

# MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWS

## WINTER 2024



### UNITED WAY FREE TAX PREP

Continued from page 12



**What to bring checklist:**

- Social Security card and S.S. Cards for all Dependents in the tax filing
- Photo IDs for Self and Spouse if filing jointly – Driver's License, State Photo ID, or Passport
- Last year's tax returns
- W-2 forms for all jobs held
- All 1099 forms, SSA 1099
- Voided Check
- Anything that says "This is important for your taxes" or "Tax document"
- Forms 1098-T for anyone on your tax return who is in a post-secondary college
- Receipts for donations to charitable organizations
- Detailed childcare expenses and tax ID number of provider(s)
- Form 1095 A if you received one
- Mortgage interest statement and property tax receipts

### FREECYCLE

By Rachel Heller

Gently used items dropped off during our Clean Up event April 25-27 will be available for pick-up by residents.



At our Freecycle Event 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 Township Clean Up costs the taxpayers less money (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!

A maximum of 5 items is allowed per person. There is no charge.

This event is for Middle Smithfield Township residents only. Please provide proof of township residency.

**Where:** Public Works Garage behind the Municipal Building 147 Municipal Drive (Pick up is not available at the Wooddale Garage)

**When:** Thursday May 2, Friday May 3, Saturday May 4. 7am to 2pm each day



• CONGRATS TO OUR PERSON OF THE YEAR & FINALISTS! PAGE 22-25.

• PREVIEW OF 2024 ON FEBRUARY 22ND. PAGE 5.

• TWO NEW TOWNSHIP VOTING DISTRICTS. PAGE 17.

• NEW FIRE AND EMS TAX. PAGE 27.

ABOUT THE PHOTO: DAWN AT BUSHKILL CREEK AT RESICA FALLS SCOUT RESERVATION, MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP.

PHOTO CREDIT: ROY ROPER

# MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWS

## WHAT'S GOING ON:

### February

2/14-4/17: Pocono Mountains United Way Tax Aide at Community and Cultural Center (*by appointment only*)  
2/20: Tai Chi (By TOALC) at Community and Cultural Center, 9 am  
2/22: Supervisors Meeting, Preview of 2024 & 2023 Person of the Year Check Presentation, 7 pm  
2/24: Black History Month Children's Day (By Greater Pocono Jack & Jill) at Community and Cultural Center, 11 am

### March

3/2: Chair Yoga at Community and Cultural Center, 11 am  
3/9: Zumba with Tanya at Community and Cultural Center, 12 pm  
3/23: Eggstravaganza at Resica Park, 12 pm  
3/29: Good Friday (*Township Offices Closed*)

### April

4/8: Last Day to Register to Vote before Primary Election  
4/16: Last Day to Request Mail In Ballot for Primary Election  
4/20: 1000 Feet of Street- Spring Litter Clean Up, 8 am  
4/23: Primary Elections (*Township Offices Closed*)  
4/25-4/27: Township Spring Clean Up, 7 am- 2 pm  
Date TBD: Spring Leaf Collection Begins

### May

5/27: Memorial Day (*Township Offices Closed*)

For an up-to-date list of events visit [www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com](http://www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com). A full list of events at the Community and Cultural Center can be found on page 13

## 2023 PERSON OF THE YEAR :



**Russell Fisher**  
2023 Person of the Year

Russell Fisher was nominated for his work with VALOR Clinic and the Knights of Columbus. Learn more about Russell and his cause on page 22!



**Dr. Marilyn Brown**  
2023 Person of the Year Finalist

Was nominated for her work with the Greater Pocono Section, National Council of Negro Women. Learn more about her cause on Page 25!



**Sue Mahusky**  
2023 Person of the Year Finalist

Was nominated for her work with Angels and Dragonflies Children's Charity. Learn more about her cause on Page 24!

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Upcoming Events.....	2
Finance.....	4
Representative Roundup .....	6
Economic Development.....	8
Planning Commission .....	10
Zoning .....	9
Community & Cultural Center .....	12
Parks & Recreation .....	14
Litter & Beautification .....	16
Voting Information .....	17
Public Works Department .....	18
Sewer .....	19
Golf .....	20
Historical Commission .....	20
Person of the Year .....	21
Emergency Services .....	26

## COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

**Board of Supervisors**  
2nd & 4th Thursday every month | 7 pm

**Parks & Recreation Committee**  
1st Monday every month | 6:30 pm

**Golf Course Advisory Committee**  
2nd Monday every month | 8:30 am

**Oak Grove Composting Facility Board**  
Call for schedule | 570-223-8920 x142

**Historical Commission**  
1st Thursday every month | 9:00 am

**Planning Commission**  
4th Thursday every month | 5:30 pm

**Zoning Hearing Board**  
Call for schedule | 570-223-8920 x126

**Economic Development Committee**  
3rd Monday every month | 5:30 pm

**Revitalize 209 Committee**  
4th Tuesday every month | 5:30 pm

\*More upcoming events can be found on committee pages!

## A WORD FROM YOUR TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

The New Year is off to an auspicious great start! To see plans projects, and updates for 2024, please attend our Preview of 2024 on February 22.

For one thing, Middle Smithfield Township, one of the largest municipalities in Monroe County, finally has additional voting districts and polling places! (more on page 17). For another thing – there are some changes in taxes and fees this year. (more on the next page.)

In January, we celebrated the 2023 Person of the Year, **Russell Fisher**, and the finalists, **Dr. Marilyn Brown** and **Sue Mahusky**, and all our Volunteers at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Banquet.

**Why do we host this event every year?** Positive and negative memories are handled by different parts of the brain. Negative memory takes up more space -- there's more to process. Because of this, we will remember the negative more. People will remember losing \$10 more than they will remember gaining \$50.

**What we remember determines what kind of life we will have. What we think about, we bring about.**

And what we collectively remember determines **what kind of community we will have**.

By celebrating the finalists of Person of the Year, and our volunteers, the Township is remembering the positive. For 2024, the staff of Middle Smithfield Township will put their communication efforts and resources in service to Angels & Dragonflies Children's Charity, the Greater Pocono Chapter- National Council of Negro Women, and Valor, so that others may hear of them too, and these organizations will thrive and prosper, and in turn, our community will flourish.

Please attend the Preview of 2024 on February 22nd, which includes the check presentation to these wonderful members of our community

**In Gratitude,  
Your Board of Supervisors,**  
*Annette Atkinson, Mike Dwyer, Mark Oney*



Middle Smithfield Township Person of the Year, Russ Fisher and finalists Dr. Marilyn Brown and Sue Mahusky. (left to right) Supervisor Mark Oney; Senator Rosemary Brown, Supervisor Mike Dwyer, Dr. Marilyn Brown, Russ Fisher, Commissioner John Christy, Sue Mahusky, Chief of Staff for Representative Maureen Madden Jacob Pride, Supervisor Annette Atkinson. Not pictured but at the event: Representative Tara Probst, Commissioner Dave Parker

Middle Smithfield Township Administrative Office  
147 Municipal Drive East Stroudsburg, PA 18302  
570-223-8920 | [info@mstowntship.com](mailto:info@mstowntship.com)  
[MiddleSmithfieldTownship.com](http://MiddleSmithfieldTownship.com)

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

Middle Smithfield Township Staff

Michele Clewell | Township Secretary, Human Resources  
Director & Assistant Administrative Director,  
Planning Commission Recording Secretary  
[mclewell@mstowntship.com](mailto:mclewell@mstowntship.com) | x112

Joan Woisin | Sewer Department Manager  
[jwoisin@mstowntship.com](mailto:jwoisin@mstowntship.com) | x115

On Lot Sewage Enforcement Officer | x128

Bonnie Winters | Budget & Finance Manager  
[bwinters@mstowntship.com](mailto:bwinters@mstowntship.com) | x131

Rachel Heller | Public Works Administrator, Oak Grove, & Emergency Management Coordinator  
[rheller@mstowntship.com](mailto:rheller@mstowntship.com) | x142

Shawn McGlynn | Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer  
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Mayra Colon | Zoning Administrator: Inspections  
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Vicki Smith | Zoning Administrator  
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Holly Dennis | Community & Municipal Projects Coordinator, Community & Cultural Center  
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Christopher Rain | Parks & Rec, Litter & Beautification, Facilities, Website & Right to Know Officer  
[crain@mstowntship.com](mailto:crain@mstowntship.com) | x119

James Brechbiel | Economic Development Manager  
[jbrechbiel@mstowntship.com](mailto:jbrechbiel@mstowntship.com) | x130

Todd Brown | Country Club of the Poconos Pro Shop Manager  
[tbrown@mstowntship.com](mailto:tbrown@mstowntship.com) | 570-223-8099

# BUDGET & FINANCE

Treasurer, Supervisor: Mike Dwyer  
Budget & Finance Manager: Bonnie Winters

## DOLLARS & SENSE

By Bonnie Winters & Mike Dwyer

Each year, the township includes a Tax Bill Insert along with your March 1 taxes, to assist in reading your tax bill. This year, there are some significant changes in your local property taxes:

TAX	MILLS	CHANGE	CHANGE*
MONROE COUNTY	3.9773	AN INCREASE OF .75 MILLS	\$120
MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP	1.75	-	-
FIRE	0.5	NEW	\$80
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES	0.4	NEW	\$64
LIBRARY	0.185914	AN INCREASE OF .016784	\$30

\* for property with average assessed value of \$160,000

Notes: School tax bill to come August 1.

The 2024 Middle Smithfield Township Budget was prepared by the Board of Supervisors, the Budget and Finance Manager, Bonnie Winters, and the staff of Middle Smithfield Township.

The need to increase funding for our fire and EMS is more critical than ever. In prior years, the township had been able to fund these essential services within the taxes collected and the cable franchise fee. Unfortunately, the costs for all aspects of operations, including but not limited to trucks, equipment, gear, and utilities have substantially increased. In addition, the Cable Franchise Fees continue to decrease from prior years with less cable users.

In order to sufficiently fund these services, taxes must increase to include a Fire Tax and an EMS Tax. In 2024, residents and business owners will see a 0.50-millage tax for our fire departments and a 0.40-millage tax for our emergency medical services.

In June 2024, however, the cable franchise fee will expire. Once it expires, cable users will no longer see "Middle Smithfield Township Franchise fee" on their bill.

It is difficult to say that there is no tax increase for 2024, with the newly initiated fire and EMS tax, but there is no increase in Middle Smithfield general real estate taxes, i.e., the basic real estate tax on your home/business. The Middle Smithfield Township Tax will remain at 1.75-mills for 2024. There will, however, be additional millage taxed for purposes of fire protection and EMS services.

