



SINKING SPRING



Game, Set, Match: New Tennis & Pickleball Courts Now Open

We are excited to announce that the community tennis courts have been fully renovated and are officially open for play! Along with brand-new surfaces for tennis, the courts now feature pickleball! Which is one of the fastest growing sports in the country and enjoyed by players of all ages. Whether you're a tennis enthusiast or simply curious to try something new, the courts are ready to welcome you.

These upgrades provide more than just a fresh coat of paint. They represent an investment in the health, recreation, and well-being of our residents. Outdoor spaces like these give neighbors a place to stay active, meet one another, and enjoy time together in the fresh air.

The courts are open to everyone, no matter your age or experience level. Grab a racket, paddle, or a friend and come see for yourself how these improvements create new opportunities for recreation right here at home. With tennis and pickleball side-by-side, there's something for everyone, from youth just starting out to seasoned players looking to sharpen their game.

We invite you to stop by, try out the new courts, and share the experience with friends, neighbors, and family. Let's make the most of this new chapter in community recreation—see you on the courts!



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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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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.

Playground Revitalization And Why We Started With The Tennis Courts

You may have seen pictures or even used our newly resurfaced and painted tennis/pickleball courts at our Main, Ruth Street Playground. They are beautiful now! Maintenance by the borough staff and appropriate use by the community should ensure that this upgrade remains a valuable recreation asset for decades.

When I drive down to the park, I am overwhelmed by the additional updating that our main playground could use. Even our other smaller playground on Brookfield Avenue is showing signs of needing equipment replacement in the near future. How do we decide what we want, and more importantly, how we afford it? It is a process with several steps.

In 2023, we initiated the process to be in a position to upgrade and expand the facilities at Ruth Street's Main Playground. The borough had acquired a property behind the pavilion and then accepted the buildings and land that comprised the Heritage Park Property from the Historical Society. It was a great opportunity to explore what it would take to incorporate the extra space and update the aging bathrooms, pavilions, playground equipment, and courts. In essence, it is a fresh start.

The process begins by developing a master plan with costing as the basis for the information needed to apply for grants from various sources. We conducted a community survey to gather feedback on what people would like to see in our recreation spaces. We had community meetings to focus those wants into realistic plans. We must consider both the costs and the available space. For example, A dog park was something that had a lot of support. When we researched how to do a proper dog park (not just a fenced-in square), it was obvious that we did not have enough space to keep the courts, improve the pavilion and bathrooms, have sport areas, expand the playground equipment, and still have green space, all of which also had a lot of support.

We paid to have a professional group develop the plan and its associated costing for implementation. We have many people who rent the pavilion each year, and our summer playground utilizes the pavilion and bathrooms heavily. Therefore, it was decided that the first phase of the plan would be to update the pavilion, partially enclosing it to make it usable for more of the year, and incorporate updated bathrooms. The wishlist outlined in the plan would require at least \$500,000.00 to meet the updated standards. YIKES! We applied for two state grants to establish a starting point.

Our application did earn us a state grant! It was for \$75,000! Nothing to sneeze at, but we needed to identify a new Phase One that was more in line with the funds we had available.

One adjustment we made in our master plan was to leave our tennis and basketball courts in their current locations, as it would be much more expensive to rebuild them in a different spot within the park. We consulted with companies that do sports courts to identify options for the tennis court upgrade. The grant amount, our required 15% match as part of the grant agreement, and a little more would enable us to mill, pave, and paint our tennis/pickleball courts with new nets within the same footprint as the current courts. We did not have enough money to replace the fence around the courts at this time. While it was not our plan to start with the courts, it was the best choice to utilize the grant within the guidelines of that grant and our 2025 budget.

I hope this information helps clarify some of the factors that contribute to making these decisions. Perhaps it motivates you to get involved and ensure we continue in the best direction? If so, please contact me through the Borough Office. We would love to have more community involvement and help in making decisions that will affect our Borough for many years to come.

