

# THE FOREST CITY NEWS

## ODDS'N ENDS

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

You might want to read the tribute to the patriotism of Forest City contained in an item on page 6 in the 100 Year Ago column provided to us by Betty Smith of the Susquehanna County Historical Society. It indicates that more than 100 Forest City men volunteered to serve when the call went out for soldiers to fight World War I in 1917. That was more than the quota for all of Susquehanna County at that time.

This year seems to be an especially good one for the deer flies, also known as fierce flies. These terribly pesky insects are the ones which fly around your head when walking in or near woods. They breed in moist woodlands and deliver a vicious bite in a short time. Only the females bite. It uses its sight to detect a target but can also be attracted by the carbon dioxide from breathing. They torment deer, cows and other animals besides humans. They can make a walk in the woods a less than pleasant experience unless you wear a hat and douse your head and face with a strong repellent.



You will notice a photo of a car-carrier stuck on Depot Street last week; the second one of them in the past year. Supposedly GPS navigation routes trucks through Richmondale and eventually down our hills. We wonder if GPS routing has put Dundaff Street off limits for car carriers after the 2011 car carrier crash which destroyed the Wells Building at 638 Main St., at the bottom of Dundaff St.

We hear the huckleberries at the Herrick Hill Blueberry Farm are large and numerous. See their ad on page 2.

Eileen Mustica told us last week that they have 7,000 fall mums planted at Blueberry Hill.

The Historical Society is still taking names of Vietnam era veterans who were in the service from 1961 to 1975. You did not have to have been in Vietnam to be classified as a Vietnam era veteran. All will be honored at the Distinguished Citizen honors program at the Historical Society on Saturday, Aug. 5 at 1PM. Call 570-785-3800 or 570 785-5177 to add your name to the list.

This week's Forest City News dining guide is introducing its 10th "fare"-tastic place to dine in the area! Pettinato's Restaurant in Carbondale has joined the ranks of great restaurants to eat at in the area. Be sure to check out page 7 if you want to find a great place to dine.

## Grass cutting To be enforced In Boro Codes

Five properties in Forest City were warned due to failure to do grass cutting as required by the Borough Code. Additional properties were added to the list and property owners were warned that fines will be imposed for failure to cut grass.

Property owners are reminded that grass cutting on properties must be done on both front and rear yards to be in compliance with the codes.

## Historical Society Re-elects officers

Forest City Area Historical Society re-elected its present officers for another year. They are: President John P. Kameen, Vice-President David Homisak, Secretary Juliann Doyle, Treasurer Robert Wirts.

Curator Bob Wirts and Paul Ferraro were able to secure all historical items at the Charles & Martin Skubic Post No. 524 American Legion as the building is being sold. Everything which remained was sold at public auction July 6.

An expense of \$535 was experienced due to the repair of the air conditioning unit and unplugging the toilet.

Treasurer Robert Wirts reported that \$2,500 has thus far been contributed to the elevator fund drive. The elevator which will provide handicapped access to the upstairs from the basement was ordered and will take 4 to 6 weeks to arrive. It will then take several weeks to schedule installation.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the elevator fund can mail them to Secretary Juliann Doyle, 305 Martin St., Brown Dale, PA 18421 or President John P. Kameen, 636 Main St., Forest City PA 18421. The drive hopes to raise \$15,000.

Pre-K and summer school students of Forest City Regional School attended classes in the Historical Society for July and August due to construction at the school.

The Historical Society

## \$2,500 raised By Hist. Soc. For elevator

The Forest City Area Historical Society has announced that they have received almost \$2,500 thus far in their fundraising effort to install an elevator and handicapped access to the museum on Main Street.

The Society hopes to raise \$15,000 in this undertaking.

Anyone wishing to make a donation can contact any member of the Society: President John P. Kameen, Vice Pres. David Homisak, Secretary Juliann Doyle, Treasurer Robert Wirts.

Mail donations can be sent to Juliann Doyle Secretary, 305 Martin St., Brown Dale PA 18421 or John P. Kameen, President, 636 Main St., Forest City PA 18421

## Legion Aux. Disbanding

A letter recently sent to members of the Ladies Auxiliary Charles & Martin Skubic Post No. 524 American Legion, Forest City, by Auxiliary President Beverly Bennett, advised them the unit is disbanding.

