



# MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWS

## FALL 2025

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 2025 PERSON OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN! MORE ON PAGE 25
- TRUNK OR TREAT IS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18<sup>TH</sup>! MORE ON PAGE 16
- FALL CLEAN UP IS OCT 24<sup>TH</sup> 25<sup>TH</sup>. MORE ON PAGE 20

Photo Credit: Meadow Lake Fishing Club in Middle Smithfield Township. Captured by Kim Williams.



# MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWS

## WHAT'S GOING ON:

### October

#### **Community & Cultural Center Exhibit: Marshalls Creek Mastodon**

- 10/4: Marshalls Creek Fire Co. Golf Outing at The Poconos Club
- 10/7: Fire Prevention Community Night at J.T. Lambers (page 26)
- 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
- 10/20: Fall Leaf Collection Begins (page 21)
- 10/24 & 10/25: Cleanup & Freecycle (page 21)

### 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.**

- 12/4: Presentation of the Budget to the Public  
& Year End Report
- 12/5: Fall Leaf Collection Ends
- 12/24: Christmas Eve (Township Office Closed)
- 12/25: Christmas Day (Township Office Closed)
- 12/30: Adoption of the Budget

\*all events subject to weather or other changes.

Visit our website for an updated schedule

\*\* Dates TBD and subject to change

See all events happening at the Community & Cultural Center at  
[www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com](http://www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com)

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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

3rd 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

SCAN THE QR CODE  
TO ACCESS THE  
FULL CALENDAR  
OF EVENTS ON  
OUR WEBSITE!





## GREETINGS FROM YOUR TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

Change is in the brisk air! When the reminders are all about Trunk or Treat instead of Pool Passes, it can only mean one thing—the kids are back in school, the days are getting shorter, and Autumn has arrived. Soon, the “Christmas in July” promotion will give way to Shop Local, and you can look forward to receiving your 2025 Discount Card mailing.

It also means that 2025 Person of the Year Nominations are open! (see page 25) Nominate your local hero today!

This is the season when your Township Supervisors and staff turn their attention to preparing budgets for the year ahead—2026—and mapping out next year’s projects. The Presentation to the Public of the 2026 Budget will take place on Thursday evening, December 4th, at our regular Board of Supervisors meeting at 7:00 p.m. The budget is scheduled for adoption on Tuesday, December 30th, at the Board of Supervisors meeting, which will also include the Year-End Report from the staff.

Curious about what’s in the works? Board of Supervisors Workshop Sessions are held Friday mornings at 8 a.m., and Budget Workshop Sessions will also be Fridays at 8 a.m. starting in October (please call ahead to confirm).

We continue to appreciate the support and cooperation of our taxpayers as we balance community needs with fiscal responsibility. The addition of the fire and EMS tax in 2024 has strengthened our ability to provide vital services, and the collaboration across our community has been invaluable, and, as you can see from the “Working Together for Stronger Fire & EMS Services” article (see page 6) about the multi-municipal Fire and EMS Commission, emergency service companies and municipalities are working together with the Pennsylvania State Association of Townships to create a plan for the future.

There’s much to plan and plenty of work to finish before year’s end. We invite you to join us at our Supervisor meetings and workshops—your participation is always welcome!

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

**Wishing you all a wonderful Autumn!**

**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](mailto:info@mstownship.com)  
[MiddleSmithfieldTownship.com](http://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

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Planning Commission Recording Secretary  
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On Lot Sewage Enforcement Officer | x128

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Accounts Payable/Accounts Receivable  
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Christopher Rain | Parks & Rec, Litter & Beautification,  
Facilities, Website & Right to Know Officer  
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James Brechbiel | Economic Development Manager  
[jbrechbiel@mstownship.com](mailto:jbrechbiel@mstownship.com) | x130



# 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 represent Pennsylvania's Eighth Congressional District in Washington, D.C. Every day, my team and I are working hard to serve the people of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Whether that means helping you navigate federal agencies, listening to your concerns, or fighting for the resources our communities need, we are here to help you.

Since day one, my mission has been simple: put the people of Northeastern Pennsylvania first. That means making sure our workers and small businesses have the tools they need to succeed. Over the summer, the House passed my legislation, the CEASE Act, which will keep community banks at the core of our regulatory system. I also welcomed Lou Ciampi, Jr., from West Wyoming, to Washington to testify in front of the House Committee on Small Business on his business' strong partnership with the RailRiders.

To support workers in training programs, I introduced the Training and **Nutrition Stability Act**, a bipartisan bill that ensures people don't lose access to nutrition assistance while they're gaining new skills and training for better jobs.

It is incredibly important to keep our kids at the top of mind when advocating for better policies in Washington. In June, I introduced the **Kids on the Go Act**, which would make it safer and easier for children to walk and bike to school. This bipartisan legislation is an investment in our children that will improve the safety of our neighborhoods. I also introduced the **Supporting Apprenticeship Colleges Act**, which will boost enrollment in registered apprenticeship programs.

*Continued on page 7.*

## SENATOR ROSEMARY BROWN

Senate District 40



As summer comes to a close and we look ahead to a busy fall, I want to share a few updates on important work underway both in Harrisburg and here at home.

One of the key pieces of legislation I am advancing this session is the **Midwifery Modernization Act**, which will update Pennsylvania's midwifery laws to expand access to high-quality maternal care, particularly in rural and underserved communities.

The bill modernizes licensure requirements, improves collaboration between midwives and physicians, and ensures certified midwives can provide the full scope of care they are trained for. By doing so, it will increase options for families, improve health outcomes for mothers and babies, and help address maternity care shortages across the Commonwealth.

Closer to home, many of you have noticed the extensive work underway at Exit 308 in East Stroudsburg. When Interstate 80 was first built in the Stroudsburg area in 1970, the on and off-ramps were designed much shorter than today's standards, which created ongoing safety concerns for drivers. **The Exit 308 project** works to fix these challenges by widening and lengthening the ramps, improving traffic flow, and making the interchange safer for all who use it.

In addition to safer, wider lanes and better lighting, the finished project will feature two stone-finished roundabouts welcoming travelers into East Stroudsburg, as well as an expanded stretch of I-80 with three travel lanes. Prospect Street and Brown Street, which serve Lehigh Valley Hospital-Pocono and East Stroudsburg University, will also be widened to ease congestion and improve access to these important community anchors.

*Continued on page 7.*

## REP. MAUREEN E. MADDEN

115th Legislative District



In mid-August, I was deeply honored to be appointed by Gov. Josh Shapiro to **Pennsylvania's Alzheimer's, Dementia, and Related Disorders (ADRD) advisory committee.**

This committee plays a vital role in launching our Commonwealth's first-ever ADRD Office, a key initiative under the Aging Our Way, PA plan – a 10-year roadmap, developed by the Pennsylvania Department of Aging, which aims to address the evolving needs of older adults across the state.

The ADRD Advisory Committee is composed of professionals and stakeholders dedicated to advising the Department on implementing Aging Our Way, PA. Our goal is to shape policies and programs that offer meaningful, statewide response to address ADRD. As the Majority Chair of the House Aging & Older Adult Services Committee, and as someone who has personally felt the impact of dementia, having lost both of my parents to vascular dementia, this mission is close to my heart.

**Mark your calendar for October 2, 2025!** I'll be joining PA Secretary of Aging Jason Kavulich to present the PA CareKit, a powerful new resource designed specifically for caregivers. According to the Caregiving in the U.S. 2025 report by the National Alliance for Caregiving and AARP, 63 million Americans, nearly 1 in 4, are now family caregivers. Yet most of them lack the training and resources they need. The PA CareKit is part of the Aging Our Way, PA plan and aims to address the key challenges faced by caregivers and provide practical solutions and resources to support their entire caregiving journey.

**More on page 7!**

Additionally, my office continues to host office hours at the Middle Smithfield Municipal Building. If you would like to schedule an appointment, please reach out to my office.





## REPRESENTATIVE TARAH PROBST

189th Legislative District

I am proud to represent the people of Monroe and Pike counties at the state Capitol in Harrisburg.



Already this year, the state House of Representatives is delivering concrete legislative victories that enhance the lives of Pennsylvanians like you. We have led the charge to lower your taxes, help you save for retirement, put more teachers in the schools, and make your community safer.

We approved a landmark **increase in the minimum wage** so hardworking residents can earn a wage they can live on.

