

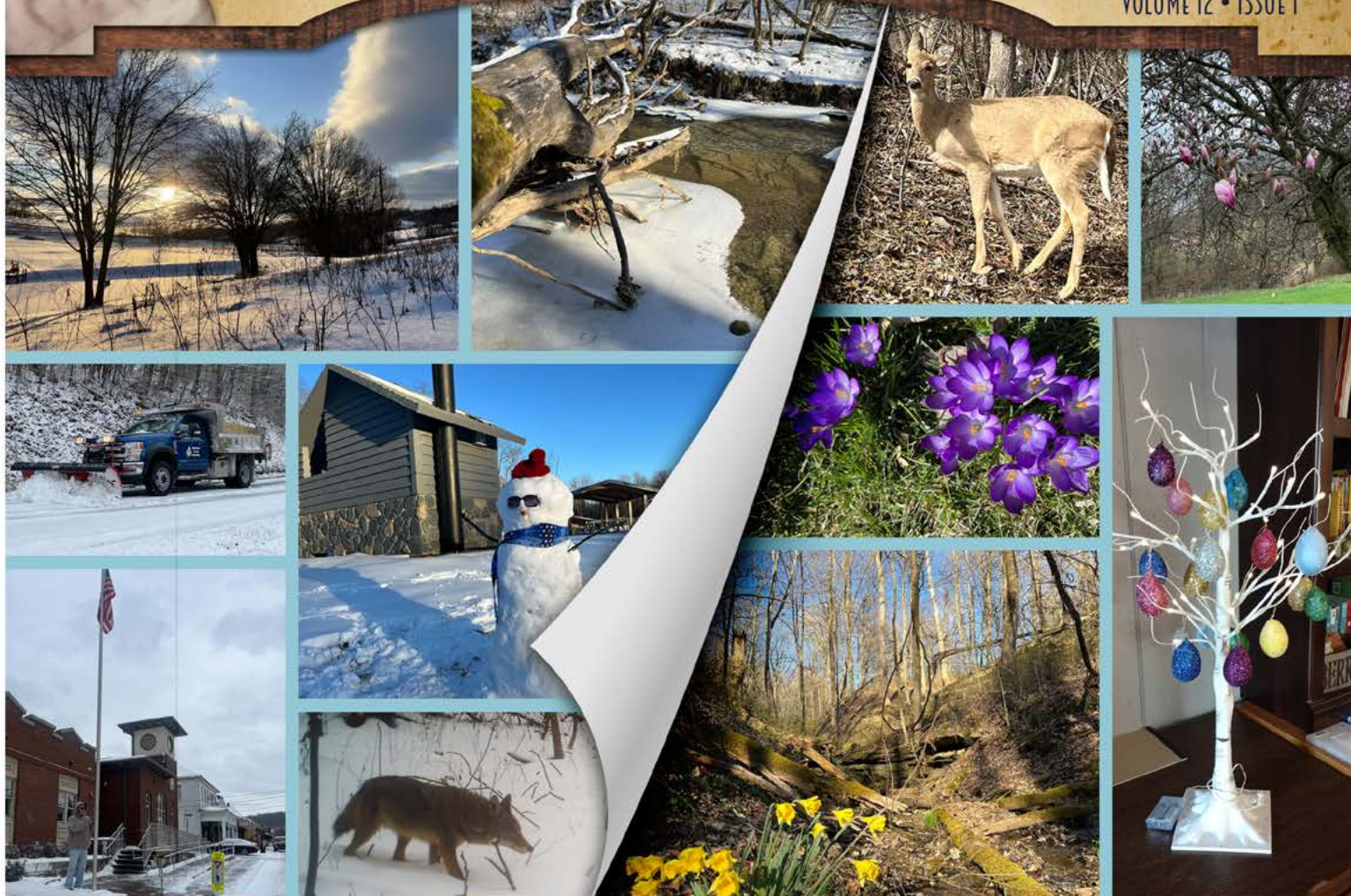
THE Declaration OF INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP

Washington County · Avella, Pennsylvania

2025 NEWSLETTER
WINTER - SPRING



VOLUME 12 • ISSUE 1



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- Avella Volunteer Fire Department
- A.D. White Research Society
- Seed-2-Flower
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Hunting, with info. from our local
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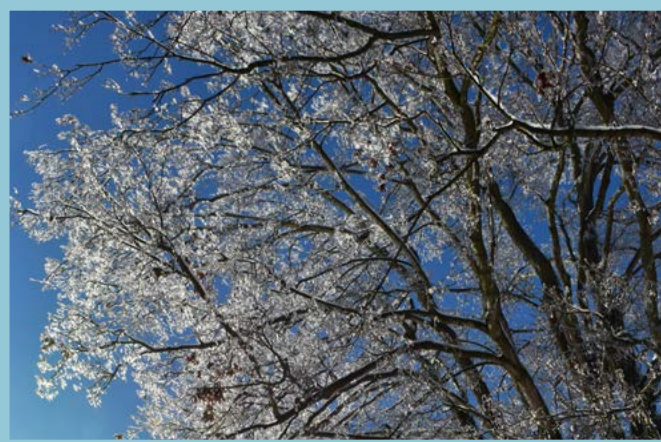
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Independence-Cross Creek
Joint Sewage Authority
Accepting Job Applications!

