

THE FOREST CITY NEWS

ODDS 'N ENDS

by
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&
Patricia Strifsky

For more than 100 years, the McCusker name has been associated with volunteerism in Forest City. That long line of service to the Forest City Fire Dept. and Ambulance Association, now known as Forest City Area Emergency Services, ended Sunday morning with the passing of Jimmy McCusker, at his home in Union Dale with his dear wife, Maryann, at his bedside. The McCusker name dates back to his grandfather, Benjamin, and then to his father, James B. Sr., who was the longest serving Forest City fireman at the time of his death in 2011. Jimmy's death brings an end to a legacy to be celebrated in an era when volunteerism is hard to come by. His many accomplishments are highlighted in his obituary in this week's edition. It is a testament to a generation who went out of their way to serve God, country and their nation. His red hair and smile were a reflection of his kind personality to those he served including folks on his Simpson mail route; those he aided as an EMT on the Forest City ambulance; and all his many friends. It has been a long difficult struggle for Jim as he fought one illness after another over the past 10 years. He had kind of an outspoken wit as he kidded with his family and friends over his medical trials. For a long time he didn't let it get him down. His community is better off for his years of service to us. "Well done though good and faithful servant." He will be missed.

We should be proud of the fact that a reporter for such a prestigious publication as the Christian Science Monitor visited Forest City last week on assignment for a story on Northeastern Pennsylvania's importance in the presidential election. Seems the Keystone State of Pennsylvania is key to the outcome of the election. The reporter, when questioned about the pandemic by Bill Woodward of Clinton Twp., emphasized that the greatest impact is on children and education. She noted the loss of many months of education can cause depression and a severe loss of cognitive skills such as occurs with children just over a summer vacation. I wonder if it ever will be made up?

Finally a little rainfall last week. I did my last grass mowing on Saturday. The Flaming Foliage is really spectacular this year and it's not yet at its peak.

For those who have inquired, the Forest City polling location remains at the Emergency Services Building on Railroad St. You can cast your ballot in person there.

The next Vendor Market will be at Kennedy Park on Sunday, Oct. 18. More than 80 vendors attended the September market. The Forest City Parks & Recreation have hit on a great event. They have been able to draw more vendors than Old Home Week ever drew on our Main Street. I suppose weather will dictate whether there will be a November Market but if not, we will be looking forward to having them again next year.

Local culinary master Anthony Dell'acqua served us fantastic chicken parmigiana last week at Elegante. This writer has always been a big fan of his tomato sauce.

FCR School Board handles regular business

At the Sept. 21 meeting of Forest City Regional School Board Superintendent Dr. Jessica Aquilina announced that the school had completed one full week of school with no health issues to report. She said she has received excellent cooperation from all administrators, faculty, aides and employees for preparing and fulfilling the schools safety plan.

However she acknowledged difficulties with the School's VLN virtual charter school, with the virtual network being down often. She said the problem appears to be with the company servers and they are working out the issues.

Toys for Kids Fundraiser Underway on Facebook

Every year DGs Bar and Debbie Giddings along with DGs DoGooders collect monetary donations and toys for the children of Forest City Regional School District to help provide them with a wonderful Christmas. This year however the fundraising did not happen due to COVID. Josh Faatz and his wife Ashley wanted to change that. They started a Facebook group to help raise money and collect donations. Toys for Kids is that group. Toys for Kids hosts many differ-

Drug Take Back in FC October 24

On October 24, 2020 between the hours of 10 AM and 2 PM, the DEA, The Forest City Police Department and the Forest City Area Emergency Services will host the 19th National Take Back initiative at Forest City Emergency Services, 380 Railroad St., Forest City, PA 18421.

This program is also known as the Drug Take Back Program where they anonymously collect prescription medication that is unused or no longer needed. Over the counter medications will be accepted along with prescriptions, tablets, capsules, ointments, cremes, and liquids and new this year vape pens and e-cigarette devices after the batteries have been removed. Sharpies and syringes will not be accepted.

This program is to address the public safety issue of unused or expired medications from getting into the hands of unwanted people who could abuse or sell them. This will help prevent unnecessary abuse, accidental poisoning or overdoses. The non-medical use of prescription drugs ranks second to marijuana as the most common form of drug abuse in America.

Please come and dispose of your unwanted or unneeded prescriptions or other medications and support this program and organizations and combat drug abuse in America. Thank you for your support every year.

Coming Events at East Ararat U.M. Church

The following is a list of upcoming events at the East Ararat United Methodist Church.

Harvest Dinner, Sat., Oct. 17 - Take outs 3:30 to 4:30, Eat in 4:30 to 6:30; Sat., Nov. 7, Pancake Breakfast; Sat., Nov. 21 Soup Sale 3 to 6 p.m.

Come out and support a good cause. Social distancing will be practiced.

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.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Board approved a resolution to establish a business credit card program with First National Bank.

They also approved a maintenance service agreement with Ehrlich for commercial pest control at a cost of \$1,368.

Dennis Reicherts was approved as a van driver.

Mrs. Kelly Shelp was approved as a mentor for new faculty member Mrs. Jenna Glynn, Grade 3.

Marissa Evans was appointed as a fixed term 6-hour paraprofessional for the school year with pay as per the negotiated FCR Education Support Professionals contract.

ent games with great prizes. They have given away iPads, Yetis, Carhartt clothing, tools and many more prizes. All it takes is a small donation to play in these games.

Check them out on Facebook for more details. If you want to contribute to this cause and help the children you can contact Josh Faatz directly through Facebook or call/text (570) 616-7592. You can also make monetary donations through Paypal.me/Faatz.