We passed cyber charter reform to increase transparency and accountability and **save taxpayers \$600 million**.

We passed the Working Pennsylvanians Tax Credit to cut costs for working families and provide a state-level **tax credit on personal income taxes**.

We voted to **protect your health care** from cuts made by the federal government.

We approved a bill that would **close corporate tax loopholes** so that major national businesses pay their fair share of state taxes, relieving some of the burden on community businesses.

We passed a 2025-26 state budget with **no tax increase** that sits idle in the state Senate, almost three months past the budget deadline.

To learn more about what the House has accomplished, visit <https://www.pahouse.com/deliveringforpa>.

If you need assistance with any state-related issue, please contact my office at 570-420-2850 or stop by at 18 S. 9th St. in Stroudsburg.

My office also has satellite hours at the Delaware Township Municipal Building on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and at the Lehman Township Municipal Building on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## MONROE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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



Local elections often fly under the radar—but in Monroe County, the **municipal election on November 4, 2025, will have a real impact on our daily lives**. From decisions by township supervisors and school board members to funding for public safety and road maintenance, your vote matters more than most people realize.

This year, two judges will be elected to the Court of Common Pleas for the 43rd Judicial District (Monroe County), and voters will also be asked to decide whether to retain the incumbent Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, Jonathan Mark, through a yes/no retention vote. Municipal ballots will also include retention questions for statewide courts—Supreme, Superior, and Commonwealth—but at the county level, Judge Mark's retention is a key decision.

These judicial positions are critically important—they handle serious civil and criminal matters, oversee appeals, and uphold our justice system. Judges of the Court of Common Pleas serve 10-year terms, and after their initial election, they face nonpartisan retention votes where voters simply vote “yes” or “no” to keep them in office.

History shows that municipal elections often have low voter turnout, meaning every vote carries even more weight. If you care about how justice is administered locally—or how our neighborhoods are governed—this election is your chance to have a tangible say in shaping the future of Monroe County. Your vote isn't just a right—it's taking action.

### 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

**IMPORTANT  
ELECTION  
INFORMATION CAN  
BE FOUND ON THE  
BACK COVER**



# FIRE & EMS COMMISSION INITIATIVE

## WORKING TOGETHER FOR STRONGER FIRE & EMS SERVICES

On August 25, 2025, Middle Smithfield Township joined with neighboring municipalities Lehman, Price and Smithfield, as well as fire companies, and ambulance services for an important meeting about the future of emergency services in our area. The joint session was led by Jerry Ozog from the Pennsylvania Association of Township Supervisors, who has helped many communities across the state tackle these same challenges.

### Why the Meeting Was Needed

Fire and EMS organizations are facing growing pressures:

- Fewer volunteers – Many longtime members are retiring, and younger people often can't take on the heavy training and time commitments.
- Rising costs – A single fire truck now costs over \$1 million, and ambulance reimbursements often don't cover expenses.
- More calls – An aging population and higher demand for emergency medical care mean busier departments than ever before.

As Jerry reminded the group, **"The best emergency service companies have excellent relationships with their local governments. That collaboration is what keeps services strong."**

### Looking at Solutions

Communities in Pennsylvania have shown that working together, whether Authorities or Commissions or a hybrid, can make a big difference. By sharing resources, planning equipment purchases jointly, and even creating regional commissions, municipalities have been able to stretch dollars further and ease the burden on volunteers -- while still keeping each company's local identity.

Jerry emphasized, **"Regional partnerships don't have to mean losing your history or your identity. It's about building sustainability so your company can continue serving for the next 50 years."**



**"What we do know is that change is inevitable. How we as the volunteer fire companies and the townships plan for and managed that change will define us in the future and the services we provide".**

**Dave Timko, Shawnee Fire Chief**



**Change is an important part of growth. By advancing training, equipment, and operations, our department strengthens its ability to protect lives and property while upholding our promise of service and safety to the community.**

**-Kyle Rohner, Bushkill Fire Chief**

### What's Next

The group agreed on several steps to move forward:

- Consider Engaging a Facilitator to guide the work ahead; Forming a steering committee of representatives from each town and organization as part of the process.
- Gathering better data on calls, equipment, and finances so decisions are based on facts.
- Educating the public about how EMS and the all volunteer fire companies are funded and why community support is so critical.
- Exploring new incentives -- like tuition help or stipends or School and County tax credits -- to attract and keep volunteers.
- Setting clear standards for response times and accountability across the region.

As Jerry put it, **"We can't wait for Harrisburg or Washington to solve this. Local communities, working together, are where the solutions will come from."**

### Why It Matters

Municipalities are required, by law, to provide for emergency services. Our local volunteer firefighters and EMS crews are there for us during life's toughest moments. To keep them strong, municipalities need to work together and plan for the future. This meeting was an important first step in making sure our community is safe, supported, and prepared.



## "MY WORK" STUDENTS MADE A DIFFERENCE THIS SUMMER



On their last day, the staff at Middle Smithfield joined the students and their facilitator for a pizza lunch and presentation of certificates. The students this year from left to right: Scott Segarra (Work Site Trainor), Damier Grey, Alpachino Francis, Charles Boasc.

With fall in the air, we reflect on this summer.

Four local students once again participated in the **"MY Work" program**, gaining hands-on experience while giving back to their community. The students worked together on projects that included **picking up litter, sprucing up township facilities, and maintaining the Community Gardens Park.**

The Township is proud to continue partnering with Pennsylvania's Office of Vocational Rehabilitation to provide these meaningful opportunities, helping students build job skills while improving the places we all enjoy.

## REP. MAUREEN E. MADDEN

### PA CAREKIT- OCT. 2ND

*Continued from page 4.*

Choose the session that works best for you – both are FREE to attend! Register by visiting RepMadden.com.

#### **Morning Session**

Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: Eastern Monroe Public Library – Hughes Main Library (Community Room)

1002 PA-611, Stroudsburg, PA 18360

#### **Afternoon Session**

Time: 2:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Location: Pocono Mountain Public Library – R. Dale & Frances Hughes Community Room

5500 Municipal Drive, Tobyhanna, PA 18466

## NEW COMPREHENSIVE ZONING ORDINANCE ON THE WAY!

For the first time in 15 years, Middle Smithfield Township is updating its Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance update. In 2010, Ordinance 176 deleted Chapter 200 and replace it with a new, updated Chapter 200. Since 2010, the Zoning Ordinance has been amended over time for issues like Short-Term Rentals, Property Maintenance, and signage. Now, a full comprehensive update modernizes land uses, dimensional standards, and definitions (including "warehouse" and "data center"), and refreshes the Township's Table of Uses. Reviewed by both the Township and County Planning Commissions, the draft will soon head to a public hearing. Residents are encouraged to participate and share feedback—your input helps guide our community's future growth. Stay tuned for the Public hearing date!

## SENATOR ROSEMARY BROWN

*Continued from page 4.*

Progress is moving steadily, with over half of the work already completed. Major steps finished so far include replacing and upgrading water, sewer, communication, and electric lines; installing nearly two miles of new drainage pipes; removing the old Prospect Street bridge and completing Phase 1 of the new one; and building retaining and sound walls along the eastbound lanes. Next on the schedule are the final widening of Prospect Street, completion of the new bridge, construction of the roundabouts, widening of both directions of I-80, and the permanent alignment of the new on and off-ramps. Additionally, retaining walls on both sides of the highway will also be completed before the project wraps up.

While there is still work to do, the project remains on schedule and is anticipated to be fully completed by late 2027.

As always, if you have any state-related issues, please do not hesitate in contacting my office at 570-620-4326.

## CONGRESSMAN ROB BRESNAHAN

*Continued from page 4.*

One of the most important things our office does every single day is advocate on behalf of constituents through casework with federal agencies. So far, our office has opened over 1,600 cases and successfully resolved over 1,300 of them for residents across PA-08. We've also helped recover over \$2.9 million in benefits and resources owed to the people of our district.

Thank you for trusting me to be your voice in Washington. I'm honored to serve you, and I'll keep working every day to build a stronger, brighter future for Northeastern Pennsylvania.



# 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

## SPICE THINGS UP! 209 BLAZING GRILL BBQ BRINGS AUTHENTIC CARIBBEAN FLAVORS.

By James Brechbiel

Middle Smithfield Township is excited to welcome 209 Blazing Grill BBQ Jerk House to the Crossings at Marshalls Creek Plaza, adding authentic Caribbean flavor to the community.

