

# Clifford Township Newsletter

Issue 28

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

## Clifford Township Volunteer Fire Company (CTVFC)

The fall season has arrived and with it some very key safety items to remember:

1) Be sure to have working smoke detectors in your home and replace the batteries.

2) 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 such as wood, coal, or propane. CO 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.

3) Chimneys - Be sure to have the chimneys in your home inspected and cleaned prior to use this heating season.

4) If your residence does not have a blue 911 sign displayed yet, **PLEASE** take the time to get one installed. **It is important!** The signs are available every Monday evening at 7:00 pm at the Fire Station.

To some it may seem repetitious; however, we feel it is important for the community to understand that our volunteers continue a very busy pace in all disciplines for 2014. The year 2014 is on pace again to set an all-time high response record. With the current monthly call average, we will well exceed the 600-call mark. 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. In December, we will be sponsoring the annual children's Christmas party at the fire station. Visit our website [www.cliffordfire.com](http://www.cliffordfire.com) or our facebook page for more details as the events 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. Volunteer departments around the nation are experiencing a significant decline in volunteers to staff emergencies and to handle administrative duties, we are no different. 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 [clifst18@nep.net](mailto:clifst18@nep.net).

*The CTVFC Ladies Auxiliary will hold the Christmas Care Breakfast on Sunday, December 7, from 8:00 am to noon at the Clifford Fire Hall.*

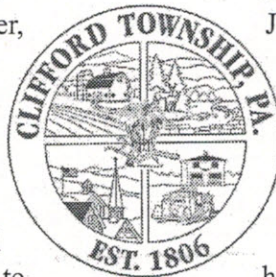
## From the Clifford Township Board of Supervisors

The Clifford Township Supervisors continue to support the Clifford Township Comprehensive Plan by improving quality of life issues in the township. In particular, we have removed trees and garbage from the area around the baseball field. In conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Board, we have begun and will continue as long a weather permits to improve the walking track and areas by the creek.

To augment the property, we have purchased the Jones house across from the cemetery and will soon begin reclaiming it for more park area. There has been an interesting suggestion to make part of the area a "Toddler Park," a fenced in area where parents with very small children can allow them to play and move around without the threat of traffic. We have seen examples of this in Pittsburgh and Harrisburg and believe it is something that the Board could consider.

We are currently looking at a way to improve the driveway at the Community building. We have concerns that traffic coming down the hill cannot see sufficiently; and, that with the increased traffic at the building, there may be some real safety issues.

Keeping with traffic issues, we have purchased a mobile "speed camera" to watch traffic in the township. Currently, it is on Rte 106 across from the pharmacy; but it will be moved to other areas in the township. If successful, we plan on purchasing at least one more in the future. The camera has recording capabilities, and we can track number of speeders, how fast and at what time of day the traffic is moving through the area. Many of you have also seen our "marked car" parked along our roads. It is also an attempt to slow traffic moving through the township.





We are pleased that the Adult Education classes held at the community building are successful. We will continue to support the use of the building by these classes and others in the new year. We encourage our citizens to take advantage of this asset.

Finally, the township is still on track to be debt free by January 2016. Recalling the almost \$500,000 debt that we had just four years ago, we are very happy to have been able to turn around the situation while still maintaining and improving our roads. We will continue to contract snow removal this year as it was seen to be cost effective, and it gave us better roads last year.

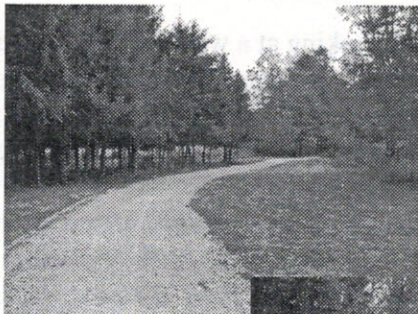
Also, as always, we the Supervisors would be pleased to see you at our meetings the second Tuesday each month.

