



MINERS' JOURNAL

Official Publication



Borough of Minersville

www.minersvilleonline.com

Vol. XVII, No. 2 - Issued Quarterly

BOROUGH OF MINERSVILLE, PA

May 2024

Borough/Sewer Manager's "State of the Borough"

Metered Parking, Street Sweeping, & Sewer Plant Fire

Greetings all! I hope this edition of the Journal finds all healthy and safe. Spring has sprung and summer is just around the corner. As always, I want to provide this update on Borough happenings.

Parking meter enforcement starts June 1

Calibration, installation, the Borough's amended parking meter ordinance, and a trial period having been completed for our new parking meters located in the 100 and 200 blocks of Sunbury Street, meter enforcement will begin as of June 1.

Parking in these blocks - Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. - will require "feeding the meters." The cost is 25¢ for each 15 minutes. Only standard U.S. quarters can be used. Violators will be subject to ticketing and/or towing. The meters will not be enforced on Borough-declared holidays and Sundays.

Businesses are being offered the opportunity to reserve spots (a maximum of two will be considered)

for a yearly permit fee. Permit holders are asked to place their permits in their vehicle facing the driving lane in order for officers to easily identify violators as they patrol. Non-permitted vehicles will be subject to ticketing and/or towing.

- Continued on Page 4

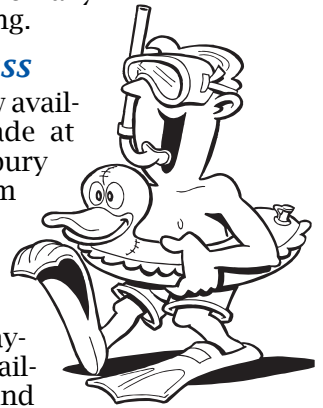
Everyone in the Pool!

The Minersville Community Pool, located at the Fourth Street Recreation Complex, is scheduled to open on a daily basis from noon to 7 p.m. beginning Sat., June 1.

Check the Borough website or call the Borough Office near the end of May for any changes in the planned opening.

Get your season pool pass

Season pool passes are now available. Applications can be made at the Borough Office, 2 E. Sunbury St. or by downloading the form on the website minersvillepa.gov (click on the Community Pool tab). Complete the form and mail or enter it at the Borough Office along with payment. Season tickets are available at the Borough Office and will be available at the Minersville Community Pool once it opens and throughout the summer. All applications will be verified before tickets are issued. Fraudulent information voids the pass. A season pass for Minersville Borough residents costs \$70 for a Student, \$80 for an Adult, \$55 for a Senior



- Continued on Page 2

COMMUNITY YARD SALE

To register your household for the community-wide yard sale June 1, complete this newsletter Entry Form and return it to:

Minersville Borough Office, 2 E. Sunbury Street, no later than May 29. Make checks payable to the "Minersville Recreation Committee" in the amount of \$5 per map location. Minersville Borough homes only. This is an all-weather event.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Infant clothes/supplies | <input type="checkbox"/> Antiques |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's clothes | <input type="checkbox"/> Books |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Women's clothes | <input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen supplies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Men's clothes | <input type="checkbox"/> Furniture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electronics | <input type="checkbox"/> Toys |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tools | <input type="checkbox"/> Decorations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | |

Yard Sale 7 to 11 a.m.

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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
 Borough Manager..... Bobby Mahalchick
 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

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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.

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.

Let's Make a Splash!

- Continued from Page 1

Citizen, and \$140 for a Family (up to five) plus \$30 for each additional child.

Non-resident season passes will be: \$85 for a Student, \$100 for an Adult, \$75 for a Senior Citizen, and \$170 for a Family, up to five, plus \$40 for each additional child.

A "Family" consists of parents, or a couple, and up to three children, all permanent residents of the same household and same immediate family ... or one adult and up to four children. A separate pass is required for any adult, 18 or older, residing in the household (adult children, grandparents, aunts, uncles). If a babysitter is listed on the pass, that individual will only be admitted when with the children listed on the pass. Also, the babysitter certification form must be completed. Sitters must be 16 years of age or older.

Daily admission prices this year: \$3 for a Pre-School child and Senior Citizens, \$4 for a Student (age four through 17), \$6 for Adult (age 18 and over); Evening admission from 5 to 7 p.m. will be 50% off the daily rate.

Pre-School is a child, age three or younger. Senior Citizens must be age 55 or older.

