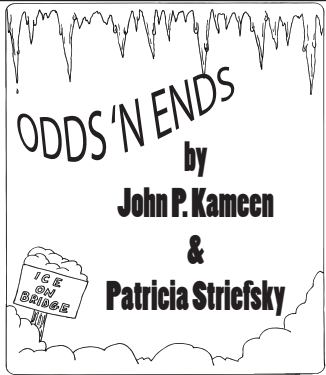


THE FOREST CITY NEWS



Dave Trichilo officially has taken over as owner of Zazzera's Super market. We have a little "good bye" and tribute on this page to our longtime community businessman and town supporter, Chauncey Zazzera. We will have an introduction to the Trichilo Family in our next edition

As weather permits we will sample our Dining Guide cuisine. We start with McDonnell's Restaurant, Carbondale, which recently had two super dishes: Beef Tenderloin (Filet Mignon) au jus, potato & vegetable for \$17.99 and Surf'n Turf with the Beef Tenderloin and fried fantail shrimp, potato and vegetable for \$18.99. Both were exceptional. As always he has great Friday, Saturday and Sunday specials, at reasonable prices, in his weekly ad. And he is still King of the Club Sandwich; I just love his Clubs with real turkey not turkey breast. Also great chiliburgers and really tasty French fries. Fast and courteous service by Rob and his staff.

A new member of our Dining Guide starting this week is Curtis's Home Cooking, North Main Street. A good selection of lunch and dinner specials (dinner starts at 4pm), which will be in their weekly ad here. Again, personalized service in their nicely remodeled quarters. Can even sit at the counter just like the old days at that restaurant site. Open Tues-Fri 11am-8pm; Sat 8am-8pm; Sun 8am-1pm.

Norman T. Phelps, Jr., one of our "Snowbird" subscribers from Ararat, now in Oldsmar, FL, sent us this factoid which he cut out of our newspaper back in 2014: "The thermometer hit minus 10 degrees on Wednesday morning (Jan. 22, 2014). It was the coldest reading registered here since minus 23 degrees on Jan. 21, 1994. The coldest reading recorded in News pages was 25 below in Forest City Feb. 15, 1934. Readings on that date were 30 below in Carbondale and 38 below in Ararat." Ill bet Mr. Phelps is glad he's not in Ararat this past week with temps in the single digits and a foot of snow!

Another of our "Snowbirds" Bernice Doyle, Orson, now in Lakeland, FL., tells us her Dec. 12 issue of the News was delivered Jan. 19th. "Why does it take so long," she asks? We wish we knew!

FC Main St Crosswalk Safety eyed

Forest City Council again reflected on enforcement of pedestrian crosswalk safety on Main Street in light of a pedestrian fatality recently. Public Works committee head Bernie Scalzo said the narrowness of the Main Street means pedestrians are almost forced to walk into the street in order to become visible to motorists.

He also suggested that maybe some type reflective material on the crosswalks be used to replace the painted crosswalks but also added that it might be good to contact highway engineers for their recommendations. Local resident John Scepita observed that a single police officer on duty has many other tasks including patrolling both Forest City and Vandling, enforcing meters, doing required paperwork, and responding to calls and does not have the time to observe and write tickets for crosswalk infractions. He suggested that maybe from time to time a 2nd officer be called in to enforce the state crosswalk law.



Shown is the front of the new Kevin M. Lesjack Funeral Home. The open house is set for Sunday, January 27th from 1 PM to 4 PM.

Kevin M. Lesjack Funeral Home Now Open; Open House Sun., Jan. 27

Kevin M. Lesjack, Funeral Director and Owner of the Kevin M. Lesjack Funeral Home announces the re-opening of the Kevin M. Lesjack Funeral Home at 513 Main Street, Forest City.

The new funeral home is a custom, three piece modular building from Cornerstone Industries. The new funeral home is warm and comfortable, with a spacious gathering room for celebrating and remembering a life that was lived. We offer all aspects of funeral service, including cremation, cremation with viewing, traditional services with earth burials or entombment, and out of town services. Lesjack said, "Forest City is my home. The new funeral home is designed to meet the needs of Forest City and

the surrounding area."

Join us for our Open House on Sunday, January 27th from 1 to 4pm.

For more information about the Lesjack Funeral Home and the new building, please visit www.lesjackfuneralhome.com or call 570-785-3153.

Kevin M. Lesjack is a second generation funeral director. He is a graduate of Forest City Regional High School, Kutztown University and Simmons Institute of Funeral Service. He purchased the McGranaghan-Lesjack Funeral Home in 2007 from his parents, Robert and Barbara Lesjack. His wife is the former Melissa Jeannette from Morris Plains, NJ and they have two young boys, Owen and Reed.

Clinton Reorganization leaves much unchanged

by Theresa Opeka

The Reorganizational Meeting of the Clinton Twp. Supervisors was held on Mon., Jan. 7 at 8 a.m.

The following is from a draft of unofficial minutes: Supervisor Ken Coles remained Chairman. Vice-Chair remained Supervisor Brian Non. Jill Droppa remained as Secretary/Treasurer.

