

# THE FOREST CITY NEWS



The staff at the News Office wishes all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. Our next issue will be on Dec. 26.

Patricia Strielsky  
John P. Kameen  
Jean Matoushek  
Tammy O'Reilly  
Theresa Opeka  
Art McLain  
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Seems the Post Office has no solution to our problems with out-of-town newspaper deliveries. Congressman Tom Marino finally got a Harrisburg PO official to call us. The Central PA District Marketing Manager had us send him copies of the returned papers we have received over the past months. After investigation he replied "it was a service lapse as opposed to something we could collectively correct to improve in the future." Bet they solve "service lapses" if they involve Amazon packages! For us little guys "suck it up!"

Why did that promised five days of "dry weather" end up with snow flurries on three of those days?

The News computers, even our expensive backup service, was hit last Thursday with what is called Ransomware. All of our files were encrypted so we could not access them. We apologize for any errors or omissions in this week's issue as we had to re-create all our ads, news and page layouts. Just by a quirk of fate, our 24 page Christmas tabloid with ads and Christmas greetings from area merchants, escaped destruction. If you have sent something to us for inclusion over the last several weeks, and it has not been in the paper, we ask you to re-send it to us. When you hear about computer attacks on big corporations you think that the little guys can escape it. Not so! It took many hours by everyone here at the News Office to cobble together this edition. Our Computer technician spent many hours, over several days, late into the night, just getting our programs back in our system. Of course, it was not just the newspaper files which were attacked, but also our billing and subscription files and our mailing labels. It will take us awhile to get those back in proper order so we ask your patience. We could only restore back to October for our mailing labels so it will be awhile before we are able to change the expiration dates on the labels so you need not call us.

As part of the damage caused by our Ransomware computer attack, we have lost some of the Pets of the Week which we received since October. If your pet has not yet been in the paper, please resend it to us at fcnews@nep.net.



The Salvation Army collected toys and clothing for families in the area. Pictured left to right are Annette Proehl, Barb Fox, and Caseworker/Facilitator Trudy Butcher.

## Salvation Army to distribute toys and food to needy Forest City families

Kids toys and clothing are stacking up at The Salvation Army Forest City Service Extension Center at 636 1/2 Main Street, according to Caseworker/Facilitator Trudy Butcher. The mountain of gifts were donated by local community members and businesses.

In October families were invited to the Center to make their Christmas wish lists. Thirty-six families, with 80 children. Filled out the clothing and gift requests.

Parents filled out details of their children including ages, sex and clothing sizes. In addition, parents were asked if there were any particular toys or clothing that the kids needed and/or wanted.

Just prior to Thanksgiving 14 local establishments put up Angel Trees. They were located at Christ Church, Clifford Garden Club, NEPA Community Healthcare Center, Honesdale National Bank, First National Bank, Jesse's Salon, Forest City Nursing Home, Elegante's, NEP, Kelly's Salon, The Forest City Library, Fitzsimmons Insurance, CPT, Brieche Law Office, and The Speakeasy. Each tree had hanging cardboard leaves listing the first name of a child, along with age, sex and clothing size, as well as gifts or toys which that child might be happy to receive. Patrons of these locations could take one of the Angel Tags and

make purchases of all or some of the items written on the tags.

The donors then brought the items back to the local establishment and on Friday, December 7, they were all brought to the Sacred Heart Hall, this space was donated by Father Clarke and Ascension Parish.

Any Angel Tags which were not taken from the tree or items that might not have been included in some of the gift bags, will be purchased with donations to the Salvation Army. Caseworker/Facilitator Butcher told the News that the Clifford Garden Club had made a large cash donation in addition to the many gifts they provided.

On Monday, December 17, the families who signed up in October, will visit the Hall and will receive the makings of a full Christmas dinner including a turkey. They will also receive the toy and clothing items for their child or children. The turkeys were donated by Hornbeck Chevrolet and the goodies were donated by The Barking Cupcake.

Trudy Butcher stated that Salvation Army donations can be made to any bell ringer found at some area shopping centers or can be dropped off or mailed to the Forest City Service Extension Center at 636 1/2 Main Street, Forest City, PA 18421 or to any teller at the First National Bank.

