

THE FOREST CITY NEWS



ODDS 'N ENDS

by
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&
Patricia Striefsky

Forest City made the front page of The New York Times Aug. 21. Well not exactly us!! China is spending big bucks to assist the country of Malaysia in building a brand new metropolis named Forest City. When completed it will have 700,000 people. Wonder if our Mayor and Council might get a hold of some Chinese officials to send some bucks to revitalize "our" Forest City.

Spent Friday at the 161st Harford Fair, one of the true county fairs still operating. Got to see and talk with many local and county residents. God bless the 4-H for all they do in their animal and craft judging. The Fair lucked out with the weather this year.

Browndale Firemen had a great day for their 1st annual Summer Sets Festival Sat. Good local music and local and area crafters got to sell their wares. Hope it's something they can continue in coming years.

The weather has played havoc with area golf courses and especially golf league schedules. Panorama GC owner Dick Vauter said it is the worst weather season he has had in his 54 years in the business. Rainouts and wet playing conditions all over the area have cut down golf rounds.

Newly paved Rte. 171 from Herrick Corners north to Rte. 370 is a joy for those patronizing Speakeasy Saloon, Arlo's and Lakewood Lodge, members of our Dining Guide. That highway has needed repairs for a number of years.

We still make photocopies and send faxes at the News Office. Just stop in.

Kevin Lesjack said there will be excavating work soon on his new Main Street funeral home. Foundation was poured for Wayne Memorial Health Center, Dundaff St. last week.

More money raising scams, by mail and phone, for fire companies. The mailers say to make checks to "Volunteer Firefighter Alliance," in Kansas. Local fire companies don't seek donations by having you send checks to any entity except the name of their fire company. Also they don't solicit by phone.



**EARLY COPY
DEADLINE
FOR THE
WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 5TH
ISSUE**

All articles, display ads and classified ads must be received
**BY THUR.,
AUG. 30 AT 3 PM**



Personnel dominates FC School Board

Personnel issues occupied much of the Aug. 20 meeting of Forest City Regional School Board with only five directors in attendance. They were: President Mary Emmett, Dr. Henry Nebzydowski, Chris Albright, Steve Ursich and Brian Piatak.

Superintendent Dr. Jessica Aquilina was appointed as the district's safety and security coordinator to comply with the new state mandated Safety & Security Act 44. The Act will require a complete assessment of every school in the state over the next year to ensure school safety. Dr. Aquilina stated that the District's new construction incorporated all of the construction items that will be required of schools. However, she indicated there will be inspections and paperwork to be submitted.

Leeta Dennebaum resigned as curriculum coordinator. She has accepted a position in the North Pocono School District which is her home District. Dr. Aquilina said there has been no decision whether that job will be filled. She said she will consult with the new high school principal when she begins her duties. Leeta was thanked for her 3 years at FCR.

Dr. Angela Geyer, the supervisor of special education has had the title of pre-school coordinator added to her duties.

Megan Johnson was appointed as Family & Consumer Science teacher at Master's Step 3 at a salary of \$53,655, per negotiated FCREA contract.

Diane Bailey was appointed as half day Fixed-Term teacher at a salary of \$24,919 as per FCREA contract. She was previously a full day ESL and German teacher but is now needed only half a day.

Susan Cahoon was appointed as a long-term school nurse through the end of the 2018-19 school year at a Step 1 bachelor's salary of \$49,531.

The resignation of Brittany Butler as elementary school

FCR 7th grade Orientation date Change is Aug. 30

Due to a scheduling conflict, the new date for Forest City Regional's Seventh Grade Orientation is Thursday, August 30. Registration and refreshments are from 5-5:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. The program will begin at 5:30. Letters with all the orientation details were mailed to all incoming 7th graders. If you have any questions, please email Mrs. Terri Erdmann at erdmann@fcrsd.org.

Back to School Carnival at FCR Wed., Aug. 29

Come to Forest City Regional School on Wednesday, August 29 from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM to celebrate the kick off of the 2018-2019 school year. Activities and games are for all students and families from FCRSD. Come hungry, there's grilled food and drinks available (free to all FCR students and families). FCRSD extracurricular groups will hold fundraisers—basket raffles, spirit wear and more!

There will be Sand Art, Kiss a Pig, Bingo, Bouncy Slides & Obstacles, Face Painting, Games, Food & Prizes, Bicycle Raffles - no fee to enter. And much more...

Hope to see everyone there!

