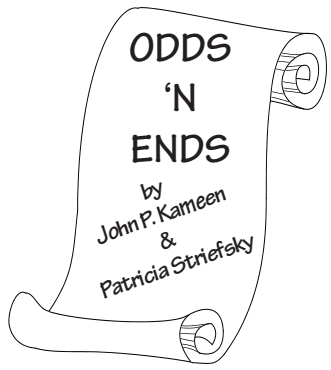


THE FOREST CITY NEWS



Please vote in the May 21 Primary. People complain about their political officials and then don't vote for candidates who will be on the November ballot. In FC, the mayor, council and school board will be nominated. In Susq. County, commissioners, district attorney, treasurer, register-recorder, coroner, auditor and district judge are on the ballot, in addition to a special election for a new U.S. congressman. In other counties, townships and towns, other offices will be contested.

We received a video of a big bear taking down a Browndale bird feeder. Last week Jim Wells spotted a big bruin moseying around Railroad St. It might be prudent for homeowners not to leave bird feeders, garbage, gas grills, etc. in accessible locations. Black bears are not USUALLY dangerous but some recent Pennsylvania incidents prove that is not always the case.

Our Country Cook columnist seems to have found my mother's recipe book with such recent items as salmon patties, ham & scalloped potatoes, ham salad, chicken salad and potato soup. My wife recently treated me to spanish rice and macaroni & bread crumbs, also recipes from my youth.

D&H Rail -Trail from FC to Union Dale Reopens

The section of Rail-Trail from Forest City to Union Dale is once again open, after being closed down for the past two years for a pipeline installation project.

This section of trail has undergone extensive drainage and surface improvements. The finished trail is durable, with fine-crushed gravel and is suitable for all trail activities.

With the reopening of the trail, there is now 20 miles of improved trail from Carbon-dale to Ararat.

Memorial Day Parade set for Mon., May 27

Memorial Day activities in Forest City will take place on Monday, May 27. The parade will begin at 10:30 AM at Franceski Lumber & continue to the Doughboy located at William Penn Apts. for a special memorial ceremony which starts immediately after the parade.

If anyone with an antique or muscle car or any groups such as the cub scouts, girl scouts or anyone who would like to participate in the parade please call Paul Daugevelo at 570-785-5960 or email rosald@nep.net.

Memorial Day program at FCR on Fri., May 24

The Memorial Day program at the Forest City Regional High School will be held on Friday, May 24.

The event is open to all area veterans. Any Veteran who is NOT a member of the American Legion but is interested in attending must call the school (570-785-2420) for a reservation to assist in a head count for lunch.

Lunch begins at 12:00 noon in the High School Library and the program begins at 1:30 PM.

Lawyer's 45 pg. decision on Stone Bridge Stone Bridge Treatment Center Received but is not acted upon by Herrick Twp.

by Theresa Opeka

A decision on whether a conditional use application was approved and the closing of a longtime area business were among the items discussed at the Monday, May 6 meeting of the Herrick Township Supervisors.

Supervisor/Secretary Nancy Harvatine said she received Hearing Officer Jack Zelinka's decision on April 24 as to whether a conditional use application to change Stone Bridge Inn & Restaurant into a proposed drug and alcohol rehab facility be granted.

Attorney Zelinka's decision, listed in a 45 page document, grants the pending conditional use application as long as the following conditions are followed: a) A solid wood fence, or solid vinyl fence, of at least six feet in height shall be installed where the Subject Property adjoins the Endless Mountains Resort parcel to the south/southeast of the Subject Property and where it adjoins any other parcel that includes a residential use.

Further, Applicant must meet all requirements of Section 405(A) of the Herrick Township Zoning Ordinance, including but not limited to, the landscaping requirements, set forth herein. A landscape plan incorporating these criteria shall be prepared for approval by the Township; b) The facility shall be restricted to a maximum of twenty-one beds for the inpatient treatment of twenty-one patients/residents and shall not exceed these amounts unless the existing sewage disposal system is upgraded or replaced with a system that allows for additional patients/residents pursuant to all applicable laws; c) The facility shall be restricted from receiving or treating any person for any treatment related to medical detoxification from alcohol or drugs as term is defined by relevant state, federal and/or industry regulations; and d) Failure to comply with the provisions and conditions of the conditional use permit shall result in a withdrawal of the conditional use permit. No further action was mentioned at this time.

FRANCESKI LUMBER

Harvatine read a letter from Joe Franceski, of Franceski Lumber Yard. He said he plans on retiring and will be closing the business. He thanked them for their sup-

port and said all outstanding balances be satisfied by June 10. She said they have been renting a trailer from Franceski and need to make a decision by July whether or not to continue to rent or purchase it.

