



MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWS

SUMMER 2025

- **MID-YEAR PRESENTATION**

THURS. JULY 10TH AT 7 PM

- **CHRISTMAS IN JULY**

JULY 1ST-31ST | [MORE ON PAGE 8](#)

- **COMMUNITY DAY**

SAT. AUGUST 2ND | [MORE ON PAGE 16](#)

- **MEMORY MAKERS**

SAT. AUGUST 9TH | [MORE ON PAGE 18](#)



PHOTO CREDIT: POCONO SPRINGS CAMP IN MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP

MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWS



WHAT'S GOING ON:

SEE ALL EVENTS HAPPENING AT THE COMMUNITY & CULTURAL CENTER AT
WWW.MIDDLESMITHFIELDTOWNSHIP.COM/181/COMMUNITY-CULTURAL-CENTER-AND-LIBRARY

July

Community & Cultural Center Exhibit:

"Summertime" art exhibit

7/4: Independence Day (Township Office Closed)

7/10: Mid-Year Report to the Public

7/12: Pink Lights Walk Tea @ Community & Cultural Center. (page 24)

7/19: Friends of DWGNRA Lecture "Fishing the Delaware"
at Community & Cultural Center | 6:30 pm

7/31: Bushkill Emergency Corps CPR Class
at Community & Cultural Center (page 26)

August

Community & Cultural Center Exhibit:

Flood of '55/America250

8/2: Community Day at Echo Lake Park

8/9: Memory Makers Luncheon at Community & Cultural Center

8/16: Pasta Dinner Fundraiser at Community & Cultural Center (page 24)

September

Community & Cultural Center Exhibit:

Local Artist India Jones

9/1: Labor Day (Township Office Closed)

9/14: 1000 Pink Lights Walk Tricky Tray at VFW Post 2540 (page 24)

9/20: 1000 Feet of Street Litter Pickup

October

Community & Cultural Center Exhibit:

Marshall's Creek Mastodon

Fall Leaf Collection Begins**

Dates TBD: Cleanup & Freecycle

10/11: 1000 Pink Lights Walk at Lehman Park (page 24)

10/13: Pink Lights Walk Dine to Donate at Texas Roadhouse (page 24)

10/15: National Fossil Day

10/17: Red Cross Blood Drive at Community & Cultural Center

10/18: 12th Annual Trunk or Treat

November

No Community & Cultural Center Exhibit this month.

11/1: Neighbor Works Seminar (more information soon!)
at Community & Cultural Center

11/4: Election Day (Township Office Closed)

11/11: Veterans Day (Township Office Closed)

11/15: Bushkill Emergency Corps Gala
at Shawnee Inn & Golf Resort (page 26)

11/28- 1/2/26: Shop Local Holiday

11/28: Thanksgiving (Township Office Closed)

11/29: Black Friday (Township Office Closed)

11/29: 12th Annual Tree Lighting at Echo Lake Park

December

No Community & Cultural Center Exhibit this month.

Fall Leaf Collection Ends**

Date TBD: Presentation of the Budget to the Public

12/24: Christmas Eve (Township Office Closed)

12/25: Christmas Day (Township Office Closed)

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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

**all events subject to weather or other changes.*

Visit our website for an updated schedule

*** Dates TBD and subject to change*



June 26th marked the 61st anniversary of the Marshalls Creek Explosion of 1964.

GREETINGS FROM YOUR TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

Happy Summer from Middle Smithfield Township!

From parks to paving, permits to pools, picnics to paintings—summer is in full swing here in Middle Smithfield!

Park pavilion rentals are booking fast, pool passes are in hand, and building and zoning permits are rolling in as residents take advantage of the season. The **Community & Cultural Center** is alive with exhibits and events, and township staff are working hard—some might say it's fun enough to feel like a vacation!

Just in time for July, the “**Summertime**” art exhibit by local artist **Tricia Lippert** is now on display at the C&CC. If you missed the spring “**Spring Break**” resort-themed exhibit curated by **Holly Dennis**, don't worry—it's now on view in the Township Building lobby.

A few summer highlights:

- **Christmas in July-** \$ave big! See page 8 for details!
- **July 10** – Join us in person or on Zoom for the **Mid-Year Report** at the Board of Supervisors meeting. We'll review progress on the goals set in our **Preview of 2025** presentation, with a fresh new format this year.
- **June 26** marked the **61st anniversary of the Marshalls Creek Explosion**. The Township has expanded the memorial near the historic marker (see pg. xx). The commemorative display, at the Community and Cultural Center in June, travels to the Township Building lobby this August. If you or a loved one remembers that day, we invite your input—contact **Holly** at ext. 132.
- **Saturday, August 2** – Don't miss **Community Day** at Echo Lake Park! It's family- and pet-friendly. Nonprofits interested in participating can contact Chris at ext. 115.
- **Saturday, August 9** – Join us for **Memory Makers**, where longtime residents gather to reminisce. Want to attend or sponsor? Call **Holly** at ext. 132.

We look forward to seeing you this summer—whether at a park, a program, or just around town!

Wishing you all a wonderful Summer!

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,
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Planning Commission Recording Secretary
mclewell@mstownship.com | x112

Joan Woisin | Sewer Department Manager
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On Lot Sewage Enforcement Officer | x128

Bonnie Christman | Budget & Finance Manager
bchristman@mstownship.com | x131

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Rachel Heller | Public Works Administrator,
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Shawn McGlynn | Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer
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Mayra Colon | Zoning Administrator: Inspections
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Vicki Smith | Zoning Administrator
vsmith@mstownship.com | x105
Charlotte Gibberson | 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

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

REPRESENTATIVE ROUND-UP

A few words from your elected officials

CONGRESSMAN ROB BRESNAHAN

8th Congressional District



I'm Congressman Rob Bresnahan, Jr., and I am proud to serve as the voice of Pennsylvania's Eighth Congressional District in Washington, D.C. It's a privilege to represent our community and work tirelessly on behalf of the people who call this district home.

In my first five months in office, I have introduced important legislation aimed at cutting through red tape and making life easier for our community. One key example is the **Simplifying Forms for Veterans Claims Act**, which successfully passed out of the House in May. This bill will simplify the process for veterans and their survivors to access the benefits they've earned through their service.

I also voted for the reconciliation package, which will provide tax relief for working class families across NEPA and the country. This legislation also doubles the Child Tax Credit, protects Medicaid, offers new tax relief for seniors, and includes provisions for no taxes on tips or overtime.

Our team has also been hard at work directly assisting the people of Pennsylvania's 8th District, successfully resolving over 650 cases and returning nearly \$1.2 million back to the pockets of our deserving constituents. Whether it's helping with Social Security, Medicare, or navigating complex issues with the IRS and passport services, our office is committed to delivering real results.

Our office has also introduced the **BresnaVan**, a groundbreaking mobile office initiative designed to expand constituent services across Northeastern Pennsylvania. We are committed to ensuring every community has access to the federal support it needs and are proud to have the first mobile constituent office in the Commonwealth.

Continued on page 17.

SENATOR ROSEMARY BROWN

Senate District 40



Thank you for staying engaged and informed about the work we're doing in Harrisburg and throughout the 40th District. Each week, I share updates on the legislation and initiatives that matter to our communities. Your involvement and feedback are a vital part of the process.

Recently in Harrisburg, I stood with survivors, advocates, fellow legislators, and members of the Smart Heart Sports Coalition to renew our commitment to protecting Pennsylvania students from the devastating effects of sudden cardiac arrest.

As a longtime champion of cardiac preparedness in schools, I've reintroduced Senate Bill 375, also known as **Greg Moyer's Law**, to ensure that schools across the Commonwealth are equipped with a comprehensive Cardiac Emergency Response Plan for all athletic activities. I am proud to report that the bill has officially been passed by the Senate Education Committee with overwhelming support. This vote brings us one step closer to meaningful change.

This effort is rooted in stories that hit close to home. In 2000, 15-year-old Greg Moyer collapsed after a basketball game and died from sudden cardiac arrest. There was no AED on site. More recently, Pennsylvania mourned the tragic passing of a 10-year-old Dauphin County baseball star, and of Coach Tommy Selemba of West Scranton. Both of these incidents are heartbreaking reminders that cardiac arrest can strike without warning, regardless of age, health, or circumstance.

When children are at school, they are in our care. That includes doing everything we can to prepare for the emergencies we can't predict.

Continued on page 23.

REPRESENTATIVE MAUREEN E.

MADDEN

115th Legislative District



As the Majority Chairwoman of the Aging and Older Adults Committee, I remain focused on securing funding to our aging communities and

and working with the Department of Aging Secretary Jason Kavulich and the Shapiro Administration to care for our rapidly aging population.

Throughout May, I deepened my advocacy for older Pennsylvanians by introducing and advancing several meaningful legislative initiatives:

- **House Resolution 209** - Introduced with Rep. Mentzer. The resolution was adopted to recognize the month of May 2025 as **Older Americans Month** in Pennsylvania. This year's theme being "Flip the Script on Aging" and is focused on changing how aging is perceived, talked about, and approached in our society.
- **House Bill 1310** - Introduced along with Rep. Bizzaro. This bill establishes a predictable, formula-based reimbursement system and addresses the financial challenges for many of the state's aging services. It would allow facilities to better plan their budgets, help address staffing concerns and **improve care for seniors in nursing homes**. It would also help preserve personal care homes and assisted living communities.
- **House Bill 1528** - Also known as the **Grandfamily Assistance** bill, it was introduced alongside Reps. Mentzer, Cerrato, and M. Brown. HB 1528 supports grandparents raising grandchildren on fixed incomes.

Continued on page 23.

REPRESENTATIVE TARAH PROBST

189th Legislative District

In the spring, I was proud to work with my colleagues and leadership team to secure several state grants to help Middle Smithfield Township with important improvement projects.



By acquiring this funding from the state, the township can complete these projects that otherwise might not be possible or that could have required a local tax increase.

A **\$75,000 grant** will be used to improve accessibility to the Community and Cultural Center. **Another \$239,238 grant** will go toward developing a new park and public works garage at the site of the current Roads Department garage.

