



MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWS

Fall 2019

*Meadow Lake, Middle Smithfield Township. Photo by
Kim Williams, past Township Historical Commission
Boardmember*

- **SATURDAY 9/28: LITTER CLEANUP,
1,000 FEET OF STREET AT A TIME-
PLEASE JOIN US! PAGE 10**
- **TOWNSHIP CLEANUP/DUMPSTER DAY
10/4 & 10/5**
- **VOTING DEADLINES: SEE BACK COVER**

MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWS



WHAT'S GOIN' ON

- 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
- 10/7 Last Day to Register to Vote before Election
- 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
- 10/29 Last Day to apply for Civilian Absentee Ballot
- November:** 11/1: Last day County Office can receive Voted Civilian Absentee Ballots
- 11/2: 4th Quarter Sewer Payments Due
- 11/5 Election Day office closed
- 11/10 MST Veteran's Luncheon at Whispering Pines
- 11/11 Veteran's Day office closed
- 11/15 Fall Leaf Pickup Ends
- 11/23 Shop Local Now thru 1/2/19
- 11/28 Thanksgiving office closed
- 11/30 7th Annual Tree Lighting, 6pm
- December:** 12/2 Supervisors Meeting 7pm Presentation of the Budget to the Public
- 12/25 Christmas Day office closed
- 12/30 Supervisors Meeting 7pm Adoption of 2020 Budget
- 12/31 New Year's Eve
- 1/24/2020 2019 Person of the year and Volunteer Appreciation Banquet

COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

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

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING A COMMITTEE!

The Planning Commission has an opening, and so does Parks & Recreation. The Zoning Hearing Board could use another alternate

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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
Phoenix Martial Arts Society is currently hosting a cap and sock drive for homeless veterans. They will also be hosting an open-house event on 11/9.
read more on page 23



TOM WATSON

2018 PERSON OF THE YEAR FINALIST

Monroe County Meals on Wheels
Monroe County Meals on Wheels will be hosting a Wine n' Wheels event at Renegade Winery on Sunday, October 20th!
read more on page 23



FRANCIS OQUENDO

2018 PERSON OF THE YEAR FINALIST

Boys Scouts of America
Troop 87 hosts their annual Dall Canoe Camporee on September 20th. They will also be participating in the Webelo Woods Challenge on October 18-20!
read more on page 23

A WORD FROM YOUR TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

Mike Dwyer, Mark Oney, and Annette Atkinson

A Groundbreaking Idea: A Gathering Place to Ground the Community

On August 28th, Middle Smithfield Township broke ground for its Community & Cultural Center, which will also provide a home for the Library of the Smithfields. The centerfold of this issue has more on that.

We are excited to see this collaborative vision become a reality. It was no small undertaking, and if we were to thank all the folks that have and are contributing and collaborating on this project, this newsletter would look like a telephone book. It is, quite simply, all of you – all of us, together.



This milestone is timely: 2019 marks the 225th anniversary of Middle Smithfield Township. There are many ways to celebrate important anniversaries – parades, festivals and fairs and all manner of events. There are many ways to express pride of your community and celebrate anniversaries. This is something more lasting than an affair that is eventually forgotten when attendees move on, with its commemorative memorabilia carefully stored in memory books and trunks. This is different: instead, we broke ground for a Community and Cultural Center and permanent home for our Library, which will serve the residents of Middle Smithfield for decades to come. Instead of celebrating our local history for one anniversary day, it will be respected every day in the Great Hall. Instead of celebrating our accomplishments for a day during a milestone year, the community will be honored with its own center – a space and a place for good people to gather to do good things. A center – a town square.

Speaking of centers: Monroe County is comprised of 20 municipalities, each with their own personality. Stroudsburg, as the County Seat, is considered the cultural center of the county, and with its picturesque streets and walkable downtown, has been cited as a great place to live and visit. Other municipalities that rank high on “places to visit” are Milford in nearby Pike County, and Jim Thorpe, both with quite walkable and active downtown areas.

Just as neighborhoods and private communities each have their own flavor, Middle Smithfield has its own, different personality, and a different geography. The entrance to the DWG National Recreation Area, and home to scenic landmarks such as Resica Falls and Hidden Lake, and historic for its Marshalls Creek mastodon, our township’s main street is not yet a walkable downtown, but a state Route: Milford Road/Route 209, a 6 mile Main Street flanked on both sides by wetlands and water, and dotted with shopping plazas. This Community & Cultural Center answers the vision of a centerpiece for the community, a touchstone – a place to ground the community. A Library in what is the exact center of the school district. A space and a place to help foster and build on the ever growing sense of community since this board took office.

Your Township Supervisors

Middle Smithfield Township Administrative Office

147 Municipal Drive East Stroudsburg, PA 18302

570-223-8920 | info@mstownship.com

MiddleSmithfieldTownship.com

Middle Smithfield Township Board of Supervisors

Annette Atkinson | Chairperson | x124

Michael Dwyer | Vice Chairman | x123

Mark Oney | Supervisor | x125

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Pro Shop Manager

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Ray White | Golf Advisory Committee | x205

golfadvisorycommittee@mstownship.com

Jaime Frailey | Parks & Rec | x201

parksandrecreation@mstownship.com

Jaime Frailey | Litter & Beautification | x202

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Carrie Wetherbee | Historical Commission | x203

HistoricalCommission@mstownship.com

Joe Memoli | Economic Development | x204

EconomicDevelopmentCommittee@mstownship.com

Josephine Ferro | Zoning Hearing Board | x112

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Joe Memoli | **Vice Chairperson:** Beverly Brown

Secretary: Anthony Homer

Member: Chris Barrett, **Member:** Gina Bertucci



<https://business.pa.gov/>

By Patrice Dume

Do you have a business idea? Did you know that Pennsylvania is committed to helping aspiring entrepreneurs achieve their business dreams by providing the right training, guidance, and resources to help individuals make good business decisions as they plan and launch a new venture? Last year Governor Wolf created “PA Business One Stop Shop”. On this site you will find everything you need to start your business, from a business plan template, to guidelines in naming your business, and choosing your business structure. Whether you are thinking about starting your own business, expanding your existing company, or are considering a move to the Keystone State, this site will provide useful information to help you work smart and live happy in Pennsylvania.

In addition, if you decide to bring your business to Middle Smithfield Township, you will not only have a business-friendly zoning office and an Economic Development Committee as

your advocate to provide support, but you will have plenty of incentives (Like LERTA and KIZ tax incentives, and sewer financing) to make your transition run smoothly. The thought of launching a business can be daunting — it requires grit, motivation, and determination to turn an idea into a living, breathing, sustainable business. However, we’re here to help you finally take the plunge and develop that business concept you’ve been considering with the assistance of the PA Business One Stop Shop, and Middle Smithfield Economic Development Team, you will be destined for success.

8 TIPS FOR STARTING YOUR BUSINESS IN 2019

- Identify your business’s value proposition
- Do your research
- Establish a support network
- Write your business plan
- Get your finances in order
- Make it official
- Avoid burnout by taking it a day at a time
- You are never done learning.



TAKING MIDDLE SMITHFIELD BY STORM!

Welcome Storm Fitness

By Patrice Dume

Dawn Foy, Certified Personal Trainer and Owner of S.T.O.R.M. Fitness, LLC welcomes you to let her help you with your fitness journey. Storm Fitness is not your regular gym, it’s a personal fitness studio, so you do not have to worry about any insecurities, or have to deal with others around while you are working out. Dawn is flexible and there are no contract memberships, she makes it feasible to those who live busy lifestyles. This personal training studio offers one-on-one, partner and small group training, group fitness, PiYo classes and boxing (coming soon) and nutritional guidelines. All sessions are private. All fitness levels welcomed. No membership required.

FREE fitness evaluation. All workouts are customized so that you

can be successful at reaching your fitness goals. If you are looking to start, jumpstart or restart your fitness journey, the S.T.O.R.M. Fitness Personal Training Studio is the perfect place to come.

Dawn was excited about her Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony that took place on Friday September 20th at 5:30pm. Guests had plenty of giveaways, like gift certificates, wine, free sessions, and so much more. Dawn had an experienced chef who made healthy meals as well as a meal prep specialist who gave out free information. Guests enjoyed free PIYO and Boxing class sessions during the event.

If you have not stopped by the personal training studio yet, please take time and stop by Storm Fitness, you will not regret it !





GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK:

By Patrice Dume

Want to start a business in Middle Smithfield Township? Want to get inspired? On November 18th to November 23rd, Monroe County will have its first Global Entrepreneurship Week; that is a global movement to inspire people everywhere to unleash their ideas and take the next step in their entrepreneurial journey. For that week, you can expect different activities, like a coding bootcamp, finance workshop, youth leadership summit and so much more.