Children under age 10 must be accompanied by a responsible adult 18 years of age or older. Without a responsible adult, children under 10 will be denied admission to the pool. There is no non-swimmer discount; all patrons entering the pool are required to pay the appropriate fee.

Resident pass rates are for Borough residents only. School district residents that reside in the townships must pay the non-resident rates.

The Borough reserves the right to seek proof of familial relationship and residency. Passes will not be issued if fraudulent information is provided. Pool passes are non-refundable.

Refunds are not given if the facility closes for weather events. It is the responsibility of the patron to check the weather prior to entry to the facility.

MINERSVILLE POLICE

544-6212 Office

544-2333 Non-Emergency

ONLINE STORE: thecakepros.shopsettings.com

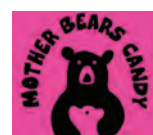


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Scan with your smartphone camera for more information.

11-405-1-405-2

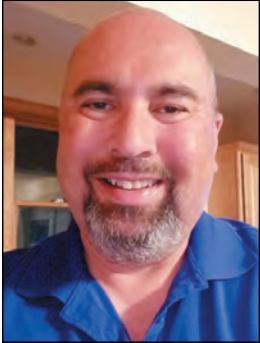
PREPLAN ONLINE: WWW.SCHUYLKILLCOUNTYCREMATION.COM

Borough Manager's State of the Borough

- Continued from Page 1

Streets maintenance

Plans are underway for this year's paving project. The identified areas and their measurements will be provided to PennDOT's liquid fuels auditor for approval. After we receive clearance, the project will be put out for bid.



Bob Mahalchick
Borough Manager

The Street Department will continue to address potholes. If you are aware of a missed pothole, contact the Borough Office and a work order will be generated. In addition, the Street Department will be crack-sealing areas where the road has developed spider-web cracks. The sealing is done

to extend the life of the roadway. I ask you all to abide to signage and/or personnel regarding traffic, etc. in the area of road maintenance projects.

Street sweeping for the year has resumed. As has been past practice, Sunbury Street (up to 5th Street), North Front Street, and North Street will be the priorities. Those streets are large enough to allow for alternating parking on street sweeping days.

Permanent signage has been posted on applicable



streets with the days and times of sweeping. All vehicles must be removed from sweeping area to allow for fast and efficient sweeping. Streets affected are:

- First Monday of each month - 7:30 to 9 a.m. - Sunbury Street (even-numbered side); North Street (odd side); and Front Street (odd side).
- Last Thursday of each month - 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. - Sunbury Street (odd-numbered side); North Street (even side); and Front Street (even side).

Our Street Department workers and their many other tasks throughout the spring, summer and fall limit the number of streets able to be swept on a monthly basis. Every attempt will be made, as work schedules allow, to try to get to other streets. Residents will be informed via the Borough website homepage, Facebook, and pop-up street postings in advance of street sweeping in these areas.

Quality of Life

With spring and summer months upon us, I want to remind all residents and property owners to follow property maintenance ordinances regarding grass, weeds, etc. Our Code Enforcement Officer will be strictly enforcing the ordinance. It is your responsibility to maintain your property so as not to negatively impact the quality of life of your neighbors.

Sewer Authority news

On the morning of March 25, the sewer plant, located on the Pottsville/Minersville highway, experienced a fire that threatened the effluent pumps, a SCADA monitoring device, and the electrical panel/wiring powering those devices. Due to the quick response by first responders, our engineers from Entech Engineering, and our trusted vendors, a potential disaster was averted.

Though the fire was not large, the heat generated in the brick-contained building was extreme. An electrical panel, all electrical wiring, pumps, and the SCADA monitor will have to be replaced as a result of the heat damage. The Pennsylvania State Police Fire Marshall determined the cause to be electrical. With the blessing of our insurance carrier, repairs will commence. Until the repairs are completed, we have put in place backup equipment to ensure continued operation of the plant.

In closing, I want to kindly ask you all to team up with our Council, Mayor, myself, and our employees to tap the vast potential our hometown presents. Together, we will aggressively pursue opportunities to improve the quality of life for all our residents and make Minersville the best it can be.

I wish you and your families a healthy, safe, happy, and enjoyable spring and summer. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve all of you and provide you with this update on the State of OUR Borough.

Minersville On The Move!

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IRS Imposters Use Tax Season to Get Your Info

Unfortunately, there are regular and frequent scams in the United States related to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and tax filing.

