



MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWS SUMMER 2017



"Floating Dock" at Otter Lake in Middle Smithfield Township - a peaceful sunset photo submitted by photographer Brian Sudol



Reuniting World War 2 Veteran with Daughter

By Al Compoly

St. Luke's Church in Stroudsburg has a big Flea Market every year. Folks bring their treasures, volunteers sort them and categorize all the items. About 2 years ago or so someone brought in a WWII

American Army Helmet. I didn't pay too much attention to it at the time, but set it aside in the maintenance shop for further examination at another time. The other day when thinking about the Veterans Day event after having a meet-

(continued on page 19)

13TH ANNUAL MEMORY MAKERS LUNCHEON

LONG TIME RESIDENTS PRESERVE OUR PAST
FOR OUR FUTURE

FREE FOR LONG-TIME RESIDENTS

- Lived in the area 30 years or more
- Lived in the area 20 years or more and age 60 or older.

AUGUST 19TH AT POCONO PALACE

Middle Smithfield Township, together with their Historical Commission, is pleased to invite you to the 13th annual Memory Makers luncheon, free for long time residents. This year's topic is "Modes of Transportation" and will fondly look back on how folks got around, from the roads that first penetrated the natural barrier of the Blue Mountains, to railroads (yes, the Poconos had a train!) powered by cleaner anthracite coal to trolleys.

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WHAT’S GOIN ON

JULY 8 FREE Dog Training at the Dog Park
JULY 13 MID YEAR REPORT
JULY 15 How to Use Your Produce at Community Gardens Park
AUGUST TBD Canning Beans at Community Gardens Park
AUGUST 12 Vets Summer Fest
AUGUST 19 Memory Makers at Pocono Palace
SEPT 9 Homeowners Association Networking Meeting
SEPT 23 Preparing Your Garden for Winter at Community Gardens Park
SEPT 30 Litter Cleanup “1,000 Feet of Street” at a time
OCT 11 Fossil Day: Marshall’s Creek Mastodon
OCT 13 - 14 Clean up and Freecycle aka “Dumpster Day”
OCT 19 - 21 Freecycle
OCT 21 4th Annual Trunk or Treat at Resica Park
OCT 23 Fall Leaf Pickup Begins through 11/10
NOV 7 Election Day
NOV 10 Dinner for Vets at Whispering Pines
NOV 17 Person of the Year & Volunteer Appreciation Banquet
NOV 20 Shop Local Discount Cards available
NOV 25 5th annual Tree Lighting at Echo Lake Park
DEC 7 Presentation of the 2018 Budget to the Public
DEC 16 Wreaths Across America

Never miss another township event again! Sign up for Textcaster to receive text alerts and choose which events you want to know about! <http://www.middleSmithfieldTownship.com/1412/mst-text-alerts/>

COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

Parks & Recreation Board
6:30pm | 1st Monday of Every Month
Golf Course Committee
8:30am | 2nd Monday of Every Month
Economic Development Committee
6:30pm | 2nd Monday of Every Month
Oak Grove Multi-Municipal Composting Board
Call for Schedule
Regional Parks at Smithfield Township
7:45pm | 3rd Monday of Every Month
Historical Commission
9am | 1st Wednesday of Every Month
Board of Supervisors Meeting
7pm | 2nd & 4th Thursday of Every Month
Planning Commission
5:30pm | 3rd Thursday of Every Month

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2016 PERSON OF THE YEAR UPDATE:
WHAT THEY ARE UP TO



KATE NEWMAN,
2016 PERSON OF THE YEAR
BUSHKILL OUTREACH
The Bushkill Outreach is moving on down the road to Light of the World Church, and will now be a part of “Jo’s Outreach.” *Read more on page 18*



ALBERT COMPOLY JR.,
2016 PERSON OF THE YEAR FINALIST
OPERATION CHILLOUT
Operation Chillout has a new initiative – Project Tiny Home PA 2018! *Read more on page 19*



ANDREW ZASO,
2016 PERSON OF THE YEAR FINALIST
MADY’S KITCHEN
Andy is cooking up another Dinner for Vets, and collaborating with Al Compoly. *Read more on page 19*

A WORD FROM YOUR
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

Mike Dwyer, Mark Oney, and Annette Atkinson



THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER ARE COMING
It’s Time for the Midyear Report on July 13th!

Every year, your township Supervisors give several presentations to the public:

- In December, we present the next year’s budget to the public 3 weeks before adopting it so everyone can see how their tax dollars are spent.
- Then in January, there’s a “Preview of the Upcoming Year” so you can see what the plans for your township are; what projects will commence, everything from what roads will be repaired and paved to what your committees are up to
- In July, there’s the Midyear Report to the public. How are we coming along with the plans and goals we set earlier in the year? How are the projects progressing?

Of course, we hope you’ll come to the Midyear Report for 2017 -- but we are happy to see you anytime! Every month your Committees and Township Departments give their public reports, at the first Supervisor meeting of every month. Our main Supervisor Workshop is every Friday morning, from 8am to about 10am.

Your Township Supervisors

Middle Smithfield Township Administrative Office
147 Municipal Drive East Stroudsburg, PA 18302
570-223-8920 | info@mstownship.com
MiddleSmithfieldTownship.com
Middle Smithfield Township Board of Supervisors
Annette Atkinson | Chairperson | x124
Michael Dwyer | Vice Chairman | x123
Mark Oney | Supervisor | x125

Middle Smithfield Township Staff

Michele Clewell | Township Secretary Human Resources Director & Assistant Administrative Director
mclewell@mstownship.com | x112
Joan Woisin | Sewer Department Manager
Open Records & Right to Know Officer
jwoisin@mstownship.com | x115
Dave Manter | On Lot Sewage Enforcement Officer
dmanter@mstownship.com | x128
Ray Wolfe | Budget & Finance Manager
rwolfe@mstownship.com | x131
Karen Stapleton | Public Works Department Administrator
kstapleton@mstownship.com | x118
Shawn McGlynn | Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer
zoning@mstownship.com | x126
Judith Acosta | Zoning Administrator
jacosta@mstownship.com | x128
Chantel Wilder | Director of First Impressions & Historical Commission Liaison
cwilder@mstownship.com | x100
Christopher Rain | Community & Municipal Projects Coordinator, Parks & Rec Liasion, Banquet Hall Liaison
crain@mstownship.com | x119
Holly Freese | Community & Municipal Projects Coordinator, Golf Committee & Homeowners Association Liaison
hfreese@mstownship.com | x132
Patrice Dume | Economic Development Manager
pdume@mstownship.com | x121
Dana Hollinger | Municipal Projects Assistant
dhollinger@mstownship.com | x116
Kevin Dixon | Country Club of the Poconos Pro Shop Manager
kdixon@mstownship.com | 570-223-8099
Committee Chairpersons
Ray White | Golf Advisory Committee | x205
golfadvisorycommittee@mstownship.com
Jenna Componovo | Parks & Rec | x201
parksandrecreation@mstownship.com
Jenna Componovo | Litter & Beautification | x202
litter&beautification@mstownship.com
Carrie Wetherbee | Historical Commission | x203
HistoricalCommission@mstownship.com
Gina Bertucci | Economic Development | x204
EconomicDevelopmentCommittee@mstownship.com

FINANCE: TREASURER'S NOTE

Treasurer, Supervisor: Mike Dwyer | Budget & Finance, Manager: Ray Wolfe

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Gina Bertucci | Vice Chairperson: Carrie E. Wetherbee | Secretary: Carl Wilgus |
Members: Beverly Brown, Joe Memoli | Economic Development Manager: Patrice Dume

BRIDGE TAX PROPOSED BY SENATOR STRULA

by Mike Dwyer, Supervisor & Treasurer

As much as the township finances are in good shape, the condition of the Commonwealth's financials affects us all. As you may know, the Commonwealth is currently struggling to balance its budget.

