

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MARSHALLS CREEK EXPLOSION?

Stay tuned for an expanded page on the township website, but in the meantime, please visit the Middle Smithfield Township Building at 147 Municipal Drive.

Every June, articles, photos and artifacts from the Marshalls Creek Explosion of 1964 are on display in the Great Hall of the Middle Smithfield Community & Cultural Center. This year, that display has now been moved to the lobby of the Middle Smithfield Township building for the next few months, along with a guest book/memory book.

Please sign the guest book with your name and contact information if you wish to be informed of future events.

MORE IMPORTANTLY: Please leave your contact information and a note with instructions to contact you if you have any information that will help us locate relatives of F. Earl Miller, Leonard R. Mosier, Edward F. Hines, John Regina, Joseph Horvath, or Lillian Paesch, and collect stories from survivors.

More information about the explosion can be found on page 22!

HAVE YOU LIVED IN MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS? ARE YOU OVER THE AGE OF 65?

If yes, then you're invited to our annual Memory Makers Luncheon on Saturday, August 19th! More information is on page 23!



Resident Steve Warshaw captured this handsome buck on the McDade Trail



MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWS SUMMER 2023


- MID-YEAR REPORT TO THE PUBLIC, THURSDAY, JULY 27TH. MORE ON PAGE 4!
- WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE EXPLOSION? SEE PAGE 22
- MEMORY MAKERS LUNCHEON-SATURDAY, AUGUST 19TH! MORE ON PAGE 23

MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWS

WHAT'S GOING ON:


- July: CCC Exhibit: Thomas Ando Photography**
7/27: Supervisors Meeting & Mid-Year Presentation, 7 pm
7/31: 3rd Quarter Sewer Bill Due
- August: CCC Exhibit: Flood of '55**
8/19: 17th Annual Memory Makers Luncheon at Community & Cultural Center, Noon- 4 pm
- September: CCC Exhibit: Plein Air Paintings**
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
9/23: 1000 Feet of Street – Fall Litter Clean Up
- October: CCC Exhibit: Mastodon/National Fossil Day**
10/13 & 10/14: Township Fall Clean Up, 7 am – 2 pm
10/16: Fall 2023 Leaf Collection Begins
10/19: MCHA “Hotels and Boarding Houses of the Stroudsburgs,” at Community & Cultural Center, 7 pm
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

See what the Greater Pocono National Council of Negro Women have been up to this summer! More on page 24!



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

Join Bushkill Emergency Corps for their Annual Fall Gala on October 21st at the Shawnee Inn. More info on page 25!



Supervisors Mark Oney, Annette Atkinson, and Mike Dwyer

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Recent graduate looking for career experience? How do you get experience when you can’t get hired without it? High School student needing community involvement to apply for college? Retired Executive? Or re-entering the workforce and need recent experience? Then joining a township committee is for you!

Our Historical Commission and Parks and Recreation Committee have spots just waiting for you! Email hdennis@mstownship.com (Historical) or crain@mstownship.com (Parks) for more information!

A WORD FROM YOUR TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

Greetings, and Happy Summer!

It’s that time again -- if it’s mid-summer, it’s time for our annual Mid-Year Report to the public. Each year, the township staff delivers several presentations to the public: in February, the “Preview of Upcoming Year” which explains the goals, projects and plans of each department and committee, in July, the “Mid-Year Report”, and in December, the year end report and presentation of the next year’s budget. We hope you join us this July 27th, at 7pm, whether in person or on Zoom, to hear of the progress your township has made so far this year.

Making History: As you saw from the cover photo for this summer issue, a historic moment for Middle Smithfield Township occurred on June 26th, with the unveiling and dedication of the Marshalls Creek Explosion State Historical Marker from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. You can read more details both about the Explosion itself as well as the State Marker program, and the ceremony on the 59th anniversary of the blast throughout the pages of this newsletter. To say we join the Marshalls Creek Fire Company, descendants of the civilian survivors, and the Middle Smithfield Township Historical Commission in poignant township pride is an understatement. We invite all witnesses and survivors of the blast to contact Holly Dennis with any information and memories we can preserve, in particular so that we may locate relatives of the 6 deceased. (See the Historical Commission page and the Emergency Services page for more information.)page for more information.)

Preserving History: If it’s August, it’s time for Memory Makers! Each year, the township hosts a “Memory Makers” event for long-time residents to share their memorabilia, memories, and stories so that our Historical Commission can preserve them. Are you 65 and over? Or, have you lived in our township for 30 years or more? Then you’re invited to our Community & Cultural Center on August 19th! (please see the Historical Commission page for more info)

Enjoy your summer!

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

COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

Historical Commission 1st Thursday every month 9:00 am	Planning Commission 4th Thursday every month 5:30 pm
Board of Supervisors 2nd & 4th Thursday every month 7 pm	Zoning Hearing Board Call for schedule 570-223-8920 x126
Parks & Recreation Committee 1st Monday every month 6:30 pm	Economic Development Committee 3rd Monday every month 5:30 pm
Golf Course Advisory Committee 2nd Monday every month 8:30 am	Revitalize 209 Committee 4th Tuesday every month 5:30 pm
Oak Grove Composting Facility Board Call for schedule 570-223-8920 x142	

*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

BUDGET & FINANCE

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

BUDGET AND FINANCE: DOLLARS AND SENSE

By Bonnie Winters

We are pleased to report that the township's 2022 Audit was finalized, and was again extremely favorable. It is currently posted on the Middle Smithfield Township Website. The 2023 Budget is posted on the website as well.

Receipt of property taxes are slightly down, as is Zoning enforcement revenues and fee, but that is more than offset, but the strong real estate market and job markets which show an increase in property transfer taxes and Earned Income taxes.

We continue to get our projects 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 that were awarded in the few months since the Spring newsletter:

- The Township's Monroe County Local Share Account grant application was approved for \$20,000 toward defraying the cost of relocating the Middle Smithfield Township Sewer Department's line from the now defunct Big Ridge Drive Bridge. (read more on page 15)
- Awarded Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce's Main Street Grant in the amount of \$2,000 for funding the expansion of the Township's Veteran's Memorial (see more on page 17)

2023 MID-YEAR REPORT TO THE PUBLIC

Continuing this administration's tradition of timely and accurate periodic reports to the public, Middle Smithfield Township is on track to deliver their annual Mid-Year Report to the public at their next Board of Supervisor's meeting, scheduled for Thursday, July 27th, at 7pm in the Schoonover Municipal Building.

Each year, the township makes several presentations to the public, such as presents the next year's budget in December along with a "Year-End Report", a "Preview of the Upcoming Year" report in January, and a "Mid-Year Report" in July.

Typically, the township reports include new projects, a snapshot of the township's financials, overview of township operations by departments and committees, and summary of accomplishments and status of ongoing projects and forecast for the rest of the year.

Some highlights of this year's report directly answer our ongoing goals: build a sense of community, engage residents, and collaborate continuously.

We Solved Automation!

ISolved Payroll Manager Module has been implemented and is currently being utilized for our Payroll Processing. The benefits are:

- No manual inputting of hours worked and job coding. All is downloaded and real time from Time & Attendance module.
- Data integrity of hours/\$'s will be more accurate.
- Ease of Report Writer when running reports to manage payroll hours/\$'s.
- 100's of pre-designed reports built into the program.
- System Report Writer is user friendly and allows ease in creating new user specific reports.

We have also completed the GL Mapping from the new ISolved Payroll system to match the GL accounts in our QuickBooks Financial System for all payroll costs that are accumulated in the payroll processing. This automation of exporting from ISolved Payroll and importing into QuickBooks Financials is completed in 10 minutes in comparison to 2 hours of manual entry of each journal entry. What a savings in valuable time for our Budget Finance Manager which can be utilized elsewhere.

The initial configuration of the ISolved Time & Attendance software modules have been completed. This was a lengthy process as it required creating the wheel from scratch as we did not utilize such a system previously. We are looking to have it 100% implemented and online shortly.

Others directly answer our goals for 2023: Invest in our community, encourage business growth and leadership in municipal government.

Just some of the things residents will hear about:

- Contributions by township committees
- Specific additions and improvements to the township
- Improvements to township amenities such as parks and infrastructure such as road improvements
- Successful community events
- Improved support of local businesses, residents, and visitors.



LOOK SHARP WITH KUTZ VILLE USA STUDIO

BARBERSHOP

By James Brechbiel

This June, Kutz Ville USA Studio opened its doors in Middle Smithfield Township, bringing over 20 years of experience in cutting-edge style and fresh starts to the business community.



Owner Dean Lewis

After cutting hair in New York for decades, owners Dean and Shadaya Lewis were looking for a change and decided to relocate to Pennsylvania for heading a new venture in their life's passion; making people look good.

The most fulfilling part of my job is seeing the smiles on the faces of my clients once I have completed their haircut," said Dean Lewis. "My motto is, If you're cut ain't tight, you ain't right,"

The Kutz Ville Team can't wait to style Middle Smithfield and is looking forward to welcoming all.

Walk-ins are welcome.

Kutz Ville USA Studio

(570) 844 - 1804
5239 Milford Rd.
(between the Gulf Gas Station and Pocono Cafe on 209)
Visit our Instagram page: kutz.ville_

LVHN OPENING FAMILY MEDICINE

PRACTICE THIS SUMMER

By James Brechbiel

Residents of Middle Smithfield Township now have a family medicine practice right in town with LVHN's own LVPG Family Medicine-Middle Smithfield unit located at 4541 Milford Rd.

The primary care practice is expected to have up to 5 providers, including Primary Care Doctor, Leah Arlequin, MD, who received her medical degree from the American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine and is certified with the American Board of Family Medicine. The new unit will also include specialty providers that will announce session times as the practice grows. The unit will be the first of its kind in the Township.

