



MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWS

WINTER 2018

Resica Falls in Middle Smithfield Township.
Photo by Steven Natiello



Township advances effort to sell Country Club of the Poconos Golf Course

Public Hearing on February 8th:
The township will consider rezoning
its vacant land to C2 commercial.

Learn more on page 12

PERSON OF THE YEAR MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP

2017

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR 2017
PERSON OF THE YEAR!**

JAN KORB

**What's the plan for
2018?**

Come to our annual
presentation of
"Preview of 2018"
on January 25th at 7pm
at the township building

MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWS

WHAT'S GOIN' ON

February: 2/19 President's Day

March: 3/24 11th Annual Eggstravaganza 12-2pm
3/30 Good Friday
3/30 Golf Course Opens

April: Bushkill Outreach Tricky Tray—Date coming soon!
4/23 Spring Leaf Collection Begins (till 5/18)
4/28 Litter Cleanup 1,000 Feet of Street at a Time
4/29 Restaurant Week Kick Off Event
(Restaurant Week runs 4/29-5/7)

May: 5/4 & 5/5 Cleanup & Freecycle AKA "Dumpster Day"
(Drop Off Only 7am-4pm)
5/10, 5/11, 5/12 Freecycle (Pickup Only 7am-2pm)
5/15 Election Day (Primaries)
5/28 Memorial Day

June: 6/26 Anniversary of Marshalls Creek Explosion

July: 7/4 Independence Day
7/12 Supervisors Meeting 7pm Presentation:
Midyear Report to the Public

August: 8/17 Flood of 1955 Anniversary
8/18 14th Annual Memory Makers

September: 9/3 Labor Day
9/8 MST Community Day
9/29 Litter Cleanup 1,000 Feet of Street at a time

October: 10/5 & 10/6 Cleanup & Freecycle AKA "Dumpster Day"
(Drop Off Only 7am-4pm)
10/11, 10/12, 10/13 Freecycle (Pickup Only 7am-2pm)
10/15 Fall Leaf Collection Begins (till 11/16)
10/17 National Fossil Day™ & 3rd Marshalls Creek
Mastodon Event
10/20 5th Annual Trunk or Treat 12-2pm

November: 11/6 Election Day
11/11 Veteran's Day Luncheon
11/20 Shop Local Now thru 1/2/19
11/22 Thanksgiving
11/24 6th Annual Tree Lighting 5:30pm at Echo Lake

December: 12/6 Supervisors Meeting 7pm Presentation of
the Budget to the Public
12/25 Christmas Day
12/27 Adoption of the Budget & Year End Report
12/31 New Year's Eve

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

6:00pm | 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

2017 PERSON OF THE YEAR UPDATE: WHAT THEY ARE UP TO...



Person of the Year & Volunteer Appreciation Banquet:
Senator Mario Scavello, State Representative Rosemary
Brown, Supervisor Annette Atkinson, POTY Finalist Diane
Jiorle, POTY Jan Korb, POTY Finalist Tom Gansel, Supervisor
Mike Dwyer, and Supervisor Mark Oney.



A WORD FROM YOUR TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

Mike Dwyer, Mark Oney, and Annette Atkinson

Happy New Year!

We'd like to once again congratulate the 2017 Person of the year (Jan Krb) and finalists (Thomas Gansel, Diane Jiorle – more on pages 14 and 15) and all of the township volunteers who work so hard to improve our neighborhoods and create a sense of community. We thank Senator Scavello, State Representative Brown, and Commissioner Christy for attending and applauding our volunteers as well at our annual Volunteer Appreciation Banquet!

We also congratulate our newly elected officials and newly appointed committee members, including Supervisor Annette Atkinson, whom we wish the best of luck on the start of her second term, as well as Regina Ireland-Auer as auditor, on the start of her second term.

Speaking of the New Year, it's that time again, for our annual presentation of "Preview of the New Year" or, "Preview of 2018", when the township presents to the public the plans and goals of the township and their committees. That is on Thursday, January 25th, at 7pm. We will also present the Person of the Year and Finalists with their plaques and checks.

And speaking of our plans for the New Year, at the presentation on January 25th, you'll hear more about the public hearing on February 8th for a new ordinance to rezone 320 acres of land owned by the township, which contains part of the golf course, with the rest being vacant, undeveloped land.

The proposed ordinance is to change the zoning district and zoning map from "Planned Residential Development" within Country Club of the Poconos to the C-2 Commercial District. Re-zoning to C-2 Commercial makes the land parcel a candidate for the LERTA tax abatement program, upon approval of the three taxing authorities (township, county and school district).

We have made no secret about the steps we planned to take in order to sell the Golf Course and transition it into a tax-paying property, and have encouraged the involvement of the Homeowner Associations and its residents. A Golf Advisory Board formed in 2012, mostly of County Club of the Pocono residents, and we are grateful for their help these last 6 years. We hope the availability of commercial land adjacent to a golf course, all eligible for sewer financing and LERTA, will attract a developer who will take ownership of the course, and pay taxes on the property. (Currently, because the township owns the property, there is no property tax revenue.)

We hope to see you on January the 25th!

Your Township Supervisors

Middle Smithfield Township Administrative Office

147 Municipal Drive East Stroudsburg, PA 18302

570-223-8920 | info@mstowtnship.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@mstowtnship.com | x112

Joan Woisin | Sewer Department Manager
Open Records & Right to Know Officer
jwoisin@mstowtnship.com | x115

Dave Manter | On Lot Sewage Enforcement Officer
dmanter@mstowtnship.com | x128

Ray Wolfe | Budget & Finance Manager
rwl Wolfe@mstowtnship.com | x131

Karen Stapleton | Public Works Department Administrator
kstapleton@mstowtnship.com | x118

Shawn McGlynn | Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer
zoning@mstowtnship.com | x126

Judith Acosta | Zoning Administrator
jacosta@mstowtnship.com | x128

Michaela Correll | Director of First Impressions
receipt@mstowtnship.com | x100

Christopher Rain | Community & Municipal Projects Coordinator, Parks & Rec Liason, Banquet Hall Liaison
crain@mstowtnship.com | x119

Holly Freese | Community & Municipal Projects Coordinator, Golf Committee & Homeowners Association Liaison
hfreese@mstowtnship.com | x132

