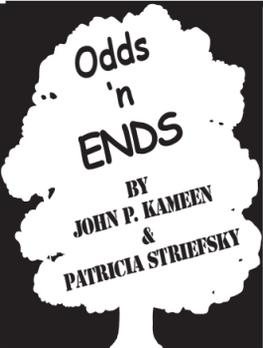


THE FOREST CITY NEWS



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 Brownale 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.

Make sure to RSVP for the GFCBA Mixer at Shirley's Family Diner by May 29. The event is set for Wednesday, June 5 from 6 PM to 8 PM. Shirley and Anthony from Elegante Restaurant will be serving a delicious variety of foods. Music will be by Static in the Attic and wine tasting by Case Quattro. Bring your business card to be entered into raffles. The event is free and open to the public. RSVP information is available in an article on this page.

Pleasant Mount Memorial Day Program May 27

Pleasant Mount Memorial Day Program will be held on Monday, May 27th in Meredith Park at 10 am. If it rains, it will be in the Pleasant Mount Community Center. Everyone is welcome.

The Forest City News will once again publish its Graduation Tabloid of Forest City Regional High School graduating seniors for 2019 in its June 12th edition. The tab will include photos of the seniors and biographies if they have provided them to the school. Anyone interested in purchasing an ad for their graduate(s) can do so. The cost is as follows:

- 5 x 3 inches - \$35
- 5 x 5 inches - \$60
- 1/2 Page - \$120
- Full page - \$200

To purchase an ad contact the Forest City News at 570-785-3800, mail it to or drop it off at the News office at 636 Main St., Forest City, or by email to patricia@forestcitynews.com. The deadline for submitting is June 6th.



Garden clubbers after having a digging and potting session in the mud. Pictured left to right are: Mary Ann O'Pecko, George Haff, Rachel Francis, Janelle Zigon, JoAnn Hall, Maureen Kupiec, Susan Haff

Plant Exchange & Marketplace in Clifford Sunday, June 2

The Mountain View Garden Club is proud to present their 15th annual Plant Exchange and Plant Sale. As Memorial Day is the unofficial start of summer so too the Plant Exchange signals the gardening season and gives us a chance to build our gardens at minimal expense.

Sunday, June 2nd from the hours of 11:30-3pm you can treat yourself and your family to a wonderful day not only shopping for plants but to enjoy all that the Clifford Township Community Center has to offer. It is easy to find, just a short drive off Route 106, 119 Cemetery Street in Clifford.

The marketplace opens at 11:30 and will have an array of items including gardening items, fine arts, and local maple syrup and honey. The plant exchange and sale opens at 1pm and expect a line to be forming even earlier.

A big attraction every year is 2nd Hand Rose, a flea market where lots of treasures can be found.

The Historical Society has built an amazing museum where you can be transported 300 years in the past as you learn about our community's history. The trail along a beautiful stream is relaxing and could be a perfect background for pictures. The Children's Garden is perfect for your children. Treats of all kinds will be available for purchase from numerous food stands.

The Garden Club, Historical Society and town of Clifford has been working hard and sincerely hopes you can come out and enjoy the beauty and opportunity that the Plant Exchange and Sale has to offer. There is no fee for admission and plenty of parking. It is sure to be a great day in Clifford.

Clinton Twp. Fire Tax mailers Going out to property owners

Road issues dominated the discussion at the Wednesday, May 8 meeting of the Clinton Township Supervisors. In the road report, Supervisor/Road Master Brian Non said emergency pipe repair was done on Smith Road due to a wash-out. Grading is halfway done. They may begin spreading calcium soon and rent a wood chipper for two months to chip trees. Supervisor Russ Curtis said he would like to get two french drains on the paved portion of Flat Rock Road. A Dirt & Gravel Road project for Ravnika Road is currently being designed and will be implemented next year.

PAVING
Paving of Ravnika and Smith Roads came up next. The supervisors called an executive session with township solicitor Jeff Treat. After a short time, the supervisors resumed the meeting. The bid for paving Ravnika was missed in a number of forms last month. The only bid was from Wayco at \$63,327.92. Wayco bid \$273,572.49 for Smith Road while E.R. Linde came in at \$158,226. Another bid was also received from Wayco at over \$133,000 but an item was left out of that bid. A motion was made to do both, with Linde doing Smith and Wayco with Ravnika and all voted in favor. Motion passed. The work will be done by June 30th.

