



MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWS

SPRING/SUMMER 2024



- MID-YEAR REPORT- THURS. JULY 11TH.
MORE ON PAGE 5
- COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL CENTER
FOUNDATION NEEDS DIRECTORS. IT
COULD BE YOU! MORE ON PAGE 13
- 4TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY DAY IS JULY
13TH. SEE MORE ON PAGE 14

*Photo Credit: Otter Lake Campground in the 1960's.
Photo from Otter Lake Archives.*

MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWS

WHAT'S GOING ON:

May

- 5/25: Mental Health Forum, 10 am
@ Community and Cultural Center
- 5/27: Memorial Day (Township Offices Closed)
- 5/28-5/29: Maureen Madden Satellite Office Hours, 10 am- 3 pm
@ Municipal Building

June

- 6/7: Red Cross Blood Drive, Noon
@ Community and Cultural Center
- 6/22: Sow, Grow, Pollinate: A Children's Garden Adventure, 12 pm
@ Community and Cultural Center
- 6/25-6/26: Maureen Madden Satellite Office Hours, 10 am- 3 pm
@ Municipal Building
- 6/26: 60th Anniversary of the Marshalls Creek Explosion

July

- 7/4: Independence Day (Township Offices Closed)
- 7/11: Mid-Year Report to the Public Presentation
- 7/13: Community Day, Noon @ Echo Lake Park
- 7/27: Lecture: Tracking Wild Things, 1 pm
@ Community and Cultural Center

August

- 8/10: Annual Memory Makers Luncheon, Noon
@ Community and Cultural Center

For an up-to-date list of events visit www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com. A full list of events at the Community and Cultural Center can be found on page 13

2023 PERSON OF THE YEAR :



Russell Fisher
2023 Person of the Year

Join Valor Clinic for the 11th Annual Golf Tournament on Saturday, June 15th, 2024 at the Country Club of the Poconos. Learn more on page 24!



Dr. Marilyn Brown
2023 Person of the Year Finalist

Was nominated for her work with the Greater Pocono Section, National Council of Negro Women. See what they've been up to this spring on Page 25!



Sue Mahusky
2023 Person of the Year Finalist

Was nominated for her work with Angels and Dragonflies Children's Charity. Want to give back? See Page 25 for a list of their upcoming fundraisers in June and July!



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COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

Board of Supervisors

2nd & 4th Thursday every month | 7 pm

Parks & Recreation Committee

1st Monday every month | 6:15 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

*More upcoming events can be found on committee pages!

A WORD FROM YOUR TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

Spring has Spring in Middle Smithfield, and there is activity buzzing all around from paving progress to parks projects. Park pavilion rentals are flowing in, which means pool passes aren't far behind, and the Community & Cultural Center is bursting with events and exhibits. (If you haven't seen the Flower Power exhibit curated by Tricia Lowry Lippert, hurry before the June exhibit is installed.)

From the deluge of permit applications in the Zoning office and lines at Ace Hardware and Tractor Supply, it appears many of our residents also caught spring fever and are full swing ahead with home improvement projects. We are very excited to see that the spring cleaning/property improvement bug has also extended to our storefronts, as the number of submissions from our business owners to the Revitalize 209 committee for township grants for façade improvements is on the rise. Two projects have been granted already, and we can't wait to see the finished product! Property owners on Route 209, have a project in mind? Call James at x130.

A few more highlights include:

- the Mid Year Report by the Staff to the Public at our July 11th Board of Supervisors meeting. Come in person or via zoom to hear of the progress of goals set and presented in our Preview of 2024 presentation in February
- the 60th anniversary of the Marshalls Creek Explosion on June 26th – the township seeks civilians who remember that day to participate and provide input on the Township markers and memorial site to be planned and developed where the State Marker is on Route 209 (Call Holly at x132)
- the annual family and pet friendly Community Day event at Echo Lake Park/Community & Cultural Center is Saturday July 13th (if you are a non-profit charitable organization and would like space to connect with our residents, call Chris at x115)
- the annual Memory Makers event is Saturday August 19th, an occasion for long-time residents to gather and reminisce and an opportunity for the staff to collect and preserve their stories of the past for the future. If you would like to sponsor or attend, call Holly at x132

Would you like to see more community programming and projects? The nonprofit Middle Smithfield Township Community & Cultural Center Foundation was created to support the continuing development of the township's Community & Cultural Center. See page 13 for more details!

If this work for the community appeals to you, please reach out to Michele Clewell, x112. Middle Smithfield Township created a place to house both the past and the future of our community.

We look forward to seeing you this summer!

In Gratitude,
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

Middle Smithfield Township Staff

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

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

On Lot Sewage Enforcement Officer | x128

Bonnie Christman | Budget & Finance Manager
bchristman@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

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

Vicki Smith | Zoning Administrator
vsmith@mstownship.com | x105

Kylie Medrano | Director of First Impressions,
Accounts Payable/Accounts Receivable
receipt@mstownship.com | x100

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

Christopher Rain | Parks & Rec, Litter & Beautification,
Facilities, Website & 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

REPRESENTATIVE ROUND-UP

A few words from your elected officials

CONGRESSMAN MATT CARTWRIGHT

8th Congressional District



As a member of Congress, my main responsibility is to deliver federal tax dollars back to the people I serve. In the three years since Community Project Funding was reintroduced, As a member of Congress, my main responsibility is to deliver federal tax dollars back to the people I serve. In the three years since Community Project Funding was reintroduced, I've brought back more than \$83 million in federal tax dollars to Northeast Pennsylvania.

For my Fiscal Year 2024 Community Project Funding requests, I'm happy to report that I secured funding for all 15 requests for the third year in a row, which means that \$15.35 million in federal funds are headed back to NEPA.

Making sure our Northeast Pennsylvania law enforcement officers and first responders can safely serve our communities continues to be a top priority of mine. That's why I secured \$2.6 million in my FY24 Community Project Funding requests to support police and emergency first responders in Lackawanna, Monroe and Luzerne Counties.

The Monroe County District Attorney's office will receive \$1,009,000 for the county's Safety-First Network Project and its Major Crime Case Unit. This project will fund new justice information-sharing and vital communication upgrades to infrastructure and technology, moving the county emergency network to a digital system. Through these upgrades, the Monroe County Safety First Network will serve citizens through quicker and more efficient responses and investigations of criminal activity and emergencies.

Additional funding highlights from my FY24 Community Project Funding requests include \$1.6 million for track upgrades necessary for the return of passenger rail service from NEPA to New York City... *Continued on Page 8*

SENATOR ROSEMARY BROWN

Senate District 40



I have GREAT news!

If you haven't yet heard, in April, I announced the upcoming paving of Route 209, from Price Chopper (Mt. Nebo / Oak Grove) to Municipal Drive. This segment of Route 209 has been a priority of mine based on constituent frustrations and feedback. While details on the construction schedule are limited at this time, the contract has been awarded with an expected completion date by October 2024. Be sure to sign up for my weekly newsletter at www.SenatorBrown40.com to receive updates on roadwork as well as many other important issues.

In legislative news, I continue to work towards meaningful initiatives for the 40th Senate District. I have been working with the Alzheimer's Association and introduced legislation to better address the state's growing Alzheimer's and related disease populations. Currently, there are 280,000 Pennsylvanians aged 65 and older living with Alzheimer's. This number is expected to increase to 320,000 by 2025 and grow exponentially. To best address this growing public health crisis, my legislation would establish a permanent Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders (ADRD) Division and establish an ADRD Advisory Committee within state government to convene statewide stakeholders.

These state government bodies would be tasked with the implementation of an updated state-plan, coordination across state agencies, policy identification, federal funding coordination, and comprehensive work to best address the complex needs of those living with Alzheimer's and related diseases and their families.

Continued on Page 23

REPRESENTATIVE MAUREEN E. MADDEN

115th Legislative District



One of my central focuses as a legislator has always been advocacy for the most vulnerable among us. Of course, as it happens, seniors are chief among that group. I am pleased to announce that I have been appointed the Chair of the House Committee on Aging & Older Adult Services. Being chair of the House Aging and Older Adult Services Committee will put me at the forefront of any discussions that involve maintaining and improving those state services. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House and Senate as well as officials in the Shapiro administration on older adult issues moving forward.

I was a prime co-sponsor of legislation that became law just last year to expand the popular Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program. The new guidelines raise the income limit to \$45,000 for homeowners and renters and increase the maximum rebate to \$1,000. Call my office to see if you qualify for a rebate! You may also visit during my satellite hours at the Middle Smithfield Township Municipal Center. Upcoming Middle Smithfield Satellite Hours will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on May 28-29, June 25-26, July 30-31, Aug. 27-28, Sept. 24-25, Oct. 29-30, Nov. 26-27 and Dec. 18-19.

In grant news, I was pleased to note that the Office of the State Fire Commissioner awarded several grants to local fire and EMS agencies including Bushkill Emergency Corps (EMS) - \$10,000 and Marshalls Creek Fire Co. (fire and EMS) - \$24,423. I look forward to further development during the budgeting process. Governor Shapiro has proposed doubling the amount available for this grant in his budget plan. I am proud to support increases in funding for emergency services.

As always, please contact my office with any questions or need for constituent services!

