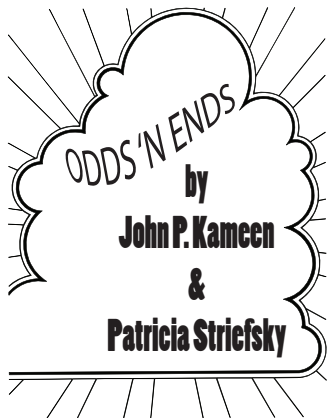


THE FOREST CITY NEWS



Congratulations to Ashley Fitzsimmons, Brown Dale, on her prestigious award, the 2018 National Outstanding Customer Support Representative (CSR) of the Year. Fitzsimmons is employed by Fitzsimmons Insurance, Forest City. Ms. Fitzsimmons will receive a cash award of \$2,000, a distinctive gold and diamond lapel pin, and her name inscribed on a sculpture on permanent display at The National Alliance headquarters in Austin, Texas. Staff from the National Alliance flew from Dallas, TX to film a video of Ashley throughout her day last week. The video will be played when they fly Ashley to Dallas, TX to present her with her award during their annual MEGA Seminar.

Thankfully PennDOT acted on the many complaints of motorists whose vehicles were marred due to a defective job of tarring and chipping Rte. 171 from Simpson to Vandling recently. A special phone number, listed in another article on this page, can be called to get claim forms to be used to pay for cleaning or repairs resulting from the botched paving job.

We recently completed our visit to the restaurants in our Dining Guide and those who advertise with us regularly. The good part of that is we can start our dining travels all over again. Our first visit on this round was to our longest running restaurant advertiser, McDonnell's Restaurant, Carbondale. Our visit came just days before owner Robert McDonnell was to be married Sept. 22. Rob sat with us and gave us a run-down of wedding plans, to which we wished him our best. Deliciously we then dined on several features including his Barnyard Club Sandwich which is definitely the best club sandwich in Northeastern Penna. Always fresh cut turkey, no turkey roll or loaf. Each quarter of the sandwich is a real mouth-full. Served with French fries or Bob's special cole slaw. Another of the party had the Fish 'n Chips special with a generous portion of breaded haddock, and a garden salad. Another had some of his excellent chicken soup which is rivaled only by the Manhattan clam chowder which his father made famous in this area. Fast efficient service with friendly waitresses always makes a trip to McDonnell's a real delight.

Had a chance to take my dog, Max, to the new Dog Park on several occasions. He loves to run around off his leash with the other dogs. It's a great place to bring your pet where they can run free and socialize with other dogs. If you haven't been there you should definitely check it out.

More on page 2



FCRS teachers' pay to increase 2.60% as new contract starts

Effective October 9, 2018, the "early bird" five year contract signed last year by Forest City Regional School teachers will go into effect. On that date they will receive a 2.60% pay hike.

The 2.60% pay increase will also be added for 2019 and 2020, and a 2.70% will be received annually for 2021 and 2022.

The present \$750/yr. health insurance contribution for each teacher will remain the same as in the past contract.

Pay increases for the five year period will be about \$5,700 for a 1st year teacher, and more than \$6,500 for those on the top step of the salary scale.

In 2023 a starting teacher's salary with a BS degree on Step One will be \$54,036. The salary for teachers on the very top step of the salary schedule, Master's degree plus 60 credits, will be \$85,227.

The health insurance benefit is for the complete cost of individual, parent-child or family coverage. The drug coverage has copays at \$15/\$30/\$45.

There is also dental and vision insurance.

School work year will be 185 days with 5 of those days for professional development days. Work day will be 7 hours and 10 minutes, with a 30 minute duty free lunch period, and one duty free preparation period daily with at least five such periods weekly.

They receive \$50,000 group term life insurance, and are cov-

Bike Improved D&H Rail-Trail, Herrick to Ararat

The Council is planning a group bike ride on the newest section of D&H Rail-Trail, Saturday, September 29th at 10 AM. The Herrick to Ararat trail improvement project is complete and is open for trail users.

Meet at the Union Dale Trailhead—next to Cable's Deli. You are welcome to bike on your own or with the group. The mileage is about 7.5 miles out, with a round-trip total of 15 miles.

The group will regroup for quick interpretations at various sites along the route. Helmets required.

