

THE FOREST CITY NEWS

ODDS 'N ENDS
by
John P. Kameen
&
Patricia Striefsky

This is our first edition printed at the new printing plant and we hope everything went well. You have the results in your hand. We had major difficulties adapting our computer programs with the needs of their computer system. Of course, it would have to be the week we print the Mother's Day photos. We did have obstacles with the colorations and hope they all came out well. We will be ironing out other matters such as our ad and news deadlines, and logistics with regard to getting and addressing the newspapers. We've been down this road several times over the past 40 years and we will survive it!

Our system to elect government officials is not complicated. A candidate gets a petition, secures a few signatures, and files it to get their name on a ballot. It seems many of our area officials find this burdensome, as ballots in many area communities have no names for very important governmental offices. There are four council spots in Forest City up for election and no names on the ballot. Four Forest City Regional School Board seats are up for election, also with no names on the ballot. Vandaling was the only municipality in Lackawanna County which has NO candidates on the ballot for any Borough office including mayor, council and tax collector. Some townships have supervisor seats with no candidates. So what happens on Primary Election day next Tuesday? People who not aware this is going to happen, go into the voting booth and either don't write in any name, or foolishly insert Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck or the names of local characters. Then the Election Board has to wrestle with tabulating all these names, whether they are ridiculous or not. This is not the way to elect responsible people to important offices. Never in my lifetime have so many vital positions seen empty spots on the ballot. Is everyone fed up with politics, or are they just too lazy to do what it takes? Whatever it is, it's sad!

Those Cornell University Singers, led by Pleasant Mount's Katie O'Neill, were, as usual, spectacular in concert on Sunday at the Historical Society. A fine crowd heard them and heartily applauded their third annual presentation.

Stop in to the Forest City Historical Society on Election Day from 11am to 1pm for lunch. The menu is in an article elsewhere in this newspaper.

Election Day Luncheon Tues., May 16

The Forest City Area Historical Society will run their Election Day Luncheon on Tuesday, May 16th from 11:00 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. at the Forest City Area Historical Society corner of Main and Dundaff Streets in Forest City.

The Election Day Luncheon menu will include Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Hot Dogs with Saurkraut and/or Sauce, Wimpies, Potato Salad and Cake. Coffee or Tea, Soda & Water will be available.

Deliveries are available, call 570-785-3800.



Pipes brought in daily for new gas line from U'Dale to C'dale



Multiple trailer loads of 24 inch natural gas pipe has been arriving daily, at the Lindeco yard on Rte. 247 between Forest City and Browndale, for the UGI pipeline project to be installed on the Rail-Trail. The pipeline will eventually go from Union Dale to the Invenergy Electric Plant in Jessup. Work has already begun on the section in the Simpson area.

Empty ballot greets Forest City voters

Forest City voters of both parties will have an almost empty ballot for local offices when they enter the voting booth for the Tuesday, May 16, Primary Election.

Four Forest City Council seats are up for election and no candidates will be listed on either the Republican or Democrat ballots for those very important positions. There is also no candidate on the ballot for School Director from Forest City's Region 9, which is from Depot Street south to the Lackawanna County line.

The only candidates for major municipal posts in Forest City are incumbent Tax Collector Pamela Franceski Green who filed her petition and will be on the Democrat ballot, as well as Nick Cost who has filed for Mayor, also on the Democrat ballot.

If Mr. Cost wins the Mayorality in November he will have to vacate the Council seat he now holds which will leave an additional Council position to fill next year.

Two local women have expressed an interest in running for Council. Amy Bean, Susquehanna St., secured a petition and got the required signatures, and had it notarized, but it was received one day late at the voter registrar's office in Montrose. She is seeking one of the Council seats on write-ins and has a political ad in this week's edition.

Tracey Lazier, who works at Tobacco Road, Forest City, also expressed her desire to run for a Council seat and secured a petition but did not file it. She is asking for write-in votes. She has a po-

Memorial Day activities in FC Mon., May 29

Memorial Day activities in Forest City will take place on Monday, May 29. The parade will begin at 10:30 AM at Franceski Lumber & continue to the Doughboy located at William Penn Apts. for a special memorial ceremony which starts immediately after the parade.

Speaker for the ceremony will be Stephanie Newak Collier.

If anyone with an antique or muscle car would like to participate in the parade to help transport a veteran to the Doughboy, or if any local organization or group that hasn't been contacted yet, and they would like to participate, please call the Borough office & leave a message 570-7853326.

There will be no luncheon served this year.

Pork dinner at Christ Church Sat., May 13

The annual spring pork dinner will be held at Christ Episcopal Church, 700 Delaware St., Forest City, on Sat., May 13, with take-outs from 3:30-4:30 p.m. and dine-in 5 to 7 p.m. Served family style. Donation is \$12.

litical ad in this week's edition.

Both announced write-in candidates are asking voters on either Republican or Democratic ballots to write in their names.

There are two election board seats to be voted on. Incumbent Roberta Barnes filed for Judge of Election and is on the Democrat ballot. Carole Kameen filed on the Republican ballot for Inspector of Election.

Candidates for other neighboring communities Listed on Page 2.

