



MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWS

Summer 2018



Bob Garcia 2017

Resica Falls, Middle Smithfield Township. Photo by Robert Garcia, member of the Pocono Photo Club. More info on page 22.

Middle Smithfield Township's 2018 Mid-Year Report!

Thursday, July 12th at 7 p.m.

(at the Township Building)

We'd love to see you!

Topics Covered:

- Snapshots of the Township's Financials
 - Status of ongoing projects
 - Forecast for the rest of the year
- Volunteer and Committee Reports

14TH ANNUAL

MEMORY MAKERS LUNCHEON 2018

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 of more and age 60 or older.

AUGUST 18TH AT SHAWNEE INN & GOLF RESORT

Middle Smithfield Township, together with their Historical Commission, is pleased to invite you to the 14th annual Memory Makers luncheon, free for long time residents. This year's topic is "Women the Historical Commission Has Fond Memories Of" with a side-order of genealogy. Who do you think you are? Find out! Information on how you can look up your own past.

(continued on page 22)

WHAT'S GOIN' ON

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 at Shawnee

September: 9/3 Labor Day

Labor Day Weekend: Bushkill Outreach's
rescheduled Flea Market at Lehman Park

9/8 MST Community Day
at Middle Smithfield Elementary

9/22 Country Fair at Reformed Church

9/29 Litter Cleanup 1,000 Feet of Street at a time
& Pick Up the Poconos

October: 10/5 & 10/6 Cleanup & Freecycle AKA "Dumpster Day"
(Drop Off Only 7 am-4 pm)

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 at Whispering Pines

10/20 5th Annual Trunk or Treat 12 at Resica Park

10/20 Second Harvest "Empty Bowls" (see page 26)

November: 11/6 Election Day

11/11 Veteran's Day Luncheon at Whispering Pines

11/16 Fall Leaf Pickup Ends

11/20 Shop Local thru 1/2/19

11/22 Thanksgiving

11/24 6th Annual Tree Lighting 5:30 pm at Echo Lake

December: 12/6 Supervisors Meeting 7 pm Presentation of
the Budget to the Public & Year End Review

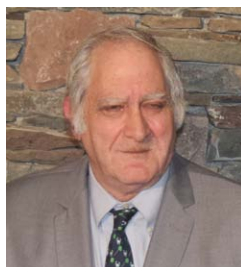
12/25 Christmas Day

12/31 New Year's Eve

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Upcoming Events	2
Finance	4
Economic Development	5
Zoning	6
Planning Commission	7
Parks & Recreation	8
Litter & Beautification	10
Public Works Department	12
Sewer	13
Emergency Services	18
Golf	20
Banquet Hall	21
Historical Committee	22
Person of The Year	26

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



JAN KORB,

2017 PERSON OF THE YEAR

Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry
Second Harvest Food Bank has
Legislative Breakfast
read more on page 26



DIANE JIORLE

2017 PERSON OF THE YEAR FINALIST

Angel's Closet
It's Yard Sale season! Keep an eye
out for these items to donate
read more on page 26



THOMAS GANSEL

2017 PERSON OF THE YEAR FINALIST

Reformed Church of Bushkill
The famous Bushkill Outreach Flea
Market/Yard Sale is back!
Now on Labor Day Weekend
read more on page 26



A WORD FROM YOUR TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

Mike Dwyer, Mark Oney, and Annette Atkinson

Two blizzards, a tornado, long power outages, a fire at Fernwood – what’s next? Locusts? (no – the Spotted Lanternfly – see page 25.) After a hard winter that overstayed its welcome and a tumultuous spring, we’re all glad that Summer has finally arrived.

And with Summer comes one of our annual presentations to the public, the Mid-Year Report. (Each year, the township makes several annual presentations to the public: in January, the Preview of the Upcoming Year, presenting plans and setting goals; in July, the Mid-Year Report, reporting our progress, as well as any new goals and information; and In December, the Year-End Report and presentation of the next year’s budget.)

We hope to see you all at our July 12th Supervisor’s meeting at 7pm! That also gives us a chance to host some VIPs (Our Senator and State Rep often attend) as we recognize achievements of some of our residents made during the first half of the year.

The design of the new Library at Echo Lake Park is moving forward. This long sought after amenity in our township will be housed within a new Community and Cultural Center. A showcase for many of the historical artifacts of our township will also be included in a small local museum. (More on page 24)

Middle Smithfield Township has also been working with the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau to map out the new “Pick Up the Poconos” litter cleanup efforts. Much like our “1,000 Feet of Street”, the effort to keep the Poconos clean is tantamount to the success of all of our businesses. More information will soon be available regarding this initiative, but if you would like to volunteer for our 1,000 Feet of Street in the Fall, or Adopt-a-Road, contact Chris Rain (Crain@mstownship.com).

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

Michaela Correll | Director of First Impressions
recept@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 | x130

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

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

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

FINANCE: TREASURER'S NOTE

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

VOLUNTEER: HELP YOUR COMMUNITY AND SAVE ON YOUR TAXES

By Mike Dwyer

The township continues to be in good financial health. As has become the norm, the township did not need to borrow money (known as a Tax Anticipation Note) for the beginning of the year, so we are not paying unnecessary interest.

While the winter/spring weather has been quite expensive, in terms of manpower and equipment costs, the outlook for the year remains positive.

As some may be aware, in the last few months we have been able to offer more to our volunteer emergency services. The Board of supervisors unanimously passed Ordinance 220, which offers an Earned Income Tax Credit of up to \$250/year and a Property Tax Credit of 10% for the primary residence to each of our volunteers. Join a Fire Company or Ambulance Corps and you too could receive a credit!!!

Middle Smithfield Township provided Marshalls Creek Fire Department and Bushkill Fire Department with funds to support major equipment purchases they needed. The township is also working with Bushkill Ambulance Corp to defray some of their annual expenses.

If you have even a little time to offer, I personally ask that you look to donate some time and talent to these essential services.

RESTAURANT WEEK: RESIDENTS ATE IT UP!

By Patrice Dume



Did you have a chance to attend the 2018 Kick-Off event, or visit one of our restaurants during restaurant week? If your answer is NO, you certainly missed out! With over 250 attendees, the Restaurant Week Kick-off event on Sunday April 29th at the Whispering Pines Banquet Hall, was a great success! Everyone enjoyed delicious complimentary food samples from the participating restaurants, fine local wine from Blue Ridge Winery, and local craft beer from Shawnee Brewing Company. Residents of Middle Smithfield Township were exposed to a variety of dishes, such as Baked Ziti, Deserts, Wings, Empanadas, Philly Cheese Steak Sliders, Quesadillas, Jerk Chicken and so much more.

Theresa Butler, owner of "Theresa's Lakeview Bar and Grill, said "Middle Smithfield Township did again! Successful Restaurant Week! As a two year young new restaurant, it was great to meet new friends, fellow business colleagues and taste quality food all around. Thank you for inviting Theresa's Lakeview Bar and Grill, LLC. This helped to expose us to more customers and we are appreciative!"

A Restaurant Week survey was posted, emailed and mailed to see how residents enjoyed both the Restaurant Week Kick-off and Restaurant Week itself. The Restaurant Week program ran from Sunday April 29th, to Sunday May 6th. The overall feedback was positive with 100 % of respondents indicating they will participant again in next year's Restaurant Week. This year a beer tasting was added to the kick-off event and in the survey, one resident stated "I am glad I had the opportunity to try it [Shawnee Craft Beer] since it is local, and I haven't had a chance before, it was great!" Another resident's survey comment: "The kick-off was a wonderful event! Keep up the good work as you have been doing. Everything is positive for Middle Smithfield." Another stated "The staff deserved a bow!"

Business owners who participated in the Restaurant Week Kick-Off also had the opportunity to be a guest on the Gary in the Morning Show (Pocono 96.7 to promote all of their delicious deals! There were also various online giveaways and online tastings. According to Patrice Dume, the Economic Development Manager, "The Restaurant Week Kick-Off and Restaurant Week programs give both residents and business owners the opportunity to come together and create a sense of community. Residents benefit because they get to try new delicious meals, and business owners benefit because they get more exposure and customers into their doors. This is especially true for Theresa's, which is off the beaten path."

All survey respondents received a free one-trip pass to the township's Fall Cleanup and Freecycle. Dedicated to the success of our businesses, Middle Smithfield Township is will continue to make Restaurant Week an ongoing success! Be sure to join us next year!

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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

MOVING IN & MOVING OVER

By Patrice Dume

MOVING IN: Pocono Café, Bakery & Restaurant will be opening at 5237 Milford Road (formerly the Taste of Portugal Restaurant) mid-summer of this year. Pocono Café will serve breakfast and lunch and feature a Spanish/Latin Fusion style menu. **STAY TUNED!**

MOVING OVER: Auto Valley Group will leave their 5126 Milford Road location and **MOVE TO** to a new location with more visibility, still located right here in Middle Smithfield Township! Their new

location will be at 5801 Milford Road (the old ESSA location in Miggy's Plaza)

Auto Valley Group is a very community minded business and strives to give their customers the best deal possible. Opportunities in their new location may include: insurance, financing and detailing. With expansion come more job opportunities for local residents. Auto Valley Group is currently looking for a semi/ experienced Sales Associate/Office Processor. Stop by to apply!

SUNOCO AND QUICK STOP IS ABOUT TO GIVE YOU A SHOCK!

By Patrice Dume

On May 10th, the Middle Smithfield Township Supervisors approved the transfer of Liquor License to George Strunk, owner of Quick Stop at the Sunoco Gas Station off of Milford Rd, across from Dunkin Donuts. As a result, the gas station will soon be serving beer and wine.

Residents can expect completely new branding, and, according to George, the residents "WILL LOVE IT!"

Part of the remodeling includes eliminating the Chester's Chicken line of food. George plans to completely revamp the inside of Quick Stop and turn it into "George's QuickStop Café: Food, Beer, & Wine"; there will be a HUGE selection of beer from micro beers to IPAs. Also a part of the changes, residents can expect a new refreshing look to the Quick Stop portion of Sunoco and look forward to multiple seating areas. Stay tuned for more news, details and the unveiling!

Here's a sneak peak at the new logo!



SPOTLIGHT SPONSORS



MOE'S CHARCOAL GRILL

Moe's Charcoal Grill has been a family owned business since 1973. They have been professionally cooking and grilling with different flavors from all around world in the heart of New York City, and they are excited to bring that flavor to East Stroudsburg. Nothing fires them up more than making creative, innovative, and delicious food to be enjoyed with families and loved ones.

And, they do take out AND catering, too! Be sure to check out weekly Monday to Thursday specials:

MONDAY: FREE DESSERT with any full or half orders.

TUESDAY: FREE SIDE, free large side with any full order or free small side with any half order.

WEDNESDAY: FREE DRINK, free 16 oz drink with any half order or free 2-liter with any full order.

THURSDAY: \$5 OFF with any purchase of \$25 or more.

