



# MINERS' JOURNAL

Official Publication



Borough of Minersville

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

Vol. XIV, No. 3 – Issued Quarterly

BOROUGH OF MINERSVILLE, PA

August 2021

## Borough and Sewer Authority Projects Update

### Streetscape Contract, Paving, and Sewer Line Work



**Bob Mahalchick**  
Borough Manager

I hope all are enjoying the warmer weather ... and you and your loved ones are healthy and safe. The great news is that it appears that the corner has been turned in battling the craziness caused by one of the worst pandemics in history. It feels fantastic to get back to some sense of normalcy. To any of you that have been tragically impacted by COVID 19, I want to express my deepest condolences.

Here are some Borough and Sewer Authority updates since the last *Miners' Journal* issue.

#### Streetscape project

In the last edition of the *Journal*, I informed that the state DCED Multi-Modal \$736,000 “No Match Required” grant for streetscape improvements along Sunbury Street from the Commonwealth Financing Authority moved one step closer to reality with the submission of a permit application agreement to PennDOT. That was done at the end of last year.

In response to an inquiry from us in April, a PennDOT official reported the agreement went through the Office of Chief Counsel and was forwarded to the PA Attorney General’s Office for review and signature.

I am elated to inform you that the PA Attorney  
- Continued on Page 4

## Minersville Hosts 67th Annual Sch. County Firefighters Convention

### Gigantic Parade & 9-11 Salute Set for Sat., Sept. 11

The Minersville Fire Department will host a week-long 67th annual Schuylkill County Firefighters Convention that gets underway on Sunday, Sept. 5 and climaxes with a huge Firefighters Parade on Saturday, Sept. 11.

Here is the schedule and a few highlights;

- **Sunday, Sept. 5th** - Convention



week kicks off ... with a Memorial Service at St. Peter & Paul Church, beginning at 6 p.m. This is open to the public and followed by a social at Mountaineer Hose Co., for fire personnel only, following the church service.

- **Monday, Sept. 6** - Nothing scheduled due to the Labor Day holiday.

- Continued on Page 2

## COMING EVENTS

**SEPTEMBER 5-TO-11** – Schuylkill County Firefighters Convention hosted by Minersville Fire Department.

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 11** – Gigantic Schuylkill County Firefighters Parade, 1:30 p.m.; Special Patriots Day recognition, marking the 20th anniversary of 9-11.

**SATURDAY, OCT. 23 & SUNDAY, OCT. 24** – Halloween Haunted House, 7 to 9 p.m. both nights. Reserved time tickets will be available.

**SUNDAY, OCT. 24** – Minersville Halloween Parade steps off at 6:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY, OCT. 31** – Trick or Treat, 6 to 8 p.m.; Turn your porch light on to indicate youngsters, 12 years and younger, are welcome to get a treat.



## SUPPORT YOUR LIBRARY

The Minersville Public Library needs your help to maintain its services to the community. *See page 9.*

## On the inside . . .

5th Street Resident Survey .....	Pg. 6
Bit of History From Early 1900s..	Pg. 8
Halloween Events Make Return ..	Pg. 10
Ordinance on Outside Burning...	Pg. 12
Preserving the Union Cemetery..	Pg. 14

## 2021 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.  
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### OFFICIALS

Mayor..... Sean Palmer  
 Chief of Police ..... Michael Combs  
 President of Council ..... Katielynn Milbrandt  
 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

### COUNCIL

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 Harry Brown • Michael Bucek • Richard Clink  
 Kyle Crouse • Joseph Kavanaugh • Ryan Murphy  
 Ethan Powell • Douglas Springer • Eric Sterner  
 Timothy Walsh • Andrew Weaver  
 Leigh Ann Cielinski, Secretary

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 Martin Brophy • Matthew Leiby • Michael Machita

### SEWER DEPARTMENT

Raymond Sukeena, Supervisor  
 Joseph Carvajal

### WATER DEPARTMENT

Melanie Spittler, Manager / Plant Operator  
 Raymond Bosack • Brennan Chapman  
 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.

### 2021 OFFICIAL HOLIDAY HOURS

Minersville Borough offices will be closed in 2021 in observance of the stated holidays - Presidents Day, Feb. 15; Good Friday (half day, close at 11 a.m.), April 2; Memorial Day, May 31; Independence Day, July 5 (observed); Labor Day, Sept. 6; Columbus Day, Oct. 11; Veterans Day, Nov. 11; Thanksgiving and day after, Nov. 25 and 26; Christmas, Dec. 23 (half day, close at 11 a.m.) and Dec. 24; New Year's, Dec. 30 (half day, close at 11 a.m.), Dec. 31 (observed).

