

THE Declaration OF INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP

Washington County • Avella, Pennsylvania

SPRING - SUMMER 2023 NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 10 • ISSUE 2



**WE WANT YOUR
FEEDBACK**

SEE PAGE 3

for the 1st in a brand new series of short

SURVEYS

to gather information. What kinds of things would
you like to have in Independence Township
for you and your family?



Contents

The Declaration of Independence Township
SPRING-SUMMER 2023



Amber Waves of Grain
at Weatherbury Farms

FEATURES

- 3 Message & Survey from Supervisors
- 3 We Won!
- 4 Spring Gardening with Wagner's Greenhouse
- 6 Weatherbury Farms

DEPARTMENTS

- 8-9 Public Works
- 10 Police Department
- 11 Demolishment of Derelict Houses
- 11 Safe Medication Disposal

CALENDAR

- 21 Community Calendar of Events

CONTACT INFO

- 22 Important Contact Info

COMMUNITY NEWS

- 5 The American Legion Memorial Day Parade
- 5 AVFD New Fire Truck
- 7 Avella Sportsmen's Club Kids' Fishing Tournament
- 12 Avella Public Library Summer Reading Program
- 12 Foodbank Avella Distribution
- 13 Meadowcroft
- 14 Local Events
- 15 Local Vacation Bible Schools
- 16 Local Events
- 17 Local VBS + The Crafty Alpaca
- 18 Memories in the Makin'
- 19 Independence Township Community Center
- 19 Independence Township Dumpsters
- 20 AACA Community Cleanup
- 20 Cat Adoption Event



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.patowship.org
 Follow us on Facebook

Board of Supervisors

THOMAS JENNINGS
Chairman

JOYCE MCKENZIE
Vice-Chairman

THOMAS COWDEN
Supervisor

Secretary / Treasurer

CYNDI CECCHINI

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 & Survey from the Supervisors

YOUR FEEDBACK MATTERS!

We welcome Spring and Summer with open arms, and this season Independence Township is starting something new. We want to hear from you! Along with this newsletter, you'll receive the first in a series of Township Surveys. Supervisor Chairman Jennings says "It's about what the residents want. We want to know. What kinds of things do people want to see in their town?" If we can work together on things the people really want, it'll be something the community can get behind and get involved in.

This first survey is about our Independence Township Community Park. The 4.5 acre Park originated in 2014, and thanks to the various grants and all the individuals and businesses in our community who've given so much of their time and financial help, it is now a wonderful place for all ages, with lots of amenities, and with more on the way. Just this winter, we found out that our very own Park had been awarded with \$120,000 in LSA money to put in permanent bathrooms (this is money set aside by the state for these types of projects. There are many who apply and only a select number receive money for community improvement projects. We are thrilled that they chose to invest in our community).

From new amenities to special community events, there's so much potential at Independence Township Community Park. What kinds of things would you like at the Park for you and your family? Please take the survey and let us know!



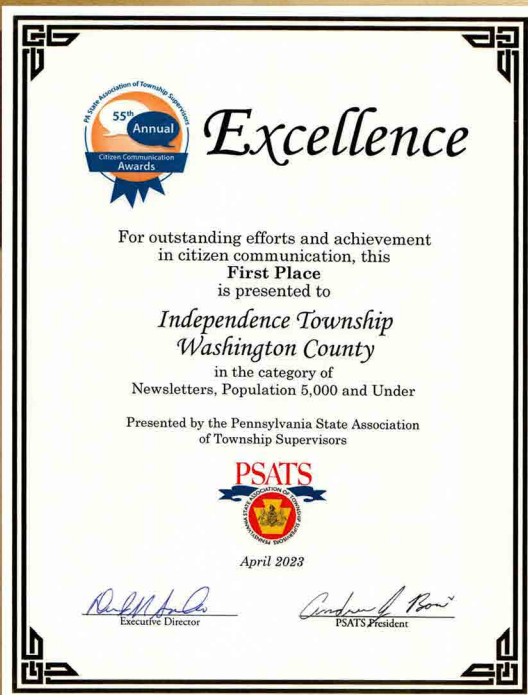
Sincerely Yours,

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

“ *It's about what the residents want. We want to know. What kinds of things do people want to see in their community park?* ”
- Thomas Jennings

CLICK HERE TO TAKE SURVEY!

(You can also click the link in the email the newsletter was sent with. Report any technical difficulties. One survey per person please.)



WE WON!
1st Place Newsletter
Outstanding Citizen Communication Award

Independence Township received the **Outstanding Citizen Communication Award** for its "exceptional and comprehensive efforts to communicate with residents" at the statewide competition held by PSATS this year. We also won **FIRST PLACE for our newsletter** in the category of townships with a population of 5,000 and under. *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 of utmost importance to us here in Independence Township, and we are honored to be continually recognized by PSATS. To continue in these communication efforts, did you know that you can find township meeting minutes at www.independence.patownship.org. There is so much that your tax dollars, elected officials, township employees, contractors, volunteers and others are always working to maintain. Our board of supervisors strives to be good stewards of our township dollars and resources to remain in a financially stable situation without having to raise taxes, and on a path toward revitalization, regardless of what may come our way. If you have a question about something, get in touch or attend a meeting.

Stay up to date on current events and happenings around town on our Facebook page: IndependenceTownshipPA



Spring

WITH

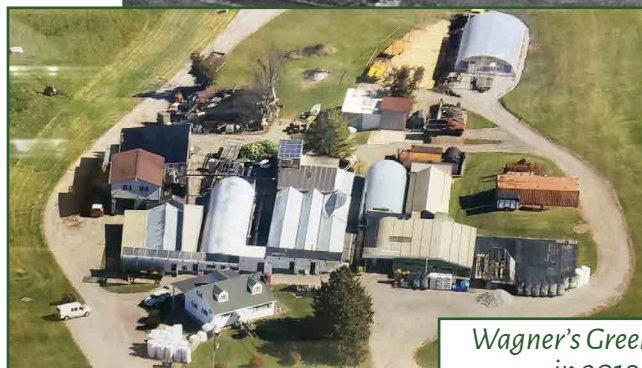
Gardening Wagner's Greenhouse



BY **Kelly Siegman (Wagner),**
Wagner's Greenhouse

We've been around for sixty-three years, two generations, and even a global pandemic! We operate year-round, and offer spring flowers and vegetable plants, fall mums, poinsettias and Christmas décor, and Easter flowers. We grow about 95% of our plants from seed. Our potting soil is a special mix that we have formulated and make at the greenhouse. All of our original structures are still in working condition and used today!