Patrice Dume | Economic Development Manager
pdume@mstowtnship.com | x130

Dana Francis | Municipal Projects Assistant & Historical Commission Liaison
dfrancis@mstowtnship.com | x121

Kevin Dixon | Country Club of the Poconos Pro Shop Manager
kdixon@mstowtnship.com | 570-223-8099

Committee Chairpersons

Ray White | Golf Advisory Committee | x205
golfadvisorycommittee@mstowtnship.com

Jenna Componovo | Parks & Rec | x201
parksandrecreation@mstowtnship.com

Jenna Componovo | Litter & Beautification | x202
litter&beautification@mstowtnship.com

Carrie Wetherbee | Historical Commission | x203
HistoricalCommission@mstowtnship.com

Gina Bertucci | Economic Development | x204
EconomicDevelopmentCommittee@mstowtnship.com

Mal Law | Zoning Hearing Board | x112

FINANCE: TREASURER'S NOTE

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

THE TAX MAN COMETH

Once again, at the end of December, your supervisors voted unanimously to pass the 2018 proposed budget for Middle Smithfield Township, which was presented to the public in the beginning of December. There will be no increase in township taxes as well as no increase in sewer fees or any other charges. The township ended 2017 with a healthy surplus for the township (we like saving money for a rainy day, such as bridge repairs we know are imminent) and this is the 6th year in which there has been no increase; Standard and Poor's increased the township's credit rating twice in the last 5 years.

The 2018 budget reflects the township's continued effort to improve on infrastructure and amenities, such as roads, sewers and parks. Capital improvement plans for these areas are implemented annually. The 2018 budget is available for public review on the township website (www.Middle-SmithfieldTownship.com)

Our annual "Preview of the Upcoming

Year (2018)" presentation this January 25th will go over township goals and plans, many of which are intended to improve the township's financial position over the long haul. Our Economic Development efforts are obviously designed to help our local economy along; but another project is also underway. On February 8th, the township will have a public hearing to consider rezoning 320 acres the township owns to C2 -Commercial. The 320 acres includes part of the municipal golf course; the rest is vacant, undeveloped land originally intended to be homes.

The C2 district is currently eligible for LERTA tax abatement, and so would this parcel, (upon approval by township, county, and school district). The township hopes the availability of commercial land adjacent to the golf course, all eligible for sewer financing and the LERTA tax abatement, will make a land/golf course package more attractive to a potential qualified buyer and/or more conducive to a revenue and job-producing use consistent with the township's mission and vision statements.

It has always been the goal of the township to sell the golf course to a qualified buyer, and put that land back on the tax rolls, i.e., transition the property into a tax-paying property. (Currently, because the township owns the property, there is no property tax revenue.) And this is the next logical step toward that goal.

Please pay attention to the insert in your next tax bill coming in March. (This would be the County, Municipal, Library tax). The insert explains your tax bill, and where to go if you have questions. Also, a gentle reminder: With tax season here, please don't forget to file your Local Income Tax return when preparing your Federal & State returns. Berkheimer Associates processes the Local Income Tax returns. Forms, instructions and filing information can be found on their website: <https://www.hab-inc.com/forms/forms-for-individuals/>.

GOING LOCAL: THANK YOU SHOPPERS!

The 2017 Shop Local program marks the 4th year of the program's existence and ongoing success. The program is a win - win for business owners and Middle Smithfield Township shoppers. Business owners see more customers, and shoppers save time and money. How does it help our community? What's spent here, stays here. Local dollars spent, local jobs created, local taxes paid which go directly into your community. This year, the program incorporated Shop Local Facebook Video Clips of participating businesses, increasing their exposure, and the local TV news stations picked up the story. The program increased awareness of businesses to consumers incredibly through various media outlets, such as Facebook and television coverage. Brittney Goldstein, Retro Fitness General Manager says :

"The Shop Local program was a huge hit with the community. Many people saw the TV segment and/or received their card in the mail, and then came in to inquire further. We heard a lot of great feedback as well - people expressing how excited they were



about the Shop Local promotion we were offering (since it was an all access premium pass to the gym for an entire month! A \$100 value!) Sometimes the gym can be an intimidating place for people, and the Shop Local program helped so many of our community members see the value of health and fitness. During this time of year, we spend so much time focusing on others, it's nice to see people taking advantage of the promotion and giving back to themselves."

The goal for 2018, as always, is to increase participation by both businesses and residents. Residents should look out for a survey that will be emailed to them in January. This survey can also be found at www.mstShopLocal. If there are any suggestions or comments about the program feel free to mention it. Thanks to all who participated and Kept the Cheer Here!

Are you a business owner in Middle Smithfield Township? Want to learn more about the MST Shop Local Program? Give us a call at 570-223-8920 ext 130!

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Gina Bertucci | Vice Chairperson: Joe Memoli | Secretary: Beverly Brown
Members: Chris Barrett | Economic Development Manager: Patrice Dume

WELCOME CHRIS BARRETT!

The Middle Smithfield Township Economic Development Committee welcomed their newest member this month, President/CEO of the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau, Chris Barrett.



Chris possesses a strong working knowledge of marketing, research, advertising, public relations, media buying as well as digital marketing and design applications.

Prior to becoming President/CEO of the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau, Chris Barrett was Executive Vice President/COO/CFO for Target

Media and Target Digital, a leading east coast media and advertising firm headquartered in Harrisburg, Pa. Prior to Target Media and Target Digital he held multiple senior management roles ranging from sales and marketing to theme park operations with Hershey Entertainment & Resorts for over twenty years. His specific leadership assignments were with the properties of Hershey Park, Dutch Wonderland Family Amusement Complex, Hershey Park Arena and Stadium, Giant Center and the Hershey Bears. After Hershey Entertainment & Resorts, he was elected President/CEO of the PA Dutch Convention and Visitors Bureau (Visit Lancaster) and held that position for seven years.

A graduate of Penn State University, Barrett was past President of the Alumni Society Board of Directors and served on the Penn State Harrisburg Board of Trustees. He was also appointed to the Penn State Alumni Council and most recently served on the Derry Township Board of Education (Hershey Schools) as Treasurer, along with many other officer roles over his twenty-year tenure.

The Middle Smithfield Township Economic Development Committee meets every 2nd Monday of the month at 6:00pm and as always the public is welcome to attend.

INVEST IN YOURSELF!

