



MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWS

Spring 2019



April showers bring May flowers -- but in the meantime, they sure do put on a pretty display of rainbows. Resident Bobbie Briscoe captured this spring rainbow over Middle Smithfield Township.

WHAT'S GOIN' ON

May:	5/21	Election Day <i>office closed</i>
	5/27	Memorial Day <i>office closed</i>
	5/31-6/1	BWA Native Plant Sale <i>See page 21</i>
June:	6/1-4	Book Sale at Eastern Monroe Public Library
	6/8	Free Dog Training at W. Leroy Lewis Dog Park, 11am
	6/9	Fundraising Golf Outing at CCP for Boy Scout Troop 87
	6/15	"Designing your Raised Bed" Gardening Class
	6/26	Anniversary of Marshalls Creek Explosion
July:	7/4	Independence Day <i>office closed</i>
	7/13	Fundraising Golf Outing at CCP to benefit ESU Phi Sigma Kappa
	7/20	"Harvesting Garlic" Gardening Class, followed by "All About Bees" Beekeeping Class
	7/25	Supervisors Meeting 7pm Presentation: Midyear Report to the Public
August:	8/2	3rd Quarter Sewer Payments Due
		Master Gardener in Residence at the Community Gardens Park every Saturday, 10a-12n
	8/10	Free Dog Training at W. Leroy Lewis Dog Park, 11am
	8/17	Flood of 1955 Anniversary
	8/17	15th Annual Memory Makers at the Whispering Pines
September:	9/2	Labor Day <i>office closed</i>
	9/7	Fundraising Golf Outing at CCP to benefit Wounded Warriar (Veterans)
	9/21	"Drying your Herbs and Flowers for Arrangements" Gardening Class
	9/28	1000 Feet of Street Fall Litter Pickup
	9/28	Fundraising Golf Outing at CCP to benefit the Marshalls Creek Fire Company
October:	10/4 & 10/5	Cleanup & Freecycle AKA "Dumpster Day" (Drop Off Only 7am-4pm)
	10/5	Free Dog Training at W. Leroy Lewis Dog Park, 11am
	10/14	Columbus Day
	10/16	National Fossil Day™ celebrating Marshalls Creek Mastodon
	10/19	"Planting Garlic" class in Bushkill Outreach Raised Beds
	10/21	Fall Leaf Collection Begins
	10/26	6th Annual Trunk or Treat, 12pm
November:	11/2:	4th Quarter Sewer Payments Due
	11/5	Election Day <i>office closed</i>
	11/10	MST Veteran's Luncheon at Whispering Pines
	11/11	Veteran's Day <i>office closed</i>
	11/15	Fall Leaf Pickup Ends
	11/23	Shop Local Now thru 1/2/19
	11/28	Thanksgiving <i>office closed</i>
	11/30	7th Annual Tree Lighting, 6pm
December:	12/5	Supervisors Meeting 7pm Presentation of the Budget to the Public & Year End Review
	12/25	Christmas Day <i>office closed</i>
	12/31	New Year's Eve
	1/24/2020	2019 Person of the year and Volunteer Appreciation Banquet

Note: All Gardening Classes are taught by Penn State Master Gardeners, and all Beekeeping Classes are taught by Monroe County Beekeepers Association, and held at the township's Community Gardens Park from 11am-12n unless otherwise indicated. Classes are tentative and subject to change due to weather, call to confirm.

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2018 PERSON OF THE YEAR UPDATE: WHAT THEY ARE UP TO...



DAVID PASKIET

2018 PERSON OF THE YEAR
Phoenix Martial Arts Society
 Help support Karate Camp for Kids
see page 22



THOMAS WATSON

2018 PERSON OF THE YEAR FINALIST
Meals on Wheels
 Sing for a cause! Rehearsals start 5/28
See page 22



FRANCIS OQUENDO

2018 PERSON OF THE YEAR FINALIST
Boy Scouts
 Golf for the Good -- CCP will have a June 9th fundraiser for the Boy Scouts. Don't golf? No problem, just attend the dinner. Call Kevin for details, 570-223-8099

COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

Parks & Recreation Board	Regional Parks at Smithfield Township
6:30pm 2nd Monday of Every Month	7:45pm 3rd Monday of Every Month
Golf Course Committee	Historical Commission
8:30am 2nd Monday of Every Month	9am 1st Wednesday of Every Month
Economic Development Committee	Board of Supervisors Meeting
6:00pm 2nd Monday of Every Month	7pm 2nd & 4th Thursday of Every Month
Oak Grove Multi-Municipal Composting Board	Planning Commission
Call for Schedule	5:30pm 4th Thursday of Every Month

A WORD FROM YOUR TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

Mike Dwyer, Mark Oney, and Annette Atkinson

Greetings residents!

As your township supervisors return from the PSATS convention held every April, two things come to mind.

First, how incredibly proud we are of the township staff for winning an award for the quality of the newsletter! Out of over 1400 second class townships, 21 won awards – with your township being one of them! (see story on page 25)

Second, it strikes us that those unfamiliar with Pennsylvania Government and/or the role of a township supervisor may wonder: "What exactly do they do?"

It's a good question, and appropriate as Pennsylvania just celebrated "Local Government Week", last month, set aside to honor the commonwealth's public servants.

A Bear of a Job

According to a recent article, if you ask David M. Sanko, executive director of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors: "Well, for one, supervisors make a tough, complex, often thankless job look incredibly easy," he says. "It's safe to say there is no other job like it in the public sector, and the people who do it are very committed to their communities.

"I mean, how many state or federal officials would answer their own phone? And how many of them do you see at the grocery store, the ballfield, or the post office? That's almost unheard of, and it just goes to show that township supervisors are a rare and special breed."

We included more for your information in a story on page 28.

Beary Nice! So what's the "Bear" part of the job? Never mind. That was just a clever way for us to work in the centerfold of this issue – this winter a bear hibernated in a township resident's hollow tree, and gave birth. This spring, when mother and baby emerged, the resident was treated to their own "National Geographic" show from the sliding doors of their family room – and shared it with us.

Township resident and famous local artist Patricia A. Griffin took the stunning photographs, and will donate 50% of her sales to the Pocono Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center (<http://www.poconowildlife.com/wp;https://patriciaagriffin.com;www.griffingallery.org>)

Your Township Supervisors

Middle Smithfield Township Administrative Office

147 Municipal Drive East Stroudsburg, PA 18302

570-223-8920 | info@mstowtnship.com

MiddleSmithfieldTownship.com

Middle Smithfield Township Board of Supervisors

Annette Atkinson | Chairperson | x124

Michael Dwyer | Vice Chairman | x123

Mark Oney | Supervisor | x125

Middle Smithfield Township Staff

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

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

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

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

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Judith Acosta | Zoning Administrator
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crain@mstowtnship.com | x119

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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

Joe Memoli | Economic Development | x204
EconomicDevelopmentCommittee@mstowtnship.com

Josephine Ferro | 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

Once again, it's Spring and the township remains in good financial health. Plans for projects and improvements in the coming months are being prepared and compared to budget. If the budget is not sufficient, the project is either scaled down or eliminated.

This year we all will face a challenge: "How much are my taxes going to be next year in 2020?"

Through the County-wide reassessment, the increase / decrease or remain-the-same in taxes will not be known until November of 2019, when the final property values are established by the County. The timeline is: information from the informal review period is now being processed; formal Assessment Change Notices will be mailed to all property owners no later than July 1, 2019, at which time you will have until August 12th to file a formal appeal. These appeals will be heard, and then the information processed; the final assessed values of the properties won't be known until after all the informal reviews and formal appeals have been heard. The County will establish and release the final property valuations in Mid-November, 2019. (Normally,

municipalities start their own budgeting process in September or October. We must present the budget to the public in the beginning of December, and adopt it by the end of December – so, to receive critical information in mid-November will make for some stress!)

This is the information the County, School District and Township will need in order to establish their new millage rates, in order to provide the same tax revenue as before to provide the same services. An illustration would be: if the total sum of all property values in the township remain the same, and since properties were assessed at 25% of their value, and now will be assessed at 100% of property value, then the millage rate would go from 100% to 25% to make things come out even.

The township, school and county cannot, however, increase their projected tax revenue income by more than 10% during a reassessment. This does not mean that individual's property tax burden won't go up by more than 10% (because their assessed value may have increased.)

The financial outlook for our township remains strong and we are hopeful that the residents and business owners enjoy a wonderful, sometimes dry, Spring.



LSA GRANT AWARDED TO MIDDLE SMITHFIELD

By Michele Clewell

Middle Smithfield Township's application for the Community Center & Library project was approved for a Local Share Account Monroe Program grant in the amount of \$250,000.

The Monroe County LSA funds will be used for construction of the Community Centers' 12,465 square feet building. The facility will be located at Echo Lake Park and will be a centralized, multi-purpose facility that will accommodate community gathering, cultural exhibits and offer a permanent home for the Library of the Smithfields.

