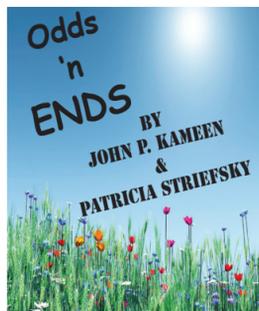


THE FOREST CITY NEWS



Odds in Ends
BY JOHN P. KAMEEN & PATRICIA STRIEFSKY

Got this tip from a friend. Haven't tried it yet as I haven't been out of cell phone service since I got it. If you're in an area where you should have cell phone service but don't, put your phone on airplane mode and then switch back. This will cause your phone to register and find all the towers in the vicinity.

There are still a number of openings in the annual Forest City Lions Club Golf Tournament set for Friday, July 28 at Panorama Golf Course. An application form can be found on page 4 of this edition.

All Main Street businesses and lots of our Main Street customers are hoping the sidewalk work on Main Street will be completed by the Council's deadline of June 30. Unfortunately plenty of folks have been shying away from shopping here. Hope they return when the project is completed.

With July 4th next week we need your news and ads at the News Office by Friday of this week.

Remember that the Rail-Trail from Simpson to Union Dale is closed to all users due to the gas line construction.

Jolene's Daycare little ones are a welcome sight on Main Street these beautiful summer mornings.

Our home recently got one of those IRS scam calls recently when Officer Paul Ryan advised us that we must return his call immediately or we will be subject to dire consequences. As we have reported here in the past, hang up, don't call back. The IRS never uses the phone to threaten taxpayers.

Stopped in another of our Dining Guide participants McDonnell's Restaurant, Carbondale. Had a nice chat with co-owner Robert McDonnell while we dined on their delicious Fish'n Chips. Stop in seven days a week for great food and excellent service.

If there is one thing which is growing well this year it's the grass. Can't hardly keep up with it.

Forest City Nursing Center had their annual mock disaster drill on June 21. Gives the local emergency services a chance to rehearse if a problem develops there.

School construction is going full steam ahead this summer as the students have vacated the building. It will probably be until the end of the year before the work is completed.

Cabot Oil & Gas announced recently that landowners in Susquehanna County have received \$1 billion in royalties since Cabot's drilling for natural gas began in 2006. The great part of the announcement is that they project it won't take another 10 years to achieve the next \$1 billion.

Auction to be held at Amer. Legion

The American Legion Post 524 is auctioning off non-historical items (kitchenware, tables/chairs, pianos, desks, etc.) on Thursday, July 6, at 6 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

Plans proposed for Trail Town Event in Forest City next year

Forest City took another step toward being a "Trail Town" as a result of a meeting held Thursday, June 15, at Shirley's Restaurant. The Rail-Trail Council would like to participate in a town-wide event next year as it unveils its trail which will be fully reconstructed by then.

Executive Director Lynn Conrad and Trail Assistant Director Carissa Dewey explained that the 10 mile local section, from Simpson to Union Dale, is closed now for the construction of a gas pipeline. However by summer next year the trail system will be back open and will have all new drainage, signage and trail surface installed.

As part of being a Trail Town, the Rail-Trail Council is developing plans to entice and direct access to Forest City's Main Street from two trailheads here. Signage will be erected at both the trailhead/parking area off Rt. 247, off the Browndale Road, and from the trailhead on Erie Street where the former D&H train station once stood.

Regular business conducted At June 12 FCR Board meeting

Forest City Regional School Board of Directors, at their June 12 meeting, signed an agreement to continue their contract with their present school solicitors for an additional year. Sweet Stevens Katz Williams has offices in Pittston, Hershey and New Britain, PA.

The hourly rate for handling routine matters is \$150/hour for attorneys and \$125/hour for legal assistants. Their fees for non-routine matters are \$195/hour for attorneys and \$125/hour for legal assistants. There is no advance retainer fee. Expenses for computerized research, stenographic services, printing, photocopying, etc. are charged at cost.

The 2017-18 school budget was passed with no changes from the tentative budget approved last month. The budget totals \$14,539,918. Real estate millages are 41.2 for Forest City, Union Dale and Herrick Township; 16.72 for Pleasant Mount and Clinton Twp. II; and 92.78 for Vandling. The \$5.00 per capita tax, 1/2% wage tax and real estate transfer taxes will be continued.

