



# MINERS' JOURNAL

Official Publication



Borough of Minersville

[www.minersvillepa.gov](http://www.minersvillepa.gov)

Vol. XVIII, No. 3 - Issued Quarterly

BOROUGH OF MINERSVILLE, PA

August 2025

## Enjoy Late Summer and Fall Activities in Spirited Minersville

### Spirit Day • Halloween • Christmas Take Center Stage

#### Show Your Spirit! Go Miners!

The Minersville Area Lions Club is pleased to announce the return of **SPIRIT DAY** on Sunday, Sept. 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Activities will line North Street between 2nd and 4th streets.

Spirit Day is a community-centered event that includes entertainment, food, games, vendors, live music, school spirit, family fun, and more! All are invited; please join us for this exciting day!

There's still time to sign up for vendor space. Email us at [minersvillespiritday@yahoo.com](mailto:minersvillespiritday@yahoo.com).

#### Minersville celebrates Halloween!

The annual Halloween Parade of ghouls, goblins, superheroes, princesses, service organizations, floats, business entries, and emergency service vehicles will be held on Sunday, Oct. 26. Inclement weather could postpone the parade until Tuesday, Oct. 28.

Parade entrants will form at 6:30 p.m. on the Quandel parking lot adjacent to the Minersville Area Football Stadium (visitor's side). The parade will begin promptly at 7 p.m. along the usual route.

Marching groups, floats, bands, vehicles, and individuals wanting to be in the parade **MUST** register in advance. Adherence to this policy is for the safety of

our participants. Complete the entry form found on Page 2 of this newsletter and return to the Borough Office in advance by October 24. The parade entry form will also be available on the Borough's Facebook [minersvilleborough](https://www.facebook.com/minersvilleborough). Note: there is a 10-foot height limitation for floats and vehicles.

Prizes will be awarded in the following categories - Best Float (first, second, and third places), Best Individual (first through third places), and Judge's Choice (float or individual).

#### Trick-or-Treat on Halloween Eve this year

Youngsters dressed as ghosts, goblins, witches, and princesses will take to the streets on Thursday, Oct. 30 - for the Borough-designated Trick-or-Treat night from 6 to 8 p.m.

Residents are asked to have their porch light on, or some other inviting gesture, as a sign that the children are welcome to ring the bell and get a treat.

Parents and chaperones are asked to be diligent with young children when crossing streets and making them aware of vehicular traffic. Flashlights and reflective clothing are encouraged. Rain date is Saturday, Nov. 1.

#### Santa is coming to Minersville

The Minersville Recreation Board will sponsor a Christmas parade on Sunday, Nov. 30, heralding the holiday season with the arrival of Santa Claus.

- Continued on Page 2

## COMING EVENTS

**SATURDAY, AUG. 16** - Doggie Swim at the Minersville Community Pool; supports the Minersville Public Library.

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 14** - Minersville's Spirit Day will be celebrated for the 28th time on North Street, between Second and Fourth, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**SUNDAY, OCT. 26** - Trunk-Or-Treat at Minersville Area High School, 4 to 6 p.m.

**SUNDAY, OCT. 26** - Minersville Halloween Parade steps off at 7 p.m. (Rain date is Oct. 28)

**THURSDAY, OCT. 30** - Trick or Treat, 6 to 8 p.m. (Rain date is Saturday, Nov. 1)

**SUNDAY, NOV. 30** - Minersville Christmas Parade - A firetruck parade welcomes Santa Claus for an early visit, beginning at 5:30 p.m.



## SUPPORT YOUR LIBRARY

The Minersville Public Library needs your help to maintain its services to the community. [See page 7.](#)

## On the inside . . .

Halloween Parade Entry Form.....	Pg. 2
Library Craft of Book Folding .....	Pg. 4
Borough Service Updates .....	Pg. 6
Code Enforcement Reminders ....	Pg. 8
Battlin' Miners History.....	Pg. 10

