

Clifford Township Newsletter

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

News from the Township Supervisors

This has been a challenging year for our township. A legal decision, which went against the township involved a dispute concerning the scope of work done by a contractor, many years ago, over a proposed sewerage system in the Dundaff / Crystal lake area has placed the township in a severe financial situation. We were able to attain an additional loan at very favorable interest rates. However, the loan must be paid off within a 5 year time frame or we risk much higher interest rates. Combined with the original loan and the balance on the municipal building roof from 5 years ago, the township is almost \$500,000 in debt. The supervisors' first priority after yearly operations is debt repayment and placing the township in the position of having a safety fund for emergencies and projects to improve quality of life for our residents. Repayment of the debt as soon as possible will put out township in a favorable financial situation long term.

As you are aware we have already made severe cuts by eliminating the police budget and have delayed numerous projects in order to live within and maintaining a balanced budget. However, the plan to reduce our debt is anticipated to require a 1 mil (approximately \$60 per year for the average tax payer) increase. This will impact ONLY the Township Municipal Real Estate. We are aware of the financial issues each family is facing in today's economy. It is planned that this minimal dollar amount increase will assure the financial stability of the township while accomplishing the fiscal goals. The supervisors have been doing the landscaping and mowing at the building for free in order to save the township money.

Supervisor Chris Marcho has been involved with the development of the Comprehensive plan by attending the ACCT meetings. He also is spokesperson for the planning commission. His involvement in these two capacities is definitely a plus for the township.

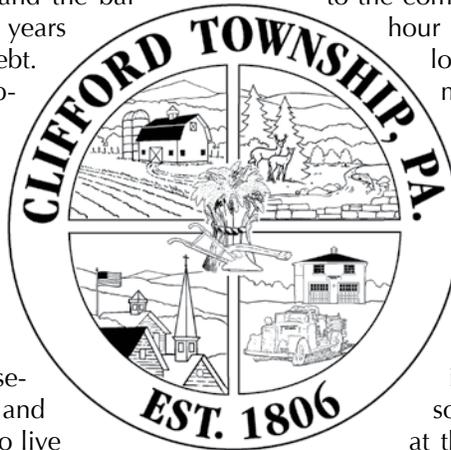
Please take the time to vote on Nov 6. To help alleviate traffic congestion and safety issues, please use the side entrance of the Clifford Township Community Center to vote. Mobility problems?? – park on concreted area near the side door.

Clifford Fire's New Brush Vehicle

Clifford Township Volunteer Fire Company

As we move into the fall season, the volunteers continue a very busy pace in all disciplines and have an exciting new arrival. First and foremost, please replace the batteries in both your smoke detectors and CO alarms – this is crucial moving into the heating season. The fire and EMS members have embarked on yet again, a benchmark of training for the community. The group is currently training to test on a National rescue certification platform, raising the bar of services provided to the community. The members will partake in a 48 hour class followed by both a written and day-long practical examination. This is a monumental commitment of our members. Along with training, the volunteers continue fundraising efforts through various avenues. The current event is our annual gun/cash raffle; this will be in progress throughout the month of October. In December we will hold our annual "Christmas Care" breakfast in which the proceeds go to benefit cases of hardship in the area. Later in the month of December we will be sponsoring the annual children's Christmas party at the fire station. Visit our website for more details as the events near – www.cliffordfire.com.

In January 2012, Clifford Fire was awarded a Department of Homeland Security grant to replace our two brush/multi-purpose trucks with one new, NFPA compliment vehicle. We are very fortunate to receive this level of funding, as it is a very competitive program. On August 31, Clifford Fire took delivery of a 2012 Ford/Sutphen brush vehicle. The vehicle will not only provide brush fire services, it is designed to handle many misc. calls that other, bigger apparatus typically would have had to handle. Some examples are providing QRS services when the ambulance is committed on another call, wires down, trees down, traffic details, snow removal. By doing this, we will remove approx. 100 calls annually from the bigger apparatus, extending the life of those very expensive vehicles. The apparatus is expected to officially go in service in the near future.



Currently the fire station has answered approximately 100 more emergency calls so far for 2012 than called upon in 2011. With this 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. 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 clifst18@nep.net.

Clifford Historical Society

The Clifford Township Historical Society's Museum of Local History will be open on Election Day November 6 and is open to the public the third Sunday of each month, from 1 to 4 PM. Admission is free. The museum is located in the Clifford Community Center – formerly the elementary school on Cemetery Street in Clifford. Presently one room of the Museum is filled with exhibits of local artifacts. A second room is also in progress. The three hundred year old Native American dug out canoe is also on display. Members of the society are present to answer questions.

