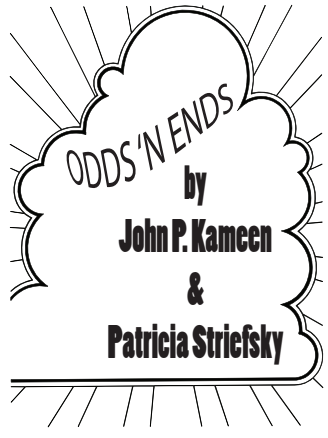


THE FOREST CITY NEWS



I guess Forest City now has a 1PM and 10PM whistle! Or some entity responsible for resetting it, forgot daylight savings time went into effect March 11.

It was a full house with some great music at the Forest City Area Historical Society Museum Sunday afternoon with the Catholic Choral Singers and the Forest City Regional High School Chorus. We'll have photo and story next week.

Maybe, just maybe, this next snow WILL miss us on Wednesday.

Maybe its wishful thinking but our writer, Art McLain, has begun his weekly column, "Thinking About Golf." Unfortunately for us, that's all we can do is "think" about it.

Forest City Regional School students were jubilant last week when they learned school will be out June 15 due to the District using Act 80 days to make up the many snow days this year. Pre-Kindergarten classes still have to go until June 26 and all teachers will have to attend for seven Act 80 days of continuing education after June 15.

Next Sunday is the start of Holy Week culminating with Easter on April 1st which is about the earliest Easter can be on the calendar.

In our continuing round of visiting Dining Guide advertisers, we had delicious fish dinners last Friday at Lakewood Lodge. Of course our seat by the fireplace and the view of the Endless Mountains from their dining room added to the ambiance.

Light Parade in Forest City Sat., August 4

A Light Parade will be held on Saturday, August 4 in Forest City in conjunction with the Trail-Town Festival. The parade will kick off at 9 PM from the VISION 2000 Industrial Park and continue up Rte. 247 to Main Street where it will turn right and head up Main Street where it will end at D.G.'s Bar.

Anyone interested in participating is asked to contact Chris Ginton at 570-960-2754 or email him cgltd.cg@gmail.com.

Hometown Heroes Deadline

The deadline for the Hometown Heroes banners for the Forest City area Historical Society is March 31, according to chairperson Tammy O'Reilly and Dave Opeka.

Anyone wishing to have a family member, who served during wartime, enshrined with a banner at the Museum, must fill out an application, found elsewhere in this edition.

The cost is \$100 and the application with photo and check should be mailed to Hometown Heroes, 13149 St. Rte. 374, Union Dale, PA 18470.

Borough building repairs Again debated at Council

The need for repairs to the floor in the Senior Center, as well as continuing renovations of the Borough Building, occupied major time at the March 5 Council meeting. A Home Depot estimate of \$6,000 to make the badly needed repairs in the Senior Center, and to install new flooring in the Mayor's Office, was tabled until another estimate could be secured. An estimate was also received from local contractor Phil Hodges.

Mayor Tammy Rogalski said she did not need new flooring in her office so it will be necessary for Councilman Chris DeGonzague to get a new estimate, just for the Senior Center. It was reported that some structural issues are involved in the repairs and must be addressed before new tile can be laid.

Councilman Bob Lesjack suggested the stage be removed from the 3rd floor

William Pentecost Hall and a larger kitchen be installed to accommodate weddings and other larger events which he hopes to attract to the location. He said the present kitchen could be converted to a cloak room.

This action was also tabled when questions from local resident John Scepa revealed that no Building Code or Fire Dept. inspection or occupancy permit had been conducted to determine what capacity the hall would be allowed to hold.

Lesjack said the contractor for the bathroom modernizations has been notified that several deficiencies have been found in the work.

In replying to a question brought up at the February meeting about installing eight new chandeliers in the upstairs hall, Lesjack said he was able to purchase eight of them for just \$600.