One of the ways to help balance a budget is to mandate others, such as municipalities, to pay for or provide services the state should or does provide out of the taxes the state collects, especially if there is a gap in what the state has budgeted to provide a service and what it actually cost. If another entity (such as a municipality) bridges the gap then technically it is not the state that raises taxes, but the taxing authority down the line that is now forced to pay for state services out of their own budget. Simply put, the Commonwealth has the ability, just by a vote, to mandate that municipalities must do something extra and let them figure out how to pay for it (i.e., "unfunded mandates"), such as the 911 re-addressing.

The commonwealth is currently considering billing municipalities who do not have local or regional police, for the services provided by the State Police. State Senator Strula, from Lancaster County (150 East King Street, Suite B, Lancaster, PA 17602 717.295.3157), has sponsored House Bill 959 which would charge municipalities without local police for State Police, beginning in 2018, and escalating each year over the next 10 years. In return for paying this amount, which would cost Middle Smithfield Township approximately \$200,000 the first year and grow to over \$1,700,000 per year in 10 years -- we get absolutely nothing. We get nothing more -- no additional State Police coverage -- than we already receive in exchange for the state tax dollars we are already paying for State Police coverage.

House Bill 959 is essentially like taxing people for a bridge that doesn't exist. There is no promise or proposal to increase or

improve the Commonwealth's Police force in exchange for the increase in taxes. It is nothing more than a proposal for the State to retain the Liquid Fuels monies (per gallon tax you already pay) for their own use, and have municipalities pay this new "bridge tax" to bridge the gap in the Commonwealth's budget.

You might remember that since Governor Corbett's budget of 2012-2013, the Commonwealth stopped sharing money from State Police Fines & Penalties with municipalities, which reduced Middle Smithfield Township's income. Instead, those funds were diverted back to the Commonwealth to supplement their budget for training new cadets.

Your township Supervisors are looking for alternatives. While the cost to create, staff, and operate a local police department is in the millions of dollars, we are seeking other ways to increase police coverage without increasing taxes on the State's behalf. More information is forthcoming.

IT'S SUMMER! THAT MEANS SUMMER INTERNS

My name is Mia Gaeta and I am the newest intern at Middle Smithfield Township. During the course of June 4th through June 9th I had the opportunity to be a part of the NEW Leadership Summer Institute at Chatham University with the Pennsylvania Center for Women and Politics.

I travelled to the university in Pittsburgh where I stayed with 42 other collegiate women as we attended different leadership, networking and diversity workshops. We also traveled to Harrisburg where we attended a networking dinner at the Governor's Mansion, and visited the State Capitol building. At the Capitol in Harrisburg we had multiple opportunities to sit down with state senators and representatives; such as Jay Costa, Patty Kim and Martina White.

Back at the university I had the honor of introducing Supreme Court

Justice Christine Donohue at the Keynote 'Women in Public Leadership' Dinner, who is an alumni of East Stroudsburg University, the school I am currently attending for my Bachelors in Political Science.

Chatham University made this an incredible opportunity for meeting other highly ambitious and driven young women who want to make a difference in public service through a variety of avenues. I learned and honed a vital set of leadership, networking and analytical skills that will help launch my success in my future endeavors in public service. If this seems like it would be of interest to anyone reading, I highly suggest you check out Chatham University's Website with 'Pennsylvania Center for Women and Politics' for more information and a possible chance to partake in this experience next season.



WELCOME TO: THE ANNIE STORES

In June, a brand new business opened up in The Crossings at Marshall's Creek in East Stroudsburg (aka The PriceChopper Plaza.). The Annie Stores is located on 4543 Milford Road, Suite 60, next to PA Nails. The Annie Stores is a modern day, affordably priced furniture store offering living rooms, bedroom sets, dining rooms, youth furniture and much more. There is also complete line of mattresses, toddler beds, cribs, area rugs, and other room accessories. Customers can even order outdoor furniture on the spot. Speaking of Spot, that includes dog houses too! The furniture store offers no-fee lay-away options. All purchases can be delivered and assembled.

Questions? Contact Amy at theanniestores@gmail.com or call 570-664-9990. The Annie Stores are open 7 days a week: Monday to Wednesday 10:00am to 7pm, Thursday to Saturday 10:00am to 8:00pm, and Sunday 10:00am to 6:00pm. You can follow them on Facebook at : <https://www.facebook.com/TheAnniestores/> or visit their website at : <https://theanniestores.com/>.

RETRO FITNESS IS STAYING ACTIVE!

Retro Fitness of Marshall's Creek is offering a Hydro Massage recovery bed special: \$20 a month for daily access! Check back for various enrollment specials throughout the summer. The biggest news: stay tuned for the date of the GRAND OPENING PARTY! Fun events, specials, vendors, guest appearances, fitness competitions, and more at the Grand Opening Party sometime mid-to-end of summer!

<http://retrofitness.com/location/eaststroudsburgpa/>
<https://www.facebook.com/retrofitnessseaststroudsburgpa>



LITTLE HOME BOUTIQUE

Little Home Boutique is a family thrift shop that is located on 5058 Milford Rd, East Stroudsburg, Pa 18302, in the Richard Tree Farm complex, right across from Werry's Pub and next to Mount Diana Tea and Soap, which was featured in the last newsletter. The owner, Eileen, invites to get thrifty! The boutique offers clothing for the whole family, an entire infant room, glassware, cookware, costume jewelry, and so much more. All items are pre-cleaned before they are presented for sale and customers will see a confirmation tag on items indicating that the item was cleaned. Eileen is no stranger to markdowns -- don't be shy, just ask. She also offers different payment options: for example, customers can get store credit on items they bring in towards their purchase. Eileen often has "Customer Appreciation Days"; customers receive a free gift, cupcakes, %10 off purchase, and every child gets a punch balloon! Check her Facebook Page for the next one, or call or message her on Facebook.

Business hours: Sunday and Monday: Closed; Tuesday & Wednesday 9-5, Thursday & Friday 9-6, and Saturday 10-6.

Website: www.littlehomeboutique.com
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/thelittlehomeboutique/>
Phone: 570- 871-8039 | Email: littlehomeboutique@yahoo.com



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Gina Bertucci | Vice Chairperson: Carrie E. Wetherbee | Secretary: Carl Wilgus |
Members: Beverly Brown, Joe Memoli | Economic Development Manager: Patrice Dume



Middle Smithfield Township
mstEatLocal.com

RESTAURANT WEEK: A HUGE SUCCESS!

With of over 200 attendees, the Restaurant Week Kick-off event, which was held on Sunday April 29th, at 6:30pm, at the Whispering Pines Banquet Hall, was a great success. Everyone enjoyed delicious complimentary food samples from the participating restaurants, and fine wine from Blue Ridge Winery. Residents of Middle Smithfield Township were exposed to a variety of dishes, such as Steak Tip Marsala, Island Pulled Pork, California Shrimp Cocktail, Sushi, and many more! Liz Koster, Director of Fitzmaurice Community Services, said that although she always passed Pub 570, she would never go in because she didn't think they catered to her tastes either in menu or atmosphere, but after meeting Louie and having his St. Louie's Ribs at the kickoff, she said she will surely be giving them a visit.

