



The Susquehanna County Commissioners are shown presenting Forest City Distinguished Citizens with county resolutions honoring them for their accomplishments. Pictured left to right are Chairman Alan Hall, Joe Franceski Jr., Comm. Maryann Warren, John Opeka, and Comm. Betsy Arnold.

Senator Lisa Baker, middle, presented the Distinguished Citizens, Joe Franceski, Jr., left, and John Opeka, right, with senatorial resolutions.

Distinguished Citizen Award

cont. from page 1

He noted the many changes in Forest City since he returned here to enter the family business 41 years ago. Over the years, he said, it was customary to know everyone in Forest City, and that Main Street sported many active businesses. He wished well to all local individuals and organizations now working to renew the town. "All must step up to have our community thrive," he said, "and be part of the solution."

He expressed his regret on having to end a 106-year-old local business but that just being a "convenient" place to shop is no longer a requisite for shoppers because of the many options they have.

The award to John F. Opeka was also presented by one of his classmates, Robert Wirts, of the 1958 FCHS graduating class. Mr. Wirts is retired from IBM and is treasurer of the Forest City Area Historical Society. He stated that Mr. Opeka was a standout student in Forest City

whose initiative directed him into the nuclear power field with a degree from Penn State and then into the U.S. nuclear Navy. From the Navy he then entered into the industrial nuclear power field. He retired from Northeast Utilities in Connecticut after serving as head of its five nuclear power plants.

Mr. Opeka pointed out the wonderful childhood he experienced in Forest City due to the work ethic of the town, the educational system available to him, as well as the religious presence of eight churches in the town of 3,000 which helped form the moral character of the residents.

He told how his family was poor with father and mother working locally, and how the family had a large garden to provide summer nutrition and took the time to preserve products for the winter. He recalled how he and his now-deceased two brothers picked strawberries, huckleberries, blackberries and raspberries in the neighboring

woods, even picking coal from the area strip mines for heating the Vandling home, and picking princess pine for extra money. Hunting the woods also provided a game for the table.

He recalled attending a multi-grade school in Vandling prior to Vandling and Forest City consolidating into Forest City Schools. He cited the teachers who dedicated themselves to local education but singled out one teacher, Mr. Thomas Kilpatrick, who in 8th grade berated him for wasting time in class and telling him it was a shame he was wasting his talents. He said that instance made him change from an ordinary student in 8th grade to a much better student during his high school years.

He thanked the community which helped to shape his life as a youngster, and also the Distinguished Citizen Committee for the honor bestowed on him.

The two honorees also received many awards from area governmental institutions. May-

or Chris Grinton gave the Keys to Forest City to both. State Sen. Lisa Baker personally presented a Pennsylvania Senatorial Resolution to each one, while State Rep. Rep. Jonathan Fritz had a Pennsylvania State Legislature resolution prepared for them.

Susquehanna County Commissioners, Chairman Alan Hall, Maryann Warren and Betsy Arnold were in attendance and presented a county resolution to both men.

Master of Ceremonies Patricia Strifsky thanked the large crowd in attendance and expressed the best wishes of the Distinguished Citizen Committee on the honorees. She thanked the Historical Society for allowing the use of their beautiful edifice for the program.

Mayor says THANKS for Trail Town Success

Mayor Chris Grinton and Main Street Coordinator Paul Daugevelo would like to thank the following people and organizations for everything they did to make this year's Trail Town Festival a success.

GFCSA, Rail-Trail Council, Forest City Regional School, NEP Telephone Co., Genco Dental, Adams Cable, Kennedy Park- Parks and Recreation, Forest City Borough Council, Staff, and Street Department, Forest City Police Dept., Forest City Area Emergency Services, Browndale Fire Company, Brian and Zach Strifsky, Frugal Living, Hornbeck Chevrolet, Zazzera's Supermarket, parade helpers, Rick Priebe, Jude Wasileski, Deb Giddings, Josh Faatz, Not Just Ribs, Vendors, Main Street Businesses, Forest City News, Forest City Area Historical Society, American Legion Post #524 and everyone else who made the 2nd Annual event a success.

