



# MINERS' JOURNAL

Official Publication



Borough of Minersville

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

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BOROUGH OF MINERSVILLE, PA

February 2018

## Manager Provides Progress Update and Look to Future

### State of the Borough – Challenges Met, Solutions Found

Greetings, fellow residents! As we look forward to warmer temperatures of spring, I hope you and your family had an enjoyable, safe, and healthy Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year.

The following is a brief summary of projects and actions that have taken place since my last update in the August 2017 *Miners' Journal*. Additionally, I'm including a brief outline of exciting improvement projects planned for an active 2018.

#### Summer and fall 2017 updates

- **Railroad crossing repairs** – After years of back-and-forth over some concerns, I was able to open a line of communication and build a cordial relationship with Reading Blue Mountain Northern Railroad. As a result, RBMN did a fantastic job repairing the street crossing and landscaping the area surrounding their tracks. The railroad also addressed a major safety concern by moving tankers located closely to the highway. It's smooth sailing over the tracks now, but hold down your speed. I hope to see the cordial relationship with RBMN to continue.



**Bobby Mahalchick**  
Borough Manager

- **Streets paving** – As promised, a yearly paving program has been revived. Areas of Pine Hill, Heffner, Westwood, Pine, and Schuylkill streets were milled and paved during the summer. On a yearly basis, a priority list needing the most attention will be created and paving projects undertaken.

- **Potholes** – I know motorists have been upset these were not being addressed quickly enough. The

Street Department has been filling potholes; but, our supplier wasn't able to provide material for several  
– *Continued on Page 4*

### New Borough Officials

Last November's municipal General Election elected two new members of Minersville Borough Council – Stephen Darosh and Robert Umbenhen – and new Minersville Mayor Leo Securda. They were sworn into office, effective January 1.

#### Councilor Stephen Darosh

Also known as "Beasly", Stephen Darosh has lived in Minersville most of his life. The youngest of five children of parents Veronica and Edward Darosh, he attended Saint Stanislaus parochial school through the 8th grade and then Minersville Area High School, graduating in 1983.

Steve joined the United States Marine Corps, completing boot camp at Paris Island in South Carolina. Duty stations included Fort Sill in Oklahoma for artillery training and then the desert of 29 Palms in California for two and a half years. He served a tour overseas – based in Okinawa, Japan – for one year that also included three months in Korea.

Steve then returned to Minersville where he now resides with his wife of 28 years, Melissa. The couple have two sons, Stephen Jr. and Jordan.

He worked at Cressona Aluminum for 19 years, Chester Salt for five years, and now works for Reading Anthracite Co. in Duncott. Community organizations are an important part of local life. Steve is a life member at Minersville Fire Rescue; Black Diamond Navy Club, Ship 257; and a life member of the Marine Corps League Coal Cracker Detachment.

– *Continued on Page 2*

### NOTICE – Hydrant Flushing

#### Customers of the Minersville Water Authority

Hydrant flushing throughout the water authority system will begin the week of April 2 between 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. daily and will continue for several weeks until complete. Low water pressure and discolored water may be experienced during this time. Simply let the water run a few minutes until it becomes clear. Flushing also allows the Authority to monitor and maintain fire hydrants throughout the system.



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# 2018 BOROUGH OFFICIALS

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## OFFICIALS

Mayor..... Leo Securda  
Chief of Police ..... Michael Combs  
President of Council ..... Jamie Kuehn  
Borough Manager..... Bobby Mahalchick  
Secretary ..... Gloria Capik  
Treasurer ..... Megan Paul  
Tax Receiver..... Juliann Kowalchick  
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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## 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 for discussions and setting of an agenda takes place on the First Tuesday. The Business Meeting is then held on the Second Tuesday.

## 2018 OFFICIAL HOLIDAY HOURS

Minersville Borough offices will be closed on the following days in 2018 in observance of the stated holidays – Presidents' Day, Feb. 19; Good Friday (half day, close at 11 a.m.), March 30; Memorial Day, May 28; Independence Day, July 4; Labor Day, Sept. 3; Veterans Day (Observed), Nov. 12; Thanksgiving and day after, Nov. 22 and 23; Christmas, Dec. 24 (half day, close at 11 a.m.) and 25; New Year's, Dec. 31 (half day, close at 11 a.m.), Jan. 1, 2019.

# New Borough Officials

– Continued from Page 1

"As a newly elected borough council member," explains Stephen, "I have been asked what my objectives are. Well, the answer is quite simple. We live in a great little town and all we want to do is keep it moving forward. Unfortunately, sometimes to do that there has to be change. I just want to make sure the change is in the best interest of the town.

"I am willing to lend an ear because the more ideas that are presented, the best solutions can be obtained. I am here to serve our community and the wonderful residents in it."

## Councilor Robert Umbenhen

Robert "Bob" Umbenhen has lived in Minersville for more than 25 years with his wife Patrice and son Tyler. The couple will celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary this September.

