

Clifford Township Newsletter

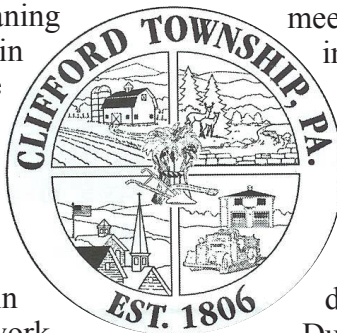
Issue 26

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

From the Clifford Township Board of Supervisors

The Clifford Township supervisors would like to thank our residents for another year of participation in the improvement in the quality of life in Clifford Township. We would also like to thank the Clifford Township Planning Commission and Advisory Committee for their hard work in overseeing the development of the township Comprehensive Plan which was submitted to the supervisors for review last month. Over this year we have seen an increased pride in the township through volunteerism in cleaning along our roadways, a noticeable decline in litter and people working to improve the appearance of their properties.

We have put a great deal of effort into improving township roads and were able to grade, ditch, and treat our dirt roads earlier than ever. We have been able to regrade and patch several roads in preparation for winter and to expedite work in the spring. With winter around the corner, remember to clear sidewalks and not plow snow into the streets. If you have a problem or concern, please call (570) 222-9364 and leave your name, problem, phone number, and location.



Clifford Township Planning Commission (CTPC)

A planning commission plays a major role in giving advice and providing recommendations to a governing body -- Clifford Township Supervisors. Land use and land use planning is an important issue at the local and state level. A planning commission is on the front line regarding land use issues and its job is to advise locally elected officials on planning and community development matters.

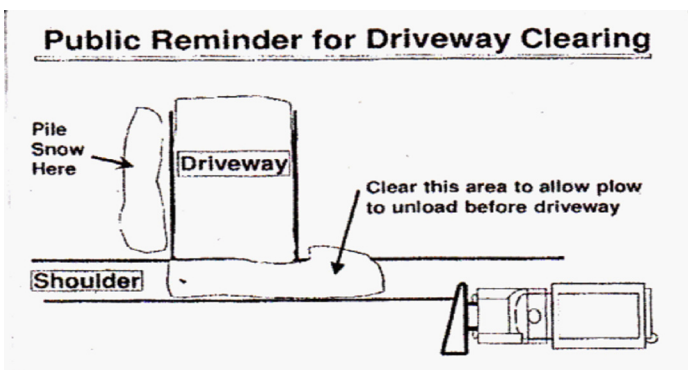
The Clifford Township Planning Commission meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 6:00 pm in the Township Community Center building immediately prior to the supervisors' meeting at 7:00 pm. Some of the issues coming before the planning commission this year included requests for building setback waivers, lot line adjustments, property subdivisions and property line disputes.

During the past year the planning commission has been working closely with the Advisory Committee for Clifford Township (ACCT) to develop a Comprehensive Plan for the township. A Comprehensive Plan is a tool for communities to use in guiding land use and planning community facilities and transportation. In brief, it serves as a policy guide, a source of information on the community and a legal foundation for land use regulations. Important components of the Comprehensive Plan that the planning commission has been involved in are the codification of the township's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) and Building Setback Ordinance.

Clifford Township Advisory Committee (ACCT)

The ACCT has been supporting the planning commission in the development of the Clifford Township Comprehensive Plan and the SALDO. Several other projects include presenting ideas for use of the extra rooms in the Community Center along with improvements to the kitchen.

During the meeting on October 23, 2013, the ACCT continued to discuss ideas for the building and ideas for the upcoming Christmas Tree Lighting celebration that is planned for Friday, December 6, 2013, at the Community Center.



We invite you to come to the Township Supervisor Meeting on the second Tuesday every month. You will be able to see the improvements to the township building and property.

Finally, we have been able to make great strides in reducing the township debt and are fully on track to be debt free in four years as planned.

We see Clifford as a good place to live and we are working hard to make it even better.

Clifford Township Historical Society

Volunteers for Clifford Township Historical Society have been hard at work renovating the Yarns Cider Mill. In the last six weeks a concrete footer and foundation walls have been poured. New sill beams and stud walls are in place. Board and batten siding will replace the old exterior boards. Research is being conducted on the pressing equipment so next year the renovation of the mechanics of the project can complete the project. Local donations of money, materials and labor have been incredible -- all making this project possible. The Endless Mountains Wine Fest on October 6 was a great success, helping fund the recent work on the cider mill. Please look for our society newsletter in January for more information on the great support we have received. Space here does not allow us to thank everyone in this newsletter.

As his Eagle Scout Project, Peter Maloney sold memorial apple trees. His Troop 98, with Jamie Galvin, Scoutmaster, planted the trees around the parking area of the cider mill, watered the trees and provided deer protection. These trees will beautify the site with blossoms in the spring and provide apples to press into cider when the mill is operating each fall. This is the second Eagle Scout project that benefited Society projects and the community in general. Denis Halstead's work on the Elkdale Cemetery was the first. Our Society enjoys offering these opportunities to our young people. If you know a student needing a senior project or volunteer time, please contact Sandy Wilmot 570-679-2723 or Pat Peltz at peltz@nep.net.

We had a great year with the Hoover School and Local History Museum open house the third Sunday each month during warm weather (the Hoover School has no heat). Two classes of students visited and thoroughly enjoyed our hands-on activities. The Susquehanna County Forest Landowners also toured both sites on Columbus Day.

