



MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWS

FALL 2024

THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 SPONSORS

PARKS & RECREATION

PLATINUM
SHEELEY INSURANCE

GOLD
POCONO KIDZ ZONE

SILVER
ESSA BANK & TRUSE
GOTTA GO POTTIES
PROSSER LABS
SUPER HEAT

PARKS PARTNER
HUFFMANS ELECTRIC

PERSON OF THE YEAR

GOLD
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GRIM, BIEHN, & THATCHER

BRONZE
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SLATE
WAYNE BANK
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CIVIC EVENTS

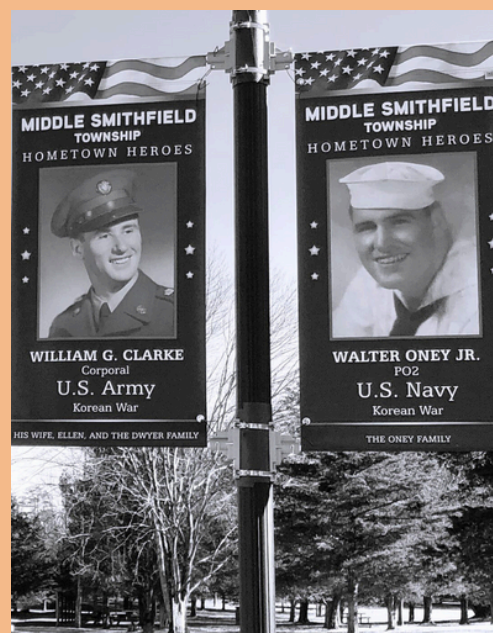
SILVER
SHEELEY INSURANCE

BRONZE
PROSSER LABS

CIVIC PARTNER
HUFFMANS ELECTRIC
GOTTA GO POTTIES



HONORING OUR VETERANS



MIDDLE SMITHFIELD
TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

IF YOU ARE A
VETERAN, OR
WOULD LIKE TO
HONOR/REMEMBER A
MIDDLE SMITHFIELD
TOWNSHIP VETERAN
WITH A BANNER,
PLEASE CONTACT
JAMES BRECHBIEL:
570 / 223 - 8920 X 130,
JBRECHBIEL@MSTOWNSHIP.COM

**HOMETOWN
HEROES**
BANNER PROGRAM™

The Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce recently awarded Middle Smithfield another \$500 grant from their Main Street Grant Program (in addition to the \$2,000 awarded in 2023) the Township will add more banners. Submit someone today!

- FALL CLEANUP “DUMPSTER DAY” IS OCTOBER 11TH & 12TH. MORE ON PAGE 20
- TRUNK OR TREAT IS OCTOBER 20. MORE ON PAGE 16
- NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2024 PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD ARE NOW OPEN! LEARN MORE ON PAGE 6
- THE 12TH ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING IS NOVEMBER 30 AT ECHO LAKE PARK. MORE ON PAGE 17

Photo of Hidden Lake in Middle Smithfield Township,
captured by business owner Bruce Brandli (The Big A Grillehouse)

MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWS

WHAT'S GOING ON:

- October:**
- 10/11-10/12:** Fall Clean Up “Dumpster Day” 7 am- 2 pm @ Township Building (147 Municipal Drive) and Wooddale Garage (792 Dancing Ridge Road)
- 10/14:** Leaf Collection begins (ends 12/6)
- 10/18-10/19:** Fall Freecycle Pickup 7 am- 2pm
- 10/19** Annual Trunk or Treat 12 pm @ Resica Park
- 10/21:** Last Day to Register to Vote
- 10/29:** Last Day to request a mail-in or absentee ballot
- November:**
- 11/5:** Election Day (*Township Office Closed except for voting*)
Polls open 7 am- 8pm, see more page 23
- 11/11:** Veterans Day (*Township Office Closed*)
- 11/21:** Presentation of 2025 Budget. 7 pm @ Township Office
- 11/27:** Shop Local Begins (ends 1/2/25)
- 11/28:** Thanksgiving Day (Township Office Closed)
- 11/29:** Black Friday (Township Office Closed)
- 11/30:** 12th Annual Tree Lighting 6pm @ Echo Lake Park
- December**
- TBD:** International Peace Light Ceremony
- 12/19:** Adoption of 2025 Budget 7 pm @ Township Building
- 12/21:** Wreaths Across America @ Wooddale Church
- 12/24:** Christmas Eve (Township Office Closed)
- 12/25:** Christmas (Township Office Closed)
- 12/25:** Hanukkah Begins
- 12/26:** Kwanza Begins

2023 PERSON OF THE YEAR :



Russell Fisher
2023 Person of the Year | VALOR Clinic

Find out how you can help Valor this fall, including their veteran holiday meals and Patriots Ball Fundraiser! Learn more ways to help on page 24!



Dr. Marilyn Brown
2023 Person of the Year Finalist | National Council of Negro Women

See what the NCNW's Pocono Chapter is up to and ways to get involved on page 25!



Sue Mahusky
2023 Person of the Year Finalist | Angels and Dragonflies

Want to learn more about Angels & Dragonflies? Find out how to get involved and see upcoming events, including their Fairy Night Festival, on page 25!



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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

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!*



Board of Supervisors Mike Dwyer, Annette Atkinson, and Mark Oney

A WORD FROM YOUR TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

Fall is in the air! If you are receiving Trunk or Treat reminders instead of Pool Pass reminders – it must mean the kids are back in school, the days are getting shorter, and Autumn has arrived. It also means **2024 Person of the Year Nominations are open!** (see page 7) Nominate your local hero today!

At this time of year the township Supervisors and staff are in the midst of preparing budgets for the upcoming year of 2025, and planning next year’s projects.

This year, our budget process begins earlier -- the Presentation of the 2025 Budget to the Public will be on Thursday evening, 11/21 at our regular Board of Supervisor’s meeting at 7pm, and the budget is scheduled for adoption at the 12/19 Board of Supervisors meeting, which will also include our Year End Report.

Want to see what is being planned? The Board of Supervisors Workshop Sessions are on Friday mornings at 8am, and Budget Workshop Sessions will be Fridays at 8am on 10/4, 10/18, 11/1, 11/8, and 11/15.

The Supervisors are extremely appreciative of the understanding and cooperation from all our tax payers for their patience for all of last year’s tax changes, after 11 years of no change: the increase in County tax, Library tax, and Local Services Tax, and the much needed addition of the fire and ems tax, with the one bright spot being the elimination of the cable franchise fee. Going forward, we will no longer need to budget for the golf course, as there was a successful closing on August 27, and the new owners took possession of what is now “Pocono Club”. (see page 7)

There’s a lot to be planned for and a lot of work to be done between now and the end of the year. We welcome you to out supervisor meetings and work shop meetings to participate!

We are grateful for each and every one of you, and look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meetings.

**Our Best Regards,
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
recept@mstownship.com | x100

Holly Dennis | Community & Municipal Projects
Coordinator, Community & Cultural Center
Programming & Exhibits, Historical Commission
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

REPRESENTATIVE ROUND-UP

A few words from your elected officials

CONGRESSMAN MATT CARTWRIGHT

8th Congressional District



Each year, I invite community leaders from across Northeastern Pennsylvania to join together for an open dialogue regarding the needs of our communities.

This year’s Leaders Summit was well attended by members of local government, non-profits, local businesses and more.

I’m happy to report that community leaders from Monroe County had a strong showing at this year’s summit, including Monroe County District Attorney Mike Mancuso. As part of my 2025 Community Project Funding appropriations requests, I’m proud to have secured \$2 million in federal tax dollars to help DA Mancuso start-up an Opioid Crimes division aimed at reducing drug use, drug-related crime, and drug-related deaths in Monroe, Carbon and Pike Counties.

Unfortunately, too many among us, even the youngest, have suffered trauma in the wake of the opioid epidemic. We need to ensure area children and their families have the resources to prevent, treat and recover from substance use disorders. This funding will support area law enforcement in their traditional crime fighting efforts while empowering them to introduce innovative intervention strategies and programs.

Over the past two years, I’ve brought home over \$20 million for police officers and first responders in the Eighth Congressional District of Pennsylvania. I will continue to fight every day in Congress for NEPA’s fair share of federal tax dollars because our region has so much potential, and I want to make sure that we have the best opportunity to achieve it.

SENATOR ROSEMARY BROWN

Senate District 40



Are you frustrated about road safety? Do you consistently see drivers on their cell phones? You are not alone. After more than a decade of championing Senate Bill 37, I am proud to share my bill has officially been signed into law by Governor Josh Shapiro.

