

THE Declaration OF INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP

Washington County • Avella, Pennsylvania

SUMMER 2026 NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 13 • ISSUE 2



OUR

Hometown

SUMMER



Small Town.
Big Memories.



Gather
Together.



Simple Pleasures



In This Issue

PAGE 3-4

- Supervisors' Update: Progress You Can See & The Work Behind It

PAGE 4

- Independence Township Celebration Day Community Picnic

PAGE 5

- Community Calendar

PAGE 6

- A Community United In Remembrance

PAGE 7

- A New Tribute in the Heart of Our Community

PAGES 8-9

- Parks & Recreation
- Public Works

PAGES 10-16

- Avella Volunteer Fire Department
- Avella Sportsmen's Club
- Avella Public Library
- Independence Township Website, Dumpsters, Tax Collection
- AACA - Fall Community Cleanup Day
- Meadowcroft
- A.D. White Research Society

This and more inside

Contents

The Declaration of Independence Township
SUMMER 2026



Scenes from around Independence Township:
Summer wildflowers, a patriotic salute during Memorial Day,
one of the twin white-tail fawns spotted along
Morningside Drive, and the new bleachers installed at the
Park's Sport Court as part of the Phase III improvements.

features

- 3-4 Supervisors' Update
- ★ Independence Township
Celebration Day Community Picnic
- 6 A Community United in Remembrance
- 7 A New Tribute at the Heart of
Our Community

departments

- 8 Independence Township
Parks & Recreation
- 9 Independence Township
Public Works
- 13 Independence Township
Communications
- 13 Independence Township
Dumpsters

calendar

- 5 Community Calendar of Events

information

- 12 Avella Public Library
- 14 Independence Township
Tax Collector

community news

- 10 Avella Volunteer Fire Department
- 11 Avella Sportsmen's Club
- 15 AACA: Avella Cleanup Day
- 16 Meadowcroft
- 16 A.D. White Research Society
- 17 American Legion Bingo & Bar
- 17 ICCJSA: New Office & Payment Options
- 18 Eagles Nest Recovery & NA Groups
- 18 Weekly Church Services
- 18 Foodbank Avella Distribution Dates

contact info

- 19 Important Contact Info



INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP

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

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

Email: indtwpwashco@hky.com

www.independence.patownship.org



Follow us on Facebook

Board of Supervisors

THOMAS JENNINGS
Chairman

THOMAS COWDEN
Vice-Chairman

ED POWERS
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 by the Board of Supervisors.*

FEEDBACK, PHOTOS, NEWS TIPS WELCOME!
katiee12@hotmail.com



*Decor at the township office,
donated seasonally by Sandy Pirillo,
at no cost to the township.*

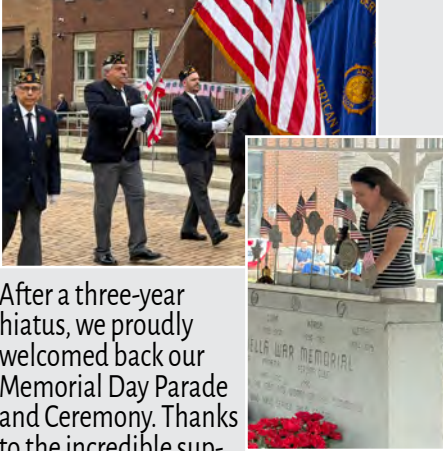


Supervisors' Update

Progress You Can See... ★
★ ...and the Work Behind It.

Progress doesn't happen overnight. Much of the Township's work takes place behind the scenes - from planning projects and securing grants and funding to maintaining roads and infrastructure, enforcing township ordinances, keeping residents informed, modernizing township services, and preparing for future improvements. **While much of that work isn't always visible, it's what makes the progress you do see possible.**

Memorial Day Success



After a three-year hiatus, we proudly welcomed back our Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony. Thanks to the incredible support of our community, veterans, organizations, volunteers and participants, the event was a wonderful success. We'd love to make this an annual tradition again, but we'll need more volunteers to help make it happen!

See page 6 for a full recap.

War Memorial Gazebo



Our new War Memorial Gazebo now stands as a lasting tribute to those who served our country. As our nation prepares to celebrate America's 250th Anniversary, we're proud to have created a beautiful gathering place that will honor our veterans for generations to come.

See page 7 for more.

Statewide Communications Win



We're proud to announce that Independence Township once again received 1st Place in the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) statewide newsletter competition for townships with populations under 5,000. Thank you to everyone who contributes photos, articles and ideas that help keep our residents informed.

Hickory Nut Phase II Grant Project Moving Forward



Construction is hopeful to begin before the end of the year on the next phase of the Hickory Nut Road project. This DGLVR grant-funded project builds on the work completed last summer and will provide long-term solutions to ongoing stormwater drainage issues on this road. There are different types of approvals needed on these projects, so we are in a waiting stage right now.

