



**FALL 2023**

# The Forks Post

*~Official Newsletter of The Borough of Mount Pocono~*



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## Keep in touch with us



mountpocono-pa.gov



(570) 839-8436



(570) 839-0981



mduffy@mountpocono-pa.gov

## Visit us

Monday-Friday: 8:30am - 4:30pm  
Saturday-Sunday: Closed

## Write us

1361 Pocono Blvd.  
Suite 100  
Mount Pocono, PA 18344

## Stay updated

mountpocono-pa.gov/subscribe

## Be Savvy

savvycitizenapp.com

### On Our Cover

Our cover this month features a view of the Fall foliage from Mount Pocono's famous 'Knob Overlook'. Leaf peeping and 'The Knob' have been enjoyed by residents and visitors for over 100 years!

### The Forks Post

Volume I, No. 3, Fall 2023

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**Content:** Mount Pocono Borough Newsletter Committee, Mayor Randy Altemose; Council Members Norman DeLano, Ann Marie Harris, and Claudette Williams.

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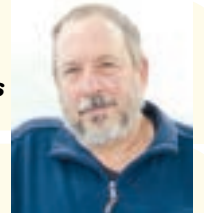
### For Content Suggestions or any other matters:

mduffy@mountpocono-pa.gov

# The Mayor's Corner

with MAYOR RANDY ALTEMOSE

***I hope all is well and you've had a great summer enjoying picnics, going on vacation, and partaking in the many events here in Mount Pocono and the surrounding communities. But as the calendar pages turn Fall will soon be upon us.***



The air starts to turn a little cooler and the leaves will be turning beautiful shades of red, yellow and orange, the slowdown from the busy hustle and bustle of the summer months is a great time to relax and take in the natural beauty that makes Mount Pocono a wonderful place to live and visit.

One of the mainstays of Fall here in Mount Pocono is Harvest Fest, when downtown Mount Pocono becomes full of food, vendors and music. This year will be the 23th Harvest Fest, and it promises not to disappoint continuing the tradition that we all love and enjoy. Join the fun on Saturday, September 23, from 10 am until 5 pm.

Another Mount Pocono Fall event is the Mount Pocono Borough's Park & Recreation Trunk or Treat. While this is only the 2nd annual Trunk or Treat, last year's inaugural event was a huge success, with dozens of participants, games and little Halloween superheroes, pirates, ghosts, and just cute kids dressed up for the festivities. This year promises to be even bigger and better than last year, with a DJ Food Trucks, Prizes for decorated Trunks and Small Games/prizes. So don't miss out on the fun on October 21st from 3 PM to 5PM at the Pocono Mountain Volunteer Fire Company Carnival Grounds.

There are other Fall festivals and special event in the community's surrounding Mount Pocono, and Fall is a great time to take advantage of all there is to offer in the Pocono's.

Speaking of beautiful colored leaves . . . . . Well, I did mention those at the beginning, if you've never taken the time in the fall foliage season to visit the Knob Overlook on Knob Road in Mount Pocono, you've missed one of the best views of the beauty of the Pocono's in the Fall (our cover page features The Knob in all its foliage glory!). From the Knob you can see the Camelback ski area and Big Pocono State Park, Delaware Water Gap, Shawnee ski area and to the north I've always been told you can see a peak in New York state by Port Jervis, although to be honest I can't definitively prove that one.

But you get the point, there's a wonderful unobstructed view of a wide and large portion of the beautiful Pocono Mountains and when the leaves turn brilliant colors the view is spectacular. The landscape takes on a blanket of colorful and bright leaves with a view you can't get from ground level, but at the Knob Overlook you can take in what makes Fall in Mount Pocono unique.

Lastly, I'd like to report on some new additions to the Borough Building that I'm sure you'll notice as you drive by the Borough building on Route 611 in the near future. To make things even better, these additions will be paid for primarily from grant money, not your taxes. The Borough Building will be getting a new LED sign to take the place of the existing sign with the Borough Logo in front of the Borough building. The new sign will give the borough the opportunity to post Meeting Dates and Times and help keep you up to date with what's going on in Mount Pocono. Borough Council encourages the public being involved with Borough Council and Committees Meetings and special events. The Borough hopes this will be a welcome addition and hopes to see more of you at our Borough Council meetings and committee meetings.

The second addition will be replacing the old flagpole with 3 new flagpoles to be able to proudly display our American flag, the Pennsylvania flag and a third flag, (Maybe a Mount Pocono Borough Flag?), or another deserving flag as appropriate.

As always, we hope you are enjoying the Forks Post Newsletter, suggestions or comments are always appreciated, enjoy the fall season here in Mount Pocono, and thank you for being a part of our small and colorful town this fall.



**Kasa's  
Pizza**



**6172 PARADISE VALLEY ROAD, CRESCO, PA  
570-839-8634**

## MOUNT POCONO BOROUGH

### **Council President Don Struckle**

dstruckle@mountpocono-pa.gov

### **Councilmember Claudette Williams, pro-tem**

cwilliams@mountpocono-pa.gov

### **Councilmember Debra Fulton**

dfulton@mountpocono-pa.gov

### **Councilmember Norman DeLano**

ndelano@mountpocono-pa.gov

### **Councilmember Ann Marie Harris**

amharris@mountpocono-pa.gov

### **Councilmember Ella Santiago**

esantiago@mountpocono-pa.gov

### **Mayor Randy Altemose**

raltemose@mountpocono-pa.gov



### **Borough Manager Marissa Duffy**

mduffy@mountpocono-pa.gov

### **Admin Asst Diana Jackowski**

diana@mountpocono-pa.gov

*Borough Council meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 6:30pm in the council meeting room on the second floor of the borough building, 1361 Pocono Blvd, Mount Pocono 18344. The first meeting of the month is a business meeting; the second is a work session. The public is invited to attend and participate. The meeting schedule, agenda, and minutes are posted on the borough website at [mountpocono-pa.gov](http://mountpocono-pa.gov).*



### **US FAMILY TAEKWONDO CENTER**

Five Ways Martial Arts  
Help Your Child Succeed

- ★ SELF-DEFENSE
- ★ SELF-ESTEEM
- ★ RESPECT
- ★ SELF-CONFIDENCE
- ★ SELF-DISCIPLINE

*"Call NOW for a FREE Trial Lesson!"*

**570-972-0880**

Grand Master Kyong Kim  
US National Team Head Coach

1427 Pocono Blvd., Mt. Pocono, PA 18344

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



Pocono Pride Fastpitch Softball broke ground this summer on its new year-round training facility at Mount Pocono's *Field of Dreams* in the Oak Street Park. The 6,000 square foot building has been four years in the making and was financed by a \$122,878 grant supported by the Borough.

