

MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWS



Holiday Edition 2019



**2019 SHOP LOCAL
DISCOUNT CARDS**
Inside this newsletter!

**Person of the Year Deadline Extended
Nominate Now!**

"Ben & Franklin"

by local artist and resident Patricia A Griffin

www.GriffinGallery.org

"PatriciaAGriffin"

WHAT’S GOIN’ ON

- November:

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
- 12/3

Meals on Wheels Open House
- 12/9

Peace Light Ceremony
- 12/25

Christmas Day office closed
- 12/21

Wreaths Across America
- 12/30

Supervisors Meeting 7pm Adoption of 2020 Budget and Year End Report
- 12/30

Temple Israel Menorah Lighting
- 12/31

New Year’s Eve
- January:

1/24

2019 Person of the Year and Volunteer Appreciation Banquet

COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

- Parks & Recreation Board**

6:30pm | 1st Monday of Every Month
- Golf Course Committee**

8:30am | 2nd Monday of Every Month
- Economic Development Committee**

6:00pm | 2nd Monday of Every Month
- Oak Grove Multi-Municipal Composting Board**

Call for Schedule
- Regional Parks at Smithfield Township**

7:45pm | 3rd Monday of Every Month
- Historical Commission**

9am | 1st Wednesday of Every Month
- Board of Supervisors Meeting**

7pm | 2nd & 4th Thursday of Every Month
- Planning Commission**

5:30pm | 4th Thursday of Every Month

DIRECTOR OF FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Please welcome Rachel Heller as the Township’s Director of First Impressions. Rachel was born and raised in the township, more specifically the Wooddale area. She enjoys being out in the beautiful Pocono outdoors, whether it’s skiing in the winter or spending a day on Lake Wallenpaupack in the summer. Rachel is a volunteer firefighter for Marshalls Creek Fire Company, where she currently holds the office of Secretary for the Relief Association and Corresponding Secretary. Rachel said that “I am excited to get back to my roots and join the Middle Smithfield Township team and serve our community and its residents.”



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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.

read more on page 23



TOM WATSON

2018 PERSON OF THE YEAR FINALIST

Monroe County Meals on Wheels

Monroe County Meals on Wheels is always looking for volunteers, especially around the holidays!

read more on page 23



FRANCIS OQUENDO

2018 PERSON OF THE YEAR FINALIST

Boys Scouts of America

The International Peace light will be arriving at JFK on December 7th! Our Person of the Year Finalist Francis Oquendo will once again be bringing it to MST!

read more on page 23

A WORD FROM YOUR
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

Mark Oney, Annette Atkinson, and Mike Dwyer,



Holiday Greetings from your Township Supervisors,

So here we are, once again at that special time of year, counting our blessings, and making ready for holiday traditions. We eagerly look forward to one of our most popular holiday traditions, the annual Tree Lighting, always the Saturday after Thanksgiving at Echo Lake Park, which also kicks off the Shop Local season (your 2019 Shop Local Discount Cards are included in this issue! Please activate them today.)

It has been quite a year! Looking back, the biggest news of the year (really, of the last several decades in our township) is breaking ground on the Middle Smithfield Community & Cultural Center at Echo Lake Park. And looking forward, the Person of the Year and Volunteer Banquet, and other events like it, will be held at the new Community & Cultural Center in the future.

Speaking of the Person of the Year and Volunteer Banquet, it will be held at the Whispering Pines in the beginning of 2020, and we are grateful that we will come together again with the community to celebrate our many volunteers and civic minded community members. PLEASE GET YOUR NOMINATIONS IN for your local hero – we would like to know who you would like to see at Person of the Year!

Before breaking out into a chorus of Auld Lang Syne, we certainly hope you’ll join us for our next presentation to the public – the presentation of the 2020 budget on Monday December 2nd, and the adoption of the budget on December 30th, which includes the Year-End Report.

Until then, a safe, healthy and happy Holiday Season to you all – Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, Happy Everything!

Your Township Supervisors

Middle Smithfield Township Administrative Office
147 Municipal Drive East Stroudsburg, PA 18302
570-223-8920 | info@mstownship.com
MiddleSmithfieldTownship.com

Middle Smithfield Township Board of Supervisors
Annette Atkinson | Chairperson | x124
Michael Dwyer | Vice Chairman | x123
Mark Oney | Supervisor | x125

Middle Smithfield Township Staff

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mclewell@mstownship.com | x112

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Open Records & Right to Know Officer
jwoisin@mstownship.com | x115

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

Ray Wolfe | Budget & Finance Manager
rwolfe@mstownship.com | x131

Karen Stapleton | Public Works Department Administrator
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Shawn McGlynn | Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer
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Judith Acosta | Assistant Zoning Officer
jacosta@mstownship.com | x128

Rachel Heller & Mayra Colon | Director of First Impressions
recept@mstownship.com | x100

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

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

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

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

Committee Chairpersons

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

Jaime Frailey | Parks & Rec | x201
parksandrecreation@mstownship.com

Jaime Frailey | Litter & Beautification | x202
litter&beautification@mstownship.com

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

Joe Memoli | Economic Development | x204
EconomicDevelopmentCommittee@mstownship.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

As 2019 draws to a close, the township staff and Supervisors are in the midst of preparing budgets for 2020. Estimating future expenses is not an exact science, but, given our experience and dedication to decreasing expense whenever/wherever possible, we have a pretty good guestimate of what 2020 will have in store. Income, on the other hand, is still somewhat in flux as the final assessment values will not be received from the County until November 15th. (For those who are reading this after November 15th please remember I needed time to think about what to write and then actually write it, well before this exciting article hit your mailbox.) Speaking of hitting mailboxes, it is getting close to plowing season.

As for the county-wide reassessment, by now, most, if not all of us have received our new assessed values. Prior to the reassessments, the township's "value" was \$214,000,000* which, at 9.5 tax mills, created an income of approximately \$2,000,000. In 2020, preliminary numbers look like the township's value will be roughly \$1,195,000,000* and, at 1.75 tax mils, could generate income of \$2,091,000, or less than 5% more than 2019. If the final assessed values come in lower, than income will be lower. And yes, if the final assessed values come in higher, than income will be higher (I did that math in my head.)

Financially, 2019 was not a great year for the township. Unforeseen expenses at the golf course and some pretty expensive repairs to our trucks and equipment, replacing a bridge (ouch), and Microsoft's sudden abandonment of support of Windows 7 (forcing upgrades to Windows 10) will undoubtedly net out to one of the first years in over 7 years that we will end up over budget. We are fortunate to have reserves!

There were highlights, though. We did receive grants to offset costs of construction of the Middle Smithfield Township Community Center, grants paid for some major road work completed in 2019, and Earned Income Tax (EIT) is running about 10% ahead of budget.