More Grant Projects Ahead



Additional grant-funded projects are currently in the planning, engineering & approval stages. Although much of the work happens behind the scenes, the Township continues to aggressively pursue grant funding whenever possible to improve our infrastructure and quality of life while minimizing the cost to taxpayers. Right now, we are awaiting final DEP approval for the 395 bridge project on Sugar Run Road, then it will be bid out. We hope this can begin before year's end.

Phase III Complete at the Park!



Phase III improvements at Independence Township Community Park are now complete! Recent additions include the completed pavilion kitchen, ADA-accessible walkways, lighting, electrical upgrades, bleachers, paving and improved access to the new restroom facilities. The Township has also approved the purchase of removable commercial kitchen equipment, making the pavilion even more functional for community events and rentals.

See page 8 for more.

continued on pg. 4



Large Walking Trail Coming to the Park



Planning continues for the park's new walking trail, funded through a \$125,000 Pennsylvania Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program grant. Construction is expected to begin after the planning phase is complete, bringing another exciting amenity to our growing community park!

Lincoln National Bank Building



Thanks to significant grant funding and years of planning, work will continue on the historic Lincoln National Bank Building. Responsibility for the project is being transferred to the Washington County Redevelopment Authority, and we're excited to see this historic landmark continue its transformation.

Positive Report From CPAs



At our July meeting, Township Supervisors received another positive financial report from our independent CPA, Cypher and Cypher, reflecting the Township's continued commitment to responsible financial management.

Parks & Recreation Committee

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION ★ COMMITTEE ★

We are still looking for residents interested in serving on the Parks & Recreation Committee. Share your ideas, help plan events, and make a difference in our community. Join us!

The Independence Township Board of Supervisors has collectively decided to support this committee and volunteers of this committee!

See page 8 for more info.

Code Enforcement



We understand the concerns residents have when properties become overgrown or fall into disrepair. Every complaint received by the Township is promptly investigated by our Code Enforcement Officer at Harshman CE Group, who works with property owners to resolve violations whenever possible.

Many cases are corrected quickly. Others require property owners to be given time to bring their property into compliance. If violations are not corrected, the Township may be required to pursue legal action through the courts. Throughout this process, Pennsylvania law establishes specific procedures and timelines that the Township must follow, and in some cases extensions may be granted.

Please know that when a complaint is filed, work begins immediately—even if progress isn't always visible to the public. While some cases take longer than anyone would like, they continue moving through the legal process until they are resolved. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work to keep Independence Township safe, clean and welcoming for everyone.

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP CELEBRATION DAY COMMUNITY PICNIC SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26th EARLY IN THE DAY!



Independence Township
Community Park
150 Independence Rd., Avella



GREAT FOOD!



FUN FOR EVERYONE!



KIDS ACTIVITIES!

This event is early in the day so it won't conflict with the Rodeo that evening.

A FREE, FAMILY-FRIENDLY DAY OF FUN!

★ **VOLUNTEERS & IDEAS NEEDED TO MAKE THIS DAY A SUCCESS!** ★

INTEREST IN HELPING OR HAVE IDEAS? **Call the Township Office Today! 724-587-3518**

Sincerely Yours,

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

Community Calendar



August

- 17 Monday: 6:00 pm**
AACA Meeting at Independence Township Community Center
- 17 Monday: 7:00 pm**
ICCJSA Meeting at Independence Township Building
- 18 Tuesday: 7:00 pm**
Independence Township Monthly Legislative Meeting
- 19 Wednesday: 9:00 am - 11:00 am**
Food Bank Avella Distribution AVFD Firehall (pg. 19)
- 22 Saturday: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm**
Meadowcroft Vintage Base Ball (pg. 17)
- 24 Monday: 6:30 pm**
Independence Township Planning Commission Meeting
- 26 Wednesday: Avella's 1st Day Back to School** 
- 29 Saturday: 11 am - 12 pm**
Avella Public Library Storytime! (pg. 12) 



September

- 7 Monday: Labor Day**
- 11 Friday: Patriot Day**
- 12 Saturday: 9:00 am start**
Avella Community Cleanup Day (pg. 16)
- 15 Tuesday: 7:00 pm**
Independence Township Monthly Legislative Meeting
- 16 Wednesday: 9:00 am - 11:00 am**
Food Bank Avella Distribution AVFD Firehall (pg. 19)
- 17 Thursday: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm**
Meadowcroft Fall Homeschool Open House (pg. 17)
- 19-20 Saturday: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm**
Meadowcroft Covered Bridge Festival (*free admission to historic villages) (pg. 17)
- 21 Monday: 6:00 pm**
AACA Meeting at Independence Township Community Center
- 21 Monday: 7:00 pm**
ICCJSA Meeting at Independence Township Building
- 22 Tuesday: Fall Begins**
- 26 Saturday: Early (Time TBA)**
Independence Celebration Day Picnic at the Park (pg. 4) 
- 26 Saturday: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm**
In-Person, No-Appointment-Needed Tax Collection Day at the Tax Collector's Office (pg. 14)
- 26 Saturday: 7:00 pm**
Little A Town Arena Extreme Bull Riding, Benefitting AVFD (pg. 10)
- 28 Monday: 6:30 pm**
Independence Township Planning Commission Meeting