This and more inside ↪

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INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP

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

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Email: indtwpwashco@hky.com

www.independence.patownship.org



Follow us on Facebook

Board of Supervisors

THOMAS JENNINGS
Chairman

ED POWERS
Vice-Chairman

THOMAS COWDEN
Supervisor

Secretary / Treasurer

MELISSA ANSELL

Office Hours:

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

Public Meetings:

3rd Tuesday of the Month: 7:00 PM

*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

Lots Happening to Kick-Off 2025 in Independence Township



GRANTS, GRANTS, and MORE GRANTS!

Over **HALF A MILLION** Dollars Awarded in last few months!



Starting into an eventful year, in just a few months time, Independence Township has been awarded over **HALF A MILLION DOLLARS** in grant money! Whenever we have projects that fit the criteria for available grants, we will apply, in effort to bring resources and opportunities here for our people. This is money that if it did not come here, would go somewhere else!

Late in January, the Washington County LSA awarded Independence Township with a **\$200,000 grant to continue renovations on the former Lincoln National Bank in our downtown village.**

There are big ideas for this beautiful historic building. Ideas that can bring aesthetic beauty, business, visitors and life into our downtown village. This is a positive thing for our whole community. The LSA helps distribute portions of gambling revenue. This year 119 applications were submitted, and we were one of 68 applicants to receive a piece. There is other gambling revenue used for other things in PA, but this money is earmarked by the state specifically for these types of community development projects. Our thanks goes to David Noss from RSH Architects for the presentation given to the LSA committee, which resulted in the determination that our township and our project was worthy of the \$200,000 grant.

Another big, exciting grant award announcement came in at the beginning of 2025 from Pennsylvania Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program (DCED Project). We learned that another one of our grant applications had been awarded; **\$125,000 to create the large trail at Independence Township Community Park** as a part of Phase IV of the Park's overall plans. It will open up more area of the park and will be another nice step forward in the de-

velopment. Our park was not so long ago predominantly unused wooded area. It has developed into a beautiful community park, with amenities and features being added as funding is secured in the way of grants and donations. It is enjoyed by many, and even for those who do not utilize the park, it's existence has increased surrounding property values.

Late in 2024, our Public Works department received word that we had been awarded **\$96,100 for needed repairs on Narigon Run Road** and then **\$99,200 for needed repairs on Hickory Nut Road**. See page 8 for more info about these grants. This February, we also received good news that the previously awarded \$100,000+ grant from the WCCD to fix issues on **Sugar Run had been increased an additional \$20,000 to add-in some needed structure**. Roadmaster Bob Collett said the planning, engineering and permitting sometimes takes a while on these projects, but he believes we'll see this project start to move soon. We'll be seeing movement on the others in the near future as well. Follow us on Facebook, as we will keep everyone updated on road closures/detours/etc.

We are grateful for the government agencies, committees and organizations who are investing in our township through these grants. We believe putting this money into our municipality can help bring new opportunities for our residents now and in the future. We have other grant applications out and in the works for a variety of things, including blight (abandoned properties/hazards/eyesores), DCNR grants for additional land clearing at the park, grants for improvements at the Community Center, grants for street-scaping downtown, for PA-250 Celebrations, and more.



continued on pg. 4



A Fond Farewell and Eager Welcome

On the Board of Supervisors

Other news that happened at the end of 2024 was a fond farewell to our longtime supervisor Joyce McKenzie, who resigned from the Board of Supervisors in the December 2024 meeting. Joyce served our community on the board for ten years, and we are grateful for her years of service. She is a very smart, fair and honest businesswoman who cares deeply for her hometown. She never missed a beat, and those who had the pleasure to work and serve with her only have the nicest

things to say about her. She will be dearly missed on the board and around the office, and Independence Township wishes her the all the best!

With big shoes to fill, the board found someone that probably most people around here can agree on. A fair, honest, and very qualified guy with a great reputation, Mr. Ed Powers agreed to come on board and was appointed to be our new Township Supervisor. See page 6-7 to learn more about Ed!

PA-250 Celebrations in Planning

We Need YOUR Input and Participation!

How about something fun? America will celebrate it's 250th birthday on July 4th, 2026, and the signing of the declaration of Independence was right here in our home state. With a name like Independence Township, we need to do it up right. There is grant money available, and we are applying. We'd like to get some planning in the works for some fun PA-250 Celebrations in Independence Township! We'd like to hear ideas from residents. What would you like to do? BBQ at the park, movie, parade, activities for kids? Call, email, facebook message, or attend a township meeting and let us know what you would like your township to do.



Would You Like to Have Silver Sneakers

At the Independence Township Community Center?

We'd like to get some new programs going and would like to know if there is any interest in our Senior community for SilverSneakers? These are instructor-led classes, often available at no cost to adults 65+ through select medicare plans. Community centers and parks like ours give access to a wide variety of different types of classes like outdoor walking groups, fitness groups, nutrition workshops and more. Our Independence Township Community Center and Park offer perfect spaces for this, and we'd love to start a program to help keep our Senior community healthy!



***Is this something that sparks your interest? Let us know!
Call, email, direct message on fb or visit us at the office,
community center or at a township meeting.***

Mrs. Sandy Pirillo

Given Township Appreciation Award

Mrs. Sandy Pirillo was recently awarded with a Township Appreciation Award. Sandy regularly donates her time, talents and gorgeous handmade decor to help make the Township Municipal Office (and the Avella Public Library) beautiful and a warm, welcoming atmosphere to all who come in (at no cost to the township). THANK YOU SANDY!



