



MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWS

FALL 2023

NOMINATE YOUR HERO FOR THE 2023 PERSON OF THE YEAR

The Middle Smithfield Township Person of the Year award recognizes Middle Smithfield residents who have made a positive difference in the world and highlight the importance of altruism, philanthropy and community service. The recipient of the award will receive \$1,500 towards their cause, while two finalists will receive \$1,000 each toward their cause.

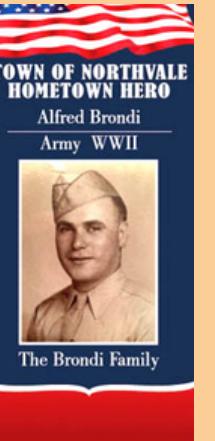
[More information on page 25.](#)

KNOW A VETERAN YOU WANT TO HONOR WITH A HOMETOWN HERO BANNER?

Middle Smithfield is looking for Veterans to feature at its Veteran's Memorial, located at the Township's Community and Cultural Center on 5200 Milford Rd.

Space is limited and applicants will be taken on a first-come, first-serve basis. Additional inquiries will be placed on a waiting list once spots are filled.

[More information on page 11](#)



FALL CLEAN UP IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER!

Fall Clean Up & Freecycle will be held on October 13th and 14th from 7 am- 2 pm. Drop off locations are the Township Building (147 Municipal Drive) and Wooddale Garage (792 Dancing Ridge Road).

[A list of fees can be found on page 14.](#)

No charge for:

- Automotive Batteries
- Electronics
- Electronic devices covered under the Covered Device Recycling Act (computers, TVs, monitors, printers, laptops, ect.) are accepted free of charge. Residents who bring only covered electronic devices (computers, TVs, monitors, printers, laptops, etc.) will have any per-car load fee waived and will not be charged in any way.
- **Help heat your township building:** Now accepting waste oil, transmission fluid, hydraulic fluid and fryer oil.
- **Items not accepted include:**
 - No household garbage
 - No automobiles or automobile parts
 - No paint cans with contents, thinners
 - No pesticides, herbicides, or any other hazardous materials
 - No building materials or demolition waste



Hidden Lake- Photo by Steven Natiello

• **NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2023 PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD ARE NOW OPEN! PAGE 25.**

• **FALL CLEAN UP & FREECYCLE IS OCT. 13TH & OCT. 14TH. PAGE 14.**

• **CALLING ALL VETERANS! WE WANT YOU...FOR MST'S VETERAN MEMORIAL EXPANSION PROJECT. PAGE 11.**

MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWS

WHAT'S GOING ON:

October: Community & Cultural Center Exhibit: Mastodon/National Fossil Day

10/11: New Resident Meet & Greet at Community & Cultural Center, 6 pm
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

January 2024

1/1: New Years Day (Office Closed)
1/15: Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Office Closed)
1/19: Person of the Year and Volunteer Appreciation Banquet

2022 PERSON OF THE YEAR UPDATE:



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

See what the Pocono Mountains United Way has been up to on page 24! You can also learn more about how Wayne Bolt is being honored by Quilts of Valor in November!



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! 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 24!



KNOW SOMEONE WHO SHOULD BE NOMINATED FOR THE 2023 PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD? MORE INFORMATION IS 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 has a spot waiting for you! Email hdennis@mstownship.com for more information!

A WORD FROM YOUR TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

Fall is in the air! Now that school is in full swing, and we welcome the crisp temperatures and beautiful colors of the changing seasons, we anticipate the other things just around the corner: Fire Prevention Week, hunting season, fall events such as cleaning out our homes, garages and yards with township clean up days, Trunk or Treat, nominations opening for Middle Smithfield Person of the Year, Shop Local Discount Cards on the way -- and of course -- the holidays are fast approaching!

There is also another thing Autumn brings – budget season. Each year, the annual budgets for the township must be prepared and presented to the public for at least 20 days before it is adopted in December, and the tax rate for the next year is set. (Stay tuned for our budget presentation on December 5th and year-end review on December 28th).

All departments of the township are analyzing their performance and their spending and savings, and preparing the schedules, proposed projects, and budgets for 2024. Your board of supervisors does the same. Since 2012, municipal taxes and fees have remained the same. Since 2014, municipal sewer rates have remained the same. Something that has NOT remained the same is the dilemma of our first responders – that continues to grow.

Who rescues the rescuers?

The question everywhere in Pennsylvania is: what can we do to ensure the sustainability of fire and EMS? According to the National Fire Protection Association, volunteers comprise 65% of U.S. firefighters overall. But participation has dwindled, down 25% from 1984 to 2020 – but meanwhile, fire departments have responded to more than triple the number of calls over that same period. **Triple the fire calls with 25% less firefighters.**

Continued on page 4

COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

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

*More upcoming events can be found on committee pages!

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

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

Middle Smithfield Township Staff

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

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

On Lot Sewage Enforcement Officer | x128

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

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

Shawn McGlynn | Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer
smcglynn@sfmconsultingllc.org | x128

Lori McCrory | Assistant Zoning Officer

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

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

Kylie Medrano | Director of First Impressions
receipt@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

Bob Early | Revitalize 209 | x130
jbrechbiel@mstownship.com

BUDGET & FINANCE

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

A WORD FROM THE SUPERVISORS

Continued from page 3

Many who now live in Pennsylvania hail from the tri-state area, or more urban areas such as Philadelphia with paid fire services, and assume that vital first responder services are already covered in their taxes. They aren't*. Whether it's donations from your municipality or donations directly from the public, **volunteer fire departments are funded by donations. Similarly, EMS is supplemented by donations.** Since enacting the Cable Franchise Fee in 2008, the majority of funds Middle Smithfield Township provides to fire and ambulance companies has come from the cable franchise fee, with the rest supplemented from the township's general fund and in-kind services. (A portion of the township's Cable Franchise Fee also goes to Monroe County Control Center.)

The issue of sustainable emergency services is of such importance, in fourth quarter of last year, four neighboring municipalities (Middle Smithfield, Smithfield, Price, and Delaware Water Gap) commissioned a comprehensive study of Emergency Services in this area: what is there to protect (what are the characteristic of our community); what do we have to protect us (analysis of current fire and ambulance); what should we have to protect us, what is the gap, and what can we do to fill the void.

Bushkill Emergency Corps, Bushkill Fire Company, Marshalls Creek Fire Company, Shawnee Fire Company, Suburban EMS -- All of our fire and ambulance companies have worked together with the municipalities and JLN Associates to produce the study; however, as we eagerly await the results of the study to guide future action, one thing is clear: it is now the municipalities that must first respond to this emergency.

"While some fire departments have brought on full-time paid firefighters to fill the gaps volunteers can't cover, many communities, especially in rural areas, can't afford the cost of a professional fire service. The National Fire Protection Association estimates that the time donated by volunteer firefighters saves communities nearly \$47 billion each year."

**-Alex Brown,
Pennsylvania Star Capital**

As we prepare our budgets for 2024, we are considering all funding options: some municipalities such as Delaware Water Gap, have a fire tax and an EMS tax (7 out of 20 municipalities in Monroe County fund their fire departments via a fire tax.) Municipalities also receive a Local Services Tax, collected by Berkheimer, from only those who are employed and earning over \$12,000 a year. This tax can only be used for police, fire and/or emergency services; road construction or maintenance; or for the reduction of property taxes. Middle Smithfield has an older version of this tax, called the Occupational Privilege Tax. Occupation taxes are assessed on all employed residents that hold an occupation. At just \$10 per year, \$5 of which is shared with the East Stroudsburg School District, Middle Smithfield's Occupational Privilege Tax (soon to become Local Services Tax) remains one of the lowest in the County, if not the state. (The ceiling for an LST is \$52 per year.)

Your township supervisors will keep you informed as we move through this process. In the meantime, we welcome you at our meetings, twice a month, the second and fourth Thursday of the month at 7pm – we'd love to see you in person or on Zoom!

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



*average homeowner in Middle Smithfield pays a township property tax of \$300 or less per year

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

YAYA'S FISH FRY COMES ASHORE MIDDLE SMITHFIELD

By James Brechbiel



William Dean, Owner of B-R RC Cars

SHOPPERS! START YOUR ENGINES WITH B-R REMOTE CONTROL CARS AND PARTS.

By James Brechbiel

Hobbyists and avid remote-control vehicle enthusiasts will be thrilled to hear that B-R RC Cars has moved to Marshalls Square Plaza (Sunoco Plaza), ready to accelerate their business to the next level.

