

# THE FOREST CITY NEWS



Our weekly restaurant review last week was Max Deli and, lo and behold, it was closed Thursday and Friday. He reopened Saturday and Max Rosas tells us he is back and apologizes for the inconvenience to his faithful customers. \*\*\*\*\*

Thursday, November 1 is the final day to pay your 2019 dues for the Greater Forest City Business Alliance. With your \$100 payment, you will be included in the signage at Zazzera's Parking lot as well as the brochure which will include all of the membership. If you have not gotten a membership and would like to join, please email them at GFCBA13@gmail.com. \*\*\*\*\*

How great would it be to have area people be able to take college classes right here in Forest City? Representatives from Johnson College were in town last week to discuss just that. Over 50 people attended the roundtable discussion including business owners, school administrators, and legislators at the Borough Building. The groundwork is being done and more meetings will be held but this is a great thing for Forest City and the surrounding area and we certainly hope it happens. \*\*\*\*\*

Don't forget to get out and vote on Tuesday, November 6. Every vote counts. Voting is an obligation that accompanies and protects the liberties we enjoy. Voting is more than just a right to be heard; it is a privilege of democracy, thus a moral obligation. \*\*\*\*\*

The FCR School Haunted House in the Spano Bldg. was a big success. The students and faculty members do a great job. The Main Street Trunk or Treat also drew lots of kids. Good job by the merchants and groups who participated. \*\*\*\*\*

The Scranton Times recently had a "50 Years Ago" item about Thomas Knighton, formerly of Forest City, who was the senior launch systems specialist, manning a computer for the Oct. 11, 1968 Apollo 7 launch. Hard to believe that it is almost 50 years since there was a man on the moon from Apollo 11 in 1969 \*\*\*\*\*

Someone shot a trophy 12 pt. buck on Lyons Street, Herrick Twp., Oct. 24th, and left it in a field. The Game Commission said it was possibly a 22 cal. bullet to the neck. Local barber Paul Ferraro, who lives nearby, was informed of it by a motorist. What a disgrace if it was someone randomly driving around shooting at deer in fields. This writer has not personally seen a 12 pt. buck taken in this area in 40 years. What a waste!! \*\*\*\*\*

Trick or Treating in Vandling Wed., Oct. 31

Trick or treating in Vandling Borough will take place on Wed., Oct. 31 from 6 to 8 p.m. ONLY. Only local traffic will be allowed in the development.

**CORRECTION**  
In last week's edition we had the incorrect information for the Pet of the Week. It was of a girl with her horse and we said it was owned by Beverly Vauter. It was not. We apologize for the error.



It was a cold and windy day which brought a crowd of about 75 to the Ribbon-Cutting for a new 6.5 mile section of Rail-Trail from Union Dale through Ararat.

## "People of vision" responsible for success of Rail Trail projects

Another section of the 36 mile D&H Rail Trail is now open. The almost 30 year effort of Rail Trail to provide a recreation pathway from Carbondale to the New York State border is now closer to reality. Kirk Newsome president of the Rail-Trail Council of NEPA was event master of ceremonies.

The dedication and ribbon-cutting for a 6½ mile section of trail from Union Dale to Ararat was conducted at the intersection of Ararat Road and the Rail-Trail on Thursday, Oct. 18, at 9:30Am under the direction of RT Executive Director Lynn Conrad. Ms. Conrad received numerous accolades for her leadership of the organization thru most of its almost 30 years of progress.

Another area resident, Nancy Ross of Herrick Twp., also came in for praise as the original principal mover back in the late 1980's to use the abandoned D&H rail bed as a pathway for recreation. Also cited was the original Rail Trail Board leadership of its 1st president Phil Pass, along with Jim Verboys and Elliot Ross.

It was a star-studded cast of dignitaries who helped cut the ribbon. They included: April Hannon, PennDOT District 4.0 Transportation Enhancement Coordinator; Christine Detorre Northeast Regional Advisor of DCNR; Paul Macknosky, Regional Director DCED; PA State Rep. Jonathan Fritz; and Susq. County Commissioners Alan Hall, Maryann Warren and Elizabeth Arnold.

Also among those at the podium were Herrick Twp. Supervisor Eliot Ross; Cain Chamberlain, Exec. Dir. Endless Mtns. Heritage Region; and original RT Pres. Phil Pass. Also thanked was Dave Gardus, PennDOT inspector of the project; Tim Kohrs Excavating, Honesdale, the contractor for the \$1.6 million Trail project; and the Board of Supervisors of Herrick Township.

