

THE FOREST CITY NEWS



BORO GETS \$115,995 IN GAS FUNDS

Forest City Borough received a check for \$115,995 last week for Act 13 Natural Gas Impact Fees. According to Boro Secretary Sharon Vannan, who announced the windfall at the July 2nd Council session, it is \$20,000 more than received last year.

Impact Fees are monies received from natural gas drilling companies in the Marcellus Shale. They are allocated to counties, townships and municipalities where gas drilling is taking place.

State Representative Jonathan Fritz (R-Susquehanna/Wayne) reported recently that Susquehanna County and its municipal subdivisions will receive almost \$16 million this year from Impact Fees. The total collected in Impact Fees for 2017 in the state was \$209 million.

Secretary Vannan, in reply to a question from the audience, stated that Act 13 places certain restrictions on what the Impact Fee money can be used for. She listed roads, paving, handicapped access projects, parks, certain supplies and major equipment for public works, and other items.

Condolences to the Woods family on the death of Carl Woods. Carl and his partner Harold "Hodge" Jones helped put the News and Laundromat Building back together when it was badly damaged in 1973 by the runaway coal truck. Carl designed the entire storefront and Harold and his men did the construction. We have had to do little but repaint over the past 45 years. Carl was a most talented artist.

Scam Alert! A Vandling resident got a phone call from the "FBI" saying that the person owes "IRS" taxes. The strangely foreign-accented "FBI" agent asked him to call a number to arrange payment. I guess not all FBI agents are involved in the Russian collusion investigation.

Also was told of a local person whose credit card was used unlawfully. It is important to immediately notify your card company if there is any indication you have lost, misplaced or had your card hacked.

Don't be the first motorist to be cited for failing to obey the new pedestrian yield signs on Main Street. If charged, it will cost you \$141. It is taking a while to determine the proper locations for the signs since the narrowness of our Main Street prevents them from being displayed in most of the downtown.

Electronics Recycling for Vandling Residents July 14

Vandling Borough will hold an Electronics Recycling for residents on Saturday, July 14 from 9 AM to Noon at the Borough Building. It is being held in conjunction with other electronics recycling in Lackawanna County.

There is no cost to drop off your electronic items.

Items accepted are: Answering Machines, Audio/Visual Equipment, Cable TV Boxes, Calculators, Cameras, Cell Phones, CD ROM Drives, Circuit Boards, Computer Equipment, Copiers, Desk Phones, Desk Top Computers, Digital Phones, DVD Players, Fax Machines, Floppy Drives, Game Boys, GPS Devices, Laptops, Microscopes, Modems, MP3 Players, Nintendos, PDA's, Peripherals, Playstations, Power Supplies, Printers, Flat Screen TV's, Satellite Phones, Tower Computers, VCR Players, and Xbox's.

Pedestrian Signs placed

Pedestrian Safety signs were placed along Main Street the week of July 2nd. Authorities are in the process of determining where they can be placed due to the narrowness of the street.

Chief Jim Johnson stated that failure to yield to a pedestrian in a painted crosswalk can result in a fine of \$141.00.

FC Mayor Submits Resignation

Forest City Mayor Tammy Lynne Rogalski, after less than six months in office, submitted her letter of resignation which was accepted at the July 2nd meeting of Forest City Council.

The resignation sets into motion a process to fill the vacancy. Council approved the advertisement to seek applicants for the post. They will conduct a public meeting in Council Chambers on Thursday, July 19 at 7 PM at which time the candidates will be interviewed.

Council President Nick Cost announced that a new Mayor will be voted on at that meeting.

Mayor Rogalski's resignation letter, addressed to Council President Nick Cost, was as follows:

It is with heavy heart that I write this letter. When I ran for Mayor of Forest City, it was my intention to help the town, to do the people's will. Within a very short time, however, I discovered this would not be the case. Powers beyond my control, dictate the town. Decisions effecting the people are often based on personal relationships a selected few desires. It is this practice that has taken us to all but a ghost town. Sadly, I do not see this practice will ever change.

With this being said, I sincerely apologize to those of you that believed in me. I resign my position of Mayor effective June 8, 2018.

May God Bless You,
Tammy Lynne Rogalski

Parking meters Go into effect Mon., July 16

Main Street shoppers will once again be required to feed the parking meters. The meters, which have been unenforced for about two years, will go back into operation Monday, July 16, according to a report from the July 2nd Council meeting.

Council President Nick Cost said the Street Dept. has completed the installation of the posts and meters and enforcement will start July 16.