# 2025 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](http://www.minersvillepa.gov)

## OFFICIALS

Mayor..... Sean Palmer  
 Chief of Police ..... Jeff Bowers  
 President of Council ..... Joseph Slovick  
 Borough Manager..... Vacant  
 Secretary ..... Gloria Capik  
 Treasurer ..... Megan Paul  
 Tax Receiver..... Heidi Hashin  
 Solicitor..... Albert Evans  
 Borough Engineer ..... Entech Engineering, Inc.  
 Fire Chief ..... Eric Eichenberg  
 Code Enforcement ..... Kyle Crouse  
 Health Officer..... Kyle Crouse  
 Emergency Mgmt. Coord..... Eric Eichenberg

## COUNCIL

Jeff Enders • Justin Frantz • Amelia Hopkins  
 Jamie S. Kuehn • Donna Palmer  
 Terry Raffety • Joseph Slovick

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jeffrey Bowers, Chief  
 Matthew Bartal • Cody Searfoss  
 Brian Gossert • Joseph Kavanaugh  
 Jakob Kerby • Ryan Murphy  
 Leo Securda • Eric Wilson  
 Leigh Ann Cielinski, Secretary

## STREET DEPARTMENT

Edwin Houser, Street Supervisor  
 Martin Brophy • Matthew Leiby • Jake Lyash

## SEWER DEPARTMENT

Raymond Sukeena, Supervisor  
 Joseph Carvajal

## WATER DEPARTMENT

Melanie Spittler, Manager / Plant Operator  
 Raymond Bosack • John Hopkins  
 Michael Mennig, Jr. • Donald Troutman, Jr.

## 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.

## 2025 OFFICIAL HOLIDAY HOURS

Minersville Borough offices will be closed in 2025 in observance of the stated holidays - Presidents Day, Feb. 17; Good Friday (half day, close at 11 a.m.), April 18; Memorial Day, May 26; Independence Day, July 4; Labor Day, Sept. 1; Columbus Day, Oct. 13; Veterans Day, Nov. 11; Thanksgiving and day after, Nov. 27 and 28; 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, 2026.

# HALLOWEEN PARADE ENTRY FORM

Name of Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Contact Info:  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

We plan to enter a: (circle one or more)

**FLOAT**

**BAND**

# in band \_\_\_\_\_

**MARCHING UNIT**

**OTHER**

# of marchers \_\_\_\_\_

Describe \_\_\_\_\_

Mail completed form to:

Minersville Borough

2 E Sunbury St.

Minersville, PA 17954

**OR** – Call to register: 570-544-2149

- Continued from Page 1

Santa's reindeer will be resting for their Christmas Eve trip, but Santa will have other special transportation for the event. The firetruck parade will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Children will be able to visit and get a photo opportunity with Santa at his Fourth Street Recreation Complex location immediately following the parade.

## Lifesharing Opportunity

For nearly 50 years, Access Services has embraced the philosophy that people with intellectual disabilities have a right to live and work in their community and to fully participate in choices that impact them.

The organization offers many innovative programs in Eastern Pennsylvania where individuals with an intellectual disability or autism are welcomed and are empowered to achieve the goals they set for themselves. Locally, Access Services serves Schuylkill, Carbon and Berks counties from its facility located at 340 S. Liberty St., Orwigsburg.

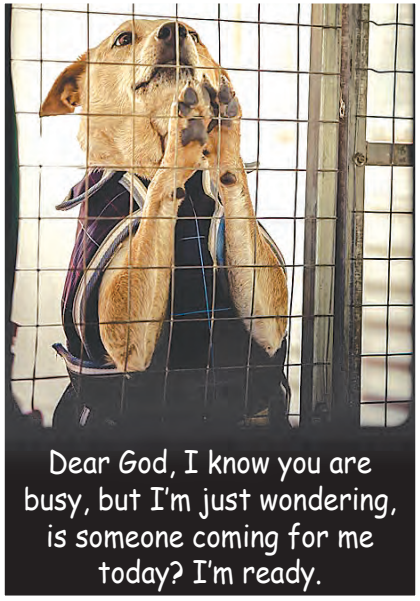
Lifesharing is a program that allows individuals to live with qualified, trained providers, becoming part of their lives and families while receiving support and guidance to achieve their aspirations.

Access offers short-term and long-term Lifesharing opportunities so that individuals will always have a safe and nurturing place to be, whether it's for a short time while their caregiver recharges or as a long-term living arrangement. Providers are financially compensated and supported by Access through training, caseworker involvement, and days off.