REPRESENTATIVE TARAH PROBST

189th Legislative District

State Representative Probst's office is here to assist the constituents of Middle Smithfield Township! Located at 18 South 9th Street Suite 105 in Stroudsburg, our office can assist with a variety of things.



This includes the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program, PennDOT applications, Birth/Death certificates, LIHEAP applications, unemployment inquiries and much more! Every first Wednesday of each month, we have our disability outreach day. A representative from the Center of Independent Living comes to our office to speak with individuals looking for resources and support for disabled individuals.

Representative Probst has been working hard for you! The total number of bills passed by the PA House now stands at 272 this legislative session. Unfortunately, most of the bills passed by the House, including ones with overwhelming bipartisan support, have not been brought up for a vote in the Senate. These bills include properly funding our schools, lowering your taxes and the Cost-of-Living Adjustment for Seniors. Contact your Senator today and urge them to support the bipartisan legislation passed by the PA House.

Don't miss out on this year's Women's Expo on June 22nd at Stroudsburg Highschool from 10:00am-1:00pm! We will have state and county service information, the LVHN Mobile Mammography coach, door prizes, and light refreshments for attendees. We hope to see you there!

To reach our office, you can call 570 420 2850 or email RepProbst@pahouse.net. We also have satellite offices available for our constituents in Lehman and Delaware Township. The Lehman Township office is located at 193 Municipal Drive in Bushkill, PA 18324. This office operates on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00am-2:00pm. The Delaware Township office is located at 116 Wilson Hill Road in Dingman's Ferry PA 18328. This office operates on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30am-4:00pm. We are also available to meet by appointment at the Middle Smithfield Township Municipal Building.

Join our email list today | 570-223-8920 ext. 100 | info@mstowship.com

MONROE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Sharon Laverdure, Chairman John D. Christy, and Vice Chairman David Parker



Monroe County is under the administration of the County Commissioners; Chairman John D. Christy, Vice Chairman David C. Parker, and Commissioner Sharon S. Laverdure. The Commissioners are the chief governing body of the county of Monroe.

Their duties are mainly administrative in nature, with certain policy making and limited legislative authority. Duties of commissioners include responsibility for voter registration, elections, veteran's services, assessment of property, children and youth services, Area Agency on Aging Services, county fiscal management, prepare and adopt county budget, approve all contracts and agreements for county government, maintenance of county property as well as the appointment of individuals to numerous county boards, commissions and authorities.

The commissioners are also statutory members of the county salary board, county retirement board and of the prison board of inspectors of the county. They also are required to serve on the MH/MR Board of Directors and on the Pleasant Valley Manor Board of Directors.

The Commissioners are elected to serve four year terms.

Monroe County Board of Commissioners meetings are held on the first & third Wednesday of every month at 9:30 A.M.

All meetings on this schedule will be held in the Monroe County Administrative Center One Quaker Plaza, Stroudsburg, PA 18360

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
David Parker
One Quaker Plaza
Stroudsburg PA 18360
570-517-3400

BUDGET & FINANCE

Treasurer, Supervisor: Mike Dwyer

Budget & Finance Manager: Bonnie Christman

DOLLARS & SENSE

By Bonnie Christman

The township's 2023 audit is in the final stages of being completed by our auditor, and once finalized the audit will be posted on Middle Smithfield Township's Website. (look under www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com/156/Budget-Finance) The 2024 budget is posted on the website as well. The overall health of the Township's finances are strong and we continue to see economic growth in the area via earned income and transfer tax (real estate sales). Please keep an eye out for upcoming details on the Mid-Year Report on July 11th.

It pays to shop around!! The township underwent an analysis of our electrical usage and costs across all our accounts with Met-Ed to see where we could reduce costs and maximize energy savings. Bonnie Winters (former Budget and Finance Manager for the township) worked with several energy brokers to analyze the township's usage, costs for generation, transmission, renewables, and ancillary services to provide us with the best possible rate per kilowatt hour. This process started in late summer 2023, and the township is pleased to announce that in February 2024 we secured an 18-month contract with a reduced rate across all our electrical accounts. This will amount to a 40% cost difference in the township's favor, and a significant overall savings of approximately \$74,000 per year and \$111,000 over the contract period. A huge thank you to Bonnie Winters for tackling this project and realizing the cost savings for the township!

Over the past few months, the township has started to receive property tax revenue and we anticipate those tax payments to continue through the end of May before tapering off. The Fire/EMS tax went into effect this year to provide much needed financial support to our first responders who service the township. Distribution payments have started to go out to those entities on tax revenues received.

The work continues to streamline financial processes for the township. One process that has been streamlined is payroll. The iSolved Payroll Manager Module is in full swing and operational and has made the payroll process easier and more efficient. The next phase of the payroll process to rollout is the Time and Attendance and Employee Self Portal modules. Some key features of the Time and Attendance and Employee Self Portal modules are:

- The Time and Attendance module will allow for data integrity with employee punch times, time off requests and accrual tracking, ease of timesheet approvals for management as well as detailed reports that will save much needed time, paper, and resources.
- The Employee Self Portal module will allow employees to have full access (24/7) to their pay data, the ability to update personal data (address, contact info, etc.), track time off submittals and balances, just to name a few.



Grant Update:

We continue to build upon our great partnerships with local and state agencies who want to invest in the township's future. Recent grant funding received (detailed below) will go a long way to help the township financially with our projects that add value to the community.

- \$56,710.25 from the Monroe County Conservation District for the Public Works Department for work on Firestone Road. The overall grant award was \$113,000 for the work on Firestone Road.
- \$229,819 from the Commonwealth of PA DCED for the Oak Grove Multi-Municipal Compost Center towards the cost of a horizontal grinder.

MEET BONNIE C!

Meet Middle Smithfield Township's new budget and finance manager, Bonnie Christman, who joined the team in April 2024. Bonnie has been a resident of the Pocono Mountains since moving here from upstate New York in July 1975. Her family lived in Pocono Summit where she lived for 28 years, before settling in the Stroudsburg area with her husband to raise her family. Bonnie's career as an administrative professional in both private and public sectors is concentrated in finance, payroll, data analysis, process, and office management.



Her primary functions at the Township are the overall management of the township's financials that include processing payroll, accounts payable and receivable functions, generating and filing reports at the local, state, and federal level, analyzing financial data and processes, overseeing the annual audit process, as well as creating and maintaining budgets.

Bonnie is married, has a daughter, son, and a granddaughter. Bonnie enjoys cooking, biking, camping, and gardening



HAPPY TRAILS, BONNIE W!

In April, we said goodbye to Bonnie Winters, former Budget and Finance Manager at Middle Smithfield Township. Bonnie has certainly left her positive mark on Middle Smithfield, ("Teamwork makes the Dreamwork" and we wish her well at her new place of employment!

2024 MID-YEAR REPORT TO THE PUBLIC

Continuing this administration's tradition of timely and accurate periodic reports to the public, Middle Smithfield Township is on track to deliver their annual Mid-Year Report to the public at their next Board of Supervisor's meeting, scheduled for Thursday, July 11th, at 7pm in the Schoonover Municipal Building.

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

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

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

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

Just some of the things residents will hear about:

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



The future is so bright, you have to wear shades.

Join us at the mid-year to see what the staff has been up to!

POCONO PALACE EMBARKS ON NEW JOURNEY WITH RAJ INVESTMENTS LLC.

A HEART FULL OF MEMORIES, NOW A WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES

By James Brechbiel

On May 2, 2024, the sale of the Pocono Palace to Raj Investments LLC was official, announcing an exciting new chapter for the property.

Although we are sad to see Pocono Palace leave, we cherish the memories and are excited to see what great things lay ahead with the new owners, Raj Investments LLC.

Known as a "honeymoon hotspot" for almost 50 years, the Pocono Palace will undergo a transformation into a luxurious destination not just for honeymooners, but families and business travelers as well, offering a variety of activities and events for all.

The Pennsylvania registered investment and management company plans to reopen the resort under a new name and create a unique facility for the Poconos; a center focused on well-being.

"We intend to make this resort very attractive as a luxurious destination for well-being by partnering with best-in-class institutions. Individuals, families, and corporate teams can come together to have unique life transforming experiences. Programs will be designed to help one create a life of balance and fulfillment through pioneering yoga and meditation programs, elevating spiritual discourses, team building events, and much more", says the new management team.

According to Raj Investments, the plan is to reopen in several stages, the first of which is to renovate suites for an updated look, while continuing business in a limited fashion.

The resort will include event facilities equipped with conference rooms, banquet halls, and signature breathtaking views of lake and mountainside so many have come to cherish.



Raj Investments LLC. said they are grateful to the Township and Economic Development Committee for their support and look forward to building a lasting and beneficial partnership with the community.

"This is an exciting new era for the property and Poconos," said James Brechbiel, Economic Development Manager and liaison for the Township's Economic Development Committee. "Although we're sad to see Pocono Palace go, we cherish the memories and are excited to see what great things lay ahead."

Stay tuned for more details!

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Jared Acosta | **Vice Chair:** Ed Regina | **Secretary:** Tom Marchesani

Members: Beverly Brown, Gina Bertucci, Joe Memoli, Deborah Emin | **Manager:** James Brechbiel

YOUR PACKAGE HAS ARRIVED...WITH POCONO PACK AND SHIP

By James Brechbiel

This February, Pocono Pack and Ship arrived at the Crossings at Marshalls Creek Complex (by



Price Chopper) in Middle Smithfield Township, offering a variety of options for customers with their shipping needs and delivering hassle-free services to the community.

