

Fall/Winter 2023

Borough of Sinking Spring NEWSLETTER



COMMUNITY NEWS

Exciting News and Happenings in the Borough!

The intersection realignment project at Penn, Columbia and Cacoosing Avenues is moving along very well. By the middle of December this project will be 90% complete with the remaining work to be finalized in the Spring of 2024 when the asphalt plants startup operations. Other exciting news within the Borough is site development at two locations. The former Village Greens Golf Course. Site work is completed and construction for the 150-bed senior care and assisted living facility is well under way with an anticipated opening in early 2024. The next phase is the construction of the 216-unit apartment complex consisting of 6 buildings with most of these as single bedroom apartments. The other project is the 7 Brew Drive Thru Coffee Shop that just opened in the Spring Market Shopping Complex. As with any project within the Borough we ask that you please be patient and understanding during construction as we move forward.

Holiday Open House

Wednesday, December 6th – 6:30pm – 8:30pm
Sinking Spring Borough Hall and Library.

Please join us for our annual Holiday Open House at the Borough Hall. There will be music, caroling, crafts with the Library, Cookie Decorating, light refreshments **AND** Santa will arrive by Fire Truck, courtesy of the Western Berks Fire Department, to hear the Christmas wishes from children of all ages!



Volunteers Needed

The Borough has vacancies on the following Volunteer Boards:

- Planning Commission
- Zoning-Hearing Board
- Civil Service Commission

We welcome new faces and energy to assist with our recreation events. You can help out once or become a member of our Recreation Board.

To serve on Borough Council or any of our volunteer boards you must be a Borough resident for at least 1 year. Please send a letter of interest if you are interested in serving on Borough Council or any of our Volunteer Boards.

3940 Penn Avenue
Sinking Spring, PA 19608

Phone: 610-678-4903
Fax: 610-678-5802
Web address:
www.sinkingspringboro.org

Borough Office Hours
Monday – Friday
8 AM to 4 PM

EMERGENCY: 911

Police: 610-678-1906
Fire Company: 610-678-1332
Library: 610-678-4311
Tax Collector –Harvey Glantz
610-670-4410

Monthly Meetings

Borough Council
2nd Thursday at 7:00 PM

Council Workshop
4th Wednesday, as needed,
at 7:00 PM

Planning Commission
4th Tuesday, as needed,
at 7:00 PM

Revitalization/BOSS Forward
3rd Tuesday at 7:00 PM

Library Board of Directors
3rd Monday at 7:00 PM

Park & Recreation
1st Wednesday at 9:30 AM

CONTACT INFORMATION

Borough Council Members:

Gary Cirulli, Mayor
Tracy Peterson, President
H. David Miller – Vice-President
Lisa Gantner
Brian Hoffa
Robert Metzgar
Patrick Giambalvo
Denise Stine

Parks & Recreation

Lisa Gantner
Robert Metzgar
Tracy Peterson

Borough Hall Information

Michael Hart – Borough Manager
Elizabeth Eageman – Secretary
Debra Bohn – Treasurer
Todd Miller – Code Enforcement
Kim Cherry – WWTP
Superintendent
Ric Paplosky – Public Works
Foreman

Western Berks Fire Dept.
Jared Renshaw – Fire
Commissioner
111 Stitzer Ave.
Wernersville, PA 19565
610-678-1332



Download the Mobile App
<http://ecnetwork.com/mobile/getitnow.html>

Passport Services: Traveling Abroad?

The Sinking Spring Public Library is a U.S. Passport Acceptance Facility.

We process passport applications by **appointment only** on a first come, first serve basis:

One stop shop! We can also take your passport photo here during your appointment. To learn more about the application process and to schedule an appointment, please call our Passport line at **610-670-4826** to speak with a certified Passport Agent.

News from the Sinking Spring Public Library



Upcoming Events

Youth Services Programs:

- **Library Scavenger Hunt**
During November, stop at the circulation desk to pick up a clue. Return the item to the circulation desk the same day for a prize. For ages 5-18
- **Storytime**
Storytime will be held on Tuesdays and Fridays at various times. Please visit the library website, Facebook page or call for more information.

Adult Programs:

- **True Crimes Book Club**
Meets every other month. Check Library website for dates.
- **Pinochle Group**
Thursdays from 1 pm to 3 pm
- **Potholder Weaving Group:**
3rd Wednesday 10:30 am to 11:30 am
- **Nighttime Knitters and Crafters**
Every Wednesday from 5:30 pm to 7: pm
- **Adult Holiday Mix and Mingle:**
Saturday, December 30th from 10 am to 2 pm
Games, Puzzles, Snacks, Holiday Movie PG Rating
For ages: Adult 18 and older
- **Veterans and Others Pop-Up Book Club**
Thursday, January 25th from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

To see more upcoming events, visit our website
<https://www.berkslibraries.org/branch/sinking-spring>,
or follow us on Facebook.

