



MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWS HOLIDAY 2024



Photo Credit: Bruce Brandli, owner Big A Grillehouse

2024 SHOP LOCAL HOLIDAY DISCOUNT CARD INSIDE!

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR SHOP LOCAL
HOLIDAY PROGRAM ON PAGE 8.



12TH ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING

MORE INFORMATION ON PAGE 10.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH
ECHO LAKE PARK | 6 PM

THANK YOU TO OUR

2024 SPONSORS



HONORING OUR VETERANS

PARKS & RECREATION

PLATINUM
SHEELEY INSURANCE

GOLD
POCONO KIDZ ZONE

SILVER
ESSA BANK & TRUSE
GOTTA GO POTTIES
PROSSER LABS
SUPER HEAT

PARKS PARTNER
HUFFMANS ELECTRIC

PERSON OF THE YEAR

GOLD
SHEELEY INSURANCE
GRIM, BIEHN, & THATCHER

BRONZE
PROSSER LABS

SLATE
WAYNE BANK
HUFFMANS ELECTRIC

CIVIC EVENTS

SILVER
SHEELEY INSURANCE

BRONZE
PROSSER LABS

CIVIC PARTNER
HUFFMANS ELECTRIC
GOTTA GO POTTIES



MIDDLE SMITHFIELD
TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

IF YOU ARE A
VETERAN, OR
WOULD LIKE TO
HONOR/REMEMBER A
MIDDLE SMITHFIELD
TOWNSHIP VETERAN
WITH A BANNER,
PLEASE CONTACT
JAMES BRECHBIEL:
570 / 223 - 8920 X 130,
JBRECHBIEL@MSTOWNSHIP.COM

HOMETOWN
HEROES
BANNER PROGRAM™

The Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce recently awarded Middle Smithfield another \$500 grant from their Main Street Grant Program (in addition to the \$2,000 awarded in 2023) the Township will add more banners. Submit someone today!

IN ALL
Things
GIVE
Thanks

MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWS

WHAT'S GOING ON:


- November:**
- 11/27:** Shop Local Begins (ends 1/2/25)
 - 11/28:** Thanksgiving Day (Township Office Closed)
 - 11/29:** Black Friday (Township Office Closed)
 - 11/30:** 12th Annual Tree Lighting 6pm @ Echo Lake Park

- December**
- TBD:** International Peace Light Ceremony
 - 12/19:** Adoption of 2025 Budget 7 pm @ Township Building
 - 12/21:** Wreaths Across America @ Wooddale Church
 - 12/24:** Christmas Eve (Township Office Closed)
 - 12/25:** Christmas (Township Office Closed)
 - 12/25:** Hanukkah Begins
 - 12/26:** Kwanza Begins

COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE


| | |
|---|---|
| Board of Supervisors 2nd & 4th Thursday every month 7 pm | Planning Commission 4th Thursday every month 5:30 pm |
| Parks & Recreation Committee 1st Monday every month 6:30 pm | Zoning Hearing Board Call for schedule 570-223-8920 x126 |
| Oak Grove Composting Facility Board Call for schedule 570-223-8920 x142 | Economic Development Committee 3rd Monday every month 5:30 pm |
| Historical Commission 1st Thursday every month 9:00 am | Revitalize 209 Committee 4th Tuesday every month 5:30 pm |

2023 PERSON OF THE YEAR :




Russell Fisher
2023 Person of the Year | VALOR Clinic

Veteran Holiday Meals - Volunteers, Donations, Veterans needed! Learn more on page 12!



Dr. Marilyn Brown
2023 Person of the Year Finalist | National Council of Negro Women

To see what the NCNW's Pocono Chapter is up to and find ways to get involved visit greaterpocononcnw.org!



Sue Mahusky
2023 Person of the Year Finalist | Angels and Dragonflies

Donate to the Bags of Joy Toy Drive! Donations can be dropped off at the Middle Smithfield Township Building! More info on page 12.



Supervisors Mike Dwyer, Annette Atkinson, and Mark Oney

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570.223.5400

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Text "Hi" to 570.223.5400

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Powered by **TextMyGov**

Township staff (& their ugly sweaters) wish you a very happy holiday season!



HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM YOUR TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS & STAFF!

We have many things to be thankful for this year, as the season of gratitude starts with our Veterans. The township was honored to host a complimentary luncheon for veterans on November 2nd at the Community & Cultural Center, organized by resident Andy Zaso (see more on page 11). And, of course, we are thankful to add to the **Hometown Heroes** banner program – you can see more of our resident veterans honored by more banners at the Community & Cultural Center when attending the Tree Lighting this year.

Of course, we are excited for the upcoming **Tree Lighting**, always the Saturday after Thanksgiving at Echo Lake Park, which also kicks off the Shop Local season (your **2024 Shop Local** Discount Cards are included in this issue! Please activate them today.) Last year, there was something new – a stage by Law Sound and Lighting that enabled the performers – and Santa – to be seen and heard much better! This year, there are more improvements – see page 10 to find out about two new exciting things.

The Person of the Year and Volunteer Appreciation Banquet will be January 24, 2024 (always the Friday after Martin Luther King Day), see page 12 for holiday happenings from our 2023 People of the Year, and stay tuned for more information about the 2024 finalists and judges. We are grateful that we will come together again with the community to celebrate our many volunteers and civic minded community members.

