



# Sellersville

## BOROUGH

**SPRING/SUMMER 2025** **Official Newsletter**

### LETTER FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

While it will most likely be spring or summer by the time you read this newsletter, it is barely into the new year as I am writing this. As I contemplated what to share with you as we embark on a new year, I reflected on several volunteer positions within the Borough that are currently vacant. So, I decided to talk about volunteering, and all of the benefits that result from volunteering. I am sure you are aware that all Borough Council members are volunteers, and I can personally attest that the experience of being a member of Borough Council has been an incredible source of learning, growth, and enjoyment for me. Let's look at some of the benefits of volunteering:

- 1. Volunteering allows you to connect to your community and make it a better place.
- 2. Volunteers feel a sense of accomplishment when they help others. They get a sense of purpose and feel more fulfilled.
- 3. Volunteering may boost your self-esteem and self-confidence, as you can learn new skills and further develop the ones you already have.
- 4. Research has found that volunteering among adults aged sixty and over provides benefits to both physical and mental health. Long-term volunteers have longer lives, less disease, and better overall health. Volunteering combats depression, decreases loneliness, and increases happiness.
- 5. Volunteering is one of the best ways to meet new people and make new friends.
- 6. Volunteering teaches the importance of giving back and encourages civic responsibility.
- 7. Many organizations cannot meet the needs of those they serve without the generosity and support of their volunteers.

There are presently vacancies on our Parks and Recreation Board, Historical and Achievement Authority, UCC Building Code Board of Appeals, and Industrial Development Authority, as well as an open position as a Junior Council Person. If any of these, or others, sound like something you would like to be a part of, please contact the Borough Office. THANK YOU!!

Lois Dodson  
Sellersville Borough Council President

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## 2025 Budget Approved

On December 9, 2024, the Council of Sellersville Borough passed a 2025 Budget reflecting a three-mill increase in Real Estate Taxes. The Budget reflects a 2.5 mill increase for General Purposes over existing 24 mills for General Purposes, or 26.5 mills for General Purposes. There are also an additional 0.5 mills for Emergency Medical Services, as well as the current 3 mills for Fire Services. Total millage for 2025 will be 30 mills, about \$660 per household in real estate taxes.

The Earned Income Tax rate of 1.00% remains the same. This Budget is balanced, fiscally responsible, and meets both the short - and long - term goals of Sellersville Borough. The 2025 Budget provides the resources necessary to meet the goals of our community for the coming year, delivering services in the most cost-effective way, providing the needed investments in the community, and insuring a successful future for those who live and work in Sellersville Borough.

Key Points of the 2025 Budget:

Sewer fees have been nominally increased across the board due to rising costs of treatment at the Pennridge Wastewater Treatment Authority Plant.

Expenditures include: fencing around the Public Works garage to protect those facilities; paving and ADA ramps at W. Clymer Avenue, E. Church Street, E. Walnut Street, and White Oak Lane; continued engineering work for the Lawn Avenue Sewer Main Replacement, funded through a \$2.26 million PennVest loan; rehabilitation of the basketball courts at Druckenmiller playground at \$83,000.

The Sellersville Museum will see completion of HVAC rehabilitation. Coupled with an awarded DCED Grant for just under \$800,000 for exterior repairs (more on this in this edition), the Museum will be on a more solid footing.

Perkasie Borough Police Service costs reflect a 5% increase over 2024. There is also an annual contribution of \$30,000 toward operation of the Holiday House Pool Complex.

Our history of fiscal responsibility and efforts initiated in prior years to prepare for potential decreases in revenue in a trying economy have made it possible to weather declining revenues without service impacts to general government, police services, public works, and recreation.

These efforts will continue to foster a more productive work environment through continuous improvement and a careful assessment of essential services – that is the provision of public services at the highest possible level and in the most fiscally responsible manner.

## Memorial Day Parade Celebration



The Memorial Day Parade and Service honoring the fallen, our veterans, and emergency responders will be held in Perkasie this year on Saturday, May 24. Perkasie Borough is working in partnership with the Hartzell-Crouthamel Post #280 of the American Legion.

The Parade will begin in the center of Perkasie, at the corner of 7th Street & Market Street at 9:00 am sharp and follow a route along town center streets, ending at the Memorial Garden at Menlo Park. The Sellersville Nase-Kraft Legion Post 255 Color Guard will lead the Parade and will be joined by local veterans, the Pennridge Marching Bands, local fire companies and first responders, Scouts, and local civic organizations. Cyclists, wagons, baby carriages and walkers are invited to decorate and join the Parade in patriotic dress.

An outdoor Memorial Service and Ceremony will begin at Menlo Park at approximately 10:15 am; the Service will include a rifle salute, Taps, patriotic music, and recognition of the veterans in attendance. Members of the community are invited to join the event to honor our heroes who have died.





# Sellersville

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## Restoration of Sellersville Public School/Museum

In 1875, less than one year after its incorporation as a borough, Sellersville's "founding fathers" decided that the existing schools were inadequate to the needs of the growing community's children. And so, the Borough began construction of what would be the area's first "modern," multi-room, multi-story, brick schoolhouse. In June of 1898, an addition almost doubled the size of the building. The building would house all the school grades until about 1907 when another building was erected next to it (today's Borough Hall) to serve the upper grades. It continued to serve as the town's elementary school until 1964 when students began attending the newly built Sellersville Elementary School on West Ridge Ave. In 1982, the original Sellersville Public School became the home of the Sellersville Museum, and it has served the community in that capacity for over forty years.

Today the building houses thousands of artifacts, books, pictures, works of art, and other objects that tell the story of life in Sellersville over the past three hundred years. Managed by the Sellersville Historical and Achievement Authority, the Museum is open to the public the second weekend of each month, with a different exhibit featured each month. The building has served the needs of the Museum well in this capacity. But the years have taken their toll.

The original slate roof has been patched and repaired many times but today, leaks in various places threaten the structural integrity of the building and have caused paint and plaster "pops" throughout most of the rooms. Recently, museum staff discovered that water damage was undermining the building's iconic bell tower. Also obvious was the need for paint and other repairs to the exterior of the building.

To address these needs, in 2023 the Borough applied to the Pennsylvania Department of Community Economic Development (DCED) for a Local Share Account (LSA) grant. The purpose of this grant is to "...provide for the distribution of gaming revenues through the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) to support projects in the public interest with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania."