The Pocono Mountains Industrial Park Authority also received \$50,000 on behalf of Greenwood Creek Personal Care Home for a center-left turning lane project on State Route 209/Milford Road in the township.

My office can help your organization apply for state grants. If you need assistance with an application or with a state program, such as Property Tax/Rent Rebate, please contact us at 570-420-2850 or stop by at 18 S. 9th St., Suite 105 in Stroudsburg.

Finally -- did you know that every homeowner is eligible for a property tax cut from the proceeds at Pennsylvania's casinos? Homeowners should contact the Monroe County assessment office for a copy of their county's homestead and farmstead application form.

MONROE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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



Known as Flag Day, June 14th, 2025 also marks the 250th Birthday of the United States Army. On June 14, 1775, the Second Continental Congress voted to establish the Continental Army in preparation for war with Great Britain. One day later George Washington would be appointed as the Army's first Commander-in-Chief.

By this time local townships had already raised militias, company officers and manpower strength were as follows: **Lower Smithfield** – Captain Jacob Stroud and 127 men; Hamilton Township – Captain Abraham Miller and 50 men; Chestnuthill Township – Captain Abraham Smith and 82 men; **Upper Smithfield** – Captain John Van Sickel and 53 men; Delaware Township – Captain John Van Etten and 47 men. For its part in the in the new Continental Army, Pennsylvania was asked to raise 8 companies of soldiers for service in the Boston area. One of these companies came from Northampton County with Captain Abraham Miller in command.

Each Township was to provide at least two volunteers. Smithfield resident Luke Brodhead, son of pioneer settler Daniel Brodhead, was among the volunteers. He saw action in Massachusetts and was reported to be a "brave and intrepid soldier." (from excerpts of "History of Monroe County Pennsylvania – A Bicentennial Project" Dee Christine, Project Director 1976).

As we prepare to celebrate the Semi-quintcentennial of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4th 2026, we want to recognize Monroe County's contributions to the fight for independence. At the time of the Revolution, Monroe County did not exist and the lands that make it up were part of Northampton County.

For more information on Monroe County's **America250PA** Commission, visit www.mc250pa.org, follow us on Facebook at 'America 250 PA – Monroe' or contact - David Parker, Commission Chair at dparker@monroecountypa.gov or 570-656-9232.



CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

Congressman Rob Bresnahan
2398 Rt 611, Suite 101
Scotrun, PA 18355
570-534-6220

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



BUDGET & FINANCE

Manager: Bonnie Christman | AP/AR: Kylie Medrano
Treasurer: Mike Dwyer

PROJECT STATUS: GRANTED

Summer is here, which means it's time for report cards! For the township, Mid-Year is a time to pause and see where we are. In comparing our 2025 budget to actuals, some highlights include better than expected income from the Earned Income Tax and Transfer Tax (from the sale of homes), but also, some great news in the grants department. A quick summary of what you'll see in this issue:

- **Monroe County LSA: \$75,000 and \$239,238**

Middle Smithfield was awarded for two (2) applications submitted for the Monroe County LSA (Local Share Account);

- \$75,000 for its application of the installation of pedestrian facilities and sidewalks with ADA cutouts, ADA-friendly automatic door openers, and Mosier's Dairy Farm's historical and educational installation at the Community & Cultural Center (more on page 15), and
- \$239,238 for the Wooddale Recreation Area and Road Department Expansion project for the design and development of a new multi-use park, community space, and leaf compost recycling sub-center at the Township's 2nd garage location in Wooddale. (more on page 21.)

- **Pocono Mountain Visitor's Bureau (PMVB): \$4,000 and \$6,500**

Middle Smithfield Township was awarded for two (2) applications submitted to the Pocono Mountain Visitors Bureau;

- \$4,000 for its Main Street Beautification project that includes refacing the sewer pump stations and landscaping projects, (more on page 11) and
- \$6,500 for its Tidy Town litter pick up and landscaping projects. (more on page 25)

- **Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce (GLVCC): \$1,980**

- Middle Smithfield was awarded for its application to the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce Main Street Beautification Grant program; \$1,979.80 to expand the Marshalls Creek Explosion Memorial Site (landscaping around marker, additional banners, and markers for victims) and the Township will match the grant with \$1,979.80. (more on page 19)

- **One For Nature: \$5,000**

- Middle Smithfield was awarded \$5,000 for the One For Nature Grant for new BearSaver trash cans at four township parks (W. Leroy Lewis Dog Park, Judy Putek Park, Resica Park, and Community Gardens Park). (more on page 25)

ESASD SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

By Dr. Maggie Vitale, ESASD Superintendent

East Stroudsburg Area School District is excited to continue our FREE Summer Meal Pro-



gram this summer. Meals are offered to any child under the age of 18 for FREE and discounted rate for adults. It is our honor to continue to serve those within our community to ensure nutritional meals to our students and families! Kudos to our Director of Food Services, Melissa Collevecchio for making this happen again this school year!

- Grab and Go Meals are available at Middle Smithfield Elementary School Tuesdays and Thursday from June 11 - August 14th from 8:30 - 11:30 am.
- Warm Meals are available at High School South, JM Hill Elementary, Dansbury Park Pavilion, and Stroud Borough Park. Breakfast hours are 8:30 - 9:30 am. Lunch Hours are 11:30 am - 12:30 pm at these locations.

Menus are available at esasd.net/cafe.

MONROE COUNTY MUNICIPAL WASTE AUTHORITY PARTNERS WITH MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP FOR ROADSIDE CLEANUP

Middle Smithfield Township was proud to partner with the Monroe County Municipal Waste Management Authority in 2024 on an important initiative to clean up roadside litter throughout the township. Through this pilot program, cleanup efforts were coordinated across key roads using two impactful programs: Pocono 3C and ARD/Community Service. Thanks to this collaboration, a total of 269 bags of trash, along with tires, car parts, and other debris, were collected across 33 miles of Township roads, including full cleanups of Marshall's Creek Road and Coolbaugh Road. The best part? This work was completed at no cost to the Township, demonstrating the power of collaboration in keeping our community clean and safe.

"This pilot program was a strong first step, and we're excited to fine-tune and expand it in 2025," said Supervisor Annette Atkinson. "By the township partnering with Pocono 3c and ARD, we are getting more than just a cleanup crew—we are providing a second chance. Participants are given the opportunity to rebuild their lives while making a visible, positive impact on the community.."

Middle Smithfield Township looks forward to building on this success in the years to come.



The 2024 My Work Program participants receive their certificates of completion. From left to right: Scotty Sayarra – Student Advisor, Michael Dokachev, Nashod Palmer, Johnny Williams, Emer Salmon

"MY WORK" PROGRAM RETURNS TO MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP THIS SUMMER

Middle Smithfield Township is pleased to share that the MY Work program has once again been approved to operate in our community this summer. Although this year's program will include fewer student participants and a shortened season, we are excited to continue supporting this valuable initiative.

This summer, we anticipate welcoming four student participants who will each work 16 hours per week over a four-day period for a total of four weeks. These students will have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience and develop practical job skills while contributing to their local government. Students might work on buildings and grounds and park maintenance, administrative tasks, and roadside cleanup and beautification.

The "MY Work" program, developed by Pennsylvania's Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), provides paid work experiences for high school students with disabilities. Its goal is to prepare students for competitive employment after graduation by building confidence, workplace readiness, and real-world skills. The program is a collaborative effort involving OVR, local education agencies, and non-profit organizations—and is fully funded by OVR, including student wages.

We are proud to continue partnering with OVR and providing a supportive, inclusive environment where all students can grow and succeed. Middle Smithfield Township looks forward to another successful summer with our MY Work participants!

PURSUING JUSTICE: A JOURNEY TOWARD A CAREER IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Kendra Patterson joins us this summer from East Stroudsburg University to intern at Middle Smithfield Township. Ms. Patterson is currently pursuing a degree in Criminal Justice, a field that combines passion, purpose, and a deep commitment to public service.



Ms. Patterson has presented at the Research Symposium on the importance of women in political and leadership roles throughout the world.

With multiple choices of the many different fields within the field of justice, Ms. Patterson is experiencing firsthand on a local level some of the legal issues the zoning department deals with on a daily basis. Although, not criminal justice, it is still justice.

MEET SHARLOTTE GIBERSON



We're excited to introduce Charlotte Giberson, Director of First Impressions, as the newest member of our community services team!

Originally from the Jersey Shore, Charlotte made the Pocono Mountains her home nearly 20 years ago.

With a unique blend of technical expertise and compassionate service, she brings a well-rounded perspective to her work. Though her background is rooted in technology, her true calling has been in social work—especially supporting seniors, which she describes as the most rewarding part of her career to date. Charlotte also has local experience from her position with the Eastern Monroe Public Library.

Outside the office, Charlotte is an avid outdoor enthusiast. Whether hiking through local trails, kayaking on the Delaware River, or exploring the natural beauty of Northeast Pennsylvania, she's always eager to connect with the community and the environment alike.

Charlotte looks forward to meeting everyone and is passionate about making a positive impact in the lives of our residents. Please join us in giving her a warm welcome!

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Ed Regina | **Vice Chair:** Deborah Emin | **Secretary:** Charlie Stecker

Members: Beverly Brown, Gina Bertucci, Joe Memoli, Ashley Takacs | **Manager:** James Brechbiel

CHRISTMAS IN JULY IN MIDDLE SMITHFIELD!

By James Brechbiel

Get ready for summer savings during our Christmas in July Campaign, running July 1–31, 2025!

Local favorites like Faded Lace, The Kit and Cavoodle Pet

Center, Pocono Indian Museum, Pocono Kidz Zone, Ace Hardware, A Yak or Two Water Adventures, and more are offering festive deals you won't want to miss. From BOGO fashion finds to discounted hotel stays, there's something for everyone. Here's a list of just some of these great offers!

