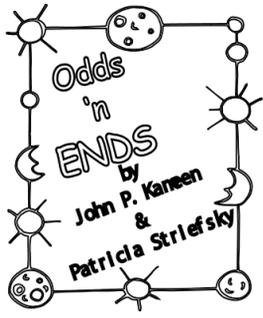


# THE FOREST CITY NEWS



Two more days off school for FCRS last week thanks to more snow and ice!

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**Talked with a former Forest City News employee** at the recent Grand Opening of Kevin Lesjack Funeral Home. Phil Wilks, Endicott, NY, son of the late Frank and Grace Wilczynski, was a printer's devil in the early 1950's at the News Office while in high school. His father, Frank, was associated with John T. McGranaghan in the McGranaghan-Wilczynski Funeral Home, prior to the Lesjack Family's ownership. Phil came to wish Kevin Lesjack success as Kevin continues the rich history of that business.

**Following our most recent heavy snowstorm**, couldn't help but notice the 7AM sidewalk shovellers in the 600 block of Main Street—Jim Wells at his building and at Dr. Tomazic's building; Dave Trichilo Sr. at Zazzera's Market and parking lot; and yours truly at the News Office. Dave Sr. commented, "That's what keeps us old guys going!"

**Saw an interesting fact from the AAA Motor Club.** When temp is 20 degrees and the car heater is used, your driving range is decreased 41% from 100 miles to 59 miles. I always thought the air conditioner reduced your gas mileage more than your heater. AAA says when A/C is on, and temp is 95 degrees, your driving range is only decreased 17%.

**Forest City Area Historical Society Museum** got a new handicapped-accessible door installed by Liberty Builders, Union Dale, last week. One more effort to help make the facility available to all.

**Have heard that Wayne Memorial Hospital** is hoping to have the new Dundaff St. health center in operation in April.

**We enjoy getting notes from our subscribers** as they renew their papers annually. We try to put them in our "Letters" column just to show how deeply felt our hometown is to the former residents. Notice how they always mention their "hometown." Over the years, they have always been the ones who financially supported major drives. The bulk of the almost \$100,000 which built our Anthracite Miner's Memorial came from former residents.

## Garbage Can Ordinance in Forest City

According to Ordinance 508 adopted and enacted November 6, 2017 it states that garbage cans are to be placed by 5PM the night before collection and to be removed from the streets by 8PM the day of collection. If the garbage is not picked up on the day of pickup County Waste should be called (the number is located on the side of the plastic cans or bins). The road department cannot plow the streets when garbage cans are in the roadway. If there are any other concerns please call the Borough Office 570.785.3326 or 3327.

## Board takes no action on A cyber charter school

Forest City Regional School Board withdrew discussion and action to set up a Forest City Regional School Cyber Charter School. The item was on an early version of the Board's Feb. 11th agenda but was not acted upon. Superintendent Dr. Jessica Aquilina said she was not including it in the discussion since she had been expecting further information from the company.

The District heard last month from VLN Partners, LLC, a firm interested in setting up a charter school especially for Forest City Regional School. The District is concerned that some 30 students from the District, presently enrolled in cyber charter schools, are siphoning almost \$400,000 from District funds. A District-owned and operated cyber charter school would save about half that amount and would be able to align the course work to curriculum being taught at FCR.

There was no indication whether it would be considered in the future.

In order to alleviate problems with securing substitute teachers, a problem which is felt by all area school districts, the Board approved raising the substitute teacher daily rate to \$110/day, and \$115/day for anyone in a position longer than 10 consecutive days effective immediately.

The Board did approve an agreement with Infinite Campus, a company which provides a data base for student information and all student participation records. The cost was listed as \$38,300 the 1st year and \$9,200 in subsequent years. The present student information database is MMS.

Bus transportation will cost more in the school year 2019-2020. Board approved the pupil transportation cost index of 5.910% which is an increase of 1.90% over the previous year. Dr. Aquilina

## New KP Gazebo Ordered

Forest City Council approved construction of a new Gazebo at Kennedy Park to replace the 30-year-old structure which has deteriorated. It will be purchased at a cost of \$9,146 from Franceski Lumber Company Village Structures.

Council member Amy Bean presented the proposal to Council to purchase the 16 ft. by 16 ft. octagonal structure which will be white vinyl with asphalt roof shingles and grey PVC decking.

Council voted to replace the present octagonal-shaped structure with a similar structure rather than a wood, oval-shaped gazebo of a lower price. The Kennedy Park Gazebo is used extensively for wedding photos in the summer months.

Council member Amy Bean stated that she would get more information on the kind of foundation required, as the present Gazebo was mounted on cement blocks. It will also be electrified, as is the present structure.