Our ever expanding museum is becoming a very informative and enjoyable way to learn about our local history. Washing clothes with a scrub board and old wringer washer, pressing sausage in an old sausage maker, taking a short ride in the old wagon, playing the victrola and finding hidden animals in the dugout canoe mural make our museum a fun place for both youngsters and adults! We are constantly adding more items, again made possible by the generosity and support of the good folks in our area. Except for election day, the museum will be closed November and December but will reopen the third Sunday in January.

Our Jelly, Jam and Apple Butter fundraiser is in full swing, with jars available for sale at the Dundaff Country Store, Clifford Supply, Endless Mountains Pharmacy and Country Hearth Antiques. We will also be selling at the Community Center on election day, at which time the museum will also be open.

Yarns Cider Mill Apple Tree Planting Project



Peter Maloney's Eagle Scout Project was to plant memorial apple trees around the Yarns Cider Mill parking lot.



Members of Boy Scout Troop 98 helped Peter Maloney complete his Eagle Scout Project.



Ray Swingle donated his labor and the use of his heavy equipment toward the apple trees planting project.

Clifford Township Volunteer Fire Company

In the blink of an eye the fall season is upon us. To some it may be repetitious; however, we feel it is important for the community to understand the volunteers continue a very busy pace in all disciplines for 2013. First and foremost, please replace the batteries in both your smoke detectors and CO alarms. This is crucial moving into the heating season. If someone is in need of a detector, please contact the fire station or a member. Clifford Fire is an active participant in WNEP's *Operation Save a Life* and we have a limited quantity to distribute. The year 2013 is on pace again to set an all-time high response record. With the current monthly call average, we will break the 600 call mark. In 2012, we saw the 500 mark come and go. Some folks assume the gas industry is to blame; however, this is not the case. Call volume is up in all disciplines of the firehouse: fire, rescue and EMS.

We would like to thank everyone who supported our annual gun/cash raffle this October. It was a huge success and one of our largest fundraisers. Our annual "Christmas Care" breakfast is tentatively scheduled for the first Sunday in December, the proceeds of which 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 cliffordfire.com or our facebook page for more details as the events draw near.

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 Township Volunteer Firemen's Company Ladies Auxiliary

The second Vera Bradley bingo is in the planning stages for next spring 2014. The date is to be determined so please keep an eye out for information regarding ticket purchase.

The Ladies Auxiliary helps the fire company with many basic expenses. This devoted group of ladies are a huge part of the Firemen's Picnic Fundraising. They are responsible for the Basket Raffle, Candy

Apples, Cotton Candy, Chicken Fingers, French Fries, Fried Dough, Rootbeer Floats and, of course, the ever popular pie stand. Next July, consider volunteering a few hours of your time helping the Ladies Auxiliary so they, in turn, can help our firemen!

Churches

Elkdale Baptist Church of West Clifford

Upcoming Events:

Thursday, October 31, 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 to guess who they are. Children are asked to share a hint and gifts will be given for every child who dresses up.

Sunday, November 10, Annual Church Free Thanksgiving Dinner after 11:00 am morning service.

Wednesday, November 27, 7:00 pm to 8:00 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 8, Annual Free Church Christmas Dinner, after the 11:00 am service. Visitors are welcome.

Sunday, December 15, Special Speaker Evangelist Peter Accardi Holiday Evangelistic Services held 10:00 am, 11:00 am and 7:00 pm.

Tuesday, December 24, Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Includes a short musical service to remember the reason for the season.

Tuesday, December 31, Annual Christmas Musical Play at 7:00 pm., a combined Children's Choir and Adult Choir musical play geared for the whole family. Visitors are welcome. There will be free refreshments after the service.

Wednesday, January 29, 2014, 6:30 pm, Annual Appreciation Banquet. The 2014 yearly church calendar will be given out and Pastor and his wife will cater a free dinner for all who attend. No charge for the dinner. All are welcome to attend.

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Clifford Baptist Church

Serving as pastor since March 2011, Pastor Deborah A. Loessy was permanently certified as a lay pastor and formally installed as pastor of the Clifford Baptist Church in August 2013. The church, founded in 1817, is the second oldest church in the Abington Baptist Association. The church has been recognized by the local historical society in Clifford, Pennsylvania, and has its doors open the third Sunday of each month May through October from 1 to 4 pm for visitors. The church is listed on the tour for the historical society in Clifford. Visitors have come from near and far to see the beauty and listen to the history of the church and view the beautiful windows and the chandelier. Last year we started a new tradition of offering a free spaghetti dinner in the fall for anyone who wishes to come. This year's event was held on September 15, 2013.

The church is 196 years old now and we are moving forward to plan our 200th anniversary in 2017. We give glory to the Lord for all He has done in our lives and how He has helped us move forward. Clifford Baptist holds its place in the community and we look forward to many years of serving God's

people. We have an ongoing food pantry to collect food for the Susquehanna County food pantry. Last year we collected numerous boxes for Samaritan's Purse at Christmas time. We also participate in ABOCOPAD's (American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania and Delaware) regional offerings.

On the third Sunday in October, we dedicated new hymnals and had an old fashioned hymn sing. This was attended by our members along with some friends from another church and also some outside visitors.

We are currently looking for an organist or pianist to play for us on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am. If anyone is interested, you can contact Pastor Debbie via the church email address: cliffordbaptistchurch@gmail.com. We would love to have you join us on Sundays for morning worship at 10:00 am or just drop in as a visitor on Sunday mornings and I'm sure Barry Searle will be more than happy to give you a brief historical presentation.

Newsletter is funded by the Susquehanna County Room Tax Grant Fund and the Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau.