



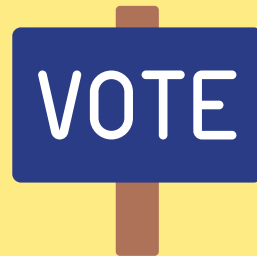
MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWS

SPRING 2023

SIGN OF THE TIMES- POLITICAL SIGNS

With elections just around the corner it's time to talk politics, the politics of political signs that is.

Signs will be popping up around the township in support of local candidates.



Residents can help keep the township beautiful during election season by understanding and following the rules for Political Signs in section 090-130(11) of the Middle Smithfield Township Zoning Ordinance as follows.

Political Signs:

Political signs are permitted in all districts, provided that:

- No political sign shall be displayed more than 15 days after the election or vote to which the sign pertains.
- A political sign shall not be posted on Township property (e.g. township parks, township building, or golf course), except as may be allowed outside of a polling place on Election Day.
- The maximum sign size shall be 16 square feet on each of two sides. Any larger sign shall be regulated as an off-premise sign (such as a billboard)
- A political sign for any candidate or issue shall not be located within 100 feet of any other sign for the same candidate on the same lot that is readable from the same street.

Signs on Public Property

A sign posted on Township property or within a public street right-of-way without governmental permission may be removed and discarded. This applies to ALL signs.

Signs on Private Property

No person shall post a sign upon private property without permission from the property owner. A sign posted on private property without permission of the property owner may be removed and discarded by the property owner or his/her designee.

Applications for Political Sign Permits are available through the Zoning Office. If you are running for office or represent a campaign, please contact the Zoning Office for an application or you can find one on our website at www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com.

VOTING DISTRICTS & POLLING PLACES:

Middle Smithfield East

The polling place for residents living east of Route 402 (the Eastern District) is the **Middle Smithfield Township Community and Cultural Center** located on Route 209.

Middle Smithfield Community Center

5200 Milford Road

East Stroudsburg, PA 18302

Handicap Accessible: Yes

Middle Smithfield West

The polling place for residents living west of Route 402 (the Western District) is the **Middle Smithfield Township Municipal Building** located at 147 Municipal Drive.

Middle Smithfield Municipal Building

147 Municipal Drive

East Stroudsburg, PA 18302

Three miles north of Marshalls Creek

Handicap Accessible: Yes

District maps and important election dates
can be found at
www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com/212/voting



- **HELP US IMPROVE OUR TOWNSHIP'S PARKS! SURVEY ON PAGE 12.**
- **MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TO "REVITALIZE 209" WITH GRANT PROGRAM AND COMMITTEE. MORE ON PAGE 6!**

Monroe Lake, captured by James Robert Furiosi

MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWS

Special thanks
to Holly Dennis,
the Graphic Designer
for this newsletter!



Check and Plaque presentation to Person of the Year Finalists. From Left to right: Jacob Pride from State Representative Maureen Madden's Office, Annette Atkinson, Township Supervisor, Erin DeRosa from State Representative Tara Probst's office, April Niver from Congressman Matt Cartwright's office, Mark Oney, Township Supervisor, Wayne Bolt, 2022 Person of the Year, David Brown, finalist, Debra Kulick, Finalist, Sharon Laverdure, Monroe County Commissioner, Mackenzie Strunk, from Senator Rosemary Brown's office, Mike Dwyer, Township Supervisor.

A WORD FROM YOUR TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

If the last few years have taught us anything at all – it’s appreciating the people in your life. Your Board of Supervisors fully agree, and appreciates all of our residents, businesses, and especially our Committee and Commission Members, and all the volunteers. As township supervisors, we realize there are so many people around us that share in our pride in the community.

Our lives are easier because someone is serving. Someone is investing in the community.

The Supervisors know this. Our questions were -- "Are we thanking them? Are we expressing our gratitude? How can we make the invisible volunteers visible, and shine a light on their causes?"

So, our Person of the Year and Volunteer Appreciation Banquet was created to celebrate all the unsung heroes, and recognize the organizations, causes and efforts of our involved citizens.

A decade ago, all of us set out together to build a sense of community within our township, something that binds us together, and now, at the heart of our community, is the Community & Cultural Center – a space for good people to come together, to do good work together for the common good.

Gratefully,
Your Board of Supervisors,
Annette Atkinson, Mike Dwyer, Mark Oney

COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

<u>Board of Supervisors</u>	<u>Historical Commission</u>
2nd & 4th Thursday every month 7 pm	1st Thursday every month 9:00 am
<u>Parks & Recreation Committee</u>	<u>Planning Commission</u>
1st Monday every month 6:30 pm	4th Thursday every month 5:30 pm
<u>Golf Course Advisory Committee</u>	<u>Zoning Hearing Board</u>
2nd Monday every month 8:30 am	Call for schedule 570-223-8920 x126
<u>Oak Grove Composting Facility Board</u>	<u>Economic Development Committee</u>
Call for schedule 570-223-8920 x142	3rd Monday every month 5:30 pm

*More upcoming events can be found on committee pages!

Middle Smithfield Township Administrative Office
147 Municipal Drive East Stroudsburg, PA 18302
570-223-8920 | info@mstownship.com
MiddleSmithfieldTownship.com

Middle Smithfield Township Board of Supervisors
Annette Atkinson | Chairperson | x124
Mark Oney | Vice Chairman | x125
Michael Dwyer | Supervisor | x123

Middle Smithfield Township Staff

Michele Clewell | Township Secretary, Human Resources
Director & Assistant Administrative Director
mclewell@mstownship.com | x112

Joan Woisin | Sewer Department Manager
jwoisin@mstownship.com | x115

On Lot Sewage Enforcement Officer | x128

Bonnie Winters | Budget & Finance Manager
bwinters@mstownship.com | x131

Rachel Heller | Public Works Administrator, Oak Grove, &
Emergency Management Coordinator
rheller@mstownship.com | x142

Judy Acosta | Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer
jacosta@mstownship.com | x128

Mayra Colon | Zoning Administrator
mcolon@mstownship.com | x126

Vicki Smith | Zoning Clerk & Planning Administrator
vsmith@mstownship.com | x105

Kylie Medrano | Director of First Impressions
recept@mstownship.com | x100

Holly Dennis | Community & Municipal Projects Coordinator,
Community & Cultural Center Manager,
Historical Commission, Banquet Hall Rentals
hdennis@mstownship.com | x132

Christopher Rain | Community & Municipal Projects Coordinator,
Parks & Rec, Litter & Beautification & Right to Know Officer
crain@mstownship.com | x119

James Brechbiel | Economic Development Manager
jbrechbiel@mstownship.com | x130

Todd Brown | Country Club of the Poconos Pro Shop Manager
tbrown@mstownship.com | 570-223-8099

Committee Chairs

Jaime Smith | Parks & Rec | x201
parksandrecreation@mstownship.com
Carrie Weatherbee | Historical Commission | x203
HistoricalCommission@mstownship.com
Joe Memoli | Economic Development | x204
EconomicDevelopmentCommittee@mstownship.com
Josephine Ferro | Zoning Hearing Board | x112
Craig Weatherbee | Golf Advisory Committee | x204
ccpgolf@mstownship.com
Bob Early | Planning Commission | x112
vsmith@mstownship.com

WHAT'S GOING ON:

April

4/17: Spring 2023 Leaf Collection Begins
4/22: 1000 Feet of Street – Spring Litter Clean Up
4/27-4/29: Township Spring Clean Up & Freecycle, 7 am – 2 pm
4/30: 2nd Quarter Sewer Bill Due

May

5/4-5/6: Spring Freecycle
5/6: Beekeeping Demonstration at
Community Gardens Park, 9:30 am
5/12: Spring 2023 Leaf Collection Ends
5/16: Primary Election Day (Office Closed)
5/20: Free Dog Training at W. Leroy Lewis Dog Park, 11 am
5/29: Memorial Day (Office Closed)

June

6/3: Beekeeping Demonstration at
Community Gardens Park, 9:30 am
6/26: Anniversary of Marshalls Creek Explosion & State
Historical Marker Dedication at Regina Farms, Noon

July

7/4: Independence Day (Office Closed)
7/13: Supervisors Meeting & Mid-Year Presentation, 7 pm
7/15 : Free Dog Training at W. Leroy Lewis Dog Park, 11 am
7/15: 3rd Annual Community Day at Echo Lake Park, 12 pm
7/31: 3rd Quarter Sewer Bill Due

August

8/19: 17th Annual Memory Makers Luncheon at
Community & Cultural Center, Noon- 4 pm

September

9/4: Labor Day (Office Closed)
9/16: Free Dog Training at W. Leroy Lewis Dog Park, 11 am
9/21: New Resident Meet & Greet at
Community & Cultural Center, 6pm- 8pm
9/30: 1000 Feet of Street – Fall Litter Clean Up

October

10/13 & 10/14: Township Fall Clean Up, 7 am – 2 pm
10/16: Fall 2023 Leaf Collection Begins
10/21: 10th Annual Trunk or Treat at Resica Park, 12 pm
10/31: 4th Quarter Sewer Bill Due

November

11/7: General Election Day (Office Closed)
11/11: Veteran's Day (office closed 11/10)
11/23: Thanksgiving Day (Office Closed)
11/24: Shop Local Now Through 1/2/2024
11/25: 11th Annual Tree Lighting at Echo Lake Park, 6 pm

December

12/5: Supervisors Meeting, Presentation of the Budget
& End of Year Review, 7 pm
12/8: Fall 2023 Leaf Collection Ends
12/25: Christmas Day (Office Closed)
12/31: New Years Eve

2022 PERSON OF THE YEAR UPDATE:



Wayne Bolt
2022 Person of the Year
ESU Foundation, Pocono Mountains United Way

CALLING ALL GOLFERS! ESU Foundation is looking for golfers for the 32nd Annual Educational Scholarship Golf Classic. More info on page 24!



David S. Brown
2022 Person of the Year Finalist
Greater Pocono Section, National Council of Negro Women

Greater Pocono NCNW will be hosting a Mental Health Forum on Multi-Generational Trauma on May 20th at the Middle Smithfield Township Community and Cultural Center for Mental Health Awareness Month.



Debbie Kulick
2022 Person of the Year Finalist
Bushkill Emergency Corps, Pocono Mountains United Way

It's subscription time for Bushkill Emergency Corps!! Read more on page 19

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BUDGET & FINANCE

Treasurer, Supervisor: Mike Dwyer
Budget & Finance Manager: Bonnie Winters

Want input on how your municipal tax dollars are spent? **Turn to page 12 to take a short Parks Survey.** The results will guide the township’s allocation of resources, and your input will help determine and prioritize parks improvements.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Chairman: Bob Early | **Vice Chair:** Parin Shah
Members: Wayne Bolt, Mark Oney, Nick Theofilos
Alternate: Carrie Wetherbee
Engineer: Benjamin Kutz, Gilmore & Associates
Solicitor: Deborah L. Huffman- Weitzmann, Weitzmann and Huffman
Recording Secretary: Vicki Smith

BUDGET AND FINANCE UPDATE: DOLLARS & SENSE

By Bonnie Winters

The Township continues to be good stewards of the township budget, and the outlook for 2023 remains positive (check out our website for the budget and finance presentation made in December of 2022)

In the financial landscape, we continue to see real estate transfers up (i.e., property sales), however, they are slowing down a bit. As the job market rose, we saw our receipt of earned income tax go up too, and that has slowed a bit as well. All of this bodes well for the financial health of the township going into 2023.