The Community Center will not only house the Library of the Smithfields but amenities will be included in order for the center to have an emergency shelter. Supervisor Mark Oney said "we recently had a successful meeting with the Pocono Mountains Chapter of the American Red Cross and are excited about partnering together to operate a certified American Red Cross shelter in the new Community Building". Township Supervisor Annette Atkinson said "the Library housed by the Community

Center will give our area a great economic boost. The Pennsylvania Department of Education found that the return on investment for libraries is \$5.50 for every \$1 of tax money. In fact, the survey is referenced in the March issue of Pennsylvania Township News. Not only that, but studies show that, like a golf course, proximity has value too. There's a "halo" effect of library patrons spending at shops close to the library. They say "while I'm out at the library, I'll pick up ... (this or that)"

Even greater than the return on investment for a library, or increased safety for our residents, is the social impact. Supervisor Mike Dwyer said that "ever since first getting into office, our first task was building a sense of community, and the role of libraries as community and cultural centers are undeniable. Many studies have shown libraries to be community builders, community centers for diverse populations, centers for the arts, universities, and champions of youth."

NOTE: In other grant news, Middle Smithfield Township received a \$124,143 Road Grant. See page 24

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Joe Memoli | Vice Chairperson: Beverly Brown
Secretary: Anthony Home
Member: Chris Barrett, Member: Gina Bertucci

MIDDLE SMITHFIELD: ON BOARD WITH NEPA

Township Economic Development Manager, Patrice Dume, has been selected for the Monroe County seat on the Business Finance Board of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance. (<https://www.nepa-alliance.org>) As a board member, Patrice will vote on new projects applying to loan programs.

The NEPA Business Finance Center, through its pool of federal, state and local funds, provides low-interest loans to qualified small businesses. Interest rates range from 1% to 4% and are fixed throughout the term of the loan, regardless of any upward movement in prime lending rates. NEPA Alliance Business Finance Corp. (BFC) is certified by the Small Business Administration (SBA) as a Certified Development Company (CDC) that is the intermediary between the SBA and Banks/Small Business clients. The SBA 504 Loan allows small business owners access to bond financing. Loan terms are 10, 20 and 25 year, fixed rates and allow clients to do projects with as little as 10% down payments, thereby keeping valuable capital within the companies.

The objective is to provide financing to help small business create/retain jobs, attract additional investment from banks and other sources of private and public funding.

Eligible business sectors include:

- Manufacturers
- Industrial
- Agriculture/Agribusiness
- Hospitality Related / Tourism Related Enterprises
- Recyclers
- Day Care
- Computer Related Services
- Advanced Technology
- Retail
- Service Related Businesses
- And many other business sectors may also qualify

MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TAPS INTO STATE WATER COMMITTEE

This spring, you can expect MST to have a presence on one of Governor Wolf's committee. Patrice Dume, Economic Development Manager was appointed to serve as a member of the Delaware Water Resources Regional Committee, which is under the Department of Environmental Protection.

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) expects to convene the regional committees again this spring. Some of the duties tasked to the committee are:

- **Review of the current State Water Plan**
 - Decide how the current plan been used?
 - Figure out what data and tools are available?
 - Evaluate the relevancy of the recommendations from the 2009 plan in today's world
- **Suggest what topics should be included in the updated plan**
- **Decide if any statutory changes to Act 220 should be considered**



Look who Patrice ran into at the state's annual PEDA Conference! Patrice Dume, Economic Development Manager for Middle Smithfield Township, shares a word with Governor Tom Wolf about "Restore Pennsylvania" during the annual Spring Legislative Conference of PEDA (Pennsylvania Economic Development Association.)



Barbequing this weekend? Need Propane?

Here's a list of places where you can refill your propane tank:
(know others? Give us a shout out at info@msttownship.com)

Business Name	Address (all in Middle Smithfield, unless otherwise noted)	Address / Intersection	Notes
Rite Aid	4551 Milford Rd	209 / Oak Grove	Near Price Chopper
Price Chopper	4547 Milford Rd	209 / Oak Grove	Near Rite Aid
Sunoco / Quick Stop Café	4998 Milford Rd	209 / Oak Grove/Mt. Nebo	Chester's Chicken
Wave Gas Station	691 Resica Falls Rd	402, near Gravel Ridge Road	Formerly AOK
CVS	the one by Sellersville	209 / Sellersville	
U.S. Gas	5081 Milford Rd	209	
Cigarette Outlett	5126 Milford Rd Suite 800	209	Next to Scotty's
Scotty's	5128 Milford Rd	209	Next To Cigarette Outlet
CVS	7 Fox Run Ln	209 / Municipal Drive	Near Foodtown
Ace Hardware	274 Keystone Rd	209 / Keystone	Across from Pocono Palace
Sunoco	5218 Milford Rd	209	Across from Pocono Palace
Citgo	5243 Milford Rd	209	
Turkey Hill	5005 Winona Falls Rd	209 / Winona Falls	

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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



SPOTLIGHT SPONSORS

MIDDLE SMITHFIELD AND SMITHFIELD RESTAURANT WEEK 2019

By Patrice Dume

Did you have a chance to attend the 2019 Kick-Off event, or visit one of our restaurants during restaurant week? If your answer is NO, you certainly missed out! With over 300 attendees, the Restaurant Week Kick-off event on Sunday March 31st at the Whispering Pines Banquet Hall, in conjunction with the Pocono Photo Club 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 Craft Brewing Company. Residents of Middle Smithfield Township were exposed to a variety of dishes, such as Shrimp, Catfish, Pernil (Fried Pork), Deserts, Wings, Empanadas, Pasta, Barbeque Chicken, Jerk Chicken, Rice and Beans and so much more.

Owner of Mrs. Gwen's Fish and Chips says "This was such an incredible experience and we enjoyed participating in the kick-off event, and plan to do so next year! Thank you Middle Smithfield Township for such a great program!"



The Historic Tom X Pub, tucked away in the hills off of Route 209/Milford Road, 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 their 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, their 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
(570) 223-5025

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

Danielle of Tom X Pub baked up her signature dessert for the kickoff

and Restaurant Week itself. The Restaurant Week program ran from Sunday March 31st, to Sunday April 7th. The overall feedback was positive with over 96 % of respondents indicating they will participate again in next year's Restaurant Week. This was the first year that Middle Smithfield collaborated with Smithfield Township for a Restaurant Week program. The idea was to give residents more

Middle Smithfield Township is dedicated to improving and continuing to make Restaurant Week an ongoing success. We look forward to working with Smithfield Township again to give residents more variety during restaurant week. Be sure to join us next year.

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.

The Restaurant Week Kick-Off and Restaurant Week 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.

Blue Ridge Estate Vineyard & Winery



Blue Ridge Winery is located in the rolling countryside of Saylorsburg, with stores and tasting rooms in the Crossings outlet in Tannersville, as well as Regina Farms right here in Middle Smithfield township. Their wines are also sold in Mignosi's Super Foodtown. The winery opened on September 20th of 2014, with the mission to simply add value to people's lives. The winery sits beautifully overlooking the vineyards. The terrain of the land gives the ideal environment to create the most magnificent wines in the world. Travel and Leisure Magazine just named The Best Vineyards in the Nation, and Blue Ridge Winery was named the 13th best Winery in the country, and number one on the East Coast! They are humbled, proud and very excited!

239 Blue Ridge Road, Saylorsburg
(610) 895-4205
www.BlueRidgeWineryandVineyards.com
www.PoconoWineTrail.com
[facebook.com/BlueRidgeWinery](https://www.facebook.com/BlueRidgeWinery)



Photo by Eric Goins of the Pocono Photo Club.

Bliss Cheesecakes Café & Grill

Bliss Cheesecakes Café & Grill is located at 2610 Milford Rd, East Stroudsburg, in Smithfield Township (in the Weis strip mall). Bliss is a family owned and operated restaurant serving up empanadas, hamburgers, cheesesteaks, Cuban sandwiches plus a whole lot more. Check out their menu for delicious options. Call to place your order today!

Located at :
2610 Milford Rd, East Stroudsburg
(570) 7300-04558
<https://BlissCheesecakesCafeAndGrill.business.site/>
[facebook.com/Bliss-Cheesecakes-Cafe-Grill-1626939217365298/](https://www.facebook.com/Bliss-Cheesecakes-Cafe-Grill-1626939217365298/)



Gary Smith of Gary In the Morning enjoys a bite with the owners of Bliss.



Supervisor Mike Dwyer and County Commissioner John Christy enjoy the Restaurant Week kickoff.



SHAWNEE CRAFT BREWING COMPANY

Shawnee Craft Brewing Company: handcrafted beers brewed with a "True to Nature, True to the Craft" philosophy. Brewery tours are available Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 4pm, Saturday at noon and 4pm, and Sunday at noon. The Tap Room is open on Fridays from 4pm-10pm (with live music from 7-10pm), Saturdays from noon-10pm (with live music from 7-10pm), and Sundays from noon-5pm. Call for more information or to book private events.

1 River Rd, Shawnee on Delaware (in the Shawnee Golf Resort)
(570) 213-5151
<https://www.shawneeiinn.com/explore>
[shawneecraft-brewery/https://www.facebook.com/ShawneeCraftBrewingCompany](https://www.shawneecraft-brewery/https://www.facebook.com/ShawneeCraftBrewingCompany)



Shawnee Craft Beer was a popular station at the Restaurant Week Kickoff event.

