

Spring/Summer 2019

# Borough of Sinking Spring NEWSLETTER

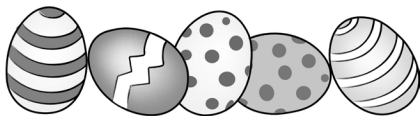


## EASTER EGG HUNT AND COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

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**April 13th, 2019**

**Hosted at the Liberty Fire Company,  
Ruth Street, Sinking Spring**



### **Eat some Eggs!**

Join us before or after the egg hunt for breakfast!  
Fresh, made to order breakfasts will be served from 7 a.m.  
until Noon.

**Adults: \$9 Children 3-10 \$4 2 and under free**

Baskets will be raffled including our 100th anniversary  
baskets!

Proceeds raised from the breakfast will go toward the  
replacement of playground equipment.

### **Find Some Eggs!!**

Easter Egg Hunt will be at 10am sharp, on the fire  
company grounds. Take a picture with the Easter Bunny  
and get a prize.

### **Baskets will be raffled!**

The breakfast and Egg Hunt are a joint effort between  
the Borough Recreation Board, The Liberty Fire Company  
and many community volunteers! Thank you!!

## BULLDOG BLAST

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This will be the third year for the Wilson School District Bulldog Blast program that is imbedded into our playground program. The program is open to children who are entering 1st through 4th grade for the 2019-2020 school year. It is an outdoor program that promotes summertime learning in a fun environment. It is designed to keep minds active during the summer to maintain what was learned the year ending and make for a faster transition into the new school year. The program is taught by Wilson teachers and is supported by the Wilson Education Fund.

The program will run Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-11am for six weeks starting June 18th, with a one week break during the week of July 4th. Learning groups will meet at both of our playgrounds.

There is a separate fee for the Playground and Bulldog Blast programs. Your children are welcome to participate in one or both programs for a summer filled with physical and mental activity.

Online registration will be available May 1st.

## SUMMER PLAYGROUND PROGRAM

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**June 10th - August 9th (9 weeks)**

Monday-Thursday 9 am-1 pm and 6-8:30 pm

Fridays 9-1 PM

Closed July 4th

**Two Locations:**

Main Playground on Ruth Street and Brookfield Avenue

**Residents of Sinking Spring Borough**

\$50 per child (\$130 Family Max)

**Non-residents:**

\$85 per child (\$225 family Max)

Need based reduced rate available. Contact the borough  
office for requirements.

Online registration and payment information will be  
posted on the Borough Facebook page and website on May 1st.

## FAMILY MOVIE NIGHTS IN THE PARK

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**Friday, June 14th (movie TBD)**

**Thursday August 8th (movie TBD)**

Bring a chair or a blanket and watch these great movies  
outside under the stars!

Movies begin as soon as it is dark enough to see the screen  
and are held at the main playground located at Ruth and Ev-  
ans streets.

Popcorn and other reasonably priced concessions are  
available for purchase.

## 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)

# MS4 ILLICIT DISCHARGE DETECTION AND ELIMINATION:

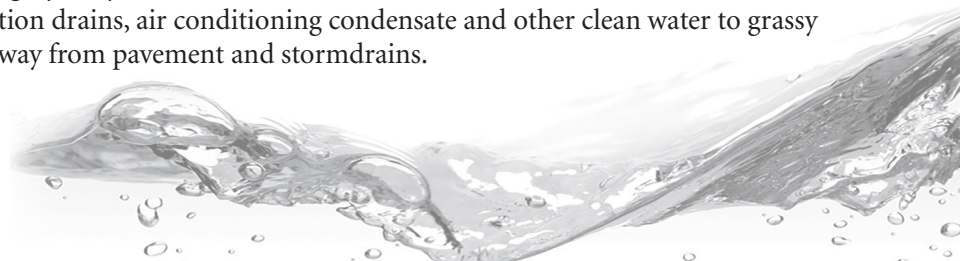
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Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination is a major component of a municipal stormwater management program. Every time someone uses the storm drain or a ditch as a disposal system, they're causing an impact downstream. That's because storm sewers and ditches don't go to wastewater treatment plants. Storm drains are separated in most instances from the sanitary system. That's by design. Our wastewater treatment facilities simply couldn't handle the volume of stormwater that is created in every storm.