So, while the budgets are not finalized just yet as of this writing, the township's 2020 vision (ahem) is that the tax millage will be cut by nearly the same ratio that assessed value rose. We will have final budgets available at our December 2, 2019 Board of Supervisors meeting, when we present the Proposed 2020 Budget to the public. (We will present the Annual Year End Report at the December 30th meeting.)

Thank you to each employee, Supervisor, volunteer, and business owner who have made 2019 such a great success. We look forward to seeing everyone at the Tree Lighting!

*remember, 2019 assessed values were at 25% while 2020 values are at 100%; 2019 mills were 100% while 2020 is anticipated around 25%.

MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP LEADER WITH CYBER INSURANCE

By Christopher Lord, Sheeley Insurance

It seems almost daily we hear about an incident involving some type of cyber-crime. This can be the theft of personal information or hacking into a company site and stealing credit card information. Recently there has been a rise in cyber extortion, where a criminal breaks into the system and shuts it down, unless the company pays the ransom to unlock the data. (Google "Ransomware", which targets municipalities, school districts, and hospitals.) Places as large as the City of Atlanta or Baltimore have suffered this type of incident. But even locally we've had some school districts and smaller municipalities have the same type of attack.

The Middle Smithfield Township Supervisors have been very proactive in taking steps to prevent this from happening. They are up to date on the computer security systems, anti-virus programs, stronger password protections, etc. Even with all those protections, sometimes the bad thing can happen. With strong leadership and planning, the township decided several years ago to purchase a Cyber Insurance policy. This purchase was made before many other businesses had even started to consider this type of insurance.


Currently provided by The Travelers, Middle Smithfield now has access to a team of professionals working for the insurance company. If an attack would happen, together with the Township's IT provider, this team can immediately respond and provide support from programming repairs to securing the system from further damage. They also have a team specifically designed to work with incidents of cyber extortion such as Ransomware, working to fix the breach, or even to negotiate with the attackers to restore the data.

As a side note, Middle Smithfield Township recently updated all their systems from Windows 7 to Windows 10, including computer upgrades, because Microsoft will no longer support Windows 7 – and that Microsoft support included ongoing security updates. Continuing to use Windows 7 would leave the township vulnerable.

Prevention is always the best solution. But we can't discount the creativity of a criminal, so having insurance to stand beside you is incredibly valuable. Kudos to Middle Smithfield!

Chris Lord is a principle of Sheeley Insurance, independent and locally owned and operated since 1933, serving individuals and businesses throughout Pennsylvania with offices in Stroudsburg, Milford, Honesdale and Dunmore. A proud supporter and sponsor of Middle Smithfield's "Person of the Year and Volunteer Appreciation Banquet" since its inception, Sheeley Insurance offers personal and business insurance solutions. You can contact Chris at 570-421-1191 or clord@sheeleyinsurance.com.

www.SheeleyInsurance.com

 www.facebook.com/SheeleyInsurance

TOP REASONS TO SHOP LOCAL AND KEEP THE CHEER HERE

By choosing local and independent businesses for your services, shopping, dining and other needs, you not only get real value and personal service, you're helping:

BUILD COMMUNITY!

The casual encounters you enjoy at neighborhood--scale businesses and the public spaces around them build relationships and community cohesiveness. They're the ultimate social networking sites!

STRENGTHEN YOUR LOCAL ECONOMY!

Each dollar you spend at independent businesses returns 3 times more money to your local economy than one spent at a chain (hundreds of times more than buying from an online mega-retailer) -- a benefit we all can bank on.

SHAPE OUR CHARACTER!

Independent businesses help give our community its distinct personality.

CREATE A HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENT!

Independent, community-serving businesses are people-sized. They typically consume less land, carry more locally-made products, locate closer to residents and create less traffic and air pollution.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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

CREATE JOBS AND OPPORTUNITIES!

Local businesses hire local people. Not only do independent businesses employ more people directly per dollar of revenue, they also are the customers of local printers, accountants, wholesalers, farms, attorneys, etc.

GIVE BACK TO YOUR COMMUNITY!

Small businesses donate more than twice as much per sales dollar to local non-profits, events, and teams compared to big businesses. Our local business owners are also our neighbors; they donate gift certificates and tricky tray items, and sponsor local events (just look at the local sponsors we thank in each of issue of the township newsletter.)

INCREASE WEALTH OF RESIDENTS!

The multiplier effect created by spending locally generates lasting impact on the prosperity of local organizations and residents. What is the "local multiplier effect"? Buying local products at local businesses creates a ripple effect as those businesses and employees in turn spend your money locally, by paying local taxes, hiring local people (who in turn, pay local taxes) purchasing local goods and services to supply their own business, donate to local non-profits, etc.



SHOP LOCAL 2018 IS HERE!

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

Why Shop Local?

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

Quite simply: The dollar you spend here, stays here! The dollar you spend in an independently owned business is used to invest in the community via local taxes that invest in schools, roads, emergency services, etc., AND used to hire local people – who in turn, use their paychecks to buy local goods and services, pay local taxes, etc. This year, keep the cheer here!

How do I participate?

1. Call or go to mstshoplocal.com to activate your Discount Card. This also qualifies you to win cool prizes!
2. Cut the discount card off, and keep in your wallet, and use it at the participating stores listed.
(You may also want to keep a list of deals and discounts with you.)
3. Let the holiday shopping begin! The discounts will be effective until January 2, 2019.

ZONING

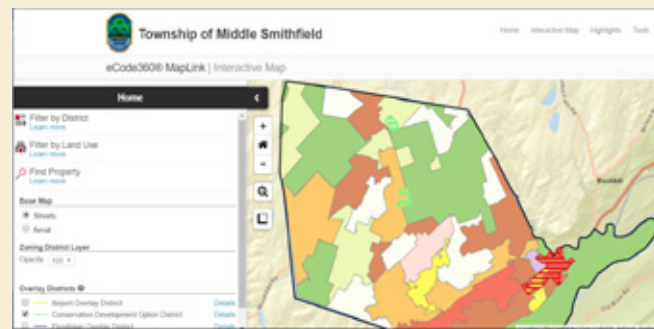
Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer: Shawn McGlynn | zoning@mstownship.com
570-223-8920 x126 | **Zoning Department Administrator and Assistant**
Zoning Officer: Judith Acosta | jacosta@mstownship.com | 570-223-8920 x128
Zoning Hearing Board: Josephine Ferro – chairperson,
Arthur Jenkins – vice chairperson,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

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

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!



View Our Site Here
<https://mi1644.zoninghub.com/home.aspx>
or find it on our Municipal Website
<https://www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com/>

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.

“Awesome tool! Thank you for sharing and more importantly seeing the usefulness of such a system.”

Brian K. Coyne – Associate Broker & Director of Marketing,
Michael Baxter & Associates

“Thank you!!”

Cindy Carr Knecht,
Carr Realty of the Poconos

“Fantastic resource. Thank you for sharing.”

Christina Schauer, Administrator for The Daniel Perich
Group, KW Commercial

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

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.

