

# THE FOREST CITY NEWS

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

It is easy to find area road conditions by going to [www.511PA.com](http://www.511PA.com). For around here select region-Scranton/Wilkes-Barre. You can then zoom into whatever area you might want to check. Gives traffic flow, construction, alerts, incidents, etc. As I was checking it last week it listed "heavy traffic on 171 at intersection of 6 in Carbondale." It also listed moderate traffic on 171 from Simpson to Vandling.

We can vouch for the Wednesday night special at The Red Schoolhouse in our Dining Guide featuring a 7 oz. lobster tail complete with their great salad bar, potato and vegetable. They also have their delicious prime rib special on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. They are known for their generous portions and great service.

We caution area drivers that the deer herd seems to be on the move all over this region. We've seen lots of them on area roads, also in the fields, and even spotted five on Panorama Golf Course during Wivey's Golf League last week. Didn't even seem to mind having golf balls whizzing by. By the way Panorama is in excellent condition as the Vauters continue to keep it in top notch shape.

We remind any service veterans of the Vietnam era to call us at 570-785-3800 to be included in the honoring of them as Distinguished Citizen on Aug. 5 at the Historical Society. You did not need to have served in Vietnam. Your service from 1961 to 1975 meant that you were probably serving the war effort in some way, and you were subject to being sent there during that period. Living and deceased veterans will be honored.

The Subway in Forest City is marking its 5th anniversary Tuesday, July 25. Buy a 6-inch sub and a drink that day and you get a free 6-inch sub. Offer good only that day. See ad page 2.

For you blueberry lovers, the Herrick Hill Huckleberry Farm, Herrick Center, will open for picking on Saturday, July 22. Details in ad on pg. 2.

An example of inflation! In our Looking Back column, 50 years ago, PennDOT opened bids on 41 projects in 32 counties to improve 72 miles of highway at a cost of \$32 million. PennDOT is now completing the Harrison Avenue Bridge in Scranton at cost of \$31 million. WOW!

## CORRECTION

In last week's issue about the St. Hilaire Family, one of the sentences was incorrect. It should have read - "One firefighter who didn't recognize Christie asked her if she had a lighter. After a friend explained to the firefighter who Christie was, he apologized and later was one of the first people to return to lend assistance to the family. "We became pretty good friends," Christie said. (The story said Christie was smoking, which she asked be corrected as she was asked for a lighter.)

Also, Christie asked to thank the people who saved their pets: "Thank you to Mark Arthur and Alicia for saving our dog and Rich Belaus for saving our cat."

## Police matters Taken care of By FC Council

A number of police issues were discussed at the July 10 meeting of Forest City Borough Council. Mayor Pauline Wilcox made the following report:

### POLICE CARS

Forest City Council will purchase new tires from Kost Tire for each of the two police cars. The four tires on each car, plus two winter tires, will cost \$2,134.

They will also have Hornbeck Chevrolet do repairs on car No. 2 at a cost of \$1,682.

Chief Jim Johnson reported that the new Ford Interceptor should be put into service in September.

Car #3 was placed out of service on June 30 due to its being unable to be inspected in Pennsylvania. The car was stripped of all police equipment and will be put up for bid.

### UNION DALE PATROL

Mayor Wilcox announced that the proposal to provide police protection to Union Dale Borough was to be discussed that night at Union Dale. She expected their decision in a few days.

### POLICE EVENTS

Forest City Police will sponsor National Night Out on Tuesday, August 1 from 5 to 7 at Kennedy Park. Forest City residents are invited to come and meet the local police and emergency services personnel.

Red Dragon Karate will put on a demonstration. There will be a DJ and a tug of war, and some refreshments.

### FISHING DERBY

The Forest City Police will sponsor a fishing derby at Kennedy Park on Saturday, August 5 from 9 to noon. Prizes will be awarded.

### GRANT FOR VESTS

Forest City Police have submitted a grant request for new police vests. The vest will cost \$799 each and grant requires a 50/50 match. They will be used to replace some current vests and to have a few spares for patrolmen.

## Reisch picked As Forest City Code Officer

Forest City Borough has a new Code Enforcement Officer (CEO). Stephanie Reisch, Delaware Street, was appointed to the job at the Council meeting on July 10.

She will be in charge of Code Enforcement issues and will also do the Residential Rental Unit inspections.

Her pay will be \$11.20/hr. for 6 to 10 hours per week. She also agreed to do two hours of volunteer work. She will begin immediately.

