



# MINERS' JOURNAL

Official Publication



Borough of Minersville

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

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BOROUGH OF MINERSVILLE, PA

February 2019

## Manager Provides Progress Update and Look to the Future

### State of the Borough: Lots Happening in 2019!

Here's hoping you and your family had a safe, healthy, and memorable holiday season. We're excited here at Borough Hall to kick off numerous grant-related projects in the new year.

Additionally, several large non-grant related projects planned by PennDOT and private investor, QSP, are planned for 2019. Read on for updates since my most recent *Miners' Journal* report last November.

**RECYCLING IMPROVEMENTS** - The Borough has been awarded a DEP Recycling Grant worth \$118,318. The grant funding will be used to replace the current recycling truck and to install a card-activated security gate at the Recycling and Compost site located on N. Delaware Ave. The total cost for these is \$131,464. Our local match requirement is \$13,146.



**Bobby Mahalchick**  
Borough Manager

**4TH STREET PLAYGROUND** - New playground equipment to improve the 4th Street playground has arrived. Lady Luck intervened at the time of purchase ... a "vendor special" gave us an opportunity to purchase two playground sets for the price of one. Since the grant is site specific, we will install two new playsets for children, two-to-12 years of age, at the 4th Street Complex. Funds came from a \$90,000 joint Borough/Little League grant awarded this past September. A 15% local match of the \$90,000 is required ... \$10,800 from the Borough and the Minersville Little League will provide the match for

its upgrades.

**SUNBURY STREET** - PennDOT is expected to give final approval on the Green Light Go Grant project this month with preparation of bid documents and bid request advertisements to move forward. The project will upgrade and improve efficiency/safety to all traffic and pedestrian crosswalk signals on Sunbury Street.

Traffic signal retiming/coordination and pedestrian signal improvements will take place at all eight intersections. A speed warning system and sign to show the speed limit and digitally display a vehicle's

- Continued on Page 2

## Mayor's Missive

Meet Minersville's newest Borough Official - Mayor Kerry Kerschner!



**Kerry Kerschner**  
Mayor

I was born and raised in Schuylkill County, having graduated from Schuylkill Haven Area High School in 1985. A Minersville Borough resident since 1998 and of the Minersville Area School District since 1991, my wife, Donette, and I have raised two beautiful daughters. I have volunteered with Minersville Little League Softball for eight years and the Minersville Youth Basketball Association, also for eight years.

Having retired from the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections in 2016, this allowed me the opportunity to become involved in local government.

- Continued on Page 4

## NOTICE - Hydrant Flushing

### Customers of the Minersville Water Authority

Hydrant flushing throughout the water authority system will begin the week of April 22 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.



## On the inside . . .

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# 2019 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.

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## OFFICIALS

Mayor..... Kerry Kerschner  
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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Raymond Bosack • John Graeff, Jr.  
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 for discussions and setting of an agenda takes place on the First Tuesday. The Business Meeting is then held on the Second Tuesday.

## 2019 OFFICIAL HOLIDAY HOURS

Minersville Borough offices will be closed on the following days in 2019 in observance of the stated holidays - Presidents' Day, Feb. 18; Good Friday (half day, close at 11 a.m.), April 19; Memorial Day, May 27; Independence Day, July 4; Labor Day, Sept. 2; Veterans Day, Nov. 11; Thanksgiving and day after, Nov. 28 and 29; 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, 2020.

# State of the Borough

- Continued from Page 1

speed will be installed. The grant totals \$490,190 with the Borough required to match 20%, or \$98,038. This much-needed improvement grant for all saved the Borough \$392,152.

Additionally, PennDOT plans to mill and pave the entire length of Sunbury Street and replace all handicap sidewalk ramps on that corridor. The project is planned for this summer following the traffic and pedestrian signal work.

**MEMORIAL PARK** - The design for the Memorial Park on the site of the former American Legion property is being finalized. Expectations are the park can be completed by year-end.

A Keystone Communities Grant application totaled \$200,000 involving demolition, site preparation, and construction of the park. We were awarded \$100,000 from the State, requiring the balance to be found locally. A separate grant was gained for the \$52,700 demolition cost of the Legion structure, leaving the Borough to contribute just \$47,300 for the project.

**FIGHTING BLIGHT** - The Minersville Blight Task Force has had three meetings. The group was formed through a state Blight Technical Assistance Grant awarded by the Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED) and overseen by the PA Housing Alliance. The Borough's application received the maximum \$12,000 award and funded at 70% rather than its standard 50% due to our participation in the Early Intervention Program. We are required to fund the 30% balance, or \$3,600.

