

THE FOREST CITY NEWS



Our area lost two fine folks last week in Forest City's Jeff Bostic and Pleasant Mount's Nick Nebzydoski. Both were valued parishioners of the area's Roman Catholic Community. Jeff and his lovely wife, Joan, moved here in retirement after Jeff's career in education. He was very active in Forest City's Ascension parish as a lector and for his establishment of bible study classes. Nick's passing, at age 35, is a devastating blow to his family. He was owner of Neb's Fencing and, as an entrepreneur, found an active business in the area natural gas fields. Two vastly different fields and ages for these two fine men but just one more example of the fragility of human life. Our deepest condolences to both these grieving families.

One busy guy last week as a result of our almost one foot of snow was Ascension Parish caretaker Bob Duffy. With daily Masses and funerals, Bob was up early moving snow on sidewalks, steps and parking lots. In addition to taking care of the building maintenance, he also serves as sacristan in preparing the altar for Masses; and is also a Eucharistic Minister. In addition to taking care of his grandkids, he also provides his aid to area friends in need. The retired mail carrier is used to long days but there never seems to be a dull moment in his life.

Our hats off to Forest City street crews who did a great job keeping our town's roads open and drivable last week and also previously this winter. Also a job well done to the PennDOT plows who have been very good handling Dundaff Hill and Main Street. Granted, there were times when quick snow squalls made Dundaff Street very slippery but it wasn't long before it was taken care of.

In addition to having to clear a large amount of sidewalks and property, the crews of North-Eastern Telephone Company have been clearing and salting the sidewalks of the Forest City Area Historical Society building after every storm this winter. Owners Edward and Steven Tourje have been most generous in providing much service to the Society. Just one more example of the long-time community-minded service provided to this community by NEP Telephone over the years.

Haven't run into many folks in this area who have NOT been afflicted with some form of malady this past month. The News Office was like a TB ward with the coughing and colds recently. Many local folks say they never remember colds and pulmonary illnesses as serious as this winter.

A legal medical marijuana distribution facility may be a real possibility in Forest City. A Zoning Board hearing on the matter will be held, Tuesday, Feb. 21 at 7PM at the Boro Hall. There is also an inquiry to Clinton Twp. about a marijuana growing facility in that Township. Seems like Gov. Wolf's action to legalize medical marijuana in Penna. could lead to an economic boom for the state?

The cookies from Cornerstone Bible Church brought a smile to the faces of News employees as they just noted how hungry they were Friday morning before lunch! Thanks for spreading good will and cheer!

No new costs involved in Finishing storm water lines

Forest City Borough Council at its Feb. 6 meeting approved an additional \$164,102 for Leeward Construction to do additional work on the storm water project. The money comes from the approximately \$1.5 million left over from the USDA loan on the completed sewer project.

Council President William D. Orasin said that there will be no additional billing to local residents since the present sewer bills cover the entire amount of the USDA loan.

Orasin said Council will require Leeward to complete the storm water project by June 30, 2017 and provide a schedule of completion for all items in the project. Council was requiring such a schedule to avoid a repeat of the many issues which arose at the end of the sewer project.

According to KBA Engineer Gary Wilding the funds will also cover installation of new pumps and a new collection pit at Kennedy Park to stop infiltration of pond water into the town's sewer system.

SNOW PLOWING
Councilman Bernie Scalzo said the town will try to address some of the snow plowing issues by going back to some streets, in the days after a storm, to plow after cars have been moved.

Councilman Bob Lesjack said work on the 2nd floor of the Boro Building should be completed in six weeks. Much of the work has been done. The new desk in Council Chambers is being built and the chairs are being re-upholstered.

PARK GRANT
Councilman Ed Pearsall said bids will be sought for the new basketball and tennis court under the recent grant. He said he heard from Bob McGraw, Lindeco, Pleasant Mt. Welding and Rotary Club about new basketball hoops. He said he

would like to have a grand opening when the courts are completed.

Park Board member Tony Wilcox said the Board would like to have two chicken BBQs this year at the park and one could be at the grand opening.

MAIN ST. COORDINATOR
Council received three applicants for the new Main St. coordinator job. They will be interviewed and the selection made at the March meeting. Pres. Orasin said all three are very qualified and the selection will be difficult.

Councilman Nick Cost said he and the new coordinator will send letters to Main St. businesses and property owners to see what can be done to improve the Main Street and the business community.

UNION DALE POLICE
Union Dale Mayor Keith Foster asked if Council would consider providing police protection to that town such as FC does for Vandling. After discussion of some pros and cons with Chief Jim Johnson and Mayor Pauline Wilcox, Pres. Orasin named a committee to study the matter. The committee is Nick Cost, Bernie Scalzo and Pres. Orasin.