Kennedy Park Halloween Party Sat., Oct. 31

The Kennedy Park Children's Halloween Party will be held on Saturday, October 31 from 11 am to 3 pm!

Costume Contests for ages 14 and under-judging at 2 pm!! There will be pumpkin painting and a carving station provided by FC Parks and Recreation! Guessing jars!! Face Painting by the super talented Lisa Gillette Harach from Life is Beautiful Salon! So much more to come, games, prizes and Halloween fun!!

The FC Parks and Recreation concession stand will be open!!

There will also be a Trunk or Treat! If you are interested in setting up a car/space to give out candy, contact Meg Neubert (lovegiraffe77@yahoo.com) or Amanda Howells (ohsweetjosephine@gmail.com) to sign up!

*Businesses and community members are welcome to set up a trunk or treat or activity. Please let them know by October 26th if you would like to set up!

Stay tuned for event page on Facebook!!

In-person voting Still available

Voter registration officials report that the controversy over mail-in balloting has led some people to think that there will be no polling places for the Nov. 3 election. They advise that in-person voting will still be held at polling places, many of which are located at the same place as previous elections.

Historical Soc. Museum Hours

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

Curator Barb Klobucar is available there to answer any questions.

CORRECTION

In the Herrick Twp. article in last week's edition, the bids were for the purchase of a snowplow; not for snow plowing. We apologize for the error.

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Salvation Army continues feeding the community



A large group of volunteers headed by Salvation Army District Manager Michael Cipilewski and Forest City Office Manager Trudy Butcher are shown on October 1st at Sacred Heart Church, Forest City, as they prepare to provide food and other household necessities to over 125 families in the Greater Forest City Area. All recipients must pre-register as the food and products must be ordered prior to distribution day. Much of it comes from the Weinberg Facility in Scranton. The distribution is drive thru only to comply with COVID-19 social distancing. The next food distribution will be on Thursday, Nov. 5th from 12 noon to 2PM. Registration can be done by leaving a message at 570-785-HELP

Vandling Council debates how to distribute Fire Relief funds

Part 2

There were many items discussed at the monthly meeting of Vandling Borough Council on Monday, September 21.

KRESOCK COMPLAINT

Councilman John Mayers has been working with CEO Joe Lavin regarding the property on Main Street that Dan and Pam Kresock had complained about at last month's meeting. Mayers said it is contained but not fixed and the owner is going to be cited.

Council then briefly discussed inspection services with regard to NEIC and BIU and who is called on to do rental and building inspections when the need arises. Councilman Boyle said they need to alternate between the two across the board with inspections.

Mayers stressed that the owner is not vetting the people he is getting in there.

PATCHING

Councilman Mayers said patching and the storm drain issue on Main and Ash will not get done this year. The contractor completed the work he was paid to do and was asked to do the additional work but will not be able to do it.

STORM DRAIN

Councilman Mayers told members there is storm drain problem in Pine Street that needs to be looked at. Mayers said he got two bids to clear the blockage. Roto-Rooter can not do it but he got bids

Angel Tree Sign-ups for Salvation Army

The Salvation Army is asking area residents who need help with Christmas to sign up at the Forest City Salvation Army Office 636 1/2 Main St., Forest City (next to the News office) on the following dates and times: Monday, October 12 from 5 PM to 7 PM; Tuesday, October 13 from 9 AM to 10:30 AM; Wednesday, October 14 from 5 PM to 7 PM; and Thursday, October 15 from 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM.

Those signing up must live in one of the following zip codes 18421, 18413, 18430, 18470, 18820, 18842, and bring proof of person, proof of address and proof of children.

For information call Trudy at 570-785-4357

Rosary Rally in Forest City on Sat., October 10

Rosary Rally for Our Lady of Fatima on Saturday, October 10 at 11:45 AM across from the Forest City Library on Main Street. Rain or shine. Bring a chair.

from Rossi and Koberlein. He would like a third bid. Mayers said he will get with the new bidding committee to discuss the issue.

FIRE RELIEF

Vandling received \$3,436.91 for fire relief from the auditor general. In the past the money was split evenly between Browndale and Forest City. Councilman Bill Matos made a motion to give all the money to Browndale. No one seconded the motion.

Councilman Bill Boyle said he was not objecting to the motion but wanted to know if Forest City had budgeted it. Councilman Carachilo said they have been splitting it since Vandling disbanded.

Councilman Mayers made a motion then to split the money. This motion also failed to get a second. President Pantzar said since there was no second on either motion they would bring it up again at next month's meeting. The money needs to be deposited within 60 days.

NEP TELEPHONE LEASE

A lease was approved with NEP Telephone Co. for equipment that is currently on Vandling Borough property. The current lease had expired. Vandling will receive \$300 to \$500 per year for the next 10 years and \$700 a year

FC Library Closed for Columbus Day

The Forest City Library will be closed on Monday, October 12 in observance of Columbus Day.

Christian Science Monitor Reporter Here in FC



A prestigious national publication sent a reporter to Forest City October 1st on assignment in Northeastern Pennsylvania to gauge public opinion on the upcoming election. Story Hinckley, with the Christian Science Monitor, stopped into Max Deli, South Main Street, to chat with customers. Hinckley said that her newspaper contends that Pennsylvania is the critical state to determine the Presidential winner, and that Northeastern Pennsylvania is judged to be the deciding factor in the state. Shown in photo from left, Bill Woodward, Clinton Twp., Pudgy Paulin, Forest City, Ms. Hinckley, Alan Gordon, Forest City, Bob Duffy, Browndale, participated in the discussion along with News Publisher John Kameen.



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