

THE Declaration

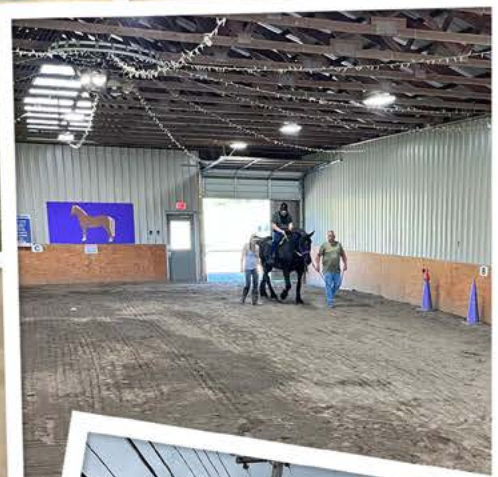
OF INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP

Washington County · Avella, Pennsylvania

SUMMER 2024 NEWSLETTER



VOLUME II • ISSUE 2



Contents

The Declaration of Independence Township
SUMMER 2024



Thanks to volunteer residents for providing decorations for the municipal office at no cost to our township. They do a beautiful job sprucing up the interior of the township office seasonally, making it a welcoming atmosphere.

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INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP

34 Campbell Street · PO Box E · Avella, PA 15312
Ph: 724-587-3518 | Fax: 724-587-5988
Email: indtwpwashco@hky.com
www.independence.patownship.org

 Follow us on Facebook

Board of Supervisors

THOMAS JENNINGS
Chairman

JOYCE MCKENZIE
Vice-Chairman

THOMAS COWDEN
Supervisor

Secretary / Treasurer

MELISSA ANSELL

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday: 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Public Meetings:
3rd Friday of the Month: 10:00 AM

The Declaration of Independence Township is published four times per year by the Board of Supervisors.

FEEDBACK & NEWS TIPS WELCOME!
katiee12@hotmail.com



Message from the Supervisors

"WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE...."

Using summer and our local advantages to get the kids unplugged!

Have you ever started a sentence with "When I was your age..."? Congratulations: you're officially a concerned parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle or friend watching our up-and-coming generation grow up in a world that is SO very different than the one we grew up in. As we look back, we can

easily see how technology has become the dominating force in our lives today. It has changed culture, society, business, government, religious practices, home, school, relationships and the way we interact with one another, and just about every aspect of life - in staggering ways. There are so many positives from technology we can't begin to name them. But any parent would probably agree, there are very real and scary changes happening from technology as well. Getting the kids unglued from the screens can be tricky, but we need to see our kids doing tactile, hands-on, face-to-face activities too. Think of how many hours they spend a day looking at a screen (being influenced by smarter-by-the-day-technology) instead of doing real world activities and the effect it's having on their mind, body and spirit.

The wise quote from Greek physician Hippocrates "Everything in excess is opposed to nature," is a reminder to be mindful in using all things in moderation to keep a balance. It suggests that exceeding certain limits will lead to disharmony and a disruption of the equilibrium that governs the interconnected web of existence. A lot of folks would probably agree that it is a struggle individually, and even more so a concern to help our kids, from the little ones to the teens, to find that balance with using the technology that we cannot avoid.

"Everything in excess is opposed to nature."

-Hippocrates

... a reminder to be mindful in using all things in moderation to keep a balance.

We'd like to suggest using this summer and our local advantages to UNPLUG! For most of us, summers were spent outside. Riding bikes with the neighborhood friends, playing in the crick, campfires, catching lighting bugs, picking berries, fishing, cookouts, etc. We look around this place we live, and we think it's the most beautiful place. We have so much natural

beauty to enjoy and play in. In addition to our beautiful rolling hills, forests, farms, creeks, ponds, lakes and wilderness, we have a developed park, playground, sport



court, community center, walking trails and other infrastructure for our enjoyment. We also have a TON of activities and events going on all throughout summer. We have small businesses, restaurants, a driving range, golf course, a national historic landmark, churches and organizations we all need to be supporting. There are also volunteer opportunities a-plenty, where your help as a single individual even for a day (or the help of your child on his/her summer break!) could make a big impact.

This place is beautiful, and if we can unplug and look around, get some more community going, it can be even more so.



continued on page 4



Message from the Supervisors

continued

We are always looking at our conditions for the present, the immediate future and for years into the future for the next generation. We put in a lot of time, doing what we can, one thing at a time, to improve life in Independence Township. We are always working on applying for grants and securing funding for projects. We work constantly to form and maintain relationships with folks who may be able to help us with projects. There is an endless list of projects we envision for helping to help make our beautiful Independence Township better for all residents. Here are just some of the projects we currently have in the works and on the horizon:



- Paving School Court
- Seal Coating Independence Township Community Center Parking Lot
- Seal Coating Independence Township Municipal Lot
- Demolishment of Derelict Buildings on Deer Lane
- Ordered from Grant Money the Community Park Permanent Bathrooms
- Independence Township Community Park Pavillion Kitchen Upgrades on the Horizon
- Grant for the Community Center with LSA State (ARPA) is awaiting decision
- Tar & Chipping Scheduled for this Summer
- Website Revamping/Updates in Progress
- New Office Opening Soon at the Municipal Building for Public Works Roadmaster and Communications Person



WE WON! 1st Place Newsletter

Independence Township won **FIRST PLACE for our newsletter** in the category of townships with a population of 5,000 and under for 2023. **We share the award with all the residents & say a special THANK YOU to all who contribute and have contributed to the newsletter.**

Communication and transparency are very important to us here in Independence Township. We not only want to keep our residents informed as much as possible, so there is a better understanding of how, why and where resources are being used, but we also want to continue to encourage the communication to be two-way. We want to hear from our residents, facilitate more dialogue and invite feedback so we can have a better understanding of what the residents want. We ultimately desire to build trust, align goals whenever possible and work together toward taking the immense potential of our little village to the next level for the future generations.

