

# THE FOREST CITY NEWS

ODDS 'N ENDS

by  
**John P. Kamecn**  
&  
**Patricia Striefsky**

Remember you can view the newspaper on our website, [www.forestcitynews.com](http://www.forestcitynews.com). Our Mother's Day edition last week, with two pages of Mother's day photos in full color, was really spectacular.

Also see the ad on this page for sign up on the Memorial Day yard sales. We'll list all area yard sales in the May 24 edition. Cost is \$5.00 which is a donation to the Forest City Historical Society.

If you have a child, grandchild, friend graduating from FCRHS this year you might want to put a congratulatory ad in our Graduation Tabloid on June 14. See the ad on this page for details.

We had an article recently about a survey Susquehanna County is doing to update its Comprehensive Plan. They would like every resident of the county to take it to let County officials know their opinions and suggestions about the County's future. You can do it online at [www.susq.com](http://www.susq.com) and click on "Resident Survey." If you want a printed copy call the Planning Dept. at 570-278-5950. You have until May 31 to complete it.

We've been asked to warn parents about ticks on their kids whenever they go outside, at a park or in the woods. This past few weeks they have been especially prevalent and as the weather warms, they may become even more so. Pets also can carry ticks inside the home so you might want to keep your eye on them also.

## More tax increases For School District in New School Budget

There is a tax increase for property owners in Forest City Regional School District as a result of the proposed 2017-18 budget approved at the Board meeting on Monday, May 8. Taxes on FCRSD properties in Susquehanna County and Wayne County will see about a 3% tax increase. Properties in Vandling will get a 1.76% hike.

According to Board figures, average properties in Pleasant Mount and Clinton II will get a hike of about \$47.27. Properties in Forest City, Union Dale and Herrick Twp. will see their tax hiked by about \$38.35. Vandling taxpayers will get the smallest increase, estimated at \$15.51.

The vote on the budget just squeaked by, 5-2, with Directors Joanne Sterchak and Linda Zefran voting 'No.' "Yes" votes came from Chris Albright, Fred Garm, Mary Emmett, Dr. Henry Nebzydowski and Bernice Lukus. Directors Bill Heller and Lome Powell were absent.

It is always difficult for taxpayers to understand why tax increases vary in the District communities. It is because the School District is located in three different counties. Each county has a different method of tax assessment, thus tax millage rates must comply with figures from the State Tax Equalization Board. STEB figures attempt to have comparable homes and properties pay the same dollar amount in taxes no matter what county it is located in.

This year, the state has set a 3.1% tax hike for its maximum allowable increase. Any hike over that amount would require the increase to be voted upon on

an election ballot. Under STEB rules, once one of the county millages reaches 3.1% increase, the others must be set below that figure.

The District must once again dip into its surplus funds, known as a fund balance, to make the budget balance. This year the District will use \$385,588 of its surplus to balance the budget. Last year it used \$484,426. Figures presented indicate that the estimated ending fund balance and budgetary reserve in 2018 would be \$3,826,904.

Supt. Dr. Jessica Aquilina noted that the fund balance amount will be used to fund the \$2,026,103 payment the District is required to make toward PS-ERS, the pension fund for the District's employees. She said the District's payment is \$221,243 higher than last year. She also commented that pension reform is desperately needed as the pension amounts required continue to escalate dramatically year to year. She added that the state does reimburse 50% of the cost but the District must pay the entire amount to start.

This year's budget of \$14,539,918 is more than \$500,000 higher than last year. Local property taxes, wage taxes, per capita tax and real estate transfer tax will bring in \$6,707,867, or 47.4% of the total. State reimbursements will provide \$6,897,340, or 48.7% of the total, but Dr. Aquilina stated this is an estimate as the state budget is not finalized. Federal sources will provide only 3.9% or \$549,123, but this also is an estimate.

## FC Drug Take-Back proves successful

On April 29 between the hours of 10 AM and 2 PM the Thirteenth National Drug Take-Back Initiative was held at the Forest City Area Emergency Services Building, 380 Railroad Street, Forest City, PA. This was a Cooperative effort between the DEA, The Forest City Police Department and Forest City Area Emergency Services, in conjunction with a nationwide collection of unused or expired medication for safe disposal.