Top left, from left, Borough Mayor Randy Altomose, Councilmembers Norman DeLano, Deb Fulton, and Don Struckle, and Pocono Pride president Dan Boccia; in the photo at top right, Pocono Pride team members pitch in to help break ground.

Pocono Pride offers girls' fastpitch softball tournament teams with programs for 10U through 18U players. For more information, visit their website at [poconopridentfastpitch.com](http://poconopridentfastpitch.com) or email [poconopridentfastpitch@gmail.com](mailto:poconopridentfastpitch@gmail.com).

### What the Forks?

Our newsletter's name harkens back to the 1830s when this area was known as "The Forks" - a reference to the intersection of several major roadways at what is now known as the "Five Points."

The railroad stop & post office here were also known as "Forks, Pa."

Local merchants eventually adopted "Mount Pocono" to identify the area. That was thought to be a more attractive moniker to the growing New York & Philadelphia tourist trade.

The name stuck and was selected for the new borough when it was officially incorporated in July, 1927.

## I'm here to help you bundle your home & auto



**Beth Moloughney Ins Agcy Inc**  
Beth Moloughney, Agent  
1434 Pocono Blvd Ste 102  
Mount Pocono, PA 18344-1685

Bus: 570-839-3000  
[beth@bethinsurance.com](mailto:beth@bethinsurance.com)

Hablamos Español.

I can save you time and money when you bundle your home and auto insurance. Call, click or stop by for a quote today.

Availability and amount of discounts and savings vary by state.  
State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company  
State Farm Indemnity Company  
State Farm Fire and Casualty Company  
State Farm General Insurance Company  
Bloomington, IL  
State Farm County Mutual Insurance Company of Texas  
State Farm Lloyds  
Richardson, TX  
State Farm Florida Insurance Company  
Winter Haven, FL

# MONROE COUNTY VETERAN SERVICES & ORGANIZATIONS

**MONROE COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE** – Provides general veteran benefits services. information about available programs and services, assists in obtaining necessary substantive evidence/documents and filing with the respective adjudication department at the regional office. All services are free of charge. Offers local business veteran discount card.

Lisa M Kaye, Director VSO (570) 517-3187  
Erin Morin, Deputy Director VSO (570) 517-3188 (f)  
Monroe County Administrative Center va@monroecountypa.gov  
One Quaker Plaza, Room 101 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM Mon - Fri  
Stroudsburg PA 18360 [facebook.com/MonroeCountyVAPA](https://www.facebook.com/MonroeCountyVAPA)  
[monroecountypa.gov/departments/veterans-affairs](https://monroecountypa.gov/departments/veterans-affairs)

**BATTLE BOURNE** – Connects veterans with the resources needed to recover from mental, emotional & physical trauma, guidance on substance abuse resources, as well as health and welfare services. Weekly drop-in services include referrals to VSO, community resource information, Vet to Vet support, recreational and community activities, and case management services.

Battle Borne Drop-In Services Tuesdays, 9 am to 2 pm  
Monroe County Administrative Center (484) 265-1262  
One Quaker Plaza, Room 108 wearebattleborne@gmail.com  
Stroudsburg PA 18360 [facebook.com/wearebattleborne](https://www.facebook.com/wearebattleborne)  
[wearebattleborne.com](https://wearebattleborne.com)

**VALOR CLINIC FOUNDATION (VCF)** – provides assistance accessing benefits and shelter to Veterans with limited or no access to care; provides PTSD resources.

VALOR Clinic Foundation (570) 664-6468  
1130 Scenic Drive info@valorclinic.org  
Kunkletown, PA 18058

**SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK MILITARY SHARE PROGRAM** – provides fresh, nutritious foods for families with at least one veteran or active duty military member. Advance registration is required. For information or to register: Faith Bigelow, (717) 525-2696, Faith.A.Bigelow.civ@army.mil

Distributions made on 3rd Tuesdays, 11am-1pm, Gilbert American Legion Post 927, 646 Fairgrounds Road, Gilbert, PA 18331.

**TOBYHANNA VA CLINIC** – outpatient clinic offers primary care and specialty health services, including diagnostic testing and immunizations. To make an appointment: 877-928-2621, select 2; Direct: 570-824-3521, select 2

Tobyhanna Army Depot, Building 220 (570) 615-8341  
Tobyhanna, PA 18466-5000 Weds, Thurs, Fri 8 am to 4:30 pm

**WILKES-BARRE VA MEDICAL CENTER** – main campus provides primary care and specialty health services, including dental, surgery, pain management, podiatry, urology, and orthopedics. Open 24/7.

1111 East End Boulevard General: (570)824-3521  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711-0030 Mental health: 570-824-3521 x27738  
[va.gov/wilkes-barre-health-care](https://va.gov/wilkes-barre-health-care)

**PENNSYLVANIA'S DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS (DMVA)** – resources and assistance to Pennsylvania's veterans and their families, care for aging and disabled veterans.. Sign up for the PA Veterans Registry to stay informed about services and programs, including special events and employment opportunities. Go to [dmva.pa.gov](https://dmva.pa.gov) to register and for more information. Phone: (717) 861-8468, [facebook.com/padmva](https://www.facebook.com/padmva)

**WOMEN VETERANS MUSEUM AND MILITARY FAMILY SERVICES** - Created to bring visibility to women who served in our armed forces, the roles they play on and off the battlefield, and how they continue to lead in loyalty, duty and respect. Displays of military memorabilia, artifacts, and an immersive museum experience from all branches of service. We strive to educate the community, assist with paperwork, applications, mental health issues, networks for military personnel both female and male, and their families. Claudette Williams, Ret. Sgt. Major - CEO [vwamfs@gmail.com](mailto:vwamfs@gmail.com), 29 Sterling Rd. Suite 3, Mount Pocono, PA 18344,(570) 534-8377

**ACADEMICS FOR VETERANS** – a coalition of local higher education institutions to help train, educate, and support discharged military veterans & dependents. East Stroudsburg University and Northampton Community College are dozen participating institutions. For more information and applications, visit [a-for-vets.org](https://a-for-vets.org).