We are honored to be continually recognized by PSATS. To continue to improve in these communication efforts, we are currently working on updating our website, keeping the facebook page and newsletter information flowing, and potentially keeping hours for a communications person in the office in the near future. Also, if you missed the chance to provide feedback on the last survey, please take a few moments to do so. We want to hear from you!

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK

CLICK HERE
for the 2nd in a series of short
SURVEYS

What kinds of things would
you like to have in Independence Township?



Sincerely Yours,

Thomas Jennings, Chairman
Joyce McKenzie, Vice Chairman
Thomas Cowden, Supervisor

Avella Public Library

ADVENTURE — BEGINS AT — YOUR LIBRARY™

SUMMER READING 2024

June 18, 19, & 20 • 11 am - 12:30 pm

THREE DAYS OF FUN • ALL AGES!

Each day will feature stories, crafts, snacks, prizes, special guests!



Haberman Magic
will kick off the
program on June 18!



Special guest volunteer
will be Miss Amanda
from Blueprints!



Special visit from Mr. Bob
from Independence
Township Public Works!



A visit from special guest
Andy Armadillo & friends
from the Texas Roadhouse!



TO REGISTER: Call the Library or Message Us on Facebook

Address: 11 School Court, Avella, PA 15312

Phone: 724-587-5688 • Follow Us on Facebook (AvellaPublicLibrary)

Regular Library Hours: Mon, Tues., Wed., Thurs. 10 am - 5 pm





ATTENTION PLEASE

WARNING!

Our Bulk Clean-Up Dumpsters Could Go Away!

*Individuals have been dumping personal garbage in our bulk clean-up dumpsters.
This type of personal garbage, kitchen garbage, food scraps, etc. attracts animals and pests.
This is a problem that could become costly to the township and taxpayers.
If this does not STOP, we will be forced to eliminate the bulk clean-up dumpsters.*

Dumpsters are for Bulk Items ONLY
NO Personal Garbage Bags • NO Food Garbage
Absolutely NO Dumpster Diving!



Independence Township Dumpsters



Bulk Item Clean-up

Independence Township
has dumpsters available for

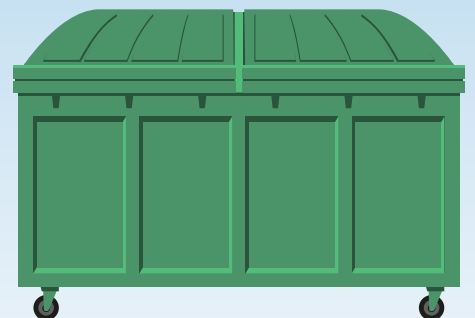
INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS ONLY

Saturdays Only:

April - October: 8 am - 5 pm | November - March: 9 am - 4 pm

CLOSED ON MAJOR HOLIDAYS

*Please NO: tires, electronic devices, computers, refrigerators, garbage,
building materials, paint or petroleum products.*



Address: 11 School Court, Avella, PA 15312 (behind the Independence Township Community Center)



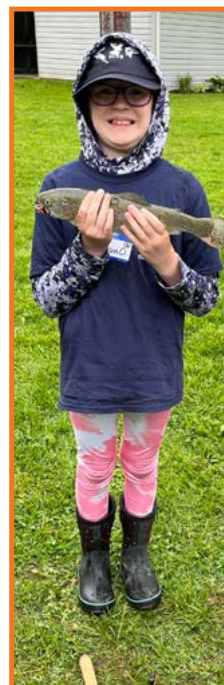
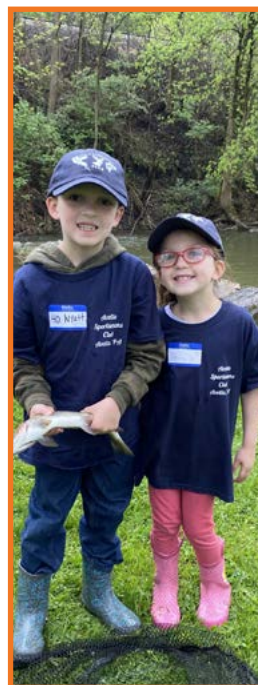
Avella Sportsmen's Club

hosts

The 10th Annual Francis Ola Kids' Fishing Tournament

The wet weather on the morning of Saturday May 4, 2024 did not keep the Avella Sportsmen's Club from hosting a fantastic, fun-filled day for a record-breaking number of registrants at the 10th Annual Francis Ola Kids' Fishing Tournament. Dozens of trout were caught (some giants!), there were smiles everywhere, giggling kids, tons of prizes, happy families.

Avella Sportsmen's Club president Chuck Thomas gathered participants at the beginning to go over some ground rules, then kids took their places along Cross Creek, the horn blew to mark the start of fishing, lines were casted, and kids started pulling trout out one by one. Each time they caught one, they'd run their catch to the judges' table to have their fish measured for the competition.



