

THE FOREST CITY NEWS

ODDS'N ENDS

by

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&

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Lengthy Council session Airs several problems

A more than two hour Forest City Council session aired many matters Monday, June 5th. In addition to purchasing a new police car and revealing a major problem with local trash collection, Forest City Council heard complaints from the public and also addressed a number of other matters.

Council Pres. William D. Orasin replied to a question on a completion date for the Forest City Sidewalk project stating that June 30th is still the timeline for completion.

Orasin also said a contractor has to be secured to install the 13 new lamp posts on Main Street under the \$46,330 Keystone Communities Grant. He said the funds to install the lamps was not part of the grant funding.

K PARK RESIGNATION

Tony Wilcox told Council he was very disappointed when he went to vote in the Primary election and there were no candidates listed on the ballot for the four open seats on Council. He said elections should not be a popularity contest.

None of the four incumbents filed for re-nomination in the May 16 Primary and three did not make their intentions known as to whether they wanted to be re-elected. However two did seek write-in votes at the polling place on Primary election day.

Wilcox then said he was resigning from the Kennedy Park Board. He told the News later it was not possible for him to be volunteering his time when Council members did not seem to take their positions seriously.

SEWER PROBLEM

Joseph Franceski, owner of a building at 605 Main Street, said he was having sewer problems and that Roto Rooter determined that the problem seems to be a crushed pipe underneath the recently installed sidewalks. Since the damage may have been caused in the sidewalk construction, Council President Orasin said to talk to Boro Assistant secretary Cindi Stone to have it investigated.

ROAD REPAIRS

Council will also look at a continuing depression which occurs near the road in the 900 block of Susquehanna St. A depression will soon be repaired by Kilpatrick Excavating on Delaware St., near the Nursing Home at a cost of \$3,000.

Blood Drive at Browndale Fire Hall June 23

The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive at the Browndale Fire Company, 620 Marion Street, on Friday, June 23 from 1 PM to 6 PM. Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org and enter: Forestcitycommunity to schedule to an appointment.

Your chance to win a Cedar Point or Knott's Berry Farm trip awaits at redcrossblood.org/cedar-fair.

20 Reasons to attend Art in Bloom on the Trail this Saturday

Only a couple more days until one of the best events of the summer; Art in Bloom on the Trail sponsored by the Mountain View Garden Club and the Rail Trail Council that is coming up on Saturday, June 24th at the Rail Trail and Susquehanna Studio in Union Dale. In case you haven't made up your mind whether to attend here are some reasons why you would definitely want to attend.

1)The event is free. Admission is free. Parking is free. The events are free. Beer and wine tasting. Musical entertainment, all free.

2)Ample parking with overflow parking at the Union Dale Fireman's Picnic Grounds with shuttle service

BORO BUILDING WORK

Councilman Bob Lesjack said the new flower pots in front of the Boro Building were filled by Blueberry Hill Greenhouse at a cost of \$170.

Lesjack said someone who can determine what repairs will be needed on the exterior and roof of the Boro Bldg. will attend an upcoming Council meeting. Lesjack also thanked the Forest City Street Dept. for painting the Boro Bldg. elevator. He also suggested a brighter light be installed in the elevator.

PURCHASE SIGNS

Council purchased an enclosed acrylic sign for use at Kennedy Park from Walmart at a cost of \$191.44. It will be used at the refreshment stand to display park rules and calendar of upcoming events.

In discussing the sign, it was learned there was a conflict in reserving the Park facilities for the upcoming weekend. The FCRS girls' softball team filled out a reservation form for use of the pavilion. It was reported that a wedding, the same day, did not reserve the Park or fill out a reservation application. The Borough office reminded Council members and the public that they must contact the Borough office to reserve space for activities in the Park.

Cerra Signs will make two signs for Kennedy Park at a cost of \$400. One will replace the deteriorated 4x8 ft. sign at the Park entrance.

CODE OFFICER

Council will again advertise for a code enforcement officer. It received only one applicant from the last advertisement. That person was not hired reportedly due to a conflict of interest with the Borough.

SIDEWALK REPAIRS

Council responded to a letter from the Forest City Historical Society asking for replacement of the new sidewalk in front of the Museum which deteriorated over the winter, as well as concerns about the wall on the property which is bulging since the sidewalk replacement last year. Pres. Orasin said Leeward agreed to replace the sidewalk from Honesdale Bank to Dundaff St. corner. He also said the Boro engineer will contact the Society about the wall.

OTHER BUSINESS

Total funds in the Borough's Act 13 Natural Gas Impact Fee account totaled \$231,025 on May 31, 2017 according to the monthly Treasurer's Report

Solicitor Paul Smith provided a Social Media Policy for the FC Police Dept. which is now in effect.

Second notices of violations of the Boro's grass cutting ordinance were issued to eight addresses in town.

Violation Letters for the Residential Rental Unit law were sent to three apartments in town.

The next meeting of Council was moved from its scheduled time of July 3 and will be Monday, July 10, at 7PM due to the July 4 holiday.

Northeast Barber Shop Chorus to perform at FCA Historical Society Tues., June 27



The Forest City Area Historical Society is proud to announce the appearance of the "Northeast Barber Shop Chorus" Tuesday, June 27 at 7:00 P.M. at the FCA Historical Society Museum corner of Main and Dundaff Streets in Forest City. The popular Northeast Barber Shop Chorus has performed across the region for many years to enthusiastic audiences performing a wide range of barber shop music. It is their first performance at the FCA Historical Society concert hall. Admission to this Historical Society fund raiser is \$5.00 for adults, children under 12 Free. While at the Forest City Area Historical Society Museum, view the many historical society displays of the Forest City area along with their new Hometown Hero's Display. The Museum will be open one hour before the concert.

