

# MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWS HOLIDAY 2025



## THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 SPONSORS

### PERSON OF THE YEAR

**GOLD**  
SHEELEY INSURANCE  
GRIM, BIEHN, & THATCHER

**BRONZE**  
PROSSER LABS

**SLATE**  
WAYNE BANK  
HUFFMANS ELECTRIC

### CIVIC EVENTS

**SILVER**  
SHEELEY INSURANCE

**BRONZE**  
PROSSER LABS

**CIVIC PARTNER**  
HUFFMANS ELECTRIC  
GOTTA GO POTTIES

### PARKS & RECREATION

**PLATINUM**  
SHEELEY INSURANCE



**GOLD**  
POCONO KIDZ ZONE  
LEHIGH VALLEY HOSPITAL- POCONO

**SILVER**  
ESSA BANK & TRUST  
PROSSER LABS  
SUPER HEAT



**BRONZE**  
HUFFMANS ELECTRIC  
BUSHKILL EMERGENCY CORPS

PARKS PARTNER: SCANTEK



**2025 SHOP LOCAL  
HOLIDAY DISCOUNT  
CARD INSIDE!**

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR SHOP LOCAL  
HOLIDAY PROGRAM ON PAGE 10.



**13TH ANNUAL  
TREE LIGHTING**

MORE INFORMATION ON PAGE 9.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH  
ECHO LAKE PARK

PHOTO CREDIT: RAY ROPER, POCONO PHOTO CLUB

# MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWS

## WHAT'S GOING ON:

### November

No Community & Cultural Center Exhibit this month.

11/24- 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

### January

No Community & Cultural Center Exhibit this month.

1/23/26: Person of the Year and Volunteer Appreciation Banquet

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

\*all events subject to weather or other changes.

Visit our website for an updated schedule

\*\* Dates TBD and subject to change

## 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!



Supervisors Mark Oney, Annette Atkinson, and Mike Dwyer

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

## HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM YOUR TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS & STAFF!

As we enter this Season of Gratitude, we're reminded how fortunate we are to live in a community that looks out for one another, celebrates together, and plans for the future with optimism and care.

The holidays in Middle Smithfield always begin with one of our favorite traditions — the Tree Lighting at Echo Lake Park, held every year on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. This cherished event marks the start of the Shop Local season (your 2025 Shop Local Discount Card is included in this issue—please activate and enjoy it!). In 2023, the addition of a stage by Law Sound & Lighting made performances and Santa's arrival brighter and more visible than ever. This year, look for another surprise twist—something entirely new in place of fireworks that will make this year's celebration truly special!

We also look forward to honoring the people who make our township thrive. The Person of the Year and Volunteer Appreciation Banquet will take place on Friday, January 23, 2025, the Friday following Martin Luther King Jr. Day. It's always an inspiring evening where we recognize the individuals whose dedication and volunteer spirit help shape Middle Smithfield's success.

As we prepare for a new year, we invite everyone to join us for the presentation of the 2026 Budget on Thursday, December 4th, and for its adoption on December 30th. The staff and Supervisors have been working diligently to align next year's goals with the needs of our growing community—investing in infrastructure, public safety, recreation, and quality of life for residents and businesses alike.

From all of us at the Township, we wish you and your families a safe, joyful, and peaceful holiday season.

Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year—Happy Everything!

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

Middle Smithfield Township Administrative Office  
147 Municipal Drive East Stroudsburg, PA 18302  
570-223-8920 | [info@mstownship.com](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](#)

Michele Clewell | Township Secretary,  
Human Resources Director  
Planning Commission Recording Secretary  
[mclewell@mstownship.com](mailto:mclewell@mstownship.com) | x112

Joan Woisin | Sewer Department Manager  
[jwoisin@mstownship.com](mailto:jwoisin@mstownship.com) | x115

On Lot Sewage Enforcement Officer | x128

Bonnie Christman | Budget & Finance Manager  
[bchristman@mstownship.com](mailto:bchristman@mstownship.com) | x131

Kylie Medrano | Accounts Payable/Receivable  
[kmedrano@mstownship.com](mailto:kmedrano@mstownship.com) | x116

Rachel Heller | Public Works Administrator,  
Oak Grove, & Emergency Management Coordinator  
[rheller@mstownship.com](mailto:rheller@mstownship.com) | x142

Shawn McGlynn | Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer  
[smcglynn@sfmconsultingllc.org](mailto:smcglynn@sfmconsultingllc.org) | x128

Mayra Colon | Zoning Administrator: Inspections  
[mcolon@mstownship.com](mailto:mcolon@mstownship.com) | x126

Vicki Smith | Zoning Administrator  
[vsmith@mstownship.com](mailto:vsmith@mstownship.com) | x105

Charlotte Giberson | Director of First Impressions,  
Accounts Payable/Accounts Receivable  
[recept@mstownship.com](mailto:recept@mstownship.com) | x100

Holly Dennis | Community & Municipal Projects  
Coordinator, Community & Cultural Center  
Programming & Exhibits, Historical Commission  
[hdennis@mstownship.com](mailto:hdennis@mstownship.com) | x132

Christopher Rain | Parks & Rec, Litter & Beautification,  
Facilities, Website & Right to Know Officer  
[crain@mstownship.com](mailto:crain@mstownship.com) | x119

James Brechbiel | Economic Development Manager  
[jbrechbiel@mstownship.com](mailto:jbrechbiel@mstownship.com) | x130

## NEW COMPREHENSIVE ZONING ORDINANCE ON THE WAY!

Middle Smithfield Township is updating its Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance for the first time in 15 years.

The current ordinance (Chapter 200) was adopted on December 9, 2010, and has since been amended several times to address issues such as Short-Term Rentals, Property Maintenance, signage, etc. While these amendments kept the ordinance functional, zoning is a living document, and from time to time it needs a full update to stay current with today's needs.

### What's Changing?

- Modernizes allowed uses
- Updates dimensional standards
- Revises and clarifies key definitions (such as "warehouse" and "data center")
- Updates the Township's Table of Uses

It also ensures compliance with Pennsylvania's Municipalities Planning Code, which requires that all land uses be accommodated somewhere in the municipality and that no rules be illegally exclusionary.

### The Review Process

The draft ordinance has already been reviewed by both the Middle Smithfield Township Planning Commission and the Monroe County Planning Commission. Following their comments, the Supervisors and Township Solicitor made revisions and will re-submit the draft to the County at least 30 days before the Township's public hearing.

