

MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWS HOLIDAY 2023



THANK YOU

TO THOSE WHO SPONSORED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!

PARKS & RECREATION

PLATINUM
SHEELEY INSURANCE

GOLD
SCANTEK
LEHIGH VALLEY HOSPITAL- POCONO
CORY WILLIS TRUCKING

SILVER
SUPER HEAT
EESA BANK & TRUST
WAYNE BANK

BRONZE
HUFFMAN'S ELECTRIC

PERSON OF THE YEAR

GOLD
SHEELEY INSURANCE

BRONZE
HUFFMAN'S ELECTRIC

CIVIC EVENTS

PLATINUM
SONNY MURRAY

GOLD
CORY WILLIS TRUCKING
MIGNOSI SUPER FOOTOWN
PERKINS

BRONZE
HUFFMAN'S ELECTRIC



Photos by resident Regina Ireland-Auer

**2023 SHOP LOCAL
HOLIDAY DISCOUNT
CARD INSIDE!**

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR SHOP LOCAL
HOLIDAY PROGRAM ON PAGE 7.



**11TH ANNUAL
TREE LIGHTING**

MORE INFORMATION ON PAGE 6.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25TH
ECHO LAKE PARK | 6 PM

Photo Credit: Bruce Brandli, owner Big A Grillehouse



MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWS

WHAT'S GOING ON:

November

11/23: Thanksgiving Day (Office Closed 11/23 & 11/24)
11/24: Shop Local Now Through 1/2/2024
11/25: 11th Annual Tree Lighting at Echo Lake Park, 6 pm

December

Stay Tuned for Peace Light date!
Supervisors Meeting, Presentation of the Budget & End of Year Review, 7 pm
12/7- 12/15: Hanukkah
12/8: Fall 2023 Leaf Collection Ends
12/16: Wreaths Across America at Wooddale United Methodist Church, Noon.
12/25: Christmas Day (Office Closed 12/22 & 12/25)
12/26- 1/1: Kwanzaa
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

COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

Board of Supervisors
2nd & 4th Thursday every month | 7 pm

Parks & Recreation Committee
1st Monday every month | 6:30 pm

Golf Course Advisory Committee
2nd Monday every month | 8:30 am

Oak Grove Composting Facility Board
Call for schedule | 570-223-8920 x142

Historical Commission
1st Thursday every month | 9:00 am

Planning Commission
4th Thursday every month | 5:30 pm

Zoning Hearing Board
Call for schedule | 570-223-8920 x126

Economic Development Committee
3rd Monday every month | 5:30 pm

Revitalize 209 Committee
4th Tuesday every month | 5:30 pm

2022 PERSON OF THE YEAR UPDATE:



Wayne Bolt
2022 Person of the Year
ESU Foundation, Pocono Mountains United Way
Wayne Bolt was recently honored on November 10th with a quilt presented by Pocono Mountains Quilts 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. Thank you for your service!



David S. Brown
2022 Person of the Year Finalist
Greater Pocono Section, National Council of Negro Women
Stay up to date on events hosted by the Greater Pocono Section NCNW at greaterpocononcnw.org/events. Section Meetings are held every 2nd Saturday of the month at The Loder Center, 62 Analomink Street, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301 from 12pm - 2pm.



Debbie Kulick
2022 Person of the Year Finalist
Bushkill Emergency Corps, Pocono Mountains United Way
Join us in congratulating members of Bushkill Emergency Corps who were honored at the annual awards dinner. Honorees can be found on page 8 and 9!



Supervisors Mike Dwyer, Annette Atkinson, and Mark Oney

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Photo by resident James Furiosi

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!



Township staff (& their ugly sweaters) wish you a very happy holiday season!

HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM YOUR TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS & STAFF!

We have many things to be thankful for this season, starting with our Veterans. Veterans Day was over a week ago, and on that day, Wayne Bolt, the township's 2022 Person of the Year, was honored with a Quilt of Valor at a presentation at the Community & Cultural Center. The Center was privileged to be the site for the recent Veterans Expo hosted by State Representative Maureen Madden. And, of course, we are thankful for our Veterans, and the opportunity to expand the Veterans Memorial at our Community & Cultural Center courtesy of grants from the Pocono Mountain Visitor Bureau and Lehigh Chamber of Commerce. You can see part of the expansion now – Middle Smithfield is now a part of the Hometown Heroes banner program – you can see some of our resident veterans honored by banners at the Community & Cultural Center when attending the Tree Lighting this year!