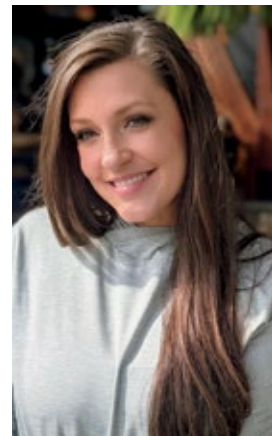


WELCOME ASHLEY TAKACS TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

By James Brechbiel

Ashley Takacs is the newest member of our Economic Development Committee. With a background in nonprofit work, budget management, networking, and community partnerships, Ashley brings valuable experience and a strong commitment to the committee. Her desire to contribute more meaningfully to the community led her to join the EDC.

Previously, Ashley supported invention education programming initiatives at the National Inventors Hall of Fame, and she now works with AdoptAClassroom.org, helping raise funds to offset the costs of classroom supplies for educators nationwide.



Welcome aboard, Ashley!



Shop Local ~ Christmas in July!

- **Ace Hardware**- 25% Off Any Regularly Priced Item * (Good for 1 Time Use Only). Must have coupon.
- **A Yak or Two** (Canoe, Rafting, & Kayak)- Buy Any Canoe Trip Seat, Get One Seat 50% Off.
- **Faded Lace**- Buy one, Stash One! Buy Any Item & Get Second Item for Half Off! (Discount Applied to Item of Equal or Lesser Value).
- **Juby's Smoothies**- 10% Off Any Menu Item.
- **JuJu's Vault (Soaps, Candles, and More)**- Spend \$50+ and Get one 3oz Wax Melt FREE.
- **The Kit and Cavoodle Pet Center**- 15%-50% Off Select Items Starting July 2nd Until Supplies Last.
- **The LOCALS' Bookshop**- Bring the Newsletter Ad to the Monroe Farmer's Market on 7/12/25 for 10% Off.
- **Los Tres Amigos**- Olivia's Enchiladas Dish ~ \$20 w/ This Newsletter Coupon ~ 3 pc. Chicken Enchiladas with Toppings, Yellow Rice, and Refried Beans.
- **Mignosi's Super FoodTown**- Stay Tuned for Shop Local Offer.
- **The Morning Brew Coffee Shop**- 15% Off Entire Order
- **Perkins**- 20% Off Your Order
- **Pocono Indian Museum**- 15% Off All Non-Sale Items
- **Pocono Kidz Zone**- \$15 Open Play Sessions for the Whole Month with This Newsletter Coupon
- **Platoon Army Surplus & Survival**- 15% Off Total Purchase from Store or Catalogue
- **Regina Farms**- 25% Off All Trees and Shrubs with This Newsletter Coupon (1 / Customer)
- **Storm Fitness**- Buy 2 Sessions – Get 1 FREE for First Timers with Storm Fitness
- **TL Nails and Spa**- Buy \$50 Gift Card, Get \$5 Extra ~ Buy \$100 Gift Card, Get \$10 Extra with This Newsletter Coupon
- **Tom X Pub**- 10% Discount Off All Food Items * (Excludes Alcohol)
- **The Value Inn**- 10% Off Any Room, Any Night
- **Violette "STAND FOR THE CHILDREN" Home Thrift Shop**- 50% Discount on Purchases* (Cannot be Combined w/ Other Coupons, or Ongoing Sales)
- **Wicked Fireworks**- Buy One, Get One FREE on All Fireworks
- **Yummy Kebab**- 20% Off Purchase with This Newsletter Coupon



JUJU'S VAULT OPENS A TREASURE CHEST OF NATURAL SKINCARE PRODUCTS TO THE COMMUNITY

By James Brechbiel

We're thrilled to announce that JuJu's Vault is officially open at the Dutchman Shopping Center - your new go-to spot for handmade, toxin-free soaps, body butters, lotions, candles, and more.



Stop by and meet Juana Bourdeau (JuJu) and family, the passionate owners and makers, to hear their inspiring story behind the brand. What started as a mission to find gentle, safe skincare for their son has now grown into a beloved family business and brand new storefront right in Middle Smithfield Township.

"Our journey began when our son struggled with dry skin, and we realized so many children's products were full of toxins," said JuJu. "That inspired us to start making our own safe, gentle, and nourishing products right from home."

And the journey has paid off. After fine-tuning their craft, JuJu and her family started selling the products on their online platform, www.jujusvault.com, and demand grew for their variety of toxin-free, homemade products that are great for gifts and everyday use.

"Thanks to the love and support of our incredible customers, we've opened our very first storefront right here in East Stroudsburg," said JuJu. "We can't wait to welcome you into our vault of goodness!"

**5126 Milford Rd., Suite 500
Dutchman Shopping Center
(across from Tractor Supply)
East Stroudsburg, PA 18302**

**Call: (570) 580 - 4484
support@jujusvault.com
www.JuJusVault.com
www.facebook.com/jujusvault**

**Store Hours:
Tuesday through Saturday: 11 am - 5 pm.**

Not able to visit in person? JuJu's also has an online store for patrons to shop at their leisure. Shoppers can go to www.jujusvault.com and start discovering great products.

WHAT'S ALL THE BUZZ..?

THERE'S A NEW HIVE ON ITS WAY FOR BUSY BEES IN MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP

By James Brechbiel

This summer, Busy Bee Pre-School and Daycare will open its doors at Retro Plaza in Middle Smithfield Township, bringing flexible hours and quality early childhood services for families on the go.

Seeing the growing demand in the area, owner Juan Lugo, a seasoned professional with nearly a decade of experience in the field, chose Middle Smithfield as the perfect place to provide top-notch care and education for little ones.

"I come from a family of daycare business owners and have been in the field directly for more than seven years," said Lugo. "It's in my blood, and I'm committed to providing the best service possible to parents and caretakers who want nothing but the best for their kids, no matter what their financial means."

To make care accessible, Busy Bee works with the Early Learning Resource Center (ELRC) to assist qualifying families and the daycare's expected hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 6:00 am to 6:00 pm, perfect for working families with early starts or late shifts.

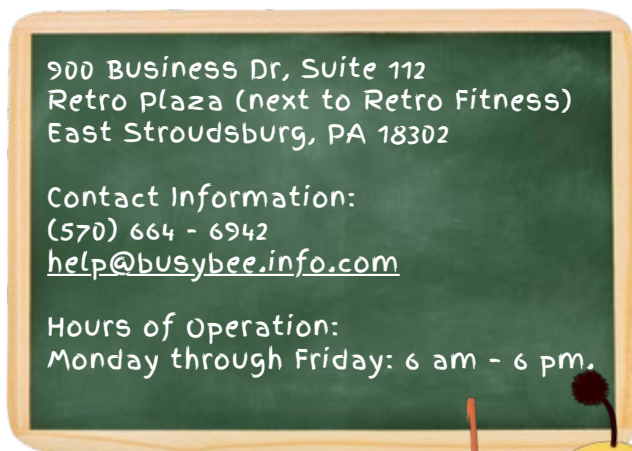
"There's a real need in this community as most daycares are full to capacity," said Lugo. "We're excited to help busy parents by offering reliable, enriching childcare for their busy bees."

Spots are limited and filling fast, so don't wait!

900 Business Dr, Suite 112
Retro Plaza (next to Retro Fitness)
East Stroudsburg, PA 18302

Contact Information:
(570) 664 - 6942
help@busybee.info.com

Hours of Operation:
Monday through Friday: 6 am - 6 pm.



REVITALIZE 209

Chairperson: Deborah Emin | **Vice Chair:** Nick Theofilos

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

Liaison: James Brechbiel



Gary Chameasian, Owner of Mobil Gas and Gary's Car Wash, pictured with his reimbursement check from the Revitalize 209 Grant Program.



Pam Foster, Manager at Ace Hardware, receives the Revitalize 209 Grant Project reimbursement on behalf of the store.

ANOTHER GREAT BUSINESS BENEFITS FROM THE REVITALIZE 209 GRANT PROJECT!

By James Brechbiel

Congratulations to The Pocono Café, the latest recipient of a \$9,500 reimbursement award for its completed paving project, just one of the many exciting improvements happening through the Revitalize 209 Grant Program.



Teresa Nunez, proud owner of Pocono Café, is awarded her Revitalize 209 Grant Project reimbursement.

With over \$135,000 in revitalization projects already in motion and half of those projects approved for reimbursement, the program is creating visible changes across the Route 209 corridor. From paving and landscaping to storefront improvements, each project brings new life to our local business community, helping attract visitors, improve curb appeal, and support economic growth.

More great projects are in the pipeline! Will your project be next?

Contact us today at jbrechbiel@mstownship.com to learn more!

Check out the current project statuses:

Revitalize 209 Grant Program Summary			
Business/Location	Total Cost of Project	Preliminary Approved Grant Funds	Grant Funds Distributed for Completed Projects
COMPLETE Ace Hardware	\$19,800	\$9,900	\$9,900
The Big A Restaurant	\$12,300	\$6,150	-
Brick Church at 5146 Milford Rd.	\$18,250	\$9,125	-
COMPLETE The Dutchman Plaza	\$8,479	\$4,239.50	\$4,239.50
Echo Lake	\$2,500	\$1,250	-
COMPLETE Liberty Plaza	\$10,610	\$5,305	\$5,305
Marathon Studios (landscaping)	\$12,600	\$6,300	-
COMPLETE Gary's Mobil Gas & Car Wash	\$10,550	\$9,775	\$9,775
COMPLETE Pocono Café	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$9,500
The Value Inn	\$11,090	\$5,545	-
Totals	\$135,179	\$67,590	\$38,720

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR 2025!

If you're considering property improvements that are visible from Route 209, or you are a resident with suggestions on how to improve our business corridor, the Revitalize 209 Committee wants to hear from you! Here are some project ideas:

- Repair/replacement of doors, windows, and building facades
- Installation of public benches
- Parking and access improvements
- Power washing and cleaning exterior surfaces
- General painting
- Landscaping enhancements
- Lighting improvements to meet “dark sky” compliance
- Demolition of blighted or unsafe structures
- Any other projects approved by the Board of Supervisors

How to Apply: Submit your Letter of Interest to the committee to see if you qualify for the Revitalize 209 Grant. Contact James Brechbiel at 570-223-8920 x 130 or email jbrechbiel@mstownship.com for more details.

