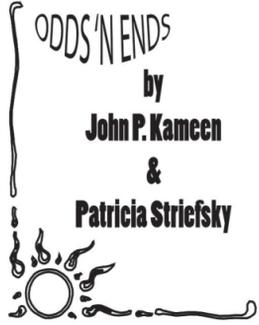


THE FOREST CITY NEWS



THERE WILL BE NO EDITION OF THIS NEWSPAPER ON JANUARY 2 AS THE EMPLOYEES TAKE A WELL DESERVED WEEK OFF AT THE NEWS OFFICE.

We ask for your patience while we continue to dig ourselves out of our computer Ransomware problems. It will take awhile for us to get your subscription renewals up to date on your mailing label. We also are piecing together our current ad billing. We pay \$600/year for cloud backup storage plus our paid malware to supposedly prevent what happened. It has gotten to the point that bad actors out there can literally put you out of business.

Holiday scam. Phone call advises that a courier will deliver a present to your house. Sometime later courier delivers basket of flowers and wine. Says sender card comes later. Says he must collect \$3.50 as a "delivery verification charge for alcoholic beverages." Can't take cash, only credit cards. Person provides debit card and courier runs it thru a small mobile credit card machine and requires your pin number. Four days later \$4,000 has been taken out of your account at various ATM machines. If you didn't order it, don't take it. Never give out personal credit/debit card information unless you initiate the purchase or transaction.

A recent Wall Street Journal article recently had the following heading: "Online retailers are doing to the mall what the mall once did to my hometown!" Well folks, there is no going back. Millennials are leading the pack in wanting their purchases by keystrokes, delivered to the door with free shipping and money back guarantee for any reason. The latest is to enter your grocery order by an app and then go to a drive thru market to pick it up. Walmart won't need senior citizen greeters or even check out clerks soon.

I have a friend who lives in South Africa and owns a farm. The government is contemplating confiscating his land and parceling it out to the less fortunate. A neighboring country there tried it 10 years ago and it destroyed its economy. Now everybody is poor. That's what happens when governments run out of other people's money!

Our friend Bill Flynn, the Polka King, can be heard on the many radio stations of the Bold Gold Media Group. They recently acquired another station, this one covering the Delaware County Catskills, Eastern Binghamton regions, as well as Northern Wayne County. They now have fourteen full-power stations extending from the Catskills, down thru the Poconos and into the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre region. Keep those polkas coming, Bill.

Clifford Supervisors remedy Rte. 106 lengthy detour

by Theresa Opeka
Revised plans for a pipe replacement project, passage of the 2019 budget and revision of the cost of a fee were among the items discussed at the Tuesday, December 11 meeting of the Clifford Township Supervisors.
RTE. 106 DETOUR

In old business, Supervisor Chris Marcho said people from PennDOT realized there was a problem with plans about the detour for Route 106 to Cemetery Street in which a six-foot tall concrete box culvert and pipe will be replaced next summer. The original time frame was between six to eight weeks. Marcho said they went back and did research and the supervisors met with them this past Thursday. "Danny Colachino, the assistant highway manager for PennDOT for Susquehanna County said the worst case scenario would be three weeks. He will handpick the crew and they will work six ten-hour days. The plan is to start after the Clifford Fireman's Picnic, sometime at the end of July or the beginning of August. We came away with a better feeling about it," he said. Supervisor Barry Searle said PennDOT will put a sign at Finch Hill that will say it won't affect businesses downtown.

BUDGET APPROVED

The budget for 2019 was passed with Marcho and Searle voting in favor. Motion passed. Supervisor Dennis Knowlton was absent.

CHRISTMAS VILLAGE

Marcho said the Christmas Village, which was held last Friday, was a great success. He said there are so many community minded people who volunteer their time and they appreciate everyone who stepped up to help. Searle said the free light show outside the community center will run until the end of the year. It lasts about 20 minutes and also has videos.

EMERGENCY SHELTER

In new business, Searle said they met with the Red Cross

Matarese to Resign in Jan. Candidates Are sought

As reported last week Forest City Council member Joann Matarese will resign from Council in January. She has been on Council for 10 years, and served on the Personnel/Administration Committee.

Forest City Solicitor Paul Smith states that following acceptance of her resignation at the Jan. 7 Council meeting, the open seat will be advertised. Nominations will be made to fill the vacancy at the Feb. Council meeting. Any Forest City resident interested can submit a letter to the Borough Office.

The new Council member will serve the remainder of Matarese's term ending December 2019. The newly appointed member will have to run for the seat in November 2019 in order to keep it. It will then be a full four year term upon being seated in 2020.

Scout Pack 407 Pancake Breakfast Dec. 30

Cub Scout Pack 407 will hold a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, December 30 from 8 AM to 12 Noon at the Pleasant Mount Emergency Services Dining Hall, 389 Great Bend Turnpike, Pleasant Mount.