## Donate a soup for FC Winterfest Sat., Feb. 23

The FC Parks and Recreation are looking for businesses and residents to donate a pot of soup to the Winterfest for a soup cook off contest with a prize for the best soup.

The Winterfest is February 23, 2019 from 10:00-2:00 at Kennedy Park.

Any donations would be greatly appreciated.

Anyone interested can email fcparksrec@gmail.com with what kind of soup you will be making. Or by contacting Tracey at Tobacco Road or Kathy at DG'S Bar and Grill.

This is a great way to give to our local parks and get them ready for 2019!!

said the index and the increase is set by the state and not by FCRS District.

The Board approved the Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit (NEIU-19) general operating budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. It will cost the District \$13,889.18.

Thomas Bailer and Joseph Pleska were approved as volunteer assistants for the varsity softball team.

Taylor Kelly, a student at the University of Scranton, was approved as an intern with Friendship House and the District's partial program for the 2018-19 school year.

The District's Discipline and Operational Support Team was approved for the 2018-19 school year. They are Daniel Nebzydowski, Cynthia Weiss and Michael Zack from the high school, and Jason Pantzar from the elementary school.

Two employees were granted unpaid leave: Employee 397 for 2 hours on January 18, and Employee 796 for five days March 11-15. The names of employees granted unpaid leave are not released.

The Susquehanna County treasurer was given permission to accept any price negotiated for four properties in the District. There are two trailers and an empty lot in Forest City, as well as a trailer in Union Dale Borough. For details contact County treasurer at 278-4600.

Susq. County Commissioner Alan Hall addressed the Board and congratulated Forest City Regional for the many good things he hears about the educational system here. He said he knows, as a former school Board member, how much dedication is required, and the budget struggles which districts have. He commented that the County is presently discussing paying for an agricultural program which would be provided to all county schools.

## Winter Fest At Kennedy Park Sat., Feb. 23

The Forest City Parks and Recreation Board, in conjunction with a Forest City Regional School Senior Project, and the Forest City Police Dept. will hold a Winter Fest on Saturday, Feb. 23 from 10AM to 2PM. Ice conditions will dictate the extent of the event.

Police Chief Lee Rowan said it will be a Senior Project of two FCR high school students, and will include ice fishing, hockey, ice skating, basketball tournament, Corn Hole Tournament, Soup Cook-Off, and other events. There will be prizes, raffles and baskets and food and beverages throughout the day. Anyone interested in entering a soup can bring it that day.

The Senior Project students, Lucas O'Neill and Rocco Sansani, will be in charge of the fundraising for the event which will benefit the Forest City Parks and Recreations.

## Cornhole Tourney at Winterfest Sat., Feb. 23

The Forest City Parks Fundraiser will hold a Cornhole Tournament on Saturday, Feb. 23 at the Kennedy Park Winterfest. The event is from 10 AM to 2 PM. Everyone is welcome. Kids 6 to 14 are FREE and Adults are \$5.00. It is single elimination with prizes awarded. Early registration by contacting Deb or Kathy at 570-785-5995. The event is sponsored by D.G.'s Bar.

## Cornerstone Bible Church give cookies for Valentine's Day



Cornerstone Bible Church shared some love by delivering cookies to local businesses in Forest City and Vandling on Valentines Day. Started more than 10 years ago this has become a tradition at Cornerstone. First comes the baking of cookies, then volunteers assemble over 70 trays of cookies. Another group of volunteers deliver the cookies to the businesses. Shown are the cookie bakers left to right: Shamon Madden (and Calvin), Ebony Shager, Denise Seman, Melody Droppa, Joyce Atkinson, Patty Bean, Amanda Moyer, Jennifer Brucher, Sharon Collins, Rosina Murnin, Marylou Anderson, Barbara Costanzo, Marianne Corey, Elaine Skubic. Photographer: Denise Oliveres

## Herrick Twp. Hearing for Cond. Use Permit for Stone Bridge Part 2

Part 2 of the Herrick Twp. hearing regarding the conditional use permit for the Stone Bridge Inn

by Theresa Opeka

PROPERTY VALUES

John Ingram, a commercial real estate appraiser was called next to testify. He said he started his career as a city planner. O'Brien asked, "Were you retained by Endless Mountains Resort to prepare a report on facility effects on the area." Ingram said yes. Ingram has two bachelor's degrees: one in geography and the other in political science and has a master's degree from Rutgers University in City Planning. He was in the planning field before moving to the commercial real estate field and has experience in appraisals in Amarillo, Texas, NYC, Long Island and New Jersey. He started the Ingram Real Estate Group and has experience in appraising resort properties. He has appraised properties in North Dakota, Brazil, the Amazon rainforest and Italy. He is also licensed in Pennsylvania.