When asked, Secretary/Treasurer Droppa stated she wanted a \$2,000 raise. Supervisor Russ Curtis made a motion to give a \$1,000 raise. Chair Coles made a motion to give a \$2,000 raise. Vice-Chair Non suggested splitting the difference and give a \$1,500 raise which Ms. Droppa agreed to. Chair Coles made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Non to raise the Secretary/Treasurer's salary to \$18,000. Carried unanimously.

Next was setting the bond for the treasurer which is currently at \$200,000. Motion by Supervisor Curtis, seconded by Chair Coles, to raise the bond to \$400,000 as the amount of money handled within the Township has risen tremendously. Carried unanimously.

Motion by Chair Coles, seconded by Vice-Chair Non to continue to retain Jeffrey Treat as Solicitor. Carried unanimously.

Motion by Chair Coles, seconded by Vice-Chair Non that the solicitor can attend meetings on an as needed

Council eyes Snow plowing Hudson Street

Forest City Council, at its Jan. 7th meeting, signed a Resolution granting the Borough permission to discuss with PennDOT the Borough taking over the plowing of Hudson Street from the Sacred Heart Church at Dundaff Street to the Forest City Regional School Entrance near Richmondale.

Hudson Street in that direction is a state highway and PennDOT has always been responsible for plowing it.

Council President Nick Cost said this is only permission to discuss what PennDOT would pay the town to do the plowing under the State's Agility Program.

In answer to a question about extra work for the Public Works Dept. Pres. Cost said he has discussed the matter with the street dept.

basis. Carried unanimously.

Motion by Chair Coles, seconded by Vice-Chair Non to appoint Tom Shepstone as consultant, as needed. Carried unanimously.

Motion by Chair Coles, seconded by Vice Chair Non to retain Jeff Weinberger as township engineer. Supervisor Curtis voted no. Motion carried.

The Emergency Management Coordinator position was discussed next. It is currently held by Kerry Henderson. Brown Dale Fire Chief Josh Debevec said that Kerry is ill and should not be considered for the position at this time. He would be willing to accept the position until an alternate person could be appointed. Vice Chair Non made a motion, seconded by Chair Coles to appoint Josh Debevec as the Emergency Management Coordinator. Carried unanimously.

Non remained as road master. Supervisors can work as employees of the township at 32 hours a week. Curtis remained as assistant permit officer. John Lillie will remain as the Vacancy Board member. Ron Poska remained as COG representative. Road workers who work 500 hours for a year are eligible for 3 days vacation. That remained the same.

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\$19,000 secured For FCR Dual Enrollment

Funds have been received by Forest City Regional School District in support of the dual enrollment scholarships for students to take in-school courses at Keystone College. The school sought \$19,000 to support the program which formerly had been provided by the Endless Mountains Educational Foundation.

School Superintendent Dr. Jessica Aquilina expressed her thanks to Aileen Lynch of First National Bank of Forest City for an \$8,000 contribution toward the scholarships by First National Bank. She also thanked Honesdale National Bank of Forest City for a \$1,000 contribution to the fund.

The remaining \$10,000 of the needed funds were provided by action of the Forest City Regional Educational Foundation which has been providing FCR School with funds for innovative educational programs for more than 10 years.

FCRS eyes own cyber charter school As District costs exceed \$400,000

Forest City Regional School Board is looking at establishing a Forest City Regional Cyber Charter School to stem the flow of money from the District to the 30 FCRS students who are presently attending outside Cyber Charter Schools. Superintendent Dr. Jessica Aquilina told the public and Board at the Jan. 14 Board meeting that the cyber charter students are costing the District \$400,000 this year alone.

Dr. Aquilina said "no cyber charter schools in Pennsylvania are successful." She further stated, "No Forest City Cyber Charter School students have been successful." She said advertisements of Cyber Charter Schools that say tuition is free "are lies." The Districts are required by the state to pay the tuition from District funds.

Susq. Co. GOP Comm. endorses incumbent office holders

The Susquehanna County Republican Committee, at its Jan 15 meeting in Montrose, voted to endorse all the Republican incumbent County officeholders who will be on the Primary Election ballot in May.

County Republican Chairperson Donna Cosmello announced that the Committee would make an exception in 2019 to its previous rule about not endorsing candidates in the Primary.

"Our reason for making the exception this year," said Chair Cosmello, "is that all of our Republican incumbents are running for re-election and we have an unusually talented group of officeholders who have records of performance and have helped to make the fiscal condition of Susquehanna County excellent."

The 2019 Primary Election Republican Party endorsements are: Commissioners Alan Hall and Elizabeth (Betsy) Arnold, District Attorney Marion O'Malley, Register-Recorder/Clerk of Orphan's Court Michelle Estabrook, Treasurer Jason Miller, Coroner Tony Conarton, Auditors George Starzec and Richard Suraci, Magistrate District Judge (District 34-3-03) Suzanne Brainard.

The County offices of sheriff and prothonotary/clerk of courts are not on the ballot this year.

Contact: Donna Cosmello, Chairperson Susq. Co. Republican Committee

D&H Rail-Trail Re-Opens Simpson-Forest City

The Rail-Trail Council (RTC) of Northeastern Pennsylvania is pleased to report that a section of the D&H Rail-Trail will re-open on Saturday, January 19th. The D&H Rail-Trail from Simpson to Morse Ave to Union Dale had been closed for a UGI pipeline project and subsequent trail restoration. The 4-mile trail section from Simpson to Forest City at Commerce Boulevard is now restored with drainage and trail resurfacing. The opening came just in time for snowmobiles to use the trail with the snow this past weekend. The trail from Forest City north to Union Dale, remains closed, with trail restoration work continuing through the winter. The parallel O&W Rail-Trail is open from Simpson north.

The Rail-Trail Council partners with a local snowmobile club to allow snowmobiling on the D&H ("A") Trail and the O&W ("B") Trail. Snowmobilers must have a trail pass obtained through NEP Sno-Trails (www.nepsnotrails.com). The trail is groomed and maintained by the club. The trail from Simpson to Forest City was open to all trail users on Saturday, January 19th. The D&H Rail-Trail is also open for all trail users from Union Dale north. Please contact the Rail-Trail Council at trails@nep.net or 570-679-9300 with any questions.

If FCRS were to set up its own cyber charter school, it would be able to coordinate the local school's curriculum with that of the cyber charter students. FCR would hope to get the 30 students presently in the outside cyber charter schools to commit to the FCRS cyber charter school but also to get any student contemplating going to cyber charter school to join the FCRS cyber charter school.

The new cyber charter school program was presented to the Board by Jamie Marshall of the Virtual Learning Network Partners (VLN Partners). In dollars, FCRS is now paying approximately \$13,000 for each regular student to attend outside cyber schools. If FCRS sets up its own cyber charter school, VLN's cost would be \$4,500 per student. If a student were a special educa-

tion student, the present cost is \$25,000 per student while the cost for VLN to provide instruction to the special ed student would still be \$4,500.

Mr. Marshall explained how the VLN instruction would be geared to FCRS's present curriculum. If a classroom teacher was teaching a particular lesson, the FCRS cyber charter school would teach the cyber charter school student the same subject.

Marshall said each student would be supplied with a computer, software, course material and technical support. He said each student also would have a "home-room" teacher each day.

After some questions from the Board, Dr. Aquilina said the District and the Board would give consideration to adopting this program.



Chauncey Zazzera

The "end of an era" is not the end of a veteran Main St. personality

It may be the end of an era but it won't be the final chapter in the food career of Chauncey Zazzera. The Zazzera name will live on as Zazzera's Supermarket, in Forest City as the Trichilo Family recently began its ownership of the market.

After 43 years in Forest City, Chauncey will not be hanging it up completely. Customers will be able to see him in the store as he assists with the transition to new owners and later as he puts in a few weekly hours.

Chauncey's life has been in the grocery business for more than just his 43 year stint in Forest City. He worked with his uncle Frank Zazzera in his food center in Carbondale with his father, Anthony "Squeak" Zazzera.

It was 1975, when he and his late-cousin Larry decided to approach Larry's father, Frank Zazzera, with the idea of opening a new store in the A & P building at 600 Main Street. Frank liked the idea and said he would help purchase the building with Chauncey and Larry. While Chauncey continued to work at the Carbondale store, he took over managing the new Forest City location.

Things changed in 1980 when Frank Zazzera died. The Carbondale store was passed to his wife Frances, with son Larry becoming the manager. Three years later, Chauncey took over full ownership of the Forest City store when he bought Larry's half of the interest in the business.

A big boost to business came in the early 1980's when Chauncey bought the former Main Hotel building across the street, demolishing it to create an easily accessible parking lot for his customers. Additionally, new display cases, new floors and lighting, and major interior renovations have kept the store neat and customer-friendly over the years.

And so the successful career of Chauncey Zazzera, and the Forest City store, continued.

Most folks know that Chauncey's grocery life was 24/7. His two long-time employees, meat department manager Bob Black and grocery manager Mary Ann Maglio, both recently retired. Over the last few years, his daughter Joy assisted him with daily operations of the family business. She recently opened a yoga studio on the Scranton/Carbondale Highway.

Yet he was not only a good grocer, he was one of Forest City's most ardent promoters. Not only was he a member and officer of the former Forest City Commercial Association, which established and ran Old Home Week during his years here, his generosity to every local event and charity is well known up and down the valley. He was the major benefactor, often anonymously, at many area fundraisers, and also to those in our midst who have found themselves economically challenged.

The esteem in which he is held by Forest City was reflected in his being named Forest City Distinguished Citizen in 1990.

We are very sure that his wife, Joann, who has partnered with him over the years in the store's operation, has lots on the "to do" list for him. We hear that some travel may be in their future.

Snow removal Job well done

Job well done to Forest City Borough Street Dept. By Sunday morning all streets were plowed and passable. The slush couldn't be avoided and needed some salt and cinders when the temps went below zero. The Boro Council snow removal started Sunday evening and by Monday morning all snow piles were gone on the east side of the 300, 400 500 blocks of Main St. from Mike Newak's to Zazzera's. After a rest, they started on the west side. Good job!!

