



MIDDLE SMITHFIELD **TOWNSHIP NEWS**

Holiday Edition 2018



**2018 SHOP LOCAL
DISCOUNT CARDS**
Inside this newsletter!

"Ridge Runner"
by local artist and resident Patricia A Griffin
www.GriffinGallery.org
 "PatriciaAGriffin"

MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWS

WHAT'S GOIN' ON

November: 11/19 Shop Local thru 1/2/19
11/22 Thanksgiving
11/24 6th Annual Tree Lighting 5:30 pm at Echo Lake

December: 12/2 Hanukkah begins
12/6 Supervisors Meeting 7 pm Presentation of the Budget to the Public & Year End Review
12/25 Christmas Day
12/27 Adoption of the Budget
12/31 New Year's Eve

January: 1/19 New Year's Day
1/8 Board of Supervisors Reorganization Meeting
1/18 PERSON OF THE YEAR Volunteer



CELEBRATING THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS!

Temple Israel will hold its Hanukkah Menorah lighting event, with traditional latkes and jelly donuts, dreidels (spinning tops) and more at 5:00 pm on Sunday, December 9.

Everyone is invited to bring their menorah (candelabra), say the prayers together and light the candles. Since Sunday is the seventh day, it is so bright from all the candles, as each night of the eight night holiday, we add an another candle.

Temple Israel of the Poconos is located at the corner of Avenue A and Wallace Street in Stroud Township: 711 Wallace Street, Stroudsburg PA 18360, 570-421-8781 <http://TempleIsraelOfThePoconos.org>.

This year, Hanukkah begins on Sunday, December 2nd, and lasts until Monday December 10th.

WE SINCERELY THANK ALL OF OUR COMMITTEES:

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

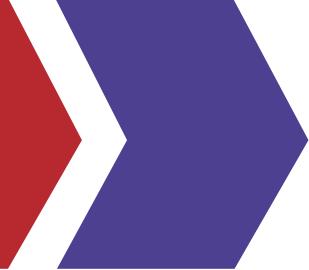
Recognizing the need to reduce costs and manage the golf course operation the current administration inherited, Township officials chartered the **Golf Course Advisory Committee**. This committee helps manage course operations by tending to endless details, and advise Supervisors on golf issues.

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

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

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

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



A WORD FROM YOUR TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

Mike Dwyer, Mark Oney, and Annette Atkinson

Here we are, at that special time of year, counting our blessings, and making ready for holiday traditions. It was in gratitude that the Supervisors and community came together on Veterans Day again this year to honor our Veterans for the sacrifices they have made. And it will be in gratitude that we will come together again with the community, this time in the New Year, to celebrate our many volunteers and civic minded community members.

Which brings us pause, for a moment, while we give a nod to all those “Serial Volunteers” in our township. We wish we could say we coined the phrase – but it’s a real thing. We mean it a little differently than the clinical term; we stand in awe of those many individuals who volunteer not just for one organization whose cause they believe in – but in related ones as well. These folks with so little time often find time “for just one more” undertaking, or one more organization in need to bolster, or cause to promote. We’ve recently begun asking members of the other organizations we collectively sit on “how many philanthropic / humanitarian / environmental / charitable organizations do you serve?” Believe it or not, four to six seems to be the norm. So here’s to you, Serial Volunteers!

The new January date for Person of the Year and Volunteer Banquet is a change from previous years, so mark your calendars! We’ll gather in excitement on January 18th, because that’s when we’ll find out who will be the Middle Smithfield 2018 Person of the Year, along with two finalists.

But now we’re getting ahead of ourselves. Before breaking out into a chorus of Auld Lang Syne, we certainly hope you’ll join us for our next presentation to the public – the presentation of the 2019 budget on Thursday December 6th, which includes the Year-End Report (spoiler alert: no municipal tax increase).

The Year End report is a great chance to see how we’ve done in meeting the goals we set in the beginning of the year (the “Preview of the Upcoming Year” presentation to the public is given every January); from working with our state representatives in securing over \$500,000 in grants for expanding our infrastructure, and to recycling (see Public Works and Sewer), and pioneering ordinances to keep our residents safe and healthy (see Legislative Corner and Zoning) and moving forward with providing our residents with the Cultural and Community Center, housing the full service library you deserve.

We can hardly wait to present “Preview of 2019” in January! Until then, a safe, healthy and happy Holiday Season to you all – Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, – Happy Everything!

Your Township Supervisors

Middle Smithfield Township Administrative Office

147 Municipal Drive East Stroudsburg, PA 18302

570-223-8920 | info@mstowtnship.com

MiddleSmithfieldTownship.com

Middle Smithfield Township Board of Supervisors

Annette Atkinson | Chairperson | x124

Michael Dwyer | Vice Chairman | x123

Mark Oney | Supervisor | x125

Middle Smithfield Township Staff

Michele Clewell | Township Secretary Human Resources Director & Assistant Administrative Director
mclewell@mstowtnship.com | x112

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

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

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

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

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

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

Michaela Kennedy | Director of First Impressions & Historical Commission Liaison
recept@mstowtnship.com | x100

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

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

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

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

Committee Chairpersons

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

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

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

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

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

Mal Law | Zoning Hearing Board | x112

FINANCE: TREASURER'S NOTE

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

A WORD FROM THE TREASURER

By Mike Dwyer

As we look to close out 2018, we evaluate our expenses and income and project what will happen in the coming year. In 2018, we forecast that we will end the year in good financial health. Our year to date expenses have been close to what we had budgeted and income is slightly ahead of budget. Some of the positives to note include doubling our interest income, thanks to our Finance Director Ray Wolfe.

We have also seen an increase in Earned Income Tax (that "Berkheimer tax") which means that, in general, our residents are making more money and/or more residents have joined the workforce. With increased income, the Supervisors have been able to increase our annual contributions to each of our Fire and Ambulance Departments. We also enacted an Ordinance this year that will provide a tax credit to these dedicated volunteers and we hope that this will also increase their rosters as volunteers are desperately needed. We also will end the year without taking on more debt, or loans. We have invested in a lot of areas to save us money, such as the new Wooddale salt/cinder storage facility. Now, during storms, we won't spend man hours, equipment, and materials taking the round trip back to the municipal building for more supplies. Another significant contributor to our 2018 income was that our State Representatives championed our grant applications and we were awarded over \$500,000 in grants.

Some of our expenses were lower because of the longstanding partnerships we

have with many residents and business owners. Their support of the many events throughout the year are very much appreciated. The hundreds of volunteers who dedicate some time to events like the Egg-stravaganza, Community Day, Pick Up the Poconos, Restaurant Week, or Tree Lighting, as examples, add to the enjoyment of our community. Seeing so many smiling faces, mostly smiling faces, is what makes our township special. What we do together has undoubtedly caught on, because others are now having similar events in their communities.

While most of the projected expenses for the year are at or close to budget, we did have some overruns that were unforeseen. The major contributor to these expenses was the winter and spring storms. We know that you appreciate the response during storms as we notice you wave to us as we drive by; most even wave with all 5 fingers. It is worth mentioning that each employee is dedicated to minimizing expenses but remain committed to provide the services you require.

So that's the good news. Now for the not-so-good news. (No, it's not about a tax increase, so please keep reading.)

