



MINERS' JOURNAL

Official Publication

Borough of Minersville

www.minersvilleonline.com

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BOROUGH OF MINERSVILLE, PA

May 2011

Gigantic parade climaxes week-long gala

Minersville Hosts County Firefighters Aug. 21-27

As firefighters like to say it, “Things are heating up!”

The Minersville Fire Department is hosting the 57th annual Schuylkill County Volunteer Firemen Association convention this year – August 21 through 27 – in our borough.

A special memorial service honoring those firefighters who made the ultimate sacrifice on September 11, 2001 and to all fallen firefighters will kick off the week’s activities Sunday, Aug. 21 at St. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church, 107 South Fourth Street beginning at 6 p.m.

The annual Delegates Night will take place Wednesday, Aug. 24 at Hillcrest Catering Hall on the Minersville/Llewellyn Highway in Branch Township.

And we’re not done! The public is especially

invited and encouraged to our “Meet the Firefighters Night” slated for Thursday, Aug. 25 at the New Minersville Fire Co., 500 Line Street, from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Come and meet the proud and dedicated members of your Minersville Fire Department.

Of course, the big event of the week-long convention will be the 57th annual parade. This gigantic display of marching bands, county service and community group floats, business entries and a huge response of fire apparatus from just about every fire company from within and beyond the county will get underway at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 27. Registration of entries is due by Saturday, July 23.

Business sponsors

Businesses throughout the county are asked to
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Firefighter/medic helped save 4-year-old

Minersville’s Flanagan Earns National VFW Award



GEORGE FLANAGAN

Former Minersville resident, George E. Flanagan III, was notified early this year he had been selected to receive a very prestigious award. A Firefighter/Medic Lieutenant with the Prince George’s County Fire/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department, Flanagan was selected by the Veterans of Foreign War (VFW) as the organiza-

tion’s “2010 National Emergency Technician of the Year.” He was selected at the local and state level, as well. It is the first time a member of the Prince George’s County EMS has won at the national level.

Lieutenant Flanagan was recognized for rescuing a 4-year-old child from her burning Hyattsville (MD) apartment in February 2010. On the day of the rescue, he and several other firefighters were the first to arrive on the scene of an apartment fire. Crews located and removed the child’s father while Lieutenant Flanagan located the young girl and removed her from the apartment that was charged with thick smoke and

intense heat. As one team of firefighters worked to extinguish the fire, other firefighters removed the two victims and assisted paramedics in their treatment and transport to the hospital. Tragically, the father succumbed to his injuries; the young girl, however, has since made a full recovery.

Being told of his award, Flanagan stated, “I am honored to have been selected for this award, and I accept it on behalf of my crew that day and for the paramedics who did everything they could do to save the father and daughter. This rescue was a team effort.”

Fire Fighter/Medic Lieutenant Flanagan received his award at a ceremony in March 2011.

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Sch. County Drug & Alcohol Program

Minersville Area is one of two county schools receiving underage drinking prevention services in the sixth through eighth grade level through a federal grant. The program includes instruction, parent information, and alcohol-free youth activities. It is hoped parents will be supportive and get involved with reinforcing the effort to educate youngsters on the hazards of alcohol.



Don't be a party to underage drinking.
It's against the law.

According to a national survey more than 70% of children say parents are the leading influence in their decision to drink or not to drink. Nearly three quarters of youth acknowledge the importance

of their parents when it comes to decision making. That's some pretty good news . . . your kids are listening when you talk!

Parents play an important role when it comes to their children's decision to use alcohol. Having correct information and talking to your children, early

and often, is key.

When should you have these talks, how often and what information should you give kids? There is a lot of information available to parents and resources for youth to assist.

- Have conversations frequently and find good times and places to have them. Have lots of little talks instead of one big one. Choose informal times, such as in the car, during dinner and while watching television. Continue to talk to them

Firefighter Convention

– Continued from Page 1

consider showing support for all of the visiting firefighters with a company advertisement in our convention booklet distributed to incoming hose company personnel and available to the public.

Advertising costs begin at \$35 for a quarter page, \$60 for a half, and \$100 for a full page display. Placing an advertisement in the Convention 2011 booklet is a great way to draw attention and customers to your business while supporting an organization dedicated to serving and protecting its community. The publication deadline is Monday, July 25. Contact Jim at (570) 617-4785, Eric at (570) 691-5269, Charlie at (570) 292-0310, or Dave at (570) 617-4206 for more information.

House decorations

Banners and buntings to decorate homes and businesses and to promote the convention are being offered in support of our county firefighters.

Les Aungst Signs of Schuylkill Haven has three-piece to nine-piece red-white-blue buntings with the message "Welcome Firefighters" available leading up to and during the convention. For those of you on the parade route, Minersville firefighters are hoping everyone can pitch in for this one.

Les will come out and install and take them down. How can you beat that? Call Les Aungst Signs at (570) 385-1160 for pricing and additional information.

From the Minersville Fire Department, have a safe and wonderful summer. We'll see you in August.



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Sch. County Drug & Alcohol Program

about alcohol throughout adolescence. Encourage them to talk to you. Talking to your children daily will make it easier discussing serious subjects when necessary.

- Be real with them and make your feelings known. Create rules you can enforce. Develop family rules that are clear and enforce them with appropriate consequences. Renegotiate the rules as they get older.
- Give children good reasons not to drink. Give them accurate information about alcohol and the consequences of underage drinking. Let your children know you're always there for them.
- Be mindful of the things you, friends and family members can do besides talking. Be a good role model, your actions have an influence on what your children deem as appropriate and acceptable behavior. Be aware of where you keep your alcohol. Two out of three teens aged 13-18 said it is easy to get alcohol from their own homes without their parents knowing it. Get to know your children's friends and monitor their activities. Promote a healthy lifestyle. Do not participate in illegal, unhealthy or dangerous behaviors or your children may believe that such behaviors are okay no matter what you say.

