

Historical Society first meeting of the year looking at plans for 2020 events

The Forest City Area Historical Society had many items on its agenda for the 1st meeting since December. Sixteen members were in attendance.

The Museum will re-open on May 2nd and will be open every Saturday from 12 to 2pm. You can also make an appointment to view the Museum on other days and hours by calling 570-785-3800.

Secretary Juliann Doyle got a round of applause for writing and producing the Society newsletter which was sent out to all names on Society rolls in January. It resulted in several \$125 lifetime memberships and also a number of regular \$15.00 and \$25.00 family memberships.

The secretary reported there are presently 39 lifetime members, of which 3 are deceased and 13 are active. There were 24 charter members of which 7 are deceased and 12 are active.

Secretary Doyle also reported on receiving a \$2,500 grant for the stained glass window repair, and also completed a grant application for \$10,000 for the same fund.

Member Mary McElhinney made a check presentation to treasurer Bob Wirts to kick-off the fundraiser for repair of the deteriorating stained glass windows in the Museum. The cost to repair all seven windows is \$51,000.

Treasurer Bob Wirts and local contractor Jim Swegel were thanked for putting in the new wall and doorway to make the downstairs office with the Society records more secure. Both of them donated the costs and labor for the job.

Pizza Sale at PI. Mt. EMS Fri., April 3

The Pleasant Mount Emergency Services will hold a Pizza Sale on Friday, April 3 from 5 PM to 7 PM at the Social Hall, 389 Great Bend Tpke., Pleasant Mount. Plain Cheese Pizza on a homemade crust, choose either "Hot-n-Ready" or "Take-n-Bake." Half sheet (12x18) is \$12.00 and Full sheet (18x24) is \$20.00.

PRE-ORDERS ONLY by Friday, March 27 by calling 570-448-2333. Leave a detailed message with your name, quantity and choice of pizza.

NEP Telephone Co. was again thanked for cleaning and salting the sidewalk all winter.

Website Director and Curator Barb Klobucar has added information on the Society website www.for-estcityareahistoricalsocie-ty.com. She will apply for a credit card to be used for expenses of the website.

Facebook coordinator Roseann Swegel was applauded for the old photos she has been putting on the Society Facebook page. She is anxious to have the public email old time and historic photos of interest to her at britt@nep.net or they can be brought to the News Office where they will be scanned and returned.

Fundraising committee Tammy O'Reilly and Dave Opeka will schedule an election day luncheon on Tuesday, April 28 from 11 to 1. Orders will also be taken for deliveries to area businesses.

Due to the success of the two performances of last year's murder/mystery, Ms. O'Reilly also is working on another murder/mystery play. It will be put on in late September or October.

A letter of thanks was read from the family of Roxy Rothafel for the Historical Society's work in having a street in Forest City named "Roxy Road" to honor the late theatrical magnate who began his career in Forest City in the 1900s. The street is off Rte. 171 North Main Street by the law office of Atty. Paul Smith and by Adams Body Shop. A sign has been placed there.

Peggy Brager will be supplying historic information she has assembled on Main Street buildings in order to have plaques made to attach to the buildings.

Clifford Cash \$100 Prize Winners

Congratulations to the following lucky \$100 dollar winners in the Clifford Volunteer Fire Company's Clifford Cash drawing.

Kathryn Kellam - Hancock, NY; Name not listed - Starrucca, PA; Debi Suchnick - Clifford Twp.; Mark McGraw - Lakewood; and Bonnie MacKay - Carbondale.

The Society would like to do several a year depending on the cost.

Stephanie Reisch will be chairperson of the area-wide yard sale on Memorial Day weekend, Saturday, May 23. For a \$15.00 donation to the Society, addresses and a list of some items to be sold, will be advertised in The Forest City News. A coupon will be in upcoming issues of the News.

Paul and Mary Ferraro will purchase a case for the Society's music keyboard.

The Society will be placing copies of the Ann Coar Crowley's Vandling history book at the Vandling voting polls, free for anyone wishing to take one. The books were donated to the Society by the family of the author.

The Society will look into honoring the memory of the late Chief Justice George W. Maxey who was born and raised here and was Chief Justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in the late 1940s. There is a street named after him in Forest City.

The Society decided not to have a Wine Festival this year as was discussed last year. It will look at other type fundraisers to get funds for the operation of the Society and for the project to repair the stained glass windows in the museum.

PennDOT Seeks Summer Interns

PennDOT Engineering District 4, which covers Luzerne, Lackawanna, Pike, Wayne, Susquehanna and Wyoming counties, is now accepting applications for summer internships.

