

THE FOREST CITY NEWS



The Cornerstone Bible Church, formerly the Browndale Fire Hall, was the setting for the Spring Mixer for the Greater Forest City Business Alliance. Close to 200 people were in attendance to mingle and enjoy food from area businesses. The GFCBA presented a plaque to the Browndale Fire Company for all they do for the community. Pictured left to right are Pastor Tim Madden, Cornerstone Bible Church, Joe Shvitz, Juliann Doyle, Jim Richards, Greg Bock, Fire Chief Josh Debevec, Bob Richards, Dave Richards, and GFCBA President Erin Debish.



Sen. Lisa Baker was joined at the announcement of the Rural Health Model's first five participating hospitals by, back row from left, Sara F. Adornato, CEO at Barnes-Kasson County Hospital in Susquehanna Depot, Loren Stone, CEO at Endless Mountains Health Systems in Montrose, Hospital and Health Systems of Pennsylvania President and CEO Andy Carter, and David Hoff, CEO of Wayne Memorial Hospital. Front row: Rep. Tina Pickett, Geisinger Jersey Shore CAO Tammy Anderer and Department of Health Secretary Dr. Rachel Levine.

Large Crowd as Cornerstone Bible Church hosts Spring Mixer for GFCBA

by Art McLain
When Tim Madden, GFCBA secretary and pastor of the Cornerstone Bible Church, set a goal of getting 75 attendees to the Spring Mixer, well, it was easy to be skeptical. Kelley Statkun, the GFCBA mixer coordinator, would do her part planning a great evening, but it was hard to get a large participation for several reasons. As the events are usually on weeknights and at the end of a long work day it is easy to find a reason to pass on the event. One of Tim's strengths is his attention to detail and this event was very well planned out.

The GFCBA is the Greater Forest City Business Alliance, boasting 80 some businesses in the area that work together. Scheduled to start at 6 pm, by 6 pm the parking lot was filling up. Members of Cornerstone Bible Church had volunteered to serve wherever needed, starting with two men helping to facilitate parking. The weather

was still unseasonably cold, but manageable, and once inside the atmosphere was warm and friendly.

Name tags helped solve the issue of knowing everyone's names, which groups or businesses they were from, who was a Cornerstone volunteer, and also served to help count how many were in attendance. The church was rearranged for sampling the finest food in Forest City and also to provide comfortable seating for dining and conversation. The food stations were expertly planned with a table in each corner and another in the middle of the room, all beautifully arranged and decorated. Clearly there was a great turnout, over 200 people, but no one felt crowded and there was no waiting for food or mocktails, coffee and other refreshments.

The room buzzed as what seemed to be the whole community had a chance to say hello and catch up with each other. On several monitors slides of events of 2018 for the GFCBA, other community events, and past memories and notable accomplishments added even more to the festive atmosphere. On stage Paul Dudrich from the Wannabes and Jan Troiani of

the Cornerstone band provided musical entertainment and often it became a sing-along with favorite songs.

Erin Debish, of Debish Design Studio, the GFCBA president gave opening remarks to the intermission. Erin, who has served on the GFCBA board for years became president this year and is taking up the torch from Michael O'Neal.

Deb McNamara, GFCBA vice president, with the Rail-Trail Council spoke about many of the community's accomplishments. Many of the GFCBA members beamed with happiness. She spoke about progress, and the \$7,500 grant that the GFCBA just received from the Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau to continue to promote the community. Monies will be used for advertising, signage, a brochure, map and other endeavors such as updating social media platforms.

Dr. Mary Surridge, of Alpha Chiropractic, also an alliance member, gave an inspirational talk about personal wellness. Her short presentation spoke about self discipline and encouraged everyone to set and keep goals.

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22 ambulance dispatches to Elk Mountain for season

by Theresa Opeka
Various items were on the agenda of the Monday, March 4 meeting of the Herrick Township Supervisors. Supervisor/Secretary Nancy Harvatine was absent from the meeting.

EMS REPORT
In old business, Pleasant Mount Emergency Services EMS Captain Dave Magliacane submitted a report that as of March 4, there have been 22 ambulance dispatches to Elk Mountain for the 2018-19 season from Pleasant Mount, Clifford and Forest City. In 2018, there were 56 dispatches to Herrick and Union Dale.

Pleasant Mount Emergency Services sent a thank you for the township's \$3,000 donation.

AUDIT OK'D
The township passed a PennDOT audit of liquid fuels.

REASSESSMENT
The Susquehanna County Assessment Office said the total real estate assessment value for the township for 2019 is \$38,534,500.

RAIL-TRAIL
Supervisor Elliot Ross read a letter from Lynn Conrad, Rail-Trail Project Manager, Rail-Trail Council of NEPA, seeking support for a DCNR grant they are applying for that would resurface the trail from Union Dale to Herrick. It was last improved in 2006. Ross said no sponsorship would be involved. Supervisor/Road Master Brian Zembrzycki said he would like to meet with Conrad first before offering support. He made a motion to have a meeting. He and Ross voted in favor. Motion passed.

LIQUID FUELS
The township received \$95,999.22 in liquid fuels from PennDOT for 2019.

LOWE LAKE DAM
Kiley Associates sent a letter

to the township about an emergency action plan for the dam at Lowe Lake.

MATERIAL BIDS

The township received bids for road material including anti-skid from the following companies: Linde, Hanson Aggregates, Bedrock Quarries - The H&K Group, New Enterprise, Pykus Excavating and Pioneer Excavating. Pioneer had the lowest bid, followed by Linde, Bedrock, Pykus, Hanson and New Enterprise. Zembrzycki made a motion to accept all and due to availability and purchase the cheapest one and then go in order if one isn't available. He and Ross voted in favor. Motion passed.

MOWER QUOTE

Zembrzycki said he got a \$9,180 quote from Hansen Equipment for a zero turn lawn mower that would be an exact replacement of what they lost in the fire. He also said he shopped around other places as well. He made a motion to purchase it. Ross seconded it under the assumption they didn't need a phone quote because it was below the minimum price. Motion passed.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, April 1 at 7pm, at the Herrick Center Baptist Church Hall.

Easter event On Main St. Wed., Apr. 17

Forest City Council authorized the closing of Main Street for an Easter Egg hunt and Easter Parade on Wednesday, April 17, from 5 to 8pm. The event is sponsored by GFCBA. Further details will be forthcoming.

Wayne Memorial Joins Rural Health Model

Three area hospitals in the 20th Senatorial District were chosen to participate in the Pennsylvania Rural Health Model, which seeks to improve patient health in rural communities while ensuring that the hospitals serving those residents remain financially healthy. They are among five hospitals statewide that were selected for the program.

The announcement was made by state Department of Health Secretary Dr. Rachel Levine while other administration officials, legislators, hospital CEOs and others looked on. Wayne Memorial Hospital in Honesdale, Wayne County and two Susquehanna County-based hospitals, Endless Mountains Health System in Montrose and Barnes-Kasson County Hospital in Susquehanna Depot, will join UPMC Kane Community Hospital in McKean County and Geisinger Jersey Shore Hospital in Lycoming County as part of the innovative and collaborative effort to improve rural health care.

Sen. Lisa Baker, R-20th District, welcomed the news and thanked all those involved from the federal, state and local level for having the vision to see this was the best prescription for many rural health centers.

The Rural Health Model is an alternative payment model, transitioning hospitals from a fee-for-service model to a global budget payment. Instead of hospitals getting paid when someone visits the hospital, they will receive a predictable amount of money. Payment for the global budget will include multiple-payers, including private and public insurers.

Through this change in payment model, the hospitals will be able to transform care locally to better meet the health needs of the community. This includes opportunities to assess items that may traditionally fall outside of the role of the hospital, such as transportation and broadband internet access. "Addressing the problems facing rural hospitals and health care facilities is a matter

of high urgency because there are not a lot of options in the neighborhood. For good reasons these hospitals are designated critical access and acute care facilities. The economies of scale rarely work in their favor. Although their emergency rooms do not see the heavy traffic that urban hospitals do, they still have to be prepared for all contingencies. Meanwhile, government piles on requirements while squeezing

tighter on reimbursements," Baker said.

"When facilities close, it is catastrophic. One of the painful lessons learned since the medical malpractice crisis is that practitioners who depart and facilities that close rarely return to service or operation," Baker added. "People in my area who must now travel an hour for maternity care are familiar with that consequence."

Council says no to Hist. Soc. To allow wall replacement

The Forest City Area Historical Society recently sent a letter to Council seeking Council's action so the Society can install a new Main Street wall on their property to replace the one which is deteriorating. Council President Nick Cost said Council could not give the guarantee requested in the Society's letter.

The letter indicated that benefactors donated \$17,500 to pay for the wall but in order for the contractor, David Colachino, to proceed, the Society must receive assurances that the defective new sidewalk in front of the Museum would be replaced and it would not damage the new wall.

The Historical Society commented that the first new sidewalk put in by Leeward Construction, at the Museum, was replaced when it quickly deteriorated. The replacement sidewalk did not make it thru last winter before it now requires replacement.