The school construction now underway produced change orders raising the costs by \$33,548. A change order for additional electric work last month added \$119,000 to the construction costs.

Mrs. Patricia Chesnick will be the new board secretary at a stipend of \$2,500 per year from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2020. She replaces Marianne Lewandowski who was thanked for her 12 years of service as board secretary.

The Board also signed an agreement with the Support

Pleasant Mount 4th of July Celebration

The town of Pleasant Mount will hold its annual Fourth of July celebration beginning at 10 a.m. Line by 9:30 AM up the North Road. Parade will be led by The American Flag carried by the Costello-Monahan-Brown American Legion.

There will be a program in the park immediately following the parade.

The Pleasant Mt. United Methodist Ladies Auxiliary will have a chicken BBQ at noon until sold out, at the Pleasant Mount Fire Hall. Take out only.

The Pleasant Mount Library will be having a silent auction.

There will be the 4th of July Firecracker 5K Run in the early morning.

Lots of festivities will be going on in and around the Community Center. The O'Hara House Museum will be open.

Ms. Conrad said repairs to the section of trail from Union Dale to Ararat will be bid in July and could be completed next year. This would make the local trail 20 miles long and should be very attractive to walkers, runners and bikers.

Main Street coordinator Art McLain will seek Borough aid to install some of the signage. He also will seek to involve the Borough in the proposed town-wide event.

Thomas Fitzsimmons of the Greater Forest City Business Alliance said he would take the information back to his organization to seek participation of the GFCBA and local businesses.

Conrad said Rail-Trail insurance would cover participation in such an event.

Patricia Striefsky, Forest City News, suggested that another meeting be called in the near future to try and set a date for the event next year as the public and businesses could have advance notice for participation.

Participation of the six local restaurants will be sought.

Staff which provides health benefits to employees who worked between 30 and 35 hours for the 2016-17 school year. The staff will receive the same benefits provided to the FCR Educational Association and will require a premium share of \$750 per year for each employee. This covers only the 2016-17 school year.

An agreement was also approved with the teacher's union to allow the District to hire two speech pathologists, each working two days per week, instead of hiring one full time speech pathologist.

Another agreement approved, allowed a FCR teacher, who is married to another FCR teacher, to waive out of separate health insurance for each and take just the family plan in return for a payout of \$3,500 to the couple.

The sports and other extracurricular appointments also were approved. They were listed in the News last week. The extracurricular stipends were tabled until next month.

The Board approved what was called "A waiver of Expulsion Hearing and Stipulation 2016-04." Supt. Aquilina said it related to a disciplinary matter which provided that a student would not be expelled for a 180 day period.

Rainey & Rainey was again appointed as auditors for the upcoming school year.

Board member William Heller was named Board treasurer for one year term. No compensation is attached to the duty. The Board provides a \$5,000 surety bond.

Two University of Scranton students will be student teachers Aug. 30 to Dec. 1. Caitlin Nicosia will be in Grade 1 with Mrs. Morahan; Sara Redick will be in Grade 3 with Mrs. S. McGraw.

Dr. David Tomazic will serve as school physician through Wayne Memorial Community Health Centers.

Dr. Gerard Genco will be the school dentist. He donates his services to the district.

Unpaid leaves were granted to Bridget Moran for two days and Lori Frost for one day.

First National Bank was named designated depository for the new school year.

4th of July Chicken BBQ In Pleasant Mt.

A Chicken BBQ will be held on Tuesday, July 4 at the Pleasant Mount Fire Hall. It is sponsored by Pleasant Mount United Methodist Church. Tickets are Adult \$10.00, Child \$5.00. Serving noon 'til sold out!



The Forest City Area Historical has begun a fund drive for an elevator and a handicapped accessible entrance and bathroom. Pictured is the interior of the Historical Society

Fund Drive begins for Elevator and Handicapped access to Hist. Soc. Bldg.

The Forest City Area Historical Society will begin a fund drive to install an elevator and a handicapped accessible entrance and handicapped accessible bathroom in their Main Street museum. The cost of the project is \$30,000. Members unanimously approved the project on Sunday, June 11.

The elevator will cost approximately \$20,000 and the entrance and bathroom will cost about \$10,000.

The elevator will be installed in the south corner of the basement and will elevate people and wheelchairs up to the museum to enable elderly and infirm to

participate in Historical Society programs and musical events.