In 1983, Bob enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in the PA Army National Guard. Employed by the Home Depot for 11 years, he is a department supervisor. A member of the Mountaineer Hose Co #1, Bob currently serves as President and Safety Officer, Minersville Fire Line officer, Firemen Relief, and is a Fireman's Delegate for Schuylkill County.

An avid Penn State fan, he and his family are season ticket holders. Bob loves the outdoors, especially fishing and 4-wheeling, and getting away on vacation.

In his newly elected position to the Borough Council, Bob is looking forward to create a positive structure for all residents and keeping Minersville a great place in which to live. His message to all is "I look forward to seeing you in the borough."

## Mayor Leo Securda

Leo Securda was born and raised in Minersville. He currently serves as a Detective in the Schuylkill County District Attorney's Office.

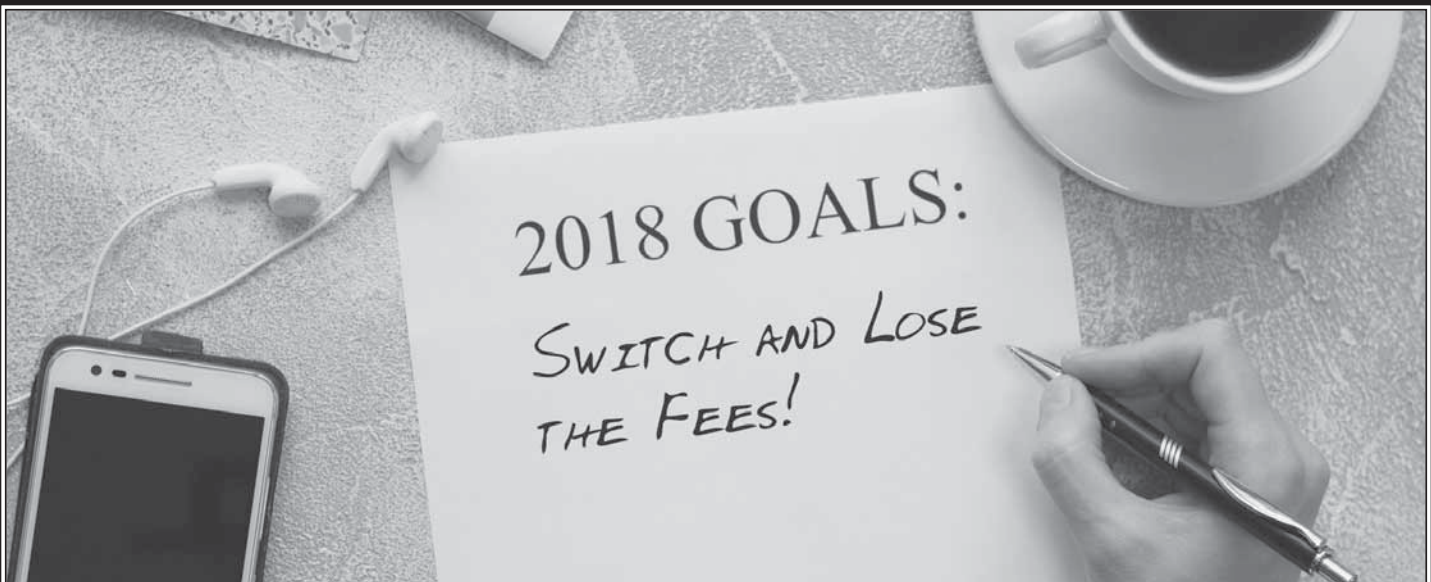
Leo attended Penn State University and Lackawanna College. He has served in many roles throughout his career in Schuylkill County, including a police officer for several municipalities, Deputy Sheriff, and a volunteer firefighter. Leo holds a vast understanding of our legal system and is familiar with legal proceedings and how to manage a police department.

Married to Ashley Securda, an attorney, the couple has two daughters, Reagen and Kennedy. Leo is dedicated to the community and takes pride in his hometown.

## ATTENTION: New Minersville Neighbors of Former St. Francis School/Church

The school and church parking lots will be heavily used during the month of February by the St. Matthew's CYO organization during its annual basketball tournaments in the school gym.

Residents that occasionally use the privately-owned lots for additional parking are asked to not do so during February. Police have been notified to fine/tow unauthorized vehicles. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated during this fundraiser.



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# From the Desk of the Borough Manager

– Continued from Page 1

months due to an equipment breakdown and then priority was given to large PennDOT projects. We were able to obtain material the third week of September.

Another supplier was identified; but, because of the distance, the material would have solidified by its arrival time in Minersville. Potholes were addressed with hot asphalt until the plant closed for the season in November. Until the opening of the materials supplier in spring, cold patch will be used to address substantially-sized potholes. On the cost side, cold patch is more expensive than hot asphalt and is only a temporary fix.