Wagner's Greenhouse
in 1968



Wagner's Greenhouse
in 2019



Spring Planting Tips



- 🌱 The safest time to plant outdoors in our area is usually after May 20th or after the chance of frost (when the temperatures are consistently staying above 50 degrees at night).
- 🌱 Full sun is the best location for a vegetable garden (at least 6-8 hours of direct sunlight).
- 🌱 Weeds are the enemy in a garden. Keep them under control by removing before they go to seed and by weeding often.
- 🌱 Be sure to give your plants ample space to grow all summer long. Crowded plants don't produce as much and can suffer from competing for nutrients. Plants can also be more prone to disease and cross pollination when planted too close together.
- 🌱 You don't need a lot of space to get started! You can start off by growing something as simple as a tomato or pepper plant in a large pot or a bucket!
- 🌱 To help young plants avoid wind and sun burn, it can be helpful to ease them into the outdoors for a few days before planting them directly in your garden.
- 🌱 It is a good idea to amend your soil so that weeds are easier to pull, and water and oxygen can more easily penetrate the soil. You can do this by adding any type of organic material to your soil, such as compost, garden soil, mushroom manure, etc.
- 🌱 It is important to check the light requirements for any flowers to avoid burning of leaves and foliage and to produce the most flowers.



Some of our most popular flowers are:
Impatiens, Vinca, Marigolds, Petunias & Geraniums.

HOURS:

Mon-Fri: 9 AM - 6 PM | Sat: 9 AM - 5 PM | Sun: 10 AM - 4 PM

162 Skyline Drive, Hickory, PA

Ph: 724-356-7377



★ MEMORIAL DAY ★ *Parade*

Monday, May 29, 2023

Parade Line-Up Starts at 10:00 am ★ Ceremony Following ★ Campbell Street, Avella
Light Lunch at the Firehall AFTER the Ceremony
(lunch will not begin until ceremony concludes)

The American Legion, Scouts,
Avella School Band, Sports
Teams, Avella Daycare
& Learning Center,
Avella Volunteer Fire
Department, & More!



THE AMERICAN LEGION
POST 643

*Remembering and honoring our
fallen heroes & sharing community
pride. Please show your support.
Attend the parade and ceremony for
the men and women who gave
everything for your freedom.*

To register your group, contact Brenda at: 412-660-6325

Avella Volunteer Fire Department



The New Fire Truck

Avella's new fire engine will soon be in its new home at the Avella Volunteer Fire Station. Pictured to the left is our new truck that will replace the almost three-decades old 1995 Engine. We are scheduled to pick it up on May 3rd to bring it back home. It will then be sent out to have the tools and equipment mounted, and we are hoping to have it back by the Memorial Day Parade. The Avella Volunteer Fire Department is looking forward to soon having this new apparatus that will aid us in fire rescue.

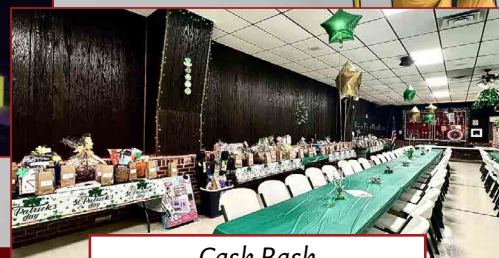


Thank You

We would like to say thank you to all of the residents for their support in all we do; Black Light Bingos, Cash Bash, raffles, donations, and all of our events and fundraisers. Your support is crucial and appreciated.



Blacklight Bingo



Cash Bash

*Watch for Raffles on our Facebook page:
Avella Vfd Station Thirty-Five*



Spotlight On *Weatherbury Farm*

Twists, Turns & The Journey Continues for Independence Township's Own Certified Organic Grower and Miller of Grains (and grass-fed beef farmer and much more!)

Weatherbury Farm's journey to 2023 has had many twists and turns. Today, owned by Dale, Marcy and Nigel Tudor, Weatherbury grows organic grains and mills them into flour; they also raise grass-fed beef.

The beginning was in 1980. During an assignment to Germany, Dale, who worked for Mobay (now Bayer), and Marcy spent their six weeks of German Vacation plus many weekends touring Europe and staying in pensiones and guest houses - and loved the experience. So much so that they decided a bed and breakfast would be in their future.

On returning to the U.S., with baby Nigel in tow, they started looking for a house on 10 acres, but fell in love with what was to become Weatherbury Farm (with its 100+ acres). The rest, as they say, is history.

The bed and breakfast opened its doors with two farmhouse bed & breakfast rooms in 1992 but soon segued into educational (but fun) farm vacations. The Weatherbury Farm's Kid Program (for kids of all ages) was born. Included were daily chores with Farmer Dale, where he talked about farming and agriculture, and 15 minutes of chores often stretched into 2 hours. The farm lodging accommodations increased in 1998 when the old summer kitchen was restored into two rooms (finished just as the first guests were pulling in the driveway).

A bit earlier, in the spring of 1997, the Tudors dismantled an old livery stable located in nearby Washington, PA and moved the building piece by piece to farm and rebuilt it as a bank barn. The Livery was renovated, opening in May 2004, into three two-story suites with a hall on the bottom floor for breakfast and events.

When Dale and Marcy purchased the farm, they also purchased a small herd of Hereford Cattle. In late 2005, Dale & Marcy attended a workshop on rotational grazing and began to segue their focus from farm vacations to more farming - raising grass fed beef for sale to the public.

