lead Coordinator of Resica Park: Jaime Frailey
- Lead Coordinator of Echo Lake Park: Jeff Reichl
- Lead Coordinator of the Dog Park: Abigail Graham
- Township Liaison: Christopher Rain  
[Parks&Recreation@msttownship.com](mailto:Parks&Recreation@msttownship.com), x201

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## *Thank You*

to the independent panel of judges  
who made the difficult decision of  
choosing the 2015 Person of the Year!

- Pastor Jeff Brower, Middle Smithfield Presbyterian Church
- Dr. Matthew Connell, Dean of the Northampton Community College Monroe Campus
- Laura Law, 2014 MST Person of the Year
- Dr. Jeffrey A. Weber, Dean at East Stroudsburg University
- Wayne Witowski, editor, Pocono Record

Read their bios at [www.mstPersonOfTheYear.com](http://www.mstPersonOfTheYear.com)

*Flip to page 4 for more!*



**Tree-cycle**  
your Christmas Tree

Drop your Christmas Tree off at  
the Oak Grove Multi-Municipal  
Compost Processing facility  
anytime from 7am-2pm  
everyday except Sunday.  
[Ogmmcpb.com](http://Ogmmcpb.com)