Once County feedback is received, the Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on the proposed ordinance.

### Public Participation

State law requires that notice of the hearing be published in the Pocono Record once a week for two weeks prior to the hearing date. Residents are encouraged to review the draft and share comments at the hearing.

### What Happens After Adoption?

If adopted by a majority vote of the Supervisors, the new Chapter 200 Zoning Ordinance will take effect. Within 30 days of enactment, a copy will be filed with the County Planning Commission.

From that point forward, all new construction, occupancy changes, and land uses must comply with the updated ordinance. Existing uses that no longer fit the new zoning rules will become "non-conforming uses"—they are allowed to remain in place ("grandfathered"), but future expansions or alterations may be limited.

Stay tuned for the hearing date! This is your chance to help shape how our community grows and develops over the next decade and beyond.

## A MESSAGE OF THANKS FROM SUPERVISOR MIKE DWYER

As I conclude my years as Township Supervisor, I want to offer my deepest thanks to everyone who stood beside me, challenged me, and believed in the work we set out to do. Serving this community has been one of the greatest honors of my life—not because of titles or recognition, but because of the people.

Together, we faced challenges head-on, celebrated hard-won victories, and built something that will outlast any term in office: a movement rooted in compassion, accountability, and progress. I'm proud of what we accomplished—not just the policies we shaped, but the spirit we cultivated.

This role has taught me that leadership isn't about being the loudest voice in the room—it's about listening, showing up, and staying true to your values even when it's hard. I've learned from every conversation, every disagreement, and every moment of quiet resolve.

Middle Smithfield went from the butt of the joke to the model township that others aspire to achieve. Our public works department is the envy of the county/state because of their dedication, work, and responsiveness. Our administration staff are also among the very best.

During my time as supervisor, I also enjoyed so many experiences with our neighboring townships, our legislators, and many others with common purpose. I can't even count how many residents I met along the way; the vast majority I consider long-term friends.

Though my time in this seat is ending, my commitment to our community is not. I will continue to advocate, support, and uplift the people and causes that matter. The work continues, and so does my belief in what we can achieve together. I leave proudly and I leave with my head held high.

Thank you for the trust, the grace, and the opportunity to serve. I carry this chapter with pride, and I look forward to what comes next—with hope in my heart and gratitude in my soul.

## TREE-CYCLE AT OAK GROVE

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

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



**Oak Grove Hours and Location:**  
3305 Oak Grove Drive  
East Stroudsburg, PA 18302  
Monday-Saturday | 7am-2pm.

## WE SINCERELY THANK ALL OF OUR COMMITTEES:

**The Economic Development Committee** advises the Board of Supervisors on matters dealing with the advancement and expansion of the local economy. A resource to the business community dedicated to the success of our businesses, the EDC strives to create a diverse business community that is prosperous and innovative while built on a stable economic foundation.

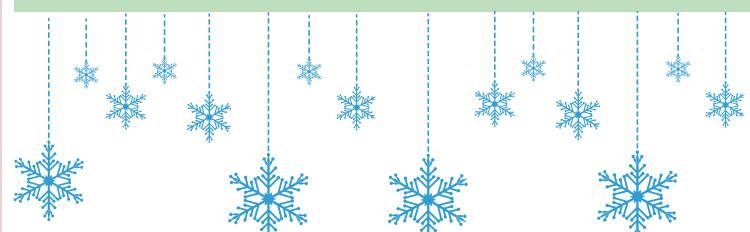
**The Revitalize 209 Advisory Committee** was established in 2023 to advise the Board of Supervisors on matters pertaining to the applications for the Revitalize 209 Grant Program. The Revitalize 209 Grant is a matching grant program set to help fund improvement projects that are visible from 209.

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

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

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

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



## DREAMING OF A WHITE CHRISTMAS? KNOW WHERE THE SNOW GOES!

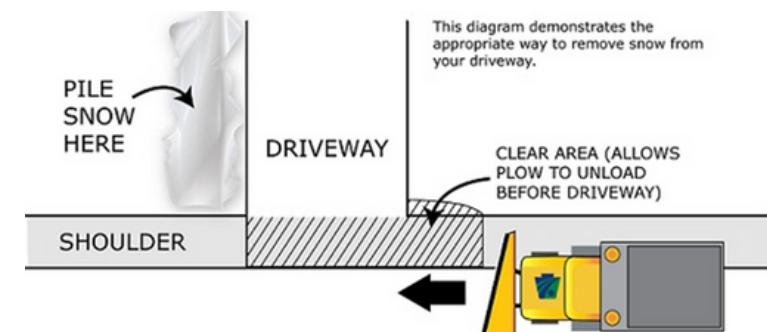
By Rachel Heller

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

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

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

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



## OH SNOW- BRUSH UP ON CHAPTER 138!

By Mayra Colon

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

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

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

# REPRESENTATIVE ROUNDUP

## Congressman Rob Bresnahan

8th Congressional District



Every day, my team and I are working hard to serve the people of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Whether it's helping you navigate federal agencies, listening to your concerns, or fighting for the resources our communities need, we are here for you.

Since day one, my mission has been simple: put the people of Northeastern Pennsylvania first. That means strengthening our local economy, fighting for federal resources for those who need it, and supporting the hardworking families and small businesses that keep our region strong.

During the government shutdown, I have made it a priority to stay connected with the people I serve. In October, I hosted two telephone town halls to keep residents informed about what's happening in Washington and to answer your questions directly.

I've also been traveling across the district to meet with community members, local leaders, and business owners to hear your ideas and concerns firsthand.

From attending events like the Veterans Recognition Ceremony, the Alzheimer's Walk, and a Salvation Army community event, to visiting local organizations such as McCarthy Tire, Lackawanna College, Luzerne County Head Start, and Maternal & Family Health Services (MFHS), I'm focused on listening, learning, and finding real solutions for Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Supporting Northeastern Pennsylvania means more than just passing legislation in Congress, it also means delivering results here at home. Our office has opened over 1,900 cases, successfully closed over 1,600 cases, and returned over \$3,780,000 in benefits and resources to the people of PA-08. Whether it's helping with the VA, Social Security, or the IRS, my team works every day to make sure you get the answers and support you deserve.

Each conversation I have with you shapes the work I do in Washington and keeps me focused on what matters most, the people of PA-08. 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.