The renovated Hoover School, located on State Route 2014, 2 miles west of Dundaff, will be open for the last time this season from 1 to 4 PM on Sunday, October 21, free admission. School marm Pat Peltz will be present to explain artifacts and tell stories collected from former students. The school contains information and pictures about one-room schools. Come sign the original "Black board" – boards painted black—and ring the bell to summon the students to class. Info at Cliffordpa.com, 679-2723 or Peltz@nep.net

The Clifford Township Historical society has begun work on its biggest project yet. Last April, Gloria Suraci Bilotta, owner of the cider mill, signed a 100 year lease with the society stating that for the one dollar a year rent the society has the opportunity to renovate the former Yarns Cider Mill to operating

condition. The cider mill is located on route 2014, near the Hoover School. Mr. Perry Yarns, and later his son William, operated the mill through the early 1900s.

Apples were in abundance in Clifford Township due in part to Adam Miller the first settler in the Clifford area. He cleared land on the "flats" and planted the first apple orchard in 1799. The apple trees flourished. If you look closely at the Clifford landscape, you will find clusters of old apple trees throughout the area, and often they are all that remains of an old homestead.

The cider mill was busy for three months every fall pressing apples into cider. Vinegar used for food preservation, fresh cider and hard cider were important staples to area residents. The pulp from the pressed apples was fed to dairy herds. Farmers waited in line with their horse drawn wagons loaded with apples for their turn at the mill. Walter Cook related his memories of farmers making hard cider, each having his own recipe to produce a distinctive taste. This hard cider drew many a young man to Clifford farms during the Depression and Prohibition. A short walk from the train in Forest City or Carbondale would bring the men to labor on the farms for a free place to sleep (in the barn), an evening meal provided by the farmer's wife, and a go at the cider barrel before bed!

The Clifford Township Historical Society is honored to have the privilege of bringing the Yarns Cider Mill back to life. Their plans include pressing cider for several weekends each fall. The mill will be well advertised as a tourist attraction. At present the old mill is in very poor condition. Renovating the mill will take a real community effort requiring donated labor and materials. Already, donations from Adam's Cable Service, Dr Gary Latimer, and Barhite Excavating with the labor of six volunteers and three days of backhoe and bulldozer work donated by Ray Swingle and Gary Sparks has produced great results. Mr. Swingle has also donated lumber that he cut to



Yarn's Cider Mill before and after efforts by the Clifford Historical Society and many community volunteers.



needed sizes at his sawmill. With great support like this, the society is sure to reach their goal of having the old mill produce cider once more!!

Mountain View Garden Club

The Mountain View Garden Club will hold its annual meeting on Tuesday, October 16 at 7:00 at the Clifford Township Volunteer Fire Company building, Route 106 in Clifford. Trevor and Corey Kashuba from Corky's Garden Center in Justus will do a presentation on Fall Gardening Tips. The public is invited.

At the annual meeting, the membership will be voting on the following proposed slate of officers: Lois Todd, President; Mary Pucul, Vice President; Dawn Howell, Treasurer; Deb McNamara, Secretary and June Walters, Corresponding Secretary. The mission of the garden club is to share our knowledge and love of gardening while beautifying the Elk Mountain area and surrounding communities. Some beautification projects include plantings at the Clifford Township Volunteer Fire Company, the Union Dale Post Office, Herrick Township Municipal Building, Clifford Valley Cemetery, Forest City Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Clifford Township Building Memorial Site and the Hoover School, home of the Clifford Township Historical Society. The garden club also supports the Adopt-A-Highway Road Clean-up Project, presents book scholarships each spring to two deserving high school seniors and presents an annual Hometown Pride Award to an area business or organization for enhancing their property and promoting community pride.

The 9th Annual Plant Exchange & Marketplace will be held on Sunday, June 2, 2013. This annual event, originally held at garden club members' homes, changed its venue in 2012 to the Clifford Fire Company Picnic Grounds and was deemed a success. In addition to having perennials for exchange and sale, there were over twenty vendors including paintings and photography, candles, syrup, jewelry, birdhouses, garden statuary and gadgets, shrubs, baskets, doll clothes and refreshments. Watch for details of the 2013 event in newspapers and other news media in the spring.



