



MINERS' JOURNAL

Official Publication



Borough of Minersville

www.minersvillepa.gov

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BOROUGH OF MINERSVILLE, PA

August 2024

Following Police Service Since 1977, Michael Combs Retires

Sergeant Jeff Bowers Named Minersville Police Chief

The May issue of *Miners' Journal* contained the farewell announcement by Minersville Police Chief Michael Combs to the residents of the Borough. Chief Combs' well-deserved retirement follows a 47 year career in law enforcement. Minersville police sergeant Jeffrey Bowers was promoted to Chief of Police, making a smooth transition upon Combs' departure.



Jeffrey Bowers
Minersville Police Chief

Meet the new Chief

The following was written by Chief Bowers, detailing his background, his love for this community, and his expectations for the future.

I was born and raised in Pottsville, attended the Pottsville Area School District, and graduated from there in 1994. While attending Pottsville High School, I had a criminal justice class that really piqued my interest and guided me into that field as I began my career.

I attended the Pennsylvania State University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Administration of Justice upon graduation in 1999. I then entered the police academy, graduating in 2001. In May of 2001, I joined the Minersville Police Department as a patrol officer.

Throughout the past twenty-plus years, I have had

many memorable and rewarding moments including several commendations for Meritorious Service for my relentless efforts to combat drug trafficking in Minersville Borough. I have also received a Life Saving commendation for rescuing an elderly female, who suffered from Alzheimer's Disease, from a burning building.

Over those past 23 years, I have taken some extremely dangerous individuals off the street and locked them up for a long time. Drug dealers, child predators and violent criminals have no place in our community, and I will make sure they are not.

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Spirit Day Is Back!

The Minersville Area Lions Club is happy to announce that we will be hosting Spirit Day this year and hope to see everyone there for a day of community celebration and fun!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, Sept. 15 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The fun and entertainment will take place on North Street, between 2nd and 4th streets. Family and friends can enjoy fun, live music, games, entertainment, vendors, food, and community togetherness.

For more information or to be part of this event, please email minersvillespiritday@yahoo.com.

SUPPORT YOUR LIBRARY
 The Minersville Public Library needs your help to maintain its services to the community. *See page 3.*

COMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, SEPT. 15 – Minersville's Spirit Day will be celebrated for the 27th time on North Street, between Second and Fourth, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCT. 27 – Minersville Halloween Parade steps off at 6:30 p.m. (Rain date is Oct. 29)

THURSDAY, OCT. 31 – Trick or Treat, 6 to 8 p.m. (Rain date is Nov. 1)

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2024 BOROUGH OFFICIALS

2 East Sunbury Street
 Minersville, PA 17954 • Ph: 570-544-2149
 Hours: Mon.-Thurs., 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Fri., 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
www.minersvillepa.gov

OFFICIALS

Mayor..... Sean Palmer
 Chief of Police Michael Combs
 President of Council Ian Mahal
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 Secretary Gloria Capik
 Treasurer..... Megan Paul
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BOROUGH OFFICE

Megan Paul, Office Manager
 Leigh Ann Cielinski • Jennifer Hossler

Minersville Borough Council meets the First and Second Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Water Authority Building on North Delaware Avenue. Both meetings are open to the public. A Work Session takes place on the First Tuesday. The Business Meeting is then held on the Second Tuesday.

2024 OFFICIAL HOLIDAY HOURS

Minersville Borough offices will be closed in 2024 in observance of the stated holidays - Presidents Day, Feb. 19; Good Friday (half day, close at 11 a.m.), March 29; Memorial Day, May 27; Independence Day, July 4; Labor Day, Sept. 2; Columbus Day, Oct. 14; Veterans Day, Nov. 11; Thanksgiving and day after, Nov. 28 and 29; Christmas, Dec. 24 (half day, close at 11 a.m.) and Dec. 25; New Year's, Dec. 31 (half day, close at 11 a.m.), Jan. 1, 2025.