If you are an Independence Township resident and you have input or a question, we encourage you to come to a township meeting, call, email or direct message us on facebook.

Sincerely Yours,

Thomas Jennings, Chairman | Ed Powers, Vice Chairman | Thomas Cowden, Supervisor



Community Calendar



March

- 5** **Wednesday**
Ash Wed. / Lent Begins
- 9** **Sunday**
Daylight Savings Begins
- 15** **Saturday:**
Avella Volunteer Fire Department
CASH BASH (pg. 13)
- 17** **Monday**
St. Patrick's Day
- 17** **Monday: 6:00 pm**
ICCJSA Meeting at Cross Creek
Township Building
- 17** **Monday: 6:00 pm**
AACA Meeting at Independence
Township Community Center (pg. 15)
- 18** **Tuesday: 7:00 pm**
Independence Township Meeting
- 19** **Wednesday: 9:00 am - 11:00 am**
Food Bank Avella Distribution (pg. 17)
- 20** **Thursday**
Spring Begins
- 23** **Sunday: 12:00 pm**
Avella Sportsmen's Club
Meat Shoot (pg. 12)



Seed-2-Flower
Weekly Kids Art Club
(page 19)

April

- 5 & 6** **Sat. @ 5:30 pm & Sun. @ 2:00 pm**
Seed-2-Flower: Make Your Own
Easter Flower Arrangement (pg. 19)
- 9** **Wednesday: 11:00 am**
Avella Public Library
Easter Craft & Coffee (pg. 10)
- 15** **Tuesday: 7:00 pm**
Independence Township Meeting
- 16** **Wednesday: 9:00 am - 11:00 am**
Food Bank Avella Distribution (pg. 17)
- 20** **Sunday**
Easter
- 21** **Monday: 6:00 pm**
ICCJSA Meeting at Cross Creek
Township Building
- 21** **Monday: 6:00 pm**
AACA Meeting at Independence
Township Community Center (pg. 15)

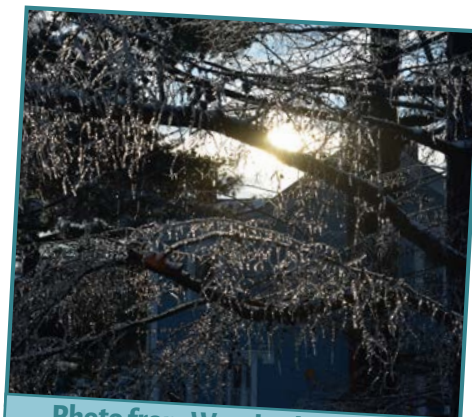


Photo from Weatherbury Farm
Order award winning, organic, estate milled
flours and products grown and milled to
order right here in your hometown.
On-farm pickup days each month. Visit:
www.weatherburyfarm.com

May

- 3** **Saturday**
Meadowcroft's Season Begins
- 11** **Sunday**
Mother's 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 (pg. 15)
- 20** **Tuesday: 7:00 pm**
Independence Township Meeting
- 21** **Wednesday: 9:00 am - 11:00 am**
Food Bank Avella Distribution (pg. 17)
- 26** **Monday**
Memorial Day
- 26** **Monday: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm**
A.D. White Research Society
Memorial Day Open House &
Coffee, Tea, & History Social (pg. 12)



Avella Church
(Service times for churches on page 17)

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Welcoming our New Supervisor

BY **Katie Leeper**, Communications, Independence Township

New Independence Township Supervisor, Mr. Ed Powers

was appointed in the December public Township meeting by the board. As we interviewed Ed and dug into his thoughts about Independence Township and his background, it became evident that he comes equipped with an overflowing toolbox to be an excellent successor here.

What Sets Ed Apart?

In his profession, he's rose the ranks from a life-saving paramedic to a strong leader in charge of big business decisions and logistics in disaster response and crisis situations. His education and professional background are impressive, but **maybe most importantly of all, our new Supervisor, Mr. Ed Powers, has a special heart for his hometown and our people.** Ed's late father instilled in Ed the importance of serving others; to get up everyday to try and make a positive impact on the world and people around him. Ed says "What a different world we would live in if everyone approached life that way." Powers told the attendees of the December meeting that "my Dad is smiling down on me today," because his own father wanted to be an Independence Township supervisor at one time.

Ed's late father instilled in Ed to get up everyday to try and make a positive impact on the world and people around him. Ed says "What a different world we would live in if everyone approached life that way."

Ed's Background & Qualifications

Ed has lived and served here the majority of his life, so he is familiar with what makes us tick, our strengths and weaknesses. He's served as a volunteer in the Avella Volunteer Fire Department since age 14 (41 years), and he credits them for a lot, including opening the door to his profession. He also serves as the Clerk of Sessions (Leader of Elders) at Avella Church, where that isn't just a title for him. Ed is a man of faith, and he isn't afraid to share that faith. He told us "Everywhere I've been the Lord has led me there, and it never takes me long to realize why He's led me there." Along with his tight-knit ties to Independence, Ed brings outstanding business knowledge and experience to the table.



