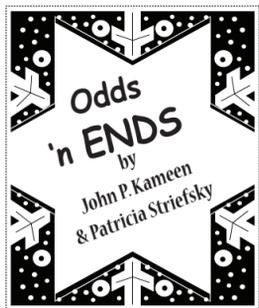


THE FOREST CITY NEWS



As we get ready to mark another New Year, we here at the News again say thanks to our readers, subscribers and advertisers who make it possible for us to continue this newspaper into its 131st year. May all who get our weekly product enjoy the holiday as we wish you a happy, prosperous and, above all, a healthy 2018. My how time does fly!! Patricia, Jean, Jennifer, John, Art and Theresa.

Forest City has lost two giants of education in recent weeks with the death of Mr. David St. Ledger and now with passing of Mrs. Ann Cyzeski. Mrs. Cyzeski, when she was Ann Clark, was a stellar FC School student and was destined for a career in teaching. After college and her reception of two Master's degrees, she taught in New Jersey before returning here. While here she was the organist in St. Agnes Church for many years. She was the well-respected Principal of Forest City Regional High School, with Dr. Robert Zelechowski as superintendent, from 1962 to the early 1980's. She was then Principal of Forest City Regional Elementary School until she retired in 1997. She was always a calm and determined administrator and had a deep feeling for the education of students here. She was always very proud of the successes of students from FCR. We at the News had many dealings with her during her tenure and knew her as a highly principled educator. Our school was better as a result of her administrative leadership. She was always deep in faith and even during her recent years of ill health, her family fulfilled her wishes to attend Sunday Mass. For many of those years she took care of her ailing husband, Frank, at home. He passed in September. She was an attendee at the Dec. 10 Sunday Mass at St. Joseph's Church where pastor Rev. Brian Clark greeted her after Mass with a special prayer for the sick. Our town and school system were blessed for the last 50 years with people like Mr. St. Ledger and Mrs. Cyzeski and we are much better for their dedication. Our sincere sympathy at her loss to her son, Frank, and daughter, Dr. Margaret.

Had the chance to wish John Reeder, of Union Dale, a 75th birthday on Dec. 18 at Max Deli. It's great to be able to celebrate three-quarters of a century and do it with friends.

Frank Gerchman, Brown-dale, was watching Turner Classic Movies recently and saw "Wanda", some of which was filmed in Forest City in 1970. A scene shows a car coming from Brown-dale at the Main St. stop sign and then turning into the old Tasty Freeze before taking off thru Forest City. I remember it being filmed but haven't been able to find anything in the paper from that year. The film can be found on YouTube.

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.

TAX INCREASE IN VANDLING FOR 2018

Residents of Vandling will see a tax increase of five mills in 2018. This is the first time in almost 20 years that Vandling will see a tax increase. Council passed the 2108 budget on Monday, December 18 at the monthly meeting. The current millage rate is four mills and will go to nine mills in 2018. Residents will see a decrease in the garbage fee from \$225 to \$180. The garbage fee will be included in the tax bill in March.

The tax increase is due to the depleting of the general fund for the past few years. Council members agreed that it probably should have been done a few years ago and now the tax increase is unavoidable.

Councilman Pat Sherry questioned why the increase

needs to be so much. He doesn't feel that the Borough needs to recoup the lost money all at once.

Councilman John Mayers said the ongoing deficit is 5.6 mills and just closing the deficit is not enough. The borough needs a buffer and they can not continue to tap into the general fund. He explained that it is too low and needs to be restored.

Councilman Bill Boyle stated that assets versus the debt don't add up and they need five mills just to balance the budget. Boyle suggested they need to renegotiate the police contract next year for a longer term.

All members of Council voted in favor of the 2018 budget.

Many money items are discussed at Vandling Council

In addition to a tax increase, residents of Vandling who subscribe to Adams Cable Service will also see an increase for 2018. Vandling Council received a letter which they read at the monthly meeting in Dec. 18 stating that the expanded basic service was going to be \$68.99 and the local fee will increase to \$12.

During the public comment on agenda items, John Carachilo, who will move into the Council seat of Don Franceski in January, asked why Council did not renegotiate a new contract for 2018 with the Forest City Police Department since the Borough is in financial straits.

Councilman John Mayers said they have met in the past with the Forest City Mayor, Council and the police department and it was felt that Vandling had as good a deal as they could possibly get. Carachilo said he was not satisfied with that.

Chief Jim Johnson questioned Mr. Carachilo as to whether he was not satisfied with the service Vandling was receiving. Carachilo said he did not say that at all. Johnson said he spoke with Forest City Council and the Mayor and the cost should have been \$2,700 but they decided to keep it at \$2,000 per month and he stressed that Vandling is getting a good deal. Johnson said he wants to keep Vandling happy.

Johnson explained they don't want to lose the good relationship they have together and suggested they won't get the same attention from someone else.

MAYOR REPORT

Mayor Joe Brady wished all of the residents a safe, happy and blessed Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

FRANCESKI LAST MEETING

It was Don Franceski's last meeting as a member of Council for the past six years. President Fran Pantzar wished him good luck in the future and hoped he would be active in the recreation board in the future.

STREET DEPT. HIRING

Councilman John Mayers and Councilman Pat Sherry interviewed two potential fill-ins for the street department. Guy Gerstel, Forest City, and Christian Ramos, Vandling. Council agreed to enlist their services on a call-in basis at a rate of \$12 per hour. John Carachilo said

the borough is spending too much money on hiring two workers.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Pucul asked if someone could look at the storm drain which was recently fixed on Clinton Street near the Mikloiche property. Pat Sherry said he would have it looked at.