October

- 4 Saturday: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm**
Meadowcroft A Walk in Penn's Woods
- 12 Monday: Columbus Day**
- 19 Monday: 6:00 pm**
AACA Meeting at Independence Township Community Center
- 19 Monday: 7:00 pm**
ICCJSA Meeting at Independence Township Building
- 20 Tuesday: 7:00 pm**
Independence Township Monthly Legislative Meeting
- 21 Wednesday: 9:00 am - 11:00 am**
Food Bank Avella Distribution AVFD Firehall (pg. 19)
- 26 Monday: 6:30 pm**
Independence Township Planning Commission Meeting
- 31 Monday: Halloween**



A COMMUNITY UNITED in Remembrance

★ INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP MEMORIAL DAY PARADE & CEREMONY 2026 ★

BY Katie Leeper

Communications, Independence Township



Independence Township proudly hosted the Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony, for the first time in 3 years, in partnership with Bert C. Siders American Legion Post #643, the A.D. White Research Society, and other local organizations and individuals. Neighbors gathered to remember and honor the brave men and women who gave their lives in service to our nation. The morning began with a parade through downtown Avella before the community assembled at the War Memorial Gazebo for a moving ceremony, led by Ms. Jade Milvet, featuring patriotic music, tributes, prayers, the presentation of colors, and heartfelt remarks honoring our fallen heroes. Together we paused to reflect on the true meaning of Memorial Day and the sacrifices that have protected our freedoms.

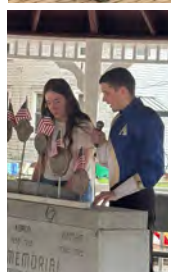


"Neighbors gathered to remember those who gave all."

Thank You AVELLA COMMUNITY

- American Legion Bert C. Siders Post 643
- A.D. White Research Society
- Avella Jr./Sr. High School Marching Band
- Avella Volunteer Fire Dept.
- Avella Young Patriots – Pledge of Allegiance Group, and all parent helpers
- Pennsylvania State Representative Josh Kail
- Avella Athletics, Inc.
- Avella FFA
- Seed to Flower
- Heather A. McKinney Photography
- Aaron Margaria Music
- Brittany Gagliani Mears
- Jade Milvet
- Rich Narus
- Kay Danna
- Lisa and Chris Maust
- All parade participants
- The Avella Wellness Center
- All others local individuals and businesses who volunteered and contributed in both little and big ways
- The Avella Community

Communities thrive because neighbors willingly step forward to serve one another, sharing their time, talents, and resources for the good of all. We are grateful to everyone who contributed and helped make this special day—and this meaningful tradition—possible.



Heather A. McKinney
OUTDOOR PHOTOGRAPHY
FAMILY PHOTOS & SENIOR PHOTOS
ENGAGEMENT & WEDDINGS
PETS
CARS & SO MUCH MORE...
(724) 986-7543 CALL OR TEXT TODAY!

A New Tribute at the Heart of Our Community

BY **Katie Leeper**

Communications, Independence Township

Just in time for the 2026 Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony, the new War Memorial Gazebo in downtown Avella was unveiled.

The project began when The Township applied for and was awarded a \$25,000 grant through the Washington County Tourism Promotion Agency's "American Spirit Grant Program," created to help commemorate America's 250th Birthday. A six percent financial match was provided by the Township, followed by a very ambitious fundraising effort led by a determined Township official, with the support of staff and conducted in partnership with the American Legion. ***The project transformed from vision to reality when many generous local businesses, organizations, families, and individuals came together to fully fund the project!***

Built over the Township's existing War Memorial, the gazebo serves as a lasting tribute to the men and women who have served our nation. It helps create a place for reflection, remembrance, and community



gatherings for generations to come.

This beautiful gazebo also stands as a reminder of what can be accomplished when a community comes together.

A formal dedication ceremony recognizing the project and those honored through commemorative donations will be announced in the coming months.



We extend sincere gratitude to every sponsor, volunteer, and supporter who helped make this vision a reality, and
WE HONOR OUR VETERANS
WHOSE SERVICE & SACRIFICE
MAKE IT ALL POSSIBLE
& INSPIRE US ALL.



Sincerest Thanks TO ALL Generous Sponsors



**BERT SIDER'S AMERICAN
LEGION POST # 643**

Range Resources
Breezy Heights
Alex E. Paris Contracting Co
Harshman CE Group
Jeffrey Associates
Blues Tree Service
Scott's Heating & Cooling

PA American Water
Washington Financial
Cypher & Cypher
Woltz & Wind Ford
Little A Town Arena
Energy Transfer
G & D Erectors, Inc.