The tournament has been growing annually, and this year the length of creek that was stocked and fished had to be expanded to accommodate 75+ participants, age 4-12, all children or grandchildren of Sportsmen's Club members.

All of the big winners of the competition were awarded with trophies, including 1st, 2nd and 3rd place for both girls and boys.

As always, a number of goodies were handed out to ALL young participants, each receiving a t-shirt and hat, a goody bag, free lunch and a Chick-fil-A gift card.

A boy's bicycle and a girl's bicycle were also given away to the two lucky winners of a name draw. Along with the fishing and prizes for the kids were concessions and Chinese auction baskets available to other attendees.

Great job Avella Sportsmen's Club. And **Thank You** those who donated time and money to help make the tournament such a huge success. What a great event for our area and children!



PUBLIC WORKS



DEPARTMENT UPDATE

BY **Bob Collett,**
Roadmaster

'TIS THE SEASON!

Mowing, mowing, and more mowing! Independence Township Public Works Department has lots of road work and lots of mowing on our schedule.



Our Public Works crew is comprised of full time roadmaster Bob Collett, full time staff, Joe Gagliani and part time staff, Donnie Riggins. Our three guys work endlessly to keep around 34 miles of township roadways operational and to provide professional, efficient and cost effective services, ensuring that all infrastructure and public areas within Independence Township are secured and well-maintained for our residents. We are careful to always follow local, state and federal standards, and are focused on providing service in a timely and courteous manner and in a way that is as environmentally friendly as possible. We also have a large fleet of equipment that requires continuous upkeep and maintenance; another responsibility of our guys.

In addition to the hands-on work, our roadmaster Bob has a never ending list of administrative duties. He is always working to help prepare the way for the next big projects, such as working on grants, relationships, paperwork and the like to help secure funding or money-saving initiatives from the state and a variety of other avenues for our township roads projects, for now and into the future. Its a big job for all our guys, and they do a great job.

Recently we caught the crew in action mowing along the roads, as well as doing some crowning on the gravel roads. Bob is very knowledgeable and enthusiastic about all of the equipment and all things roads, gravel, dirt, pavement, etc! If you ever have the opportunity to talk roads with Bob, he will probably make you interested in this stuff too. There



YOU PLAY A ROLE IN WORK ZONE SAFETY



WORK WITH US

It's the time of year when you can expect to encounter road work anywhere you go, so leave a little early and be patient with the crews out there working hard, so that everyone gets to return home safely every night. Please drive cautiously, always, and slow down for our crew!



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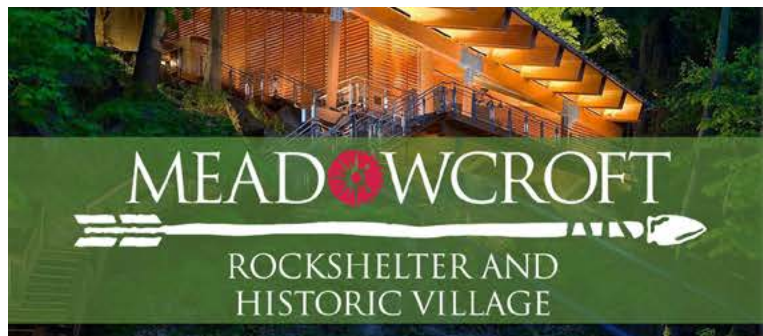


are a TON of details they look at that the average person driving on the roads everyday would never even consider. He shared that they do this crowning technique so the gravel roads perform better. In the end it is a cost-saving measure used in effort to provide better roads for the residents and save those tax dollars! The “crown” is the center high point that runs along the length of the road. They crown the road with a grader, usually twice a year, to create a gentle slope going down from each side of the crown to help water run off instead of standing on and soaking through the gravel. The more a surface is sloped, the quicker it will shed water into the areas around it and the less likely it is to become muddy. Crowning also reduces gravel loss through erosion and prevents potholes from forming, which lessens the need to constantly add new gravel. That saves time and money!

We also caught the guys putting up a new line of mailboxes for School Court by the Independence Township Community Center. School Court will be paved at the end of June or early July. During that time, the Independence Township Community Center parking lot will be used for the parking of cars for the residents of School Court. After that, the parking lot will be paved!

Other projects that have been completed recently are street sweeping. We are working on big bridge projects on Sugar Run Road. Tar and Chipping will be scheduled for summer also. Please keep up to date with projects on the Independence Township Facebook page.





AVELLA'S OWN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

OPENED FOR IT'S 55TH SEASON AT THE BEGINNING OF MAY 2024. It's a popular one-day getaway for families all over the tri-state area. **With this treasure in our own backyard, be sure to take time this summer to visit and see all there is to see at Meadowcroft. It is fun and interesting for all ages!**

Meadowcroft is the oldest site of human habitation in North America and features a massive rock overhang used by the region's first inhabitants for shelter as early as 19,000 years ago. Meadowcroft's 19th-century village features a covered bridge, one-room schoolhouse, blacksmith shop, church, and two log houses that create a charming country village setting. The 16th-century Indian Village includes wigwams, recreated prehistoric artifacts, and hands-on activities related to American Indian agriculture.