## Contract questions at Clinton Twp. with Waymart Wind Farm

by Theresa Opeka

Contract questions about the Waymart Wind Farm were among the items discussed at the Wednesday, December 12 meeting of the Clinton Township Supervisors. Supervisor Ken Coles said NextEra Energy Resources wants the township to cancel the original agreement the township had with Florida Power and Light. He said they want to change the easement of the property. Ron Poska asked Secretary Jill Droppa if there was a windmill file. She said she would check. Coles said, "Nothing is changing. What are you (Poska) aware of restricted access?" Poska said he wasn't aware of anything. Josh Debevec said, "Up until that time, the top of Flat Rock Road was closed. We had to

open it up for their access. That is why the top is open." Coles said, "I will have Jill send the new contract to (Solicitor) Jeff Treat." Christina Salak asked if the windmills were being taken down. Supervisor/Road Master Brian Ron said they want to add more. Coles said if they are no longer productive they have to come down within a year. The end of the current contract comes up in either 2022 or 2023.

The Floodplain Management Ordinance was adopted.

The Browndale Fire Company had nine incidents for November including four fires and three motor vehicle accidents.

Fire Chief Debevec asked the supervisors if they did with the budget anything for the fire company. Coles said, "Nothing has changed. It is the proposed budget. We will vote on it at the end of the month.

The township's year end meeting will take place on Friday, December 28 at 7pm. The reorganizational meeting will take place on Monday, January 7 at 8am. The regular meeting will follow.

## Franceski Lumber Closed Dec. 25 to 29

Franceski Lumber Co. will be closed from Dec. 25 through Dec. 29 They will be open on Mon., Dec. 31 and closed Jan. 1



The Forest City Regional School is the site of a 55 gallon tank full of 750 to 1,000 Rainbow Trout which will be released into the Lackawanna River in May. The Forest City Lions Club providing the funding for project. The project was formed through the efforts of the Police Dept., the Lions Club and the PA Fish Commission.

## FCR Fish Hatchery at FCRS

Assistant Chief of Forest City Police Lee Rowan and FCR sophomore Brady Hentschel talked about the forming of a Trout Hatchery in the school and the establishment of a Fishing Club at the Forest City Regional School Board meeting on December 3.

The group has formed through the efforts of the Police Department, PA Fish Commission, and the Lions Club.

Currently there is a 55 gallon tank with between 750

and 1,000 Rainbow Trout eggs in the Industrial Arts Department. When they hatch in May, they will be released into the Lackawanna River, according to Officer Rowan. He said there is a 95% survival rate.

Thirty students have expressed interest in joining the Fishing Club. Dr. Jessica Aquilina, Superintendent, said when she came to Forest City Regional, Brady Hentschel asked if she would consider a Fishing Club and she said

that someday it might happen. And the someday is here.

Hentschel said the Club will help kids to get out into the environment and keep them from doing bad things. He said he thinks it is a great thing.

Dr. Aquilina thanked Officer Rowan for his presence in the school every morning when he is on day shift. She congratulated him on the successful Hunter Safety Course he recently conducted.

## Lots of money spent At FC Council meeting

Expenditures were front and center at the Dec. 3 meeting of Forest City Council. Council approved a previously delayed 18 month contract for Police Chief Jim Johnson. His annual pay will be \$48,000.

Council approved \$3,578 for three new police vests and ammunition. They also hired a new part time police officer David Clark at \$14.00/hr. He replaces Anthony Adam Telesco who resigned.

### TABLES & CHAIRS

At the request of Councilman Bob Lesjack, Council will purchase 125 chairs and 13 tables for the upstairs Boro Hall at a cost of approximately \$4,400.

### OFFICIAL PAY HIKE

Council also approved a hike in compensation for Council and Mayor. They will now receive \$900/year. The pay raises do not go into effect until present Council members and Mayor are re-elected since public officials may not raise their pay while in office.

### SNOW REMOVAL

Council awarded bids for Main Street snow removal to the low bidder Mikloiche Construction. The bid was \$2,350 for a snowfall 2 feet or less, and \$3,350 for snowfall above 2 feet. The other bidder, Bud Kilpatrick Excavating, bid \$3,640 for any snow removal.