R&K Disposal Inc
Cedar Grove Land Development
Huston Security Services, LLC
Stephenson Equipment, Inc.
Adam Lewis Trucking
Elemental Shelter Solutions
Sweat Law Offices

Farner Fire
A.G. Bevec, Inc.
Brownlee Lumber & Supply
Case Power & Equipment
Scott's Locksmith
Animal Control Services
AP Metal Sales LLC
Gasbarro Insurance

REMEMBER



AJ and Stella Cindrich Family

Andrew Donovan, In honor of Orrin G. Miller, U.S. Army
Air Forces, WWII, MIA/KIA, Recipient 2 Purple Hearts

Jesse "Dan" Eakin & Family, in honor of Staff Sgt. Jesse
William "Bill" Eakin, U.S. Army Veteran of the Korean Conflict

The Fusarelli, Takah, & Tarolli Families, in honor of
SSG John A. Fusarelli, US Army

The Magon Family, in honor of
Staff Sergeant Raymond J. Magon, U.S. Army, WWII

Jerome & Colleen Stefkovich, in memory of
Staff Sgt. Albert P. Stefkovich

Stefkovich Funeral Home, in honor of
Corporal Daniel Dunmore

AND HONOR

Alan & Lori Midler, in honor of
Mike Yolch Jr., U.S. Army National Guard

Tom and Rosemary Jennings, in honor of
Master Sgt. Kyle Birch, U.S. Air Force & Elaine Birch, U.S. Air Force

Tom Mucci & Terri Schubenski & Families, in honor of their Father,
Private Levio Mucci, WWII

Sons Joseph & Ronald, honoring their father,
Dominic S. Mambu for his U.S. Naval service during WWII

The Schubenski Family, in honor of
Sgt. William "Willie" Schubenski, Korean War

The Bruner Family, in honor of
Specialist Kenneth Bruner, U.S. Army

The Cecchini, Midler & Clarkson Families, in honor of
Corporal Lee Cecchini, U.S. Army WWII



INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION



RESERVE THE PARK OR COMMUNITY CENTER



MORE UPGRADES on the way!

Final touches on Phase 3 developments include equipping the new kitchen in the Louis A. Brandenburg Pavilion with removable appliances that can be used (optionally) to make the pavilion perfect for your next event!

- ✓ **COMMERCIAL GRILL**
- ✓ **REFRIGERATOR/FREEZER** (ice and cold storage)
- ✓ **WARMING EQUIPMENT** (to keep food hot)

Pavilions, Grills, Playground, Sport Court Walking Trail Dog Trail, New Restrooms, New ADA Accessible Walkways, New Bleachers, New Paving, New Lighting & Electrical

150 INDEPENDENCE ROAD, AVELLA



use the
PARTY ROOM
the perfect space for your
indoor event

ACCOMMODATES 40
attached gym, tables, chairs, buffet,
mini fridge, electric, large TV, very clean

Let's Play!



PICKLEBALL

or basketball, volleyball, or other gym activities

**Call 48hrs in advance to schedule
gym time for your group.**



11 SCHOOL COURT, AVELLA



CALL TO BOOK

park rentals | party room
gym time rentals

724-507-6448

*Love Your
Community?*



WE NEED VOLUNTEERS WHO WANT TO:

- Help plan fun events & activities.
- Bring new ideas and fresh energy.
- Assist with beautification.
- Help create fundraising opportunities.

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION

★ COMMITTEE ★

- ♥ Bring more life, events & opportunities to our community!
- ♥ **YOU CAN HELP CREATE NEW TRADITIONS FOR OUR TOWN,**
strengthen community connections and make the most of existing
assets, like the park & community center!
- ♥ The Independence Township Board of Supervisors has collectively
decided to support this committee & volunteers of this committee.



INTERESTED?

Call 724-587-3518



INTERESTED?

indtwpwashco@hky.com

PUBLIC WORKS



DEPARTMENT UPDATE

PUBLIC WORKS KEEPS SUMMER MOVING

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



Restoring road shoulders and drainage is just one of the many behind-the-scenes tasks that help keep Independence Township roads safe and well maintained.

Summer is one of the busiest seasons for Independence Township's Public Works Department. With just three dedicated employees - Joe, Tim, and Jack - the crew maintains approximately 34 miles of township roads, along with bridges, road-sides, culverts, ditches, equipment, and other township infrastructure.

Summer Work In Full Swing



While summer brings endless mowing and seasonal maintenance, it also means repairing damage left behind by winter weather. The crew spends many hours patching potholes, repairing roadways, boom mowing roadsides, cleaning ditches and culverts, restoring road shoulders, maintaining township equipment.

Partnering with Neighbors



Like many rural municipalities, Independence Township partners with neighboring townships on larger projects that require extra equipment or manpower. This summer, our crew also assisted nearby townships (Mt. Pleasant, Smith, Jefferson and Hopewell) with tar and chip operations, continuing a tradition of communities working together to make the most of local resources.



