

THE FOREST CITY NEWS



The Plate d'Azure is surely a gourmet gem in downtown Carbondale. As I continue visiting the dining circuit of our advertisers, our stop there provided some real delicacies. I opted this time for chicken orzo instead of their exquisite chicken francaise. Another delight! How about maple butternut bisque soup, and appetizers of caprese salad and fried calamari. Despite being quite busy, we had excellent and pleasant service, all at very reasonable prices, proving that exotically named dishes aren't always expensive. Others had the "Build Your Own Pasta" and Plate d'Azure burger. Got to chat with several friends at other tables.

With a chill in the air we have a taste of Fall. Still a lack of Flaming Foliage. Lots of dead leaves but few brilliant colors like most previous years.

One possible harbinger of a severe winter is the number of squirrels being spotted on area roadways as they search for food to store.

We can also hope that the wet weather pattern which has hung on this year does not continue. Someone said last week that if this year's rainfall was converted into snowfall we would have had 22 FEET! May be fake news!

A very large deer found dead along Burnwood Road in Ararat Twp. had its head cut off. Probably a night poaching incident.

Great job on the re-construction of the Rail Trail from Union Dale thru Ararat Twp. Grand opening will be Thursday at 9:30am on Ararat Road.

For some reason there has been a marked increase in large trucks on Dundaff Street the past month. It involves some very long vehicles being unable to make the turn on or off Main St. It's like maybe the street has been put on GPS as a main Route.

You can get your flu shots at Red Cross Drug Store. Get it before the flu season hits.

The FCR School and the GFCBA will be having its Haunted House at the Spano Building on Oct. 25-26. They do a fantastic job on this event.

FCR Wellness Committee seeks participants

The Forest City Regional School District continues to promote student wellness and proper nutrition through its Wellness Policy. The policy is adopted based on recommendations put forth by an appointed wellness committee. Parents wishing to be a part of the wellness committee can call the high school office by November 1.

More Local Steamtown Marathon finishers

Other area runners who finished this year's 23rd Steamtown Marathon were; FCR Elementary Principal Brian Kelly, #492, 4:04:35; Former FCR High School Principal Mike Elia, #671, 4:22:35; Lauren Pantzar, #803, 4:36:15 and Becky Pantzar, #804, 4:36:15.



The Rail-Trail Council of NEPA invites you to join them in celebrating the completion of 6.5 miles of trail improvements from Herrick to Ararat, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Ararat Rd., on Thurs., Oct. 18 at 9:30 a.m. Shown are cyclists from Meshoppen and Mehoopany enjoying the trail off Fiddle Lake Rd.

Ribbon-Cutting on Rail-Trail on Ararat Rd. Thurs., Oct. 18

Members of the Rail-Trail Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania invite trail users and supporters to celebrate the completion of 6.5 miles of trail improvements from Herrick to Ararat along the D&H Rail-Trail in Susquehanna County.

A Ribbon Cutting will be held at the Ararat Road Trailhead on Thursday, October 18, at 9:30 a.m. The event will feature a dedication, remarks from public officials and trail enthusiasts, refreshments, and a trail tour on foot or by bicycle. Public officials who will participate include:

- Lisa Baker, PA State Senator, 20th senatorial district;
- Jonathan Fritz, PA State Representative, 111th legislative district;
- Christine Dettore, Regional Advisor, Northeast Region, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR);
- Paul Macknosky, Regional Director, PA Department of Community and Economic Development (PA DCED);
- April Hannon, Transportation Enhancement Coordinator, PennDOT District 4.0;
- Cain Chamberlin, Executive Director, Endless Mountains Heritage Region;
- Elliot Ross, Supervisor, Herrick Township; and
- Susquehanna County Commissioners Alan Hall,

Elizabeth Arnold and Mary-Ann Warren

In addition, those who were instrumental in the project's success will be recognized, including: Arora and Associates, Kohrs Excavating, former Pennsylvania State Representative Sandra Major, PennDOT District 4.0 Inspector David Gardus and his team, leadership from Ararat Township, and members and supporters of the Rail-Trail Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

This project was made possible through funding support from the following: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) with sponsorship via Herrick Township; Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR) Recreational Trails Program & Environmental Stewardship Fund; and the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development (PA DCED) Trails, Greenways and Recreational Program via the Commonwealth Financing Authority.

For directions, visit <https://goo.gl/maps/CQYqmFAqs-gA2>. For more information, call 570.679.9300, or email trails@nep.net and visit neparailtrails.org.

