



# MINERS' JOURNAL

Official Publication



Borough of Minersville

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

Vol. X, No. 2 – Issued Quarterly

BOROUGH OF MINERSVILLE, PA

May 2017

## Memorial Day Weekend Opening Possible; Swim Season Starts June 3

### Everyone in the Pool! Spring/Summer Events in High Gear

Act fast! Admission cost at the Minersville Community Pool, located at the Fourth Street Recreation Complex, is increasing, but not for loyal customers!

The pool will open on a daily basis beginning Sat., June 3 from noon to 7 p.m. If the weather cooperates and maintenance needs have been completed, the pool may be open for the Memorial Day weekend (May 27-28-29) each day at noon. Check the borough website or call the borough office near the end of the month for final details.

Starting June 3, season admission will increase \$5 for all Minersville resident passes and \$10 for all non-resident passes. But, if current pass holders wish to renew their season passes, they can do so by June 2 at their current rate.

Additionally, on an annual basis, if season pass  
– Continued on Page 2



Caulking, crack repairs, and painting should be complete for the start of the summer season.

### Fireworks Saved!

Minersville Little League announces that CACL Federal Credit Union has rescued our town tradition by sponsoring the fireworks show to kick off the summer season on Saturday, June 10.

Announced earlier this spring, the increasing cost to put on the pyrotechnics display was becoming too much for the Little League program to fund. We would also like to thank Reilly and Foster Townships for their donations and the parents of the Little League who did a fundraiser on their own to help keep the Minersville fireworks tradition going.

Please join us for a day full of fun and food as the Minersville Little Leaguers compete in skill competitions. Members of this year's Tournament Teams will be announced about 9 p.m. and the fireworks will light the sky at 9:30.

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### YARD SALE ENTRY

To register your household for the community-wide yard sale June 3, complete this newsletter Entry Form and return it to:

Minersville Borough Office, 2 E. Sunbury Street, Minersville, PA 17954 no later than May 31. Make checks payable to the "Minersville Recreation Committee" in the amount of \$5 per map location. Inside borough only.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## 2017 BOROUGH OFFICIALS

2 East Sunbury Street  
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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.....Joseph Post  
Chief of Police.....Michael Combs  
President of Council.....William Angelo  
Borough Manager.....Bobby Mahalchick  
Secretary.....Gloria Capik  
Treasurer.....Megan Paul  
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Fire Chief.....Eric Eichenberg  
Code Enforcement.....Kyle Crouse  
Health Officer.....Kyle Crouse  
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### BOROUGH OFFICE

Megan Paul, Office Manager  
Leigh Ann Cielinski • Jennifer Hossler

Minersville Borough Council meets the First and Second Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Water Authority Building on North Delaware Avenue. Both meetings are open to the public. A Work Session for discussions and setting of an agenda takes place on the First Tuesday. The Business Meeting is then held on the Second Tuesday.

### 2017 OFFICIAL HOLIDAY HOURS

Minersville Borough offices will be closed on the following days in 2017 in observance of the stated holidays – Presidents' Day, Feb. 20; Good Friday (half day, close at 11 a.m.), April 14; Memorial Day, May 29; Independence Day, July 4; Labor Day, Sept. 4; Veterans Day, Nov. 10; Thanksgiving and day after, Nov. 23 and 24; Christmas, Dec. 22 (half day, close at 11 a.m.) and 25; New Year's, Dec. 29 (half day, close at 11 a.m.), Jan. 1, 2018.

## Everyone in the Pool!

– Continued from Page 1

holders renew their passes between December 15 and April 1 they can maintain their previous year's rate. This will allow loyal customers who regularly visit and purchase season passes to avoid increases. So buy now and avoid rising costs. Any break in pass purchases will void the Loyalty Rate.

Applications can be made at the Borough Office, 2 E. Sunbury St., or by downloading on-line at:

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

and mailing to the borough office. During the swim season, passes can also be purchased at the pool. All applications will be verified before passes are issued. Fraudulent information voids passes.

