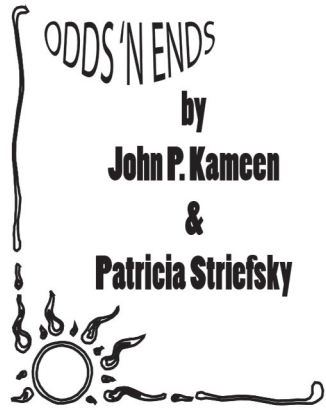


# THE FOREST CITY NEWS



ODDS 'N ENDS

by

John P. Kameen

&

Patricia Striefsky

It was a wonderful gathering of friends and family at the retirement party Jan. 6th for Atty. David Bianco. The event at Forest City Emergency Services was an occasion to thank Dave for his years of legal service to our area. Through his entire career he has done much pro bono (no cost) work for many area organizations and people. During this writer's years with Greater Forest City Industries Inc. and Forest City Historical Society, Dave never charged a penny for any of his legal work which included incorporating, transferring deeds, handling multi-million dollar grants for GFCI, and general legal advice. He has done this for many other area groups. He was honored as Forest City's 2017 Distinguished Citizen for just these qualities of generosity to our area. We wish Dave and Jan a happy and healthy retirement and publicly thank Dave for all he has done for this community.

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Had a recent chat with Paul Walaski, Forest City, about hunting in our area. The sad fact is the ranks of hunters is drastically dropping. A scientific survey, from 2006 to 2011, found the number of hunters dropped 2.2 million, or 16 percent. When you see an obituary saying the deceased was "an avid hunter," the decline continues. Take your pick on the reasons: Game Commission rules, antler restrictions, QDMA trophy hunting, decline of farms and reduction in nutrition, youngsters requiring instant gratification, and you can go on and on. With only about 11.5 million hunters left in the U.S. there are fewer advocates for hunting and fewer dollars coming in for wildlife management. Just another reason why anti-hunters and anti-2nd amendment zealots are getting laws passed to curtail the hunting lifestyle which helped to grow this country. Neither Paul nor I have the answer to this dilemma!

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I recommend former residents put Saturday, Aug. 4th, on their vacation agenda as the "Forest City Trail Town Fest" will be a big event for our area. Rail-Trail Executive Director Lynn Conrad, at the most recent Trail Town meeting, officially adopted the name and discussed many of the tentative events of the day. The Coal Cracker Run will again be held here and a 10AM Bike Ride (with free bikes for people to use) will be two of the events which will be held on the Trail which will be newly renovated by that time. It will be Forest City's first Trail Town event and will be in conjunction with the Historical Society, Business Alliance, FCR School and local organizations.

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## Blood drive set in Browndale Fri., Feb. 9

The Browndale Fire Station will be turned into a Community Red Cross Blood donation center from 1 to 4 PM on Fri., Feb. 9 on Route 247, 620 Marion Street, Browndale. Please stop by to donate the gift of life!

If you would like to make an appointment to donate blood, please call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or go on-line to: [www.redcross-blood.org](http://www.redcross-blood.org). You may also walk in.

Please help support the Red Cross and donate blood. "Give the gift of life. Give Blood" Happy New Year to all !!



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## FCR Middle School effort To be evaluated Jan. 23rd

High School Principal Dr. Michael Elia told the School Board on Monday, Jan. 15 that two members of the PA Assoc. for Mid-Level Education will visit the school Tuesday, Jan. 23, to evaluate FCR's program for separating Grades 6-7-8 as a true Middle School.

Dr. Elia and his team undertook the effort to designate these grades as a middle school despite their being

located in the ongoing high school program.

Dr. Elia said the purpose is to produce a transition of these grades into high school rather than just having them move forward into that level.

Dr. Elia said the Director & Asst. Director of the Mid-Level Assoc. will spend 10 hours here to see if the local effort conforms to the best practices for Middle School transition.

