

# SINKING SPRING

## How Should Sinking Spring Celebrate Our Nation's Historic Birthday?

In 2026, the United States will celebrate its 250th anniversary, marking a historic milestone in our nation's story. With the help of volunteers and community partners, Sinking Spring can create memorable events that honor our past and gather us for the future.

The Borough is forming a Sinking Spring 250th Celebration Committee to plan events and activities that bring neighbors together, highlight our local history, and celebrate the spirit that makes our community special.

We're inviting residents, community groups, businesses, and organizations to join the planning effort and help shape how Sinking Spring celebrates this historic anniversary.

**Enthusiasm Needed: We want your ideas and your help**  
Whether you've organized events before or simply enjoy being part of something meaningful, your ideas, talents, and enthusiasm can help make this celebration truly special.

- Event planning and coordination
- Sponsorships and fundraising
- Historical displays and storytelling
- Marketing and social media
- Festival organization
- Decorations and community art
- Family activities and entertainment

Let's work together to ensure our borough leaves its own mark on this historic national celebration.

Interested in Helping?

Contact the Sinking Spring Borough Office at 610-678-4903

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2026

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## THE BOROUGH OF SINKING SPRING

3940 Penn Avenue, Sinking Spring, PA 19608  
Business Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. (excluding holidays)  
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

Berks County Treasurer – Mitchell Darcourt

#### 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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for Sinking Spring Borough  
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To Place An Ad Call Kathy At  
Hometown Press • 215-527-7664  
katruedy@gmail.com

## Thank You!

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.

## Revitalizing Penn Avenue: Façade Improvement Grant Program

Penn Avenue has long been the heart of Sinking Spring. Its storefronts, brickwork, windows, and architectural details tell the story of our community. While many buildings have been well maintained, others are ready for thoughtful updates that can strengthen the look and vitality of the corridor.

To help support those improvements, the Borough offers a **Façade Improvement Reimbursement Grant Program**, funded through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development's Keystone Communities Program.



The program encourages exterior upgrades to properties located along Penn Avenue within the Borough of Sinking Spring—generally from the **3400 block near Queen Street to the 4400 block near Park Avenue**. Both **property owners and business owners** (with owner approval) may apply.

Grants reimburse **50% of eligible project costs**, up to:

- **\$5,000** for façade improvement projects
- **\$2,500** for signage, awnings, or exterior lighting

Because this is a reimbursement program, **projects must be approved before work begins**, and funds are distributed after the project is completed and paid invoices are submitted.

Eligible improvements include:

- Exterior painting and masonry repair
- Restoration of wood, metal, or cast-iron features

- Window and door repair or replacement
- Architectural elements such as cornices and parapets
- New or improved signage and awnings
- Exterior façade lighting



Not every project needs to be a major renovation. Even small updates—like repairing masonry or refreshing a storefront—can make a meaningful difference in the appearance of a building.

Projects follow design guidelines that encourage maintaining original architectural features whenever possible. Some projects may require an architectural review coordinated by the **BOSS Forward Committee**, with the cost covered by the program.

Applications are accepted throughout the year while funding remains available. Interested applicants should **apply before starting any work**, as projects already underway are not eligible.

To learn more or apply, **scan the QR code included with this article** to visit the BOSS Forward website, or contact the Borough Office at **610-678-4903 Ext. 101**.

Revitalization doesn't happen all at once. It happens one building at a time—and each improvement helps strengthen the character and future of Penn Avenue.



## Fireworks

Consumer fireworks sales are permitted within the Borough of Sinking Spring however; the use or ignition of consumer fireworks is **prohibited** within the Borough of Sinking Spring. Additionally, the Pennsylvania Fireworks Law, Act 43 of 2017, also prohibits the use of consumer fireworks within 150 feet of occupied structures. Since substantially all the Borough of Sinking Spring is located within 150 feet of an occupied structure, under the authority of the Pennsylvania Borough Code, the prohibition is extended to the entire Borough of Sinking Spring to protect the health, safety and property of the residents of the

Borough of Sinking Spring.

**In Pennsylvania, fireworks cannot be discharged...**

- On a public or private property without express permission from the property owner.
- From or within a motor vehicle or building.
- Toward a motor vehicle or building.
- Within 150 feet of an occupied structure, whether or not a person is actually present.
- While the person discharging them is under the influence of alcohol, a controlled substance, or another drug.