Meanwhile, Nigel had grown up and studied blacksmithing in Germany. Things were going well with his artistic blacksmithing until the downturn of 2008. At this time, shortly after the Tudors had begun raising grass fed beef, Nigel decided that people would always have to eat and proposed that if they were going to grow grains for straw (they were keeping the calves longer and needed straw for bedding for the barn) -- why not make them organic grains that people could eat. So, in the fall of 2008, grains were added to the mix, this not only offered a new income stream but also synergies that made the farm more sustainable.



before an on-farm flour pickup



milling flour



harvesting

In 2009 (albeit with lots of paperwork), the croplands were certified organic, and the first grain crops were harvested. Over the years, additional neighboring farms were added to the land the

Tudors farmed. Today they farm 220 rolling acres, of which 65 acres are grains. The Tudors raise four wheats for bread and pastry flour as well as Buckwheat, Rye, Corn, Oats, Spelt, Einkorn and Emmer. In addition to being milled into flour, some of the grains are available rolled (spelt, einkorn and emmer) and as grain berries. They also raise Black Turtle, Small Red Merlot Beans and Navy Beans. The farm is unique in that everything from putting the seed in the ground to putting the flour in the bag is done on the farm.

Weatherbury is one of only a handful of farms in the country that mill local flour (from grains grown on their farm) and the only farm that has complete traceability of the flour back to the field with our Grain Tracker, a QR code that is on every bag that links to information about how and where the grains for the flour were grown. **Each month, a flour pickup is hosted on the farm with orders due 10 days prior. This time frame gives Nigel time to freshly mill all the flours.**



Flour Bags w/ Grain Tracker QR Code Label

With the increase in farming and milling, they reduced the number of days they hosted guests at the farm vacation and closed entirely in August 2017. There are only so many hours in a day. And the journey continues...

Nigel has almost completed building an outdoor wood fired oven. The oven will be used for classes to teach bakers of all skill levels by professional bakers. They also plan to open a "seed to loaf" bakery. The oven is located outside the Livery with its indoor hall for class space and a kitchen which will be transformed into a bakery. So the Tudors continue as they began with ideas aplenty, weeding through them, trying them to see what works best for Weatherbury Farm.



working on wood fired oven

TASTE THE DIFFERENCE WEATHERBURY FARM'S FLOURS MAKE!

Weatherbury's Flours - Delicious, Nutritious, Sustainable, Local

Try out their organic flours and grains grown and milled right here in your hometown. Contact them or place an order online.

www.weatherburyfarm.com • 724-587-3763 • info@weatherburyfarm.com • Facebook: WeatherburyFarm



Avella Sportsmen's Club

hosts

The 9th Annual Francis Ola Kids' Fishing Tournament

There was excitement in the air on the sunny, mild spring morning of Saturday May 6th, 2023, when the horn blew to mark the start of the Avella Sportsmen's Club's 9th Annual Francis Ola Kids' Fishing Tournament for children & grandchildren of members. Kids started casting and pulling trout out of the creek in no time. Each time they caught one, they'd run their catch to the judges' table to have their fish measured for the competition.

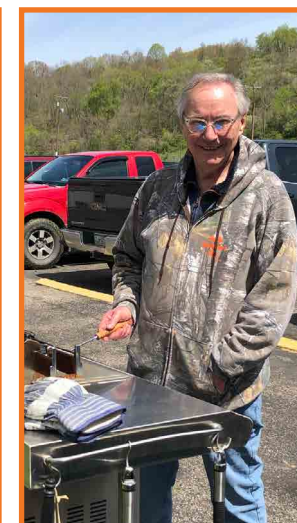
The tournament grows in number every year, and this year did not disappoint. Sixty-six children, from ages 4-12 competed, making it the largest turnout ever. As always, a number of goodies were handed out to all the young competitors. Each participant was given a t-shirt and hat, a goody bag, free lunch and a Chick-fil-A gift card.



The largest trout caught was a 22 $\frac{3}{4}$ " trout caught by Gavin Gatewood, who took home the 1st place trophy for largest fish for the boys. Other big winners for the boys were: 2nd place; Rowan Lucas, and 3rd place; Kason Rado. The big winners for the girls were: 1st place; Nicole Eakin, 2nd place; Bailey Shuman, and 3rd place; Kinsey Poland. All of the big winners were awarded with trophies. The 1st place winners, boy and girl, both received a \$50 cash prize donated by Doug Heatly as well.

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

The Avella Sportsmen's Club says a special **Thank You** to the many individuals, businesses, organizations who donated financial support and time to help make the tournament a great success.



PUBLIC WORKS



DEPARTMENT UPDATE

BY **Bob Collett,**
Roadmaster



YOU PLAY A ROLE IN WORK ZONE SAFETY



WORK WITH US

'TIS THE SEASON!



With spring and summer in the air, the Independence Township Public Works Department has lots of road work and lots of mowing on our schedule. 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!

- ▶ Please **BE PATIENT** when you come across the guys mowing. **WAIT** until everyone can pass safely.
- ▶ During street sweeping please park off the roadway to allow room for clean up. This is scheduled for April 25th, 26th, 27th, and 28th.
- ▶ The Department has scheduled chipping for August 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th. Again, for your safety, ours, and the safety of other drivers and pedestrians, we ask for patience when you encounter Public Works on the roads.