Finally, join community efforts against under-

age drinking. The Miners Drug and Alcohol Task Force addresses issues and provides programs regarding underage drinking and alcohol-free activities for youth. The task force is comprised of school representatives, students and community members. Meetings are held on a monthly basis.

If you are a parent or concerned citizen who would like to volunteer your time as a member or learn more about the task force, contact Jim Yacobacci at (570) 544-4761. For more information about prevention services and additional resources in Schuylkill County, visit www.schuylkillprevention.com.

Start talking early and often to your children . . . they're listening!

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 with your mailing address or call the borough office during normal business hours . . . 544-2149.



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Borough Services Update . . . and Events

Decoration Day

The Minersville Area Historical Society will hold its annual Decoration Day gathering at the Union Cemetery on Fifth Street at 6 p.m. on May 30. Members of the community are invited to join in to remember those who were involved in the Civil War.

As the nation remembers those who supported the Union cause 150 years ago, we ask our community to recall that Schuylkill County and Minersville sent its volunteers to protect that "new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

Certainly Abraham Lincoln's words deserve hearing again in 2011 to remind us that liberty is an ongoing challenge. As Lincoln stated at the end of his Gettysburg address, "... this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom – and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." The historical society members dedicate Decoration Day remembrances to those who sacrificed their lives to that cause.

Note: Please observe the temporary "No Parking" signs at the entrance to the Union Cemetery May 30.

Church walking tour

The Minersville Historical Society has scheduled another Walk-About in conjunction with National Trails Day, Walk Schuylkill County, and Schuylkill on the Move June 4. The Society will host the public tour

of Sts. Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church on Fourth Street starting at 1 p.m.

Following the church tour, participants may want to continue their walk by going to the Union Cemetery, if they were not able to attend the Decoration Day gathering.

2011 holiday ornament

The Minersville Historical Society will present a replica of the Minersville High School building (now the Minersville Area Elementary School) as its 2011 holiday ornament. These ornaments will be available at the Borough Hall on Sunbury Street and Delaware Avenue once they arrive.

Interested community residents are invited to attend society meetings held on the fourth Wednesday of every month in the basement of the English Lutheran Church, Second and Lewis streets, at 7 p.m. Call Ian Palmer at 544-3105 for additional information.



Recycling schedule

Recycling curbside pickups in the borough will take place according to the following schedule:

North Side – May 4 and 18; June 1 and 15; July 6 and 20; August 3 and 17; September 7 and 21; October 5 and 19; November 2 and 16; December 7 and 21.

South Side – May 11 and 25; June 8 and 22; July 13 and 27; August 10 and 24; September 14 and 28; October 12 and 26; November 9 and 23; and December 14 and 28.



Community yard sale

A town-wide Minersville Community Yard Sale



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Borough Services Update . . . and Events

is planned for Sat., June 4. Sponsored by the Minersville Recreation Committee, the yard sale will take place from 7 a.m. to noon. Residents are asked to be a part of this gigantic sale . . . \$5 registration gets your borough house location noted on the Minersville Yard Sale map.



Register at the Borough Office, 2 E. Sunbury Street, by the deadline of May 27. Maps will be available for pickup June 1. Make checks payable to: Minersville Recreation Committee.

To register your household for the community-wide yard sale June 4 , complete this newsletter Entry Form and return it to:

Minersville Borough Office, 2 E Sunbury Street,
Minersville, PA 17954 no later than May 27. Make
checks payable to the Minersville Recreation
Board in the amount of \$5 per map location.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

No loitering

Loitering is prohibited in the Borough under Ordinance 232. This ordinance applies to both juveniles and adults. The ordinance defines loitering as "remaining idle essentially in one location, lingering, spending time idly, loafing or walking about aimlessly in one vicinity or neighborhood, or 'hanging around.'" Borough police can ask anyone loitering in a public place, defined as "any place to which the public has access," to leave the vicinity. If a person refuses to leave after being ordered to do so by a police officer, he or she is in violation and subject to a fine up to \$300 and/or up to 90 days imprisonment if convicted.

Swimming pool

The community pool will open on a daily basis beginning Saturday, June 11. If the weather cooperates and the necessary preparations can be made, the pool may be open for the Memorial Day weekend (May 28-30) as well as the weekend of June 4-5. Please check the borough website or call the borough office near the end of the month for final details.



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Borough Services Update . . . and Events

Rules of the Recreation Complex

Residents and visitors are encouraged to visit and use our beautiful recreation complex; but, there are rules in place to assure enjoyment for all. Tobacco use is prohibited at the recreational complex, which includes the Community Pool, Little League baseball and softball fields, Teener League field, and walking path. Help set a better example for our community's youth by avoiding the use of any and all tobacco products while visiting this facility. Dogs are prohibited within the Borough Recreation Complex at all times

and seasons. Pet owners may be cited for violating this restriction.

Dog ordinances

Residents are reminded Borough Ordinance prohibits dogs in the Recreation Complex. In addition, the law requires dog owners to have the animal vaccinated for rabies and the dog licensed by Schuylkill County. Borough Ordinance also requires pet owners taking their dog for a walk to clean up any fecal matter immediately after discharge. For animals kept in a yard, it is the owner's responsibility to clean up any fecal matter within twenty-four hours to prevent any such accumulation from becoming a danger to public health.