(Continued on Page 14)

ZONING

Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer: Shawn McGlynn | zoning@mstowndship.com
570-223-8920 x126 | **Zoning Department Administrator and Assistant**
Zoning Officer: Judith Acosta | jacosta@mstowndship.com | 570-223-8920 x128
Zoning Hearing Board: Josephine Ferro – chairperson,
Arthur Jenkins – vice chairperson, Jeff Senholzi, Gary Morris, Melonie Schmid



BURNING IN MST IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED AND ENFORCED!

Judy Acosta

Many residents enjoy an evening sitting around a fire with friends and family, especially in the crisp spring air. Don't worry – the use of a recreational fire pit, to burn fire wood, supervised by a responsible adult at all times is still permitted. What's not permitted is the burning of garbage or any recyclable material, including yard waste! Burning in a burn barrel or an open burn is not only a nuisance to other residents, it's also very dangerous – and it is NOT allowed. Numerous brush fires, as well as structural fires, have been started from the practice of outdoor burning. Chapter 94 of the Township Code of Ordinances states that any person in violation of the chapter may be sentenced to pay a fine of up to \$150.00. The township takes this matter seriously. We will quickly investigate any complaints received and enforce the code for the health, safety and welfare of all residents.

ALTERNATE ZONING HEARING BOARD MEMBER POSITION OPEN

Judy Acosta

Middle Smithfield Township is seeking volunteers to serve on the Zoning Hearing Board as an alternate member. The Zoning Hearing Board is a five member board with up to three alternates comprised of township residents and is responsible for hearing matters, and rendering decisions, related to:

- substantive challenges to the validity of any land use ordinance
- appeals from the determination of the zoning officer
- applications for variances
- applications for special exceptions

Alternates must meet all of the same requirements of Zoning Hearing Board members and must be available to serve on the board for hearings and participate in workshops when scheduled. Zoning Hearing Board members must be residents of the township and may not hold any other office in the Township, either elected or appointed. Please contact the township if you are interested in volunteering for this position.

MST TO HOST PMPEI COURSE ON ZONING ADMINISTRATION & PSATS COURSE ON THE ETHIC ACT

Middle Smithfield Township Supervisors are committed to offering continuing education opportunities to the township volunteers, staff and elected officials. To accommodate that, the following courses are being offered at the Middle Smithfield Township building this spring.

The PMPEI (PA Municipal Planning Education Institute) course in Zoning Administration
Tuesdays, June 11, 18 & 25, 5:45pm – 9:00pm

This is a 3-session in-depth course for zoning hearing board members, zoning administrators, planning commissioners, and elected officials in the principals and practices for administering municipal zoning ordinances. The course covers the technical aspects of the various zoning applications and appeals, such as variances, special exceptions and nonconforming uses, and the requirements for zoning hearings. Issues of fairness, compliance, and ordinance

SHORT TERM RENTALS, ALSO KNOWN AS AIRBNB OR VACATION RENTALS

Judy Acosta

Vacation season is here! If you are renting your home as a short term rental – a rental for a period of less than 30 days at a time – and you have not obtained a zoning permit and short term rental license then you are in violation of the township code.

Using your home as a short term rental or AirBNB vacation rental is considered a change of use under the Zoning Ordinance (see §044-090) and requires the property owner to obtain a permit for that change of use. Violation of the Zoning Ordinance could result in fines of up to \$500.00 per day. A one-time permit that costs only \$70.00 would bring your property into compliance.

In addition, an annual license is required under Chapter 150, Short-Term Rentals, of the Township Code (see §150-5). There is a fee of \$100.00 for the annual license which covers the processing of your application and one inspection.

You can find all the necessary applications along with additional information and a link to the code on the township website: www.MiddleSmithfieldTownship.com.

Our goal is to bring properties into compliance -- NOT to fine our residents. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact the Zoning Office at 570-223-8920 ext. 128, or by email: jacosta@mstowndship.com

Resale Use & Occupancy Certificate

Are you selling your home? Did you recently purchase? Are you renting your home?

Chapter 179 of the Township Code of Ordinances requires the owner of a residential building who desires to lease or sell to obtain a use & occupancy certificate from the building inspector of the Township prior to the change of occupancy. You can find the application on the township website (www.MiddleSmithfieldTownship.com).

PennState Extension



Land Use Webinar Series:
Holly Freese

Members of the Middle Smithfield Township Planning Commission have been taking part in the annual Land Use Webinar Series from the Penn State Extension that began in January.

This monthly series consists of 5 webinars that focus on different land use topics that Planning Commission members, engineers, solicitors, etc., have to deal with across the state.

The following topics were discussed:

Jan. 16- Zoning Ethics: Explored three common claims raised during zoning proceedings: conflicts of interest, bias, and bad faith.

Feb. 20- Geodesign: Using data transparency and community voices for enhanced land-use planning.

March 20- Municipal Options for Meeting MS4 Compliance Without Breaking the Budget

April 17- Making the Most of Historical and Heritage Assets: How a Preservation-based Design Ethic Can Promote Economic and Community Vitality

May 15- The Benefits and Challenges of Ride sharing on the Transportation System: Uber

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/



Dominick DeRisi was excited to get his Golden Egg prize donated by Wendy's of Marshall's Creek.



RIVER'S EDGE BIKE PARK OPENS FOR THE SEASON

By Christopher Rain

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

The pump track is open daily from sun up to sun down, but should only be ridden in good weather. Caretaker Jim Dellavalle performs weekly, and volunteers are encouraged to help keep the track in good condition.

Located on River Road in Smithfield Township, River's Edge features hills, berms, and bumps appropriate for all skill level bikers. Since opening in fall 2017, the bike park has drawn bikers from as far away as Philadelphia and Long Island because it is the largest pump track of its kind on the east coast.

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 operated by Middle Smithfield and Smithfield Townships. For more information, please call 570-223-5082 for Smithfield Township or 570-223-8920x119 for Middle Smithfield Township, or email riversedgefamilybikepark@gmail.com.



Kristina & Eli Pastoriza sport their Golden Egg prizes donated by Wendy's of Marshall's Creek.



Girl Scout Troop 50680 sold cookies.

IT WAS A HOPPING GOOD TIME AT THE 12TH ANNUAL EGGSTRAVAGANZA!

By Christopher Rain

On Saturday April 13, Middle Smithfield Township's Parks & Recreation Board hosted the 12th Annual Eggstravaganza at Resica Park. Over 250 children under 10 and their families came out to play games and collect their eggs. Total attendance was estimated at 600.

Some lucky egg hunters collected Golden Eggs with special Prizes donated by Blue Lightning Tubing and Wendy's – Marshalls Creek. Girl Scout Troop 50680 came to sell their famous cookies, and Rita's Italian Ice in Stroudsburg donated coupons for free ice cones to the volunteers and the first 100 children that came through the line. Our very special guest, the Easter Bunny, also stopped by to visit with the kids and take some pictures. The children, and adults, were also treated to a tour of a fire truck thanks to the Marshalls Creek Fire Company who donated their time for our event again this year!

The Eggstravaganza is held annually the Saturday before Easter. Resica Park is located at 1 Gravel Ridge Road next to Resica Elementary School. MST parks are open daily during daylight hours. Resica Park is closed to the public during school hours. Please call 570-223-8920 x119 for more information, or email crain@mstownship.com.



East Stroudsburg Softball Little League Volunteers



Organizer Aimee Gardina writes "Every season the Girls on the Run team completes a community service project that they decide on and design. This year's project for the team at Resica Elementary was to clean up the park and nature trail at Resica Park in Middle Smithfield Township."

Back row: Daniella Bruenig, Lia Novokreshchenov, Clarys Sanchez, Kristy Toscano, Claire Sanchez, Mia Gardina, Violet Hosier, Jennika Doyle, Lucia Sigler, Junior Coach Michelle Quinn, Isabel Shaffer

*Middle: Amber Keeling, Sophia Cooper, Selah Rosas, Jordyn Thomas
Front: Sophia Bruenig, Tori Hosier, Vivian Rosenthal, Madelynn Malachowsky, Sophia LeBar, Laila Askins*

Parks & Litter Events, 2019

Event dates are subject to change, or may have a rain date TBA

EVENT	DATE & TIME	LOCATION
Dog Training	Sat. 6/8, 11am	W. Leroy Lewis Dog Park
Raised Plot Design	Sat. 6/15, 11am	MST Building
All About Bees	Sat. 7/20, 11am	MST Building
Dog Training	Sat. 8/10, 11am	W. Leroy Lewis Dog Park
Drying Herbs	Sat. 9/21, 11am	MST Building
1000 Feet Litter Pickup	Sat. 9/28, 8am-12 noon	MST Building, et al.
Dog Training	Sat. 10/5, 11am	W. Leroy Lewis Dog Park
Garlic Planting	Sat. 10/19, 11am	MST Building
6 th Trunk or Treat	Sat. 10/26, 12 noon	Resica Park
Winter Flower Displays	Sat. 11/16, 11am	MST Building
7 th Tree Lighting	Sat. 11/30, 6pm	Echo Lake Park

PUBLIC WORKS

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

SEWER

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

DIRTY DIRT and WHAT IS IT?

