

# Clifford Township Newsletter

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

## From the Supervisors

The Clifford Township Supervisors are pleased to acknowledge and thank the community for the efforts at improving and expanding the Township Park and Recreation Area including the "Children's Garden". Over the last year we have seen numerous donations of time, effort, grants, and park benches to make Clifford an even better place for families. It is rewarding to see people at various times of the day walking our trails, children playing on the "jungle gym", and of course to see the active use of the baseball field.

We want to also thank the members of the Park and Recreation Committee for their efforts at securing grants, and guiding the further development of the facility. For our part, we have developed a "mini" soccer field behind the baseball field, continued to improve the grounds in general, and as many of you are aware, secured a lease with the Endless Mountain Learning Center to begin operation in our building in January 2016. We also added additional acreage in the form of a future entrance to our property off State Route 2012. This will enable vehicles to access the "back of our property" without mixing with joggers or others on our walking trails. As a service to our residents, we have instituted a pilot program for recycling on **every** Saturday of the month, not just the third Saturday.

The Township Supervisors are committed to improving the quality of life for current and future residents of the township by utilizing grants and ACT 13 "gas money" to fund our projects, not taxpayer dollars. Once again we are gratified at the community pride, which we are seeing demonstrated by volunteer work.

There are many more subjects being discussed concerning the township. We strongly encourage all to attend our monthly township meetings on the Second Tuesday at 7 PM. Be part of the planning phase for the future. Change is coming to Clifford. Don't let it surprise you ... be part of it.

All Township information is available at [www.clifford-township.org](http://www.clifford-township.org), for your convenience.

## Clifford Township Volunteer Fire Company

First, a thank you to our community and then some important safety reminders.

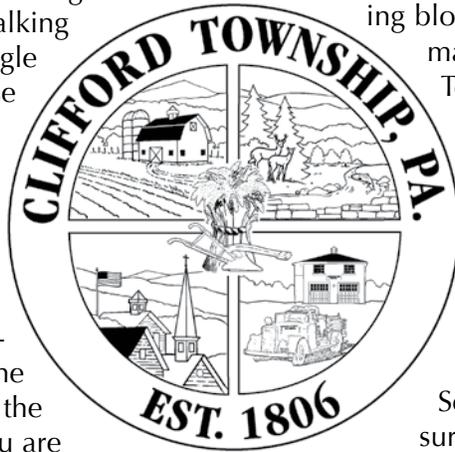
We would like to thank everyone who supported our annual Fireman's picnic and the gun/cash raffle this year. Both were huge successes and two of our largest fundraisers. These fundraising events are the building blocks that help allow us to purchase and maintain the equipment that helps you.

Tentatively scheduled for the first Sunday in December, we will hold our annual "Christmas Care" breakfast in which the proceeds go to benefit cases of hardship in the area. Visit our website [www.cliffordfire.com](http://www.cliffordfire.com) and Facebook for more details as the events near.

Some fall season safety reminders: Be sure to have working smoke detectors in your home and replace the batteries.

CO alarms – if you already have them, replace the batteries. If you do not, please make every effort to purchase and install them. As most know, CO is created by combusting fuel – wood, coal, propane, gas, etc. Carbon monoxide is colorless, odorless and tasteless. It can be present in your home due to a malfunctioning or incorrectly installed system and cause severe injury or death. CO alarms are life-saving devices for your home. Chimneys – be sure to have your chimneys in your home inspected and cleaned prior to use this heating season.

With our call volume once again on a record setting pace, it is more important than ever to support the Fire Company both in volunteering your time and through your generous financial support during our fund drives. Volunteer departments around the nation are experiencing a significant decline in volunteers to staff emergencies and handle administrative duties, we are no different. Staffing levels in the volunteer ranks are reaching "crisis" levels in our region. Clifford is very fortunate to have the dedicated volunteers it does; however, we are in need of more volunteers for all disciplines. If you are interested in becoming a member or visiting the station to see what we are all about, please contact us at (570)222-3741 or email at [clif18@nep.net](mailto:clif18@nep.net).