Global Entrepreneurship Week celebrates the successes and impact of entrepreneurs in an effort to help break down cultural barriers and reach new audiences, expanding the number of people who at some point in their life consider trying their hand at birthing the new and becoming an entrepreneur.

If you are an existing business that wants to participate in this spectacular event, or participate in the wonderful sponsorship opportunities, contact Patrice Dume at 570-223-8920 ext. 130.

MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP RESIDENT BECOMES EAGLE SCOUT

Anthony Nostro Court of Honor

Anthony Nostro from Troop 83 in the Pocono District of Minisi Trails Council achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in April 2019.

Eagle Scout is the highest rank in scouting.

As an Eagle Scout Anthony has earned over 21 merit badges. In addition to this, he also completed his Eagle Scout Service Project which involved transforming Notre Dame's Odyssey of the Mind Room. Anthony was tasked with removing debris from the room, painting the wall and building chalkboards, tables, and shelves.

The project required 33 works and 347.5 hours of labor with a total cost of \$1,243.06 (which didn't include donated items.)

The room was ultimately transformed from an unusable area into a functional workspace for students.

In addition to the merit badges and reaching the rank of Eagle Scout, scouting has taught Anthony several life skills that can be use throughout his life including adaptability, leadership and perseverance.

Anthony's accomplishments and interests also go further than just scouting. He is Captain of the Varsity Golf Team for Notre Dame High School and is a member of the school's recycling club and peer listening. Anthony was also inducted into the National Honor Society in 2019 and received the St. Michael's College Book Award for Academic Achievement and Social Conscience in June of 2019.

Anthony also graciously provided 40 hours of service to the Country Club of the Poconos Municipal Golf Course where he assisted with tasks around the club house.

In Fall 2020 Anthony plans to attend college and study Mechanical Engineering.

POCONO PUBLIC POLICY COUNCIL

The Pocono Public Policy Council is a committee that advises the Pocono Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors on public policy issues that impact Chamber members and our community. This fall Patrice Dume, Economic Development Manager at Middle Smithfield Township, will Vice Chair this very important group. The goal of the group is to keep abreast of legislative issues on local, state, and national levels and select those issues having an impact bearing on our business and membership. After appropriate committee action, issues are presented to the board for acceptance, rejection, tabling, or no additional action, and the appropriate legislators, and/or legislative bodies are made aware of Chamber action. The group lobbies on behalf of action taken. Patrice hopes to provide the group with fresh ideas on how to make a greater difference in the business community.



ZONING

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

911 ADDRESS SIGNS – IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE!

Since 2011 Monroe County, along with local municipalities, has been working to make sure every residence has a 911 reflective address marker on their property. Not only is it required in accordance with Chapter 85 of the Township Code but it is vitally important for the health, safety and welfare of all residents and visitors to have the required 911 address sign properly mounted so that police, firefighters and other first responders can find a home or place of business in the case of an emergency.

Proper placement of a 911 Address Sign is also a requirement of Chapter 179, Use & Occupancy of Real Property, when you apply for a Resale, Use & Occupancy Certificate when selling or leasing your home or commercial space.

911 Address Signs can be purchased through Bushkill Emergency Corp for \$20.00 (<https://bushkillemergencycorps.com/911-signs>) or you can purchase the parts of the sign from a local hardware store and create the sign on your own.

911 Address Sign Requirements:

- 6"x18" vertical sign, flat green with reflective white 4" letters
- Place sign at the end of your driveway where it intersects with the street
- The top of your number sign must be at least 3 feet and not more than 6 feet from the ground
- You may place your sign on a tree at the end of your driveway or your mailbox, only if it is at the end of your driveway. It must be visible from BOTH directions (special mounting hardware is available.)
- If you live in a townhouse, please contact the township regarding placement instructions.



POCONO LEADERSHIP 2020 TAPS MIDDLE SMITHFIELD

The Middle Smithfield Township Board of Supervisors is pleased to announce that Judith Acosta, Assistant Zoning Officer, has been selected as next township employee, and one of only 25 professionals in the county, to participate in the Leadership Pocono Program at Northampton Community College, class of 2020. The program is specially designed to bolster the leadership capabilities of individuals who participate.

Employed by the Township since 2014, Judy has grown into her role as recently appointed Assistant Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer as she continues to serve the township as the Zoning & Building Office Administrator. New to municipal government and zoning when hired, Judy jumped in feet first to her new role and seized each new opportunity to gain knowledge in the field. Judy completed the Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Education Institute's 40 hour course program in Zoning, Planning and Subdivision as well as numerous webinars through Penn State Extension and seminars through PA State Association of Township Supervisors. Judy is a Certified Zoning Officer through PA Association of Zoning Officials and a Certified Building Code Official through PA Department of Labor & Industry.



Judy grew up in Bergen County, New Jersey, where she met and married her husband Danny. They moved to Pennsylvania in 2012 with their three sons, Gabriel, Josiah & Elijah. Judy enjoys spending time with family, watching her boys play baseball and going on motorcycle rides with her husband.

PAST ZHB MEMBERS HONORED FOR THEIR SERVICE

Township Supervisors honored Mal Law and Frank Primrose at their mid-year meeting on July 25, 2019 for their years of dedication and service to the community. Both Mal and Frank served faithfully for many years as members of the Zoning Hearing Board. Mal also served as Chairman of the Zoning Hearing Board and was a member of the Planning Commission for many years prior.

Mal and Frank both received a plaque from the township, as well as their retired nameplate, with many thanks and much appreciation. Frank, who has moved to Virginia, was unfortunately unable to attend so accepting the honors on Frank's behalf was his longtime friend and prior township supervisor Fred May.



Supervisor Mike Dwyer, Assistant Zoning Officer Judy Acosta, Fred May accepting on behalf of Frank Primrose, retiring Zoning Hearing Board Chair Mal Law, Supervisor Annette Atkinson and Supervisor Mark Oney.



PLANNING COMMISSION

Chairman: Bob Early | **Vice Chairman:** Parin Shah
Members: Wayne Bolt, Mark Oney | **Alternate:** Carrie Weatherbee
Engineer: Christopher McDermott, | **P.E.:** Reilly Associates
Recording Secretary: Holly Freese

MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP IS PROUD TO BE THE FIRST MUNICIPALITY IN MONROE COUNTY TO UTILIZE MAPLINK! AND WE ARE NOW LIVE!!

View our site here: <https://bit.ly/MSTMapLink> or find it on our Municipal Website: <https://www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com/>

What can I do with my property? Where can I open my business?

Our eCode360® MapLink™ powered by ZoningHub™ site can help you find the answers you need.

MapLink presents elements from our Zoning Ordinance in an interactive zoning map that lets you find the property information you need quickly and easily.

- View essential zoning elements for development including dimensional requirements, allowable uses and zoning districts
- Zoom in on individual parcels to examine zoning requirements in greater detail
- Receive email alerts whenever zoning code information is updated and much more!

This is a great tool for realtors as well! Know what the property is zoned for in an instant. Search for properties that fit the needs of your client.

POLITICAL SIGNS

By Judy Acosta

With elections just around the corner it's time to talk politics -- the politics of political signs that is.

Signs will be popping up around the township in support of local and national candidates. Residents can help keep the township beautiful even during election season by understanding and following the rules for Political Signs in section 090-130(11) of the Middle Smithfield Township Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Political Signs

Political signs are permitted in all districts, provided that:

- No political sign shall be displayed more than 15 days after the election or vote to which the sign pertains. (that means all signs must be taken in by 11/20 – the day before Thanksgiving)
- A political sign shall not be posted on Township property (e.g. township parks, township building, or golf course), except as may be allowed outside of a polling place on Election Day.
- The maximum sign size shall be 16 square feet on each of two sides. Any larger sign shall be regulated as an off-premise sign (such as a billboard)
- A political sign for any candidate or issue shall not be located within 100 feet of any other sign for the same candidate on the same lot that is readable from the same street.

(continued on page 15)

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE!

By Holly Freese

The Planning Commission serves as an advisory board to the Board of Supervisors 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.

VACANCY

If you want to be more involved with your township and want to join the Planning Commission please email a resume and a volunteer application to info@mstownship.com

Volunteer application can be found here:

<http://www.bit.ly/pc-vacancy>



PLANNING UPDATE FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 2019

By Holly Freese

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

1. April 2019- Mt. Nebo Apartments, LLC. Land Development Plan: Mt. Nebo Apartments, LLC., is planning to construct 3 apartment buildings with 96 2-bedroom apartments in total off of Mt. Nebo Road. The property will also contain a walking trail, a common area and a picnic area.
2. May 2019- Echo Lake Library and Community Center Land Development Plan: (AKA Middle Smithfield Township Community & Cultural Center at Echo Lake Park) The Community Center will house the new location for the Library of the Smithfields, as well as a local museum and be quipped to serve as a Red Cross certified shelter. The new construction will be 12,465 square feet located at the Echo Lake Park off of Milford Rd.