Four seats on School Board To be filled

There are four seats to be filled on Forest City Regional School Board and no candidates filed for any of the openings. They are: Forest City Region 9, held by Fred Garm; Union Dale, held by Bill Heller; Clinton II, held by Linda Zefran; and Herrick Center, held by Lorne Powell.

Only one candidate, David DeArmond, has announced to the News for any of the seats. He will seek the Union Dale Board seat by write-ins. His ad is in this week's edition.

Two Susq. Co. Offices on ballot

Susquehanna County voters will have two County offices to fill. Sheriff Lance Benedict, a Republican, is unopposed for re-election.

The Prothonotary & Clerk of Courts county row office is being contested due to the resignation last year of longtime office holder Sue Eddleston. There are two Republicans seeking the job—Jan Krupinski, Bridgewater Township, and Chris Jones, New Milford Township.

Rail-Trail Cancels D&H Distance Run

The Rail-Trail Council has canceled the D&H Distance Run for this year. The UGI pipeline project will close the trail for most of this year from Simpson to Union Dale, including Forest City. The race committee had been attempting to re-route the run to the northern section of trail, which includes and crosses state routes.

With the advice and assistance of local emergency management personnel, we discovered many complications related to liability, road closures, PA DOT permits and signage regulations, special insurance, additional fire police, or need for hired flaggers. And the trail through Herrick & Ararat Township will not be improved in time for the race.

Anyone who has registered will be reimbursed or can choose to defer their registration to next year, when we will have a much improved trail for the half-marathon.

Sidewalks to be finished by June 30; Council tables police car purchase

At its May 1st meeting, Forest City Council announced a timeline for completion of the Main Street sidewalk project, and also tabled a motion to buy a new 4WD police vehicle. They also added two new part time officers to the police force.

SIDEWALK PROJECT

Councilman Bernie Scalzo, who chaired the meeting in the absence of President William D. Orasin, stated that the contractor should return to finish the sidewalks on the west side of Main Street in the next two weeks. Scalzo said the project should be completed by June 30th.

Asst. Boro Secretary Cindi Stone told the News that some of the concrete which was poured late last year will be replaced.

In answer to a question from the audience, Ms. Stone stated that the town has applied for a grant to install the lighting in the sidewalk areas which have already been installed, however the grant has not been approved.

Stone also stated that Council has applied for another grant to install new sidewalks and lighting on the east side of the street but that grant also has not yet been approved.

Scalzo also added that the contractor has a number of other repairs and items which will also have to be completed. Councilman Nick Cost also added that he is concerned that the town has to pay costs to repair blunders made by contractors.

BUY POLICE CAR

Later in the meeting Mayor Pauline Wilcox and Police Chief Jim Johnson presented a request to spend about \$40,000 for a 2017 Ford AWD police Interceptor vehicle. After a long discussion it was tabled due to a lack of a second on the motion.

Mayor Wilcox and Chief Johnson said that the March Blizzard enforced the need for an AWD vehicle. Wilcox said that the older police car will be retired in June as it is not repairable.

The new vehicle would be purchased under the state's COSTARS competitive bidding program from Koch 33 Ford of Easton. Several Council members questioned not getting local bids but were advised that the dealer participated in the state competitive bidding program and also was experienced in fitting police vehicles.

After failing to get a second to the motion, Councilman Nick Cost said he would like to have President Orasin and Council member Joann Matarese, who was also absent, in attendance before they made a decision.

CAR REPAIRS

Council also approved repairs to the 2011 police car. \$500 in emergency repairs were made at Kost Tire, and an additional \$987 is needed for rear brakes, struts and resonator. Council also questioned not getting other bids.

POLICE OFFICERS

Council did hire and swear in two new part time police officers. They are Jefferson Ramirez, who resides in the Poconos, and Joseph Crouse, Athens. Both are graduates of the Lackawanna College Police Academy. Councilman Nick Cost asked them if they planned to "stay awhile" in Forest City since the local Dept. has experienced a great deal of turn-over in its part time officers. They said they would.

HOUSE TORN DOWN

Council said the dilapidated house at 309 Delaware St., which had been the subject of numerous Council visits by neighbors, was torn down using \$8,000 in CDBG funds. It

was commented that no neighbors were in attendance to thank Council for their action.

BUILDING WORK

Councilman Bob Lesjack got permission to have Blueberry Hill plant two flower boxes outside the Borough Building. He said the next job will be to repair the bathrooms in the building. He said Council will then have to hire an engineer to examine the outside of the Boro Building as the next step in the restoration of the building.

OTHER BUSINESS

*Approved \$3,000 to have B. Kilpatrick Excavating repair a dip in the road on Delaware Street on the way to the Nursing Home.

*Purchased four 4' x 12' Jersey barriers for \$95 each from Franceski Recycling.

*Ordered 100 cubic yards of Wood carpet mulch for the Kennedy Park playground from Lyons Recreation at cost of \$2,496. Half of the amount will be used and paid for by Vandling Borough for their playground.

*Agreed to set up a separate checking account to handle the grant for repairing the Kennedy park basketball courts.

