

Clifford Township Newsletter

Issue 17

June - August 2008

Sponsored by the Clifford Township Community Alliance (CTCA)



CTCA is an open organization. Individuals attend meetings to exchange ideas or to join in activities which promote or improve our township. Meetings are held on the 4th Wed. of each month at the Township building. Any questions? Call Chris 222-5808 or Cherie 222-4628.

News from the Township Supervisors

Taking care of business took many forms at the May 13 meeting. First, the two Clifford cemeteries are having difficulty keeping up with expenses with too little money coming in and maintenance bills rising. After a careful review of the issue, it was decided to add them to the township insurance to ease, in one small way, their financial burdens. Secondly, there will be research into the impact that gas leasing companies' heavy equipment could have on our roads. The Township spends between \$90,000 and \$110,000 each year on the roads and this investment must be protected. Speaking of roads, Elkview Drive has already been broomed and holes patched. Tennessee Gas Road and School House Road will be tarred and chipped, the former during the beginning of June and the latter hopefully in July. Those roads will be closed during this process and the dates will be posted ahead of time. Third, our police coverage will increase by adding Lance Renzone as a part-time officer.

Upcoming Township Events

Sun. June 1 Plant Exchange & Market 1-4
Wed June 18 Methodist Dinner
Sat & Sun. June 20,21 Flea Market & meals
Sat. June 28 Flea Market & bake sale
Sat & Sun. July 12,13 Chautauqua Activities
1-4:30 pm and 7-9 pm
Thurs. July 24 Fireman's Parade 7 pm
Fri. July 25 Giant Fireworks Display
Sat. July 26 Fireman's Chicken BBQ 5 pm
Sat & Sun. Aug. 22,23 Flea Market & meals

All residents of Clifford Township will soon have a Clifford Township address with the same zip code where you currently receive your mail. Residents will receive a letter explaining the new addressing system. Mr. Regan announced that this should also help the tax revenue of the township. He thanked EMA in Susquehanna, Kevin Peitryk and Art Dennato and all involved with the address change request.

The Union Dale Fire Co. picnic grounds are actually in Clifford Township. Our township supervisors once more gave permission to have their annual picnic on Friday and Saturday, **July 11 & 12**. Union Dale assumes all liability. This year, Union Dale is planning monthly lawn mower races on Saturdays from 2 to 5:30. These mowers are deckless (therefore, no blades). Sounds like fun!

Plans for Veteran's Memorial

The annual Memorial Day service was held on at 10:30 AM at the Veterans Memorial at the Township building. There are new flags on the pole and around the memorial itself. Thanks to a donation from North-Eastern Pennsylvania Telephone Company, NEP, the flag and memorial will now be lit for night time viewing. Ten more bricks have been bought, inscribed and added to the walkway. Anyone interested in purchasing a brick in the name of their business, family member(s) or in remembrance can contact Harry Phillips at 222-4589. Members of the Mt. View Garden Club will continue to maintain the site.

The supervisors received a letter from DEP giving them 60 days to implement a sewer plan, though not necessarily the sewer plan already proposed but voted down. On May 22, DEP and a lab came to Crystal Lake for more water testing accompanied by supervisor John Regan and Jay Lynch, our Sewage Enforcement Officer. Further information will be reported in the September Newsletter.

Program Leaves Clifford Township Cleaner

Add it up: 5 tons of metal, 60 cubic yards of garbage and over 700 tires! That's what Clifford Township residents brought to the township building on May 3. Our clean-up program is a success because of the joint efforts of the Township Supervisors and the Clifford Township Community Alliance (CTCA). Thanks goes to the Supervisors for picking up costs in excess of fees collected from those using this service. Thanks to Rob Keating of CTCA for again organizing and supervising the day's activities. Professional services were rendered by Jeff Barney Scrap Metal, Susquehanna Co. Recycling Center and Bill Smith's New Age Container. Last but not least, the program could not exist without the great volunteers willing to help with this very beneficial community project - many thanks to Neil Daniels and the McHugh family (Phil, Vicky and Brenton).

Meet Your Neighbor Update

Wesley Congdon is going to Portugal as the first alternate for The 2008 World Fly Fishing Championships in Portugal. He is absolutely thrilled to be representing the USA. Good luck Wes. Your hometown of Clifford will be cheering you on!

Advertisements: If interested in advertising in newsletter, please contact Cherie Swetter at 222-4628.

Clippings from the Mt. View Garden Club

The Mountain View Garden Club (MVGC) was presented with a 2008 Stewardship Award by the Countryside Conservancy on May 7 based on all the depth of their community involvement. What an honor to be selected for such a prestigious award! Recent activities include the spring clean-up at the cemetery and welcome sign in Clifford, helping to plant more trees by the township building, our semi-annual road clean up on Rte 106 and planting/mulching the Veterans' Memorial. Over the summer months we have maintenance to do in the public gardens started since the club was established in 2005. The garden club also sponsors an annual Hometown Pride Award to be given to an area business or organization which has upgraded the appearance of their property thereby improving their little corner of the world. (If you would like to nominate a recipient, please contact Helene Tinsley at 222-4677 or tinsley@nep.net.) The members enjoy giving back to the community. If you drive by the cemetery and see a bunch of women digging in the dirt, you'll also see them laughing and enjoying the camaraderie and sense of accomplishment.

