



MINERS' JOURNAL

Official Publication



Borough of Minersville

www.minersvilleonline.com

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BOROUGH OF MINERSVILLE, PA

Fall 2018

Parade, Haunted House, and Trick-or-Treat in Coming Days

Halloween Events Feature "The Insane Asylum" This Weekend

Minersville Borough officials are excited and proud to present a line-up of Halloween activities that is sure to "delight and fright" festive revelers of all ages. Events kick off this Saturday, Oct. 27 when Minersville's annual Halloween Parade steps off at 6:30 p.m. Marching groups should have already registered through the Borough Office.

Also on Saturday, the Carbon Street Scream Team, in cooperation with the Recreation Committee, begins two nights of "The Insane Asylum" community Haunted House event from 6 to 9 p.m. The scary-crazy event is staged in the old Globe Theater above Borough Hall, 2 E. Sunbury St.

The second and final night for the Haunted House will conclude Sunday, Oct. 28 again from 6 to 9 p.m. The show goes on both nights regardless of the weather. General admission is \$4 at the door both nights, but there may still be a few reserved tickets available for \$6 allowing patrons to avoid waiting in line.

Finally, Wednesday, Oct. 31 will be the borough's community Trick-or-Treat Night from 6 to 8 p.m. In



the event of rain, trick-or-treat could be rescheduled to Thursday, Nov. 1.

Saturday parade route detailed

The annual Halloween Parade is hosted by the Borough, but made possible by the strong support of many area businesses and organizations. 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.

Citizens wishing to create and enter a holiday float in the Halloween Parade should have already submitted their entry form. All parade marchers must provide advance notice to the Borough Office.

Parade spectators are encouraged to line the route, departing south onto 4th Street, turning left onto North Street, then right onto North Delaware Avenue and past the Haunted House site. The parade will proceed right onto Sunbury Street, then right at

- Continued on Page 2



Santa is Coming to Minersville

The Minersville Recreation Board will sponsor a Christmas parade on Sunday, Nov. 25, 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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2018 BOROUGH OFFICIALS

2 East Sunbury Street
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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.

2018 OFFICIAL HOLIDAY HOURS

Minersville Borough offices will be closed on the following days in 2018 in observance of the stated holidays - Veterans Day (Observed), Nov. 12; Thanksgiving and day after, Nov. 22 and 23; 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, 2019.

Halloween Events

- Continued from Page 1

5th Street, right at North Street, and conclude at 4th Street.

At the parade conclusion, the Borough and parade supporters will provide hot dogs and drinks to all costumed parade marchers.

Haunted House reserved tickets

Ticket sales began October 1, but there still may be a few reserved tickets remaining. For a \$6 cost, those interested can visit the Borough Office to reserve a timed-ticket sold in limited quantities for every 15-minute interval starting at 6 p.m. and available both nights. General admission tickets will be available at the door on the night of the event for a \$4 fee.

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 Wednesday, Oct. 31. 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.



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From the Desk of the Borough Manager

State of the Borough – Challenges Met, Progress Ahead!

Wishing all a safe and healthy fall and holiday season!

The historic rainfall this past summer created challenges for Borough staff, services, and some of our residents. Like myself, I'm sure you have all enjoyed the warmer weather, cookouts, and outdoor activities that we were able to sneak in between the raindrops.

Problems discovered; problems solved

We had an eventful beginning and end of summer at the Recreation Complex.

Literally, we had a "ball" at the community pool ... one that delayed the late May/June opening. A frustrating trouble-shooting effort, involving all our street and utility employees, finally pinpointed the problem – a regulation-sized basketball was lodged in the main pool pump pipe.

The pool was up and running within a few days, thanks to our employees. We believe the ball found its way into the pipe during contracted renovations at the pool.

At the end of the summer, a sinkhole was discovered by a Minersville Little League board member mowing grass. Located approximately four feet off the walking path near the Little League girls' softball field, the water-filled sinkhole was at least five feet



Bobby Mahalchick
Borough Manager

wide and 12-to-15 feet deep ... a real concern for the safety of those using the complex.

The area was cordoned off and the state DEP Abandoned Mine Reclamation office contacted. A steel plate was placed over the hole awaiting further investigation. It was determined the hole was not mine related and the Borough could repair the safety issue. At this time, the hole has been filled with stone and a concrete cap placed over the hole. Topsoil will be added and grass planted.

