

THE FOREST CITY NEWS



The Union Dale Firemen's picnic starts Thursday with their parade at 7PM. They have some great food every year, and a good line-up of music. Plenty of free parking on their grounds just off Upper Stillwater Road.

Just a note for this July 4th week: John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, two of our most important Founding Fathers, and whose work resulted in the Declaration of Independence, died on the same day, July 4, 1826, which was the 50th anniversary of the issuance of the Declaration, which their greatest achievement. That document told us that we are all created equal and had God-given rights including Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.

For those who do not and cannot comprehend why Facebook exists, here is how to make friends outside Facebook while applying the same principles: Everyday as you walk down the street, if someone makes eye contact with you, tell them what you have eaten, how you feel at that moment, what you did the night before, and what you will do later and with whom. Also give them pictures of your family, the dog, and you watering the lawn or doing gardening. Also photos of you standing in front of landmarks, having lunch and doing what everybody does every day. Also listen for their response and give the "thumbs up" and tell them you like them. And if it works just like Facebook, you will soon have some people following you like police officers, private investigators and maybe a psychiatrist.

The phone scams just keep on coming! A local couple got one of those calls last week which starts with the "Can you hear me?" According to reports these are made to try and gain information from your home internet connection. The solution, sad to say, is not accept calls from anyone you do not know, and to hang up if the call is from an unknown source. But now you cannot even believe a name which comes up on your caller ID. Bishop Bambera, of the Scranton Roman Catholic Diocese, has advised that scammers may be able to enter phone systems of parishes in such a way that they can make a call and it will come up as "Parish Office" or the name of the parish. Obviously even religious organizations are not immune from being used by scammers.

Had a chance to view some youth golf lessons at Homestead Golf Course, Rte. 106, near Finch Hill, being given last week by our golf column writer, Art McLain. Owner Donald Powell is very anxious to see young golfers start their training and gain more knowledge of the sport. The course has 9 executive holes and 9 regulation holes, and was in excellent condition. I spoke to several patrons who enjoy the layout.

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.

Record crowd on hand at Vandling Council meeting

Vandling Borough Council received four bids for its gas furnace conversion at the meeting on June 26. The bids ranged in price from \$6,055 to \$9,325. The bid had several options involved so Council tabled the matter until next month or a special meeting before then in order to look over the bids.

The bids were as follows: Semiak Plumbing and Heating, Mayfield - \$9,325; Regal Plumbing and Heating, Carbondale - \$6,055; Rockhill Heating, Browndale - \$7,650 w/water heater and \$7,975 for tankless water heater; and L.H. Reed, Honesdale - \$7,796 and an additional \$1,050 to remove oil tank.

Council agreed to compare the bids and ask questions if they need to.

CORRESPONDENCE

PennDot conducted a liquid

fuels audit and all information was found to be accurate.

Tumblin Tots Daycare will be on vacation from July 22 to July 30. President Fran Pantzar said the daycare will be painted during that time. He is not sure if it will be done by volunteers or the DPW department.

Jermyn Borough passed a resolution asking Lackawanna County to do a property tax reassessment and sent letters to all towns and municipalities in Lackawanna County to do the same. President Pantzar said they stand by Jermyn in doing this.

Vandling resident Brian Salak sent a lengthy letter concerning a sewer problem he is having at his property on Hillside Street. He thanked President Fran Pantzar and the rest of Council for their efforts but said he is concerned that there

are no maps or records as to where the sewers are located. He said the Borough lacks a sewage enforcement officer which President Pantzar said was incorrect.

Salak went on to say that it has been a full month without full use of his sewer and he wants something done to remedy the situation. He has hired a plumber who has been unable to fix the problem. He pays his taxes on time and feels that it is a simple fix that the Borough needs to solve.

President Pantzar said a major problem does exist with Mr. Salak's sewer line. They have been unable to find the line. Pantzar said the Prince Brothers would be looking into it immediately. He said Mr. Salak is correct when he says there is no documentation or mapping of sewer lines.

Mayor Joe Brady insisted that Tom Prince will not be around forever. The Borough needs documentation. "We have a commitment to the residents," stated Mayor Brady.

