

THE FOREST CITY NEWS

ODDS 'N ENDS

by
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&
Patricia Striefsky

The Coronavirus is impacting almost every activity. The warning for elderly folks to avoid crowds especially effects many of us. As always, there is a tendency of the media to "hype" everything and this is certainly no exception. We are greatly in favor of taking precautions like washing your hands frequently, staying home if you are sick, covering mouth if you sneeze or cough, and avoiding crowds. You can't stop buying groceries or going to the drug store, but you can pay bills by mail, and I'll bet if you needed something from a local business they would deliver it to you.

With the ups and downs of temperatures this time of year, if it's warm don't bundle up and perspire, or if it's cold don't go out in shorts and a t-shirt. We are responsible for our own health and should follow reasonable rules to stay healthy.

Fortunately it appears that children and young adults are not as susceptible to this disease. Hopefully this will continue and longer school disruptions can be avoided. I can agree it is prudent to keep visitors out of nursing homes since the virus is especially dangerous for elderly with underlying health issues.

I did take part in a discussion last week about what constitutes a crowd? Five? Eight? Fifteen? Twenty-five? Or more? The consensus was that 50 or more is probably a crowd.

If you haven't heard about this yet, you are one of the few who hasn't.... In 2008, a psychic Evelyn Browne, in her book "End of Times" wrote: "In around 2020 a severe pneumonia-like illness will spread throughout the globe, attacking the lungs and the bronchial tubes and resisting all known treatments. Almost more baffling than the illness itself will be the fact that it will suddenly vanish as quickly as it arrived, attack again ten years later, and then disappear completely." Fact-checking agency Snopes says it is unclear whether it is a lucky guess. Guess we have to wait?

We have a copy of the latest edition of the Susquehanna County Plat Book, produced by the Susq. County 4-H, showing locations and owners of all county properties, 10 acres or larger. If you want to see who your neighbors are, and how much land they own, you can stop in the News Office and look at our copy.

Just to let you know of the economic impact that natural gas has been for Susquehanna County--Gibson Township, only 15 miles from Forest City, has 80 active gas wells, according to www.marcellusgas.org. Since gas production began, these wells have had production values of natural gas of over \$1 billion! And a proven fact statistic is that 53 of the top 100 of the highest producing Pennsylvania gas wells are in Susquehanna County.

ALL PA SCHOOLS SHUT DOWN UNTIL AT LEAST MARCH 27

Dr. Jessica Aquilina, Superintendent of Forest City Regional School, sent out the following message to the school community on Friday, March 13. "Due to the recommendations of the Governor's office related to no large group gatherings and social distancing, the school districts in the NEIU 19 region have decided to close beginning on Monday, March 16, 2020 through Friday, March 27.

The Forest City Regional School District will provide all families with access to breakfast and lunch throughout the school closure. This Grab and Go program is available to ALL children ages eighteen and younger. Each distribution will provide enough food for multiple days of breakfast and lunch for each child in the home.

There will be a food distribution was on Thursday, March 19, 2020 from 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Forest City Regional Elementary School (traffic circle for drive-by pick-up). It will be through the Weinberg Food Bank. There will also be a food distribution for the breakfast and lunch program from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Forest City Elementary School.

The food distribution at the following other locations will be from 11 a.m to 1 p.m. They are the Union Dale Methodist Church, Union Dale, PA 1 and the Pleasant Mount Social Hall (former Pleasant Mount Fire Hall) 389 Great Bend Turnpike Pleasant Mount.

If you are in need of food but are unable to participate in the food distribution as scheduled please call 570-785-2403 for assistance. Additional information regarding future food distributions will be shared later this week. Please remember that the purpose of the school closures is to minimize exposure to and to slow the spread of the Coronavirus. The Wolf Administration discourages individuals from traveling to recreational activities like gyms, movie theaters, shopping malls, and parks.



Diana Junior, left, is shown with new Forest City Librarian Lisa Spangenberg, right.