PARKS & RECREATION



PennState MASTER GARDENER CLASSES:

Drying Herbs (9/21)

Planting Garlic (10/19)

Winter Flowers (11/9)

Come out to the Middle Smithfield Township building for more classes from the Penn State Master Gardeners.

On 9/21, learn the art of drying and working with your plants to bring that fragrance into your home for all seasons. On 10/19 at 11am, there will be a hands on demonstration and education regarding types of garlic, benefits of hardscape and softscape varieties, bed preparation, planting and mulching for winterizing the raised beds. And on 11/9, learn how to force a bulb to bloom in water and soil pots. Learn how to care for your bulbs and reuse them each year. Learn about other indoor flowering plants that can add color to your home.



All classes are FREE to attend and is open to all gardeners and the general public. Classes also include a hands on demonstration at Community Gardens Park after the class, weather permitting.

Master Gardener volunteers support Penn State Extension's educational programs in consumer horticulture. They develop their horticultural expertise through participation in educational training classes conducted by Penn State University faculty and Extension staff. To learn more about the Monroe County chapter of the Master Gardeners, call 570-421-6430, or email monroemg@psu.edu.

The Middle Smithfield Township building is located at 147 Municipal Drive. Community Gardens Park is located at 989 Coolbaugh Road. GPS sometimes has difficulty finding this address. Please try 3063 Coolbaugh Road for more accurate GPS directions. For more information about the park or this program contact the parks department at 570-223-8920 x119, or crain@mstownship.com.

ASK THE DOG TRAINER (10/5)

David J. Henon of University of Pets is back this fall for his final FREE dog training of 2019!

Dog trainer David J. Henon will be giving a **FREE** training session at W. Leroy Lewis Dog Park on Saturday October 5. Bring your dog to go over basic commands and how it can help solve many behavior issues. Learn about the American Kennel Club Canine Good Citizen and how it can help you get discounts on your homeowners policy and how your dog can become a therapy dog.

The W. Leroy Lewis Dog Park is located at 108 Leroy's Lane. GPS sometimes has difficulty finding this address. If you have trouble, try 6819 Milford Road instead. The park is located along Milford Road (Rt. 209) between the former Fernwood Resort and the National Park entrance.

This event is for dogs that are people and dog-friendly. Aggression can be discussed one on one.

For More Information, visit www.universityofpets.org or contact Chris Rain at 570-223-8920 x119.



At the Fall HOA Networking meeting hosted by the township, Middle Smithfield Township Supervisors present Marshalls Creek Fire Department with an AED for their vehicle. From left to right: Supervisors Mike Dwyer, Fire Chief Joseph Luisi Jr, Rachel Moyer, President of the Greg Moyer Defibrillator Fund, and Supervisor Annette Atkinson.

FALL 2019 HOA MEETING

by Holly Freese

These meetings are held twice a year to provide valuable information to communities and foster collaborative conversations.

If you are the board member of an HOA in Middle Smithfield Township and would like to be involved in the next meeting next Spring please call Holly at 570-223-8920 ext. 132.



Director: Mike Dwyer | **Chairperson:** Jaime Frailey
Lead Coordinator, Dog Park: Vacancy
Lead Coordinator, Community Gardens Park: Michelle Dellavalle
Lead Coordinator, Judy Putek Park: Javon Hilaire
Lead Coordinator, Resica Park: Laura Massaro
Liaison: Christopher Rain | crain@mstownship.com

YOGA, TEE & TAI CHI AT MST ALL FREE!

Since Saturday August 17, Middle Smithfield Township started hosting Yoga and Tai Chi classes at the township building at 147 Municipal Drive, courtesy of instructors Marilyn Cole and Paul Cimei, both residents and volunteers of the township.

The classes are open to all experience levels, age 12 and older. Beginners are encouraged to attend. Yoga with Marilyn is from 9am to 10am, and Yang Style Tai Chi with Paul is from 10:30am to 11:30am, with a tea break in between, courtesy of Mt. Diana Tea and Soap. Participants are welcome to either class or both.

“We are always amazed at the diverse talents of our residents, and their creativity in showing their generosity of spirit,” said Township Supervisor Annette Atkinson. “We are excited to bring this new program to the community to support the health and wellness of all of our residents.”

The classes are free to attend, but donations are encouraged, with part of the proceeds helping to support the construction of the new Middle Smithfield Community Center and Library.

Marilyn and Paul ask that participants provide a yoga mat or beach towel for the classes, and encourage participants to consult their doctor before participating if there are any medical concerns. Participants are also encouraged to wear loose fitting clothing, soft shoes, and not eat too much before participating. The instructors are happy to provide modifications to their poses, so the classes are accessible to all skill levels. These classes embrace the inexperienced. Namaste!



Volunteer Marilyn Cole, an MST community gardener and Penn State Master Gardener, is also a certified yoga instructor

7TH ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING (11/30)

On Saturday November 30, the 7th 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.

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.

6TH ANNUAL TRUNK OR TREAT (10/26)

On Saturday October 26, the Parks & Recreation Committee will host its 6th Annual Trunk or Treat at Resica Park, located at 1 Gravel Ridge Road behind Resica Elementary School. The event begins at noon and ends at 1pm and is for all township children 12 and under! Candy is available while supplies last! The rain date is Sunday October 27.

Activities will include trunk or treating, glitter tattoos, sand art, and spin art. Children can go safely from car to car to collect their treats and take a pumpkin from our pumpkin truck. Candy and pumpkins will only be available for as long as supplies last, so make sure to arrive early!



Attendees are also encouraged to bring non-perishable goods, which will be collected and donated to the Bushkill Outreach food pantry.

If you would like to decorate your car for Trunk or Treat, you must pre-register your car by Thursday October 24 at 4pm. Just coming to enjoy the event? No pre-registration is required. For more information, contact Chris Rain at 570-223-8920 x119.



Michaela Kennedy & Her Monsters Inc Trunk or Treat

LITTER & BEAUTIFICATION

litter&beautification@mstownship.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP CLEAN TOWNSHIP ROADS

By Christopher Rain

Who's ready to clean some roads?

On Saturday September 28, please join Township Supervisors, Parks & Recreation, Litter & Beautification, Adopt a Road, and the Public Works Department to help clean up our Township's Roads. Volunteers for this important program are always welcome and can contact Chris Rain at 570-223-8920, x119. Supplies including bags, pickers, gloves and safety vests are all provided by the township as well as light refreshments.

How this works: Volunteers sign in at the Township building by 8am on Saturday September 28 to get supplies, get split into groups, and depart to various locations throughout the Township to beautify Middle Smithfield. The Township volunteers will focus on our "Main Street" Route 209 and other roads throughout the Township. Middle Smithfield Township will provide reflective vests, road crew signs, and other supplies as needed.

For the second year, Middle Smithfield Township is excited to have 1000 Feet of Street serve as the model for Pick Up the Poconos Day, a county-wide litter cleanup day, also on September 28. MST has been working with the Pocono Mountain Visitors Bureau, the county commissioners, ESU, and the other municipalities of Monroe County to put this program together.

"Middle Smithfield Township is a beautiful community within the Pocono Mountains. When our residents and business owners join the township in cleaning up 1,000 feet of street at a time, miles of beautification can be accomplished in just a

short time," said Michael J. Dwyer, Township Supervisor. "We are proud to have our successful program serve as the model for something that is now being done across the county."

Breakfast is available at sign in and each volunteer will be provided with a snack to take as they clean. Volunteers to the Fall 1000 Feet of Street also receive a Free Pass to the Township Cleanup and Freecycle as a thank you.

In April, over 190 volunteers with 1000 Feet of Street and our Adopt a Road program cleaned 79 miles of roadside (or almost 40 miles of road, both sides) along Rt 209, Wooddale Road, Coolbaugh Road, Sellersville Drive, Pocono Wild Haven Estates, among others and filled hundreds of bags of trash. These numbers are all records for this program. Thank you to all of our Spring 2019 1000 Feet of Street and Adopt a Road volunteers! We hope that our Fall 2019 event will be even more successful.

To volunteer for 1000 Feet of Street or for more information about the Adopt a Road program, please contact Chris Rain at 570-223-8920 x119 or email crain@mstownship.com.

For more information about Pick Up the Poconos, please visit www.poconomountains.com/pick-up-the-poconos/ or call the PMVB at 570-421-5791.

