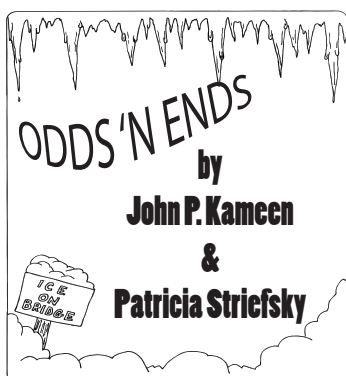


THE FOREST CITY NEWS



Some of you may remember the reason that Kennedy Park lake was once known as "Ice Pond". It was because local businessman Bill Reese used to cut ice on the pond and store it in a very well insulated building (known as the Ice House) next to the pond. Young people will find it hard to believe, but refrigeration here, at one time, depended on blocks of ice to keep food cold. Homeowners had large, rather unattractive ice boxes in their house which required frequent renewal of ice chunks. The ice boxes were made of wood and lined with Zinc. Ice was wrapped in newspaper and placed in the top of the ice box. One job which some of the kids always got was to empty the water from the melting tray at the bottom of the ice box. I recall, as a youngster, following Mr. Reese's ice truck and getting pieces of ice to chew on, as he delivered the ice blocks to local homes. In the early days of ice harvesting, they would scratch lines in checkerboard fashion on the Ice Pond surface after the ice reached at least a foot thick in January. Teams of horses were sometimes used to scrape the snow off the ice. A long hand saw, with teeth almost a foot long, were used in the early days to cut the ice into blocks of about 22 inches by 32 inches. They were then stored in the Ice House on such a way that air could circulate around the blocks. The blocks were then covered with salted hay or sawdust. Of course the walls of the Ice House were double thick with sawdust filling the space for insulation. This allowed the ice to last through the hot summer months. The ice from Ice Pond was used locally however some area lakes, next to railroad tracks, were harvested of ice which was transported to New York City for their ice boxes. Among the lakes which supplied ice were: Lake Lorain (Five Mile Pond), Orson Pond, Lewis Lake and Hathaway Pond. In fact, there were six icehouses on Orson Pond which was one of the shallowest ponds on the O & W, so it was the first to freeze. These operations were run by the railroad and were most profitable. Before ice boxes, food had to be preserved by salting, pickling or smoking. Electric refrigerators put an end to ice harvesting in the early 1950's.

The Rail-Trail Council recently purchased a D&H pusher caboose that was doomed for the scrap yard. Pusher cabooses with steel frames were used on the D&H so large engines (e.g. the Forest City kicker) could push the heavy loads of coal up over Ararat. So this caboose was actually in service on the D&H. The council plans to restore it as a static interpretive display. It will be located on the old mill siding in Union Dale, next to the Rail-Trail office. The council will be looking for volunteers to assist with the efforts!

Deb Giddings Honored by School Board



Deb Giddings, proprietor of DG's Restaurant, North Main Street, was presented with a plaque and flowers by Forest City Regional School Board for the contributions she and her customers and volunteers have made over the last 14 years to the School's Hometown Holidays program which provides toys, gifts and this year, 120 grocery vouchers, to families of FCRS students. This year her contributions totaled \$14,000 which raises the total of her annual contributions to \$64,000. Superintendent Dr. Jessica Aquilina, right, and Board President Mary Emmett, left, presented the honors at the Feb. 13 Board meeting. Dr. Aquilina emphasized that these gifts help make Christmas much better for many families. She said members of the National Honor Society, which oversees the distribution, are often overcome by emotion as a result of the good will and thanks expressed by the recipients. She thanked Ms. Giddings for making a big difference on the community. Ms. Giddings said she is a 1972 graduate of Forest City Regional and is proud to help the school and community. She was the 2016 Forest City Area Distinguished Citizen for the many acts of charity and good will which she and her patrons and volunteers have provided to people and organizations in this area over the years.

Industrial Park gas line \$280,000 grant OK'd

Forest City Council was informed at their Feb. 6th meeting that a federal grant to install a natural gas line in the VISION 2000 Industrial Park had been approved. Members of Council, who are on the joint Forest City/ Greater Forest City Industries Revolving Loan Fund, in October, approved the borrowing of \$60,000 from the Revolving Loan Fund as the required match for the grant.

