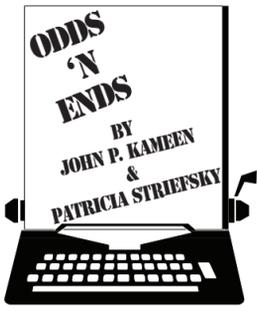


# THE FOREST CITY NEWS



**It's almost time to change your clocks.** Daylight saving time begins Sunday, March 8 at 2 a.m. We will "spring forward" and lose an hour of sleep. The amount of daylight will lengthen each day until the summer solstice on June 20.

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**Forest City will be holding a Town Rally** entitled "Building Your Future" on Wednesday, March 26 at 6 PM in Pentecost Hall, the 3rd floor of the Borough Building. Come out and see what great things are happening in Forest City and share your ideas for a more vibrant community. Everyone is invited to attend.

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**The public and FC Library patrons** are invited to the retirement party for Librarian Diana Junior this Saturday from 2 to 4 at the Library. After 33 years in that post she decided to take it easy with husband, Andy. The local facility is vastly different than the one she walked into in 1987 with all its computers and on-line access. Her bubbling personality will be sorely missed and we wish her the very best.

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**Sausage & Pepper hoagie, cheesesteak and mac & cheese** hit the spot in the snow last Thursday at Cables Deli, Union Dale. The trees were shimmering and loaded with snow at the time but later in the day, the sun and wind returned the landscape to that dreary gray.

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**This year's Pennsylvania voting** is unique as anyone can vote by mail-in ballot. You can get applications at [www.votesPA.com/mailballot](http://www.votesPA.com/mailballot), or call 1-877-868-3772, or stop in the News Office. Besides name and address you need to identify yourself either with a PA driver's license number, a PennDOT ID card number or last four digits of your Social Security number. You will then get a ballot by mail and you mail it back.

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**Newspapers celebrate Sunshine Week** this month so people know about the Sunshine Law which REQUIRES governmental bodies (Councils, School Boards, Townships, etc.) to do their business in public, and allow public access to their records. Some elected officials make decisions in private, or at executive sessions, and bring the decisions to be rubber-stamped in public. "We give them a chance to comment at our meetings," they say. Not enough! The law says they must discuss decisions in public. The public should not be kept in the dark and should know that some of these bodies are not just one big happy family, but do express pros and cons.

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**Mighty cold last weekend** as we cashed out of February. Above seasonal temps as March rolled in.

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**See our Dining Guide on Page 8 To win a \$20 Gift Certificate**



## Rev. Francis J. Burshnick 2009 Distinguished Citizen Passes away in Florida

Rev. Francis J. Burshnick, SCJ, age 82, of Pinellas Park, Florida, passed away on Feb. 21, 2020 just after getting ready to leave the Sacred Heart Priest's Retirement Home to celebrate Mass. He was the 2009 Forest City Area Distinguished Citizen.

Father Burshnick was the son of the late Rudolph and Mary Burshnick, Delaware Street, Forest City. He is survived by his brothers, Robert, Forest City, and Gerald, Piscataway, NJ; and his sister Margaret Jones, Copperas Cove, TX; several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brothers Rudolph, David, James, Thomas and Frederick and sister Marie Wynn.

Services were held Tuesday, Feb. 25, in Pinellas Park, and on Friday, Feb. 28, at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake in Franklin, WI (suburban Milwaukee), with reception of the body and a wake service, followed by Mass. Internment followed the Mass.

He was an honor graduate of the Class of 1955 of Forest City High School, and worked his high school years to help support his family of five brothers and a sister. His family could not afford to send him to college but he was such an excellent student he was able to get a scholarship to the University of Scranton, where he majored in electronics.

After graduation he worked at General Electric, Binghamton, NY, for a short time but volunteered to go to Shemya, in the Alaskan Aleutian Island chain, to help defend our country at a U.S. radar installation to detect incursions from Communist Russia.

It was while there that Frank heard an even greater calling—To become a Catholic priest. After his tour of duty in the Aleutians he entered the Seminary of the Priests of the Sacred Heart in Great Barrington, Mass.

He was ordained a priest and said his first Mass at St. Joseph's Slovenian Church in Forest City.

After his ordination he went to the Sacred Heart School of Theology, Hales Corners, Wisconsin where he earned a Masters degree in Theology. He taught mathematics at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary at Lenox, Mass., for three years. He spent a year learning pastoral duties at St. Denis Church, Louisville, Kentucky.

He was then called to serve the Mexican-American people in the Rio Grande Valley in southeastern Texas where he served for 15 years. There he administered to the poor, taught in their schools and

## Town Rally in Forest City Wed., March 25

Forest City will hold a Town Rally on Wednesday, March 25 at 6 PM at Pentecost Hall, 3rd floor of the Borough Building. This special Forest City Area Community Event is open to everyone. The purpose is to "Build Our Future."