He's worked with the public, has saved lives as a paramedic, has been in charge of evacuating entire hospitals during hurricanes (just one example among many under his disaster response leadership), and he's initiated various business development strategies that have attained huge, measurable successes for the companies he's worked for. He's also been responsible for improving relations with communities,

partnerships, and improving conditions and morale for employees. Mr. Powers currently serves as the Regional Director for Global Medical Response, the nation's largest Emergency Medical Provider. He holds an MBA in financial management, a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, and he's a certified paramedic. Ed still rides part-time Paramedic to keep up with his life saving skills.



The fleet of medical ground transport vehicles and operational support units inside the Orange County Convention Center, in response to hurricane Ian in 2022. Air support at a nearby airport. Ed headed up the logistics for this massive disaster response operation.

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The Family

Ed is a modest guy, but when it comes to his beautiful family, he will boast on and on about them. His wife of 30 years, Tina Powers, is also a longtime volunteer for the Avella Volunteer Fire Department, who participates in many other volunteer initiatives as well. Ed has Tina's full support and blessing to take on the role of Supervisor, which he says he wouldn't pursue without her support. Ed and Tina have two children, Taylor(24) and Ethan(14). Both children are very impressive, sharp and accomplished in their chosen paths and activities. Both are involved in serving the community and making a difference in the world, and they each possess leadership qualities and altruistic characteristics that Ed talked about wanting to instill in his kids.



Ed and his wife Tina, daughter Taylor and son Ethan
All active members of our community and Avella Volunteer Firefighters



As a member of the Avella Volunteer Fire Department and head of Independence Township's Emergency Management Department, Ed, along with other first responders, quickly answered a life-threatening medical emergency call late one night in February. It resulted in having the patient air lifted. Independence Township is grateful for our first responders and our thoughts and sincerest well wishes go to the ones affected by this emergency.



Ed has lots of shocking pictures from his work in disaster response. Like many first responders, he goes in when most people are fleeing. Ed said he often times meets people and patients on their worst days. Here are just a couple of photos of the devastation they saw during a Florida Hurricane response. After dealing with these high-pressure situations, there's no doubt Ed can add to the level-headed, cool & steady leadership here in Independence Township.

Questions for Ed

What are your hopes for making this as smooth a transition as possible?

"To learn as much as I can, to ask questions... Anywhere I go, I like to dig in and get to know people, learn their challenges first hand and figure out what I can do to support them and make things better for them...to see the real life challenges they face in their day-to-day, so we can come up with real life solutions that will actually improve things... And I always try to be fair and consistent."

As you takeover as supervisor, in your opinion what is the state of Independence Township?

"Being new to the Township Supervisor position, I have a lot to learn. It's been interesting so far, learning so far what everyone at the Township does."

Why do you feel is service to the community so important?

Getting involved beyond your day-to-day job to serve and volunteer as a community...It's why we're here. To love God and love our neighbors. When we serve each other, alongside one another, and work with other people to achieve goals, we share experiences and we make things better.



PUBLIC WORKS



**OH
SNOW!**

**Severe Winter Weather • 3am Starts
20+ Active Snow Days • 250+ Tons of Material,
Equipment Maintenance • GRANT \$ RECEIVED!**



BY **Katie Leeper**, Communications, Independence Township



WINTER WEATHER!

December and January blasted our region with real winter snow accumulations and some extreme cold. It resulted in more than usual active snow days for Independence Township Public Works Department. Some mornings you will find our crew up at 3am-4am, loading trucks with salt and anti-skid to get plowing and treating roads early, to keep our (approx.) 34 miles of township roads as safe as possible for school buses and commuters. Some days the snow just kept coming, and it kept our guys out for long hours. We're very proud of the job they do, and we appreciate how their hard work was recognized on social media and in-person praises by many. Along with taking care of the roads, our crew also assisted stuck motorists, kept materials stocked, and maintained and fixed equipment. Roadmaster Bob Collett said already this winter, they've gone through and replaced around 250 ton of salt and anti-skid (normally it would take a few years to go through this much), and having the

storage building behind the community center this year was key. Some townships ran out of their material, and we did not, because of that extra storage.

EQUIPMENT

A big part of Public Works is maintaining their heavily used trucks and pieces of equipment. There's always something that needs repaired, cleaned, inspected, replaced, painted, etc. Sometimes small, quick fixes, sometimes large and expensive. Most times our skilled crew (Bob Collett, Joe Gagliani and Donny Riggins) performs these duties in-house to keep costs low. Roadmaster Bob Collett said right now the 35 year old, 1990 John Deere Wheel Loader is in need of repair. It is used to load trucks with material. It is important to have a good working wheel loader for salt and anti-skid, but also particularly for tar & chip, because time is very much of the essence during that operation, and a slow, dysfunctional loader can push back the whole operation (a co-op involving other townships) and cause issues with the material and the entire project.

GRANTS AWARDED, MONEY COMING IN!

We were recently awarded two big grants needed to fix two big road issues on Narigon Run and Hickory Nut Roads. Money has started coming in, allowing the projects move forward. Roadmaster Bob had completed a class that allowed Independence Township to be eligible for these grants, then applied for them. Both grants will allow us to make permanent repairs to areas of township roads with major ongoing stormwater problems that have repetitively costed money to make smaller repairs after significant rain events over the past years. It will save the township a lot of money going forward!