Having grown tired of running from location to location to get all the services she needed, owner and CEO, Wendy Walkabout-Ellis, wanted to provide a store that offered all the major shipping retailers, services, and products under one roof.

"We are a one-stop shop for all of your business and mailing needs," said Walkabout-Ellis. "We have found that there was a need for us...and have poured our blood, sweat, and tears into preparing a centralized, convenient location for our community to come ship their packages with us."

A female-owned and family-run business with Wendy Walkabout-Ellis and mother, Keri Walkabout, at the helm, Pocono Pack and Ship has everything you need.

Need UPS, USPS, or FedEx Shipping services? Covered there.

Need notary services? Covered there.

Need professional packaging services? Covered there.

We could go on and on, but just look at all the great things Pocono Pack and Ship offers:

- Professional packaging services and supplies
 - UPS shipping services
 - USPS shipping services
 - Private and business mailbox rentals
 - FedEx shipping services
 - Notary services
 - Passport photos
 - Document printing/scanning/shredding/faxing
 - Laminating
 - Books of stamps
 - Business cards
 - Greeting cards
 - Gift wrapping
 - Vinyl decals
 - Custom shirt pressing
- and more!

Soon, Pocono Pack and Ship expects to offer DHL services at their location as well, bringing all the major shipping services under one roof.

"We are very excited about it," said Walkabout-Ellis. "These partnerships allow us to provide both domestic and international shipping and it also allows for UPS, USPS, and FedEx (barcode only) drop-offs."

And customers can ship at their convenience. Pocono Pack and Ship is open Monday through Friday from 9 am to 6 pm, and 9 am to 1 pm on Saturday.

"Customer service is our passion. We even offer other cool stuff like vinyl decals and custom shirt pressing," laughed Walkabout-Ellis. "And we're just getting started."

Pocono Pack and Ship, LLC

570-534-4881

4545 Milford Rd., Suite 130

East Stroudsburg, PA 18302

(In the Crossings at Marshalls Creek Complex)

www.poconopackandship.com

Hours of operation:

Monday - Friday: 9:00 am - 6:00 pm

Saturday: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Sunday: Closed

*Closed on all federally recognized holidays.



Pocono Pack and Ship - Owners Wendy Walkabout-Ellis and Keri Walkabout

CONGRESSMAN MATT CARTWRIGHT

Continued from page 4

\$7.24 million in much-needed infrastructure and transportation upgrades in the form of water treatment, flood protection and paving projects throughout Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe and Pike counties; and \$2.9 million to further develop a Luzerne County-based Industrial Hemp Engine to boost an industry that was once a staple of Pennsylvania's economy and today presents further opportunities for new businesses, farm income and good-paying jobs for our region.

As your representative in Congress, I remain committed to working across the aisle to advocate for working families, protect our seniors, and ensure access to quality health care as well as support for our police, first responders, veterans and military families.



Windows to be replaced at the
Brick Church Building located at
5146 Milford Rd.



PROJECTS SPRING FORWARD WITH THE REVITALIZE 209 GRANT

NEARLY \$20,000 TO BE AWARDED TO APPLICANTS SO FAR!

By James Brechbiel

We are excited to announce that this April the Board of Supervisors voted to preliminarily approve two projects approaching \$40,000 worth of property improvements for the Revitalize 209 Grant Program; The old Wesleyan Church building for a project to remove plastic coverings and installing windows, revitalizing charm and aesthetics visible from Route 209, and the Pocono Café for refreshing their appearance and improving safety through the use of paving improvements to their dirt parking lot.



Teresa Nunez, owner of Pocono Café, with her award letter.

The brick church building at 5146 Milford Rd. has been a labor of love for owner Patricia Griffin and her family for many years.

“The original windows were blown out of this Historic Wesleyan church in the dynamite explosion of 1964. This grant affords the opportunity to honor this little red brick church, built in the early 1900s, and let the light in,” said Griffin.

The project to remove temporary plastic coverings and install six new windows will revitalize the building and leave a visible lasting impression from both directions on Route 209. Black aluminum framing with clear, energy-efficient, insulated glass windows will create a simple and clean aesthetic for the brick building and add curb appeal to the corridor.

And Pocono Café will be able to pave the way to a safer and more enjoyable experience for customers.

“This project is very necessary for us to continue improving our appearance and make our customers’ experience a positive one,” said owner Teresa Nunez. “This will not only go to the core of the project in making Route 209 more visibly aesthetic, but it will also create a safer and easier route for the community members to enter and dine at our premises. Thanks to this grant, we are finally able to start and can’t wait to get to get to work.”

With more applications on their way to be reviewed by the Board of Supervisors, the Revitalize 209 Committee is eager to see great projects come to fruition and continue to improve Route 209 for all property owners.

“With these revitalization resources, businesses will be able to attract new customers as well as other businesses to our area -- as chair of the township’s Planning Commission we always like to see projects that increase the assessed value of the township because that, in turn, increases the property values of ALL property owners, whether commercial or residential,” said Bob Early of the Revitalize 209 Committee. “We are thrilled to see these commence.”

Have a project in mind?

The Revitalize 209 Grant, a program unique for township’s to administer, focuses on improvements to building facades, curb appeal, and safety that are visible from Route 209 with maximum project sizes up to \$20,000 in cost (Township \$10,000 and applicant \$10,000). There is no minimum.

Applications are being accepted for properties facing 209!

Here are a few projects to consider:

- Repairing/replacing doors, display windows, transoms, upper story windows, and improvements to building facades.
- Installation of benches (available for use by the public).
- Parking/access improvements.
- Power washing/cleaning/refacing exterior building surfaces.
- Painting.
- Landscaping improvements.
- Improvements to lighting fixtures to “dark sky” compliant.
- Razing blighted buildings or unsafe structures.
- Any other projects deemed acceptable by the Board of Supervisors.

What great project ideas do you have?

Submit your letter of interest (LOI) to the committee and find out if you qualify for the Revitalize 209 Grant. Reach out to James Brechbiel at 570 / 223 – 8920 x 130, or email at jbprechbiel@mstownship.com to learn more today!

For more information about the Revitalize 209 Grant, please see the township website:
<https://bit.ly/Revitalize209Grant>

The Revitalize 209 Committee meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 5:30 pm. We look forward to seeing you there!

PLANNING COMMISSION

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

Members: Mark Oney, Nick Theofilos, Carrie Wetherbee

Engineer: Benjamin Kutz, Gilmore & Associates

Solicitor: Deborah L. Huffman- Weitzmann, Weitzmann and Huffman | **Recording Secretary:** Michele Clewell

2024 PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE

By Michele Clewell

The Middle Smithfield Township Planning Commission provides recommendations to the governing body (Board of Supervisors) regarding the appropriate uses of land.

In the past year, the Planning Commission has reviewed a wide variety of plans ranging from: land development plans, minor subdivisions, and sketch plans.

- Personal Care Home Land Development - The applicant proposes to convert an existing single-family residence into a Personal Care Home.
- Otter Lake Resorts - The applicant proposes to subdivide the existing 22.34-acre property into (2) lots. Lot 1 consists of 20.23 acres and Lot 2 consists of 2.11 acres. No construction is proposed. The plan received conditional approval by the Planning Commission and was then conditionally approved by the Board of Supervisors at their March 28, 2024, meeting.
- Marshalls Square Shopping Center - The applicant proposes the conversion of an existing 18,856 SF building located in the Marshall Square Shopping Center into seven proposed retail stores and self-storage units, as well as the construction of twenty parking spaces and five handicapped parking spaces.

The planning commission meets monthly on the third Thursday at 5:30 p.m. The public is welcome to attend in person or through Zoom.

TO BURN, OR NOT TO BURN?

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



FIREWORKS: FUN OR FOE?

By Vicki Smith

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



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

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

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

Consumer fireworks cannot be:

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

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

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

Zoning Director: Mark Oney | **Assistant Zoning Officer:** Lori McCrory 570-223-8920 x128

Zoning Department Administrators: Mayra Colon 570-223-8920 x126

& Vicki Smith 570-223-8920 x105

Zoning Hearing Board: Chairperson- Josephine Ferro | Vice Chair: Arthur Jenkins

Members: Jeff Senholzi, Gary Morris, Melonie Schmid.

MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP LIVE WITH MAPLINK!

By Vicki Smith

View our site here:

<https://mi1644.zoninghub.com/home.aspx>



or find it on our Municipal Website:
www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com

What can I do with my property? Where can I open my business?

Our eCode360® MapLink™ powered by ZoningHub™ site can help you find the answers you need.

MapLink presents elements from our Zoning Ordinance in an interactive zoning map that lets you find the property information you need quickly and easily.

- View essential zoning elements for development including dimensional requirements, allowable uses and zoning districts
- Zoom in on individual parcels to examine zoning requirements in greater detail
- Receive email alerts whenever zoning code information is updated
- And much more!

This is a great tool for realtors as well! Know what the property is zoned for in an instant. Search for properties that fit the needs of your client.

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



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

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

If you would like to submit a complaint to the Zoning Office, you may do so by email to vsmith@mstowndship.com or by calling 570-223-8920 ext. 105.