Lisa Gantner

Borough Council, Chair, Parks and Recreation

Western Berks Ambulance

Did you know that your household is already a member of Western Berks Ambulance through your borough? This membership helps ensure emergency medical services are ready when you need them most.

While your borough's support covers a portion of our costs, it doesn't cover everything needed to keep our ambulances equipped and staffed around the clock. That's why we also rely on community donations.

Please consider making a contribution—together, we can keep lifesaving care strong in our community.



YOUR DONATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Visit our website to donate online @ www.wbems.org or via check to:

Western Berks Ambulance, 2506 Belmont Avenue, West Lawn, PA 19609

Thank you for your support!

Thank you for your support of our Summer Playground Program

Thank you to the following Sinking Spring businesses that helped support our program. These Borough of Sinking Spring businesses supported our summer playground program through direct donations, making resources available for our use, or collaborating with us on pricing.

Paparone's Pizza

Liberty Fire Company #1 Social Quarters

Maggie Arentz, Geiger Promotional Products

To all of the neighbors who live near our playgrounds: Thank you for your patience and support of an option to keep kids outside and active in the summer! The area around the playgrounds is quite busy during drop-off and pick-up. Hopefully, the sound of many kids playing outside is a pleasant sound to you!

Fun Facts about Playground 2025:

- 2 playgrounds: Main (Ruth Street Playground) and Brookfield Avenue playground.
- 9 weeks up to 33 hours per week (we had closures for extra hot days and stormy days)
- We still have morning and evening hours available to all registrants
- 150-200 kids had outdoor fun with friends each day
- Wilson's Summer Bulldog Blast meets 2 mornings/week for six weeks at each playground to keep those little brains engaged
- 7 optional field trips, Reading Phillies, and Soar N'Bounce Trampoline Park (both new this year) in addition to two pool visits, two movies (air conditioning break), and Bowling/Mini Golf
- We ordered between 30-45 pizzas each Friday from Paparone's for pizza day.
- 29 Energetic and Fabulous High School and College leaders had a summer job



We thank all the families who chose our summer program. We hope to see you again next year!

Registration for Summer 2026 will open by April 1, 2026

If you know someone who would want to be one of our energetic and fabulous leaders, we start interviewing in early spring. Applications are available at the Borough Hall at 3940 Penn Avenue.

5 TIPS for Exercising Safely in Cold Weather

Don't let falling temperatures stop you from exercising outdoors. By taking a few extra steps to stay safe, you can walk, run, ski, ice skate, and more.

- 1 Warm up and cool down.** Stretch or walk in place to prepare and restore your muscles before and after a workout.
- 2 Pick the right clothes.** Dress in several layers of loose clothing to trap warm air between them. Wear a waterproof coat or jacket if it's snowy or rainy, and don't forget a hat, scarf, and gloves.
- 3 Be extra careful in snow and ice.** Check sidewalks before using them. Wear nonskid, rubber-soled, low-heeled shoes to help prevent slipping.
- 4 Check the forecast.** If it's too windy, cold, icy, or wet outside, consider staying indoors and using an online workout video or your own routine.
- 5 Be prepared.** Know the signs of hypothermia, inform others of your outdoor whereabouts, and carry a fully charged mobile phone.



To learn more, visit www.nia.nih.gov/health/exercising-outdoors.

NIH National Institute on Aging

Holiday Open House

You're warmly invited to our Annual Holiday Open House — a family-friendly evening of festive fun, music, and community spirit.

- Date: Wednesday, December 3rd, 2025
- Time: 6:30 – until all children who want to speak with Santa have had their chance
- Location: Sinking Spring Borough Hall and Library, 3940 Penn Avenue
- Light refreshments provided
- Cost: Free
- Crafts and other activities organized by our Library staff will take place within the Library
- Western Berks Fire will bring Santa to the front of the Borough Hall on their ladder truck. Don't miss Santa's grand entrance and photo opportunities!
- Cookie decorating
- Holiday sing-along with Syd on piano: Join Syd for classic carols and seasonal favorites.
- Activities suitable for all ages. Parents/caregivers should accompany young children.
- No need to register. All are welcome!