For further information about the Revitalize 209 Grant, visit our website: 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!



MIDDLE SMITHFIELD RECEIVES PMVB COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANT FOR BEAUTIFICATION INITIATIVE

By James Brechbiel

Middle Smithfield Township is proud to announce it has been awarded a \$4,000 Community Impact Grant from the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau (PMVB) to support its “Main Street Beautification and Revitalization” Project.

This initiative targets the six-mile stretch of Route 209/Milford Road, the busiest gateway to the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DWGRA), with plans to enhance its visual appeal and community spirit.

Through PennDOT’s “Adopt and Beautify” program, the Township will begin by adopting portions of PennDOT roadside. Improvements projected for the Route 209/Milford Rd. corridor will include landscaping with sustainable, native plantings and upgrades to several Township-owned sites, such as Echo Lake Park, the Community and Cultural Center frontage, Coolbaugh Lake, and refacing and screening several sewer pump stations.

With over 18,000 vehicles traveling the Route 209 corridor daily during its non-tourist season, the impact will significantly benefit residents, businesses, and visitors alike

“The Township has steadily worked toward creating a vibrant thoroughfare for our businesses and residents with its own initiatives, such as the Township’s own Revitalize 209 Grant, and we are grateful to see these funds from the PMVB to help bolster beautification efforts already being made,” said Ed Regina, Chair of the Economic Development Committee.

Deborah Emin, Chair of the Revitalize 209 Committee, echoed the enthusiasm.

“These efforts enhance the great work the Revitalize 209 Committee has been spearheading in providing an opportunity to properties for façade, landscaping, and safety improvements,” said Emin. “The PMVB Grant gives the Township a greater opportunity to work alongside property owners in creating a vibrant and thriving thoroughfare.”

The Township is grateful to the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau and is partnering with Penn State Extension, the “My Work” program through the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, and other local organizations to ensure the project’s success through a collaborative approach.

MIDDLE SMITHFIELD IS LOOKING BETTER EVERY DAY!

Nearly \$150,000 in Beautification Projects This Year Alone!

Revitalizing Our Main Street:

Grants Awarded to Support Beautification Efforts:

- **Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber:** Enhancing the Marshalls Creek Explosion Memorial with new landscaping, banners, and tribute markers. (In Progress)
- **PMVB Streetscaping:** Refacing sewer pump stations and upgrading key roadside areas through the PennDOT Adopt & Beautify program. (Coming Soon)
- **PMVB Tidy Town:** Supporting township-wide litter pickups and refreshed landscaping to keep our streets clean and inviting. (In Progress)

Revitalize 209 Grant Projects:

- **Ace Hardware:** A fresh coat of paint has brightened this local staple. (Completed)
- **The Big A:** Exterior painting and staining are underway. (In Progress)
- **Church at 5146 Milford Rd.:** New windows will be installed to enhance the appearance and preserve charm. (Planned Fall 2025)
- **The Dutchman:** Trees, shrubs, and plantings have been added. (Completed)
- **Echo Lake Plaza:** Repairs and exterior upgrades will soon enhance the building’s appearance. (Coming Soon)
- **Marathon Studios:** New landscaping is planned to refresh the property’s frontage. (Coming Soon)
- **Mobil & Gary’s Car Wash:** New siding has given the property a clean, updated look. (Completed)
- **Pocono Café:** The new pavement provides a smoother, safer, and more attractive experience. (Completed)

More Improvements Are on the Way!



PLANNING COMMISSION

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

Members: Mark Oney, Nick Theofilos, Carrie Wetherbee, Bill Patterson

Engineer: Benjamin Kutz, Gilmore & Associates

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

WHAT IS SALDO?

By Michele Clewell

From time to time, you may hear or read about SALDO, but what is it? In Pennsylvania, the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) is a crucial land use regulation that guides the division and development of land. These ordinances, governed by the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC), provide local municipalities with the tools to ensure orderly and coordinated development, protect public health and safety, and manage resources effectively.

The Purpose of SALDO's is to implement comprehensive plans, regulate the process of subdividing land, and establish standards for public improvements like streets, utilities, and stormwater management.

The SALDO may include plan submission and processing requirements, layout standards, including lot sizes and setback lines. Design specifications for streets and other public improvements. Provisions for phased developments and administrative procedures for waivers and modifications.

The Importance of SALDOs is to help ensure that development is carried out in a way that is consistent with the community's long-term goals and that public and private interests are balanced.

Middle Smithfield Township SALDO was first adopted in 1972 and has since been amended by the Board of Supervisors over the years.

A proposed revision to Middle Smithfield Township's current Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) aims to modernize and streamline the development review process while reinforcing the Township's commitment to public safety and professional accountability. Under the proposed changes, applicants would be permitted to submit fewer paper copies of plans for review and provide an electronic version as well - an environmentally friendly and more efficient alternative.

The revision also includes important updates to provisions regarding reimbursement fees for professional consultant reviews. Notably, it introduces a formal definition of the Fire Chief and Township Staff within the ordinance. This addition ensures that Fire Chiefs can be actively included in the plan review process and appropriately compensated for their professional input. By formally recognizing their role, the Township underscores the importance of prioritizing safety in all development projects.

These updates reflect Middle Smithfield Township's efforts to balance innovation, efficiency, and safety in planning for the community's future.

Planning Commission Checkbox:

- **CCP Phase 3 Section 5** – plans were accepted for review (Country Club of the Poconos)
- **Mt. Nebo Apartments Phase 2-** tabled for now, while the developer addresses engineer's comments
- **Personal Care Home-** tabled
- **Marshall's Square-** tabled
- **SALDO-** Recommendation to the BOS to approve with changes (6 printed copied of plans.)
- **Zoning Ordinance-** A brand new version of the Zoning Ordinance is on the way! The Planning Commission is reviewing it

WELCOME BILL PATTERSON TO THE ZONING HEARING BOARD

By Vicki Smith

At the May 23rd Board of Supervisors meeting, Middle Smithfield Township officially appointed Bill Patterson to the Zoning Hearing Board by resolution. His term will extend through December 31, 2029.

Mr. Patterson brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to community service. A long-time resident of Middle Smithfield Township, he previously served for seven years on a Land Use Board in New Jersey. He has also contributed to public education through his involvement with a local school board improvement team.

With a professional background in business, management, and sales, Mr. Patterson adds valuable perspective and insight to the already well-rounded Zoning Hearing Board. His diverse experience and dedication to thoughtful decision-making make him a strong addition to the team.

Please join us in welcoming Bill Patterson as he begins his service in support of responsible land use and balanced development in our community. (As a matter of fact, he started right away, with the Zoning Hearing Board hearing on May 27th!)

CITIZENS PORTAL IS NOW LIVE!

By Vicki Smith

Welcome Middle Smithfield Township's Citizen Portal.

The portal allows residents to submit concerns, ask questions, and get real-time information for all your needs.

All requests will be sent to a Township staff member to be processed.

Requests will be handled during Township business hours.

Visit: <https://tinyurl.com/mr3zf98y> or scan the QR Code





ZONING

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

Municipal Community Development 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, William Patterson

FIREWORKS: FUN OR FOE?

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



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

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

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

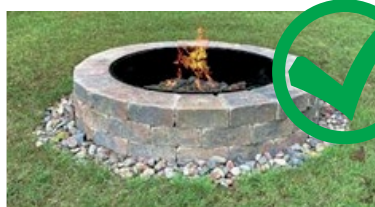
Consumer fireworks cannot be:

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

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

TO BURN, OR NOT TO BURN?

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



SUMMER PROPERTY MAINTENENCE

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.

You can find the General Code by visiting here: <https://www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com/182/General-Code>.

COMMUNITY & CULTURAL CENTER

5200 Milford Rd., East Stroudsburg, PA 18302

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

TROOP 87'S JAMES EBBE LEADS DUAL EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS TO SERVE COMMUNITY & HONOR TRADITION

Middle Smithfield Township is proud to recognize James Ebbe of Boy Scout Troop 87 for his outstanding leadership and community service through two meaningful Eagle Scout projects.



James Ebbe with the the flag retirement boxes he designed and built.

James's first project reflects his commitment to civic pride and patriotism: the installation of two Flag Retirement Collection Boxes.

These secure, weather-resistant boxes will offer residents a respectful and convenient way to retire worn or damaged American flags in accordance with the U.S. Flag Code, which calls for unserviceable flags to be retired in a dignified manner, traditionally by burning. James' project not only encourages proper flag etiquette but also strengthens community awareness around patriotic traditions. Once collected, the flags will be ceremoniously retired by local Scout troops in accordance with official flag retirement protocols.

One box will be located outside the Middle Smithfield Township Municipal Building, and the other at the Community & Cultural Center. The flags collected will be properly and ceremoniously retired by local Scouts.

His second project celebrates community service and tradition. James is creating two perpetual plaques honoring Middle Smithfield's Person of the Year recipients. The plaque with the most recent recipients will be displayed at the Middle Smithfield Township Community & Cultural Center, while plaques recognizing past honorees will be installed at the Municipal Building—preserving and showcasing the legacy of civic involvement in Middle Smithfield.

Both projects embody the core values of Scouting—respect, service, and leadership—and will leave a lasting, visible impact on our township. We extend our heartfelt thanks to James for his initiative, hard work, and dedication to the community, and look forward to his upcoming Eagle Scout Court of Honor Ceremony.

"SUMMERTIME" ART EXHIBIT

Stop by the Community and Cultural Center for the month of July for a little bit of "Summertime." This art exhibit is curate by Tricia Lippert, who also coordinates the annual Women's History Month exhibit. This show features art from a group of local artists of Northeast Pennsylvania and Northwest New Jersey.

Opening Reception: Friday, July 11, 6 to 8 pm

SUMMER READING AT THE LIBRARY OF THE SMITHFIELDS

By Jessica Brown, Branch Manager Library of the Smithfields

I See Magic Ages 3-10. Magician Doug Wonder will spark your imagination & curiosity. Walk-in. Smithfields Library: Tues, Jun 17, 10:00 am.

