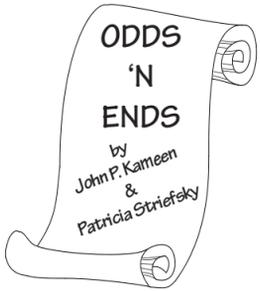


THE FOREST CITY NEWS



Obviously it wasn't a big turnout for last week's Primary Election but the 160 who voted in Forest City was above the usual turnout for a Primary. Almost equal numbers of Republicans and Democrats voted.

Memorial Day weekend will feature several events. The annual Yard Sales will take place in this area on Saturday. The Forest City Area Historical Society will hold its Hometown Heroes ceremony Sunday at 1pm at the museum and will present an additional 30 banners to the families. And Monday the traditional Memorial Day parade and program will take place with the parade at 10:30am and the program at William Penn Park at 11am.

Thankfully we missed the full effects of the squall line which ran through this area on May 15 at about 3PM. Forest City had a brief power disruption due to some trees on wires but other areas north in New Milford/Harford had golf-ball sized hail and downed trees. It was even worse east of us in Waymart and Honesdale where a confirmed tornado hit and did great damage. Power was not restored in some sections there until Friday.

Forest City Councilperson Joann Matarese tells us the new Dog Park at Babe Ruth Field will be ready in a month. Finally a place for local dog owners to exercise their pets and give them some fresh air. Certain rules must be adhered to, all of which will be posted at the Park entrance.

Senator F. T. Gelder, former Publisher of this newspaper, wrote a weekly column for many years titled "Just A Word In Passing" which gave his views on local state and national news of interest. On May 28, 1953, he wrote the following: "With all our vaunted news services through press and radio, it sometimes takes a long time for governmental policies and truths to percolate through to the average citizen." Now some 65 years later, with TV, social media and internet, the problem is no longer the length of time it takes to reach the average citizen, it is the quality of the truth being conveyed. Sometimes you can't believe anything you hear, see or read on our instant sources of news. By the way, Sen. Gelder passed away April 29, 1955 after being stricken ill while getting out an edition of this newspaper.

Isn't it interesting that in America, our flag and our culture offend so many people, but our benefits don't?

Our friend and barber Paul Ferraro is home from the hospital but must wait another month or so for further surgery on his knee. My hair is getting longer and I am considering a home perm!

Our faithful Wayne County subscriber Lew Lee sent us the following saying by Rick Warren which is more true today than ever:

A lie doesn't become truth, Wrong doesn't become right, Evil doesn't become good, just because it's accepted by a majority.

CORRECTION
In the Forest City Council story last week, the new ballistic helmets purchased by the police dept., from Gentex in Simpson, WILL stop a rifle bullet as well as handgun bullets.



The Mountain View Garden Club Plant Exchange and Marketplace is fast approaching. It will be held on Sunday, June 3. Pictured Left to right kneeling: Joan Hall, Louise Guzick, and Dawn Howell with Ray. Standing are Janelle Zigon and MaryAnn Opeko.

Plant Exchange & Marketplace in Clifford Sunday, June 3

The Mountain View Garden Club Plant Exchange & Marketplace is fast approaching. After a winter that just doesn't want to quit, hoping to have lots of perennials for sale or you have the option of bringing two potted perennials from your own gardens to exchange for two of like size or value.

The event will be held on June 3rd at the Clifford Township Community Center, 119 Cemetery Street, Clifford. The marketplace will feature local artisans and businesses and will be open from 11:30 until 3:00. The Plant Exchange & Sale will open at 1:00.

Again this year the Garden Club ladies will have an area known as 2nd Hand Rose where you may find that someone else's junk really might be a treasure for you. Their flea market tables are always filled with interesting and unique items for sale.

Greenfield Power Equipment and Burke's Maple Syrup will be vendors again along with George's Aeroponics selling and demonstrating hydroponic gardening. Artists include Joe Kluck, Greg Pelly, and photographer June Lambertson. Other vendors are Hummingbird Hill Lavender, Tinton Pots & Plants, Concrete Thinking and Orson's Best goat milk products. There will be jewelry, handcrafted items, skin care products, baskets, birdhouses, essential oils and more.