By Michele Clewell

Don't be fooled with social media postings of "Free Fill Dirt" unless you know where the dirt is coming from because it could be contaminated. An example of contaminated dirt is the smell of petroleum.

Monroe County Conservation District recently sent out a notice to all Monroe County Municipal Supervisors and Zoning Officers, informing them that any person placing clean fill that has been affected by a spill or release of a regulated substance must use PA Department of Environmental Protections ("PA DEP") Form FP-0014 (Certification of Clean

Fill) to certify the origin of the fill material and the results of the analytical testing to qualify the materials as clean fill.

If it is determined that you have received contaminated dirt, as the owner of the property you would be required to remove the fill dirt at your own expense, remediate of the property and possibly incur fines; all under the oversite of PA DEP.

Any questions should be directed to PA DEP, Waste Management Program, Technical Services Section 570-826-2511 or to report an emergency environmental complaint 866-255-5158 ext 2.

2019 ROAD PROJECTS

ROADS	ACTION FOR 2019
BIG RIDGE DRIVE (BRIDGE 2)	Bridge Replacement – In process Underground Conduit Replacement Finished
DENISE LANE	Pave
DISS WAY (i.e., the temporary access road to CCP)	Construct – In Process Tree/Brush Removal has begun
FISH COURT	Pave (2018 Project)
FREEMAN TRACT ROAD	Road Improvements (Dirt/Gravel Road Grant from DCNR)
Frutchey Drive	Chip Seal
MCCOLE ROAD	Chip Seal
OAK GROVE ROAD	Surface Treatment
PRIMROSE LANE	Pave (Bridge to Rt.209)
TURKEY RIDGE ROAD	Pave (Winona Lake to Upper Lakeview)
VILLAGE DRIVE (BRIDGE)	Bridge Replacement

Now that winter is over, we are focusing on road improvements. While a number of roads will be repaired and or paved, we have started tree maintenance, pothole patching, park maintenance and constructing a new "temporary" entrance ("Diss Way") to the Country Club of the Poconos off of Sellersville Drive.

The completion date for temporary entrance project and #2 bridge repair are to be determined. While the construction period may cause some delay and inconvenience, we are asking all of you for your patience and understanding that construction takes time but the end results will last a long time. Please drive carefully and please slow down through the construction site.

SPRING CLEANUP AFTERMATH

By Mike Dwyer,
 Supervisor and Public Works Director

Many of our residents were thankful that we had our semi-annual cleanup and they were able to discard many unwanted items for a small fee, so that residents utilizing the service share in the cost of this service instead of placing the burden entirely on the taxpayer.

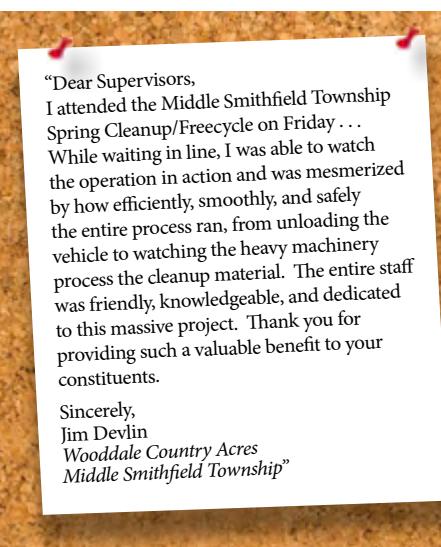
For example, the cleanup fees collected (starting at \$5 per carload) do not cover the entire expense of the township cleanup. This Spring's cleanup cost the township's taxpayers in excess of \$15,000, even after considering fees collected from residents attending and the recycling of metals. A quick breakdown of the Income and Expense of Spring Cleanup follows:

EXPENSES	INCOME
Dumpsters \$15,852	Resident \$ 7,394
Tires \$ 502	Garbage Fees (i.e., fees collected per vehicle)
Supplies and Misc. Expenses \$ 439	Scrap Metal \$ 3,247
Labor and equipment \$ 9,000	
Paper Shredding (estimate) \$ 800	
TOTAL EXPENSE: \$ 26,593	TOTAL INCOME: \$10,641
NET TOTAL: \$26,593 in expenses - \$10,641 in income = \$15,952 cost of cleanup	
VALUE: Value of helping residents with pride of ownership: PRICELESS	

As noted above, Township Cleanup is not fully paid by those discarding items; but a large portion of the expense is covered by fees collected and recycling of the metals. We also save well over one dumpster fee, because residents participate in the Free-Cycle program.

MIDDLE SMITHFIELD RECEIVES ROAD GRANT

See Page 24



SEWER UPDATE

2019 Capital Improvement Projects:

Rehabilitation of Pump Station 4 – Maple Lane
 This project has been awarded to Blooming Glen Contractors with a start date in early 2019. The estimated cost is \$135,499. This project involves the replacement of the piping in the wet well and valve vault and new control panel. This project is tentatively set to begin around mid-July.

Mt. Nebo Sewer Extension:

We are expanding the sewer line through the Commercial Zone to the North side of Route 209 at Mt. Nebo. The first stage is the sewer crossover of Route 209. Bid awarded to Wexcon, Inc., and has a start date of May 6, 2019. This project is being paid for through a grant.

Generators

The generator at the main Treatment Plant is being prepped to receive its new generator in the coming months. The pump stations will be reviewed and will have their generators replaced based on necessity over time. This project is to ensure that system is running properly during weather emergencies.

Sewer payments are net 30 days; the Billing Cycle is quarterly:

Quarter	Billing Date	Deadline to pay	\$25.00 Late Charge Applied
First Quarter	Jan 1 st	Feb 2 nd	March 3 rd
Second Quarter	April 1 st	May 2 nd	June 3 rd
Third Quarter	July 1	Aug 2 nd	Sep 3 rd
Fourth Quarter	Oct 1 st	Nov 2 nd	Dec 3 rd

BLACK BEARS IN THE POCONOS

By Roger Spotts, Environmental Education Coordinator

We have all had the experience of being surprised by a black bear somewhere along our travels. Whether it was crossing the road in front of our vehicle or raiding our garbage cans they are part of our lives in the Poconos. The main reason we encounter them is because we live in the best black bear habitat in North America. Our bears are healthy, large, productive, and overall in great shape because of the habitat they live in. The Poconos are a mixture of hardwood forest, wetlands, and developed areas and in that situation bears will thrive. They have lots of food be it acorns, blueberries, or birdseed. They have sheltered areas to den and hide in and they have all the things necessary to raise strong and healthy cubs. Their population remains strong and stable.

The black bears that call the Poconos home have been around for thousands of years and they have adapted very well to the growing population of humans in their habitat. It is because of their ability to adapt to people that they have survived. They have learned that people can be a source of food, not by eating people but the things we provide sometimes unknowingly; garbage, birdseed, dog food, and compost. Fortunately the black bears in our backyard are not aggressive and if left alone they will typically ignore and avoid people if at all possible.

The biology of black bears is fascinating. They are not true hibernators but they will spend the colder months in a den sleeping most of the time. A true hibernator will go to sleep and its metabolism will slow to very low levels this allows them to save energy and survive in this state. While a bear sleeps its heart rate and breathing slow very little which means they can get up and move around anytime they want and the males will frequently move throughout the winter. The females however have a very important job in the winter den. Every other year adult females give birth to cubs in the cold month of Jan. Average litter size in the Poconos is three, which is the highest avg. found anywhere on earth. These cubs are blind and barely covered with fur but the mother keeps them warm and nurses them inside the den. Most bears do not den in caves because there are very few caves in our area. They pick other sheltered areas including; tree blowdowns, rock crevices, and hollow trees and even under porches, decks and crawl spaces. They



Roger Spotts is the Environmental Education Coordinator for the Kettle Creek Environmental Center (Monroe County Conservation District) and he gives lectures on black bears in Monroe County.

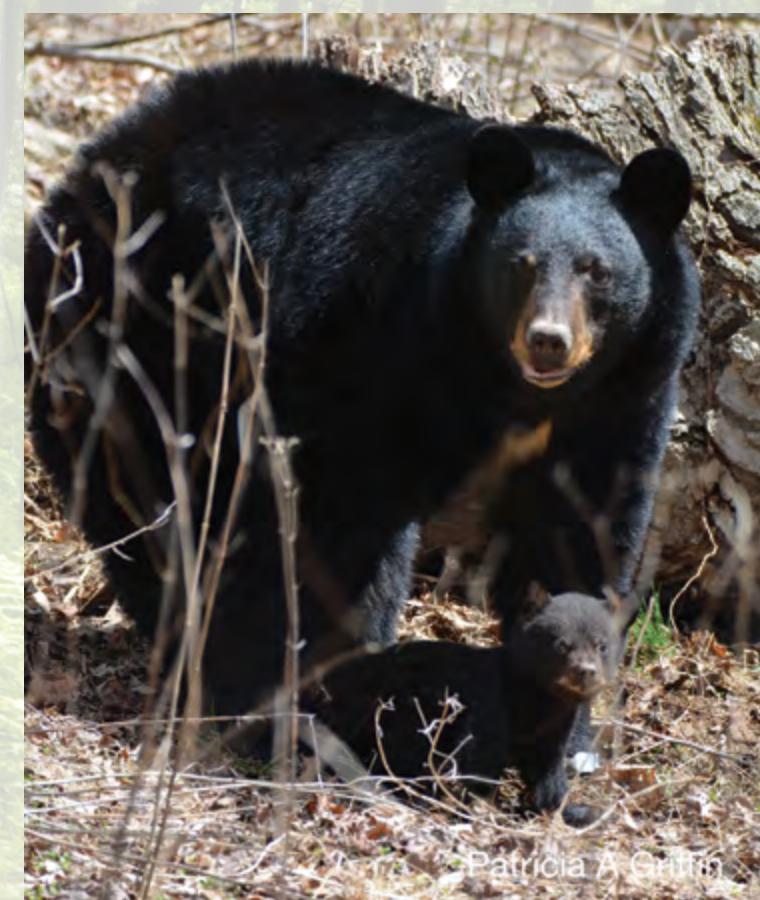
will remain in the den until early April when the cubs weigh 5-8 pounds before venturing out into the spring sunshine. From that point on they are dependent on their mother for food and protection for the next 12-14 months. This is also the time when mother bears will aggressively protect their cubs from harm from any animal or person who could be perceived as a threat. This is where people have to be aware not to approach a black bear cub and to watch their dogs that may cause the mother bear to react and become a threat to your pet or even yourself.

