

THE FOREST CITY NEWS



Only 12 days from Wednesday to the opening of Forest City Regional School on Monday, August 26. Summer surely seemed to whiz by. Weatherwise it was much better than last year.

We had some hopes that road repairs would take place on Rte. 247 from Forest City to Clifford but as summer runs down, still nothing. There are some vicious potholes there.

After Wednesday's matches, only four weeks left in Wivey's Memorial Golf League regular season.

Had a great visit last week with Paul Witiak, one of our longtime subscribers from the Tampa, Florida area. Paul worked in the excavating and trash collection business in Union Dale and this area before leaving here in the late 1970s. He and his wife are truck drivers and continue to drive in the state of Florida. He commented on receiving his weekly newspaper as much as 3 weeks late, a constant problem we have with the US Postal Service. Enjoyed our chat and caught him up with some of the local news.

In talking to Mr. Witiak, it gave us a hint for a possible new column "People Still Working After Age 70." If you would be willing to do a telephone interview with our reporter, just email us at john@forestcitynews.com or call 570-785-3800 and leave message.

Anyone with any good ideas about next year's Trail Town Festival should contact Mayor Glinton soon as they will be looking at some changes for 2020.

A sign on the window indicates someone will be re-opening the restaurant at 508 Main St., formerly Maria's Restaurant & Deli. More later.

Double Arson fire destroys home on Upper N. Main St.

There was a double arson fire at 1025 Upper North Main Street on Friday morning at 1 AM. That small fire was put out by the fire companies. At 4 AM the fire was restarted and totally destroyed the home.

The PA State Police Fire Marshall, the Scranton Police Fire dog and Fire Marshall were on the scene in the morning with the Forest City Police Department.

The fire was determined to be a double arson and a suspect was taken into custody, according to Police Chief Lee Rowan. Charges will be filed next week.

B'Dale Sportmen's Breakfast Sun, Sept. 8

The Browndale Sportsmen's Club will host a fall breakfast on Sunday, September 8th at the club grounds & pavilions, located at 300 Ravnikar Road in Browndale. Serving is from 8 till noon. Cost is \$8 per person for the breakfast and children 5 and under are free. The public is invited.



Tom Fitzsimmons, right, is shown presenting the Distinguished Citizen Award to Joe Franceski Jr., left.



Bob Wirts, right, is shown presenting the Distinguished Citizen Award to John Opeka, left.

Longtime local businessman And retired executive Had different roads to Distinguished Citizen award

For the 37th year, the Distinguished Citizen Committee granted its highest honor to two area individuals, one local and one former resident, for a lifetime of achievement. This year's awards went to retiring local businessman Joseph Franceski Jr. and to retired Connecticut utility executive John F. Opeka.

With the event sponsored by The Forest City News, Publisher Patricia Striefsky was master of ceremonies of the program conducted at the Forest City Area Historical Society on Sat., Aug. 3, as part of Trail Town Festival.

Rev. Francis Burshnick, the 2009 Distinguished Citizen, gave the invocation and blessing on the two honorees who have contributed much to society. He also led the pledge to the flag and the National Anthem.

Former News Publisher John P. Kameen introduced past Distinguished Citizens attending: Peggy Brager (1988), Edward Tourje (1996), Paul A. Ferraro (2002), Col. Jeffrey Swegel (2003), Gerald B. Franceski (2004), James & Helen Marsicano (2008), Atty. Barbara Smith

(2008), Rev. Francis Burshnick (2009), Dr. Joseph Sisko (2018). He noted that among the three oldest members of the honor society are: 1st year nominee Gen. Anthony Burshnick, 4th year honoree Julius Prezelski and 1988 honoree Capt. Harry Newak.

Thomas Fitzsimmons, local businessman, presented the award to his 1970 FCRHS classmate Joseph Franceski, listing his many accomplishments in his 43 year career as owner of Franceski Lumber Yard, and also introducing his family, and documenting his community service contributions to our area. He highlighted that Joseph Jr. was joining his late father, Joseph Franceski Sr., as the only father/son duo as Distinguished Citizens.

In responding to his award, Mr. Franceski acknowledged he is always proud to follow in his father's footsteps. After thanking his family and the Distinguished Citizen Committee, he expressed how he has had "a blessed existence."

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Ziggy Foundation 2nd Annual Poker Run Sat., August 17

The Ziggy Foundation presents the 2nd Annual Memorial Poker Run on Saturday, August 17 with an 11 AM start.

Stops include: Windsor Inn, Jermyn; Halfway House, Honesdale; Kim's Pub and Grub, Honesdale; Red Schoolhouse, Pleasant Mount; Arlo's Tavern, Union Dale; Beacon Bar and Grill, Union Dale; D.G.'s Bar, Forest City; and the final stop is McDonnell's Grove.

Prizes for best and worst hands. Must be 21 to participate and run. Open to all vehicles, motorcycles, cars, trucks, etc. All ages welcome at the Grove. Dinner at the Grove starts at 5:30 PM. Everyone must be back at the Grove by 6 PM. Check Facebook for preregistration dates and times.

The cost is \$25 per person and includes 1 hand of poker, lunch buffet all day, and dinner at the Grove starting at 5:30 PM. \$10 for an extra hand of poker.

Live Music by Powerglyde and Bright Shiny Objects There will be basket raffles,



50/50, punch board, and a side car of cheer.

They are also collecting beer/soda tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. The goal is to fill a 55 gallon barrel of tabs to present to them. They can drop them off, or contact us to arrange pick up.

T-Shirts are also on sale and can be purchased by contacting them by email or phone listed below.