Senate Bill 37 – now Act 18 of 2024 – prohibits drivers from holding their cell phone while operating a motor vehicle on Pennsylvania’s roadways. Drivers may still use their phones if utilizing hands-free technology such as a docking station, Bluetooth, or speaker technology.

This legislation, named the Paul Miller, Jr. Law, is more than just a bill; it represents a commitment to changing driver behavior, building accountability, and safeguarding lives on our roads. I am deeply grateful to Paul and Eileen Miller, for their unwavering advocacy, strength, and patience. Paul and Eileen Miller, parents of Paul Miller Jr., lost their son to a distracted driver on Route 33 in Monroe County. It is my hope that Paul’s legacy will be a beacon of protection to all Pennsylvania drivers.

To see a comprehensive list of all the bills I have personally authored into law, you can visit: www.senatorbrown40.com/accomplishments/.

In state budget news, I’m excited to share that Pennsylvania had made historic investments in our schools. Schools in the 40th Senatorial District will see state funding increases of up to 30% this year. This continues the work I began as a state representative for Monroe and Pike counties from 2010-2022, where I successfully advocated for state education funding increases ranging from 23-79%, depending on the district.

Continued on page 7.

REPRESENTATIVE MAUREEN E. MADDEN

115th Legislative District



As we roll into fall, there is a lot to look forward to! Our satellite office hours at the MST Municipal Building are October 29th and 30th. Meet with

my staff between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. and get the assistance you need with state services, including but not limited to Property Tax-Rent Rebates, disability placards, senior reduced vehicle registration, and unemployment.

You may have received my budget roundup in the mail – but in case you did not — there are several highlights! There is finally some meaningful progress on public education funding, including a \$9.6 million increase for East Stroudsburg Area School District including funding provided for real property tax relief. There is \$161 million provided for transportation and multi-modal projects for 2024-2025. Amongst the most important increases are funds for the Community Waiver program, which serves the intellectually disabled. The \$261 million increase provides for far more spots in the program, allowing these individuals to get the care they need closer to home.

In the first week of fall session, we are anticipated to consider consumer protection measures (for proposed private acquisitions of municipal water and wastewater systems) and measures to protect healthcare providers from violence.

Continued on page 7

REPRESENTATIVE TARAH PROBST

189th Legislative District

The 2024-2025 state budget invests in a better future for all Pennsylvanians! We were able to increase funding for our schools, child care services, housing initiatives and mental health services.



We’re creating jobs and supporting our communities – and the small, local businesses that create the jobs. And we did it all without new taxes or raising taxes. This is a budget we can all be proud of! The budget increases funding for 189th District school districts -- \$9.6 million for East Stroudsburg School District!

Among other highlights, the budget includes the following funding increases and new investments that will benefit Pennsylvania’s schoolchildren. This budget makes sure every child can learn in a safe and healthy learning environment by investing \$100 million to clean up and improve school facilities and eliminate health hazards like asbestos and lead, while also investing \$100 million for school safety and resources for students in crisis. To address the lack of teachers entering the workforce, funding for the popular Student Teacher Stipend Program has been doubled to strengthen the teacher pipeline. To help alleviate period poverty, which causes many students to skip school, menstrual products will be provided in schools.

I also want to highlight the budget’s address of the affordable housing and homelessness crises with a \$5 million funding increase (27%) for homeless assistance with more investments in affordable housing and eviction prevention, and by increasing transfers for the PA Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement (PHARE) annually to \$100 million after five years; and helping municipalities provide housing to residents in emergencies.

Continued on page 7.

MONROE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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



The Monroe County Commissioners, in partnership with Carbon Monroe Pike Drug and Alcohol and the Monroe County District Attorney’s office, have instituted a program where a detective and a recovery specialist respond to reported overdoses to explain the treatment options available. In the beginning of this program, forty percent of those contacted elected to enter a treatment program. Today, we increased the success rate to over sixty percent.

The Drug and Alcohol Commission will be distributing Narcan and RX Destroyer at Community events throughout the year. Narcan is a medication that blocks the opioid receptors in the brain to reverse an opioid overdose. Training on the use of Narcan is minimal and can be viewed online. RX Destroyer is a bottle that contains materials that break down medications for safe disposal, eliminating the health risks posed by flushing intact medications.

The projects above have been paid for from settlements with opioid manufacturers and distributors. The funds from these settlements can only be spent on opioid-related treatment and education.

Please note that Election season will soon be here and should you decide to use a drop box, Middle Smithfield has one at the Library of the Smithfields located at 5200 Milford Road. Please use the U.S. Mail if you need to turn in a ballot for a third party.

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

NOMINATE YOUR HERO!

PERSON OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

by Holly Dennis

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



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

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

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

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

Nominations will be accepted through November 12th, and the finalists will be notified by December 9th. An independent panel of judges representing the district judicial system, news media, local clergy, and business leaders from across Middle Smithfield will select the award recipients.

The winner will be announced at the Person of the Year and Volunteer Appreciation Banquet on Friday, January 24th. Not only will the 2024 Person of the Year be announced, other volunteers and organizations will be recognized for the hard work they do for the community. More information about this event to come!

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

NOMINATION GUIDELINES

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



A NEW CHAPTER (AND OWNER) FOR GOLF COURSE

While it is bittersweet and still sinking in, IT'S OFFICIAL! The closing on the Country Club of the Poconos golf course, Whispering Pines Banquet Hall, and adjacent undeveloped acreage was successfully completed Tuesday, August 27th.



But, while the doors of Country Club of the Poconos have closed – the doors of "The Poconos Club" have opened.

This strategic move will now allow the township to better align township resources, and focus on new prospects for growth, and new opportunities to better serve our residents.

While this decision marks the end of an era, it is important to remember that this is not a goodbye. Each staff member and volunteer has made invaluable contributions, and are deeply appreciated for their hard work and dedication. And while the logo on their uniforms may have changed, the golf pro-shop and maintenance staff can be found diligently working at The Poconos Club.

Though our daily interactions may change, we look forward to staying connected and seeing their continued success!

Updates can be found at www.ThePocoClub.com.

SENATOR ROSEMARY BROWN

Senate District 40

Continued from page 4.

When our school districts create their budgets, they rely on a mix of federal, state, and local property tax funds. By increasing state funding, we may help prevent future local tax increases and foster discussions about reducing the local school tax burden on households. My consistent goal has always been to ensure state funding is appropriate for school programing and that school districts work alongside me to reduce the local tax burden—not simply absorb the new funds into additional spending.

I encourage all residents to participate in their local school board meetings, where the decision about your property tax bill is made. Your input is crucial in determining how these funds are allocated and in advancing efforts to reduce the property tax burden leading to more manageable bill for you. If you have any questions on this article or any other state-related issues, please always feel welcome to contact me personally at rbrown@pasen.gov or by contacting my office at 570-620-4326.

REPRESENTATIVE MAUREEN E. MADDEN

115th Legislative District

Continued from page 4

I have also worked with Reps. Solomon and Sanchez to introduce legislation creating a special curriculum for Pennsylvania history relative to the semiquincentennial and updating curriculum for Holocaust history and genocide.

As always, please contact my office with any questions or need for constituent services! Call us at 570.894.7905 or stop by our MST satellite hours.

REPRESENTATIVE TARAH PROBST

189th Legislative District

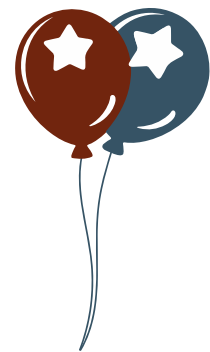
Continued from page 5.

Ensuring that Pennsylvania's children have a home of their own will provide the essential foundation for their intellectual, social, emotional and physical health. As Pennsylvanians have a fundamental right to a high-quality education, so too do they have a fundamental right to a home of their own. It is a matter of justice. Let's get it done!

For a snapshot of the budget's investments, please visit bit.ly/PAHouse2024News.

AMERICA 250 CELEBRATION!

Boomers fondly remember America's 200th birthday celebration -- the Bicentennial. Now, it's time for another birthday -- two years from now, in 2026, the United States will celebrate its 250th birthday, and Pennsylvania, arguably the birthplace of Liberty, is gearing up! Technically, it is America's "semiquincentennial" – but it has been dubbed "America 250", and Monroe County is making preparations under of America250PA.



To date, 11 municipalities, including Middle Smithfield, have passed resolutions supporting the America250PA initiative. Project planning has begun! (also – you can look for this to be the theme of the 2025 Memory Makers!)

PA Mission Statement: To plan, encourage, develop and coordinate the commemoration of the 250Th anniversary of the United States and Pennsylvania's integral role in that event and the role of its people in the past present and future.

Monroe County Language from Resolution: 'a diverse group of volunteer citizens to work with America250PA on any and all educational and celebratory activities within Monroe County through July 4, 2026., Learn more here: www.america250pa.org/HOME

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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

THE CONCIERGE IS IN...POCONO MO VISITOR INFORMATION CENTER OPENS IN MIDDLE SMITHFIELD

By James Brechbiel

The Pocono Mo Visitor Information Center is officially open in Middle Smithfield and ready to get the adventure started. On Friday, August 16, 2024, Pocono Mo celebrated its grand opening and ribbon cutting at 5226 Milford Rd., hosting residents, officials, and friends at the new center.



Acting as a concierge to visitors and the public alike, The Pocono Mo Visitor Information Center has gathered the absolute must-dos in the Poconos to provide memorable experiences for all to enjoy and discover the great Pocono adventure.

“Whether you're looking for thrilling outdoor adventures, spacious accommodations, mouthwatering local eats, or family-friendly festivities, we've got the inside scoop on all the hidden gems and well-loved spots that make our mountains the place to be, no matter the season,” said Kim McDonald, Director of Marketing for Pocono Mountain Villas by Exploria Resorts.

The Pocono Mo Visitor Information Center is operated by Exploria Resorts and features the Pocono Mountain Villas by Exploria Resorts, home to Pocono Hills Golf Course, the Warehouse Tavern & Grill, Blue Lightning & White Lightning Tubing, Pocono Tree Ventures Aerial Ropes/Ziplines, Bushkill Riding Stables, and Destination Earth Paintball. The Pocono Mo Visitor Information Center will promote all the local greats and attractions, such as newcomer, A Yak or Two canoe, kayak, raft rentals, and river trips, whose office will operate out of the new center.

“It’s been so exciting to work with so many great businesses here and get everyone to see what makes the Poconos so wonderful,” said McDonald. “We are looking forward to sharing our discoveries and can’t wait to help visitors to the area with their next great adventure.”

The Pocono Mo Visitor Information Center
(877) 459-6921
5226 Milford Rd. (next to the Marshalls Square Plaza by Sunoco)
www.poconomo.com

Hours of Operation:
Monday and Tuesday: 8:00 am – 6:00 pm
Wednesday: Closed
Thursday - Sunday: 8:00 am to 8:00 pm

COMING SOON! HOLIDAY SHOP LOCAL!

This November, check your mailboxes for your Shop Local Holiday discount cards!

Great deals at local businesses and opportunities to win prizes all holiday season long!

The Shop Local Holiday Program will run from November 29, 2024, to January 2, 2025.

Shop small this year and Keep the Cheer Here!



SECURE YOUR LIFE... ALARM SECURITY TECHNOLOGIES OPENS IN MIDDLE SMITHFIELD

By James Brechbiel

According to a study by the University of North Carolina Charlotte, 83% of burglars look for security cameras before they select a target, and 60% would retreat if they noticed a security system while on site. With this, it is easy to understand how alarm systems help deter crime and enhance safety in communities.

With the ever-changing landscape of technology, however, businesses and homeowners often find the task of finding adequate security systems daunting, or outside their budget.

That’s where Alarm Security Technologies (AST) comes in.

With over 20 years of experience in the alarm system and surveillance field, AST founder, Billy M., noticed that the Poconos needed an upgrade to its security options and decided to open Alarm Security Technologies this spring in Middle Smithfield Township.

A YAK OR TWO BRINGS RIVER RAFTING ADVENTURE TO THE TOWNSHIP

By James Brechbiel

A Yak or Two has surged to the banks of Middle Smithfield and is ready to offer excitement to kayak and river rafting enthusiasts.

Having worked at the kayak and river trip department at Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort, co-owners Andrew Sokolowski and Hunter Gill were looking to offer thrilling adventures on the north end of the Delaware and decided to open A Yak or Two canoe, kayak, and raft rentals in Middle Smithfield Township.

The excursion rental offers trips along the Delaware River from Dingman Township to Bushkill and provides all the services in-house.

“Our team is dedicated to providing top-notch equipment and personalized guidance, ensuring that every trip is not only enjoyable but also safe and secure for everyone involved,” said owner Andrew Sokolowski. “We take care of all of the work so that our customers may have all of the fun!”

Continued on page 11.



Andrew Sokolowski and Hunter Gill co-owners of A Yak Or Two.

EDC HAS A SEAT FOR YOU!

The Economic Development Committee has a vacancy!

The committee works to improve the economic environment of Middle Smithfield Township. and serves as a resource to local businesses.

If this sounds like a fit for you, **Join our team!**

Email James Brechbiel at jbrechbiel@mstowship.com, or call (570) 223-8920 x 130.



EDC Members Joe Memoli & Deborah Emin, Lisa Paulette, Congressman Cartwright, Supervisor Annette Atkinson, and Executive Dean NCC- Pocono Campus Precie Schroyer at Congressman Matt Cartwright's annual Leaders Summit in August.

“We want everyone to feel and be safe,” said Billy M. “We’re licensed professionals with Honeywell certifications and experience with all types of security systems, from correctional facilities and hospitals to small businesses and private residences. You name it. The purpose is to provide a comprehensive operation with the best equipment



and service for meeting the community’s needs.”

And Alarm Security Technologies is doing just that.

AST offers a variety of security alarm system hardware options from economical to state-of-the-art, as well as provides the installation and monitoring of burglar alarms, access control, video surveillance, and gate automation services. They are a distributor for UNIVIEW, Seco-Larm, and Enforcer, and offer dealer pricing for professionals and discounted rates for those on a budget.

“Our systems are affordable and we can assist DIYers with a consultation and the best equipment to get the job done right the first time,” said Billy M. “But we can handle the whole operation as well and work with central control to ensure the best possible service to our customers. Whatever your need is, we have it covered and look forward to meeting our future customers here in Middle Smithfield.”

**Looking for a consultation?
Call Alarm Security Technologies today!**

Alarm Security Technologies
5224 Milford Road, Suite 163 (In the Marshalls Square Plaza by Sunoco).
570 / 994 - 6431
www.alarmsecurtech.com

Hours of Operation:
(Showroom Open)
Monday – Friday: 10 am to 4 pm
And by appointment if needed.

REVITALIZE 209

Chairperson: Deborah Emin | Vice Chair: Nick Theofilos

Members: Michael Coffey, Ralph Dinkle, George Kuchek, Albert “Sonny” Murray

Liaison: James Brechbiel



A YAK OR TWO BRINGS RIVER RAFTING ADVENTURE TO THE TOWNSHIP

By James Brechbiel

Continued from page 9.

Adventurists seeking excitement can choose 4, 6, and even 10-mile river trip options. Whether a solo kayak trip, canoe rental for up to 3 people, or raft rentals for up to 8 people, A Yak or Two has you covered. There’s even a 4-mile tubing option for those who want to take the leisurely approach to the Delaware River trip.

Prices are affordable as well.

Whether you want to dip your toe in with the starter 4-mile trip or go the full 10 miles, prices range from \$38 to \$55 per person. A Yak or Two can even customize trips for avid river enthusiasts.

“As a business rooted in the local community, we strive to offer budget-friendly options for our river trips,” said owner Hunter Gill. “The Delaware River is a treasure, and we want both locals and tourists alike to marvel at its beauty without worrying about staggering equipment prices or outrageous transportation fees.”

Are you ready to take the plunge with A Yak or Two River Trips? Call and book your next adventure today!

A Yak or Two operates their business office out of the Pocono Mo Visitor Information Center.

A Yak or Two
5226 Milford Rd. (next to the Marshalls Square Plaza by Sunoco)
(570) 844-2199
www.yakortwo.com
reservations@ayakortwo.com

Hours of Operation:
Open 7 days a week
9:00 am to 6:00 pm

Revitalize 209 Applications are being accepted!

The Revitalize 209 Grant, a program unique for townships 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.

For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/Revitalize209Grant>. Call or email James Brechbiel: (570) 223-8920 x130, jbrechbiel@mstownship.com.

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

REVITALIZE 209 GRANT: OVER \$100,000 IN PROJECTS IN THE PIPELINE

By James Brechbiel

Since April, 8 projects have been preliminarily approved, with a total of \$103,329 in projects and \$51,664.50 in funds to be dispersed.