We are improving the operational efficiency of the township with the introduction and adoption of a new time and attendance payroll system for our employees. This automated system will increase data integrity, by reducing human errors, and allow the Budget and Finance Manager to devote time and expertise in more valuable areas (like grant writing assistance). This system will increase efficiency by allowing managers more time to work at their department’s core goals rather than time spent on payroll administration

Meanwhile, employees will have 24/7 access to their payroll and paid time off information, and be able to manage time easily (no more paper forms!) Our auditors will love this system for its integrity, employees and managers will love it for convenience, and taxpayers will love it for saving time (aka money).

THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT!

Who doesn’t want to save on electricity bills nowadays? Especially if you are paying a commercial rate. Great news! Middle Smithfield Township successfully applied for a Local Share Account grant for solar panels for the Community & Cultural Center in the amount of \$80,000, with \$20,000 in matching funds from the Township. Once the Township was awarded the LSA grant, the Township then successfully applied for a Keystone Grant in the amount of \$80,000. That’s \$160,000 in grant funds, with \$20,000 in Township funds, for a solar project that will significantly decrease the operating costs of the Community & Cultural Center, and likewise, the Library of the Smithfields housed within.

What is unique about these grant awards is that usually, grants are used for purchases for items to complete a project, or capital improvements – rarely is there an opportunity for grant funding to decrease annual operating costs. “In a sense, the grant will keep on giving, as we keep on saving with this operational efficiency – we will see a significant savings in electric bills not just when the grant project is completed and solar panels are installed, but every year after that, for the lifetime of the panels” said Annette Atkinson, Township Supervisor.

With electric costs currently approximately \$20,000 a year for the building (and constantly rising), even

Our projects have been Granted!

We are fortunate that outside agencies also see the value in our projects, and believe in them too. What Budget and Finance Manager doesn’t love the cost of projects being shared by other agencies, stretching the municipal tax dollars further! Just to mention a few:

- \$160,000 in total from the Monroe County Local Share Account and the Keystone Grant for Solar Panels for the Community & Cultural Center (see below)
- \$25,000 Healing the Planet Grant for Echo Lake Park (see page 13)
- \$20,000 from the Pocono Mountain Visitors Bureau for an information and interactive kiosk at the Community & Cultural Center (see page 11)
- \$10,000 from the Pocono Mountain Visitors Bureau for a Veterans Memorial at the Community & Cultural Center (see page 11)
- \$7,800 Monroe County Open Space Grant for Echo Lake Park (see page 13)
- \$5,000 for the Community Gardens Park to refurbish hardscapes and raised garden beds. (see page 13)
- \$2,500 from One Percent for Nature for Echo Lake Park(see page 13)
- \$500 microgrant from Pocono Arts Council for the Great Hall at the Community and Cultural Center

Add to that hundreds of thousands in project grants for Public Works over the last two years! (stay tuned for more!)

a 75% reduction would result in reaping 19 times the amount of the Township’s initial investment in energy savings, over the expected lifetime of the panels.

The Board of Supervisors sincerely thanks all the elected officials, including our Congressman and County Commissioners that supported both state grant applications, but especially our State Representatives resulting in a winning outcome for all using state funds: Senator Rosemary Brown, State Representative Maureen Madden, State Representative Tara Probst.

Stay tuned for our progress!

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

By: Vicki Smith

A Planning Commission is a body of citizens that serve within local government, acting as an advisory group to the Board of Supervisors on issues and policies related to planning, land use regulation, and community development. The Planning Commission acts as citizen planners and works to develop plans and implement policies that affect how their community manages changes in growth and development.



The Planning Commission plays a crucial role in shaping the future of the community. Considering the future of the community and developing plans to guide growth and development is both complex and time consuming. While the Planning Commission acts in an advisory role, they represent the community at large. The Planning Commission should be unbiased regarding requests and proposals and consider the overall impact on the community as a whole.

It is common for planning commissions to regularly receive development plan proposals for review and recommendation. While the Planning Commission is tasked with administering subdivision and land development regulations, commissions should look beyond adopted requirements and make suggestions on other ways to improve what is being proposed.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

By: Vicki Smith

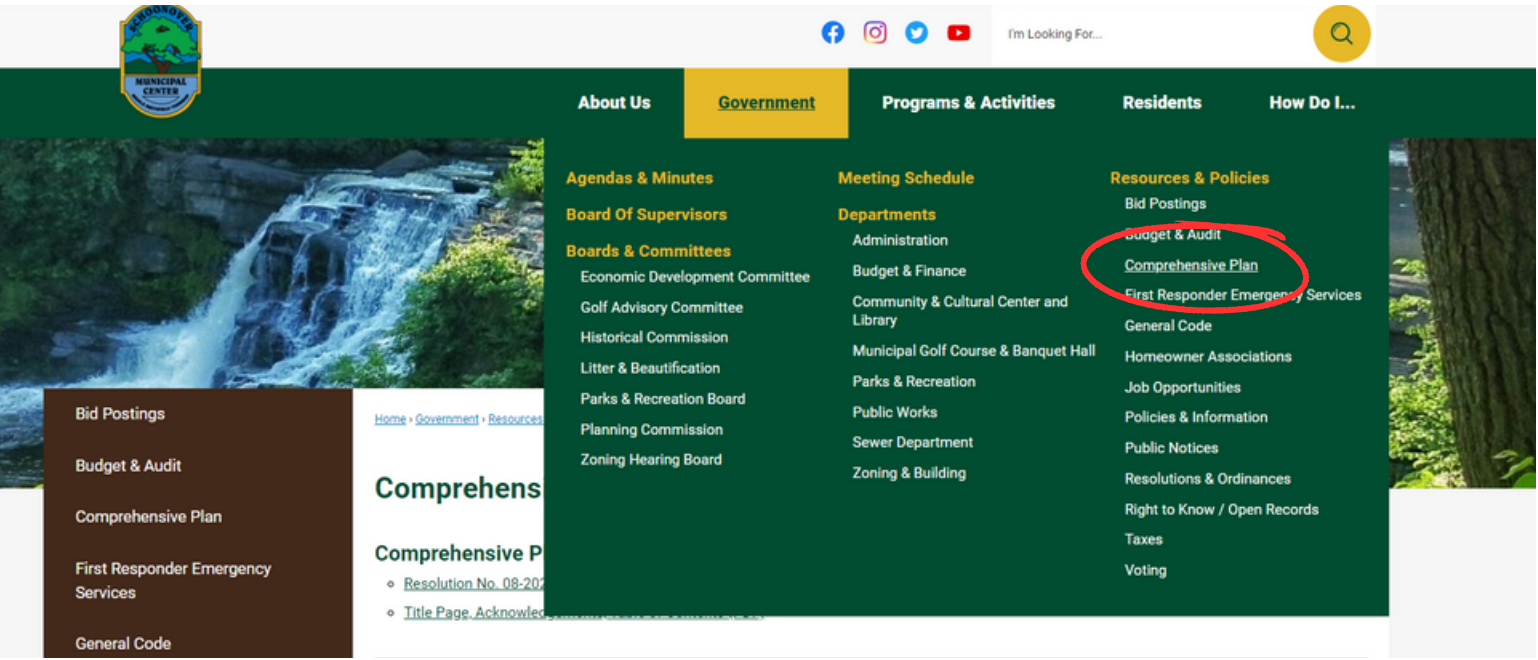
The Steering Committee focused on revitalizing, energizing, enhancing, improving the Route 209 corridor and suggested ways to promote improved design standards for all areas of the Township. (Check out “Revitalize 209” on page 6).

On January 27, 2022, the Board of Supervisors adopted the Comprehensive Plan.

On July 15, 2022, a draft of part 2 of the Comprehensive Plan Update was mailed to the surrounding townships, Monroe County Planning Commission and the East Stroudsburg Area School District for comments. This update took a hard look at Appendix B: the land use, community facilities, utilities and transportation & circulation.

On September 8, 2022, the Board of Supervisors adopted the Comprehensive Plan Update 2022 (#2) as an update to the previously adopted Comprehensive Plan on January 27, 2022.

FIND THE
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
ON OUR NEW WEBSITE
OR USING THE QR CODE!



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Joe Memoli | Vice Chair: Jared Acosta | Secretary: Tom Marchesani
Members: Beverly Brown, Gina Bertucci, Ed Regina, Deborah Emin | Manager: James Brechbiel

MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TO “REVITALIZE 209” WITH GRANT PROGRAM

By James Brechbiel

Middle Smithfield Township established its own matching grant program to foster \$750,000 of property improvements along its six-mile stretch of Milford Road, aka Route 209.

The grant will fund projects that are visible from 209 to improve building facades, curb appeal, and safety; project size is up to \$20,000 in cost, with the Revitalize 209 grant and the applicant each providing \$10,000 to fund the project. (the resolutions can be found on the township’s website at bit.ly/Revitalize209GRANT). The township’s portion of the total funds (\$375,000) was made possible by the American Rescue Plan Act.

The grant will be administered by an ad hoc advisory committee that may be comprised of members of the township’s Planning Commission, Economic Development and Historical Committees, and members of the public.

“The 209 Revitalization Grant Program offers business owners the opportunity to promote the time-honored proven practice, ‘An inviting appearance invites customers,” said Joe Memoli, Chair of the Economic Development Committee.



BEFORE



Why Revitalize 209?

“We recently updated the township’s Comprehensive Plan, based on a survey of all our residents“ said Mark Oney, Township Supervisor, Planning and Zoning Director, “and our residents made very clear the importance of a thriving, well maintained thoroughfare. Streetscaping is certainly worth our time and effort.”

For Middle Smithfield Township, dubbed the “Gateway to the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area”, Milford Road aka Route 209 serves as the main artery of the township, which sees more than 18,000 trips every day connecting tourists and residents with businesses, schools, parks and recreation, and houses of worship. Scores of tourists all year round frequent of the 4 golf courses, ski areas, and 4 parks (including one of the first dog parks in the county) along and just off of the 6 mile stretch of Route 209.

Continued on page 26.



AFTER

NEEDED: MEMBERS FOR “REVITALIZE 209” GRANT COMMITTEE

By James Brechbiel

There’s a newly formed “Ad Hoc Revitalize 209 Grant Committee”! Per the ad hoc “Revitalize 209 Committee” resolution, up to two members each of the township’s Planning Commission, Economic Development Committee and Historical Committee may be selected, and up to 4 members of the public may be selected. The Committee will administer the grant and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors, starting this spring.

If anyone is interested in becoming a member of this committee, please email a letter of interest to James Brechbiel at jbrechbiel@mstownship.com. He can be reached at 570-223-8920, x130.

Continued on page 26.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE

At the May 11th Board of Supervisors Meeting, the Supervisors will hold two public hearings, one regarding the Nuisance Alarm Ordinance (see page 19) and one regarding the proposed Township Property Maintenance Ordinance, as a less restrictive alternative to the International Public Maintenance Code, to establish regulations for the maintenance of properties within the township, and providing for remedial action by the township in specified situations, and prescribing penalties for code violations. The proposed Property Maintenance Code defines minimum health and safety requirements for buildings, structures, and/or properties to be safe, sound, sanitary and secure and not present a health and/or safety hazard to surrounding properties or to the general populace.

The Proposed Ordinance can be viewed on our website: bit.ly/Property-Maintenance

TRACTOR SUPPLY POISED TO SPRING DOORS OPEN THIS MAY

By James Brechbiel

The wait is almost over as The Tractor Supply Co. store in Middle Smithfield eyes a grand opening date for May of this year.

With over 2,000 locations nationwide, Tractor Supply is the largest rural lifestyle retail chain store in the United States, selling agriculture, lawn care, home improvement, livestock, pet care, and garden maintenance products.

At over 22,329 sq. ft., the new location will add upwards of 25 members to its team.

A project by Hix Snedeker Companies LLC, Tractor Supply will be the fourth installment to the business community behind AutoZone, The Dollar General, and the Apartments at Mt. Nebo who chose Middle Smithfield Township due to the great advantages of its Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Act (LERTA) program.

“Tractor Supply has specific criteria a property must meet in order for them to build a store,” says Ashley Diaz, the Development Coordinator with the Hix Snedeker Company. “We had presented several sites in the area to them. The LERTA program was a driving factor in this decision, and ultimately pushed this property ahead of the others.”

Residents can expect a soft opening within a few weeks and dates for the grand opening will be announced shortly. Stay tuned.

Tractor Supply
(615) 440-4600
www.facebook.com/TractorSupplyCo
5133 Milford Rd. (next to McDonald’s).

At the Monroe County Courthouse after the successfully approved LERTA application for Tractor Supply. Left to right (Vicki Smith (MST Zoning Clerk and Planning Administrator), Ashley Diaz (Development Coordinator with Hix Snedeker Company), Mayra Colon (MST Zoning Administrator), and James Brechbiel (MST Economic Development Manager).



The new Tractor Supply at 5133 Milford Rd. (next to McDonald’s). Opening set for May 2023!



WELCOME POCONO KIDZ ZONE

By James Brechbiel

Stop in and meet Andrea Palmieri, owner and operator of Pocono Kidz Zone in Middle Smithfield Township.

A school teacher by trade, Andrea sought a new venture when moving to the area that would combine her love for the craft and the desire to offer something no one else had; a unique play space for kids of all ages and abilities.

“This space is important to our community because it is a space where kids of all ages can find something they enjoy; whether it be S.T.E.M Activities, Music Classes, Ceramic Painting or just a regular Open Play Session, we know we will have something for just about everyone” says Palmieri.

“We love what we do because we love seeing children from the community playing, socializing and spending time together engaging in activities that do not involve screen time. If you haven’t checked us out yet, come on in!”

Pocono Kidz Zone
(929) 293-9877
www.poconokidzzone.com
www.facebook.com/poconokidz
247 Fox Run Ln.
(between Mignosi’s Super Foodtown and The Big A).



Andrea Palmieri, Owner of Pocono Kidz Zone, located at 247 Fox Run Ln. between Foodtown and the Big A.

WHAT IS LERTA?

By James Brechbiel

With LERTA, taxing authorities (County, Municipal, and School District) can grant abatements on improvements to business properties in designated zones (In Middle Smithfield, the C1 and C2 commercial zones, and the Industrial Zone). The base taxes (i.e., the annual taxes the business is already paying) would still be due on time and in full every year, but the additional taxes based on the increased assessed value of the property would be phased in over 5 years (0% the first year, 20% the second year, 40% the third year, and each year increasing by 20% until 100% of the taxes are realized in year 6).

The LERTA program is what brought Tractor Supply to Middle Smithfield Township.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Joe Memoli | Vice Chair: Jared Acosta | Secretary: Tom Marchesani
Members: Beverly Brown, Gina Bertucci, Ed Regina, Deborah Emin | Manager: James Brechbiel

FIND SOMETHING YOU LOVE AT FADED LACE

By James Brechbiel

Over the winter, Middle Smithfield Township welcomed Faded Lace to the business community with their grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony.

Looking to offer something the Township had been missing, owner Heather Gallia embarked upon a women’s clothing boutique experience that would help inspire confidence and empowerment for those who shop.

“Faded Lace is built around style and beauty to celebrate and empower an inclusive community where every woman can have the confidence to be her true self,” says Gallia. “Fashion isn’t just fun; it should inspire confidence and help empower women to feel great.”

Gallia is looking forward to the spring line coming and can’t wait to welcome new customers. “I love what I do because it’s never the same and I enjoy seeing the happiness when people find something they love!”

Faded Lace
(570) 980-2545
www.fadedlace.net
www.facebook.com/fadedlaceboutique
4543 Milford Rd. in The Crossings at Marshalls Creek Shopping Center (between ICue Cigar Lounge and AT&T).



ART EXHIBIT: FLOWERS EVERYWHERE!

Join us for an opening reception of Tricia Lippert's May Art Exhibit "Flowers Everywhere" on May 4th, 5pm- 7 pm at the Community and Cultural Center. The display will be up for the entire month of May!

Faded Lace
BOUTIQUE



owner Heather Gallia and EDC Manager James Brechbiel at the ribbon cutting

MI CASA ES TU CASA OFFERS PUERTO RICAN FLARE TO THE DINING COMMUNITY

By James Brechbiel

The fare in Middle Smithfield keeps getting better with the addition of Mi Casas Es Tu Casa; a family owned and operated venture that combines the passion of Puerto Rican fare with the love of community.

Owner, Grisel Vega, has been cooking her whole life and wanted to take her passion for authentic Puerto Rican cuisine and share it with others.

“The diversity of Latin food is important. We have Mexican, Columbian, and now we can offer Puerto Rican food to the community,” says Vega.

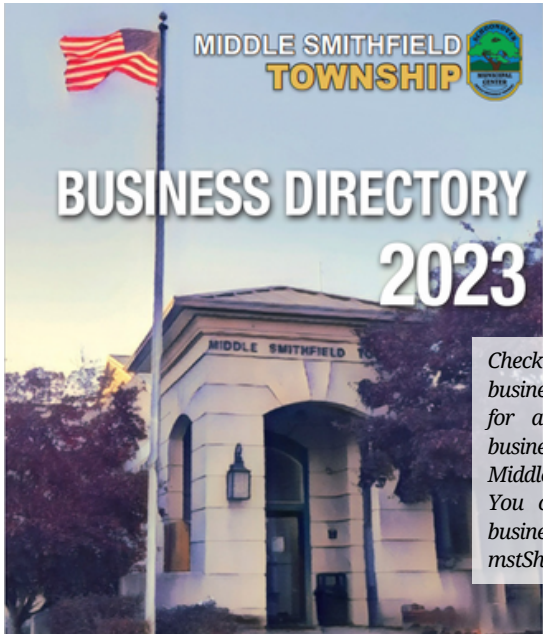
Family owned and operated, Mi Casa Es Tu Casa adds a personal touch to the full operation.

“My goal is to have good relationships and good food. We welcome our customers as family. That is why we called it Mi Casa Es Tu Casa, my house is your house,” says Vega. “Our doors are open and we can wait to welcome you.”

Mi Casa Es Tu Casa
(570) 234-3202
5017 Liberty Square Plaza (By Dunkin Donuts and next to Lotus Inn).



Mi Casa Es Tu Casa Owner Grisel Vega.



Check out our 2023 business directory for a full list of businesses in Middle Smithfield! You can find our businesses online at mstShopLocal.com/

DO I NEED A ZONING PERMIT?

By Mayra Colon

Zoning permits are required whenever a property owner intends to build a structure, add onto a building or structure, alter a building or structure, and/or change the use of land or buildings. So, if you’re planning on making improvements to your property, the answer to the question, “Do I need a permit?” is probably yes.

A permit is issued when the property owner, through submission of an application and supporting documentation, (such as a plot plan) demonstrates the proposed improvements are in compliance with the zoning ordinance, i.e., the proposed shed will be set-back far enough from the property boundary. Obtaining a zoning permit prior to the start of work is a legal obligation of the property owner. Issuance of a zoning permit demonstrates the proposed improvement is lawful, and as such, obtaining a zoning permit helps to protect the value of the investment.

Most people are aware that a permit is required to build a house or garage, but sometimes it’s not so clear when contemplating projects of a smaller scope. The lists to the right identifies some common residential improvements and whether or not a zoning permit is required.

Keep in mind: In addition to the requirement of a zoning permit, many of the projects listed to the right may also require a building permit in accordance with the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code, and sometimes building permits may be required when a zoning permit is not, such as for changes to plumbing or electrical work.

Questions? Just give the Zoning Office a call at 570-223-8920, x126

The following projects need a zoning permit:

- Building a deck.
- Building a patio.
- Constructing a pergola or trellis.
- Building a shed, or having a prefab shed installed on your property.
- Enclosing an existing screened-in porch.
- Building a roof over an existing deck.
- Building/installing a fence.
- Finishing an unfinished basement.
- Finishing an unfinished attic.
- Starting a business at your residence.
- Construction/installation of above-ground and in-ground swimming pools.

The following projects do NOT need a zoning permit:

- Planting a garden.
- Planting trees and landscaping (unless it involves construction of walls and/or hardscaping).
- Constructing/installing a garden pond. Note: large ponds involving alteration of drainage patterns and storm water flow require a permit.
- Erecting a swing set or trampoline.
- Placement of a seasonal, child’s wading pool, provided it is less than 24” deep.
- Replacing siding.
- Replacing roofing. (**building permit is required)
- Replacing windows and doors provided the size of the openings are not changing, and the work does not involve alterations, e.g., changing a door opening into a window or a window into a door.
- Home repairs, cosmetic improvements, and maintenance.

ZONING

Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer: Shawn McGlynn | zoning@mstownship.com
Zoning Director: Mark Oney | **Zoning Officer:** Judith Acosta 570-223-8920 x128
Zoning Department Administrator: Mayra Colon 570-223-8920 x126
Zoning Clerk: Vicki Smith 570-223-8920 x105
Zoning Hearing Board: Chairperson- Josephine Ferro | Vice Chair: Arthur Jenkins
Members: Jeff Senhozli, Gary Morris, Melonie Schmid.

IT’S SMOOTH SALE-ING! YARD SALE

By Mayra Colon

Yard sale season is in full swing in Middle Smithfield Township. Each property holding a yard sale must obtain a permit from the Zoning Office. It’s a simple one-page application with a nominal fee of \$15 of which \$10 is refundable when you take down your signs.

Homeowners associations and charitable organizations can hold community yard sales at a designated property of their choice. Some common property choices are a local church parking lot, fire station or community clubhouse. Many will charge a fee to rent a spot or table at the sale. This is a great way for residents whose community does not allow individual yard sales to come together and sell off some unwanted item. It also usually benefits the organization sponsoring the sale.

There are a few rules to keep in mind when planning a yard sale including “A yard sale shall not include wholesale sales or sale of new merchandise of a type typically found in retail stores.” (Township Code Chapter 200 section 044-080 H2-2) This doesn’t mean that a resident cannot sell that pair of jeans that still has the tag on them. It does mean, however, that a resident owning a business or items from a business cannot sell them at a yard sale. If you own a business or are a local crafter and would like to sell your items, you can contact our local flea market at (570) 223-8640 to inquire about a space.

Have items left over from your Yard Sale? No worries! You can bring them to Freecycle *a part of the Township Clean Up event – see the article on page 15.)

Want to skip the Yard Sale altogether and donate your items to a good cause so they can conduct a yard sale? Check out your local places of worship. The Wooddale United Methodist Church on Barren Road is currently accepting donations for their May Yard Sale.

CULTURAL & COMMUNITY CENTER

5200 Milford Rd., East Stroudsburg, PA 18302

Manager: Holly Dennis

hdennis@mstownship.com | 570-223-8920 x132

COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL CENTER PUBLIC EVENTS AND EXHIBITS* :

April:

Sew Your Own Tote Bag- Sat 4/22. 9:30am- 2:30pm

\$60 PER PERSON *All funds will be donated to Mady's Angels. To register call 570 -956-5833. A maximum of 10 participants will be accepted. Instructor: Patricia J. Griffin

Bring your sewing machine, fabric scissors, and bag lunch. Coffee and tea will be provided. Materials for the 10" deep by 14" wide tote bag will be provided.