"The growing Middle Smithfield region has been without local access to medical care, and Lehigh Valley Health Network is proud to address that need with the opening of our new practice location at The Crossings (at Marshalls Creek)," said Gary Kogut, Vice President Enterprise Physician Support Services, Lehigh Valley Physician Group.

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

TONY'S PIZZA EXPANDS TO MIDDLE SMITHFIELD

By James Brechbiel

This spring, Tony's Restaurant and Pizzeria, a seasoned veteran in Italian cuisine heralding from Crystal Street in East Stroudsburg, PA, expanded its wings to Middle Smithfield Township.



Kennedy Guiffre and Kristine Perez, Owners

A chorus of delicious traditional Italian courses gourmet pizza, and gluten-free options embellish the variety at

Tony's and give residents a great new place to dine with the family at affordable prices.

Stop by and meet owners Tommy Guiffre and Kristine Perez who are eager to welcome all.

"We are so happy we expanded to Middle Smithfield," says Perez. "It's such a great place to extend our roots and we can't wait to meet all our new customers. We have regular specials and are looking forward to welcoming you."

Tony's Pizza

(570) 588-1400
5224 Milford Rd., Suite 101
(in the Marshalls Square Plaza by Sunoco)
www.tonysrestaurantpizzeriamenu.com
https://bit.ly/FacebookTonysPizzaEastStroudsburgPA



LVPF-Family Medicine-Middle Smithfield

570-395-2514
4541 Milford Rd.
(in The Crossings at Marshalls Creek Complex by Price Chopper)
To learn more about LVPF, visit www.lvhn.org
www.facebook.com/lvhealthnetwork

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

MEET THE REVITALIZE 209 COMMITTEE

By James Brechbiel

The newly formed Revitalize 209 Committee members were seated by the Board of Supervisors on June 8th, ready to get to work on improving the Township’s main corridor and excited to receive letters of interest from applicants.

For a quick recap, the grant program itself fosters \$750,000 of property improvements along Milford Road, aka Route 209. The township’s portion of the total funds (\$375,000) was made possible by the American Rescue Plan Act and is intended to improve the appearance of the Township’s main corridor. The scope of the program is to focus on improvement to building facades, curb appeal, and safety. The maximum project size is up to \$20,000 in cost, with the Revitalize 209 Grant and applicant each providing \$10,000 to fund the project, and there is no minimum.

Meet the amazing Revitalize 209 Committee set to review projects on the Township’s main corridor:



Michael Coffey- A former architect licensed in NY and current software developer, Michael has had experience in community planning and is looking forward to using his passion for architecture and development on the Revitalize 209 project.



Ralph Dinkle- A retired civil engineer with over 40 years of professional experience, having an MS in civil engineering from the University of Maryland and an MS in environmental engineering from the NJ Institute of Technology, as well as once holding professional licenses in both Pennsylvania and New Jersey, Ralph’s extensive background of technical planning, design, and construction management of civil and environmental projects contribute greatly to the Revitalize 209 Team.



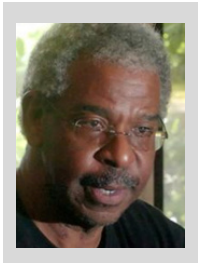
Bob Early- As the owner of Early Construction Company for over 40 years and a seasoned chair/vice chair of the Township’s Planning Commission for nearly as long, Bob comes equipped with a background in general contracting and is instrumental in making recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on land development plans and any new zoning changes. Bob Early was also a member of the township’s Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee (the plan was adopted earlier this year).



Deborah Emin- In addition to being a member of the Township’s Economic Development Committee, published author, teacher, and small business owner with the pop-up, The LOCALS’ Bookshop, Deborah has experience in reviewing applications for grants, and is eager to help businesses revitalize 209.



George Kuchek- George is a Registered Architect in Pennsylvania and New York and a LEED Accredited Professional. He is currently a Senior Technical Specifications Writer and Senior Associate at Page Southerland Page, Inc., Architects and Engineers. George relocated from Long Island to Middle Smithfield Township in 2017 and is ready to revitalize 209.



Albert R. Murray Jr. Esq.- As a member of the Township’s own Historical Commission, Sonny has deep roots in Middle Smithfield with his family’s founding of the Hillside Inn, the first and only African American-owned and operated resort in the Poconos, as well as being the first African-American attorney for Monroe County, subsequently enjoying a long career rising all the way to Assistant US Attorney for the Middle District of Pennsylvania and is still practicing law in East Stroudsburg today. Sonny is excited to see new life, fresh vitality, and to grow and develop the Township by being a part of the Revitalize 209 Committee.



Nick Theofilos- A member of the Township’s Planning Commission, as well as the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee, Nick is also a full-time trades worker with a small HVAC and electrical business on the side. A lifelong resident of Middle Smithfield Township, Nick brings his knowledge of the area and experience in construction to the Revitalize 209 Team.

Regularly scheduled public meetings of the Revitalize 209 Grant Committee will be the fourth Tuesday of every month.

To refamiliarize yourself with the resolution for the Revitalize 209 Grant, please use the following online link: <https://bit.ly/Revitalize209GRANT>.

Have a project in mind?
Call James Brechbiel at 570-223-8920 x 130, or email at jbrechbiel@mstowndship.com.

SUMMERTIME READS WITH THE LOCALS’ BOOKSHOP

By James Brechbiel

With the scarcity of unique and quality bookstores increasing, The LOCALS’ Bookshop offers an alternative to the ever-growing eCommerce platforms and dwindling traditional brick-and-mortar experience by bringing great finds to the local farmer’s markets and festivals. A staple at the Monroe’s Farmers Market and Pennsylvanian vegan festivals, The LOCALS’ Bookshop focuses on helping promote books for improving the mind, as well the body of readers.

Shoppers will be able to connect with Deborah Emin, owner of The LOCALS’ Bookshop, whose passion for books has driven her to dedicate her time to promoting a healthy attitude for rediscovering great reading adventures.

Having spent her professional career writing, publishing, curating reading series, working with libraries to acquire books, teaching writing, reviewing books, and working for publishers, Deborah felt it was her duty to bring great reads to the public in this venture.

“The highlight of my life right now is being a bookseller,” says Emin. “Bookstores are important places in our society. They allow us to spend time together in ways we don’t in any other venue. At a bookstore we share. We tell stories. We ask questions. And, for the most part, we are happy to be together.”

And residents can find The LOCALS’ Bookshop at any of the following events this year:

- **Monroe Farmers Market:** 7/8, 7/22, 8/5, 8/19, 9/30, 11/4, 11/11, 11/18, 11/25 | Courthouse Square, Stroudsburg, PA
- **Easton VegFest:** 8/26 | Riverside Park, Larry Holmes Dr., Easton, PA
- **VegFest Upper Macungie:** 9/9 | Upper Macungie Grange Park, Allentown, PA
- **Mercy Vegan Pop-Up:** 9/24 | ArtsQuest, Bethlehem, PA
- **Lehigh Valley VegStock:** 10/14| Llantrisant Retreat and Wellness Center, Tatamy, PA

Can’t make it to see Deborah this year? That’s okay. Be sure to check out some of The LOCALS’ Bookshop’s great offerings on the online store, <https://bookshop.org/shop/thelocalsbookshop>.

The LOCALS’ Bookshop
(917) 655 - 3745
Deborah.emin@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/GoVeganBuyBooks/>
<https://www.thelocalsbookshop.com/>
PO Box 870, Marshalls Creek, PA 18335



At the Tractor Supply Ribbon Cutting. Left to right, James Brechbiel (MST Economic Development Manager), Annette Atkinson (MST Board of Supervisors), Rick Robinson (Tractor Supply Store Manager), Jan-Michael Cichocki (Tractor Supply District Manager), Mackenzie Mueller (Senator Rosemary Brown’s Office Chief of Staff).

TRACTOR SUPPLY OFFICIALLY OPENS!

By James Brechbiel

On June 3, 2023, Tractor Supply officially celebrated its grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony with residents, officials, friends, and pets alike.

Customers had the chance to meet the Tractor Supply Team and Store Manager, Rick Robinson, who is eager to welcome fellow residents and show them what all the excitement is about.

“At Tractor Supply, we are passionate about serving the needs of those who enjoy the “Out Here” lifestyle,” said Robinson. “We’re excited to call East Stroudsburg home and serve the community with the essentials you need to live life on your own terms”.

The new store, in addition to being the largest rural lifestyle retail chain store in the United States, selling everything from agriculture, lawn care, home improvement, livestock, pet care, and garden maintenance products, comes equipped with a Pet Wash, as well as a Garden Center featuring top brands with an assortment of annuals and perennials, shrubs, decorative plants, fruit trees, vegetables, herbs, and more.

Tractor Supply
(272) 271-3020
5133 Milford Rd.
(next to McDonald’s, and near Sellersville Drive)
www.facebook.com/TractorSupplyCo
tractorsupply.com.

The LOCALS' Bookshop

#GoVegan
#BuyBooks

Sullivan Street Press • PO Box 870 • Marshalls Creek, PA 18335
Deborah Emin • deborah.emin@gmail.com • (917) 655-3745

ORDER BOOKS ONLINE!

SCAN ME!

thelocalsbookshop.com



Support the Locals Bookshop by scanning the QR Code or thelocalsbookshop.com

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

ABOUT PLANNING COMMISSIONS

By Vicki Smith

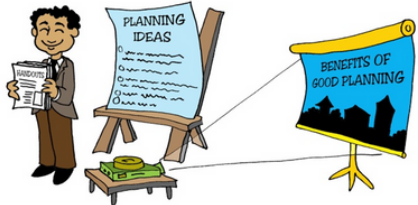
A governing body has several choices when it decides to create a planning organization within its municipality. It can create a planning commission or planning department or both; it can also designate a planning committee of members of the governing body.