Didn't have time to get into Retro Fitness-Marshalls Creek by January 2nd to take advantage of their Shop Local deal? No problem! They are honoring their deal through the end of the month. That means, you can still sign up for their "One Month Strong All Access Pass" which includes UNLIMITED Retro Strong classes, child sitting, tanning and daily HydroMassage access (\$99/month value). (sign up 1/31 for free one month membership to 2/28)

Retro Fitness is a gym that aims to empower members through hands-on training, a fun and lively atmosphere, and a staff of individuals who find joy in their jobs. It truly is a family atmosphere at Retro Fitness. With Retro Family members as young as 12 and as old as 90, they are the gym for everybody and aspire to create that community feel.

Also for the month of January you can receive \$100 off personal training and FIRST MONTH FREE on memberships! Feel free stop in the Retro Fitness-Marshalls Creek location with any questions you may have for their very knowledgeable, friendly staff. They are open 7 days a week and located at 900 Business Drive, just behind Perkins Family Restaurant & Bakery.



PARKS & RECREATION



THE ICE RINK RETURNS!

The ice rink is back at the Dog Park for winter 2018! And with below average temperatures in December and January, it froze very quickly.

The ice rink is located in the Small Dog Area of W. Leroy Lewis Dog Park and will be in place from December to March. It will be removed in March (date TBD) when it gets too warm to freeze the

water. The Small Dog Area is reserved for skaters while the ice rink is in place. The Large Dog Area will remain open to dogs of all sizes for the winter and the Small Dog Area will reopen to dogs after the ice rink is disassembled.

Why put an ice rink at the Dog Park? The MST Dog Park is the perfect place for our ice rink because of its convenient location along Milford Road, easy access

to parking, and a pre-existing fence which is needed for safety. Also, because our Dog Park was built with two enclosed spaces, we can use the Small Dog Area for the ice rink and still have the Large Dog Area open to dogs over the winter. (Please keep in mind there is no winter maintenance at our parks.)

The ice rink is open daily during daylight hours, weather permitting. Please check that the rink is frozen before skating. Skaters must provide their own equipment and use the ice rink at their own risk. MST does not provide any maintenance to its parks over the winter, including plowing out the parking lot after snow storms. Skaters must clear the ice of any snow before use. All park rules still apply.

W. Leroy Lewis Dog Park is located at 108 Leroys Lane along Milford Rd. (Rt. 209) just south of the National Park entrance. It is open to the general public every day from sunrise to sunset. For more information about MST parks, please contact the Parks Department at 570-223-8920 x119 or Parks&Recreation@mstownship.com.

THE MST DOG PARK GETS A NEW NAME

The dog park is one of the most popular parks in Middle Smithfield, and now it has a new name.

At their meeting on December 28, the Township Board of Supervisors voted to change the name of the Middle Smithfield Township Dog Park to the W. Leroy Lewis Dog Park in honor of Leroy Lewis, the park's long time caretaker. The park's address is located at 108 Leroy Lane, which is also named after Lewis.

When he heard the news about the name change, Leroy, who lives next to the park and has been taking care of it since it opened in 2014, said that it "made his day."

"Leroy is a fixture at the dog park," said Supervisor and Parks Director Mike Dwyer. "He helps to keep it running and enforces the park rules. All of the park's regulars know him and love him."

A new sign reflecting the name change was installed in January. A rededication ceremony will take place on Saturday January 27 at 1pm with a rain/snow date of February 3. Township



W. Leroy Lewis

Supervisors, staff, and Leroy are expected to attend. Dog park regulars and the general public are all welcome to attend as well.

"Leroy is a long standing member of the community," said Supervisor Annette Atkinson. "He is a great example of what makes our Township a wonderful place to live and we are thrilled to honor him in this way."

W. Leroy Lewis Dog Park is located at 108 Leroys Lane along Milford Rd. (Rt. 209) just south of the National Park entrance. It is open to the general public every day from sunrise to sunset. For more information about MST parks, please contact the Parks Department at 570-223-8920 x119 or Parks&Recreation@mstownship.com.

5TH ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING IS A BLAST



On Saturday November 25, MST held its 5th Annual Tree Lighting event at the pavilion at Echo Lake Park. Attendees were treated to a free commemorative candle, a program, and complimentary hot cocoa provided by the Bushkill Group. Holiday music, provided by the East Stroudsburg High School North Chorale and Band entertained the crowd at 6pm. At 6:30, Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived at the park, escorted by the Marshalls Creek Fire Department, to light the tree and visit with the children. Each child who visited with the Clauses was able to have their picture taken, tell Santa what they wanted for Christmas, and got a candy cane from Mrs. Claus.

This year, the crowd – estimated at a new event-high of over 700 – was treated to a holiday themed fireworks display to celebrate the lighting of the tree and the start of the holiday season.

Many attendees also brought donations of toys for Toys for Tots and non-perishable food which was donated to the Bushkill Outreach Food Pantry; two organizations that help share the cheer for families in need every holiday season and throughout the year.

The Board of Supervisors and the Parks and Recreation Committee would like to thank the Bushkill Group, Keith LaBar and Paul Bakner and the High School musical ensembles, the Pocono Photo Club, Marshalls Creek Fire Department, township constables, and the Bushkill Emergency Corps for volunteering to participate at the event and make it such a great success.

For more information about township parks, please contact the Parks Department at 570-223-8920 x119 or Parks&Recreation@msttownship.com.

LITTER & BEAUTIFICATION

litter&beautification@msttownship.com

ADOPT A ROAD IN 2018!

Want to help keep your neighborhood clean and help get your group some name recognition with a road sign? Consider adopting a road!

The MST Adopt a Road Program organizes our residents, businesses, and organizations who want to keep our streets litter-free. Individuals or groups can adopt a 2 mile stretch of road and pledge to pick up litter along their stretch at least twice a year. These cleanups can coincide with our twice yearly litter program, 1000 Feet of Street, or at any time at the adopter's convenience. Your two mile stretch is marked with a sign to let your neighbors know that you are helping to keep MST pretty. If you are interested in adopting a road, please contact Christopher Rain at 570-223-8920 x119, or email crain@msttownship.com. A list of roads available for adoption can be provided. All cleanup equipment including bags, pickers, and gloves, are provided by the township when you clean your road.