Another interesting biological adaptation our black bears have is something called delayed implantation. Simply put this allows female bears to store valuable food energy during the summer and fall before denning for the winter and then giving birth to cubs. The way it works is bears will breed in June but the fertilized egg does not attach to the wall of the uterus until late November when the female goes into the den. It is nature's way of insuring the bear gets enough food for both her and her future cubs to survive the winter. If the embryo would start developing in the summer months a baby bear born in September would not survive the winter and a mother bear that did not get the time to store enough food energy would not survive the winter either. What a great adaptation and one that allows most bear cubs a good chance of surviving.

Bear have many other interesting life facts that allow them to remain healthy and present in the Pocono Habitat. If we respect them and do not feed them they will cause us no harm and be part of future encounters as we move around the Poconos.



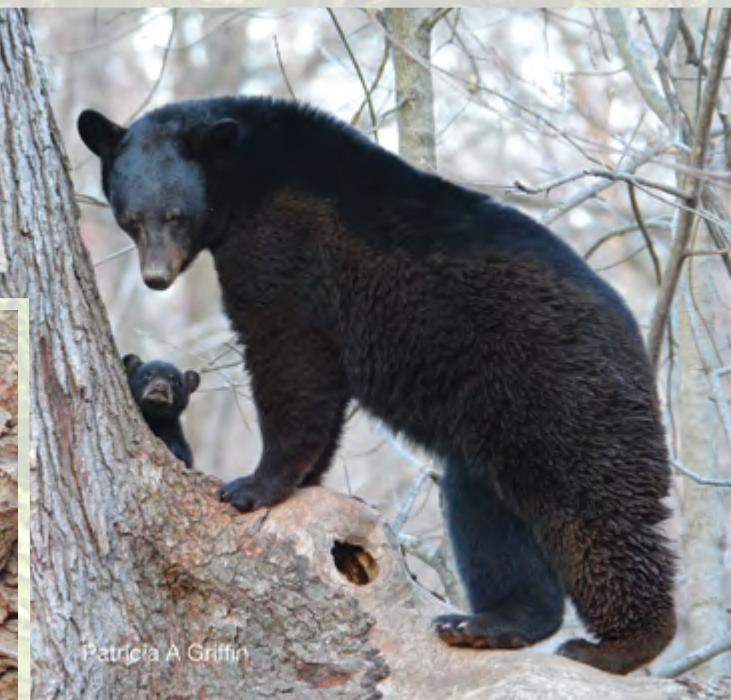
Patricia A. Griffin



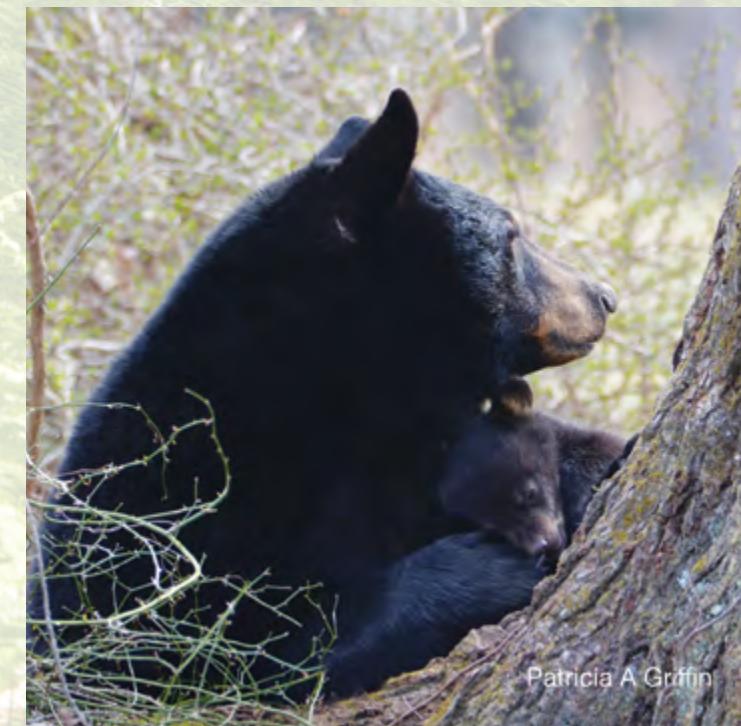
Patricia A. Griffin



Patricia A. Griffin



Patricia A. Griffin



Patricia A. Griffin

Local artist and resident Patricia A. Griffin captured our township's local wildlife in these wonderful photographs, and named mother and cub "MARILYN AND MONROE". Prints of these photographs are for sale on line and 50% of the proceeds will go to Pocono Wildlife Education and Rehabilitation Center.

RESTAURANT WEEK

(cont. from page 5)

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 (open daily, 10am-11pm):

MON: FREE DESSERT with any full or half orders.
TUES: FREE SIDE, free large side with any full order or free small side with any half order.

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

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

Located at :
4543 Milford Rd Unit 40, East Stroudsburg in the Price Chopper Plaza
(570) 223-0MOE
moescharcoalgrill@gmail.com
<http://moescharcoalgrill.com/>
[facebook.com/Moescharcoalgrill/](https://www.facebook.com/Moescharcoalgrill/)

Perkins at Marshalls Creek, founded in 1958 as a single pancake house in Ohio, Perkins has evolved into the nation's leading family dining restaurant concept, with over 400 company-owned and franchised locations in 33 states and 5 Canadian provinces. Our locally owned and operated Perkins is an eager sponsor for township events, such as the annual Memory Makers Luncheon, held for the townships longtime residents to share memories and document stories and artifacts. Perkins offers everything from pancakes and omelets to chicken pot pie, burgers, and a variety of sandwiches, soups, and salads. The "Fit Favorites" selections are a great choice for those who enjoy eating on the healthier side, and the whole menu counts calories for you – calories for each dish are listed. Speaking of calories -- don't forget about Perkins bakery, offering a variety of fresh baked pies, muffins and cookies for a sweet treat any time of day, and pair nicely with a pot



of their fresh brewed bottomless coffee. With breakfast available all day and a new kids menu, Perkins is the family friendly choice that offers something to please every plate!

Located at :

5163 Milford Rd, East Stroudsburg near the Retro Fitness shopping mall
<https://stores.perkinsrestaurants.com/us/pa/east-stroudsburg/5163-milford-rd.html>
facebook.com/EatAtPerkins/



Perkins was a proud participant in the Restaurant Week Kick Off event. (They are also one of the sponsors for Memory Makers every year.)



Economic Development Committee Members at work! Vice Chair Beverly Brown and Chairperson Joe Memoli help out Moe's as the kickoff.



Supervisor Mike Dwyer chats with Pocono Cafe owner Theresa

SPOTLIGHT SPONSORS



Middle Smithfield Township
mstEatLocal.com



Ms. Gwen's Fish & Chips Eat in or Take Out 570.234.3202

Located at: 5017 Milford Rd #4, East Stroudsburg (570) 234-3202
<https://ms-gwens-fish-chips.business.site/>
facebook.com/gwen.fish.56



Ms. Qwens was a popular stop at the Restaurant Week Kick Off.



Pocono Café & Columbian Bakery is a family operated restaurant that has a full service menu and fresh baked bread every day. This multi-cuisine gem has unique bakery items that will satisfy your taste buds. Whether you want a Columbian breakfast, or fried pork, or just a tasty empanada, this is the place for you! They offer catering services, take-out, and walk-ins are welcome.

Located at: 5237 Milford Rd East Stroudsburg.