Councilman Chris DeGonzague was named as deputy CEO at no pay.

Council reported that they interviewed two for the job and that Reisch was selected.

Her duties will be to enforce the Borough Property & Maintenance Codes through oral and/or written warnings, and to authorize her to issue Non-Traffic Citations and appear on behalf of the Borough at hearings held at the District Magistrate's Office for non-compliance with the codes.

## Playground Equipment Stolen in Vandling

Information is being sought on the culprit or culprits who stole playground toys from the Tumblin' TOTS Daycare, located on Hillside Street in Vandling last week. Stolen were: Cozy Coup Car, Climber Activity Set, Little Tykes Activity Slide, And a Rocker Seesaw For Ages 12 Months to 3 years. Anyone with any information can contact Forest City Police.

## Legion Hall sold To Wayne Hosp.

A property transaction registered in Susquehanna County recently listed the sale of the Legion Hall from Charles & Martin Skubic Post No. 524, American Legion Home Association Inc. to Wayne Memorial Community Health Centers Inc. for \$67,500.

The property on the corner of Delaware and Dundaff Streets will be used as physician's offices and outpatient services.

## Attorney David Bianco and Dr. Joseph Zasuk Jr. are selected as 2017 Distinguished Citizens



Again this year, the second year in a row, the recipients of this year's Forest City Area Distinguished Citizens awards were from the same Forest City Regional High School class. Two professionals, both graduates of the Class of 1969, have been selected to receive the town's highest honors. The 35th annual awards by the Distinguished Citizen Committee go to Attorney David Bianco and Dr. Joseph M. Zasuk Jr., D.O., F.C.C.P. Atty. Bianco will be honored for his more than 40 years of dedication to the field of law which included almost 30 years in the Fields & Bianco law partnership in Forest City. Dr. Zasuk, now residing in Tyler, Texas, has spent more than 40 years in the medical profession both as a member of the U.S. Air Force and as a hospital and private practice physician.

The 2017 Selection Committee met on Tuesday, June 27 in Forest City Council Chambers to vote on their selections from a list of nominations Made by the public. Members participating in the selection process were: Forest City Council President William D. Orasin, Vandling Council President Francis Pantzar, Forest City Lions Club Secretary James Marsicano, Forest City Business Alliance acting head Michael O'Neill, Greater Forest City Industries President Robert McGraw, Forest City Historical Society Rep. Tammy O'Reilly, Patricia Striefsky and John P. Kameen of The Forest City News, sponsors of the annual awards event.

The Distinguished Citizen Committee also acted upon a request from a former resident, John Onufrak, to nominate all who served in Vietnam as Distinguished Citizens around 50 years since the United States entry into the Vietnam War. The awards will be presented at ceremonies to be held on Saturday, August 5th at 1 PM in the air-conditioned Forest City Area Historical Society Museum at 629 Main Street.

### Atty. David Bianco

Attorney David Bianco is still busy but at this stage of his life he is putting the finishing touches on a law career that started 40 years ago. A fixture on Forest City's Main Street, the law firm of Fields and Bianco served our community with their general law practice since 1979. There is a new name on the sign out in front of the office but you can still find Attorney Bianco at work in the same office serving his clients.

Dave and Janette Bianco live in Pleasant Mount and have a son, Samuel, married to Naoko and with their daughter, Sanna live in Fairfield, California which is near San Francisco. Dave and Janette also have a daughter, Felicia, and she is married to Jeffrey Nguyen and they have a son, Aiden and live in Hershey.

Mr. Bianco describes his childhood as idyllic. Growing up in Simpson, being in the last first grade class in Vandling School where the teacher, Miss Marley taught first, second and third grade in the same room, it is easy to recall happy memories. Sometimes there are people or perhaps a person that can really make a difference in our life. For Dave Bianco that person was Joseph Kulinski, one of his high school teachers. It is common for schools to group their students into classes according to their abilities or perceived abilities.

Dave admits that he was grouped with students who were considered to be the ones with lower ability. Mr. Kulinski encouraged and inspired Dave and helped him to believe in himself. Dave took this teacher's words to heart and this helped start Dave on his way to a successful career. Dave admits he has never had the chance to personally thank Mr. Kulinski. Dave decided in high school that he would become a lawyer.

After graduating from Forest City High School in 1969 he attended the University of Pennsylvania and graduated cum laude. Dave graduated from Dickinson School of Law in Carlisle and began his career as a lawyer.

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### Dr. Joseph Zasuk, Jr.