4543 Milford Rd Unit 40 East Stroudsburg, PA
18302 in the Price Chopper Plaza

<http://moescharcoalgrill.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Moescharcoalgrill/>



THE BIG A GRILLEHOUSE

Enjoy casual everyday family-friendly dining in any of their six dining rooms including a full bar featuring Karaoke on Saturday nights. "It's all about the sauce..." says Bruce.

Traditional Italian dinners, pasta and sauté (homemade lasagna, manicotti, chicken & veal parmesan, Aunt Mary's Eggplant, marsala, franchisee. Grandfather Anthony's marinara and vodka sauce still served today.

Fire-Grilled Steaks: ribeye, filet mignon, NY strip and porterhouse, prime rib every day, baby back ribs and seafood.

Daily Chef Specials, cocktails, extensive wine and beer selection

Kids Menu

Special Events Banquet Room with Courtyard; catering for any occasion... Call Kathy about Weddings, anniversaries, awards luncheons, bridal and baby shower brunches."

1 Fox Run Lane / East Stroudsburg, PA 18302

570-223-1700 / www.BigAGrill.com

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

(continued on page 14)

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



There is a new fireworks store on 209/Milford Road next to the Shakedown Shack.

CONSUMER FIREWORKS SPARK UP PA

“Consumer Fireworks” are defined in part as “any combustible or explosive composition or any substance or combination of substances intended to produce a visible or audible effect by combustion and is suitable for use by the public” such as firecrackers, roman candles and bottle rockets. They are also known as 1.4G fireworks. Anyone 18 years of age, and older, may purchase and use consumer-grade fireworks in PA and are not required to obtain a permit from the municipality. However, there are restrictions on where and how consumer fireworks may be used.

Consumer fireworks cannot be...

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

The American Pyrotechnics Association has resources available at www.americanpyro.com. You can also check out this website,



It's Yard Sale Season Did you get your permit?
Contact MST at 570-223-8920 ext. 100

Selling your home? Renting it out? Middle Smithfield Township requires a Certificate of Occupancy for every NEW transfer of title or tenant Contact Zoning at 570-223-8920 ext.128



If you are renting your home on AirBNB, VRBO, HomeAway, etc., you MUST apply for and obtain a permit from Middle Smithfield Township. Contact Zoning at 570-223-8920 ext. 128



PennState Extension
Land Use Webinar Series: Summer 2018

Penn State Taps Township Zoning Office to Teach Webinar.

By Judy Acosta

Middle Smithfield Township's Zoning Officer, Shawn McGlynn, has been chosen to conduct a Penn State Extension Land/Use webinar on Wednesday, July 18th at 12pm on the topic of Short Term Rentals. Under the recommendation of Nate Staruch of the Monroe County Planning Commission, Peter Wulforst, the Economic & Community Development Extension Educator at Penn State, reached out to the Middle Smithfield Township Zoning Office to tap Shawn McGlynn's expertise.

Donald Karpowich, an attorney from Luzerne County, will present on case law and PA Municipalities Planning Code with regard to Short Term Rentals, while Shawn will speak on how Middle Smithfield Township regulates and enforces our recently adopted Short Term Rental Ordinance (chapter 150 of the Township Code of Ordinances).

Penn State Extension offers a Land Use webinar series twice a year (fall/winter, spring/summer) with each series containing six different webinars. Our Zoning Administrator, Zoning Hearing Board members and Planning Commission members have participated in many of the series provided. This is a great honor for Middle Smithfield Township's talent to be selected to conduct this presentation.

ASSISTANCE FOR ON-LOT SEWAGE REPAIRS

by Judy Acosta

Need help paying for a sewer repair? PENNVEST is an agency offering On-Lot Sewage Disposal Loans in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Authority to “improve, replace, or repair individual on-lot sewage disposal systems.” Faulty sewage systems can lead to further damage, drainage issues, and a host of other problems. This program will help Pennsylvanians avoid these disasters.

To be eligible, one must be a resident of PA who owns a home that is not already connected, and will not be connected in the next 5 years, to a community waste water collection system. If approved, loans up to \$25,000 with an interest rate of 1.75% will be issued. The funds can be used for anything from permits and designs to construction and legal fees. There is a \$65 fee to apply but this can be refunded if your loan application is accepted. For more information, visit PENNVEST's website at www.pennvest.pa.gov or call the Housing Finance Authority at 1-800-822-1174.



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

MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP LEGISLATIVE CORNER

By Michele Clewell

Opposition to Rock Wall Project

Did you know that the New Jersey Department of Transportation intends to build another chain link fence to keep rocks from purportedly falling onto Route 80 near the Delaware Water Gap? Construction of the proposed Route 80 rock wall fence through the Delaware Water Gap is slated to begin in 2020, may last two years, and is expected to require significant roads and/or lane closures on Route 80 in the Delaware Water Gap area. Middle Smithfield Township is against this road work because the project will negatively affect township residents who commute to New Jersey and New York for their businesses and jobs and the project appears unnecessary and unreasonable in scope. This is why your board of supervisors passed Resolution 05-2018-2 opposing the road work along Route 80 and sent a letter to not only Pennsylvania State law makers but to the New Jersey Department of Transportation, Governor and state representatives.

New Wireless Bill Proposed & Opposed

Broadband service is a critical catalyst for economic development, student achievement, and the efficiency of local government; therefore, the Township of Middle Smithfield Township Smithfield supports the deployment of broadband services, both wired and wireless.

Pennsylvania municipalities must manage public right-of-way, including facilities installed by public utilities and related companies. Under PA House Bill 1620, entitled the "Wireless Infrastructure Deployment Bill", HB1620 would limit the assessment of fees for wireless facilities in the rights-of-way such that municipalities could only charge minimal fees that would be less than the actual municipal costs. This would force taxpayers to subsidize wireless companies to manage their facilities. House Bill 1620 would also allow wireless contractors to submit up to 50 permit requests in one application and would curtail the timeframe for initial review of wireless application for 30 to 10 days. This would place an undue hardship on the municipalities and their zoning offices.

On December 28, 2017 the Middle Smithfield Township Board of Supervisors passed Resolution 12-2017-4 opposing House Bill 1620, entitled the "Wireless Infrastructure Deployment Bill" and our local state legislatures were notified of the opposition.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE:

By Michele Clewell

An active Planning Commission means a developing community! The Middle Smithfield Township Planning Commission recently reviewed and made recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for two land development plans:

The Lake of the Pines Community Association presented a land development plan in March 2018 for a new maintenance building that will be used for winter road materials and vehicle storage.

The second plan, Meglino Landscaping & Excavating, LLC, was required because the applicant was requesting a change of use on the property to become a landscaping business located off of Pardees Loop Road.

No More Gerrymandering

On the evening of Wednesday, May 23rd, Middle Smithfield Township hosted a "Fair Districts PA" information meeting for residents in the area. The speaker for the program, Mary Erdman, educated the attendees on the current practices regarding the drawing of legislative districts in Pennsylvania and how Fair Districts PA is working to change them.

Following the information meeting, the supervisors of Middle Smithfield Township showed support for the fair and unbiased drawing of district lines by passing Resolution 05-2018-4 at the May 24th Board of Supervisors meeting, joining the ranks of 265 counties and municipalities in the commonwealth to pass such a resolution. The re-drawing of district lines every 10 years is controversial because it can result in congressional districts that favor or discriminate against a certain group, party, or candidate. This biased redistricting is known as gerrymandering and it is unethical and unfair to the Pennsylvania Taxpayers. If legislation is passed at the state level, the drawing of district lines will be tasked to an independent citizens' redistricting commission to assure fair representation and eliminate partisan bias. This commission would have 4 members from both major parties and 3 members that are either unaffiliated with a party or registered with a minor party. The next redistricting will occur after the 2020 census.

The fair districts PA bill was introduced in the PA Senate with bipartisan support by Senator Mario Scavella and Senator Lisa Boscola, who represent the 40th and 18th districts, respectively. In their press release, the pair highlighted that "We need an independent system where voters select their leaders, not the other way around." However, on June 12th, an amendment was added at the last minute that would put an additional proposal before voters: Should state appellate judges, including Supreme Court justices, be elected from regional districts across the state instead of in statewide elections? To find out more about these legislative efforts, please visit FairDistrictsPa.org.

PARKS & RECREATION



TOWNSHIP PARKS:

Leroy W. Lewis Dog Park

108 Leroy's Lane (a pioneer dog park, now one of 4 in the County. Separate fenced in areas for large dogs and small dogs).



OG (oh-gee) the husky enjoys Summer Solstice at the Dog Park.



David Henon of University of Pets gave a free dog training at W. Leroy Lewis Dog Park on 4/21/18.



Resica School Park

1 Gravel Ridge Road (only open to the public during non school hours, no dogs allowed; play areas, pavilion).

Community Gardens Park

989 Coolbaugh Road (includes childrens play area, picnic tables, BBQ grills).

Judy Putek Park

182 Municipal Drive (rare birds and flora).



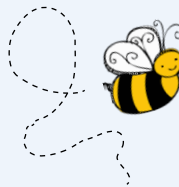
Maureen Liebrock and her dog Toby at the Echo Lake Park Pavillion. Photo by Robert Ciavatta



Echo Lake Park

5206 Milford Road (playground, pavilion, picnic tables, grills, sports field, Frisbee golf).

Rent the Echo Lake Park Pavillion for your next get together.



Jason Nagle and Vicky Staples



BEEKEEPERS FOUND FOR 2018

by Chris Rain

Community Gardens Park is pleased to have Victoria Staples of the Monroe County Beekeepers Association taking over the apiary. Ms. Staples will manage all beekeeping at the Gardens and will instruct a group of apprentices. She will also run public demonstrations about beekeeping, with dates either coinciding with Master Gardeners classes, or other dates to be announced.

An apiary was first installed at Community Gardens Park for the 2016 growing season. In 2017, a bee house was constructed to provide the bees with a home that would protect them from curious and hungry wildlife (mostly – the bear). Local volunteer and Beekeepers Association member Paul Cimei managed the hives both years. After Cimei decided to retire from that role at the end of 2017 (i.e., on the disabled list for awhile), a search was conducted for a new beekeeper.

(continued on page 17)



Director: Mike Dwyer | **Chairperson:** Jenna Componovo
Lead Coordinator, Dog Park: Danielle Cloward
Lead Coordinator, Community Gardens Park: Michelle Dellavalle
Lead Coordinator, Judy Putek Park: Dan Timpson
Lead Coordinator, Resica Park: Jamie Frailey
Liaison: Christopher Rain | crain@mstownship.com

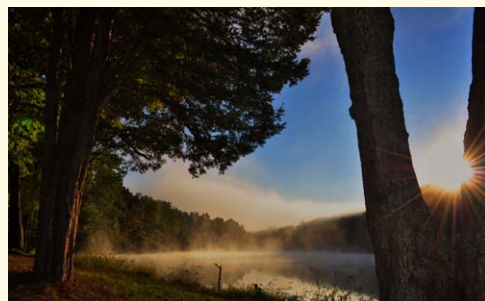


photo by Kim Williams

NATIONAL PARK:

Hidden Lake Park

Corner of Keystone Road and Hidden Lake Drive (Fishing, picnicking, go for a paddle or a hike; Additional parking areas, bathroom, and picnic area along National Park road within the park)



NATIONAL PARK WELCOMES TOM ROSS AS ACTING SUPERINTENDENT

From Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area

The staff at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area is pleased to welcome Tom Ross as the park's Acting Superintendent. Ross arrived in the park on April 15 and will serve in the top position for up to 120 days. He is currently the Superintendent of the Thomas Edison and Morristown National Historical Parks in West Orange and Morristown, New Jersey, a post he has held since 2013. A permanent superintendent is expected to be named in the coming months.