As of 2001 the data available shows us that more than 60 percent of the municipalities in the Commonwealth have planning agencies. In addition, all 66 counties have planning agencies. In fact, there are more municipal planning commissions than water and sewer authorities or police departments in the Commonwealth. Appointment to a police department results in a paid position, but appointment to a planning commission is a goodwill endeavor. That is, all members serve on a volunteer basis and most are not compensated for their community service.

One of the most important powers and responsibilities of local government is its authority to plan and guide growth of municipal services and public improvements so that development occurs in an orderly, rational and reasonable manner. A planning commission assists local elected officials in carrying out these important responsibilities. Commissions can gather data, analyze information, coordinate efforts and educate their citizens regarding the best choices for the community. All of these activities aid local elected officials in their decision-making process for future development. Working together locally, Pennsylvanians can begin growing and living smarter.

An important reason for planning is to anticipate the needs of the people for public improvements and provide sensible means for meeting those identified needs. The process demands that all interests be considered and then balanced. Members of a planning commission can play a crucial role in identifying, analyzing and balancing environmental, economic and human interests. By careful planning, we can determine how to best promote proper use of land, provide for the efficient movement of people and goods, preserve our natural resources, and achieve the most appropriate and economical use of our natural and human resources.

All of these resources are important to the welfare of our communities. Local governments have been delegated the power to plan and guide the way these resources are utilized. Members of local planning commissions can assist our municipal officials in many significant ways.



LEGAL CORNER

By Michele Clewell, Township Secretary/HR Director

What are the duties of Township Supervisors

Under the Pennsylvania Second Class Township Code, the Board of Supervisors shall be charged with “the general governance of the township and the execution of legislative, executive and administrative powers in order to ensure sound fiscal management and to secure the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the township”...

Middle Smithfield Township has a three-member Board of Supervisors, whose six year terms are staggered, so that one supervisor is elected every two years. It is the Board of Supervisors that vote and pass the laws of the Township. As of January 2023, the Board has passed fourteen resolutions and one ordinance.

Resolutions passed January 1, 2023 – June 1, 2023

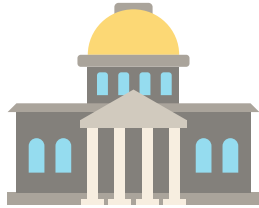
- Adopting the 2023 budget and fixing the tax rate for the year
- Approving the amended and restated bylaws for the MST workers compensation safety committee; going from 4 members to 5
- Sewer Fee Schedule for SEO Service
- Policy for Audio and/or video recordings of the BOS meetings
- Disposition of certain records
- Joinder Deed(s) - 3
- Establishing the Revitalize Route 209 Grant Program and Associated Document
- Resolution Repealing Resolution 02-2023-4 and Establishing the Revitalize Route 209 Grant program to Improve and revitalize the Route 209 Corridor within MST
- Establishing an AD HOC Revitalize Route 209 Grant Committee for the Purposed of Making Recommendation to the BOS re: letters of interest and applications Associated with the MST Revitalize Route 209 Grant program
- Disposition of Certain Records
- Amended Child Protective Clearances Policy



Ordinances passed January 1, 2023 – June 1, 2023

- Ordinance No. 238 - Alarms Systems, Establishing Requirements for the Operation of Alarm Systems, Payments for False Alarms and Provision for Violations and penalties Relate Thereto.

Continued on page 15.



FIREWORKS: FUN OR FOE?

By Mayra Colon

Since the adoption of House Bill 542 which legalized the use of consumer fireworks in PA, the night skies have been illuminated by more than just stars. While it is great fun to shoot off a few fireworks, there are also great risks. That is why State Law also regulates how the consumer fireworks may be used. Yet many residents ask – who is tasked with enforcing this state law?



State Laws are enforced by the state, i.e., either a local police department or the state troopers. Municipal code Enforcement Officers cannot enforce state law. At this time, if you have a complaint or concern regarding the use of consumer fireworks in your area, we must direct you to the State Police Station in Stroudsburg, 570-619-6480. Ongoing issues or concerns can also be directed to your State Representative, Maureen Madden (Middle Smithfield West) at (570) 894-7905 or Tara Probst (Middle Smithfield East) at 570-420-2850 or State Senator Rosemary Brown, at (570) 620-4326.

House Bill 2157 was signed into law as Act 74 of 2022, and effective September 9, 2022, this moves Fireworks Law from the Tax Code back to Title 3 (Agriculture). One of the noteworthy changes is allowing municipalities to restrict hours of use. Municipalities may restrict use of consumer fireworks between 10 p.m. and 10 a.m. except: July 2, 3, 4 and Dec. 31 when they may be used until 1 a.m. If July 4 falls on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday they may be used until 1 a.m. on the immediately preceding and following Friday and Saturday

Middle Smithfield Township plans to have a public hearing on August 10th for a draft Fireworks Ordinance amendment, which incorporates the recent revisions to the statutory law governing fireworks.

CONSUMER FIREWORKS IN MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP

Residents often ask about the rules and regulations regarding consumer-grade fireworks in our township. Consumer fireworks are defined in part as “any combustible or explosive composition or any substance or combination of substances intended to produce a visible or audible effect by combustion and is suitable for use by the public” such as firecrackers, roman candles and bottle rockets. They are also known as 1.4G fireworks.

Continued on page 27.

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.

PROVIDING DIRECTION ON SIGNS

Signs, Signs everywhere, and not pretty view in sight. We are in full swing for summer, and more than just wildflowers are blooming on our roadsides! Just a friendly reminder that some signs are prohibited (for example, the large feather flag signs). And all signs that are permitted have rules – for example, lawn signs, whether political, or for your business, or your yard sale. Before you invest money in signage, please call the Zoning Office for specifics!

SHORT TERM RENTALS ARE REGULATED IN MST

If you are offering your home on AirBNB, VRBO, HomeAway, etc., you must apply for and obtain an Annual Short Term Rental License from Middle Smithfield Township. Contact Zoning at 570-223-8920 ext. 105



TO BURN, OR NOT TO BURN?

As a reminder, burning is not permitted in Middle Smithfield Township. The only exception to this rule is a recreational fire pit in which you burn firewood. Open burning of any substance, even in a burn barrel, is strictly prohibited and could result in a fine. The township takes this matter seriously. We will quickly investigate any complaints received and enforce the code for the health, safety and welfare of all residents.



IT'S YARD SALE SEASON!

Did you get your permit? There is a \$5 fee and a \$10 refundable deposit for yard sale permits! Call 570-223-8920 x100!



CULTURAL & COMMUNITY CENTER

5200 Milford Rd., East Stroudsburg, PA 18302
Manager: Holly Dennis | hdennis@mstownship.com | 570-223-8920 x132

LIBRARY OF THE SMITHFIELDS SUMMER PROGRAMS

By Jessica Brown, Branch Manager

Summer Reading Programs are in full swing! Here are library events that members of the community are welcome to attend.

- **Bugs & Beyond - Friday July 28th, 10am - All Ages.** Come join us as we discover some insects on our trails & learn about what makes them so unique. Rain or shine. Dress to go outside. Presented by Pocono Environmental Education Center. Call to register 570-223-1881
- **Butterflies & Bees - Tuesday August 1st, 10am - Ages 3 & Up.** Learn about the special friendship between flowers and their pollinators, butterflies and bees. Presented by Pocono Heritage Land Trust. Rain or shine. Dress to go outside. Walk-in.
- **Turtles from Around the World - Tuesday August 8th, 10am - Ages 3 & Up.** This interactive program features live turtles and tortoises. Learn about their habitats, diets, the difference between each species, & more. Walk-in.
- **Bird Bonanza - Friday September 15th, 11am - Ages 3 & Up.** Our fine feathered friends are seen throughout the year, but sometimes it is difficult to see them up close. Students will get a personal look at our bird artifacts to unravel the secrets of flight and the mysteries of bird identification in the field.

Weekly Preschool Storytime is Coming Back in Late September!

"EN PLEIN AIR" EXHIBIT BY TRICIA LOWREY LIPPERT

Join us in the month of September to view a collection of paintings painted en plein air, which means outside from life battling whatever elements come our way. It is a method of painting made popular by the Impressionists.

This show will represent a group of local painters from northeast Pennsylvania (the Poconos) with a few added guests from western New Jersey.



KINDLE, MOVE OVER -- LIBRARY APPS CONNECT READERS WITH MONROE COUNTY LIBRARY

A few months ago, Merle Turitz, Editor of the Monroe County Senior Times Express and Community Services Supervisor for Monroe County PA Area Agency on Aging, wrote about two free library apps.

With her permission, we are sharing her article. (to receive the Monroe County Senior Times Express please call 570-420-3735.)

Libby App and Hoopla App allow patrons of the Monroe County Library (Eastern Monroe Public Library) system to borrow books, audiobooks, magazines and more from our library. There's never a late fee because books are returned automatically. Borrow audiobooks or use your tablet and adjust the text size and brightness to best suit your reading needs. (help.libbyapp.com & www.hoopladigital.com)

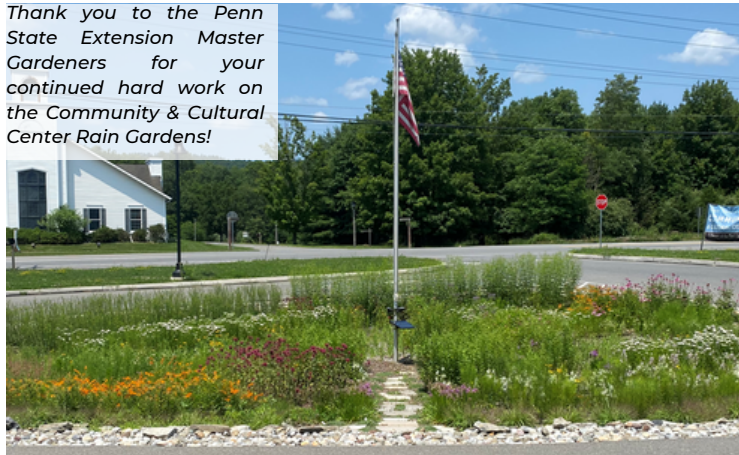
Hoopla offers more content, in more places, than any other digital library platform and it's all FREE thanks to your public library!