Volunteers can also Adopt-A-Road and have a sign placed in your honor along the road that you clean. If you are interested in the Adopt-A-Road program, please contact Chris Rain at 570-223-8920, x119





PICK OF THE LITTER



HIGHLIGHTING THE ROAD ADOPTERS IN MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP

In This quarter's Pick of the Litter is Mountain Stream Baptist Church, a religious organization located in Marshalls Creek who adopts Oak Grove Road. Located at 305 Dartmouth Drive, behind Alaska Pete's restaurant, MSBC is a church where everyone is welcome to come to hear the word of God. Their mission is to tell people of the community about the gospel.

MSBC members Tom Watson – an MST 2018 Person of the Year finalist – and Jeff Holgate work to clean Oak Grove Road between Rt. 209 and Rt. 402 twice a month, weather permitting. Tom, Jeff, and between eight and up to a dozen other members of the church also volunteer twice a year for MST's 1000 Feet of Street litter pickup days in the spring and fall. During these events, MSBC volunteers clean up not only Oak Grove Road, but portions of Rt. 209 between Oak Grove Road and Big Ridge Drive.

"We adopted Oak Grove Road because we at MSBC want to give back to our community and be involved in the community in any way it will help," said Tom Watson.

Middle Smithfield Township thanks Mountain Stream Baptist Church for adopting Oak Grove Road, for going above and beyond at our litter cleanups, and for their efforts to keep our township a beautiful place.

ADOPT A ROAD IN 2019!

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.

Big Ridge Drive
Jan Basler & Bruce Taylor

Brushy Mountain & Barren Roads
PA Treatment & Healing

Burooj Court
Robert & Eileen Early

Charley Drive
Darlene & Mark Picchanti

Community Drive
John Melair

Coolbaugh Road (South Section)
Monroe County Young Democrats

Coolbaugh Road (Center Section)
Vansolkema Family

Coolbaugh Road, north section
Kaylatime & Angel Hernandez

Dancing Ridge Road
Pocono Café Latin Cuisine & Colombian Bakery

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

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

Mt. Nebo Road & Pardees Loop
Charlie's Angels

Oak Grove Road
Mountain Stream Baptist Church

Pocono Wild Haven Estates Roads
PWHE Beautification Committee

Prairie Drive & Primrose Lane
The Lowris Family

Reservoir Ridge Development Roads
The Christy Family

Reservoir Road
The Perez Family

River Road, Rt 209 to Hidden Lake
Integra Home Counseling, Inc.

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, Sellersville to Turkey Ridge
Robert Post

Upper Lakeview Drive
Turkey Ridge to Lower Lakeview
Int'l Child Abuse Prevention Task Force, Inc.

Wooddale Road
PWHE to Price Township 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@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.

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



GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY:

The Middle Smithfield Township Community & Cultural Center and Library of the Smithfields

On Wednesday, August 28th at 12:30 pm, Middle Smithfield Township broke ground for the new Middle Smithfield Township Community & Cultural Center at Echo Lake Park. The Center will also provide a permanent home for the Library of the Smithfields, as well as a host of other things: the main entrance hall will serve as a local museum, as well as display space for local artists, and organizations such as the Pocono Arts Council, the Pocono Photograph Club, displays from the National Park Service, and more. The building will also be equipped to serve as an American Red Cross certified shelter in an emergency.



Township Staff from Left to Right: John Robson, Karen Stapleton, Patrice Dume, Holly Freese, Supervisor Mark Oney, Supervisor Mike Dwyer, Supervisor Annette Atkinson, Michele Clewell, Judy Acosta, Mayra Colon, Chris Rain.

Saving a Piece of the Past for all of the Future:

In addition, the center will incorporate an icon of the area, the old Mosier's Dairy Farm, into the new building, so that Mosier's can live on. Elements such as sleeper logs, louvres, hand-hewn timbers, and the like will be re-purposed and incorporated into the Middle Smithfield Community Center. Even garden plants and cuttings have been transplanted for safe keeping, until they can be incorporated into a display garden on the grounds.

More about the Building:

Shelter amenities will be stored in the basement of the new community center. Those include bathrooms, showers, cots and a professional kitchen. The township has also purchased a backup power generator for the building using grant funds. Upstairs, on the ground floor, the remaining square footage will be divided between the township and the Eastern Monroe Public Library's Smithfields Branch. That library branch currently leases a space in the RGB Plaza on Seven Bridge Road, which was a temporary arrangement negotiated after the branch left its previous location in the former Foxmoor Village shopping center, now the Pocono Bazaar Flea Market.

About the Groundbreaking:

The groundbreaking was hosted by the Middle Smithfield Township (Supervisors Annette Atkinson, Mike Dwyer, and Mark Oney) together with the Eastern Monroe Public

Library and their Library of the Smithfields Committee (Library Director Susan Lyons, Board President Ann Super, Smithfields Representative Seamus McGraw, and Sharon Laverdure) joined by elected officials including April Niver from Congressman Cartwright's office, Taylor Munoz from Senator Mario Scavello's office, State Representative Rosemary Brown, and County Commissioners John Moyer, Charlie Garriss and John Christy.

About the Construction Team:

D&D Engineering is the engineer for the project. Sedler Design and Redevelopment, (who also designed the Brodhead Creek Heritage Center in Stroudsburg) is the architect for the

project. Karl Moeller Construction is the contractor deconstructing Mosier's Dairy to be incorporated into the new building. In May, the winning bids for the construction project were awarded to: Scandale Associated Builders, for General Construction; Marx

Sheet Metal & Mechanical, Inc. for Mechanical/HVAC; Wind Gap Electric, Inc. for Electrical; KC Mechanical Service, Inc. for Plumbing; Northeast Site Contractors for Site Work.

More details and renderings of the project can be found at: <https://www.MiddleSmithfieldTownship.com/community-center-library/>



Drone photo taken by Jonathan MacHale



Left to Right: Northeast Site (Site Contractor), Joe Sedler (Architect), April Niver (Congressman Matt Cartwright's Office), Taylor Munoz (Senator Scavella's Office), State Representative Rosemary Brown, Supervisors Mike Dower, Mark Oney, and Annette Atkinson; Eastern Monroe Public Library: Ann Super (Board of Trustees), Sue Lyons (Director), Seamus McGraw (Board Member), Sharon Laverdure (Board Member), Monroe County Commissioner John Moyer, Jack Pardue (Scandale Associated Builders/General Construction), Deanna Schmoey (Engineer)

A GROUNDBREAKING EXPERIENCE!

By Merle Turitz

I am writing this RSVP article as I return from the groundbreaking event held at Middle Smithfield Echo Lake Park for the newly planned Community Center. First, let me confess that I wear not only my RSVP hat, but my 33- year resident of Middle Smithfield hat, as well, so I am very excited to have attended this event today.

Second, I want to take this opportunity to say how proud I am to be represented by three amazing and dedicated Supervisors, who are changing the face of our township through extraordinary leadership. The anticipation of what is to come with the opening of the new center is tangible; you can feel the enthusiasm from everyone in attendance. So, as a resident I certainly look forward to visiting exhibits, using the facilities and taking my grandchildren there when it is built.

My RSVP persona, however, is formulating the possibilities of opportunities that await our senior volunteers. Let's start with the library. We have already begun our six season of the SPECTACULAR program, the only Early Spanish Language program for ages 3 – 5 in the County. While the Hughes Library in Stroudsburg has opened its doors to several of our children's special events, I can visualize holding a bi-lingual story hour or Spanish program for children at the new library branch, the Library of the Smithfields.

Our Merry Mat Makers, the group that has successfully completed 58 sleeping mats for the homeless created from recycled plastic grocery bags, can certainly expand its production by recruiting new volunteers who are residents of the Smithfields and Bushkill areas – residents who may not enjoy commuting to the Loder Building in East Stroudsburg twice a month. It would be wonderful to have another local group form in the Gathering Room of the new Community Center building.



Having a Community Center in the upper 209 corridor means more volunteer opportunities in that location for residents in that area, maybe a reception area or registration person, or a dozen for the exhibits....Maybe our APPRISE program volunteers can offer a monthly Medicare Counseling session similar to the one offered at the Friendly Community Center in Mountainhome or even have the AARP Tax program offered during Tax season there.

Oh dear, my mind is racing! There are so many possibilities in which to look forward as my MST community grows. Congratulations to the Supervisors for all their efforts and to the residents who stand to gain so much from our leaderships' vision. To learn more about RSVP and the opportunities that exist all over Monroe County, please call the RSVP Office at 570-420-3747, or visit www.monroecountypa.gov/rsvp



BE AN ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE

By Maria Schramm

What is the easiest way to help your community without having to pull out your checkbook over and over throughout the year? Workplace giving campaigns allow Pocono Mountains United Way to improve education, financial stability and health in Monroe County. Best of all, since the donation is deducted from your paycheck, your small biweekly or monthly donation adds up to make a difference throughout the year.