## SENATOR ROSEMARY BROWN

Senate District 40



I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well during the holiday season. As always, I appreciate your continued engagement in our community and welcome your feedback or concerns on any state-related matters.

I would like to update you on legislation I have authored, which is moving through the Midwifery Modernization Act. This legislation is a critical step toward strengthening maternal health care in Pennsylvania. It updates the Medical Practice Act of 1985 by modernizing licensure requirements for certified midwives, improving collaboration between midwives and physicians, and updating prescription authority – particularly when it comes to treating substance use disorders.

This proposal will improve health outcomes for mothers and babies, expand the number of qualified providers, and give women across the commonwealth more options for safe, high-quality care, especially in rural and underserved areas. Licensed midwives play a vital role in the continuum of care throughout pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum recovery. Many also offer routine reproductive health services like prenatal care, screenings, and patient education.

I'm grateful for the strong bipartisan support this bill received and for the more than 30 stakeholder organizations that have backed it – including the Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Medical Society, and the Association of Physician Associates in Obstetrics and Gynecology.

If you'd like to receive more updates like this one, I share weekly e-newsletters. You can sign up for this e-newsletter at [senatorbrown40.com/enewsletters](http://senatorbrown40.com/enewsletters). Additionally, I am proud to have launched my new monthly Veterans E-Newsletter! This dedicated newsletter will serve as a direct resource for our veterans, active-duty service members, and their families here in Pennsylvania.

Our veterans have given so much to protect our freedom, and it is our responsibility to ensure they have access to the services, benefits, and opportunities they've earned. Each edition of this newsletter will highlight important updates on legislation, community programs, veteran events, and resources available to support those who have served.

If you have any questions or concerns on any state related issues, please always feel welcome to contact me personally at [rbrown@pasen.gov](mailto:rbrown@pasen.gov) or by calling my office, 570-620-4326.

## 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

## REPRESENTATIVE MAUREEN E. MADDEN

115th Legislative District



**Wishing you Happy Holidays from myself and my wonderful staff!**

During this past Fall Legislative Session, I introduced several important bills focused on improving care and protecting workers. Here are some highlights:

**Enhancing Long-term Care Options (HB 1894)** - introduced with Rep. Mentzer (R-97), this bill helps eligible individuals access clear information about care options, such as the Living Independence for the Elderly (LIFE) Program, when in need of care equivalent to that provided in a nursing home.

**Recognizing "Ageism Awareness Day" (HR 330)** - This resolution designates October 9, 2025, as "Ageism Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania to highlight and combat ageism, one of the most widespread and socially accepted forms of prejudice, impacting older adults' health, longevity and financial well-being.

**Strengthening Protections Against Workplace Discrimination** - Two bills were approved by the State House Labor & Industry Committee:

- **HB 1826** – Requires employers to post discrimination policies in the workplace.
- **HB 1825** – Establishes a Human Relations Training Fund to ensure financial penalties collected under the act are reinvested in training, education, and outreach.

On October 14, I had the honor of joining fellow advocates and experts at the Aging in Pennsylvania Summit in Harrisburg, hosted by City & State PA. As Majority Chair of the House Aging & Older Adult Services Committee, I'm proud to lead the conversation on how we support our growing senior population.

My staff and I have wrapped up our 2025 satellite office hours at the Municipal Building. Thank you to everyone who stopped by! Stay tuned for our 2026 schedule, coming early next year. Meanwhile, our district office remains open Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM, at 2959 Route 611, Suite 105, Tannersville, PA 18372. You can also reach us by phone at 570-894-7905 for any state-related assistance.

As we enter the holiday season, I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve you and our community. May your holidays be merry and bright!

## CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

**Monroe County Commissioners**  
**John D. Christy**  
**David Parker**  
**Sharon Laverdure**  
One Quaker Plaza  
Stroudsburg PA 18360  
570-517-3400

**Honorable Jamie Levy**  
1155 Red Fox Road  
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301  
570-223-1287

## REPRESENTATIVE TARAH PROBST

189th Legislative District

As we approach Thanksgiving, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to the residents of our community for your kindness, resilience, and spirit of service.



Monroe and Pike Counties are special places because of the people who live here—neighbors who step up for one another and who care deeply about the safety and well-being of our region.

In that same spirit of community, I was proud to support Middle Smithfield Township's application for a Local Share Account (LSA) grant to assist the Bushkill Volunteer Fire Company with much-needed renovations to their firehouse and emergency shelter. These upgrades will improve safety, response times, and community readiness during emergencies—an investment in the volunteers who protect us all.

If you or someone you know needs help accessing state programs or services, my team and I are ready to assist with:

- PACE (pharmaceutical assistance for qualified senior citizens)
- Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
- PennDOT questions or issues
- CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program)
- Financial aid and higher education support through PHEAA
- PA 529 College Savings Plans
- Birth and death certificates
- State informational materials or recognition certificates from the PA House of Representatives
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups

Seniors and other residents may also qualify for the expanded Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program, which offers rebates up to \$1,000 for property taxes or rent paid in 2024. The deadline to apply is December 31, and my office can help with the application process.

Please stop by our office weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 18 S. 9th Street, Stroudsburg, or call us at (570) 420-2850. Whether it's a question about state programs, a citation for community service, or a need for guidance, we're here for you.

From my family and staff to yours — wishing you a joyful, safe, and blessed Thanksgiving season!

# REPRESENTATIVE ROUNDUP



## MONROE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

As the Holiday season fills our community with light, joy, and togetherness, the Monroe County Commissioners extend our heartfelt greetings to the residents of Middle Smithfield Township.

This is a time to reflect on the blessings of family, friends, and community — and to be grateful for the spirit of kindness and generosity that defines Monroe County. We are thankful for your continued partnership in making Middle Smithfield a welcoming place to live, work, and grow.

May the peace and warmth of the holiday season be with you throughout the coming year. From our families to yours, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with good health, hope, and happiness.

With warm regards,  
John Christy, David Parker, and Sharon Laverdure.



## ESASD WINTER BAND AND CHORUS PERFORMANCES

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

East Stroudsburg Area School District would like to invite our community to attend some impressive winter band or chorus performances that not only showcase our student's amazing skills, but highlight our commitment to the arts!

All of these events are at their respective schools unless specifically noted, beginning at 7:00 pm.