## Clifford Township Historical Society

This has been another busy summer for the Clifford Township Historical society (CTHS). The Agricultural Museum the society put together at the Volunteer Firemen's Picnic was very well received. Operating the bone grinder, corn sheller, wash tubs, and sausage press was fun and educational for visitors of all ages. Thanks to Adams Cable Service, Jerry Lewandowski and Ray Swingle for helping to make the Agricultural Museum a reality. The firemen have offered us more space to expand, so make sure you stop by next July during the firemen's picnic. The historical society will again be arranging for Kevin Treat to show his chain saw skills at the picnic. An antique and carvings auction will be held Saturday evening.



### Inside the Agriculture Museum at the Fire Company Picnic

A beautiful sign painted by Pat Wildenberg was installed by the Yarns Cider Mill at the Suraci Farm. Richard Suraci has put in long, hard hours clearing the land across from the mill. Work will commence on the Cider Mill renovation as soon as grant funds from the Endless Mountains Heritage Region become available. This project is a major undertaking for a society as small as ours, but progress continues.

Last fall the Clifford Township Supervisors purchased the house and an acre of land next to the Community Center. The historical society presented the idea of using the land as a Children's Garden. The supervisors leased the land to the CTHS, so the development of the Children's Garden began in late spring. Modeled roughly after the Ithaca Children's Garden, this special place incorporates local history with unique play opportunities, so kids can run free in a safe environment and LET THEIR IMAGINATIONS GROW while their caregivers relax!

Our work efforts this season have resulted in the near completion of a butterfly garden, four doors of history, the Clifford coal mine shaft, the willow tunnel, the flag-

stone maze, several items in the play area and the exterior fence. As weather permits, work will continue on the Music Mountain, the dinosaur nest and the early settlers farmstead, as well as a bathroom inside the house.



### Clifford Coal Mine Shaft, Construction and Completion

Please stop by anytime, walk through the Garden and see what has been accomplished. We hope to have our grand opening in late spring 2016



### 1900s Homestead Display in CTHS Local History Museum

Support for this project in donations of time, materials, and cash has been very motivating. All donors will be

represented on our Pencil Fence. A \$4000 grant from the Endless Mountains Heritage Region has been a huge factor in this project, as their grant program has supported almost all the CTHS projects. Our Facebook page, "Clifford Childrens Garden", and our website [www.cliffordtownshiphistoricalsociety.org](http://www.cliffordtownshiphistoricalsociety.org) will keep you up-to-date on the progress



Sean and Genevieve Larkin painting the Pencil Fence



Gage and Ryker Mead painting checkers for the large checker board at the Children's Garden



This winter, work will continue in the Local History Museum. Grant funding from the Bradford County Regional Arts Council, the Lackawanna Valley Heritage Region and a donation from our great supporter, Adams Cable Service, has just made possible the addition of a recording at the canoe display. The society is especially proud of this addition, as it further enhances the quality of our local museum.

We will be selling our jelly, jam, butter and baked goods on Election Day: Tuesday, November 3. We have made over 500 jars of jelly so your support is very appreciated. Still only \$5.00 a jar!! Come vote on November 3, take home some delicious jam for yourself or as gifts, and

plan to spend twenty minutes in the museum to enjoy our audio presentation.

The new owner of the Clifford Hotel has plans to restore the building to its original grandeur! The historical society will be involved to help make these plans happen!

### Mountain View Garden Club

The Mountain View Garden Club's eleventh annual meeting was held on October 20, 2015 at the Clifford Township Fire Hall. Bill Banta, owner of Rowland's Pennsylvania Produce, gave a presentation. His hydroponic greenhouse was started in 2012 with a goal of providing fresh greens available year round. The next meeting will be held on November 17 with a presentation by Creekside Garden Center in Tunkhannock on making a terrarium.



Scholarships are awarded annually to deserving seniors from both Forest City and Mountain View High Schools. This year's recipients were Sabrina Fallon from Mountain View and Katelyn Zembryzcki from Forest City.

The garden club also awards a Hometown Pride Award to a local business in recognition of improving the appearance of their property. The mission of the garden club is to share our knowledge and love of gardening while beautifying the Elk Mountain area and surrounding communities.

For more information, contact Mary Ann O'Pecko, at 570-785-5691 or [maopecko2000@yahoo.com](mailto:maopecko2000@yahoo.com).