Police Chief Jeff Bowers

- Continued from Page 1

During my career in Minersville, I have really developed a love for the community, and I am proud to serve the residents of Minersville. Our residents have a deep sense of pride in their community, Under my leadership, the Minersville Police Department will continue to protect and serve the community and keep the quality of life in Minersville at an elevated level.

It is no secret that the Minersville Police Department has adopted a zero-tolerance policy when it comes to drug trafficking. Although my position in the department has changed, my mission to eradicate drug dealers from poisoning our community has not. You can expect to see the same level of commitment from me that you have become accustomed to.

Like my predecessor, you can expect to see me at community events, and we are planning some additional events. I passionately believe that a police department can only be effective if it is rooted deep in the community.

We have been extremely fortunate to receive unwavering support from our residents. Moving forward, I will maintain the open-door policy we have had for many years. If a citizen has a concern, we want them to come to us for help. Even if it is not necessarily police related, my officers and I will do everything we can to help.

Lastly, but most importantly since being appointed, I have received an outpouring of congratulations and support from the community. This deeply humbles me, and I look forward to serving the residents of Minersville.

- Jeffrey Bowers, Minersville Police Chief

MINERSVILLE POLICE

EMERGENCY 9-1-1

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Minersville Public Library Fundraising Appeal

Programs and Services Continue With Your Help

From a humble beginning some 90+ years ago, the Minersville Public Library has grown to become a resource for residents of Minersville and the surrounding area. Along with a great selection of best-selling books, we offer computer resources for working on a school project, doing your taxes, looking for a job, or researching your very own family tree.

LIBRARY HOURS	
SUNDAY	Closed
MONDAY	Closed
TUESDAY	12 noon-7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY	12 noon-5 p.m.
THURSDAY	12 noon-7 p.m.
FRIDAY	12 noon-5 p.m.
SATURDAY	10 a.m.-4 p.m.

There is something for everyone at the Library. We hope you have experienced the options available to you; but, if not, please plan to visit us soon!

The Library conducts Storytime for children throughout

the year and two reading programs during the summer. Children who read at least 10 books will be invited to our "Make Your Own Ice Cream Party." We also offer community service opportunities for Minersville Area students looking to fulfill those obligations.

The Library would like to expand its program offerings for adults and seniors. We welcome your suggestions. If there is sufficient interest, we could offer programs on basic computer skills, beginners crochet, how to begin your family tree research, writing a resume, basic self-defense for women, etc.

Fundraisers and Fund Drive make it work

Numerous fundraisers are held throughout the year to help keep our doors open and expand services and programming.

The annual Shop & Drop Christmas Basket Auction is always popular and will return this year. Look for more exciting fundraising as we welcome all back to the Library.

Funding support by the public and our patrons is needed in order to continue to offer free participation programs for children and adults. Upcoming activities include our 2nd annual Junior Rock Hound Day (ages



SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING - 220 S. FOURTH ST.

5 through 15) scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 14 and a visit by Peggy Hentz and friends from Red Creek Wildlife later in the fall.

Please send a donation today

Your library can continue to maintain services and expand programs only through your help. State funding has not kept up with inflation and the basic cost of operations. Our annual expenses are approximately \$72,800. We receive a little more than \$26,000 from the state and local governments. Only through our annual Fund Drive appeal can the Minersville Public Library continue operations.

We are asking for your tax-deductible donation and on-going support to continue to meet the needs of our community. Please consider a donation in whatever amount you can afford. Donations in memory of a loved one are also welcome at any time. If making a donation in someone's memory, please include the name of the person being memorialized, a family member to be notified if you so choose, and your name and address.

Complete and clip the donation form printed here and mail to the Minersville Public Library, 220 S. 4th St., Minersville, PA 17954. A pre-addressed envelope has been inserted with this newsletter.

Follow us on Facebook for all the latest library news and fundraising opportunities!

2024 FUND DRIVE | MINERSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

\$10 \$15 \$20 \$ _____

What programs (for children, teens, adults, and seniors) would you like to see at the Library?

**Thank You
For Your
Support**

- Please complete and mail with supplied envelope inside this newsletter -

Minersville Area Lions Club – We Serve!

