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**- 2024 -**

**PREBLE COUNTY**

**PORK FESTIVAL**

EST. 1970



**Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 21-22**

A supplement to  
**THE REGISTER-HERALD**





# Preble County Pork Festival 2024

## September 21 and 22

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# 2024 Preble County Pork Festival Schedule

## Saturday, Sept. 21

### 6:30 a.m.

Breakfast Open  
(closing at 10 a.m.)

### 8 a.m.

Country Store  
Meat Market Opens  
Exhibitor Booths Open  
Information Booth Open  
Souvenir Stand Open  
Education Exhibit Open

### 9 a.m.

Short Order Open  
(closing at 9 p.m.)



R-H File Photos

The 2022 Preble County Pork Festival kicked off Saturday, Sept 17, 2022, with a parade down Main Street, ending at the fairgrounds. Local businesses, first responders, marching bands, and organizations participated.

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# 2022 Pork Festival Parade memories



R-H File Photos

The 2022 Preble County Pork Festival kicked off Saturday, Sept 17, 2022, with a parade down Main Street, ending at the fairgrounds. Local businesses, first responders, marching bands, and organizations participated.



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R-H File Photos

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**9:30 a.m.**

Zach Neil: Entertainment Tent

**10 a.m.**

Hydration Station open

Pop & Chop open

Nacho Stand open

Concessions open

**10:30 a.m.**

Parade Begins Downtown Eaton

**11 a.m.**

Parade in Front of Grandstands

Smorgasbord Opens

(closing at 7 p.m.)

Hog Haus Beer Garden Open

(closing at 9:30 p.m.)

**1 p.m.**

Zach Neil – Entertainment Tent

**4 p.m.**

Zach Neil – Entertainment Tent

**6 p.m.**

Easton Corbin, Jason Michael Carroll & Alexis Gomez Concert in Grandstands (Must have ticket)

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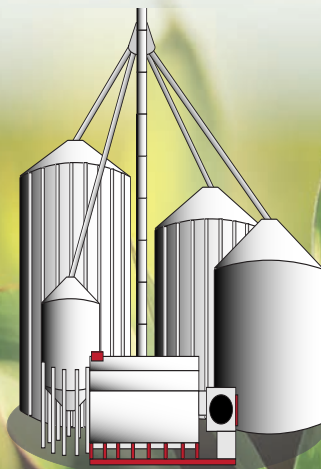
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**7 p.m.**

Festival Closes

**Sunday, Sept. 22**

**6:30 a.m.**

Breakfast Open  
(closing at 10 a.m.)

**8 a.m.**

Country Store Meat Market Opens  
Exhibitor Booths Open  
Information Booth Open  
Souvenir Stand Open  
Education Exhibit Open

**9 a.m.**

Short Order Open

**10 a.m.**

Hydration Station open  
Pop & Chop open  
Nacho Stand open  
Concessions open

**10:30 a.m.**

Zach Neil — Entertainment Tent

## 2022 Pork Festival Parade memories



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### 11 a.m.

Smorgasbord Opens  
Pop & Chop open  
Nacho Stand open  
Concessions open  
Hog Haus Beer Garden Open  
(closing at 3 p.m.)

### 3 p.m.

Zach Neil – Entertainment Tent  
Paint the Pig Voting Results – Education Area  
Create-a-Pig Winners Results – Education Area

### 5 p.m.

Festival closes until 2025

*NOTE: Festival parking and admission remain FREE for 2024. Donations will be accepted. Visit [www.porkfestival.org/schedule](http://www.porkfestival.org/schedule) to make advance ticket purchases for ticketed concert on Saturday.*

