



MINERS' JOURNAL

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Borough of Minersville

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BOROUGH OF MINERSVILLE, PA

October 2020

Grant Projects, Street Paving, and Senior Apartments End the Year

We're Checking the Boxes of Progress in Minersville



Bob Mahalchick
Borough Manager

Greetings fellow residents! Amid the COVID-19 virus pandemic the world is currently experiencing, I hope this edition of the *Miners Journal* finds you and your loved ones healthy and safe. I'm pleased to have this opportunity each issue to give everyone an update on Borough business and activities that affect each one of us and aim to improve our lives and enjoyment here in Minersville.

If you've been following along in recent months, the Green Light Go project, made possible by a \$490,190 state grant, to improve pedestrian crossings and coordinate traffic signal timing along the Sunbury Street corridor has now been completed.

Also completed are elements of the DEP 902 Recycling Grant project - installation of an automated security gate, improved video surveillance, and the purchase of a new recycling truck - made possible by a 90% cost grant awarded to the Borough.

The CFA Multimodal Grant remains a work-in-progress. As reported previously, the project to make streetscape improvements along Sunbury Street is in

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Emergency First Responders Ask for Public's Help

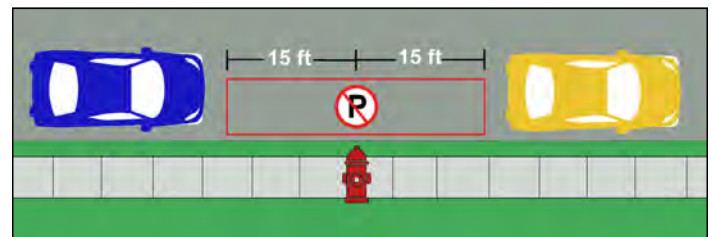
Parking Legally Will Save Lives and Property

Minersville area first responders are pleading for compliance by residents, business owners, and motorists to adhere to parking regulations that aid in the quick response by emergency personnel. Two major concerns spotlight this need to ensure the safety and wellbeing of residents and visitors in the Borough.

• **PARKING AT STREET CORNERS** - Minersville Borough Ordinance 15-413, Item 1(I) reads:

"No person shall park a vehicle at any time in a restricted zone. Restricted zones include, but are not limited to, yellow line zones, permit parking spaces, parking too close to intersections, loading and unloading zones, clergy-only zones, parking in crosswalks, and areas approved by Council as a restricted parking area."

The size of today's fire apparatus and ambulances makes it difficult to maneuver on the Borough's very narrow streets. By parking too closely to street corners, valuable time is being lost responding to emergency situations.



• **ACCESS TO FIRE HYDRANTS** - Minersville Borough Ordinance 15-413, Item 1(L) reads: "No person shall park a vehicle at any time too close to a fire hydrant or in front of a fire house or across from a fire house."

The Statutes of Pennsylvania, Title 75, Section 3353 (a-2-ii), state: "No person shall stand or park a vehicle within 15 feet of a fire hydrant."

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SANTA PARADE

Sunday, Nov. 29

Parade - 5:30 p.m.

Visit with Santa? - Page 5



2020 BOROUGH OFFICIALS

2 East Sunbury Street
Minersville, PA 17954 • Ph: 570-544-2149
Hours: Mon.-Thurs., 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Fri., 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
www.minersvilleonline.com

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

2020 OFFICIAL HOLIDAY HOURS

Minersville Borough offices will be closed in 2020 in observance of the stated holidays - Presidents Day, Feb. 17; Good Friday (half day, close at 11 a.m.), April 10; Memorial Day, May 25; Independence Day, July 4; Labor Day, Sept. 7; Columbus Day, Oct. 12; Veterans Day, Nov. 11; Thanksgiving and day after, Nov. 26 and 27; Christmas, Dec. 24 (half day, close at 11 a.m.) and 25; New Year's, Dec. 31 (half day, close at 11 a.m.), Jan. 1, 2021.

Obey Parking Laws

- Continued from Page 1

This is to ensure that emergency personnel have enough room to obtain water from the hydrant in the event of a nearby fire. If you are unsure if you are parked too close to a fire hydrant, it is best to err on the side of caution and find a different parking spot.

