



MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWS

WINTER 2017



Resica Falls in Middle Smithfield Township
by Steven Natiello

CONGRATULATIONS 2016

PERSON OF THE YEAR:

KATE NEWMAN

AND TWO FINALISTS:

AL COMPOLY JR.

AND

ANDY ZASO



THE WEIGHT IS OVER:

From Flab to Fab this Valentine's Day!

Let RetroFitness sweeten your gym membership.
See page 5 for details or call Brittany at 570-426-9000

MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWS

WHAT'S GOIN ON

January

1/26 "Preview of 2017" presentation by Board of Supervisors

April

4/1 Homeowners Association Networking Meeting
4/7 Golf Course Opens (March 31st weather permitting)
4/8 10th Annual Eggstravaganza
4/24 Leaf Collection Begins (until 5/19)
4/29 Litter Cleanup "1,000 Feet of Street" at a time
4/29 Eat Local – Restaurant Week until 5/7

May

5/5–5/6 Clean up and Freecycle
5/11–5/13 Freecycle
5/16 Primary Election

July

7/13 MID YEAR REPORT

August

8/19 Memory Makers

September

9/9 Homeowners Association Networking Meeting
9/30 Litter Cleanup "1,000 Feet of Street" at a time

October

10/11 Fossil Day: Marshall's Creek Mastodon
10/13–10/14 Clean up and Freecycle
10/19–10/21 Freecycle
10/21 4th Annual Trunk or Treat
10/23 Fall Leaf Pickup Begins through 11/10

November

11/7 Election Day
11/17 Person of the Year & Volunteer Banquet
11/20 Shop Local Discount Cards available
11/25 5th annual Tree Lighting

December

12/7 Presentation of the 2018 Budget to the Public
12/16 Wreaths Across America

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POCONO CHRISTMAS JARS

Albert Compoly Jr, 2016 Person of the Year finalist

In addition to his service for Operation Chillout, Al Compoly also organizes PoconoChristmasJars.com. The Christmas Jar tradition is based on the 2005 New York Times bestselling novel by Jason Wright. Simply put, get a jar, put all your spare change in it over the year, and the week before Christmas, give it to someone in need, anonymously. Leave the jar on their front step, on their car, on their office desk.

Each Thanksgiving weekend, Al's display is out in front of his house on Lower Lakeview Drive, with free empty jars and instructions for folks to pick up. You can find out more by visiting his website, PoconoChristmasJars.com.

The final Christmas Jar Count for 2016 is 164 Jars given out breaking last year's count of 130 Jars.





A WORD FROM YOUR TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

Mike Dwyer, Mark Oney, and Annette Atkinson

We hope you've all enjoyed your holidays. We welcome the New Year with both its promise and its challenges. We love a New Year; it is always exciting – it's a fresh start, full of opportunity to make a positive difference in our community.

Your committees and township staff worked hard to put together plans and goals for the upcoming year; we invite you to come see and hear for yourself, and provide your input on what's in store for your township for 2017. If you weren't able to join us for our annual presentation to the public "Preview of the Year Ahead: 2017" on January 26th, please check our website for it, or call us.



COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

Parks & Recreation Board

6:30pm | 1st Monday of Every Month

Golf Course Committee

8:30am | 2nd & 4th Monday of Every Month

Economic Development Committee

6:30pm | 2nd Monday of Every Month

Oak Grove Multi-Municipal Composting Board

Call for Schedule

Regional Parks at Smithfield Township

7:45pm | 3rd Monday of Every Month

Historical Commission

9am | 1st Wednesday of Every Month

Board of Supervisors Meeting

7pm | 2nd & 4th Thursday of Every Month

Planning Commission

5:30pm | 3rd Thursday of Every Month

Middle Smithfield Township Administrative Office

147 Municipal Drive East Stroudsburg, PA 18302

570-223-8920 | info@mstowship.com

MiddleSmithfieldTownship.com

Middle Smithfield Township Board of Supervisors

Annette Atkinson | Chairperson | x124

Michael Dwyer | Vice Chairman | x123

Mark Oney | Supervisor | x125

Middle Smithfield Township Staff

Michele Clewell | Township Secretary Human

Resources Director & Assistant Administrative Director

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Joan Woisin | Sewer Department Manager

Open Records & Right to Know Officer

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Dave Manter | On Lot Sewage Enforcement Officer

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Shawn McGlynn | Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer

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Judith Acosta | Zoning Administrator

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Chantel Wilder | Director of First Impressions

& Historical Commission Liaison

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Christopher Rain | Community & Municipal Projects

Coordinator, Parks & Rec Liasion, Banquet Hall Liaison

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Holly Freese | Community & Municipal Projects

Coordinator, Golf Committee & Homeowners

Association Liaison

hfreese@mstowship.com | x132

Patrice Dume | Economic Development Manager

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Robert Rengifo | Municipal Projects Assistant

Economic Development Liaison

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Kevin Dixon | Country Club of the Poconos

Pro Shop Manager

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Chairpersons

Ray White | Golf Advisory Committee | x205

golfadvisorycommittee@mstowship.com

Jenna Componovo | Parks & Rec | x201

parksandrecreation@mstowship.com

Jenna Componovo | Litter & Beautification | x202

litter&beautification@mstowship.com

Carrie Wetherbee | Historical Commission | x203

HistoricalCommission@mstowship.com

Gina Bertucci | Economic Development | x204

EconomicDevelopmentCommittee@mstowship.com

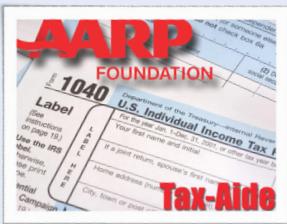
FINANCE: TREASURER'S NOTE

Treasurer, Supervisor: Mike Dwyer | Budget & Finance, Manager: Ray Wolfe



WREATH WINNER

"Patrice Dume, MST's Economic Development Manager, delivers free hand decorated wreath from Richards Tree Farm to James Kintz, one winner in the annual Shop Local Discount Card wreath giveaway. Also, a four person pass to White Lightning Snow Tubing at Fernwood went to the Pellegrini family. We thank everyone that participated in our Shop Local promotion; 2016 was its most successful year yet -- and we hope to make 2017 even better!"