Of course, we are excited for the upcoming Tree Lighting, always the Saturday after Thanksgiving at Echo Lake Park, which also kicks off the Shop Local season (your 2023 Shop Local Discount Cards are included in this issue! Please activate them today.)

Speaking of the Person of the Year and Volunteer Banquet, it will be January 19, 2024 (always the Friday after Martin Luther King Day), and we are grateful that we will come together again with the community to celebrate our many volunteers and civic minded community members.

Before singing Auld Lang Syne, we certainly hope you'll join us for our next presentation to the public – the presentation of the 2024 budget on Tuesday December 5th and the adoption of the budget on December 28th. (The Budget presentations will incorporate a year-end report.)

As you may remember, our Fall Issue devoted a considerable amount of attention to our first responders: our all volunteer Fire companies, and EMS companies. It is clear that those charged with responding to our emergencies now find themselves in an emergency; it is now our turn to respond. As we said in the Fall Issue, it has come time for Middle Smithfield to join other municipalities in enacting a fire/ems tax. More information is in the "Dollars and Sense" article on the next page, and more information will be presented on December 5th at the annual presentation of the budget to the public.

In the meantime, wishing you all a safe, healthy and happy Holiday Season to you all – Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, Happy Everything.

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

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

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Rachel Heller | Public Works Administrator, Oak Grove, & Emergency Management Coordinator
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Shawn McGlynn | Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer
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Lori McCrory | Assistant Zoning Officer
Mayra Colon | Zoning Administrator
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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
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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

DOLLARS AND SENSE:

By Bonnie Winters

All in all, the township has much to be thankful for – we've had a good year! (Please join us on December 5th for our annual presentation of the next year's budget to the public – there's a ZOOM option too!) The township had a relatively good year: Home sales slowed down in the latter part of 2023, so the income from the real estate transfer tax decreased, but that decrease was made up nine times over by the increase in income from the Earned Income Tax, as more township residents are working now. Income from permit fees and code enforcement was also down in 2023 – more details and trends will come in the year in review in December. The township was also fortunate to receive another \$223k in American Rescue Funds, which now closes out all our distribution.

We are also thankful for the grants received this year – as you can see from our Spring issue, almost a quarter of a million dollars for everything from operational efficiencies that will save the township money every year, to capital improvements to better the quality of life for our residents.

But, as good as our year was, it becomes more and more apparent that **we can wait no longer to assist those whose passion it is to assist us.** As we reported in the Fall newsletter (bit.ly/2023FallNews), the Supervisors are carefully considering all options to fund our first responders.

The update to the "Word from the Supervisors" in the Fall Newsletter is:

- The Cable Franchise Fee will be eliminated in June of 2024.**

The Cable Franchise Fee was enacted in 2008. The funds collected were disbursed to fire, ems, and the County Emergency Control Center. A more equitable way to fund local services is by increasing the Local Services Tax.

- The Local Services Tax will increase in January of 2024.**

Previously called the "Occupational Privilege Tax" (aka the Berkheimer tax), the LST will increase from \$10 per year per person employed in the township to \$52 per person employed in the township. These funds can only be used for local services such as fire/ems, roads, and to reduce municipal property taxes. Those not employed, such as retirees, will NOT pay an LST. Currently, just \$5.00 of the LST is received by the Township; with the increase, \$47 will go to the Township to support our fire/ems.

- A Fire/EMS tax is planned for 2024.** Eight municipalities in Monroe County have already enacted a fire/ems tax, and Middle Smithfield Township, along with Smithfield Township and Price Township, will now follow suit. Visit bit.ly/fire-ems-tax for the Fall article.

WE SINCERELY THANK ALL OF OUR COMMITTEES:

The **Economic Development Committee** advises the Board of Supervisors on matters dealing with the advancement and expansion of the local economy. A resource to the business community dedicated to the success of our businesses, the EDC strives to create a diverse business community that is prosperous and innovative while built on a stable economic foundation. Recognizing the need to reduce costs and manage the golf course operation the current administration inherited, Township officials chartered the **Golf Course Advisory Committee**. This committee helps manage course operations by tending to endless details, and advise Supervisors on golf issues.