# Sinking Spring Police Department

Dear Residents,

As we move into the new year, our department remains committed to keeping Sinking Spring a safe and welcoming place for everyone. This month, we've focused on community engagement, traffic safety, and crime prevention initiatives. Thank you for your continued support.

## Tips To Avoid Scammers:

- Deal locally with people you can meet IN PERSON – follow this one rule and avoid 99% of scam attempts.
- NEVER WIRE FUNDS VIA WESTERN UNION, MONEYGRAM or other wire services; anyone who asks you to do so is likely a scammer.
- FAKE CASHIERS CHECKS & MONEY ORDERS ARE COMMON — BANKS WILL HOLD YOU RESPONSIBLE when the fake is discovered weeks later.
- NEVER GIVE OUT FINANCIAL INFORMATION (bank account number, social security number).
- DO NOT RENT HOUSING OR PURCHASE GOODS SIGHT-UNSEEN – that amazing rental or cheap item may not exist.
- DO NOT SUBMIT TO CREDIT OR BACKGROUND CHECKS until you have met the job interviewer or landlord/agent in person.

## Medication Drop Box Now In Police Office Lobby:

- **Drop Off Hours are Monday through Friday between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm only. Please do not call an officer out to drop off your medications. Your cooperation is appreciated.**
- FREE disposal of unused, unwanted or expired medication. Properly disposing of unused medications not only prevents accidental and intentional misuse, but it also helps protect the environment.
- The Berks County Medication Drop Box program is free, and ID is not required. All medication should be placed in the original containers and packaging, with personal information blacked out. Below is a list of items that will be accepted as well as a list of items not collected through this initiative:

### ACCEPTED:

- Prescription medications in standard container or sealed bag. Over the counter medications, Vitamins, Drug Samples, Pet medications, Liquid medications in plastic, leak proof containers.

### NOT ACCEPTED:

- Loose pills not in containers or bag, Syringes, Thermometers, Bloody or infectious waste, Medication from businesses, Hydrogen peroxide & cleaning agents, Aerosol cans and inhalers

The Police Department has received several reports regarding THEFT from vehicles. We encourage you to always lock your car doors and do not leave anything of value in your car. Please report any suspicious activity as soon as possible to the Sinking Spring Police Department (610-678-1906).

Thank you and stay safe

James Oxenreider - Chief of Police

## The Borough Tax Collector

The Borough's new Tax Collector is Mitchell R. Darcourt, Berks County Treasurer. His office hours are Monday thru Friday from 8 AM to 3:30 PM and his office is located in the County Services Center at 633 Court Street, 2nd Floor, Reading. **NO CASH WILL BE ACCEPTED.** Check or Money Orders may be placed in the Dropbox in Services Center and Courthouse or at the Borough Hall. Payment must be in an envelope with Name/Phone#/Bill#. If you would like a receipt, please also include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

To **Pay online** visit Treasurer website at [www.berkspa.gov](http://www.berkspa.gov) under "How Do I?" or : <https://paytaxonline.countyofberks.com/CurrentYearTax/>

Make checks payable to: Mitchell R. Darcourt, Berks County Treasurer  
633 Court Street  
2nd Floor  
Reading, PA 19601  
(610) 478-6640  
Email: [treasurer@berkspa.gov](mailto:treasurer@berkspa.gov)

# The Borough of Sinking Spring Wastewater Treatment Plant

The Borough of Sinking Spring Wastewater Treatment Plant can treat up to 1.25 million gallons of wastewater a day. The plant receives flow from 18.5 miles of sewer lines and 1 pump station here in Sinking Spring and it receives flows from Lower Heidelberg, South Heidelberg, and Spring Township.

And once that wastewater has been cleaned it is released into the Cacoosing Creek.

Nobody likes it when sewer backups into their home. As a homeowner or business there are several things you can do to help make sure, we keep things working properly and to help keep our rates down.

## Preventing Sewer Backups

Being an informed consumer, you know that eating a diet high in saturated fat is bad for your heart and adds considerably to your waistline. Did you also know that the same thing can be said about your sewer system? Yep, a major cause of clogged pipes in your sewer system is due to Fats, Oils and Greases or what we in the biz like to refer to as FOG.

