

THE FOREST CITY NEWS



Councilman Bernie Scalzo relayed some interesting information at the last FC Council meeting. He said he learned it at a PennDOT meeting he attended recently. According to Pennsylvania traffic laws, any bushes, trees or plants which interfere with highway signs or obstruct vision at intersections, are the responsibility of the property owner on which the obstructions are located. He mentioned that from time to time the FC street crew has trimmed such obstructions in town, as a courtesy, but that it is NOT their responsibility, it is the responsibility of the property owner.

One thing has also become obvious at the FC Council meetings and that is the recently constituted Parks & Recreation Committee, headed by Kathy Kernoschak, has become very active in promoting and working to raise funds for the town's parks and for recreation for both kids and adults. She and Council, with Council members Amy Bean and Stacy Lazier as Council members of the Committee, are fortunate to have Kathy and her very enthusiastic group of volunteers to be assisting them. Very few small towns can boast a community park as nice as Kennedy Park.

We can hardly wait for the new streetscape lights on Main Street to be energized. Great addition to the town. No word, however, on new sidewalks for the east side of Main Street.

A Virginia subscriber let us know he got his Sept. 4 issue on Sept. 5. We are often critical of the Post Office's out-of-state delivery so we have to pat them on the back when they do a good job.

The Main St. tree in front of Paul Ferraro's Barber Shop died. It is one of the original trees from the 1980's Small Cities Program and was obviously the wrong species to put on a Main Street as it attained gargantuan size, extending well over the roof of the Ferraro Bldg. The Borough will have to remove it.

Our neighboring weekly newspaper The County Transcript, Susquehanna, had a devastating fire which destroyed its building last week. The newspaper has been a family-owned fixture of the community for many, many years. It was owned by the Bakers, then Lou Parillo, and now by Chuck Ficarro. We wished them the best. Chuck said they put together a temporary fix and will operate from their house until a more permanent solution is determined.

Auto accident Causes death

An accident near the Forest City Borough garage and Recycling Center on Wednesday, Sept. 4, around 7:30am, resulted in the death of a Forest City man. Richard F. Shinn, 68, died in the two car crash on Rte. 247.

Reports indicated that a Ford Fusion, operated by Gregory W. Sheridan, 30, of Hallstead, was headed toward Forest City when his vehicle struck Mr. Shinn's Ford Cavalier, as he was traveling toward Crystal Lake.

The site of the accident is a downhill right curve and skid marks seemed to indicate the Sheridan vehicle applied his brakes at the top of the hill before striking the Shinn vehicle. Sheridan was taken to Geisinger Community Hospital, according to state police.

Local Author's Luncheon Wednesday, Sept. 25

The Local Author's Luncheon to benefit the Forest City Library will be held on Wednesday, September 25, 2019 at Elkview Country Club, Crystal Lake.

This year's speaker is Judith Konsur Kelly, a 1963 graduate of Mountain View High School. Judith is proud of her Polish heritage and, when she learned about Father Jerzy Popieluszko and how he lived and died fighting for Polish solidarity, she wanted to tell his story. Judith's first novel, entitled Just Call Me Jerzy, is the story of a martyred chaplain who fought to unite diverse people of all ages in their struggle toward freedom.

This is the 12th annual luncheon sponsored by the Novel Woman Book Club. A time of hospitality starts at 11:30 followed by the luncheon and speaker. The cost of the luncheon is \$25. A raffle will be held as an additional fundraiser for the library and a book signing will take place after the program. All proceeds from the luncheon and raffle go to the Forest City Library, a branch of the Susquehanna County Library System.

Reservations may be made by sending your check to the Forest City Library, 531 Main Street, Forest City 18421 by September 19. For more information, contact the library at 570-785-5590.



Judith Konsur Kelly

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Discover the D&H Mixer at Trailhead Wed., Sept. 18



by Art McLain

The Greater Forest City Business Alliance mixer is always a good time and the Fall Mixer is going outdoors. Scheduled for Wednesday, September 18th from 6 to 8 pm, come and enjoy food, music and more outside at the Forest City Trailhead.

The Rail Trail keeps evolving and improving and now with electric power you can expect a well lit and comfortable venue. A large tent will help alleviate any weather concerns. A waning Harvest Moon should provide lots of natural lighting also.

