

THE FOREST CITY NEWS



UNDELIVERED NEWSPAPERS

We have begun to have a new and disturbing interruption of mail delivery to our longtime, valued subscribers living outside our local areas. Over the past months we've received dozens of returned newspapers which the Post Office marks "Unable to Forward." This would seem to indicate that these folks no longer live at the address listed, yet after many telephone calls to them they are long time subscribers who are living at these address for many, many years. Last week we received NINE from the same area of Pennsylvania, all for the same issue and all from longtime subscribers. We are not so much annoyed by the fact that the Post Office charges us 59 cents for each returned newspaper but that these faithful subscribers are not receiving the newspapers they are paying for. Up to this point we are getting no answer from Postal authorities on why this is suddenly happening. We stress this is not a local problem as our local and area newspapers are not effected. What is greatly disturbing is that we do have a significant number of former residents who now pay \$45.00 per year so they can keep their attachment to their hometown and for some unexplainable reason our U.S. Postal Service is denying them this service. We will continue to try and determine what is happening and we will let you know when it is corrected.

By all reports the 1st Trail Town Festival was a fine success. Due to our early press deadline on Monday mornings we were not able to secure photos and stories on all events for this week's issue. We will have them in the August 15 issue.

Kennedy Park Board meeting Thurs., Aug. 9

The Kennedy Park Board will hold a reorganization meeting at Kennedy Park on Thursday, August 9 at 7 PM. The public is invited to attend. In the event of rain, the meeting will be held at the Borough Building.

August Museum hours

The Forest City Area Historical Society Museum, at 629 Main St., will be open for the viewing of artifacts and exhibits the following Saturdays, from 11AM to 1PM: August 11, August 18, August 25.

CORRECTION

In last week's edition, the names of the children in the exchange student picture were incorrect. It should have been Braxton Bean and Jayden and Bailey Carter.



Fire leveled the Herrick Township Municipal Building on Tuesday.

Herrick Municipal Bldg. Levelled in daytime fire

by Theresa Opeka

Fire destroyed the Herrick Township Municipal Building Tuesday, July 31. The first call came in to 911 around 4:45pm. The building and most of its contents, including a brand new mini excavator, are a total loss. A new trailer and a rock rake were salvaged as well as two trucks that are currently being repaired at another location. No one was inside at the time and no one was injured.

The cause of the fire couldn't be determined but it may have started from a piece of equipment. A fire marshal was expected to be on the scene the next day to determine the cause.

Supervisor Elliot Ross, one of the first on the scene, described what he saw, "There was a puff of smoke when I got here. You could see flames in the 'hot' bay (where equipment that was last used) was. Within 30 seconds, flames came up out of the roof and the roof was melting. The fire spread through the roof rapidly. It happened faster than I thought it could happen."

Union Dale Fire Company Assistant Chief Joe Rossi said it was hard fighting the fire due to the time of day to get everyone together and that it was a metal building. He said they used a dry hydrant from a pond on Lakeshore Drive behind Cable's Store to fight the blaze. "They did what they could," he said.

According to Union Dale Fire Chief Tom Yale, seventeen fire companies from Lackawanna, Susquehanna and Wayne counties and Susquehanna County EMA, were called. They include: Union Dale, Pleasant Mount Emergency Services, Forest City, Clifford, Browndale, Greenfield Township, Northern Wayne, William Walker, Scott Township, Fleetville, Waymart, Meredith Hose, 59 Rescue Mayfield, 51 Rescue Carbondale, Thompson, Jermyn, Justus and Susquehanna County EMA. He said they were on the scene for 5 hours and the building went up so fast due to the equipment, trucks, fuel and tires that were inside. He said it was a danger-

ous fire with over a million dollars in damage.

The items lost include, backhoes, grader (although Ross said it may be able to be saved), roller, truck, tractor, mini excavator, chainsaw, hand tools and chains.