REGIONAL PARKS:

Mt. Nebo

406 Mt. Nebo Road, East Stroudsburg, 18301 (Educational nature trail and over two miles of hiking trails).



MT. NEBO PARK GETS A FACELIFT

by Chris Rain

Several improvements to Mt. Nebo Park were recently completed thanks to two grants from Pocono Forests and Waters and the Pennsylvania Environmental Council. The two grants, awarded to Smithfield and Middle Smithfield Townships, totaling a little over \$10,000, funded the project, with in-kind participation from Kettle Creek and Pocono Environmental Centers

(continued on page 17)

River's Edge Family Bike Park

Across the street from 123 River Road, East Stroudsburg 18301 (Largest pump track on the Eastern seaboard)



RIVER'S EDGE BIKE PARK OPEN FOR THE SEASON

by Chris Rain

River's Edge Family Bike Park is finally open for the season! Grab your bikes and head down to take a ride.

The pump track at River's Edge is the largest one of its kind on the East Coast. Last year, the track was open only for a few months in the fall and attracted riders from all around the Poconos and as far away as Long Island and Maryland.

(continued on page 15)

COMMUNITY DAY

by Chris Rain

Come see what's happening in MST on Saturday September 8 at Middle Smithfield Elementary School as the Parks & Recreation and Economic Development Committees co-host the first annual Community Day.

This event will showcase all that MST has to offer. Buy food from local restaurants, discover new businesses, and check out local non-profit organizations that make our township a great place to live, work, and play. Enjoy activities held throughout the day including fitness classes with Retro Fitness, organized baseball and basketball games, Touch a Truck, or just bring a blanket and have a picnic on the back lawn.

(continued on page 17)

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 is adjacent to a playground to keep the kids entertained. Electricity is available at Echo Lake Park only. 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.

LITTER & BEAUTIFICATION

litter&beautification@mstownship.com



Cub Scout Troop 100 Cleans Up Resica Park.



Over 130 volunteers cleaned up Route 209 during the spring "1,000 feet of street" litter cleanup



Mountain Stream Baptist Church cleans up 209

THANK YOU FOR KEEPING MST PRETTY!

Middle Smithfield Township would like to extend an enormous THANK YOU to the over 130 volunteers who worked so hard to help clean up our Township roads as part of this year's Spring 1000 Feet of Street on April 28, and all of our adopted roads.

In total, our volunteers cleaned several hundred bags of litter from 49 miles of roadside throughout the Township. Roads cleaned included parts or all of Milford Road/Rt. 209, Winona Falls Road, Sellersville Drive, Oak Grove Road, Coolbaugh Road, Tom X

Road, Hidden Lake Drive, Wooddale Road, and the roads of Pocono Wild Haven Estates among others.

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 29. Thank you to everyone who participated and continues to help keep MST pretty!

FLOWERS BRIGHTEN UP RT. 209

By Christopher Rain

Residents may notice a change along Rt. 209 since the 1000 Feet of Street litter pickup on April 28. Aside from the many bags of litter picked up by volunteers, there are a few new planters near the entrance to the township. The hope is that the new addition will brighten up the road and make the start of our township feel more welcoming.

"... we want to start focusing more on beautifying, instead of just cleaning."

~ Supervisor Mike Dwyer

"Half of the Litter & Beautification Committee's job is beautification," said Supervisor Mike Dwyer. "Our litter cleanup has been very successful over the last five years cleaning up the roads, but we want to

start focusing more on beautifying, instead of just cleaning."

"... I'm really excited to see that change in the township. It makes it a little bit more town, village feeling..."
~ resident Linda Fiore

Some township residents, like Linda Fiore, contacted the township to let them know how much they appreciated the effort.

"I think it's wonderful," said Fiore. "I can't wait to see them when they have a lot more flowers in them. I'm really excited to see that change in the township. It makes it a little bit more town, village feeling. Kudos on that!"

Additional planters were also added to the median at the Rt 209/Municipal Drive intersection. The plan is to have many more of these planters along Milford Road in front of businesses to define the area as a



downtown business district. The township hopes that businesses will contribute to the program by adopting a planter for their business, and a plaque will be added to adopted planters. Planter adoption will help to pay for the program, as well as advertise the businesses and show their commitment to the community.

For more information on the planter program, or litter and beautification in Middle Smithfield Township, contact Chris Rain at 570-223-8920 x119, or crain@mstownship.com.



PICK UP THE POCONOS:

Pocono Mountain Visitors Bureau Aims to Rid Monroe County of Litter

By Christopher Rain

The Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau has initiated a new anti-littering campaign called "Pick Up the Poconos." You may have seen the ads on television and social media. The PMVB hopes to raise awareness about the litter problem in the county and start a community effort to clean up litter along major roads all around the four-county Poconos region. The hope is that the media campaign – as well as funding -- by the PMVB will lead to action.

PMVB plans to use Middle Smithfield Township's already successful "1000 Feet of Street" litter pick up program as the model for a larger, county-wide program. The Township is working with Chris Barrett of PMVB, (who is also a member of the Township's Economic Development Committee), the County Commissioners, and representatives from other county organizations such as Penn Dot and Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful to build the a program model. Middle Smithfield's Public Works Director, Supervisor Mike Dwyer, is also President of COG (Council of Government), representing the 20 municipalities of Monroe County, and he has been working closely with the PMVB to launch this program.

Also as part of their campaign, PMVB has entered an agreement with Adopt a Highway Maintenance Corporation to clean up the litter along a 20 mile stretch of Interstate 80, starting this summer. The company will conduct four cleanings a year from the NJ/PA state line all the way up to the I-80/I-380 junction. If all goes well, the PMVB hopes to extend the service onto I-380 and I-84.

More information on Pick Up the Poconos is available on PickUpThePoconos.com, including where to dispose of trash and recyclables, information about littering and it's negative effects, and advice on how to organize community clean ups. More information about MST's Litter and Beautification is available on www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com, www.facebook.com/makeMSTpretty, or by contacting Chris Rain at 570-223-8920 x119 or crain@mstownship.com.



ADOPT A ROAD IN 2018!

Want to help keep your neighborhood clean? 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@mstownship.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.

Thank you to our great residents, organizations, and businesses who adopt roads including:

Brushy Mountain & Barren Roads –
PA Treatment & Healing

Buroojy Court – Robert & Eileen Early

Charley Drive – Darlene & Mark Picchianti

Coolbaugh Road, south section –
Monroe County Young Democrats

Coolbaugh Road, center section –
Vansulkema Family

Coolbaugh Road, north section –
Kaylatime & Angel Hernandez

Firestone Lane – Resica Falls Scout Reservation

Foxmoor Drive – Monroe County Meals on Wheels

Gravel Ridge Road – Bob and Anne Marie Pohlman

Hidden Lake Drive – Kathy Mitchell

Macy Way, et al. – Halterman & Meryweather Families

Marjorie Court & Timber Mountain Drive – Frank Lowe

Michaels Road – James Meegan

Municipal Drive – MST Board of Supervisors

Oak Grove Road – Mountain Stream Baptist Church

Pocono Wild Haven Estates (all roads) – PWHE
Beautification Committee

Sand Hill Road – Juliette Ryan-Caines

Stoney Acres – ESU Student Activity Association

Summit Drive, et al. – Stephen & Elsie Della-Calce

Turkey Ridge Road – Annette Atkinson

Upper Lakeview Drive – Robert Post

Wooddale Road, PWHE to Price Township line –
Meryweather & Halterman Families

Wooddale Road, PWHE to Marshalls Creek –
PWHE Beautification Committee

**Adopt a road today and add
your name to the list!**

Newly Adopted Roads

Kaylatime and Angel Hernandez: Coolbaugh Rd
from Community Gardens Park to Marshalls Creek Rd.

PWHE Beautification Committee: Wooddale
from Maplewood Dr to Marshalls Creek Rd

Juliette Ryan-Caines: Sand Hill Rd.

Monroe County Young Democrats: Coolbaugh Rd
from Resica Falls Rd/Rt. 402 to Sportsman Rd.

PUBLIC WORKS

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

PUBLIC WORKS

By Mike Dwyer

Winter is officially over. Well, at least we expect no snow for a few months! We did not, however, expect such a torrential Spring. Rain is welcome, but the massive destruction that the storms left behind, caused many power outages and our own Public Works crews were out doing their best to open up roads where possible. They cannot, and will not, try to remove trees that are lying on power lines. Unfortunately, we have to wait for MetEd which is like waiting for a tax refund; you know it's coming, but you never know when.

As we head into the summer, we have ambitious goals for road improvements. We have already done some spot repairs along Big Ridge, Lower Lakeview, and a few other roads. We plan to work on drainage improvements and paving on a number of other roads this season.

Not only are we repairing, replacing, and paving, but we are looking forward to improving our parks. The Community Gardens Park has seen a substantial increase in use (each of the 94 raised beds is in use) and we will likely begin Phase 2 very soon. The Regional Parks are also seeing many improvements; River's Edge Park bike pump track is seeing a lot of activity, as well as Mt. Nebo Park, where new signage, paths, and kiosks are installed.

We look forward to a productive summer!

ILLEGAL DUMPER FINED!

Do the Crime Means Pay the Fine

By Karen Stapleton

Middle Smithfield Township has formed an alliance with the Monroe County Waste Authority to stop illegal dumping at the township recycling area. The township has installed high definition surveillance cameras and has reported all illegal dumpers from February 2018 to present to the MCWA. On May 8th we had our first court appearance at the District Magistrate's office of Judge Germano and the illegal dumper had to pay a restitution fee to the township of \$800.00 for four different instances of illegal dumping, as well as pay the Monroe County Waste Authority \$300.00.

The following is a list of acceptable items at the recycling area:

- Newspaper, magazines, catalogs, and office paper
- All paper – unless contaminated with food, grease, etc.
- Books – hard & soft cover
- Cereal boxes
- Junk mail
- Juice cartons
- Corrugated cardboard
- Plastics – all numbers
- Plastic bottles, containers, milk jugs, and juice jugs
- Detergent bottles

If your items do not fit into the bins, it should not be left behind, or you will be fined. If you have illegally dumped at the MST recycling area from February 2018 to present and would like to settle before receiving a court appearance date, please contact Karen at kstapleton@mstowship.com or call 570-223-8920 Ext.118.

ROADS

By Karen Stapleton

This year will, once again, be a busy year for our Public Works crew. Road paving and tar and chip 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 2018.

As some may have already noticed, shoulder work has started on various township roads. 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.

