



# MINERS' JOURNAL

Official Publication



Borough of Minersville

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

Vol. X, No. 4 – Issued Quarterly

BOROUGH OF MINERSVILLE, PA

Fall 2017

## Halloween Parade on Saturday; Trick-or-Treat is Sunday

### “Fright Night at the Globe” Haunted House Oct. 28-29

Borough officials are excited and proud to present a line-up of Halloween activities that are sure to “delight and fright” festive revelers of all ages. Events kick off this Saturday, Oct. 28 when Minersville’s annual Halloween Parade steps off at 6:30 p.m. Immediately following the parade, the Carbon Street Scream Team begins two nights of “Fright Night at the Globe,” the borough’s annual community Haunted House.

Events continue Sunday, Oct. 29 with Trick-or-Treat night from 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday evening will be the second night of “Fright Night at the Globe” from approximately 7 to 9:30 p.m.

The rain date for all activities will be Tuesday October 31.

#### *Saturday parade route detailed*

The annual Halloween Parade is hosted by the Borough but made possible by the strong support of many area businesses. Registered participants should begin staging in the visiting parking lot of the football stadium by 6 p.m. The parade will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m.



Parade spectators are encouraged to line the route that will depart the football stadium parking lot onto 4th Street and then turn left onto North Street. The parade will travel east to Front Street where it turns right and then makes a right turn again onto Sunbury Street. From here the parade stays on Sunbury Street, traveling west, to 5th Street where it turns right and then right again onto North Street. The parade will end when it reaches 4th Street.

#### *Have a safe Trick-or-Treat*

Trick-or-Treat is for youngsters up to 12 years of age between the hours of 6 and 8 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 29. Parents and chaperones can join in the fun, but please think safety as you plan the costume selection for yourself and your young treat-seekers. Teach safety when walking the neighborhood and especially when crossing the street at designated crosswalks due to motor traffic in the darkness.

Residents are asked to turn on porch lights for the youngster’s safety and also as a signal they are welcome to ring your bell to receive a treat. Flashlights and reflective clothing are encouraged.

*– Continued on Page 2*

**Santa is Coming to Minersville**

The Minersville Recreation Board will sponsor a Christmas parade on Sunday, Nov. 26, featuring the arrival of Santa Claus to welcome 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. Children will be able to visit with Santa at his South Fourth Street, Little League Complex, location from 6 to 7 p.m. The first 100 children will receive a special present from Santa.

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## 2017 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](http://www.minersvilleonline.com)

### OFFICIALS

Mayor.....Joseph Post  
Chief of Police.....Michael Combs  
President of Council.....William Angelo  
Borough Manager.....Bobby Mahalchick  
Secretary.....Gloria Capik  
Treasurer.....Megan Paul  
Tax Receiver.....Juliann Kowalchick  
Solicitor.....Albert Evans  
Borough Engineer.....Entech Engineering, Inc.  
Fire Chief.....Eric Eichenberg  
Code Enforcement.....Kyle Crouse  
Health Officer.....Kyle Crouse  
Emergency Mgmt. Coord.....Eric Eichenberg

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Michael Mennig, Jr. • Donald Troutman, Jr.

### BOROUGH OFFICE

Megan Paul, Office Manager  
Leigh Ann Cielinski • Jennifer Hossler

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

### 2017 OFFICIAL HOLIDAY HOURS

Minersville Borough offices will be closed on the following days in observance of the stated holidays – 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.

## Halloween Events

– Continued from Page 1

### *Haunted House at the old Globe Hall*

Immediately following the parade on Saturday night about 7 p.m. and then again on Sunday, beginning about 7 p.m., the Carbon Street Scream Team, in cooperation with the Recreation Committee will provide a delightfully frightful venue for any and all brave enough to enter. It all takes place at the once popular Globe Hall, located on the second floor above Minersville Borough Hall at 2 East Sunbury St.