Minersville became the first non-Act 47 (financially distressed) community in the Commonwealth to receive the Blight Technical Assistance Grant. This allowed us to hire a consultant to help us develop a fast-track plan specifically designed to identify blighted properties that can be rehabbed or need to be demolished.

Christopher Gulotta, of The Gulotta Group LLC, is our consultant. He has provided training and technical assistance to a number of organizations including the Pennsylvania Boroughs Association, PA Association of Housing and Redevelopment Agencies, and the Pennsylvania Economic Development Association. Chris also serves as the consultant for the Schuylkill Land Bank.

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## 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.

# A trusted name in funeral service with age-old roots

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- Veterans Experts
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# From the Desk of the Borough Manager

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Members of the task force include myself as Borough Manager, Councilman Ian Mahal, Councilman Robert Umbenhen, Mayor Kerry Kerschner, Habitat for Humanity Executive Director Tim Daley, Joselyn Skeen, Bernard Lescavage, and Kenneth Eichenberg Jr.

The blighted property located at 228 North Street has been demolished, at no cost to the Borough, through the Schuylkill Land Bank of Schuylkill County. After years of deterioration and tax delinquency, the property will be repurposed and returned to the tax rolls.

Wheels are turning to update the Minersville Borough Comprehensive Plan, last developed and approved in October 1994. A Request For Proposal (RFP) will be advertised and a consultant hired and funded 70% by a DCED grant with the Borough contributing 30%. A Comprehensive Plan sets down community goals and aspirations for future direction and development, expressing and regulating public policies on transportation, utilities, land use, recreation, and housing.

**MINERS LOFTS PROJECT** - QSP Development LLC is soliciting bids and arranging financing on the Miners Lofts project to create 32 apartments for residents 55 years of age and older meeting income guidelines. The project site will rehabilitate a former factory building on Lewis Street. The anticipated groundbreaking is mid to late spring.

## Winter weather reminders

With winter weather upon us, residents and all property owners must refrain from throwing snow onto the streets and from obstructing corner visibility. Keep your sidewalks clear of snow and ice; show patience and



respect to street employees plowing streets; be mindful of possible needs of your elderly neighbors and offer assistance when able; be courteous and respectful to all of your neighbors; and abide by snow emergency declarations.

With everyone's help and even tempers, we can welcome spring weather in a couple short months. Most importantly, be safe!

Great things are happening in your town! Residents will be witness to the most improvements and redevelopment that our community has seen in many, many years. Be an active part in making OUR hometown something of which we all can be proud!

## Mayor's Missive

- Continued from Page 1

Attending the monthly Minersville Borough Council meetings, I was made aware of the wide array of initiatives being undertaken and wanted to be a part of this community improvement. From the Miners Lofts project to the upgrades scheduled on Sunbury Street, Recreational Complex, and the efforts underway to address blighted properties in town, it is an exciting time to be a part of the revitalization of Minersville.

Maintaining a safe community is at the forefront of the Borough's revitalization efforts. I will continue to seek ways to enhance the services the Minersville Police Department currently provides to residents, making sure officers have the proper tools at their disposal to do so safely and in the most efficient manner possible.

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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.

## Snow play can be fun, but dangerous

While children enjoy playing in the snow, it becomes dangerous when playing on snow piles along the streets. Hours and even days after a snowfall, borough plows continue to widen traffic lanes and clear parking areas.

Parents, please caution your children not to play near streets or other vehicular areas. Plow operators may not be able to see them burrowing or sliding in the snow.

## During and after a snowfall

Snow and ice bring countless problems for all of

us. Getting our roads open after a heavy snowfall is a difficult job and our Street Crew employees put in long hours to clear the roads and ensure our safety. Next time it snows and you see the snowplow coming down the street wave at them ... with all of your fingers ... and say thanks.

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 depositing the snow into the street. This can create hazardous conditions and slows the process of clearing the streets in other areas.

## No reserved parking

We all know the frustration of having to spend hours shoveling snow from our vehicle in order to get to work. That frustration skyrockets upon return home to find someone has taken that cleared parking space. Unfortunately, the street is open to the public and residents cannot reserve the space once cleared.



