



MINERS' JOURNAL

Official Publication



Borough of Minersville

www.minersvillepa.gov

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BOROUGH OF MINERSVILLE, PA

February 2025

Stay Up-to-Date with Minersville Borough News

New/Improved Website Is Your "Go To" Info Source

In today's digital and electronic world, finding answers to your questions is just a "google" or "ask" away on social media. The era of thorough, reliable, and timely newspaper coverage to tell you what you want to know is now hit-and-miss. There no longer exists a one-stop source for true and direct information. Each person has his/her own device and "app"

to gain the news they want to hear and take into their brain, thus molding their beliefs.

Problem is... much of what you receive is up to YOU to discern its truth, weighted perspective, value to your existence, out-and-out falsehood, or scam threat.

Fortunately for current and prospective residents, business and property owners, and visitors to Minersville, the Borough has vastly improved its website - www.minersvillepa.gov - to be a powerhouse source of information to improve your quality of life while here. The website is easy to navigate through, searchable, and shows timely matters right up-front on the home page. Contact information and office hours are easily found there as well.

Vacancy: Borough/Sewer Authority head

The search is on to hire a combined Borough and Sewer Authority manager. Requirements were available for all to see on the Borough website and through other solicitations. A number of candidates have already come forward and those most promising are being interviewed.

It is anticipated that Borough Council will make its selection this month or next.

- Continued on Page 2

Egg Hunt-Sat., April 19

The Minersville Recreation Department will host an Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 19 for youngsters, one year old through 12 years of age, who reside within the Minersville Area School District. This is a free event, but preregistration by Friday, April 11 is required. Complete the form shown here and mail or take in-person to the Minersville Borough office.



The egg hunt will take place on the Minersville Teener League Field (near the Lions Pavilion) at the Recreation Complex. Check-in the day of the event is 11:30 a.m.; the hunt begins at 12 noon. Call 570-544-2149 for additional information or if you would like to help with the event.

MINERSVILLE EASTER EGG HUNT REGISTRATION - DEADLINE FRI., APRIL 11

Residents Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Child's Name _____ Age _____

Child's Name _____ Age _____

Child's Name _____ Age _____

Child's Name _____ Age _____

Mail Form to: Minersville Recreation c/o Easter Egg Hunt, 2 E. Sunbury St., Minersville, PA 17954; Registration Deadline is April 11

Help Wanted!

The Minersville Borough is now accepting applications for all pool personnel and lifeguard personnel for the upcoming 2025 season. Applications may be obtained at the Borough Office, 2 E Sunbury Street, Minersville, PA 17954. All current certifications for lifeguard personnel are required. The Minersville Borough is an equal opportunity employer.

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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

OFFICIALS

Mayor..... Sean Palmer
 Chief of Police Jeff Bowers
 President of Council Ian Mahal
 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
 Jamie S. Kuehn • M. Ian Mahal • Donna Palmer
 Terry Raffety • Joseph Slovick

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 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.

Borough News

- Continued from Page 1

Actions on ordinances

Several ordinance items have been addressed to start the new year - amusement and skill game devices, gas pump tax, curbside collection services, and provision to assess and collect real estate taxes.

These, too, can be found on the website home page. Residents or property owners wanting additional information are directed to do so in-person at the Municipal Building.

A vacancy on the Uniform Construction Code Appeals Board also exists. Letters of interest to fill this unpaid board position are solicited.

Lead-based water service lines

Property owners have been sent written notification asking their help to identify the type material of water service pipe serving their property.

A service line is the piping that connects your household or building plumbing to the water main in the street. Minersville Water Authority owns the section of the service line from the water main to the curb stop, while the section from the curb stop to the water meter is owned by the customer.

If you know your service line is NOT lead-based, the Borough needs to know. If you are unsure, the Borough can offer assistance to make the determination. The website has additional information on the potential dangers and cautions of lead-based pipes.