- Wednesday, December 3: Resica Concert
- Thursday, December 4: JTL 6th Grade Choir Concert
- Monday, December 8: Middle Smithfield Chorus Concert & Resica Band Concert
- Tuesday, December 9: Lehman Intermediate Choir Concert & Smithfield Chorus Concert
- Wednesday, December 10: North Band Concert & JM Hill Concert (at JTL Lambert)
- Tuesday, December 16: Bushkill Chorus Concert (North High School)
- Wednesday, December 17: North High School Choir Concert & JTL Band Concert
- Friday, December 19: South High School Cookies, Carols, and Cocoa

Please join us at one or all of the events to support our students, our district, and enjoy some beautiful music!!

## JUDGE JAMIE LEVY

MDJ District 43-4-01

Season's Greetings From Your District Court. Thank you to the Middle Smithfield Board of Supervisors (MSTBOS) for giving me the opportunity to reach out provide information about your District Court. As you may know, your District Court provides a great deal of services to the residents of our district. Here are some of those services.



1. Civil Lawsuits where the amount in controversy is \$12,000.00 or less;
2. Zoning Law Enforcement Hearings;
3. Local Ordinance Enforcement Hearings;
4. Traffic Law Violation Summary Trials;
5. Non-Traffic Summary Trials (Harassment, Disorderly Conduct ect.);
6. Landlord Tenant Disputes/Hearings;
7. Truancy Hearings and Early Intervention School Attendance Conferences;
8. Preliminary Hearing for All Misdemeanors and Felonies that occur in the District;
9. Officiate Weddings.

For information about these services, the court policies and procedures, scheduling, fees or general information please contact us directly at 570.223.1287 or visit the court at 1155 Red Fox Road in Marshalls Creek. One of our Court Clerks would be happy to assist you. In upcoming newsletters I hope to provide you with more information specifically focusing on the programs and efforts we are utilizing in our court to benefit our residents. This includes our Truancy Elimination Initiative and our coordinated efforts with the district schools (JL Lambert, Middle Smithfield Elementary, Smithfield Elementary, East Stroudsburg Elementary & Resica Elementary) administrators and police officers to deal with disorderly conduct, bullying, mental health issues and violence, in an effort to foster a safer educational environment for our kids.

Thank you again to the MSTBOS for the opportunity to provide information to our residents. Have a Joyous and Safe Holiday Season and Best Wishes for a Prosperous 2026. - Judge Jamie Levy, MDJ District 43-4-01.



# UPCOMING HOLIDAY EVENTS



## TREE LIGHTING & HOLIDAY MARKET ON 11/29

By Chris Rain



Happy Holidays! 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 starting at 4pm, then enjoy music from local musicians starting at 5:30. Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive at 6:30 courtesy of the Marshalls Creek Fire Company to light the tree and visit with the kids. The rain date is Sunday November 30.

Come do some early holiday shopping with our local craft vendors. Our holiday market starts at 4pm at the Community & Cultural Center and will be open until the end of the Tree Lighting.

Interested in being a vendor at the market? Contact Chris Rain at [crain@msttownship.com](mailto:crain@msttownship.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.

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



## QUIET VALLEY OLD TIME CHRISTMAS

Gather by the bonfire with friends and family and be transported to a simpler time when the farm family crafted homemade gifts from the heart to adorn the Christmas tree. Feel the tranquility of the live Nativity where the Baby Jesus sleeps in the Virgin Mary's arms, attended by man and beast. Listen to stories in front of the fireplace in the Grandaddy Cabin.

Meet the mythical Belsnickel by hearth-light in the Cellar Kitchen. He's come before St. Nicholas to warn the naughty and reward the nice. Revel in the warmth of the potbelly stove alight in the one-room schoolhouse and join the sing-along of traditional carols. Marvel at the miniature village scene—the traditional Christmas Putz—in the Victorian parlor.

Stroll through the magical Christmas Tree Forest sponsored by Quiet Valley's Members' families and local businesses.

Enjoy complimentary hot chocolate or warm cider with homemade cookies to round-out this hour-and-a-half long

journey through the customs of this 19th Century Pennsylvania German farm. Complete one's Christmas shopping—or get started on it—in Quiet Valley's Holiday Gift Shop, where unique, handcrafted gifts await, among an array of treasures sure to delight the young and old alike.

Savor the stories, bask in the past, and drink in all the simple pleasures of an Old Time Christmas at Quiet Valley.

**Quiet Valley Living Historical Farm**  
347 Quiet Valley Rd  
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

December 6th, 7th, 13th & 14th  
2:30 pm- 7:00 pm  
Tickets: \$18 adults, \$10 ages 3-12

More info & to buy advanced tickets visit [www.quietvalley.org](http://www.quietvalley.org).



# 2025 SHOP LOCAL HOLIDAY

## SHOP LOCAL THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

This year, over 60 businesses are participating with incredible offers for the Middle Smithfield Township Shop Local Holiday Campaign. That's a new record! And there's even more good news: residents can get a head start on the deals because the Holiday Campaign begins Monday, November 24th (the Monday before Thanksgiving) this year!

### Strengthen the Local Economy!

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

### Create Jobs!

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

### Build Community and Give Back!

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

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

### Foster a Healthier Environment!

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

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

### Increase Wealth!

Two words: multiplier effect.

### Here's the math:

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

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

### Shop Local and keep the cheer here!



## IT WAS A SCARY GOOD TIME AT THE 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL TRUNK OR TREAT

By Chris Rain

It was a perfect fall day on Saturday October 18 as the Parks & Recreation Committee hosted its Annual Trunk or Treat at Resica Park. With activities including balloon art, glitter tattoos, sand art, and spin art, free pumpkins, and 21 spooky cars to get candy from, over 400 children and their families came to enjoy the festivities.

Congratulations to our car decoration winners, Ruth Guerra (1<sup>st</sup> place), Matthew Farrence (2<sup>nd</sup> place), and Erica de la Rosa (3<sup>rd</sup> place), who received prizes from the Parks Committee for their great decorating skills!



## SERVING UP A NEW CHAPTER FOR THE BIG A GRILLEHOUSE

By James Brechbiel

On October 16th, the Brandli family officially announced their retirement, marking the end of an incredible 20-year chapter for the Big A Grillehouse here in Middle Smithfield.



"After 20 years, the Brandli Family is finally retiring," said the Brandli's in a statement. "It's been our pleasure to serve the Poconos, and we are forever grateful to our customers, loyal employees, and all the memories we'll cherish."