- Continued on Page 6

## MINERSVILLE PHARMACY - FRONT & SUNBURY STREETS • MINERSVILLE

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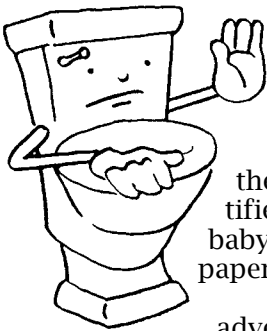




# Borough Services Update . . . and Events

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## Be careful what you flush!



Over the past several months, the Minersville Sewer Authority has seen an increase in calls for blocked sewer lines in residences and occupants have experienced sewage backups into their dwellings.

The primary culprits causing these blockages have been identified as pre-moistened towelettes, baby wipes or other cleaning wipes, paper towels, and feminine products.

Many of these items may be advertised as “flushable” and disappear down the toilet, but that doesn't mean they're gone. These products do not break down, resulting in clogs and sewer backups.

The Minersville Sewer Authority is asking for your cooperation in addressing this problem. Toilet tissue is the only paper product safe to flush. Additional information can be found in the article on Page 12.

## Good Intent Chinese Auction

The Good Intent Hose Co. #1 of Llewellyn has slated its spring Chinese Auction fundraiser event at Hillcrest Hall in Primrose on Sunday, March 3. Food, fun and prizes are all part of the activities.

“Shop & Drop” sessions will be held at Hillcrest

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Hall Thursday through Saturday - Feb. 28 thru March 2 from 4 to 8 p.m. - and again the day of the auction on Sunday, March 3 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## Little League registration

Registration for the 2019 Minersville Little League baseball and softball season has begun. Information can be found through a link on the borough website: [minersvilleonline.com](http://minersvilleonline.com) or on Facebook Group pages for Minersville LL Baseball or Softball.

Registration is open to boys born September 1, 2006 through December 31, 2013 and girls born January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2013 residing in the Minersville Area School District or those attending a Minersville public or private school.



Registration fees for Major and Minor Divisions are \$50 for the first child and \$30 for any additional children residing in the same household. T-ball registration fee is \$30. There will be an additional \$10 per player late fee for those who register March 1 or later.

At registration, parent(s) or guardian(s) of the player must provide a photocopy of the child's birth certificate, medical release form, and proof of Minersville public or private school attendance. Players who attend school out of the Minersville School district, but who reside within the district will need three proofs of residence documents.

## Easter egg hunt

The Minersville Recreation Department will host an Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 20 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 Wednesday, April 10 is required. Complete the form shown here and mail to: Minersville Recreation, c/o Easter Egg Hunt, 2 E. Sunbury St., Minersville, PA 17954; or take in-



### 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 April 10**

# Borough Services Update . . . and Events

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.

## Hydrant flushing

The Minersville Water Authority will flush all of its fire hydrants beginning the week of April 22. See the block on Page 1 for additional information.

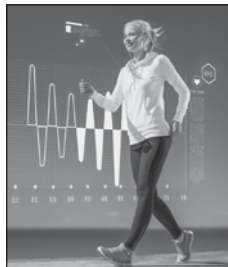


To receive notification when the flushing may affect your neighborhood, email: [minerswateremergency@comcast.net](mailto:minerswateremergency@comcast.net) to be notified by return email.

## Hey buddy, take a hike!

Schuykill On The Move is a project of Schuykill County's VISION and promotes positive steps toward good health through walking and an appreciation of the natural beauty and fascinating history of our area. For information about these and other scheduled hikes, email [PorcupinePat@yahoo.com](mailto:PorcupinePat@yahoo.com).

- Saturday, Feb. 16, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. - This 7-mile "easy" hike along West Creek to the "88" offers a great view of Schuykill County. Hikers will return via "the Old Jerk" on this journey that features lots of history. Meet behind the Mount Pleasant Hose Company in Buck Run on Rt. 901.
- Saturday, Feb. 23, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. - Meet at the Clubhouse Pavilion of the Sweet Arrow Lake Park for a 3-mile "moderate" Cabin Fever Walk with Porcupine Pat.
- Saturday, March 16, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - This 5.5-mile "easy" hike is called the Blackwood Ramble, featuring present day Blackwood, Stump Dam and Bass Dam. Hikers should meet at the Llewellyn Hose Company for this trek with lots of history.
- Saturday, April 27, 1 to 4 p.m. - Naturalist Mike Centeleghe leads this Spring Wildflower Walk to view the many beautiful flowers of Frog Hollow Environmental Center managed by the South Schuykill Garden Club. Hikers of all ages are welcomed for this 2-mile "easy" trek. Meet at the parking lot of Frog Hollow on Stone Mountain Road just west of Friedensburg.