Fortunately, the large crowd at the Make-A-Wish softball tournament held the prior week did not incur a problem with the hole. Again, the streets, sewer, and water staff worked together to ensure public safety and fixed the problem.

Projects status and a look to the future

Following is a project list update since my report in the August issue of *Miners' Journal* and activities planned for 2019 as we continue to move Minersville ahead with grant-supported improvements.

- A \$90,000 grant awarded last month will help

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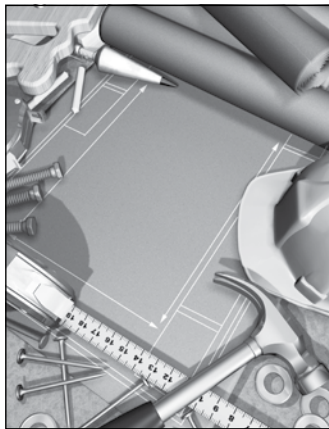
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From the Desk of the Borough Manager

upgrade the playground at the Recreation Complex and fund improvements at the Little League area. Local funding of 15% is required - approximately \$10,800 by the Borough and the balance by Minersville Little League. The playground improvement will replace aged equipment and make the playground handicap accessible.

Our Borough Council, employees, and Borough Engineer - Entech's Don Cuff and his staff - aggressively and successfully pursued grants the past several years. State Rep. Neal Goodman, Sen. David Argall, and their staffs have supported our needs and are a major reason for the awards.



- The Memorial Park design on the former American Legion property has been finalized. Construction bids have been requested. The project start and completion are expected next year. A Keystone Communities Grant of \$100,000 is the source of the funding.
- The PennDOT Green Light Go project (grants totaling \$490,190) to upgrade all traffic signals and make crosswalk improvements on Sunbury Street

will begin early next year. The project is required to be completed by June 2019.

- The Borough is hopeful for a "no match" DCED Multimodal Grant of \$736,000 submitted to install new sidewalks, curbs, and decorative lighting on Sunbury St. from Delaware Ave. to 3rd Street. Many other communities across the state are competing for this type of grant funding.
- Also hopeful for a successful award, the Borough applied for a DEP Recycling Grant to replace its recycling truck and to install a card-activated security gate at the recycling and compost site at the north end of N. Delaware Ave. Up to \$350,000 is available, but a lesser amount could be awarded. There is a required 10% local match.
- A PennDOT project to mill and pave the entire length of Sunbury St. and replace all handicapped curbs on that corridor is planned for the summer 2019.

Addressing blighted properties

- Blight Technical Assistance - The Borough was recently awarded \$8,400 from DCED to hire a consultant - The Gulotta Group LLC - to provide a fast-track plan addressing blighted properties in Minersville. The grant funds 70% of the \$12,000 needed, with the Borough contributing the balance. The 70% funding award recognizes the bor-

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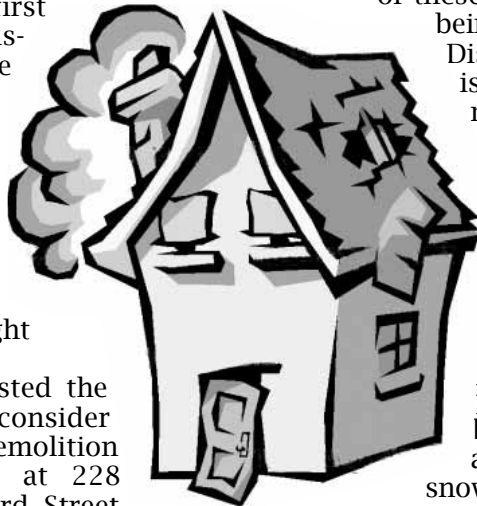
From the Desk of the Borough Manager

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ough's participation in the Early Intervention Program and is higher than the typical 50% award.

Minersville became the first non-Act 47 (financially distressed) community in the state to receive this Blight Technical Assistance Grant to identify blighted properties and determine those that can be rehabbed or if they need to be demolished. Meetings will take place soon and a Minersville Blight Task Force formed.