FREE TAX HELP

Free tax help will be provided by AARP at the Middle Smithfield Township building every Tuesday from 9 am- noon from February 7 to April 11. The AARP provides free tax help to low and moderate income taxpayers, especially those 60 and older. For more information call 570-223-8920.

2017: NEW YEAR BUT NO NEW MUNICIPAL TAXES

The 2017 Annual Budget was adopted by the Board of Supervisors, on December 22, 2016. The 2017 Budget does not include an increase in taxes, in sewer fees, or in other charges.

General Fund income for 2017 is projected to be higher than 2016, due to the continued growth of our local economy and our expectation that we will be awarded State and Local Grant Funds. For the last 2 years, we have seen personal income rise and we are confident that there will be commercial development occurring in 2017. Prospects for commercial and industrial development and improvement to occur in 2017 are very good. More and more Developers are meeting with our Planning Commission, such as AutoZone, RetroFitness, and others. While some of the prior sources of income have diminished, other increases more than offset these changes.

The 2017 Budget reflects the township's vision to continue to improve our infrastructure, such as roads and sewer, as well as amenities, such as parks, litter control, and beautification. We expect to invest in our sewer system, by continuing to make capital improvements, look for cost-savings wherever possible, and provide the needed services that our residents and businesses have come to rely on. Capital improvement plans, in sewer, roads, parks, and other assets, are now performed

annually, as opposed to when there is a crisis or emergency repair.

In 2016, every budget category (General, Sewer, Liquid Fuels, and Golf) will conclude the year within the budget established in 2015. At year-end 2016, we expect to have increased reserves because of the stringent fiscal policies that are maintained each year. These positive results continue to be confirmed by the annual audits of all accounts, by certified public accountants. And let's not forget the improved credit rating by Standard and Poor's this year!

The budget for 2017 reflects our continued aggressive efforts to apply for and receive Grants. While State Grants have been redlined by the Governor, other Grants continue to become available and we aggressively apply for these funds.

Once again, we appreciate all of our residents and business owners that contribute to the success of our township.

Over the last 5 years, Middle Smithfield Township has undoubtedly become a model township for our residents, business owners, and visitors. Our fiscal policies, our eagerness to work with all businesses, and our resident-friendly approach has made, and will continue to make, Middle Smithfield Township the best place to live, work and play throughout the Poconos and the Commonwealth.

TRUWATTS REDUCE YOUR ELECTRIC CONSUMPTION BY 11% - GUARANTEED!

Energy Optimization For The Home: Basic Power will introduce new product in 2017. In light of Met Ed's electricity increase, AND these sub-freezing winter temperatures, who wouldn't like to painlessly reduce their energy consumption to save money? AND get a discount on the equipment! Basic Power, a green-tech manufacturing company founded by a Middle Smithfield Township resident and inventor, is based in Marshalls Creek and has announced that they will introduce new

residential energy conservation technology in 2017 under the trademark TRUWATTS.

The TRUWATTS unit will provide energy conservation by creating efficiencies throughout the AC electrical system within the home and correcting common power quality issues such as over and under voltage supplied by the utility, transient voltage "spikes" originating from either the utility or from electrical equipment within the home, harmonic distortions caused by switching

power supplies in battery chargers and LED lights and phase imbalance.

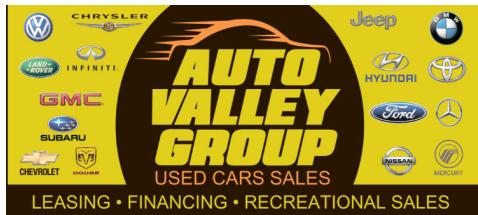
This unit can filter and correct anomalies within the electrical system and store the recovered power which is then made available to all the electrical equipment within the home. The result is optimized power quality and reduced energy consumption with the additional benefit of whole home surge suppression and lightning suppression. The unit is expected to retail for an affordable

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Economic Development Manager | Patrice Dume Vice Chairperson | Carrie E. Wetherbee Secretary | Carl Wilgus
Members | Beverly Brown, Joe Memoli Chairperson | Gina Bertucci EDC Liaison: Robert Rengifo - rrengifo@msttownship.com

AUTO VALLEY GROUP COMING SOON!

By Lev Sigalov, General Manager



Our experience in the auto industry will change the way you look at purchasing vehicles! We focus on local government sales, private estate sales, private lien releases, bank repossessions, and private national auction sales. We have the ability to connect you to the new vehicle of your choice with our lease to own option. This brand new lease has a no money down option, with delivery service available to make your purchase a painless experience. We are at our new location 5126 Milford Road, East Stroudsburg, (across from McDonalds). We hope to meet our community, one person at a time. By working closely together, our strong referral program will make sure you, your family, or business get more than "just a vehicle". Our dedicated staff is here to answer any questions, and private appointments can be arranged at any time! We hope to see you at our Grand Opening, we promise you will be entertained! Stay tuned for the date and time!