They are especially seeking students majoring in civil, environmental, architectural, mechanical engineering, and other engineering disciplines, as well as non-engineering programs like business administration, communications, accounting, computer science, and many other majors that are applicable to PennDOT operations.

Summer internship hours are full-time, and students are employed until they return to school for the fall semester.

To be eligible, students must maintain full-time enrollment status for the following fall semester, which is defined as being registered for 12 or more undergraduate credits, or nine or more graduate credits. A student must have completed their first year of college in a two-year associate degree program or four-year bachelor's degree program by the start of the internship and be in good academic standing (a GPA of 2.0 higher).

Application and information can be found at www.employment.pa.gov. Most of the internship hiring is in the Summer Program beginning April 1st and ending October 31st. Applications for the summer program will be accepted beginning January 1st through March 30th.



5 Steps to Get Your Bike Tuned Up for Spring

Spring is so close I can almost smell the flowers! This is a great time of year for transitions. Most of us clean out our closets, deep clean the house, and throw out old junk that we don't need. When you make your spring cleaning plans, don't forget to get your bike ready for a new season on the trail.

If you live in a warm climate and get out on the trail year-round, this post can just be a reminder to set aside some time to give your bike a little TLC this spring.

Wash
Wash down the frame and tires with a good quality bike wash. This is a great activity to get the kids involved in caring for their own gear. Make a family day of it. Get out the hose, some buckets, sponges, and your wash solution. This will get you on your way to being ready for your first spring ride and teach the kids some responsibility as well.

Drivetrain Care
Next, clean the chain with degreaser. We have a kit that makes cleaning the chain easy and relatively mess free. We still recommend that you wear clothes that you don't mind getting ruined. Whenever you work with grease, expect to get greasy. But the kit fits over the chain, you fill it with a solution, and use the pedal to run the chain through the kit. We like this system because it scrubs the chain better than just a cloth and degreaser. Our chains get particularly dirty because our trail is mostly a crushed stone surface. The better you care for your drive train, the longer your bike will last. Don't forget to lube it back up after cleaning!

Brake Care
We live up a steep hill in our small town. If we ride down to the trailhead instead of driving, we put lots

of stress on our brakes. If you are mountain biking or downhill biking, you will also put lots of wear on your bike's brake system. A vital part of getting ready for a new season is to inspect and change brake pads and lines as necessary. Even if you don't have lots of hills that wear on your brakes, you want to inspect this system at the beginning of the season. Safety first! Find this post on trailfamily.blog for a video to help you through that process.

Tire repair/change kit
Make sure your tires are pumped up and will hold air. If you notice a leak then change the tire tube. This post on trailfamily.blog has a handy video to walk you through this process. After that be sure that you have a kit with an extra tube and tire change tool in a saddle bag on your bike.

Bells and Whistles
This part is mostly cosmetic, but lots of fun! Our girls love their bike bells and streamers. This part lets you show some personality with your bike. This year I look forward to getting a phone mount and cup holder for my bike. Deck out your bike with whatever features you want. It's YOUR bike, so enjoy it!

If any of the more technical aspects of getting your bike ready for spring are intimidating to you, or you don't have time to tackle these tasks, you can bring it to the local shop for a tune up. You will have a road and trail ready bike and support a small local business at the same time. We call that a WIN-WIN.

We hope that this list and links are helpful to you as you get ready for Spring. Trail Family wishes everyone a safe and happy bike season!

Community Spotlight



Kost Tire, Forest City, to install FixIt bike station

Forest City will be raising its game as a FixIt bike station is planned for the near future. After a meeting between Irwin Kost Junior, Ray Bartolai (Operations Manager for Kost), Paul Daugevelo (Main Street Coordinator)

New hires at FCRS

Personnel was a topic at the March 9 FCR School Board meeting. Four paraprofessionals were hired and a state grant was received to provide fulltime behavioral health services in the District.

New paraprofessionals hired were: Denise Kowalick, Juliene Graebner, Beverly Burleigh and Sydney Hoehne. All will begin March 11 and will be for 6-hours daily. Pay is per negotiated FCR Education Support Professionals Association contract.

Superintendent Dr. Jessica Aquilina announced that the District received \$92,335 from a PCCD grant to provide full-time behavioral Health services through Friendship House, Scranton.

Thomas Bailer was approved as volunteer assistant for the softball program.

Two unnamed employees were granted unpaid leave requests.