The Borough's grant application was the result of the combined efforts of Sellersville Borough Council and Borough Manager Eileen Bradley, and received the strong backing of our State Representative, Shelby Labs and State Senator, Jarett Coleman. In October of 2024, the Borough received a call from Representative Labs advising us that the state had awarded Sellersville Borough a grant in the amount of \$790,725.00. The money will be used to replace the original slate roof, to make needed repairs to the bell tower, and to restore and repair deteriorating windowsills, soffits, and fascia.

While the process of soliciting bids and awarding contracts will take some time, we hope that actual construction will begin later this fall. So, keep your eyes on the Sellersville Museum. A much-needed face-lift is coming which we hope will help to revitalize the building as it continues its original mission of educating our community, young and old alike- reminding us of who we were, and who we are today.

## Save Sellersville's Santa

Since the early 1950s, a large, painted, 2-sided wooden Santa Claus has greeted folks each Christmas season from his post in front of the Sellersville Volunteer Fire Department on Main Street.

Throughout the decades, there has been a loyal fan base of children both young and old who look forward to his appearance. Owned and maintained by Sellersville Borough, the wooden caricature has been assembled and dismantled each season by our faithful Public Works Department.



*News-Herald photo—  
December 3, 1980*

But did you know that there have been several different "versions" of Santa?

It is believed that there were at least two (and possibly three) different Santas over the years.

There are no known photos of the earliest rendition (1950s and 1960s), but a few long-time residents recall him having a jolly round face with spectacles.

A later version (pictured to the left) stood twelve feet tall, had a large belly, and outstretched arms. Assembled from



*photo taken  
December 2024*

six large particle-board pieces, he may have been on display in Sellersville as early as the 1960s, but it is known fact that he was here throughout the 1970s into the mid-1980s, when he retired.

Our current version (as seen to the left) first appeared in the mid-1980s and has been on display annually for 40 years. About fifteen to 20 years ago, he got some much-needed TLC (a new coat of paint) from community volunteer Joy (Weidemoyer) Dlugosz.

However, this Santa is very tired! Time and the elements have taken its toll on the plywood, and he may not be able to withstand another year.

So . . .

Sellersville Borough is looking for some creative volunteers with ideas on how to either restore him . . . or create a brand-new Santa in time for the 2025 Christmas season. Contact the Borough office with your interest or ideas at 215-257-5075 or email [sellersville@sellersvilleboro.org](mailto:sellersville@sellersvilleboro.org).

## Fire Department Events

### Annual Easter Flower Sale

The Sellersville Fire Department Ladies' Auxiliary will be selling Easter Flowers from April 17th through April 19th from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Do not wait until the last day as these beauties sell out quickly!



### 19th Annual Spring Basket Bingo



The Sellersville Fire Department Ladies' Auxiliary presents their 19th Annual Spring Basket Bingo event at the Sellersville Firehouse, 2 North Main Street on Sunday, April 27. Doors open at 11:30 a.m., and games begin at 1:00 p.m.

Admission is \$30 in advance; \$35 at the door (if available). Tickets purchased by April 21 will be entered into a special early bird drawing. Tickets include twenty-four standard games. Extra gameplay includes grand prize games, 50/50, raffles, Chinese auction, Bingo Ball pull tabs and more. Food will be available for purchase.

For ticket information, call (215) 257-4028, ext. 6 or email directly at [LadiesAux@sellersvillefd.com](mailto:LadiesAux@sellersvillefd.com).

### Sportsman's Bingo

Sellersville Fire Department's Sportsman's Bingo will be hosted at the Sellersville Firehouse on Sunday, May 4, 2025. Doors open at 11:30 a.m.; games start at 1:00 p.m. Tickets are \$60 in advance; \$75 at the door (if available). This is a 21+ years old event. Call (215)257-4028 or check [www.sellersvillefd.com](http://www.sellersvillefd.com) for more details.

### Sellersville Carnival

The Carnival is back! Mark your calendars for a week of fun at the Sellersville Fire Department's Annual Carnival! The carnival runs from Tuesday, July 8 through Saturday, July 12. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights will be wristband nights (ride all you want for one fee). Fireworks (sponsored by A&T Chevrolet and Subaru) will be held on Friday, July 11 (rain date Saturday, July 12)



### Fall Bingo Events

The Sellersville Fire Department Ladies' Auxiliary will hold their Kitchen Bingo event on Sunday, August 3, 2025 and their Bingo After Dark: Book Lovers Edition (21+ years old event) on Saturday, September 6, 2025 at the Sellersville Firehouse. More information on the events can be found on their website and Facebook page in the future.



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## Thank You for a Successful Sesquicentennial Celebration

Sellersville Borough Council and its Sesquicentennial Committee want to thank all those individuals, businesses, and other organizations that were instrumental in helping the Borough celebrate a major milestone in our town's history – our Sesquicentennial, marking the 150th Anniversary of Sellersville's incorporation as a borough.

The year-long celebration incorporated the Sesquicentennial theme into many of the town's traditional events beginning with the annual Easter Egg Hunt in March. Following that, a car show in April and a Fire Muster in May were both held behind the Sellersville Fire Department.

Once again, for the second consecutive year, the Memorial Day Parade was viewed in Sellersville. With a contingent of our VFW post leading the way and followed by our local government officials (including State Representative Shelby Labs) riding in vintage automobiles, the parade was larger than ever this year. Bands representing Pennridge Central and South Middle Schools and Pennridge High School, fire departments, and other civic organizations participated. As is our custom, the parade ended at the monument with a service to honor our local heroes who lost their lives in defense of their country.

On July 4th, Alexander Hamilton, Ben Franklin, and other colonial personalities made their appearance at the Sellersville Museum to help with the annual National Bell Ringing event and the reading of the Declaration of Independence.

Three days later, Pennridge Community Day was truly a community affair, beginning with a 5K run through Lake Lenape Park and, as in years past, an ecumenical church service in front of the Scout Cabin. As always, the day-long event ended with fireworks.

Gallery of the Arts was bigger than ever and featured an exhibition of "Old Tyme Baseball," a double-header between the Brandywine Baseball Club and the Athletic Baseball Club of Philadelphia. This was baseball as it was originally played in the late 1800's. The annual Halloween party combined with Sellersville Fire Department's "Trunk or Treat" was a tremendous success this year.