Meadowcroft will offer a robust schedule of special events during the 2024 season, including American Indian Heritage Weekend, the annual Atlatl Competition, 19th century style "base ball," and more. **Below are a few of the special events for the summer. The full lineup of events and more information can be found online at heinzhistorycenter.org/events.**



Atlatl Competition

JUNE 15:

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 pm

Beginners are invited to try using the atlatl, a spear-thrower used by prehistoric hunters, and watch some of the world's best competitors from the World Atlatl Association compete for high score.



Independence Day Celebration

JULY 4:

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 pm

Celebrate the spirit of America with historical demonstrations and period games at Meadowcroft's 18th century frontier area and 19th century rural village.



Vintage Base Ball Day

AUG. 17:

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 pm

Come watch base ball 19th century style with the Somerset Frosty Sons of Thunder, Addison Mountain Stars, and Canal Fulton Mules of Ohio using the 1860s rules.



Insider Tours of the Rockshelter

(multiple dates)

**JUNE 22 • JULY 20
AUG. 10 • SEPT. 14**

10:00 a.m.

Visitors are invited to attend exclusive Insider Tours of the Rockshelter with Dr. James Adovasio. Online reservations are required at heinzhistorycenter.org/events

SUMMER HOURS (Memorial Day - Labor Day)
Wednesday - Sunday: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

ADMISSION:

adults: \$15 | senior citizen (65+): \$14 | children ages 6-17: \$7 | children under 6 & History Center members: FREE

401 Meadowcroft Road | Avella, PA 15312 · Phone: 724-587-3412

www.heinzhistorycenter.org/meadowcroft



The Declaration of Independence Township



Summer 2024



INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP Community Center

11 School Court • Avella, PA 15312

Call for Reservations: 724-507-6448



PICKLEBALL

WEEKDAYS

call to schedule

*Blocks of time available from 10 am - 4 pm
at \$2 per session*

EVENINGS

call for availability

CALL 724-507-6448 TO SCHEDULE

GYM TIME CALL TO SCHEDULE

Call to schedule time during the day for walking, exercise, and play in the gym. Do laps in the gym to get your steps!
The gymnasium is open to the public by calling to schedule a time to come play, and it can be opened early to accommodate work schedules if you call in advance to schedule.

The Perfect Venue for Parties

The neutral color scheme of our newly remodeled party room is perfect to go along with any party theme. It is complete with tables, chairs, a bar with electrical outlets (perfect for a buffet of party food), and even a mini fridge for your drinks.

The adjacent gym is perfect for recreation for your guests. Let the kids burn off steam (and those calories from all the cake and goodies!), while you enjoy time in the party room eating and visiting with those you've invited to share in the festivities.

- VERY AFFORDABLE RATES -



Avella Eagles

Celebrate

World Cultures Day

BY **Lynn Clarchick**, Avella Area School Dist. Librarian/Computer Teacher/Gifted Coordinator K-12
& **Ms. Renee Worst**



Avella Area Elementary School is proud to announce its inaugural celebration of World Cultures Day, held on May 21st, coinciding with national World Cultures Day. This event marked a significant milestone in the school's mission statement to prepare students to be innovative, productive citizens in an interconnected world.

In partnership with various departments of the University of Pittsburgh, Avella Area School District created a variety of activities that encompassed an array of cultures from around the world. Students had the opportunity to

immerse themselves in cultural experiences, including learning flamenco dancing, participating in Kiswahili language learning sessions, crafts designed to increase cultural awareness, and interactive presentations highlighting diverse traditions and customs.

The event aimed to not only celebrate cultural diversity but also to empower students to embrace and appreciate the richness of different cultures. Through engaging and interactive activities, students gain a deeper understanding of global perspectives, fostering a sense of unity and inclusivity within the school community.



Photos Courtesy of Avella School District



A.D. White Research Society, Ltd.

Honoring Local Veterans, Welcoming a Crowd, Using New Tech to Preserve History!

BY Lisa Maust, Terry Wiegmann, Katie Leeper

Our open house was successful with new faces attending the event on Memorial Day! We estimate 25 people gathered to display & share information honoring local fallen soldiers.

The Observer Reporter attended the event and published an article, helping to honor two local heroes. One was WWII veteran Orrin Guy Miller, who died in a bombing mission over Hungary in 1944. Also honored was Joseph Albert Milvet, Pfc., U.S. Army Infantry WWII veteran, recipient of two Purple Hearts, and former resident of Cross Creek. Pfc. Milvet was both wounded, then later killed in action in Italy, in October 1944, earning those Purple Hearts. Jade Milvet-Kolba and Carolyn Milvet-Lee were both there to help remember and honor their family member. In lieu of Avella having a formal Memorial Day commemoration, the Society hopes to start a tradition of honoring additional veterans in the years ahead.



Terry Wiegmann, whose parents are both Avella natives, now travels from Ohio to aid in the efforts of the Research Society. She was on site to talk about one avenue of historical preservation she has taken the reins on. Among the many types of historical research and data collected by A.D. White and others, there are hours of cassette recordings made throughout the 1990s that have White interviewing local folks and reminiscing about people and places in and around Avella. Terry has discovered some surprising recordings that reveal some very interesting stories about our local history! It is very exciting stuff, and she has purchased some smart software that will transcribe all of the audio off of the many hours of cassette tapes into a typed format that can be preserved digitally for generations to come.