Here’s a snapshot:

- ✓ Ace Hardware – Painting the building -- DONE
- Brick Church, 5146 Milford Rd. – Replacing 6 windows
- The Dutchman Plaza – Landscaping
- Echo Lake (aka Miggy’s) – Repair trim on Auto Valley Group building.
- Liberty Plaza – Painting both buildings
- Marathon Studios (billboard by Delta Homes) – Landscaping
- ✓ Pocono Café – Paving dirt lot -- DONE
- The Value Inn – Roof updates, landscaping, and lighting improvements

Pocono Café’s project is completed, and now customers can experience a fresh new parking lot at the establishment.

“We have been waiting since we first opened to do this,” said Teresa Nunez, owner of the Pocono Cafe. “I’m so excited to offer this great new improvement for our customers thanks to this grant and can’t wait for everyone to come in and see our new look.”

Since paving the dirt lot, the visual impact has been turning heads.

“What a demonstrable difference the paved lot makes to this great business,” said Deborah Emin, Vice Chair of the Revitalize 209 Committee. “And it doesn’t just look good. It improves safety and ease for the patrons. We are so happy to see this project completed and can’t wait to see the others.”

More improvements are on the way!

Ace Hardware at 274 Keystone Rd. painted the main building and auxiliary maintenance, both visible from Route 209, to brighten up its already striking presence on Route 209.

“This grant couldn’t have come at a better time,” said manager, Pamela Foster. “We have been considering the project for a while now and this grant kicked it into gear. We couldn’t wait to get started.”



Before and After photos of the new and improved parking lot at Pocono Cafe.



After

Pocono Cafe Owner Teresa Nunez is excited about the new parking lot!



Before and After photos of ACE Hardware



MEMBER NEEDED FOR REVITALIZE 209 COMMITTEE

Want to help the township invest in façade improvement projects and visual upgrades to the Route 209 corridor?

Join our team!

Email James Brechbiel at jbrechbiel@mstownship.com, or call (570) 223-8920 x 130.

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.
- Marshall's 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.

GET IN THE ZONE! ZONING HEARING BOARD VACANCY

Our Zoning Hearing Board has a vacant seat!

If you think this position is right for you, please fill out the volunteer application and send that, along with your resume to info@mstownship.com.



CITIZEN'S REPORTER PORTAL COMING SOON!

By Kylie Medrano

Middle Smithfield Township will soon have an online reporting system that will allow residents to report concerns, ask questions, and gather information with a few clicks of a button! That's right, there will be another "upgraded" option for our "Request for Action" process. The portal will maximize efficiency and accuracy to bring questions and concerns to our attention.

As a resident, you will be able to report building code violations, park concerns, submit questions about sewer billing, find out when our next township Cleanup is, and so much more.

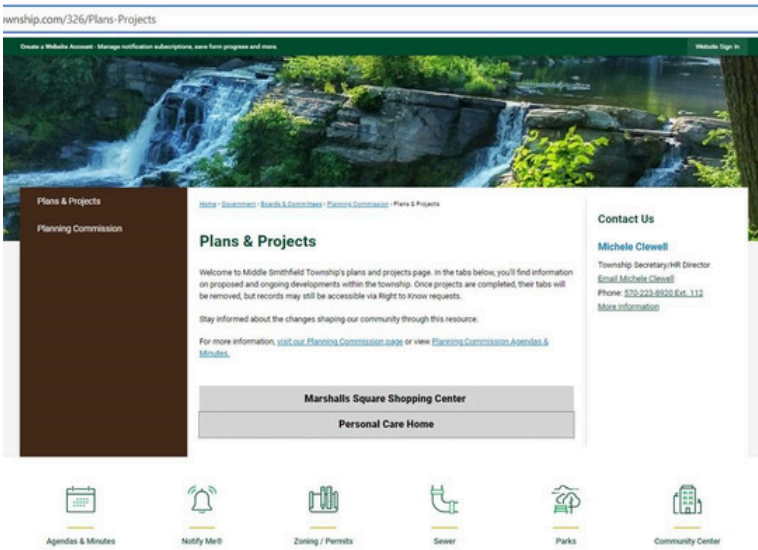
We cannot wait to share this with our residents!

Nature of Request (required)

Select...

Select...

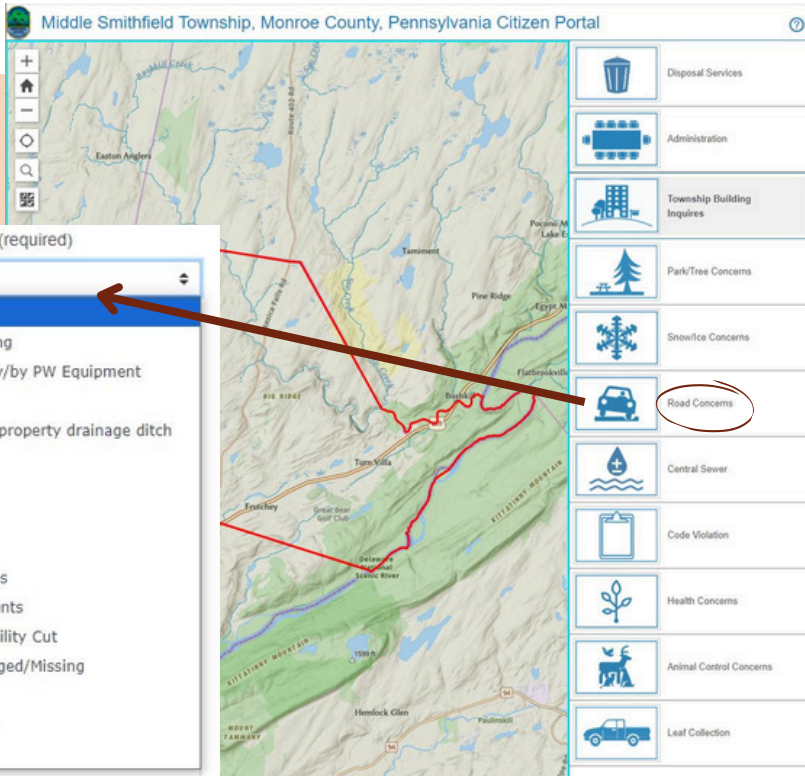
- Berm/Brush Cutting
- Damaged Property/by PW Equipment
- Drainage
- Driveway pipes & property drainage ditch
- Guide Rail
- Illegal Dumping
- Illegal Parking
- Pothole
- Storm Drains/Pipes
- Street Improvements
- Street Opening/Utility Cut
- Street Sign Damaged/Missing
- Traffic Signals
- Vision Obstruction
- Other



New and Improved!

Curious about what developments are on the way in Middle Smithfield? Come visit the "Plans and Projects" page, where you can explore proposed and ongoing development in the township.

www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com/326/Plans-Projects



ZONING

Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer: Shawn McGlynn | zoning@mstownship.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: Vacancy
Members: Jeff Senholzi, Gary Morris, Melonie Schmid.

SHORT TERM RENTALS:

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

By Mayra Colon

If you are using your home as a short-term rental it is considered a change of use under the Zoning Ordinance (see \$044-090) and requires the property owner to obtain a permit for that change of use. Violation of the Zoning Ordinance could result in fines of up to \$1000.00 per day. A one-time permit that costs only \$75.00 would bring your property into compliance. This is considered if you are renting your home for a period of less than 30 days at a time.

An annual license is required under Chapter 150, Short-Term Rentals, of the Township Code (see \$150-5). There is a fee of \$300.00 for the annual license which covers the processing of your application and one inspection.

Applications and additional information can be obtained on the Townships website: www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact the Zoning Office at 570-223-8920 ext. 126, or by email: mcolon@mstownship.com

WHAT NUISANCE!

By Vicki Smith

The Zoning Office has had success in bringing nuisance properties into compliance in the past. With Chapter 136, Nuisance Ordinance, the zoning office can have more success with the help of the residents. However, not every property that is reported is acted upon. 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 visiting the township website at www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com and completing a Request for Action Form (soon to be Citizen's Reporter!)

THINKING OF BUYING OR SELLING A HOME?

By Mayra Colon

If you are planning on selling, buying or renting your home, it requires a permit.

Chapter 179 of the Township Code of Ordinances requires the owner of a residential building who desires to lease or sell to obtain a use & occupancy certificate from the building inspector of the Township prior to the change of occupancy. You can find the application on the township website (www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com).

SIGN OF THE TIMES- POLITICAL SIGNS

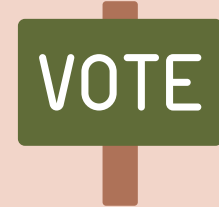
By Vicki Smith

With elections just around the corner it's time to talk politics, the politics of political signs that is. Residents can help keep the township beautiful during election season by understanding and following the rules for Political Signs in section 090-130(11) of the Middle Smithfield Township Zoning Ordinance as follows.

