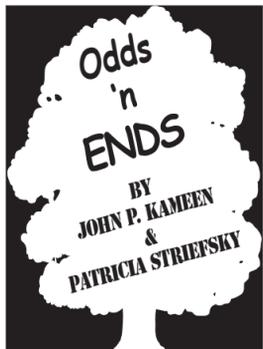


THE FOREST CITY NEWS



NOT JUST DOOM & GLOOM DUE TO FIRE

Despite the devastation of our Main Street August 27 it's not all doom and gloom.

Ros Al Floral was back in business across the street on Monday. In fact, they made their first flower delivery from their new location across the street on Tuesday morning. Chris said they already had contacted their wedding customers to inform them they were back in business.

Kevin Lesjack had Damage Control in his funeral home Sunday night. Despite fears of serious structural damage we understand he will be able to do repairs. Area funeral directors have offered their assistance to him.

Grandpa Nick Iafaldano, owner of the former Cooley Building, lost everything, but got so many clothing donations that he was giving some to the Salvation Army for other victims.

An account was set up in First National Bank by the Salvation Army to accept money donations which will be available for the needs of the local fire victims and for others affected by disasters.

ARK helps, a local non-profit set up by 15-year-old Angel, has already arranged a benefit "Ark-Fest FALL 2017" at Creekside Grove, Lenoxville, on Sunday, Oct. 8th.

The utility companies were on the scene for several days repairing their damaged equipment.

With insurance adjusters also on the scene, all property owners are now dealing with their insurance companies and sorting out their claims.

Forest City Borough officials are discussing what they can do to facilitate cleanup and rebuilding.

State Representative Jonathon Fritz visited with those affected on Monday and offered his aid.

Susq. County Commissioner Maryann Warren came to town Sunday afternoon to show her willingness to assist the victims.

And of course, the Red Cross and Salvation Army were on the scene from early morning the day of the fire to provide aid and comfort to the victims and to provide nourishment to the responders.

Father Brian J.T. Clarke, of St. Joseph's Church, will hold a Prayer Service for the victims and the community on Sunday, Sept. 10, at 3PM at the church. It is non-denominational and a collection will be taken for the fire victims.

We also would add that Michael Parente was the person who quickly got a ladder to assist Police Officer Foley in getting occupants of the building to safety.

Never let it be said we are not a generous and caring community.

Local Author's Luncheon Wed., September 20

The 10th annual Local Author's Luncheon to benefit the Forest City branch of the Susquehanna County Library System will be held at Elkview Country Club at Crystal Lake on Wednesday, September 20, 2017. The Forest City Library is also celebrating its 50th anniversary.

This year's featured author is Susan Campbell Bartoletti who resides in Moscow, Pennsylvania and writes children's literature. Susan's non-fiction books include Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow; The Boy who Dared; They Called Themselves The K.K.K.: The Birth of an American Terrorist Group; and Black Potatoes: The Story of the Great Irish Famine.

Campbell Bartoletti graduated from the University of Scranton in 1982. She began

her career as an eighth-grade English teacher before deciding to pursue writing in earnest. She has received numerous awards for her writing including the NCTE Orbis Pictus Award for Non-fiction, the SCBWI Golden Kite Award for Nonfiction, the Jane Addams Children's Book Award, and the Newberry Honor Medal.

The annual luncheon is sponsored by the Novel Woman Book Club and will start with a time of hospitality at 11:30. Lunch will be served at 12:15 followed by the speaker and a book signing. The cost is \$25 and checks can be made payable to the Forest City Library and mailed to 531 Main Street, Forest City 18421 by September 13. For additional information, you can reach the library at 570-785-5590.

Yoga Hike to Panther's Bluff Sun., Sept. 10

To celebrate Lackawanna River Conservation Association 30th year anniversary they have scheduled 30 events throughout August, September and October. One such event is a Yoga Hike to Panther's Bluff on Sunday September 10th at 9 am.

