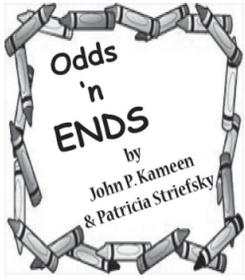


THE FOREST CITY NEWS



A man who made a great impact on Forest City is presently now involved in navigating Scranton through the throes of its present condition as a "distressed city." Gerald Cross, who was head of Forest City's Community Development Program for several years in the early 1980's, has been regional director of the Pennsylvania Economy League (PEL) since he left Forest City. The programs which Gerry successfully directed for Forest City at that time secured a \$1 1/2 million CDBG grant which resulted in \$7 1/2 million in public and private development in our town. Main Street sidewalks and streetscape, the Forest City Nursing Center, William Penn Apartments, housing rehab, the Senior Center and its nutrition program, new sewers, were just some of the things which took place as a result of his direction and that of Forest City Council and other governmental enterprises. Things, of course, are not that easy in Scranton which has languished for years with problems of mismanagement, fiscal irresponsibility, even corruption. He is the most level-headed governmental operative I have had the occasion to know. He believes in being a people person whose temperament brings people together. If anybody can steer Scranton in the correct path, Gerald Cross can do it. We wish him well in that difficult endeavor.

The Smoke Shop opened last Thursday, at 607 Main St., next to the liquor store. We wished the owner, Rocky, our best. See his ad on page 3.

Zazzera's Market added an ATM to its business last week.

The Forest City Area Historical Society Museum at 631 Main St., is open every Saturday from 11 to 1. Stop in and see curator Barb Klobucar.

Pennsylvania mail-in ballots will play a big factor in this year's Nov. 3 election. We have posted weekly the rules on how to obtain a mail-in ballot. However we envision a major delay in the reporting of the results of this election. It won't be issues in the small counties which do a great job of handling voting. It will be in Philadelphia, Harrisburg and Pittsburgh!

Can't remind you enough how important it is to support our area businesses especially our many area restaurants. Especially restaurants have had their incomes slashed to 25% due to the many confusing rules issued irregularly from Harrisburg. See our Dining Guide on Page 10 for some of these eating places.

It has been mighty confusing following the rapidly changing plans for Forest City Regional School. Though it will not open until Sept. 14 there is almost two weeks for more changes to be made. The School Board is meeting in special session on Sept. 2nd and we expect further changes to be ratified.

Spoke to Brian Fisher last week at his lawnmower repair business located in the basement of the Wells Building at 638 Main St., next to the News Office. He was working on several mowers at the time. This was a good year for grass so the machines probably had a little more wear and tear than previous years.

Garbage, too many cars, and grass Complaints are addressed in Vandling

The following is the continuation of the Vandling Council meeting which was held on Monday, August 17.

Dan and Pam Kresock, residents of 683 Main Street, appeared before Council questioning several ordinances including how many people can live in a two apartment house and how many cars can be parked in a two car parking area on Main Street.

Kresock said his neighbors at 679 and 681 Main Street have five or six cars parked there every night and some are on the sidewalk. He said the garbage is horrible and it is the worst it has ever been. Garbage is blowing all over the neighborhood and they currently have seven or eight garbage cans for a two apartment house. Kresock said he has pictures of it all.

He said, "I could not have a picnic in my backyard yesterday because of the garbage smell. The back porch is full of garbage and the exit door is blocked. Little kids are running around all the time with no supervision. The grass is eight to 12 inches high and only gets cut when I call code officer Joe Lavin. We have to do something with slumlords and section 8's. I take pride in my house and take care of it all the time. I wish some of you lived next door to them."

Councilman John Mayers said he and Joe Lavin went and looked at the property recently and they will be meeting with the landlord soon to discuss the problems.

Kresock said the police have been there several times and the fire department was there a few weeks ago for a stove fire.

Councilman Bill Matos said the landlord owns six properties in Vandling.

Councilman Bill Boyle said they need to get aggressive with the landlord.

Kresock insisted that a warning and fine of \$50 will do nothing.

Councilman John Carachilo suggested the Lackawanna County Health Department be notified of the situation.

It was also suggested that the fire chief and the fire

Chicken BBQ in Pleasant Mt. Sun., Sept. 6

The Pleasant Mount Emergency Services will hold a Labor Day chicken BBQ on Sun., Sept. 6 available for pick up from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Menu includes chicken, parsley potatoes, baked beans, cabbage salad, dinner roll and dessert. Tickets are \$10 each and available for pre-sale. See any member, or call Kathy at 570-448-2824; Sarah at 570-448-2333 or Dan at 570-647-7905

Historical Soc. Museum Hours

The museum of the Forest City Area Historical Society at 631 Main St., is open every Saturday in Sept. from 11 to 1pm.

