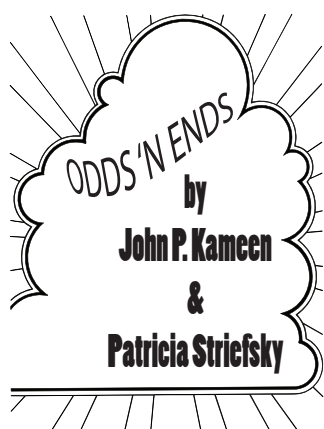


THE FOREST CITY NEWS



Pictured is a drainage cross pipe under the 16" and 24" natural gas pipelines on the D&H Rail Trail.

D&H Rail-Trail Update

by Lynn Conrad

The D&H Rail-Trail from Simpson to Carbondale is still closed due to the UGI pipeline project. At this point the gasoline is in the ground and operational. Drainage is now being addressed with installation of around 60 crosspipes (about 45% installed) which must be carefully dug under both pipelines. The endwalls for the drainage pipes are about 70% complete. Swales will then be dug to bring runoff to the crosspipes. Trail resurfacing will be the final step.

The Rail-Trail Council is working with UGI, engineers and the contractor to plan and build the most efficient drainage system for the trail. Drainage has been a long-time problem for the trail, especially in areas along SR 171 and along the old and present Stillwater Dam. The former D&H railroad owner entered into an agreement with Pennsylvania Gas & Water for the first pipeline back in 1992. The easement now belongs to UGI. The trail organization had very little say in the need for an efficient drainage plan for a proposed trail. That problem is now being addressed and the project is taking longer in order to correct the drainage. The drainage affects the Lackawanna River,

and the control of erosion and sedimentation directs the plan. Water typically drains from the west side of the trail to the east, where the drainage basins are being installed and the swales will be dug to conduct the runoff.

The design is based on stormwater flow calculations which then dictate the depth and the slope of the swales. This is where and why many trees had to be removed. The proposed swales cannot have a steep slope, so in many places banks had to be cut back along with the trees. Many of the trees which were removed were poplars (small-tooth aspen) and gray birch at the end of their lifespan. It is the intention of the Rail-Trail Council and UGI to plant hardwood trees on a regular basis once the trail is restored and open. We have experience and good luck planting large caliper bareroot trees with volunteers.

Trail resurfacing is planned for around May 1st if the weather cooperates. Council is hoping the trail will re-open early June with a ribbon cutting. Other trail projects to the north and south are also scheduled for completion, so that a 20-mile improved trail will be open from Carbondale to Ararat.

Road conditions lead To EM head quitting

By Theresa Opeka

Herrick Township is in need of an Emergency Management Coordinator after Andy Belcher resigned at the Monday, March 5th supervisors meeting. The discussion started with Belcher saying something needs to be done about the roads. He said he received calls about the condition of them during the March 2nd snowstorm.

Supervisor/Road Master Brian Zembrzycki said that after the roads were plowed Friday he did not want to risk the road workers lives due to the storm's condition.

Belcher said he had calls also from businesses and gave them Zembrzycki's phone number. Zembrzycki said he didn't get a call.

Belcher replied, "I saw them call your number."

Zembrzycki said, "We had residents who live on state roads complaining about the roads. If they asked nicely, but I have no remorse," he said.

Supervisor Elliot Ross said, "Safety of employees and residents is important. It rained before the snow came and made it difficult."

Belcher stated, "You need to find a new EMC. It needs to be looked into, not argued."

Ross asked, "So, you are resigning?"

Belcher replied, "Yes." Ross said he was sorry to hear that.

Belcher said, "The roads were a lot better when Mary (Reeder) was here."

Ross asked, "Overall?" Belcher said, "Yes." Belcher also said he asked for a deputy.

"Joe Rossi was named but he didn't want to do training."

Ross replied, "Joe said he would do training. He was working, but to let him know of times for training." Ross also said to Belcher, "You are over-reacting. You take your job seriously and I am proud of you for that."

A man in the audience said a

lot of people have moved here from out of the state and don't know a township road from a state road.

Zembrzycki said to Belcher, "Andy, if you tell me people are calling me and I am not getting any messages, you are leaving it in limbo."

Belcher said he didn't want to mention names during the meeting because it would be reported in the paper.

