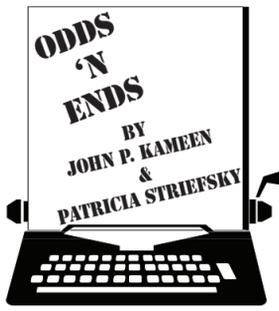


# THE FOREST CITY NEWS



**ODDS 'N ENDS**  
BY  
**JOHN P. KAMEEN & PATRICIA STRIEFSKY**

We are looking forward to seeing the new Kevin Lesjack Funeral Home arising from the ashes of the 500 block. Also awaiting start of construction on Wayne Memorial Health Clinic at the old Legion Hall, Dundaff St.

Vendors can still participate in the Trail Town Festival Sat., Aug. 4. Call 570-785-5960 if you would like to sign up.

The fawns and bear cubs are showing up on area roads. Watch out for them and their always-nearby mothers.

It would be worth your while to stop occasionally as you are passing by the PCN channel on NEP Data Vision or Adams Cable. We seldom know all that is going on in Harrisburg unless there is a political crisis. Some of the legislative hearings, of both House and Senate, can be very interesting. Was passing by the channel several weeks ago and saw our School Superintendent Dr. Jessica Aquilina testifying at one of the education committees. I also watched a recent hearing conducted by our State Senator Lisa Baker. This past weekend had the PA Supreme Court hearing arguments on cases appealed from lower courts.

It has certainly been a heat wave for the past few days with temperatures in the 90's for several days. We had a rough Winter and not much of a Spring so we can't complain about the heat.

Plans for this year's Trail Town Festival on Saturday, August 4 are moving right along. The Rail Trail will be holding events on the Trail in the morning. The Main Street will be bustling with activity with craft and antique vendors, a winery, and music by DJ Donna Diva. Kids can Touch A Truck from noon until 3 PM in the 400 block of Main Street. The Forest City Area Historical Society will feature events throughout the day. A scavenger hunt will be held with the winners receiving bicycles. Red Dragon will hold a karate demonstration at 8 PM in the 500 block of Main Street. The culmination of the events will be a light parade at 9 PM up Main Street ending with a party at DG's Bar and a fabulous fireworks display, set off from the VISION 2000 Industrial Park at 10 PM. The fireworks display is being sponsored by the NEP Telephone Company. It will be a great day to come out and visit Forest City.

**Subscription Increases Effective July 1**

Subscriptions in Susquehanna, Wayne and Lackawanna Counties will increase to **\$35.00** per year.

Subscriptions outside those counties and outside the state will be **\$45.00** per year.

This is the first increase in 10 years and is necessary due to increasing costs of postage, newsprint and other facets of printing a newspaper.



## \$16 million in impact fees going to Susq. & Wayne Counties

State Rep. Jonathan Fritz (R-Susquehanna/Wayne) announced that more than \$16,058,972 in impact fees from the natural gas industry will be disbursed to the district's counties. Susquehanna County will receive the vast majority of funds and Wayne County, because of the prohibition on natural gas drilling, will receive a much smaller amount.

Under Act 13 of 2012, impact fees are generated by the extraction of natural gas with a portion of those fees being directed back to the communities that host natural gas development.

For 2017, total impact fee collections topped \$209 million, which will be disbursed across the Commonwealth. Since 2012, impact fee revenues have totaled \$1.5 billion, and the statewide figures for 2017 represent a 21 percent increase over the previous year's distribution dollars.

"Susquehanna County is the second-largest county producer of natural gas in the state, with 1,386 wells," said Fritz. "Because the county has such high production, it receives substantial revenue in the way of impact fees. Wayne County, comparatively, receives a very small amount of restricted-use funds."

Impact fee revenues for 2017 resulted in Susquehanna County and its eligible municipalities receiving over \$16 million

## Trail Town Chicken BBQ at Christ Church Sat., Aug. 4

On Saturday, August 4th, Christ Church will participate in the Trail Day festivities being held in Forest City. As part of the town-wide activities, the church - located at the corner of Dundaff & Delaware Streets - will hold a chicken barbeque dinner from 3:00pm-6:00pm.

The take-out dinner will include one-half chicken, butter-garlic potatoes, baked beans, coleslaw, and home-baked desserts. Limited tickets are available for \$10 and may be purchased from various businesses locations throughout town, or from Christ Church members by leaving a call-back message at 570-785-3425.