PROJECT UNDER WAY



Short Cut Road, off Route 231 in Independence is currently under construction for storm water drainage reconstruction to prevent future flooding and the costs of repairs to clean up to rebuild after heavy rains.

continued on page 7





SEASONAL ROAD MAINTENANCE

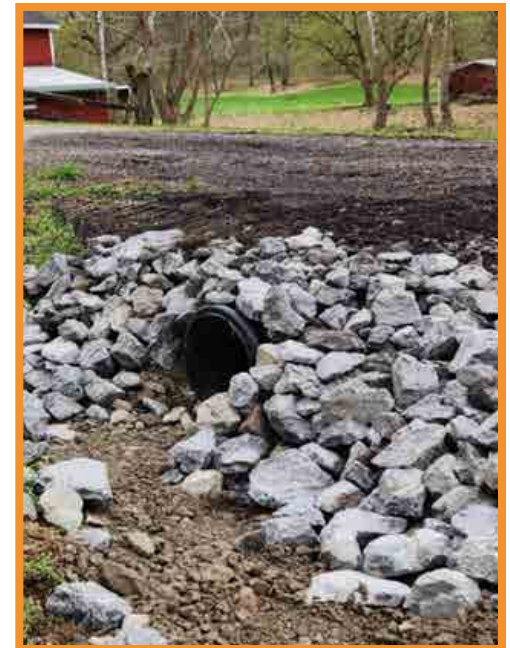


The Spring season is when we focus on cleaning and shaping our ditches, and grading and crowning our gravel roads to prevent potholes and to achieve proper drainage.

CULVERT REPAIRED



Heavy rain in late March flooded and collapsed this old 15 inch culvert on Sugar Run Road, close to the Brashears Run intersection. We moved this up the priority list so we would not have to repair the road if it washed out. It was replaced with a new triple wall 18 inch plastic pipe, and installed in compliance with the new guidelines set by the Penn State Dirt and Gravel Program and the Washington County Conservation District.



A PROJECT FINALIZED AT OUR PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING



At the Independence Township Public Works building a project that began last summer was finalized this spring. Last summer we installed a catch basin and drainage on the Route 844 side of our lot because we were experiencing flooding from storm water run off. This spring we added drainage to the Indian Camp side to complete the project.



POLICE DEPARTMENT



BY **Dennis L. Ahlborn,**
Chief of Police

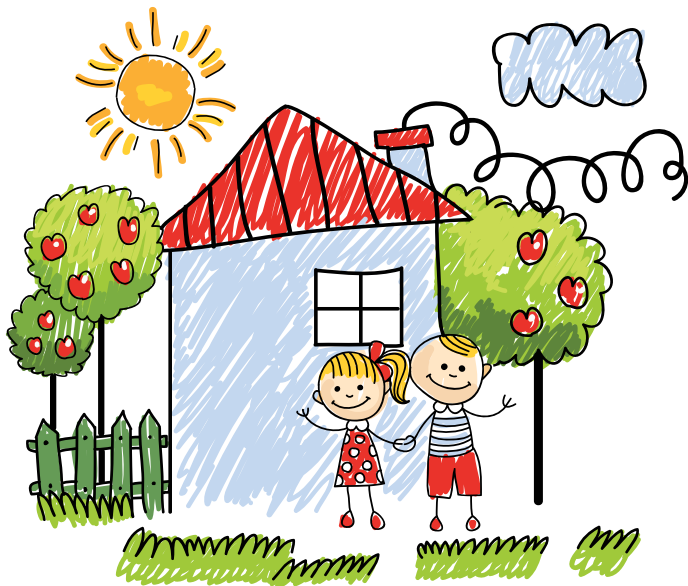
TIPS TO HELP FAMILIES STAY SAFE

Summer is approaching fast and many children will be home alone or watching younger siblings. To help families stay safe this summer, the McDonald Police Department has created the following list of summer safety tips.

Parents are advised to discuss these safety tips with their children BEFORE they are home alone.

Guidelines for Parents Children Watching Younger Children:

1. In Pennsylvania, a law does not designate the exact age at which a child can stay home alone or watch other children.
2. Parents need to use a "reasonableness test."
 - A. Can your child, regardless of his or her age, act reasonably under the circumstances?
 - B. Detectives advise parents to consider the following:
 - Is your child mature enough to know what to do in an emergency?
 - If there is a fire, is your child mature enough to get out of the house?
 - Is he or she mature enough to get other children out of the house?



Safety Tips for Children Home Alone:

1. Always check with your parents before you go anywhere or do anything. Be sure to check-in regularly with your parents when you're not with them.
2. Always take a friend with you when playing or going anywhere. It's safer and more fun.
3. Don't be tricked by people who offer you special treats or gifts. Never accept anything from anyone without your parents permission.
4. Stay safer when you're home alone:
 - Keep the door locked.
 - Do not open the door for or talk to anyone who stops by unless the person is a trusted family friend or relative, and the visit has been pre-approved by your parents or guardians.
 - Never telling anyone who calls that you're home by yourself.
 - Before you are home alone, talk to your parents about a neighbor or trusted adult you can call if you feel scared, uncomfortable, or there's an emergency
5. Never go into a public restroom by yourself.
6. Never go alone to malls, movies, video arcades, or parks. Take a friend with you, and always check first with your parents to make sure its okay.
7. Don't panic if you feel lost. Identify the safest place to go or person to ask for help in reuniting you with your parents or guardians. Safe helpers could be a uniformed law-enforcement or security officer, store salesperson with a name tag, person with a name tag who is working at the information booth. Never search for your parents or guardians on your own, and never go with anyone who is trying to reunite you with them.
8. Be careful when you play.
 - Never take shortcuts unless you have your parents or guardians permission.
 - Don't play near busy streets or deserted areas.
9. Don't wear clothes or carry items with your name on the outside.
 - Don't be confused just because a person you don't know calls out your name.
10. Don't get into a vehicle or go near a vehicle with anyone in it unless you are with your parents or a trusted adult.
 - Never take a ride from anyone without checking first with your parents or guardians.
11. Don't be afraid to say NO and GET AWAY from any situation making you feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused. TRUST YOUR FEELINGS, and be sure to TELL a trusted adult if anything happens to make you feel this way.



