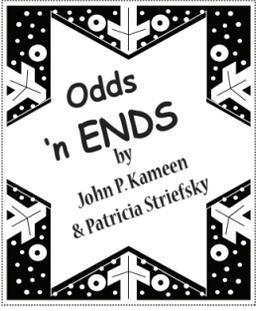


# THE FOREST CITY NEWS



The News was informed Monday that Forest City Council person Joann Matarese will submit her resignation at the Jan. 7 Council meeting for "mostly health reasons." She has been in charge of the Personnel/Administration committee for the past 10 years, also dealing with payments to the sidewalk, sewer and storm water projects. The vacancy will have to be filled until the next municipal election.

Our longtime, and now long retired, employee Shirley Wallace may have lost her typesetting skills but not her baking expertise. Her cooking exploits occupied a half page in the Sunday Times "Life & Times" section highlighting not only her baking but her work at Christ Episcopal Church. You can sample some of her cooking at the church's Christmas Luncheon Sat, Dec. 15, noon to 1pm.

## 16th Annual Toys For Kids Drive at D.G.'s Dec. 15

D.G.'s Bar, 923 Main Street, Forest City, will conduct their 16th Annual Toys For Kids Drive on Saturday, December 15 from 8 PM to Midnight. Music by Wolfman.

They are now accepting donations of new, unwrapped toys as well as monetary donations for the drive. The items which also include food vouchers to Zazzera's Supermarket will then be distributed to Forest City Regional School children.

## Parks Board Purse raffle On Dec. 18

Forest City Parks & Recreation Board is holding a drawing benefit of all Forest City Parks on Tuesday, Dec. 18. Tickets are \$5.00 or 3 for \$10.

1st Prize—Turquoise/Navy Plaid Coach Tote Bag & matching cosmetic bag (\$350 value). 2nd prize \$100, 3rd prize \$50.

Tickets are available from members of the Park Board, at the Boro Office or at the News Office.

## FC Police Dept. conducting Toy Drive

The Forest City Police Department is conducting a toy drive. Anyone wishing to donate a new unwrapped toy for a child can stop by either the Police Station or Borough Office to drop it off. The toys will be distributed to those children who are less fortunate within our community. If you're able, please donate. Donations will be accepted up to 5pm on December 21st. Make a child smile.

## No Forest City Tax hike In \$1,299,271 budget

Forest City Borough property owners will see no increase in Borough real estate taxes for 2019. The budget which keeps the millage at 16.8 mills was passed on Monday, Dec. 3, with no discussion. The vote was 6-1 with Councilman Chris DeGonzague casting the dissenting vote.

The Borough will take in \$1,299,271 during the year and will expend \$1,256,890, leaving an almost \$43,000 surplus.

The largest amount of income for the Borough will come from the following sources: \$368,000 in real estate taxes, \$273,000 from a state grant for Main St. sidewalks, \$130,000 from wage taxes, \$130,000 from garbage collection fees, \$100,000 from annual Act 13 Natural Gas Impact fees, \$63,285 from state Liquid Fuels taxes, and \$10,000 from real estate transfer fees.

The largest expenses for 2019 are as follows: Total police dept. expenses \$195,405, Garbage collection \$128,000, Public works dept. expenses of \$89,778, Streets and side-

walks \$136,500, Employee health insurance \$65,000, Insurance for auto/liability/property \$52,000, Office staff salaries \$48,086, Parks and recreation \$19,145.

The Borough has accumulated almost \$300,000 in Act 13 Natural Gas Impact Fees. It intends to spend \$136,500 in 2019 for the following: \$50,000 for roads/public safety, \$40,000 Boro Building maintenance, \$30,000 for Parks, \$15,000 for police.

The above listed Police Dept. expenses of \$195,405 include wages of \$98,880 for chief and asst. chief, \$50,000 for part time police wages, and \$10,000 for police overtime wages.

**SEWER BUDGET**  
The 2019 Sewer Budget also passed without discussion and has no increases in fees. Income will total \$655,950 with \$388,000 from sewer charges, and \$256,000 from a USDA loan.

Sewer expenses are \$648,171 with \$262,020 as principal payments on the sewer loan, and \$142,000 in interest on the loan.