For decades, the Big A has been a beloved staple in Middle Smithfield, offering spacious, casual dining, exquisite Italian-American cuisine, and a warm, welcoming atmosphere where community, friends, and tourists gather for a home away from home.

Reviews continue to praise The Big A for its excellent food and service, and patrons can rest assured that the new ownership team is committed to taking this cherished local gem to even greater heights.

What closes one remarkable chapter opens the door to even more exciting possibilities! We're thrilled to announce that April Butler, owner of The Farmhouse Poconos, along with her dedicated team, has officially come on board to usher in the next era for The Big A, and we couldn't be more excited. Known for comfort food classics made from scratch, Butler and team have a stellar reputation for bringing top-quality food and service to the Poconos.

"We are thrilled to announce that Farmhouse is taking over The Big A Grillehouse, and we will be renovating the space to open as "Farmhouse On The Lake," our flagship store in Spring 2026," says the Farmhouse in its statement. "Thank you to the Brandli family for trusting us with your legacy. Special thanks to Bruce for your wisdom and guidance."

The Big A will remain open as usual with new hours, and a new menu featuring Farmhouse classics and, of course, Brandli Family signature dishes. Stay tuned for more updates – you can look for "The Best Of Bruce" booth as an homage to the Brandli legacy.

### Address:

252 Fox Run Lane  
East Stroudsburg, PA 18302  
(570) 223-1700

[www.facebook.com/theBigAGrillehouse](https://www.facebook.com/theBigAGrillehouse)  
[www.facebook.com/farmhousepoconos](https://www.facebook.com/farmhousepoconos)

### New Hours:

Sunday - Thursday 12 pm – 9 pm  
Friday - Saturday 12 pm – 10 pm



**FARM HOUSE**  
- POCONOS -

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE CORNER OF WEST LAKE DRIVE AND MILFORD ROAD (ROUTE 209)?

By James Brechbiel



A rendering of the new storage facility.

If you've driven along Route 209 lately, you've likely noticed the clearing and construction activity at the corner of West Lake Drive and Milford Road. The site is being developed into Big Ridge Self Storage, a new three-story, 419-unit climate-controlled facility projected to open in 2026.

But this won't be your typical storage building. The finished project will feature an attractive office or apartment-style façade with extensive landscaping features that blend with the surrounding area and support the Township's ongoing Route 209 beautification efforts.

As part of the review process, the Board of Supervisors worked closely with the developer to ensure the project aligns with Middle Smithfield's vision for a clean, welcoming commercial corridor. Design upgrades and site improvements were added to make the facility both functional and visually appealing.

According to developer Brad Hagedorn of Gold Dust Partners LLC, the 59,820-square-foot building is "designed to be an attractive addition to Middle Smithfield with full landscaping and fencing. It will offer 24/7 gated access, on-site staffing, and moving supplies. This facility will serve as a vital local amenity, creating a convenient storage option for residents, new jobs, local construction revenue, and significant additional property taxes."

By encouraging new commercial development along Route 209, the commercial corridor, the Township helps protect residential neighborhoods through thoughtful planning and zoning, while strengthening the local economy and improving the look and feel of the community's business corridor.

Big Ridge Self Storage plans to be completed by 2026. Stay tuned for more developments!

## SHRIMAD RAJCHANDRA LOVE AND CARE USA HOSTS FIRST POCONO HEALTH & WELLNESS FEST

By James Brechbiel

This fall, Shrimad Rajchandra Love and Care USA (SRLC USA) hosted its inaugural Pocono Health & Wellness Fest right here in Middle Smithfield Township!

Partnering with St. Luke's University Health Network, SRLC USA welcomed hundreds of attendees for an afternoon of free health and wellness services designed to promote healthy living and community.

Attendees enjoyed a wide range of screenings and programs, including vision and dental exams, free DNA tests, physical therapy consultations, flu vaccines, bone density and BMI assessments, diabetes screenings, cholesterol and blood pressure checks, and women's health services. Guests also participated in yoga and meditation sessions, CPR and First Aid trainings, and a variety of wellness seminars, all completely free of charge.

Notable medical leaders, including Dr. Willie Underwood III, President-elect and Board of Trustees Member of the American Medical Association (AMA), attended the Fest. Presentations emphasized the region's critical healthcare access needs and reflected SRLC USA's commitment to providing the community with essential resources and building strong partnerships with local organizations.

Alongside the Health and Wellness Fest, SRLC USA volunteers hosted a Mega Humanitarian Event with hundreds of its volunteers to pack 100,000 healthy meals in just one day for food pantries in the Pocono region.

In addition to providing locals with healthcare resources and nutritious foods, SRLC USA's partner organization, Shrimad Rajchandra Spiritual Center USA (SRSC USA), also shared more information on its upcoming 400-acre wellness and spiritual destination designed to promote healthy, purposeful living and community service.

"Since purchasing the former Pocono Palace in 2024, we have been looking for ways to welcome and engage the public," said Mr. Amit Sanghvi of SRSC USA. "We were deeply encouraged by the incredible turnout and grateful for the opportunity to provide these much-needed services to the community."

According to Mr. Sanghvi, over the past 25 years, the property has transformed from a mid-century honeymoon destination into a family-friendly resort area. With growing interest in holistic wellbeing, outdoor recreation, and preventive care, the region is well-positioned to embrace its next chapter as a hub for wellness and eco-tourism. SRSC USA is planning on supporting this by offering year-round programs that benefit both small businesses and the community.

To bring this vision to life, SRSC USA has made significant strides in updating the existing residences, now featuring sustainably designed accommodations for enhanced comfort. This not only elevates the guest experience, but also supports the economy by engaging local businesses and employing local skilled trades throughout the renovation process.

## FOND FAREWELL TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEMBER JOE MEMOLI

After nine years of dedicated service, the Board of Supervisors bids a fond farewell to Economic Development Committee (EDC) member Joe Memoli, who will be stepping down effective December 1, 2025.

Joe joined the EDC in its early days and quickly became a esteemed guests, driving force behind many of the Township's most impactful initiatives, and serving as Chair. His leadership and advocacy were instrumental in bringing Lehigh Valley Health Network services to Middle Smithfield, expanding local healthcare access for residents. He also played a key role in shaping the Revitalize

209 Grant Program, championing Shop Local and Restaurant Week, and supporting the successful sale of the Country Club of I Cue Cigar Lounge and Red Bone Cigars, has built more than a business. He has created a space where cigar enthusiasts and casual patrons alike can enjoy leisure, comfort, and camaraderie.