### Loyalty Rates for a season of swimming

"Loyalty Rate" season passes for Borough residents will be: \$50 for a Student, \$60 for an Adult, \$40 for Senior Citizens; \$95 for a Family up to five plus \$20 for each additional.

Non-resident "Loyalty Rate" season passes will be: \$60 for a Student, \$75 for an Adult, \$55 for Senior Citizens; \$120 for a Family up to five plus \$30 for each additional.

### New regular rate season costs

The increased season pass costs for Minersville Borough residents, if you don't qualify for the Loyalty Rate, is \$55 for a Student, \$65 for an Adult, \$45 for a

– Continued on Page 4

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**Berks County:**  
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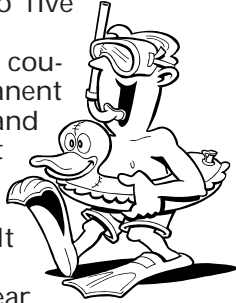
# Everyone in the Pool; Season Starts June 3

– Continued from Page 2

Senior Citizen, and \$100 for a Family up to five plus \$20 for each additional.

Non-resident regular rate season passes will be: \$70 for a Student, \$85 for an Adult, \$65 for a Senior Citizen, and \$130 for a Family up to five 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).



Daily admission prices for this year remain the same at: \$2 for a Pre-School child and Senior Citizens, \$3 for Student (age four through 17), \$5 for Adult (age 18 and over); Evening admission from 5 to 7 p.m. will be 50% off the daily rate.

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

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

## Pool pavilion available to rent

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

Option 1 is for a group of up to 20 guests with a maximum of 15 children for a set cost of \$150. Additional guests in excess of 20 cost \$10 each.

Option 2 covers 35 to 50 guests with a maximum of 40 children for \$300. Attendees in excess of 50 will cost \$10 additional.


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

Contact the Borough Office at 570-544-2149 to reserve your date and time. Additional information can be found on [www.minersvilleonline.com](http://www.minersvilleonline.com).

## Closing Policy

The pool may close or be closed early in the case of inclement weather or low attendance. The Minersville Community Swimming Pool will require immediate closure of the pool in the event that lightning or thunder is present in or around the area and the pool will remain closed until 30 minutes past the last visible lightning strike or episode of thunder.


The pool will be closed if air temperature is 60 degrees or below.



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# From the Desk of the Borough Manager

Spring has sprung and summer is just around the corner. Exciting projects and events are in the works.

I'm happy to report the award of a \$50,000 Early Intervention Program Grant. This will allow the Borough to hire an independent consultant to develop a 3-to-5-year Financial Plan and Management Review. Such a plan is necessary to avoid the fate of so many other municipalities declaring



**Bobby Mahalchick**  
Borough Manager

Act 47 – severe financial difficulty – that threatens the health, welfare, and safety of their residents. RFPs – Requests For Proposals – with a deadline of May 15 have gone out to six professional firms. The grant will fund \$35,000; we'll need to provide \$15,000 locally.

Not successful was our grant request for Park Rehabilitation and Development through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)

to fund repairs and improvements to our playgrounds. The Borough will pursue other grant sources to keep this need on track.

We are awaiting response for the following grants that have yet to be awarded:

- Automated Red Light Enforcement – The intent of this program is to fund worthwhile, relatively

low-cost projects that improve the safety and mobility of the traveling public. The kinds of eligible projects vary widely, including improvements to traffic signals, roadway improvements at signalized intersections, school zones, guide-rail, and roadside safety.

- Green Light Go – Traffic signal modernization and improvement for critical corridors designed to improve safety and mobility by reducing congestion and improving efficiency on key state highways.
- DCED Keystone Communities Grant – Demolition of the Legion building and construction of a Memorial Park.