The Restaurant Week survey is still available at www.mstEatLocal.com (hurry, you can still give your opinion) and overall the township received positive feedback with 97.4 % of respondents indicating they will participant again in next year's Restaurant Week. One resident stated in their survey "This is great to bring awareness to the Township. I would love to see more restaurants involved with multiple dinner specials all inclusive, like 3 course or 4 course meals." Another



resident stated "I love that Middle Smithfield is getting more out there in the community. More events will bring more people to participate and bring the community together." You can still provide your opinion – each respondent will receive a free one-trip pass to the township's Fall Cleanup and Freecycle.

Middle Smithfield Township is dedicated to improving and continuing to make Restaurant Week an ongoing success! Be sure to join us next year! In the meantime check out the "100 words from our Sponsors".

SPOTLIGHT SPONSORS

BLUE RIDGE WINERY

Blue Ridge Winery is located in the rolling countryside of Saylorsburg Pa. The winery opened on September 20th of 2014, with a mission to simply add value to people's lives. The winery beautifully sits amongst and overlooking the vineyards. The terrain of the land gives the ideal environment to create the most magnificent wines in the world. Travel and Leisure Magazine just named The Best Vineyards in the Nation, and Blue Ridge Winery was named the 13th best Winery in the country, and number one on the East Coast! We are humbled, proud and very excited!

239 Blue Ridge Road | Saylorsburg Pa
18353 | (610) 895-4205
www.BlueRidgeWineryandVineyards.com
www.poconowinetrail.com
Facebook: Blue Ridge Estate Vineyard & Winery



Residents John and Peggy Pinto were one of 3 winners selected by State Representative Rosemary Brown's daughter live on the Gary in the Morning Radio Show.



Louie Mignosi with State Representative Rosemary Brown



Bruce Brandli tells the story of how the Big A got its name on Gary in the Morning



Gary in the Morning

WINTERGREENS PATIO GRILL

Located in Bushkill, Wintergreens Patio Grill offers a casual, friendly, relaxing atmosphere serving pub fare with special holiday buffets, happy hour, summer theme nights including, Cajun Night, Caribbean Night, Prime Rib Night, Comedy Jam Night and Pasta Night with movies on The Great Lawn. Make it a great night out with your family and friends eating tasty food, listening to live music while sitting on the patio under the stars. Call 800-259-8665 or go to FernwoodResortPoconos.com.

124 Golf Dr #1 | East Stroudsburg, PA
18302 | 800-259-8665
fernwoodresortpoconos.com
Facebook: Wintergreens Patio Grill



Blue Ridge Winery paired every dish with one of their wines.



Restaurant week kickoff

PUB 570

Pub 570 located at 5261 Milford Road in Middle Smithfield Township is a great place for food and family fun. A few items on our menu are jumbo wings, juicy hamburgers and fall off the bone ribs. At Pub 570 we offer a full catering menu—no party is too small! Chef Lyle and Louie have been working together for 35 years and do the catering for all your party events. Pub 570 has many TVs to enjoy all sporting events! You can also enjoy our Happy Hour with half-priced drinks Monday-Friday from 5-7pm. Trivia with Chuck Seese is on Thursday evenings and Pub 570 has live bands on Friday & Saturday nights! Please come in and enjoy Pub 570, a family friendly establishment. – owner Louie Mignosi
5261 Milford Road | East Stroudsburg, PA
18302 | 570-588-5030
www.pub570.com
Facebook: Pub 570 Grill and Tavern

THE HISTORIC TOM X PUB

Tucked away in the hills off of Route 209/ Milford Road, the Tom X is a small town pub that makes a big impression. We offer a wide menu selection; you want good, award winning wings – we got 'em! Signature burgers -- got those too! Make your way through our extensive list of craft beers, or try one of our unique drink specials, but don't forget to leave room for one of our home-made desserts. Like nothing you've ever tasted! Known for our simple but delicious menu selections, our friendly service and relaxing atmosphere, the Tom X is the place to go when you're looking for home. – owners Steve and Ruth van Why

100 Tom X Road | East Stroudsburg, PA
18302 | 570-223-5025
<http://www.tomxpub.com>
Facebook: Historic Tom X Pub



Pete Begley plays "the Stick" making Restaurant Week Kickoff a feast for the ears, as well as the eyes (thanks Pocono Photo Club).





OUR OWN NATIONAL PARK

Have you visited the largest park right here in Middle Smithfield Township? This summer, check out all that the National Park Service has to offer right in your own backyard!

Middle Smithfield Township is the proud gateway to the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, as well as home to the National Park Headquarters located at 1978 River Road in Bushkill.

DWGNRA hosts dozens of events all summer long at many of their facilities in both Pennsylvania and New Jersey, including Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC), Peter’s Valley School of Craft, and Millbrook Village, among others. DWGNRA also has numerous trails, such as the McDade Trail, and campgrounds for tons of outdoor summer fun right here in MST!

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area is run by the National Park Service and was established in 1965. The park covers more than 66,000 acres in Monroe, Pike, and Northampton Counties in Pennsylvania, and Warren and Sussex Counties in New Jersey – but it is Middle Smithfield Township that is the busiest entrance to the Park.

For more information about DWGNRA, its amenities, or their programs, please visit www.nps.gov/dewa, www.peec.org, or call 570-426-2452, or stop by the Visitor’s Center at 1978 River Road! You can also pick up a copy of Pocono Living Magazine’s annual “Guide to the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area,” containing history, trail maps, events, and much more. Visit www.poconolivingmagazine.com for more information.



THE BIRDS AND THE BEES ~~BATS~~

Parks & Recreation Committee member Dan Timpson taught a class on Saturday June 24 at 1pm at the Echo Lake Park pavilion for a class on building houses for birds and bats. During this FREE, hands-on activity, over 30 people learned to build houses for these important animals. They brought the houses home to hang, encouraging them to move in and live near your home.

Birds and bats are important for insect population control and pollination. A healthy bird and bat population means a healthy ecosystem. Help us build them some nice homes!

ASK THE DOG TRAINER:
FREE DOG TRAINING

Dog trainer David J. Henon of University of Pets will give a FREE training session at Middle Smithfield Twp. Dog Park on Saturday July 8th from 11am to 1pm. Bring your dog to go over basic commands and how it can help solve many behavior issues. Learn about the American Kennel Club Canine Good Citizen and how it can help you get discounts on your homeowners policy and how your dog can become a therapy dog.

The Middle Smithfield Twp. Dog Park is located along Milford Road/Rt. 209 at 108 Leroy’s Lane, just north of the intersection of Milford Road and Winona Falls Road. Dogs attending the class must be human and dog friendly. Aggression can be discussed with David one on one.

For more information about David Henon or the program on July 8, please visit www.universityofpets.org or call 570-223-8920 x119.



Master
Gardeners
PennState Extension
CLASS SCHEDULE

Gardening classes from the Master Gardeners are available throughout the season, and take place at the Community Gardens. Upcoming classes and events include:

Weed Management – Saturday June 24, 11am

How to Use Your Produce – Saturday July 15, 11am

Canning Beans Demonstration – August DTBD

Preparing Your Garden For Winter – Saturday September 23, 11am

Gardener Picnic/Clean out Your Beds Day – Saturday October 14, 11am

Plots are still available at the Community Gardens for 2017. For more information or to reserve your garden bed, please call 570-223-8920 x119 or email crain@mstownship.com, or stop by the Township Building at 147 Municipal Drive. Plots reservations require a short reservation form and a \$50 refundable deposit per plot to hold your spot. There is a maximum of 3 plots per household during the initial signup period.