This event is being hosted by Rail-Trial Council with the help of Tiffany Debish of Studio Be yoga. Our hike will begin along the O&W Trail, offering views of the scenic Lackawanna River. Just north of mile post 1, Panther's Creek crosses under the trail. The mountain to the east is part of the Wildlands Conservancy's 1500 acre property and the state's first Native Plant Sanctuary. This is where participants will leave the O&W trail and start the hike to Panther's Bluff. Along the way we will see remnants of the

D&H Gravity Railroad. The path is lined with native rhododendron and many varieties of wildflowers. It will be a moderate climb, on a rocky path. Near the falls we will join Tiffany as she leads us in a relaxing yoga experience. The hike is medium level and approximately 3 hours long.

\$5 Dollar donation for Yoga instructor.

The Simpson Trailhead is just off Route 171. Turn on to Reservoir Street, then immediate left onto Homestead Street (look for army tank). Park along the left side of Homestead Street, you will see the Trailhead sign. Lat 41°35'37.19"N, Long 75°29'01.27"W

Dress appropriately, wear sturdy sneakers or boots, bring water and snacks, use tick and bug spray and sunscreen!

New Susq. Co. Library to Host Open House

The new Susquehanna County Library will host an Open House Sept. 16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The event will feature activities for the whole family, including story time, all-ages crafts, face painting, Susquehanna Rocks, building block challenges and e-book training sessions.

There will also be live entertainment by Mountain Aire Brass. Lunch will also be served beginning at 11 a.m.

The new Susquehanna County Library, located at 458 High School Rd. in Bridge-water Township, opened its doors July 17 this year. The 21,000-square-foot facility provides the community with expanded space for books, meetings and study space, the needs for which had long since outgrown the original 1907 building. The Susquehanna County Historical Society, once occupying the top floor of the 18 Monument St. location, will expand to the entire building.

Donations for Fire victims Accepted at FNB

Donations for items for the fire victims of last week's fire on Main Street can be dropped off at First National Bank, Main Street, Forest City. Eileen Lynch, Branch Manager, said she will make sure they get to the victims.

Donations of clothing in women's size large in anything and children's 18 to 24 month boy. Any other donations of items can also be dropped off there. Children's toys also accepted. New or used baby items would also be appreciated.

Any questions contact Eileen Lynch at the bank at 570-785-3181.

Benefit planned for Fire Victims Sun., Oct. 8

ARK helps, Non-Profit Organization, owned and organized by a local 15-year-old girl, schedules another benefit concert to help local families in Forest City! "ARK-Fest FALL 2017" will be held on Sunday, October 8th at Creekside Grove in Lenoxville.

ARK helps plans to host a great event to raise money for the victims of the Main Street fire in Forest City on August 27th. This benefit will be another very exciting All-Age (21 to drink) concert event. The doors will open at 1 PM with Live Entertainment, an Interactive DJ, Vendors, Basket Raffles and Food & Beverages, scheduled from 2 PM to 8 PM. Featured bands will be ready to entertain with great music! They are currently scheduling sponsors, vendors, musical entertainment and volunteers.

Angel, who is Founder and President says, "It breaks my heart to see a tragedy like this occur in our area, and I'd especially like to thank one local resident (Amanda) and one former resident (Jennifer), as well as all the others for their help and support in pulling the community together to raise money for the victims." (NEPA)

Vandling Boro. Tax office hours to change

The Vandling Borough Tax Office will NOT have hours on September 30th as stated on the Tax Bills.

The office will be open on Sept. 13th and 20th from 6PM to 8PM at the Vandling Municipal Building, 449 Hillside Street, Vandling.

Payments can also be mailed to Vandling Borough Tax Collector, C/O Mary Ann Risboskin, 433 Clinton Street, Vandling, PA. 18421.