Contact Us

3940 Penn Avenue
Sinking Spring, PA 19608
Tel: 610-678-4311
director@sinkingspringlibrary.org

Hours

Mon. thru Thurs.: 10 am - 7 pm
Fri.: 10 am - 3 pm
Sat.: 8 am - 3 pm
Sun.: Closed

Sinking Spring Area Historical Society

The Society meets on a quarterly basis (usually September, November, March, and May), generally on the third Wednesday at 7:30 PM with occasional exceptions. Members enjoy programs about historical topics, along with an annual dinner and a newsletter issued twice a year containing local historical articles. Annual membership is \$10.00 per person. The Society is always open to new members, volunteers to maintain the property, and local memorabilia donations for the museum. The Society is a 501(c) (3) tax deductible, non-profit organization which welcomes supporting donations. For more information, contact President Paul L. Miller at 610-678-4219.

Sinking Spring Police Department

The Sinking Spring Police Department has 6 Full-time and 5 Part-time officers that serve the Borough. The Sinking Spring Mission statement is to Affirmatively Promote, Preserve, and Provide, as much as practicable and given existing resources, a feeling of security and safety among all persons within our community.

To avoid scams, please do not give out information such as your Date of Birth, Social Security Number or Banking information. **If someone calls and wants you to pay a bill or something else with gift cards know that this is a scam.**

The Sinking Spring Police Department urges residents to lock your home and car doors and to report any suspicious people or activity to the police department at 610-678-1906.

Crime & Traffic Alerts - Register online and receive emails as new information is available on our website. sinkingspringboro.org/sinking-spring-police

Medication drop box – **FREE** disposal of unused, unwanted, or expired medication. Properly disposing of unused medication not only prevents accidental and intentional misuse, but it also helps protect the environment. The drop box is located in the police office lobby. Drop off hours are Monday thru Friday from 8 am to 4 pm.

Parking of Recreational Vehicles - Ordinance # 625-2016 regulates the Parking, Storage or Use of Recreational Equipment on public streets and on private property. On street parking will be allowed for a 48-hour period for loading or unloading, trailers must be attached to the tow vehicle. Off street parking will be allowed within the side and rear yards of residential properties depending on lot configuration. All equipment must have current state inspection, registration, and insurance.

BUILDING PERMITS

Permits **ARE** required for **ALL** construction projects as well as fences, sheds, or a change in use of a property.

Permits **ARE NOT** required for sealing driveways, painting, wallpapering, new flooring, replacement windows, and replacement of siding or roofs unless there is a structural change.

KNOW WHAT'S BELOW

Safe digging is no accident! If you are installing a fence, deck, or digging for a mailbox post, patio or other excavation project, it is important to :

Dial 8-1-1 or 1-800-242-1776 – before you dig.



Residential Yard Waste

All yard waste, such as grass clippings, leaves, and small branches, should be dropped off at the Borough of Sinking Spring Yard Waste site located in the **Rear of 152 Woodrow Avenue.**

Do not place any yard waste in with the trash; it will NOT get picked up.

Residential Curbside Leaf Collection:

Curbside leaf collection will begin in early October and will end in early December. Place leaves curbside for collection Do not bag leaves. **This collection is only for leaves.** Do not park vehicles on top of or in front of leaf piles.

Collection of Christmas Trees:

The public works department conducts curbside collections of Christmas trees for our residents. Trees must be placed at the curb with all lights, tree stands and ornaments removed from the tree. Collection will start after Christmas and continue until January 12, 2024.

Trash/Recycling

Trash and Recycling is picked up every Wednesday. When there is a **MAJOR** Holiday on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, the pick-up is moved to Thursday that week. **The Thursday Pick-ups for the remainder of 2023 and for 2024 are:**

Thursday, Dec. 28, 2023

Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024

Thursday, May 30, 2024

Thursday, Sept. 5, 2024

Thursday, Dec. 26, 2024

The Trash and Recycling Collection Calander can be obtained from the Borough Website or picked up at the Borough Office.

AVAILABLE AT THE BOROUGH OFFICE

*Drop off your used CFL Bulbs

*Recycling Cans



STREET LIGHT OUT OR BROKEN?