**VFW Post #3448** (570) 894-9043  
B. Gregory Krummell Post  
119 VFW Drive Meetings 1st Saturdays, 9am  
Tobyhanna, PA 18466-3906 Comdr: Daniel Sauerwein

**VFW Post #509** (570) 894-9043  
Tobyhanna Memorial Post  
1917 Goodwin Street Meetings 2nd Thurs, 5pm  
Tobyhanna, PA 18466 Comdr: Ronnie Byrd

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 903** (570) 807-9843  
27 Fairview Avenue Meetings 3rd Sat, Noon  
Mount Pocono, Pennsylvania 18344 Comdr: Matthew Denico  
[americanlegionpost903.com](https://americanlegionpost903.com) [Mdenico@hotmail.com](mailto:Mdenico@hotmail.com)

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 413** (570) 646-6010  
Wilson Fischer Post Meetings 1st Thurs, 7pm  
248 Old Rte 940 [post413@webcrosby.com](mailto:post413@webcrosby.com)  
Pocono Lake, PA, 18347 [post413.com](https://www.facebook.com/wilsonfischer413)  
[facebook.com/wilsonfischer413](https://www.facebook.com/wilsonfischer413)

# ☆☆☆HONORING OUR HOMETOWN HEROES☆☆☆ VETERANS DAY

*Thank you to all who have served*



Joseph P. Amantea



Oliver W. Van Buskirk



Charles V. Brock



H. John Davis



Norman DeLano Sr.



Cesar De La Vera



Walter B. Fitzsimmons



Kwane Gadson



George Guida



Patsy F. Guido



Jason M. Hawk



Joseph A. Hedges Jr.



Thomas A. Hines



William J. Hines III



John B. Jones



Michael LaForge



George J. Litz



Miranda Mascia



Charles N. Matthews Sr.



Steven A. Matula Sr.



Steve McCay



Francis R. O'Boyle



Bernard A. Pallo



Francis Piraino



Jay M. Rake Sr.



Walter W. Smith Sr.



Milton E. Stewart



Henry A. Swiderski



James A. Trombetta



Louis C. Vaccola



Carol Williams



Claudette Williams



Mount Pocono Parks & Recreation Foundation  
P.O. Box 406, Mount Pocono, PA. 18344  
Email: [mtpoconofoundation@gmail.com](mailto:mtpoconofoundation@gmail.com)

To have your Hometown Hero displayed on the downtown streets in Mount Pocono Borough from Memorial Day through Veteran's Day, contact the Mount Pocono Parks & Recreation Foundation. Aging banners will need to be replaced every few years, those requiring replacement will be contacted.

## From The Borough Manager's Desk

with Borough Manager **MARISSA DUFFY**

**Editor's Note: Earlier this year, Borough Manager Joshua Walker left for a position with the state legislative staff in Harrisburg. After an exhaustive search, the Borough Council unanimously selected Marissa Duffy as the new Borough Manager.**



I am thrilled to introduce myself as your new Borough Manager. It is an honor to join this vibrant community, and I am eager to contribute my expertise and passion to serve the wonderful people of Mount Pocono.

In my free time, I enjoy the exhilaration of snowboarding and the tranquility of golf. I discovered these hobbies during the pandemic, and they have become a significant part of my life ever since. The Pocono Mountain region's picturesque landscapes provide the perfect backdrop for these activities, making it a dream come true to work and play in this community.

When not hitting the slopes or the golf course, I love spending time at the beach, with Siesta Key, Florida, being my absolute favorite spot. There's something truly magical about the sun, sand, and sea that rejuvenates the soul.

Family is paramount to me, and I am fortunate to be married to an incredible woman who is a dedicated teacher at Delaware Valley High School. Together, we share our home with two adorable companions, Gus and Cooper, our beloved dogs.

I am genuinely excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for Mount Pocono Borough, and I am committed to fostering collaboration, communication, and progress for the betterment of the community. Please feel free to reach out to me with your ideas, concerns, or even just to say hello. Together, we can build a bright and prosperous future for Mount Pocono Borough.

I look forward to meeting each of you and working hand in hand to make Mount Pocono Borough an even more exceptional place to call home.

# Help us Celebrate 100 Years!



## 1927 - 2027

Dear Mount Pocono Borough Community,

We are thrilled to announce that the Mount Pocono Borough will be celebrating its Centennial in Summer 2027! This momentous occasion calls for an unforgettable celebration, and we need your help to make it truly special.

If you are interested in being a part of the Centennial Celebration Planning Committee, we invite you to join us in creating an event that will honor our rich history and bring our community together in joyous festivities.

To get involved and contribute your ideas, please contact Marissa Duffy, our dedicated Borough Manager, at [mduffy@mountpocono-pa.gov](mailto:mduffy@mountpocono-pa.gov). Whether you have a flair for event planning, a passion for history, or just a strong commitment to making this celebration one to remember, your input is valuable and warmly welcomed.

Let's come together as a united community to plan an extraordinary Centennial Celebration that will leave a lasting legacy for generations to come.

Stay tuned for more updates and details as we embark on this exciting journey towards our 100th anniversary!