Finally, the year was brought to a fitting close during our Winterfest celebration which was climaxed with the lighting of our seventy-six-foot Christmas tree, which is claimed to be the largest, live, lit tree in the State. The night, and the year, came to a dramatic close with fireworks.

When extending thanks to individuals and organizations there is always the risk that someone, or some group will be left out. And this is especially true when trying to thank those who contributed in many ways to such a large, year-long undertaking as this. Nevertheless, Sellersville Borough wants to recognize and thank all of those listed below. Without their assistance Sellersville's Sesquicentennial would not have been possible. We apologize in advance to anyone we inadvertently leave out. I should begin by recognizing those individuals who served on the Sesquicentennial Committee. These include Don Crouthamel, Kathy Hallman, Eileen Bradley, Brenda Detweiler, Chief Robert Schurr, James Chrastina, Swain Fenimore, Jason Fluck, Tim Hufnagle, Barry Kuhn, Paul Lorenz, Craig Wilhelm, and Doug Wilhelm.

Finally, I want to thank all those organizations and businesses which contributed in many ways in support of the Sesquicentennial. These include the following: A&T Chevrolet, Belfor USA, Café at the Mill, Cowan Associates, Inc, Eric McCrorie/Stay Connected Electric, Exida, Freed's Building N' Decorating, Gerhart Plumbing, Good Time Motorvators, Harleysville Bank, Images Salon & Spa, Victory Lodge 658 IOOF, Landis Supermarket, Lewis Dental, Little's, Lumberto's, Naceville-J&Z Inc, Nase-Craft Post 255 American Legion, Old Rockhill Tavern, Pennridge Community Center, Perkasio Electric, Perkasio Police Department, Republic Services, Ronald R. Bolig Attorney at Law, Rotary Club of Pennridge-Perkasie, Sellersville Lodge/1539 Loyal Order of the Moose, Solar Manufacturing, St. Luke's Penn Foundation, St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Suess-Gahman Funeral Home, Sellersville Fire Department, The Weimer Group, Washington House/Sellersville Theatre, Wilcox Auto Salvage.

Thanks again to all those individuals, business and organizations who did so much to help Sellersville "Sellebrate" its Sesquicentennial!





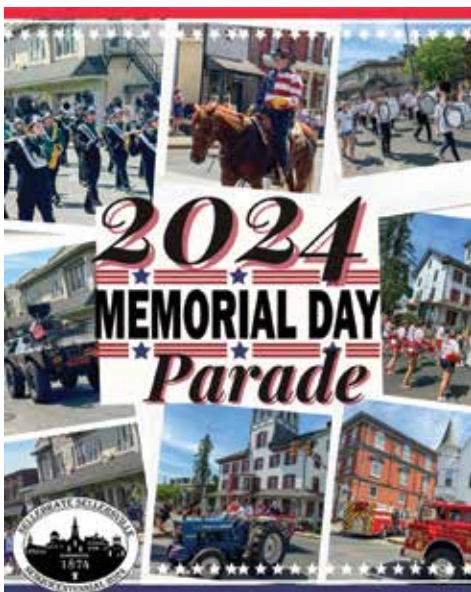


Photo by Andy Roth



## “History Mystery” Column

### The “History Mystery” Column

Now that the HOLIDAY season has wound down, it is time to reveal the answer to the Fall 2024 issue’s “History Mystery.” Some of our regular Sellersville Sleuths knew the answer immediately (see the end of this article), but we did manage to TRIP UP quite a few of our readers.



*Photo by Joseph W. Daub, circa 1899*

traveled abroad to Europe and the Holy Land — staying in the ancient city of Bethlehem on Christmas Eve, 1865. Brooks eventually returned to Philadelphia and, in 1868, wrote a 5-stanza poem about that memorable visit for the parish’s Sunday School children. In preparing for the Christmas season that same year, he asked Holy Trinity’s organist, Lewis H. Redner, to compose music to accompany the poem. The rest is history . . . “O Little Town of Bethlehem” has been an internationally famous, beloved Christmas carol ever since.

So . . . what does all of this have to do with Sellersville?? More than you know! By the 1890s, this prominent, affluent congregation had created a “Fresh Air” ministry and was searching throughout the tri-state area, hoping to find a permanent summer retreat location to call their own. They eventually selected a bucolic hilltop site overlooking the “little town” of Sellersville.

After Holy Trinity received a surprising \$15,000 memorial donation from one of its parishioners (The Reverend Dr. Leander Trowbridge Chamberlain, an esteemed retired Presbyterian minister), the church’s “Fresh Air” committee purchased over fifteen acres of partially wooded land just beyond our Borough’s limits, in neighboring West Rockhill Township. “Holiday House” (a 3-story, 35-room manor house) was constructed and opened in 1895.

For over 70 years (up until the mid-1960s), the congregation sponsored numerous two-week-long vacations throughout the summers up to the Sellersville area for over a thousand impoverished women and children who lived in some of the most crowded industrial Philadelphia neighborhoods. The manor house could accommodate up to sixty people at a time, including chaperones and staff.



*Holiday House property (from left to right): chapel, water tower, outhouse, and manor house.  
Photo by Daniel F. Zeigler, circa 1906*

Before we reveal the answer, there is a little backstory first. While Philadelphia obviously has a rich and varied history surrounding our nation’s birth in 1776, it may surprise you to learn of the city’s countless other historical and cultural threads that run deep throughout our country’s broader story — many of which are often overlooked or just plain forgotten.

One such notable anecdote is that of the Church of the Holy Trinity. Nestled on the northwest corner of Rittenhouse Square, near the intersection of Walnut and South 19th Streets, this historic Episcopal church was once under the leadership of the Reverend Phillips Brooks, who served as its second Rector (1862-1869).

In June 1865 (the immediate aftermath of the Civil War), Rev. Brooks was awarded a 12-month sabbatical in which he



*This salvaged, granite Holiday House memorial stone was recently donated to Sellersville Borough by the family of the late Norman Porter (Sellersville resident and former Joint Recreation Authority member). Inlaid above and below the visible portion of the stone, it reads: The Gift of Her Loving Husband, The Reverend L T Chamberlain*

Over the decades, several large estate donations were given to the church to help support Holiday House. These gifts enabled the parish to expand the property’s amenities: an outdoor pavilion was constructed in 1901 (which was converted into a chapel in 1903); a 2½-story caretaker’s cottage/men’s dormitory was built in 1910; and in 1937, a recreation hall (containing a stage and indoor basketball court) was erected.

