



# MINERS' JOURNAL

Official Publication



Borough of Minersville

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

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BOROUGH OF MINERSVILLE, PA

October 2021

## Borough and Sewer Authority Projects Update

# Streetscape Contracts, Paving, and Sewer Line Work



**Bob Mahalchick**  
Borough Manager

I hope all are enjoying the fall weather and that you and your loved ones are healthy and safe. Personally, I enjoy the warm days and cool evenings.

Currently, Schuylkill County looks to be in the midst of a significant increase in COVID cases that may be attributable to the Delta Variant. With that in mind and the usual flu season upcoming, please do all that you can to remain healthy and safe.

To any of you who have been tragically impacted by this virus, I express my deepest condolences. For those of you or for a family member currently being treated for the COVID virus, I wish for a speedy recovery.

Here are some Borough and Sewer Authority updates:

### Streetscape project

Since the last issue of the *Miners' Journal*, I'm sure you've noticed all of the activity taking place on a section of Sunbury Street.

The PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Multi Modal \$736,000 "No Match Required" grant for streetscape improvements along Sunbury Street from the Commonwealth Financing

Authority has commenced. The contractor, Heim Construction, has begun demolishing and restoring sidewalks and curbs in the designated project area.

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.

Due to cost increases and nationwide material shortages brought on by the COVID pandemic, the decorative streetscape lighting will be delayed from Phase I to Phase II of the project. Designated locations for the lighting, however, will be prepped, wired, and ready for installation of the lighting.

## SANTA PARADE

**Sunday, Nov. 28**

**Parade – 5:30 p.m.**

**Visit with Santa? – Page 7**



We have submitted a grant application to the DCED for a Phase II to assist in the completion of the planned project awarded in the original grant. With the assistance of our local state senator and representative, we are hoping that DCED provides another 0% match grant. Pandemic-caused cost increases were beyond our control and additional funding will be required to finish the project.

In tandem with the streetscape improvements, a "No Match Required" grant funded by PennDOT will

*– Continued on Page 2*

## HALLOWEEN EVENTS

### HAUNTED HOUSE CANCELLED

Unfortunately, the Halloween Haunted House – previously announced to be returning this year following COVID-19 spread concerns in 2020 – has again been cancelled. The health and safety of residents and visitors – particularly for youngsters unable to be vaccinated – were again the reasoning. We look forward to the return of this very popular event in 2022!

**SUNDAY, OCT. 24** – Minersville Halloween Parade steps off at 6:30 p.m. Rain date is Saturday, October 30.

**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. Rain date: Nov. 1

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

## OFFICIALS

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 President of Council ..... Katielynn Milbrandt  
 Borough Manager..... Bobby Mahalchick  
 Secretary ..... Gloria Capik  
 Treasurer ..... Megan Paul  
 Tax Receiver..... Juliann Kowalchick  
 Solicitor..... Albert Evans  
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 Fire Chief..... Eric Eichenberg  
 Code Enforcement ..... Kyle Crouse  
 Health Officer..... Kyle Crouse  
 Emergency Mgmt. Coord..... Eric Eichenberg

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 Leigh Ann Cielinski, Secretary

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## SEWER DEPARTMENT

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 Joseph Carvajal

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## BOROUGH OFFICE

Megan Paul, Office Manager  
 Leigh Ann Cielinski • Jennifer Hossler

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

## 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).

# State of the Borough

- Continued from Page 1

replace all the ADA ramps on Sunbury Street - not only within the streetscape project area.

The original grant of \$266,000 would have covered the cost. As with the streetscape project, cost increases and material shortages resulting from the pandemic required a request be submitted to PennDOT for an increase in funding. PennDOT accepted and approved our request and has provided an additional \$84,000 to complete the ADA ramp project. We are deeply appreciative to PennDOT for partnering with us. Heim Construction will also be doing this project.

Other than the streetscape lighting, the project

- Continued on Page 4

## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Interested in sending a subscription to a friend or distant relative?

Living outside the borough limits but would like to receive a copy?

Future issues of the *Miners' Journal* can be sent to the address you provide for a nominal fee. Simply contact [minersnewsletter@hotmail.com](mailto:minersnewsletter@hotmail.com) with your mailing address or call the borough office during normal business hours . . . 570-544-2149.

# MAMMOTH MATERIALS

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# Borough Manager's State of the Borough

- Continued from Page 2

is tentatively expected to be completed by December 2021. With a positive response to our request for Phase II, the streetscape lights installation should be completed in the spring next year.

## Streets maintenance

In communications with PennDOT, I've been informed that state highway Rt. 901 (Sunbury Street) is scheduled for curb-to-curb milling and paving sometime in the spring of 2022.

Needless to say, I was overjoyed to get that information. My concern is this same optimistic projection has been issued a number of times only to be delayed due to budget issues at the Commonwealth level. Keeping my fingers crossed.

The street department will continue to address potholes. In addition, crack sealing has begun with the cooler weather upon us. Cooler weather allows 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.

With the winter months in the not too distant future, we remind all residents - whether property owners or renters - to follow all snow-related ordinances and to show courtesy to our street staff and your neighbors during snow events.