Residents Bruce Tarhovsky of BT Home Repairs & Improvements and Paul Cimei, a member of the Monroe County Beekeepers Association, built the “Bee House” and erected solar-powered electric fencing to keep the bear out of the honey hives. Special thanks to Public Works for all the site work they did!

A NEW HOME FOR THE BEES

The Middle Smithfield Township Public Works Department and parks volunteers Paul Cimei and Bruce Tarhovsky collaborated this spring to build a new bee house at Community Gardens Park.

The house, built out of a recycled shed, is designed to protect the beehives located at the Community Gardens from bears and other local wildlife. By placing the hives inside this modified shed and reinforcing it with wood and an electric fence, the hives will be protected from damage. Last year, the hives were damaged multiple times by a hungry bear looking for a snack.

“Last year, our beehives were very popular with our gardeners,” said Supervisor Annette Atkinson, “and beekeeping

demonstrations from Paul Cimei were a huge hit. Until the bear found the hives, of course. We hope that our awesome new bee house will allow us to keep the bears out and the bees happy all season long.”

The shed has several holes cut into it to allow the bees to come and go and collect pollen at the Community Gardens and elsewhere. A door in the shed allows access by Paul Cimei, a member of the Monroe County Beekeepers Association, and for his beekeeping demonstrations for the public. An electric fence around the house provides an added layer of protection from curious wildlife.

MST PARK MAKES
IT ON THE TOURS!

Both the Monroe County Penn State Master Gardeners and The Monroe County Garden Club have put the Middle Smithfield Township Community Gardens Park on their schedule for tours!

The semi-annual Monroe County Garden tour will be held on Saturday June 24th, from 10am – 4pm.

On that day, ticket holders will have the privilege of peeking into the private sanctuaries of some amazing gardeners in the Stroudsburg area. This year, the public MST Community Gardens

Continued on back page

THANK YOU
FOR KEEPING
MST PRETTY!

Middle Smithfield Township would like to extend an enormous THANK YOU to the over 140 volunteers who worked so hard to help clean up our Township roads -- "1,000 Feet of Street" at a time -- as part of this year's Spring "1000 Feet of Street" on April 29, and all of our adopted roads.

In total, our volunteers cleaned over 400 bags of litter from 69 miles of roadside throughout the Township (that's both sides of 34.5 miles of road). Roads cleaned included parts or all of Milford Road/Rt. 209, Winona Falls Road, Sellersville Drive, Oak Grove Road, Coolbaugh Road, Tom X Road, Timothy Lake Road, Hidden Lake Drive, Wooddale Road, and the roads of Pocono Wild Haven Estates among others.

COUNTY CORNER: RAISE YOUR GLASS & SUPPORT THE PAST 2017

On Thursday, September 7th the Monroe County Historical Association will be hosting their annual "Raise Your Glass & Support the Past" event. This event will take place at the beautiful "Lodge at Mountain Springs Lake" in Readers, Pa. Not only will attendees be able to enjoy an exquisite meal and wine pairing but they will also be able to bid on various items in a live auction. This year's auction will be run by Hartzell's Auction Gallery and includes items such as: local artwork, gift certificates, experiences, and wine baskets. (If you'd like to donate something for the event, please use the contact information below.)



All proceeds from this event benefit the work of the Monroe County Historical Association. The MCHA has been preserving the history of Monroe County for over 96 years. They proudly serve the

community while raising awareness of Monroe County's past through activities like hosting educational group tours, entertaining & informative Open Houses, cemetery & garden tours, festive holiday luncheons at the Stroud Mansion and many more opportunities & events! For more information on the event or to check out what the Monroe County Historical Association has to offer please contact the Monroe County Historical Association at (570) 421-7703 or email admin@monroehistorical.org or visit <http://www.monroehistorical.org>

**Thank you Spring 2017
1000 Feet of Street
& Adopt a Road
Volunteers!!!**

Jose Amador
Frailey Family
Charles Stecker
Mike Dwyer
George Vagelakos
Tammy Van Blarcom
Cub Scout Pack 100
Jim Hunter
Gesicho Family
Howard Kindred
Fuller Family
Steven Billeck
ESU Student Activities
Darlene & Mark Picchianti
Pohlman Family

Michelle Dellavalle
Walter Sanders
Annette Atkinson
Susan Kulick
Blue Lightning Tubing
Dan Van Duyne
Componovo Family
James Meegan
Taylor Roy
Andre Askins
Gene Farrell
Ken Decker
Mario Lima
Pocono Wild Haven Estates
Ann Vansulkema

Nancy Bittner
Paula Shick
St. John's Church
Timpson Family
Jill & Mike Sweeney
Lisa Breunig
Mutis Family
Meryweather Family
Francis Oquendo
Pete Derrenbacher
Ruth Van Why
Frank Lowe
Kathy Mitchell
Robert Post

Resica Falls Scout Reservation
Mountain Stream Baptist Church
Middle Smithfield Twp Elementary School
Monroe County Meals on Wheels

For more information on 1000 Feet of Street, or to Adopt a Road, please call 570-223-8920 x119, or email Litter&Beautification@mstownship.com. Our Fall 1000 Feet of Street is scheduled for Saturday September 30. Thank you to everyone who participated and continues to help keep MST pretty!

13TH ANNUAL
MEMORY MAKERS
LUNCHEON

(continued from page 1)

The Keynote Speaker this year is Martin Wilson, Ph.D., an Associate Professor of History at East Stroudsburg University where he teaches course in American History, Pennsylvania History, Urban American History, and the Revolutionary Era on both the graduate and undergraduate level. He lives in Delaware Water Gap with his wife Susan. Dr. Wilson is also the curator at the Dutot Museum in Water Gap and a member of the Board of Directors of the Monroe County Historical Association.



Martin Wilson, Ph.D.

Also presenting this year is the Historical Commission's own Kim Williams, on the "The Dinky". The Dinky was sort of a derisive - yet affectionate - name that locals used to refer to trains on the Delaware Valley Railroad between East Stroudsburg and Bushkill a hundred years ago. You can find out more by reading Kim's article on page X in this newsletter. He will be joined at Memory Makers with author Michelle Jacques, who just finished writing a book, "The Delaware Valley Railway: 1901-1937" with a foreword by none other than Kim Williams. (The book will be available at Memory Makers.)

Please visit with us on Saturday, August 19th, from noon to 4pm. We would love to hear your stories at Memory Makers -- but we DO hope you will share your old photos, documents, and memorabilia. Staff will be on hand to scan in any items you bring, and return them to you right on the spot. Share your stories with the next generation!

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Carrie Wetherbee | Vice Chairperson: Robert Huffman
Secretary | Member: Kim Williams | Member: Marie Summa
Historical Commission Liaison: Chantel Wilder | cwilder@mstownship.com | 570-223-892 x100

MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP'S 13TH ANNUAL
FREE MEMORY MAKERS LUNCHEON

SAVE THE DATE
**MODES OF TRANSPORTATION:
HISTORY IN THE POCONOS**
SATURDAY AUGUST 19, 2017 • POCONO PALACE • 12 – 4 PM

Memory Makers 2017:
THE TRAIN IS COMING!