SUMMER FUN IN ZONING!

By Vicki Smith



Considering adding a splash of fun to your back yard? Before you take the plunge, ensure you're all set with zoning and building permits!

Zoning and building permits are necessary for the installation of any hot tub or pool exceeding 24 inches in depth. You can find copies of these permit applications on the Middle Smithfield Township website (www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com/187/Zoning-Building.)

Alongside the applications, make sure to submit:
-Manufacturer's installation specifications for the specific pool/hot tub you are intending to install.

- An electrical line diagram.
- A plot plan of the property indicating the pool or hot tubs proposed location in relation to your property boundaries, well and septic system.
- If you are planning on putting the hot tub on a deck, we will need structural analysis of the deck sealed by an engineer.



*Don't let this happen to your deck!
Make sure you have a permit for your hot tubs to make sure they're structurally sound!*

Thank you for working together to ensure the safety of our homeowners and those who will enjoy the pool or hot tub!

For any questions regarding the permitting process, feel free to reach out to the Zoning Office via email at vsmith@mstowndship.com or by phone at 570-223-8920 ext 105.



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

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

CULTURAL & COMMUNITY CENTER

5200 Milford Rd., East Stroudsburg, PA 18302

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

UPCOMING EXHIBITS

By Holly Dennis

June: Marshalls Creek Explosion of 1964

Stop by the community and Cultural Center for the Month of June to view the exhibit remembering the 60th Anniversary of the Marshalls Creek Explosion. On display will be photos, news articles, and items on loan from the Marshalls Creek Fire Co. The Anniversary of the explosion is June 26th.

July: Aida Weinstein Exhibit

Resident Aida Weinstein will be displaying her artwork in the Great Hall of the Community and Cultural Center for the month of July! Check our Facebook page for more information.

August: Flood of 1955

A photo exhibit observing the anniversary of the flood will be in the Great Hall during the month of August for anyone interested in learning more about this time in our local history. We also ask for the public's help in identifying several photos and locations. Numbered photos and a corresponding list will be a part of the exhibit for anyone who can help.

September: Abstract Art Exhibit

Join us for the month of September for an Abstract Art Exhibit, comprised of art by several local artists. The exhibit is organized by artist Tricia Lowrey Lippert, who also spearheads our Annual Women's History Exhibit and May Flower Exhibit. An opening reception will be held on Thursday, September 5th from 5 pm- 7 pm.

October: National Fossil Day/Marshalls Creek Mastodon

Marshall is back just in time to for National Fossil Day (10/16)! Every October the Middle Smithfield Township (pre)Historic Commission celebrates with our very own Marshalls Creek Mastodon. Join us to learn what a Mastodon is (*it's not a Mammoth!*), how and where it was located, and see a life-size replica of Marshall's foot! Coloring pages will be available for kids, and the Library of the Smithfields will be doing a book pairing.

No Exhibits for November & December- But stop by for some Holiday cheer!

SPRING HAS SPRUNG AT THE LIBRARY OF THE SMITHFIELDS

By Jessica Brown, Branch Manager Library of the Smithfields

Into the Woods - May 31st 2-4pm - Do you love the outdoors but wonder if you're enjoying it safely? Kettle Creek is coming to teach you what to worry about and what not to worry about when spending time in the natural environment and encourage you to spend time outdoors without fear. This program is for adults but anyone interested ages 10 or older are welcome to join. Please call the Library of the Smithfield to register as registration is required. (570)223-1881

Herbs for the Home Garden - June 27th 5-6:30 pm - Explore the medicinal and culinary attributes of these plants and how to properly harvest and prepare them! An herbal tea tasting highlighting a featured herb will accompany the program. This program is for adults but anyone interested ages 12 or older are welcome to join. Please call the Library of the Smithfield to register as registration is required. (570)223-1881

Summer Reading starts June 10th for the Eastern Monroe Public Library System! Adventure begins at your library!

Summer Reading programs start June 18th and continue every Tuesday(except the week of July 4th) at 10am. Join us for a summer of adventure with science, magic, stories, and more! For more details about the events, please check out our schedule at monroepl.org.



4-H COMMUNITY CLUB

By Vicky Staples

Are you interested in STEM (science, technology, engineering & mathematics)? Join our new Monroe County 4-H Club!

Ages 8-18 are welcome to attend!

The first meeting will be held on Thursday, May 16th from 5 pm- 7 pm with an introduction to 4-H and a hands-on activity for youth + parents!

Additional meeting dates:

- May 30th
- June 6th
- June 20th
- July 18th
- July 25th



Cost: \$20 for current 4-H members (includes a club t-shirt)
\$50 for new members (includes annual 4-H enrollment fee & club t-shirt.)

More 4-H info can be found at:
mstcommunity4hclub@gmail.com or 570-420-7010



CHAIR YOGA CONTINUES AT THE COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL CENTER!

By Holly Dennis

Join us for chair yoga with Luz!

Chair yoga is a great form of exercise for older adults and people with certain health conditions, such as arthritis, to exercise without putting pressure on joints. It may also reduce the fear of falling, and help people who are not used to exercise to begin improving their strength and balance.



Chair Yoga participants at the Community and Cultural Center.

This class is for adults, but ages 14+ welcome. Bring water, a towel, and your spirit! Optional: yoga mat for extra comfort. All classes begin at 2:30 pm in the Community Room.

Upcoming Classes:

- May 28th
- June 3rd, 4th, 10th, 11th, 18th, 21st, 25th, 28th

DIRECTORS SOUGHT FOR NEWLY FORMED COMMUNITY & CULTURAL CENTER FOUNDATION

By Annette Atkinson

The non-profit Middle Smithfield Township Community & Cultural Center Foundation was created to support the continuing development of the Center.

The Foundation's mission will include fundraising for capital improvements as well as expanding community programming. The mission of the Middle Smithfield Township Community & Cultural Center—created by the community, for the community—is to serve as **"a space for good people to do good work, for the common good."**

We are in search of members for the Foundation's Board of Directors, from a combination of any or all of the following: the Red Cross of the Poconos; any of the committees of Middle Smithfield Township; the Pocono Arts Council; the Pocono Mountain Visitors Bureau; the Pocono Mountains Chamber of Commerce; Monroe County Office of the Aging; the East Stroudsburg Area School District; the Library of the Smithfields; Northampton Community College; East Stroudsburg University; MCTI; SVA; Monroe County Historical Association, and the National Parks Service.

If this opportunity to impact the community interests you, please visit tinyurl.com/CCCFound or reach out to Michele Clewell, x112.

COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL CENTER

PUBLIC EVENTS* :

May:

Library of the Smithfields & Kettle Creek- Into The Woods! Fri, 5/31, 2 pm- 4 pm

Learn about nature & get outside without fear of the unknown! Kettle Creek will educate guests on what to worry about and what NOT to worry about when spending time in nature so you can appreciate your time in the great outdoors in peace!

June:

American Red Cross Blood Drive - Fri, 6/7, 12 pm- 5 pm

Please join us for a blood drive at Middle Smithfield Township Community and Cultural Center on Friday, June 7, 2024 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Visit RedCrossBlood.org to schedule an appointment.

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

Penn State Master Gardeners- Sow, Grow, Pollinate: A Children's Gardening Adventure- Sat 6/22 12 pm- 3 pm

Library of the Smithfields- Medicinal Herbs for the Home Garden- Thurs 6/27 5 pm- 7 pm

Join Herbalist Heather Housekeeper to learn about medicinal herbs for the home garden. Explore the medicinal and culinary attributes of these plants and how to properly harvest and prepare them as fragrant teas, infused oils, and delicious additions to meals and snacks! An herbal tea tasting highlighting a featured herb will accompany the program. Contact the Library of the Smithfields for more information.

Friends of the DWGNRA- Dinosaurs & Birds Lecture- Sat 6/29 1 pm- 3 pm

Visit Facebook to learn more! www.facebook.com/FriendsOfDEWANPS

July:

Friends of the DWGNRA- Tracking Wild Things Lecture- Sat 7/27 1 pm- 3 pm

Visit Facebook to learn more! www.facebook.com/FriendsOfDEWANPS

**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!*



facebook.com/mstCommunityandCulturalCenter

PARKS & RECREATION

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

Members: Marilyn Brown, Debbie Kulick, Kristen 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](https://bit.ly/mst-parks-survey)



BUILD COMMUNITY AT THE 4TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY DAY ON JULY 13

By Chris Rain

The Middle Smithfield Township Parks & Recreation Committee will host the 4th Annual Community Day on Saturday July 13 from noon to 3pm, at Echo Lake Park in East Stroudsburg, PA. The rain date is Sunday July 14.



MedEvac at the 2023 Community Day.

Looking for volunteer opportunities? At the Volunteer Fair, residents can learn about what our area's nonprofit organizations do for our community, how to use their services, and how to get involved. These organizations depend on volunteers to keep operating, and hope to get some great new people to sign up. Children of all ages will enjoy "Touch a Truck", with local emergency vehicles and the Township's biggest and coolest road equipment. Marshalls Creek, Bushkill and Shawnee Fire Companies and Bushkill Emergency Corps all plan to attend. There will also be a visit from the LVHN MedEvac helicopter during the event if their schedule permits.

Food vendors will also be available to sell snacks and drinks while you enjoy the event.