Lisa Maust, Maria Villotti, Karen Klages, Beth Villotti,
Jade Milvet-Kolba, Andrew Donovan, Terry Wiegmann, Wil White
Not pictured: Carolyn Milvet-Lee



The A.D. White Research Society is motivated to keep the train station and its contents secured with donations, membership, grants and other philanthropic endeavors. Wil White is the president of the A.D. White Research Society, which was named after his father, the late local historian, A.D. White. Wil, along with the late Kathryn Campbell Slasor and June Campbell-Welch were the original founders of the Society.

Our next meeting will be June 22nd, at 10:30 a.m. We also plan to resume the popular History Fairs.

To volunteer time, money, or ask questions, contact us at:
ADWHITE@HKY.COM | 724-344-9675 (Wil White, President) | PO Box 562, Avella PA 15312 | find us on facebook!

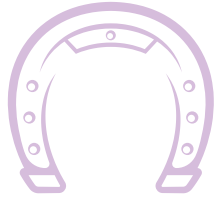




in the
Makin'

& SUGAR RUN STABLES

UPCOMING EVENTS



SUGAR RUN STABLES Pony Club

SUMMER PROGRAM 2024

July
5th & 19th

August
2nd & 9th

September
6th & 20th

9:00 am-12:00 pm each day • \$150 for 2 days per individual
AT SUGAR RUN STABLES, HOME OF MEMORIES IN THE MAKIN'

What to expect:

- Tasks to do/ horsemanship to learn
- Grooming, tacking, leading/tying and basic first aid of horses
- Novice, Intermediate, and experience levels of riding
- Daily Care of horses feeding, watering, cleaning your horse's stall

What to wear:

- Jeans, boots and a t-shirt
- Horseback riding helmet only (we have some if you do not)



All Parents/ Legal Guardians must sign waivers for their son/daughter! Cash or check is required in advance and no refunds optional!

*Below are some photos from last year's Fall Fest, from Sugar Run Stables and Memories in the Makin'.
If you'd like to learn more about Memories in the Makin' or would consider becoming a
volunteer or sponsoring our nonprofit, please contact us or visit us online.*



Memories in the Makin' is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization offering equine therapy for people with disabilities and special needs as well as veterans.

1016 Sugar Run Road, Avella, PA 15312 • 724-249-3264



www.memoriesinthemakin.com



@memoriesinthemakin'



@memoriesinthemakin



The Declaration of Independence Township

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Summer 2024



WHAT'S HAPPENING

upcoming Local Events

✂ ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH ✂

AUTO SHOW

CARS, TRUCKS, TRACTORS. AND MORE

SPONSORED BY:

Mongo's
GARAGE

176 CROSS CREEK RD AVELLA, PA. 15312



**SATURDAY
JULY 20, 2024**

This will be our 5th Annual Auto Show at St. John's. There will be a variety of vehicles at our show, and we would love for you to be a part of the history this year! Our audience ranges from 1 year old to 80+. Last year we were able to have a few new surprises up our sleeve. Our show area is flat and shaded. We will have food for sale as well as 50/50, raffle baskets, giveaways, and much more! There will be an auto-related Lego competition for both kids and adults as well as a coloring contest of Mongo's garage vehicles for kids. The money raised from this event helps sponsor our soup kitchen during the fall and winter and other community events.

REGISTRATION OPENS AT 9:30 A.M

AWARD CEREMONY STARTS AT 1:30 PM

**FOOD FOR SALE • AWARDS • 50/50 & RAFFLE
COLORING CONTEST • LEGO COMPETITION**



AVELLA WRESTLING

presents:

FUTURE CHAMPIONS PROGRAM

All Pre-K and Kindergarten athletes
Boys & Girls, Ages 3-5 (must be potty trained)

**AVELLA HS CAFETERIA
MONDAYS & THURSDAYS
JUNE 17TH THROUGH JULY 18TH
6PM - 7PM**

Please join the Avella Wrestling team for our open mat sessions where coaches will teach basic fundamental movement skills

This program aims to improve muscle strength and development, flexibility, and promote confidence in our youngest athletes

Open to all skill levels

Register Here:



Free of cost



**ALL SKILL LEVELS
WELCOME**

Any boys & girls interested in wrestling, please join us for our open mat sessions. Focus will be on fundamental movements, strength training, and conditioning in a no-pressure setting

Register Here:



Free of cost

Avella Wrestling

Youth through Varsity Level

**Avella HS Cafeteria
Mondays & Thursdays
June 17th through July 18th
7PM - 9PM**

OPEN MAT CLUB



WHAT'S HAPPENING

upcoming Vacation Bible Schools

Grove Presbyterian Church

June 10 - 14

VBS 2024

SCUBA

diving into friendship with God

Mon - Fri: 9 am - noon

Ages: K - Grade 6

Songs, Crafts, Bible Stories, Snacks, Games!

*Teen Volunteers can get community service hours!