Joe's enthusiasm for community growth extended far beyond meetings—he regularly attended ribbon cuttings, promoted local businesses, and advocated for programs like LERTA (Local Economic Revitalization Tax Abatement) at the East Stroudsburg Area School Board, helping to strengthen our Despite challenges along the way, even opening at the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, I Cue Cigar Lounge stayed the course and persevered to be one of the region's most popular destinations in the business community.

Thank you, Joe, for your vision, leadership, and years of unwavering dedication to Middle Smithfield Township.

## I CUE CIGAR LOUNGE CELEBRATES FIVE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY IN MIDDLE SMITHFIELD

By James Brechbiel

On Friday, October 17th, I Cue Cigar Lounge proudly celebrated its five-year anniversary in Middle Smithfield Township with great fanfare, featuring



heartfelt congratulations from the community. Festivities continued throughout the day, marking a milestone for one of the region's most beloved gathering places.

Derick "Cue" Cuevas, the passionate owner and entrepreneur behind 209 Grant Program, championing Shop Local and Restaurant Week, and supporting the successful sale of the Country Club of I Cue Cigar Lounge and Red Bone Cigars, has built more than a business. He has created a space where cigar enthusiasts and casual patrons alike can enjoy leisure, comfort, and camaraderie.

"We are proud to have created your home away from home, and I can't believe it's been five years already," said Cue. "We're just getting started."

Economic Revitalization Tax Abatement) at the East Stroudsburg Area School Board, helping to strengthen our Despite challenges along the way, even opening at the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, I Cue Cigar Lounge stayed the course and persevered to be one of the region's most popular destinations in the business community.

Despite challenges along the way, even opening at the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, I Cue Cigar Lounge stayed the course and persevered to be one of the region's most popular destinations in the business community.

At I Cue Cigar Lounge, guests enjoy a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere paired with light fare, a full-service bar, and an exceptional cigar selection, handpicked by Cue himself. The I Cue team proudly supports local businesses by featuring wines from area wineries and regional brands, offering a true community-driven experience.

"We're honored to be part of the Poconos experience," Cue added. "We're excited to share this milestone with the community and to all the great things our next chapter brings."

Keep the celebration going! Visit I Cue Cigar Lounge for VIP service and check out their Shop Local Deal this holiday season.

For more information, contact I Cue Cigar Lounge at 570-369-4430 or [cuecigarlounge@gmail.com](mailto:cuecigarlounge@gmail.com).

**Store Address:**  
4543 Milford Rd., Suite 30  
East Stroudsburg, PA 18302

**Store Hours:**  
Wed & Thurs: 3 PM – 10 PM  
Fri & Sat: 3 PM – 12 AM  
Sun: 1 PM – 9 PM.



# PERSON OF THE YEAR

## SPREADING CHEER!

PERSON  
OF THE YEAR  
MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP

### 2025 PERSON OF THE YEAR FINALISTS TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON!

By Holly Dennis

The nominations for the 2025 Person of the Year Award are closed and the judges are hard at work deliberating on who should be the 3 finalists!

The finalists will be announced in December, and the winner will be announced at the Person of the Year and Volunteer Appreciation dinner on January 23rd.

Visit [mstPersonOfTheYear.com](http://mstPersonOfTheYear.com) in the coming weeks for more information about the finalists and their causes, as well as meet the judges who selected them!



### INTERNATIONAL PEACE LIGHT

2018 Person of the Year Finalist, Francis Oquendo &

2019 Person of the Year Finalist, Louis Santiago

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



2018 finalist Francis Oquendo, 2019 finalist Louis Santiago, and Doreen Santiago with the International Peace Light.

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

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

### BUSHKILL OUTREACH ACCEPTING HOLIDAY DONATIONS TO HELP LOCAL FAMILIES



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

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

For more information, contact the Bushkill Outreach at 570-588-0660 or visit [www.bushkilloutreach.org](http://www.bushkilloutreach.org)



### VETERAN HOLIDAY MEALS - VOLUNTEERS, DONATIONS, VETERANS NEEDED

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



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

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

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

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

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

for other volunteer opportunities, please visit [www.valorclinic.org/volunteer](http://www.valorclinic.org/volunteer) or email [info@valorclinic.org](mailto:info@valorclinic.org).



### TOYS-FOR-TOTS COLLECTION BOX AT MST!

Toys for Tots Program collects new unwrapped toys and distributes those toys to less fortunate children at Christmas.

The gift of a new toy helps bring the joy of Christmas and send a message of hope to America's less fortunate children.

The Middle Smithfield Township Office at 147 Municipal Drive is a collection and pickup point for Toys for Tots.

Donations can be dropped off at our office through December 4th. You may also bring a new unwrapped gift to the Tree Lighting on November 29th.



### • • • • • LOCAL FOOD BANKS • • • • •

#### • LOCAL FOOD BANKS

##### • BUSHKILL OUTREACH

- 168 Lehman Pk Rd, Bushkill PA 18324
- Tuesday 9am-12pm
- Wednesday 9am-12pm
- Thursday 9am-12pm
- (570)588-0660

##### • MISSION OF LOVE AND HOPE

- 5224 Milford Rd Suite 150. East Stroudsburg PA
- 18302 Every other Friday 10am-2:30pm
- (570) 702-9958

##### • JO'S OUTREACH

- 114 Academy Drive, Minisink Falls 18324
- First Friday of the month, 9am- 12pm
- Saw Creek Estates:*
- Third Wednesday of the month 12pm-2pm
- (570) 242-5663

##### • EAST STROUDSBURG SALVATION ARMY

- 226 Washington Street, East Stroudsburg 18301
- Soup Kitchen - Breakfast:
- Monday - Friday 6:30am-8am
- Soup Kitchen - Lunch:
- Monday - Friday 11am-12pm
- (570) 421-5050

##### • STROUDSBURG WESLEYAN

- 915 5th Street, Stroudsburg 18360
- First and Third Friday of the month
- 5pm- 6pm
- (570) 421-0750

##### • CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

- 205 North 7th Street, Stroudsburg 18360
- First and Third Saturday 9am-12pm
- (570) 421-T481

##### • EAST STROUDSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

- 85 S. Courtland Street, E. Stroudsburg 18301
- Community Meal every Monday
- 2pm-4pm
- (570) 421-5280

##### • GREATER SHILOH NORTH

- 851 B Ann Street, Stroudsburg 18360
- Second Tuesday of every month- 12pm
- (570) 872-9577

### POCONO CHRISTMAS JARS

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

#### What is a Christmas Jar?

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

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

#### Christmas Jar Display

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

#### Opening Date of the Display

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

More information can be found at [poconochristmasjars.com](http://poconochristmasjars.com)



### LOOKING FOR HOLIDAY MEALS?



Contact your local food bank or pantry about holiday meal boxes near you. Not every location offers these programs, but all provide ways to help families celebrate the holidays. They offer free groceries, fresh produce, and holiday food support in your area. The best way to learn about your options is to visit their website.

