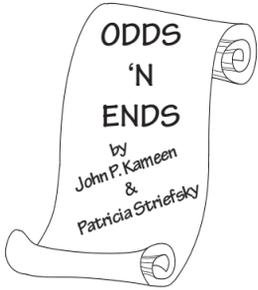


THE FOREST CITY NEWS



You might want to note there is an effort by both state and federal elected representatives to rescind storm water fees such as the ones intended for Forest City, Vandling and other municipalities. They are unjustified and don't provide a single cent to rectify any water problems. All the funds go for inspections and paperwork.

One way we know our readers are checking out our Dining Guide page is from the number of coupons we receive for the weekly drawing for the \$20 gift certificate. I guess lots of folks are anxious to get out of the house this spring because our number of coupons has been quite high. Mail them or drop them in our mail slot before Monday morning. You out-of-towners are welcome to enter by mail since there is no expiration on the certificates.

Our subscriber, and former resident, Barbara Bostjancic likes our Coal Pail column by Robert Cole. She grew up in the Bronx, NY, and remembers doing a lot of those things in her youth. When she reads his column it feels like she is talking with him. We get lots of positive comments on his writing. He has had almost 80 continuous columns in the News. I can personally vouch for the things he and his North Railroad Street buddies did, as I was part of the South Railroad Street gang, but we were less adventurous than Bob's bunch.

I am confused when I read that in 2017 there were 8.6 million NICS gun checks completed for purchasing firearms in the U.S., and 112,090 potential gun buyers were denied. The confusing part is that 12,710 investigations of those denials was done by the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms, yet only TWELVE people were prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney. Maybe we need to enforce gun laws on the books before we pass new ones.

The most extensive menu in Northeastern Pennsylvania is available at Frank's Place in Simpson, one of our longtime Dining Guide advertisers. You may not need a reservation for lunch but for evening dinner, best to get a reservation. He has done such a great job enlarging the location with more dining and parking area because his food is always excellent with more than excellent, fast service. His Italian specialties are sumptuous and generous. Very few can finish their portions and they provide take-home bags for most patrons. Chicken Parm, penne ala vodka and their fresh fish are usually on our table.

FC Senior Center Easter on Main April 17

The Forest City Senior Center, located at 535 Main Street in Forest City, will sell refreshments to participants of the Community Easter Egg Hunt April 17 from 5:00pm to 8:00pm. Hot dogs will be available for \$1.50, fruit punch and coffee will be offered for \$1.00, and a hot dog and drink combo will sell for \$2.00. Participants will also get the chance to purchase raffle tickets to win an Easter Basket. All proceeds will directly benefit activities of the Forest City Senior Center.

For more information, please call 570-785-3386.



School to open August 26; Tax collectors exonerated

Forest City Regional School Board met Monday, April 8, and passed the 2019-20 school calendar with school opening Monday, August 26. Due to snow make up days, the last day of school and graduation will be determined later. The Back to School carnival will be Wed., Aug. 21, from 5 to 7PM.

The District tax collectors were exonerated of the following amounts of unpaid school real estate taxes: Marianne Thorpe, Clinton Twp. II, \$42,568 (49 properties); Pam Green, Forest City Boro, \$61,931 (71 properties); Joseph Svecz, Herrick Twp., \$48,381 (41 properties); Joseph Svecz, Union Dale Boro, \$5,213 (7 properties); Clara Keast, Mt. Pleasant Twp., \$193,912 (135 properties); Mary Ann Risboskin, Vandling, \$1,837 (5 properties).

The Wayne County Recorder of Deeds will serve as Realty Transfer Tax Collector for 2019-20 school year.

The Board approved the annual budget of the Career Technology Center in Lackawanna County. The District's share of the budget increased \$8,441 from the past budget. The District's amount is dependent upon the fact that daily membership of FCR students increased from the present number of students

attending.

The 2019-20 Fall & Winter extracurricular positions were declared open.