## "Celebrate Ethnicity" is planned By Forest City Historical Society For August 4th Trail Town event

The Forest City Area Historical Society will add a "Celebrate Ethnicity" program to its events for the 1st annual Trail Town Celebration scheduled for Forest City on Saturday, Aug. 4th. Included will be ethnic food, music and costumes, as well as an explanation of the ethnic groups which populated Forest City back in the coal mining days from 1880 thru the 1920s.

At the meeting on Sunday, Jan. 15, event chairpersons David and Joann Homisak, got approval of the membership to include ethnic heritage events along with the program for the 250th Anniversary of Anthracite which is being celebrated in the United States.

Among ethnics to be highlighted will be Slovenian, Polish, Slovak, Lithuanian, Irish, Italian, Russian, Welsh and English. All of whom were represented in the mining community here during the heyday of coal mining.

The Society is inviting participation of the present generation with ethnic food ideas, music and costumes of the period. Anyone wishing to participate or who have ideas for this part of the celebration are asked to email [joannhomisak@gmail.com](mailto:joannhomisak@gmail.com)

**WEBSITE**  
Barb Klobucar, Browndale, has returned as the Historical Society's website director after a two year absence. Barb retired on Dec. 31 from the Scranton Steamtown National Park. She has more than 40 years of government service. She established the Historical Society's website when the Forest City Society was formed in 2011 and has paid for it and made minor changes to it during her absence.

She made a number of suggestions on how the website can be more interactive with the public. In addition all Historical Society events will be advertised on the site. The public is encouraged to view the website at [www.forestcityareahistorical-society.org](http://www.forestcityareahistorical-society.org) for membership and

history of this area.

### THANK YOUS

The Society cited a number of people and organizations who have been instrumental in aiding the Society since its inception and directed that letters of thanks be sent to them by Secretary Juliann Doyle.

\*Atty. David Bianco recently retired from practice. He has handled all of the Society's legal matters since its founding, and has never charged for any of the services, including the Society's incorporation, the deeding of the Museum and the Shema Barber Shop, as well as other legal matters.

\*Edward and Steven Tourje of NEP Telephone Co. have been financial supporters and have provided many services to the Society. For the last two winters they have provided snow and sidewalk clearing for every snow or ice storm, at no cost to the Society.

\*Deb Giddings, of D.G.'s Bar & Restaurant was thanked for her aid to the Society and also for the many things she and her volunteers do for the community. Over the past years her volunteers have raised over \$75,000 for worthy causes of this area.

### BOOKING AGENT

Museum program booking agent Paul Ferraro announced the Catholic Choral Society will have a musical program on Sun. March 18 at 2PM, with a snow date of Tuesday, March 20 at 7PM. Also the Cornell Hearsay Singers, headed by PM native Katie O'Neill will perform for the last time here on Sunday, April 22 at 2PM. Ms. O'Neill will be graduating from Cornell this year. All event are open to the public at no cost.

### OTHER BUSINESS

Joann Homisak, Tammy O'Reilly and Dave Opeka were named to the audit committee by Pres. John P. Kameen.

The next meeting, all open to the public, will be Sunday, Feb. 11 at 6PM in the Museum basement.



Representatives of Penna. DEP and KBA Engineering held a public information meeting for officials and residents of Forest City and Vandling on Jan. 10 at Forest City Emergency Services to discuss new regulations on storm water emissions from properties. A user fee will be imposed on property owners to fund the regulations. There were 18 in attendance.

## Forest City & Vandling residents hear about new stormwater fee from PA Officials

It does appear that Forest City and Vandling residents will be billed quarterly sometime in the near future to comply with state and federal regulations governing storm water.

The fee will be based on the square feet of runoff area of a property and will be based on a Surface Runoff Unit (SRU) similar to Estimated Dwelling Units (EDU) used for sewer fees by Forest City Boro and Lackawanna River Basin Sewer Authority.