- **Street crack sealing** was completed on prioritized streets. Crack sealing is done to extend the life of the streets. Sealing was done throughout the fall.

- **Blighted property help** – As one of the pioneers creating the first Schuylkill County Land Bank, Minersville was the first to be granted funds for the rehab of the blighted property at 228 Lewis Street. The building was totally rehabbed inside and out with new appliances installed. This formerly abandoned property was sold by the Land Bank and is now back on the tax rolls.

- **Municipal parking lot repaving** – During a storm water project on South Street, Council authorized the repaving of the municipal lot on Sunbury Street.

In addition, the Street Department has completed relocation to our Penn Street building. Residents are reminded that all contact with the Street Department must go through the Borough Office. The Penn Street location is for employees only and not open to the public.



## 2018 planning and projects

- **Sunbury Street improvements** – With the Green Light Go grant funding in hand, the Borough has been given “the green light” (so to speak) for planning of

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## R&J TOURS – 2018 HAPPENINGS

Call for Date – NYC Free Day.....	\$42
Call for Dates – Washington D.C. Free Day.....	\$46
Call for Dates – Gourmet Shopping.....	\$43
Feb 16 – Roy & Conway @ Hunterdon Hills.....	\$87
March 3 – Spring Doo Wop Cavalcade @ AMT.....	\$89
March 3 – Terra Cotta & Reading Terminal Market.....	*\$58
March 4 – Amazing Grace @ AMT.....	\$87
March 4-10 – Philadelphia Flower Show.....	call
March 14 – Jersey Boys @ Santander.....	\$108
March 17 – St Patrick’s Day Parade.....	\$42
March 20 – Sweet Caroline @ Mt Airy Casino.....	\$67
April 4 – Mystery Tour.....	\$117
April 5 – Cherry Blossom Cruise.....	*\$126
April 7 – American Girl Place.....	\$82
April 7 – Legoland.....	\$38
April 7 – New York International Auto Show.....	\$65
April 10 – Sweet & Salty, Creamy & Crunchy.....	\$75
April 12 – Rainbow-Whose Wife is it Anyway.....	\$77
April 14 – Madagascar @ DAT.....	\$42
April 14 – Statue of Liberty & 9-11 Museum.....	*\$85
April 17 – Mt. Airy-The Duprees.....	\$67
April 21 – Baltimore National Aquarium 2018.....	*\$70
April 28 – Eastern State Penitentiary & Grim Serial Killers.....	*\$68
April 28 – Gettysburg Battlefield & Ghost Walk.....	\$91

OVERNIGHTS \*Child Rates Available

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April 20-24 – San Antonio Fiesta.....	\$2125 p/p Double Occupancy
April 23-May 3 – Imperial Cities.....	\$3849 p/p Double Occupancy
April 27-29 – Virginia International Tattoo.....	\$581 p/p Double Occupancy
May 31-June 3 – The Purple Moose.....	\$794 p/p Double Occupancy

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## From the Desk of the Borough Manager

two projects – \$308,270 for Pedestrian Improvements and Over Speed Warning System and \$181,920 for Traffic Signal Coordination, both to improve safety and traffic control on Rt. 901.

The projects will begin later this spring or summer. Included will be traffic signal retiming and coordination, pedestrian improvements, and installation of over speed warning systems at the eight intersections along the Sunbury Street corridor. The grants require the work to be completed by June 2019.

- **Planning for the future** – Pennsylvania's Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) has provided funds through its Early Intervention Program for Minersville to retain Fairmount Capital Advisors to do an assessment of the borough's financial condition, provide a management audit, assess current and forecast future financial trends, and to present a recommendation on a five-year budget plan.

The preliminary results/recommendations of the firm's analysis were presented at an advertised public meeting attended by 15 to 20 town officials and residents. Fairmount solicited public input and feedback. A final report is pending and will be presented to Council for their review.

- **Community park creation** – With Keystone Communities grant funding, the Borough retained the services of Derck and Edson for the planning and development of a community park on the for-

mer Legion property. Groundbreaking for the park is hoped as early as this spring or summer.

- **Blighted properties a priority** – The Borough continues to work through the Schuylkill County Land Bank to address blighted properties. Properties at 140-142-144 Sunbury Street have been acquired for \$100 with grant funding approval for demolition, put up for sale, and hopefully returned to the tax rolls. Expect this aggressive stance addressing blighted properties to continue.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve all of you and provide you with this update on the State of the Borough.

– Bobby Mahalchick, Borough Manager

### COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Interested in sending a subscription to a friend or distant relative?

Living outside the borough limits but would like to receive a copy?

Future issues of the *Miners' Journal* can be sent to the address you provide for a nominal fee. Simply contact [minersnewsletter@hotmail.com](mailto:minersnewsletter@hotmail.com) with your mailing address or call the borough office during normal business hours . . . 570-544-2149.