With anticipation and community spirit,

**Mount Pocono Borough Centennial Celebration Committee**

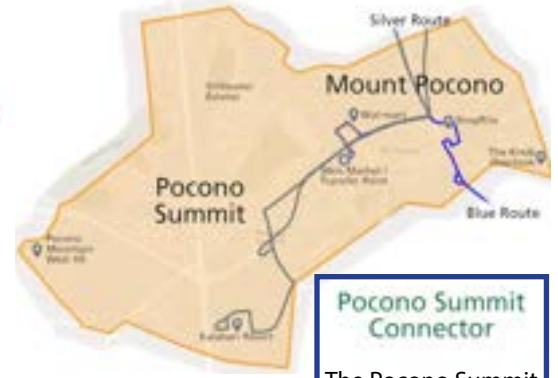




# BOOK NOW. RIDE NOW.

New App Available. [gomcta.com/ponyplusapp.php](http://gomcta.com/ponyplusapp.php)

## Only \$2 per person per trip!



**Pocono Summit Connector**

The Pocono Summit Connector brings public transit to you. Provides access to Mount Pocono Borough, Pocono Summit, Pocono Mountain West High School, and Kalahari Resort.

Book your pick-up and drop-off locations in the zone or connect to MCTA's Silver or Blue Routes.

For more information or to see the "Tri-Boro Connector" Map, visit [gomcta.com/ponyplus.php](http://gomcta.com/ponyplus.php)

## PonyPlus is Available Now

A new Pony is galloping into service.

**DOWNLOAD NEW iOS / Google App.** On Friday September 1, 2023, PonyPlus will have a new, easier to use app to book and ride the PonyPlus service.

PonyPlus is an on-demand, curb-to-curb service allows anyone to request a shared ride using a smartphone app in two designated service areas in Monroe County.

For \$2 per trip, customers can book a ride from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and the PonyPlus app will provide confirmation of the trip or a message to adjust the request based on the availability of vehicles. The service runs in the Tri-Boro Connector area (Delaware Water Gap, East Stroudsburg, and Stroudsburg boroughs) and the Pocono Summit Connector area (Pocono Summit and Mount Pocono Borough).

Riders will book a trip via the PonyPlus app, which is available on the App Store (iOS) and Google Play (Android), and payment is made by using a credit card in the app or giving exact cash fare to the driver. PonyPlus buses will be instantly recognizable by colorful graphics and logos, and drivers have all been vetted by MCTA for the safety of our passengers. All vehicles are ADA accessible and have a secure position for one wheelchair. Passengers traveling with children under age 8 must supply and install the appropriate car seat or booster seat.

For more information or reserve a ride call (570) 839-6282.



## Something to Check Out - Our New Little Free Library!

Have you seen our new **Little Free Library**? This latest addition to a worldwide reading initiative is at the Borough building. Made possible by cooperation between Mount Pocono Borough Parks and Recreation Committee and the Pocono Mountain Public Library. This thoughtful addition aims to promote literacy, community engagement, and the joy of reading. "The Borough Parks & Recreation Committee is pleased to join with the Pocono Mountain Public Library to sponsor this Little Free Library for the Borough Park," said Parks & Rec chair councilmember Deb Fulton. "The Little Free Library is an award-winning program which fosters community literacy and has over 100,000 sharing libraries around the world." Take a Book, Leave a Book today - it's FREE!



# POCONO MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT



## POCONO MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

135 Pocono Mountain School Road  
Swiftwater, Pa 18370  
570-839-7121 ext. 0  
[pmsd.org](http://pmsd.org)

Dr. Elizabeth Robison, Superintendent  
570-839-7121 ext. 10111

Dr. Catherine Sweeney, Ass't Super. Curric. & Instr  
570-839-7121 ext. 10161

Dr. Mark Wade, Ass't Super. Spec Ed  
570-839-7121 ext. 10181

Dr. Jeremy Sawicki, School Safety & Security  
570-839-7121 ext. 10151

### EAST HIGH SCHOOL

231 Pocono Mountain School Road  
Swiftwater, Pa 18370  
570-839-7121, ext. 80400

Mrs. Tamala Toleno, Principal  
[ttoleno@pmsd.org](mailto:ttoleno@pmsd.org)

### EAST JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

125 Center Court  
Swiftwater, Pa 18370  
570-839-7121 ext. 50400

Dr. Kathleen M. Fanelli, 7th Grade Principal  
[kfanelli@pmsd.org](mailto:kfanelli@pmsd.org)  
Dr. Eric J. Vogt, 8th Grade Principal  
[evogt@pmsd.org](mailto:evogt@pmsd.org)

### SWIFTWATER INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

208 Campus Drive  
Swiftwater, Pa 18370  
570-839-7121 ext. 60400

Kristine Kunsman, Principal ext.60412

### SWIFTWATER ELEMENTARY CENTER

35 Academic Drive  
Swiftwater, PA 18370-0200  
Phone: (570) 839-7121 Ext. 29400

Ms. Karen M. Doughton, SEC Principal (K-1)  
Dr. Krislin R. Ofalt, SEC Principal (2-3)

### POCONO MOUNTAIN SCHOOL BOARD

135 Pocono Mountain School Road  
Swiftwater, Pa 18370

The Pocono Mountain School Board meets at 7 p.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of each month in the Pocono Mountain Central Administration Building on the Swiftwater campus. Agenda are online and residents may attend meetings online or in person. For access to the agenda and meetings, visit the PMSD website School Board pages at [pmsd.org/domain/37](http://pmsd.org/domain/37)

Any resident or taxpayer of the District may address the Pocono Mountain School District Board of School Directors. To get an item on the School Board Agenda, please call the Superintendent's office at (570) 839-7121 Ext. 10111.

## KEY DATES

Oct 9  
CLOSED  
Columbus Day

Nov 9  
Parent Teacher  
Conferences

Nov 10 CLOSED

Nov 23-27 CLOSED  
Thanksgiving

Dec 22 - Jan 2  
CLOSED  
Winter recess

Feb 19  
CLOSED  
Presidents Day

Mar 28 - Apr 1  
CLOSED  
Spring Recess

May 27 CLOSED  
Memorial Day

May 31 Last Day for  
Students (Tentative)

## SCHOOL BOARD

The PMSD Board has nine members divided into three groups, each representing a different region of the district.

Mount Pocono is in Region 3, which also includes Coolbaugh Township.