With an ever-increasing inventory demand, the retailer set its sights on 5224 Milford Rd. to set up shop and deliver on providing state-of-the-art remote-control vehicles and parts to their growing customer base.

Specializing in RC vehicle sales and repairs, owner William Dean has been racing, researching, and repairing top brands for years, and it's more than the remote-control vehicles you remember as a kid. Having top-of-the-line brands with sophisticated capabilities, these models take hobby racing to a whole new level, attracting enthusiasts all throughout the region to visit Dean's shop.

"We have people come to buy, sell, and trade from everywhere," said Dean. "It's more than a hobby these days. It's a way of life, way more competitive than it used to be. It involves racing groups, sponsorships, and so much more."

With major brands, such as Arrma, Traxxas, Losi, Team Corally, Red Cat, Kyosho, and more, avid enthusiasts will find what they are looking for. But that's not to exclude those who want to simply enjoy a great product.

"This is a shop for everyone," said Dean. "I have adults who take the products I have very seriously, and I have kids who come to enjoy the thrill of a great remote-control vehicle. We have cars, trucks, boats, and airplanes. At the end of the day, it's great clean fun for everyone."

See what all the excitement is about and visit B-R RC Cars and Parts at 5224 Milford Rd., Suite 126.

B-R RC Cars
5224 Milford Rd., Suite 126 (Behind Sunoco)
(570) 844-1843
www.brrccars.com

*Gift certificates available.

*Layaway available with half down and the remainder paid within 3 months.



Michael Fersner, owner of YaYa's Fish Fry at the grand opening.

This summer, YaYa's Fish Fry 2 Restaurant cast its line out to the Crossings at Marshalls Creek Complex (Price Chopper Complex) in Middle Smithfield Township for its second location in Monroe County.

With traditional soul food cuisine, fried fish combos, steamed dishes, hearty sides, and, yes, old bay fries, YaYa's brings residents a great hometown restaurant with comfort food and warm hospitality.

Expanding from their location on Frantz Rd. in Stroudsburg, PA, owner Michael Fersner wanted to take his thriving business to the next level and couldn't think of a better location than Middle Smithfield.

With 20 years in the restaurant business, Fersner's passion for food shines through.

"I love what a great meal can do," said Fersner. "It brings family and community together and nourishes. YaYa's does just that at affordable prices and with a warm smile. We can't wait to meet all our new customers."

And does the chef recommend anything off the menu? "Everything," said Fersner with a smile. "With a side of homemade YaYa Punch."

YaYa's Fish Fry
(570) 664-6992
(In the Crossings at Marshalls Creek Complex by Price Chopper)
www.yayasfishfry.com

COMING SOON! SHOP LOCAL HOLIDAY!



Check your mailboxes in November for your Shop Local Holiday discount cards!

Get great deals at local businesses and Shop Small this holiday season!

The Shop Local Program will run from November 24, 2023 - January 2, 2024.

mstShopLocal.com

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

MEDICAL CARE SERVICES CONTINUE TO EXPAND IN MIDDLE SMITHFIELD

By James Brechbiel



The ribbon cutting for the brand new LVHN facility in Middle Smithfield Township.

On July 5, 2023, LVPG Family Medicine - Middle Smithfield officially opened its doors at 4541 Milford Rd., bringing a long-time dream of the Township to fruition: closer access to great medical care facilities right in town.

But this recent development was more than a dream. It was a mission for the Township years prior to LVHN's arrival.

Since its inception in 2011, the Middle Smithfield Township Economic Development Committee made one of its initiatives to be obtaining medical services in the Township by focusing on three main components; to have additional emergency / urgent care services available (The Township was fortunate enough to already have Bushkill Emergency Ambulance Corps available for working with EMS, fire, and rescue services), to have regular health clinics/services scheduled for residents, and to have closer medical facilities offering regular services and specialties within a short driving distance. This initiative, also helping to assist with resident and business retention, propelled the committee to focus its efforts on researching and prospecting great medical service providers that could be brought in.

"Starting out, we knew we had a mountain to climb," said Economic Development Chairperson, Joe Memoli, who partnered with Anthony Homer, formerly of the EDC, to pitch presentations to providers.

And the pitch was a personal one for Homer.

Homer experienced the disadvantages of not having close medical care when he had a heart attack at his home and needed immediate attention. Time was of the essence and Homer had to be taken to facilities well beyond the Township for treatment, according to Memoli.

"Speaking from firsthand experience, Anthony knew how crucial time was in responding to an emergency and wanted to see services closer to Middle Smithfield residents so this wouldn't be a problem for anyone else," said Memoli.

Convicted to deliver, Memoli and Homer made several presentations to the public and medical care professionals about Middle Smithfield's great need.

"Statistically speaking, Middle Smithfield had similar demographics to other Townships that had LVHN and St. Lukes in their limits within close proximity to each other," said Memoli. "It was time Middle Smithfield residents had more to provide for their medical needs."

And more they got.

Since the EDC's initiative, the Township has welcomed the Pocono Urgent Care at the Crossings of Marshalls Creek Complex (Price Chopper complex) in 2013, providing expedient service to the population on an immediate basis. Founded by Jean-Paul Romes, M.D., an emergency room physician with extensive training and experience in emergent, acute, and minor illnesses, Pocono Urgent Care was the first step in bringing medical care here to Middle Smithfield.

The Township also provided access to health clinics and services for residents on a regular basis since completing its Community and Cultural Center. Having opened in March of 2021, the Township's CCC continues to book clinics, screenings, and services with wonderful providers, such as LVHN, Red Cross, and more.

And left to answer the call for providing a family medicine practice with the Township was LVHN, with their LVPG Family Medicine - Middle Smithfield facility at 4541 Milford Rd.

As you may remember, the Township announced in the summer newsletter that the new facility is a primary family care practice, with Dr. Leah Arlequin, M.D., leading the charge in seeing everyone from infants to geriatric patients. With up to 5 providers expected, there will be specialty providers and services announced as the practice grows. Stay tuned for more details.

With the final piece in place, the Township looks forward to expanding upon the great services now available to residents.



Pocono Urgent Care at the Crossings of Marshalls Creek Complex (Price Chopper complex)

"I am grateful to the Township Supervisors for responding to this community need," said Memoli. "We keep moving in the right direction and can't wait to see how far we can go from here."

For more information on medical services and facilities in the Township, please see page 18.

Revitalize 209 Grant Program

Call 570-223-8920 x130 for More Information



REVITALIZE 209 GRANT FORGES AHEAD

By James Brechbiel

Since officially meeting for the first time on July 25th, the newly formed Revitalize 209 Committee has been hard at work reviewing Letters of Interest (LOIs) and discussing great opportunities that businesses have in revitalizing properties facing the 209 Corridor. The Committee got straight to work, establishing metrics for reviewing LOIs, reviewing projects that had been submitted to the Township for consideration, and providing feedback.

And inquiring minds want to know; what makes a good project?

The Committee laid out four points for reviewing LOIs:

- What is the project?
- How will it improve the appearance and/or safety of Route 209?
- How will the project have a lasting impact?
- How is the project sustainable?

A metric system for each point is evaluated on a scale from 1 to 5 (1 being the least effective in improving the appearance of Route 209 Corridor, and 5 being the most effective). With metrics in place, the Committee is reviewing LOIs for prospective applicants and looking forward to making recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for consideration.

Have a project in mind? There is still time to be considered.

The grant program is not closed and the committee is eager to see what great ideas there are.

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.

Have questions? Come to a Revitalize 209 Committee Meeting.

Regularly scheduled public meetings of the Revitalize 209 Grant Committee will be the fourth Tuesday of every month. We hope to see you there!

Have a project in mind? Call James Brechbiel at (570) 223-8920 x130, or email at jbrechbiel@msttownship.com.

INSPIRED BY OUR WELLNESS STUDIO POSED TO OPEN IN MIDDLE SMITHFIELD

By James Brechbiel

According to a study conducted by the American Psychiatric Association, nearly two out of five (37%) of Americans rated their mental health as fair, or poor due to stress, a figure increased by 6% from the previous year. Leading contributing causes include ailments with physical health, mental health stressors, finances, uncertainty of the future, and on.

With the increasing factors of stress continuing to impact daily life, many are seeking tools and techniques for relieving pressures, and now, Middle Smithfield residents can breathe easy with the new Inspired by our Wellness Studio in Marshalls Square Complex at 5224 Milford Rd.

After studying stress relief practices for over 10 years, owner Jennifer Rose wanted to share her knowledge and help others find productive ways of relieving tension building up in their lives.