## Think of warm days at the pool

Get into the swim of things! Minersville Borough has announced its Community Swimming Pool season pass rates will be the same as last year - no increases!

The Borough is also seeking work applications to hire all pool and certified lifeguard personnel for the upcoming 2019 season. Applications may be obtained at the Borough Office, 2 E. Sunbury Street,

Minersville. Current certifications for lifeguard personnel are required. Minersville Borough is an equal opportunity employer.

Season pass costs for Minersville Borough residents are \$55 for a Student, \$65 for an Adult, \$45 for a Senior Citizen, and \$100 for a Family up to five members plus \$20 for each additional.

Non-resident season passes will be: \$70 for a Student, \$85 for an Adult, \$65 for a Senior Citizen, and \$130 for a Family of up to five members plus \$30 for each additional.

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 and there having been a babysitter certification form completed.

## Borough Office holidays

The Minersville Borough offices and employee  
- Continued on Page 8



## MAMMOTH MATERIALS

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# Borough Services Update . . . and Events

- Continued from Page 7

operations will be closed in observance of the following upcoming holidays: Monday, Feb. 18, Presidents' Day; closing at 11 a.m. on Friday, April 19, Good Friday; and Monday, May 27, Memorial Day.

## Photos wanted for possible publication

The *Miners' Journal*/Borough Office is looking for historical photographs of the Minersville area. At this time, any photographs of the building formerly known as the American Legion building are of particular interest. Photographs can be donated to the Borough or simply brought to the office to be electronically scanned and returned unharmed. Your interest and cooperation is appreciated.

## 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.

## 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.

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.



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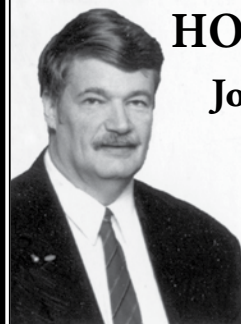
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# Borough Services Update . . . and Events

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.

## 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.

## 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.

## Penn Street Playground closed

After several months of consideration and the Borough's request for public feedback, the Penn Street Playground has been closed and removal of the outdated equipment has been started. The borough has no immediate plans for this area located adjacent to the new Streets Department building.

## Attention: New Minersville neighbors

Residents of the New Minersville Oak Street area of town are reminded that St. Matthew's CYO

hosts its annual 3rd and 4th grade Bidly Basketball Tournaments during the month of February. Those living or visiting that neighborhood are kindly asked to not park in the private lot of the Good Shepherd School building or the private lot of the former St. Francis of Assisi Church during this time. Violators may be ticketed.

## Cardboard is not trash!

It has been observed by Borough personnel that an excessive amount of cardboard is being discarded as trash by residents. Cardboard must be recycled.

Ordinance 192 prohibits the placing of recyclable material in with normal trash for collection. A violation can carry a \$100 to \$1000 penalty. The borough's trash hauler has been instructed to ignore any recyclable material when providing trash pick-up. Borough police will be more strictly enforcing this ordinance over the next several months. Please be responsible in order to avoid costly fines.

## Keep trash out of sight

Ordinance 313 instructs residents to delay placing trash containers curbside until after 6 p.m. the evening before trash pick-up days and to remove empty containers no later than 24 hours after pick-up. Violators are subject up to a \$300 fine. Borough police will also be increasing enforcement of this ordinance over the next several months.

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## R&J TOURS - 2019

Call for dates - Gourmet Food Shopping .....	\$46
Call for dates - NYC Free Day .....	\$45
Call for dates - Washington DC Free Day.....	\$49
March 2-10 - Phila Flower Show.....	call
March 5 - California Dreaming @ Hunterdon Hills.....	\$94
March 15 - The Irish Cabaret @ Hunterdon Hills.....	\$97
March 16 - St. Patrick's Day Parade.....	\$45
March 20 - Menopause the Musical @ Caesars.....	\$86
April 6 - Murder at Mount Hope Mansion .....	\$80
April 6 - Jersey Boys OFF Broadway .....	\$129
April 13 - A Century of Song @ Antietam Recreation .....	*\$88
April 13 - Spring Doo Wop Cavalcade @ AMT .....	\$93
April 14 - Branson on the Road-DADT.....	\$96
April 16 - Take Me Away @ Hunterdon Hills.....	\$96
April 19 - Jesus @ Sight and Sound.....	*\$118
April 20 - Baltimore National Aquarium .....	*\$70
April 23 - Magic of Manilow & Midler @ Mt. Airy.....	\$68
April 27 - Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.....	\$94
April 27 - New York International Auto Show.....	\$56