OUT WITH THE OLD

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP WORKING ON THE DEMOLITION OF DERELICT HOUSES

One Way We're Working to Bring Positive Change to Our Community

Homes that have turned from productive to disuse. Old, vacant, and abandoned properties that have become visible eyesores, nuisances, unsafe for the the surrounding neighborhood, fire hazards, objects of complaint for neighbors, potential contributions to further property value decline to adjacent properties, and negative symbols with the potential to cause spillover effects that can impact the community with things like increased crime, increased risk to public health and welfare and increased cost for our township.

Independence Township has gone through the pre-demolition process for some of these derelict houses within our community, and in the past month we said good-bye to a couple of these old problem houses. We cannot say what is to become of the space, but removing these old problem buildings makes way for open, clean, green spaces, a positive impact on their neighborhoods and our community as a whole.



SAFE MEDICATION DISPOSAL

Keeping Kids Safe Makes Sense to Us

Independence Township offers a safe way to dispose of OTC and prescription medications. The disposal box is located inside the lobby of the municipal building at 34 Campbell Street in Avella.

The lobby hours are: Monday - Friday 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM.

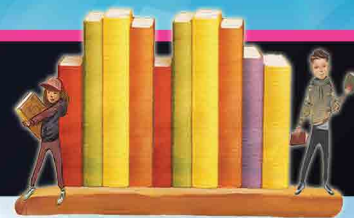
Examples of items that can be placed in the box are: over-the-counter medication, pet medication, prescription samples, unwanted or expired prescription drugs, vitamins and supplements.

Items NOT accepted are: Illegal drugs, liquids, inhalers, aerosol cans, thermometers and hydrogen peroxide.

Help support a safe environment for the children in our community by using this disposal to get rid of your unwanted medications, and prevent the misuse of medications by adolescents and accidental childhood poisonings.



Avella Public Library



SUMMER READING 2023 ALL TOGETHER NOW

June 20, 21, & 22  **11 am - 1 pm**

THREE DAYS OF FUN! Each day will feature stories, crafts & prizes!

DAY 1
TUES., JUNE 20TH

Haberman Magic will
provide a show!

**ALL TOGETHER NOW
MAGIC SHOW**



DAY 3
THUR., JUNE 22ND

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



ALL AGES ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND! COME JOIN IN THE FUN!

REGISTER: Comment on our Facebook page (@AvellaPublicLibrary) or Call 724-587-5688



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.

★ May 24th ★ June 28th ★ July 26th

TIME: 9:00 am - 11:00 am

LOCATION: Avella Vol. Fire Dept.

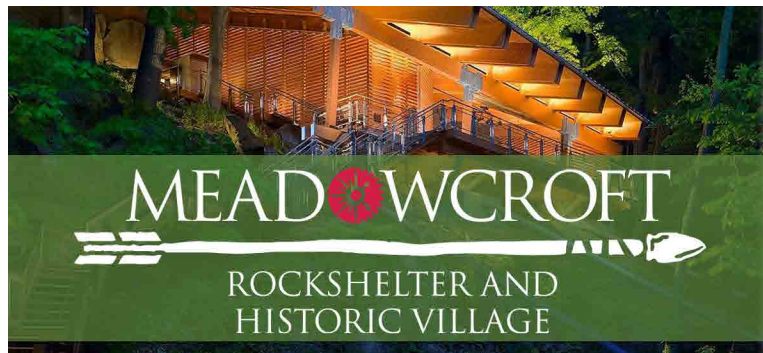
LOCATION DETAILS & BOX RESERVATIONS:

724-632-2190 OR:

www.foodhelpers.org/distributions

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





**6
MAY
SATURDAY**

Meadowcroft's Opening Day

Join us as we open for our 54th season!
Hours: 10 am - 4 pm

**7
MAY
SUNDAY**

Washington County FREE Museum Day

Free admission day at Washington
County Museums! Online reservations
required at: www.washcofreemuseumday.com
Special Hours: 10 am - 5 pm

**21
MAY
SUNDAY**

Vintage Base Ball Game



Come watch base ball (originally two words) 19th century
style with the Ohio Village Muffins, one of vintage
base ball's oldest teams, using the 1860s rules.
Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy during the game.

**17
JUNE
SATURDAY**

Meadowcroft Atlatl Competition



Beginners are invited to try using the atlatl, a spear-thrower
used by prehistoric hunters, watch some of the world's best
competitors from the World Atlatl Association compete, and
hear from members of the Shawnee tribe about prehistoric
hunting techniques and see a tool production demonstration.

**18
JUNE
SUNDAY**

50th Anniversary of Rockshelter Excavation



Marking 50 years to the day of the beginning of the
Rockshelter's excavation is the season's first Insider Tour with
James M. Adovasio, Ph.D. Online reservations required at
www.heinzhistorycenter.org/meadowcroft

**2
JULY
SUNDAY**

Independence Day Celebration



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

Visit the website to see the full lineup of events, for more information, to register and purchase admission:
www.heinzhistorycenter.org/meadowcroft

**WEEDING
PARTIES**

EVERY WEDNESDAY | JUNE - AUGUST | 9:30 AM

Help us keep our demonstration gardens beautiful! Every Wednesday morning, arrive at Meadowcroft
at 9:30 am to volunteer in the maintenance of our various historic garden plots.

In exchange for 1 hour of labor, we'll give you admission to the museum for the day or a pass to return a different day in 2023!
Spaces limited to 9 per day. Advanced registration required; please email: meadowcroftinfo@heinzhistorycenter.org



WHAT'S HAPPENING

upcoming Local Events

✂ ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH ✂



CARS, TRUCKS, TRACTORS. AND MORE

Mongo's
GARAGE

176 CROSS CREEK RD AVELLA, PA. 15312



**SATURDAY
JULY**

22

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



CALLING ALL CARS!