125 East Main Street, West Middletown, PA 15379

Contact: Bonnie McConnell

724-986-2649 or mcconnellb836@gmail.com

Open Door Baptist Church

June 17 - 21

VBS BREAKER ROCK BEACH 2024

God's Rock-Solid Truth in a World of Shifting Sands
(Romans 12:2)

Mon - Fri: 6 pm - 9 pm

Classes for Ages 2 years - adult

Visit us on Facebook: Open Door Baptist VBS

Register Here :

<https://kideventpro.lifeway.com/myEvent/?id=69521>

3432 Eldersville Road, Colliers, WV, 26035

Phone: 740-346-5663



The Foundry Church

July 22 - 25

Mon - Thur: 6:30 pm-8:45 pm

www.thefoundry.church

Ages: Pre-K, K-8th grade

(register preschool if your child has not completed Kindergarten)

VBS 2024

BLAZE A TRAIL



1340 Washington Pike, Wellsburg, WV 26070 | Contact: Amy Openbrier: thefoundrykids.church@gmail.com



WHAT'S HAPPENING

upcoming Local Events

COMING SOON

Little A Town Farmer's Market

AND MORE

2nd & 4th Friday of Each Month

BENEFITS
AVELLA FFA

JUNE 2024



JUNE 28

4:00 pm - 8:00 pm

The "Little A Town" Farmer's Market will begin in June at the Arena grounds on Campbell Drive. Plans are to have the market run June thru October, on the

**2nd & 4th Fridays
of each month.**

****VENDORS NEEDED****
email ruffalok@avellasd.org

The market will be held rain or shine,
4:00pm - 8:00pm, with set up beginning
at 3:00pm.

Pop ups are permitted.

We would like to offer the community a variety of vendors. Vendors can be reps of a larger organization like Pampered Chef or Mary Kay. They can offer produce, eggs, homemade baked goods, handmade crafts, antiques, or unique gifts. Vendors can also use this space to sell household items like home decor, dishes, clothing, purses, holiday decorations, tools, or anything else. The sales of any live animal is strictly prohibited.

Avella Volunteer Fire Department

P'S BIRD WAGON



724-413-9232

Fried Chicken
Chicken Tenders
Pulled Pork Sandwich
Fresh Cut Fries
Mac and Cheese
Soda/Water

Additional Rotating Side Dishes

Potato Salad
Cole Slaw
Collard Greens
Green Beans and Potatoes
Hobo Beans

The Twisted Potato

Hot Sausage \$9

Philly Steak or Chicken \$9

Chicken Tenders \$9

Twisted Potato \$7

Fresh Cut Fries \$7

Free toppings for Fries and Twisted

Cheese • Ranch

Bacon • Sour Cream

Buffalo Sauce

FOOD TRUCK MONDAYS!

Every Monday • 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

(1560 Avella Rd, Avella, PA 15312)

Come down and bring your appetite, support the fire department and enjoy some great food from the trucks!

Keep up to date with our facebook page
"Avella Vfd Station Thirty-Five"
for any updates or the occasional cancellation.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

upcoming Local Events



JULY 2ND

JAKE ORESICK
Author

AUG 6TH

LEE GOLDMAN KIKEL
Holocaust Speaker

SEPT 3RD

ANNETTE DUSHOVY
Burgettstown mystery and award winning author

OCT 1ST

JOHN MARK SCOTT
Retired W&J Professor - Local History

NOV 12TH

ANDREW DONOVAN
on Groundhog Day for Meadowcroft

\$50/PER PERSON includes dinner
call/text to reserve seat(s): 724.833.7270
MARSHA'S KITCHEN ON MAIN



Marsha Cassel's

*Kitchen
on
Main*

SUMMER HOURS:

Wednesday-Friday: NOON-7:30 pm

Saturday: 10:30 am-7:30 pm

Sunday: 10:30 am-3:00 pm

JUNE 16

Father's Day Meat Fest
11am to 3pm

JUNE 28

Music with Aaron Carey
5pm-7pm

JUNE 30

Ayurvedic Dinner
and Lecture on the health
benefits of Ayurvedic eating
5pm-7pm

JULY 26

Music with the
Troubadour Robert Gaudio
on the deck
5pm-7pm

64 East Main St., West Middletown, PA 15379 ★ **724-833-7270**





The AACA has recently gone through some re-organization, and we are looking for more community support and input. The organization currently has funding, but we need people to get ideas off the ground. ***We exist to make our town better for you, your family, and for generations to come.***



DO YOU HAVE

a special **TALENT, IDEAS** or just a **DESIRE TO HELP** our community?

We'd like to use your time and talents in the areas that interest you! Some areas that we focus our efforts toward are:

- Beautification & Clean-Up
- Historical Preservation
- Programs, Speakers, Workshops
- Fundraising
- Publicity
- Special Events

MEETINGS:

3rd Monday of every month at 6:00 PM
Independence Township Community Center
PLEASE JOIN US!
Call 724-507-6448 with questions.



The Avella Area Community Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. It costs \$20 to become a voting member. We welcome everyone to join a meeting and to volunteer for a project.



for help with
ADDICTION

**MEETING EVERY
WEDNESDAY • 7:30 PM**

Avella Church
25 Campbell Street, Avella, PA 15312

All are welcome.

Your anonymity will be protected.

What is said here, stays here.

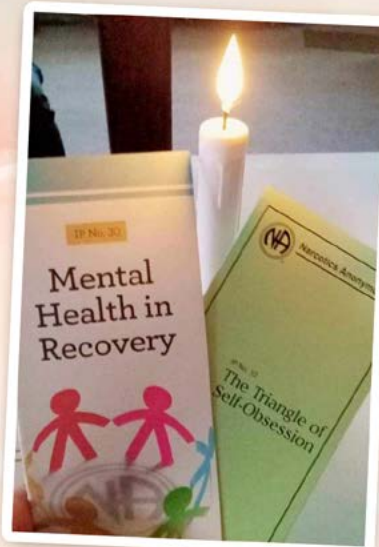
No cell phone use in meeting.