If you would like to learn more about being a Lifesharing provider, contact Casey at 484-747-7588 or email [LVOnboarder@accessservices.org](mailto:LVOnboarder@accessservices.org).

**It's not too late to help, in fact – you're just in time!**

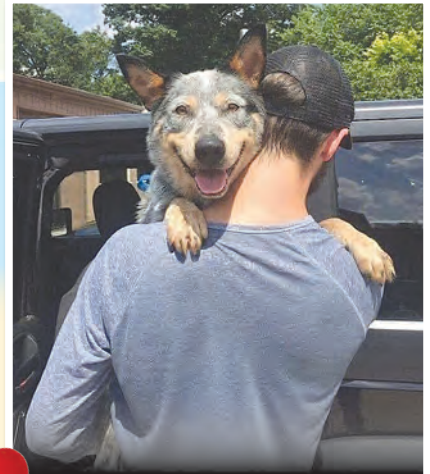
**Our local shelters are overwhelmed with pets!**  
**OVER 125 DOGS and OVER 180 CATS**



Dear God, I know you are busy, but I'm just wondering, is someone coming for me today? I'm ready.



I admire people who barely have anything but share it nevertheless.



I'm the luckiest dog in the world. Today I'm going home!



I found my purrrrfect kitty today, but there are so many more just waiting for you!



I'm finally going home today!



Won't somebody PLEASE take me home?



This picture requires NO words!



You'll find your puppy at a shelter - not at so many backyard or farm house puppy mills.



**DON'T SHOP! ADOPT AT OUR LOCAL SHELTERS. WITH HUNDREDS OF PETS AVAILABLE, YOU'LL FIND EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR!**



**Ruth Steinert Memorial SPCA**

18 Wertz Drive, Pine Grove, PA 17963  
 P.O. Box 332, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

**570-345-3540**

[www.rsmspca.org](http://www.rsmspca.org)

Open M-F by appt.,

Weekends 10-3PM (no appt. needed)

**Hillside SPCA**

51 SPCA Rd. (just off Gordon Nagle Trail and Cressona Rd.), Pottsville, PA 17901  
 P.O. Box 233, Pottsville, PA 17901

**570-622-7769**

[www.hillsidespca.com](http://www.hillsidespca.com)

Open 11 AM to 3 PM daily

**Char-Wills German Shepherd Rescue**

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 132, New Ringgold, PA 17960

**570-573-3366**

[www.charwillsrescue.com](http://www.charwillsrescue.com)

Meet and greets with our dogs by appt. only after adoption approval.

**Always REPORT any UNREGISTERED and UNLICENSED back yard and farm-house breeders (and that's most of them) to the PSPCA: 866-601-7722. Immediately report ANY farm or domestic animal abuse to the PA State Police.**



This request to adopt or foster a shelter pet and to provide desperately needed financial support is sponsored by: **Ralf and Diane Bzura** and their rescue dog **BEEZER**



# Minersville Public Library

## End of Season “Doggie Swim” Is August 16

Saturday, August 16 is the Minersville Public Library’s 5th annual Doggie Swim at the Minersville Community Pool. Participation costs \$8 per dog and also admits up to three people. Additional persons cost \$2 each.

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.



Your 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. Call the Library at 570-544-5196 or email [mpl@minersvillelibrary.org](mailto:mpl@minersvillelibrary.org) for more information.

Recent special events and activities included a program from Red Creek Wild Life



Center and an Easter Egg Hunt for our Storytime children. Also, Library staff organized a free-to-the-public Tie Dye event, held at the Minersville Pool.

Here’s a new craft we discovered recently - “Book Folding!” Pictured here, take a look at these creations using books that are no longer in circulation. If interested to learn how to do this, the Library may consider holding a class. Please email the

library and mention “book folding” in the subject line.

Going on right now, the Library is having a used book sale that includes popular authors like James Patterson and Nora Roberts. There’s still time for summer reading. Fill a shopping bag for \$5.







Check in often at the Minersville Public Library, we have something to satisfy all ages and interests.



