

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

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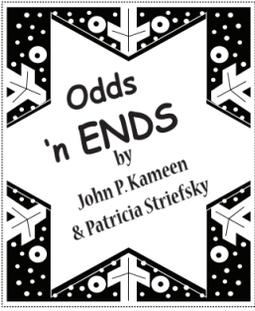
VOL. 131, NO. 3

Forest City Trail Town Celebration Sat., August 4, 2018

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

Forest City - Starting Line for Steamtown Marathon October 7, 2018

## THE FOREST CITY NEWS



The staff at the News Office would like to wish the happiest of Christmas seasons to our subscribers and readers. We will be closed from Dec. 25 re-opening on Tuesday, January 2. To get ads or items in the Jan. 10th issue, email, mail or drop them in our mail slot anytime, or call 570-785-3800 and leave a message on our phone or email to fcnews@nep.net. Our December 27 edition will be printed on Friday, Dec. 22 and mailed on Tuesday, Dec. 26. The next edition after Dec. 27 will be January 10, 2018

**Local insurance man Brian Fitzsimmons** proved if you want to harvest a big buck you let small ones go by. During the season he passed on a few small bucks. On the last day, just before dark, he passed on a doe, then had 3 bucks with broken racks come by, tailing the doe, followed by a beautiful 8-pointer (picture on page 4).

It does appear to this writer that our area residents have more Christmas decorations this year than for many years. Hats off to Main Street in Vandling for a mile of beautiful decorations.

You can still fill some stockings with gift certificates from local stores. A \$20.00 gift subscription to the News would also be a good remembrance. Stop in and we'll give you, or send, a gift card to the recipient.

**Elk Mountain Ski Resort** in Union Dale, opened for the ski and snowboard season on Wednesday, December 13 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. There were 6-8 slopes and trails featuring excellent conditions.

Wonder how many folks will be rushing to look at a time-share at Split Rock Lodge in the Poconos as a result of the info and car key in the cardboard tubes found in area mailboxes? Looks like even the FREE turkey has strings attached!

**Bill Flynn, the Polka King**, who is an ardent reader of our paper, sends his holiday greetings to all his avid listeners on his Bold Gold Media polka show. He has been doing this show for more years than he wants to remember and still draws a big audience in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

From what we have been told, the Christmas toy drive of Deb Giddings at DG's Restaurant, in conjunction with Forest City Regional School and Forest City Police Dept., was responsible for more than \$12,000 in toys and \$3,500 in food vouchers this year. Deb and her Do-Gooders Club of volunteers have been doing this for many years, making it possible for the less fortunate to have gifts at Christmas just like those of us who are more fortunate. Thanks to Deb, the FC police, her volunteers and FCR School, for their charitable efforts.

## NEW FC NEWS SUBSCRIBERS SPECIAL \$20 FOR ONE YEAR

From now until December 22, The Forest City News is offering a special for NEW SUBSCRIBERS ONLY, \$20 for a full year of the news, no matter where you live.

That is 52 weeks of the News for one low price. Get all your local news, with features such as Looking Back, 100 Years Ago, Dining Guide, Community Spotlight, and Pleasant Mount News, all for just \$20 for the year.

You can subscribe by calling us at 570-785-3800, emailing us at fcnews@nep.net, mailing payment and address to The Forest City News, 636 Main Street, Forest City, PA 18421 or faxing us at 570-785-9840.

THIS OFFER IS FOR NEW SUBSCRIBERS ONLY!



## 2 police officers resign; Five officers get raises

Forest City lost two police officers to resignation at the Dec. 4 Council meeting. Part time officers Joseph Crouse and Jefferson Ramirez resigned to take full time jobs elsewhere. Both thanked Council, Mayor Wilcox and Chief Johnson for giving them the opportunity to learn police work here.

Council also approved scheduled pay increases for five local police officers. All five recently passed the required performance evaluations. Council set up an annual pay raise system several years ago rather than act individually on pay increases at the anniversary of hiring dates for each officer.

Council also approved a police dept. unpaid internship to Marissa Gillespie, a student at Keystone College enrolled in Criminal Justice. She will work here Jan. 22 to May 11. Solicitor Paul Smith said she will sign a hold harmless agreement and a confidentiality agreement with the Borough.

### INSURANCE MONEY

Council received a check for \$5,002 from its insurance carrier for damage to its furnace on November 10, 2017. The damage was caused by an equipment breakdown covered by insurance.

### HEALTH COVERAGE

The Borough's health insurance coverage for six employees will increase to about \$7,000/mo. There is a \$2,000 deductible to the employees. Secretary Sharon Vannan said she looked at other plans but due to the small number of employees the rates are community-based.

