



# MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWS

SPRING 2025



*About the cover photo: "Cherry Blossoms"  
by artist Miharu Lane, one of the 30  
women artists whose work was on display  
at the Community & Cultural Center in  
celebration of Women's History Month*

- THE 2024 PERSON OF THE YEAR IS....  
TURN TO PAGE 22 TO LEARN MORE!
- THE 18TH ANNUAL EGGSTRAVAGANZA  
WILL BE HELD AT RESICA PARK ON 4/5
- SPRING CLEAN UP "DUMPSTER DAY"  
WILL BE HELD ON 4/11 & 4/12. SEE  
PAGE 20 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

# MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWS

## WHAT'S GOING ON:

### April

*Spring Leaf Collection Begins\*\**

4/5: 18th Annual Eggstravaganza at Resica Park

4/5: 1000 Pink Lights Walk Paint & Sip  
at Community & Cultural Center

4/11 & 4/12: Cleanup & Freecycle Drop Off

4/11: Red Cross Blood Drive at Community & Cultural Center

4/18: Good Friday (*Township Office Closed*)

4/26: 1000 Feet of Street Litter Pickup

4/26: 1000 Pink Lights Walk Tea, 1-4 pm  
at Community & Cultural Center

### May

**Community & Cultural Center Exhibit:**

*Local Artist Trudy Olsen*

*Spring Leaf Collection Ends\*\**

5/20: Primary Election (*Township Office Closed*)

5/26: Memorial Day (*Township Office Closed*)

### June

**Community & Cultural Center Exhibit:**

*Marshalls Creek Explosion*

6/6: Red Cross Blood Drive at Community & Cultural Center

6/26: Anniversary of Marshalls Creek Explosion

### July

**Community & Cultural Center Exhibit:**

*“Summertime” art exhibit*

Date TBD: Mid-Year Report to the Public

7/4: Independence Day (*Township Office Closed*)

7/10: Mid-Year Report to the Public

### August

**Community & Cultural Center Exhibit:**

*Flood of '55/America250*

8/2: Community Day at Echo Lake Park

8/9: Memory Makers Luncheon at Community & Cultural Center

*For committee meeting schedule see back page.*

*For upcoming Person of the Year Events visit pages 22-23*

*\*all events subject to weather or other changes. Visit our website for an updated schedule*

*\*\* Dates TBD and subject to change*

### September

**Community & Cultural Center Exhibit:**

*Local Artist India Jones*

9/1: Labor Day (*Township Office Closed*)

9/14: 1000 Pink Lights Walk Tricky Tray at The Big A

9/20: 1000 Feet of Street Litter Pickup\*\*

### October

**Community & Cultural Center Exhibit:**

*Marshalls Creek Mastodon*

*Fall Leaf Collection Begins\*\**

Dates TBD: Cleanup & Freecycle

10/11: 1000 Pink Lights Walk at Lehman Park

10/15: National Fossil Day

10/18: 12th Annual Trunk or Treat

### November

11/4: Election Day (*Township Office Closed*)

11/11: Veterans Day (*Township Office Closed*)

11/28- 1/2/26: Shop Local Holiday

11/28: Thanksgiving (*Township Office Closed*)

11/29: Black Friday (*Township Office Closed*)

11/29: 12th Annual Tree Lighting at Echo Lake Park

### December

*Fall Leaf Collection Ends\*\**

Date TBD: Presentation of the Budget to the Public

12/24: Christmas Eve (*Township Office Closed*)

12/25: Christmas Day (*Township Office Closed*)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Representative Roundup.....	4
Budget & Finance.....	6
Economic Development.....	8
Revitalize 209.....	10
Planning Commission.....	12
Zoning.....	13
Community & Cultural Center.....	14
Parks & Recreation.....	16
Voting Information.....	18
Historical Commission.....	19
Public Works Department.....	20
Sewer.....	21
Person of the Year.....	22
Emergency Services.....	26





Elected Officials join the Person of the Year and Finalists at the Volunteer Appreciation Banquet held in January. Standing, left to right: Sam Matrisciano from Congressman Bresnahan's office, Supervisor Annette Atkinson, District Magistrate Jamie Levy, Mackensie Strunk-Mueller from Senator Brown's office, Commissioners Sharon Laverdure and Dave Parker, Supervisors Mike Dwyer and Mark Oney. Seated: State Rep Tarah Probst, Finalist Luz Gonzalez, Person of the Year Betty Ann Ricci, Finalist Maria Oquendo, State Rep Maureen Madden

## GREETINGS FROM YOUR TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

Spring is finally here! As the flowers bloom and the days grow longer, our township is also blooming with new projects and initiatives. Just as the season brings renewal, we, too, are excited for the growth and progress ahead. In February, the staff presented the "Preview of 2025," outlining the plans and projects shaping this year. If you missed it, see page 6.

Financially, we are pleased to report that Middle Smithfield Township has not increased taxes this year. While there was a tax increase at the County level for 2025, we have worked hard to maintain fiscal responsibility while continuing to provide essential services (and the sale of the golf course certainly helped). Last year, we introduced the Fire and EMS tax, ensuring much-needed support for our all-volunteer fire companies (two of whom recently celebrated their 80th anniversaries) as well as the ambulance services. Their dedication to our safety is invaluable, and your contributions help sustain their vital work.

Spring also brings changes to our recreational landscape. This year, the township will no longer own and manage a golf course, as the former Country Club of the Poconos Golf Course reopens under new ownership as The Poconos Club. We're excited to see their hard work come to life and wish them success in this new chapter!

This issue also shines a light on the incredible individuals who make our township a better place. We are proud to celebrate the 2024 Person of the Year and Finalists—true beacons of service in our community. It's easy to think that small efforts go unnoticed, but in reality, the world turns on small hinges. Every act of kindness and service contributes to something greater, and we are deeply grateful for our volunteers. (See page 22.)

And, of course, with spring comes Spring Clean-Up! We've made it even easier for residents to dispose of unwanted items with additional drop-off options (see page 20). Plus, our annual Spring Roadside Cleanup is the perfect opportunity to roll up our sleeves and take pride in our community—volunteers, we need you! (See page 17 to get involved.)

As we welcome the energy of the new season, we look forward to working together to make 2025 a year of growth and continued community spirit. Thank you for being a part of what makes Middle Smithfield Township such a great place to call home.

*Wishing you all a wonderful Spring!*

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

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

**Middle Smithfield Township Administrative Office**  
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570-223-8920 | [info@mstownship.com](mailto:info@mstownship.com)  
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**Middle Smithfield Township Board of Supervisors**  
Annette Atkinson | Chairperson | x124  
Mark Oney | Vice Chairman | x125  
Michael Dwyer | Supervisor | x123

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Coordinator, Community & Cultural Center  
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Christopher Rain | Parks & Rec, Litter & Beautification,  
Facilities, Website & Right to Know Officer  
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James Brechbiel | Economic Development Manager  
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# REPRESENTATIVE ROUND-UP

*A few words from your elected officials*



## CONGRESSMAN ROB BRESNAHAN

8th Congressional District



### A Year of Action and Advocacy for Our Community.

As I approach the two-month mark of my first term as your U.S. Representative for Pennsylvania's Eighth Congressional District,

I am proud to reflect on the progress we've made and the work still ahead. It has been an honor to serve the people of Northeastern Pennsylvania, and I remain committed to fighting for our community's needs in Washington.

In my short time in office, I've already taken significant steps to make sure your voices are heard.

One of my first acts as your representative was introducing H.R. 1286, the Simplifying Forms for Veterans Claims Act. This bill is a critical step to help veterans access the benefits they have earned without unnecessary complications. Our veterans have served this country with honor and courage, and they deserve a system that is as straightforward as possible when it comes to claiming the benefits they deserve. By simplifying the forms and procedures involved, we can reduce delays and give our veterans the respect and care they've earned.

I am steadfast in my commitment to protect the healthcare benefits that so many in our district rely on. I know many individuals are concerned about the future of federal safety net programs as Congress works through the budget reconciliation process. If I am presented with a bill that is going to gut Medicaid benefits to the people that legally deserve them, I will cast a resounding no vote. These vital programs provide healthcare to our seniors, low-income individuals, and families across NEPA. We cannot afford to weaken them. I will continue to stand by my word and fight to ensure these programs remain strong and accessible to those who need them most.

*Continued on page 7.*

## SENATOR ROSEMARY BROWN

Senate District 40



No one enjoys surgery. It's painful, disruptive, and requires time to heal—but when it's necessary, you go through with it because you know it will ultimately make you healthier and stronger.

Infrastructure projects, like the I-80 expansion, are much the same. They're inconvenient, often frustrating, and never come at the perfect time. But just like a critical surgery, they are essential for long-term safety, efficiency, and sustainability.

Many of you have heard about the I-80 expansion project over the last few years. As the project moves forward, I want to provide a factual overview to ensure everyone understands its scope and necessity.

Interstate 80 was designated in 1956 as one of the original routes of the Interstate Highway System. Stretching from New Jersey to California, it is the second-longest interstate in the country, serving as a vital corridor for national freight, commuter traffic, and tourism. Here in our community, I-80 is more than just a highway—it's a road we rely on daily for basic needs, whether visiting friends, running errands, or taking our kids to school.

While a project of this magnitude is never easy—and many of us would rather avoid the disruption—its necessity cannot be ignored. There will never be a perfect time for a project of this scale, nor will it be perfect in every aspect, but maintaining and improving our infrastructure is essential.

Since its construction in the 1960s, I-80 has deteriorated significantly and no longer meets modern design standards. Originally built to carry 10,000 vehicles per day, the highway now handles 80,000 vehicles daily, with 22% of that being truck traffic. By 2030-2040, daily traffic is projected to reach 90,000 to 100,000 vehicles.

*Continued on page 7.*

## REPRESENTATIVE MAUREEN E. MADDEN

115th Legislative District



Since 2025 began, it has been an exciting and fast-paced journey. On January 7th, 2025, I was honored to be sworn into the 2025-2026 Legislative Session and reappointed as Majority Chair of Aging and Older Adults Committee. In this role, I remain deeply committed to advocating for our seniors and funding for the vital services that many rely on.