Our Region 3 School Directors are:

**RONNIE BYRD**  
[rbyrd@pmsd.org](mailto:rbyrd@pmsd.org)

**ANNA LOPEZ**  
[anlopez@pmsd.org](mailto:anlopez@pmsd.org)

**MICHAEL STERN**  
[mstern@pmsd.org](mailto:mstern@pmsd.org)

# There's Always Something Worth Checking Out at the Pocono Mountain Public Library!

POCONO MOUNTAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

## Bunny Hop

For Ages 0-2

TUESDAY'S AT 11AM  
September 5th  
September 12th  
September 19th  
September 26th



Join Ms. Annmarie to sing, dance, play, and read at Pocono Mountain Public Library.

To register, scan the QR code, email Ms. Annmarie at [KidsRead@pocononlibrary.org](mailto:KidsRead@pocononlibrary.org) or call (570) 894-8860 ext. 3.




## Fabric Collage Class

Saturday  
Sept. 30th  
At 11:30am



Join local artist, Liz Pemberton, for an adventure in art! Liz will guide the group and show you how to make a fabric collage! All levels welcome. Registration required. Visit the library, call 570-894-8860 #2 or email [joe@pocononlibrary.org](mailto:joe@pocononlibrary.org) to sign up. Seating limited 12 and up.

12 & up. Call 570-894-8860 #2 or email [joe@pocononlibrary.org](mailto:joe@pocononlibrary.org) to Register.



Pocono Mountain Public Library  
5500 Municipal Drive - PO Box 405  
Tobyhanna, PA 18666  
[pocononlibrary.org](http://pocononlibrary.org)  
570-894-8860  
[joe@pocononlibrary.org](mailto:joe@pocononlibrary.org)

Visit the Library today to see what it has to offer every member of the family!

5500 Municipal Dr  
Tobyhanna, PA  
18466  
570-894-8860

### HOURS

Mon - Fri  
10 am - 5:30 pm

Sat  
10 am - 2:30 p

Sun  
Closed

## Free Guitar Workshop!

Tuesday  
Sept 26th  
at 3:30 pm

We'll be learning "Our Song" by Taylor Swift



Registration Required. Call 570-894-8860 #2 or email [joe@pocononlibrary.org](mailto:joe@pocononlibrary.org) to sign up.

Bring your guitar, and join Joe on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor for a quick guitar lesson on Taylor Swift's "Our Song." This song is only 4 chords, and if you're a fan of Taylor Swift, this is a great song to start with. No capo needed. 14 & up.



Pocono Mountain Public Library  
5500 Municipal Drive - PO Box 405  
Tobyhanna, PA 18466  
[pocononlibrary.org](http://pocononlibrary.org)  
570-894-8860  
[joe@pocononlibrary.org](mailto:joe@pocononlibrary.org)

Pocono Mountain Public Library

## SKY HIGH CHALLENGE

For School-Aged Kids

Saturday, September 23rd from 12pm to 1pm

Design, test, and build a Skyscraper with Ms. Teresa from the Salvadori Center at Pocono Mountain Public Library.

Who can build the strongest skyscraper?  
Who can build the tallest skyscraper?  
Challenge yourself and others!



To register, scan the QR code, email Ms. Annmarie at [KidsRead@pocononlibrary.org](mailto:KidsRead@pocononlibrary.org) or call (570) 894-8860 ext. 3.




# Trash Talk

**\*\*NEW TRASH HAULER - CASELLA WASTE SYSTEMS HAS TAKEN OVER THE GFL CONTRACT FOR MOUNT POCONO\*\***

**Borough Trash Contractor: Casella Waste Systems**, 570-685-7000 [casella.com](http://casella.com)

**Trash Collection Days: Wednesdays** (subject to delay due to holiday or weather)

**Monthly Cost per Residence: \$32.93 for standard residential service** (starting March 2023) (one 96-gal trash and one 64-gal recycle per week; excess cans may be returned without charge)

**Remittance Address:** 17 Industrial Park Lane • Lake Ariel, PA

**Bulk items permitted: 2 per week** placed out with the trash. (bulk items may not include tires, electronic, refrigerators with freon, or hazardous materials)

*For disposal of household electronics, contact the borough for pick-up: (570) 839-8436, extension 302*

*Place trash & recycling cans at curb by 6am on collection days.*

## Keep Recycling Successful - Single Stream Recycling Acceptable Items:

- Magazines & Catalogs
- Chipboard/ Box Board
- Newspaper
- Paper Egg Cartons
- Telephone & Paperback Books
- Aluminum Cans
- Tin & Bi-Metallic Containers (including Aerosol Cans)
- Aluminum Foil (pie plates, eg.)
- Plastic Containers

## Unacceptable Items:

- NO Trash, NO Diapers, NO Clothing, NO Styrofoam, NO Caps or Lids, NO Food, NO Compost, NO Yard Waste
- NO BAGS

- Please Place Items in Cart Loose
- All Cardboard Must be Flattened
- NO Shredded Paper (Place in Trash)
- NO Bags of Shredded Paper (Place in Trash)

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## Councilmember Lori Noonan's Letter to Mount Pocono

*Editor's Note: At the September 5 council meeting, Councilmember Lori Noonan announced her resignation and submitted this letter to the council and Mount Pocono residents. Council has started a search for a replacement. Residents of the Borough may submit Letters of Interest by September 29 to the Borough Manager, Marissa Duffy, at [mduffy@mountpocono-pa.gov](mailto:mduffy@mountpocono-pa.gov).*



To the Borough Council, employees, residents, and business owners,

It has been my honor and privilege to work for the residents and businesses of the Borough with fidelity, and what I hope has always been compassionate and understanding service. Over the almost 34 years as Secretary / Treasurer and Councilwoman I have made many lifelong friends, and that has been my greatest reward. Over the last almost 20 months as an elected member of Council, I hope that through my actions I am leaving the Borough in a place where it can continue to prosper, progress and be a vibrant and welcoming community for all. I thank everyone that has supported and assisted me over these many years all the way through to my election to Council.

Since taking office, there have been many life changes for me. The birth of my first granddaughter and health challenges for my husband and my parents. My husband Dennis and I have

made the very difficult decision to relocate out of the Borough to be closer to his doctors. I feel I must now devote more of my time and energy towards these pressing family matters that have arisen over the last 18 months. But please know that if the Council feels that I can be of assistance in any way, I will always be available. Mount Pocono will always be in my heart and will always be home.

Therefore, it is with profound sadness that I must inform you of my resignation from Council effective immediately.