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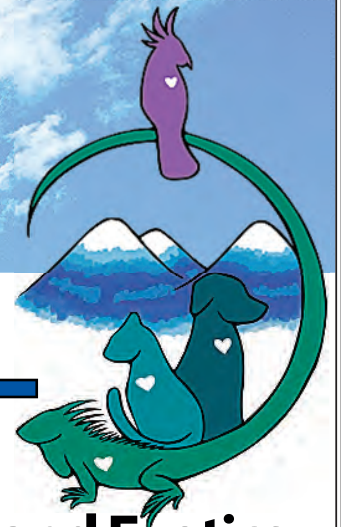


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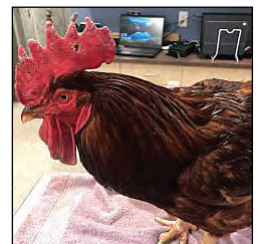
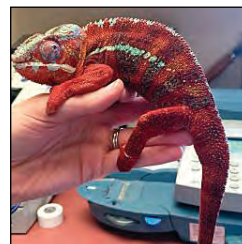
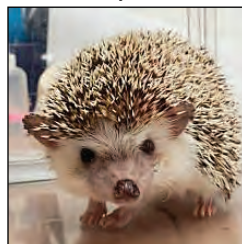
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Lots Happening at the Minersville Public Library

Thanks to an additional grant received from the Schuylkill Area Community Foundation, the adult/teen sewing class is set to begin on Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 5 p.m. Individuals already signed-up will be notified. Class size is limited.

Basic sewing terms, machine operations, and bobbin threading will be taught. Following some practice, beginners will start with pillows; those with more experience will move to a wrap skirt. More advanced sewers are welcome to bring their own projects and we will assist.

Telescope drawing set for March 14

On Friday, March 14, the Library will hold its fundraising drawing for a Celestron Astromaster 114. A telescope with two books - *National Geographic Backyard Guide to the Night Sky* and *Astronomy Guide for Kids*. Tickets - \$3 each, two for \$5, or five chances for \$10 - are still available at the Library.

They can also be purchased by mail by sending a check or money order to Minersville Public Library,



220 S. 4th St., Minersville, PA 17954 with the names you want on the tickets. We will fill them out and send you a copy by return mail with the stubs. Call or email the library (570-544-5196; mpl@minersvillelibrary.org) with any questions.

Bean soup and bake sale on March 15

Our Famous Purcell Brothers Bean Soup Sale is set for Saturday, March 15. Pre-orders are a must at \$12 per quart. Pick-ups and a bake sale will take place that day at the Library.

Summer Reading Program & Doggie Swim

Open to children, age 3 and up, the theme for the Summer Reading Program is Color Our World with plenty of activities to enjoy. This is a free service with registration in advance required.

With Minersville Borough Council's approval, the Saturday after the swimming pool closes will have our fourth Doggie Swim. Cost is \$8 per dog with up to three people included. Additional people will pay \$2 each. This is a very popular event and raises much needed funds for the library. Bake sale items will also be available.

The Minersville Public Library Board of Directors and staff thank everyone for their support in all of our fundraising events. Your generosity allows us to continue services to Minersville and surrounding areas!

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Staffing Returns Around-the-Clock Police Presence

Return to 24/7 police coverage

In April of 2023, due to staffing issues, the Minersville Police Department ceased providing 24/7 police coverage. It was the first time in department history that we were not providing full coverage and a day that I never envisioned seeing.

The primary factor was the dwindling pool of applicants, both part-time and full-time... a trend that is affecting the entire country. While historically our department has always provided 24/7 coverage, we relied largely on the use of part-time officers.

Most times throughout my career, our department employed no less than 5-to-10 regular part-time officers in addition to its six full-time officers. Upon taking over as chief, Mayor Palmer and I requested the addition of a seventh full-time officer to provide better coverage. Borough Council considered my request and granted it.

Once I had an additional full-time officer, I sat down with my officers and took a hard look at the schedule. We produced a schedule that not only eliminated the reliance on part-time officers to cover shifts, but also reduced overtime and will once again provide the residents of Minersville with 24/7 police



coverage. It was a collaborative effort between myself and my staff along with Borough Council, with everyone's goal of full coverage being the priority. Officers were more than willing to work somewhat unconventional shifts and schedules so that the coverage would have no gaps. My officers were more than willing to make any adjustments needed, and I commend them for that. It is a complete team effort here.