Paul Debish, David Heath and James Holsinger were approved as junior high baseball coaches on a shared basis.

Carolyn Non was approved as a substitute bus driver.

Rachel Burnis was approved as the substitute teacher chaperone for the FBLA trip to Hershey April 7-10.

An Adobe Creative Software agreement between the District and Lancaster-Lebanon IU-13 at an annual cost of \$2,725 was approved.

The Board also approved a 5-year Microsoft EES agreement with Lancaster-Lebanon IU for \$7,100 per year.

A memorandum of understanding with the FCR Education Assoc. will allow the school psychologist to change his daily hours in order to implement a pilot program involving social skills in the Elementary School.

Unpaid leave was granted to two school employees, one for one hour March 15; another for four weeks starting May 6.

Tour de Scranton 16 was granted permission to use the high school foyer and restroom facilities April 28th for their annual bike race.

Clinton Fire Tax Discussed

by Theresa Opeka

Once again, a debate over whether or not to implement a fire tax was discussed at the Wednesday, April 10 meeting of the Clinton Township Supervisors. A moment of silence was held honoring former township supervisor Louis Matoushek who passed away on March 30. Supervisor Ken Coles, who replaced Matoushek after he decided not to run again for the position, said, "It was very important for me to have him help me. He took me all around the township when I was running for office."

FIRE TAX

The discussion turned to the proposed fire tax to help the Browndale Fire Company. Mike Urban said, "We don't need any more taxes. Wayne County average salary is \$25,000 and the poverty level is \$25,000. It is ridiculous to consider raising taxes. Taxes are a cancer. They never end. If the Browndale Fire Company can't support itself, it needs to go away. I was in the military. If the unit wasn't up to snuff, it either came up or went away. Equipment went to other units. They become 'mission capable.' The Waymart Ambulance went away. It made other companies stronger. If Browndale can't support itself, it needs to merge with other companies. Get your materials and combine with Forest City, Waymart and Prompton. Sell your building, bring money into the township. Seven fire companies surround the township. Unless they have rocket trucks, they won't get here any quicker than they did 15 years ago. Put it on the ballot so people can vote on it."

Coles said, "I went to the Wayne County Commissioners and asked if it could be put on the ballot. They said if it is more than 3 miles it can be put on the ballot. I agree with Mr. Urban. Send out our own ballot to everyone in the township and we can check to see what people want to do."

Supervisor Russ Curtis said, "It is the fair thing to do." Mark Lopatofsky said, "Not everyone is covered by Browndale." Browndale Fire Company President Josh Debevec disagreed, "You are covered." Lopatofsky said, "Yes, but others will come to me first. We are taxed to death." Dr. James Zefran added, "Check with your solicitor. I don't think what you are proposing is legal, sending letters and having them come back to you and you count them. You may need to send them to your accountant. Also, he (Lopatofsky) lives on one side of the township and the fire company is on the other side of the township. Instead of enacting a tax that will last forever, enact two ten thousands of a mil, have a sunset on it and revisit it in so many years and at that point, the county may have a fire department for the county, who knows. Reduce millage .01% and enact a .02%. That way, everyone gets taxed .01% mills."

Urban responded, "I disagree 100% with that. Taxes can go up. There are a lot of people who don't make \$25,000." He also referenced a person who lost a spouse and half of their Social Security money coming in and asked if they expected that person to pay the tax.

Lillie said, "Put the tax on everyone. The wage tax. What did you do with that? The roads were supposed to be black-topped."

Coles made a motion to put out the mailer if it is legal. Non said, "We need a Plan B. We have to figure something out." Coles said, "Our job is to look out for what is best for the township." All voted in favor. Motion passed.

NO BIDS

There were no bids for road work for Smith or Ravnarik Roads. The supervisors will advertise in The Wayne Independent again and The Forest City News. A special meeting was set for April 24 at 7pm or the next closest day they can legally meet to go over any bids received.