Visit [www.feedingamerica.org/find-your-local-foodbank](http://www.feedingamerica.org/find-your-local-foodbank) to find your local foodbank and ways you can help.

# EMERGENCY SERVICES

## MARSHALLS CREEK FIRE COMPANY

Marshalls Creek Fire Company

The Marshalls Creek Volunteer Fire Company is proud to once again be part of the holiday magic at the Middle Smithfield Township Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony!



Separately from the holiday celebration, the Marshalls Creek Volunteer Fire Company is excited to formally introduce our newest piece of apparatus — 29-UTV!



The 2024 Polaris Ranger XD1500 Northstar Ultimate was purchased to help firefighters navigate small trails and limited-access parks within our first-due area. This vehicle is equipped for both patient rescue and firefighting, ensuring we can respond quickly in areas standard apparatus can't reach.

**Key Features and Specifications:** 15" ground clearance • 6,000 lb. winch • Fully enclosed cab • 104-gallon water tank and 4-gallon foam tank • Seating for five firefighters.

We extend our gratitude to the Supervisors and residents of Smithfield, Middle Smithfield, and Price Townships for their ongoing support.

Special thanks to the vendors who helped make this project possible:

- RKO Enterprises – Vehicle upfit and equipment
- Simplex Image Solutions – Custom wrap and graphics installation
- R.J. Groner – Donation toward graphics
- Warnick Welding – Custom equipment slide-out

The Marshalls Creek Volunteer Fire Company is proud to continue investing in equipment that enhances our ability to serve and protect our community.

Let's make this holiday season safe, festive, and full of community spirit!



## SHAWNEE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Dave Timko, Assistant Chief

As the 2025 fiscal year is quickly coming to a close, we start the 2026 budget process and reflect on the accomplishments of 2025. As we mentioned in the previous newsletter, we completed a lot of work around the fire station on Hollow Road.



We, along with the Marshalls Creek and Bushkill Fire companies, just completed our annual fire prevention visits to the elementary schools in our coverage areas and the community night held at JTL Intermediate School.

Our annual golf tournament held at the Shawnee Inn & Golf Resort on September 24<sup>th</sup> was another successful tournament for us. We had 128 golfers participate, 15 prize sponsors, and 48 tee sponsors. We appreciate all of the support from everyone in making this tournament so successful year after year.

The last quarter of the year is spent preparing the next year's budget, planning our upcoming projects consistent with our strategic plan, the continued training of our volunteers, and maintaining our equipment so that we are always ready to serve the community.

We would like to thank the MST Supervisors and the constituents of MST for your continued support of all first responders operating within the township.



## BUSHKILL EMERGENCY CORPS

By Debbie Kulick, President Bushkill Emergency Corps



With the snow shoveling season in the offing, Bushkill Emergency Corps wants you to remember that emergency vehicles will have to travel in all types of weather.

A quick refresher in how to respond to the emergency vehicle that is headed to a call would be helpful as residents and visitors travel our local roadways.

When you yield to an emergency vehicle, you are not only following the law, but you are likely to help save a life or property. When you see an emergency vehicle approaching, it is important to quickly and safely move to the right to allow the vehicle to pass. Not only should you move to the right, with the exception of a divided highway, but you should STOP. Continuing to drive on the shoulder creates added potential for an accident to occur.

A few things to remember, first stay calm. Do not panic or make sudden moves that could put you and others in danger. And certainly, don't just stop in the roadway!

Keep an eye or ear out for sirens, flashing lights, or any other indication that an emergency vehicle is approaching. Today's soundproof vehicles, radios or other devices blocking out noise require that you always be aware of your surroundings.

An additional reminder about pulling over, do not try to follow an emergency vehicle in order to use its emergency status to get through traffic. Often the emergency vehicle driver will report actions such as this, so the police are aware of the incident. Actions like this put everyone's lives in danger.

Once an emergency vehicle has passed you, stay alert. Often there are multiple vehicles that respond to an emergency. You may have to pull over more than once to allow other responding vehicles to pass.

In today's world, vehicles such as ambulances are often just following traffic with no lights or sirens. Lights and sirens are reserved for those events which are life threatening or where time is of the essence to a positive outcome for a patient.

If you see traffic pulling to the side of the road, make sure you look in your rear-view mirror. There is a good chance an emergency vehicle is coming up behind you too!

## FIND FIRE & EMS ONLINE

**Marshalls Creek Fire Co.**  
570-223-8445

112 Marshalls Creek Rd.  
E. Stroudsburg, PA 18302

Facebook: @MarshallsCreekFireCo

**Shawnee Fire Co.**  
570-460-0736

102 Firehouse Lane  
E. Stroudsburg, PA 18301

Facebook: @ShawneeFireCo36  
Website: ShawneeFire.org

**Bushkill Volunteer Fire Co.**  
570-588-6033

124 Evergreen Drive  
Bushkill, PA 18324

Facebook: @bushkillfire

**Bushkill Emergency Corps**  
570-223-1906

P.O. Box 174.  
Bushkill, PA 18324

Facebook: @BushkillEmergencyCorps

**Suburban EMS**  
(610) 923-7500

Station 18—North Division  
320 N. First Street Suite 3  
Stroudsburg PA 18360

Facebook: @SuburbanEMS

**Lehman Pike EMS**  
(570) 588-9365

193 Municipal Drive  
Bushkill, PA 18324

## CARBON MONOXIDE SAFETY

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

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

## HOME HEATING EQUIPMENT

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



# FAITH COMMUNITIES

## A HOLIDAY MESSAGE FROM JINYIN TEMPLE

As we enter this season of gratitude and giving, Jinyin Temple extends warm wishes of peace, harmony, and joy to all in our Middle Smithfield community. The Buddha taught that true happiness arises when our hearts are filled with compassion and gratitude. In this season, may we pause to appreciate the kindness of neighbors, the beauty of nature, and the shared spirit that unites us all.