All dinners will be served in take-out containers from the church. The dining hall will be available for dining but without table service. For those dining in, beverages will be available for sale.

## Craft vendors Wanted for Trail Town Festival

This year's Forest City Trail Town Festival is shaping up to be fun event with many craft and antique vendors signed up to sell their wares in the 500 block of Main Street.

Everything from candles, to Russian art, Paparazzi jewelry, vintage toys, LuLaRoe clothing, essential oils, tarot card readings, chocolates, cupcakes, and wine.

If interested in participating, please contact Chris Ginton or Paul Daugevelo at 570-785-5960 or email rosald@nep.net.

## Thompson Hose Independence celebration July 7

The Thompson Hose Co. will hold its annual Independence Day celebration on Sat. July 7.

There will be a chicken BBQ at 11 a.m., parade 11:30 a.m., Keystone Jukebox noon-5 p.m., Lone Ryderz Band 6-10 p.m., a variety of food, games, bounce house, dunk tank, bingo, and crafters, fireworks at 10 p.m. (Rain date Sun. July 8th at 10 p.m.).

dollars while Wayne County received \$45,162.

Fees are collected from the natural gas development companies with 60 percent returned to benefit counties and local municipalities that host the activity, with the subsidy oftentimes resulting in tax relief. The remaining 40 percent of fees collected goes into a Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund administered by the state to be used for emergency response planning, training and other activities; water, storm water, and sewer system construction and repair; infrastructure maintenance and repair; as well as statewide environmental initiatives.

"The \$209 million in impact fees collected statewide in Pennsylvania for 2017 is more than the drilling taxes collected by West Virginia, Ohio, Arkansas and Colorado combined" said Fritz. "This clearly highlights why Pennsylvania does not need to place an additional severance tax on the industry. The economy is improving and impact fee collections are up; we need to help, not hinder, business growth in our state. Additional taxes are not the way to economic prosperity."

## 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,

## Light Parade in Forest City Sat., August 4

A Light Parade will be held on Saturday, August 4 in Forest City in conjunction with the Trail-Town Festival. The parade will kick off at 9 PM from the VISION 2000 Industrial Park and continue up Rte. 247 to Main Street where it will turn right and head up Main Street where it will end at D.G.'s Bar. The theme for the light parade will be "Lights, Lights, and More Lights."

So far about 16 floats & fire trucks are participating.

Anyone interested in participating is asked to contact Chris Clinton at 570-960-2754 or email him cgltd.cg@gmail.com.

## Touch a Truck on Main St. Sat., August 4

In conjunction with the Forest City Trail Town Festival, on Saturday, August 4, a Touch A Truck event will be held in the 400 block of Main Street from 12 Noon to 3 PM. Emergency vehicles, police cars, fire trucks, heavy equipment and various other vehicles will be on display for the kids to see and touch.

Anyone interested in participating in this event is asked to contact Patricia Striefsky at 570-785-3800 or email patricia@forestcitynews.com.

## Many Memories Still Surround soon-to-be Demolished Legion Hall

As the demolition of the Forest City Legion Hall approaches it is important to document its place in Forest City community history. The 46-year-old structure will be replaced by a million dollar medical care center being built by Wayne Memorial Community Health Centers, Honesdale.

Charles & Martin Skubic Post 524 held the groundbreaking for its headquarters on April 2, 1962. It was going to cost \$20,000.

At the time George Westgate was Legion Commander, Finance Officer was Andrew Mudry, Adjutant was Martin Peritsky and Service Officer was Frank J. Farraro. Members of the Home Association were William Burns, Richard Fries, William (Watts) Feddock Sr., John Baron and Andrew Mudry.

The Building was completed on Nov. 10, 1962

A mortgage burning was held on April 27, 1975, under Commander Charles Gilroy. 1st Vice Commander was Anthony Rebernik, 2nd vice commander was John Gerchock, Adjutant was Stanley Kupiec and Financial officer Andrew Mudry.

Over the years it was used for dinners, parties, bingo and many birthday and anniversary parties. It was also rented out for dance classes, twirling, karate and other youth events. The Legion also sponsored Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts over the years.

It was modernized and renovated on numerous occasions including a new wood floor, repairs to kitchen and bathroom facilities, as well as roof and new exterior painting.