Research shows that most people are participating in employee campaigns, but do they always know where those dollars are going? Many of their contributions assist agencies located in the county/state where they work more so than where they live. Middle Smithfield Township is packed with commuters, which means that your contributions may be going to support

(continued on page 14)

PUBLIC WORKS

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

2019 FALL CURBSIDE LEAF COLLECTION

**Monday, October 21st through
Friday, November 15th**

The township will pick up leaves on township roads starting Monday, October 21st (no sticks, limbs, stumps, grass clippings or any other yard waste.) Leaves must be at the road edge, and not in bags.

The schedule is subject to change without notice depending on weather, volume of leaves or any other emergency. Under township ordinance, open burning of leaves is prohibited.

10/21 - 11/01 WOODDALE/COOLBAUGH AREA
**11/04 - 11/08 ROUTE 402/OAK GROVE/HIDDEN LAKE/
TIMOTHY LAKE/MILFORD ROAD AREAS**
11/11-11/15 UPPER LAKEVIEW AREA

Not on a Township Road? No problem! You are welcome to drop off leaves and brush at the Oak Grove Multi-Municipal Compost Facility located at 3305 Oak Grove Road, East Stroudsburg. Hours: Monday through Saturday, 7am-2pm. Closed Holidays.

**FOR A FULL LIST OF ROADS, PLEASE VISIT US ON
FACEBOOK OR MST TOWNSHIP WEBSITE**

RECYCLING

Looking to reduce your impact on landfills?
Here's where you can drop off your recycling:

Military Road Recycling Site
Stroud Township
1110 Military Road
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Corrugated cardboard and boxes, paper (office, newspapers, magazines, junk mail, shredded paper, books, cereal boxes and the like), plastics numbers 1 & 2, no black plastic of any number accepted, aluminum, bi-metal cans and glass. NO PLASTIC BAGS OR FILM.



ROAD 6-8 MILES YEAR	ACTION FOR 2019
✓ Big Ridge Drive (Bridge 2)	Remove & Replace DONE
✓ Denise Lane	DONE
Diss Way (i.e., temporary access road to CCP)	CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS
✓ Firestone Road	Road Improvements DONE (Dirt/Gravel Road Grant from DCNR)
Fish Court	Pave
Freeman Tract Road	Road Improvements Pending National Park Service Approval (Dirt/Gravel Road Grant from DCNR)
✓ Frutchey Drive	Chip Seal DONE
✓ McCole Road	Chip Seal DONE
✓ Oak Grove Grove Road	Surface Treatment DONE
✓ Primrose Lane	Pave DONE (Winona Lake to Upper Lakeview)
✓ Turkey Ridge Road	Remove & Replace DONE

BE AN ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE

(continued from page 13)

programs outside of the county. Our goal is to raise awareness and encourage employees to donate to their hometown United Way so that residents within Monroe County can benefit from their workplace contributions.

Who does your local United Way support with your contribution? Pocono Mountains United Way supports 5 local shelters and other vital community services including; Meals on Wheels, Habitat for Humanity, American Red Cross, Center for Vision Loss, Pocono Services for Families & Children and many other agencies that help those most in need in Monroe County.

How do you start a workplace campaign? United Way works with the person interested in beginning the giving program in their company, also known as the 'Internal Champion', to make the Campaign a success and brainstorm options for your company including: Dress Down Day Fundraisers, Department Challenges, Team-building opportunities and Corporate-match (if available).

Would you like to be an advocate for change? Do you want to get a campaign started at your place of employment? Contact Monica Cravotta at 570-261-8010, email monica@poconounitedway.org or visit <https://poconounitedway.org/get-involved/give/>. Together. More Than Ever.

ANNUAL FALL CLEAN-UP AND FREECYCLE

(Also known as “Dumpster Day” 10/4 & 10/5)

By Karen Stapleton

Twice a year (in the spring and in the fall) Middle Smithfield hosts “Dumpster Days” at the township building at 147 Municipal Drive to help residents do their fall and spring cleaning, as well as offer FREE PAPER SHREDDING. You can even save a trip to the Oak Grove Leaf Composting Facility, and drop off your leaves, too. Middle Smithfield Township’s annual Spring Clean Up is Friday, October 4th and Saturday, October 5th from 7am to 4pm both days, with free paper shredding on Saturday from 10am to 3pm. (Friday, October 5th, locked bins will be on the premises to drop off.)

Participating residents share the cost to operate the clean-up with the township: the clean-up costs \$5 per car load (slightly more for larger vehicles) and tire disposal starts at \$4 each tire. For residents, the township clean-up is much more economical and convenient than the closest dumps in Taylor and Pen Argyl, which charge a minimum of \$62-\$73 per vehicle. (See IF YOU LITERALLY HAVE A TON OF GARBAGE CONTACT INFORMATION)

Residents must bring proof of residency such as a tax bill, rent receipt, driver’s license, etc. in order to participate. This is an extremely “user friendly” program!

Middle Smithfield will accept bulk items, furniture, toys, washers, dryers, bicycles, lawn mowers, water heaters, batteries, nails, screws, empty paint cans – just no household garbage, construction debris or hazardous materials.

Freecycle

Thursday, Friday & Saturday,
October 10th, 11th & 12th: 7am-2pm

What is “Freecycle?” Residents can drop off their gently used items with the knowledge that they won’t go to a landfill – but one of their neighbors or a charitable organization instead! Everyone wins – The Fall Clean Up costs the taxpayers less money (because we need less dumpsters), Pennsylvania landfills don’t fill up as quickly, and residents and local charities receive needed goods at a price that can’t be beat – FREE!

What do we do with leftovers? After the Freecycle event, charitable organizations such as Bushkill Outreach, the Salvation Army, and Women’s Resources of Nassau County can come and pick up whatever is left over. Any books in good condition will be held by the township and delivered to the Hughes Library for their annual book sale.



POLITICAL SIGNS *(continued from page 7)*

Signs on Public Property

A sign posted on Township property or within a public street right-of-way without governmental permission may be removed and discarded.

Signs on Private Property

No person shall post a sign upon private property without permission from the property owner. A sign posted on private property without permission of the property owner may be removed and discarded by the property owner or his/her designee.

Applications for Political Sign Permits are available through the Zoning Office and on the township website (www.MiddleSmithfieldTownship.com/zoning-zoning-permits/political-sign-application/) If you are running for office or represent a campaign, please contact the Zoning Office for an application.

If you literally have a ton of garbage:

Alliance Sanitary Landfill

389 S. Keyser Avenue
Taylor PA, 18517
Disposal Rate: approximately \$62/ton
Hours: Weekdays 7:30am to 3:00pm;
occasionally on Saturdays
www.alliancelandfill.wm.com

Grand Central Sanitary Landfill

910 W Pennsylvania Avenue
Pen Argyl, PA 18072
Disposal Rate: approximately \$73/ton
Hours: Weekdays 6am to 4pm;
Saturdays 7am to 9am
www.wmsolutions.com

DETAILS:

FREE Paper Shredding (Saturday 10/14, 9a-3p)	FREE
Automobile/Small SUV’s Load	\$5.00
Large SUV’s, Pick-up trucks and vans	\$10.00
Small utility trailers (up to 8 ft. in length)	\$10.00
Dump Truck (single axle) and box trucks (up to 12’ box)	\$60.00
Dump Truck (one-ton)	\$40.00

Excessively Large Bulk Items may

require an extra charge \$TBD by Staff

TIRES: Small tires are \$4.00 each; with rims \$6.00 each. Large tires are \$12.00 each; with rims \$14.00 each. **MAXIMUM OF TWELVE (12) TIRES PER RESIDENT ACCEPTED**

NO: NO HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE

NO AUTOMOBILES or AUTOMOBILE PARTS

NO PAINT CANS WITH CONTENTS, THINNERS

NO PESTICIDES, HERBICIDES, or ANY OTHER HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

NO BUILDING MATERIALS or DEMOLITION WASTE

(for example: LUMBER, SHINGLES / SHEETROCK, DIRT, CEMENT, ETC.)

YES: WE WILL ACCEPT: Bulk items, for example: furniture, toys, washers, dryers, bicycles, lawn mowers, water heaters etc. BATTERIES WILL BE ACCEPTED. NAILS AND SCREWS - (MUST BE IN CLOSED CONTAINER)

FREE Paper Shredding Saturday, 10/14, 9 am - 3 pm.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Funded entirely by donations, not taxes

AMBULANCE COMPANIES FACING CRISIS OF THEIR OWN

"Courtesy of "Townships Today" by PSATs

Volunteer fire companies are on the verge of extinction, and now Pennsylvania is facing another public safety crisis.

This one involves emergency medical service agencies, whose numbers have shrunk dramatically from 2,000 in the late '80s and early '90s to between 900 and 1,000 today.

As volunteers dwindle, paid personnel become harder to come by, and insurance reimbursements only partially cover expenses, the EMS crisis has reached a tipping point in many communities.