Even though the FOG may be liquid when you first pour it down the drain, it doesn't stay that way for very long. It will harden and cling to the inside of your pipes and overtime this build-up can cause your sewer line to become clogged causing a backup of sewage into your home or business.

Following these simple steps will help reduce your chances of a sewage backup or overflow that could potential cause damage to your property.

## Homeowners:

- Pour fats and oils into an empty can (ex: bacon grease

into an empty soup can). Let this cool and then throw away in the trash

- Scrape grease and food scraps from dishes and pans into the trash before washing plates and pans.

## Businesses in addition to the previous steps:

- Install a properly sized grease trap.
- Make sure to have your grease trap cleaned and serviced regularly.

## The Headache of "Flushable" Wipes

"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. Make sure, if you use them that they are disposed of in the trash and not down the drain.

## Storm Water in the Sanitary Sewer System

It is expensive to treat sewage, and the wastewater system is only designed and built to handle the flow of wastewater from homes and businesses in each area. In a Sanitary Sewer System, illegal connections include but are not limited to sump pump discharges and gutter down spouts. These illegally connected sump pumps and downspouts add water that is supposed to be absorbed into the ground. This added flow can cause the collection system to "overflow" which can back up into your homes or contaminate local waterways and lead to fines from PA Department of Environmental Protection. If you have either of these situations at your property and need assistance on how to disconnect them feel free to contact us at 610-678-7223 ext. 500.



crimealertberks.org   

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# Trash and Recycling Guidelines

**Trash and Recycling Guidelines** The Borough provides curbside trash and recycling collection.

- Containers may be placed at the curb 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 2026:**
    - **May 28**
    - **September 10**

## 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 (must be wrapped in plastic)
  - 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 for Residential and Commercial Businesses by Ordinance 646-2021

**ACT 101 requires commercial, institutional, and municipal establishments located in Pennsylvania's mandated municipalities to recycle high grade office paper, corrugated cardboard, aluminum, metal and tin cans, glass and leaf waste. The Borough of Sinking Spring is a mandated municipality**

- **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.



# 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

**The Library offers a variety of free and low-cost programs for children, teens, and adults throughout the year.**

## Ongoing Programs

Youth programs include **Story Time** (Fridays at 10:30 AM), **Therapy Dog visits** (second Saturday each month), the Summer Reading Program: "Unearth a Story" in June and July, and **Teen Art Night** on Thursdays at 6 PM during the summer.

Adults can enjoy weekly and monthly activities such as **Chess, Nighttime Knitters & Crafters** (Wednesdays 5–7 PM), **Pinochle** (Thursdays 1–3:30 PM), **Gardening Club** (first Saturdays), **Stammtisch Coffee Club, Scrabble Night**, and the **Speakeasy Book Club**.

## Upcoming Highlights

Community members can participate in One Seed One Community this spring, where families receive free Dragon Tongue Bush Bean seeds while supplies last. Additional special programs include craft workshops, gardening programs with Penn State Extension, cooking classes, a Mother's Day Succulent Bar, book clubs, and seasonal events for children and families.

The library also offers **museum passes, passport services (by appointment), and a Library of Things collection.**

For details, registration, and the latest updates, visit:

<http://www.sinkingspringlibrary.org>

## Recreation Events 2026

### Beat the Summer 'I'm Bored' Blues

*By Joining our Summer Playground Program*

Open to children throughout the area, this program offers a safe, supervised environment where kids can stay active, make friends, and enjoy real games and outdoor activities — not just video games. It's a great way to keep kids moving, socializing, and spending less time on their devices.

#### Two Locations

Main Playground at Ruth and Evans

Brookfield Playground on Brookfield Avenue

#### Dates

**June 10 – August 12, 2026**

We will begin on Wednesday, June 10, and end with a partial week on Wednesday, August 12.

#### Hours

**Morning Session:** 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM | Monday–Friday

**Evening Session:** 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM | Monday–Thursday

#### Age Requirements

Children must have completed Kindergarten to participate. There is no strict upper age limit—any child able to follow program guidelines is welcome.

#### Cost

• **Sinking Spring Borough Residents:** \$145 per child

• **Non-Residents:** \$195 per child

Registration includes access to **all program hours (Daytime and Evening Sessions) for the full nine weeks.**

Optional field trips and Friday pizza lunches are available for an additional cost.

**Register Online:** [Sinkingspringpa.myrec.com](http://Sinkingspringpa.myrec.com)

Give your kids a summer full of **fresh air, active games, and new friendships!**

**We couldn't do it without you!**

The recreation board would like to acknowledge the Liberty Fire Company #1 Social Quarters as a solid partner by supporting our Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Lynn is instrumental in making the Egg Hunt possible. Her patience in organizing our eggs is amazing and absolutely unbelievable. Jesse, Justin, and the board allowed us to use their space for the egg hunt and even added breakfast that same day. The Fire Company is always willing to support logistics for our field trips and parent drop-off for our Bulldog Blast collaboration with the Wilson School District during our playground program.

We are thankful to have such great community partners!

## ***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! If you are interested in even one event, we would be happy to accept your efforts.

### **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.
- **We are a lot of fun!!**

### **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 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 Area Historical Society And Heritage Park***

The Sinking Spring Area Historical Society 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, once part of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad. The organizations combined in 1995 becoming the Sinking Spring Area Historical Society and Heritage Park.

The organization is dedicated to preserving the area's history and maintaining a museum of local history memorabilia related to Sinking Spring and Spring Township in the historical buildings in Heritage Park. In January of 2022, the Society turned the park over to Sinking Spring Borough to further guarantee preservation of the historical buildings and enhance the Borough's park and recreation property while the Society maintains the historical presence.

Heritage Park is located in Sinking Spring adjoining the Borough and Fire Company's community grounds. The 1872 passenger station, along with a small turn-of-the-century office building and circa 1926 railroad

signal building (from the Reading and Columbia Railroad), serve as a museum housing local historic and railroad memorabilia along with the Society's archives. The Freight House, currently under reconstruction due to a fire, serves as a Society meeting place, special Society functions and usage by the Borough.

The Society meets on a quarterly basis (usually September, November, March and May or June), generally on a third Wednesday at 7:00 PM with occasional exceptions to this schedule with meetings currently held at Sinking Spring Borough Hall. Members enjoy programs about historical topics and a multiple year newsletter containing local historical related articles. Annual membership is \$10.00 per person. The Society is always open to new members 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. We invite the public to attend.

# Community Information

## Fun Or Furiously Frustrating Fact?

Did you know that the Borough of Sinking Spring has absolutely no control over the traffic signals within the borough limits? All the traffic signals are on Penn Ave, which is state route 422. PennDot determines the timing and all other aspects of these signals. We have on more than one occasion asked PennDot to consider some changes that we believe would better serve the community. The process is that we write a letter with our suggestions and the reasons for these suggestions. PennDot then reviews our suggestions and responds to our request. Our most recent request was to allow right turns on red at the Penn Ave / Columbia Ave / Cacoosing Ave intersection. We also requested an extended green for traffic to exit Cacoosing Ave turning left onto Penn Ave. All of these were denied by PennDot. All elected members of your local government reside within the borough and share the same frustrations with the traffic signals. We will continue to work within our legal rights to improve the traffic flow in the borough.

## Bike Safety

As warmer weather approaches there will be an increase in both bicycle and E-bike usage. Here are some of the key points to remember when anyone is riding a bicycle in Pennsylvania.

**E-Bikes:** Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes (max 20 mph) follow the same rules as traditional bicycles **except riders must be at least 16 years old to operate.**

**Ride with Traffic:** You must ride in the same direction as motor vehicles. Riding against traffic is illegal.

**Positioning:** Ride as far to the right as practicable. A rider may take the full lane to avoid hazards (potholes, debris) or when preparing for a left turn.

**Signals:** Use hand signals for all turns and stops. Let the drivers around you know your intentions. Drivers of vehicles need to know where you are going to avoid you.

**Helmets:** Required for anyone under age 12, including passengers in child seats or trailers. Helmets are optional for adults.

**Night Riding Gear:** If riding between sunset and sunrise, you must have a front white light and rear red reflector visible from 500 feet and amber reflectors on both sides.