Stormwater is released unfiltered and untreated into streams, lakes and wetlands. Municipalities are required to ensure that the water leaving their systems is as clean as possible. Part of that is knowing all of the sources that are flowing into the system and it's not always just water. Septic systems, used oil, carpet cleaning fluid, wastewater...you name it, someone has disposed of it into the stormwater system and that waste is now in our waterways. These are called illicit discharges to the stormwater system.

Municipalities are required under the MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) regulations to identify and eliminate those illicit discharges. Here are 12 actions that homes and businesses can take to prevent illicit discharges into the storm sewer system:

- 1. Eliminate connections to storm sewers.** Make sure that wastewater, spills or soapy water can't flow into a storm sewer by any drain or stormwater flow. Check with your city/ town to determine if clean water discharges to a storm sewer are allowed.
- 2. Store hazardous materials properly, inside or under cover.**
- 3. Make a current spill response plan and clean up kit accessible.**
- 4. Train employees on spill response and good housekeeping practices.** Repeat training regularly.
- 5. Use "dry" methods for clean-up and spills.** Keep a broom, mop and kitty litter or other absorbent materials handy. Do not use water to rinse off a spill.
- 6. Use a mop sink for cleaning floor mats and equipment.** Pour wash water in the sink, not outside.
- 7. Ensure dumpsters remain covered and leak-proof.** Locate dumpsters away from storm drains.
- 8. Wash vehicles at a commercial car wash.** If you must wash vehicles or equipment outdoors, use water only, or wash on grassy areas and divert soapy water from stormdrains.
- 9. Keep parking lots and service areas clean.** Provide trash bins and empty them regularly. Divert water from loading docks.
- 10. Keep wetlands and riparian buffer areas clean and in natural condition.** Keep these areas free of trash, yard waste, and debris that can pollute or obstruct water flow. If possible, allow vegetation to grow into a natural buffer instead of mowing to wetland edges.
- 11. Water wisely and limit fertilizer use.** Keep water and fertilizer on the grass, not pavement. Consider replacing some lawn area with low-care plantings.
- 12. Design your yard to infiltrate, filter or detain runoff.** Divert roof leaders, foundation drains, air conditioning condensate and other clean water to grassy areas, away from pavement and stormdrains.



# FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

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Now that winter is finally behind us and we have thawed out and warmed up, it's time to focus on the summer months and warm, beautiful weather!!! Every year we look forward to summer vacations, camping, family reunions, picnics, and the Fourth of July. Summertime, however, also brings fires and injuries due to fireworks and outdoor cooking. Knowing a few fire safety tips and following instructions will help everyone have a safe summer.

- Before using a grill, check the connection between the propane tank and the fuel line.
- Make sure the venturi tubes – where the air and gas mix – are not blocked.
- Do not wear loose clothing while cooking at a barbeque.
- Dispose of hot coals properly – douse them with plenty of water and stir them to ensure that the fire is out.
- Never place them in paper or wooden containers.
- Keep all matches and lighters away from children. Teach children to report any loose matches or lighters to an adult immediately. Supervise children around outdoor grills.
- The best way to protect your family from the inherent dangers of fire works is not to use them at home!! Attend public fireworks displays and leave the lighting to the professionals.



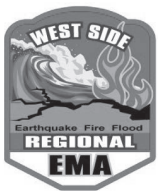
CodeRED® is the FREE community notification system available to local residents that will send you alerts concerning time-sensitive and/or emergency information that may impact your area via phone calls, text messages, and emails.

