

Clifford Township Newsletter

Issue 25

Sponsored by the Clifford Twp Supervisors, Community Alliance and Historical Society

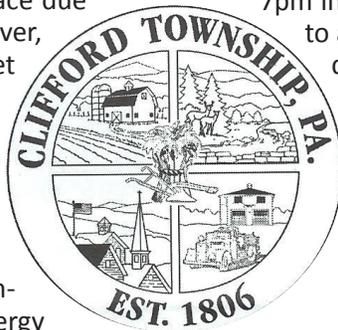
From the Clifford Township Board of Supervisors

The Clifford Township Supervisors continue to focus on their two major goals for the township. The first is debt reduction and the second is to improve the quality of life for our citizens. The first goal, debt reduction, was significantly impacted when we paid off a roof loan for the township building at the end of last year. The loan which had been in place for several years was at approximately \$40,000 as of January 1, 2012. With increased efforts and extra payments, it was paid off in December 2012. The township still has a significant loan in place due to a lawsuit against the township. However, additional payments made possible with budget prioritization are keeping us on track to have the loan paid off in less than five years.

For the second goal, improving quality of life, we have been focusing on long overdue improvements in the township building. With the help of volunteers, and in particular Larry Wilson, insulation, new windows and lighting systems will reduce our energy costs, enhance the suitability of the building for public use and potentially allow us to attract other functions to Clifford. Once finished, the supervisors plan to contact County and State officials to see what potential there is for leasing portions of the building, for example, the possibility of a "Visitors' Bureau" to attract more people to our township. Additionally, with the donation of cabinets and with volunteer help, the kitchen which had been in an unusable state has been brought to a state where local groups and organizations will be able to utilize the building for parties and functions. Additionally, we have upgraded one of the classrooms closer to the outdoor walkway for use as a voting room. This will enhance the ability of those with mobility problems in getting to vote.

We regrettably accepted the resignation of township secretary Rene Reynolds after 10+ years of dedicated service. Her contribution will be missed but the good news is that she has agreed to remain as a contract consultant for six months to a year to assist our new secretary Christy Bennett with a smooth transition. Also, to assist the citizens in the township, Christy will be working at the township building several days a week (hours will be posted on the township website once her office is ready). She will be able to assist with permits and answering questions as they arise.

We are actively looking into options to improve our township road maintenance. No decision has been made, but we are looking at all options to include the contracting of all roadwork, including oiling dirt roads, mowing, and snow plowing in the attempt to make the township more responsive to citizens' concerns.



Finally, as was the case in the past, the township will be conducting a "Spring Clean Up" on the 3rd Saturday in May. Details will be posted on the township website cliffordtownship.com. It will be a good time to get rid of the residue from last fall and winter and begin the summer with less clutter. Along that line, the supervisors are asking landowners to take a few minutes to walk their road frontage in particular to pick up cans, bottles and papers which litter the township. Please take pride in the township and help us make it a better place to visit and live. Township meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7pm in the township building. Please make an effort to attend a meeting to learn more of what we are doing and to give input as to where you think the township should move. If you cannot attend, the minutes and other items of interest are posted on our website monthly.

Advisory Committee of Clifford Township (ACCT)

The committee continues to work with Tom Shepstone of Shepstone Management Inc., Honesdale, PA, to develop the Clifford Township Comprehensive Plan. The February 27, 2013 meeting was especially informative due to guest speaker Harley Davis, Milnes Engineering Firm, Tunkhannock, PA. Mr. Davis was involved in the initial development of a Sewage Needs/Assessment Study for Clifford Township. He provided some background, current guidance from the Department of Environmental Protections, and suggestions for moving forward. Updates will continue to be provided in the minutes of the monthly ACCT meetings. If you wish to be placed on the mailing list for these minutes, please send your email address to sroberts@nep.net. The next meeting is scheduled for April 24, 2013. The main topic will be Land Use. The ACCT is planning an Open House on May 22, 2013, beginning at 6pm so residents can see the improvements that have been taking place at the Community Center. Following the tour, an official public meeting will take place at 7pm.

Clifford Township Alliance Committee

The township is looking for someone to volunteer to take on the role of becoming an Environmental Steward (ES) to take charge of the township's Recycling Program and basically strive to sustain natural resources and our environment for future generations. In the not too distant future, we will be able to dispose of electronics and possibly other items. An ES would assist in this new endeavor by performing research and finding information regarding state regulations. Information regarding the

recycling program can be found at www.cliffordtownship.com. We are also looking for people interested in the continued upgrading of the playground area. Basketball, volleyball, soccer, softball, and walking trails are just some of the projects we want to work on in the near future. Anyone interested can submit their name and number to www.cac.nep.net or attend an ACCT meeting on the 4th Wednesday of the month.