Once inside, guests will discover "Fright Night at the Globe," a theme featuring classic horror movies. Police Chief Michael Combs will lead a superb group of volunteer actors ready and eager to scare and entertain.

Until last year the Haunted House was provided as a free event. But as its popularity grew, so did the need to make improvements. In most cases, those improvements weren't free.

"We always seek donations or sponsorships and we've been successful in doing that," commented recreational chairman Jamie Kuehn. "But it's a challenge to sustain those donations on a yearly basis. So, while also trying to satisfy the concern of standing in long lines, the borough will also be selling timed-tickets for the Haunted House this year."

For a \$6 fee and to avoid waiting in line, you may call or visit the borough office to reserve a timed-ticket – sold in limited quantities for entry at 15 minute intervals starting at 7:30 p.m. each night. If you don't mind waiting in line, general admission tickets will also be available at the door each night for a \$4 fee.

The admission fee is a new concept for the Haunted House. Kuehn says funds generated from the event will make improvements possible for future Halloween events and also help support other scheduled recreational activities such as the Santa Parade and the Easter Egg hunt.

Those free events to the public are provided at a cost of about \$500 each. The goal is to generate revenue from the Haunted House so that recreational activities are self-sufficient.

## NOTICE TO BOROUGH RESIDENTS

**Minersville Borough will conduct a mail-out survey of randomly selected residents living in the Borough. The survey letters are scheduled to mail the middle of December.**

**The purpose of the survey is to gauge the income status of Borough residents. It will only take a few moments of your time and will be held in strictest confidence. Those residents receiving the survey must complete and return the survey in a timely manner. If required, the Borough will follow up by performing a door-to-door survey in January at residences that failed to respond.**

**If you have any questions, about the survey or the survey information mailed to your residence, contact Megan Paul at 570-544-2149.**



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\*APY: Annual Percentage Yield. Variable tiered-rate product; rates are accurate as of publication date and subject to change at Bank's discretion. Top tier rate of 1.00% APY rate is guaranteed through JUNE 30, 2018; thereafter is subject to change at Bank's discretion. Minimum balance to open and earn interest is \$2,500.00. Offer available to consumers and businesses; no institutional, municipal, or brokered funds. No maintenance fees. Transaction limitations apply. Limited time offer. Subject to account approval. See Bank Representative for further details.



# Minersville Police Department

## Enjoy the Holidays; Protect Your Home and Valuables

Criminals are already aware that homes are filled with loot – jewelry, televisions, smart phones, computers, etc. – this time of year. Take steps to help prevent your gifts from being stolen.

The week following Christmas typically has the heaviest burglary incidence. Often times homeowners advertise what they have inside by putting the empty boxes their gifts came in outside for garbage collection. Guard against this temptation by breaking down your boxes into smaller pieces and putting them in the recycle bin or take directly to the Borough compost and recycling site for immediate disposal.

When having packages delivered to your home, make sure someone is there to receive them or send them to a friend or neighbor who can accept them. If you need them delivered to your house, and no one is going to be home, at least have a locked parcel box on your porch so the package can be secured inside.

Do not leave packages in plain view in your car; lock them in the trunk.

### Precautions for fire safety

December is the No. 1 month for fires caused by candles. The cozy glow of candles is a great touch for your holiday decor, but a single unattended candle

could spell disaster.

Check the space around candles and remove any flammable objects like holiday cards, wrapping paper or dried-out pine needles before lighting them. Keep an eye on your guests to make sure no one bumps into burning candles or accidentally places any flammable items too close to them.

Christmas tree fires cause an average of seven deaths, 19 injuries and \$17.5 million in damage in this nation each year, according to the National Fire Protection Association. To keep the tree from drying out and becoming kindling, water it daily.

The NFPA also recommends you keep your tree at least three feet away from heat sources such as fireplaces or heating vents. Check Christmas lights for worn cords or loose bulb connections before putting them on the tree and turn the tree lights off each night before you go to bed.