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 6-8 MILES/YEAR	ACTION FOR 2018
Barren Road	Tar & Chip (Brushy Mt. Road to Reservoir Road)
Big Ridge Drive	Patch / Pave (Route 209 to Village Drive)
Charley Drive	Pave
Dawn Lane	Pave
Denise Lane	Patch
Fish Court	Pave / Reconstruction
Freeman Tract Road	DSA Grant Awarded
Jennifer Lane	Patch
Keystone Road	Tar & Chip (Route 209 to Hidden Lake Road)
Michaels Road	Tar & Chip
Pardees Loop	Pave
Sellersville Drive	Tar & Chip (SR 1016 to Turkey Ridge Road)
Turkey Ridge Road	Patrical Pave (from Township portion of Sellersville Rd)

OAK GROVE & RECYCLING

www.ogmmcpb.com
Chairperson | Mike Dwyer



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 at 3305 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.

FREE MULCH/COMPOST/WOOD CHIPS

The Oak Grove facility is a regular provider of mulch and compost to the MST Community Gardens on Collbaugh Road. Your garden can benefit too! Self-serve products and materials offered at the facility are free mulch and compost (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 570-223-8920x118.



TOWNSHIP SPRING CLEANUP (AKA "DUMPSTER DAY") AND FREECYCLE

By Karen Stapleton

This Spring Cleanup was the busiest yet! A big shout out to the Public Works Department, who made it all run smoothly. Middle Smithfield Township's Spring Clean Up was a huge success. We filled 21 dumpsters with trash, collected 196 tires, 526 batteries and 28 tons of scrap metal, which by the way goes to offset the costs of the cleanup.

A big thank you to all our generous residents who donated to FreeCycle! We were able to fill our 40' by 70' garage area with items.

See you at the Fall Clean Up and Free-cycle scheduled for October 5th and 6th.

SEWER

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

2018 Capital Improvement Projects:

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. This project is complete and came in on budget.

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 was started by mid-March and is complete. This project came in under budget in the amount of \$71,671.40 due to paving work and other items not required. Final cost was \$123,117.60 and will be fully reimbursed by the grant received for this project.

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

What Happens When the Power Goes Out?

By Joan Woisin

When there is a storm such as Winter Storm Riley or the severe rainstorm that passed through our area in the middle of May and power is lost for more than a few hours, our Public Works Department springs into action to keep things flowing in the Sewer Department. NO electricity means no pumps, and it is important that we keep our system up and running. Lack of power to our Pump Stations and Treatment plants can have serious overflow consequences: sewage would overflow at pumpstations into the environment around it, and possibly overflow or back up into houses.

The township uses backup generators to keep the pump stations operational but this is no small task as the township has 17 pump stations and 2 treatment plants. Each generator runs for 5 hours on a full tank of fuel, so our Public Works department is constantly busy all day and night to make sure everything runs. Public Works refuels these generators by filling up their tankers and bringing them to our pump stations.

RESTAURANT WEEK

(continued from page 5)



EL VALLEY FAMILY DINER

Augustin Marte, owner of El Valley Restaurant in Smithfield Township, recently opened another restaurant, but this time, in Middle Smithfield Township. He named it, "El Valley Family Diner", his second restaurant in the region, and he says that residents can get ready to enjoy "the best Spanish food in town!" Augustin is a local business owner, resident of Middle Smithfield Township, and parishioner of St. John's Church. He says "The reason why I decided to open EL Valley Family Diner at that location is because I had so many customers requesting that I open a restaurant in Middle Smithfield Township. A large percentage of my customers are from there." According to Augustin, residents can expect not only Spanish food, but American food as well. Come out and enjoy great food!

5139 Milford Rd (formerly the 209 Diner) /
East Stroudsburg, PA 18302

www.elvalleyrestaurant.com/ (soon to
be updated with El Valley Family Diner
information) / [facebook.com/El-Valley-
Family-Diner](https://facebook.com/El-Valley-Family-Diner)

SPOTLIGHT SPONSORS



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.

They offer a wide menu selection; you want good, award winning wings – they got 'em!

Signature burgers -- got those too!

Make your way through their extensive list of craft beers, or try one of our unique drink specials, but don't forget to leave room for one of their home-made desserts. Like nothing you've ever tasted!

Known for simple but delicious menu selections, friendly service and relaxing atmosphere, the Tom X is the place to go when you're looking for home.

100 Tom X Road / East Stroudsburg, PA
18302 / 570-223-5025

<http://www.tomxpub.com/> / [facebook.com/
HistoricTomXPub/](https://facebook.com/HistoricTomXPub/)



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 their menu are jumbo wings, juicy hamburgers and fall off the bone ribs -- St. Louis ribs! Pub 570 also offers 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 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.

5261 Milford Road / East Stroudsburg, PA
18302 / 570-588-5030

www.pub570.co / [www.facebook.com/Pub570/](https://facebook.com/Pub570/)

THERESA'S LAKE VIEW BAR & GRILL



Even though it is located in the Leisure Lands private community, Theresa's is a full bar and restaurant open to the public year round. It is 5 miles up Coolbaugh Road from route 209 and 1 mile from Otter Lake Campground. Located on 55 acres with a friendly atmosphere, pool

table and a lake view from the deck or anywhere you sit, Theresa's Lakeview offers spirits, wine and beer, New York style pizza, pasta, burgers, hot and cold sandwiches and their well-known "Feinberg Philly Cheese Steak". Quick bites include mozzarella sticks, chicken fingers, pierogis, homemade French fries, and featured Stuff-A-Knots or homemade potato chips are always a hit! Eat in/take out. Book your event or fundraiser with Theresa!

3336 Frontier Road / East Stroudsburg, PA
18301 / 570-664-2220

facebook.com/Therasas-Lakeview-Bar-Grill



THANK YOU!

**2018 Restaurant Week Kick-off Sponsors
and Restaurant Week Participants!!**

Sponsors (and Participants):

Blue Ridge Winery
Shawnee Craft Brewing Company
Big A Grillehouse
Tom X Pub
Pub 570
El Valley Family Diner
Theresa's Lakeview Bar & Grill
Moe's Charcoal Grill

Participants:

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



COUNTRY FAIR COMING!

The Reformed Church of Bushkill plans to have a Country Fair on Saturday, September 22nd on their grounds. They are planning fun events including horseshoes tournaments, a tug 'o war challenge, approximately 20 booth games, a pie eating contest and lots of festivities. They hope to have music and even a hay ride. Stay tuned for more details in the Fall Issue of the newsletter!

RIVER'S EDGE BIKE PARK OPEN FOR THE SEASON

(continued from page 9)

The extreme weather in March, April, and May delayed the opening of the track this spring. Planned improvements and routine maintenance had to be pushed back because of the weather. More improvements, including fencing and new signage, are still to come.

The pump track is open daily from sun up to sun down, but should only be ridden in good weather. Caretaker Jim Dellavalle also does maintenance days on Thursdays, and volunteers are encouraged to come by to help keep the track in good condition.

Helmets are mandatory. The pump track is for bicycles only. No motorized vehicles of any kind are permitted on the track. Pets are allowed, but must be leashed at all times and may not be on the track. Please visit the park to see a full list of the rules.

River's Edge Park is located at 123 River Road, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301. The park is jointly owned and administered by Middle Smithfield and Smithfield Townships. For more information, please call 570-223-5082 for Smithfield Township or 570-223-8920 x119 for Middle Smithfield Township, or email riversedgefamilybikepark@gmail.com.

NEW CROP: SUMMER INTERNS



Mark Davies is originally from Sharon Hill, PA. Mark is a junior at East Stroudsburg University studying political science with a concentration in Public Administration. He works as a Resident Advisor for freshmen and international students and serves on campus as President of the Residence Hall Association, the Extracurricular Affairs Chair for the Student Senate and the Vice Chair of the Student Activity Association's Board of Directors. Says Mark "I am excited to learn the ropes here at Middle Smithfield and hope this will be a great start to my career serving the public."



Elijah Brown is from Bushkill, PA, and is a junior at East Stroudsburg University (ESU). Elijah has a dual-major in Political Science with a concentration in American Government and Computer Security. At ESU, he serves as the Political Science Club President, the ESU Feminist Alliance Vice President, and is a member of the Student Senate. Says Elijah "I am excited to work with everyone and learning how local government works in serving the public!"



MIDDLE SMITHFIELD RESIDENT WINS MRS. PENNSYLVANIA TITLE

By Patrice Dume

Congratulations to Mrs. Caroline Verkaik, a resident of Middle Smithfield upon winning the title of Mrs. Pennsylvania, United States 2018 on May 20. Caroline is a Native of Kenya and is no stranger to the pageant world. In 2005 to 2007 she held the title of Mrs. Kenya World. She was a fourth and third runner up in the Mrs. World beauty pageant held in 2006 in St. Petersburg Russia and 2007 in Sochi Russia.

Caroline's platform is Teen Suicide and Depression, and she has been an advocate for this cause since 2016. Caroline is a speaker and mentor to the youth in our communities. She is a volunteer with the Youth Educational Services (Y.E.S.) an organization created to empower and encourage the youth. Her services to

(continued on page 24)



SUMMER FUN AT SMITHFIELDS LIBRARY

By Sue Young
Branch Manager, Smithfields Library,
Eastern Monroe Public Library

Did you know that Smithfields Library is a PA Forward Bronze Star Library? PA Forward is an initiative in libraries across the state to power a better future for Pennsylvania by promoting a strong workforce, knowledgeable consumers, and a healthy and informed citizenry. It consists of cooperative programming with key organizations in the community in support of Five Literacies: Basic Literacy, Information Literacy, Health Literacy, Financial Literacy, and Social and Civic Literacy.

Basic Literacy:

The library's most important job during the summer is to keep children reading so they don't lose the skills they learned in school. We have special programming to help parents supplement summer plans and coax students into the library. Our Summer Reading Program has proven so much fun that we have added an Adult and a Baby component to our Teen's and Children's. Everyone can win prizes if they register and log in the minutes or pages they read. Even babies get prizes when parents read and do activities with them. The Children's Special Programs include: Build with Friends (July 9, 10:30), Kit's Interactive Theatre presents... Grace the Pirate (July 16, 10:30), Tropical Party with Moana (July 24, 10:30), Boogie in the Library (July 30), and PT Reptiles (Aug. 6, 10:30).

In the Teen program (ages 12-18), Make It: Thumb Piano (July 16, 6:30), teens will build their own kalimba, a handheld block that uses prongs to produce sound.

Our Adult Summer Reading revolves around the Great American Read, a PBS special. Check out the Book List of 100 titles and join us throughout the summer as we lobby for our favorites, see who has read the most from the list, and just get excited about reading.

The Omnivorous Readers Bookclub (ORB) meets the 2nd Thurs. of each month, 7-8 pm. This is a little different from the traditional book club because instead of choosing one book for everyone to read, a theme or genre is chosen. Everyone talks a little about their book and you go home with some ideas for what to read next that you might not have considered otherwise. This summer we will be reading from the Great American Read book list.