WEST MIDDLETOWN
HISTORIC REVITALIZATION CORPORATION

WILL BE PRESENTING A

Historic Car Show



**JUNE
2023
11 am-2 pm**
EXACT DATE TBD

THE SHOW WILL BE HELD AT
THE BALL FIELD ON COLLEGE

College Street, West Middletown, PA 15379

**\$15 REGISTRATION FEE
PER CAR - MUST PRE-REGISTER
LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE
(MULTI-CAR DISCOUNT \$10/CAR!)**

**OUTDOOR
VENDOR SPACES
AVAILABLE FOR \$25/ea**

contact andrea at poor johnny's to reserve your space
412.445.8979 or westmiddletownhrc@gmail.com



WEST MIDDLETOWN
HISTORIC REVITALIZATION CORPORATION

**COMMUNITY
YARD
SALE**



**SATURDAY & SUNDAY
MAY 27 & 28
9a-2p**

WEST MIDDLETOWN

MAIN STREET (RT 844) & COLLEGE AVE

- rain or shine -

contact andrea at poor johnny's to reserve a space
412.445.8979 or westmiddletownhrc@gmail.com



WHAT'S HAPPENING

upcoming Vacation Bible Schools *ONE ADDITIONAL VBS ON PAGE 17!

Grove Presbyterian Church

June 12 - 16

VBS 2023



Mon - Fri: 9 am - noon

Ages: 4 years - Grade 6

Craft, Snacks, Bible Stories, Games, Singing, Dancing, Skits, FUN!

Pre-Registration is highly recommended but not necessary:
vbspro.events/p/grovechurch2023

*Looking for adult & teen volunteers
(7th grade & above)



125 East Main Street, West Middletown, PA 15379

Contact: Bonnie McConnell

724-986-2649 or mcconnellb836@gmail.com

Hickory United EPC

June 25 - 29

VBS 2023



Sun: 4 pm - 7 pm

Mon - Thurs: 9 am - noon

Register: vbspro.events/p/hickory

Ages:
completion of 3 yr. old
preschool - 5th grade
(completed)



210 Main Street, Hickory, PA 15340

Contact: Paula Steele: 724-356-4424

The Foundry Church

July 10 - 14



VBS 2023

Ages: 5 years - Grade 8

Soccer, Cheerleading, Basketball, More!

Mon - Fri: evenings

SAVE THE DATE!

MORE INFO TO COME
www.thefoundry.church



1340 Washington Pike, Wellsburg, WV 26070 | Contact: Amy Openbrier: 304-737-0186



WHAT'S HAPPENING

upcoming Local Events

Avella Athletics



5TH ANNUAL *Steak Fry*

three days of events

Friday, July 7TH

Local Team Tournament: 5 pm - 8:30 pm

Saturday, July 8TH

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

Sunday, July 9TH

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

Contact Jim Gatewood at 724-288-7144 or
Joyce Downey at 724-344-2390 to preorder tickets.



hosts

CHARITY SOFTBALL

SATURDAY, MAY 20TH
9:00 AM

4 Game Tournament

BROOKE HILLS PARK BASEBALL FIELD

Come out and enjoy some ball & support a local charity!

Don't forget to bring some cash for the
FOOD TRUCK & WILD THINGS TICKET RAFFLE
and bring a chair!

**All proceeds go to winners' charity of choice.*

Flag Day June 14th

The American Legion Post #643 will have a service to retire old flags at the American Legion. Anyone can bring an old American flag to retire, or drop it off at the Legion. Contact: Pat DeFilippis: 724-587-3455.



THE AMERICAN LEGION
POST 643



WHAT'S HAPPENING

Open Door Baptist Church

June 12 - 16

VBS

2023

TWISTS & TURNS

FOLLOWING JESUS CHANGES THE GAME PSALM 25:4

Mon - Fri: 6 pm - 9 pm

During VBS, kids will discover that Jesus' love provides a foundation that will last. When the storms of life come, they'll need the One who will be with them to the end of the age. They'll learn to be wise builders who continue in what they've learned and firmly believe. And they will discover that He who began a good work will be faithful to carry it on to completion.

3432 Eldersville Road, Colliers, WV, 26035
Contact: 304-527-1128



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








GET UP-CLOSE & PERSONAL with these beautiful, gentle & inquisitive animals.

approx. 60 mins per tour
book on the website or call

- ★ **TOUR** the Farm
- ★ **SEE** the Alpacas
- ★ **FEED** the Alpacas
- ★ **TOUCH** the Fleece

- ★ **LEARN** about Alpacas:
Education - Discussion / Q&A on:
 - "What is an Alpaca?"
 - "The usefulness of an Alpaca"
 - "Products made from Alpaca"
- ★ **SPINNING DEMO**
- ★ **SHOP** in the Farm Store



GREAT FOR ALL AGES
families, couples, groups, etc.
*Contact us today for more info
or to schedule a farm tour!*

724-263-8293 | thecraftyalpaca@gmail.com
www.thecraftyalpaca.com
f
@

115 Rea Road, Avella, PA 15312



It all Comes Full Circle at Memories in the Makin'

BY **Kennedy Hamilton,**
Vice President/Instructor, Memories in the Makin'

Howdy ya'll from our little postage stamp of land here in Independence Township. Spring has sprung and our staff and horses are shedding winter coats and donning summer attire. Here at Memories in the Makin' we are gearing up for a long fun-filled summer.



The mild winter and some help from our sponsors allowed us to accomplish some building and grounds improvements to better care for our animals and to help our staff work with our students and general clients. Memories in the Makin' is a 100 percent nonprofit facility who survives strictly on donations and grants that allow us to work with people with disabilities. Our versatile Equine Facility can cater to everyone's needs, from young to old, those who need special attention or those who just want to be Cowboys and Cowgirls.

Our full time staff currently consists of myself, my mom, and of course, the most important workforce at the barn: our 16 staff horses we have on site. We have all makes and models, from 3-foot-high ponies to 6-foot-high Percherons and drafts. So come one and all; we have a model to fit your needs. We also get help from some volunteers at Memories in the Makin', and we are always looking for more help. This summer we hope to be able to do some internships with students or adults who have a special love for working with animals, special needs individuals and the general public. All staff members and volunteers are required to pass all background checks and paperwork required by the government as well as our standards.