POLICE MATTERS
Mayor Wilcox submitted resignations of part time police officers Matthew Batzel and Claud Neer. Batzel went to the State Police and Neer joined Lackawanna County Sheriff. There are now five part time officers.

Chief Johnson said a trial radio system will be installed to be sure the new radios will operate properly in town.

Council approved attendance of Chief Johnson and Officer Foley at a 3-day drug investigation training course at Willow Grove at cost of \$930.

SIDEWALK LAW
The new sidewalk ordinance was reviewed. A question was

raised about allowing piling of snow on the curb on Main St. and what might occur if the snow piles accumulate affecting access to meters and businesses. The law will be advertised for passage next month.

The new ordinance regarding siting a marijuana distribution facility in FC was reviewed. Since the state now legalized medical marijuana distribution, towns cannot restrict them but can designate where they will be located. The FC law places them in C-2 zones which include the Rte. 247 corridor between FC and Browndale.

The law prepared by Solicitor Paul Smith was approved by Susq. County Planning Commission. It will now require action by FC Zoning Board and Planning Commission and a public hearing Feb. 21.

ZONING ISSUES
Solicitor Smith said FC's former zoning attorney Fred Moase has agreed to continue as FC Zoning Solicitor at \$85/hr.

Smith said Wayne Memorial Hospital will be seeking a zoning hearing on the use of the Legion Hall as a local clinic. Their request to the Zoning Board for a zoning permit was declined so a hearing will be requested.

OTHER BUSINESS
Eric Burns, pres. of Forest City Baseball/Softball presented a check for \$1,000 to Council toward the matching grant for the KP tennis/basketball courts.

Council member Joann Matarese said the 2015 Liquid Fuels Audit was approved with no issues. At her request, Council approved an additional \$2,500 for the annual sewer audit since it involved over \$75,000. She also reminded Council members they must submit their annual "Statement of Financial Interests" forms.

Marijuana Farm being considered in Clinton Twp.

by Theresa Opeka

Road issues and the possibility of a medical marijuana facility were among some of the items discussed at the Wednesday, February 8 meeting of the Clinton Township Supervisors.

MINUTES CORRECTION
Supervisor Ken Coles made a correction to minutes of the re-organizational meeting. He said they cannot appoint Jason Firmstone as constable but he can still work as a constable in the township.

PAYROLL
Supervisor Brian Non made

a motion to have the township's payroll done twice a month. He said the road workers wanted to get paid twice a month. Coles and Supervisor Russell Curtis voted no because it would be too costly. Motion failed.

OIL VS. CALCIUM
Discussion on what material to use on the township's roads was next: oil versus calcium. Curtis said calcium is 10-15 cents cheaper than oil. "Why don't we spread our own calcium? We spent \$3,000/mile last year on oil. It costs \$600 a ton for calcium." Don Salak said, "Some roads

should be done in calcium and the others oil and you could do a sampling of the material." Coles agreed and made a motion to put out flake calcium, liquid calcium and oil for bid. All voted in favor. Motion passed. They also voted in favor of putting out DSA (modified) and grading for bid.

RADIOS
Non said they got three used radios for the trucks that will replace one since it could not be replaced. The four wheel drive in the New Holland tractor went out and is getting fixed.

PLOWING
Non said, "Ravnikar, Flat Rock and Maple Roads are currently being taken care of by Josh Debevec, but if we get done with our other roads first, we will come help Josh. But, the purpose is not to have 2 trucks on the same road."

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Snow & ice Cause school Stoppage #12

It was a record school closing number 12 for Forest City Regional School District Monday, Feb. 13. The regular monthly Board meeting was still scheduled for that night.

Forest City and surrounding area picked up another 8-inches of snow over the weekend with intermittent ice, sleet and rain. Monday saw winds in the 20-30 mile range and temps in the 20s.