But wait, there's more! Residents of Pennsylvania automatically qualify for a FREE Library of Philadelphia library card. This opens up a whole new dimension of book options. Apply for the Library of Philadelphia card, then add it to the LIBBY app. Apply for the card online here: catalog.freelibrary.org/MyResearch/register. After getting the free library card from Philadelphia, enter that information into LIBBY, and then choose materials from either Eastern Monroe Library of the Philadelphia Library.

Need a library card for the Eastern Monroe Public Library? Apply here: easternmonroe.sparkpa.org/eg/opac/register

Need help downloading these apps to your phone? Visit Merle for help at the Loder Senior Center in East Stroudsburg. Merle advises "Reading keeps your brain active, and your mind engaged" – so important for mental health.

Thank you to the Penn State Extension Master Gardeners for your continued hard work on the Community & Cultural Center Rain Gardens!



TAI CHI FOR ARTHRITIS - A HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAM FOR SENIORS (60+)

Tai Chi for Arthritis, was designed by Dr. Paul Lam along with the Arthritis Foundation, to enhance flexibility, muscle tone, and fitness. It incorporates the essential principles of Tai Chi with an emphasis on breathing, posture, and space awareness, with the added benefit of stress reduction. This class is done standing, but can be done seated as well.

Where: The Middle Smithfield Township Community & Cultural Center
When: Every Thursday, August 10, 17, 24, 31, September 7, 14, 21, and 28
From 10:30 am – 11:30 a.m.

Brought to you by the Pennsylvania Department of the Aging and the Monroe County Area Agency on Aging. The Class is taught by Laura Pride, health and wellness coordinator.

Prior registration is required. Class size is limited to 16. Attending all 8 classes is necessary to receive full benefits.

Please call Laura at 570-420-3746 to register.



IN MEMORY OF CAROLYN JONES

It is with great love and gratitude that Middle Smithfield Township, together with the Parks and Recreation Committee and the Penn State Master Gardeners of Monroe County remember Carolyn Jones, Community Gardener and Penn State Master Gardener.

Carolyn tended the Bushkill Outreach raised beds at the Community Gardens Park and dropped off the produce from the Grow a Row program to Bushkill Outreach, and designed and planted the pollinator beds and certified Monarch Waystation. Having multiple raised beds to tend, Carolyn was a constant "Ask the Master Gardener" resource to fellow gardeners up there, and was sorely missed last year when she had to cut back.

We will commemorate Carolyn, and carry on Carolyn's work by taking shifts in managing the Bushkill Outreach boxes, continuing the "Grow a Row" program, and donate in Carolyn's name. Carolyn has said "The foodbank appreciates fresh vegetables and when I would pull up they would get excited when they saw the harvest and yell 'hey we have fresh vegetables here', since what I saw going out was a lot of bread and canned goods."

Caroline Jones conducted many classes both at the township building and up at the Community Gardens Park, and successfully represented the township's Community Gardens Park as an entry to the "Search for Excellence Award" at the State Conference in Pittsburgh. The award recognizes the work Master Gardeners do throughout the state, and out of hundreds of applications, Middle Smithfield's Community Gardens Park placed second in the statewide competition.



COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL CENTER PUBLIC EVENTS AND EXHIBITS* :

July:

Thomas Ando Photography Exhibit
Thomas Ando, creative photographer, will be displaying a wide range of photographic works at the Middle Smithfield Township Community & Cultural Center. The images are a selection of the lost in America series and some new images from around the country; Seen and unseen.

Penn State Extension Master Gardeners- Hydrangeas Workshop- Sat 7/29, 10:00 am- 12:00 pm

August:

The Flood of '55 Exhibit

During the month of August residents are invited to view the exhibit featuring photos from the Flood of '55, as well as help identify people and locations.

See more information on the Flood of '55 on page 23.

September:

Tricia Lowrey Lippert "En plein air" Exhibit

A collection of paintings painted "en plein air", a French term which means "out of doors" battling whatever elements come the painter's way. It is a method of painting made popular by the Impressionists. This show will represent a group of local painters from northeast Pennsylvania (the Poconos) with a few added guests from western New Jersey.

First of the Scene Training- Sat, 9/16 8:30 am- 12:00 pm

First on the Scene training sponsored by Lehigh Valley Health Network

The goal of the course is to prepare the public to help those who are injured and save lives until EMS arrives. Registration information will be available on our website and Facebook pages in the coming weeks.

October:

Marshalls Creek Mastodon Exhibit

John Able Book Talk: "The Murder of Theodore Brodhead." Thurs. 10/5, 7:00 pm.

Two drifters murder Theodore Brodhead in Delaware Water Gap and shatter the tranquility of the area.

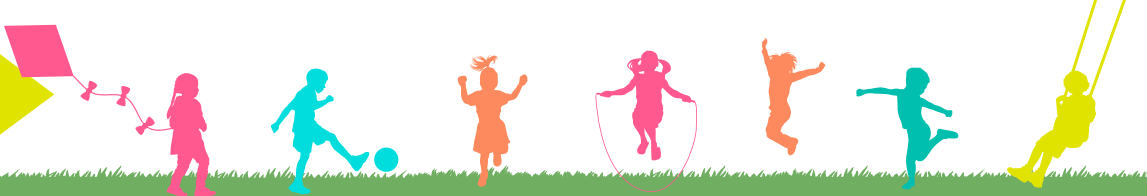
***Are you a non-profit? We'd love to host your event or meeting. Please call Holly Dennis at 570-223-8920 x132**

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

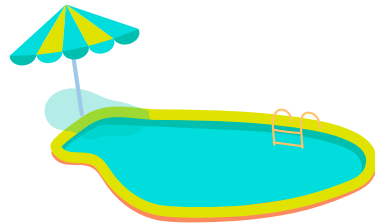
[BIT.LY/MST-PARKS-SURVEY](https://bit.ly/mst-parks-survey)

GET IN THE POOL, MST!

Vouchers for discounted pool passes at Dansbury Pool are now available to Middle Smithfield Township residents

By Chris Rain

Need a place to cool off in the summer? Middle Smithfield Township residents can now purchase resident passes to the pool at Dansbury Park. The pool officially opened in June.



All Middle Smithfield Township residents who wish to access Dansbury Pool must obtain a voucher from the Middle Smithfield Township office prior to going to the pool to purchase their pass. The voucher is free, but applicants must provide proof of their residency in Middle Smithfield Township by providing a current driver's license, tax bill, or other proof. Voucher holders may then buy pool passes at Dansbury Pool by showing their voucher to pool staff.

Pool vouchers are valid only for Dansbury Pool during the pool season in which they were issued and must be reissued each year. Middle Smithfield Township office is located at 147 Municipal Drive. Our hours are Monday to Friday 8am to 4pm. Questions may be directed to the Middle Smithfield Township parks department at 570-223-8920 x119 or crain@mstownship.com.

Dansbury Pool is operated by the Stroud Regional Open Space and Recreation Commission (SROSRC). The pool is located at 15 Day Street, East Stroudsburg, and is open daily 11am to 7pm, except Fridays when it is open until 8pm. For more information, call SROSRC at 570-421-6591, or visit the SROSRC website: www.srosrc.org/aquatics

Dansbury Pool is not located in, owned by, or operated by Middle Smithfield Township. The voucher program is provided as a service to township residents in agreement with SROSRC.

RENT A PAVILION AT MST PARKS

By Chris Rain

Summer 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 crain@mstownship.com.

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY OPENS AT COMMUNITY GARDENS

By Chris Rain

A new Little Free Library has opened at Community Gardens Park. Riley Ambio, a resident of Bushkill and senior member of her Girl Scout troop, built the new library for her Senior Gold Award project.



The Little Free Library is a free-standing structure containing several books donated by Riley. Community members are encouraged to borrow and also donate books to the library.

Middle Smithfield Township thanks Riley for her hard work and congratulates her on completing her Senior Gold Award. We are very happy to have this new addition to our township park.

Community Gardens Park is located at 989 Coolbaugh Road in East Stroudsburg.

ASK THE DOG TRAINER: FREE DOG TRAININGS

By Chris Rain

Dog trainer David J. Henon will be giving three free training sessions at W. Leroy Lewis Dog Park. Bring your dog to go over basic commands and how it can help solve many behavior issues. Learn about the American Kennel Club (AKC) Canine Good Citizen and how it can help you get discounts on your homeowners policy and how your dog can become a therapy dog.



Dates of future classes in 2023 are:

- September 16, 11am-1pm

Dog Trainings take place at W. Leroy Lewis Dog Park at 108 Leroy Lane.

BEEKEEPING DEMONSTRATIONS

By Chris Rain



Come learn about beekeeping with our in-house beekeeper, Vicky from the Monroe County Beekeepers Association! The first Saturday of each month from May to September at 9:30am, Vicky will check the bees and provide information to any member of the public who wishes to attend.

Dates of future demonstrations in 2023 are:

- August 5, 9:30am-10:30am
- September 2, 9:30am-10:30am

Beekeeping demonstrations take place at Community Gardens Park at 989 Coolbaugh Road.

GRANT FUNDED PARKS IMPROVEMENTS ARE COMING ALONG

By Chris Rain

Two grant funded improvement projects in our parks are completed or nearing completion in 2023.