## Firefighters Convention

- Continued from Page 1

- **Tuesday, Sept. 7** - Firefighter Training Seminar for fire personnel only.
- **Wednesday, Sept. 8** - Convention delegates meeting at St. Nicholas Hall for fire personnel only.
- **Thursday, Sept. 9** - Convention social - open to the public - at New Minersville Fire Co.
- **Friday, Sept. 10** - Nothing scheduled ... preparation for parade.
- **Saturday Sept. 11** - Schuylkill County Firefighters Parade; Parade kicks off at 1:30 p.m. sharp; There will be detours and no parking areas posted; celebration and awards will be conducted at Minersville Fire-Rescue, North Street Building.

### Other key points ...

This event recognizes the 20th anniversary to the horrific attacks on our country of September 11, 2001 and commemorated each year as Patriots Day.

Homeowners/businesses along the parade route are requested to decorate their homes with banners and bunting. Vendor information will be provided via social media.

Civic organizations are welcome to participate in the parade. Registration info is available via social media.

Info/questions will be available under the Minersville Fire Department Facebook page as it develops.

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# Borough Manager's State of the Borough

- Continued from Page 1

General has signed off to proceed with the project. The lowest responsible bidder - Heim Construction - was awarded the contract.

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 along the Sunbury Street corridor between Delaware Avenue and Third Street.

In tandem with the streetscape improvements, a "No Match Required" grant funded by PennDOT will replace ALL of the ADA ramps on Sunbury Street, not just the streetscape project area. Heim Construction will also be doing this project.

The projects are expected to start at the end of this summer with the streetscape lights installation expected in the spring next year.

## Streets maintenance

The 2021 street maintenance projects have been completed. The following areas have been milled and paved curb-to-curb - Parsonage Street from N. Front St. to N. Delaware Ave.; Carbon Street from N. Front St. to N. 2nd Street; Water Street from New Castle St. to Jones St.; Forney Street from N 2nd Street to N. Front St.; South Street from S. 5th Street to Kauffman

St.; Locust Street to Westwood St.; Short Street from Berger St. to its dead end; and Quality Street from N. 2nd Street to School Street.

The project was awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, M&J Excavating at a cost of \$87,707.

The balance of the Borough's street budget is kept in reserve for winter maintenance costs, including salt, contracted cleanup for big storms, winter equipment maintenance, etc

We will soon be starting a drive around the Borough to identify and compile a list of areas for next year's paving projects. The list will be reviewed and sorted with the worst being at the top of the list.

In communications with PennDOT, state highway Rt. 901 (Sunbury St) is scheduled for curb-to-curb milling and paving sometime next year. Needless to say, I was overjoyed to hear that information. My only caution is that I've been told that for several years only to have the project pushed back due to budget issues with the Commonwealth.

Our Streetscape Project and PennDOT's piggyback of new handicapped curb cuts on Sunbury Street makes me very optimistic that it will not be pushed back again. But, keeping my fingers crossed.

The Streets Department will continue to address

- Continued on Page 6



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For signs of suicide:



# Borough Manager's State of the Borough

- Continued from Page 4

potholes. Sealing of cracked street surface areas is planned as soon as the weather cools down, allowing the sealant to cure and not be sticky. If you are aware of a missed pothole, please contact the Borough Office and a work order will be generated.

## Sewer Authority news

The Minersville Sewer Authority is now wrapping up Phase One of a project on Laurel Street. By the time this issue of the *Journal* is published, I expect this phase to be complete.

The project began at the intersection of St. Francis Street and finished at the intersection with Miners Alley. The work cost approximately \$486,875 and involved the installation of approximately 1000 feet of sanitary sewer and 1000 feet of laterals to residential properties.

Phase 2 will be started by early August. This phase will start at the intersection of Miners Alley and end at the intersection with Sunbury Street. Larger diameter pipes will be replacing the older narrow pipes found to be unable to handle the current volume of stormwater. This phase should alleviate the flooding on South Street often occurring during heavy downpours. The project is one of several planned Sewer Authority projects to comply with state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) mandates. The lowest responsible bidder, Arthur "Pat" Aungst, Inc., was

awarded the contract.