If you notice a street light outage, please obtain the two pole numbers located at the bottom of the pole, the one begins with a “4” and the other with an “S” and call the Borough Office at 610-678-4903 with this information. We need this info for the Police to report the light outage to PPL.

BOROUGH DROP BOXES

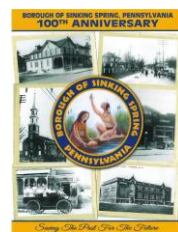
The Borough has 2 drop boxes located next to the office door. The large one is for Tax Payments Only! The smaller one is for Sewer/Trash payments, Building Permit Applications, or any other paperwork for the Borough.

AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

100th Anniversary Books - \$10.00

100th Anniversary Baskets - \$50.00

Buy a Basket and get a Book for FREE!!





Municipal Snow Removal Policy

As we approach winter, we are taking this opportunity to provide a summary of the Municipal Snow Removal Policy and Share some helpful guidelines:

At the start of the storm, all trucks are sent out to their assigned areas with the instruction to salt hills, intersections, and curve areas first, then all other areas. When there is sufficient depth to the storm to warrant plowing, the drivers are instructed to make one pass in each direction on the street and to make one pass in and one pass out in the cul-de-sacs. Heavily traveled roads will be plowed first and then less traveled areas, as well as developments and cul-de-sacs. After each one is passable, the procedure of pushing back the snow to the road edge and cleaning out the cul-de-sacs will begin. This operation may not begin until the following day or days depending upon the severity of the storm. The road crew does their best to keep the roads passable and to not push snow into driveways, around mailbox areas or damage grass in the right-of-way.

Thank you for your patience during the winter season!

Declaration of Snow Emergency- Parking Prohibitions:

In order to facilitate the movement of traffic and to combat the hazards of excessive snow and ice, the Mayor may declare an emergency due to such hazards. After an emergency has been declared, it shall be unlawful, during the period of such emergency, for any person to park a vehicle, or to allow the same to remain parked, on the entire length of the following roadways: Columbia Avenue, Mull Avenue, Penn Avenue and Woodrow Avenue.

Alternate Side Parking:

During any snowfall with accumulations more than three (3) inches, parking shall be prohibited on the odd-numbered (house numbers ending in 1,3,5,7,9) side of all Borough streets until such time as plowing is completed on said side of the street.

24 hours following a snowstorm, parking shall be prohibited on the even-numbered (house numbers ending in 0, 2, 4, 6, 8) side of all Borough streets, and on Vester Place in its entirety, until such time as plowing, salting, and/or cindering is completed on said streets.

Streets: It is **unlawful** for any person, tenant or corporation to shovel, push, snow blow or plow snow from any sidewalk, driveway, or other area into any borough street.

Sidewalks: Within 24 hours after any snowfall shall have ceased or ice has formed, the owner or occupant of any premises shall clear a minimum of 30-inch path over such sidewalk.

Helpful guidelines to follow:

- Park off the road and in your driveway if you have one.
- Wait to shovel snow from the last five feet of your driveway until the roadway is plowed to full width.
- **Do Not** put snow on the streets or on neighboring properties. It is illegal to shovel or blow snow onto Borough or state roads.
- For your safety, if there is a fire hydrant on your property, please clear the snow from the hydrant.

Mailboxes:

Checking your mailbox now will keep you worry free all winter when snowplows pass by. Please ensure your mailbox is secure and does not lean over the curb-line. Mailboxes that lean over the curb-line are more likely to get hit by a snowplow. Mailboxes and mailbox posts that are loose, rotten or in generally poor condition can be knocked over by heavy snow. The mailbox **owner is responsible** for repair or replacement of the mailbox if the mailbox was damaged by the pressure of the plowed snow, and there was no physical contact with the snow plow equipment.

The Borough of Sinking Spring Wastewater Treatment Plant

Fat-Free Sewers

How to Prevent Fats, Oils, and Greases from Damaging Your Home and the Environment

Fats, Oils, and Greases aren't just bad for your arteries and your waistline; they're bad for sewers, too. Sewer overflows and backups can cause health hazards, damage homes, and threaten the environment. Grease gets into the sewer from household drains as well as from poorly maintained grease traps in restaurants and other businesses.

Where does the grease come from? Grease is found in such things as:

- Meat fats
- Lard
- Cooking oil
- Shortening
- Butter and margarine
- Food scraps
- Baking goods
- Sauces
- Dairy products

Too often, grease is washed into the plumbing system, usually through the kitchen sink where it sticks to the insides of sewer pipes (both on your property and in the streets). Over time, the grease can build up and block the entire pipe. Home garbage disposals do not keep grease out of your plumbing system. These units only shred solid material into smaller pieces and do not prevent grease from going down the drain.

