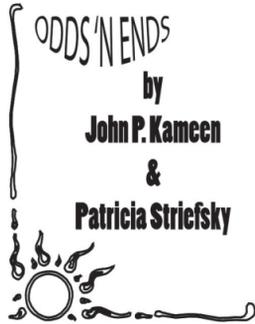


# THE FOREST CITY NEWS



**ODDS 'N ENDS**  
by  
**John P. Kamecen**  
&  
**Patricia Striefsky**

We sadly carry the obituary of our town's oldest resident, Doreen Henstell, who died last week at age 108. No resident in my lifetime ever reached that age in our town. She lived here almost 60 years, and worked next door to the News Office in Dr. Henstell's office. She lived at her Hudson Street home all these years and took part in many local activities. She was a member of Palette Pals until a few years ago and came to events at the Historical Society. Sadly, also, we did not learn until reading her obituary that her stepdaughter, Diana Henstell, passed away unexpectedly last year. Diana was a brilliant student here and went into the publishing business and later as an author of five novels, one of which was made into a movie. We looked up Diana's obituary and have also included it on pg. 5 with Doreen's. Our condolences on both of their passing.

**A local business person** almost fell for a PPL scam last week. A phone call said there was a discrepancy in the electric bill and it would be turned off unless it was straightened out. The number to call was answered by someone who said it was PPL. They said to go to the Dollar store and get two \$500 money cards and the money would be credited once the bill was straightened out. The light suddenly dawned that PPL wouldn't call and want payment in cash. She called proper authorities and breathed a sigh of relief. Hope no one else fell for this!

**The closing of the First** National Bank branch in Clifford is another blow to that area. The Market, the Hotel, the Mtn. View Inn and several of the strip mall businesses have closed recently. Just one more sign of the times affecting small towns.

**State Police say that some** lesser known traffic laws include being unlawful to wear headphones while driving because they hinder hearing sirens; and if a traffic signal is not working you must come to a full stop and then proceed with caution.

**The ice storm in the early morning hours of** Valentine's Day caught everyone, including weather forecasters and PennDOT, by surprise. There were no major crashes around here, but some bad smash-ups on the Interstates. Many folks got to work late here and in the Valley due to roads being closed by authorities. FCR School chalked up another snow day.

**Taking your sweetie out** for Valentine's Day provided a big night for Elegante Restaurant. Of course by night time all effects of the ice storm had passed. I'm sure our other area eateries also had a good evening.

**While attending the viewing of Millard Stalker** last week I had a chat with his son, Matt Stalker, who was called home from Kyrgyzstan, in Asia, due to his father's sudden death. Matt and his wife are teachers at an American School in that country. They previously taught in China, and will be moving to Albania this year. The company they work for has schools throughout the world where Americans, who are in that country for diplomatic, business or military reasons, can attend an American School. The Kyrgyzstan School has 95 students while the Albanian school will have 250. The couple have three children.

## Historical Society gives more plans For Aug. 4 Trail Town/Anniversary

The Forest City Area Historical Society heard more plans for the Aug. 4th Trail Town/250th Anniversary of Anthracite from the program chairs Dave and Joann Homisak at the Feb. 11 monthly meeting.

In conjunction with its "Celebrate Our Ethnicity" program, it was suggested that speakers be invited to talk about the eight nationalities which were involved here in coal mining: Slovak, Polish, Slovenian, Irish, Lithuanian, Italian, Russian, and Welsh.

The Homisaks recently attended a seminar in Wilkes-Barre at which speakers discussed four of the ethnic groups which populated the mining communities. They spoke to one of the speakers, who talked about Forest City as the beginning of the Anthracite region.

Also discussed by the program chairs was an elementary children singing and skit program about the mining heritage. Shelly Giles of the FCRS Elementary Drama Club has been contacted.

Tours of local mining sites also is under consideration however access to some of them may require securing landowner permission.