## West Side Regional Emergency Management Agency

Don't wait! Start receiving notifications that could save your life.  
Sign up today! Visit Sinking Spring Borough website:  
<http://www.co.berks.pa.us/Muni/SinkingSpring>

Click on the CodeRED icon at the website to enroll, or download the CodeRED Mobile Alert app available in the App Store or Google Play.

*Serving the Boroughs of Sinking Spring, West Reading,  
Wyomissing and Twp of Spring*



Thomas Bausher, Emergency  
Management Coordinator  
2301 Monroe Ave, West Lawn, PA 19609  
Phone 610.898.8060 Cell 484.256.3319  
Email: [tbausher@springtwpberks.org](mailto:tbausher@springtwpberks.org)

## 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

# SINKING SPRING REVITALIZATION UPDATE

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It has been a while since our last update on our redevelopment efforts in the borough. Many of you have signed up to receive the minutes from our monthly meetings. We hope those minutes have been informative. We always invite the public to attend our meetings to find out more.

We have been steadily working towards completing the last three phases of our downtown plan.

We are currently working on Phase 2 which consists of realigning the Columbia/Cacoosing intersection. This will help to ease traffic congestion and accommodate truck traffic from nearby petroleum product facilities. Our engineering plans have been submitted to PennDOT and we are hopeful that we will have approval in a few months and hope to starting construction by the end of the year or early 2020.

There are two other notable developments recently. It was announced recently that the Borough was awarded a \$1 million grant. The grant, from the Commonwealth Financing Authority, was announced Tuesday by state Sen. David G. Argall, a Schuylkill County Republican who represents part of Berks, and Rep. Jim Cox, a Spring Township Republican.

The other development is to begin work with the Pa Downtown Center to host a series of town meetings. The purpose of these meetings is for the residents to have a chance to express their opinions of what the future downtown should entail. When these meetings are held it is hoped that all residents and business owners in the Borough would attend so we have a fair representation of what our residents would like to see. This development is for our residents so it is important that they be heard.

For more information or to be included in a copy of the Redevelopment Committee's meeting minutes distribution, please contact Sam Loth, Coordinator at: 484.269.4902 or samloth@comcast.net

## **The BOSS 2020 Team Would Like Your Feedback!**

Please take a moment to visit the link below and fill out a brief survey about what YOU would want to see in a new revitalized downtown Sinking Spring! While more in-depth data will be collected later, this information will be used to help guide BOSS 2020 through the next steps in our downtown project. <https://goo.gl/forms/Vv8BiOiai14GV3z22>.

Thank You!

BOSS 2020

## SPOTTED LANTERNFLY

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The Spotted Lanternfly, *Lycorma delicatula* (White), an invasive planthopper, has been discovered in Berks County, Pennsylvania. It is native to China, India, Vietnam, and introduced to Korea where it has become a major pest. This insect has the potential to greatly impact the grape, hops and logging industries. Early detection is vital for the protection of Pennsylvania businesses and agriculture.

### **IDENTIFICATION:**

The Spotted Lanternfly adult is approximately 1" long and 1/2" wide at rest. The forewing is grey with black spots and the wings tips are reticulated black blocks outlined in grey. The hind wings have contrasting patches of red and black with a white band. The legs and head are black; the abdomen is yellow with broad black bands. Immature stages are black with white spots and develop red patches as they grow.

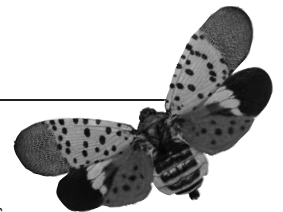
### **SIGNS & SYMPTOMS:**

Trees, such as tree of heaven and willow, will develop weeping wounds. These wounds will leave a greyish or black trail along the trunk. This sap will attract other insects to feed, notably wasps and ants. In late fall, adults will lay egg masses on host trees and nearby smooth surfaces like stone, outdoor furniture, vehicles, and structures. Newly laid egg masses have a grey mud-like covering which can take on a dry cracked appearance over time. Old egg masses appear as rows of 30-50 brownish seed-like deposits in 4-7 columns on the trunk, roughly an inch long.