FCR Elementary Drama Club performance Feb. 17 & 18



The Forest City Regional Elementary Junior Drama Club will be performing its first production, "The Mysterious Case of the Missing Ring," on Friday, February 17th at 7:00 PM and Saturday, February 18th at 3:00 PM. In the mystery, the royal ring is missing and the Queen has no clues! The Queen won't let anyone rest until all 13 of the Royal Detectives are on the scene and the case is solved! Admission for each performance is \$3 for adults, \$2 for students and senior citizens, and Free for children age 3 and younger. All performances will take place in the Forest City Regional Auditorium. Members of the group pictured above are: Front row: Daniel Almasi, Hunter Johnson, Blake Menotti, Billy Williams, Sydney Hodges. Row two: Emily Frisbie, Kelly Lesjack, Gabrielle Pleska, Arcadia Houman, Emily Matoushek, Cara Langman, Breanna Howe. Row three: Joshua Russo, Ayden Crawford, Rhys Fournier, Arianna Verduyssen. Row four: Chase Evans, Elisabeth Smith, Hailey Gray, Kamryn Lonczinski, Olivia Casper, Wyatt Wellman-Krizovich. Absent from photo are Sage Bilko, McKenzie Johannes, Emma Jo Burrasca, Caleb Brown, Randi Ewain, Kailina Floccari, Lilly Wagner, and Jack Akers. Join us for the first production of this brand new performing arts group! Thank you for your continued support!

Herrick Twp. joins GFCBA; Hears plowing complaints

by Theresa Opeka

Discussion on whether or not to join a business alliance and poor road conditions during a recent winter storm were just some of the items discussed at the Monday, February 6 meeting of the Herrick Township Supervisors.

OLD BUSINESS
In old business, Supervisor/Secretary Nancy Harvatine said she got the CD at PS Bank. The township can make six withdrawals per month and they have unlimited deposits.

Harvatine gave Supervisor Brian Zembrzycki the sign inventory checklist. The township received a check for \$996.96 for a truck alternator that was recalled. The check covered the whole amount that was paid for it.

ZONING VIOLATION
Zoning Officer John Watts gave a notice of violation to a property on Stark Road and for the property owner to remove vehicles since the property is not zoned for commercial use.

GFCBA
The supervisors discussed whether or not they should join the Greater Forest City Business Alliance. Supervisor Elliot Ross said he wasn't sure joining it would benefit the township.

Harvatine and Zembrzycki agreed. Roseann Swegel spoke from the audience, "The Alliance is trying to get the area more joined together. They want information about what is going on in the township. Nobody knows the (township) park is there." Harvatine disagreed, "Actually, the park gets a lot of use. We have had families from Burnwood and Thompson use it."

Harvatine then asked, "Is it true that DG's (Bar and Grill) isn't on the sign (in Zazzera's parking lot)?" Swegel said they aren't a member. Ross asked Swegel if she was a member of the organization. Swegel said she was. Ross asked, "Would

you be willing to represent the township at the meetings?" Swegel replied that she could.

Membership cost is \$100. Ross said he isn't against being a member. He made a motion to join the Alliance. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

DONATIONS
Area organizations thanked the township for their donations: Pleasant Mount Emergency Services - \$3,000; Susquehanna County Library - \$160 and True Friends Animal Welfare Center - \$150.

FLOOD PLAIN ORD.
The Flood Plain Ordinance was amended so every permit doesn't have to be sent to the engineer for review. Only those in the flood plain have to.

PL. MT. EMS
Pleasant Mount Emergency Services gave the township a report on the number of calls for 2016. There were a total of 97 fire calls, 51 were in Pleasant Mount; 14 in Herrick and one in Lebanon Township, Wayne County. There were three mutual aid responses; nine motor vehicle accident calls; three brush fires; one landing zone and one smoking investigation.

SALARIES SET
The auditors set salaries: \$15.25/hr for supervisors; \$800 a month for Harvatine as secretary, up from \$625 a month and \$16.25/hr for road master.

COUNTRYSIDE CONS.
Harvatine said Sandy Boyle, Countryside Conservancy would like to come to the April meeting for a presentation.

VOLUNTEER TAX BREAK
She also said Andy Belcher, the township's emergency management coordinator, mentioned the Volunteer Tax Break. She said the law passed, according to PSATS. The law will give a tax break on state taxes to volunteer firefighters. The township will follow up on it.

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**Forest City Area
Emergency Services
is taking orders for Cabbage & Noodles**

**Ash Wednesday, Mar. 1st & 3, 10,
17, 24, 31 & Apr. 7
\$ 6 quart**

**Orders for Ash Wednesday must be placed by
Mon., Feb. 27 afternoon. Orders for Fridays
must be placed by the Wed. afternoon before
to guarantee availability**

**Call 570-785-5025 or 570-785-3226 to place order
Orders may be picked up between
11:30 am & 3:30 pm**



**Lenten Soup Sale
Manhattan Clam Chowder
Pint - \$3.50 Quart - \$7.00**

**Call 570-785-5025 or 570-785-3226
Soup available:
March 1, 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 & April. 7
Pre-orders appreciated.**