Holiday House was a momentous success. As one of the nation’s longest-lasting fresh air projects of its kind, families would return repeatedly to the Sellersville area, giving city folks the chance to experience life “in the country.” In large part, Sellersville residents and businesses supported and rallied behind this philanthropic endeavor.



## “History Mystery” Column

In the 1960s, however, the Church of the Holy Trinity was experiencing a drastic decline in attendance. Thus, in 1969, the church sold the Holiday House property to the newly created West Rockhill-Sellersville Joint Recreation Commission-Authority. As part of the sale, there was a deed stipulation that the land had to remain recreational in use. This also was in keeping with the wills of those individuals who provided estate funds to support the original mission.



*The Holiday House Recreation Center's playground and basketball court, located where the original manor house once stood. In the far-left background is the former caretaker's cottage (now a private residence). Photo taken 2024.*

The Joint Recreation Authority received grants to acquire the large property and construct an Olympic-sized public swimming pool. Opening in 1970, the Holiday House Recreation Center (#801 Washington Avenue in West Rockhill Township) has since provided countless patrons another type of seasonal “holiday” each summer. Unfortunately, the original manor house had to be demolished in 1975, as was the chapel in 1986 and the recreation hall in 2022—all due to insect infestations and deteriorating conditions. Only the cottage remains as a private residence (809 Washington Avenue in West Rockhill Township).

### Now, onto this issue's “History Mystery”:

Just another day at the office. **Question:** what is a tinsmith to do when his horse refuses to be tied to a hitching post? The paper boy's loud response: “Extra! Extra! Read all about it!”

Unlike the last two “History Mystery” puzzles, this building is still standing in Sellersville today, but it will be a little tricky to find it (as well as any livery stables for a stubborn horse, for that matter). But, being an avid reader of this publication should help you decipher this riddle.

**Do you think you know the SOLUTION? Get your detective hats on and venture out into town to answer it!**

**If you think you have solved this “mystery,” call the Borough Office (215-257-5075) and tell us!**

**In the next issue of the newsletter, we will correctly identify the photograph, shed some light on the clues, and feature a new “mystery” for you to figure out.**

Just like our prior “Mystery,” our first correct response occurred only a couple of days after the newsletter was mailed out.



*Photo by Daniel F. Zeigler, circa 1906*

**Congratulations to long-time Sellersville resident, Mrs. Lucille Moore, for correctly identifying “Holiday House.” She recently told us, “My yard adjoins the Holiday House property. I moved here in 1955, when the house in the photo was still there. I did not know much about it, other than the fact that kids came up from Philadelphia to stay there.”**

**Thank you, Mrs. Moore, for being one of our devoted readers and for calling Sellersville “home!”**

## National Bell Ringing - LET FREEDOM RING: NATIONAL BELL RINGING

**July 4th at 10:30 a.m.**

For the 28th year, Sellersville Borough will be participating in the “Let Freedom Ring” National Bell Ringing Ceremony on Friday, July 4, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. The ceremony will be held in front of the Sellersville Museum, 120 East Church Street, Sellersville, PA.

The countdown for the bell ringing commemorates the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, with the ringing of bells, once for each of the original thirteen founding colonies.

We are seeking thirteen people to ring the bell during the service. Please contact the Sellersville Borough Office at 215-257-5075 or email [sellersville@sellersvilleboro.org](mailto:sellersville@sellersvilleboro.org).



## **Britt Around Town - Written by Brittany Brown of Britt Around Town**

### **Supporting Sellersville's Local Businesses: A Small Effort with a Big Impact**

Local businesses are the heart and soul of Sellersville. They provide unique products and services, create jobs, and contribute to the well-being of our community. But as times get financially challenging for everyone, many of these businesses face significant hurdles. While spending money in their establishments is always appreciated, there are many other meaningful ways to support them without reaching for your wallet.

#### **Small Actions That Make a Big Difference**

Supporting local businesses does not have to cost you a dime. Here are a few ways you can help:

**1. Leave a Positive Review**

Reviews on platforms like Google, Facebook, and Yelp are crucial for small businesses. They function as digital word-of-mouth, helping new customers decide where to shop, dine or go to for a service. A glowing review about your favorite dish, product, or experience can build credibility and help them attract new patrons. When businesses have higher ratings and detailed feedback, they are more likely to stand out in search results, making that business easier to discover.

**2. Engage with Their Social Media**

Social media platforms rely on algorithms to decide which posts are seen. By liking, commenting, and sharing a local business's posts, you boost their visibility and help them reach a larger audience. Tagging your friends or saving posts signals to platforms that the content is valuable, increasing the chances it will appear on more feeds. These small actions can result in more followers, more foot traffic, and ultimately more success for the business.

**3. Create Your Own Posts**

When you share your experiences with local businesses online, your friends and family take notice. Whether it is a photo of your morning coffee or a shout-out to a business owner who went above and beyond, these personal endorsements carry weight. Your network may be inspired to check out the business based on your recommendation.

**4. Spread the Word**

Word of mouth remains one of the most powerful marketing tools. Tell your friends, coworkers, or neighbors about your favorite Sellersville businesses. Whether it is a cozy café, a unique gift shop, or a dependable service provider, your recommendations can directly bring them new customers.

**5. Subscribe to Their Emails**

Many local businesses use email newsletters to share updates, promotions, and upcoming events. By subscribing, you stay informed and can easily pass along the information to others. Sharing these updates widens their audience and increases participation in sales, events, or specials.

**6. Support Their Events and Promotions**

Local businesses often host giveaways, fundraisers, or community events. Even if you do not participate directly, sharing these opportunities with your network amplifies their reach and encourages more community involvement. These events are often designed to bring people together and introduce new customers to their offerings.

#### **Why This Matters**

When you support local businesses, you are investing in Sellersville's future. These businesses provide jobs, support other local vendors, and create spaces for people to gather and connect. When they succeed, our whole community thrives.

#### **A Call to Action**

Let us come together as a community to support the businesses that make Sellersville special. I challenge you to pick one small action every week, write a review, share a social media post, or recommend a business to a friend. These efforts may seem minor, but when we all pitch in, the impact is monumental. By working together, we can help Sellersville's businesses not only survive but flourish.