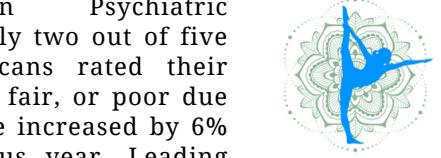
"My ultimate goal has always been to set people free from their stress, as free as I have become," said Rose. "The stress relief center is designed to help people become more aware of how to relieve their stress through healthy means."

Inspired By Our Wellness Studio offers Yoga, meditation, energy release techniques, support groups, social consultation, as well as online services geared to work through professional, social, and personal situations that are creating stress.

But does it work? Rose says you will see the difference immediately.

"It's the look on their faces once we have finished," said Rose. "Their poised and accomplished expression and changed demeanor shines brightly through. I enjoy helping people find the peace they deserve within themselves and can't wait to inspire wellness in Middle Smithfield."

Inspired by Our Wellness opens this fall at the Marshalls Square Plaza (Sunoco Plaza) and they look forward to seeing you there. Namaste!



I bow
& defeat stress

Inspire By Our Wellness

(570) 431-7441

InspiredbyyourWellness@outlook.com

5224 Milford Rd., Suite 112

(Next to Los Tres Amigos Restaurant in the Marshalls Square Plaza (Sunoco Plaza)).

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

MT. NEBO APARTMENTS PHASE II COMING SOON

By Vicki Smith

Mt. Nebo Apartments purchased the neighboring 2+ acres and will be combining the lots and adding the new lot to the Mt. Nebo property. This Phase II project will add 5 new towers with 6 living units in each tower for an additional 30 2-bedroom apartments. These apartments are within walking distance to the shopping center, public transportation, the state's "park 'n ride", and have storage units on site. Rents will include utilities such as public sewer, public water, snow removal, trash removal – and no maintenance!

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE:

By Vicki Smith

An active Planning Commission means a developing community!

The Middle Smithfield Township Planning Commission is a volunteer board charged with advising the Supervisors and guiding land use and development at the municipal level. The Planning Commission reviews all plans submitted by developers. The Planning Commission recently reviewed Marshalls Square Shopping Center Land Development Plans and made the recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to approve the conditional use for the Mt. Nebo Apartments Phase II Land Development.

MIDDLE SMITHFIELD SUBMITS APPLICATION TO DCED FOR KEYSTONE COMMUNITIES GRANT

By James Brechbiel

This summer, Middle Smithfield Township applied for the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED)- Keystone Communities Program Grant in the amount of \$25,000, looking to expand the Township's Revitalize 209 Grant Program and fund more projects that are visible from 209.

"This beautification project will be in support of the Township's Economic Development Committee and Revitalize 209 Committee initiative to promote the time-honored proven practice – An inviting appearance also invites customer retention," said Bob Early of the Township's Revitalize 209 Committee.

Revitalize 209 is an economic development strategy to improve and revitalize the Route 209 corridor by repairing, replacing, and/or revitalizing the properties and buildings located along and visible from Route 209 and is in line with the DCED Keystone Communities Façade Grant's mission to support local initiatives for growth and stability of communities and reinforcing a strong and secure quality of life.

Awardees will be announced this December 2023.

ZONING

Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer: Shawn McGlynn | zoning@mstowship.com

Zoning Director: Mark Oney | Assistant Zoning Officer: Lori McCrory 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.

SHORT-TERM RENTALS (A.K.A AIRBNB OR VACATION RENTALS) IN OUR TOWNSHIP

By Vicki Smith

If you are renting your home as a short-term rental – a rental for a period of less than 30 days at a time – and you have not obtained a zoning permit and short-term rental license, then you are in violation of the township code.



Using your home as a short-term rental or AirBNB vacation rental is considered a change of use under the Zoning Ordinance (see §044-090) and requires the property owner to obtain a permit for that change of use. Violation of the Zoning Ordinance could result in fines of up to \$500.00 per day. A one-time permit that costs only \$75.00 would bring your property into compliance.

In addition, an annual license is required under Chapter 150, Short-Term Rentals, of the Township Code (see §150-5). There is a fee of \$350.00 for the annual license which covers the processing of your application, inspection and one re-inspection. **The renewal date is every year on or before October 31.**

You can find all the necessary applications along with additional information and a link to the code on the township website: www.MiddleSmithfieldTownship.com.

Our goal is to bring properties into compliance, not to fine our residents. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact the Zoning Office at 570-223-8920 ext. 105, or by email: vsmith@mstowship.com

RESALE USE & OCCUPANCY CERTIFICATE

By Vicki Smith

Are you selling your home? Did you recently purchase? Are you renting your home?



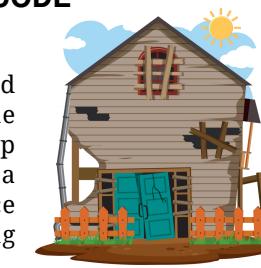
Chapter 179 of the Township Code of Ordinances requires the owner of a residential building who desires to lease or sell to obtain a use & occupancy certificate from the building inspector of the Township prior to the change of occupancy.

You can find the application on the township website (www.MiddleSmithfieldTownship.com) or email: vsmith@mstowship.com

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE

By Mayra Colon

On July 13th of 2023 the Board of Supervisors amended the Middle Smithfield Township code of Ordinance by adding a New Chapter 134, Maintenance of properties, establishing regulations, Maintenance of



Properties within the Township, providing for remedial action by the Township in specified situations and prescribing penalties for violations of the regulations.

The Property Maintenance Code defines a minimum health and safety requirements for buildings, Structures, and/or properties to be safe, sound, sanitary and secure and not present a health and/or safety hazard to surrounding properties or the general populace.

The Property Maintenance Ordinance can be viewed on our website: www.Bit.ly/property-maintenance

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE FOR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

By James Brechbiel

The Township's newly adopted Property Maintenance Code based on Monroe County's Model Ordinance for Property Maintenance helps businesses ensure they are being good neighbors and has long been the mission of the Economic Development Committee.

For the Committee, a beautiful, well-maintained and thriving business corridor increases the assessed value of the township, as well as the property values of ALL property owners, whether commercial or residential. There are multiple public spaces in the Township's commercial zones that would benefit from being surrounded by well-kept properties, and establishing a property maintenance code is one way to assist.

Through use of programs such as the Township's own Revitalize 209 Grant, where the Township is investing \$375,000 into the business community through a property improvement grant, and the property maintenance code, businesses can continue to invest in Middle Smithfield with a bright future ahead.

FIND OUR ZONING ORDINANCE ONLINE AT BIT.LY/MSTZONING OR BY SCANNING THE QR CODE.



SIGN OF THE TIMES- POLITICAL SIGNS

By Mayra Colon

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

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

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

Political Signs:

Political signs are permitted in all districts, provided that:

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

Signs on Public Property

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

Signs on Private Property

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

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

VOTE

CULTURAL & COMMUNITY CENTER

5200 Milford Rd., East Stroudsburg, PA 18302

Manager: Holly Dennis | hdennis@mstäship.com | 570-223-8920 x132

LIBRARY OF THE SMITHFIELDS FALL PROGRAMS

By Jessica Brown, Branch Manager

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

- Preschool Story time- Mondays at 10 am.

- Seasonal Survival - Saturday, November 18th, 9:30 am. Join the Library of the Smithfields & Pocono Environmental Educational Center and explore strategies of survival for winter. Students will discuss wildlife ecology accompanied by animal artifacts followed by using critical thinking skills to design and build a functional nest site for their gelatin "critters." Will your students survive the challenge?

Future events can be found at facebook.com/SMFsLibrary.

CALLING ALL ARTISTS!

By Holly Dennis

Are you a local artist who wants to display their work at the Middle Smithfield Township Community and Cultural Center? Then you're in luck! We have a few openings left for 2024 and want to work with you!

Some past exhibits include:

- Women's History Month
- Flowers Everywhere
- En Plein Air
- Lost in America
- Black History Month

For more information contact Holly at 570-223-8920 x132 or hdennis@mstäship.com.



American Red Cross
Community Blood Drive
Middle Smithfield Township Community and Cultural Center
Community Room
5200 Milford Road
East Stroudsburg, PA 18302
Friday, October 20, 2023
12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.



TO SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT SCAN THE QR CODE,
CALL 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) OR VISIT
REDCROSSBLOOD.ORG AND ENTER: MIDDLESMITHFIELD.

INTERACTIVE KIOSK AT THE COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL CENTER!

By Holly Dennis

We recently announced that in 2022 we were awarded \$20,000 for the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau Tourism Impact Grant to go towards our interactive kiosks for the museum area of the Community and Cultural Center. We are excited to share that the new kiosks are installed and ready for our residents to enjoy!