Susq. Cty. Economic Development Breakfast Aug. 22

The Susquehanna County Economic Development Board and the Progress Authority will hold their annual Economic Development breakfast meeting on Thurs., Aug. 22 at The Speakeasy Saloon and Resort 9207 PA- 171, Union Dale.

Breakfast will begin at 9 a.m., followed by speaker Dr. Alice Davis, Executive Director, Susquehanna County Career and Technical Center, and awards.

RSVP by Aug. 16 to Kim Fairchild 570-265-0937 or email cbpa@epix.net



Winners of this year's fishing derby pictured above are front row left to right: Michael Pevec, William Crown, Jacoby Vaughn, Mya Williams, Jack Kovaleski, Dylan Crown, Ryan Panek. Back row left to right: Caleb Corey, Chaz Kovaleski, and Matt Tarchak.

49 participate in Annual Fishing Derby

The annual fishing derby was held at Kennedy Park on the morning of Sun., Aug. 4., with 49 participants; 38 males, 11 females, and 2 registered with London, England addresses.

51 fish in total were caught, with a breakdown as follows: 30 Blue Gills, 10 Perch, 10 Bass and a 1 Crappie.

Prizes were given to two age groups; the first, ages 1 to 7, and the second, ages 8 to 15.

The following participants won prizes for their catch:

Age Group 1 to 7:
Jacoby Vaughn--largest fish, 15 in. Bass
Most Fish--Michael Pevec, 5 fish total
Next Biggest Fish--Jack Kovaleski, 11 in. Crappie
3rd Biggest Fish--William

Crown, 10.5 in. Perch
4th Biggest Fish--Dylan Crown, 10.5 in. Perch
Age Group 8 to 15

Largest Fish--Mya Williams, 16 in. Bass
Most Fish--Caleb Corey, 5 fish total

Next Biggest Fish--Matt Tarchak, 15 in. Bass
3rd Biggest Fish--Ryan Panek, 14.5 in. Bass

4th Biggest Fish--Chaz Kovaleski, 9.5 in. Blue Gill.

The Derby would like to thank the Forest City Lions Club, NEP Phone Co., and County Commissioner Mary Ann Warren for the prize donations; as well as the Kennedy Park Board for their help and permission in allowing the fishing derby to occur; Tanya, Brady and George Hentschel for their help; the parents of the children, for allowing them to

participate, and anyone else who lent a hand to make this derby another successful one. It was a fun-filled day for all those involved.

Chicken n Biscuit Dinner in Starrucca Aug. 24

The Lake Como & Shehawken United Methodist Churches will hold their annual Chicken -n- Biscuit Dinner at the Shehawken United Methodist Church, 3 Scott Center Rd., Starrucca, on Sat., August 24, from 4 to 6:30 p.m.

Take outs are available. Cost is a free will offering. All are invited. Proceeds benefit the Parsonage Committee.

The Forest City News
FOUNDED DECEMBER 8, 1887
Publication Number 204880

Is published weekly on Wednesdays at a subscription rate of \$35.00 per year in Susquehanna, Lackawanna, and Wayne Counties; \$45.00 per year in all other mailing zones, and is published by The Forest City News Inc., John P. Kameen, President, Patricia M. Strifsky, Secretary, and the publication office is 636 Main Street, Forest City, PA 18421.

Periodical rate postage, paid at Forest City, PA. Phone 570-785-3800; FAX 570-785-9840. Member of Pennsylvania NewsMEDIA and National Newspaper Association (NNA).

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
The Forest City News, 636 Main Street, Forest City, PA 18421.
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Pleasant Mount News
By Theresa Opeka
570-679-2065 bu7294@gmail.com

Happy Birthday to: Ryan Kilker, Billie Jo Curley, Matthew Terry, TJ Knapp, Stacey Davis, Justine Ellis, Ryan Borowicz, Jason Saam, Jeffrey Mead, Pat Biondo, Alice Sampson, Andy Geuther, Morgan Saul, Sally Jonas, Mike Watson, Peter Watson, Terri Nebyzdoski, Ashley Kneier and Renee Chrisler.

