



# SINKING SPRING



## Welcome to Our New Newsletter!

Dear Residents,

Welcome to the latest edition of the Sinking Spring Borough Newsletter! We're thrilled to bring you a fresh, updated format packed with valuable information and helpful tips for our community.

Published twice a year, this newsletter is your go-to resource for updates on borough projects, guidelines for local services, and details about exciting community events. We're proud to share that this newsletter is made possible thanks to the generous support of local merchants and businesses, with the borough covering only the postage costs.

Take a moment to explore this issue and stay connected with all that's happening in Sinking Spring. We're here to keep you informed, engaged, and inspired.

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Borough of Sinking Spring gratefully acknowledges the generosity and support of the businesses and individuals who have placed advertisements in our newsletter. This newsletter has been designed and printed at no cost to you, our residents. We encourage you to patronize these businesses as they play a vital role in the economic stability of our community.

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# THE BOROUGH OF SINKING SPRING

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Phone (610) 678-4903 Fax (610) 678-5802  
Website – www.sinkingspringboro.org



## BOROUGH COUNCIL

Council members are vested with the executive and legislative powers of the Borough. They determine municipal policy, enact laws, approve budgets, establish tax rates, and appoint Borough officials. Council members are elected at large and serve a 4-year term. The Mayor, who is also elected to serve a 4-year term, is in charge of the Police Department and oversees its operations.

### MAYOR

Gary Cirulli

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

Tracy Peterson, Council President  
H David Miller – Council Vice President  
Denise Stine  
Lisa Gantner  
Brian Hoffa  
Robert Metzgar  
John Egelman

### BOROUGH HALL INFORMATION

Michael Hart – Borough Manager  
Elizabeth Egelman - Secretary  
Debra Bohn - Treasurer  
Todd Miller – Code Enforcement  
Kim Cherry – WWTP Superintendent  
Richard Paplosky – Public Works Foreman  
Gabriel Hirsch – Community Coordinator

### TAX COLLECTOR

Harvy Glantz – 610-670-4410

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

Borough Council  
Second Thursday at 7:00 P.M.  
Council Workshop  
Fourth Wednesday, as needed, at 7:00 P.M.  
Planning Commission  
Fourth Tuesday, as needed, at 7:00 P.M.  
Revitalization/BOSS Forward  
Third Tuesday, as needed, at 7:00 P.M.  
Library Board of Directors  
3rd Monday at 7:00 P.M.  
Parks and Recreation  
1st Wednesday at 9:30 A.M.



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## FREE ESTIMATES

# EXCITING NEWS!

We are thrilled to announce the addition of a brand-new gaga pit at our Main Playground on Ruth Street!

A huge thank you to **Samyak Jain** for selecting our playground as the site for his impressive Eagle Scout project. Your dedication and hard work have truly made a difference in our community.

We are always open to other Eagle Scout projects or volunteer projects that enhance our playgrounds and bring joy to the neighborhood. We'd love to hear your ideas if you have something in mind!

Come and check it out—let the Gaga games begin!



## *The Sinking Spring Area Historical Society and Heritage Park*

The Sinking Spring Area Historical Society and Heritage Park began in 1977 when the Society was organized. In 1978, the Save Our Station Committee organized for the purpose of saving the former Sinking Spring Station and Freight House.

Heritage Park is located near the Borough and Fire Company's community grounds. The 1872 station, along with a small turn of the century office building, serves as a museum housing local historic and railroad memorabilia along with the Society's archives. The 1858 freight house serves as the Society's meeting place and is used for special functions and for private gatherings. The Society meets September through May, except in December, generally on the third Wednesday at 7:30 P.M. with occasional exceptions. Members enjoy a monthly program about historical topics along with an annual dinner and a newsletter issued three times a year containing historical articles. The Society is always open to new members, and local memorabilia for the museum. For more information on the museum, contact Paul L. Miller at (610) 678-4219.

The Borough took ownership of the Heritage Park property and the buildings in February 2022. It has become a part of the recreation facilities and is maintained by the Borough. The Freight House is available to rent between April and October. Please contact the Borough office at 610-678-4903 if you are interested.