At Echo Lake Park on Milford Road, the 0.6 mile walking trail and playground parking lot have both been resurfaced with new stone. This project makes the path more defined, more accessible, and easier to walk. The township received a \$7,800 grant from Monroe County Open Space to fund these improvements to the walking trail. (*see photos below*)

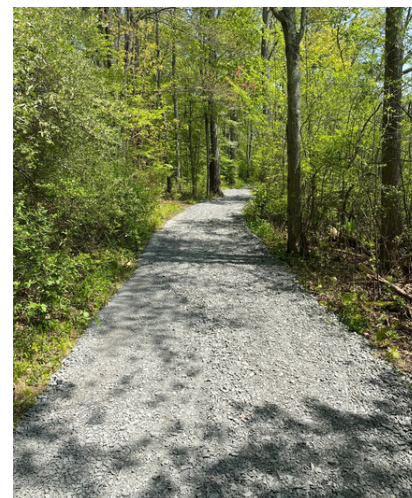
The parking lot and walking trails were also resurfaced with new stone at the Community Gardens Park on Coolbaugh Road. The Township also purchased enough building material to replace 75 of the raised garden plots at that park. These materials are provided to the gardeners and the plots are in the process of being rebuilt by volunteers. The township received a \$5,000 grant from One For Nature to fund this improvement project. The resurfacing portion of the project is complete. The plot rebuilding is ongoing and expected to finish in summer 2023.

Middle Smithfield Township is grateful to all of these grantors for their generosity and to our volunteers for their help to complete these projects!



Before

After



PUBLIC WORKS

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

SEWER

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

PWD UPCOMING PROJECTS FOR 2023

By Rachel Heller

MS4 Update: Major work is done.

Winter Materials Shed: In progress!

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 stockpile materials earlier in the season, leaving the township less vulnerable to shortages and delivery delays when materials are needed most.

Sewer: Generator Pads: In progress!

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

Roads: Frutchey Road Drainage Project: In progress!

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. This drainage project was started in March and picked up in July.

OAK GROVE & RECYCLING

www.ogmmcpb.com

Chairperson: Mike Dwyer

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

Members: Annette Atkinson, Aaron Springs, Jacob Pride

The Oak Grove Multi-Municipal Compost Processing Program is jointly operated and available to residents of:

- Lehman Township
- Smithfield Township
- Middle Smithfield Township

The Oak Grove site is located at 3305 Oak Grove Drive in Middle Smithfield Township and will be staffed for residents Monday- Saturday from 7 am – 2 pm and is closed on holidays.

More information and documents can be found online at www.ogmmcpb.com or call Rachel Heller at 570-223-8920 x142.

SPRING 2023 CLEANUP AND FREECYCLE SUCCESSFUL

By Rachel Heller

Twice a year, we are thrilled that so many residents take the time and pride in their properties to clean them up and make use of "Dumpster Day". At the 2023 Spring Cleanup residents still managed to fill 17 dumpsters with trash, 10 pallets with electronics, 20.42 tons of scrap metal, 862lbs of batteries and 118 tires. And, your generous donations at Freecycle gave many residents an opportunity to pick up gently used items.

See you at the 2023 Fall Clean Up and Free-cycle!

WHAT'S WITH THE BLUE SIGNS?

By Rachel Heller

While driving through the Township you may have noticed the municipal street signs are now blue. Public Works replaced the green street signs with blue ones in several phases. So, what does this mean? The blue street signs are meant to indicate roads owned by Middle Smithfield Township. This is a concept modeled after some neighboring townships and will help residents determine if that road is township, state or privately owned, as well as signify that you are still in Middle Smithfield Township when you are in the "Blue Sign District".



ROADS BEING SURFACE TREATED IN 2023

Chip Seal

Road Name	From	To
Bowie Lane	Oak Grove Road	Corral Court
Arbutus Lane	Bowie Lane	Cul-de-sac
Corral Court	Bowie Lane	Cul-de-sac
Custard Drive	Bowie Lane	Cul-de-sac
Calvary Court	Oak Grove Road	Cul-de-sac
Russell Ridge Road	Calvary Court	Route 402
White Birch Lane	Calvary Court	Scenery Court
Scenery Court	Russel Ridge Road	Dead End

Pave

Road Name	From	To
Mount Nebo Road	Township Line	Route 209
Village Drive	Big Ridge Drive	Tom X Road
Big Ridge Drive	Fringe Drive	Pondside Drive
Dancing Ridge Road	Barren Road	Schoolhouse Road
Waverly Drive	Scratch	
Knoll Drive	Scratch	
Coolbaugh Road	Scratch	

2023 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS:

By Joan Woisin

New Utility Bill Pay Service to 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). Sewer customers can sign up for bill reminders, paperless billing and AutoPay, as well as make one-time payments as a guest.

✔ **Pump Station #3 – McCole & Route 209** – This rehabilitation project has been completed.

Pump Station #8 – Lake of the Pines – This project involves replacement of the piping in the wet well and valve vault and additional modifications and restoration work, and bid solicitation has been advertised in the Pocono Record on June 6th and 13th. Work is scheduled to begin in Fall of 2023.

Generators – We are installing new fuel-efficient generators at 6 of our Pump Stations. This work will be ongoing through 2023. Public Works will construct the concrete generator pads, which should result in a savings versus the contractor.

The Township's LSA grant application was approved for \$20,000 toward defraying the cost of relocating the Middle Smithfield Township Sewer Department's line from the now defunct Bid Ridge Drive Bridge.

LEGAL CORNER

Continued from page 8.

From time to time residents ask if they are permitted to vote on matters of the township. The answer is only if there is a referendum on the ballot. As dictated by the Second-Class Township Code, it is the elected supervisor's sole responsibility to vote on matters of the township.

What is a referendum?

The Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development Referendum Handbook, Eleventh Edition states that "Government in the United States, including Pennsylvania, generally employ the model of representative democracy, in which the people govern themselves through their elected representatives. These representatives are chosen for specific terms by direct popular vote, represent the will of the people, and are delegated the power to make decision on public matters".

Local Referenda are generally limited to a particular subject area or question. Some examples of a referendum that would appear on a ballot following meeting all the election filing requirements, where the voters would be asked to vote for /against are listed below. (This is only an example of topics and does not list all specific types of referenda.)

NEED HELP? HELP US HELP YOU!

By Joan Woisin

The Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is now open and will accept applications from July 10, 2023 through August 11, 2023.

LIHWAP is a temporary emergency program to help pay overdue water bills and/or wastewater (aka sewer) bills. Since LIHWAP is a grant, not a loan, it does not need to be repaid.

LIHWAP crisis grants may be available if you have an emergency situation and are in jeopardy of losing your water service. You can receive one crisis grant for your drinking water service and one crisis grant for your wastewater service, up to \$2,500 each. Crisis situations include:

- Past-due water bills.
- Termination of utility service.
- Danger of having utility service terminated (received a notice that service will be shut off within the next 60 days).

For more information, please visit bit.ly/WaterAssistance.



Below are some examples of what can be voted on:

- Boundary Changes of Township Lines
- Consolidation or Merger with Another Municipality
- Horse Racing
- Libraries
- Municipal Classification Change
- Municipal Name Change
- Open Space Tax: for example "Should Middle Smithfield increase the township's total earned income tax from 1% to 1.25% to use solely for purchasing open space? The funds could create more recreational land, passive land, park land, and trails."

LITTER & BEAUTIFICATION

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

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 OUR NEW ROAD ADOPTERS!

- **Deer Track Dr & Deer Track Ln**
Allison Schaller & Dan Osterhout
- **Coolbaugh Road, 402 to Laurel Ridge**
Sureya Bliss
- **Coolbaugh Road, Laurel Ridge to Sportsman**
Jackie Charles

LET'S BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR AND KEEP YOUR YARD CLEAN!

By Mayra Colon

With the warmer weather, blooming flowers and chirping birds, it's only natural to venture outdoors to enjoy our surroundings. And then we see it... the piles of debris in our neighbor's yard. Despite our best efforts to encourage our neighbor to clean up just a bit, the place is in shambles. What else is there to do?

The property must meet the definitions found in the Zoning Ordinance and certain criteria for enforcement. Also, the violation must have an immediate impact on the person who is filing the complaint. The Zoning Office will determine after inspection if formal action should be taken against the property owner.

If you would like to submit a complaint to the Zoning Office, you may do so by email to mcolon@mstownship.com or by calling 570-223-8920 ext. 126.



THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Middle Smithfield Township would like to extend a huge thank you to the many volunteers who came out to clean up litter this spring. Because of your dedication, we cleaned up over 300 bags of litter in on more than 22 miles of roads, or 44 miles of road side, or approximately 232,320 feet of street. Check out these photos of our dedicated volunteers. If you see them, thank them!

1000 FEET OF STREET FALL LITTER PICK UP

By Chris Rain

Twice a year, hundreds of volunteers clean up hundreds of thousands of feet of street. Volunteers sign in at the Township building to get supplies, get split into groups, and depart to various locations throughout the Township to beautify Rt 209 (our "Main Street") and other roads throughout Middle Smithfield. The Township provides reflective vests, road crew signs, and other supplies as needed.

The Fall 1000 Feet of Street Litter Pick Up is scheduled for Saturday September 23, but volunteers are welcome to help clean up any time. Any day that works for you, works for us!

IF YOU LITERALLY HAVE A TON OF GARBAGE

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Alliance Sanitary Landfill
389 South Keyser Avenue
Taylor, PA 18517

- **Disposal Rate:** approximately \$62/ton
- **Hours:** Weekday 7:30am to 3pm
Saturdays 7am to 11am
www.alliancelandfill.wm.com

Grand Central Sanitary Landfill
910 W Pennsylvania Avenue
Pen Argyl, PA 18072

- **Disposal Rate:** approximately \$73/ton
- **Hours:** Weekdays 6am to 4pm
Saturdays 7am to 9am
www.wmsolutions.com



FREE SUMMER MEAL PROGRAM AT ESASD



The East Stroudsburg Area School District (ESASD) has initiated its Summer Meal Program for the Summer of 2023. This program is aimed to give out breakfast and lunches to children 18 years old and under for free. The Meal Program had started on Wednesday, June 14th and will continue until Friday, August 11th. So please utilize the program if you are eligible.

