

## Interviews with LIBBY by Elizabeth Faddis

# Bill Orasin manager at GUARD Insurance, WB; Company is praised by financier Warren Buffet

by Elizabeth Faddis  
Born and raised in Forest City, Bill Orasin is a long time resident of the town. A desire for a better life drew his ancestors to move from Slovenia to Forest City in the late 1800's. His grandfather owned a bar, called Wivey's Place, which was a well-known gathering place for the area.

Bill describes growing up as a child in Forest City in the early 90's as living in a "Mister Roger's type of neighborhood". You could walk downtown, and do all your shopping, and all your banking. It was safe. It was the type of town where everyone knew everyone, and where the mailman would visit. As a twelve year-old boy, he would mow lawns for his neighbors.

His love and passion for the community led to him being actively involved in the town. In 2006 and 2007, he was the coordinator of the then-annual Old Home Week Festival. In 2013, he filled a vacancy on Borough council. The following year he became Vice-President, and halfway through his term he took over the role of President.

As Council President some of his accomplishments extended to helping write grants for the Main Street lamp posts, the Kennedy Park basketball court, and the Samuel Rothafel Historical Marker in front of Zazzera's; also the renovation of the council chambers which included the renovation of the flooring, and building a new desk for the chambers. At the end of his term in 2017, he did not seek re-election for a variety of reasons. One of which was due to increasing responsibilities at his job with Berkshire Hathaway GUARD Insurance Co, in Wilkes-Barre. Bill describes it as being a little hard to help

run the town from an hour away.

What started out as just an internship there would blossom into a career over twelve years. A graduate of the University of Scranton, Bill started out at GUARD Insurance as a summer intern in the Analytics and Statistics department, a branch of the Actuarial department. At the end of the summer, he was asked if he would be willing to come down to work part time during the week. This would give him home access and the option to work out of his dorm.

In the spring of 2009, he was faced with finding a full time job during the economic downturn. He started after graduation as a Technical Analyst at GUARD where his job responsibilities included providing management with statistics and information, and running reports so that they could make well informed management decisions about the company. In a few years, he became a supervisor in that department. From there, he became manager of the State Filings department.

Last year, Bill was promoted to Director of the Regulatory Compliance and State Filings department, another branch of the Actuarial department. In this current role, Bill manages a team of 14 that is responsible for taking the actuaries' insurance rates and sending them out to every single state for approval along with rules for using those rates and all forms attached to policies. From there the states will either let them know what needs to be amended and send it back, or approve it. After that, Bill and his team are then responsible for making adjustments and then implementing the changes for policyholders.

GUARD Insurance was



Bill Orasin

started in 1983 as a small, family owned insurance company out of Wilkes-Barre that sold workers' compensation policies. Over the years, they expanded into more states. According to Orasin, when he first started working with the company, they were writing workers compensation policies in thirteen

### "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.

### FCAES Meat Raffle Sat., March 21

The Forest City Area Emergency Services will hold a meat raffle on Sat., March 21 from 5 to 9 p.m. at the EMS building, 380 Railroad St.

Five spins per ticket, with one choice each spin for different meat prizes, and chances are on sale now for 18 different meat prizes at a cost of \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Available from any member. Tickets will also be available that night for two \$100 boxes of meat.

Admission is free, and food will be available for purchase. Call 570-785-5025 or 570-785-3226 for info.

### Free Lunch at Trinity Church Sat., Mar. 21

Trinity Episcopal Church, 58 River St., Carbondale, will host a free community luncheon on Sat., March 21 from noon to 1 p.m. Everyone is Welcome!"

states. Today, they have expanded into all 50 states and are now writing more than ten lines of business. In 2012, GUARD Insurance was sold, and bought by Berkshire Hathaway, an insurance company owned by Warren Buffett.

Recently, Berkshire Hathaway GUARD Insurance was praised by Warren Buffett in his annual letter to the Berkshire Hathaway shareholders. In his letter, he used more than a page out of the thirteen page letter to explain GUARD's business model and detail the success of the company's property/casualty insurance business.

### B'dale Fire Co. Chicken BBQ Sun., April 5

The Browndale Fire Company will conduct its annual Spring Chicken BBQ on Sunday, April 5, 2020 at the Browndale Fire Station located on Route 247, 620 Marion Street, Browndale. The menu includes half a Chicken, Baked Potato, Browndale Green Beans, Home Made Cole Slaw, Roll & Butter and Dessert.

The "drive through only" hours for serving are from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 and are available from any member or at Tobacco Road, 607 Main St., Forest City (570-785-2123); Red Cross Pharmacy, 420 Main St., Forest City (570-785-5400); NAPA Auto Parts, 429 Main St., Forest City (570-785-9000) or by calling the fire station at 570-785-5300 and leave a message, visit our web site at www.43fire.com or our Facebook page.

Tickets are advance sales only. Proceeds from the BBQ to benefit the all volunteer Browndale Fire Company.

### Seedling Sale Now Through March 27

The Wayne Conservation District is accepting orders for the 50th annual seedling sale now through March 27th. Providing native planting choices that will benefit wildlife is the intent of the sale.

Orders must be received by March 27th and must be picked up Fri., April 24, between 3 to 6 p.m. or Sat., April 25, from 9 to 11 a.m.

