

# THE FOREST CITY NEWS



At a community meeting last week it was decided to have a 2nd annual Trail Town Festival next year on Sat., Aug. 3rd. All agreed the annual event, formerly known as Old Home Week, should be continued as a result of the success of this year's 1st Trail Town Festival.

They tell us that some garden produce suffered from the over-abundance of rain and lack of sun, however I don't think it affected the tomato crop. Have been eating lots of them which I am getting from friends and family.

Thought my hunting camp in Ararat was the only place overrun by mosquitos in recent weeks. You couldn't go into the woods without 40% DEET insect repellent on all your clothing and exposed skin. Judy Peltz at Cable's Deli said last week that Thompson has the same infestation, obviously due to the very wet conditions.

The 2 1/2 year construction project at Forest City Regional School is almost completed. I imagine there will be an Open House to view the work in the near future.

There are some very happy motorists due to the tar & chip job done by PennDOT on the Vandling to Simpson road. If you had a light colored car you are probably very, very upset. Seems they put down the tar in the rain, which hardened before the chips were spread. Most of the chips flew off into cars and along the road and sidewalks in Vandling. Spotted some street sweepers in place Friday morning to clean up the mess. Otherwise you probably have been taking the Northwest Road since last week.

Wivey's Golf League goes into the playoffs after the Sept. 26 matches. The 8 playoff teams are far from set as they are very closely bunched. This has been a trying year especially with scrambling for 3 makeup matches the past month due to rain cancellations.

D.G.'s Bar annual craft fair/flea market is Saturday, 9 to 2. Some interesting local crafters. See the ad on pg. 2 for details.

## Blood Drive at B'dale Fire Co. Fri., Sept. 21

The Browndale Fire Station will be turned into a Community Red Cross Blood donation center from 1:00 to 6:00 PM on Friday, September 21, 2018. The Browndale Fire Station is located on Route 247, 620 Marion Street, Browndale. Please stop by to donate the gift of life!

If you would like to make an appointment to donate blood, please call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or go on-line to: [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org). You may also walk in. Please help support the Red Cross and donate blood. "Give the gift of life, Give Blood".



## PA DCNR Secretary Cindy Dunn Praises local Rail Trail system

Cindy Adams Dunn, Pennsylvania Secretary of the Dept. of Conservation and natural Resources (DCNR). Paid a visit to the D&H Rail Trail on Friday morning, Sept. 7, as part of a statewide initiative to encourage Pennsylvanians to enjoy local trails this Fall. The local trails include the D&H Rail-Trail from Simpson north thru Ararat, and the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail from Simpson to Scranton.

The secretary was introduced by Kirk Newsom, president of the Rail-Trail Council Board of Directors, and by Lynn Conrad, executive director of the Rail-Trail Council of NEPA. Ms. Conrad noted that she has been working with DCNR since 1992 in its work to connect the D&H Trail and the Lackawanna Heritage Trail into a 70 mile corridor, with the Forest City Trailhead as the mid-point of this system.

Conrad noted that her section of the Trail is still in the midst of many improvements due to the recent completion of a UGI gas line and the restoration of the trail which has been held up by months of wet weather. An additional 6 1/2 miles from Union Dale to Ararat is presently being restored and will be completed in the coming weeks.

Conrad pointed to the two historic markers at the Trailhead which designate Forest City as the Northern Gateway of the Anthracite Valley. They were donated by the Forest City Area Historical Society as part

## Apparent Murder/Suicide in Mt. Pleasant Twp.

The Wayne County Coroner was called to a home in Mount Pleasant Township on Tuesday, September 11 to investigate the deaths of a husband and wife at their home residence, 3083 Belmont Turnpike, Mount Pleasant Twp., Wayne County.

Edward Howell, Wayne County Coroner arrived on scene at 2:20 PM. Coroner Howell pronounced Carol Ann Vaverchak, 67, and her husband Alban V. Vaverchak, 73, dead inside their home at 2:25 PM as he examined the bodies.

Both decedents presented with apparent gunshot wounds. Post-mortem examinations were scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 12 to determine the cause and manner of each death.

## FC Mayor meets with Pres. of Johnson College



Forest City Mayor Chris Ginton met recently with Katie Leonard, President of Johnson College, to see if Forest City would be a good location for a satellite campus. A meeting is set for Wed., Oct. 24 on the 3rd floor of the Borough Building at a time to be announced. Ginton said he would be inviting members of Council, the administrators of the Forest City Regional School and area business people to attend. More information will be available at a later date.