- The Borough has requested the Schuylkill Land Bank consider the acquisition and demolition of blighted properties at 228 North St. and 218 N. 3rd Street. The Schuylkill County Board of Commissioners approved and awarded the demolition of 228 North Street. After years of deteriorating and tax delinquency, the property will be repurposed and returned to the tax rolls. The blighted property located at 218 N. 3rd Street was conveyed to Minersville Fire Rescue to be used for fire training before being demolished.



Our Code Enforcement Officer continues to aggressively pursue the owners of blighted properties. Even though you may not physically see the desired results of these efforts, I can assure you that the owners are being cited or summoned to a hearing before District Magistrate David Plachko. The Borough is required to follow legally accepted enforcement regulations. It is not as easy as just condemning properties, demolishing properties, or removing people.

Winter weather reminders

With winter right around the corner, we request that all refrain from throwing snow into the streets and on corners. Keep your sidewalks clear of snow and ice; show patience and respect to street employees plowing streets; check on your elderly neighbors who may need assistance; be courteous and respectful to your neighbors; and abide by snow emergency declarations. Most importantly, be safe!

Great things are happening! Be an active part in making OUR hometown one of which we all can be proud.

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and I wish all a healthy, prosperous, and happy New Year!

- Bobby Mahalchick, Borough Manager

NOTICE

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South Schuylkill Printing & Publishing has not moved!

We've been at 960 E. Main Street, Schuylkill Haven for more than 60 years, producing *The Call* weekly newspaper and serving the region for individual and business Commercial Printing and Publishing needs.

The Call was renamed *South Schuylkill News* in 2010 to better reflect the region served. The newspaper was sold in 2015, but continued to operate from its home at 960 E. Main Street. These newspaper operations moved to a different lease space in January 2018.

South Schuylkill Printing & Publishing has NOT changed ownership or location. Its operations continue as a full service Commercial Printing Office at 960 E. Main Street - next to PennDOT - east of Schuylkill Haven borough. It also continues its publishing tradition by producing **THIS** and other Community Newsletters - Wayne Township / Lake Wynonah, Minersville Borough, Orwigsburg Borough, Schuylkill Haven Borough, and Pine Grove Borough - continuously now for more than a decade.

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Borough Services Update . . . and Events

Holiday schedule

The Minersville Borough offices will be closed several days during the November and upcoming Christmas and New Year holidays - closed all day Monday, Nov. 12 in observance of Veterans Day (November 11); Thursday and Friday, Nov. 22 and 23, for Thanksgiving; Tuesday, Dec. 25 in observance of Christmas; and Tuesday, Jan. 1 for the New Year holiday.

In addition, the offices will close early at 11 a.m. on the two Mondays before Christmas and New Year, Dec. 24 and Dec. 31.

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. 23 and extending through Wednesday, Jan. 2. Please support your local businesses during this holiday season.



Tree collection on one day only

Discard your cut Christmas tree following the holidays. The Borough will collect trees placed curbside on only one designated day - Friday, Jan. 11, 2019. Be sure to have the tree out no later than 7 a.m. In the event of inclement weather, collection could be rescheduled to Friday, Jan. 18. Be sure the tree is free

of ornaments, bag, and stand.

If you miss the designated collection day, it will be your responsibility to take the tree to the Borough's compost area at the end of North Delaware Ave. any day that the site is open. Trees must be recycled and will not be taken with regular garbage collection.



Create your own holiday wreath

The Schuylkill County Master Gardeners will host a craft workshop with supplies and advice for you to create your own distinctive natural evergreen wreath or door swag.

A supply package for one evergreen swag (\$10) or wreath (\$20), complete with greens, wire, ribbon, and decorative materials, plus creativity suggestions and advice from Master Gardeners on how to keep them fresh and beautiful are offered.

The class will be held at Evergreen Acres, 135 Fort Lebanon Road, just east of Auburn (1.5 miles off Rt. 61 on Rt. 895 toward Auburn) on Saturday, Nov. 3 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Since class size is limited, mail or drop off your
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Borough Services Update . . . and Events

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\$5 registration fee plus project payment as soon as possible to Penn State Extension, Master Gardeners, 1202 Ag Center Drive (off Rt. 901, Gordon Nagle Trail), Pottsville, PA 17901. Checks should be made out to Penn State University. The registration deadline is October 26th.

Dress for outdoor weather and bring your own gloves, wire cutters, pruners and any personal decorations you wish to use to individualize your project. To confirm your registration was accepted or to ask any questions about this event, call 570-622-4225 Ext 13 or e-mail schuykillmg@psu.edu.