Please join us for our next presentation to the public – the **presentation of the 2025 budget** on Thursday, November 21st and the **adoption of the budget** on December 19th. The staff and Supervisors have been hard at work planning 2025 projects in tandem with preparing the budget for 2025; the most significant change of the decade is that the Country Club of the Poconos Golf Course was transitioned to private ownership in third quarter of 2024, along with the sale of undeveloped land, putting over 409 acres back on the tax rolls. And we welcome The Poconos Club, as new development provides jobs, as well as an increase in the LST tax (which goes to our fire and ems), and increased earned income tax. This privatization eliminates the burden on the taxpayer and decreases township expenses of owning a golf course and banquet hall.

More of what we're thankful for, continued on page 4!

Gratefully,
Your Board of Supervisors,
Annette Atkinson, Mike Dwyer, Mark Oney

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
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@mstownship.com | x112

Joan Woisin | Sewer Department Manager
jwoisin@mstownship.com | x115

On Lot Sewage Enforcement Officer | x128

Bonnie Christman | Budget & Finance Manager
bchristman@mstownship.com | x131

Rachel Heller | Public Works Administrator,
Oak Grove, & Emergency Management Coordinator
rheller@mstownship.com | x142

Shawn McGlynn | Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer
smcglynn@sfmconsultingllc.org | x128

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Vicki Smith | Zoning Administrator
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Kylie Medrano | Director of First Impressions,
Accounts Payable/Accounts Receivable
recept@mstownship.com | x100

Holly Dennis | Community & Municipal Projects
Coordinator, Community & Cultural Center
Programming & Exhibits, Historical Commission
hdennis@mstownship.com | x132

Christopher Rain | Parks & Rec, Litter & Beautification,
Facilities, Website & Right to Know Officer
crain@mstownship.com | x119

James Brechbiel | Economic Development Manager
jbrechbiel@mstownship.com | x130

2024 RECAP & A LOOK AHEAD TO 2025

By Mike Dwyer, Supervisor and Treasurer

As you read this, the township Supervisors and staff are working on the 2025 Budget. Budget preparations include input from each department and require a detailed vision of what is expected for the coming year.

We also have to acknowledge some of the major changes in our operations from 2024. One of the most significant changes includes the sale of the golf course. Not only are we no longer funding an annual loss, but we have decreased payroll expenses, insurances, and many other aspects that cost the taxpayers for many years. Even though we said goodbye to a number of employees, we are thankful the new owners retained all of the staff this season.

Another significant change includes the elimination of the Cable Franchise Fee. This fee, enacted many years ago, was a source of income for the township to fund the 911 Center and our volunteer fire and EMS services. Alternatively, the township enacted a fire and an EMS tax where all funds collected are disbursed to our volunteer organizations. (Funding of the 911 Center is from operational income, not the fire or EMS tax.)

Just like each of our homeowners and business owners, costs for everything have gone up. Labor costs increase each year, materials and equipment have seen a substantial increase year over year, and all of our utility costs have gone up. We have, however, taken many steps to decrease costs where possible.

In 2025, look for even more improvements throughout the township and, in hopes of receiving a few sizable grants, a new park in Wooddale may be developed and accessibility improvements along Route 209 and at our Community & Cultural Center.

HOLIDAY GREETING FROM THE SUPERVISORS

Continued from Page 3.

Some of our wishes have been granted! We are grateful for the support of our elected officials in obtaining grants, which you can read about throughout this issue, as well as included in the Presentation of the 2025 Budget.

As you may remember, in 2023, we devoted a considerable amount of attention to our first responders: our all volunteer Fire companies, as well as the EMS companies, describing the 2024 origin of Middle Smithfield, as well as Smithfield and Price Township, joining other municipalities in enacting a fire/ems tax. We join the fire and ems companies in gratitude to all residents and business owners that contributed; to see how these additional funds help first responders provide better service to residents, turn to page 3.

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

WE SINCERELY THANK ALL OF OUR COMMITTEES:

The **Economic Development 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.

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 Committee'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.

The **Revitalize 209 Advisory Committee** was established in 2023 to advise the Board of Supervisors on matters pertaining to the applications for the Revitalize 209 Grant Program. The Revitalize 209 Grant is a matching grant program set to help fund improvement projects that are visible from 209.



TREE-CYCLE AT OAK GROVE

By Rachel Heller

After the holiday season this year, we encourage residents to take advantage of the free Tree-Cycle at Oak Grove.

Residents can drop off their (*real*) trees at Oak Grove Multi-Municipal Compost Processing facility during regular hours.

Oak Grove Hours and Location:

3305 Oak Grove Drive
East Stroudsburg, PA 18302
Monday- Saturday | 7am-2pm.



SEWER DEPARTMENT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

By Joan Woisin

We got the Grant! We applied for a DCED Local Share Account Fund (Gaming Funds) Statewide grant in 2023 to extend the township's sewer line from Gravel Ridge Road to Route 402, and we were awarded \$111,137 for this project. This will extend the sewer line to the C2 commercial zone (light commercial) along Route 402.

The Township will also apply for the 2024 round of DCED statewide Local Share Account grant to further extend the sewer down Route 402. This will be helpful to business development along Route 402.

Reminder: 4th Quarter sewer payments were due on November 1st. \$25 late fee will be applied beginning December 2nd.



The Community & Cultural Center shines bright during the holiday season!