**Headphones:** It is illegal to wear headphones or earbuds in both ears while riding. One earbud is permitted.

## Responsibilities of Motorists in relation to bicyclists

**4-Foot Rule:** Motorists must give you at least 4 feet of space when passing. They are allowed to cross a double yellow line to do so safely.

**Dooring:** It is illegal for a motorist to open their car door into traffic unless it is safe to do so; they are liable if they "door" a cyclist.

**Reduced Speed:** Drivers must pass at a "careful and prudent reduced speed".

**"Right-Hook" Protection:** Motorists turning right are strictly prohibited from crossing the path of a cyclist who is proceeding straight. Drivers should fall in behind the cyclist rather than trying to speed past and turn in front of them.

## Electric Scooters

With warmer weather we will see an increase in the use of electric scooters. However, these cannot be legally operated anywhere but on private property. Be aware of this and make sure your children operate them safely and within the legal limits.


**Classification:** Electric scooters are currently considered a motor-driven cycle, which requires, but cannot meet, state titling, registration, and inspection requirements.

**Public Roadways & Sidewalks:** Illegal to operate.

**Legal Location:** Private property only.

## Road repaving projects for 2026

In 2026 both Cacoosing Ave and Crest Rd will be milled down and repaved.



**2026 BERKS COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY**

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1316 Hilltop Road Leesport, PA 19533  
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8 AM - Noon (Year-round)

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PAPER SHREDDING EVENTS**  
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY 8 AM-NOON  
Register at [www.co.berks.pa.us/swa](http://www.co.berks.pa.us/swa)  
610-478-6362

**SPRING EVENTS**  
Governor Mifflin Intermediate School  
600 Governor Drive Shillington, PA 19607  
Hazardous Waste **April 11, 2026**  
Paper Shredding **April 18, 2026**

**FALL EVENTS**  
Berks County Ag Center  
1238 County Welfare Road Leesport, PA 19533  
Paper Shredding **October 3, 2026**  
Hazardous Waste **October 10, 2026**

## Public Works Update and Information

### How to Conquer a Snowstorm By the Sinking Spring Borough Public Works Team

On January 24 and 25, Sinking Spring experienced its first significant snowstorm in several years. Our road crew, along with the Code Enforcement Officer and Borough Manager, began work on Sunday evening. Each member of the team worked 12 hours plowing and keeping borough roads passable.

On Monday, after getting some much-needed rest, the same crew returned for another eight-hour shift, continuing to plow roads and keep streets open. At the same time, the Borough Manager cleared a dump site and coordinated with contracted haulers to work alongside the borough's loaders and commercial snow blowers.

For the next four days, Tuesday through Friday, our crew and the contracted haulers worked 10 hours each day to collect and haul snow to the designated dump site.

Our crew deserves tremendous gratitude for their dedication and commitment to the residents of the borough. Their long hours and hard work ensured that our streets remained safe and accessible throughout the storm and the days that followed. We would also like to thank all residents and businesses who followed borough procedures and moved their vehicles as requested. Your cooperation helps our crew work more efficiently and allows clean-up operations to be completed more quickly and safely.

### Snowstorm Operations Totals

- **361** – Total hours worked by borough employees
- **130** – Total hours contracted haulers transported snow to the dump site
- **34,500** – Cubic yards of snow hauled to the dump site
- **80** – Tons of salt spread by the borough on the streets
- **900** – Gallons of brine sprayed on the streets
- **75** – Tons of salt purchased and delivered since the storm

We are grateful for the hard work of our Public Works team and the support of our community. Working together, we continue to keep Sinking Spring a safe and well-maintained place to live—even during the toughest winter weather. Thank you to everyone who played a part in helping the borough weather this storm successfully.

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## Where Does All The Rain Go?

As you sit inside on a rainy day have you ever wondered where all the rain goes? It washes off the roof and down the gutters. It soaks into the yard, watering the yard and garden. It runs down the street and into those catch basin grates that we see on the sides of the road, then what happens to it? Here in Sinking Spring all that rain eventually ends up in the Cacoosing Creek. As it flows to the creek, it often carries with it all kinds of pollution, both things you can see and things you can't. All that pollution is both unsightly and harmful to the creek. Here in Sinking Spring we have an MS4 program to help protect the Cacoosing Creek from this pollution.