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 was observed earlier this month. 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.

Recreation Complex

Enjoy the Minersville Recreation Complex this fall season. But, please adhere to the few rules and regulations that assure for the safety and enjoyment of all - residents and visitors alike.

The Recreation Complex is closed from dusk to dawn. Bicycling, skates and pets are prohibited from the park. Smoking is also prohibited.

With the large number of people visiting the Recreation Complex, parking at times may be at a premium. Please be considerate of other people and park your vehicle within the lines of the designated parking spaces. Parking in the driving lanes of the parking lot is prohibited. Due to continuous problems on the lot, offending vehicles will be ticketed or may be towed. There is an additional parking area located on the road leading to the Lions Pavilion.



Comprehensive Plan needs your help

Minersville Borough has begun the process to create a Comprehensive Plan - the first in 25 years, according to Borough Council vice president Ian Mahal - that will guide the town's future development. Input from residents, as well as property and business owners, will play an important role in this process.

A Comprehensive Plan is a community's blueprint on how to address the challenges and emphasize the positives that exist today while planning for tomorrow.

The borough will work with the Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED) on an "Implemental Plan" instead of following the numerous cookie-cutter requirements of the Municipalities Planning Code. This plan will allow the Borough to focus on issues only important to Minersville while avoiding the waste of taxpayer dollars examining areas not relevant to our community.

Input from the community is paramount to the process. After the borough selects a firm to begin the Comprehensive Plan, it will be the voice and participation of our citizens that will be needed most, Mahal states.

It is anticipated 70% of the cost for the Comprehensive Plan will be paid by state grant funds. This state funding was increased from 50% due to the

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Borough Services Update . . . and Events

borough's participation in DCED's Early Intervention Program.

Penn Street playground's future?

Presently, the Borough maintains five separate playground facilities. Most, if not all, would benefit from upgrades, a costly endeavor.



Town officials have been examining which facilities seem to be getting the most usage. Of highest concern is the low usage of the Penn Street playground. But before any final decisions are made, the borough's Recreation Committee would like citizen input so that the most responsible and cost-efficient decision can be made.

Those wishing to provide feedback regarding the Penn Street playground should attend the council work session on Wednesday, Nov. 7 (note the change of date due to Election Day) or the regular session of council on November 13. Both meetings begin at 7 p.m.

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 4 through February 22.

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.

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

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Borough Services Update . . . and Events

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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.

Bill payments

Minersville Borough, Water, and Sewer depart-

ments 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 payment. 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.

Emergency contact info needed

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

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

- Phone Method - Complete the form below and mail it to the Borough Office, 2 E. Sunbury Street, Minersville PA 17954; or,
- E-mail Method - Send an e-mail with your name and address to minerswateremergency@comcast.net. Also, add this address to your contact list so you are sure to receive the notifications.

Contact the Minersville Municipal Water Authority office at 570-544-2200 during office hours Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Friday, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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

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Publication date for the next three issues are:

February 2, May 4, and August 3, 2019

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 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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2 E. Sunbury Street, Minersville, PA 17954

Trash & Recycling - Here's What to Know!

Trash collection

Limited to a maximum of five 30-gallon bags of household garbage, each weighing less than 40 pounds; collection is every Tuesday throughout the Borough. Your pick-up should be placed curbside after 6 p.m. and no later than midnight on Monday evening.

Containers must be secured and bags properly tied. Containers must be removed from the sidewalk area after sanitation collection is completed.

One large item - no white goods (washer, refrigerator, stove, sink) or Freon-bearing appliances are allowed - will be collected weekly when placed with your trash. Separate arrangements can be made for the disposal of white goods ... call County Waste at 570-874-3047 for pricing and pick-up.

Recycling collection

Unbroken green, brown, and clear glass containers; tin and aluminum cans; #1 through #7 plastics; newspapers, magazines, and clean paper products (bundled separately, and cardboard, flattened and bundled) are collected curbside twice per month. These materials must be placed in a designated recycling container. Do not place in plastic bags Any loose paper, cardboard, or other recyclables will not be picked up.

Properties north of Sunbury Street have recycling 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.

Recyclable materials should not be placed in the normal trash. Violators are subject to fines and prosecution per Borough ordinance.