“...Gunny's Ridge at Memories in the Makin' now provides Equine Therapy services to veterans and first responders... We are so honored to have the opportunity to work with veterans...”

A new division of our organization, Gunny's Ridge at Memories in the Makin', now provides equine therapy services to veterans and first responders. We're so honored to have the opportunity to work with veterans and veteran groups. This is something new we were

approached about, and are happy to say that the veterans we are currently working with love it, and their families tell us it really helps with the different issues and unique challenges they face. We receive similar feedback from all of our students and families who are in our equine therapy program. As the owner this makes me feel great about myself, the organization and our mission. It always has been my dream to help others in need through working with horses.



When I decided to leave our little town and head off to college to learn more about horses and equine therapy I was scared and nervous. I was a young, small town farm girl headed out into the big world to follow my dreams to help others and rescue every horse I could. I knew my hometown is where I loved and wanted to be, so after graduating and working some other facilities throughout the U.S., I became confident enough to bring back all I'd learned to my own shingle. I pitched the idea of opening an equine therapy facility to my family.

My family had seen first hand how equine therapy had helped me when I was a little girl (I suffered a traumatic brain injury as an infant and was non-verbal for years. Only when my Mom brought me back to Avella and got me my first pony and began equine therapy did I begin speaking at age 5). So, with the full support of my family, and all hands on-deck, they helped me rebuild an old run-down barn and arena that was bought to get my dreams started.

I quickly learned I couldn't afford to rescue every horse I came across, but also learned that I can still help those who need it. And yes, some of our horses are rescues who also love helping those who need it and are happy to have a home and get fed everyday. We also have some horses that are donated for use, but just like our human staff, our equine staff must meet certain qualifications and be in good physical health and able to work 5-6 days a week.

I can't express how appreciative I am of the help I've received from family, friends, and especially the community, in making Memories in the Makin' a reality. In the way horses and equine therapy helped me so much as a child, it has all come full circle, in that I now have the opportunity and resources to share this amazing avenue of therapy with others in need.

Sugar Run Stables is the for-profit side, which offers riding lessons, events, birthday parties, horse shows and camps for those who are not in a special needs situation.

The facility that we revived is known as the Sugar Run Stables and it is the facility that is home to Memories in the Makin'. Sugar Run Stables is the for-profit side of my business, which also does equine riding and events for those who are not in a special needs situation. The lessons and events, such as birthday parties, horse shows and camps allow us to generate income for general upkeep of the building and grounds and day to day expenses not related to Memories in the Makin'. So, throw on your boots and hat and come on out to the stables and enjoy some equine therapy and relaxation. Please visit our website for more info.



Memories
in the Makin'
501(c)(3)



www.memoriesinthemakin.com • 724.249.3264
1016 Sugar Run Road, Avella, PA 15312



INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP Community Center

11 School Court • Avella, PA 15312

Call for Reservations: 724-507-6448

the perfect venue for PARTIES!

The neutral color scheme of our newly remodeled party room is perfect to go along with your decorations for 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 gymnasium is perfect for recreation for your guests. Let the kids burn off steam (and those calories from all the cake and goodies!) by having a good time in the gym, while you enjoy time in the party room eating and visiting with those you've invited to share in the festivities.

- VERY AFFORDABLE RATES -



MORNING-DAYTIME PICKLEBALL

10:00 am - 4:00 pm (you pick your time slot)

\$2.00 for 2 hours

Please call ahead to schedule!



SCHEDULE TO PLAY IN THE GYMNASIUM

The gymnasium is available to the public by calling to schedule a time to come play! Come with family, friends or groups to play pickleball, basketball, volleyball or just to get some exercise. *Please call 2 days in advance to schedule your gym time!*



Photos above show the party room decorated beautifully for a gathering. Photos compliments of Dana Lis Davis.



Independence Township Dumpsters

Bulk Item Clean-up



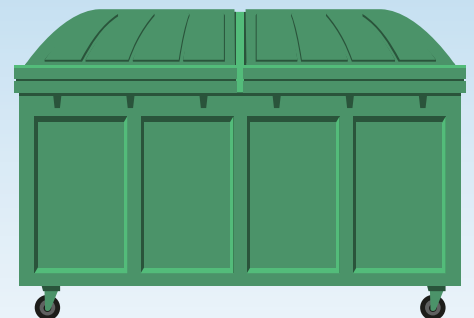
The Township has dumpsters behind the Independence Township Community Center.

Available for **INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS ONLY** every Saturday:

April - October Hours: 8 am - 5 pm

CLOSED ON MAJOR HOLIDAYS

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



The Declaration of Independence Township

19

Spring - Summer 2023



Avella Area Community Association's Community Cleanup

On Saturday, April 29, 2023, the Avella Area Community Association hosted a Community Cleanup effort, in coordination with PennDot.

AACA volunteer and president Tom Jennings handed out gloves, vests, and bags to volunteers at the Lincoln National Bank building, beginning at 8 am that morning. Another volunteer that arrived bright and early to do road cleanup is another true public servant. Tina Powers had been on a fire call the night before, and still showed up for road cleanup on a Saturday morning! Thank you to ALL volunteers who participated to help beautify our town.

At the end of the cleanup all bags were taken to state roads for PennDot to pickup. The final consensus; only a small number of volunteers showed up on Saturday, but each of those volunteers are appreciated. We also know that some of our residents & even businesses

and organizations, like the Davis Family (who received a Township Appreciation Award in 2022), among others, do road cleanup on their own, throughout the year. Your efforts are noticed and are appreciated! We've also noticed less dumping along the roads since the Independence Township Dumpsters have been in place. We've seen things in a lot worse shape. ***A final thought, only applicable to a small number: STOP throwing trash out the window! You can be better than that! You really can!***



Avella Area
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
Working Together for the Betterment of Our Community



MEETINGS:

3rd Monday of every month at 6:00 PM
Independence Township Community Center
PLEASE JOIN US!

Call 724-507-6448 with questions.