Ingram did studies on the proposed recovery center. He said he was contacted by people at the resort because they were concerned

about what could happen to their property values if Stone Bridge is converted to a drug and alcohol rehab. "My gut reaction was not good. It would be so close to the 34 units (18 condos & 16 townhouses). You can be at the tavern and inn within a five minute walk. It isn't densely developed. I think the impact would be greater there than a big city. People go about their business and don't know one is there (in a city). I searched different sources to come up with reports and studies that tackle this particular issue. The substance abuse rehab centers have had an adverse impact on housing prices in neighborhoods. Higher crime levels in higher socioeconomic areas. The perception is that an adverse effect will happen on their property," Ingram said.

Ingram looked at three different studies that were done in Central Virginia, Seattle and Philadelphia. "In the Virginia study, a university concluded that a residential treatment center would have the most intense treatment in residential areas. Property owners say 'Not in my backyard.' The impact on nearby home prices with a neighboring treatment center showed an eight percent reduction

in home prices and if treating opiate addiction, a seventeen percent reduction of prices. Homes within 1/8 of a mile sell for eight percent less than comparable homes further away," he said.

O'Brien asked, "Could property values of the Endless Mountains Resort go down eight-seventeen percent if treatment center goes in?" Ingram said yes. "The Seattle study, done by a consortium (group) of universities, looked at over 50 treatment centers in Seattle. The studies factor in other issues but focus on drug treatment centers. From 2001-2016, the property values went down 3.4-4.6% for homes within two-tenths to four-tenths of a mile of a drug treatment center," he said. O'Brien asked, "Would a decrease in property values be more significant in a rural area?" Ingram replied, "Yes, it would be more noticeable. People will possibly take a drive around and see signs around indicating the center is there. In the Philadelphia study, the focus was on crime, not property values. There was no impact on high crime areas but if a treatment center was located in a higher priced area, crime goes up."

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## Bids received for Browndale Sidewalk project; Clinton Township hears from DA Candidates

by Theresa Opeka

Bids, including those for the Browndale Sidewalk Project, the possibility of a fire tax and introduction from two candidates running for Wayne County District Attorney were among the happenings at the Wednesday, February 13 meeting of the Clinton Township Supervisors. Ray Vogt opened meeting with a concern about where water runs over the bridge on Route 170. He said there is a field of ice surrounding it. He asked the supervisors if they could bring it up with DEP or PennDOT.

CHURCH CINDERING

Mike Dolph asked the supervisors why they are "tailgating" cinders around the (Aldenville Baptist) church and leaving the doors open to one of the buildings on the township's property. Supervisor Russ Curtis said, "We own the property at the bottom." Coles and Supervisor/Road Master Brian Non disagreed and said no. Curtis said, "Yes, we do. They own to the door. We use this driveway because the school buses come in that way." Dolph said it was done the last two Saturday nights. Non said, "No, I only did it for one funeral. Either way, I apologize. I found out we can't do it and told the

church." Dolph also said the backhoe is running for over an hour with no one there. Both Curtis and Non said they have to run it to warm it up. Solicitor Jeff Treat said, "Down here, it is our property, to the right of the church. If you have an understanding to cinder with the church, you have a contractual agreement." Coles said, "PSATS told me we can't use it unless we have a contractual agreement." Treat said, "You can't cinder private property but this is different."

NEED TRUCK  
Non said they have been talking about getting another big truck. They currently have a 1999. He said he would like to keep it for a spare. The cost of a new truck is \$164,000. He said used trucks are available but it won't be what they have or want. The supervisors agreed to wait until next month to make a decision.

SNOW PLOWING

Dr. James Zefran asked the supervisors if they ever contracted out snow plowing the rest of the township like they do Browndale. Non said, "We have been told the township is too big to do that." Zefran asked if they could split Clinton I in half. Non replied, "If they subcontract it out, they get to it when they get to it."

ROAD WORKER

Non said he would like to bring back Brad Bates as a road worker. He said he is

interested in working with the township again. Non made a motion. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

B'DALE SIDEWALK

The township received three bids for the Browndale Sidewalk Project. Kurhs Excavating had a bid of \$481,800; Maiocco Excavating, \$470,000 and Linde, \$568,189. Zefran said they got \$380,000 in grants. He said he talked to some contractors and if they were awarded the bid, they may cut down the fees. "You should meet with the low bidder, see what could be done and also meet with the engineer," he said. Coles said, "I'd rather meet with all three." Treat said they could meet with all three. Zefran said there is a June 30 deadline for one bid. A motion was made to table the bids until the supervisors talk with all of the contractors. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

BUY GENERATOR

The township received two bids for a Generac generator. Evans Electrical had a bid of \$8,825 plus \$875 for a new panel box. R3 in Honesdale had a bid of \$9,619.66. Curtis made a motion to go with Evans. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

BIDS

Bids were also put out for the grading and rolling of roads and for modified.

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