## Public has part to play in Storm water management

A public hearing on rules regarding MS4 storm water regulation was held at the Dec. 3 Forest City Council session. KBA personnel Dave Lamereaux and John Manderino spoke. Public information sessions are required of communities under the MS4 Permit rules.

Handling of snow removal was discussed. Rock salt should not be used, only calcium chloride. Snow should be removed as soon as it falls so that natural melting can take place instead of using ice melters. To prevent storm water contamination entering streams and rivers, any excess ice melter, which

is still on sidewalks after ice is removed, should be swept up and discarded properly.

Residents and homeowners must be vigilant of any sources of sediment runoff from their property or adjoining properties in storm water with sediment is the largest amount of contaminants into streams and rivers. These runoffs should be reported to Forest City Borough office at 570-785-3326 or KBA Engineering at 570-876-5744.

After winter, property owners are urged to help clean up antiskid material from street before it gets into storm drains.

## Christmas Event Thank You's

Mayor Chris Ginton wishes to thank the following for contributing to the success of Christmas in Our Small Town, Dec. 1st:

Forest City Council, Council President Nick Cost, Boro Employees Sharon Vannan, Cindy Stone, Bob Tedesco, Wally Miller, and the police dept.

To those who helped me decorate the large community tree: Price and Erin Muehleisen, Paul Daugevelo, Jill McGraw and Nick Cost

The following stores, businesses and organizations which participated: Honesdale Bank, First National Bank, House of Flowers, Wayne Memorial Hospital, Tobacco Road, Genco Dental, All In a Basket, Ros-Al Floral, Rich's NAPA Store, McGovern Insurance, Kelley's Salon, Hornbeck Chevrolet, Elegante, R. B. Fries Inc., Kost Tire, Machek Fuel, CPT, Shirley's Diner, NEP Telephone Co., Franceski Lumber, Adams Auto Body, FC Nursing Center, Kresock Insurance, Fitzsimmons Insurance, Barking Cupcake, Forest City Area Historical Society, Zazzera's Market, Forest City Library, Cornerstone Bible Church, Forest City Senior Center.

Thanks also to Forest City Regional School Dr. Jessica

Aquilina and Mr. Ed Zack, and all the students who participated in decorating Main St. trees. Also to FCR Band and director John Scavone, and FCR Choruses and director Allison Yuravich for their performances at the tree lighting and at Forest City Area Historical Society.

Thanks to Steven Tourje and Edward Tourje and the crews of NEP Telephone Company for installing the Christmas decorations and all they do for the community. Thank you to The Forest City News for the publicity for the event. Also to Fred and Katie Cicilioni, owners of the former Spano Bldg, for allowing use of their grounds for the tree lighting and ceremony, and to Forest City Area Emergency Services

## FREE PARKING IN FOREST CITY DEC. 22-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

## GFCBA holds Holiday Mixer at Elk Mtn.



Around 40 people enjoyed the Greater Forest City Business Alliance Holiday Mixer at Elk Mountain on Wednesday, December 5. Outgoing President Michael O'Neill thanked everyone for coming and introduced Erin Debish as the new President of the organization. Other officers are Deb McNamera, Vice President; Tim Madden, Secretary; Melissa Rushworth, Treasurer. Newest board members are Suzanne Atcavago, Paul Daugevelo, Rich Kresock, Jill McGraw, and Barb Mihelc.

## Mary Emmett re-elected to FCR School Board for 2019

The Forest City Regional School Board re-elected Mary Emmett to her 8th presidency of the Board on Monday, December 3. Joann Sterchak was voted Vice-President.

**WORK SESSIONS FOR 2019**  
The Board of Education will conduct Public Work Sessions at 7:30 p.m. in the District Auditorium the first Monday of each month except for the following:

In June, the Work Session will be on the second Monday of the month, the 10th.

In September, the Work Session will be on Tuesday the 3rd.

**REG. BOARD MEETINGS 2019**

The Board of Education will conduct its Regular Business Meetings at 7:30 p.m. in the District Auditorium the second Monday of each month except for the following:

In June, the Regular Business Meeting will be on the third Monday of the month, the 17th.

In July, the Regular Business Meeting will be on the third Monday of the month, the 16th.

