

Clifford Township Newsletter

Issue 14

September 2007

Sponsored by the Clifford Township Community Alliance (CTCA)



CTCA Mission:

To improve the quality of life, the environment and the economic health of the community

2007 CTCA Directors

Chris Marcho 222-5808
CoChairman
Jim Pettinato 222-3930
CoChairman
Janice Bevaque 222-9312
Secretary
Harry Phillips 222-4589
Treasurer
Dennis Knowlton 222-4509
Playground Grant
Cherie Swetter 222-4628
Media/Tree Grant

News from the Township Supervisors

Clifford Township received \$74,000 from the State to maintain the dirt roads. Of this, \$28,000 was spent this year on just oiling the roads. Folks often wonder about the whys and wherefores of road care but everything is expensive and the money must be stretched to cover all forms of maintenance. Regarding last November's storm damage, the township has recently received \$48,000 from FEMA for work that has been completed. When the work on Mud Road is completed, FEMA will reimburse another \$190,000.

The supervisors spent \$7500 on a boom-arm mower to cut the roadside brush. This mower can cut up to 30 feet high. Township employees will now be able to do what was previously done by private contractors at \$70 per hour.

Applying for State money is another way of trying to meet community needs. Paperwork has been submitted for a recycling grant which would allow the township to have its own recycling truck which would remove our own recycling containers as soon as they are full, instead of using the county-owned containers and having to wait for an available hauler. Overfilled containers are presently creating a mess. The second grant in the works is for a new police car. The third grant underway is for the dredging of the stream which collapsed the Main Street Clifford bridge.

The township has purchased a dump truck with money previously received from the State's Turn-Back Program (the township assumed responsibility for the maintenance of Wright's Road) thereby costing our taxpayers nothing.

Lastly, the sewer issue created discussion about the subdivision ordinance. It was decided that the two acre minimum will stay in place.

Supervisors meetings are typically held at 7 PM on the second Tuesday of each month. Any rescheduled date is posted on the township building side door.

Partnering Benefits Community

The CTCA is pleased to announce its partnership formed with the Mt. View Garden Club, the Clifford Township Historical Society, The Clifford United Methodist Church and St. John's Orthodox Church. These five organizations have pooled their resources and efforts to present the community with an effective means of advertising, a marquee on Main St.

Thanks to the generosity of the Marcho family (Clifford Auto and Clifford Supply) who donated the use of their land on Main St., the prominent marquee now stands to advertise upcoming community events. Although the use of this newsletter gets the information to 1400 households within the township, the marquee can be seen by the more than 4000 vehicles traveling by daily (Penn DOT statistic). The CTCA welcomes other community groups to participate in this partnership. The marquee can be used by area non-profit organizations to promote their mission or upcoming events. For more information, call Cherie Swetter at 222-4628. Instructions for putting up messages on the marquee can be received from Chris Marcho at 222-5800.

The next newsletter will be published on the first of December. Organizations can mail their articles to Cherie Swetter at PO Box 130, Clifford, PA 18413 or e-mail to Sally Fischbeck at salnbuzz@nep.net. Articles must be received three weeks in advance. Articles from the public of general community interest are welcome. To purchase space in the newsletter for a business ad, please contact Cherie Swetter at 222-4628.

Upcoming Township Events

Sept. 19, Oct 17, Nov. 6

Chicken and Biscuit or Ham Dinners
United Methodist Church, Main St. Clifford

September 29

Round and Square Dance and Chicken BBQ
Fire Hall, Main St. Clifford

October 12-13

Ethnic Food Sale
St. John's Orthodox Church, Dundaff

Clifford Fire Awarded Operations & Safety Grant

On Friday, July 27, 2007, Round 1 of the Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Grant program was awarded. Clifford Fire was awarded a total package of \$59,725 for purchasing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for its members. Clifford Fire is required to contribute 5% or \$2,986 toward the project. PPE are the protective suits that are worn by each member for an array of emergencies such as motor vehicle accidents, car fires and structure fires. The magnitude of this grant in assisting with protecting our members cannot be placed into words. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to DHS for their consideration of our project and their dedication to helping us help others.

Clifford Picnic 2007

As another year of the Clifford Picnic goes in the books, we would like to take this time to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the folks in the community who volunteer their time to staff stands and make the operation possible and also to the patrons that supported our Picnic. From the Officers and Members of the Clifford Township Volunteer Fire Company – we say thank you.