Pucul asked if Council receives a police report every month from Forest City. She said when she was on Council they received a report which was public so everyone knew what was going on in the Borough. Pucul was told that Council receives a monthly report which the public can view but it is difficult for the average person to read. President Pantzar said Vandling is fortunate to never have serious incidents take place.

VANDLING GUNSHOT

Treasurer Jennifer Slick questioned why nothing was said about the firearm that was discharged in the Borough recently. She spoke with Chief Johnson who said it wasn't a public threat. Slick said she felt something should have been told to the public. Council said they would look into it.

RECREATION BOARD

Maryann Risboskin said she hopes some young people will step up and get the recreation board going again. She said she has spoken to the former members who said they would like flags for Main Street put up with some of the money in the recreation board account. President Pantzar told Risboskin to have the members contact him regarding the flags.

DEVELOPMENT TRAFFIC

Kathy Murnin complained about the traffic situation in the Development for Halloween. She said cars were lined up everywhere and the fire truck that was there for traffic control had to leave to go to an accident. When it was trying to leave, no one would move out of its way so it could leave. She said changes need to be made for next year.

Murnin asked if something could be done about the millings that are on the walking path in the park. She said it looks like pieces of asphalt were thrown on it. She was told that the street department put it there and has not had time to move it.

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Yates heading to West Point



Noah Yates, a member the Carbondale Area Chargers Football Team, and student at Forest City Regional High School, signed a Letter of Intent last week to continue his academic and athletic careers at the United States Military Academy. Pictured left to right are Elizabeth Yankauskas, grandmother; Christina Yankauskas-Yates, parent; Noah Yates, Denise (Mooch) Yankauskas, parent; and Larry Gabriel III, coach. Back row left to right are Francis Yankauskas, grandfather; Brian Durkin, athletic director; and Dr. Jessica Aquilina, Superintendent of Forest City Regional School.

NWTF donate to Toys for Kids Program at D.G.'s



Kevin Urian and Mike Murnin of NWTF making presentation to Deb Giddings for Toys for Kids. Pictured are Karon and Pat Barney, Josh Faatz, Colin Clemo, Stacy Clemo, Deb Wasnock, Cathy Clarke, Bree Tatarka, Deb Giddings, Jim Hessling, Gary Grecco, Kevin Urian, Dr. Frank Moro and Mike Murnin.

Another one bites the dust!



This year has seen more buildings removed from Forest City than built here. Long-awaited demolition of the former Maxey on the Hudson tavern, corner of Hudson and Maxey Streets, began on Dec. 18. The building was hit by a major fire a number of years ago and has been pressed for removal by Forest City Borough since then.

New future for Grand Hotel in Carbondale

Rob Grimm, of Grimm Construction, is pleased to announce that an investment group including Justin Genzlinger, CEO of Settlers Hospitality Group, has acquired the Carbondale Grand Hotel in Carbondale, PA effective November 15th, 2017. Mr. Grimm states, "This is a fine opportunity for our long-standing family business to invest in the neighboring community and the future of Carbondale where we live and work."

Grimm & Genzlinger, both family business owners in NEPA, engaged Settlers Hospitality of Hawley, PA to manage the property including the hotel, restaurant and catering operations. This team brings an expertise in the boutique sector of hotel management that will help to continue the economic development and revitalization of downtown Carbondale.

May 2018 is the targeted date to complete the re-launch of the hotel under the new name Hotel Anthracite.

The concept for the re-branded hotel will be a focus on the area's coal mining and

cultural, heritage.

"Our goal is to highlight the rich history of the city, creatively using that idea to display signature pieces in the hotel", says Grant Genzlinger who will partner with local historians to assemble a collection of historic photography and artifacts to display throughout the property.

Jeanne Genzlinger will incorporate this idea within the interior design concept to define the boutique ambience of the hotel. In addition to the 61 guest rooms, the hotel offers an outdoor courtyard, fitness center, 500 seat event center and rooftop deck which is popular for its music concert series.

Executive Chef, Ben Sutter, shared his concept for the new restaurant, Kol Steakhouse. "I began my career at the Palm Steakhouse in Los Angeles, CA, so I'm eager to bring my past experience to update this idea in Carbondale." The restaurant will have a range of price points from pub fare to prime cuts. Settlers Hospitality Executive Pastry Chef Julia Kent will create a specific line of

bread and desserts from the Mill Market Bakery in Hawley for the new facility.

"I'm thrilled to bring our hospitality group to Hotel Anthracite catering to local corporations, leisure travelers and community stakeholders," says Justin

Genzlinger, and "our executive team of Chris Simpler, General Manager and Ralph Del Prete, Food and Beverage Director will bring a high level of energy and experience to this project."

The hotel, restaurant and banquet center will remain open during the transition process. View SettlersHospitality.com to learn more about their properties including Settlers Inn, Ledges Hotel and Silver Birches Resort.

Settlers Hospitality is a family run hospitality group in Hawley, PA consisting of The Settlers Inn, Ledges Hotel, Silver Birches Resort, The Dock on Wallenpaupack, Glass-wine bar kitchen, Cocon Coffeehouse, Lake Region Fitness, The Mill Market Bakery and Art on the Edge.

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 fnews@nep.net