**Cowan Associates, Inc.**  
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**WINNER** 2024



## Sellersville Historical Newspapers Update!



*Home of the Sellersville Herald, 1905-1911  
Photo taken circa 1906*



*Home of the Sellersville Herald, 1911-1943.  
Photo taken circa 1917*

In the Spring/Summer 2023 edition of the Sellersville Borough Newsletter, we announced that the Sellersville Historical and Achievement Authority, in cooperation with the Borough of Sellersville and the Perkasio Historical Society, had received a \$15,000 state grant award to microfilm and digitize Sellersville's historical weekly newspapers, The Advertiser and Sellersville Herald. We would like to provide some updates on what has been happening "behind the scenes" since then. . .

Since early Spring of 2023, a meticulous page-by-page inventory and conservation effort has been ongoing at the Sellersville Museum — this being accomplished entirely with volunteer hours. The purpose of this effort has been to:

- document major damage and request special mending instructions
- identify all missing issues and/or pages, including pages that were bound out of order
- pencil-correct issues that have incorrect (or missing) dates, page numbers, or issue numbers, as well as remove stray pencil marks made by prior users
- indicate which photographs are desirable for multiple shots (second exposures), thus providing better quality enhancement in the digital end-product

Our contracted vendor, Backstage Library Works (BSLW) of Bethlehem, PA, with headquarters located in Provo, UT, are experts at utilizing this vital information in their professional collation and filming workflows.

With most of the newspapers being on "permanent loan" to the Sellersville Museum, these preliminary, time-consuming steps have multiple goals. First, it helps to create a baseline of identifying each page at every stage of the preservation process, from start to finish (paper, microfilm, digital file, online/internet hosting). Second, it ensures that once the material is removed from its original binding, the individual pages will always be decipherable, long after this project is completed. Third, and finally, all future users of the microfilm and digital media should have confidence in the integrity of the source material.

The first batch of newspapers was delivered to BSLW in the summer of 2024. Collation and filming began in September 2024, with the first digital scanning of the microfilm occurring in October, and the various digital file formats being processed in November. Additional batches of newspapers have continued to arrive in Bethlehem, with work proceeding throughout the Winter and Spring of 2025.

The Sellersville Historical and Achievement Authority would like to extend their appreciation and gratitude for the hard work and professional quality output that the teams at BSLW have completed thus far. This massive project is a dream come true, and the Authority would like to acknowledge those at BSLW who have been directly involved:

Preservation Microfilming: Joseph Konrath (Product Manager), Connie Wesley (Project Manager), Elizabeth Negron (Darkroom Coordinator), Daniel Polachek (Material Storage and Microfilm Coordinator), Gerald Varner (Camera Operator), Molly Laros (Collation Technician), Cassandra Srager (Collation Technician), Nancy Klein (Quality Assurance Technician), Thomas Matteo (Shipping).

Digital Imaging: Kelly Barrall (Product Manager), Caitlin Costalas (Project Manager), William Jesse (Metadata Collections/Quality Assurance Coordinator), Dylan Bond (Microfilm Scanning Technician), Jason Rehm (Derivatives Technician), Melissa Perez (Derivatives Technician).

Account Management: Annemarie Hartzell, Kori Anne Stockton, Brielle Galinski





Filmer Jerry Varner at the camera, with issues of the Sellersville Herald waiting to be shot.

In March 2025, Mr. Varner will have been a camera operator at BSLW for 24 years. A genealogist since the late 1980s, Mr. Varner has years of experience working with old, brittle material and appreciates the opportunity to have a direct role in preserving historical documents and newspapers. While filming Sellersville's material, he commented that the newspapers had "some really neat pictures!" In addition to filming *The Advertiser* (1877) and the *Sellersville Herald* (1897-1943), Jerry also was the filmer for *Perkasie's* historic newspapers, a project that ran from 2014 to 2019.

Photo taken September 2024.



A "teaser" sample of the end product . . . this is what an old newspaper page looks like AFTER it has been microfilmed and digitized. This is from a Souvenir Supplement that appeared in the April 1, 1904, edition of the Sellersville Herald.

## Thank You!

This publication is made possible through the generous advertising sponsorship of the local businesses listed throughout our newsletter. We wish to encourage your patronage of these establishments; they play a substantial role in the economic vitality of our community.

Do you like fun, friendly competition?  
Are you 50+? **SAVE THESE DATES!**

The 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual  
Bucks County PA  
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June 5-12, 2025

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March 15 - May 15

Kick-off event:  
May 28 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

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[buckscounty.gov/seniorgames](http://buckscounty.gov/seniorgames)

Photography by Raitball

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# Stormwater Management

*Written by Susan Boser, Extension Educator, Renewable Natural Resources Penn State University*

## Why Should I Care About Stormwater?

We are all part of a watershed. Watersheds are land areas that drain to the nearest body of water. For example, if you are in western Pennsylvania, you are part of the Ohio River watershed, while eastern Pennsylvania lands may ultimately drain to Chesapeake Bay. Smaller local creeks and streams also eventually drain to a larger local water body.

### Flooding

When excess water has nowhere to go, flooding can impact property and cause damage to land and structures. Flooding can also be a public safety issue that affects entire communities.

### Pollution and Health Impacts

Stormwater picks up anything that is on the ground and carries it along with it. Animal waste, chemicals, pesticides, oil, and sediment – all end up in waterways and potentially in our sources of drinking water.

### Streambank Erosion

Uncontrolled stormwater can cause streambank erosion, leaving bare soil and exposing tree roots. This can lead to property damage and cause issues with streambank stability.

### Sedimentation

Erosion and runoff, can also lead to sedimentation. Sedimentation of waterways from runoff causes changes to aquatic habitats. Undesirable plant growth increases, water becomes more turbid or cloudy, which leads to disruption of aquatic ecosystems. Sedimentation also fills waterways, which can increase the flooding potential.

### Impacts to Groundwater Recharge

If stormwater is not sinking into the ground, it can affect recharge of groundwater resources. This can affect water levels in drinking water wells as well as impacting levels in surface water.

### Impacts to Recreational Opportunities

Stormwater runoff can cause polluted waterways which can lead to restrictions on boating, swimming, and fishing in recreational areas.