Eyes of the Wild | Tues. July 8th at 10 am. Ages 3-10. Meet a variety of live animals.

Family Crafts | Tues. July 8th at 10 am. Ages 2-10. Siblings welcome. Dress for mess. Create a variety of crafts at your own pace.

Sunshine & Good Times Music Show! | Tues. July 22nd at 10 am. All ages. Join Ron Albanese for a mix of feel-good music and comedy. Sing, dance, and laugh.

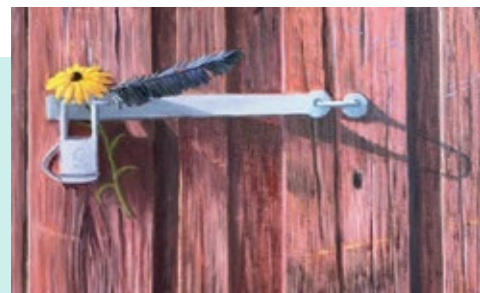
Super Science: Wonders of Color | Tues. Aug. 5th at 10 am. Ages 3-10. Fun, interactive science experiments. Explore the science behind color, meet Roy G. Biv, explore light, and make color potions.

Craft Supply Swap | Sat. Aug. 30th from 1:45pm -4:30pm

The Library of the Smithfields will be holding a craft supply "swap" on Saturday August 30th. Attendees will be limited to one reasonable sized bag during the swap.

Item donations of new or gently used Arts and Craft Supplies will occur from July 30th to August 23rd. Donors get a ticket for "Early Admission" 45 minutes prior to the doors opening to the public. Donations will not be accepted the day of the swap or outside of the donation window.

Details are open to change. Please check with The Library of the Smithfields and Eastern Monroe Library Facebook pages along with the Eastern Monroe Public library website, Monroepl.org. Questions, please call the Library of the Smithfields during opening hours at 570-223-1881.



Painting titled "Lock and Feather." By Tricia Lippert. This painting and more will be on display at the exhibit.

\$75,000 COUNTY LSA GRANT AWARDED FOR COMMUNITY & CULTURAL CENTER UPGRADES

Middle Smithfield Township is excited to announce the award of a \$75,000 Monroe County Local Share Account (LSA) grant to support key accessibility and cultural enhancements at the Community & Cultural Center on Milford Road.

The grant will fund a new pedestrian pathway with ADA-compliant curb ramps connecting the Center to Echo Lake Park, and automatic door openers throughout the building. These upgrades will make the Center more accessible for seniors, individuals with mobility challenges, and families with strollers.

"This project is about creating a community space where everyone belongs," said Annette Atkinson, Administrative Director and Township Board of Supervisors Chair. "We're proud to enhance accessibility, honor our history, and respond directly to the priorities our residents expressed in the Comprehensive Plan."

A unique element of the project includes the integration of historic artifacts from Mosier's Dairy Farm, a local landmark. These pieces—such as hand-hewn beams and slate roofing—will be incorporated into the Center and Library as part of an educational exhibit highlighting Monroe County's agricultural heritage.

"This grant helps us go beyond just providing access—it allows us to enrich the entire experience," said Holly Dennis, Programming & Exhibits Coordinator. "It supports our mission to serve as 'a space for good people to do good work, for the common good.'"

The C&CC also serves as a Red Cross shelter, polling place, and hub for senior programs and community events. The project directly supports local and countywide goals to improve walkability, cultural access, and public gathering spaces.

The Township committed \$50,000 in matching funds and in-kind support to complete the project. Additional grant applications, such as the LSA Statewide Grant are pending, with construction anticipated to begin in 2025.

We thank the elected officials for sharing and supporting our vision: Congressman Bresnahan, Senator Rosemary Brown, State Representatives Tarah Probst and Maureen Madden, the Monroe County Commissioners and the Commonwealth Financing Authority for supporting this vision for a more accessible and connected community.

EAGLE SCOUT COURT OF HONOR FOR MATTHEW RIVERA

On June 8th, Middle Smithfield Township proudly recognized Matthew Rivera of Troop 83 during his Eagle Scout Court of Honor Ceremony. Together with the Parks and Recreation Committee, the Township extends heartfelt congratulations to Matthew on achieving Scouting's highest and most prestigious rank.



Matthew Rivera with Francis Oquendo, Scoutmaster at the Eagle Scout Court of Honor Ceremony at Great Bear.

For his Eagle Scout Project, Matthew enhanced the fitness trail at Echo Lake Park by installing a new Double Push-up Bar exercise station—joining the five others previously completed by fellow Eagle Scouts. He went above and beyond by refreshing the mulch at every station and repairing a broken plank on an older unit, ensuring safety and improving the experience for all park users – in other words, he “left things better than found”, a core value in Scouting, emphasizing the importance of improving the environment and situations around them.

The fitness trail at Echo Lake Park is evolving into more than just a walking path—it's becoming a living tribute to the values of Scouting. Scoutmaster Francis Oquendo envisioned twelve fitness stations, each symbolizing one of the twelve attributes of the Scout Law: trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

Thanks to Matthew's dedication, we are now halfway toward bringing that vision to life!

RAIN GARDEN NOW A CERTIFIED POLLINATOR GARDEN!

Just in time for National Pollinator Week, we're excited to share that the Penn State Master Gardener Demonstration Garden — better known as the rain garden at the Middle Smithfield Township Community & Cultural Center has been officially certified as a Penn State Extension Pollinator Garden!



Congratulations and thanks go to the dedicated Master Gardeners whose hard work and horticultural expertise made this achievement possible.

Want to certify your garden? It's easier than you think—and it makes a big difference for our pollinators. To qualify, your garden must offer nectar and pollen sources, include native plants, provide water and nesting areas, avoid invasive species, and steer clear of harmful pesticides.

You'll also need to submit an application with photos and a small processing fee to Penn State Extension.

Learn more about how to create and certify your own pollinator paradise:

www.extension.psu.edu/programs/master-gardener/outreach/pollinator-certification

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
www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com/243/Parks-Facilities



BUILD COMMUNITY AT COMMUNITY DAY ON AUGUST 2

By Chris Rain

The Middle Smithfield Township Parks & Recreation Committee will host the 5th Annual Community Day on Saturday August 2 from noon to 3pm, at Echo Lake Park in East Stroudsburg, PA. The rain date is Sunday August 3.

Looking for services or volunteer opportunities? At the Volunteer Fair, residents can learn about what our area's nonprofit organizations do for our community, how to use their services, and how to get involved. These organizations depend on volunteers to keep operating, and hope to get some great new people to sign up.

Children of all ages will enjoy "Touch a Truck", with local fire, medical, and police vehicles and the Township's biggest and coolest road equipment. There will also be a visit from the LVHN MedEvac helicopter if their schedule and weather permit.

Food will be available for sale from local vendors.

All of the participating organizations serve the community and many of them, including the emergency services at the Touch a Truck, are looking to sign up new volunteers.

"This is an opportunity for residents to visit with some of our area's best organizations and learn more about them," said Parks and Recreation Coordinator Christopher Rain. "These are the people who keep us safe and make our community a better place. We hope this event will connect them with the community and get more people involved."

Parking and admission are FREE. Parking at the park playground is handicapped only. General public parking is located at the Middle Smithfield Presbyterian Church across the street, and the Marshalls Square Mall next door, with safety personnel to help you get to the event.

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

4-H BEEKEEPING CLUB AT COMMUNITY GARDENS

By Chris Rain

If you have a child interested in beekeeping and gardening, check out the 4-H beekeeping club this summer and fall.

The 4-H entomology club will be at Middle Smithfield Township's Community Gardens from 9-10:30am on the days below to work with the 4-H youth on beekeeping and gardening. The entomology club is open to youth ages 8-18 as of 1/1/2025.

Cost is \$30 for the year per child. A parent must stay during the meeting.

Anyone interested can email: insectsareus4h@gmail.com for more information

Dates:

- July 6 & 19
- August 2 & 17
- September 13 & 27
- October 11 & 25



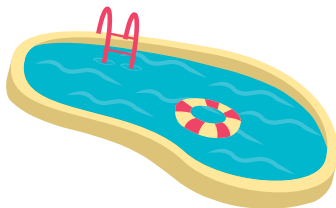


GET IN THE POOL, MST!

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

By Chris Rain

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



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

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



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

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

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

CONGRESSMAN ROB BRESNAHAN

Continued from page 4.

I'm deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Northeastern Pennsylvania. These first few months have shown how much we can accomplish when we work together. Whether through legislation, direct assistance, or innovative initiatives like the BresnaVan, our team is committed to making government more accessible and effective for every constituent.

I promise to keep listening, advocating, and fighting for the people of NEPA. Thank you for trusting me to represent you.

JOIN THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY CONSERVATION CAMP FOR YOUNG ADULTS

By Chris Rain

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of Conservation Camp! Since 1975, the Monroe County Conservation District, in cooperation with the Monroe County Federation of Sportsmen Clubs has been offering a week-long summer Conservation Camp. This experience, open to young adults ages 14 through this year's graduates, is designed to offer its students a first-hand experience with the local environment and some of the groups and individuals who help protect and manage it. Over 1000 students from Monroe County have attended the camp and some of them have gone on to pursue careers in a related environmental field.

Cost for the camp is only \$200.00 and scholarships are available to interested students.

The camp will be held July 19 to July 26 at East Stroudsburg University's Stony Acres recreational facility, located on Marshalls Creek Road in Middle Smithfield Township.

For more information or to complete an application, visit [/www.mcconservation.org/educational-services](http://www.mcconservation.org/educational-services) or call 570-629-3061.

DEMENTIA CARE & CAREGIVER FORUM COMING TO MONROE COUNTY!

By Barbara Van Nortwick

The newly formed Monroe County Dementia Coalition is excited to announce a special Dementia Care & Caregivers Forum on Thursday, October 9th, 2025, featuring Teepa Snow, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA. Charlie and Ginny Kirkwood, along with the Kirkwood family of Shawnee, are pleased to host this event at the Shawnee Inn & Golf Resort in Shawnee-on-Delaware, Pennsylvania.