For Book Lovers Day on Aug. 9, we invite you to come to the library and have a Blind Date with a Book. Check us out to see what it is all about.

Information Literacy:

Our 10:30 am computer classes this summer will include our regular Intro to Computers and the Internet the 2nd Wed. of each month, as well as Resume Basics (July 25), and Your Mobile Library: Test Prep and Skill Building (Aug. 22).

Health Literacy:

We have partnered with the PA Department of Health to set up a series of Go Healthy Booths in the library where patrons can pick up information and talk to a health professional on various topics. We start off with Sun Safety, followed by Picnic Safety (July 9, 11-1) and Immunizations For All Ages (Aug. 6, 11-1).



REGIONAL PARKS *(continued from page 9)*

Mt. Nebo Park Gets a Facelift

and staff time provided by the Townships and Fallon Horan from the Monroe County Planning Commission.

Phase II of the project rehabilitated the park's kiosk, designed and installed new interpretive nature signage, trail signs and blazes, and tree ID tags, and developed a new park map and a brochure to advertise the park. Phase I was completed in 2017, and included landscaping in the front of the park, and new signage.

"We hope that these improvements will make the park more welcoming and accessible to the public," said Chris Rain, Parks and Recreation Coordinator for Middle Smithfield Township. "Mt. Nebo has been an underutilized park for many years, so we hope that these changes bring more people to visit."

PEEC and KCEEC assisted with a wildlife inventory and developing the interpretive signage and brochure, and PEEC also made new wooden signs to direct hikers through the 2 miles of walking trails. The interpretive signs were designed by New Mind Designs, a design company run out of ESU by design students. The signs are placed along an easily walkable trail from the parking lot to the lake, while the tree tags and other trail signs are throughout the park's hiking trails.

Mt. Nebo Park is jointly owned and administered by Middle Smithfield and Smithfield Townships. It was first opened as a park in 2003. Mt. Nebo Park is located at 406 Mt. Nebo Road in Smithfield Township and is open daily from dawn to dusk. For more information about Mt. Nebo Park, contact Smithfield Township at 570-223-5082, or Middle Smithfield Township at 570-223-8920.

Financial Literacy:

For our Financial Booths we partnered with the NEPA Federal Credit Union. The first one was Focus on Budgeting and then Focus on Credit (July 25, 1-3). We are also planning a Focus on Investing—check with library for date and time. As with the Health Booths, these will have valuable information to take away, plus a professional on finance to answer questions.

Civic and Social Literacy:

Our library hosts the Family Roots Genealogy Group, the 4th Wed. of each month, 3-4:30 pm. Whether you are interested in getting started on that family history or you're stuck and don't know where to go next, this is the group for you. Discover the best tools for starting a search, for refining a search, or just share your experiences with others. Check us out at Memory Makers.

When planning your summer fun, remember to check out the library!



COMMUNITY DAY *(continued from page 9)*

WHAT: Celebrate MST at the 1st Annual Community Day

WHEN: Saturday September 8, 12 noon to 6pm. Rain date: Sunday 9/9.

WHERE: Middle Smithfield Elementary School, 5180 Milford Rd

Community Day is FREE to attend. Many activities will be free to participate in, and vendors will have food and crafts for sale. A charge may apply to certain activities. In the event of bad weather, the event will take place on Sunday 9/9. Additional information including a schedule of events, vendor list, and more will be available closer to the event date.

BE A COMMUNITY DAY VENDOR!

Want to participate in the event, reach hundreds of locals, and advertise your business or non-profit organization? Reserve your spot at Community Day. There is a registration form and \$50 registration fee to reserve your 10' x 10' space. The registration fee is non-refundable, except to non-profit organizations after the event is over. Only the space is provided. Vendors must supply their own tables, tents, and anything else they may need. Electricity is not guaranteed to any vendor.

For more information on the event, or to register your business or organization to have a spot at Community Day, contact Chris Rain at 570-223-8920 x119 or crain@mstownship.com.

(continued from page 8)

MST COMMUNITY GARDENS PARK Beekeepers Found for 2018

"Our Spring 2018 newsletter advertisement looking for a beekeeper created quite a buzz! The response was more successful than we anticipated," said Supervisor Annette Atkinson. "In addition to finding Vicky, who is an experienced beekeeper, to act as 'Queen Bee' and manage the hives, we had a lot of interest from residents with no experience who just want to learn about beekeeping, and be the worker bees this season."

Locals Jason Nagle, Elizabeth Horton, Madelyn Tirado, and Laurel Bishow all contacted the Township about volunteering with the bees and will be instructed by Staples as apprentice beekeepers. Staples and her students have developed a maintenance schedule to care for the hives and will also conduct periodic demonstrations for the public.

The Community Gardens Park is located at 989 Coolbaugh Road. The public can view the apiary from inside the fenced area, but are asked to maintain a safe distance by not approaching the bee house without supervision. For more information about the gardens or the apiary, please contact Chris Rain at 570-223-8920 x119 or crain@mstownship.com.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Funded entirely by donations, not taxes



State Representative Rosemary Brown, Don DeReamus, Legislative Chair for the Ambulance Association of Pennsylvania, Debbie Kulick, President, Bushkill Emergency Corps, and Holly Freese, Middle Smithfield Township

MONROE COUNTY AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

By Holly Freese

On Friday, June 1, the Monroe County Ambulance Association held their annual legislative breakfast at the Dale & Francis Hughes Cancer Center at LHV-Pocono.

The annual breakfast updates local officials on the many aspects and challenges of providing emergency services to the area's residents and many visitors. The breakfast also highlights advances over the past year and gives an update on legislative activities that pertain to the EMS community.

Emergency Medical Services are currently experiencing several crisis including funding, opioids, coverage in rural communities, staffing and more.

There is currently no state mandate to fund EMS services, and so they rely heavily on insurance billing, grants and donations to fund their organizations. Although fee-for-service is their largest revenue stream, they only have a collection rate of approximately 48%. They can receive up to \$7,000 annually for grants, and many still use subscription programs for their income.

MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP ANNOUNCES TAX CREDITS FOR FIRE AND EMS VOLUNTEERS

By Holly Freese

The Middle Smithfield Township Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted a new ordinance and resolution on April 26, 2018 for Volunteer Service Tax Credits for volunteer fire and EMS personnel.

This allows Middle Smithfield Township to grant local tax credits to active volunteers at volunteer fire companies and nonprofit emergency medical service agencies. Eligible volunteers can receive up to \$250 towards their local earned income tax and 10% of their township property tax.

The township ordinance lists five eligible agencies that serve the township including: Bushkill Emergency Corps., Suburban EMS, and Bushkill, Marshalls

Creek and Shawnee volunteer fire companies, and hope that neighboring townships follow suit to support EMS volunteers.

The supervisors also hope this will act as an incentive for other residents to volunteer for local emergency services in a time when volunteers are desperately needed.

Criteria must be met for volunteers to receive local tax credits, including: volunteers must be in good standing defined by the bylaws of the agency they volunteer for; volunteers must achieve a minimum of 50 hours of service a year, and volunteers on probation according the bylaws of the agency are not eligible for tax credits.

(continued on page 20)

A Word from Bushkill Emergency Corps.

Don DeReamus, Legislative Chair for the Ambulance Association of Pennsylvania presented the program.

First and foremost is the lack of sustainable funding, not just locally, but across the state. The perfect storm of below cost reimbursements from all payers, codified payments of Medicare, high deductibles and co-pays, have now affected patient payments. He also noted that Medicare rates were never designed to represent fair reimbursement value.

Other critical issues: shortage of EMS personnel, which directly impacts coverage and response times.

As a result, new proposed legislation allows for billing and reimbursement for requests for service that result in treat and release calls.

For perspective, DeReamus explained the yearly cost of basic (BLS) services and advanced life support (ALS/paramedic)

services. A BLS unit staffed and running 24/7 for the year costs about \$550,000 and an ALS unit staffed and running 24/7 costs \$800,000 per year.

However, local non-profit EMS providers offer a subscription program that helps fund these services so that they are there when residents need them, while at the same time, discounts the cost of the emergency services for subscribers. Unique to our area, each service provider honors the subscription program of the others. For example, a subscription purchased from Bushkill Emergency Corps is honored by any mutual aid partner that responds to a 911 approved service call.

Debbie Kulick, President of Bushkill Emergency Corps reports that only about 5 percent of households that receive subscription forms take advantage of the program. Look for the new subscription

(continued on page 20)

Bushkill Emergency Corps (Ambulance)
(570) 223-1906, BushkillEmergencyCorps.com
Captain - Bill Duffy (elect)

Marshall's Creek Fire Company
(570) 223-8445, facebook.com/Marshall'sCreekFireCO
Fire Chief - Joe Luisi, Jr



heat sources in a building, search and rescue in fire and smoke and night time search operations. He added that thermal imaging cameras can also be used in Hazmat incidents where the hazardous material cannot be seen with the naked eye. They can also be used in vehicle crashes, to detect if spilled fuels or

other hazardous materials present, and speed the search for a potentially missing child. With wildland Fires, TICs can be very useful in sizing up the fire, from both the ground and aloft.

"These cameras are an important tool nowadays to make us safe and get the job done in a safe and efficient manner," Rohner said.

"We train all of the time and take numerous classes and are always looking to better the community in any way we can," he added.

Bushkill Volunteer Fire Company is always looking for more volunteers. You can get more information on how to volunteer at 570-588-6033 or stop by the fire house on Monday nights after 6 pm. The main station is located on 124 Evergreen Dr, Bushkill Pa. 18324.

In 2000, the Los Angeles Times called the thermal imaging camera, "perhaps the best advance in fire equipment in the last 25 years – and the most expensive."

MIDDLE SMITHFIELD FUNDS THERMAL IMAGING CAMERA FOR BUSHKILL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

By Holly Freese

In April Middle Smithfield Township Board of Supervisors made a donation to the Bushkill Volunteer Fire Company to fully fund the purchase of a MSA EVOLUTION® 6000 Plus Thermal Imaging Camera.

In 2000, the Los Angeles Times called the thermal imaging camera, "perhaps the best advance in fire equipment in the last 25 years – and the most expensive."

The use of thermal imaging cameras in the fire service has taken quantum leaps in the past 18 years.

According to Kyle Rohner, 2nd Assistant Chief, thermal imaging cameras are versatile tool and are important to fire fighters. They can be used in a variety of scenarios, such as locating fires and

GENERATOR SAFETY

From the National Fire Protection Association

Downed utility lines, power company blackouts, heavy snow falls or summer storms can all lead to power outages. Many people turn to a portable generator for a temporary solution without knowing the risks.

The NFPA wants to remind everyone, first and foremost, that a person can be poisoned by a small amount of Carbon Monoxide (CO) over a longer period of time or by a large amount of CO over a shorter period of time. All generators should be used in a well-ventilated location outside at least 5 feet away from all doors, windows and vent openings and the exhaust should be directed away from the building.

You should never use a generator in an attached garage, even if the door is open. Exhaust fumes can enter the home through any cracks in the home, including windows and doors. It is also important to install CO alarms in your home and follow manufacturer's instructions for correct placement and mounting height.