### VANDLING POLICE

Council approved a renewal of the police coverage contract with Vandling for \$2,000/mo. The contract was not yet approved by Vandling Council.

### BUILDING REPAIR

Councilman Bob Lesjack who is in charge of the Borough Building restoration said the 3rd floor restroom repairs were hampered after faulty fixtures were delivered. Also the sanding scheduled for December was postponed by the contractor. He asked if the \$6,000 allocated for those projects could be used instead for new chairs and tables. He said the old tables, chairs and curtains were scrapped. His request was approved. Tony Wilcox has volunteered to do the painting required.

### STREET REPAIRS

A depression in the road at Susquehanna and Caryl Streets on the way to the cemeteries will be repaired by Prince Excavating at \$3,295. A hole at FC Emergency Services bldg. was repaired. It was apparently caused by the sewer contractor but he failed to return for repairs. The repair

## School Board Oks changes

At the Dec. 7 meeting of Forest City Regional School Board, the Board approved change orders on the school construction project totaling \$22,916.

Also approved were volunteers for the following positions: Carl Urbas, assistant to Grades 5 & 6 boys basketball; and Donna Keslo as coordinator of grade 6 yearbook.

An unpaid one day leave was granted to Juliann Lionetti.

Supt. Dr. Jessica Aquilina thanked Linda Zefran for her eight years on the School Board. She was replaced by Brian Piatak. She also thanked Marianne Lewandowski for her 40 years of service to the District on her retirement.

The school will be putting up unneeded furniture and fixtures for sale to the public in the near future. An announcement will be made on the method of sale which will be 1st come, first served with all sales final.

The Forest City News office will be closed from Monday, December 25 thru Monday, January 1. Office will reopen on Tuesday, January 2. There will be no edition on December 27. There will be no January 3 edition. The next edition will be Wednesday, January 10. For ads or news for the January 10 issue, please leave a message at 570-785-3800 with phone number or drop it in our mail slot and we will contact you. You can also send an email with the information to fcnews@nep.net

cost will be sought from the contractor.

### JET TRUCK REPAIRS

Council approved up to \$2,500 for repairs to the sewer jet truck. Councilman Bernie Scalzo said the truck is necessary for taking care of the town's sewer problems and is very important.

### GAZEBO REPAIRS

A contractor will be asked to see what repairs are needed on the Kennedy Park Gazebo. The underpinnings of the structure have rotted along with some of the posts.

### OTHER BUSINESS

An ongoing problem with sewer gas entering CPT at the corner of Main and South Street was again addressed. In the recent excavation, towels, shirts, diapers were found to be blocking the pipe.

Six new snow tires were purchased for the F550 dump truck.

Code Enforcement officer Stephanie Resich said a demolition permit was issued for the former Maxey on the Hudson property but the contractor stated he could not do the job as contracted. The owner stated the building will be demolished.

The Codes Officer will place a number of articles in the News informing the public about various town ordinances.

Councilman Nick Cost thanked NEP Telephone Company for installing the Main Street Christmas lites. Council President Orasin said public donations are being sought for the maintenance and operation of the lites since the town cannot pay these expenses.

Main St. Coordinator Art McLain said an idea to put a Dunkin Donuts in town is not feasible due to the high cost and the fact that there is not enough traffic to make it profitable. He said the town will participate in next Year's Trail Town/Old Home Dayz on August 4th.

Solicitor Paul Smith said the "Young Lung" signs proclaiming no smoking in the town parks have arrived and will be installed next year.

## Forest City Lions Club Seeking Members

Like a lot of service organizations, the Forest City Lions Club is looking for an infusion of new blood.

Many of our members are retirees who'd like nothing better than to find energetic new people willing to devote some of their time and efforts to the variety of causes the club serves.

We are looking for community leaders and people who want to get involved in service projects to join us

In total, 46,000 Lions Clubs and 1.4 million members make the Lions the world's largest service club organization.

The Forest City Lions Club meets the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Crystal Pines Restaurant located at 2275 State Route 247 in Clifford Township.

So come out and join a local group of service-minded men and women who volunteer to support your local community every day. Talk to a local member or contact Forest City Lions Club President Steven Tourje at 570-785-2216.

## FC Fire victim Had detectors In apartment

Sonya Mullisky, one of those who lost their apartments in the Main Street fire, told the News that she takes issue with comments made by Jason Obelenus at the Dec. 4 Council meeting.

She stated that she had smoke detectors and a fire extinguisher in her apartment.