This transformative one-day forum will provide invaluable insights into the challenges faced by individuals living with dementia and their caregivers. The morning session, "Improving Dementia Care in the Healthcare Setting" is designed for professionals and is from 8:30-11:45. While the afternoon session, "Navigating the Journey of Dementia" is designed for families and caregivers and is from 1:00-4:00; however, both sessions can be attended if you're a professional or caregiver.

Register and/or sponsor the Dementia Forum by going to the Community Foundation of Monroe County website, cfmcpa.org and click on "events". Look for Dementia Care & Caregiver Forum and click on Register. Questions can be emailed to director@cfmcpa.org.

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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

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

Liaison: Holly Dennis

19TH ANNUAL MEMORY MAKERS LUNCHEON

By Holly Dennis

The 19th annual Memory Makers luncheon is right around the corner!

Long-time residents (of 30 years or more) are invited to join us for this free luncheon on Saturday, August 9th at Noon at the Middle Smithfield Township Community and Cultural Center.

The theme this year will be **Celebrating America250!**

Resident and local historian Danny Younger will be this year's guest speaker, giving insight to the history of Middle Smithfield Township, and how it relates to America250. He will also be touching on the historical significance of Fort Hyndshaw, a fort built in 1856 during the French and Indian War.

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

MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP & THE FORT HYNDSHAW NATIONAL MONUMENT PROJECT

By Danny Younger

You've all seen the Fort Hyndshaw historical marker along Route 209; but now imagine being able to see a fully reconstructed military fort in our own neighborhood in time for the 2055 Tricentennial of the French and Indian War – that's the bold vision being advanced by our Township.

This distinct possibility might very well become a future reality owing to the provisions of the Federal Antiquities Act of 1906 (54 U.S.C. §§320301-320303) that authorizes the President to proclaim national monuments on federal lands that contain historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, or other objects of historic or scientific interest.

So that's the plan – to have established a National Monument in Middle Smithfield Township within the boundaries of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area featuring Fort Hyndshaw as a fully reconstructed French and Indian War fort. Significantly, as a federal activity, all project costs associated with this initiative will exclusively be borne by the U.S. Department of the Interior (and not by any State or local municipalities).

Continued on page 23.



RAISE YOUR GLASS & SUPPORT THE PAST



The Monroe County Historical Association's annual wine-pairing dinner and auction fundraiser will be held on:

Thursday, September 4, 6 to 9 pm
Three-course dinner and live auction
Skytop Lodge, One Skytop Lodge Rd
Skytop, PA 18357

For more information call 570-421-7703

MONROE COUNTY'S FOUNDERS' DAY CELEBRATED ON APRIL 1ST

The township was in attendance for Monroe County's Founders' Day, celebrated on April 1st, marking 189 years since its founding. The event, held at the Monroe County Courthouse in Stroudsburg, included historical presentations, courthouse tours, and the unveiling of a keystone monument for the America250PA celebrations.



Unveiling the keystone monument as part of the America250PA initiative. Left to right: Representatives Maureen Madden and Tarah Probst, County Commissioners John Christy, Sharon Laverdure and David Parker.

Monroe County, Pennsylvania, is actively participating in the America250PA initiative, a statewide celebration leading up to the nation's 250th anniversary in 2026. The county is focused on celebrating its rich history and diverse heritage while also looking towards the future. Monroe County's efforts include engaging various community groups in the celebration. A keystone monument, designed by local artist Jody Singer, was unveiled during Founders' Day celebrations. It features elements representing Monroe County, such as the Delaware Water Gap, wildlife, and the courthouse.

Monroe County is actively participating in **America250PA**, Pennsylvania's statewide effort to celebrate the United States' 250th anniversary in 2026. The initiative honors our shared history while engaging communities in looking toward the future. A highlight of Founder's Day was the unveiling of the County Keystone Monument designed by local artist Jody Singer, which incorporates iconic elements of Monroe County, including the Delaware Water Gap, local wildlife, and the courthouse, symbolizing the county's character and contribution to the Commonwealth. Middle Smithfield Township is excited to be part of these commemorative efforts and looks forward to continued participation in the lead-up to America250 in 2026.



AUGUST MARKS THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FLOOD OF '55

By Holly Dennis

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



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

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

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

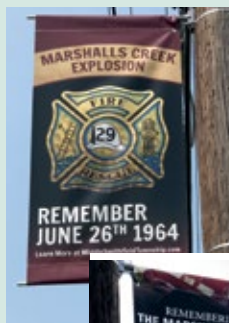
A photo exhibit of the flood will be in the lobby of the Middle Smithfield Township Community & Cultural Center during the month of August for anyone interested in learning more about this time in our local history. We also ask for the public's help in identifying several photos and locations. Numbered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

MIDDLE SMITHFIELD RECEIVES GRANT FOR THE MARSHALLS CREEK EXPLOSION MEMORIAL EXPANSION

By James Brechbiel

Middle Smithfield Township is proud to announce it has been awarded a Beautification Grant in the amount of \$1,979.80 from the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce (GLVCC) for its Marshalls Creek Explosion Memorial Expansion Project.

As you may remember, in 2023 the site received a State Historical Marker from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to honor the lives lost and recognize the impact of this tragic event. Since then, the Township has launched a multi-phase effort to develop and enhance the memorial site, both to commemorate the six victims and to acknowledge the explosion's lasting influence on national safety standards.



REMEMBERING THE MARSHALLS CREEK EXPLOSION

By Holly Dennis

Just before dawn on June 26, 1964 a truck travelling north on Milford Road, that was carrying the oxidizing ingredient in fertilizer caught fire.

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

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

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

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

After the explosion more than a dozen local fire chiefs petitioned state and local representatives to have precautions in place to protect volunteers. This led to the implementation of the DOT placarding and labeling system for transporting hazardous material.

The township hopes to build a memorial site for all of those impacted by this tragedy, and to help further educate the public about this historic township event.

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

Learn more at:

www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com/307/Marshalls-Creek-Explosion-of-1964

Planned enhancements include native plantings, shrubs, and perennials surrounding the historical marker, enhancing the aesthetic of the Township's main corridor. A red searchlight will be illuminated during the memorial week to honor the fallen firefighters, and individual markers will be installed to memorialize each of the six lives lost. The expansion also includes a new streetscape element: 16 commemorative banners to be displayed on eight utility poles along Route 209 (Milford Road). These banners will feature historic photos and tributes to the victims, with the first eight already installed and the remainder slated for installation in 2026.

Middle Smithfield is honored to be recognized by the GLVCC and remains committed to preserving its history while creating a meaningful place of remembrance and reflection for future generations.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Director: Mike Dwyer

Public Works Department Administrator: Rachel Heller

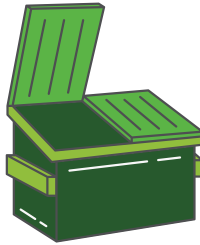
rheller@mstownship.com | 570-223-8920 x142

BULK TRASH DISPOSAL IS NOW AVAILABLE EVERY FRIDAY FROM APRIL 25 TO OCTOBER 17

*** EXCEPT FOR JULY 4**

By Emily Protsko

As some residents have already experienced, Middle Smithfield Township has constructed a self-serve cleanup ramp at the Municipal Drive location where residents can dispose of bulk trash more easily. A new ramp constructed by our Public Works Dept has replaced waiting for a loader and struggling with large items. Now, with the elevated ramp, dumpsters are located below the ramp and can be changed out as needed.



This year Clean Up is available on Fridays from April 25 through October 17 from 7am to 1pm. This event affords township residents the opportunity to bring larger bulk items for disposal at a low cost to them that they may have a hard time to get rid of otherwise.

The Friday cleanups are followed by our regular Fall cleanup on Friday and Saturday October 24th and 25th. Paper shredding and Free cycling will be available during the October event.

There is no Friday Clean Up on Friday July 4th.

Drop off location is at the Township Building at 147 Municipal Drive only.

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

Please see our event flyer for more information including current prices for Friday Clean Up Days 2025.

RECYCLING IN MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP

By Emily Protsko

Middle Smithfield Township offers recycling at no cost to residents during Friday clean-ups. Friday clean-ups occur every Friday at 147 Municipal Dr from 7:00am-1:00pm, except July 4th, due to the holiday. The Municipal Waste Authority provides the recycling bins for our Clean-up program. Both clean-up and recycling are self-unload programs.

Residents can bring plastics, metal, cardboard, and paper to be recycled. Please review the following list of accepted and prohibited items:

PAVING THE WAY TO SUMMER: DRAINAGE AND ROADWORK

By Emily Protsko

These past spring months, and as we head into summer, we have had some rainy days. It is important to keep drainpipes clear as the rain continues throughout the summer.

When removing leaves from lawns, please make sure not to push the leaves into drainpipes or swales; this impedes the water flow, which can then cause flooding on the roads. Drainpipe maintenance is important to not damage roads and driveways. **It is the responsibility of the homeowner to maintain and clear debris from the driveway pipes**, according to Ordinance 102-7 of Middle Smithfield Township.

Ordinance 102-7: Maintenance

A. All slight distances and drainage facilities for driveways and street access entrances shall be maintained in the same condition as the original permit requirements

B. Property owner responsibility. The owner of the driveway is located, or in the case of street access, the developer or property owners' association shall be responsible for the above maintenance.

Public Works has started preparing roads and road-edges ahead of our summer paving. In particular, there has been prep work being done on Barren Road and Brushy Mountain Road where improved drainage and shoulder widening has been done. **Please keep in mind this may briefly affect travel times**, as crews will be in the following areas:

PAVING:

- Winona Falls Rd
- Coolbaugh Rd
- Brushy Mountain Rd
- Upper Lakeview Dr
- Knob Hill Circle
- Paper Ln

CHIPPING:

- West Ridge Ct
- East Ridge Ln
- Auburn Way
- Clear Spring Ct
- Stone Wall Ct
- Knoll Dr
- Thornberry Ct
- Timber Crest Ln

ACCEPTED MATERIALS:

- **Plastic:** Empty plastic water bottles, soda bottles, and drink containers
- **Metal:** Empty canned goods, and aluminum cans
- **Cardboard:** Cardboard shipping boxes
- **Paper:** Magazines, junk mail, and newspapers

PROHIBITED MATERIALS:

- **Metal:** Car parts, paint cans with paint, and tools
- **Cardboard:** Pizza boxes



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event will be held on Saturday, July 26th from 8 am to 2 pm at Military Road Recycling Site.