Owner Seyhan Benjamin, a seasoned veteran with more than 30 years in the restaurant industry, has owned eateries in New York City and now brings his passion for authentic Jamaican and international cuisine to Middle Smithfield.



Seyhan Benjamin, Owner of 209 Blazing Grill.

**"It's not just a job,"** says Benjamin. **"I pour my heart and soul into this."** I love people, and giving them delicious, home-cooked meals is what I live for. I'm here to show the community why your small restaurants are the ones who never forget you, and the best value for your money."

Whether it's authentic jerk chicken, homestyle BBQ, slow-smoked oxtails, curry lamb, and of course Caribbean-style rice and beans with homemade corn bread, all dishes at 209 Blazing Grill are made from scratch, affordable, and tailored to your needs to ensure your meal is just the way you like it. And no one is excluded. Blazing Grill works with dietary and allergy requirements to make sure everyone is able to enjoy.

Planning an event? 209 Blazing Grill offers a catering menu sure to satisfy any crowd.

Want to learn authentic Caribbean cuisine? Benjamin offers cooking classes to teach the art of preparing and cooking traditional Jamaican meals full of flavor and soul.

**"All meals are prepared from the heart,"** says Benjamin. "I love teaching others how to cook authentic Jamaican BBQ...and do it right. Whether you come to enjoy a meal, or learn more, we are so happy to welcome you to 209 Blazing Grill."

### Store Address:

4543 Milford Rd., Suite 40  
The Crossings at Marshalls Creek (by Price Chopper)  
East Stroudsburg, PA 18302

### Contact Information:

(570) 730 - 4347

### Store Hours:

Tuesday to Thursday: 10 am - 10 pm  
Friday & Saturday: 10 am to 12 pm

## THE BUDDING SEED EARLY DEVELOPMENT CENTER IS TAKING ROOT

By James Brechbiel

This fall, The Budding Seed Early Development Center will open its doors at the Crossings at Marshalls Creek Complex in Middle Smithfield Township.

After years of working in mobile therapy with children with autism and behavioral needs,

owner Jessica Mora recognized that there was a great need for daycare services that focus on optimizing the potential of those with special needs. Together with her husband, Carlos Estrella, Jessica set out to create The Budding Seed Early Development Center, focusing on individuality, sensory exploration, sustainability, and the STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) approach to learning and problem-solving. Through partnerships with Community Behavioral Services, The Budding Seed Early Development Center also incorporates therapeutic services into its program to provide children with the additional support they need in reaching their full potential.

**"Every child is unique,** with needs that must be met for them to succeed," said Mora. "Our focus and objective are to partner with the children's parents and or caregivers, which is extremely important, in crafting individualized care for their children's maximum potential. We want to give every child their best chance for success."

The Budding Seed Early Development Center will be open Monday through Friday, from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m., serving children from daycare through pre-K, and before and after school. Its curriculum is aligned with the Pennsylvania Early Learning Standards.

"What makes The Budding Seed Early Development Center so special is that **therapeutic services are not just an add-on, they're a crucial part of what we do,**" said Mora. "We look forward to meeting our future budding trees and can't wait to watch them grow and thrive, one seed at a time."

### Store Address:

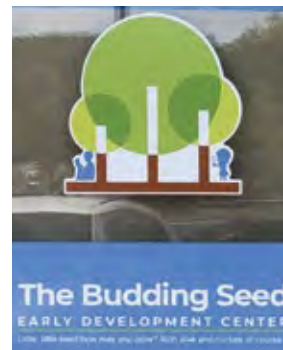
4545 Milford Rd., Suite 140  
The Crossings at Marshalls Creek (by Price Chopper)  
East Stroudsburg, PA 18302

### Contact Information:

Jesse9h@gmail.com

### Hours of Operation:

Monday through Friday: 5 am - 8 pm.







## ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL CHRISTMAS IN JULY- THANK YOU SHOPPERS!

By James Brechbiel

Shop Local Christmas in July wrapped up its 2<sup>nd</sup> successful installment this summer and is turning out to be a hot ticket item for businesses and residents.

Looking to spread holiday cheer a little early, the Middle Smithfield Township Economic Development Committee launched its Christmas in July campaign and saw more participation than ever before with 26 businesses offering promotions and giving Middle Smithfield Township residents exclusive offers.

### Veteran businesses love the growing program.

**"We always get a great response with the Shop Local Program,"** said Pam Foster, Manager of Ace Hardware, who offered a 20% discount on any regularly priced item. **"This promotion is always a success,** and people are so excited that we offered it again this summer."

### Newer businesses to the program also saw big benefits.

"We hadn't had a chance to do the holiday campaign this past winter since we had just opened, so this was a first," said Mattie Anderson, owner of The Kit and Cavoodle Pet Center, who offered a 15-50% discount on select items throughout the entire month of July.

**"We saw such an uptick in customers who came in to take advantage of the offer.** Not only were we able to go through inventory, but we also discovered great products to offer, thanks to feedback from new customers. We cannot wait to be a part of the next one!"

Other newcomers – including Yummy Kebab, A Yak or Two River Trips, Juju's Vault, and more reported that customers discovered them for the first time this summer.

"People came in noting they saw our promotion on Shop Local's Facebook page, and **we gained such great exposure,**" said Sanae Elahrache, owner of Yummy Kebab Mediterranean Restaurant. "This was our first time doing Shop Local, and we are so excited to have gained great new customers."



## AND THE SHOP LOCAL HOLIDAY CAMPAIGN IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

Are you a business owner in Middle Smithfield Township? Join the Middle Smithfield Township Shop Local Program today. Best part – It's free to you! All we need is your offer. Call (570) 223-8920 x130, or email [jbrechbiel@mstownship.com](mailto:jbrechbiel@mstownship.com) to get started.

Residents, get ready! Be sure to look for your Shop Local Deal Card in the Holiday Newsletter out this November. All you have to do is ACTIVATE your card, and you will automatically unlock awesome deals and be entered to win incredible prizes throughout the holiday season, running from Black Friday (November 28, 2025) through January 2, 2026.

Remember to Shop Local, Save Big, and Keep the Cheer Here - All Year!

To learn more about Shop Local, visit us at [www.MSTShopLocal.com](http://www.MSTShopLocal.com) [www.facebook.com/mstshoplocal](http://www.facebook.com/mstshoplocal)

### COMING SOON! SHOP LOCAL HOLIDAY!

2022 Discount Card

2022 Discount Card

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

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

The Shop Local Program will run from November 24, 2025- January 2, 2026.

# REVITALIZE 209

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

**Members:** Michael Coffey, Ralph Dinkle, George Kuchek, Albert "Sonny" Murray, John Kahwaty

**Liaison:** James Brechbiel

## OVER \$174,000 IN PROJECTS PRELIMINARILY APPROVED!

By James Brechbiel

Since July, the Board of Supervisors voted to preliminarily approve two more projects for the Revitalize 209 Grant, bringing the grand total to \$174,419 in projects and \$87,210 in funds to be awarded.

Of the two new projects, Jinyin Temple has been preliminarily approved for a façade improvement project to repair and update the former arcade building along Route 209.

"Jinyin Temple is prioritizing the restoration and improvement of the temple's façade, specifically focusing on cleaning, preparing, and painting all visible wall surfaces, along with replacing any deteriorated or damaged wall shingles," said Christina Chen of Jinyin Temple. "Additional minor landscaping and safety improvements are (also) indeed intended to enhance the accessibility and visual appeal of the temple for the community."

And soon, Richards Tree Farm will start its project to remove and replace a deteriorating and aging split rail with a more durable black aluminum fence, refreshing the exterior of the property facing Route 209.

"This grant will enable me to continue improving my property," said owner, Seth Richards. "We have been holding off on this project for a while and, thanks to this grant, are able to finally proceed and keep our property aesthetically attractive and inviting. We look forward to getting started!"



Left: Jinyin Temple will repair and update former arcade building along 209.

