



# MINERS' JOURNAL

Official Publication



Borough of Minersville

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

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BOROUGH OF MINERSVILLE, PA

February 2022

***New Members - Terry Raffety, Ashley Securda, and Joe Slovick***

## Council Reorganization Is First Order of Business

Local municipal elections take place biennially, the most recent this past November. Roughly, one half of Minersville Borough Council positions reached the end of their previously elected terms. Those members either decided to run for election for another term or declined to run, moving on to other endeavors. Elections to fill vacant seats open the opportunity for any civically-minded resident to share their leadership and ideas, striving for a better Minersville.

At the beginning of each new calendar year, Minersville Borough conducts a "reorganization" to reestablish its elected and non-elected



personnel, staff committees, and set the business agenda to carry the Borough through the year.

Minersville Borough said good-bye and offered thanks for the time, commitment and service given by three former Council members - Stephen Darosh, Robert Umbenhen, and Sarah Newton - and welcomed three newly elected members to Council - Terry Raffety, Ashley Securda, and Joseph Slovick. The new Council then elected Ian Mahal to head its proceedings as President.

Residents and property owners, meet your newest members of Minersville Borough Council.

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## Borough Manager's State of the Borough

### "No Match" Grants Upheld Despite COVID Price Spikes



**Bob Mahalchick**  
Borough Manager

With all of us having to deal with another COVID-19 variant - Omicron - I'm hoping this issue of *Miners' Journal* finds you all healthy and safe. To any of you who have been tragically impacted by COVID-19, I want to express my deepest condolences. For those of you currently being treated for the virus or have a family member in the same situation, I pray for a speedy recovery.

Here are some Borough and Sewer Authority updates since our last newsletter.

#### **Streetscape Project**

Since the last edition of the Journal, I'm sure you've noticed that all activity on a section of Sunbury Street has come to a stop. The stoppage is a result of the arrival of cold weather and the impact it plays in obtaining material such as asphalt, concrete, etc., and the curing process of both materials.

At this point, all the sidewalk and curb replacements in the project area have been completed. ADA ramps on the corners in that area are at about 90% completion. This spring, the decorative streetscape lights will be installed to complete this major project

on our main street.

After the start of the project, we were dealt a setback regarding the original cost of \$736,000 for the project that was to be totally covered by the PA DCED Multi-Modal "No Match Required" grant awarded to the Borough. Unfortunately, COVID-19 resulted in significant material cost increases that jeopardized the completion of streetscape improvements as designed and approved.

The Borough was now looking at a cost of \$1,231,236 ... \$495,236 above the original. Conceivably, we had 2 options - (1) be satisfied with the new sidewalks and curbs ... and call it a day; or, (2) apply for another "No Match" grant for the additional in order to complete

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## 2022 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 ..... Ian Mahal  
 Borough Manager..... Bobby Mahalchick  
 Secretary ..... Gloria Capik  
 Treasurer ..... Megan Paul  
 Tax Receiver..... Heidi Hashin  
 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

Mike Firestine • Jamie S. Kuehn  
 M. Ian Mahal • Katielynn Milbrandt • Terry Raffety  
 Ashley Securda • Joseph Slovick

### POLICE DEPARTMENT

Michael Combs, Chief  
 Craig Barket • Matthew Bartal • Jeffrey Bowers  
 Harry Brown • Michael Bucek • Richard Clink  
 Kyle Crouse • Joseph Ferraro • Joseph Kavanaugh  
 Michael Layton-Herron • Ryan Murphy • Ethan Powell  
 Justin Ruhl • Douglas Springer • Timothy Walsh  
 Eric Wilson • Andrew Weaver  
 Leigh Ann Cielinski, Secretary

### STREET DEPARTMENT

Edwin Houser, Street Supervisor  
 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 takes place on the First Tuesday. The Business Meeting is then held on the Second Tuesday.

### 2022 OFFICIAL HOLIDAY HOURS

Minersville Borough offices will be closed in 2022 in observance of the stated holidays - Presidents Day, Feb. 21; Good Friday (half day, close at 11 a.m.), April 15; Memorial Day, May 30; Independence Day, July 4; Labor Day, Sept. 5; Columbus Day, Oct. 10; Veterans Day, Nov. 11; Thanksgiving and day after, Nov. 24 and 25; Christmas, Dec. 23 (half day, close at 11 a.m.) and Dec. 26 (observed); New Year's, Dec. 30 (half day, close at 11 a.m.), Jan. 2, 2023 (observed).