## MINERSVILLE PHARMACY - FRONT & SUNBURY STREETS • MINERSVILLE

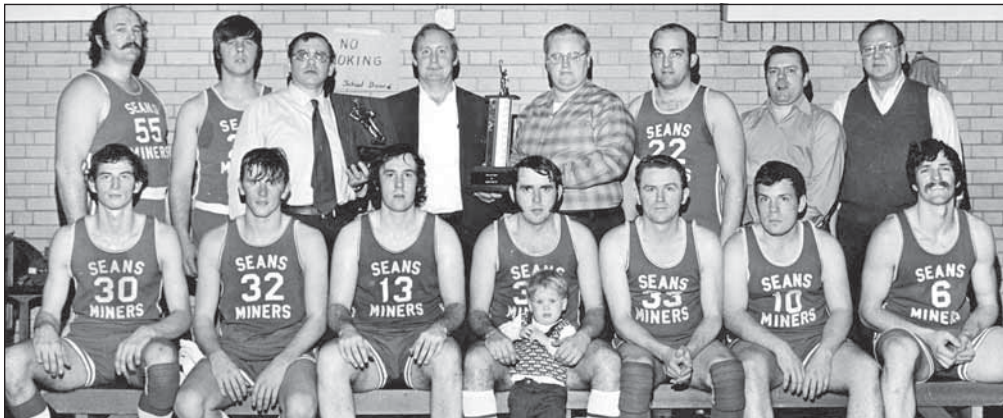
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## Sean's Miners Team Identification Correction



The featured article published in the Fall issue of *Miners' Journal* recounted the winning tradition of Minersville Basketball through the years. A photograph of Sean's Miners, a Pottsville Rec League team reuniting "The Fab Five" to dominate play of the Pottsville Rec League in the early 1970s, failed to have the proper caption identification. Here is the photo again and the proper identification.

Members of Sean's Miners included, front from left, Steve Sitkus, Russ Rothermel, Dave Homa, Craig Duffy (holding Sean Cooper), Fuzzy Kostichak, Jack McDonald, and Bill Murphy; back, Joe Willinsky, Mike Homa, sponsor Mike Cooper, president of the League Bob Davis, Coach Jerry Mealey, Jack Murphy, Sam MacCready, and scorekeeper Jack Koval.

## Message from Minersville's New Mayor

Thank you to all Borough residents for your support and I look forward to working hard with Council to make Minersville a better place in which to live and raise a family. Needs and ideas from Borough residents are always encouraged. Together, we can make good things happen. Please contact Borough Hall.

Following are a few things I would like to get

accomplished in the first few months.

- **Smoke Detectors in all households** – I would like to partner the American Red Cross with local fire departments and interested businesses to distribute and install free smoke detectors for all Borough residents. The date will be in the spring-time with no limit to the number of smoke detectors given to each household.



LEO SECURDA  
Mayor

- **New Police Patrol Car** – The Minersville Police Department will replace an older patrol car later this year with a new vehicle.

- **Minersville Citizens Police Academy** – Police Chief Michael Combs, along with his police officers and myself, will establish a Citizens Police Academy with presentations on crime prevention, including drug laws and how to recognize use and illegal activities, elder abuse and how to prevent it, and scams perpetrated on residents and businesses in the Borough.

– Leo Securda, Mayor

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# Public Meetings . . . Be Part of What's Happening!

Minersville Borough governance is an open book. All agencies and boards meet in public, discuss the needs and challenges of the Borough, and make decisions how best to serve residents, businesses, and property owners.

Following are the published dates for Minersville Borough Council, Minersville Municipal Authority, Minersville Sewer Authority, and the Minersville Planning Commission.

Open to the public, all meetings are held in the Council Chambers building located at the corner of North Delaware Ave. and East Carbon St. beginning at 7 p.m. Time is allotted for any Borough resident to speak on matters before each body.

## **Borough Council**

Minersville Borough Council meets two times each month.

A "Work Session" meeting is held the first Tuesday of each month during which agenda items are discussed. Motions and votes may be taken if time-critical action is necessary. Typically however, agenda items are scheduled for action at the regular monthly Council meeting held a week later on the second Tuesday of each month.

In 2018 Work Session meetings will be held Feb. 6, March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5, July 3, Aug. 7, Sept. 4, Oct. 2, and Nov. 7 (Wednesday). There is no scheduled

Work Session in December.

Regular monthly Council meetings in 2018 will be held Feb. 13, March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10, Aug. 14, Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13, and Dec. 11.



## **Municipal Water Authority Board**

Meetings of the Municipal Water Authority Board are held the third Monday of each month.

In 2018, the Municipal Water Authority Board will meet Feb. 20 (Tuesday), March 19, April 16, May 21, June 18, July 16, Aug. 20, Sept. 17, Oct. 15, Nov. 19, and Dec. 17. An exception to the rule, the February meeting is the third Tuesday this year.

## **Sewer Authority Board**

The Minersville Sewer Authority Board meets the fourth Wednesday of each month.

