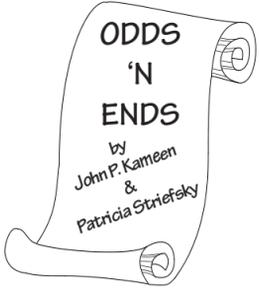


THE FOREST CITY NEWS



ODDS 'N ENDS
by John P. Kameen & Patricia Striefesky

The wild winds of last week were unusual in their ferocity and their duration. Surprisingly few power outages. Quite a number of branches down, but few trees. And then we had snow almost every day, even if just a coating, and temps in the teens to boot. Just what we needed was the Sunday-Monday storm. Stopped counting the days off and two-hour delays at Forest City Regional.

Don't know where weather forecasters get their facts. They say this February, Northeastern Pennsylvania was three degrees WARMER than the average. I want anyone who thinks this past February was warmer, to come and explain our heating bills.

It has been a good ski season at Elk Mountain Ski Resort, unlike the poor snowmobile season. Elk can make snow as long as temps are below freezing. The snowmobilers have had three straight poor years.

Have you noticed the tree overhanging the road on South Main Street? It's been like that all winter and its going to come down. Just hope it is not during the night and some unsuspecting motorist hits it, like the tree which came down on Rte. 171 at Stillwater last year resulting in an accident and injury.

It was great watching the kids ice fishing at Kennedy Park during the recent Winterfest. For most of them it was probably the only time they will ever get to do that. Hats off to Police Chief Lee Rowan for taking on that effort.

One of our younger subscribers asked if the events which former Forest City resident Bob Cole writes about in our weekly "Coal Pail" column really took place? "You mean kids hopped freight trains and carried 22 rifles around?" You bet! I verify everything Bob says as a member of one of the Forest City Railroad St. gangs which he talks about. I was in the South Railroad St. gang while Bob was the north Railroad St. gang. The north gang was a little bit more aggressive than ours but those things all happened!

Daylight Saving Time begins this Sunday morning at 2 AM. Don't forget to put your clocks one hour forward before heading to bed.

Hall's Garage Hit by fire

A Saturday night fire severely damaged Tim Hall's Garage and Auto Supply in Mount Pleasant Township. The fire reportedly started in a vehicle and spread to the garage.

Mr. Hall said the fire companies did a great job in fighting the fire. There were no injuries.

GFCBA Spring Mixer set for Thurs., March 7

The Cornerstone Bible Church will be the setting for the GFCBA Spring Mixer set for Thursday, March 7 from 6 PM to 8 PM. Pastor Tim Madden hopes that everyone will come out to this event and you don't have to be a member of the GFCBA in order to come. It is open to the public! There will be food, music, prizes, games and speakers. Speakers will include Dr. Mary Surridge, Alpha Chiropractic; Pastor Tim Madden, Cornerstone Bible Church; and GFCBA President Erin Debish.



The Rail Trail Council of NEPA was honored at the Annual Greater Carbondale Chamber of Commerce Progress Dinner which was held on Thursday, February 21. Pictured left to right are Tom and Cheryl Brownlow, Lynn Conrad, speaker and who accepted the award, and Carissa Dewey.

Carbondale Chamber holds annual "Celebrating Progress Dinner"

by Art McLain

If you have the opportunity to attend the annual Carbondale Chamber of Commerce Celebrating Progress Award Dinner you can be certain of several things. Hosted by The Anthracite Hotel, one of the award winners, you can be sure of beautiful surroundings, great food and great service.

Catching up with friends you may not have seen for a while and the certainty of making new friends is another great feature. Learning about the good things that have happened, are happening and will happen in the future is the main subject of the event.

This year's awards were especially rewarding for our local area. Tremendous accomplishments have been made by Clifford Township and it is a must visit location with it's Historical Museum, beautiful trail along a stream, and other improvements too numerous to mention. As

with all of the award recipients "Progress" is not only what has happened but also the continuation into the future of more accomplishments.

Johnson College was another award recipient and President Katie Leonard spoke highly of our local population, the determination and character of our hard working citizens. Exciting news for Forest City are in the programs available in cooperation with the Forest City Regional High School. Many of the programs can guarantee a student a great job upon completion of their degree. Students can earn college credits while still in high school.