The members of the Commission also meet with the Supervisors from time to time to work on new zoning changes and ordinances.



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>

VACANCY

sNOW PARKING

Snow is quickly approaching. It is important, especially at this time of year, to be aware of Chapter 138 of the Township Code of Ordinances which regulates parking as well as snow removal and the penalties that can be applied for non-compliance. If a snow emergency is declared by the Township, or if more than 4 inches of snow has fallen, it shall be unlawful to park a vehicle on any public road and right of way in the Township. Doing so could result in a fine of \$50.00. If a vehicle is found unattended and in violation of a provision of Chapter 138, the Township may have that vehicle removed. In addition, it shall be unlawful to throw, shovel or otherwise move, pile or dump snow or ice removed from sidewalks, driveways or other areas onto any public road. This also could result in a fine of \$50.00. These provisions are for the safety of our residents and our Public Works Department employees who work tirelessly during winter storms to ensure our roads are clear.

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

During any emergency condition, including inclement weather, parking within the cart way or shoulder area of any road lying and situate in the Township is prohibited at any time. This warning is being served as a notice to remove the vehicle (s) or the vehicle will be towed at the owner's expense. No further warning will be given.

INTERNATIONAL PEACE LIGHT

Boy Scouts of America Troop 87

Francis Oquendo, Scout Leader from Troop 87, will receive the International Peace Light the first week of December, and conduct the annual Peace Light Ceremony at the Township on Monday, December 9 and 6:30pm.

The International Peace Light is transported through Europe by a chosen Scout; the Scout then lights the transporting lamp from the Eternal Flame of the grotto where Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem.

It will arrive from Austria to the John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York City. There the many Scouts at the Lady of the Skies Chapel will receive and transport the International Peace Light back to their homes. This is a worldwide event in which many Scouts, Boys and Girls, from all different parts of the world will be receiving and passing the International Peace Light.

We invite you to also receive the International Peace light from Boy Scout Troop 87. You are welcome to search online to see for yourself that this is a worldwide movement you can be part of. If you want to receive the International Peace Light for your home or your neighbors, please come with a safe way to transport the light. There will be many locations in the Poconos that the light will be shining and can be obtained, such as the Church of St. John in Middle Smithfield, and the Township Building, and other locations.

Peace and Love.

Pocono Leadership Update

from Judy Acosta

When I was asked if I would like to attend the Pocono Leadership Training at Northampton Community College I was truly honored. I have to say, though, I had no idea what was to come. Initially I thought the class would be lectures and/or lessons on how to be an effective leader. It is so much more. We have spent time each month working closely within a smaller group of classmates using guided conversations to delve deeper into our own leadership styles and learning how to improve upon the foundation we already have in place. I've learned a lot about myself so far and look forward to what the full experience brings.

PARKS & RECREATION

Director: Mike Dwyer | **Chairperson:** Jaime Frailey
Lead Coordinator, Dog Park: Belinda Basnight
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

IT WAS A SCARY GOOD TIME AT THE 6TH ANNUAL TRUNK OR TREAT

It was a perfect fall day on Saturday October 26 as the Parks & Recreation Committee hosted its 6th Annual Trunk or Treat at Resica Park. With activities including balloon art, glitter tattoos, sand art, and spin art, free pumpkins to decorate, and 11 spooky cars to get candy from, over 400 children and their families came to enjoy the festivities.

Congratulations to our car decoration winners, Tom X Pub (1st place), Phoenix Martial Arts Society (2nd place), and Shawn Van Why (3rd place), who were chosen by the Parks Committee for their great decorating skills! Each winner received a Visa gift card, generously donated by Mignosi's Super Foodtown.

Attendees also brought enough non-perishable food to fill seven shopping bags. All of the donated food will be given to the Bushkill Outreach food pantry.



Cinderella in her carriage

Chris Rain at 570-223-8920 x119 or crain@mstownship.com.



Mary Poppins

Practically Perfect in every way

Trunk or Treat is an annual event held each October. Resica Park is open to the general public every day outside of school hours. For more information about MST parks, or for information about renting a pavilion, please contact



Tom X Pub wins 1st place



Phoenix Martial Arts - 2nd place



Shawn Van Why - 3rd place

DONATING FOOD FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Thank you to everyone who dropped off food to donate to the Bushkill Outreach food pantry at the Trunk or Treat on October 26. Your generosity will help make someone else's holiday season a little brighter. Help a family in need this holiday season by donating food to the Bushkill Outreach!

The Bushkill Outreach Program is a community food pantry serving Lehman and Middle Smithfield Townships for over 30 years and is run by volunteers from both townships. The current board is led by president Joseph Ballestrieri and includes Rickie Rentas, Johanna Haltmeier, Barbara Sanders, Mary Allen, Andrew Zaso, and Robert Rohner.

The pantry is located in Lehman Township Community Park, 168 Lehman Park Road, and offers food to anyone in need at no cost. The Outreach is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9am to 12pm. Donations should only be brought to the Outreach during regular operating hours. Nothing should be dropped at any other time.

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

KICK OFF THE HOLIDAY SEASON WITH A BANG

On Saturday November 30, at 6pm, the 7th Annual Tree Lighting ceremony will be held in Echo Lake Park, located at 5206 Milford Road – right next to the site of the new Community Center Building that's now "in progress" (due to open in 2020).

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 begins at 6pm with music and treats, and Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive at 6:30 to light the tree. They will be available for pictures until 7:30.



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.



What a difference a year makes! Michaela Kennedy, former Director of First Impressions for Middle Smithfield Township, last year on the left (Monsters Inc) and this year on the right, with new family addition Reagan.



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

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



GET READY TO SKATE!

This December, our annual Ice Skating Rink will be back at W. Leroy Lewis Dog Park.

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

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

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

MST ICE SKATING RINK
W. Leroy Lewis Dog Park
108 Leroy Lane
*Open daily during daylight hours,
weather permitting*

GET YOUR ZEN ON ALL WINTER LONG!

Yoga, Tea, and Tai Chi all free classes are held at the Middle Smithfield Township building at 147 Municipal Drive every Saturday starting at 9am. You can attend just one class, or both! Up to you! The classes are open to all experience levels, age 12 and older. Our instructors Marilyn Cole and Paul Cimei, are both residents of the township, and generously donate their time.

YOGA, TEA & TAI CHI – COME TO JUST ONE CLASS, OR BOTH!
Saturdays at the MST building
147 Municipal Drive
9am – Yoga with Marilyn
10am – Tea with Mt. Diana
10:30 – Tai Chi with Paul

Beginners are encouraged to attend. Participants are welcome to attend yoga, tai chi, or both. 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 and Cultural Center.

Marilyn and Paul ask that participants provide a yoga mat or beach towel for the classes, and encourage you to consult your doctor before participating if you have 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 are not only for the experienced.



The instructors are happy to provide modifications to their poses, so the classes are accessible to all skill levels. These classes are not only for the experienced.

