



MINERS' JOURNAL

Official Publication



Borough of Minersville

www.minersvillepa.gov

Vol. XVI, No. 1 - Issued Quarterly

BOROUGH OF MINERSVILLE, PA

February 2023

First of a 4-Part Series Traces Minersville High School Football

Wild Events Led to 1921 Sch. County Championship

The earliest known account of schoolboy football at Minersville dates back to 1894. It was then that our fledgling mining town played the boys from the county seat in Pottsville, losing, 42 to 0.

At the turn of the 20th century, football was still a relatively new sport to local schools, starting and sputtering at many places, including Minersville. High school athletics were not organized, or followed, with the same intensity as they are today. Due to the lack of interest or reporting, there are only two known football games played by Minersville in the 1890s, both losses to Pottsville in 1894 and again in 1896.

In 1901, Minersville played a six-game schedule, two against Pottsville High and the rest against club

- *By Shayne Schafer* -

teams including the Busy Boys and the Garfield Street Juniors, both of Pottsville. Early scholastic football was unregulated. Schools played other schools, but also regularly played against club or company teams. They would play fellow teens and grown men alike. Schools were frequently accused of recruiting ringers, adults, or non-students to help win a tough game.

Football was an irregular sport at Minersville until 1910. Since then, we've fielded a team continuously. These early teams had no field and no coach. Games were played at "The Foot," an open field along the West Branch of the Schuylkill River towards Duncott near Trail Towing today. By 1914, games were played

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Borough Manager's State of the Borough

Supply Chain Delays Slow Sunbury St. Completion

With a new year upon us, I want to wish you all a healthy, safe, and prosperous 2023. Following is an update on Borough happenings.

Streetscape Project

The goal line for the completion of the "No-Match" Multi Modal Streetscape Grant Project on Sunbury Street, from Delaware Avenue to 4th Street, is within sight. Without any unexpected or unforeseen delays, completion is anticipated this spring. The total grant funding received (and NO expenditure layout by our taxpayers) for the project is \$1,581,236.



Bob Mahalchick
Borough Manager

of streetscape decorative lighting is nearing completion.

- Installation of the decorative streetscape lighting was slated to start the first week of October. Unfortunately, the supply chain problems brought on by COVID, has resulted in a new tentative completion date of early to mid-spring.

- The final phase of the sidewalk replacement portion - Third Street to Fourth Street block - has been completed.

Streets maintenance

The Streets Department will continue to address potholes. If you are aware of a missed pothole, please contact the Borough Office and a work order will be generated. In addition, we are evaluating and ranking roads for this year's paving projects.

With the winter months still with us, we remind you to follow all snow-related ordinances and show courtesy to our street staff and your neighbors during snow events.

Sewer Authority news

The Sewer and Water Authority's joint project

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2023 BOROUGH OFFICIALS

2 East Sunbury Street
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 Hours: Mon.-Thurs., 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Fri., 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
www.minersvillepa.gov

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 Borough Manager..... Bobby Mahalchick
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BOROUGH OFFICE

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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 takes place on the First Tuesday. The Business Meeting is then held on the Second Tuesday.

2023 OFFICIAL HOLIDAY HOURS

Minersville Borough offices will be closed in 2023 in observance of the stated holidays - Presidents Day, Feb. 20; Good Friday (half day, close at 11 a.m.), April 7; Memorial Day, May 29; Independence Day, July 4; Labor Day, Sept. 4; Columbus Day, Oct. 9; Veterans Day, Nov. 10 (observed); Thanksgiving and day after, Nov. 23 and 24; Christmas, Dec. 22 (half day, close at 11 a.m.) and Dec. 25; New Year's, Dec. 29 (half day, close at 11 a.m.), Jan. 1, 2023.

State of the Borough

- Continued from Page 1

on Pine and Jones completed. The of the replace-storm, sanitary on Pine Street, 4th streets, along restoration of the



streets has been project consisted ment of existing and water lines between 3rd and with full width street.

Miscellaneous

With the winter season still upon us, I want to again mention a few safety reminders and tidbits:

- Have your heating system checked and chimney inspected to ensure yourself a warm environment in your home; but, more importantly, to keep you and your family safe.
- Test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms to ensure that they operate.
- 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.

In closing, I want to kindly ask you all to team up with our Council, Mayor, myself, and our employees to tap the vast potential our hometown possesses. Together, we will aggressively pursue opportunities to improve the quality of life for all our residents, making Minersville the best it can be.