Connecting with the Community



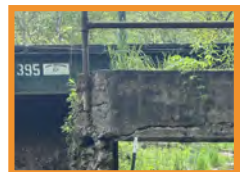
The Independence Township Public Works Department also enjoys giving back to the community. This summer, longtime employee Joe Gagliani brought one of the township's backhoes to the Avella Public Library's Summer Reading Program, where he used it to dump a bucket of corn into a children's pool filled with hidden treasures. The giant sensory bin was a big hit and gave kids a fun, hands-on experience with township equipment.



Looking Ahead: Grant-Funded Improvements



The township hopes construction will begin before the end of the year on two grant-funded road projects. Both are currently in the final approval stages.



The next phase of the Hickory Nut Road Dirt, Gravel & Low Volume Road (DGLVR) project is awaiting approval and will address storm-water drainage issues. The Sugar Run Road (Bridge 395) replacement project is awaiting final DEP approval before being advertised for bids. If approvals are received as expected, construction on both projects could begin before year's end.

Much of Public Works' work happens behind the scenes, but it is essential to keeping our roads, parks, and infrastructure safe and well maintained.

THANK YOU, JOE, TIM, AND JACK,
for your dedication to our community.





AVELLA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



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

The members of the Avella Volunteer Fire Department continue to serve our community in countless ways - responding to emergencies, educating our youth, participating in community events, and volunteering their time whenever they are needed. We are grateful for their dedication and commitment to keeping our community safe.

MOCK CRASH DEMONSTRATION

Just before prom this spring, AVFD joined fellow first responders, EMS, law enforcement, and Avella High School's SADD program for a realistic mock crash demonstration. The event gave students a powerful look at the devastating consequences of impaired and distracted driving, encouraging them to make safe choices both on prom night and throughout the year.



Thank you to Kadyn Narquini for the above photos!

HONORING OUR HEROES

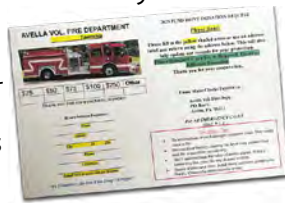
AVFD proudly participated in this year's Memorial Day Parade, helping honor the brave men and women who gave their lives in service to our country. Their continued support of community traditions reflects the pride and dedication they bring to Avella.



Thank you to Heather A. McKinney Photography for these photos!

SUPPORT THE 2026 FUND DRIVE

Postcards for the AVFD's 2026 Fund Drive have recently been mailed to residents. Your donations help provide essential equipment, training, and resources needed to protect our community. Every contribution, no matter the amount, helps support the volunteers who are always ready to answer the call.



SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 26 at 7:00 p.m. and come out to the Little A Town Arena for Extreme Bull Riding benefiting the Avella Volunteer Fire Department. Your attendance helps support the department while enjoying an exciting evening of family-friendly entertainment.



AVFD is always looking for new volunteers. Whether you're interested in becoming a firefighter or helping in other important ways, your time and talents can make a real difference. Now is a great time to get involved.

SUPPORT YOUR AVELLA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

A little help from everyone can make a big difference!
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
SUPPORT NEEDED • YOU are NEEDED!

Thank You

Emergency calls don't wait for convenient times. AVFD volunteers respond during the day, night, on weekends, and even during holidays - putting service before themselves. Thank you to each volunteer for your dedication, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment to our community.

Donations can be mailed to:
Avella Volunteer Fire Department
PO Box G, Avella, PA 15312

Email:
avellavfd35@yahoo.com

Phone:
724-587-5870

Emergencies:
911

Fire Hall Address:
1560 Avella Road
Avella, PA 15312

Follow the NEW Facebook Page: "Avella Volunteer Fire Department"



Avella Sportsmen's Club

Hosts the 13th Annual Francis Ola Memorial Kids' Fishing Tournament

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

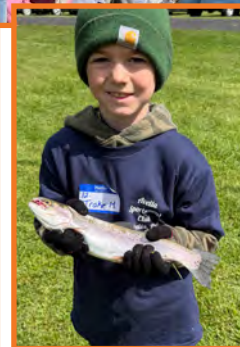
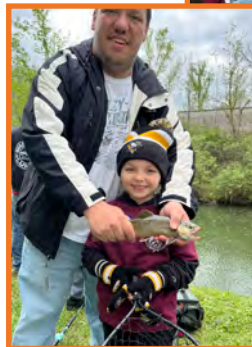
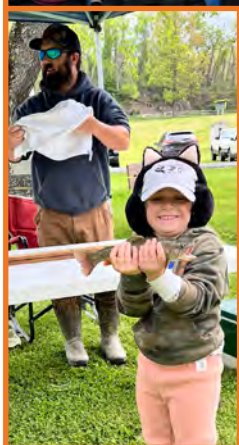
Despite chilly temperatures and just a little light rain, families bundled up and turned out in great numbers for the 13th Annual Francis Ola Memorial Kids' Fishing Tournament on May 2 at the Avella Sportsmen's Club. Once again, the beloved tradition brought young anglers together for an exciting morning of fishing, fun, and friendly competition.