A new generator has been installed at the sewer plant, replacing one that has served since the construction of the plant in 1973. Failure of the old generator during a power outage would have been catastrophic for the Authority, resulting in significant violation penalties from DEP.

At this point, we are waiting for PPL Electric to  
- Continued on Page 8

## Attention 5th St. Residents

The Borough will conduct a mail-out survey of residents living along 5th Street between the intersection with Pine Street to North Street. All residents will be required to participate in the survey mailed in July. The purpose of this survey is to obtain the demographic status of the residents utilizing the sidewalk in that area of 5th Street.

The survey will take only a few moments of your time and is confidential. It is important that residents receiving the survey complete and return the survey in a timely manner. If required, the Borough will follow up by performing door-to-door surveys at residences that failed to respond.

If you have questions or concerns about the survey or the survey information mailed, please contact Megan Paul at 570-544-2149.

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# Borough Manager's State of the Borough

- Continued from Page 6

make connections to get the new generator online and then take the old generator out of service. You can see the newly-installed generator as you pass the plant on the Pottsville/Minersville Highway.

## Miscellaneous

As summer makes way for the cooler weather of fall, I want to mention a few reminders and tidbits:

- Have your heating system checked and chimney inspected. This can help ensure yourself a warm environment in your home; but, more importantly, keep you and your family safe.
- Test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms to ensure they are working in order to alert you when needed.
- With leaves falling from the trees, be careful driving in wet weather. Wet leaves create a dangerous situation in which a vehicle can slide out of control.
- Ensure your vehicle has routine maintenance done to avoid dead batteries, bald tires, ineffective windshield wipers, etc. It's all about your safety and the safety of others.

Due to the devastating impact Covid has had on our local businesses, their recovery from losses will continue to be a daily battle. I am asking all to PLEASE!!! PLEASE!!! continue to show your support in any way possible to all our local businesses. As business owners, they have invested blood, sweat, tears, and financial interests in providing great services to our hometown. When we support our businesses, we support their workers, who in turn help uplift the vibrancy of our downtown and surrounding neighborhoods. They are an integral part of our Minersville family.

In closing, my continued hope is that 2021 will go down in history as the year that we all united in

defeating the tumultuous calamities that last year brought. As the first half of 2021 is in the rearview mirror, I'm filled with a ray of hope which has grown significantly and has given me a strong belief that we have turned the corner and are heading in the direction of normalcy. However, we must all remain vigilant and steadfast in ensuring that we avoid pitfalls that can deter us - our march to that light at the end of the tunnel. We must make the commitment and stand firm as "Battlin Miners" to fight together and continue to make the remainder of 2021 a healthy, safe, and prosperous new page in this next chapter of our existence.

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

## Down Through History

Local historian, Joe Gayeski, shared newspaper clippings from the Pottsville Republican-Herald digging up historic memories from St. Stanislaus Church, the original factory now home to the Miners Lofts and Life Geisinger, Miner's State Bank, and other tidbits. Enjoy ...

• In May 1919, the Miner's State Bank opened. Its officers were George R. Dolbin, president; James Tobin, vice president; Wm. Reilly, secretary; and Valentine W. Quigel, cashier.

• In July 1919, the Coombe Garment Factory in Minersville was purchased by Bob and Baskind. The factory was enlarged and made the center of all factories around the district. This factory was destroyed by fire on May 23, 1929. A new 5-story brick building was erected and started work in March 1930.

• In August 1919, Phillips-Jones Manufacturing Company purchased ground for a factory. Quandel received the contract for the erection of the building and the factory began production in the early part of the year 1920.

• The new bell, which is to be placed on the new Polish church, was christened on Sunday afternoon (December 19, 1914) by Father Mason, of Philadelphia. The bell was beautifully decorated with flowers and a ribbon. The bell was named Stanislaus after the St. Stanislaus Society. After Father Mason rendered his service, the bell was tolled by each reverend who took part in the service. The bell will be put in the tower this week and will ring for the first time on Christmas.

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# Minersville Public Library Fundraising Appeal

## Programs and Services Continue With Your Help

From a humble beginning almost 90 years ago, the Minersville Public Library has grown to become a resource for residents of Minersville and the surrounding area. Along with a great selection of best-selling books, we offer computer resources for working on a school project, doing your taxes, looking for a job, or researching your very own family tree.