Don't run external lights through a window. Those pretty lights that adorn the exterior of your home need to be plugged in, right? Just make sure you don't run their wires through a window or door leading inside. That little wedge the wire allows is all a burglar needs to pry their way in.

### Be smart with money and information

Be wary of door-to-door donation seekers. During the holiday season, you'll have Christmas carolers come to your door, as well as people seeking donations for various charitable causes.

Be wary, don't give out personal information and don't give money without properly ascertaining their credentials.

Watch what you post on social media. Potential burglars are like hawks on social media. They search posts seeking information on the types of gifts people have gotten or when they plan to leave their homes for Christmas shopping or for vacation.

The information you choose to post online can be used against you. Take care not to post about valuables that may be in your home under the Christmas tree or when the house will be empty.



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# Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

## Holiday schedule

The Minersville Borough offices will be closed several days during November and the upcoming Christmas and New Year holidays – closed all day on Friday, Nov. 10 in observance of Veterans Day on Saturday, Nov. 11; Thursday and Friday, Nov. 23 and 24, for Thanksgiving; Monday, Dec. 25 in observance of Christmas; and Monday, Jan. 1 for the New Year holiday.

In addition, the offices will close early at 11 a.m. on the two Fridays before Christmas and New Year, Dec. 22 and Dec. 29.

## Free holiday parking

Minersville Borough Council is pleased once again to allow free holiday parking for shoppers at all meter locations throughout the Borough beginning Friday, Nov. 24 and extending through Tuesday, Jan. 2. Please support your local businesses during this holiday season.



## Tree collection

Discarded cut Christmas trees will be collected curbside after the holidays. Pickup will be every Friday in January – January 5, 12, 19, and 26. Place trees curbside before 7 a.m. on the designated days.

Trees must be free of ornaments, bags, and stands or they will not be collected.

Inclement weather may cancel that week's collection. Trees may also be dropped off at the borough's compost site on North Delaware Ave. during compost hours.

## Ashes and yard waste

Double ash collection will take place January and February only this winter. In addition to the usual Tuesday collection, a second pickup will take place each Friday, beginning January 5 through February 23.

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

The compost site is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon.

## 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. – Continued on Page 6

## MINERSVILLE PHARMACY - FRONT & SUNBURY STREETS • MINERSVILLE

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# Borough Services Update . . . and Events

- Continued from Page 5

## 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.

## Frozen pipes?

If you think you have frozen water lines, here are some steps to find the problem and get you back into service.

Identify whether the problem exists throughout the whole house or in one area. Open the cabinets beneath any place with a water supply, such as the kitchen and bathroom sinks, to allow warm air to circulate. If there are small children in the home, remove any toxic substances first.

Open the cold water faucet nearest the frozen pipe to relieve the pressure of expanding ice, which may lead to a burst pipe. If your water lines do freeze, never try to thaw a line with an open flame or torch. You can use a hair dryer or portable heater, but always be careful of the potential for electric shock in and around standing water.

If you think you may have a frozen water meter, contact the Minersville Water Authority at 570-544-2200. For after-hours emergencies, contact 570-527-6165. Be advised, after-hours charges will apply.

## Minersville Public Library

The Minersville Public Library at 220 S. Fourth St. is a community treasure, providing many free services to residents of all ages in the Borough and surrounding area, including Llewellyn, Branchdale, Forestville, Primrose, and Phoenix Park.

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## Borough Services Update . . . And Events!



that can be borrowed at no cost, your library provides computers for internet research and word processing. It is also a free WiFi location for those who want to take their own laptop computer or tablet to gain internet and email access.

Watch your mailbox in early November for a brochure from the Minersville Public Library that highlights many of its services. While all of the services and special programming are free to the public, or at a nominal fee, operating the library is costly. The brochure is also the library's annual fundraising appeal. Please consider a donation in whatever amount you feel able and mail a check right away.