Locations and Times for Pick-Up

Below are the locations for the Meal Program provided by ESASD. Each location is available Monday through Friday to pick up the meals provided by the district.

- **East Stroudsburg South High School**
279 South Courtland Street, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301
 - Breakfast: 8:30am – 9:30am
 - Lunch: 11:30am – 12:30pm
- **Stroud Borough Park**
209 Stadium Street, Stroudsburg, PA 18360
 - Breakfast: 8:30am – 9:30am
 - Lunch: 11:30am – 12:30pm
- **J.M. Hill Elementary School**
151 East Broad Street, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301
 - Breakfast: 8:30am – 9:30am
 - Lunch: 11:30am – 12:30pm
- **Dansbury Park Pavilion**
15 Day Street, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301
 - Breakfast: 8:30am – 9:30am
 - Lunch: 11:30am – 12:30pm

Contact Information

If there are any questions you may have or you want to find out more information regarding the program, you can contact (570) 424-8500 X 10505.

ENRICHING EXPERIENCES FOR ALL THIS SUMMER

Middle Smithfield Township is excited to work with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) and participate in the MY Work summer employment program created by the OVR with the goal of providing high school students with disabilities the opportunity to work for their local municipality or non-profit.

This summer we are welcoming 4 student participants. Student employment is at no cost to Middle Smithfield Township, as OVR covers all costs for all student workers participating in the program.

MIDDLE SMITHFIELD EXPANDS VETERAN MEMORIAL WITH \$2,000 GRANT FROM GREATER LEHIGH VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

By James Brechbiel

You may remember reading about the Veterans Memorial Expansion in the Spring newsletter, made possible by a grant from the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau. Now, Middle Smithfield is proud to announce that we were a chosen recipient of the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce's Main Street Grant in the amount of \$2,000 for funding the expansion of the Township's Veteran's Memorial.

The grant will help cover the Hometown Heroes Banner Project at the site located at the Middle Smithfield Township Community & Cultural Center. Banners displaying local veterans will align the parking lot and road along Route 209 as a homage to those local heroes who served.

Originating as the Citizens Christmas Committee of Bethlehem Fund in 1985, proceeds from selling Christmas Seals were used to purchase holiday decorations for the city, beautifying their main street for the holiday season and generating community spirit. The program expanded once the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce merged with the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce (GLVCC), broadening the focus beyond the holiday season to the everyday "main street." GLVCC invests in the beautification of main street Pennsylvania by contributing to projects that will expand, or assist in the creation of community cultural centers, assist with business retention, attraction, or expansion, or supports local creation of jobs, and enhances the welfare, health, and quality of its citizens.

And Middle Smithfield's Hometown Heroes Project made the cut.

"We are so honored to be chosen for this grant and are eager to get to work on the expansion of our Veteran's Memorial with the addition of the Hometown Heroes Project," said Annette Atkinson, Middle Smithfield Township Supervisor. "This project will truly honor our veterans, whom we are so proud and humbled by."

More information on the Veterans Memorial and Hometown Heroes Banners will be coming soon!



OVR has partnered with Youth Advocate Program, Inc. to provide onsite support for the participants for a successful workplace experience. Student participants will complete outdoor work tasks including beautification, light landscaping and maintenance as well indoor work tasks such as light building clean up, maintenance and inventory/stock tasks.

This summer will prove to be an enriching experience for all of us, as we all broaden our horizons.

MARSHALLS CREEK VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY
ANNUAL FALL GOLF CLASSIC- SEPTEMBER 30TH!

The Marshalls Creek Fire Company will be hosting our annual Fall Classic Golf Tournament on September 30th. This will be the 30th year for this tournament! This is our major fundraiser for the year and helps to provide our yearly expenses.

While many things have recently changed in our communities, there is something that has not, and this is Marshalls Creek Fire Company's commitment to you and your safety. We have always been there for you during snow storms, flooding, brush fires, power outages, and those critical situations such as structure fires, medical emergencies, vehicle accidents, and now during a global pandemic.

Your support of our volunteers will be a valued sign of solidarity during this time. Donations and contributions like yours cover costs to safely equip and train our firefighters and EMTs, and to maintain our equipment and fleet of fire and rescue trucks.

The tournament has 3 different levels of sponsorships for you to choose from to help support us:

- **Door Prize Sponsor:** a donation of good or services that will advertise your business
- **Tee Sponsorship- \$75:** Advertise your business on a sign that's created to your specifications that will be posted at a tee box at the tournament.
- **Hole Sponsorship- \$200:** A sign prominently displayed at one of the 18 holes. Your business name and phone number will appear on the back of the tournament t-shirt that every golfer receives.

If you're interested in golfing in the tournament, register yourself or your team for a fun day of golf and fellowship. **The cost is \$85 per golfer** and includes cart, snacks & beverages and a delicious buffet meal to finish up the day.

If you would like to donate or register to golf, please contact the MCFC Golf Tournament Chairperson, Chris Mathiesen at 570-476-0607 or 570-242-8344.



Members of Marshalls Creek Fire Company at the unveiling of the Marshalls Creek Explosion State Historical Marker.

LIFEJACKETS REQUIRED
ON THE DELAWARE RIVER!

Bushkill Volunteer Fire Company

With summer here, everyone wants to enjoy the beautiful scenery and fun on the Delaware River, but Bushkill Volunteer Fire Company wants to remind everyone that lifejackets are required and just might save you and your loved ones lives.

The National Park Service has helped by breaking down lifejacket requirements and guidelines:

- Children aged 12 and under MUST wear Coast Guard-approved lifejackets at all times when on the river.
- Jackets must fit appropriately, and be fully fastened to be effective. Wearing a life jacket is not just common sense, it is THE LAW.
- Lifejackets aren't just for kids. Any person paddling or boating MUST have their own US Coast Guard approved lifejacket or PFD onboard and readily accessible in case of emergency.
- All boaters must wear lifejackets on boats less than 16 feet in length and on canoes and on kayaks, from November 1 through April 30, to protect boaters from cold water shock if they fall into the water.
- Always wear your lifejacket on and in the water.

More tips about river safety can be found at: bit.ly/NPSriversafety.



Bushkill Fire Company flying the American Flag over Route 209 for the unveiling of the Marshalls Creek Explosion State Historical Marker.



Marshalls Creek Fire Company Fleet at the unveiling of the Marshalls Creek Explosion State Historical Marker.

ITS SUBSCRIPTION TIME!

Bushkill Emergency Corps

By Debbie Kulick

Summertime brings on the fun in the sun activities that help make memories for young and seasoned like! There are times when things don't go quite as planned and that is when Bushkill Emergency Corps' response to your 9-1-1 call is vital! Although no one ever wants to have a medical emergency, sometimes things happen. That is why Bushkill Emergency Corps offers residents the opportunity to purchase a subscription that both helps support the organization, just in case, and can help with any billing that may be the responsibility of a patient needing the service.

Now is subscription time. Although the subscription is not an insurance policy, it does offer a portion of forgiveness should the patient have a remaining balance. For example, if a bill for transport and treatment was \$1,200, insurance pays \$600, the remaining balance would be the responsibility of the patient. However, with a subscription, Bushkill Emergency Corps would deduct \$500 from the remaining \$600, and the patient's responsibility would be \$100.

The subscription period runs from July 1 through June 30 of each year. The cost of the subscription per household for Middle Smithfield residents is \$50 per year. We appreciate the support of the Middle Smithfield Township Supervisors and residents, so a reduced subscription rate is applied. Subscription letters and postcards have been mailed to all residents of the township. If you have not received one, please simply call the Bushkill Emergency Corps office at (570) 223-1906 and leave your name and address and a form will be sent to you.

If you are planning ahead for the fall, you'll want to mark your calendar now to attend the Annual Fall Gala of Bushkill Emergency Corps. This year's theme is Celebration of Jazz. The evening includes a buffet dinner, live jazz entertainment, a silent auction and dancing.

This year's live entertainment will be both the jazz duo Nancy and Spencer Reed, who always treat their audience to a warm relaxed vibe, yet the music is swinging and intense. They will be joined by Eric Falxao, a classical guitarist. Those who have visited the famous Deer Head Inn in Delaware Water Gap will certainly recognize the names and know that a real treat is in store for attendees. The cost will be \$55 per person or \$400 for a table of 8. Sponsorships are available as well. If you would like more information or to purchase tickets, simply call the office at (570) 223-1906 and leave your name and call back number. This event is always a wonderful way to spend an evening and supports Bushkill Emergency Corps and its mission to serve our community 24 hours-a-day, 365 days-a-year!



Marshalls Creek Fire Co.
570-223-8445 | facebook.com/MarshallsCreekFireCo
Fire Chief- Jerry Grafal

Bushkill Emergency Corps.
570-223-1906 | bushkillemergencycorps.com

FIND FIRE & EMS ONLINE

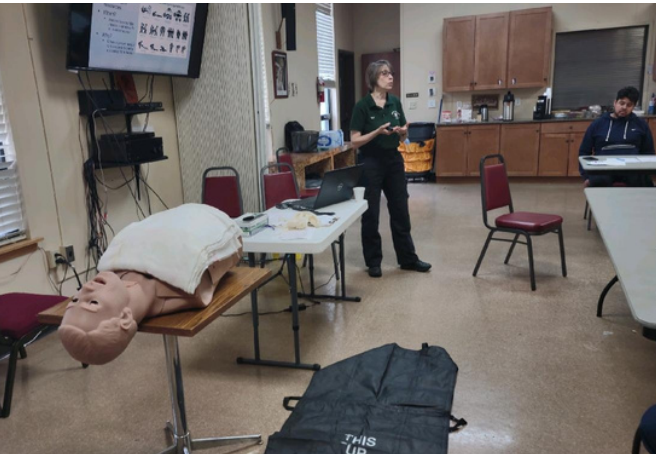
Marshalls Creek Fire Co.
570-223-8445
112 Marshalls Creek Rd.
E. Stroudsburg, PA 18302
Facebook: @MarshallsCreekFireCo

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



Bushkill Emergency Corps was happy to assist with the First on the Scene class taught at St. John's Church in cooperation with Lehigh Valley Hospital-Pocono training center.