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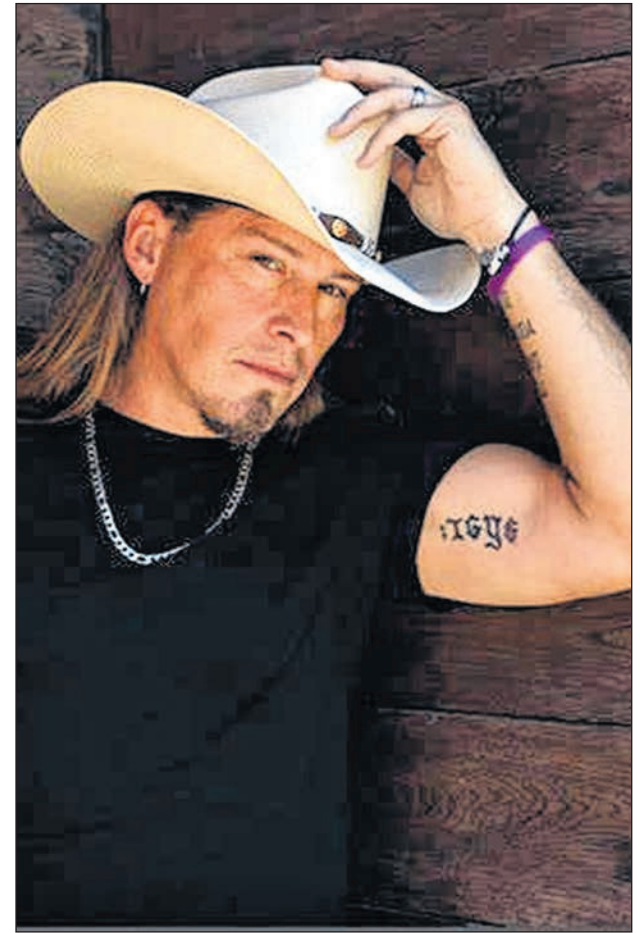
Courtesy | Easton Corbin website

The concert will begin at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 21, with gates opening at 6 p.m. The headline concert will open with a local band, and headlining the concert will be recording artist Easton Corbin.



Eddie Mowen Jr. | The Register-Herald

The concert will begin at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 21, with gates opening at 6 p.m. The headline concert will open with a local band, and will also feature American Idol Star Alexis Gomez.



Courtesy | Jason Michael Carroll website

The concert will begin at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 21, with gates opening at 6 p.m. The headline concert will open with a local band, and will also feature Jason Michael Carroll.

# Pork Festival announces additions, concert

By Eddie Mowen Jr.  
emowen@aimmediamidwest.com

EATON — Preble County Pork Festival organizers announced in July they are “bacon” some additions to this year’s festival set for Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 21-22.

The Pork Festival Board of Directors is introducing bacon for the 53rd annual festival.

“The board of directors unanimously agreed that it was finally the right time to introduce bacon into their food offering line up for 2024 festi-

val,” organizers aid in a press release, noting they “will be ‘bacon breakfast better.’”

The addition of bacon will only be available in the all-you-eat breakfast buffet which is open Saturday and Sunday, 6-10 a.m.

“Who doesn’t love bacon?” board of directors president Zach Shafer, said in the release. “The board is very excited to be able to bring in an additional meat to better enhance festival-goers love for pork!”

Another addition is a con-

cert on Saturday evening.

“In addition to adding bacon to the 53rd annual festival, the board is elated to announce their addition of a new headlining concert this year,” Shafer said in the release.

The concert will begin at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 21, with gates opening at 6 p.m. The headline concert will open with a local band, and will also feature American Idol Star Alexis Gomez and Jason Michael Carroll. Headlining the concert will

be recording artist Easton Corbin.

“Corbin has been gracing stages with his memorable baritone and unique blend of traditional and modern country music for more than a decade,” organizers said in the release.

“The entire board is so excited to be able to bring this unique enhancement to the festival this year,” Shafer said. “We, have been re-energized this year with an enthusiasm unknown by most. The festival is solely under

the direction of the board of directors which is refreshed and so excited for their 53rd festival. We have divided the workload, engaged all of the board membership and have the most amazing group of people working as one to pull of the 53rd edition of the Preble County Pork Festival.”

For more information, visit the festival’s website, [www.porkfestival.org](http://www.porkfestival.org), or call 937-456-7273.

Reach Eddie Mowen Jr. at 937-683-4061 and follow on X @emowenj.

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*Fall* Oktoberfest

An illustration featuring a large orange pumpkin with a green stem and leaves on the left. In the center is a green Oktoberfest hat with a red band and a yellow buckle. On the right are two golden beer mugs with white foam, and two golden pretzels are positioned above and between the mugs. The entire scene is set against a black background with white speckles.

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# Pork industry data

Source: National Pork Producers Council

- The U.S. pork industry represents a significant value-add to the agricultural economy and a major contributor to the overall U.S. economy. In 2021, more than 66,000 U.S. pork producers marketed 140+ million hogs valued at over \$28+ billion in gross cash receipts. The sales generated from hog marketings and pork processing support a total economic contribution of \$35-plus billion in personal income, \$57-plus billion in value added (GDP), and more than 610,000 jobs in the U.S. economy.

- The Ohio pork industry adds significant value to the agricultural economy and is a major contributor to the overall Ohio economy. Although the size and structure of the Ohio pork industry has changed over time, current levels of production continue to support jobs and generate earnings in the state economy. In 2021, the sales generated from hog

marketings and pork processing supported a total economic contribution of over \$878.532 million in personal income, over \$1.370 billion in value added, and more than 16,743 jobs in the Ohio economy.