Supervisor/Secretary Nancy Harvatine said, "I am devastated. I was here when it was built in 1982 and I have been here for 36 years. I am thankful all of the township's records are at my house. We lost the copy machine we have inside and the digital camera. Two trucks are being repaired. We are going to have to scramble before we get bad weather." Part of the Herrick Township Municipal Building sign was salvaged. She said Donald Bennett Sr. made the sign and donated it for the dedication in 1982.

Ross said, "It's a shame. It is a significant loss to the township. A bit of history gone. It was the only building I served in. All my memories of being a supervisor have taken place here. For a metal building and something that had little interior structure. It was quite a fire with tires, oil, and lubricants. We may be able to salvage a few things. People are stepping up. Jim Reeder, who owns the surrounding property said if we have to use any of his property he will let us do that. It was nice of Jeff (Speakeasy Saloon) to bring pizza." Speakeasy Saloon brought several pizzas for the firefighters and those on the scene and Supervisor Brian Zembrzycki, used equipment from his excavating business to help take down the charred remains of the building.

The building was insured. Township residents used the building as a place to vote and Harvatine said the county would be notified of the situation. She also said plans are being made to hold meetings at the Union Dale Methodist Church Hall which was confirmed by Solicitor Marissa McAndrew. She said all future meetings will be held in the church hall.

Ziggy Poker Run Sat., August 11

The ZIGGY FOUNDATION will be hosting a Memorial Poker Run on Saturday, August 11, 2018. The starting and stopping point will be at McDonnell's Grove (167 Petrilak Road, Carbondale, PA 18407). This run will be open to all vehicles: motorcycles, cars, trucks, or any other road worthy vehicle.

Registration starts at noon. Last vehicle/poker hand to be back by 5 PM. Must be 21 to participate in the Poker Run. All ages welcome at the Grove. Cash prizes for the best and worst hand.

Participating stops: Waymart Hotel, Kim's Pub & Grub, The Red Schoolhouse, Arlo's Tavern, and The Beacon Bar and Grill. No particular order, go at your own pace, enjoy a leisurely day throughout the countryside.

Join them for food, music, games, and activities ALL DAY at the GROVE if you don't want to do the run!

\$25 per person includes: 1 hand of poker, lunch buffet all day and dinner starting at 5:30 PM at the GROVE. \$10 to play an extra hand of poker. Basket raffles, 50/50,

games, "Side Car" of Cheer (Must be 21). Live music by POWERGLYDE!

In order to ensure the success of this very important event, They are seeking donations (monetary, gift cards, gas cards, baskets and prizes to raffle off, lottery tickets, etc.).

To donate visit ZIGGY Foundation on Facebook, Email ziggyfoundation@gmail.com, or contact Donna Zigon at 570-840-5611.

Proceeds benefit The Browndale Fire Co. #1, Station 43 for the purchase of a new truck and The Ziggy Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Pig roast set for Sat., Aug. 11

The 7th annual D.G.'s pig roast will be held Sat., Aug. 11, at D.G.'s, Main St., Forest City, from 2 p.m. until sold out. Pre-sale dinners appreciated. Music by Wolfman. Cost is \$10.

Benefits will go to the D.G.'s Do Gooders - help for the good when things go bad!



No prizes were awarded at this year's Light Parade but the NEPA Sno Trails Sno Cat, along with the Brian M. Sheare Annual Poker Run featuring a Christmas theme and Santa Claus, was among the top floats.



A large crowd attended the 36th Annual Forest City Area Distinguished Citizen awards program on Sat., Aug. 4 at the Historical Society. The Forest City Area Emergency Services, the Browndale Fire Company and Dr. Joseph Sisko, PhD were this year's recipients. More photos of the event will be in next week's issue due to our early press deadline on Monday. Pictured front row left to right are: Distinguished Citizen Chairman John P. Kameen, Michael Wilcox, Barb Mihelc, Kyle Kuruts, Betsy Sisko (accepted the award on behalf of her husband who was in Japan), Juliann Doyle, Karen Knehr Cook, Susq. Co. Comm. Maryann Warren, Brad Ellsworth, FC Council President Nick Cost, Avery Wagner. Back row left to right are: Paul Mihelc, Jim Kuruts, Jeff Swegel, Susq. Co. Comm. Alan Hall, Tom Prince, Paul Lukus, Brad Ellsworth, Kerry Henderson, Matt Zielinski, FC Mayor Chris Ginton, Trent Razderk, Alan Daugevelo, and Master of Ceremonies Patricia Striefsky.



