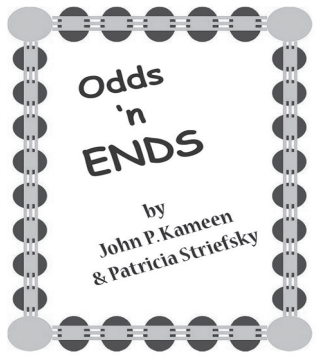


THE FOREST CITY NEWS



My cousin, Judge Joseph Kameen, passed away last week after years-long battles with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). He was Forest City's 2010 Distinguished Citizen. He was more than just a cousin—My father and his father were brothers, while my mother and his mother were sisters. Two brothers married two sisters. His full obituary is in this edition, but it doesn't show how he went from working at the News Office and cleaning the Forest City Laundrette, to twice-being elected President Judge of Pike County, Pennsylvania, the fastest growing county in the state. He was the fun-lovengest of the four siblings of Paul and Elizabeth Kameen. His brothers, Paul and Patrick, and his sister, Elizabeth, were famous for always saying, when something went wrong in the house—"Joe did it!" Joe was an honor student in everything he did. He was a high school teacher, then went to Dickinson School of Law and practiced law in Allentown and Millford, PA from 1980 to 2004. He then was elected Pike County Judge in 2004, and re-elected in 2014. It was in his 2nd term on the bench that he began to lose his voice, a symptom of the dreaded ALS. The handicap caused him to limit his judicial duties to non-courtroom work but later stepped down from his judgeship. He then devoted long hours to his favorite hobby, gardening, and had the most beautiful flowers and yard in Pike County. In 2010 when he accepted this town's Distinguished Citizen award he praised his upbringing in Forest City, but also his family, friends and teachers for giving him the basis for his life right here in Forest City. He was just another example of the 35 other former residents who have been honored as Distinguished Citizens over the years. To his wife, Elizabeth, and his four children, we extend to them our sincere sympathy, but know that his long period of suffering is ended. We also thank his former classmates and local friends who have expressed their condolences to us. They all reflected what a "good guy" he was. That he surely was, and may he rest in peace.

Golf to resume At FC Regional

The Forest City School Board held a special meeting on Thursday, Sept. 10 to discuss allowing the golf team to play. A number of students and parents sent in letters and emails asking the board to reconsider their decision to postpone Fall sports. The meeting was specifically called to discuss golf only. They will revisit the other Fall sports at the next regular meeting on Monday, September 21.

Board member Bernice Lukas said there are 14 players on the golf team and she feels that it is non-contact sport and it is played outside. She said if they follow the protocols this would be one of the safest ways to get the kids engaged in sports. "It is a fluid situation and we said we would keep looking at it as we continue meeting," said Lukas.

"I want our students to know that decisions we make are based on what we know and what we feel and what we believe to be true," said Board President Mary Emmett. Emmett said she is nurse and has seen what the virus can do.

A motion was made to allow golf to resume for the 2020-21 school year. Voting yes were Directors Brian Piatak, Steve Ursich, Bernice Lukas, Fred Garm and Henry Nebzydowski. Voting no were Directors Christine Priebe, Christine Albright, and Board President Mary Emmett. Absent was Bill Heller.

Rail Trail asks Council for help In enforcing ATV use on trails

At the Sept. 8 meeting of Forest City Borough Council, a letter was read from Lynn Conrad, Executive Director of the Rail Trail Council of NEPA requesting assistance of the Forest City Police Force to help curb illegal ATV use of the D&H Trail in the Forest City area.

Conrad related that dirt bikes, ATVs and UTVs, which are outlawed from using the RT, are entering the trail from adjacent woods and that RT Council has been receiving many complaints from trail users. She also noted that Rail Trail people see and have concerns over the number of speeding ATVs on Commerce Boulevard, in VISION 200 Industrial Park. That road is owned and maintained by Forest City Borough.

The RT Executive said they are willing to pay for the town's part-time patrol. She said they have support and assistance from NEP Sno-Trails/ATV Club and also from Camp Freedom, located on Browndale Mountain and Panther's Bluff.