### **From the Park and Recreation Board**

Clifford Township's newly formed Park and Recreation Board (P&RB) consists of seven township residents. With the guidance of the supervisors, the Board oversees the planning and development of the Recreation Complex and use of the township building. The Board is currently pursuing grant approvals through various local, state and federal programs. These grants will go toward the completion of currently planned projects, such as, an eco-friendly parking lot, heated restrooms and a community pavilion, to name a few.

The Grant Committee recently secured a \$60,000 Department of Conservatuion and Natural Resources grant for the installtion of a multi-sport court. The court will support tennis, pickle ball, basketball, and more for all age groups. It can also be flooded for ice skating in winter.

The committee also received a mini-grant from the Endless Mountain Heritage Region for the develop-



ment of walking trails. The trails are now open to the public and will be completed in a few weeks. So enjoy!

Just follow the gravel path!



The Board meets the fourth Wednesday each month at 7:00 pm in the community building. Stop in to see the current plans and bring along some suggestions for the future.

The P&RB is currently developing a plan to invite groups and individuals to sponsor a bench, picnic table or, perhaps, a gazebo for the parking area. The items will be placed along the walking trails, near the fishing area and in other open spaces within the park. Products can be sponsored to commemorate special events, as memorials to loved ones, as a service club project or to honor someone who has made a special contribution to the Clifford Township community. Look for more information on this program in the near future.

### **Clifford Village Christmas**

The 17th Annual Clifford Village Christmas will be held at the Community Center the first Friday of December. All Clifford area children (and their adults) are invited to enjoy all the festivities of this great "small town America" event. Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus, The Grinch, and all the regular festivities will ring in the season. Be sure to mark your calendar now! Wet weather has affected the event the past few years, but we look forward to having a great event this year that will be as much fun as ever! See you there!

### **Rail-Trail Council of NEPA**

This summer, if you discovered wonderful local art, hiked or biked to explore secrets, participated in the area's best half marathon or took in spectacular views while practicing yoga, then you probably attended one of the great summer events Rail-Trail had to offer.

"Art on the Trail" celebrated local artisans and included a day of special trail events. This season we took hikers and bikers on a trip into the past days of the D&H Railroad as we "Discovered the Secrets of the D&H." These guided events took people to places on and off the trail that told stories steeped in local history. Our D&H Distance Run grows in popularity ever year and raises funds for continued trail maintenance and improvements. A yoga walk to Stillwater cliffs blended exercise and meditation into a day of enlightenment.

Summer may be over, but the adventures will continue with our winter trail days. Our winter events will be posted on our website soon and will include more "Secrets of the D&H" hikes, as well as snowshoe and cross-country ski events.

Visit [www.nepa-rail-trail.org](http://www.nepa-rail-trail.org) for more information.



## Clifford Township Historical Society

If you have not been to the Community Center in a while, take a few minutes to visit these hallowed halls to see what the Clifford Township Historical Society (CTHS) has done with the place. It is absolutely amazing!

Inside what is now called the *Museum of Local History*, the once dreary hallway walls are now ablaze with color and tales of yesteryear. The walls actually *speak* to you and tell some truly interesting stories of our local area's history.

In two adjacent rooms, the CTHS has displayed countless vintage artifacts and collectibles that local residents have found in their attics, back rooms, basements, and barns. Arranged as a kitchen, bedroom, general store, and an authentically replicated blacksmith shop, the life and history of Clifford Township beautifully and artfully comes to life. Every piece, each item, the family photos, books, furniture, pottery, and more tell stories of their own.

On Election Day the CTHS will offer a wide variety of items for sale, including note cards and historical postcards, DVDs, collectible photo calendars, and ornaments, CTHS baseball caps and mugs, two well researched books by local historians and authors Sally Fischbeck and Pat Peltz, along with jams and jellies made by CTHS's volunteers. All items are nominally priced and make wonderful gifts for the upcoming holiday season.

*The above news item includes excerpts from an article written by Karen Bernhardt Toolan, a local experienced freelance writer who will be helping the historical society with publicity. Her time and talents are most appreciated.*



**Recreated Blacksmith Shop at the Museum**

Enjoy the color version of this newsletter at  
[www.cliffordpa.com](http://www.cliffordpa.com).  
Click on "Clifford Newsletters."