As most of you know, Middle Smithfield became the proud owner of a number of bridges in our township since the EDU purchase in 2010 when the previous administration also accepted Big Ridge Drive along with the Golf Course we are now trying to sell. These buckets of steel have almost reached their anticipated useful life. In 2019 we will need to spend some of our reserves to address the bridges we now own. While reserves will be used to replace the bridge on Village Drive, the Big Bridge, I mean the Big Ridge Drive Bridge, will require

additional funding sources as the current estimate is about \$3,000,000. We will be working with our State Representatives to see if we can get some State or Federal monies.

In 2019 we look forward to a new Community and Cultural Center in Echo Lake Park that will house the Library of the Smithfields. This facility will undoubtedly be a centerpiece in our township and we are pleased to partner with the Eastern Monroe Public Library Board of Trustees and return a full service library back to our township.

So, the current draft of the 2019 Township Budget indicates that there will not be a need for a tax increase. Although we project the use of some of our reserves for our bridges, we expect income to offset the majority of anticipated expenses. The final Budget will be presented at the Supervisors Meeting on December 6th, 2018 at the municipal building at 7:00pm. We will also present the Annual Report at that time.

Thank you to each employee, Supervisor, volunteer, and business owner who have made 2018 such a great success. We are hopeful that 2019 will be even better!

2019: NO MUNICIPAL TAX INCREASE*

The annual presentation of the budget to the public will be Monday, 7pm, December 4th at the township building, along with the 2018 Annual Report.

*Average household in MST pays \$250 or less PER YEAR in municipal taxes, which haven't been increased in 7 years.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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

BIG APPLE SCHOLARSHIP TAKES A BITE OUT OF TUITION

The Big Apple Beauty Supply Scholarship Fund is something Donna, the owner, had been working on for a while and is very passionate about. She says "I am a firm believer in education and believes that every child deserves the opportunity and access to education. As part of my giving back to the community, I will be awarding two \$500 scholarships to two high school seniors graduating in the spring of 2019."

This scholarship is for Cosmetology and/or Business Management students attending a trade school or a community college. Student must be a resident of Monroe or Pike County, and MUST be enrolled in their trade school or college for the 2019 - 2020 school year before funds are disbursed. Applications are available from November 1, 2018 through January 31, 2019. Applications can be completed online at [For more details, visit <http://bit.ly/BigAppleScholarship>](http://bit.ly/BigAppleScholarship). Winners will be notified via email.

HOW SHOPPING LOCALLY HELPS OUR COMMUNITY:

Local Dollars Spent = Local Jobs Created

Local businesses that thrive create local jobs. It's that simple! Not only do independent businesses employ more people directly per dollar of revenue, they also are the customers of local printers, accountants, wholesalers, farms, attorneys, etc., expanding opportunities for local entrepreneurs.

What's Spent Here, Stays Here

Also, when you spend your dollars at locally owned independent stores, most of your dollars are recirculated within the community (the Local Multiplier Effect). ALL our local business owners pay local taxes just like you do, and employ local people – who in turn, pay local taxes. They contribute to our local charities and causes, providing their products as prizes for tricky trays, sponsorships for golf tournaments and donations to community events.

We Stand Out from the Crowd

Where we shop, where we eat and have fun — all of it makes our community our home. Our unique businesses are an integral part of the distinctive character of our place.

It's the Ultimate Offline Social Network

Shopping within the community brings all residents closer and brings shop owners, families, and friends together to share some holiday cheer. Bring a friend to a local restaurant or attraction, then go on a surprise shopping spree at a local gift shop! It's amazing how quickly a local bond can grow.

GET STRONG FOR THE HOLIDAYS

see Retro Fitness' Shop Local Deal
By Patrice Dume

Have you looked at your Shop Local card enclosed in this newsletter? Did you see the deal for Retro Fitness? Well, your eyes do not mistake you, it's true, Retro Fitness is giving a FREE ONE MONTH "STRONG: ALL ACCESS" PASS!! The STRONG all access pass offers unlimited; Retro Strong small group training (*it's like having your own personal trainer and support group*); daily hydro massage recovery beds; unlimited gym floor access; unlimited group classes; unlimited tanning; unlimited child sitting for up to two children

The Retro Strong small group training membership offers the next level of result driven training. Members are able to take advantage of the knowledge, expertise, and attention of a certified personal trainer while working in an exciting, challenging, comradery filled small group setting.

The Retro STRONG all access pass includes these exclusive STRONG classes:

- Barre Strong
- Retro Strike Strong
- TRX Strong
- TRX Strong Yoga
- Strong Form, Flow, and Firm
- Strong Restorative Rolling
- Bodyshock Strong, and so much more

This STRONG Membership costs \$99.99/month, but by taking advantage of the Shop Local card, residents have a FULL month of Strong Membership access. Try before you buy and see if this membership is right for you. Regardless if you're someone who just wants to discover their healthiest version of themselves or just looking for an energetic and fun experience, the Shop Local Retro Fitness STRONG ALL ACCESS PASS is just what you need. Marshalls Creek Retro Fitness, 900 Business Dr, Suite 106, East Stroudsburg, PA. 570 369-5800!



ZONING

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

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

LONG TERM SOLUTIONS FOR SHORT TERM RENTALS

by Mark Oney

We are pleased to that our very own Judy Acosta, Zoning Administrator, was invited by the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) to present at both their Regional Fall Forum, held on October 9th and 10th in Wilkes-Barre, and their Pennsylvania Association of Zoning Officials (PAAZO) Fall Seminar in Valley Forge on November 8th on the subject of Short Term Rentals.



Judy Acosta,

Considered a pioneer in the area of Short Term Rental management, the township dealt with multiple complaints, enforcement of the zoning ordinance and litigation. The Township used this input and identified opportunities to improve the way Short Term Rentals were addressed. A stand-alone ordinance as well as an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance was adopted in September of 2017. Successfully administering these ordinances and regulation, rather than restriction, of the land use is the goal of the Township and the Zoning Office.

Judy has also participated as an active member of the Pocono Mountain Association of Realtors Short Term Rental Task Force whose primary goal is to foster the conversation on Short Term Rentals in Monroe County and support a county-wide model ordinance. The task force hosted two summits – one in the summer and one in the fall – that were attended by realtors, government officials, homeowners association board members and the public.

DONATING FOOD FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Thank you to everyone who dropped off food to donate to the Bushkill Outreach food pantry at the Trunk or Treat on October 20. Your generosity will help make someone else's holiday season a little brighter.

Help a family in need this holiday season by donating food to the Bushkill Outreach!

The Bushkill Outreach Program is a community food pantry serving Lehman and Middle Smithfield Townships for over 30 years. The pantry is located in Lehman Township Community Park, 168 Lehman Park Road, and offers food to anyone in need at no cost. The Outreach is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9am to 12pm. Donations should only be brought to the Outreach during regular operating hours. Nothing should be dropped at any other time.

For more information, contact the Bushkill Outreach at 570-588-0660 or visit www.bushkilloutreach.org.

SHOP LOCAL 2018 IS HERE!

The Shop local program is an exclusive program for local shoppers who want to save money and support their community.



Why Shop Local?