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History of Minersville High School Football

- Continued from Page 1

at Minersville Athletic Association Park, the same field the Pottsville Maroons played on, and the current site of Kings Village.

Until the mid-1910s most teams had no coach, but rather a player-manager, a fellow student who organized the team and scheduled the games. Our earliest-known coaches were George Prosser (1915), Joel Wheelock (1916), and Thomas Brennan (1917).



"THE COMEBACK"
Yearbook comic commemorated the win over Pottsville.

Notably, Joel Wheelock was a former Carlisle Indian and teammate of Jim Thorpe. Wheelock was in the area playing semi-pro football and was contracted by the school to prepare Minersville for their Thanksgiving Day game against bitter rival, Pottsville. Wheelock's instruction was successful; Minersville beat Pottsville for the first time ever to the tune of 31-0.

Another notable team from this era was the 1914

squad - led by captain Algert Alexis and fueled by the play of future Penn athlete, Herman Harvey. The Miners racked up 304 points to their opponents' 54 and went 6-and-2 on the season. This team gained impressive wins over Tamaqua (22-0), Hazleton (20-6), and Ashland, (130-0). While not decided on the field, Minersville crowned themselves county champions for their efforts.

Herman Harvey was an early standout for Minersville. In 1915, his junior year, he set the school single-game scoring record with nine touchdowns in an 83-0 win over Orwigsburg. Harvey was a 3-year starter and a prolific scorer in a time when football was known for many low-scoring affairs. Harvey scored 44 touchdowns and 278 points in three seasons. He went on to play football and baseball at Penn University and was captain of the baseball team for a short stint in his senior year.



**CAPTAIN
"HEINIE" HARVEY**

In the early days of high school football, championships weren't always decided on the field. As remembered in 1914, Minersville crowned themselves champions based on the strength of their schedule and wins. If no other schools challenged that claim to the title, it was decided that way.

Disputed claim settled on field

In 1921, Minersville played and won their first county championship on the field. Helmed by first-year coach James Davis, Minersville finished the season 6-and-2. Minersville laid claim to the county title with strong wins against Tamaqua (6-0), Pottstown (8-6), and Coaldale (35-0). They didn't lose a game to a county opponent and their two losses were from two strong Northumberland County programs - Mount Carmel and Sunbury.

Shenandoah challenged Minersville's claim to

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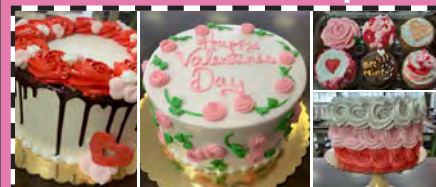


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History of Minersville High School Football

- Continued from Page 4

the title. Sporting a 5-3 record, Shenandoah had strong wins against Tamaqua, Mahanoy City, and Lansford. They similarly lost to Mount Carmel and Sunbury, plus a loss to Bloomsburg State Normal School, now known as Bloomsburg University.

It was decided the Scholastic County Championship would be played on Thanksgiving Day at M. A. A. Park. Both schools were confident they'd leave with the championship. Captain Melvin Jenkins told the Pottsville Daily Republican he believed his squad could down Shenandoah, while Shenandoah's coach Al Symbal didn't worry about Minersville having the home-field advantage, claiming his boys would beat the Miners by three scores.

It rained the day of the game and Symbal telephoned Minersville to tell them he refused to play in the inclement weather. The Daily Republican commented that the field was in fine shape to play ball and reported the field had been in much worse shape with games played. Multiple calls were made in vain and many holiday plans were ruined.

The game was rescheduled for Saturday and it

rained all morning. Symbal's complaint of rain backfired; the field was now in worse shape than it ever was for a game. The field had turned entirely to mud.



1921 MINERSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SQUAD - COUNTY CHAMPS

Minersville scored on their first possession in the first and third quarters. Most of the game was a positional battle with teams trading punts. Minersville outlasted Shenandoah! Two hundred and fifty fans were witness to the Miners' first County Championship won on the field. The team, students, and their fans assembled at the high school to celebrate the victory.

This wasn't the end of the story though, Symbal decided to challenge the results. The coach claimed both of Minersville's touchdowns were illegal and that his squad was treated unfairly by the officials. Symbal requested a new game at a neutral site.

