

GFCBA receives \$7,500 from Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau Room Tax Grant Program

The Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau has announced the recipients of funding from the 2018 round of the Room Tax Grant Program.

The tax, commonly known as the Hotel Occupancy Tax, is a state-mandated tax. It is collected by lodging establishments in the Endless Mountains which is paid by their guests. Thirty percent of that tax from each county is put into the room tax grant program to fund tourism-related projects or events. This grant round's total amount awarded was \$163,776.73, which brings the total to over \$1.8 million since the program was enacted 14 years ago.

The visitors bureau opens a grant round annually for each of the three counties it represents - Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Wyoming. The deadline to submit grant proposals is September 25 each year. Although the visitors bureau is responsible for overseeing the grant program and distribution of the money, the final decision of awarding the money is made by each county's room tax committee which consists of members of the community and at least one county commissioner.

The 2018 grant recipients are Wyoming County Room Tax Committee, Tunkhan-

nock Public Library, Oldest House-Laceyville Area Historical Society, Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce, Wyoming County Fair, Keystone College, Nicholson Heritage Association, Wyoming County Cultural Center, Endless Mountains Heritage Region, Tunkhannock Business Association, Sullivan County Agricultural Society, Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce, Laporte Volunteer Fire Company, Sullivan County Historical Society, Dushore Area Business Association, Pink Arrow Arts Inc., Susquehanna County Historical Society & Free Library Association, Greater Forest City Business Alliance, Susquehanna Community Development Association, Montrose Chocolate & Wine Festival, Clifford Township Volunteer Fire Company, Brooklyn Historical Society, Harford Agricultural Society, Friends of Salt Springs State Park, Endless Mountains Theatre Company, Montrose Chamber of Commerce, and Montrose Restoration Committee.

Grant pre-applications for the 2019 grant round will be available on the Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau's website (www.EndlessMountains.org) in June. For more information, contact the visitors bureau at 1-800-769-8999/

Wayne Co. Comm. Wendell Kay seeking re-election

Wayne County Commissioner Wendell Kay announced his intention to seek re-election to a four year term in the May 21, 2019 Democratic Municipal Primary. He was first elected in 2008.

The son of Richard Kay, Englewood, FL (formerly of Honesdale) and the late Anne M. Kay, he attended local schools, graduating from Honesdale High. He received an undergraduate degree from East Stroudsburg University and a law degree from Ohio Northern University.

Since law school graduation, Mr. Kay has maintained a general legal practice in Northeastern Pennsylvania for more than 35 years. He and his wife, Karen, were partners in the Village Store, in Beach Lake, PA for several years in the 1990s. He also served one term on Honesdale Borough Council and was a township solicitor for Berlin, Damascus and Sterling townships.

Mr. Kay has been an active volunteer in Wayne County since his teenage years. He was named one of two Wayne County YMCA "Volunteers of the Year" in 2008 after serving as a board member and volunteer coach for 12 years, including 4 years as board chair. His church involvement as a reader spans more than 45 years and he also served as church finance committee chair for about 25 years. He is a former board member of Northeast Tri-County Human Services. Always an advocate for youth sports, Mr. Kay was a volunteer coach for recreational, travel and high school sports, concentrating on soccer, basketball and softball.

As county commissioner, Mr. Kay chairs the County Board of Elections and the Local Emergency Planning Committee. He is secretary of the Wayne County Prison Board and represents the County on the Behavioral and Developmental Programs/Early Intervention Board. In addition, he chairs the Family Center Board, the Retired Seniors Volunteer Program and is a board member for Communities That Care. Commissioner Kay also represents the County on the statewide Human Services Committee of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania

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 will be in charge of the fundraising for the event which will benefit the Forest City Parks and Recreations.

Valentine's Day Dinner in C'dale Thurs., Feb. 14

Trinity Episcopal Church, 58 River Street, Carbondale is having a Valentine's Day Pasta & Meatball Dinner on Thursday, Feb. 14th which includes: Pasta w/sauce and meatballs, salad, Italian bread and dessert. Dine in or Take out. Donation is \$10.



Wendell Kay

and the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Council where he advocates the rural perspective on various matters touching on human service policy and service delivery. In 2017, Kay was appointed by Governor Wolf to the statewide County Records Committee.

In seeking re-election, Commissioner Kay reflects back on the solid fiscal foundation established for the County over the last eleven years. This positive situation allows the County to invest in economic development such as the Stourbridge Project (voted the Outstanding Economic Development project in Pennsylvania for 2018) and to lead the successful push for SCI Waymart to remain open in 2017.

Wendell and Karen (a staff pharmacist at Wayne Memorial) reside in Honesdale and are the parents of three children: Dr. Susan Granquist, who lives with her husband, Timothy and son CJ, in Berlin Township; Kevin Kay and his wife, Elyse and son, Connor, also of Berlin Township and Maureen Mezick, her husband Vincent, and their twins, Lucas and Aela, of Texas Township.

