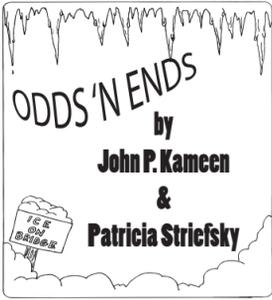


THE FOREST CITY NEWS



Between hackers and the U.S. Postal Service, newspapers continue to suffer. Last week international hackers disrupted five national newspapers including the Los Angeles Times. As we told you previously, we were hit by a Malware which wiped out our newspaper, subscription and billing files going back almost two months. Office manager Jean Matoushek was unable to enjoy her planned Christmas vacation this year as it took her until Dec. 31 to finish restoring our billing files so we could run our end-of-year billing records. We are not immune to another hacker attack but our technology person says that in the future we will be able to restore our records quicker. We have been conferring with some of our area newspaper publishers and all agree that more and more, we have less and less control of our own operations. Hackers can attack our files, and the Post Office can continue to mishandle our out-of-state subscriptions (which we rely on for some of our income). At one time we controlled almost everything about our weekly publishing. We set our own type without any connection to the internet, laid out our own pages, printed our own paper, mailed it on a mailing program we totally controlled, did our billing in-house with no outside service. And on and on! Now we are subject to hacking, internet disruptions, an out-of-state printer, van delivery schedules, online subscription and billing that can be wiped out. We're not looking for sympathy since many of you out there are in jobs where similar disruptions can take place. It's scary that outside forces can put you out of business or out of a job. The age of advancing technology is surely not without its risks and pitfalls!

Our long lost November 28 edition mailbags to many out-of-state subscribers miraculously were delivered on the day after Christmas. We got phone calls and emails from those to whom we sent replacement issues, that the tardy edition was delivered Dec. 26th. Must have been buried under Amazon packages which, I am sure, were all delivered on time. As we have said frequently, we get excellent mail service from our local post office. Seldom do they misplace any local or area delivery. They are just as frustrated with our complaints as we are. They also have no control once it leaves the Forest City mailing dock around noon every Tuesday. When we finally got a response from a PO higher up in Harrisburg, he said our problem was "a service lapse as opposed to something we could collectively correct to improve in the future." In other words "suck it up, it ain't going to get better!"

Our Florida subscriber Jean Zebrowski was one of those who called after getting her paper on Dec. 26. She noted that the Dec. 19 issue came at the same time. The Nov. 28 issue left Forest City at noon on Dec. 27 and was delivered Dec. 26th—30 DAYS LATER.

GFCBA Stocking Winners



The winners of the Stockings given away by the Greater Forest City Business Alliance were **Patty Cobb-Thompson; Leah Short-Forest City; and Stephanie Grum-Forest City.** Thank you to all the businesses who donated to the three stockings. Pictured above are the stockings which were put together by Jennifer Tighe of All in a Basket.

Historical Society meetings Suspended for the Winter

The Forest City Area Historical Society will not meet during the winter months of January and February. Regular monthly meetings will resume March 10 and the 2nd Sunday of each month at 6PM in the Museum at 629 Main St.

The Society will hold an Election Day luncheon in May and will announce a series of monthly breakfasts the 3rd Saturday of each month.

At the December 9 meeting, President John Kameen thanked Secretary Juliann Doyle for heading up food sales at the Dec. 1st Christmas event. She was assisted by Barbara Supko, Carole Kameen and Mary McElhinney. Food was also sold for the Brown Dale Fire Co. and Christ Episcopal Church.

Vice president Dave Homisak and Joanne were thanked for decorating the Museum for the Christmas event. A total of 190 people, stand-room-only, attended the FCRS Band and choruses at the event.

Local plumber Jerry Kuruts replaced the inoperative water heater at the museum at no labor charge. The unit was purchased from Franceski Lumber. Mr. Kuruts has been providing free plumbing service at the Society since its inception. The Society honored him with an honorary lifetime membership for his work.