### **WHAT TO DO:**

If you see egg masses, scrape them off, double bag them and throw them away. You can also place the eggs into alcohol or hand sanitizer to kill them. If you find Spotted Lanternfly adults you should try to kill them.

For more information please log onto: [http://www.agriculture.pa.gov/plants\\_land\\_water/plantindustry/entomology/spot- ted\\_lanternfly](http://www.agriculture.pa.gov/plants_land_water/plantindustry/entomology/spot- ted_lanternfly)





# 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 on Thursday. The Thursday Pick-ups for 2019 are Thursday, May 30th, Thursday September 5th, Thursday, December 26th, and Thursday, January 2nd, 2020. 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.

Recyclables include Metal (aluminum cans, steel food & beverage cans, aerosol cans, paint 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, 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,

Check the Borough Website for more information.



**Eagle Disposal of PA, Inc.**

## RECYCLE THESE ITEMS



### CANS

Aluminum & Steel



### PLASTIC

Bottles & Jugs  
1, 2 & 5



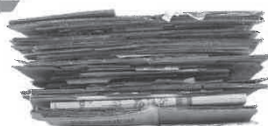
### NEWSPAPER

Clean & Dry  
No Food Contact



### GLASS

Bottles & Jars



### CARDBOARD

Dry & Flattened  
No Food Contact



### CARTONS

## WHEN IN DOUBT → THROW IT OUT

**NO** Plastic Bags

**NO** Food/Liquid

**NO** Garden Hoses

**NO** Shredded Paper

**NO** Clothing

**NO** Diapers

**NO** Medical Waste

**NO** Scrap Metal

**NO** Styrofoam

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE LIBRARY?

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There's always new books, shows, activities, and programs to reflect the community's interests and needs. We're here for you! Stop in and check us out!

The following is a list of programs offered all year at the library. No registration is required and the programs are **FREE**. To see more upcoming events, visit our website, follow us on Facebook, or pick up a calendar at the circulation desk.

<https://www.berkslibraries.org/branch/sinking-spring>



**1000 Books Before Kindergarten:** Ongoing. Work at your own pace to read 1000 books with your child before they begin Kindergarten! Plenty of incentives and encouragement will help them on their way to a love of reading.

**Bounce & Rhyme Storytimes:** Mondays at 10:30 am. Join us for stories, songs, and bubbles! Ages 10 mos. - 2 years.

**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 cool piece of art that you can take home! Ages 3 - Adult.

**Lego Lab:** One Saturday a month, 10am - noon. Build with Legos and check out our Lego books. Ages 5+

**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.

**The Summer Quest program** will run from June 10 – August 17. There's a Universe of Stories: Read books or complete challenges to earn prizes and participate in awesome programs! Ages 2 – Adult.

## HOURS:

Monday - Thursday 10:00 am - 8:00 pm

Fri: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Sat: 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Sun: Closed

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

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The Borough has vacancies on the following Volunteer Boards:

**1 Vacant Seat on the Zoning-Hearing Board**

**1 Vacant Seats on the Planning Commission**

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

Please contact the Borough Office if you are interested in serving on any of these volunteer Boards.

The Borough uses it's Facebook page and web-site to keep residents informed with up to date information and changes in schedules such as trash collection.

## PASSPORT SERVICE

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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.**

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.



# POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

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**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 9 am to 5 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.

**Curfew** – Curfew hours refer to the hours of 12:00 a.m. through 5:00 a.m. everyday.

**Minors** – It shall be unlawful for a minor (person under eighteen years of age), during curfew hours, to remain in or upon any public place within the Borough, to remain in any motor vehicle operating or parked therein or thereon, or to remain in or upon the premises of any establishment within the Borough.