GFCI Secretary John P. Kameen said the project will cost an estimated \$282,000 to install 2,000 feet of gas line to serve the two prepared pads in the Park. He told Council that over the past four years, almost a dozen possible occupants for the Park had declined due to the unavailability of natural gas service in the Park.

Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) will provide

Benefit for Cherry Peck Sat., April 1

A Benefit Pasta Dinner will be held for Cherry Peck on Sat., April 1 from 12 noon to 4 PM at the Trinity Episcopal Church in Carbondale. It will be eat in or take out. The cost will be \$10.

Cherry Peck is a 39 year old wife and mother of two who was diagnosed with Stage 3 invasive ductal carcinoma. She is currently undergoing her second round of chemotherapy and will have surgery in a few weeks, followed by radiation and more chemotherapy.

We are honored to host a pasta dinner, basket raffle, 50/50 drawing, t-shirt sale, and bake sale to defray some of the cost of her medical care.

Tickets may be purchased by calling: Joy 570-259-6466 or joybaron1218@yahoo.com or Debbie 850-261-0656 or at either Tiny Treasures Child Care Center Locations in Mayfield or Forest City.

\$141,000; U.S.D.A to provide \$49,000; Susq. County Act 13 gas Impact Fees provided \$30,000; FC/GFCI Revolving Loan Fund \$60,000.

Kameen told Council, work on the grant began in December 2014 with assistance of Rachel Hauser of the Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission, and Jason Cali of USDA, Tunkhannock.

USDA required GFCI to do core borings to update borings done in the Park 10 years ago. The \$30,000 cost was secured from the Susquehanna County Commissioners from their Act 13 Natural Gas Impact Fees.

USDA also required a new wetlands delineation study to update one done when the Park was completed. This cost \$2,000, but then required a new deed for the Park be prepared to include a non-disturbance clause for the existing wetlands. The new deed was prepared by Atty. David Bianco at no cost to GFCI.

Kameen said GFCI met with UGI recently to layout a timeline for the job. UGI estimated it could be done in June.

FCR Use of Building Requests

The Forest City Regional School Board approved the following use of building requests at the meeting on February 13:

From the Forest City Area Cal Ripken League to use the high school foyer for team registrations on Saturday, February 11, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

From the FCR Softball team to use the high school cafeteria on February 26, 2017 from 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m. for a pasta dinner and game night.

FCRS to embark on new and Innovative Program of Studies

New concept for studies in 7th & 8th grades

Forest City Regional School Board unanimously approved a new "Program of Studies" which will begin in 7th and 8th grades next year and will then be extended into the high school. It was presented at the February 13 meeting of the Board by High School Principal Dr. Michael Elia.

Dr. Elia explained that it will provide a challenging educational experience for all students, through a variety of courses which can help to lead students to be career and college ready.

Major changes in the 7th and 8th grades, said Dr. Elia, will be that students will be presented a variety of courses which can be tuned to their learning abilities. There will be no honor rolls for these courses in the middle school except for math, however all courses will be graded.

The new teaching schedule will change from 11 periods to 9 periods with the elimination of most study halls. Some of

the courses, intended to introduce new ideas to 7th and 8th graders, will come at a time in their lives when they face unique developmental challenges, he said.

Among the 22 new courses, which will be available at the high school level, are: three new math courses, English/ Language arts, Web page design, Advanced office, Keyboarding, Fitness training, Music and art electives, Proper use of social media, Career/college prep skills and more.

Dr. Elia stressed that his background in middle school, along with having served on Middle School evaluations around the state, has proved that middle school is not effective if it places students into educational tracks without being based on a wide variety of courses, and on the student's ability to learn.

The High School Principal said the new Program of Studies is intended to get students to see different aptitudes

which could lead them to different pathways in a post-high school job or college career.

Dr. Elia told the Board that collaboration on this new concept has been with Curriculum Director Leeta Dennebaum, Superintendent Dr. Jessica Aquilina and faculty members. He told the News he plans to schedule information sessions with parents in the future.

