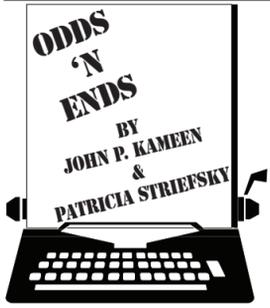


THE FOREST CITY NEWS



Another eating spot for our Main Street is Debbie Gidding's D.G.'s Bar on North Main Street. Deb is there bright and early every morning cooking away as she prepares daily specials for her many customers. In a community which once had 18 bars, D.G.'s is one of only two eating spots in town that can serve alcoholic beverages. Just as a historical note, her bar is located on almost the exact spot where the massive Clifford Coal Breaker was once located. Deb and her crew of volunteers, known as the "Do-Gooders", are involved in many community charitable events, raising money for kids, for those facing hardships, and doing such community projects such as rehabilitating area abandoned cemeteries. Her community mindedness won her selection as the 2016 Forest City Distinguished Citizen. She designates the proceeds of her many events to helping the unfortunates of this area. She and her volunteers are a real asset to this area.

A recent editorial in the Carbondale News, talked about the closings of Sears, K Mart, Circuit City, Toys 'R Us, Gimbles, Ames, etc., along with the corner stores. It emphasizes that we, as consumers, must take responsibility for their demise because we gravitate toward the cheap and convenient on one hand and trendy on the other. For most people today, we buy what will do for now, expecting to have to replace it in the not too distant future. The internet has made convenience as close as the front porch rather than the corner store, and you get two day free shipping. When we make that choice, we suffer the consequences.

Bet you didn't know that almost half of college graduates, between 2000 and 2017, are underemployed and many are in jobs that don't require a college degree. If you are in engineering or medical care that probably is not the case but with degrees in recreation, leisure, culinary and, surprisingly, security, law enforcement and firefighting you have a very good chance of being underemployed. As Dr. Tom Baileys, director of the Career Technology Center, Scranton, might say: Talk to your kids about a trade. Many trades people are in demand and the pay can be excellent.

The Historical Society is looking for a couple of dress forms to display ethnic clothing in the Museum. If you have one, call the News Office at 570-785-3800.

There is currently a movement underway in Forest City to keep the Iron Dukes Gym open. The current operators have closed it and Jim Fitzsimmons of Brown Dale is trying to keep it open. If you are interested in having the gym reopen, give Jim a call at 570-785-3187.

The dashboard approach to school reporting: Increases emphasis on student growth measures, which incentivizes a focus on all learners and is less sensitive to

Hornbeck Chevrolet donating 200 turkeys to local families



As a way of giving back to the local community, Hornbeck Chevrolet will partner with Forest City Mayor Chris Grinton and Zazzera's Supermarket by donating 200 turkeys to local families. Residents living in Forest City, Vandling, Brown Dale, Richmond Dale, or Union Dale are eligible for a free 10-12 lb. turkey. You must be 21 or over and show proof of residency when picking up your coupon. One coupon per family. Turkeys are WHILE SUPPLIES LAST. Coupons can be picked up at Hornbeck Chevrolet on Thursday, November 15 and Friday, November 16 between the hours of 9 AM and 1 PM. Only 200 turkeys will be given out. You can then take your coupon to Zazzera's Supermarket to pick up your turkey. All coupons must be redeemed by Friday, November 16. Pictured left to right are Mayor Chris Grinton and Roman Gamburg, Hornbeck Chevrolet.

Big turnout In Election

Voter turnout in the Nov. 6 mid-term election rivalled the record turnout in the last presidential election. In Susquehanna County, 61% of registered voters cast ballots, 15,691 voting out of 25,689, while in Forest City, 54%, or 477, of the 891 registered voters went to the polls. Forest City backed 4 of the 5 Republican candidates, with Sen. Lisa Baker (R) high vote-getter with 311. State Rep. Jonathan Fritz (R) was next with 292 votes to 178 for Becky Kerr-Kennedy (D). Congressman Tom Marino (R) polled 284 to 188 for Marc Friedenberg (D). US Senate Candidate Lou Barletta (D) with 247 out-pollied incumbent Sen. Bob Casey's 228.

Gov. Tom Wolf (D) with 237 narrowly out-pollied Republican challenger Scott Wagner (R), 233.