Grants made possible through the Washington County Conservation District, the Pennstate Center for Environmentally Sensitive Road Maintenance Engineering, and the U.S. Department of Agricultural Forest Services National Technology & Development Program.



Get to Know Your New Tax Collector

BY **Katie Leeper**, Communications, Independence Township

You're probably well aware by now...

that Ms. Judy Magon is our newly appointed Tax Collector, after longtime Tax Collector and Deputy, Tom and Karen Simons, resigned in 2024. Judy told us that they've been very gracious in the transition, essentially handing the reins over to Judy after deciding it was time for them to retire, and being very helpful in answering questions thereafter. The board of supervisors believed Judy would be an excellent successor and officially appointed her on February 2, 2024.

A Dashed Dream of 30 Years Comes Full Circle!

Judy shared her story, and how she's had the desire to serve as your tax collector for over 30 years!

In 1993, Ms. Magon ran against Tom Simons, when her son Jared was just two years old. Eager to fill the role, she campaigned hard but lost the race, however marginally. She ran one other time but lost, and out of respect for Tom, chose not to run again. She kept in touch with Tom, and asked him to inform her if he ever decided not to run for re-election. So Judy continued to work as a full time dental hygienist, and now, 30 years later, circumstances have come full circle. Judy said "it's funny how things turn out." Currently she's loving the role of Independence Township Tax Collector, she's contemplating retirement in the very near future, and she's excited about her very first grandchild who is due in the Spring. It all sort-of fits just perfectly.

A self-described workaholic, Judy has a background in business and working with the public. She loves the job of tax collection, bookkeeping, and working with the residents of Independence Township. Judy says that simply being honest with people is important to her, and if someone has a question she doesn't know the answer to, she will track it down. She is not afraid to ask questions herself. Her brother, John Roadman is her Deputy Tax Collector. He is an accountant for Silgan Plastic and has been instrumental with advice. She's also made countless trips to the courthouse, and the director of operations in the tax revenue office there has been a helpful contact when she has questions.

Judy has a background in business and working with the public. She loves the job of tax collection, bookkeeping, and working with the residents of Independence Township.



Deep Roots in Independence

Ms. Magon has deep roots in Independence Township. She has resided here her whole life, graduated from Avella High School in '76, was married here and raised her son Jared here. Both of her parents, Bob and Leala Roadman, and all of her grandparents were Independence Township residents. Her Dad's parents owned the old Sunoco Gas Station at the corner of Rt. 844 and Rt. 50. Her Mother's parents owned a dairy farm on Indian Camp. Judy grew up with four brothers, and they all attended grade school in the same building that is now the Independence Township Community Center. Judy remembers her parents instilling a hard work ethic into her and her brothers, as her parents wanted all of them to have higher educations and be achievers... and they are! Another love of Judy's is walking outside in our beautiful Independence Township country land, and a lot of folks around here recognize her just from seeing her out walking!

Judy invites taxpayers to contact her with questions. She's easy to schedule and work with, and says she will always be open to the needs of taxpayers. Judy knows that nobody likes to pay taxes, but she'd like to help make it as easy as possible and says "let's navigate through this tax season together." She also understands that the school tax is quite a big chunk of change, and encourages her taxpayers to take advantage of the installment plan offered.

When do taxes GO OUT - and - when are they DUE?

Township Taxes:

Mailed out in March | Due at a discount before June

School Taxes:

Mailed out in July | Due at a discount in September

If you don't receive your tax notice, please get in touch with the tax collector.

Judy Magon, Independence Township Tax Collector
Phone: 724-554-6866 | Email: judymagon@hotmail.com



BOOK YOUR EVENT

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP Community Center

**NO PREP / NO MESS AT YOUR HOUSE!
USE OUR FACILITY!**

**VERY LOW FEE • CLEAN • AMPLE PARKING
ACCOMMODATES UP TO 40 GUESTS COMFORTABLY**

*newly renovated party room • attached gym
tables, chairs, mini fridge, buffet, electric, large TV screen*

724-507-6448

11 School Court, Avella, PA 15312



Avella Public Library

EASTER CRAFT *and* COFFEE HOUR

APRIL 9, 2025

11:00 AM

CALL 724-587-5688, stop in,
or leave a message on our Facebook page
(@AvellaPublicLibrary) to register,
to ensure we have adequate supplies.



**Join Us.
FREE EVENT**



Washington County Conservation District

BY **Jeffrey Kim**, Watershed Specialist, Washington County Conservation District



The purpose of the Washington County Conservation District (WCCD) is to preserve our county's soil, water and related natural resources by avoiding practices contributing to soil wastage and soil erosion. Through the District we help local citizens manage these important resources by demonstrating proper farm practices, providing technical assistance to landowners, issuing permits, and following regulations. The District also hosts many educational events and workshops for county residents to join and receive resources.

UPCOMING WCCD EVENTS

2025 Rain Barrel Workshop at Washington County Ag Days

During an average rainstorm, hundreds of gallons of rainwater can run off your home's roof. Rain barrels are one way to harvest rainwater and decrease the negative impact that rainwater runoff can have on our homes and the environment. Washington County Conservation District will be hosting a rain barrel workshop during Washington County Ag Days in May. The first 25 participants to register for the rain barrel workshop will receive a free rain barrel and down-spout diverter. If you are interested in attending the workshop, please reach out to our Watershed Specialist, Jeffrey Kim, at jkim@pawccd.org or at 724-705-7098 ext. 205.