Fireworks Show & Independence Day Celebration

The Minersville Area Lions Club put up yet again another fabulous firework display for the 71st Independence Day celebration in the Borough. It was an evening filled with fun, food, and fireworks.



What made it even more special was that our very own Minersville Little League All Star team kicked off the day when they faced the Pottsville All Stars. Although our boys didn't come out on top, they had a lot of support from our community.

The Minersville Lions would like to thank all the vendors and everyone who attended. Most of all, the Lions would like to thank all of the donors. These shows would not be possible if it wasn't for the generosity of our local businesses, organizations, and private donors. The thank you list is very long, but if you visit the Minersville Lions Club Facebook page, an official thank you is posted with everyone who donated to the event. Again, thank you everyone and see you next year.



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11-405-1-405-2

PREPLAN ONLINE: WWW.SCHUYLKILLCOUNTYCREMATION.COM

Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

Borough Office holidays

The Minersville Borough offices and employee operations will be closed in observance of the following holidays for the balance of 2024: Monday, Sept. 2 (Labor Day); Monday, Oct. 14 (Columbus Day); Monday, Nov. 11 (Veterans Day); Thursday and Friday, Nov. 28-29 (Thanksgiving); Tuesday, Dec. 24 (half day, close at 11 a.m.) and Wednesday, Dec. 25 (Christmas); Tuesday, Dec. 31 (half day, close at 11 a.m.) and New Year's Day on Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2025.

Emergency contact info needed

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mandates that all municipal authorities maintain an emergency contact list. Customers of the Minersville Municipal Water Authority must provide a preferred notification means when the authority is experiencing a "Tier 1" emergency, typically a pressure loss in the system, a boil advisory, chemical accident or similar event that necessitates quick notification to the public. This contact information will only be used in the event of such an emergency.

Minersville Municipal Water Authority Emergency Notification By Phone

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Clip and Mail to:
Minersville Municipal Water Authority,
2 E. Sunbury Street, Minersville, PA 17954

Customers must choose their preferred method of contact from the following:

- Phone Method - Complete the form, shown above, and mail it to the Borough Office, 2 E. Sunbury Street, Minersville PA 17954; or,
- E-mail Method - Send an e-mail with your name and address to minerswateremergency@minersvillepa.gov Also, add this address to your contact list so you are sure to receive the notifications.

Note: This is a new email address.

Contact the Minersville Municipal Water Authority office at 570-544-2200 during office hours Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Friday, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB...

www.MinersvillePa.gov

Fall cleanup accepts large and small

The Schuylkill County Office of Solid Waste & Recycling will hold its annual Fall Cleanup & Recycling Event, starting September 2 and ending September 14, with the cooperation of numerous municipalities.

Unwanted tires, appliances, scrap metal and other bulky items may be taken to any of the designated collection sites for proper disposal. Minersville's collection will be set up at the Borough's North Delaware Avenue Compost area.

Dates and times of this and other drop-off locations are yet to be finalized and announced. Schuylkill County has not allowed electronics in its recycling effort for the past seven years.

2023 Water Quality Report

Customers of the Minersville Municipal Water Authority can read and download the annual drinking water quality reports for the past 10 years from the Borough website - www.minersvillepa.gov. The most recent 2023 report is now available.

Landlords must register

The Residential Rental Ordinance requires landlords to register their properties with the Borough yearly, providing insurance information, and designating a property management agent if the landlord lives outside a 10-mile air radius of the Borough.

The ordinance calls for the inspection of each unit

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Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

every 2 years and re-inspection prior to any change of occupancy. A one-time fee is required for each occupant of a rental property for the length of tenancy.

Failure for either the landlord or occupants to abide by this new ordinance will result in citations being issued by the Borough. Rental inspection costs \$50 for the first unit plus \$20 for each additional unit in the building. Reinspection costs \$30. Rental registration costs \$10 per year.

The occupancy permit costs \$10 per person with the fee waived for persons age 65 and older.

Trash, recycling and yardwaste

The N. Delaware Ave. complex is available for disposal of compostable (vegetative) yardwaste only. Recycling drop-off is no longer available. Access is strictly for residential properties by using a Borough-issued card to activate the gate. Facility hours are 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. spring through fall.