Reasons given were that the membership had declined from several hundred to the present thirty-six, most of which, said Pres. Bennett, are in their 70's, 80's and 90's, with some in Nursing Homes.

Members are told that if they wish to keep their membership they can join other units in the area or belong to the National unit.

Pres. Bennett listed Gloria Edwards, 132 Pipper Dr., Apt. E8, Tunkhannock, PA 18657 who will take dues which are \$14/year.

## Dist. Citizen Awards set For Aug. 5th

The annual Forest City Area Distinguished Citizen awards program will be held Saturday, Aug. 5 at 1PM at the air conditioned Historical Society Museum. Atty. David Bianco and Dr. Joseph Zasik Jr. will be honored.

Also to be honored will be all area Vietnam era veterans. Those vets attending will be presented with lapel pins.

A reception for everyone will be held in the Museum basement following the event.

The Museum is not yet handicapped accessible.

named a committee to honor all Vietnam Era Veterans of this area, living and deceased, at a program at the Museum Saturday, August 5, at 1PM in association with the annual Forest City Distinguished Citizen award program. Committee is: Paul Ferraro, Bob Wirts, Dave Homisak, Deb Giddings, Tammy O'Reilly, Dave Opeka and John Kameen

All Vietnam Era Veterans in this area are invited to register to get their names on a plaque to be placed in the Historical Society and a Vietnam Veteran lapel pin will be given to all Vietnam vets who attend the event.

It was reported that many people are contacting the Society to find out genealogy information about relatives. The Society replies to all requests and if unable to provide information tries to direct the requester to the right channel.

Jon Harcharek and Roseann Swegel are working on the Historytelling Project which will film and record local residents who are willing to tell their stories about the "Old Days" in this area. Contact Jon at 570-785-3980, if you would like further information. All recordings will become part of the Historical Society collection.

License plates commemorating the 250th anniversary of the discovery of anthracite coal can be purchased at The Forest City News for \$20.00.

## Sen. Baker office Hours in FC Thur., July 25

Senator Lisa Baker, R-20th, announced that Field Representative Tom Yoniski will be available for consultation from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. on Thursday, July 25 at the Forest City Borough Building, 535 Main St., Forest City and from 1-3 that same day at the Lenox Township Municipal Building, 2811 State Route 92, Kingsley.

While appointments are recommended, walk-ins are welcome.

Constituents are encouraged to visit with any questions or problems relating to state matters and no appointment is necessary though they can be scheduled. Concerns may also be addressed by visiting Senator Baker's district office at 22 Dallas Shopping Center, Dallas, by visiting her website at [www.senatorbaker.com](http://www.senatorbaker.com) or by calling (570) 675-3931.

## FCR School To begin Tues., Sept. 19

An updated calendar for the 2017-2018 school year was approved at the Forest City Regional School Board meeting on July 17. Due to the renovation project, the start of the school year has been delayed by two weeks.

The first day of classes for students will be Tuesday, September 19, 2017. The tentative last day for students is Friday, June 8, 2018. The updated calendar is posted on the school's website.

The first day for students who attend the Career Technology Center of Lackawanna County is Wednesday, August 30, 2017. Transportation and lunch will be available for the morning and afternoon students. Additional information will be provided in mid-August.

## Fern Hall fire contained to smoke damage

A report of smoke in the basement of Fern Hall prompted a dozen fire companies to respond to the inn on Rte. 247 at Crystal Lake around 12:26 p.m. Damage was contained to smoke from the incident. The facility reopened on Friday.

## Car carrier gets stuck on Depot Street in Forest City



A car carrier delivering cars to Allan Hornbeck Chevrolet last Wednesday morning took a wrong turn and ended up on Depot and Delaware Streets. At a recent Vandling Council meeting, it was reported that GPS routing sends trucks through Richmondale and Hudson Street, Forest City. The NEWS was told that this is the second car carrier stuck on Depot Street in the last month. Kozlowski Towing was called to remove the vehicle.

## School administrators get \$23,000 in pay increases

Forest City Regional School Board granted pay increases of 3%, which totaled \$21,796, to ten administrators at its July 17 regular meeting. They also approved a 3% increase for Business Manager Kathleen Seifried to \$89,815.