The meters have been unenforced since 2016 as a result of the re-construction of sidewalks on the west side of Main Street.

The meters will remain: 6 min per nickel; 12 min per dime; and 30 min per quarter. The meter fine stays at \$10 per violation.

Council was recently awarded a grant to continue the sidewalk replacement on the east side of the street, as well as streetscape lighting on the West side, but Council thus far has not sought bids on either of the projects so there is no indication if future sidewalk work will again interrupt meter enforcement.

Two local fire companies and Dr. Joseph Sisko Are selected as Distinguished Citizens for 2018



Browndale Fire Co.



Forest City Area Emergency Services, Inc.

The 36th Annual Forest City Area Distinguished Citizen Selection Committee made a departure from its past record of selecting a single candidate for its 2018 local award by selecting almost unanimously to give the honor to the volunteers of the two local Fire Companies, Forest City Area Emergency Services, and the Browndale Fire Company. The award for the former resident Distinguished Citizen will be presented to Dr. Joseph Sisko, formerly of Vandling, who has spent the last 23 years in research and development with one of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies, GlaxoSmithKline.

The 2018 Selection committee met on Thursday, June 21, at the Forest City Historical Society to vote on their selections from a list of nominations made from the public. Members participating in the selection process were: Forest City Council President Nick Cost, Vandling Council President Fran Pantzar, Forest City Lions Club James Marsicano, Forest City Rotary Club Richard Kresock, Greater Forest City Business Alliance acting head Michael O'Neill, Forest City Historical Society Vice Pres. David Homisak, American Legion Commander Col. Jeffery Svegel, Greater Forest City Industries Secretary Patricia Striefsky and John P. Kameen of the Forest City News which is the sponsor of the annual event. The awards will be presented at ceremonies to be held on Saturday, August 4, at 12 noon in the air-conditioned Forest City Area Historical Society museum at 629 Main Street. The public is invited. Refreshments will be available before and after the ceremony as part of the Trail Town Festival.

Dr. Joseph Sisko

This year's Forest City Area Distinguished Citizen Award for a former resident goes to Joseph Sisko, PhD, formerly of Vandling, who is a Senior Director in the Medicine & Process Delivery group at GlaxoSmithKline, Philadelphia, PA, a worldwide leader in the discovery, development, production and sales of pharmaceutical products.

His career in the pharmaceutical industry has spanned more than 25 years, primarily in the CMC (Chemistry, Manufacturing & Control) section of the R&D division, with the goal of bringing many new and innovative drugs to the public health sector which have the potential to drastically change the health of persons throughout the world.

Dr. Sisko is the son of the late John Sisko, who died in 1984, and the late Sylvia Suhadolnik Sisko Mayers who passed away last fall. His step-father, Joseph Mayers, also passed away last year. He and his brother, Jack, and two sisters, Donna Schankweiler and Carol Pacifico, were born and raised in Vandling. Joe graduated in 1982 from Forest City Regional High School, being elected as President of the Senior class. While growing up in the Forest City area, Joe was an active member of St. Joseph's Parish in Forest City and has great memories of singing Slovenian hymns with St. Joe's choir at Christmas and Easter Mass with his mother and sisters. He participated in the High School Drama Club as well as a number of local theater groups, but his stint as emcee for one of Forest City's first talent shows is one of his fondest and funniest memories.

After graduating from Forest City, he attended the University of Scranton, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry, Magna Cum Laude, in 1986. He then went on to earn his Ph.D in Organic Chemistry in August 1991 from The Pennsylvania State University where his research included the discovery of new synthetic methodologies and their application in alkaloid natural product synthesis.

Upon completion of his doctoral studies, he was selected as a National Institute Health (NIH) Postdoctoral Fellow in the chemistry department of the University of Pittsburgh from May 1991 to March of 1993, where his research interests included cationic and tandem radical cyclizations and their use in the synthesis of the terpene natural product crinipellin A.

After finishing his Fellowship in Pittsburgh, he selected a position as Assistant Fellow at Sandoz Pharmaceuticals in New Jersey where he worked in their Oncology Research Program from April 1993 to Sept. 1994 on the discovery of new anti-cancer medicines.

In 1994, he joined Smith Kline Beecham (now GlaxoSmithKline) where he took on a series of roles with increasing accountability. He began his career at GSK as a bench chemist in the Synthetic Chemistry Department, developing novel, cost-effective and environmentally-friendly manufacturing processes for the active ingredients in experimental new medicines.