The interactive display allows residents to learn more about the exhibits that are currently on display at the Community and Cultural Center, with photos, video and descriptions about each display. Residents can also check out the business directory and look up local attractions based on interests and type, as well as read this newsletter and sign up to be alerted on what is going on in the township! There will also be a calendar of events, so you will always know what there is to do in Middle Smithfield Township!

Please stop by the Community and Cultural Center to check out the Kiosk!

NEW RESIDENT MEET & GREET

By Holly Dennis

Moving into a new home is such an exciting time!



Please attend Middle Smithfield Township's New Resident Meet and Greet on Wednesday, October 11th, 6 pm at the Middle Smithfield Township Community and Cultural Center to learn about our office, who you should call about water, sewer, and garbage, and how to get involved with your community!

Special guest Katie Uhler from Pocono Wildlife will be doing a presentation on "Creatures of the Night" to educate residents on our nocturnal neighbors. All ages are welcome!

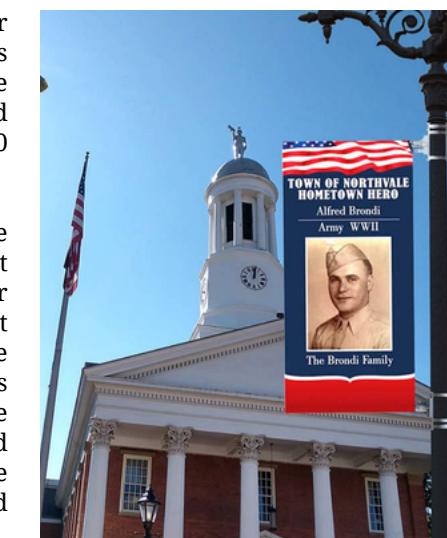
Please register at hdennis@mstäship.com or 570-223-8920 x132

WE WANT YOU...

FOR MST'S VETERAN MEMORIAL EXPANSION PROJECT

By James Brechbiel and Holly Dennis

Middle Smithfield is looking for Veterans to feature at its Veteran's Memorial, located at the Township's Community and Cultural Center (CCC) on 5200 Milford Rd.



As you may remember, the Township was a chosen recipient of the Pocono Mountain Visitor Bureau's Community Impact Grant in the amount of \$10,000 for the expansion of its Veterans Memorial, which entails a bronze statue, monument stones, shield and flags for every branch of the military, along with a full-sized flag and flagpole, and "memory walk" of paver stones engraved with the names of Monroe County veterans leading from the parking lot to the Community and Cultural Center.

Expanding upon this, the Township was also a chosen recipient of the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce's Main Street Grant in the amount of \$2,000 for its Hometown Heroes Banners project, an aspect of the memorial to feature local veterans that will be displayed on banners aligning the parking lot and road along Route 209 in front of the Community and Cultural Center.

Now, the Township is looking for veterans to feature on its "memory walk" and accompanying Hometown Heroes banners.

Are you a veteran who formerly resided, or currently resides in the Township? Do you have a family member who served and is a current or past resident of Middle Smithfield?

Please contact the Township to learn more about this great project.

To sponsor an engraved paver, please contact 570 223-8920 x 132 and speak with Holly Dennis, or email hdennis@mstäship.com for more information, including costs.

To be featured on the Hometown Heroes banner, please contact 570 / 223 - 8920 x 130 and speak with James Brechbiel, or email jbrechbiel@mstäship.com with the following information for consideration.

Space is limited and applicants will be taken on a first-come, first-serve basis for the first round of banners. Additional inquiries will be placed on a waiting list once spots are filled.

COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL CENTER PUBLIC EVENTS AND EXHIBITS*:

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.

New Resident Meet & Greet: Wed. 10/11, 6 pm

Moving into a new home is such an exciting time! Please attend Middle Smithfield Township's New Resident Meet and Greet to learn about our office, who you should call about water, sewer, and garbage, and how to get involved with your community! Please call 570-223-8920 x132 to register.

Monroe County Historical Association Traveling Lecture Series: Thurs. 10/19, 7 pm.

Ed Flory will present, "Hotels and Boarding Houses of the Stroudsburgs," at Middle Smithfield Township Community Center.

Red Cross Blood Drive: Fri. 10/20, 12pm- 5 pm

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

November:

Penn State Master Gardeners Terrarium Work Shop: Sat. 11/4, 12 pm.

Check Facebook for more information coming soon!

Election Day: Tues. 11/6, 7 am- 8pm.

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

PEEC Seasonal Survival: Sat. 11/18, 9:30 am

Students will discuss wildlife ecology accompanied by animal artifacts followed by using critical thinking skills to design and build a functional nest site for their gelatin "critters." Will your students survive the challenge?

Middle Smithfield Township Tree Lighting: Sat. 11/25, 6 pm.

Come kick off the holiday season at our 11th Annual Tree Lighting! Bands and choirs from East Stroudsburg High School provide music while the crowd enjoys free hot cocoa and treats. Then, Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive courtesy the Marshalls Creek Fire Company to light the tree and visit with the kids. But the highlight is our fireworks display.

*Are you a community organization? We'd love to host your event or meeting. Please call Holly Dennis at 570-223-8920 x132 for availability and more information!

PARKS & RECREATION

Director: Mike Dwyer | Chair Person: Jaime Frailey | Vice Chair: Laura Massaro

Members: Chrissy Fellmeth, Debbie Kulick, Kristin Willis

Liaison: Chris Rain | crain@msttownship.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



MST IS VERY EVENT-FALL!

By Chris Rain

Trunk or Treat

Happy Halloween!



Susan Hutching's car at 2022 Trunk or Treat.

On Saturday October 21, the Parks & Recreation Committee will host its 10th Annual Trunk or Treat at Resica Park, located at 1 Gravel Ridge Road behind Resica Elementary School. The begins at noon and ends at 1:30pm and is for all township children 12 and under! The rain date is Sunday October 22. Candy and other giveaways are only available while supplies last!

Local businesses and members of the community decorate their cars and give out candy to costumed kids. The best three decorated cars get a prize! Children can go safely from car to car to collect their treats and take a pumpkin from our pumpkin truck. Other activities will include glitter tattoos, sand art, and spin art.

Attendees are also encouraged to bring non-perishable goods, which will be collected and donated to the Bushkill Outreach food pantry. If you would like to decorate your car for Trunk or Treat, you must pre-register your car by Thursday October 19 at 4pm. Just coming to enjoy the event? No pre-registration is required. For more information, contact Chris Rain at 570-223-8920 x119.



The Firework Spectacular at the MST tree lighting following Santa's arrival.

Tree Lighting

Happy Holidays! Come kick off the holiday season at our 11th Annual Tree Lighting on Saturday November 25 at 6pm at Echo Lake Park.

Bands and choirs from East Stroudsburg High School provide music while the crowd enjoys free hot cocoa and treats. Then, Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive courtesy the Marshalls Creek Fire Company to light the tree and visit with the kids. But the highlight is our fireworks display!

The event is free to attend, and donations in the form of toys or non-perishable food items are always welcome for Toys For Tots and Bushkill Outreach; two organizations that help share the cheer for families in need every holiday season and throughout the year. Our rain date is Sunday November 26. Echo Lake Park is located at 5200 Milford Road. Parking will be available at the Presbyterian Church and Marshall's Square shopping center next to the park.

Event dates may be subject to change, or may have a rain date to be announced later. All events are FREE to attend. Please check future newsletters, MST's website, Facebook, or contact the parks department at 570-223-8920 x119 or crain@msttownship.com for more information.



THANK YOU TO OUR PARKS SPONSORS WHO HELP MAKE THESE EVENTS POSSIBLE!



PLATINUM SPONSOR 2023 PARKS & RECREATION



GOLD SPONSORS 2023 PARKS & RECREATION



GOLD SPONSORS 2023 PARKS & RECREATION



GOLD SPONSORS & CIVIC EVENTS 2023 PARKS & RECREATION & CIVIC EVENTS

SILVER SPONSORS:



BRONZE SPONSOR:



ENRICHING EXPERIENCES

Michele Clewell, Township Secretary/HR Director

In our last issue of the Middle Smithfield Township Newsletter, we shared our excitement about the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) and the township's participation in the MY Work summer employment program.

The goal of the OVR is to provide high school students with disabilities with the opportunity to work for their local municipality or non-profit organization.

We were lucky to have four students join us this summer: Jaden Aguirre, Yousef Albibili, Jeremiah Cox, and Johnny Williams. The students came to work every day and were happy to work along with our municipal employees. "The students are not the only ones who learned valuable lessons in the six short weeks they were here," said Michele Clewell, Township Secretary/HR Director.