2011 BOROUGH OFFICIALS

Work Session – First Tuesday of Each Month
Regular Council Meetings:
Second Tuesday of Each Month

OFFICIALS

Mayor Joe Post
Chief of Police Michael Combs
President of Council William J. Angelo
Infrastructure Manager Joe Bass
Council Secretary/ Treasurer Megan Paul
Tax Receiver Juliann Kowalchick
Solicitor Albert Evans
Borough Engineer Entech Engineering, Inc.
Fire Chief Eric Eichenberg
Code Enforcement Fred Bainbridge
Health Officer Kim Burns

COUNCIL

William Angelo • Keith Adams
Albert Bobinas • Helen Droskinis
James Kimmel • Jamie S. Kuehn • Paul Vuksta

POLICE

Michael Combs, Chief
Thomas Hoban • Eric Sterner • Jeffrey Bowers
Richard Clink • Kyle Crouse • Christopher Cruz
Ryan Murphy • Brian Pyle
Jason Klouser • Jan Caprino
Leigh Ann Cielinski, Secretary

STREET DEPARTMENT

Jeffrey Enders, Street Supervisor
Matthew Blacknall
Edwin Houser • Elvin Brennan

SEWER DEPARTMENT

Douglas Cleary, Supervisor • Larry Uberti
Robert Lafey • Raymond Sukeena

WATER DEPARTMENT

Melanie Spittler, Manager / Plant Operator
John Graeff, Jr. • Donald Troutman, Jr.
Raymond Bosack • Michael Mennig, Jr.

BOROUGH OFFICE

Lucy Ciotti, Office Manager • Megan Paul
Leigh Ann Cielinski

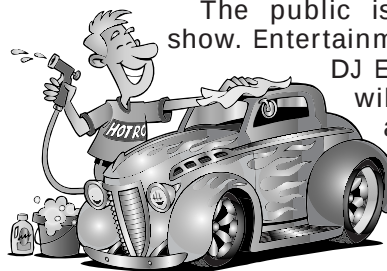
Rotary Club car show

The Minersville Rotary Club will sponsor its inaugural Memorial Run Car Show on Sunday, May 29 at the Seltzer Softball Complex in Seltzer. In the event of rain, the show will be rescheduled to June 5. Pre-registration by May 16 costs \$8 with registration the day of the show costing \$10.

Registration will take place from 8 to 11 a.m. with all cars to be in place by 11 for judging to begin. All entries will receive a dash plaque. Trophy awards for first, second, and third place in each of 25 classes will be given in a ceremony at 3 p.m.

The public is invited to enjoy the show. Entertainment will be provided by DJ Eclipse. Food and drinks will be available. A Chinese auction and 50/50 drawing will also be held.

Contact John at 544-9505 or Pete at 544-6477 for additional information.



First United Methodist Church

First United Methodist Church, Carbon Street, welcomes all to worship Sundays at 10:45 a.m. with

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Borough Services Update . . . and Events

children's Sunday school following at 11:45 a.m. Bible study is conducted every Wednesday beginning at 7 p.m.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Your voice, your information

If you are a member of a local civic organization this newsletter needs your help. The next edition of the **Miners' Journal** is scheduled for home delivery August 5. If you have information or announcements, for the residents of Minersville they should be submitted to: minersnewsletter@hotmail.com by July 1.

Youth soccer

The Minersville Area Youth Soccer Club will hold registration for its fall season Tuesday, May 10 and Wednesday, May 18 at the Good Will Hose Co. #1, 25 North Street, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. each evening.



Skatepark fundraisers

Two upcoming fundraiser events in May will benefit the planned Minersville Area Skatepark.

A spaghetti dinner will be held Sunday, May 15 at the New Minersville Hose Company, Line Street, from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The meal to include spaghetti with meat sauce, salad and bread can be enjoyed at the hose company or taken home for \$7 adults, \$4 children. Advance tickets are recommended and can be gotten by calling Jim at (570) 294-3110. Tickets will



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Borough Services Update . . . and Events

– Continued from Page 7

be available at the door. All are welcome.

An adult Oldies Dance to benefit the skatepark will be held Saturday, May 21 . . . also at the New Minersville Hose Company from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Local oldies band "Still Rockin'" will entertain playing hits from the 60s, 70s, and 80s. All adults are welcome to help make the Minersville Skatepark a reality.

Fire-Rescue block party

Minersville Fire-Rescue, 300 North Street, invites the public to enjoy its annual block party set for Thursday, July 7 through Saturday, July 9. Live entertainment each night will feature the Poptart Monkeys on July 7, Yada Yada Yada on Friday, July 8, and Gas Station Disco on Saturday, July 9.



Homemade food, refreshments, entertainment, games and rides will be featured each night. Friday is family night-ride with all rides available for one low fee. For more information, see:

www.minersvillefirerescue.com

News from Quandel

The Quandel Group, Inc., a local construction firm, is pleased to announce the promotions of Michael J. Hogan and Michael J. Karcutskie, both to vice president.



Michael Hogan has been with The Quandel Group for approximately five years and has over 32 years of experience managing construction projects. He is responsible for operations and project management in the firm's Scranton office and has provided his leadership in managing major projects for the University of Scranton such as the DeNaples Student Center and Condron Hall. Mike recently managed the New Commonwealth Medical College and is providing his leadership on the University of Scranton's new Unified Science Center project.

Michael Karcutskie has been with The Quandel Group for 12 years and has 18 years of experience in the construction industry. Mike is currently responsible for business development in our Scranton office. His duties include searching out new opportunities in Northeastern Pennsylvania. He has worked as a project manager on numerous projects such as the Scranton School District's new high school, Morrisville State College's student housing projects and First Quality Enterprises.

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Sewer Authority	544-2149
Tax Collector	544-4391
Library	544-5196
Post Office	544-3490
Minersville Fire-Rescue	544-3707
Minersville Fire-Rescue	544-9528
Good Will Hose Co	544-6099
New Minersville Hose Co.	544-9152
Mountaineer Hose Co.	544-9622

From Minersville's Infrastructure Manager

Maintaining and improving Minersville's public facilities and services for the efficient and enjoyable use by borough residents and visitors is an important daily and long range function. This newsletter allows us the opportunity to update you on matters that are ongoing and to request comments and suggestions from the community on items you feel should be addressed.