The Fall Story Time program, ages 3 to 8 years, has just begun. Call to register your child at 570-544-5196.

On December 2 (and possibly Dec. 9) at 6 p.m., there will be a Cookies & Canvas program for children 3 to 10 years of age. There is a \$5 registration fee to cover the cost of supplies. Call 570-544-5196 to register your child.

Library hours are Tuesday and Thursday, noon to 7 p.m.; Wednesday and Friday, noon to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The library is closed Sunday and Monday.

### ***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-

– *Continued on Page 8*

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# Borough Services Update . . . and Events

– Continued from Page 7

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.

## House checks

If on vacation or away from your residence for an extended time, the Minersville Police Department provides house checks to residents. Officers will check the exterior of the dwelling for suspicious activity as time permits. House check forms may be obtained at the police station. Information will not be taken over the telephone for security reasons.

## Housing Rehabilitation Program

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

FAMILY SIZE	GROSS INCOME LIMITS
1 person	\$32,900
2 people	\$37,600
3 people	\$42,300
4 people	\$46,950
5 people	\$50,750
6 people	\$54,500
7 people	\$58,250
8 people	\$62,000

housing rehabilitation standards.

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

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

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



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**NEW HOURS – Starting November 1st:**  
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---

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# Borough Services Update . . . and Events

The charted income limits shown on page 8 represent income by family size for the area as reported by the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) department as of June 15, 2017. The Borough Council will revise these limits whenever HUD adjusts the Section 8 low/moderate income for Schuylkill County.

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

## Additional requirements are:

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

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

## Nondiscrimination policy

Minersville Borough does not discriminate on the basis of handicapped status in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its federally assisted programs or activities.

The acting chairman of the Personnel Committee

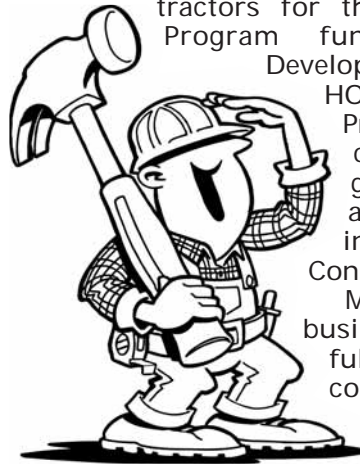
has been designated to coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements contained in the HUD regulations implementing section 504 (24 CFR Part 8, dated June 2, 1988).

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

## Attention contractors

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

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



## 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:

February 2, May 4, and August 3, 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.

## Rushanan & DeStefano

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# Minersville Recycles! Here's How!

All recyclable materials must be in recycling containers and placed curbside for pickup.

## A few reminders:

- 1) Borough residents should be recycling all #1 and #2 plastics. If you are new to recycling (and we hope that's very few of you), all plastics are labeled with the triangular recycling symbol somewhere on the container. Inside this symbol is a number. Plastic #1 and #2 are recycled by the Borough of Minersville. DO NOT throw all plastics in your recyclable bin. Plastic #3 through #7 can contaminate the collection and should be discarded or delivered to a county site.
- 2) All glass containers are recyclable. Broken glass, windows, etc. should not be placed in the recycling containers.
- 3) Tin and aluminum cans can be cleaned and placed in the recycling bin.
- 4) Newspapers should be tied in bundles or placed in paper bags. Please DO NOT place newspapers curbside in a plastic bag.




Additionally, grass clippings, leaves, garden/yard waste and tree limbs can be delivered to the compost site on North Delaware Avenue. Newspaper, maga-

The Borough will collect on the following schedule:

2017	North Side	South Side
November	1 & 15	8 & 22
December	6 & 20	13 & 27
<b>2018</b>		
January	3 & 17	10 & 24
February	7 & 21	14 & 28
March	7 & 21	14 & 28
April	4 & 18	11 & 25
May	2 & 16	9 & 23
June	6 & 20	13 & 27
July	5 & 18	11 & 25
August	1 & 15	8 & 22
September	5 & 19	12 & 26
October	3 & 17	10 & 24
November	7 & 21	14 & 28
December	5 & 19	12 & 26

Remember, recycling works!

zines, office paper and bundled cardboard may be dropped off at the recycling dumpster adjacent to the compost site.