Diana Junior officially retires as FC Librarian after 32 years

Diana Junior was honored at an Open House on Saturday, March 7th at the Forest City Branch Library on the occasion of her retirement as Librarian. A large crowd of County library officials, patrons of the library and friends were treated to a delicious gathering of hors d'oeuvres, and many kind words directed to the retiree.

In addition to receiving gifts, Mrs. Junior awarded a number of plaques to individuals and organizations which, she emphasized, were responsible for the past and present success of the local facility. They included Forest City Council, represented by President Nick Cost; North Eastern Pennsylvania Telephone Company and Forest City Lions Club, both represented by Steven Tourje, president of both entities; the Novel Women's Book Club, represented by Joann Hall;

and The Forest City News, represented by Publisher Patricia Striefsky.

Mrs. Junior received a beautiful painting from the Susquehanna County Free Library Board, and also was cited by Mary Garm, of the Lackawanna County Library, who, coincidentally, was the person who hired Mrs. Junior for the Forest City Librarian job 32 years ago.

The retiree also introduced her replacement, Lisa Spangenberg, who has already taken over.

Mrs. Junior worked at the Forest City Branch Library for 32 years, joining the Library November 16, 1987, working for the Susquehanna County Historical and Free Library Association.

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Wayne Co. Business devastated by fire



A Wayne County business was devastated by fire on Thursday, March 5. Flames broke out at Aldenville Log & Lumber at around 5:30pm. Crews from Wayne, Lackawanna and Susquehanna Counties responded to the fire. They were on scene until the early morning hours on Friday. The State Police Fire Marshall is investigating the blaze.

The business has been in operation for 16 years and is owned by the Droppa family.



A check was presented to the Stained Glass Window Fund of the Forest City Area Historical Society by Mary Kameen McElhinney, Vandling, at the kick off of a fundraising drive on Sunday, March 8th. Repairs of all seven of the over 112-year-old windows in the Museum, would cost approximately \$50,000 but will be done in stages. Shown in photo from left, Curator Barbara Klobucar, President John P. Kameen, Secretary Juliann Doyle, Mary McElhinney, Treasurer Bob Wirts; 2nd row, Fred Cicilioni, Katie Cicilioni, Vice Pres. Dave Homisak, Peggy Brager; Back rows, Paul Ferraro, Linda Bernarsky, Dave Opeka, Bill Allen, Tammy O'Reilly, Ann Marie Furdock, Roseann Swegel and Carole Kameen.

Major donation kicks off drive to Repair Hist. Soc. Museum windows

A major donation highlighted the kick off of a \$50,000 drive by the Forest City Area Historical Society to restore the deteriorating windows in their Museum on Main Street. Society member Mary Kameen McElhinney, Vandling, presented the check, in memory of the Kameen Family, at a meeting of the Society Sunday, March 8.

In addition, the Society received a \$2,500 grant toward the project, and is in line for another \$5,000 grant. Society Treasurer reports there is now almost \$20,000 toward the \$50,000 goal.

Donations toward the restoration can be made to Historical Society Treasurer Robert Wirts, 24 Hilltop Drive, Browndale, PA 18421 or sent to Window Drive c/o Forest City News, 636 Main St., Forest City PA 18421

There are seven stained glass windows in the former church. No definitive information can be found on their date of installation but from past photos they are over 112 years old. Two of the three large windows are in the most deteriorated condition according to two firms which were sought out for estimates. The front window

Easter Egg Hunt at KP postponed

FC Parks and Recreation announce they will be postponing their Easter Bonnet/Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for Sunday, April 5th at Kennedy Park.

They will be updating with a rescheduled event for the children as soon as possible.

Sorry they have to do this, but after careful consideration they feel this is in everyone's best interest at this time.

FC Town Rally Postponed

The Town Rally scheduled for Wednesday, March 25 at 6 PM at the Forest City Borough Building has been postponed to a later date which will be announced in the near future.

"Our Town Forest City" production rescheduled

The filming of "Our Town Forest City" has been postponed until further notice due to the coronavirus pandemic. Residents will be notified when production will be rescheduled.