Charles Stecker and Litter Banner

PUBLIC WORKS

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



PUBLIC WORKS: NEW FACILITY

In 2018, our Public Works Department is operating even more efficiently and at less cost to the taxpayers because of the development of a NEW material storage facility in the Wooddale section of our township.

A garage has been constructed on a 5 acre parcel of land on Dancing Ridge Road that houses 2 trucks, a loader and a 24'x36' cinder bin.

With winter maintenance materials available in Wooddale, our snow plowing and cinders / salting of the roads in Wooddale will be completed at less expense than we now spend.

In Spring 2018, we look forward to finishing the construction of the new facility.

2018 ROAD PROJECTS

We continue to be ahead of our 10-year Road Improvement Plan
(by every 10 years, each township road will have been improved)

ROAD	ACTION for 2018
Barren Road	Partial Pave/Tar/Chip
Big Ridge Drive	Replace Stream Crossing
Charley Drive	Pave
Dawn Lane	Pave
Denise Lane	Pave
Freeman Tract Road	Road Improvements (Dirt/Gravel Road Grant from DRBC)
Holy Cross	Tar/Chip
Jennifer Lane	Pave
Michaels Road	Pave
Pardees Loop	Pave
Sellersville Drive	Tar/Chip
Turkey Ridge Road	Pave
Zion Church Hill Road	Road Improvements (Dirt/Gravel Road Grant from DRBC)

In 2018, we expect to receive approximately \$500,000 Liquid Fuels funds from the State.

SNOW PLOWING PRIORITIES

The Middle Smithfield Township Public Works Department understands that when the snow flies, life on the roads can be a trying time. We try hard to do the best and quickest job possible to make the roads safe and clear of snow and ice. Cinderering usually starts right after the snow begins to fall, with plowing starting around 1" of accumulation. Cinderering and plowing routes are set up to clear the more heavily traveled roads first, then secondary roads and development streets. All roads are usually plowed over twice. We make an effort to plow through all of the streets and roads once to get everything at least passable and then the second time to get the snow to the edge of the road. Middle Smithfield Township is committed to providing excellent snow removal service.

When winter weather does occur, drivers should be extra cautious around operating snow-removal equipment. When encountering a plow truck, drivers should:

- Stay at least six car lengths behind an operating plow truck and remember that the main plow is wider than the truck.
- Be alert since plow trucks generally travel much more slowly than other traffic.
- When a plow truck is traveling toward you, move as far away from the center of the road as is safely possible, and remember that snow can obscure the actual snow plow width.
- Never try to pass or get between several trucks plowing side by side in a "plow train." The weight of the snow thrown from the plow can quickly cause smaller vehicles to lose control, creating a hazard for nearby vehicles.
- Never travel next to a plow truck since there are blind spots where the operator can't see and they can occasionally be moved sideways when hitting drifts or heavy snowpack.
- Keep your lights on to help the operator better see your vehicle. Also remember that under Pennsylvania state law, vehicle lights must be on every time a vehicle's wipers are on due to inclement weather.

VEHICLES WILL BE TOWED IF PARKED ON TOWNSHIP ROADS DURING A SNOW OR ICE STORM

DAMAGE TO MAILBOXES OR OTHER OBSTRUCTIONS WITHIN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY ARE THE PROPERTY OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY.



HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Carrie Wetherbee | Vice Chairperson: Robert Huffman
Secretary: Ken Johns | Member: Kim Williams | Member:
Historical Commission Liaison: Dana Francis | dfrancis@mstowship.com
570-223-8920 x121

APPLICATION FOR STATE HISTORICAL MARKER SUBMITTED

Over the past few months Middle Smithfield Township and the Marshalls Creek Fire Company worked together to submit an application to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission for a historical marker for the Marshalls Creek Explosion of 1964. The application was submitted in the fourth quarter of 2017; we hope to hear in the first quarter of 2018 whether or not the application was accepted.

Bob Huffman, lifelong area resident, retired member of the Marshalls Creek Fire Co. and Historical Commission member has said, "The good coming out of the tragedy were new public safety practices involving transportation of explosive and other hazardous materials, so that communities are now more prepared catastrophes like this. There's a lot of history with this fire house (Marshalls Creek Fire Co.), and

this explosion is definitely part of it. It should all be preserved to show future generations what we've been through and what we've survived."

About the Explosion:

On June 26, 1964, after blowing two tires, an unmarked dynamite truck traveling north on Milford Road pulled across from what is now Regina Farms. The driver went to find help. While he was gone, a passing truck driver stopped to call the Marshalls Creek Fire Company at a payphone about 200 yards away.

The Firemen arrived just after 4:00am and immediately started to fight the burning rubber. Seconds later, the trailer exploded destroying the Regina Hotel, nearby Pocono Reptile farm and severely damaging Middle Smithfield Elementary. The explosion killed three volunteer firemen, three innocent



A state official and state police officer on the scene after the explosion in Marshalls Creek in 1964.

bystanders and injured ten more and caused close to a million dollars in damage. In later decades, the Marshalls Creek Explosion led to implementation of the DOT placarding and labeling system and the enactment of the Transportation Safety Act of 1974.

HAVE A SEAT AT THE TABLE



Do you love Middle Smithfield Township history? Our Historical Commission is looking for a new member.

The Historical Commission aims to foster and promote public knowledge and interest in Township history. Each year, the Commission assists the township with a "Memory Makers Luncheon" to celebrate long-time residents and give them a platform to reminisce about their experiences. Each year the Commission works with the Township to produce a calendar.

After 2017's well attended "standing room only" event, the Commission is planning the 3rd Annual National Fossil Day™ & Marshalls Creek Mastodon Event. Did you know Middle Smithfield Township has a State Historical Marker for its very own Mastodon? If you think that's monumental, we welcome your help in achieving recognition for other historically significant pieces of MST history. If you are interested in becoming a Historical Commission Member, or know someone who might be, please call Dana at 570-223-8920 x121. Come to a meeting and see what we are all about! We meet every first Wednesday of the month at 9am at the township building.

2018 Township Calendars Available!

The Middle Smithfield Township Historical Commission together with their Liaison assembled a Township 2018 calendar, with photos of modes of transportation throughout our history. The calendar has all the meeting dates and times of all the public meetings, committee meetings, as well as township and area special events, and major holidays.