By Kim Williams, Committee Board Member

A goal of the Middle Smithfield Historical Commission is to interest residents in the history of the township in which they live. Regardless of how long or short your residency in Middle Smithfield has been, we hope that local history will be near the top of your list of curiosities.

Long-time residents of the township are invited to a luncheon at 12 noon, Saturday, August 19, 2017, at Pocono Palace, followed by a presentation, to which attendees of any age and length/place of residency are invited if there is room (just call Dana Hollinger to be put on the waiting list). The theme of the presentation - and of the 2018 calendar of the MSHC - will be a historical look at local transportation. IMPORTANT: Please contact Dana Hollinger at the township building (570)223-8920 (Ext. 121) to reserve your seats.

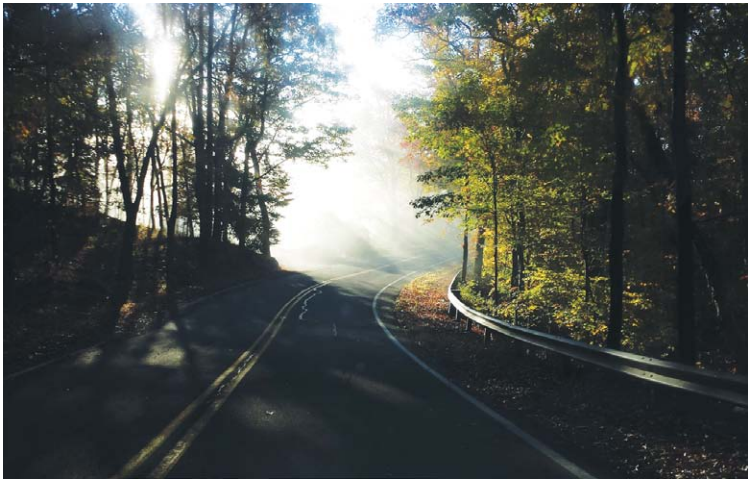
One of the modes of transportation which will surely be talked about then is

the Delaware Valley Railway, which - between 1901 and 1938 - was one of the most vital transportation options in Middle Smithfield, where no less than 7 stopping places existed. Did you know that, "back in the day", the DVR chugged across Rt. 209 in two places, as well as crossing Mt. Nebo Rd., Frutchey Drive., Hollow Rd., Keystone Rd., and Winona Falls Rd., as well as the front lawn of the Middle Smithfield School?

During the past year, renewed interest in the Delaware Valley Railway (DVR) is evidenced by at least two things: an hour-long program which has been assembled by a member of the MSHC (just call Dana Hollinger to arrange a free presentation to your group) - as well as a 128-page book about the DVR with more than 200 images. The book is written by Michelle Jacques with John Beljean, with a foreword by yours truly, Kim Williams. Stay tuned for a book signing at this year's Memory Makers! <https://www.arcadiapublishing.com/Products/9781467126151> Both efforts are designed to preserve "the Days of the Dinkey".

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Director, Supervisor: Mike Dwyer
Public Works Department Administrator: Karen Stapleton |
kstapleton@mstownship.com | 570-223-8920 x118

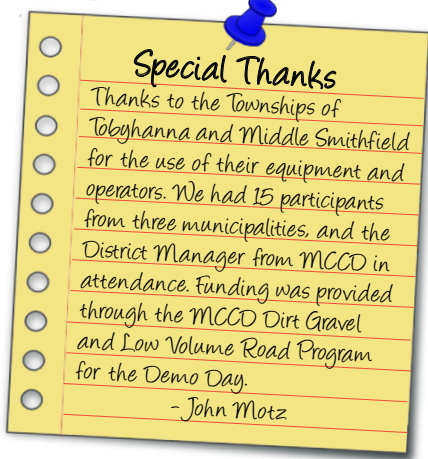


PUBLIC WORKS: ROADS

This year will, once again, be a busy year for our Public works crew. Road paving projects will commence shortly and will likely extend to the end of summer. Middle Smithfield Township will continue on our Road Improvement Plan and improve over 9 miles of road throughout the township in 2017.

As some may have already noticed, shoulder work has started on Coolbaugh Road and portions of Keystone Road, Hidden Lake Drive, Sand Hill Road and Big Ridge Drive have been patched with a new tar and chip seal. Tar and chip is applied to roads that are not heavily traveled and provides a cost effect solution to road maintenance as well as more traction to roads that may be more slippery (for example, hilly roads that are difficult in snow and ice). When first applied, tar and chip can seem “slick” and motorists should know not to speed as there remains a slight coat of loose gravel (chip) for about a week until the chip is fully adhered. Once the adhesion process is completed, the road(s) is swept and line striping is reapplied. This is a standard road improvement that is used by many municipalities and Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

On April 17th Middle Smithfield and Tobyhanna Townships together with the Monroe County Conservation performed a demonstration for other municipalities. We received the note below from John Motz, Resource Conservation Specialist at MCCD.



IN A STATE OF DISREPAIR: Potholes, Craters and Sinkholes

Quite often, the township receives emails or phone calls about potholes, craters and, what appear to be the makings of sinkholes, on State Roads. While we can receive the concern and or complaint, we can only relay the information to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT). We cannot repair or alter any State road.

State Roads within our township include major thoroughfares, such as Route 209/Milford Road, Route 402/Resica Falls Road, Marshalls Creek Road, and a few others. Every one of us can see, and feel, the most of the State Roads are in disrepair.

Over the last few years, we have been informed that Route 209 was going to be paved from one end of the township to the other. Unfortunately, that has not happened. Even though we often email PennDOT, there are always reasons why the work is delayed.

PennDOT has, however, set up an emergency pothole number to accept concerns that can be reported by calling 1-800-FIX-ROAD or visiting www.dot.state.pa.us and clicking on “Submit Feedback.”

If you have concerns or complaints about township roads, please let us know immediately.

2017 ROADS PROJECTS	
ROADS	ACTION
Barran Road	Pave
Coolbaugh Road	Pave/Intersection
402 to Tego Lake Road	Realignment Project
✓ Dancing Ridge Road	Tar/Chip DONE
✓ Hidden Lake	Patch DONE
Marjorie Court	Right Pave
✓ Reservoir Road	Tar/Chip DONE
River Road	Tar/Chip
✓ Timothy Lake Road	Tar/Chip DONE
Zion's Church Hill Road	Dirt/Gravel Improvements



The Oak Grove Multi-Municipal Compost Processing program is jointly operated and available to residents of Middle Smithfield, Smithfield and Lehman Townships. The facility is centrally located on Oak Grove Drive in Middle Smithfield Township and is open Monday – Saturday, 7am – 2 pm. Closed Holidays

To use the facility you must be a resident of one of the participating townships or a commercial business (via permit only) located in the townships.

Acceptable materials include leaves,



shrubs (no roots) and shrubbery, tree trimmings, and branches cut into 3 -4 foot lengths and no larger than 12 inches in diameter.