The 2024 Budget continues to reflect the township's vision to improve our infrastructure, such as roads and sewers, as well as amenities, such as parks, litter control, and beautification.



## FIGHT FRAUD!

There's a new service in the Monroe County Recorder of Deeds office and homeowners can now sign up for alerts. Homeowners can monitor documents and instruments that are recorded in their name, which could alert the homeowner to suspicious, fraudulent activity on the most valuable assets --property!

This record alert system is free to anyone who would like to sign up for the service.

Those that sign up will receive an email or text from the County's recording vendor, Landex, alerting the property owner anytime a document has been recorded in the County office with the name of the property owner. Businesses are also welcome to sign up for this service.

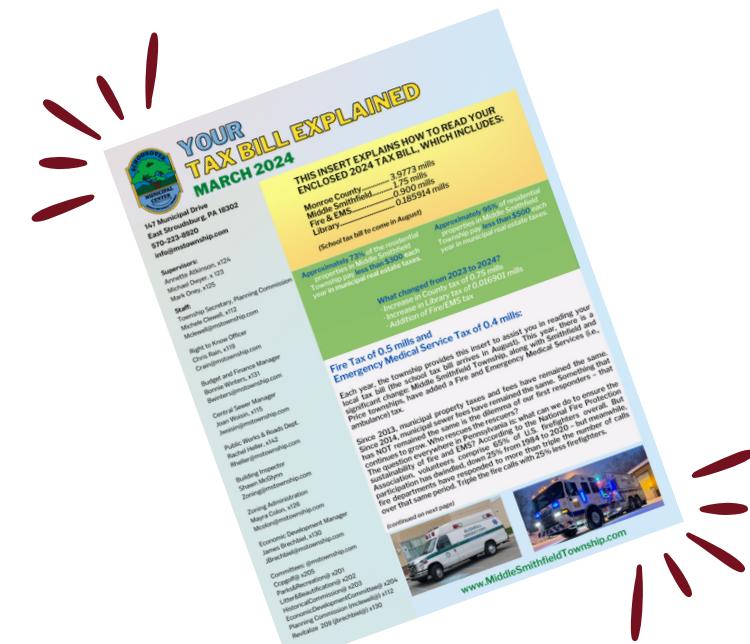
Visit the website:

<https://www.monroecountypa.gov/departments/recorder-of-deeds/resources/record-alert-system>

There are a number of projects being considered for 2024, which you can hear about in our annual presentation to the public of the upcoming year, "Preview of 2024" on February 22, while continuing to focus on cost-savings wherever possible.

We know that it is crucial that the township maintain strong financials, provide the services needed by our community, and do more whenever and wherever we can.

As always, we appreciate all of our residents and business owners that contribute to the success of our township.



Keep an eye out for the 2024 Tax Bill Insert with your March tax bill for more details about the changes!

## PREVIEW OF 2024- REPORT TO THE PUBLIC



Township staff at the Preview of 2023.

Continuing this administration's tradition of timely and accurate periodic reports to the public, Middle Smithfield Township is on track to deliver their annual Preview of the upcoming year to the public at their next Board of Supervisor's meeting, scheduled for Thursday, February 22nd, at 7pm in the Schoonover Municipal Building.

Each year, the township makes several presentations to the public, such as presents the next year's budget in December along with a "Year-End Report", a "Preview of the Upcoming Year" report in February, and a "Mid-Year Report" in July.

Typically, the township reports include new projects, a snapshot of the township's financials, overview of township operations by departments and committees, and summary of accomplishments and status of ongoing projects and forecast for the rest of the year.

Some highlights of this year's report directly answer our ongoing goals: build a sense of community, engage residents, and collaborate continuously.

**At the Preview of 2024 we will also be presenting our 2023 Person of the Year and finalists with the donations for their causes. Learn more on Pages 21-25.**



Elected Auditor Joel Lowris with his family at the 2023 Person of the Year and Volunteer Appreciation Banquet



District Judge Jamie Levy (center), with members of Bushkill Emergency Corps.



Golf Committee member Craig Wetherbee, Historical Commission members Carrie Wetherbee, Charisse Fallon, and Pat Francis.



Senator Brown, Jacob Pride from Rep. Madden's Office & Rep. Tarah Probst 2022 Finalist David Brown.

# REPRESENTATIVE ROUND-UP

A few words from your elected officials

## CONGRESSMAN MATT CARTWRIGHT

8th Congressional District



This year, I am proud of the progress made by our federal government to improve the quality of life in our Northeastern PA communities:

reducing prescription drug prices, increasing support for our veterans, police, fire and EMT workers; expanding and revitalizing our local economy.

In the future, we are looking to have access to passenger rail in Stroudsburg and with it more opportunities to travel from here to New York. This infrastructure enhancement made possible by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which I worked on, will help our regional economy. Eighty-four million dollars a year in economic activity would follow these trains.

As your representative in Washington, I remain committed to working across the aisle to advocate for working families, protect our seniors, provide a brighter future for our youth, and ensure access to quality health care as well as support veterans and military families. I pray we can forge ahead in a bipartisan fashion to reduce inflation, continue to fix our aging infrastructure, and help keep our communities safe and well.

Middle Smithfield Township is a special place where many of you give your time and energy year-round to pick up garbage along the roadways, participate on township committees, and volunteer at public events. Thank you!

If you, or anyone you know, needs assistance with a federal agency or program, please visit my website for a full listing of my office locations and contact information: [www.cartwright.house.gov](http://www.cartwright.house.gov)

## SENATOR ROSEMARY BROWN

Senate District 40



When I was sworn in as your Senator this year, I made one very important promise: to work hard for you. To stay accountable, I am

sharing a snapshot of just some of what we have accomplished this year. First, to be transparent to you, and secondly, to set goals for the new year.

Here is what we accomplished in 2023:

- Brought back more than \$27 million in state grants to the 40th District
- In Harrisburg, I prime sponsored 25 legislative proposals.
  - Five of my bills passed the Senate, all bipartisan. They are awaiting action in the House.
  - As Chairwoman of the Local Government Committee, we reported 18 bills, all bipartisan.
  - I founded and serve as co-chair of the Senate's first Mental Health Caucus – tasked with creating research for future policy decisions.
  - I was appointed to the Governor's Commission on Women, the Gino Merli Veterans Home Advisory Council, and the Local Government Commission.
  - I was also appointed to the Appropriations Committee charged with reviewing the state budget line-by-line.
- In the District, I continue to focus on problem-solving, acting as a liaison and resource for our local community, businesses, and individuals who need assistance with state-related issues.
  - We filed over 260 Property Tax Rebates for Seniors.
  - Helped over 90 Veterans obtain benefits through the American Legion.

Continued on page 15

## REPRESENTATIVE MAUREEN E. MADDEN

115th Legislative District



I am ecstatic to announce the launch of our satellite office hours for constituents who reside in Middle Smithfield. In cooperation with the Board of Supervisors, I have secured space each month in the municipal center to better serve you. Beginning in February, we will have two days each month dedicated to MST. I look forward to seeing you on February 27th and 28th between 10 am and 3 pm.

In these last few weeks, my staff and I have supported several events in Middle Smithfield. I would like to congratulate once more MST Person of the Year finalists Russell Fisher, Dr. Marilyn M. Brown, and Sue Mahusky. Their work as volunteers in our community highlights the very best we have to offer. Similarly, just starting out is MST resident and newly recognized Eagle Scout Devon Witty. Devon's Eagle project included improvements to the East Stroudsburg Little League Field at Waterfront Park in neighboring Smithfield Township.

Governor Shapiro's budget address will be fleshed out into budget legislation over the coming weeks. I am optimistic for education funding in line with the Basic Education Funding Commission's (BEFC) report, which includes solutions to cover the \$5.4 billion adequacy gap. Communities in the 115th District have long paid for the Commonwealth's lack of fair investment in our schools. The report adopted by the BEFC recommends a billion dollar tax cut via "tax equity supplement."

I look forward to a productive 2024 together! As always, please contact my office with any questions or need for constituent services! We can be reached Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call at (570) 894-7905.

## REPRESENTATIVE TARAH PROBST

115th Legislative District



Paying for child and dependent care is tough on working families and family caregivers. Finding a good day care is a challenge – and with the cost averaging over \$1,000 per month, paying for care can be an even bigger challenge. I am proud to have worked with Gov. Josh Shapiro to deliver for working parents and caregivers as we more than tripled the state's Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit to help nearly a quarter-million Pennsylvania families keep more of their hard-earned money. The previous one-child credit of \$180 is up to as much as \$1,050, and the previous two-or-more children credit of \$360 is up to as much as \$2,100.

This is not just for child care. If you are paying for care of someone who is elderly or living with a disability, you could also qualify for the tax credit. If you qualify for the federal Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, you also qualify for the state credit. While the expanded tax credit will help a lot of Pennsylvanians, it does not address the root causes of how our child care model came to be this inaccessible in the first place. Low wages paid to care staff is causing many professionals to leave the industry, forcing facilities to close and further limiting care options.

Given this reality, we must expand access to quality care through more than tax credits. To do that, I co-sponsored H.B. 975, legislation that would create a "public private partnership," encouraging employers to help workers cover the costs of child care. This bill is based on similar legislation that has succeeded in other states and is supported by the business community. I will continue working toward policies that create greater access to child care, improve care quality, and pay care workers fairly for the work they do and the credentials they need.

## MONROE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

John D. Christy, Sharon Laverdure, and David Parker



The Carbon Monroe Pike Drug and Alcohol Commission has kicked off its Fentanyl Awareness Campaign in all three Counties.

We have solicited the help of Kudu Creative from the Lehigh Valley to help guide us in this endeavor. The first step is a billboard campaign to make people aware of the fact that 7 out 10 counterfeit pills on the street contain Fentanyl and that as little as 2mg (grains of sand) can cause an overdose. Monroe County Drug and Alcohol has also partnered with the Monroe County Detectives to meet with people after a Narcan reversal of an overdose. This is to provide information and guidance to get people the help they need. Thus far this has been a very successful program.