Happy Anniversary to: Brian and Susan Fedora, Gerald and Sandra Niels, Eric and Jennifer Bonham, Peter and Wendy Nebyzdoski and Chris and Sara Cox.

Upcoming events at the Pleasant Mount Library: Thursday, Aug. 15th: W.O.W (Women of Wisdom) discussion group, 2pm; Thursday, Aug. 15th: SummerQuest (Summer Reading program) Party and "SkyWatch" star gazing at 7:30pm; Friday, Aug. 16th: Movie Night starts at 6pm.

Don't miss the chance for a late summer barbecue at Cold Spring Chapel's Community Kitchen. Mark the calendar for August 17th, and come out and enjoy another great no-cost feast at

Lawn Supper in Starrucca Thurs., Aug. 15

The Starrucca Baptist Church will hold a lawn supper of ham and scalloped potatoes in the social rooms on Thurs., Aug. 15 at 5 p.m.

Donation plus food pantry item is appreciated. All are welcome.

Chicken or Ham Dinner in Clifford Aug., 21

The Clifford UM Church, Main St., Clifford, will hold a Chicken-n-Biscuit or ham dinner, on Wed., Aug. 21 from 4 to 6 p.m.

Take out or dine in. Donation is \$9.95 and includes dinner, drink & dessert.

Blood Drive at Browndale Fri., Sept. 6

The American Red Cross will hold a community blood drive on Fri., Sept. 6 at the Browndale Fire Station meeting room, 620 Marion St., from 1 to 6 p.m.

the kitchen. On the menu is: barbecued chicken, bean pot baked beans, deviled eggs, corn on the cob, Caprese salad, homemade bread and desserts, and hot and cold beverages. The chapel kitchen serves from 11:30 until 1:30. "Our food is fresh made by all our cooks and bakers who take pride in the prep and the serve. We invite the community to visit, to eat, and to make new friends," said Pastor Mary Bryant. Cold Spring Chapel's Community Kitchen is located in fellowship hall and sits at the crossroads of Great Bend Turnpike and Upper Woods Road, Lebanon Township, in the beautiful farm country of Wayne County. For additional information, check them out on Facebook.

The Lake Como & Shehawken United Methodist Churches will hold their annual Chicken & Biscuit Dinner at the Shehawken United Methodist Church, 3 Scott Center Road, Starrucca on Saturday, August 24 from 4 pm - 6:30 pm. Take outs are available. Cost is a free will offering. All are invited. Proceeds benefit the Parsonage Committee.

Forest City EMS Gun Bingo Sat., Aug. 24

The Forest City Emergency Services will hold a fundraiser gun bingo on Sat., Aug. 24 from 4 - 8 p.m. at the Emergency Services Building, 380 Railroad St., Forest City. You must be 21 to play, and tickets are \$50.

Tickets are available from any member, or by calling 570-785-3226 (leave name and phone number).

East Ararat UM Church BBQ Sat., Aug. 17

The East Ararat UM Church will hold their BBQ on Sat., Aug. 17 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Menu includes Chicken, baked beans, cole slaw, & corn on the cob.

To pre-order call Jackie at 570-766-5322 or Jan at 570-727-2051

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*Sun., Aug. 18 (4 p.m.)
Woodshed Prophets
Mon. - Wing Night
50 cent wings, \$5 boneless wings
Tues. - Taco & Burrito Night
Tacos 3 for \$6 Beef Burritos \$5.99
Wed. - Gourmet Cheesesteak Night
Thurs. - Burger Day

St. Juliana's Rock Lake Picnic
Sponsored by St. Katharine Drexel's Parish
Saturday, August 17
Located on Rte. 247N, (Creamton Drive) Rock Lake, PA

Family-Style Ham & Turkey Dinner
11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Takeouts available until 3 p.m.
Supper served at 5:00 p.m.

Mass celebrated at 6:30 p.m.

Bingo
Giant Flea Market
(9 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.)
Prizes
Games

Square Dancing by "Just Us" 7-11 p.m.
Donated by Edward Howell

The Herrick Hill Huckleberry Farm
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