Keith Buchman is an employee in the Public Works Department, and he said "I was happy to hear about the MY Work program and happy to be chosen to be a part of it. Learning what the skill level for all the students and their individual personalities was very interesting." He went on to say that he hopes the program returns at some point and most importantly, he truly made a new group of friends."

Christopher Rain, Parks & Recreation liaison said that "our four students were excellent workers. They came in every day and completed any task given to them. Their work at the Community Gardens Park this summer kept the gardens well maintained through the whole season. They were a huge help, and I would be happy to have them back anytime."



Top Left: One of the students at the Golf Maintenance shop, helping weedwhack the property. Top Right: Students helped build brand new garden plots at the Community Gardens Park. Bottom: The students and their advisors at a celebratory lunch to thank the students for their hard work and dedication.

PUBLIC WORKS

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

SEWER

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

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT UPDATE

By Rachel Heller

Village Drive is officially open! And ahead of schedule.

Don't let that earlier than projected opening fool you though, this project was no small feat. Over the last few years, the Village Drive bridge was patched, cribbed, and repaired as the weight limit periodically reduced by the State Bridge Inspector.

In the Fall of 2022, we started the design phase and construction preparations commenced in Spring 2023, which included clearing brush and constructing a new small wooden bridge for golfers to access, building coffer dams to dry the stream up for excavation to start. Many hours were spent reviewing plans and communicating with vendors and utility companies.

Continued on Page 21.



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENT

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event will be held on Saturday, October 7, 2023 from 8 am to 2 pm at Military Road Recycling Site.



Household hazardous waste are leftover household products used in the home, garage or garden that can catch fire, react, or explode under certain circumstances, or that are corrosive or toxic. They can cause serious safety and health problems and require proper disposal. These materials should not be placed in your trash. Instead, Monroe County, PA residents can bring these materials to Monroe County Municipal Waste Management Authority's Collection Events.

This is a residential program for Monroe County, PA residents ONLY. We accept items from your household that have been used for household purposes ONLY. Businesses are NOT eligible and must contact a hazardous waste hauler for proper disposal. These events are partially funded by grants from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

For more information or to pre-register visit thewasteauthority.com.



The Middle Smithfield Township Public Works Department working on replacing the bridge on Big Ridge Dr.

PAVING AND CHIP SEALING UPDATE

By Rachel Heller

The following roads have been paved in 2023:

- Big Ridge Drive (from Fringe Drive to Pondside Drive)
- Charlotte Way (from Prairie Lane to Cul-de-sac)
- Dancing Ridge Road (from Barren Road to Schoolhouse)
- Mount Nebo Road (from the Township line to Route 209)
- Prairie Lane (from Primrose Lane to Cul-de-sac)
- Village Drive (from Big Ridge Drive to Tom X Road)

The following roads have been chip sealed in 2023:

- Arbutus Lane (from Bowie Lane to Cul-de-sac)
- Bowie Lane (from Oak Grove Road to Corral Court)
- Calvary Court (Oak Grove Road to Cul-de-sac)
- Corral Court (Oak Grove Road to Cul-de-sac)
- Custard Drive (Bowie Lane to Cul-de-sac)

FALL LEAF COLLECTION

By Rachel Heller



Fall Leaf Collection is taking on a new schedule for Fall 2023.

This year, instead of having a set "Week Schedule" for particular areas of the Township, we are going to be collecting on all Township owned roadways the entire schedule.

Fall Leaf Collection will begin weather permitting on Monday, October 16th and will continue through Friday, December 8th.

With that being said, you might see our crews and "Snuffleupagus", the endearing name some of our residents have given our leaf vacs over the years, in various areas of the Township on the same day.

FALL CLEAN UP AND FREECYCLE

By Rachel Heller

Fall Clean Up & Freecycle will be held on October 13th and 14th from 7 am- 2 pm. Drop off locations are the Township Building (147 Municipal Drive) and Wooddale Garage (792 Dancing Ridge Road).

Clean up is for Middle Smithfield Township residents. Please bring proof of residence such as a, tax bill, rent receipt, etc. This clean-up is an extremely "user friendly" program. We urge all residents to take advantage of this opportunity. A great way to dispose of unwanted household goods.

Fees: (Cash/Check only. Price is per load)

- Car/SUV: \$10
- Pickup: \$20
- Small Utility Trailer (8ft or smaller): \$20
- Large Utility Trailer (Over 8ft 1 axel): \$40
- XL Utility Trailer (Tandem Axel): \$60
- Dump Truck (Single Axel): \$150
- U-Haul Van or Utility Van (6-9 ft) : \$50
- U-Haul 10-14 Ft: \$100
- Car Tires: \$5 each

*U-Hauls over 14' are not permitted

There is no charge for automotive batteries and electronic devices covered under the Device Recycling Act (computers, TVs, printers, etc.)

Freecycle items can be picked up on October 20th and 21st at the Township building from 7 am- 2pm. Residents can pick up five items per person, proof of residency is required.

For more information contact Rachel at 570-223-8920 x142 or email rheller@mstowship.com. See page 28 for list of accepted items.

Like in years past, Leaf Collection will take place on Middle Smithfield Township owned roadways, Resica Falls Road, Tom X Road and Lower Lakeview Drive. As always, we ask that you put your leaves on the shoulder as close to the road as possible and keep the piles out of ditches and free of any branches, sticks, rocks, or bags as this causes extreme damage to our Leaf Vacs and will cause a delay in collection.

If you do not live on one of the serviced roadways, you are more than welcome to bring any leaves to the Oak Grove Multi-Municipal Compost Facility for disposal. Please remember that if you are bringing them to the facility, do not put them in bags.

If you have questions, please either contact the Public Works Department at 570-223-8920 x142 or visit our Township website.

2023 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS:

By Joan Woisin

Pump Station #3 - McCole & Route 209- This rehabilitation project has been completed.

Pump Station #8 - Lake of the Pines- This rehabilitation project has been awarded to Blooming Glen construction with an estimated cost of \$108,000. The work is to begin in the Fall of 2023.

New Utility Bill Pay Service- Our new Payment portal went live August 24, 2023. The new service will offer multiple ways to pay the sewer bills (Bank account, Credit cards, debit cards, Apple Pay, Google Pay, Venmo, PayPal, Pay by text). Customers can sign up for bill reminders, paperless billing, and AutoPay. Customers will also be able to make one-time payments as a guest.

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 savings versus a contractor. The electrical portion of the project has been awarded to Critical Systems. The generators are expected to be delivered in November.

Relocating Our Sewer Line- 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. We are currently in the planning phase to relocate our sewer line and are working closely with the other utility companies that have their lines under the bridge to relocate their lines as well.



LITTER & BEAUTIFICATION

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

PICK OF THE LITTER:

HIGHLIGHTING THE ROAD ADOPTERS IN MST

By Christopher Rain

Mountain Stream Baptist Church is a religious organization located in Marshalls Creek. The church adopts Oak Grove Road. Located at 305 Dartmouth Drive, behind Alaska Pete's restaurant, MSBC is a church where everyone is welcome to come to hear the word of God. Their mission is to tell people of the community about the gospel.



Mountain Stream Baptist Church Volunteers, including past Person of the Year finalists, Tom Watson, during 1000 Feet of Street.

Up to a dozen MSBC members – led by Tom Watson, an MST 2018 Person of the Year finalist – work to clean Oak Grove Road between Rt. 209 and Rt. 402 twice a month, weather permitting. The church members also volunteer twice a year for MST's 1000 Feet of Street litter pickup days in the spring and fall. During these events, MSBC volunteers clean up not only Oak Grove Road, but portions of Rt. 209 between Oak Grove Road and Big Ridge Drive.

"We adopted Oak Grove Road because we at MSBC want to give back to our community and be involved in the community in any way it will help," said Tom Watson.

Middle Smithfield Township thanks Mountain Stream Baptist Church for adopting Oak Grove Road, for going above and beyond at our litter cleanups, and for their efforts to keep our township a beautiful place.

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.

VOTING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When is Election Day?

- November 7th, 2023

Where can I find my polling place?

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

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

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

Is it possible to vote by mail?

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

Where are the voter drop boxes?

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

- Middle Smithfield Community & Cultural Center/Library of the Smithfields (5200 Milford Rd. East Stroudsburg, PA 18302)
- Eastern Monroe Public Library (1002 PA-611, Stroudsburg, PA 18360)
- Monroe County Administration Building (1 Quaker Plaza, Stroudsburg, PA 18360)

Absentee and Mail-in Ballots on Election Day

- Absentee and Mail-in ballots must be received by 8:00 pm on Election Day in order to be canvassed and counted.

