

# Borough of Sinking Spring NEWSLETTER



## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Trick-Or-Treat Night

Thursday, October 31st – 6pm – 9pm

Halloween curfew will run from Monday, October 1st through Wednesday, October 31st Curfew is for minors under the age of 18 and runs from 9:00PM to 5:00AM, except Friday and Saturday it is from 11:00PM to 5:00AM.



### Holiday Open House

Wednesday, December 4th – 6:30pm – 9pm  
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!



Thanks to all who joined in the fun at our **Summer Playground Program!** We had a blast and hope to see you all next summer! Curious about what we do? Follow the link on our Borough webpage to see our end of the year slideshow!

## 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:

**Monday – Thursday from 4 – 7:15 pm**

**The second Saturday of each month from 10 am – 12:15 pm.**

One stop shop! We can now 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.

### EMERGENCY: 9-1-1

Police: 610-678-1906

Library: 610-678-4311

Fire Company: 610-678-1332

Tax Collector – Charmaine Beck  
610-670-5319

### Monthly Meetings

Borough Council

1st Thursday at 7:00 PM

Council Workshop

4th Wednesday at 7:00 PM

Planning Commission

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

Revitalization Committee

3rd Thursday 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

James Pachuillo – President

Tracy Peterson – Vice-President

Lisa Gantner

Brian Hoffa

Robert Metzgar

H. David Miller

Denise Stine

### Parks & Recreation

Lisa Gantner

Robert Metzgar

Tracy Peterson

### Borough Hall Information

Michael Hart – Borough Manager

Elizabeth Eagelman – Secretary

Debra Bohn – Treasurer

Monday – Friday

8 AM to 4 PM

Phone: 610-678-4903

Fax: 610-678-5802

Web address:

[www.co.berks.pa.us/muni/](http://www.co.berks.pa.us/muni/)

[sinkingspring](http://sinkingspring)

## COMINGS AND GOINGS

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The Borough would like to recognize Bonita (Bonnie) Zerbe for her 37 years of service as the Police Clerk for the Borough of Sinking Spring Police Department. Bonnie retired on August 30, 2019.

The Borough of Sinking Spring would like to Welcome Denise Adelsberger-Curtis who joined us August 19, 2019 as the new Police Clerk. Welcome Denise! We would also like to welcome Kevin Zeiber. Kevin was a part time police officer and as of September 16, 2019 he has accepted a full time Police Officer position.

Last but not least we would like to congratulate James Oxenreider on his promotion to Chief of Police as of September 6, 2019

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE LIBRARY?

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The Library circulates books, magazines, books on tape, books on CD and music CDs for three weeks. Videos and DVDs are also available for a circulation period of one week.

**Hours: Monday – Thursday: 10:00 am – 8:00 pm;  
Fridays: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm; Saturdays: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm**

**Looking for something to do?** Check out these programs:

**Bounce & Rhyme Storytimes:** Mondays at 10:30 am. Join us for stories, songs, and bubbles! Ages 10 – 24 months.

**Preschool Storytimes:** Wednesdays at 10:30 am. Learn something new: Listen to stories and make a craft. Ages 2 - 5.

**Craft Nights:** One Thursday a month at 6:30pm. Make a fun piece of art that you can take home! Ages 3 - Adult.

**Book Club:** 3rd Thursday of each month, 7 pm. Read the book club choice, then share your thoughts. Adults.

**Online Book Group:** Join the SSPL Book Group on Facebook, read the book choice, and share your thoughts. Adults.

**ESL Class:** Learn Basic English for work, conversations, and home every other Saturday. Call the library to sign up. Adults.

To see more upcoming events, visit our website [www.berks.lib.pa.us/sinkingspringpl](http://www.berks.lib.pa.us/sinkingspringpl), follow us on Facebook, or pick up a calendar at the circulation desk.

# BOSS 2020/BOSS FORWARD UPDATE

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Your BOSS 2020 Committee has been quite busy since the last newsletter update. Here are a few things that we have been working on.