Turn off the generator and let them cool down before refueling. NEVER refuel the generator while it is hot. Fuel should only be stored in a container that is intended for the purpose and is correctly labeled as such. Fuel should also be stored outside of living areas.

When plugging in appliances, make sure they are plugged directly into the generator or a heavy duty outdoor-rated extension cord. The cords should be checked for cuts, tears and that the plug has all three prongs, especially a grounding pin.

If you must connect the generator to the house wiring to power appliances, have a qualified electrician install a properly rated transfer switch in accordance with the National Electrical Code® and all applicable state laws and local electrical codes.

More information about generator safety and other resources can be found at www.nfpa.org/education.

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



NICE WEATHER FOR DUCKS (but not Birdies and Eagles)

By Kevin Dixon

Well golfers, the season has been off to an interesting start, it seems that winter just didn't want to let go. We had a busy first two days to start the season and then some cold and wet weather set in. The weekend of April 21st also proved to be busy as we hosted two charity golf outings. Both Tall Cedars and ESU's Lambda Iota Sorority held successful events raising money for their charitable causes.

The lingering winter weather and the severe storms we experienced created quite a challenge for our maintenance staff as well. In all, over 23 trees were removed from the course after the violent spring winds and thunderstorm that threw much of the township out of power for days on end, costing over 100 work hours just in cleanup. As of this writing the staff is still trying to get back on track with all the routine maintenance the course requires.

The weather has us off to a rough start this season and the amount of rain we have received is definitely not Par for the course. There have been only 14 days of sunshine since March 1st and 51 days of rain.

Despite the weather Mady's Angels had their most successful charity fundraiser golf outing to date. Mady gave us a great day. It was a pleasure working with Laura Law, MJ Law and their staff of volunteers to raise money to help local charities. We also had two other successful outings in April. If you would like to raise money for

your organization give us a call at the Pro Shop 570-223-8099. Check out our list of upcoming outings on this page.

HAVE YOU GOTTEN YOUR GOLF MEMBERSHIP YET? If not, call Kevin at 570-223-8099. If a full membership doesn't make sense for you this summer (you're going away for vacation, visiting relatives for example) then consider our golf cards. This year we introduced two new frequent player programs. 10 rounds for \$275 or 20 rounds for \$525. It's like getting a "right sized" membership, just for you! (some restrictions apply). These cards offer a significant savings over our rack rates. Call the Pro Shop for further details.

GOLF FOR THE GOOD:

Outings:

7/21 ESU Golf Outing

9/15 Wounded Warriors

9/29 Marshalls Creek Fire

EMS TAX CREDITS *(continued from page 18)*

"It is an honor for the Supervisors of Middle Smithfield Township to unanimously approve and adopt Ordinance 220 establishing the Volunteer Tax Credit," said Supervisor, Mike Dwyer.

Local fire and EMS volunteers are very thankful for the recognition and support they are receiving from the Township.

"We are very thankful for it, very, very thankful for it and we hope, at least the members of the Marshalls Creek Fire Company, covering other townships, that those other townships will do the same thing," said Gene Berry, Assistant Chief of Marshalls Creek Fire Company.

"It should be a helpful tool for members to keep up with their training," said Alex DiPaolo, Fire Chief of Bushkill Volunteer Fire Company. "They've got to meet certain requirements to get the tax

credit. This is going to help them meet the requirement for the fire department and help them when it comes to tax season."

"As a community-based EMS service, the volunteers of Bushkill Emergency Corps appreciate the action that the Middle Smithfield Township Board of Supervisors has taken which acknowledges both the value of our volunteerism and the importance of our pre-hospital care for our residents and visitors." Said Debbie Kulick, President of Bushkill Emergency Corps.

"The Township not only supports our volunteer EMS providers, but we encourage more of our residents to donate some of their time for the betterment of our community. This tax credit is another way we can say "thank you" to these dedicated volunteers." Dwyer added.

(continued from page 18)

Bushkill Emergency Corps.

forms mailed in June. A subscription costs \$70 per year per household/resident members only.

About the Monroe County Ambulance Association:

MCAA members are: Bushkill Emergency Corps, Pocono Mountain Regional EMS, Suburban EMS, West End Community Ambulance. The EMS services listed here may be partially staffed by volunteers and may not have daily office hours. Most stations have answering machines, where a message can be left. Please do not call 9-1-1 for billing or transports. Instead, please contact the individual service provider. For emergency service, always dial 9-1-1!



BANQUET HALL AT WHISPERING PINES

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

BANQUET HALL DATES STILL AVAILABLE FOR 2018:

By Christopher Rain

The beautiful Whispering Pines banquet hall is still 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.

Please call Chris Rain at 570-223-8920 x119 or email crain@mstowship.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.



TIME TO CATCH UP!

By Karen Stapleton

Trees aren't the only things falling (behind). The Middle Smithfield Township Public Works Department respectfully asks for your patience and understanding while they continue with storm cleanup, along with regularly scheduled duties.

These past few months following winter storms Riley and Quinn with massive and long power outages, and the winter snow plowing, and then hit with severe spring storms with its own outages, has caught everyone unexpectedly. With just over 13.64" of rain, strong winds and extensive, long power outages, the PWD cleared road ways due to downed trees, and assisted the Sewer Department with fueling twenty generators in order to allow pump stations and sewage treatment plants to run.

We are working diligently to get back on schedule. Thank you again for your patience.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY AND CHARITY EVENTS, 2018:

Wounded Warrior Golf Outing and Banquet, Sat. 9/15

Marshall's Creek Fire Co. Golf Tournament and Banquet, Sat 9/29

Bushkill Outreach Tricky Tray, Mon. 10/1

Family Promise of Monroe County Blue Jean Ball, Sat. 10/6

MST 3rd Annual Fossil Day, Wed. 10/17

Veterans Day Luncheon, Sun. 11/11



photo by Eric Goins, Pocono Photo Club

PHOTO EXHIBIT

By Holly Freese

Middle Smithfield Township hosted the welcome reception for the 5th Annual Pocono Photo Club exhibit on Sunday, April 29th at the Whispering Pines Banquet Hall. The month long photography exhibit featured photos from 10 photographers and subjects varied from wildlife to plants and buildings in and around Middle Smithfield Township.

On Saturday, May 12th the Pocono Photo Club also hosted a free educational event open to the public at the Whispering Pines featuring photographer Danielle Austen. Her presentation, titled "The Art of Seeing-- Seeking Your Vision," focused on discovering a new viewpoint to get more from your creative experience as a photographer.

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Carrie Wetherbee | **Vice Chairperson:** Robert Huffman
Secretary: Ken Johns | **Member:** Kim Williams | **Member:** Patricia Francis
Historical Commission Liaison: Dana Francis | dfrancis@mstownship.com
570-223-892 x121



WELCOME NEW MEMBER PATRICIA FRANCIS

We would like to welcome the newest member of the Middle Smithfield Township Historical Commission, Patricia Francis! Pat, a retired employee of the New York Police Department, has been and Middle Smithfield Township resident for the past 30 years; where she and her husband raised their two children. She has always had a great interest in local history and has really been able to focus on that interest since retiring. Pat is very excited to be a part of the Historical Commission and hopes to learn much from her fellow committee members!

The Middle Smithfield Township Historical Commission meets every 1st Wednesday of the month at 9:00am and as always the public is welcome to attend.

ABOUT THAT GORGEOUS COVER PHOTO BY BOB GARCIA OF THE POCONO PHOTO CLUB

By Dana Francis; with special thanks to Marie Summa for her research

The Bushkill Creek has been a popular fishing spot from the earliest of times. Native Americans would camp at the base of Resica Falls in the spring to net shad and trout. But did you know the area once was home of the very first tannery in the township? Adam Overpeck built his tannery around 1846 and named it "Resaca Falls" (now known as Resica) after the battle in the Mexican-American War. A village was erected around the tannery including homes, a school and its own road to accommodate the influx of people to the area. The tannery continued to thrive until the year 1854 when operations slowed down and eventually stopped all together. Shortly after, Resaca Falls Village became abandoned as well.

Flash-forward to 1957, the 4,200 acres surrounding the former tannery site was developed into the Resica Falls Scout Reservation. In 1996, the Cradle of Liberty Council would enter into a land trust agreement, preserving the property forever as an undeveloped forest for scouting use. Last year, Resica Falls celebrated its 60th summer season of scout camping!

*The National Women's History Project
theme for 2018:*

NEVERTHELESS, SHE PERSISTED:
*Honoring Women Who Fight All Forms
of Discrimination Against Women*



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AWARD PRESENTATION

By Annette Atkinson

At the Commissioner Meeting on Wednesday, April 4th, five women selected by the Monroe County Women's Commission received certificates of recognition from the Monroe County Commissioners in honor of Women's History Month.

The five Monroe County women exemplified the 2018 National Women's History Month Theme for 2018:

NEVERTHELESS SHE PERSISTED:

**Honoring Women Who Fight all Forms of Discrimination
Against Women**

The five women recognized:

- **Jen Dunne**
In grateful recognition of her dedication, efforts and years of devotion in helping abused women, children and men, victims of domestic violence, and sexual assault in Monroe County, PA.
- **Claudette Williams**
In recognition of the distinction of achieving the rank of command Sergeant Major in the U.S. Army, a position reached by only 1% of military members.
- **Kate Rosset**
In recognition of her work for women's health care and reproductive rights since 1975, as a Planned Parenthood volunteer and staff member at the local and national levels.
- **Dr. Kimberly Adams**
In recognition of her work as an educator, speaker, and political activist in the area of women's rights.
- **Hope Christman**
In recognition of her work as a community activist, youth sports coordinator, and Director of Pleasant Valley Ecumenical Network Food Pantry.

Among the audience members there in support was Monica Cravotta, from the United Way and Women United. We are particularly proud that one of the women, Kate Rosset, is a Middle Smithfield Township resident.



PA STATE HISTORICAL MARKERS

By Dana Francis

Did you ever notice those large blue roadside markers with yellow writing on your travels? Well, those are our Pennsylvania State Historical Markers! The markers have a long history in our state, dating back about a century. According to George R. Beyer's Guide to the Historical Markers of Pennsylvania it was on July 25, 1913, that an Act of the General Assembly created the Pennsylvania Historical Commission (PHC), and one of its major responsibilities was to "mark by proper monuments, tablets, or markers, places or buildings within this Commonwealth, where historical events have transpired, and . . . arrange for the care and maintenance for such markers or monuments."

PHC then began surveying the state to learn where monuments or memorials had already been erected using state appropriations and speaking with established historical societies to seek their help in developing a comprehensive plan to mark places of historic importance. After multiple design and criteria changes, the state markers we see today were born. There are two types of PA state markers. The larger roadside markers and a smaller city marker designs throughout Pennsylvania have been in use since the 1940s.

(continued on page 24)



MEMORY MAKERS 2018

By Dana Francis

The 14th annual Memory Makers luncheon will be held on Saturday, August 18th from 12-4pm, at the Shawnee Inn & Golf Resort. The theme will be "Women the Historical Commission has Fond Memories Of"; women of Middle Smithfield Township. The Historical Commission has been actively researching and contacting family members to speak about their loved ones.