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

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

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

**IF YOU LITERALLY HAVE A TON
OF GARBAGE...**

Alliance Sanitary Landfill
389 South Keyser Avenue
Taylor, PA 18517
www.alliancelandfill.wm.com

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

Grand Central Sanitary Landfill
910 W Pennsylvania Avenue
Pen Argyl, PA 18072
www.wmsolutions.com

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



NEW WOODDALE ROAD DEPARTMENT AND RECREATION AREA IMPROVEMENTS COMING THANKS TO \$239,238 GRANT

By Chris Rain

Middle Smithfield Township is thrilled to announce our grant award from the Local Share Account (LSA) Monroe for \$239,238 to support our Wooddale Recreation Area and Road Department Expansion project on Dancing Ridge Road.

The Township will use the grant funds to create a new recreation area on the Township's property located at 792 Dancing Ridge Road including parking, walking trail, pavilion, and playground. It will also be used to expand the road department's existing facility at that location to provide additional services to the residents of our Wooddale area of Middle Smithfield Township.

"This grant will help provide a new park and amenities and better services to our residents in the Wooddale area, which is currently underserved," said parks director and township supervisor Mike Dwyer. "Expanding our current facility will improve road department services in Wooddale and the new park will provide recreation opportunities to an area that currently has none."

The LSA Monroe Grant is funding generated from gaming revenues and is provided through the Local Share Account in Monroe County. LSA grant funds support economic development, community improvement, and public interest projects in Monroe County and adjacent counties. Middle Smithfield Township also submitted a grant application to the LSA Statewide Grant to help fund this project. We hope to receive additional funding later this year.

Thank you to our local legislators Senator Rosemary Brown, Rep. Maureen Madden, and Rep. Tarah Probst for their support of this project and our grant application. The Township would also like to thank the Middle Smithfield Township Parks & Recreation Committee, the Middle Smithfield Township Planning Commission, the Monroe County Planning Commission, and the Price Township Board of Supervisors for providing letters of support for this grant application. Middle Smithfield Township is excited to provide more recreation opportunities to our taxpayers!

SEWER

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

SEWER BILLING DATES:

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

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS- THE NOSE KNOWS

By Joan Woisin

Odor Control – We will be trying out a new odor control product for the next three months. We did a trial for an odor control system that worked well but cost \$450,000, did not address spikes in the system, and required one spacious location with power. The current trial product is an organic chemical and is projected to save approximately 40-50% of our current costs (\$150,000). This product does not require power or an abundance of space. It can also be placed at several points along the system whereas our current system is only in one pump station and then feeds down the line.



Odor Control System installed at pump station 5 for the three months test.

We're on a mission to make "what's that smell?" a thing of the past.

OAK GROVE COMPOSTING FACILITY PLANS FOR GROWTH AND GREATER CONVENIENCE

By Aaron Springs, Lehman Township

The Oak Grove Multi-Municipal Compost Processing Program, located at 3305 Oak Grove Drive in Middle Smithfield Township, continues to serve as a vital shared service for residents of Lehman Township, Smithfield Township, and Middle Smithfield Township. In addition to providing a responsible way to recycle yard waste and create mulch and compost, the facility is actively exploring ways to expand and modernize operations.

"This year, the Board is actively seeking to make some improvements for the convenience of our residents," said Aaron Springs, President of the Oak Grove Board. "Such as automation and migrating to a cashless system, as well as ways to increase income by expanding the scope of composting operations."

Oak Grove Vice President Robert Lovenheim, a longtime advocate of sustainable practices, adds, "Including more items to compost, such as food waste, not only helps advance the mission of the Oak Grove Facility, but turns a negative into a positive—garbage that would ordinarily fill our landfills into something useful, such as high-quality compost." The Board is working with Mike Stettler, Executive Director of the Monroe County Municipal Waste Authority, to better integrate Oak Grove's program with Countywide goals.



OAK GROVE

www.ogmmcpb.com

Chairperson: Aaron Springs

Vice Chair: Robert Lovenheim | **Secretary/Treasurer:** Mike Dwyer

Members: Annette Atkinson, Julia Heilakka, Danny Medrano

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.



SENATOR ROSEMARY BROWN

Continued from page 4.

Under SB 375, schools would be required to train staff and volunteers in CPR and AED use every two years, ensure individuals are certified in AED operation, and develop emergency response plans that meet nationally recognized cardiac standards.

Sudden cardiac arrest is the leading cause of death among young athletes. Seconds matter, and when an AED is accessible and used quickly, lives can be saved. We owe it to families like the Moyers and to every student, coach, and volunteer across Pennsylvania to be ready when the unthinkable happens.

I urge you to contact your legislators and the governor's office in support of Senate Bill 375.

Gov. Shapiro has signed Sen. Rosemary Brown's long-advocated **Paul Miller, Jr. Law, banning handheld cell phone use while driving**. Named in memory of a Monroe County teen killed by a distracted driver, the law aims to reduce crashes and save lives. Effective June 5, 2025, it aligns Pennsylvania with 26 other states enforcing hands-free driving.

To continue receiving updates like this one, I invite you to sign up for my e-newsletter at SenatorBrown40.com.

MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP & THE FORT HYNDSHAW NATIONAL MONUMENT PROJECT

By Danny Younger

Continued from page 18.

In pursuit of this initiative, all area congressmen have been contacted, a teleconference has been held with the Deputy Director of the Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs at the U.S. Dept. of the Interior, and a batch of Letters of Support have thus far been obtained from entities such as the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau, the Monroe County Commissioners, State Representative Tarah Probst, and others.

In our midst we truly have a veritable national treasure, a fort directly associated with our country's Founding Father, Benjamin Franklin, who personally penned the initial organizational orders for the militia company stationed at our fort, a fort built on a tract of land deeded to none other than Pennsylvania's most famous statesman, diplomat and interpreter, Conrad Weiser. As such, we look forward to a time when our fort will properly sit upon the national stage as a fitting tribute to Founding Father Franklin's vision while promoting Middle Smithfield Township as one of Pennsylvania's premiere heritage tourism destinations

REPRESENTATIVE MAUREEN E. MADDEN

Continued from page 4.

- In a recent survey by The National Library of Medicine, nearly all grandfamilies are directly impacted by parental substance misuse with over 70% specifically referencing opioids, namely heroin. This bill, funded through the **Opioid Settlement**, will provide **grants to local Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs)** to assist grandparents who need short-term emergency help caring for their grandchildren.
- **Older Adult Protective Services Act (OAPSA)** - Looking ahead, I will introduce legislation to modernize OAPSA, which has protected vulnerable seniors since 1987 from the imminent risk of abuse, neglect and exploitation, with reports of these instances being at a record high this year. This legislation will address these issues by providing financial institutions with the tools to intervene in suspected elder financial abuse and will also refine employment bans for individuals convicted of certain crimes, updates background check requirements, expand the definition of mandatory reporters, and improves the local Area Agencies on Aging's investigation processes. This proposed legislation is the culmination of broad support from stakeholders, the Governor's Office, and the Senate, where Sen. Gebhard will introduce a companion bill.

In addition to strengthening protections for older adults, I am proud to support another vital piece of legislation aimed at tackling the opioid epidemic in our local communities. My legislation, House Bill 561, passed the House with broad bipartisan support, allowing county jails to offer all FDA-approved medications for opioid use disorder. This eliminates outdated restrictions and enables local facilities to provide comprehensive, evidence-based treatment for individuals battling addiction.

These legislative efforts reflect my ongoing commitment to protecting and empowering Pennsylvania's aging population while addressing urgent community challenges like the opioid crisis. As we head into budget season this summer, I remain committed to my oath to serve the people of Monroe County and to strengthening the community we all call home.

Upcoming Events:

- Property Tax/Rent Rebate deadline has been extended until Dec. 31, 2025.



PINKLIGHTS WALK RAISES \$13,000 FOR LOCAL BREAST CANCER PATIENTS

The Pinklights Walk, organized by Middle Smithfield Township's 2024 Person of the Year, Betty Ann Ricci, proudly raised and donated \$13,000 on February 21st to the Hope for Strength Breast Cancer Fund. This fund, managed through the Pocono Health Foundation, directly supports breast cancer patients receiving care at the Dale & Frances Hughes Cancer Center.

Thanks to the generosity of our community, this contribution will provide meaningful assistance and hope to local patients during their time of need.

UPCOMING PINK LIGHTS WALK EVENTS:

PINKLIGHTS TEA

Middle Smithfield Township Community & Cultural Center
11 am-6 pm July 12th
Come and Par-Tea!
Enjoy tea and light refreshments and participate in raffles and FUN-raising activities.

CASINO CATSKILLS!

Bus ride to Resortworld in the Catskills
July 19th

TRICKY TRAY

VFW hall Post 2540
546 Fawn Road, East Stroudsburg, PA, 18301
2-5 pm September 14th

PINK LIGHTS WALK

(and vintage car show)
at Lehman Park
4-7 pm on October 11th (rain date October 12th)

DINE TO DONATE

Paint Texas Roadhouse Pink
12-9 pm on October 13th

DINE FOR A CAUSE:

PASTA FUNDRAISER WILL BENEFIT MANY

When: Saturday, August 16th | 12pm- 4 pm

Where: Community & Cultural Center
5200 Milford Rd. East Stroudsburg, PA 18302



Benefitting **National Ovarian Cancer Coalition & Eastern Monroe Public Library.**

Join 2024 Person of the Year finalist Luz Gonzalez on August 16th to raise money for a great cause!