Prohibited items

Refuse such as tires, batteries, and electronics (televisions, computers and peripherals, DVD players, etc.), as well as construction, demolition, or renovation debris are prohibited from trash and normal recycling collection.

The property owner, tenant, or contractor is responsible for arranging separate pick-up, drop-off, and proper disposal of these items.

Disposal of yard waste

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 vegetation 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, available to Borough residents only, is open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon. Ashes and salt are stored at the location, but are not for the public to take. Violators will be prosecuted.

All other materials other than approved/separated recyclable materials and yard waste are prohibited. Anyone caught dumping other refuse, vandalizing, trespassing and/or stealing within the North Delaware Avenue Complex at any time will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Constant video surveillance at the compost/recycling site feeds directly into the police station.

Only recyclable materials are permitted in the bins. Yard waste may be placed on the compost pile. No electronics, garbage or construction material is permitted. Fines of up to \$1,000 may be imposed for violations.

| | North Side | South Side |
|----------|------------|------------|
| October | 3 & 17 | 10 & 24 |
| November | 7 & 21 | 14 & 28 |
| December | 5 & 19 | 12 & 26 |
| January | 2 & 16 | 9 & 23 |
| February | 6 & 20 | 13 & 27 |



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| Call - Radio City Spectacular..... | call |
| Call - Gourmet Shopping in NY..... | \$43 |
| Nov. 10 - Philadelphia Mills Mall..... | \$35 |
| Nov. 11 - Veteran's Day @ Arlington..... | \$52 |
| Nov. 22 - Macy's Parade..... | \$42 |
| Nov. 24 - A Christmas Experience @ Antietam..... | *\$88 |
| Nov. 28 - Rainbow-Christmas in Paradise..... | \$77 |
| Dec. 4 - Mt. Airy-Home for the Holidays..... | \$67 |
| Dec. 5 - AMT Christmas Show..... | *\$106 |
| Dec. 7 - The Mahoney Bros @ Hunterdon..... | \$97 |
| Dec. 9 - Tiny Tim @ Shawnee Playhouse..... | \$80 |
| Dec. 11 - Holidays @ Mt. Hope..... | \$75 |
| Dec. 11 - Under the Street Lamp..... | \$85 |
| Dec. 15 - A Christmas Carol..... | \$88 |
| Dec. 28 - Cinderella @ DADT..... | \$42 |
| Jan. 26 - Tammy Wynette Story @ DADT..... | \$94 |
| Feb. 2 - Philadelphia Auto Show..... | *\$50 |
| Feb. 14 - In-laws, Outlaws and Other Family..... | \$84 |
| Feb. 22 - Dr. K's Motown Revue @ Hunterdon..... | \$96 |

OVERNIGHTS

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Call - Dover Downs..... | call |
| Dec. 6-8 - Boston Pops..... | \$539 p/p DBL |
| Dec. 31-Jan. 1 - New Year's Eve in Gettysburg..... | \$309 p/p DBL |

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Minersville Little League Softball ... by Jerry Sitkus

Dynasty-Building Seasons Lead to a Field of Dreams

Following is the fourth and final installment in a series begun in the February 2018 issue of **Miners' Journal** telling the early history of the Minersville softball dynasty. Part 4 covers the 1979 and 1980 seasons.

State Champions in 1979

The Senior League 1979 Minersville All-Star team had only four returning players from the 1978 team. The Junior Division team did not make the State Tournament in 1978, so most of the players advancing to the Seniors were new to tournament play.

The Miners - with good pitching once again from Lynn Connelly, Lori Pisco, and up-and-coming pitcher Tammy McDonald - played one Section game, winning 15-2 over Plymouth Township, to qualify for the State Tournament held at Old Lycoming Field in Williamsport.

The opening game was against Back Mountain, winning 8-0 with another stellar no-hit pitching performance from



1979 MINERETTES SOFTBALL TEAM - Front from left, Sue Romanko, Mary Jo Nebreskie, Tammy McDonald, Holly Heinbach, and Laurie Zucal; second row, Stacy Brennan, Brenda Polinsky, Wynell Angelo, Kathy Pepsy, and Lori Pisco; back row, coach Mike Andruchek, Lynn Connelly, Geri Minnig, Kim McDonald, Brenda Bernasz, and manager Cindy Borrell.