- There are about 2.75 million hogs in Ohio. The size of the Ohio hog herd has varied over time but has trended upward from 1.49M head in 2000 to 2.75M head in 2021. As of December 2021, Ohio farms accounted for 3.7 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory.

- The number of Ohio hog farms has decreased slightly in recent years. From 1997 to 2012, the number of farms decreased from 6,637 to 3,494, and by 2017 Ohio had 3,484 farms raising hogs.

Approximately 47 percent of Ohio hogs are on farms with 5,000 or more in inventory. 42 percent of Ohio's hogs are on farms with 2,000 to 4,999 head, and 11 percent are on farms

with less than 2,000 head.

- In 2021, hog sales (including market hogs, sows, and feeder pigs) totaled \$933.1 million. In addition to these farm-level effects, the pork industry supports other industries by purchasing inputs, supplies, and services. Based on long-run prices and aggregated production budgets for the Ohio pork industry, producing over 4.84 million market hogs in Ohio generates over \$750.375 million in feed, labor, equipment, and other production-related expenditures.

- Feed is the largest single expenditure category in pork production. With over 4.84M market hogs produced annually, feed costs for the Ohio industry exceed \$428.365M. Other direct expenses, like energy and transportation, add over \$159.6M, employee compensation totals over \$70.9M, and facility-related expenses add over \$91.3M.

- The direct, indirect, and induced

activity generated by the Ohio pork industry in 2021 supported a total of 16,743 jobs and over \$878.532 million in personal income. Ohio hog farms and pork processors directly employed 7,063 workers and paid over \$382.4 million in total wages. This includes 1,184 full-time-equivalent workers at the farm level and an estimated 5,681 employees in the hog slaughter and processing sectors.

- The purchases of input supplies and services in the pork industry indirectly supported 5,675 jobs and over \$296.4 million in personal earnings for Ohio workers. Beyond this, the induced impacts stemming from employee spending included 4,005 additional jobs and over \$199.6 million in personal income earned. Many of these jobs were within the agriculture and manufacturing industries, as well as industries like trucking, finance, insurance, real estate, trade, and other service sectors.


## Pork Festival scholarships

In 2011, the festival began giving away another scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 to one graduating high school senior from each of the five Preble County schools who is planning to attend a post-secondary institution.

In 2023, the board of directors

changed the name of the high school scholarship in honor of Paul E. Ray and Tim H. Miller.

2024 scholarship winners were Thelma Weldy, Paige House, Brianna Wagoner, Cami McCloud, and Kaidlyn Allison.



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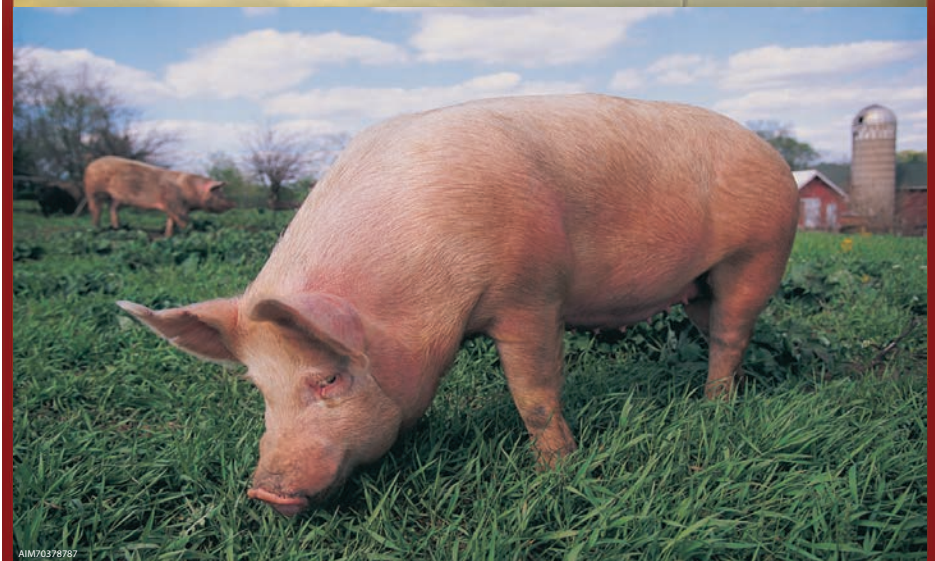


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# History of the Pork Festival

The Preble County Pork Festival, was born in 1970 when the committee that organized Farm-City Day (the precursor of the Pork Festival) met to discuss ways to improve or redefine the annual event. It was decided that a grand Pork Festival celebrating Preble County's proud pork-producing industry and history was the way to go.

