



# MINERS' JOURNAL

Official Publication



Borough of Minersville

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

Vol. XIII, No. 1 - Issued Quarterly

BOROUGH OF MINERSVILLE, PA

February 2020

## Public Meeting Q&A Slated for Sunday, March 1

## Borough Office Future - Renovate or Build Anew?

Minersville's municipal offices have been operating from the current location, 2 East Sunbury Street, since the 1970s. Yet, the future of the Borough's "home" and of the building itself is in question.

For many years elected members of Minersville Borough Council, past and present, have contemplated the best investment regarding this downtown landmark.

Should we invest in a historic renovation project that would update and restore the building to its original look? Should we take the less expensive route to demolish the landmark building and construct a more



contemporary one-story replacement? Or, should Council hang a "For Sale" sign and relocate to a new location?

These are the questions currently facing Borough Council members and because the decision is, and has been, a difficult one, opinions are varied. Let's look at the pros and cons of each ...

### 1) **Renovation of Globe Hall -**

The brick and steel beam building was built in 1915. A study and review by engineers this past October found the building to be structurally and architecturally sound.

- Continued on Page 6

## Streetscape Improvements to Complete Sunbury St. "Trifecta!"

## Minersville Wins \$736,000 "No Local Funds" Grant

By Bobby Mahalchick, Borough Manager

I hope everyone enjoyed a safe, healthy, and memorable holiday season. I don't know about you, but I'm ready for spring and warmer weather.

### **News flash - grant awarded!**

I'm ecstatic to announce official notification in November from the Commonwealth Financing Authority that Minersville was awarded a \$736,000 "No Match Required" grant for streetscape improvements along Sunbury Street.

Our proactive and progressive funding quest to revitalize our community has continued to pay dividends. We have been very, very fortunate and hope the Commonwealth will continue to look kindly (and generously) at future grant applications to keep us moving forward.

The Commonwealth Financing Authority was established in 2004 as an independent agency of the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) to administer Pennsylvania's economic stimulus packages.

When the project gets underway on Sunbury Street,

- 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 20 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 . . .

Councilors Sworn Into Office.....	Pg. 2
Meet New Mayor Sean Palmer .....	Pg. 7
Borough Services and Events .....	Pg. 8
Tips to Avoid Sewer Backups.....	Pg. 13
Recycling/Compost Site Info.....	Pg. 14

## 2020 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..... Sean Palmer  
 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

### COUNCIL

Stephen Darosh • Mike Firestine • Jamie S. Kuehn  
 M. Ian Mahal • Katielynn Milbrandt  
 Robert Umbenhen • Paul Vuksta

### POLICE DEPARTMENT

Michael Combs, Chief  
 Jeffrey Bowers • Harry Brown • Richard Clink  
 Kyle Crouse • Esmerlyn Francisco  
 Joseph Kavanaugh • Ryan Murphy  
 Cody Searfoss • Eric Sterner • Timothy Walsh  
 Leigh Ann Cielinski, Secretary

### STREET DEPARTMENT

Edwin Houser, Street Supervisor • Martin Brophy  
 Matthew Leiby • Dave Motuk

### SEWER DEPARTMENT

Raymond Sukeena, Supervisor  
 Joseph Carvajal

### WATER DEPARTMENT

Melanie Spittler, Manager / Plant Operator  
 Raymond Bosack • Brennan Chapman  
 Robert Kane 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.

### 2020 OFFICIAL HOLIDAY HOURS

Minersville Borough offices will be closed on the following days and times in 2020 in observance of the stated holidays - Presidents Day, Feb. 17; Good Friday (half day, close at 11 a.m.), April 10; Memorial Day, May 25; Independence Day, July 4; Labor Day, Sept. 7; Veterans Day, Nov. 11; Thanksgiving and day after, Nov. 26 and 27; 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, 2021.