Commissioner Kay stated that: "I believe that much has been accomplished to move our county forward over the last four years. Exciting things are on the Wayne County horizon over the next four years. I would like to use my skills, education and experience to make the future of Wayne County even better."

Susq. County Dairy Day On March 1

One of the long-running annual events in Susquehanna County is the Susquehanna County Ag Day, also known as Dairy Day, which is set for its 30th year in 2019. It will be Friday, March 1st, at Elk Lake Junior Senior High School from 10AM to 3:30PM.

The day provides both indoor and outdoor exhibits of about 30 different vendors, showing many facets of the dairy business, as well as educational workshops and health screenings. There will also be many door prizes. The public is invited. There is no charge for admission.

There will be a free vendor luncheon at 11:15AM and reservations are required for the lunch. The lunch is free thanks to Cabot Oil & Gas.

Vendors must register at <https://extension.psu.edu/susquehanna-county-ag-day> or call 1-877-345-0691

For further information email 1xr6@psu.edu

FREE Lunch at Christ Church Sat., Feb. 23

The Stone Soup Kitchen at Christ Church invites everyone to join them for a FREE Community Luncheon at CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, Corner Delaware & Dundaff Streets, Forest City on Saturday, February 23rd with servings from Noon - 1:00pm. Join them & bring your family & friends. Share a hearty lunch & wonderful camaraderie.

The Forest City News
 FOUNDED DECEMBER 8, 1887
 Publication Number 204880

Is published weekly on Wednesdays at a subscription rate of \$35.00 per year in Susquehanna, Lackawanna, and Wayne Counties; \$45.00 per year in all other mailing zones, and is published by The Forest City News Inc., John P. Kamen, President, Patricia M. Stiefelsky, Secretary, and the publication office is 636 Main Street, Forest City, PA 18421.

Periodical rate postage, paid at Forest City, PA. Phone 570-785-3800; FAX 570-785-9840. Member of Pennsylvania NewsMEDIA and National Newspaper Association (NNA).

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Forest City News, 636 Main Street, Forest City, PA 18421.

All artwork, layout, design and news features remain the sole property of The Forest City News, Inc. Reproduction in whole or any part of any advertisement or news feature is strictly forbidden.

Pleasant Mount News By Theresa Opeka

570-679-2065 bu7294@gmail.com

Happy Birthday to: Matt Hauenstein, Joyce McGraw, Tim O'Hara, Jerry Tamkins, Shirley Wallace, Will Jonas, Edeltraud Kneier, Don Sneath, Barbara Kreutz, Faith Gilmartin, Cindy Baldwin, Grace Hansma, Clare Hansma, Loris Frantz, Jerry Deylatre and my cousins Emily and Corey Matoushek.

Happy Anniversary to: Richard and Linda McElhinney and Sean and Helen Rogers

Valentine Dinner at Chapel Community Kitchen. If you are in a mid-winter slump, come out to the Chapel Kitchen for a great meal and fellowship. The kitchen will open on February 16th at 11:30 until 1:30, and a great meal is planned. Spaghetti and meatballs, salad, Italian and garlic breads and assorted desserts will be served. The chapel kitchen is located at the

Cornerstone to Continue Valentine's Tradition

Valentines Day is a day for expressing love. There is no greater love than God's love for us. Cornerstone Bible Church will be sharing 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.

The reaction from the businesses range from surprise to sincere appreciation for the thoughtful gift. The delivery people say it is a nice feeling to show some love to the businesses in the community. Be on the lookout this Valentines Day for the Cornerstone Bible Cookie Drop. Happy Valentines Day.

Fritz Named Deputy Whip for 2019-20 Legislative Session

Rep. Jonathan Fritz (R-Susquehanna/Wayne) was chosen by House Majority Whip Rep. Kerry Benninghoff (R-Centre/Mifflin) to serve as a deputy whip for the 2019-20 legislative session.

"I am honored and humbled to be selected again to serve as a deputy whip under House Majority Whip Kerry Benninghoff," said Fritz. "I will continue to focus on all issues and legislation that will impact our caucus as well as ensuring a line of communication remains open between our caucus members and our house majority whip. I am excited for this opportunity and will remain steadfast in doing the people's work."

FCR Superintendent Dr. Jessica Aquilina Report

The Forest City Regional School District has received a total of \$19,000 in donations since being notified that FCR would no longer be included in the scholarship program out of the Community Foundation of the Endless Mountains.

First National Bank donated \$8,000 to support dual enrollment scholarships for our high school students; The Forest City Regional Education Foundation donated \$10,000 and the Honesdale National Bank donated \$1,000.

We are greatly appreciative of our community's support of our Foresters, and of those who

worked so hard to help secure these much needed funds! Congratulations to senior Katie Nguyen who qualified for the PMEA District Vocal Jazz Ensemble. She will represent FCR HS at the April festival that is being co-hosted by Elk Lake and Tunkhannock area.

Upcoming Events: Fri., Feb. 15 - School will be in session for the snow day that we had on Fri. Nov. 16th. Thurs., Feb. 14 - Winter Sports Senior Night between the JV and Varsity boy's basketball games.

This year, St. Katharine Drexel Parish's upcoming Pierogi Fundraiser will take place over 2 weeks rather than the customary three weeks between Ash Wednesday and Easter. Pierogi dates are February 27 & 28 and March 27 & 28. Order sheets for pick up on Wednesday, February 27 or Thursday, February 28 are on the table in back of the church. Orders can also be placed by calling Barbara at 570-727-8385 or Jean at 570-448-9181. Thank you in advance for your continued support. SKD Altar & Rosary Society.

The Lakewood Area Pantry will be held at the Northern Wayne Family Health Center, 412 Como Road, Lake Como, on Wednesday, February 20 12:30-2:30pm. For an emergency need, please call 570-798-2229.

Have a Happy Valentine's Day!

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 fcparcsrec@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!!

Susquehanna Was First County to Update Voting System Last Year

In September 2018, Acting Secretary of State Robert Torres, and Chairman of the Susquehanna County Commissioners, Alan Hall, announced that Susquehanna had become the first Pennsylvania county to purchase a voting system under the new standards for security, auditability and accessibility set by the Department of State earlier this year.

"Susquehanna County is leading the way in modernizing Pennsylvania's voting systems. County residents can be assured they will be voting on the most secure and auditable equipment available," Secretary Torres said.

"We wanted to be the first one, not the last," Commissioner Hall said. They were ready for the November election with the new equipment.

In April, Secretary Torres informed counties they had to select new voting systems that provide a paper record and meet 21st-Century standards of security, auditability and accessibility no later than Dec. 31, 2019, and preferably have a system in place by the November 2019 general election.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security called on all state and local election officials to make certain that by the 2020 presidential election every American votes on a ballot that can be checked and verified by the voter and that can be audited by election officials.

Susquehanna County has purchased the optical scan system through the Ohio-based vendor Election IQ. The system was used for the November 6 election.

"We had been talking over the last year or two about replacing our voting system. We got serious after the directive from the state in April and attended some vendor demonstrations. It will be great to have new equipment in place for the November election," said then-county Elections and Voter Registration Director Sarah Rae Sis-

son.

The county has about 25,000 registered voters and 41 polling places where the ES&S 650 optical scan voting system has been in used since 2006.

Many other counties are exploring their voting system options, examining machines and seeking public input, as well as quotes from vendors. Some counties, however, may choose to wait until the 2020 primary.

Any voting system selected by a county must be certified by both Pennsylvania and the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC). The department and the EAC evaluate voting systems under current federal and state standards. In addition to Unisyn Voting Solutions OpenElect, which has already been certified, the department and the EAC expect to certify an additional three to five new voting systems from which counties may choose.

Susq. Co. GOP Lincoln Day Event Feb. 23

The Susquehanna County Republican Committee "Lincoln Day Breakfast" will be held on Saturday, February 23rd, from 9:30 AM until Noon at the Harford Fire Hall, 142 Fair Hill Road, Harford, Pa.

Besides a delicious Breakfast Buffet and a great chance to renew old friendships and make new ones, those individuals who will be seeking election, and in some cases, re-election, will be present and will have their petitions for attendees to sign so their names will be on the Primary Election ballot in May.

The cost is \$17.00 per person and a reservation must be made by February 16th by contacting Donna Cosmello, either by Email: donnacosmello@yahoo.com or by phone: 570-849-0134.

Please make checks payable to: S.C.R.C. and send to: Wendy Zapolski, 171 Foolish Pleasure Road, Friendsville, Pa. 18818

Chet's Place

Uniondale, PA - 570-679-2129 *www.chetsplace.com

Music Every Wednesday 5-9 p.m.

Dinner Specials Every Friday Night

Arlo's Tavern

Ararat, PA 570-727-3970

LIVE MUSIC EVERY WEEKEND

Happy Hour 5-7 p.m. Beer Specials Everyday

Fri., Feb. 15 (7 p.m.)
Rob and Jack

Sat., Feb. 16 (7 p.m.)
Carro / Miz Duo

Sun., Feb. 17 (4 - 8 p.m.)
The Dude and the Damned

CABLE'S DELI

Union Dale * Phone: 570-679-2151

*Subs & Sandwiches *Novelty Ice Cream
 * Summer Salads *Stromboli
 *Party Platters *Ice
 *All Local Newspapers

Order Party Platters for your Events!
 OPEN DAILY 6 a.m. - 6 p.m. CLOSED Wednesdays