With deepest regrets,  
Lori Noonan

## November 7, 2023 is the Municipal Election

- Polls are open on election day from: **7 am - 8 pm**
- Last day to register to vote: **October 23, 2023**
- Last day to request a mail-in or absentee ballot: **October 31, 2023**



The polls for Mount Pocono Borough residents are at the **Pocono Mountain Volunteer Fire Company, 20 Murray Rd, Mount Pocono, PA 18344**

Driving north on Route 611, take the first left after Bailey's; if southbound on 611, take the first right after Burke's Tavern.

**Register to Vote, Change Voting Registration,  
and Obtain Mail-In Ballots Online at**

**[vote.pa.gov](https://vote.pa.gov)**



**YOUR MOUNT POCONO BOROUGH TEAM!** Left to right, Borough Manager Marissa Duffy, Maintenance Supervisor James Trombetta, Administrative Assistant Diana Jackowski, Borough treasurer Danielle Hewitt, maintenance employees Barry St. Cyr and Malachi Orr.

In the photo on the right, Maintenance Supervisor James Trombetta shows off a new utility truck - the Borough's latest addition to the road crew fleet!

## STATE/FEDERAL CONTACT INFORMATION

**US SENATOR ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.:** (202) 224-6324, [casey.senate.gov/contact](http://casey.senate.gov/contact)

**US SENATOR JOHN FETTERMAN:** (202) 224-4254, [fetterman.senate.gov/contact](http://fetterman.senate.gov/contact)

**US REPRESENTATIVE MATT CARTWRIGHT (PA 8th):** (570) 355-1818, [cartwright.house.gov/contact](http://cartwright.house.gov/contact)

**PA STATE SENATOR ROSEMARY M. BROWN (40th PA Sen Dist):** (570) 620-4326, [rbrown@pasen.gov](mailto:rbrown@pasen.gov)

**PA STATE REPRESENTATIVE MAUREEN E. MADDEN (115th Dist):** (570) 894-7905, [pahouse.com/115/Contact](http://pahouse.com/115/Contact)

## EMERGENCY NUMBERS

**Police, Fire, Rescue, Ambulance:**

**9-1-1**

## NON-EMERGENCY & AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

**POCONO MOUNTAIN REGIONAL POLICE DEPARTMENT:**  
(570) 895-2400, [pmrpd.com](http://pmrpd.com)

**POCONO MOUNTAIN VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY:**  
[pmvfc@ptd.net](mailto:pmvfc@ptd.net), [pmvfc.com](http://pmvfc.com)

**POCONO MOUNTAIN REGIONAL EMS:**  
(570) 839-8485, [pmrems.org](http://pmrems.org)

**MOUNT POCONO MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY (SEWER):**  
(570) 839-8963, [mpma.authoritypay.com](http://mpma.authoritypay.com)

**PENNSYLVANIA AMERICAN WATER:**  
800-565-7292, [amwater.com/paaw](http://amwater.com/paaw)

**MONROE COUNTY**  
[monroecountypa.gov/departments](http://monroecountypa.gov/departments)

**Commissioners:** (570) 517-3102  
**Area Agency on Aging:** (570) 420-3735  
**Children and Youth:** (570) 420-3590  
**District Attorney:** (570) 517-3052  
**Elections:** (570) 517-3165  
**Prothonotary:** (570) 517-3370  
**Recorder of Deeds:** (570) 517-3969  
**Register of Wills:** (570) 517-3359  
**Sheriff:** (570) 517-3312  
**Tax Claim:** (570) 517-3172  
**Veterans Affairs:** (570) 517-3187

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[WWW.RCH4THESTARS.NET](http://WWW.RCH4THESTARS.NET)

# MOUNT POCONO'S ABC'S

*Borough Government Authorities, Boards, Commissions, & Committees*

## **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

The Parks and Recreation Committee is tasked with overseeing the improvements and maintenance of the Borough parks. The Parks and Recreation Committee consists of five (5) members of the public who must be residents of the Borough for at least one (1) year. The members are appointed to staggering terms as listed below. Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the Month at 7pm at the Borough building. The public is encouraged to attend.

- **Chair:** Debra Fulton\* (term expires 12/31/25)
- **Vice Chair:** Stacey Turrell (12/31/24)
- **Secretary:** Erin Melbert (12/31/23)
- **Member:** Peter Richert (12/31/24)
- **Member:** Joe Simeone (12/31/23)

## **SAFETY COMMISSION**

The Safety Commission was established by ordinance in 2021 in response to numerous traffic accidents and pedestrian safety concerns. The Safety Commission consists of five (5) members of the public who must be taxpayers of the Borough for at least one (1) year. The members are appointed to staggering terms as listed below. Meetings are held on the 4th Monday of the Month at 7pm, as needed, at the Borough building. The public is encouraged to attend.

- **Chair:** Kyong Kim (12/31/24)
- **Vice Chair:** Jodi Bohdal (12/31/23)
- **Secretary:** VACANT
- **Member:** Debra Fulton\* (12/31/23)
- **Member:** Vacant (12/31/24)

## **BOROUGH COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEES**

(first listed is chair)

**Budget and Finance:** Donald Struckle, Debra Fulton

**Economic Devel:** Ann Marie Harris, Norman DeLano, Claudette Williams

**COG:** Don Struckle, Marissa Duffy

**EMS:** Norman DeLano, Ella Santiago

**Grants:** Marissa Duffy, Don Struckle

**Newsletter:** Norman DeLano, Claudette Williams, Ann Marie Harris, Randy Altemose

**Parks and Recreation:** Debra Fulton, Norman DeLano

**Personnel:** Claudette Williams, Ann Marie Harris, Don Struckle

**Public Infrastructure & Utilities:** Randy Altemose, Don Struckle

**Regional Police:** Randy Altemose, Don Struckle

**Safety Commission:** Ella Santiago, Debra Fulton

**Sanitation:** Claudette Williams, Ann Marie Harris

## **PLANNING COMMISSION**

The planning commission is governed by the Municipalities Planning Code and reviews land development projects and other matters before they are brought to the Council for final decision. The planning commission exists of five (5) members of the public who must be residents of the Borough for at least one (1) year. The members are appointed to staggering terms as listed below. Meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the Month at 7pm

- **Chair:** Ann Marie Harris\* (12/31/26)
- **Vice-Chair:** Erin Melbert (12/31/23)
- **Member:** Ken Hart (term expires 12/31/24)
- **Member:** Rich Dorkoski (12/31/23)
- **Member:** Steve Speno (12/31/24)
- **Alternate:** VACANT

## **ZONING HEARING BOARD**

The Zoning Hearing Board is governed by the Municipalities Planning code. The Zoning Hearing Board hears and renders adjudications pertaining to land use ordinance and other zoning matters. The zoning hearing board consists of five (5) members of the public who must be residents of the Borough for at least one (1) year. The members are appointed to staggering terms as listed below. Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the Month at 7pm, as needed.