"The reality is that ambulance services are experiencing a severe financial crisis," says Stephen Bobella Jr., the executive director of both the Northern Berks EMS and the Elverson-Honey Brook Area EMS, which serve municipalities in Berks, Chester, and Lancaster counties.

A manpower shortage

Circumstances, however, have not always been so dire.

For decades, ambulance services thrived. Buoyed by low operating expenses and more than equitable reimbursements from patients' insurance companies, many organizations had built a nest egg of savings.

"We had in the ballpark of a million dollars socked away at one time," David Braucht, president of the Penns Valley EMS Board of Directors in Centre County, says.

He calls it the "golden age of reimbursement," when insurance checks covered expenses.

"When EMS started, it was about neighbors helping neighbors," Scott Rhoat, chief of Bellefonte EMS and the president of the Centre County Ambulance Association, says. "It's almost impossible today for volunteers only to run an EMS system."

Following passage of Pennsylvania's first EMS law in 1985, emergency services became more regulated, and many agencies started the shift from volunteer to paid personnel who could better provide round-the-clock EMS coverage. Around this time, agencies also began to separate from their volunteer fire companies to become independent organizations.

"Many years ago, we were viewed as strictly a transport service," Bobella says. "Today, we are a health care provider."

With well-equipped ambulances and highly trained staff, today's EMS providers take the emergency room out to the community and into living rooms. However, better care brings higher expenses, and the consequences of this shift in services — from volunteer to paid staff, from transport only to advanced health care — have taken a financial toll on EMS operations.

(continued on page 21)

AMBULANCE FUNDRAISER

INTERNATIONAL ARTIST NATALIA SEGURA SET TO HONOR THE BUSHKILL EMERGENCY CORPS

International Artist, Natalia Segura, is set to take the stage Saturday, October 12th at the Sycamore Grille to honor the Bushkill Emergency Corps., and their efforts within the community. "I am so honored to be asked to perform at this event that supports the community I have become fond of over the years of performing here- I instantly said yes to celebrate their work in the community when asked". Natalia Segura will also be accompanied by DJ Ruby. Natalia Segura is an Australian actor, and singer/ songwriter who's song 'Beautiful Day' charted #12 on the FMOB AC 200 Chart.

"Bushkill Emergency Corps is excited for the upcoming Gala and the opportunity to share with our community the work that we do every day. This evening will be one allowing us to share our commitment to the community and at the same time host an evening that will be fun for everyone. We hope many of our residents and friends can join us!" says Debbie Kulick, President, Bushkill Emergency Corps.

Bushkill Emergency Corps is a community-based, non-profit emergency medical service providing quality pre-hospital care to Pike and Monroe County residents and visitors in a skilled, professional and dedicated manner. Our organization promotes and encourages volunteerism to ensure the well-being of the community-at-large through excellence in pre-hospital medical care and public health education.

"This evening will be a celebration, filled with community, dining, entertainment, dancing and more as we support this vital organization within our community. I have lived in this community for over 20 years, and have seen the Bushkill Emergency Corps in action, while supporting many events within our community." say Gil Coronado, Event Organizer.

Ticket price includes dinner, and a cash bar. To learn more about The Bushkill Emergency Corps visit www.bushkillemergencycorps.com

Who: General Public/ Press
What: Bushkill Emergency Corps Fall Gala
Where: Sycamore Grille 92 Main Street,
Delaware Water Gap, PA 18327
When: Saturday October 12th, 2019
7:00pm – 10:00 pm
Tickets: \$35 Pre Sale \$40 Day of Event
Contact: Debbie Kulick 570-223-1906 for Sponsorship
Opportunities and Ticket information

FIRE COMPANY FUNDRAISER

26TH ANNUAL FALL CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Marshalls Creek Fire Company will be hosting the 26th annual Fall Classic Golf Tournament on Saturday, September 28th at Country Club of the Poconos Municipal Golf Course located at 1445 Big Ridge Dr., E. Stroudsburg, PA 18302.

This tournament serves as a major fundraiser for the year and helps provide for yearly expenses.

The MCFC is solely operated by volunteers and uses donations and contributions to cover fuel costs and safely equip and train firefighters and maintain the fleet of trucks.

The tournament has 3 different levels of sponsorship opportunities:

- Door Prize Sponsor: a donation of good or services that will advertise your business
- Tee Sponsorship- \$75: Advertise your business on a sign that's created to your specifications that will be posted at a tee box at the tournament.
- Hole Sponsorship- \$200: A sign prominently displayed at one of the 18 holes. Your business name and phone number will appear on the back of the tournament t-shirt that every golfer receives.

If you're interested in golfing in the tournament, register yourself or your team for a fun day of golf and fellowship. The cost is \$85 per golfer and includes cart, snacks & beverages and a delicious buffet meal to finish up the day.

If you would like to donate or register to golf, please contact the MCFC Golf Tournament Chairperson, Chris Mathiesen at 570-476-0607 or 570-242-8344.

The Marshalls Creek Fire Company needs your help and will greatly appreciate your donation to help keep the community and it's members safe.

FIRE PREVENTION COMMUNITY NIGHT

Tuesday, October 8, 2019 at 6:30 PM – 9 PM
at the J T Lambert Intermediate School
2000 Milford Rd, East Stroudsburg

The Marshalls Creek Fire Company proudly presents our 25th Annual Fire Prevention Week COMMUNITY NIGHT. In conjunction with the Shawnee, Bushkill & East Stroudsburg Fire Companies, a fun filled evening is planned. ADMISSION IS ALWAYS FREE along with FREE grilled hot dogs, hamburgers and bottled water!

MCFC NEW TANKER

From Joe Luisi

The Marshalls Creek Fire Company is proud to present our recently delivered Pierce Enforcer Pumper Tanker.

This new piece of apparatus has a larger pump and carries more water. It also can bring firefighters safely to the scene. Having the ability to bring more water to a fire incident is especially crucial in an area like ours due to the limited areas that are protected by fire hydrants.

Our members will be mounting additional equipment in-house and will complete the necessary training before it is put into service. We are planning to have the apparatus in service by early Fall.

We would like to thank the public and the 3 great Townships that we provide coverage for, for the continued support.



EVERYONE CAN BE A HERO BY LEARNING TO PREVENT AND ESCAPE FIRES

Fire Prevention Week October 6-12

This year's Fire Prevention Weeks campaign, "Not Every Hero Wears a Cape. Plan and Practice Your Escape," aims to educate everyone about the small but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe.

Fire Prevention Week, an annual observance promoted by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is October 6-12.

Home fire escape planning and drills are an essential part of fire safety. A home fire escape plan needs to be developed and practiced before a fire strikes. Home escape planning should include:

- Drawing a map of each level of the home that shows all doors and windows; Going to each room and pointing to the two ways out
- Making sure someone will help children, older adults, and people with disabilities wake up and get out
- Teaching children how to escape on their own in case you cannot help them
- Establishing a meeting place outside and away from the home where everyone can meet after exiting; and having properly installed and maintained smoke alarms.



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



BANQUET HALL AT WHISPERING PINES

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



FALL INTO GOLF

From Kevin Dixon

We are looking forward to one of the prettiest seasons of the year. Fall golf in the Poconos can be breathtaking and the Country Club of the Poconos is the place to be. Out \$25 rates make the course a must play. Our greens were aerated at the end of August to get them into perfect shape for the fall. Additional work has been progressing around the course this season. Aesthetic boulders were placed on the tee box on hole #2 to prevent runoff and erosion. In addition, other work was completed on a number of additional holes to upgrade playability of the course.

Our new Friday night golf scrambles have become a big hit and we look forward to continuing them next year. Our outings have been a big success and we have 2 big ones in September (check out the list below). The township looks forward to helping non-profit organizations raise money. Contact the pro shop 570-223-8099 to find out how you can raise even more money by having your outing at Country Club of the Poconos. We look forward to seeing you this fall.



Upcoming Community and Charity Events, 2019

**Marshall's Creek Fire Company Golf Outing
and Banquet, Sat. 9/28**

RISE Fundraiser, Sat 10/12

(TBD) Veterans Day Luncheon, Sun 11/10

BANQUET HALL DATES STILL AVAILABLE FOR 2019:

The beautiful Whispering Pines banquet hall is still taking reservations for all your golf outing, charitable, or private party needs in 2019!

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/



Artists rendering of the Gathering Room at the new Community Center

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@mstownship.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.



Artists rendering of the Gathering Room at the new Community Center

SEWER

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

OAK GROVE & RECYCLING

www.ogmmcpb.com
Chairperson | Mike Dwyer



SEWER UPDATE

2019 Capital Improvement Projects:

Rehabilitation of Pump Station 4 – Maple Lane

This project involves the replacement of the piping in the wet well and valve vault and new control panel. This project has been awarded to Blooming Glen Contractors with an estimated cost of \$135,499. This project is tentatively scheduled for August 2019.