*Mayor Wilcox asked the safety Committee to meet as soon as possible to discuss whether the town wants to provide police service to Union Dale. She said Union Dale has been waiting for an answer for three months.

*The Personnel Committee will meet to interview one candidate for Code Enforcement Officer.

*The new street sweeper will be used after rain has fallen in order to reduce the amount of dust from the machine.

*Two new sign boards were erected at Kennedy Park and can be used for advertising by calling the Borough Office.

Zoning, stone bids, road work Agenda items at Herrick session

by Theresa Opeka

A recurring complaint about a property on Stark Road and a new complaint about road work were among some of the items discussed at the May 1 meeting of the Herrick Township Supervisors. Supervisor/Secretary Nancy Harvatine said they received \$300 from liquor licenses.

BLIZZARD

Harvatine said the township will not be reimbursed for expenses from the March blizzard because the state fell short of the total needed for federal reimbursement.

AIR ORDINANCE

The New Milford air ordinance was discussed and how it is specific for an incinerator. Supervisor Elliot Ross said, "There is lots of burning with the natural gas industry. There was a better chance of getting their supervisors to accept the ordinance if it pertained to a commercial incinerator." The supervisors also mentioned there is a proposed natural gas filling station in New Milford that will take natural gas to New England.

ZONING ISSUE

In other business, a person wants Zoning Officer John Watts to reinvestigate a property on Stark Road. The person had claimed previously that the property was being used as a commercial property. Watts had previously inspected it and found that nothing was going on. Harvatine said they will need someone willing to come forward to say they had work done on a vehicle and be willing to testify about it. The person said activity is taking place once again on the property.

REP. FRITZ

Harvatine said she went to the Meet and Greet with new Representative Jonathan Fritz in Thompson last month. She asked him if he would be able to help the township get a grant for a cinder shed. He said he would look into it and get back to her.

One of his staff told Harvatine she should call DCED. She said she called them but hasn't heard back. She also contacted the Northern Tier Regional Planning Commission and a representative said he would look

for grants but hasn't heard back yet. She also contacted Bobbi Jo Turner from the Susquehanna County Housing Redevelopment Authority but she didn't find anything that a salt shed would qualify for. Ross said he met with Jim Reeder, who owns the property next to the township building. He said he would be willing to work with the township on a portion of his property for the shed.

AMBULANCE CALLS

Harvatine received clarification from Pleasant Mount Emergency Services on the amount of ambulance calls in the township for 2016. They said 34 of the 118 calls they received were for Herrick and 23 of the 36 calls were for Elk Mountain.

REEDER UNEMPLOYMENT

Harvatine said Mary Reeder had filed for unemployment from PennDOT.

BURN BAN

There is a countywide burn ban in effect until May 21.

BIDS RECEIVED

The township received bids for stone and anti-skid from New Enterprise Stone & Lime, Clifford, E.R. Linde Construction Corp, Honesdale and Pioneer (Simpson Stone Quarry). Ross said, "It makes sense to accept bids from all vendors. We can take the lowest price for the materials. We aren't committed to taking it if it isn't up to our standards." He made a motion to accept, "the cheapest product that meets our needs and specifications." He and Harvatine voted in favor. Supervisor/Road Master Brian Zembrzycki was absent for the vote but would show up shortly to the meeting.

ROAD WORK

Fred Eldridge held up two large rocks that he said were used for road work on his road. "It's going to destroy my car. Things are different since Mary left. Can Brian consult with Joe or Mary?" Ross replied, "You can contact Brian. Is this a complaint about Creek or Airport Road?" Eldridge said both.

Ross said material was put onto the road to stabilize it. Eldridge said "Ruts. What about drainage on Airport and Creek?" Ross said, "We never really had

cold weather this past winter. It wasn't a typical winter. Places that didn't have a problem before had issues." Zembrzycki had arrived shortly before and added, "We are getting to all the roads. Stones were applied to all the roads because of mud. We aren't going to jump from road to road because of a complaint. We are going to top the roads with modified."

SECURITY SYSTEM

Eldridge brought up the proposed security system for the township building. Speaking to Ross he said, "You said it would be insurance for the building. I worked with them for 30 years. They are a deterrent but not insurance. I can give you advice and go over bids." Ross said, "If I can determine who comes through the door, I have something." Mauro Giannetti said he bought a camera system from Walmart for \$400 to use at a pizzeria in Asbury Park, NJ. He said it works well and you check everything out for free online after you paid the initial \$400.

The next meeting will take place on Monday, June 5 at 7pm.

Electric price Hiked 14%

If your electric supplier is PPL Electric Utilities, your price for electricity jumps 14 percent in June. So much for the cost of electricity continuing to go down due to its generation by less expensive natural gas.

PPL price to compare rises from 7.44 cents per kilowatt hour to 8.49 cents per kw/h.

This means that a typical home using 1,000kwh per month will see its bill go up \$8.75.

Chicken BBQ set for May 13

A chicken barbecue will be held at the East Ararat United Methodist Church on Sat., May 13, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The menu will include chicken, baked potato, baked beans, cole slaw, roll and cupcake. Pre-orders welcome by calling Jackie at 570-766-5322 or Jan at 570-727-2051.