BEWARE! The IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers by email, phone, text messages or social media to request personal or financial information. NEVER succumb to initiated requests through these channels for PIN numbers, passwords or similar access information for credit cards, banks, or other financial accounts.

The IRS does not accept gift cards as payment. If you receive a phone call or email claiming that your tax payment is due in the form of a gift card, you know this is a SCAM.

If you receive an IRS scam email

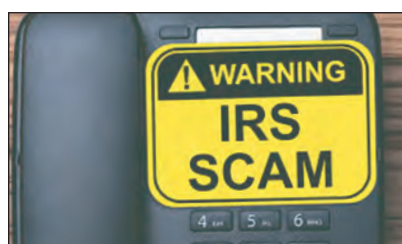
- DO NOT click on any link in the email. Visit the IRS identity protection page if you clicked on links in a suspicious email or website and entered confidential information.
- DO NOT reply to the email.
- DO NOT open any attachments to the email. DO send the full email headers or forward the email, as is, to phishing@irs.gov. Don't forward screenshots or scanned images of emails because this removes valuable information.

- DO report the scam email to the Federal Trade Commission. Use the FTC Complaint Assistant on FTC.gov and add "IRS Email scam" in the notes.

- DO delete the original email.

Scam phone calls to look out for

A common IRS-impersonation scam are phone calls pretending to represent the IRS. The IRS ...



- WILL NEVER call to demand immediate payment using a specific payment method such as a prepaid debit card, gift card or wire transfer. Generally, the IRS

will first mail a bill to any taxpayer who owes taxes.

- WILL NEVER threaten to immediately bring in local police or other law enforcement groups to have the taxpayer arrested for not paying.

- WILL NEVER demand that taxes be paid without giving taxpayers the opportunity to question or appeal the amount owed.

- WILL NEVER call unexpectedly about a tax refund.

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WITH THIS AD - EXPIRES 12/31/24

Lots Happening at the Minersville Public Library

Be A Rockhound! Find Hidden Gems This Summer

The Minersville Public Library has again received a grant for another Junior Rock Hounding Program this summer. Follow the Library's website and Facebook page for the date, yet to be determined.

Children will have the opportunity to dig for local quartz crystals in a kiddie pool filled with sand and crack open a Geode. Information about local rocks and fossils in addition to activity sheets and goodie bags will be provided to all who attend. Children will need to pre-register for this event by contacting the library or visiting in person.

Sewing, reading and writing this summer

Want to learn to sew? Another grant received will fund basic machine sewing instruction to teens and adults this summer at the library. We are in the process of getting the supplies and will announce a date very soon. There will be a limited number of machines, so pre-registration is necessary.



Children sign-ups for the Minersville Library's Summer Reading Program are happening now. This year's theme will be Find Adventure!

Cursive Writing classes for children are currently going on with Miss Teri every Tuesday at 5 p.m. Story Time is held every Thursday at 1:30 p.m. All programs are free of charge.

Young and older adults... Need to study for your GED? We have the latest books to help you out. Stop in and get a Library Card; they're free!

The Library has many opportunities for high school students needing to do their community service hours for graduation.

Check out our fun-time activities

Our Story Time youngsters had a great time receiving treats dropped off by the Easter Bunny and enjoyed our Egg Hunt prior to Easter.



Fun for the entire family, our Doggie Swim will once again be available to dogs and their owners at the Minersville Community Pool nears its summer close.

Need a banner to celebrate an event? The Library has a wide format printer available... your design or ours. Prices are based on size.

As always, call the Library at 570-544-5196 for information on any of our programs.

South Sch. Garden Club

Plant sale on May 18

The annual plant sale of the South Schuylkill Garden Club will be held Saturday, May 18 at Bubeck Park in Schuylkill Haven from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The selection of plants includes perennials, annuals, herbs, shrubs, natives, heirloom vegetables, succulents, sun-loving and shade-loving plants, small trees and even house plants.

The plants are sourced from club members' gardens right here in Schuylkill County making them especially hardy to grow locally. Prices are hard to beat. Qualified gardeners will be on hand to answer questions and offer advice for successful outcomes.

Club to give \$1000 scholarship

The Garden Club will award a \$1000 Scholarship to a Schuylkill County high school senior furthering their education in related horticulture and agricultural fields.