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



A GREAT START FOR 2023 AT CCP –

by Todd Brown, Pro Shop Manager

Country Club of the Poconos Municipal Golf Course opened for the season on March 31, 2023 and has been going strong first the months of April and May. Coming off an April which saw a 4 percent increase over last year, the month of May continued strong with an 11 percent increase. June has started off just as strong. The weather has helped, with little to no interruption of play by rain all season. Course conditions have been hindered by the lack of rain and difficulties with the irrigation system. With the recent completion of repairs to the irrigation system, we are looking for a rapid improvement in overall conditioning.

Golf Fore Fun:

Friday Night Scrambles continue to be a fun event and will run all summer. We have also implemented a Wednesday Night social golf event for East Stroudsburg Area School District employees. This will also run all summer.

We held our first ever Memorial Day Red White and Blue scramble. We had 81 players and food was provided by the Savory Eats food truck, who are from Middle Smithfield Township

Golf Fore the Good:

We have a new charity outing coming to CCP. The Michael C. Wargo Cup Golf Tournament, which supports the Valor charity for veterans. It looks to be a very popular event, with over 100 people participating.

Country Club of the Poconos is always willing to help raise money for local charities! If you would like to raise money for your organization, give us a call at 570-223-8099!



COME GOLF AT CCP FOR THE BEST VALUE IN THE POCONOS!

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



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LEADERSHIP POCONO GRADUATES!

This June, three employees of Middle Smithfield Township graduated from the Leadership Pocono Program of Northampton Community College, ready to embark on bright futures as the next generation of community leaders.

Holly Dennis, Community and Municipal Projects Coordinator and Assistant Township Secretary, Vicki Smith, Zoning Clerk and Planning Commission Recording Secretary, and James Brechbiel, Economic Development Manager, completed their course with flying colors!

First recognized in the late 1980s and reimagined by Northampton Community College Center for Business and Industry, Leadership Pocono is a forum developed for bolstering natural leadership skills within individuals, whilst nurturing a sense of responsibility in applying those skills.

For 10 months, participants engaged in sessions built for developing a deep sense of the problems that face the Pocono community, as well as identified opportunities and available resources that can be utilized in building a better future. Members focused on ways they can get involved with government, education, social services, culture, and made great connections.

The Township's newest inductees will now join the great list of Leadership Pocono Alumni, including the Township's own Michele Clewell, Township Secretary, Chris Rain, Community & Municipal Projects Coordinator.

About the graduates

James Brechbiel is the Economic Development Manager at Middle Smithfield Township, connecting businesses with resources and helping to foster a diverse business community for residents. Prior to starting with the Township last summer, James worked for nearly 20 years in the hospitality industry in New York State, showcasing his talent for event management and sales.

James uses his positive attitude and tireless energy to encourage others and to help drive projects forward. Having graduated from SUNY New Paltz with a Bachelor's Degree in Television Communications and Journalism, James realized early on that his skill set was best served managing projects and creating a space where talent can connect with the resources that help them shine. James loves what he does and is motivated by his wife and their two children. In his off time, James enjoys hiking and staying active outdoors in the wonderful state of Pennsylvania.



Leadership Pocono Graduates from left to right: Vicki Smith, Holly Dennis, and James Brechbiel.

Holly Dennis is the Community and Cultural Center Manager as well as the Community and Municipal Projects Coordinator, managing everything from the Person of the Year and Volunteer Appreciation Program to graphic design and laying out newsletters. Holly is also the Assistant Township Secretary, and Historical Commission Liaison. As you can see, her tenure with the township since 2015 has been very versatile.

Holly was born and raised in East Stroudsburg. She graduated from Bloomsburg University in 2013 with a degree in Mass Communications with an emphasis on Journalism. Holly is currently the President of the Acme Hose Auxiliary (East Stroudsburg Fire Department), and has been a member for 10 years. In her limited free time she can most likely be found reading, with the company of her two cats, Merlin and Maleficent. And when she is not reading, Holly enjoys being outside and exploring new places with her husband Nick, and her loved ones.

Vicki Smith is the Administrative Assistant for the Zoning Department where she helps residents obtain the permits they need. Her main role with the Township is Resale Certifications ("Move in & Move Out") and Short Term Rentals administration, but she can help with all zoning areas.

Vicki is also the Planning Commission Recording Secretary. She is currently working on establishing a regional Planning Commission.

Vicki's background is in real estate closings, and she worked the last 17 years on title abstract in Monroe County, Northampton County and Lehigh County just to name a few. She has also conducted the closings for the buyer and seller. For the 5 years prior to her employment at Middle Smithfield, Vicki worked in a law firm in bankruptcy and on both real estate and estate matters. Vicki is also a licensed Notary Public.

In her free time Vicki enjoys camping with her family. Oh yeah – you also can't catch Vicki and the Easter Bunny together at the same time at our annual Eggstravaganza.

Once again we would like to congratulate our 2023 Leadership Pocono Graduates! Middle Smithfield Township is proud and lucky to have you.

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Chair: Carrie Wetherbee | **Vice Chair:** Robert Huffman | **Secretary:** Patricia Francis

Members: Charisse Fallon, Ken Johns, Vacancy

Liaison: Holly Dennis

MARSHALLS CREEK EXPLOSION STATE HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATION AND UNVEILING

By Holly Dennis

On Monday, June 26th, the 59th Anniversary of the Marshalls Creek Explosion, the new State Historical Marker for the blast was dedicated and unveiled.

The marker is located at Regina Farms (5175 Milford Rd.), right across the street from where the explosion occurred. The blast killed six people total, including 3 firefighters and 3 civilians.

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.

"I was there that night, and it was not a very nice scene. I saw my fellow fireman there, and I will never forget the complete silence. I spent a lot of time at the firehouse and these are people you live with, and all of a sudden something like this happens." Said Bob Huffman, a Marshalls Creek Firefighter who was there following the explosion.

"It was a very emotional time, but the fact that the marker is there and that people won't forget it is great. I am one of the last ones who was there that can talk about it, and it will remind people of what happened that day. It was a very bad time for Marshalls Creek," Huffman remarked.

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 submission for the next round.



An aerial shot of the dedication by Tom Riccobono



The official unveiling with members of the Middle Smithfield Township Historical Commission, Marshalls Creek Fire Co., Ed Regina, The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, and Middle Smithfield Township Supervisors.



Photo to the left: Middle Smithfield Township Historical Commission Members Pat Francis, Ken Johns, Liaison Holly Dennis, Chairperson Carrie Wetherbee, Commissioner Bill Lewis from PHMC, Marshalls Creek Assistant Chief Gene Berry, Supervisors Annette Atkinson, Mark Oney, and Mike Dwyer, County Commissioners John Christy and Sharon Laverdure, Erin DeRosa from State Representative Tarah Probst's Office, Jacob Pride from Representative Maureen Madden's Office, April Niver from Congressman Matt Cartwright's office, and Kristine Bush from Senator Rosemary Brown's office.

17TH ANNUAL MEMORY MAKERS LUNCHEON

By Holly Dennis

The 17th annual Memory Makers luncheon is right around the corner! Long-time residents are invited to join us for this free luncheon on Saturday, August 19th at Noon at the Middle Smithfield Township Community and Cultural Center.

The theme this year will be "The History of Local Native Americans." Guest speakers will include Russell Cramer, who will give a talk on the evolution of tools and weapons, and Ken Sandri, Historic Preservation Specialist from the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service, who will give a talk on the Lenni Lenape.

Residents who have lived in the township for thirty years or more, or who are 65 years old or older are invited to attend. To RSVP, call Holly at 570-223-8920 ext. 132. Seats are limited!

This painting from Benjamin West depicts a legendary meeting between William Penn and members of the Lenape tribe at Shackamaxon on the Delaware River. Although the scene is allegorical rather than historical, the image has become an icon of American history.



THE MONROE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION TRAVELING THIRD THURSDAY LECTURE SERIES.

On September 21 at 7 p.m., John Abel will present, "The Story of Horatio Howell – A Water Gap Minister," at Presbyterian Church of the Mountain.

On October 19 at 7 p.m., Ed Flory will present, "Hotels and Boarding Houses of the Stroudsburgs," at Middle Smithfield Township Community & Cultural Center.

The Traveling Third Thursday Lecture Series is free, but reservations are suggested due to limited space. For additional information or to make a reservation, please contact the Monroe County Historical Association office at (570) 421-7703 or email at admin@monroehistorical.org



AUGUST MARKS THE 68TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FLOOD OF '55

By Holly Dennis

During the week of August 10- August 18, 1955, back-to-back Hurricanes Connie and Diane wreaked havoc in Monroe County.



Between those storms, 13" of rainfall were dumped in Stroudsburg and 20"-22" in Mount Pocono. Throughout the summer of '55 the Poconos area suffered from a drought and while this rain was needed initially, it soon turned destructive and deadly.

There are reports that waters reached 30 feet in some locations. Nearly every bridge in our immediate area was destroyed, homes were ripped from their foundations and approximately 75 people lost their lives. To this day the Flood of '55 continues to be used as a significant reference in terms of flooding in our area.