Political Signs:

Political signs are permitted in all districts, provided that:

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



Signs on Public Property

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

Signs on Private Property

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

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

More information about Election Day (November 5, 2024) including polling places and frequently asked questions can be found on page 23.

CULTURAL & COMMUNITY CENTER

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



The permanent sign is now in place at 5200 Milford Rd.



PART 2: MASTER GARDENER DEMONSTRATION RAIN GARDEN AT MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP

By Jon Clark, Penn State Extension Master Gardener

At the same time, the Giant Food Stores Corporation, which has its corporate headquarters in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, had engaged the Pennsylvania branch of Keep America Beautiful to administer a grants program for communities where their stores are located. The maximum amount of the grants was \$25,000. Middle Smithfield Township received the full amount of the grant and dedicated \$6,000 to purchase plants and other materials for the rain garden project.

From the beginning, it was decided that the garden would include only water-friendly flowering perennials native to Pennsylvania. The plants also had to be salt-tolerant, because of the salt that would be used in the winter on the adjacent paved areas. The lead group researched a list of hundreds of possible plants from the Penn State Extension Web site and decided on 29 varieties to include. The near-circular drainage area includes about 2,000 square feet of planting area, and a plan was developed to arrange groups of the chosen plants within the garden, taking into account their heights, colors, bloom time, and growth habits

Continued on page 19.

UPCOMING EXHIBITS

By Holly Dennis

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!

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.

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 11:00 am in the Community Room.



Chair Yoga participants at the Community and Cultural Center.

Upcoming Classes:

- October 12 & 19
- November 2 & 9
- December 7 & 14



Volunteers admire the rain garden in full bloom.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Please join us for a blood drive at Middle Smithfield Township Community and Cultural Center on Friday, October 18, 2024 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Treat yourself! Donate blood in October and get a \$10 gift card by email.

To schedule an appointment, or find other dates and locations, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.

About Donation Types:

Power Red: A Power Red donation collects the red cells but returns most of the plasma and platelets to the donor. These donors must meet specific eligibility requirements and have type A Neg, B Neg, or O blood.

Blood: The most common type of donation, during which approximately a pint of 'whole blood' is given. This type of blood donation usually takes about an hour.

STORYTIME CONTINUES THIS FALL

By Jessica Brown, Branch Manager

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

Fall Storytime will be held on Mondays at 10 am. We are also starting a Lapsit program (ages 1-2) at 9:30 am prior to storytime.

Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SMFsLibrary to stay up-to-date with upcoming events and announcements!

Library of the Smithfields Hours:

Monday – Wednesday: 9 am – 5 pm
Thursday: 10 am – 7 pm
Friday – Saturday: 10 am – 5 pm

CALLING ALL ARTISTS!

Are you a local artist who wants to display their work at the Middle Smithfield Township Community and Cultural Center? Then you're in luck! We have a few openings left for 2025 and want to work with you!

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



Artist Aida Weinstein with her art during her exhibit in July 2024 at the Community and Cultural Center.

COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL CENTER PUBLIC EVENTS* :

October

Exhibit of the month: Marshalls Creek Mastodon

- 10/10: Archaeology Club Meeting | 7 pm
- 10/12: Chair Yoga | 11 am
- 10/18: Red Cross Blood Drive | 12 pm- 5 pm
- 10/19: Chair Yoga | 11 am
- 10/29: Why Hospice? Why Now? St. Luke's | 12 pm

November

No exhibit for the months of November & December, but stop by for some holiday cheer!

- 11/2: Chair Yoga | 11 am
- 11/5: Election Day (Polling Place)| 7 am- 8 pm
- 11/9: Chair Yoga | 11 am
- 11/14: Archaeology Club Meeting | 7 pm
- 11/30: 12th Annual Tree Lighting | 6 pm

December

- 12/7: Chair Yoga | 11 am
- 12/12: Archaeology Club Meeting | 7 pm
- 12/14: Chair Yoga | 11 am

A full calendar of events can be found online: www.MiddleSmithfieldTownship.com.

*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!



Printing with botanicals was just one of the activities that kids explored at Sow, Grow Pollinate: a Children's Gardening Adventure. The event was held in June at the Community & Cultural Center. 30 youngsters, with their parents embarked on a journey through interactive stations, where budding enthusiasts delved into the wonders of seed starting, composting, flower part identification, terrarium building, pollinator identification, and more! It was a blooming adventure!

PARKS & RECREATION

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

Members: Marilyn Brown, Debbie Kulick, Carolyn Metaxes

Liaison: Chris Rain | crain@mstownship.com

TOWNSHIP PARKS

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

REGIONAL PARKS

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

NATIONAL PARKS

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

 facebook.com/MSTParksandRec

www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com/243/Parks-Facilities



The Pavillion at Echo Lake Park,

RENT A PAVILION AT MST PARKS

By Chris Rain

Need a outdoor venue to host an event this fall? Middle Smithfield Township has two great pavilions at Echo Lake Park and Resica Park that are available to rent for your event.

Each pavilion comes with picnic tables, grills, and is adjacent to a playground to keep the kids entertained. Both pavilions can

seat around 40 people. Electricity is available at Echo Lake Park only. Pavilion rentals require a rental form and cost \$50 plus a \$50 refundable deposit due at the time of booking. The deposit is refunded after your event and successful site inspection by Township staff.

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

TRUNK OR TREAT

By Chris Rain

Happy Halloween! On Saturday October 19, the Parks & Recreation Committee will host its 11th Annual Trunk or Treat at Resica Park, located at 1 Gravel Ridge Road behind Resica Elementary School. The event begins at noon and ends at 1:30pm and is for all township children 12 and under! The rain date is Sunday October 20. Candy and other giveaways are only available while supplies last!

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

Attendees are also encouraged to bring non-perishable goods, which will be collected and donated to the Bushkill Outreach food pantry.

If you would like to decorate your car for Trunk or Treat, you must pre-register your car by Thursday October 17 at 4pm. Just coming to enjoy the event? No pre-registration is required. For more information, contact Chris Rain at crain@mstownship.com or 570-223-8920 x119.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT AT ECHO LAKE PARK

Matthew Rivera of Troop 83 in East Stroudsburg completed his Eagle Scout Project at Echo Lake Park. Rivera add a Double Push-up Bar exercise station to the current five pre-existing exercise stations that were installed by other Eagle Scouts.

While building his project, he also added fresh Mulch to all of the stations. He was also able to fix a broken wooden plank on a preexisting exercise station to prevent any injuries to users.

Middle Smithfield Township is proud of all of our Eagle Scouts, and we thank Matthew Rivera for his hard work and dedication in making our community a better place!



Trunk or Treat 2023 1st Place Winners: Keystone Stallions



Rivera stands with his Eagle Scout Project

BUILDING COMMUNITY AT COMMUNITY DAY

By Chris Rain

On Saturday July 13, Middle Smithfield Township's Parks & Recreation Board hosted the 4th Annual Community Day at Echo Lake Park. The event included 33 organizations that are non-profit and community oriented reaching out to the public and signing up new volunteers.

Residents came out to enjoy our Touch a Truck, learn about all of the great organizations making our community a better place to live, and grab lunch from our two food vendors.

Our organizations included 1000 Pink Lights, Bushkill Emergency Corps, Bushkill Volunteer Fire Company, East Stroudsburg Area School District, East Stroudsburg Softball Little League, Eastern Monroe Public Library, Family Promise of Monroe County Inc., Friends of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania, Girls on the Run Lehigh Valley and Pocono, Penn State Extension Master Gardeners, LVHN MedEvac, Marshalls Creek Fire Company, Monroe County Meals on Wheels, Monroe County SHARE Housing, Monroe County Historical Association, Pennsylvania Mountain Rescue, Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), Scout Troops 87 and 100, Shawnee Fire Company, and Pocono Mountains United Way featuring Aetna. The event also included two food vendors: the Bushkill Fire Company Auxiliary and M&G Empanadas.

Thank you to our 2024 Parks Sponsors for helping us put together this event, and all of our events in 2024:

- **Sheeley Insurance – Platinum Sponsor**
- **Pocono Kidz Zone – Gold Sponsor**
- **ESSA Bank, Gotta Go Potties, Prosser Labs, and Super Heat – Silver Sponsors**
- **Huffman's Electric – Parks Partner**

Community Day is held annual in the summer at Echo Lake Park since 2021. Echo Lake Park is located at 5200 Milford Road. MST parks are open daily during daylight hours. Please call 570-223-8920 x119 for more information, or email crain@mstownship.com.