### Elkdale Baptist Church of West Clifford

**Missionary Month in October:** Special Missionaries scheduled each Wednesday night at 7 PM for the month of October. **Sunday October 18<sup>th</sup>** is Children's Sunday we have a special treat for all children who attend the service. A special message will be geared to children that attend. Children will provide the music. **Saturday Evening October 31<sup>st</sup>** is Fall Family Fellowship night at 6:30 PM. Special treats for children that attend. Children will dress up like Bible characters and everyone will try and guess who they are. Children are asked to share a hint and gifts will be given for every child that dresses up. Special Missionary Speaker James Noreau will share devotion. **Sunday November 8<sup>th</sup>** Children's Sunday Service

geared for children of church, after the service we will have our Annual Church Thanksgiving Dinner. Visitors are welcome to attend. **Wednesday November 25<sup>th</sup>** 7 PM to 8 PM, the Eve of Thanksgiving a special communion Thanksgiving service to remember why we should be thankful this holiday season. Visitors are welcome to attend. **Sunday December 13<sup>th</sup>** Children's Sunday, special Christmas gifts will be given to all the children of the church. A special message will be shared with the children of the church. After the morning service, there will be a free Church Christmas Dinner, visitors are welcome. **Sunday December 20<sup>th</sup>** Special Speaker Evangelist Peter Accardi Holiday Evangelistic Services held 10 AM, 11 AM and 7 PM. **Thursday Evening December 24<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Eve Candlelight service. 7 PM to 8 PM. A short musical service to remember the reason for the season. **Thursday December 31<sup>st</sup>** Annual Christmas Musical Play at 7 PM. A combined Children's Choir and Adult Choir musical play geared for the whole family. "WE BEHELD HIS GLORY" Music and Drama written by Pastor Frank Bissol. Visitors are welcome. Free refreshments after the service. **Wednesday Evening January 27<sup>th</sup>** 6:30 PM Annual Appreciation Banquet. The 2014 yearly church calendar will be given out and Pastor Bissol and his wife will cater a free dinner for all that attend. All are welcome to attend. **Saturday February 27<sup>th</sup> Hunters Banquet** headed up by Evangelist Peter Accardi. Game food, dinner provided by the ladies of the church. Gifts awards and guest speakers. **Friday March 25<sup>th</sup> Good Friday Musical Service.** In Remembrance of what Jesus did for us. 7 PM, with refreshments to follow.

### Clifford United Methodist Church

Clifford United Methodist Church, Main Street, Clifford Chicken-n-Biscuit or Ham Dinner Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015, Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015, and Tuesday, April 26, 2016. All meals will be from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. Take out or Dine with us. Donation \$8.95. Includes dinner, dessert & drink.

### Exercise Classes at the Community Center

Exercise classes will continue at the Clifford Community Center on Monday and Wednesday mornings. Offerings include two full body circuit training classes from 8-8:30 AM and 8:30-9 AM using variety of equipment, and a Yoga Pilates / Piloxing class, 9:15-10 AM. Classes run for six weeks, from October 26 through December 4, 2015. Call Patti Walker 570-430-7420 or email [walker-patti102@yahoo.com](mailto:walker-patti102@yahoo.com) for more information.

### Yoga Offered at Community Center

Tiffany Butler Debish will be holding eight weeks of "Yoga For Life" classes, starting November 3 and running through Tuesday, December 22. Classes are Tuesday mornings, 9 to 10 AM at the Clifford Community Center. For more information, contact "Be. Yoga Everywhere", 570-614-4054, [studiobe.fc@gmail.com](mailto:studiobe.fc@gmail.com), [www.studio511.net](http://www.studio511.net). ~Be.Healthy~Be. Beautiful~Be.You.

### Montrose Area Adult Classes at Clifford

The Montrose Area Adult School is a non-profit independent charitable organization which began in 2006. It is committed to providing an affordable, wide array of educational opportunities close to home.

Clifford Township was established as their first satellite site in the Fall of 2014. Two eight week terms, fall and spring classes are regularly scheduled at the Clifford Community Center. The Spring session is now in planning. Please contact Esther Semken, [mesemken@nep.net](mailto:mesemken@nep.net) or call the school, 570-278-2006 with your suggestions on topics that interest you, as well as potential instructors. Our area has a wealth of knowledge to be shared and we appreciate your recommendations.