### NO CELL TOWER

The Borough also can shelve any income from the erection of a cell tower at Kennedy Park. The cell tower company advised Council it is cancelling any plans for a cell tower here at this time. The potential income was around \$900/month.

### HEALTH INSURANCE

Council switched to Geisinger Insurance effective Jan. 1. The present carrier, Highmark, had a 19% increase and had a \$2,000 deductible which the Borough paid with another insurance policy from AmFirst. Geisinger deductible is only \$250 and the Borough will cancel the AmFirst coverage.

### NEW TRUCK?

Council is still awaiting delivery of a new truck and plow. It is being fitted at Powell Company and may be delivered in January.

### NEW CODES PASSED

Council approved updating the town's Uniform Construction Code Regulation. The former code was passed in 2004. The new revision will use the 2015 edition of the Internal Resident Code, International Building Code, International Plumbing Code, International Mechanical Code, International Electrical Code, International Property maintenance Code and Existing Building Code. Code Enforcement Officer Stephanie Reisch indicated she will study the new codes in its entirety.

### TRUCK TRAFFIC

It was reported that GPS directions are causing tractor trailers going to Select Tissue in Vandling to go north thru Forest City from Dundaff St. instead of going south. Two trucks got stuck on North Main St. in recent snows. Forest City Boro assisted in getting one vehicle out and has billed the company \$125 for salt, cinders and labor. At the request of Atty. Paul Smith, the Borough will put a "No Truck Turn" sign near his office on North Main St.

### PARK BENEFIT

Council member Tracy Lazier said the Parks Board is sponsoring a purse raffle for benefit of local parks. Tickets are on sale at the Boro Office. The prizes will be awarded at the Dec. 18 meeting of the Parks Board.

### OTHER BUSINESS

Council and Mayor Glin-ton reported on the successful Christmas in Our Small Town event Dec. 1st. They thanked the Boro Street Dept. for inspecting all the lights and picking up the Christmas trees for Main Street. They especially thanked Steven and Edward Tourje and the crews of NEP Telephone Co. for putting the wreaths and Christmas lights on Main Street.

Council member Amy Bean said she was overwhelmed at the response to the Elf School at FNB Dec. 1st. Over 140 turned out and received hats, ornaments and other materials. Council provided the funds to buy the craft materials. She also thanked the Dollar store, Weis Market and McDonalds for the gift certificates. She said she plans to do it again next year. She also sug-

gested the Boro sponsor ice skating at Kennedy Park.

Local resident Rachel Habetler asked if a light could be placed on the Boro's sign at the south entrance to Forest City. Council Pres. Nick Cost said the street light there has been out for a year and his efforts to get it fixed by PPL have gone unheeded. He will keep trying.

Habetler inquired about putting more benches on Main St. Pres. Cost said benches will be put at Kelley's Hair Salon, Historical Society and NEP Telephone Co. in the spring.

No progress has been made to make the pedestrian crosswalk safety signs more visible.

Paul Kalasinski informed Council that the Local Legion Post sponsored a project to have kids make greeting cards for veterans at the Gino Merli Center in Scranton. More than 100 cards were prepared at the event held at the Christmas in Our Small Town at the FC Senior Center.

Chief Jim Johnson said the police were sponsoring a toy drive Dec. 21 at 5PM. New unwrapped toys should be brought to police HQ. They will be distributed by DG's Restaurant.

The person who moved the snow barriers on lower Maxey Street in order to drive down the hill, which was closed for the winter, was identified and will be billed \$95.00.

Street crew repaired the recently installed storm drain on Erie Street. The sewer contractor will be billed for the repairs as it was to be repaired by them. They also purchased and installed new brushes on the sweeper broom.

Scrap aluminum brought \$112 from Archibald Wrecking. Saturday Recycling Center donations totaled \$191.

### THANK YOU

The American Legion and the Auxiliary would like to thank all those who stopped by during their veterans card-making event at the Senior Center during the Christmas in the village event. The cards will be delivered to veterans at the Gino Merli Center.



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