Water rates Register drop

Customers of Pennsylvania American Water Company have seen a drop in the cost of their water starting in July. A customer using 3,000 gallons a month gets a reduction of about \$3.61/month.

The reason given by PAWC is the new federal tax law for corporations and the utility is passing savings along to its customers.

For water customers it is a 6.8 percent drop.

counselor was accepted. She was thanked for her service.

Patricia Dattilo resigned for reason of retirement. She has served the District for 18 years. She was previously librarian.

The Board approved an agreement with the FCR Education Support Professionals Assoc. which would allow the District to assign certain work to other members of the union in order to fill the need for additional secretarial support.

The Board also approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the Susquehanna County District Attorney's Office regarding the new school resource officer who will be in charge of safety in the school. The agreement covers pension and benefits for the officer but according to Dr. Aquilina, it will not increase the cost to the District as originally determined.

In other personnel action, the following four were hired at salaries negotiated in the FCR Education Support Professionals Assoc. contract:

*Deborah Rentner was hired as 6-hour custodian effective Aug. 21.

*Shannon Babcock was hired as 4-hour cafeteria worker effective Aug. 29.

*Jean Callan was hired to a 4-hour cafeteria position effective Aug. 29.

*Dominique Jonas was hired as 6-hour paraprofessional effective Aug. 29

OTHER BUSINESS

G. H Harris Associates was hired to collect negative cafeteria balances for the 2018-19 school year.

Pleasant Mt. EMS Chicken BBQ Sun., Sept. 2

The Pleasant Mount Emergency Services, 389 Great Bend Tpk., will hold a Labor Day Chicken BBQ on Sun., Sept. 2 from 11 a.m. until sold out.

Menu includes, slow grilled chicken, basted in a special sauce, baked potato, baked beans, our famous cabbage salad, dinner roll and cupcake. Take out only - \$10

School meal Prices listed

Cafeteria meal prices for the 2018-19 school year are: Breakfast-Regular: Free for elementary and \$1.35 for high school. Breakfast-Reduced: Free for elementary and .30 for high school.

Lunch-Regular: \$2.10 elementary and \$2.35 high school. Lunch-Reduced: .40 for both elementary and high school. Adult lunches \$3.50 for both elementary and high school.

Extracurricular Jobs approved

The following extracurricular positions were approved at the Aug. 20 meeting of the FCR School Board: Varsity boys volleyball, Dora Andrews; JV boys volleyball, Steven Beautz; JV girls volleyball, Nicholas Lowry; PA Jr. Academy of Science, Audrey Nebzydowski

Walking Program Starts at school

Forest City Regional School again approved its "In-School Walking Program" with Wayne Memorial Hospital from Sept. 10 through May 23, 2019, Mondays through Thursdays, from 6 to 8PM.

FCR School classes start Tues., Sept. 4

Forest City Regional School begins on Tuesday, September 4. Any questions on busing or school related matters please call 570-785-2400.

FCR Golf Team to hold tourney; Hornbeck donates Chevy Cruze



Golfers mark your calendar and get ready to swing for a Chevy Cruze on Saturday, September 29th. Hornbeck Chevrolet has generously provided a Chevy Cruze for a hole-in-one prize to the first golfer making an ace on the 5th hole at Memorial Links. Pictured left to right are Jared Pazanski, Rob Castellani, and Chris Stalker of Hornbeck Chevrolet, Forest City. See page 4 for details.

School administrators get \$22,000 in pay increases

No decision if curriculum coordinator job will be filled

Forest City Regional School Board granted pay increases totaling \$22,303, to nine administrators, and the business manager, at the Aug. 20 meeting of the Board.

However, the Board received the resignation of curriculum coordinator Leeta Dennebaum, whose \$84,872 salary was not among the usual 10 administrators. In response to a question, Superintendent Dr. Jessica Aquilina indicated that no decision has been made yet on whether that position will be filled. She said she was awaiting consultation with the new high school principal.

The annual pay raises for the administrators as listed in the agenda varied from 3% to 8%.

The new salaries are:
Brian Kelly, elementary principal, \$95,481
Kathleen Seifried, business

manager, \$92,510

Angela Geyer, special education director and supervisor of special education, \$87,035

Steve Glynn, technology coordinator, \$71,333

John Reeder, maintenance supervisor, \$54,847

Patricia Chesnick, administrative assistant to the superintendent, transportation coordinator, PIMS administrator, \$52,967

Paul McCormick, technology assistant, \$50,156

Mary Lee Martines, cafeteria manager, \$43,709

Darlene Hamlyn, administrative assistant, elementary, \$40,073

Donna Keslo, administrative assistant, business office, \$39,310

In addition, all school administrators and the business manager receive the ACT 93 benefits package which includes:

*PPO Blue Health coverage

for the individual and family for medical, dental and vision coverage with no premium share

*15 holidays, 2 personal leave days, 12 sick days per year and bereavement absence for death of a family member.