JOE BASS

The parking area at the Little League field was recently cleaned and lines painted to indicate the parking requirements. Borough crews will repaint pedestrian crosswalks through the summer work schedule.

The community swimming pool will be painted and prepared for the summer season. The pool will operate daily beginning June 11; however, if the weather allows us to get the necessary work completed earlier, the pool may be open for Memorial Day weekend May 28-30 and the weekend of June 4-5. Surveillance cameras are being considered for the pool area. Police Chief Combs and I are currently reviewing proposals.

The street sweeper is being readied for its spring run and should be out soon to clean up winter's deposits.

The split rail fence at the Penn Street playground

will be repaired and parts replaced as necessary. Safety inspections will be completed at all our public playgrounds this summer to ensure equipment and grounds are compliant with federal and state safety regulations.

Installation of wooden sills along Kantner Street in the area of Saint Nicholas School is planned to eliminate ground erosion and debris from entering the storm water sewer system which empties into the river.

Finally, I have accepted a request by Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce Transportation chairman Tom Yashinsky to serve on that important committee.

It is my desire to make a positive contribution to the community. If you have any comments or suggestions to make Minersville a better place in which to live, work and play, contact me through the borough office at 544-2149. My e-mail address is jkbass.minersville.pa@gmail.com or stop at the office. The door is always open.

- Joe Bass, Infrastructure Manager

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From the Minersville Police Department

Burglar proof your home

It's a sound that everyone dreads – that unexplained bump in the night that sends you running for the bat you keep behind the door. Was it the wind? A raccoon? Your imagination? Unfortunately, most people don't think about home security until they've already suffered a break in; but, there are many easy and inexpensive ways to deter thieves and make your home a safer place.



The mind of a criminal – to really burglar proof your home you need to be able to see your home as a potential thief sees it. Walk or drive slowly by your house and look at the exterior. Ask yourself, "If I were going to break into this house what features would I take advantage of?"

Do you leave your garage door open while doing yard work or working in the house? Do you store ladders alongside the house where they could provide access to a criminal? Look at every aspect of your home



from an outsider's point of view and look for weaknesses that might tempt a criminal.

Work from the outside in – Some of the best deterrents for thieves are found on the exterior of your home. Start by evaluating your landscaping. Arrange easy lines of sight into your yard for neighbors and consider a chain link fence instead of a solid wood one. The solid fence provides the perfect cover for a thief to work undetected.

Overgrown landscaping is an invitation to criminals and provides them with the perfect place to hide. Utilize the 3ft./6ft. rule when planting trees and shrubs. Trim tree branches up to six feet off the ground and shrubs down to three feet. This creates a "window effect" in your yard and minimizes hiding places for burglars. You might also consider planting thorny shrubs or bushes beneath windows.

Another easy way to keep criminals at bay is to install security lighting around the exterior of your home. Make sure all possible entry points on the outside of your home are well lit, including doors and windows on the main floor and basement windows. High-pressure sodium lights and mercury vapor lights are economical and illuminate a larger area than regular incandescent lights. You might also consider motion trigger lights that turn on when they sense movement.

It's also important to check your exterior doors. Those made of solid metal or wood offer the most security. Not sure what kind of door you have? If you can push a straight pin into the door without too much effort, the core is hollow. A skilled burglar could easily kick in a hollow-core door. Replace it with a solid door, if possible. Also, consider replacing any door with a lot of glass on it.

While you're looking at your doors, evaluate your locks. Deadbolts offer the greatest measure of protection and come in two types: single cylinder and double cylinder. A single cylinder lock operates with a key on the outside and a thumb-turn on the inside, while a double cylinder lock uses a key on both sides of the door. If your



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From the Minersville Police Department

door contains glass that can be broken, a double cylinder is the best choice. If a thief were to break the glass he couldn't reach in and unlock the door. Also, consider installing a deadbolt on any door leading

from the basement into the house. If a thief manages to break into your basement he won't get very far when faced with a dead-bolted door leading into the rest of the house.

Window locks are vital to the security of your home. While it may sound obvious to lock your windows and doors, only one in four home break-ins involves forced entry, according to FBI statistics. The majority of would-be thieves enter through open windows and doors. If your home has double-hung windows (those that slide up and down) window locks will only work when the window is completely closed. With other types of windows, you can add locks that work when the window is partially open to the corners or sides. Window pinning (inserting a nail above the window) and window tracking (placing a dowel or piece of wood in the track of a window so it won't open) are two inexpensive ways to secure double-



Crime ALERT

hung windows.

Practice good habits – Simple ways to make your life and your home more secure include:

- Asking for identification before talking to a stranger at your door.
- Locking windows and doors every night.
- Supervising construction or repair people who come to your home.

When purchasing expensive items such as stereo equipment or TVs, break the boxes down and store them in your garage until trash day instead of leaving them on the curb. Write down the serial numbers of

– Continued on Page 12

MINERSVILLE POLICE

544-6212 Office

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Minersville Little League News

The Minersville Little League's Mom's Club is newly formed this year. Officers are Susan Murphy, chairwoman; Beth Karmazin, co-chair; Patrice Schwalm, secretary; and Brenda Hossler, treasurer. The club is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the league's concession stand.