## Join Our Recreation Board – Make a Difference in Our Community!

Are you passionate about enhancing recreational opportunities and shaping the future of our community? We invite you to bring your ideas, energy, and enthusiasm to our Recreation Board!

Our Recreation Board plays a vital role in planning, improving, and expanding recreational activities and facilities for residents of all ages. From organizing community events to advising on park enhancements, the Board helps create meaningful experiences that bring us together.

Our current events where you can add your help are the Easter Egg Hunt, Playground Program, Holiday Open House and decorating contest, Movie Nights, and National Night Out. We have ideas for much more, but we need more help. Happy to have people interested in one event or all.

### Why Join the Recreation Board?

- Influence Community Growth: Directly impact the programs, events, and facilities that make our community vibrant and inclusive.
- Collaborate with Like-Minded Individuals: Work alongside dedicated community members who share your passion for recreation and public service.
- Develop New Skills: Gain valuable experience in leadership, event planning, and community engagement.
- Make a Positive Impact: Help ensure our community remains enjoyable to live, work, and play.

### Who Should Apply? We are looking for individuals who:

- Are residents of our community enthusiastic about recreational programs.
- Have creative ideas to enhance community events and activities.
- Are willing to dedicate time to attend occasional meetings and participate in Board initiatives. We are happy to have people join us for one or all of our activities.
- Value collaboration and teamwork.



If you're ready to help make a difference, we encourage you to join us! For more information contact our Borough office at 610-678-4903 or Lisa Gantner directly at [ssboroplayground@gmail.com](mailto:ssboroplayground@gmail.com).

Don't miss this opportunity to actively shape our community's recreational future, together we can make it extraordinary!



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Sinking Spring PA 19608, United States



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Reading PA 19605

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## Recreation Events

### Easter Egg Hunt

**Date:** Saturday, April 12, 2025

**Time:** 10:00 AM

**Location:** Liberty Fire Company, 836 Ruth Street, Sinking Spring

Join us for a fun-filled Easter Egg Hunt hosted in collaboration with the Liberty Fire Social Club! The event features four age groups for the egg hunt, starting from youngest to oldest:



- 0–2 years
- 3–5 years
- 6–8 years
- 9+ years

Don't forget to bring your cameras—the Easter Bunny will be there for photos!

### Playground Program 2025

We are excited to offer our summer playground program, running for 9 weeks this year:

**Dates:** Monday, June 9 – Friday, August 8

**Locations:** Main Playground Ruth Street or Brookfield Playground Brookfield Avenue

**Ages:** Must complete Kindergarten to register

#### Hours:

- **Daytime:** Monday–Friday, 8:30 AM–1:30 PM
- **Evening:** Monday–Thursday, 6:00 PM–8:00 PM

#### Costs for 2025:

- **Residents:** \$135
- **Non-residents:** \$185

Cost includes access to all hours for the full 9 weeks.



Our program stays open during most weather conditions, except thunderstorms or extreme heat. Families may decide whether to send their children in inclement weather. In the rare event of a closure, we ask families to pick up their children as soon as possible.

#### Registration Information:

- Online Registration opens to last year's participants at the end of March.
- General public registration begins one week later.

Follow our Facebook page to find registration links when they are announced.

We look forward to another great summer with the community!

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## Road Projects 2025

We have projects in our budget to improve Sinking Spring scheduled for 2025:

### Roadway Projects: Milling and Paving

1. Evans Avenue: Penn Avenue to Ruth Street
2. Elizabeth Drive: Mull Avenue to Miller Drive
3. South Hull Street: Spring Street to Martins Road
4. Martins Road: South Hull Street to Borough Line

### Intersection Improvement: Phase 2 Final

- **Demolition and Site Preparation:**
  - Buildings: 8, 10, 12, and 14 Krick Avenue

### Recreation Projects

1. Heritage Park Freight Station: Ramp Replacement
2. Evans Avenue Playground: Swing Installation

Our Facebook page will announce any adjustments in parking/road closures when these projects get underway.