No tax increase for Clifford Township

by Theresa Opeka

Many topics were discussed at the Tuesday, October 9 meeting of the Clifford Township Supervisors including the tentative 2019 budget and a complaint about a recent event. DEP was contacted about dust in the road from an event featuring motorcycles on Halstead Road. Road Master Kurt Booths said the DEP representative said there wasn't a formal complaint filed but in the future, there are regulations that go with events that are legally binding. Supervisor Barry Searle said, "There should be something legally put in place. There was a significant amount of traffic." Supervisor Chris Marcho said, "We do have an ordinance but it is old and antiquated. It needs to be updated. He (organizer) gave us a bond. He and we pretty much followed the ordinance." Supervisor Dennis Knowlton said, "We do want to draw events and rebuilding our town and area. I think we have to be careful and be user friendly." Phil Price said, "Every month, Hurricane Hills comes through." Knowlton replied, "Too bad we don't have more downtown."

Searle said the township is in the black with regards to the tentative 2019 budget. There will be no tax increase. He said they were over budget this year for snow removal and cinders so that line item was raised and they doubled the budget for highway maintenance. He said bridges and culverts need to be replaced. They will improve roads and emergency services. All voted in favor of the budget it will posted for 30 days.

The township received a letter from New Milford Mayor Scott Smith regarding a letter they are sending to DEP about problems with flooding. They are looking for names to be

added to the letter. Marcho said they are looking to clean creeks and streams. Searle made a motion to sign the letter. All voted in favor. Motion passed. Price said they haven't been too responsive with the sandbar in downtown.

Discussion turned to adopting the county's hazard mitigation plan. Price said FEMA/PEMA approved it. If the area is declared a disaster area there would be money available for assistance. Price said they had been working on the township's for 1.5 years. Searle made a motion to adopt the county's. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

Searle said the township would like to offer a \$2,000 EMS Training Grant to attract new members. He said Marcho is the liaison to the fire company. It costs \$2,000 for a person to be certified for EMS or the fire company. There would be stipulations. They would have to come to a certain amount of fires and EMS calls or the person would have to pay the township back. He said he would like to see it begin the first of the year. Marcho said he would like to discuss it with the fire company. Searle made a motion to put the grant into place. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

On October 21, there will be a Fall Frenzy 5K Run at the township park. Registration is at 9am. The race begins at 10am. A free brunch will take place after the race. Proceeds benefit the Susquehanna County Recreational Center. Also on the same day, the last open house will be held for the Baptist Church, Hoover School and museum in the township building from 1-4pm.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 13 at 7pm.

Richmondale Friends of Steamtown donate to St. Joseph's Center



The Richmondale Friends of Steamtown recently donated \$580 to St. Joseph's Center, in conjunction with the Steamtown Marathon. They also donated the new starting line banner at the Forest City Regional School. Pictured left to right are Dan and Mark Totsky, Fran Graytock, Sister Mary Alice Jaquinot, Joe Totsky, and Jim Dovin.

School Dist. having trouble Getting substitute teachers

FCR School Board heard from Supt. Dr. Jessica Aquilina that the District is experiencing difficulty securing substitute teachers. As a result, the Board, at its Oct. 8 meeting, passed a Memorandum of Understanding with the teacher's union which will allow present teachers to give up their prep period in order to cover an additional 42-minute class.

The District will seek out teachers who will agree to be added to this list. They will be paid the District's substitute teacher's hourly wage pro-rated to 42 minutes.

SCHOOL GRANTS

Dr. Aquilina reported the District was selected for two grants. They are a \$20,000 Safe Schools grant and a \$32,034 grant for the cost of the School's new Resource Officer. The SRO provides school time school protection and works under the Susquehanna County District Attorney's office.

DEPT. CHAIRS

The following faculty members were approved as department chairs for the 2018-19 school year: Mrs. Heather Monahan-PreK to Gr. 1; Mrs. Bobbi Jo Gobens-Grs. 2-3; Robert Pryal-Grs. 4-6 Language Arts; Jason

Pantzar-Grs. 4-6 Science; Mrs. Carrie Kemmerer-HS Eng. Lang. Arts; Ms. Cynthia Weiss-HS math; Christopher Wade-HS Social Studies; Daniel Nebzydowski-HS Science.

PERSONNEL

Richard Schlasta was appointed as 6-hour custodian. Juliene Graebner was appointed 4-hour custodian.

The resignation of custodian Kyra Fortuner was accepted.

The following support staff substitutes were approved: Kyra Fortuner, Amy Supancik and Dakota Swann.

Ms. Nicole Lenz resigned as FBIA advisor.

David Nichols was approved as substitute bus driver.

An unnamed employee was granted a two-day unpaid leave.

