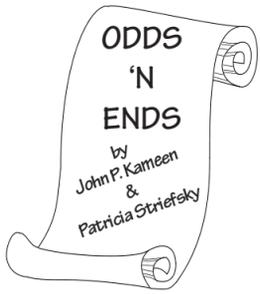


THE FOREST CITY NEWS



Last Thursday, on his trip to Paul Ferraro's Barber Shop, Forest City, Tip Tedesco, Union Dale, told Paul that 75 years ago to the day, he was a young US Navy sailor landing on a ship into Hawaii. Sounds like a nice place for a vacation except he was on his way to the Pacific Theater of World War II. Some of the most bitter fighting of the entire war was in the Pacific with Navy ships being favorite targets of Japanese Kamikaze planes and submarines. The 95-year-old is still a regular shopper in Forest City.

While we are on the subject of veterans, there was great praise for the Veteran's Day program Nov. 10 at FCR School. In addition to honoring about 15 local vets, there was a one man show about the late Gino Merli, who was a Congressional Medal of Honor winner from Lackawanna. The veteran's Care Center in Scranton is named after him. Local vet Allan Gordon told us he was highly impressed at the attention paid to the program, and to his fellow vets, by the students. That was a fine compliment to hear.

We also should repeat our congratulations to the High School students who ran the Haunted House at the Spano Building for Halloween. As a former member of groups who ran Haunted Houses in Forest City many years ago (including several in the News Office basement), I recall the many hours of work to prepare for it and then make it work. I remember one year in which we had 1,100 people attend over a 3-day period. The faculty members, administration and students who prepared and ran this year's event are to be congratulated for bringing the event to our Main Street.

A scam involving fake utility workers calling on homes in Lackawanna County was reported last week. The perpetrators stole money at one home. Do not allow any utility worker, or anyone seeking entrance to your house, if they cannot show proper ID, or if you don't know them.

Trash bag returns Must be done By Nov. 30th

Any residents having unused Forest City Boro trash bags can receive repayment for them, or a credit on a future trash fee, by returning them to the Boro office no later than Nov. 30th.

Franceski Waste, the former Boro trash hauler, will repay the Boro for all trash bags returned as well as all bags which the Boro has in storage.

NEW HOURS
The Forest City News
will have
NEW REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS.
Hours will be
Monday-Friday
9 AM - Noon
CLOSED Noon to 1 PM
1 PM to 3 PM
Closing at 3 PM



Next year's Trail Town event to Have Coal Cracker race and biking

More progress was made on the events associated with the Trail Town celebration scheduled for Aug. 4, 2018. The day will start at 8 am with a renewal of the Coal Cracker 2 and 5 mile races to be held on the Trail. It will be followed by a bike ride at 10am on the Trail. Bikes would be available for rent.

The Historical Society has agreed to have an afternoon of events at the Museum revolving around the celebration of the 250th Anniversary of Anthracite, and the fact that the old railroad beds thru Forest City brought the residents and commerce to this part of the Upper Valley.

Exec. Director Lynn Conrad and assistant Carissa Dewey then discussed having the Main Street businesses participate so those coming to the Rail Trail would be enticed to visit Main Street. The GFC Business Alliance will be asked to rally the merchants for that portion of the day's events.

One of the possibilities to get Main Street traffic was proposed by School Supt. Jessica Aquilina and faculty member Mike Zack.

Police matters at FC Council

A major portion of the Nov. 6 Forest City Council meeting involved matters with the police department. Chief Jim Johnson began the meeting by presenting the Medal of Valor to Officer John Foley for his bravery in saving lives at the August 27 Main St. fire.

In her monthly report Mayor Pauline Wilcox. Announced that the Department was receiving a \$3,190 matching grant to purchase eight new bulletproof vests. The matching amount will be paid by the Boro.

Wilcox announced that the brand new 2017 Ford Interceptor police vehicle was picked up recently from the dealer. It is now in the police dept. fleet. Council agreed to purchase floor mats for the two SUV's at a cost of \$195.

The Mayor and Police Chief got permission of Council to explore the possibility of switching the town's communication system from the Wayne County Comm Center, where it has been for many years, to the Susquehanna County Comm Center which will be moving to a new building in the near future. Johnson said the town's new radio system

There would be a passport printed and either sold or given away, and would require passport holders to visit Main Street and secure stamps which would avail the holders for prizes or business discounts.

Local vendors also would be invited to display their wares on the street.