Minersville responded in the newspaper that Symbal agreed to play at Minersville and that any complaints were in vain. Both touchdowns were deemed legal by the officials, they stated, "This is a poor alibi of Coach Symbal and it makes Shenandoah look as if they were poor losers."

They conclude the defense of their title by saying, "Does this look as if Shenandoah should have another chance? We feel sure that M.H.S. will keep her title which was fairly won Saturday, November 26, 1921."

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Ian Mahal Named to the PA Sports Hall of Fame

101 Goals Playing for Minersville Area High Soccer

Minersville Borough Council President, Ian Mahal, was inducted into the Allen-Rogowicz Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame in October of this past year. The honor marks Mahal's soccer career, playing for Minersville Area High School, through the 2022 season.

Mahal began playing soccer at the age of five under the guidance of his father, Mark, and enjoyed a successful high school and travel soccer career.

Mahal ended his tenure at Minersville Area High School with 101 goals and 54 assists. He ranks in the top 30 in all-time points. He was named to the Schuylkill League Division II first team all four years, was a three-time Republican Herald first-team selection and a second-team selection his freshman season. In his senior season, he was a PA Soccer Coaches Association All-State selection and Republican Herald Co-Player of the Year.

Mahal also played travel ball for four years with the Schuylkill County Predators and was a team cap-



tain. Following high school, he played a season for Penn State Schuylkill before halting play to focus on academics.

From 2005-10, Mahal was an assistant girls' soccer coach at Minersville Area, helping the Miners win several Schuylkill League Division II titles and three District 11 championships.

In addition to coaching soccer, Mahal worked at the Schuylkill County Probation Office, PA House of Representatives, and PA Department of Agriculture. He serves as the council president of Minersville Borough and the secretary-treasurer for the Schuylkill Land Bank, where he has focused on revitalization and blight initiatives. He also serves as a board member on the Schuylkill County Transportation Authority and teaches political science as an adjunct professor at Penn State Schuylkill.

Mahal holds a B.S. in criminal justice from Penn State University and a Masters degree in public administration from West Chester University. His sister, Holly, is a previous Allen-Rogowicz inductee.



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Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

Street sweeping resumes in early spring

Weekly street sweeping has halted for the winter months but will start up again as spring arrives. Residents and property owners will be notified through the Borough web and Facebook pages.

Check the permanently posted sign on your street for day and time. All vehicles must be moved to enable efficient and effective cleaning of the streets.

Questions? Contact the Borough Office at 570-544-2149, during normal business hours, Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Trash, recycling and yardwaste

The N. Delaware Ave. complex is available for disposal of compostable (vegetative) yardwaste only. Recycling drop-off is no longer available. Access is strictly for residential properties by using a Borough-issued card to activate the gate. Facility hours are 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily during winter months and 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. spring through fall.

This complex is under 24/7 high-definition video surveillance. Ashes and salt located at the site are for Borough use only. Anyone caught dumping; vandalizing; trespassing and/or stealing within the complex will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Recyclable items are now strictly by curbside pick-up as a means of disposal. A limited number of blue bins are available at the Borough Office (one

per household). If you need more than one, you can use any plastic container; but, it must have holes for water drainage and be 25 gallons or less (a laundry basket works best).

The entire Borough - both North Side and South Side, denoted by Sunbury Street - receives sanitation services every Tuesday. All waste should be placed curbside between 6 p.m. and midnight the night before pick-up. Garbage containers must be removed from the sidewalk area after sanitation collection is completed.

The collector will pick up a limit of five 30-gallon bags - each not exceeding 40 lbs. for a maximum 200 lbs. per location. All containers must be secured and bags properly tied.

One large item is allowed per week along with your trash. Any mattress placed curbside for pickup must be wrapped in plastic. No appliances (washers, refrigerator, stove, sinks, etc.) or Freon-bearing appliances will be collected.

Recyclable materials must not be placed in the trash. Violators may be prosecuted as per Borough ordinance.

Approved recyclables will be collected curbside per the following schedule - North Side on the first and third Wednesday each month; South Side on the second and fourth Wednesday each month. There is no collection when there is a fifth Wednesday.

Compost "do's/don'ts" and Recycling guidelines

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Gabriel Chamber Ensemble



Gabriel Youth Orchestra

Newsletter Particulars

"Miners' Journal" is a quarterly newsletter of the Borough of Minersville distributed to 2,500 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 dates for the next three issues are:
May 4, August 3, and October 19, 2023

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.

Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

are shown on Pages 15 and 16, respectively, of this newsletter.

Additional information for both recycling and compost regulations can be found on the Borough website - minersvillepa.gov - by selecting the "services" tab.

Help available for heating costs

Residents struggling to pay home heating bills can apply for assistance from the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) now. This program runs until April 28, 2023.

The federally-funded LIHEAP program helps individuals and families pay their heating bills through home heating energy assistance cash grants sent directly to your fuel/utility provider. The program includes crisis grants should there be an emergency or if a resident is in danger of losing his or her heat due to broken equipment, lack of fuel, or termination of utility service.

The income limit for an individual is \$20,385; for a couple, the limit is \$27,465; and for a family of four, it is \$41,625. The grant award amounts vary from \$300 to \$1,000 depending upon income, fuel source, and household size.

Residents may apply for LIHEAP online or by contacting your County Assistance Office.



Snow play can be fun, but dangerous

While children enjoy playing in the snow, it becomes dangerous when playing on snow piles along the streets. Hours and even days after a snowfall, Borough plows continue to widen traffic lanes and clear parking areas.

Parents, please caution your children not to play near streets or other vehicular areas. Plow operators may not be able to see them burrowing or sliding in the snow.

What to do in an emergency?

In any emergency, call 9-1-1. This will connect you to the Schuylkill County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) with trained staff and cutting edge communications to dispatch the necessary medical, fire or police services quickly and efficiently.

If there is a non-emergency need to contact the Minersville Police Department, call 570-544-2333 or the office at 570-544-6212.



During and after a snowfall

Snow and ice bring countless problems for all of

- Continued on Page 10

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Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

- Continued from Page 9

us. Getting our roads open after a heavy snowfall is a difficult job and our Street Crew employees put in long hours to clear the roads and ensure our safety. Next time it snows and you see the snowplow coming down the street, wave at them ... with all of your fingers ... and say thanks.

After a snowfall, shovel your sidewalk. Borough Ordinance 317 requires snow and ice to be cleared from the sidewalk within 12 hours after a snowfall.

In addition, the ordinance prohibits depositing the snow into the street. This can create hazardous conditions and slows the process of clearing the streets in other areas.

No reserved parking

We all know the frustration of having to spend hours shoveling snow from our vehicle in order to get to work. That frustration sky-rockets upon return home to find someone has taken that cleared parking space. Unfortunately, the street is open to the public and residents cannot reserve the space once cleared.



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.

Coal ash collection only

Minersville Borough collects ashes curbside during the year for both the convenience of the property owner and as a benefit to the Borough. During January and February, collection is two times per week on Tuesdays and Fridays. All other months, collection will be once per week on Tuesdays only.

These ashes are recycled as anti-skid material that is put on streets during ice and snow events each winter. ONLY COAL ASH is to be contained within ash bins placed curbside for collection.

For the safety of motorists, street crew members and their equipment, rocks, dirt, or other debris should not be placed in your bins. Any such foreign material may damage the spreaders.

Borough Office holidays

The Minersville Borough offices and employee operations will be closed in observance of the following upcoming holidays: Monday, Feb. 20 (Presidents Day); closing at 11 a.m. on Friday, April 7 (Good Friday); and Monday, May 29 (Memorial Day).

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, shown 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. 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



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2 E. Sunbury Street, Minersville, PA 17954

through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Friday, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Repairs and improvements

When planning your spring and summer projects, remember to contact the Borough Office regarding Building Permits. Permits are required for all new construction and all replacements or alterations to roofs, windows, doors, garage doors, electrical, plumbing, heating systems (including supplemental heating units), sidewalks, curbing, fencing (six feet 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 or enclosing decks) requires a building permit and a zoning permit. Zoning permits are administered by the Schuylkill County Zoning Office; call 570-628-1415.

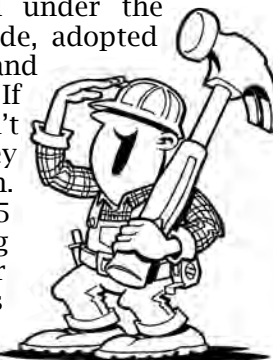
If you are replacing windows, all windows installed in this area must have a U-factor of .32 or lower. This number has been established under the 2018 Uniform Construction Code, adopted by the State of Pennsylvania and enforced throughout the state. If your replacement windows don't have the proper U-factor, they will not pass code inspection.