Michael Zack was approved as Mentor for Megan Johnson, new Family and Consumer Science teacher.

Drama Director Michelle Giles and members of the FCR Drama Club were inducted into the International Thespians Society.

OTHER BUSINESS

The contract with the USDA to continue the successful Canada goose control

program was approved. The cost was listed as a maximum of \$6,512 for the coming year. Business Manager Kathleen Seifried said this year's total cost was only \$2,072.

Dr. Aquilina reported that the School's building project is 95% completed.

Dr. Aquilina thanked former faculty member Ed Osburn for his successful service as starting line coordinator for the Steamtown Marathon. She also thanked the Maintenance Dept., faculty, administration, students, alumni and other volunteers for again making the Steamtown Marathon starting line a credit to Forest City and the District.

Elementary Principal Brian Kelly was congratulated for completing the Steamtown Marathon. Another Steamtown finisher was former High School Principal Mike Elia.

Dr. Aquilina thanked Bob Non of Pleasant Mount Welding for donating steel to the Career Technology Center for use in the Welding and Automotive Depts. for the construction of two benches to be used in the School's entrance.

Many items crowd agenda of Clinton Township Supervisors

by Theresa Opeka

A resolution on a possible conflict of interest, agreement on an ordinance and a disagreement over the repairing of damage to a road were among the items discussed at the Wednesday, October 10 meeting of the Clinton Township Supervisors. Supervisor Ken Coles said township solicitor Jeff Treat took a look at the nuisance ordinance and went over and addressed areas in question including: definition of it and the coverage of it; what is illegal; what is a dangerous building, overgrown vegetation, depositing snow in the roadway, etc. Coles said, "I think you did a good job with everything you addressed. A motion was made to advertise the new ordinance. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

Regarding the possible conflict of interest of having Jeff Weinberger be the township's engineer despite accepting any bids from Wayco, which is owned by Weinberger's family, Coles said Treat and PSATS say there is no conflict of interest. Treat said, "For it to be a conflict of interest, it would have to hurt the township, financially or otherwise. It is not a conflict at all and is not jeopardizing us." Supervisor Russ Curtis said, "Why did we get two different answers from PSATS?" Treat said that everyone has their own opinions. Coles said, "Hopefully, Jeff is retained as engineer as far as we are concerned."

Coles said a property owner on Burns Road is not accept-

ing responsibility for damage to the road. He said Treat got a letter from the property owner. Coles said, "He is storing 50 ton excavators and there are about seven or eight of them. They damaged the road. He originally told me he was going to fix the road up to \$30,000." Supervisor/Road Master Brian Non said, "If nothing is done with the road soon, what will happen in the future with winter coming up?" Treat said, "I will send a letter to his attorney, Joe McGraw that the township respectfully disagrees with the decision and will submit the engineering report."

The township received 3 bids for anti-skid: Bedrock Quarries - \$13/ton; Bill Pykus \$13/ton and Pioneer - \$11.75/ton. Non made a motion to accept Pioneer's bid and get 1,000 tons. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

The township received one bid from Kilpatrick Excavating of \$65/hr to plow and cinder Browndale and Ravnikaar and Flat Rock Roads. A motion was made to accept the bid. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

No bids were received for a generator for the township building. Coles said the township will get 3 phone bids for a 22,000 watt generator. Tom Balleys said, "It's a waste of money. There is nothing critical for you that you don't have to close the building and walk away." Non said, "It's a matter of safety. We may not be able to get the trucks out." Coles said community groups use the building.

The township received \$33,396.43 in 2013 disaster relief

funds from FEMA/PEMA. The funding has been allocated for Burns Road.

Coles said in regards to the Floodplain Management Ordinance, "We usually just follow what the county does but have Joe Franceski (from the planning commission) contact the county. The ordinance was advertised and is available for inspection.

The township received \$13,141.19 in state aid allocation from the Volunteer Fire Relief Association. Curtis made a motion to give \$1,000 each to Prompton and Waymart Fire Companies and the rest to Browdale. Browdale Fire Chief Josh Debevec said to give the other fire companies \$500 each and Browdale the rest. "You know we are hurting," he said. All voted in favor of Curtis' motion. Motion passed.

There were 11 calls for Browndale Fire Company for the month of September.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 14 at 7pm.

FC Lions Club Breakfast at Elegante Oct. 28

The Forest City Lions Club will hold a Pancake, Sausage, Egg Breakfast on Sun., October 28, 2018 from 8:00 a.m. to noon at ELEGANTE RESTAURANT, Main Street, Forest City, PA. Adults \$6.00, Children under 12 - \$3.00.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL LIONS CLUB!