## How You Can Help To Keep Your Sewer Rates Low

Below is a short list that can help to keep your sewer rates low and more importantly, keep your sewer in the pipe and not backed up into your home. Please read this list and apply these tips in your home or business

1. **Do not flush items that do not belong in the sewer system.** The cost for cleaning sewer lines, screening this material back out, and the wear on the system is very high. The only items that belong down the sewer drain are water, human waste, and toilet paper. Flushable wipes are not flushable, they block sewer mains and household plumbing.
2. **Your garbage disposal is not a trash bin.** Vegetables, table scraps, and other materials found in the kitchen belong in the trash and not down the drain. Organic material passed through garbage disposals and into the sewer system causes increased demands at the wastewater treatment plant and greatly increase electricity costs.
3. **Sump pumps, roof drains, and storm water drainage systems cannot be connected to the sanitary sewer system as described by Sewer Use Ordinance 516.** Connections like these lead to sewer system backups and overflows during storm events because the system was not designed to convey the high rainwater flows. Roof drains, sump pumps, and other drainage systems should discharge to your yard or storm sewer system.
4. **Do not put FATS, OILS, and GREASE down the drain.** Pour cooking grease into a can or other storage container and allow it to cool before placing into the trash. Grease plugs the sewer system lines and can lead to sewer system backups into homes and businesses.
5. **If you have a water softener, ensure it is operating efficiently.** The treatment plant cannot remove salt and minerals (total dissolved solids-TDS) in wastewater that often come from water softeners. The TDS passes through the treatment plant and enters The Cacoosing Creek causing negative effects on fish and wildlife and leads to permit violations at the plant. This can result in fines from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP, State Agency), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA, Federal Agency), and the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC, Interstate Agency).
6. **Read the labels on your cleaning supplies.** Phosphorous and nitrogen are often found in cleaning supplies such as laundry detergents, ammonia-based cleaning solutions, dish detergents, and other common household supplies. Use only what is needed as directed by the manufacturer and do not dispose of any excess cleaning supplies down the drain.



Visit the Borough of Sinking Spring's Stormwater Management page for more information on what you can do to keep our creek clean!

[HTTPS://sinkingspringboro.org/stormwater-management](https://sinkingspringboro.org/stormwater-management)

## The Library has the following re-occurring programs

### Children's Programs

- Home School Meet Up:** Home school families are invited to learn and socialize during a library sponsored program. 10:30 am Feb. 24, March 17, April 28, May 19
- Sensory Friendly Hour:** Play together or independently while we keep the lights low and music soft. All children are welcome; those who have ASD in mind. 10:00 am Tuesdays
- Story Time:** Kids listen to a story and participate in related hands on activities. 10:30 am Fridays
- Therapy Dog:** Second Saturday of each month 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
- Summer Reading Program** -Color Your World! End of June through early August



### Adult Programs

- Chess:** Every Tuesday 1:00 – 3:00 pm Learn to play or challenge a veteran chess player. Free.
- Crafternoons:** Every Wednesday 1:00 pm- 3:00pm. Free except for structured classes.
- Nighttime Knitters and Crafters:** Every Wednesday 5:00 pm- 7:00 pm Drop in and craft with us at the library to relax and chat while you work. Free except for structured classes.
- Pinochle-** Every Thursday 1-3:30 pm Beginners are welcome and will be taught how to play. Free
- Gardening Club-** Starts Saturday, February 1st until Saturday, October 4thThe Club meets at 9:00 am. Free
- Penn State Master Gardener Programs-** The first Saturday of every month February until October. Master Gardening programs immediately follow the Gardening Club Program. Free



### Upcoming specialty programs:

- **Stammtisch Club** (Regular's Table) – March 8th 9-10am. A new club where patrons can enjoy a cup of coffee and meet others in the community. One Saturday a month. More dates to be announced. Free
- **Scrabble Meet-Up** – March 20th 5-7:30pm. Whether you are an old hand or a newbie join us for a fun evening of game play. For Adults. Free
- **Craft Exchange** - March 15th Check our website and social media for details.
- **Scrabble Meet-Up** – April 17th, May 15th. 5-7:30pm. Whether you are an old hand or a newbie join us for a fun evening of game play. For Adults. Free
- **Art Journaling** – April 25th 3-5pm. Practice mindfulness, unwind and journal using library supplies; BYO journal
- **Penn State Extension Food Programs:** (call for details)
  - Jams and Jellies** – May 22nd 5:30-7pm. Penn State. Registration appreciated. (call for details and fees)
  - Tomatoes & Salsa** – July 17th 5:30-7pm. Penn State. Registration appreciated. (call for details and fees)
  - Pressure Canning** – August 7th 5:30-7pm. Penn State. Registration appreciated. (call for details and fees)

### To Be Announced:

**Knitting Classes-** Wednesday evenings. Please call for availability. Structured classes may require a fee.

**Cookbook Club-** TBA



# Sinking Spring Public Library

Phone #610-678-4311

Hours: Monday - Thursday 10:00 am - 7:00 pm

Fridays 10:00 am - 3:00 pm • Saturdays 8:00 am - 3:00 pm



## Friends of the Library Book Sales

April 4th 10 – 3 and April 5th 9 – 2

June 27th 10 – 3 and June 28th 9 – 2

Sept. 26th 10 – 3 and Sept. 27th 9 – 2

## Passports (by appointment only) 610-670-4826:

Mon., Wed., Thurs.: 11am-6pm

Tues.: 2-6pm

Sat.: 8:30-11:30am



## Please check the library website, Facebook Page, or visit the library for upcoming events

Sinking Spring Public Library Website: <https://www.berkslibraries.org/branch/sinking-spring>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/sinkingspringpubliclibrary/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SinkingSpringPublicLibrary>

**Closings due to holidays and weather conditions may affect the schedule. For weather related closings please check WFMZ, Channel 69, our website, Instagram or our Facebook Page.**

**\*All programs may be subject to change. Please check the Sinking Spring Library's website (<https://www.berkslibraries.org/branch/sinking-spring>), Facebook, or visit the library for the most current updates.**

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## News from Revitalization



Early in the year, we were disappointed in accepting the resignation of our coordinator, Sam Loth. Sam had been very instrumental in moving Sinking Spring through several projects, grants, and revitalization throughout his time with Sinking Spring. Sam's expertise and skills have kept this long-term project and vision on track.

The Borough and BOSS Committee is very proud of the progress we have made with Sam's help. We've secured over \$6 Million Dollars in grant funding and have gained the support of government from the U.S. Congress to our local Berks County Commissioners. PennDOT has added our Phase 4 intersection project and the Shillington Road entry/exit to the State TIP. PennDOT will construct this with over \$8 Million of their budget, a huge benefit to BOSS's goals. The Borough has embraced Form-based Code, Complete Streets, and Smart Growth as our strategic solution to redevelopment. The Borough is the first in Berks County to use this new approach to economic development.

With Sam's guidance, the BOSS Façade Program has helped property and business owners along Penn Avenue to reinvest over \$150,000 in 14 projects. A second round of grant funding is in place that will help another dozen properties to be improved. BOSS' awarded DCED grants have enhanced the public way along Penn Avenue,

including new sidewalks in the 4400 Block, improved crosswalks, and traffic calming measures from 3900 to 4400, while a rebuilt and signaled intersection at Blanbrid Drive accommodates the \$12 Million Dollar Spring Market Center. BOSS initiated safety improvements at Columbia Avenue and Mountain Home Road.

BOSS' long view of our Central Business District economic development project has made it possible for the Borough to attract the Village Greens development.

Words cannot express our gratitude for all the guidance, effort and success Sam has given the Borough over the years. We wish him well in his retirement!

### A New Beginning

With Sam's retirement, we began the search for a new Community Coordinator for the Borough. This position will work with BOSS Forward revitalization and assist Mike Hart with other duties.