Schuylkill County has been awarded grant funds to assist communities needing demolition of blighted properties. Minersville was awarded the first project – the demolition of the former Legion Post 544 building expected to begin in early May. The grant requires no match of funds from the Borough.

We will seek additional funding from the county to target other Borough properties that threaten the health, safety, welfare, and property values. The properties being pursued also have liens on them for taxes, code violations, etc. – Continued on Page 6

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# From the Desk of the Borough Manager



South Third Street after snow clearing.

– Continued from Page 5

## Snowstorm strategy paid off

Early planning and execution minimized the impact of this year's largest snowstorm on March 14. News and weather outlet forecasting varied widely from "some accumulation" to a full blown storm with a heavy snowfall expected.

With that uncertainty, councilman and street chairman Paul Vuksta and I decided to plan for the worst and hope for the best. Meeting with the street personnel, we outlined a plan of attack. Contractors were called and asked to be on standby for storm cleanup.

Mayor Post declared a snow emergency and local print, radio, and television media sent out the alert

to our residents. Our office staff posted the declaration on our website and Facebook page. That declaration bans parking on the snow emergency routes of Sunbury, Front, and South 3rd streets. The odd-numbered side of North Street was also included in the parking ban to allow a traffic detour from Sunbury Street during the snow cleanup.

The winter storm walloped the Borough and Schuylkill County with the most snowfall the state has seen in March since 1993. All of the pre-planning worked, providing at least one passable lane for emergency vehicles and necessary traffic during and after the storm.

Within two days after the storm, all snow was removed from the driving and parking areas on the snow emergency routes and on North Street. A tremendous team effort by the street, sewer, water, office, police department, contractors, councilman Vuksta, and myself, – and maybe most importantly, our residents! – got the Borough up and running again quickly.

## Cooperation with Pottsville

The City of Pottsville recently passed an ordinance that takes a tougher stance on code violations as well as landlords who are delinquent on taxes, water and sewer bills. Minersville has an ordinance that addresses this situation, but Pottsville's has more bite to it.

## MAMMOTH MATERIALS

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## R&J TOURS – 2017 HAPPENINGS

May 23 – Vegas Legends @AMT .....	\$89
May 24 – Shades of Buble .....	\$63
May 27 – Fleet Week @ Intrepid .....	\$64
May 27 – The Great PA Flavorfest .....	\$25
May 31 – The Temptations Revue @ Resorts .....	\$76
June 7 – Legends of Pop .....	\$86
June 10 & Sept 23 – Bronx Zoo .....	**\$62
June 14 – Mohegan Sun @ Pocono (SFSP & \$Food) .....	\$26
June 15 – Buying the Moose @ RDT .....	\$74
June 16 – Cape May Point, Dolphin Watch .....	**\$79
June 20 – Adventure Aquarium & Zoo .....	\$65
June 24 & July 29 – Ocean City, NJ .....	\$45
June 25 & Aug 5 – Baltimore National Aquarium .....	**\$68
July 8 – Wildwood, NJ .....	\$51
July 12 & Sept 9 – National Zoo .....	\$44
July 14 – The Texas Tenors @ AMT .....	\$73
July 15 – Rehoboth Beach .....	\$46
July 16 – Finger Lakes Wine Festival .....	\$80
July 20 – Legends of Maritime Baltimore .....	\$106
July 22 – Ocean City, MD .....	\$53
July 22 – Peter Pan @ DAT .....	**\$81
July 25 – Dutch Country Roads .....	\$81
Call for dates – Baltimore Inner Harbor Free Day .....	\$39
Call for dates – Statue of Liberty & 911 Memorial / Museum .....	**\$84
Call for dates – Philadelphia Phillies .....	call
Call For Dates – New York City Free Days .....	\$40
Call For Dates – Sands Casino (FSP TBA) .....	\$25
Call For Dates – Gourmet Food Shopping in NYC .....	\$41

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## From the Desk of the Borough Manager

Minersville Code Enforcement officer Kyle Crouse and I recently met with our Pottsville counterparts. City Administrator Tom Palamar and I both agree that the two communities are the most active in code enforcement and can both benefit by working together and sharing information and ideas. Our solicitor is reviewing Pottsville's ordinance for a possible revision or replacement to our own.