## Sewer Authority news

The Minersville Sewer Authority has finished its Phase I of a project on Laurel Street. The project began at the intersection of St. Francis Street and finished at the intersection with Miners Alley.

Costing approximately \$86,875, the project entailed the installation of approximately 1000 feet of sanitary sewer and 1000 feet of laterals to residential properties.

Phase II began in mid-September, starting on the Sunbury Street side of the municipal parking lot and progressing to where Phase I completed at Miners Alley and Laurel Street.

Larger diameter pipes will be replacing the older, narrow pipes that have been unable to handle the volume of stormwater currently being realized.

This phase should alleviate the major flooding problem South Street has been experiencing during heavy downpours. The project is just one of other projects the Sewer Authority has planned to comply with PA DEP mandates. Arthur "Pat" Aungst Inc, is the contractor for Phase II.

Other ongoing Sewer Authority projects include the installation of a new generator at the sewer plant, replacing the generator that has served since construction of the plant in 1973. Failure of the old



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**Guest artists:** Rusty Banks, composer/guitarist and Eva Conti, flamenco dancer

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[www.gabrielensemble.org](http://www.gabrielensemble.org) Gabriel Chamber Ensemble



# Borough Manager's State of the Borough

generator during a power outage could have been catastrophic for the Authority, resulting in significant violation penalties from DEP.

At this point, PPL is making electrical connections to get the new generator online and make the old generator inactivate. The new generator is visible as you pass the plant on the Pottsville/Minersville Highway.

In addition, flood prevention gates are being installed in the lower level of the sewer plant. Major rain events resulting in the creek overflowing its banks had the potential to cause electrical and physical damage to the plant.

## Miscellaneous

As the fall season changes to winter, I want to again issue a few safety reminders and tidbits:

- Have your heating system checked and chimney inspected to ensure a warm home environment and to guard against an emergency, keeping you and your family safe.
- Test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms to ensure they operate whenever needed.
- Ensure your vehicle has routine maintenance done to avoid dead batteries, bald tires, ineffective windshield wipers, etc. It's all about your safety and others.

Finally, local businesses continue their battle-back from an economic downturn brought on by the COVID pandemic. PLEASE, PLEASE continue to

show your support in all ways possible to our local businesses. Each business owner has invested blood, sweat, tears, and financial interests to provide 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, I wish you and your family members have a healthy, safe, happy, and enjoyable Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year.

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

## MINERSVILLE POLICE

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**544-6212** ..... Office

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# Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

## Halloween parade is Sunday, Oct. 24

Minersville knows how to celebrate Halloween! Activities kick off on Sunday, Oct. 24 with the annual Halloween Parade of ghouls, goblins, super heroes, princesses, service organizations and floats, business entries, and fire and ambulance vehicles. Inclement weather could postpone the parade until the following Saturday, Oct. 30.

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

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.

## Trick-or-Treat on Halloween night

If Borough officials determine it is safe to do so, youngsters dressed as ghosts, goblins, witches, and princesses will take to the streets on Halloween night,

Sunday, Oct. 31 for the Borough-designated Trick-or-Treat night from 6 to 8 p.m.

Children 12-years of age and younger are invited to participate, but should canvas streets in a group or



**2nd Annual  
Minersville Lions  
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Registration is open until December 10, 2021

Judging will take place on December 15, 2021, please have lights on no later than 7pm for our judges

**Two Categories**  
**Traditional - Lights, garland, wreaths, smaller scale**  
**Modern - Blow ups, larger scale decorations, light show**

Registration is \$20, please fill out the form and send that with payment to Minersville Lions Club, PO Box 461, Minersville, PA 17954

**Prizes to the top three places in each category**  
 Any questions, please message our facebook page or email [richk\\_minersvillelions@gmail.com](mailto:richk_minersvillelions@gmail.com)

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# Borough Services Update . . . And Events!



accompanied by a responsible adult.

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.

## *Santa is coming to Minersville*

The Minersville Recreation Board will sponsor a Christmas parade on Sunday, Nov. 28, featuring the arrival of Santa Claus and welcoming the holiday season.

Santa's reindeer will be resting for their Christmas Eve trip, but Santa will have other special transportation for the event. The fire truck



parade will begin at 5:30 p.m.

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

## *Haunted House is cancelled for this year*

The Carbon Street Scream Team, in cooperation with the Recreation Committee, regrettably has cancelled its very popular Halloween Haunted House again this year in the interest of public health and safety, particularly of youngsters not eligible for COVID virus vaccinations.

The community can look forward to the return of the Haunted House in October 2022.

## *Borough Office holidays*

The Minersville Borough offices and employee operations will be closed in observance of the following holidays for the balance of 2021: Thursday, Nov. 11 (Veterans Day); Thursday and Friday, Nov. 25-26 (Thanksgiving); Thursday, Dec. 23 (half day, close at 11 a.m.) and Friday, Dec. 24 (Christmas, observed); Thursday, Dec. 30 (half day, close at 11 a.m.) and Friday, Dec. 31 (New Year's Day, observed).