Suggested donation to the Historical Commission is just \$3 per calendar. Come in and get your 2018 M S T Calendar or call Dana at 570-223-8920 x121.



ZONING

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

jacosta@mstowship.com | 570-223-8920 x128

Zoning Hearing Board: Mal Law – chairperson, Josephine Ferro – vice chairperson, Frank Primrose, Art Jenkins, Jeff Senholzi, Melonie Schmid - alternate

IN THE RE-ZONE:

Public Hearing Scheduled for February 8th, 7am in regards to a proposed ordinance to rezone the 320 acres of vacant land owned by the township.

The plan is to change the zoning district for 320 acres of undeveloped land in Country Club of the Poconos from Planned Residential Development to C-2 Commercial District, which will make the land eligible for the LERTA tax abatement program.

The vacant land the township wishes to rezone in Monroe County is within the undeveloped portion of the Country Club of the Poconos development, including 10 holes of the 18-hole golf course the township owns. The 18-hole golf course fulfills the required open space needed for the Planned Residential Development and will stay as such. The township hopes the availability of commercial land (if rezoned to C-2 Commercial District) adjacent to a golf course and eligible for sewer financing and LERTA will make the package attractive to a qualified buyer and produce revenue and jobs.

"The supervisors continue to explore a number of different revenue streams for the acreage the township owns, and we believe the rezoning will make the acreage more attractive to a potential buyer, who will pay taxes on the property," said supervisor Mark Oney in a news release.

Since the property is owned by the township, no property tax revenue currently results. The public hearing will be held Feb. 8 at the Middle Smithfield Township municipal building in Monroe County at 7 p.m.

OAK GROVE & RECYCLING

www.ogmmcpb.com

Chairperson | Mike Dwyer



INCREASING IN POPULARITY!

Since our grand opening in May of 2015 we have tripled the incoming and outgoing of materials. 2017 was a very busy year for the Oak Grove Multi Municipal Compost Processing Board, which processed 10,304 yards of material over the year! The facility is located at 3305 Oak Grove Road and is open Monday – Saturday from 7am-2pm. Closed Holidays.

IN THE ZONE: Classes Offered

Following last year's success, Middle Smithfield Township is proud to host PA Municipal Planning Education Institute for a second time this March. This year The Course in Zoning, an in-depth "nuts and bolts" course in the drafting, amending, administering and monitoring of zoning ordinances, will be presented over three weekly sessions for our own Zoning Hearing Board, and anyone else who would like to join us.

This course is perfect for those who work or volunteer for local municipalities within Zoning or Planning and anyone with an interest in the topic. This course may be taken for continuing education credit from the State Board of Landscape Architects, PA Continuing Legal Education Board and the State Registration Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists for an additional fee.

Tuesdays, March 6, 13 & 20

5:45pm – 9:00pm

\$75.00

Light dinner provided

570-223-8920, x128



Louis Santiago, Annette Atkinson, Francis Oquendo, Ann Farley, Doreen Santiago, Paul Menditto, Supervisor Mike Dwyer.

LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH International Peace Light at Middle Smithfield

This holiday season, Middle Smithfield Township was honored to host the International Peace Light, receiving the flame from Boy Scout Troop 86 (Scoutmaster Louis Santiago) from Troop Leader Francis Oquendo at a special short ceremony on Friday December 15. The public was invited to attend and was able to light their own Peace Light from the flame.

PLANNING COMMISSION

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

Members: Wayne Bolt, Dr. William W. Suriano, Mark Oney

Engineer: Gilmore & Associates Fred Courtright | **PE Solicitor/ Solicitor Firm:** Weitzmann, Weitzmann, and Huffman | **Recording Secretary:** Michele Clewell
Alternate: Carrie Wetherbee

FERNWOOD HOTEL REINCARNATED

A recent sale in Middle Smithfield Township received a lot of publicity when it was realized that the old Fernwood Hotel was purchased by The Jinyin Temple of Sino Esoteric Buddhism. Seven parcels in Middle Smithfield Township, and one in Lehman Township, make up the entirety of the purchase. The long term plans are to establish a World Peace Center right here in the heart of the Poconos. For now, the new owners have obtained permits to refurbish one of the residential homes for a groundskeeper and plan to make minimal repairs to other structures to minimize further damage to the buildings during the cold winter months. Preliminary plans have been reviewed to open up a small section of the property to house workers, and provide an area for prayer for those who remain on the property, but permits have not yet been issued. The completion of the renovations is expected to take up to two years. In the end, the new owners hope to invite the community, along with others from outside the community, for opportunities to learn, grow and pray together.

Meanwhile, local residents as well as township supervisors are happy to see the reincarnation of the once abandoned and deteriorating structures, and the property renovation and clean up progressing.

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 and Guides light their own lamps and return to their home countries, transferring the light around Europe, accompanied by a message of world peace. 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.

Boy Scout Troop 86 brought the Peace Light to the Township building, where it was used to light a lamp, as a symbol of spreading world peace. Middle Smithfield Township resident and Troop 86 Scoutmaster Francis Oquendo organized the event, and met the Peace Light at the airport.

"The Peace light is for everyone, and everyone these days needs a little peace in their life," said Oquendo. "Our aim is to spread the light of peace for all to enjoy."

About the International Peace Light:

The Peace Light from Bethlehem campaign was originally organized in 1986 by the Austrian Broadcasting Company – ORF (Linz) – and was part of a large charitable relief mission -Light into Darkness, for children in need in Austria and abroad. Since 1989, there has been a great deal of co-operation between



PennState Extension

CLASSES OFFERED: *Planning to Protect Private Water Supplies*

Continuing Education: The Penn State Extension Land Use Decision Making Winter/Spring 2018 Webinar Series begins January 17th with "Planning to Protect Private Water Supplies". Penn State Extension offers "blocks" of learning webinars for seated planning commission and zoning hearing board members. This service has proven to be cost effective for our numerous township volunteers who are unable to attend "live" seminars.

Scouts and Guides in many countries, which has allowed the light to travel throughout Europe. The Peace Light first came to New York in 2001 by Canadian Scouts who brought it to Ground Zero. In 2004 the Austrian Scout Movement, Austrian Airlines and Boy Scouts of America International Division arranged to bring the 2004 Peace Light to New York on Dec. 4. Two security guards and Dr. Thomas Ertlthaler, international commissioner of Austrian Scouting, flew from Vienna with the Peace Light in two explosion-proof, British mining lamps, fueled by smokeless paraffin oil. Just 11 days earlier, Austrian Scouts had extracted the light from the eternal flame in Bethlehem. The Peace Light has returned to the US each year since 2004.