There are no exhibits at the Community & Cultural Center for the months of November & December, but stop by if you want some holiday cheer! We have decked the halls for our annual tree lighting.



DREAMING OF A WHITE CHRISTMAS?

KNOW WHERE THE SNOW GOES!

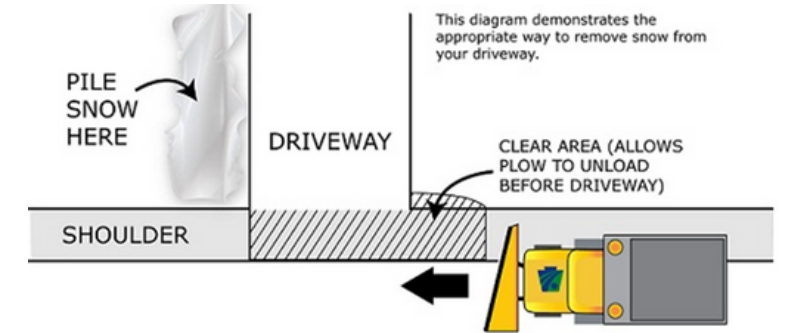
By Rachel Heller

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 and cinders for winter maintenance.

Our township is one of the few that uses a treated salt product called Clearlane, which 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 your driveway, put as much of the snow to the left of your driveway (looking at your house) so that when plows come down the road, large piles of snow are not pushed back.

For any comments, concerns, or questions, please contact Rachel Heller @570-223-8920 x.142



OH SNOW- BRUSH UP ON CHAPTER 138!

By Mayra Colon

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. 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. 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.

REPRESENTATIVE ROUNDUP

CONGRESSMAN MATT CARTWRIGHT

8th Congressional District



After decades of anticipation, the restoration of passenger rail service from NEPA to New York City is finally becoming a reality as construction is officially starting! Read on for more good news:

Route 611: is open! Since December of 2022, Route 611 in the Delaware Water Gap area has remained closed after heavy rains led to a rockslide along Mount Minsi. In January, I began holding multi-level meetings between agencies and elected officials to cut the bureaucratic tape and get this major lifeline of our communities re-opened. The opening of 611 will bring much-needed relief to local businesses, residents and communities affected by the extended road closure.

Passenger Rail

I recently announced \$8,958,919 million in federal funding to begin construction to bring back Amtrak passenger rail service between Scranton, PA and New York, NY. The award will kick off long needed railway rehabilitation and track improvements to begin the process to restore service between the communities via the Lackawanna Cut-Off. The funding comes from the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant program, made possible by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

Restoring passenger rail has been a major goal of mine since my first day on the job. That's why I'm thrilled to help announce that we're getting closer than ever to seeing the realization of our passenger rail project. We now have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to do something transformational for our region.

To read more about the passenger rail and other updates visit <https://cartwright.house.gov/news>.

SENATOR ROSEMARY BROWN

Senate District 40



I'm excited to share the success of my bipartisan efforts! In recent months, several of my legislative proposals have been signed into law, each aimed at making a positive impact on our community and the state as a whole.

First, I would like to highlight my legislative package, Senate Bills 1132, 1133, and 1134. These bills were successfully enacted into law, allowing more flexibility of the existing tax revenue for our EMS and Fire Companies. This new law empowers local governments to remove the restriction that prohibits fifty percent of this revenue to be used for personnel. Allow local governments to lift this restriction helps our EMS and fire companies to recruit and retain any paid employees. This is about ensuring we have emergency responders and response times are as quick as possible when you dial 9-1-1.

This legislation was a suggestion of our community member, Debbie Kulick, of Bushkill EMS. This is exactly how government should work – people voice their concerns, make suggestions, and as your lawmaker, I research and consider drafting legislation. The best laws come directly from people and their voices.

Additionally, for over two years I spearheaded, drafted, and developed Senate Bill 840 which has now also been enacted into law. This establishes a permanent Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders (ADRD) Division and an ADRD Advisory Committee within the Department of Aging. These new entities will collaborate with experts and stakeholders to advocate for effective policies, secure crucial federal funding, and ensure that Pennsylvania is better equipped to address the growing Alzheimer's crisis.

Continued on page 9.

REPRESENTATIVE MAUREEN E. MADDEN

115th Legislative District



As we roll into the winter, there is a lot to look forward to! Next month, I am hosting a Veterans Expo at Northampton Community College Pocono Campus. Join state agencies, local agencies, non-profits, and enjoy light refreshments. This free event is scheduled for Friday, December, 6th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Meet us in Pocono Hall in Room 108. There are no steps or elevators required. For more information, call my district office at 570.894.7905. If you or someone you know would like to be a vendor, email Jacob Pride at jpride@pahouse.net.

Stay tuned for future satellite hours! We intend to announce dates very shortly. Check with our social media or Middle Smithfield's website. Meet with my staff between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. and get the assistance you need with state services, including but not limited to Property Tax-Rent Rebates, disability placards, senior reduced vehicle registration, and unemployment. Note that the deadline for the Property Tax-Rent Rebate is coming up fast! Do not wait until December 31st to apply.

Late last month, the Commonwealth Finance Authority approved several grants for our region. I am most pleased to report that Middle Smithfield Township received \$111,137 for an extension of public sewer services along Route 402 to connect the existing pump station at Resica Elementary School with the commercial district along Route 402. Projects like these have a real impact and will assist in keeping local taxes low. (See page 5.)