It's time for our 4th annual Plant Exchange & Marketplace. This year's event will be held at Bell Mountain Farm on Bell Mountain Road between Clifford and Tompkinsville on **Sunday June 1**. Check out the full details below. We have other great programs coming up too. In June we travel to Thompson to Dick and Jane Lambertson's Lily Farm and in July we'll be having a garden tour and brunch in Cherie Swetter's gorgeous gardens. Both of these programs are limited to members only. On **August 2** at 11:00 AM David Trachtenberg and Gerry Perlman are opening their Japanese gardens in Clifford for a tour which is open to the public. If you're interested in joining the garden club or would like more information, call President JoAnn Hall at 222-3591 or V. P. and Membership Chair Linda Shuma at 222-3377 or visit www.mountainviewgardenclub.org.

MVGC Fourth Annual Plant Exchange & Marketplace

This year featuring 20 Vendors

- * Watercolors * Pottery * Hand carved signs
- * Wrought iron garden items * Flavored dipping oils * Baskets
- * Hand painted clothing * Soy candles * Mustards & Sauces
- * Herbs & Vegetables * Hand made dolls * Soaps

Sunday, June 1, 2008
1:00 - 4:00

Bell Mountain Farm (Between Clifford and Tompkinsville)

- * Bring 2 perennials from your garden to exchange for 2 perennials of like size and value
- * Purchase plants grown by members of the Garden Club
- * Enjoy the beautiful gardens with tours provided by Rob Rave from Rave Landscaping

Directions to Bell Mountain Farm: From Route 81, take exit 202 towards Tompkinsville; left at Village Auto Sales * Go 1.8 miles * Follow signs and balloons. From Clifford, take SR2012 (first right after light going East on 106) * Go 2.2 miles * Follow signs and balloons. For more information, call Donna at 281-3335 or Betsy at 222-9553.

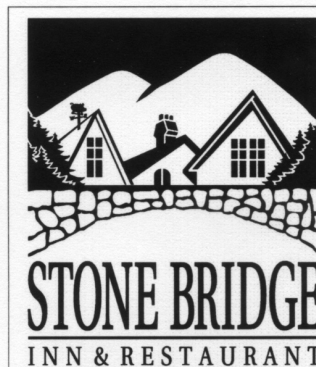
Help Solve the Mystery of the Cemetery

The Dundaff Cemetery entrance is barely visible through the woods; a small roadside sign marks the spot. You then drive up an incline to an open field under a tall canopy of trees, a lovely private setting with one thing missing - where are all the tombstones? Keep on walking another hundred feet; they are over the knoll on the downhill side. Eventually one sees a grouping of small plain cement markers set next to elaborately carved monoliths of marble or granite. Some are in clusters, some within old field stone walls, an old iron fence borders another one and a lone monument is in isolation hundreds of feet from the rest. The engravings tell of burials taking place from the mid-1800s through the 1960s. Oddly, a good portion of this approximately 5 acre plot is unused and heavily forested. Why have fifty years passed by without any new addition? Was it owned by a defunct church or was it private? When was it established and under what name? A group of interested persons have been attempting to renovate the overgrown grounds and hopes to put in an entrance sign with all the correct information. Can you help? Please call Kim at 222-4261.



Local Scouting News

Our local Cub Scout pack has had a very productive year. Recent trips include the Corning Museum of Glass, the Lackawanna Coal Mine, Carbondale Newspaper and the Carbondale Library. An upcoming camping trip for the whole family is scheduled at Merli Sarnoski Park. A good time was had by all at the Pinewood Derby with Marshall Ward placing first, Robert Wilcox second and Aidan Haley third. Clifford Pack 190 also earned their quality unit award this year thanks to all leaders getting their required training. Three boys are graduating into a Boy Scout troop, including Jairus Parry and Christopher Andzulis, who both earned the highest award a cub scout can achieve, the Arrow of Light. Thank you boys and parents for all your hard work this year! Amy Parry is trying to get a local Boy Scout troop started for the fall of 2008 so anyone interested in being an assistant leader, a committee member or if you can help in any other way, please contact Amy at 222-4144 or e-mail at amwp76@yahoo.com. We truly believe scouting can help our youth grow into well rounded, community minded adults and you can be a part of that!



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Fireman's Picnic: 60 Years of Fun for Funds

This year's picnic will run from **Thursday July 24th** through **Saturday July 26th**. 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 of 1954 and has been in operation since. There is a great variety of rides and games for all ages.

Many of today's volunteer fire companies spend an enormous amount of their time raising money. Clifford is no different. 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 its members. For many of them fund-raisers are the main source of income, but they require a lot of planning, preparation, and hard work by all involved. For Clifford Township Volunteer Fire Company, one of the biggest fund raising events is the annual fireman's picnic.