Also, be aware a permit (\$25 fee) is required before placing a dumpster on the street for demolition/construction debris disposal.

If you plan to install a new driveway, there is a preliminary driveway application that must be approved by the Borough Council before committing to the driveway.

Contact the Borough Office at 570-544-2149 for info regarding making repairs and improvements.

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Minersville PA 17954

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Minersville Area High School Basketball

Gymnasium Named in Honor of Coach Thomas Fitzpatrick

51 Years of History Played Out on Minersville Court

Compiled and Written by Jerry Sitkus

On the night of November 28, 1972, the Battlin' Miners boy's basketball team played Schuylkill Haven in the first game held in the "New" High School gymnasium. Before the game, the gymnasium was dedicated and named in honor of former coach, Thomas Fitzpatrick.



The Miners defeated Schuylkill Haven by a score of 57-49 to record the first victory in the new gym.

How quickly time flies! This year's 2022-23 Battlin' Miners girl and boys' teams will mark the 51st year of play in the Fitzpatrick gymnasium. Since the 1972-73 season, the boys have won

four District Championships, the last being in 2016.

The 1979-80 squad won the program's first ever District game. The 1980-81 team was the first to win



a District Championship. The boys have competed in the playoffs almost every year and have more than 500 victories played since the gym's inaugural season.

The girls' first season in League competition was the 1972-73 season. A total of 24 girls were on the JV and Varsity squads. The following year, a total of 32 girls turned out for the team, rivaling boys' basketball and wrestling for the winter sports spotlight. The enthusiasm of the girls would help make this sport an integral part of the MAHS winter scene for many years to come.

After the first few initial seasons, the girls improved enough to consistently make the playoffs. In 1988, the team won their first ever Division Title in Schuylkill League play. The girls have three Schuylkill League Championships; seven District Titles, the latest coming in 2022; and the program's first ever State Championship in 2017, finishing undefeated with a record of 31-0. The team is approaching 600 program wins.

Individual standouts aplenty

The Battlin' Miners have had many excellent ball players since that 1972-73 season, featuring 19 girls and 13 boys individually scoring more than 1000 career points. The first player to accomplish this milestone was John Sborz in 1975; the first girl was Colleen Houston in 1976. Kim Homa has the most points scored in a career with 3,151, which is also the most in Schuylkill County All-Time. Kim's brother, Jared, heads the boys' list with 1,979 points. Reighly Melochick also ranks high on the career scoring list with 2,003 career points.

This season, both teams are playing well and should compete for a League or District Championship. With a bevy of good young talent and a knowledgeable and experienced coaching staff, the Battlin' Miners should have a future filled with success, keeping that torch of honor bright defending its glorious name. Hopefully the next 50 years will be as successful as the past 50!

So please come on out and watch these fine athletes compete on the court. You will not be disappointed.

NBA star played on Miners' court

As a highlight sidenote, future professional basketball star, Sam Bowie, played here in the Thomas Fitzpatrick Gymnasium on November 28, 1975. At that time, he was a freshman at Lebanon High School. His team beat the Miners, 53-47, but Bowie did not score in the game.

Bowie later played for the University of Kentucky

R&J TOURS – 2023

DAY TOURS

Mar. 30 – "My Mother's Italian" @ Tropicana; \$25 FSP	\$95
April 1 – "Sister Act" @ Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre **	\$99
April 5 – "Murder at Mount Hope Mansion"	\$89
April 11 – "Four by Four" @ Wind Creek Casino; \$30 FSP	\$81
April 15 – Washington DC Free Day	\$62
April 22 – NYC Free Day	\$59
April 27 – Kenny Rogers Band @ Tropicana; \$25 FSP	\$95
May 6 – National Zoo	\$62
May 6 – Phillies vs. Boston Red Sox	\$92
May 7 – Peddlers Village Strawberry	\$39
May 7 – Phillies vs. Boston Red Sox	\$87
May 13 – "Grace for President" @ DADT	\$58

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April 16-18 – Tropicana Casino	\$258
May 21-23 – Seneca Casino Trifecta	\$389
May 30-31 – Frankie Valli Trib@Resorts World Cataskills	\$197
June 4-6 – Resorts Casino	\$316
June 4-8 – Virginia Beach	\$612
June 18-23 – Mackinac Island	\$1,998

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Borough Services

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Landlords must register

The Residential Rental Ordinance requires landlords to register their rental properties with the Borough yearly, providing insurance information, and designating a property management agent if the landlord lives outside a 10 mile air radius of the Borough.