Please adhere to all Pennsylvania laws and Borough ordinances. Vehicles, tow trailers, large dumpsters, etc. that block access to a fire hydrant cost valuable time responding to an active fire scene.

Unfortunately, falling temperatures in the autumn and winter seasons increases the risk for a potential fire. During this time of the year, residents are firing up their heating systems, utilizing alternative heating sources such as kerosene and space heaters, and using extension cords for holiday decorations.

Please follow recommended safety guidelines for all of the items mentioned. In addition, the vast amount of calls the fire department responds to annually is due to faulty smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms.

Personal housekeeping can reduce this safety concern by simply following the manufacturer's recommendations for replacing batteries and or retiring the detector after its expected life cycle.

The following links pertain to this topic:

www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Staying-safe/Safety-equipment/Smoke-alarms/Safety-messages-about-smoke-alarms; and,

www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Staying-safe/Safety-equipment/Carbon-monoxide.

In the event of a heavy snow event, residents are asked to shovel access to and around fire hydrants near your property. Pile the snow away from the hydrants, saving valuable time by first responders to a fire emergency.

Minutes and seconds saved when a fire or health event occurs can make the difference between life, death, and property loss for you, your family, or neighbor.



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Borough Manager's "State of the Borough"

- Continued from Page 1

its final planning stage. The estimated \$736,000 "no match" DCED grant project will go out for bids later this year with the work to start in the Spring 2021.

The project includes installation of five roof drainpipes, 1,116 square yards of concrete sidewalk, 2,310 linear feet of concrete curb restoration, pavement restoration and 53 decorative light poles from Delaware Ave. to 3rd Street. All ADA curb cuts will also be addressed as part of the construction. The project is required to be completed by July 30, 2022.

The Borough's planned street paving for this year has been completed. Streets improved by milling and new paving from curb to curb included South Delaware Avenue, adjacent to the Veterans Park; Spring Street, between Lytle and Pine Hill streets; Lytle Street, between East and Spring streets; and South 3rd Street, between Spring St and the Minersville/Branch Township border.

Miners Lofts nearing completion

The Miners Lofts project is rehabilitating the old garment factory located at Lewis Street and N. Delaware Avenue. Upon completion, it will be a positive addition to the Borough, both aesthetically and economically. The skyline entering the Borough will dramatically improve.

A representative of the private investment firm that is constructing the Miners Lofts, QSP, has informed me the anticipated completion date for their project remains on schedule despite some delay caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Construction completion and start of occupancy should be realized by early November this year.

Once completed, Miners Lofts will have 30 residential units for residents 65 years and older. In addition, the entire second floor will be occupied by Life Geisinger, providing senior services including adult day care, therapy services, etc. and a variety of services designed to maintain health, prevent nursing home placement, and improve the quality of life. Life Geisinger is expected to create 50 + new jobs.

Borough Office now open to the public

As you all are aware, COVID-19 has required a change to our normal life and Borough operations

and services are no different. The virus presents unique challenges to municipalities around the globe. States, Counties, and local municipalities, like many businesses and organizations, have had to change their way of continuing essential operations and providing services, while minimizing contacts between the public and Borough employees.



Changes put in place by the Borough have helped flatten the so-called curve. More importantly, these measures help safeguard the health and welfare of you, our Borough family, and our employees and their loved ones.

The Borough Office has reopened to the public. We are requiring those entering the building to wear a mask for their protection and ours. In addition, our small lobby area can only accommodate up to two people to comply with social distancing policy.

The Borough Office is open to accept calls during normal business hours - Monday through Thursday, 8

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Borough Manager's "State of the Borough"

- Continued from Page 3

a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Friday, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The Borough will continue to operate all offices, including Administrative, Street, Police, Code, Water and Sewer Departments.

We ask that you continue to use our alternative options for payment of utility bills.

- Checks and money orders may be mailed to our office - Minersville Borough, 2 E. Sunbury St., Minersville, PA 17954 - or put in our drop box located on the Sunbury Street side of the building.

- Online payments may be made through our website:

<https://wipp.edmundsassoc.com/Wipp/?wippid=MNRV>

Note, this option will require your account and PIN numbers. Should you need that information, contact our office at 570-544-2149 or 570-544-2200.