We have also stepped up our Narcan distribution and RX Destroyer program through community outreach and part of our billboard messaging. Narcan has the ability to block the receptors in the brain from processing opioids therefore reversing the overdose. RX Destroyer is a bottle that contains materials that render unused and outdated medications inert and then can be thrown in the trash. Should you feel the need for either of these products please contact the Monroe County office to CMP Drug and Alcohol at 570-517-7153 or go to [www.wefightfentanyl.org](http://www.wefightfentanyl.org)

New changes bring new faces. January marked a number of retirements in the Commissioners' office. John Moyer retired after serving Monroe County for 12 years as Commissioner.

## CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

**US Congressman Matt Cartwright**  
400 Northampton St., Suite 307  
Easton, PA 18042  
484-546-0776

**Senator Rosemary Brown**  
2398 Route 611 #201  
Scotrun, PA 18332  
570-620-4326

**State Representative Tarah Probst**  
18 South Ninth Street  
Stroudsburg, PA 18360  
570-420-2850

**State Representative Maureen Madden**  
354 Memorial Blvd, Room 4  
Tobyhanna, PA 18466  
570-894-7905

**Monroe County Commissioners**  
John D. Christy  
Sharon Laverdure  
David Parker  
One Quaker Plaza  
Stroudsburg PA 18360  
570-517-3400

Continued on page 15

Join our email list today | 570-223-8920 ext. 100 | [info@mstownship.com](mailto:info@mstownship.com)

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Jared Acosta | Vice Chair: Ed Regina | Secretary: Tom Marchesani  
Members: Beverly Brown, Gina Bertucci, Joe Memoli, Deborah Emin | Manager: James Brechbiel

## VIOLETTE'S "STAND FOR THE CHILDREN" HOME THRIFT SHOP OPENS ITS DOORS IN MIDDLE SMITHFIELD

By James Brechbiel

On January 26th, 2024, Violette's "Stand for the Children" Home (VSFTCH) Thrift Shop had its grand opening and ribbon cutting at the Dutchman Shopping Center in Middle Smithfield Township with an overwhelming turnout from the community, the VSFTCH Board, elected officials, Middle Smithfield Township Economic Development Committee, friends, and fellow members of the Church of St. John in attendance.

The thrift store is an expression of owner Violette Francois's love of the community and a mission to raise funds to open a group home that will foster young adults as they transition to adulthood.

Having lived in a group home in Morristown, NJ, Violette was looking to give back and offer the same opportunity she had as a youth to others; a safe home to be nurtured, grow, and learn life skills.

According to their mission statement, VSFTCH would be a surrogate family that "offers support in all areas, especially education, structure, mental, and physical health," for those at risk once they leave the boys, or girls home. Proceeds will first be used to build a men's (ages 18 – 26) home and then, as it grows, a women's facility in the future. The facilities would act as a 'Next-Step' program, aiming to coach those for getting entrance into secondary education institutes and teaching important life skills, helping to develop self-sufficient, independent, and drug and alcohol-free individuals.

"I know that, without the support I had, I don't know what would have happened, or where I would be today," said Francois.

VSFTCH Thrift Shop has everything you need at a great price. Thrifty spenders can find clothes, furniture, toys, household goods, accessories, and great deals.

And you'll feel good about your purchases too!

All items are donated by the community and 100% of the proceeds will go towards the VSFTCH fund

"I'm so excited to see this take off and right here in Middle Smithfield, my community," said Francois. "Once built, these young adults will get to witness the welcoming spirit and opportunities I have seen here and I couldn't be more thrilled."



Ribbon cutting at Violette's "Stand for the Children" Home Thrift Shop.

**Violette's "Stand for the Children" Home Thrift Shop**  
570-269-6203  
5126 Milford Rd., Suite 300  
East Stroudsburg, PA 18302  
(In the Dutchman Shopping Center)  
[www.violettestandforthechildrenhome.com](http://www.violettestandforthechildrenhome.com)

## ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR SHOP LOCAL – THANK YOU SHOPPERS!

By James Brechbiel

The Shop Local Holiday Campaign marked its 10th year in 2023, expanding its impact for MST businesses and residents like never before.

This year saw more participation than ever with 56 businesses offering promotions and giving Middle Smithfield Township residents exclusive offers like 25% off at Ace Hardware, 20% off a gift certificate at LA-Ren Hair Studio, 15% off deli catering orders at Mignosi's Super Foodtown, and so much more.

Veteran businesses noticed that the program continues to expand their customer base and was a huge hit in 2023.

"We notice year after year, that the customer participation continues to grow," said Bill Shields, Manager of Perkins Restaurant, who offered a 20% discount off the entire order for their promotion. "People are so excited to come in with their activated card and we appreciate the business we received from it. We did better than ever this year and can't wait to do it again!"

And businesses newer to Shop Local are noticing the impact as well.

I noticed new faces who came in with the discount card and I now have shopaholics," laughed Ashanti Giordano, owner of 4 Queens of Jaxx Boutique and Stroudsburg Overhead Doors. "It's working for us."



Economic Development Committee at the 2023 Person of the Year and Volunteer Appreciation Banquet. From left to right: Deborah Emin, EDC Manager James Brechbiel, Joe Memoli, and Gina Bertucci.

And great deals weren't the only things residents had to enjoy; Those who activated their Shop Local Discount Cards were automatically entered to win awesome prizes for the Friday Giveaways all December long.

This year, card activators had a chance to win ribbon wreaths by Lori McCrory, a festive holiday wreath by Regina Farms, gift certificates worth up to \$40 in value from participating businesses like Inspired By Our Wellness (IBOW) Yoga Studio, Los Tres Amigos Restaurant, and Faded Lace Clothing Boutique. There were big prizes, like a personalized check for \$50 from Wayne Bank and a gift basket valued at over \$100 from 4 Queens of Jaxx. The participating businesses for the Friday Giveaways donated all, driving forward their commitment to keeping the cheer here!

But don't forget. The Shop Local Program isn't just for the holidays.

"We see an uptick in customers with the promotions we run," said Heather Gallia of Faded Lace. "I love the program overall. We even did the Christmas in July campaign over the summer and I made up my entire weekly sales in just one day. I know it's because of the promotions."

Are you a business owner in Middle Smithfield Township and want to learn more about the Middle Smithfield Township Shop Local Program? Call (570) 223-8920 x130 Today!

Visit us at [www.MSTShoplocal.com](http://www.MSTShoplocal.com), or [www.facebook.com/mstshoplocal](http://www.facebook.com/mstshoplocal).



## Revitalize 209 Grant Program

Call 570-223-8920 x130 for More Information

## REVITALIZE 209 GRANT; WHAT IF YOU HAD \$10,000 TO IMPROVE YOUR PROPERTY?

By James Brechbiel

It may be cold outside, but that's no reason to stop thinking ahead for spring projects, and with the Revitalize 209 Grant, property owners can get just the money they need to make their dreams a reality.

For a refresher, the Revitalize 209 Grant, a township program, fosters up to \$750,000 of property improvements along Milford Rd. (aka Route 209), with the Township's portion allotting for \$375,000 and a match from property owners. The program focuses on improvements to building facades, curb appeal, and safety with maximum project sizes up to \$20,000 in cost (Township \$10,000 and applicant \$10,000). There is no minimum. The key is that the project has to be visible from Route 209 and within Middle Smithfield Township.

Since first sitting last summer, the Revitalize 209 Committee has been hard at work reviewing letters of interest (LOIs) and is excited to see applications start to come in for prospective projects.

### And it's not too late! Applications are still being accepted!

What great projects do you have in mind? The Revitalize 209 Committee wants to hear about them.

Some projects to consider are as follows:

-Repairing/replacing doors, display windows, transoms, upper story windows, and improvements to building facades.

- Installation of benches (available for use by the public).
- Parking/access improvements.
- Power washing/cleaning/refacing exterior building surfaces.
- Painting.
- Landscaping improvements.
- Improvements to Lighting fixtures to "dark sky" compliant.
- Razing blighted buildings or unsafe structures.
- Any other projects deemed acceptable by the Board of Supervisors.

### Sound like a fit for you?

Submit your LOI to the committee and find out if you qualify for the Revitalize 209 Grant. Reach out to James Brechbiel at (570) 223-8920 x130, or email at [jbrechbiel@msttownship.com](mailto:jbrechbiel@msttownship.com) to learn more today!

The Revitalize 209 Committee meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 5:30 pm. We look forward to seeing you there!

# PLANNING COMMISSION

Chairman: Bob Early | Vice Chair: Parin Shah

Members: Mark Oney, Nick Theofilos, Vacancy | Alternate: Carrie Wetherbee

Engineer: Benjamin Kutz, Gilmore & Associates

Solicitor: Deborah L. Huffman- Weitzmann, Weitzmann and Huffman | Recording Secretary: Michele Clewell

## MIDDLE SMITHFIELD PLANNING COMMISSION

By Michele Clewell

The Middle Smithfield Township Planning Commission provides recommendations to the governing body (Board of Supervisors) regarding the appropriate uses of land.

In the past year, the Planning Commission has reviewed land development plans; for a personal care home, a shopping center, a minor subdivision plans (in order for the property owner to separate their land), and a sketch plan for residential homes.

The planning commission meets monthly on the third Thursday at 5:30 p.m. The public is welcome to attend.

## SIGN OF THE TIMES- POLITICAL SIGNS

By Mayra Colon



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

Residents can help keep the township beautiful 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.
- 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.

### 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. This applies to ALL signs.

### 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. If you are running for office or represent a campaign, please contact the Zoning Office for an application or at [www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com](http://www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com).

# ZONING

Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer: Shawn McGlynn | [zoning@mstowship.com](mailto:zoning@mstowship.com)

Zoning Director: Mark Oney | Assistant Zoning Officer: Lori McCrory 570-223-8920 x128

Zoning Department Administrators: Mayra Colon 570-223-8920 x126

& Vicki Smith 570-223-8920 x105

Zoning Hearing Board: Chairperson- Josephine Ferro | Vice Chair: Arthur Jenkins

Members: Jeff Senholzi, Gary Morris, Melonie Schmid.

## SNOW IS ON THE HORIZON



Don't be caught out in the cold holding a ticket for illegal snow removal or unlawful parking during a snow emergency.

Under section 138-7 of the Township Code, it is unlawful to throw, shovel or otherwise move, pile or dump snow or ice removed from sidewalks, driveways or other areas onto any public road. It is also unlawful to park a vehicle on any public road and right of way if the Township has declared a snow emergency. Violation of the ordinance shall result in a fine of \$50.00.

Please cooperate with our hard-working Public Works Department as they work tirelessly to combat the hazards of snow and/or ice on the Township's public roads.