The Forest City Police Department would like to thank Forest City Area Emergency Services for the use of their Building for the collection of these medications. Forest City Police would also like to give a big Thank You to the Public who drop off these medications as they are responsible for the success of this program which is run twice a year, Spring and Fall.

This Spring's collection netted 47 pounds, 8 ounces of pills and another 25 pounds, 6 ounces of liquid or cream medications for a total of 72 pounds, 14 ounces of unused or expired medications.

Again The Forest City Police Department would like to

Thank all those involved in this program, making the program successful and helping keep our Community safer. Disposing of these medications keeps them off the street and out of water sources.

## 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.



Two Delaware Street homes in flames.

## Two Homes Destroyed

Backyard garbage burning caused a fire which destroyed two homes on Delaware Street around 3:30 PM last Friday. It was one of the worst property-damage fires in many years here.

Dolores Kowalewski, age 83, told authorities she was burning some cardboard behind her home at 748 Delaware Street. She put water on it and went to cut grass but later found the rear of her home on fire.

Before fire units arrived, the entire home was in flames. The fire soon engulfed the next door home of Edward and Christie Volner St. Hilaire, 746 Delaware Street, and also the Kowalewski car which was parked between the two homes. The home at 746 Delaware St. is owned by Byrd Presley.

Ten fire companies, with two ladder trucks, attacked

the fire for more than two hours but both dwellings were totally gutted. One fireman was taken for treatment. Units on scene were from Forest City, Browndale, Union Dale, Clifford, Waymart, Grattan Singer, Pleasant Mt., Greenfield Twp., Carbondale and Mayfield.

The Rev. Brian Clarke opened the nearby St. Joseph's Church to the Responders at the scene.

Charges could be filed since Forest City has an ordinance against burning. In addition, Susquehanna County had a burn ban in effect.

The Red Cross was assisting the St. Hilaire family and their three young daughters, ages 9, 7 and 5, who attend Forest City Regional School. They lost all of their possessions in the fire. Mayor Pauline Wilcox announced The

Salvation Army is accepting donations for the family at First National Bank of Forest City. Checks can be made out to Salvation Army or mailed to FNB, 521 Main St., Forest City, PA 18421 Attn: Eileen Lynch. Gift cards can also be donated at the bank.

The St. Hilaire family had recently purchased another home on Delaware Street but were waiting to move in.

A water boil advisory was in effect for a time afterwards due to brown water from the hydrant usage.

The 700 block of Delaware Street has been the location of two other devastating fires over the years, two of them deadly. A late night fire, years ago, at the O'Neill home down the block caused the death of Isabel O'Neill and her son, Gregory. The April 21, 2011 night-time fire in the same block killed William S. Feddock.

## Clifford road issues discussed at length by Twp. Supervisors

By Theresa Opeka

Road issues were the dominant discussion topic at the Tuesday, May 9 meeting of the Clifford Township Supervisors. In old business, Solicitor Joseph McGraw said he sent a second letter to the property owner of trailer along Route 106. The property owner lives in California.

### BIDS

The township received reconstruction bids for Elkview Drive and Laurel Drive. Supervisor Chris Marcho said there were 2 different combinations of pavement thickness for 2 different bids for Elkview. Wayco Inc. had bids of \$443,149.50 and \$395,494.50 for Elkview and \$32,409.79 for Laurel; New Enterprise had \$411,397.50 and \$361,200 for Elkview

## D&H Rail-Trail Closes for Pipeline Work

The D&H Rail-Trail from Simpson to Forest City is now closed as of May 11th for a pipeline installation project. UGI has an existing easement and pipeline on the trail, and plans to install another larger natural gas pipeline in order to bring gas to the Mid-Valley area and Invenery. Their contractor Linde Corp. is now doing tree trimming and laying pipe prior to digging. The O&W is also closed, as it is being used as a construction entrance and has an existing pipeline on the 2nd mile before it crosses back over to the D&H.

The D&H from the Pennsylvania American Water Road in Forest City will remain open for fishing access until the evening of May 21, when it will close. The trail north of Union Dale will remain open. Trail closures should last until October or November.