Ross said, "The road my mom lives on and my road are better than when Mary was here. There are times when the roads are difficult to maintain. With this storm, you couldn't plow or you would tear up the roads." She went on to say to Belcher, "You took the job as serious as anyone in the state or country and I don't think we had anyone take the job as seriously as you did. I appreciate what you did, but I am disappointed."

The next meeting will take place on Monday, April 2 at 7pm.

Reader Board Available for \$5.00 a week

A local resident questioned Council about the advertising being displayed on the Borough's entrance sign on South Main Street. Pat McCabe said she has wondered what the town's policy was regarding use of the reader board.

She was advised that a business can put a message on the Board at a cost of \$5 per week.

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Council tables KP cell tower

A proposal to erect a cell tower near the Little League Field at Kennedy Park was tabled again by Council. After discussion Council President Nick Cost said more information is required before an OK can be given.

The positive of the proposal would b income estimated to be some \$800/month, but the negatives are that the company says the best location is at or near the baseball field. In addition to possibly attaching it to an extension on top of one of the existing light poles, a 50x50 fenced in area would be needed at the base.

Council person Amy Bean

has met with the company officials and proposed erecting it near the Borough's recycling Center located further up Rte. 247 or even on the KP upper ballfield but the company officials say the site near the LL field is an optimum location for it.

Steven Tourje, Pres. of NEP Telephone Co., told Council there is room for the new company's equipment on the NEP cell tower in Browndale or the FBA cell tower on Blueberry Hill. Council person Bean said the Company is not interested in those locations.

Council also expressed concern about possible ra-

diation from the cell tower so close to the ballfield but Dan Pregnar, a radio engineer who was attending the Council meeting, said that the radio frequencies are low power and would also be at a greater height above the field and would not impact anyone there.

Council person Amy Bean was directed to discuss these questions with the cell company and to try and interest them in putting the unit on the Kennedy Park upper ballfield. They noted that locating it on Borough property would of course provide substantial monthly income to the Borough.

No new weapons for police

A \$5,480 guns and ammo purchase for the Forest City Police Dept. was put on hold at the March 5 Council meeting. Mayor Tammy Rogalski presented the proposal as requested by Chief Jim Johnson.

Chief Johnson said all officers on the force own their own sidearms, all of which are different types and some even of different calibers. He said it is an advantage to have all officers armed with similar weapons of the same caliber.

With school safety in the forefront of national discussion, the issue of adequate firepower in mass shooting situations is being looked at by all police depts. Local resident Pat McCabe asked if the local police were prepared for a Parkland inci-

dent. Chief Johnson said the local force has three rifles and shotguns for mass shooting response. He said they would also like to purchase heavy vests.

The purchase proposed would include eight Walther PPQ M2 9mm semi-automatic pistols with night sights and 3 magazines each. There would be 8 holsters and eight double magazine pouches with clips. The money would come from Act 13 Natural Gas Impact Fees.

Council President Nick Cost said more study was needed by Council before a decision could be made.

The police dept. has moved its police cars to the FNB Bank parking lot and purchased surveillance cameras for that location. A discussion took place about

extending surveillance cameras to the Borough Building but Council received an estimate last year of \$50,000 to \$100,000 for a full system.

Mayor Rogalski again brought up the police dept. request to move the local emergency communications from Wayne County Comm Center to Susquehanna County Comm Center.

Pres. Cost said Council voted a number of years ago to stay with Wayne County because Susquehanna County required the town to undergo new GPS addressing if they wanted to be part of the Susq. County system. Pres. Cost said Council felt it was too expensive to undertake changing all the addresses in Forest City.

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 reorganized 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 ecumenical diversity and multigenerational singers, the group will host the Forest City High School

Chamber Choir directed by Alison 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

FCR School Board approves field trips

The Forest City Regional School Board passed a motion at the monthly meeting on Monday, February 19 to approve the following school field trips:

Technology Club to the PA Governor's STEM Design Competition (Regional) at Dunmore High School on February 21, 2018 at a cost of \$235.00.
High School students to the Entrepreneurship's The Stourbridge Project in Honesdale on February 21, 2018 at a cost of \$120.
Grades 7-12 Ski Team to Elk Mountain on February 22, 2018 at a cost of \$240.