The Society is considering two floats for the planned Light Parade Aug. 4th. They would include ethnic costumes and music, as well as period costumes of the mining era.

They also discussed 250th anniversary T-shirt and mining poster.

The Society will sell ethnic food during the day.

Further meetings will be held for the program planning.

The Society received \$500 from Forest City Lions Club

and have accepted an invitation to attend the March 12 Lions Meeting to discuss joint community projects.

Member Mary Ferraro will purchase an electronic keyboard for the Museum to complement its many musical programs.

Website Director Barb Klobucar submitted a form which will go on the website for anyone seeking genealogical information from the Society. She will also set up a special section for the Aug. 4th Trail Town/Anniversary event.

Member Roseann Swegel will handle Facebook postings for the Society

Museum Booking Agent Paul Ferraro listed the following upcoming events: Pysanky egg decoration, Feb. 21-22; Catholic Choral Singers, March 18; Cornell Univ. Hearsay chorus, April 29. Also groups for May and June, with no times scheduled. The Museum is handicapped accessible for all programs.

Tammy O'Reilly and Dave Opeka will be holding the final Hometown Heroes program for the Society as there is space for only 17 more banners on the Museum walls. There are presently 74 banners already displayed. The application is in the FC News.

Secretary Juliann Doyle submitted a grant application to pay for two mine-related signs commemorating the 250th Anniversary of Anthracite to Lackawanna Heritage Valley for funding.

The Wayne County Historical Society will come to the Museum on Friday, March 23 at 10AM for a short business meeting and a Museum Tour. A lunch will follow.

## Only 17 applications accepted For Hometown Heroes event

The final applications for Hometown Heroes will be accepted by the Forest City Area Historical Society this year. There are only 17 spaces remaining on the Historical Society Museum walls for this program which is in its third year.

It is open to honor any person or family member who served during wartime.

In the 2016, a total of 47 heroes were honored, while an additional 27 were honored in 2017.

An application form can be found in this issue of the News. It requires the name, rank and branch of service, along with a photo and a short biography of the military service.

## 2 properties In FC to be Sold by DOJ

The U.S. Dept. of Justice and United States Marshals Service have announced that two properties in Forest City will be offered for sale at a Marshals' Sale March 1 at 11AM at Montrose Courthouse.

The 1st property is that of Amanda Rumford, 305 Hudson St., due to a judgement in the amount of \$135,828.

The 2nd property is that of Lori A. Frost, 627 Susquehanna St., due to a judgement for \$99,905.

The sale may be postponed for up to 100 days. To confirm that sale will proceed contact Jillian Hill, Paralegal, with KML Law Group, P.C., at 215-825-6305 or email JHill@kmlawgroup.com.

## Holiday pickup Of FC trash Day later

Forest City Council wishes to announce that with the new garbage contractor, County Waste, if there is a holiday anytime during the week, the regular Friday garbage collection pickup will be moved to Saturday.

Banners are vinyl, 24x48, and bear service man or woman's name, rank, conflict and photo. Donation to the Forest City Historical Society is \$100.

The annual presentation ceremony is held each year on Memorial Day weekend.

Deadline is March 31, 2018. Application and checks made out to Forest City Area Historical Society can be mailed to Tammy O'Reilly, 13149 St. Rte. 374, Union Dale, PA 18470. For more information contact Tammy O'Reilly at 570-679-3070 or email ttis@nep.net.

Only the first 17 applications will be accepted.

## Pysanki Egg Decorating Class at FCA Hist. Society

The Forest City Area Historical Society will hold a Pysanki Egg Decorating Class on Wednesday, February 21 and Thursday, February 22nd at the Historical Society, 629 Main Street, Forest City.

The Pysanki Egg Decorating Class will be taught by Lourdes Brown and will run 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. each evening. The cost for the class is \$15.00 per person, all materials will be provided.

Those who would like to attend can call to register at 570-785-3800.