Making changes to how stormwater is managed can go a long way to reduce negative impacts. Even small actions by individual homeowners like using a rain barrel, choosing permeable landscaping surfaces, or installing a rain garden can make a difference. Stormwater affects everyone!



**2025 PERKIOMEN  
STREAM CLEAN-UP**

Corporate Volunteers: Friday, April 11th  
General Volunteers: Saturday, April 12th

Dive into action with the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy for our epic annual Stream Clean-up: it's the biggest single-day trash removal event in all of PA!

Check out our website to learn more & sign-up to volunteer:

[WWW.PERKIOMENWATERSHED.ORG/STREAM-CLEAN-UP](http://WWW.PERKIOMENWATERSHED.ORG/STREAM-CLEAN-UP)



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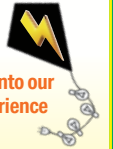
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## Senator Jarrett Coleman

***Our Office Will Be in Your Neighborhood!***

**10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**  
**March 13**  
Sellersville Pop-Up Office  
Sellersville Borough Hall  
140 E. Church St., Sellersville

**Constituent Services will include Property Tax Rent Rebate Assistance, Legislative Questions, PennDOT Paperwork, and SEPTA Card Application.**

**To reserve your spot, visit [www.senatorcoleman.com/events](http://www.senatorcoleman.com/events).**



### From the Office of State Representative Shelby Labs

As I begin my third term, it remains a tremendous honor to serve as your State Representative. This is an honor I do not take lightly, and as we begin a new legislative session, I will continue to fight to bring results back to our community. In 2024, I enjoyed celebrating the Borough's Sesquicentennial Anniversary events with all of you and I was proud to collaborate with Senator Coleman to secure a grant in the amount \$790,725 for a project to replace the roof and rehabilitate the bell tower of the Sellersville Museum.

Please remember that the federal REAL ID Act will go into effect on May 7th. While this is a federal requirement and

not mandatory to obtain in Pennsylvania, according to federal law you will need to present a federally accepted form of identification to board a commercial domestic flight or visit a secure federal building that requires ID for entry. Federally accepted forms of identification include a Pennsylvania REAL ID compliant driver's license or ID card, a U.S. passport or passport card, or a military ID.

Additionally, the application period for the state's 2024 Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is now open for eligible Pennsylvanians to begin claiming rebates on property taxes or rent paid in 2024. Income limits have increased this year to \$46,520 annually for both homeowners and renters, with the maximum rebate increased to \$1,000. Remember to exclude 50% of Social Security when determining your income. The program is open to residents aged 65 years and older; widows and widowers 50 years and older; and people with disabilities 18 years and older. Remember, you do not need to pay anyone for assistance to apply for the rebate. You can apply online at [my.path.pa.gov](http://my.path.pa.gov) or contact my office at 215-489-2126 to schedule an appointment.

Please save the date for my annual spring shredding event which will be held on May 31st from 10 am to noon at Grasse Elementary school, located at 600 Rickert Road, Sellersville (Hilltown Township.) This is a free event and a terrific opportunity to dispose of unwanted confidential documents.

My offices will continue to offer services and host events that benefit you, including SEPTA Senior Fare Card applications and renewals, PennDOT assistance, and state agency assistance. Please contact my offices with any questions regarding these or other services, as well as any additional questions about REAL ID and the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program. My office is located at the Silo Hill Professional Building, 1032 N. Easton Road in Plumstead Township and can be reached at 215-489-2126. I also offer satellite office hours at Silverdale Borough Hall, 100 W. Park Ave., Silverdale, 18962, Fridays only, from 9 a.m. to noon. I look forward to seeing you throughout our community.



## Building Permits and Zoning Applications



Did you know that when you make modifications around your property, there is a strong possibility that you need a permit from Sellersville Borough? Plumbing, mechanical, electrical, additions, demolitions, decks/patios, pools, roofing, fencing, or putting a shed on the property are some projects that require a permit, just to name a few.

Ordinary non-structural repairs such as painting, new flooring, new kitchen and bathroom cabinets, or replacement of windows or doors where the existing opening in the structure is not altered do not require a permit. If you are altering, adding to, demolishing, or making a change to the occupancy of a structure, you need to apply for a permit. This includes converting a garage into a room, moving walls, installing electrical outlets, adding new openings for windows or doors, or moving plumbing.

More information can be found on our website at <https://sellersvilleboro.org/forms.html> under Zoning: Building Permit Application and Instructions or Zoning Permit Application. If in doubt, give us a call at Borough Hall and we will help you determine if you are required to apply for a permit.

## Sellersville Borough Meetings

Have you ever wondered what is going on around Sellersville? What discussions are being held regarding improvements and revitalization? How can you be involved in your community but not be obligated to attend every meeting? All of Sellersville Borough Council and Committee meetings are open to the public. The official Meeting Schedule can be found on the Borough's website at <https://sellersvilleboro.org/calendar.html>.



## Sellersville Borough Code Ordinance Chapter 55 Brush, Grass, Weeds

### Licensing and Inspection of Residential Rental Units in Sellersville Borough

As spring approaches, we see sunshine again, buds growing on trees, flowers blooming, and yards turning green. While this is a welcome sight after enduring a dreary winter, it becomes an eyesore when grass, bushes, and trees are not maintained in the proper way.



The Sellersville Borough Code Ordinance Chapter 55 Brush, Grass, Weeds states:

"No person, firm or corporation owning any property within the Borough of Sellersville shall permit any grass or weeds or any vegetation whatsoever, not edible or planted for some useful or ornamental purpose, to grow or remain upon such premises so as to exceed a height of 12 inches or to throw off any unpleasant or noxious odor or to conceal any filthy deposit or to create or produce pollen or to go to or produce seed. Any grass, weeds or other vegetation growing upon any premises in the Borough in violation of any of the provisions of this section is hereby declared to be a nuisance and detrimental to the health, safety, and cleanliness of the inhabitants of the Borough."

If you fail to comply with this ordinance, the Borough may remove, trim or cut the grass, weeds or vegetation, and the cost to do so, along with any additional penalty and legal fees authorized by the law, may be collected by the Borough. This often happens through a lien on your property.

## Sellersville Borough Code Ordinance

All owners of property leased for residential occupancy must have their property inspected through the Sellersville Borough. The rental property must be inspected before it is rented to a new tenant or a minimum of every three years. Applications must be submitted to Sellersville Borough along with the Rental Property Inspection Fee of \$125.00 per unit. Forms and instructions can be found at <https://sellersvilleboro.org/forms.html> under "Residential Rental Dwelling Registration Form."