### OVERNIGHTS

Call for dates - Dover Downs.....	\$125 P/P DBL Occupancy
April 26-28 - Virginia International Tattoo..	\$582 p/p DBL Occupancy
May 4-5 - Cayuga Lake Wine Trail.....	\$297 p/p DBL Occupancy
May 25-28 - Memorial Day in DC .....	\$854 p/p DBL Occupancy

\*Child Rates Available

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# Borough Services Update . . . and Events

- Continued from Page 9

## **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:

### **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

- Phone Method - Complete the form here 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.

## **Repairs and improvements**

When planning your spring and summer projects, remember to contact the Borough Office regarding Building Permits. Permits are required for all new construction and all replacements or alterations to roofs, windows, doors, garage doors, electrical, plumbing, heating systems (including supplemental heating units), sidewalks, curbing, fencing (six feet 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 or enclosing decks) requires a building permit and a zoning permit. Zoning permits are administered by the Schuylkill County Zoning Office; call 570-628-1415.

If you are replacing windows, all windows installed in this area must have a U-factor of .30 or lower. This number has been established under the 2015 Uniform Construction Code, adopted by the State of Pennsylvania and enforced throughout the state. If your replacement windows don't have the proper U-factor, they will not pass code inspection.

## **Landlords must register**

The Residential Rental Ordinance requires landlords to register their properties with the Borough. It also regulates inspection of the unit, which is conducted every three years, and inspection of all rental units prior to any change of occupancy.

The ordinance also contains regulations for Occupant Permits for all tenants. This is a one-time fee for each occupant in a rental property as long as the tenant resides in the same unit. Failure for either the landlord or occupants to abide by this ordinance will result in citations issued by the Borough.

All forms for registrations are available at the borough office. Contact the office with any questions regarding this ordinance.

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## **MINERSVILLE POLICE**

**544-6212** ..... Office

**544-2333** .... Non-Emergency

# Borough Services Update . . . and Events

## Housing Rehabilitation Program

The Minersville Borough Housing Rehabilitation Program is designed to encourage low/moderate income, owner-occupants to restore their homes to a decent, safe and sanitary condition. Eligible homeowners will receive financial assistance to help restore their homes in conformity with established minimum housing rehabilitation standards.

That assistance will be in the form of a conditional grant/non-interest bearing loan that would be forgiven at a rate of 20% per annum over a period of five years.

<u>FAMILY SIZE</u>	<u>GROSS INCOME LIMITS</u>
1 person	\$33,900
2 people	\$38,750
3 people	\$43,600
4 people	\$48,400
5 people	\$52,300
6 people	\$56,150
7 people	\$60,050
8 people	\$63,900

Should ownership of the property change hands or the property owner change his/her principal residence during this five-year period, the unforgiven balance of the loan must be repaid to the Borough. This provision is made to prevent speculative profit from the program.

Homeowners can obtain a "Housing Rehabilitation Application" at the Minersville Borough building. Complete and return the application in order to be placed on the housing rehabilitation list.

The charted income limits in this section represent income by family size for the area as reported by the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) department as of June 1, 2018. The Borough Council will revise these limits whenever HUD adjusts the Section 8 low/moderate income for Schuylkill County.

Annual income is the gross amount of money that all adult household members are expected to bring in during the coming 12 months in accordance to "Annual Income Directive Number 5.609".

### Additional requirements are:

- The unit to be rehabilitated must be owned and occupied by the applicant.
- Real estate taxes as well as other municipal taxes and fees on the property to be rehabilitated must be paid up-to-date.
- The owner shall provide evidence of property insurance.

The program will follow HUD regulations 24 CFR 570.605 and the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973.

## Nondiscrimination policy

Minersville Borough does not discriminate on

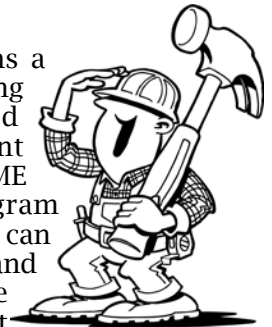
the basis of handicapped status in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its federally assisted programs or activities.

The acting chairman of the Personnel Committee has been designated to coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements contained in the HUD regulations implementing section 504 (24 CFR Part 8, dated June 2, 1988).