The supervisors of Herrick Township were honored for being the required sponsor for the grant to do the present project. Elliot Ross singled out Nancy Harvatine, secretary of the supervisors, and thanked her for doing the volume of paperwork and compilation of statistics required to secure the grant.

State Rep. Jon Fritz, also speaking for Sen Lisa Baker who was unable to attend due to Senate being in session, talked about the vast tourist, vacation and economic opportunities which will be produced through the attraction of the Rail Trail. He sa-

## Businesses Free Lunch set Fri., Nov. 9th

Area businessman Frank Nardone will again hold his annual appreciation lunch for all local businesses and their employees at the Forest City Area Historical Society on Friday, Nov. 9, from 11 to 2. The free lunch will be eat-in or take-out.

In order to prepare sufficient food, reservations must be made by calling or texting him at 570-677-1998.

luted the RT Council for its "perseverance, vigilance and stamina" to undertake and accomplish this 30 year transformation of the existing asset of the abandoned railroad right-of-way. "It also helps us hold on to our railroad heritage," he concluded.

All state officials marveled at the spirit of cooperation and partnerships that Rail Trail has used over the years. All indicated that they are on board to "fill up the gaps" in the trail corridor which will lead to a continuous trail from the New York border south to Philadelphia.

Susq. County Commissioner Chairman Alan Hall reminded the assembly that for Susquehanna County, tourism is the fastest growing business. Commissioner Maryann Warren noted that many will be attracted to Susq. County, both to live, work and play here. Commissioner Betsy Arnold said all this is possible because this beautiful county is blessed with people of vision.

Ex. Director. Conrad concluded her list of thank you's with an announcement that additional funds are being received for work on the Starrucca/Lanesboro section of the trail, including a bridge at Starrucca and a pre-fab bridge at Stevens Point. Following the ribbon cutting, guests were treated to refreshments by volunteers of the Rail Trail Council.

## Gas release At reg. station Was planned

Residents of Forest City, Vandling and Browndale had some anxious moments last Wednesday morning when the valley was filled with a very loud, continuing sound. It turned out to be the release of pressure on a 16-inch natural gas line at the UGI regulator station on Rte. 247 between Forest City and Browndale.

The event was a planned procedure required to connect another gas line to the present 16-inch line in Simpson.

## St. John's Annual church Dinner Nov. 4

St. John's Byzantine Catholic Church, Forest City, will sponsor its annual church dinner on Sunday, Nov. 4, from noon to 2 p.m. Takeouts 11 a.m. to noon.

The menu will include eye round, halubki (stuffed cabbage), mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetable, roll and butter, coffee. Dinner is \$12 for adults.

Call Ted Kowalick for tickets 570-785-5147

## Trick or Treating in Forest City Wed., Oct. 31

Trick or treating in Forest City Borough will take place on Wed., Oct. 31 from 6 to 9 p.m.



A roundtable discussion to talk about expanding opportunities for technical education in Forest City with Johnson College was held on the 3rd floor of the Borough Building on Wednesday, Oct. 24. Pictured left to right are Mayor Chris Glinton, Councilwoman Tracy Lazier, Katie Leonard, President and CEO of Johnson College, Councilwoman Joann Matarese, Council President Nick Cost, and Councilman Bernie Scalzo.

## Effort to attract Johnson College here is subject of community meeting Oct. 24

A group of over 50 business owners, educators, politicians and legislators were on hand for a roundtable discussion with Johnson College to talk about expanding educational opportunities for technical education close to home. The discussion was held on the 3rd floor of the Forest City Borough Building on Wed., Oct. 24

Mayor Chris Glinton opened the program by explaining that there needs to be something in this area so the young people will stay here.

Paul Daugevelo, owner of Ros-Al Floral and Vice President of the GFCBA said Forest City is an enthusiastic community that is struggling with closing businesses. He said the possibility of Johnson College coming to Forest City would bring an influx of students and teachers to the downtown and existing businesses will grow. "There will be increased revenue and a better flow of traffic and people will be aware of what Forest City has to offer," said Daugevelo.

Superintendent of Forest City Regional School Jessica Aquilina said, "I am excited and intrigued by this possibility." She has been at Forest City for four years and stressed the need for developing partnerships with numerous entities. She sees this as an opportunity for growth and development for the community and the students. She said that FCR is on board.

Mayor Glinton then introduced Katie Leonard, President and CEO of Johnson College. Her vision for the college is a larger student population, from a diverse community, immersed in industry. She has made it her mission to get out into the community where students are from and go to

area businesses to see what they need from the workforce.