Applications must be received by Thursday, May 30. An application form can be requested from high school guidance departments or from Scholarship Chair Patricia Wishousky - call 272-245-5050 or e-mail pjw47@outlook.com. The winner will receive the scholarship at a Garden Club summer meeting.



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Fireworks on July 3



The Minersville Lions Club is proud to announce this year's 71st annual Minersville Fireworks Show and Independence Day Celebration will be held on Wednesday, July 3. In the event of rain, this spectacular could be postponed to Friday, July 5.

Certain to be another fun event for all, the fireworks will be set off at the Teener Field. Best viewing can be enjoyed from the Minersville Little League complex. The Lions are planning a big day complete with a variety of food for sale plus games and activities for the whole family... and climaxed shortly after dusk by spectacular pyrotechnics.

The Lions seek financial support from the community. Direct cash donations are always appreciated; no donation is too small. But, there will be many other ways in the coming months for all to help support the cost of these fireworks through fundraising efforts - purchase of food items, taking a chance on raffles, etc. As in years past, upper-tier donors will be publicly recognized.

The Minersville Lions Club is a non-profit civic organization that strives to help local citizens and businesses within the community. The members of the club are men and women volunteers interested in the development of the Minersville Area.

- Douglas J. Taglieri, Minersville Lions President

Police Chief to Retire

Time takes its toll on all of us, and I am no exception. I will be retiring within the next few months and we will use this period to transition the leadership of the Police Department.

It has been an honor and privilege to have served as your Chief of Police. No Police Department can be successful without the support of the community it serves. I want to thank you for the support and assistance you have given to me during my tenure here in Minersville.



I also want to thank the Mayor and Borough Council for, not only having the confidence and trust to appoint me to the position of Chief of Police, but also for their support for the changes we have made to enable our Police Department to grow and develop into one of the best police departments in Sch. County.

Heraclitus, the Greek philosopher said, "Change is the only constant in life." I have had the honor and privilege of serving as a police officer since 1977. It is now time for a change for me and for the Minersville Police Department. I have the utmost confidence that under the leadership of your elected officials and the next Chief of Police, the Borough of Minersville will continue to grow and prosper. I pray that God will bless you and keep you in His care.

Sincerely and gratefully . . .

Michael P. Combs



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& Jones

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New Restaurants to Enjoy in Minersville Borough

Kat's Café & Restaurant

You've probably heard... there's a new place for good food in Minersville. It's Kat's Café & Restaurant at 236 Sunbury Street (formerly Myrtle May's and Hoagie House).

Owner Chef Katherine proudly states, "Kat's is a place where you can eat-in or take-out great food made from scratch... like your mother or grandmother used to make - no substitutes, no shortcuts, the way food was always meant to be made... with love."



Chef Katherine was raised in a coal region small town in Poland, very similar to our Schuylkill County area. She grew up eating Slavic food, the type that nourished many a coal miner

here and afar. Over the decades of living in the United States she has expanded her culinary pallet that now includes a mix of Slavic, ethnic, and American favorites.

With the help of her mother, a retired private chef, and taking lessons from other family members in the food industry, Chef Katherine bedazzles everyone's taste buds with authentic wholesome food made from fresh, quality ingredients.

Certain dishes are only available by the season and some in limited quantity. Enjoy Skook favorites

such as pierogis, halupkis, bleenies, hunter stew, beef goulash, cutlets, schnitzels, and meat sauces. Hearty soups, such as tripe and borsch, are available throughout the week. Delicious pastries and sweets are baked fresh each morning.

Kat's Café & Restaurant is open weekdays (Tuesday through Friday) from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Look for daily and seasonal specials, and more information posted at the café and online at:

<http://kats.cafe>

Fat Bellies Deli - A culinary gem

Nestled in the heart of New Minersville, Fat Bellies Deli at 439 Heffner St (located a few blocks off Sunbury Street at the former M&Rs), opened its doors in August last year. Owners Melvin Periard and Deborah James, boast a combined 27 years of restaurant experience.



Quickly becoming a favorite destination, Fat Bellies Deli specializes in 8 oz. craft burgers. Each all-beef patty is hand-formed with care to ensure a delicious experience

with every bite. The menu also features wings with a variety of sauces, hand-sliced cheesesteaks, hearty hoagies, double-decker grilled cheese sandwiches, fresh hand-cut French fries, all-day breakfast sandwiches and more that offer a diverse range of flavors to satisfy every craving.

