

THE FOREST CITY NEWS

ODDS 'N ENDS
by
John P. Kameen
&
Patricia Striefsky

Check our pg. 2 for an ad listing days and times for our good friend, Bill Flynn's, radio shows on Bold Gold radio in this area. Bill has been a radio voice in this area for lots of years, more years than he even wants to remember. Bill has always given this area a boost in everything he does. In addition to great tunes, lots of polkas, he does news weather and special features about our area. He is on Sat's. 10-1 and 3-6 and again on Sunday.

A local hunter spotted a 6-point buck on his trailcam Feb. 15. Male deer usually lose their horns well before this time.

The predicted ice storm for last Thursday didn't arrive and FCR School got another snow day. However Friday morning there was some ice in spots. Do weather forecasters ever apologize for their missed forecasts? What's this with "naming" winter storms?

A new restaurant in our Dining Guide, The Candlelight Inn, Herrick Twp., is starting a daily lunch special. See page 7 for their weekly special and all the specials from our dining guide advertisers.

As we make our rounds of restaurants on our Dining Guide, you can't beat the turkey club sandwich at McDonnell's Restaurant, Carbondale.

The Superheroes did unite at Forest City Regional School last weekend as the FCR Elementary Drama Club, under the direction of Shelly Giles, showed off their talents to an appreciative audience. There were good crowds both nights and the stars got well-deserved ovations throughout. The story, in short, was that local "Superheroes" were called upon to challenge evil-doers trying to sabotage a small town. With a plot consisting of many twists and turns, the ingeniously named "Super heroes" prevailed. All associated with the productions are to be congratulated. The Senior Drama Club will put on "Hello Dolly" in April. That should be a smash hit!

Pizza sale at Christ Episcopal

A pizza sale will be held on the Fridays in March at Christ Episcopal Church, Dundaff & Delaware Sts., Forest City. Pick-up a prepared 12-cut three cheese pizza for \$10 or a 12-cut potato/cheese/onion pizza for \$12 at the church between 3 and 6 PM and bake it at home. Advance orders recommended.

Call 785-3425 and leave a call back message. Benefits the good works of the church.

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 March 7.

CORRECTION

In last week's edition Forest City Council turned down a request by Chief Johnson to move police communications from the Wayne County Comm Center to the Susquehanna County Comm Center. The headline said "Forest City Police communications will stay in Susquehanna County." The News apologizes for the error.

Cornerstone Bible Church shows love on Valentine's Day



by Art McLain

Valentine's Day is a day for showing love. Cornerstone Bible Church showed their love for the community by dropping off cookies for businesses in Forest City and Vandling again this year. With the stormy weather some businesses were closed but those that were open received a container or two of assorted homemade cookies.

Started approximately 10 years ago, while Cornerstone was still meeting at the Forest City Borough Building, it was an idea by some of the teenagers to make cookies and give them to local businesses.

The date of Valentine's Day was chosen as it is before Lent and after Christmas. The women in the church, organized by Sharon Collins, baked and then assembled 70 plus containers of cookies. When need for delivery people arose, Mike Seamon and several others cheerfully volunteered to step in.

The Valentine's Day cookie drop is another way that Cornerstone Bible Church reaches out to the community to share God's love. Pictured are some of the people who helped assemble the cookies. Cornerstone services are Sundays at 10:45 AM

Vandling seeks bus service from County

Vandling Borough Council will apply for a sewer project grant which is due at the end of February. Council voted on a resolution to apply for the grant at the monthly meeting on Monday, February 19.

The grant would come from DCED's Commonwealth Financing Authority. The cost of the project would be approximately \$290,000. If the borough gets the grant, they would need to come up with about \$43,000 which would be the borough's share.

Councilman John Carachilo asked where the borough would get the money. President Fran Pantzar explained that they need to apply first and if there is a chance of getting it, they will then find the funds, since it would be a worthwhile project for the borough.

Secretary Nancy Perri said the grant will need to be reviewed by the Commonwealth Financing Authority by April and then the board will approve or not approve the grant.