The menu includes Pancakes, Sausage, Eggs, Potatoes, Coffee, Tea and Juice.

The cost is \$9 for adults and \$5 for children age 5-13. Children 4 and under are free.

For tickets call, Kyle Cannon at 570-877-3161 or email kcanon1014@gmail.com.

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

regarding setting up an emergency shelter at the community center. "We aren't prepared right now but the intent is in the event of a small disaster, the Red Cross said the building would hold 25 people and would be used as a warming center. Phil Price would be the main contact and he will coordinate between us and the fire company. (Secretary) Joan (Hertzog) would be the second contact," he said.

DRIFTING SNOW

Road Master Kurt Booths said the township had some problems with drifted snow on Buffalo Road and Elkview Drive. Some people got stuck on Lower Elkview. "I called Martin Barhite, who was the middle of his dinner, and he came out to open up the road. People said they will be baking him cookies. We also got a second supplier of salt and we are good to go for the rest of the winter. The cinders are coming in," he said.

TRUCK SOLD

Marcho said they sold the dump truck on Munciebid to a man from Massachusetts for \$43,100. They will look for a new one to replace it.

SUBDIVISION FEE

Sally Roberts said the planning commission wants to change the subdivision fee to what the county charges as it is lower. Searle made a motion to realign the subdivision fee with the county's fee. He and Marcho voted in favor. Motion passed. Roberts said the commission also thanked Larry Wilson for his work on the board as tonight was his last meeting.

CHILDREN'S PARTY

Constable Kevin Munley said the children's party last Sunday was a success. There were 130 people, including 60 kids. He said it was the most he has ever seen at the party and they ran out of things.

REORGANIZATION

The reorganization meeting will be held on Monday, January 7 at 7pm with the regular meeting to follow.

Rotary Club Tourney Dec. 26-27

The annual Forest City Area Rotary Club Holiday Basketball Tourney will be held this year on Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 26-27.

Wednesday, Dec. 26—Jayvee Game at 5:30PM with Forest City vs. Western Wayne. Varsity game at 6:30PM with Forest City vs. Western Wayne. Thursday, Dec. 27—Jayvee Game at 5:30PM with Forest City Against Mountain View. Varsity game at 6:30PM Forest City vs. Mountain View.

FREE PARKING IN FOREST CITY UNTIL JAN. 6

Forest City Council and Mayor Chris Ginton have announced that the free meter parking on Main Street for the holidays is Saturday, Dec. 22 through Sunday, Jan. 6th

THANK YOU

Mayor Chris Ginton would like to thank the American Legion Post 524 for the Cards for Veterans Program they held at the Forest City Senior Center on Saturday, December 1 in conjunction with Christmas in Our Small Town. He apologizes for missing them in his Thank You's in a past edition of this paper.

Forest City Library

Forest City PA, 18421

570-785-5590

fax: 570-785-4822

email: fclib@nep.net

Open Monday-Wednesday

9am-1pm & 2pm-5pm

Thursday

9am-1pm & 2pm-6pm

Friday, 9am-1pm

Toys for Kids Donations over \$16,000



Toys for Kids Donations totaled over \$16,000 thanks to Deb Giddings and DG's Bar and the Forest City Police Department. Pictured left to right are Chief Jim Johnson, Deb Giddings, Dan Lishok, School advisor, Officer Foley and Officer Clark

Vandling Borough sets refuse fee at \$190; Two inspection companies available for residents

Vandling Borough Council held their last meeting of the year on December 17. Solicitor Paul Smith had a number of ordinances and resolutions to present.

The Open Records Policy Ordinance was advertised and Council approved it at the meeting. Secretary Nancy Perry was approved as the Open Records Officer.

The 2019 Building Codes were approved. They are an update to newer codes.

Council approved the advertising of the Real Estate Tax Ordinance and the 2019 meeting schedule.

Atty. Smith received a call from Jeff Pavlovich, Main Street, regarding abandoned vehicles near his property. CEO Joe Lavin said he is aware of the problem and thought the issue went to the magistrate. He said he would look into it.

CORRESPONDENCE

Council received an estimate for electric costs from APPI Energy. The contract is up for renewal. The contract with Constellation Energy would be for 37 months at \$.049. The previous rate was \$.056. Council approved the new contract with Constellation.

NEIC sent a revised proposal for inspection services. Originally they had the discount at 10% but it should have been 30%.

MAYOR REPORT

Mayor Joe Brady was not in attendance at the meeting but wanted to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

BILLS

President Fran Pantzar said that Roto-Rooter had to make two trips to Peterlin Drive to unblock a section of sewer that needs to be replaced.

Councilman John Mayers asked Secretary Perry when funds can be used from the \$166,000 grant they received. She said the money is available now. He said a camera is needed to go into the sewer and see where the blockages are. He would like to use some of the money for that.