As if the delicious offerings weren't enough, Fat Bellies Deli proudly presents itself as the home of the Original Minersville Food Challenge. With the slogan "You know you want one!" beckoning adventurous eaters.

For those seeking a culinary delight worth searching for, Fat Bellies Deli is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Find us on Facebook to view our menu online.



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Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

Project 113 Community Day is May 18

Railway Restoration Project 113 will celebrate its first ever Minersville Community Day on Saturday, May 18 featuring train excursions from the Minersville Station to the New St. Nicholas Breaker and back.

These trips are in cooperation with Reading Anthracite and the Reading & Northern Railroad. Food and other vendor opportunities at the train station will add to the day's celebration.



Steam engine CNJ 113 will pull six trips to the breaker and return. This will be the first time since 1982 that the 113 will return to the coal company property and the first time in over 90 years that a passenger train will depart northbound out of Minersville!

Trips will depart on the hour starting at 10 a.m. and continue until 3 p.m. Ticket prices are \$11 for ages 4 and up, FREE for children 3 and under accompanied by an adult. All passengers must have a ticket to ride.

The ride will last about 40 minutes, with narration on board with information about the breaker and engine CNJ 113. Ticketholders should arrive at the station at least 30 minutes prior to departure. Tickets are available to purchase online or through the mail.

Memorial Day parade & ceremony

The Minersville Memorial Day parade participants will gather at 8:45 a.m. ready to step off promptly at 9 a.m. on Monday, May 27 from the Little League parking lot on S. 4th Street.

The route will take it north on 4th Street and turn right/eastward on Sunbury Street to the Veterans Memorial at 3 E. Sunbury Street where the Memorial Day ceremony will take place. Residents are advised that Westwood Street and S. Delaware Avenue from Sunbury to Berger streets will be closed from 8:30 to 10 a.m.



Community yard sale

A Minersville Borough community-wide yard sale will be held Saturday, June 1. Sponsored by the Minersville Recreation Committee, the sale will take place from 7 to 11 a.m. Residents are asked to be a part of this gigantic, all-weather sale. A \$5 registration fee will get your Minersville Borough house location marked on the yard sale map.

Complete the yard sale registration shown on the front page of this newsletter and send to the

Minersville Borough Office for receipt by the May 29 deadline. Maps will be available for pickup May 31.

Pool pavilion available for rent

The swimming pool pavilion, dedicated to the memory of Catrina Williams and Carianna Kroh, is an ideal place to hold your summer birthday and swim party. Two party-size rental options are available, each with a damage/cleaning fee of \$50 in addition to the rental cost. Full payment is required two weeks in advance.

Option 1 is for a group of up to 20 guests with a maximum of 15 children for a set cost of \$200. Additional guests in excess of 20 cost \$10 each.

Option 2 covers 35 to 50 guests with a maximum of 40 children for \$350. Attendees in excess of 50 will cost \$10 additional.



- Continued on Page 10

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Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

- Continued from Page 8

Two time slots per day are available ... 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 to 8 p.m. Pool admission for all guests is included along with food and drink menu options.

Contact the Borough Office at 570-544-2149 to reserve your date and time. Additional information can be found on www.minersvillepa.gov.

Recreation complex rules

With warmer weather now upon us, please adhere to the following ordinance and rules at the Borough recreation complex:

- No dogs
- No riding of skateboards, bicycles, scooters, or rollerblades
- No forms of tobacco
- Playground is closed from dusk to dawn. Police will use judgement during Little League season.
- Age maximum for playground use is 12 years old. Exemptions are made for those supervising their children.

The complex is under camera surveillance and monitored by police.

Borough Office holidays

The Minersville Borough offices and employee operations will be closed in observance of the following upcoming holidays: Monday, May 27 (Memorial Day); Thursday, July 4 (Independence Day); and Monday, Sept. 2 (Labor Day).

Fire safety is important all year

As a reminder to residents, the community fire alarm will be tested each month and will sound at precisely 6:30 p.m. on the first Monday.

Fire Prevention Week is observed during October each year, but personal safety is something to be practiced throughout the year. To be fire safe, residents should install at least one smoke alarm on every level of their home. Test those smoke alarms monthly and replace batteries when necessary.

Develop an emergency escape plan for your residence and discuss what to do with all family members. Practice the plan at least twice each year.

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 information for both recycling and compost regulations can be found on the Borough website - [minersvillepa.gov](http://www.minersvillepa.gov) - by selecting the "services" tab.