Gold Sponsor

TREE LIGHTING SPONSOR

Scandale Construction

Silver Sponsor

TREE LIGHTING SPONSOR

Retro Fitness

OAK GROVE & RECYCLING

www.ogmmcpb.com
Chairperson | Mike Dwyer



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

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



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



Photo by resident Susan Kulick, Echo Lake Photography

THANK YOU TO LITTER CLEANUP VOLUNTEERS

By Christopher Rain

Thank you to the 375 people who volunteered in 2019 for 1000 Feet of Street spring and fall litter pickups and Middle Smithfield Township's Adopt a Road. You made 2019 the most successful year for picking up litter ever. This year we covered 70 miles of roads, both sides, and collected approximately 1,000 bags of litter from MST streets.

MST's fall 1000 Feet of Street was held on September 28, the same day as Pick Up the Poconos. On that day, 371 volunteers cleaned up 738 bags of litter along 60 miles of roads. 182 of those volunteers, 400 of those bags, and 30 of those miles were in MST alone.

Thank you to all of our volunteers from both the spring and the fall and everyone who cleans up litter all year long. You keep our township, and Monroe County, pretty!



PUBLIC WORKS

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

SEWER

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



2019 ROAD PROJECTS

ROAD 6-8 MILES YEAR	ACTION FOR 2019
✓ Big Ridge Drive (Bridge 2)	Remove & Replace DONE
✓ Denise Lane	Pave DONE
Diss Way <i>(i.e., temporary access road to CCP)</i>	CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS
✓ Firestone Road	Road Improvements DONE <i>(Dirt/Gravel Road Grant from DCNR)</i>
✓ Fish Court	Pave DONE
Freeman Tract Road	Road Improvements Pending National Park Service Approval <i>(Dirt/Gravel Road Grant from DCNR)</i>
✓ Frutchey Drive	Chip Seal DONE
✓ McCole Road	Chip Seal DONE
✓ Oak Grove Grove Road	Surface Treatment DONE
✓ Primrose Lane	Pave DONE <i>(Bridge to Rt. 209)</i>
✓ Turkey Ridge Road	Pave DONE <i>(Winona Lake to Upper Lakeview)</i>
Village Drive (Bridge)	Remove & Replace Engineering in Progress

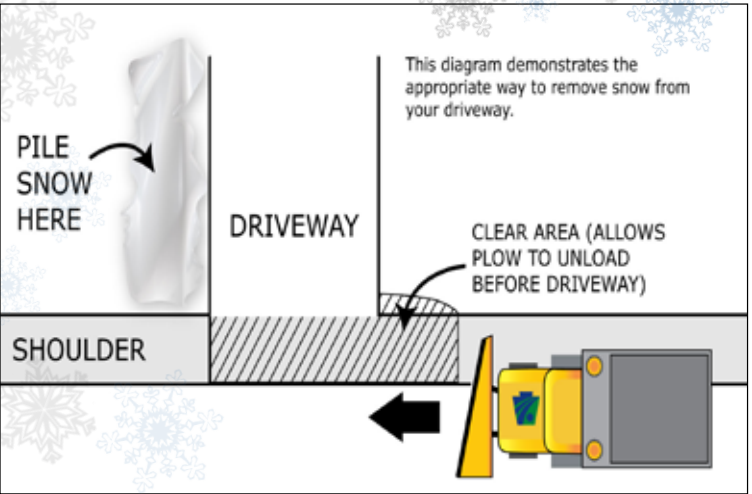
IT'S SNOW LAUGHING MATTER

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

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

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

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



FALL 2019 CLEANUP AND FREECYCLE SLOW BUT SUCCESSFUL

Twice a year, we are thrilled that so many residents take the time and pride in their properties to clean them up and make use of "Dumpster Day". The 2019 Fall Cleanup wasn't as busy our Spring Clean Up, but residents still managed to fill 14 dumpsters with trash, 15 pallets with electronics, 2.25 tons of scrap metal, and 112 tires. And, your generous donations of Freecycle items filled the 40' by 70' garage.

See you at the Spring and Fall 2020 Clean Up and Free-cycle!

OPPOSITION TO THE DELAWARE WATER GAP ROCK WALL PROJECT – PART 2

In June of 2018, when the board of supervisors first passed a resolution in opposition, Middle Smithfield reported that the New Jersey Department of Transportation intends to build another chain link fence to keep rocks from purportedly falling onto Route 80 near the Delaware Water Gap. As of the date of this newsletter, NJDOT still intends to build a series of high industrial fences and a 60-foot concrete pyramid call a "rockfall berm" along Route 80 through the Delaware Water Gap. The NJDOT's website indicated construction of the construction of this \$59 million project is currently slated to begin now in 2023 and will last four years. With limited rockfall event data, and the actual frequency of rock activity is "unknown" for this project it's no wonder what it is widely opposed by more than 20 area towns. Tourism to the Delaware Water Gap will likely be negatively impacted by four years of gridlock that will result from this projects construction on Route 80, not to mention how it will affect commuters.

The Middle Smithfield Township Board of Supervisors oppose this project by Resolution 05-2018-2 and have asked by Resolution 09-2019-5, the New Jersey Department of Transportation to reconsider its decision to proceed with this project without evaluating the impacts that it will have on the infrastructure and economy of the surrounding areas.



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. New control panel has been ordered and work will begin this winter.

Mt. Nebo Sewer Extension:

The Mt. Nebo Sewer Extension was awarded a grant in the amount of \$231,950. Mt. Nebo Pump Station project has been advertised for bids. Bid opening was November 14th.

Sewer Crossover:

Manholes are being added to this line to facilitate with maintenance. This project should begin in November. The grant received by the Township in 2017 for this extension will cover the cost of this project.

Generators

The 2020 Capital Improvement plan for Sewer includes installing standby generators, alarms, and appurtenances for six (6) sanitary sewer pump stations. The township will submit a grant application to the Small Water and Sewer Program (SWSP) for a grant from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to fund the majority of this project.

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



EMERGENCY SERVICES

A WORD FROM YOUR AMBULANCE COMPANY

By Debbie Kulick, President

Bushkill Emergency Corps reminds you that as the winter weather approaches there are some things you should consider if you need an ambulance. Once you have called 9-1-1, you will be asked to provide information about the emergency. You should have directions to your home posted or kept near your phone so that you will not have to think about the number of turns, street names or even the color of your house.

The dispatcher may be able to give you pre-arrival instructions if needed to help with the emergency. You should have the information about the patient including their age, injury or ailment and a brief history of previous medical conditions as well as what is being done until the ambulance arrives.

Someone should stay with the patient until emergency personnel have arrived. The house should be well lit if it is nighttime and the driveway should be cleared of cars so the ambulance can back in. If it is snowy, doing your best to have the walkway, steps, porch and driveway cleared of snow not only saves time, but makes everything much safer for extrication and transport.