Tickets include pasta meal, salad, roll & a drink. Takeout and gluten-free options are available. There will also be a 50/50, raffles, & door prizes.

Ticket Info

Advance Tickets:

- Ages 12 & up: \$12
- Ages 4-12: \$8
- Under 4: free

At the Door:

- Ages 12 & up: \$15
- Ages 4-12: \$12
- Under 4: free

For questions & tickets call Luz at 917-972-0937

CHAIR YOGA CONTINUES!

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:

- **Thursdays @ 2 pm-** 7/10, 7/24, 8/14, 8/28, 9/11, 9/18, 10/2, 10/23, 10/30, 11/6, 11/20, 12/4, 12/18
- **Saturdays @ 11 am-** 7/19, 8/30, 9/20, 9/27, 10/4, 10/25, 11/15, 12/13



The IncrediBowlers

"The IncrediBowlers" is based at Sky Lanes Bowling Center on Mondays.

Adult persons with disabilities are able to participate in a safe space and build a community.



LITTER & BEAUTIFICATION

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

NEW PARKS TRASH CANS PAID FOR WITH ONE FOR NATURE GRANT

By Chris Rain

Thanks to a \$5,000 grant from One For Nature, Middle Smithfield Township has installed new BearSaver trash cans at four township parks including W. Leroy Lewis Dog Park, Judy Putek Park, Resica Park, and Community Gardens Park. These receptacles replace the aging receptacles at the parks, improving the appearance of the parks as well as improving the security



left to right: Brian Bossuyt, President of the One for Nature board; Christopher Rain, Middle Smithfield Parks & Recreation; Kat Aruano, Director of One for Nature

of waste from animals. Middle Smithfield Township previously purchased BearSavers for Echo Lake Park with a grant in 2022 and they greatly improved the amount of litter in that park.

Middle Smithfield Township thanks One For Nature for their generous grant and ongoing support of our parks!



THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

By Chris Rain

Thank you to all of the volunteers who came out on April 20 and on other days on their own time to clean up litter on roads in Middle Smithfield Township! Over 70 people volunteered this spring and cleaned up over 200 bags of litter off of 20 miles of roads. It's because of people like you that we have the best litter cleanup program in the Poconos!

Volunteers can clean up litter anytime. Contact the Township to get supplies and choose a road to clean up. 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 or crain@mstownship.com.

KEEP 209 BEAUTIFUL

By Chris Rain

Middle Smithfield Township is excited to announce a grant award from the Pocono Mountain Visitors Bureau (PMVB) to support the "Tidy Township" initiative for the second year in a row. The \$6,200



grant allows Middle Smithfield Township to continue our commitment to community cleanliness, beautification, and environmental stewardship.

In 2024, the Tidy Township grant afforded us the opportunity to make beautification improvements such as mulching and plantings at multiple intersections along Milford Road/Route 209. It also extended to other major roads within the township as much as possible. "Dump sites", where inconsiderate people throw trash, were also cleaned up throughout the summer. Much of the materials and plantings were purchased here in our township.

The PMVB's continued support in 2025 will allow the Township to continue this work.

"Middle Smithfield Township should be a clean, welcoming environment for residents and visitors alike," said Middle Smithfield Township Supervisor and Public Works Director Mike Dwyer. "The Pocono Mountain Visitors Bureau grant allows us to implement the Tidy Township initiative and make tangible improvements to our community's appearance and quality of life."

"Many years ago, Middle Smithfield Township created our successful volunteer litter cleanup programs, 1,000 Feet of Street and Adopt a Road," Dwyer continued. "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." This grant certainly took our litter and beautification efforts to the next level."

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.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

MARSHALLS CREEK FIRE COMPANY

Will Vitulli, Board of Directors, Marshalls Creek Fire Company

The Marshalls Creek Fire Company is proud to announce that it is in the process of purchasing a new ADA compliant Inflatable Smokehouse.



This modern, highly engaging fire safety simulator is designed to teach children and families how to safely escape a fire — and it's built to be fully inclusive, meeting ADA accessibility standards.

This inflatable smokehouse replicates a home environment, allowing participants to move through realistic rooms, encounter simulated “smoke,” and practice essential life-saving decisions in a safe and controlled setting. By adding this inflatable smoke house to our public education toolkit, the Marshalls Creek Fire Company will be better equipped to serve all members of our community, especially during school visits, public events, and fire prevention week.

This investment reflects our commitment to safety, innovation, and inclusion.



SHAWNEE FIRE COMPANY

By Dave Timko, Assistant Chief Shawnee Fire Company



Upcoming events:

Thursday July 3rd - Fireworks Show at Shawnee Mountain - \$20.00 per carload (cash only) Show begins at dusk.

Wednesday September 24th – Annual Golf Tournament at Shawnee Inn & Golf Resort
\$100.00 per player includes golf, prizes for flight winners, dinner following golf. Tee sponsors are also available at \$100.00 each.

These two fundraisers are our largest events of the year that afford the fire company the ability to equip and train our members for the challenges that the fire service experiences in the current environment. We would like to thank those that have supported these events in the past and our generous hosts for each of these events being Shawnee Mountain and Shawnee Inn.

The Fire Company is currently managing its long-term plan by scheduling some much needed repairs and updating of our buildings with funds provided through the fire tax. Some of those repairs have taken place by replacing and painting one of our garage doors and re-staining our fence at the Worthington Avenue station.

We have begun the repairs to the wood siding, soffit, and fascia at our main station on Hollow Road in preparation of the painting of the building, hopefully by mid- summer. We have updated and replaced our security cameras around the Hollow Road station. We are currently soliciting bids for the re-paving of our parking lot at this station as well. It is failing structurally and to minimize the larger long-term expense, we needed to move this project up on our list.

We would like to thank the Middle Smithfield Township Supervisors and the constituents of the Township for your continued support of the Shawnee Volunteer Fire Company.

FIND FIRE & EMS ONLINE

Marshalls Creek Fire Co.

570-223-8445

112 Marshalls Creek Rd.

E. Stroudsburg, PA 18302

Facebook: @MarshallsCreekFireCo

Bushkill Volunteer Fire Co.

570-588-6033

124 Evergreen Drive

Bushkill, PA 18324

Facebook: @bushkillfire

Lehman Pike EMS

(570) 588-9365

193 Municipal Drive

Bushkill, PA 18324

Shawnee Fire Co.

570-460-0736

102 Firehouse Lane

E. Stroudsburg, PA 18301

Facebook: @ShawneeFireCo36

Website: ShawneeFire.org

Bushkill Emergency Corps

570-223-1906

P.O. Box 174.

Bushkill, PA 18324

Facebook: @BushkillEmergencyCorps

Suburban EMS

(610) 923-7500

Station 18—North Division

320 N. First Street Suite 3

Stroudsburg PA 18360

Facebook: @SuburbanEMS



BUSHKILL FIRE COMPANY

By Kyle Rohner, Chief Bushkill Volunteer Fire Company



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

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

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



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



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

Water Safety Tips!
Be safe this summer while enjoying your favorite water activities.

Wear It!

Wear Your Life Jacket
Everyone should wear a properly fitted life jacket when around water.

Keep Your Eyes Open
Always keep an eye on children and pets when around water.
Drownings can occur fast and quietly.

Be Responsible
Drinking alcohol while swimming or boating is never a good idea.
Always stay hydrated by drinking water or electrolytes.

Always be on the Lookout
Watch for strong or swift currents and be cautious of hidden hazards that may be hiding underneath the surface.

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

BUSHKILL EMERGENCY CORPS

By Debbie Kulick, President Bushkill Emergency Corps

A 60th Anniversary celebration is an achievement that most grassroots, nonprofits do not get to achieve. Bushkill Emergency Corps having reached that milestone is something worth celebrating! And celebrate we will!



The 60th Anniversary Gala Dinner event will be held on Saturday, November 15th at the Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort. As is the tradition with our Gala event, there will be great food, music, a bit of live entertainment, a silent auction, and a night of thanks. To make the celebration more special, Bushkill Emergency Corps welcomes any past members or providers to attend and join in our celebration. (Past members or providers, please either email or Facebook message your current address.) There will be more information to come, but make sure you "Save the Date"!

Great news! Bushkill Emergency Corps, with the support of both Middle Smithfield and Smithfield Townships as well as Senator Rosemary Brown, Representatives Tarah Probst and Maureen Madden, was selected as one of the recipients of a Local Share Account (LSA) grant. An LSA grant is a statewide grant originating from The PA Racehorse Development and Gaming Act (Act 2004-71). It provides for distribution of gaming revenues through the Commonwealth Financing Authority to support projects in the public interest within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The organization was awarded \$100,000 toward the purchase of three power stretcher units. Each unit will cost about \$68,000 and will become vital to the safety of both patients and providers as the stretchers will be power lifted and loaded into our ambulances. The safety feature of not having to manually lift a patient or unload a patient manually benefits both the patient and our providers. These are welcome additions indeed!

As part of Bushkill Emergency Corps' commitment to the residents of Middle Smithfield Township, we will hold a free Hands Only CPR class on Thursday, July 31 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Middle Smithfield Cultural and Community Center located at 5200 Milford Road. To register for the class, please call Middle Smithfield Township at 570-223-8920 by July 28. No prior experience or training is needed, and participants should wear comfortable clothing as we will be working on the floor. Bushkill Emergency Corps is happy to help our residents become prepared for the unexpected! And don't forget to "Save the Date" November 15!

*****ECRWSEDDM****

POSTAL CUSTOMER

THANK YOU!

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POCONO KIDZ ZONE

We are now accepting sponsorships for 2025! Any business or individual who would like to become a sponsor can contact Holly at 570-223-8920 x132 (Person of the Year & Civic Events) or Chris at 570-223-8920x119 (Parks & Recreation).

Reconstruction:



2055: FRENCH & INDIAN WAR TRICENTENNIAL

MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP & THE FORT HYNDSHAW NATIONAL MONUMENT PROJECT

A diagram of the proposed reconstructed Fort Hyndshaw National Monument in Middle Smithfield Township, within the boundaries of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

More information about the project can be found on page 18!