You can guess how shopping locally helps you and you save money, and finish you're shopping faster. But how does it help our community? Local dollars spent, local jobs created. Local businesses that thrive create local jobs. Not only do independent businesses employ more people directly per dollar of revenue, they also are customers of local printers, accountants, wholesalers, farms, attorneys, and are expanding opportunities for local entrepreneurs.

How do I participate?

1. Call to activate your Discount Card. This also qualifies you to win cool prizes!
2. Cut the discount card off, and keep in your wallet, and use it at the participating stores listed. (You may also want to keep a list of deals and discounts with you.)
3. Let the holiday shopping begin! The discounts will be effective until January 2, 2018.

WOW, YOU DON'T WANT TO FIND SOMETHING LIKE THIS ON YOUR WINDSHIELD!

WARNING



ORDNANCE NO. 54 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MIDDLE SMITHFIELD, MONROE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA PROVIDED FOR THE REGULATION OF PARKING OF VEHICLES ON TOWNSHIP ROADS AND FOR THE TOWING OF VEHICLES PARKED ON TOWNSHIP ROADS DURING EMERGENCY CONDITIONS.

During any emergency condition, including inclement weather, parking within the cart way or shoulder area of any road lying and situate in the Township is prohibited at any time.

This warning is being served as a notice to remove the vehicle (s) or the vehicle will be towed at the owner's expense. No further warning will be given.

Middle Smithfield Township
Board of Supervisors

PLANNING COMMISSION

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

Members: Wayne Bolt, Mark Oney

Engineer: Gilmore & Associates Fred Courtright | **PE Solicitor/ Solicitor Firm:**

Weitzmann, Weitzmann, and Huffman | **Recording Secretary:** Michele Clewell

Alternate: Carrie Wetherbee



CAMP ENHANCEMENTS

By Michele Clewell

The Pocono Springs Camp received conditional approval from the MST Planning Commission to present their land development plan to the Board of Supervisors. The plan proposes a new administration building and a gymnasium. The private summer camp has undergone numerous changes over the years and maybe that is why it may look like a public park, but it is a private summer camp.

I had the pleasure of meeting Scott Leonard, Director of Pocono Springs Camp and he said "as the new Director of Pocono Springs Camp, I am excited to work with all members of your community. The outreach and support throughout this transition has been wonderful and I look forward to working together to continue making Pocono Springs a safe and fun environment for children to spend their summers."

LEGISLATIVE CORNER

ANOTHER FIRST: SAFETY FIRST!

By: Holly Freese and Michele Clewell

On October 25, 2018, Middle Smithfield Township Board of Supervisors passed the first ordinance in Pennsylvania to require Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) in certain buildings.

The ordinance requires all newly constructed or substantially renovated buildings in the township with an occupancy load of 50 or more people to have an AED on premises. AEDs will need to be conspicuously located in plain view of the primary public entrance and are easily accessible.

"Part of our task as supervisors is to encourage our businesses to look out for the general population and their employees; this ordinance is something that has been done in a few cities across the country, but not here in Pennsylvania" said township Supervisor Mike Dwyer

"We require fire extinguishers to save buildings. Quite honestly, these AEDs can save lives. I personally believe it's more important to save a life than a building, and if we can do something to encourage that from our businesses, it would be beneficial to everyone.". Dwyer added.

"We are thrilled that the Middle Smithfield Supervisors are making a commitment to make their community heart-safe

Happy Holidays

From

Country Club of the Poconos
Municipal Golf Course

Pay just \$35 and get
a gift certificate
worth \$60!

Makes a great gift!

No time for snail mailed
gift certificates? No problem!
Get it in email!

Just call Kevin at 570-223-8099,
or email him at
kdixon@mstownship.com



From left to right, Supervisors Mark Oney and Annette Atkinson; Rachel Moyer, VP & Director of AED Placement & Advocacy Programs for the Gregory W. Moyer Defibrillator Fund; and Supervisor Mike Dwyer.

with this new ordinance." Said Rachel Moyer, President of the The Gregory W. Moyer Defibrillator Fund, Inc. "Not only have they been at the forefront of having AEDs in all of their township buildings but also providing training to all of their employees." Moyer added. "It is so heart-warming that Middle-Smithfield is the first township in Pennsylvania that has taken the lead on this initiative. MST is a positive example of how local leaders can take a strong personal interest in their community; they are a dynamic force of what pro-active looks like."

Readers can check out proposed and adopted ordinances on the township's website at <http://www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com/resolutions-ordinances/>

PARKS & RECREATION

TOWNSHIP PARKS:

• Leroy W. Lewis Dog Park

108 Leroy's Lane (off of Milford Road/209; adjacent to the National Recreation Area)
facebook.com/MSTDogPark
middlesmithfieldtownship.com/parks/

• Echo Lake Park

5206 Milford Rd (on Route 209 across from the Middle Smithfield Evangelical Presbyterian Church)
facebook.com/MSTEchoLakePark
middlesmithfieldtownship.com/parks/

• Judy Putek Park

182 Municipal Drive (across from the Municipal Building)
facebook.com/MST-Judy-Putek-Park-1570884379874069/
middlesmithfieldtownship.com/parks/

• Resica Park

1 Gravel Ridge Road (behind Resica Elementary School)
facebook.com/MSTResicaPark
middlesmithfieldtownship.com/parks/

• Community Gardens Park

989 Coolbaugh Road (4 miles north of 402/Coolbaugh Road intersection)
facebook.com/MSTCommunityGardens
middlesmithfieldtownship.com/parks/
mstcommunitygardenspark.com/

REGIONAL PARKS

(i.e., formerly Eastern Monroe Regional Park Commission)

• Mt. Nebo Park

406 Mt. Nebo Road (in Smithfield Township) East Stroudsburg, PA 18301
facebook.com/MtNeboPark
middlesmithfieldtownship.com/parks/

• River's Edge Family Bike Park

123 River Road (in Smithfield Township) East Stroudsburg, PA 18301
facebook.com/RiversEdgeFamilyBikePark
middlesmithfieldtownship.com/parks/

NATIONAL PARKS

• National Park Headquarters

1978 River Road Bushkill, PA 18324
facebook.com/DelWaterGapNPS/
nps.gov/dewa/index.htm

• Hidden Lake (national park within our township)

no street address; entrance near Hidden Lake Drive and Keystone Road delawareriver.natgeotourism.com/content/hidden-lake-bushkill-pa/del163a03909b0065c79
facebook.com/HiddenLakeMST/



Tom X Pub wins 1st place



A Glasser - 2nd place



Annacatherine Widmer - 3rd place

IT WAS A SCARY GOOD TIME AT THE 5TH ANNUAL TRUNK OR TREAT

By Christopher Rain

It was a perfect fall day on Saturday October 20 as the Parks & Recreation Committee hosted its 5th Annual Trunk or Treat at Resica Park. With activities including balloon art, glitter tattoos, sand art, and spin art, free pumpkins, and 13 spooky cars to get candy from, over 400 children and their families came to enjoy the festivities.





Congratulations to our car decoration winners, Tom X Pub (1st place), Amanda Glasser (2nd place), and Annacatherine Widmer (3rd place), who received prizes from the Parks Committee for their great decorating skills! Attendees also brought enough non-perishable food to fill six bags. All of the donated food will be given to the Bushkill Outreach food pantry.