"Good paying jobs are here. People do not need to leave the area to be successful," said Leonard. Johnson College currently has 14 programs of study where students get the skills they need for work.

There are currently 450 students enrolled and Leonard would like to see 500 by the year 2020. A majority of the students are local within a 60 to 70 mile radius of the campus. 40% of the freshman are transfer students and 83% of graduates will get a job right out of college.

Leonard said, "The partnerships with industry is key." They are always seeking guidance from businesses so they can adjust their curriculum to suit their needs.

She said they are looking to start small and develop a plan that might be feasible for this area.

Susq. Co. Comm. Maryann Warren said she grew up in Forest City and knows the businesses in town. She said anything the County Commissioners can do such as letters of support or grant writing, they will do.

Jim Spano told of a program that is being discussed in New Jersey, where he is from, that would allow a person to complete a three year program for about \$7,000 a year.

Dr. Aquilina said with the Trail Town designation, Forest City could become a booming economic place. It can be revitalized.

She said that there is currently one student who is attending Forest City Regional, Career Technology Center and Johnson College and could graduate with a 2 year degree when he is a senior.

John Mele, owner of JAM Works, LLC, in Childs, a ro-

botic technologies company, said his business would not have succeeded had it not been for Johnson College.

Forest City Councilman Bernie Scalzo said he is a proud Johnson College graduate who recently went back for machining and will start a new job at General Dynamics. He would like to see them in Forest City.

Matt Fitzsimmons, a guidance counselor at Western Wayne, and former resident of Forest City, said there has been a shift at Western Wayne to push students to the trades. He said Johnson College is a great place and thinks this would be great for this area.

A spokesperson from Johnson College said they currently have dual enrollment with eight districts and partner with the local CTC's in the area. They have many ways to have people earn degrees and certificates from having juniors and seniors come on campus while attending their home school, to older people who go year round so they can make family sustaining wages, to online courses.

The spokesperson asked the group what they thought was the biggest hurdle some people face in this area regarding education and the majority said it was transportation. She asked what the percentage of 18-24 years olds was in the area. No one could answer.

Dr. Thomas Baileys, Administrative Director of The Career Technology Center of Lackawanna County, and resident of Browndale, said that Lackawanna College has two satellite campuses, one in New Milford and one in Hawley, but nothing near Forest City. He said Johnson College would be a great fit for the population in our area.

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## State and federal posts For November 4th election

Voters in Pennsylvania on Tuesday, Nov. 6th, will be selecting only state and federal offices, with no local or county contests. Polls are open from 7am to 8pm.

The fight for Governor and U.S. Senator top the ballot with four-year incumbent Democrat Governor Tom Wolf being challenged by Republican businessman Scott Wagner.

Wagner has visited Susquehanna County six times over the past several months. Gov. Wolf made a visit to the Career Technology Center at Elk Lake recently. Wolf's Lt. Gov. candidate is John Fetterman who won the Primary over Wolf's present Lt. Gov. due to friction between the two running mates. Wagner's candidate for Lt. Gov. is Jeff Bartos.

Republican Senatorial challenger Lou Barletta also has visited Susq. County on several occasions, including a campaign visit to Forest City. Democratic Sen. Casey paid a visit last week to a meeting of supervisors in Montrose. Republican Barletta, presently serving in Congress, made his name with his immigration stands as Mayor of Hazleton. Casey has been elected twice and has name recognition from his father, the late Gov. Robert P. Casey.

In the new 12th Congressional District, which covers Susquehanna County and 10 other counties, Incumbent Republican Congressman Tom Marino is facing opposition from Democrat Mark Friedenburt. In neighboring Wayne and Lackawa-

nna County, in the new 17th District, there is a viciously contested congressional race between incumbent Matt Cartwright and challenger John Chrin.

State Senator Lisa Baker faces only minor opposition from Green Party candidate John Sweeney.

In a contest for State Representative in the 111th District of Wayne and Susquehanna Counties, 1st term incumbent Republican Jonathan Fritz is being opposed by Democrat Becky Kerr-Kinney.

Voters in Vandling will have the name of recently deceased State Representative Sid Michaels Kavulich on the ballot. It will be up to the governor to set a special election to fill that seat.



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**On Nov. 6th, Vote Scott Wagner for Governor, Lou Barletta for U.S. Senator, Tom Marino for Congress, Lisa Baker for PA Senate Jon Fritz for PA. Rep.**

Paid for by Forest City Friends of Scott Wagner for Governor