### SELLERSVILLE BOROUGH GENERAL INFORMATION AND BOROUGH DIRECTORY

#### Borough Hall

140 East Church Street | Sellersville, PA 18960

Phone (215) 257-5075 | Fax (215) 257-6163 | Website – [www.sellersvilleboro.org](http://www.sellersvilleboro.org)

Hours of Operation: Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

#### Sellersville Borough Council

Lois A. Dodson, *President*  
James G. Hull, *Vice President*  
Donald E. Crouthamel, *President Pro Tem*  
Kathleen J. Hallman, *Member*  
Marie G. Howells, *Member*  
David O'Donnell, *Member*  
Lynne A. Saylor, *Member*

#### Sellersville Mayor

Thomas C. Hufnagle, *Mayor*

#### Borough Staff

Eileen M. Bradley, *Borough Manager*  
Brenda Detweiler, *Assistant to the Manager*  
Cheryl Zischang, *Treasurer/Utilities Manager/Payroll Administrator*  
Alivia Tremmel, *Administrative Clerk*  
Regina Stevenson, *Finance*  
Michael Zischang, *Superintendent*  
Conner Pfaff, *Public Works*  
Dave McCallister, *Public Works*  
Robert Schurr, *Chief of Police*  
Vicki Kushto, *Esquire, Borough Solicitor*  
Cowan Associates, Inc., *Borough Engineer*  
Sue A. Snyder, *Real Estate Tax Collector*  
David Zipf, *Borough Planner, Bucks County Planning Commission*  
Craig Wilhelm, *Emergency Management Coordinator*

## Parks and Recreation Department



### Easter Egg Hunt

Come join the Easter Bunny and the Sellersville Parks & Recreation Board for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 19th at B. Earl Druckenmiller Playground, 131 Maple Avenue, Sellersville. The age categories will be 0-2 years, 3-4 years, 5-7 years, and 8-10 years. Chocolate bunnies will be distributed, and prizes will be awarded for specially marked eggs.

This event will be held rain or shine. In the event of rain, the Easter Bunny will distribute the eggs at the Public Works Building area.

### "Sellebrate Sellersville" Community Clean-Up Day

Sellersville Parks and Recreation Board is hosting their 5th Annual "Sellebrate" Community Clean-Up Day. Keep an eye out on our website for the date. Volunteers will meet at 9:00 a.m. at the American Legion Post #255, 75 North Main Street, Sellersville, and spread out to areas in need of clean up, completing the clean up by 12:00 p.m. Volunteers will be provided with trash bags, gloves, and safety vests. Please contact the Sellersville Borough at (215) 257-5075 to pre-register to be a part of this event to help beautify our town.



### Pavilion Rental



Do you have a party or picnic that you'd like to host but don't have the room? You can rent the Pavilion at B. Earl Druckenmiller Playground on Maple Avenue, giving you exclusive use of the pavilion, tables, restrooms facilities, and recreation facilities. The rental cost is only \$10. Your request to reserve the facility must be made fifteen days in advance and be accompanied with an escrow check of \$100 and a certificate of insurance in Comprehensive General Liability for \$1,000,000 or better, naming Sellersville Borough as Certificate Holder and Additional Insured. The escrow check will be returned if the grounds are thoroughly cleaned and undamaged following an inspection by Borough employees.

## Junior Council Person Program

Do you have a Junior or Senior high school student interested in participating in local government? Sellersville Borough Council is seeking Junior Council Persons to serve as a link between the Borough and their peers at school. The Junior Council Person Program provides youth with an opportunity to engage in Borough government and develop leadership skills. It also allows the Borough Council Members to serve as mentors to students who will be the future leaders in their communities.

### **Guidelines:**

- Applicants must be residents of Sellersville Borough.
- Applicants must be Junior or Senior high school students.
- Applicants must be willing to serve a one (1) year term to coincide with the duration of the school year.
- Applicants should be able to attend all Council meetings and participate in Community events.
- Applicants must submit a written statement of interest in being appointed as a Junior Council Person to the Borough Manager.
- Junior Council Persons cannot vote or participate in Executive Sessions.
- Junior Council Persons must observe Borough Council meeting rules.
- Junior Council Persons are encouraged to ask questions, provide comments, and make reports.



## Tax Collector Hours for 2025

In-Person Real Estate Tax collection will take place at the Borough Office, 140 East Church Street, Sellersville on the following dates from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.:



- |                            |                             |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Thursday, April 3, 2025  | • Wednesday, April 23, 2025 | • Wednesday, April 30, 2025 |
| • Thursday, April 10, 2025 | • Thursday, April 24, 2025  | • Thursday, June 19, 2025   |
| • Thursday, April 17, 2025 | • Monday, April 28, 2025    |                             |
| • Tuesday, April 22, 2025  | • Tuesday, April 29, 2025   |                             |

If you have any questions on your real estate taxes, please contact Tax Collector Sue Snyder at (215) 257-9007, or email SellersvilleTax@gmail.com. Payments can be mailed directly to Sue A. Snyder, Tax Collector, P.O. Box 435, Sellersville, PA 18960.



## Sellersville Museum Events

The members of the Sellersville Historical and Achievement Authority are pleased to announce the Spring/Summer 2025 Events being held at the Sellersville Museum, 120 East Church Street, Sellersville from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.:

- January 11, January 12, January 18, January 19 – Pennridge High School Student Art
- February 8 and February 9 – Closed
- March 8 and March 9 – Legos
- April 12 and April 13 – Comic Books
- May 10 and May 11 – Dolls
- June 14 and June 15 – To be Determined
- Thursday, July 4 at 10:30 a.m. – National Bell Ringing Ceremony
- July 12 and July 13 – To be Determined
- August 9 and August 10 – To be Determined

All Museum events are free, although your generous donations are graciously welcome! Information on the museum can be found at <https://sellersvillemuseum.org/> or their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SellersvilleMuseum>

The Sellersville Historical and Achievement Authority's mission statement is "The Sellersville Historical and Achievement Authority, a not-for-profit organization, is a local government-appointed Board, committed to the presentation and interpretation of the history of Sellersville and the surrounding area. The Authority is dedicated to community enrichment through the presentation of exhibits, special events, demonstrations, and participatory programs. Its objective is to support both an understanding of the past and a vision for the future. One way this is achieved is by the management of the Sellersville Museum."