Fourth St. flowering trees.

### *Children's safety program*

At the request of the Borough, members of the Pennsylvania State Police, Goodwill Ambulance and Minersville EMS presented a program on children's safety to young students at St. Nicholas and Minersville Area Elementary schools.

This need was in response to social media alerts that used syringes, whether these be diabetic or drug needles, have been found in areas of the Borough. With warm weather and the coming end of the school year, families and young children will be out and

about. The educational program was valuable at this time.

### *Other items of interest*

Necessary repairs to the pool – caulking, crack repair, and painting – will be completed by opening day.

Work progress at the Street Department building on Penn Street. Renovations to an office area have been completed. Construction of a truck ramp will cost \$13,500 and furnishings for the office will be procured from government surplus. The building is anticipated to be occupied by the middle of May.

The Schuylkill County Land Bank's first project at 228 Lewis St. is undergoing renovations. The property will be put up for sale and put back on the tax rolls. Other blighted properties are being eyed for the same process.

– Robert G. Mahalchick, Borough Manager

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# Borough Services Update . . . and Events

## Community yard sale

A community yard sale is planned for Sat., June 3. Sponsored by the Minersville Recreation Committee, the sale will take place from 7 to 11 a.m. Residents are asked to be a part of this gigantic, all-weather sale. A \$5 registration fee will get your borough house location noted on the yard sale map.

Complete the yard sale registration form on page 1 of this newsletter and send to the Minersville Borough Office by the May 31 deadline. Maps will be available for pickup June 2.

## Junior council members honored



The Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) recognized two former Junior Council members – Bill Tellez and Lucas Rinaldo – for their service to the Borough. Framed certificates were presented by PSAB representatives Stephanie Drake and Leslie Suhr, pictured second from left and right, respectively,

tively, at the April 11 Minersville Borough Council meeting. Bill Tellez is shown holding his certificate and flanked by his father, William, and mother, Kasia. Councilman Ian Mahal, far right, accepted for Lucas Rinaldo.

## Enjoy the Recreation Complex

Every day Minersville's Recreation/Swimming Pool complex is enjoyed by town residents and visitors from surrounding communities. The Borough expends resources to provide a safe and secure environment. People are encouraged to use the complex, but adults must be responsible for the conduct of their children.



If you send your children to the playground while visiting the complex, one adult from each team or group must also be present to monitor the playground's use. Teams using the fields must finish play no later than 10 p.m.

The Minersville Police Department reminds all that the complex is closed from dusk to dawn unless an activity has been approved by Minersville Borough Council. Dogs (yes, even small dogs) are not allowed on the ball fields or anywhere in the complex. Smoking is not allowed. Fines for violations may be imposed and any illegal activity is subject to arrest.

## Please help your neighborhood

Blocked street drains can create a hazard for you and your neighbors. If you see the drain near your house is clogged with litter, please take a few minutes to open it with a broom or shovel.

## Public meetings

Minersville Borough Council meets for a work session the first Tuesday of each month and its monthly business meeting the second Tuesday of each month. The public is welcome to attend these meetings held in the Water Authority building located on N. Delaware Ave. beginning at 7 p.m.

## Compost site

The Borough compost site is located at the north-



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**Mon., May 22** – Wind Chimes, 6 to 9 p.m.  
**Wed., June 7** – Glitter Canvas, 6 to 8:30 p.m.  
**Mon., June 12** – Collage w/A Twist, 6 to 9 p.m.  
**Sun., June 18** – Bonsai Wire Tree, 1 to 4 p.m.