Councilman Bill Boyle asked if the borough could use some of the liquid fuels money for the project. He said the borough should definitely apply for the funds and then look at the permissible uses for the liquid fuel money.

TAX ORDINANCE

Council agreed to advertise the 2018 tax rate ordinance. Atty. Paul Smith was not at the January meeting when it was decided to advertise it.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman John Carachilo said he has been in contact with the Lackawanna County Commissioners and COLTS Bus Service and they are a step closer to having bus service for

the residents of Vandling and possibly even a part of Forest City. Carachilo said the bus currently only comes to Simpson before the viaduct. He is not sure where in Vandling the bus will pick up but said he is looking to the future in Vandling and that includes bus service for its elderly residents.

EMERGENCY FURNACE REPAIR

President Fran Pantzar said an issue with the new furnace in the daycare came about recently and the borough contacted Frank Regal who fixed the problem. Since the new heating system was installed, the daycare put up a wall divider which caused some heating problems. Regal had to make another zone in the day care and the cost was approximately \$1,700.

GRANTS

Council will apply for a grant from DCLR which can be used on improving the park's recreation area. The grant is due in April.

In addition, Council will apply for the Lackawanna County Arts Grant in the amount of \$500. Vandling has been applying and receiving the grant for the past several years.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Street Department worker Tom Collins Jr. asked if he could meet with Council following the meeting regarding the ordinance as to when the garbage cans need to be taken in following trash collection.

Council said they would meet with him following the meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 19 at 7 PM.

B'dale Fire Co. elects officers for 2018

The Browndale Fire Company has elected officers for 2018. Officers are as follows: President: Juliann Doyle; Vice President: Josh Debevec; Secretary: Nikki Guzzi; Treasurer: Mary Zigon; Trustee: Jack Pevec; Sargent at Arms: Chris Lee; and Chief: Josh Debevec.

GFCBA Mixer at Hornbeck Chev. Wed., March 7

The Greater Forest City Business Alliance will hold a Spring Mixer on Wednesday, March 7 from 6 PM to 8 PM at Hornbeck Chevrolet, 400 Main Street, Forest City. RSVP to skstat@icloud.com or 570-960-1332 by Feb. 28.

Salvation Army Food Pantry now at former Sacred Heart Church Hall



The Salvation Army, Ascension Parish, The Forest City Regional School District, and The Weinberg Regional Food Bank partner to meet human needs at The Salvation Army Food Pantry. Every last Wednesday of each month These partners now meet in Sacred Heart Church Hall to separate over 5,000 pounds of food and distribute the food to over 220 individuals.

Clinton Township Supervisors debate distribution of Foreign Fire Tax money

By Theresa Opeka

Much business was discussed at the Wed., Feb. 14, meeting of the Clinton Township Supervisors.

A motion was passed to have the grant writer apply for a grant for a possible salt shed at a cost of \$1,250 for the grant writer. They tabled voting on a grant for a park near the township building.

The township received \$14,481.69 in Foreign Fire Tax money. Supervisor Russ Curtis said Waymart and Prompton should get \$1,000 each and give the rest to Browndale.

Supervisor Ken Coles wanted to give Waymart and Prompton \$2,500 each and the rest to Browndale.

Browndale Fire Chief Josh Debevec said they dropped the SIO rating so residents insurance rates should drop.

Kerry Henderson said, "Browndale responded to 200 calls last year in the township and Waymart and

Prompton had 10 calls each. How can you justify giving \$2,500?"

Coles said, "Okay, I will go with Russ. Give \$1,000 to Prompton and \$1,000 to Waymart and the rest to Browndale." All voted in favor of Curtis' motion. Motion passed.

Joe Gillott gave a presentation about the Waymart Baseball Field. He said the Waymart Little League for the Western Wayne School District has three fields: Sterling, Lake Township and Waymart, which is the only one that is lighted. It was constructed in the 1980's and is in need of repair.