Are you part of a community organization that would like to participate? We are seeking volunteer driven, community service organizations to participate. Organizations get a space to set up and do public outreach and hopefully sign up new volunteers. "This is an opportunity for residents to visit with some of our area's best organizations and learn more about them," said Parks and Recreation Coordinator Christopher Rain. "These are the people who keep us safe and make our community a better place. We hope this event will connect them with the community and get more people involved."

Thank you to our 2024 Parks Sponsors for helping to make this event possible:

- Platinum Sponsor – Sheeley Insurance
- Gold Sponsor – Pocono Kidz Zone
- Silver Sponsors – Prosser Labs, Super Heat, Gotta Go Potties & Septics
- Parks Partners – Huffman's Electric

Parking and admission are FREE. Parking is NOT available at the park. Parking is located at the Middle Smithfield Presbyterian Church across the street, and the Marshalls Square Mall next door, with safety personnel to help you get to the event.

Echo Lake Park is located at 5200 Milford Road, East Stroudsburg, PA 18302.



GET IN THE POOL, MST!

VOUCHERS FOR DISCOUNTED POOL PASSES AT DANSBURY POOL ARE NOW AVAILABLE TO MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

By Chris Rain

Need a place to cool off in the summer? Starting in June, Middle Smithfield Township residents can obtain vouchers to purchase resident-rate passes to the pool at Dansbury Park. Dansbury Pool is tentatively scheduled to open on Saturday June 15.



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

Pool vouchers are valid only for Dansbury Pool during the pool season in which they were issued and must be reissued each year.



Middle Smithfield Township office is located at 147 Municipal Drive. Our hours are Monday to Friday 8am to 4pm. Questions may be directed to the Middle Smithfield Township parks department at 570-223-8920 x119 or crain@mstownship.com.

Dansbury Pool is operated by the Stroud Regional Open Space and Recreation Commission (SROSRC). The pool is located at 15 Day Street, East Stroudsburg. For more information, call SROSRC at 570-421-6591, or visit the SROSRC website: www.srosrc.org/aquatics.

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

ASK THE DOG TRAINER: FREE DOG TRAININGS

By Chris Rain

Dog trainer David J. Henon will give a free training session at W. Leroy Lewis Dog Park on Saturday June 15 at 11am.



Bring your dog to go over basic commands and how it can help solve many behavior issues. Learn about the American Kennel Club (AKC) Canine Good Citizen and how it can help you get discounts on your homeowners policy and how your dog can become a therapy dog.

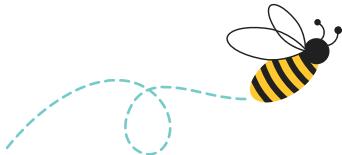
4-H BEEKEEPING CLUB

By Chris Rain

Are you interested in learning about bees and how they produce their honey and wax? What kind of plants attract the bees and what equipment does a beekeeper need? What kind of pests or diseases can affect a hive?

Children ages 8-18 can join the 4-H Beekeeping Club at the Middle Smithfield Township Community Gardens Park, hosted by the Penn State Extension-Monroe County 4-H. Meetings are monthly at the Community Gardens at 989 Coolbaugh Road, East Stroudsburg from 9am to 10am.

- May 18, 9-10 am
- June 8, 9-10 am
- July 20, 9-10 am
- August 10, 9-10 am
- September 8, 9-10 am
- October 5, 9-10 am



The club costs \$20 for current 4-H members, or \$50 for new members, which includes 4-H enrollment fee and a club t-shirt. For more information, please email mstcgbeekeeping4h@gmail.com, or contact the Extension office at 570-420-7010 or monroeext@psu.edu.

RENT A PAVILION AT MST PARKS

By Chris Rain

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



The Pavilion at Resica Park,

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

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

LITTER & BEAUTIFICATION

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

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

Big Ridge Drive – Jan Basler & Bruce Taylor

Barren Road – Echevarria Oliveras Family

Brushy Mountain Road – PA Treatment & Healing

Buroojoy Court – Robert & Eileen Early

Cold Springs Road – Patricia Berger

Community Drive – John Melair

Coolbaugh Road, south section – Sureya Bliss and Jackie Charles

Coolbaugh Road, center section – Vansolkema Family

Coolbaugh Road, north section – Kaylatime & Angel Hernandez

Deer Track Dr and Deer Track Ln – Allison Schaller & Daniel Osterhout

Denise Lane – Senholzi Family

Echo Lake Park – Phoenix Martial Arts Society

Firestone Lane – Resica Falls Scout Reservation

Foxmoor Drive – Monroe County Meals on Wheels

Frutchey Drive – The Arnst Family

Gravel Ridge Road – Bob and Anne Marie Pohlman

Hidden Lake Drive, Hollow Rd to Keystone Rd – Kathy Mitchell

Hidden Lake Drive, Keystone Rd to River Rd – Int'l Child Abuse Prevention Task Force

Keystone Road – Gary Waxman

Marjorie Court & Timber Mountain Drive – Frank Lowe

McCole Road – Paul Andrews

Melvin Ln, Dawn Ln, Fish Ct, & Charley Dr – Camacho Family

Michaels Road – Bower Family

Municipal Drive – MST Board of Supervisors

Mt. Nebo Road & Pardees Loop – Chahlie's Angels

Oak Grove Road – Mountain Stream Baptist Church

Pocono Wild Haven Estates (all roads) – PWHE

Beautification Committee

Prairie Drive & Primrose Lane – The Lowris Family

Reservoir Ridge development roads – The Christy Family

Reservoir Road – GPS/NCNW

River Road, Rt 209 to Hidden Lake – Integra Home Counseling, Inc.

Sand Hill Road – Juliette Ryan-Caines

Sellersville Drive, Lower Lakeview to Yukon Dr – Vazquez Landscaping LLC

Sellersville Drive, Rt 209 to Lower Lakeview – Pocono Café Latin Cuisine & Colombian Bakery

Stoney Acres – ESU Student Activity Association

Timothy Lake Road – 2nd BN USARCG Area 3 "Destriers"

Turkey Ridge Road – Annette Atkinson

Upper Lakeview Drive, Sellersville to Turkey Ridge – Robert Post

Upper Lakeview Drive, Turkey Ridge to Lower Lakeview – Richards Tree Farm

Waverly Drive – Dimitri

Wooddale Road, PWHE to Price Township line, and Macy Way – Meryweather & Halterman Families

Wooddale Road, PWHE to Marshalls Creek – PWHE Beautification Committee

ADOPT A ROAD IN 2024!

By Chris Rain

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

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

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



1000 FEET OF STREET LITTER PICK UP

By Chris Rain

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

This year's first 1000 Feet of Street Litter Pick Up was held on Saturday April 20. During this event there were 70 volunteers who cleaned over 15 miles of road. the next event will be Saturday September 28, but volunteers are welcome to help clean up any time. Any day that works for you, works for us!



Thank you to our 2024 Spring 1000 Feet of Street Volunteers!



MASTER GARDENER DEMONSTRATION RAIN GARDEN AT MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP

By Jon Clark, Penn State Extension Master Gardener

The Middle Smithfield Township Community and Cultural Center and Library of the Smithfields was dedicated and opened in 2020. The Monroe County Conservation District required that the building design provide for stormwater runoff from the building and the sidewalks, driveways, and parking lot to be included in the plans. There are three of these drainage areas, one immediately in front of the building, and one on either side of it.

Rain, along with snow, sleet, and hail, is composed of water in the form of precipitation. They all fall from the sky to the ground and are one part of the water cycle. The most important function of rain is to fall on open ground and sink down through soil to the water table, which is a level underground where the soil below it is saturated with water. That water attracts the roots of plants of all kinds, which then take in the water, along with minerals and other nutrients that are dissolved in the water, bringing it up to all parts of the plant.

The plants carry on photosynthesis, which combines water with carbon dioxide to produce glucose, a sugar, and also releases surplus oxygen and water into the air. The oxygen is used by all living things, and the water rises into the atmosphere, condensing into water and falling as precipitation. That completes the water cycle.

The stormwater drainage areas are bowl-shaped to gather the water runoff. To facilitate the return of water that doesn't immediately seep into the water table back into the atmosphere, plants are put into the drainage ponds. Almost any green plants will do, and the building contractor spread seeds of Rudbeckia (Black-eyed Susans) in the three ponds. These are therefore rain gardens, which are defined as gardens that lie below the level of their surroundings, designed to absorb rainwater that runs off an impermeable surface.

Although the initial effect was dramatic, the central garden holds a place of special interest in the multi-purpose development, and it seemed inadequate to devote that garden to just one species of plant.

Annette Atkinson, the chair of the Board of Supervisors of Middle Smithfield Township, is also a Monroe County Penn State Master Gardener. In June of 2021, working with Sue Detrick and Nancy Daniels, leaders of the Monroe County Master Gardener program, they came up with an agreement between the two entities that allowed for the township to provide the funding via a grant for the creation of a demonstration rain garden in front of the building, while the Master Gardeners would provide the expertise and the labor to bring it to fruition.

Stay tuned for part 2 in the next edition of the newsletter!