For inspiration, a group of locals visited a pork festival in Tipton, Indiana, and brought back lots of great ideas to get our own pork festival moving in the right direction. The rest is, as they say, history!

Team Tipton included Paul L. Gerstner, County Extension Agent, Agriculture; George Cummings, Conservationist with the Preble Soil and Water Conservation

District; Tim H. Miller, Editor of the Register-Herald; Herb Tinstman, Manager of the Federal Land Bank Association of Eaton; first Preble County Pork Festival Chairman and Executive Vice President of the Board of Directors.

Other Executive Committee members included Don Moore, Agnes Voge, Paul Ray, Gene and Janice Bailey, Keith and Betsy Kemp, Bill and Barbara Doran, Robert and Marilyn Jackson, Emerson Voge and Linda Ray.

In 1975, in honor of former Preble County Extension Agent, Wilbur Bruner, Bruner Arena was constructed. Today Bruner Arena is used during the Preble County Fair to house the swine department. During the Pork Festival Bruner

Arena is used to house the education aspect of the festival.

Wilbur Bruner, who later became a swine specialist with The Ohio State University cooperative Extension Service), we have been known as The Home of Swine Improvement in America. The early efforts of Bruner and participating local farmers helped bring leaner, higher-quality, more nutritious pork to the world.

In 1978, the Festival enclosed the swine barns off the back in of the Bruner Arena. The next year, the festival financed the electrical distribution system for the fairgrounds, and from 1989 to 1991, a sanitary sewer truck line was constructed and installed throughout the fairgrounds.

In 1992, a festival storage building was build and another building on the fairground was refurbished for a kitchen facility.

In 1994, an addition was added to provided meeting and office space along with an expanded restroom facilities. The addition was completed in 1995.

Construction began in 2002 on the Expo Building. Once it was finished in 2004, the Preble County Fair housed its beef cattle department in the barn. That same year, the festival began using the building for vendors, along with selling some of the festivals foods.

To date, the festival has donated over \$2 million to Preble County since the festival began.

## 2022 Pork Festival Parade memories



R-H File Photos

The 2022 Preble County Pork Festival kicked off Saturday, Sept 17, 2022, with a parade down Main Street, ending at the fairgrounds. Local businesses, first responders, marching bands, and organizations participated.

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# Plaughter, Huff named 2024 Festival Royalty

## R-H Staff

**EATON** — The Preble County Pork Festival has a long-standing tradition of crowning a Royal Court to represent the festival all year round.

The Queen or King and Prince or Princess join a network of Pork Festival advocates and people who have contributed to the festival's success for over 50 years, according to festival directors.

During the contest held on Sunday, May 5, Allie Plaughter was crowned 2024 Pork Festival Queen, and Karmen Huff was selected as Pork Festival Princess.

The contest was open to all persons between the ages of 17-24 residing in Preble County.

The King or Queen and Prince or Princess participants are judged by an essay entry, one-on-one interview, and live speech and questions at the contest event.

Participants should have exceptional public relations & speaking skills to represent the Pork Festival to the best of their ability throughout the year.

Winners receive a tiara/crown, sash, two meal tickets, gift basket, flowers, and will represent the Pork Festival at all related events and meet and greets.

The purpose of the Pork Festival is to provide education and further the pork industry, a once-staple of Preble County growth.



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**Enjoy the 53rd Annual Preble County Pork Festival!**

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# Annual Pork Festival Parade: Saturday, Sept. 21 10:30 a.m.

EATON — Everyone is invited to enjoy the largest parade of the season, featuring local high school bands, local businesses, fire and EMS departments and so much more.

The Preble County Pork Festival Parade begins at 10:30 a.m. at the intersection of Barron and Decatur Streets and ends in front of the grandstands at the Preble County Fairgrounds.

Float entries will be judged and awarded \$50 for each of the following categories:

- Best entry with pork industry-related theme
- Best commercial entry
- Most colorful entry
- Best entry from a Preble County organization
- Judges' choice

## 2022 Pork Festival Parade memories



R-H File Photos

The 2022 Preble County Pork Festival kicked off Saturday, Sept 17, 2022, with a parade down Main Street, ending at the fairgrounds. Local businesses, first responders, marching bands, and organizations participated.