- If you can only pay with cash, please pay at the office.

Support our local businesses

In addition to each of us individually being impacted during this current crisis, our businesses are suffering and struggling to survive. As a result of some of the restrictions being relaxed, they have begun to see some light at the end of the tunnel. However, the loosening of some of the restrictions is not enough to guarantee their survival.

As business owners, they have invested blood, sweat, tears, and financial interests in providing great

services to our hometown. I am asking you all to PLEASE, PLEASE show your support in any way possible to all our local businesses.



When we support our businesses, we support their workers, who in turn help uplift the vibrancy of our downtown and surrounding neighborhoods.

From the depth of my heart and soul, I can say that I am proud and thankful for our businesses. They are an integral part of our Minersville family. I am sure you all agree that we want ALL our businesses to get through this crisis.

We don't want to see one have to close their doors!

Happy holiday season to all

In closing, I want to wish all of the Minersville family a Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas! We will get through this tumultuous time battling this pandemic together - because we can and we must. Now, more than ever, it's important that we work together as one Borough.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve all of you and provide you with this update on the State of our Borough. **Minersville On The Move!**

- Bob Mahalchick, Borough Manager

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Borough Services Update . . . and Events

Halloween parade is Saturday, Oct. 24

Minersville knows how to celebrate Halloween! Activities kick-off on Saturday, Oct. 24 (rain date is Sunday, Oct. 25) with the annual Halloween Parade of ghouls, goblins, super heroes, princesses, service organizations and floats, business entries, and fire and ambulance vehicles.

Supported by area businesses and organized by the Minersville Recreation Board and Miners Fire-Rescue, parade entrants will form at 6 p.m. on the Quandel lot adjacent to the Minersville Area Football Stadium. The parade will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. traveling on North Fourth Street, turning left on North St. then right onto N. Delaware Ave., right onto Sunbury St., right on North Fifth St., and right again onto North St., ending in the vicinity of the Miners Fire-Rescue building.

Trick-or-Treat - tentatively set Oct. 31

If Borough officials determine it is safe to do so, youngsters dressed as ghosts, goblins, witches, and princesses will take to the streets on Halloween night, Saturday, Oct. 31 for the Borough-designated Trick-or-Treat night from 6 to 8 p.m.

Children 12-years of age and younger are invited



to participate, but should canvas streets in a group or accompanied by a responsible adult.

Residents are asked to have their porch light on, or some other inviting gestures, as a sign that the children are welcome to ring the bell and get a treat. Parents and chaperones are asked to be diligent with young children when crossing streets and making them aware of vehicular traffic. Flashlights and reflective clothing are encouraged. Rain date is Sun., Nov. 1.

Santa is coming to Minersville

The Minersville Recreation Board will sponsor a Christmas parade on Sunday, Nov. 29, featuring the arrival of Santa Claus and welcoming the holiday season.

Santa's reindeer will be resting for their Christmas Eve trip, but Santa will have other special transportation for the event. The fire truck parade will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Due to COVID-19 concerns, it is not yet determined whether area children will have the opportunity to meet and talk with Santa after the parade. Last minute details will be posted on the Borough website and Facebook page.



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Borough Services Update . . . and Events

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Haunted House is cancelled for this year

The Carbon Street Scream Team, in cooperation with the Recreation Committee, regrettably has cancelled its very popular Halloween Haunted House this year in the interest of public health/safety and precaution to avoid COVID-19 virus spread.

The community can look forward to the return of the Haunted House in October 2021.



Borough Office holidays

The Minersville Borough offices and employee operations will be closed in observance of the following holidays for the balance of 2020: Wednesday, Nov. 11 (Veterans Day); Thursday and Friday, Nov. 26-27 (Thanksgiving); Thursday, Dec. 24 (half day, close at 11 a.m.) and Friday, Dec. 25 (Christmas); Thursday, Dec. 31 (half day, close at 11 a.m.) and Friday, Jan. 1, 2021 (New Year's).

Public access to Borough meetings

Minersville Borough Council, Water Authority, and Sewer Authority Board members will continue to hold their respective monthly public meetings.

Due to ongoing COVID-19 precautions, public

access to listen, ask questions, and make comments will be possible, but may have special and changing means of doing so.