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Keith "Sarge" and Sharon Eschleman, whose many years of support have embodied the true spirit of the season. Through their love of Christmas magic, generosity of time, and passion for uniting the community, they have left a lasting legacy of joy and togetherness.

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THINGS TO KNOW

Leaves raked to the curb will be picked up as necessary through the second week of December. Please rake them into the gutter, avoiding the storm drain areas.

Christmas Trees that are organic (not artificial), with all lights and decorations removed, can be placed at the curb for pick-up. The Public Works Department will pick them up and take them to our yard recycling for you.

Starting January 1, 2026, AJ Blosenski will begin as our new trash/recycling/bulk pickup company, operating on Wednesdays each week, as usual. There may be a slight learning curve for the new company to establish its routes and procedures. Thank you for your patience. As always, if you encounter any issues with your pickup, please contact the Borough office so we can assist you in resolving your concerns.

When a significant holiday falls on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday of the week, our trash and recycling will be collected on Thursday of that week. For 2026, those dates are: Thursday, May 28th, and Thursday, September 10th



Freight House Rebuild

In March, squirrels chewing on wires led to a fire at the Freight House, one of our Historical Buildings in Heritage Park. It was heavily damaged despite a quick response from the Western Berks Fire Department, with assistance from neighboring fire departments.

The building was insured, and the intention was to repair it using materials and a style that matched the remaining structure. The cleaning and removal of severely fire-damaged parts of the structure revealed unseen damage and deterioration due to age, as well as the presence of termites and prior repairs. It was determined that there wasn't enough of the original structure to support the addition of new materials. The large stone fireplace and chimney remain intact and will be the starting point for the rebuild.

The Borough Council approved additional funds, in addition to the insurance coverage, to ensure that the historical nature of the building is respected in the rebuild, as well as to provide the building with the necessary safety and accessibility upgrades for use by our community.

Several historical pieces were saved from the fire and will be put back in the building when the rebuild is complete. The Spring of 2026 is the hopeful goal for a rededication and open house of the Freight House.

The BOSS Forward Revitalization Committee is exploring ways to raise funds to support the repair and maintenance of the Historical Buildings in Heritage Park. The ticket building, which serves as a museum, is also in need of some significant repairs to keep the items inside safe and to ensure it can be opened to the public.



West Side Regional EMA

When seconds count, you can count on



CodeRED is a FREE emergency notification service provided to all residents within Sinking Spring Boro that will notify you of emergency or general information through phone calls, text messages, emails, and the CodeRED Mobile Alert app. The system will be used to keep you informed of local events that may immediately impact your safety. As a local resident, West Side Regional EMA encourages you to take action and register your cell phone and/or land line for this service and verify your home location to receive targeted notifications that directly impact your home or business.

The CodeRED® system will be used to send critical and time-sensitive communications such as:

- Missing Persons/ Children
- Weather Related Necessities
- Boil Water Advisories
- Emergency Preparedness
- Criminal Activity
- Large Local Events
- Emergency Evacuation Notices
- Shelter in Place/ Lockdowns

You must enroll to be on the notification list for Sinking Spring Boro. Visit the Sinking Spring Boro website and click on the CodeRED icon to enroll and also to download the CodeRED Mobile Alert app available in the App Store or Google Play. If you do not have access to a computer or cell phone, call the office for assistance in signing up. 610.898.8060



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 has the following re-occurring programs

Tuesdays: Chess Club 1-4pm

Wednesdays: Adult Craft Night 5-7pm

Thursdays: Pinochle 1-3:30pm

Fridays: Story Time 10:30am

Saturdays: 1st Sat. – Garden Club

Master Gardener

Saturdays: 2nd Sat. – Stammtisch 9am

Therapy Dog 10-11:30am

3rd Mondays: Home School Meet Up

3rd Thursdays: Scrabble 5-7:30pm



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.**

Passports:

We are a U.S. Passport Acceptance Facility. We take photos and process applications by appointment only. Please call our passport line at 610-670-4826.