## New Council Members

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### Terry Raffety

Terry Raffety is looking forward to serving the residents of Minersville. In 2007, he moved to Minersville with his wife Janet. They have three children, seven grandchildren, and seven greatgrandchildren.



**Terry Raffety**  
Councilor

Terry graduated from Hazleton Senior High School and served six years in the U.S. Navy. Later, he attended East Tennessee State University (Johnson City, TN) majoring in Business Management. He then worked in manufacturing for 35 years in the corrugated paperbox industry.

In 2012, Terry and his wife decided to open a business in Minersville. They bought the building at 236 Sunbury Street, spent three months remodeling the ground floor, and then opened Myrtle May's Café in October of 2012. The Café operated successfully until December of 2020 at which time pandemic restrictions causing business closures led to an early retirement.

From his time as a business owner in the Borough, Terry has developed a love for the people and would

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905 E Main & Park Lane  
Hegins, PA 17938

# New Borough Council Members Seated

- Continued from Page 2

like to help to improve the lives of the residents. He's excited about the support and looks forward to accomplishing many improvements in the community. He would like to encourage everyone to attend council meetings and share with the council.

## Ashley Securda

Ashley Securda, Esq., currently resides in Minersville with her husband, Leo, their two daughters Raegen and Kennedy, and their dog, Teddy Roosevelt. She obtained her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Misericordia University and obtained her Juris Doctor from Widener University. Ashley is an attorney licensed in the state of Pennsylvania. She is currently a Partner with the law firm of Williamson, Friedberg and Jones, LLC., where she practices in the area of elder law. She also has extensive experience in municipal law serving many municipalities throughout her career.



**Ashley Securda**  
Councilor

Ashley was inspired by her husband to get involved with Borough Council. As Leo previously served as Minersville's Mayor, she saw first-hand how passion and drive can make the community a better

place. Ashley is eager to continue making progress in the Borough alongside her fellow council members.

## Joe Slovik

Joe Slovik is a lifelong resident of Minersville and a 2002 MAHS graduate. He has worked in local businesses, primarily in the service industry, since he started working at his father's restaurant in high school.



**Joe Slovik**  
Councilor

In 2015, he married his wife Brenda and, a year later, the couple welcomed their first child, Aidan, in May of 2016.

Joe contemplated running for Borough Council for many years and, after speaking to friends and family who encouraged his decision, he reached out to current council president Ian Mahal and Mayor Sean Palmer for some advice on what the position entailed and if he should pursue a campaign. Joe is very "pro-business" and states support for current businesses and creating opportunities for new businesses as high priorities for him moving forward.

Another of his goals is to make life better for future generations. This would include improving quality-of-life for all by keeping landlords responsible for both their properties and tenants, giving children more things to do, and infrastructure improvements. Joe believes that with better business, better neighbors, and an ever-improving infrastructure, Minersville will once again be a Borough to which people choose to move.

Joe was named the chairman of the Community Development and Public Property Committee of Borough Council.

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# Borough Manager's State of the Borough

- Continued from Page 1

the full revitalization project.

A decision was made to aggressively pursue Option # 2, with the hopes that DCED would agree the cost increases were beyond our control. Gratefully, we were notified via phone and press release on November 19 that the Borough was awarded the additional \$495,236 needed to complete the project.

To summarize, the Borough received two grants totaling \$1,231,236 with NO expenditure layout by our taxpayers. 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 19 decorative streetlights emitting a brighter light on the sidewalk sides of Sunbury Street between Delaware Avenue and Third Street.

In tandem with the streetscape improvements, a project funded by PennDOT will replace ALL the ADA ramps on Sunbury Street, not just the streetscape project area. We were originally awarded a grant of \$266,000 to cover the cost. As with the streetscape project, cost increases and material shortages resulting from the pandemic required a request be submitted to PennDOT for the increased funding. PennDOT accepted and approved our request and has provided an additional \$84,000, bringing the total grant contribution to \$350,000. As with the streetscape project, this is "No Match" funding ... again meaning NO

expenditure layout by you, the taxpayer.

## Streets maintenance

In communications with PennDOT, I've been informed that state highway SR901 (Sunbury Street) is scheduled for curb-to-curb milling and paving sometime this spring. Needless to say, I was overjoyed to hear that information. My only concern is that I've been told that for a number of years only for the project to be delayed due to budget issues at the Commonwealth level. Keeping my fingers crossed.

The street department will continue to address potholes. As residents become aware of any new ones, contact the Borough Office and a work order will be generated. With the winter months upon 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 Minersville Sewer Authority's final phase work in the area of Laurel, South, and Sunbury streets, has been halted because of the cold weather. The projects were planned to comply with PA DEP mandates.