Shop Local 2016 surpassed the prior three years in participation, both by residents and businesses. Patrice Dume, Economic Development Manager with Michael Ulrich, Chester's Chicken General Manager. Says Michael " We are proud to pair with mstShopLocal, as it's a great opportunity for our township, and our business!" Michael is looking forward to mstEatLocal, and Restaurant Week 2017.

THE WAIT IS OVER RETRO FITNESS IS COMING SOON



The highly anticipated Retro Fitness is expected to open their doors in early 2017. The new Retro Fitness will be located at 900 Business Drive, East Stroudsburg (right across the parking lot from Perkins. Eat a muffin, get rid of a muffin-top all in the same trip!). The facility will cover 18,400+ sq ft and will feature free weights, weight systems, over 65 pieces of cardio machines and much more! The Marshalls Creek Retro Fitness will also include a plethora of group classes such as Zumba and circuit training.

The facility will be offering tanning and child care services for their customers. You can check out the Marshalls Creek Preview Center at the Retro Fitness location in Stroudsburg (1121 N. 9th St., Stroudsburg, PA 18360). In fact you can buy your membership there now, and transfer it to Marshall's Creek when they open here! Take a sneak peek of what's coming to our community.

\$299, making the time it takes to break-even with the cost of the unit and installation versus electricity bill savings very reasonable.

Basic Power is also developing a transient surge suppression unit to protect residential cable and internet service and equipment from lightning and utility voltage spikes.

Basic Power is located at 120 Marshalls Creek Road and can be contacted at 570 872 9666.

The TRUWATTS unit, about the size of a toaster, reduces electricity consumption by 11% (guaranteed.)

And, the Marshall's Creek company will give all Middle Smithfield Township residents and businesses a 10% discount!

Order and install now!



PUBLIC WORKS

Mike Dwyer | **Public Works Director, Supervisor**

Karen Stapleton | **Public Works Department Administrator**

kstapleton@mstowship.com | 570-223-8920 x118

2017 ROAD IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE

In 2017, we are considering the following improvements.

MARJORIE COURT

Pave

COOLBAUGH ROAD FROM

402 TO TEGO LAKE ROAD

Pave and intersection realignment safety project

COLD SPRINGS ROAD

Pave

RESERVOIR ROAD

Tar and chip

TIMOTHY LAKE ROAD

Tar and chip

RIVER ROAD

Tar and chip

PAVING THE WAY

As we are still in the midst of Winter, your Public Works Department is doing a great job in keeping our roads as clear as possible. Plowing and spreading material on snow and ice covered roads is our primary concern during the Winter. When there is a break in the weather, drainage-ways are cleared and overgrowth is trimmed, as well as many other aspects of maintaining our township.

Winter also allows for planning our Spring, Summer and Fall projects. Road repairs and paving take precedence and we continue to achieve our goal of 10% of the township roads paved and or repaired each year. We look to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) to repair and pave State roads which, for Middle Smithfield, is primarily Milford Road (Route 209). Although PennDOT assured us that the entire stretch of road, from the new round-about in Smithfield Township to the Lehman Township line would be paved in 2016, we remain hopeful that PennDOT won't forget about us, again, in 2017.

While PennDOT is certainly busy in the western part of the County, paving and repaving roads, we have to imagine at some point they will mobilize onto Route 209. Even though we have heard some indication that the Route 209 paving will be stalled off for another few years, we can't imagine that a project that was planned and is "still being designed" would be delayed much longer.

PUT SNOW IN ITS PLACE

The wintry weather has arrived. Don't be caught out in the cold holding a ticket for illegal snow removal. Under section 138-7 of the Township Code, it is unlawful to throw, shovel or otherwise move, pile or dump snow or ice removed from sidewalks, driveways or other areas onto any public road. Violation of the ordinance shall result in a fine of \$50.00.

Please cooperate with our hard-working Public Works Department as they work tirelessly to combat the hazards of snow and/or ice on the Township's public roads.

OAK GROVE & RECYCLING

www.ogmmcpb.com

Chairperson | Mike Dwyer

2016 was a very busy year for the Oak Grove Multi Municipal Compost Processing Board, which processed 11,651 yards of material over the year! A little less than half of that was brush, a little less than half was leaves, and about 10% was wood chips. The material is turned into free mulch and compost for your garden. In fact, Oak Grove took in enough material to mulch and compost over 27 acres of gardens!



WE CLEANED UP IN 2016:

Middle Smithfield Township's 2016 Spring/Fall Clean Ups were a huge success. We collected: 63 pallets of electronics, 28 tons of scrap metal, 333 tires, 839 lbs. of batteries and enough donated Freecycle items to fill our 40' by 70' garage -- TWICE.

ADOPT A ROAD IN 2017!

The Adopt A Road program organizes litter-hating individuals, families, companies and organizations who pick litter up from their 2 mile stretch of adopted road at least twice a year. The township marks these adopted roads with a sign at the beginning and end with the adopter's name. The Township owns 74 miles of road, among these and over half of our roads have been adopted. We are working on the other half! If you are interested in the Adopt-A-Road program, please contact Christopher Rain at 570-223-8920, x119.

SNOW PLOWING PRIORITIES

Public safety is the top priority of the Middle Smithfield Township's snow and ice policy. We are committed to providing residents and visitors a safe winter travel experience while protecting our environment through the responsible use of various road treatment materials.

Township staff is responsible for keeping 74 lane miles of streets clear of snow and ice. We are also responsible for clearing snow from the sewer plants and pump stations, and our municipal buildings.

Motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists must remember that winter conditions mean slower going. You need to allow additional time to travel to your destination and, motorists should allow more distance to stop.

SALT AND USAGE

As an effort to protect groundwater and our lakes the Middle Smithfield Township limits the amount of salt that is applied to its streets. Only main arterials, thoroughfares, and main connector streets are salted. All other Middle Smithfield Township streets receive clearlane or cinder depending upon precipitation type (i.e. freezing rain, snow, sleet) to act as an abrasive on hills, intersections and curves.



SNOW PLOW FAQS

Q: What streets are plowed whenever it snows?

A: For any snow event, our number one goal is to keep main routes in good winter driving condition. Side roads and buildings are our second priority.

Q: I only have on-street parking. Why do you always plow snow against my car?

A: Even though there are cars parked on the street, the plows must clear the traffic lanes of each of the streets. The snow is plowed to the right to where the curb is. Unfortunately for those people who park on the street, the snow is plowed up against the cars. That is why we ask that all cars try to find off street parking whenever possible.

Q: What does it mean when it is declared a State of Emergency?

A: When snow or other precipitation continues for an extended period of time, and snow plowing extends for many hours, a State of Emergency is approved by the Board of Supervisors. During a State of Emergency, only medical, fire and police are permitted on the roadways, along with snow removal operations.

Q: Will the snow plow ever completely clear my residential street down to bare pavement?

A: No! It is not the goal of the Township's Snow and Ice Policy to have all streets clear down to bare pavement.

Q: How long will it take to finish plowing all the streets?

A: Once a general plow of all 74 lane miles of streets begins, it usually takes between 10 and 12 hours to complete under good conditions; but every storm is different.

Q: How do I report that the snow plows missed my street?

A: Stay indoors and call or email Middle Smithfield Township offices.

Q: What can I do about snow plows that block my driveway with snow?

A: This is an unfortunate side effect of plowing all streets in the Township that can be minimized if the resident shovels their snow and places it on the left of their driveway (as you face the house). All snow must be plowed to the curb and as a result driveways get blocked with the wet, heavy snow from the plow. It is the property owner's responsibility to clear the snow from the bottom of the driveway. Snow should not be shoveled back into the street; fines will be levied to those that shovel snow into the street.

PARKS & RECREATION

Director: Mike Dwyer

Chairperson: Jenna Componovo

Lead Coordinator, Dog Park: Danielle Cloward

Lead Coordinator, Community Gardens Park: Michelle Dellavalle

Lead Coordinator, Judy Putek Park: Dan Timpson

Lead Coordinator, Resica Park: Jamie Frailey

Liaison: Christopher Rain - crain@mstownship.com

WINTER IS HERE

This winter, the MST Dog Park at 108 Leroys Lane features an ice rink! The MST Parks & Recreation Committee is excited to add a temporary ice rink to its park amenities for the first time this winter.

The ice rink is located in the Small Dog Area of the Dog Park and will be in place from December to February. It will be removed in March (date TBD) when it gets too warm to freeze the water. The Small Dog Area is reserved for skaters while the ice rink is in place. The Large Dog Area will remain open to dogs of all sizes for the winter and the Small Dog Area will reopen to dogs after the ice rink is disassembled.

Why put an ice rink at the Dog Park? The MST Dog Park is the perfect place to test this new amenity for the first time because of its convenient location along Milford Road, easy access to parking and electricity, and a pre-existing fence which is needed for safety. Also, because our Dog Park was built with two enclosed spaces, we can use the Small Dog Area for the ice rink and still have the Large Dog Area open to dogs over the winter.

The ice rink is open daily during daylight hours, weather permitting. Skaters must provide their own equipment and use the ice rink at their own risk. MST does not provide maintenance to its parks over the winter. Skaters must clear the ice of any snow before use. All park rules still apply.

The Dog Park is located at 108 Leroys Lane along Milford Rd. (Rt. 209) just south of the National Park entrance. It is open to the general public every day from sunrise to sunset. For more information about MST parks, please contact the Parks Department at 570-223-8920 x119 or Parks&Recreation@mstownship.com.

*“Thanks for this
great ice rink
this winter season”*
- Jessica Faught



Photo by Pocono Photo Club Vice President Eric Goins

4TH ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING

On Saturday November 26, MST held its 4th Annual Tree Lighting event at the pavilion at Echo Lake Park. Attendees were treated to a free commemorative candle, a program, and complimentary hot cocoa provided by the Bushkill Group. Holiday music was provided by the East Stroudsburg High School North Chorale and East Stroudsburg High School South Band who entertained the crowd at 5:30 until Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived at the park to light the tree and visit with the children. The Claus's transport was the Marshalls Creek Fire Department, with traffic control courtesy of our Constables. Each child who visited with the Clauses was able to have their picture taken, tell Santa what they wanted for Christmas, and got a candy cane from Mrs. Claus.

Turnout to the event was higher than ever, with an estimated 500+ people in attendance. Attendees also brought donations for Toys for Tots and non-perishable food for the Bushkill Outreach Food Pantry; two organizations that help share the cheer for families in need every holiday season and throughout the year.

The Board of Supervisors and the Parks and Recreation Committee would like to thank the Bushkill Group, Katye Clogg and Keith LaBar and the High School musical ensembles, the Pocono Photo Club, Marshalls Creek Fire Department, township constables Steven Billeck and Howard Kindred, and the Bushkill Emergency Corps for volunteering to participate at the event and make it such a great success.