Keeping Your Child Safe and Healthy in Sports- Wed 4/26, 4pm- 6pm

A Community Health Event with Lehigh Valley Hospital-Pocono featuring concussion awareness, return to play and concussion treatment, sports nutrition, skills and drills, and more! PLUS GIVEAWAYS! No registration required.

May:

"Flowers Everywhere" by Tricia Lippert- Opening Art Reception- Thurs 5/4, 5pm- 7pm

April Showers Bring May Flowers! Join us for the opening reception of a brand-new exhibit by local artist Tricia Lippert titled "Flowers Everywhere". The exhibit will feature nature art and beautiful florals.

Multigenerational Trauma Forum- Sat 5/20, 11am- 1pm

In honor of Mental Health Awareness Month, join the Greater Pocono Section of the National Council of Negro Women for their Multigenerational Trauma forum. RSVP at dwi1645@gmail.com.

June:

Red Cross Blood Drive- Fri 6/2 12pm- 5pm

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Middlesmithfield to schedule an appointment.

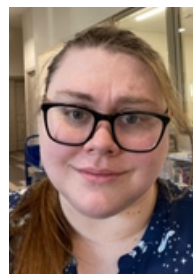
Up-to-date calendar of events can be found at:

www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com/181/Community-Center-Library

*Are you a non-profit? We'd love to host your event or meeting. Please call Holly Dennis at 570-223-8920 ext. 132.

Upcoming Exhibits	
May 2023	Tricia Lippert Spring Exhibit (opening Reception May 4 th , 5 pm- 7 pm)
June 2023	Anniversary of Marshalls Creek Explosion
July 2023	Photography Exhibit- More info coming soon!
August 2023	Flood of '55
September 2023	Plein Air Painting Exhibit
October 2023	Marshalls Creek Mastodon & National Fossil Day

WELCOME, JESSICA! THE NEW BRANCH MANAGER FOR THE LIBRARY OF THE SMITHFIELDS.



Jessica Brown is the new Branch Manager for the Library of the Smithfields which is housed in the Community and Cultural Center.

She's lived most of her life in the Lehigh Valley, and currently lives with family and two cats in northern Lehigh County.

Jessica graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 2013 with a Bachelor's in English and, at the beginning of May, will complete her Master's in Library Science. She loves to knit and read. She hopes that she can serve both the Eastern Monroe Public Library and Middle Smithfield Township well.



Join us for our next New Resident Meet & Greet on September 21st at 6pm at the Community & Cultural Center. Meet township staff, find out how to get involved and more!

More info coming soon!



INTERACTIVE KIOSKS COMING SOON!

By Holly Dennis

We are excited to announce that in 2022 we were awarded \$20,000 by the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau Community Impact Grant to go towards interactive kiosks for the museum area of the Community and Cultural Center.

The Middle Smithfield Township Community and Cultural Center Museum planned for the Great Hall has several phases:

Phase 1:

- Artwork hanging system for interchangeable displays by local art groups and artists such as paintings, photos, quilts, etc. (Completed in 2022.)
- Display case funded in part by a grant from the Pocono Arts Council for rotating displays of physical artifacts, including items from the Marshalls Creek Explosion, The Marshalls Creek Mastodon, The Flood of '55 and more. (Completed in 2022)
- Free-standing Kiosk with interactive displays and media player for self-guided multi-media "tours" of the exhibits including photos, videos and narratives for residents and tourists alike. (Coming Soon!)

Electronically Changing Signage: Two screens, one for the entrance to the Library of the Smithfields and one for the entrance to the Community Room, to inform residents of current and upcoming programming for each facility, announcements, township news, events in the area (Coming Soon!)

Phase 2:

- Mosier's Dairy installation: Mosier's Dairy was an icon of the Smithfields area for centuries, and Middle Smithfield salvaged architectural pieces such as the original hand-hewn support beams and sleeper logs, examples of pegged wood construction including American Chestnut wood (once common now virtually extinct due to blight), original slate roofing, barnwood siding, etc. Phase 2 plans are to incorporate these pieces not only as floor to ceiling architectural elements in the Great Hall, but also finishes as columns are wrapped in original barnwood, and walls wainscoted in original slate shingles indigenous to our area.

This sustainable project will, without a doubt, improve the quality of life in the township while having a lasting impact on the community by providing educational and historical resources to both our community and its visitors.

\$10,000 GRANT AWARDED FROM PMVB FOR VETERAN'S MEMORIAL EXPANSION

By Holly Dennis

Middle Smithfield Township was awarded \$10,000 by the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau for the 2023 Community Impact Grant for the expansion of the Veteran's Memorial at the Community and Cultural Center.

The Veterans Memorial project entails a bronze statue, monument stones, shields, and flags for every branch of the military, along with a full-sized flag and flagpole, and a "memory walk" of paver stones engraved with the names of Monroe County veterans leading from the parking lot to the Community & Cultural Center. The 5 utility poles along Milford Road as well as lamp poles within the Community & Cultural Center entrance drive and parking lot (all visible from Milford Road) will be fitted with banners participating in the "Hometown Heroes/Patriots Remembered" program, with each banner honoring a local veteran. The entire area will be a landscaped Memorial Garden planted by Master Gardeners with native plants, and a field of poppies, the official flower of the American Legion. The Penn State Extension Master Gardeners of Monroe County completed the landscaping of the 2,500 square foot rain garden with over 3,000 native plants, complete with stone path leading to the centerpiece of the raingarden: the American Flag and flagpole, that was an Eagle Scout project dedicated to the township By Joe Schuon. The project also includes improvements to the flagpole such as improved lighting for the American flag.

This project will be done in partnership with several local non-profits and veteran's organizations including: Boy Scout Troop 87, Boy Scout Troop 902, Monroe County Honor Guard, Middle Smithfield Township Community Gardeners, Penn State Master Gardeners, Vietnam Veterans, The VALOR Clinic, The American Legion, and more!

Keep an eye out for more information on the expansion and a timeline coming soon!



PARKS & RECREATION

Director: Mike Dwyer | **Chair Person:** Jaime Frailey | **Vice Chair:** Laura Massaro
Members: Chrissy Fellmeth, Debbie Kulick, Kristin Willis
Liaison: Chris Rain | crain@mstownship.com



TOWNSHIP PARKS

- **Leroy W. Lewis Dog Park**
108 Leroy's Lane (off of Milford Road/209; adjacent to the National Recreation Area)
- **Echo Lake Park**
5206 Milford Rd (on Route 209 across from Middle Smithfield Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Next to Community and Cultural Center)
- **Judy Putek Park**
182 Municipal Drive (near Municipal Building)
- **Resica Park**
1 Gravel Ridge Road (behind Resica Elementary School)
- **Community Gardens Park**
989 Coolbaugh Road (4 miles North of 402/Coolbaugh Road intersection)

REGIONAL PARKS

- **Mt. Nebo Park**
406 Mt. Nebo Road, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301 (in Smithfield Township)
- **River's Edge Family Bike Park**
123 River Road, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301 (in Smithfield Township)

NATIONAL PARKS

- **National Park Headquarters**
1978 River Road, Bushkill, PA 18324
facebook.com/DelWaterGapNPS
nps.gov/dewa/index.htm
- **Hidden Lake**
National Park within our township. No street address; entrance near Hidden Lake Drive and Keystone Road.
delawareriver.natgeotourism.com/content/hidden-lake-bushkill-pa/del163a03909b0065c79

facebook.com/MSTParksandRec

www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com/243/Parks-Facilities

SCAN TO FILL OUT OUR PARKS SURVEY!



Help us improve our township's parks!
Please take this 10 question survey.
It only takes 5 minutes or less!

FOLLOW THE QR CODE WITH YOUR PHONE'S
CAMERA OR VISIT
[BIT.LY/MST-PARKS-SURVEY](https://bit.ly/mst-parks-survey)

RENT A PAVILLION AT MIDDLE SMITHFIELD PARKS

By Christopher Rain

Spring is here! That means getting outside, seeing family, and having picnics. Need a great outdoor venue to host your spring or summer party? Middle Smithfield Township has two great pavilions at Echo Lake Park and Resica Park that are available to rent for your event.

Each pavilion comes with picnic tables, grills, and is adjacent to a playground to keep the kids entertained. Both pavilions can seat around 40 people. Electricity is available at Echo Lake Park only. Pavilion rentals require a rental form and cost \$50 plus a \$50 refundable deposit due at the time of booking. The deposit is refunded after your event and successful site inspection by Township staff.

To rent a pavilion, call 570-223-8920 x119 or email parks&recreation@mstownship.com.



Interested in gardening?
Get a plot at the Community Gardens!

\$50 refundable deposit per plot.
Plots are limited.
Plots available on a first-come, first-served basis.

To reserve your garden plots:
570-223-8920 x119
crain@mstownship.com

Or stop by the office:
147 Municipal Drive 8a-4p, M-F

Come garden with us!

IT WAS A HOPPING GOOD TIME AT THE 16TH ANNUAL EGGSTRAVAGANZA!

By Christopher Rain



On Sunday April 2, Middle Smithfield Township's Parks & Recreation Committee hosted the 16th Annual Eggstravaganza at Resica Park. The day was a bit windy, but that didn't stop over 200 children under 10 and their families from coming out to play games and collect their eggs. The event was scheduled for April 1, but was moved to April 2 due to bad weather.



Happy attendees could visit and get their photo taken with the Easter Bunny, who was escorted by the Marshalls Creek Fire Company. There were games to play to collect prizes and Raven Entertainment provided balloon art.

But the main attraction were the three egg hunts. Ages 0-2 hunted at 12:30, ages 3-5 at 12:45, and ages 6-10 at 1pm. There were 2,000 eggs for our happy hunters to find. Five lucky hunters also found our Golden Eggs and won a special prize.

Thank you to Girl Scout Troop 52299 and Boy Scout Troop 87 for sending volunteers to make this event possible. Thank you to Marshalls Creek Fire Company and Bushkill Emergency Corps for providing their vehicles for the public's safety and enjoyment. Thank you also to Resica Elementary School, the parks committee, Andrea and Eva Massaro, and Vicki Smith for helping to make this event possible.

The Eggstravaganza is held annually the Saturday before Easter. Resica Park is located at 1 Gravel Ridge Road next to Resica Elementary School. MST parks are open daily during daylight hours. Resica Park is closed to the public during school hours. Please call 570-223-8920 x119 for more information, or email crain@mstownship.com.



Thank you to Marshalls Creek Fire Company for providing their vehicles for the public's safety and enjoyment, as well as escorting our Easter Bunny every year!



RECENT PARKS GRANTS

By Christopher Rain

Middle Smithfield Township Parks & Recreation have been fortunate to receive several grants to support improvement projects in the last few years.

In 2022, the township received a \$2,500 grant from 1 For Nature to purchase nine new benches for Echo Lake Park. The township also received a \$7,800 grant from Monroe County Open Space to fund improvements to the walking trail at Echo Lake Park not covered by the 2021 Healing the Planet Grant. This work is still ongoing and expected to finish in 2023.

In 2023, the township received a \$5,000 grant from 1 For Nature to resurface the parking area and walking paths at Community Gardens Park, and to purchase enough building material to replace 75 of the raised garden plots at that park. This project is ongoing and expected to finish in 2023.