- You MAY NOT drop a voted ballot at your polling location.

- If you applied for an absentee or mail-in ballot but have opted to go to your polling location to vote, there are two options:

- Option # 1 - Take your ballot and declaration envelope to your polling location. Inform the poll worker you wish to vote in-person and are surrendering your ballot and materials.

- Option #2 - If you did not receive your ballot or cannot locate it, you can still vote at your polling location. You will need to cast a provisional ballot. Once voted, you will return your ballot to the poll worker who will secure it in an envelope and note the reason why you requested a provisional ballot.

What happens if I moved before Election Day?

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

Do I need a form of ID to vote?

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

VOTING DISTRICTS & POLLING PLACES:

Middle Smithfield East

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

Middle Smithfield Community Center
5200 Milford Road
East Stroudsburg, PA 18302
Handicap Accessible: Yes

Middle Smithfield West

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

Middle Smithfield Municipal Building
147 Municipal Drive
East Stroudsburg, PA 18302
Three miles north of Marshalls Creek
Handicap Accessible: Yes

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

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT POLITICAL SIGNS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 9!

AS FIRE PREVENTION WEEK APPROACHES, MARSHALLS CREEK FIRE COMPANY REMINDS RESIDENTS: "COOKING SAFETY STARTS WITH YOU. PAY ATTENTION TO FIRE PREVENTION."

by Marshalls Creek Fire Company

The Marshalls Creek First Company is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) — the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week for more than 100 years — to promote this year's campaign, "Cooking safety starts with YOU. Pay attention to fire prevention." The campaign works to educate everyone about simple but important actions they can take when cooking to keep themselves and those around them safe.

According to NFPA, cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries in the United States. Unattended cooking is the leading cause of cooking fires and deaths.

"Year after year, cooking remains the leading cause of home fires by far, accounting for half (49 percent) of all U.S. home fires," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of outreach and advocacy at NFPA. "These numbers tell us that there is still much work to do when it comes to better educating the public about ways to stay safe when cooking."

Marshalls Creek Fire Company offers these key safety tips to help reduce the risk of a cooking fire.

1. Watch what you heat. Always keep a close eye on what you are cooking. Set a timer to remind you that you are cooking.

2. Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove. Always keep a lid nearby when cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan and turn off the burner. [FA1]

3. Have a "kid- and pet-free zone" of at least 3 feet (1 meter) around the stove or grill and anywhere else hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

For more general information about Fire Prevention Week and cooking safety, visit www.fpw.org. For fire safety fun for kids, visit sparky.org.



FIRE PREVENTION COMMUNITY NIGHT

Tuesday, October 10th | 6:30 pm - 9 pm
J.T. Lambert Intermediate School
2000 Milford Rd. East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

Join Marshalls Creek Fire, Bushkill, Shawnee, and East Stroudsburg Fire Companies for the 26th annual Fire Prevention Community Night.

Activities include:
Fire Truck Rides - Vehicle Rescue Demonstrations - Smoke House Simulator - Medical Helicopter Landing - 911 Call Simulator - Sparky the Fire Dog - & More!

Admission is FREE!

MEDICAL CARE SERVICES CONTINUE TO EXPAND IN MIDDLE SMITHFIELD

Continued from page 6.

Bushkill Emergency Ambulance Corps
(570) 223-1906 Please call 9-1-1 in cases of an emergency
522 Sterling Ct., East Stroudsburg, PA 18302
(PO Box 174, Bushkill, PA 18324)
To Learn more about Bushkill Emergency Ambulance Corps, visit: www.bushkillemergencycorps.com/
www.facebook.com/BushkillEmergencyCorps

LVPG Family Medicine – Middle Smithfield

(570) 395-2514
4541 Milford Rd. (in the Crossings at Marshalls Creek Complex by Price Chopper)
To learn more about LVHN, visit:
www.lvhn.org/locations/lvpg-family-medicine-middle-smithfield
www.facebook.com/lvhealthnetwork

Middle Smithfield Township Community and Cultural Center (to book medical seminars/clinics)
(570) 223-8920 x 132
5200 Milford Rd.

To inquire about booking an event, please reach out to Holly Dennis, Community and Municipal Projects Coordinator, for more information.
hdennis@msttownship.com
www.facebook.com/MSTCommunityandCulturalCenter

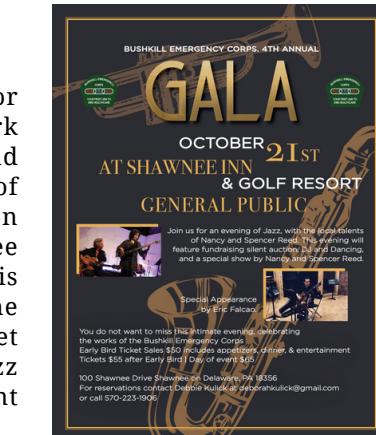
Pocono Urgent Care
(570)872-9615
4545 Milford Rd., Suite 140 (in the Crossings at Marshalls Creek Complex by Price Chopper)
To learn more about Pocono Urgent Care, visit:
www.poconocares.com/
www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100062249989931

BUSHKILL EMERGENCY CORPS

ANNUAL FALL GALA

by Bushkill Emergency Corps

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 Falcao, 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!

BUSHKILL FIRE COMPANY FUND DRIVE

by Bushkill Volunteer Fire Company

We write to ask you to support the Bushkill Fire Company this year with a donation to our annual fundraising campaign. Our entire organization consists of 100% volunteer individuals within our community. Each year, our organization assists individuals in our community by protecting our neighbors from loss due to fire or other emergency services.

Without donations from individuals like you, this would not be possible. Donations help sustain our organization and benefit the community which we serve. During the past year, because of your help, we were able to take delivery of a new ladder truck!

We want to be able to continue to train and serve the community we love by asking for your support. Thank you!



SCAN THE QR CODE TO DONATE DIRECTLY TO BUSHKILL FIRE COMPANY.

DONATIONS CAN ALSO BE SENT TO THE BUSHKILL FIRE COMPANY AT 124 EVERGREEN DR., BUSHKILL, PA 18324

SEE "A WORD FROM YOUR SUPERVISORS" ON PAGES 3 & 4 FOR AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT THE FUTURE OF FIRE & EMS FUNDING.

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

Lehman Pike EMS
(570) 588-9365
193 Municipal Drive
Bushkill, PA 18324

Did you know that cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries?
Cooking safety starts with YOU.



Pay attention to fire prevention.



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 LOOK TOWARDS FALL AT CCP –

by Todd Brown, Pro Shop Manager

Country Club of the Poconos Municipal Golf Course has continued the strong start seen at the beginning of the season. Through the end of July, rounds are up 3.2% over last year. Course conditions have been improving through the summer months, with help from much needed rain in June and July. We are looking forward to continuing improvement into the fall, especially when temperatures begin to cool.

Friday Night Scrambles continue to be a fun event and will run through the Friday before Labor Day at least. If we have significant demand, they will continue into fall.

We hosted two outings this Fall at CCP. The Violette's Stand for the Children and Marshalls Creek Fire Department tournaments held on September 24th and 30th, respectively.

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!

With the beautiful Pocono Fall approaching, we are looking forward to a busy Fall season at the Country Club of the Poconos. Hope to see you at the course!

Fall Apparel Sale! Come shop at the Pro Shop in the Months of October and November and get 20% off all in-stock apparel.

Update on Bids: No sealed bids were received for the approximately 409 acres of Township owned land, including the 118 acre golf course. The township is planning to place the property out for bid again soon.

UPCOMING CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENTS:

October 8th- East Stroudsburg Little League



FALL GOLF HOURS:
OCTOBER- 7:45 AM- 6 PM
NOVEMBER- 9 AM- 5 PM

***WEATHER PERMITTING**



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.ccpgolf.com.

Enjoy \$25 golf during the month of November!



JOIN US FOR THE FIRST ANNUAL CHILLY OPEN!

by Todd Brown, Pro Shop Manager

Join us on Saturday November 4th for our first annual Chilly Open as we will be celebrating the end of another successful golf season.

All entries will include golf and food. Please contact the Pro Shop at 570-223-8099 for additional information.

born and raised in East Stroudsburg, and is a 2012 graduate of East Stroudsburg. She is a member of VFW Post 2540, and Marshalls Creek Fire Company, where she has been a member since 2010.

In her free time she enjoys traveling with her husband, Jeremy, and relaxing at home with her dogs.