For additional information contact the Borough Office: Minersville Borough; 2 East Sunbury Street; Minersville, PA 17951; 570-544-2149.

## Attention contractors

Minersville Borough maintains a list of contractors for this Housing Rehabilitation Program funded with Community Development Block Grant and HUD HOME Investment Partnership Program funding. Interested contractors can obtain eligibility requirements and an application by contacting the Borough's Grant Consultant at 570-875-7320.



Minority and woman-owned businesses will be afforded full opportunity to bid on contract work. Applicants will not be discriminated against on the basis of race, color, religion, handicap or disability, ancestry, national origin, age, sex, or familial status.



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# Avoid Backups – Keep Our Sewer Running Free

## Flush Only Toilet Tissue; Collect, Dispose of Grease


Our Sewer Department has been receiving an increase in sewer blockage calls. But note, your municipal sewer is responsible only after it leaves your property, from the curb to the main and beyond. If you are experiencing a sewer issue in your home, your first call should be to your plumber.



If you have a joint sewer line with a neighbor, you should contact the other party on the line to make arrangements for repairs. But there are simple, common sense practices all homeowners, renters, and businesses can follow to prevent sewer backup issues before they begin.

- Toilet tissue is the only easily dissolved cleanup product to be safely flushed down your toilet. Don't be fooled by marketing ploys that claim other items are "flushable." The manufacturers of such products won't be paying to have your sewer lines cleaned out.
- Feminine products - Tampons and other feminine hygiene products are not to be flushed down the toilet.

- Cooking grease/food - Grease should never be poured down any drain, period. It may look like a liquid that can easily be dumped down a drain; but, when it cools, it will congeal and clog your pipes. Collect your grease in a glass jar and throw it in the trash.
- Baby wipes/wet wipes/cleaning pads - These "adult baby wipes" are becoming increasingly popular nowadays. They are also increasingly causing clogs and backups in sewage pipes. If you must use these, throw them away in the trash can. Flushing wet wipes can easily turn into an expensive problem when you have to call a plumber to snake your toilet.
- Dental floss - Floss is not biodegradable. It can cause serious clogs and environmental damage.
- Q-tips/cotton balls - You might think that cotton will break down, but it doesn't! It clumps together, causing blockages at bends in the pipes.
- Diapers - Just because there is human waste inside does not mean these are "okay" to flush. Diapers are made to expand in water. In the unlikely case you actually get the diaper to flush, it will likely cause a blockage.
- Pills - Never flush prescription or non-prescription medications. They have toxic effects on groundwater supplies. Many police departments and pharmacies will accept your expired and unused pills for proper and safe disposal. Information can be found at the state website: <https://apps.ddap.pa.gov/gethelpnow/pilldrop.aspx>
- Paper towels/tissues - Tissues and paper towels are not made to dissolve like toilet tissue; throw them in the trash.
- Cigarette butts - Cigarettes are full of toxic chemicals that end up going straight into the groundwater supply. If you have to smoke, throw the butts away properly.



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2	\$ 49,300.00	Fountain Springs
3	\$ 62,340.00	Mahanoy City
4	\$ 75,300.00	Pottsville
5	\$ 88,260.00	Saint Clair
6	\$101,220.00	Schuylkill Haven
7	\$ 114,180.00	Tamaqua
8	\$ 127,140.00	Shenandoah


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**or you can see more about Child Development, Inc. preschool programs by visiting our website at**

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

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## Help for Heating Costs

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps families living on low income pay their heating bills in the form of a cash grant. There are crisis grants also available for households in immediate danger of being without heat.

Income guidelines must be met. The program is now taking applications for the 2018-2019 heating season.

Grant hopefuls can apply online through the PA Department of Health and Human Services COMPASS website at [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us); download the application to complete and take it to the Schuylkill County Assistance Office at 2640 Woodglen Road, Pottsville; or apply at the county Assistance Office. Call toll-free at 1-877-306-5439 for more information. If you need computer access, the Minersville Free Public Library can assist you.

# Trash & Recycling - Here's What to Know!

## Trash collection

Limited to a maximum of five 30-gallon bags of household garbage, each weighing less than 40 pounds; collection is every Tuesday throughout the Borough. Your pick-up should be placed curbside after 6 p.m. and no later than midnight on Monday evening.

Containers must be secured and bags properly tied. Containers must be removed from the sidewalk area after sanitation collection is completed.