This complex is under 24/7 high-definition video surveillance. Ashes and salt located at the site are for Borough use only. Anyone caught dumping; vandalizing; trespassing and/or stealing within the complex will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Recyclable items are now strictly by curbside pick-up as a means of disposal. A limited number of blue bins are available at the Borough Office (one per household). If you need more than one, you can use any plastic container; but, it must have holes for

water drainage and be 25 gallons or less (a laundry basket works best).

The entire Borough - both North Side and South Side, denoted by Sunbury Street - receives sanitation services every Tuesday. All waste should be placed curbside between 6 p.m. and midnight the night before pick-up. Garbage containers must be removed from the sidewalk area after sanitation collection is completed.

The collector will pick up a limit of five 30-gallon bags - each not exceeding 40 lbs. for a maximum 200 lbs. per location. All containers must be secured and bags properly tied.

One large item is allowed per week along with your trash. Any mattress placed curbside for pickup must be wrapped in plastic. No appliances (washers, refrigerator, stove, sinks, etc.) or Freon-bearing appliances will be collected.

Recyclable materials must not be placed in the trash. Violators may be prosecuted as per Borough ordinance.

Approved recyclables will be collected curbside per the following schedule - North Side on the first and third Wednesday each month; South Side on the second and fourth Wednesday each month. There is no collection when there is a fifth Wednesday.

Additional info for both recycling and compost regulations can be found on the Borough website - www.minersvillepa.gov - select the "services" tab.



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Lots Happening at the Minersville Public Library

Your Minersville Public Library is much, much more than a collection of books. We have six computers available for community patrons to use. Or bring your own devices because we offer free WIFI and provide the ability for people to print from their cell phones, or tablets. Need help? Our dedicated staff is available to help with any issue.

National Voter Registration Day - a non-partisan event - is Tuesday, Sept. 17. Your Library is a participating partner. Residents can register to vote, check their current registration, and make changes in time for the November election.



Books and so much more

In addition to shelves and shelves of books from the most popular authors, your Minersville Library

has a large collection of DVDs that can be borrowed. There is a great children's section of books and DVDs. Storytime, when children are read a book and then have a craft session afterward, is enjoyed on Thursdays at 1:30 p.m.

On Thursday, Aug. 22, Smokey the Bear will make an appearance to celebrate his 80th birthday. Children who are signed-up will get to meet Smokey and have some birthday cake. This event will be held at the Childcare Center located next to the library.

Teen/adult sewing will be starting shortly where you will be taught sewing machine and sewing basics. Due to limited equipment, the first class is already at capacity; but, we will be adding another class in the near future.

Special events coming up

The Library's second annual Junior Rock Hound event - for ages five through 15 years old - will be held on Saturday, Sept. 7 beginning at 11 a.m. Because this is an outside activity, a rain date has been set for the following Saturday, Sept. 14.



Limited spots are available for this event. Pre-registration is required by calling the Library at 570-544-5196 or stopping in. You must provide your name, child/children's names and ages. In the event you are unable to attend, please let us know because we anticipate a waiting list.

This fall we will be scheduling a visit from Red Creek Wildlife. Peggy Hentz will talk about the animals she has rehabilitated and returned to the wild plus those that are permanent residents of Red Creek due to injuries. This will be free to the public. Donations to Red Creek will be greatly appreciated.

Activities continue to be planned; so, call or visit the Library to stay up-to-date on the latest news and future plans. General information and services can be found on our website - www.minersvillelibrary.org. Follow plans and happenings via Facebook at **Minersville Public Library Association**.

The Library's annual fund drive is happening now. The programs listed above cannot happen without the financial help from residents and businesses. See Page 3 of this newsletter for additional information and please contribute at whatever level you are able. A pre-addressed return envelope has been inserted for your convenience.