Mental Health in Recovery SUPPORT GROUP

"Deuces Down"

Tuesdays - 7pm

Avella Church • 25 Campbell Street, Avella



WHAT'S HAPPENING

upcoming Local Events

Avella Athletics

52ND ANNUAL Steak Fry

three days of events

Friday, July 12TH

Pre-Tournament Party: Discount Drinks, Music: 5 pm - 8:30 pm

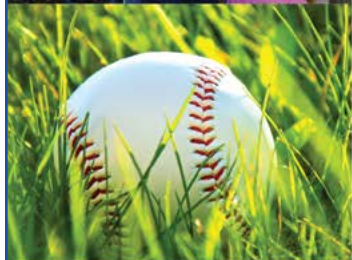
Saturday, July 13TH

Men's/Women's Tournament · Steak Dinners
Local Band to Close out the Night

Sunday, July 14TH

Men's/Women's Tournament Continued
Yinz Guys BBQ Half Chickens for Lunch

Contact Jim Gatewood at 724-288-7144
to preorder tickets



The American Legion Post 643 BAR OPENING WEEKLY ON FRIDAYS

beginning June 21

3:00 pm - ?

Members Only

30 Short Street, Avella, PA 15312

Your Legion post is in need of new members!

Contact Pat DeFilippis at 724-587-3455

**Many American Legion posts are closing. We don't want to be next.
Please Join!**



THE AMERICAN LEGION
POST 643





Greater Washington County
FOOD BANK
A division of Food Helpers

No income or
residency
requirements,
preregistration
requested,
walk-ups always
welcomed!

**TRUCK
TO
TRUNK**
Drive-Thru Model by Greater Washington County Food Bank

Community Outreach Program Monthly Distribution in Avella

DATES: Every 4th Wed.

★ June 26 ★ July 24 ★ August 28

TIME: 9:00 am - 11:00 am

LOCATION: Avella Vol. Fire Dept.

LOCATION DETAILS & BOX RESERVATIONS:

724-632-2190 X 124 OR:
www.foodhelpers.org

Visit www.foodhelpers.org to learn about
other programs available to those who qualify,
like SNAP and PA Senior Box Program

Independence United Methodist Church

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

9:45 AM

187 Washington Pike, Avella, PA

Pastor Craig Blankenship

Visit our facebook page, where you can follow
our daily devotions and current happenings:

**Harmony Charge-Castleman's Run,
Independence, Kadesh Chapel UMC**

Avella Church & Lower Buffalo Church

AVELLA
SUNDAY SVC.

9:45 AM

25 Campbell St.
Avella, PA

LOWER BUFFALO
SUNDAY SVC.

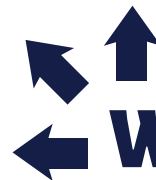
11:15 AM

335 Campground Rd
Avella, PA



SUNDAY MORNINGS
10:30 AM

1340 Washington Pike, Wellsburg, WV
www.thefoundry.church



WEEKLY CHURCH SERVICES

St. Isidore the Farmer at St. Michael Church

SUNDAY
MASS

11:00 AM

WEDNESDAY
MASS

8:00 AM

97 Highland Avenue, Avella, PA

St. John The Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church

DIVINE LITURGY
SUNDAY:

8:45 AM

MYSTERY OF
RECONCILIATION
8:00-8:30 AM
SUNDAY & BY APPT.

176 Cross Creek Road, Avella, PA

Grace Bible Church

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

11:00 AM

4592 Jefferson Ave., Avella, PA

Visit our website to see other worship, study,
prayer meeting & youth group times:

www.gracebiblechurchwmt.org



Send Us Your Photos!

Have any fun or interesting photos
from around Independence Township
that we can feature in an upcoming
newsletter or on our
Township Facebook page?

Email: katiee12@hotmail.com
or

Call/Text: 724-288-1374

Newsletter Sign-Up

Can we add you to our
Newsletter Email list?

Submit your email address to:
indtwpwashco@hky.com

STAY UP TO DATE!



Community Calendar

June

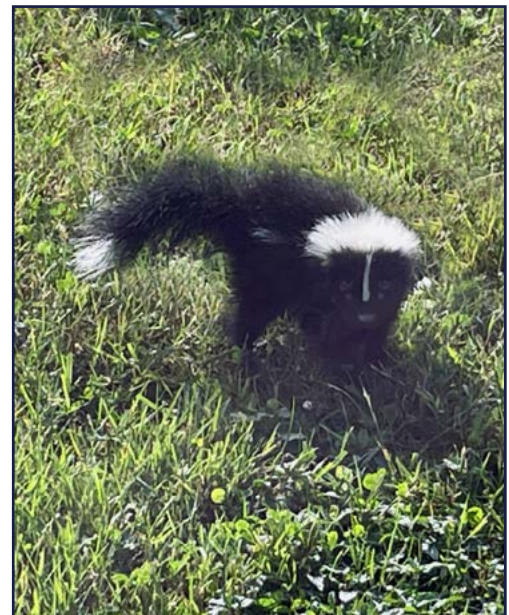
- 15** **Saturday: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm**
Meadowcroft Atlatl Competition
- 17** **Monday: 6:00 pm**
ICCJSA Meeting
- 17** **Monday: 6:00 pm**
AACA Meeting at Independence
Township Community Center
- 18-20** **Tues-Thurs: 11:30 am - 12:00 pm**
Library Summer Reading Program
- 21** **Friday: 10:00 am**
Independence Township Meeting
- 21** **Friday**
Summer Begins
- 22** **Saturday: 10:30 am**
A.D. White Meeting
- 22** **Saturday: 10:00 am**
Meadowcroft Rockshelter Insider Tour
- 26** **Wednesday: 9:00 am - 11:00 am**
Food Bank Avella Distribution
- 28** **Friday: 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm**
Little A Town Farmer's Market
- 28** **Friday: 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm**
MC Kitchen on Main Music
w/ Aaron Carey
- 30** **Sunday: 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm**
MC Kitchen on Main Music
Ayurvedic Dinner