Over the past year benefactors have donated funds toward the handicapped access projects but not enough to cover the entire cost. The Society hopes to raise \$10,000 to \$15,000 in a fund raiser.

Since the museum was opened more than five years ago it became evident that access was a problem. Since many of the people who wish to attend Historical Society events are senior citizens, the problems with access have resulted in a decline of seniors from William Penn Apartments and the

Personal Care Home, as well as seniors with walking difficulties.

Anyone wishing to donate can contact any officer of the Association: President John P. Kameen, Vice President Dave Homisak, Secretary Juliann Doyle or Treasurer Bob Wirts.

Donations can be mailed to Juliann Doyle, Secretary, 305 Martin St., Browndale, PA 18421, or John P. Kameen, President, 636 Main St., Forest City, PA 18421

All donations will be acknowledged in The Forest City News unless otherwise instructed.

Susq. County landowners Got \$1 billion in royalties From Cabot Oil since 2016

At a recent luncheon held at their corporate headquarters in Dimock, Susquehanna County, officials of Cabot Oil & Gas Corp. announced that since 2006 it has paid \$1 billion in royalties to landowners in Susquehanna County from its production of natural gas from the Marcellus Shale. In addition, landowners received a total of \$417 million for gas lease signing bonuses.

B.J. Cline, the Divisional Superintendent of Cabot, said the company has 557 wells in the county that have produced 3 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. He added the company hasn't "even scratched the surface" in its production.

George Stark, who has been the spokesman for Cabot in Susquehanna County for most of the 10 years, said as pipeline construction continues in the county, he believes it won't take ten years to reach the next billion dollar in payments to the leaseholders.

County Commissioner Alan Hall pointed to the Act 13 Natural Gas Impact fees that have flowed into the municipalities in this County. He credited the Impact fees to Susq. County government alone with providing \$5 million in property tax relief relief to county property owners, as well as providing the funds for the Courthouse expansion and modernization without having to raise taxes.

Cabot also took credit for its millions of dollars in com-

munity contributions for such projects as the Endless Mountains Health System facility which received \$4.4 million, and the Lackawanna College School of Petroleum & Natural Gas, at the New Milford exit of I81, which was given a \$2.5 million endowment. Over \$6 million, he said, went to various other community organizations and projects in the County.

Susq. County Economic

Development Director Tony Ventello also stressed the impact to business which Cabot and the other gas companies provided thru its purchases of goods and services in the county.

It was also pointed out that the gas money has allowed farms, which were in families for generations, to stay in the families instead of being split up or sold off.

FCRHS Graduation held June 16; Mikaylah Rutledge, Valedictorian Don Nguyen, Salutatorian

Forest City Regional High School held its One Hundred Nineteenth Commencement on Friday, June 16, 2017. This year's Guest Speaker was Dr. Dina Wasileski. Valedictorian was Mikaylah Rutledge and Salutatorian was Don Nguyen. The program was as follows.

- PROCESSIONAL "Pomp and Circumstance"
Band - Mr. John Scavone, Director
- STAR SPANGLED BANNER Senior Chorus Members
- INVOCATION Allison Lipko
"This is What We Are About"- Bishop Ken Untener
- WELCOME Dr. Michael Elia, Principal
- SALUTATORIAN Don Nguyen
- VALEDICTORIAN Mikaylah Rutledge
- INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER Ryan Kelleher
- GUEST SPEAKER Dr. Dina Wasileski
- MUSICAL SELECTION Band - Mr. John Scavone, Director
- MUSICAL SELECTION Chorus - Miss Alison Yuravich, Director
- PRESENTATION Kayla Jonas & Senior Class
- MANTLE ORATION Mikaylah Rutledge
- JUNIOR RESPONSE Erin Urban
- PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS Mary Emmett,
President Forest City Regional Board of School Directors
- PRESENTATION OF THE CLASS OF 2017
Dr. Michael Elia, Principal
- CLOSING REMARKS Dr. Jessica Aquilina, Superintendent
- ALMA MATER. Class of 2017
- BENEDICTION Maria Montauderes
"Don't Merely Expect" - Rabbi Mordecai M. Kaplan
- RECESSIONAL..... "It's Time"
- Imagine Dragons

Fourth of July DEADLINE JUNE 29

Due to the Fourth of July holiday on Tuesday, July 4th, the News will go to press on Friday, June 30. All news and advertising must be in the office by Thursday at 4:00 p.m.