LIBRARY HOURS	
SUNDAY .....	Closed
MONDAY .....	Closed
TUESDAY .....	12 noon-7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY ....	12 noon-5 p.m.
THURSDAY .....	12 noon-7 p.m.
FRIDAY .....	12 noon-5 p.m.
SATURDAY .....	10 a.m.-4 p.m.

There is something for everyone at the Library. We hope you have experienced the options available to you; but, if not, please plan to visit us soon!

Currently, the Library is featuring Storytime for Children. We also offer community service opportunities for high school seniors looking to fulfill those obligations.

The Library would like to expand its program offerings for adults and seniors. We welcome your suggestions. If there is sufficient interest, we could offer programs on basic computer skills, beginners crochet, how to begin your family tree research, writing a resume, basic self-defense for women, etc.

### *Fundraisers and Fund Drive make it work*

Numerous fundraisers are held throughout the year to help keep our doors open and expand services and programming. New this year for Father's Day was a chance to win a RadRover5 Fat Tire electric bike. The event was so successful that we may do it again, either at Christmas time or next year in the spring.

One of our most successful past fundraisers was the Famous Purcell Brother's Bean Soup & Bake Sale. Always a huge "must enjoy" event, another soup sale is scheduled for October!

The annual Shop & Drop Christmas Basket Auction is always popular and will return this year. The Super Bowl Party Pack, including a big screen TV and gift



SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING - 220 S. FOURTH ST.

certificates for local restaurants, will return as well. Look for more exciting fundraising as we continue to bounce back from the COVID shut-down that temporarily closed all county libraries.

Your library can continue to maintain services and expand programs only through your help. State funding has not kept up with inflation and the basic cost of operations. Our annual expenses are approximately \$72,800. We receive \$26,017 from the state and local governments. Only through our annual Fund Drive appeal can the Minersville Public Library continue operations.

We are asking for your tax-deductible donation and on-going support to continue to meet the needs of our community. Please consider a donation in whatever amount you can afford. Donations in memory of a loved one are also welcome at any time. If making a donation in someone's memory, please include the name of the person being memorialized, a family member to be notified if you so choose, and your name and address.

Complete and clip the donation form printed here and mail to the Minersville Public Library, 220 S. 4th St., Minersville, PA 17954. A pre-addressed envelope has been inserted with this newsletter.

Follow us on Facebook for all the latest library news and fundraising opportunities!

## 2021 FUND DRIVE | MINERSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

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*What programs (for children, teens, adults, and seniors) would you like to see at the Library?*

\_\_\_\_\_

*- Please complete and mail with supplied envelope -*

# Minersville Halloween Events Back on Tap

## Haunted House, Parade, and Trick-or-Treat Return

This year's Halloween events in Minersville Borough will kick off on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 23-24. The community Haunted House will operate both nights with lots of scares and screams from 7 to 9 p.m.

The Borough's Halloween Parade will be held on Sunday, Oct. 24, stepping off at 6:30 p.m. Festivities will conclude a week later on Sunday, Oct. 31 with the Borough's annual trick-or-treat night from 6 to 8 p.m.

### Here's more on the Haunted House

The Carbon Street Scream Team, in cooperation with the Recreation Committee, will feature two nights of "The Fun House" - this year's version of the Borough's annual community Haunted House.

Held rain or shine, \$3 general admission tickets will be available at the door both nights. Reserved tickets can be purchased for \$5 - reduced from \$6 in 2019 - enabling patrons to set a specific entry time and avoid waiting in line.

Ticket sales will begin on or about October 1. Those interested can call or visit the Borough Office to reserve a timed-ticket sold in time slots of 15-minute intervals each night beginning at 7 p.m. through 9 p.m. Call early to purchase these limited-availability tickets.

### Much-anticipated Halloween Parade

Minersville's Halloween Parade will step off on Sunday, Oct. 24 promptly at 6:30 p.m. In the event of inclement weather, the parade could be postponed to Saturday, Oct. 30 at the same time.

Citizens wishing to create and enter a holiday float in the Halloween Parade should submit their entry form - available on the Borough's website at [www.minersvilleonline.com](http://www.minersvilleonline.com) or by calling 570-544-2149 - to the Borough Office.

Advanced registration is a MUST to participate.

The parade route will depart from the visitor's parking lot of the football stadium at 6:30 p.m. Marchers and vehicles will proceed south onto 4th Street, left onto North Street, then right onto North Delaware Avenue (past the Haunted House). Paraders will continue right onto Sunbury Street, right again on 5th Street, then right onto North Street and concluding at 4th Street.