Curator and website director Barb Klobucar reported that she is continuing her filing and documenting of Society exhibits, photos and other paperwork.

Dave and Joann Homisak attended a presentation ceremony at the Anthracite

Heritage Museum, Scranton, at which the Forest City Historical Society was presented with a 2ft. by 3 ft. sign designating Forest City as one of the ten honored communities for their participation in the 250th Anniversary of Anthracite held during 2018.

Liberty Builders, Union Dale, will install a new handicapped access door in the Museum basement this winter. The new handicapped bathroom work will not be done until a water problem at the rear of the building is remedied.

The Society will look at nominating a location for another historical highway marker in Forest City. Anyone with suggestions on the topic of the marker can contact Secretary Juliann Doyle at jdoyle@nep.net.

The Society will become a paid member of the Endless Mtns. Heritage Region for 2019.

A series of speakers and presentations will be scheduled monthly during 2019.

Local resident Jerry Franceski suggested a solution to the access issues to the area's iconic historical site "Old Stone Face". The Society will pursue his idea which would enable the 1916 sculptured face to be more easily viewed off the O&W Rail Trail.

The Society continues to receive requests for genealogical information pertaining to area families. Three were received and responded to this past month.

Stormwater discussed at Vandling Council

Dave Lamereaux of KBA Engineering gave a presentation to Vandling Borough Council at the monthly meeting on December 17 regarding the Stormwater requirements for the Borough.

Vandling received a 5 year MS4 Permit and now must do certain things in the five year period. Some of the things include: Public Education and Outreach Programs; Public Involvement and Participation Programs; an Employee Training Program; Target Audiences for Distribution of MS4 Information Plan; and Develop an Operation and Maintenance Plan. Vandling must also hold one public meeting a year with regard to Stormwater.

Lamereaux suggested some winter tips for residents of the Borough. Snow and Ice Melt products such as rock salt and antiskid can harm aquatic life and drinking water supplies so minimize the amount of deicing products used. Remove excess deicing products from surfaces once they are snow and ice free.

Shovel snow onto grassed areas so snowmelt can infiltrate in the soil rather than run into storm drains or streams. Use salt substitutes such as Calcium Chloride. Assist with roadside cleanup. Collect anti-skid material in containers for municipal pickup.

Lamereaux said Council has to reach out to local groups and the school to get involved in the stormwater requirements. He explained that having KBA Engineering do a lot of the work would be costly so Council will need to learn the requirements and how to implement them.

Committee Assignments will be decided on in January and all members of Council will be on the Stormwater Committee.

One of the major requirements is that Vandling has to reduce the amount of contaminants in the stormwater by 10 percent in five years.

President Fran Pantzar stated that Vandling is pretty far from the river and do they take that into consideration. Lamereaux said they do.

Members of Council were provided with handouts listing all of the requirements.



Photo taken from Railroad Street entrance to Rte. 247 (Forest City/Browndale road) looking east to Browndale. New sidewalks will be built on the left between guide rails and road, from Railroad Street to Front Street, Browndale.

Browndale/Forest City sidewalk Bid opening set for February 13

After ten years of lobbying and cajoling municipal governments, the state and PennDOT, an advertisement for bids to construct a sidewalk from Browndale to Forest City was published in the Dec. 22 issue of The Wayne Independent. Besides being a solution to a dangerous condition, the sidewalk could produce an economic incentive to have folks using the Rail Trail to come to Forest City's Main Street.

Back in 2008 Linda Zefran and her husband, Dr. Jim Zefran, were very nearly struck by a vehicle while running on Rte. 247. At the time they realized it was just a matter of time before someone was killed there.

Ten years later, it appears that their efforts as public-spirited citizens will result in a concrete sidewalk on the North side of Rte. 247 from Front Street in Browndale to Railroad Street in Forest City.

Never in their wildest dreams could they imagine the minefield of obstacles

which befell their good intentions. It required trying to get agreements from Forest City Borough, Clinton Township, Wayne and Susquehanna Counties, and the ever-changing rules and regulations of PennDOT.