- **PennDOT Highway Occupancy Permit to begin Phase 2 construction**

We are expecting, any day now, our approval and HOP (highway occupancy permit) from PennDOT which will allow us to begin work on the Columbia/Cacoosing intersection. While this project may have experienced some delays, it will be a vital part to clearing up some of the traffic which runs through our borough every day. We are also hoping this will springboard additional development in the new downtown district.

Next up will be to work with PennDOT and their engineers on Phase 4 which will be a redesign of the 422/724 intersection. More news about that to come.

- **PennDOT “Green Light Go” Grant Program**

The borough has applied for this grant for Phase 2 construction. The money will primarily be used for relocating traffic signals at Cacoosing/Columbia/422.

- **Received PA DCED-CFA Multimodal Transportation Grant of \$1,000,000**

Sinking Spring was awarded a grant of \$1,000,000 to construct the ‘Crossroads Boulevard’ new street in the Central Business District. This grant is for road construction only.

- **PA Keystone Communities Program**

Borough Council has authorized application for a new PA Keystone Communities Program application for \$50,000 in funding for a Round 2 local facade improvement grant program. Many businesses and homeowners along Penn Avenue were able to take advantage of Round 1 and complete projects which improved the façade of their properties.

Stop in at one of our BOSS 2020 meetings to see some of the improvement pictures. It makes a difference when traveling along Penn Avenue.

- **BOSS 2020 Design Team**

It seems the Boss committee is in a constant quest for public volunteers to help us staff some of our committees. One such committee we are planning for is a Landscaped Gateways and RR Bridge Improvements Committee. This team will help to create more appealing entrances (signage) to the Borough. We welcome anyone that is willing to lend some time, ideas, and creativity. These things won’t get done without resident support.

- **Meeting with PA Senator David Argall & U.S. Congresswoman Chrissy Houlahan.**

Our state Senator and US Congresswoman met with some of our Admin Committee members and Mike Hart to discuss our revitalization project and discuss ways in which they might be able to help. Good information was shared and we are hoping for much more support from them both to further our revitalization efforts.

- **BOSS Committee visited Narberth Borough on Philadelphia’s ‘Main Line’**

BOSS and Borough Council members visited Narberth Borough to discuss their form-based zoning code with their town leaders. Their code was written to preserve the look and feel of their Borough. Because of a lengthy discussion and tour of their town it was decided that a small committee of council members and Mike Hart will look into writing a new zoning code for Sinking Spring. This will be a great endeavor but will go a long way to establishing the “feel” of Sinking Spring and identity.

In order to be able to accomplish this, borough council and BOSS will be holding a series of “visioning meetings” that we hope will be well attended by our residents and business owners. During these meetings we are hoping to get feedback from everyone as to what they would and would not like to see in the borough. For instance... Would you like to keep out big box stores, would you like to see more restaurants, more retail shops, etc.

More info on dates when they become available but should be in the next month or two.

- **BOSS gearing up to establish a social media presence for the Borough**

We are going to be working on creating a better social media presence for the borough. If anyone has experience with that we could certainly use your help.

So that’s it for now! We could certainly use resident participation at our monthly meetings. (3rd Thursday of every month at 7:00). We hope to see some new (and old!) faces at the meetings! Get involved! It’s your town and you should have a say in what it is and what it becomes!

Till next edition!

BOSS Forward

Growing our Community Together

# POLICE DEPARTMENT

## FROM POLICE CHIEF OXENREIDER

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



**ANYONE INTERESTED IN CRIME WATCH?** Please contact the police department at 610-678-1906 between 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

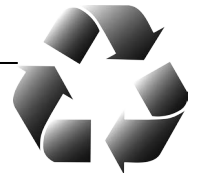
**Crime & Traffic Alerts** - Register on-line and receive emails as new information is available on our website. [www.co.berks.pa.us/muni/sinking-spring/police](http://www.co.berks.pa.us/muni/sinking-spring/police)

**Abandoned Vehicles** – A vehicle is considered abandoned if it is physically inoperable, does not have a valid inspection sticker, a valid registration plate, or vehicle identification number, and is left unattended for more than forty-eight hours upon a street or highway or on the private property of another without their consent. Vehicles meeting the above criteria will be removed from the Borough and you may be fined \$500.00 plus costs. Vehicles meeting the criteria for an abandoned vehicle parked on your own property is a Zoning violation and will be referred to the Zoning Office for investigation and prosecution.