For information call the Wayne Conservation District at 570-253-0963 or visit the Wayne Conservation District website and download the order form. <https://www.waynecounty.pa.gov/793/2020-Seedling-Sale> <https://www.waynecounty.pa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1347/SeedlingOrder-Form>.

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**Pleasant Mount News**  
By Theresa Opeka  
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Happy Birthday to: Charles Snigar Jr., Lori Knott, Matt Nezydowski, Dan Saam Jr., Sue Norosky, John Lewis, Ed Hadden, Ryan Garman, Kristopher Puntar, Linda McElhinney, Shannon Schupper, Sabrina Powell, Lillian Medved, Jonathan Terry, Louis Lee, Ryan Keyes, George LaBar, Mary Ann Pasternak, Mark Saam, Ryan Callan, Natasha Sanchez, Theodore Fredricks, Kalee Marie Babcock, Emily Zukosky, Shirley Gable and Patricia Striefsky.

Happy Anniversary to: Robert and Christina Kozlowski.

From the Pleasant Mount Library: Ongoing: Spring Flower Power Fundraiser- Bulbs, flower seeds and edibles are available to order. Order forms available at the library: 375 Great Bend Turnpike, Pleasant Mount. Return by April 15 (tax day!!) with payment. All funds support the library.

Happy Spring! March Lunch at Cold Spring Chapel Community Kitchen. Join them on Saturday, March 21st from 11:30am - 1:30pm as they begin the season of Spring with a roast pork dinner. Also being served with the dinner will be: mashed potatoes, gravy, homemade spaetzle (German dumplings), rutabaga, red cabbage, and applesauce with homemade bread. Cupcakes will be their featured dessert with this lunch. The kitchen is located in the fellowship hall of Cold Spring Chapel. It is located at the crossroads of Upper Woods Road and Great Bend Turnpike (371W). Lebanon

Township, Wayne County. The luncheon is free of charge and all are welcome to attend. For more information on events at Cold Spring Chapel, follow them on Facebook.

St. Katharine Drexel Altar & Rosary Society is happy to announce their Lenten Pierogi Fundraising Date: March potato peeling & prep date, Tuesday, March 24. Sale dates: Wednesday and Thursday, March 25 & 26. Order sheets are now available at all churches. They will continue to keep their pre-order sale price at \$6/dozen. A limited number of pierogi are made so extra dozens (\$7) are not usually available. Pick up times will be 11am-3pm. Orders can also be placed by calling Barbara at 570-727-8385 or Jean at 570-448-9181. They thank you in advance for your support.

### FCR Class of 1975 Reunion Meeting Mar. 19

Save the date for the Forest City Regional High School Class of 1975 Reunion to be held Saturday, September 12, 2020 at the Anthracite Center, Carbondale, Pa.

There will be a meeting to finalize plans on Thursday, March 19, 2020 at 6:30 at Franks in Simpson. Classmates are asked to come out and provide their input in finalizing the reunion.

### Forest City looking to add murals to Main Street landscape



Members of Forest City Borough sat down last week with Gus Fahey, President of Heritage Valley Partners, to discuss grants to connect the trail to the downtown, and for beautification, specifically, murals. The grants would come from private and public sources, such as Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). Most grants require a local match, so Forest City will have to think about raising money or getting in-kind services to include in the projects. Heritage Valley Partners is doing a project called Valley Murals. They are talking with officials in Carbondale, Archbald, Dickson City, and Scranton about painting murals in prominent places, bringing the community together to say something about where they live through public art. Fahey said he would like to include Forest City in this initiative. He will be on the lookout for places where building owners would support a mural painted on their property. Pictured left to right are Gus Fahey, Council person Amy Bean, Main Street Coordinator Paul Daugevelo and Mayor Chris Glin-ton.

### C'dale Health Center Patient Tests Positive for Novel Coronavirus

A patient seen at the Carbondale Family Health Center in Lackawanna County, part of Wayne Memorial Community Health Centers, tested positive for the novel coronavirus or COVID-19. The Pennsylvania Department of Health announced Fri., March 6 that an adult male from Wayne County, along with a patient from Delaware County, were the first two presumptive COVID-19 patients in the state. Results from both patients must still be confirmed by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

The Carbondale Family Health Center (CFHC) patient was instructed to self-quarantine in his home. James Cruse, MD, medical director of Wayne Memorial Community Health Centers (WMCHC) stated that the patient had presented with mild symptoms and a history of recent travel to one of the areas most affected as reported by the CDC.

Dr. Cruse noted that "all proper protocols from the Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control were followed, including the proper donning of personal protective equipment when the patient was swabbed for testing."

Frederick Jackson, execu-

tive director of WMCHC, added that only one person was in the waiting room when the affected patient arrived and that that patient has been notified. He said that both the doctor who treated the affected patient and a staff member have been asked to self-quarantine for 14 days.

Wayne Memorial Hospital Chief Executive Officer David Hoff stated that no patients have presented with COVID-19 at the hospital to date, but the hospital has a protocol in place should one show up.

Hoff said patients experiencing mild symptoms should call their healthcare provider to determine their next step and to practice self-quarantine while waiting for provider instructions. The symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat and shortness of breath. If a patient is having the last symptom, difficulty breathing, they might need to be hospitalized.

The best prevention, according to Wayne Memorial and the CDC is good hygiene—wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds; if not available, use a hand sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol-based. For more information, visit [cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://cdc.gov/coronavirus).

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