Board officers and members for 2011 are Ron Rowland, president; Carl McBreen, vice president; Jeff Polinsky, vice president of operation and equipment officer; Chris Bentz, vice president of softball; Jim Nettles, secretary, in charge of public relations, and co-vice president of the Minor League; Joe Cuttitta, co-vice president Minor League; Scott Schwalm, vice president of T-ball; Raymond Ostrowski, chief umpire baseball, field maintenance and concessions coordinator; Tom Schoffstall, baseball coordinator and assistant equipment officer; Charlie Roberts, Jr., player agent and fundraiser coordinator; Jeff Rinaldo, safety officer; Kevin Wigoda, treasurer; Ed Pollman, assistant field maintenance; Joe Karmazin, member; Charlie Roberts, Sr., official scorekeeper baseball.

Managers and sponsors

New sponsors for 2011 include The Butcher Shop, Mark Hammer's Garage, Good Will Fire Co. No.1, and Bob Weaver Chevrolet-Buick-Pontiac-GMC.

Little League boys 2011 teams and managers are: Rotary, Jeremy Hossler; Quandel Concrete, Joe Cuttitta; Shandri, Jim Nettles; First National Bank,

Cliff Woodford; Minersville Auto Parts, Jeff Rinaldo; M-Den, Jim Hoffman; Legion, Joe Karmazin; and Reedy's, Mike Melochick.

Little League girls softball 2011 teams and managers are: Quandel Group, Scott Schwalm; Minersville Fire & Rescue, Kevin Wigoda; First National Bank, Chris Bentz; McCann School of Business, Dave Ebert; and New Minersville Hose Co., Scott Nettles.

Minor League 2011 teams and managers are: South Cass Hose Co., Joe Karmazin; Good Will Fire Co. No. 1, Mike Melochick; BG's Market, Fran Doyle; Laudeman Pest Control, Fred Graeff; Mark Hammer's Garage, Lisa Conville; and Morgan & Halcovage, Charlie Roberts, Jr.

Contact Scott Schwalm for T-ball teams and managers.

Baseball / softball schedules

For complete game schedules and fundraiser information for boys Little League baseball, girls Little League softball, minor league, and t-ball, visit the league's website at:

www.eteamz.com/minersvillelittleleague

Police Department

– Continued from Page 11

TVs, camcorders, etc., and keep the serial numbers in a safe place. In the event your property is stolen, you have the serial numbers to give to the police. It is also helpful to engrave your initials on the property so it can be identified. Without the serial numbers or identifying mark, it is almost impossible to identify stolen property if it is recovered.

- Close your blinds at night or when you're not home. This minimizes a burglar's opportunity to "shop around."
- Make your home look occupied whenever you're away. Install lights on timers to turn on and off at night. Ask your neighbors to collect your mail and papers in your absence. Keep a car parked in the driveway, if possible, and arrange for someone to mow your yard or shovel snow from your walkways.
- Never put your home address on luggage when you're traveling, as this alerts criminals that you're not home. Put a business address on luggage instead.

Get organized – One of the best ways to keep your home (and your entire neighborhood) safe is to organize a block club of neighbors who will agree to keep an eye on each other's property and call 911 if they see suspicious activity. Having other people who can serve as your eyes and ears when you're not around is one of the most effective ways to keep criminals away.

Simple changes in your home and your lifestyle can ensure that you never have to deal with the danger and headache of a break in and bring you tremendous peace of mind. Don't wait until you've already lost your valuables and sense of security to implement these easy ideas. Burglar proof your home today!



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Spring Maintenance Tips

SPRING FIX UP PAINT UP CLEAN UP TIME

This is the season to get your yard in shape, fix winter damage, and tackle interior jobs that require good ventilation.

Check foundation walls, floors, concrete and masonry for cracking, heaving or deterioration. Check your chimney for loose, deteriorated or missing mortar. Repair problems.



Check grading for proper slope away from foundation walls. Build up soil wherever needed. Check all wood surfaces – especially at the soil level – for weathering, peeling paint or dry rot. Fix now or this summer.

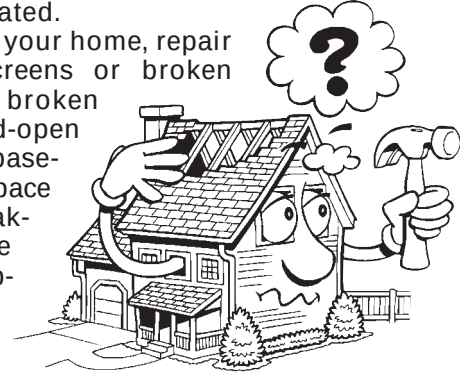
Check deck, patio, porch, and exterior stairs and railings for deterioration or damage. Plan to repair as soon as possible. Remove debris from gutters and downspouts and repair any leaks.

On the roof, check for any missing, loose or damaged shingles and replace as needed. Check for open seams, blisters or bald areas on flat roofs and have these repaired. Inspect flashing around all surface projections and sidewalls and antenna supports for

possible leak sources. Check fascia and soffits for deterioration and damage. Take a look at roof louvers for damage or plugging (birds nests, etc.) If ice dams were a problem last winter, have your attic properly insulated and ventilated.

In the interior of your home, repair or replace torn screens or broken windows. Replace broken sash ropes or hold-open devices. Check basement and crawl space for moisture or leaking water. Take care of all moisture problems.

Check your home's cooling system before hot weather arrives. Open vents in your crawl space and vent crawl spaces in basements. Once windows can be opened, do any interior painting, varnishing or other projects where odor can be a problem. Check your smoke detector when you change clocks ahead. Take note of slow drains or back-ups. If needed, have sewer pipes cleaned before a really big back-up occurs.



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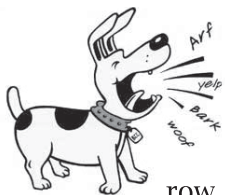
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Be A Good Neighbor – Courtesy Counts

We all try to be a good neighbor in our community, but here are a few things to remember that will help us all get along.

Welcome new neighbors with an introductory note or a friendly chat. Maintain the area around your home so that it's neat and attractive.