Night or day, a car parked near the driveway entrance with the four-way flashers on is helpful to identify your home from your neighbors. Of course, having your 911 sign visible from the roadway is important and likewise saves time. If you do not have a sign, before the snow flies, it would be good to get one and install it.

When EMS comes to your home, it is always helpful for a clear path to be provided to move a patient out. Moving furniture out of the way is helpful as well as turning off any distracting things like TVs or music. It makes it easier for everyone to focus on the problem at hand.

No matter how friendly your cat or dog is, put them in a room and close the door so that they do not get underfoot or worse (and this has happened), try to protect their owner from people moving them out of the house. Emergency personnel will often not enter until all pets have been secured and they are not in sight.

While waiting for EMS to arrive, keep talking to the patient, do not give them anything to eat or drink and gather all medications the patient takes or have a completed list of medications available for EMS to either copy or take. The list should also include all past and present medical conditions, so the history is complete.

Make sure you have the patient's identification and medical cards available to be sent with them to the hospital as well. All this preparation will help EMS do their job and make it much easier on the patient.

A reminder to those who have subscribed to Bushkill Emergency Corps, you may access a subscription form by visiting the website at: www.bushkillemergencycorps.com.



You shop. Amazon gives.

<https://smile.amazon.com>
Bushkill Emergency Corps Inc

AmazonSmile is a website operated by **amazon** with the same products, prices, and shopping features as **Amazon.com**.

The difference is that when you shop on **AmazonSmile** the **AmazonSmile** Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

<https://smile.amazon.com>
Marshall's Creek Fire Company

Although we encourage everyone to SHOP LOCAL, especially for the holidays, we realize not everything can be found in our township. So, if you need to shop on Amazon this season, we ask that you support your emergency services. It won't cost you a thing!

"WHAT IF YOU CALL 911 AND NO ONE COMES?"

By Rachel Heller, receptionist and Marshall's Creek Fire Company volunteer

Excerpts are taken from NBC News article "What if you call 911 and no one comes? Inside the collapse of America's emergency medical services"; originally aired October 22, 2019, NBC news

This may seem unbelievable, but in 2019 we are still relying on volunteer Fire/Rescue and EMS services in the majority of the country. Middle Smithfield Township is not an exception, we are just one of the many places that still rely completely on volunteer Fire Companies and mostly volunteer Ambulance Corps. So how did we become so reliant on these volunteer services? To break it down: "in the 1950s, it was funeral homes that actually provided many of the country's ambulance services, because they had vehicles – namely, hearses – that could accommodate a person who needed to lie down. It was an ominous predictor of what was to happen over the next decade." Essentially EMS boomed overnight.

"In rural America, it was easy. If you wanted an ambulance service, you just got two or three of you friends together

(continued on page 20)



GOT AED?



During the twice annual Homeowner Association Networking Meeting hosted by Middle Smithfield Township, the Fire Chief Joe Luisi, Chief of Marshall's Creek Fire Company, received an AED from Middle Smithfield Township Supervisors. Middle Smithfield Township recently donated an AED to each of the three all-volunteer fire companies that serve our township. (Marshall's Creek Fire Company, Bushkill Volunteer Fire Company, and Shawnee Volunteer Fire Company). Pictured from left to right: Supervisor Mike Dwyer, Fire Chief Joe Luisi Jr, Executive Director Rachel Moyer of the Greg Moyer Defibrillator Fund, and Supervisor Annette Atkinson.

Bushkill Emergency Corps (Ambulance)
(570) 223-1906, www.BushkillEmergencyCorps.com

Captain - Bill Duffy

Marshall's Creek Fire Company

(570) 223-8445, www.facebook.com/Marshall'sCreekFireCO

Fire Chief - Joe Luisi, Jr



A WORD FROM YOUR FIRE COMPANY

There is something about the winter months and curling up with a good book by the fireplace. But did you know that heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths? With a few simple safety tips and precautions you can prevent most heating fires.

BE WARM AND SAFE THIS WINTER!

- Keep anything that can burn at least three-feet away from heating equipment like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot "kid free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month.

Heating Equipment Smarts

Install wood burning stoves following manufacturer's instructions or have a professional do the installation. All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

Install and maintain CO alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning. If you smell gas in your gas heater, do not light the appliance. Leave the home immediately and call your local fire department or gas company.



FACT Half of home heating fires are reported during the months of **December, January and February**

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

ANOTHER SEASON WE'LL NEVER FORE-GET

By Kevin Dixon

As we wrap up another golf season, I would like to take this time to wish everyone a Safe and Happy Holiday Season. The fall colors were beautiful this year as the course continues to improve. We are getting numerous compliments on the present condition of the course and the greens.

Our fall outings were a big success again, the Wounded Warrior and Marshall Creek Fire Company Golf Outings have become area favorites. Significant improvements were made to the course this season including partial reconstruction of #2 tee box.

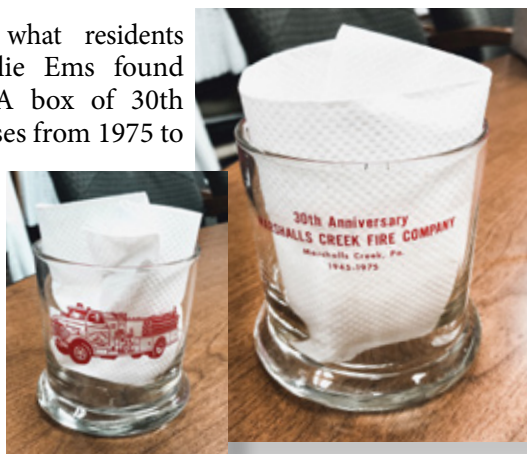
Ongoing work will continue on the course until the snow flies as we look forward to next year's projected season opening on April 3, 2020. We continue to grow our outings and look forward to the return of the following outings:

Mady's Angels Charity Golf Outing
Lambda Iota Charity Golf Outing
Milford Masonic Lodge Charity Golf Outing
Phi Sigma Kappa Charity Golf Outing
Wounded Warrior Charity Golf Outing
Marshall's Creek Fire Company Charity Golf Outing



**MEMBERSHIPS NOW ON SALE!
CALL KEVIN**

WOW look what residents Frank and Rosalie Ems found in their attic! A box of 30th Anniversary Glasses from 1975 to Marshall's Creek Fire Company. Have a piece of township history in YOUR attic? A Unique barn find? Call Holly at 570-223-8920, x132



BANQUET HALL AT WHISPERING PINES

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

COMMUNITY AND CHARITY EVENTS IN 2019

In 2019, the Whispering Pines Banquet Hall was host to 16 community or charity events, accounting for 24% of all of the events held there this year. These events were either open to the community at large, or were hosted by a charitable group that does great works within our community. An additional 10 private events (not listed here) were also held by non-profit organizations at the banquet hall in 2019. In total, charitable, community, and non-profit events accounted for 38% of all of the events held at Whispering Pines in 2019.

During this holiday season, we celebrate the organizations in our community who came together to raise funds, give back, or create community in Middle Smithfield Township.

- MST 2018 Person of the Year and Volunteer Banquet
- The African American Network Dinner
- MST 2019 Restaurant Week Kickoff
- St. Paul's Church Golf Outing
- Lambda Iota Golf Outing
- East Stroudsburg High School North Softball Banquet
- Mady's Angels Annual Charity Golf Tournament
- AARP Fundraiser
- Bushkill Emergency Corps Bingo Fundraiser
- Marshall's Creek Fire Company Annual Charity Golf Tournament
- RISE Fundraiser
- Operation Chillout Veterans Day Luncheon
- Stand for the Children Group Home Fundraiser
- National Council of Negro Women Holiday Dinner
- East Stroudsburg High School North Baseball Boosters Breakfast
- Phoenix Martial Arts Society Holiday Dinner

Happy Holidays from

Country Club of the Poconos
Municipal Golf Course

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

Makes a great gift!

No time for snail mailed gift certificates? No problem!
Get it in email! Just call Kevin at 570-223-8099, or email him at
kdixon@mstowship.com

QUIET VALLEY LIVING HISTORICAL FARM'S 29TH ANNUAL OLD TIME CHRISTMAS

<http://quietvalley.org/>



Saturday & Sunday December 7, 8 & Saturday & Sunday December 14, 15, 2019

Admission: Adults \$10, Ages (3-12) \$5

3:00pm to 7:00pm – Small groups go continuously every 15 minutes. The last tour starts at 7:00pm. The total time of the tour will be approximately 1.5 hours.

More than any other holiday, Christmas celebrations center on the traditions of our families and our heritage. Begin a new tradition with your family this year with a visit to Quiet Valley Living Historical Farm, where the Christmas customs of the past are brought to life. From the softly glowing lantern light of the 19th century farm to complimentary hot chocolate and cookies, Old Time Christmas is sure to become a favorite holiday pastime for many years to come.

Enjoy a "Victorian family" preparing for an 1890s holiday and the live barnyard Nativity, listen to the story of an early 1800s farm life experience, sing along with the schoolhouse carolers, shiver in anticipation as the PA German folk character, the Belschnikel, comes calling in the farmhouse's cellar kitchen, and finish your visit at a holiday gift shop abounding with hand crafted treasures for sale.



**"WIN A FREE WREATH*
FROM RICHARDS TREE FARM**

Activate your Shop Local Discount Card today*,
and be eligible to win a free wreath!

Visit www.mstShopLocal.com for more chances to
win throughout the season.

*value up to \$50"



HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Chairperson: Carrie Wetherbee | Vice Chairperson: Robert Huffman
Secretary: Patricia Francis | Member: Charisse Fallon | Member: Ken Jones
Historical Commission Liaison: Holly Freese | hfreese@mstowship.com
570-223-892 x132

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON AT STROUD MANSION



The Monroe County Historical Association will host the annual Holiday Luncheon at the Stroud Mansion fundraiser on Saturday, December 14, 2019. The Early Lunch seating will be held at 11:00 a.m. and guests may dine until 12:30 p.m. and the Late Lunch seating will be held at 1:00 p.m. and guests may dine until 2:30 p.m.

The Stroud Mansion will be decorated for the holidays and guests attending the luncheon are welcome to tour the museum. Local musicians Erin McClelland and J Jeffrey Gibbons will provide seasonal music adding to the holiday atmosphere.

The luncheon will be a hot buffet-style meal catered by The Cook's Corner Family Restaurant, Henryville, Pa. The cost for the luncheon fundraiser is \$25.00 per person. Tickets must be purchased in advance; seating is extremely limited for this popular event. No tickets will be sold at the door. For more information, please contact the office at (570) 421-7703 or admin@monroehistorical.org. Visit us on the web at www.monroehistorical.org.



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](https://www.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 Flockr 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.

THANK YOU



WE SINCERELY THANK ALL OF OUR COMMITTEES:

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

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

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

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

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

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



U.S. MARINE CORPS RESERVE

Toys for Tots Program collects new unwrapped toys and distribute those toys to less fortunate children at Christmas.

The gift of a new toy helps bring the joy of Christmas and send a message of hope to America's less fortunate children.

The Middle Smithfield Township Office at 147 Municipal Drive is a collection and pickup point for Toys for Tots. Donations can be dropped off at our office by December 12th. You may also bring a new unwrapped gift to the Tree Lighting on November 29th.

NEW DATE FOR PERSON OF THE YEAR 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.



"So Much To Be Thankful For" - Rendering by Patricia Griffin

THANK YOU to those who Sponsored throughout the year

EGGSTRAVAGANZA

SILVER EGG

Pocono Springs Camp, Gilmore & Associates

BRONZE EGGS

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

Good Egg

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

RESTAURANT WEEK KICK-OFF

Blue Ridge Winery

Perkins

Shawnee Craft Brewery

Pocono Café

Ms. Gwen's Fish N Chips

Tom X Pub

Bliss Cheesecake Café & Grill

Moe's Charcoal Grill

MEMORY MAKERS

Grace Park

Perkins

Wendy's

TREE LIGHTING

GOLD

Scandale Construction Company

SILVER

RETRO FITNESS

2018 PERSON OF THE YEAR

Platinum

King Spry

GOLD

Sheeley Insurance, Exploria Resorts, SFM Consulting, Sedler Design & Redevelopment LLC

SILVER

Reilly Associates, Superheat

BRONZE

D&D Engineering
Gary in the Morning
Matergia & Dunn
Pub 570

SLATE

Alura Business Solutions
Raven Entertainment
Huffman's Electric
Kenderdine Reporting

JOURNAL

Mike Manter, Riley & Company Inc.

TRUNK OR TREAT

SILVER PUMPKINS

Retro Fitness- Marshalls Creek, Pocono Springs Camp

BRONZE PUMPKINS

Wayne Bank, Frank J. Smith Jr. Inc, Mullers Family Restaurant, A-OK Market & Deli, Mignosi's Super Foodtown

GREAT PUMPKINS

Starting Gate Ski Shop, Pocono Indian Museum



SHARE

By Michele Clewell, Volunteer for Pennsylvania Department of Aging

While attending the Elder Justice Task Force meeting this month I learned of a program offered through the Pennsylvania Department of Aging; Monroe, Pike and Wayne Counties. The SHARE (Shared Housing and Resource Exchange) program was introduced a couple of years ago for a way to offer affordable housing choices to home seekers and homeowners.

WHAT IS SHARE?

SHARE is an affordable housing choice that brings together homeowners who want to share their home with home seekers who are looking for housing in exchange for rent, help around the house, or a combination of both. The home seeker receives their own bedroom and agreed upon use of the common areas. Every arrangement is unique depending on the needs, preferences, and abilities of the participants involved.

WHY SHARE A HOME?