**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 police office lobby. Drop off hours are Monday thru Friday from 8 am to 4 pm. Please do not call an officer out to drop off your medication. All medication should be placed in the original containers and packaging, with personal information blacked out.

**Parking of Recreational vehicles** -The Borough has implemented a new Ordinance # 625-2016 that 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 at all times. Off street parking of such equipment will be allowed within the side and rear yards of residential properties depending on lot configuration. All equipment shall have current state inspection, registration and insurance.

## TRASH/RECYCLING GUIDELINES



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 2020 are Thursday, January 2nd, Thursday May 28th, and Thursday September 10th. Each household unit is allowed one bulk item and a maximum of 6 thirty-two-gallon containers and should not weight more than 50 pounds when filled. Bulk items include furniture, mattresses, box springs, plumbing fixtures such as toilets and sinks, lumber (bundled and tied, not exceeding 6 feet in length), three (3) 4 ft. rolls of carpet (tied) equals one bulk item. Items which are too heavy to be lifted into a truck by two people will not be accepted. Additional trash bags are **NOT** considered a bulk item. No Appliances or electronics we be accepted.

Recyclables include Metal (aluminum cans, steel food & beverage cans), Glass (Clear, brown, blue and green glass food & beverage containers), Plastic (#1, #2 & #5) All materials must be thoroughly cleaned before placing them in your recycling container. Newspaper & Cardboard ( All sizes of cardboard boxes, clean pizza boxes, cereal boxes, empty paper towel & toilet paper rolls, tissue boxes, beverage cartons, newspaper). Remove all packaging (Styrofoam, peanuts, plastic bubble wrap, plastic liners), flatten ALL boxes, bundle all cardboard that does not fit in the recycling bin.

Containers shall be set out not earlier than 12 noon on the day preceding collection and not later than 5 a.m. on the day of collection. Empty containers shall be taken inside the property lines not later than 12 midnight of collection day.

Check the Borough Website for more information.

**NEW FOR 2020** – Any residential or commercial property that elects to have a dumpster and employ their own private hauler shall pay a fee of \$50.00 per year for a permit and shall submit waste disposal receipts, within 10 days of each written request by the Borough for such receipts.

# PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

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## **Curbside Leaf Collection:**

The borough public works department will start collection of leaves beginning early October and will end on December 13, 2019. Residents will be allowed to place their leaves in the gutters for collection during this time period. **This collection is only for leaves. Do not** place tree branches or any other yard waste out for collection.



## **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 24, 2020.



## **Snow Removal:**

During the winter snow season, public works employees work long hours in an effort to clear the roadways of snow and ice to make the streets safe for motorists and emergency vehicles. Please assist the public works staff in their efforts by following the regulations.



## **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 the course of any snowfall with accumulations in excess of 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.



# THE BOROUGH OF SINKING SPRING

## WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

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The BOSS Wastewater Treatment plant is permitted to treat 1.25 million gallons of wastewater per day. Flow is received from Sinking Spring, Lower and South Heidelberg Townships, and Spring Township. The collection system contains 18.5 miles of sewer lines and 1 pump station. It is important that we all do our part to ensure that the sewer plant and collection systems operate properly.

Please consider everything you put down any drain because at the end of the day, the more you help the less likely there are to be issues in both the collection system and plant, which in turn can keep your sewer rates lower in the long run.

There are several things we can all do to make sure we keep things flowing in the desired direction.

### **CAN THE F.O.G. (FATS, OILS, GREASE)!**

Please do not pour oil and grease down drains or toilets!