Below: Richards Tree Farm will replace deteriorating fence along the roadway.



| Revitalize 209 Grant Program Summary         |                       |                                  |  |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Business/Location                            | Total Cost of Project | Preliminary Approved Grant Funds | Grant Funds Distributed for Completed Projects |
| Ace Hardware <b>COMPLETED</b>                | \$19,800              | \$9,900                          | \$9,900  |
| The Big A Restaurant                         | \$12,300              | \$6,150                          | -  |
| Brick Church at 5146 Milford Rd.             | \$18,250              | \$9,125                          | -  |
| The Dutchman Plaza <b>COMPLETED</b>          | \$8,479               | \$4,239.50                       | \$4,239.50                                     |
| Echo Lake                                    | \$2,500               | \$1,250                          | -  |
| Jinyin Temple                                | \$19,800              | \$9,900                          | -  |
| Liberty Plaza <b>COMPLETED</b>               | \$10,610              | \$5,305                          | \$5,305  |
| Marathon Studiod (landscaping)               | \$12,600              | \$6,300                          | -  |
| Gary's Mobil Gas & Car Wash <b>COMPLETED</b> | \$19,550              | \$9,775                          | \$9,775  |
| Pocono Café <b>COMPLETED</b>                 | \$20,000              | \$10,000                         | \$9,500  |
| Richard Tree Farm                            | \$19,440              | \$9,720                          | -  |
| The Value Inn                                | \$11,090              | \$5,545                          | -  |
| <b>Totals</b>                                | <b>\$174,419</b>      | <b>\$87,210</b>                  | <b>\$38,720</b>                                |





## 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!

### PROJECTS CAN INCLUDE:

- 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

To submit your letter of interest to see if you qualify, or for more information, contact James Brechbiel at 570-223-8920 x 130 or email [jbrechbiel@mstownship.com](mailto:jbrechbiel@mstownship.com). Details can also be found online at [bit.ly/Revitalize209Grant](http://bit.ly/Revitalize209Grant).

The Revitalize 209 Grant program 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.

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



Gary's Mobile Car Wash after completing their Revitalize 209 project. Their project included new siding.

## LERTA EXTENDED: A NEW DECADE OF GROWTH FOR MIDDLE SMITHFIELD

By James Brechbiel

It's official – the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance (LERTA) program has been extended through 2035 in Middle Smithfield Township by all three taxing authorities: Monroe County, the Township, and the East Stroudsburg Area School District (ESASD).

Earlier this year, the School District voted unanimously to continue its participation for another 10 years, followed in August by Monroe County's unanimous approval for its resolution (the Township's does not expire).

Since its inception in 2015, Middle Smithfield's LERTA program has attracted new businesses, expanded the tax base, and fueled economic growth. Significant projects such as AutoZone, Dollar General, The Apartments at Mt. Nebo, and Tractor Supply were made possible through LERTA, adding over \$9 million to the township's property valuation and generating an additional \$366,000 in annual tax revenue once fully realized. That's just from four properties. LERTA also played a key role in securing a buyer for the Township's golf course, putting more than 400 acres back on the tax rolls that were originally tax-exempt.

### How does LERTA work?

With LERTA, taxing authorities (County, Municipal, and School District) can grant abatements on improvements to business properties in designated zones (In Middle Smithfield, the C1, C2 Commercial Zones, and the Industrial Zone). The annual taxes the businesses are already paying would still be due on time and in full every year. **There is no reduction**, but the additional taxes based on the increased assessed value of the property would be phased in over 5 years (0% first year, 20% second year, 40% third year, and each subsequent year increasing by 20% until 100% of the taxes are fully realized in year 6).

With all three taxing authorities in support of this great initiative, LERTA will keep driving investment for a prosperous future in Middle Smithfield. By growing the tax base, the program helps stave off future tax increases and funds vital services for township residents.

To learn more about LERTA, visit the Economic-Development-Committee Page on the Township Website and click on "LERTA" or scan the QR code.



**LERTA**  
**Approved**  
call 570-223-8920 for  
more info on tax abatement

# 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 A JOINDER DEED?

By Michele Clewell



A Joinder Deed is a legal document that merges two or more, separately assessed parcels of land that are abutted into a single parcel for tax purposes.

The Board of Supervisors passed Resolution 12-2019-6, that establishes Joinder Deed Procedures. For example: a copy of your Tax Certification on the properties being joined must be presented from the Monroe County Tax Claim Bureau, a copy of your proposed deed with appropriate language for land description and joinder deed, a plot plan or tax map showing lots joined; a survey is NOT required and the required fee payable to the Township. Upon receipt of the required document, the Township will create a Resolution that notifies the Monroe County Record of Deeds that a joinder deed has been approved by the Township and the new deed can now be recorded to join the parcels as described in the new Deed.

For additional information please contact Michele Clewell at [mclewell@mstownship.com](mailto:mclewell@mstownship.com).

## VOTE

### SIGN OF THE TIMES: POLITICAL SIGNS

By Vicki Smith

With election season approaching, residents will see political signs around the township. To keep our community looking its best, please remember these rules from the Township Zoning Ordinance:

- Signs cannot be displayed more than 15 days after an election.
- No signs are allowed on Township property (parks, buildings, golf course), except at polling places on Election Day.
- Maximum size: 16 sq. ft. per side. Larger signs are regulated as billboards.
- No duplicate signs for the same candidate/issue within 100 feet on the same lot.
- Signs on public property or rights-of-way may be removed without notice.
- Signs on private property require the owner's permission.

Political sign permit applications are available through the Zoning Office or online at [www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com](http://www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com).

## MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP TO HOST "COURSE IN SUBDIVISION & LAND DEVELOPMENT REVIEW" FOR REGIONAL ZONING AND PLANNING PROFESSIONALS

By Vicki Smith

Middle Smithfield Township is pleased to host Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Education Institute's (PMPEI) three-session in-depth course taught by PMPEI Certified Instructor of "The Course in Subdivision & Land Development Review" on Thursdays in October: 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and the 15<sup>th</sup>.

This course deals with the work of planning commissions<sup>1</sup> in the subdivision and land development review process\*—from pre-application meetings through project completion. Extensively revised in 2005, the course emphasizes the MPC (Municipal Planning Code) as the source of authority to regulate development. Planning commissions have a central role to play in the land development process which is an integral part of a community's comprehensive planning program. New in the course are flexible design concepts and options for better project design. Participants learn new skills for administering the review process, reviewing plans, and calculating impacts of development. The course also covers techniques for incorporating internal and external reviews in plan review, and how information sharing can improve local and regional planning.

Normally, this course is held hours away from our region; however, Middle Smithfield Township proactively arranged to host this course at the Middle Smithfield Township Community and Cultural Center so that now, our own planning commission members, zoning hearing board members, and zoning department, as well as neighboring municipalities in Monroe and Pike counties also have the opportunity to participate.

PMPEI is an educational program of the PA Chapter-APA and PA State Association of Boroughs. This course is sponsored by the Northeast Section of PA Chapter-APA and Middle Smithfield.

- The Middle Smithfield Township Planning Commission meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month. There is a zoom link, and meetings can be found on the township's YouTube channel.
- A proposed ordinance regarding SALDO, specifically addressing fire chief fees and plan submission requirements, is currently available on the township's Resolutions & Ordinances page: <https://www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com/227/Resolutions-Ordinances>





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: Jeff Senholzi

Members: Gary Morris, Melonie Schmid, William Patterson

## FALL 2025 SHORT-TERM RENTAL & RESIDENTIAL RESALES

By Mayra Colon

As the fall season begins, we want to provide important updates regarding Short-Term Rentals (STRs) and Residential Resale Use & Occupancy to help you stay compliant and avoid any delays or penalties.

### Short-Term Rentals (STRs)

- All STR licenses expired on October 31, 2025.
- Renewals are due shortly—submit your application and fees promptly to remain in compliance.
- Make sure your property continues to meet zoning and safety requirements.
- Renewal Fees: \$300.00

**Tip: Renew early to avoid penalties and interruptions in rental operations.**

### Residential Resale Use & Occupancy

- A use & occupancy certificate is required whenever selling or buying a home.
- Schedule inspections early to ensure certificates are issued in time for closing.
- Application fee: \$150.00

### Helpful Reminder:

- Always verify that your property is compliant with current zoning and safety codes.
- Contact our office if you have questions about applications, inspections, or fees.
- Planning ahead helps protect your investment and ensures a smooth transaction.

Thank you for helping us maintain a safe and compliant community. Wishing you a wonderful fall season!

## YARD CLEAN UP...UP IN SMOKE?

By Vicki Smith

With the changing of the seasons on the horizon, the leaves will change color and soon fall to the ground. Some homeowners may think the best way to clean up their yard is to rake it all into a pile and set it ablaze. That's not the best option for the health, safety and welfare of township residents.