### The following projects need a zoning permit:

- Building a deck.
- Building a patio.
- Constructing a pergola or trellis.
- Building a shed, or having a prefab shed installed on your property.
- Enclosing an existing screened-in porch.
- Building a roof over an existing deck.
- Building/installing a fence.
- Finishing an unfinished basement.
- Finishing an unfinished attic.
- Starting a business at your residence.
- Construction/installation of above-ground and in-ground swimming pools.

### The following projects do NOT need a zoning permit:

- Planting a garden.
- Planting trees and landscaping (unless it involves construction of walls and/or hardscaping).
- Constructing/installing a garden pond. Note: large ponds involving alteration of drainage patterns and storm water flow require a permit.
- Erecting a swing set or trampoline.
- Placement of a seasonal, child's wading pool, provided it is less than 24" deep.
- Replacing siding.
- Replacing roofing. (\*\*building permit is required)
- Replacing windows and doors provided the size of the openings are not changing, and the work does not involve alterations, e.g., changing a door opening into a window or a window into a door.
- Home repairs, cosmetic improvements, and maintenance.

# CULTURAL & COMMUNITY CENTER

5200 Milford Rd., East Stroudsburg, PA 18302

Manager: Holly Dennis | [hdennis@msttownship.com](mailto:hdennis@msttownship.com) | 570-223-8920 x132

## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH EXHIBIT

By Holly Dennis

Come celebrate a group of local women artists for the 2nd annual Women's History Month Art Exhibit at the Middle Smithfield Township Community and Cultural Center.



Spearheaded by artist Tricia Lowrey Lippert, the exhibit features over 20 local women artists in celebration of women's history month. The show features multi-disciplinary art including: Oils, pastels, ceramics, textiles, charcoals, watercolors, acrylics, photography, and video.

The opening reception will be held on Thursday, March 7, 2024 from 5 pm- 7 pm. The exhibit is free and open to the public for the entire month of March during regular hours of operation.

- Monday- Wednesday 9 am- 5 pm
- Thursday 10 am- 7 pm
- Friday- Saturday 10 am- 5 pm.
- Sunday- Closed



Two grants funded 89% of this solar panel project, which is projected to reduce the majority of the electric bills for the Community & Cultural Center. There are 85 German engineered high performance solar panels, installed in February, by EIBDP, LLC. -- the same company that designed and installed the solar project for Mignosi's Super Foodtown. The solar panels provide a 98% of nominal power with a performance warranty lasting a minimum of 25 years.

## UNITED WAY TAX AIDE

Pocono Mountains United Way will prepare taxes by appointment beginning February 14 at the Middle Smithfield Township Community and Cultural Center.

Both Taxpayer and Spouse must come to the appointment if filing a joint return.

Call 211 or 855-567-5341 to schedule your appointment.

For a list of what to bring to your appointment see page 28.



Pocono Mountains United Way



## A NEW YEAR AT THE LIBRARY OF THE SMITHFIELDS

By Jessica Brown, Branch Manager Library of the Smithfields



Winter at the Library of the Smithfields has settled in, but that is not without its excitement. The Eastern Monroe Public Library is starting the new year with some new faces. EMPL has hired a new Director, Cheryl Brice to replace Sue Lyons, who has retired and will be missed. Cheryl was previously the Adult Services library at EMPL and she brings her management experience to the library's busy life of providing books, tech services and events to the patrons and public at large. Along with Cheryl, Hope Kuchinski, the former branch manager for the Library of the Smithfields, will be stepping up to take over Cheryl's old position and she will bring her many talents to the area of Adult Services as well.

As for the Library of the Smithfield itself, Pre-K Storytime is back after a small hiatus for the Holidays. Join us for stories, songs, & coloring sheet or simple craft. Ages 3-5 but siblings are welcome! No need to sign up, just come on by.

Future events can be found at [facebook.com/SMFsLibrary](https://facebook.com/SMFsLibrary) or at the Eastern Monroe Public Library website at [www.monroopl.org](http://www.monroopl.org).

## FREE- ZUMBA WITH TANYA

By Holly Dennis

Ditch the workout, join the party!

Zumba® is a Latin-based dance fitness format that incorporates calisthenics movement with dance. Set your body free to popular Latin, Caribbean and African beats while burning calories and having fun. This class is suitable for ages 12 and up.



Tanya with Zumba participants at the Community & Cultural Center

**Where:** Middle Smithfield Township Community & Cultural Center

**When:** The second Saturday of the month beginning December 9th.

Brought to you by Trademarked Fitness Studio instructor Tanya Johnson.

Prior registration is required. Class size is limited to 20. Call 570-223-8920 x132 to register!

## MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP LOOKING FOR MORE HOMETOWN HEROES

By James Brechbiel



In November, Middle Smithfield Township completed another phase of its Veteran's Memorial with the installation of the Hometown Heroes Banners. The Project, an aspect of the memorial expansion, features local veterans displayed on banners lining the parking lot and road along Route 209 in front of the Community and Cultural Center. The project was made possible by grants received from the Pocono Mountain Visitors Bureau and the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce.

With the first phase of this project complete, a phase two is in the works and the Township is looking for more great Hometown Heroes.

Have you served, or do you have a loved one who served? Are you, or your loved one, a Middle Smithfield Township resident (past or present)?

Consider entering your information so that the Township can display more great Hometown Heroes at the Veteran's Memorial.

To learn more about being featured on a Hometown Heroes Banner, please contact (570) 223-8920 x 130 and speak with James Brechbiel, or email [jbrechbiel@msttownship.com](mailto:jbrechbiel@msttownship.com).

Space is limited and applicants will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Additional inquiries will be placed on a waiting list once spots are filled.

Additional information regarding the "memory walk" pavers at the Veteran's Memorial will be coming at a later date. Please stay tuned.

## COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL CENTER PUBLIC EVENTS AND EXHIBITS\*:

### MARCH

**United Way Tax Aide:** Wednesdays, 2/14-4/17, 9 am.

by appointment only. For more information or to make an appointment call 211 or 855-567-5341

**Women's History Month Exhibit (Opening Reception):** Thurs. 3/7, 5 pm- 7 pm.

Stop by the month of March to check out the Women's History Month Exhibit. Join us during the opening reception for some light refreshments and to meet the artists!

**Zumba with Tanya:** Sat. 3/9, 12 pm.

Call 570-223-8920 x132 to register!

**Chair Yoga with Luz:** Sat 3/16, 3/23, 3/30, 4/6, 11 am.

Join Luz for an eclectic mix of chair yoga and movement to help you stay healthy! No registration required.

### APRIL

**Pocono Photo Club Spring Exhibit:**

Stop by the month of April for the Pocono Photo Club's Spring Exhibit. More information coming soon!

**Fishing the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Thurs. 4/11, 5:30 pm.**

Join The Friends of the DWGNRA for this free class! More information to come!

**Fishing the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Thurs. 4/11, 5:30 pm.**

Join The Friends of the DWGNRA for this free class! More information to come!

**Red Cross Blood Drive, Fri. 4/12, Noon - 5pm.**

Donate blood and save a life! Schedule your appointment at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)

**Zumba with Tanya:** Sat. 4/13, 12 pm.

Call 570-223-8920 x132 to register!

**\*Are you a community organization? We'd love to host your event or meeting. Please call Holly Dennis at 570-223-8920 x132 for availability and more information!**

# PARKS & RECREATION

Director: Mike Dwyer | Chair Person: Jaime Frailey | Vice Chair: Laura Massaro

Members: Marilyn Brown, Debbie Kulick, Kristin Willis

Liaison: Chris Rain | [crain@mstownship.com](mailto:crain@mstownship.com)

## TOWNSHIP PARKS

- **Leroy W. Lewis Dog Park**

108 Leroy's Lane (off of Milford Road/209; adjacent to the National Recreation Area)

- **Echo Lake Park**

5206 Milford Rd (on Route 209 across from Middle Smithfield Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Next to Community and Cultural Center)

- **Judy Putek Park**

182 Municipal Drive (near Municipal Building)

- **Resica Park**

1 Gravel Ridge Road (behind Resica Elementary School)

- **Community Gardens Park**

989 Coolbaugh Road (4 miles North of 402/Coolbaugh Road intersection)

## REGIONAL PARKS

- **Mt. Nebo Park**

406 Mt. Nebo Road, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301 (in Smithfield Township)

- **River's Edge Family Bike Park**

123 River Road, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301 (in Smithfield Township)

## NATIONAL PARKS

- **National Park Headquarters**

1978 River Road, Bushkill, PA 18324  
[facebook.com/DelWaterGapNPS](https://facebook.com/DelWaterGapNPS)  
[nps.gov/dewa/index.htm](https://nps.gov/dewa/index.htm)

- **Hidden Lake**

National Park within our township. No street address; entrance near Hidden Lake Drive and Keystone Road.

[delawareriver.natgeotourism.com/content/hidden-lake-bushkill-pa/del163a03909b0065c79](https://delawareriver.natgeotourism.com/content/hidden-lake-bushkill-pa/del163a03909b0065c79)

[facebook.com/MSTParksandRec](https://facebook.com/MSTParksandRec)

[www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com/243/Parks-Facilities](https://www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com/243/Parks-Facilities)

### SCAN TO FILL OUT OUR PARKS SURVEY!

Help us improve our township's parks!

Please take this 10 question survey.

It only takes 5 minutes or less!

FOLLOW THE QR CODE WITH YOUR PHONE'S  
CAMERA OR VISIT  
[BIT.LY/MST-PARKS-SURVEY](https://BIT.LY/MST-PARKS-SURVEY)



## COME OUT FOR A HOPPING GOOD TIME AT THE 17TH ANNUAL EGGSTRAVAGANZA!

By Chris Rain



Join us on Saturday March 23 at Resica Park for another hippity-hoppity time at the 17th Annual Eggstravaganza! Children can participate in one of three age group egg hunts to collect candy filled eggs. Eggs are available while supplies last!

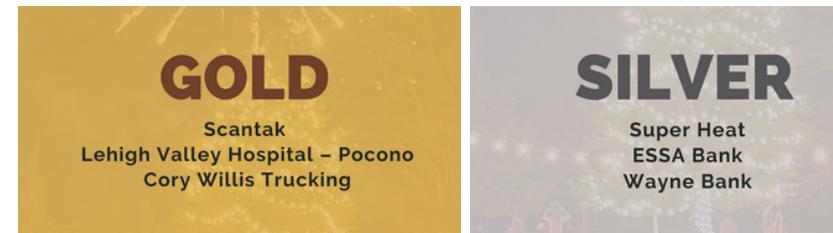
With thousands of eggs, games, and a special return of the Easter Bunny, the Eggstravaganza is a great opportunity for residents to catch up with neighbors in friendly conversation and celebrate the return of spring. Kids and kids-at-heart of all ages are welcome and get a chance to win prizes and have lots of fun. Please bring a basket or a bag. Parent or guardian supervision is required for anyone under the age of 18.