The Sellersville Museum is staffed entirely by volunteers, dedicated to preserving and honoring the memory of local residents and businesses. If you would like to become involved with volunteering at the Museum, please email [volunteer@sellersvillemuseum.org](mailto:volunteer@sellersvillemuseum.org).



## Letter from Perkasio Police



Our grant-funded Crime Victims Advocate Program has been busy with a multitude of projects including most recently a program to assist the homeless which was implemented after encounters with individuals experiencing homelessness in our community. Concerned Perkasio Police officers came to the Community Relations Specialist, Chris Doheny, with the idea of obtaining grab bags with non-perishable foods and essential supplies that can be utilized for individuals in need. Chris quickly took over the project and started a new partnership with Revivals Outreach Center in Perkasio.

Through this partnership, the department was able to immediately gain access to eighteen grab bags full of snack foods, hygiene items, hats and gloves, and other useful items for those experiencing homelessness. Local homeless shelter and housing organization resource lists were added to each bag to allow for quick and easy access to both immediate and long-term resources and assistance.

The Perkasio Police Department will continue to partner with Revivals to establish a food and essential items donation drive to work towards the goal of supplying grab bags not just for Perkasio Police, but also all the other Upper Bucks police departments.

As front-line workers, Perkasio Police are in a unique position to not only identify those who are struggling in our community but also provide them with access to short-term relief and housing resources. Partnered with the Bucks County Co-Responder and Victim Service programs, the Police Department continues to seek comprehensive social service delivery for the betterment of all members of our community, regardless of their housing status.

This month, the Community Relations Specialist also participated in a "Train the Trainer" event for Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR). This evidence-based training is designed to provide essential skills to ordinary citizens to identify people experiencing suicidal thoughts, persuade them to get help, and refer them to the appropriate professional intervention service. As a certified trainer, the Community Relations Specialist will be partnering with local businesses, churches, schools, and other community organizations to provide QPR training free of charge. This training will help lead to a community that not only recognizes those who need assistance but also lead them to the assistance that they need.

As rates of suicide continue to rise across the country, the Perkasio Police Department considers these types of interventions a critical piece of ensuring a healthy and safe community. It is our hope that QPR, alongside our Crisis trained officers and other crisis intervention services, can help save lives and limit further tragedies.

## Facebook Page



Like and follow us at [www.facebook.com/Sellersville-Borough-100252518965119/](https://www.facebook.com/Sellersville-Borough-100252518965119/) to find out exciting things going on in your community. We often post information on what our local businesses and organizations are up to, upcoming events that families can participate in, and news and photos from community happenings.

Don't have a Facebook account? You can still see our posts! Find them on the Sellersville Borough homepage under the "Follow Us" feature. You can easily scroll through the area to see what has been posted on our Facebook page.

# Residential Waste and Recycling

## Residential Waste

Sellersville residents are provided twice-a-week waste pickup, once-a-week recyclables pickup on the second scheduled pickup of the week. Collection begins at 6:00 a.m. You may place your refuse at curbside no earlier than 6:00 p.m. the evening before your scheduled collection day. Emptied refuse containers must be removed from collection points before 6:00 p.m., the day of collection.



Household waste containers should be between 20 and 35 gallons and may not exceed fifty pounds in weight when loaded. Multiple containers may be placed out on pickup day. Use only sturdy plastic or metal containers with handles and detachable lids. Do not use cardboard boxes for trash containers, as they can become damp and fall apart at the curb.

Small amounts of construction debris from homes may be placed with household waste. Size and preparation limits still apply. Any wood should be bundled (less than 4 feet in length) with nails removed. For large renovations, building contractors should contact Republic Services for the removal of debris via commercial collections services at (610) 275-6767.

Broken glass hidden in trash containers is a constant danger to trash collectors. Glass windows or doors must be taped across all areas and on both sides. Please do not put glass or long metal items in plastic bags.

Unacceptable items: Household hazardous waste such as gasoline, waste oil, non-latex paints, varnish, thinners, pesticides, drain cleaner, pool chemicals, bottled gas, car or truck parts and tires, batteries, or televisions. All paint containers must be completely dry with lids removed.

## Curbside Recycling

Recycling is collected on the second scheduled pick-up day of the week only. Recyclables should be placed in a recycle bin or a container clearly marked "Recyclables." Do not use cardboard boxes for recyclables containers. They can become damp and fall apart at the curb. Materials and bundles should be tied securely and no longer than four feet. One person must easily manage bundles.

### Accepted Items:

- Paper – Newspaper, magazines, phone books, catalogs, cracker and cereal boxes, cardboard (flattened)
- Glass – Bottles and jars
- Metal – food and beverage cans
- Plastics – Any household plastic bottles or containers with numbers 1 through 7 stamped on bottom
- Please rinse items before placing them in the bin. Lids are acceptable for recycling

### Unacceptable Items:

- Motor Oil Containers
- Plastic Grocery Bags
- Styrofoam
- Window Glass or Drinking Glasses
- Ceramics and Dinner Plates
- Aluminum Foil or Foil Pans

## Sharps Disposal

Needles from home medical use must be disposed of properly. Containers must be puncture proof. If a "SHARPS" container is not available, laundry detergent bottles work well. Information is available from medical providers or online at [www.SafeNeedleDisposal.org](http://www.SafeNeedleDisposal.org)

## Holidays

If your normal trash collection day falls on a holiday, it will be picked up on the next scheduled collection day. Recycling will be picked up the next week.

Holidays include: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Day.

## Trash Service During the Holidays

Republic Services will be modifying their trash and recycling pickup schedule for the 2025 holidays.

**REPUBLIC SERVICES**  
**HOLIDAY TRASH PICK UP**

### Memorial Day, Monday, May 26, 2025:

If your normal trash pickup days are Monday and Thursday, your trash will be picked up on Tuesday, May 27 and trash/recycling picked up on Friday, May 30

If your normal trash pickup days are Tuesday and Friday, your trash will be picked up on Wednesday, May 28 and trash/recycling picked up on Saturday, May 31



### July 4, 2025:

If your normal trash pickup day is on Fridays, your trash/recycling will be picked up on Saturday, July 5.





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