Located: 5237 Milford Rd East Stroudsburg, across from the Maple Lane apartments (570) 431-0160
facebook.com/PoconoCafe

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

Sponsors (and Participants):

Blue Ridge Winery
Shawnee Craft Tap Room
Bliss Cheesecake Café & Grill
Moe's Charcoal Grill
Mrs. Gwen's Fish n Chips
Perkins
Pocono Café & Columbian Bakery
Pub 570
Tom X Pub

Participants:

1836 Saloon & Grill
Bliss Cheesecake Café & Grill
Bosco Pizza
The Gem & Keystone Brewpub
Guiseppe's Pizzeria Moe's Charcoal Grill
Inti Peruvian Cuisine
La Rosa's Pizza
Llama Ice Cream
Los Tres Amigos
Miggy's Deli & Mini Market
Mrs. Gwen's Fish n Chips
Perkins
Petrizzo's Italian Restaurant
Pizzaros Pizza
Pocono Café & Columbian Bakery
Pub 570
River Room Gastropub
Sabor Latin Restaurant
Shawnee Craft Taproom
Tom X Pub

Thank you to our 2019 Eggstravaganza Sponsors & Volunteers!

Silver Egg Sponsors:

Pocono Springs Camp

Gilmore & Associates

Bronze Egg Sponsors:

Shawnee Mountain Ski Area
Wendy's—Marshalls Creek
Fernando's Antique Furniture
Rita's Italian Ice—Stroudsburg

Good Egg Sponsors:

Frank J. Smith, Jr., Inc.
Blue Lightning Tubing
Starting Gate Ski Shop
Pocono Indian Museum

Volunteers:

East Stroudsburg Softball Little League

Melissa McPartland

Girl Scout Troop 50680

Marshalls Creek Fire Company

Bushkill Emergency Corps

LITTER & BEAUTIFICATION

litter&beautification@msttownship.com

PICK OF THE LITTER: HIGHLIGHTING THE ROAD ADOPTERS IN MST

The Pocono Wild Haven Estates Beautification Committee is a group of volunteers who take pride in the appearance of their neighborhood. The group's mission is to bring the community together and improve the quality of life by making their community a more beautiful place to live. Each year, over 30 volunteers, all living in Pocono Wild Haven Estates, come together to pick up litter on each of the streets in their community and along a one and a half mile stretch of Wooddale Road.

"I wanted to thank whoever did trash cleanup up and down Sellersville Road... It made a huge difference in the appearance of our beautiful woodlands. I thank you from the bottom of my heart"
—Gary W., 4/10/19, on Facebook regarding cleanup done by Robert Vazquez of Vazquez Landscaping, LLC

Middle Smithfield Township thanks the Pocono Wild Haven Estates Beautification Committee for their dedication to making our township a better place.

JOIN THE MST ADOPT A ROAD PROGRAM

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 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 road is marked with a sign to let your neighbors know that you are helping to keep MST pretty.

Thank you to our many residents who adopt roads in MST, including:

Big Ridge Drive – Jan Basler & Bruce Taylor
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 – Vansolkema Family
Coolbaugh Road, north section – Kaylatime & Angel Hernandez
Echo Lake Park – Phoenix Martial Arts Society
Firestone Lane – Resica Falls Scout Reservation
Foxmoor Drive – Monroe County Meals on Wheels
Frutchey Drive – The Arnst Family, aka "Frutchey Mayor Tim Arnst and crew"
Gravel Ridge Road – Bob and Anne Marie Pohlman



Pocono Wildhaven Estates Litter Pick Up Volunteers

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Middle Smithfield Township would like to extend a huge thank you to the 180 volunteers who came out to clean up litter on April 27, and on other days before and after. Because of your dedication, we cleaned up

over 500 bags of litter in 4 parks and on over 35 miles of roads, or 70+ miles of road side, or approximately 375,000 feet of street (exact numbers are still being calculated!). Check out these photos of our dedicated volunteers. If you see them, thank them!



The Summit School cleaned up litter at Echo Lake Park.

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
Prairie Drive & Primrose Lane – The Lowris Family
Reservoir Ridge development roads – The Christy Family
Reservoir Road – The Perez Family
Sand Hill Road – Juliette Ryan-Caines
Sellersville Drive – Vazquez Landscaping LLC
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 Twp. line – Meryweather & Halterman Families
Wooddale Road, PWHE to Marshalls Creek – PWHE Beautification Committee

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

OAK GROVE & RECYCLING

www.ogmmcpb.com
Chairperson | Mike Dwyer



OAK GROVE MULTI-MUNICIPAL COMPOST PROCESSING FACILITY

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.



"I am so proud to live in this township. I'm watching "Legislative Report with Mario Scavello". His guest is Chris Barrett from the Pocono Mountains Visitor's Bureau. He's talking about the "Pick up The Poconos" campaign and he mentioned how helpful the townships have been, and cited MST by name. He said that MST "really was the template we used for everything. They were great. Middle Smithfield is so progressive in a lot of ways. Their folks were very helpful with this." So there, I said it. Thank you so much. . . . Annette Atkinson, Mike Dwyer and Mark Oney for restoring pride to this township."

~Naomi Woolever

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 Coolbaugh 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@msttownship.com or call 570-883-8920x118.

Thank You To Our Spring 2019 Litter & Beautification Volunteers!



Wooddale United Methodist Church
Shawnee Mountain Ski Area
Pocono Summit School
Northpark Estates
Cub Scout Pack 100
Penn State Master Gardeners
Monroe Co. Meals on Wheels
Monroe Co. Young Democrats
Mtn. Stream Baptist Church
Pocono Palace Resort
Pocono Wild Haven Estates
Pohlman Family
Robert Post
Juliette Ryan-Caines
Vansolkema Family
Vazquez Landscaping
Nancy Bittner
Crystal & Henry Clarke
Georgina Diaz
Jaime Frailey
Pamela Hopkins
Susan Kulick
Alisa & Kristen Morgan
Manny Oyola
Ann & Javier Palma
Charlie Stecker
Dan Timpson
George Vagelakos
Lisa & Ashley Villano
Mike Dwyer
Howard Kindred
Steve Billeck
Buddy Arnst
Keith Buchman
John Tronicke
Ryan Felmy
Chris Rain
Tim Arnst
Bruce Taylor
Jan Basler
Patricia Berger
Bob Christy
Eileen Early
Halterman Family
Merywether Family
Hernandez Family
Frank Lowe
Lowris Family
Kathy Mitchell
Tom Watson
Perez Family
Howard Kindred
John & Reka Weiner
Steve Billeck
Buddy Arnst
Keith Buchman
John Tronicke
Ryan Felmy
Chris Rain
Tim Arnst
Bruce Taylor
Charlie Murray
Younger Family
Jackie Rivera
Debora Emin
James Furiosi
Carolyn Jones
Vicky Staples
Jim Hunter
Roger Dacey
Joyce Fenical
David King
Jim Kintz
Joe Liatto
Mario Lima
Madeline Constantine
Jill & Mike Sweeney
Fernando Taveras
Marilyn Cole

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Funded entirely by donations, not taxes



SUBSCRIBE AND \$AVE

It's subscription time for Bushkill Emergency Corps. Subscription year 2019/20. Visit <https://bushkillemergencycorps.com/subscriptions> for more information.

Bushkill Emergency Corps, P O Box 824515, Philadelphia, PA 19182-4515

Subscription Summary

1. Subscription will apply to all calls deemed medically necessary.
2. Emergency transport is per Bushkill Emergency Corps policy.
3. Insurance will be billed for 911 calls first and any co-pays, deductibles and co-insurances that you are responsible for will receive a write-off of up to \$500 per call.
4. For any transport not deemed medically necessary, a discount will be applied to the billing balance.*
5. Services are based on crew and vehicle availability.

Subscriptions are honored through mutual aid agreement partners. Subscription valid if full amount is enclosed.

*A medical necessity is defined by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid service guidelines.

BE IN THE KNOW textCaster

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!

INFORMATION OUR KNOX BOX PROGRAM:

By Joe Luisi Jr., Marshalls Creek Fire Co. Chief

Our Knox Box Program provides First Responders with a quick and secure way to gain access to your perimeters, gates, buildings, campuses, residential and commercial properties. While this type of system is a requirement for new Commercial Properties, the Knox Box program also offers a Residential Knox Box that would allow First Responders quicker access in the time of an emergency instead of having to cause damage to gain access or entry. Knox Residential Boxes are high security key safes that are trusted and supported by your local Fire Company. They provide first responders access to your home in emergencies when people inside are unable to open the door or are not in the house.

It all starts with the Master Key which is securely locked in a special Knox Box within our Fire Apparatus. During the time of an emergency, we can release the Master Key and gain access to a Knox Box installed on your gate or property which can hold keys, key-cards and even Homeowner contact information.



The Knox Box Residential Box is a one-time purchase that requires no monthly monitoring fee. Mount the key safe by an entrance of your choice for rapid access. Our Knox Boxes can be purchased directly

online from The Knox Box Company @ <https://www.knoxbox.com/>, in the top right hand corner click the Red Buy button, enter Marshalls Creek Fire in the department search field and click submit. You will be directed to where you can pick your style, size and color of your Knox Box and make your purchase. You will receive your Knox Box directly and install it then contact us to secure the access keys and whatever addition items you would like stored.



FIND FIRE & EMS ONLINE!

Marshalls Creek Fire Co.

(570) 223-8445
112 Marshalls Creek Road
East Stroudsburg, PA 18302
Facebook: @marshalls creek fire co

Shawnee Fire Co.

(570) 476-0736
102 Firehouse Lane
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301
Facebook: @shawneefireco36
Website: ShawneeFire.org/

Bushkill Volunteer Fire Co.