In 2021, the township received a \$25,000 Healing the Planet Grant from Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and the Giant Company. This money funded improvements to the walking trail at Echo Lake Park, new trash cans at Echo Lake Park, and a new rain garden at the entrance to the Community & Cultural Center (*photo to the left*).

Middle Smithfield Township is grateful to all of these grantors for their generosity!

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Director, Supervisor: Mike Dwyer
Public Works Department Administrator: Rachel Heller
rheller@mstownship.com | 570-223-8920 x142

MS4 PROJECT IN KNOLL ACRES

By Rachel Heller

MS4 stands for “Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System”, and is a Department of Environmental Protection initiative that describes a conveyance or system of conveyances owned by a public entity (such as the state or a municipality) that discharges stormwater to waters of the United States. The intent is for the municipality to implement measures to reduce pollution in stormwater runoff. Middle Smithfield’s MS4 area affects the headwaters of the Sambo Creek, which is classified an Exceptional High Quality Stream. This stream begins in Middle Smithfield Township and empties into the Brodhead Creek, a 22 mile long tributary of the Delaware River. Middle Smithfield Township had to create a stormwater plan to reduce the amount of sediment that is being conveyed into the stream by 10% over 5 years within that area. These projects are planned by Township Engineers and approved by the Department of Environmental Protection.

The first major Public Works project of 2023 is the completion of the township’s MS4 project, started in 2020, at two retention basins in Knoll Acres. This will consist of removing, rehabilitating, and adding new materials back in for a total of approximately 2500 yards of material to be removed and replaced.

PUBLIC WORKS UPCOMING PROJECTS FOR 2023

By Rachel Heller

Winter Materials Shed

Public Works will add an additional dome at the Municipal Drive facility to triple the 150 ton capacity for winter materials (salt and cinders). The additional storage capacity enables the township to stockpile materials earlier in the season, leaving the township less vulnerable to shortages, price increases, and delivery delays when materials are needed most.

Sewer: Generator Pads

Part of the Township Sewer Department’s Capital Improvement projects for 2023 include adding six new stand-alone generators at pumping stations (see page 15). Public Works, instead of a contractor, will install the concrete pads, resulting in savings for the Sewer Department.

Roads: Frutchey Road Drainage Project

To alleviate major icing during the winter months, Public Works will improve the bank that is already there by adding stone for better drainage control, as well as a road pipe to help redirect the water underneath the roadway.

VILLAGE DRIVE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

By Rachel Heller

The Middle Smithfield Township Public Works Department will replace the bridge at Village Drive. The project will begin in June when the school year ends, and will be completed by Labor Day, when the next school year begins. Until then, residents can enter and exit CCP South via Pondside Drive.



The existing aluminum arch structure will be removed, because the piling and steel beams that support it have structurally failed. A 40 foot by 60 foot by 6-foot-tall four-sided concrete culvert box will be installed. The Public Works Department will do all of the excavation, paving and utilities relocation while the vendor will be setting the concrete structure. This is a major undertaking for the Township Road Department!



SPRING CLEANUP "DUMPSTER DAY"

By Rachel Heller

Twice a year (in the spring and in the fall) Middle Smithfield hosts “Dumpster Days” at the township building (147 Municipal Drive) and the Wooddale garage (between Big Buck Lane and Barren Road) to help residents do their fall and spring cleaning, as well as offer FREE PAPER SHREDDING. Middle Smithfield Township’s annual Spring Clean Up is **Thursday, April 27th, Friday, April 28th and Saturday April 29th, from 7 am to 2 pm**. Locked bins will be available for paper shredding all three days. Freecycle items will also be accepted.

Participating residents share the cost to operate the clean-up with the township: the clean-up costs \$10 per car load and \$20 per pickup, (prices vary for larger vehicles) and tire disposal starts at \$5 each tire. For residents, the township clean-up is much more economical and convenient than the closest dumps in Taylor and Pen Argyl, which charge a minimum of \$62-\$73 per vehicle.

There is no charge to drop off automotive batteries and electronics.

This year waste oil, transmission fluid, hydraulic fluid and fryer oil are also being accepted.

Residents must bring proof of residency such as a tax bill, rent receipt, driver’s license, etc. in order to participate. This is an extremely “user friendly” program!

Middle Smithfield will accept bulk items, furniture, toys, washers, dryers, bicycles, lawn mowers, water heaters, batteries, nails, screws, empty paint cans – just no household garbage, construction debris or hazardous materials.

FREecycle

By Rachel Heller

- Thursday, Friday & Saturday, May 4th, 5th and 6th
- 7 am-2 pm

The public can come, browse and take five (5) Freecycled items.

What is “Freecycle?” Residents can drop off their gently used items during cleanup, with the knowledge that they won’t go to a landfill – but one of their neighbors oar a charitable organization instead! Everyone wins – The Spring Clean Up costs the taxpayers less money (because we need less dumpsters), Pennsylvania landfills don’t fill up as quickly, and residents and local charities receive needed goods at a price that can’t be beat – FREE!

SEWER

Manager: Joan Woisin
jwoisin@mstownship.com
570-223-8920 x115

SEWER: 2023 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN:

By Joan Woisin

New Utility Bill Pay Service – This will be implemented by September 2023. The new service will offer multiple ways to pay the sewer bills (Bank account, Credit cards, debit cards, Apple Pay, Google Pay, PayPal). You can sign up for bill reminders, paperless billing and AutoPay. Customers will also be able to make one-time payments as a guest.

Pump Station #3 – McCole & Route 209 – This rehabilitation project has been awarded to Pioneer Construction and is due to begin April 2023. The estimated cost is \$122,800.

Pump Station #8 – Lake of the Pines – This rehabilitation project is scheduled to be bid in May 2023 with work to begin in the Fall of 2023.

Generators – We are installing new fuel-efficient generators at 6 of our Pump Stations. This work will be ongoing through 2023.

SPRING LEAF COLLECTION

By Rachel Heller

Spring leaf collection will take place from April 17th-May 12th for township roads weather permitting.

Sticks, branches, grass clippings, bagged leaves, or other yard waste will not be collected.

If you do not live on a Township or PennDOT Road, your leaves will not be collected. However, you are welcome to drop off leaves and brush at the Oak Grove Multi-Municipal Compost Facility during operating hours.

This year's leaf collection will not have specific dates for each route, but each road will be serviced between the specified dates for each season.

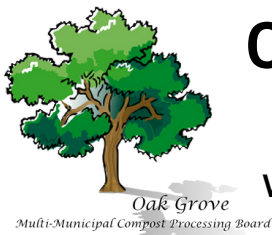
If your Homeowner's Association wishes to participate with our program, a centralized collection point must be established within the community

Please contact Rachel at 570-223-8920 x142 or email rheller@mstownship.com with any questions.



LITTER & BEAUTIFICATION

Liaison: Chris Rain | crain@mstownship.com
litter&beautification@mstownship.com



OAK GROVE & RECYCLING

www.ogmmcpb.com

Chairperson: Mike Dwyer

Vice Chair: Tim Rohner | Secretary/Treasurer: Robert Lovenheim

Members: Annette Atkinson, Aaron Springs, Jacob Pride

THANK YOU TO OUR MANY RESIDENTS WHO ADOPT ROADS IN MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP:

- Big Ridge Drive** – Jan Basler & Bruce Taylor
- Barren Road** – Echevarria Oliveras Family
- Brushy Mountain Road** – PA Treatment & Healing
- Buroojy Court** – Robert & Eileen Early
- Cold Springs Road** – Patricia Berger
- Community Drive** – John Melair
- Coolbaugh Road, south section** – Monroe County Young Democrats
- Coolbaugh Road, center section** – Vansolkema Family
- Coolbaugh Road, north section** – Kaylatime & Angel Hernandez
- Denise Lane** – Senholzi Family
- Echo Lake Park** – Phoenix Martial Arts Society
- Firestone Lane** – Resica Falls Scout Reservation
- Foxmoor Drive** – Monroe County Meals on Wheels
- Frutchey Drive** – The Arnst Family
- Gravel Ridge Road** – Bob and Anne Marie Pohlman
- Hidden Lake Drive, Hollow Rd to Keystone Rd** – Kathy Mitchell
- Hidden Lake Drive, Keystone Rd to River Rd** – Int'l Child Abuse Prevention Task Force
- Keystone Road** – Gary Waxman
- Marjorie Court & Timber Mountain Drive** – Frank Lowe
- McCole Road** – Paul Andrews
- Melvin Ln, Dawn Ln, & Charley Dr** – Camacho Family
- Michaels Road** – Bower Family
- Municipal Drive** – MST Board of Supervisors
- Mt. Nebo Road & Pardees Loop** – Chahlie's Angels
- Oak Grove Road** – Mountain Stream Baptist Church
- Pocono Wild Haven Estates (all roads)** – PWHE Beautification Committee
- Prairie Drive & Primrose Lane** – The Lowris Family
- Reservoir Ridge development roads** – The Christy Family
- Reservoir Road** – The Perez Family
- River Road, Rt 209 to Hidden Lake** – Integra Home Counseling, Inc.
- Sand Hill Road** – Juliette Ryan-Caines
- Sellersville Drive, Lower Lakeview to Yukon Dr** – Vazquez Landscaping LLC
- Sellersville Drive, Rt 209 to Lower Lakeview** – Pocono Café Latin Cuisine & Colombian Bakery
- Stoney Acres** – ESU Student Activity Association
- Turkey Ridge Road** – Annette Atkinson
- Upper Lakeview Drive, Sellersville to Turkey Ridge** – Robert Post
- Upper Lakeview Drive, Turkey Ridge to Lower Lakeview** – Richards Tree Farm
- Wooddale Road, PWHE to Price Township line, and Macy Way** – Meryweather & Halterman Families
- Wooddale Road, PWHE to Marshalls Creek** – PWHE Beautification Committee

ADOPT A ROAD 2023

By Christopher Rain

The MST Adopt a Road Program organizes our residents, businesses, and organizations who want to keep our streets litter-free. Individuals or groups can adopt a road and pledge to pick up litter along their stretch at least twice a year. These cleanups can coincide with our semi-annual litter program, 1000 Feet of Street, or at any time at the adopter's convenience. Your road is marked with a sign to let your neighbors know that you are helping to keep MST pretty.

If you are interested in adopting a road, please contact Christopher Rain at 570-223-8920 x119, or email crain@mstownship.com. A list of roads available for adoption can be provided. All cleanup equipment including bags, pickers, and gloves, are provided by the township when you clean your road.

Adopt a road today and add your name to the list!



Thank you to Monroe County Meals on Wheels for adopting Foxmoor Drive!

"RECYCLE YOUR YARD WASTE TODAY"

By Rachel Heller

The Oak Grove Multi-Municipal Compost Processing Facility is jointly operated and available to residents of Middle Smithfield, Smithfield and Lehman Townships. The Facility is conveniently located at 3305 Oak Grove Drive in Middle Smithfield Township.

Hours:

Monday — Saturday
7am — 2pm. Closed Holidays.

To use the facility, you must be a resident of one of the participating townships or a commercial business (via permit only) located in the townships. Acceptable materials include leaves, shrubs (no roots), tree trimmings, and branches cut into 3-4 foot lengths and no larger than 12 inches in diameter.

The facility offers self-serve as well as loaded assistance. These self-serve products include FREE mulch and compost (pending availability), and you must load the materials yourself. If you would like loading assistance an appointment must be made Monday through Friday; Saturdays the facility is staffed and does not require an appointment. For loaded materials the cost is \$10 for 3 yards.