July

- 2** **Tuesday**
WMHRC Speaker Series
Author Jake Oresick
- 4** **Thursday**
Independence Day
- 4** **Thursday: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm**
Meadowcroft
Independence Day Celebration
- 5 & 19** **Fridays: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm**
Sugar Run Stables Pony Club
- 12-14** **Friday-Sunday**
Athletics Steakfry
- 15** **Monday: 6:00 pm**
ICCJSA Meeting at Cross Creek
Township Building
- 15** **Monday: 6:00 pm**
AACA Meeting at Independence
Township Community Center
- 19** **Friday: 10:00 am**
Independence Township Meeting
- 20** **Saturday: 9:30 am**
St. John the Baptist Byzantine
Catholic Church Auto Show
- 20** **Saturday: 10:00 am**
Meadowcroft Rockshelter Insider Tour
- 22-25** **Mon-Thurs: 6:30 pm - 8:45 pm**
The Foundry Church VBS
- 24** **Wednesday: 9:00 am - 11:00 am**
Food Bank Avella Distribution
- 26** **Friday: 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm**
MC Kitchen on Main Music
w/ Troubadour R. Gaudio

August

- 2 & 9** **Fridays: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm**
Sugar Run Stables Pony Club
- 6** **Tuesday**
WMHRC Speaker Series
Holocaust Speaker Lee Goldman Kikel
- 10** **Saturday: 10:00 am**
Meadowcroft Rockshelter Insider Tour
- 16** **Friday: 10:00 am**
Independence Township Meeting
- 17** **Saturday: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm**
Meadowcroft
Vintage Base Ball Day
- 19** **Monday: 6:00 pm**
ICCJSA Meeting at Cross Creek
Township Building
- 19** **Monday: 6:00 pm**
AACA Meeting at Independence
Township Community Center
- 28** **Wednesday: 9:00 am - 11:00 am**
Food Bank Avella Distribution



Pictured Above: This cute baby skunk was spotted in early June in a resident's yard.

-Weekly Events Not Shown on Calendar-

- Church Services - page 21
- American Legion - page 20
- Without Parallel & Mental Health Group - page 19
- Food Truck Mondays - page 17
- Weekly Wrestling - page 15



Connect with INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP



Important Contact Information

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Chairman Thomas Jennings
Vice-Chairman Joyce McKenzie
Supervisor Thomas Cowden

STAFF & DEPARTMENTS

Secretary/Treasurer Melissa Ansell

Solicitor Sweat Law Offices
Engineer Harshman CE Group, LLC
Zoning/Building Permits Harshman CE Group, LLC
Code Enforcement Harshman CE Group, LLC
Emergency Management Ed Powers, Jr.
Accountants Cypher & Cypher

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP OFFICE

34 Campbell Street · PO Box E · Avella, PA 15312

Ph: 724-587-3518 | Fax: 724-587-5988

Email: indtwpwashco@hky.com

www.independence.patownship.org



Follow us on Facebook

Hours:

Monday-Friday: 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Public Meetings:

3rd Friday of the Month: 10:00 AM

PLANNING COMMISSION

Thomas Jennings
Nicholas Cecchini
Dale Tudor
Marc Cecchini
John Hudock

ZONING BOARD

Nigel Tudor
Ed Seiger
Larry Graham

ELECTED TAX COLLECTOR

Judy Magon

ELECTED AUDITORS

Hope Thomas
Michael Dzurko
Melinda Latynski

DEPARTMENT CONTACTS

Public Works Department 724-587-3518
Planning Commission 724-587-3518
Zoning Board 724-587-3518
Independence Township Community Center 724-507-6448
Donegal Police Department 724-587-3518
Code Enforcement & Zoning/Building Permits
(Harshman CE Group, LLC) 724-993-4505
Township Engineer (Harshman CE Group, LLC) 724-993-4505
Elected Tax Collector (Judy Magon) 724-554-6866
Wage Tax Collector (Keystone Collections) 724-987-0300
Independence Cross Creek Joint Sewer Authority 724-507-6464
Emergency Management Coordinator (Ed Powers, Jr.) 724-587-3518
Township Newsletter (Katie Leeper) 724-288-1374
katiee12@hotmail.com

OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY 911
Avella Volunteer Fire Department 724-587-5870
Pennsylvania State Police 724-223-5200
Avella Post Office 724-587-3700
Avella Area Public Library 724-587-5688
American Legion Post #643 724-587-5875
Avella Area Community Association 724-507-6448
Avella Athletics (Jim Gatewood) 724-288-7144
Avella Sportsmen Club 724-587-3564
Cross Creek Senior Citizens 724-587-5755
Avella Area School District 724-356-2216