Lynn Connelly. In the next game, the Miners scored two unearned runs with two outs in the seventh inning in a bizarre, near-unbelievable series of errors to edge Newberry 5-4. Newberry then defeated Back Mountain in the loser's bracket final, 14-6, to get another chance against the Miners.

But wait! A controversy over the use of illegal pitchers in the Newberry vs. Back Mountain game eliminated both teams. Both used the same pitchers they used the day before. The regular season rule was a pitcher could pitch in every other game regardless of the days, but the state tournament rule required the pitcher have a day and a game between starts. Seemingly, it was an unintentional, but costly error.

The State Championship title was given to Minersville without the title game being played. This was the fifth consecutive State Championship for the Senior Division team, the only team to win the title in its first five years.


The Miners then moved on to the East Regional tournament in Staten Island, N.Y. The opening round pitted the Miners with a familiar opponent - Seymour, CT, the team the Miners beat in 1978 to advance to the World Series.

The game remained scoreless through three innings as both pitchers, Lynn Connelly of Minersville and Linda Luciano of Seymour, were breezing along. Minersville put together four hits and a sacrifice fly to score three runs in the bottom of the 4th inning and Seymour scored two runs in the top of the 6th to cut the lead to one. Connelly then worked out of a 7th inning jam to secure the win for the Miners.

Minersville next played Elkton, Md., in the win-

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Minersville Little League Softball ... by Jerry Sitkus

ner's bracket, but were out-slugged and lost 19-15. Later in the same day, Minersville played Brooklyn, N.Y., losing 6-2 and eliminated from the tournament. The Miners were disappointed not to make it back to the World Series again, but were proud of winning another State Championship!

The 1980 season

The 1980 Senior (13 to 15 year old) Division Minersville team, after winning five State titles, were now losing most of those players and the streak would come to an end in a Section 4 semi-final loss to Chester Valley by a score of 6-2.

Meanwhile that same year, the Junior Division team, that won back-to-back State titles in 1974 and 1975, would field another great team. The Junior girls had an amazing 14-13, nine inning victory over stunned Phoenixville in the Section 4 semi-final game. Denise Stephen capped an unbelievable 7-run rally in the bottom of the 9th to send Minersville into the Section final against Lanerch Hills. The Miners prevailed 12-5 to advance to the State Tournament in Williamsport for the first time since 1975.

The Minersville Junior Division team opened the State Tournament vs. Chambersburg, coming back from a 4-0 deficit to gain the victory, 6-5. They went on to beat West Point, 5-3, to win the State Title and advance to the eastern Regional Tournament in Stonington, Conn.

The Miners could only manage one hit in its opening game against Brooklyn, N.Y., losing 7-0, in the single elimination tournament. The team played a consolation game vs. Stanton-Newport, Del., and were shut out again 4-0. Although Minersville placed 4th in the East Region, their experiences in the New England area were priceless and should be cherished forever.

Dedicated softball field built

After those early, highly successful years for both the Junior and Senior Little League Softball programs, the Minersville Little League organization took the initiative to build a dedicated softball field near the boys Little League field.

The girls' field was built in 1983, hosting its first game in 1984. The field was dedicated in 1993 to the memory of longtime volunteer umpire, Joseph Gerchak Sr., for his many years of service to the Little League softball organization.

This new field has an all-dirt infield to make it more conducive to the sport of softball. The All-Star games, however, were still played on the boys' Little



1980 JUNIOR DIVISION STATE CHAMPS - Front from left, Kathy Willinsky, Karen Smolskis, and Jennifer Kalochie; second row, Chris Weir, Tracey Andrachick, Missey Pizzico, Denise Stephen, Lori Lazarchick, and Marlo Klassen; back row, coach Vince Kalochie, Lisa Lazarchick, Mary Ann Cox, Denise Lipsett, Michelle Dinicola, and manager Joe Gayeski.

League field. Because of this, the Miners would have no home field advantage, since they never played regular season games on that field.

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Christmas & Holiday Safety Tips

Christmas and the holidays are an exciting and busy time; but, with all the joys of the holiday season come potential safety hazards that can cause injury or even death. Help prevent injuries at Christmas and during the holidays by following these tips.

