

Clifford Township Newsletter

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

Clifford Township Supervisors

We are ending a very difficult winter weatherwise. Fortunately, our efforts to outsource snow removal and road upkeep seems to have been successful. As mentioned at our last township meeting, we received more compliments than complaints concerning the township roads. Now, however, it is time to look toward spring road maintenance. Along with ditching, grading, and dust control of dirt roads, we have contacted the State for recommendations regarding how to write bids for the paved roads in the township. We have set aside money to continue paved road repairs on Elk View Drive and Welsh Hill Road.

During the winter months, more work was done inside on the township building and the new property we acquired across from the cemetery. With the coming of spring, we will continue our funding support of the Parks and Recreation Board's efforts in improving our recreation area. This year, hopefully, we will complete projects such as a picnic pavilion, benches, and improvements in the walking trail.

An additional project which is currently under discussion and final planning is a proposed "Children's Garden" promoted by the Clifford Historical Society. Final agreements and plans have not been completed at this date, but all the supervisors have agreed in principle to the development of this "adventure" garden and believe that it will be just one more improvement in the quality of life of our residents.

As always, the supervisors are continuing to work to make Clifford an even better place to live, and we invite all to our meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Community Center. Be part of the continued progress in the township.

The Great American Clean Up will be held May 2, 9 to 3 pm. Items to bring to the Community Center and cost is at www.cliffordtwp.com. Vests, gloves, and bags are available at Clifford Auto for picking up roadside trash. Leave full bags at nearest township road intersections. Call the township secretary 222-9364 for trash pickup.

Park and Recreation Board

The Clifford Township Parks and Recreation Donation brochure is inserted in this newsletter. The brochure lists all the ways you can help our beautiful community park grow. Act 13 gas funds, a grant from the Endless Mountains Heritage Region, and a DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Community Conservation Partnership Program grant have helped to get the park started. Much is still planned to be accomplished. See map on Children's Garden card. The township now owns 20.5 acres. All of this space will be utilized for recreational activities. The walking trail is now one-half mile. Long term plans have the trail at least doubling in size.

So come enjoy the park! Bring the young ones to play, take your dog for a nice walk (with doggy bags, please), watch a little league game or just sit by the stream and enjoy the peace and quiet. You will be impressed with the quality and beauty of the place.

Thanks to the supervisors and the Park and Recreation Board for all their donated time and efforts to make our township a great place to live.

Clifford Township Historical Society

On April 11 and 12 Frank Little Bear will be presenting the story of the Dugout Canoe to be recorded and added as a permanent audio addition to the canoe display. At one o'clock each day at the Community Center, Chrystal Photography will take pictures of you with Frank Little Bear for \$2. At two o'clock Frank Little Bear and his son Thomas Little Thunder Eagle Dance will perform in the gym of the Community Center. Native American refreshments and souvenirs are free. Other Native American items will be for sale.



Frank Little Bear

All ages will learn from and enjoy this very special event!

Grants from the Bradford County Arts Council and the Lackawanna Valley Heritage Region will help the historical society present this event free of charge so all can attend. By election day, May 19, the society hopes to have the

audio installed in the canoe display making that exhibit even more impressive.



The Historical Society, in cooperation with the P&R Board, the township supervisors and the Children's Garden Group, will start planning for the establishment of a Children's Garden on the land immediately east of the Community Center and park. The Historical Society will be involved in this project to apply for grants and make contributions tax deductible.

The Society will again make arrangements for Kevin Treat to present his woodcarving skills all three nights of the Firemen's Picnic. As last year, the carved items will be sold at auction on Saturday night, July 25. Mike Lopatofsky will again donate his auctioneering talents. We would like to make Mike work a bit harder this year by having additional antique, wooden or one-of-a-kind art works added to the auction. If you have an item to donate, contact Sandra Wilmot 570-679-2723. All auction proceeds benefit the Fire Company.

The firemen have asked the historical society to start a long-term project of establishing an Agricultural Museum at their picnic. Sadly, the family farms are disappearing. The Agricultural Museum will save farm memorabilia for future generations to see.

Our Yarns Cider Mill renovation at the Suraci Farm will continue later in the year. More stonework, a beautiful sign painted by Pat Wildenberg, painting and landscaping will enhance the surroundings. Ingenious volunteers will tackle the job of bringing the original pressing equipment back to operating condition.