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

Phase II of this project started in mid-September. This phase started on the Sunbury Street side of the municipal parking lot. It will end where Phase I finished at Miners Alley and Laurel Street. Larger diameter pipes will replace the older, narrow pipes that were unable to handle the current volume of stormwater. Completion of this phase should alleviate the major flooding problem that South Street experiences during heavy downpours.

A new generator at the sewer plant, replacing one that has served since construction of the plant in 1973, has been installed and is now online. Failure of the old generator during a power outage would have been catastrophic for the Authority and would have resulted in significant violation penalties from DEP. You can see the new generator as you pass the plant on the Pottsville/Minersville Highway.

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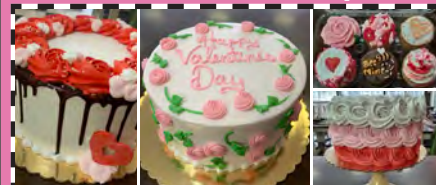
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# Borough Manager's State of the Borough

Flood gate installation has been completed at the lower level of the sewer plant. This will prevent electrical and physical damage to the plant should the creek overflow during a heavy rain event.

## Miscellaneous

Winter weather is a strong reminder to attend to home and vehicle maintenance.

- Have your heating system checked and chimney inspected to ensure yourself a warm environment in your home and to keep you and your family safe.
- Test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms to ensure they are operational.
- 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.
- Following all snow or ice events, clean and/or treat your sidewalk or pedestrian right-of-way for the safety of all those traversing along that route.

Local businesses continue to battle back from the COVID pandemic. 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 to provide great services to our hometown. When we support our businesses, we support their workers. They, 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 to thank the elected officials, completing their terms in office as of the end of 2021, for their time, dedication, and service to our community. As we begin 2022, congratulations to our officials re-elected and newly elected. I look forward to working with each and every one as we team up to tap the vast potential our hometown presents. Together, we will aggressively pursue opportunities to improve the quality of life for our residents and make Minersville the best it can be.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve all of you and provide you with this update on the state of our Borough. To all, a healthy, safe, prosperous, and happy New Year! **Minersville On The Move!**

## Who Ya Gonna Call?

Borough Office . . . . .	544-2149
Police Department . . . . .	544-2333
(non-emergency)	
Water Authority . . . . .	544-2200
Sewer Authority . . . . .	544-2149
Tax Collector . . . . .	544-5735



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### Sunday, February 27



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### Sunday, April 3

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# Glimpse of Minersville's Mining History Revealed

## Subterranean Relics Found at Washington Hotel

In addition to enjoying a beverage or a meal at the Washington Hotel - located on the southwest corner of Second & Sunbury streets - you also, unknowingly, visited a piece of local history.

Owner/operator Brandon Kopinetz recently gave the *Miners' Journal* private access to the basement of the building in order to expose some of the hidden history that it contains.

"There are showers and lockers ... I'm guessing for the miners to use," Kopinetz speculated as he revealed the various basement areas. "There were two basement entrances from the street level and a back staircase that would have bypassed the current bar/restaurant area and led directly to the second-floor rooms."

It can be surmised that miners, possibly residing at the hotel, would enter the subterranean level from the street, utilize the lockers for their work clothes and supplies, clean themselves of coal soot and debris in the showers, and then use the back staircase to retire to their room for the night. The locker and shower areas are located below what is currently used as the main dining area.



What is also clearly visible throughout the basement area is a decorative inlaid tile that would only make sense if the space was a publicly-accessed area. The tile frames out the floor starting at the street level entrance and runs around the perimeter of the room directly below the current bar area. It includes a few decorative designs and a semi-circle focal point near the center of the room.

Kopinetz commented, "It doesn't seem that the tile was added later, but rather installed when the building was built." Yet, all of this is simply a hypothesis.

At the end of the tour, Kopinetz requested, "If there is anyone out there with any direct knowledge of the Washington Hotel or any historical artifacts, such as liquor licenses or photographs, I would love to know."

"Obviously, this is an old building that was used to host meetings for local organizations, celebrations for sports teams, and funeral dinners for loved ones. I'd love to learn what might be hidden in someone's attic that might be able to tell us more of the history."



### 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 5, August 4, and October 20, 2022

### News Submittals

Nonprofit and community organizations within the borough are invited to submit news items for consideration. Written submittals must be received at the borough office three weeks prior to the publication date. Simply E-mail info to [minersnewsletter@hotmail.com](mailto:minersnewsletter@hotmail.com) or call 570-544-2149.