**Middle Smithfield Township, under Chapter 94 of the Township Code (Ordinance 165), requires residents to recycle rather than burn specific items that are included in its recycling program and regulates outdoor burning in addition to the prohibition of burning trash. In short, BURN BARRELS and OUTSIDE BURNING of recyclable material or trash is NOT PERMITTED in Middle Smithfield Township at any time.**

Many residents do not realize that yard waste is considered recyclable material and can be brought to the Oak Grove Multi-Municipal Composting Site on Oak Grove Dr. (See page 23). In fact, the township picks up leaves from roadside on state and township roads, and from central locations within HOA's.

Residents may use fire pits, camp fires and chimineas in a recreational setting where a responsible adult is supervising at all times.

Middle Smithfield Township encourages their residents to confidentially report illegal burning for the health, safety and welfare of all residents and thanks those who assist in keeping our communities burn free.

MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP

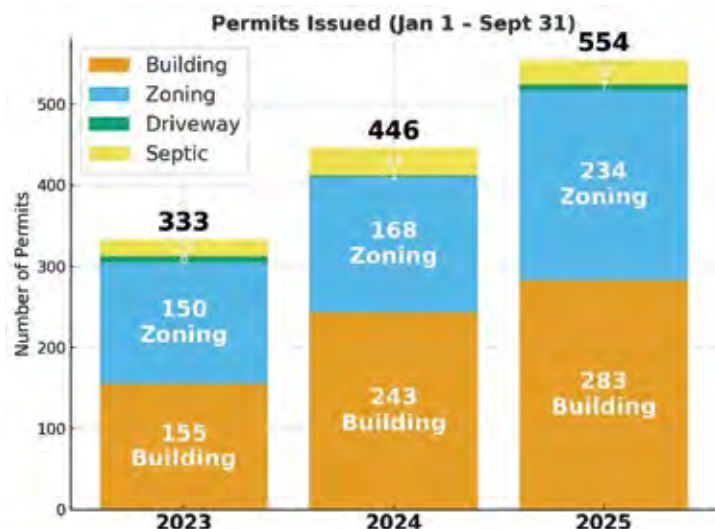
CITIZEN REPORTER

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





# COMMUNITY & CULTURAL CENTER

5200 Milford Rd., East Stroudsburg, PA 18302

Manager: Holly Dennis | [hdennis@mstownship.com](mailto:hdennis@mstownship.com) | 570-223-8920 x132

## NATIONAL FOSSIL DAY™ 2025 &

### THE RETURN OF MARSHALL THE MASTODON

By Holly Dennis

**National Fossil Day is Wednesday, October 15th!**

National Fossil Day was established in the United States by the National Park Service to promote the scientific and educational values of fossils, such as the discovery of our very own Marshalls Creek Mastodon!

This nationwide celebration was first held on October 13, 2010. The National Park Service and over 270 partners, including museums (such as the state museum in Harrisburg that now has the mastodon), schools and other groups, joined together to celebrate fossils and the historical and educational significance they hold.

There will be an exhibit on display at the Middle Smithfield Township Community and Cultural Center for the month of October in honor of National Fossil Day. This will include a life-size mural of Marshall the Mastodon, information about the discovery, and more! There will also be Native American artifacts on display. Free Educational resources and activities about National Fossil Day will also be available.

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

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

Learn more about the discovery of the Marshalls Creek Mastodon on page 18!

To schedule an appointment scan the QR code, call 1-800-733-2767 or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org)



American Red Cross

## Community Blood Drive

**Middle Smithfield Township Community and Cultural Center**

Community Room  
5200 Milford Road  
East Stroudsburg, PA 18302

**Friday, October 17, 2025  
12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**



## FALL ACTIVITIES ARE BOUNTIFUL AT THE LIBRARY OF THE SMITHFIELDS!

By Jessica Brown, Branch Manager Library of the Smithfields

### Lapsit

Ages 1-2. Siblings welcome. Books, songs, & activities. Walk-in but space is limited.

- Tuesdays @ 9:30 AM: Sept 30, Oct 7, 14, 21, 28, Nov 11, 18 (NOT Nov 4)



### Preschool Storytime

Ages 3-5. Siblings welcome. Stories, songs, & coloring sheet or simple craft. Walk-in but space is limited.

- Tuesdays @ 10:00 AM: Sept 30, Oct 7, 14, 21, 28, Nov 11, 18 (NOT Nov 4)

### Craft Supply Swap at The Library of the Smithfields!

Starting September 18th and going until October 16th, the Library of the Smithfields will be accepting new or gently used craft and art supply donations!

In anticipation of our Arts and Crafts Supply Swap, the Library of the Smithfields is asking for donations of gently used and new arts and craft supplies. All donors will be granted early access to the swap donations will only be accepted at the Library of the Smithfield branch. We will currently be limiting donations to two reasonably sized bags or boxes. Please do not use bags or boxes you would not wish to part with.

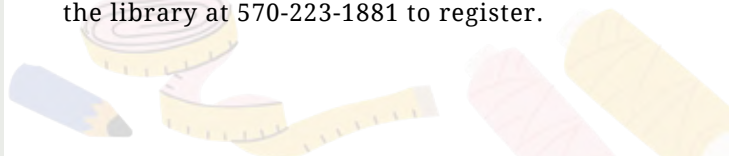
Anything left outside of the donation window will be subject to disposal. Items must be in reusable condition and may be disposed at staff discretion. No household paint, office supplies, or items considered to be a hazardous material will be accepted. Anything that poses a health or hygiene hazard will be disposed of.

**The actual swap will be on October 25th! General entry will begin at 1:45pm! More details to come!**

**Fall Card Making Workshop | October 30th @ 11am**

The Library of the Smithfields is hosting a Fall Card Making Workshop! Join Alicia Vincelette of Inked Edge Paper Art as she walks us through creating our own detailed cards for Fall!

Registration Required! Space is limited so please call the library at 570-223-1881 to register.







## WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL, ESASD!

*Maggie Vitale, Ed.D, East Stroudsburg Area School District Superintendent*

The East Stroudsburg Area School District school year is off to an incredible start! Our students arrived eager to learn, reconnected with friends, and began the 2025/26 school year with optimism and excitement. I have had the pleasure to spend time in every school, witnessing an energy level that can only be classified as inspiring. We must thank our 12-month staff for their dedication over the summer to ensure that we were ready to welcome our students. Then, we must offer a shout out to our 10-month support staff and professional staff for returning with open hearts and minds to educate our students!

Our dedicated administration, faculty, and staff have worked tirelessly to create welcoming, supportive spaces for every child. As a district, we developed a new vision and mission statement. Our vision for our district is that we are maximizing today's potential for tomorrow's success. Our new mission statement sets our focus clearly on educating the whole student:

### East Stroudsburg Area School District champions these guiding principles to support success for all:

- Ensuring safety and belonging
- Committing to inclusion
- Valuing diversity
- Uniting our communities
- Cultivating curiosity
- Fostering solution-focused thinking
- Learning without limits
- Building resilience and hope



These are not just words on the page, but who we are as a school district and what we embody as educators!

## WELCOME KRISTIN MCKEOWN TO THE LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Middle Smithfield Township is pleased to welcome Kristin McKeown to her new role representing the Library of the Smithfields on the Board of Directors.



Kristin brings extensive legal and nonprofit leadership experience, currently serving as Corporate Compliance Counsel at Curi Holdings, Inc., where she also contributes to community initiatives. She has previously held senior positions in corporate compliance and governance, supported environmental and educational nonprofits, and served as General Counsel for national organizations.

Since moving to the area in 2020, Kristin has been an active supporter of the library, inspired by its wide-ranging programs and commitment to literacy, lifelong learning, and community engagement. With her background in nonprofit governance and her passion for education, she will be a strong advocate for the library and its mission.

We are excited to have Kristin join the Board and look forward to the positive impact she will bring to our community.

## 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 9<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://cfmcpa.org) and click on "events". Look for Dementia Care & Caregiver Forum and click on Register. Questions can be emailed to [director@cfmcpa.org](mailto:director@cfmcpa.org).

# 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](mailto: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](https://facebook.com/DelWaterGapNPS)  
[nps.gov/dewa/index.htm](https://nps.gov/dewa/index.htm)
- **Hidden Lake**  
National Park within our township. No street address; entrance near Hidden Lake Drive and Keystone Road.  
[delawariver.natgetourism.com/content/hidden-lake-bushkill-pa/del163a03909b0065c79](https://delawariver.natgetourism.com/content/hidden-lake-bushkill-pa/del163a03909b0065c79)

[www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com/243/Parks-Facilities](http://www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com/243/Parks-Facilities)

Visit the Parks & Recreation page on our website for news, upcoming events, and more about your Township's Parks & Recreation Department!