Some people like the idea of having another person around the house, others are looking for an affordable place to live or a way to supplement their income in order to meet household expenses. In some cases, it enables the older adult to remain in their home and community.

HOW DOES SHARE WORK?

A homeowner and home seeker meet separately with the SHARE Housing Counselor to discuss needs and preferences, complete the application, and provide references. The SHARE Housing Counselor will conduct reference and background checks, identify potential home share matches, introduce the homeowners and home seekers, coordinate the written homesharing agreement, oversee trial living periods, provide ongoing support during the term of the agreement, and connect the participants to other community resources. The final Homesharing agreement must be mutually agreed upon by the homeowner and the home seeker.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Older adults, persons with disabilities, veterans, working professionals, college students, at risk of homelessness, single parents or simply people wishing to share their lives and homes with others. All participants must be at least 18 years of age and one of the individuals must be over the age of 60.

For additional information or to apply, contact a SHARE Housing Counselor; Monroe County residents call: 570-832-0538 or for Pike & Wayne County residents, call: 570-832-5133.

VOLUNTEER FOR A TAXING SITUATION

By Merle Turitz, Director, RSVP

RSVP is gearing up for the upcoming Tax Season and we are seeking volunteers who would like an exciting and meaningful challenge.

As partners with the AARP Tax Preparation program, RSVP joins the largest organized group of seniors around the country to assist residents prepare their individual tax returns at no cost.

Volunteers are needed for two different positions. Those who are comfortable using the computer and working with numbers will prepare tax returns, and those whose strengths are organization, patience, and friendliness will help facilitate the process by ensuring that individuals are prepared and have the correct documentation. Of course, bi-lingual volunteers are always needed to communicate the needs of the program clearly.

This program is run in conjunction with the IRS, so the training is current with today's regulations. First time volunteers begin training in December to become familiar with the overall process.

Then in January, the actual Tax Preparation training will begin. Tax Preparers will need to pass a test to ensure consistency and efficiency with every return. Tax Preparation will begin February 1 and run through April 15 at various locations around the county, including Stroudsburg, Marshalls Creek, Tannersville and the West End. Tax Prep begins promptly at 9 and ends around Noon, weekdays.

While we realize that this level of volunteering isn't for everyone, being a tax preparation volunteer brings a lot of self-fulfillment knowing that you may be helping your neighbor save hundreds and thousands of dollars. It is one of the reasons that so many of the RSVP Volunteers return each year to serve with the AARP Tax Prep program. The more trained volunteers we have available, the more residents we can assist.

To find out more about the Tax Preparation program, or any of the hundreds of other volunteer opportunities that exist here in the county, please call the RSVP office in Stroudsburg at 570-420-3747.

You can view our latest Volunteer Opportunity newsletter at www.monroecountypa.gov/rsvp



WOMEN UNITED

WOMEN HELPING WOMEN

By Monica Cravatta, Director, Development, Pocono Mountains United Way

When members of WOMEN UNITED, a group of women working together to make Monroe County a stronger community through philanthropy, advocacy and volunteerism, learned about the many challenges facing single moms in Monroe County, they felt compelled to focus their efforts in making life a little better for these struggling moms. Single mothers are the most economically disadvantaged group of parents in our community, making up 29% of all families in Monroe County, with a median income of only \$31,000.

Everyone Can Participate

The first project for WOMEN UNITED – an affinity group of Pocono Mountains United Way - was a 'Valentine's Shoe Box Project'. Members collected donated items to which struggling single mothers might not normally treat themselves. These pampering items were distributed to over 300 single mothers who are clients of United Way's partner agencies. From the West End with The Growing Place Child Care Center's two locations in Kresgeville and Polk Township, to Delaware Water Gap with Women's Resources of Monroe County, single mothers across Monroe County had a brighter Valentine's Day for the past two years because of WOMEN UNITED.

#WOMENUNITED

By necessity, single mothers have to work to provide for their families. With the costs of child care being unaffordable for many, WOMEN UNITED focuses its efforts to raise funds to provide child care or pre-k scholarships for their children. In partnership with Sistah Chat Radio, The Giving Festival, on Saturday, November 16, 2-6pm at Northampton Community College – Monroe Campus, Pocono Hall, helped towards these efforts. The event was FREE and family-friendly, including a vendor fair, tricky tray, entertainment, children's activities, food demonstrations and more. Funds from the tricky tray and sponsorships were dedicated for child care scholarships for single mothers attending NCC.

To learn more, join WOMEN UNITED's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/poconowomenunited/>. WOMEN UNITED meets the 3rd Thursday of every month, 9 am at Northampton Community College – Monroe Campus, Keystone 242.

“WHAT IF YOU CALL 911 AND NO ONE COMES?” (continued from page 14)

and went out and got a truck.” Rural Fire Company's did just that. Also, a few of the townspeople would get together and start up the same companies that many of those communities still rely on today. However, as time progressed it has become more difficult for those agencies to survive, with the majority of the personnel volunteers, it has become hard to retain members over the years. The amount of training that each individual has to go through is incredible and the cost to outfit the personnel has become unbearable in many rural locations. Unfortunately, with those combined costs, the time behind the scenes training – before you can even make it to an emergency scene – and the dynamics of the day we now live in, are putting a staggering number of Americans at risk each day.



“Ambulance services are closing in record numbers, putting around 60 million Americans at risk of being stranded in a medical emergency. Because so many emergency medical services (EMS) agencies have been struggling financially, some states are stepping in with funding. But emergency medical experts say it's not to cure the dire situation.” In fact, only 11 states deem EMS essential, meaning that “unlike fire and police departments, EMS agencies are not considered an essential, or required, service in more than half the country.” Luckily for us, Pennsylvania, is one of those 11 states that deem EMS essential. Although the state and local municipalities offer assistance, the agencies still rely on their own fundraisers to raise funds to keep them afloat and have the ability to purchase equipment for apparatus, personnel and pay for training. However, for many of these volunteers that do still exist in our community, it's about just that, community, and wanting to help your neighbors, even on their worst days.

“According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 1900, 60 percent of the population was considered 'rural.' By 2010, that percentage had fallen to 19.3 percent. (The Census Bureau defines a rural community as one with a population of less than 2,500.) However, the vast majority of land in the U.S. — more than 95 percent — is rural.”

“Younger, healthier members of the community often leave small towns for urban areas, leaving behind aging, often poor, older adults who tend to be the ones calling 911 with heart attacks, strokes and other health emergencies.”

“That leaves few people available — and willing — to volunteer as emergency medical personnel.”

“EMS volunteer work requires hours of initial training that costs hundreds of dollars, even at the most basic levels. In North Dakota, for example, emergency medical responders need 50 to 60 hours of training to learn how to drive an ambulance and assist with basic CPR and first aid. Those classes can cost at least \$600, which must be shouldered by the unpaid volunteer.”