According to the letter to Council, the double excavation of the sidewalks resulted in damage to the 110 year old wall causing the need for its replacement. The wall contractor is reluctant to begin work because a 3rd excavation of the sidewalk could cause damage to the wall, or could result in the sidewalk contractor claiming the new wall damaged the sidewalk

and it would be the Society's responsibility to fix the sidewalk.

Last year officials of the Historical Society approached President Cost to see if the sidewalk contractor and the wall contractor would undertake the project at the same time. When that did not materialize Mr. Colachino gave President Cost a price to also do the sidewalk replacement at the same time as the wall installation. This also did not materialize.

President Cost has stated previously that Council will start legal action against Leeward Construction to do the Society's sidewalk repair along with some 18 other defects on past Leeward jobs, but as yet no suits have been filed.

Pres. Cost told the Historical Society he cannot give the requested guarantees to the Society which would allow them to move forward with the wall replacement.

At Council's public comment portion, local resident Rachel Habetler questioned the process whereby Leeward Construction was paid for sidewalk work, and whether money was withheld to correct any construction defects. Borough Secretary/Treasurer Sharon Vannan said funds are paid by the USDA based on bills from Leeward and certification by the town's engineer, KBA Engineering.

Council hears request for funds To repair Doughboy & Memorial

The Charles & Martin Skubic Post #525 American Legion, Forest City, asked Forest City Council, at the council meeting March 4, to provide financial support to a project for the restoration and maintenance of the Doughboy Statue and the Coal Miners' Memorial. Earl Obelenus and Paul Kalasinski, representing the Legion, advised Council that the Doughboy is on property deeded to the Borough, and the maintenance of the Miners' Memorial was taken over by Borough Council from the Rotary Club, a number of years ago.

Legion member Obelenus told Council the company which restored the Doughboy 22 years ago can make the badly needed repairs at a cost of approximately \$11,500. The same firm said it could do the required maintenance of the Miners' Memorial at the same time for approximately \$2,800.

Kalasinski and Obelenus said The Forest City News

has agreed to assist in seeking some of the funds from the public, including former residents.

Council President Nick Cost said Council has to know how much funding would be required from the Council before it could commit such funding.

The two Legion members said that Legion commander Jeffery Swegel would return from Afghanistan next month and would have more information for Council at that time.

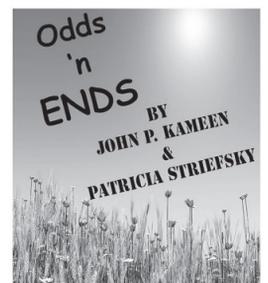
Winterfest Raised \$1,019

The Winterfest at Kennedy Park on Feb. 23, raised \$1,019 for the Parks & Recreation Committee according to a report from Committee head Kathy Kernoschak.

In her report to Council on March 4 she thanked all who assisted as well as Police Chief Lee Rowan who supervised the Fishing derby.

The event was part of FCRS Senior Project by Lucas O'Neill and Rocco Sassani.

A complete listing of all contributors and the event winners was in last week's News.



Was amazed to watch a program on the Military History Channel (127 on NEP DataVision) and see former Forest City Command Sergeant Major (RET) Joseph Lupyak as one of the commentators. He was our 1994 Forest City Area Distinguished Citizen as a result of his distinguished career in the US Army Special Forces. The two hour TV program was entitled "Complete Story of the Green Berets." The US Special Forces were originally called "Green Berets" due to their distinctive head covering. Later they were re-named Special Forces, and CSM Lupyak was engaged for years as a member of a unit and later as a trainer and then special consultant to these units of brave soldiers. One of the operations which he was associated with was the famous Son Tay Prison raid which sent Special Forces into Vietnam to rescue US prisoners of war. On several occasions during the TV program, Joe spoke of the various duties, around the world, of the Army Special Forces. He presently lives near Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where the Special Forces are headquartered. Spoke to him on the phone last year after he received a copy of Mark Walsh's "Primeval," the history book of Forest City area. He also keeps in contact with local barber, Paul Ferraro, and the two enjoy bantering about which branch of the service, Army or Marines, is better.

CORRECTION

In the photo on page 1 in last week's edition of the Rail Trail Council, Jim Brownlow was misidentified as Tom Brownlow.



FREE Classified Ads!
Issues of March 13, 20, 27
Want to get rid of household items or clean out your basement or attic?
To be run these weeks,
FREE 20 words or less classified FOR SALE ad. Email fcnews@nep.net; call 570-785-3800; send to 636 Main Street, Forest City, PA 18421; or stop in and drop it off!
Ads will run through the March 27th issue unless cancelled earlier. Please no business ads.