Kylie Medrano is the Director of First Impressions, helping residents who stop by the office or call in. She also provides substantial administrative support for everything from sewer payments to permits. The oldest of three children, Kylie graduated High School a year early from East Stroudsburg North. She enjoys time with her two cats, and loved to go to local parks and rivers. In her free time she also enjoys reading, and spending time with family and friends.

Wish the next Leadership Pocono class luck as they start their journey!

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Continued from page 14.

We officially closed the roadway down on June 12th and had projected an opening date of September 1st to coincide with the summer school break. Starting in the design phase and continuing through every phase of the project, we kept running into hurdles that needed to be overcome from the new structure including the relocation of old utilities.

The new 3-cell 60'x40' concrete structure was set into place on August 2nd and 3rd, and we were then able to start the final phases of the project. Once the cells were set, we then grouted (concreted) the cells, graded and paved the bridge, and recreated the stream bed below the bridge opened on August 25th, opening the roadway a week ahead of schedule!

While Village Drive is reopened, we do still have one more task to finish; we will be coming back by mid-October to perform a full pave of Village drive from Big Ridge Drive to Tom X Road to complete our final phase.

Of course, we can't complete this project without acknowledging our neighboring Townships, thank you to Barrett Township, Smithfield Township and Stroud Township for your assistance over the last several months. We would also like to thank the residents of Country Club of the Poconos for their understanding while they had to live amongst a construction zone all Summer.

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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

Members: Charisse Fallon, Ken Johns, Vacancy

Liaison: Holly Dennis

MEMORIES WERE MADE AT THE 17TH ANNUAL MEMORY MAKERS LUNCHEON!

by Holly Dennis

Long-time residents were invited to join us for on Saturday, August 19th at noon at the Middle Smithfield Township Community and Cultural Center to celebrate the 17th Annual Memory Makers Luncheon.

The theme this year was "The History of Local Native Americans." Guest speaker Russell Cramer, who gave a talk on the evolution of tools and weapons, titled "Stone Age in the Poconos." Cramer was also joined by his granddaughter Nell Fossa, for the presentation.

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The talk describes Native American tribal life during three archeological periods and will show how the tools and weapons used by local tribes evolved over a ten-thousand-year period. The talk begins during the Paleo post ice age period over twelve thousand years ago when a band of Clovis hunter-gatherers camped along the Delaware River at Minisink Hills and became the Poconos first inhabitants. The talk illustrates how local Native American tribes successfully adapted to an ever-changing environment. The talk concludes during the Woodland Period with a Lenni Lenape village cultivating crops on the same site in Minisink Hills that Clovis hunter-gatherers had camped on more than ten thousand years earlier! Russ illustrates his talk with hundreds of ancient stone tools and weapons illustrating the tools essential for each of the three archeological periods.

Russ Cramer grew up in Shawnee and developed an interest in the village's rich history at an early age. A graduate of Gettysburg College, Russ wrote his senior thesis on Shawnee's historic past but it wasn't until he met local archeologist Don Kline and participated at several of his digs along the Delaware River that he gained a full appreciation of the Poconos rich Native American history. Following a career in the building material business, Russ has devoted much of his time learning about Native American cultures in the Poconos and learning about the wonderful stone tools they created.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS WHO HELPED MAKE THIS EVENT POSSIBLE!

Sony Murray

ON BEHALF OF THE
HISTORICAL COMMISSION

PLATINUM SPONSOR

2023 CIVIC EVENTS



GOLD SPONSORS
2023 CIVIC EVENTS



GOLD SPONSORS
2023 CIVIC EVENTS

NATIONAL FOSSIL DAY™ 2023

& THE RETURN OF MARSHALL THE MASTODON

by Holly Dennis

National Fossil Day is October 11th!



National Fossil Day was established in the United States by the National Park Service to promote the scientific and educational values of fossils -- such as the discovery of our very own Marshalls Creek Mastodon! Generally, National Fossil Day is commemorated by the education and stewardship of fossils through enabling children to better understand the history of life, science of paleontology and other educational objectives through a wide variety of classroom, museum, field trip and outdoor activities.

This nationwide celebration was first held on October 13, 2010, during Earth Science Week. The National Park Service and over 270 partners, including museums (such as the state museum in Harrisburg that now has our mastodon), institutions, organizations and other groups, joined together to celebrate fossils.

There will be an exhibit on display at the Middle Smithfield Township Community and Cultural Center for the month of October in honor of National Fossil Day. This will include a LIFE SIZE mural of Marshall the Mastodon, information about the discovery & the State Historical Marker, and more!

The display will be open to the public during regular library hours:

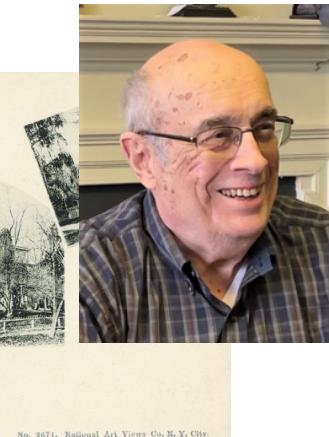
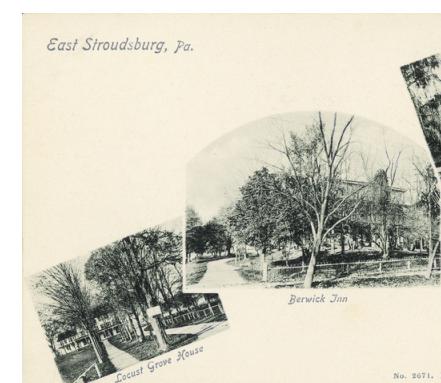
Monday- Wednesday 9 am- 5 pm
Thursday 10 am- 7 pm
Friday- Saturday 10 am- 5 pm

MCHA: THIRD THURSDAYS ARE ON THE MOVE!

The Monroe County Historical Association is pleased to announce the Traveling Third Thursday Lecture Series.

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



No. 2074, National Art Views Co. N.Y. City.

MARSHALLS CREEK EXPLOSION

by Holly Dennis

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.



A state official and state police officer on the scene after the explosion in Marshalls Creek in 1964.

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.

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.

If you have any information please contact Holly Dennis at 570-223-8920 x132 or hdennis@msttownship.com.



The Marshalls Creek Mastodon on display at State Museum of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg.

2022 PERSON OF THE YEAR MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP

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



OVER 3,000 BACKPACKS DISTRIBUTED TO MONROE COUNTY STUDENTS

MUW and local partners helped distribute over 3,236 backpacks to local students this summer! We want to thank our sponsors for making sure that thousands of students are ready for school this year: Aetna Better Health, Blue Ridge Cable, ESSA Bank & Trust, Lehigh Valley Health Network, Monroe County Transit Authority, Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau, Sanofi, St. Luke's Hospital - Monroe Campus, Rotary Club of the Stroudsburgs - District 7410, and UGI Utilities, Inc.

David S. Brown
2022 Person of the Year
Finalist

Greater Pocono Section, National Council of Negro Women



NCNW IN THE COMMUNITY

Greater Pocono Section NCNW tabled at Stroudfest on Main Street. Stroudfest is one of the largest community event in the Burgs. During this time GPS NCNW distributed hand sanitizer, masks, COVID home testing kits and distributed information about upcoming events within the community.

They also recently participated in the United Way Day of Caring on Wednesday, September 13.

QUILT OF VALOR TO HONOR WAYNE BOLT IN NOVEMBER



What is a Quilt of Valor?

A Quilt of Valor is a quality, handmade quilt that is machine or hand quilted. It is awarded to a Service Member or Veteran who has been touched by war. The Quilt says unequivocally, "Thank you for your service and sacrifice in serving our nation."

To use the term Quilt of Valor, Quilts of Valor or QOV, the quilt must be a specific size, must have a label with required information, it must be awarded (it is not a gift) and it must be recorded.

Wayne will be honored on Friday, November 10th at 10 am at the Middle Smithfield Township Community and Cultural Center.

For more information about Quilt of Valor and nominate a veteran for future quilts please visit www.qovf.org. For more information on participating locally please contact the Pocono Mountains Quilters' Guild at thepmqg.com.

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



BUSHKILL EMERGENCY CORPS ANNUAL FALL GALA

Join Bushkill Emergency Corps for their Annual Fall Gala October 21st!

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!

More information about this years event is on page 19!

NOMINATE YOUR HERO FOR THE 2023 PERSON OF THE YEAR

by Holly Dennis

The Middle Smithfield Township Person of the Year award recognizes Middle Smithfield residents who have made a positive difference in the world and highlight the importance of altruism, philanthropy and community service. The recipient of the award will receive \$1,500 towards their cause, while two finalists will receive \$1,000 each toward their cause.