The **Historical Commission** is comprised of local residents and committed volunteers that aim to foster and promote public knowledge and interest in Township history. Since its establishment in 2012, members host interactive, fun events such as Marshalls Creek Mastodon events, Memory Makers luncheons and work to procure historical markers for significant sites.

The **Parks and Recreation Committee's** mission is to retain enough open space for our residents' use, maintain the beauty and character of the area, and maintain full functioning park equipment and facilities that will provide a number of recreational activities and events throughout the year. Since the beginning of 2013, the Parks and Recreation Committee have added playgrounds, a community garden, and re-invented the Bark Park. They conduct family friendly events such as the Egg Hunt, Trunk or Treat and Tree Lighting.

The **Planning Commission** serves as an advisory board that makes recommendations to the Supervisors, Zoning Hearing Board, and to the Zoning Officer. The Commission also reviews all major and minor subdivisions, land development plans and any new zoning changes such as variances or home occupations. The members of the Commission also work on new zoning changes and ordinances.

The **Zoning Hearing Board** is a quasi-judicial body that renders decisions on specific types of land use appeals and applications. The primary purpose of the zoning hearing board is to help assure fair and equitable application and administration of the zoning ordinance. The zoning hearing board hears appeals from the zoning officer's determinations and grants relief from literal enforcement of the zoning ordinance in certain hardship situations by means of a variance.

The **Revitalize 209 Advisory Committee** was established in 2023 to advise the Board of Supervisors on matters pertaining to the applications for the Revitalize 209 Grant Program. The Revitalize 209 Grant is a matching grant program set to help fund improvement projects that are visible from 209.

TREE-CYCLE AT OAK GROVE

By Rachel Heller

After the holiday season this year, we encourage residents to take advantage of the free Tree-Cycle at Oak Grove.



Residents can drop off their (real) trees at Oak Grove Multi-Municipal Compost Processing facility during regular hours.

Oak Grove Hours and Location:

3305 Oak Grove Drive
East Stroudsburg, PA 18302
Monday- Saturday | 7am-2pm.

BUSHKILL OUTREACH ACCEPTING HOLIDAY DONATIONS TO HELP LOCAL FAMILIES



You can donate to Bushkill Outreach year-round at the Middle Smithfield Township Building via the donation box in the lobby! In addition to food items, Bushkill Outreach is accepting gifts for children.

The Bushkill Outreach Program is a community food pantry serving Lehman and Middle Smithfield Townships for over 30 years and is run by volunteers from both townships.

For more information, contact the Bushkill Outreach at 570-588-0660 or visit www.bushkilloutreach.org

DREAMING OF A WHITE CHRISTMAS?

KNOW WHERE THE SNOW GOES!

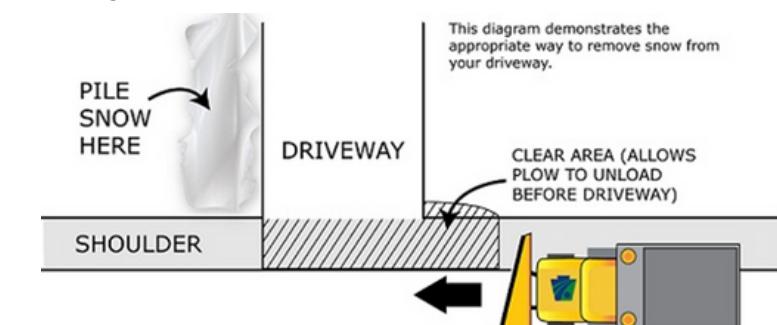
By Rachel Heller

We are always concerned about our roads and make every effort to have them cleared in winter as quickly as possible. As portions of our Liquid Fuels funds are used to pay for salt and cinders for winter maintenance.

Our township is one of the few that uses a treated salt product called Clearlane, which works faster and lasts longer. Compliments are often received about the conditions of our roads, compared to State and other township roads.

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

For any comments, concerns, or questions, please contact Rachel Heller @570-223-8920 x.142



OH SNOW- BRUSH UP ON CHAPTER 138!

By Mayra Colon

Snow is quickly approaching. It is important, especially at this time of year, to be aware of Chapter 138 of the Township Code of Ordinances which regulates parking as well as snow removal and the penalties that can be applied for non-compliance.