SEWER

Joan Woisin | Sewer Department
Manager | jwoisin@mstownship.com
570-223-892 x115

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS:

- Rehabilitation of Pump Station #1: This project involves providing and installing all equipment, materials and labor to replace the existing 150,000 gallon Steel Equalization Tank/ Pumping Station at the Fernwood Wastewater Treatment Plant. Bids were opened for this project on March 23, 2017.
- ✓ • Steel Bridge Pump Station in Winona Lakes: Complete
- Upgrades to Pump Stations: Bids will be opened at the Board of Supervisors meeting on June 8, 2017.
 - Pump Station 1 – Project was awarded to Blooming Glen. The estimated cost is \$611,740.
 - Pump Station 3 – McCole and Route 209
 - Pump Station 4 – Maple Lane
 - Pump Station 5 – Rte 209 & Municipal Dr
 - Pump Station 8 – Lake of the Pines Pump Station

OAK GROVE & RECYCLING

www.ogmmcpb.com
Chairperson | Mike Dwyer

FREE MULCH/COMPOST/ WOOD CHIPS

The Oak Grove facility is a regular provider of mulch and compost to the MST Community Gardens on Coolbaugh Road. Your garden can benefit too! Self-serve products and materials offered at the facility are free mulch and compost up to three (3) yards (pending availability), and you must load the materials yourself. If loading assistance is needed an appointment must be made in advance and the fee is \$10 for each 3 yards.

To make an appointment, purchase a commercial permit, or have any questions, please contact kstapleton@mstownship.com or call 570-883-8920x118.



TOWNSHIP SPRING CLEANUP (AKA “DUMPSTER DAY”) AND FREECYCLE

Twice a year, we are thrilled that so many residents take the time and pride in their properties to clean them up. This Spring Cleanup was the busiest yet! Middle Smithfield Township's Spring Clean Up was a huge success. We filled over 17 dumpsters with trash, collected 24pallets (22,000 lbs) of electronics, 13,360 tons of scrap metal, 197 tires and enough donated Freecycle items to fill our 40' by 70' garage.

A big thanks to all our generous residents who donated to Free-Cycle! See you at the Fall Clean Up and Free-cycle scheduled for October 13th and 14th. And a big thanks to the Public Works Department, who made it all run smoothly.

ZONING

Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer: Shawn McGlynn | zoning@mstownship.com | 570-223-8920 x126
Zoning Department Administrator: Judith Acosta | jacosta@mstownship.com | 570-223-8920 x128



Middle Smithfield Township recently organized and hosted a PMPEI course in Zoning Administration. Twenty-six people from local municipalities, including four of our own Zoning Hearing Board members, attended to make this course a success.

ZONING ADMINISTRATION COURSE

Recently, Middle Smithfield Township hosted the Zoning Administration Course that is taught through the Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Education Institute (PMPEI, www.pmpei.org) and Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB, www.boroughs.org).

The Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Education Institute (PMPEI) was established in 1992 for the purpose of providing courses in community planning and land use regulations for planning commissioners, zoning hearing board members, zoning administrators, elected officials, and others with an interest or involvement in planning. Since 1992 more than 7,000 people have attended PMPEI courses.

- PMPEI offers 4 courses:
- Community Planning
- Subdivision and Land Development Review
- Zoning
- Zoning Administration

These courses are offered throughout Pennsylvania during the fall, winter, and spring. There are normally 15-20 courses offered statewide. Usually, these courses are not held in the Poconos; Middle Smithfield took the initiative to host

the courses here, closer to home for our many volunteers in the area, and invited other townships to participate.

Stan Lembeck and Ed Knittel were the fantastic instructors for this three week, 10 hour, interactive course including such topics as; principals of zoning, key zoning terms, the zoning administration team, zoning officer duties, enforcement notices, and zoning hearing procedures. The final session even included a mock zoning hearing session where participants were able to learn how to conduct effective and fair zoning hearings. Twenty-six people from local municipalities, including four of our own Zoning Hearing Board members, attended to make this course a success.

While there is no county or state education requirement for serving on Zoning Hearing Boards, an educated board of volunteers is invaluable. The Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance in March of this year amending the qualification requirements for Zoning Hearing Board members to include participation in relevant courses providing board members with the information they need to do their jobs effectively. The Monroe County Planning Commission commended the Supervisors on ensuring their volunteers will be

IN THE ZONE: MOVE IN / MOVE OUT ORDINANCE

RESALE, USE, and OCCUPANCY CERTIFICATES are now REQUIRED in Middle Smithfield Township

On Thursday, May 25, 2017, the Board of Supervisors adopted Ordinance 214 amending the Code of Ordinances of the Township of Middle Smithfield adding chapter 179 entitled “Use and Occupancy of Real Property”. This regulates the use and occupancy of leased properties and properties in which title of ownership is transferred in order to ensure that the use and occupancy of such properties will be conducted in accordance with public health, safety, and welfare.

So, what does this mean for you?

Owners of a Business or Residential Building desiring to lease or sell the building, or portion thereof, must apply for and obtain a Use and Occupancy Certificate from the Building Inspector of the Township of Middle Smithfield no later than fifteen days prior to leasing or sale. The certificate issued is valid for thirty days from the date of issuance.

The application includes a checklist of basic building and zoning codes that will be inspected and should be compliant prior to inspection. For buyers, this does NOT replace the standard home inspection recommended prior to purchase.

Any violations found during inspection, will NOT impede the sale or rental. A “Temporary Use and Occupancy Certificate” or “Temporary Access Certificate” will be issued with time allowed to correct the violations.

Why did we do this? A Move In / Move Out application triggers a few things, and helps the township be more proactive in pre-empting issues and providing incentives. For example:

- It lets our Economic Development Manager know of new businesses

coming into the township, and she can reach out to them to see if they need any help, and introduce them to the many services our Economic Development Committee can provide

- It lets our Sewer Manager know of a possible change of use that might trigger an adjustment in the number of EDU’s a property is being billed. It also lets her know to send out information regarding the township’s sewer financing program.
- Can help improve rental properties

If you have any questions, would like additional information or would like to obtain a copy of Chapter 179 or application, please contact Judith Acosta in the Zoning Office at 570-223-8920 ext. 128 or by email at jacosta@mstownship.com.



Before



After

PLANNING COMMISSION

Chairman: Bob Early | **Vice Chairman:** Parin Shah
Members: Wayne Bolt, Carrie Wetherbee, Dr. William W. Suriano, Mark Oney
Engineer: Gilmore & Associates Fred Courtright | **PE Solicitor/ Solicitor Firm:** Weitzmann, Weitzmann, and Huffman | **Recording Secretary:** Michele Clewell
Alternate Member: Carrie Wetherbee

CLEAN UP YOUR YARD

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

The Zoning Office had had success in bringing nuisance properties into compliance. One success can be seen at 205 Walker Drive. (see pictures) This property had a demolished mobile home and all of its contents strewn across the yard. When a neighbor reported this issue to the Zoning Office, we took action by sending an official Enforcement Notice to the property owner after making our initial inspection.

Not every property that is reported is acted upon, however. The property must meet the definitions found in the Zoning Ordinance and certain criteria for enforcement. Also, the violation must have an immediate impact on the person who is filing the complaint. The Zoning Office will determine after inspection if formal action should be taken against the property owner. If you would like to submit a complaint to the Zoning Office, you may do so by email to jacosta@mstownship.com or by calling 570-223-8920 ext. 128.

GOLF

COUNTRY CLUB OF THE POCONOS

Chairman: Ray White | **Vice Chair:** Craig Weatherbee
Secretary: Mike Sweeney | **Members:** John Smith, Don Henry
Member and Pro Shop Manager: Kevin Dixon | 570-223-8099
Golf Committee Liaison: Holly Freese | 570-223-8920 x132



BANQUET HALL AT WHISPERING PINES

Banquet Hall Liaison: Christopher Rain | 570-223-892 x119



BIRDIES: NICE WEATHER FOR DUCKS!