Charge of bullying at FCR School, And administrator's response, Produces emotional board meeting

There was an emotional exchange between a parent and School Superintendent Dr. Jessica Aquilina at the June 12 Board meeting. The parent told the Board she feels her two children are victims of bullying in Forest City Regional School.

During the exchange the parent said the only two administrators which her children received understanding from are High School Principal Dr. Michael Elia and Educational Aide Lore Vadella, and she wished Dr. Elia was occupying the superintendent's seat.

The parent was the first to speak in the public comment section and asked permission to be allowed to discuss the bullying of her children, in the public setting with The Forest City News in attendance. She was given the go-ahead by Dr. Aquilina providing she did not involve any other students. She was later halted by the Superintendent when she mentioned something about two other students.

The parent expressed her perception that the Superintendent

had not responded adequately to her request for a solution to the bullying of her two children. She said the school is not a safe environment.

The parent told the Board her next step was to law enforcement and Harrisburg. She claimed laws were violated, including the HIPA health information law, concerning her two children.

Dr. Aquilina defended her actions saying she comes to work each day with the goal of protecting the welfare of all students. She said that she, as well as HS Principal Dr. Elia and Elementary Principal Brian Kelly, work diligently on all that goes into making the school a safe educational environment.

She said a survey of the student population, conducted in the school last Fall, indicated that, overwhelmingly, students felt they were in a safe environment.

She stated "bullying" is legally defined and sometimes a complaint doesn't reach the level of bullying. When asked by another parent what the legal

definition of bullying was, she said it must be pervasive, repetitive and the perpetrators must refuse to cease their behavior. She stressed that every allegation is investigated.

The News asked if the Superintendent would comment on a recent Forest City police report of the May 2nd school threat which stated that evidence of bullying arose during the investigation and that it was found to be an issue.

Dr. Aquilina took issue with the police report and said the report, and information which she and school officials gathered on the matter, were turned over to the school district solicitor, and she would be unable to comment on it before receiving word from the solicitor.

The News asked that the Superintendent, in light of the discussion at the Board meeting, issue a public statement on what was talked about since only those at the meeting would have heard all her comments.

Supt. Aquilina provided a public statement to the News on June 16. The statement is below.

Statement by FCR School Superintendent Dr. Jessica Aquilina

The Forest City Regional School District is committed to providing a safe and secure learning environment for all of our students. In recent weeks, there has been discussion in our community regarding bullying and whether or not the school district was doing enough to address these types of negative behaviors.

Our current Bullying Policy (No. 249) defines bullying as an electronic, written, verbal or physical act or series of acts directed at another student or students, which occurs in a school setting and/or outside a school setting, that is severe, persistent or pervasive and has the effect of doing any of the following: (1) Substantial interference with

a student's education, (2) creation of a threatening environment, or (3) substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school.

The policy further clarifies how the FCRSD responds to reports of accusations which are shared with the building principal who conducts a thorough investigation including but not limited to: identifying and interviewing the complainant, identifying and interviewing the individual(s) accused to have participated in the alleged bullying or cyberbullying, identifying and interviewing any witnesses to the alleged bullying or cyberbullying, review of any physical evidence or documents relating

to the alleged bullying or cyberbullying, review of any other relevant evidence produced by the complainant or the accused individual(s), and any other reasonable investigation the building principal deems necessary.

We are required to review our policies and procedures related to bullying and cyberbullying every three years, with our updated Bullying/Cyberbullying Policy due prior to the start of the 2017-2018 school year. We recognize the importance of providing comprehensive bully prevention education to our faculty, staff, students, and school community.

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There will be something for everyone at this year's Art in Bloom on the Trail sponsored by the Mountain View Garden Club and the Rail Trail Council. The event will be held on Saturday, June 24 in Union Dale. See the article on this page for details of the event.

Also on Saturday is the 6th Annual Antiques in the Park in Carbondale in Memorial Park beginning at 10 AM presented by Ros-Al Floral and Events. There will be live music, an antique car show, carriage rides, farmers market, just to name a few. The event will close with a fireworks display at 9:30 PM.

Italian ice for the summer at Elegante Restaurant. Tastes good on these muggy afternoons.

Forest City Council bought the new flags for our Main Street flag displays. They are installed and maintained by NEP Telephone Co. They look sharp!

Dr. Dina Wasileski Scordakis, a graduate of Forest City Regional, and a dentist in California, was the alumna speaker at graduation. She had some sage advice for the graduates and added some humor to the commencement.

The Old Time Fiddlers will be at the Historical Society Friday night at 7. They put on a great show. The museum is air conditioned.

Obituary
Someone else

Our church was saddened to learn this week of the death of one of our most valued members, Someone Else.

Someone's passing creates a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Else has been with us for many years and for every one of those years, Someone did far more than a normal person's share of the work.

Whenever there was a job to do, a class to teach, or a meeting to attend, one name was on everyone's list: "Let Someone Else do it." Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as results:

"Someone Else can work with that group." It was common knowledge that Someone Else was among the most liberal givers in our church. Whenever there was a financial need, everyone just assumed Someone Else would make up the difference.

Someone Else was a wonderful person ... sometimes appearing superhuman. Were the truth known, everybody expected too much of Someone Else. Now Someone Else is gone! We wonder what we are going to do.

Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to follow it? Who is going to do the things Someone Else did? When you are asked to help this year, remember -- we can't depend on Someone Else anymore.

- from Christiansunite.com

Mock drill at Forest City Nursing & Rehab

On Wednesday, June 21, at approximately 7 p.m., the Forest City Nursing & Rehab Center and Forest City Personal Care will be conducting their Annual Mock Disaster Drill. This is ONLY A DRILL designed as a training exercise for the staff and residents of the Nursing Center/Personal Care, as well as participating emergency service organizations.