A photo exhibit of the flood will be in the lobby of the Middle Smithfield Township Community & Cultural Center during the month of August for anyone interested in learning more about this time in our local history.

We also ask for the public's help in identifying several photos and locations. Numbered photos and a corresponding list will be a part of the exhibit for anyone who can help.



MONROE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION:

"RAISE YOUR GLASS AND SUPPORT THE PAST"

Save the Date for the annual "Raise your Glass and Support the Past" fundraiser Thursday, September 7th, 2023 at the Skytop Lodge

Elegant three-course dinner and wine pairing plus live auction are the highlights of this year's main MCHA fundraising event. The evening begins with a champagne welcome, butlered hors d'oeuvres and cash bar. Dinner follows, with a distinctive wine selection included with each course.

Call: 570-421-7703



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



32ND ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP GOLF CLASSIC TO BENEFIT THE PRINCE HALL ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP AT ESU FOUNDATION

In 1988, East Stroudsburg University adopted the Prince Hall Elementary School serving the West Oak Lane section of Philadelphia. The partnership established the Prince Hall Endowed Scholarship Fund which is awarded to Prince Hall scholars who demonstrate outstanding academic performance and a strong civic responsibility. ESU is proud to say that 20 Prince Hall scholars have graduated from ESU because of this scholarship.

32nd Annual Educational Scholarship Golf Classic to benefit the Prince Hall Endowed Scholarship at ESU Foundation will be on August 7, 2023 at Green Pond Country Club. Registration is at 9 am, Shot Gun Start at 10 am and Buffet is at 3 pm.

Visit www.esufoundation.org/princehall2023 for more information or to register!



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



In honor of Juneteenth, the Greater Pocono Section National Council of Negro Women (GPS NCNW), Good Health WINS, and the other collaborating organizations joined together to honor our ancestors' freedom, our fathers, and our families. Living, laughing, and learning about one another in the Poconos always makes for a great celebration.

Juneteenth became a United States federal holiday in 2021. It commemorates the day emancipated African-Americans who were enslaved in Texas received notice that they had been freed two years prior with signing of the Emancipation Proclamation.



Members of Greater Pocono Section NCNW & GHWINS Committee @ Juneteenth Celebration.



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



THANK YOU TO OUR 2022 PERSON OF THE YEAR JUDGES!

An independent panel of volunteer judges from: News/Media, Business Leader, Academia, and Past Person of the Year winners & finalists



Francis Oquendo
2018 Person of the Year
Finalist



David Paskiet
2018 Person of the
Year



Dee Raneri
Dir. Of Community
Partnerships- NCC



Dr. Precie A. Schroyer
Assoc. Dean- NCC



Denise Seigart, Ph.D.
Dean of College
of Health Sciences
ESU



Al Compoly Jr.
2016 Person of the
Year Finalist*



Thomas Gansel
2017 Person of the
Year Finalist*

*Alternate Judge

BUSHKILL EMERGENCY CORPS ANNUAL FALL GALA

If you are planning ahead for the fall, you'll want to mark your calendar now to attend the Annual Fall Gala of Bushkill Emergency Corps on October 21st at the Shawnee Inn. This year's theme is Celebration of Jazz. The evening includes a buffet dinner, live jazz entertainment, a silent auction and dancing.

This year's live entertainment will be both the jazz duo Nancy and Spencer Reed, who always treat their audience to a warm relaxed vibe, yet the music is swinging and intense. They will be joined by Eric Falxao, a classical guitarist.

Those who have visited the famous Deer Head Inn in Delaware Water Gap will certainly recognize the names and know that a real treat is in store for attendees.

The cost will be \$55 per person or \$400 for a table of 8. Sponsorships are available as well. If you would like more information or to purchase tickets, simply call the office at (570) 223-1906 and leave your name and call back number.

This event is always a wonderful way to spend an evening and supports Bushkill Emergency Corps and its mission to serve our community 24 hours-a-day, 365 days-a-year!



COMING SOON: NOMINATIONS FOR 2023 OPEN IN SEPTEMBER!

Nominations for the 2023 Person of the Year Award open in September! Visit bit.ly/2023POTY for more information including, nomination guidelines, FAQ's and important dates! Have questions? Contact Holly at 570-223-8920 x132 or hdennis@mstownship.com.



REPRESENTATIVE ROUND-UP

A few words from your elected officials

VOTING TO HELP PEOPLE LIKE YOU

Representative Maureen E. Madden, 115th Legislative District



The House has had a busy last few weeks voting on important bills that will move Pennsylvania forward by helping working people, families and seniors.

We voted to increase the state’s minimum wage from \$7.25 per hour to \$11 per hour in 2024, \$13 per hour in 2025 and \$15 per hour in 2026. House Democrats are taking action to deliver a long-overdue raise for tens of thousands of people here in Monroe County. Raising the wage now will mean savings in the future that can be used toward mental health, education, fixing schools, and more. We also recently voted to expand the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program by raising the income limit to \$45,000 (with future increases tied to the cost of living) and increasing the maximum rebate from \$650 to \$1,000.

TAKE NOTE: The application deadline for this year’s rebate was extended from June 30 to December 31, so you have plenty of time to file.

I also voted for bills that would help working families afford daycare, help workers save for retirement, cut your cell phone taxes, and create a state tax credit for working families.

We’re tackling the state’s challenges and putting money back into your pocket.

On the local front, June 26th marked the 59th anniversary of the Marshalls Creek Explosion of 1964. Through the dedication of Middle Smithfield Township and Marshalls Creek Fire Company, the unveiling of a State Historical Marker was made possible. Jacob Pride from my office, along with Erin DeRosa from Rep. Tarah Probst’s office, attended and presented citations from the House of Representatives. I am pleased to see such a wonderful attendance at the commemoration. Please, take a moment to stop by the marker and soak in the history.

CYBER/CHARTER SCHOOL REFORM NECESSARY

Representative Tarah Probst, 115th Legislative District

It is staggering how much money cyber/charter schools are overcharging Pennsylvania taxpayers for the same services that they provide as traditional public schools. I strongly believe we need cyber/charter school reform in PA. Bottom line: we can save taxpayer money and lower property taxes by reforming cyber/charter schools.



For example: Educating a child in the East Stroudsburg Area School District cyber program costs the district \$2,500 each. Sending an ESASD child to an outside cyber/

DEAR MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS & NEIGHBORS:

Senator Rosemary M. Brown

It has been an honor to represent you in Harrisburg as State Representative since 2010, and now, since the 2022 election, as your State Senator. My mission has remained the same since I first ran for public office:

utilizing this role and my previous hard-work and legislative experience to best help those I serve by focusing on the issues that matter to you most.

This includes the economy, public safety, education, and mental health. Some of my current legislative proposals include reducing distracted driving, increased access to automated external defibrillators, combating the Lyme and tick-borne disease health crisis, and cyber-charter education funding reform.



My district office remains available to help you with prompt, thorough, and friendly service. My office is available for walk-ins at 2398 Route 611 in Scotrun or by phone at 570-629-4326. You can also email me at rbrown@pasen.gov.

It is my goal to prove the 40th Senatorial District with a balanced, responsible, and productive approach to state government. I aim to be a voice you value strongly in the state Senate.



Senator Rosemary Brown in Harrisburg participating in a Transportation hearing.

COURTHOUSE RENOVATION/MODERNIZATION PROJECT TAKES SHAPE!

The Courthouse Construction Project is now approaching the end of its first phase, with the planned opening of the Courthouse in September. (The front of the new entrance taking shape!) The Monroe County Commissioners together



with the Judiciary, have made these improvements a priority for the County and the Court, as the result of over a decade of study that consistently demonstrated a need for both expansion and modernization. The Courthouse was built in 1890 and an identically-sized addition was built in 1934;

both portions were added to the National Register of Historic Places on April 18, 1979. The courthouse was last expanded in 1979. With space limitations and an increasingly aged facility, Monroe County Officials have embarked on a project to upgrade the existing courthouse and construct an addition.



Monroe County Commissioners John D. Christy, Chairman Sharon S. Laverdure, Vice Chairman John R. Moyer

to stop the hemorrhaging of dollars from our brick-and-mortar schools to cyber/charter schools. As of this writing, the legislation awaits a vote by the full state House of Representatives.

I encourage people to stay up to date with what’s going on in the district and at the state Capitol in Harrisburg by signing up for my email updates at www.RepProbst.com/emailsignup. I also can be followed on Twitter and Facebook @RepProbst and Instagram @reptarahprobst. My office can be reached at 570-420-2850.



CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS

US Congressman Matt Cartwright
400 Northampton St., Suite 307
Easton, PA 18042
484-546-0776

Senator Rosemary Brown
2398 Route 611 #201
Scotrun, PA 18332
570-620-4326

State Representative Tarah Probst
18 South Ninth Street
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
570-420-2850

State Representative Maureen Madden
354 Memorial Blvd, Room 4
Tobyhanna, PA 18466
570-894-7905

Monroe County Commissioners
One Quaker Plaza
Stroudsburg PA 18360
570-517-3400

CONSUMER FIREWORKS IN MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP

Continued from page 9.

Anyone 18 years of age, and older, may purchase and use consumer-grade fireworks in PA and are not required to obtain a permit from the municipality. However, there are restrictions on where and how consumer fireworks may be used.

Consumer fireworks cannot be:

- ignited or discharged within 150 feet of any occupied structure
- ignited within or discharged into, or thrown from, a motor vehicle or building
- ignited or discharged on public or private property without express permission
- from the property owner.
- used by a person who is under the influence of alcohol, a controlled substance, or another drug.

The American Pyrotechnics Association has resources available at www.americanpyro.com. You can also check out this website, <https://www.psp.pa.gov/public-safety/Pages/fireworks-safety.aspx>, that promotes fireworks safety