Monroe Career & Technical Institute is also set to receive \$1,000,000 for their needed expansion. Career & Technical Education is important to our region's success. I am grateful that Governor Shapiro and his administration recognize the need to invest in our future.

REPRESENTATIVE TARAH PROBST

189th Legislative District

I hope everyone had a great summer and is looking forward to the holiday season.

Our area received some great news recently, as East Stroudsburg Area



School District was awarded two Public School Facility Improvement Grants totaling \$818,941. The first \$417,545 grant will be used for the replacement of boilers and controls at JT Lambert Intermediate and Smithfield Elementary Schools. A second \$401,396 grant will go toward data cabling replacement projects at JT Lambert Intermediate. Given the exorbitant school property taxes in Monroe and Pike counties, I am especially pleased to see those funds provided to ESASD.

The grants build on the strong 2024-2025 state budget that we passed this summer to help relieve the burden on local taxpayers even more. The budget includes \$9.6 million for ESASD, and for the first time, it includes funding that could be used by the school district to lower property taxes, possibly through the state homestead/farmstead exemption. Did you know that every homeowner is eligible for a property tax cut from the proceeds at Pennsylvania's casinos? Homeowners should contact the Monroe County assessment office for a copy of their county's homestead and farmstead application form.

Working with my House Democratic Caucus leadership team, I was able to secure a \$30,000 grant for local nonprofit Angels and Dragonflies to be used for operational support and supply/equipment purchases. (See page 12)

My office can help your organization apply for state grants. If you need assistance with an application or with a state program, please contact us at 570-420-2850 or stop by at 18 S. 9th St., Suite 105 in Stroudsburg.



MONROE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Sharon Laverdure, Chairman John D. Christy, and Vice Chairman David Parker



Every Fall the Monroe County Voter Registration and Elections office is a buzz of activity. Middle Smithfield's own Penny Robson, Deputy Director of Elections, helps to keep everything on track and all of us on our toes. It's important for voters to understand what happens behind the scenes when an election is taking place.

This year, Monroe County processed and sent out over 32,000 mail-in ballots and prepared for the remaining 90,000 voters that have the ability to exercise their right to vote at the polls. We also prepared over 200 poll books for the 55 polling places located across the County.

Every polling place received poll books, scanners, ADA scanners, ballots, paperwork, and numerous other bits and pieces that make an election happen. These items are all packaged separately for each polling location, placed in a specialized shipping container, and trucked to each destination.

Poll workers arrived before 6:00am on election day to get set up and be ready to greet voters at 7:00am when the polls open. At 8:00pm when the polls close, all the records of the election are then brought to the Voter Registration and Elections office here in Stroudsburg where the information is downloaded to the State site and the unofficial results are reported.

The election does not become official for approximately one week while we wait for military and overseas ballots to arrive and while provisional ballots are determined.

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



SHOP LOCAL THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Shopping local isn't just a novel idea; choosing local and independent businesses for your services, shopping, dining, and other needs means you are helping to build a stronger economy, creating a healthier community, and increasing the wealth where you live. Here's how:

Strengthen the Local Economy!

Every dollar you spend at an independent business returns 3 times more money to your local economy compared to that spent at a larger chain. This money is going right back into the community you live and work, helping support yourself, family, and neighbors.

Create Jobs!

Did you know that almost 47% of the U.S.'s private economy is employed by small businesses? Your local grocer, accountant, attorney, printer, restaurant, etc. are more likely to hire your friends, family, and neighbors, who in turn, spend their wages locally.

Build Community and Give Back!

When you shop local, sales tax is used to support parks, roads, schools, and community programs that benefit you.

In addition, did you know that small businesses donate 250% more than large businesses to local community causes, youth organizations, first responders, charities, and more? Just look at all the local sponsors we thank in each issue of the Township newsletter.

Foster a Healthier Environment!

One word: transportation. Shopping local means less travel, less traffic, less pollution, and more time to enjoy your community's distinct personality.

Even more, local businesses tend to consume less land, shop locally, and travel less, further reducing transportation and the carbon footprint.

Increase Wealth!

Two words: multiplier effect.

Here's the math:

Buying local products at local businesses = spending more money locally by that business and its employees = that business and its employees paying local taxes and offsetting increases for others = hiring more local people, who in turn pay taxes = purchasing more local goods to supply their own business and donate to local non-for-profits, etc.

It all adds up: **Shopping Local this holiday season = a Strong Middle Smithfield.**

Shop Local and keep the cheer here!



MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP NOW HAS TEXTMYGOV

*“Communication works --
for those who work at it!”
- John Powell*



And, Middle Smithfield Township works at it – we now have TextMyGov! In the past, residents have received texts from the township – but now, instead of monologue, it's a dialogue. Residents can text the township anytime at 570-223-5400 and receive responses in real time, any time!

Find information about Board of Supervisor meetings, committee meetings, permits, events, parks, roads, view the calendar and more.

How it works:

Text HI or a keyword such as PERMITS, PARKS, or CLEANUP to 570-223-5400. The TextMyGov system will respond with answers based on the keywords you text in. Stick to one or two keywords at a time. Full sentences are not necessary and may confuse the system.

Opt-in to receive text alerts from the Township:

You can also opt-in to receive text alerts from the Township. By opting in, you will receive text messages about upcoming events, emergencies, and other important Township information.