CORONAVIRUS
The school has an action plan in the event of a coronavirus outbreak. The plan was further refined in a March 6 conference call with state officials. The state and Penna. Dept. of Education will provide further updates in the event of progression of the disease.

TRANSPORTATION
The pupil transportation cost index for school year 20-21 will be 6.046% an increase of 2.3% over this year.

and Mayor Chris Ginton, the site and plan is for a state of the art bike repair station.

The FixIt bike station is a do-it-yourself repair station with tools and air to fix a bike or give it a quick tune-up. It will be located at the Kost Store in Forest City and available for quick bike repairs at likely no charge to the bicyclists. Seven or eight tools are connected to the station with retractable steel cables.

Found in large cities, think of Montreal and Santa Barbara, a FixIt station signals to the cycling community and everyone that Forest City is on the map for great places to visit. There is a FixIt station at the Delaware Water Gap National Park where there are numerous bike trails to explore.

Kost Tire and Auto, that started their business in Forest City, is underwriting most of the costs involved which is approximately \$5,000. They would be appreciative of anyone who would like to help sponsor the FixIt station. While there will not be a charge to use the FixIt station, donations would be welcome.

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 29th
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.

No applications for Solicitor in Vandling

Only one person was in the audience at the Vandling Borough Council meeting on Monday, March 16.

CORRESPONDENCE
Vandling received the 2019 audit from Tom Rainey.

The Lackawanna County Invest Program provided guidelines in assisting local agencies in the revitalization and improvement of neighborhoods and community service. The max amount would be \$5,000 one time per year for municipalities.

Council was asked to sign the Lack. Co. Conservation District Memorandum of Understanding. The solicitor was not at the meeting so the Secretary will send it to him for review.

The Lackawanna County Planning Commission approved Clinton Properties/Linde land acquisition.

SOLICITOR
Council discussed the resignation of Solicitor Paul Smith. The position was advertised but no one sent in an application. Council questioned what Paul Smith gets paid. Treasurer Jennifer Slick said she believes that Smith gets \$100 per meeting and \$75 per hour.

It was then discussed whether or not a solicitor was needed to attend every meeting. Smith had told Council that he thought a solicitor only needed to attend if they had something to discuss.

President Fran Pantzar said they are probably going to have to spend more but hopefully not much more.

Councilman John Carachilo said he would contact Jeff Levine who expressed interest in the position.

MAYOR

Mayor Joe Brady asked that all Vandling residents abide by the President, Governor, and health officials during the coronavirus pandemic. He recommended everyone wash their hands frequently and hope for the best.

TREE PROGRAM
Councilman John Carachilo said the trees obtained through the Community Roots Program will be delivered on April 13. He will check with Tom Collins Sr. to see where he wants them to be stored until they are planted.

OUR TOWN
Council President Fran Pantzar and Councilman Bill Boyle attended the "Our Town Forest City" meeting in February. Currently the production is on hold due to the coronavirus. They urged residents of Vandling to attend the next meeting when it is scheduled to be a part of the production. Residents of Forest City, Brown-dale, and Vandling are being asked to gather pictures and tell their story.

BIDS
Council agreed to advertise the Peterlin Drive project and have the bids ready to open at the April meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 20.

16th Annual Night At the Races CANCELLED

The Costello Monahan Brown American Legion Post 964 16th Annual Night at the Races, scheduled for Sat. April 25 at the Pleasant Mount Fire Hall has been cancelled.

Classic Country Cooking
by The Country Cook
FCNewsCountryCook@gmail.com

Zesty Italian Dressing

We like to include a fresh salad with our evening meal whenever we can. We keep a variety of bottled dressings on hand, but we also like making dressings from scratch. I often use oil and vinegar and sometimes make a dressing from a mix. This is an option for an easy to make salad dressing from scratch.

- 2 Tablespoons white wine vinegar
- 2 Teaspoons Dijon mustard
- 1 Teaspoon maple syrup
- 1 garlic clove, grated (about 1/4 teaspoon)
- 1/2 Teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/2 Teaspoon dried thyme
- 1/2 Teaspoon dried basil
- 1/4 Teaspoon kosher salt
- 6 Tablespoons olive oil

In a medium bowl, whisk the vinegar, mustard, and maple syrup. Grate in the garlic clove, then whisk in the oregano, thyme, basil, and salt. Gradually whisk in the olive oil, one tablespoon at a time, until an emulsion forms. Serve immediately. Store refrigerated, and bring to room temperature before serving. It's great on green salads and pasta salads.

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