The day crew, headed by Jan and Phil Price, always make sure the debris is clean from the night before. On Friday, the day after the parade, the clean-up gang headed downtown to assure any debris left from the parade did not get left for the residents. Again, thanks to all who made 2007 a success.

Ethnic Food Sale

St. John's Orthodox Church in Dundaff (off Route 247) is holding its annual Ethnic Food Sale (takeouts only) on Friday, October 12th and Saturday, October 13th, along with a Flea Market, Farmers Market and Chinese Auction. The Farmers Market will feature pumpkins and homemade canned goods. There will be hundreds of very reasonably priced items, including collectibles, antiques from estate closings, books, household and Christmas items. The Ethnic Food Sale will feature halushki, pierogies and potato pancakes on Friday, and holupki, halushki, potato pancakes and pierogies on Saturday. Hours are from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please come join us for browsing and enjoying good food and fellowship. Tours of our newly renovated church are available upon request both days. For further information call 222-3293.

ROUND & SQUARE DANCE

CHICKEN BARBECUE

Music by Terry J. Rockwell
Keyboard/Vocals/DJ

Saturday, September 29, 2007

6:30 PM

Clifford Township Fire Hall

Barbecue from 6:30 til 8:30

Music from 6:30 til 10:30

BYOB

\$20.00 per person

**Sponsored by
Mountain View Garden Club &
Clifford Township Volunteer Fire Company**

All Tickets Sold in Advance

Tickets available at:

Clifford Supply

Endless Mountain Pharmacy

Gerber Realtors, Lake Idlewild

or by calling

Betsy 222-9553, Joyce 222-4706 or Dawn 679-2276

Meet Your Neighbor: World Class Fly Fisherman

Wesley Congdon, son of Art and Lynne Congdon, of Clifford, PA had the honor of competing in this year's FIPS-Mouche World Youth Fly Fishing Championship on the second world USA team.



Wesley is a 2007 graduate of Mountain View High School, Kingsley, PA and will attend Penn State Worthington this fall majoring in civil engineering. Wesley was Pennsylvania Junior Fly Tying Champion for years 2004 and 2005. Starting at a very early age, Wes has been interested in hunting and fishing. This interest was fostered by the opportunity to attend Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp

sponsored by the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited. Wes has not only made some life-time friendships with his teammates but has also had the opportunity to share experiences with teams from France, Czech Republic, Great Britain, Portugal and Ireland to mention a few. Wesley has plans to try out again for the opportunity to compete in the 2008 World Youth Fly Fishing Championship to be held in Portugal. If you see him on the stream, be sure to wish him luck and ask him to share a few fishing stories. He has some whoppers!

CLIPPINGS... from the Mt. View Garden Club

The Mountain View Garden Club and Clifford Township Volunteer Fire Company are co-sponsoring a Round & Square Dance & Chicken Barbecue on Saturday, Sept. 29 at 6:30 PM at the Clifford Twp. Fire Hall. See the ad to the left!

Last year's square dance on the opening night of the bicentennial celebration, was a great success. Everyone enjoyed the variety of music Terry Rockwell provided. In addition to being a great square dance caller, he's a terrific DJ. He played modern music, polkas and everything in between. Instructions were given for square dancing if you've never square danced before or haven't done it in many years. Join us and bring your friends and neighbors for not only a great time but a great way to reinforce community spirit while supporting the fire company and garden club. The garden club's proceeds go towards community beautification projects and you all know how dedicated the firemen are to our community.



Some of the fun from the Bicentennial Dance, July 2006.

The next meeting of the garden club will be held on Wednesday, September 12, at 6:30 PM at the home of Cyndi McCawley. Bob Richards (better known as Postman Bob) will do a presentation on growing dahlias.

Our annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 10 at 7:00 PM at the Clifford Township Fire Hall. The speaker will be Lee Nelson who served for many years as the head of the Master Gardener program at Cornell Cooperative Extension, Broome County, NY. She teaches Horticulture classes at Broome Community College and is a consultant on horticulture for civic beautification in the Binghamton area. All are welcome to join us to hear Ms. Nelson's interesting and educational presentation.

For more information about the garden club, directions or details for our meetings, contact Linda Shuma, membership chair at 222-3377 or JoAnn Hall, president at 222-3591 or www.mountainviewgardenclub.org.

Township Business Directory

The CTCA started assembling information for a business directory two years ago until its involvement with the Bicentennial Celebration put the project on hold. Happily, a new CTCA member, Dr. Ciavola, is eager to finish the

project. Her chiropractic office is the most recent addition to the Main St. business community. Impressed with what the Forest City and Carbondale Chambers of Commerce have done to promote their businesses, she hopes to help the CTCA do the same things here. Please mail a business card or just jot a note to Dr. Ciavola at PO Box 232. There is no fee to be included in the directory. Also invited are businesses in the area immediately outside our township border (Finch Hill, Lenoxville and Herrick Township.)

Clifford Township Historical Society, Inc.

When you ride by the Hoover School take notice of the new roof. Thanks to the hard work of many volunteers, it looks fabulous. The one room school is located on State Route 2014 midway between Dundaff and West Clifford. The Historical Society is looking forward to hosting class trips to the school, where today's students will be able to re-live a day in a one room school. See the back cover of this newsletter for more information!

The Historical Society is also involved in the clearing and maintenance of the older area cemeteries. Bruce Stevens and Rick Lowry have spearheaded the work at the Dundaff cemetery. They would like to have a sign for the entrance. If anyone has a photograph of the original old gate and sign or any historical information about the cemetery, please contact Pat Peltz, (peltz@nep.net or 679-2870). The cemetery is located on Route 247, one mile south of the light in Dundaff.

The 2008 calendar, the third in the series of calendars produced by the Historical society, will be pictures of the old barns in our area. The first calendar was based on the twelve school districts. The second calendar, Tails From the Past, highlights pictures of horses and their importance in the early years of our township. These collectable calendars are available at Clifford Supply or on the web at www.cliffordpa.com

The Society would like to thank Fritz and JoAnn Hall and Donna Caputo for donating the turn-of-the-century delivery wagon, which was used on the Johnson and Johnson estate (now Fern Hall) to deliver fresh produce to nearby residents. Perhaps you saw the wagon in the Clifford Firemen's parade. Look for this wonderful old wagon in other parades next summer!!

Our secretary, Pat Peltz, writes a special feature for the Clifford area page in the Carbondale News the third week of each month. If you love interesting historical stories, make sure you read Pat's!!

The monthly meetings of the Clifford Twp. Historical Society are held the third Thursday of the month at 7 PM at the Mt. View Restaurant. Anyone with a love of history, a story to share, or an idea to help preserve our heritage is more than welcome to attend!!

Church Dinners

The United Methodist Church will be serving its Chicken and Biscuit or Ham Dinners on Wednesday, September 19, Wednesday October 17 and Tuesday November 6 (Election Day). The money raised helps support the church's mission work and scholarship fund.



Hoover School Has a New Roof The great volunteers of the Clifford Township Historical Society have been hard at work renovating the Hoover School. John Swetter and Mark Wilmot tore the old metal and wood shingles off - an incredibly filthy job!! William Boomer, Pat Peltz, Larry Wilson, Bernie Swetter and Sandy Wilmot cleared trees and brush, mowed the surrounding grounds and cleaned the inside of the school house. Our dedicated crew of carpenters and their helpers, sistered all the rafters, replaced trim and fascia boards, put all new plywood on the roof and installed the new metal roofing. Jerry Lewandowski, Joe DiMento, Larry Wilson and Mark Wilmot were responsible for the carpentry work. Nancy, Carol and Grant Folin helped them install the metal roofing. The historical society can't thank these workers enough for the great job they did, especially in the 90 degree heat!! Thanks to Pat Peltz for donating the logs and Randy Franklin's portable sawmill for making the rafters for the school. Art Wiggins, owner of Holt Lumber, also helped with a great wholesale price for the plywood.

Clifford History Quiz

1. What former Clifford resident helped bring 19th century medicine into the 20th century with his early belief in germ theory?
2. What Clifford sexton buried nearly 1000 residents of Clifford?
3. Where in Clifford did American Indians light signal fires that could be seen in both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties?
4. What early residents lost their first and only son in the vicinity of Tinkerbrook Creek?
5. What Clifford resident was a Civil War hero at the Battle of Gettysburg and The Battle of the Wilderness?

Next summer local residents will give you the answers when they re-enact scenes from Clifford's history at a Cemetery Theater Presentation in the Willow View Cemetery.

Clifford Township News
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