Mt. Nebo Sewer Extension:

The Mt. Nebo Sewer Extension was awarded a grant in the amount of \$231,950. We are currently in the design phase for the Pump Station on Mt. Nebo to facilitate the connection of the Mt. Nebo Apts to the sewer system.

Sewer Crossover:

The Sewer Crossover bringing the sewer line to the North side of 209 for the Mt. Nebo Extension is complete. The cost was \$76,700.

Generators

A new more efficient generator for the Fernwood Plant will be installed as soon as the site prep work is complete. This will keep the plant operational during power outages and save our Public Works Department time and labor required to fuel the generator during these outages. Generators for the Pump Stations will be replaced as needed to make them more efficient over the next few years.

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 1st	Feb 2nd	March 3rd
Second Quarter	April 1st	May 2nd	June 3rd
Third Quarter	July 1	Aug 2nd	Sep 3rd
Fourth Quarter	Oct 1 st	Nov 2 nd	Dec 3 rd

OAK GROVE & RECYCLING

By Karem Stapleton

The Oak Grove Multi-Municipal Compost Processing program is jointly operated and available to residents of Middle Smithfield, Smithfield and Lehman Townships, located at 3305 Oak Grove Drive (Oak Grove intersects with Milford Road/Route 209 by PriceChopper) in Middle Smithfield Township. Hours: Monday – Saturday, 7am-2pm. Closed Holidays.

To use the facility you must be a resident of one of the participating townships or a commercial business (via permit only) located in the townships. Acceptable materials include leaves, shrubs (no roots) and shrubbery, tree trimmings, and branches cut into 3-4 foot lengths and no larger than 12 inches in diameter.

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 for 3 yards is \$10 for regular quality \$20 for high quality.



To make an appointment, purchase a commercial permit, or have any questions, please contact kstapleton@mstownship.com or call 570-223-8920X118.

PRODUCT RECEIVED	BRUSH (Yards)	CHIPS (Yards)	LEAVES (Yards)	TOTAL YARDS
January	280	28	76	384
February	12	-	-	396
March	752	-	-	1148
April	1481	164	702	2347
May	804	-	211	1015
June	630	-	58	688
July	716	545	56	1320
August	562	-	72	634
YTD TOTAL YARDS	5237	740	1175	7152

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Carrie Wetherbee | **Vice Chairperson:** Robert Huffman
Secretary: Patricia Francis | **Member:** Charisse Fallon | **Member:** Ken Johns
Historical Commission Liaison: Holly Freese | hfreese@mstownship.com
570-223-8920 x132

MEMORY MAKERS:

Reunited and it feels so good!

By Holly Freese

The 15th annual Memory Makers luncheon was held on Saturday, August 17th at the Whispering Pines Banquet Hall.

The theme this year was “Middle Smithfield School Reunion!”

During the event, attendees went through the photo archives from the 50’s through the 70’s and tried to identify classmates in the photos, as well as sharing memories of their school days.

Guest Speakers at the event included:



Gene Dickison - Gene Dickison is the creator of More than Money television, radio, print, and media. Gene is the President of MtM Financial Group of Financial Advisors in Bethlehem, PA. He, with his wife Diane, has established the More than Money Foundation for America Values. Raised (using that word loosely) in Bushkill, educated at Middle Smithfield, and a graduate of East Strouds-

burg. University of North Carolina and Lehigh University. United States Air Force officer. Gene is married to Diane and is the exceptionally proud father of three daughters Ali, Alyssa, and Megan.



Rosemary Brown (Maula) - State Representative Rosemary M. Brown represents the 189th Legislative District. A longtime Pocono resident, Rosemary is focused on reducing or eliminating school property taxes and creating a fairer allocation of state education funds. Rosemary is a member of St. John’s Parish in East Stroudsburg. She is a graduate

of East Stroudsburg High School and attended the University of Scranton, where she graduated with a bachelor’s degree in communications. Rosemary is also a dedicated mother, and she has been married to her high school sweetheart, Joe, for 23 years. They have three children, Kennedy, Carter and Reagan.



Yvonne Smith – Yvonne M. Smith was born and raised in the Marshalls Creek/Middle Smithfield area in 1940. She attended Middle Smithfield School from 1946 to 1954 and graduated from East Stroudsburg High School in 1958. Yvonne

attended the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania’s School of Nursing. She was a nurse at Pocono Medical Center for 32 years, where she was the head nurse of the PAC unit and the Same Day Surgery unit. Yvonne semi-retired in 1998 and worked at the ESU health center until she fully retired.

Beatrice Reish (Smith) – Beatrice J. Reish attended Middle Smithfield School beginning in 1943 and graduated with the class of 1950. She attended college for two years before her soon-to-be husband returned home from Korea and their courtship began. Together Beatrice and her husband raised four boys. Beatrice worked as a waitress for 15 years – and loved it! Her job at restaurants like Albino’s and the Oyster House helped put three of her boys through college. Beatrice is also an accomplished organ player and played for Middle Smithfield Church and Shawnee Presbyterian Church.



IDENTIFY OUR PHOTOS!

Did you attend Middle Smithfield School from 1950 through 1980? If so, you may be in our pictures! We had boxes upon boxes of slides donated by Velma Knight and Wesley Rusk. These pictures were taken by the late Mr. Wallingford, a teacher at MSS. If you’d like to look through our archives and possibly spot yourself in one of the pictures, visit facebook.com/MSTHISTORY and take a scroll through our Middle Smithfield Elementary School Photo Archives! OR you can visit the Flickr account and see the photos there, my going to our webpage and clicking on the Flickr link at the bottom of the page: <https://www.middleSmithfieldtownship.com/historical-commission/> OR go directly to Flickr by using either <http://bit.ly/2li7Dzv> OR <https://tinyurl.com/flickr-com-mstHISTORICAL>

No computer? No problem! Just stop in and Holly Freese will help you.

MONROE COUNTY AGENCY ON AGING

By Michele Clewell, Monroe County Elder Abuse Taskforce

Staffed by professionals in the field of aging and with the guidance of the Pennsylvania Department of Aging, the Monroe County Area Agency on Aging strives to improve the quality of life of Monroe County's older citizens through the coordination of exiting services and development of essential programs.

The mission at the Monroe County Area Agency on Aging is:

- * To Strengthen Family Life
- * To Assist Individuals in Attaining or Maintaining Independence and Self-Care
- * To Protect Adults in Danger of Neglect, Abuse or Exploitation

The Area Agency on Aging provides a variety of services to Monroe County residents age 60 and older. Services include: Information & Referral, Transportation, Senior Centers, Pre-Admission Screening, Legal Advice, Ombudsman Service, Medical Assistance Waiver, Apprise, Primetime Health, Home Delivered Meals, Protective Services, Personal Care, Care Management, Family Caregiver's Support, Program, Friendly Visitor, Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)

Located at 724 Phillips Street, Suite 102, Stroudsburg with office hours from 8am-4:30pm, Monday-Friday, 570-420-3735.

If you would like to read the MCAA newsletter, you can do so online here: <http://www.monroecountypa.gov/Dept/Aging/Documents/Newsletter.pdf> OR, you can receive the letter via email or mail by calling 570-420-3735.

AMBULANCE COMPANIES FACING CRISIS OF THEIR OWN *(continued from page 17)*

For starters, the equipment needed to deliver basic and advanced life support is expensive. Paying for a career staff also greatly increases EMS budgets. Salaries, however, for first responders remain low, making it difficult to attract candidates to the job.

The increased level of training requirements can be a deterrent, too. To become an EMT takes 200 hours and costs upwards of \$1,000. The training for a paramedic is even more intense, requiring a multi-year and multi-thousand-dollar investment in time and money.

"When an EMT starts at \$9.50 an hour and is making maybe \$18,000 a year, it's hard to convince people to go into this career," Rhoat says.

In rural areas, where the population pool is smaller, paramedics and EMTs are even harder to find, yet these units' life-saving services are especially essential in a region where trauma and critical-care centers are hours away.

Not keeping pace

Saving lives is the goal of EMS providers so when a 9-1-1 call comes in, they respond first and deal with money issues later.

"EMS is the best example of socialized medicine, where we are required to respond and transport and can't refuse service," Rhoat says, "and those who can pay make up for those who can't."

While the scope of emergency medical services has evolved over time, the system that finances it has been slow to change. In a recent victory, however, the state increased the reimbursement of ambulance transportation for Medicaid patients for the first time in 14 years.

In January, the Medicaid reimbursement rose from \$120 to \$180 per loaded trip for basic life support transport and from \$200 to \$300 per loaded trip for advanced life support. The act also allows for a \$2 charge per mile for loaded trips in excess of 20 miles.