BRODHEAD WATERSHED ASSOCIATION PROVIDES ILLUSTRATIVE KIOSK



A lot goes into the planning of all new buildings -- including stormwater management -- how is rainwater handled to avoid flooding and recharge the groundwater supply? Here we mention both the Community & Cultural Center and the Apartments at Mount Nebo have pervious paved parking lots (rainwater flows right through). The new kiosk paid for by a grant from the Brodhead Watershed Association is installed and provides illustrations of the stormwater management system at the Community & Cultural Center.



Top Photo: Volunteers from Penn State Extension Master Gardeners tend to the rain garden at the Community and Cultural Center. They hand planted over 2,500 plants, weeded, and watered.

Bottom Photo: Volunteers admire the rain garden in full bloom.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Director, Supervisor: Mike Dwyer

Public Works Department Administrator: Rachel Heller

rheller@msttownship.com | 570-223-8920 x142

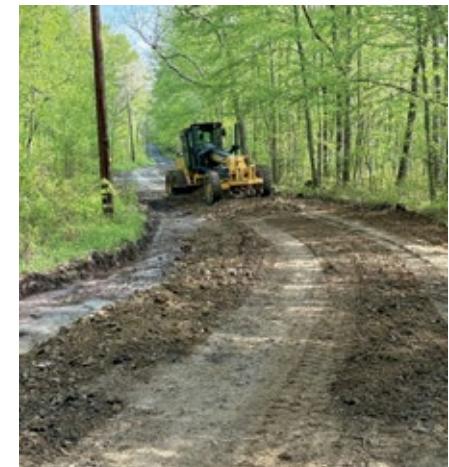
PUBLIC WORKS SPRING UPDATES

By Rachel Heller

The Public Works Department has had a busy start to the Spring Season. Our crew has begun construction on a "Clean Up ramp", which we hope to have open for the Fall 2024 Township Clean Up "aka Dumpster Day" event. With the construction of this ramp, it is our vision that we will be able to offer more Clean Up days over the course of Spring through Fall to our residents. Thus, hopefully reducing the roadside dump sites that we have had to clean up.

Through the MST Adopt a road program, out of the 75 miles of paved roadway that the Township owns, the majority of those miles are adopted. Thank you to those residents and businesses who have adopted these roadways and help to keep them free of debris and beautified for all residents and visitors alike. Over the last several months, the Public Works crew has had the unfortunate task of cleaning up several large roadside dump sites on Lower Lakeview Drive, McCole Road, and Reservoir Road.

Finally, along with our scheduled paving and chip sealing for 2024, we also applied for a DSA grant through the Monroe County Conservation District to resurface a 3,760' section of Firestone Road. We received a total of \$113,420.50 in funding which will cover the cost of our materials for the project. The Township contributed an in-kind match of labor, trucking and machinery totaling \$151,193.44, which will bring the total project cost to \$264,613.94. Work has already begun on this project, and we have a projected completion date of May 17, 2024.



Left Photo: Supervisor and Public Works Director Mike Dwyer accepts the grant funds for Firestone Road from John Motz, Resource Conservation Specialist and Program Administrator for the Dirt Gravel & Low Volume Roads of the Monroe County Conservation District.

Right Photo: MST Public Works personnel John Schafft uses the John Deere 772BH grader on Firestone Lane to grade material over a new drainage pipe that was installed as part of the DSA Dirt and Gravel road grant which was received from the Monroe County Conservation District.

ROUTE 209 PAVING PROJECT

By Mike Dwyer

Route 209 from Wendy's to Municipal Drive will be paved this year.

As most of you have already noticed, PennDOT's Subcontractor is already constructing new ADA complaint curbs and ramps at the intersections of Business Drive (Perkins/Wayne Bank) and at Middle Smithfield Elementary.

Once this work is complete, PennDOT will come in and mill portions of Route 209 and then pave. While this work may cause some minor inconveniences during construction, we are excited to see that, in just 30 short years, PennDOT has decided to pave this major thoroughfare.

Please be patient and slow down through the area.

SCHEDULED PAVING AND CHIP SEALING FOR 2024

LOCATION	FROM	TO	RESURFACE
VILLAGE DRIVE	TOM X ROAD	BIG RIDGE DRIVE	PAVE
BIG RIDGE DRIVE	FRINGE DRIVE	VILLAGE DRIVE	PAVE
COOLBAUGH ROAD	TEGO LAKE ROAD	MST COMMUNITY GARDEN	PAVE
WAVERLY DRIVE	WOODDALE ROAD	CUL-DE-SAC	PAVE
MUNICIPAL DRIVE	LOWER LAKEVIEW DRIVE	ROUTE 209	PAVE
WHITE BIRDCH LANE	CALVARY COURT	SCENERY COURT	CHIP SEAL
SCENERY COURT	RUSSELL RIDGE ROAD	DEAD END	CHIP SEAL
RUSSELL RIDGE ROAD	CALVARY COURT	SR 402	CHIP SEAL
TIMOTHY LAKE ROAD	TOWNSHIP LINE	END	CHIP SEAL

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

2024 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS:

- CCP sewer line relocation** – Due to the corrosion of the bridge on Big Ridge Dr, the bridge has been shut down and the utilities will need to be relocated. We have been awarded a \$20,000 state grant to help with the costs of this relocation.
- PS#8 Rehabilitation** – Bids for this project were received at the July 13, 2023 meeting. The estimated total costs are approximately \$108,377 and was awarded to Blooming Glen. This project has been completed.
- Generators for Pump Stations** – This project is to add new generators to 6 pump stations. The estimated cost is \$275,000. The electrical portion of the project has been awarded to Critical Systems. Our Public Works department assisted with the concrete pads to save money. All six generators are in place.
- Odor Control system** – We are currently exploring the best method to control the odors along our sewer system. We are starting a trial of a new product Mid-April and hope to have a solution in place by year's end.

**SEWER PAYMENTS ARE NET 30 DAYS;
THE BILLING CYCLE IS QUARTERLY:**

QUARTER	BILLING DATE	DEADLINE TO PAY	\$25 LATE FEE APPLIED
FIRST QUARTER	JAN 1 ST	FEB 1 ST	MARCH 2 ND
SECOND QUARTER	APRIL 1 ST	MAY 1 ST	JUNE 2 ND
THIRD QUARTER	JULY 1 ST	AUG 1 ST	SEPT 2 ND
FOURTH QUARTER	OCT 1 ST	NOV 1 ST	DEC 2 ND



OAK GROVE & RECYCLING

www.ogmmcpb.com

Chairperson: Mike Dwyer

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

Members: Annette Atkinson, Aaron Springs, Julia Heilakka

The Oak Grove Multi-Municipal Compost Processing Program is jointly operated and available to residents of: Lehman Township, Smithfield Township, Middle Smithfield Township

Residents can have mulch loaded for a fee of \$10, by appointment by calling Rachel at 570-223-8920 x 142. If an operator is on site, they can load you for that same fee without appointment

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

**IF YOU LITERALLY HAVE A TON OF GARBAGE
CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Alliance Sanitary Landfill
389 South Keyser Avenue
Taylor, PA 18517

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



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

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



GOLF

COUNTRY CLUB OF THE POCONOS

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

Members: Mike McDermott, Mike Yesunas

Pro Shop Manager: Todd Brown | 570-223-8099 | **Liaison:** Chris Rain

2024 RATES AT CCP

By Todd Brown

It's golf season again! Country Club of the Poconos Municipal Golf Course is open for the season!

Check out our regular season rate information below as well as our membership information.

Regular Season Rates

General Public

- Weekday: \$50; \$35 after 2pm
- Weekend: \$70; \$50 after 2pm
- Tuesday Special: \$25 18-hole rate all day

All Township Residents & Seniors

- Weekday: \$40; \$30 after 2pm
- Weekend: \$55; \$45 after 2pm
- Tuesday Special: \$25 18-hole rate all day

9-Hole Rates

- Weekday, open to 3pm: \$30; \$25 after 2pm
- Weekend, 3pm to close: \$30

*No 9-Hole before 3pm on weekends

6-Hole Rates

- Weekday: \$20
- Weekend: \$20

Fridays are charged at the weekend rate.
\$25 replay any day.



THE GOLF COURSE IS OPEN!

By Todd Brown

Country Club of the Poconos Municipal Golf Course opened for the season on March 29, 2024, for the season. Course conditions look good after a mild winter. Conditions should remain good throughout the season with the irrigation system being fully functional. Demand should remain high this year due to the continuing high cost and unavailability of tee times in surrounding regions. With cooperating weather, we should expect to see very little to no drop off in rounds, with a decent probability of an increase in play.

Golf Fore Fun:

We will continue to run our Friday Night Scrambles, every Friday beginning on the Friday before Memorial Day. This event continues to be a fun event and attracts good crowds every week.

We will hold three Red White and Blue scrambles. These events will take place on Memorial Day (5/27), Fourth of July (7/4), and Labor Day (9/2). We averaged 75 players an event last year and look forward to as many or more players this year.

2024 Membership Rates:

- Single: \$1,000
- Couple: \$1,200
- New Members: 5% off membership, plus 4 free guest passes
- Cart fees are not included in cost of new memberships.

Member benefits:

- Best golf value in northeastern Pennsylvania
- Advanced Tee Time Booking
- Special Rates for Club Tournaments
- Discounted Cart Fees
- Unlimited Guests at a Discounted Rate
- 20% Discount on all Good in the Pro Shop
- Refer a new member and receive a \$50 credit in the Pro Shop.