Be conscientious about noises that might disturb your neighbors, such as vacuum cleaners, music, loud talk and barking dogs. End parties at a reasonable hour. While you're at it, invite your neighbors to come, too.



Return anything that you borrow from your neighbor, such as tools or appliances, as soon as possible. Express your gratitude when you do so. Replace anything that belongs to your neighbor that you, your children, or your pets break or soil. Respect your neighbor's privacy.

Offer to collect mail, water plants and watch the pets while your neighbors are away on a trip. Learn from neighbors with cultural backgrounds different from your own. Invite your neighbor over for a leisurely cup of coffee to discuss any problems you may have, or to share good news. Throw a house party once a year on a weekend or holiday to socialize with your neighbors.



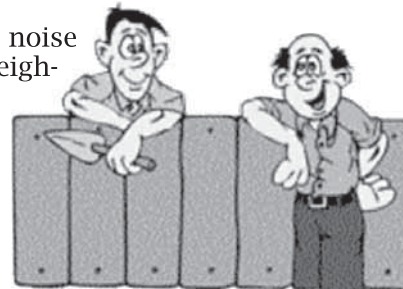
What if there is a problem?

Noisy neighbors are a common problem in a society where many people live closely together. Obviously, this issue can be most significant when you share walls or a floor/ceiling with a neighbor in an apartment, duplex or condo. But even in freestanding homes, a noisy neighbor can make life challenging, particularly if noise continues well into the night, or occurs during early morning hours.

This situation is a delicate one to deal with, requiring your ability to keep your calm, especially when discussing the noise with a neighbor. Reason suggests that you should first attempt to address noisy neighbors about the noise. This conversation should be polite, even friendly. It can begin with a statement like, "I'm not sure you're aware" so that the noise is attributed merely to the person's inability to recognize that the noise they make penetrates your walls.

Explain briefly the noise issue, and ask the neighbor to turn down the music, create situations for the dog to stop barking, or not hold parties until 3 a.m. You can also add that you realize they hear your noise also,

and you're certainly willing to try to stop anything in your behavior that is creating extra noise in their home.



You should be aware that not all neighbors are going to respond to your request, and some may respond in a hostile manner. If noisy neighbors don't change their behavior, the next step should be to write a letter (keep a copy), detailing the noise. There is one exception to this. If noisy neighbors respond in a manner so hostile that you fear for your safety, your next step when noise occurs should be a call to the police. However, when a neighbor is simply non-compliant with your request, you can use the follow up letter.

The letter should state the specific grievances, and any dates when the noise was particularly bothersome. For example, if your neighbor has loud

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Be A Good Neighbor – Courtesy Counts

gatherings every Friday night that last into the early morning, then reference those dates on which the gatherings occur.

If you live in an apartment, you should also check for any policies on noise in the lease. It may be that your apartment complex has specific quiet time rules. With your letter to noisy neighbors, include copies of



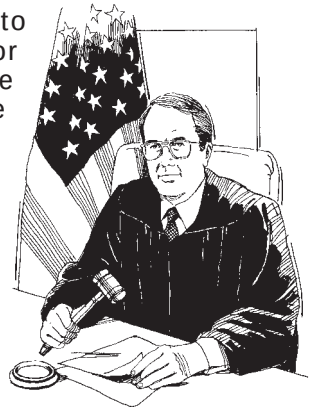
the apartment complex rules. Politely ask the neighbor to comply with these ordinances and do state that you will need to report continued violations to complex management or local police if necessary.

When the noise remains ongoing, you should definitely report it to local authorities. Start by calling the landlord to report the noise problem. If the noise

is coming from a home, call the police if the noise is excessive. You might want to enlist other neighbors who may also be bothered by the same noisy neighbors. Overall, your goal is to establish a pattern of behavior should you need to take the neighbor to court for nuisance behavior. Often, however, the problem is resolved when the noisy neighbors know you are going to call the police.

Do be aware that you cannot always request noisy neighbors to be quiet. Some people have a lower tolerance for noise, and what you define as noisy neighbors may not really constitute nuisance behavior. In addition, if the police are called they will need to hear the noise and will determine if it constitutes a nuisance.

Also, it is wise not to respond to noise in an angry or retaliatory fashion. If you have followed through with the steps and letter, don't start banging things around in your home or turning up the music to annoy the neighbor. Simply report behavior to the appropriate authorities. To respond otherwise is to weaken your case should you need to take the matter to court.



Newsletter Particulars

"*Miner's 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: info@southschuylkill.net

www.SouthSchuylkill.com

Publication dates for the next three issues are: August 5, October 28, 2011 and February 3, 2012

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.

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 Madelyn @ 366-2791. 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.

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Independence Day – Be Lawful and Safe

We all enjoy celebrating our Independence Day on July 4th, but Pennsylvania law governs how we can celebrate with fireworks. Below is a list of questions and answers from the PA State Police website regarding the use of fireworks.

Q: Can I use fireworks in Pennsylvania?

A: State law prohibits the use of Consumer and Display Fireworks in Pennsylvania without a permit. Items defined as “ground and hand-held sparkling devices”, “novelties” and “toy caps” in American Pyrotechnics Association (APA) Standard 87-1 are not currently regulated by state law; therefore, their sale and use are permissible. These “non-fireworks” are the only types allowed to be sold from tents, stands, convenience stores, retail establishments and other various outlets not licensed by the

Department of Agriculture.

Q: Can I buy regular fireworks – not sparklers or novelty items – under any conditions?

A: This answer depends on whether or not you are a Pennsylvania resident.

Pennsylvania residents may purchase Consumer Fireworks only with a display permit issued by the municipality wherein the display will take place.

For non-residents, an amendment to the Fireworks Law, effective November 30, 2004, makes it legal, upon proof of out-of-state residency status, to purchase Consumer Fireworks from a

facility licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture provided the Consumer Fireworks are transported directly out of state by the seller or purchaser.

Q: How do I get a permit for a fireworks display?

A: The Commonwealth does not issue permits for firework displays and does not oversee the issuance of permits by the municipalities. A permit for a fireworks display must be obtained from the municipality where the display will take place. The municipality is the only governing body with authority to issue this permit under rea-



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4th of July

sonable rules and regulations adopted by them. Upon inspection of the display site by the fire chief, or other designated officer, and the posting of a bond of at least \$500 for any possible damages, the municipality may issue a permit to a person they deem competent.

If you are hiring someone to perform the display, that person or corporation must be registered with the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General. If you are not hiring someone, you can attempt to obtain the status of "competent operator" from the municipality where the display will take place. Questions concerning display permits should be directed to the appropriate municipality.

Any business entity that performs, provides or supervises fireworks displays or exhibitions for profit must register annually with the Office of Attorney General.

Q: Who enforces the Fireworks Law?

A: Any law enforcement officer having jurisdiction may make an arrest and confiscate fireworks under the Fireworks Law. To report a violation of the Fireworks Law contact the police department servicing your area as you would to report any other crime.

Q: What precautions should people take when using permitted novelty items or sparklers?

A: It's best to leave any type of fireworks to the experts. But if you decide to use permitted novelty items or sparklers:

- Always read and follow the instructions carefully.
- Use items outside in an open area.
- A responsible adult should supervise all activities.
- Only light one item at a time.
- Place used items in a bucket of water prior to properly disposing of them.

Q: What else should I know about fireworks?

A: Cherry bombs, M-80s, M-100s, silver salutes and other illegal fireworks are all extremely dangerous. In addition, fireworks constructed from mail order kits are illegal and dangerous to assemble or use. Never attempt to make your own fireworks or tamper with fireworks.



NEARLY FORTY YEARS AGO – Two photos taken in the early 1970s from the same vantage point shows the Minersville Community Pool and the parking area for the Recreation Complex. The Minersville Area High School can be seen to the top of the parking area photo.



Out of Minersville's Past

The following was taken from Old Schuylkill Tales, written by Mrs. Ella Zerbey Elliot, and originally published in 1906.

Minersville, next to Pottsville, lays claim to being the oldest coal town in Schuylkill County. In 1793 Thomas Reed, the first settler, erected a saw mill at the mouth of Wolf Creek and its union with the west branch of the Schuylkill River. A log house nearby furnished the home for his family. A tavern erected by Mr. Reed on the Sunbury turnpike, which ran up the Mahantongo Valley to Gordon, was called the Half-way House, being midway between Reading and Sunbury. The tavern stood on the site of the R.C. St. Vincent DePaul Church (now St. Michael the Archangel R.C. Church).

The locality was thickly covered with giant trees, and the business, before the mining of coal, was lumbering. A number of saw mills were at work preparing the rough timber which was floated in rafts down the west branch to Schuylkill Haven. The town was laid out in 1830 and incorporated in 1831. With the advent of the English, Welsh and Irish miner came the individual coal operator. Money was plenty, and the social features and entertainments among the leading professional people and the resident coal barons were second to none in the county.

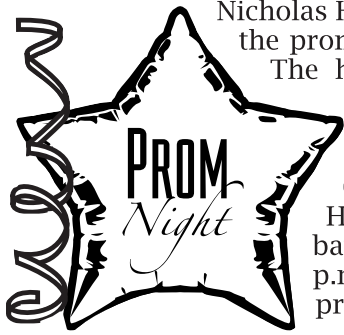
Calendar of Events

Keeping busy during the next three months is a breeze by participating in any of the many activities Minersville has to offer.

Serving once a month through July is God's Bountiful Table Soup Kitchen, held on the lower level of the Father Anthony J. Ricapito Annex on Church and Spencer sts. The kitchen is open from 11 a.m. through 1:30 p.m. on May 11, 25; June 8, 22; and July 13, 27. Hosted by the St. Matthew the Evangelist SVDP Society, the soup kitchen serves economically disadvantaged residents of the Minersville area and can be reached at 544-2739 or 544-6484.

May

Activities abound at local schools during May. Minersville High School hosts its prom May 7 at St. Nicholas Hall where couples will walk the promenade beginning at 5 p.m.



The high school band presents its spring concert May 11 and the choir sings May 24, both events begin at 6:30 p.m. At Nativity BVM High School, the choir and band perform May 15 at 7 p.m., and couples attend their prom at the school May 20.

Promenade starts at 5:30 p.m.

Register now for the 2011-12 school year for St. Nicholas School, grades K-4 to 8. Tuition is affordable, and the school offers personal attention and the latest technology. For information, a tour, or to register, call Michelle at the office 544-2800.

Breakfast anyone? It's cooking at Mountaineer Hose Co. at 101 S. Third St. on May 15 and 29 from 7:30 a.m. to noon.

Two bus trips are planned in May. The bus leaves Quandel's parking lot at 7:45 a.m. May 9, and again June 6 and July 11, for a day at the casinos in Atlantic City. Call Theresa at 544-4316 for details. For those who want to travel farther, St. Matthew the Evangelist is sponsoring a trip to Myrtle Beach, SC May 16-22.



The trip is a four-night stay including six breakfasts, four full dinners and three shows for \$799 per person (double occupancy). Want to know more? Call Julie, 544-5231 or Maria, 544-2340.