There are 225 kids in the league. The total cost of renovations is \$380,000. They have applied for a DCLR grant, which is \$190,000 and \$90,000 in kind matches. They have received \$150,000 in donations. He asked the supervisors for their support. The earliest they can start the

project is Spring 2019.

Supervisor Brian Non said they should call PSATS to see if it is legal to donate.

Cynthia Matthews of Wayne Tomorrow gave a presentation. The county is looking to make a farming list of producers who have \$1,000 or more of income per year. They want to support existing producers and create new ones. Matthews asked the supervisors for their assistance.

Matthews thanked the supervisors for putting up the snow fence on Smith Road.

South Canaan Township offered \$2,500 for the trailer on the property. All voted in favor of accepting the offer.

Walt Mosher told Non he would like to volunteer to load trucks at the township building. Curtis made a motion to accept his offer. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

Personnel matters on School Board agenda

Forest City Regional School at its Feb. 19 Board meeting accepted the resignation, for reason of retirement, of Rhonda Aldcowski.

She taught in FCR for more than 30 years. Board President Mary Emmet and Superintendent Dr. Jessica Aquilina wished her well in her retirement years and thanked her for her service at FCR.

The Board appointed Jocelyn Olsommer as a 260-day secretary following her release from her current employer. She replaces Marianne Lewandowski who retired. The new secretary also was approved to be on the Administrative Support Staff rather than as a union position as was the position previously.

Faculty member Mrs. Patricia Dattilo was granted a sabbatical leave from Feb. 16 through the end of the 2017-18 school year.

Edward Tomaine was added to the substitute support staff for the current school year.

The following were approved to serve as volunteer assistants for various sports: Brittany Burrell, junior high softball team; Lou Matoushek, Grades 5 and 6 girls' basketball; Joseph Pleska, varsity girls' softball team.

Unpaid leave was granted to Genine Langman, Jennifer Kerzetski and Justin Stevens.

The Board approved the operating budget of NEIU-19 which will cost the local school \$14,450 for 2018-19.

The pupil transportation index for school bus contracts was set at 5.800, which is a 2.1% increase over the previous year.

The Board approved the Single Audit Report of the school's finances with no negative findings reported. It was conducted by Rainey & Rainey CPA, and covered

the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017.

An agreement was renewed between the District and the USDA Animal and Plant Service to control the Canada goose problem on the school's property. The amount was not to exceed \$6,500 and cost is dependent on the services needed. Last year's total cost was \$868.

The Washington trip for Grade 8 April 26-27 was approved.

Supt. Aquilina thanked Dr. Michael Elia, HS principal, and Mr. Brian Kelly, elementary principal, for their proactive work over the past two years in changing the culture of the school. This included, she said, convening the Safety Committee for all to be ready in case of an emergency, and ensuring that all students are cared for.

Catholic Choral Society concert March 18 at FCA Historical Soc.

The Forest City Area Historical Society is pleased to announce a "Lenten Concert" by the Catholic Choral Society Sunday, March 18th at 3:00 P.M. at the Historical Society Museum, 629 Main Street, Forest City, Pa. (In the event of snow, the concert will be held on March 20th)

The group originally started in the 1920's and was re-organized in 1949 and has been performing ever since. Marking its 69th season, the Catholic Choral Society currently has 60 members who will perform inspirational music in the Lenten tradition as well as secular music and spirituals.

In its tradition of both ethnic diversity and multigenerational singers, the group will host the Forest City High School Chamber Choir directed by Alison



Members of the Catholic Choral Society

Yuravich.

The Catholic Choral Society musical director is Ann Manganiello and its accompanist is Jean Shields. The Co-Presidents of the group are Dr. Thomas Rittenhouse and Brenda Grunza. The 60 member group is composed of singers and musicians from Luzerne, Lackawanna, Wayne, Susquehanna and

Wyoming Counties.

Admission to the concert is \$5.00 for adults, children under 12 are free. The Forest City Area Historical Society is Handicapped Accessible.

The Forest City Area Historical Society can be contacted at 570-785-3800. The Catholic Choral Society can be contacted at 570-575-1040