Of greatest help, said Ms. Zefran, were the engineers of Kiley Associates, of Lake-wood, PA, who produced extensive project planning at no cost. Leeward Construction also provided a free estimate of the project cost which also covered moving some telephone poles and re-installing guard rails.

By 2017 they were able to gather funding of almost \$400,000 from state sources but in 2018 they were facing a 2019 deadline for completion of the design and engineering.

Back in 2012 the Zefrans were able to gain the support of then-State Rep. Sandra Major and present State Senator Lisa Baker, if funding sources could be found. They were also able to get

Browndale resident Juliann Doyle, of the Wayne County Aging Services, to prepare the funding application to the Penna. Local Share Act, which she did by the Sept. 30, 2013 deadline.

The project is not simply going to require pouring 1,760 lineal feet of new sidewalk but will also require moving of guard rails, installing curb ramps, a retaining wall and drainage facilities. The original scope of work was to bring the sidewalk up to Main Street but logistics and funding would not allow it to extend beyond Railroad Street. It will match up with the sidewalk which already exists on the concrete bridge over the present D&H Rail Trail.

Sealed bids had to be submitted to the Clinton Township Board of Supervisors on Monday, January 7. The contract is to be awarded on or before Wednesday, Feb. 13. Substantial completion date is by June 30, 2019.

Election Candidate Policy

The News does not charge any candidate for office who wishes to place one press release and photo in this newspaper announcing their candidacy. Candidates may, if they desire, have their announcement of candidacy placed in a paid ad.

Any other notices from candidates, after their announcement, must be in the form of paid advertisements.

We have almost 2,500 folks who subscribe to or buy this newspaper in this corner of Susquehanna, Wayne and Lackawanna Counties, which means our newspaper is read by more than 5,000 people.

We encourage candidates to send us their announcements and then to purchase ads so that our readers will be able to make an informed decision on election day.

March 12 Special Election in Lackawanna County

A special election to fill a vacant seat in the 114th Legislative District in Lackawanna County, which includes Vandling, will be held on Tues., March 12, 2019. The vacancy was created by the passing on Oct. 16, 2018 of former Democratic Rep. Sid Kavulich.

Kavulich ran unopposed on the ballot for the Nov. 6 general election.

For more information, call the 114th Legislative District Office at 570-562-2350.

Get a subscription to the News 570-785-3800



Pictured are (L to R): Melissa Rushworth, HNB AVP and Forest City Branch Manager; Dr. Jessica Aquilina, Forest City Regional School District Superintendent; and Brian Wilken, HNB AVP and Business Development Officer.

HNB Supports Dual Enrollment Scholarships for FCR Students

The Honesdale National Bank stepped in to support dual enrollment scholarships for students from the Forest City Regional School District. HNB donated \$1,000 to support the students' continued participation in dual enrollment courses. This donation will help them reach their goal of \$10,000 to sustain the program.

Historically, funds were provided directly through the Community Foundation of the Endless Mountains. According to the Foundation's Executive Director, the selection process changed this year, and the students would not be included for scholarships for the 2018-2019 school year. With that news, FCRSD Superintendent, Dr. Jessica Aquilina, set a goal to raise \$10,000 so students could still participate at the expected cost at enrollment.

HNB President & CEO, David Raven, stated, "We are very fortunate to have the ability to support the students in the communities we

serve. Their education is important to us as they are the future of our region."

Melissa Rushworth, HNB AVP and Forest City Branch Manager, noted, "I'm glad we are able to help continue this program for the students at Forest City Regional. It's through these donations that these great opportunities are available to the students."

To make a donation to the dual enrollment scholarship program at Forest City Regional, please contact Dr. Jessica Aquilina at 570-785-2403.

The Honesdale National Bank, established in 1836, holds the distinction of being the area's oldest independent community bank headquartered in Northeastern PA, with offices in Wayne, Pike, Susquehanna, Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties. The Honesdale National Bank offers personal banking, business banking and wealth solutions. For more information on HNB's products and services, visit www.hnb-bank.bank.