Come share your ideas for a more vibrant community at this special Town Rally. Learn what's new and coming soon; hear the latest exciting opportunities with the Rail Trail Connection, and share YOUR voice for moving Forest City forward together.

Hear from representatives of Forest City Borough, the Greater Forest City Business Alliance, Forest City Parks & Recreation, Rail Trail Council of NEPA, Greater Forest City Industries and the Forest City Regional School District.

For more information visit [www.VisitForestCityPA.com/](http://www.VisitForestCityPA.com/) events.

The power-point presentation will begin promptly at 6 PM.

The public is invited to attend!



Rev. Francis J. Burshnick

dedicated himself to serving his fellow man.

He then went on a sabbatical to Notre Dame University, South Bend, Indiana. After refreshing and renewing himself he started to work in 1984 in northwestern Mississippi at the parishes of Sacred Heart, in Walls, and Christ the King, in Southaven. He stayed there for 17 years doing pastoral work and missionary work as well as keeping up his role as a teacher. He retired from that mission in 2007 and enjoyed retirement in the St. Petersburg area of Florida. He still helped out doing pastoral work in parishes and nursing homes.

As a priest for almost 50 years, he kept in touch with his hometown and his family. His brother Robert, still resides in the family home. In 1995 he celebrated his Silver Jubilee in the priesthood at St. Joseph's Church, Forest City. He returned here almost every year for a few weeks and said Mass in his home parish. He was planning to return here in May 2020 to celebrate his 50th Jubilee in the priesthood.

At the time he was awarded the 2009 Forest City Area Distinguished Citizen award he summed up his life in his own words: "I've enjoyed my life, even though it has been with some struggles and I am grateful for having been born in Forest City and raised with my siblings with deep values."

## "Our Town Forest City" Comm. Meeting Thurs., March 26

"Our Town Forest City" will begin production in the coming months. The WVIA series features the faces and stories of people in Forest City and the surrounding area.

A general community meeting will be held on Thursday, March 26 at 6:30 PM and Lisa Mazzarella, Our Town series producer, would like as many people as possible to attend. People will tell key points Forest City has to offer.

The following week a white board session will be held where all the ideas are brought to the table. People will be given four weeks to gather material for the piece, through pictures, movies, slides, and any other format they may have.

After the four weeks, they will hold two interview days, April 25 and May 2. Each interview will last up to 10 minutes but will then be cut down to about three minutes. The length of the show will be 55 minutes total.

The show is a fundraiser for public television and will be seen four times on the air and DVD's will be available for purchase.

## News intern Doing series Of interviews

Elizabeth Faddis, Clifford Township, is serving an internship at The Forest City News. One of her jobs will be to conduct interviews of area people to get their insights into local government, business and activities.

If and when you are contacted we urge you to make an appointment and devote a short time for her. It will be good for her internship goals and will be interesting for our readers.



## Lackawanna River Named PA 2020 River of the Year

The Lackawanna River in Northeastern Pennsylvania has been voted the state's 2020 River of the Year. It failed to garner enough on-line votes in two previous years but was successful in the online voting conducted by Pennsylvania Organization for Waterways and Rivers (POWR).

The announcement was made January 30th by PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn in which she saluted the core of dedicated folks who fight hard to protect PA rivers and streams.

The Lackawanna River Conservation Association (LRCA), headed by longtime river crusader Bernie McGurl, will receive a \$10,000 Leadership Grant to help fund a slate of year-long 2020 River of the Year activities.

The LRCA was created by local citizens in 1987 to promote restoration and conservation of the Lackawanna River and its watershed resources in northeast Pennsylvania. It formed a watershed stewardship program to train and involve active participants in hands-on stewardship work.

"We are very—pleased to be recognized as the PA River of the Year for 2020," said Mr. McGurl. "This honor is a strong validation of our community's work over the past 30 years to rediscover the incredible natural resource that is the Lackawanna River. The vision for a revitalized river that has been shared by the LRCA has been taken to hear by more and more

of our fellow citizens every year!"

The other four competitors for this year's honor were: Brandywine Creek, Buffalo Creek, Connoquenessing Creek and the Ohio River. All voting was done online with POWR, and advocates of the Lackawanna River were able to outpoll votes for the much larger Ohio River.

The Lackawanna River flows for 60 miles through Susquehanna, Wayne, Lackawanna and Luzerne counties. Beginning at its headwaters in Ararat, it meanders down past Herrick and Union Dale, through the Stillwater Reservoir, and past Forest City, Vandling, Brown Dale and the rest of the Lackawanna Valley, until it enters the Susquehanna River between Pittston and Durysa.

The River closely parallels the D&H Rail Trail and its closeness provides a serene beauty and attraction for the many users of the Trail from Simpson to the New York State border. Much of the Trail from Simpson to Ararat has been reconstructed over the past two years.

For many years the river was adversely affected by anthracite coal mining, and by railroad, industrial and urban development. After anthracite mining was abandoned in the 1960s, it was still serving as a sewage collector for all towns along the river. It was around that time that communities along the river, bowing to legal pressure from the state, began the development of modern sanitary treatment systems instead of dumping raw sewage into the River.