She argued that ATV riders do have legal places to ride motorized vehicles with permits, so use of the D&H Rail-Trail can be specifically for non-motorized users. The O&W trail which parallels the Rail-Trail is considered to be legal for use by the motorized vehicle.

During a heated discussion, Police Chief Lee Rowan

disputed comments that local police are not doing anything to control ATV riding in and around the Borough. Chief Rowan said that he and local officers frequently stop these vehicles. He said some of them are not aware that there is a place (O&W Trail) where they can legally ride and some out-of-town riders are not aware of the restrictions of riding on the Rail Trail. Mayor Glinton interjected that it was a conflict to have Borough Secretary Sharon Vannan to be complaining about ATVs on the road. Pres. Cost quickly cut off that debate.

Council President Nick Cost said there were many problems with Forest City Police patrolling the Rail-Trail. He said he was not in favor of using the department's police vehicles for patrols. Mayor Chris Glinton suggested purchasing an ATV, but Pres. Cost thought that was not a good solution. Local resident Brian Karwowski offered his ATV for the police to use, but Pres. Cost did not favor that suggestion.

Council decided to set up a meeting with Rail Trail, Council, Mayor and Police to possibly come up with a three or six month trial period. If it worked it would have to be included in the 2021 budget. It was suggested that having a good policy for handling ATVs and the Rail-Trail also could be good for local business.

GFCBA offering free 2021 membership

By Secretary Suzanne Atcavage

To say that 2020 has been "challenging" for businesses of all sizes in our area could be considered an enormous understatement. The ongoing influences and effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are proving to be long-lasting and widespread throughout our region. The limitations, restrictions and unprecedented scenarios businesses are facing spreads further into our communities, affecting employees, their families and really, all aspects of our lives. With these concerns in mind and in keeping with the focus of serving our community, the Greater Forest City Business Alliance (GFCBA) Board of Directors has unanimously voted to offer their 2021 membership free to all local businesses.

During COVID-19, the GFCBA has been making a concerted effort to promoting positivity and success throughout our community. Despite the challenges presented in 2020, it is our hope that we can continue to evolve and grow in 2021, recognize and support the needs of our membership, and solidify our role as a desirable and valuable community asset.

For those unfamiliar with the GFCBA, some of our projects have included updating and reprinting our local brochure, which includes a business directory, maps and summary of local events in our NEPA region and a complete overhaul of our website which is organized and utilized to promote local business, general area information and events. The Halloween Trunk or Treat Event, Holiday Trail Town Festival and more recently the "Drawn Together" nights are just a few of the community events organized by the GFCBA. And finally, we continue to develop and expand partnerships with organizations including but not limited to local chambers in our region, the Rail Trail Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania, the University of Scranton Small Business Development Center, Greater Forest City Industries, the Susquehanna-Bradford County Progress Authority, Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau and the Borough of Forest City.

Acquiring grants that can be used toward community growth, support and town beautification is a major fo-

cus of the GFCBA. Our town - with all that it has to offer - natures beauty, diverse seasonal recreation, and a wonderful community - has been designated as the "First Trail Town on the D&H Rail Trail. We were recently awarded grant funding through the EMVB to install a new directional sign on the Erie Street Trailhead, encouraging trail users to explore main street businesses. Our latest funding is a Peer Grant from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Pennsylvania Environmental Council providing the borough with a Peer Consultant to guide us through the steps of becoming a successful "Outdoor Town".

We invite ALL businesses to join us and accept our gift of a one-year membership. No business is too large...or too small. For those businesses who have remained stable or grown and would like to voluntarily contribute, we appreciate the gesture, but do not expect it and your donation amount is at your discretion. The GFCBA is only as strong as its members and the cooperative efforts made by all. If you would like to receive a membership application and join us, please email us at gfcba13@gmail.com, contact us via messenger on Facebook or visit our website at www.visit-forestcitypa.com and find the 2021 membership application under the "Businesses" tab. We look forward to supporting our community!