Our temple community is deeply grateful for the bonds of fellowship we share here in Middle Smithfield. We are reminded that, like the light of a single candle, one act of kindness can illuminate many lives. Together, we can nurture a community rooted in peace, generosity, and mutual respect.

May this holiday season bring you and your loved ones peace, joy, and good health.

Jinyin Temple  
[www.jinyintemple.org](http://www.jinyintemple.org)  
[info@jinyintemple.org](mailto:info@jinyintemple.org)  
 (570) 369-2243

### WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

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

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



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

If you are interested in participating or volunteering, please contact the township 570-223-8920. For more information on the program, please visit [WeathsAcrossAmerica.org](http://WeathsAcrossAmerica.org).

## FIND CHRISTMAS & HANUKKAH SERVICES

**Bushkill Community Church**  
 504 Bushkill Falls Rd.  
 Bushkill, PA 18324  
[bushkillcommunitychurch.com](http://bushkillcommunitychurch.com) | (570) 431-4999

**Church of St. John**  
 5171 Milford Rd.  
 East Stroudsburg, PA 18302  
[churchofstjohn.com](http://churchofstjohn.com) | 570-223-9144

**Mountain Stream Baptist Church**  
 305 Dartmouth Dr  
 East Stroudsburg, PA 18302  
[MountainStreamChurch.com](http://MountainStreamChurch.com) | 570-856-3310

**Middle Smithfield Presbyterian Church**  
 5205 Milford Road  
 East Stroudsburg, PA 18302  
[middlesmithfielddep.wixsite.com/msepc](http://middlesmithfielddep.wixsite.com/msepc) | 570-223-8648

**New Life Baptist Church**  
 456 Resica Falls Rd.  
 East Stroudsburg, PA 18302  
[NewLifePocono.org](http://NewLifePocono.org) | 570-762-2288

**Reformed Church of Bushkill**  
 5969 Milford Rd  
 East Stroudsburg, PA 18302  
[bushkillchurch.org](http://bushkillchurch.org) | (570) 588 6773

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church**  
 139 Craigs Meadow Rd.  
 East Stroudsburg, PA 18301  
[stpaulscommunitychurch.com](http://stpaulscommunitychurch.com) | (570) 223-9422

**Temple Israel of the Poconos**  
 711 Wallace St.  
 Stroudsburg, PA 18360  
[templepoconos.org](http://templepoconos.org) | (570) 421-8781

**Wooddale United Methodist Church**  
 100 Barren Rd.  
 East Stroudsburg, PA 18302  
[wooddaleumc.org](http://wooddaleumc.org) | 570-424-7490



## CHURCH OF ST. JOHN

*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, full of grace and truth (John 1:14)*

**"Light the Night" — Sunday December 14, 5 pm to 7 pm**

As we enter this season of hope and joy, the Church of St. John invites our friends and neighbors to join us in celebrating the light that unites our community!

What began during the pandemic as a drive-through Christmas display has grown into a beloved annual tradition, **Light the Night on Sunday December 14 from 5 to 7 pm** — an evening filled with lights, laughter, and the spirit of giving. Families, ministries, and small groups in our parish decorate our church grounds with Christmas lights and scenes that bring warmth and wonder to all who visit. Guests can enjoy music, homemade treats, and photos with Mr. and Mrs. Claus. Indoors, our Faith Formation children present a beautiful live **Nativity Pageant at 6 pm** that reminds us of the true meaning of Christmas. The event is free and open to everyone, and the lights remain on display through the holiday season.

For the holiday season we will also be holding our annual **Gift Card Collection** in support of our Partners in Mission. For more information please check out [www.churchofstjohn.com/partners](http://www.churchofstjohn.com/partners).

Para nuestra comunidad de habla hispana, todos están invitados al Rosario, Misa y confraternidad en honor a la Virgen de Guadalupe el viernes 12 de diciembre a partir de las 4:30 pm. ¡Únense a nosotros en esta alegre celebración de unidad y oración por todas las diversas culturas y tradiciones de las Américas!

We invite you to celebrate **Christmas Mass** with us!

- Christmas Eve with Children's Ministries — December 24 at 4 pm
- Christmas Mass at Night (Bilingual) — December 24 at 10 pm
- Christmas Day — December 25 at 10 am

For the full schedule of services, news, and events, please go to our website: [www.churchofstjohn.com](http://www.churchofstjohn.com)

May this season fill your hearts with peace, hope, and joy!



## UPCOMING THANKSGIVING DINNERS

**Bushkill Community Church Free Thanksgiving Meal Kit**  
 504 Bushkill Falls Rd., Bushkill, PA 18324  
**To Reserve call 570-431-4999**

BCC Church is honored to serve our community by providing a complimentary Thanksgiving meal bag to those in need. Our goal is to share love, kindness, and warmth during this special holiday. This event aims to bring hope, joy, and unity to our community. Spread the word and join us!

**Mady's Kitchen-**  
 Church of St. John  
 5171 Milford Rd. East Stroudsburg, PA 18302

Sunday, November 30th  
 4 pm- 6 pm

Mady's Kitchen is a community dinner hosted by Mady's Angels held the last Sunday of the month at St. John's Catholic Church. Dinner runs from 4 to 6 pm and is open to everyone. Donations are welcome but not necessary.



## ADVENT WREATHMAKING AT ST. PAUL'S

St. Paul's Lutheran of Smithfield will be hosting a wreathmaking event on Tuesday, December 2nd from 6-7:30pm. Call 570-223-9422 to reserve your space so we have supplies.



All are invited to join us for cookies and cocoa. We will touch on the message of Hope and overcoming fear this Holiday Season.

St. Paul's mission is to be a beacon of faith guided by the Holy Spirit. Growing in Christ, we share God's grace through witness, love and service. Our service ministries shine out into the community, with the food pantry, quilts by the Friday ladies, pickleball, our partnership with Conni's Cafe and the meeting space we make available for community groups.

St. Paul's Lutheran is located behind Country Kettle on Route 209 at 139 Craig's Meadow Rd, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301.

Our email is [stpaulscraigsmeadow@verizon.net](mailto:stpaulscraigsmeadow@verizon.net) or visit us on Facebook at St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield and on Instagram @st.pauls\_smithfield.