At this stage in the legislative session, I have reintroduced HB561, the "Medication Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder Programs" bill. This legislation would allow county jails to access and utilize FDA-approved medications for substance use disorders through a Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) program. I also plan to reintroduce legislation that would allow professional organizations to train elected school board officials and legislation to prohibit the use of single-use plastic bags in Pennsylvania. These initiatives are just the beginning of what promises to be an eventful legislative session. To stay informed on the bill's progress, please contact my office or visit [www.legis.state.pa.us](http://www.legis.state.pa.us).

My staff and I are eager to serve you over the next two years and assist with navigating various state services, including:

- 2024 Property Tax/Rent Rebate Applications – NOW OPEN!
- Unemployment Compensation Matters
- Department of Human Services programs
- Unclaimed Property
- Requests for Birth Certificates and Other Vital Records
- PennDOT Applications
- Any other state-government matters!

*Continued on page 7.*

## REPRESENTATIVE TARAH PROBST

189th Legislative District

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 the homestead and farmstead application form.

Seniors and others also should apply for the state's expanded Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program, which provides cash back of up to \$1,000 for property taxes or rent paid in 2024. The deadline to apply is June 30.

In February, Gov. Josh Shapiro announced his 2025-26 state budget proposal, which includes a second year of funding to help relieve the impact on overburdened local taxpayers. This is particularly true for those in Monroe County, who for decades have been the most inequitably funded of all 500 school districts in Pennsylvania. Under the plan, East Stroudsburg Area School District would receive an additional \$9 million. This would build on the 2024-25 state budget that included \$9.6 million for ESASD, and for the first time, it included funding that could be used by the school district to lower property taxes, possibly through the state homestead/farmstead exemption, as noted above.

Finally, I'd like to remind you that beginning May 7, you will need a state-issued REAL ID-compliant driver's license or identification card, or another acceptable form of ID (such as a U.S. Passport), to fly within the United States or enter a federal building. You can get a REAL ID now or when you renew your driver's license. Check out PennDOT's website for more information.

If you need assistance with any state program, please contact my office 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



The Monroe County Children's Roundtable will be holding its annual Community Night on May 6th at the Northampton Community College Pocono Campus from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm in Tannersville, Pa.

The event typically features over 100 community providers, offering information about various services, along with activities such as scavenger hunts, blood drives, therapy dogs, and student art shows. This event is free to the public and all are welcome to attend.

To stay informed about the 2025 Community Night, it's advisable to regularly check the Monroe County official website or the Northampton Community College events page for updates.

We are also formulating committees for America's 250th Anniversary. This is an opportunity to celebrate our past and honor contributions of individuals who built our Country. If you have a passion for local history or just want to get involved, go to our website monroecountypa.gov and click on the link.

## CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

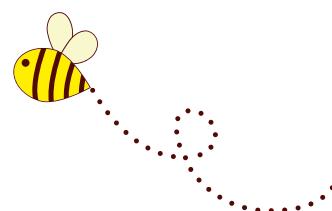
**US Congressman Rob Bresnahan**  
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Scotrun, PA 18355  
570-534-6220

**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**  
**David Parker**  
**Sharon Laverdure**  
One Quaker Plaza  
Stroudsburg PA 18360  
570-517-3400



# BUDGET & FINANCE

Manager: Bonnie Christmas

Treasurer: Mike Dwyer

## BUDGET & FINANCE UPDATE- 2025

As Middle Smithfield property owners saw from their County/Municipal/Fire & EMS/Library tax bill received on March 1, Middle Smithfield Township has not increased taxes this year. Last year, Middle Smithfield, along with Price and Smithfield Townships, introduced the Fire and EMS tax along with an increase in the Local Services Tax. These adjustments generated over \$1 million in funding from Middle Smithfield to support our local emergency services.

As highlighted on page 26, your tax dollars have played a vital role in enabling our all volunteer fire departments to replace essential equipment, ensuring they continue to provide top-tier service to our community.

### 2025 Budget at a Glance

For those who may have missed the 2025 Budget Presentation given in December of 2024 here's a summary:

- No change in Middle Smithfield Township Real Estate Tax – remains at 1.75 mills for 2025.
- Continued support for Fire and EMS services:
  - 0.50-mill tax for fire departments
  - 0.40-mill tax for emergency medical services
- Local Services Tax remains at \$52 per year.
- Cable Franchise Fee Expired – The franchise agreement ended in June 2024, and cable users should have noticed a lower bill in the second half of 2024.
- Earned Income Tax remains at 1%.
- Sewer User Fees remain unchanged.
- Golf Course Sold – The township no longer staffs or provides services for the course.

### Investing in Our Community

The 2025 Budget continues to reflect Middle Smithfield Township's commitment to improving infrastructure, including road maintenance, sewer systems, parks, litter control, and community beautification.

Additionally, we are considering several new projects for 2025, which are contingent on securing grant funding. Stay tuned for updates as we explore opportunities to further enhance our township.

### Stay Informed

For a detailed look at the 2025 Budget, visit our website under "Budget and Finance". Also, our 2024 audit is currently underway, and we will share updates as they become available.

Thank you for your continued support in making Middle Smithfield Township a great place to live, work, and thrive!



## PREVIEW OF 2025

On February 27th the public and elected officials joined Middle Smithfield Township for the annual preview of the upcoming year, "Preview of 2025" presentation to the public, as well as presenting the 2024 Person of the Year winner, Betty Ann Ricci and two finalists, Maria Oquendo and Luz Gonzalez, with their plaques and their checks for their respective organizations. You can read more about the Person of the Year finalists and their upcoming events on pages 22, 23, 24.

The staff of Middle Smithfield Township presented plans for 2025 for each Committee and Department, including events, and capital improvements, and answered questions from the public.

Middle Smithfield Township is committed to keeping residents informed and engaged, which is why several public presentations and provided throughout the year. The Preview of the Upcoming Year in winter outlines our plans and projects, the Mid-Year Report in summer gives a progress update, and the Budget Presentation at year's end ensures transparency in how tax dollars are allocated.

Said Township Supervisors:

"Our staff takes great pride in their work, and we believe our taxpayers deserve to see the value of their hard-earned contributions. Transparency builds trust, and these presentations are part of our commitment to open and accountable government."

The presentation can be found on the township website at [www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com/DocumentCenter/View/1718/Preview-of-2025-PDF?bidId=](http://www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com/DocumentCenter/View/1718/Preview-of-2025-PDF?bidId=). The recording of the meeting, including the plaque and check presentation, can be found at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tsa9A56suD0&t=6998s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tsa9A56suD0&t=6998s).



Township staff presented Preview of 2025 on February 27th. Pictured Left to Right, Standing: James Brechbiel, Joan Woisin, Rachel Heller, Vicki Smith, Michele Clewell, Christopher Rain. Sitting: Kylie Medrano, Holly Dennis, Mayra Colon.

## CONGRESSMAN ROB BRESNAHAN

*Continued from page 4.*

All my work in Washington is driven by helping our neighbors in NEPA. I am dedicated to being an active presence in our district whether it's through meeting with local leaders, supporting community organizations, and visiting small businesses. I believe in the power of listening to your concerns and working together to address the issues that matter most. If you need help with a federal agency or wish to get in touch with our team, please visit <https://www.bresnahan.house.gov>.

This is just the beginning of what I hope will be a long and impactful journey as your Congressman. I remain committed to fighting for the needs of our district, and I look forward to continuing to work alongside each of you to build a stronger, more prosperous future for our community.

## REPRESENTATIVE MAUREEN E. MADDEN

*Continued from page 4.*

I'm thrilled to announce my district has moved to a new location at 2959 Route 611, Suite 105 in Tannersville — a more central spot for constituents across all 115 districts. The Grand Opening took place on Friday, March 14th.

Additionally, my office will once again host satellite office hours at the Middle Smithfield Municipal Building from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. If you would like to schedule an appointment, please reach out to my office.

## SIGN OF THE TIMES- POLITICAL SIGNS

By Vicki Smith

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, etc.) 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.



## SENATOR ROSEMARY BROWN

*Continued from page 4.*

Safety concerns also make this project critical. Crash studies between Exit 303 and Exit 307 show accident rates exceeding the statewide average, with the most hazardous section being Exit 304 in Stroudsburg Borough. This stretch has been designated a Safety Corridor, requiring reduced speed limits. Many of us are familiar with the frequent and devastating crashes near the Main Street and Park Avenue exits in recent years. Studies link these high crash rates to congestion and outdated highway design.

The first public meeting on the expansion was held in February 2014, with several additional meetings leading up to the final public session in November 2019. The final design was approved in January 2023, and construction will proceed in three phases, starting west to east at Exit 303, with bidding anticipated in June 2025.

The project will expand I-80 to three lanes in each direction between Exit 303 and Exit 308, while also reconstructing interchanges, improving ramp access, and adding retention basins. The design includes raising bridges, removing and adding ramps, creating flyover lanes, and extending existing ramps to enhance safety and traffic flow. You can view the detailed design plans at [www.i80project.com](http://www.i80project.com).

While many of us may have personal opinions on the expansion, and in an ideal world, we wouldn't need such extensive upgrades, federal and state governments have an obligation to maintain infrastructure that meets modern safety and efficiency standards. The increase in traffic volume—both current and projected—demands action. Fortunately, the federal government has allocated over half a billion dollars to ensure this corridor meets necessary criteria and provides a safer, more effective roadway for residents and travelers alike.

### 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 you can find one on our website at [www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com](http://www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com).

**More information about Election Day (May 20, 2025) including polling places and frequently asked questions can be found on page 18.**



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

**Chairperson:** Ed Regina | **Vice Chair:** Deborah Emin | **Secretary:** Charlie Stecker  
**Members:** Beverly Brown, Gina Bertucci, Joe Memoli, Vacancy | **Manager:** James Brechbiel

## SATTAR LUXURY LINES LAUNCHES EXCLUSIVE MEMBER-BASED COMMUTER SERVICE

By James Brechbiel

Starting March 1st, commuters will have a new option of traveling in luxury to New York City with Sattar Luxury Lines.