Pizza Guys of Carbondale was another winner of an award and owner Tommy Nunes reflected upon how grateful he was for all of the community support and the unwavering support from his family, especially his mom.

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As part of their Senior Project, Rocco Sassani, left, and Lucas O'Neill, right, helped coordinate some of the activities for Winterfest held at Kennedy Park on Saturday, February 23. Rocco is a sophomore and Lucas is a Junior at Forest City Regional High School.

Winners of Winterfest and Thanks to all who helped

The Forest City Parks and Recreation Board and Forest City Council held a Winterfest at Kennedy Park on Saturday, February 23.

Seventeen soups were entered in the Soup Cook Off. They were as follows: Candlelight Inn, Broccoli and Cheddar; Rudy Peterka & Family, Pigs in the Blanket; Curtis Home Cooking, Amish Church; Niki & Andy Wagner, Kale & Sausage; Megan & Rob Neubert, Italian Wedding Soup; D.G.'S, Cream of Potato and Bacon; Lisa Litz: New England Clam Chowder; Ellen Linde, Kale & Sausage; Cindy Stone, Lasagna; Rachelle Heller, Italian Wedding; Michelle Heller, Hamburg; Brenda Benjamin, Ham, Potato & Bean; Elegante's, Chicken Noodle; The Speakeasy, Seven Seas; Maria's Restaurant, Cream of Chicken; Peterlin Family, Italian Wedding; Christ Episcopal Church, Southwestern Chicken Chili.

Winner were: 1st Place - The Speakeasy; 2nd Place - Candlelight Inn; and 3rd Place - Christ Episcopal Church.

Basket Raffle and Gift Certificate Winners were: Lori Remus, Debbie Giddings, Josh Faatz, Mair Drasler, Karen Rapoch, Allison Pierzga, Darrell Seaman, Michelle Heller, Jim Richards, Kathy Kemoschak, and Andy Wagner.

Cornhole Tournament Winners were: 1st Place Adult - Josh Faatz and 1st Place Children - Nathan Faatz.

Ice Fishing Derby Winners Ages 1-7: Biggest Fish - Olivia Lukens and Most Fish - Jerame Burrows. Ages 8-15, Biggest Fish - Owen Price.

The event was a great suc-

FNB presents check to FCR for Dual Enrollment



Officials of First National Bank were on hand at Forest City Regional High School with a check for \$8,000 from the Educational Income Tax Fund. The money will be used for Dual Enrollment students. FCR currently partners with three colleges in the area to offer the courses to students. Pictured left to right are Gregory Conrad, Senior VP of FNB; Charlene McGraw, FCR School Counselor; Eileen Lynch, Forest City Branch Manager of FNB; Sandy Walker, Market Manager of FNB; and FCR Superintendent Dr. Jessica Aquilina.

Herrick Twp. Hearing for Cond. Use Permit for Stone Bridge Part 4

Part 4 of the Herrick Twp. hearing regarding the conditional use permit for the Stone Bridge Inn.

by Theresa Opeka
Final public comment was allowed by Zelinka. May said he has lived here (in Elk Meadows) since 2006. "If I was building my house and someone told me a drug rehab center would be built next to it, would anyone want it? I was a project manager in the pharmaceutical industry. I worked with compliance managers. They are very detailed oriented. The person sitting in the chair was not like anyone I met. I would worry about the staff running it."

Schultz said, "Testimony from the compliance guy was so deficient. If I was a planning commission member, I couldn't make a decision without hearing more testimony from Just Believe. They don't have a distinct plan. Ms. Bellino's employees haven't reviewed her own testimony."

Mark Reading said, "I have concerns with the application process. One owner was applying and now there is another applicant altogether. The proposed use is a PHP with housing. There was no discussion on how the township will handle 21-35 patients housing. Once people leave there, according to DDAP (Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs), they are on their own. They can leave. For 41 years, I was a paramedic. In June, I will lose certification. I will be the happiest man in the world. I was a hospital administrator. I find it difficult a policy manual can't be brought in here. DDAP doesn't write treatment protocol. This will be a draw on all emergency services in the community. The applicant was required to do a site survey. The agent for the applicant did a walk around and didn't see anything wrong. This is inappropriate. I am worried about

Five members School Board Terms are up

Five members of Forest City Regional School Board of Education will be completing their four year terms in 2019. None have indicated to the News whether they plan to seek reelection.