For more information about MST parks, please contact the Parks Department at 570-223-8920 x119 or Parks&Recreation@mstownship.com.

NEW SWINGS

The playground at Echo Lake Park continues to expand! After the installation of the very popular new playground at Echo Lake Park in the spring, some parents asked that we improve the area by adding some swings for big kids. The week of December 5, this request was granted! A set of two swings has been added to the park and is ready for the enjoyment of our Township's more than 3000 children once it gets warm! The playground at Echo Lake Park was installed and opened in spring 2016 and includes a tricycle path, a slide, a swing set for toddlers, and a fitness circuit. The new swing set was installed by BYO Recreation, a first class made-in-the-USA company providing safe commercial equipment, as well as installation that is ADA compliant. For more information about MST parks, please contact the Parks Department at 570-223-8920 x119 or Parks&Recreation@mstownship.com.

EVENTS FOR 2017

The Parks & Recreation Committee is pleased to announce the dates of its 2017 community events! 2016's events saw more than 1,600 attendees and two road cleanups had nearly 300 volunteers. We hope to make these events even better in 2017! Event dates may be subject to change, or may have a rain date to be announced later. All events are FREE to attend.

Saturday 4/8 10th Annual Eggstravaganza

Saturday 4/29 Spring Litter cleanup 1000 Feet of Street

Saturday 9/30 Fall Litter cleanup 1000 Feet of Street

Saturday 10/21 4th Annual Trunk or Treat

Saturday 11/25 5th Annual Tree Lighting



All winter bird photography in this newsletter is courtesy of Middle Smithfield Historical Commission member Kim Williams.



Photo by Pocono Photo Club Vice President Eric Goins



Left: Resident Jessica Faught posted this photo to our Facebook page and says 'Thanks for this great ice rink this winter season!'

Right: Young resident Masyn Peschel skates like a pro at the new ice rink at the Bark Park at Leroys Lane.



Michael T. Straw contributed this photo of a scene on Frutchey Road.



Susan Kulick of Echo Lake Photography contributed this photo of Hidden Lake Park

ZONING

Judith Acosta | **Zoning Department Administrator**

jacosta@msttownship.com | 570-223-8920 x128

Shawn McGlynn | **Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer**

zoning@msttownship.com | 570-223-8920 x126

JUST SAY NO:

Courtesy of the Pennsylvania Township News magazine

To Comply with State Laws, Township Supervisors Sometimes Have to Make Unpopular Decisions

Wal-Mart is coming to town and wants to build its new store near your neighborhood. The township supervisors should just say no. A pig farmer wants to set up shop down the road from your new dream home. The township supervisors should just say no.

A local businessman wants to open an adult bookstore a few doors away from your church. The township supervisors should just say no.

It's that easy, right? Well, not really. When making land use decisions, township supervisors must comply with a handful of state laws, including the granddaddy of them all, the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, which was enacted in 1968 to guide local officials as they develop their communities.

And while the MPC, the courts, and the legislature have given township supervisors a certain amount of latitude and flexibility in making local land use decisions, they have been very firm about one thing: Townships with zoning ordinances must allow for every use. In

other words, townships must set aside land for such necessary things as homes and businesses and such controversial things as landfills and cell phone towers. And no matter how much residents may protest, township supervisors have very few options when faced with an unpopular use: If the applicant complies with state and local laws, the township must allow it.

"Township residents may not want an adult bookstore or a hog farm in their community, but the courts have determined that these are legitimate uses," says Elam Herr, assistant executive director of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors. "So unless a township wants to wind up in court, spending valuable tax dollars because it sidestepped a state law, it can't ban or say no to these businesses. The supervisors' hands are tied."

"Sometimes, that's difficult for residents to understand," he adds, "but townships must follow state and federal laws like anyone else or face the consequences."



DOG ORDINANCE

The recent adoption of our Dog Ordinance has caused quite a stir and many questions have been received by the Zoning Office. This ordinance was adopted to address two main concerns of the community; dogs running at large and continuous or excessive barking.

In a nutshell, dog owners or those in custody of the dog must have complete control of the dog when on any public highway, street, alley, park or any other public land, or upon property of another person other than the owner. Dog owners must also not allow their dog to continuously or excessively bark, yelp, howl (or other similar offensive noise) for extended period of time.

The complete ordinance is available on our site www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com or at the township building by request.



SIGN ORDINANCE

The Township Supervisors are hard at work to create a more shopper-friendly and productive business corridor along route 209 in Middle Smithfield Township. To that end, the Zoning Office is also hard at work to create a complete sign inventory of all permitted signs. And, while doing so we are also cracking down on illegal or non-permitted signs.

Lawn signs and banners for advertising special events are permitted under the sign ordinance but they do require a permit and must follow the guidelines set forth. We encourage all business owners to contact the Zoning Office with any questions they have regarding signs and to obtain a special event sign permit for advertising prior to placement of their signs.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Chairman | Bob Early **Vice Chairman** | Parin Shah

Members | Wayne Bolt, Carrie Wetherbee, Dr. William W. Suriano, Mark Oney

Engineer | Gilmore & Associates **PE Solicitor** | **Solicitor Firm**:

Weitzmann, Weitzmann, and Huffman **Recording Secretary** | Michele Clewell

Alternate Member | Carrie Wetherbee

TAKING THE ALTERNATE ROUTE:

Zoning Hearing Board and Planning Commission Seek Alternate Members

In October of 2015, the state amended the Municipal Planning Code to allow the governing body to appoint residents of the municipality to serve as alternate members of the municipal planning commission. In 2016, Middle Smithfield Township began the process to provide for alternate members for the Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Board, and is now seeking alternates! To apply, just email mclewell@mstownship.com.