Washington County Envirothon

Since 1986, Washington County Conservation District has been hosting the county Envirothon competition for local high school students. The Envirothon educates students on the importance of the environment and how it impacts our lives. They learn and become aware of what the environment faces in this day in age and what practices they can put in their daily lives to be a good steward to the environment. The winning team members of the competition receive a scholarship reward towards continuing education.



In our 2024 competition, 6 high schools competed with over 50 high school students participating. The high schools participating were Avella, Bethlehem Center, Canon-McMillan, California, Fort Cherry, and Ringgold. Teams competed in 5 environmental-related topics: aquatics, renewable energy for a sustainable future, forestry, soils, and wildlife.



WCCD Staff with the winning team members of Avella High School

AVELLA PLACED FIRST with Canon-McMillan's Blue and Gold teams taking 2nd and 3rd place. Avella moved on to represent Washington County at the State Envirothon and came in 27th place out of 64 teams. A huge congratulations to Avella High School! Looking forward, Washington County's 2025 Envirothon will be held during the end of April.

We are looking for donations! To continue offering scholarship rewards to the winning team, financial support is needed from donors. If you are interested in supporting the Envirothon, please reach out to our Envirothon Coordinator, Jeffrey Kim, at jkim@pawccd.org or 724-705-7098 ext. 205 for more information.



AVELLA WON FIRST
at the county Envirothon in
2024, 2022, and 2021
(they won 2nd place in 2023)!

Learn more about us. Visit us online, call, or drop by our office!

www.pawccd.org | follow us on fb | 724-705-7098 | 50 Old Hickory Ridge Rd, Washington, PA 15301



Avella Sportsmen's Club



MEAT SHOOT

March 23, 2025



Meat Shoot at 1:00 pm • BB Gun Shoot at 12:00 pm

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

*Join us for target shooting
and try to win some freezer meat!*

\$3.00 per shot • Guns and shells will be provided.

Concessions • 50/50

1501 Avella Road, Avella, PA 15312



A.D. White Research Society, Ltd.

MEMORIAL DAY OPEN HOUSE

and COFFEE, TEA, AND HISTORY SOCIAL

MAY 26, 2025
10:00 am - 3:00 pm

*at the old Avella Train Station
10 Seneca Place, Avella, PA*

*For more info, please call
and leave a message:*

724-507-6001

• Will honor local Veterans in our archives

• Displays and Historical info on Local Revolutionary & Civil War Veterans

• History Social with **Tea & Coffee** blends & **Pastries** donated by local vendors.

• **Cross Creek Bait & Tackle will be selling tickets**

for a GIFT BASKET (a \$200+ value, includes 1-pontoon rental, fishing, & bait coupons for Cross Creek Lake, plus gift coupons from other local vendors). Tickets will be sold in advance & at the Open House (Drawing at 3:00pm); you do not have to be present to win! All proceeds to be generously donated to ADWRS!



If you would like your family Veteran's info filed in our archives and memorialized at our open house, please contact us before May 1. (Call 724-507-6001, leave contact info. We'll return your call and give you the information we need and also arrange a time when you can drop off photos or other memorabilia you want portrayed and filed with your submission).



\$6,000 CASH BASH 25TH ANNUAL

Saturday
March 15, 2025

Sponsored by **Avella Vol. Fire Dept. and Avella Athletics**
Only 500 Tickets Sold • 2 Numbers Per Ticket
Doors Open 6:00 PM • Drawing Starts at 8:00 PM Sharp

TICKETS \$40 DONATION INCLUDES:
ADMISSION, FOOD, BEER & MIXERS, BYOB, DJ JOHNNY FEVER,
A CHANCE TO WIN BIG, RAFFLE OF THE NIGHT \$5.00
(the more you buy, the bigger the pot)

Must be 21 to attend • You do not need to be present to win
For Ticket Information Call: 412-576-2937 - or - 724-255-5462

**ALWAYS
READY
TO HELP
YOU**

Your Avella Volunteer Fire Department is ready 24/7 to respond to emergency calls. When things go south and you need help the most, they'll be there for you! These are volunteers that get up in the middle of the night and leave the holiday dinner table at a moment's notice to help their neighbors in need.

Please remember to say thanks, support their fundraiser events and efforts, donate, and volunteer! A little help from EVERY ONE can make a big difference!



SUPPORT YOUR



**AVELLA VOLUNTEER
FIRE DEPARTMENT**



Donations can be mailed to:

Avella Volunteer Fire Department | PO Box G, Avella, PA 15312

Keep up to date and friend on Facebook: "Avella Vfd Station Thirty-Five"



Independence - Cross Creek Joint Sewer Authority

ACCEPTING— APPLICATIONS!

Sewage Plant Laborer

APPLY NOW

email resume: iccjsa@hky.com
call our office for more info

starting at limit of:
30 HRS/WK
potential starting rate:
\$25/HR



- ✓ **Local Career Opportunity**
at the Independence - Cross Creek Sewage Treatment Plant
- ✓ **Includes Paid Training**
With potential to learn and advance to Plant Operator

Phone: 724-507-6464
Email: iccjsa@hky.com
Website: goh2o.net/utilities/iccjsa

Mailing Address:
PO Box 156
Avella, PA 15312

Office Address
28 Clark Avenue
Avella, PA 15312

Office Hours:
(Closed Tues.) | Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri.:
9 AM - 4 PM

Sewage Bill Payment Options: Pay by mail, online or in-person at the office.