## TRUNK OR TREAT IS OCT. 18TH!

By Chris Rain

**Happy Halloween!** On Saturday October 18, the Parks & Recreation Committee will host its 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Trunk or Treat at Resica Park. The event begins at noon and ends at 1:30pm and is for all township children 12 and under! The rain date is Sunday October 19.



Tom X Pub at last year's Trunk or Treat

Candy and other giveaways are only available while supplies last!

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

If you would like to decorate your car for Trunk or Treat, you must pre-register your car by Thursday October 16 at 4pm. Just coming to enjoy the event? No pre-registration is required. For more information, contact Chris Rain at [crain@mstownship.com](mailto:crain@mstownship.com) or 570-223-8920 x119.



## BUILDING COMMUNITY AT COMMUNITY DAY

By Chris Rain

On Saturday August 2, Middle Smithfield Township's Parks & Recreation Board hosted the 5th Annual Community Day at Echo Lake Park.

The event included 40 organizations that are non-profit and community oriented reaching out to the public and

signing up new volunteers.

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





## TREE LIGHTING & HOLIDAY MARKET

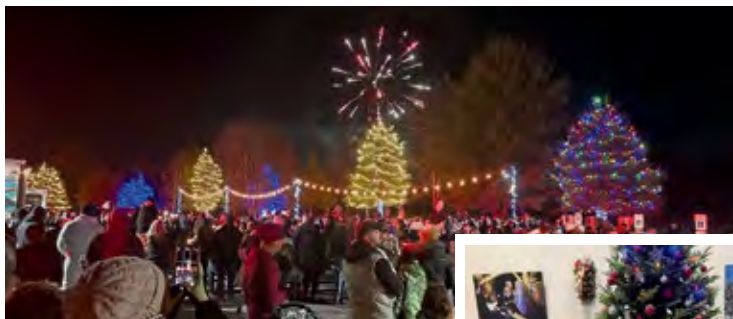
By Chris Rain

Come kick off the holiday season at our 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Tree Lighting on Saturday November 29 at Echo Lake Park.

Visit our holiday market and do some early shopping starting at 4pm, then enjoy music from local musicians starting at 5:30. Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive at 6:30 courtesy the Marshalls Creek Fire Company to light the tree and visit with the kids. The rain date is Sunday November 30.

Interested in being a vendor at the market? Contact Chris Rain at [crain@mstowship.com](mailto:crain@mstowship.com) or 570-223-8920 x119, or visit our website.

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



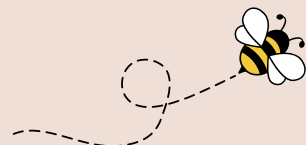
Fireworks, live music & photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus are just a few of the fun things to experience at the annual tree lighting.

## 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](mailto:insectsareus4h@gmail.com) for more information

### Dates:

- October 11 & 25



Thank you to all of our vendors and to our 2025 Parks Sponsors for helping us put together this event, and all of our events in 2024:

- Sheeley Insurance – Platinum Sponsor
- Pocono Kidz Zone – Gold Sponsor
- LVH-Pocono – Gold Sponsor
- ESSA Bank, Prosser Labs, and Super Heat – Silver Sponsors
- Huffman's Electric, Bushkill Emergency Corps – Bronze Sponsors
- Scantek – Parks Partner



Marshalls Creek Fire Co at Community Day.



Guests enjoying a magic show at community day.



# HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Chair: Carrie Wetherbee | Vice Chair: Robert Huffman

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

Liaison: Holly Dennis

## THE MARSHALLS CREEK MASTODON

By Holly Dennis

If you've driven down Route 209 by Wendy's, you might have noticed a State Historical Marker there. If you haven't had the chance to stop and read it, it says:

**"In 1968, John W. Leap and workers at a nearby peat bog discovered the bones of a large mastodon that died about 12,000 years ago. These large, tusked mammals (*Mammuth americanum*) lived throughout North America from 5.2 million to 10,000 years ago. The Marshalls Creek specimen, now in the collection of the State Museum of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg, ranks among the most complete mastodon skeletons found on the East Coast."**

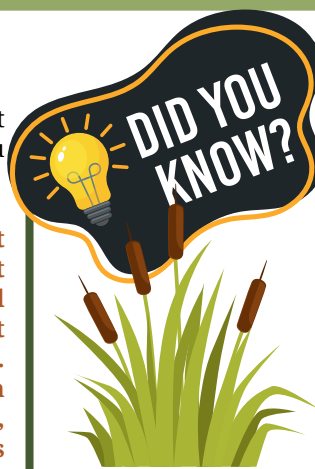
In July of 1968, John Leap, owner of Lakeside Peat and Humus Company, and Paul Strausser were working in the bog when they accidentally unearthed the perfectly preserved skull of a mastodon that had been buried under six feet of bog material.

Employees of the State Museum of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg were called to the scene, along with five excavation crews. After two weeks of digging, crews compiled the most complete Mastodon skeleton ever found in Pennsylvania.

The skeleton was then taken to Harrisburg where it was processed, assembled, and where the Marshalls Creek Mastodon still lives today.

Anyone who wants to see the mastodon in person can visit it at the "Life Through Time" exhibit at the State Museum of Pennsylvania. If you want to stay a little closer to home, a replica of the mastodon's foot can be found on display at the township building (except in October when it is on display at the Community and Cultural Center.)

Stop by the Community and Cultural Center in the month of October to see our (pre)Historical Commission's exhibit in honor of National Fossil Day. More information can be found on page 14.



Bogs are an archaeologist's best friend! Things submerged in bogs don't decompose due to extremely low oxygen levels and high acidity, both caused by sphagnum moss found in bogs. These conditions create an inhospitable environment for the bacteria and fungi responsible for decomposition, effectively acting as a natural preservative that can preserve soft tissues, clothing, and even hair for centuries.



## MONROE COUNTY PA250 KEYSTONE PROJECT

As part of America250PA, each Monroe County municipality is receiving a commemorative America250PA Keystone — a large wooden emblem in the shape of a keystone to be painted by a local artist to reflect that community's story.

Middle Smithfield's keystone is in the talented hands of resident artist Jane MacHale, whose design celebrates our unique heritage and natural beauty. Her finalized sketch will incorporate symbols such as trout, and feature Resica Falls and the Resica Falls Boy Scout Reservation, the Marshalls Creek Mastodon, the Marshalls Creek Explosion (a defining local history moment), the Lenape and Indian Museum, and our beloved Heron Rookery.

These images will come together as a vibrant tribute to the people, places, and history that define Middle Smithfield Township. Stay tuned—our keystone will be on display at the Township soon!





## MEMORY MAKERS 2025: PRESERVING OUR PAST, INSPIRING OUR FUTURE

On August 9, Middle Smithfield Township held its 19th Annual Memory Makers Luncheon at the Community & Cultural Center. Guests enjoyed a hearty meal from The Cinder Inn and an afternoon of history and community.

Two featured presentations highlighted the afternoon:

- Monroe County Commissioner David C. Parker spoke on plans for the America250 celebration, which will mark the nation's 250th anniversary in 2026. He shared Monroe County's proud Revolutionary War contributions and ongoing preparations for commemorative events.
- Local historian and township resident Danny Younger captivated the audience with a talk on Fort Hyndshaw, Middle Smithfield's French and Indian War fortification. His presentation revealed new details about the fort's strategic importance and its connection to America's early fight for independence, offering never-before-shared insights into this significant local site.

A big thank you to the Historical Commission, our sponsors, and everyone who joined us in celebrating and preserving our shared history. Together, we're keeping our memories alive for generations to come!



**Top Left:** Commissioner David Parker at Memory Makers presenting a raffle prize. **Top Right:** Memory Makers celebrated America250. Everyone got to take home a pocket Constitution. **Middle:** Guests enjoying the presentation. **Bottom:** resident and local historian Danny Younger presented on Fort Hyndshaw and Middle Smithfield's part in American History.

## "Back to School"

*more information coming soon!*



One of the most recognizable indicators of fall is going back to school, so let's all go back to school together!