NEW BUILDING

Harvatine said the Planning Commission recommended getting a driveway permit and test the water on the land for the proposed township building. The recommendations were given to the Susquehanna County Planning Commission, who recommended the township get an occupancy permit before the building is built and inspection of the building upon completion and before use. Harvatine said she contacted PennDOT representative Ed Sumski and he said Kevin Miluzusky also of PennDOT, couldn't find where the township had a permit. Sumski suggested contacting Montrose to start the process.

GRINDING OF OLD TIRES

The township received a letter from Bonnie Bay, Stillwater Environmental Services. They grind old tires for aggregate. Harvatine said Sumski said the township can use it but it cannot be purchased with liquid fuels money.

REAL ESTATE EVALUATION

The Susquehanna County Commissioners certified the Correct Duplicate Real Estate Evaluation for the township at \$38,534,500.

PRIMARY ELECTION

The Primary Election will be held on May 21 at the Herrick Center Baptist Church Dining Hall.

GRADING ROADS

Supervisor/Road Master Brian Zembrzycki said they are currently grading roads.

EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD

It was mentioned again that an executive session was held at last month's meeting but no further details were given.

DITCHES

A Lowe Lake resident asked if ditches could be dug out on Lowe Lake Road. Zembrzycki said he will dig them but someone needs to drop the pipes back in afterwards because it isn't the township's responsibility. The resident said he will contact the lake association.

The next meeting will take place on Monday, June 3 at 7pm at the Herrick Center Baptist Church Dining Hall.

FCR Choral Concerts May 16

The Forest City Regional Choral Department will feature the annual spring chorus concert on May 16. Thursday, May 16, will feature the chorus students in grades 7-12. This will include the High School Chorus, Vocal Jazz Ensemble, and Chamber Choir. Performance begins at 6:30 with doors opening at 6:00.

Admission will be a donation to benefit the FCR Choral Program. The performance will be held in the Forest City Regional High School Auditorium.

Meet & Greet with Primary Election Candidates in FC

Forest City Mayor Chris Grinton is hosting a "Meet & Greet" with local candidates for office, for both Borough and County Seats. Take this opportunity to come out and meet the candidates, ask them questions, find out what they hope to do for the borough and the county. Be ready to place your votes at the Primary on May 21, 2019. Light refreshments will be served.

The event will be held on Thursday, May 16, 2019 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at 507 Main Street, Forest City in the parking area next to the "Coal". Look for the tents.



After 105 years, Franceski Lumber Co. will close its doors following a liquidation sale which is underway at the present time.

Franceski Lumber Co. closing after 105 years

On May 8, 2019, Franceski Lumber Co. located at 900 North Main Street in Forest City, a family-owned business since 1913, announced its owner is retiring and closing his business. The owner, Joe Franceski Jr. will be conducting a retirement sale, which started Thursday May 9th.

When asked about his plans, Joe Franceski Jr. commented "Reaching the decision to retire was not made quickly or easily. Much "soul searching" went into this choice. On May 9th we will start the Closing Sale to liquidate all our inventory, along with the furniture, fixtures, and equipment."

Throughout its 105-year history Franceski Lumber Co. has always strived to serve its customers with the best possible products to fulfill all their

building and remodeling needs. Thanks to its experienced team Franceski Lumber Co. has earned its reputation for providing expert advice, superior customer service, and large selection of home improvement products used by do-it yourselfers and the building trade.

Franceski Lumber Co. sells broad lines of lumber, hardware, tools, paint, general merchandise, sheds, and home improvement products. Their Store Closing Sale will be an extraordinary savings opportunity for everybody looking for great deals. Joe Franceski Jr. further commented, "Homeowners and building contractors can expect to find all their needs at our store. I would like to insure all our customers, both existing and new, we will be selling our inventory at aggressive discounts,

and our closing sale will present buying opportunities that are simply too good to miss!"

Though saddened by the end of this era, Mr. Franceski and all his associates look forward to seeing their many valued customers and friends during the Sale to express their gratitude for making the past 105 years possible.

Lastly Mr. Franceski commented, "On behalf of my entire family it has been a privilege to have served our customers from Forest City and the neighboring communities for over 105 years. We have been truly fortunate to be a part of your lives. I personally want to thank you for your patronage and support. We look forward to this event being a celebration of the past, and hope to see you during our Sale!"

Franceski Lumber Closing is Sad For Area

by John P. Kameen

The end of an era, is an understatement to fully document the upcoming closing of Franceski Lumber Yard. After more than 105 years, a Main Street anchor will close its doors after a "Going Out of Business" sale the next few months.

I have been talking to owner Joseph Franceski Jr. over the past several months about his impending closure. We received the official closing notice too late for our press deadline last week. He said it is time for him to retire and he has spent a year trying to find a buyer for the facility to no avail. Joe told me that even his suppliers wondered how he was able to stay open.

Joe bought up, and stocked, many of the hardware items sold by Village Hardware when they closed. This was more a service to the community than an economic opportunity.

There are many reasons why there is no market for the sale of businesses in small towns—Long hours, cost of merchandising, but mostly it comes down to the demographics of this town and many other small towns. There is no longer the population base to support what it costs to keep a business open.

We all know that online buying consumes much of household's expenditures. Folks check out merchandise in local stores then go home and order it online.

The loss of availability to area residents, do-it-yourselfers, contractors and builders is a major blow. But, even more so, is the loss of all the ancillary things that Joe, his family, his employees and friends have done for this community.

I would be willing to wager that Joe, and Franceski Lumber, never said "no" to any person, group or organization seeking aid. You have to be a Main Street merchant to understand that you are the object of every fundraising project in the

Tri-County area.

This business was established in 1913 by Joe's grandfather, Dominick Franceski, who came here from Italy in 1904. Some of Dominick's seven sons and daughters (Carl, Benjamin, Joseph, James, Virginia, Marcella, Angie and Marian) worked in the building and contractor business for many years until they retired or passed away. In the 1970s they purchased Bloxham Lumber Co., the last remaining lumber yard in the Forest City area.

In 1978, the son of Joseph Sr., Joseph Jr., took over the family business. He was a civil engineering graduate of Penn State and was working with Bechtel Power Co., when he returned home. He said in an interview at the time of the business's 100th anniversary, "I was destined to return here, and anticipated raising my children here."

Joe's father, Joseph Sr., passed away in 1999 and Joe Jr. became President. In 2002, Joe Jr.'s son, Joseph 3rd, joined the firm and established Franceski Waste & Recycling.

Over the course of years, they have been blessed with a multitude of hardworking and devoted employees who have provided extensive building and construction services to the community, as well as efficient store service to many area contractors and patrons.

And so, a community institution will pass away. We here at the News, at 132 years old, have been fortunate to chronicle the rise and growth, and eventual passing, of more than 700 businesses during this town's 155 year history. Some lasted a short time, some were generational and went many years. Franceski Lumber will certainly be remembered as one of the most influential.

Our wishes to Joseph for a long and happy retirement. We will miss him and his company.

May Primary Election Contests

Susquehanna County voters get a 2 for 1 in the May 21st Primary election. They get to vote to elect their new Congressman to replace Tom Marino who resigned in Feb. for health reasons. The winner gets to serve in U.S. Congress thru 2020. Both Republicans and Democrats get to vote on either Republican Fred Keller or Democrat Marc Friedenburg.

The other part of the ballot is the Primary Election which is to select the candidates to run in the November 2019 election for various county and municipal offices.

On the Republican County ballot, major county row offices are up for nomination. They are County Commissioner, District Attorney, Treasurer, Coroner, Register of Wills/Recorder of Deeds & Clerk of Orphans Court and County Auditors.

In this magisterial district, Suzanne Brainard is seeking reelection.

In Forest City Borough, there

is balloting for Mayor, three Council members and two school directors.

For County Commissioner, incumbents Alan Hall and Elizabeth (Betsy) Arnold are on the Republican ticket with Dana Rockwell and Sue Pepitone. For Democrat County Commissioner, incumbent MaryAnn Warren is on the ballot with Thomas Follert, Susan Rowe and Judy Herschel.

For District Attorney, present DA Marion O'Malley is being contested on the Republican side by Bill Urbanski.

On the Republican ballot, Incumbent County Treasurer Jason Miller, Coroner Tony Conarton, Register & Recorder Michelle Estabrook are opposed on the Republican ballot.

For County Auditor, incumbent Richard Adam Suraci and newcomer Bob DeLuca are the only Republican candidates for the two auditor's slots. On the Democrat ballot for auditor, Rick Ainey is the only candidate.

Locally, Forest City's new Mayor Chris Grinton is unopposed on the Democrat ballot. There is no Republican candidate for that two year seat.

There are three Council seats up this term. Council Pres. Nick Cost and Council VP Bernie Scalzo are the only two on the Democrat ballot. Present Council Member Joann Matarese has announced in an ad she will seek the 3rd seat by write-ins. There are no Republicans seeking those posts.

For Forest City Regional School Board, there are two local seats up for nomination. As a result there will be a new local face on the Board next year. In Region 7, Joann Sterchak is not on the ballot. Christine Priebe is the only candidate on both the Democrat and Republican ballots. In Region 8, present Board President Mary Emmett is the only candidate on the Democrat ballot. She did not crossfile on the Republican ballot.