Susquehanna County's complete unofficial vote results are on page 4 giving all Republican candidates an almost 2 to 1 voting edge. Wagner had 10,132 to 5,263 for Wolf. Marino had 10,979 to 4,796 for Friedenberg. Barletta got 10,109 to 5,503 for Casey.

In the 111th legislative District Jonathan Fritz (D) easily out-distanced Susquehanna County resident Becky Kerr-Kinney 13,000 to 5,000.

In the 20th Senatorial District Sen. Lisa Baker (D) was victorious over John Swee-ney 66,777 to 14,350.

FCR School Board hires K-12 Special Education Teacher

The Forest City Regional Board of Education hired Kimberly Ann Supon as a K-12 Special Education Teacher with a starting salary of \$50,145. The hiring was done at the monthly meeting held on Monday, November 5.

POWER POINT
Superintendent Dr. Jessica Aquilina gave a power point presentation on the PA Future Ready Index. The Future Ready PA Index is the new school measurement tool for communities to evaluate how schools are doing in preparing students for college, career, and community after graduation.

The Four Focus Areas: 1. 2030 Goals and Targets (percent proficient, English Learners, Graduation Rate) 2. Academic Growth 3. Performance Standards 4. Informational Measures.

The Future Ready PA Index will serve as Pennsylvania's one-stop location for comprehensive information about school success, and will use a dashboard model to highlight how schools are performing and making progress on multiple indicators.

The dashboard approach to school reporting:

Increases emphasis on student growth measures, which incentivizes a focus on all learners and is less sensitive to

demographic variables.

Measures English language acquisition among ELL students, not simply performance on a test of grade level ELA standards.

Incentivizes career awareness instruction beginning at the elementary level.

Addresses the issue of unequal weighting of content areas in the current SPP.

Provides indicators of student success after graduation.

Increases the emphasis on student access to course offerings such as AP, IB, college credit, and CTE programs of study.

Allows LEAs to include locally-selected reading assessments (Grade 3) and math assessments (Grade 7) as additional snapshots of student progress.

Incentivizes schools to offer career pathways that culminate with high value, industry recognized credentials.

BUS DRIVER

Wendy Harrison was approved as a substitute bus driver for the 2018-2019 school year.

GIRLS B-BALL COACH RESIGNS

The board accepted the resignation of Michael Courtwright as Girls' Varsity Basketball Coach. They are currently looking for a replacement.

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SPANNO BUILDING SOLD

Cicilioni Properties LLC has purchased the former Spanno Building, on Main Street. Their company, Frugal Living LLC, whose slogan is "Frugal Products For Everyday Living" has been occupying a portion of one of the two Spanno Buildings for the past few years.

Owners Alfred and Catherine Cicilioni began in Forest City a

number of years ago at 500 Main Street as The Super Baby Store. They have since expanded from baby products to other home products which they receive from import and domestic suppliers and sell online through Amazon and Walmart.

They told the News that with the growth of their warehousing

and online distribution business they have outgrown the space they presently occupy in several locations and are consolidating in Forest City. They also plan to increase employment here in the near future. They are excited to make their business home on Main Street and dig down their roots in the community.

Police Chief Contract tabled; Council/Mayor pay hikes OK'd

Forest City Council tabled action on a new contract for Police Chief Jim Johnson at the Nov. 5 Council session. Council member Amy Bean said she only had a week to look at the contract. Council President Nick Cost and Solicitor Paul Smith said it is the same contract which was given out about a month ago. Two Council members, Joann Matarese and Bob Lesjack were absent. Pres. Cost agreed to the tabling.

The Chief's contract, as presented, is for 18 months and calls for a salary of \$48,000/year plus overtime, for a 40 hour work week at \$23.22/hr. He does not re-

ceive health insurance due to the fact that he receives his health benefits from his previous job elsewhere.

HIKE OFFICIAL PAY

Council approved raising the pay of Council members and the mayor from its present \$50/mo. to \$75/mo. Solicitor Paul Smith said Borough officials cannot raise their own pay while in their current term of office. The pay raises will only go into effect as each official is re-elected or when new ones are elected or appointed.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Borough Secretary Sharon Vannan told Council that all other fulltime employees receive health in-

urance under Highmark Insurance and, in addition, they also receive a benefit from AmFirst Insurance which pays all but \$500 of the \$2,000 fulltime employees must pay as their out-of-pocket deductible. Cost is \$52.94/mo. for individual, \$165.30/mo. for family. Secy. Vannan said she will be saving the Borough money as of June 2019 when she goes off the Borough health Insurance onto Medicare.