Kitty Co. Cat Rescue Adoption Event - hosted by - Jamie Hakim State Farm



FROM THE STREETS TO THE SHEETS

www.kittyco.org
kittycocatrescue@gmail.com
Facebook: Kitty Co. Cat Rescue

On Saturday, May 6th, Jamie Hakim State Farm hosted a Cat Adoption Event for Kitty Co. Cat Rescue. Held in the beautiful backyard of the State Farm offices in Atlasburg, it was complete with adoptable cats and kittens, raffles, freebies, balloon animals by Pretty Twisted, pet insurance and spin-the-wheel games by State Farm, and delicious lunch food available by Noi's Thai Food.

Kitty Co. Cat Rescue is a no-kill, foster-based rescue that began in 2020, with the goal to speak for the voiceless, educate the public on the importance of spay and neuter, and to keep as many kitties off of the streets as they can, in southwestern PA and surrounding areas. They work to save surrendered, stray, and abandoned felines and to help control the overpopulation by spaying and neutering. Please consider fostering, adopting or supporting this cause.



Jamie Hakim State Farm insures many families and businesses in our area. Jamie herself is an agent unlike any other. A self-proclaimed "insurance nerd," she's had 12+ years of experience in the industry, and some very unique life experiences that have put her on a path toward making it her mission to help proactively protect as many families as possible. Her and her team LOVE talking about insurance, and they truly care about their clients. Call today to see how they can help you!

State Farm
Jamie Hakim



The Declaration of Independence Township



Spring - Summer 2023



Community Calendar

May

- 14 Sunday:**
Happy Mother's Day!
- 19 Friday: 10:00 am**
Independence Township Meeting
- 20 Saturday: 9:00 am**
The Foundry Church - Charity Softball Brooke Hills Park (pg. 16)
- 21 Sunday: 10:00 am**
Meadowcroft - Vintage Base Ball Game
- 24 Wednesday: 9:00 am - 11:00 am**
Food Bank Avella Distribution
- 27-28 Saturday & Sunday: 9 am - 2 pm**
Community Yard Sale West Middletown (pg. 14)
- 29 Monday:**
Memorial Day
10:00 am : The American Legion Memorial Day Parade(Pg. 5)

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
---	---

St. Isidore the Farmer at St. Michael Church

SUNDAY MASS 10:00 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	

June

- 3 Saturday: 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm**
Weatherbury On-Farm Pickup (orders due by May 24th) (pg. 6)
- 12-16 Monday-Friday: 9 am - 12 pm**
Grove Presbyterian VBS (pg. 15)
- 12-16 Monday-Friday: 6 pm - 9 pm**
Open Door Baptist VBS (pg. 17)
- 13 Tuesday: 7:30 pm**
Athletics Meeting
- 14 Wednesday:**
Flag Day
The American Legion retires old flags (Pg. 16)
- 16 Friday: 10:00 am**
Independence Township Meeting
- Saturday: 10:00 am**
Meadowcroft - Atlatl Competition
- 18 Sunday:**
Happy Father's Day!
- 18 Sunday: 1:00 pm**
Meadowcroft Rockshelter - 50th Anniversary - Special Tour
- 17 Monday: 6:00 pm**
ICCJSA Meeting
- 20-22 Tuesday-Thursday: 11 am - 1 pm**
Avella Public Library Summer Reading Program (pg. 12)
- 25-29 Sunday-Thursday: 4p-7p / 9a-12p**
Hickory United EPC VBS (pg. 15)
- 28 Wednesday: 9:00 am - 11:00 am**
Food Bank Avella Distribution
- TBD 11 am - 2 pm**
Historic Car Show West Middletown (pg. 14)

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

July

- 2 Sunday: 10:00 am**
Meadowcroft - Independence Day Celebration
- 4 Tuesday:**
Independence Day
- 7-9 Friday-Sunday**
Avella Athletics Steakfry and events (pg. 16)
- 10-14 Monday-Friday: evenings**
The Foundry Church VBS (pg. 15)
- 11 Tuesday: 7:30 pm**
Athletics Meeting
- 15 Saturday: 10:00 am**
Meadowcroft Rockshelter - Special Tour - Dr. Adovasio
- 17 Monday: 6:00 pm**
ICCJSA Meeting
- 21 Friday: 10:00 am**
Independence Township Meeting
- 22 Saturday: 9:30 am**
Auto Show - St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church (pg. 14)
- 26 Wednesday: 9:00 am - 11:00 am**
Food Bank Avella Distribution
- 29 Saturday: 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm**
Weatherbury On-Farm Pickup (orders due by July 19th) (pg. 6)



Eagles Nest Recovery

EVERY WEDNESDAY

7:30 PM

Avella Church (25 Campbell Street, Avella)
All are welcome. We are here to help for any kind of addiction. Your anonymity will be protected. No cell phone use in meeting.



SUNDAY MORNINGS
10:30 AM

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



Connect with INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP



★ Important Contact Information ★

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Chairman Thomas Jennings
Vice-Chairman Joyce McKenzie
Supervisor Thomas Cowden

STAFF & DEPARTMENTS

Secretary/Treasurer Cyndi Cecchini

Solicitor Sweat Law Offices
Engineer Harshman CE Group, LLC
Zoning/Building Permits Harshman CE Group, LLC
Code Enforcement Harshman CE Group, LLC
Emergency Management Chris Maust
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
Steve Colussi

ELECTED TAX COLLECTOR

Thomas Simons

ELECTED AUDITORS

Melissa Ansell
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
McDonald Police Department 724-926-2105
Code Enforcement & Zoning/Building Permits
(Harshman CE Group, LLC) 724-993-4505
Township Engineer (Harshman CE Group, LLC) 724-993-4505
Elected Tax Collector (Tom Simons) 724-587-3737
Wage Tax Collector (Keystone Collections) 724-987-0300
Independence Cross Creek Joint Sewer Authority 724-507-6464
Emergency Management Coordinator (Christ Maust) .. 724-587-4480
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 724-263-9689
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