MedEvac helicopter at 2024 Community Day

TREE LIGHTING

By Chris Rain

Happy Holidays! Come kick off the holiday season at our 12th Annual Tree Lighting on Saturday, November 30 at 6pm at Echo Lake Park. Bands and choirs from East Stroudsburg High School provide music while the crowd enjoys free hot cocoa and treats. Then, Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive courtesy the Marshalls Creek Fire Company to light the tree and visit with the kids. But the highlight is our fireworks display!

New this year is a holiday market with craft vendors starting at 3pm. Come out before the Tree Lighting from 3pm to 6pm to do some early holiday shopping! Interested in being a vendor at the market? Contact Chris Rain at crain@mstownship.com or 570-223-8920 x119.

The event is free to attend, and donations in the form of toys or non-perishable food items are always welcome for Toys For Tots and Bushkill Outreach; two organizations that help share the cheer for families in need every holiday season and throughout the year.

Our rain date is Sunday December 1. Echo Lake Park is located at 5200 Milford Road. Parking will be available at the Presbyterian Church and Marshall's Square shopping center next to the park.

CITIZENS SURVEY FOR RIVER'S EDGE BIKE PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT COMING SOON

A committee formed by representatives of Middle Smithfield and Smithfield Townships is preparing a citizen's survey to gain public input on proposed improvements to River's Edge Bike Park. The committee has tasked T and M Associates, an engineering firm, with creating and distributing the survey as well as preparing plans for improvements at the park. The survey will be made available before the end of the year. Middle Smithfield Township residents will be able to complete the survey in person or online.

River's Edge Park is jointly owned and managed by Middle Smithfield and Smithfield Townships. It is located on River Road in Smithfield Township. There is currently a bike pump track located at the park as well as a recently refurbished disc golf course. The pump track was built in 2017 and is open daily, weather permitting, from spring to fall. The committee hopes to develop plans to improve and expand the bike facilities at the park.



Little ones enjoying the fire works after Santa and Mrs. Claus lit the tree at the 2024 tree lighting.

LITTER & BEAUTIFICATION

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

ADOPT A ROAD IN 2024!

By Chris Rain

On Saturday September 28, Township Supervisors, Parks & Recreation, Litter & Beautification, Adopt a Road, and the Public Works Department joined together to help clean up our Township's Roads.

Volunteers for this important program are always welcome and can contact Chris Rain any time of year at 570-223-8920, x119. Supplies including bags, pickers, gloves and safety vests are all provided by the township as well as light refreshments.

Volunteers are welcome to clean up on any day they want, they can also choose their own area, or have one assigned to them. Middle Smithfield Township will provide bags, pickers, gloves, safety vests, and other supplies as needed and will collect the bags when volunteers are done.

Volunteers can also Adopt-A-Road and have a sign placed in your honor along the road that you clean. If you are interested in the Adopt-A-Road program, please contact Chris Rain at 570-223-8920, x119.

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



Top:
Volunteers at
the 1000 Feet
of Street Event.

Left:
Volunteers
from Boy Scout
Troop 87
cleaning up
litter along
Route 209.

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@mstownship.com. A list of roads available for adoption can be provided. All cleanup equipment including bags, pickers, and gloves, are provided by the township when you clean your road.

KEEP 209 BEAUTIFUL

Middle Smithfield Township was awarded a \$20,000 matching grant from the Pocono Mountain Visitors Bureau to support the "Tidy Township" initiative. The grant and matching funds allowed Middle Smithfield Township to enhance community cleanliness, beautification, and environmental stewardship. There have been noticeable improvements have been made along Route 209 as well as some of our secondary roads.



In just a few short months, we have cleaned litter (often daily), re-established curb lines, seeded and planted new shoulders, painted fire hydrants, cleared significant brush, and placed mulch and planted various shrubs along the corridor. We added some landscaping lighting too, but that was quickly stolen.

Much of the materials and plantings were purchased here in our township. "Many years ago, Middle Smithfield Township created our successful volunteer litter cleanup programs, 1,000 Feet of Street and Adopt a Road," said Middle Smithfield Township Supervisor and Public Works Director Mike Dwyer. "Our Township was also a stakeholder in the beginnings of "Pick Up the Poconos." We continue to participate each year and advocate for getting our residents involved. We believe that if guests and residents see the significant effort put into keeping our township clean, they become part of the culture of "Keeping PA Beautiful."



In addition, PennDOT paved Route 209 and repaired/replaced guiderail from Municipal Drive to the intersection of Business 209.

"Middle Smithfield Township should be a clean, welcoming

environment for residents and visitors alike," Dwyer continued. "We also appreciate that our businesses have joined in keeping 209 presentable, by maintaining their properties."

Together with the Revitalize 209 program, our "Main Street" is looking better and better every day.

Middle Smithfield Township extends its sincere appreciation to the Pocono Mountain Visitors Bureau for its generous support and reaffirms its commitment to making Middle Smithfield Township a cleaner, more vibrant community for all.



PART 2: MASTER GARDENER DEMONSTRATION RAIN GARDEN AT MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP

By Jon Clark, Penn State Extension Master Gardener

Continued from page 14.

Before planting the selected plants, everything that was already growing in the space had to be removed. Spraying it all with glyphosate (Round-Up) was out of the question, as the use of this broad-spectrum weed killer was not allowed by Master Gardener protocols. Plucking them up one at a time on hands and knees would be an enormous project, even for an eager band of volunteers.

It was decided to pull up the largest weeds and then cover the garden with moistened cardboard, which would cut off the sunlight, smother the weeds, and become part of the soil as it deteriorated, without adding height to the garden. The perennial plugs were to be planted through the cardboard.

What wasn't anticipated was that the cardboard would dry out if not kept watered (and it wasn't), and even though it was held down by some rocks from the edges of the garden, it turned into a bunch of sails that blew all over the place. As a result, the labor-intensive, hands-on weed plucking approach was the only option.

The plants arrived in four shipments, in June, July, September and October. As the plugs were placed in the ground, regular watering and weeding was carried out by the volunteers.

Soon the garden was taking shape, and many of the plants were already sporting flowers. Volunteers also noticed that some fauna were making use of the garden, including a small frog and some pollinators. Having native plants doesn't only mean that the plants will be at home in the garden. It also means that native pollinators and other resident plants and animals will be at home there.

By the end of September, the garden was allowed to take its natural, seasonal course, and the watering schedule was stopped. By this time, 17 volunteers had donated 640 hours of work to the garden project.

In the spring of 2023, dead plant stems were cut back, allowing new sprouts to rise from the perennial roots. Weeding and watering began again, and by mid-summer, the garden was in full bloom.

The success of this demonstration project is hoped to encourage local organizations to seek out additional opportunities to create rain gardens on public properties, as well as for commercial property owners and even individual homeowners to plant rain gardens appropriate to their land.

Rain gardens support the water cycle, provide environments for pollinators and homes for small fauna, add oxygen to the atmosphere, and, not incidentally, they can be a beautiful addition to any landscape.

PUBLIC WORKS

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

PUBLIC WORKS FALL UPDATES

By Rachel Heller

Clean Up Ramp- You may have heard we're ramping up to change Spring and Fall Clean Up. Public Works has been busy since the spring installing a new "Clean Up Ramp" which we hope will streamline the clean up process, lessen lines and wait times. This is



still a work in progress, but we are hoping to offer several select dates from April through November that residents will be able to come in and dispose of bulk items on a more regular basis. In turn we hope this will help with the abundance of illegal roadside dumping that has been occurring throughout the Township.

The ramp will consist of four stations, each station having one dumpster for metal and one dumpster for trash. Public Works staff will be present to check you in and maintain the dumpsters, whether that be crushing to make more room or switching cans out. However, they will not be there to assist with unloading. Residents will need to unload materials on their own.

We look forward to unveiling this new way of Clean Up at this Fall's event in October. Keep an eye out for future dates that will be announced towards the beginning of 2025!

FALL CLEAN UP "DUMPSTER DAY"

By Rachel Heller

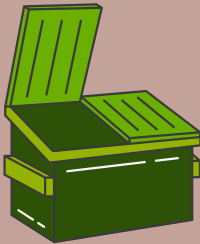
Fall Clean Up & Freecycle will be held on **October 11th and 12th from 7 am- 2 pm**. Drop off locations are the Township Building (147 Municipal Drive) and Wooddale Garage (792 Dancing Ridge Road).