## Pleasant Mt. Maple Queen Is crowned

Katie Nebzydowski, Pleasant Mount, was crowned 2018 Northeast PA Maple Producers Maple Ambassador. She is the daughter of Mark and Audrey Nebzydowski.

As part of her duties, Ms. Nebzydowski will be educating the public about maple production during the year, and representing the Association.

## FC Senior Center holds Open House



Forest City Senior Center held its annual Almost-Spring Open House on Thursday afternoon, Feb. 15. A beautiful cake was provided by The Barking Cupcake Bakery, Forest City. Food was provided by the Center and by one of the Center's Meals-on-Wheels drivers, Paul Petrilak. Center Manager Carrie Whitney thanked all the guests who enjoy their sit-in meals daily. The Center had a raffle for two baskets and five other prizes. Among the guests shown in photo, seated from left, Pauline Nadzak, Paul Petrilak, Forest City Council member Amy Bean, Michael Klobucar, Carol Bronchella Klobucar; Standing, same order, Manager Carrie Whitney, Susq. County Commissioner Maryann Warren, Mike Paluch and Doris Young.

## Forest City Police communications will stay in Susquehanna County

Prior to the Feb. 5 regular session of Forest City Borough Council, a special executive session was conducted. Solicitor Paul Smith, who did not attend the special session, reported that the reason for the non-public meeting was for Chief Jim Johnson to update Council on an ongoing criminal investigation.

### POLICE CAR PARKING

Forest City Council announced that First National Bank has granted permission to park the police cars in their lot. One spot on Center Street next to the Borough Building will be designated for Official Business while two other spots will be for handicapped parking. Council also approved expenditure of \$400 to install cameras in the FNB lot to monitor the police vehicles.

### NO MOVE TO SUSQ. COMM CENTER

Council turned down a request by Chief Johnson to move police communications from the Wayne County Comm Center to the Susquehanna County Comm Center. In order to do so it would have required that not only the Police but also the Fire and EMS communications would have to be switched. It was stated that Forest City Fire and EMS don't wish to move their communications to Susq. County

Mayor Tammy Rogalski presented an estimate of \$561 from Allan Hornbeck Chevrolet which was accepted for front end repairs to the 2014 Chevrolet Impala police car. It was lower than the estimate from Kost Tire.

### AUDITOR APPROVED

Brian T. Kelly was approved to conduct the 2017 Financial Audit at a cost of \$7,650.

### SATURDAY RECYCLING TO CONTINUE

Public Works committee head Bernie Scalzo reported that Saturday recycling at the Recycling Center will continue until at least June. He said they are still receiving about one truckload a week and that they plan to hold

## Second annual Pasta/bingo Night Feb. 24

The Lady Forester's Softball Team will host its 2nd Annual bingo game night/pasta dinner to be held in the Forest City Regional High School cafeteria on Sat., Feb. 24.

Pasta dinner take outs will be served from 1:00 PM to 3:00 Cost: \$10.00 per Dinner.

Pasta Dinner/BINGO sit down dinner will start promptly at 4 PM and bingo games at 5:30 PM. The cost is \$30 and includes 17 games of regular bingo and pasta dinner served by the Lady Foresters. Extra boards are \$10.

Doors will open at 3 PM. There will be additional bingo cards available for \$10 and basket raffles \$5. Basket of gold chances (over \$300 of PA Lottery) will be \$5 each and bingo specials at \$5 each.

For tickets or additional information please contact Michele Gillette (570-466-5813) Judy Graham (570-862-0370) any softball player or coach.

on to the 2003 recycling truck for at least a year. He said the Sat. recycling will have to pay for itself as it resulted in donations of about \$340 in Dec. and Jan. Also he said the work is done by volunteers.

Scalzo said that much of the recycling does come from out-of-town but that many local residents still continue bringing it despite the fact that County Waste will pick up recycling during its Friday collections. Scalzo said that out-of-towners come Saturdays and also do shopping in town which is good for local business. He said they will pass out a flyer explaining the need for donations to continue the program.