(570) 588-6033
124 Evergreen Drive
Bushkill PA 18324
Facebook: 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/

GO NATIVE! BWA NATIVE PLANT SALE

Local gardeners just can't go wrong at Brodhead Watershed Association's annual Native Plant Sale. To be held Friday and Saturday, May 31 to June 1, 2019, the popular sale will feature plants native to our region: environmentally responsible flowers and shrubs that flourish in our area gardens.

The sale will be held at the Pocono Township Fire Company's "carnival building" on Route 611, Tannersville.

The Friday sale, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., is for members only. Join BWA at the sale to receive first pick of the most sought-after plants, as well as a 10% discount!

Saturday's sale will run 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The membership discount also applies this day.

"This year's sale will be the biggest and best. We'll have over 100 different varieties of perennials totaling over 1,000 plants," said Deb Mattie of Paradise Township, sale organizer.

There will also be a selection of trees and shrubs.

Township Supervisor Annette Atkinson, who is also a Penn State Master Gardener and a Boardmember of the Brodhead Watershed Association adds "The question we hear most is 'What can I plant that the deer won't eat'. While nothing (except maybe the prickliest of cactus) is 'deer-proof', there are plants that deer like least – and those are the plants native to our area. Native plants also are more hardy and less needy than their foreign counterparts – less work for gardeners, using less resources. The majority of the plants at the sale are deer resistant. It's a great way to beautify your property, and with less work, you have time to enjoy the fruit of your labor."

Expert gardeners will also be available to answer questions and help choose the appropriate plants for your garden: The Penn State Master Gardeners will also host a display booth and presentation for those wishing more in-depth information about greener gardening.

Cash, checks and credit cards will be accepted. For information and printable plant lists, see brodheadwatershed.org/nativeplantsale.html. Call 570-839-1120 or email info@brodheadwatershed.org with questions.



Native PLANT SALE

May 31-June 1, 2019
at Pocono Township Fire Co.,
Route 611, Tannersville

Friday: 5:30-7:30 p.m.
(members only)

Saturday: Open to public 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Credit cards accepted!

10% discount for members on both days! Sign up at sale!

For information: brodheadwatershed.org

Brodhead Watershed Association
BWA
1989-2019
30 years

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



SPRING INTO GOLF!

By Kevin Dixon

After last year's washout, everyone is looking forward to a fantastic season at the golf course. We plan to continue to capitalize on the successes from previous years to increase the number of rounds played as well as revenue for the 2018 season. We have already picked up 250 rounds over last year.

We have already solidified a number of outings to help benefit local charities and non-profit organizations and continue to work on more (see insets for upcoming events). If your organization would like to learn more about increasing your fundraising through golf please feel free to contact Kevin at the golf course for further information 570-223-8099.

It's not too late to join one of the most beautiful golf courses in the Poconos featuring some of the most picturesque holes in the Northeast. Our membership rates are the lowest around, and with our monthly payment plan it is more affordable than ever. Dust off your clubs, shine up your shoes, and come out and join us for a relaxing round of golf. We look forward to seeing you on the links.

Golf FORE the Good

Sun 6/9	3:30 PM	Boy Scouts 10-holes
Sat 6/15	12:00 PM	Milford Masonic Lodge
Sat 7/13	11:00 AM	ESU Phi Sigma Kappa
Sat 9/7	all day	Wounded Warrior
Sat 9/28	all day	Marshalls Creek Fire Company



BANQUET HALL AT WHISPERING PINES

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

BANQUET HALL TAKING RESERVATIONS FOR 2019:

Need a space to host a party, meeting, or fundraiser? Consider the beautiful Whispering Pines Banquet Hall!

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.

COMMUNITY AND CHARITY EVENTS, UPCOMING IN 2019:

- AARP Fundraiser, Sat. 6/22
- Wounded Warrior Golf Tournament, Sat 9/7
- Marshalls Creek Fire Company Golf Outing and Banquet, Sat. 9/28
- RISE Fundraiser, Sat 10/12
- Veterans Day Luncheon, Sun 11/10

WELCOME INTERNS!

Brenda Romanow is a senior at East Stroudsburg University majoring in Political Science with a concentration in pre-law. She is a member of Pi Sigma Alpha, The National Political Science Honor Society, Iota Chi Chapter. She enjoys reading, writing, and getting together with friends. She is a long-time resident of Middle Smithfield Township and looks forward to serving her community.



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



WE HAVE AN EMPTY SEAT WITH YOUR NAME ON IT!

Do you have a love for Middle Smithfield Township history? Join us! Our Historical Commission has an open seat and we always love new members. We meet every first Wednesday of the month at 9am at the township building. Come to one of our next meetings on June 5 and July 3 at the municipal building! Contact Michaela at 570-223-8920 x100 for more information, and be sure to 'Like' our Facebook page to stay up to date. www.facebook.com/MSTHistory

RAISE YOUR GLASS & SUPPORT THE PAST'

SAVE THE DATE: The Monroe County Historical Association will host its annual wine-pairing dinner and auction fundraiser on Thursday, September 5, 2019, from 6 to 9 pm at The Lodge at Mountain Springs Lake in Reeders, PA. If you'd like to donate to the silent auction, give us a call!



THIRD THURSDAY LECTURE SERIES

May through October • 7 p.m.
Stroud Mansion, 900 Main Street,
Stroudsburg

Looking for something to do this summer?

The Monroe County Historical Association is pleased to present its 2019 Third Thursday Lecture Series. All presentations are held the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Stroud Mansion. (There will be no program in August).

All presentations are free, but due to limited seating reservations are required.

Call 570-421-7703.

- June 20 Archaeological Testing at Stroud Mansion, Phase I
- July 18 History of the Stites Tunnel Bridge on Route 191
- September 19 The Historical Formation of the Latino Community in the Poconos
- October 17 The Murder of Theodore Brodhead



Summer (Camp) on the Farm!

Have you ever wondered what life on the farm is like? Children from ages 6 to 14 can experience a week of discovery and fun at Quiet Valley through one of their summer camp programs! With three age-specific camp programs, each day will be filled with games, songs, stories, hay jumps, hiking, wagon rides and traditional hand cranked ice cream on Friday! This is an experience your kids won't want to miss. Registration is now open and spots are filling quickly! Contact the farm office at 570-992-6161 or register online at <http://quietvalley.org/farm-camp-registration-form>.



Recognize anyone in this photo? It's from the 60's/70's from a Middle Smithfield School field trip. Call Michaela

2018 PERSON OF THE YEAR AND FINALISTS ON GARY IN THE MORNING

Middle Smithfield Township's 2018 Person of the Year, David Paskiet, as well as finalists Francis Oquendo and Tom Watson paid a visit to Gary in the Morning at the Pocono 96.7 studios as part of their "My Little Town," segment.

Also joining them in the studio was township staff member Holly Freese, who organizes the Annual Person of the Year award, and Stacy Koeck from Monroe County Meals on Wheels.

David Paskiet from Phoenix Martial Arts Society stated that they are looking for sponsors for their annual camp in order to make the weekend more affordable for their members, who are typically underprivileged children. Information about the camp and sponsorships can be found online at www.PhoenixMartialArtsSociety.com.

Finalist Tom Watson and Stacy Koeck from Monroe County Meals on Wheels put out a call for volunteers and drivers. Information on how to volunteer can be found online at www.MonroeMeals.org or by calling 570-424-8794.

Finalist Francis Oquendo from Boy Scouts of America announced a golf tournament at Country Club of the Pocono's Municipal Golf Course on June 9th at 3:30 pm to benefit the Scouts. For more information or to register call 570-223-8099.

Holly also thanked the sponsors who made this event possible year after year, including Platinum sponsor King Spry and Gold sponsors Exploria Resorts, SFM Consulting, Sedler Design and Redevelopment LLC and Sheeley Insurance.



DAVID PASKIET
2018 PERSON OF THE YEAR
Phoenix Martial Arts Society

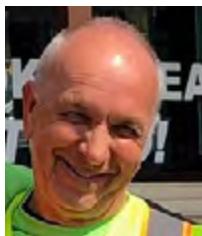
**Phoenix Martial Arts Society:
Camp Seeks Sponsorships for
Children in Need**

By David Paskiet

Our camp is at Stony Acres Lodge off Marshalls Creek Road and runs from July 12- July 14. This camp gives the best in martial arts training to all the students. We bring in instructors from many disciplines in order to make this a truly great learning experience. There is also social time where the students get to spend time with each other and really get to know each other.

The flyer can be found at <https://phoenixmartialartssociety.com/PDF/CampRegistration2019.pdf>.

We are looking for sponsors and donors to not only help keep this program alive but to also ensure that ALL of our students get to go to camp. For many, this may be the only 'vacation' they get.



THOMAS WATSON
2018 PERSON OF THE YEAR FINALIST
Meals on Wheels

MONROE COUNTY MEALS ON WHEELS

*Invites You to Sing with the
2019 Pocono Summer Chorus*

A concert held on July 24th at the Stroudsburg United Methodist Church will benefit Monroe County Meals on Wheels. There is a fee of \$35 to participate and participants must attend 6 of the 8 rehearsals and the dress rehearsal. Rehearsals begin on May 28th. Singers who wish to participate can find the registration form online at www.MonroeMeals.org. For more information contact Krista Montgomery at 570-460-0307 or kristmont174@gmail.com.