Clean up is for Middle Smithfield Township residents. Please bring proof of residence such as a, tax bill, rent receipt, etc. We urge all residents to take advantage of this opportunity to dispose of unwanted household goods.

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

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

*U-Hauls over 14' are not permitted



Municipal Drive Project- If you have driven down Municipal Drive since early Spring you may have noticed Public Works staff working specifically on the corner across from Judy Putek Park. The PWD has been busy clearing the bank of trees and brush and then digging out many tons of material to aid in the drainage and sight improvements that we in the process of increasing.

The main goal of this project is to do just that, cut out the bank to help increase sight distance which we will assist with safety concerns on the roadway. The other main goal is drainage, specifically on the corner and in that vicinity due to springs that run under the roadway and the swamp that is on the outside of the road. New drainage boxes and an increased amount of surge for underground drainage has been added as well.

During the process of digging out the bank, TONS of material has been hauled away, much of it being used at the Firestone Lane grant project that Public Works completed in the Spring. Materials were also taken to several other project sites throughout the summer as well.

The final steps of the project are underway for digging out a portion of the lanes at the corner, fixing the base underneath and repaving the entirety of Municipal Drive



from Route 209 to Lower Lakeview Drive. Thank you to the many residents and visitors alike who this project has impacted throughout the Spring and Summer for your patience while we improve the overall safety of this roadway.

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



FREecycle

By Rachel Heller



At our Clean Up event residents can drop off their gently used items with the knowledge that they won't go to a landfill – but one of their neighbors or a charitable organization instead!

A maximum of 5 items is allowed per person. There is no charge.

This event is for Middle Smithfield Township residents only. Please provide proof of township residency.

Where: Public Works Garage behind the Municipal Building
147 Municipal Drive (Pick up is not available at the Wooddale Garage)

When: Friday, October 18 and Saturday, October 19, 7am to 2pm each day

FALL LEAF COLLECTION

By Rachel Heller

Fall Leaf Collection is taking place October 14- December 6.

Leaf collection will not have specific dates for each route, but each road will be serviced between the specific collection dates. Collection dates may change without notice due to inclement weather or any other emergency that might arise.

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

4TH QUARTER SEWER BILLING DATES:

QUARTER	BILLING DATE	DEADLINE TO PAY	\$25 LATE FEE APPLIED
FIRST QUARTER	JAN 1 ST	FEB 1 ST	MAR 2 ND
SECOND QUARTER	APR 1 ST	MAY 1 ST	JUN 2 ND
THIRD QUARTER	JUL 1 ST	AUG 1 ST	SEP 2 ND
FOURTH QUARTER	OCT 1 ST	NOV 1 ST	DEC 2 ND

ONGOING IMPROVEMENTS:

CCP sewer line relocation – Due to the corrosion of the bridge on Big Ridge Dr, the bridge has been shut down in 2024 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. This project is on-going, and expected to be completed in 2025.

Odor Control system – We are currently exploring the best method to control the odors along our sewer system. We performed a trial of a new product in Mid-April with promising results but due to the six figure cost, the project will be budgeted for next year, and will commence in 2025.



OAK GROVE

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

If you live in an HOA or community and wish to participate in this program, a centralized collection point must be established within your community. To coordinate this, contact Rachel at 570-223-8920 x142.

Just a reminder that all open burning of leaves is prohibited.

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

SEWER

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

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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

WE'RE LOOKING FOR THE NEXT MEMBER OF THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION!

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.

NATIONAL FOSSIL DAY™ 2024 & THE RETURN OF MARSHALL THE MASTODON

by Holly Dennis

National Fossil Day is October 16th!

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

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

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



NEPA ARCHEOLOGY

There's a new group catching on, newly formed in April of 2024, with their first meeting in July, that's quickly growing and grabbing attention!



Local historical and Middle Smithfield Township resident Danny Younger has started "NEPA Archeology, as a chapter-in-formation of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology. The group seeks to bring together avocational and professional archaeologists interested in the archaeology of Northeastern Pennsylvania and adjacent portions of New Jersey. The group meets the second Thursday of the month at the Middle Smithfield Township Community & Cultural Center from 6:30p-8pm. You can find them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/447353964457087>.



Marshall the Mastodon, the official mascot of the (pre)historical commission. You can find him on display at the Community and Cultural Center in October!



IMPORTANT VOTING INFORMATION

Election Day is Tuesday, November 5, 2024!

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

The last day to register for the General Election is October 21, 2024. You can register here: bit.ly/PA-Voter-Registration-Application

The Deadline to apply for a mail-in ballot is October 21, 2024. Apply on your county election board website here: bit.ly/Contact-Your-Election-Officials or you can apply online at pavoterservices.pa.gov.

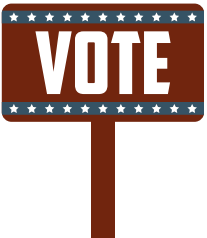
Voter drop box locations

- Instead of mailing in your ballot, you may drop off your completed ballot any day, up to 8 pm on Election Day (Nov. 5th) at the following locations:
 - Middle Smithfield Community & Cultural Center/Library of the Smithfields (5200 Milford Rd. East Stroudsburg, PA 18302)
 - Eastern Monroe Public Library (1002 PA-611, Stroudsburg, PA 18360)
 - Monroe County Administration Building (1 Quaker Plaza, Stroudsburg, PA 18360)

Absentee and Mail-in Ballots on Election Day

- Absentee and Mail-in ballots must be received by 8:00 pm on Election Day in order to be canvassed and counted.
- You MAY NOT drop a voted ballot at your polling location.
- If you applied for an absentee or mail-in ballot but have opted to go to your polling location to vote, there are two options:
 - Option # 1 - Take your ballot and declaration envelope to your polling location. Inform the poll worker you wish to vote in-person and are surrendering your ballot and materials.
 - Option #2 - If you did not receive your ballot or cannot locate it, you can still vote at your polling location. You will need to cast a provisional ballot. Once voted, you will return your ballot to the poll worker who will secure it in an envelope and note the reason why you requested a provisional ballot.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT
POLITICAL SIGNS CAN BE FOUND
ON PAGE 13!



VOTING DISTRICTS & POLLING PLACES:

Since 2024, Middle Smithfield Township is divided into four voting districts:

Middle Smithfield 1 & 2 were formerly Middle Smithfield West.

Middle Smithfield 3 & 4 were formerly Middle Smithfield East.

Middle Smithfield 1 Polling Place:

The polling place for residents in Middle Smithfield Election District 1 is the Church of St. Johns.
Church of St. John
5171 Milford Road

Middle Smithfield 2 Polling Place:

The polling place for residents in Middle Smithfield Election District 2 is the Middle Smithfield Township Municipal Building.
Schoonover Municipal Center
147 Municipal Drive

Middle Smithfield 3 Polling Place:

The polling place for residents in Middle Smithfield Election District 3 is Middle Smithfield Presbyterian Church.
Middle Smithfield Presbyterian Church
5205 Milford Road

Middle Smithfield 4 Polling Place:

The polling place for residents in Middle Smithfield Election District 4 is the Middle Smithfield Township Community & Cultural Center.
Community & Cultural Center
5200 Milford Road

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

ELECTION DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **October 21:** - Deadline to Register to Vote in the General Election.
- **October 29:** - Last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot for the General Election
- **November 5:** - Last day for County Boards of Elections to receive voted mail-in and civilian absentee ballots (must be received by 8:00 P.M.)
- **November 5, 2024** - GENERAL ELECTION
- **November 12, 2024** - Last day for County Boards of Elections to receive voted military and overseas absentee ballots (submitted for delivery no later than 11:59 P.M. on November 4).

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,
Brodheads ville, PA 18322
Phone: 570-664-6468
Email: info@valorclinic.org
www.valorclinic.org

VETERAN HOLIDAY MEALS - VOLUNTEERS,
DONATIONS, VETERANS NEEDED



Valor Clinic Foundation provides veteran families in crisis with holiday meals at Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. We provide a complete day's meal starting with breakfast and ending with dessert.

This helps stop families from having to decide between paying the bills or having a holiday meal. Our last delivery provided to more than 475 veteran families, with the number increasing each holiday.

Our Holiday Meal program has several options to get involved. Food collection, organization, and distribution are the three main volunteer components.

We have a set food item distribution list to help ensure we provide well-balanced nutrition to our Veterans, remain in the holiday celebration traditions, ease food donor recruitment messaging, and streamline packaging during meal preparation for our volunteers.

