

THE FOREST CITY NEWS

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

The Lions Club golf tourney will be held on Aug. 3rd. See the application on pg. 4.

Fifty-four students will graduate from Forest City Regional High School this Friday. See our graduation tabloid insert in this week's edition with pictures of the graduates and biography information for each of them along with congratulatory ads from parents, relatives and businesses.

FCR School finishes up another year this Friday, June 15. Work will continue throughout the Summer on the building project before school resumes in September.

Concerts at FCA Hist.Soc. June 26 & 29

The Forest City Area Historical Society is proud to announce two upcoming concerts by two of the areas most popular groups at their Museum, 629 Main Street, Forest City.

On Tuesday, June 26th at 7:30 P.M., the Northeastern Pennsylvania Barber Shop Chorus will perform their "Summer Concert" with a host of wonderful songs. The group performed last year to wide praise from the audience. It is a fun and beautiful concert you don't want to miss.

On Friday, June 29th at 8:00 P.M. The Old Time Fiddlers will perform their wide range of folk and bluegrass music that is a very popular local favorite. The concert is an annual event at the Forest City Area Historical Society Museum which always brings a full house attendance of enthusiastic listeners. This is a most entertaining concert for the whole family.

The two concerts are a fundraiser for the Historical Society. Admission is \$5.00 per person, children under 12 Free. The Forest City Area Historical Society Museum is a Handicapped Accessible facility with an elevator and air conditioning.

While at the Forest City Area Historical Society Museum, view the many historical displays of the communities of the Forest City Regional Area. For contacts: 570-785-3800.

Zoning Hearing Date change

Council was forced to re-schedule a Zoning Hearing which was advertised last week in the News since there was insufficient time to do the required advertising due to the publication date of the News.

The meeting will be held Tuesday, June 26 at 6:30pm in the Borough Building.

The matters include a variance of parking spaces for Kevin Lesjack Funeral Home, and a change in use for the former Franceski Waste & Recycling building on Lower North Main St.

The Sno Trails Snowmobile Club is seeking to use Joseph Franceski III's Building to store its snow trail grooming equipment and also use the building once a month for a meeting room.

New truck, guns, building Occupy Council session

Spending was on the agenda of Forest City Borough Council at its June 4th regular meeting. Even Council President Nick Cost commented that he probably wouldn't sleep that night due to Council's spending.

It was standing room only in Council chambers as Council approved the following actions:

*Purchased a 2019 dump truck with snow plow and cinder spreader from Gibbons Ford, Scranton, at a cost of \$45,664 which includes a trade-in.

*Finally passed the purchase of eight Glock semi-automatic 9mm handguns for the police dept. at a cost of \$5,200.

*Accepted a quote of \$6,400 from Mesko Glass to install a new entrance door at the Forest City branch Library at a cost of \$6,400.

*Approved a quote from Mesko Glass for \$3,470 for a new door at the Borough Building entrance.

*Unanimously approved the purchase of pedestrian Crosswalk signs on Main Street for \$679.

*OK'd a new LED spotlight at the Coal Miner's Memorial at a cost of \$412.

*Approved the purchase of extended life battery packs for the newly installed cameras to surveil the parked police cars at a cost of \$219.

*Accepted the estimate of Hornbeck Chevrolet for \$243 for steel rim replacement and balancing for the Chevy Impala police car.

Council did turn down a request for \$4,050 from Councilman Bob Lesjack to purchase tables and chairs for the 3rd floor of the Borough Building. The turn-down resulted when Council did not accept the 132 person estimate of occupancy for the 3rd floor of the Borough Building provided by Gary Wilding of KBA engineering. Lesjack will be required to secure the occupancy certification from PA Labor and Industry.

The new truck was passed with only a limited discussion and is purchased under the State's COSTARS program which does not require advertising and competitive bidding.

The gun purchase, tabled several times over the past three months, received a 3-3 vote with Councilman Bernie Scalzo absent. Mayor Tammy Rogalski cast the tie-breaking vote for the purchase which she has fought for since becoming Mayor. "No" votes were cast by Tracey Lazier, Amy Bean and Bob Lesjack.

The new Main Street entrances will complement the replacement of the Senior Center entrance and windows which were installed last month at a cost of \$6,400.

Coal Cracker 1/4 Marathon & 2 Mile slated for Aug. 4

The Coal Cracker 1/4 Marathon and 2 Mile Run will be held on Saturday, August 4th on the D&H Trail off Commerce Drive in Forest City. In recognizing our anthracite heritage and Trail Town Festival, special coal and railroad spike memorabilia will be awarded. T-shirts are guaranteed to all pre-registrants, but you can register the day of the event.