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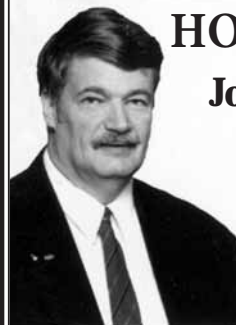
**JUNE 5-9** – Ages 3 to 5, Into the Wind  
**JUNE 12-16** – Ages 6 to 8, Survivor  
**JUNE 19-23** – Ages 6 to 8, Music & Art  
**JUNE 26-30** – Ages 9 to 12, Our Earth  
**JULY 10-14** – Ages 6 to 8, Endangered

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# Borough Services Update . . . and Events

ern end of N. Delaware Avenue and is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon.

The site accepts grass clippings, leaves, tree trimmings, and other reasonable yard waste. Items collected in plastic bags should be emptied from the bag before being deposited at the compost site. Take your bags with you.

## Your responsibilities

Borough Ordinance 183 requires dog owners to keep their dog confined to their own property. When taking the dog for a walk, the animal must be on a leash. The ordinance also requires the person walking the dog to clean up any fecal matter discharged by the dog. Fecal matter deposited by the animal on the owner's property must be picked up within twenty-four hours to prevent becoming a danger to public health. All dogs are required to be licensed and vaccinated. Dogs are prohibited in the Recreation Complex on South 4th Street.

## High grass and weeds

Borough Ordinance 291 requires grass and weeds not exceed eight inches in height. Not only is it unsightly, the wild growth can become home to rodents, snakes and other creatures we don't want in

our yards or near our homes. Be a good neighbor and keep your grass cut and your property free of junk and debris. Violators are subject to a \$300 fine or risk a lien placed on the property if the Borough has to cut the grass in the interest of public safety.

## Smile! You're on video

A video surveillance system is in operation at the compost site. The system monitors illegal dumping from any vehicle entering and leaving. Only recyclable materials and grass and brush clippings are permitted. Fines for violators could run into thousands of dollars.

## Help beautify Minersville

Borough Police and Code Enforcement officers are cracking down on individuals who leave their property in a state of disrepair. A well-maintained property enhances the beauty of the Borough and increases property value for all homeowners.

## Your voice, your information

If you are a member of a local civic organization, this newsletter invites you to spread the word of your activities. The next edition of the *Miners' Journal* is scheduled for home delivery August 4. If you have information or announcements for the residents of Minersville, they should be submitted to: [minersnewsletter@hotmail.com](mailto:minersnewsletter@hotmail.com) by July 7.

- Continued on Page 10

**ANIMAL WASTE  
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# Borough Services Update . . . and Events

- Continued from Page 9

## Landlords must register

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

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

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

## Speed limit enforcement

The speed limit in the Borough is 25 miles per hour. The Minersville Police Department utilizes an ENRADD system to monitor motorists' speeds. Do not exceed the speed limit. Speeding may result in a large fine, points on your driver's license, and higher insurance premiums. It also creates risks for pedestrians and other motorists. Slow down. Save a life.



## Bill payments

Minersville Borough, Water, and Sewer departments have added two other options for bill payment - online payment and direct withdrawal.

Please understand, these are optional ways to pay. You may continue to pay by cash, check or money order payments at our office Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; or mail payments to our office at 2 E. Sunbury Street, Minersville.

You will now be able to pay online by credit/debit card or by e-check. There are separate fees associated with this option that would be added to the pay-

## 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

ment. To make the payments online you will need the account and pin number.

If you have multiple accounts you will have a separate pin number for each account. Should you lose your pin number, contact the Borough office to send a letter to your billing address with the pin number. Pin numbers will not be given out over the phone.

Direct withdrawal payments will be taken from the bank account on the billing due date. Questions regarding the new payment options? Contact the Borough office at 570-544-2149.

### Replacing your windows?



If you are contemplating replacing windows, be aware before purchasing that all windows installed in this area must have a U-factor of 0.35 or lower. This number has been established under the Uniform Construction Code and adopted by the State of Pennsylvania and enforced throughout. If the windows do not have the proper U-factor, they will not pass code inspection.