The new 55-passenger shuttle service in Middle Smithfield will be leaving daily (Mon.-Fri.) out of the Park and Ride (next to the Price Chopper Complex) and picking up passengers from Port Authority in NYC. See the website for the most current drop-off and pick up times.

The member-based service offers exclusive monthly memberships, guaranteed assigned seating, (even if you arrive a minute before departure), and a shared membership feature allowing members to transfer their seats to family or friends when they aren't riding the bus.

"We are offering comfortable daily round trips in our luxurious buses with amenities including Wi-Fi, restroom accommodations, televisions, reclining seats, overhead luggage compartments, charging ports, and more," says owner Lee Sattar, who runs several shuttle service lines in the tri-state area. "Our shuttle service provides a safe and friendly environment, professional drivers, and 24/7 customer support. Why would you travel any other way?"

And passengers will find themselves an exclusive member of the Sattar Luxury Lines Family.

Sattar prioritizes customer experience by fostering a community-driven atmosphere where commuters feel valued and cared for. "Our commuters work hard and deserve a stress-free commute so they can focus on what matters most to them," says Sattar. "Our goal is to make morning commutes hassle-free and help our members save money and improve their quality of life. While you're building your future, let us get you to where you need to go today!"

Providing an all-inclusive premium travel experience, Sattar Luxury Lines offers a rate of \$675 per month, with no hidden fees or taxes.

For more information about membership plans and to sign up, call (570)868-3332, email [info@sattarluxurylines.com](mailto:info@sattarluxurylines.com) or visit [www.sattarluxurylines.com](http://www.sattarluxurylines.com).



A bus from Sattar Luxury Lines is ready to take you on your next adventure to New York City!

## YUMMY KEBAB IS HERE!

By James Brechbiel

Yummy Kebab has officially opened its doors at the Liberty Plaza Complex (Dunkin' Donuts Complex), and owner Sanae Elahrache and family couldn't be more thrilled to share their love for Mediterranean cuisine with the community.



Sanae Elahrache, owner of Yummy Kebab.

With decades of culinary experience, Sanae has poured her heart and soul into creating a menu full of authentic, mouth-watering dishes that are sure to impress. Whether you're a fan of kebabs or simply enjoy Mediterranean flavors, Yummy Kebab promises to be your new favorite spot for amazing food.

"It has been a lifelong dream of mine to share my passion for cooking with others," says Sanae. "What I love most is making great meals for my friends, and now I get to do that for the whole community!"

### Why You'll Love Yummy Kebab:

Fresh, authentic Mediterranean dishes.  
A welcoming, family-friendly atmosphere.  
Passionate chefs who care about every meal.

Stop by today to discover what all the excitement is about!

### Visit Yummy Kebab

Come and experience the flavors of the Mediterranean. Yummy Kebab is the place to be in Middle Smithfield Township.

5019 Milford Rd.  
Liberty Plaza (by Dunkin Donuts)  
East Stroudsburg, PA 18302

570-664-0755

### Store Hours:

- Sunday to Wednesday: 11 am - 9 pm
- Thursday to Saturday: 11 am - 1 pm



## MEET OUR NEWEST EDC MEMBER:

### CHARLES J. STECKER JR.

Charles is our newest member of the Economic Development Committee and his family's roots in the Poconos go as far back as 1748. A Disabled Veteran who proudly served in The United States Coast Guard, Charles has a passion for his country and the Poconos. Charles currently sits on the Monroe County children and Youth Advisory Board. Mr. Stecker is also the Founder of The International Child Abuse Prevention Task Force, as well as Chahlie's Angels Programs of Empowerment.



For many years Charles was the Executive Director of a non-profit Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Housing Counseling Agency and is looking forward to connecting people with resources and working with the business community.

## VOLUNTEER TAX PREP PROGRAM BRINGS SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS TO THE COMMUNITY



The Rotary Club of the Greater Poconos (Rotary-GP) Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program is making a meaningful difference in the lives of Monroe and Pike County residents. Offering FREE tax preparation services every Wednesday from 10a-4p at the Middle Smithfield Township Community & Cultural Center, as of mid-March, this initiative has already helped over 150 residents in its inaugural year.

Many community members seeking assistance through the VITA program have shared that they were quoted fees exceeding \$300 for basic tax preparation elsewhere. Thanks to this volunteer-driven effort, residents are saving hundreds of dollars—funds that can now go toward essential expenses like rent, utilities, and groceries.

Rotary-GP President Hal H. Harris emphasized the impact of the program, stating, "We are happy to save our community members money they can use to pay essential bills and feed themselves and their families." However, he also noted the potential to serve even more residents, adding, "We could do so much more if we had some funding and more volunteers. Rotary-GP VITA program is grateful to the Supervisors of the Middle Smithfield Township for making the Middle Smithfield Community and Cultural Center available so we could be of service to the community from a community based site."

The VITA program will continue operating every Wednesday 10am-2pm4pm through April 11. Community members who need tax preparation assistance or those interested in supporting this vital service are encouraged to reach out.

For more information or to explore volunteer opportunities, please call 570-851-1292.

## THE KIT AND CAVOODLE PET CENTER UNLEASHES HEALTHIER OPTIONS FOR PETS

By James Brechbiel

Pet owners in Middle Smithfield now have access to healthier alternatives for their animal companions with the opening of The Kit and Cavoodle Pet Center. This new pet supply store celebrated its grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony in December.

With nearly a decade of experience in the pet retail industry, owner Mattie Anderson and her husband and co-owner Philip Eubanks are passionate about improving pet care in the community. Inspired by Mattie's personal journey with her rescued pug, Daisy Mae, who overcame obesity and illness through a high-quality diet and expert care, the couple launched the new business to help other pets thrive.



Mattie Anderson, Owner of Kit and Cavoodle Pet Center

**"Proper nutrition and care can extend a pet's life and improve its quality," said Mattie Anderson. "We experienced it firsthand with Daisy Mae, and now, through The Kit and Cavoodle Pet Center, we're dedicated to helping other pets live longer, healthier lives."**

The store's name comes from Mattie and Philip's own beloved pets, a cat named Freya (the "Kit") and a cavoodle named Baxter. "Our pets need nutritious food, engaging toys, and lots of love, and we know yours do too," Anderson adds.

The Kit and Cavoodle Pet Center stands out with its focus on providing top-quality, healthier pet supplies, and personalized customer service. The welcoming and knowledgeable team is committed to making pet health a priority in the Poconos area, ensuring that every pet owner can find the best products for their companion animals.

### Visit the Kit and Cavoodle Pet Center

Stop by to meet the team and explore the wide range of products designed to keep your pets healthy, happy, and entertained.

4545 Milford Rd., Suite 130  
The Crossings at Marshalls Creek Complex  
(by Price Chopper)  
East Stroudsburg, PA 18302

570-730-7673  
[www.kandcpetcenter.com](http://www.kandcpetcenter.com)

### Store Hours:

Monday: 10 am - 6 pm  
Tuesday: Closed  
Wednesday - Saturday: 10 am - 6 pm  
Sunday: 12 pm - 4 pm

# REVITALIZE 209

**Chairperson:** Deborah Emin | **Vice Chair:** Nick Theofilos

**Members:** Michael Coffey, Ralph Dinkle, George Kuchek, Albert "Sonny" Murray

**Liaison:** James Brechbiel

## REVITALIZE 209 GRANT CONTINUES TO DRIVE PROPERTY ENHANCEMENTS & ATTRACT BUSINESS ALONG MILFORD RD

By James Brechbiel

The Revitalize 209 Grant continues to make a significant impact with over \$135,000 in preliminary approvals already issued for property improvement projects along Milford Road (Route 209). With several projects already completed and more in the pipeline, this initiative is proving to be a catalyst for revitalization in Middle Smithfield Township.

Since reporting last fall, multiple businesses have made notable progress. Liberty Plaza has successfully completed its painting projects, The Big A's project has commenced, and Gary's Mobil Gas and Car Wash has finished its siding project, enhancing the corridor's visual appeal and attracting new business.

"Thanks to the grant, Gary's Mobil Gas and Car Wash was able to complete our property renovation with the siding project to the mechanic shop building," said Gary Chamessian, property owner of Gary's. "The project helped tie together our updated look, and now we are happy to report that we will be welcoming a new tenant at the shop this spring: The Car Cleaners Detail Shop."

And they're not the only ones attracting new businesses.

Liberty Plaza's painting project has refreshed its look and, following completion, the complex has welcomed its newest tenant, Yummy Kebab Mediterranean Restaurant, bringing flavorful cuisine to Middle Smithfield and sure to be a must-visit destination.

With ongoing developments and new projects on the horizon, the Revitalize 209 Grant is fostering a vibrant and refreshed business corridor along Milford Road. Stay tuned for more updates as additional projects come to life!

### About the Revitalize 209 Grant

Established by Middle Smithfield Township with funding made possible by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the Revitalize 209 Grant is designed to support property enhancements visible along Route 209. Business and property owners can apply for improvements up to \$20,000 in cost and the Township will match up to 50% of the cost of the project, with a maximum of \$10,000. There is no minimum project size, allowing businesses of all scales to participate in this revitalization effort.

### Current Projects:

- The Big A – Building staining, clearcoat, and painting
- Brick Church (5146 Milford Rd) – Replacing 6 windows
- The Dutchman Plaza – Landscaping improvements
- Echo Lake (Miggy's Plaza) – Trim repairs on the Auto Valley Group building
- Marathon Studios – Landscaping
- The Value Inn – Roof updates, landscaping, and lighting improvements



**Before**



**After**

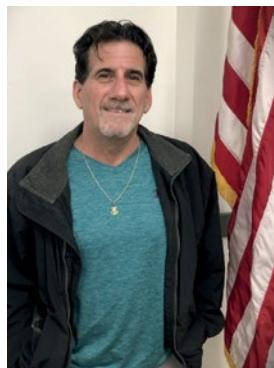




## LERTA: A DECADE OF SUCCESS AND A BRIGHT FUTURE AHEAD

By Annette Atkinson

Has it really been ten years already? It feels like just yesterday when Middle Smithfield Township first presented the **LERTA (Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance)** program to the East Stroudsburg Area School District (ESASD) Board of Directors and the Monroe County Commissioners. At the time, the County and School District took a leap of faith, and County Commissioner Chairperson John Moyer called it “the great experiment.”