- **Chair:** Raissa Simchak (12/31/25)
- **Vice Chair:** Shirley Lansdowne (12/31/26)
- **Member:** Robert McMahon (12/31/24)
- **Member:** Leanon Trawick (12/31/24)
- **Member:** Francis O'Boyle (12/31/23)
- **Alternate:** John Repetti (12/31/25)
- **Alternate:** Vacant

## **MOUNT POCONO MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY**

The Mount Pocono Municipal Authority is a quasi-independent agency responsible for the operations of the borough sewer and wastewater systems. The MPMA operates autonomously and has its own budget. It sets sewer rates and rules independent of the borough government. The Borough Council appoints members of the MPMA. The agency meets at 6:30pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month at the borough building. The public is invited to attend and participate.

- **Chair:** Matt Hensel (12/31/26)
- **Vice Chair:** Jeff Woehrl (12/31/25)
- **Member:** Karl Davis (12/31/24)
- **Member:** Christine Ferrugia(12/31/23)
- **Member:** Vacant (12/31/27)

**\*-indicates Borough Council member**

### **BOROUGH REAL ESTATE TAX MILLAGE RATE**

<b>Real Estate:</b>	<b>5.15</b>	<b>Fire:</b>	<b>.155</b>
<b>Roads:</b>	<b>.965</b>	<b>EMS:</b>	<b>.078</b>
<b>Library:</b>	<b>.155</b>	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>6.503</b>

One mill is one dollar per \$1,000 dollars of assessed value

### **REAL ESTATE TAX COLLECTOR**

Karen Struckle, 550 Devils Hole Road, Cresco, PA 18326,  
570.895.4144, [mtpoconotaxcollector@gmail.com](mailto:mtpoconotaxcollector@gmail.com)

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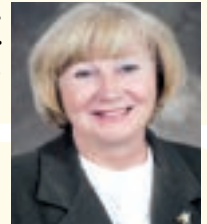
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Mount Pocono's Yesteryears

# WHEN THE HORSE SHOW(S) CAME TO TOWN

with SUSANNE FRETZ MCCOOL

**The "Pocono Mountains Horse Show" was held from 1930 to 1941 at the "Arena in the Clouds" located where Knob and Knox Roads meet in the Borough. According to the book *Better in the Poconos: The Story of Pennsylvania's Vacationland* by Lawrence Squeri, the show was sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce as a fund-raiser for the Monroe County General Hospital. But it really was part of a bigger campaign to associate The Poconos with 'good taste' and 'the better elements' of society.**



A community project, the programs were sold by the Ladies Aid of the Mount Pocono Methodist Church, while the Pocono Mountain Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary sold refreshments.



According to the Monroe County Historical Association, this aerial photo of the horse show grounds was part of the Pocono Mountain Horse Show's 1932 catalogue. Photo from the Historical Association

Promoters weren't above a bit of creative public relations puffery to draw the crowds. For the first show in 1930, they boosted attendance by promising appearances by Governor Pinchot and other celebrities. None showed up that year, but that didn't stop the show from becoming one of the nation's premier equestrian events which did ultimately attract "A-list" names.

The shows promoted the Poconos as a destination and were intended to associate the area with the glamor of high society since by the 1930s, the automobile had made horses playthings for the rich.

During the depression, the Pocono business community sought to align the vacation area with the rich and famous. They saw things like the horse show and the Laurel Blossom Festival of the same era as enhancing all of the Poconos resorts - even the middle class ones with patrons who only saw horses at race tracks!

A famous editorial of the period candidly said that Monroe County did not want visitors with "Coney Island tastes," but preferred to attract "the better class."

Of course, it was the 'big three' of the time - Buck Hill, Pocono Manor, and Skytop - which directly gained the most, since their guests *were* the high society.

After the final Pocono Mountains Horse Show in 1941, a new high stepper confab came to town in the late 40s. We asked former county commissioner Susanne McCool, whose parents were responsible for the "Mount Pocono Horse Show," to tell us what she remembered about it:

*My parents, John and Viola Fretz, and a group of businessmen from the Mount Pocono Area, brought the horse show back to our business, the Airport Inn, which today is known as Bailey's.*

*The show was held in the big field behind our hotel for three years - 1946, 1947 and 1948. Licensed by the American Horse Shows Association, it was actually part of the circuit which held prestigious shows at Madison Square Garden, among other places. These Horse Shows also benefited the General Hospital.*

*My sisters, Linda and Paulette, and I, were quite young then, but I still remember toddling around the field with our Aunt Audrey Grabowsky, watching people brushing their horses, braiding their tails, and putting ribbons in their manes and tails. When the shows were over, we would walk around the empty fields picking up those pretty ribbons.*

*Although I was very young, I can remember when our grandstands were being built behind our hotel. Duke Keiper, a local builder and friend of my parents, oversaw the project. I remember the day they tested the lights in the grandstands, a memory that has somehow stuck with me.*

*I believe some folks flew into the shows as the Mount Pocono Airport Association was conveyed to the Pocono Mountains Airport Association on September 26, 1945. My dad and other local businessmen were members of the Airport Association. Prior to this, the airport was owned and operated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Coolbaugh Historical Society has records on how the airport was conveyed to the association. But - that's a story for another day!*