At the conclusion of the parade, the Borough - with the support of generous community businesses and organizations - will provide hot dogs and drinks to all costumed participants of the Halloween Parade.

Note: This event is provided for the benefit of our costumed youth who have participated in the Halloween Parade.

### Trick-or-Treat

This year, Minersville Borough's Trick-or-Treat will be held on Halloween - Sunday, Oct. 31 from 6 to 8 p.m. In the event of inclement weather, Trick-or-Treat may be postponed to Monday, Nov. 1 between the same hours.

Gracious hosts should indicate their generosity by using their porch lights or other inviting gestures. 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.

Changes and updated information will be published in the next issue of *Miners' Journal* scheduled for delivery in late October.

## Gabriel Chamber Ensemble

*Our 32nd Year - 2021-2022 Season*



### CONCERT SEASON

*All concerts at Jerusalem Lutheran Church  
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- Sunday, Oct. 3 - Works for Piano and Strings
- Sunday, Nov. 7 - Works for Strings, Guitar and Castanets  
*Guest Artist: Guitarist Rusty Banks*
- Sunday, Feb. 27 - Works for Piano Quintet
- Sunday, April 3 - Works for Chamber Orchestra  
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### Gabriel Youth Orchestra - 12th Year

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# Reminders From Our Code Official

## *New ordinance regulates outside burning*

**Ordinance 336** - Regulates outside burning within the Borough; setting time limits, types of materials to be burned, and conditions under which burning will be permitted.

**Burn Container(s)** - Only manufactured fire pits, chimineas or fireplace kits with an Underwriters Laboratory label will be permissible. All burn containers must contain sides and cover as defined herein. All burn containers must be installed and used in accordance with the manufacturer installation instructions. Burn containers shall not be allowed to deteriorate to the point where they contain holes or missing surface on the structure. No homemade fire pits, outdoor fireplaces, incinerators, chimineas and other types of burning pits will be allowed within the Borough of Minersville.

Exception: Portable outdoor grills, fired by propane or charcoal, and designed for food preparation, are excluded from the provisions of this ordinance.

**Burn Container Cover** - a metal screen with spaces not more than one-half (1/2) square inch, or other comparable material, that covers the entire open area above the burn container opening. Such screen shall be maintained in good order as to prevent large particles from escaping the burn container during operation. The cover shall not be allowed to deteriorate to any point whereby it loses its maximum efficiency.

**Burnable Materials** - only seasoned firewood or the material permitted in the Burn Container manufacturer's instructions manual will be permitted to be burned in the burn container.

Burning, in compliance with this Ordinance, shall be permitted only between the hours of 8 a.m. to 12 midnight. Under no conditions shall burning, as defined herein, be permitted between the hours of 12 midnight to 8 a.m. Fires in burn containers must be fully extinguished and not be allowed to burn or smolder after 12 midnight. Any fires burning after 12 midnight shall be in violation of this Ordinance, and all those persons or corporations causing such fires shall be prosecuted under the guidelines of this Ordinance.

The use of gasoline or other accelerants cannot not be used to start fires in burn containers.

All burn containers must be kept ten (10) feet from any combustible structure. No burning container shall be used within five (5) feet of any property line or public sidewalk area. No burning container can be used for any other purpose.

More information regarding this ordinance is available on our website at [www.minersvilleonline.com](http://www.minersvilleonline.com).

## *Ash collection*

Please note our Curbside Service Ordinance in

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## *It's never too early . . .*

We are accepting applications now for school year 2021-2022. Our staff are busy adding names to the waiting list.

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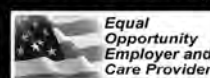
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# Reminders From Our Code Official

regard to Ash Collection within the Borough. This section states: All ashes created, accumulated or produced shall be deposited in one-bushel (15 gallon) steel tubs. Any steel tubs in excess of one bushel (15 gallons) must only have one bushel full of ashes in each container. All ash containers must be free of holes or rust. Any steel tubs in poor condition will not be collected.

## Electronics are not considered normal trash

As of 2013, landfills and other solid waste disposal facilities in Pennsylvania are not allowed to accept covered devices or their components. These devices must be recycled.

Prior to then, DEP regulations did not prohibit households from setting electronic devices with regular household trash. When the disposal ban went into effect, desktop and laptop computers, computer monitors, computer peripherals and televisions were required to be recycled responsibly.