## ZIGGY Foundation donates to B'dale Fire Co.



The ZIGGY Foundation presented a check in the amount of \$8,000 to the Browndale Fire Company on September 11. The money will go toward the purchase of a new fire truck. From left to right: Greg Bock, Assistant Chief, Browndale Fire Company; Carl Zigon, ZIGGY Foundation; Dionna Zigon, ZIGGY Foundation; Josh Debevec, Chief, Browndale Fire Company; Mary Zigon, ZIGGY Foundation and Treasurer Browndale Fire Company; Nikki Guzzi, Secretary Browndale Fire Company; Jimmy Richards, Trustee Browndale Fire Company; and Jack Pevac, Trustee Browndale Fire Company.

## Forest City's Main Street to lose six parking spaces

Main Street will be losing as many as six parking spaces as the result of the implementation of new rules by PennDot. The new rule states that whenever a public driveway occurs along a state roadway there can be no parking for 65 feet on either side of the driveway for adequate sight distance.

At the September 4 regular Council meeting, the exit areas which were excluded from the Borough's Main Street parking ordinance were the area of exit from Honesdale National Bank, 619 Main Street, and the exit area of First National Bank, 521 Main Street.

Council passed a change in meter spaces last month to allow a driveway and parking area for Kevin Lesjack Funeral Home which is now under construction. Solicitor Paul Smith told the News that other street entrances along Main Street could also be affected by the 65 foot sight distance rules.

### POLICE FIREARMS

When Council was presented with a request for the expenditure of \$1,400 for police ammunition and targets, the subject of the possession of the newly purchased eight handguns came under discussion. When asked about where the eight weapons are now, Chief Jim Johnson said 7 of 8 are in possession of officers and one is stored in the police property storage area.

It was stated that one of them is in the possession of an officer who works out-of-state and some felt the weapons should all be stored in police headquarters.

Chief Johnson said the dept. has no gun lockers so they can't be stored at police HQ but continued that they are all in possession of FC police officers and none are being used by them at other places they work.

Council later approved the \$1,400 for ammo and targets.

### ANIMAL ORDINANCE

A new animal control ordinance which was presented for consideration was tabled due to an objection on the number of household pets which would be allowed. The ordinance was drawn up in order to answer objections of neighbors to free ranging chickens in several areas of the town.

The law sets standards for keeping domesticated animals including having them under control and penned up when required, as well as cleaning up feces.

The law requires that an annual permit is required for domesticated chickens and sets the number of female chickens at four, and that they must be kept in an enclosure and not allowed to free-range on neighboring property.

The ordinance was tabled when Councilperson Joann Matarese objected to limiting the number of household pets allowed at six. She said she has seven cats and couldn't vote for the new law.

Council President Nick Cost gave Council members another month to look at the details in the proposed law.

### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Paul Mihelc has agreed to

continue to serve as Emergency Management coordinator. He agreed based on Council President Cost's assurance that Council will place emergency planning on track for a fuller discussion. Cost said a meeting will be held in the near future.

### OLD COP CARS

Council accepted a bid of \$400 from Brian Karwoski for two old police cars but said they could not comply with his request to leave the bull bars and cages in the vehicles. If he declines the offer to buy, Mayor Ginton said the cars would be taken to the scrapyard which has offered \$190 scrap value.

### 3rd FLOOR PROJECT

Councilman Bob Lesjack said the state has not yet found a previous occupancy permit for the 3rd floor and if not found, the town will have to get the number of occupants allowed there re-certified. He said it might be costly to do so.

He said he has priced tables and chairs, both new and used, for the hall but will await further information.

Council agreed to paint the exterior woodwork to match the new doors in the downstairs. They also approved placing the Library hours on a decal on the new Library door.

### OTHER BUSINESS

No word was received on the use of Kennedy Park as a site for a cell tower.

Public Works committee head Bernie Scalzo said more than 1,000 pounds of dirt and gravel was removed from catch basins at Depot and Main Street.

cont. on page 2

## Pre-built Lesjack Funeral Home Erected on Site



More than a year after a devastating fire took out four Main Street buildings, Kevin Lesjack Funeral Home can expect to be in business in his new facility in the near future. After weeks of excavation on his former lot, the three sections of his new building were put on its foundation Thursday, Sept. 13. The Simplex building was engineered and designed to Lesjack's specifications in their Pennsylvania manufacturing location and displayed a sign proudly stating "Made in USA for Lesjack". The News saw photos of the interior showing the spacious viewing and reception areas. Former owner Bob Lesjack said there will be much exterior lighting and decorative wood work. A large crowd viewed the assembly process last Thursday, for the first new building on Main Street since construction of the Wells building at 638 Main Street in 2011.



## GENCO DENTAL CARE, PC

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