Mayers said the entire project

may not be able to be done because they only got \$166,000.

Councilman Bill Boyle questioned why they would expend the grant money if they don't have the funds to complete the whole project.

Mayers said he is hoping to get some money from UGI that they owe Vandling.

REFUSE FEE

Council set the refuse fee at \$190 annually for homeowners.

INSPECTION SERVICES

Council spent a great deal of discussion on retaining two inspection service companies for Vandling Borough.

Councilman John Carachilo had asked at a previous meeting to let the people have a choice between two companies when they need an inspection or a permit.

The current contract with BIU is set to expire at the end of December.

Councilman Bill Boyle stated that they should go with two companies, BIU and NEIC and have the individual choose which company they wanted to go with.

President Fran Pantzar said he didn't have a problem with having two but asked if BIU could be the designated rental inspection company. He said that they have a good rapport with BIU and they have been doing the rental inspections for a few years.

Councilman Mayers, who was not in favor of adding another company, said he did an analysis for both companies and they are essentially equal in dollar amount for fees.

Pantzar said the average person does not have the knowledge to decide between two.

Councilman Mayers made a motion to contract with both, using BIU for rental inspections and alternating between the two for other inspection services. The motion failed to get a second.

Carachilo said they need to have two so the resident has a choice and has the opportunity to save some money.

Boyle made a motion to contract with both, using BIU for

rental inspections and then allowing the people to choose between the two.

Councilman Mayers did not like the idea but Councilman John Carachilo seconded the motion. When Council was polled by Secretary Perry, President Fran Pantzar voted yes and John Mayers voted no. Councilman Pat Sherry was absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Phil Egnatovich was again before Council to request a street light at the corner of Ash and Hillside Streets. He has been asking for the light for 20 years.

President Pantzar said he thinks it would be asset to the town. He spoke with the street department and they said it if very dark in that area and it would be a good idea.

Councilman Mayers said there is no installation fee and the cost would be \$18 a month. He said that lights are also needed all up and down the boulevard in the development too.

John Carachilo said it has been a problem in the development for 20 years. John Mayers said, "And we are living with it."

Egnatovich said there are no poles in the development but he has a pole already in place.

After further discussion, no decision was made on whether to put the light in or not.

Barbara Bock asked about transportation for the elderly in Vandling. She said she saw a Colts small bus in the development and there was only one person on it. She asked why the elderly can't use this service.

John Mayers said that Lackawanna County is picking up people in Vandling.

Bock said she didn't think that the senior citizens know that this service is available.

Mayers said he had a number for Colts that he would find and give to her. She said she would like it put in The Forest City News so people know. Mayers said he would find the number and provide it to the NEWS.

Following the meeting, Mayers called the NEWS and said he was unable to find the number.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 21 at 7PM.

Sewer and Water Issues dominate public hearing on Herrick Twp. Rehab Center

by Theresa Opeka

It was "take two" for a public hearing for a conditional use permit to change the Stone Bridge Inn and Restaurant, Herrick Township, to a drug and alcohol treatment center. The hearing was held Monday, December 17 at the Speakeasy Saloon & Resort. The first hearing took place last July, with the Herrick Township Planning Commission rejecting the first application due to it being deficient based on criteria of applicants, Elliot and Kim Ross' failure to specifically address water and sewage use and parking at the proposed facility. For sewage, they failed to give specific permits and if it would meet requirements of the proposed site.

Ross said the water supply is a community supply but not specific. The permit also didn't state a highway occupancy permit.

The applicants also failed to address fencing. The Rosses would later withdraw their application before supervisors Nancy Harvatin and Brian Zembrzycki could vote on it. Applicant Elliot Ross is a township supervisor and has recused himself from the decision-making process.

FORMAL HEARING

The new hearing focused on the deficiencies. Attorney Jack Zelinka, from law firm Rosenn Jenkins & Greenwald, Wilkes-Barre, served as the hearing officer. He said there were two applications for conditional use from Cynthia Bellino, owner of Just Believe Recovery Center and filed under the name CMGT Holdings LLC. The Rosses have entered into the agreement of sale with CMGT Holdings LLC. All testimony from June and July and documents will be admitted into evi-

dence so that testimony doesn't need to be repeated. Zelinka offered exhibits into evidence, including Bellino's applications.

The Rosses attorney, Ed Neyhart, said he would be calling four witnesses during the hearing. First up was Mr. Ross. Ross said he got a copy of the sewage permit for Sol Hemma, original owners of the Stone Bridge site, from the Susquehanna County Planning Commission, the highway occupancy permit from Sol Hemma which governs the use of the driveway, the subdivision permit and the deed from the courthouse which includes approximately 58 acres. Neyhart asked Ross if he had operated within the guidelines of the highway occupancy permit for his business to which Ross replied yes.

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