**We're happy to announce that we have hired Gabriel Hirsch as our new Community Coordinator.**

Gabriel is a graduate of West Chester University. He has a degree in Urban and Environmental Planning. He most recently worked with Chester and Downingtown on revitalization projects. In Chester, he worked on an innovative waterfront community revitalization, and in Downingtown, a solution for climate resilience.

We welcome Gabriel and look forward to further advancing our community's revitalization.

Brian Hoffa...Economic and Community Development Chair, Borough Councilman

*Congratulations!*

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The advertisement features a background image of a person's hands holding a smartphone. The text is overlaid on this image in various colors and fonts. At the top right, there is a URL and social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. The main headline is in large, bold, yellow letters. Below it, the phrase "Give some info. Get a reward." is in white. The amount "UP TO \$10,000 CASH" is in large, bold, yellow letters. The contact information is in white, and the organization's name is in large, bold, red letters at the bottom.

## Safety Tips from the Fire Commissioner

When it is cold and chilly, many of us turn to heating devices like space heaters, fireplaces, and wood stoves to stay warm. While effective, these devices can increase fire risks. Stay safe by following these essential fire safety tips:

### 1. Inspect Heating Equipment

Ensure furnaces, fireplaces, and space heaters are in good working order. Have furnaces professionally serviced, check space heater cords for damage, and place heaters on stable, non-flammable surfaces away from curtains and furniture.

### 2. Test Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Test alarms monthly, replace batteries as needed, and ensure detectors are on every level of your home, especially near bedrooms.

### 3. Maintain Chimneys and Fireplaces

Clean chimneys regularly to prevent creosote buildup, use a screen to contain sparks, and never leave fires unattended. Fully extinguish fires before leaving the room or sleeping.

### 4. Keep Flammable Items Away

Maintain at least three feet of clearance between heat sources and flammable items like blankets, decorations, or paper.

### 5. Avoid Overloading Electrical Outlets

Don't plug too many devices into a single outlet. Use high-quality extension cords and avoid chaining multiple cords together.

### 6. Use Space Heaters Safely

Follow manufacturer instructions, keep heaters away from combustibles, and avoid using them while sleeping. Discontinue use if cords are damaged.

### 7. Store Firewood Safely

Keep firewood at least 30 feet from your home or other structures to reduce fire risk.

### 8. Plan and Practice an Escape Route

Ensure everyone in your household knows how to exit quickly in case of fire. Regularly practice your plan, and check that doors and windows open easily.

### 9. Prepare for Power Outages

Use flashlights or battery-powered lanterns instead of candles. If you use candles, never leave them unattended, and place them in sturdy holders.

It's vital to stay vigilant against fire risks. By following these tips, you can help protect your home and loved ones.

*Jared Renshaw*

Fire Commissioner, Western Berks Fire Department

Phone: 610-678-1332

Mobile: 760-590-3829

E-mail: [jared.renshaw@westernberksfire.org](mailto:jared.renshaw@westernberksfire.org)

Website: [westernberksfire.org](http://westernberksfire.org)

Address: 111 Stitzer Ave, Wernersville, PA 19565



## Permits

### Permits are required for:

- Construction or alteration of residential or commercial structures.
- Erecting new buildings.
- Installing fences, swimming pools, sidewalk, sheds, decks, patios, driveways, etc.

### Types of permits include:

- Zoning
- Building
- Electrical
- Plumbing
- Mechanical
- Certificate of Use and Occupancy

### Application Process:

- Applications are available at Borough Hall or on the Borough website.
- Submit applications before starting work.
- Certain projects may require certified engineered drawings.

For questions, contact the building code official.

### Grass and Weeds

- Grass and weeds must not exceed 8 inches in height.
- Failure to comply may result in fines.
- Do not blow grass clippings into the street; they pollute streams via storm drains.

### Trimming of Trees and Shrubbery

Property owners must:

- Maintain trees so branches do not extend over sidewalks below 8 feet or streets below 16 feet of vertical clearance.
- Keep hedges or shrubbery trimmed so they do not extend closer than 6 inches to sidewalks or driveways.