## Meet Mike Firestine

I want to thank everyone who voted for me and gave me this opportunity to serve our community. I am a 1986 graduate of Minersville Area High School and have been a resident of the Borough for more than 40 years. I am a proud father of Corrine and Brandon, and have a brother, Albert, who also resides in Minersville Borough.

An active volunteer firefighter for more than 35 years, I also supervised the CYO program at St. Nick's for four years, coached in the Minersville Peewee Football program, and coached in the Minersville Little League baseball and softball programs.



**NEWLY ELECTED COUNCILOR Mike Firestine (left) and re-elected council members Paul Vuksta and Ian Mahal were sworn into office by District Justice Dave Plachko on January 6.**

A former five-year employee of the Borough Street Department, I've gained valuable experience and knowledge of the operations and roles of the various departments. This experience provided me with a keen insight of opportunities to improve operations and strengthen efficiency.

As I begin representing you as a Borough Council member, I pledge to work hard with the rest of our Council to keep our Borough moving in the right direction. In the last few years, many positive improvements and noticeable revitalization projects have been ongoing. I am excited to become an active part to continue to move the Borough forward.

Let's all commit ourselves to making our community the envy of others.

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# NEW PARTNER ANNOUNCEMENT

*As part of the law firm of Williamson, Friedberg and Jones' continued expansion, the firm is delighted to announce the appointment of two new partners:*



## Ashley Securda, Esq.

A graduate of Misericordia University, cum laude, and the Widener University School of Law, Attorney Securda joined the firm in 2016.

A lifelong member of the community, she is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John "Bucky" Rogers, Mahanoy City. She resides in Minersville with her husband, Leo A. Securda, and their two daughters, Raegen and Kennedy. Attorney Securda practices primarily in:

Elder Law (Estate Planning, Medicaid Planning  
Asset Protection, Estate Administration  
Wills & Trusts, Guardianships)  
Municipal Law | Civil Litigation  
Real Estate | Debt Collection  
Worker's Compensation | Personal Injury  
Social Security Disability



## Douglas Taglieri, Esq.

A graduate of the Pennsylvania State University and the University of Baltimore School of Law, Attorney Taglieri joined the firm in 2014.

He is a former Assistant District Attorney and has tried over 25 criminal jury trials to verdict and has argued appeals before both the Superior Court and Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

Born and raised in Minersville, Attorney Taglieri still resides in his hometown and is active in his community. He is the son of Joseph and Patrice Taglieri and just welcomed his first child, daughter, Emmalina Joy Taglieri. Attorney Taglieri practices primarily in:

Criminal Defense  
(DUI - Driving Under the Influence,  
Drug Delivery, and Manufacturing, Theft, Assault,  
Burglary, Robbery, and Criminal Homicide)



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# From the Desk of the Borough Manager

- Continued from Page 1

from Lewis to 3rd Street, the Borough will remove and replace 1100 square yards of deteriorated sidewalks, 2300 lineal feet of curbing, install 53 new decorative streetlights, and install five roof drainpipes. PennDOT has been notified, asking them to coordinate their road improve-



ment plan on Sunbury Street with our streetscape project funded with the multimodal grant.

With these two projects and the Green Light Go project, residents can expect a safer vehicular and pedestrian traffic flow on our main thoroughfare.

## Update on other grant projects

**Veterans Memorial Park Grant** - A large crowd exceeding 100 people gathered on November 11 at

11 a.m. - the national day and time of Veterans Day observance - to commemorate the completion, dedication, and official opening of Minersville Veterans Memorial Park.

The event was blessed with a sunny, unseasonably warm day. Dignitaries, Borough Officials, residents, and most importantly our veterans and their families were in attendance. Veterans raised the flags that fly at the site - Michael Scribbick, the American Flag; John Zimmerman - Army; Stephen Darosh - Marines; Robert Laughlin - Navy; Robert Johnson - Air Force; and James Cleary - Coast Guard.

Students from Minersville Area High School were also on hand and participated in the ceremonies. Taps was played by student Avery Rumberger and the school concert choir sang several memorial selections. The Rev. Jason Stokes of St. Michael the Archangel Church offered the invocation and benediction.