Library Fundraiser
Star Spin Quilt Raffle
Sinking Spring Public Library
3940 Penn Ave, Sinking Spring PA
Visit the library to see the quilt on display

3 tickets for \$5
6 tickets for \$10
12 tickets for \$20
CASH ONLY
Purchase in person at the Sinking Spring Public Library

Prize:
Custom Quilted Queen Size Star Spin Quilt

Approx Measurement:
96" by 111"

Drawing:
Dec 12, 2025
Need not be present to win.
Winner must make arrangements to pick up.
Quilt will not be mailed.



Holiday Decorating Contest

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

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

The following categories will be recognized:

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

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

Good Luck!!



Barley Snyder

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- » Municipal
- » Trusts, Estates & Tax
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Public Works Update and Information

Over the spring and summer months several road improvement projects were completed within the borough.

The following roadways had the surface milled down and new asphalt was applied, compacted and had the edges along the curbs sealed.

- Evans Avenue: From Penn Avenue south to Ruth Street.
- Elizabeth Drive: Mull Avenue north to Miller Drive.
- South Hull Street: Spring Street south to Martins Road.
- Martins Road: South Hull Street south to the Borough Line.

The portion of South Hull Street from the railroad tracks to Spring Street is in need of milling and repaving however the borough has been informed of plans from American Water to perform significant work in that section of roadway. Because of this upcoming work the milling and repaving will be scheduled after American Water completes their work.



A pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Hull Street and Penn Avenue has been approved by Borough council. Currently this project is in the bidding process. The crossing is to allow pedestrians to cross Penn Avenue safely. This pedestrian crossing will consist of weatherproof boxes with push buttons installed and elevated lighted warning lights. When a push button is pressed the warning lights will be activated alerting traffic in both directions on Penn Avenue that pedestrians are crossing. Updates on this project will be posted to the boroughs Facebook page so residents will be able to follow our progress.

We are investigating other measures to improve the safety of both pedestrians and drivers in the borough. As these measures are being implemented information will be available on the borough website and Facebook page

With winter coming and the possibility of snow and ice the Borough would like to provide residents with the Municipal Snow Removal Policy and some information about our equipment and capabilities to keep the roads clear and everyone safe.



Municipal Snow Removal Policy

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

the roads passable and to not push snow into driveways, around mailbox areas or damage grass in the right-of-way.

Thank you for your patience during the winter season.

Declaration of Snow Emergency- Parking Prohibitions

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.

Helpful guidelines to follow:

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

During the winter snow season, Borough employees work long hours to clear the roadways of snow and ice to make the streets safe for motorists. Please assist them in their efforts by following the above policy.

Important Information on Mailboxes & Snow

Please keep the face of the mailbox a minimum of 2 to 3 feet off the edge of the road. The cutting edge on the plow is 18" from the edge of the plow.

The mailbox owner is responsible for repair or replacement of the mailbox if the mailbox was damaged by the pressure of the plowed snow, and there was no physical contact with the snowplow equipment.



We are ready!!

We have 200 tons of rock salt stored on borough property for the winter of 2025-2026. We try to anticipate our needs and then add a safety factor. We also have the capability to mix our own brine to pretreat the roads in anticipation of a snowfall. We can mix it as we need it and can customize the salt to water ratio to ensure the best mixture.

During most snow events we utilize the following equipment to keep the streets clear.

- (1) salt brine spray truck
- (3) salt trucks
- (2) Pickup trucks with plows
- (1) ton dump truck with plow
- (2) 10-ton dump trucks with heavy duty plows
- (1) 20-ton dump truck with heavy duty plow
- (4) dedicated personnel ready to conquer snowmageddon

Fall Fire Safety Tips

As the days get shorter and cooler, now is the perfect time to review a few fire safety reminders to help keep your family safe this fall:

- **Heating Safety:** Have your furnace, fireplace, and chimney inspected before use. Keep space heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn and never leave them running unattended.
- **Candles & Decorations:** Autumn decorations like dried leaves and corn stalks are flammable. Use battery-operated candles instead of open flames whenever possible.
- **Smoke & CO Alarms:** Test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms monthly. Change the batteries if needed and remember that alarms should be replaced every 10 years.
- **Kitchen Safety:** Fall often means more cooking and baking. Stay in the kitchen when cooking and keep a lid nearby to smother small stovetop fires.