There is still an opportunity for local restaurants to feature some of their finger-food specialties. Contact the Rail Trail Council

Strengthening Families Program at FCR

The Strengthening Families Program: for Parents and Youth 10-14 is coming to Forest City! Attend this free program to help make your strong family stronger and give your child the skills to transition into their teen years successfully.

The 7-session program is offered to parents and caregivers and their 5th and 6th graders beginning Thursday, September 26 from 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. at the Forest City Regional Elementary School.

The program teaches youth peer pressure resistance skills, provides parents with tools to help their child succeed and avoid risky behaviors, and improves family communication and problem solving. It includes free dinner for the entire family, prizes for attendance, and free childcare for younger family members.

For more information or to register for this fun, family oriented program, call Mr. Mike Zack, Forest City Elementary School Principal, at 570-785-2483. Hurry, spots are limited so call today.

of NEPA if you would like be a part of the featured restaurants, you're bound to attract new customers.

The GFCBA is always open for new members. The public also is invited to enjoy the Fall Mixer. Please RSVP by September 11th to Kelley Statkun at 570-960-1332 or Patricia Striefsky at 570-499-2456.

Come out and enjoy music by Jim Carro, join in a scavenger hunt for prizes, taste some wine with Case Quattro, and learn more about the GFCBA and the Rail Trail Council and the D & H Rails to Trails. Hope to see you there.

Forest City Rotary Club Bingo Sun., Sept. 15

The Forest City Rotary Club will sponsor a cash BINGO fundraiser at the Carbondale Anthracite Hotel, Main Street, Carbondale, on Sunday, September 15, 2019, from 2pm-5pm (doors open at 1pm).

Tickets are \$20 and will consist of 15 cash prize BINGO games with the top prize of \$500 cash! There will also be special games, a basket raffle and a 50/50 drawing.

Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

Tickets can be purchased from any Rotary member, Kresock Insurance, Main Street, FC; Ascension Parish, F.C., and Cerra Signs, Carbondale or at the door.

Any donations are greatly appreciated. If you wish to donate contact Terri Erdmann at fcrotary@yahoo.com

CORRECTION

Last week's edition listed two events at the same time at the Forest City Area Historical Society. The Tick-borne disease seminar is Wednesday, Sept. 18 at 6:30pm. The Forest City mining history presentation is Thursday, Sept. 19. The News regrets the error.

Forest City coal operations subject of talk at Hist. Soc. Thursday, Sept. 19, 6:30PM

Professor Robert P. Wolensky will be presenting a talk at the Forest City Area Historical Society on Thursday, Sept. 19, at 6:30PM. His topic will be "The Hillside Coal & Iron Company and other Forest City Coal Operations, 1878-1966."

The public is invited to this one hour audio-visual presentation in the air-conditioned and handicapped accessible Museum at 629 Main Street. There is an elevator for those with stair-climbing needs.

Mr. Wolensky is Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Co-director of the Center for the Small City at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, where he also served as a Katz Distinguished Professor and the Director of the Northeastern Pennsylvania



Robert P. Wolensky

Oral and Life History Collection.

He currently serves as Adjunct Professor of History at King's College in Wilkes-Barre, and as a board member of the Anthracite Heritage Foundation, also in Wilkes-Barre.

A native of Swoyersville, PA, he has authored or co-authored seven books on Northeastern Pennsylvania, including volumes on

the Tropical Storm Agnes flood of 1972; the Knox Mine disaster of 1959; the Avondale Mine disaster of 1869; mining-related labor conflict between 1897 and 1959; and the ladies' garment industry.

He has been appointed as a fellow or visiting professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, the London School of Economics and Political Science, Wilkes University, and the University of Exeter (the latter as a Fulbright scholar).

He earned an undergraduate degree from Villanova University and a master's as well as a doctoral degree from The Pennsylvania State University.

Regular business addressed at Sept. 3rd FC Council meeting

Forest City Council at their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 3, conducted a number of agenda items:

*Awarded a bid for \$2,713 to Joseph P. Cacossa & Associates, through Adams Auto Body, to repair hail damage, including a damaged windshield, on the 2014 Chevy Impala police car. Insurance will cover \$2,453 of the costs.