Herrick Twp. Sets hearing On use change

The Herrick Township Supervisors will hold a public hearing Wednesday, June 13 at 6pm to her testimony on the application of Elliot and Kim Ross for conditional use approval for a drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility at their property, 306 Sugar Hill Road, Union Dale, Herrick Township, now operating as Stone Bridge Inn and Restaurant.

The hearing will be held at the Municipal Building, 1350 Lewis Lake Road, Union Dale.

The purchase of pedestrian crosswalk signs is an attempt to enforce the much ignored crosswalk laws on Main Street. Several instances of failure to yield to pedestrians over the last month were discussed. Chief Jim Johnson said the present fine for willful failure of a motorist to yield to a crossing pedestrian is \$141.50.

OTHER BUSINESS
Councilwoman Joann Matarese said the street dept. had dug out the 100x60 area for the Dog Park and some stone had been placed by Prince Excavating. Rizzo Fencing will install fences week of June 25.

A total of \$965 in donations has been received for the Dog Park fundraising letter sent out to residents.

The street dept. installed security cameras on the area of Zazzera's parking lot where police cars are parked.

Plastic material was placed in the Borough building basement to eliminate dampness and odor.

Two spots on State Route 171, North Main St., have washed out and will be reported to the state.

Councilwoman Tracy Lazier said she is looking at a system whereby the town could send out Robo-Calls in the event they want to get a message out to residents.

Meter posts will be re-painted.

A "Drug Take-Back" box will be installed in or near police headquarters. Where it will be located, how it will be guarded, when it will be available, were all discussed but no decisions made.

Residents were advised that they must not blow or sweep grass clippings into the street and must avoid having them wash into catch basins.

Mayor Rogalski said the town siren will be blown for one full minute to signal an emergency including a tornado warning. The all clear will be three short blasts of the siren.

Council will look at putting some trash cans on Main Street.

Mayor Rogalski said anyone wanting to attend Narcan training class should contact her.

No further information has been received from the company wanting to put a cell tower at Kennedy Park.

The solution to a winter ice build up in the 600 block of Lackawanna St. was tabled for the present time.

Recycling donation for the month of May totaled \$462.

Sen. Lisa Baker was thanked for giving the town a U.S. Flag.

Local contractor Dave Colachino was thanked for installing the Main St. benches.

Editor's Note: Comments by local residents will be in next edition.

The 1/4 Marathon (6.55 miles) is a perfect distance for runners training for their first 1/2 marathon. Both the 1/4 marathon and 2 mile run start near the Forest City Trailhead and follow gentle grades and beautiful scenery.

Registration opens at 7:30 AM and the race begins promptly at 8:00 AM. Registration is \$10 for the 2 mile and \$25 for the 1/4 marathon. The Coal Cracker is sponsored by the Forest City Regional Cross Country Team and Rail-Trail Council of NEPA and is part of Forest City's Trail Town Festival.

For a registration form contact the Rail-Trail Council office at trails@nep.net or call 679-9300. The form is also available on www.dhdistance-run.com. All proceeds benefit the Forest City Regional Cross Country Team.

Get a subscription to the News 570-785-3800

54 Students to graduate from Forest City Regional High School on Friday, June 15



Erin Urban



Matthew Trotter

Forest City Regional High School will hold its 120th commencement ceremonies on Friday, June 15 at 7 PM in the auditorium.

The top two students are Erin Urban and Matthew Trotter. (Their order had not been determined at presstime.) The third student was not available at presstime and will be announced in next week's edition.

Erin Urban is the daughter of Chris and Michelle Urban, Pleasant Mount. Erin is senior Class Treasurer, National Honor Society President, and FBLA President. She also is involved in basketball, cross country, and Art Club. She will attend Binghamton University to major in Chemistry and participate in the Freshman Research Immer-

sion Program.

Matthew Trotter is the son of Dale and Kim Trotter, Union Dale. He is Secretary of the Senior Class and President of the school newspaper. He is involved in band, chorus, vocal jazz, NHS, FBLA, CHOPS, Drama Club, and is an Eagle Scout. Matthew will attend Princeton University for Chemistry.