The award is issued by Middle Smithfield Township's Supervisors to recognize the contributions philanthropists make to our community. The MST "Person of the Year" Award is available annually to individuals who meet or exceed requirements for volunteer service and have demonstrated exemplary citizenship through volunteering. Nominees may have performed their volunteer work locally, nationally or internationally.

Not only are residents of Middle Smithfield Township eligible to be nominated, anyone who volunteers for an organization in or that serves Middle Smithfield Township is eligible as well. This change allows for more volunteers to be recognized for their hard work and dedication.

The nomination process is simple. Submit the contact information for both the nominee and the nominator and write a brief story as to why your nominee should win, highlighting something that distinguishes them as an individual and how their contribution has made a difference in the community.

Nomination forms and details can be downloaded at www.MiddleSmithfieldTownship.com or can be picked up at the township building.

Nominations will be accepted through November 13th, and the finalists will be notified by December 8th. An independent panel of judges representing the district judicial system, news media, local clergy, and business leaders from across Middle Smithfield will select the award recipients.

The winner will be announced at the Person of the Year and Volunteer Appreciation Banquet on Friday, January 19th at the Whispering Pines Banquet Hall at Country Club of the Poconos. Not only will the 2023 Person of the Year be announced, other volunteers and organizations will be recognized for the hard work they do for the community. More information about this event to come!

Any questions regarding the Person of the Year Award and nomination process can be directed to Holly at 570-223-8920 ext 132 or hdennis@msttownship.com.



NOMINATION GUIDELINES

- Service provided may not include hours served as part of an internship fulfilling academic requirements.
- Nominated volunteers must have provided service during the 2023 calendar year; however, service provided prior to this year can also be included.
- Nominee must reside in and/or volunteer in Middle Smithfield Township.
- Volunteers may nominate themselves.
- Staff members compensated by salary or any other compensatory means are not eligible.
- Any service provided in reference to a court case will not be eligible.
- Award selections are based on the nominee's volunteer efforts and commitment of time, accomplishments, community impact and enhancement of the lives of others, as described on the nomination form.
- Nominees must volunteer for a minimum of one year, at least 170 hours per year, and reside in or volunteer in Middle Smithfield Township and benefited the community in a substantial, important or unique way.
- Nominations must be received via online application or dropped off at the township building prior to the deadline.
- Nominators must obtain approval from the person being nominated prior to submission.
- All decisions made by the independent panel of judges are final.
- Nominations are subject to verification.



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

REPRESENTATIVE ROUND-UP

A few words from your elected officials

A NOTE FROM SENATOR BROWN

Senator Rosemary M. Brown



It is an honor to represent you in the State Senate. As you know, I served Middle Smithfield Township in the State House since being elected in 2010. Since the 2022 election, I now serve as your State Senator. My staff and I continue to be available to help you with any state-related issues.

In Harrisburg, I continue to focus on commonsense initiatives – including roadway safety, Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) access, and addressing the Alzheimer health crisis. I am happy to provide an update on these initiatives.

My legislation, Senate Bill 37, passed the Senate in June and is now waiting for consideration in the House of Representatives. This proposal would prohibit drivers from holding a cell phone while operating a motor vehicle. Drivers may still use their cell phone, but they must utilize hands-free technology. Distracted driving continues to be a leading cause of motor vehicle crashes – this proposal is reasonable, effective, and will save lives.

Senate Bill 375 saw movement this session and is now being considered by the full Senate. This proposal would require Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) be present at all school athletic events. Unfortunately, two thirds of deaths caused by sudden cardiac arrest in children occur during exercise or activity – studies show survival rates as high as 70% if an AED is used within two minutes. It is critical to have this life-saving technology available and accessible for students and families while they are in our schools.

This session, I introduced Senate Bill 840, which would establish a permanent Alzheimer and Dementia and Related Dementias (ADRD) advisory committee within state government. This committee would work to streamline the Commonwealth's approach in addressing this growing health crisis as our state's senior population is expected to grow exponentially.

If you have any questions about these proposals or any other state-related issues, please feel welcome to contact my district office or email me at rbrown@pasen.gov.

CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

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
John D. Christy
Sharon Laverdure
John R. Moyer
One Quaker Plaza
Stroudsburg PA 18360
570-517-3400

ANNUAL OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY

Monroe County Commissioners; John D. Christy, Sharon Laverdure, and John R. Moyer



Rays of Hope for Addiction hosted the annual Overdose Awareness Event at the Stroudsburg Wesleyan Church on August 31st. The event was hosted as part of International

Overdose Awareness Day to remember those who have died because of a drug overdose and to reduce the stigma surrounding drug-related deaths.

The Monroe County Commissioners attended the event to announce their Overdose Awareness Day Proclamation for 2023:

"Overdose Awareness Day is recognized on August 31st of each year to raise awareness of drug overdoses. End the stigma surrounding substance abuse disorder and drug related deaths and to acknowledge the grief felt by families and friends by remembering those who have died or have had a permanent injury as a result of a drug overdose.

And whereas in many communities throughout the country the national opioid epidemic poses a significant threat to public health and safety.

Whereas Monroe County does affirm and acknowledge the harm and hardship caused by drug overdoses and,

Whereas every person deserves our best efforts to prevent injury and death from overdoses and is imperative to support overdose prevention policies and protect and help to make sure everyone understands overdose is a social issue which impacts families, friends, and communities.

Now Therefore be it resolved that Monroe County Commissioners do hereby proclaim August 31st as Overdose Awareness Day."

More information can be found on Carbon Monroe Pike Drug and Alcohol Commission's website or monroecountypa.gov.

PROBST VOTES TO RETURN \$456 MILLION BACK TO TAXPAYERS

Representative Tarah Probst, 115th Legislative District



In July, I voted to bring \$456 million back to Pennsylvania taxpayers by requiring fairness in the way cyber/charter schools operate.

Millions of taxpayer dollars that are meant for brick-and-mortar public schools are being siphoned away to

these cyber programs for reimbursement. The funding is not tied to actual costs and with little oversight. That is why I voted for House Bill 1422 to modernize cyber/charter school funding and prevent tax dollars from being spent on advertising, baseball tickets, and other non-educational items.

Families and seniors are losing their homes from local school taxes in Monroe and Pike Counties. Cyber/charter schools take \$40 million out of our Monroe County school districts and almost \$2 million out of the Delaware Valley School District. This practice has gone silent for over two decades and I needed to bring it to light. These reforms are a must in our county to not only stop the hemorrhaging of money out of our brick-and-mortar public schools, but these reforms can help reduce property taxes in the future.

There is one example of the inequity in reimbursements: 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/charter school costs the district an average of \$15,603. The cost to educate an ESASD special education student is between \$22,677-\$22,760. Yet sending an ESASD special education child to an outside cyber/charter school costs the district on average \$41,169. East Stroudsburg Area School District will pay out \$9 million to cyber/charter schools this year.

Let me be clear about one misconception that is being used by cyber/charter school supporters. This legislation does not 'cut' funding for those schools, but instead brings these institutions more in-line with how we are required to fund our traditional public schools. This ensures a more appropriate use of taxpayer dollars used by cyber/charter schools.

When we underfund and divert dollars away from our public-school districts, it falls on local property taxpayers to make up the difference. This system is not making things better for our public schools or taxpayers.

The charter and cyber school law has not been reformed since it was enacted in 1997.

The bill awaits action by the state Senate.

VOTING TO HELP PEOPLE LIKE YOU

Representative Maureen E. Madden, 115th Legislative District



It has been an eventful few weeks in the 115th Legislative District! Between Eagle Scout ceremonies, holiday and remembrance observances, and community events, I have met with hundreds of constituents. Most recently, I hosted a town hall meeting at Northampton Community College- Monroe Campus.

We had more than a hundred attendees. Residents were most interested in local land use questions, especially with regard to the environment. I look forward to following up on those concerns through legislative action and working with local citizen groups.

As my colleagues and I prepare to return to session, we are faced with many priorities that must be acted on. Our focus must be on delivering justice for victims of childhood sexual assault. The Window to Justice legislation/amendment is awaiting Senate action.

In the House, we are pursuing additional funding for our public schools. As a result of the Commonwealth Court declaring the current formula inequitable, it must be replaced. In addition, the House will pursue legislation to assist you in keeping your data private.

As always, please contact my office with any questions or need for constituent services! We can be reached Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call at (570) 894-7905.



Maureen Madden hosted a town hall meeting at Northampton Community College- Monroe Campus.