## Area Toys for Kids raises over \$15,000



D.G.'S Bar would like to thank everyone for making Toys for Kids the biggest success to date. Many donations from businesses, patrons, friends, family and strangers were accepted. A big thank you to National Wild Turkey Federation for their generous monetary donation and support. The program the Forest City Police ran proved quite successful with over \$225 worth of toys donated. The Carbondale American Legion, Auxiliary and SAL also have continued to generously support our Toys for Kids program. Toys, games, gloves, hats, clothing totaled \$12,059 and \$3,500 in food vouchers for a grand total of \$15,559. More donations are coming in daily with Kost Tire still collecting. There were a total of 120 kids and 70 families in need of help this year. We are happy to say that we helped give these families a Merry Christmas. Pictured left to right are Kathy Kernoschak, Kevin Kelly, Ian Bailey, Chris Karwan, Dan Lishok, FCR National Honor Society advisor, Matthew Trotter, Erin Urban, Sarah McHale, and Deb Giddings.

## Tourje's help raise funds for The Vista School



Over the last 10 years Edward and Steven Tourje from Uniondale, Pennsylvania have been racing their 1939 Ford One Mile at a Time for Autism. On Wednesday, December 6, 2017 they represented the Vintage Car Rally Association (VCRA) by presenting The Vista School, Hershey, PA, with a holiday gift, a \$45,000 donation to purchase a slightly used van and soundproof classroom dividers. This amazing gift will enable students with autism to get into the community for job training and employment, and create quiet spaces within classrooms. Pictured from left, are Ed Tourje, VCRA representative; Kirsten Yurich, Chief Clinical Officer; Steven Tourje, VCRA representative; Candis Chubb, education director; and Michael Jarman, chief strategic officer. "We are grateful beyond words," said the Autism group. For more information about VCRA and Racing for Autism visit [www.vintagecarrally.com](http://www.vintagecarrally.com).

## Lackawanna River needs our votes To be named 2018 River of the year

Our Lackawanna River, which flows thru Forest City, has been nominated as one of six Pennsylvania Rivers entered in a contest to select the Pennsylvania's 2018 River of the year.

The public has until Dec. 22 to go online and vote for the river.

The other rivers are Connoquenessing Creek, Little Juniata River, Lower Susquehanna River/ Susquehanna Riverlands and Loyalsock Creek.

To vote, go to the website [www.pariveroftheyear.org](http://www.pariveroftheyear.org) or you can go to the Face-

book page of Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds & Rivers.

The Lackawanna River flows for 60 miles from its headwaters in Ararat, through southeast Susquehanna County, and parts of Wayne, Lackawanna and Luzerne County. It enters the Susquehanna River between Pittston and Duryea.

The Lackawanna thru the years has been adversely affected by anthracite coal mining, and by railroad, industrial and urban development. After anthracite mining was abandoned in the

1960s, communities began the development of modern sanitary treatment systems instead of dumping raw sewage into the river.

Due to its remarkable recovery, the Lackawanna sustains a vibrant cold water, "Class A" fishery in its middle and upper reaches.

The Lackawanna River Conservation Association is currently developing a watershed stewardship program to train and involve active participants in hands-on stewardship work.

## More events for Aug. 4, 2018 Planned by Historical Society

The Forest City Area Historical Society discussed further plans to participate in the Aug. 4, 2018 Trail Town/Old Home Dayz at its Dec. 10th meeting. The Society will celebrate the 250th Anniversary of Anthracite in the USA that weekend.

David and Joann Homisak and Scarlett Vannan will serve as program chairman of the events which will include period costumes, programs on local mining and railroading which formed the basis for the growth of Forest City. Music of the period also will be included in events at the Society.

A program at the Rotary Miner's Memorial will feature a discussion of the various images on the bronze casting as written about in a booklet by the late William "Bill" Feddock. Special speakers and programs will be held at the Museum where many local mining artifacts are on display. The memorial's sculptor Marty Heffron also will be invited to the event.

Scott Herring who is the chairman of the national 250th Anniversary has agreed to attend.

The Society is having two

## GFCBA Monthly Meetings 1st Wed. of month

The Greater Forest City Business Alliance holds their Community Meetings on the 1st Wednesday of every month at 7:45 AM at Shirley's Restaurant. All are welcome. The next meeting will be held on January 3.

## Winter parking In effect on FC Main St.

Winter parking rules on Forest City Main Street went into effect Nov. 1st.

No parking from 2 to 5 a.m. daily for snow plowing and removal.

## FC Lions Club Tree Pick-Up Sun., Jan. 7

The Forest City Lions Club will hold a Christmas Tree Pick-Up on Sunday, January 7, 2018. Pick-up will start at 11:00 a.m.