Annual Plant Exchange and Marketplace now at the Clifford Township Fire Company Picnic Grounds

Clifford Township Church Activities

Elkdale Baptist Church of West Clifford

Every Wednesday in October is Missions month, with special guest missionaries speaking at 7 PM. **Oct 31** at 6:30 PM, Fall Family Fellowship night with pizza. **Nov 11** Church Thanksgiving Dinner after the morning service, free to the public. **Dec 9** Church Christmas Dinner after morning service, free to the public. **Dec 24** Christmas Eve Musical Service. **Dec 31** New Years Eve Musical. **Jan 30** at 6:30 PM Appreciation Banquet, presented to friends of the church, catered by Pastor Bisol and his wife Elaine. All are invited, admission is free. **Feb 23** Hunters Banquet, at 5 PM led by Evangelist Peter Accardi, free to the public. Game dinner and lectures of interest for hunters, trappers and sportsmen, including special gifts and door prizes

Clifford Baptist Church, Church Street, Clifford

Celebration of our 195th Anniversary on **October 21**, 2012 with a spaghetti dinner, 1:00-2:30 PM, followed by a Program and Hymn Sing at 3 PM

St. John the Baptist Russian Orthodox Church, Dundaff

Annual Flea Market/Farmer's Market/Ethnic Food Sale on Sat, **Oct 20**. Foods featured will be holupki, halushki, pierogie and potato pancakes (until sold out). Also, there will be a bake sale, Orthodox Auction, including a money tree, pumpkins, gourds, canned goods, jams and jellies and many tables of flea market items, all very reasonably priced. Doors open at 9 AM.

St. John Vianney Parish (Corpus Christi, Route 438, Montdale and St. Pius X, Route 106, Royal)

Bible Study of the Gospel of Matthew. Experience the Gospel in a new and powerful way through Matthew: The King and His Kingdom is a bible study that presents the Gospel account in a way that brings the history of Christ to life. St John Vianney Parish, Route 106, Royal, every Monday beginning **Oct 1** from 6:30-8:30. Call JoAnn at 254-9502, ext. 3 for more information. Watch for news of a Spring Raffle/Spaghetti dinner, date to be determined.

Clifford United Methodist Church, Main St, Clifford

Chicken-n-Biscuit or Ham dinners will be held on Wed, **Oct 17** and Tues, **Nov 6**, from 4 to 6 PM. Take out or dine with us. Donation \$7.95. **Clifford Community Youth Group:** As we look to close out 2012, plans are in the works for a bonfire/corn maze night at Zembrzycki Farms, a weekend retreat to Sky Lake, Haunted House at Clifford UMC **Oct 27/28**, a cookie making lock in, and Cookie Walk/Gift Wrap scheduled for **Dec 15**, among other events. We are also meeting twice monthly on Sunday afternoons to KickStart our week with a new video-based bible study with contemporary Christian Rock bands called UP! (Oh, and don't forget the pizza!) For more information on any of these events, please contact Robin 222-4344 or Pastor Peg 222-3331. All are welcome to join us!

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CTCA - Clifford Township Community Alliance

The Clifford Township Community Alliance is planning the 14th annual Village Christmas for Dec 7th at 7 PM. This event has outgrown the parking lot of the Marcho family businesses so this year's event will be held at the Clifford Community Center. The event will remain the same with Santa Claus as the main attraction. The Grinch, will make his annual appearance. The Gingerbread Man will also be there. A live nativity is also planned to compliment the usual activities. This great event is supported by donations from businesses and individuals throughout the township. All Clifford Township families are welcome to attend!

Clifford Township Volunteer Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary

Monthly meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7 PM at the fire hall. We are looking for new members. Announcements will be forthcoming on future events.

ACCT - Advisory Committee of Clifford Township

Development of the Clifford Township Comprehensive Plan continues to progress according to schedule. Over 100 responses were submitted for the Clifford Community Survey, which can be found on-line at www.shepstone.net/clifford. Road maintenance concerns have been a common theme among the surveys submitted. Many elements for the plan have been drafted to include Goals and Objectives, Popula-

tion and Economic Base, and Land Use. The meetings, which are open to all residents and business owners of Clifford Township will continue to be scheduled on the fourth Wednesday of every month for the remainder of 2012 and on into 2013. Meeting minutes are located at http://www.cliffordtownship.com/news_from_township_residentsadvisory_committee_min-ute. If you would like to get added to the email distribution list please contact sroberts@nep.net.

Veterans Day Service

Veterans Day Service will take place on Sunday, Nov 11 at 1 PM at the Clifford Township Community Center, rain or shine. Bring your own lawn chair.

Recycling Dates

Clifford Township Recycling dates: Oct 20, Nov 17, Dec 15, Jan 19, Feb and March 16, from 9 AM to noon.

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