

LETTERS TO EDITOR

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Dear Editor:

The recent photo of John Opeka and my sister in the FC News, reminded me that the Nov. 8, 2017 "Letter to the Editor" from John Opeka, regarding his family's experience in the collection of princess pine in the Vandling area mountains, failed to tell the entire story. I would like to fill in the missing parts of that recollection.

When the Opeka family collected princess pine, no one could compete with their output and the quality of the finished product. In this effort John's dad was unmatched by anyone. I also tried to earn extra money but could never hope to match the Opeka family. When Sunday morning came, it was obvious that the buyers knew whose was best.

The Opeka family moved to Vandling next to the Vandling High School, I think when brother Tom was in the 7th or 8th grade. They were a great addition to our town. I'm sure that was in large part due to their dad and his influence on his boys. My sister Anna Mae still maintains contact with John but I missed an opportunity to see Tom when I last visited Forest City (he was a year older than me).

John did, however, describe the experience that we enjoyed in that simpler era. Our present day citizens will never recall the peace and tranquility that we earlier residents have in our memory. TV, internet, cell phones, etc., takes up so much of our time that there is very little time left to take a simple walk in the woods, one on one talks with our friends, pick flowers, blueberries, etc. (and yes, princess pine). Now ... you know ... The Rest Of The Story!

Sincerely,
Ambrose Tusko
Former Vandling Resident



At Mass of Commitment from left are Max Urbas, Brendan Fitzsimmons, Robert Duffy, Deacon Carl Albright, Rev. Brian J.T. Clarke, and Rev. Joseph Horanzy.

Catholic Parishes Re-commit To Pastoral Mission

The Roman Catholic congregations of Ascension Parish (St. Joseph's) Forest City, and St. Katharine Drexel Parish (St. James and St. Juliana's) Pleasant Mount and Rock Lake, held a recommitment ceremony in Forest City on Pentecost Sunday, May 20.

A Mass of Commitment was held in St. Joseph's Church with the pastor, Rev. Brian J.T. Clarke, and assisting pastor Rev. Joseph Horanzy, as co-celebrants, assisted by Deacon Carl Albright.

Father Clarke, in his homily, noted that the combined parish's Pastoral Council was attempting to inject the "breath of life" into the local congregations in the same way that Christ breathed life into his disciples on Pentecost, and sent them into the world to create his church.

The pastor noted that the church "needs to meet the ever-growing needs" of the community and the world

and to create an atmosphere that "all who come into our church can feel they are home."

Some of the goals of the new Pastoral Plan include the establishment of a junior youth group for those in 6th, 7th and 8th grades. To do this will require renovation of an area of the Forest City Parish office for a Youth Ministry to gather weekly and at other times in the year.

The Plan also spells out a number of repair and renovations of all three churches including roof, drainage, landscaping, lighter and more energy efficient doors and carpeting.

A joint picnic for all parishioners was held that afternoon at 2pm at Birchtown Stables, Forest City, with all food compliments of the Goskowski and Polednak

Families in memory of the late Michael T. Goskowski and honoring Josie Goskowski. Over 200 were in attendance.

The Mission Statement of the Parishes, entitled "Onward in Hope" is as follows: Filled with faith, hope and charity, the faithful of Ascension and Saint Katherine Drexel parishes are united as disciples of Jesus Christ. With Christ and under the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to continue to celebrate the faith and traditions of the Catholic Church. We seek to inspire others to build a closer relationship with God by reaching out in love through worship, prayer, fellowship, and sharing the Gospel.

FCR School Board approves Field Trips

The Forest City Regional School Board approved the following field trips at the monthly meeting on May 14:

The Technology Club to PNC Field, Moosic, on May 2, 2018 at a cost of \$323.76.

Grades 5-8 band students to Wyoming Valley West Middle School, Kingston on May 4, 2018 at a cost of \$571.40.

Grade 7 STEM students to North Pocono Middle School for an engineering competition on May 9, 2018 at a cost of \$500.40.

Grade 1 to the discovery Center/Ross Park Zoo on May 11, 2018 at a cost of \$1,116.30.

Grades 5-9 Chorus students to Nanticoke HS on May 11, 2018 at a cost of \$886.40.