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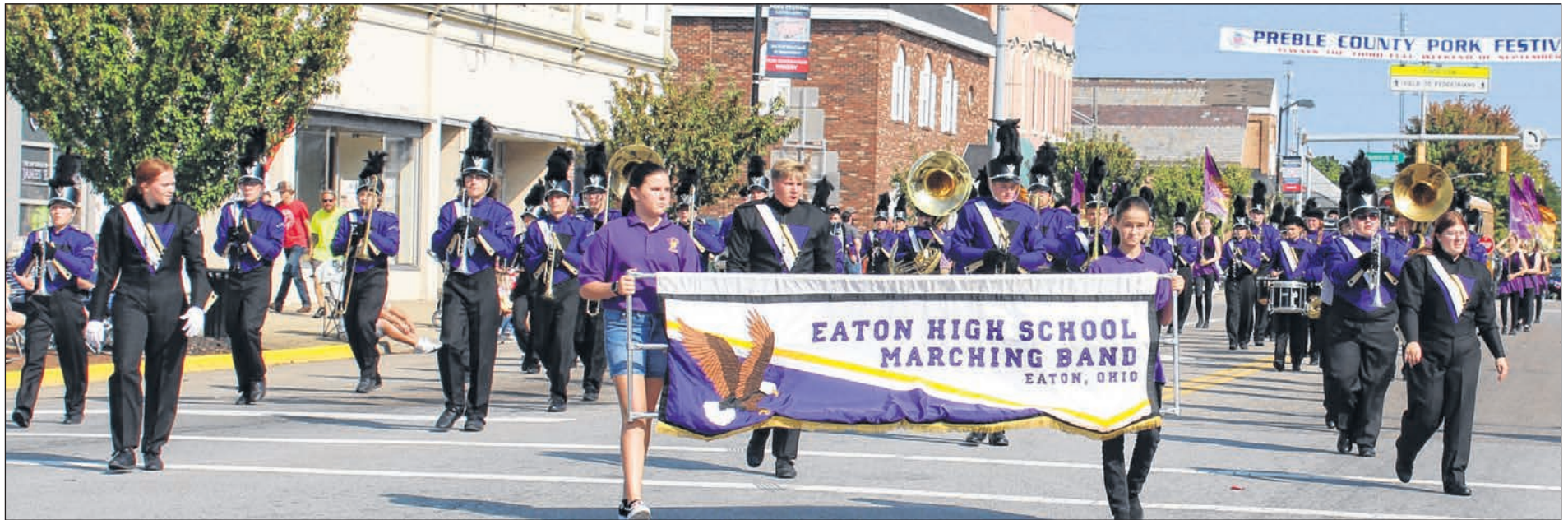


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# 2022 Pork Festival Parade memories



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R-H File Photos

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*Enjoy  
The Preble County  
Pork Festival!!*



R-H File Photos

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# 2024 Pork Festival Board of Directors

The Preble County Pork Festival is a nonprofit organization, and membership is open to anyone who lives in Preble County. Anyone interested in becoming a member of the board can fill out an application at [www.porkfestival.org](http://www.porkfestival.org).

DIXON TOWNSHIP – has one vacant board seat  
 Andrew George  
 GASPER TOWNSHIP  
 Patty Guthrie  
 Chrissy Bahnweg  
 GRATIS TOWNSHIP — has one vacant board seat  
 Lisa Tuttle-Huff  
 HARRISON TOWNSHIP  
 Dustin & Charissa Newton  
 ISRAEL TOWNSHIP

Mark & Melanie Zovak  
 JACKSON TOWNSHIP  
 Corrine Craig  
 JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP  
 Mark & Megan Lutz  
 LANIER TOWNSHIP  
 Cortney Bergbigler  
 Susan Shafer  
 MONROE TOWNSHIP — has one vacant board seat  
 Jason Bruno  
 SOMERS TOWNSHIP  
 Chris & Karen Roberts  
 TWIN TOWNSHIP — has one vacant board seat  
 Zach Shafer  
 WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP — has one vacant board seat  
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***Have fun at the Pork Festival!!***



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# Have a Great Time at the 2024 Pork Festival!

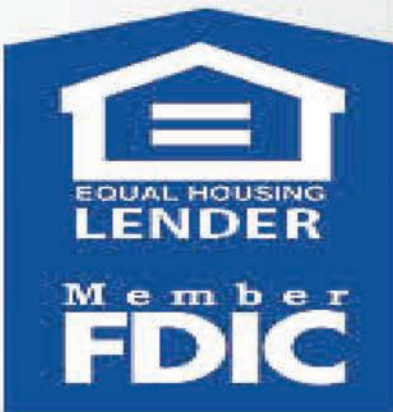
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