Clifford Township Volunteer Fire Department (CTVFC)

The year 2012 set an all-time response record for the Clifford Fire/Rescue and Ambulance. The volunteers responded to over 700 calls for help in 2012. This unprecedented pace has not quieted for 2013 with calls topping the 200 mark so far. The question always asked is "Why?" We wish we had the answer as all call disciplines are up in the department. As the volunteers handle the emergencies in our community, we also spend an enormous amount of our time raising money. In today's world, volunteer fire companies across the region struggle with financial dilemmas to meet increased general operating costs along with continuing to update equipment and provide adequate training for their members. For many of them, fundraisers are the main source of income, but they require a lot of planning, preparation, and hard work by all involved. For the CTVFC, two of the biggest fund raising events are nearing: the annual mailing fund drive and the annual firemen's picnic.

The annual letter appeal you receive in the mail is the largest funding project the CTVFC conducts during the year. This may not seem significant to some; however, this appeal drive is a major contributor to our general operating expenses for the year. The appeal consists of a general overview of our operation and happenings for the year. I'm sure most residents will be very surprised to see the amount of training and dedicated service our volunteers contribute on an annual basis. Please take a moment to read through the document. Your contributions are greatly needed and appreciated.

This year's picnic will run from Thursday July 25 through Saturday July 27. The highlights include fireworks, children's rides, bands, bingo, raffles and a large variety of foods. The children's rides have been a mainstay since the first picnic was held. One of the original rides, the train, was purchased in October 1954 and has been in operation since. There is a great variety of rides and games for all ages. The parade will begin on Thursday at 7pm, a giant fireworks display is planned for Friday and the annual chicken dinner will be held on Saturday beginning at 5pm.

This fundraiser may look like it runs effortlessly, but planning begins far in advance and requires many volunteers to work on preparing the grounds, the stands, and working at the stands during the picnic. During picnic week, over 200 Fire Company members and dedicated community volunteers staff the stands. Without the help of these individuals, the picnic would not be able to operate as it has for sixty years. Again, this is all done by volunteers who want to be sure the Fire Company raises

money to assist in providing the best possible emergency service to the community. If you are interested in volunteering your time for the picnic or in becoming a member of the Fire Department, please do not hesitate to contact any member or call the station at 222-3741. You can also reach us by email at clifst18@nep.net. For more information about the Department and its activities, visit our website at www.cliffordfire.com.

Clifford Township Ladies Auxiliary

There will be a Vera Bradley Bingo, Friday May 3, 2013, at the Clifford Fire Hall. Doors will open at 6:30 pm. Games will begin at 7:00. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Tickets include 20 games, 2 boards, plus extras. Light refreshments will be available for purchase. Advanced tickets are available at Dave's Smoke Shop, Endless Mt Pharmacy, The View restaurant, or call Ellie at (570) 222-4105.

Clifford Township Historical Society

The CTHS will be working on two major projects this year and in the future. A second room at the Community Center, leased from the township supervisors, will house a "blacksmith shop" where the bellows from the Lott Blacksmith Shop will be on display. The bellows was donated by the Spedding family. The original blacksmith shop was run by William Lott and his son William and was located at Clifford Corners in the late 1800s. Other planned exhibits include local Civil War connections, a children's section and a panoramic view that would have been seen from the fire tower atop Elk Mountain, along with many other exhibits and collections. Although this project will be under construction, we will still be open to the public every third Sunday of the month from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.

The Yarns Cider Mill renovation will proceed as time and funds allow. Returning the mill to operating condition is no minor undertaking. Volunteer labor and donated materials will be a huge part of the success of this project. Many of you remember picking apples and driving to the mill with your fathers to smell and taste that great fresh squeezed juice. We hope another generation will be able to witness that same process for themselves.

We continually add items of interest to the one-room Hoover School. Again this summer the school will be open to the public every third Sunday of the month from May through October, 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Admission is free and it is handicap accessible. New signage at both ends of State Route 2014 will help visitors locate the school.

You can watch the progress of these projects on our website cliffordpa.com.

The Society will also have a special exhibit area at the Clifford Volunteer Firemen's Picnic in July. Many folks visited this exhibit last year and we hope even more will take the time to enjoy pictures and area artifacts, as well as hands-on items especially for children, e.g., washing clothes by hand and churning butter.

Mountain View Garden Club

8th Annual Plant Exchange and Marketplace
Sunday, June 2, 2013
Clifford Fire Company Picnic Grounds
Route 106, Clifford PA
Plant Exchange & Sale ~ 1:00 until 4:00
Exchange 2 potted perennials
for 2 of same size or value
(Please label plants and pot perennials
3 to 4 weeks ahead to get them established)

Buy perennials at great prices !

Marketplace ~ 11:30 until 4:00

Vendors

Paintings . Photographs . Jewelry . Mustards
Maple Syrup . Apple Butter . Candles . Soaps
Garden Items . Baskets . Doll Clothes
Wood Carvings . Shrubs & Ornamentals
Etc, etc., etc

Demonstrations & Gardening Tips

Refreshments for sale

provided by the Clifford Volunteer Fire

Department Ladies Auxiliary

Live Music

For more information, contact

Donna at 281-3335 or JoAnn at 222-3591

Churches

Elkdale Baptist Church of West Clifford

Regular weekly services: Sunday School for all ages, 10:00 - 11:00 am; Sunday Morning Worship Service, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm, **with Children's Church Meeting, Ages 12 and under**; Sunday Evening Service, 7:00 - 8:30 pm; and Wednesday Evening Prayer & Bible Study, 7:00 - 8:30 pm.