To opt-in, text **MIDDLE SMITHFIELD** to 91896 to sign up for text message alerts from Middle Smithfield Township.

After the initial keyword **MIDDLE SMITHFIELD** is sent, you will receive a confirmation message asking you to reply YES to verify opt-in.

You can also opt-in to several special interest lists. Just text a keyword for the group you are interested in to 91896 to opt-in. Lists you can opt-in to include:

- Bids - to receive texts about bid postings
- CommunityGardens - to receive texts about the Community Gardens
- County - to receive texts about Monroe County
- EDC - to receive texts about our Economic Development Committee
- Events - to receive texts about our Township's events, exhibits, and programs
- History - to receive texts about our Historical Commission
- Library - to receive texts about the Library of the Smithfields and our Community Center
- Litter - to receive texts about our volunteer litter cleanup program
- Meeting - to receive texts about upcoming public meetings
- Parks - to receive texts about our Township's parks department
- Planning - to receive texts about our Planning Commission
- Roads - to receive texts about our road department, including Township Cleanup and paving

Text STOP at any time to remove yourself from the notification list. Visit middlesmithfieldtownship.com/329/TextMyGov for more information about TextMyGov.

LIBRARY BOARD MEMBER NEEDED!



Representative for Library of the Smithfields needed starting 1/1/2025 to sit on the Eastern Monroe Public Library's Board of Trustees. Call 570-223-8920!



Resident Jonathan McHale (Jonamac Photography) captured the Northern Lights over the Delaware in our township.

SENATOR ROSEMARY BROWN

Continued from page 6

Pennsylvania is home to over 280,000 seniors living with Alzheimer's—a number that is expected to reach 320,000 by 2025. This new law will break down bureaucratic barriers, foster greater coordination among state agencies, and ensure that Pennsylvania leads the way in providing comprehensive care for those living with Alzheimer's and related disorders. By streamlining our efforts and securing additional federal funding, we can better support families and caregivers while improving the overall quality of care.

SHOP LOCAL 2024 IS HERE!

An exclusive program for local shoppers who want to save money, support their community, and be a hero!

Why Shop Local?

The Shop Local Program saves you time, gas, and builds community. How? Local dollars spent means local businesses are supported and jobs created. Not only do independent businesses employ more people directly per dollar of revenue, but they are also customers of local printers, accountants, wholesalers, farms, attorneys, etc., expanding opportunities for community and economic development. The dollar you spend in an independently owned business is used to invest back into the community via local taxes that invest in schools, roads, and emergency services, AND hire local people, who in turn, invest back into their community by buying local goods and services, pay 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! Deals start this Black Friday!
2. Cut the discount card off, keep it 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, 2025.



UPCOMING HOLIDAY EVENTS

JOIN US FOR THE 1ST ANNUAL HOLIDAY MARKET

By Chris Rain



New in 2024, come out to Echo Lake Park on Saturday November 30 from 3pm to 7pm for the 1st Annual Holiday Market! Local craft vendors will be selling their holiday wares so you can start your holiday shopping early. The Holiday Market is before the Tree Lighting starting at 6pm at Echo Lake Park, so you can do you shopping and stay for the event! Our vendors include: The Morning Brew, Mulvey Moments Creations, First Impressions Printing, Cards By Foxy Lady, Aubrey Rose Creations, Debbie Bertone, Mount Diana Tea.

Parking from 3pm to 5pm is available at Echo Lake Park. After 5pm, the parking lot at the park will be handicap parking only for our annual Tree Lighting event that begins at 6pm. Parking after 5pm is available at the Presbyterian Church across the street or at the shopping mall next to the park. Constables are on hand to help you safely cross the street.

Interested in being a vendor? We are looking for small businesses, artists and crafters for this market. There is a \$25 deposit due to reserve your space, which is refunded after the event. For more information or to register, please contact Chris Rain at 570-223-8920 x119 or crain@mstowship.com.

Join us for this 1st Annual Holiday Market and help us make it a new holiday tradition in Middle Smithfield!

QUIET VALLEY OLD TIME CHRISTMAS

Gather by the bonfire with friends and family and be transported to a simpler time when the farm family crafted homemade gifts from the heart to adorn the Christmas tree. Feel the tranquility of the live Nativity where the Baby Jesus sleeps in the Virgin Mary's arms, attended by man and beast. Listen to stories in front of the fireplace in the Granddaddy Cabin.

Meet the mythical Belsnickel by hearth-light in the Cellar Kitchen. He's come before St. Nicholas to warn the naughty and reward the nice. Revel in the warmth of the potbelly stove alight in the one-room schoolhouse and join the sing-along of traditional carols. Marvel at the miniature village scene—the traditional Christmas Putz—in the Victorian parlor.

Stroll through the magical Christmas Tree Forest sponsored by Quiet Valley's Members' families and local businesses.

Enjoy complimentary hot chocolate or warm cider with homemade cookies to round-out this hour-and-half long

ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING RETURNS!

By Chris Rain

Happy Holidays!

Come kick off the holiday season at our 12th Annual Tree Lighting on Saturday November 30th at 6pm at Echo Lake Park. Bands and choirs from East Stroudsburg High School provide music while the crowd enjoys free hot cocoa and treats. New this year, Regina Sayles will perform to help us usher in the holiday season! Then, Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive courtesy of the Marshalls Creek Fire Company to light the tree and visit with the kids. Please note that this year, due to the township-wide burning ban, fireworks will not be permitted.