Meetings for 2018 will be held Feb. 28, March 28, April 25 (at the sewer plant), May 23, June 27, July 25, Aug. 22, Sept. 26, Oct. 24, Nov. 28, and Dec. 19. Due to the Christmas holiday, the December meeting will be held on the third Wednesday this year.

## **Planning Commission**

Meetings of the Minersville Planning Commission are scheduled quarterly. Remaining in 2018 are meetings on April 4, July 11, and Oct. 3.

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# Borough Services Update . . . and Events

## Slow down, save a life

The Minersville Police Department is increasing its efforts to reduce speeding in the Borough. Additional officers will be assigned to traffic enforcement. Slow down, save a life and avoid a costly speeding ticket.

## Good Intent Chinese Auction

The Good Intent Hose Co. #1 has slated its spring Chinese Auction fundraiser event at the fire house, 12 Silverton Road in Llewellyn, on Sunday, March 4. Food, fun and prizes are all part of the activities.

"Shop & Drop" sessions will be held Thursday through Saturday, March 1-3, from 4 to 7 p.m. each day and on Sunday prior to the prize drawing from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Some of the prizes already lined up include a 55-inch flat screen television, Weber 4-burner gas grill, a lottery board, battery-powered GMC Sierra Truck, a kayak, KitchenAid mixer, pub table and chairs, gift cards and much more.

## After a snowfall

Shovel your sidewalk! Borough Ordinance 317 requires snow and ice to be cleared from the sidewalk within 12 hours after the snow has stopped. In addition, the ordinance



prohibits throwing the snow into the street.

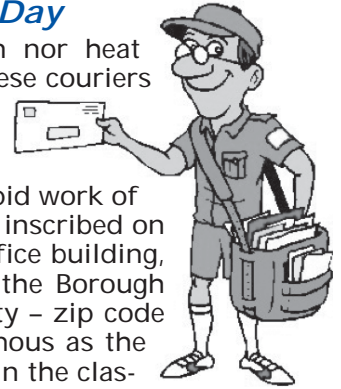
Snow causes inconvenience and can create hazardous conditions. Shoveling snow into the street after it has been plowed adds to the problem. Street crews have to take time to plow the street again instead of clearing other streets. In addition, the snow shoveled into the street creates a hazard for your neighbors driving on that street.

## Thank a Mail Carrier Day

"Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds."

That often repeated saying to describe the intrepid work of our nation's mail carriers is inscribed on the James A. Farley Post Office building, the main postal facility in the Borough of Manhattan, New York City – zip code 10001 – and also made famous as the home to "Operation Santa" in the classic film "Miracle on 34th Street."

"Thank a Mail Carrier Day" is celebrated on February 4 each year. This year nearly every mail carrier gets a day off work on this special day ... but only because February 4 falls on a Sunday. So, whatever day you get to see your mail carrier, give him or her a smile and a hard-earned thank you.



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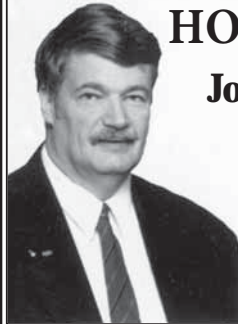
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# Borough Services Update . . . and Events

## Easter egg hunt

The Minersville Recreation Department will host an Easter egg hunt on Saturday, March 31 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 March 21 is required. Complete the form shown here and mail to: Minersville Recreation, c/o Easter Egg Hunt, 2 E. Sunbury St., Minersville, PA 17954.

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.

## Hydrant flushing

The Minersville Water Authority will flush all of its fire hydrants beginning the week of April 2. See the block on Page 1 for additional information.



To receive notification when the flushing may affect your neighborhood, e-mail: [minerswateremergency@comcast.net](mailto:minerswateremergency@comcast.net) to be notified by return e-mail.

## Guard against frozen pipes this winter

The Minersville Water Authority offers the following tips to "weather" through this winter season.

When there are extreme frost conditions, the risk of frozen water lines is real. If your home has had issues in the past, make sure you are running your water and also contact the Water Authority office to let us know.

Residents are asked to monitor the temperature of their water. If your water temperature reaches below 40 degrees F or lower, you should IMMEDIATELY start running a continuous pencil-size stream of cold water from one faucet. Monitoring temperatures is your first line of defense.

- Continued on Page 10

## EGG HUNT REGISTRATION FORM

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; Preregistration Deadline is March 21

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# Borough Services Update . . . and Events

– Continued from Page 9

If you see or hear water running from a neighboring property (especially vacant properties) notify the Water Authority IMMEDIATELY.

The Water Authority can be reached at 570-544-2200 during regular office hours or 570-527-6165 after hours.



If you think you have frozen water lines, here are some steps to find the problem and get you back into service.

Identify whether the problem exists throughout the whole house or in one area.

Open the cabinets beneath any place with a water supply, such as the kitchen and bathroom sinks, to allow warm air to circulate. If there are small children in the home, remove any toxic substances first.