Independence Township Dumpsters

Bulk Item Clean-up



Independence Township has dumpsters available for

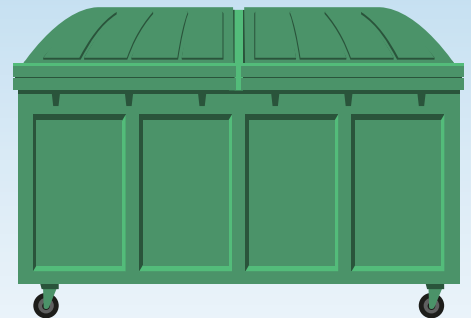
INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS ONLY

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)



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

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A MEETING!

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

The AACAA takes care of hanging up our Christmas lights in Independence Township, and we say a great big **THANK YOU** to those who took time out of their busy schedules to make it happen to beautify our town this past Christmas Season!



Thank you to Alex E. Paris Contracting for the lift truck for hanging these, and to our wonderful volunteers who organized the operation, hung them up, then took them down and packed them away for next year:

**Mark Cowden, Randy Ansell, Faye Starinsky,
Chris Maust, Walter Kopko, Jeff Kopko,
Travis Ware, Tom & Rosemary Jennings.**

THANK YOU ALL. You are appreciated by many!

The Avella Area Community Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. It costs \$20 to become a voting member.

We currently have funding and need more community support, input and volunteers to get ideas off the ground.

If everyone could do just a little bit, we could do amazing things to make our town better now for your family and for generations to come!



PLEASE STOP LITTERING!

Help make your home beautiful.

A small number have been throwing tons of trash out of car windows, and as the snow thaws, all you see is their trash dotted along the sides of the roads. It's frustrating and disgusting for most of us. To these few, please stop it. Throw your garbage in the trash. It does not belong in our beautiful country land.



FREE Road Clean-Up Supplies

We'll likely have our annual community wide cleanup day, but Free Supplies are available at the Township Municipal office anytime for anyone who would like to volunteer to start beautifying and cleaning up. There are gloves, vests and bags. Since it isn't an official cleanup day, bags would have to be disposed of with your own garbage service. Thank you!



34 Campbell St., Avella | 724-587-3518
Monday - Friday 9am-2pm

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP





THE WILY COYOTE

Mating Season & Hunting



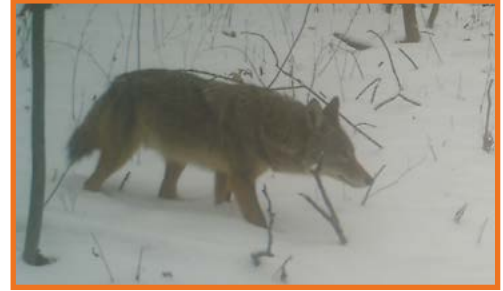
INFORMATION PROVIDED BY **Andrew Kopec**, State Game Warden (serving Independence Township)

The Eastern Coyote stirs a lot of interest and intrigue. Seeing or hearing its howl is a reward to some. For others it may send a shiver down the spine. Many sportsman and farmers dislike it because of coyote predation. Trappers and hunters find it to be elusive.

PA State Game Warden Andrew Kopec covers Independence Township, and he gave us some interesting info, sharing that their mating season is now (January-February). Because of that, coyotes may be more chatty and more visible, but Andrew said folks out here in the country know how to deal with wildlife and they really don't have many issues. In his experience, it's in the springtime (when farmers are calving and lambing), that they'll get a rare call out our way about an unfortunate coyote encounter with a small or young

farm animal. This is the time of year when hunters may find more success with coyotes. During this season, their pelts are at their healthiest. Some of our hunters around here get cabin fever, with no other hunting in-season, so they will go out for coyotes.

Andrew said, from his observation, their population seems to be stable, and he sees no indication of overpopulation. The Game Commission website states that "despite man's attempt to control [coyotes]... If there's one thing we have learned about this intriguing animal, it's that the coyote, not man, controls the coyote's destiny." Interestingly, other local sportsmen have noted that indeed, coyotes re-populate their packs with increased litter sizes and pregnancy rates after heavy trapping and hunting pressures.



HUNT Fish 

DID YOU KNOW

INTERESTING FACTS



COYOTE HUNTING

(see pgc.pa.gov for more info)

- 💡 Coyotes are monogamous. They maintain bonds for several years.
- 💡 Males weigh up to 55 lbs. Females up to 40 lbs.
- 💡 Litters of 5-7 pups are born from mid-April - early May.
- 💡 Coyotes compensate for unusually high mortality by having larger litters.
- 💡 Known denning sites include overturned trees, piles of tree stumps, rock dens, and dug-out red-fox dens.
- 💡 During most of the year coyotes may be hunted with only a general license, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- 💡 During any open big game season (e.g., deer season), you will need to have a furtaker's license.
- 💡 Hunting often done in groups at twilight or night hours, with use of thermal, night vision, spot light. They are called in and sometimes dogs are used.

Do you have a general question or want to make a report to the PA Game Commission? They are staffed 24/7 to receive calls from the public.