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Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

What to do in an emergency?

In any emergency, call 9-1-1. This will connect you to the Schuylkill County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) with trained staff and cutting edge communications to dispatch the necessary medical, fire or police services quickly and efficiently.

If there is a non-emergency need to contact the Minersville Police Department, call 570-544-2333 or the office at 570-544-6212.

If a fire should occur in your home ... GET OUT, STAY OUT and CALL FOR HELP. Never go back inside for anything or anyone.

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@comcast.net. 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.

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 also calls for the inspection of each

unit every two 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.

Contact the Borough Office for registration/permits and with questions concerning this ordinance.

Be pet responsible!

Borough Ordinance 324 requires dog owners to keep the dog confined to their own property. When taking the dog for a walk, the animal must be on a leash and the person walking the dog is responsible to clean up any fecal matter discharged by the dog. On the pet owner's property, fecal matter must be removed within twenty-four hours to prevent the accumulation from becoming a danger to public health.



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History of Minersville High School Football

Part 4 In Our Series; Compiled and Written by Shane Schafer

Losing Seasons Close '60s Decade; Champs in 1971

As Coach John Gurski exited Minersville to take a new head coaching position at Wilson Area, the football landscape changed drastically across the state. In 1961 and 1963, Pennsylvania passed school reorganization legislature to provide a better education in the state. Under the shadow of the Cold War, the state wanted to prepare the next generation to compete on the world's stage in a modern economy.

This reorganization was done by consolidating many smaller school districts into one. Through the 1960s and early 1970s, the number of school districts across the state dropped from over 2,000 to around 500. Locally, football-playing schools dropped from 24 in 1955 to 16 in 1970.

Consolidation was nothing new to Minersville. In 1952, Branch Township School District was absorbed into Minersville. In 1958, Reilly Township began sending their elementary students to Minersville while their high schoolers had been going to Tremont and Cass Township since 1952. In both cases, Branch and Reilly Townships were financially distressed and could no longer afford to pay their teachers.

The 1961 and 1963 legislature led to the addition of Cass and Foster Townships, joining them with Minersville Borough, Branch, and Reilly Townships to

form Minersville Area School District.

School reorganization led to changes in the team's schedule along with growing pains associated with assimilating students from multiple schools, including once-football-rival Cass Township. Regular opponents like Ashland, Blythe Township, Cass Township, Coaldale, Frackville, and Kulpmont were replaced by larger schools like Blue Mountain, North Schuylkill, Tamaqua, Hazleton, and Mount Carmel.

This altered Minersville's schedule from many comparably sized schools, which they had great success against, to larger schools that would take time for the program to adjust to a tougher schedule.

These changes were exacerbated by the departure of all-time great coach John Gurski. The new schedule coupled with unifying students from multiple communities into one team would've been a challenge even for an established coach like Gurski, but Minersville faced these issues with someone completely new.

These growing pains were apparent in Minersville's success on the field. From 1964 to 1969, the program posted a 22-45-2 record. Their only winning season in that stretch was 1965 (6-4) and 1967 is the school's only winless season to this day.

Coach Terry Case takes over in 1964

In 1964, Terry Case was hired to fill the large shoes left by Gurski. Case was a Sunbury High School graduate. He was also formerly an assistant coach at Northumberland and Pottsville high schools. He was on the staff of legendary Pottsville coach Bill Flynn and followed Flynn to Chicago to coach at Brother Rice High School. Feeling homesick, Case returned to Schuylkill County and accepted the coaching position at Minersville.



TERRY CASE WITH HIS TEAM IN 1967

Case found some early success at Minersville. He led the squad to a 14-13 upset over Hazleton in his first season and finished the year with a 4-5-1 record. In 1965, he led the team to their last winning season of the decade with a 6-4 record.

Issues plagued Case throughout his tenure and serious injuries were a common occurrence. In 1967,

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History of Minersville High School Football

on the eve of their Week Four game against Mahanoy Area, a Minersville school official was quoted by the Pottsville Republican saying, "I've never known a year when we had more players sidelined with injuries." By this point in the season, Case admitted he was coaching a team of mostly sophomores.

These issues came to a head the next week when Minersville was embarrassed by Blue Mountain in a 53 to 6 loss, a scoring record for the Eagles. Case resigned the Tuesday after the game citing personal reasons; but, reporting from the Pottsville Republican said this decision came from great pressure and abuse from Minersville fans due to the team's poor performance.