Caption: Solicitor Michael Gaul brings the Peace Light to Bethlehem, PA (so it went from Bethlehem, Middle East to Bethlehem PA)

GOLF

COUNTRY CLUB OF THE POCONOS

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



BE READY FOR SPRING, GET YOUR CCP MEMBERSHIP NOW!

Just because it's winter doesn't mean you can't think about golf. Get ready for the season now, and buy a 2018 membership for Country Club of the Poconos Municipal Golf Course.

Some of the benefits you'll get when you join at CCP golf, along with the best golf value in the Poconos are:

- Full access to the course & clubhouse facilities
- Unlimited play any day—includes greens fees and handicap fees
- Member locker room facilities
- Preferred and advanced tee times
- Members only golf outings and special events
- Discounted greens fees for guests
- Pro-shop discounts
- And more....



Memberships cost \$850 for a single membership or \$1,050 for a couples membership. Does that sound like too much for you to afford all at once? No problem! We accept monthly payments over the course of the season (8 months) for around \$100 a month or less!

For more membership information and how to join call 570-223-8099 or visit www.ccpgolf.com

We're all **FORE** the Community!

We are proud to support the many charitable organizations in our neighborhood, and we are proud to donate our time and facilities to help good folks fundraise. Need funds for your organization? Give us a call and let's talk about a golf outing.

Some of the charitable fundraisers scheduled for 2018:

- Tall Cedars (to benefit military veterans) April 21st
- ESU Lambda Iota Charity Fundraiser April 22nd
- Mady's Angels Charity Fundraiser May 20th
- Quiet Valley Living Historical Farm June 4th
- ESU Phi Sigma Kappa Memorial Golf Outing July 21st
- Wounded Warrior 8" Cup Charity Fundraiser Sept 8th
- Marshalls Creek Fire Company Sept 29th

Other News: Golf Course Seeks Companion!

As you probably saw and heard, there is a public hearing for February 8, 2018 for a new ordinance. The new ordinance is to change the zoning district and zoning map for the golf course and other township owned vacant property next to the golf course (about 320 acres total).

Although the golf course will be rezoned from "Residential Development" to "C2 -Commercial", it will remain undeveloped, as it is the required open space for the Country Club of the Poconos community. As for the vacant land adjacent to the golf course, this change to the C-2 Commercial District is intended to attract a buyer for the golf course by making it more appealing: the C2 district is eligible for LERTA and sewer financing, and a developer would have the option to develop something that is compatible and complementary to the golf course as a primary use, with the golf course as a companion use.

A successful sale to a qualified buyer would put the 320 acres back on the tax rolls, creating revenue for the township, and jobs for the residents. (since the township owns this property, it is currently tax-exempt.)

Again, the golf course will remain a golf course and we hope to see you opening day, March 20th, 2018!

SEWER

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

2018 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. Project was awarded to Blooming Glen. The estimated cost is \$685,401. Project is to be completed in January.

• Upgrade to Pump Station #6:

The project for the rehabilitation of Pump Station 6 has been awarded to Pioneer Construction and the estimated cost is \$39,264. This project involves replacement of the piping in the wet well and valve vault and is to be completed in January.

• Frutchey Extension:

This project involves extending the Municipal Sewer line through the Commercial Zone on Frutchey Dr. Bids were opened November 2017 and the project was awarded to Pioneer Construction. The estimated cost is \$194,786. Project expected to start in Spring of 2018.

Upcoming Projects for 2018 are upgrades to the following Pump Stations:

- Pump Station 3 – McCole and Route 209
- Pump Station 4 – Maple Lane
- Pump Station 8 – Lake of the Pines



BANQUET HALL AT WHISPERING PINES

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

BANQUET HALL TAKING RESERVATIONS FOR 2018:

Accepting Shop Local Discount until March 31!

The beautiful Whispering Pines banquet hall is now taking reservations for all your golf outing, charitable, or private party needs in 2018!

Our dining room area is comprised of two rooms separated by a majestic floor to ceiling stone fireplace, providing flexibility for your event. The larger room includes a dance floor and seating for up to 150. The smaller room is perfect as a breakout room or smaller dinner needs with seating for up to 30. Each room is equipped with a TV for your audio/visual needs. A completely equipped commercial kitchen includes china place settings, silverware and glassware for your use. The bar area can seat 26 and is ready to supply your favorite beverage.

Do you have a Shop Local Card? Book an event for 2018 by March 31 and get a 50% discount on a standard four hour rental! Booking must be finalized during promotion period (December 1 to March 31). Actual date of the event can be at any time. You must show your Shop Local Card at the time of booking. Pro-



motion applies to a standard four hour rental only. Charges for additional hours and bar services still apply at usual pricing.

Please call Chris Rain at 570-223-8920 x119 or email crain@msttownship.com for availability and costs. Non-profit organizations may receive a discounted price or qualify to have the fees waived. Let us help you make your next event special.

Community and Charity Events, 2018:

- Tall Cedars Golf Outing and Banquet, Sat. 4/21
- Restaurant Week Kickoff and Photo Exhibit Opening, Sun. 4/29
- Mady's Angels Golf Tournament and Banquet, Sun. 5/20
- Wounded Warrior Golf Outing and Banquet, Sat. 9/8
- MST 3rd Annual Fossil Day, Wed. 10/17
- Veterans Day Luncheon, Sun. 11/11

DINNER FOR VETERANS

Middle Smithfield hosted a dinner for veterans who live in Middle Smithfield Township on Friday, November 10th at the Whispering Pines Banquet Hall in Country Club of the Poconos. The dinner was sponsored by Bushkill Outreach and Tall Cedars of Lebanon.

The dinner was attended by approximately 120 veterans, mostly from Middle Smithfield Township.



Pocono Forest #124 Tall Cedars of Lebanon donated food and volunteered at the event; Ken Johns also sits on the Historical Commission and brought a display. Ken Johns, Mike Velardi, Supervisor Atkinson, and Dave Manter.

Veterans who attended the dinner were welcomed by "General Patton" and the festivities were kicked off by the Monroe County Honor Guard and the St. John's Knights of Columbus of St. Johns.