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@mstowship.com, or visit us at www.ccppagolf.com.



Golf Fore the Good:

We continue to support local charities by providing low cost golf for their fundraising outings. This year we currently have three outings booked, with a fourth pending. We are available for any new charity outing still looking to book for the 2024 season.

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!

Upcoming Golf Tournament:

- June 15th – Michael C. Wargo Cup in support of Valor

More to come!



GOLF COURSE AND HUNDREDS OF ACRES FOR SALE! MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP DIRECTS SEALED BID SALE



Minimum Bid - \$650,000 + 10% Buyers Premium Due to the Township by 4 pm on June 11, 2024. Bids will be opened June 13, 2024 at 7 pm.

- Approximately 409 acres of land, a portion of which is subject to restricted covenants.
- Includes 29-acres of prime, relatively flat, buildable land zoned C-2- and arguably, the best views in the Poconos.
- Includes a Fazio designed 18-hole golf course covering 118 acres, and a 16,000 square foot clubhouse situated on 7 acres.
- Tremendous opportunity for a real estate developer / private equity to acquire a spectacular residential/resort development opportunity only 1.5 hours from Manhattan and two hours from Philadelphia.
- There are over 9 million people within a 2-hour drive of the site.
- A portion of the acreage qualifies for LERTA

For more information, scan the above QR code or visit bit.ly/CCPForSale.

Arrangements can be made to inspect the Property by contacting Douglas Johnson, CBRE Hotels at (773)218-4603, or douglas.johnson@cbre.com.

LIFEJACKETS REQUIRED ON THE DELAWARE RIVER!

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

Wearing a life vest/PFD is your best chance to get on the river with a high level of safety. Don't risk it, Wear It!

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



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENT

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event will be held on Saturday, June 15, 2024 from 8 am to 2 pm at Military Road Recycling Site.



Pre-registration and pre-payment is required. For more information or to pre-register visit thewasteauthority.com.

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.

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

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

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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

Secretary: Patricia Francis **Members:** Charisse Fallon, Ken Johns, Sonny Murray

Liaison: Holly Dennis

REMEMBERING THE MARSHALLS CREEK EXPLOSION 60 YEARS LATER

By Holly Dennis

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

The fire company arrived shortly after 4 am and moments after their arrival the truck exploded killing three volunteer fire fighters and three bystanders. 10 others were injured and the explosion cost close to a million dollars in damage.

The three fire fighters killed in the blast were Earl Miller, 50, Leonard Mosier, 38, and Edward Hines, 42.

Bystanders killed were John Regina, a 23-year-old local resident, Joseph Horvath, a truck driver from Scranton, and Lillian Paesch from Baltimore.

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

After the explosion more than a dozen local fire chiefs petitioned state and local representatives to have precautions in place to protect volunteers. As stated in the Hazardous Materials Chemistry for Emergency Responders the explosion "led to the implementation of the DOT placarding and labeling system and the development on the ERG (Emergency Response Guidebook)."

Middle Smithfield Township is currently in the process of locating survivors of the event to not only hear their story, to help memorialize those lost, but to also help with the expansion of the State Historical Marker located at Regina Farms. The township hopes to build a memorial site for all of those impacted by this tragedy, and to help further educate the public about this historic township event.

The public can visit the memorial located at the Marshalls Creek Fire House located at Marshalls Creek Road and Resica Falls Road. You can also visit the State Historical Marker at Regina Farms that was dedicated on the Anniversary in 2023.



The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission roadside marker that was dedicated on June 26, 2023. The marker is located in front of Regina Farms (5175 Milford Rd, East Stroudsburg, PA 18302)

AUGUST MARKS THE 69TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FLOOD OF '55

By Holly Dennis

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

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



Taken on Sunday, August 21, 1955. Route 209 bridge was located over the Bushkill Creek. It is rumored the driver was killed.

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

A photo exhibit of the flood will be in the lobby of the Middle Smithfield Township Community & Cultural Center during the month of August for anyone interested in learning more about this time in our local history. We also ask for the public's help in identifying several photos and locations. Numbered photos and a corresponding list will be a part of the exhibit for anyone who can help.

MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMISSION HAS A SEAT FOR YOU!

Interested in local history? Want to work with a group of passionate volunteers? There's a place for you on the Middle Smithfield Township Historical Commission.



Help us preserve local history and educate residents and visitors alike through research, lecture, events, & exhibits.

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

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



■ Promote • Protect • Preserve ■

MONROE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION:

THIRD THURSDAY LECTURE SERIES:

"REFLECTIONS ON THE 1955 FLOOD THROUGH THE CAMERA OF ALBERT KOSTER: A THEN AND NOW PERSPECTIVE" BY DAVID KOSTER

THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2024

7 p.m., Northampton Community College-Pocono

2411 Route 715, Tannersville

Keystone Hall Community Room

The Flood of 1955 was a catastrophic event that transformed the landscape and way of life in Monroe County. On August 19, in the aftermath of storms born of hurricanes Connie and Diane which dumped more than a foot of rain in Stroudsburg, raging creeks overflowed, destroying everything in their paths and killing 76 people.

In the hours after the water receded, 25-year-old Al Koster, East Stroudsburg resident and budding photographer, captured ground-level and aerial photos of the devastation.

While many photos were taken, Koster's differed as they were in vivid color.

Evidence of the flood's aftermath is still visible today if you know where and how to look. His son, David, will display many of his father's original photos, describing them in historical context and comparing them with views of the same locations as they appear today.

Al Koster went to school in East Stroudsburg and Penn State University, and was an accomplished musician, performing professionally at local resorts and venues. He served in the Army during the Korean War, and after his discharge in 1953, he studied graphic arts and commercial photography at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn.

Returning to East Stroudsburg, he established Pocono Scenicards & Postcards, producing photos for local resorts and businesses and also producing scenic postcards of the Pocono Mountain vacation area. (See his Tocks Island Dam postcard, above.)

ABOUT THE SPEAKER: David Koster is a native of East Stroudsburg, although he lived many years away in Florida and North Carolina. He recently returned to Monroe County for his retirement from classroom teaching and corporate learning and development. He keeps busy hiking and biking, exploring activities and places around the northeast, and volunteering at the Historical Association.

The Third Thursday Lecture Series is also coming back to Middle Smithfield Township! "A History of the African American Community in Monroe County" will be held on Thursday, September 19th at 7pm at the Middle Smithfield Township Community and Cultural Center.

Visit www.monroehistorical.org/thirdthurs.html for a full list of lectures, more information about the guest speakers, and a full list of upcoming events!

18TH ANNUAL MEMORY MAKERS LUNCHEON

By Holly Dennis

The 18th annual Memory Makers luncheon is right around the corner!

Long-time residents are invited to join us for this free luncheon on Saturday, August 10th at Noon at the Middle Smithfield Township Community and Cultural Center.

The theme this year will be "The History of the Medical Field in Middle Smithfield Township and Monroe County."

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



"General Hospital (Now Lehigh Valley Hospital- Pocono) was founded in 1915 in East Stroudsburg. Originally located on North Courtland Street, the hospital quickly outgrew its space, and the trustees began to look for a new site. The Joseph Roop estate at 206 East Brown Street became available, which the hospital directors purchased for \$15,000 in late 1920.

Renovations began the following year, including the addition of a 2-story brick wing to the existing 18-room house, as seen in this c.1923 photo from our collection. The property also included a large barn, two out-buildings, an orchard, a garden, and a spacious lawn. It proved to be the ideal spot, as healthcare has been continuously provided at this location for over a century now" -Photo and caption provided by Monroe County Historical Association.

SENATOR ROSEMARY BROWN

Continued from page 4

During the Governor's 2024-2025 budget address, he included support for my proposal, and I appreciate the bi-partisan collaboration on this critical legislation. I look forward to getting this initiative across the finish line.

Please always feel welcome to contact me personally with any state related issues or concerns. I can be reached at rbrown@pasen.gov or 570-620-4326.

Have a beautiful spring!

2023 PERSON OF THE YEAR

MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP

RUSSELL FISHER

2023 PERSON OF THE YEAR

VALOR CLINIC



VALOR Clinic Foundation provides assistance accessing benefits, and shelter to Veterans with limited or no access to care. Helps find shelter for Veterans who, due to health or means, are unable to find or keep shelter of their own, and Post Traumatic Stress resources to Veterans through our Veterans Unstoppable program.



To improve the lives of our nation's Veterans, we strive to provide nationwide integrated medical care in the future.



Address: PO Box 315, Brodheadsville, PA 18322
Phone: 570-664-6468
Email: info@valorclinic.org
www.valorclinic.org



Wendy McCartney and Stacey Kramer, who held a jeans drive at Sanofi. They collected 130 pairs of jeans which they delivered to the East Stroudsburg Stand Down.

HELP NEEDED!

Valor Clinic Foundation is looking for helping hands moving turkeys, cases of canned goods, and other items in the food pantry.

Please make sure you're comfortable lifting items that are over 25 lbs.

Please contact Susan at holidaymeals1@gmail.com.

for other volunteer opportunities, please visit www.valorclinic.org/volunteer.

11TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Join Valor Clinic for the 11th Annual Golf Tournament on Saturday, June 15th, 2024 at the Country Club of the Poconos.