Dr. Joseph Zasuk, Jr. is the son of the late Joseph Zasuk and Kathryn Goskowski Zasuk. His siblings are Patricia Konjola, the late Kathryn Lavriha and Frances Murnin. His high school nickname was "Deacon" because he was an altar boy at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church. His classmates recognized him as a leader by naming him as President of the Senior class. He was active in student council, varsity basketball and the school newspaper, "The Scrivener". His high school yearbook indicates he had already set his goals of planning a career in medicine. Joseph also enjoyed hunting and fishing while living in Forest City.

In 1969 to 1973, Joseph attended King's College in Wilkes-Barre, PA. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. While at King's, he served as dormitory president. He instructed catechism at a local church. He was a member of the service fraternity, Sigma Kappa Sigma, and participated in numerous service oriented programs. In 1972, the Agnes flood hit Wilkes-Barre. He initially worked on the dike sandbagging the Susquehanna River and later worked assisting families with emergency cleanup and repair. While at King's, he was named to Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities.

In 1973 Joseph joined the Air Force. While in the Air Force, from 1973-1977, he earned his doctorate degree at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in Philadelphia, PA. Also during this time, he served on the medical team assisting and transporting wounded Vietnam veterans from the Philippines to multiple stateside military hospitals via Air Force Medevac.

Joseph sadly remembers, all too clearly the many times at stateside airports when he and his fellow servicemen were spat upon because of wearing their military uniforms and were totally disrespected by the anti-war sentiment of some onlookers during that time period.

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## Public meeting on new trash plan planned for Forest City residents

### Letters to be sent out to all FC Property Owners

It appears that Forest City Council will be dumping its present garbage contract in favor of one of three proposals made by the Council's Garbage Committee.

In order to get input from the public, Council will hold a public work session at a date to be set in the future.

Councilman Nick Cost, head of the Garbage Committee, gave a report to Council Monday, July 10, which came out of a meeting on June 19 attended by Council members Cost, Chris DeGonzague, Council Pres. Bill Orasin and the garbage contractor Joseph Franceski.

The three potential options for consideration are as follows:

1. Open - Everyone is free to hire their own garbage hauler and pay him. Borough would mandate collection day and create a new ordinance that requires the hauler to recycle and provide weight slips to the Borough.

2. Switch the bid per year fee to cover two bags per week at \$215 per year - keep

recycling as is or \$240 per year - with recycling. Either way, annual fee added to the Borough tax bill.

3. Require people to purchase 35 bags per year at a cost of \$3.60 per bag (\$126). This cost would also be added to the tax bill. Additional bags, if needed can be purchased at Zazzera's or the Borough Office.

It is not known if Council planned to vote on one of the proposals at the July 10 meeting however local resident, Kevin Kane, asked Council if he could comment on them. Since Council's public comment period is at the start of the Council meeting, he was advised that he would have to give his comments before the proposals were made public.

By the time Councilman Cost presented the proposals much later in the two-hour Council session, Council members had agreed that they would have to give the public the opportunity to give its opinions on this very important matter.

The problem with local collections came to light

when the present garbage hauler, Franceski Waste, told Council that so few local families were putting out garbage that the company could not continue under the present contract terms. The contract was awarded last year and is in the first year of a three year contract period.

Borough Solicitor Paul Smith told Council that Council can let the present hauler out of the contract. He agreed that based on the collections this year, the present bag system is not working.

Franceski Waste owner Joseph Franceski III told Council June 11 that he wants out of his present contract since only 28% of the more than 900 residences in Forest City are putting out any garbage. He said of the 941 households in Forest City only 230 to 250 put out any bags of garbage each week.

Franceski noted that his bid was based on information provided by the Borough in their request for trash bids. The information was that there are 1050 structures in town, of which 941

are residences, both owned and rentals. The contract requires local residences to dispose of trash only with the contracted trash hauler. Only businesses may contract with private haulers.

In discussing the three proposals, Council members stated that if Proposals #2 or #3 are selected, the costs will be added to the property owner's tax bill. Under the present bag system, the cost of bags is paid by the person who occupies the residence, either owner or renter. Failure to pay the tax bill will result in legal action.

Under Proposal #1 the resident or property owner will hire their own garbage hauler, and the Borough will require private haulers to pick up recycling.

In order to inform everyone in Forest City of the garbage proposals, Council directed that all property owners receive an invitation to the future meeting as well as information on the three proposals being considered. The proposals will also be listed on the Borough's website.