The veteran's dinner was the brain-child of 2016 Person of the Year finalists Andy Zaso, from Mady's Kitchen, and Al Compoly Jr., from Operation Chill Out, who are both veterans. Assistance was also provided by Dave Manter, Ken Johns and Mike Velardi from Tall Cedars of Lebanon.

Food from the event was donated by Bushkill Outreach and prepared by



Veteran Andy Zaso still fits in his uniform! Andy coordinated food donations with Bushkill Outreach and cooked for the evening; here he is with helper Nikki Groome.

Andy Zaso and volunteers from Tall Cedars.

The event also featured several memorabilia displays, live patriotic music by veteran Lauren Lehman, and a booth with information for Operation Chillout. Congressman Matt Cartwright was also in attendance and said a few words of thanks and appreciation, and recognized our veterans, including four from World War II.



Veteran Lauren Lehman, who provided music for the evening, with General George S. Patton (aka 2016 POTY finalist Al Compoly)

For more information about Middle Smithfield Township's Veterans Day Celebration 2018, keep an eye out in upcoming newsletters or call 570-223-8920 ext 132.

PERSON OF THE YEAR

MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP

2017

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2017 PERSON OF THE YEAR! JAN KORB

On November 17th at the 4th Annual Person of the Year Award Banquet, Bob Phillips, The Chair of the independent panel of judges that selected the three 2017 Person of the Year finalists, announced the Winner: Jan Korb, representing the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry and the Second Harvest Food Bank of Lehigh Valley.

Korb has given up his own time and money to provide for the food pantry, including buying a truck to transport food from the Second Harvest Food Bank. Under his supervision Loaves and Fishes was able to provide approximately 10,000 meals a year for the past 5 years. Korb received a check for \$2,000 that will go to the Second Harvest Food Bank of Lehigh Valley.

The two finalists were recognized and both received \$750 to go towards their cause. Thomas Gansel was recognized for his work with the Reformed Church of Bushkill Community Dinner, and will donate to Bushkill Outreach, and Diane Jiorle, for her work with The Angel's Closet.

The event also coincided with Middle Smithfield Township's 2nd annual volunteer appreciation banquet, which was attended by over 100 people, including township committee members and volunteers who dedicate their time to the township throughout the year. Each township committee gave a brief presentation of their accomplishments throughout the year and thanked the volunteers who helped make those accomplishments possible.

The plaques for the winners and checks for the organizations will be presented to the Person of the Year winner and finalists on Thursday, January 25th at 7 pm at the Middle Smithfield Township building before the Board of Supervisors meeting and Preview of 2018 Presentation.

The Person of the Year will receive \$2,000 toward their cause, and the two finalists will each receive \$750 toward their cause. (as permitted by township code: If the township is not permitted to donate to the cause under township code, the winner may suggest another cause.)

POTY Judges Summary

The independent panel of judges was assembled from the following categories: News/Media, Business Leaders, Academia and past Person of the Year Finalists.

The judges were:

- Bob Phillips, chair of the judges committee, Former CEO of the Pocono Mountain Chamber of Commerce
- Al Compoly Jr., 2016 Person of the Year finalist representing Operation Chillout
- Tim O'Donnell, 2015 Person of the Year finalist representing Kiwanis Club of the Poconos
- George Roberts, Owner of George Roberts Productions
- Gary Smith, Pocono 96.7, Gary in the Morning
- Marcia Welsh, President of East Stroudsburg University
- Connie Roberts, Alternate Judge, George Roberts Productions



JAN KORB, 2017 PERSON OF THE YEAR *Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry*

Jan Korb was nominated for his work at the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry. The food pantry has provided approximately 35,000 meals over the last 5 years

Jan not only gives his own money towards the food pantry, but also used his own money to purchase a truck to help transport food from the Second Harvest Food Bank of the Lehigh Valley to Middle Smithfield Township.

Korb was born in Brooklyn and grew up in Long Island. In 1998 his family moved to the Poconos because his accountant told him he needed to buy a house.

Korb is also a navy veteran and served in the Vietnam war. After his service in the Navy he joined the Coast Guard. After a little more than 14 years of military service, Korb worked on the rail road for 20 years and was a stand-up comedian for 4 years. About 6 years ago Korb found his calling and started a bible study that turned into the church that he currently serves. The Walk Church of God begun 5 years ago and has been at its current location for 2 years. The Walk Church is located at 322 McCole Road and is also the location of the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry. For more information about church services and events, please call 570-588-7164.

Korb's son, Denis, who nominated him for the award said that his father "is a man who doesn't just talk the talk, he walks the path he preaches."

Denis also noted that his dad receives multiple pensions from his military service and work from the railroad and gives a lot of it to support the church and food pantry.

After being announced a finalist for the award and even after being announced the winner, Jan said "I am not here to celebrate Jan, I am here to celebrate and serve the church."

About Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry:

Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry is a food pantry located at 332 McCole Road in Middle Smithfield Township. The pantry provides food items and some clothing to people in need, with no residency restrictions. They are open the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month from 1-6 pm. The Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry collaborates with the Second Harvest Food Bank of Lehigh Valley in order to service the people in the Poconos. The food bank's mission is to obtain food and distribute it to people in need through area non-profits, such as Loaves and Fishes, and to provide resources for education and advocacy to end hunger.

Continued on back page



DIANE JIORLE

2017 PERSON OF THE YEAR FINALIST

Angel's Closet

Diane Jiorle was born and raised in Monroe County, and her family has lived here for several generations. Her and her husband, Dan, have been married for 34 years and have four wonderful sons; Tyler, Ethan, and twins, Luke and Levi.

Tyler and his wife Shelly just had twin sons, Carter and Conall on November 6th, and Shelly brought a grandson into their family named Taylor.

Diane says that being a mom and now a grandmother is her biggest blessing.

She has felt so grateful to be a part of The Angel's Closet for the last 15 years or so. She enjoys helping people and really loves talking to the moms, grandmothers or guardians who call for help. She originally started helping at The Angel's Closet to get her "baby fix" because her sons were no longer little and she missed those days.

Being a part of this became so much more for her; God gave her the gifts of hospitality and service and she is so glad to be able to use them for The Angel's Closet.