Mrs. Moran's class to Tunkhannock High School to compete in the Area P Special Olympics on May 15, 2018 at a cost of \$206.40.

PreK students to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Railriders Game at Montage on May 17, 2018 at a cost of \$1,027.

Mrs. Bollinger's class to Valley Lanes in Childs on May 18, 2018 at a cost of \$148.

PJAS State qualifiers to Penn State Main on May 20, 2018 at a cost of \$1,295.

Technology Club students to Dickinson College, Carlisle,

PA on May 22, 2018 to present at the Pennsylvania Computer Fair at a cost of \$497.

PreK students to R. B. Fries, Vandling, on May 23, 2018 at a cost of \$250.

Kindergarten students to the Forest City Library on May 23, 2018 at a cost of \$75.00.

Mrs. Moran's, Mrs. Bollinger's, and Mr. Pope's classes to Merli Sarnoski Park on May 24, 2018 at a cost of \$220.

Mrs. Moran's and Mrs. Bollinger's classes to The Barking Cupcake, Forest City, on June 1, 2018 at a cost of \$75.

High School students to the Wayne County School-to-Work Retreat at the Highlands Conference Center, Milaville, on June 6, 2018 at a cost of \$416.40.

Grade 12 students to Lordsville, NY (Delaware River) on June 6, 2018 at a cost of \$360.

Mrs. Moran's, Mr. Pope's, and Mrs. Bollinger's classes to Claws and Paws on June 7, 2018 at a cost of \$332.

Lacawac PIER Program students to Lacawac Sanctuary on June 7, 2018 at a cost of \$243.76.

Kindergarten to Claws and Paws, Lake Ariel, on June 12, 2018 at a cost of \$875.

Plant exchange & marketplace to be held Sunday, June 3

The Mountain View Garden Club is hosting it's 14th annual Plant Exchange & Marketplace on June 3 at the Clifford Township Community Center, 119 Cemetery Street, Clifford.

There will be lots of perennials for sale or you may bring two perennials from your garden to exchange for two plants of like size and value. Please pot the perennials and label them. The plant sale/exchange will be open at 1:00. We generally find that people are standing in line waiting for the plant sale to open. Tiffany Debish from Studio Be has a treat for us this year. While you're waiting in line, Tiffany will be giving us some yoga tips on gardening in a safe way to hopefully prevent some of those aches and pains we all feel after spending too much time in the garden. Tiffany will also be there doing chair massages which feel

wonderful after being on your feet all day.

Twenty-five vendors will be selling food items, art work, garden supplies and much more. The vendors will be open from 11:30 til 3:00.

For more information, contact JoAnn at 570-222-3591.

FCR choral concerts set June 5 & 6

This year the Forest City Regional Choral Department will perform its annual spring concerts on June 5th and 6th.

The June 5th concert will feature the Elementary Chorus, 6th Grade Choir, and Elementary Jazz Choir.

The June 6th concert will feature the High School Chorus, Chamber Choir, and High School Jazz Choir.

Both concerts begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Forest City High School auditorium and doors open at 6 p.m. Admission is free, but donations are gratefully accepted.

All choirs are under the direction of Miss Alison Yuravich and will be accompanied by Mr. Michael McAndrew.

Chicken 'n biscuit dinner June 20

The Clifford United Methodist Church, Main Street, Clifford, will hold its chicken-n-biscuit or ham dinner on Wed., June 20, from 4 to 6 p.m. Take out or dine in. Donation is \$9.95 and includes dinner, drink and dessert.

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Pleasant Mount News
By Theresa Opeka
570-679-2065 bu7294@gmail.com

Happy Birthday to: Harley Reed, Joan DeNike, Elsie Guszick, Gene Kaczka, Ann Marie Mikulak, Mary DeGennaro, Erica Curtis, Mary Peck, Dylan Bezek, Stu Terrell, Dakota Knehr, William Zukosky, Maya Watson, Owen O'Hara, BJ Faleski, Carol Herring, Gavin Morcom, Louise Morcom, Sarah Keast, Chrissy Phillips, Carlin Biondo, Carol Murray.

Happy 90th Birthday to Jim Carley!