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**PA Pre K Counts Guidelines**

Family Size	Annual Gross Income
2	\$ 48,720.00
3	\$ 61,260.00
4	\$ 73,800.00
5	\$ 86,340.00
6	\$ 98,880.00
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# Minersville Basketball – Winning Tradition

*Last Year's Lady Miners Only the Latest in Long Line of Winners*

## "Fab Five" Boys' Team Remembered as Possibly the Best

Although the 2016-17 MAHS girls' basketball team was the first to lay claim to a state championship in the sport, it was several boys' teams from more than 60 years ago that started to collect championship hardware on the hardwood. The following article revisits some of that early success ...

### 1953 Miners capture championship

Minersville High School captured its first basketball championship in school history in 1953 when the Miners finished with a strong third place in the league and made the South Schuylkill League Shaughnessy Playoffs. In the semi-finals, Minersville pulled off a tremendous upset over a highly favored Pine Grove team by a score of 65-61 and followed that with a 72-54 victory over Cressona in the final at the Pottsville High School "Palestra" before a crowd of 1,700 spectators.

That team was coached by Pat Droskinis, who used the two platoon system of players on the team from Minersville and Branch Township. The team consisted of eight seniors – Stan Lesky, Jim Maselli, Lewis Price, George Shellick, Don Houser, Herm Huntzinger, Bob Doyle, and Francis King – along with junior



**1953 MINERSVILLE VARSITY TEAM**

player Al Quinn. The following year, Quinn became Minersville's first 1000 point scorer, ending his career with 1220 points.

### Golden decade was the 1960s

Following that initial success, the Miners had only three winning seasons the rest of the decade, but the advent of the 1960s may have produced some of the finest boys basketball in Minersville school history. Up to that point Minersville had always been noted for its battlin' football teams, but few spoke of the

*– Continued on Page 12*

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# Minersville Basketball – Winning Tradition



1963 MINERSVILLE VARSITY TEAM

– Continued from Page 11

school's prowess on the basketball court.

By 1963 that began to change under first year coach Thomas Fitzpatrick. The Miners made school history by going undefeated in the South Schuylkill League, winning the Shaughnessy playoffs, and then advancing to the PIAA playoffs. The team was built around four seniors – Ed Cake, Jim Kimmel, Vic Genovese and Bill Gudelunas (a 1000 point scorer) – plus one junior, Joe Zelinsky.

Basketball fever became contagious. Over the next few years the teams began to surpass the accomplish-

ments of the Champs of 1963. Most notably, the 1965-66 team had talent; had desire; had character; and were soon dubbed "The Fabulous Five."

## League champs in 1965

The season prior to the famous "Fab Five", 1964-65, the team of Bill Murphy, Dave Homa, Russ Rothermel, Noble Quandel, and Bob Mashack, compiled a league record of 11-4 and an overall record of 13-9. They made the league playoffs and beat an excellent Pine Grove team 66-65 in the semifinals when Russ Rothermel converted two free throws with no time left on the clock for the win. They then beat Tri-

Valley in the final 65-55 to win the South Schuylkill League Championship which to-date remains the only league championship in boys' history.

The District XI elimination game pitted the Miners against a heavily-favored Shenandoah team that beat the Miners in two exhibition games by scores of 107-55 and 92-60. This game would be different! The Blue Devils were ahead throughout the game, but the Battlin' Miners would not give up and threatened to overcome the deficit more than once. With the score 49-43 midway through the final quarter, the Miners narrowed the gap to five points, 54-49. The Blue



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# Minersville Basketball – Winning Tradition

Devils eked out the win 64-57, and the 1964-65 season came to an end for Minersville.