"Diane loves Middle Smithfield Township and Monroe County, and she has a heart for caring for the babies of our community." Said Cindy Barth, President of the Angel's Closet. " As a life-long member of this neighborhood, she has a special knowledge and sensitivity to the people of our area."

About the Angel's Closet: The Angel's Closet is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, charitable organization established in January 2001. The goal of the Angel's Closet is to provide baby layette bundles to mothers in need in Monroe County, PA. They collect new and gently used baby clothing and distribute our bundles to families and other organizations that help families in need in our community. The Angel's Closet has work nights throughout the year, and schedules them weekly. To find out when the next work night is or for more information about upcoming events, call 570-426-8197 or email theangelscloset@yahoo.com. The Angel's closet is also always looking for donations and help collecting clothing! If you or someone you know wants to volunteer your time, you can also call 570-426-8197. <https://www.facebook.com/theangelsclosetpa/>



THOMAS GANSEL

2017 PERSON OF THE YEAR FINALIST

Reformed Church of Bushkill

Thomas Gansel lived in New Jersey for most of his life with his dad, mom and brother. Thomas also has extended family in Texas and Virginia.

He was made aware of service from the Red Cross, Salvation Army and Catholic Charities when their house was flooded in 1999 by Hurricane Floyd. They were there right away to help them when they lost everything.

He spent most of his school years in parochial school. He went to a private Catholic High School called Immaculata in Somerville, NJ where he graduated in 2010. His love for community service started there. Throughout his high school years he volunteered at spaghetti dinners with an organization called SHIP and he food shopped for the elderly. He got involved with the Rotary Club of Dunellen-Green Brook, NJ, through his mother, who was very involved with the club and she even served as president one year.

During this period, he learned and embraced the motto, "Service Above Self." He attended many meetings, helped with many fundraisers and attended four Rotary District 7510 Conferences where he met many Rotarians and was exposed to the needs of people not just from New Jersey and the United States, but from all over the world.

He moved to Pennsylvania in 2010, two years after his father died. He started school at Marywood University in the fall of 2010 and got involved with Campus Ministry right away. He helped with many projects that helped younger kids such as Fall Fest and Kidstuff. He helped at the St Francis of Assisi Soup Kitchen and helped with cleaning out homes that were flooded by hurricanes. He walked dogs with the Griffin Pond Animal Shelter. The biggest project that he did in Marywood was his service trip to Biloxi, Mississippi, in 2013, where he went with a team and we helped paint and put down flooring for new homes they were still rebuilding from Katrina.

Fast forwarding to 2017, he started to get involved with the Monroe County Young Democrats and joined their Civic Action Committee to which he was later appointed Chair. One of the projects he researched was the Bushkill Reformed Church's Community Dinner on Thursdays from 5-7pm. When he first arrived, the other volunteers made me feel very welcomed he knew he wanted to keep doing this on a weekly basis. He did whatever they need him to do and they are a great group of volunteers. He never realized the amount of people who need a hot meal in Middle Smithfield and other neighboring townships. One of the things he is trying to accomplish is leading by example so that others, mainly young people, will do the same. Hopefully the future will hold more ways for him to serve

"When Tom commits to something, he is dedicated, responsible and brings his best performance every time," said Damary Bonilla-Rodriguez, who nominated Thomas for the award.

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POSTAL CUSTOMER

Continued from page 15

About Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry:

Volunteer opportunities at the food bank include: packaging boxes of food for seniors and children, sorting food donations, leading nutrition education classes, helping out in the offices, lending a hand at events, and more! There are opportunities for everyone – individuals, families, community organizations and corporate groups. All children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Coordinating a food or fund drive is also a great way to get involved and help make a difference in the lives of your neighbors. Whether you are donating as an individual, part of a community group, or at your place of work, your donation can have a big impact.

For more information about volunteering or upcoming events as they become available please call 610-434-0872 or visit www.shfblv.org.

About Reformed Church of Bushkill Community Dinner:

The Reformed Church of Bushkill's Community Dinners are on Thursday nights at the church from 5 pm -7 pm. (Address for the church is 5969 Milford Road, East Stroudsburg, PA 18302). All are welcome and the dinner is free, donations are accepted. Dinner is always a full meal, with protein, starch, vegetables, salads and desserts. Meals are made with all dietary needs in mind, low salt, low fats, etc. There is no dinner if school is closed or early dismissal due to weather. Volunteers are also always welcome and meals are always cooked with love and appreciation of the people who will partake in it.

The Bushkill Outreach is open Tuesday-Thursday, 9 am-12 pm. (Address for the Bushkill Outreach is 12 Route 209, Bushkill, PA 18324). They serve the people Lehman and Middle Smithfield townships for food and clothes.

Donations of food, clothes and all household items that are reusable are accepted during hours. There will be a tricky tray in April. More details on the tricky tray to follow in the coming months.

<http://www.bushkillchurch.org/>
<http://www.bushkilloutreach.org/>

PUT SNOW IN ITS PLACE

The wintry weather has arrived. Don't be caught out in the cold holding a ticket for illegal snow removal. Under section 138-7 of the Township Code, it is unlawful to throw, shovel or otherwise move, pile or dump snow or ice removed from sidewalks, driveways or other areas onto any public road. Violation of the ordinance shall result in a fine of \$50.00.

Please cooperate with our hard-working Public Works Department as they work tirelessly to combat the hazards of snow and/or ice on the Township's public roads.

"Winter safety starts with all of us, and that includes the equipment we're using. Drivers should prepare their vehicles by having a trusted mechanic check the cooling system, battery, hoses, drive belts, tires and wiper blades to ensure they are in good condition and functioning properly.

Drivers should also frequently check all fluid levels, lights and wiper blades as well as tires which should be also be examined

often for the correct level of air pressure and adequate tire-tread depth to perform on ice and snow.

Finally, the traveling public should also prepare or restock a vehicle emergency kit. The kit should contain items such as non-perishable food, water, first-aid supplies, warm clothes, a blanket, cell phone charger and a small snow shovel. Motorists should tailor their kits to any specific needs that they or their families have such as baby supplies, extra medication and pet supplies.

Motorists should also be aware that all vehicles should be fully clear of ice and snow before winter travel. If snow or ice is dislodged or falls from a moving vehicle and strikes another vehicle or pedestrian causing death or serious bodily injury, the operator of that vehicle could receive a \$200 to \$1,000 fine.