Detention Basin Hillpoint Circle

### Sinking Spring Stormwater Plan Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)

Visit the Borough's website and check out all the educational materials we have available. <https://sinkingspringboro.org/stormwater-management>



Catch Basin on Park Ave

#### There are lots of things you can do to help!

- Don't pour anything down a catch basin
- Pick up your dog waste and dispose of it in the trash
- Don't litter
- Limit use of pesticides and fertilizers on your property
- Don't drain pools onto the street, keep it in your yard
- Keep car washing chemicals on your property and in your yard
- Don't blow grass clippings onto the street



Borough crew cleaning up  
Broad Street Swale

## Ways to Keep Cooling Costs Low this Summer

- **Install a programmable thermostat.** Consider adjusting your thermostat upward during nighttime hours and when you're not home. This will help keep your energy bill low during the hot summer months.
- **Only use ceiling fans when you're under them.** Ceiling fans are more efficient than air conditioners, but leaving them on all the time won't do you much good. A ceiling fan merely circulates air, it will not actually lower the temperature.
- **Install air conditioners in the warmest rooms.** To keep it cool, you may be tempted to turn your thermostat down into the arctic range. The rest of the house will be freezing, but that room will finally be comfortable. This wastes money by making your central air-conditioning system work overtime.
- **Keep it clean.** Cleaning the air-conditioner filters, whether you have window units or a central unit – is just as important as replacing your furnace filter regularly in the winter. When the filter gets dirty, the unit has to work extra hard to pull air into the system, which costs more energy.
- **Hang out the laundry.** Your dryer is probably one of your homes biggest energy users. It takes a lot of electricity (or gas) to generate heat that dries your clothes. Plus, some of that heat escapes the dryer and winds up heating your home unnecessarily. Let the hot sun work for you instead of against you this summer by hanging your clothes to dry outside on a clothesline. The sun is great for bleaching stains out of white clothes and towels, too!
- **Close curtains, blinds and shades.** Thick draperies, window shades and solar screens all help keep heat out of your house during the day, meaning your AC unit won't have to work at max capacity to cool your home. Whatever your treatments, you'll see significant savings if you work to prevent solar heat gain by keeping them drawn all day.



# Stormwater Runoff Pollutes



## RAIN BARRELS

*Help Conserve Water and Save Money!*



### WHAT EXACTLY IS A RAIN BARREL?

A rain barrel is a system that collects and stores rain water from your roof that would otherwise be lost to runoff and diverted to storm drains, streams, and eventually the Delaware River watershed. It is constructed using a reused 55 gallon food grade barrel, a bottom drain, a spigot, an overflow a screen to keep debris and insects out, and a downspout diverter to carry the water into the rain barrel.

A rain barrel is a relatively simple and inexpensive way to capture and store rain water for use at later times. It conveniently sits under residential gutter downspouts from you home, garage, and/or shed.

### BENEFITS OF USING A RAIN BARREL

Lawn and garden watering can take up a large percentage or total percentage of total household water use during the summer months. A rain barrel collects water and stores it for when you need it most, during periods of drought! A rain barrel provides an ample supply of FREE water for flowers, gardens, lawns, and even car washing!

A rain barrel can conserve water ad save YOU money during peak summer months. Conserving water helps protect the environment, saves energy (decreased demand for treated tap water and well water) and decreased the impact of runoff to streams and the Delaware River. Therefore by installing a rain barrel YOU can help protect the water quality, aquatic species, drinking water quality, and recreation in the Delaware River watershed.

A formula to remember: 1 inch of rain on a 1,000 sq. ft. roof yields 623 gallons of water. Calculate the yield of your roof by multiplying the square footage of your roof by 623 and divide by 1,000.

# Stay Fire Safe This Summer!



Knowing a few fire safety grilling tips will help everyone have a safe summer



Only use your grill outside.

Keep it away from siding and deck rails.



Keep a 3-foot safe zone around your grill and campfire.

This will keep kids and pets safe.



Open your gas grill before lighting.



Clean your grill after each use. This will remove grease that can start a fire.



Place the coals from your grill in a metal can with a lid once they have cooled.



Keep an eye on your grill, fire pit or patio torches. Never leave any of them unattended.

For more information and resources, visit [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov) and [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)



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