## FC Area Emergency Services responds to 153 fire calls in 2019

The Forest City Area Emergency Services annual Fire Report was given to Forest City Borough Council on Monday, Jan. 6th. In 2019 the fire service reported 153 calls, up from 126 calls in 2018.

Fire Chief Paul S. Lukas and Deputy Fire Chief Thomas J. Prince listed the local responses to fire and accident-related incidents at the 153 mark. The record year for fire calls was back in 2012 with 186 calls.

There were 35 motor vehicle accidents responded to. There were 32 structure fires, up from 18 in 2018. There were 12 medical assist calls.

There were 33 calls for automatic alarms, more than double the 14 in 2018. There was only one call for the Fire Company to standby, as well as 11 public service calls.

There were 4 calls for carbon monoxide investigations, no calls for any brush fires, 4 responses to Haz-Mat calls, 7 for chimney and heating problems.

In 2017, the town suffered historic fire losses from three major structure fires, one of which destroyed three Main Street buildings. Another fire, caused by the burning of trash, destroyed two Delaware Street homes. The 3rd major structure fire caused serious damage to a Railroad Street residence. None of those fires resulted in deaths or serious injuries.

Paul Lukas was the department's top responder as he came out to 120 calls. Tom Prince Sr. was next in line responding to 86 calls while

Paul Mihelc responded to 84 calls. Michael Wilcox responded to 78 calls; Jim Kuruts responded to 43 calls; C. Sefcik was on 40 calls, while Trent Razderk and John Kowalewski each responded to 37 calls.

June was the busiest month for fire responses with 19, and there were 18 calls in October. A total of 947 personnel responses were recorded over the entire year.

The total time out (in minutes) for responders for the month of October was 1,229.

The Department used 3,050 feet of hose including 1,100 feet of 2-in. hose and 1,800 feet of 5-inch hose.

**Location of fire calls were as follows:**

- Forest City 56
- Clinton Twp. 12
- Fell Twp. 26
- Clifford Twp. 21
- Mt. Pleasant 21
- Thompson 3
- Greenfield Twp. 5
- Vandling 5
- Union Dale 2
- Seeleyville 1
- Apparatus Responses**
- Engine 41 to 69 calls
- Rescue 41 to 41 calls
- Utility 41 to 6 calls
- Membership Response Report**
- Barney, P. -5
- Biedenkapp, E. -20
- Bock, E. -20
- Boyd, J. -13
- Bradford, K. -3
- Cook, K. -3
- Daugevelo, A. -22
- Davis, D. -1
- Davis, S. -10
- Defronzo, C. -24
- Elsworth, B. -35

After much work and attention it is now a vibrant, cold-water "Class A" fishery in its middle and upper reaches. It also attracts more paddlers every year and is the focus of many other river-oriented events throughout the year.

At a recent meeting in Forest City, attended by Congressman Fred Keller of the 12th Congressional District, Scott Linde, president of Linde Corporation, Pittston, unveiled plans for a Lackawanna River Park between Forest City and Brown Dale. It would be constructed on mine scarred "Yucca Flats", between the two communities.

Linde said the project has previously received favorable consideration by the Federal Bureau of Abandoned Mines (BAMA) but has not yet received enough support in order to release funding which he estimated would require in excess of \$1 million. He was seeking the support of Congressman Keller for the federal project.

The project would include leveling of the mine waste and construction of an entrance and roadway from Rte. 247, on the Brown Dale Stretch. A boat launch and picnic areas would be highlights of the finished project.

With DCNR and POWR supporting commemorative River of the Year sojourns throughout the Commonwealth, it is hoped that someday the local Lackawanna Park can be a focal point for one of these Lackawanna River paddling journeys.

- Egan, C. - 27
- Evans, D. - 24
- Fifield, S. -11
- Flynn, J. - 1
- Frisbie, B. -1
- Gonsauls, R. - 9
- Henderson, K. - 19
- Howe, J. 9
- Kowalewski D. - 37
- Kuruts, K - 26
- Kuruts, J. - 43
- Lukas, P. - 120
- Mihelc, B. - 6
- Mihelc, P. - 84
- Mikloiche, R. - 1
- Paulin, R. - 1
- Prince, B. - 6
- Prince, D. - 22
- Prince, T. Sr. - 86
- Rarick, A. - 2
- Razderk, T. - 37
- Saltishak, P. - 2
- Sefcik, C. 40
- Sloat, T. - 1
- Staff, M. - 5
- Tyrell, S. - 1
- Wagner, J. -17
- Wagner, A. - 24
- Wilcox, M. - 78

## Open House at the FC Library in Recognition of Diana Junior

The Board of Trustees of the Susquehanna County Historical Society and Free Library Association would like to recognize retiring Forest City Librarian Diana Junior for her many years of service on Saturday, March 7 at the Forest City Library, 531 Main St., Forest City PA.

Please join them for refreshments from 2 to 4 p.m.