It was truly a memorable and well deserved recognition. All, I'm sure, will join me to thank all who have served to defend our country. Veterans Memorial Park will serve as the legacy of all our veterans, living and deceased, who preserved the liberty and freedoms we all enjoy.

**Greenways, Trails, and Rails Recreation Grant** - The Borough and Little League joint project at the 4th Street Recreation Complex has been completed with the installation of safety netting adjoining the first and third baseline fences of the Little League Baseball field.

Spectators will now have a layer of protection from line drive foul balls. In addition to the netting, the Little League has completed field drainage improvements.

**DEP 902 Recycling Grant** - The newly installed security gate at the Recycling and Compost site located on N. Delaware Avenue will be activated on April 1st (no fooling!) This added security restricts the site to authorized Borough residents, assists in identifying and prosecuting those illegally dumping unacceptable items, and monitors the number of times a user accesses the site.

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## Borough Manager

In addition to the card-activated security gate, additional high definition video cameras have also been installed. Details can be found on Pages 14-15 of this *Miners' Journal* and will be posted on the Borough website, Facebook page, in publicly-circulated newspapers, and available at the Borough Office prior to the activation date.



**Bobby Mahalchick**  
Borough Manager

Part of this grant includes a new recycling truck for the Borough expected to be delivered this month.

**Green Light Go Grant** - As I write this article, I'm happy to report the final piece to proceed on the "Green Light Go" project has been obtained - an easement agreement by the final parcel owner giving permission to erect a traffic signal pole.

The Herr Signal Company was awarded the contract for the Green Light Go grant-funded projects to make pedestrian improvements, install an over-speed warning system, and coordinate traffic signals through the eight intersections along the Sunbury Street corridor.

Now with its own "green light," the project is ready to commence. The Borough will inform the public as construction details become known. Funding totals \$490,190 with the Borough required to fund approximately \$98,000.

### *It's still winter; clear your sidewalks*

With winter weather still in the air, please abide by our "Quality of Life" ordinances - especially related to the removal of snow and ice from your sidewalk. By keeping your property free of ice and snow, you are providing safe passage for you and other pedestrians.

Additionally, by enhancing the quality of your property you are showing courtesy and respect to your direct neighbors and the community. The ordinance will be strictly enforced.

Think spring! And, thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve all of you and provide you with this update on the state of OUR Borough.

Minersville On The Move!

- Bob Mahalchick, Borough Manager



## for Children with Disabilities!

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# Borough Office Future – Renovate or Build Anew?

- Continued from Page 1

Renovation would include a complete exterior restoration – new doors, new windows and a new roof. Restoring the original windows and re-creating the original canopy that once existed above the front door has been recommended.

Inside, the entire 1st floor would be redesigned and reconstructed to accommodate all Borough, Code Enforcement, and Police functions. Globe Hall, including the wall-to-wall hardwood floors and tin ceilings of the second and third stories would be preserved for potential future development.

Total costs for these renovations are estimated to be \$1.7 million.

- 2) Demolition and New Construction** – Utilizing the current location in a more contemporary way, Globe Hall would be demolished and a new one-story building constructed in its place and also meet the needs of the current municipal government.

A design for this building is currently being assembled and will be available prior to a final decision being made by Borough Council.

Total costs of demolition and new construction are estimated to be \$1.4 million.

- 3) Relocation** – Several Borough Council members and local officials have visited and toured the 40-year old building at 200 South Fourth Street

that formerly housed the Minersville Medical Center and Grammy’s Kiddie Care.

Originally assembled as a 4-piece modular building, it has the potential to house Borough offices, Code Enforcement, and Police. The asking price of the building, along with necessary remodeling and upgrading, is estimated to cost about \$1 million.

Fiscally-concerned citizens should know that two years ago Borough Council made the proactive choice to include budget appropriations to fund a future capital improvement project. This funding can support any of the options described above.