I am incredibly pleased to announce that as of February 3, the Minersville Police Department is covering the Borough 24/7 in addition to providing 40 hours of coverage to the Minersville Area School District with a full-time school resource officer.

Mayor Sean Palmer and Borough Council fully support the efforts of our police department and have made the safety of Minersville residents their number one priority, never hesitating to provide us with the tools and funding to accomplish that goal.

While many other municipal police departments are shrinking or disbanding, we are bucking the trend and, not only increasing but, providing excellent police services to our residents.

Meter parking

As a reminder, parking meter enforcement is being conducted Monday through Saturday on Sunbury Street in an effort to keep parking spaces rotating and clear for businesses.

Prescription drop-off

The Minersville Police Department is a 24/7 prescription drop-off location. Bring your unused medication to ensure it is disposed of properly. We also accept new and used hypodermic needles for disposal. This service is open to residents from anywhere in Schuylkill County.

Drug tips

Any Borough resident who observes any suspected drug activity should contact police at 570-544-6212.

Free meals handed out Feb. 2

The police department, in partnership with Big Diamond Speedway, provided 200 free meals to area residents on February 2. Both organizations feel that giving back to residents is an important part of reinvesting in our community.

Abandoned vehicles

As a reminder, any vehicle parked on Minersville Borough streets must have a current and valid registration, inspection, and insurance. Failing this, vehicles will be ticketed and towed immediately. It is also a violation to conduct an automotive repair on a Borough street.

- Jeffrey Bowers, Minersville Police Chief

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Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

Help available for heating costs

Residents struggling to pay home heating bills can apply for assistance from the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) now. This program runs until April 4, 2025.

The federally-funded LIHEAP program helps individuals and families pay their heating bills through home heating energy assistance cash grants sent directly to your fuel/utility provider. The program includes crisis grants should there be an emergency or if a resident is in danger of losing his or her heat due to broken equipment, lack of fuel, or termination of utility service.



The income limit for an individual is \$22,590; for a couple, the limit is \$30,660; and for a family of four, it is \$46,800. Other family sizes have income limits, as well. The grant award amounts vary from \$200 to \$1,000 depending upon income, fuel source, and household size.

Residents may apply for LIHEAP online or by contacting the county assistance office.

Coal ash collection only

Minersville Borough collects ashes curbside during the year for both the convenience of the property owner and as a benefit to the Borough. During

January and February, collection is two times per week on Tuesdays and Fridays. All other months, collection will be once per week on Tuesdays only.

These ashes are recycled as anti-skid material that is put on streets during ice and snow events each winter. ONLY COAL ASH is to be contained within ash bins placed curbside for collection.

For the safety of motorists, street crew members and their equipment, rocks, dirt, or other debris should not be placed in your bins. Any such foreign material may damage the spreaders.

Borough Office holidays

The Minersville Borough offices and employee operations will be closed in observance of the following upcoming holidays: Monday, Feb. 17 (Presidents Day); closing at 11 a.m. on Friday, April 18 (Good Friday); and Monday, May 26 (Memorial Day).

Street sweeping resumes in early spring

Weekly street sweeping has halted for the winter months but will start up again as spring arrives. Notification will be given via the Borough website.

Check the permanently posted sign on your street for day and time. All vehicles must be moved to enable efficient and effective cleaning of the streets.

Questions? Contact the Borough Office at 570-544-2149, during normal business hours, Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.



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SUNDAY, APRIL 6 – 3 p.m.

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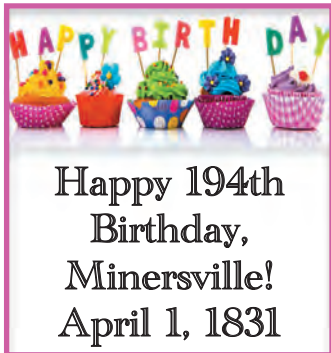
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