Jim Carro & Friends will be entertaining the attendees with their music. The Clifford Bible School will be selling hot dogs and sloppy joes and Red Rock BBQ will have pulled pork sandwiches. To

HOMETOWN HEROES IS SUNDAY

An additional 30 Hometown Heroes banners will be added to the walls of the Forest City Area Historical Society Museum, 629 Main St., on Sunday, May 27 at 1PM. Families of the honorees and the public are invited to attend.

Guest speaker is Capt. Loris Lepri, a West Point graduate who served in Germany and Afghanistan.

Tammy O'Reilly and Dave Opeka, of the Historical Society, are chairpersons of the event. Society Vice President David Homisak and Society Treasurer Bob Wirts will assist in the presentation of the banners to family members of the service personnel being honored.

Debbie Giddings of DG's also assisted in getting names of honorees.

There will be a reception in the Museum basement following the ceremony. The Museum will be open to view exhibits from 11am to 5pm.

satisfy that sweet tooth, the Lenoxville Methodist ladies will have a baked goods booth, plus there will be fudge, strawberry shortcake and ice cream vendors.

The Clifford Township Historical Society will have their museum and Children's Garden open for you to wander through and there are wonderful paths where you can scout out the area while you are there.

Vendors will be housed in the newly renovated garage behind the municipal building and in the park. Plants will be outside so bring that rain gear if needed.

For more information about the event contact JoAnn at jodihall@neo.net or 570-222-3591.

School to hire Full time Police officer

Forest City School Board announced that it will hire a full-time school police officer starting the school term 2018-19. The cost to the District will be \$37,000.

Superintendent Dr. Jessica Aquilina said the new officer will be a retired state police officer who will be fully employed by the Susquehanna County District Attorney. The District will pay the officer \$20.00 per hour for a 40 hour week.

FCR Band Concert May 24

Forest City Regional Bands will present their annual spring concerts on Thursday, May 24th, at 7 P.M. in the auditorium.

Thursday, May 24 will feature many jazz standards with the 5th and 6th grade jazz band and junior/senior high school jazz band, as well as the 4th grade concert band. Donations to the FCR Band program will be accepted at the door.

EARLY COPY DEADLINE FOR THE WEDNESDAY, MAY 30 ISSUE
All articles, display ads and classified ads must be received BY THUR., MAY 24 AT 3 pm

More tax hikes In new 2018-19 School Budget

The Forest City Regional School Board voted 6-0 (three directors absent) to pass a budget with an almost \$500,000 deficit, much of which will be covered by taking money from the District's surplus (fund balance.) Superintendent Dr. Jessica Aquilina admitted that the District has a structural deficit which must be addressed in the immediate future.

By taking some \$500,000 from surplus, the District will have taken about \$2 million from surplus over the past four years.

Residents of the Forest City Regional School District living in Forest City, Herrick Township and Union Dale will find a millage increase of 2.29 mills or a hike of \$36.30 per average property. Residents of Clinton II and Pleasant Mount get a millage increase of 0.06 mills while Vandling property owners get a millage reduction of 1.58 mills.

Dr. Aquilina stated that the District plans to look at every expenditure to attack the deficit including reduction of staff through attrition including one retiring teacher, a maintenance position and paraprofessionals.

She also noted an attempt to reduce

rising transportation costs and also by seeking meaningful state legislation to reduce the local District's costs for Cyber/Charter Schools and teacher pensions. She said the number of FCR students attending Fell Charter School dropped drastically over the last three years but the number attending Cyber School increased.

She stated there is "No positive outcome in (students attending) Cyber Charter School." She also stressed that attending Cyber/Charter schools "is not free" since the District must make payments for all those attending

Directors voting for the budget were Fred Garm, Chris Albright, Dr. Brian Piatak, Steve Ursich, Joanne Sterchak and Board Pres. Mary Emmett. Absent from the meeting were Bill Heller, Dr. Henry Nebzydowski and Bernice Lukus.