Join Us! Sing with the 2019 Pocono Summer Chorus

monroe county
MEALS ON WHEELS

PHOENIX MARTIAL ARTS SOCIETY SECOND ANNUAL KARATE CAMP



Phoenix Martial Arts Society is hosting its second annual karate camp! It will be held this year at Stony Acres Lodge in Marshalls Creek, PA. This is just minutes from our dojo. Camp will include meals, t-shirt, lodging and some great seminars.

Fill out the reverse side of this flyer and give to Sensei or Mrs. Paskiet as soon as possible. If there are any questions make sure to contact us!

Deposits of \$50 due by Feb 1, 2019
Second payment of \$50 due by April 1, 2019
Final payment of \$75 due by June 1, 2019
(Anyone may pay in full at anytime. Deposits are non-refundable.)

When:

July 12 - 14 2019
Check in at 08:00 AM on the 12th.

Where:

Stony Acres Lodge
Marshalls Creek Road
Marshalls Creek , PA 18335

Cost:

\$175.00
(Credit card users please use the DONATE button at www.phoenixmartialartsociety.com. Use the code CAMP in the note/message field.)

Things to bring:

- **ALL KARATE GEAR**
- Flashlight
- Sleeping bag and/or cot/air mattress
- Sleeping will be 'barracks' style. You are welcome to bring a cot or air mattress however there will be mattresses there.
- Towels, sweatshirts, clothes
- Pack according to the weather and length of stay! You will not need much since you will be in your gi most of the time.
- Notebook, pens and/or pencils
- Bug spray, sunscreen, toiletries
- Snacks, water/drinks

You are welcome to bring any snacks you wish.



FRANCIS OQUENDO
2018 PERSON OF THE
YEAR FINALIST
Boy Scouts

BOY SCOUT TROOP 87 GOLF OUTING AT COUNTRY CLUB OF THE POCONOS

By Francis Oquendo, Troop 87

Here is an introduction to Boy Scout Troop 87 and our first ever 10 Hole Golf Scramble Event. Our Troop follows a traditional Boy Scout program. Most of our Scouts come from Lehman, Middle Smithfield, and Smithfield Townships in the East Stroudsburg area. We are a member of the Minsi Trail's Council, Pocono District.

Rank advancement and program development in Troop 87 are completely Boy Scout driven. 90% of our Scouts that stay with the troop have become Eagle Scouts. We strongly believe in community service and participate each year in various local events such as: Scouting for Food, Veterans and Fourth of July parades, Veterans flag replacement at local cemeteries (on May 11th, we just did a Veterans Flag Replacement at Sandhill Cemetery on Route 209), Lehman Haunted Park and local road cleanup events, such as the recent "1000 Feet of Street". Since opening its doors in 2000, Troop 87 has had the honor of achieving 23 Eagle Scouts among its ranks who along with other Scouts have given thousands of hours of community service.

Our Troop 87 ten hole golf scramble at Country Club of the Poconos on June 9th is a great opportunity for you and / or your company to support Scouts as we raise funds for summer trips and camping in 2019. If you are a sponsor, your business will receive valuable exposure. As a player, you will enjoy one of the premier golf courses in the area along with good food and fellowship after your round.

You can call Holly Freese (570-223-8920) or Kevin Dixon (570-223-8099) for our sponsor and player registration form for our 10 Hole Golf Event, or visit the township website to download it ("www.MiddleSmithfieldTownship.com"). You can call Supervisor Mark Oney at 570-688-8982 with any questions.

Your involvement by either playing or sponsoring, will make this year's event a special and successful celebration of Scouting. (We are pleased to hear that all three Middle Smithfield Township Supervisors will be golfing in this event.)

Yours in Scouting,

Boy Scouts of Troop 87

Outing information:

Date: Sunday, June 9th

Time: 2:30 pm check-in 3:30 pm shotgun start

Place: Country Club of the Poconos Municipal Golf Course, 1445 Big Ridge Dr.

Cost: \$35 individual \$130 team

To register or for more information call the pro shop at 570-223-8099. Completed registration forms and payment are due by June 2nd.



FINANCIAL WELLNESS FOR SENIORS

By Merle Turitz, RSVP Director and Mary Frances Kresge, RSVP Correspondent

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Monroe County (RSVP), in collaboration with our partners, the Middle Smithfield Township Supervisors and Pocono Alliance/United Way, will host an important and eye-opening workshop on Financial Wellness. This workshop will be limited to members of the RSVP program and Senior Citizens that reside within Middle Smithfield.

Elders and senior citizens are often the victim of scams and fraudulent money making operations "Grandma it's me and I'm in trouble"; "this is the IRS calling and you are in jeopardy of losing your home and property" start many scams commonly used. These are obvious methods of scaring you into sending money now, and "don't tell anyone" or demands will escalate. Calls may come randomly, but often center around a holiday season or tax time.

Three different educational and informative workshops sponsored by the PA Department of Banking and Securities will be offered at the Middle Smithfield Township building beginning at 8:30 am on Tuesday, June 11.

The three workshops are:

1. **Theft Identity** takes a look at ways peoples' identities are stolen or compromised and steps to take once your identity has been stolen. Other scams and frauds are also discussed.
2. **Cyber-Security** focuses on how to keep your information safe and secure while surfing the net. This presentation covers key topics like using secure websites, creating strong passwords, being aware of what you put on social media and provides tips for shopping safely online. Online shopping and social media allows opportunities for scammers to steal personal information.
3. **Fraud Bingo** is a fun and interactive presentation that teaches consumers how to protect themselves from investment fraud

A light breakfast will be provided by the Township and workshop sessions will begin promptly at 9:00 am. Each workshop takes approximately 45 minutes and are scheduled to end by Noon. There is no cost to attend these workshops, however, due to limited seating, you must be pre-registered to take part in the program. To register, please call either Misozi Houston of Pocono Alliance at 570-517-3956 or the RSVP office at 570-420-3747. Please join us for the Financial Wellness workshops on June 11 beginning at 8:30 am. We look forward to seeing you there as we all become more alert and better informed consumers in this high tech world.

*****ECRWSSEDDM*****

POSTAL CUSTOMER

A BEAR OF A JOB: TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

Continued from the “Word from your Supervisors”. What do Township Supervisors do anyway?

To further quote PSATS and **“Townships Today”**, in honor of Local Government Week

The official duties of the Board of Supervisors can be found in the Second Class Township Code where Section 607 spells out the responsibilities, which take up about a page and require local leaders to do what you might expect: Hire staff, carry out state and federal laws, rules, and regulations, and maintain township equipment and facilities.

Most important, though, the code charges the board with “the general governance of the township and the execution of legislative, executive, and administrative powers to ensure sound fiscal management and to secure the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the township.”

Unclogging sewer drains, plowing snow at 2 in the morning, fielding complaints from residents, spending evening after evening at meetings, and eating a cold dinner or none at all because a resident wanted to have a two-hour discussion . . . aren’t even mentioned. Township supervisors do those things, too, and much more.

Balancing budgets and stretching tax dollars, providing quality services at an affordable cost, managing people and places, understanding state and federal laws, writing and passing ordinances, responding to residents and addressing their concerns, working with developers, overseeing volunteer boards and committees, purchasing equipment and supplies, negotiating contracts, and making unpopular decisions also come with the territory.

“Being a township supervisor is a far more difficult job than most people realize,” says Walt Whitmer, a senior educator with Penn State Cooperative Extension. “It’s a volunteer position with professional expectations.

“Local government is the workhorse of the governing system.”

Bev Cigler, Ph.D., professor of public policy and administration at Penn State University, agrees: “Local government is the workhorse of the governing system . . . People . . . may not know the specifics of the job, but quite often they’re happy because they’re getting good service,” she says, “and that’s all they care about.”

Trust, confidence remain high

In fact, a recent Gallup poll backs up Cigler’s contention that voters have a lot of faith in their local leadership.

In 2018, the group’s study revealed that 72% of U.S. adults say they have a “great deal” or a “fair amount” of trust in their local government, compared with 63% who say the same about their state government.

“The latest ratings,” Gallup says, “mark a continuation of fairly high levels of trust for local governments – a trend that has varied little over the past two decades. Meanwhile, confidence in state government has varied more, from a high of 80% in 1998 . . . to a low of 51% in 2009.”

Similar surveys conducted here in Pennsylvania have given municipalities equally high marks, and Penn State’s Walt Whitmer isn’t surprised.

“It’s a volunteer position with professional expectations.”

Although township supervisors campaign for office and hold an elected position, that’s where the similarities with their counterparts in Harrisburg and Washington, D.C., end. They don’t have expense accounts, canned speeches or teleprompters, drivers or taxpayer-funded transportation, large staffs of advisers, or even comfy, wood-paneled offices. Instead, township supervisors are regular folks — your neighbors and friends — who aren’t in office for the glory or the glamour.

“If the general public could hear the stories that I hear [from local leaders],” Whitmer says, “they would have an even deeper appreciation for their local officials.”