### WELCOME JOHN KAHWATY TO THE REVITALIZE 209 COMMITTEE

A Navy Veteran and 20-year resident of Middle Smithfield Township, John Kahwaty is proud of his investment in the Middle Smithfield community and excited to work on great projects for Revitalize 209. John also brings over 29 years of insurance experience to the committee.

Since 2019, he has worked as an Insurance Specialist in Emergency Management processing federal grants for Public Assistance. He looks forward to working with the committee to help keep Route 209 looking fresh, revitalized, and a part of our community we can continue to be proud of.

### APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR 2025!

If you’re considering property improvements that are visible from Route 209, or you are a resident with suggestions on how to improve our business corridor, the Revitalize 209 Committee wants to hear from you! Here are some project ideas:

- Repair/replacement of doors, windows, and building facades
- Installation of public benches
- Parking and access improvements
- Power washing and cleaning exterior surfaces
- General painting
- Landscaping enhancements
- Lighting improvements to meet “dark sky” compliance
- Demolition of blighted or unsafe structures
- Any other projects approved by the Board of Supervisors

**How to Apply:** Submit your Letter of Interest to the committee to see if you qualify for the Revitalize 209 Grant. Contact James Brechbiel at 570-223-8920 x 130 or email [jbrechbiel@mstownship.com](mailto:jbrechbiel@mstownship.com) for more details.

For further information about the Revitalize 209 Grant, visit our website: The Revitalize 209 Grant, a program unique for townships to administer, focuses on improvements to building facades, curb appeal, and safety that are visible from Route 209 with maximum project sizes up to \$20,000 in cost (Township \$10,000 and applicant \$10,000). There is no minimum.

For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/Revitalize209Grant>. Call or email James Brechbiel: (570) 223-8920 x130, [jbrechbiel@mstownship.com](mailto:jbrechbiel@mstownship.com).

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

Now, a decade later, Middle Smithfield Township, along with the Middle Smithfield Township Economic Development Committee, is proud to say that the proof is in the pudding—LERTA has delivered results. Thanks to the success of this program, the ESASD Board of Directors recently voted unanimously to renew it for another ten years. The township is awaiting the county’s response.

### LERTA’s Impact: Growth, Development & Revenue

Since its launch in 2015, Middle Smithfield’s LERTA program has been embraced by all three local taxing authorities, helping to attract new businesses, expand the tax base, and drive economic growth.

Some notable successes made possible by LERTA include ✓Auto Zone, ✓Dollar General, ✓The Apartments at Mt. Nebo, and ✓Tractor Supply.

*These four properties alone increased the township’s total property valuation by over \$9 million, and these four properties alone generate more than \$366,000 in additional annual tax revenue—with approximately \$289,000 going directly to the East Stroudsburg Area School District.*

Additionally, LERTA played a key role in securing a buyer for the township’s golf course and adjacent undeveloped land. This sale returned over 400 tax-exempt acres to the tax rolls, ensuring future contributions to the township’s tax base, Earned Income Tax (EIT), and Local Services Tax (LST). Privatizing the golf course and adjacent land also significantly decreases

### What’s Next? A Continued Path to Prosperity

With the program’s ten-year renewal, LERTA will continue to drive investment, strengthen community services, and ensure a prosperous future for Middle Smithfield Township. Most importantly, this initiative helps stave off tax increases for our residents by expanding the tax base instead of raising rates.

To learn more about LERTA and how it benefits our community, visit [Middle Smithfield Township Economic Development Committee](#) and click on “LERTA.”

Here’s to another ten years of growth, opportunity, and success!

# PLANNING COMMISSION

**Chairman:** Bob Early | **Vice Chair:** Parin Shah

**Members:** Mark Oney, Nick Theofilos, Carrie Wetherbee

**Engineer:** Benjamin Kutz, Gilmore & Associates

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

## PLANNING COMMISSION:

### POCONO PALACE CONDITIONAL USE

By Michele L. Clewell

#### What's Happening at the Old Pocono Palace?

The Pocono Palace Resort in Middle Smithfield Township, PA, known for its heart-shaped tubs and Champagne tower whirlpools, was sold to Raj Investments LLC and will be renamed, with plans to operate as a resort, expand its audience, and add a conference center.

Planning has begun, Raj Investments LLC applied for a Conditional Use Hearing, and in December of 2024, the hearing began and was concluded at the Board of Supervisors meeting on February 27th.

#### What is a Conditional Use Hearing?

Simply put, the purpose of a Conditional Use Hearing is to hear from the public as well as the applicant, and the Board of Supervisors may then place reasonable conditions upon the request. The Board of Supervisors evaluate whether proposed land use, which is not typically permitted in a zoning district, can be allowed, subject to specific conditions and criteria outlined in the zoning ordinance.

#### What is planned at the old Pocono Palace?

The purpose of the Raj Investments hearing was to consider testimony and evidence and receive public comment on the Conditional Use Application which requested conditional use approval for a Resort Complex/Commercial Resort. They propose to proceed with a master resort complex on the property, including but not limited to resort housing units, hotel and food service facilities, indoor and outdoor recreation and entertainment facilities, medical and spa facilities and places of worship, among other things.

Want to see the applications and proposed master plan? Visit the newest page on our website: <https://www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com/326/Plans-Projects>



*The sign at Pocono Palace being changed to read "Under New Management" marks the start of a new era for the resort.*

## MAKING SHORT-TERM RENTALS WORK FOR EVERYONE

By Mayra Colon

Although Short Term Rentals comprise less than 3.5% the residences in Middle Smithfield Township, short term rentals, if managed well, can bring several benefits to the community:

#### Economic Boost:

- Increased Tourism Revenue – STRs attract visitors who spend money at local businesses, including restaurants, shops, and attractions.
- Jobs – They support jobs in cleaning, property management, maintenance, and hospitality services.
- Supplemental Income – Homeowners can earn extra income, helping with mortgages, property taxes, and home improvements.

#### Revitalization of Neighborhoods:

- Investment in Properties – STR owners often renovate and maintain their properties, improving neighborhood aesthetics.
- Higher Property Values – Well-maintained STRs can contribute to increased property values in some areas.

#### Increased Tax Revenue for Public Services:

- The Hotel Tax paid by the STR provides funding for infrastructure and services.

However, this rapid growth brings challenges for local governments, including unregistered properties (Middle Smithfield can't regulate and/or enforce what it doesn't know about), and short term rental license compliance. In response, municipalities are shifting toward technology.

#### Deckard Technologies: Detecting Un-permitted Short Term Rentals!

The Middle Smithfield Zoning Office is happy to add this new tool in the Zoning toolbox for "2025", to make unpermitted Short Term Rentals easier to find and bring into compliance.

- Permit/license number will be including in the listing when advertising
- Actively Monitors permit status and STR listings and flags violations as they occur
- Individual links to all active listings for the property
- Detailed analysis and map showing where short-term rentals are located

The township has also made two modifications to control noise. On November 7, 2024 the township amended its Short Term Rental Ordinance to require STR owners with two verified noise infractions to install a noise monitor. The purpose of the monitor is to notify the STR owner when the renters are too loud. This allows the STR owner to correct the issue in real time.

# ZONING

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

**Municipal Community Development 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: Vacancy

Members: Jeff Senholzi, Gary Morris, Melonie Schmid.

## WHAT PROJECTS DO YOU HAVE ON THE HORIZON?

By Vicki Smith

As we begin a new season, the Zoning Office would like to take the time to remind residents of projects that may require permitting from our office. As a reminder, there are 2 types of permits which are as follows:

- **Zoning Permit** – This permit approves your project under the standards of the Middle Smithfield Township Zoning Ordinance. Most projects that require permitting will require a zoning permit for residential properties. A zoning permit is required on most projects.
- **Building Permit** – This permit approves projects under the International Residential Code and PA UCC for residential projects. Projects needing a building permit include alterations to structural parts of the home, creation of new living space, accessory buildings over 200 square feet in size, plumbing/electrical installation or repair, extensions of the home (including decks that are attached to the home).

To recap, there are permits that may be required when you go to perform a new project around your home. If you ever have any questions about whether a project would require a permit, please contact our office at (570 223-8920 ext. 105 or by email at [vsmith@mstowship.com](mailto:vsmith@mstowship.com).)

### The Permit Process at a Glance

1. Zoning & Building Permit applications and supporting documentation are presented to the Zoning Administrator. The Zoning Administrator reviews the applications and supporting documentation. You will be contacted if any additional information is required. If none, the documentation is handed off to the Zoning Officer.
2. The Zoning Officer reviews the Zoning application for completeness and issues a Zoning Permit if approved.
3. The approved Zoning application, Building application and supporting documentation is given to the Building Code Official, who initiates the building codes review portion of the permitting process. Once approved, the Zoning administrator contacts the applicant with the issued permits.
4. If an application is denied, an applicant has the right to appeal this decision to the Zoning Hearing Board pursuant to the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code.

Please allow 7 to 10 business days for review. If additional information is requested, the “clock” starts over.

## CITIZENS PORTAL IS NOW LIVE!

By Vicki Smith

Welcome Middle Smithfield Township's Citizen Portal.

The portal will allow residents to submit concerns, ask questions, and get real-time information for all your needs.

All requests will be sent to a Township staff member to be processed.

Requests will be handled during Township business hours (Mon-Fri 8 am to 4 pm).

Visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/mr3zf98y>

or scan the QR Code



## SUMMER PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

By Vicki Smith

With Summer fast approaching the Township would like to remind you to maintain your property in a neat and orderly fashion.

The Township follows Chapter 134, Maintenance of Properties adopted 7/1/2023, recognizing the need within Middle Smithfield Township to establish certain minimum health and safety requirements for those buildings, structures, or properties which are used or associated with human occupancy, this chapter establishes standards and procedures which the Board of Supervisors of Middle Smithfield Township considers to be necessary, fair and effective in meeting those minimum requirements.