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History of Minersville High School Football

Part 5 In Our Series; Compiled and Written by Shane Schafer

1973 to 1990 Successes, Losses; 4 Coaching Changes

Following the 1972 season, Minersville again searched for a head coach after Charles Zontanos left to take a coaching opportunity in Arizona. Minersville has struggled to find a long-term coach since Paul Elberti resigned in 1942 after coaching 14 seasons. Since Elberti, the team has had eight coaches in thirty years.

Assistant Coach Brennan chosen

Minersville hired from within, choosing assistant coach Walter Brennan. Brennan was a Cass Township grad, having played on the Condor's 1957 undefeated, untied, and unscored-upon team. Before coming to Minersville in 1972, he coached Williams Valley from 1969 to 1971 with a record of 21-6-2. Brennan coached the Battlin' Miners for three seasons. His short tenure could be considered one of the most successful stretches in school history. He compiled a 25-7-1 record and won an Eastern Conference Class B Championship and two Schuylkill League titles.

Brennan's inaugural season in 1973 was an indication of success to come. He guided the team to an 8-3 record and just missed out on Eastern Conference playoffs, finishing second in the Southern Division behind Bloomsburg. While deprived of the main prize, the team was crowned champions of the Schuylkill Football League. With a 7-1 league record, the Battlin' Miners beat out Blue Mountain (6-3), Tamaqua (5-1-1), and Schuylkill Haven (5-2) for the title.

In 1974, Minersville swapped titles. While being edged out by North Schuylkill for the county title, they won the Eastern Conference Southern Division and hosted Lackawanna Trail for the Class B Championship. Before the game, Lackawanna Trail's coach Rich Ronchi told reporters he was worried about the Miners' size, speed, and depth.

He had reason to be worried. Led by the three-headed rushing attack of Ed Skibieli, Mike Pavelko, and Jay Rinaldo, Minersville set the tone early. On their opening drive, the Battlin' Miners went 59 yards on 17 plays, culminating in a Pavelko score. Minersville ran Lackawanna Trail off the field, racking up 312 yards rushing and beating them 42-6, 16 more points than the Lions gave up all season.

Brennan said, "... We wanted to take the pressure off Pavelko, but when we gave him the ball he just ran over people. Our line play was outstanding. They just blew their people out of there." Minersville became the first team to win two Class B Eastern Conference titles.

Minersville followed their championship campaign with another successful season in 1975. Like in 1973, the Miners were just edged out for Eastern Conference playoffs after losing to Danville in the final game of the regular season. But again, Minersville won the Schuylkill Football League title with an undefeated 8-0-1 league record.



Brennan & 1973 Team Proclaim They're No. 1

After his outstanding three-year run, Brennan was poached by a New Jersey school like Jack Lewis was twenty-three years earlier. In April 1976, Brennan announced he had taken the coaching job at Wildwood High School. The Wildwood Warriors had posted 1-8 records in three consecutive seasons. Brennan said, "I was looking for a challenge, and this seems to be the

- Continued on Page 10



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History of Minersville High School Football

- Continued from Page 9

biggest one around.” He was fired after two seasons with a 3-13 record.

New coach in 1976; then tragedy

Frank Kennedy was chosen to replace Brennan. Kennedy was the defensive coordinator for North Plainfield (NJ) High School and coached there from 1956 to 1968. From 1968 to 1974, he coached at Ithaca College. In 1974, he was the chairman of health and physical education at Watchung Regional High School (NJ), coaching freshman football there.

Kennedy had his work cut out for him. Minersville graduated 26 seniors from last season’s championship team. The squad struggled in his first season, going 2-9. Early in the 1977 season, Kennedy was lost in a freak accident. While playing Schuylkill Haven, he was taken out on the sidelines when a group of players were thrown into him. He suffered a crushed tibia.

For the second time in ten years, Minersville was searching for a head coach mid-season. The school board chose assistant coach Fred Lutkus. A Blue Mountain grad, Lutkus played football at Millersville University and semi-pro with the Schuylkill County Coal Crackers. Lutkus had been an assistant coach since 1969 and served under four head coaches. He became Minersville’s fourth and final head coach of the decade.