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### Yard Waste

- Drop off leaves, grass clippings, and small branches at the Sinking Spring Yard Waste Site (Rear of 152 Woodrow Avenue).
- Access requires a key card:
  - Initial fee: \$10.00
  - Annual renewal fee: \$5.00
- Yard waste is not collected with trash.

### Rental Properties

- Owners of residential and commercial rental properties must submit tenant names and contact information to the Borough.

### Residential Rental Property Inspection

- All rental properties must be registered with the Borough.
- Onsite safety inspections are required.
- Property owners will receive an information packet and application.
- The rental inspector will schedule site inspections.

### Parking of Recreational Vehicles

Regulated by Ordinance #625-2016:

- On-street parking allowed for 48 hours for loading or unloading; trailers must remain attached to tow vehicles.
- Off-street parking is permitted in side yards or rear yards based on lot configuration.
- Recreational equipment must have current state inspection, registration, and insurance.

## 2025 Berks County Solid Waste Authority

### ELECTRONIC & TIRE RECYCLING CENTER

1316 Hilltop Road, Leesport, PA 19533

Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays: 8AM - Noon (Year-round)

### HAZARDOUS WASTE AND PAPER SHREDDING EVENTS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY 8AM - NOON

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610-478-6362

#### SPRING EVENTS

Governor Mifflin Intermediate School  
600 Governor Drive  
Shillington, PA 19607

Hazardous Waste	April 12, 2025
Paper Shredding	April 19, 2025

#### FALL EVENTS

Berks County Ag Center  
1238 County Welfare Road  
Leesport, PA 19533

Paper Shredding	October 11, 2025
Hazardous Waste	October 18, 2025

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# Trash and Recycling Guidelines

- The Borough provides curbside trash and recycling collection.
- Containers may be placed outside after 12:00 PM on the day before collection.
- Empty containers must be brought back inside the property lines by 12:00 AM (midnight) on collection day.

## Collection Schedule

- Regular Pick-Up: Every Wednesday. (Both Trash AND Recycling)
- Holiday Adjustment: If a major holiday falls on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday, pick-up is moved to Thursday for that week.
- **Thursday Pick-Up Dates in 2025:**
  - January 2
  - May 29
  - September 4



## Trash Guidelines

- **Allowances per Household:**
  - 6 thirty-two-gallon containers (Maximum weight: 50 pounds when filled).
  - 1 bulk item per pick-up.
- **Bulk Items** (Must not exceed the size/weight that two people can lift):
  - Furniture
  - Mattresses and box springs
  - Plumbing fixtures (e.g., toilets, sinks)
  - Lumber (bundled and tied, not exceeding 6 feet in length)
  - Carpet (Three 4-ft tied rolls count as one bulk item)
- **Excluded Items:**
  - Additional trash bags (not considered a bulk item)
  - Appliances
  - Tires
  - Paint Cans (Unless dried with the lid off)
  - Electronic equipment (e.g., TVs, microwaves, air conditioners).



## Recycling Guidelines

- **Accepted Materials:**
  - Metal: Aluminum cans, steel food & beverage cans
  - Glass: Clear, brown, blue, and green food & beverage containers
  - Plastic: Types #1, #2, and #5
  - Newspaper & Cardboard:
    - All sizes of cardboard boxes (flattened)
    - Clean pizza boxes, cereal boxes, tissue boxes, paper towel/toilet paper rolls, beverage cartons, newspapers
- **Preparation:**
  - Thoroughly clean all materials before placing them in the recycling container.
  - Remove packaging materials (e.g., Styrofoam, peanuts, plastic bubble wrap, liners).
  - Flatten all boxes.
  - Bundle any cardboard that does not fit into the recycling bin.



## Dumpsters

- **Residential or commercial properties with dumpsters (temporary or permanent) must:**
  - Obtain a permit for \$50.00/year.
  - Submit waste disposal receipts within 10 days of a request from the Borough.
- **Visit the Borough Website for updates and detailed information.**

# I KNOW SINKING SPRING REAL ESTATE!

I was born and raised in the area.

I graduated from Wilson High, Class of 1980.

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