You can find the General Code by visiting here: <https://www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com/182/General-Code>.

## GET IN THE ZONE!

By Vicki Smith

Our Zoning Hearing Board has a vacant seat!



If you think this position is right for you, please fill out the volunteer application and send that, along with your resume to [info@mstowship.com](mailto:info@mstowship.com).

Find the Volunteer application in the news section of our website: [www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com](http://www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com)

# COMMUNITY & CULTURAL CENTER

5200 Milford Rd., East Stroudsburg, PA 18302

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

## CHAIR YOGA CONTINUES AT THE COMMUNITY & CULTURAL CENTER!

By Holly Dennis

Join us for chair yoga with Luz!

Chair yoga is a great form of exercise for older adults and people with certain health conditions, such as arthritis, to exercise without putting pressure on joints. It may also reduce the fear of falling, and help people who are not used to exercise to begin improving their strength and balance.

This class is for adults, but ages 14+ welcome. Bring water, a towel, and your spirit! Optional: yoga mat for extra comfort. All classes begin at 11:00 am in the Community Room.



Chair Yoga participants at the Community and Cultural Center.

### Upcoming Classes:

- **Thursdays @ 2 pm- 4/3, 4/17, 5/8, 5/22, 6/5, 6/16, 7/10, 7/24**
- **Saturdays @ 11 am- 4/12, 5/24, 6/7, 6/21, 7/19**

## SEEKING PASSIONATE LEADERS FOR A VIBRANT COMMUNITY FUTURE

By Annette Atkinson

Middle Smithfield Township wants to “spring forward” with the Middle Smithfield Township Community & Cultural Center Foundation—a nonprofit dedicated to enhancing the township’s Community & Cultural Center through dynamic programming and capital improvements.

But we need you to help us secure more programming, secure grants, and advance capital improvements.

### A Call for Directors

The Township is assembling a Board of Directors consisting of 7 to 15 members. Ideal candidates include representatives from a broad spectrum of local community organizations, representing areas such as local history, national parks, education and youth, the arts, the library, aging, business and tourism.

If you are committed to community service and wish to help shape the future of local cultural and community initiatives, please submit your letter of interest to Middle Smithfield Township, c/o Michele Clewell at [mclewell@msttownship.com](mailto:mclewell@msttownship.com).

## REGISTER FOR THE NEXT RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE



American  
Red Cross

Blood  
Services

Please join us for a blood drive at Middle Smithfield Township Community and Cultural Center on Friday, April 11th from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

To schedule an appointment, or find other dates and locations, visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](http://RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass) to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.

### About Donation Types:

**Power Red:** A Power Red donation collects the red cells but returns most of the plasma and platelets to the donor. These donors must meet specific eligibility requirements and have type A Neg, B Neg, or O blood.

**Blood:** The most common type of donation, during which approximately a pint of 'whole blood' is given. This type of blood donation usually takes about an hour.



### About the Community & Cultural Center

Designed by the community, for the community, the Center stands as a testament to local pride and dedication. Its mission is simple yet profound: to provide “a space for good people to do good work, for the common good.” The facility will serve multiple purposes:

- **Gathering Place:** A welcoming venue for community events and meetings, including use as a polling place to vote in local and national elections.
- **Cultural Hub:** An exhibit space showcasing local artists and organizations.
- **Educational Resource:** Home to the Library of the Smithfields.
- **Emergency Shelter:** Certified by the Red Cross for use during emergencies.
- **Local History:** The Great Hall hosts rotating exhibits celebrating local milestones and historical events.



## INTERACTIVE KIOSK AT THE CCCL!

By Holly Dennis

The interactive kiosk at the Community & Cultural Center, purchased with a grant from the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau has been up and running since 2024!

In addition to featuring our business directory and seasonal newsletter, it includes a rotation of exhibits, sometimes coinciding with historical displays in the lobby.



### Upcoming Kiosk Displays:

- **April & May** - Spring Break! Revisiting the resorts of Middle Smithfield Township.
- **June & July** - Marshalls Creek Explosion of 1964
- **August & September** - Flood of 1955
- **October & November** - Marshalls Creek Mastodon

We hope you will stop by to check out the interactive kiosk along with the historical exhibits!

### Preserving Our Heritage – Accessible to All

A unique element of the Center's design will be to incorporate salvaged features from the iconic Mosier's Dairy Farm, as part of an educational display. Operating for over 40 years and built on a much older foundation, Mosier's Dairy Farm has long been an icon of local history.

At the same time, accessibility features such as sidewalks with ADA compliant features, and automated door openers are envisioned, to ensure the space is accessible to all.

Several grants have been applied for, and we are eagerly awaiting results in the fall of 2025.

Join us as we embark on this exciting journey to enrich our community and safeguard our local heritage. Your expertise and passion can help ensure that Middle Smithfield Township continues to thrive as a center of culture, history, and community spirit.

For more info please visit: [www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com/304/Community-Cultural-Center-Foundation](http://www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com/304/Community-Cultural-Center-Foundation)

## E-TEAM TO THE RESCUE

By Dr. Maggie Vitale, ESASD Superintendent

A decade ago, the East Stroudsburg Area School District launched its Community Tech Outreach Program. Each month, on the first Monday, 26 students from the E-Team—representing both district high schools—host community members



at South High School. This dedicated group assists adults with a wide range of technology challenges, offering free support to anyone in the school community. From troubleshooting glitches to mastering devices, the E-Team tackles nearly any tech issue with skill and patience.

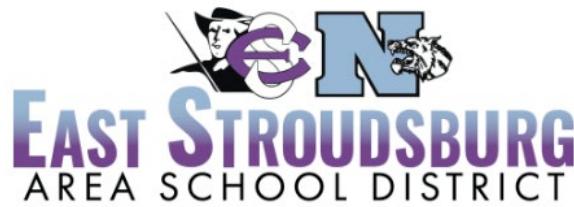
Beyond technical aid, these students forge meaningful connections with attendees, strengthening community ties. Curious to learn more? Tune in to Vitale's Voices podcast, airing the first Monday of April. Hear from Mr. Martin, Mrs. Allison, and the students themselves as they share insights about this remarkable program. It's a shining example of youth empowering their community through technology—and it's completely free!

### For Vitale's Voices:

<https://www.esasd.net/board/superintendent/vitales-voices>

### For the E-Team:

<https://www.esasd.net/community/community-technology-outreach>



*It was a long time coming, but worth the wait! We love our new signs at the Community & Cultural Center!*



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

# PARKS & RECREATION

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

Members: Marilyn Brown, Debbie Kulick, Carolyn Metaxes

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](http://facebook.com/DelWaterGapNPS)  
[nps.gov/dewa/index.htm](http://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](http://delawareriver.natgeotourism.com/content/hidden-lake-bushkill-pa/del163a03909b0065c79)

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

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



The Pavilion at Echo Lake Park,

## RENT A PAVILION AT MST PARKS

By Chris Rain

Need a outdoor venue to host an event this fall? Middle Smithfield Township has two great pavilions at Echo Lake Park and Resica Park that are available to rent for your event.

Each pavilion comes with picnic tables, grills, and is adjacent to a playground to keep the kids entertained. Both pavilions can

seat around 40 people. Electricity is available at Echo Lake Park only. Pavilion rentals require a rental form and cost \$50 plus a \$50 refundable deposit due at the time of booking. The deposit is refunded after your event and successful site inspection by Township staff.

To rent a pavilion, call 570-223-8920 x119 or email [crain@mstownship.com](mailto:crain@mstownship.com).

# LITTER & BEAUTIFICATION

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

## ONE FOR NATURE GRANT

By Christopher Rain

Middle Smithfield Township Parks & Recreation is excited to receive a \$5,000 grant from One for Nature to purchase new Bearsaver waste receptacles for four of our five parks: W. Leroy Lewis Dog Park, Judy Putek Park, Resica Park, and Community Gardens Park.



These receptacles will replace the aging receptacles already at the parks, improving the appearance of the parks as well as improving the security of park waste from animals. Echo Lake previously purchased Bearsavers for Echo Lake Park with a grant in 2022 and they greatly improved the amount of litter in that park.

Our thanks to One For Nature for their support!

## THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 PARKS SPONSORS!

**PLATINUM**  
SHEELEY INSURANCE

**GOLD**  
LEHIGH VALLEY HOSPITAL- POCONO  
POCONO KIDZ ZONE

**SILVER**  
ESSA BANK & TRUSE  
PROSSER OPERATIONS  
SUPER HEAT, INC.

**BRONZE**  
BUSHKILL EMERGENZY CORPS  
HUFFMANS ELECTRIC

Now accepting sponsorships for 2025! The Parks Department is seeking sponsorships from businesses and individuals who want to help make our annual events possible.

For more information about sponsorship options, please contact Chris Rain at 570-223-8920 x119 or [crain@mstownship.com](mailto:crain@mstownship.com).

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ANNUAL SPRING LITTER PICK UP!

By Christopher Rain

Who's ready to clean some roads?



On Saturday April 26, 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 26. 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 26th, 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 26 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@mstownship.com](mailto:crain@mstownship.com).

# VOTE!

## IMPORTANT VOTING INFORMATION

**Primary Election Day is Tuesday, May 20, 2025!**

You can find your polling place here: [bit.ly/Polling-Place-Info](http://bit.ly/Polling-Place-Info)

**The last day to register for the Primary Election is May 5, 2025. You can register here:**  
[bit.ly/PA-Voter-Registration-Application](http://bit.ly/PA-Voter-Registration-Application)

**The Deadline to apply for a mail-in ballot is May 13, 2025.** Apply on your county election board website here: [bit.ly/Contact-Your-Election-Officials](http://bit.ly/Contact-Your-Election-Officials) or you can apply online at [pavoterservices.pa.gov](http://pavoterservices.pa.gov).