*15 paid vacation days during the first full seven years of service and an additional five days after seven years.

*Life insurance for two times employee salary or \$65,000.

*Mileage reimbursement for school-related travel.

*Tuition reimbursement for college courses.

*Payment of membership in one professional organization.

*A workday of 8 hours with a 30 minute duty-free lunch break.

In addition all are covered by PSERS, state employee pension benefits.

Vandling Borough to begin negotiating police contract; Special meeting set for variance for Wash Me Car Wash

Vandling Borough Council held their monthly meeting on Monday, August 20 and discussed road work, tire recycling, stormwater, and the scheduling of a special meeting to be held on Sept. 13.

CORRESPONDENCE

Council received a thank you letter from the Forest City Police Department for the help they received from Vandling Council members serving food at the National Night Out held at Kennedy Park on August 7.

Lackawanna County municipalities will be holding a tire recycling event in September. Vandling Council decided they did not want to participate this year and asked residents with tires to dispose of to do so at another Lackawanna County municipality that is participating.

Griffin Pond Animal Shelter sent a municipal appeal which Council denied. President Fran Pantzar stated he did not think it was right to ask municipalities to donate using taxpayer money. He stressed that any Vandling resident interested in donating should do so.

Forest City Police Chief Jim Johnson, who was in attendance, was asked where the police department takes stray animals. Johnson said they take them to Griffin Pond or Dessin Shelter and it is usually about six times during the year on average.

MEGAN'S LAW

Chief Johnson had to leave due to a call but before he left he explained about the individual residing at 342 Main Street who has had to register as a sex offender under Megan's Law. Johnson said he distributed letters to residents in the 300 block, the block in front, and the block behind the individual. He apologized if they did not let some

people know but that was the amount of letters they had to give out.

MAYOR REPORT

Mayor Joe Brady said the new signs for Vandling Borough have been ordered and should be in soon.

SOLICITOR REPORT

Atty. Paul Smith said Vandling should consider an update to its animal ordinance regarding chickens in the Borough. He said there is nothing in the current ordinance about having chickens and he asked Council to consider including something about it in the current ordinance.

ROAD REPAIRS

President Fran Pantzar said the road work that needs to be done will be in excess of \$20,000 and it will need to be put out for bid as soon as possible.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman John Mayers said the stormwater ordinance will need to be approved at the next meeting. Mayers has been working hard on this ordinance and sediment and nutrient reductions still need to be done. "There needs to be a 10% reduction every year. I don't feel that this applies to Vandling," said Mayers.

Mayers said that one outfall passes under the Rail Trail but then it is in Wayne County. He said a surveyor will need to look at it.

Mayers said that dry weather inspections of the outfalls have been done, as well as employee education.

Mayers asked that Council consider modifications to a few ordinances, including grass, junk autos, and garbage. The amount of days to take care of the issue is what he would like to change.

POLICE CONTRACT

President Fran Pantzar asked if negotiations could begin on the new police contract for 2019. He said maybe the committee could see about a multi-year contract.

BUDGET

Pantzar also asked if they could start working on the budget for 2019.

SPECIAL MEETING

Council set a special zoning meeting for Thursday, September 13 at 7 PM to discuss a variance request from the Wash Me Car Wash and the storage facilities. They need to combine the current two lots into one. Council will need to hire a stenographer for the meeting which is about \$100 for two hours.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joseph Stanton, a resident of 568 Rear Main Street, told Council of a recent incident with his neighbor where the neighbor broke the security camera on his property. The damage was about \$1,000. Stanton said it has been five weeks since the incident which the police department was called to but nothing has been done. Stanton was told that eviction proceedings have started on the tenant and could take some time.

Mary Ellen Owen, 316 Hillside Street, asked if a street light could be fixed near her home. She said it is very dark there. She was told that the light is in Fell Township and she needs to contact them.

THANK YOU

President Fran Pantzar thanked Hansen Equipment for loaning the Borough a forklift adapter for the recent electronics recycling.

The next monthly meeting will be held on Monday, September 17 at 7 PM.