Its demise began as members aged and young servicemen failed to see membership in a Legion Post as a viable part of their social life. In recent years the costs of running the facility began to exceed the income from memberships and from fundraisers.

There was an attempt several years ago to have the building turned over to a community group to continue its use for local events but that failed. The remaining



American Legion Hall, Forest City

Legion membership then offered it for sale and it was finally purchased by Wayne Memorial Health.

The demise of the building was heralded last year with an auction of furnishings at which time those items not donated to the Forest City Area Historical Society were given or sold to other entities and were disposed of.

### LEGION FORMATION

It is also important to look at the history of the local Legion Post. It was formed in 1919 at a meeting held at the Eddie Yanchitis Building. At that time 25 members of the so-called "Sheet Iron Gang", all veterans of World War I, decided to lay plans for a veterans Post.

Officers of the new Post included Eddie Yanchitis, John Telban, Louie Puchnick and Martin Mann. After much debate, it was decided to name the Post after Charles and Martin Skubic, two brothers who died in WW I.

The first elected officers Commander Eddie Yanchitis, Vice Commander Martin Madden, Post Adjutant John J. Telban, Finance Officer Louis Puchnick, Post Historian Joseph Kilonsky, Executive Committee members Andrew Strinsky, Arthur Davis and Joseph Kuzzacavage.

The Post began with 200 members and over the years they conducted many activities including Clothing drives, Erecting a Community Christmas tree, Erected the Doughboy Memorial still standing at William Penn Apartments, Built a park behind the former William Penn School.

Among the community groups they started and supported was a prize-

winning junior and senior drum and bugle corps, a 50-voice community chorus, a junior Legion baseball team, also another local baseball team, and the Sons of the American Legion.

The first meetings were held in the Borough Building but they then rented the Killhullen Building on Dundaff Street for more suitable quarters.

In 1934 they purchased the former Welsh Church which was located on Delaware and Center Streets to use as their Post Home. That building still exists and is privately owned.

During the years, until building the present building, they operated out of the Post Home and undertook such projects as registering and putting flags on the graves of all area veterans, established a Civil Defense Observation Post on Hudson Street as directed by the War Department, and sponsoring 8th Grade medal awards annually in Forest City School.

The Legion also continued from its early days to hold the annual parade and program to observe Memorial Day. They annually assembled the names of war dead from this area and read them in solemn ceremony in the Roll Call of the Dead followed by the playing of Taps and a rifle salute by Legion members.

The parade was cancelled last year due to safety conditions regarding the Main Street sidewalk construction but the program was conducted.

This year the Parade was held and the Legion Post, which now meets in the Forest City Emergency Services Building, will continue to hold the Memorial Day exercises.

## FC Zoning ok's exceptions for Main Street buildings

The Forest City Zoning Hearing Board approved exceptions for two Main Street businesses at a hearing Tuesday, June 26. Kevin Lesjack Funeral Home was granted permission to reduce the number of parking spaces required by the Zoning Law for his new building. Joseph Franceski III can move forward to sell his building at 1108 Lower Main Street to NEP Sno Trails Inc. to use for equipment storage and as its meeting rooms.

The Lesjack proposal was granted since the ability to provide the number of required parking places for a funeral home would produce a hardship preventing him from replacing the building which was damaged by fire. The funeral home was located there for over 100 years.

The Franceski Building was last used as a scrap yard and recycling yard by Franceski Waste and Recycling. Prior to that it was known as the Economy Shed by Franceski Lumber Yard. The zoning ruling sought was to allow the special exception of a social room at the location.

Sean Sheare, vice president of NEP Sno Trails, testified on behalf of the Franceski zoning exception. He said the 1,200 membership snowmobile organization is the largest in the state. He indicated the organization gets its operating income from membership dues.

Sheare said the organization is a 501c non profit but they

did not intend to seek tax exemption for the property. Testimony stated that the present property taxes were \$1,449 per year.

The Zoning Hearing Board consists of Chairman Tom Fitzsimmons, Robert Trusky and William Orasin Sr. Atty. Fred Moase is the solicitor for the hearing board and conducted the hearing. Atty. Paul

Smith, Forest City, represented both Kevin Lesjack and Joseph Franceski III at the hearing.

The Lesjack exception was approved on a 3-0 vote. The Franceski request was approved 2-1 with Mr. Trusky casting the dissenting vote.

There is a 30-day period in which objections to the rulings can be filed.

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