The ordinance also calls for the inspection of each unit every two years and re-inspection prior to any change of occupancy. A one-time fee is required for each occupant of a rental property for the length of tenancy.

Failure for either the landlord or occupants to abide by this new ordinance will result in citations being issued by the Borough. Rental inspection costs \$50 for the first unit plus \$20 for each additional unit in the building. Reinspection costs \$30. Rental registration costs \$10 per year.

The occupancy permit costs \$10 per person with the fee waived for persons age 65 and older.

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and was chosen for the 1980 Olympic team. That year the United States boycotted the Moscow Olympics. He was drafted second overall out of college in 1984 (ahead of Michael Jordan who was chosen third by the Chicago Bulls) playing professionally for the Portland Trailblazers, New Jersey Nets, and Los Angeles Lakers.

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Winter Tips from the Minersville Water Authority

When there are extreme frost conditions, the risk of frozen water lines may occur. If your home has had issues in the past or when your water temperature falls below 40 degrees Fahrenheit, you should IMMEDIATELY start running a continuous pencil-size stream of cold water from one faucet. Monitoring temperature is your first line of defense.

When starting to run your water or if you see or hear water running from any neighboring properties (especially vacant properties), notify the Water Authority IMMEDIATELY at 570-544-2200 during office hours or 570-527-6165 after hours.

There are several measures that can be taken to prevent winter water disasters:

- Make sure all water lines to outside faucets are turned off and drained.
- Eliminate drafts. Check around the home for areas where water supply lines are located in unheated areas and take measures to prevent the flow of

cold air in these areas. Look in the basement, crawl space, attic, garage, and under kitchen and bathroom cabinets for these supply lines



- Consider wrapping or insulating your water lines, especially those lines near outside walls, under the house, or in the attic. Insulation supplies are available at your local home improvement or hardware store. Be sure to insulate hot and cold lines in these areas, as either line could freeze in cold weather.

- If you plan to be away from your home,

keep the thermostat at a reasonable temperature to ensure all areas with water lines stay above freezing.

- Winterize your sprinkler system. Contact your irrigation system installer or a certified plumber for detailed instructions.

If you are planning to interrupt or permanently stop the heat source in your home:

- Contact the Water Authority to locate and turn off the main water service valve. After the valve is turned off, open a faucet on each level of your home to allow for expansion should the water that has not yet drained freeze. Remember to close all opened faucets before your main water service is turned back on.

- If you are staying in your home, or will be monitoring your home frequently, allow a faucet to drip cold water slowly. At a minimum, the faucet you select should be the greatest distance from your main water service valve. Also, consider allowing a slow drip in areas that are least protected from the cold, such as basements, crawl spaces, attics, and garage.

* * *

If you think you have frozen water lines:

- 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. This will allow warm air to circulate. Remove any toxic substances first if there are small children in the home.

- 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 the water department at 570-527-6165. Please be advised, after-hours charges will apply.

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Minersville Compost Drop-Offs – Do's & Don'ts

Compost Site

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS

All items must be free of plastic bags or unacceptable debris



Leaves



Grass Clippings



Garden Vegetation



Tree Branches
(no longer than 5 ft in length and no larger than 6 inches in diameter)

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS

- Tree Stumps
- Construction Materials of any nature including by not limited to:
 - Lumber
 - Drywall
 - Concrete
 - Bricks
 - Asphalt
- Scrap Metal
- Pallets
- Rocks
- Ashes
- Glass
- Food Waste
- Animal Feces
- Styrofoam
- Hazardous waste (paint, pesticides, cleaners)
- Any oil (including used motor oil bottles)
- Medical Waste
- Furniture
- Trash
- Mattresses
- Tires
- Any item not listed as acceptable



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Curbside Recycling Guidelines



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If your recycling bin contains anything other than these items, it cannot be picked up.

Items not accepted

- Styrofoam
- Electronic waste (batteries, cell phones, etc.)
- Hazardous waste (paint, pesticides, cleaners)
- Any oil (including used motor oil bottles)
- Aerosol & Paint Cans
- Yard Waste
- Light Bulbs
- Medical Waste
- Windows
- Plastic Bags
- Toys
- Appliances
- Furniture
- Trash