Meeting dates, times, and public access can be found on the Borough website: minersvilleonline.com.

Ash collection

Curbside ash collection in the Borough occurs every Tuesday during the spring, summer, and fall months. A second collection day is added on Fridays during the heating months of January and February. All ashes created, accumulated or produced shall be deposited in one bushel (15 gallon) steel tubs. Any tub in excess of one bushel must not contain more than the maximum 15 gallons of ashes in that tub. In addition, all ash containers must be free of holes or rust and have safe (smooth) handles. Tubs in poor condition will not be emptied/handled.

Place your ash tubs curbside after 6 p.m. on the evening before collection. Remove your tubs soon after they are emptied.

Trash and recycling collection

Trash collection occurs throughout the Borough every Tuesday. Bags for pickup should be placed curbside after 6 p.m. on Monday evening. Recyclable materials should not be placed in the normal trash. Violators are subject to fines and prosecution per Borough ordinance.



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Borough Services Update . . . and Events

Recyclable materials - unbroken glass containers, tin, aluminum, #1 to #7 plastics, newspaper and clean paper products, and cardboard - are collected curbside twice per month. These materials must be placed in a designated recycling container. Properties north of Sunbury Street receive collection on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Properties south of Sunbury Street have curbside collection on the second and fourth Wednesday. There is no collection when a fifth Wednesday occurs during a month.

The North Delaware Avenue compost site is available for drop-off recycling in designated collection bins.

Fire safety is important all year

As a reminder to residents, the community fire alarm will be tested each month and will sound at precisely 6:30 p.m. on the first Monday.

Fire Prevention Week is observed during October each year, but personal safety is something to be practiced throughout the year. To be fire safe, residents should install at least one smoke alarm on every level of your home. Test those smoke alarms monthly and replace batteries when necessary.

Develop an emergency escape plan for your residence and discuss what to do with all family members. Practice the plan at least twice each year.

If a fire should occur in your home ... GET OUT, STAY OUT and CALL FOR HELP. Never go back inside for anything or anyone.

Shovel those walks

After a snowfall, PLEASE shovel your sidewalk! Ordinance 317 requires snow and ice to be cleared from the sidewalk within 12 hours after the snow has stopped. In addition, the ordinance prohibits throwing of snow into the street.

No reserved parking

We all know the frustration of having to spend hours shoveling out a vehicle in order to get to work. That frustration skyrockets when returning home to find another vehicle occupying that parking space. Unfortunately, the street is open to the public and you cannot reserve the space you worked so hard to shovel out.

Winter temps threaten water lines

When winter temperatures fall below freezing, you may need to take action to prevent damage inside your home. Under extreme frost conditions, frozen water lines - especially on exterior walls and in unheated crawl spaces - may occur.

Monitor the temperature of the water coming from your faucets. If your water temperature reaches below 40 degrees Fahrenheit, you should immediately start running a continuous pencil-size stream of cold water from one faucet. Contact the Minersville Water Authority office to make officials aware of your water usage.



Are you worried about your child's preschool education? Wondering how you can afford to pay for a quality program for your child?

Child Development, Inc. is continuing to provide connections to our families and children during this difficult time. We are also connecting with families to enroll their preschool children for the upcoming school year.

We understand your income may have been lowered or lost totally and we may be able to help. Our preschool programming is absolutely Free. You may contact us at our website or phone number and our caring staff will help guide you through the enrollment process. Child Development, Inc. wants to ensure families from all over Schuylkill County have access to a quality preschool education for their children.


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or you can see more about Child Development, Inc. preschool programs by visiting our website at www.childdevelop.org like our Facebook page

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**Kick Off the Holiday Season in Minersville!
 Welcome Santa November 29 with a Parade.**

**2020 Remaining
 Holiday Schedule**

*Minersville Borough Offices will be closed
 the following days*

Wednesday - November 11th | Veterans Day
 Thursday - November 26th | Thanksgiving
 Friday - November 27th
 Friday - December 25th | Christmas
 Friday - January 1st | New Year's Day

The Borough Office will close early at 11 a.m. on Thursday , Dec. 24 and Dec. 31

*We wish you and your families a very safe and
 happy holiday season and look forward to a
 great new year of serving you.*