Coach Pat Droskinis posts losing seasons



COACH DROSKINIS SPEAKS TO TEAM IN 1969

Assistant Coach Pat Droskinis was tapped to finish the season. Droskinis was a Minersville grad most famous for coaching Cass Township's 1957 undefeated, untied, and un-scored upon season. Droskinis was handed no easy task, being given the reins less than a week before playing undefeated Mount Carmel. Minersville played tough, but lost 33 to 0. They finished their most dismal season by being outscored 370 to 100 and being the only team in school history to go winless.

Droskinis was retained as Minersville's head coach, but had an incredibly difficult task. He was attempting to rebuild a program at its lowest point and so far had failed to recapture some of the magic from his time at Cass Township. In 1968 and 1969 Minersville posted back-to-back 2-8 records. After the 1969 season, Droskinis resigned, expressing his regret that his coaching efforts did not meet with approval from some board members and fans.

Winning ways return with Zontanos

In 1970, Minersville went out of the area for their next coach, hiring Charles Zontanos. Zontanos was a 28-year-old native of East Orange, N.J., and a Temple University football standout. At the time of his hiring, he was a graduate assistant at Arizona State University.

Zontanos made a quick impression on the community. In June, the Pottsville Republican reported, "Football fever is running rampant in Minersville with the arrival of Charles Zontanos.... The community is hungry for a winning season." This hunger showed itself in their season opener hosting Tamaqua, with the Republican reporting 5,000+ in attendance. The Miners tied Tamaqua 20-20, but flashed greatness the next week demolishing Schuylkill Haven 42-0.

Zontanos finished his first season equaling the wins of the past three seasons with a 4-5-1 record. Three of the five losses were by a total of six points. The team was so happy with the turnaround that the players presented Zontanos with a \$100 bill to show their appreciation for the job he had done. Pottsville Republican Sports Editor Willard Schraedly predicted a winning season for Minersville in 1971. This would turn out to be an understatement.

Minersville finished the 1971 regular season 9-1, including Minersville's only win ever over Mount Carmel. The Battlin' Miners clinched the Eastern Conference Southern Division Class B title against Saint Clair 10-0 in Week 8.

Road to the 1971 Championship

Minersville then faced off against the Suburban Conference and Northern Division champion Lakeland Chiefs for the Eastern Conference Class B

- Continued on Page 14

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History of Minersville High School Football

- Continued from Page 13

title. The stark difference between the two teams was size. While previewing the game with the Scranton Sunday Times, Lakeland Coach Jerry Wasilchak remarked, "I scouted Minersville last week and they are huge."

The 1971 championship was scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 20 at Scranton Memorial Stadium. The sluggish start and punters' duel of the first quarter may have been attributed to the cold and windy conditions. Adrian Sinko heated things up in the second quarter as he led the team on a 13-play, 67-yard drive that culminated in his 2-yard touchdown run. Sinko was involved in all scoring plays that day. He threw a season-high two touchdown passes to Dave Olenick

1971 EASTERN CONFERENCE CLASS B CHAMPS



1971 Headline and Photos from the Pottsville Republican



Olenick Snags Bomb For Second TD



Fans Carry Zontanos Off Field



Miners Defense Decks Lakeland QB

Minersville Reigns As East Conference Class B Kings

and capped off the scoring with another rushing touchdown in the fourth quarter to ice the game.

Minersville dominated Lakeland, winning their second Eastern Conference title by the score of 27 to 6. Minersville's vaunted "Blue and White Gang" defense came to play, holding the Chief's premier back, Sam Matechack, to just eight yards on

eight carries and the team to 59 total yards rushing.

Lakeland couldn't handle the size of linemen Dave Murphy and Pete Walsh. Scranton-area reporters marveled at Minersville's size, commenting "They're a Class B school with Class A size." Lakeland supporters tried to reason that if they were big they couldn't be fast, but had to eat their words. Chiefs coach Wasilchak said, "People thought they wouldn't be fast because of their size, but they found out today they are big and quick and strong."

Minersville won their first Eastern Conference title since 1949 and became the first school to win a Class A and Class B title. In just two years, Zontanos took Minersville from its lowest point and brought them to the pinnacle of the sport.