At a public meeting held at Forest City Emergency Services, Wednesday, January 10, representatives of KBA engineering, and a representative of the Penna. Dept. Of Environmental Protection, revealed that a quarterly fee of anywhere from \$3.00 to \$12.00 is coming to property owners here and throughout Pennsylvania.

The fee, which could be added to the Lackawanna River Basin Sewer Authority bill, would be used to reduce pollution from water run-

## David St. Ledger To be honored Sunday, Apr. 22

Forest City Regional School has announced it will hold a Celebration of Life for former faculty member David St. Ledger on Sunday, April 22 at 1PM.

Mr. St. Ledger passed away Dec. 4 in Mechanicsburg, PA and his funeral was held there. School faculty and administration would like to pay their respects to the late, beloved educator. Members of his family will be in attendance.

His many former students and the community are invited to attend.

off into streams and rivers which feed into Chesapeake Bay.

David Lamareoux represented Penna. DEP, while Gary Wilding and John Mandarano, represented KBA Engineering, the engineers for Forest City and Vandling Borough.

Forest City Boro was represented by Mayor Nick Cost, Solicitor Paul Smith, Secretary/Treasurer Sharon Vannan, Secretary Cindi Stone, and Public Works asst. Wally Miller. Vandling was represented by Mayor Joe Brady, Solicitor Paul Smith, Council President Fran Pantzar and Council members John Carachilo, John Mayers and Bill Boyle.

## Trail Town Event gets Official name

The Coal Cracker 2-mile and Quarter Marathon Run will be the kick off for the Sat., Aug. 4th Trail Town event in Forest City. It will officially be known as "Forest City Trail Town Fest," and will consist of a full day of activities in town.

Representatives of Rail-Trail, FCR School, FC Borough, Historical Society and Business Alliance met Jan. 18 to make further plans which include a bike ride, with free bikes available, other Rail-Trail events, as well as Historical programs and business community participation throughout the day.

Ethnic foods and a "Celebrate Ethnicity" program will be held, along with Main Street business participation by way of a "Passport" such as was used successfully during the past two Main Street Christmas Holiday Extravaganzas.

A Light Parade followed by fireworks is also tentatively planned to end the day's events.

Anyone having suggestions, or wishing to participate, can contact Rail-Trail Executive Director Lynn Conrad at [trails@nep.net](mailto:trails@nep.net)



January is School Board Recognition month. Pictured front row left to right are Mary Emmett, Board President; Chris Albright, Bernice Lukus, and Steve Ursich. Back row left to right Bill Heller, Fred Garm, Dr. Henry Nebzydowski, Joann Sterchak, Dr. Jessica Aquilina, Superintendent; and Brian Piatak.

## January is School Board recognition month

A quality public education is a key that can open doors of opportunity for many students. Providing that education takes a team of committed people from educators and staff to parents and administrators. The nine members of the Forest City Regional School Board are an important part of this team, making informed decisions that direct the course of public schools.

Every January, we take time to celebrate and recognize the challenging and vital work they do on behalf of students,

families and community.

School directors volunteer an average of 20 hours each month to board work, which includes adopting policy, voting on budgets, approving curriculum changes, choosing textbooks and reviewing hiring decisions to name a few. They take time to learn about the issues affecting public education and to seek innovative solutions.

As unpaid, locally elected officials, school directors are invested in their communities. They are our neighbors,

friends, local leaders, parents and engaged senior citizens.

During this month of recognition, please take a moment and show your gratitude for school directors' time, dedication and effort year-round. The job they do is necessary to ensure our schools remain a pathway to a promising future. Thank them for advocating on behalf of our collective interest, and most importantly, for making the success of our children their priority.

## Clifford Volunteer Fire Company Station 18



## Annual Winter Bar-B-Q

January 28, 2018  
11:00 AM

Proudly serving the Community for Over 65 Years!!

### Menu

1/2 Chicken

Baked Potato, Cole Slaw

Baked Beans, Bun and Dessert

@the Fire Station Rte. 106

Until the food is gone, Come Early