In short, although each option will result in a seven-figure expenditure, none will result in a tax increase to citizens ... because it’s already been budgeted.

Briefly outlined here, the three options will be presented in greater detail at a public forum arranged by Borough Council. Residents and property owners will have the opportunity to ask questions of Borough Council members in attendance to address concerns.

The public forum is tentatively scheduled to be held in the high school auditorium on Sunday, March 1 at 4 p.m. Final details and any change of date, time and place will be posted on the Borough website, Borough Facebook page, or provided by calling the Borough Office following the February 11 Borough Council meeting.

Your input will be vital in assisting Council with this historic decision.



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> **Minersville:**  
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Friday: 9:00am-5:00pm  
Drive-Thru:  
Monday – Thursday: 8:30am-4:00pm  
Friday: 8:30am-6:00pm

> **Yorkville:**  
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- > Foreign Currency



## Who Ya Gonna Call?

<b>Emergency</b> .....	<b>9-1-1</b>
<b>Borough Office</b> .....	<b>544-2149</b>
<b>Police Department</b> .....	<b>544-2333</b> (non-emergency)
<b>Water Authority</b> .....	<b>544-2200</b>
<b>Sewer Authority</b> .....	<b>544-2149</b>
<b>Library</b> .....	<b>544-5196</b>
<b>Post Office</b> .....	<b>544-3490</b>
<b>Minersville Fire-Rescue</b> ..	<b>544-3707</b>
<b>Good Will Hose Co.</b> .....	<b>544-6099</b>
<b>New Minersville Hose Co.</b> ..	<b>544-9152</b>
<b>Mountaineer Hose Co.</b> ....	<b>544-9622</b>

# Meet Mayor Sean Palmer

Hello, fellow citizens of Minersville.

Thank you to everyone for your support during the last election. I'm truly honored to have been elected as your new mayor. Thank you to Kerry Kerschner for his service as our mayor for the past year.

For those who don't know me, I grew up right in the heart of Minersville - a son to Butch and Carol, brother to Kristen, and husband to my beautiful, supportive wife Donna.

My parents were small business owners of Butch & Carol's Bar on North 4th Street from 1979 to 1992. I graduated from Nativity B.V.M High School in 1995 and then enlisted as an active duty Naval Cryptologic Technician Operator until being honorably discharged in 2007. I currently work as an Information Technology specialist for Lear Corporation.

As your mayor I would like to continue building a strong relationship between our local law enforcement, local government, and community. This can be achieved by expanding on events such as National Night Out and Spirit Day. Events like these are good examples of how we can all come together to grow and unite efforts throughout our Borough.

My main responsibility as mayor is our local law enforcement. I will work closely with them to provide our force with the support and tools they need to keep our community safe and ensure law and order is maintained. I would personally like to thank our officers for working tirelessly and putting their lives on the line every day for our safety.

I encourage each resident to attend monthly Borough Council meetings and raise any issues or concerns you may have and to voice opinions and ideas to improve our local government.

Open lines of communication are key, which is why I have taken it upon myself to create an email address and Facebook page for a direct line of communication between myself and all residents. While my main responsibility is law enforcement, other issues may also be brought to my attention via those forms of communication and I will assist in being your voice.

In closing, I would like everyone to know that I am dedicated to making a difference in the Borough and will continue to move forward to ensure Minersville is a great and safe place to live and raise a family. Like my 11 years of military service, I will serve our community with honor, courage, and commitment.



**NEWLY ELECTED MAYOR Sean Palmer is sworn in by District Justice Dave Plachko.**

For direct communication, please email [minersvillemayor@gmail.com](mailto:minersvillemayor@gmail.com) or search "Minersville Mayor" on Facebook. Thank you and I look forward to serving our great Borough.

## 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.



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# Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

## Easter egg hunt

The Minersville Recreation Department will host an Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 11 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 1 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-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.