Upcoming offerings include Cross Country ski classes on Saturday, January 17 and 24, from 1 to 3 PM. Consider x-country skiing as a beginner or take your skills to the next level. The first session will meet at the Rails to Trails Office in Union Dale for orientation, and then on to our first ski on the trail. Fee: \$10.00 Instructor: Kirk Newsom, PSIA ski instructor. Registration forms are available at the Clifford Community Center 570-222-9364 and on-line at [www.montroseadultschool.org](http://www.montroseadultschool.org).

The Spring Clifford Township newsletter will be in your mailbox a bit earlier than usual next year to publicize all the offered classes in time for registration.

### Mountain View Student Government Fundraiser

Come attend the "Haunted House and Forest" at the Freely's House (3134 State Route 2012, Clifford) on Friday, October 23, Friday October 30 and Saturday October 31, from 7 to 10 PM. The cost is \$4.00 per person, with all money donated to the Mountain View Student Government. Contact Brandon Freely with questions at [freelyfree14@gmail.com](mailto:freelyfree14@gmail.com).

## Clifford Township Recreational Complex

There have been numerous improvements made this spring and summer at the park adjacent to the Clifford Community Center. A new playground, designed for kids ages 2 to 5, has been a welcome addition to the larger playground equipment already available for the



**New Park Playground Equipment for Younger Children**

older kids. Many residents responded positively to the Parks and Recreation Board's program for bench donations. Over 10 benches have been added to the Park through this program to date. Forms are available at the Clifford Township website, [www.cliffordtownship.org](http://www.cliffordtownship.org), if you would still like to donate a bench or picnic table.

A new small multi-activity field was graded and planted beyond the baseball field. Important improvements in the visibility and width of both entrances to the township property from Cemetery Street have been completed. New walking paths up the hill leading to the area of the Children's Garden add elevation to the otherwise level walking paths throughout the park.



**New Paths Added to the Walking Trails**

The township was recently awarded their second grant for \$4700 for park projects by the Endless Mountains Heritage Region, so be sure to stop by to see and use future improvements!

## Recycling Changes

Recycling is now available at the Clifford Community Center every Saturday, instead of just the third Saturday of each month. More items than ever can be recycled, including plastic containers. Paper items can be co-mingled with glass and metal. Consult [www.cliffordtownship.org](http://www.cliffordtownship.org) for a complete listing of the changes.

## Other Recent Clifford Township Photos



**Clifford Village Christmas Celebration, 2014**

**Save the Date: Friday, December 4, 2015 at 6 PM  
Clifford Township Community Center.**



**2015 Clifford Township Fire Company Picnic**



**Butterfly Garden at the Children's Garden**

CTHS  
PO Box 161  
Clifford, PA 18413

NEWSLETTER

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### **Greenfield Township Bicentennial Book**

There's a new local history book coming out soon. Pat Peltz, a director in the Clifford Township Historical Society, has compiled a book on the early history of Greenfield Township for its historical society's bicentennial celebration in the summer of 2016.

Previously, Pat and Sally Fischbeck worked for two years to produce a book for the 2006 Clifford Township Bicentennial titled *Clifford Township 200 Years*. That publication has been very popular, selling copies to folks with connections to Clifford Township from across the entire United States. It also won an award for excellence from the *Pennsylvania Federation of Museums and Historical Societies*. In 2010, Pat dipped into her fifty year collection of family genealogies to produce her second book, the *Beechwood Settlers*, written for Herrick Township as a requirement for their comprehensive plan.

Since being asked in early 2014 by the Greenfield Township Historical Society to tackle writing her third book, Pat has been hard at work producing yet another fabulous local history publication! Greenfield Township was much larger when established in 1816. It included Fell, Carbondale, and Scott townships, plus parts of several others. The new book will include maps, historical facts, and family histories as well as photographs of the graduating classes of Greenfield High School from 1919 to 1959.

Watch for the announcement of the book's publication next month! All proceeds benefit the Greenfield Historical Society. Have you noticed all the banners hanging in Greenfield Township recently? Each banner is sponsored by a local family or business, to commemorate their upcoming Bicentennial Celebration.