The Middle Smithfield Township Historical Commission was lucky enough to receive a donation of boxes of slides from Middle Smithfield School (now called Middle Smithfield Elementary) circa 1950's, 1960's and 1970's.

The slides were obtained and donated by Velma Knight and Wesley Rusk after beloved teacher Mr. Glenn Wallingford passed away.

We invite students young and old to come view the exhibit and help identify anyone in any of the photos. The exhibit will also include donated yearbooks and other memorabilia.

Stay tuned for exhibit dates and more information!

# PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Director: Mike Dwyer

Public Works Department Administrator: Rachel Heller

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

## BULK TRASH DISPOSAL IS NOW AVAILABLE EVERY FRIDAY UNTIL OCTOBER 17

By Rachel Heller

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 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 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Paper shredding will be available during the October event.

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

Friday Clean up and the Fall Cleanup 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!

## ROAD PROJECT UPDATE

By Rachel Heller

**The following roads have been paved in 2025:**

- Brushy Mountain Road (Marshalls Creek Rd to Barren Rd)
- Coolbaugh Road (Tego Lake Rd to MST Community Gardens)
- Knob Hill Circle (Brushy Mtn Rd to Cul-de-sac)
- Paper Lane (Knob Hill Circle to Cul-de-sac)
- Upper Lakeview Drive (Sellersville Dr to Turkey Ridge Rd)
- Winona Falls Road (Lower Lakeview Dr to County Line)

**The following roads have been chip sealed in 2025:**

- Auburn Way (Waverly Dr to Cul-de-sac)
- Clear Spring Court (Waverly Dr to Cul-de-sac)
- East Ridge Lane (Waverly Dr to Cul-de-sac)
- Knoll Drive (Waverly Dr to Dry Pond Dr)
- Stone Wall Court (Waverly Dr to Cul-de-sac)
- West Ridge Court (Waverly Dr to Cul-de-sac)

## FALL CLEAN UP EVENT

By Rachel Heller

Fall Clean Up & Freecycle will be held on October 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> from 7 am- 2 pm. Drop off locations are the Township Building (147 Municipal Drive) and Wooddale Garage (792 Dancing Ridge Road).

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

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

*\*U-Hauls over 14' are not permitted*

*\*Vehicle/trailer loads with sideboards over 2 ft high will be surcharged \$10 each.*

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

We are also now accepting waste oil, transmission fluid, hydraulic fluid, and fryer oil.

Locked bins for drop-and-go shredding will be available onsite as well, beginning on October 24<sup>th</sup>.

For more information contact Rachel at 570-223-8920 x142 or email rheller@mstowship.com.

### ITEMS NOT ACCPETED :

- Household garbage
- Automobiles or automobile parts
- Paint cans with contents or thinners
- Pesticides, herbicides, or any other hazardous materials
- Building materials or demolition waste (lumber, sheetrock, shingles, dirt, cement, etc.)







## RECYCLING IN MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP

By Rachel Heller

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. 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:

### 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

## FALL LEAF COLLECTION

By Rachel Heller

Fall Leaf Collection is taking place October 20- December 5. Leaf collection will not have specific dates for each route, but each road will be serviced between the specific collection dates. Collection dates may change without notice due to inclement weather or any other emergency that might arise.

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

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

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

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

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

IF YOU LITERALLY HAVE A TON  
OF GARBAGE...



### Alliance Sanitary Landfill

389 South Keyser Avenue  
Taylor, PA 18517

[www.alliancelandfill.wm.com](http://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](http://www.wmsolutions.com)

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



# SEWER

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

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS:

The township is still in the process of securing easements for both the Big Ridge Dr Sewer Relocation (due to corrosion of the bridge o Big Ridge Drive) and Route 402 Sewer Expansion projects—no construction has begun yet.

Meanwhile, we're heading into the fourth month of the odor control trial. Our engineering firm, Gilmore & Associates, is currently evaluating an alternative (and significantly more cost effective), solution to our previous odor reducing product.

## SEWER BILLING DATES:

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

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST LEADERSHIP POCONO GRADUATE!

This June Middle Smithfield Township's Sewer Department Manager, Joan Woisin, graduated from the the Leadership Pocono Program of Northampton Community College.



Industry, Leadership Pocono is a forum developed for bolstering natural leadership skills within individuals, whilst nurturing a sense of responsibility in applying those skills.

For 10 months, participants engaged in sessions built for developing a deep sense of the problems that face the Pocono community, as well as identified opportunities and available resources that can be utilized in building a better future. Members focused on ways they can get involved with government, education, social services, culture, and made great connections.

The Township's newest inductees will now join the great list of Leadership Pocono Alumni, including the Township's own **James Brechbiel**, Economic Development Manager, **Michele Clewell**, Township Secretary, **Mayra Colon**, Zoning Administrator, **Holly Dennis**, Community & Municipal Projects, **Rachel Heller**, Public Works Administrator, **Kylie Medrano**, Accounting, **Chris Rain**, Community & Municipal Projects Coordinator, and **Vicki Smith**, Zoning Administrator.

### About Joan:

Joan Woisin has been with Middle Smithfield Township for 13 years and has been the Sewer Department Manager for 11 years. She graduated from East Stroudsburg University with a bachelor's in accounting. Originally from New York City, Joan worked for 15 years at Standard and Poor's as a sales department Administrative Assistant prior to working at Middle Smithfield. On her free time, she enjoys working on home improvement projects and caring for her granddaughter.



Monroe Senior Volunteer Program- MSVP volunteers helping the sewer department with the quarterly sewer mailings.





# OAK GROVE

**Chairperson:** Aaron Springs

**Vice Chair:** Robert Lovenheim

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Mike Dwyer

**Members:** Annette Atkinson, Julia Heilakka, Danny Medrano



**Location:** 3305 Oak Grove Drive  
East Stroudsburg, PA 18302

**Hours:** Monday- Saturday 17 am- 2 pm  
Closed on holidays

**Contact:** 570-223-8920 x132  
[www.ogmmcpb.com](http://www.ogmmcpb.com)

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



## MY WORK AT WORK!

Left: My Work students Weeding and landscaping at the Community Gardens Park

Right: Weed control along township roads.

## NEW NAME, SAME GREAT VOLUNTEERS!

The grant that enabled RSVP (Retired Seniors Volunteer Program, RSVP) was not renewed. The good news is that the Monroe County Area Agency on Aging (MCAAA) has stepped in to ensure the continuation of the program! We're pleased to let you know that while RSVP's name has changed to MSVP, and location is now 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Lodor Center. Their mission remains the same-- to serve seniors and the community in Monroe County!



MSVP at Community Day.





## UPCOMING PINK LIGHTS WALK EVENTS:

### PINK LIGHTS WALK

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

### DINE TO DONATE

Paint Texas Roadhouse Pink  
12-9 pm on October 13<sup>th</sup>



Left: 1000 Pink Lights Walk at Community Day.

Above: 1000 Pink Lights Walk Car Wash and Ace Hardware.

## 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.



Chair Yoga participants at the Community and Cultural Center.

### Upcoming Classes:

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

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.



On Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup> Luz Gonzalez and her team hosted a Pasta Fundraiser at the Middle Smithfield Township Community & Cultural Center to raise money for the Eastern Monroe Public Library & The National Ovarian Cancer Coalition. They raised over \$2,000 for their cause.



Pocono Autism Society is a non-profit support organization for families and professionals involved with Autism/Pervasive Developmental Disorders. They advocate for the general welfare of persons with autism and foster dialogue between parents and professionals to enhance diagnosis, therapy, education and recreation of persons with autism. We promote public awareness of the problems of persons with autism.

Monthly daytime meetings scheduled for 9:30am, on the 4th Wednesday of the month at the Hughes Library, 1002 North Ninth St Stroudsburg. Meetings are held during the months when school is in session, Sept - May.

[www.poconoautism.org](http://www.poconoautism.org) | (570) 688-5779  
[poconoautismbeth@gmail.com](mailto:poconoautismbeth@gmail.com)

## Shawnee Playhouse Sensory Friendly Shows

A sensory friendly performance is a version that provides an adjusted theater experience and clips of the full production. It is modified to be more accessible for people with sensory sensitivities. These performances are designed to be welcoming and comfortable, and can include people with autism, learning disabilities, or other cognitive challenges.

Each performance is 30 minutes and will be General Admission for only \$5 per seat (plus fee).