## *Non-league affiliated, Miners were best*

The South and North combined to form the Schuylkill League for the 1965-66 season, but Minersville along with two other schools were denied entrance until the following year.

The Battlin' Miners, coached by veteran Tom Fitzpatrick, went all out as an independent power to capture various team and individual honors. As a team, Minersville ranked as the only undefeated squad in the district and was the first to achieve such



Coaches (l to r) Thomas Fitzpatrick, Walter Miscavage, and Kenneth Schneck

an honor in the history of the school. At the close of the regular season, the squad held the highest offensive average in the county.

Bill Murphy, who was a 1000 point scorer, Russ Rothermel, and Dave Homa were all nominated for All-State honors. The other two starters, John Hudec and Jerry Willinsky made their presence felt throughout the season. Along with Fitzpatrick, Walter Miscavage and Ken Schneck were also on the coaching staff.

The Miners started with a 61-58 squeaker over Ashland and then beat the defending District XI Champions, Shenandoah, 85-73. Next came Panther Valley with the Miners prevailing 75-64. The two games following were both against Tri-Valley, won by the Miners by scores of 80-61 and 102-58. The second game was "Bill Murphy Day" in Minersville as Bill set a school record, scoring 51 points.

Victory No. 6 was a 67-42 win against Blue Mountain. The Miners then faced a very good St. Clair team and built an early 11-0 lead and a 38-27 half-time margin. But St. Clair tied the score at 57 with only three minutes remaining in the final quarter. The Miners surged ahead and held on to win 70-67.

Shenandoah was in town next as the Battlin' Miners proved it had the best team in the county by handing defeat to a very tall Shenandoah team, 73-70, displaying a fine brand of teamwork in a nip and tuck contest.

– Continued on Page 14

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# Minersville Basketball – Winning Tradition



1965-66 Battlin' Miners and the Fab Five – front row from left, Jack McDonald, John Hudec, Billy Houser, Jack Brennan, and Russ Gavalis; back, Coach Thomas Fitzpatrick, Dave Homa, Russ Rothermel, Jerry Willinsky, Bill Murphy, Dean Milbrandt, Al Marazas, and Frank Cola.

– Continued from Page 13

The Battlin' Miners cleared a major hurdle in quest of an undefeated season as they turned back a very good Shamokin team in a close contest, 83-80. A decisive 80-65 victory over Ashland ran the Miners' win streak to 10 and the dominant starting lineup was

dubbed "The Fabulous Five."

Frackville was the next opponent to fall as the Miners romped to a 101-61 victory and the Miners executed a spectacular come-from-behind effort to edge Mt. Carmel, 80-78, for win number 12.

Up next, Tremont fell twice to the "Fab Five" in back-to-back games, 93-71 and 96-66, and Blue Mountain was win number 15 by a 70-52 score. The undefeated Miners romped to a 99-60 win over Frackville with a dramatic 67-point scoring exhibition in the second half.

Pine Grove joined the growing list of victims by a 66-57 score; the "Fab Five" logged another triumph as they overwhelmed Schuylkill Haven, 101-60, and continued cracking the

century mark – defeating Pine Grove and Schuylkill Haven again 102-64 and 107-78, respectively.

The final game of the regular season was at Ringtown with the Miners triumphing 51-37 to give Minersville its first undefeated basketball squad in the school's history!

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# Minersville Basketball – Winning Tradition

That record stood alone until 2016-17, when the Lady Miners girls' basketball team compiled a 31-0 overall record and captured the school's first State Championship in basketball.

The District XI Class B Semifinal game was a rematch with Saint Clair at Blue Mountain High School. Before a crowd of some 1800 fans, this special season would come to an unexpected end when the Saints claimed a 74-70 victory.