In 1973, Zontanos put another quality team on the gridiron with a 7-3 record but left the team after that season. Zontanos had the aspirations of coaching college football. On that path, he accepted head coaching jobs at Carl Hayden and then Thunderbird High School in Phoenix, Arizona. This eventually led to accepting the head coaching job at Glendale Community College. He led the Gauchos to a 35-19-4 record in six seasons before stepping down to spend more time with his family.

Zontanos revived a program on life support. He won more games in three years than the program did from 1964 to 1969. Putting the program back on the right track, it wouldn't be long before the program was back in the Eastern Conference Championship.

Newsletter Particulars

"Miners' Journal" is a quarterly newsletter of the Borough of Minersville distributed to 2,600 households within the borough and available at newsstands.

Newsletter articles are compiled by the Minersville Borough Office and are designed and printed by South Schuylkill Printing & Publishing 960 E. Main St. · Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

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E-mail: printing@southschuylkill.net

www.SouthSchuylkillPrinting.net

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August 8, October 24 and February 6, 2025

News Submittals

Nonprofit and community organizations within the borough are invited to submit news items for consideration. Written submittals must be received at the borough office three weeks prior to the publication date. Simply E-mail info to minersnewsletter@hotmail.com or call 570-544-2149.

Advertising

Businesses wishing to reach every household in the Borough of Minersville are invited to advertise in future issues. Contact South Schuylkill Printing & Publishing for more information. Call Barb @ 570-385-3120. All advertisements must be received at least three weeks prior to the publication dates. Ad content is subject to approval and acceptance by the Borough of Minersville.

Minersville Compost Site Is for Resident Use

Key Card Required to Access the Facility

Minersville's Compost Site, located at the northern end of N. Delaware Avenue, has restricted access, requiring property owners to apply for and receive an activation card to access the gated lot.

Application forms are available by download from the Borough website at minersvillepa.gov/?p=54 or get one in-person at the Borough Office. Proof of residency or property ownership is required. Adding additional users on the access/activation card requires a copy of each person's drivers license with photo and number on the form.

Security measures needed to curb abuse

The complex has 24/7 high-definition video surveillance monitored by the Minersville Police Department. Gate activation will be granted only during facility hours - 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. during spring through fall seasons.

Cardholders are to notify the Borough immediately if their card is lost or stolen and will be charged \$25 for card replacement. The original cardholder is fully responsible for any additional authorized users.

The compost facility is for residential properties. Contractors are not permitted to dump compost materials. If a cardholder sells his/her property or moves from the Borough, the card must be returned to the Borough within five days for deactivation or risk a \$25 charge.



Anyone found violating the regulations can have their access cards made inactive and could face criminal charges for illegal dumping.

Access card instructions

Stop/park your vehicle in front of the gate. You will need to get out of the vehicle and place the card in front of the card reader box.

The gate will begin to open. Return to your vehicle and drive into the gated area. The gate will close after you are in the compost/recycling area.

On the way out, there is a sensor that will automatically open the gate to allow you to exit and then close behind you.

Note: the gate is on a timer for opening and closing, but it will not close if it senses a vehicle in its path.



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Reminders from Code Enforcement

Planning That Next Project? You May Need a Permit!

When planning projects, please remember to contact the Borough Office regarding Building Permits.

Permits are required for all new construction and all replacements or alterations of roofs, windows, doors, garage doors, electrical, plumbing, heating systems (including supplemental heating units), sidewalks, curbing, fencing with 6' maximum 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 and enclosing decks, will require a building permit and a zoning permit. Zoning permits are administered by the Schuylkill County Zoning Office; contact the office at 570-628-1415.

If you are contemplating replacing your windows, please be aware when shopping around for windows that all windows installed in this area must have a U-factor of 0.30 or lower. This number has been established under the 2015 Uniform Construction

Code adopted by the State of Pennsylvania and enforced throughout Pennsylvania. If the windows do not have the proper U-factor, they will not pass code inspection.



Any individual with seasonal/temporary swimming pools (24 inches or greater in depth), must take down those pools each year by September 15 and cannot be installed the following year prior to May 15. These pools require a permit and inspection to verify proper installation and barriers. Seasonal/temporary swimming pool permit applications are available on our website: minersvillepa.gov under the Code Enforcement tab.

If you require a dumpster for construction demolition, you need to get a permit. The permitting process will provide information as to appropriate placement of the dumpster and other needs for public safety, protection of property, and making the work as easy as possible for all concerned.

If you have any questions regarding any of these items, please contact our office at 570-544-2149.