*Awarded a bid to Prince Excavating for \$3,995 to repair a sink hole which has affected north Susquehanna Street on the road to the church cemeteries for several years. The previous repairs will be dug up and further digging will be done, and different material will be used for the repair. The sink-hole is thought to be caused either by water from a previous RAMP (Rural Abandoned Mines Project) or from underground mines.

*Secretary/Treasurer Sharon Vannan reported that the Borough will not have to make any contributions to the police pension fund this year as it is 100% funded. They will have to make an \$8,143

contribution to the other Borough employee retirement fund, but most of that money will be reimbursed under a state program.

*Accepted the resignation of the Police Dept's only female officer Rebecca Clark. She was hired April 2019, and Mayor Chris Grinton said she is moving out-of-state.

*The Mayor reported 350 calls for the police dept. during August.

*Treasurer Sharon Vannan presented a budget report showing that 46.4% of the money budgeted for income from January through August has been received. Expenses totaled 48.3% of that which was budgeted for the same period.

*Approved the expenditure of \$668.63 to purchase 500 (minimum order) of police shirt insignia patches.

*Agreed to increase police patrols at Kennedy Park to discourage after-hours entries to the Park.

*Parks & Recreation Committee reported a profit of approximately \$1,150 at the Trail Fest BBQ at Kennedy

park.

*Council person Amy Bean reported that bids for the basketball court at Kennedy Park will be advertised as soon as specifications are completed. She reported that drainage issues there also have to be addressed.

*Councilman Bernie Scalzo reported that \$267 was received in donations at the Recycling center in August. He also said people are violating the "clean fill" portion at the Center by disposing of TVs, copiers and other garbage in this prohibited area. Violations will result in access to the area only during Sat. recycling hours.

*Approved up to \$500 for expenses toward the purse bingo on Sept. 8.

*Code Enforcement officer Stephanie Reisch reported on Magistrate hearings, placement of condemned property signs on a Susquehanna St. building, rental unit inspections; and complaints from Main St. business owners about gravel and stones on sidewalks.

Substance abuse services Available in Susq. County

Susquehanna County Commissioner Mary Ann Warren brought representatives of two Susquehanna County Departments to Forest City Council on Monday, Sept. 3 to inform Forest City residents of the services available to families and victims of substance abuse. The County program is known as the Susquehanna County Substance Use Recovery Initiative (SURI).

Barbara Durkin is the director of the Lackawanna/Susquehanna County Office of Drug and Alcohol Programs. Traci Decker is Trehab clinical Supervisor and represents SURI.

Ms. Durkin told Council there are many services accessible to County residents involved in substance abuse. She said there are many people suffering from substance abuse, and there is a 24-hour hotline available to anyone with alcohol, opioid,

Murder Mystery Dinner Tickets on Sale Now

Tickets are now available for the F.C.A. Historical Society's murder mystery dinner on Sat., Oct. 26 at 6 p.m. \$15 gets you a full pasta dinner, dessert, fun, and murder.

Tickets are available at the Forest City News, Paul Ferraro's Barber Shop, or by calling 570-960-1508.

Get your tickets early! There is limited seating, and tickets are going fast.



Drug Deactivation Bag

methamphetamine or any substance abuse problem. The number is 570-278-3338.

Traci Decker told Council of Trehab's outpatient programs for drug and alcohol dependency. She emphasized that money is never a barrier for any level of care which Trehab can provide.

Services include an intensive outpatient recovery program with supportive services four days a week for a minimum of 9 hours. Also traditional Outpatient services with a maximum of eight hours per week for individual, group and family therapy.

Programs provide screening and assessment, individual counseling, group therapy, relapse prevention, rational living therapy, certified recovery specialist services and aftercare planning.

Ms. Decker said they can connect clients with trans-



Narcans

portation, housing, employment development, medication treatment and wellness activities.

They also brought individual kits of Narcan, the inhalant that can save someone from a drug overdose. They explained the procedure a person would go thru to enable them to use the Narcan on someone in drug overdose.

Also they brought drug deactivation bags which can be used by seniors or anyone who wishes to dispose of prescription drugs but can't get them to a nearby disposal site. The bags will be available at Senior Centers and at other County sites.