Cornhole Tourney at B'dale Fire Co. Sat., Sept. 19

The Browndale Fire Co. No. 1, 620 Marion Street, will hold a Cornhole Tournament on Saturday, September 19. Registration will be at 5 PM. Rain date will be Sunday, September 20.

There will be food, beer, and prizes available. The cost is \$40 per team and is double elimination. There will be two categories: CPA and Backyard. Pre-registration is recommended. Contact them by email at browndalefire@gmail.com or by phone at 570-785-5300 or by contacting any member.

Pentecost Hall, roof repairs, garbage bids Among items on busy Borough agenda

An agenda item to conduct an executive session was tabled by Forest City Council at its Sept. 8th regular Council meeting. The topic of the executive session was listed as "Discuss matters involving a complaint about an official, and an employee of the borough---personnel issue." Another subject was "To meet with a professional advisor and solicitor for a review about potential liability issues."

The executive session was cancelled due to the absence of Borough Solicitor Marissa McAndrew due to the death of her grandmother, Joan Heller.

PENTECOST HALL

However lots of business was transacted at the regular session. At the recommendation of Building and Grounds Chairperson Robert Lesjack, Council accepted the \$17,700 quotation from Rockhill Plumbing to install heating and air conditioning in William Pentecost Hall, on the Borough Building's 3rd floor. Only one other quotation was received, that was from T.E. Spall. Bids did not have to be sought by the Borough since telephone quotes are accepted if the cost of a project is below \$21,000.

Lesjack did get permission to begin work to install a new kitchen in the hall. The presel cabinets and sink will be removed and replaced with stainless steel tables, sink and shelving at a cost \$776 from Tool Lots. The public works dept. will do some of the work. The flooring also has to be replaced.

ROOF REPAIR

Lesjack also reported that KBA Engineering still has not completed the necessary specs for the roof repair. However Lesjack learned a COSTARS vendor may be able to be used to do the roof repairs without requiring bidding. Under COSTARS, the state has approved a number of vendors who can supply goods or services to governmental units without public bidding. The Borough has previously used COSTARS for police vehicles and road equipment.

GARBAGE BIDS

The Borough received no bids for its garbage contract which expires at the end of this year. Borough Secretary Sharon Vannan informed Council that she contacted County Waste, the town's present garbage hauler, on the day of the meeting and learned that the person re-

sponsible for bids was on vacation and would get the bid in as soon as possible. Council said it would await the bid and act on it at the next meeting.

PENSION COSTS

Council reviewed the costs of the Borough's Municipal Pension Obligations for 2021. The cost is \$0 for 2021 for the Police Pension Fund since it is fully funded. The cost for the municipal employees will be \$9,314, but Borough Secretary Sharon Vannan stated that most, if not all, of this amount will be reimbursed to the Borough by the state. The active municipal employees covered are Bob Tedesco, Wally Miller, Sharon Vannan and Cindy Stone. One retired employee, Andrew Warholich, is also covered.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Councilman Chris DeGonzague was formally appointed to the position of Code Enforcement for the Borough. He had previously been acting CEO. In his monthly report he stated that at the request of the Magistrate's Office, nine old complaints from 2012, 2013, 2014 were withdrawn as the parties no longer own or reside in Forest City.

Clifford Twp. discusses proposed 2021 budget with no proposed tax increase

by Tammy O'Reilly

The Clifford Twp., Supervisors met in regular session on Tue., Sept. 8, where a discussion was held on the proposed 2021 budget. According to Supervisor Barry Searle, the township is in the black and in good shape with a balanced budget and no proposed tax increase. However, Supervisor Marcho tempered this good news by stating that the township "may be running into problems" with EMS and fire protection. After noting that the township has the 3rd lowest township tax in the county, he felt a discussion needed to be held on the possibility of raising the millage by ¼ mill to cover the costs. A motion was made by Vice Chair Searle to post the draft budget on the website and seconded by Supervisor Marcho.

Also discussed was a 35-day extension in regard to bridge work on township roads due to a hold-up from the company subcontracted to install the guide rails. Although the company has

been repeatedly notified by both Barhite and the engineer, they have not given a clear answer as to when the rails will be installed. Noting that winter is coming and the township is required to make reasonable efforts to correct any problem they know exists, Solicitor McGraw agreed to send the guide rail company a letter. A motion was made and seconded to grant the 35-day extension, but Supervisors noted that if the problem is not resolved by the October meeting, they will need to consider other options.

A reminder was given that the annual Clean-Up and E-Cycling day will be on Sept. 19, and the Historical Society will hold a Trinkets and Treasure Sale from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. that same day at the house at the children's garden.

A motion was made to accept Meghann Boylan as temporary township secretary, with a note that the township is still looking for a permanent replacement.

Anyone interested in applying for the job should contact the township office at 570-222-9364.

Other topics of discussion included: a request from EMS and fire to create an ordinance that requires people to display house numbers on their dwellings; an executive session held with Kimmel-Bogrette Marketing who is working on ways to bring in new residents and attract new businesses to the area; bids received and awarded to Browns Farm for cinderling of township roads, and to Barhite's for snow removal and plowing; the erection of park fitness stations and a map of the park by Genevieve Larkin and the Gold Star Project, and; the 911 calls responded to by Greenfield Twp. Police for the month of August which totaled 51 and included two felony arrests for narcotics.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 7 p.m.

Allocation of \$10,000 to Browndale Fire Co. hot topic at Clinton Twp. meeting

by Tammy O'Reilly

The allocation of \$10,000 to the Browndale Fire Company was once again a topic of discussion at the Clinton Twp. Supervisors meeting on Wed., Sept. 9 when Supervisors were again reminded that the majority of residents opposed subsidizing the fire company. One resident noted that a second questionnaire should have been sent out to residents before the money was released, telling the supervisors, "It's our money, not yours."

Noting that the questionnaire asked whether residents wanted a "fire tax," not whether they wanted to support the fire company, Supervisor Zefran stated that his job was to do what was best for all of the township residents, which was why he voted to allocate the \$10,000.

When Solicitor Treat was asked if residents could fight this, he stated that it was a political issue, not a legal one. Another resident then noted that the township was a representative government and if residents were unhappy with the job the supervisors were doing, they could vote them out of office at the next election.

Several other issues were discussed as well, including

three separate bids received for the repairs and/or paving of Burns Road. A motion was made by Supervisor Non to accept the lowest bid, provided by Leeward/Linde, to pave the damaged portion of the road at a cost of \$71,772 dollars. This was seconded by Supervisor Zefran with all in favor. Also noted was the fact that Leeward had agreed to repair the damaged center of Burns Road at no cost to the township.

Supervisor Zefran brought up the motion made—but not seconded—at the August meeting to put Clinton 1 out for bid for snow removal and cinderling. After first noting that Clinton 2 was bid out at a cost to the township of \$12,977, Zefran then asked what the payroll was for township employees between November and March when 80% of their work was snow removal and cinderling. When told that the payroll was approximately \$24,000—nearly double what putting Clinton 2 out for bid had cost—Supervisor Zefran questioned what was most cost-effective and best for the residents of the township. After a discussion, Zefran remade his motion to put both Clinton 1 and 2 out separately for bid and Supervisor

Non agreed to second it as long as the bidding was "apples to apples." Supervisor Curtis, however, was not in favor and questioned what would happen to the township employees if a bid was accepted. Although a possible lay-off was mentioned, it was agreed that the issue would be discussed once the bids came in.

Under new business it was noted that the Glidepath Grant Easement paperwork was ready for the board to sign, but Supervisor Zefran made a motion to include the stipulation that if the engineers, attorney, and fee to the township was not paid within 30 days, the contract would be null and void. Supervisor Non seconded the motion with all in favor.

Josh Debevec was in attendance and after giving a report on the Browndale Fire Company, was asked by Supervisor Zefran to comment on the new ladder truck the township's \$10,000 helped purchase. Debevec then clarified some information about the truck and discussed its benefits to both firefighters and rescue missions.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 7 p.m.