In October, the Regular Business Meeting will be on the first Monday of the month, the 7th.

In December, the Regular Business Meeting will follow the Reorganization Meeting on Monday, December 3rd.

Regular Meetings are as follows: January 14, February 11, March 11, April 8, May 13, June 17, July 15, August 12, September 9, October 7, November 11, and December 2.

Superintendent Dr. Jessica Aquilina thanked the entire board for their service to the school and the community. She

also thanked Mary Emmett for her continued dedication to the school board. She has served on the Board for the past 15 years and as President for eight years.

**RESIGNATION**  
The Board approved the resignation of Cafeteria Worker Ellen Foster. She has worked at the school for the past 16 years. Superintendent Aquilina stated that Foster has faced some health issues during the past two years and asked that the community keep her and her family in their thoughts and prayers.

**UNPAID LEAVE**  
One employee was granted an unpaid day on December 7.

**PSBA LIAISON**  
Mary Emmett was approved to serve as the Forest City Regional PSBA Liaison for 2019.

**BUILDING REQUEST**  
The Elementary PTO requested the use of a location TBA for their Snowball Express (Santa's Workshop) from December 10 through December 14 from 8 AM to 4 PM.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**  
Katie Nguyen, a senior, has been selected as the WVIA Artist of the Week. The link to her interview and performance are posted on the school's website at [www.fcrrsd.org](http://www.fcrrsd.org).

Dr. Aquilina thanked the elementary and high school student council advisors, Mrs. Lesjack, Mrs. Lombardi, Ms. Weiss, and Mr. Monahan and all of the student council members for providing Thanksgiving Dinners to 70 families in the school community.

The 3rd Annual Hometown

Holiday Extravaganza of Main Street was a huge success. The event would not be possible without the support the teachers and student activities groups.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 14 at 7:30 PM.

## UGI Project Keeps Trail Closed

The Rail-Trail Council has recently been informed by UGI Penn Natural Gas, that trail restoration will not be completed in time for winter use. The D&H Rail-Trail from Simpson to Union Dale will remain closed for its second winter season.

UGI holds a 30-foot wide permanent pipeline easement within the affected 11 miles of trail. UGI also holds a temporary construction easement over the entire width of the trail corridor needed for the installation of their new 24" gas main which was completed November 2017. The Council has no authority to open the trail until trail restoration is completed, the facility inspected for safety, and the trail is restored according to engineered plans.

Many deadlines have been missed, including the latest deadline of mid-November. Weather has been often cited as the factor in the delays. As of now, RTC has neither an updated trail construction schedule nor its revised completion date. The Council will keep its website updated with any changes.

See [www.neparailtrails.org](http://www.neparailtrails.org).

## Herrick Supervisors set date for Hearing on drug rehab center use

by Theresa Opeka  
A letter regarding the conditional use permit for Stone Bridge Inn and Restaurant and the 2019 budget were among the items discussed at the Monday, December 3 meeting of the Herrick Township Supervisors.

**ZONING ISSUES**  
In old business, a letter dated November 6, from Zoning Officer John Watts to township solicitor Marissa Cino-McAndrew cleared property owner Ryan Brown of any wrongdoing as alleged by a complaint by Kurt Schultz. Watts said he investigated the auto repair business to see if it was out of compliance. Brown is in the process of putting up a residential garage door, his

sign is in compliance, he is not expanding his business and had three vehicles under repair. Watts found that Brown is operating his business as the conditional use permit states and there were no violations.

**CONDITIONAL USE**  
Supervisor/Secretary Nancy Harvatine said she also received a letter from Watts from November 12

that said he received a zoning application for Stone Bridge Restaurant and that it needs conditional use approval.

Harvatine said McAndrew also received a letter from Schultz on November 30 regarding the conditional use permit for Stone Bridge.

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The Forest City News office will be closed from Tuesday, December 25 thru Tuesday, January 1. Office will reopen on Wednesday, January 2. There will be an edition on December 26. There will be no January 2 edition. The next edition will be Wednesday, January 10. For ads or news for the January 9 issue, please leave a message at 570-785-3800 with phone number or drop it in our mail slot and we will contact you. You can also send an email with the information to [fcnews@nep.net](mailto:fcnews@nep.net)



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