Standard Best of Foursome Scramble with special contests including:

- Longest Drive
- Closest to Pin
- Putting Contest
- Mulligans
- 50/50 Drawing
- Live Auction
- Straightest Drive

Not a golfer? Sponsorship opportunities are available.

Visit ValorClinic.org to register or for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

East Stroudsburg Stand Down | Sunday June 9, 9:30 am. Dansbury Park, 15 Day St., East Stroudsburg, PA 18301.

Stand Down starts setting up @ 9:30 am and goes until 1:00 pm. Free food, clothing, footwear, hygiene items, winter items, meals, and more for the homeless, less fortunate and for our Veterans

Fishing at Camp Trexler | Saturday July 20 & August 17. 8 am. Camp Trexler, 288 Camp Trexler Rd, Kunkletown, PA 18058

Food fun and fishing spend the day with Veterans enjoying the outdoors, good food and bring the family!! Join us for a day of fun and camaraderie. Guides and equipment are available.



Middle Smithfield Township Person of the Year Finalists Dr. Marilyn Brown, Russell Fisher, and Sue Mahusky.



RECENTLY AT NCNW

On March 23, the Greater Pocono Section of NCNW hosted their 8th Annual Dr. Dorothy I. Height Tea at Mt. Airy Lodge. This year they recognized organizations that sustained Black America. The East Pocono Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, Monroe County NAACP, and the Greater Pocono Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated were honored.

On March 30, the Greater Pocono Section of NCNW in collaboration with Monroe County League of Women Voters, Broadheadsville Watershed Association, and the Hughes Library hosted the 3rd Annual Read Across America Event. This annual event promotes literacy by giving free brand new books to the youth within Monroe and Pikes Counties. This year over 282 books were given away.

*Greater Pocono Section NCNW
RAA Committee: Mrs. Dr.
Marilyn M. Brown (1st Vice
President and RAA Chair),
Cassandra Tillman, Eunice
Sheppard, Margaret
Hartmann, Cassandra Moss,
Dawn Knowles Sampson
(Financial Secretary), Felicia
Brown (2nd Vice President),
Myrtza Francois, John
Gerkhardt, Janell Pearson-
Zapata, and Chareen Williams-
Edwards (not pictured)*



SUE MAHUSKY

2023 PERSON OF THE YEAR FINALIST

ANGELS AND DRAGONFLIES CHILDREN'S CHARITY



Our Mission is to help families provide for children.

We started out wanting to assist families in raising kids due to addiction, but then we wanted to help all children have the things they need. No matter the circumstances if you need help or know of someone who does we want to help.

Address: 160 N Courtland St,
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

Phone: 267-579-3109

www.angelsanddragonfliescc.org

DR. MARILYN BROWN

2023 PERSON OF THE YEAR FINALIST

GREATER POCONO SECTION, NATIONAL COUNCIL
OF NEGRO WOMEN



NCNW's mission is to lead, develop, and advocate for women of African descent as they support their families and communities. NCNW was founded in 1935 by Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune.

Inspired by the legacy of NCNW founder, Mary McLeod Bethune, the Greater Pocono Section was founded in April 2012.

Today, NCNW's programs are grounded on a foundation of critical concerns known as "Four for the Future". NCNW promotes education with a special focus on science, technology, engineering and math; encourages entrepreneurship, financial literacy and economic stability; educates women about good health and HIV/AIDS; promotes civic engagement and advocates for sound public policy and social justice.

Address: 62 Analomink St.
E. Stroudsburg, PA 18301

Phone: 570-431-3150

Email: greaterpoconosection@gmail.com
www.greaterpocononcnw.org

UPCOMING EVENTS:

80's Party Glow Bowling Fundraiser | Saturday June 8, 4 pm- 6 pm. Sky Lanes Bowling Center, 208 Skyline Dr., East Stroudsburg, PA 18301.

2 bowling games and shoe rental, \$20 each. Purchase tickets online or at door.



4th Annual Food Truck & Vendor Father's Day Festival | Sunday June 16, 12 pm- 5 pm. Mountain View Vineyard, 2332 Walters Rd., Stroudsburg, PA 18360.

Food trucks, vendors, 50/50, live music, and freebies for the kids!

Christmas in July | Saturday July 20, 10 am- 5 pm. Pocono Mountain Harley Davidson, 110 Hill Motor Lodge Rd., Tannersville, PA 18372

Food, live music & Raffles. Collecting new toys, scooters, hover boards, skateboards, Barbies, Legos, craft/art kits, and beauty items!

EMERGENCY SERVICES

MARSHALLS CREEK FIRE COMPANY- 2024 UPDATE

By Nick Dennis, Assistant Chief Marshalls Creek Fire Company

The beginning of 2024 was busy for Marshalls Creek Fire Company, with 286 calls from January 1st to April 30th.

Below is a breakdown of the calls responded to:



- Fires: 54
- Rescue & EMS: 94
- Hazardous Condition: 14
- Service Call: 6
- Good Intent Call: 24
- False Alarms: 86
- Severe Weather/Natural Disaster: 3
- Special Incident: 5

As you can see, we're still dealing with quite a few false alarms, but we are thankful for Middle Smithfield Township for enforcing the False Alarm Ordinance that was adopted in 2023. This will help continue to reduce the amount of false alarm calls, which in turn reduces unnecessary wear and tear on equipment, and leaves personnel available to respond to emergencies.

Want to volunteer for Marshalls Creek Fire Company?

Marshalls Creek Fire Company provides a wide variety of services to our community including: Fire, Rescue, & Emergency Medical. We are looking for volunteers for both Fire and EMS. If neither of these interest you, but you would still like to volunteer for your local fire service, we have a Social Membership as well!

Stop by the main station (112 Marshalls Creek Rd., East Stroudsburg, PA 18302) any Tuesday night at 7pm to see what it's like.

BUSHKILL EMERGENCY CORPS CELEBRATED EMS WEEK, FREE CLASS OFFERED

By Debbie Kulick, President Bushkill Emergency Corps



Often we forget that there are those who take on tasks that most shy away from, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is one of those things. May 19 through May 25 is EMS Week throughout the country. This year EMS celebrates its 50th Anniversary as a recognized service and vital part of the healthcare system.

It was 50 years ago that a presidential proclamation called on the nation to support efforts to improve emergency medical care across the country. It also established the first national EMS Week, a tradition we proudly continue today. Much has changed since 1974, yet there is still much we can learn from those trailblazing clinicians who helped EMS evolve into the sophisticated branch of medicine it is today. Their dedication, commitment and sacrifice inspire us to take bold steps of our own, to continue to seek out ways to better serve our patients and our communities.

Bushkill Emergency Corps was established in 1965, predating the recognition of the role that EMS plays in providing life-saving treatments. As has been noted, much has changed since both the start of the ambulance service and national recognition. Providing outreach to our community is a service that benefits both residents as well as the patients we serve.

This year as part of Bushkill's recognition of EMS Week, we are offering a FREE class that will help those attending learn how to administer Naloxone (Narcan), used for opioid overdoses, and the use of the EPI Pen. Although the class will not have a certification as a result of attending, these vital skills will be reviewed and practiced.

The date of the Narcan and EPI Pen class is May 29th at 6:30 pm and will be held at the Middle Smithfield Township Community Center. Registration is made by calling the township at: 570-223-8920 x132.



VOLUNTEER AT SHAWNEE FIRE COMPANY!

By Dave Timko, Chief Shawnee Fire Company

Looking to volunteer your time?

The Shawnee Volunteer Fire Company is accepting applications of interest in becoming a member. Even if you do not want to fight fire, there are many other opportunities to get involved as a supporting member. We provide all training if you are interested in becoming a volunteer firefighter. Stop by the firehouse any Tuesday night at 6:30 to speak with a fire company representative. The main station is located on Hollow road, across from Shawnee Lake.



Upcoming Events:

- Annual Fireworks show at Shawnee Mountain – Friday July 5th rain date is Sunday July 7th \$15.00 per car
- Annual Golf Tournament – Wednesday September 25th - \$100.00 per golfer at the Shawnee Inn & Golf Resort tee sponsorships are also available.



GRILLING SAFETY TIPS FROM BUSHKILL FIRE CO.

By Kyle Rohner, Chief Bushkill Volunteer Fire Company

There's nothing like outdoor grilling! It's one of the most popular ways to cook food. But, a grill placed too close to anything that can burn is a fire hazard. They can be very hot, causing burn injuries. Follow these simple tips and you will be on the way to safe grilling.



Safety Tips:

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches
- Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- Never leave your grill unattended.
- Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it. In case of a grill fire, step away from the fire and dial 9-1-1 immediately.

Looking to serve your community? Stop by our Main Station, 123 Evergreen Dr, any Monday night at 7pm.

Proudly serving the residents of Middle Smithfield Township since 1936!

911 ADDRESS SIGNS – IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE!

By Holly Dennis

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

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

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

911 Address Sign Requirements:

- 6"x18" vertical sign, flat green with reflective white 4" letters
- Place sign at the end of your driveway where it intersects with the street
- The top of your number sign must be at least 3 feet and not more than 6 feet from the ground



- You may place your sign on a tree at the end of your driveway or your mailbox, only if it is at the end of your driveway. It must be visible from BOTH directions (special mounting hardware is available.)
- If you live in a townhouse, please contact the township regarding placement instructions.

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



@BushkillEmergencyCorps | @bushkillfire

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