So far this season the weather has not been kind to golfers in the Poconos, however players continue to flock to CCP when the weather is good. We are still on track to reach our lofty goals for the 2017 season. Our course is in excellent shape and we are prepared for a busy summer.

Our \$25 Tuesday's are still extremely popular and make Tuesday one of the busier days of the week. Keep informed of our other summer promotions by checking the web at www.ccp-pagolf.com or by liking our facebook page Country Club of the Poconos at Middle Smithfield Township

Our outings continue to grow both in the number of outings as well as the number of participants. Our first two outings of the year, Mady's Angels and Vetstcok, had double digit increases in attendance. Looking ahead this year we have the following

RENT A PAVILION AT MST PARKS

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

Each pavilion comes with picnic tables, grills, and are adjacent to playgrounds to keep the kids entertained. Pavilion rentals require a rental form and cost \$50 plus a \$50 refundable deposit due at the time of booking. The deposit is refunded after your event and successful site inspection by Township staff.

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

charity golf outings scheduled:

Golf for the Good:

9/14 Pocono Mountain Council of Governments – all proceeds go to local charities

8/19 ForEvergreen Nature Preserve Project (Pocono Heritage Land Trust and Brodhead Watershed Association)

Golf Outing -

9/23 Wounded Warrior 8" Cup Tournament – proceeds benefit the Wounded Warriors Foundation

9/30 Marshall's Creek Fire Company Golf Outing – proceeds support the Volunteer Fire Company

10/17 CYAC Golf Outing – proceeds support youth charities

Please join us at one or more of our outings and support your favorite cause. If you would like to increase your fundraising efforts for your organization give us a call at the Proshop (570-223-8099) for more information.

WHISPERING PINES BANQUET HALL HOSTS NON-PROFIT EVENTS

Whispering Pines Banquet Hall is proud to host many non-profit events each year. In an effort to make the banquet hall the premier space for community and charity events in the area, Whispering Pines offers reduced rates for non-profit events, and can waive fees for certain allowable charities.

For information about renting Whispering Pines Banquet Hall for a private or non-profit event, call Chris Rain at 570-223-8920 x119 or email crain@mstownship.com for availability and costs. Non-profit organizations may receive a discounted price or qualify to have the fees waived entirely. Let us help you make your next event special.



WE GO TO THE WALL FOR ARTISTS!

Whispering Pines Banquet Hall is excited to announce the installation of an art gallery style hanging system in the Main Dining Room, which made its debut at the Pocono Photo Club's May Exhibit. The system, purchased from Gallery System Art Displays on the recommendation of the Pocono Photo Club, consists of a metal track from which metal cords are hung. Hooks clip onto the cords and artwork weighing up to 30 pounds can be hung from the hooks.

"The nice thing about this system is that it is so versatile," said Banquet Hall Coordinator Chris Rain. "The cords can slide anywhere along the track and the hooks can be placed at any height on the cords. So, really, you can hang a picture pretty much anywhere very easily."

The hanging system recently was used to display the Pocono Photo Club's spring photography exhibit. Additional track, cords, and hooks were ordered for installation in the bar area. Middle Smithfield Township can't thank Dick Ludwig, Treasurer of the Pocono Photo Club, enough for all his help. The PPC photographers couldn't get over how professional exhibits look now. Middle Smithfield Township hopes the new system will see a lot of use from art installations in the future.

Community, Non-Profit and Charity events scheduled for 2017:

- Cub Scout Pack 86 Crossover Ceremony
- Cub Scout Pack 100 Annual Banquet
- Monroe County Women's Commission Networking Banquet
- National Council of Negro Women Tea Party
- East Stroudsburg High School North Cheerleaders Banquet
- Tall Cedars Golf Tournament
- Pocono Photo Club Seminar
- MST Restaurant Week Kickoff and Photo Exhibit Opening
- Bushkill Outreach Tricky Tray
- Carbon-Monroe-Pike Mental Health/Development Services Job Fair
- Mady's Angels Golf Tournament
- Daunae Gifted Spirit Grant Fundraiser
- Wounded Warriors Cup Golf Tournament
- Marshalls Creek Fire Company Golf Tournament
- CYAC Golf Outing
- Veteran's Day Dinner
- MST Person of the Year and Volunteer Appreciation Banquet



BUSHKILL OUTREACH TRICKY TRAY A HUGE SUCCESS

The Bushkill Outreach held a Tricky Tray fundraiser at Whispering Pines Banquet Hall on Monday April 24. The event, attended by 180 people, was a major success for the Outreach. Kate Newman, MST 2016 Person of the Year, reported that over \$6,000 was raised to support the Outreach!

"The facility is beautiful and everyone enjoyed the evening," said Newman. "We are so grateful for the generosity of the Supervisors and staff at Middle Smithfield Township for all of their assistance that helped to make it such a success!"

The money will go to support the future activities of the Outreach as they move on to the next chapter of their organization's history. The Outreach will relocate from its current location in Bushkill to Light of the World Church in Minisink Hills, where they will continue to serve the local community.



Kate Newman,
Person of the Year

Bushkill Outreach

Dear Friends,
We are sorry to inform you that the Board of Directors of the Bushkill Outreach has made the extremely hard decision to close the Bushkill Outreach Program. Our last day of food distribution will be Thurs., Aug. 31st, 2017. Community support has been integral to the health and mission of the Outreach and thankfully, we have never lacked in that area. The Outreach has always been, and remains, an extremely healthy organization and we are blessed to have been a part of its season. We want to relay our gratitude for all of the support that we have received from you and want you to know that it has been quite a blessing to know that because of that support, we have been a witness to the fact that it truly is possible for a community to work together, each doing their part to care for everyone. Certainly thousands in the community have benefitted from your being a part of that.

Looking towards the future, regarding the people that we serve, we are very happy to let you know that there should be no lapse in service, as Jo's Outreach, operating through Light of the World Church in Shawnee, will be taking on the mission portion of service to the com-

munity, offering to provide donated food and clothing to anyone in need. They have a beautiful, very well-suited facility as well as a dedicated heart for the mission. The volunteers from the Outreach look forward to working with them throughout the summer in an effort to have them prepared to meet the food needs of the community beginning in September. It is a blessing that the people from Jo's Outreach have offered to serve everyone from Lehman as well as Middle Smithfield Townships, so we leave comfortably knowing that everyone is well covered.

We trust that anyone who has been supporting the work of Bushkill Outreach, or anyone considering what their part might be in the work, will keep Jo's Outreach in mind as they commit to taking on this mission to the extended community. Ida Mathew is our contact person at Jo's Outreach and we have included their address and contact information below for you in case you have questions for them, or hopefully would like to offer support.

Please know that we would like to sincerely Thank YOU, our community, so, so much for being a part of supporting the effort of the Bushkill Outreach. We realize that the Outreach simply could not have served as beautifully as it has for the past 39 years without that support.

On behalf of everyone that has ever served at, as well as the thousands who have been served through the Bushkill Outreach... Thank You.



The Bushkill Outreach will move down the road and be absorbed by Jo's Outreach, at Light of the World Church.

Ida Mathew
Jo's Outreach, Light of the World Church
114 Academy Drive
Minisink Hills, Pa 18341
570-420-9970 Idam329@msn.com



Recently, Light of the World Church hosted a luncheon for Bushkill Outreach and its volunteers, together with Jo's Outreach. Afterward there was tour of the facilities. Pictured here from left to right: Mrs. Anna Morales with husband Bob Morales, Associate Pastor; Angelo Pierri, Senior Pastor; Jarrod Hauger, Caretaker and Pre-Marital Counseling. At the luncheon, Late Newman of Bushkill Outreach said "We are grateful to Light of the World Church as their willing hearts begin this whole new venture of expanding Jo's Outreach to accommodate the Bushkill Outreach clients beginning in September."