GRADUATES
Alexander Acker
Pavol Almasi
Griffin Atkinson
Ian Bailey
Brice Bensley
Colleen Blount
Joseph Callan
Crystal Carsello
Lee Clarke
Kylah Cookson
Kayla Dishong
Steven Evans

Skylar Fortuner
Madison Gasper
Caylin Gibbs
Jasmine Gomez
David Grosel
Sarah Hall
MacKenzie Hartman
Kaitlyn Hentschel
Samuel Hickey
James Howe
Isaiah Hoxie
Christopher Karwan
Kevin Kelly
Dakota Knehr-Cook
Britney Leiby
Danny Lockett
George Marak-O'Connor
Chandler Marcho
Sarah McHale
Jerrad Non
Jordan Non
Joshua Notari
Alyssa Pace
Makayla Piasecki
Corryn Prince
Thomas Profeta
Joseph Ranlett
Andrew Richards
Bradley Rowe
Samantha Rulis
Mark Saam
Kenyatta Salmon
Devin Sanchez
Codey Seaman
Kyle Shema
William Stephens
Draven Stewart
Matthew Tighe
Matthew Trotter
Erin Urban
Justin Wolfe
Noah Yates

Many objections expressed to Herrick Twp. drug rehab center

By Theresa Opeka

The hot topic of a proposed drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility took up most of the Monday, June 4, meeting of the Herrick Township Supervisors. The meeting was held in the garage portion of the township building to accommodate the large audience.

The supervisors announced that a public hearing on the conditional use permit to change the Stone Bridge Inn and Restaurant to the facility will take place on Wednesday, June 13, at 6 p.m. and the planning commission will resume last month's meeting on Thursday, June 14, at 7:30 p.m.

Supervisor/Secretary Nancy Harvatine read a resolution adopting the rules of conduct at a public meeting which asks people to sign in before the meeting and giving each person three minutes to speak for a total of 45 minutes of public comment. Harvatine and Supervisors Elliot Ross and Brian Zembrzycki voted in favor. Motion passed.

Scranton attorney Michael O'Brien, representing Endless Mountains Resort, spoke first against the conditional use proposal. He noted Section 608 of the Zoning Ordinance which states any changes must be in harmony with purposes and goals of the comprehensive plan. He said the dominant land use has been for the Elk Mountain Ski Area, state game lands, and lakes. Everything else is subsidiary to it. Any proposed use at the location shouldn't have an impact on the area in a substantial way or have an adverse effect on it. He stated there isn't a full-time police or fire department and EMS is 10 minutes away.

The proposed facility is a 40 bed facility with a 30 day turnover. "The proposed use is in violation of the ordinance because it will have an effect on the character of the area. It isn't a ski area development. It is a general detriment to the health, welfare and safety of the community," he said.

Bud Meredith, a homeowner in the resort said he always respected Elliot and that he has done a lot of work to make the area beautiful. He said, "If I bought the place a year ago and struggled and the rehab place came to me and asked to buy it, would you say yes to change of use?"

Stephen Pendrak of Lewis Lake said the area has such a large farm presence. "There is such a deep outcry from friends and neighbors. (Looking at Ross) You should ask yourself if it is right or wrong. You know that. I am asking you to change your mind. I have respect for farmers. They have backbone and grit," he said.

Ann Eldinore, who lives at Lowe Lake and has a timeshare

at the resort said, "My children and grandchildren use the facilities. I don't think it is fair. I'm for a drug rehab, but not in this area. Think about what you are doing to the people in this area."

Michael Peregrin of Jessup and the manager of the resort said there was contention with the power plant in Jessup. "The town almost erupted. Some are against it. You don't have that here. Everyone is against it (rehab) here. Anyone within 1/8th of a mile of an opioid center has a 17% decrease in property values. There are 600 timeshare units at the resort. If this goes through, we all lose thousands of dollars. It has never been seen at any other resort," he said.

Catherine Meredith, owner of Endless Mountains Resort said, "I apologize for being emotional at the last meeting. In regards to you Elliot and Nancy, it is amazing the work you have done over the years."

Harvatine said she has been the township's secretary for 35.5 years and a supervisor for 11 years.

Meredith continued, "We have benefited a lot from your work and service. We wouldn't have any of these memories. What isn't represented in this room are the seasonal people. There are 1,236 owners in the resort. You want to take all of these years and your legacy. You deserve so much more for the hard work you have done. We all drive in from Philly, NYC and we want a meal. We recognize you (Ross) are burdened. We will do what we can to help you, but please don't do this. Consider your legacy. We will work with you but please work with us."

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Trail Town Festival Logo designed by FCR students



FOREST CITY Trail Town Festival

All events of the upcoming Trail Town Festival and 250th Anniversary of Anthracite will be listed under the above logo designed by students at Forest City Regional High School under the direction of Mr. Mike Zack.