Speaking of family, another exciting aspect of this year's event is genealogy! What better history to research than your own? We look forward to sharing information on the very popular hobby of genealogy for those interested in getting started or just looking for tips on how to take their research to the next level. More to come soon!



RAISE YOUR GLASS & SUPPORT THE PAST 2018

by Amy Leiser, Director, Monroe County Historical Association

On Thursday, September 6th 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 Reeders, 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. Items such as: artwork by Dorothy Strauser, May Banta, Charlene Taylor, Jack Savitsky, Dee Huxster, Mary Jane Arner, Andri Protosouk, and Sherwood Samet. Getaway auction items include a seven-day South African Guided Safari for two people at Safari Lodge (includes all meals and two game drives per day on Zululand Rhino Reserve) and a ten-day canal-front house rental at Big Pine Key (30 miles from Key West, Florida).

A variety of other auction items consist of restaurant and business gift certificates, passes to Kalahari Water Park, a one-year membership to Northwood Racquet Club, Ducklode furniture, unique experience packages, photography sessions, nutrition evaluation with registered dietician, wine baskets, sport packages,

artwork, and much more. Hartzell's Auction Gallery is generously donating their auction services for the event and Erin McClelland will provide the musical entertainment for the evening.

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 visit www.monroehistorical.org

HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION SPRING NETWORKING MEETING

By Holly Freese

Every April and September Middle Smithfield Townships hosts a HOA Networking Meeting for the board members of HOAs in the township.

The two hour long meeting includes informative presentations from professionals from different organizations that can benefit the residents inside private communities. The hope is that the board members who attend our meetings will pass this information on to their residents, and that the boards of different HOAs will network with each other.

The spring 2018 meeting was held on April 7th and was attended by approximately 30 board members from 10 HOAs in the township.

The spring meeting focused around Emergency Preparedness, in the aftermath of March's winter storms. Joseph Luisi Jr., Fire Chief from Marshalls Creek Fire Company and Debbie Kulick, president of Bushkill Emergency Corps spoke about the importance of having 911 address markers and having them properly placed so emergency services can find your home in a timely manner. Luisi also talked extensively about generator safety and emphasized that was one of the biggest issues for Marshalls Creek Fire Company during the winter storms. (Please see generator safety article for more information)

The meeting also featured Tabitha Bradley, the Director of Elementary

Education from East Stroudsburg Area School District, who discussed how communities can get more involved with programs in the schools.

Middle Smithfield Township Zoning Officer, Shawn McGlynn was the last presenter of the meeting. McGlynn spoke about updates in zoning, including the new resale use and occupancy and short term rental ordinances.

The next HOA meeting will be held in September and will feature new speakers and topics. If you are on the Board of an HOA in Middle Smithfield Township and need to be added to the invitation list, please call Holly Freese at 570-223-8920 ext 132.

(continued from page 23)

HISTORICAL MARKERS

Now, what exactly goes into getting one of these markers? The answer is, A LOT! Over the last few decades the nomination process has become exclusively public driven. The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) has an established "approval criteria" consisting of 11 items that each nominated marker must meet. While this has been slightly tweaked over the years, the primary criterion that the subjects have "statewide and/or national rather than local or regional historical significance" has remained. A guideline sheet is provided with each nomination form and it includes questions to consider when proposing a subject for a marker. There are also tips about what the panel is and is not seeking.

Once the party nominating their proposed site for a marker has completed very thorough, detailed research it is time for them to put their application together. After the application is complete, staff at the PMHC is available to review the draft to see if the subject is viable, and suggest ways to adjust focus or sources to pursue

that would afford one a better chance for approval by the deadline date of December 1st each year. Announcements are then made the following Spring.

Over the past several months Middle Smithfield Township and the Marshalls Creek Fire Company worked in conjunction to submit an application to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission for a historical marker for the Marshalls Creek Explosion of 1964. Unfortunately, that marker application was denied. We are currently working feverishly to strengthen the application for resubmission so stay tuned!

You may have seen our very own state markers for the Marshalls Creek Mastodon and Fort Hyndshaw on your travels down Route 209. We are currently looking suggestions for proposed marker sites. Does a Middle Smithfield Township historic property, person or event come to mind that you think might qualify for a PA State Historical Marker? Contact Dana at 570-223-8920 x121 or dfrancis@mstownship.com with your suggestions!

(continued from page 16)

MRS. PENNSYLVANIA

this organizing includes accompanying the youth on various field trips to places such as the State Capital in Harrisburg, volunteering with the Spirit Girls which is a program affiliated with Project Success created through Youth Educational services.

In 2017 in Vietnam, Caroline was recognized by the Women's Leaders International Network as one of the Top 50 Women Leaders in the World for her mission trips to Kenya to provide clean water and School supplies. Caroline is also the President of the Pennsylvania and Kenya Chapter of the Women's Leaders International Network; and President & CEO of WaterGap Africa Safari. (Kenyanbest.com)

Caroline helped start a soup kitchen that serves her community every Thursday night once a week at her former church, the Reformed Church of Bushkill. (Thomas Gansel, 2017 finalist for MST Person of the Year was recognized for his work at these community dinners.)

Caroline will now compete for the Mrs. United State title.



INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!



The Spotted Lanternfly is an invasive plant hopper native to China, India, and Vietnam that has already been recognized in Monroe County. Adult Lanternflies are about an inch long, with grey forewings that have black spots and net-like tips. Their hind wings have black and red patches with a white band between them and the abdomen is yellow with broad black bands. Lanternflies prefer a plant called the Tree of Heaven but will lay eggs on any smooth surface beginning in September and continuing through December. Anyone who observes Spotted Lanternflies should try to destroy them, preferably by using a systemic insecticide. For more information on identifying and eradicating the Spotted Lanternfly, please visit <https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly>.

WOMEN UNITED

*By Monica Cravotta,
Vice President, Development and Programs
United Way of Monroe County*

WOMEN UNITED is a network of dynamic and diverse women working together to make Monroe County a stronger community through philanthropy, advocacy and volunteerism. It is an affinity group of United Way of Monroe County and its efforts fall under United Way's Support for Working Families collective impact initiative. WOMEN UNITED is specifically focused on supporting struggling single mothers. Single mothers are by far the most economically challenged parental group in Monroe County, with their children the most underserved as a result. Initial efforts will include providing scholarships to single mothers for their children's extracurricular activities, whether it be artistic, athletic or scholastic in nature. Advocacy and efforts to improve access to child care is another area of interest.

WOMEN UNITED has monthly meetings on the 3rd Thursday of every month and various fundraising, outreach and advocacy events throughout the year. To join WOMEN UNITED or for more information, please contact Monica Cravotta at monica@unitedwaymonroe.org.

UNITED WAY OF MONROE COUNTY WOMEN UNITED®



2018 RISING NATION RIVER SOJOURN

By Dana Francis

So what exactly is a sojourn? Well, it is a temporary stay reached by journey, or a period of temporary residence. On August 24, 2002, a historic journey of this nature took place at the Pennsbury Manor, the former estate of William Penn in Morrisville, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, that marked a new beginning of brotherhood between the Lenape Indian Tribe and the people that neighbor them along the Delaware River. A treaty of renewed brotherhood was signed.

Since then, every 4 years, friends, families and organizations participate in the signing of the Treaty of Renewed Friendship as a new River Sojourn takes place. Participants who choose to sign indicate their support of the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania as partners and caretakers of their sacred homeland. The signing is prefaced by a monumental 3 week canoe journey beginning in Hancock, New York.

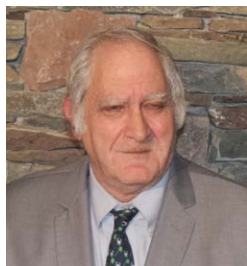
The last river sojourn was in August of 2014, and the Rising Nation River Journey included a stop at the Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort. Supervisor Annette Atkinson signed the treaty with the Lenape Nation on behalf of Middle Smithfield Township, joined by then-Historical Commission Chair Danny Younger.

This year the sojourn begins on August 4th and ends August 19th in Cape May, New Jersey with the signing of the Treaty along the various stops along the way (see below for full journey itinerary). The treaty signing event begins with an opening prayer and the passing of the wampum, an Eastern Woodlands ritual that seals bonds of trust and responsibility. Strings and woven belts of wampum have been made for centuries to commemorate treaties or historical events.

So, what are some of the goals of this journey? The journey down the Delaware River is a joint effort to raise awareness, awaken the spirit and bestow the past (culturally, historically, environmentally and to the future). It's meant to bring awareness that the Lenape people living in PA are carrying on their ancestral traditions and engaging in numerous projects to provide everyday ways for all citizens to protect our homeland and to work together into the future.

This year the Rising Nation River Journey will be stopping in Shawnee on Saturday, August 11th for those interested in attending! As always, all are invited to attend and sign the Treaty of Renewed friendship either in person or online at: <https://bit.ly/2L9s1RN>

PERSON OF THE YEAR MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP 2017



JAN KORB,

2017 PERSON OF THE YEAR
Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry

Food Donated to Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry during Restaurant Week Kick Off Event

At the 2018 Restaurant Week Kick-off Event held on April 29th, Middle Smithfield Township collected 2 boxes of food donations for the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry. Residents who donated food were given a discount on the wine tasting at the event.

The Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry is run by Middle Smithfield Township's 2017 Person of the Year, Jan Korb. Jan met with the Board of Supervisors during a work session following the event to pick up the donations and was very thankful to the township and its residents for their support.

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

On Friday, June 1, the Second Harvest Food Bank of the Lehigh Valley and Northeast Pennsylvania along with the Pocono Mountains Hunger Coalition held a legislative breakfast at the Whispering Pines Banquet Hall, (use of the facility donated by the township.)

The event discussed hunger in the community and included Monroe County State and Federal Elected Officials to discuss State and Federal Hunger Policies affecting our community.

The population of Monroe County is 169,882, with a food insecurity rate of 14%, with 18% being children. Food insecurity is defined as someone who at times lacks access to enough food for an active healthy lifestyle. *

The Second Harvest Food Bank is a food pantry that serves the Lehigh Valley and NEPA whose mission is to obtain food and distribute it to people in need through area non-profits, and to provide resources for education and advocacy to end hunger. Middle Smithfield Township's 2017 Person of the Year, Jan Korb, works closely with them to ensure the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry is stocked with food to help those in need.

**statistics provided by the Pocono Mountains Hunger Coalition.*

Second Harvest Food Bank Upcoming Events:

Empty Bowls 2018 | October 20th: Save the Date! From 6-9 pm Second Harvest will be holding their annual Empty Bowls event at the food bank warehouse located at 6969 Silver Crest Rd, Nazareth, PA 18064. The event will include food and drinks, live music and a silent auction! More details to follow at www.shfbv.org.