2019 BUDGET

Worksheets for discussion on the 2019 budget were passed out to Council members. Discussions will be scheduled.

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Owners re-apply to sell Stone Bridge for rehab site

Herrick hires building design architect Township passes 2019 budget for \$177,701

by Theresa Opeka
A new hearing for a previously filed conditional use permit, a decision on hiring an architect/engineer to design the new township building and the 2019 budget were among some of the items discussed at the Herrick Township Supervisors meeting held Monday, November 5 at the Herrick Center Baptist Church.

In old business, Supervisor/Secretary Nancy Harvatine said the township received a resubmission for two conditional use permits for Stone Bridge Inn and Restaurant.

Harvatine said she spoke to township solicitor Marissa Cino McAndrew and she said the planning commission should meet in November and table it until after the hearing.

Jeff Durante, Speakeasy Saloon, offered the township use of the building for

the hearing. The supervisors thanked him and set the date for the hearing on Monday, December 17 at 6pm.

Harvatine made a motion to have a hearing officer. They would make the decision on the approval or disapproval of the permits. The solicitor would pick an attorney who doesn't know anyone (supervisors, planning commission, Just Believe Recovery Center). Both Harvatine and Supervisor/Road Master Brian Zembrzycki voted in favor. Motion passed. Supervisor Elliot Ross abstained. He is the owner of the Stone Bridge property.

Harvatine made a motion to transfer all documentation from the last hearings as official record for the second hearing. Zembrzycki didn't want to vote in favor. He asked if the zoning officer would form an opinion from the previous testimony. Ross

advised those who wanted previous testimony entered into record were objectors to the application. Harvatine said she didn't have a problem with it.

After some discussion, Zembrzycki changed his mind and seconded the motion. He and Harvatine voted in favor. Ross abstained. Motion passed. Harvatine said at the last meeting that the township has to provide for all uses and she said Kurt Schultz said it isn't true. She said she got the Township News the next day and there was an article that said all legal uses in the township need to be allowed.

Next was voting on an architect/engineer to design the new township building. In addition to the last 3 bids that were received, the township received an additional bid from Stephen Knash, Honesdale, that wouldn't exceed \$11,500.

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Many Community Revitalization Ideas forwarded at session

A Forest City Area Revitalization meeting was held on Thursday, November 1 at Elegante Restaurant. Mayor Chris Grinton led the meeting with about 18 in attendance.

Pastor Tim Madden from the Cornerstone Bible Church talked about the need for lodging in the area. He said Airbnb is something that should be considered in Forest City and the surrounding area. Airbnb, Inc. operates an online marketplace and hospitality service which is accessible via its websites and mobile apps. Members can use the service to arrange or offer lodging, primarily homestays, or tourism experiences.

Mayor Grinton spoke about the recent roundtable discussion with Johnson College and said he hopes everything

falls into place. He thanked all of the restaurants who donated food and beverages for the event.

He said he has spoken with Dr. Jessica Aquilina at the Forest City Regional School about getting a Community Center in town for the youth. He is meeting with her to discuss it.

He also spoke with Jason Cali with the USDA and was told there is a lot of grant money available for projects.

Forest City Council President Nick Cost said that grants are hard to get. Price Muehleisen said they would need a paid grant writer to do the paperwork.

FC Borough Secretary Sharon Vannan said she works with Bobbi Jo Turner with the Susq. Co. Housing and Rehabilitation as well as the North-

ern Tier Regional Planning when doing grants for Forest City.

Executive Director of the Greater Carbondale Chamber of Commerce John Gorel said there is a lot of leg work with USDA and they have specific requirements that must be met.

Gorel said that progress is happening here with all of the people in attendance at the meeting.

Sean Sheare, Vice President of the NEP Sno Trails, gave a presentation about the group which was started in 1993. They are a non-profit who are trail users not trail owners. The Rail Trail and private landowners let them use the trails.

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