This fund-raiser 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 picnic week. 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 would be interested in volunteering your time for the picnic or to become 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 e-mail at clifst18@nep.net or learn more about us and our activities at the web site www.cliffordfire.com.

Church Dinners and Flea Markets

The Clifford United Methodist Church, Main St., Clifford will hold its famous Chicken-n-Biscuit or Ham Dinner on Wednesday, **June 18th**. Take outs are available 4 to 4:30 pm, while dinners will be served up from 4:30 to 6. The donation of \$7.95 includes the dinner, dessert and drink.

St. John's Orthodox Church in Dundaff is having a Flea Market on Friday and Saturday, **June 20 & 21** and again on Friday and Saturday, **August 22 & 23** from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day. Lunch will be available each day starting at 11 a.m. Friday's menu is pierogies, halushki and potato pancakes. On Saturdays only take outs will be available. Saturday June 21: Chicken BBQ, Saturday August 23: pasta and meatball dinner/or meatball hoagies. Contact 222-3293 for further information.

The Lenoxville United Methodist Church will be having a fund-raiser Flea Market on Saturday, **June 28th** at the church, Route 374, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. We are looking for those who would like to purchase table space for \$10 a table. Interested people can call Lisa Burke at 222-4075. Rain or shine (we have room inside). At the Flea Market, the church will have a baked goods table with refreshments for sale.

Main Street Clifford Fire

On May 14 about 2:30 am, Clifford lost one of its historical homes to a devastating fire. The use of the Clifford Township Volunteer Fire Company's newest truck, Ladder 18, was crucial in saving the neighboring house owned by Kochmer/Elkins family, as it was only a few feet away.



The home can be traced back to being owned by J. B. Felts on the 1872 map of the township on page 50 of the Clifford Township history book. It is the second house on the right in the 1908 photograph of Main Street on page 53 of the same book. The home was sold by Edward and Annabelle Lewis to James and Frances Kenyon in 1963. Since then many improvements were made, including converting the home into two apartments. Jeff and Christine Kelly purchased the home in 2006. Currently renting the two apartments were Greg Rudick and Jodi Kenyon Shinn along with her two daughters Megan and Hillary. The historical home was a complete loss, but thankfully there were no injuries. A fund to help the fire victims has been set up and donations can be made at the Clifford branch of the Community Bank & Trust.

We Deliver...

NEW CLIFFORD LOCATION

Results, that is...

CALL TODAY!!
222-KICK(5425)
Little Dragons
5:30-6 PM
Junior Dragons
6:15 to 7 PM
Adult Dragons
7:15 to 8 PM

USA Karate

Come to The Clifford Township Historical Society's
Chautauqua Weekend

All events are **FREE** and **Open to the Public**
Bring yourself, and a chair or a blanket!

What's a Chautauqua?

Chautauqua is a Seneca word for place of clean water or where fish are taken. Clifford's Chautauqua is a weekend of free music, dance and theater that will reveal some of the history of Clifford Township and the Endless Mountains.



Saturday, July 12th 2008

1 - 4:30 P.M. Wiffy Bog Farm Bed and Breakfast, West Clifford, PA
American Indian Dance, Drumming, Stories and Music Featuring: Frank Little Bear and Dancers. Interactive presentation oriented toward young audiences.

4:30 to 6:30 P.M. Dine at local restaurants, Local Purveyors of Fine Food and Spirits

7 P.M. Cemetery Theater Play: Beacon Fires By: Carol Gargan
Featuring: Frank Little Bear, Richard Duda, Robert Kirby, Linda Corey, Joni Shuey, The Jolly Seniors, Endless Mountain Children's Choir directed by Dr. Christine Sezer and many more. At the Willow View Cemetery, across from the Township Building.

Sunday, July 13th 2008

1-2:30 P.M. Fern Hall Bed and Breakfast Crystal Lake, Clifford Township Interactive folk music presentation with fiddler Bruce Young, Pennsylvania Mountain Voices

2:30 - 4 P.M. Concert of Contemporary Interpretations of Stephen Foster Music by:
Andy Biskin Jazz Quartet

4:30 - 6:30 P.M. Dine at local restaurants, Local Purveyors of Fine Food and Spirits

7 P.M. Cemetery Theater Play: Beacon Fires This is the Second Performance at Willow View Cemetery, across from the Township Building.

**Unique Local Entertainment
and Educational Opportunity**

The Clifford Township Historical Society has been awarded several grants in recent months to help bring the Chautauqua back to the Endless Mountains. Musicians, singers, actors and others dedicated to the idea, have devoted many, many hours in the development of the two day program which includes original music and an original cemetery theater play featuring a cast of characters from Clifford's past who help reveal some of Clifford Township's history. It is not to be missed!

Grants totaling more than \$6000 have been received from The Pennsylvania Humanities, Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts (Bradford Regional Arts Council), Susquehanna Room Tax Fund, the Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau and a donation from the Spring Hill Foundation, in support of this quality event.

More information is available at www.cliffordpa.com or www.elkmountain-area.com. For Chautauqua questions, please contact Sandy Wilmot at 679-2723, mswilmot@nep.net or Carol Gargan at 222-2485, elkdale@nep.net.

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