To be cont. next week

Clifford supervisors hire Community Marketing firm

by Theresa Opeka

Concerns over speeding traffic were among the items discussed at the Tuesday, April 9 meeting of the Clifford Township Supervisors. In old business, a Salvation Army donation bin has been placed in the back of the township building. Supervisor Chris Marcho said recycling is doing well as a third container was added.

Road Master Kurt Booths said he contacted Ed Sumski of PennDOT with information about adding a blinking

light in the downtown and he forwarded it to another person. He said a request needs to be sent on letterhead and Secretary Joan Hertzog will take care of it.

A reminder that the Spring Clean up is May 4 at 9am and the Family Fun Bike Ride is May 11.

Supervisor Barry Searle said Kimmel Associates, a marketing firm from Doylestown will be coming to the township at the end of the month to collect information.

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Forest City Borough Council presented a check for \$3,000 to the Doughboy Statue Fund. In addition to the repairs on the Doughboy Statue, the same company will do required maintenance and preservation on the nearby Anthracite Coal Miners' Memorial which is the responsibility of Forest City Borough. Shown in photo from left: Legion members and officers Dusty Svegel, Pauline Wilcox, Stephanie Collier, Earl Obelenus, Paul Kalasinski, Tom Prince and Legion Commander Col.(Ret.) Jeffrey Swegel; representing Forest City Council, President Nick Cost, Mayor Chris Ginton, Joann Matarese and Chris DeGonzague.

Council gift of \$3,000 for Doughboy Among business items at meeting

Forest City Borough Council, at its April 1st regular monthly meeting, announced a donation of \$3,000 to the Doughboy Statue Fund which will be used for repairs to the 93-year-old Doughboy statue as well as the Rotary Anthracite Miners' Memorial, both in William Penn Park.

American Legion Chaplain Tom Prince accepted the donation for the Charles & Martin Skubic Post # 524 which is conducting a public fundraising to pay for the needed repairs. He said the fundraising was a community project and, as of April 1, that more than \$5,000 in public donations had already been received.

Council President Nick Cost said Council would be willing to increase their contribution in the event the fund drive falls short.

NEW DOOR, WINDOWS

Council approved a request for \$8,950 from Building Committee head Bob Lesjack to install a new front entrance and windows in the Library. The installation will be done by Mesko Glass.

FLOORING TABLED

Another request from Mr. Lesjack for \$4,951 for 3rd floor carpeting and vinyl flooring in the hallway, elevator, bathrooms, kitchen and stage was tabled. Comments from Council member Amy Bean and from audience member Rachel Habetler were that repairs should be made to the

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.

Stands will include: Kennedy Park Board - Sweatshirt sale; GFCBA; FC Nursing and Rehab, Tumblin' Tots - Egg Decorating; FC Senior Center - Hot Dogs; Cornerstone Bible Church - Rabbit Ear Coloring.

Other participants will be: Elegant Restaurant, Hornbeck Chevrolet, Kelley's Salon, Red Cross Pharmacy, Shirley's Restaurant, Maria's Restaurant and Deli; Ros-Al Floral, All in a Basket, House of Flowers, HNB, FNB, Zazzera's, Tobacco Road, Forest City Area Historical Society, Jessie's Salon, The Barking Cupcake, Kevin Lesjack Funeral Home, Endless Mtns. Visitors Bureau, Case Quatro Winery, Momma D's Cookies, Wayne Memorial Hospital, Matchek Fuel, Kresock Insurance, KW Oil, Dr. Gerard Genco, Alpha Chiropractic, CPT, Hornbeck Chevrolet, Bloom, Rockhill Plumbing & Heating, Forest City Library and The Speakeasy. Participant names provided by Main Street Coordinator Paul Daugevelo

Participating businesses will be open and you can go in and fill out a coupon to win a candy basket from each business.

The Easter Egg Hunt will take place at 5:45 PM in the Honesdale National Bank parking lot.

Rick Priebe band will be also performing on Main Street.

leaky building roof before any more money is expended on the 3rd floor.

NEW POLICE OFFICERS

Two new part time officers were hired by Council. They are Rebecca Clark, Waymart, and Keith Rynearson, Waymart. They will be paid \$14.50 per hour.

SPEED SIGNS

Council received a quote of \$5,499 to purchase two radar speed signs to be used on Main Street. Approval of PennDOT is required. Action was tabled.

POLICE TIRES

Council approved the purchase of four new tires for the police SUV at a cost of \$480 plus inspection from M&M Tire & Auto Service.

LOCAL CODE ISSUES

In the monthly code report by Code Enforcement Committee head Chris DeGonzague and Code Enforcement Officer Stephanie Reisch, two cases went to the magistrate involving garbage on property. One was cleaned up while the other was given until May 6 to clean up. She indicated that resolving garbage problems on properties requires time to resolve due to requiring notification of property owners.

Code Officer Reisch again asked residents to remove garbage cans from the street in a reasonable time after garbage is picked up. Many are still leaving the cans on the street for days afterward.

CROSSWALK PAINT

Street Dept. committee head Bernie Scalzo said the street dept. will use a different kind of durable paint to paint the crosswalks on Main Street to promote compliance with pedestrian crosswalk laws.

RECYCLING GRANT

Council will receive a Recycling Grant award of \$1,623 in June for their annual award for doing recycling with the weekly garbage collection.

CALIBRATE METERS

It was reported that the required 5 year calibration of parking meters has been completed.

PARKS & REC.

Council person Amy Bean, head of the Parks & Recreation Committee, said the Park Board is selling cheesecakes as a fundraiser for the park. Details are in the Forest City News. She also was given permission to select trees from a PPL tree program for planting in the Park.

Ms. Bean said the old gazebo was removed and a new concrete base will be installed for the new Gazebo which was ordered from Franceski Lumber. Contractor quotes are being accepted for the foundation.

Ms. Bean questioned the rules for serving alcohol at events at Kennedy Park. Borough Secretary Sharon Vannan said the Borough's policy is on the website, allowing alcohol at events sponsored by a 501C3 non-profit or a town event. All require adequate insurance, use of police, and fencing as well as a special single event alcohol license.

COME TO MEETING

Ms. Bean also invited any area people who would like to help with the Parks and Recreation Commission to attend a meeting of the group.

STREET CLOSINGS

Council approved closing Main Street on Memorial Day for the annual parade from North Main St. to William Penn Park. They also approved closing Main Street all day for the Trail Town Festival in August including the Light Parade and daily events.

With the bathrooms at Kennedy Park still not useable, Port-a-Johns would be placed there.

MAYOR REPORT

Local resident Kathryn Singer asked if there was any progress on Mayor Ginton's announcement about a hotel in the Industrial Park. Mayor Ginton said he was working on it. She also asked about what was being done about a blighted property at 730 Delaware St., and Ginton said he was also working on that with someone who is interested in buying it and fixing it up for use as a rental. Ginton said the same individual is also looking to purchase a number of properties for rentals.

2021 REDISTRICTING

Maeve Rupp, Clifford Twp., and Diana Daakey, Dalton, addressed Council to seek support for a citizen-based state-wide commission to re-district the State's legislative districts in 2021. They said the appointment of a bipartisan 11 person board of private citizens—4 Republican, 4 Democrat and 3 independents, could solve the problem of partisan Gerrymandering of Districts. Council accepted the proposed resolution and said they would consider it.

Mother's Day Photos for The Forest City News

The Forest City News will be accepting photographs for its annual Mother's Day edition. The date of the publication for this edition is Wednesday, May 8. This year Mother's Day is on May 12th.

This year's edition will be in full color.

The cost is \$20 for color.

Anyone interested in having their picture in this issue can email or drop off a picture at the News office no later than Wed., May 1. You can email photos to fcnews@nep.net.

Everyone who submits a photo will also have the photo included on our website, in color, for FREE.