The "Fab Five" had a tremendous season; they set a high standard for all future teams; and are still considered as one of the best teams to ever play at MAHS!

## A reunion of sorts for "The Fab Five"

A few years later, members of the "Fab Five" re-united to continue their previous success entering a team in the Pottsville Recreation League with games being played at the Armory Building (now the Pottsville YMCA).

The players assembled under the name Sean's Miners sponsored by Mike Cooper and named for his son, Sean. The team, coached by Jerry Mealey, included players Bill Murphy, Russ Rothermel, Steve Sitkus, Craig Duffy, Dave Homa, Mike Homa, Greg Tracey, Jerry Willinsky, Jim Kimmel, Rich Fedoriska, Pete Rightus, Dick Sukeena, Fuzzy Kostichak, Bob Marshall, Robert Stabingas, Jack Murphy, Jack McDonald, Joe Willinsky, Rich Antonelli, Jack Mickey, Tom Schoffstal, and Bob Williams.

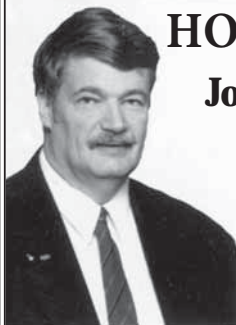
Billy Wilson, a former Philadelphia Phillies pitcher also played on the team for a short while. Jack Koval was the team's official scorekeeper.

As a Rec League team, every player did not make all the games for various reasons. The line up could be different each game, but Sean's Miners had plenty of talent, proving it on the court. Many outstanding former high school players from around the county played on teams in the league – the Miners being one of, if not the, best. Over a four to five year period of playing in the Pottsville Rec League, Sean's Miners put together a winning streak of 103 consecutive games!

– Continued on Page 16

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## Minersville Basketball – Winning Tradition



Members of Sean's Miners included, front from left, Steve Sitkus, Russ Rothermel, Dave Homa, Craig Duffy (holding Sean Cooper), Fuzzy Kostichak, Jack McDonald, and Bill Murphy; back, Joe Willinsky, Mike Homa, sponsor Mike Cooper, president of the League Bob Davis, Coach Jerry Mealey, Jack Murphy, Sam MacCready, and scorekeeper Jack Koval.

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### Ringer brought in to defeat Miners

You can imagine teams were anxious to beat the Miners, as evidenced by one game against the Ferhat's Angels. A former professional, ABA player Ron Travis, was brought in to play for Ferhat's. The Armory was packed to capacity when the doors had to be closed leaving other spectators outdoors. Undaunted, Sean's Miners answered the test with a victory.

The team had its share of easy wins as well as some very hard fought close ones. The mark of a true champion is to win the close games and Sean's Miners did just that. At the time, and maybe even now, this

103 consecutive winning streak is considered as a local modern day record.

Fame also came to Coach Thomas Fitzpatrick. Fitz led the Battlin' Miners from 1963-68 to four consecutive League playoff appearances and two League championships.

In 1970 a new high school was being built and by the spring of 1972 students were moved into the facility. On Nov. 28, 1972 the first basketball game was played in the new gymnasium. The Miners defeated its first opponent, Schuylkill Haven, by a score of 57-49. Prior to the start of that game the Minersville Area School District immortalized Coach Thomas Fitzpatrick by naming the gym in his honor.

The Minersville Boys' Basketball team has had much success over the years, making the playoffs numerous times; winning its first district title in 1981; and winning three more District Championships since – the last one coming in 2016. The Miners continue to produce a competitive team year after year, but let us not forget the players, the teams and the coaches that started on that path of success.

*Story compiled by Jerry Sitkus with contributions from Vic Genovese, Bill Murphy, Jerry Mealey, and info taken from the Minersville Area School yearbooks. Photos provided by Jerry Sitkus, Vic Genovese, and the Minersville Area School yearbooks.*