Open the cold water faucet nearest the frozen pipe to relieve the pressure of expanding ice, which may lead to a burst pipe. If your water lines do freeze, never try to thaw a line with an open flame or torch. You can use a hair dryer or portable heater, but always be careful of the potential for electric shock in and around standing water.

If you think you may have a frozen water meter, contact the Minersville Water Authority at 570-544-

2200. For after-hours emergencies, call 570-527-6165. Be advised, after-hours charges will apply.

## Ash collection

Ashes are collected Tuesdays and Fridays throughout the Borough during January and February. All other months, collection will be once per week on Tuesdays only.

## Guys and Dolls set March 22-24

The Minersville Jr/Sr High School Drama Club proudly presents its 44th annual musical, "Guys and Dolls", on March 22, 23, and 24 at 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium. Tickets for the show are \$10 for adults and \$8 for students and senior citizens.



"Guys and Dolls" takes us from the heart of Times Square to the cafés of Havana, Cuba, and even into the sewers of New York City. With music and lyrics by Frank Loesser and book by Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows, the musical features some of Broadway's most memorable tunes, including the hilarious "Adelaide's Lament," the romantic "I've Never Been in Love Before," the high-spirited "Sit Down You're Rockin' the Boat," and the classic "Luck Be a Lady."



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# Borough Services Update . . . and Events

## Youth football & cheer registration

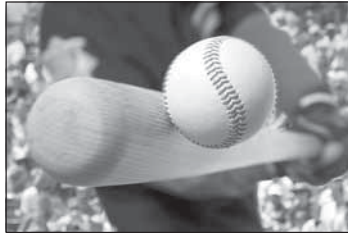
The Minersville Early Bird Football and Cheer Registration will be held on Tuesday, April 10 at the Mountaineer Volunteer Fire Company from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Registration fees are \$45 per child for football, \$45 per child + additional uniform costs for cheer-leading (please contact us for specific amounts) payable by check or cash at registration. Additional player(s) or cheerleader(s) per household is \$35. Fees will increase after the Early Bird registration. Make checks payable to MYFA, Inc.

Forms will be available at registration and will be posted on the website at [eteams.com/myfainc](http://eteams.com/myfainc). Bring a copy of your child's birth certificate that can be handed into the league.

## Minersville Little League registration

Little League registration has begun and will be held Monday and Tuesday, February 5 and 6 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Minersville Fire Rescue, 513 Sunbury Street. For additional information, check the Minersville Little League website at <http://www.eteamz.com/minersvillelittleleague/>



## Cold weather safety

PPL Electric Utilities offers the following public advisory regarding the use of space heaters and portable generators.

After hurricanes several years ago, many homeowners invested in portable generators. They come in handy, but they have to be used safely for both the occupants of the home and for PPL Electric Utilities line workers. Here's why:

Generators need to be operated away from homes and away from spaces where deadly carbon monoxide fumes can enter your residence. Never operate your generator in a garage or other enclosed space.

For PPL worker safety, be sure you operate your generator in a way that prevents electricity produced by the generator from going back into the power line that feeds your home. This is called "back feed" and occurs when an improperly connected generator begins feeding electricity "back" through the power lines. This can seriously injure anyone near lines, especially crews working to restore power.

Have a qualified electrician install a transfer switch. The transfer switch breaks the path of electricity between the power lines and your main electrical panel. This is the best way to protect you, your



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**Valentines Shopping**

February 7 thru 13 – 12 noon to 5 p.m.

---

**Kid's Valentine Crafts Class**

Saturday, Feb. 10 – 1 to 3 p.m.

(Must Call to Pre-Register)

---

**Spring Re-Opening**  
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# Borough Services Update . . . and Events

– Continued from Page 11

neighbors and repair crews from back feed.

Space heaters can help take the chill off, but be sure to use them the right way to help prevent the risk of fire or electrical shock.

The Electrical Safety Foundation International advises you to plug your space heater directly into a wall outlet and not use an extension cord or power strip that could overheat and result in a fire. Do not plug any other electrical devices into the same outlet as the heater. Of course, you should also remember to place the heater on a level flat surface and at least three feet away from furniture or curtains or anything else that can burn.

## Recreation Complex

As winter will eventually subside and residents will take advantage of the walking path and other areas of the recreation complex, pets are prohibited and tobacco use is also prohibited under ordinance. Set a good example for our youth. Remind others and avoid violation of these ordinances. Violators are subject to fines.



## Pavilions available

Summer sounds quite distant, but if you or

your organization usually holds a picnic or other outdoor activity during the summer months, now is a good time to place your reservation for use of the Lions Pavilion. Those who have attended an event at the pavilion know of the fine facility that is available – large covered pavilion, fireplace, all essentials to hold a catered affair, adequate parking, room to play and partially secluded wooded area.



For information and reservations, visit on-line at [minersvillelions.com](http://minersvillelions.com).