To make an appointment, purchase a commercial permit, or if you have any questions, please contact Rachel at rheller@mstownship.com or call 570-223-8920 x142.



OAK GROVE RECAP

By Rachel Heller

The Oak Grove Multi-Municipal Compost Facility did nothing short of thrive from 2020-2022. Since the facilities opening in 2013 the amount of product being brought in and taken out has steadily increased each year, but during 2020 it skyrocketed! The total yards of leaves, woodchips and brush brought in went from 13,440 yards in 2019 to 20,868 yards in 2020, it dropped a little bit to 17,761 yards in 2021 and 16,842 yards in 2022. To say the facility is busy is a huge understatement, but we are so happy that residents from all three of the Townships (Lehman, Middle Smithfield and Smithfield) are using the facility.

During 2020 we were able to secure a 902 Recycling grant in the amount of \$350,000.00 and traded our original Beast Grinder in to purchase a brand new 2021 Vermeer HG-6000 Horizontal Grinder for the facility. With the purchase of this new grinder it will better help to keep up with the growing demand at the facility and help to process the brush faster to make mulch and leaves faster to make compost.

Then in the Fall of 2021 we again applied for the 902 Recycling grant, this time being awarded \$229,819.00 to pay off the balance of the grinder purchase.

Along with an increase in residents using the facility, we also have seen an increase in commercial permits. We look forward to the facility growing even more this year and being able to offer such a great amenity to our wonderful Middle Smithfield residents as well as the residents of Lehman and Smithfield Townships.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ANNUAL SPRING LITTER PICK UP! "1000 FEET OF STREET" AT A TIME

By Christopher Rain

Who's ready to clean some roads?

On Saturday April 22, please join Township Supervisors, Parks & Recreation, Litter & Beautification, Adopt a Road, and the Public Works Department to help clean up our Township's Roads. Supplies including bags, pickers, gloves and safety vests are all provided by the township as well as light refreshments.

Sign in begins at the Township building by 8 am on Saturday April 22 to get supplies, get split into groups, and depart to various locations throughout the Township to beautify Middle Smithfield.

The Township volunteers will focus on our "Main Street" Route 209 and other roads throughout the Township.



"We hope to see you on the 22nd, but any day that works for you, works for us," said event coordinator Chris Rain. "By allowing volunteers to clean up on their own, we have found that more people are able to participate and cover more area."

Once again, Middle Smithfield Township is excited to have 1000 Feet of Street serve as the model for Pick Up the Poconos Day, a Monroe County-wide litter cleanup program. The Pocono Mountain Visitors Bureau is hosting the event on April 22 and organizing cleanups in townships throughout the area. Volunteers in Middle Smithfield can sign up with Pick Up the Poconos, or directly with Middle Smithfield Township. For more information on Pick Up The Poconos, visit www.pickupthepoconos.com.

To volunteer for 1000 Feet of Street or for more information about the Adopt a Road program, please contact Chris Rain at 570-223-8920 x119 or email crain@mstownship.com.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Funded entirely by donations, not taxes

Marshall's Creek Fire Co.

570-223-8445 | facebook.com/Marshall'sCreekFireCo

Fire Chief- Jerry Grafal

Bushkill Emergency Corps.

570-223-1906 | bushkillemergencycorps.com

MARSHALLS CREEK VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY FUND DRIVE

It's that time of year again where we humbly ask for our neighbors and businesses within the Marshall's Creek Volunteer Fire Company response area to support our annual fund drive. This crucial fundraiser is vital to our overall functionality. Without your generosity, many of our vital programs and equipment upgrades would not be a reality.

We are all coping with challenging economic times and our operational costs and equipment needs are consistently increasing. This climate also makes it difficult for our company to stretch our capital. We continue to aggressively seek and obtain grant funding from a number of resources to further subsidize our efforts, but these funding options are limited.



prepare for the future by investing in the latest technologies and training to operate more safely and more efficiently.

Our true success emanates from the support of our entire community-whether it is the generous tax-deductible donation that you make today or the unmatched dedication and compassion of your neighbors who volunteer their time and risk their lives to protect you and your loved ones, enhance your sense of well-being and improve the quality of life for everyone.

Call 570-223-8445 for information on how to help or to make a donation!

SCAN THE PAYPAL QR CODE TO MAKE A DONATION TO MARSHALLS CREEK FIRE CO.



Marshall's Creek Volunteer Fire Company
P.O. Box 1 • Marshall's Creek, PA 18335 • 570-223-8445
Postmaster: Deliver to current occupant

08145 1019

Dear Friends,
It's that time of year again where we humbly ask for our neighbors and businesses within the Marshall's Creek Volunteer Fire Company response area to support our annual fund drive. This crucial fundraiser is vital to our overall functionality. Without your generosity, many of our vital programs and equipment upgrades would not be a reality.

We are all coping with challenging economic times. Our operational costs and equipment needs are consistently increasing. This climate also makes it difficult for our company to stretch our capital. We continue to aggressively seek and obtain grant funding from a number of resources to further subsidize our efforts, but these funding options are limited.

Since the inception of our Fire Company in 1945, our strong mission and core values have always been the forefront of our overall infrastructure. We are focused and committed to our community's needs and continue to adapt to those increased demands. We must also prepare for the future by investing in the latest technologies and training to operate more safely and more efficiently.

Our true success emanates from the support of our entire community - whether it is the generous tax-deductible donation that you make today or the unmatched dedication and compassion of your neighbors who volunteer their time and risk their lives to protect you and your loved ones, enhance your sense of well-being and improve the quality of life for everyone.

2023 CONTRIBUTION RECEIPT
Retain this stub for your records

Check No: _____
Date: _____
Amount: _____

2023 FUND DRIVE

Please circle amount of contribution in boxes below:

\$30.00 \$40.00 \$50.00 Other _____

Please refer to this number in any correspondence.

Make Checks Payable To: MARSHALLS CREEK VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY
PO BOX 1
MARSHALLS CREEK PA 18335
P18335CREEKPA18335

Please make necessary corrections to name and address below:

LJ-PLEASE CORRECT NAME

Thank You For Your Donation! RETURN THIS PORTION IN THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED

911 ADDRESS SIGNS – IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE!

By Holly Dennis

Since 2011 Monroe County, along with local municipalities, has been working to make sure every residence has a 911 reflective address marker. Not only is it required in accordance with Chapter 85 of the Township Code but it is vitally important for the health, safety and welfare of all residents and visitors to have the required 911 address sign properly mounted so that police, firefighters and other first responders can find a home or place of business in the case of an emergency.

Proper placement of a 911 Address Sign is also a requirement of Chapter 179, Use & Occupancy of Real Property, when you apply for a Resale, Use & Occupancy Certificate when selling or leasing your home or commercial space.

911 Address Signs can be purchased through Bushkill Emergency Corp for \$20.00 or you can purchase the parts of the sign from a local hardware store and create the sign on your own.

911 Address Sign Requirements:

- 6"x18" vertical sign, flat green with reflective white 4" letters
- Place sign at the end of your driveway where it intersects with the street
- The top of your number sign must be at least 3 feet and not more than 6 feet from the ground
- You may place your sign on a tree at the end of your driveway or your mailbox, only if it is at the end of your driveway. It must be visible from BOTH directions (special mounting hardware is available.)
- If you live in a townhouse, please contact the township regarding placement instructions.



ITS SUBSCRIPTION TIME!

Bushkill Emergency Corps

By Debbie Kulick

Back in 1965 when Bushkill Emergency Corps was first organized, the need for an ambulance came, oh, maybe a couple times a month. Then it grew

to a couple of times a week, then a day, now it's often a couple of times an hour which is why it is both vital that the service is there and that it is supported by those who may need it at a moment's notice.

With many residents relocating here from areas where ambulance service is a municipal or tax supported service, that is currently not the case in our area. A significant portion of the financial support local nonprofit ambulances receive comes directly from subscription programs. This ambulance service, like other community-based non-profit services, relies on the support of our residents and local officials. As a service that must be available regardless of use, the support of the community to ensure that there is someone to answer your call is most important.

Bushkill Emergency Corps subscriptions are sent out annually around the beginning of June. Residents may not be aware of the discounted (not an insurance policy) program for use of the service that a subscription provides. Ambulance service is vital and, like most medically related services, requires highly trained personnel, technically advanced equipment and a sincere commitment and passion for a patient's well-being.

Although a 911 call always assures an ambulance in an emergency situation, a subscription does many things for a subscriber. Mainly, it helps the Corps maintain operations, even when the wheels aren't rolling. *Continued on page 26.*

AN ALARMING END TO A NUISANCE

At the May 11th Board of Supervisors Meeting, the Supervisors will have a **public hearing** regarding the proposed Nuisance Alarm Ordinance, allowing for fines to be collected for repeat offenders of multiple false fire alarms. The fines would be forwarded to the Marshall's Creek Fire Company.

In 2022, roughly a third of all dispatched calls the all volunteer Marshall's Creek Fire Company responded to were false alarms.



THE STATE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Everyone agrees that supporting our volunteer firefighters, and our ambulance companies is critical. That's easy! What's not so easy is to figure out the best way to do it.

In fourth quarter of 2022, four municipalities (Middle Smithfield, Smithfield, Price and Delaware Water Gap) joined together to contract with JLN Associates, LLC to conduct a comprehensive study of our area emergency response providers. The findings and recommendations will provide guidance for right-sizing municipal support, as well as ways for all fire companies, ambulance companies, and municipalities to collaborate and maximize resources.

The study is expected to be completed in the 2nd quarter of 2023.

FIND FIRE & EMS ONLINE

Marshall's Creek Fire Co.

570-223-8445

112 Marshall's Creek Rd.

E. Stroudsburg, PA 18302

Facebook: @Marshall'sCreekFireCo

Shawnee Fire Co.

570-460-0736

102 Firehouse Lane

E. Stroudsburg, PA 18301

Facebook: @ShawneeFireCo36

Website: ShawneeFire.org

Bushkill Volunteer Fire Co.

570-588-6033

124 Evergreen Drive

Bushkill, PA 18324

Facebook: @bushkillfire

Bushkill Emergency Corps

570-223-1906

P.O. Box 174.

Bushkill, PA 18324

Facebook: @BushkillEmergencyCorps

Suburban EMS

(610) 923-7500

Station 18—North Division

320 N. First Street Suite 3

Stroudsburg PA 18360

Facebook: @SuburbanEMS

GOLF

COUNTRY CLUB OF THE POCONOS

Chair: Craig Wetherbee | Vice Chair: Paul Suhrie | Secretary: John Pinto

Members: Mike Sweeney, Mike Yesunas

Pro Shop Manager: Todd Brown | 570-223-8099

Liaison: Chris Rain



THE COUNTRY CLUB OF THE POCONOS MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE IS OPEN FOR THE SEASON!

By Todd Brown

The Country Club of the Poconos Municipal Golf Course has been open for the season since Friday, March 31!

Golf for \$29 on weekdays and \$39 on weekends for the whole month of April. You can also golf for \$25 on all Tuesdays for the entire season. Our regular rates begin Monday May 1.

Check out our memberships. \$1,000 for a single and \$1,200 for a couple. New members get a 5% discount plus 4 free guest passes. Cart fees are not included in the membership.

To book your tee times, call Todd at 570-223-8099, by email at tbrown@mstownship.com, or visit us at www.ccppagolf.com.

Come golf at CCP for the best value in the Poconos!