A 2018 law made another important change by requiring health insurance plans to pay all reasonably necessary costs associated with ambulance services, even if the victim is not transported. Previously, insurance carriers could refuse to reimburse an ambulance company that provided medical service to a patient but didn't transport the person to the hospital.

Private insurance has also become problematic for ambulance companies since the Affordable Care Act, which ushered in high-deductible, high-copay insurance plans. These make it more challenging for EMS companies to collect from patients, particularly if the EMS is an out-of-network provider.

In these cases, the insurance company will send the reimbursement check to the insured individual, who should then turn it over to the ambulance company. Unfortunately, some individuals simply cash these checks and rebuff ambulance companies attempts to recoup reimbursement, which only exacerbates the problem.

Seeking solutions

With reimbursements below cost for all payers, agencies must raise the remaining funds through municipal contributions, membership programs, donations, fundraisers, and grants.

And there's another challenge: EMS has been self-sufficient for so long that communities simply take their emergency services for granted. "For 30 years, EMS had been delivered to the valley for nothing," Braucht of Penns Valley says.

Those days are over, EMS officials say, and solutions must come soon through community involvement, local government support, and legislative action.

Chuck Cressley of Jefferson County EMS understands how the challenges facing EMS right now can feel overwhelming.

"We're not giving up," he says. "If we don't work through this, then essentially, we would have to go back to a time when the local funeral director provided emergency transport in a community, and that is untenable."

PERSON
OF THE YEAR
MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP
2018

NOMINATE SOMEONE YOU KNOW FOR 2019 PERSON OF THE YEAR

By Holly Freese

The Middle Smithfield Township Person of the Year award recognizes Middle Smithfield residents who have made a positive difference in the world and highlight the importance of altruism, philanthropy and community service. The recipient of the award will receive \$1,500 towards their cause, while two finalists will receive \$1,000 each toward their cause.

The award is issued by Middle Smithfield Township's Supervisors to recognize the contributions philanthropists make to our community. The MST "Person of the Year" Award is available annually to individuals who meet or exceed requirements for volunteer service and have demonstrated exemplary citizenship through volunteering. Nominees may have performed their volunteer work locally, nationally or internationally.

Not only are residents of Middle Smithfield Township eligible to be nominated, anyone who volunteers for an organization in or that serves Middle Smithfield Township is eligible as well. This change allows for more volunteers to be recognized for their hard work and dedication.

The nomination process is simple. Submit the contact information for both the nominee and the nominator and write a brief story as to why your nominee should win, highlighting something that distinguishes them as an individual and how

their contribution has made a difference in the community.

Nomination forms and details can be downloaded at www.MiddleSmithfieldTownship.com, or can be picked up at the township building.

Nominations will be accepted through November 18th, and the finalists will be notified by December 20th. An independent panel of judges representing the district judicial system, news media, local clergy, and business leaders from across Middle Smithfield will select the award recipients.

NEW DATE FOR DINNER:

Typically held during the year end busy holiday season, for the convenience of our residents, volunteers and nominees, the Township will now host the annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in the beginning of the New Year. The dinner will be held at the township's Whispering Pines Banquet Hall at Country Club of the Poconos both to honor the Person of the Year finalists and recognize the township's many volunteers on Friday, January 24th.

Not only will the 2019 Person of the Year be announced, other volunteers and organizations will be recognized for the hard work they do for the community.

Any questions regarding the Person of the Year Award and nomination process can be directed to Holly at 570-223-8920 ext 132 or hfreese@mstownship.com.

NOMINATION GUIDELINES

- Service provided may not include hours served as part of an internship fulfilling academic requirements.
- Nominated volunteers must have provided service during the 2019 calendar year; however, service provided prior to this year can also be included.
- Nominee must reside in and/or volunteer in Middle Smithfield Township.
- Volunteers may nominate themselves.
- Staff members compensated by salary or any other compensatory means are not eligible.
- Any service provided in reference to a court case will not be eligible. Nominations must be received via mail or online application
- Nominators must obtain approval from the person being nominated prior to submission.
- Award selections are based on the nominee's volunteer efforts and commitment of time, accomplishments, community impact and enhancement of the lives of others, as described on the nomination form.
- Nominees must volunteer for a minimum of one year, at least 170 hours per year, and reside in or volunteer in Middle Smithfield Township and benefited the community in a substantial, important or unique way.
- Nominee must reside in and/or volunteer in Middle Smithfield Township.
- All decisions made by the independent panel of judges are final.
- Nominations are subject to verification.

PHOENIX MARTIAL ARTS CAP & SOCK DRIVE

By David Paskiet

Phoenix Martial Arts Society is hosting a Cap & Sock drive for the homeless veterans. We will be collecting hats (new or used), socks (new), scarves (new or used), coats (new or used) and hygiene products (travel size shampoo, soap, deodorant, etc.) to make hygiene bags.

These are being collected from now up until November. All of this will be sorted and packaged by our board members, black belts, brown belts and any other volunteers from our students and parents. Please help us make this a very successful event.

For information about where to donate items please call 570-982-4999 or email info@phoenixmartialartsociety.com.

Helping the community in which we live is very important to us and feel that this is a contagious thing! By getting PMAS and its people involved in various things for the community we feel that we can instill and spread the pride in where we live. That pride and community spirit will prompt them to spread it around and so on and so on.

Together we are more. Together we are strong.



DAVID PASKIET
2018 PERSON OF THE YEAR
Phoenix Martial Arts Society



FRANCIS OQUENDO
2018 PERSON OF THE YEAR FINALIST
Boy Scouts

TROOP 87: SCOUTING SUMMER EVENTS

By Doreen Santiago, Troop 87 Chair

Troop 87 hosted its Third Annual Fall Canoe Camporee the weekend of September 20th. The Troop hosted the event for the entire Pocono District and can usually average close to 100 canoers and campers. It is a memorable event and lots of fun and had been very successful and well attended.

The event is held rain or shine and consists of a 14 mile canoe ride, camping hosted at Lehman Township Community park and other activities!

For more information on this annual event contact Francis Oquendo at 570-269-5089 or numero1scout@gmail.com



THOMAS WATSON
2018 PERSON OF THE YEAR FINALIST
Meals on Wheels

MONROE COUNTY MEALS ON WHEELS WINE N' WHEELS

JOIN MONROE COUNTY MEALS ON WHEELS AT RENEGADE WINERY ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20TH FOR "WINE 'N' WHEELS!!

Enjoy food, wine and live music at the event. Also participate in a Tricky Tray, 50/50 Raffles and more!

Call 570-424-8794 for your reservation. You must be 21 years or older to attend.

Event Details:

When: Sunday, October 20, 2019 | 1-4 pm

Where: Renegade Winery, 600 Main St. Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Cost: \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door

*****ECRWSSDDM*****

POSTAL CUSTOMER



YOUR VOTE COUNTS

By Michelle Clewell

The Township receives numerous questions from you, the residents about voting; “how do I register to vote”, “how do I file an absentee ballot” and “where do I vote”? With local, state and federal elections just around the corner we thought, the newsletter is the perfect opportunity to help answer some of those questions. Although we do try our best to help those that contact us, it is through the Monroe County Office of Elections and Voter Registration where all voting, ballot, address changes and election inquiries should be directed (570-517-3165). That office is located at 1 Quaker Plaza, Stroudsburg PA 18360

The deadline to register to vote is 30 days prior to the election. If your application is received too late, it will be processed for the next election.

- October 7, 2019 is the last day to register to vote before the November 5th Election
 - October 29, 2019 is the last day to apply for a Civilian Absentee Ballot. You can apply online: [VotesPA.com/ApplyAbsentee](https://www.votepa.com/ApplyAbsentee) (Absentee ballot applications must be received by your county election office by 5pm)
 - November 1, 2019 is the last day your County Office can receive Voted Civilian Absentee Ballots for the November 5th Election. The Monroe County Office hours for 11/1/2019 is 8:30am – 5pm.
 - November 5, 2019 is Municipal Election Day. Poll hours are 7am-8pm
- Middle Smithfield Township has two polling locations, and depending on where you live in the township, determines where you vote:
- MIDDLE SMITHFIELD EAST – The polling place for residents living EAST of Route 402 (the EASTERN DISTRICT) is the Middle Smithfield Evangelical Presbyterian Church located on Route 209.
 - MIDDLE SMITHFIELD WEST – The polling place for residents living WEST of Route 402 (the WESTERN DISTRICT) is the Middle Smithfield Township Municipal Building located at 147 Municipal Drive.

There is a new paper ballot voting system that is being used for the first time this election, to test it before the Presidential election in 2020; so it's important to get registered now and vote in November.

You can check your voter status online at <https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/VoterRegistrationStatus.aspx>

And you can register online at <https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/VoterRegistrationApplication.aspx>

- See related story on page 17