Grease is a major culprit in sewer pipe overflows and backups. Sewer overflows and backups can cause health hazards, harm the environment and damage your home. Grease gets into the sewer from household drains and poorly maintained grease interceptors at restaurants or other businesses. It will harden and clog at some point as it leaves your house.

Be sure to properly dispose of cooking grease, by pouring fats and oils from turkey, bacon, etc. into an empty can and throwing the can away. Scraping all dishes and pans into the garbage instead of rinsing in hot water or putting in the dishwasher decreases the amount of grease that can build up between your sink and the sewer pipes.

### **SO CALLED “FLUSHABLE” WIPES: ARE ON THE DO NOT FLUSH LIST!**

“Flushable” wipes have grown in popularity over the past few years and are currently the **#1 cause for back-ups** of sewer laterals in the Borough and many other municipalities. These wipes do not break down in the sewer system or at the treatment plant like normal toilet paper and must be physically removed to prevent issues at the treatment plant.

### **STORM WATER ENTERING THE SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM**

Illegal connections include but are not limited to sump pump discharges and gutter down spouts. Sump pumps and downspout add water that is intended to be absorbed by the ground and by adding it to the sanitary sewer system; you are increasing the volume of water in the system. Sewage systems are designed to handle the flow of sanitary sewage only from the properties in the area. When you add these flows to the system it can cause the system to “overflow” which can back up into your homes or worse yet cause SSO’s or sanitary sewer overflows which can result in fines from Pa DEP and contamination of waterways. If you have either of these situations at your property and need assistance on figuring out the best way to fix the problem feel free to contact Bryce Zohner at 610-678-7223 ext. 600.

### **BROAD STREET SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

The Borough of Sinking Spring will be upgrading the sanitary sewer line on Broad Street and Reedy Road. This project will be replacing the current 10” VCP (terracotta) pipe with 15” PVC (plastic) pipe. This section of the sanitary sewer system conveys a large portion of the Boroughs’ Sanitary sewer and the upgrade will ensure that the line has capacity to handle future growth. The Borough will post updates of the project schedule on our Facebook page and website as they become available.

# WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT



Jared Renshaw, Fire Commissioner - Western Berks Fire Department  
111 Stitzer Ave., Wernersville, Pa 19565 • Station: 610-678-1332

## FALL/WINTER FIRE SAFETY TIPS

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heaters.
- Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Always use the right kind of fuel for fuel burning space heaters.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room.

## WEST SIDE REGIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

 CodeRED™

**TEXT "WSREMA"**  
to 99411 to enroll in  
**Sinking Spring's**  
emergency alert program

Or call 610.484.8060 for Assistance



**STAY INFORMED AND  
AWARE REGARDING:**

Missing children or missing persons  
Criminal activity  
Fires  
Drinking water contamination  
Utility outages  
Traffic conditions  
Various threats to people, property  
or the environment  
Major public event information  
such as parades and road runs

## NOW HIRING

### 2020 Census Jobs

Apply Online Now!

[2020census.gov/jobs](https://2020census.gov/jobs)

1-855-JOB-2020  
(1-855-562-2020)

- Excellent pay
- Flexible hours
- Paid training
- Temporary jobs

Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339 TTY / ASCII  
[www.gsa.gov/fedrelay](https://www.gsa.gov/fedrelay)

The U.S. Census Bureau is an Equal Opportunity Employer

United States  
**Census**  
2020

Form D-482C  
September 2018

United States  
**Census**  
2020



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 around the Borough and want to recognize those who make the effort to brighten our Borough.

To participate all you need to do is to decorate! Judging will occur on the 14th and 15th of December by a panel of judges made up of council members and residents. You will know if you won if you have a sign placed in your yard. Good Luck!!

**The following categories will be recognized:**

- **Best Traditional**
- **Most Inspirational**
- **Most Effort**
- **Best Theme Involving 2 or more houses**
- **Most likely to Make a Child Smile**
- **Most Quirky**
- **Community Favorite as posted and voted on Facebook**