The addition of Section 203 to the Municipal Planning Code, allows the governing body to appoint, by resolution, at least one, but no more than three, residents of the municipality to serve as alternate members of the planning commission for a term of four years. The alternate resident member would be permitted to participate in all proceedings and discussions of the commission to the same extent as other members and would have the right to vote when designated as a voting alternate member. Alternate members to the township planning commission substitute for any absent commission members, for members needing to recuse themselves, or

any member that may have been disqualified. The Planning Commission meets the third Thursday of every month at 5:30pm.

Likewise, Middle Smithfield seeks alternates for the Zoning Hearing Board as well, as allowed by Section 903(b) of the Municipal Planning Code. The Zoning Hearing Board holds meetings on the second Tuesday of every month at 4:30pm when there are hearings, and workshops at 6:30pm when there are no hearings scheduled. Hearings are held on an as-needed basis to hear and render decisions on appeals from the determination of the Zoning Officer. Hearings are also held for applications for variances, and applications for special use and challenges to the substantive validity of ordinances.

Similar to the Planning Commission alternates, Zoning Hearing Board alternates participate when the zoning hearing board is unable to obtain a quorum due to absence or disqualification of a member. The term of an alternate is three years. Once alternates have been appointed, and if a quorum cannot be achieved, the chairman of the zoning hearing

board is authorized to designate as many alternative members as necessary to reach a quorum. For instance, if a three-member board has only one regular member available, the chairman must designate one alternate to reach a quorum of two. Designation of alternates must be made on a case-by-case basis in rotation according to declining seniority among all alternates. Once seated, the alternate shall continue to serve on the board in all proceedings involving the case until the zoning hearing board makes a decision.

Even if an alternate has not been designated by the chairman as a voting alternate in a given case, the alternate may participate in any discussion or proceeding of the zoning hearing board. However, the alternate may not vote unless designated and seated as a voting alternate. This experience as a non-voting alternate can provide valuable training for a new alternate or regular members of the Zoning Hearing Board. To learn more, visit the Governor's Center for Local Government Services online.

SEWER

Joan Woisin | **Sewer Department**
Manager | jwoisin@mstownship.com
570-223-892 x115

2016 was a good year for the Sewer Department, which remains in good financial health. Sewer fund expenses are primarily Operating Costs and Debt Service.

You might remember in 2014, the Sewer Department was reorganized, and the 20 year old EDU schedule recreated. In 2014 and 2015, in response to sewer users input, the Board of Supervisors discussed small incremental annual rate adjustments: cost of living adjustments (COLA) or Cost of Inflation increases for our sewer fees of a

continued on Page 12

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR 2016

PUMP STATION #7 AT MCCOLE AND NORTHPARK

Completed by end of December

FERNWOOD WWTP UV SYSTEM AT THE FERNWOOD PLANT

to be installed in January

STEEL BRIDGE PUMP STATION IN WINONA LAKES

Contracts signed; plans being reviewed

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANS FOR 2017

REHABILITATION OF PUMP STATION #1

Influent Tank at Fernwood Treatment Plant

UPGRADES TO PUMP STATIONS:

Pump Station 3: McCole and Route 209/Milford Road

Pump Station 4: Maple Lane

Pump Station 5: Route 209 & Municipal Drive (Jug handle)

Pump Station 8: Lake of the Pines Pump Station

GOLF

Golf Committee Liaison | Holly Freese | 570-223-8920 x132
Chairman | Ray White
Vice Chair | Craig Weatherbee
Secretary | Mike Sweeney
Members | John Smith, Don Henry
Member and Pro Shop Manager | Kevin Dixon | 570-223-8099

continue from Sewer Page 11

minimum increase of 2.5% per year, rather than have to have an assessment to cover the cost of a major repair, or have to raise rates more dramatically (as happened in 2014, because rates remained stagnant for periods as long as 14 years, although electricity was deregulated, cost of chemicals rose, etc. and maintenance was deferred indefinitely.)

HOWEVER, based on operational efficiencies experienced in 2015 and 2016 and better than expected collections of past due amounts, a sewer fee increase is not anticipated in 2017, and there will be a healthy fund balance. This is also due, in large part because of our sewer customers! We very much appreciate our sewer customers, who have become responsible users of the system. THANK YOU!

As you will note in the 2016 budget, much of this healthy fund balance was and is needed to fund capital improvements that are desperately needed and long overdue for our aging sewer system.

WE'RE ALL FOR THE COMMUNITY!

We are proud to support the many charitable organizations in our neighborhood, and we are proud to donate our time and facilities to help good folks fundraise. Need funds for your organization? Give us a call and let's talk about a golf outing.

Some of the charitable fundraisers of 2016:

- Tall Cedars (to benefit military veterans)
- Pocono Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center
- Boy Scouts of America
- Mady's Angels
- St. John's Knights of Columbus
- Juvenile Diabetes
- The Marshalls Creek Fire Company

See you in the spring! The golf course will be open March 31st weather permitting!



GOLF

For the past 5 years the golf course has continued to grow and 2016 was no exception. The course performed better than anticipated in 2016 we are hoping to improve even more next year. We continue to monitor expenses while increasing revenue. Despite drought conditions this summer the course remained in great shape and continues to be one of the Poconos brightest gems.

Just because its winter doesn't mean you can't think about golf. Get ready for the season now, and buy a 2017 membership for Country Club of the Poconos Municipal Golf Course.