Our renovation of the Yarns Cider Mill at the Suraci Farm will make significant progress this fall. Goals of this year include a new metal roof on the entire building, interior carpentry and new board and batten siding on the front portion of the building, the completion of the parking area, restoration of all the windows, and some landscaping.

Grant funds from the Endless Mountains Heritage Region, Inc., matched by incredible donations of local time, materials and money will make these goals a reality. In 2015, we will tackle the challenge of preparing the original pressing equipment to operate once more.



**The Yarns Cider Mill at the Suraci Farm**

Our summer schedule of having the Hoover School, Local History Museum and the Clifford Baptist Church open once per month, May through October, enjoyed an enthusiastic group of visitors this year. The Museum will continue to be open for the winter the third Sunday each month. Additions to the museum this winter will include new floor coverings, thanks to a donation from Adam's Cable Service; audio added to the dugout canoe display; and an exhibit of "the family farm," the foundation of our local history. Also, many more pictures will be displayed in our genealogy section.

The Historical Society is very grateful for the support we receive from all of our friends. Your support keeps our enthusiasm in high gear!

The Society was very happy to help the volunteer firemen by arranging for Kevin Treat, chainsaw carver, to demonstrate his skills at this year's annual picnic. The auction of his creations on Saturday was a great success. We have already booked him for the 2015 picnic and plan to enlarge the auction with more unique donated items, such as local artwork, wood items and antiques. Historically, our fire company is one of the most important organizations in the township, well deserving of our society's support.



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### Elkdale Baptist Church of West Clifford

*Nov. 9: Annual church Thanksgiving dinner, after the morning service. Visitors are welcome to attend.*

*Nov. 26: Special Thanksgiving Communion Service at 7:00 pm.*

*Dec. 14: Annual Church Christmas Dinner, after the 11:00 am worship service.*

*Dec. 24: Annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Christmas Music and Communion.*

*Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Musical Wed. Evening at 7:00 pm. Combined Children's Choir, Adult Choir, Drama and Multimedia presentation. Refreshments to follow. Program geared for families and children of all ages.*

*Jan. 28, 2015: Wed. night at 6:30. Appreciation Banquet. Pastor Bissol and his wife Elaine will cater a special dinner in appreciation for family friends who have supported the church through the past year. The church 2015 calendar is also given out at this dinner. Visitors are welcome.*

*Feb. 11: Wed Evening. Valentine Social. Refreshments and a special speaker will speak on the subject of Biblical love. No charge and open to the public.*

*Feb. 28: Sat. at 5:30 pm. Annual Hunters' Banquet. Special speakers will share messages about hunting and trapping. Special dinner featuring game food and other dishes prepared by the ladies of the church, headed up by Evangelist Peter Accardi.*

### Clifford Baptist Church

During the fall, winter and spring, we will continue our mission to help others in the community and the world. We will maintain our May 19th project for collecting and delivering to the Susquehanna food bank non-perishable items and diapers. Also, we will again participate in the Samaritan's Purse shoe box program for Christmas. Collections will begin in November. Shoe boxes filled with soap, toothpaste, small school items (pens, pencils and paper) as well as hard candy and small toys will be sent to Africa to help children there. On October 26, during service at 10:00 am, a guest speaker from Samaritan's Purse, Jackie Krewson, will further explain the needs of the program and will bring pictures from 2012, showing some of the children we have helped. If you wish to help with this effort, you can fill an unwrapped box for a boy or a girl. Boxes should be returned by November 16 to the church or to Marvis Searle (570) 222-4503.

We will be conducting Christmas Eve worship on December 24 at 7:00 pm.

Please join us for worship at Clifford Baptist Church (the church on the hill) on Sundays at 10:00 am.

### Clifford United Methodist Church

*Chicken-n-Biscuit or Ham Dinner: Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2014, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. Take out or dine with us. Donation \$8.95. Includes dinner, dessert and drink.*