This season, take a few simple steps to protect your loved ones and your home.

"Fall into Fire Safety—Protect What Matters Most."

Jared Renshaw

Fire Commissioner, Western Berks Fire Department

Phone: 610-678-1332

Mobile: 760-590-3829

E-mail: jared.renshaw@westernberksfire.org

Website: westernberksfire.org

Address: 111 Stitzer Ave, Wernersville, PA 19565



The
RESIDENCE
at VILLAGE GREENS



The Residence at Village Greens Senior Living is the newest community in Berks County. Visit us to find out how you can enjoy your life, at your pace, with your choice of living. Independent Living, Personal Care & Memory Care all in one building with no Buy-in!

Join us Wednesday, December 10th, 2025, 3pm - 7pm for our Annual Holiday Sip & Shop
Holiday shopping with local crafters, artisans, and vendors. Free Gift Wrapping!
5pm - 7pm - Enjoy the Holiday sounds by entertainer, Sandy Heisey.
Vendor Gift Raffle / Food / Beverages will be sold to benefit Alzheimer's

The Residence at Village Greens | 4400 Haines St. | Sinking Spring, PA 19608

Ph: 484-709-2561

The 12 Days of Christmas Safety

Keep lit candles away from real trees, wreaths, boughs and garlands



1

Keep poisonous sweets and chocolates away from your pets



2

Keep your tree away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources



3

Make sure your tree has a stable platform so it doesn't tip over



4

Choose an artificial tree that is labelled flame resistant



5

If you have a real tree, make sure you water it regularly



6

Check your lights for fraying, bare spots and kinks in the wire



7

Turn off all tree lights and decorations when not in use



8

Use an appropriate ladder or stepladder when putting up decorations



9

No matter how tempting it may be NEVER drink and drive!



10

When preparing the food, make sure you avoid cross contamination and clean your surfaces and utensils



11

Make sure you reheat your leftovers to at least 74 degrees to avoid food poisoning



12

Merry Christmas



Smoke Alarms Save Lives!



Test your smoke alarms once a month.

A smoke alarm can save your life in a fire. Use the test button to make sure your smoke alarms are working.



Replace your alarms after 10 years.

Smoke alarms do not last forever. If your alarms are 10 years old or older, replace them with new alarms.

U.S. Fire Administration



FEMA



We always appreciate involvement in our Borough!

We have had Eagle Scout projects completed that enhance our recreation facilities (the latest being a Gaga Pit installed at our Main playground). The Wilson HS Interact Club will be helping at our Holiday Open House and our Annual Easter Egg Hunt this year. If you are part of a group that wants to get involved, contact our Borough office at 610-678-4903. THANK YOU IN ADVANCE!



BE PREPARED FOR A WINTER STORM

Winter storms create a higher risk of car accidents, hypothermia, frostbite, carbon monoxide poisoning, and heart attacks from overexertion.

FEMA
FEMA V-1014/June 2018

Winter storms and blizzards can bring extreme cold, freezing rain, snow, ice, and high winds.

Greater risk

Can last a few hours or several days

Can knock out heat, power, and communication services

IF YOU ARE UNDER A WINTER STORM WARNING, FIND SHELTER RIGHT AWAY

- Stay off roads.
- Use generators outside only.
- Stay indoors and dress warmly.
- Listen for emergency information and alerts.
- Prepare for power outages.
- Look for signs of hypothermia and frostbite.
- Check on neighbors.

I KNOW SINKING SPRING REAL ESTATE!

I was born and raised in the area.

I graduated from Wilson High, Class of 1980.

I have over 40 years of local experience.

I've helped HUNDREDS of Wilson families through the years.

I'm your neighbor, parishioner and friend.



Peter Heim, CRS, GRI
Associate-Broker

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Sinking Spring Borough
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