Fire ravaged home on Hudson Street being razed



Homeowner Dolores Kowalewski (second from right) is with her friend Mary Wielebinski as Prince Excavating completes demolition of her fire-ravaged home at 748 Delaware Street on August 28. Her dwelling, and the neighbors home occupied by the St. Hilaire family, was destroyed by fire on May 12. The other building, at right, is awaiting completion of insurance matters before demolition can take place. Mrs. Kowalewski told the News she was very sad to see so much of her life being hauled away.

D.G.'s Do Gooders raise funds



This year's annual pig roast fund-raiser was recently held to benefit D.G.'S Do Gooders. Help for the good when things go bad! We offer help all year long to individuals who are down but not out. We care about so many people that we would like to share our bounty with those less fortunate NOT to just one cause. The Tye Dye Team did a great job as usual and we raised \$3,400. Thanks to all who support our causes every year because we could not do it without the caring people, businesses and donations we receive. We have already donated to the fire victims, gas cards for the sick, the fire companies, and a few other worthy fundraisers. Our group will continue to support those that are in need all year long, so donations are always appreciated. Thanks from the bottom of our hearts.

Prayer Service at St. Joseph's Church Sept. 10

by Father Brian J.T. Clarke

As you are well aware, our community has been devastated by three separate fires since May and there has been an inspiring response from our neighbors to support and help those in need. I am pleased to announce that we will host a prayer service for our community on Sunday, September 10th at 3:00 PM at St. Joseph Church.

This time of prayer will include hymns, scripture readings, a sermon, and other prayers. We will gather to pray not only for healing for those effected directly by the fires but also in gratitude for the selfless service of our first responders in our community.

A collection will be taken up and forwarded to the local organizers who support these families and businesses.

Please note this service is not Mass and we hope to welcome Catholics and non-Catholics alike to join together in prayer and solidarity.

Old Time Fiddlers in Thompson Fri., Sept. 8

The Thompson United Methodist Church will be hosting the Old Time Fiddlers on Friday, September 8, 2017 at 8:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be available. Please join us for an evening of music.

Get a subscription to the News 570-785-3800

All Aboard the 2017 NEPA Valley Wine Trains

The Greater Carbondale Chamber of Commerce in partnership with Steamtown National Historic Site is proud to present "the NEPA Valley Wine Train". Two weekend dates are available for your enjoyment. Choose either or both, Saturday, September 16th or Saturday September 23rd. Explore the NEPA Valley by rail while enjoying food and wine pairings, live entertainment with Chris Malleineux at each platform, D&H history with Historian Dr. S. Robert Powell and stops at 4 train platforms. Your day will get underway at the Carbondale train platform at 2pm and will finish at 7 pm at the Dickson City platform. Round trip transportation will be provided by Propst Transportation.

The NEPA Valley Wine Train is one of the most distinctive excursions, offering an authentic, memorable experience that echoes the glory days of train travel, with food and wine pairings at each stop, NEPA Valley scenery and ultimate relaxation aboard vintage rail cars. This rail excursion will run on 16-miles of track in the heart of the NEPA Valley.

Tickets are \$50pp and can be purchased by calling the Greater Carbondale Chamber of Commerce at 570-282-1690 Space is limited.

*You must be 21 or over to participate in this event & consumption of alcohol is prohibited on the train cars. Alcohol may be consumed at each platform.



From the bottom of my heart, I extend my sincerest thanks to everyone who has rallied behind our community after the devastating fire that ripped through our town last Sunday. All the heart-felt messages and simple passerby-smiles have given us the strength to pick ourselves up and continue the journey we have been placed here to do.

To the local fire department, my fellow funeral home colleagues, my personal family and friends, if not for you, I would not be able to say that the Kevin M. Lesjack Funeral Home is open for normal business hours starting immediately. There is nothing we cannot overcome when we work together, and this past week has proven that sentiment tenfold. Forest City is my home and I will forever be in debt to the amazing men and women who I live and work amongst. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

- Kevin M. Lesjack

570.785.3153 www.lesjackfuneralhome.com
513 MAIN STREET, FOREST CITY, PA 18421

Supported by the Lackawanna County Funeral Directors Association