Barking Cupcake owner Says it is not easy to open A business in Forest City

Abigail Rodriguez, owner of the new Barking Cupcake Bakery in Forest City, told Council recently it is very difficult to open a business in Forest City. She said difficulties with complying with orders of the town's building code enforcement officer, from Code Inspections Inc., had resulted in her having to pay rent and utilities beginning in 2016 until she finally opened in Jan. 2018.

She said she received conflicting directions about the equipment she needed for her bakery and had to get rid of some purchases and make new purchases.

Council President Nick Cost apologized to her for her delays and problems and indicated that the previous code enforcement company had been discharged in January and a new company was now handling building codes.

Cost said they were happy to have her open her store and wished her well in her venture.

Cost also stated that Main Street coordinator Art McLain is assembling a list of available spots on Main Street for potential businesses

Former local official Comments on grant

Former Council President William D. Orasin attended the March 5 Council meeting to congratulate Council on receiving a \$273,000 grant for new sidewalks and street repairs on the east side of Main Street. He urged Council to undertake the project this year to complete the downtown project for the improvement of the business community.

Council President Nick Cost thanked Mr. Orasin for his leadership in the past Council which resulted in submitting the grant application. The

previous Council also secured a grant to install the new sidewalks on the West side of the street and to install the infrastructure for decorative street lighting.

Both Orasin and Cost also singled out Borough Assistant secretary Cindi Stone for preparing the applications which led to the grants.

The project will require \$92,000 in matching funds from the Borough which will come from Act 13 Natural Gas Impact Fees.

Moment of silence for former teacher; FCR Employee retiring after 12 years

The Forest City Regional School Board held a moment of silence at the monthly meeting on March 12 to remember Dr. Thomas Mellow, a former teacher at the school, who passed away recently. Board President Mary Emmett remembered Dr. Mellow as a good person and a great teacher who will be missed.

Michael Rock was approved as a substitute bus driver for the 2017-18 school year.

Thomas Bailer was approved as a Volunteer Assistant Coach for the Junior Senior Softball Team for the 2017-18 school year.

The School Board approved the High School's "Program of Studies" for the 2018-19 school year. It can be found on the school's website.

The High School trip to Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Hershey was approved at a cost of \$1,098. It is scheduled for May 30 through June 1. More information will be sent home with students.

The following Department Chairs for the 2017-18 school year were ap-

FC Lions Club 70 Years Old



The Forest City Lions Club was honored on March 12 by officials of Lions International on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the local Club. It was founded on April 8, 1948. A plaque was presented to Lion President Steven Tourje by the District Governor and his cabinet at a dinner meeting at Crystal Pines, Crystal Lake. There were 22 in attendance. Pictured, left to right, 1st District Governor Bill Metschulat, District Governor Cathy Metschulat and 2nd District Governor Fran Stepkovich. The Club helped to establish, and has continued to maintain, the Forest City Branch Library for the past 50 years.

FCRHS Graduation set for June 15; Last day for K-12 June 15 tentatively

According to the Forest City Regional School Board the last day of school for K-12 students in the district will be on Friday, June 15 with graduation to take place on that day. That is if there are no more snow days this year. The revised school calendar for 2017-18 was approved at the monthly meeting on March 12.

Pre-Kindergarten classes will remain in session for the full 180 days, with the last day scheduled for Tuesday, June 26, 2018.

The following letter was provided to the NEWS by Superintendent Dr. Jessica Aquilina and every student will be receiving a copy of it.

The letter reads as follows: The Forest City Regional School District Board of Directors approved an updated calendar for the 2017-2018 school year at their Regular Business Meeting on Monday, March 12, 2018. The updated calendar includes the use of seven Act 80 Exemption

Days. Act 80 Exemption Days provide school districts with an exception to the Pennsylvania Department of Education's (PDE) 180 day minimum requirement for students provided that the minimum number of hours are met. Act 80 Exemption days serve as professional learning days for faculty and staff.