The Minersville swimming pool area also has a covered pavilion available to hold birthday parties or other events while swimming. Party options and fees are listed along with additional information on the borough website. Contact the borough office at 570-544-2149 to verify date availability.

The pavilion was donated to the borough in memory of Catrina Williams and Carianna Kroh.

## Keep trash out of sight

Ordinance 313 instructs residents to not place trash containers curbside prior to 6 p.m. the evening before the pick-up day and then reminds to remove

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## Newsletter Particulars

"Miners' Journal" is a quarterly newsletter of the Borough of Minersville distributed to 2,900 households within the borough.

Newsletter articles are compiled by Councilman Jamie Kuehn. This newsletter is designed and printed by South Schuylkill Printing & Publishing 960 E. Main St. • Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

Ph: 570-385-3120 • Fax: 570-385-0725

E-mail: [printing@southschuylkill.net](mailto:printing@southschuylkill.net)

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

Publication date for the next three issues are:

May 4, August 3, and October 26, 2018

## 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](mailto: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.

# Borough Services Update . . . and Events

empty containers no later than 24 hours after pick-up. Violators are subject to up to a \$300 fine. Police will also be increasing enforcement of this ordinance.

## Street sweeping

The Borough street sweeper begins its weekly runs in early spring and continues through late fall. Sunbury Street will be swept from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. on Monday and Tuesday. Additional streets have posted signs regarding applicable days and times. Vehicles left parked on streets during the posted hours will be ticketed.



## 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 a 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@comcast.net](mailto: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.

## Titillating town teasers

Submitted by Vic Genovese . . .

1. Which Minersville resident once appeared on ABC's Wide World of Sports winning a World Championship?
2. What was the first industry established in Minersville?
3. In 1846 Minersville sent 12 soldiers to the Mexican War. How many returned?
4. Sunbury Street was developed as part of a roadway that ran from Reading to Fort Sunbury to protect early settlers from Native Americans. What year was it completed?
5. Two Minersville boys played for the New York Yankees. Can you name them?

1. Joe Balsis 2. saw mill 3. 11 4. 1794 (so give us a break on the potholes) 5. Bill Miller (lefty pitcher) and Joe Walsh (catcher)



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## Fantastic Beginnings to a Softball Dynasty

*This is Part 1 in a series to be continued in future issues of Miners' Journal.*

Most sports fans are familiar with the success of the Minersville High School girls' softball team – the Big Blue Machine. Since 1974, the first year for the program, the Miners have won numerous division, league, district titles, and an unprecedented 10 State Championships!

Something people tend to forget, or simply don't know, is that the Minersville Little League Softball All-Star teams have won a total of 15 State Championships since 1974! They have also played in thirteen Eastern Regional tournaments and four World Series! The 11-to-12 year old team finished third in the World Series in 1983, while the 13-to-15 year old team finished third in 1976 and then in second place in 1978 and 1985.

This year is the 45th season for Little League Girls' Softball in Minersville. In 1974 there was an increasing number of girls showing interest in playing baseball, so the Minersville Little League decided to form the 9-to-12 year old softball program.

It took a few good people to get the ball rolling. Billy Charles, Mrs. Pat Ralston and Bill Wenner canvassed the town to get sponsors for the teams. More than enough girls came to try out. There were enough girls to fill four teams with 15 players on each team.

Some girls had to wait until the following year to be on a team.

At the time, girls softball was not very popular, so the first year the teams did not have a sponsor. The names of the teams were named after some Major League baseball teams, the Phillies, A's, Reds and Pirates. The players did not have uniforms; they wore t-shirts and jeans. The same outfit was worn for the All-Star games.

First year coaches were Billy Charles, Ann Marie Whiteash, Joanne Sanza, Karen Ostrowski, Mary Ann Cremo, Andrea Ruscavage, Adrienne Walasavage, Joan Connelly, Marion Maddis, Pat Ralston, Germaine Newton and Gene Brentari.

The first game was played on Memorial Day on the Little League field, with the Reds beating the Pirates 12-0. The rest of the season's games were played at the High School field in the outfield area. The infield was just grass – with lumps and stones – so not an easy play on ground balls.

The teams also played on the teener field in the outfield areas above the Little League field ... same infield conditions as the high school field plus there was no backstop, just the hill bank. There wasn't a press box or public address system. The players and fans had to walk to the Little League field for the restroom and concession stand.

Bats in the early days were wooden since aluminum bats were not in wide use. The rules were a little different than the boys' rules. The girls were not allowed to steal; bunting or chop hits were prohibited; and any player that slides would be called out.

This first year the league fielded an 11-12 year old All-Star team. At the time, ten players took the field instead of nine. The "short fielder" as it was called, was placed in the outfield and usually would take away a number of would-be clean hits.