Pancake Breakfast in Pl. Mount Sun., Mar. 22

The Costello Monahan Brown American Legion Post 964 will host a Maple Tour Pancake Breakfast on Sun., March 22 from 8 a.m. to noon. Come out and support a good cause.

is in especially deteriorated condition.

The lowest bidder, Bennington & Son, Scranton, has a reputation with many years of restoring windows in churches in the Scranton Catholic Diocese. The total bid is approximately \$51,000. Bennington originally indicated the company wanted to do all seven windows at one time due to having to install large amounts of scaffolding and hiring sub-contractors for some of the work.

However, due to the costs

involved, officers of the Society asked Mr. Bennington if he would repair two or three of the largest windows. The cost to do two of the windows would be just over \$20,000, with all three costing approximately \$31,000. The remaining four smaller windows would be repaired when funds were available. How many will be done this year depends on the success of the fundraising.

Mr. Bennington told the Society in February he could do the work this year.

New course offerings for 2020-21 FCRHS Students

Forest City Regional School Board approved some major changes in high school curriculum for 2020-21 at its March 9th meeting. Many of the changes will assist students who are in the occupation-directed category after graduation. They were developed by the high school faculty and administration under the direction of High School Principal Cassandra Stout.

The requirements for FCRHS graduation will be changed from 24 credits to 24.5 credits, while the requirements for FCRHS/CTCLC students will be increased from 21.5 credits to 23 credits.

In presenting the changes, Superintendent Dr. Jessica Aquilina said this new program of studies is now aligned with the PA Career Cluster and High Priority Occupations and will aid students in getting their high school diploma and also preparing them for technical school or a 4-year degree.

The math curriculum now will provide Algebra 1A and 1B to students coming into 9th grade who may have scored below basic in 8th grade. It is a two stage remedial course to prepare them for Algebra which is a state requirement. Algebra II Topics course is for those not headed for math-related careers. There is also an Applied Mathematics course.

In the English curriculum, students can select from one of the six related reading fields: Short Stories, Mystery, American Literature, British Literature, Dystopian Literature and Informational Reading and Writing.

Physical Sciences courses are: Biology Remediation, Forensic Science, Penna. Ecology, Computer Integrated Manufacturing A & B, and Project Lead The Way (PLTW).

Social Studies will include: American Government, Modern U.S. History and Contemporary Issues and Ancient World History Honors.

Christ Church Spaghetti Dinner Postponed

A Spaghetti Dinner which was scheduled for Christ Episcopal Church, 700 Delaware Street, Forest City on Saturday, March 21 is postponed until further notice. No new date has been set.

Other courses are: Public Speaking (new), Health (gr. 10), Financial Literacy and Water & Digital Citizenship.

Electives are: Marketing, Financial Literacy and Freshman Seminar.

Dr. Aquilina said there will be a parent information session as well as a grade level presentation of the course offerings at a future date.

In response to a question from School Board member Bernice Lukus, Dr. Aquilina said there is sufficient staff to handle the course additions.

Christ Church Cancellation of Church

The Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem has advised cancellation of Christ Church's usual 9 AM Sunday services out of an abundance of caution for its members and the community for the following Sundays:

MARCH 15th
MARCH 22nd
MARCH 29th

Christ Church's spaghetti dinner for Saturday, March 21st has been postponed to a future date yet to be determined.

On Fridays, pizza will continue to be prepared for sale during the Lenten season. Call to order 570 785 3425 and leave a call back message.

AREA CANCELLATIONS

The News has tried to contact all who may have advertised events for this week and have removed those cancelled, however, some others may have cancelled after our Monday press time.

Dave Trichilo Sr., told the News that Zazzera's Super Market already had home delivery service and will continue to provide it.

Max Deli told the News he will provide breakfasts and lunch at a discount to students during the school closings.

Bishop Bambera of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Scranton has stated that Sunday Mass obligation is waived during the national emergency. Certain Mass-related practices also will be waived.