Pantzar said Councilman Don Franceski is looking into grants for this type of mapping.

POLICE QUESTIONED

Chief of Forest City Police Jim Johnson and another officer were in attendance to see if there were any questions or concerns in the Borough.

Bill Matos of Clinton Street questioned what happened to the ordinance in the Borough which kicked a resident out of an apartment after the police were called there three times. He was told by Solicitor Paul Smith that the ordinance was unconstitutional.

Matos said there is criminal activity going on in a residence near his and he is fed up. He was told by the Chief that they are aware of the situation but are working with other agencies and can not go into detail about the issue, but the District Attorney and detectives are involved.

President Pantzar stated that you can not just go into a home and kick the people out. Matos said drugs are going in and out of the house.

Chief Johnson said one arrest was made already and they are currently working with informants. He said they could patrol more often but if someone sees something going on that is criminal, they need to call the police. "We are family and need to work together," said Chief Johnson.

Councilman Don Franceski asked the Chief if he had a record of the accidents reported on Main Street, the dead man's curve area. Chief Johnson said there have been two reportable accidents since November 1. He asked the question because he is looking into a grant program for assistance with the area and he needs to submit the accidents and injuries over the last several years.

MAYOR REPORT

Mayor Joe Brady reported that line painting will be done as soon as possible.

Mayor Brady expressed concerns about safety problems at the Annual Vandling Development Yard Sale. He thinks the Borough should consider hiring police like they do for Halloween since the crowds are getting much larger.

cont. on page 4

NEP Telephone plans to run Fiber Optic Cable In Vandling Development

Marlene Sample, NEP Telephone Company representative, was in attendance at the monthly meeting of Vandling Borough Council on June 26, to discuss the installation of Fiber Optic Cable underground in the Vandling Development. Part of the development already has the cable but they will be running it to the rest of the development.

She explained that she would be going door to door to all the affected customers to let them know what the project will entail and to see if they are interested in hooking up to it. Each homeowner will also be getting a letter explaining the work to be done.

When asked when she thought the project would

begin, she said she hoped it would start after Labor Day.

Vandling resident John Carachilo explained that residents of 6th and 7th streets have their gas and sewer lines in the front of the property. He questioned the disruption to driveways and lawns and asked if it would be brought back to the same condition following completion.

Sample assured him that the contractors are bonded and use bullets under the road. She said the restoration is done to the best of their ability. The conduit is put 18 inches under the ground.

Sample said she would be going door to door in the near future.

Maple Ridge Development Step closer to fruition

The Maple Ridge Development in Vandling is one step closer to fruition according to Engineer Emmett Mancinelli who explained to Vandling Borough Council on Monday, June 26 that DEP has approved the sewer planning module.

An intermunicipal agreement between Vandling Borough and Fell Township was discussed back in 2014-15 but was never signed and needs to be in order for the Development to move further.

Conditional approval for the development has been given by Lackawanna County. Once the intermunicipal agreement is signed, Vandling can go ahead and approve the development plans.

The intermunicipal agreement concerns a section of road that is in Fell Township. Fell Township wishes to give the road to Vandling and they can collect the liquid fuels money.

Councilman John Mayers said he has spoken to Fell

Township and is not sure why the agreement was never signed because all agreed to it.

Councilman Bill Boyle questioned if there is a checklist that needs to be looked at. He asked if plans could be made available to Council and the public in the event that anyone has any concerns about the project. Boyle said he would like to look at the plans before approving the development.

President Fran Pantzar recused himself from any voting due to a conflict of interest concerning the development.

Attorney Paul Smith said he has a copy of the unsigned intermunicipal agreement and asked if Secretary Nancy Perry could look back to the minutes of the meeting where it was discussed.

Council hopes to have the plans in hand for review by next month's meeting so they can proceed with acceptance for the new development.

Union Dale Picnic kicks off Thursday, July 6

The Union Dale Volunteer Fire Co. 2017 annual picnic will be held Thursday, July 6; Friday, July 7 and Sat., July 8 at the picnic grounds in Union Dale.