Andy Zaso: Mady's Kitchen

VETERAN'S DINNER ON THE HORIZON!

2016 Person of the Year finalist Andy Zaso will be spearheading a dinner for veterans in Middle Smithfield Township in November. Every month, Andy organizes and cooks the free community meal for Mady's Kitchen, as well as other community events, such as working closely with Bushkill Outreach (Kate Newman is the 2016 Person of the Year.) You may recall that Andy also cooked for the "Dinner for Vets" fundraiser at the Whispering Pines for Neil Davis' "Walk Across America" in the summer of 2015. It is no wonder that Andy came up with the initiative to serve those who have served our country.

Also working jointly with Andy and Middle Smithfield Township to make this dinner a success are fellow 2016 Person of the Year finalist, Al Compoly Jr from Operation Chillout and Dave Manter from Tall Cedars, who was a fellow volunteer at the "Dinner for Vets" with Andy - Dave was the grillmaster cooking at the barbeque, while Andy was chef of the kitchen. So great to see them together again!

In addition to the dinner there will also be live entertainment, veteran guest speakers and historical and vintage military displays. Donations will also be collected for Operation Chillout and information about Operation Chillout's Tiny House Project will be available. Check back soon for more information and event details!

(continued from page 1)

Reuniting World War 2 Veteran with Daughter

By Al Compoly

ing to plan it out, I saw the helmet hanging up there, took it down and examined it more closely. I separated the helmet liner from the helmet and there on the liner was an old label that read "Frank Santacroce Hat"

So just out of curiosity I Googled the name, and right away discovered Frank Joseph Santacroce was a WWII vet who served in Italy, Germany and other places during WWII. I also came across his obituary from 2009.

I then turned to searching for a relatives who surely might like the helmet. The obituary mentioned American Legion Post 388 in Sag Harbor NY. I gave it a long shot, contacted them,

told them the story, and they said, "Oh yes, Cathy, his daughter is still a member here of the Auxiliary."

Just a few days ago Cathy called and she was thrilled that the helmet had been discovered. Cathy and perhaps a few more relatives of Frank will come to the Dinner for Veterans on Friday, November 10th, 2017 at the Whispering Pines Banquet Hall, at which the Helmet will be officially presented to the family of Frank Joseph Santacroce.

Cathy said it was like "Dad was coming home again." Stay tuned for more details in the Fall edition of the Middle Smithfield Township Newsletter, due out after Labor Day.



OPERATION CHILLOUT

By Al Compoly

Ray Chimileski was browsing the local newspaper back in December of 2000 when his eye caught an article about a group of Veterans that were living under a railroad trestle in Northern New Jersey. Ray was curious as to why veterans were living in such conditions as Ray was a former social worker with the State of NJ.

He traveled to the local police department on December 21st of that year to see if he could obtain the exact location of these veterans and when he arrived at the police station and inquired about the location, one of the police officers said, "I'll do you one better, I'll take you to them."

Ray got into a police cruiser and traveled to the location where he found several individuals who were Vietnam era Veterans living in conditions that cannot be described other than deplorable. They had cardboard boxes set up which represented certain rooms such as an eating area or sleeping quarters etc.

In talking with these Veterans, Ray asked what they needed in terms of food or clothing or other supplies. The Veterans explained that many times they are required to move at a moment's notice, either being harassed by other homeless individuals, or the county or police will chase them out of a location or simply the area where they are staying has become unsafe. When they are forced to move, it would be great they said, if they could have something they could grab

quickly with all their personal belongings when they are required to leave a location rapidly.

Ray thought about these Veterans and how he could help, not only these particular Veterans, but other Veterans as well who were in similar situations. So on December 21, 2000, Operation Chillout was born with the concept of providing backpacks to Veterans as well to the homeless general population with warm winter clothing and supplies.

But Ray did not stop there. Once again, in his travels and in the process of instituting the backpack program, Ray came across a Veteran who was living along the Hackensack River; cold, hungry and frostbitten. Operation Chillout sought out medical help for this Veteran but the frostbite was so bad he was scheduled to have a number of his limbs amputated, but before he could have the surgery he had to take antibiotic's for 10 days. On the 10th day, they came to get him for the surgery but unfortunately, he passed away along the Hackensack River. The only water this Veteran had access to in order to take his medication was the Hackensack River.

Ray vowed from that point on that Veterans should always have access to clean, potable water. Operation Chillout started the water campaign during the summer months. As Operation Chillout grew with volunteers and networking with the VA and local agencies, so grew this Homeless Veteran Outreach. Operation Chillout has expanded to all of New Jersey, Northeast PA and Rhode Island.

Last year Operation Chillout gave out well over 1,000 backpacks, 30,000 bottles of water and directly assisted or rescued over 75 individual Veterans. Operation Chillout assists in finding permanent or transitional housing for Veterans which resulted in over 151 hotel nights that Operation Chillout paid out of pocket for while these veterans looked for housing.

Operation Chillout is now launching a Tiny Home project on Memorial Day 2017 with our plan to place a Veteran in that Tiny Home by Veterans Day. Operation Chillout is an all volunteer, 501 (c) 3 organization with no permanent location. OCO receives no state or federal funding and all of the resources are through local donations and or fund raising events. Operation Chillout meets at St. Lukes Church in Long Valley, NJ as well as St Luke's Church in Stroudsburg, PA.

Volunteers work out of their personal vehicles, volunteering their time on weekends as well as during the week.

About Al Compoly Jr.

Al is the Veteran Outreach Coordinator for Operation Chillout and responds to all calls made to the Veteran Hot Line which operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, in which they respond to all calls within 6 hours or less.

If you would like more information about Operation Chillout, visit www.operationchillout.org or find them on Facebook at Operation Chillout and Operation Chillout-PA.

*****ECRWSSDDM*****

POSTAL CUSTOMER

THANK YOU RESTAURANT WEEK KICK-OFF SPONSORS AND RESTAURANT WEEK PARTICIPANTS!!

Sponsors (and Participants):

Blue Ridge Winery
Big A Grillehouse
Great Bear Golf Club
Pub 570
Tom X Pub
Royal Asian Buffet
Werry's
Wintergreens Bar & Grill



Participants:

Guiseppe's Pizzeria
La Rosa's Pizza
Los Tres Amigos
Miggy's Deli & Mini Market
Mount Diana Tea & Soap
Perkins
Pizzaros Pizza
River Room Gastropub
Shawnee Craft Taproom
The Gem & Keystone Brewpub

MST PARKS MAKES IT ON THE TOURS!

Continued from page 9

park will also be included! The tour will start at Bryant Park in Stroudsburg, where tickets can be purchased for the entire tour. \$10 for non members and \$8 for members. Four of the gardens are within a short walking distance of each other, so tourists can just park the car and have a stroll in one of the loveliest parts of Stroudsburg.

For more information on the Monroe County Garden Club and its semi-annual garden tour:

<http://www.monroecountygardenclub.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/183977625453838/>

The Monroe County Penn State Master Gardeners is putting together their garden tour, which will also include the MST Community Gardens Park, and it is anticipated that the tour will be in September. Check back for more info.