Upcoming events: Sunday **April 21**, Children's Sunday, 11:00 am service, a special day where the message is geared for all the children and all children receive a special gift; Sunday **May 12**, Mothers' Day Sunday, a special gift for all married ladies; Saturday **May 18**, Ladies Banquet at 5:30 pm, Mrs. Linda Schindler will be the guest speaker. There is no charge for the banquet, go to www.elkdalebaptist.com for coupons or call 570-352-5501; Sunday **May 19**, guest speaker Dr. Fred Schindler will speak at 10:00 am and 11:00 am and 7:00 pm services; Sunday **May 26** 11:00 am service, with free Fellowship Dinner after the service;

Sunday **June 16** free Fathers' Day Dinner after the 11:00 am service in honor of all fathers, catered by the ladies of the church; **July 14-19** special Family Bible School each evening at 7:00 pm, special guest speakers Evangelist Bill Stewart and Evangelist Timothy Holtsclaw and family singers; and **July 21** special services with Barbecue Dinner in the afternoon. Guest speakers will be Evangelists Bill Stewart and Timothy Holtsclaw and family singers.

Clifford Baptist Church

The Annual Chicken BBQ will be held on **June 15**, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm, \$9.00 per person, take-out only. Pre-order by calling 222-4701, 222-4210 or 282-2108, and the Annual Free Meal, Spaghetti Supper, **September 15**, 4:00 - 6:00 pm.

St. James Episcopal Church

The little white church in Dundaff Corners will be open for the summer season starting **May 26**, Memorial Day weekend and continuing through **September 1**, Labor Day weekend. Services start at 10:00 am. On July 28, the Right Reverend Paul Marshall, Bishop of the Diocese of Bethlehem, will visit and celebrate Mass. This is an opportunity for Baptism and Confirmation. We welcome all baptized Christians of every age and tradition and they are invited to share with us in the Bread and Wine of the Eucharist.

Clifford United Methodist Church, Main St., Clifford

Chicken-n-Biscuit or Ham Dinner schedule: Tuesday, **May 21**; Wednesday, **June 19**; Wednesday, **July 17**; Wednesday, **August 21**; Wednesday, **September 18**; Wednesday, **October 16**; and Tuesday, **November 5**. All events will be from 4:00 to 6:00 pm Take out or dine with us. Donations are \$7.95 per person and include dinner, dessert and drinks.

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church in Dundaff

The annual Mother's Day Dinner will be on Sunday, **May 12**, featuring BBQ chicken, holupki, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetable and dessert. Takeouts are available at 11:00 am with sit-down dinners beginning at noon until sold out. For further information, please call 222-3293. There will be a Flea Market and Ethnic Food Sale on **June 8**. Hours are from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm. Food will be served on a first-come, first-served basis, featuring potato pancakes, halushki, and wimpies. Take-outs or eat in until sold out. For further information, contact 222-3293.

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The Clifford Community Youth Group

The youth group is based out of the Clifford and Lenoxville United Methodist Churches and continues to be quite active in our community. In February, we held a Ziti with Your Dinner Theater titled *Caprice* at the Fire Hall. In March, we made over 1,300 homemade peanut butter and coconut Easter eggs. We thank everyone from the community for their support in so many ways with both of these events.

This spring we will begin First Friday Family Fun nights starting at 7pm. The first event will be held on April 5 at the Clifford United Methodist Church. All are invited to attend this free event. We will be having movie nights, game nights and many other fun events in the works. Our youth will serve as team leaders for Vacation Bible School to be held June 24-28 from 1 to 4:30pm at the Clifford United Methodist Church -- all children are welcome to participate. We are also planning a Car Wash at Lenoxville United Methodist in July -- so watch for more details to come. And don't forget Music in the Park at the Clifford Firemen's Picnic Grounds on August 4. Many other awesome things are to come with Clifford Community Youth Group. For more information on these and other events, please call 222-3331 or 222-4344. We are excited to see God working through the youth of the Clifford Community. Don't you want to be a part of the fun, too? Come join us!

Discover the D&H Rail-Trail

Rail-Trail Council of NEPA cordially invites you to its second annual "Art on the Trail Day" Saturday June 22! In addition to showcasing local artisans and interesting crafts, activities will include: Join Pat Peltz and Lynn Conrad for a walk back in time and learn the history of Union Dale; Sherry Sparks will lead a nature photography class for children and adults; and "let's get wet" watershed specialist Cheryl Nolan will explore the ecosystem surrounding the river (kids and adults can look for different macro invertebrates that tell us about the health of a river or stream). Top the day off with a delicious chicken BBQ at Cable's Deli. Advanced BBQ tickets can be purchased at Cable's or our office.

Check our website www.nepa-rail-trails.org for information about this and all our summer walks, bike rides and hikes. If you are a runner, don't forget to join us for the 6th annual D&H Distance Run, a half-marathon held on Sunday September 8. So, if you are a seasoned athlete or just love being outdoors, we have something for everyone.

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