## Little League Baseball & Softball

Registration for the 2020 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, 2007 through June 30, 2015 and girls born January 1, 2007 through June 30, 2015 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

## 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 1*



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## Newsletter Particulars

"Miners' Journal" is a quarterly newsletter of the Borough of Minersville distributed to 3,000 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.SouthSchuylkill.com](http://www.SouthSchuylkill.com)

Publication dates for the next three issues are:  
May 1, August 7, and October 23, 2020

### 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!

need three proofs of residence documents.

Additional information can be found on the website: <https://tshq.bluesombrero.com/minersvillepall> or email [minersvillelittleleague@gmail.com](mailto:minersvillelittleleague@gmail.com).

## Hydrant flushing

The Minersville Water Authority will flush all of its fire hydrants beginning the week of April 20. 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.



## Youth football/cheer sign-ups

The Minersville Youth Football Association has sets its Fall 2020 Season registration dates for both youth football and cheerleaders. All dates will be in-person registration held at the Mountaineer Hose Company, N. Third Street, Minersville.

“Early Bird” registration will be held on Tuesday, April 14 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. with a discounted price of \$45 for the first child. Each additional child residing in the same household will cost \$35 each.

“Regular” registration will be held on Tuesday, May 12 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The cost to register will be \$50 for the first child and \$40 for each additional child residing in the same household.

Sign-ups after May 12 will be considered “Late” registration, costing \$60 for the first child and \$50 for each additional residing in the same household. Late registration will need to be arranged on a “per family” basis.

Players and cheerleaders must reach the age of five years old by August 1, 2020. Additional fees may apply for cheerleaders. A copy of each child’s birth certificate must be presented at the time of registration.

Additional information will be posted on the Minersville Youth Football Association Facebook page and at [www.eteamz.com/MYFAinc](http://www.eteamz.com/MYFAinc).

## 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!



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.

## Help wanted at the pool

The Minersville Borough is now accepting applications for all pool personnel and lifeguard personnel for the upcoming 2020 season. Applications may be obtained at the Borough Office, 2 E Sunbury Street, Minersville, PA 17954.

All current certifications for lifeguard personnel are required. The Minersville Borough is an equal opportunity employer.

## Borough Office holidays

The Minersville Borough offices and employee operations will be closed in observance of the following upcoming holidays: Monday, Feb. 17, Presidents

- Continued on Page 10

## Schuylkill Dental Medicine

### Michael R. Kudryk

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# Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

- Continued from Page 9

Day; closing at 11 a.m. on Friday, April 10, Good Friday; and Monday, May 25, Memorial Day.

## Clean up after your dog

Help keep the Borough clean and sanitary by cleaning up after your dog. This neighborly responsibility will also prevent you from being fined and paying costs for prosecution. Borough Ordinance 299 Sec. 8 C requires individuals to clean up waste and fecal matter from the animal that deposited it anywhere in the Borough.



## Help available 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.

With cash grants, a one-time payment is sent directly to the utility company/fuel provider, and will be credited on your bill. Cash grants range from \$200 to \$1,000 based on household size, income, and fuel type. This is a grant and does not have to be repaid.

This is a state program available to renters and

those who own their home. Income guidelines must be met. The program is now taking applications for the 2019-2020 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.

## 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



**Time:** 9:30-3:00 **Cost:** \$35

Camp is for children who have completed K through 6th grade.

### June 22-26 Tamaqua

Lewistown Valley (near Heisler's Dairy)

### July 6-10 Valley View

Valley View Park

### July 13-17 Pine Grove

Manbeck's E. C. Church, Rock  
(Transportation available)

### July 20-24 Auburn

Christmas Pines Campground

### July 27- 31 Ashland

(Higher Ups Park ~ Near the Pioneer Tunnel)

Our goal is to give every child in the area, no matter their location or situation, the opportunity to hear about Jesus through a memorable week of camp.

Contact: CEF of Schuylkill County

570-682-9790 email: [cefschpa@gmail.com](mailto:cefschpa@gmail.com)

Registration form~ [www.cefschuylkill.com](http://www.cefschuylkill.com)

Bring this ad to camp and receive 20 points towards the camp store.  
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## MAMMOTH MATERIALS

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# Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

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 191 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.