Don't forget to come out early and visit our first holiday market that will be available from 3pm to 7 pm.

The event is 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.



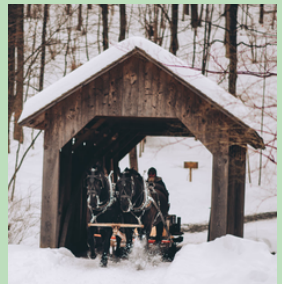
journey through the customs of this 19th Century Pennsylvania German farm. Complete one's Christmas shopping—or get started on it—in Quiet Valley's Holiday Gift Shop, where unique, handcrafted gifts await, among an array of treasures sure to delight the young and old alike.

Savor the stories, bask in the past, and drink in all the simple pleasures of an Old Time Christmas at Quiet Valley.

Quiet Valley Living Historical Farm
347 Quiet Valley Rd
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

December 7th, 8th, 14th & 15th
2:30 pm- 7:00 pm
Tickets: \$18 adults, \$10 ages 3-12

More info & to buy advanced tickets visit www.quietvalley.org.



HONORING VETERANS

US Army veteran Andy Zaso, who is Middle Smithfield Township's 2016 Person of the Year finalist, organized a gathering for veterans at the Middle Smithfield Township Community & Cultural Center on Saturday November 2nd. Andy, who cooks for local charity Mady's Kitchen and volunteers for Bushkill Outreach and the Church of St. John, haf the initiative, and the heart, to serve those who have served our country.

"I have a lot of respect for the armed forces and it's an honor to serve them because they served us. I enjoy seeing the camaraderie between the veterans talking about their past experiences. Now that we have become "old soldiers", we hope the younger generation will get involved with the veterans." Said Zaso.

Veterans gathered with fellow service men and women, shared a story and a meal, had a moment of reflection at the Middle Smithfield Township Veterans Memorial. Information regarding programs and assistance for Veterans was available, as well as applications for a Hometown Heroes banner.

Supporting Andy was 2018 Person of the Year finalist Francis Oquendo, a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, and Troop Leader, who organized Boy Scout Troops 87 and 902 for set up and break down of the event, as well as running errands.



Above: Andy Zaso with wife Laura and their Granddaughters.

Right: Louis Santiago and Francis Oquendo.



UPCOMING THANKSGIVING DINNERS

Bushkill Community Church
504 Bushkill Falls Rd., Bushkill, PA 18324
to reserve call 570-431-4999

Saturday Nov. 23rd
2:30pm - 3:30pm

BCC Church is honored to serve our community by providing a complimentary Thanksgiving meal bag to those in need. Our goal is to share love, kindness, and warmth during this special holiday. This event aims to bring hope, joy, and unity to our community. Spread the word and join us!



CHRISTMAS & HANUKKAH SERVICES

New Life Baptist Church
456 Resica Falls Rd.
East Stroudsburg, PA 18302
NewLifePocono.org | 570-762-2288

Christmas Eve Eve Candle Light Ser
Sunday, December 22 at 6:00 PM

Church of St. John
5171 Milford Rd.
East Stroudsburg, PA 18302
churchofstjohn.com | 570-223-9144

Light the Night Christmas Family Event
Sunday, December 8 at 5 PM

Christmas Day Mass
Wednesday, December 25 at 9 am

Mountain Stream Baptist Church
305 Dartmouth Dr
East Stroudsburg, PA 18302
MountainStreamChurch.com | 570-856-3310

Christmas Eve Service
December 24, 2024 at 7 pm

Bushkill Community Church | (570) 431-4999

Middle Smithfield Presbyterian Church | 570-223-8648

Mountain Stream Baptist Church | 570-856-3310

Reformed Church of Bushkill | (570) 588 6773

Temple Israel of the Poconos | (570) 421-8781

Wooddale United Methodist Church | 570-424-7490

Mady's Kitchen-
Church of St. John
5171 Milford Rd. East Stroudsburg, PA 18302

Sunday, November 30th
4 pm- 6 pm

Mady's Kitchen is a community dinner hosted by Mady's Angels held the last Sunday of the month at St. John's Catholic Church. Dinner runs from 4 to 6 pm and is open to everyone. Donations are welcome but not necessary.

PERSON OF THE YEAR

SPREADING CHEER!



VETERAN HOLIDAY MEALS - VOLUNTEERS, DONATIONS, VETERANS NEEDED

2023 Person of the Year, Russ Fisher

Valor Clinic Foundation provides veteran families in crisis with holiday meals at Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. We provide a complete day's meal starting with breakfast and ending with dessert.



This helps stop families from having to decide between paying the bills or having a holiday meal. Our last delivery provided to more than 475 veteran families, with the number increasing each holiday.

Our Holiday Meal program has several options to get involved. Food collection, organization, and distribution are the three main volunteer components.

We have a set food item distribution list to help ensure we provide well-balanced nutrition to our Veterans, remain in the holiday celebration traditions, ease food donor recruitment messaging, and streamline packaging during meal preparation for our volunteers.

To nominate a financially struggling Veteran family or to volunteer please call: (570) 664-6468

If you know a veteran in need, contact us to add them to the list.

for other volunteer opportunities, please visit www.valorclinic.org/volunteer or email info@valorclinic.org.