Proceeds benefit the Ziggy Memorial Scholarship Fund. For more information contact Dionna at 570-840-5611, email ziggyfoundation@gmail.com or find them on Facebook ZIGGY Foundation.

Past Distinguished Citizens attend event



Several past Distinguished Citizens were present at the 37th Annual Distinguished Citizen Program held on Sat., August 3 at the Forest City Area Historical Society. Pictured left to right are Edward Tourje, Father Francis Burshnick, Helen and Jim Marsicano, Col. (RET.) Jeff Swegel, Dr. Joe Slish, Jerry Franceski, and Paul Ferraro. Peggy Brager and Atty. Barbara Smith were absent when photo was taken.

New police car to replace damaged SUV

Forest City Council ordered a new police car to replace the 2010 Ford Explorer SUV which was damaged and was listed by the insurance company as "totaled." The cost of the 2019 Dodge Charger Police AWD will be \$39,380. The insurance proceeds from the totaled SUV was \$10,006, making the final cost of the new police car \$29,380.

The vehicle was purchased from Hondru Dodge under the state's CO-STARS program which does not require a bidding process. Chief Lee Rowan removed the accessories from the old SUV and they will be installed in the new vehicle and will be paid for by insurance.

Council President Nick Cost commented that the Ford SUV was purchased from Union Dale for \$10,000, and provided a number of years of service to the Borough, and insurance paid them \$10,006. "Good deal," said Pres. Cost.

Council stated that with the present newest vehicle being an SUV, there was no need to purchase another SUV. The Dodge Charger is an AWD.

The vote to purchase the new vehicle was 5-0 with Council members Bob Lesjack and Amy Bean absent from the meeting. Cindy Stone was acting secretary of the meeting due to absence of Sharon Vannan. Solicitor Paul Smith also was unable to attend.

Mayor Chris Glinton thanked Council for buying the new police car and asked them to accept the resignation of part time police officer Keith Rynearson and hire Vaughn Black as a part time officer at \$14.50/hr. Rynearson said he could not provide the dedication and time that is needed due to other

commitments.

Councilman Bernie Scalzo reported that the recently purchased 550 truck has a hydraulic leak for the 3rd time. He said it is under warranty but Pres. Cost said he feels a valve should be replaced to stop having to take the truck for repairs. Scalzo said new backup cameras were installed at the rear of the 550 truck by Furdock Motors for safety reasons.

Scalzo also reported that sewer pumps were installed at Kennedy Park but that a wet area has developed which may have been caused by a broken pipe from heavy equipment used in the pump installation by contractor Leeward. They are being contacted to address the problem.

Some 60 ft. of 8" pipe was installed to stop ponding of water on Lower Main Street near Adams Body Shop.

Councilman Chris DeGonzague asked to have his committee assignment changed from code enforcement to Emergency Management and Safety. Council OK'd the request. Nick Cost will take over the code enforcement committee.

Code Enforcement Officer Stephanie Reisch documented several visits to the Magistrate regarding local code violations. She also reported good progress in removing the County Waste cans from the sidewalks and also grass cutting complaints.

Pres. Cost said no action has been taken on the installation of the streetscape lighting on Main Street. He said an electrical conduit has to be installed from the Borough Building to the lighting system.

Council member Tracey Lazier said things went well with the Trail Town Festival and said Main St. coordina-

tor Paul Daugevelo did well. She said the fireworks, funded by NEP Telephone Company, were great.

Local business Frugal Living donated \$800 to Parks & Recreation for a name-your-price and company match sale which the company had on Main St. for Trail Town Festival.

Parks & Recreation also announced that 285 chicken BBQ tickets, at \$10 each, were sold for the Aug. 4th event. Costs have not been determined. The Cornhole Tournament raised \$360. \$80 was raised for sale of hoodies and \$39 raised on a 50/50.

Lazier announced a Designer Purse Bingo for Sept. 8 to benefit Parks & Recreation. Tickets will be \$25.

The Forest City Area Historical Society thanked Council for allocating \$14,300 to replace the deteriorated sidewalk at the Main St. museum. Project got underway on Aug. 5. Frugal Living owners Fred & Katie Cicilioni thanked Council, first responders and staff for their support and assistance at their July 1st Open House.

Area Agency on Aging asked Council for a donation toward the home-delivered meals, home personal care and emergency response system provided for residents of the Borough. They indicated the average price of these services is \$7 for a home-delivered meal, \$20/hr. for personal services and \$20 for the Personal Emergency Response System. Council said it does not make donations to organizations.

A request to support a resolution on congressional redistricting was not acted upon.

Due to Labor Day the next Council meeting will be Tuesday, Sept. 3 at 7PM

St. Juliana's Rock Lake Picnic Sat., Aug. 17

St. Juliana's Famous Rock Lake Picnic, Rte. 247 North, Creamton Dr., Rock Lake, will be held on Sat., Aug. 17.

From 11:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. they will be serving a family style ham and turkey dinner with take-outs available until 3 p.m.

Supper will be served at 5 p.m., followed by Mass at 6:30 p.m. Spend the rest of the evening enjoying the giant flea market, bingo, games and prizes.

Don't forget square dancing by "Just Us" from 7 to 11 p.m. with music donated by Edward Howell.

Come out and have some fun while supporting a good cause.

National Night Out draws big crowd to Kennedy Park



National Night Out was held on Tuesday, August 6 at Kennedy Park from 5 PM to 8 PM. The event was run by the Forest City Police Department. This was the 36th Annual National Night Out crime and prevention event. A large crowd enjoyed entertainment, food and giveaways. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a sense of community. Bike winners in next week's edition.

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