The Clifford Baptist Church, the Museum of Local History, and the Hoover School will all be open the third Sunday each month, starting in May, from 1-4 pm. Continual additions to the sites, local stories and shared memories makes for a very enjoyable Sunday afternoon! Do come to see all we have to share!

Clifford United Methodist Church

106 Main Street, Clifford PA

Sunday Worship Service: 11 am

New Lay Pastor: Eric Watkins

Open Hearts, Open Doors All are welcome!

Chicken-n-Biscuit or Ham Dinner

Tue, May 19 - Wed, June 17 - Jul 15 - Aug 19
Sep 16 - Oct 21 - Tue, Nov 3 ... 4:00 to 6:00 pm

Take out or Dine with us. Donation: \$8.95

Includes dinner, dessert and drink

Vacation Bible School

June 22 - 26, 2015 ... 1:00 to 4:30 pm

Come join the fun learning about God with "Powering Through Mount Everest!" Enjoy Tie Dye Tuesday, Wet Wednesday and Field Day on Friday. Lots of fun crafts, songs, games, snacks and Bible Lessons! Be on the lookout for early registration opportunities. Questions? Call Dane Barhite 570-222-5493.

Music in the Park

Worship service at 10:30 am with contemporary and traditional Christian music to follow. Many local talents. **Sunday, August 2, 2015**, at the Clifford Firemen's Fairgrounds, Route 106, Clifford PA. Supported by local community churches.

Come when you can, leave when you must.

Refreshments available for a minimal charge.

Fun for the whole family!

Check our website: www.cliffordumc.wordpress.com

Elkdale Baptist Church of West Clifford PA

Regular services each week

Sunday School 10:00 am

Sunday Worship 11:00 am

Sunday Evening Service 7:00 pm

Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer 7:00 pm

Special Events Schedule

Apr 3 Friday at 7:00 pm Original Easter Musical entitled *Voices From the Upper Room* written by Pastor Frank Bissol, performed by Church Choir.

Apr 5 Easter Sunday, Communion am
Fellowship Dinner after the morning service.

May 10 Mother's Day Sunday. All mothers honored and will receive a special gift from the church

May 16 Saturday Eve at 5:30 pm. Annual Ladies Banquet with special guest speaker Mrs. Fred Schindler. Go to website www.elkdalebaptist.com to get free \$10 ticket for the event. Catered by the men of the Church.

May 17 Sunday all day 10 am, 11 am and 7 pm guest speaker Dr. Fred Schindler.

May 24 Sunday at 11 am. Children's Sunday.
A special message for children, a special treat for all the kids that attend and a special family dinner after the service.

June 21 Father's Day Sunday at 11 am. Special Father's Day service, a special gift for all fathers, and a dinner after the service honoring all fathers.

July 12 through 19 Annual Old Fashioned Tent Meeting Week. Special guest speakers every evening at 7:00 pm. Service each night except for Saturday the 18th. Special music, refreshments, and children's Bible school Monday through Friday. Children's day is Friday with a special picnic at 5:30 for all. Sunday the 19th, the week ends with a Barbecue Chicken Dinner. All activities are free and open to the public.

Aug 16 Children's Sunday, a special Giant Ice Cream Sundae Treat for the children after the service. The service is geared for the children.

Sep 6 Picture Sunday. Get a free family portrait 8x10 of your family, a free dinner will be after the morning service for all that attend and a place will be set up for family portraits to be taken.

St. James Church, Dundaff

During this bitterly cold weather, it is hard to imagine that we will be opening St. James in just a couple months, on May 24, Memorial Day weekend. Services will begin at 11:00 am; and, God willing, we will also have Fr. Peter Pearson returning as our celebrant. All baptised Christians, of every age and tradition are invited to share with us in the Bread and Wine of the Eucharist.

Despite the snow currently on the ground, some summer events are already being planned; and, while the dates are still to be determined, please keep your calendars handy to note.

Begin thinking 'rummage,' as a yard sale will be scheduled at some point. Also, the big summer event will be our annual Mass-in-the-Grass, combined guitar choir, and all-church picnic. Last year's picnic was enjoyed by more than 60 attendees, and we look forward to even more sharing our prayers, songs, and fun this year. Until then, stay warm, and we'll see you at church.