UPCOMING CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENTS:

June 3rd- East Stroudsburg Youth Association

June 17th- Valor Clinic Foundation

July 23rd- Violette Stand for the Children

September 30th- Marshalls Creek Fire Company



WHISPERING PINES BANQUET HALL

Rental Coordinator: Holly Dennis
hdennis@mstownship.com | 570-223-8920 x132

BANQUET HALL DATES STILL AVAILABLE FOR 2023:

The beautiful Whispering Pines banquet hall is still taking reservations for all your golf outing, charitable, or private party needs in 2023!

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 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 Holly Dennis at 570-223-8920 x132 or email hdennis@mstownship.com for availability and costs. Non-profit organizations may receive a discounted price or qualify to have the fees waived. Let us help you make your next event special.

CHECK OUT OUR BRAND NEW WEBSITE

By Christopher Rain

Middle Smithfield Township is thrilled to announce our brand new website!

Middlesmithfieldtownship.com has been completely redesigned with you in mind. Our clean look and easy to navigate menu options make the site more informative, accessible, and user friendly than ever before.

The site was redesigned by CivicPlus, a web design and management company that specializes in municipal government websites.

Please visit the new and improved www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com!

Let us know what you think! Drop a line to crain@mstownship.com.



Middle Smithfield Township Staff at the Preview of 2023 on February 23rd

PREVIEW OF 2023

Every year, the Township staff makes several presentations to the public, starting with the preview of the upcoming year in January to present planned projects, the mid-year report in July to update the progress of goals, and in December, the presentation of the next year's budget to the public and year-end review. The entire meeting with live presentation is available to view on our YouTube Channel here: bit.ly/Preview-2023 and the presentation is available on our website at MiddleSmithfieldTownship.com!

WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS!

By Kylie Medrano



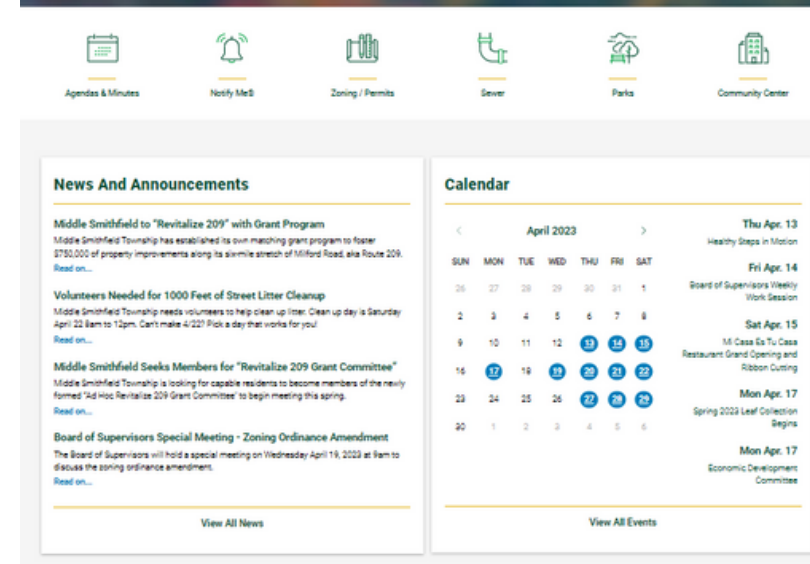
As so many New Residents are moving into our area, we frequently receive questions about garbage pickup, the nearest recycling drop off, what events are going on in the township and so much more.

To make things easier, especially on new residents who are in the process of purchasing a new home and moving, we put together New Resident Welcome Packets once a month!

New Resident Welcome Packets include an abundance of information like local registered waste haulers, whether the property is on our central sewer system or a septic, tips on how to maintain a long-lasting sewage system, a Monroe County Resource Card, several volunteer-based organizations in the area, upcoming Township events and so much more!

Each New Resident Welcome Packet includes a personalized welcome letter, Business Directory, and Township Map as well.

Join us for our next New Resident Meet & Greet on September 21st at 6pm at the Community & Cultural Center. More info coming soon!



HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Chair: Carrie Wetherbee | **Vice Chair:** Robert Huffman | **Secretary:** Patricia Francis
Members: Charisse Fallon, Ken Johns, Vacancy
Liaison: Holly Dennis

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION APPROVED MARSHALLS CREEK EXPLOSION HISTORICAL MARKER

By Holly Dennis

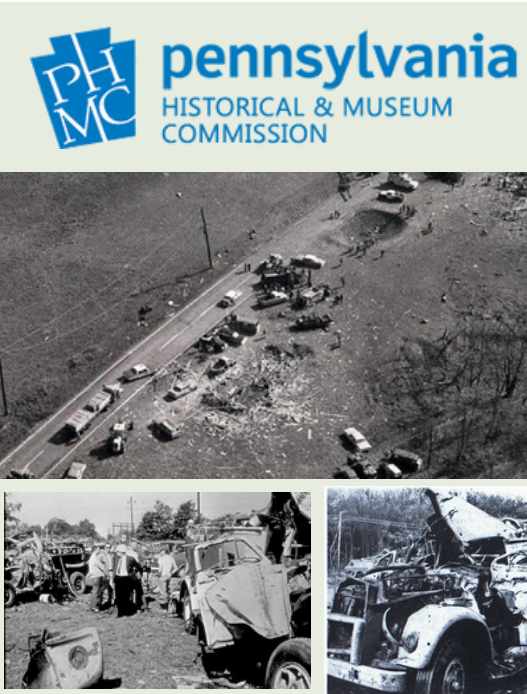
Middle Smithfield Township is excited to announce that our application to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission for a State Marker for the Marshalls Creek Explosion was APPROVED!

The township first applied for the marker back in 2017, but we were unfortunately denied. However, we continued to research and compile a more complete and compelling submission for the next round.

After many years of hard work and research, we will finally have a state marker to remember this tragic and important event in not only the Marshalls Creek Fire Company's history, but also Middle Smithfield Township, the state of Pennsylvania, and the country as a whole.

Thank you to the Marshalls Creek Fire Company for sharing your insight and knowledge to guide us with this application. And a huge thank you to the Middle Smithfield Township Historical Commission for their dedication in seeing this process through.

The dedication ceremony for the marker will take place on the anniversary of the explosion, June 26, 2023 at noon at Regina Farms. More information on the ceremony to come!



ABOUT THE MARSHALLS CREEK EXPLOSION

By Holly Dennis

Just before dawn on June 26, 1964 a truck travelling north on Milford Road, that was carrying the oxidizing ingredient in fertilizer, blew two tires and proceeded to catch fire. When a passing driver noticed the smoke they used a nearby payphone to call the Marshalls Creek Fire Company.

The fire company arrived shortly after 4 am and moments after their arrival the truck exploded killing three volunteer fire fighters and three bystanders. 10 others were injured and the explosion cost close to a million dollars in damage. The three fire fighters killed in the blast were Earl Miller, 50, Leonard Mosier, 38, and Edward Hines, 42. Bystanders killed were John Regina, a 23-year-old local resident, Joseph Horvath, a truck driver from Scranton, and Lillian Paesch from Baltimore.

The truck was not marked and fire fighters who arrived to the scene were unaware that it was carrying explosives. Afterwards the Marshalls Creek Explosion became a textbook example of the dangers of hazardous materials on the roadway.

After the explosion more than a dozen local fire chiefs petitioned state and local representatives to have precautions in place to protect volunteers.



As stated in the Hazardous Materials Chemistry for Emergency Responders the explosion “led to the implementation of the DOT placarding and labeling system and the development on the ERG (Emergency Response Guidebook).”

In 2014 for the 50th Anniversary of the explosion the Marshalls Creek Fire Company built a memorial to honor the members who lost their lives. A dedication ceremony was also held and was attended by local fire companies from around the area, as well as locals who vowed to never forget the tragedy.

The public can visit the memorial located at the Marshalls Creek Fire House located at Marshalls Creek Road and Resica Falls Road.

Monroe County Historical Association Heritage Center By Amy Leiser; Executive Director MCHA

Founded in 1921, the Monroe County Historical Association preserves and shares the rich history of Monroe County. The organization is housed in the 1795 Stroud Mansion, located at the corner of Main and 9th Street in downtown Stroudsburg and maintains a local history museum and research library.



A rendering of the new Heritage Center, which will connect to the existing Stroud Mansion.

Founded in 1921, the Monroe County Historical Association preserves and shares the rich history of Monroe County. The organization is housed in the 1795 Stroud Mansion, located at the corner of Main and 9th Street in downtown Stroudsburg and maintains a local history museum and research library.

As a cultural and learning center, the Monroe County Historical Association will begin construction in the Spring on the Heritage Center adjacent to the Stroud Mansion to inspire and serve the public as the county-wide historical organization. The Heritage Center will increase opportunities to teach lessons of history that provide direction to the future and enhance the quality of life and appreciation of community and culture.

The benefits of the Heritage Center project include 1) a community room for expanded educational programs, workshops, lectures, special exhibits, and community events; 2) providing accessibility for all residents 3) ensuring the preservation of Monroe County's valuable archives and artifacts; 4) maintaining the integrity of the historic 1795 Stroud Mansion.

The renderings show the architectural design of the Heritage Center. In keeping with the US Department of the Interior's Preservation Brief 14, the PA State Historic Preservation Office, and the Stroudsburg Historical Preservation Ordinance, the Heritage Center addition uses the same materials and a simplified design that references the historic building, but does not copy to create a fake “old” appearance.

The Stroud Mansion Museum is closed during construction, but the offices are open, and the library is available by appointment only at the temporary office at 748 Main Street, Stroudsburg.

Have your name go down in history! Please consider contributing to the construction of the Heritage Center. For additional information, please contact the Monroe County Historical Association at (570) 421-7703 or visit www.monroehistorical.org.



WITH LOVE, FROM THE STRAUSERS Monroe County Historical Association

The Monroe County Historical Association is hosting a fine art exhibit of the works of Sterling and Dorothy Strauser at The Gallery at Auradell, at Stroudsmoor Country Inn in Stroudsburg.

Sterling and Dorothy Strauser were an important part of the Pocono art community, not only through Sterling's painted works but also as collectors themselves and promoters of other self-taught artists.

Sterling painted locally for more than 65 years. Dorothy was a gifted watercolor artist in her own right and is widely known for her hooked rugs.

THE EXHIBIT

Through May 19, 2023 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. daily. (Hours subject to change due to inclement weather or scheduled social events.)

Stroudsmoor Country Inn, The Gallery at Auradell, 231 Stroudsmoor Rd., Stroudsburg.



While the Stroud Mansion is closed for the Heritage Center construction, enjoy this unique interactive journey through the historic building and its museum exhibits.

Visit www.monroehistorical.org!

MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMISSION HAS A VACANCY!



Join us the first Thursday of the month at 9am at the township building.

Contact Holly at 570-223-8920 x132 for more information.

PERSON OF THE YEAR MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP AWARD

ABOUT THE 2022 PERSON OF THE YEAR AND FINALISTS



Wayne Bolt
2022 Person of the Year
ESU Foundation, Pocono Mountains United Way.

Wayne Bolt was born in Brooklyn, NY in the mid-40s. In 1963 Wayne joined the USAF, and during his time there he went from Texas to New Hampshire, then from New Hampshire to the Philippines, and then to Japan, Germany, Guam, North Africa, France, and Spain.

In 1967 he received an honorable discharge, and then worked as a shoe salesman, mailman and in 1969 became a New York city policeman until retirement in 1989 as a major crime Detective. Wayne moved to the Poconos in 1987 and helped manage the Hillside Inn, a minority owned resort.