The Forest City News will hold their annual Forest City Area Distinguished Citizen program that day.

Mayor Pauline Wilcox, Maryann Corey and Roseann Swegel also discussed ideas for a Light Parade and fireworks that evening, and also the idea was forwarded for a barbecue at Kennedy Park the next day as a means to draw former residents back to the community.

Main Street Coordinator Art McLain also presented some ideas for bringing out-of-towners to the event as a means to help develop their future patronage.

It was decided to have the next meeting after the Christmas season. It will be held Thursday, Jan. 16 at 8:30am at Shirley's Restaurant.

tem has full communication now with Susq. County Center and that the new center will have digital capabilities which Wayne County does not have.

Council also approved \$1,200 for purchase of new sights for the recently purchased AR15 rifles, and also for the purchase of a pellet gun which is used to dispatch animals in places where a gunshot would not be feasible.

Council also approved the purchase of three Medical Shooter bags at \$140 each to be placed in the three police vehicles. The bags contain medical apparatus to treat wounds received by a police officer.

Chief Johnson also got the ok for purchasing winter caps for the police officers from Cerra Signs, Carbondale, at a cost of \$185.

Council also wrestled with a request from the police for additional storage place some place in the Boro Building due to the disposition of items from the present evidence locker taking place. No decision was made as space in the building is limited.

Franceski Waste sells to County Waste

In a letter to Forest City Borough Council and to its customers, Franceski Waste & Recycling, through its owner Joseph P. Franceski III, announced they have sold their company to County Waste, LLC of Lake Ariel, PA, effective Nov. 1st.

According to the letter, Franceski will expand its sister company, Franceski Iron & Metal, which it recently moved to a new location to the rear of the Forest City Borough Garage, on Rte. 247, West of Forest City.

According to the letter, the Franceski customers will be receiving County Waste containers in the near future and all billings after Nov. 1st will come from County Waste.

The letter noted that County Waste can also provide recycling service.

Franceski Waste & Recycling was the trash hauler for Forest City for several years until it discontinued servicing the community Nov. 1st. After a bidding process covering the past six months, Borough Council selected County Waste for a three year contract.

GFCBA Christmas Party Wed., Dec. 6

The Greater Forest City Business Alliance invites everyone in the community and surrounding area to join them for the annual Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 6 at Elk Mountain Ski Resort from 6 PM to 9 PM. The cost is \$25 per person or \$40 per couple and includes open bar from 6 PM to 9 PM. Hors d'oeuvres and drinks will be served. Entertainment will be featured.

You will also get a chance on a basket of cheer.

RSVP by November 27 to 570-960-1332, call or text, or email gfcba13@gmail.com.

Tree stands & lights sought for Main St. trees

Donations of seven Christmas tree stands and outdoor Christmas lights for trees to be decorated by the Forest City Regional Elementary students on Main Street in Forest City, are being sought. All donations can be dropped off at the borough building on Main Street.



Citations were awarded to board members Fred Garm and Linda Zefran from PSBNA Rep. Shane Pagnotti.

School directors honored; Other items discussed

Three members of the Forest City Regional School Board were honored with "years of service" certificates at the Nov. 13 Board meeting by Shane Pagnotti, Services Manager of the Pennsylvania school Boards Assoc.

Directors Fred Garm and Lorne Powell were cited for 12 years on the Board. Director Linda Zefran for eight years on the Board. Mrs. Powell was not in attendance since she resigned recently due to moving from the District. Linda Zefran is being replaced on the Board by Brian Piatak.

The PSBNA representative noted that all Board members are unpaid volunteers devoting their time and efforts in the interests of public education. Directors, said Mr. Pagnotti, represent the values of local schools and public control of education.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGREEMENT

The Board approved an addendum to the School Administrator's Act 93 contract which will allow children of the school's administrators to attend Forest City Regional School as non-tuition paying students. Their attendance may not be used to affect staffing or school costs.

Supt. Dr. Jessica Aquilina said this was something which had never been in effect in the past. Board Pres. Mary Emmett said one administrator had inquired about such a plan.

PERSONNEL

The Board hired Justin Stevens as School Psychologist at Step 6, Masters +24 credits, at a salary of \$56,611. Mr. Stevens resides in Peckville and presently is employed at Valley View School District.

Mary Brown was approved as a four-hour custodian effective Nov. 13.

The Board accepted the resignation of Kyra Fortuner, as a Paraprofessional, effective Dec. 8.