If a snow emergency is declared by the Township, or if more than 4 inches of snow has fallen, it shall be unlawful to park a vehicle on any public road and right of way in the Township. Doing so could result in a fine. If a vehicle is found unattended and in violation of a provision of Chapter 138, the Township may have that vehicle removed.

In addition, it shall be unlawful to throw, shovel or otherwise move, pile or dump snow or ice removed from sidewalks, driveways or other areas onto any public road. This also could result in a fine of. These provisions are for the safety of our residents and our Public Works Department employees who work tirelessly during winter storms to ensure our roads are clear.

UPCOMING HOLIDAY EVENTS

11TH ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING

By Chris Rain

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



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@mstownship.com for more information.



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

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Every 3rd Saturday in December is the national Wreaths Across America Day, and it is celebrated locally here in Middle Smithfield Township at the Wooddale United Methodist Church on Barren Rd.



Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, the mission is to remember our fallen U.S. veterans, Honor those who serve, and teach our children the value of freedom.

The Wooddale United Methodist Church on Barren Road in Middle Smithfield Township as well as your township supervisors take part in this tradition every year. The ceremony is organized by residents and church members Gene and Janice Halterman.

If you are interested in participating or volunteering, please contact the township 570-223-8920. For more information on the program, please visit WeathsAcrossAmerica.org.

SHOP LOCAL THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Shopping local isn't just a novel idea; choosing local and independent businesses for your services, shopping, dining, and other needs means you are helping to build a stronger economy, creating a healthier community, and increasing the wealth where you live. Here's how:

Strengthen the Local Economy!

Every dollar you spend at an independent business returns 3 times more money to your local economy compared to that spent at a larger chain. This money is going right back into the community you live and work, helping support yourself, family, and neighbors.

Create Jobs!

Did you know that almost 47% of the U.S.'s private economy is employed by small businesses? Your local grocer, accountant, attorney, printer, restaurant, etc. are more likely to hire your friends, family, and neighbors, who in turn, spend their wages locally.

Build Community and Give Back!

When you shop local, sales tax is used to support parks, roads, schools, and community programs that benefit you.

In addition, did you know that small businesses donate 250% more than large businesses to local community causes, youth organizations, first responders, charities, and more? Just look at all the local sponsors we thank in each issue of the Township newsletter.



Foster a Healthier Environment!

One word: transportation. Shopping local means less travel, less traffic, less pollution, and more time to enjoy your community's distinct personality.

Even more, local businesses tend to consume less land, shop locally, and travel less, further reducing transportation and the carbon footprint.

Increase Wealth!

Two words: multiplier effect.

Here's the math:

Buying local products at local businesses = spending more money locally by that business and its employees = that business and its employees paying local taxes and offsetting increases for others = hiring more local people, who in turn pay taxes = purchasing more local goods to supply their own business and donate to local non-for-profits, etc.

It all adds up: **Shopping Local this holiday season = a Strong Middle Smithfield.**

Shop Local and keep the cheer here!

SHOP LOCAL 2023 IS HERE!

An exclusive program for local shoppers who want to save money, support their community, and be a hero!

Why Shop Local?

The Shop Local Program saves you time, gas, and builds community. How? Local dollars spent means local businesses are supported and jobs created. Not only do independent businesses employ more people directly per dollar of revenue, but they are also customers of local printers, accountants, wholesalers, farms, attorneys, etc., expanding opportunities for community and economic development. The dollar you spend in an independently owned business is used to invest back into the community via local taxes that invest in schools, roads, and emergency services, AND hire local people, who in turn, invest back into their community by buying local goods and services, pay taxes, etc.

This year - Keep the Cheer Here!

How Do I Participate?

1. Call or go to MstShopLocal.com to activate your Discount Card. This also qualifies you to win cool prizes! Deals start this Black Friday!
2. Cut the discount card off, keep it in your wallet, and use it at the participating stores listed.

(You may also want to keep a list of deals and discounts with you.)

3. Let the holiday shopping begin! The discounts will be effective until January 2, 2024.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Currently funded by township & resident donations; to be supported by a fire & EMS tax

CARBON MONOXIDE SAFETY

Marshalls Creek Fire Company

Often called the invisible killer, carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide.



CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home and in other locations where required by applicable laws, codes or standards. For the best protection, interconnect all CO alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement and mounting height.
- Choose a CO alarm that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Call your local fire department's non-emergency number to find out what number to call if the CO alarm sounds.
- Test CO alarms at least once a month; replace them according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- If the audible trouble signal sounds, check for low batteries. If the battery is low, replace it. If it still sounds, call the fire department.
- If the CO alarm sounds, immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door. Make sure everyone inside the home is accounted for. Call for help from a fresh air location and stay there until emergency personnel declare that it is safe to re-enter the home.
- If you need to warm a vehicle, remove it from the garage immediately after starting it. Do not run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motor indoors, even if garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not covered with snow.
- During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.
- A generator should be used in a well-ventilated location outdoors away from windows, doors and vent openings.
- Gas or charcoal grills can produce CO — only use outside.

HOME HEATING EQUIPMENT

Have fuel-burning heating equipment and chimneys inspected by a professional every year before cold weather sets in. When using a fireplace, open the flue for adequate ventilation. Never use your oven to heat your home.



THE CHRISTOPHER KUNA GIVING TREE

Bushkill Fire Company



Our mission every year is to collect toy and gift donations, to which we give back to families in our coverage area who may need some extra help this holiday season.

If you would like to donate, please bring an unwrapped toy to the township building, or any other marked location, no later than December 15th, 2023.

For any further questions regarding toy/gift donations, please contact us at 570-588-6033. Happy Holidays!



Bushkill Volunteer Fire Company poses with Santa, Mrs. Claus and Frosty!

SHAWNEE FIRE COMPANY HOLIDAY EVENTS

Shawnee Volunteer Fire Company

Stay tuned for more information regarding the 2023 Santa Run, as well as a food drive for AWSOM. Visit facebook.com/ShawneeFireCo36 for more information!

INTERNATIONAL PEACE LIGHT

Each year, the light, which originates in Bethlehem, is transported from Israel to Austria. At a ceremony in Vienna, members of an international delegation of Boy Scouts light their own lamps and return to their home countries, accompanied by a message of world peace.



2018 Person of the Year finalist Francis Oquendo, 2019 Person of the Year finalist Louis Santiago, and Doreen Santiago with the International Peace Light,

From Vienna, the lamp from Bethlehem is flown by Austrian Airlines to New York City and is spread throughout the United States by scouting groups.

Troop 87 then brings the peace light from NYC to MST. More information about the Peace Light and accompanying ceremony coming soon!



UPCOMING THANKSGIVING DINNERS

Bushkill Community Church

504 Bushkill Falls Rd., Bushkill, PA 18324
Thanksgiving food bag (with turkey coupon)
bushkillcommunitychurch.org/events
or to reserve call 570-431-4999

Mady's Kitchen - Sunday, November 26th, 4 pm- 6 pm

Church of St. John
5171 Milford Rd. East Stroudsburg, PA 18302

BUSHKILL EMERGENCY CORPS ANNUAL AWARDS

Bushkill Emergency Corps



This year Bushkill Emergency Corps celebrates 58 years of serving the residents of Middle Smithfield Township. Each year, we take time to recognize those who have served our community with an Annual November Awards Dinner.

This year Board member Debbie Boyle was recognized for two years of volunteer service to the organization. As the newest member of the Board of Directors, Debbie joined the following volunteer Directors: Ed Regina (Chairman), Albert Murray, Jr., Zerla Bartolome, Gil Coronado, Leon Prince, Gail Kulick and Juliette Ryan-Caines. Each Board member brings a particular background to the organization that contributes to its long-term commitment to the community.

The Corps was recognized two long-serving individuals from the same family. Both Nancy Felmy and Raymond Felmy, Jr. were

recognized for their service of 30 years each to the organization. Nancy joins her husband, Ray, who was recognized last year for 50 years in the service of EMS, with 30 years being in the service of Bushkill Emergency Corps.

This year six CPR save pins were awarded. Saving a life requires the skills and training that the providers have and quite frankly, it doesn't happen every day. There are always challenges that can prevent a "save", but the following six providers achieved that life-saving opportunity: Paramedic Jahaira Miranda Reyes, EMTs Rose Rizzo, Nancy Felmy, Ray Felmy, Wilfredo Crespo and Connor Dolan. Congratulations to each one!