After dropping their first two games of the season

under Kennedy, the Battlin’ Miners responded well to Lutkus’ coaching and salvaged the season. He won his first game against Shenandoah, 14-0. The team had an up-and-down season but finished 4-6-1, but 4-4-1 under Lutkus.

In 1978, the school board decided to retain Lutkus as coach. Kennedy hadn’t fully recovered from his injury, but the team found success under Lutkus. Minersville had a decent 1978 season, going 5-6. In 1979, Minersville won the Eastern Conference Class B Southern Division Section 3 title but fell to Schuylkill Haven in the first round of playoffs. After a disappointing 3-8 1980 season, the school board decided not to rehire Lutkus. School Board President Harold Campion cited Lutkus’ 21-21 record and said, “...the fans demand better teams.”

Minersville Police Chief takes the helm

Lutkus’ replacement was Minersville Police Chief Joe Willinsky. “The Chief” had been coaching midget football in Minersville for 11 years, during which his teams won seven championships. Willinsky was a 1958 Minersville grad before playing at Indiana University. He also played pro football with the Providence Steamrollers, Philadelphia Bulldogs, and the Boston Patriots.

The 1982 team stormed through their schedule, finishing the regular season 10-1. Minersville opened the Eastern Conference playoffs on the road by dominating the defending Class C Champions Central Columbia, 20-7. Dan Lipsett ran all over the Blue Jays, rushing for 163 yards on 19 carries and two touchdowns. Minersville’s punishing defense held them to 6 total yards of offense.

Minersville then met rival Schuylkill Haven for the championship. During the regular season, the Miners eeked out a 9-6 win on Haven’s Rotary Field. In the title game, the Miners were down 14-0, but stormed back to make it 14-12 late in the fourth quarter. A Hurricane defender broke up the pass for the 2-point conversion and Minersville came up short against Schuylkill Haven in the playoffs for the second time in four years.

Dan Lipsett was integral to Minersville’s success during Willinsky’s early seasons. Regarded as one of the best running backs the school has ever produced, he rushed for 3,823 yards and 40 touchdowns in his 3-year varsity career from 1981 to 1983. Lipsett held every major rushing record at Minersville for forty years until being dethroned by Luke Stevenosky in 2023. Lipsett was named to numerous area all-star teams, including an honorable mention to the Associated Press All-State team. He was also Schuylkill County’s 1984 Scholar-Athlete and continued his football career at Rutgers University.

Willinsky’s players also found success off the field. From 1982 to 1984, Joseph Kostyal and Mark Moerder, along with Lipsett, were selected as Schuylkill County Scholar-Athletes. Minersville was the first school in the county to have three consecutive players chosen Scholar-Athletes. This feat was only repeated again

GABRIEL Chamber Ensemble *Our 35th Year*
2024-2025 Season

Opening Concert – Sunday, Oct. 6

Turina “La Oración del Torero”
Villa-Lobos String Quartet No. 5
Reynaldo Hahn Piano Quintet in F# minor



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Sr. Citizens \$20
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*Concerts held at Jerusalem Lutheran Church
252 Dock St., Schuylkill Haven at 3 p.m.*

For more information, visit www.gabrielensemble.org;
email gce@gabrielensemble.org; or call 570-943-2558

 Gabriel Chamber Ensemble

History of Minersville High School Football

since by Pottsville from 2005 to 2007.

After coming up short in their previous two playoff runs, Minersville finally won the Eastern Conference Class C Championship in 1984. As in 1982, the Battlin' Miners traveled to Bloomsburg and blanked Central Columbia, 12-0, to face their long-time rival Shenandoah in the championship.

Minersville beat the Blue Devils on their home turf in the regular season, 12-0. The Battlin' Miners would now host Shenandoah at Veterans Memorial Stadium for the title. Unlike previous championship teams at Minersville, this squad was known for being small and fast, while Shenandoah was physically larger.

Led by the trio of backs, Matt Drenzo, Gary Ryan, and Billy Simms, the Miners ran over Shenandoah's "hit squad" defense. The Miners held a Devil offense that averaged 23.5 points a game to single digits. Minersville won 25-7; their fans celebrated the school's fourth Eastern Conference title by tearing down the goalposts. Parts of the goalpost ended up downtown, five blocks away from the stadium.