DEP urges you to do your part for the environment by recycling, or reusing as many of your electronic devices as possible, in order to limit the number of those items and their hazardous components from entering the environment through landfills and other disposal activities.

These items are banned from placement for curbside sanitation collection or dropped at our N. Delaware Avenue compost/recycling site. If available,

the Borough will participate with Schuylkill County during its Fall Clean-up to allow these items to be taken for recycling.

## No Ifs, Ands, or ... Butts!

Your choice to smoke cigarettes is your own. Tossing that cigarette butt on public or private property - whether walking along a sidewalk or from the window of your vehicle - shows a disregard of society ... is considered littering ... could spark a grass fire, or worse, during dry and/or windy conditions ... and can cause problematic outcomes for our storm drainage system and,



ultimately, to our natural waterways.

Be a concerned conservator for the world in which we live. Extinguish your cigarette butt, stow it responsibly; take it home or dispose of it in a proper container.

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## Preserving a 207-Year-Old Union Cemetery

The Union Cemetery, originally called the Minersville Cemetery, began as a tract of land donated by Thomas Reed who first settled in Minersville in 1793. The cemetery is located on Fifth Street behind the current Saint Michael's church (adjacent to St. Vincent de Paul's cemetery).

Thomas Reed died in 1814 and was the first inhabitant buried in this cemetery. In 1844 a deed was recorded to hold the land in "trust" for the use of burial plots of inhabitants of Minersville.

Fast forward to 2006 when Minersville celebrated its 175th "birthday." We acknowledged that there was history to be found in old documents and photographs. Research began and many people were involved in starting a historical group in town.

MAHS now has a place of its own, at the History House at Third and South Streets, where we collect, identify, store, and maintain historical documents and artifacts. The society has taken on the role of "conservatorship" of the Union Cemetery.

In 2019, Minersville Area Historical Society contracted with a local cemetery conservationist, Eric Bella, to undertake the monumental task of conserving the Captain George Lawrence Monument - inscribed on the monument "ERECTED by the Members of Company A. 129th Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers to the memory of their beloved Captain George



NOW - CAPT. LAWRENCE MONUMENT - BEFORE

J. Lawrence who died at the Georgetown College Hospital, January 4th, 1863 from wounds received at the battle of Fredericksburg, Virginia, December 13, 1862."

The grand monument, that once stood with glory and valor, fell into disrepair over the last several decades. The retaining wall toppled. The once majestic eagle that adorned the top of the monument broke off and fell to the ground. The pure white marble monument was now green and black from mildew.

Going beyond conservation of the Captain George Lawrence monument, the Historical Society took on several other goals for 2021 and beyond for the Union Cemetery. Over the winter months, Mr. Bella had tirelessly researched all the Civil War soldiers buried in the Union Cemetery. In combination with research previously done by the late Deborah Nouzovsky, Eric was able to submit applications for new replacement

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# Minersville Area Historical Society

veteran markers for nearly all the buried Civil War soldiers in the Union Cemetery.

During the summer of 2021, the weathered illegible marble government markers will be replaced with new white granite government markers, honoring those soldiers who served our country.

To name a few of the notable soldiers buried in the Union Cemetery are Captain Horace Bennett, three Sergeants, three Corporals, Surgeon William Helwig, and many more in this small but significant cemetery. Charles Jenkins, who was killed on the first day of Pickett's Charge during the Battle of Gettysburg, is among those as well.

Minersville Area Historical Society's first goal is to complete the conservation of the Lawrence Monument, then install the replacement Civil War government markers. Once the veterans' graves are completed, Eric will move forward with the repairs necessary for any fallen, broken, and unstable headstones throughout the cemetery.

There are several trees that Mr. Bella will be cutting down this year that are endangering headstones. This should alleviate any future damages to the monuments themselves.

The Historical Society will seek funding for a fence around the cemetery and provide consistent care and maintenance for the cemetery. The Society would like to preserve this cemetery for the future, honor those who are buried there, and those who served in our



**LEFT - This simple footstone, marked only as M.W., will be replaced with the proper government issue headstone of Moses Weiser - RIGHT**

country's military.

This cemetery should not fall to the wayside and be a blight on Minersville area's history. We are always looking for resources to restore the cemetery. Financial donations along with volunteer assistance by individuals and organizations are necessary to maintain the cemetery.

Honor, Respect, Remember. We cannot and will not forget those who walked before us!

- Submitted by Eric Bella and M. Irvil Kear



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