In the event of inclement weather, the event will take place on Sunday March 24.

The Eggstravaganza is held annually the Saturday before Easter. Resica Park is located at 1 Gravel Ridge Road next to Resica Elementary School.

Resica Park is closed to the public during school hours. Please call 570-223-8920 x119 for more information, or email [crain@mstownship.com](mailto:crain@mstownship.com).

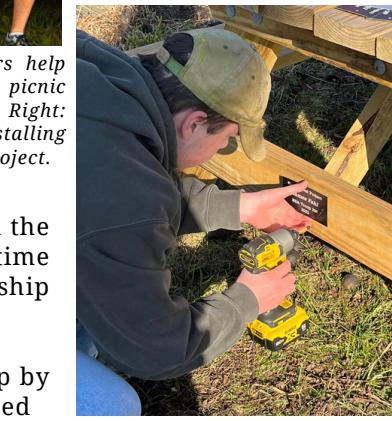
## THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 PARKS SPONSORS THAT HELP MAKE OUR EVENTS POSSIBLE



## EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT AT JUDY PUTEK PARK



Above: Boy Scout Volunteers help assemble the benches and picnic tables at Judy Putek Park. Right: Eagle Scout James Fahl installing plaques on his Eagle Scout project.



Spring is right around the corner, which means time spent at our township parks.

The next time you stop by Judy Putek Park (located at 182 Municipal Drive,) check out the latest Eagle Scout project done in the township!

Eagle Scout James Fahl from Troop 300 built handmade picnic tables and benches with planters for our residents to enjoy.

We are tremendously proud of all of the Eagle Scouts we get to partner with, and are looking forward to helping more scouts achieve their goals.

## MONROE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

John D. Christy, Sharon Laverdure, and David Parker

Continued from page 7

Attorney John Dunn guided Monroe County Commissioners for over thirty years and has also retired. John is proud of the fact that it took a whole firm to replace him. Greg Christine also retired serving as Chief Clerk for twelve years. Greg previously served as County Commissioner as well as head of the Tax Claim office for the County. The Commissioners have hired Bob Gress as Chief Clerk, the firm Weitzman, Weitzmann & Huffman as solicitors, and welcome Dave Parker as Vice Chair of the board of Commissioners.

The Commissioners' meetings are on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 9:30 am and streamed live and available on YouTube.

## MAKE YOUR BED AT MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY GARDENS IN 2024

By Chris Rain



Attention, gardeners! Come garden with us in 2024 by reserving a plot at Community Gardens Park on Coolbaugh Road.

Plots reservations require a short reservation form and a \$50 refundable deposit per plot to hold your spot. There is a maximum of 3 plots per household during the initial signup period.

MST Community Gardens Park is located at 989 Coolbaugh Road. MST parks are open daily during daylight hours. For more information, call 570-223-8920 x119, email [crain@mstownship.com](mailto:crain@mstownship.com), or visit [www.facebook.com/mstcommunitygardens](https://www.facebook.com/mstcommunitygardens).

## SENATOR ROSEMARY BROWN

Continued from page 6

- Hosted 8 district events attended by thousands of constituents, fostering education and resources.
- Published Human Resource Guides for Lackawanna, Monroe, and Wayne Counties.
- Published Residents Guides for Lackawanna, Monroe, and Wayne Counties.

In addition, I always do my best to personally attend community functions, business openings, Eagle Scout Ceremonies, 100th Birthdays in an effort to stay connected and be accessible to the people I serve. Please always feel welcome to speak with me at these events.

In 2024, I will use these accomplishments to build on delivering more for the 40th Senatorial District. As always, thank you for your trust in me to work hard for you. I will continue to focus on common sense policy and results while creating an environment that fosters patriotism, deeper education, good government, kindness, and respect.

If you have any questions, concerns, or would like additional details on anything outlined in this article, please always feel welcome to contact me at 570-620-4326 or my emailing me at [rbrown@pasen.gov](mailto:rbrown@pasen.gov).

Here is to a great year ahead!

# LITTER & BEAUTIFICATION

Liaison: Chris Rain | [crain@msttownship.com](mailto:crain@msttownship.com) | [litter&beautification@msttownship.com](mailto:litter&beautification@msttownship.com)



# VOTE

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ANNUAL SPRING

### LITTER PICK UP!

By Chris Rain  
Who's ready to clean some roads?



On Saturday April 20, 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 April 20 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.

Volunteers are also welcome to clean up on any day they want to if they can't make the event on April 20. They can also choose their own area, or have one assigned to them. Middle Smithfield Township will provide bags, pickers, gloves, safety vests, and other supplies as needed and will collect the bags when volunteers are done.

"We hope to see you on the 20th, but any day that works for you, works for us," said event coordinator Chris Rain. "By allowing volunteers to clean up on their own, we have found that more people are able to participate and cover more area."

Once again, Middle Smithfield Township is excited to have 1000 Feet of Street serve as the model for Pick Up the Poconos Day, a Monroe County-wide litter cleanup program. The Pocono Mountain Visitors Bureau is hosting the event on April 20 and organizing cleanups in townships throughout the area. Volunteers in Middle Smithfield can sign up with Pick Up the Poconos, or directly with Middle Smithfield Township. For more information on Pick Up The Poconos, visit [www.pickupthepoconos.com](http://www.pickupthepoconos.com).

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.

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@msttownship.com](mailto:crain@msttownship.com).

## TIMOTHY LAKE ROAD ADOPTED BY LOCAL ARMY RESERVE

By Chris Rain



Army recruiters from the 2nd Battalion United States Army Reserve Career Group Area 3 (2nd BN USARCG) adopted Timothy Lake Road in Middle Smithfield Township. They unveiled their sign

near the corner of Timothy Lake Road and Norman Drive at a small ceremony on January 23. The group, known as "Destries," are extremely excited to get involved in the community. The 2nd Battalion covers Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. The Destries also applied to PennDOT to adopt a section of Rt 209 between Pocono Palace and Winona Falls Road.

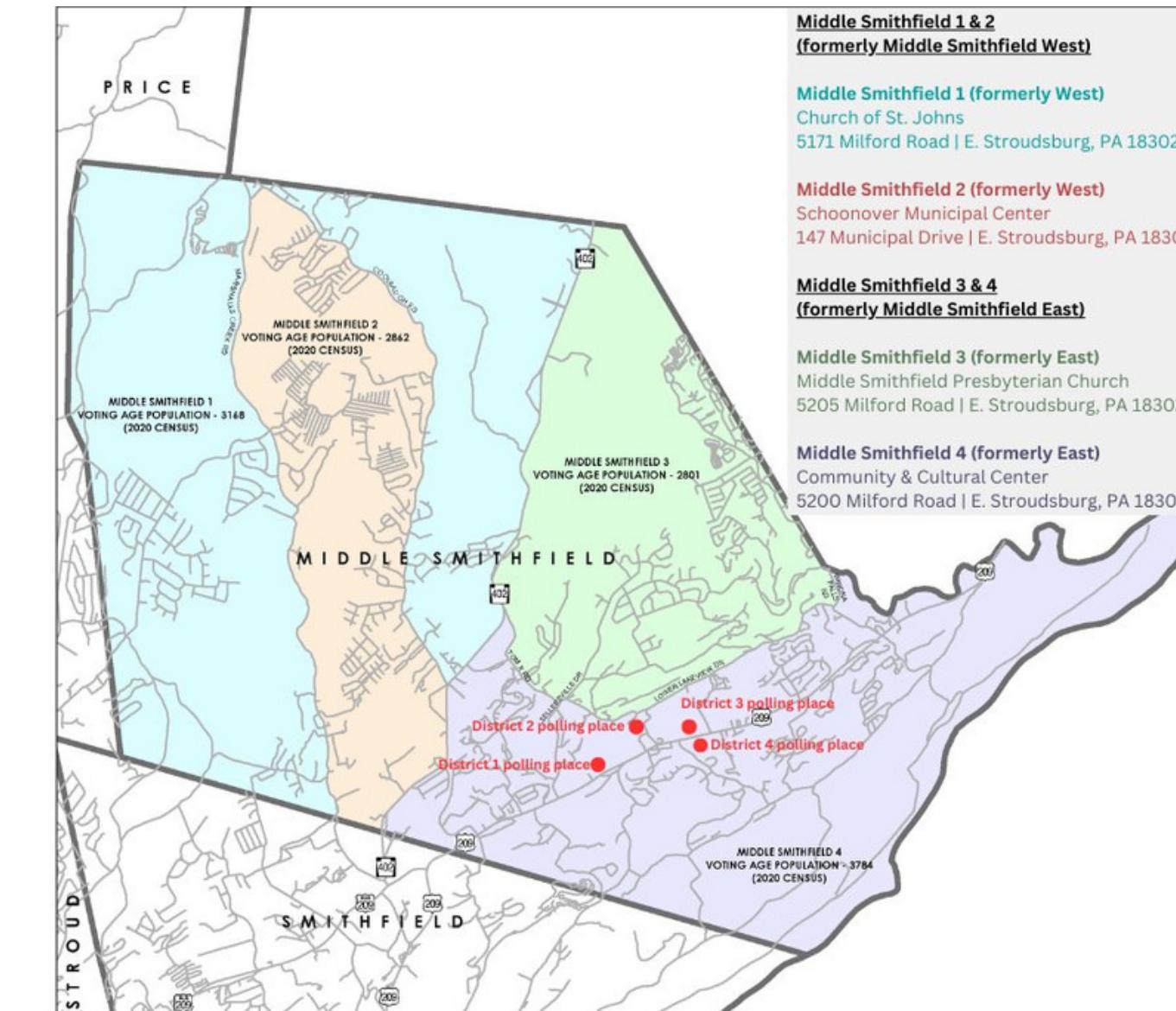
The MST Adopt a Road Program organizes our residents, businesses, and organizations who want to keep our streets litter-free. Individuals or groups can adopt a road and pledge to pick up litter along their stretch at least twice a year. These cleanups can coincide with our semi-annual litter program, 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@msttownship.com](mailto:crain@msttownship.com). A list of roads available for adoption can be provided. All cleanup equipment including bags, pickers, and gloves, are provided by the township when you clean your road.