Vandling Borough purchased 12 loads of mixed salt and cinders at a cost of \$780.

### BUILDING RENOVATION

Councilman Bob Lesjack, who was not at the meeting, submitted a written report on renovations taking place in the Borough Building. Repair & refinishing of floor on the 3rd floor was completed by Rosengrant's Floor Sanding at cost of \$5,800. Work was completed on the 2nd floor employee bathrooms but a urinal had to be returned.

Lesjack reported that flooring and tile at the entrance to the Senior Center will have to be replaced. He asked that estimates be secured for that job.

Councilperson Amy Bean questioned the installation of chandeliers in Pentecost Hall on the first floor rather than less expensive lighting. Pres. Cost said it was an effort to be able to rent out the room for private events.

### STORM WATER PROJECT

Councilperson Joann Matarese received authorization for a payment of \$31,509 to Leeward Construction for the beginning of a storm water project on South Street.

Pres. Cost stated that MS4 Storm water meeting held Jan.10 in Forest City proposed that a fee would have to be levied on Forest City for Storm Water management. He stressed that no fees have yet been levied. Solicitor said that Council has until Sept. to determine how it wants to comply with the MS4 Storm water legislation.

### MAIN STREET

Main Street Coordinator Art McLain was directed to send a letter of welcome to Barking Cupcake, the new bakery at 703 Main Street. He also said efforts will continue to help existing businesses in town. He has talked to the Carbondale Chamber of Commerce which is interested in working with Forest City. He said he is interested in hearing any ideas for the betterment of local business and the Main Street.

Council approved a request from the Susquehanna County Treasurer to accept any negotiated price for three properties in Forest City now listed in the repository of properties. They are: 608 Delaware St., Karl and Tabatha Rettberg; 730 Delaware St., Robert Twilley; and No. Main St. vacant lot, Joseph Brussell.

The January Police Report, the 2018 Fire Dept. Report and the 2018 Police Report were presented by Mayor Tammy Rogalski.

## Council appoints Local committees

Forest City Borough Council appointed the following people to various committees at the monthly meeting on Monday, February 5.

**BUDGET, FINANCE & INSURANCE COMMITTEE**  
Nick Cost  
Bernard Scalzo  
Joann Matarese

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**  
Joann Matarese  
Bernie Scalzo  
Amy Bean

**SEWER/GARBAGE COMMITTEE**  
Chris DeGonzague  
Joann Matarese  
Tracey Lazier

**SAFETY COMMITTEE**  
Chris DeGonzague  
Joann Matarese  
Nick Cost

**HEARING BOARD (Sewer, Garbage, Code Enforcement) (Volunteers non-council members)**  
Rachel Habetler  
Thomas McKenna  
Anthony Dell'Aquila  
Robert A. DeGonzague (alternate)

**PLANNING COMMITTEE (NON-COUNCIL)**  
Paul Dovin

**ZONING COMMITTEE (NON-COUNCIL)**  
Peggy Brager  
Andy Junior

**Point of Contact for specific issues:**  
Bernard Scalzo - Public Works (Public works employees, roads, sewer/wastewater, signage & recycling)

Joann Matarese - Personnel Administration (Office Personnel, office purchases, police contracts, etc.)

Chris DeGonzague - Code Enforcement, Inspections & Residential Rental Units (Direct Code Enforcement Officer - Code violations, rental units, ordinances, & act as liaison with District Magistrate)

Amy Bean - Parks & Recreation (Babe Ruth & Kennedy Parks, memorials, trees & landscaping)

Robert Lesjack - Buildings & Grounds (Borough Building cleaning, maintenance and renovations)

Tracey Lazier - Community & Economic Development (Direct Main Street Coordinator - Liaison with GFCBA, GFCA & council, Zoning, Planning, & business development)