The team was known as the Minerettes. Initial team members were Beth Lechleitner, Cheryl Shulkusky, Patty Sorokach, Ruth Ann Graeff, Bonnie Wenner, Linda Ralston, Krista Borell, Rose Fesnock, Lori Trezise, Carolyn Harley, Lori Sninski, Linda Pizzico, Valerie Land and Cindy Connelly. Coaches were AnnMarie Whiteash, Joan Connelly, and Billy Charles.

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# Minersville Little League Softball ... by Jerry Sitkus



**1975 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SENIOR DIVISION TEAM** – Front from left, Theresa Nush, Cindy Wenner, Bonnie Wenner, Charlotte Stoppie, and Krista Borrell; second row, Maryann Cremo, Linda Ralston, Beverly Plesnarski, Karren Champman, and Terry Nevada; back row, coach Bill Charles, Donna Letko, Beth Ann Lechleitner, Tilda Radziewicz, and manager Cindy Borrell.

Being the only team in District 24, the Minerettes got a free trip to the first state tournament for girls. Six teams were in the three-day tournament held in Downingtown, with the winner advancing to the East

Region tournament in Providence, Rhode Island. The team went into the tourney thoroughly untested.

The Minerettes showed none of that inexperience, however, by defeating Darby, 6-0. They beat Spring City in the next game in ten innings by a score of 6-5 to put themselves in the final. The locals then beat West Pittston 6-0 to capture the first state Little League softball championship.

It was an exciting time in Minersville that year. The boys' 11-12 year old All-Stars, which in 1973 became the first team from Minersville to reach the state baseball tournament, were back in the state tournament in 1974. The boys and girls played for the title on the same day. The boys earned a second place finish while the girls captured the very first Little League softball State Championship.

Next was the Eastern Regional Tournament in Providence, Rhode Island. The Minerettes won the first game against Durham, Connecticut by a score of 8-1. Dix Hills, N.Y. was next, playing for the title and a trip to the World

– Continued on Page 16



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**Minersville Little League Softball ... by Jerry Sitkus**

– Continued from Page 15

Series in Freeport, N.Y. The Minerettes lost a tough extra inning game 1-0, settling for second best in the East. Die-hards who thought Little League is for boys only and that girls should stick to playing "house" had to face the fact girls' Little League softball was here to stay.

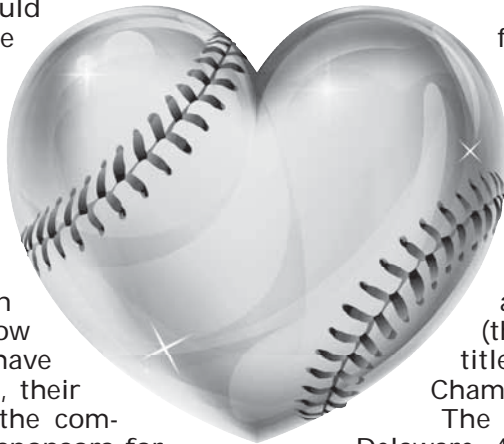
Winning the State Championship in the first year brought even more girls interested to play softball. In 1975 the Minersville Little League Board of Directors decided to organize the 13-15 year old Senior division softball teams. Little did they know the impact this decision would have on the future of many young girls, their parents, and citizens throughout the community. It was much easier to get sponsors for the teams in 1975 after the success of that first year. The Junior teams (9-12yr) had sponsors: Quandel Construction, New Minersville Hose Co., Independent Hose Co., and Walacavage.

The Senior League had four teams: Center Supply, Rescue Hose Co., Pritz Dodge, and Cremo's. The coaches were Frank Rizzardi, Aldona and Don Butler, Ernie Pizzico, Cindy Borrell, Billy Charles, Maxine Sorokach, Bill and Dolores Wenner, Ann Marie and Rocky O'Boyle.

The majority of players from the 1974 Junior teams moved up to the Senior division in 1975. The All-Star team consisted of most of the same players from the year before. The team now had experience and were ready to make another run at winning a State Championship.

The Miners played Devon-Strafford in the Section

4 game and won, 14-2, to advance to the State tourney. The Miners then beat Darby, 9-5, and West Pittston twice, 7-6 and 17-10, to capture the girls' historic first 13-to-15 year old State title.



There was no further competition for the Senior Division in 1975. The Junior Division team, although consisting of mostly all new players, won the Section 4 title by winning three games – beating Hellertown, 23-0, Darby, 26-1, and Downingtown, 8-0. The Minerettes then moved on to the State tournament, beating Shippensburg, 7-3, and then defeating West Pittston (the team they beat last year for the title) by a 16-5 margin to repeat as State Champs.

The Minerettes lost to New Castle, Delaware, 4-2, in the first round of the single-elimination Eastern Regional tournament played in Narragansett, R.I. They defeated Rumford, R.I. in the consolation game to place third in the East.

It was a banner year again for the Minersville Little League girls in 1975 as they brought home two State Championship titles. This certainly was the beginning of people saying the local girls have put Minersville "on the map."

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