He said the following goals have been established for the "Program of Studies;"

Clear vision
Rigorous academic offerings

Elimination of down time
Place teachers where most successful

High Expectations
Deep understanding of needs of students

Create schedule allowing collaboration

Middle School philosophy
Students feeling empowered

Snow Days may move FCR Graduation to June 16th

Dr. Jessica Aquilina, superintendent of Forest City Regional School, told the School Board on Feb. 13 that snow days (12 as of Feb. 13) may force a change of graduation from June 9th to June 16th. The Board passed a revised school calendar at the meeting.

As of Feb. 13 the snow makeup days are: March 22, April 17, May 26, May 30-31, June 1-2-5-6-7-8-9.

For Easter there will be no school on Friday, April 14, but there will be school on Monday, April 17. There also will be no school on Memorial Day May 29.

NEW COUNSELOR
Brittany Butler was named as a K-12 School Counselor at Step 2 on the salary scale at \$52,000 year, effective immediately.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Board transferred \$1,600,000 from the General Fund to the Capital Reserve Fund to pay for the building project now underway.

It also hired Mountain Air to test the new HVAC system as it is installed in the school modernization project.

The Board approved \$21,427 as its share of the operating budget of the NEIU 19 for the coming year.

The Board also named Board Member Bernice Lukus as the District's representative to NEIU 91 effective July 1 thru June 30, 2020.

The Pennsylvania Dept. of education and FCR signed a memorandum of understanding whereby PDE will supply a free data tool to which all student information from FCR can be uploaded.

Also approved was unpaid leave for Tara Palickar, Debbie Rentner and Barbara Lesjack.

Katrina Good, from Marywood University, will serve a Counseling Internship Jan. 17 thru May 2017 under the supervision of Juliann Lionetti, HS guidance counselor. Caitlin Gilby and Marissa DeStefano from the University of Scranton will serve National Health Service internships in the FCR Partial Program under a licensed therapist beginning Feb. 14.

The audit for fiscal year ending June 30, 2016 by Rainey & Rainey, CPA, was approved with no findings reported.

The awarding of honors for Outstanding Seniors and Super Sixth Grader were postponed due to the March meeting due to weather.

Clifford says state budget Could impact township funds

by Theresa Opeka

Two presentations and concerns over the state's proposed budget were discussed at the Tuesday, February 14 meeting of the Clifford Township Supervisors.

TRAILER REMOVAL

In old business, the trailers along Route 106 were discussed. Solicitor Joseph McGraw said there are wheels under the trailers that make it easy for them to be hauled away. He said it will cost \$1500 to rip one apart and haul it away. Supervisor Barry Searle said, "We could pay \$750. Is she going to pay the other \$750?" McGraw replied, "She doesn't have voicemail. I will try to catch her."

GRANT APPLICATION

Searle made a motion to pay Sandy Wilmot \$3,000 for writing a grant application for a \$30,000 grant as soon as the funds come in. It is normal to pay 10% of the total of the grant. All voted in

favor. Motion passed.

NOTARY

Searle made a motion to make Secretary Joan Hertzog a notary for the township. She said she wants to get settled in to the secretary's position for a few months before taking on anything new. Supervisor Chris Marcho asked if they will pay fees for her to become a notary and then she would work for them. Searle and Supervisor Dennis Knowlton said yes. All voted in favor Motion passed.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

In new business, Catholic Social Services Executive Director of Education, Kirsten Smith-Doyle, gave a presentation on what CSS offers. She said she wasn't sure people in the county were aware of what is available to them. She said other than St. Jude Apartments, there is no other footprint of CCS in Susquehanna County. She said

the agency serves 11 counties in northeastern Pennsylvania and you don't have to be Catholic to receive services. The services they offer include: drug and alcohol programs, court, children and youth, housing (including emergency shelter), rental assistance, assistance with heating bills, child care, prescription assistance, a food pantry, transportation, apartments, permanent housing, adoption and foster care, family programs, counseling, healthcare, a maternity home and immigration and refugee resettlement. She says, however, refugee resettlement has been shut down right now due to the current administration in Washington D.C. They offer citizenship classes to immigrants. For more information, you can visit CCS's website: <http://cssdiocesefscrannton.org> or call 570-207-2283.

Continued on Page 9



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