## ***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 13.

## ***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

- Continued on Page 12



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# Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

- Continued from Page 11

always be careful of the potential for electric shock in and around standing water.

## Emergency contact info needed

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mandates that all municipal authorities maintain an emergency contact list. Customers of the Minersville Municipal Water Authority must provide a preferred notification means when the authority is experiencing a "Tier 1" emergency, typically a pressure loss in the system, a boil advisory, chemical accident or similar event that necessitates quick notification to the public. This contact information will only be used in the event of such an emergency.

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

- Phone Method - Complete the form, shown below, 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.

## 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

## 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.

Also, be aware a permit (\$25 fee) is required before placing a dumpster on the street for demolition/construction debris disposal.

If you plan to install a new driveway, there is a preliminary driveway application that must be approved by the Borough Council before committing to the driveway.

Contact the Borough Office at 570-544-2149 for information regarding making repairs and improvements on your property.

## Landlords must register

The Residential Rental Ordinance requires landlords to register their properties with the Borough yearly, providing insurance information, and designating a property management agent if the landlord lives outside a 10 mile air radius of the Borough.

The ordinance also calls for the inspection of each unit every two years and re-inspection prior to any change of occupancy. A one-time fee is required for each occupant of a rental property for the length of tenancy.

Failure for either the landlord or occupants to abide by this new ordinance will result in citations being issued by the Borough. Rental inspection costs \$50 for the first unit plus \$20 for each additional unit in the building. Reinspection costs \$30. Rental registration costs \$10 per year.

The occupancy permit costs \$10 per person with the fee waived for persons age 65 and older.

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

## Law firm partners hail from Minersville

The Schuylkill County law offices of Williamson, Friedberg & Jones have named two of its attorneys, both of whom reside in the Minersville area, as the newest Partners in the firm.

**Ashley Securda** is a lifelong member of the community and resides with her husband Leo and two daughters, Raegen and Kennedy. She offers a wide range of legal services and adds a special emphasis with Elder Law matters.



**Douglas Taglieri** was born and raised in Minersville and still resides in his hometown. He has one daughter, Emmalina. Attorney Taglieri specializes in Criminal Defense matters and Family Law.





# 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 Sewer Authority 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 expen-

sive 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.

## Mayors Past & Present



**FOUR MINERSVILLE MAYORS** - From left, former Mayor Leo Securda, present Mayor Sean Palmer, and former Mayors Joe Post and Dave Dutcavich.



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# Minersville Recycling and Compost Site

## Key Card Required April 1 to Access the Facility

Minersville's Compost and Recycling drop-off site, located at the northern end of N. Delaware Avenue, will soon have restricted access, requiring residents and property owners to apply for and receive an activation card to access the gated lot. Wednesday, April 1 (no fooling!) will be the start of restricted access.

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

### Security measures needed to curb abuse

The complex has 24/7 high-definition video surveillance monitored by the Minersville Police Department. Gate-activation will be granted only during facility hours - 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. during the winter, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. during spring through fall seasons.

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

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



Acceptable and unacceptable compost and recycling items are described on these two pages. Anyone found violating the regulations can have their access cards made inactive and could face criminal charges for illegal dumping.

### Access card instructions

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

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

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

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

## Recycling Center

Place recycling in designated roll off dumpsters. Please read signs advising which dumpster is for paper products and which is for plastics, glass and cans.