### Advertising

Businesses wishing to reach every household in the Borough of Minersville are invited to advertise in future issues. Contact South Schuylkill Printing & Publishing for more information. Call Barb @ 570-385-3120. All advertisements must be received at least three weeks prior to the publication dates. Ad content is subject to approval and acceptance by the Borough of Minersville.



# Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

## Help available for heating costs

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps families living on low income pay their heating bills in the form of a cash grant. There are crisis grants also available for households in immediate danger of being without heat.

Income guidelines must be met. The program is now taking applications for the 2021-2022 heating season. The income limit for an individual is \$19,320; for a couple, the limit is \$26,130; and for a family of four, it is \$39,750. The grant award amounts vary from \$200 to \$1,000 depending upon income, fuel source, and household size.

Grant hopefuls can apply online through the PA Department of Health and Human Services COMPASS website at [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us); download the application to complete and take it to the Schuylkill County Assistance Office at 2640 Woodglen Road, Pottsville; or apply at the county Assistance Office. Call toll-free at 1-877-306-5439 for more information.

## 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 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

- Continued on Page 10



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# Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

- Continued from Page 9

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 skyrockets 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, resi-

dents 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.

## Recreation complex rules

With warm weather around the corner, please adhere to the following ordinance and rules at the Borough recreation complex:

- No dogs
- No riding of skateboards, bicycles, scooters, and rollerblades
- No forms of tobacco
- Playground is closed from dusk to dawn. Police will use judgement during Little League season.
- Age maximum for playground use is 12 years old. Exemptions made for those supervising their children.

The complex is under camera surveillance and monitored by police.

## Borough Office holidays

The Minersville Borough offices and employee operations will be closed in observance of the following upcoming holidays: Monday, Feb. 21 (Presidents Day); closing at 11 a.m. on Friday, April 12 (Good Friday); and Monday, May 30 (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:

### R&J TOURS – 2022

March 12 – Philadelphia Auto Show .....	\$53
March 19 – Pinkalicious @ DADT .....	\$53
March 31 – Yakov @ Tropicana <b>\$25 FSP</b> .....	\$89
April 2 – Spring Doo Wop @ AMT .....	*\$102
April 6 – Murder at Mt. Hope .....	*\$89
April 9 – Singing in the Rain @ DADT .....	*\$99
April 9 – Washington DC Free Day .....	\$56
April 12 – Resorts Casino AC <b>\$20 FSP</b> .....	\$67
April 15 – David with Hershey Farms .....	*\$128
April 20 – Delaware Park <b>\$30 FSP</b> .....	\$46
April 27 – Bermuda Triangle .....	\$92
April 28 – Forever Young @ Caesars <b>\$25 FSP</b> .....	\$92
Call for Dates – NYC Free Day .....	\$50

### OVERNIGHT TRIPS

April 24-25 – Turning Stone Resort & Casino.....	\$253 pp DBL
April 28-May 1 – Virginia International Tattoo.....	\$789 pp DBL
May 2-3 – Gettysburg.....	\$299 pp DBL
May 20-24 – Trains of West Virginia.....	\$1290 pp DBL

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# Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

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

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

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

- Phone Method - Complete the form, shown above, 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.

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

### Repairs and improvements

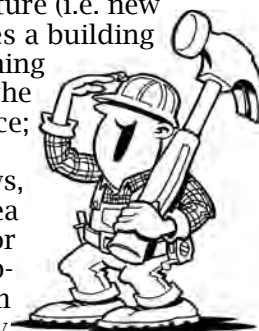
When planning your spring and summer projects,

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.



- Continued on Page 12

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# Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

- Continued from Page 11

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 information regarding making repairs and improvements on your property.

## **Landlords must register**

The Residential Rental Ordinance requires landlords to register their 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.

Contact the Borough Office for registration/permits and with questions concerning this ordinance.

## **Minersville Library ... more than books**

The Minersville Public Library, 220 South 4th Street, is a tremendous resource for area residents. In addition to its depository of books including large print editions, periodicals, e-books and audio books, movies on VHS and DVD, your library provides public computer access, WiFi internet connection for your own devices, plus photocopy and fax services.

Parents and grandparents caring for children will appreciate many of the special programs offered to cultivate a young person's appetite for reading and learning, including a regular Story Time and the library's collection of educational toys and puzzles. Thanks to a preschool collection grant, the library acquired a set of literacy kits available for checkout for work/enjoyment at home. Each kit has items and/or puppets pertaining to the story and an activity sheet to reinforce the story.

The Minersville Public Library is now available from your home computer. Services include searching book availability, reserving books and renewing a book already borrowed. Your library is a member of the Pennsylvania Power Library Network providing access to thousands of full text periodical articles, newspapers, and reference materials for all ages.

Spark PA can be accessed from your home computer through the Minersville Public Library's website [www.minersvillelibrary.org](http://www.minersvillelibrary.org), allowing you to remotely reserve a book, check book availability, and renew your borrowed book. All you need is your library card number.

## **Nondiscrimination policy**

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

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

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

## **Attention contractors**

Minersville Borough maintains a list of contractors for the Borough's Housing Rehabilitation Program funded with Community Development Block Grant money. Interested contractors can obtain eligibility requirements and an application by contacting the Borough's Grant Consultant at 570-875-7320 (TDD users 7-1-1 PA Telecommunications Relay Center).

Minority (MBE) and women owned (WBE) businesses are encouraged to participate. Applicants will not be discriminated against, on the basis of race, color, religion, handicap, disability, ancestry, national origin, age, sex, or familial status.

## **Be pet responsible!**

Borough Ordinance 324 requires dog owners to keep the dog confined to their own property. When walking your dog, the animal must be on a leash. The person walking the dog is responsible to clean up any fecal matter discharged by the dog. On the pet owner's property, fecal matter must be removed within 24 hours to prevent the accumulation from becoming a danger to public health.

## **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).

## **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.

## Borough Services

### *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 (570-544-2149) to send a letter to your billing address with the PIN. For your security, your PIN 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.

## New Year, New Business

### The Hoagie House



The Hoagie House, located at 236 Sunbury Street (formerly Myrtle Mays Café), opened its doors on January 3, featuring hoagies, wraps, salads, soups, hoagie trays and more. Minersville's newest business is open daily from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. for eat-in or take-out orders. Call ahead at 272-224-2439.

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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.



**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.

Children are selected for enrollment in April and May so don't wait and miss your opportunity.

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# Avoid Backups – Keep Our Sewer Running Free

## Flush Only Toilet Tissue; Collect, Dispose of Grease

Our Sewer Department has been receiving an increase in sewer blockage calls. But note, your Sewer Authority is responsible only after it leaves your property, from the curb to the main and beyond. If you are experiencing a sewer issue in your home, your first call should be to your plumber.

If you have a joint sewer line with a neighbor, you should contact the other party on the line to make arrangements for repairs. But there are simple, common sense practices all homeowners, renters, and businesses can follow to prevent sewer backup issues before they begin.

- Toilet tissue is the only easily dissolved cleanup product to be safely flushed down your toilet. Don't be fooled by marketing ploys that claim other items are "flushable." The manufacturers of such products won't be paying to have your sewer lines cleaned out.
- Feminine products - Tampons and other feminine hygiene products are not to be flushed down the toilet.
- Cooking grease/food - Grease should never be poured down any drain, period. It may look like a liquid that can easily be dumped down a drain; but, when it cools, it will congeal and clog your pipes. Collect your grease in a glass jar and throw it in the trash.
- Baby wipes/wet wipes/cleaning pads - These "adult baby wipes" are becoming increasingly popular nowadays. They are also increasingly

causing clogs and backups in sewage pipes. If you must use these, throw them away in the trash can. Flushing wet wipes can easily turn into an expensive problem when you have to call a plumber to snake your toilet.

- Dental floss - Floss is not biodegradable. It can cause serious clogs and environmental damage.
- Q-tips/cotton balls - You might think that cotton will break down, but it doesn't! It clumps together, causing blockages at bends in the pipes.
- Diapers - Just because there is human waste inside does not mean these are "okay" to flush. Diapers are made to expand in water. In the unlikely case you actually get the diaper to flush, it will likely cause a blockage.
- Pills - Never flush prescription or non-prescription medications. They have toxic effects on groundwater supplies. Many police departments and pharmacies will accept your expired and unused pills for proper and safe disposal. Information can be found at the state website: <https://apps.ddap.pa.gov/gethelpnow/pilldrop.aspx>
- Paper towels/tissues - Tissues and paper towels are not made to dissolve like toilet tissue; throw them in the trash.
- Cigarette butts - Cigarettes are full of toxic chemicals that end up going straight into the groundwater supply. If you have to smoke, throw the butts away properly.



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- Medical Waste
- Windows
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- Appliances
- Furniture
- Trash

**If you would like to drop off your recycling, the site is located at end of N. Delaware Ave.**