## BRICK HILL RIDGE New Singles and Townhomes



-  The only new community in Blue Mountain School District.
-  Convenient to I-78 and just 10 minutes to Hamburg.
-  Townhomes from the upper \$200s
-  Singles from the upper \$400s



# 3 locations in Schuylkill County



**William C. Pugh**  
Supervisor

**LORD  
EBLING  
HAUS**

Funeral Home &  
Crematory, Inc.

1818 Mahantongo St  
Pottsville, PA 17901  
570-622-0230



**Caitlyn Haus**  
Supervisor

**GESCHWINDT  
STABINGAS  
EBLING**  
— FUNERAL HOME INC. —

ON-SITE CREMATORY

25 E Main St  
Sch Haven, PA 17972  
570-385-3381



**C. Elmer Ebling**  
Supervisor

**EBLING  
STABINGAS**  
— FUNERAL HOME —

Cremation Services

26 Chestnut St  
Cressona, PA 17929  
570-385-3050

## Family Owned. Family Focused.



**GESCHWINDT  
STABINGAS  
EBLING**  
— FUNERAL HOME INC. —  
Caitlyn E. Haus, Supervisor

ON-SITE CREMATORY



# 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 2025: Monday, Sept. 1 (Labor Day); Monday, Oct. 13 (Columbus Day); Tuesday, Nov. 11 (Veterans Day); Thursday and Friday, Nov. 27-28 (Thanksgiving); Wednesday, Dec. 24 (half day, close at 11 a.m.) and Thursday, Dec. 25 (Christmas); Wednesday, Dec. 31 (half day, close at 11 a.m.) and New Year's Day on Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026.

## 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.

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

- Phone Method - Complete the form 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](mailto:minerswateremergency@minersvillepa.gov).

[villepa.gov](http://villepa.gov). Also, add this address to your contact list so you are sure to receive the notifications.

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. Additional information can be found on the Borough website... Water Authority tab.

## Fall cleanup accepts large and small

The Schuylkill County Office of Solid Waste & Resource Management will hold its annual Fall Cleanup & Recycling Event during September 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 eight years.

## Drop off unused/expired medications

Residents can drop off prescription medications at the Minersville Police Department 24/7. Also, if you have difficulty leaving your home, contact 570-544-2333 and an officer will be happy to pick up those medications and dispose of them properly.

## Schuylkill Dental Medicine

### Michael R. Kudryk

From New York City to Minersville, PA

Dr. Kudryk brings 28 years of experience to the area. His care, skill, judgement and trust are reasons to come see him.



**Call to schedule an appointment!**

**Accepting most insurances**

**Schuylkill Dental Medicine**  
Advanced Dental Care for Adults & Children



Michael R. Kudryk, DMD  
42 E. Sunbury Street  
Minersville PA 17954

Ph: 570.544.4785 • [www.schuylkilldental.com](http://www.schuylkilldental.com)



## Robert E. Reedy & Sons, Inc.

Serving the Community Since 1926

# 570-544-2076

**We Were Here for You Then  
We Are Here for You Now**

**Heating Oil • Kerosene • Off-Road Diesel**



Follow Us On



**Order Online @ [www.reedyoil.com](http://www.reedyoil.com)**

# 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 annual Junior Rock Hound Day and our



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

end-of-summer Doggie Swim. Recent events enjoyed by children/adults of all ages are listed in our feature article on Page 4 of this *Miners' Journal* issue.

### **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!

## 2025 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 -**

# Timely Reminders From Our Code Officer

## Outside Burning & Building Permit Requirements

When planning summer and fall projects, remember to contact the Borough Office in advance. Building permits are required for all new constructions and all replacements or alterations of roofs, windows, doors, garage doors, electrical, plumbing, heating systems (including supplemental heating units), sidewalks, curbing, fencing with 6' max. height, chimney replacement, or installation of liners, foundations, swimming pool and hot tub installation, oil storage tanks, sub-flooring, and interior renovations. Adding to your existing structure (i.e. new decks, enclosing decks), will require a building permit and a zoning permit. Zoning permits are administered by the Schuylkill County Zoning Office and can be reached at 628-1415.

Contractors and/or homeowners insurance must be provided to gain the building permit. Permits are required for ALL construction and development within a floodplain. Window replacements require a U-factor of .30 or less.