2024 PERSON OF THE YEAR FINALISTS TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON!

By Holly Dennis

The nominations for the 2024 Person of the Year Award are closed and the judges are hard at work deliberating on who should be the 3 finalists!

The finalists will be announced in December, and the winner will be announced at the Person of the Year and Volunteer Appreciation dinner on January 24th.

Visit mstPersonOfTheYear.com in the coming weeks for more information about the finalists and they're causes, as well as meet the judges who selected them!



ANGELS AND DRAGONFLIES COLLECTION BOX

2023 Person of the Year Finalist, Sue Mahusky

Help bring joy to children this holiday season by participating in the Bags of Joy Toy Drive! We are collecting toys for Christmas and birthdays, and your donations will help make these special occasions unforgettable for children in need.

Angels and Dragonflies will have a collection box at the Township Building throughout the holiday season!

Last Day to Donate: December 8

All toys collected will go directly to children for Christmas and birthday celebrations, bringing smiles and joy when they need it most. Your generosity can make a big difference!

If you would like to sponsor a child for the 2024 holiday season visit angelsanddragonfliescc.org/christmas-gift-request/.

Santa Came early for Angels & Dragonflies! See page 7 to learn about the \$30,000 grant secured by Representative Probst!

INTERNATIONAL PEACE LIGHT

2018 Person of the Year Finalist, Francis Oquendo & 2019 Person of the Year Finalist, Louis Santiago

Each year, the light, which originates in Bethlehem, is transported from Israel to Austria. At a ceremony in Vienna, members of an international delegation of Boy Scouts light their own lamps and return to their home countries, accompanied by a message of world peace.



2018 Person of the Year finalist Francis Oquendo, 2019 Person of the Year finalist Louis Santiago, and Doreen Santiago with the International Peace Light,

From Vienna, the lamp from Bethlehem is flown by Austrian Airlines to New York City and is spread throughout the United States by scouting groups.

Troop 87 then brings the peace light from NYC to MST. More information about the Peace Light and accompanying ceremony coming soon!

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.



BUSHKILL OUTREACH ACCEPTING HOLIDAY DONATIONS TO HELP LOCAL FAMILIES



You can donate to Bushkill Outreach year-round at the Middle Smithfield Township Building via the donation box in the lobby! In addition to food items, Bushkill Outreach is accepting gifts for children.

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.

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

POCONO CHRISTMAS JARS

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

What is a Christmas Jar ?

A Christmas Jar is a pickle jar, peanut butter jar, Mason jar or whatever else you have around to collect your spare change each day.

All coins are dedicated to the jar, and during the week before Christmas you carefully select someone to give it to anonymously. Was a neighbor laid off? Is a coworker struggling with health problems? Has a friend lost a loved one? Simply put your jar on their porch, in their car, on their desk--wherever--and you could change their life for good! \$50, \$100, even \$200, you'll be surprised how much change you can generate and how much you can affect someone's life.

Christmas Jar Display

We have created a Christmas Jar display here in the Pocono's at 359 Lower Lakeview Drive in East Stroudsburg (Middle Smithfield Twp.) PA. There you can pick up a FREE Christmas Jar that you can fill with your spare change to give to someone in need.

Opening Date of the Display

Our Christmas Jar display will begin operating on Thanksgiving weekend and will end on Christmas Eve or until we run out of Jars.

More information can be found at poconochristmasjars.com



TOYS-FOR-TOTS COLLECTION BOX AT MST!

Toys for Tots Program collects new unwrapped toys and distributes 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 through December 4th. You may also bring a new unwrapped gift to the Tree Lighting on November 30th.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

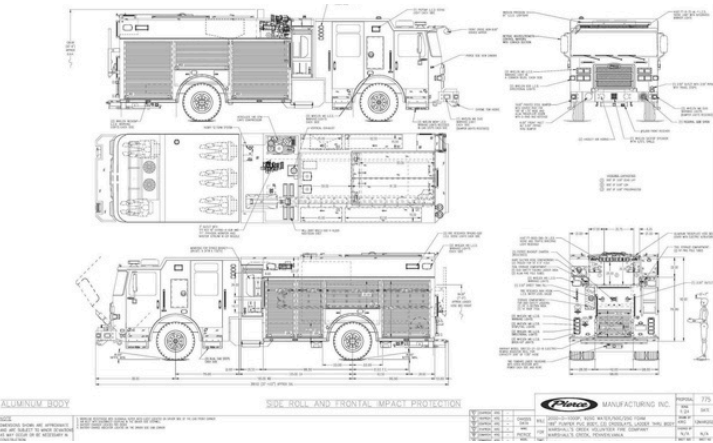
MARSHALLS CREEK FIRE CO. DUAL PURPOSE TRUCK ON ORDER

Marshall's Creek Fire Company

The Marshall's Creek Fire company is using the Middle Smithfield Township Tax monies to help fund our new fire apparatus on order.



Expected in 2028 the Pierce Enforcer Chassis PUC will be replacing a 26 year old rescue truck and a 37 year old Engine. This truck will serve dual purpose and be designed for both rescue and fire suppression capabilities. This purchase would not be possible without the funding provided by the Residents of Middle Smithfield Township that we proudly serve.



CARBON MONOXIDE SAFETY

Often called the invisible killer, carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide.

CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home and in other locations where required by applicable laws, codes or standards. For the best protection, interconnect all CO alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.