Updates will be found on our website, Facebook and in local newspapers. Call the Rail-Trail office for additional information at 570-679-9300.

and \$30,367.52 for Laurel and American Asphalt had \$532,500 and \$489,975 for Elkview and \$49,519 for Laurel. Marcho said they would table them until he, Road Master Kurt Booths and a PennDOT representative goes over them.

### MOBILE HOME GRANT

In new business, regarding Mobile Home Grant applications, Supervisor Barry Searle made a motion that if everything checks out for the removal of mobile homes, they would qualify for the \$750 Mobile Home Grant from the township. Searle, Marcho and Supervisor Dennis Knowlton voted in favor. Motion passed.

### PSATS CONVENTION

Searle said he, Booths and Secretary Joan Hertzog went to the PSATS Convention in Hershey. Searle said PSATS is working to raise the prevailing wage to \$100,000 for projects that will have an impact on the township. They are also lobbying against the state police tax and they are supporting volunteers, and companies who allow volunteers to leave work to respond to an emergency would

be able to get a tax cut. Searle said they also mentioned the Agricultural Security Area. The township could declare the township such an area if the township has 250 acres that are used for farming. If the land is put into it, nuisance ordinances wouldn't apply because actions would be considered normal farming practices. They would need 3 active farmers, and other people on the board. Searle said Jerry Verboys has volunteered to be on the board and Searle also volunteered. The board would meet once a year.

### SUSQ. CO. SURVEY

Searle said Susquehanna County sent out a resident's survey because they are redoing the comprehensive plan for the county. "If we don't have some control of our area, some other people will try to control it. That's all I am going to say," he said.

### REFERENDUM

McGraw said in order to put a referendum on the ballot, it would have to be put on the ballot in the primary election. The question was raised last month due to the discussion of the possibility of zoning.

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## Clinton Twp. hires engineer; Pays partial bill for roadwork

by Theresa Opeka

The hiring of a new engineer with local ties, questions about a road plan, and discussion on whether or not to pay certain bills were among the items discussed at the Wednesday, May 10 meeting of Clinton Township Supervisors.

### ROAD WORK

Supervisor/Road Master Brian Non said grading is underway and dust control will start on Monday. Dick Ciccone will be doing ditching on the roads. The Yarnes Road Bridge Project will begin any day and the Yarnes Road Dirt and Gravel road work should

begin at the end of June.

### ROAD PLAN

Matt Curtis asked if there was a road plan in place. "Taxpayers in this room have never seen a road plan. Are you violating any Sunshine Laws? I thought there was supposed to be a plan in place," he said. Non replied, "Plans change." Curtis asked, "Didn't we have a written plan? It seems like things are going on behind closed doors." Non replied, "If you could figure out how to do a road plan better than we can."

cont. on page 11

The Forest City News will once again publish its Graduation Tabloid of Forest City Regional High School graduating seniors for 2017 in its June 14th edition. The tab will include photos of the seniors and biographies if they have provided them to the school. Anyone interested in purchasing an ad for their graduate(s) can do so. The cost is as follows:

5 x 3 inches - \$35  
5 x 5 inches - \$60  
1/2 Page - \$120  
Full page - \$200

To purchase an ad contact the Forest City News at 570-785-3800, mail it to or drop it off at the News office at 636 Main St., Forest City, or by email to [jennifer@forestcitynews.com](mailto:jennifer@forestcitynews.com). The deadline for submitting is June 2nd.

Memorial Day news deadline is Thursday, May 25

Due to the Memorial Day holiday on Monday, May 29th, the News will go to press on Friday. All news and advertising must be in the office by Thursday at 4:00 p.m. Correspondents and advertisers are reminded to get their copy in as soon as possible.



## Memorial Weekend Yard Sales Forest City Area Historical Society

Forest City Area Yard Sale Application  
Locations and items for sale  
To be published in May 24 Forest City News

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Items to be Sold: (Brief Description)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

Yard Sale Date Sat., May 27, 2017 8 a.m.

Make \$5 check payable to: Forest City Area Historical Society

(Note: \$5 Fee must accompany application).

Mail to: Forest City Area Historical Society

c/o Julianne Doyle

305 Martin St.

Browndale, Pa 18421