In 2007, he rose to become the Director of the Chemistry Department at GSK where he led a group of 45 process chemists working on a portfolio of experimental medicines. Also, during this time he was responsible for the development and introduction of several innovative manufacturing technologies to the chemistry department, including synthetic biochemistry, flow chemistry, novel oligonucleotide synthesis and high-throughput catalysis.

In 2014 he was promoted to Senior Director of GSK's Global API Chemistry department, leading the department and supporting a range of experimental medicine projects spanning early through late phase clinical development. During this time, he also led the team that conducted the chemistry technical transfer activities for the \$16 billion sale of GSK's oncology medicines to Novartis.

Since 2016, Dr. Sisko has been in the role of Medicine and Process Delivery Leader at GSK. In this capacity, he has overall leadership responsibilities for a cross-functional team of approximately 60 development scientists, regulatory experts, supply chain specialists, and manufacturing professionals in the development of an oral medicine for the treatment of anemia in patients with chronic kidney disease. Current therapies for these patients are delivered by injection and carry serious adverse safety risks. The team led by Dr. Sisko is developing this new medicine as a tablet which will be more convenient for patients and ongoing clinical studies hope to demonstrate that it also has a better safety profile for patients.

Local Fire Companies

The Forest City Area Distinguished Citizen Committee took an unusual step this year by selecting two groups, rather than a single individual, as this year's local Distinguished Citizens. Based on the groups' exceptional services to the communities over the years, and in particular for its exceptional service in 2017, the 2018 Area Distinguished Citizen Award was voted to the Forest City and Browndale Fire Departments.

Unfortunately for Forest City, 2017 will go down as a generational fire year in which three major fires devastated Forest City. The Aug. 27 fire, which ultimately resulted in the destruction of four Main Street businesses, was the largest fire since the Forest House Hotel fire in 1963 which also destroyed two adjacent buildings, followed by the St. Paul's Court fire of 1995, which also heavily damaged the adjacent Village Hardware building.

The 2017 fires which resulted in the loss of two homes on Delaware Street due to an accidental trash fire, and the severe damage to a Railroad Street home caused by a malfunctioning air conditioner, brought total fire damage for the year well over half a million dollars. There were no deaths or serious injuries in any of these fires.

Weighing heavily on the decision to honor the fire departments is the fact that more and more emphasis is coming to bear on volunteerism in the country. Most non-city, rural fire companies are totally managed and operated by volunteers, however, across the state many companies are struggling as volunteers are dwindling.

A recent study by the State Fire Commissioner indicated that communities in Pennsylvania would have to raise \$10 billion a year to switch to a paid model for fire and emergency services.

In talking with the officers of the two local departments, they are not as yet suffering from a lack of manpower. In the area of the Forest City ambulance service, trained EMTs are paid for daytime shifts, night time shifts are volunteer EMS personnel.

Their greatest concern is due to the intensification of the training requirements and the fact that costs are soaring for all types of equipment including fire vehicles which often start at half a million dollars. Unfortunately, response from the public to the necessary fundraising efforts continues to decline.

Juliann Doyle, president of the Browndale Company, noted that being a member of the fire company is for most of them a "family tradition." The same is very true for members of the Forest City Department, many of whom have familial connections dating back prior to the jointure of the Enterprise and the Hillside Fire Companies in 1965.

FOREST CITY AREA EMERGENCY SERVICES, INC.

The Forest City Fire Dept. dates back to the lumbering and coal mining days of 1889. There were two fire companies at one time: The Enterprise Hose Company and the Hillside Fire Company.

The two provided fire service to the entire area, from two separate facilities, until consolidation took place in May 1965, when they took up residence in the old Hillside Colliery building on South Main Street.

That building had two truck bays and operated a community bowling alley for many years.

Later the Forest City Area Volunteer Ambulance began operation and in 2010 the two services joined together to form Forest City Area Emergency Services, Inc.

The Forest City Area Emergency Services, Inc. purchased a new and modern building from Michael Newak, on Railroad Street, and house all their equipment and administrative services there. The old Main Street fire company building was purchased by Mr. Newak and was demolished.

In 2017 the fire service reported 153 calls. Their record year for calls was 186 in 2012.

FCAES, like all volunteer companies, is forced to raise operating income from the public through various fundraising efforts. Several annual meat raffles and gun raffles are very well attended. Annual membership drives continue to fall short of the income needed to provide the new and updated equipment required, as well as the increased training as firefighting standards continue to be upgraded.

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