The Coal Cracker Races began at 8 AM on Saturday, Aug. 4 on the newly resurfaced Rail Trail. Committee members pictured left to right front are Sara, Josh and Tammy Korty. Back row left to right are Deb McNamara and Rail Trail Executive Director Lynn Conrad.

Inaugural Trail Town Festival Draws young and old alike

The Trail Town Festival, Saturday, Aug. 4th, was a big success due to its jointure of two big themes—First it was the kickoff of Forest City as a Trail Town which, hopefully, will result in economic benefits to this area; Secondly, it was the celebration of the 250th Anniversary of Anthracite Mining, which was the industry which caused the settlement of the Forest City area.

Whether a Trail Town Festival can return as an annual event, similar to the 33 years of Old Home Weeks, will depend on being able to assemble a planning committee to start looking at it for next year.

After two weeks of off and on rain and lousy summer weather, the sun emerged spectacularly Saturday morning and set the stage for a super successful day.

Forty runners turned out at the newly constructed Forest City Rail Trail Trailhead for the Coal Cracker race. Rail Trail Executive Director Lynn Conrad had many nervous moments during the last few weeks as the re-construction and re-surfacing of the trail was held up by frequent heavy rains. The Coal Cracker race course was completed the previous day to the relief of Ms. Conrad and race officials.

After awarding the beautiful coal-themed race prizes there was a dedication of two historic signs on the Rail Trail by Rail Trail officials and by Scott Herring, General Chairman of the 250th Anniversary of Anthracite

Committee in Pennsylvania. These signs will, for posterity, note that Forest City is the Northern Gateway to the Anthracite Valley.

At 10 AM bike rides began on the Rail Trail but the main focus turned to Main Street. Vendors set up shop in the 500 block as the two city blocks were shut down to thru traffic.

The Scavenger Hunt also began as young and old visited seven Main Street businesses to view mining artifacts and get their Passports signed to make them eligible to win one of four bicycles and two GFCBA gift baskets.

Up at the other end of the business district, the Forest City Area Historical Society also dedicated two historic signs which will be erected at the front of their building. At the same time, the Society unveiled a 5 1/2 foot sculpture of a miner which will be part of its Museum display.

At 11 AM the Society joined with other Main Street restaurants in providing food to local visitors. The Society sold ethnic foods such as kielbasa, sausage & peppers, cabbage and noodles, pierogi and Kolachi nut rolls. Every item of the Society's menu was sold-out by 7 PM.

The noon hour saw two well-attended events kick-off. The 400 block began filling with a "Touch-A-Truck" exhibit which brought kids and adults to see, and climb on, more than 20 pieces of major equipment from trail bikes and ATVs to

fire trucks and excavators.

The noon hour also filled the Museum for the 36th annual Distinguished Citizen awards which honored the two local fire companies, Forest City Area Emergency Services Inc. and Browndale Fire Co. and Dr. Joseph Sisko, formerly of Vandling, who got the award which is given yearly to a distinguished former resident of the area.

The afternoon brought lots of visitors to Main Street, which was the purpose of the Festival. Anniversary Chairman Scott Herring gave a talk on how the 250th Anniversary committee was formed in the state.

Following Mr. Herring, RT Exec. Dir. Lynn Conrad gave a photo presentation of how railroads were the reason for the establishment and success of Forest City in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

As folks continued to walk the Main Street and enjoyed the Touch-A-Truck and vendor areas, local historian Mark Walsh, writer of Primeval, the latest history of our towns, told of the local mining industry with the Rotary Memorial to Anthracite Coal Miners and their Families as the backdrop.

Visitors and townspeople also were regaled with music throughout the day by local musician Rick Priebe and by Forest City's own Donna Trusky, known as DJ Donna Diva.