Planning to install a pool? Permits are required for both seasonal/temporary pools and permanent pools. Links for this requirement can be found at [www.minersvillepa.gov/code-enforcement/](http://www.minersvillepa.gov/code-enforcement/).

### Outside burning ordinance

Following- is information regarding outside burn pits. The full text is also on the Borough website.

## DONALD J. BUTLER FUNERAL HOME

328 Sunbury Street  
Minersville, PA 17954-1240

*Comprehensive Funeral Arrangements  
with Compassion, Dignity and Respect*

**570-544-6775** Always Available for Pre-Planning  
or at Your Immediate Time In Need



**Veteran Owned and Operated**  
[www.DonaldJButlerFH.com](http://www.DonaldJButlerFH.com)

**Burn Container(s)** - Only manufactured fire pits, chimineas or fireplace kits with an Underwriters Laboratory label will be permissible. All burn containers must contain sides and cover, as defined herein, and must be installed and used in accordance with the manufacturer installation instructions. Burn containers shall not be allowed to deteriorate to the point where they contain holes or missing surface on the structure. No homemade fire pits, outdoor fireplaces, incinerators, chimineas and other types of burning pits will be allowed within the Borough of Minersville.

Exception: Portable outdoor grills, fired by propane or charcoal, and designed for food preparation, are excluded from the provisions of this ordinance.

**Burn Container Cover** - a metal screen with spaces not more than one-half (1/2) square inch, or other comparable material, that covers the entire open area above the burn container opening. Such screen shall be maintained in good order as to prevent large particles from escaping the burn container during operation. The cover shall not be allowed to deteriorate to any point whereby it loses its maximum efficiency.

**Burnable Materials** - only seasoned firewood or the material permitted in the Burn Container manufacturer's instructions manual will be permitted to be burned in the burn container.

Burning is permitted only between the hours of 8 a.m. to 12 midnight. Under no conditions shall burning be permitted between the hours of 12 midnight to 8 a.m. Fires in burn containers must be fully extinguished and not be allowed to burn or smolder after 12 midnight. Any fires burning after 12 midnight shall be in violation of this Ordinance, and all those persons or corporations causing such fires shall be prosecuted under the guidelines of this Ordinance.

The use of gasoline or other accelerants cannot be used to start fires in burn containers.

All burn containers must be kept ten (10) feet from any combustible structure. No burning container shall be used within five (5) feet of any property line or public sidewalk area. No burning container can be used for any other purpose.



**Open Your Heart and  
Home to an Adult with an  
Intellectual Disability**

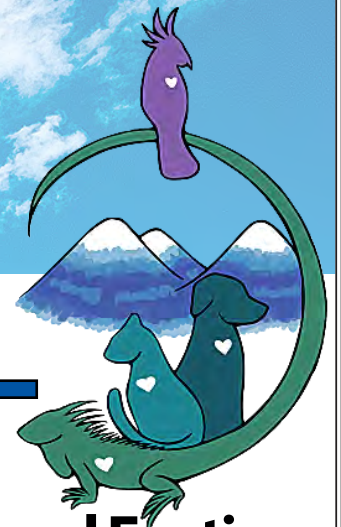
Learn how you can be compensated! Email us at [LVonboarder@accessservices.org](mailto:LVonboarder@accessservices.org) or call/text us at **484-747-7588** to see if Lifesharing is right for you.



New In Your Neighborhood...

# BLUE MOUNTAIN ANIMAL HOSPITAL

(Formerly Brunswick Veterinary Hospital)



## Specializing in General Practice, Surgery, and Exotics

We provide all the services needed for a happy and healthy pet, including routine exams, dental services, vaccines, laboratory services, and surgery. Your pets are our pets!



DR. LORA MENGLE, DVM

## CATS • DOGS • EXOTICS

At Blue Mountain Animal Hospital we are dedicated to providing top quality veterinary care for your furry, feathered, or scaled friends.

From routine checkups to surgical procedures, we strive to ensure the health and well-being of all pets.