### ACCEPTABLE ITEMS



Newspapers, brochures & inserts



Cardboard boxes (flattened)



Pizza/donut boxes (flattened)



Phone books



Magazines



Aluminum cans



Glass bottles & jars



Plastic containers # 1 -7

### UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS

- Foil
- Scrap Metal
- Electronics (TVs, Computers, etc.)
- Styrofoam
- Electronic waste (batteries, cell phones, etc.)
- Hazardous waste (paint, pesticides, cleaners)
- Any oil (including used motor oil bottles)
- Aerosol & Paint Cans
- Yard Waste
- Light Bulbs
- Medical Waste
- Windows
- Toys
- Appliances
- Furniture
- Trash
- Dishes
- Mirrors
- Mattresses
- Tires
- Any item not listed as acceptable



# Compost Site

## ACCEPTABLE ITEMS

All items must be free of plastic bags or unacceptable debris



Leaves



Grass Clippings



Garden Vegetation



Tree Branches  
(no longer than 5 ft in length and no larger than 6 inches in diameter)

## UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS

- Tree Stumps
- Construction Materials of any nature including by not limited to:
  - Lumber
  - Drywall
  - Concrete
  - Bricks
  - Asphalt
- Scrap Metal
- Pallets
- Rocks
- Ashes
- Glass
- Food Waste
- Animal Feces
- Styrofoam
- Hazardous waste (paint, pesticides, cleaners)
- Any oil (including used motor oil bottles)
- Medical Waste
- Furniture
- Trash
- Mattresses
- Tires
- Any item not listed as acceptable



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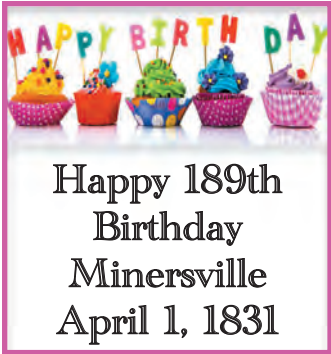
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**Why Do We Celebrate Presidents Day?**

Presidents Day is an American holiday celebrated on the third Monday in February – this year on February 17.



Originally established in 1885 in recognition of President George Washington, the holiday became popularly known as Presidents Day after it was moved as part of 1971's Uniform Monday Holiday Act, an attempt to create more three-day weekends for the nation's workers.

While several states still have individual holidays honoring the birthdays of Washington, Abraham Lincoln and other figures, Presidents Day is now popularly viewed as a day to celebrate all U.S. presidents, past and present.

The story of Presidents Day's date begins in 1800. Following the death of George Washington in 1799, his February 22 birthday became a perennial day of remembrance. At the time, Washington was venerated as the most important figure in American history. Events like the 1832 centennial of his birth and the start of construction of the Washington Monument in 1848 were cause for national celebration.

While Washington's Birthday was an unofficial observance for most of the 1800s, it was not until the late 1870s that it became a federal holiday. Senator Steven Wallace Dorsey of Arkansas was the first to propose the measure, and in 1879 President Rutherford B. Hayes signed it into law.

The holiday initially only applied to the District of Columbia, but in 1885 it was expanded to the whole country. At the time, Washington's Birthday joined four other nationally recognized federal bank holidays—Christmas Day, New Year's Day, the Fourth of July and Thanksgiving — and was the first to celebrate the life of an individual American. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, signed into law in 1983, was the second.

***Uniform Monday Holiday Act***

The shift from Washington's Birthday to Presidents Day began in the late 1960s, when Congress proposed a measure known as the Uniform Monday Holiday Act.

The proposed change was seen by many as a novel way to create more three-day weekends for the nation's workers, and it was believed that ensuring holidays always fell on the same weekday would reduce employee absenteeism.

The main piece of the Uniform Monday Holiday Act passed in 1968 and officially took effect in 1971 following an executive order from President Richard M. Nixon. Washington's Birthday was then shifted from the fixed date of February 22 to the third Monday of February. Columbus Day, Memorial Day and Veterans Day were also moved from their traditionally designated dates. Widespread criticism, however, returned Veterans' Day back to its original November 11 date in 1980.

***Did you know?***

President's Day never falls on the actual birthday of any American president. Four chief executives—George Washington, William Henry Harrison, Abraham Lincoln and Ronald Reagan—were born in February, but their birthdays all come either too early or late to coincide with Presidents Day, which is always celebrated on the third Monday of the month.