Trunk or Treat is an annual event held each October. Resica Park is open to the general public every day outside of school hours. For more information about MST parks, or for information about renting a pavilion, please contact Chris Rain at 570-223-8920 x119 or crain@mstownship.com.

THE MST ICE RINK IS BACK AND BIGGER THAN EVER

By Christopher Rain

Get ready to skate! Starting in December, our annual Ice Skating Rink will be at W. Leroy Lewis Dog Park.

The ice rink will be installed in the Small Dog Area again this year. The Large Dog Area will remain open for all dog owners to use. The MST Dog Park is located at 108 Leroy's Lane.

The ice rink will be open to the public seven days a week from sun up to sun down starting in December until it is disassembled in March. Exact dates will be determined based on the weather. Usability will be dependent on winter temperatures. Users should provide their own skating or hockey equipment and should bring shovels to clear off any snow that may fall on the ice. There will not be staff on site, so skaters will use the rink at their own risk.

W. Leroy Lewis Dog Park is open to the general public every day from sunrise to sunset. For more information about the ice rink, Dog Park, or any MST park, please contact Chris Rain at 570-223-8920 x119 or crain@mstownship.com.

Director: Mike Dwyer | **Chairperson:** Jenna Componovo
Lead Coordinator, Dog Park: Vacancy
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



6TH ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING

By Christopher Rain

On Saturday November 24, at 6pm, the 6th Annual Tree Lighting ceremony will be held in Echo Lake Park, located at 5206 Milford Road.

Celebrate the season with Santa, Mrs. Claus, and the Marshalls Creek Fire Company as we light the tree. Music will be provided by the local school and church choirs and bands. Cocoa and treats, as well as photos with Santa, will also be available. Parking will be available at the Marshall's Square shopping center next to the park and at the Presbyterian Church across the street.

The event begins at 6pm with music and treats, and Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive at 6:30 to light the tree. They will be available for photos with the children until 7:30. (And yes, back by popular demand – a fireworks display!)

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

Thank you to our 2018 Trunk or Treat Sponsors!

Muller's Family Restaurant
A-OK Market & Deli
Shawnee Mtn. Ski Area
ESSA Bank
Wayne Bank
Pocono Indian Museum, Starting Gate Ski Shop,
Liberty Tax, Shear ENVY Salon

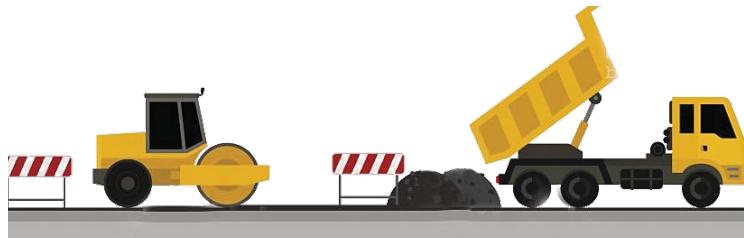
PUBLIC WORKS

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

FALL CLEANUP AND FREECYCLE SLOW BUT SUCCESSFUL

Twice a year, we are thrilled that so many residents take the time and pride in their properties to clean them up and make use of "Dumpster Day". The 2018 Fall Cleanup wasn't as busy our Spring Clean Up, but you all still managed to fill 18 dumpsters with trash, 13 pallets with electronics, tons of scrap metal, and 108 tires. And, your generous donations of Freecycle items filled the 40' by 70' garage.

See you at the Spring 2019 Clean Up and Free-cycle!



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/Partial Pave DONE (Brushy Mt. Road to Reservoir Road)
✓ Big Ridge Drive	Patch / Pave DONE (Route 209 to Village Drive)
✓ Charley Drive	Pave DONE
✓ Dawn Lane	Pave DONE
✓ Denise Lane	Patch DONE
Fish Court	Pave / Reconstruction On Hold (Until spring of 2019 because of wet summer)
✓ Jennifer Lane	Patch DONE
✓ Keystone Road	Tar & Chip DONE (Route 209 to Hidden Lake Road)
✓ Michaels Road	Tar & Chip DONE
✓ Pardees Loop	Pave DONE
✓ Sellersville Drive	Tar & Chip DONE (SR 1016 to Turkey Ridge Road)
✓ Turkey Ridge Road	Partial Pave DONE (from Township portion of Sellersville Rd)
✓ Zion Church Hill Road	DSA Grant Award DONE

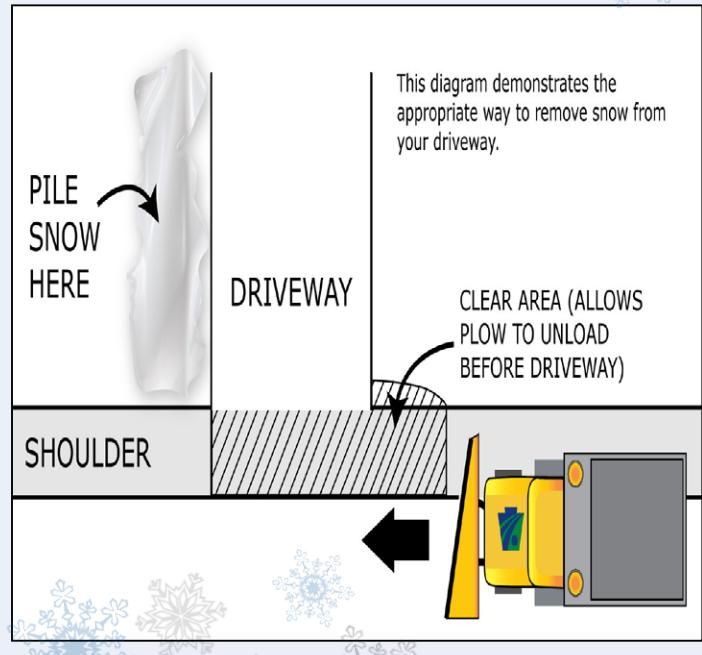
IT'S SNOW LAUGHING MATTER

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

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

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

For any comments, concerns or questions, please contact Karen Stapleton @570-223-8920x118.



WHAT IS "ACT 537"?

By Joan Woisin

On Jan. 24, 1966, the Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act (Act 537, as amended) was enacted to correct existing sewage disposal problems and prevent future problems. To meet these objectives, the Act requires proper planning of all types of sewage facilities. The sewage facilities program, often referred to as simply the Act 537 program, is largely administered by individual municipalities (known as local agencies) or groups of municipalities, including County Health Departments (known as joint local agencies). A Major Provision of Act 537 is that all municipalities must develop and implement an official sewage plan that addresses their present and future sewage disposal needs. These plans are modified as new land development projects are proposed or whenever a municipality's sewage disposal needs change. The Department of Environmental Protection reviews and approves the official plans and any subsequent revisions.

Middle Smithfield Township Central Sewer is governed by DEP ACT 537 Special Study. This ACT 537 Special Study states that due to our high quality watershed*, if someone can install a septic mound they must do this first before attempting to join the Central Sewer System along the Sewer System service corridor in the specified, approved sewer service area. In other words: if a property owner's lot has the proper soils (i.e., percs well, drainage for a turkey mound) and meets all other requirements, the property owner must install a septic system instead of connect to the sewer system. This ACT 537 was put in place at a time when the Poconos was experiencing a rapid growth and served to protect the community.