To nominate a financially struggling Veteran family or to volunteer please call: (570) 664-6468

If you know a veteran in need, contact us to add them to the list.

for other volunteer opportunities, please visit www.valorclinic.org/volunteer or email info@valorclinic.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

East Stroudsburg Stand Down | Sunday October 13 at 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

Veterans Unstoppable Program Retreat Classes | October 4th- 7th, 43 Meckes Lane, White Haven, PA

If you or a Veteran you know seems to not be doing well in civilian life, this is the right program for them. This program helps Veterans integrate into civilian society.

Often Veterans struggle with elevated social conflict, emotional scars and a loss of purpose and direction. This program helps Veterans learn to manage the vastly different behavior norms of civilians versus military, tone down the effects of the emotional scars and regain some purpose and direction. It is free and not medical treatment so will not impact their freedoms or clearance.

Life Partners and significant others are encouraged to join the Veteran. Contact us to enroll and/or for additional information at 570-534-2998.

Patriots Ball Fundraiser | Saturday, November 9 at 6 pm Stroudsmoor Country Inn, 257 Stroudsmoor Rd, Stroudsburg, PA 18360

You are invited to join us and veterans for a formal attire night out for you and your significant other. Join us for a night of music, dancing, and gourmet food for a good cause.

Cost is \$125 per person attending. Other sponsorship opportunities are available.

Visit valorclinic.org/events/patriots-ball-fundraiser for a full list of sponsorship opportunities and more information. Call 570-664-6468 to purchase your tickets!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Mammograms, Manicures & Mocktails | Friday, October 18 at 6 pm- 9 pm. St. Luke's Monroe Campus, 200 St. Luke's Lane 3rd Floor, Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Enjoy hors d'oeuvres, desserts and refreshments while meeting with St. Luke's breast health specialists. Pamper yourself with a mini manicure & mini facials while prioritizing your health.

Pre-register for a screening mammogram (available with your doctors' prescription)

Certified Lymphedema Therapist Christine Hoban, OTR/L and Women's Pelvic Health Physical Therapist Patricia Posten, PT, DPT will be on-site

This event is free and open to all women. Space is limited and REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. Registration link can be found on NCNW Website at www.greaterpocononcnw.org.

Section Meetings
Monthly meetings are held every 2nd Saturday of the month at 12 pm at the Loder Center.

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.

We see the needs of a child as fundamental, and we work tirelessly to ensure that every child has a comforting place to sleep. Recognizing the unexpected turns life can take, we provide resources, support, and guidance to families who find themselves on the front lines of raising the next generation.

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; promotes civic engagement and advocates for sound public policy and social justice.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Fall Bingo Fundraiser | Saturday, October 26 12 pm - 3 pm Willie Mae's Place 1289 Route 209, Gilbert

Join Us for the Angels & Dragonflies Fall Bingo Fundraiser! Enjoy a delicious lunch buffet while playing bingo. The cost is \$35 per person. Advance Purchase Required: Make sure to secure your spot by purchasing your tickets before October 21, 2024

Information for these events, including tickets, can be found at angelsanddragonfliescc.org/events/.

Holiday Party Bingo Fundraiser | Saturday, November 16 5 pm - 8 pm Moose Lodge 705 Stokes Mill Road, East Stroudsburg, PA

Join Us for the Angels & Dragonflies Children's Charity Holiday Party Bingo Fundraiser! Get into the holiday spirit with a night full of laughter, prizes, and festive cheer at our Holiday Party Bingo Fundraiser! Purchase a set of 10 bingo boards (3 on a sheet) for \$25 in advance or \$35 at the door.

Information for these events, including tickets, can be found at angelsanddragonfliescc.org/events/.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

MARSHALLS CREEK FIRE COMPANY

Nick Dennis, Asst. Chief, Marshalls Creek Fire Company



Marshalls Creek Fire Company had a busy first half of the year, and continues to remain busy into the fall.

By the end of August, MCFC had run a total of 533 calls, including fires, motor vehicle accidents, EMS calls, and severe weather incidents.

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.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK™ IS OCTOBER 6-12, 2024

This year's FPW campaign, "Smoke alarms: Make them work for you!™" strives to educate everyone about the importance of having working smoke alarms in the home.

Fire Prevention Week is observed each year during the week of October 9th in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire, which began on October 8, 1871, and caused devastating damage. This horrific conflagration killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures, and burned more than 2,000 acres of land.

More information about Fire Prevention Week, including resources and materials, can be found at www.nfpa.org/Events/Fire-Prevention-Week.

FIRE PREVENTION COMMUNITY NIGHT

Tuesday, October 8th | 6:30 pm - 9 pm
J.T. Lambert Intermediate School
2000 Milford Rd. East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

Join Marshalls Creek Fire, Bushkill, Shawnee, and East Stroudsburg Fire Companies for the 27th annual Fire Prevention Community Night.

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



BUSHKILL EMERGENCY CORPS' 5TH ANNUAL GALA IS OCTOBER 26TH!

By Debbie Kulick, President Bushkill Emergency Corps

Bushkill Emergency Corps invites our community to join us at our 5th Annual Gala on Saturday, October 26th at Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort in Shawnee-on-Delaware. This event is a major fundraising event for the organization and always promises to provide a wonderful night of dinner, dancing and live floor show entertainment.



This year's theme is a tribute to Ole Blue Eyes himself with some Rat Pack melodies too. An audience requested favorite, Vincent Romano will entertain with a show filled with Sinatra favorites and perhaps a tune or two made famous by his Rat Pack buddies! As always, a live floor show makes this event standout!

D.J. Keith Karkut will spin sounds that will invite you to the dance floor. All this following a wonderful dinner buffet featuring Italian delights and scrumptious desserts. Cocktail hour precedes the meal and there is time to take a gander at the Silent Auction items up for bid.

Early bird reservations and payments are \$60 per person and are in effect until October 21. Thereafter \$65 per person. Discounts are available for tables of 8 or more.

To make your reservation, mail your check to: Bushkill Emergency Corps, PO Box 174, Bushkill, PA 18324. PayPal reservations also accepted. Please include the name of the party and number attending.

Business sponsorships are available as well, Platinum Sponsorship \$1,000 with 5 reserved seats included. Other sponsorships include: Gold \$775 with 3 reserved seats, Silver \$475 with 2 reserved seats and Bronze \$250, as with all other sponsorships includes logo in all marketing, including program, flyers, event banner and social media notice. Program advertisements are available from \$100 (full page) \$75 (half page), business card \$25.

For more information, to make reservations, or become a sponsor, contact: Gil Coronado at 201-753-0093, email Debbie Kulick at: deborahakulick@gmail.com or call 570-223-1906 (leave a message if we are not there and we will call back).

Join us in supporting Bushkill Emergency Corps celebrating 59 years of service to the residents and visitors to our community! Hope to see you there!

STORM SAFETY TIPS FROM BUSHKILL FIRE CO.

By Kyle Rohner, Chief Bushkill Volunteer Fire Company

With hurricane season here, Bushkill Fire Company wants to remind everyone of a few important tips to keep you safe during a storm.

Never touch downed power lines: Always assume downed power lines are energized and extremely dangerous.



Use flashlights, not candles: In the event of a power outage, use battery operated flashlights instead of candles due to fire risks.

Use generators safely: Know how to safely use your generator. Make sure it is serviced properly before using and place in a well-ventilated area outdoors.

Sign up for emergency alert notifications: Stay updated with weather alerts, road closures, and county updates.

In the event of any emergency call 9-1-1.

Bushkill Volunteer Fire Company is always looking for new members. **Interested in joining?** Stop by the main fire house located at 123 Evergreen Dr., Bushkill, PA 18324 any Monday night after 6 pm to visit the station and talk to our members!

VOLUNTEER AT SHAWNEE FIRE COMPANY!

By Dave Timko, Chief Shawnee Fire Company



There are exciting things happening this fall at Shawnee Fire Company, and we hope you can join us!

October is Fire Prevention Month – Don't forget to check the batteries in your detectors

2025 – The Shawnee Volunteer Fire Company – Station #36 – will be celebrating 80 years of providing volunteer services to the residents and travelers in Smithfield and Middle Smithfield townships, including Shawnee on Delaware and Minisink Hills. We would like to thank those that continue to support us in providing the emergency services that we do. A special thanks to our neighboring companies that include Marshalls Creek – Station #29, Bushkill Fire Co. – Pike County station #24, and Station #26 – Delaware Water Gap, along with the other companies for their mutual aid assistance as needed. We cannot be more thankful for the members who have laid the groundwork, work habit, dedication, and tradition in which we try and emulate to this day. We are forever grateful. Shawnee Volunteer Fire Company – Chartered February 14, 1945

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.

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