## Blue Mountain Animal Hospital

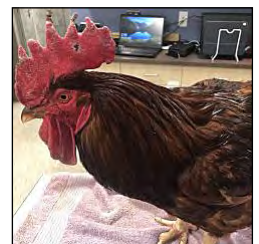
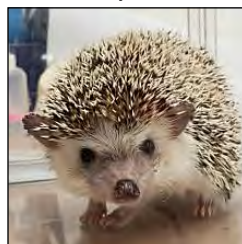
30 New Philadelphia Road • Orwigsburg, PA 17961

570-943-2323 • [www.bmah.us](http://www.bmah.us)

Call or Email Us – [reception@bmah.us](mailto:reception@bmah.us)

Now accepting new clients, with fur, feathers, or scales.

FROM BIG TO SMALL, WE TREAT THEM ALL!



Cats • Dogs • Rabbits • Guinea Pigs • Chinchillas • Ferrets • Rats • Mice • Sugar Gliders • Non-Venomous Reptiles  
Birds • Hedgehogs • Wildlife • Amphibians • Chickens, Ducks, Turkeys, Waterfowl • And More!

# History of Minersville High School Football

*Part 7 In Our Series; Compiled and Written by Shayne Schafer*

## Coach Mason Leads Team to 2003 District XI Title

After a four-month search for their next head coach, the school board chose Pat Mason to lead the program in 2003. For the first time in twelve years, the Battlin' Miners would be led by a hometown guy.

A 1989 Minersville graduate, Mason had been an assistant under Rick Jones since 1997 and previously coached at ELCO and Pine Grove. He had extensive football experience after high school, playing at Fork Union Military Academy, St. Frances University, and Lebanon Valley College, earning five varsity letters.

Mason had big shoes to fill replacing Jones, but he had a core of 19 returning starters to ease the transition. Mason highlighted the defense as their strength; nearly every starter saw playing time the previous year. Almost prophetically, he said, "Hopefully this will be a class that a lot of people remember... these kids can play." They proved themselves quickly.

Every game on Minersville's schedule was a challenge, facing three of last year's playoff teams in the first four games, including district champion, Schuylkill Haven. Minersville's season-opening win against Tri-Valley reflected the entire season, characterized by late-game heroics on a razor-thin margin. Nine of the 13 games that season were decided by a touchdown or less, with three ending in overtime.

Minersville started strong with a 6-0 record, defeating Tri-Valley, North Schuylkill, and Jim Thorpe with late scores, making a goal-line stand against Schuylkill Haven, and winning in overtime over Shenandoah. That hot streak was stopped by a 39-0 loss to longtime jinx Marian Catholic. The Miners finished the regular season somewhat inconsistently, beating Nativity, then getting upset by Tamaqua, and narrowly escaping Lansford with an overtime victory over Panther Valley.

With an 8-2 record, Minersville secured the third seed in the district playoffs. They opened the post-season traveling for a rematch against the Anthracite Football League Champions, Shenandoah. Like the first game, this was a monumental struggle. Down 7-3 with 48 seconds remaining, the Miners found themselves on the Devil's three-yard line on fourth down. Mason asked his players, "Do you want to be champions or don't you?" They ran "35 Blast," the same play they used to beat the Devils earlier in the season. Vaughn Marshall burst through the hole created by John Lucas, sending Minersville back to the district championship for the first time since 1995.

Minersville then faced undefeated Cardinal Brennan for the title. Another tense, close game was

**SUMMER IS ALMOST OVER!**  
**PRE-SCHOOL BEGINS**  
**AUGUST 25TH**

**DID YOU REGISTER YOUR CHILD?**

**Child Development, Inc. TODAY**  
Ready for school and a lifetime of learning

**570-544-8959 • EXT. 212**

You can also start the enrollment process by scanning this QR CODE:



**8 CENTER LOCATIONS:**  
Fountain Springs | Mahanoy City  
Pottsville (2) | Saint Clair | Sch. Haven  
Shenandoah | Tamaqua

[www.childdevelop.org](http://www.childdevelop.org)



*Mahal-Ritzel Funeral Home Inc.*  
*Mark J. Mahal Supervisor*

*"Serving families like family"*

**570-544-5111**

[www.mahal-ritzel.com](http://www.mahal-ritzel.com)  
[mark@mahal-ritzel.com](mailto:mark@mahal-ritzel.com)

# History of Minersville High School Football



**Minersville Celebrates Its 2003 District XI Championship**

in store. After trailing the Chargers through the first half, the Miners tied the game in the third quarter with a Jordan Doyle touchdown.