Thank you to 2nd BN USARCG Area 3 Destries for adopting a road in our community!

## VOTING REDISTRICTING & POLLING PLACES:

Due to Redistricting in Middle Smithfield (Middle Smithfield West has been split into 2 districts and Middle Smithfield East has been split into 2 districts) there are now 4 polling locations. The proposed division was granted by the Court of Common Pleas on December 20, 2023.



## IMPORTANT DATES & LINKS:

- Primary Election Day: April 23rd
- Last day to register to vote: April 8th
- Last day to apply for mail-in ballot: April 16th
- You can find your polling place here: [bit.ly/2024PollingLocations](http://bit.ly/2024PollingLocations)
- You can register here: [bit.ly/PA-Voter-Registration-Application](http://bit.ly/PA-Voter-Registration-Application)

## Absentee and Mail-in Ballots

- Apply for a mail-in ballot online at [pavoterservices.pa.gov](http://pavoterservices.pa.gov)
- Absentee and Mail-in ballots must be received by 8:00 pm on Election Day in order to be canvassed and counted. You MAY NOT drop a voted ballot at your polling location.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT POLITICAL SIGNS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 10!

# PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Director, Supervisor: Mike Dwyer  
 Public Works Department Administrator: Rachel Heller  
 rheller@msttownship.com | 570-223-8920 x142

## WHERE IS WINTER?

By Mike Dwyer & Rachel Heller

As of today, which is not the day you are reading this, we've had very little in the way of snow. We did have a relatively big storm a month or so ago that dumped about 13-inches on Middle Smithfield, and we plowed through it. We've also had some smaller, 3-5" inch storms that came and went pretty quickly. It is likely that we may see another few storms before Winter leaves.

So what are the advantages of a mild Winter? When our Public Works crew is not plowing, there is less chance of taking out a mailbox or sending full garbage cans sailing into the woods. We don't get to hear "anybody around with a chain?" from the plow driver who slipped off the road. There's also less of a chance that someone walking by would be spread with salt and/or cinders.

Mild Winters allow us to tackle Spring and Summer projects that much sooner. For instance, this Winter we've started an MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) project in Wooddale. These projects are mandated by the State, which requires us to improve on discharge of stormwater. Each project goes through design, DEP approval, and construction. As a reminder driveway pipe clearing and maintenance is the responsibility of the homeowner. This includes the cleaning and clearing the pipe of leaves and other debris.

We've also been busy with road improvements, annual maintenance of our buildings and equipment, and running the Oak Grove Compost facility. Some may have noticed our new solar speed limit signs. These signs a reminder to drivers of safe speeds and no, they don't have capacity to show 3 digits.

Plans for the Spring/Summer of 2024 include: Paving on Big Ridge, Village, and Waverly Drive, other road improvements where needed, park improvements, and of course, Spring and Fall clean-up at both Municipal Drive and Wooddale facilities.

# OAK GROVE & RECYCLING

[www.ogmmcpb.com](http://www.ogmmcpb.com)

**Chairperson:** Mike Dwyer

**Vice Chair:** Tim Rohner | **Secretary/Treasurer:** Robert Lovenheim

**Members:** Annette Atkinson, Aaron Springs, Jacob Pride

The Oak Grove Multi-Municipal Compost Processing Program is jointly operated and available to residents of: Lehman Township, Smithfield Township, Middle Smithfield Township

The Oak Grove site is located at 3305 Oak Grove Drive in Middle Smithfield Township and will be staffed for residents Monday-Saturday from 7 am - 2 pm and is closed on holidays.

More information can be found online at [www.ogmmcpb.com](http://www.ogmmcpb.com) or call Rachel Heller at 570-223-8920 x142.



## SPRING CLEANUP "DUMPSTER DAY"

By Rachel Heller

Twice a year (in the spring and in the fall) Middle Smithfield hosts "Dumpster Days" at the township building (147 Municipal Drive) and the Wooddale garage (between Big Buck Lane and Barren Road) to help residents do their fall and spring cleaning, as well as offer FREE PAPER SHREDDING. Middle Smithfield Township's annual Spring Clean Up is **Thursday, April 25th, Friday, April 26th and Saturday April 27th, from 7 am to 2 pm**. Locked bins will be available for paper shredding all three days. Freecycle items will also be accepted.

Participating residents share the cost to operate the clean-up with the township: the clean-up costs \$10 per car load and \$20 per pickup, (prices vary for larger vehicles) and tire disposal starts at \$5 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.

There is no charge to drop off automotive batteries and electronics.

This year waste oil, transmission fluid, hydraulic fluid and fryer oil are also being accepted.

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.

### IF YOU LITERALLY HAVE A TON OF GARBAGE

#### CONTACT INFORMATION:

Alliance Sanitary Landfill  
 389 South Keyser Avenue  
 Taylor, PA 18517



- **Disposal Rate:** approximately \$62/ton
- **Hours:** Weekday 7:30am to 3pm  
 Saturdays 7am to 11am  
[www.alliancelandfill.wm.com](http://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](http://www.wmsolutions.com)

## 2024 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS:

- **CCP sewer line relocation** – Due to the corrosion of the bridge on Big Ridge Dr, the bridge has been shut down and the utilities will need to be relocated. We have been awarded a \$20,000 state grant to help with the costs of this relocation.
- **PS#8 Rehabilitation** – Bids for this project were received at the July 13, 2023 meeting. The estimated total costs are approximately \$108,377 and was awarded to Blooming Glen. Project is scheduled to begin February 2024.
- **Generators for Pump Stations** – This project is to add new generators to 6 pump stations. The estimated cost is \$275,000. The electrical portion of the project has been awarded to Critical Systems. Our Public Works department assisted with the concrete pads to save money. These are expected to be in place by the end of January 2024.
- **Odor Control system** – We are currently exploring the best method to control the odors along our sewer system.

**SEWER PAYMENTS ARE NET 30 DAYS;  
 THE BILLING CYCLE IS QUARTERLY:**

QUARTER	BILLING DATE	DEADLINE TO PAY	\$25 LATE CHARGE APPLIED
FOURTH QUARTER	JAN 1 <sup>ST</sup>	FEB 1 <sup>ST</sup>	MARCH 2 <sup>ND</sup>
SECOND QUARTER	April 1 <sup>st</sup>	MAY 1 <sup>ST</sup>	JUNE 2 <sup>ND</sup>
THIRD QUARTER	July 1 <sup>st</sup>	AUG 1 <sup>ST</sup>	SEPT 2 <sup>ND</sup>
FOURTH QUARTER	Oct 1 <sup>st</sup>	NOV 1 <sup>ST</sup>	DEC 2 <sup>ND</sup>



Concrete pads build by Public Works Department for new generators for pump stations.

## RENAMING THE CREEK



Our neighbors in Smithfield Township have revitalized the effort to re-name Sambo Creek. The creek begins in Middle Smithfield Township, north of the East Stroudsburg Reservoir, which sits between Reservoir Road and Barren Road, and runs south through Smithfield, Stroud, and East Stroudsburg until it feeds into the Brodhead Creek.

All four municipalities Middle Smithfield, Smithfield, Stroud, and East Stroudsburg are in agreement to rename the creek.

The U.S. Board on Geographic Names asks for input from tribal, county, and local governments; all stakeholders have, or will be, contacted for input on the new name, including the Monroe County Historical Association, the Monroe County Planning Commission, and the Lenape (Delaware Nation now in Anadarko, Oklahoma and Delaware Tribe of Indians now in Bartlesville, Oklahoma). Local historians and history groups, ESU, and watershed groups are encouraged to provide input, and be included in the conversation.



## NEW COMMUNITY MAP COMING SOON!

By Holly Dennis

Middle Smithfield Township is currently working on the 5th edition of our Community Map and we can't wait for you to see it!

The last community map was printed and mailed to all of our residents in 2019. Since then there have been plenty of changes in the township and we want to make sure our map, and our residents, are up to date!

The new map will be in circulation for at least 2 years and has been made possible by many advertisers. The map will also include information about township committees, departments as well as contact information for local agencies such as fire, police, EMS and other government offices.

We hope this map will continue to be a useful tool for our residents and businesses and are excited to share it with you!

# SEWER

Manager: Joan Woisin  
 jwoisin@msttownship.com  
 570-223-8920 x115

# GOLF

## COUNTRY CLUB OF THE POCONOS

Chair: Craig Wetherbee | Vice Chair: Paul Suhrie | Secretary: John Pinto

Members: Mike McDermott, Mike Yesunas

Pro Shop Manager: Todd Brown | 570-223-8099 | Liaison: Chris Rain

### GOLF COURSE FOR SALE!

#### MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP DIRECTS SEALED BID SALE



Minimum Bid - \$650,000 Due to the Township by 5 pm on March 13, 2024

- Approximately 409 acres of land, a portion of which is subject to restricted covenants.
- Includes 29-acres of prime, relatively flat, buildable land zoned C-2 and arguably, the best views in the Poconos.
- Includes a Fazio designed 18-hole golf course covering 118 acres, and a 16,000 square foot clubhouse situated on 7 acres.
- Tremendous opportunity for a real estate developer / private equity to acquire a spectacular residential/resort development opportunity only 1.5 hours from Manhattan and two hours from Philadelphia.
- There are over 9 million people within a 2-hour drive of the site.
- A portion of the acreage qualifies for LERTA

More information can be found using the above QR code or at [bit.ly/CCPForSale](http://bit.ly/CCPForSale).

Arrangements can be made to inspect the Property by contacting Douglas Johnson, CBRE Hotels at (773)218-4603, or [douglas.johnson@cbre.com](mailto:douglas.johnson@cbre.com).

## HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Chair: Carrie Wetherbee | Vice Chair: Robert Huffman

Secretary: Patricia Francis Members: Charisse Fallon, Ken Johns, Sonny Murray

Liaison: Holly Dennis

#### MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMISSION HAS A SEAT FOR YOU!



Interested in local history? Want to work with a group of passionate volunteers? There's a place for you on the Middle Smithfield Township Historical Commission.

Help us preserve local history and educate residents and visitors alike through research, lecture, events, & exhibits.

Join us the first Thursday of the month at 9am at the township building.

Contact Holly at 570-223-8920 x132 for more information.



From the archive of Monroe County Historical Association: The water of Bushkill Creek flows swiftly over Resica Falls in Middle Smithfield Township in this c.1910 image from our collection. Two men (on the right) stand at the base of the falls and take in the scenery.



