

THE FOREST CITY NEWS

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

Our town lost one of the good guys with the death of Bill Paulin last week. Our Class of 1959 has lost its 22nd member. Bill was definitely one of the nicest guys you could ever meet. A long career at NEP Telephone Co., a Forest City policeman, member of the Ambulance, and supporter of every worthy cause. Always a friendly smile and greeting. Did not deserve his long battle with Parkinson's Disease. He will be sorely missed by his loving wife, Pudgie, and all his kids and grandkids. May he rest in peace.

April 18, 8AM—Putting ice melter on sidewalk. PennDOT had to cinder hill during the night. "This is RIDICULOUS," says Publisher Patricia Striefsky!!!

Wivey's Golf League kicks-off its 53rd year Wednesday, April 25, weather permitting, at Panorama Golf Course. Wivey Orasin Sr. was re-elected President at the re-organization meeting April 18 at Panorama Lounge. Joe Machek remains League secretary. He's been a member for 41 years.

Panorama Golf Course and Fern Hall Golf Course did open last week with cold and wet conditions for most of the week. In fact, snow and ice was on the ground for much of the week. It only takes a few sunny days with wind to dry out soggy ground.

It was a year ago April 19 when work began on the natural gas pipeline on the Rail Trail. That 24-inch line is in the ground and flowing gas to the Invenery Plant in Throop. Work continues on drainage and re-surfacing of the Trail. Unfortunately, due to the continuing construction, the Trail is still closed and the Lackawanna River is not accessible to fishermen from the Trail.

Don't forget the Lions Club breakfast Sunday at Elegante Restaurant from 8am to noon.

What a beautiful tribute to a wonderful teacher, Dave St. Ledger, on Sunday at the Forest City Regional School. "The Saint" as he was known, was remembered by students and faculty at a celebration of his life. St. Ledger passed away in December. A story about the celebration will appear in next week's edition.

FC Lions Club Pancake breakfast Set for April 29

The Forest City Lions Club will hold a pancake breakfast at Elegante Restaurant, Forest City, on Sunday, April 29 from 8 AM to Noon. The cost is Adults \$6.00, Children under 12 - \$3.00.
SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL LIONS CLUB!

Pancake Breakfast in Union Dale Sat., April 28

The Union Dale United Churches will hold their All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, April 28 from 7 AM to 10 AM. Menu includes Pancakes, Sausage, Eggs (Cooked to Order), Juice, Coffee, and Tea.

Unregistered vehicle enforcement in Vandling

Vandling Code Enforcement Officer Joe Lavin said beginning May 1 he will be canvassing the town for unregistered vehicles.

Plans for new truck put on hold by Clinton

by Theresa Opeka
Trash, getting a new truck and road conditions were discussed at the Wednesday, April 11 meeting of the Clinton Township Supervisors.

Supervisor Ken Coles said a Browndale resident found missing stop signs in his front yard. He called the state police to let them know.

Supervisor Russ Curtis said there are nine TV's littering Flat Rock Road. He said he thinks PennDOT may have a dumper they can use for Keep America Beautiful/Earth Day to dispose of them and will check with them.

TRUCK BID
Supervisor Brian Non made a motion to put out for bid a 2019 5500 truck. He said he will get the prepared forms from PSATS next month after he goes to the PSATS convention.

John Lillie said, "One of these winters, you are going to have a snowstorm and the Truck we have is big and it is old. You can get a small one but." After more discussion, Non put the

Jim McCusker Jr. Honored by Firemen's Assoc.

James McCusker Jr., Union Dale, was recently advised that the Firemen's Association of Pennsylvania has placed a brick in his name on the Walk of Honor at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Park in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

When completed, the walkway will connect different sections of the Memorial Park National Monument, the historic Fallen Firefighters Chapel and the Memorial Plaza on that site in Emmitsburg.

McCusker is presently an inactive member of the Forest City Emergency Services. He was a line officer and department officer of the Forest City Fire Dept. and then served as captain and officer of the Forest City Area Ambulance for many years.

The honoree comes from a long line of firefighters. His father, the late James McCusker Sr., was a 70 year member of the Forest City Fire Dept. and served as Fire chief for many years. His grandfather, Benjamin McCusker, was also a longtime member of the Forest City Hillside Fire Company.

The award of the brick was presented to Mr. McCusker by Forest City Fire Chief Paul Lukus at the honorees home on Lyon Street, Union Dale.

FC Borough spent more in 2017 than it took in

According to the 2017 audit, Forest City Borough spent \$151,642 more than it received in revenue. Total expenses for the year were \$1,471,404 while total revenues were \$1,319,762.

The largest expenditure for the year was for Public Works (streets, roads, etc.) at \$452,560. Public safety (police dept.) was next with expenses of \$305,535, while Insurance and employee benefits cost \$174,320.

Taxes, of course, were the source of the largest amount of income at \$520,312. Charges for service totaled \$478,015 while intergovernmental sources produced revenue of \$198,246.

The ending fund balances for the year totaled \$3,097,985 down from the previous years beginning fund balance of \$3,249,627.

The Borough's largest liability was long term debt of \$6,129,745 for the sewer project.

bid on hold.
YARNES ROAD

Matt Curtis said Yarnes Road is washing out already and the work done on it wasn't done correctly and the township was \$6,800 over budget on it. Coles said it was done correctly and you can't control Mother Nature.

B'DALE FIRE REPORT

Browndale Fire Chief Josh Debevec said there were 73 incidents for the month of March, including 23 motor vehicle accidents. He also said the fire company has house number signs for sale. They are \$13 each and have reflective numbers on both sides. They also have poles to put them on for \$3 each. He said they struggle to find some houses and the signs would help out in an emergency.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 9 at 7pm.

Rainforest Is Coming To Town May 2

How can a rainforest come to town?

It's truly something you will have to see to believe. On Wednesday, May 2, the Forest City Regional School gymnasium will be transformed into a tropical rainforest.

The show, "Live on Stage, The Rainforest", will make you feel like you are right in the middle of the tropical rainforest with the beautiful sounds and sights of the Amazon region. You will also see exotic birds, kinkajous, monkeys and snakes.

It all started as a dream for founder and current director Mike Kohlireser. In the 1980's Mike and his wife Marcia became increasingly aware of problems in the tropical rainforests. Using his already developed skills as an animal trainer and stage entertainer, Mike wanted to educate young and old alike about these animals facing possible extinction.

In 1992 the non-profit organization Understanding Wildlife, Inc. was created. The goal is simple - educate and inspire individuals to get involved and make this a better world for us all (including the animals) to live in.

This fascinating comedy animal show will only be at Forest City Regional School on Wednesday May 2 for one show at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$5.00 per person and will be available at the door.

Hearsay A Cappella at Hist. Soc. April 29

Hearsay A Cappella, who will be performing at the Forest City Area Historical Society, 629 Main Street, on Sunday, April 29, at 1 PM, has released their latest album "Exhibit A". It can be found on Spotify and iTunes and includes covers from artists such as Florence and the Machine, Kiiara, Stevie Nicks, and Nirvana. The group's director is Katie O'Neill, a native of Pleasant Mount. Admission is \$5.00 for adults, children under 12 free.

Roast Pork at Christ Church Sat., May 5

Christ Episcopal Church, Dundaff and Delaware Streets in Forest City will hold a Roast Pork Dinner on Saturday, May 5. Take-outs will be from 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM and Family Style Dinner will be from 5 to 7 PM. Donation is \$12. For advance tickets call 570-785-3425 and leave a message.



Area near VISION 2000 Industrial Park is prepared for installation of natural gas line to improve facilities in the park.

Long-awaited gas line project Begins soon in Industrial Park

The installation of a natural gas pipeline into the VISION 200 Industrial Park, on Rte. 247, between Forest City and Browndale, is expected to begin shortly. The work will be done by Linde Corporation which is presently working on restoration of the Rail Trail.

PARK UNFILLED

GFCI President Bob McGraw said they have been unable to secure Park tenants for a number of reasons including the lack of gas service in the Park. Though sewer, water, electric and Borough-maintained paved roads exist to the two shovel-ready pads, a number of prospects have declined the Park due to the lack of gas service.

MANY DELAYS

Approvals for federal grants to finance the job were completed in April 2017, but due to the subsequent construction of a 24-inch UGI natural gas line on the Rail-Trail, the local project has been delayed.

Initial delays on grant funding came from a requirement to do core borings to ensure the structural soundness of the park's building pads since the area was the site of Anthracite mining 100 years ago.

A wetland's delineation was also required for federal grant approval since there is some wetlands and a seasonal stream on the site.

UGI decided to re-construct the existing gas regulator station at the site last year and, in the process, provided a tap-in connection for the Industrial Park's new 6-inch line.

The new line to the Park

crosses property of the Rail Trail Council as well as property of Forest City Partners, requiring easements from both parties. Both easements were provided at no cost to GFCI.

A pave cut permit also was required by Forest City Borough since the line will be placed along Commerce Boulevard which is a Forest City Borough Street.

JOINT FINANCING

GFCI Treasurer John P. Kameen said the financing of the \$250,000 project was a partnership between two agencies of the Federal government, along with funds from the Susquehanna County Commissioners, and a loan from the GFCI/Forest City Borough Revolving Loan Fund.

Grant applications were prepared by Rachel Hauser of the Northern Tier Regional Planning Commission, Towanda. The funding requests are administered on the regional level by Jason Cali, Area Specialist for Business Programs, United States Dept. of Agriculture, Tunkhannock Office.

A total of \$190,000 in federal grants was secured from the USDA and the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC).

A grant of \$30,000 was received from the Susquehanna County Commissioners from Act 13 Natural Gas Impact Fees.

The remainder of the money comes from a loan to GFCI from the local Revolving Loan Fund which has to be repaid when the land is sold to clients locating in the Park. The Revolving Loan Fund is a jointly handled by

Forest City Borough Council and GFCI. Members of the loan committee at the time of approval were Council members Nick Cost, William D. Orasin and GFCI members Bob McGraw and John Kameen.

COSTS REDUCED

Pres. McGraw told the NEWS that the contract for the installation of the gas line came in below estimates because engineering costs were half of what was estimated since GFCI was able to provide as-built Park plans as well as the core borings and wetlands delineation.

GFCI will seek to use the remainder of the funds to install electric lines on the poles already installed in the Park. If electric is installed, Rail-Trail may also be able to have electric to their Trail Head located off Commerce Blvd.

The utility poles were put in place by North-Eastern Pennsylvania Telephone Company almost 10 years ago in anticipation of the construction of an electronics plant which failed to get the required financing and was cancelled by the owners.

PARK MARKETING

The Industrial Park is marketed thru Penn's Northeast and LOIS, which are industrial development consortiums. Local information on available sites can be secured by contacting GFCI Treasurer John P. Kameen at 570-785-3800 or email at john@forestcitynews.com

Officers of Greater Forest City Industries Inc. are: Pres. Bob McGraw, Vice Pres. Brian Fitzsimmons, Secretary Patricia Striefsky and Treasurer John P. Kameen

Hiking service fee, and COLTS Bus Service discussed by Vandling

Vandling Borough Council discussed implementing a local service tax, purchasing flags for Main Street, and COLTS bus service in town at the monthly meeting on Monday, April 16.

LOCAL SERVICE TAX

Solicitor Paul Smith was asked to look into increasing the Local Services Tax. The current tax is \$10. The Local Services Tax is a local tax payable by all individuals who hold a job or profession within a taxing jurisdiction imposing the tax. Atty. Smith said if passed this year it would not be able to take effect until January 2019. Currently about \$350 is collected each year for this.

Councilman John Carachilo and Mayor Joe Brady had suggested the tax be increased to \$52 which is what is collected elsewhere in the county.

No decision was made on the increase.

LITTLE LEAGUE

Eric Burns, President of the Cal Ripken Little League, appeared before Council to request use of the recreation field for Little League games. He also asked if they could use the building to sell food and drinks.

Burns said he did some renovations to the field recently to get it ready for games. Council President Fran Pantzar said they could use

the field and he spoke with former Councilman Don Franceski who has agreed to coordinate the use of the field with the FCR School's Baseball and Softball teams.

Copies of insurance also need to be obtained from anyone using the field.

Pantzar said the track around the field needs to be dressed up when the weather gets nice.

B'DALE FIRE REPORT

Pat Sherry said the Browndale Fire Co. had 15 calls for the month and the Chicken BBQ was a huge success. The next fundraiser will be the Car Show on June 2.

CD IN HNB

Treasurer Jennifer Slick said a CD for \$26,000 came due and she got a quote from Honesdale National Bank to put the money in another CD which has a better rate. Council agreed to renew the CD with HNB.

BILLS

Regal Plumbing and Heating submitted a bill for \$2,725 for work done to the furnace which was about \$1,000 more than Council thought it was going to be. Council agreed to wait on paying the bill until they contacted Regal about it.

PLOWING

President Pantzar expressed his appreciation to Darryl Seaman for plowing snow in town

during a recent snowstorm. No one from the street department was available that day so Seaman used his plow to plow the streets.

COLTS BUS SERVICE

Councilman John Carachilo and Mayor Joe Brady met recently with representatives of COLTS Bus Service to discuss bus runs into Vandling. Carachilo said it was a very productive meeting and it will be a positive thing for the senior citizens. Forest City may also be included in the bus runs.

Councilman Bill Boyle said when the service is available, they need to publicize it so residents know it is available.

FLAGS

Councilman Carachilo asked if flags could be purchased with the money from the Recreation Board. He said the Rec. Board had asked if the money raised for many years could be used for this purpose. He said he will contact someone from the Rec. Board to see what kind of flags they want.

POTHOLES

Councilman Carachilo said he surveyed the streets in the Borough and the worst streets with potholes are 2nd Street and Ash Street. He said something needs to be done. He asked if they could use liquid fuels money to fix the potholes.

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