Junior Leadership Students to WVIA Studios on February 23, 2018 at a cost of \$123.76.
Grades 7-12 Ski Team to Windham Mountain, Windham, NY on Saturday, March 10, 2018 at a cost of \$400.00.

PJAS students to Wilkes University on March 3, 2018 at a cost of \$296.40.
Grades 7-12 Ski Team to Montage Mountain (after school) on March 5, 2018 at no cost to the district.

Technology Club to the NEIU Regional High School/Middle School Computer Fair at Keystone College on

March 13, 2018 at a cost of \$372.

Elementary Student Council students to a conference at Valley View School District on March 16, 2018 at a cost of \$390.76.

Grades 5 and 6 K'NEX Teams to Johnson College for the K'NEX Design Competition on March 19, 2018 at a cost of \$363.76.

PreK students to Valley Bowling Lanes, Carbondale on March 23, 2018 at a cost of \$600.

FBLA to the State Competition in Hershey, PA on April 8 through April 11, 2018 at a cost of \$6,749.40.

Grade 6 students to Keystone College (Career Exploration) on April 20, 2018 at a cost of \$732.

Junior High/Senior High Band students to PNC Field to perform the National Anthem at a Railrider's game on April 25, 2018 at a cost of \$132.

Band and Chorus students to Hershey Park for a performance on May 31, 2018 at a cost of \$240.

Grade 3 to Roberson Science Museum in Binghamton, NY on June 1, 2018 at a cost of \$1,087.80.

New lease For library

Forest City Council signed a long term lease March 5 to keep the Forest City Library in the Borough Building at no cost to the County Library Assoc. A previous Council had sought to change the terms of the 50 year old lease to require a monthly lease payment and also payment of utilities.

The negotiation of the lease involved the Council, the County Library Assoc. and the Forest City Lions Club.

It was the Lions Club which secured the free occupancy for the Library to come to Forest City in 1968 and has supplied continuing financial support for improvements and modernization of the facility over the years.

Reports were that the discussions were heated at times but could have resulted in the local Library's closure if the new costs were applied.

Steven Tourje, president of the Lions Club, said he was pleased Council agreed to continue its complete support of the Library.

FC Lions Golf Tournament Fri., August 3

The Forest City Lions Club will hold their annual Golf Tournament on Friday, August 3 at Panorama Golf Course. It will be part of the weekend events of Forest City Trail Town Festival.

An entry form will be in this newspaper in the coming months. Plan to attend this annual tournament with proceeds to benefit local civic projects.

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.

It appears that winter storms are God's way to prune trees. Just a glance around our area indicates branches and trees downed from our recent storms. Unfortunately many electric lines came down with them.

Local barber Paul Ferraro and wife, Mary, and their horses, were without electric power at their Elkdale home until Friday of last week.

Unfortunately the electric surge, which preceded their outage, damaged their appliances and electronics. If they were not home at the time they might have lost their house. Many folks in Pleasant Mount were out of power for five days.

The recent snow wasn't even that good for snow-mobiling with slush underneath. Another year in which sled owners got gyped. However area snow plowing contractors were kept busy.

Zazzera's Super Market Meat Sale is Thursday and Friday. Stock up on some great steaks and roasts.

The public is invited to hear the Catholic Choral Society present a concert at the Historical Society this Sunday at 2PM. The Museum is handicap accessible.

Good to see our friend Lou Orehek back in town after a sojourn in Florida. He and his buddy, Joe Jerin, were enjoying lunch at Max Deli last week.

The Catholic Diocese of Scranton is celebrating the 150th anniversary of its founding this year. At one time there were five Roman Catholic churches in Forest City, each one celebrating the ethnicity of a group in town. All are now consolidated into Ascension Parish under the pastor Rev. Brian J.T. Clarke.

Our new dining guide restaurant The Manor in Carbondale offers cozy and exquisite dining at affordable prices. Stop by and give it a try!

GFCBA Mixer Rescheduled to Wed., March 14

The Greater Forest City Business Alliance Spring Mixer has been RESCHEDULED to Wednesday, March 14 from 6 PM to 8 PM. The event is being held at Allan Hornbeck Chevrolet. The event was originally planned for March 7 but was cancelled due to snow.

SEE OUR DINING GUIDE ON PAGE 7 WIN \$20.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE

