

THE FOREST CITY NEWS



Trail Town Festival More events set

Continued planning took place at a community meeting of Rail Trail Council and GFCBA under the direction of Michael O'Neill on May 2nd. Rail Trail Executive Director Lynn Conrad gave a summary of R-T events for the Rail Trail Festival which include the Coal Cracker race and biking on the Trail along with other events. Bridget Wiley is in charge of the 8am Coal Cracker race.

Some samples of coal-type awards for the race were examined. Conrad also stated that bikes might be available either free of charge or minimum rental for the 10am bike ride.

Mike Zach presented an event logo which was developed by the FCRS Art Dept. which will be used to publicize the event.

Paul Daugevelo, of the Main Street Trail Festival committee, said the 400 and 500 blocks of Main Street will feature craft and other vendors. A chicken barbecue is being considered at the Christ Church with chickens prepared by the Browndale Fire Co.

He said the Light Parade will be at 9PM and will start in the Industrial Park and end at DG's Restaurant on North Main St. where there will be food and refreshments.

He stated that the Fireworks will follow the parade and are being paid for by North Eastern Pennsylvania Telephone Company and will be put on by the Thompson Hose Company.

One of the features of the day will be a Scavenger Hunt in which mining-related displays will be placed in six Main Street businesses by Peggy Brager of the Forest City Historical Society. A card will be available for those who will visit each of the stores and get the card signed. The card will be taken to the Historical Society where a drawing will be held for bikes and a Merchant's Basket of gift certificates and local items.

John Kameen of the Historical society said the Society is marking the 250th anniversary of Anthracite that day which is a statewide observance. Events include Museum displays all day, several mining and railroad programs in the afternoon, ethnic food for sale from 11 to 7, and play at 5pm by FCRS drama club. The sculptor of the Miners Memorial at Wm. Penn Park will also give an explanation of the features of the memorial.

The next meeting of the Community group is set for Wednesday, June 6 at 7:45am at Shirley's Restaurant.



Forest City Borough Council approved the construction of a Dog Park on the site of the former Babe Ruth Baseball Field and Recreation Area at the corner of Higgins and Railroad Streets at a cost of \$12,000.

New Dog Park OK'd At Babe Ruth Field

Forest City will have a dog park at the unused Babe Ruth Park at the North end corner of Railroad and Higgins Streets. Council approved expenditure of \$12,000 or the facility at its May the meeting.

Council members Joann Matarese and Amy Bean presented a detailed proposal for the new dog park which will be a fenced in area of 60x100. Matarese said it will be divided into two sections, one for small dogs and the other for larger dogs. The surface will be specially prepared for dogs.

The cost of about \$12,000 was approved unanimously. Some of the funding will come from the remains of an insurance settlement received by the Borough several years ago due to the arson damage to playground equipment.

Council also approved a fundraising letter which will go out to the community which will ask for \$25.00 do-



Babe Ruth Park was originally constructed on land provided to Forest City Borough by Forest City Regional School District.

nations for pet names to be placed on "dogbone" signs on the fencing.

Council also okayed a fundraising letter for Kennedy

Park. It is hoped that the dog park can be built this year.

No word from cell tower company But idea is again faulted by citizens

A request from Sprint to erect a cell tower at the Little League Field at Kennedy Park was again panned by several local residents at the May 7 Council meeting. Council member Amy Bean addressed the agenda item which has been discussed over the past three Council sessions.

Bean said she has not received any contact from the Sprint representative since Council suggested that the tower be re-located to either

the upper ballfield or the Borough's garage and Recycling Center on Rte. 247 west of town.

The advantage for the Borough is that Sprint said it would pay \$800 per month for the tower at the Little League Field.

Local residents Rachel Habetler and Barbara Mihelc addressed their objections to Council. Habetler said the tower at the Little League Field would produce "negative effects of radiation exposure to our citizens." Mihelc said it would detract from the beauty of the Park.

Clifford Twp. Hist. Soc. Summer Events

Spend an afternoon in Clifford and immerse yourself in local history. Start with the tour of the Historic Baptist Church on Church Street, Clifford. Your next stop is the Museum of Local History, 119 Cemetery Street, just a mile from the Baptist Church. If you have young ones, the park and Children's Garden by the Museum should also be on your itinerary. Then enjoy the renovated Hoover School on State Route 2014—two miles from the museum.

Historical Society members will be available at each location to relate stories, explain exhibits and answer questions. Folks who have spent a few hours with us have been impressed and very glad they made the effort. All venues are open 1 PM to 4 PM on Sunday, May 20 and are free to the public and handicap accessible.

Hope to see you there!! Questions 570-679-2723 or peltz@nep.net.

Public invited To Anthracite Hotel viewing

The Grand Opening of Hotel Anthracite, Carbondale, will take place on Thursday, May 17. The new owners of the former Carbondale Grand Hotel welcome the community and visitors to stop in and view the newly renovated facility in downtown Carbondale.

The hotel was purchased in November 2017 by an investment group including Rob Grimm, owner of Grimm Construction, and Justin Genzlinger, CEO of Settlers Hospitality.

Settlers Hospitality is a family run group in Hawley, PA, consisting of The Settlers Inn, Ledges Hotel, Silver Birches Resort, The Dock on Wallenpaupack, Glasswine.bar.kitchen, Cocoon Coffeehouse, Lake Region Fitness, The Mill Market Bakery, & Art on the Edge.

Browndale/Forest City Sidewalk is Key to getting Rail Trail Users to Town; 10-year-long effort is facing June 2019 deadline of funding if not completed

It appears that sometime this summer the section of the D&H Rail-Trail from Carbondale to Union Dale will be resurfaced and in operation. Forest City merchants will then be anxious to have users of the Trail, exit the Trail here and come to Main Street.

One of the impediments to getting visitors to Main Street is that access from the Trailhead to the Business District is by navigating a busy and narrow Rte. 247.

Since there is a project to install a concrete sidewalk from Browndale to Forest City, the NEWS contacted Linda Zefran who has been shepherding this now-fully funded project since 2008.

Ms. Zefran and her husband, Dr. Jim Zefran, were very nearly struck by a vehicle while running on Rte. 247 in 2008. At the time they realized that it was just a matter of time before someone was

killed there.

Zefran told the NEWS May 3 that the project has received its 3rd deadline extension, now to June of 2019, and if not completed by then, the almost \$400,000 in state funding will be withdrawn.

She noted the almost 10 years has been minefield of both major and minor technical issues but that her contacts with state, borough, township and county officials has brought the funding and support necessary.

She especially thanks the engineers of Kiley Associates, of Lakewood, PA, who have provided extensive project planning at no cost.

Still holding up the final details are the constantly-shifting rules and regulations of PennDOT. PennDOT just recently brought forth some additional changes.

Greater Forest City Industries Inc. came on

Pedestrian Crossing on Main Street

Police Chief Jim Johnson was asked by Council to secure Pedestrian Crossing signs for Main Street. With the Street Dept. painting the crosswalk this week. Council directed that pedestrian right-of-way at crosswalks be enforced.

Johnson suggested that Main Street visitors cross only at the marked crosswalks and that they give some indication to drivers they are prepared to cross. They should step from the curb and look both directions so that motorists will notice they are crossing. Do not walk out into the street before you are noticed by approaching drivers.

Volunteers Needed for O&W Cleanup

The Rail-Trail Council will conduct a trail cleanup as part of the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful on Saturday, May 19th at 9 AM. Meet at the O&W Trailhead, off SR 247, Browndale.

Volunteers needed, call or e-mail office. 570-679-9300 or trails@nep.net.

Police get new helmets; Gun purchases are tabled

Forest City Police will purchase three ballistic helmets from Gentex Corporation, Simpson, to be used in tactical emergencies. At the request of Mayor Tammy Rogalski and Chief Jim Johnson, Council approved the purchase by a 4-3 vote at the May 7 meeting.

The helmets are designed to protect the officer's head from smallarms fire but not a rifle shot.

The cost for three of the helmets is \$4,093. Two will be size medium and one size large. They will be available

Yard waste Pickup in FC May 21 & 24

Borough street crews will be picking up yard waste (only) on Monday, May 21 and Thursday, May 24. Yard waste includes sticks, branches, leaves, garden debris (NO GARBAGE)

Items must be in biodegradable bags or in containers that can be easily dumped. No large branches or heavy wood. All must be placed curbside in the morning.

in each of the vehicles for tactical situations.

Though the proposal to purchase new handguns for the police department was on the Council agenda for the third straight month, Mayor Rogalski asked that the proposal be tabled.

The Forest City News will once again publish its Graduation Tabloid of Forest City Regional High School graduating seniors for 2018 in its June 13th edition. The tab will include photos of the seniors and biographies if they have provided them to the school. Anyone interested in purchasing an ad for their graduate(s) can do so. The cost is as follows:

5 x 3 inches - \$35
5 x 5 inches - \$60
1/2 Page - \$120
Full page - \$200

To purchase an ad contact the Forest City News at 570-785-3800, mail it to or drop it off at the News office at 636 Main St., Forest City, or by email to jennifer@forestcitynews.com. The deadline for submitting is June 6th.

Forest City Borough Council President Nick Cost instituted a newly revised Public Meeting Policy at the May 7th session of Forest City Council. For the first time in a few months there was an orderly public discussion with comments from the audience on a number of subjects, all important for the community. The April meeting got out of hand and lasted for several hours.

Got a call May 8 from Pres. Cost to tell us that they have resurrected the Memorial Day parade which was not going to be held this year. It will begin at 10:30am May 28 on North Main St. and march to William Penn Park where the very moving Memorial Day program will be conducted by the American Legion. Thank you to Paul Daugevelo, Chris Glinton, and Jeff Swegel for assisting with the parade.

Plans for the Sat., Aug. 4th Trail Town Festival and 250th Anniversary of Anthracite are moving ahead. FCRS drama director Shelly Giles is arranging a mining family theme play for the Historical Society that day. She is looking for a few local folks to appear in costumes in the play and later march in the Light Parade for the Historical Society. If so call the News Office at 570-785-3800.

Last call for the Historical Society Memorial Day yard sales. Fill in coupon on pg. 3 and send \$5 or drop off at News Office. Ads will be in March 23 edition.

The recent issue of "Pennsylvania Magazine" had a two page article about Mormon Priesthood Restoration site on Rte. 171 just north of Susquehanna. We have written extensively in the past about this deeply religious site where Mormon Founder Joseph Smith and his associate Oliver Cowdery translated The Book of Mormon from golden plates which they unearthed. Mormonism says that St. John the Baptist appeared there in 1829 and baptized Joseph and Oliver in the Susquehanna River and conferred the Aaronic and Melchizedek priesthood. It is a wonderful experience to visit. The site is open at 9am every day except Sunday when it opens at noon. It closes at 7:30pm April and May; and 9pm June thru September; 7pm Oct. and Nov.; and 5pm Dec. thru Mar.

Our barber, Paul Ferraro, who had knee surgery last week, will be out of the hospital this week but will require another surgery in about a month. Mary tells us he will not be back to work in the immediate future. Speedy recovery to him!

We would like to alert the area to a phone scam. The people had a young man call them pretending to be their oldest grandson who was in NYC for a friend's funeral. He said he had a confession to make. They had gone out to dinner where had a few glasses of wine. When he left the restaurant, he was driving a rental car and was involved in an accident with a woman who was taken to the hospital. He said he suffered a broken nose and stitches in his lip. When the police came, he failed the breathalyzer test so they arrested him for DWI. When the grandparents started questioning where he lived, etc, he was very vague. As they kept asking him questions about himself, he finally hung up. They called NEP Telephone Company and asked us to help get the word out.