# 2023

## PERSON OF THE YEAR

MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP



Person of the Year, Russell Fisher, Finalists Dr. Marilyn Brown & Sue Mahusky with elected officials at the 2023 Person of the Year and Volunteer Appreciation Banquet.



Middle Smithfield Township Person of the Year Finalists Dr. Marilyn Brown, Russell Fisher, and Sue Mahusky.

### ABOUT THE PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD

#### Why was this award created?

The volunteers and philanthropists of the Township provide the backbone to our community, events, and organizations. Without them, many of the events, charitable efforts, and committees would not be successful or even exist. Without their inspiration and good examples, our community would be an empty place. They donate their time, energy, and efforts to philanthropic and altruistic causes that may extend beyond our township – but affect our hearts at home. For all these reasons and numerous others, they deserve our appreciation and gratitude. Those individuals that go above and beyond what is necessary deserve recognition and honor and for this reason we created the “Person of the Year” Award.

#### What are the criteria?

The Person of the Year is someone who is either a township resident who volunteers anywhere, or a volunteer whose efforts are concentrated in our township. Someone who impacts our township with exceptional dedication to their cause, and have helped make our township more successful. None of the nominees are paid employees or have received any type of compensation from their organization for their work.

#### What does the winner receive?

The Volunteer of the Year will receive Township-wide recognition for their extraordinary efforts and an award for their achievement, as well as an inscription in the perpetual plaque:

The recipient of the award and the 2 runners up will receive \$1,500 and \$1,000 toward their cause. (Or, if not consistent with the Second Class Township Code, a cause that is defined by the code)

# Thank You

**PLATINUM**  
SFM Consulting

**GOLD**  
Gilmore & Associates  
Sheeley Insurance  
Grim, Biehn & Thatcher

**BRONZE**  
Huffman's Electric  
TAG DJ's

Join our email list today | 570-223-8920 ext. 100 | [info@mstownship.com](mailto:info@mstownship.com)



## Who is judging?

An independent panel of volunteer judges from: local clergy, news/media, business, academia, and past Person of the Year winners & finalists.

## JUDGES

### RUSSELL FISHER

#### 2023 PERSON OF THE YEAR

##### VALOR CLINIC

Russ Fisher is no stranger to serving the communities in which he has lived, and he has served them well thus far. Raising his family in the Brodheadsville area in the west end of the Poconos, he became heavily involved in raising monies that created recreational areas for the

Chestnuthill Township Parks System. Over the course of 11 years, running trails, an all-purpose field, sand volleyball courts, basketball courts, pavilions, and playground areas for children were built. Russ was instrumental in bringing about the installation of the first handicapped-accessible playground to be built in Monroe County in 1998. And, when 911 hit, Russ's Park Committee joined the cause and added \$19,000.00 to the funds being collected for Monroe County families of loved ones killed in NYC.

Serving his community in times of trouble continued when, within six months of moving here and joining the Church of St. John in 2019, COVID-19 hit and hit hard. As COVID restrictions eased in late 2021, Russ found himself ready to jump into action to serve his church. He did this by sanitizing the church after every in-person mass, filling in where needed as an Usher, Music Ministry leader, etc. Then, in April of 2022, Fr. Greg asked the Knights of Columbus to reconnect with the Valor Clinical Foundation as the church's relationship with this Partner in Mission was severed in the wake of the pandemic. Russ contacted Valor and set up the Knights' first service experience in Stand Down, where volunteers feed the homeless veterans that live in the East Stroudsburg area in Dansbury Park on the second Sunday of every month.

Russ also takes pride in the fact that he serves St. John's other Partners in Mission: Safe Monroe, MC Pregnancy Resource Center, Mady's Angels, and Bushkill Outreach, any way he can. Today, Mr. Fisher and the Knights are actively raising funds for a Food Trailer to serve the homeless in our local communities and beyond.

Russ owes all of his success to the love and support from his beautiful wife, Kathy, his three loving daughters, his family and friends, his Brothers of the Knights of Columbus, and most especially to Fr. Greg, Analia, and Lorraine of the Church of St. John.



2023 Person of the Year Russ Fisher with SGM Mark D. Baylis, founder of VALOR Clinic



VALOR Clinic Foundation provides assistance accessing benefits, and shelter to Veterans with limited or no access to care. Helps find shelter for Veterans who, due to health or means, are unable to find or keep shelter of their own, and Post Traumatic Stress resources to Veterans through our Veterans Unstoppable program.

To improve the lives of our nation's Veterans, we strive to provide nationwide integrated medical care in the future.

**Address:** 160 North Courtland St  
E. Stroudsburg, PA 18301  
**Phone:** 570-421-7662  
**Email:** office@fbces.org  
[www.valorclinic.org](http://www.valorclinic.org)

### 11TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Join Valor Clinic for the 11th Annual Golf Tournament on Saturday, June 15th, 2024 at the Country Club of the Poconos.

Standard Best of Foursome Scramble with special contests including:

- Longest Drive
- Closest to Pin
- Putting Contest
- Mulligans
- 50/50 Drawing
- Live Auction
- Straightest Drive

Not a golfer? Sponsorship opportunities are available.

Visit [ValorClinic.org](http://ValorClinic.org) to register or for more information.



Volunteers were honored on January 5 at the former Camp Trexler. At the volunteer appreciation dinner, volunteers were recognized for their accomplishments. This event was also open to the public and free for anyone to attend.

### Patrice Dume

#### Economic Dev. & Entrepreneurship- ESU

Patrice Dume is currently the Director of the University Business Accelerator & Entrepreneurship at East Stroudsburg University. She is also the coordinator for the Pocono Mountains Keystone Innovation Zones and manages the University's J-1 visa program for International Companies.

During her free time, she enjoys traveling the world and creating memorable experiences with family and friends.



### Debbie Kulick

#### 2022 Person of the Year Finalist

Debbie Kulick is a graduate of East Stroudsburg High School and East Stroudsburg University where she has a BS in Elementary Education and minors in Communications, History and Biology. She served multiple terms as an alumni board member. She has a masters degree in Organizational Management with an emphasis on Non-Profits and Government from the University of Phoenix.

Debbie is currently President for Bushkill Emergency Corps.



### Dr. Precie A. Schroyer

Assoc. Dean- NCC

Dr. Precie Schroyer served as the coordinator of NCC Monroe's Honors Program, co-chair of the Technology-Enhanced Instruction Task Force, a team leader on the PRESS for Completion Walmart/Achieving the Dream Grant, and was the faculty development fellow for the Center for Teaching and Learning.

Schroyer earned a bachelor's degree in English with a minor in philosophy (cum laude) and master's degree in English from Villanova University. She received her Ph.D. in English from Lehigh University.

### THANK YOU TO OUR ALTERNATE JUDGES!



#### Francis Oquendo

2018 Person of the Year Finalist



#### Thomas Gansel

2017 Person of the Year Finalist



#### Dee Raneri

Dir. Of Community Partnerships- NCC

**SUE MAHUSKY**

**2023 PERSON OF THE YEAR FINALIST**

ANGELS AND DRAGONFLIES CHILDREN'S CHARITY

Sue Mahusky was born in Frankfurt Germany in 1958 came to the US with her parents in 1959. Her US Army father was stationed in California, Kansas, and Georgia and finally in New York. Sue was raised with her younger brother and sister. She developed a strong work ethic helping her father in the family restaurant in Newburgh, New York.

After graduation Sue began her 30-year career as a home health nurse where she cared for the elderly in their homes. This took place while her three children were in school, during her 26-year marriage. Sue remarried in 2006 and her new husband and her daughter, moved from Ulster County to Sullivan County, New York. Then in 2011 Sue and her husband relocated to Hershey, Pennsylvania. In 2020 Sue was in a car accident that ended her career, so she decided to move to the Poconos in 2022, to be closer to her family. Upon settling down in the Poconos, she started helping her daughter raise a three-and-a-half-year-old granddaughter. In late 2022, she met a volunteer from Angels and Dragonflies.

Angels and Dragonflies started to assist families that were raising kids due to the addictions. That touched close to home since Sue lost a son due to addiction and she wanted to do something in honor of his memory. It was after she decided to do volunteer work at Angels and Dragonflies where she met Sherry Scott, founder of the children's charity. Her strengths are securing donations and coordinating receipts of materials called for area families and their children and planning events. In December 2023, Sue was voted in as executor director.

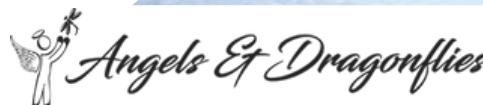
From helping the elderly to helping families in need, Sue would say that her passion for helping others, is her calling. Her other interest include bowling at Sky lanes, attending functions at the Moose Lodge, cooking and gardening. Sue and her husband also have a home remodeling business, where she does secretarial work. She also takes pride in caring for her children and four grandchildren.



Finalist Sue Mahusky and her husband at the Person of the Year Banquet



Angels and Dragonflies Volunteers raising money during the holiday season to provide children in need with gifts and necessities.



Our Mission is to help families provide for children.

We started out wanting to assist families in raising kids due to addiction, but then we wanted to help all children have the things they need. No matter the circumstances if you need help or know of someone who does we want to help.

**Address:** 160 N Courtland St,

East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

**Phone:** 267-579-3109

[www.angelsanddragonfliescc.org](http://www.angelsanddragonfliescc.org)

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY BAG DONATION DRIVE

Join us in spreading joy and making birthdays special for children in need with the Birthday Bag Donation Drive, benefiting Angels and Dragonflies Children's Charity. We are passionately collecting donations to fill birthday bags with an array of wonderful gifts that will bring smiles to many faces. We need your generous contributions of:

- Fun Games and Building Toys
- Toy Cars and a variety of Dolls, including Barbies
- LEGO sets for creative minds
- Pretend Play items and Makeup kits
- Bath and Beauty Care products, including Cologne
- Cozy Hoodies and Slippers for comfort
- Art Supplies to spark creativity
- Engaging Books and Coloring materials
- Festive Balloons, Party Banners, and Gift Bags
- Birthday Candles to light up their special day
- General Toddler Toys for the little ones

Your donations will help us assemble delightful birthday bags, ensuring that every child experiences the joy of a birthday celebration. To contribute, please bring your donations to our designated collection points or arrange for a pick-up/drop-off. For more details, text or call us at 267-579-3109.



NCNW's mission is to lead, develop, and advocate for women of African descent as they support their families and communities. NCNW was founded in 1935 by Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune.