Some of the benefits you'll get when you join at CCP golf, along with the best golf value in the Poconos are:

- Full access to the course & clubhouse facilities
- Unlimited play any day—includes greens fees and handicap fees
- Member locker room facilities
- Preferred and advanced tee times
- Members only golf outings and special events
- Discounted greens fees for guests
- Pro-shop discounts
- And more....

Our new convenient monthly payment plans over the 8 month season means your golf membership costs around \$85 a month. For an extra \$15 a month, get your spouse a membership too! (If you prefer to pay all at once, it's \$850 for singles / \$1,050 for couples.)

For more membership information and how to join call 570-223-8099

or visit

www.ccppagolf.com

BANQUET HALL NOW TAKING RESERVATIONS FOR 2017

The beautiful Whispering Pines banquet hall is now taking reservations for all your golf outing, charitable, or private party needs in 2017!

Our dining room area 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 150. The smaller room is perfect as a breakout room or smaller dinner needs with seating for up to 30. Each room is equipped with a TV for your audio/visual needs.

A completely equipped commercial kitchen includes china place settings, silverware and glassware for your use. The bar area can seat 26 and is ready to supply your favorite beverage.

Please call Chris Rain at 570-223-8920 x119 or email crain@mstowship.com for availability and costs. Allowable charities may receive a discounted price. Let us help you make your next event special.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

So far for 2017, charity/community events include:

- Boy Scout Troop 86 Crossover Ceremony
- Bushkill Outreach Tricky Tray
- Cub Scout Pack 100 Annual Dinner
- NCNW Tea Party
- Delta Sigma Theta Scholarship Fundraiser
- Tall Cedars Golf Tournament (Vet Stock)
- Living Waters Church Red Cross Fundraiser
- Mady's Angels Golf Tournament
- Marshalls Creek FD Golf Fundraiser

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Carrie Wetherbee | **Vice Chairperson:** Robert Huffman

Secretary: Diane Huffman | **Member:** Kim Williams | **Member:** Marie Summa

Chantel Wilder | **Historical Commission Liaison** | cwilder@mstowship.com | 570-223-892 x100

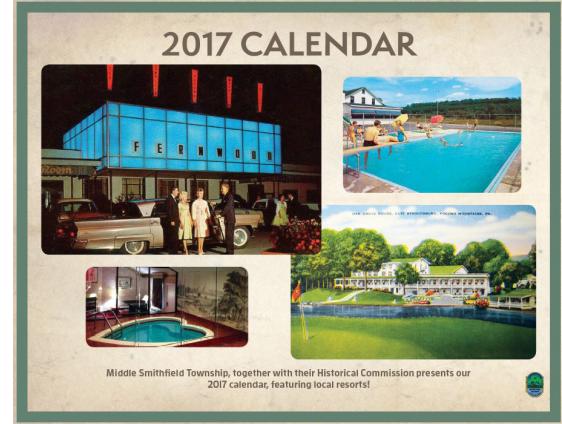
2017 LOOKING AHEAD

The Historical Commission is excited for 2017 and has set their goals high! The Commission is settling on a theme for this summer's Memory Makers that will be on August 19th (time and location is still pending). They are also working hard to complete the Township Marker program. The State has its own Museum and Historical Commission criteria and program to issue state markers; however, there are many historical sites within our township that are historically important to Middle Smithfield. Once the Township Supervisors approve the criteria, the Historical Commission can present and nominate candidates for township markers. For example, some sites for consideration are the Middle Smithfield Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Pocono Indian Museum/Coolbaugh Mansion, and Wesley Chapel. More sites are being considered and the Historical Commission members are excited that some of these historical sites will be marked in 2017. If you would like to propose a site or sponsor a township marker, give us a call at 570-223-8920.

HISTORICAL 2016

2016 was an exciting year for the Historical Commission! Last summer's Memory Makers event was at Pocono Palace and the theme focused on historical events of local resorts and inns; Dr. Lawrence Squeri was the guest speaker and his presentation captured the historic essence of several resorts that brought back many memories for attending guests. The Historical Commission had their official unveiling of the Mastodon Historical Marker last fall on Fossil

Day, October 12th. The dedication honored the Marshall's Creek Mastodon remains that were first discovered by John W. Leap, his wife Claire Leap and his employee Paul Strausser on July 5th 1968. At Thanksgiving, the Historical Commission released their 2017 Calendar; the theme focused on Middle Smithfield Township's historical resorts and Inns. Please contact our office today to see if we have any left!



About The 2016

Person of the Year



On November 18th Father Gregory Reichlen, a member of the independent panel of judges that selected the three 2016 Person of the Year finalists, announced the Middle Smithfield 2016 Person of the Year: Kate Newman, representing Bushkill Outreach. The awards were announced during the annual 2016 Person of the Year and Volunteer Appreciation Banquet on November 18th at the Whispering Pines Banquet Hall. Newman has been a dedicated volunteer at Bushkill Outreach for the past 17 years. She has recently retired and will continue following her passion for helping others by traveling to Kenya for mission work.

Newman received a check for \$2,000 that will go to the Bushkill Outreach, the local food pantry that provides many other services as well. The two finalists were recognized and both received \$750

KATE NEWMAN

Kate Newman lives in Bushkill with her husband Pete and daughter Emily and enjoys having her son Matt and his wife Ashley nearby. Following a strong call of God on her life to serve, she has spent the last 17 years as a volunteer at the Bushkill Outreach community food pantry. Recently retiring from the work at the Outreach, she has plans to travel to Budalangi, Kenya in 2017 to live and work at a small orphanage and school, with initial efforts focusing on clean water.

to go towards their cause. Al Compoly Jr. was recognized for his work with Operation Chillout, helping homeless veterans and Andy Zaso, for his work with Mady's Kitchen and the St. John's Seniors group.