R. E. Tax Millages 2017-18-19

	2017	2018	2019
Forest City	39.88	41.20	43.49
Union Dale	39.88	41.20	43.49
Herrick	39.88	41.20	43.49
Clinton II	16.21	16.72	16.78
Pleasant Mt.	16.21	16.72	16.78
Vandling	91.18	92.78	91.12

FC Memorial Day Activities Mon., May 28



Dr. Mary Surridge

The Forest City Memorial Day Program will begin on Monday, May 28 with a parade starting at Franceski Lumber at 10:30 AM. The program, with guest speaker Dr. Mary Surridge, will begin at 11 AM at the William Penn Park. Master of Ceremonies will be Col. (ret.) Jeffrey R. Swegel Legion Commander. The Pledge of Allegiance will be done by Forest City Scout Pack 419. Invocation and Benediction will be by Father Brian Clarke. Sgt. Stephanie Collier will introduce Miss Poppy. The 8th Grade Medal Award Winners, Maria Spinelli and Cade Hartman, along with runner-ups Skylar Ferrel and John Lesjack will be presented. The Andrew Brown "Freedom Isn't Free" Essay Award will be presented.

Guest Speaker Dr. Mary Surridge was born in Mayfield, Pennsylvania and left for the U.S. Army after graduating from Lakeland High School. She served three years active duty and was stationed at Ft. McClellan, Alabama and Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. Currently she practices Chiropractic in Forest City and Scranton. She is honored to be a guest speaker at the Memorial day event.

Following the program, a luncheon will be held at the Forest City Area Emergency Services.

Members of the American Legion will be selling poppies on Saturday, May 26 on Main Street beginning at 9 AM.

Herrick Township Drug Rehab Center Faces Opposition

by Theresa Opeka

The Herrick Township Planning Commission held their Thursday, May 17 meeting to a packed crowd that spilled out of the township building. The vast majority of the public who attended were vehemently against the request for a proposed conditional use application that would change the current Stone Bridge Inn and Restaurant into a recovery center for substance abuse. They cited safety, increased taxes due to needing an increased police presence, strain on volunteer ambulance and decreased property values as their concerns. Elliot and Kim Ross, owners of Stone Bridge, would like to sell the property to Cynthia Bellino, owner and operator of Just Believe Recovery Centers in Carbondale and Florida.

Elliot Ross, one of the sellers, abstained from his position as chairman of the planning commission with vice-chair Steve Ursich acting as chairman for the meeting. **BRIAN ZEMBRZYCKI**

Supervisor Brian Zembrzycki made a statement on behalf of the supervisors stating they were withdrawing their approval of the conditional use permit after meeting earlier that day because they took action without Solicitor Marissa Cino McAndrew's advice. He said they will hold a formal public hearing in the future where additional public comment can be made. **ED NEYHART**

The Ross' attorney, Ed Neyhart, said the use of a drug and alcohol treatment center is a permitted use under the township's ordinance. Ed Sandy said, "I am 28 years sober. Treatment centers are a way to get money out of the government. As soon as they (treatment clients) leave, then what? I don't want them knocking on my door." **ROSEANN SWEGEL**

Roseann Swegel referred to the zoning ordinance on the township's website. "A proposed use shouldn't affect adjoining property, safety or general welfare. The planning commission should take this

into consideration," she said. **MICHAEL PEREGRIN**

Michael Peregrin of Jessup, said he has been the manager of the Endless Mountains Resort for 26 years and talked from a timeshare standpoint. "We are one of the highest rated resorts in the state of Pennsylvania. Resorts all have a bar and restaurant. What if we don't have a bar/restaurant? They will have to drive. There is the perception. It will affect our trading value. I have 16 units. I am a David in a Goliath world. Thousands of people will lose money," he said. **MIKE MANCUSO**

Mike Mancuso said, "I own a pharmacy in Carbondale. If the restaurant was successful, they would have no problem selling it. We do all the pharmacy work for Just Believe and it is non-narcotic. We all know of someone who has been affected." **CATHERINE MEREDITH**

Catherine Meredith, owner of Endless Mountains Resort said she had eight letters from people against the change. "I buried my niece a month ago from an opioid addiction. It is wrong to do this to my residents and grandchildren. Something tragic is going to happen. It is a vacation home resort area and we party. They were scared to bring my niece here. People come here to party. People are going to die and my son is going to bring my grandbabies here," she said. **MARK REDDING**

Mark Redding stated he has been a professional paramedic for 42 years. "There is a lack of understanding. No one is trying to fix it. The attorney (Neyhart) spoke to their advantage. Not enough is being said about what this is. It isn't good to put this in an open area. It will have negative effects and some positive with some jobs. I don't know how anyone could approve the application. It's about the safety of the community," he said. **KURT SHULTZ**

Kurt Shultz said there is a heroin user and dealer in the area and voiced his concerns. *cont. on page 9*