Contact the Minersville code office at 570-544-2149.

### Recycle those electronics

The state Covered Device Recycling Act prohibits

the disposal of desktop computers, laptop computers, computer monitors, computer peripherals and televisions. If these items are placed on the curb for pickup, the trash hauler will not take them.

Electronics recycling is held periodically by the Schuylkill County Office of Solid Waste in coordination with Minersville Borough. Residents should store their discarded electronics until the next collection.



### Fall Cleanup accepts large and small

Minersville Borough partners with the Schuylkill County Office of Solid Waste by hosting a collection site for large items during the annual Fall Cleanup & Recycling Event, usually held in September.

Until then, residents and property owners are asked to store scrap tires, scrap metal, appliances, electronics, and any other bulky items until the fall cleanup for proper disposal. Specific dates and times of collection will be published in local newspapers and on the county government website.

Household hazardous waste (paint, solvents, cleaners, poisons) is not accepted at any of the general cleanup events because they may require special handling and disposal. Contact the Office of Solid Waste at 570-622-1221 for instructions and recommendations. Additional information can be found online at [www.co.schuylkill.pa.us/Offices/Recycles/HouseholdHazard.asp](http://www.co.schuylkill.pa.us/Offices/Recycles/HouseholdHazard.asp)

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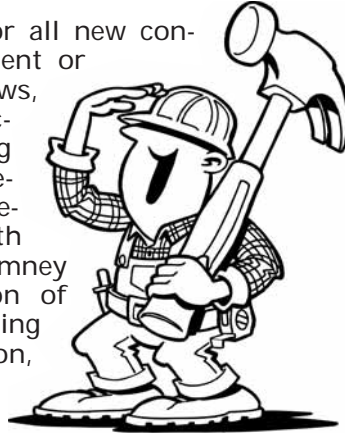
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# Reminders from Code Enforcement

When planning your summer projects, remember to contact the Borough Office regarding building permits.

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

Also, if you are replacing windows, all windows installed in this area must have a U-factor of .35. This number has been established under the 2009 Uniform Construction Code, adopted by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and enforced throughout the state. If the windows do not have the proper U-factor, they will not pass code inspection.



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## Code compliance

Ordinance No. 299, Alternate Dispute Resolution, exists to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the Borough. This ordinance provides for the issuance of tickets, citations and penalties to owners and/or occupiers of properties, assuring for code compliance and maintenance of properties in a timely manner, for quality-of-life violations.

Violations can occur in the following areas:

- Accumulation of rubbish, garbage, junk or litter.
- Storing of hazardous material.
- Storing of recyclables.
- Storage containers for waste or trash must be durable, watertight, made of metal or plastic

## Prevent animal access

Due to an increased number of calls to our office this year regarding issues with wild animals (i.e. feral cats, skunks, raccoons, etc), follow these tips to address the issues within our Borough.

Deny animal access to your trash. Get a trash can that has locks on it or is very difficult to open. Lock your trash cans in a shed or your garage and prevent entry. Only take the garbage cans out the evening before collection.



Keep food out of your yard.

Do not feed your dogs or cats outside and do not leave your left over food from meals outside. If you have a fruit tree, clean up the felled apples, peaches, etc. on a regular basis. If you have an outside garden, construct a good fence around it.

Skunks are horrible climbers and even worse at jumping. A barrier just might do the trick, but they are excellent diggers. Keep them out with wire mesh barriers three feet high and buried one foot deep. Seal up any holes and ditches. Close off openings under your home, sheds and decks.

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## Newsletter Particulars

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

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

Ph: 570-385-3120 • Fax: 570-385-0725

E-mail: [printing@southschuylkill.net](mailto:printing@southschuylkill.net)  
[www.SouthSchuylkillPrinting.com](http://www.SouthSchuylkillPrinting.com)

Publication date for the next three issues are: August 4, October 27, 2017 and February 2, 2018

### News Submittals

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

### Advertising

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

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June 21  
 6:30 p.m.