Inspired by the legacy of NCNW founder, Mary McLeod Bethune, the Greater Pocono Section was founded in April 2012.

Today, NCNW's programs are grounded on a foundation of critical concerns known as "Four for the Future". NCNW promotes education with a special focus on science, technology, engineering and math; encourages entrepreneurship, financial literacy and economic stability; educates women about good health and HIV/AIDS; promotes civic engagement and advocates for sound public policy and social justice.

**Address:** 62 Analomink St.  
E. Stroudsburg, PA 18301

**Phone:** 570-431-3150

**Email:** [greaterpoconosection@gmail.com](mailto:greaterpoconosection@gmail.com)  
[www.greaterpocononcnw.org](http://www.greaterpocononcnw.org)

### READ ACROSS AMERICA WITH NCNW

Join the Greater Pocono Section- National Council of Negro Women on Saturday, March 30th for Read Across America.

**Where:** Hughes Library, 1002 N. 9th St.  
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

**When:** Saturday, March 30th, 1pm- 3:30pm

**About Read Across America:** Launched in 1998 by the National Education Association (NEA) and guided by a committee of educators, NEA's Read Across America is the nation's largest celebration of reading. This year-round program focuses on motivating children and teens to read through events, partnerships, and reading resources that are about everyone, for everyone.

Learn more about Read Across America Here:  
[bit.ly/ReadAcrossAmerica24](http://bit.ly/ReadAcrossAmerica24)

### DR. MARILYN BROWN

#### 2023 PERSON OF THE YEAR FINALIST

GREATER POCONO SECTION, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN



Mrs. Dr. Marilyn M. Brown has resided in Middle Smithfield Township for the last 10 years. She is an active member of First Baptist Church of East Stroudsburg. She is the CEO of Mrs. Dr. Marilyn M. Brown LLC, a consultation company that facilitates workshops and promotes spiritual, emotional, and academic education. She is a community activist. While living in Staten Island, New York, she founded Girl Scout Troop #5363; the first GS Troop within Staten Island to have a woman of color as a troop leader. In 2008 she was the first person of color to serve as NYS Delegate at the 51st GS National Convention. Having been raised in a single-parent household, Mrs. Dr. Brown has a deep passion for children as well as single parents.

Mrs. Dr. Marilyn M. Brown graduated with a Regents Diploma from Curtis High School in 1992. She earned her undergraduate degree in Child Psychology from CUNY Medgar Evers College. She is a two-time alum of Touro University where she is now a professor in the Special Education Department. She attended Touro University where she earned two dual Master of Science Degrees in Special Education, Childhood Education, School Building, and School Leadership; all of which she holds certifications for. Mrs. Dr. Marilyn M. Brown earned her Doctorate in Special Education from North Central University with an emphasis on childhood and adolescent trauma and PTSD. She counsels adults and children who have suffered traumas due to sexual, physical, and emotional abuse, as she is a #metoo survivor.

Mrs. Dr. Brown made history in 2021 when she was elected as 1st Vice President of the Greater Pocono Section of National Council of Negro Women while also having been elected as 1st Vice President of the East Pocono Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. She is a chartering member of the East Stroudsburg University NCNW Section. Mrs. Dr. Brown also serves as the Co-Chair to the Eastern Region Conflict Resolution Committee of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, as well as a member of the NCNW National Health Equity Committee. Mrs. Dr. Brown has been appointed and employed with the New York City Public School System for the last nineteen years.

For the past three years she has chaired the Monroe County Read Across America event, an event that promotes reading and high order thinking for the youth in Monroe and Pikes Counties (She would like you to know the next Read Across America will be held on Saturday, March 30 at the Hughes Library.). Mrs. Dr. Brown is a member of the board of directors of the Broadhead Watershed Association, a member of the Middle Smithfield Township Parks and Recreation Committee, a member of the League of Women Voters, and serves on the Country Club of the Poconos HOA Social Committee and Hospitality Committee. She believes when you call a place your H.O.M.E., you are under obligation to use your God-given talents to serve that community.

She is happily in love and in like to her husband and forever dance partner, David S. Brown for the past thirteen years. Most importantly, she asks if you remember anything about her is that she would not be where she is today without God and an education. Her motto is "the pain is never in vain."

# EMERGENCY SERVICES

## MARSHALLS CREEK FIRE COMPANY- 2023 IN REVIEW

By Assistant Chief Nick Dennis, Marshalls Creek Fire Company

In the year 2023 Marshalls Creek Volunteer Fire Company was dispatched to 913 Total Incidents Including:

- 780 Fire Dispatches
- 133 Requests for Basic Life Support Ambulance



Volunteers also completed a total of 3,914 Hours OUTSIDE of these emergency dispatches, including but not limited to fundraisers, training, and public appearances.

If you are interested in serving your community, stop by our main station 112 Marshalls Creek Rd, any Tuesday Night at 7PM.



Members of the Marshall's Creek Fire Company at their annual awards Banquet. Norm Fish Sr. was recognized for 55 years of service. Tom Rhode Sr. was recognized for 45 years of service.

## BUSHKILL FIRE COMPANY: LOOKING BACK ON 2023 AND LOOKING FORWARD TO 2024

By Kyle Rohner, Chief Bushkill Volunteer Fire Company

We would like to reflect on the hard work and dedication that our volunteers accomplished in 2023:

- Total Incidents: 503
- Total Trainings: 139
- Total Events Attended: 38
- Total Volunteer Hours: 9,284

Looking to serve your community? Stop by our Main Station, 123 Evergreen Dr, any Monday night at 7pm.

Proudly serving the residents of Middle Smithfield Township since 1936!



## BUSHKILL EMERGENCY CORPS OFFERING FREE CPR CLASS DURING AMERICAN HEART MONTH

By Debbie Kulick, President Bushkill Emergency Corps

Bushkill Emergency Corps wants to encourage good health. Certainly the start of a new year is the perfect time to begin. February is American Heart Month, so there is no better time to begin.



The American Heart Association notes this month as a time when the nation spotlights heart disease, the No. 1 killer of Americans.

Each year, the American Heart Association, in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institutes of Health and other government agencies, compiles up-to-date statistics on heart disease, stroke and other vascular diseases in the Heart Disease and Stroke Statistical Update.

American Heart Association CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) instructors share much of the information in classes to help educate students about healthy lifestyles as well as how to perform CPR and the potential for saving a life. Also covered in many classes is information about the use of Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs). Today AEDs can be found in most public locations as well as homes. The use of an AED within five minutes of a cardiac arrest provides a patient with the best opportunity to have a life saved.

Bushkill Emergency Corps is offering a FREE hands-only CPR class at the Middle Smithfield Township Community Center on Tuesday, February 27th. The class will begin at 6:30 pm and will last approximately 2 hours. To register for the class, contact the Middle Smithfield Township office at (570) 223-8920 x132.

Bushkill Emergency Corps thanks the Middle Smithfield Township Supervisors for their continued support and the support of the residents of the township. Together we can all make a difference!



## A WORD FROM YOUR SUPERVISORS ABOUT SUPPORTING OUR EMERGENCY SERVICES: FIRE TAX OF 0.5 MILLS AND EMS TAX OF 0.4 MILLS

This year, there is a significant change in your local property tax bill that you will receive March 1st: Middle Smithfield Township, along with Smithfield and Price townships, have added a Fire and Emergency Medical Services (i.e., ambulance) tax, joining half the municipalities in Monroe County.

Since 2013, municipal property taxes and fees have remained the same. Since 2014, municipal sewer fees have remained the same. Something that has NOT remained the same is the dilemma of our first responders – that continues to grow. Who rescues the rescuers?

Many who now live in Pennsylvania hail from the tri-state area, or more urban areas such as Philadelphia with paid fire services, and assume that vital first responder services are already covered in their taxes. They are not. The firefighter responding to your 911 call is not paid; the firefighters are volunteers. Whether it's donations from your municipality or donations directly from the public, volunteer fire departments are funded by donations. Similarly, EMS is supplemented by donations. Since the Cable Franchise Fee was enacted in 2008, the majority of funds Middle Smithfield Township provided to fire and ambulance companies has come from the cable franchise fee, with the rest supplemented from the township's general fund, such as providing radios, AED's, and other equipment and in-kind services such as paving. (A portion of the township's Cable Franchise Fee also goes to Monroe County Control Center.)

Some municipalities such as Delaware Water Gap, already have a fire tax and an EMS tax (Now, 11 out of 20 municipalities in Monroe County fund their fire departments via a fire tax.) Municipalities also receive a Local Services Tax, collected by Berkheimer, from only those who are employed within the township and earning over \$12,000 a year. This tax must be used for police, fire and/or emergency services; road construction or maintenance; or for the reduction of property taxes. This tax is now \$52 per year, \$5 of which is shared with the East Stroudsburg School District.

In 2022, four neighboring municipalities (Middle Smithfield, Smithfield, Price, and Delaware Water Gap) commissioned a comprehensive study of Emergency Services in this area: what is there to protect (what are the characteristics of our community); what do we have to protect us (analysis of current fire and ambulance); what should we have to protect us, what is the gap, and what can we do to fill the void.

Bushkill Emergency Corps, Bushkill Fire Company, Marshalls Creek Fire Company, Shawnee Fire Company, Suburban EMS have all worked together to produce the study, which is currently under review, and will help guide future action. However, one thing is clear: the municipalities must act NOW; we must now be the first responders to this emergency.

## FIND FIRE & EMS ONLINE

### Marshalls Creek Fire Co.

570-223-8445  
112 Marshalls Creek Rd.  
E. Stroudsburg, PA 18302  
Facebook: @MarshallsCreekFireCo

### Shawnee Fire Co.

570-460-0736  
102 Firehouse Lane  
E. Stroudsburg, PA 18301  
Facebook: @ShawneeFireCo36  
Website: ShawneeFire.org

### Bushkill Volunteer Fire Co.

570-588-6033  
124 Evergreen Drive  
Bushkill, PA 18324  
Facebook: @bushkillfire

### Bushkill Emergency Corps

570-223-1906  
P.O. Box 174.  
Bushkill, PA 18324  
Facebook: @BushkillEmergencyCorps

### Suburban EMS

(610) 923-7500  
Station 18—North Division  
320 N. First Street Suite 3  
Stroudsburg PA 18360  
Facebook: @SuburbanEMS

### Lehman Pike EMS

(570) 588-9365  
193 Municipal Drive  
Bushkill, PA 18324