The PDE requires 990 hours for secondary students and 900 hours for elementary school students. Due to the length of our school day, the schedule in both the secondary and elementary schools far exceed the required number of hours. The updated calendar provides for the last day of school for students in grades kindergarten through 12 and high school graduation to be scheduled for Friday, June 15, 2018.

Pre-kindergarten (pre-k) classes will remain in session for the full 180 days, with the current last day for pre-k scheduled for Tuesday,

June 26, 2018. Additional information related to the last week of school for pre-k will be shared with parents in the near future.

Although it is never beneficial to reduce our students' access to instructional time, the late start to the school year, combined with our 12th weather related closing, along with remaining work for the renovation project have made it necessary for us to amend the calendar. Ending the school year on June 15, 2018 will help ensure that the contractors are able to complete remaining work prior to the start of the 2018-2019 school year. - Dr. Jessica Aquilina.

The district will host an informational session on the updated calendar on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium. Please feel free to contact Dr. Aquilina at 570-785-2403 if you are unable to attend and if have any questions or concerns.

Clifford Supervisors address loss of business in town

Two issues - where taxes go and the loss of businesses - were addressed at the Tuesday, March 13 meeting of the Clifford Township Supervisors

Supervisor Barry Searle said he wanted to address two topics. The first was where the township's taxes go. "We post the budget every year. You get a receipt when you pay your taxes," he said. He took an example of a tax bill in which the township gets \$136.42. "How far does it go?" he asked. He broke down the income for taxes received for 2018. There is \$425,000. Dirt road repair - \$80,000; Major repairs like bridges and culverts - \$100,000; Snow removal - \$65,000; Heating repairs - \$100,000; Insurance - \$12,000; Salaries, including road workers, supervisors, secretary and the solicitor - \$61,000. The supervisors get \$137.94 a month. "We pay upfront on construction. We aren't in debt," he said.

A man in the audience said he has seen how the township has been run over the past 30 years and people have no idea how bad it was. Searle said, "Eight years ago, we had to figure out where we were going to get money for stamps for the historical society," Searle said. He next addressed the loss of businesses. He said he will be going to the Forest City Business Alliance mixer tomorrow night to talk up Clifford and will be talking to Representative Jonathan Fritz Thursday about roads and how to attract businesses. "We have talked to the National Association of In-

dependent Grocers who referred us to the Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association. We will be going to a meeting on April 16 in Tunkhannock on why the area is losing businesses. It's a business issue, not a government issue. If people feel they can make money here, they will invest here," he said. He said they could give a tax break but there aren't any business taxes in the township and they can't stop other taxes.

Another suggestion was to have the former grocery store donated to the township but it is in foreclosure to the bank and what would the township do with it.

Several banks are closing in the area and the reason may be due to people banking online. Searle noted that First National Bank will be keeping an ATM at its old location.

"Our population is aging. The kids are moving away. The demographics don't support it. We will have to reinvent ourselves," Searle

said. A man in the audience said the township should get funding from the county to build apartments for the elderly.

Searle also mentioned starting a farmer's market but people were vehemently against it the last time they proposed it since others already exist in the area. Searle said, "We know the issues. We grew up here. We are trying to sell the area but we (supervisors) aren't here to do business."

Larry Wilson mentioned that a sewage system would need to be addressed if senior housing would be built.

A woman suggested getting a Dollar General like Forest City has but a man in the audience said it would only be a band-aid and another woman said it would hurt businesses that exist and 'have you seen the people that go in there?'

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 10 at 7pm.

Mother's Day Photos for The Forest City News

The Forest City News will be accepting photographs for its annual Mother's Day edition. The date of the publication for this edition is Wednesday, May 9. This year Mother's Day is on May 13th.

This year's edition will be in full color.

The cost is \$20 for color.

Anyone interested in having their picture in this issue can email or drop off a picture at the News office no later than Wed., May 2. You can email photos to fcnews@nep.net.

Everyone who submits a photo will also have the photo included on our website, in color, for FREE.