The Sportsmen's Club was stocked with hundreds of trout for the event, giving children the opportunity to reel in their catches while volunteers helped ensure a memorable experience for everyone. In addition to the fishing tournament, participants enjoyed prizes, trophies, free lunch, shirts, hats, bicycles, raffles, cotton candy, and plenty of smiles.

The tournament is made possible each year through the dedication of the Avella Sportsmen's Club, its volunteers, generous sponsors, and the many community members who continue to support this wonderful tradition for the children and grandchildren of Avella Sportsmen Club members.



Despite cool temperatures, families enjoyed another successful day of fishing, prizes, and fun at the 13th Annual Francis Ola Memorial Kids' Fishing Tournament.



Avella Public Library



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

The Avella Public Library welcomed children and families for its largest Summer Reading Program attendance in years. Over three mornings in late June, the program brought together 22 children and more than 16 parents, grandparents, volunteers, and helpers for a unique lineup of activities, with every child going home each day with tons of fun prizes and unforgettable memories.

THE Summer Reading Program DRAWS YOUNG READERS to the Library!

Children enjoyed daily crafts, games, stories, and snacks led by Miss Amanda Ansell, with help from volunteers and library staff members Kedrick and Miss Sandy. Special guests included Mr. Joe from Independence Township Public Works and his backhoe, who delivered a treasure-filled corn pit for the children to explore, Officer Drew, who celebrated his birthday by reading to the children, and magician Steve Haberman, whose hilarious performance had everyone laughing.

The Avella Public Library extends its sincere appreciation to the volunteers, donors, and participants whose support made this program a success and fun-filled experience that brought children, families, and neighbors together.



Storytime

at the
Avella Public Library
Story, Craft, Snack, Friends



**SATURDAY
AUGUST 29**

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

- ♥ **ALL AGES WELCOME**
- ♥ Geared toward younger children.
- ♥ *Bring a friend!*



Questions?
724-587-5688

Growing Readers ♥
Building Community ♥

Please Support your Library's upcoming Important Fundraisers:



**SEPTEMBER 10
is WCCF Gives 2026**

On this county-wide day of giving,
donate to the Library only through
WWW.WCCFGIVES.COM and your
DONATION WILL BE MULTIPLIED
by a large bonus pool!



**LOOK FOR
OUR POSTCARD**
in your mailbox!



Follow us on facebook to see what's going on at the Library!
Join us each season for our
FREE CRAFT & COFFEE HOUR,
where adult community members are invited to come
and create a beautiful item to decorate their home with!

VISIT YOUR LIBRARY!

Monday - Thursday: 10 am - 5 pm
11 School Court, Avella, PA 15312 | 724-587-5688



LET'S CONNECT!



Independence Township is building a stronger, more connected community -
and we want **YOU** to be a part of it.



Check-out our website for news, events, meeting agendas, minutes, contact info, and more as we work to revamp the site with more resources for residents every week!

www.independence.patownship.org

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP Bulk Item Clean-up DUMPSTERS



Independence Township
Residents Only

It's a great time to
RED UP!

Saturdays

APR. - OCT.: 8 AM - 5 PM
NOV. - MAR.: 9 AM - 4 PM

Closed Major Holidays

11 School Court, Avella, PA 15312 | Located behind the Independence Township Community Center
NO: tires, electronic devices, computers, refrigerators, garbage, building materials, paint or petroleum products



INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP TAX COLLECTOR • JUDY MAGON

a
message from
the tax collector

Dear Residents and tax payers of Independence Township-

I hope you're enjoying your summer. As your Tax Collector, I'm always happy to help you, and I'm here to help make the tax process as easy as possible. Whether you need clarification, have a question or concern, or simply aren't sure what to do next, please don't hesitate to give me a call. Below is some helpful tax info:

Township Taxes were mailed at the end of March

Township taxes were due before August 1st at the face amount.

After 8-1-26, they accrue a penalty. If taxes aren't paid by 12-31-26, liens will be placed.



School Taxes were mailed out July 28

• Pay at 2 % discount until 9-30-26

• Pay at face until 11-30-26

• Pay at 10% penalty after 11-30-26

• Liens will be placed if taxes are not paid by 12-31-26.

There is a 3-month installment payment plan for school taxes and will be noted on the bottom of your tax notices. Please take advantage of this installment plan if you wish.



Per Capita Tax

TOWNSHIP PER CAPITA TAX= \$5 PER RESIDENT 18 YEARS & OLDER

SCHOOL PER CAPITA TAX= \$10 PER RESIDENT 18 YEARS & OLDER

*Thank you for your prompt attention.
Your support helps our community thrive!*

Judy Magon

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP TAX COLLECTOR

How to Pay

IN-PERSON

DURING OFFICE HOURS:

• SAT., SEPT. 26, 2026 •
10am-4pm

IN-PERSON

BY APPOINTMENT

Call for an appointment at anytime, if the date above doesn't suit you and you do not want to pay by mail. I am very flexible and will be happy to assist you if you wish to pay your taxes in-person.

By Mail

PO. Box 573
Avella, PA 15312

*Mail tax payment along w/
a self addressed, stamped
envelope for a receipt.*

Office Address: 2254 Avella Road, Avella, PA

Ph: 724-554-6866





Working Together for the Betterment of Our Community

Thank you

The AACA extends a sincere thank you to everyone who participated in April's annual Spring Community Cleanup, as well as the individuals and families who volunteer to clean local roads throughout the year. Your continued commitment helps make Avella a cleaner, more beautiful place to call home.



JOIN THE EFFORT



“
Many hands
make
light work
”

Throughout the year, the Avella Area Community Association organizes projects that help beautify our community, including road cleanups, patriotic banners, and Christmas lights. These efforts depend on volunteers, and we could always use a few more helping hands. Even a small contribution of your time can make a big difference!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A MEETING!

3rd Monday of every month • 6:00 PM
Independence Township Community Center • 724-507-6448

AVELLA COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP DAY SATURDAY SEPT. 12



Can you give even
ONE HOUR
to help clean-up
YOUR TOWN?



Pickup supplies
Saturday 9am-10am
@ Independence
Township Community
Center.

Send pics of your cleanup
activities to
katiee12@hotmail.com.

Let us use your pictures to
help inspire others!

You can do your road cleanup ANYTIME that suits you on Road Cleanup WEEKEND, and put your bags on a STATE ROAD in Independence Township by Monday morning (before 9/14/2026) and they will get picked up!





EXPLORE MEADOWCROFT BEFORE SUMMER ENDS!

Pack a lunch, wear your walking shoes, and spend a day exploring Avella's own National Historic Landmark! Visit during one of the special events listed here or any day during the season. Explore the new Robert Barendsfeld Visitor Center, historic villages with hands-on activities, and the renowned Rockshelter, the oldest known site of human habitation in North America. There's something for all ages.

SUMMER HOURS

(Memorial Day - Labor Day)

Wed. - Sun.: 10 am - 4 pm

(Labor Day - Nov. 23)

Sat. & Sun.: 10 am - 4 pm



SPECIAL EVENTS

Aug. 22 Vintage Base Ball

Sept. 17 Homeschool Open House

Sept. 19-20 .. Washington & Greene Co.
Covered Bridge Festival

Oct. 4 Walk in Penn's Woods

Nov. 21 Taffy Pull & Fall Finale

Every Friday Morning: Weeding Parties

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

Visit the website for more info & to purchase admission: www.heinzhistorycenter.org/meadowcroft

A.D. White Research Society, Ltd.

The A.D. White Research Society once again played an important role in this year's Memorial Day celebration. Board Member Jade Milvet served as Master of Ceremonies, dedicating many hours to planning and organizing the event before leading the program as its emcee. Following the parade and ceremony, the Society welcomed visitors to its Annual Open House at the Train Station Headquarters.



The Society is now preparing for its Annual History Fair, which will be held on November 7th, at the West Middletown Fire Hall this year. Vendors, crafters, historical societies, and other exhibitors are invited to participate.

For vendor information or to get involved, please contact the A.D. White Research Society.

The A.D. White Research Society stores a multitude of local history and data. They are motivated to keep the train station and its contents secured with donations, membership, grants and other philanthropic endeavors.

HISTORY FAIR

NOVEMBER 7, 2026
West Middletown Firehall

**STAY
tuned**
for more info



info@adwhiteresearchsociety.org · 724-507-6001

10 Seneca Place, PO Box 562, Avella, PA 15312

adwhiteresearchsociety.org

find us on facebook!





THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 643



BINGO

SATURDAY NIGHTS

\$22 per player • starts at 7pm
snacks & soda available
All are welcome! Come and play!

30 Short Street, Avella, PA 15312 | 412-660-6325

BAR OPEN:

Mondays, Fridays, Saturdays: 3:00 pm - close

ADVERTISE HERE

**IF YOU ARE
READING THIS,
so are your
potential customers!**

Let us help you connect! Contact us for details:

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP

katiee12@hotmail.com

(You will receive a reply if we receive your email)

Call: 724-587-3518 (M-F: 9am-2pm) ask for Katie

Independence - Cross Creek Joint Sewer Authority

OFFICE NOW LOCATED AT

34 Campbell Street
Avella, PA



NEW OFFICE HOURS
Monday-Friday:
9 AM - 2 PM

PAY YOUR BILL ONLINE
www.goh2o.net/iccjsa



PAY BY MAIL
ICCJSA
PO Box 156
Avella, PA 15312



**SETUP
AUTOMATIC
BILL PAY**
Call To Enroll!

Questions? Call or Email
& we will be happy to help you!



724-507-6464



@ iccjsa@hky.com

Update / Notice to ICCJSA Customers:

- ★ There is no longer any bill drop-off or in-person collection.
- ★ To help navigate rising operating costs, in-person bill payment was discontinued effective April 15, 2026. Customers may continue to pay by mail, online, or through AutoPay. These changes help us manage expenses while continuing to provide quality sewage service to customers in Cross Creek and Independence Townships.



WEEKLY SUPPORT FOR ADDICTION



Eagles Nest Recovery

**MEETING EVERY
WEDNESDAY • 7:30 PM**

All are welcome.
Your anonymity will be protected.
What is said here, stays here.
No cell phone use in meeting.



Avella Christian Church: 25 Campbell St., Avella, PA

TUESDAY NIGHTS

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM



Our meetings are open meetings, meaning they are open to the public. We welcome those looking for support for addiction, recovering addicts, or those who want to come to support a friend or family member.

Avella Christian Church: 25 Campbell St., Avella, PA



Greater Washington County

FOOD BANK

A division of Food Helpers

Monthly Food Distribution in Avella

Aug. 19 ★ Sept. 16 ★ Oct. 21

Every 3rd Wednesday

9:00 am - 11:00 am

Avella Vol. Fire Dept.

1560 Avella Rd, Avella, PA, 15312

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

Location details & box reservations:

724-632-2190 x124

www.foodhelpers.org

cgray@foodhelpers.org

WEEKLY CHURCH SERVICES

Our churches in and around Independence Township are a vital part of our community - places to gather for worship, connect with others, and find peace, hope, faith, and love; visit on Sunday or online to learn about services and events.



Independence United Methodist Church

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

9:45 AM

187 Washington Pike, Avella

Visit our facebook page: Harmony Charge-Castleman's Run, Independence, Kadesh Chapel UMC

Pastor Craig Blankenship



**Avella Christian Church
& Lower Buffalo Church**

**AVELLA
SUNDAY SVC.
9:45 AM**

25 Campbell St.
Avella

**LOWER BUFFALO
SUNDAY SVC.
11:15 AM**

335 Campground Rd
Avella

Pastor Rich Narus



**St. Isidore the Farmer
at St. Michael Church**

**SUNDAY
MASS
11:00 AM**

**WEDNESDAY
MASS
8:00 AM**

97 Highland Avenue, Avella

Grace Bible Church
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

11:00 AM

4592 Jefferson Ave., Avella

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**

**8:45 AM
SUNDAY**

176 Cross Creek Road, Avella

**MYSTERY OF
Reconciliation**

**8-8:30 AM
SUN. & by appt.**

**Grove United
Presbyterian Church**

**SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP
11:00 AM**

125 Main Street,
West Middletown, PA

**THE
FOUNDERY
CHURCH**

**SUNDAY MORNINGS
10:30 AM**

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

The Avella Wellness Center

Building Pathways to Wellness.

The Avella Wellness Center aims to provide a compassionate and comprehensive wellness program that removes barriers and creates pathways to wellness by connecting individuals and families with resources, education, and community partnerships that empower Washington County residents to rebuild, grow, and thrive.



AFFORDABLE, HIGH-QUALITY HEALTHCARE IS NOW IN AVELLA!

The new center provides access to a full range of Department of Human Services programs. In addition, the facility houses a dental practice, and a range of affordable and high quality healthcare services for area families.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY



CENTERVILLE CLINICS
Total Health Care for the Entire Community



PRIMARY CARE



Amber Prebeg
CRNP

Annual wellness & comprehensive family medical care

**WALK-INS
& SAME-DAY
APPOINTMENTS
AVAILABLE!**



MENTAL HEALTH



Carolyn Whewell
Psychiatric - CRNP



Carolyn Cooper
LPC

724-632-6801



ON-SITE SPECIALTY SERVICES

**PEDIATRIC &
SENIOR CARE**

PODIATRY

AND MORE

EVERYONE IS WELCOME. No One Is Turned Away Due to Inability to Pay.

*We accept most major health insurance, Medicare & Medicaid.
Uninsured? Ask about our Sliding Fee Scale Program based on family size and income.*



Dr. Bott **FAMILY & COSMETIC DENTISTRY**

Complete dental care
for kids & adults.

Accepting new patients!

724-587-5703



Coffee & Crayons: Sip, Color and Reset

Every Thursday in September • 9 AM – 12 PM

Make September a little brighter with a weekly opportunity to sip, color and reset!
Join us for coffee, creative activities and connection.



724-587-2651



centervilleclinics.com



Avella Wellness Center
9 Campbell Street
Avella, PA 15312



Connect with INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP



★ Important Contact Information ★

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Chairman Thomas Jennings
Vice-Chairman Thomas Cowden
Supervisor Ed Powers

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
Jacklyn Avolio
Justin Avolio, *alternate*
Stan Jablonski, *alternate*

ELECTED TAX COLLECTOR

Judy Magon

ELECTED AUDITORS

Oretta Muro
Michael Dzurko
Melinda Latynski

DEPARTMENT CONTACTS

Public Works Department 724-587-3200
Planning Commission 724-587-3518
Zoning Board 724-587-3518
Independence Township Community Center 724-507-6448
Donegal Police Department 724-484-4023
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
Communications (Newsletter, Website, Social Media)
(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 724-209-9009
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