THOMAS GANSEL

2017 PERSON OF THE YEAR FINALIST
Reformed Church of Bushkill

Bushkill Outreach

Thrift Shop Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday – 9am-1pm

Bushkill Outreach is also accepting donations during work hours,

but CANNOT accept:

- furniture - appliances - baby cribs - car seats
- TVs - computers - exercise machines

Unfortunately due to the severe storms in May, Bushkill Outreach had to cancel their annual Flea Market held on Memorial Day Weekend. They rescheduled it for Labor Day weekend, so check back later for updates!

For more information visit www.facebook.com/bushkilloutreach or www.bushkilloutreach.org



DIANE JIORLE

2017 PERSON OF THE YEAR FINALIST
Angel's Closet

The Angel's Closet is a non-profit, charitable organization whose goal is to provide baby layette bundles to families in need in Monroe County, PA.

They collect new and gently used baby clothing and accessories and distribute the bundles to families and other organizations who help families in need in our community. They have given out close to 200 bundles so far this year!

Here is what Angel's Closet needs (it's yard sale season! Keep an eye out)

Angel's Closet always needs diapers (sizes 1 and 2) and infant socks and bibs.

sleepers (newborn to 3 months)
hand-knitted sweaters, hooded towels
wash clothes, flannel receiving blankets
winter clothing

**WE CLOTHE
BABIES**

All donations can be dropped off at the Potting Shed, 829 Ann Street, Stroudsburg, PA 18360.

In addition to donations, they are always in need of volunteers for their work nights. The members of Angel's Closet meet a few times a month for a work day to put together Baby Bundles. People interested in volunteering and spending some time and fellowship with lovely ladies can call 570.426.8197 (those in need, call this number too)

Are you following The Angel's Closet on Facebook? Please do! The Angel's Closet will be using Facebook as their primary way to get information out about events, work nights, donations and more!

You can find them at www.facebook.com/theangelsclosetpa.



SUMMER MEALS FOR KIDS IN NEED

More than half of all children in Monroe County are accessing free or reduced priced breakfast and lunch during the school year. With summer upon us, many of these children do not have easy access to healthy food. Thankfully, there are FREE summer feeding programs across the county where children can access healthy, nutritious meals for both breakfast and lunch.

This program – the Summer Food Service Program – is truly a collective community effort, with local non-profits, churches, and school districts hosting sites, community members volunteering to help administer and distribute meals, and food costs covered by funding from the State.

See the table below for a listing of all the summer meal locations within the East Stroudsburg Area School District. All of these locations are run by the East Stroudsburg School District.

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) ensures that low-income children can continue to receive nutritious meals when school is not in session. Meals are served free to any child 18 and younger, as well as persons with disabilities who are already participating in associated school programs, at any of the “OPEN” sites. All sites are closed on July 4th.

As a part of United Way of Monroe County’s Access to Healthy Food Impact Initiative, United Way recognized the importance of this program, and have been working with community agencies to expand the number of sites around the county, and expand awareness about the availability of these services. Between 2016 and 2017 Monroe County DOUBLED the number of summer meals served to children in need.

You can find a comprehensive list of summer lunch locations for the entire county by visiting <https://unitedwaymonroe.org/get-help> or by calling 2-1-1.

Many of the locations serving children in our community rely on volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering to help deliver meals to children in need, contact Jennifer Strauch at United Way of Monroe

LOCATION	DATE / TIME SERVED	DAYS / ELIGIBILITY
J.M. Hill Elementary 151 East broad Street East Stroudsburg, PA 18301	June 18 - August 10 Breakfast - 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM Lunch - 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	M, T, W, TH, F OPEN SITE
East Stroudsburg Elementary 93 Independence Road East Stroudsburg, PA 18301	July 9 - August 9 Breakfast - 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM Lunch - 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	M, T, W, TH OPEN SITE
Middle Smithfield Elementary 5180 Milford Road East Stroudsburg, PA 18301	July 9 - August 9 Breakfast - 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM Lunch - 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	M, T, W, TH OPEN SITE
Smithfield Elementary 245 River Road East Stroudsburg, PA 18301	June 18 - August 17 Breakfast - 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM Lunch - 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	M, T, W, TH, F OPEN SITE
Bushkill Elementary 131 North School Drive Dingmans Ferry, PA 18328	July 9 - August 17 Breakfast - 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM Lunch - 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	M, T, W, TH, F OPEN SITE
Resica Elementary 1 Gravel Ridge Road East Stroudsburg, PA 18301	June 25 - June 29 Breakfast - 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Lunch - 11:00 AM - Noon	M, T, W, TH, F OPEN SITE
	July 9 - August 9 Breakfast - 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM Lunch - 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	M, T, W, TH OPEN SITE
E. Stroudsburg High School South 279 Courtland Street East Stroudsburg, PA 18301	July 9 - August 3 Breakfast - 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM Lunch - 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	M, T, W, TH, F OPEN SITE
	August 6 - August 17 Breakfast - 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM Lunch - 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	M, T, W, TH, F No Breakfast Friday 8/3
Dansbury Park 15 Day Street East Stroudsburg, PA 18301	June 18 - August 17 Breakfast - 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM Lunch - 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	M, T, W, TH, F OPEN SITE Closed July 3



WHAT'S RSVP?

I've never heard of it.

By Merle Turitz, Director, RSVP

Incredulously, I respond “How can that be? We have been serving this county for 28 years! You probably know someone who has benefitted from an RSVP Volunteer. I’m sure of it!”

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program is a program that provides volunteer opportunities for adults aged 55 and over. I cringe when people describe the RSVP program as a “nice little volunteer program for seniors.” This nice little volunteer program has over 600 members which makes us the largest organized volunteer organization in the county. In fact, we are one of the largest RSVP programs in the State.

We serve an impressive several thousand residents; but when that service is calculated by the nationally recognized Independent Sector organization, RSVP volunteers contribute somewhere in the area of \$2.3 million worth of service to Monroe County; which, in my estimation, knocks that “sweet little ball” right out of the park!

Since 1990, this incredible agency provides services that ensure the security of nutrition to hundreds of residents, give comfort and socialization to homebound residents, serve thousands of residents at dozens of food pantries, community meals and food delivery organization, tutor hundreds of students, build handicapped ramps and repair homes all over the region, educate hundreds of Medicare recipients on health programs and billing fraud, and prepare tax returns for hundreds.

RSVP operates under a Federal grant and is hosted by the local Aging office. Much of our referrals come from word of mouth by members who talk to their peers and tell them about a certain project they are working on through the RSVP program. Many seniors fall into a rut. It starts about 7:00 am with Good Morning America, then Kelly, then the View, the Talk, The Chew, Ellen is somewhere in there and before you know it, it's all the Game Shows or Soaps, and you haven't moved off that couch in eight hours. Eat a little dinner and then off to bed, wondering how come the days (or weeks, or months) are going by so quickly but you haven't really accomplished much. Maybe, you've convinced yourself that since you've worked hard all your life raising your family or building your business, you've earned the right to be lazy in your retirement. Maybe you just don't know what to do, so you do nothing. Perhaps you've lost your life partner and therefore your desire get motivated. Once you've fallen into that pit, it is emotionally hard to get out. But it's not impossible and today is the day to change all that. You have a lifetime of experience that is still viable and valuable. Call me! Let's talk!

We have over 80 agencies in various industries looking to train you. Your lifetime of experience can influence an underachieving child. We have everything from egg washer at a community garden to driving patients to their appointments in Philadelphia, and everything in between. (My Bubbe also said, “There's a lid for every pot!” She was so smart!) RSVP volunteers come in every color, shape, size, talent, degree and achievement. The only similarity between them is that they have an innate ability to do good and the desire to remain involved.

To learn more about the RSVP program in Monroe County, please call me at 570-420-3747 or look at our latest newsletter of opportunities at www.monroecountypa.gov/rsvp.

*****ECRWSSDDM*****

POSTAL CUSTOMER

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TIPS

Both the winter storms in March and the recent severe thunderstorms and tornado weather have left residents without power for days and feeling frustrated and scared. And while bad weather is not preventable, you can find ways to prepare yourself in the event of future severe weather emergencies.

During the winter storms, the freezing temperatures were the main concern of most people without power. Having a **generator** can help heat your home enough so you're safe and your pipes won't freeze. Please read the generator safety article on page 19.

Were you heavily on **cell phones** to communicate with our loved ones, work, check news sources and more. When the power goes out, you need to make sure you have a dependable way to recharge your battery in the case of an emergency. Invest in a **power pack** and keep it charged, especially with bad weather in the forecast. Amazon has plenty of these small, inexpensive palm sized devices that can charge your phone to full a few times over. Other devices, such as **radios**, can be charged with the proper cords. Also, have a backup **cord** to charge your phone in your car.

No one likes being in the dark for long periods of time, and candles can be a hassle and a hazard. Always have flashlights and extra batteries on hand and easily accessible. A neat trick: Stock up on **inexpensive solar garden lights** when they go on sale (even for as little as \$2 a piece.) Then, put them in a bucket and set outside during daylight hours. At night, bring the stakes inside and use wherever you need a little light.

The refrigerator will keep food cold for about 4 hours if it is unopened; foods stay edible at room temperature for hours after that, from a minimum of 2 hours to a maximum of many hours (for example, cheeses) to even days (for example, fruits and vegetables). A full freezer will keep the temperature for approximately 48 hours (24 hours if it is half full) if the door remains closed. But, you can extend those **cold food storage** times with a few tricks. Fill all your spare space in your freezer with bottles 3/4 filled with water. When they freeze, they will help keep your food colder, longer. In the winter, you can use snow in plastic bags and ice to pack

spare space in your freezers and refrigerators; freeze bottles of water outside, and pack them in your refrigerator and freezer to keep your food cold. Have plenty of easy to prepare food available, that doesn't require cooking or cold storage – like, canned tuna. If you know a storm is coming, prepare some hard boiled eggs to keep on hand. Also don't forget to check your homeowner's or renter's insurance policy: most will cover spoiled food (just check the deductible.)

If you have an electric stove, keep a barbeque and **propane tanks** on hand to cook your most perishable foods for meals. A small propane camping stove for boiling water for coffee in a French press can be so welcome.

"Water, water everywhere, and not a drop to drink" – or flush. Stay ahead of the storms by filling some empty containers with water you can use to flush your toilets. Since it's non-potable, these can be stored in a shed, garage or basement. If you know a storm is coming, give yourself extra water by filling your bathtubs.

When you're out of power and have no use of your utilities for an extended period of time, you don't want to pay for your full rate. Keep track of outage start and end times, call and ask for your bill to be prorated and **save money**. Below are some numbers to get you started.

Lastly, for peace of mind, create an emergency box and keep it in an easily accessible place in case of a power outage. Include things like batteries, candles, matches, flashlights, etc. and add board games, a deck of cards or a book to keep you sane while you wait for TV, radio, internet or phones.

Sign up for Textcaster at
www.tinyurl.com/MSTalerts

Verizon
1-800-VERIZON
1-800-837-4966

AT&T Wireless
800-331-0500

DirectTV
800-531-5000

Blue Ridge Cable
1-800-Cable77
1-800-222-5377