July 15  
 11:00 a.m.

August 4  
 10:00 a.m.



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# Memorial Day – More Than Parades and Bar-B-Q

For nearly 150 years, Americans have gathered in late spring to honor the sacrifice of those who have given their lives in service to their country. What began with dozens of informal commemorations of those killed in the Civil War has grown to become one of the nation's most solemn and hallowed holidays. From its earliest incarnation as "Decoration Day" to its modern-day observances, here are some surprising facts about the history of Memorial Day.

In May 1868, General John A. Logan, the commander-in-chief of the Union veterans' group known as the Grand Army of the Republic, issued a decree that May 30 should become a nationwide day of commemoration for the more than 620,000 soldiers killed in the recently ended Civil War.

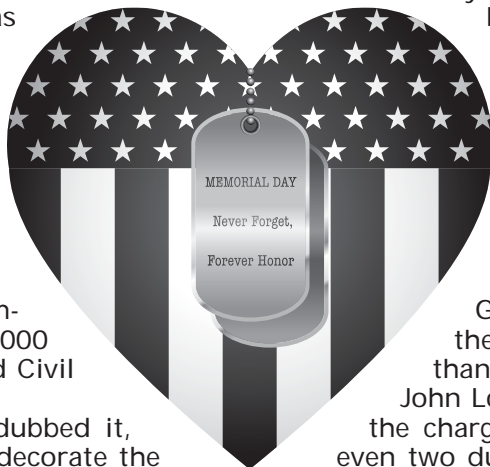
On Decoration Day, as Logan dubbed it, Americans should lay flowers and decorate the graves of the war dead "whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land." According to legend, Logan chose May 30 because it was a rare day that didn't fall on the anniversary of a Civil War battle, though some historians believe the date was selected to ensure that flowers across the country would be in full bloom.

Although the term Memorial Day was used beginning in the 1880s, the holiday was officially known as Decoration Day for more than a century, when it was changed by federal law.

Four years later, the Uniform Monday Holiday Act of 1968 finally went into effect, moving Memorial Day from its traditional observance on May 30 (regardless of the day of the week), to a set day – the last Monday in May.

For almost as long as there's been a holiday, there's been a rivalry about who celebrated it first. Boalsburg, Pa., bases its claim on an 1864 gathering of women to mourn those recently killed at Gettysburg. In Carbondale, Illinois, they're certain that they were first, thanks to an 1866 parade led, in part, by John Logan who two years later would lead the charge for an official holiday. There are even two dueling Columbus challengers (one in Mississippi, the other in Georgia) who have battled it out for Memorial Day supremacy for decades.

Despite the increasing celebration of the holiday as a summer rite of passage, there are some formal rituals still on the books. The American flag should be hung at half-staff until noon on Memorial Day, then raised to the top of the staff. And since 2000, when



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# Memorial Day – More Than Parades and Bar-B-Q

the U.S. Congress passed legislation, all Americans are encouraged to pause for a National Moment of Remembrance at 3 p.m. local time.

**Think you know all there is to know about Memorial Day? Take this quiz and be proven right.**

1. What was the holiday now known as Memorial Day originally called?
  - (a) Reunification Day
  - (b) Soldiers' Day
  - (c) Remembrance Day
  - (d) Decoration Day
2. Memorial Day started out as a holiday honoring those who died in what war?
  - (a) Revolutionary War
  - (b) War of 1812
  - (c) Civil War
  - (d) World War I
3. What flower is traditionally worn as a sign of remembrance on Memorial Day?
  - (a) Orange lily
  - (b) Blue morning glory
  - (c) White rose
  - (d) Red poppy
4. What was the bloodiest single-day battle in American history?
  - (a) Battle of Antietam
  - (b) Battle of Gettysburg
  - (c) Battle of Shiloh
  - (d) Battle of Okinawa
5. What was the longest war in which U.S. soldiers fought?
  - (a) Civil War
  - (b) Vietnam War
  - (c) War in Iraq
  - (d) War in Afghanistan
6. Arlington National Cemetery is built on the confiscated estate of what Confederate Army General?
  - (a) J.E.B. Stuart
  - (b) Stonewall Jackson
  - (c) Robert E. Lee
  - (d) Joseph Johnston