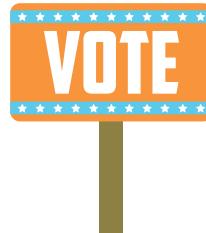
### Voter drop box locations

- Instead of mailing in your ballot, you may drop off your completed ballot any day, up to 8 pm\* on Election Day (May 5th) at the following locations:
  - Middle Smithfield Community & Cultural Center/Library of the Smithfields (5200 Milford Rd. East Stroudsburg, PA 18302) **\*Closes at 5 pm.**
  - Eastern Monroe Public Library (1002 PA-611, Stroudsburg, PA 18360)
  - Monroe County Administration Building (1 Quaker Plaza, Stroudsburg, PA 18360)

### Absentee and Mail-in Ballots on Election Day

- 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.
- If you applied for an absentee or mail-in ballot but have opted to go to your polling location to vote, there are two options:
  - Option # 1 - Take your ballot and declaration envelope to your polling location. Inform the poll worker you wish to vote in-person and are surrendering your ballot and materials.
  - Option #2 - If you did not receive your ballot or cannot locate it, you can still vote at your polling location. You will need to cast a provisional ballot. Once voted, you will return your ballot to the poll worker who will secure it in an envelope and note the reason why you requested a provisional ballot.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT  
POLITICAL SIGNS CAN BE FOUND  
ON PAGE 4!



## VOTING DISTRICTS & POLLING PLACES:

Since 2024, Middle Smithfield Township is divided into four voting districts:

*Middle Smithfield 1 & 2 were formerly Middle Smithfield West.*

*Middle Smithfield 3 & 4 were formerly Middle Smithfield East.*

### Middle Smithfield 1 Polling Place:

The polling place for residents in Middle Smithfield Election District 1 is the Church of St. Johns.  
Church of St. John  
5171 Milford Road

### Middle Smithfield 2 Polling Place:

The polling place for residents in Middle Smithfield Election District 2 is the Middle Smithfield Township Municipal Building.  
Schoonover Municipal Center  
147 Municipal Drive

### Middle Smithfield 3 Polling Place:

The polling place for residents in Middle Smithfield Election District 3 is Middle Smithfield Presbyterian Church.  
Middle Smithfield Presbyterian Church  
5205 Milford Road

### Middle Smithfield 4 Polling Place:

The polling place for residents in Middle Smithfield Election District 4 is the Middle Smithfield Township Community & Cultural Center.  
Community & Cultural Center  
5200 Milford Road

**District maps, important election dates, links, and other information can be found at [www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com/212/voting](http://www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com/212/voting)**

## ELECTION DATES TO REMEMBER:

- October 21:** - Deadline to Register to Vote in the General Election.
- October 29:** -Last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot for the General Election
- November 5:** - Last day for County Boards of Elections to receive voted mail-in and civilian absentee ballots (must be received by 8:00 P.M.)
- November 5, 2024 - GENERAL ELECTION**
- November 12, 2024 -** Last day for County Boards of Elections to receive voted military and overseas absentee ballots (submitted for delivery no later than 11:59 P.M. on November 4).

# HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Chair: Carrie Wetherbee | Vice Chair: Robert Huffman

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

Liaison: Holly Dennis

## AMERICA 250 CELEBRATION!

By Holly Dennis

America's 250th Anniversary is about more than reflecting on our past, it's about honoring the contributions of individuals who built this country, the innovations that put this country on the map and a man on the moon, and imagining what the next 250 years might look like for our children and the generations to come. Monroe County will be honoring our history and heritage with events throughout 2026.

As of January, every municipality in Monroe County have passed resolutions supporting the America250PA initiative. Project planning has begun! (also – you can look for this to be the theme of the 2025 Memory Makers!)

PA Mission Statement: To plan, encourage, develop and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the United States and Pennsylvania's integral role in that event and the role of its people in the past present and future.

Monroe County Language from Resolution: 'a diverse group of volunteer citizens to work with America250PA on any and all educational and celebratory activities within Monroe County through July 4, 2026.,

Learn more here: [www.america250pa.org/HOME](http://www.america250pa.org/HOME)



## AMERICA250 COMES TO MST!

The Middle Smithfield Township Historical Commission is excited to announce that the topic of the 2025 Memory Makers Luncheon will be **Celebrating America250!**

Memory Makers is our annual senior and long-time resident luncheon hosted by the Historical Commission. Residents who have lived in the township for thirty years or more, or who are at least sixty-five years old and have lived in Middle Smithfield Township for twenty years or more, are invited.

The event will take place on Saturday, August 9th at noon at the Middle Smithfield Township Community and Cultural Center.

***More information coming soon!!***

## NEPA ARCHEOLOGY

By Holly Dennis

There's a new group catching on, newly formed in April of 2024, with their first meeting in July, that's quickly growing and grabbing attention!



Local historical and Middle Smithfield Township resident Danny Younger has started "NEPA Archeology, as a chapter-in-formation of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology. The group seeks to bring together avocational and professional archaeologists interested in the archaeology of Northeastern Pennsylvania and adjacent portions of New Jersey. The group meets the second Thursday of the month at the Middle Smithfield Township Community & Cultural Center from 6:30p-8pm. You can find them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/447353964457087>.

## HONORING CONSTABLE HOWARD KINDRED

### FOR 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

On February 10, 2025, Howard Kindred was recognized for his more than 25 years of dedicated service as a Pennsylvania State Deputy Constable, protecting and serving the residents of Middle Smithfield Township. In honor of his steadfast commitment, he was presented with citations from both the Pennsylvania Senate and Middle Smithfield Township.



Left to right: Standing: Constables Patric LaPeter & Rick Porvaznick. Kneeling: Senator Rosemary Brown, Retired Constable Howard Kindred, Supervisor Annette Atkinson

Throughout his tenure, Constable Kindred has exemplified integrity, leadership, and an unwavering dedication to public safety. His service has not only upheld the mission of justice but has also strengthened the well-being of the community. His tireless efforts in safeguarding Middle Smithfield Township are a testament to his deep sense of duty and commitment to others.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude for his outstanding contributions and honor his legacy of service. The citizens of Pennsylvania, especially those of Middle Smithfield Township, are fortunate to have benefited from his dedication.

Thank you, Constable Kindred, for your years of selfless service.

# PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Director: Mike Dwyer

Public Works Department Administrator: Rachel Heller

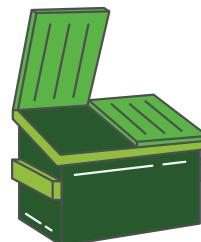
[rheller@msttownship.com](mailto:rheller@msttownship.com) | 570-223-8920 x142



## SPRING CLEAN UP “DUMPSTER DAY”

By Rachel Heller

Spring Clean Up is right around the corner. However, things will be different this year.



After utilizing our new clean up ramp in the Fall of 2024, clean up was quicker and more efficient than ever before.

The Clean Up schedule for 2025 is below. With this expansion it is our hope that this will help to alleviate the roadside dumping and nuisance of having to get rid of bulk items. The ramp will not be staffed to assist with removal of your items, please make sure you are bringing adequate help with you to unload your items.

**Spring Clean Up:** April 11 & April 12 7am-2pm at both locations

**Fall Clean Up:** October 24 & October 25 7am-2pm at both locations

**Every Friday:** April 25- October 24. 7am-2pm at 147 Municipal Drive ONLY. Not open July 4th.

**Fees:** (Cash/Check only. Price is per load)

- Car/SUV: \$10
- Pickup: \$20
- Small Utility Trailer (8ft or smaller): \$20
- Large Utility Trailer (Over 8ft 1 axel): \$40
- XL Utility Trailer (Tandem Axel): \$60
- Dump Truck (Single Axel): \$150
- U-Haul Van or Utility Van (6-9 ft) : \$50
- U-Haul 10-14 Ft: \$100
- Car Tires: \$5 each

*\*U-Hauls over 14' are not permitted*

## 2025 PAVING PROJECTS

LOCATION	FROM	TO	RESURFACE
COOLBAUGH ROAD	TEGO LAKE ROAD	COMMUNITY GARDENS	PAVE
WINONA FALLS ROAD	ROUTE 209	TOWNSHIP LINE	PAVE/OTHER REPAIRS
BRUSH MTN ROAD	CREEK ROAD	BARREN ROAD	PAVE
KNOB HILL CIRCLE	BRUSHY MTN ROAD	END	PAVE
PAPER LANE	KNOB HILL CIRCLE	END	PAVE
EASTRIDGE LN	WAVERLY DRIVE	END	CHIP SEAL
WESTRIDGE CT	WAVERLY DRIVE	END	CHIP SEAL
AUBURN WAY	WAVERLY DRIVE	END	CHIP SEAL
CLEARSPRING CT	WAVERLY DRIVE	END	CHIP SEAL
KNOLL DRIVE	WAVERLY DRIVE	DRY POND DRIVE	CHIP SEAL
STONEWALL CT	WAVERLY DRIVE	END	CHIP SEAL
TIMBERCREST LN	KNOLL DRIVE	END	CHIP SEAL
THORNBERRY CT	KNOLL DRIVE	END	CHIP SEAL

## 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)





# OAK GROVE

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

**Chairperson:** Aaron Springs

**Vice Chair:** Chris Clause | **Secretary/Treasurer:** Mike Dwyerr

**Members:** Annette Atkinson, Julia Heilakka, Danny Medrano

## 2025 OAK GROVE UPDATE

By Rachel Heller

The Oak Grove Multi- Municipal Compost Facility has been extremely busy for the past several years. Since the facilities opening in 2013, the amount of product being brought in and taken out has steadily increased each year. Since 2020 it has skyrocketed!

The total yards of leaves, woodchips, and brush increased from 13,440 yards in 2020 to 21,003 yards in 2024.

In the spring of 2024 the Oak Grove Board applied for a 902 Recycling Grant from the Department of Environmental Protection in the amount of \$250,000. In November of 2024 we were notified that we did secure the grant for the maximum amount being given of \$200,000.

This grant will allow us to pay off the remaining balance of the Vermeer Grinder that was purchased with a grant in 2020. A 2025 John Deere 624 Wheel Loader will also be purchased with this grant.