One large item - no white goods (washer, refrigerator, stove, sink) or Freon-bearing appliances are allowed - will be collected weekly when placed with your trash. Separate arrangements can be made for the disposal of white goods ... call County Waste at 570-874-3047 for pricing and pick-up.



## Recycling collection

Unbroken green, brown, and clear glass containers; tin and aluminum cans; #1 through #7 plastics; newspapers, magazines, and clean paper products (bundled separately, and cardboard, flattened and bundled) are collected curbside twice per month. These materials must be placed in a designated recycling container. Do not place in plastic bags. Any loose paper, cardboard, or other recyclables will not be picked up.

Properties north of Sunbury Street have recycling collection on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Properties south of Sunbury Street have curbside collection on the second and fourth Wednesday. There is no collection when a fifth Wednesday occurs during a month. The North Delaware Avenue compost site is available for drop-off recycling in designated collection bins.

Recyclable materials should not be placed in the normal trash. Violators are subject to fines and prosecution per Borough ordinance.

## Prohibited items

Refuse such as tires, batteries, and electronics (televisions, computers and peripherals, DVD players, etc.), as well as construction, demolition, or renovation debris are prohibited from trash and normal recycling collection.

The property owner, tenant, or contractor is responsible for arranging separate pick-up, drop-off, and proper disposal of these items.

## Disposal of yard waste

The Borough's compost site is located at the northern end of North Delaware Avenue for depositing of yard waste, including grass clippings, leaves, garden vegetation waste, and tree trimmings. If compost items are collected in a plastic bag, the contents should be emptied at the compost site and the bag taken home with the resident.

The compost site, available to Borough residents only, is open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Ashes and salt are stored at the location, but are not for the public to take. Violators will be prosecuted.

All other materials other than approved/separated recyclable materials and yard waste are prohibited. Anyone caught dumping other refuse, vandalizing, trespassing and/or stealing within the North Delaware Avenue Complex at any time will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Constant video surveillance at the compost/recycling site feeds directly into the police station.

Only recyclable materials are permitted in the bins. Yard waste may be placed on the compost pile. No electronics, garbage or construction material is permitted. Fines of up to \$1,000 may be imposed for violations.

	North Side	South Side
February	6 & 20	13 & 27
March	6 & 20	13 & 27
April	3 & 17	10 & 24
May	1 & 15	8 & 22

## Schuylkill Dental Medicine

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# Why Do We Celebrate St. Patrick's Day?

## Irish and Irish-at-Heart Mark Feast Day on March 17

St. Patrick (lived 386 to 461 A.D.) is Ireland's patron saint, known for spreading Christianity throughout the country as a missionary during the 5th century.

Much of his life is unknown to historians and can't be verified, though some sources have listed his birth name as Maewyn Succat, with the name Patrick later taken on during his religious journeys or ordainment.

His father was a deacon from a Roman family of high social standing; his mother a close relative of the great patron St. Martin of Tours; and grandfather also a member of the clergy. Surprisingly, Patrick himself was not raised with a strong emphasis on religion nor was his education particularly stressed either. This would later become a source of embarrassment for the spiritual icon, writing in his Confessio, "I blush and fear exceedingly to reveal my lack of education."

When Patrick was 16 years old, he was captured by Irish pirates. They brought him to Ireland where he was sold into slavery and put to work tending sheep. His master was a high priest of Druidism, a Pagan sect that held major religious influence over the country at the time.

Patrick came to view his enslavement as God's

test of his faith. During his six years of captivity, he became deeply devoted to Christianity through constant prayer. In a vision, he saw the children of pagan Ireland reaching out their hands to him and grew increasingly determined to convert the Irish to Christianity.

### *Freedom and religion calls*

Around 408 A.D., the idea of escaping enslavement came to Patrick in a dream, in which a voice promised him he would find his way home to Britain. Eager to see the dream materialize, Patrick convinced some sailors to let him board their ship. After three days of sailing, he and the crew abandoned the vessel in France. From there he wandered lost for 28 days - covering 200 miles of territory in the process - but ultimately becoming reunited with his family.

A free man again, Patrick entered the priesthood, was ordained a deacon in 418 A.D., and a bishop in 432 A.D. Never losing sight of his desire to convert Ireland to Christianity, he was soon sent to Ireland by Pope Celestine to spread the gospel to non-believers while also providing support to a small population of Christians already worshipping.

Patrick was initially met with resistance; but, with other missionaries, managed to spread Christian teachings far and wide through preaching, writing and performing countless baptisms.