Take This Independence Day Quiz

- Which of the following European powers did not fight on the side of the colonists in the Revolutionary War?
 - Spain
 - The Netherlands
 - France
 - Germany
- The "midnight ride" of which American patriot was later immortalized by poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow?
 - John Hancock
 - Joseph Warren
 - Samuel Adams
 - Paul Revere
- Who wrote the Star-Spangled Banner?
 - John Phillip Sousa
 - Katharine Lee Bates
 - Francis Scott Key
 - Samuel Francis Smith
- Who was the primary author of the Declaration of Independence?
 - Benjamin Franklin
 - Thomas Jefferson
 - George Washington
 - John Adams
- The Second Continental Congress met in which city to draft the Declaration of Independence?
 - Boston, MA
 - Baltimore, MD
 - New York, NY
 - Philadelphia, PA
- Which of the following was not one of the thirteen original colonies?
 - Georgia
 - Vermont
 - Virginia
 - Massachusetts
- According to legend, which of the following women sewed together the first American flag?
 - Dolly Madison
 - Eleanor Roosevelt
 - Martha Washington
 - Betsy Ross
- Which of the following did not sign the Declaration of Independence?
 - Samuel Adams
 - John Hancock
 - Benjamin Franklin
 - George Washington
- In 1773, which of the following was thrown into Boston Harbor as a protest against taxes?
 - Coffee
 - Tobacco
 - Tea
 - Cotton
- What happened on July 4, 1776?
 - The first battle of the Revolutionary War was fought
 - The Second Continental Congress declared Independence from Britain
 - The Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Second Continental Congress
 - The Declaration of Independence was signed
- After losing New York City to the British, which river did George Washington and his men cross on Christmas Day in 1776 in a prelude to a surprise attack on the Hessian garrison?
 - Hudson River
 - Connecticut River
 - Potomac River
 - Delaware River

ANSWERS: 1. Germany 2. Paul Revere 3. Francis Scott Key 4. Thomas Jefferson 5. Philadelphia 6. Vermont 7. Betsy Ross 8. George Washington 9. Tea 10. Declaration was adopted by Second Continental Congress 11. Delaware

Calendar of Events

On May 13, South Cass Fire Co. will hold haunted wagon rides from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Adults ride for \$6 and children 10 and under for \$3. Enjoy a Night at the Races hosted by St. Michael's Ladies Guild and held at the parish hall May 14. Doors open at 6 p.m. and races start at 7:30. Call Debbie at 544-2070.

The Little League fireworks collection takes place May 22 at 6 p.m. for the 10 p.m. fireworks display June 11 that follows Little League Night at 5 p.m. at the S. 4th St. recreational complex. Rain date is June 12.

St. Matthew the Evangelist conducts its annual Festival of Lights May 29 at 6 p.m. Vigils can be memorialized by contacting Ed Butler, 544-2739.



On Memorial Day, May 30, the annual parade steps out at 9 a.m., followed by a ceremony on S. 4th St. and the honoring of the town's Citizen of the Year. Later that day at 6 p.m., Decoration Day festivities to honor veterans commence at Union Cemetery on S. 5th St., presented by the Minersville Historical Society. The borough office is closed May 30.

June

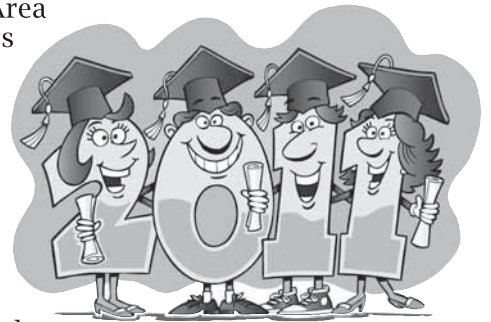
June opens also on a ceremonial note as Nativity BVM High School holds its baccalaureate June 2 at 7 p.m. and graduation June 3, also at 7. Graduation at Minersville Area High School is planned June 10 at 6:30 p.m. in Veterans Memorial Stadium, weather permitting.

Greet the neighbors during Minersville's community yard sale on June 4 from 7 to noon. Use the form in this issue of the *Miners' Journal* to register by May 27.

Don't miss the unofficial start of summer June 11 at noon, when the Minersville community pool on S. 4th St. opens for the season.

Little Golden Girls will shoot hoops at their basketball camp for grades 3 to 8 from June 20-24 at Nativity BVM High School. South Cass Hose Co. hosts its annual two-day campfire and picnic at its grove, Rt. 901, Primrose June 24-25. The Bleenie 500 lawn tractor race is slated for noon on June 25 at the South Cass Hose Co.

- Continued on Page 20



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**Community pool opens for the season June 11
 followed by Little League Night Fireworks at 10 p.m.**

Calendar of Events

MAY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

JULY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

– Continued from Page 19

July

July brings holiday picnics and block parties! The St. Nicholas Ukrainian parish picnic covers two days, July 2 from 3 to 11 p.m. and July 3 from noon to 11 p.m. at the St. Nicholas picnic grove on Sunbury Rd. (Rt. 901).

The borough office is closed July 4.

Minersville Fire Rescue holds its annual block party July 7-9. Food is available at 6 p.m. and each night's featured band performs at 7:30. Poptart Monkey plays Thursday; Yada Yada Yada, Friday; Gas Station Disco, Saturday.

Ethnic foods, music and games highlight the St. Michael the Archangel block party July 15 from 5 to 11 p.m. and July 16 from 2 to 11 p.m. New Individuals



play Friday; Sapphire on Saturday.

From July 5-8 children in grades K-12 are invited to attend Vacation Bible School from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each evening at St. Michael the Archangel parish. For information call Sister Catherine Therese at 544-4741.

St. Matthew Church holds its annual Tridium to St. Anne July 24-26. Tridium prayers take place following 7 a.m. mass on Sunday and 8 a.m. mass Monday and Tuesday, plus veneration of St. Anne's relic. Services the last day include communal anointing of the sick.

August

Moving into August, St. Nicholas Holy Name Society hosts a golf tournament at Mountain Valley Golf Course Aug. 13. Call 544-4581 for information.