The facility will be eligible to apply for another 209 grant in 2026, which will go towards paying off the remaining balance of the wheel loader.

The purchase of a new grinder has helped keep up with the growing demand and help process brush faster for mulch, and process leaves faster for compost.

The Wheel loader will replace the CAT 930 Wheel Loader, which has been on loan to the facility from Middle Smithfield Township.

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

Residents can have mulch loaded for a fee of \$10, by appointment by calling Rachel at 570-223-8920 x 142. If an operator is on site, they can load you for that same fee without appointment

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.



## 2ND QUARTER SEWER BILLING DATES:

QUARTER	BILLING DATE	DEADLINE TO PAY	\$25 LATE FEE APPLIED
FIRST QUARTER	JAN 1 <sup>ST</sup>	FEB 1 <sup>ST</sup>	MAR 2 <sup>ND</sup>
SECOND QUARTER	APR 1 <sup>ST</sup>	MAY 1 <sup>ST</sup>	JUN 2 <sup>ND</sup>
THIRD QUARTER	JUL 1 <sup>ST</sup>	AUG 1 <sup>ST</sup>	SEP 2 <sup>ND</sup>
FOURTH QUARTER	OCT 1 <sup>ST</sup>	NOV 1 <sup>ST</sup>	DEC 2 <sup>ND</sup>

## SEWER

**Manager:** Joan Woisin

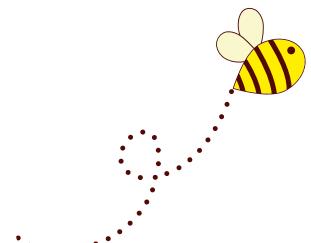
[jwoisin@mstowship.com](mailto:jwoisin@mstowship.com)

570-223-8920 x115

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS: GRANTED

In 2023, we applied for an LSA grant to extend our sewer line from Gravel Ridge Road to Route 402, and we were awarded \$111,137 for this project. This will bring our sewer from Gravel Ridge Road to Route 402, and our second commercial zone along Route 402.

We also applied for a second another LSA grant in 2024 to help mitigate the cost of further extending the sewer line down Route 402 to the former Deerfield Inn. This will be helpful to our businesses along Route 402, as well as foster new development.



# PERSON OF THE YEAR

MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP

## Betty Ann Ricci

*loving • dedicated • leadership*



Betty Ann is an extremely compassionate person whose untiring commitment to helping others has made a lasting impact on many breast cancer patients as well as so many others along the way.

Betty Ann Ricci was raised in Newark, New Jersey in a Catholic Italian Family. Her values of faith, family and helping others were instilled at a young age. These traits have carried on with her to this day.

Betty Ann went through several medical challenges through her life, but always knew her faith would get her through. Being diagnosed with cancer twice was very hard on her and her family, especially her last diagnoses, Ovarian Cancer stage 4. After surgery and losing the chance to be a mother and wife, she knew Jesus had a plan for her: She knew she had to GIVE BACK.

Her sister, working for the Archdiocese of Newark, was preparing a large fundraiser for the CYO Youth Ministry group. Betty Ann decided to join in, and that is when all the pieces to the puzzle connected. She realized she could do this too!

After relocating to Pennsylvania 21 years ago, Betty Ann dedicated herself to community service, becoming an active member of various organizations. She is a proud member of the Bushkill/Smithfield Lions Club, serves on multiple committees at Saw Creek Estates, and volunteers extensively at St. John's Church. Betty Ann is a Eucharistic Minister, Mental Health Facilitator, Columbiette, Usher/Hospitality, a Senior Club member, St. John's Small Group, and liaison to Church Women United (women's group with different religious backgrounds) for St. John's Church.

For the past nine years, Betty Ann has poured her heart and soul into making the 1000 Pink Lights Walk for Breast Cancer be known to those in her communities (Monroe & Pike). Betty Ann believes that God has a plan for her to care for others, and she thanks Him every day for the guidance, love, and support of her family and friends. Through her resourcefulness, hard work and dedication she continues to be a beacon of compassion, kindness, and faith to all.



## 1000 Pink Lights Walk

**Phone:** 973-429-9007

**Paypal:** @PinkLightsWalk



The 1000 Pink Lights Walk raises money for breast cancer patients and helps provide transportation to and from treatment, rent, utilities, food, and childcare.

Several fundraisers are held through the year, but the main event is the annual walk held every October at Lehman Township Community Park. Stay tuned for more information!

Stay up to date with 1000 Pink Lights Walk on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/1000pinklightswalk](https://www.facebook.com/1000pinklightswalk).

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### HOP INTO SPRING PAINT AND SIP FUNDRAISER

Saturday, April 5, 2025 at 1 pm

Middle Smithfield Township Community & Cultural Center  
5200 Milford Rd., East Stroudsburg, PA 18302

Hop into Spring with Mr. & Mrs. Rabbit (Peter & Hoppy) & Trixie the Sidekick Chick. \$35 pp and includes Instructions & Supplies. Coffee, Tea, Cheese & Crackers & Goodies. BYOB. Payment Link: <https://square.link/u/6tPV2zxd>

### 1000 PINK LIGHTS WALK TEA

Saturday, April 26 at 1 pm

Middle Smithfield Township Community & Cultural Center  
5200 Milford Rd., East Stroudsburg, PA 18302

*More information coming soon!*

### TRICKY TRAY FUNDRAISER

Thursday, September 4

The Big A

1 Fox Run Lane, East Stroudsburg, PA 18302

### 1000 PINK LIGHTS WALK

Thursday, September 4

Lehman Township Community Park  
168 Lehman Pk Rd, Bushkill, PA 18302

**For more information contact Betty Ann Ricci at 973-429-9007 or [librasangel@aol.com](mailto:librasangel@aol.com).**



**Luz Gonzalez**

*selfless • caring • inspirational*

## Chair Yoga with Luz

Luz volunteers her time and expertise leading free Chair Yoga and Chair Cardio classes for the community.

Luz presently teaches at: **Hughes Eastern Monroe Library, Middle Smithfield Community and Cultural Center, Shirley Futch Senior Community, Spring Village at Pocono (Personal Care & Memory Care Center), TOALC.**

Luz is hoping to bring classes to Veterans, especially those that have limited mobility and are in wheelchairs. She is also looking forward to collaborating with the Monroe County District Attorney's newly-formed Wellness Committee.

### Upcoming Chair Yoga Classes:

*Middle Smithfield Township Community & Cultural Center*

- Thursdays @ 2 pm- 4/3, 4/17, 5/8, 5/22, 6/5, 6/16, 7/10, 7/24
- Saturdays @ 11 am- 4/12, 5/24, 6/7, 6/21, 7/19

Join the group on Facebook at:  
[www.facebook.com/groups/1631871620612873/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1631871620612873/)



Luz retired in 2019 and had started to travel when the pandemic hit. She needed to do something with her energy and decided to certify in yoga and movement when she noticed how her community was having mobility problems, loneliness problems, etc. She remembered how meditation and yoga had helped when she was undergoing chemo.

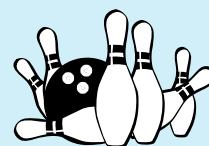
But nothing works if you cannot afford to attend. So, she decided to teach for free so that there is nothing stopping access to wellness.

Luz is notably a 14.5 year ovarian cancer survivor, and it's actually ovarian cancer that she credits with getting her on the path of health.



## Maria Oquendo

*driven • heartfelt • inclusive*



## The Incredibowlers

"The Incredibowlers" is based at Sky Lanes Bowling Center on Mondays.

Adult persons with disabilities are able to participate in a safe space and build a community.

Maria's main purpose is to make adults with disabilities feel included in the community. Just before her son with a learning disability graduated high school, she looked to see what programs he could get involved with so he had a place where he could fit in and be active. After finding little available for adults with disabilities she took it upon herself, with the help of another parent, to start a bowling group. The group grew and soon turned into The Incredibowlers, an organization that promotes community, inclusion, strength, and perseverance for disabled adults.

## Pocono Autism Society

(570) 688-5779

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

**Meetings:** 9:30 a.m. 4th Wed. of the month  
(September- May)  
Hughes Library  
1002 North Ninth St  
Stroudsburg, PA 18360



## WHO IS JUDGING?

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



**Honorable Jamie Levy**  
Magisterial District Judge  
43-4-01

For more than 35 years, Jamie Levy has been a proud resident of Monroe County, where he has raised his family and devoted himself to serving our community with unwavering integrity, compassion, and a deep commitment to justice and service. He grew up in Middle Smithfield Township as a resident of Lake of the Pines. He is a graduate of East Stroudsburg Senior High School, Class of 1993

Judge Levy's experience as a Magisterial District Judge has been marked by his tireless efforts to uphold fairness and protect the rights of all individuals. As District Judge he has started, and implemented, the only internship program for District Judges in our county - placing a premium on educating and training our future litigators.

Judge Levy holds a Degree in the Administration of Justice from Penn State and a Juris Doctor from New York Law School.

Fr. Gregory A. Reichlen has been Pastor of the Church of St. John in Middle Smithfield Township for nine years. He is a priest of the Diocese of Scranton.

He is originally from Montrose, PA and studied Biology and Music at the University of Rochester before entering seminary. After ordination he served in churches in Archbald, PA and Honesdale, PA before coming to Monroe County in 2015. Father Reichlen has a licentiate in Sacred Scripture from the Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome, Italy.

Wayne Rohner is a realtor with Keller Williams Real Estate-Tannersville, licensed since September 2018. He is also a current School Board Director for East Stroudsburg Area School District since December 2015.

Wayne has participated in and coached over the years in East Stroudsburg Little League/East Stroudsburg North Little League and ESYA programs.

His family remains committed to making their community a better place to live in and they continue to enjoy the natural beauty that the community offers.



**Father Greg Reichlen**  
Church of St. John



**Wayne Rohner**  
ESASD School Board

Judge Levy has over 20 years of experience as a seasoned trial lawyer and civil litigator, with a proven track record of advocating for victims.