Dr. Michael Elia, high school principal, did not receive an increase at this time but will get it on the anniversary of his hiring. His present salary is \$103,000.

The new salaries are:

Brian Kelly, elementary principal, \$92,700

Donna Potis, special education director, \$87,651

Leeta Dennebaum, curriculum coordinator, \$84,872

Steve Glynn, technology coordinator, \$69,266

John Reeder, maintenance supervisor, \$53,250

Patricia Chesnick, administrative asst. to superintendent, transportation coordinator, PIMs administrator \$48,925

Paul McCormick, technology assistant, \$48,695

Mary Lee Martines, cafeteria manager, \$42,436

Darlene Hamlyn, administrative assistant-elementary \$38,165

Donna Kelso, administrative assistant-business office \$37,438

In addition, all school administrators receive the Act 93 benefits package which includes:

\*PPO Blue Health coverage for the individual and family for medical, dental, and vision insurance with no premium share.

\*15 holidays, 2 personal leave days, 12 sick days per

year, and bereavement absence for death of a family member.

\*15 paid vacation days during the first full seven years of service and an additional five days after seven years.

\*Life insurance for two times employee salary or \$65,000.

\*Mileage reimbursement for school-related travel.

\*Tuition reimbursement for college courses.

\*Payment of membership in one professional organization.

\*A workday of 8 hours with a 30 minute duty-free lunch break.

In addition, all are covered by PSERS, state employee pension benefits.

## Vandling Borough to install new natural gas furnace

Vandling Borough Council, at the monthly meeting on July 17, awarded Regal Plumbing and Heating the bid to install a new natural gas furnace in the Borough building. Regal was the low bidder at \$6,055. Council decided to keep the oil tank in the building until they decide how to remove it.

### CORRESPONDENCE

The Dime Bank sent a proposal explaining its products and services. Councilman Bill Boyle is Chief Credit Officer of the bank.

Christine Lukus, owner of Tumbler TOTS Daycare, sent a letter explaining that playground equipment was stolen on July 14. She said she will no longer equip the playground with items as long as the playground is open to the public. She asked Council to make the playground updates.

Council explained that the playground was built with a grant and it can not be restricted to just the daycare for its use.

Mayor Brady suggested she

build her own playground on the premises. He also suggested the Borough install a security camera on the property. He said he would check with someone he knows who installs them, gather information, and make a decision at next month's meeting.

President Fran Pantzar said he would talk to Mrs. Lukus about a solution to the problem.

### B'DALE FIRE REPORT

Fire Chief Josh Debevec said there were 10 calls during the month of June and they had 233 hours of training.

### PERSONS TO BE HEARD

Mary Pucul appeared before Council to ask them to pass a resolution concerning gerrymandering.

In the process of setting electoral districts, gerrymandering is a practice that attempts to establish a political advantage for a particular party or group by manipulating district boundaries to create partisan-advantaged districts. The resulting district apportionment is known as a gerrymander; however, that

word can also refer to the process.

She said it is done every 10 years after the census is complete. She said a bill is currently in the House and Senate and she asked that, when the time comes, Council pass a resolution in support of it.

### MAYOR REPORT

Mayor Joe Brady said he was supposed to have a meeting that day with Senator Blake to look at the intersection of Route 171 and Ash Street and discuss what can be done to prevent accidents from happening there. Unfortunately, the meeting had to be postponed. Brady said he would like to reschedule the meeting before Labor Day and hoped all Council members would attend.

### SOLICITOR REPORT

Attorney Paul Smith said he attended a hearing regarding the junk removal on the Mikloiche property on Clinton Street. Mr. Mikloiche was told that he needed to bring an attorney and the hearing was rescheduled for September 13.

cont. on page 5

**69th Annual Firemen's PICNIC**  
**CLIFFORD TWP. VOL. FIRE CO.**  
July 27 Parade-July 28 Firework-July 29 Chicken bbq  
**Family Fun!**

Sponsors: The Ladies Auxiliary, Lenox Propane, Adams Cable Service and UGI Energy Services  
**NEW..Agricultural Museum**  
[www.cliffordfire.com](http://www.cliffordfire.com)