**Skateboards Prohibition** – Skateboards, scooters and other similar non-motorized or motorized objects are not to be operated on public streets. Additionally, it shall be illegal for anyone to operate scooters or other similar non-motorized or motorized objects on the public sidewalks within the Borough. Skateboards may be ridden on sidewalks. Any individual violating the provisions of this Ordinance shall be subject to a minimum fine of \$25.00 and a maximum fine of \$300.00 for each and every offense.

**Soliciting** – Persons wishing to solicit or peddle within the Borough must report to the Sinking Spring Police Department and submit an application to obtain a permit to solicit within the Borough.

**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.

## **Animal Regulations:**

**Restraint of Dogs** – It shall be the duty of any owner or keeper of every dog within the Borough at all times to keep such dog either on a lease or such other device as to keep the dog under the reasonable control of the person then handling such dog.

**Restrictions on the Number of Dogs and Cats** – It shall be unlawful to keep more than four animals, i.e. dogs, cats, or a combination of both, six months of age or older, on any premises, regardless of the number of owners.

**Control of Nuisances by Dogs and Cats** – No person, owning, harboring, keeping, or in charge of any dog or cat, shall cause, suffer, or allow such dog or cat to soil, defile, defecate on or commit any nuisance on any common thoroughfare, sidewalk, passageways, bypath, play area, park, or any place where people congregate or walk, or on any public property whatsoever; nor on any private property without the permission of the owner of said property. No person owning, harboring, keeping, or in charge of any dog or cat shall cause, suffer, or allow such dog or cat to soil, defile or defecate on any premises, including the premises of the owner, under circumstances or to a degree which will have the effect of creating noxious odors in the annoyance of neighbors or passersby.

**Noise Disturbances** – It shall be unlawful to own, harbor or keep in custody any dog which disturbs the peace by barking, howling, or making other loud noises to the annoyance and discomfort of any person in the Borough. Continuous barking, howling, or the making of other loud noises by such dog for more than one hour or continuous barking for periods of less than one hour, but more than one-half hour, which periods occur on two or more consecutive days, shall be deemed to disturb the peace and to cause the annoyance and discomfort of persons in the Borough.



Borough Hall  
3940 Penn Avenue  
Sinking Spring, PA 19608

PRSR STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EDDM RETAIL

Local  
Postal Customer

## FREE COMMUNITY SHREDDING EVENT



**Individuals only. No business.**  
**10 boxes per vehicle**

**Saturday, April 20, 2019, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

Sponsored by United Document Destruction & Storage  
Governor Mifflin Intermediate School  
600 Governor Dr., Shillington

**Saturday, June 22, 2019, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

Sponsored by Tompkins Vist Bank  
Lower Heidelberg Township Building  
720 Brownsville Road, Sinking Spring

**Saturday, October 12, 2019, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

Sponsored by United Document Destruction & Storage  
Berks County Ag Center  
1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport

## BERKS COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY

**2019 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program**

[www.countyofberks.com/swa](http://www.countyofberks.com/swa) for more information

Free to all Berks County Residents

**Saturday, April 13, 2019, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

Governor Mifflin Intermediate School  
600 Governor Dr., Shillington

**Saturday, October 19, 2019, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

Berks County Ag Center  
1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport

## TIPS TO AVOID SCAMMERS:



- Deal locally with folks 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.

For more information, check out the Crime Prevention Link on our website  
[www.co.berks.pa.us/Muni/SinkingSpring/Police](http://www.co.berks.pa.us/Muni/SinkingSpring/Police)

## ONLINE EXCHANGE ZONE:

Need a safe place to exchange items from Facebook Marketplace, Let Go or other online buy and sell sites???

There is a fifteen minute parking space in the Borough parking next to the Police Department. It is video recorded 24 hours a day and is intended to be a Safe Zone for these types of exchanges.