Happy Anniversary to: Everett and Ella Hempstead, Dan and Jennifer Saam, Dan and Karen Jonas, John and Erin Stinavage, Jorge and Mary Reyes and Jim and Mary Ann McCusker

Tech Time with Andy at the Pleasant Mount Library (by appointment only) email techtime@waynelibraries.org. If you have any questions about any tech related issues or maybe you want to

learn some new things about your computers, tablets, phones, etc.

Certainly had a nice week last week with the weather, although it was hard to get flowers planted on St. Joseph's Cemetery in Forest City. Thinking I would be "ahead of the game" I dug the hole on Monday and thought I would come back a few days later. One of our "monsoons" came in and I had inches of water in hole. Trying to get the water out was no easy feat and adding more dirt than I had intended. Oh well, live and learn. The water has nowhere to go. Hopefully, we get the right balance of rain and sun for the summer - but I know better. I had a bumper crop of lilacs this year. The air smelled so nice! Just happy that summer is upon us!

Busy schedule discussed For FCA Historical Society

The Forest City Area Historical Society, meeting on May 13, heard a report that a chainsaw sculpture of a miner will be completed for the Museum by Aug. 4th and the Society's celebration of the 250th Anniversary of Anthracite. It is being sculpted by Kevin Treat of Lake Winola, PA.

Bob Wirts and Dave Homisak, treasurer and vice pres. of the Society, attended the Local History Festival, at the Dorflinger Museum in White Mills sponsored by Wayne County-based Historical Societies. They passed out flyers about the Forest City group and had some items for sale.

A discussion was held on possible music for the Anniversary of Anthracite program on Aug. 4th.

An old piano in the Society basement was dismantled and removed to provide more space in the storeroom. Some coat racks will be removed and replaced by storage shelves.

The four mining historical signs from the 250th Anniversary of Anthracite Committee will be delivered soon.

Paul Ferraro, the Museum Booking agent, was unable to attend due to recent surgery but sent a report that the Hometown Heroes event will be Sunday, May 27 at

1pm. Wayne County Barbershoppers will sing on Tues., June 26 at 7PM, and Old Time Fiddlers program will be Friday, June 29 at 7PM.

Plans for the float in the Trail Town Festival Light Parade were discussed with Dave Opeka who is providing the wagon.

Eight country flags representing the eight nationalities which populated this area in mining days will be carried in the Light Parade.

Seven volunteers from the Society have agreed to appear in costume at the Anniversary of Anthracite play under the direction of Shelly Giles, drama director at FCR School. They are Juliann Doyle, Bob Wirts, Mary McElhinney, Roseann Swengel, Bob Homisak, Scarlett Vannan and Jenna Dovin.

Repairs to the front wall and steps were discussed.

Treasurer Bob Wirts made the following report: Checking acct. \$3,306; Deposits \$2,880; Expenses \$4,354; Ending Bal. \$2,831. Savings acct. \$22,508; Withdrawals \$2,000, Ending bal. \$20,508. Investments: CD \$1,040; Forester Investment \$5,550.

Cupcake Decorating Class, June 7

The Barking Cupcake will hold a cupcake decorating class on Thursday, June 7, from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Forest City Historical Society. Call 570-785-2343 to reserve your spot.

It will be a beginners Cupcake decorating class. It is a farm animals theme cupcake decorating course! The cost is \$25 in advance paid in person at the bakery. It is first come first serve.

You must provide 12 cupcakes any flavor of your choosing. Buttercream, icing spatulas, piping bags, icing colors, decorators tips, and sprinkles will be provided.

Don't miss out and sign up today! Bring a friend or the little ones this would be absolutely perfect for first timers and kids to enjoy!! All ages are absolutely welcome! Can't wait to decorate with all!!!

Donations are Sought for New Dog Park

Area residents received a request last week to donate to Forest City Parks & Recreation for the Dog Park Project at Babe Ruth Field.

Donations can be made for the Park's construction or in the form of a Dog Bone Fundraiser in which a \$25.00 gift will provide an engraved dog bone plaque, to be placed along the fencing of either the small dog or large dog areas of the Park, with the name of your pet or to memorialize a deceased pet.

All donations can be made to Forest City Borough Parks & Recreation, 535 Main St., Forest City PA 18421

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