Why do environmentalists prefer septic mounds to sewer plants? Because with a sewer system (unlike a septic mound or spray irrigation) water that is pulled out of the ground for use is not returned to the ground (water table). Instead, the wastewater is sent into a wastewater treatment plant, and released into creeks and rivers -- not returned to the ground. This lowers the water table, and depletes the water supply.

However, in balancing environmental preservation and economic development, the MST Central Sewer has been in the process of trying to amend the ACT 537 Special Study in order to expand where the Sewer Department is permitted to provide sewer services to accommodate the growing and expanding businesses within the Service Corridor on Route 209/Milford Road and to include our Commercial Zone along the Route 402 corridor. Our request to revise our Special Study has now been accepted by PA DEP and we are expecting a ruling in the beginning of 2019.

Why are we doing this? The topography of Route 209/Milford Road limits how deep property owners can expand/construct. In

SEWER UPDATE

2018 Capital Improvement Projects:

- ✓ Upgrade to Pump Station #6 **COMPLETED**
- ✓ Frutchey Extension **COMPLETED**

Upgrade to Pump Station #4:

This project involves replacement of the piping in the wet well and valve vault and a new control panel at pumping station #4 located at 5250 Milford Road in Middle Smithfield Township; Alternate Bids are included for work at Pump Stations #8, and #3. Bids for this project were opened on September 13, 2018 and have been tabled until November 15, 2018.

Bid for crossing Route 209 to install new Sewer main on North bound side:

This project involves the installation of a 12 inch DI Water line and 8 inch PVC Sewer line under US 209 at the intersection of Mt Nebo Road and Milford Road in Middle Smithfield Township. This bid were opened on September 13, 2018 and tabled until November 15, 2018. This project will be paid in part through a grant we received from CFA (Commonwealth Financing Authority) in the amount of \$231,950 to expand the township's sewer line.

other words with wetlands on both sides of 209, there is only so much room for commercial development and expansion is limited to side to side instead of front to back. In order to maximize our 209 commercial corridor (Middle Smithfield's "Main Street"), the proposed revisions to the Act 537 Plan would mean land could be used for commercial development (including stormwater management, such as rain gardens) instead of turkey mounds. As for the C2 area on Route 402, economic development follows amenities (e.g., sewer, water, roads). Expanding sewer capacity in the C2 area on Route 402 would help promote economic development in a different area of the township, and keep congestion off of route 209.

*Marshalls Creek Subwatershed. You can learn more here: <http://www.brodheadwatershed.org/marshallscreekwatershed.html>.

LITTER & BEAUTIFICATION

litter&beautification@mstowship.com

ADOPT A ROAD IN 2019!

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.

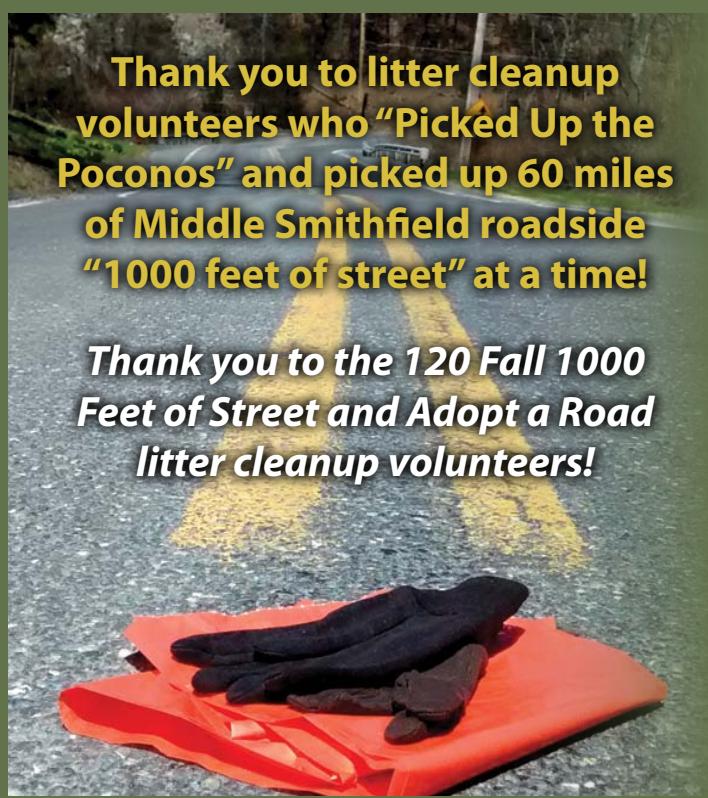
If you are interested in adopting a road, please contact Christopher Rain at 570-223-8920 x119, or email crain@mstowship.com. A list of roads available for adoption can be provided. All cleanup equipment including bags, pickers, and gloves, are provided by the township when you clean your road.

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 – Van Solkema 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
Keystone Road – Gary Waxman
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!



Annette Atkinson

Bill Baehr

Boy Scout Pack 100

Charlie Stecker

Cheryl Milson

Dan Timpson

Danielle, Deanna & DJ Garcia

Early Family

Gary Waxman

George Vagelakos

Georgina Diaz

Grace & Chris Trojak

Howard Kindred

Hutchins Family

Jaime Frailey

James Richards

Javier & Ana Palma

Jill and Mike Sweeney

Jim Hunter

Jim Kintz

Jose Amador

Juliette Ryan-Caines

Kathy Goeke

Kathy Mitchell

Kaylatime & Angel Hernandez

Ken & Karen Koberlein

Kevin Smith

Lisa Fernandez

Manuel Oyola

Middle Smithfield Public Works

Mike Dwyer

Monroe County Meals on Wheels

Monroe County Young

Democrats

Mountain Stream Baptist Church

Pamela Hopkins

Patricia Berger

Pocono Wild Haven Estates

Pohlman Family

Price Family

Prutzman Family

Reisca Falls Scout Reservation

Rick Porvaznik

Rosemary Brown

Shawnee Mountain Ski Area

Stony Acres/Madeleine

Constantine

Tom Watson



VOICES OF OUR CHILDREN

By Caroline Verkaik, aka Mrs. Pennsylvania

Have you ever wondered what it would feel like to not be able to use your voice? Is there a time in your life you felt like saying something but were too shy to say it? Do you remember when you heard someone speak to a crowd and were blown away by their speech?

How many times a day do you see or hear something in the media and instantly think to yourself "they read my mind?" Did you ever say to yourself - "I wonder what my mom/dad/friend would have said about this?" (This is very common, especially after we lose a loved one.)

The voices of loved ones are what we remember after they are gone. How many times do you catch yourself saying something your mother/father/child would have said? A familiar phrase.

Each one of us can be a voice for our community, church, country, or better yet -- a Voice for Our Children.

In my platform of reducing the suicide rate of our youth by understanding the mental illness, I have unfortunately met many parents who have lost a child. A child who loses a parent is called an orphan, but there is no name for a parent who loses a child. I always wondered why, until I started meeting a number of parents who had lost their child. There is no name that can describe that amount of grief, sadness, loss, pain, and all the "Why's?" It doesn't matter how they lost their child, the agony is the same for those who lose a child through suicide.

As a mother who almost lost her child to a suicide and depression, my heart breaks every day for those who, unlike me, cannot hug their child anymore. I always struggle with the right words. I didn't realize the magnitude of the undertaking when I decided to make teen suicide my platform when I competed for the title of Mrs. Pennsylvania, United States in May of this year.

I now believe that God was calling me to be a voice for these parents so that they can, in turn, be a voice for their children. I wanted to do something more for them and with them; something that was not just a weekly or monthly grieving parents group. That is how I came up with the group "THE VOICE OF OUR CHILD". My goal is to enable a lost child's legacy to live on through their parents.

How?

I'm creating a website and blog for all these parents to interact and blog about their lost child. These parents can mentor another child going through the same crisis that their own child went

(continued on page 14)

OAK GROVE & RECYCLING

www.ogmmcpb.com

Chairperson | Mike Dwyer



We are pleased to announce that Oak Grove received \$200,815 in grant funds. Middle Smithfield Township has also received a grant of \$33,262 for our spring and fall leaf collections.



After the holiday season this year, we encourage residents to take advantage of the free Tree-Cycle at the Oak Grove Multi-Municipal Compost Processing facility located at 3305 Oak Grove Drive, East Stroudsburg, PA 18302 Hours of operation are Monday-Saturday 7am-2pm.



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Every 3rd Saturday in December is the national Wreaths Across America Day, and it is celebrated locally here in Middle Smithfield Township on Saturday, December 15th at noon at the Wooddale United Methodist Church on Barren Rd.

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

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

If you are interested in participating or volunteering, please contact the township 570-223-8920. For more information on the program, please visit WeathsAcrossAmerica.org.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Funded entirely by donations, not taxes



Marshalls Creek Fire Company was able to take advantage of a great grant to purchase another 3 Cardiac Science AEDs on top of the 4 purchased last year. In an effort to keep the best equipment available to the public and our Firefighters, they are replacing all of our AEDs. Rachel Moyer from the Greg W. Moyer Defibrillator Fund delivered the AEDs to the fire company.

VOICES OF OUR CHILDREN (cont. from page 13)

through. Local trips as a group to get away and unwind.

In February of 2019, I'm doing a Valentines in Kenya mission trip for 10 days for \$4,100. Airfare, hotel, food, transport is included, plus a safari to go see the wonderful wildlife Kenya is known for. I would love more than anything to take as many people as I can especially so they can speak to other parents in Kenya who are going through the same loss. These parents can share stories of their child and what their child loved to do. They can donate an item their child loved to a child the same age as their lost child in the hope that that might give them a little joy to know their child brought a smile to another child. If your child loved to paint you can help another kid enjoy painting. If you child loved a certain sport you can volunteer your time at that same sport or just take a snack to a sports event. You can also teach that trip to a child in Kenya or donate a sports equipment.

Once we meet and I'm planning for November 17th as the first day I launch "The Voice of Our Child". We will have come up with fantastic ideas to let the The Voice of Our Child be heard all over the world.

If you anyone have any ideas or suggestions please write to me at: Voiceofourchild@gmail.com.

If you are a married woman and you would like to compete for the title of Mrs. Pennsylvania United states in 2019 please go to www.mrsnjpaunitedstates.com.

HOLIDAY FIRE SAFETY

By Holly Freese

Thanksgiving Safety— According to the National Fire Protection Association, (NFPA) Thanksgiving is the leading day of the year for home fires involving cooking equipment. The NFPA recommends the following for kitchen safety on Thanksgiving:

- Stay in the kitchen while you are cooking
- Check food that is being cooked frequently
- Keep children away from the stove and make sure hot liquids and food that could be splashed or cause serious burns is out of reach of children

Make sure all smoke alarms are working

Candle Safety— According to the NFPA most home candle fires happen in the month of December, with 1/3 happening in the bedroom. More than half of candle fires start when things are too close to the burning candle.

The NFPA recommends doing the following to prevent candle fires:

- Blow out all candles when you leave the room or before bed.
- Keep all candles at least 1 foot away from anything that can burn.
- Use sturdy and steady candle holders
- Light carefully and keep away from hair and loose clothing
- Blow candle out before it burns too close to the bottom of the container

BE IN THE KNOW

2018: Two blizzards, a tornado and multiple power outages that lasted for days. Were you in the dark about the relief offered by Middle Smithfield Township? Receive Textcasts to your phone and/or email for important emergency and relief information. Free water, free ice, warming and charging stations, hot showers – and information. Be in the know!

Visit MiddleSmithfieldTownship.com/mst-text-alerts to sign up!

Christmas Tree Safety



Christmas Tree Safety— According to the NFPA, one of every three Christmas tree fires in the home is caused by electrical problems. A heat source too close to trees causes roughly one in every four of the fires.

The NFPA recommends the following to prevent Christmas Tree Fires:

- Choose a fresh tree with green needles that do not fall when touched,
- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source (fire place, candles, heat vents, etc.)
- Use lights appropriate for Christmas trees that give off little to no heat.
- Replace any lights with broken cords or lose bulbs.
- Read manufacturer's instructions for number of strands to connect.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree
- Always turn lights off before leaving the home or going to bed

Did you know?



Thanksgiving is the leading day of the year for home fires involving cooking equipment.

FACTS

- ! December is the peak time of year for home candle fires.
- ! Roughly one-third of home candle fires started in the bedroom.
- ! More than half of all candle fires start when things that can burn are too close to the candle.

FACTS

- ! One of every three home Christmas tree fires is caused by electrical problems.
- ! Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious.
- ! A heat source too close to the tree causes roughly one in every four of the fires.



Young nurse
at the 2018
Trunk or Treat

FIND FIRE & EMS ONLINE!

Marshalls Creek Fire Co.
 (570) 223-8445

112 Marshalls Creek Rd, East Stroudsburg, PA 18302
 Facebook: [@marshallscreekfireco](https://www.facebook.com/marshallscreekfireco)

Shawnee Fire Co.
 (570) 476-0736

102 Firehouse Ln, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301
 Facebook: [@shawneefireco36](https://www.facebook.com/shawneefireco36)
 Website: ShawneeFire.org/

Bushkill Volunteer Fire Co.
 (570)588-6033

124 Evergreen Dr, Bushkill PA 18324
 Facebook: [facebook.com/Bushkill-Volunteer-Fire-Company-1643189702644270/](https://www.facebook.com/Bushkill-Volunteer-Fire-Company-1643189702644270/)

Bushkill Emergency Corps
 570-223-1906

P.O. Box 174, Bushkill, PA 18324
office@bushkillemergencycorps.com
[facebook.com/BushkillEmergencyCorps/](https://www.facebook.com/BushkillEmergencyCorps/)

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



FORE THE HOLIDAYS

By Kevin Dixon

While the Fall scenery wasn't as beautiful as in years past our Fall outings were a huge success. Both the Marshall's Creek Fire Company Outing and the Wounded Warrior 8" Cup Outing drew over 100 golfers each and raised thousands of dollars for their organizations. Our newest outing, Links for Ron, raised over \$10,000 towards their goal. We look forward to having everyone back again next year.

Our \$25 golf special runs until the end of the season which is planned for Thanksgiving weekend as long as the weather cooperates.

We are already getting a jump on the 2019 golf season by getting renewal commitments from this year's outings and by booking a number of large groups for return play. Please see below for the following outings already booked for next year:

Tall Cedars Charity Outing

TBD

Lambda Iota Sorority Outing

Sunday, April 28th

Mady's Angels Charity Outing

Sunday, May 19th

Wounded Warrior 8" Cup Charity Outing

Friday, September 14th

Marshall's Creek Fire Company Charity Outing

Saturday, September 28th

As we wind down 2018 we anxiously look forward to the start of 2019 in April.

Wishing everyone a Happy and Safe Holiday Season!



BANQUET HALL AT WHISPERING PINES

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

GET HALF-OFF BANQUET HALL RESERVATIONS WHEN YOU SHOP LOCAL!

By Christopher Rain

"Life's a Banquet – and most poor suckers are starving to death"
~ Auntie Mame

Looking to reserve the Whispering Pines Banquet Hall in 2019? Have a Shop Local Card? Book an event for 2019 by March 31 and get a 50% discount on a standard four hour rental!

The Fine Print: Booking must be finalized during promotion period (December 1 to March 31). Actual date of the event can be at any time. You must show your Shop Local Card at the time of booking. Promotion applies to a standard four hour rental only. Charges for additional hours and bar services still apply at usual pricing. 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.

GOOD LUCK DANA



DANA FRANCIS
HISTORICAL COMMISSION LIAISON

SAY "HELLO!" TO MICHAELA

As we wish our former Historical Commission Liaison, Dana Francis, good luck on her endeavors, we'd like to welcome Michaela Kennedy into the commission! You may recognize Michaela from the front desk, as she is also our township's Director of First Impressions. Additionally, Michaela is currently working on her Master's Degree in Arts Administration, where she is learning grant writing, board structures, and fund raising skills – all very helpful tools to the committee!

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE MONROE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION?

By Michaela Kennedy

The Monroe County Historical Association is currently displaying their exhibit entitled "Over There... 100th Anniversary of WWI," featuring uniforms, military artifacts, artwork, and photographs from the Monroe County Historical Association's museum collection. This exhibit will run now through December 21, so go see it while you still can!

The Monroe County Historical Association is a cultural and learning center that assists our diverse community of residents and visitors in connecting the county's past with the present. They are located inside the Stroud Mansion at 900 Main Street, Stroudsburg, PA 18360.

The Monroe County Historical Association Annual Holiday Luncheon is on December 14 and 15 at the Stroud Mansion. Advance tickets are required for this event and seats go fast! For more information or for ticketing, contact the Monroe County Historical Association at 570-421-7703.

QUIET VALLEY LIVING HISTORICAL FARM CELEBRATES A 19TH CENTURY CHRISTMAS

By Michaela Kennedy

If the Holiday rush already has your head spinning, you may want to step back in time for a bit with the Quiet Valley Living Historical Farm's Old Time Christmas tour. Begin a new tradition with your family this year with a visit to Quiet Valley Living Historical Farm, where the Christmas customs of the past are brought to life. From the softly glowing lantern light of the 19th century farm to complimentary hot chocolate and

NATIONAL FOSSIL DAY™ & 3RD ANNUAL MARSHALLS CREEK MASTODON EVENT

By Michaela Kennedy

National Fossil Day was established by the US National Park Service to promote the scientific and educational values of fossils, including the discovery of our Marshalls Creek Mastodon! National Fossil Day is a day to enable children and children-at-heart to better understand the history of life, science of paleontology, and other educational objectives.

National Fossil day is in October and this year we celebrated on Wednesday, October 17.

This year Middle Smithfield Residents gathered at the Whispering Pines Banquet Hall to once again experience

Mike & Roberta Straka's engaging presentation, the "Dinosaur Dig Show". Mike & Roberta are field paleontologists who have been conducting and managing digs since 1978. Each year they teach paleontology and geology in elementary schools and libraries throughout the tri-state area. Their presentation dug into how they discover dinosaurs and they



brought along "Mr. Nixon," an eight foot Triceratops skull that they discovered in 1996, as well as an Albertosaurus skull. The program also included a show & tell portion with rare and unusual fossils. In addition, Mike & Roberta hosted the "Dinosaur Game Show".

After the presentation, guests watched a short video all about our Mastodon, entitled "The Story of the Marshalls Creek Mastodon." On July 5th 1965 John & Claire Leap, along with their employee Paul Strausser, unearthed one of the most complete mastodon skeletons ever found in Pennsylvania. Residents were able to hear the firsthand experiences of the Mastodon discovery and listen to the incredible story about getting the remains to Harrisburg to be displayed in the State Museum.

Residents can visit a Historical Marker issued by the Pennsylvania Historical and

Museum Commission for the Marshalls Creek Mastodon near the discovery site, which is right in front of Wendy's on Rt. 209. For more information on the Marshalls Creek Mastodon or the Middle Smithfield Township Historical Committee, please visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/MSTHISTORY> or call (570) 223-8920 ext. 100.

cookies, Old Time Christmas is sure to become a favorite holiday pastime for many years to come.

Enjoy a "Victorian family" preparing for an 1890s holiday and the live barnyard Nativity, listen to the story of an 1820s farm life experience, sing along with the schoolhouse carolers, shiver in anticipation as the PA German folk character, the Belschnikel, comes calling in the farmhouse's cellar kitchen, and

finish your visit at a holiday gift shop abounding with hand crafted treasures for sale.

If you are looking for a truly meaningful way to start your Christmas season then this is the event for you. Old Time Christmas runs from 3pm to 7pm on December 1st & 2nd, 8th & 9th. For more information call (570) 992-6161 or visit www.quietvalley.com.

2018 PERSON OF THE YEAR FINALISTS TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON

By Holly Freese

The three finalists for the 2018 Person of the Year Award are expected to be announced in the beginning of December.

A panel of independent judges will select 3 finalists from those nominated during the nomination period. The winner will be announced on January 18th at the annual Person of the Year and Volunteer Appreciation Banquet at the Whispering Pines Banquet Hall. (If you're a township committee member or volunteer, look for your invitation in the mail!)

The 2018 Person of the Year will receive \$1,500 towards their cause, and the two finalists will receive \$1,000 towards their cause.

The independent panel of judges includes: Brianna Strunk, News Reporter for WBRE, Miguel Barbosa, ESU President's Chief of Staff, Gary Smith from Gary in the Morning, Jan Korb, 2017 Person of the Year, and Valerie Case, Vice President of Operations and Development from the Greater Pocono Chamber of Commerce.

HERE COME THE JUDGES!

By Holly Freese



Gary Smith, Gary in the Morning, Pocono 96.7

Gary Smith was born and raised in Passaic, NJ.

Gary has been in the radio industry for over 25 years. He has received many awards including a Bizzy Award, Several "Greatest Around the Poconos" Awards as well as a few Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters Awards.

He loves using his show to reach out and help as many people as he can, and radio allows him to have a stage to perform on and be himself.



Valerie Case, V.P. of Operations & Development, Greater Pocono Chamber of Commerce

Valerie earned her Masters of Counseling Psychology and Human Services from Chestnut Hill College and Double major from Moravian College where she currently serves as the Secretary for the Alumni Board.

In her time away from The Chamber she's an active participant in activities for her two children, Mackenzie and Colton. Including coaching various sports and being the cookie mom for the Daisy troop, Valerie also enjoys time spent at the gym and training for the annual Tour de Shore fundraiser.



Miguel Barbosa, Chief of Staff, East Stroudsburg University

Barbosa earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Kean University in Union, N.J., and attended the Thomas M. Cooley School of Law in Lansing, MI. In 2010, Barbosa

completed the Leadership Pocono program which is sponsored by the Greater Pocono Mountains Chamber of Commerce.

Barbosa has been a member of the ESU campus community since 2002. Prior to his assignment as chief of staff, he served as assistant director of admissions from 2002-2007, and as the director of workforce development from 2007-2011.



Jan Korb, 2017 Person of the Year

Jan Korb was Middle Smithfield Township's 2017 Person of the Year winner. He was nominated for his work at the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry. Jan not only gives his own money towards the food pantry, but also used his own money to purchase a truck to help transport food. The food pantry has provided approximately 10,000 meals a year for the last 5 years.



Brianna Strunk, Eyewitness News Reporter

Brianna Strunk leads the Pocono newsroom for Eyewitness News. She's happy to serve the community she was born and raised in.

She graduated from East Stroudsburg University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Studies, and a concentration in Broadcasting.

For three years, she served as News Director of her college radio station, 90.3 WEES. In 2014, the station earned national recognition by winning the MTVU Woody Award for the "Best College Radio Station in the Country." Brianna also studied abroad at Oxford University, where she took a course comparing media from around the world.

Brianna got her start at Eyewitness News in 2014 through an internship. She quickly realized journalism, and sharing people's stories, was her calling. Six months later, she accepted a part-time position at the news station. In May 2016, she became the full-time Pocono reporter.

Alternate Judge



Laura Law, 2014 Person of the Year, Mady's Angels

Laura Law is the Director and co-founder of Mady's Angels, the CFO of Law Sound and Lighting, wife to Malcolm Law III and mother to Malcolm Law IV.

Mady's Angels was established in 2011 by Laura and her husband to honor and memorialize their daughter Madyson, who was a selfless and charitable 13 year old. Under Laura's leadership, Mady's Angels has given back over \$150,000 to the community and beyond by directly helping 152 families and supporting more than 51 organizations and causes. These contributions provide scholarships to local high school students, provide families with medical assistance, bereavement support, community outreach, and animal welfare. Mady's Kitchen was also formed at St John's Catholic Church, and feeds about 150 community members every month.



INCREASING ACCESS TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION IN MONROE COUNTY

by Jen Strauch

For years, United Way of Monroe County has been supporting early childhood development programs for low-income families in Monroe County. The evidence is clear that access to high-quality pre-K has significant impact for ALL children in schools and has long term, positive educational and economic impact on a community(www.prekforpa.org/case_for_pre-k). All children should have the opportunity to enter school ready to succeed.

A child care desert

As we looked at our work in the early childhood development sector, and at the needs in our community, we noticed a very clear gap in services:

Stroudsburg Area School District had no state-funded high-quality pre-K services. While the state's Child Care Works Subsidized Child Care Program

(CCIS) helps low-income families pay for private child care services, and several providers in Stroudsburg accept these subsidies, but the waiting list is long, with many families not being served.

A research project with ESU showed that 40% of families in Monroe County are not able to afford child care services in our community.

Perhaps even more concerning was that there was a publicly funded program for which many children would be eligible (Pre-K Counts), but no providers were implementing it in Stroudsburg.

The silent partner : Serving as a backbone

Recognizing the value that quality pre-K brings to the education system, the Stroudsburg Area School District (SASD) launched a formal partnership with the United Way of Monroe County last year to bring state-supported high-quality pre-K to the district. United Way of Monroe County assisted the school district in identifying an appropriate location, a 4-STAR early child care provider, and in securing the financial support to be able to bring quality pre-K programming to low-income children in the district. After significant time and effort, the project has come to full fruition.

"The Growing Place Child Care Centers" will be opening its early childhood development doors within the Stroudsburg Middle School this school year. Thirty-six children from low-income families will be accessing high-quality pre-K services through state funding. And another 6 classrooms will eventually open through mixed sources including CCIS, United Way scholarships, and self-pay.

United Way of Monroe County has been privileged to work directly with The Growing Place and the SASD to bring this project to fruition, and is thankful to the numerous individuals and businesses that have come together to make this project a reality, including, but not limited to, the principal donors who are offsetting the start-up costs of this project, including the ESSA Bank & Trust Foundation, the Dale and Francis Hughes Foundation and the Pocono Mountains Community Fundraiser.

More kids on the right track

United Way continues to support early childhood development services in Monroe County, including a new pre-K scholarship program in partnership with Pocono Alliance and our Coins for Kids initiative with WOMEN UNITED. In addition, through our partnership with United Way of Pennsylvania, we are actively engaged in advocacy efforts with the Pre-K for PA initiative, with the goal of expanding access to pre-K programs to children across the state. As a direct result of this work, we are excited about this year's State Budget, which includes increases in support for both Pre-K Counts and Head Start. A significant amount of these funds is now coming back to Monroe County through the great work of The Growing Place and Pocono Services for Families and Children – two critical United Way partners under our Support for Working Families Initiative.



Here is a holiday photo from our photo archives of Middle Smithfield School. Can you identify any of the fine young people sitting down to holiday dinner? Call Michaela at 570-223-8920

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Eggstravaganza



Golden Egg - CRE Bushkill Group, LLC

Bronze Eggs - Mignosi's Super Foodtown, Muller's Family Restaurant, A-OK Market & Deli, Quick Stop Sunoco

Good Egg - M&G Convenience/Empanadas

Bunny's Helper - Annette Atkinson

Trunk or Treat



Bronze Pumpkins - Muller's Family Restaurant, A-OK Market & Deli, ESSA Bank, Wayne Bank, Shawnee Mtn. Ski Area

Great Pumpkins - Starting Gate Ski Shop, Pocono Indian Museum, Liberty Tax, Shear ENVY Salon

Restaurant Week Kick-Off

Blue Ridge Winery

Big A Grillehouse

ShawneeCraft Brewery

Theresa's Lakeview Bar & Grill

Tom X Pub

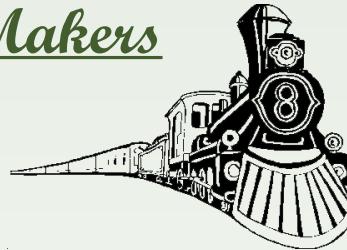
Pub 570

El Valley Diner

Moe's Charcoal Grill



Memory Makers



Visiting Angels

Perkins

Wendy's

Wayne Bank

2017 Person of the Year

Platinum- King Spry

Gold- Bushkill Group

Silver- SFM Consulting, Sheeley Insurance, Superheat

Bronze- The Big A Grillehouse, D7D Engineering, ESSA Bank, Gary in the Morning, Matergia & Dunn, Pub 570, Reilly Associates

Slate- Alura Business Solutions, Blue Ridge Winery, Raven Entertainment, Huffman's Electric, Kenderdine Reporting

Veterans Luncheon



Bushkill Outreach

Middle Smithfield Township

Andy Zaso

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Tall Cedars of Lebanon

Without you, these events wouldn't be possible.