Keep an eye out through the year for information the township will publish about upcoming events for each organization! For more information on the award, please visit www.mstPersonOfTheYear.com The independent panel of judges were: Father Gregory Reichlen of the Church of St. John, Laura Law from Mady's Angels and 2014 Person of the Year, Michelle Cacko a 2015 Person of the Year finalist, Brianna Strunk from WBRE/WYOU and Geoffrey Roche from Pocono Medical Center.

A word FOR our sponsors: THANK YOU!





AL COMPOLY JR.

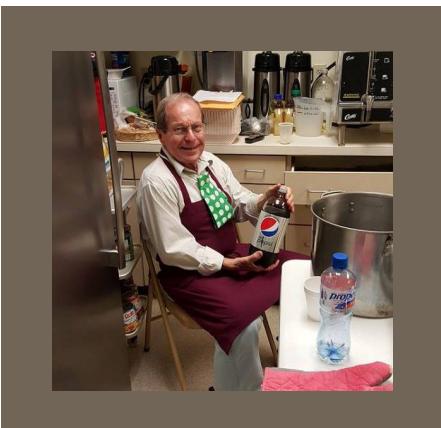
After graduating Freehold Regional High School in Freehold, NJ in 1968, Al enlisted in the United States Air Force. After basic training at Lackland Air Force base in San-Antonio Texas, Al proceeded to Chanute Air Force base in Champaign County, Illinois where he trained to be an aircraft Environmental systems repairman. After separating from the Service in 1975, Al attended Brookdale Community College and Trenton State College. After earning his BA in Art Therapy, Al was hired at Marlboro State Psychiatric Hospital, a 900 bed facility, where he conducted Art Therapy sessions for the residents of the hospital. Al became the Director of Rehabilitation for the facility, overseeing 10 separate departments. After the Hospital closed in 1998, Al was transferred to the Greenbrook Developmental Center in Greenbrook NJ as the Supervisor of Recreation. After about a year, Al continued to serve the State of NJ as administrator of a program for sexually violent predators, writing policies and procedures for this new facility in conjunction with the Department of Corrections.

Al became the Chief Executive Officer for the Woodbridge Child Diagnostic and Treatment Center in Woodbridge NJ. The facility was operated by the Division of Youth and Family Services and provided emergency treatment and housing for troubled youth.

After a busy and fulfilling career, Al retired and moved to Pennsylvania, to enjoy the Pocono Mountains!

ANDY ZASO

Andy Zaso is a retired teacher from Brooklyn Technical H.S. and from his Printing Business on Canal Street in Manhattan. Volunteering started with printing a monthly newspaper with articles and photos of what the youth of Ozone Park, Queens could get involved in. Eventually, he became head of CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) and PAL (Police Athletic League) helping underprivileged children and youth. His four sons were also active in Baseball, Football, Swimming and Scouts. Andy shopped and cooked for community breakfasts, dinners, picnics, etc. that everyone was invited to. When Andy and his family moved to the Poconos, it was already a part of their life to volunteer at St. John's Church, the Senior Clubs, Mady's Angels, the Italian Mutual Benefit Association and the Veteran's Affairs. The money he receives will be donated to Mady's Angels because of the incredible work they do in the community and their spirit of generosity to all.



The Volunteer Appreciation Banquet for 150 of the township's committee, commission and board members and volunteers was made possible by the generosity of our sponsors, and we wanted to take a moment to thank them:



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Gold:
Bushkill Group
Local Business (Fernwood
Golf, Pocono Tree
VenturesWhite Lightning
Snowtubing, Blue
Lightning Tubing)



Silver:
SFM Consulting
(Township Zoning
Officer, Sheeley Insurance
(Township Insurance)
Superheat



Bronze:
Gilmore & Associates
Inc (Township Engineer)
Alura
Matergia and Dunn
(Zoning Hearing Board
Solicitor)
T&M Associates



Slate:
Our local businesses: Blue
Ridge Winery
The Big A Grillehouse
Tom X Pub
Pub 570
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THANK YOU TO ALL OUR 2016 SPONSORS:

EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Golden Egg: **Bushkill Group**
Silver Eggs: **Miggy's Deli Corp**
Essa Bank

1000 FEET OF STREET, SPRING AND FALL

Chester Chicken: Lunch for all volunteers

RESTAURANT WEEK KICKOFF:

Big A Grillehouse
Werry's
Miggy's Deli & Mini Market
Tom X Pub
Pub 570
Wintergreen's Bar & Grill
Royal Asian Buffet
Blue Ridge Estate Vineyard & Winery

MEMORY MAKERS

Perkins: Sponsored Centerpieces and
provided free pancake breakfast
Wendy's: Sponsored Centerpieces and
provided free frosty's

TRUNK OR TREAT

Golden Pumpkin: **Bushkill Group**
Silver Pumpkins: **Miggy's Deli Corp**
Silver Pumpkin: **Wayne Bank**
Bronze Pumpkin: **PNC Bank**
Slate Level: **Pocono Indian Museum**
Slate Level: **Starting Gate Ski Shop**

TREE LIGHTING

Richards Tree Farm: **Free Wreath**
White Lightening Snow Tubing: **Family
Fun Pack**



Smithfield Beach by Susan Kulick of Echo Lake Photography