Call the office or e-mail for more information at 679-9300 or trails@nep.net

New parking Rules at School

Effective Wednesday, Sept. 19, visitors to FCR School, including those attending athletic games, must observe all posted signs regarding parking along roadways. That includes the roadway from Susquehanna Street into the school.

Those viewing athletic contests must park in the parking lots and can carry their chairs to the fields. Tickets to violators will be issued by Forest City Police.

A phone call to families of students was made by Supt. Dr. Jessica Aquilina on Tuesday evening, Sept. 18.

Main Street Warning sign Goes missing

One of the Main Street's pedestrian warning signs has disappeared. It had been placed near Kost Tire Sales on South Main Street but was found missing.

Anyone having any information about the missing sign is asked to call the police dept. at 785-3453.

ered by workers' compensation and also disability insurance with a 90 day waiting period.

Each teacher gets 10 sick days and two personal leave days, as well as bereavement leave. After 15 years, unused sick leave will be paid at \$70/day.

Child rearing leave under the Federal Family Medical Leave Act (MLA) provides for 12 weeks off without pay but teacher can use unused sick leave. They receive all other benefits for those 12 weeks. Additional unpaid days without insurance coverage can be requested.

The District pays 60% of college credit costs for up to nine credits.

Extracurricular pay varies from \$930 to \$7,441 according to the activity.

Boro agrees To continue Plowing alleys

At a public meeting on Tuesday evening, Sept. 18, Forest City Council heard comments from the public on snow plowing in alleys and Main Street snow removal ideas.

Council decided it will continue plowing alleys as they have in the past, but would also consider requests from other property owners living on alleys to consider plowing their alley, on a case-by-case basis.

Suggestions also were discussed on possible ideas for Main Street snow removal. Property owners are required by Borough Ordinance to remove snow from their sidewalks within a certain timeframe. They cannot throw the snow in the street but can pile it on the brick portion of the walkways.

Ideas for having the Borough pay for complete snow removal, or partial reimbursement of merchant costs, were talked about but many problems exist with such actions.

Contact PennDot If vehicle was Damaged during Tar & chipping in Vandling

Vandling Mayor Joe Brady told members of Council and the public at the monthly meeting on September 17 that the recent tar and chipping project from Vandling to Simpson by PennDot resulted in many cars being damaged. He spoke to a representative of PennDot who said anyone with a vehicle that is damaged needs to call them at 570-586-2211 to obtain a form to fill out. If you have had or plan to have your vehicle detailed, PennDot will cover the cost.

Comedy Night at FC Area EMS Sat. Sept. 29

The Forest City Area Emergency Services will host a Saturday Night Comedy Night on Sat., Sept. 29 with entertainment by Steamroller Productions. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and show starts at 8 p.m. Price is \$15.

Food will be provided. This is a BYOB event. For tickets call 570-785-5025.

CORRECTION

In an article published in last week's edition about Dr. Laskshmi Mizen, it was incorrectly stated that Dr. Mizen is a cardiologist. Dr. Mizen practices internal medicine.

Two tractor trailer incidents on Main Street last week



A large tractor trailer is attempting to go south on Rte. 171 (Main St.) from Dundaff St., Sept. 20. Earlier this week a triple-wide section of a home, headed for Elkview Drive, got hung up turning from Main Street west on Dundaff Street. The result included a downed parking meter and damage to the overhang on Dr. Tomazic's building at 632 Main St.

\$160,000 sewer grant awarded to Vandling

Council seeks quicker compliance to codes

Vandling Borough Council met on Monday, September 17 to discuss the day-care lease, modifications to ordinances, stormwater and roads.

FIRE RELIEF
Vandling received \$3,174.98 for fire relief which will be split between the Brown Dale Fire Company and the Forest City Area Emergency Services.

POLLING PLACE
Council agreed to allow the use of municipal building for voting on Tuesday, November 6.

MS 4 PERMIT
A letter was received from Pennsylvania DEP regarding the renewal notice for the MS 4 permit which is to expire on August 31, 2019. The application must be in by March 4, 2019 and the application fee is \$2,500.

FLAGS
The new American flags have been delivered and paid for with funds from the

Vandling Recreation Board. The cost was approximately \$3,500.

DAYCARE LEASE
A new lease was prepared for Tumblin Tots Daycare. It is a three year lease with the first year payment of \$1,000 a month and 2nd and 3rd year payments of \$1,050 a month. Council will give the lease to the business owner and if she agrees to the terms, President Fran Pantzar will sign the necessary paperwork.