On Thursday, July 6, the firemen's parade will kick off at 7 p.m. and the Mace In Dickson band will play from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. The dunk tank sponsor is Nagel Racing Team.

On Friday, July 7, the Crooked Jack Band will play from 7 to 11 p.m. and fireworks will be at 10:15 p.m. sponsored by Adams Cable. Rain date will be Sat., July 8. Dunk tank sponsor is Arlo's

On Sat., July 8, community night will be held with the county drug van on site for anyone wishing to get rid of unwanted/unused drugs. Each person who drops off drugs will get a free slice of cheese pizza.

Also, Community night includes the following: Susquehanna County 911 and EMA (Division of Public Safety) will be on site to answer questions and educate the public on CODE RED and SMART 911.

The Susquehanna County Sheriff will be on waiting for you to take your best shot and toss a pie in his face.



The Mountain View Garden Club Plant Exchange was just one of the many events which took place during Art in Bloom on the Trail sponsored by the Rail Trail Council on June 24.



Artwork by students at Mountain View and Forest City Schools was on display in the Mill Studio.

Successful Art in Bloom held in Union Dale June 24

by Art McLain

After an early morning rain the sky cleared and the visitors to the Art in Bloom on the Trail were treated to a perfect summer day. The grounds and displays were ready for the 13th year of the Mountain View Garden Club's Plant Exchange and events sponsored by the Rail Trail Council. With cascading waterfalls providing the background at the Mill Studio in Uniondale it was a treat for the senses. The day's events started off with an opportunity to learn more about the history of the area which was available by taking a tour with Pat Peltz and Lynn Conrad.

Early visitors had the added bonus of receiving a packet of milkweed seeds donated by Rave's Garden Center. The milkweed will help to support our monarch butterfly population.

Sherry Sparks offered her best tips to all interested photographers through a clinic. No doubt there were many pictures taken of the natural beauty of the bridges over the stream. Penn State master gardeners were on hand to answer questions and also provided information about additional opportunities to keep learning not only about gardening but many other topics as well.

The big event started at 2:30 and eager shoppers lined up early to get their place in line for the plant exchange. A wide array of plants, vegetables, herbs, and shrubs were available in different sizes and the checkout line was a barometer showing the love that people have of adding to their garden and landscapes. Everything was well organized and helpful garden club members were everywhere you might need them for help and advice.

At the same time Cheryl Nolan from the Lackawanna County Conservation District and her two interns; Macy Phillips from Wilkes College and Casey Pierce from Mansfield University were educating parents and children about the ecosystem in the water. The trio were able to catch and display mayflies and caddisflies. In addition to being a source of food for the fish these insects

also offer information about the water quality. When these insects are present it indicates a very good water quality. The ultimate barometer of water quality is when there are stoneflies present. Cheryl said they had seen stoneflies last year and possibly because of the recent rainfall the stoneflies had been washed further downstream.

Back up top Jim Carro and Friends were starting to play their music. The group is a very talented foursome of musicians and added a great touch to the event. Conveniently nearby were the stands of the Iron Hart Brewing Company and Lucchi Family Wineries offering the chance to sample and purchase craft beer and wine.

Inside the Mill Studio itself was another original idea and another of the highlights of the event. Artwork was on display from Mountain View and Forest City students and judged by the viewers, another brilliant idea. The contest was divided into three divisions; elementary, middle school and high school students. The work was really well done and judging a winner was no easy task.

Also inside the studio were other exceptional goods for sale with handcrafted pottery, additional artwork, and LuLaRoe clothing available. The Clifford Historical Society also had a table with information about what they do and opportunities to join and partner with them in their continuing gift to us of preserving and presenting the history of our area.

Cable's Deli was busy with preparing delicious food and the chicken bar-b-q was sold out in advance of the event. Nearby was a bake sale to benefit the Women's Resource Center. A shuttle helped provide the additional parking once the nearby spots were filled.

All told it was a great day with a well-planned series of events. Everyone involved with the event were very friendly and helpful. Thank you to all the people who organized, volunteered and contributed to make this such a nice day. We can't wait for next year.