Curator Barb Klobucar is available there to answer any questions.

Pennsylvania Write in ballots

Eligible voters may apply for their mail-in or absentee ballot either online (votespa.com), or in person at their county election offices, or by paper forms submitted by mail. Once the county determines the voter is eligible, the counties will send a postage-paid ballot with a postage-paid return envelope to the voter to complete and return.

Editors Note: Paper forms are available at the News Office

marshall be told about it.

Councilman Carachilo asked who the inspection company was who inspected the place recently. Councilman Mayers said it was BIU. Carachilo insisted that NEIC do some of the inspections because they are the alternate building inspection company for Vandling. Councilman Matos said it is getting out of hand and something needs to be done about the apartments.

William Barchak of Main Street stated that with the increased business at Select Tissue and increased truck traffic, the borough needs to look into a brake retarder zone. He said the noise and speed on Main Street is bad and it is repeat offenders. Barchak was told that they have an ordinance ready to be passed regarding the brake retarders but have not passed it yet. Council said they would look into it.

Dave Kowalewski of Richmondale asked about a paper street that is near his property and whether it is Vandling's or Richmondale's. He said that there are three willow trees about 24 to 30 inches in diameter and one of the limbs broke off and fell on the ground and the other one is hanging. He said it is a hazard and believes it is the borough's responsibility to take care of. Council said they would look into it.

Forest City News reporter Patricia Striefsky questioned why the zoning hearing board meeting scheduled for Monday, August 3 did not take place and why there was no sign on the door stating the meeting was cancelled. She came to the meeting and then called President Pantzar and left a message and then called Councilman Matos to see why the meeting was not taking place.

Atty. Levine said the meeting was cancelled because the Attorney for Mr. Mikloiche withdrew his request for the hearing because they were going in another direction.

Steve Mikloiche presented council with a blueprint of the two lots on Hillside Street that he wants to conjoin. Atty. Levine said that Mr. Lavin, the code enforcement officer, will need to look at it. Atty. Levine said he would get in touch with Lavin the following day.

Chicken BBQ & Pizza/Wing Sale Sat., Sept. 5

The Thompson Hose Co. will hold a Pre-Sale Chicken BBQ and Pizza/Wing Sale on Sat., Sept. 5th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with Pizza and Wings again from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Preordering is recommended. Call 570-442-1038 or 570-442-1208 if calling on the day of the event call 570-727-2431.

Fireworks sponsored Nep Telephone Co. will be at 9 p.m. that evening. Parking will be available in the lot around the station and across the road in their other lot. People are asked to stay with their vehicle, observe social distancing, and please wear masks.

Nov. voting Deadlines

October 27 is the last day to apply for Pennsylvania absentee and mail-in ballots. Nov. 3 (election day) is the last day to submit ballots.

Voters: Check your Registration Status

All Pennsylvania voters are reminded it is important to check your voter registration as we head into the Nov. 3rd election. It can be easily done online at www.votespa.com and click on "Registration Status." As mandated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, from time to time voting rolls are checked. A typical reason for a voter to be removed from the rolls is inactivity, failing to vote at federal elections. System maintenance is done to ensure election integrity for all electors. A number of Forest City voters had to cast provisional ballots in the June 2, 2020 Primary Election when they learned on Election Day that their names were not listed on the election board poll pads.

Genco Dental proudly waves their flag during pandemic



This gigantic American flag still hangs from the building of Genco Dental on Main Street in Forest City. Dental offices around the state had been closed, only seeing emergency patients. They are now open! This flag has given people hope during the pandemic.

New teacher and resignations among items Addressed at Aug. 17 School Board meeting

At the Aug. 17 virtual meeting of Forest City Regional School Board, those attending in person were Pres. Mary Emmett, Bernice Lukus, Dr. Henry Nebzydoski, Bill Heller, Dr. Brian Piatak and Christine Priebe, while those attending online were Steve Ursich, Fred Garm and Christine Albright. Also virtually attending were HS Principal Cassandra Stout, Elementary Principal Mike Zack and Supervisor of Special Education Michelle Lesjack.

The Board unanimously agreed to add to the school's Resocialization of Sports plan to allow students and coaches in high school sports to practice, but not to compete in any PIAA competition. The Board will review this policy at every meeting dependent on PIAA recommendations.

The Board approved transfer of \$50,000 from the General Fund to the Athletic Fund pending the start of the athletic program

The Board hired Jenna Glynn as an elementary teacher at a salary of \$55,600 for a Master's degree and 4th step.

Daniel Cook was appointed as an intern in the elementary partial program

GoFundMe Drive for Susq. Co. Libraries

The Susquehanna County Historical Society & Free Library Association has been forced to cancel many of its fundraising events thus far. This organization operates the Forest City branch Library.

A major impact is the announcement of the cancellation of the annual Blueberry Festival held in Montrose in August. The Festival alone brings in over \$70,000 each year.

As result of the loss of this funding, along with an anticipation that state funding, usually received, will be decreased, SusqCoLibrary.org has set up a GoFundMe page for Susq. Co. Libraries.

Forest City Librarian Lisa Spangenberg is asking area patrons who have supported the County Library events in the past to consider a donation by way of the GoFundMe page.

gram for the school year.

They accepted resignations of Amanda Moyer, cafeteria, and Stephanie Frisbie, paraprofessional, and wished them well. Dr. Aquilina commented she hoped that they could return some time in the future.

The Board also ok's memorandums of understanding with both the Teachers Assoc. and the Support Professionals Assoc. which would allow them to bring their children to school for five days in order to insure these employees will be able to come to work every day as required to fulfill the school's educational program.

Also approved was the transportation contract for buses and vans for the 2020-21 school year. In reply to a question online from Eric Burns, it was stated the daily rate for the buses and vans is based on mileage traveled, number of students on bus and age of the bus. (Names of contractor were listed last week

Three items having to do with virtual learning were approved. The first was an addendum added to the blended learning services agreement with VLN Partners LLP which is the charter school of Forest City Regional. Dr. Aquilina explained that the original contract cost for students

Polling for Sons of the American Legion

The American Legion Post 524 is polling local residents for interest in starting a "Sons of the American Legion" Squadron. To become a member, you must be a male descendant (son, adopted son or step-son) of someone who served in the U.S. Armed Forces and is now deceased, OR someone who is a current Legionnaire. This is an interest poll only, if there is sufficient interest the Legion Post will take up the idea at their next meeting.

Squadron members assist the Legion during events such as Memorial Day, Veterans Day and across other veteran-focused events. There is no age restriction to join and it is a great way to show community involvement for young men to show support for the military that can lead to scholarship opportunities, and for older men to mentor the younger generation's' view of the Legion's founding principles of Justice, Freedom, Democracy and Loyalty.

If anyone is interested, our POC is Mr. Paul Kalasinski and he can be reached at 570-785-5678.

attending the school's own charter school was \$4,500 per student but since the District now provides the required hardware for the students, the cost for each is now reduced to \$3,500.

The second virtual item was a \$6,950 student license with Waterford Institute which allows Pre-K to 2nd graders, but is for work at home and take a placement test to determine if a student, due to the March 13th school closing, should be placed forward or backward in the curriculum.

The third virtual item is a \$19,140 student license with iReady Assessment and Personalized Instruction, also with placement testing, for grades 3 thru 8 Math and Reading, to determine what level a student is in for those two courses.

A contract for \$4,625 to GoGuardian; a \$5,000 expense for American Reading Company SchoolPace Connect and Lit Lab eBundle; an agreement with Pivot Physical Therapy for occupational therapy services; an agreement with New Story; an agreement with Trehab and another with Wayne County Office of Behavioral and Developmental Programs and Early Intervention, both involving Student Assistance Program (SAP), were all approved.

The updated High School program of studies for the 2020-21 was ok'd, and the elementary and high school student/parent handbooks were also approved.

Board meetings will continue to be done virtually.

Over 60 Vendors for Sept. 20 event At Kennedy Park

The Market at Kennedy Park-Autumn Arrival will be held on Sunday, Sept. 20 from 10 AM to 4 PM. It is being hosted by Parks And Recreation, Forest City, Pa and Amanda Howells.

There are currently over 60 vendors registered to participate. You will find everything from Tupperware, baked goods, jewelry, maple products, wine tasting, hand-crafted items, soaps, makeup, clothing, and beef products, to live animals, fried dough and pierogies.

For more information or to participate, please contact Amanda Howells at ohsweet-josephine@gmail.com.

New applications for the September 20 market are due by Saturday, September 12th at noon.

**Get a subscription
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570-785-3800**