Christmas trees

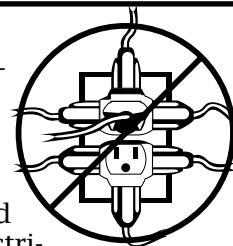
Christmas tree safety begins with the selection and purchase of a fresh tree. When buying a live pre-cut tree, make sure the tree is still alive and healthy. A fresh tree is green, needles are hard to pull from the branches, and when bent between your fingers, needles do not break.



When you get the Christmas tree home, cut off the bottom two inches of trunk to expose the fresh wood. This will create a fresh, raw cut for the tree to soak in water. Keep the water in the stand well above the fresh cut bottom of the trunk. Christmas trees dry out with heat, so place your tree away from heat sources like the fireplace or heater vents. Dispose of your tree in a timely manner following Christmas. When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label "Fire Resistant".

Lights inside and out

Unplug the lights and decorations when you are not home. Heat plus a pine tree equals a house fire. Turn off all lights when you go to bed. Check each set of tree lights for frayed wires, broken bulbs, and loose connections. Never run electrical cords under carpets or rugs, over nails, in traffic areas, or where there is a chance of water. Never use electric lights on a metallic tree.



Before using lights outdoors, check labels to be sure they have been certified for outdoor use. To hold lights in place, string them through hooks or insulated staples, not nails or tacks. Never pull or tug lights to remove them.

Make sure all external electrical decorations are well-protected and away from moisture. Never overload an electrical receptacle with extension cords or three-way adapters. If you need to plug a lot of things into a single receptacle, use a power strip. Call an electrician if your lights flicker and your appliances run sluggishly, or if you have a fuse that repeatedly blows or a circuit breaker that trips often.

Christmas decorations

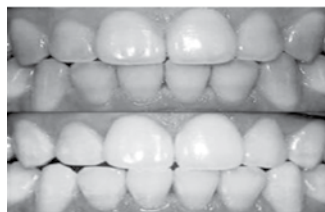
Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree. Choose tinsel or artificial icicles of plastic or nonleaded metals. Never use lighted candles

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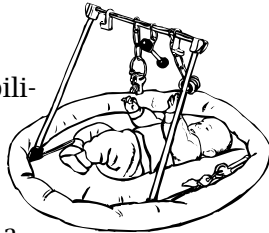
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Christmas & Holiday Safety Tips

on a tree or near other evergreens. Always use non-flammable holders, and place candles where they will not be knocked down. In homes with small children, take special care to avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable, keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of children to avoid the child swallowing or inhaling small pieces, and avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food that may tempt a young child to eat them. Remove all wrapping papers, bags, paper, ribbons and bows from tree and fireplace areas after gifts are opened. These items can pose suffocation and choking hazards to a small child or can cause a fire if near flame.

Toy and child safety

Select toys to suit the age, abilities, skills and interest level of the intended child. Toys too advanced may pose safety hazards for younger children.



Clean up immediately after a holiday party. A toddler could rise early and choke on leftover food or come in contact with alcohol or tobacco. Remember that the homes you visit may not be childproofed.

Keep holiday plants away from children and pets. Mistletoe, holly berries, and Christmas cactus are poisonous if swallowed. If you place your child in a shopping cart, always use the safety belt and never let

your child stand in or push a shopping cart. Include helmets and other protective gear when giving bicycles, skates, or skateboards.

A baby can grab a candle and get burned badly. If you do burn a candle for Christmas, make sure it is completely out of reach and there is no way that it can fall over by pulling on a table cloth.

Fireplace and home safety

Before lighting any fire, remove all greens, boughs, papers, and other decorations from the fireplace area. Check to see that the flue is open. Use care with "fire salts," which produce colored flames when thrown on wood fires. Do not burn wrapping papers in the fireplace. A flash fire may result as wrappings ignite suddenly and burn intensely.

Santa comes down the chimney, not through the door or windows. Keep those locked and your blinds drawn when you aren't home or are sleeping or otherwise occupied.

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Kick Off the Holiday Season in Minersville! Welcome Santa November 25 with a Parade.

2018 Remaining Holiday Schedule

*Minersville Borough Offices will be closed
the following days*

Monday - November 12th | Veterans Day

Thursday - November 22nd

Friday - November 23rd

Tuesday - December 25th | Christmas

Tuesday - January 1st | New Year's

The Borough Office will close early at 11 a.m. on Friday, 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.*