Many of the volunteers in our area run back several generations, with many personnel members knowing or being related to many of the charter members of the various companies around the township. Still with our lives getting busier, training taking more hours and the cost going up we are starting to feel these affects. We are now left with the question that no one wants to think about, “what happens if I'm the one that needs these services and there's nobody here?”

For the entire report by Lester Holt, NBC News, airdate of October 2019, please visit <https://www.reachmd.com/news/what-if-you-call-911-and-no-one-comes/1629562/>



DEADLINE EXTENDED! HURRY!

**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.

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.

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 can be filled out online at www.MiddleSmithfieldTownship.com/person-of-the-year-award/ or can be picked up at the township building.

Nominations will be accepted through November 18th, November 26th 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.

HERE COME THE JUDGES!

By Holly Freese



**Laura Law- President Judge,
2014 Person of the Year**

Laura was the first ever Person of the Year in 2014 and is the Director and co-founder of Mady's Angels, the CFO of Law Sound and Lighting, wife to Malcolm Law III and mother to Malcolm Law IV. Mady's Angels was established in 2011 by Laura and her husband to honor and memorialize their daughter Madyson, who was a selfless and charitable 13 year old.



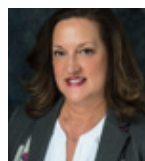
**Gary Smith "Gary in the
Morning," Pocono 96.7**

Born and raised in Passaic, New Jersey, Gary has been in the radio industry for over 25 years. He has received many awards including a Bizzy Award, Several "Greatest Around the Poconos" Awards as well as a few Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters Awards. He loves using his show to reach out and help as many people as he can, and radio allows him to have a stage to perform on and be himself.



**Frances (Fran) M. Boshell,
Assistant Director of
Student Life & Leadership
Development, Northampton
Community College Monroe
Campus.**

Fran obtained her MS in Counseling in Higher Education and Student Affairs from West Chester University and a BA in Political Science from Chestnut Hill College.



**Marlyn Kissner-Executive
Vice President, Greater
Lehigh Valley Chamber Of
Commerce NORTHERN TIER**

Marlyn Kissner leads the strategic positioning and partnership efforts for The Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce to ensure local chamber empowerment, member retention and growth, leadership development and succession planning. Marlyn oversees the Chamber's Northern Region and serves as the

Executive Director of the Carbon Chamber and Economic Development Corporation. She has recently been assigned to assist the Greater Pocono Chamber of Commerce supporting, consulting and leading the efforts to rebuild the organization.



**Thomas Gansel-2017 Person
of the Year Finalist**

In 2017 Thomas joined the Monroe County Young Democrats Civic Action Committee to which he was later appointed Chair. He then started volunteering for the Bushkill Reformed Church's Community Dinners, which he was nominated for.

Alternate Judges



**David Paskiet, 2018 Person
of the Year**

David works with Phoenix Martial Arts Society- which is the only 501(c)3 martial arts program in the area. David has spent the last 10 years passing on his knowledge, primarily to children. He started Paskiet Martial Arts in 2009, and sought to create a community based program accessible to all student regardless of income or ability. After 8 years, with a team of dedicated board members, he formed Phoenix Martial Arts Society. There is no fee to participate, only requested donations to keep the program running and he has not received any financial compensation.



**Al Compoly Jr., 2016 Person
of the Year Finalist**

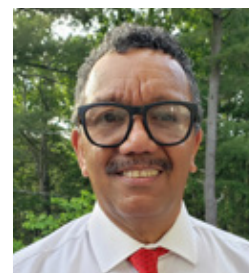
Al Compoly Jr. works with Operation Chillout. As a passionate and proud veteran, he decided to help his fellow veterans who have fallen on hard times. Operation Chillout is an organization that helps homeless veterans find shelter and provide them with clothing and other essentials. He is also a member of the Monroe County Joint Veterans Honor Guard and helps provide the final honors for fallen veterans.



**DAVID PASKIET
2018 PERSON OF
THE YEAR
Phoenix Martial
Arts Society**



**THOMAS WATSON
2018 PERSON OF
THE YEAR FINALIST
Meals on Wheels**



**FRANCIS OQUENDO
2018 PERSON OF
THE YEAR FINALIST
Boy Scouts**

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 through 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 son and so on. Together we are more. Together we are strong.

MEALS ON WHEELS

By Thomas Watson

On Tuesday, December 3rd, from 430-630pm Monroe County Meals on Wheels will host a Volunteer Open House at their office at 901 Polk Valley Road in Stroudsburg.

Volunteers currently deliver to more than 230 clients per delivery day on 10 delivery routes throughout Monroe County – including Middle Smithfield Township. Delivery is typically done in pairs (one driver and one visitor) Monday-Friday from 9:30am-1pm, and volunteers can volunteer once a month, every other week, once a week, on a fixed day, seasonally, or be on an "on-call" basis. Retirees, business owners, individuals who work from their homes, or those working non-traditional work hours make ideal Meals on Wheels volunteers. If you have children, bring them along!

Call Linda Raudabaugh, Volunteer Manager @ 570-424-8794

We also need assistance with fundraising activities, pet food drives, and emergency food bag packing. If you are unable to drive or deliver, let us know your special skills and we will see if we have an appropriate volunteer opportunity for you! Deliver meals to homebound seniors and adults in Monroe County.

TROOP 87: SCOUTING SUMMER EVENTS

By Doreen Santiago, Troop 87 Chair

Troop 87 will be participating in the Annual Scouting for Food where food donations are collected and then distributed to the Bushkill Outreach food pantry on November 9th.

On or about December 7th Francis Oquendo will be representing Troop 87 to pick up the Peace Light from Kennedy Airport when it arrives from Bethlehem. We will also have a Peace lighting at Middle Smithfield Township in December, and more than likely St. John's Church, and our Troop House.

In mid-January Troop 87 will participate in the Annual Klondike Derby which takes place at Camp Minsi in Mount Pocono. It consists of winter camping, a sled race among all the Troops that attend from the area, shelter building, and fire making skills, among other team building exercises.

*****ECRWSSDDM*****

POSTAL CUSTOMER



CHURCH OFFERING THANKSGIVING DINNER

On Thanksgiving Sunday, November 24th, Mady's Kitchen of Mady's Angels will offer a free Community Dinner from 4-6pm at the Church of St. John, where folks can enjoy turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, yams, cole slaw, cranberry sauce, rolls and a variety of desserts.

Mady's Angels will also offer a Christmas Dinner on Sunday, December 29th at the Church of St. John from 4-6pm.

The feast includes Roast Beef, mashed potatoes, yams, salad, rolls, ambrosia, and a variety of desserts.



madysangels.org



CELEBRATING THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS!

Temple Israel will hold its Hanukkah Menorah lighting event, with traditional latkes and jelly donuts, dreidels (spinning tops) and more at 6:30 pm on Sunday, December 29.

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

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

This year, Hanukkah begins at sunset on Sunday, December 22nd, and lasts until Monday December 30th.



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

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

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

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

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