They are Mary Emmett and Joanne Sterchak in Forest City; Dr. Henry Nebydoski and Christine Albright in Pleasant Mount; and Bernice Lukus, Vandling.

Mary Emmett represents Region 8 which is Dundaff St. and Grand Ave. north to the Boro line. Joanne Sterchak represents Region 7 which is Depot Street north to Dundaff St. and Grand Ave.

Candidates must file nominating petitions to appear on the Primary Election ballot on May 21st. School Board members can cross file on both Republican and Democrat tickets but must file nominating petitions from each party.

property values. I own property here. The attorney (Neyhart) showed that the person who bought the property in Carbondale was a principal in Just Believe. They took advantage of the drop in price and I am afraid that is what is going to happen to the rest of the township."

Sandy said, "I moved here to get away from violent crime. I came from Fort Lauderdale. I testified that I have someone interested in this restaurant. There is too much risk in every question. What are we prepared to risk? We all want to help someone. I understand what the proposed treatment center will do. It is up to the township to assess the risk."

After a brief recess, Neyhart gave his closing argument. "When looking at the ordinance provision Section 104, everything we heard must be evaluated by this. A health facility is an allowed facility. Ross' property is allowed for a healthcare facility. Subsection # 7 covers a nursing home and group home. It fits the definition of a healthcare facility. We can't look at this in a vacuum. Health facilities include drug treatment facilities," he said.

He then read from different Pennsylvania court cases. Neyhart went on to say, "The specific provisions of the zoning ordinance are addressed by the applicant. Section 405 addresses use of a fence along property. None of the residential units in the Endless Mountains Resort about Mr. Ross' property. Another property in the middle is used for commercial use so no fence is required. Section 406 mentions off street parking. The parking lot is in compliance with the highway occupancy permit. There is access. Section 407. The sewer and water expert testified there are water supplies for more

Sid Kavulich Replacement Election Mar. 12

There will be special election Tuesday, March 12 to select a State Representative to replace the late Sid Michaels Kavulich in the 114th Legislative District, which includes Vandling. Kavulich died suddenly in October.

The two leading candidates appear to be Republican Frank Scavo and Democrat Bridget Malloy Kosierowski

Voting will be at the Vandling Borough Building from 7am to 8PM.

than 21 people. The sewer provides for 21 people. The applicant doesn't have to show the facility in the manner in which it will exist but that it can accommodate when developed.

There is a primary field for 21 people and a secondary field for more. As long as it has potential to accommodate for which it is designed, it has to be approved. Approved use doesn't have to be in move-in condition. We addressed the use of PHP and less intense use. The zoning ordinance provided for use in the zone. Since we satisfied the use in the ordinance, we have satisfied our burden. The question about whether the meter was used (to measure water use) is irrelevant. We have satisfied the specific use.

The burden shifts to the objector. We must look at potential use in your ordinance if use is more burdensome than what is in the ordinance. The police must testify that use is more burdensome than your ordinance. He didn't know what the use was in Carbondale or Herrick and how they compare. He can't testify to what the use would be. Uses are allowed in every township. Uses proposed must be more burdensome than use allowed. The real estate broker testified next. The law states you must testify that the use would be in excess of use allowed. He couldn't testify to the uses. He could have gone to Waverly Township but chose not to. I know the design of the Waverly facility. My partner is in Dunmore and I am familiar with that facility. You must prove what will go in is more of a burden than what is there. The real estate testimony is irrelevant.

The compliance officer reviews for PHP only. He only testified to one ambulance call for the PHP facility in two years. Why talk about so many uses? Only PHP is being talked about for the proposed facility. It is not any more burdensome. The applicant satisfied your ordinance and objectors presented just words and didn't address the fundamental issue about whether the proposed use is more burdensome than the one in place. If they can't substantiate it is more burdensome, approval must be granted. They want to have an impact but it isn't a rule of law. We will specify and address the ordinance. When you apply the rules of the ordinance, interpretation must be in favor of the applicant as stated in your ordinance."

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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.