The results of too much grease can be:

- Raw sewage backing up into your home or your neighbor's home
- An expensive and unpleasant cleanup that often must be paid for by you, the homeowner
- Raw sewage overflowing into yards and streets
- Potential contact with disease-causing organisms
- An increase in operation and maintenance costs for local sewer departments, which causes higher sewer bills for customers.

What can we do to help?

The easiest way to solve the grease problem and help prevent blocked pipes and raw sewage overflows is to keep fats, oils, and greases out of the sewer system in the first place. There are several ways to do this.

1. **Never pour grease down sink drains or into toilets!!**
2. **Allow grease to cool and then scrape it and food scraps** off of trays, plates, pots, pans, utensils, grills and cooking surfaces directly into a can for later disposal or directly into the trash. Once the grease is removed then the item can be washed.
3. Speak with your friends and neighbors about the problem of grease in the sewer system and how to keep it out. Call your local sewer system if you have any questions.

“Flushable” wipes are on the DO NOT FLUSH LIST!

These wipes do not break down in the sewer system or at the treatment plant like toilet paper. They can clog sewer lines in the collection system and must be physically removed when they make it to the treatment plant. Make sure, if you use them that they are disposed of in the trash and not down the drain.

Borough of Sinking Spring
Municipal Separate Storm System MS4
Illicit Discharge Detection

And Elimination:

The EPA defines an illicit discharge as “any discharge to an MS4 (Stormwater System) that is not composed entirely of stormwater”. The Borough encourages residents to report any illicit discharges or water quality complaints to Borough office. Some examples of reportable activities include:

- -Household cleaners and chemicals
- -Lawn fertilizers, grass clippings, and other maintenance products
- -Vehicle fluids including oil and runoff from washing
- -Animal waste
- -Plastics and other trash

If you witness an illicit discharge into the municipal storm sewer system, please call 610-678-4903 and provide the following:

- Name
- Date of Observation
- What was observed?
- Nearest Address
- Was there an odor/color to the discharge?

If you are calling after normal business hours, please leave a detailed message. You may also submit a written summary to the municipal office that contains the information above

Season of Thankfulness

Eagle Scout Project Benefits Borough Park

Aditya Nayak chose our Brookfield Playground as the site for his Eagle Scout project. Adi organized the project, and he and his family provided the materials for the two projects. Adi, his family, and his fellow scouts then spent a few days completing all the labor to install gutters and downspouts along both sides of the pavilion and also paint lines on the basketball court so that in addition to basketball, it could be used for pickleball with a portable net.

Thank you to Aditya for giving back to your community and improving our park that benefits everyone who uses it, especially on a rainy day! 😊 Congratulations on your Eagle Scout award!

Great Neighbors make Sinking Spring a better place:

Liberty Fire Company: Our recreation department could not accomplish as much as we do if we didn't have such a solid community partner as we do in the Liberty Fire Company. The leadership there is always accommodating to support our Egg Hunt each Spring, our buses for field trips, and parent pick-up for our playground program/summer program with the Wilson School district. Their long-term support has been greatly appreciated.

Neighbors near Ruth Street and Brookfield Avenue Playgrounds: Our playground program has grown in the last several years. The neighbors who live near our playgrounds see a great increase of traffic and noise during our nine-week playground program. It is a valuable program that gives many children something to do outside during the summer and provides a summer job to about 20 HS/College kids. Thank you for any adjustments needed during those busy times at our parks.

Anyone navigating Sinking Spring: The many projects in Sinking Spring's central area have made traveling through it frustrating and time-consuming. When completed, the improvements will facilitate better traffic movement and business growth to support our Borough. It has tested our patience all summer. Thank you for weathering all these changes.



Borough Hall
3940 Penn Avenue
Sinking Spring, PA 19608

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S.POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

Local
Postal Customer



Holiday Decorating Contest

We like to see the Christmas/Holiday spirit popping up and want to recognize those who make the effort to brighten our Borough.

To participate all you need to do is decorate and/or nominate the neighbors who are spreading cheer! A group of council members and residents will take a look at all the nominations the third week of December and make a final decision.

The following categories will be recognized:

- Best Traditional Amazing Effort Most Unique Style
- Most Inspirational Most Enthusiastic Street Best Business
- Most likely to Make a Child Smile Best Daytime Look

You will know if you won when a sign is placed in your yard.

Good Luck!!