

# THE FOREST CITY NEWS



## School Budget Is \$15.7 million

Forest City Regional School Board adopted, and presented for advertisement, its 2019-20 school budget on June 17. There were no changes from the budget as it was approved in May. The budget totals \$15,689,624. It provides for the following tax millages: Forest City, Union Dale, Herrick=43.88 mills; Clinton II and Pleasant Mt.=16.89 mills; Vandling=93.76 mills.

The variance in millages is the result of the communities being located in three different counties, each county having different assessment figures. The Board sets the millages based on

figures it receives from the State Tax Equalization Board which attempts to try and assess equal properties, in each of the counties, a similar total tax.

At the Board meeting of June 17 the District also approved the 2019 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution. All those properties designated as homesteads or farmsteads, get a reduction of the County established assessed values up to the following limits: Susquehanna County \$5,824; Wayne County \$15,132; Lackawanna County \$2,725.

**The Susquehanna County Commissioners** are mighty upset about an announcement that Area Agency on Aging is going to reduce its home delivery of fresh meals from 5 days a week to 3 days a week. They plan to provide a frozen meal, to be delivered with the fresh meal the day before. Commissioner Alan Hall said home delivery of meals to the elderly is not just for nutrition but is to have someone calling on these folks five days a week, checking on their welfare. Commissioner Hall noted that for some, the meal delivery person is their only daily visitor. AAA runs the centers and the elderly programs in Susquehanna, Wyoming and Bradford Counties, with headquarters in Towanda.

**The very well received Old Time Fiddlers** will make a return appearance this Friday night at the Forest City Area Historical Society at 9pm. Music booking agent Paul Ferraro says there is usually a full house for this event in the air conditioned Museum.

**Word has it that a new gym** will be opening in August in the former Super Baby Store location at 500 Main St. We'll let you know when we hear more.

**If you have a nominee** for the Forest City Area Distinguished Citizen, either a local or former resident of our area, you have until July 1, to get the name and information to the News Office. Selection will be made a few weeks after that.

**Looking forward to getting** a tour of the Frugal Living factory, Main St., at their Open House on July 1st.

**Long periods of intermittent rain** continue to play havoc with all our outdoor activities including our area golf courses. There have been several flash flood and severe thunderstorm warnings flashed on our cellphones recently. Except for some area road damage from rapid runoff, we have escaped the damaging winds, hail and torrential rain.

**Several weeks ago a tractor trailer** knocked down the stop sign and street sign at the foot of Dundaff St. while making a turn. The driver never stopped. It was up to the Forest City street department to put them back into the ground.

**You've probably noticed** the front page ad for "Clifford Cash", a fundraiser for the Clifford Fire Co. Up to \$50,000 is the first prize and they are almost sold out of their 2,000 ticket limit. They tell me lots of folks are pooling in to purchase a \$100 ticket. How about 10 people at \$10 each to split \$50,000 or one of a total of \$97,500 other prizes? You can download an application at [www.cliffordfire.com/](http://www.cliffordfire.com/)

**The new pastor of Ascension Parish** and St. Katharine Drexel Parish will be Rev. Stephen A. Krawontka, who is presently senior priest at St. Jude parish, Tobyhanna. He will replace Rev. Brian J.T. Clarke who was transferred to Christ the King Parish, Archbald. Father Krawontka, will take over July 15.

## Michael Zack appointed As Elementary principal

Mr. Michael Zack, a teacher since 2011 in Forest City Regional School, was appointed elementary principal at a salary of \$90,000 at the June 17 meeting of the Board of Education. He replaces Mr. Brian Kelly whose resignation was accepted at the same meeting. Mr. Kelly left on June 10 due to using vacation time.

Mr. Zack is a 2006 graduate of Forest City Regional and received a Bachelor's in Elementary Education from Misericordia University. He has two Master's Degrees, one from Wilkes University in School Business Leadership and the other from California University of PA in Educational Leadership.

He started at FCR during the winter of 2011 as a day-to-day substitute and held various substitute positions before being hired for High School Business for the 2012-13 school year. The last two years, in addition to his role as teacher, he served as a member of the Discipline and Operational Support Team in grades 7-12, and also was FBLA advisor and senior class advisor.

Two new teachers also were appointed. Sarah Redick was hired as an elementary teacher, while Kade Kolheffer was hired as a secondary math

teacher. Both receive the starting salary for a new teacher which is \$50,541/year for a Bachelor's Degree Step 1 on the salary scale.

The Board also accepted the resignations of two cafeteria workers, Mary Usher and Jean McAlla.

Unpaid leave requests for four District employees were also approved. Employees receiving unpaid leave are not named.

Board member William Heller was again elected Board treasurer, which receives no compensation but requires a \$5,000 bond.

Dr. Gerard Genco was named School Dentist for the upcoming school year. He performs these duties free of charge.

The Wayne Memorial Community Health Centers will provide school health care services for the coming school year.

A total of \$11,400 was approved for the following core text collections: Gr. 7—Environmental Studies; Gr. 7—Ancient Civilizations; Gr. 9—Civics; Gr. 9—American Revolution & New Nation; Gr. 10—Civil Rights Era. These include skills cards and lab modules.

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## Traffic issues discussed at Clifford Twp. meeting

by Theresa Opeka

A traffic study was among various items of business discussed at the Tuesday, June 11 meeting of the Clifford Township Supervisors.

Supervisor Barry Searle talked about traffic on Route 106 and an alleged ordinance. "A resident told us there was an ordinance that air brakes or jake brakes cannot be used from the carnival grounds into downtown. We do not. They can't use the jake brake from Royal into Clifford but not the other way," he said. He also said a traffic study was done to see if a red light could be put in front of Route 106 and Creamery Road. "The traffic study said there wasn't sufficient traffic or accidents with injuries there, so no traffic light. PennDOT said we can forward our concerns to the state police about speeding water trucks. They told us to have the police use radar. The township will write a letter and send it to the police. Trucks have been seen speeding at 70 mph.

Searle made a motion to send the letter. Both he and Supervisor Chris Marcho voted in favor of sending the letter. Supervisor Dennis Knowlton was absent. Motion passed.

### SALVATION ARMY

Secretary Joan Hertzog said a three-month review of the Salvation Army Bin located outside of the township building was very good. Donations have been 'wonderful.'

### RED CROSS SHELTER

Marcho gave an update on the Red Cross Shelter at the township building. He said they have a generator and supplies but they need to work on installing a shower.

### DONATIONS

The township received a thank you from the Susquehanna County Conservation District

for their \$250 donation to Envirothon. They also received a thank you from the Mountain View Garden Club for letting them use the community center for their plant exchange.

The supervisors agreed to donate \$300 to the Clifford Rod & Gun Club for stream stocking.

### UNION DALE PICNIC

The supervisors agreed to offer a letter of support to the Union Dale Fireman's Picnic on July 11,12 & 13 for use of the fire pole.

### NEW TRUCK

Marcho said he was happy with the township's new truck. "We got a better truck because we would like to sell it in a few years. We got it as a backup. Barhites do most of our work so it won't be used much," he said.

### ROAD

Sandy Wilmot said Red Abbott Road is 'terrific.' "It's the best it has ever been. The Barhites did a great job."

### CHILDREN'S GARDEN

Wilmot said the walking path in the Children's Garden has been paved. They will be building a barn next to the cabin. She said she would like to hang up a quilt that was made for the township's bicentennial in 2006 either in the community center's hallway or the meeting room for the supervisors. She said it has been 'lost' in the Historical Society's room. They would need a plexiglass box to put it in. Marcho and Searle said it should be displayed as soon as the case is built. Marcho said they should get photos of different places in the township and hang them in the meeting room. Wilmot mentioned an aerial photographer she knew who may be able to help. Marcho asked her to talk to him.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, July 8 at 7pm.



Excavation for the new Browndale/Forest City sidewalk along Rte. 247 began Monday, June 17 by Maiocco Excavating, Lake Ariel. Linda Zefran, Browndale, who spearheaded a 10-year battle to secure almost \$500,000 in funding for the project, is shown above indicating the safety concerns which have plagued this pathway between the two communities for many years. The sidewalk will be built behind the existing guide rails which will provide even greater safety for pedestrians.

## Long-awaited B'dale/FC sidewalk to Ease pedestrian's travel to Main St.

After 10 years of frustration and deadline extensions, work on the badly needed Browndale to Forest City sidewalk, along Rte. 247, got underway last week by Maiocco Excavating, Lake Ariel. The effort was spearheaded by Dr. Jim and Linda Zefran, Browndale residents, after nearly being hit while running on the shoulder of that road more than 10-years ago.

They got early backing from Greater Forest City Industries, and the D&H Rail Trail Council, but had difficulty with early support from local government. Their major supporter was State Sen. Lisa Baker and later,

State Rep. Jon Fritz.

The project will cost just under \$500,000 and the funding was cobbled together from a number of sources as the Zefran's struggled with constantly-shifting rules and regulations of PennDOT. The most recent piece of the funding came from \$80,000 to Clinton Township from Keystone Community Development.

The concrete sidewalk will be built on the north side of Rte. 247, behind the existing guide rails, and will go from Front Street in Browndale to Railroad Street in Forest City. Sufficient funds could not be secured for extending it from Railroad Street to

Main Street.

Linda Zefran had special praise for Joseph Hudak of the engineering firm of Kiley Associates LLC, of Lakeville, PA, who provided extensive project planning at no cost.

The sidewalk from the intersection of Commerce Boulevard will provide a route for individuals from the Rail Trail Trailhead and VISION 2000 Industrial park to get to the Main Street business district by way of Railroad Street. Hopefully it will be a convenient route for some of the Rail Trail users to come to Main Street, and help to stem the outflow of businesses and return some new businesses to the Main Stem.

## Old Time Fiddlers at Hist. Soc. June 28

Back by popular demand "The Old Time Fiddlers" bluegrass group will perform at the Forest City Area Historical Society, corner of Main and Dundaff Streets, Friday, June 28th at 8:00 P.M.

The group consists of nearly twenty musicians and singers from Northeastern Pennsylvania. The group has been performing at the Forest City Area Historical Society each year for the past several years to large enthusiastic crowds. The Old Time Fiddlers perform a wide range of folk and bluegrass music that you just don't want to miss.

Admission to this fund raising event for the Forest City Area Historical Society is \$5.00 for adults, Children under 12 Free. While at the Forest City Area Historical Society, view the many historical displays from the Forest City regional communities and our vast Hometown Heroes display. There is air conditioning and an elevator for handicap access. Forest City Historical Society contact: 570-785-3800.

## Frugal Living Grand opening Mon., July 1st

The celebration and Open House of the new location of Frugal Living, for warehousing, online sales, and order fulfillment at 528 Main St., Forest City, will be Monday, July 1 from 4-6pm.

Ribbon cutting ceremony at 5:15pm. Refreshments will be served.

## Pancake Breakfast in Union Dale Sat., June 29

An All-You-Eat Pancake Breakfast will be held on Saturday, June 29 at the Union Dale Church Hall, Todd Ave. and Skyline Drive, from 7 AM to 10 AM. The menu includes: Pancake, Sausage, Eggs (Cooked to Order), Juice, Coffee, and Tea.

Come out and enjoy and see some friends.

## FCRHS Graduation Program June 14

ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIRST COMMENCEMENT  
Friday, June 14, 2019

- PROCESSIONAL....."Pomp and Circumstance"  
Band- Mr. John Scavone, Director
- STAR SPANGLED BANNER.....Senior Chorus Members
- INVOCATION.....Katie Nguyen
- "This is What We Are About" Bishop Ken Untener
- WELCOME.....Mrs. Cassandra Stout, Principal
- ACADEMIC HONORS.....Elizabeth Mayers
- SALUTATORIAN.....AnQi Chen
- VALEDICTORIAN.....Jordan Coles
- INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER.....Maggie Kowalewski
- GUEST SPEAKER.....Mr. Michael Sterchak
- MUSICAL SELECTION...Band - Mr. John Scavone, Director
- MUSICAL SELECTION.Chorus - Miss Allison Yuravich, Director
- PRESENTATION.....Natalie Lipko & Senior Class
- MANTLE ORATION.....Jordan Coles
- JUNIOR RESPONSE.....Emily Kelleher
- PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS.....Mary Emmett
- President Forest City Regional Board of School Directors
- PRESENTATION OF CLASS OF 2019.Mrs. Cassandra Stout
- Principal
- CLOSING REMARKS...Dr. Jessica Aquilina Superintendent
- ALMA MATER.....Class of 2019
- BENEDICTION.....Harry Montauderes
- "Don't Merely Expect" Rabbi Mordecai M. Kaplan
- RECESSIONAL....."See You Again" Wiz Khalifa

**ALMOST SOLD OUT**

**WIN UP TO \$147,500 IN CASH PRIZES**  
\$50,000 first prize!

**CLIFFORD CASH**

Donation \$100, Only 2,000 tickets available!  
We will sell OUT! Drawing July 27, 2019

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