Minersville Celebrates Its Championship

Better competition wanted; then reversal

After winning the Class C title, Willinsky announced that Minersville would voluntarily move to Class B to face tougher competition. Asked why, he stated, "Is dominating Class C a challenge? We feel playing B is a challenge... We've looked at what we've done over the last four years and we think at this point it's a good idea to move up." He wasn't wrong; over the past years his teams compiled a 23-6 record against Class C opponents and 10-5-1 against B teams.

The 1985 season was up-and-down. The tougher schedule with larger Class B schools had a noticeable effect on the season. Minersville went 5-6, 1-5 against Class B opponents while winning 4 of 5 against Class C teams. After that, Willinsky's experiment ended, and Minersville dropped back to Class C.

The 1986 season was rough, going 1-9-1 with their only victory over Nativity. The team rebounded in 1987, going 6-4-1, and just missed the Eastern Conference playoffs. In 1988, the team returned to the playoffs before being dispatched by Tri-Valley in their first-ever game against the Bulldogs 31-0.

After consecutive 1-9 seasons in 1989 and 1990, Willinsky decided to step down as coach, announcing his resignation with two weeks left in the season. After his final game against North Schuylkill, teary-eyed players presented him with a plaque in appreciation of 10 years as coach.

Mystery shrouded Willinsky's resignation; he said concern for the team was a significant factor in his decision. He also alluded to behind-the-scenes friction with the school board and superintendent, Michael Brady. Still, he refused to say anything detrimental of them and only said, "I feel this is the only way you (the players) will get a chance... as long as I'm here, you'll put up with the same things."

Coach Willinsky ended his 10-year career with a 54-54-3 record. His teams won three Eastern Conference sectional titles and an overall Class C title. He helped 24 players earn college scholarships and the three players selected for Scholar-Athlete, an unprecedented accomplishment at the time. Today, he is the fifth-winningest and fourth-longest-tenured coach at Minersville.

Not all learning happens in a classroom!

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- develop body language
- learn patience and cooperation and
- play together

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October Is Fire Prevention Month

It's time for us all to take the precautionary steps to prevent dangerous and life-threatening fires. Fire Prevention Month in October is a great reminder every year before the winter's heating season is upon us.



The winter months see an increase in home fires, deaths and injuries. These are the months when we turn on the heat to keep our homes warm. Take steps to prevent a fire.

- Make sure your heating source is well maintained. Check the equipment before using or have them serviced.
- Don't store items near your heating source. Boxes, clothes, and other fuels may ignite.
- Make sure draperies and furniture and other combustible items are kept far enough away from a heating source.

When it comes to keeping families and homes safe, there are many other steps to prevent fires.

- Make sure smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors are working. Place detectors on every level of the home and test them monthly.
- Get a fire extinguisher and make sure it's not outdated. Most fire extinguishers have an expiration date. Place one on each floor of the house and in the garage.
- Have an escape plan. Practice fire drills with your family and make sure everyone knows where to go. Have at least two ways to leave the house.
- Do not try to salvage items before leaving the house. Personal effects can be replaced, but lives cannot. Instead, keep valuable documents in a fireproof box for recovery later.

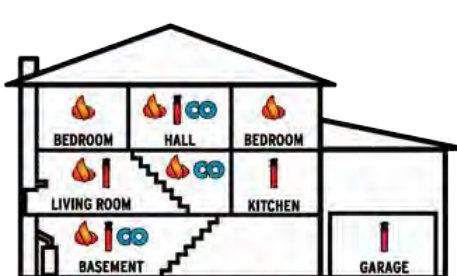
Locations

Every floor

Every bedroom

Outside all sleeping areas

At least 10 feet from stoves



🔥 Smoke Alarm 🧯 Fire Extinguisher
 ☠️ Carbon Monoxide Alarm

DID YOU KNOW?

The risk of dying in a home fire is reduced by

↓ 50%

in homes with working smoke alarms

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