- Continued on Page 8



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# Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

- Continued from Page 7

## Create your own holiday wreath or swag

The Schuylkill County Master Gardeners will host a workshop for participants to create their own unique wreath or swag for the holiday season and learn how to keep it fresh and beautiful.



The workshop will be held at Evergreen Acres tree farm, 135 Fort Lebanon Road, Auburn, on Saturday, Nov. 13 from 10 a.m. to noon. The registration deadline is Friday, Nov. 5 with a fee of \$5 plus the cost of supplies - greens, wire, ribbon and decorative natural materials for \$10 (swag) or \$20 (wreath). Call 570-622-4225 or emailed to [schuylkillmg@psu.edu](mailto:schuylkillmg@psu.edu).

## Public access to Borough meetings

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

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

Meeting dates, times, and public access can be found on the Borough website: [minersvilleonline.com](http://minersvilleonline.com).

## 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. 7, 2022. Be sure to have your tree out no later than 7 a.m. and that it is free of ornaments, bag, and stand. In the event of inclement weather, collection could be rescheduled to Friday, Jan. 14.



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.

## Ash collection

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

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

## Trash and recycling collection

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

Recyclable materials - unbroken glass containers,

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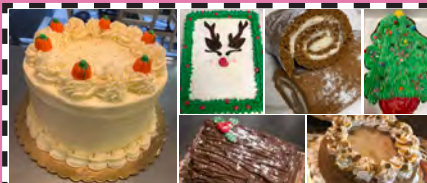


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# Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

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

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

## Fire safety is important all year

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

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

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

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

## Shovel those walks

After a snowfall, PLEASE shovel your sidewalk!

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

## No reserved parking

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

## 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.

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[mark@mahal-ritzel.com](mailto:mark@mahal-ritzel.com)

# Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

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## 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.

## 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 on the next page 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](mailto:minerswateremergency@comcast.net). Also, add this address to your contact list so you are sure to receive the notifications.

## Minersville Municipal Water Authority Emergency Notification By Phone

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

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

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

Clip and Mail to:

Minersville Municipal Water Authority,  
2 E. Sunbury Street, Minersville, PA 17954

Contact the 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.

## Lots of ways to pay your utility bills

Minersville Borough property owners and residents have many options to make payment for Water, Sewer, and Sanitation services.

Pay online through the Borough website - [minersvilleonline.com](http://minersvilleonline.com) - by credit/debit card or by e-check. There are separate fees associated with this option that will be added to the payment amount. To make payments online, you will need the account number and a PIN (Personal Identification Number).

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

Direct withdrawal from your bank account can be arranged. The Water Authority and Sewer Authority tab on the Borough website have the authorization form for completion with instructions to mail or deliver to the Borough Office. Direct withdrawal payments will be taken on the billing due date.

Questions regarding these online methods for bill payment? Contact the Borough Office at 570-544-2149. Of course, payments can also be made with cash, check, or money order in person at the office, Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; or mail (no cash) to the office at 2 E. Sunbury St., Minersville.

## Schuylkill Dental Medicine

### Michael R. Kudryk

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# Reminders from Code Enforcement

## Planning That Next Project? You May Need a Permit!

When planning projects, please remember to contact the Borough Office regarding Building Permits.

Permits are required for all new construction and all replacements or alterations of roofs, windows, doors, garage doors, electrical, plumbing, heating systems (including supplemental heating units), sidewalks, curbing, fencing with 6' maximum height, chimney replacement, or installation of liners, foundations, swimming pool and hot tub installation, oil storage tanks, sub-flooring, and interior renovations.

Adding to your existing structure, i.e. new decks and enclosing decks, will require a building permit and a zoning permit. Zoning permits are administered by the Schuylkill County Zoning Office; contact the office at 570-628-1415.

If you are contemplating replacing your windows, please be aware when shopping around for windows that all windows installed in this area must have a U-factor of 0.30 or lower. This number has been established under the 2015 Uniform Construction Code adopted by the State of Pennsylvania and enforced throughout Pennsylvania. If the windows do

not have the proper U-factor, they will not pass code inspection.

Any individual with seasonal/temporary swimming pools (24 inches or greater in depth), must take down those pools each year by September 15 and cannot be installed the following year prior to May 15. These pools require a permit and inspection to verify proper installation and barriers. Seasonal/temporary swimming pool permit applications are available on our website: [www.minersvilleonline.com](http://www.minersvilleonline.com) under



the Code Enforcement tab.

If you require a dumpster for construction demolition, you need to get a permit. The permitting process will provide information as to appropriate placement of the dumpster and other needs for public safety, protection of property, and making the work as easy as possible for all concerned.

If you have any questions regarding any of these items, please feel free to contact our office at 570-544-2149.



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## Kick Off the Holiday Season in Minersville! Welcome Santa on Nov. 28 with a Parade

### 2021 Remaining Holiday Schedule

*Minersville Borough Offices will be closed  
the following days*

Thursday - November 11th | Veterans Day

Thursday - November 25th | Thanksgiving

Friday - November 26th

Friday - December 24th | Christmas (Observed)

Friday - December 31st | New Year's Day (Observed)

The Borough Office will close early at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 23 and Dec. 30

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