The PA Game Commission can assist you with a wide variety of wildlife questions or reports. See the website for more info or call.

PA GAME COMMISSION

1-833-PGC-HUNT | 1-833-PGC-WILD

pgc.pa.gov

Follow on fb ([PennsylvaniaGameCommission](https://www.facebook.com/PennsylvaniaGameCommission))





Greater Washington County
FOOD BANK
A division of Food Helpers

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



Community Outreach Program Monthly Distribution in Avella

DATES: Every 3rd Wed.

★ March 19 ★ April 16 ★ May 21

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

WEEKLY CHURCH SERVICES

If you don't attend already, take some time to visit one of our wonderful churches for Sunday service, or check them out online to find info on their special events. Our churches are such an important part of our community. It's where many of us can come together and be honest, care for one another. To seek and find peace, hope, faith and love - beyond all understanding.



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	LOWER BUFFALO
SUNDAY SVC.	SUNDAY SVC.
9:45 AM	11:15 AM

25 Campbell St. Avella, PA	335 Campground Rd Avella, PA
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Pastor Rich Narus



St. Isidore the Farmer
at St. Michael Church

SUNDAY MASS	WEDNESDAY MASS
11:00 AM	8:00 AM

97 Highland Avenue, 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



St. John The Baptist
Byzantine Catholic Church

DIVINE LITURGY SUNDAY:	MYSTERY OF RECONCILIATION SUNDAY & BY APPT.
8:45 AM	8:00-8:30 AM

176 Cross Creek Road, Avella, PA



THE
FOUNDRY
CHURCH

SUNDAY MORNINGS
10:30 AM

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



INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP RECENTLY SOLD PROPERTIES



Seeing a demand for real estate in our township, new neighbors moving in, properties being sold, this all appears to be a good sign. In recent months, this is the list of recently sold properties in Independence Township. If you've gained a new neighbor, take a minute to welcome them to the neighborhood!

Welcome New Neighbors!

- 18-1/2 Hillside Way
- 685 Old Ridge Road
- 23 Homestead Drive
- 2038 Avella Road
- 2132 Avella Road

Information Kindly Provided By Independence Township Resident Realtor:

Melissa Dryer, Keller Williams Realty

check her listings out on facebook at: [realtormelissadryer](https://www.facebook.com/realtormelissadryer)



WEEKLY SUPPORT FOR ADDICTION & MENTAL HEALTH



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.

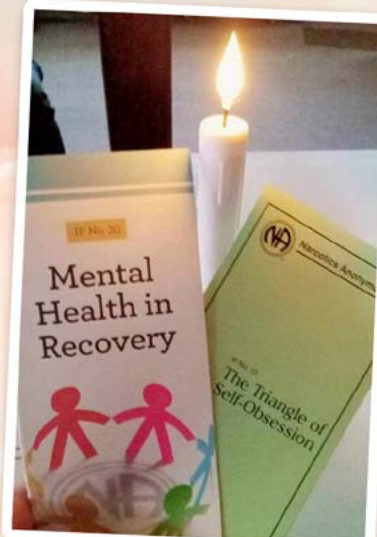
No cell phone use in meeting.

Mental Health in Recovery
SUPPORT GROUP

"Deuces Down"

Tuesdays - 7pm

Avella Church • 25 Campbell Street, Avella



12 Steps

Our home NA group would like anyone in the area who is fighting drug addiction and in need of support on Monday nights to know that there is another NA group who meets nearby from 6:30-7:30 (Mon) at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Burgettstown.



24 Campbell Street, Avella, PA

Independence Township's
Fresh Flower & Specialty Gift Shop

SEED-2-FLOWER PRESENTS

IMAGINATION BLOOMS KIDS ART CLUB

WEDNESDAYS • 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

- \$3 donation/child requested *No one is turned away.*
- Fun seasonal art or craft each week with Free Snack & Juice Box
- Inspirational & self love talk, what kindness means, talks about bullying & more
- All ages, all are welcome, parents welcome to participate
- Always looking for donations & volunteers, helpers (please call or text if you can help out!)

Please call or text if interested to allow the proper count for supplies: 304-374-9841



APRIL CLASSES

Make Your Own Easter Flower Arrangement
"ALICE & HER TEA CUP"
SAT. APRIL 5TH
5:30pm

\$40 per person | Adult Class (15 yrs+)
Refreshments Provided!
Call/Text to signup: 304-374-9841

SUN. APRIL 6TH
2:00pm

Share Photos & Stories!

Have any fun, beautiful or interesting photos, or helpful, informative stories from around Independence Township that we can share in an upcoming newsletter, on our Township Website, or Facebook page?

We are always looking for input from residents!

Email: katiee12@hotmail.com

DM on Facebook (IndependenceTownshipPA)

Call: 724-587-3518

Newsletter Sign-Up

Can we add you to our
Newsletter Email list?

Submit your email address to:
indtwpwashco@hky.com

Please share sign-up info with your
neighbors so everyone in the township
can be in on the news!

STAY UP TO DATE!



Connect with INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP



★ Important Contact Information ★

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Chairman Thomas Jennings
Vice-Chairman Ed Powers
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 Tuesday of the Month: 7:00 PM

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) 724-587-3518
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 724-587-5709
Cross Creek Senior Citizens 724-587-5755
Avella Area School District 724-356-2216