COMMITTEE REPORTS
Councilman John Mayers discussed amending the existing ordinance regulating junked motor vehicles within the Borough of Vandling by reducing the time of compliance after notice from 30 days to 15 days.

Council will also consider adopting an ordinance revising the International Property Maintenance Code, 2009, Section 302.1 "Exterior Property Areas" to require compliance within 7 days after notification

of violation. Failure to do so will result in fines of between \$100 to \$300. Section 302.4 "Weeds" to require compliance within 7 days after notification of violation.

Council will advertise the amendments to the ordinances and will vote on it at the next meeting.

Councilman Mayers asked if he could now submit the stormwater report after having it reviewed by KBA Engineering. After much discussion about the requirements involved before submission, Council agreed to have Mayers send the report.

President Fran Pantzar thanked Mayers for all he has done on this project. Pantzar said the Borough is saving money by doing it themselves. Members of Council had to attend a training session on stormwater management. Mayers said the next step will be the mapping of the sewer lines in the Borough.

Cont. on page 5

Personnel on the agenda At School Board session

The Sept. 17 meeting of Forest City Regional School Board was ably chaired by vice-pres. Joanne Sterchak in the absence of President Mary Emmett. The Board handled several personnel items.

The resignation of Jennifer Kerzetski as K-12 School Counselor was accepted and Larisa Valonis was hired to replace her. Kerzetski had been at FCR for 3 years and is relocating to Florida. Valonis was hired on the Masters Degree Step 5 at a salary of \$54,269. She was in attendance at the meeting.

The resignation of Mary Brown as a custodian was accepted. She has accepted a full-time day position elsewhere. She has been at FCR for one year.

Joseph Miraglia was named to the position as varsity softball coach, while Brian Newberry was hired as varsity assistant softball coach.

The following substitutes for support staff and nursing were approved: Nurse substitute Margaret Heller; Support staff substitutes Mary Lou Morris, Juliene Graebner, Krista Tomazic, Toni Lehutsky.

The following teachers were

granted tenure after serving three years and one day with satisfactory evaluations: Secondary- Amanda Cino, Nicole Lenz; Elementary-Natalie Balunas FitzPatrick, Caitlin Ossont, Robert Pryal. For the first three years they are considered temporary professional employees.

Three days of unpaid leave was granted to an unnamed employee. The District does not give the names of those receiving unpaid leave.

Under a new memorandum of understanding with the Susquehanna County District Attorney's office, Detective John Bradley is serving as new school resource officer, an armed police officer on duty during school hours. The originally named Resource Officer Mark Mulvey reportedly did not take the position.

Under a memorandum of understanding, between the School Board and the FCR Educational Association, Mrs. Teri Erdmann, who serves in the school's new TV room, will be allowed to begin her day at 7:30 AM and end her day earlier to remain in compliance with workday requirements of the teacher's contract.

OTHER BUSINESS

The contract with Trehab to administer the Student Assistance Program (SAP) was approved for the new school year.

A contract for pest control at the School for the school year was approved with Erhlick at a cost of \$1,248.

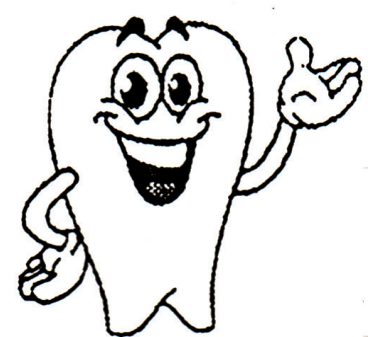
A contract regarding the fire alarm system in the amount of \$4,162 was approved with Johnson Controls.

The Grade 8 Washington D.C. trip and itinerary set for April 25-26, 2019 was approved.

An executive session was held prior to the regular meeting, reportedly for personnel, legal and contract issues.

Pancake Breakfast Sat. Sept. 29 U'Dale U.M. Church Hall

There will be an all you can eat pancake breakfast at the Union Dale U.M. Church hall on Sat. Sept. 29 from 7 to 10 a.m. Menu includes pancakes, sausage, eggs cooked to order, coffee, tea or juice. Come out and enjoy!



GENCO DENTAL CARE, PC

518 Main Street, Forest City, PA 18421

570-785-9500

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