- **Winnie the Pooh's Christmas Carol**  
Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 12pm
- **Shawnee's Christmas Spectacular**  
Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am

More info can be found at [www.shawneeplayhouse.org](http://www.shawneeplayhouse.org).



## NOMINATE YOUR HERO! PERSON OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

by Holly Dennis

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

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

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

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

Nomination forms and details can be downloaded at [www.MiddleSmithfieldTownship.com](http://www.MiddleSmithfieldTownship.com) or can be picked up at the township building.

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

The winner will be announced at the Person of the Year and Volunteer Appreciation Banquet on **Friday, January 24th**. Not only will the 2025 Person of the Year be announced, other volunteers and organizations will be recognized for the hard work they do for the community. More information about this event to come!

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



From left to right: 2024 Person of the Year Finalist Luz Gonzalez, Person of the Year Betty Ann Ricci, Finalist Maria Oquendo.

### NOMINATION GUIDELINES

- Service provided may not include hours served as part of an internship fulfilling academic requirements.
- Nominated volunteers must have provided service during the 2025 calendar year; however, service provided prior to this year can also be included.
- Nominee must reside in and/or volunteer in Middle Smithfield Township.
- Volunteers may nominate themselves.
- Staff members compensated by salary or any other compensatory means are not eligible.
- Any service provided in reference to a court case will not be eligible.
- Award selections are based on the nominee's volunteer efforts and commitment of time, accomplishments, community impact and enhancement of the lives of others, as described on the nomination form.
- Nominees must volunteer for a minimum of one year, at least 170 hours per year, and reside in or volunteer in Middle Smithfield Township and benefited the community in a substantial, important or unique way.
- Nominations must be received via online application or dropped off at the township building prior to the deadline.
- Nominators must obtain approval from the person being nominated prior to submission.
- All decisions made by the independent panel of judges are final.
- Nominations are subject to verification.

# EMERGENCY SERVICES

## MARSHALLS CREEK FIRE COMPANY

Will Vitulli, Board of Directors, Marshalls Creek Fire Company

Marshalls Creek Fire Company is always working to improve the way we serve our community, and training remains a top priority. Recently, we added a new Holmatro Pedal Cutter to our rescue tools, giving our members another resource to help save lives in emergencies.



The pedal cutter is designed to handle tough situations where someone may be trapped in a vehicle or other entrapment. Our newer members have been training on the best techniques for using hydraulic tools, learning how to safely and efficiently remove someone from danger. These hands-on sessions ensure that every firefighter can respond with skill and confidence when seconds matter most.

Our EMS team has also been actively involved, practicing alongside firefighters during extrication drills. This teamwork helps both sides refine their skills—not only in operating the equipment but also in carefully removing patients from harm's way and transitioning them to medical care.

In addition to rescue training, Marshalls Creek Fire Company continues to sharpen firefighting fundamentals. We regularly practice drafting water from lakes, ponds, and streams, which is a vital skill in our community where hydrants are not always available. By training in these environments, our members stay ready to deliver water wherever it's needed to fight and extinguish fires.

Through continuous training, new equipment, and teamwork between our fire and EMS crews, Marshalls Creek Fire Company is building stronger skills to better protect and serve our community.

If you're interested in becoming a member, stop by the firehouse on Tuesday nights to meet the crew and pick up an application.

### FIRE PREVENTION COMMUNITY NIGHT

Tuesday, October 7th | 6:30 pm - 9 pm  
J.T. Lambert Intermediate School  
2000 Milford Rd. East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

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

Activities include:

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

Admission is FREE!

## SHAWNEE FIRE COMPANY

By Dave Timko, Assistant Chief Shawnee Fire Company

Upcoming Events:



- Friday October 10<sup>th</sup> – Fire Prevention at Smithfield Elementary School – This is our annual visit and fire prevention program to the students. An announcement with more information will be circulated.

As we mentioned in our summer update, we were planning on doing some building repairs and painting at our Main Station on Hollow Road. Those repairs are almost complete. We still need to paint our main entrance sign and stain the front entrance steps. We also upgraded our camera security system and purchased new flags for our flagpole. If weather permits, we will be paving the rear half of the parking lot this year and then plan to pave the front half in 2026.



Shawnee Assistant Fire Chief Dave Timko at Community Day.

As always, we would like to thank the Middle Smithfield Township Supervisors and staff, along with the township constituents for your continued support of the Shawnee Volunteer Fire Company.

As heating season begins, it is recommended to have your furnaces, heating units, and chimneys, serviced and cleaned. And don't forget to check those batteries and smoke/CO detectors!!

## CHARGE into Fire Safety™

### Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home

- BUY only listed products.
- CHARGE devices safely.
- RECYCLE batteries responsibly.



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## BUSHKILL FIRE COMPANY

By Kyle Rohner, Chief Bushkill Volunteer Fire Company



## BUSHKILL EMERGENCY CORPS

By Debbie Kulick, President Bushkill Emergency Corps



As Bushkill Emergency Corps has reached its 60<sup>th</sup> year of service for the

residents and visitors to our community, we look back at the first article announcing its beginnings.

Here is some of that article that was printed in The Pocono Record in October of 1965:

"The Bushkill Emergency Corps went ton action over the weekend an operating volunteer public service to the residents of Bushkill, Middle Smithfield, and adjacent communities. "

The article went on to instruct residents how to call for an ambulance: "In case of any emergency requiring the help of Bushkill Emergency Corps, people should call 421-1300, giving their name, address, and telephone number. They should tell the dispatcher what the emergency is, and its location, to insure the rapid arrival of the emergency corps."

The article explained where the organization obtained equipment and what those items were: "Emergency equipment has been donated to the Corps by the Plainfield Rescue Squad, the Bushkill Fire Company, and the Sertoma Club of Easton. Equipment includes a 1965 Pontiac ambulance, purchased by the Corps (\$600 purchase price), an oxygen resuscitator, first aid kit, two Reeves stretchers, a spine board, uniforms, and a cardiac chair. Fifteen active members of the Corps recently received Advanced First Aid certifications after completing a 15-week American Red Cross course."

This look back reminds us all how far Emergency Medical Service (EMS) has grown and developed over time. Today ambulances provide services that begin the treatments received in the Emergency Room. The early interventions save lives over and over again each day. Bushkill Emergency Corps is proud of the service provided to our community and looks forward to continuing service for years to come.

We invite our community to join us in our celebration on November 15<sup>th</sup> at Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort. For more information, please call us at: 570-223-1906.

**Warm Home. Safe Home.**

Check your chimney for any blockages.  
Get your chimney inspected and cleaned annually by a professional.

Keep flammable items away from the fireplace and hearth.

Maintain smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers.

Properly dispose of ashes once they are completely cooled using a metal container.

Use a safety screen to help protect from embers.

**BUSHKILL FIRE CO. STATION 24**

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



AnnMarie Rohner and Assistant Chief Tim Rohner from Bushkill Fire Co. at Community Day.

### FIND FIRE & EMS ONLINE

#### Marshall's Creek Fire Co.

570-223-8445

112 Marshall's Creek Rd.

E. Stroudsburg, PA 18302

Facebook: @Marshall'sCreekFireCo

#### 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

# ELECTION DAY IS NOV. 4TH!

## VOTING DISTRICTS & POLLING PLACES:

### MIDDLE SMITHFIELD 1

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

### MIDDLE SMITHFIELD 2

**Middle Smithfield Township Building**  
147 Municipal Dr.  
East Stroudsburg, PA 18302

### MIDDLE SMITHFIELD 3

**Middle Smithfield Presbyterian Church**  
5205 Milford Rd.  
East Stroudsburg, PA 18302

### MIDDLE SMITHFIELD 4

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

**District maps and other important election info  
can be found here:**

**[www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com/212/voting](http://www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com/212/voting)**

**Polls are open 7 am- 8 pm**

**You can find your polling place here:  
[bit.ly/Polling-Place-Info](http://bit.ly/Polling-Place-Info)**

**The last day to register for the  
General Election is October 20, 2025.**

**You can register here:  
[bit.ly/PA-Voter-Registration-Application](http://bit.ly/PA-Voter-Registration-Application)**

**You will need to apply for a mail-in ballot by  
October 28, 2025 on your county election board  
website here:**

**[www.monroecountypa.gov/departments/elections](http://www.monroecountypa.gov/departments/elections)**

### Mail-in ballot drop box locations

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

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

**\*\* Drop box location closes at 5 pm.**