This past year Bushkill Emergency Corps reinstated its Paramedic school scholarship program. The recipient of the scholarship was Paramedic Joseph Bolger, who received in addition to the Bushkill Emergency Corps funds, an award of the Favini Paramedic Scholarship, which combined covered most of the cost of the program.

CHRISTMAS & HANUKKAH SERVICES

New Life Baptist Church

456 Resica Falls Rd.
East Stroudsburg, PA 18302
NewLifePocono.org | 570-762-2288

Christmas Eve Eve Candle Light Service
Saturday, December 23 at 6:00 PM

The Children's Christmas Program
Sunday, December 24 at 10:30 AM

Church of St. John
5171 Milford Rd.
East Stroudsburg, PA 18302
churchofstjohn.com | 570-223-9144

Light the Night Christmas Family Event
Sunday, December 10 at 5 PM

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord
Sunday, December 24 at 4 pm
Christmas Mass at Night (Bilingual) at 10 pm

Christmas Day Mass
Monday, December 25 at 10 am

Bushkill Community Church | (570) 431-4999

Middle Smithfield Presbyterian Church | 570-223-8648

Mountain Stream Baptist Church | 570-856-3310

Reformed Church of Bushkill | (570) 588 6773

Temple Israel of the Poconos | (570) 421-8781

Wooddale United Methodist Church | 570-424-7490

The day-to-day management of the organization is handled by President, Debbie Kulick and Captain Jonathon Kulick-Cummings, but the most important part of the administration and operations is overseen by the Corps' Primary Medical Director, Dr. Peter Favini. Dr. Favini volunteers his time as Medical Director and serves as he guiding light for patient treatment and the skills of the providers. He has donated his time, knowledge and skills since 1992 when the organization officially became an Advanced Life Support provider to the community. Today, he is joined by Lehigh Valley Hospital-Pocono's Dr. Colleen Kennedy as a secondary Medical Director for the Lehigh Valley Health Network.

Finally, a sincere thank you to all those who support Bushkill Emergency Corps through your subscriptions, attendance at our fundraising events and a special thank you to the Middle Smithfield Township Supervisors for their continued support of the organization! Truly we couldn't provide the services without this solid support.

REPRESENTATIVE ROUNDUP

A NOTE FROM SENATOR BROWN

Senator Rosemary M. Brown



Throughout the year, in my work as your state Senator, I am consistently reminded of the individuals who work every day to make our community the best it can be and support those around them. These people are your neighbors, friends, and family – who are consistently doing good deeds, without seeking recognition or accolades.



It is important we consistently remind ourselves we are surrounded by these quiet individuals who bring people together – especially in a world that often feels it is being pulled apart. Whether you are at the grocery store or the gas station – These strangers are your neighbors and often full of good in their heart. Say hello, smile, and wish them a good day.

This Thanksgiving, I am grateful for you – those who engage with our community and work to build each other up. Wishing you and your loved ones a joyous Thanksgiving and holiday season. My office is always available to assist you with any state-related issues. I can be reached at 570-620-4326 or rbrown@pasen.gov.

ANGELS CLOSET IS SEEKING DONATIONS!

Diane Jiorle, 2016 Person of the Year Finalist

Middle Smithfield Township is pleased to announce that we will be hosting 2 donation drop-off sites for The Angel's Closet! The Angel's Closet is a local, non-profit 501(c)3 organization that provides Baby Layette Bundles to mothers in need in Monroe County.

The Angel's Closet is looking for donations of the following, sizes 0-24 months: Hooded Towels, Washcloths, Socks, Onesies, Receiving Blankets, Sleepers, Sweaters, Hats, Bibs, Burp Cloths, Snowsuits, Board Books, Heavy Blankets, Diapers, Wipes

If anyone is interested in donating, items can be brought to:

- Middle Smithfield Township Building: 147 Municipal Drive East Stroudsburg, PA 18302
- Middle Smithfield Township Community & Cultural Center: 5200 Milford Road East Stroudsburg, PA 18302

For anyone looking for more information on the organization, please contact The Reformed Church of Bushkill at 570-588-6773, email TheAngelsCloset@yahoo.com, or visit them on Facebook at The Angel's Closet PA.