HEARING
Sol. Treat said they had a hearing at the magistrate's office regarding the damage done to Burns Road. He said the person who did the damage will fix it to the township's specifications by June 8. About 1000 feet needs to be fixed according to Coles.

FNB SAVINGS ACCOUNT
The township opened up a savings account at FNB so they can get a better deal on loans in the future.

POWER LINES
Coles said high tensions power lines will be going up on Smith Road.

PROPERTY VIOLATIONS
Coles said Mike Dolph has a number of properties in violation of the nuisance ordinance. Treat said he needs to fill out paperwork and make sure it is in proper order. Once the papers are served, if the person doesn't comply, action will need to be taken at the magistrate's office.

RIGHT TO KNOW
Coles said PSATS has come up with a resolution in support of the Nuisance Right to Know request. Treat said municipalities say they have become burdensome and are asking that burden and harassment be addressed in the resolution. The supervisors agreed to a verbal resolution in support.

FIRE TAX
Mailers will be going out shortly for the proposed fire tax for the Brownale Fire Company. Coles broke down the cost, which he said is going to cost a few thousand dollars: \$800 for administrative fees, \$1200 for postage and \$250 for printing and address labels/ He said they will be going out to those on the voter registration list. Both Curtis and John Lillie said it should go out to everyone who pays taxes. Treat said to get the list from the assessment office. Tom Baileys asked how much it would cost to put a referendum on the ballot. Coles said they tried that and Treat said they can't do it.

MISCELLANEOUS
The township continues to apply for grants for a playground.

The sidewalk project in Brownale should be underway shortly.

Prisoners from the Wayne County Prison will be picking up trash, branches and leaves.

Coles made a motion to give dirt away that sits outside the township building. He said whoever wants it can come and get it. It needs to be moved for a project. A man in the audience said he was interested.

Brownale Fire Company had 21 incidents for the month of April.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 12 at 7pm.

FC Yard Waste Curbside Pickup May 23
Borough street crews will be picking up yard waste (only) on Thurs. May 23. Yard waste includes sticks, branches, leaves, and garden debris. NO GARBAGE. Items must be in biodegradable bags or in containers that can be easily dumped. No large branches or heavy wood. All must be placed curbside in the morning.

School Board's new budget Again needs \$500,000 from Surplus for sufficient funds

For the fifth year, Forest City Regional School Board will use some \$500,000 from surplus funds to balance its 2019-20 School budget. In addition, the Board, May 13, voted a real estate tax increase.

Superintendent Dr. Jessica Aquilina said the District will spend \$15,689,624 the next school year. This is a \$575,000 increase from the amount budgeted in the 2018-19 school year.

FCR School budgets have increased almost \$2 1/2 million over the last five years.

This marks the fifth year in a row the District had to use approximately \$500,000 from its surplus funds each year to balance its budget.

Dr. Aquilina said last year the District "has a structural deficit" around \$500,000 each year "which must be addressed in the immediate future." When questioned about the continuation of the deficit she agreed the deficit still continues. She said the fund balance (surplus) which the school had for many years is now down to about \$4,000,000.

Dr. Aquilina said costs of state-mandated teacher's retirement payments and the District's requirement to fund students attending Charter and Cyber Schools, are major factors in increased costs.

She also answered that personnel costs are

the only area where cuts can be made. She said the District did not fill several vacancies the past two years, however this year, due to increased attendance in 3rd grade, one of those vacancies must be filled.

The real estate tax increases will be hikes of 2.90% for Vandling, 0.56% for Forest City, Union Dale and Herrick Twps. and 0.66% for Mt. Pleasant and Clinton II Townships. All tax hikes are based on figures from STEB (State Tax Equalization Board). Since the District is in three different counties with three different assessment systems, STEB figures try to balance the hikes so comparable properties in each of the counties pay the same adjusted tax.

Directors voting for the budget were: Fred Garm, Bill Heller, Joanne Sterchak, Steve Ursich, Dr. Brian Piatak, Bernice Lukus, Dr. Henry Nebzydowski and Pres. Mary Emmett. Director Chris Albright was absent.

R.E. Tax Millages 2017-18-19-20	2017	2018	2019	2020
Forest City	39.88	41.20	43.49	43.88
Union Dale	39.88	41.20	43.49	43.88
Herrick	39.88	41.20	43.49	43.88
Clinton II	16.21	16.72	16.78	16.89
Pleasant Mt.	16.21	16.72	16.78	16.89
Vandling	91.18	92.78	91.12	93.76

Busy agenda at FC Council

At the May 6 Council meeting Mikloiche Construction was awarded the contract to put a 16x16 concrete foundation at Kennedy Park for the new Gazebo. His bid of \$2,950 was lower than bids received from Keating Masonry and Colachino Masonry. The new Gazebo was ordered from Franceski Lumber.

Council read a letter from Franceski Lumber Co. announcing that the business is closing in the near future due to the retirement of owner Joseph P. Franceski Jr. It has been in Forest City more than 100 years under the Franceski Family ownership. It is the 2nd Main St. business to announce closing in the past two weeks. Barking Cupcake Bakery closed April 30.

Council agreed to add a payment to Borough Secretary-Treasurer Sharon Vannan's gross pay for the cost of her health insurance with Medicare "in lieu of coverage with the borough's group plan."

Council had to send its new 550 Ford truck back to Powell's to get a plow cylinder replaced and hydraulic leak fixed. They also will purchase a back-up camera for the truck, which will be installed by Furdock Motors. Cost of camera and installation is up to \$600.

Street Dept. Committee head Bernie Scalzo said Main and Dundaff streets were swept with the broom and by hand, and crosswalks and parking spaces were repainted on Main Street. He said recycling donations for April at the Saturday recycling were \$427.00.

Spring yard waste pickup will be Monday, May 20th and Thursday, May 23. Details are in another article on this page.

Mixer on Main at Shirley's Diner Wed., June 5

Shirley's Family Diner, 438 Main St., Forest City, will be the setting for the GFCBA Mixer on Main event set for Wednesday, June 5 from 6 PM to 8 PM.

Join them for great food, wine, and music and mingle with friends and business people.

The GFCBA will be launching its new brochure and website. There will be a drawing to win free Facebook advertising, games, prizes and more. Bring your business cards.

To RSVP contact Kelley Stakun at skstat@icloud.com or text 570-960-1332 or Patricia Striefsky at patricia@forestcitynews.com or text 570-499-2456.

The event is free and open to the public but an RSVP is needed.

Building Committee head Bob Lesjack said he was upset that Council last month, in his absence, changed the name of his 3rd Floor project from Chandelier at Pentecost Hall back to William Pentecost Hall. He said he will have to change his plans which revolved around "Chandelier". Lesjack said all work will stop upstairs until the roof leak condition is determined.

Council will grant Palette Pals permission to use the 3rd Floor for their annual art exhibit May 30 to June 2. Lesjack said they have agreed to do paintings for the 3rd floor walls in exchange for using the hall at no cost.

Parks & Recreation Committee head Amy Bean said they raised \$252 from the sale of 56 cheesecakes for Mother's Day. She said the committee will hold a chicken BBQ on Sunday, Aug. 4th at KP as part of Trail Town Festival. She thanked Mrs. Zevan of the High School for her class doing a cleanup at the park.

Ms. Bean said she placed an order with PPL for free trees for the local Parks and is awaiting arrival before she can determine what will go where. A Parks Committee meeting May 14 will discuss other possible fundraising ideas.

At the recommendation of KBA Engineering's Gary Wilding, Council agreed to purchase a new control panel for \$6,161, to convert single phase power to three phase power for use at the Kennedy Park pump station, for the new pumps to be installed. They said the condition was not known when the new pumps were ordered.

Councilman Chris DeGonzague gave Code Officer Stephanie Reisch's monthly report which includes prob-

lems with dumpsters, "Pooper Scooper" ordinance violations, garbage accumulating on several local properties as well as other safety concerns.

North Main Street resident Patty Lorgan asked Council if they would address the problems of the wooded area on Higgins Street between Adams Body Shop and the Babe Ruth Field Dog Park. She said she has been taking care of it for years including pulling the bamboo shoots and cutting the grass. She said many of the trees are broken and kids play there, which she feels is dangerous. Council said they will have to investigate who actually owns the property as they are not sure it is owned by the Borough.

Abby Swegel, Vandling, asked for ideas for a community project for her Gold Award in Girl Scouting. It must include 80 hours of planning and work, and needs to be of lasting benefit to the community. Council discussed several ideas but will think more about it for the June meeting.

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.

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. Speaker for this year's ceremony is Vietnam Veteran Robert Lesjack. A free luncheon, catered by Zazzera's Supermarket, will be held following the ceremony at the Forest City Area Emergency Services, Railroad Street. It is sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary.

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 rosal@nep.net.