Wayne was a member of The Rotary Club of the Smithfields, board of directors of Monroe County YMCA, board of directors of the United Way of Monroe County, board of directors of PEEC, Middle Smithfield Township Supervisor, tip staff for Monroe County courts, president of Crime Stoppers of Monroe County, one of the Founders of ESU Prince Hall Educational Scholarship Golf Tournament, assistant general manager of Fernwood Resort and helped start the Julianna V. Bolt Art Contest at ESU, former MST Golf Committee Member and currently sits on the Middle Smithfield Township Planning Commission.



www.esufoundation.org

The East Stroudsburg University Foundation
Address: 200 Prospect St
E. Stroudsburg, PA 18301
Phone: 570-422-3333
Email: esufoundation@esufoundation.org

The East Stroudsburg University Foundation has dedicated more than 35 years to securing and stewarding private gifts and grants that benefit East Stroudsburg University and its students. Every year, thousands of generous donors support the Foundation and the University in its mission of educating students, research and public service.

Through collaborative relationships with individuals, corporations, foundations, and other organizations, the ESU Foundation creates opportunities that will provide additional support to the students, programs, services, and educational community of East Stroudsburg University.



David S. Brown
2022 Person of the Year Finalist
Greater Pocono Section, National Council of Negro Women

David S. Brown was born in 1950, and raised in Brooklyn, N.Y.

He attended both New York City Community College and Richmond Community College, both known as City Tech and College of Staten Island. While attending college he went to work for the New York City Board of Education (NYC DOE). He then returned to his alma mater, Thomas Jefferson High School, as a E Paraprofessional. He was among the first five people within NYC hired for this newly created position. David S. Brown worked with students in the College Discovery Program from 1971-1981. In 1981 David S. Brown entered the corporate world of credit and finance and remained there until his retirement in 2012.

He made the Poconos his home in 2013. David S. Brown is an active member of First Baptist Church of East Stroudsburg. There he serves as Chairman of the Elder Board and head Usher. Until now, David S. Brown spent his time anonymously serving the Pocono community. He cooks, delivers, and serves meals to various people in need. He is the unofficial “access-a-ride” to families in the community: taking them shopping and to doctors’ appts.

He even assists people in ascertaining their GED. When he does have free time, you will find him bowling at Skylanes Bowling Center, or on the greens of CCP Municipal Golf Course.

David S. Brown is the father of four beautiful children, Grandfather to five impressive children, and Uncle to three wonderful children. For whom he is actively engaged in all their lives. He was married to the first Mrs. Brown for 27 years before The Good Lord called her Home. God blessed him with a firecracker, Mrs. Dr. Marilyn M. Brown, whom he has been married to for twelve honeymoon years. If you remember anything about David S. Brown he is a God-fearing family man.

**Greater Pocono Section
National Counsel
of Negro Women**



Address: 62 Analomink St. www.greaterpocononcnw.org
E. Stroudsburg, PA 18301
Phone: 570-431-3150
Email: greaterpoconosection@gmail.com

TNCNW’s mission is to lead, develop, and advocate for women of African descent as they support their families and communities. NCNW was founded in 1935 by Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune. Today, NCNW’s programs are grounded on a foundation of critical concerns known as “Four for the Future”. NCNW promotes education with a special focus on science, technology, engineering and math; encourages entrepreneurship, financial literacy and economic stability; educates women about good health and HIV/AIDS; promotes civic engagement and advocates for sound public policy and social justice.



Debbie Kulick
2022 Person of the Year Finalist
Bushkill Emergency Corps, Pocono Mountains United Way

Debbie Kulick is a graduate of East Stroudsburg High School and East Stroudsburg University where she has a BS in Elementary Education and minors in Communications, History and Biology. She served multiple terms as an alumni board member.

She has a masters degree in Organizational Management with an emphasis on Non-Profits and Government from the University of Phoenix.

Debbie is an American Heart Association instructor and a PA Department of Health EMS instructor.

Debbie served as a Middle Smithfield Township Supervisor for 2 terms, where she served as Chair and EMC. She is serving her second term as an East Stroudsburg Area School District School Board Director. She also served as Chair of the Policy Committee, Member Education Committee and various negotiation committees.

Debbie is also a small business owner in MST. She has operated Eastern Monroe Leasing & Training, Inc. from 1992- present.

Debbie is currently President, Crew Chief, Board Member, Training Officer, HIPAA Compliance, Safety Committee, presenter/programs for Bushkill Emergency Corps. She is also current President and former Vice President of Monroe County Ambulance Association, Founding member of Satellite club, previous Chair, various Rotary projects/programs for Rotary Club of the Stroudsburgs, Board member and Resource Development Committee member for Pocono Mountains United Way, President and charter member for Columbiettes of St. John's Church, Pastoral Council Chair for St. John's Church, Secretary and past President/Vice President for Friends of the Delaware River National Recreation Area, Eastern County representative for Monroe Public Library Board, Secretary/Vice President for Halls and Walls Foundation of East Stroudsburg School District, and volunteer columnist for Pocono Record.

Bushkill Emergency Corps
Address: 522 Sterling Ct.
E. Stroudsburg, PA 18302
Phone: (570) 223-1906
www.bushkillemergencycorps.com



Read more on page 19!!

THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT:
MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TO “REVITALIZE 209” WITH
GRANT PROGRAM AND COMMITTEE

Continued from page 6.

“Route 209 is the gateway to our National Recreation Area, and our Litter and Beautification Committee, as well as our Adopt a Road Volunteers and residents, spend a significant amount of time and energy to beautifying Route 209, whether it’s picking up litter in our twice a year ‘1000 Feet of Street’ program, or maintaining flowerboxes along the route – it’s nice to see that effort expand to our storefronts” said Mike Dwyer, Township Supervisor, Public Works and Parks and Recreation Director.

What does the Grant include?

The Revitalize 209 Grant Program will fund remodeling and updating building facades, repairs, upgrades, window and door replacement, landscaping, benches for public use, cleaning, etc. -- all improving the 209 experience for both visitors and residents alike.

“The township has many tools in its Economic Development toolbox, such as the LERTA program, which attracted new projects such as Tractor Supply, Autozone, Dollar General and the Apartments on Mt. Nebo. This is yet another means to stimulate both economic development and pride in our community” said James Brechbiel, Economic Development Manager.

How does it work?

Property owners and tenants whose property faces Route 209 will submit letters of interest for projects up to \$20,000 in size, with the Revitalize 209 Grant matching up to 50% of costs. A Revitalize 209 Committee will review letters of interest and applications and make recommendations to the Middle Smithfield Township Board of Supervisors. The Committee may include up to two members each of the Middle Smithfield Township Economic Development Committee, the Planning Commission, and the Historical Commission, and up to four members of the public. All members must be a resident of Middle Smithfield Township.

“A beautiful, vibrant ‘Main Street’ connects us all – it’s not just a business corridor, but the front door to our township, and shapes the character of our township and something our entire community -- residents and business owners alike -- can be proud of.It’s certainly a worthy investment for our future” said Annette Atkinson, Township Supervisor, Administrative & Operations Director.

NEEDED: MEMBERS FOR “REVITALIZE
209” GRANT COMMITTEE

Continued from page 6.

This latest Economic Development effort was presented by James Brechbiel, Economic Development Manager, at the Township’s “Preview of 2023” presentation to the public in February “We anticipate stimulating economic development in our township with this grant program.” he said.

“We look forward to seeing these improvements blossom and grow along our Mainstreet; as projects are proposed and implemented, the effort will pick up momentum. Each upgrade will add to our pride in the community”, said Annette Atkinson, Township Supervisor, Administrative & Operations Director.

ITS SUBSCRIPTION TIME!

By Debbie Kulick

Continued from page 19...

As the flyer you receive says, the subscription allows for unlimited use of emergency medical services, allows for emergency transports to a local hospital per the Bushkill Emergency Corps policy, it also allows for the Corps to forgive an unpaid portion of a bill beyond any medical insurance payment, as well as allowing for terms of payment if necessary.

With respect to insurance, the Corps bills most insurance companies directly. Some insurance carriers issue checks directly to the patient/subscriber. When a payment or denial is received, the payment/denial should be forwarded to the ambulance corps providing the service. Not doing so is considered insurance fraud and also voids the subscription benefits.

Bushkill Emergency Corps can also supply a form used to purchase a 911 marker sign. Having an updated and well positioned 911 marker will come in handy and certainly makes a big difference when there is an emergency (Or your mail order delivery person is searching for you). See more about 911 signs on page 18.

For more information or to receive a subscription form is you do not receive one in the mail: request one by contacting the office of Bushkill Emergency Corps at 570-223-1906 or visit www.bushkillemergencycorps.com.

Ambulance service is a 24/7 operation. They are there all day, every day. So, as you celebrate this your holidays this spring, rest assured, they’ll be there when you need them.

VOTING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



What is a primary election?

- Each political party selects its candidates to run for office during the general election. The candidates who get the highest number of votes in the primary election go on to run in the general election. Voters also vote for their party’s officers during a primary election.

When is Primary Election Day?

- May 16, 2023

Can you vote in a primary election?

- Yes, you must be registered by May 1, 2023 to vote in the primary election and must be registered with a political party to vote in that party’s primary.
- You must be registered as a Democrat to vote in the Democratic primary, or registered as a Republican to vote in the Republican Primary.

When is Election Day?

- November 7th, 2023

When is the last day to register to vote in Pennsylvania?

- The last day to register for the General Election is October 23rd, 2023. You can register here: bit.ly/PA-Voter-Registration-Application

Is it possible to vote by mail?

- For the primary election, yes, it is possible to vote by mail. You will need to apply for a mail-in ballot by May 9th.
- For the November election, it is possible to vote by mail. You will need to apply for a mail-in ballot by October 31st on your county election board website here: bit.ly/Contact-Your-Election-Officials or you can apply online at pavoterservices.pa.gov

Where are the voter drop boxes?

- Instead of mailing in your ballot, you may drop off your completed ballot by 8 pm on voting day at the following locations:

Library of the Smithfields

inside the Middle Smithfield Township
Community & Cultural Center
5200 Milford Rd
East Stroudsburg, Pa 18302

Eastern Monroe Public Library

1002 North 9th Street
Stroudsburg, Pa. 18360

Where can I find my polling place?

- You can find your polling place here: bit.ly/Polling-Place-Info

What happens if I moved before Election Day?

- Your address can be updated to where you live now but there are certain guidelines you must follow:
- Moved within 30 days of the election, you can vote at the old polling place for your old address
- If you moved to Pennsylvania from another state 30 days within the election, you cannot vote in Pennsylvania
- For more information regarding address changes, go to: bit.ly/How-to-Update-Your-Registraton
- You can update your address by going to the voter registration page: bit.ly/PA-Voter-Registration-Application

Do I need a form of ID to vote?

- In Pennsylvania, a first-time voter needs a form of ID, but for anyone else, they do not need a form of ID
- To find out what counts as a form of ID, go here: bit.ly/Voter-ID-for-First-Time-Voters

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT POLITICAL SIGNS
AND MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP POLLING
PLACES CAN BE FOUND ON THE BACK PAGE!



Sign up for notifications and get important information sent as text messages and emails directly to your mobile phone. Available: Township News & Announcements, Public Safety, Road Information, Committee Information, and Severe Weather Alerts. Signing up is easy and free! Visit www.Middlesmithfieldtownship.com for Textcaster information, or call 570-223-8920 ext. 100 to sign up!

***Severe weather alerts are sent directly from the National Weather Service 24/7**