Beyond his legal career, Judge Levy's commitment to public service is extensive. He is the former President of the Delaware Water Gap Borough Council, volunteers as an active interior firefighter with Delaware Water Gap Fire Department and EMT with Bushkill Emergency Corps. He is a retired member of Teamsters Local 812, a Rotarian serving on the Board of Directors of the Rotary Club of the Greater Poconos, and he is one of the founding members of the Stroudsburg Mountaineer Foundation, a local organization dedicated to supporting our schools.

He enjoys travelling, hiking, working out, reading, watching movies, playing the trombone, and having wild philosophical conversations. He is a big dreamer with a passion for renewal and revival in the Catholic Church and for bringing everyone into a relationship with Jesus.



*Person of the Year Judge Jamie Levy announcing Betty Ann Ricci as the 2024 Person of the Year.*



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



**Andrea Palmieri**  
Owner-  
Pocono Kidz Zone



From Left to Right: Person of the Year Finalist Luz Gonzalez, Person of the Year Finalist Betty Ann Ricci, Finalist Maria Oquendo

Mrs. Dr. Marilyn M. Brown was a 2023 Middle Smithfield Township Person of the Year Finalist.

She has been married to Elder David S. Brown (2022 MST Person of the Year Finalist) for the past fourteen years. She is the CEO of Mrs. Dr. Brown, LLC and a chartering member of ESU NCNW. She and her husband moved to the Poconos in 2013 by way of Staten Island, N.Y.

She serves as a Stephen Minister at FBCES. In 2021 she was elected as 1st Vice President of GPS NCNW while elected as VP of the East Pocono Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. She serves on various local and regional boards such as the Brodheadsville Watershed Association, and Middle Smithfield Township Parks and Recreation Committee. She served as the Co-Chair to the ER 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 employed with the NYC DOE for the last twenty years.

For the past four years she has chaired the GPS NCNW Monroe County Read Across America. In 2023 she was nominated as MST Person of the Year.

Mrs. Dr. Brown earned her Doctorate in Special Education from North Central University. Currently she serves as Co-Chair of the Eastern Region Hostess Subcommittee of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. She still serves as the 1st Vice President for the Greater Pocono Section of NCNW. She is the lead mentor for the Countee Cullen Chapter of My Sisters' Keeper.

She asks if you remember anything about her is that she would not be where she is today without God and an education

## THANK YOU TO OUR ALTERNATE JUDGES!



**Rebecca Bear, MBA**  
ESASD School Board



**Russ Fisher**  
2023 Person of the Year  
VALOR Clinic

# EMERGENCY SERVICES

## MARSHALLS CREEK FIRE COMPANY

*Nick Dennis, Asst. Chief, Marshalls Creek Fire Company*

A Lifesaving addition was welcomed to Station 29!



Recently the Marshalls Creek Fire company was proud to take ownership of a new LUCAS 3 Mechanical CPR Device.

**What does this machine do?** The LUCAS replaces manual CPR that has been used for decades with mechanical CPR in an attempt to resuscitate victims of sudden cardiac arrest. It allows our providers to free up their hands to perform other lifesaving measures on scene.



On average, this machine costs roughly \$30,000. With the help of our supportive municipalities and community, we are able to make this purchase with funding from the newly enacted EMS Tax as well as through our EMS billing from 911 responses. This device will be accessible to our BLS & QRS staffing 24/7, 365 days a year.

"The never ending goal is to provide & continue to provide high quality prehospital care to the residents & visitors of our immediate & surrounding community alongside our mutual aid partners. We couldn't thank our volunteers enough for the time they take out of their lives to help make someone else's worst day better." Said Landon Allen, EMS Captain.

The Marshalls Creek Fire company, with the help of an LSA grant sponsored by Smithfield Township was able to install a Plymovent Vehicle exhaust extraction system in both of their firehouses. The system connects to the exhaust pipe of the fire apparatus and removes harmful and cancer causing fumes from the apparatus bay. This technology makes the air that firefighters breathe in the firehouse safer by removing the harmful fumes expelled by the diesel engines of the fire apparatus. This system automatically turns on when the ignition is switched on and automatically disconnects from the apparatus as they pull out of the bay. The Marshalls Creek Fire company is thankful for this amazing technology and it will help to keep their members safer in this already dangerous profession by minimizing their exposure to additional harmful carcinogens.



On March 6, 2025, Marshalls Creek Fire Co. celebrated their 80th anniversary.

We want to thank the residents of Middle Smithfield Township for 80 years of continued support.

## SHAWNEE FIRE COMPANY

*By Dave Timko, Assistant Chief Shawnee Fire Company*

On February 15, 2025, the Shawnee Volunteer Fire Company celebrated its 80th anniversary (February 14, 1945 – 2025) at the Beautiful Shawnee Inn & Golf Resort in the Worthington Ballroom.



Fire Chief Jason Witcraft presented a slide show that included pictures of the first truck purchased, founding members, and many others throughout its 80-year history.

The following businesses were recognized by the Fire Company for their many and continued years of support:

- The Shawnee Mountain Ski Area
- The Minisink Hotel
- The Shawnee Inn & Golf Resort

Service awards presented that night:

- Wallace Jamison (5 years)
- William Howenstein (life member. 35 years of active service)
- Dave Timko (President/Asst. Chief. 35 years of active service)
- Gene McMurray (3rd most calls, non officer)
- Giovani Ross (2nd most calls, non officer)
- Nickolas Vyprynyuk ("Firefighter of the Year" most calls, non officer)

**2024 year in review-** the Shawnee Volunteer Fire Company responded to a total of 253 calls for service.

62 – drills, special assignments, training, work details

55 – Structure, building, Chimney fires or RIT calls

45 – alarm/detector activations

25 – motor vehicle accidents

18 - power lines down

10 – brush or wildland fires

7 – vehicle fires

31 – non-fire, good intent calls, medevac landings, odor investigations

### 2025 Line Officers

- Jason Witcraft – Fire Chief 36-7
- Dave Timko – Assistant Chief 36-8
- Wallace Jamison – Captain 36-9
- Beau Norris – Lieutenant 36-9-1
- David Witcraft – 1st Lieutenant 36-9-2
- Giovanni Ross – Fire Police Captain 36-9-7





## BUSHKILL FIRE COMPANY

By Kyle Rohner, Chief Bushkill Volunteer Fire Company

The Bushkill Fire Company Auxiliary is excited to announce some fun upcoming events that you can attend in support of Bushkill Fire Company!



- **May 10th:** Mini Sportsman Raffle - Bushkill Fire House
- **May 24th:** Community Craft Sale - Middle Smithfield Elementary
- **June 14th:** Craft Sale and Community Yard Sale - Middle Smithfield Elementary

More information can be found by visiting Bushkill Fire Co Auxiliary on Facebook!

Bushkill Volunteer Fire Company is always looking for new members. **Interested in joining?** Stop by the main fire house located at 123 Evergreen Dr., Bushkill, PA 18324 any Monday night after 6 pm to visit the station and talk to our members!

## UPCOMING EVENTS



MAY  
10

Mini Sportsman  
Raffle

124 Evergreen Dr, Bushkill PA

MAY  
24

Community Craft  
Sale

Middle Smithfield Elementary

JUNE  
14

Craft Sale  
& Community Yard  
Sale

Middle Smithfield Elementary

Thank you for your continued  
support!

More information can be found by  
visiting **Bushkill Fire Co Auxiliary**  
on Facebook!

## BUSHKILL EMERGENCY CORPS

By Debbie Kulick, President Bushkill Emergency Corps

Bushkill Emergency Corps is pleased to announce the addition of two new



ambulances to our fleet. These ambulances replace two outdated vehicles, one from 1992 and the other from 2009. Both vehicles are possible largely due to the support of the residents of Middle Smithfield Township through the newly (2025) enacted Emergency Medical Services tax put in place by the Board of Supervisors. The organization appreciates the support from the Supervisors and the residents of the township.

This funding has allowed Bushkill Emergency Corps to purchase both vehicles, one as a Basic Life Support unit and the other as an Advanced Life Support (Paramedic) unit. Once both in service, residents and visitors will see these units responding to 9-1-1 calls to provide patients with updated equipment and transportation to the local hospitals.

Bushkill Emergency Corps celebrates its 60th anniversary this year and still operates as grassroots, community-based ambulance service. With the advent of the EMS funding, township residents are afforded, from Bushkill Emergency Corps, the same coverage as the previous subscription program provided. Should a patient be responsible for payment after insurance has been applied or rejected for some reason, \$500 will be deducted from the balance due for the service.

As part of the organization's service to the community, a free CPR and AED program will be scheduled during the summer months and is open to all residents. Details will be announced in the Fall Middle Smithfield Township newsletter.



## 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

### Lehman Pike EMS

(570) 588-9365

193 Municipal Drive  
Bushkill, PA 18324

### Suburban EMS

(610) 923-7500

Station 18—North Division  
320 N. First Street Suite 3  
Stroudsburg PA 18360  
Facebook: @SuburbanEMS



@BushkillEmergencyCorps | @bushkillfire

PRSR STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
STROUDSBURG, PA  
18360  
PERMIT NO. 11

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSSEDDM\*\*\*\*\*

## POSTAL CUSTOMER

# THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS!

### 2024 PERSON OF THE YEAR

**GOLD**  
SHEELEY INSURANCE  
GRIM, BIEHN, & THATCHER

**BRONZE**  
PROSSER LABS

**SLATE**  
WAYNE BANK  
HUFFMANS ELECTRIC

### CIVIC EVENTS

**SILVER**  
SUPER HEAT, INC.

**BRONZE**  
HUFFMAN'S ELECTRIC  
POCONO KIDZ ZONE



We are now accepting sponsorships for 2025! Any business or individual who would like to become a sponsor for Person of the Year or Civic Events can contact Holly Dennis at 570-223-8920 x132 or [hdennis@mstownship.com](mailto:hdennis@mstownship.com) for more information.

Our wonderful sponsors help make events like Person of the Year, Memory Makers, and more possible!

### COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

#### Board of Supervisors

2nd & 4th Thursday every month | 7 pm

#### Parks & Recreation Committee

1st Monday every month | 6:15 pm

#### 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