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# September 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1 FIRST FRIDAY 6:00 PM	2
3	4 <b>BORO BUILDING CLOSED - LABOR DAY</b>	5 BC REG MTG 7:00 PM	6 <b>TRASH ONE DAY DELAY</b>	7 <b>TRASH/BULK P/U</b>	8	9
10	11	12 ZHS 7:00 (IF NEEDED)	13 TRASH/BULK P/U	14 MPMA W/S 6:30 PM REG MTG 7:00 PM	15	16
17	18	19 BC W/S 6:30 PM	20 PC REG MTG 7:00 PM TRASH/BULK P/U	21 PARK & REC REG MTG 7:00 PM	22	23 <b>HARVEST FEST 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM</b>
24	25 SAFETY COMM REG MTG 7:00 PM	26	27 TRASH/BULK P/U	28	29	30
1	2	Notes 9/1 - FIRST FRIDAY 6:00 PM 9/4 - <b>BORO BUILDING CLOSED - LABOR DAY</b> 9/6 - TRASH ONE DAY DELAY 9/7 - TRASH/BULK P/U 9/23 - HARVEST FEST 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM				

# October 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 BC REG MTG 6:30 PM	4 TRASH/BULK P/U	5	6	7
8	9	10 ZHS 7:00 PM (IF NEEDED)	11 TRASH/BULK P/U	12 MPMA W/S 6:30 PM REG MTG 7:00 PM	13	14
15	16	17 BC W/S 6:30 PM	18 PC REG MTG 7:00 PM TRASH/BULK P/U	19 PARK & REC REG MTG 7:00 PM	20	21 <b>TRUNK OR TREAT 3:00-5:00 PM</b>
22	23 SAFETY COMM REG MTG 7:00 PM	24	25 TRASH/BULK P/U	26	27	28
29	30	31 <b>HALLOWEEN HOURS 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM</b>	1	2	3	4
5	6	Notes 10/21 - TRUNK OR TREAT 3:00 - 5:00 PM 10/31 - HALLOWEEN HOURS 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM				

# November 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1 TRASH/BULK P/U	2	3	4
5	6	7 BC REG MTG 6:30 PM	8 TRASH/BULK/LEAF P/U	9 MPMA W/S 6:30 PM REG MTG 7:00 PM	10	11 VETERANS DAY
12	13	14 ZHB 7:00 PM (IF NEEDED)	15 PC REG MTG 7:00 PM TRASH/BULK/LEAF P/U	16 PARK & REC REG MTG 7:00 PM	17	18
19	20	21 BC W/S 6:30 PM	22 TRASH/BULK P/U	23 BORO BUILDING CLOSED - THANKSGIVING	24 BORO BUILDING CLOSED	25
26	27 SAFETY COMM REG MTG 7:00 PM	28	29 TRASH/BULK P/U	30	1	2
3	4	Notes 11/8 & 11/15 - LEAF PICK-UP *REMINDER: BAGS SHOULD BE CLEAR OR PAPER LEAF BAGS* 11/23 & 11/24 - BORO BUILDING CLOSED - IN OBSERVANCE OF THANKSGIVING				

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## Council President's Letter

from Council President DON STRUCKLE

*As the leaves begin to change and the crisp air of fall settles in, we are delighted to bring you the latest news and updates from our Borough Council. There's so much to share, from new faces to exciting community events. So, let's dive right in!*

**Welcoming Our New Borough Manager - Marissa Duffy.** We are thrilled to introduce our new Borough Manager, Marissa Duffy, who has seamlessly stepped into their role, bringing a wealth of experience and fresh perspectives. Marissa's dedication to our community is evident in their commitment to enhancing our town's infrastructure, services, and overall quality of life. With their leadership, we are confident that our Borough will continue to thrive and evolve. Please join me in extending a warm welcome to Marissa as we embark on this exciting journey together.

**A Roaring Success: Pocono Mountain Volunteer Fire Company Annual Carnival.** This past July, our town came alive with excitement as the Pocono Mountain Volunteer Fire Company Annual Carnival took center stage. The vibrant lights, thrilling rides, delicious treats, and joyous laughter filled the air, creating cherished memories for families and friends. The success of this event is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our fire company and volunteers. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone involved and look forward to many more wonderful celebrations in the years to come.

**Mark Your Calendars: Annual Harvest Festival in September 23rd 10:00AM-5:00PM.** As summer bids farewell and autumn paints our landscape with hues of red, orange, and gold, it's time to gear up for our Annual Harvest Festival in September. This beloved event brings together the community to celebrate the bounties of the season. From local produce to crafts, music, and games, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Let's gather to embrace the spirit of togetherness and create lasting memories at this year's Harvest Festival.

**Truck-or-Treat Extravaganza October 21st, 3-5PM.** Halloween is just around the corner, and we're excited to announce the upcoming Truck-or-Treat event at the Volunteer Fire Company grounds. Join us for a spooktacular evening filled with creatively decorated vehicles, costumes, treats, and a whole lot of fun. It's a safe and enjoyable way for families to come together and celebrate the Halloween spirit. Don't miss out on this bewitching event right in our own backyard!

**Boosting Efficiency: New Utility Truck for the Road Crew Department.** In our ongoing commitment to enhancing efficiency and maintaining our infrastructure, we're excited to share news of our recent acquisition—a utility truck for the Road Crew. This addition will significantly enhance our operations, making maintenance and transportation practices more effective and streamlined. Rest assured that we're dedicated to continually improving our Borough's functionality and appearance.

**Engage and Participate: Monthly Public Meetings.** Your voice matters, and we encourage all residents to actively participate in our Borough's development. Our monthly public meetings, held on the 1st Tuesday of every month at 6:30 PM at Borough Hall, provide a platform for open discussions, sharing ideas, and staying informed about important matters that affect our community. Your presence and input contribute to the vitality of our Borough, so mark your calendars and join us as we work collaboratively to shape our future.

As we embrace the beauty and vibrancy of Fall, let's come together to celebrate our achievements, share in the joy of community events, and engage in the conversations that shape our Borough's destiny. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events and meetings!

**MOUNT POCONO BOROUGH**

1361 Pocono Blvd #100  
Mount Pocono, PA 18344

**Advertising Information: 570-589-0803, tom@ourtownpublications.com**

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