Ford City Interim Borough Manager/Po-
lice Chief Michael Greenlee outlines im-
provements to their parks and trails at last
night’s meeting.

**FC to Spiff Up Their Parks**

Last night’s Ford City Borough Council meeting focused on recreational improvements. Interim Borough Manager Police Chief Michael Greenlee and Parks & Recreation Committee Chairperson Stacy Gladysiewski-Klukan out-
lined improvements to playgrounds and Rails to Trails as part of a three-year plan to make Ford City a town to live, visit, and play.

Gladysiewski-Klukan proposed a new layout design of Malick Park 7th Avenue Playground to make the surface safer.

“Our recommendation was to have softball fields and not soccer fields,” she said. “We’re trying to work on expanding play area and keeping an open field.”

Greenlee called it a “total re-do of 7th Avenue (play-
ground)”, but said it probably wouldn’t be funded until 2019.

“As I go through town, I see kids playing on some side lots or in front of the high school. So I was trying to go with an open field concept where they can use it for various things, whether it is football or soccer, with a set of bleachers for team sports,” he said. “The idea was to have playgrounds that appeal to all ages so the whole family could come and have fun.”

Greenlee also suggested adding a parking area and ADA ramps.

Gladysiewski-Klukan suggested a splash park, but Bor-
ough Engineer Ed Schmitt said water treatment would be required similar to a community pool, and suggested against it.

“They are a lot more complicated than they look,” Schmitt said.

Greenlee said improvements to Bolder Park would hap-
pen through a 2018 grant process. He proposed a “tot lot” as well as a multi-court for deck hockey or basketball made of interlocking sport court material, and bleacher area. He was hopeful that a league would start up. Currently they are experimenting with solar LED lighting in the park, which he said appears to function throughout the night.

Greenlee also wants to entice people to come and use the Rails to Trails by making some changes in the parking area across from the ACMH facility on Fifth Avenue. He said there is no specific parking lot that invites people to come and use the trail. The parking lot would be designated for use only by those using the trail and would have 10 spaces.

“There’s an idea for a small ‘tot lot’ for the kids that don’t want to go with Mom and Dad the whole way up and down the trail. The kid feature would make it possible for the whole family to come and do something on the Rails to Trails.”

This is a three year plan to do one park per year and would be contingent on grant funding through the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR).

**Oven Fire Causes Commotion on North Jefferson Street**

KITTANNING - Emer-
gency crews responded last night to a duplex res-
idence at 432 North Jef-
ferson Street for an oven fire shortly after 8PM. Miranda Askounes was the mother of three and explained what hap-
pened.

“My littlest one had his third birthday party yesterday. Apparently, someone stuck a pan in the oven with stuff in it to get it out of the way. Tonight, we had all these kids here, and we went to make pizza rolls and pre-heated the oven. I don’t normally have to check my oven because I don’t allow anything in it.

Askounes was at the store picking up pizza rolls and had left her children with her neigh-
borhood friend, Tamara McKendree.

“I told the kids to get out and I grabbed my phone to dial 9-1-1 while I was telling her the oven was on fire,” McKendree said. “I seen smoke and I opened up the oven to see what was going on, and there was icing ev-
everywhere.”

When Askounes ar-
rived, she moved into action.

“I was at the store and I Firefighters from all three departments stood ready to assist following oven fire at 432 North Jefferson Street in Kittanning.

The kitchen sustained only minor smoke dam-
age. Fire crews from all three Kittanning depart-
ments used ventilation fans to clear the smoke from the duplex as par-
ents and children came from all over the neigh-
borhood to watch the ac-
tivity.