CONSTRUCTION

The Board approved six change orders totaling \$71,456 for the present \$10 million school construction project.

Dr. Aquilina took Board members and the press on a tour of the new construction following the meeting. She stated that the new elementary offices should be ready after Thanksgiving break. The new High School offices are expected to be ready after Winter break.

RE-ORGANIZATION

The re-organization meeting of the Board, and the next regular meeting, will be Thursday, Dec. 7 at 7:30PM

Country singer featured at Max Deli on Nov. 24

"Straight from the Heart, Down Home Country" featuring "Boone" (Dan Coleman) will appear at Max Deli on Friday, Nov. 24, at 5:30 p.m. A little bit old - a little bit new country music will be featured.

Bring a friend and wear your cowboy hat to get signed by Boone!

FAHS seeking vendors for Dec. 2

On Sat., Dec. 2, local vendors are wanted to exhibit and sell their items at the "Christmas in a Small Town" event from 2 to 6 PM at the Forest City Area Historical Society. Vendor space is free and limited.

To reserve your space please contact Juliann Doyle at either: jdoyle@nep.net OR 570-499-4908 as soon as possible.

Gas pipeline in ground and tested

Rail-Trail restoration won't be completed until spring

UGI completed the installation of nearly 11 miles of natural gas pipeline on the Rail-Trail between Union Dale and Carbondale Nov. 14, only a few days later than initially estimated at the start of the project more than six months ago.

Final tests to ensure the integrity of the line were completed last week. Testing involved the use of more than 1.3 million gallons of water and six large air compressors. The two-week-long hydro testing revealed no leaks or imperfections. The final test involved pushing an 8-foot long electronic device, known as a "smart pig" through the 11 miles of pipe to confirm the pipe's integrity.

Although the completion of this work marks a significant project milestone, the multi-million-dollar project is still several months away from completion. The work that remains, which will likely extend to late spring 2018, includes finishing three regulator stations in Union Dale, Forest City and Carbondale, as

well as restoring and resurfacing the Rail Trail.

The NEWS accompanied Rail-Trail officials on an inspection tour of the complex project on Friday, Nov. 10 to get a look at the project's progress. Rail Trail (RT) officials in attendance included executive director Lynn Conrad, RT Pres. Kirk Newsome, Lackawanna Heritage Valley assistant director Bernie McGurl; and Linde Corporation vice-president Bob McGraw, the project's contractor.

It was clear that safety was paramount at the project site from the start. Prior to beginning the tour, everyone in the group was provided with fire-resistant coveralls, hard hats and safety vests - required safety gear for anyone on the project site.

Details shared during the visit provided insights on project's magnitude. Since last spring, more than 100 workers contributed to the installation of the gas line along the former railroad bed that twists along the Lackawanna River from Union Dale to Carbondale.

In all, 1,209 sections of gas line - each 24 inches in diameter and 48 feet in length - were required to complete the 58,000-foot installation.

We also viewed the directional drilling being done near the Simpson Viaduct which has to do with replacing a section of the existing 16-inch line there.

With the line installation complete, work to restore the trail is underway. Restoration work along the entire length of the trail includes smoothing out the trail surface, as well as implementing a comprehensive drainage plan. The plan, designed by Labella Associates, Scranton, includes the installation of drainage ditches, 62 catch basins, outflows, as well as the piping to divert water runoff from the Trail into the Lackawanna River.

Ensuring proper drainage is particularly important in the section from Union Dale to Forest City, which is the wettest section of the trail, according to Executive Director Lynn Conrad.

The drainage plan also



Joining the tour of the Rail-Trail pipeline route are from left, Bernie McGurl (Lacka. Heritage Valley), RT Pres. Kirk Newsome, RT Ex. Dir. Lynn Conrad and Linde Corp. VP Bob McGraw.

incorporates the use of large rocks to stabilize the banks and break-up the flow of water coming from the outflows into the Lackawanna River. The boulders were transported from the Lopke Contracting quarry, near Clifford, and the Simpson Quarry, between Vandling and Simpson.

The new gas line will provide many areas with the opportunity to connect to natural gas for their home or business - a choice that could result in signifi-

cant energy savings. To facilitate this service, feeder lines are being installed at the regulator stations along the pipeline stretch.

During the tour of the project site, workers were in the process of installing a gas feeder line from the new UGI regulator station on the Browndale stretch. The line will extend gas service to residents in Forest City, Vandling and Browndale.