The game went into overtime after a scoreless final period. Cardinal Brennan scored on their first play, but the Miners answered with a touchdown pass from Nick Melusky to Mike O'Brien. On offense again, the Miners faced tough resistance, but on third down from the ten, Melusky rolled out to the right, stopped, then sprinted forward, running for six yards and diving the last four into the end zone.

The Chargers still had a chance to respond, but Minersville's defense held firm, stopping their final chance at victory. Fifteen years after wearing

a helmet for the blue and white, Pat Mason brought Minersville its first championship since 1984 and its first-ever District XI title. Mason was named Coach of the Year by the Republican-Herald, Anthracite Football League, and Schuylkill County Football Coaches Association.

The Battlin' Miners made their first state playoff appearance, facing perennial District 2 power Lackawanna Trail. The Lions avenged their 1974 Eastern Conference Championship loss to

the Miners, easily winning 35-7.

## *Miners struggle for next two seasons*

Repeating last year's success proved to be a challenging task despite having a core of returning starters. Minersville graduated 18 seniors, a significant loss for any small school. The 2004 and 2005 seasons were tough years for Minersville.

The 2004 team was competitive, finishing with a 5-6 record, but four losses came against playoff teams. In 2005, the team faced a steeper decline, losing 16 seniors due to graduation. This team was very young, with only seven seniors. They ended the year 3-8.

*(continued in the November 2025 issue)*



**242 E. Schmaltzdahl Rd  
New Ringgold**

**570-943-2601**  
(Text to 570-640-2600)

Call for Additional  
Information, Quotes  
and Directions

[www.pafirewoodfactory.com](http://www.pafirewoodfactory.com)

**Competitive  
Prices**

**WOOD**  
a reliable,  
local fuel  
source

**Retail & Wholesale  
Seasoned Firewood**

**All Mixed Hardwoods  
Cut & Split**

**Red & White Oak,  
Walnut,  
Maple, Hickory etc.**

**True Full Cords  
8ft x 4ft x 4ft**

**Cut in 16" Pieces  
(Custom Lengths  
Available)**

**Wholesale Prices  
Available on  
6 or More Cords**

**Free Delivery  
Within 10 Miles  
Minimum 1 1/2 Cords**

**Year Round Delivery**

**CALL FOR PRICING !**

*Our 36th Year*

**GABRIEL**  
CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

*2025-2026 Season*

**Opening Concert – Sunday, Oct. 5**

**Shostakovich** *Two Pieces for Two Violins and Piano*

**F. Price** *Piano Quintet in A minor*

**Schumann** *Piano Quintet in Eb major*



Al-Lin Hsieh, cello; Simon Maurer, violin;  
Dana Allaband, violin; Xun Pan, piano;  
Agnès Maurer, viola

**Adult**  
**\$30**

•

**Sr. Citizens**  
**\$25**

•

**Students**  
**(under 18)**  
**Free**

*Concerts held at Jerusalem Lutheran Church  
252 Dock St., Schuylkill Haven at 3 p.m.*

For more information, visit [www.gabrielensemble.org](http://www.gabrielensemble.org);  
email [gce@gabrielensemble.org](mailto:gce@gabrielensemble.org); or call 570-943-2558

 Gabriel Chamber Ensemble



Official Publication Borough of Minersville

[www.minersvillepa.gov](http://www.minersvillepa.gov)

Borough of Minersville

2 East Sunbury Street • Minersville, PA 17954

**Official Matter  
of Minersville Borough**

PRSR STD  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Pottsville PA  
17901  
Permit No. 16



**ECRWSS Postal Customer  
Minersville, PA 17954**

**Crimestoppers Anonymous Tip Line - 570-739-2660  
Sch. County Drug Tip Line at 1-800-414-1406**



**Williamson,  
Friedberg  
& Jones**

**570-622-5933**

**WFJlaw.net**

**Full Service Law Firm**



**570-628-3234**

**PennNationalAbstract.com**

**Title Insurance Company**

**Pottsville • Orwigsburg • Shenandoah • Ravine • Hegins**



**Main Office: 10 Westwood Road • Pottsville, PA 17901**