Recognizing the history of spiritual practices already in place, nature-oriented pagan rituals were also incorporated into church practices. It is believed that Patrick may have introduced the Celtic cross, a combination of a native sun-worshipping symbology with that of the Christian cross. Throughout his missionary work, Patrick supported church officials, created councils, founded monasteries and organized Ireland into dioceses.

### *His death and his legacy*

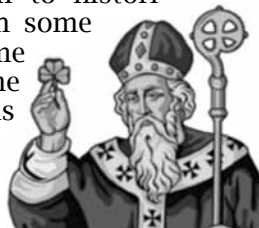
St. Patrick died, circa 461 A.D., in Saul, Ireland. He is said to have been buried in the nearby town of Downpatrick, County Down.

St. Patrick is recognized as the patron saint of Ireland. His writings, noted for their humble voice, include the autobiographical Confessio and Letter to Coroticus.

Many legends have been associated with his life, including that he drove away all the snakes from Ireland and that he introduced the Holy Trinity through the three-leaved shamrock.

St. Patrick is annually honored with the celebration of St. Patrick's Day on March 17 (some cite as the date of his death), that falls during the Christian season of Lent. For more than 1,000 years, the Irish have observed St. Patrick's Day as a religious holiday.

Traditionally on St. Patrick's Day, families attend church in the morning and observe other rituals - including eating a traditional meal of cabbage and Irish bacon. The holiday has expanded into the secular world as well, becoming a robust international celebration of Irish culture and heritage.



## **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 3, August 2, November 1, 2019

### **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.



# Minersville Public Library ... More than Books!

The Minersville Public Library, 220 South 4th Street, is a tremendous resource for area residents. In addition to its depository of books including large print editions, periodicals, e-books and audio books, movies on VHS and DVD, your library provides public computer access, WiFi internet connection for your own devices, plus photocopy and fax services.

Parents and grandparents caring for children will appreciate many of the special programs offered to cultivate a young person's appetite for reading and learning, including a regular Story Time and the library's collection of educational toys and puzzles. Thanks to a preschool collection grant, the library acquired a set of literacy kits available for checkout for work/enjoyment at home. Each kit has items and/or puppets pertaining to the story and an activity sheet to reinforce the story.

The Minersville Public Library is now available from your home computer. Services include searching book availability, reserving books and renewing a book already borrowed. Your library is a member of the Pennsylvania Power Library Network providing access to thousands of full text periodical articles, newspapers, a major encyclopedia, photographs, charts, maps and reference materials for people of all ages.

Spark PA can be accessed from your home computer through the Minersville Public Library's website [www.minersvillelibrary.org](http://www.minersvillelibrary.org), allowing you to remote-



ly reserve a book, check book availability, and renew your borrowed book. All you need is your library card number.

Regular hours at the library are Tuesday and Thursday from noon to 7 p.m., Wednesday and Friday from noon to 5 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The library is closed on Sunday and Monday each week.

While the ability to borrow books and have access to other resources are free services to all Schuylkill County residents at the Minersville Public Library, such learning doesn't come free of cost. The library conducts an annual fund drive campaign in the fall. When the appeal arrives in the mail, please consider supporting the library this one time of year to the greatest extent possible.

For additional information, contact the library at 570-544-5196 or email [mpl@minersvillelibrary.org](mailto:mpl@minersvillelibrary.org).



## SOUTH SCHUYLKILL PRINTING & PUBLISHING

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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.

Remaining 2019 Work Session meetings will be held March 5, April 2, May 7, June 4, July 2, Aug. 6, Sept. 3, Oct. 1, and Nov. 6 (Wednesday). There is no

scheduled Work Session in December.

Regular monthly Council meetings in 2019 will be held Feb. 12, March 12, April 9, May 14, June 11, July 9, Aug. 13, Sept. 10, Oct. 8, Nov. 12, and Dec. 10.



***Municipal Water Authority Board***

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

In 2019, the Municipal Water Authority Board will meet Feb. 19 (Tuesday), March 18, April 15, May 20, June 17, July 15, Aug. 19, Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18, and Dec. 16. 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 2019 will be held Feb. 27, March 27, April 24, May 22, June 26, July 24, Aug. 28, Sept. 25, Oct. 23, Nov. 20, and Dec. 18. Due to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, the November and December meetings will be held on the third Wednesday.

***Planning Commission***

Meetings of the Minersville Planning Commission are scheduled quarterly. Remaining in 2019 are meetings on April 1, July 1, and Oct. 7.