HOME HEATING EQUIPMENT

Have fuel-burning heating equipment and chimneys inspected by a professional every year before cold weather sets in. When using a fireplace, open the flue for adequate ventilation. Never use your oven to heat your home.



BUSHKILL FIRE CO. NEW RESUE PUMPER

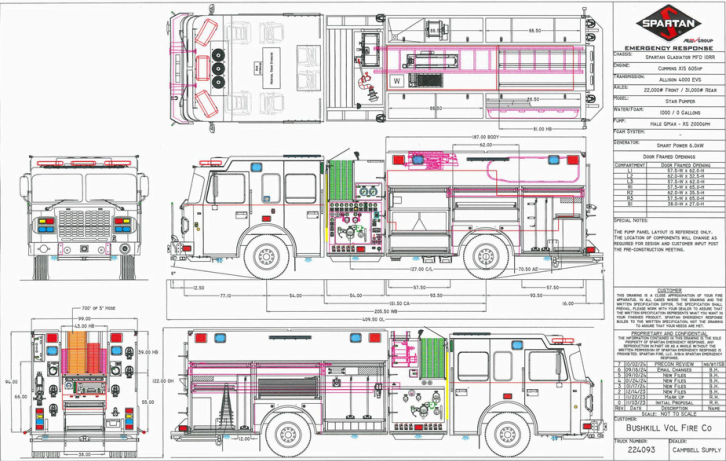
Bushkill Fire Company

Bushkill Fire Company will be using the Middle Smithfield Township designated fire tax money toward the annual payment of a new Spartan Gladiator Rescue Pumper.



The apparatus will seat six firefighters have an on-board water tank on 1,000-gallons and a 2,000 gallons-per-minute pumping capacity. This apparatus will be replacing a dry walk-around rescue truck with no fire suppression capabilities.

The new apparatus will serve as a multi-purpose vehicle providing the same rescue capabilities as the previous rescue truck, but increasing fire suppression capabilities to the primary response area of Bushkill Fire Company and surrounding areas.



BUSHKILL EMERGENCY CORPS YEAR-END WRAP-UP

Bushkill Emergency Corps

When they say, “What difference a day makes”, what it really means to our local EMS (Emergency Medical Service) providers is, “What a difference the EMS tax support makes!” This year Middle Smithfield Township joined by Smithfield Township implemented both an EMS and Fire tax to help support the

organizations serving our communities. The tax helps support in part, Bushkill Emergency Corps, Lehman-Pike EMS, Suburban EMS and Marshall's Creek Fire Company BLS services.

The difference the additional funding has made will soon be evident as Bushkill Emergency Corps was able to order and commit to sustaining funding for the purchase of two new ambulances to its fleet. One ambulance will replace the costly to



FIND FIRE & EMS ONLINE

Marshall's Creek Fire Co.
570-223-8445
112 Marshall's Creek Rd.
E. Stroudsburg, PA 18302
Facebook: @Marshall'sCreekFireCo

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

NEWS FROM THE SHAWNEE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY – STATION #36



Shawnee Fire Company

On October 22, 2025 The Shawnee Volunteer Fire Company placed an order for a Pierce Enforcer Pumper. This new engine will take approximately 4 years to build, to be received, and to be placed into service. This piece of apparatus will allow the Fire Company to continue to service Smithfield and Middle Smith-



field Townships for many years to come. The unit will seat a driver, officer, and 5 crew members. 6 seats will have MSA airpaks with 4 extra packs and spare air bottles. The unit will also have : 2,000 gpm pump, 1,000 gallon water tank, a 40 gallon foam cell, large diameter hose, and multiple handlines. This unit will be replacing our 1997 Pierce Quantum pumper that is currently in service.

With the funding from Middle Smithfield Township, the fire company has been able to: crack seal the entire parking lot, convert all of the station lighting to LED thereby saving operating costs/energy, replace one of the roofs on a storage shed, and will be used to pay down the only debt by paying off our 3,500 gallon tanker which will allow the company to place more money down on the new engine and lessen the amount of debt incurred replacing this engine. The cost for the new engine is 1.4 million.

In 2025, the Shawnee Volunteer Fire Company will be celebrating its 80th Anniversary on February 14th. The Fire Company would like to thank the Middle Smithfield Township Board of Supervisors and its constituents for their continued support in the past and look forward to continuing to work together to meet the ever-changing needs of the communities that we serve.

As the Holidays are quickly approaching, the Shawnee Fire Company would like to wish everyone a safe, happy, and healthy Holiday season!

Annual Bushkill Emergency Corps fundraising Gala, the organization shared information that detailed the cost of some of the current equipment used by EMS. Some of the items noted were: LUCAS CPR chest compressor system/\$20,015 each, Stryker Stair-Pro Stair Chair/ \$17,329 each, Stryker Power Pro XT package Ambulance Stretcher/\$74,586 each.

Bushkill Emergency Corps is also investing in its own providers by providing scholarships to advance their training to the Paramedic level. The organization looks forward to its recent second candidate, Wilfredo Crespo, completing his training in December and joining the previous recipient, Joseph Bolger, as part of the Advanced Life Support Staff.

Bushkill Emergency Corps thanks the Board of Supervisors for their vision for the future of services needed and their commitment to the organization and continued support as Bushkill Emergency Corps enters its 60th year of service to the residents and visitors of Middle Smithfield Township.