2023 RECAP

Representative Tarah Probst, 115th Legislative District

It's been a busy year as your state representative at the Capitol in Harrisburg, and here at home. My Stroudsburg office and satellite locations in Lehman Township and Delaware Township have helped thousands of you with a variety of state issues. We also are available to meet with you by appointment at the Middle Smithfield Township Building.



Let me recap some items that we passed in the House of Representatives to make your life better.

- Supporting our teachers, students and schools
- Modernizing cyber charter schools to save tax dollars
- Improving mental health supports
- Easing childcare costs
- Increasing the minimum wage
- Expanding tax relief for vulnerable taxpayers
- Investing in affordable housing
- Strengthening neighborhoods
- Establishing safe staffing levels for hospitals
- Protecting people from discrimination
- Opening a window for survivors of childhood sexual abuse
- Supporting businesses that create high tech jobs
- Ensuring business tax fairness

I'm also proud to report that my bill that would create a state grant program to help fund wildlife rehabilitation centers across Pennsylvania passed the House and awaits action in the state Senate. Another of my bills that would expand the Disabled Veterans' Real Estate Tax Exemption program was the subject of a public committee hearing.

It's always great to see tax dollars returned in the form of state grants and Middle Smithfield Township received the following:

- \$21,298 to allow Determine LLC to purchase equipment for a manufacturing project
- \$20,000 for a sewer line relocation project
- \$10,000 for acoustic wall panels at the community center/seminar tables/museum display cabinets

Be sure to stay connected by receiving my regular email updates with vital information about what's happening in the district and across the state, and news you can use in your life. You can sign up at the bottom of my website: www.pahouse.com/probst. Finally, follow me on Facebook and X @RepProbst and @reptarahprobst on Instagram.

If you need assistance, please contact my office at 570-420-2850 or stop by at 18 S. 9th St., Suite 105 in Stroudsburg.

A MESSAGE FROM MAUREEN MADDEN

Representative Maureen E. Madden, 115th Legislative District



Since September, much has been happening in the 115th Legislative District! New businesses are opening, substantial roadwork is ongoing, and we are in the peak of fall. In Harrisburg, we are busy getting critical policies adopted. The General Assembly is actively considering school funding bills, anti-bullying measures, and reforms to benefit

local emergency services. I am confident that these policies will make a positive impact in our daily lives.

I am pleased to report the PA Preferred Organic trademark bill introduced by my friend and colleague Rep. Eddie Day Pashinski, of which I am proud to be the primary co-sponsor, passed the state Senate this week. When this bill is signed into law, it will make this program a permanent fixture in PA and will create opportunities for residents to identify and purchase locally grown foods more easily. I've seen firsthand the success the initial program had on organizations like Pocono Organics here in our region, and Elyse Nehring from my staff traveled to Rodale Institute in Berks County last spring to learn more about organic and regenerative agriculture and what it does for our commonwealth.

Most of the legislating regarding our state budget is complete, enabling access to critical funding, both in regular and grant form. I encourage eligible applicants to pursue funding through the Local Share Account (Statewide) grant that closes on November 30th. Please reach out to my office for more information.

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.

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
Tobylhanna, 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

POCONO CHRISTMAS JARS

2016 Person of the Year Finalist, Al Compoly, Jr.

What is a Christmas Jar?

A Christmas Jar is a pickle jar, peanut butter jar, Mason jar or whatever else you have around to collect your spare change each day.

All coins are dedicated to the jar, and during the week before Christmas you carefully select someone to give it to anonymously. Was a neighbor laid off? Is a coworker struggling with health problems? Has a friend lost a loved one? Simply put your jar on their porch, in their car, on their desk--wherever--and you could change their life for good! \$50, \$100, even \$200, you'll be surprised how much change you can generate and how much you can affect someone's life.

Christmas Jar Display

We have created a Christmas Jar display here in the Pocono's at 359 Lower Lakeview Drive in East Stroudsburg (Middle Smithfield Twp.) PA. There you can pick up a FREE Christmas Jar that you can fill with your spare change to give to someone in need.

Opening Date of the Display

Our Christmas Jar display will begin operating on Thanksgiving weekend and will end on Christmas Eve or until we run out of Jars.

More information can be found at poconochristmasjars.com