7. Flanders Field, the area where Lt. Col. John McCrae noticed red poppies growing on the graves of fallen soldiers during WWI, is located in what country?
  - (a) Italy
  - (b) Germany
  - (c) France
  - (d) Belgium
8. Who wrote the Pledge of Allegiance?
  - (a) Francis Scott Key
  - (b) Francis Bellamy
  - (c) John Philip Sousa
  - (d) Robert Stanley Weir
9. Which one of the following Revolutionary War heroes is credited with stating, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country"?
  - (a) Patrick Henry
  - (b) Nathaniel Greene
  - (c) Nathan Hale
  - (d) Paul Revere
10. Which one of the following is marked as the day that the Allies achieved Victory in Europe and is known as V-E Day?
  - (a) March 6
  - (b) May 8
  - (c) June 6
  - (d) July 14



**MEMORIAL DAY**

**ANSWERS:** 1. (d) Decoration Day; 2. (c) Civil War; 3. (d) Paul Revere; 4. (a) Antietam; 5. (d) Afghanistan; 6. (c) Robert E. Lee; 7. (d) Belgium; 8. (b) Francis Bellamy; 9. (c) Nathan Hale; 10. (b) May 8



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**Community pool opens for the season June 3 (maybe sooner)  
 Little League Night is June 10; Fireworks at dusk**

**Calendar of Events**

**MAY 2017**

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 2017**

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 2017**

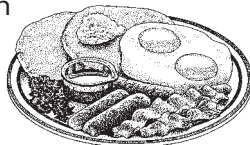
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						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

**AUGUST 2017**

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		

Activities are plentiful in the Minersville area this spring and summer. Take advantage of the warmer weather and visit with your friends and neighbors at these events.

A community breakfast is offered by the Clover Fire Company in Heckschersville on **May 14 and 28, June 11 and 25, and July 9 and 23**. It's an all-you-care-to-eat buffet from 7 a.m. to noon.



The Mountaineer Hose Company, 101 South Third Street, Minersville will serve up breakfast on **May 6 and 20** from 7:30 a.m. to noon.

The Minersville Community Pool will open Memorial Day weekend – Saturday, **May 27** through Monday, **May 29** – weather permitting at noon each day. Beginning Saturday, **June 3** the swimming pool, located at the South Fourth Street Recreational Complex, will open daily at noon.

The Minersville Memorial Day festivities on **May 29** will get underway with a parade beginning at 9 a.m. followed by a program ceremony at the Little

League complex. The town's Citizen of the Year will be honored.

Official holidays – the Minersville Borough office will be closed Monday, **May 29** (Memorial Day) and on Tuesday, **July 4** (Independence Day).

The annual Community Yard Sale will be held Saturday, **June 3** from 7 to 11 a.m. Minersville Borough households wanting to be listed on the official map are asked to register by **May 31**. An entry form is published on the front page of this newsletter for your convenience.

Saturday, **June 10** is Little League Night that gets underway at the Recreational Complex at 5 p.m. Don't miss the fireworks display to begin after dark.

The St. Nicholas Ukrainian Parish picnic will be held Saturday, **July 1** from 4 to 11 p.m. and Sunday, **July 2** from noon to 10 p.m. at the picnic grove on Rt. 901.

The annual Minersville Fire-Rescue block party will be held Thursday through Saturday, **July 13 to 15**. Food concessions open at 6 p.m. Live entertainment gets underway at 7:30 p.m. each evening.