Montrose Area Adult School

Spring courses offered at the Clifford Community Center:

Genealogy

Instructor: Jeannie Bernstein, Published Genealogist
Six Thursdays beginning April 16 at 7:00 pm
Fee: \$30 plus \$5 for materials

Drawing Expeditions

Instructor, Lynda De Santis, artist
Four Mondays beginning April 6 from 6:30-8:00 pm
Fee: \$20

Conversational Spanish for Adult Learners

Instructor, Kathleen O'Connor-Bater, college teacher
Six Thursdays beginning April 9 at 7:00 pm
Fee: \$30

Yoga for Life, All Levels

Instructor, Tiffany Debish, yoga teacher
Eight sessions (Tues & Fri) two per week for four weeks beginning April 7 at 11:00 am
Fee: \$40

Information: www.montroseadultschool.org/class-directory/

Rail-Trail Council of NEPA *Calling all Runners!*

Online Registration now open for the 2015 D&H Distance Run/5K!

Rail-Trail Council is busy making plans for the 8th annual D&H Distance Run/5K. The race is scheduled for Sunday, September 13, and participants are encouraged to register early. This year it will be even easier for runners to register and "Go the Distance" with our new race website www.dhdistancerun.com.

In addition to providing a user-friendly outlet for registration, dhdistancerun.com includes detailed information on race day activities, the course fees, training and how to contact Rail-Trail if you would like to volunteer.

The D&H Distance Run continues to grow in leaps and bounds and last year's registration closed early after reaching our cap of 325 runners. This year we increased our registration to 400 runners and the race is shaping up to be our biggest event yet! The D&H Distance Run is Rail-Trail Council's major fundraiser and proceeds from the race benefit the continued development of the D&H Trail. For more information and to register, visit: dhdistancerun.com, runsignup.com/dhhalf, or www.nepa-rail-trails.org.

Rail- Trail Calendar

Mar 26 RTC Dinner/Meeting. Beacon Restaurant, Union Dale, 6/7 pm

Apr 18 D&H Rail-Trail cleanup. Forest City Trailhead, 9 am

Apr 23 RTC Dinner/Meeting. RTC Office/Cable's Deli, 6/7 pm

Apr 25 & 26 "Friends of the Starrucca Creek" cleanup. Lanesboro, SR 1009 & Trail intersection, 8 am

May 9 Endless Mountains Trail cleanup. Rose Road crossing to Alford, 9 am

May 17 "Secrets of the D&H" Hike. Thompson to Buck's Falls, 1 pm

May 28 RTC Dinner/Meeting. RTC Office/Cable's Deli, 6/7 pm

Jun 25 RTC Dinner/Meeting. Ben-Mar Restaurant, Carbondale, 6/7 pm

Jun 27 Panther's Bluff Hike. O&W Trailhead, Simpson, 10 am

Jul 19 Bike ride D&H Rail-Trail. Forest City Trailhead, 10 am

No Jul RTC Meeting.

TBD Aug 1 or 8 "Art on the Trail" 10 am - 4 pm. Local artists' display and trail events.

Aug 27 RTC Picnic/Meeting. Lake Idlewild Pavilion. Covered dish, BYOB, 5/6 pm (note earlier time)

Sep 13 D&H Distance Run. 9 am start, Forest City Trailhead.

Sep 26 D&H Rail-Trail bike ride with Southern Tier Bike Club, Union Dale Trailhead, 10 am

Rail-Trail Spring Cleanups

The Rail-Trail Council has registered two trail cleanups with *Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful* for this spring. The first will be a general trail cleanup scheduled for the D&H Rail-Trail from Simpson to Union Dale on April 18 at 9 am. Volunteers will meet at the Forest City trailhead and head either north or south. Bikers are welcome. Trash collected will be left trailside in bags to be picked up later.

The other cleanup will attack an illegal dumpsite on the Endless Mountains Trail, off of Rose Road, east of Montrose. It is scheduled for May 9 at 9 am. With the assistance of Pennsylvania Environmental Council, we are arranging to have a dumpster on site. We also are looking for the assistance of heavy machinery to pick up large items and get them into the dumpster.

New and improved Clifford Township website coming soon!
cliffordtownship.org (formerly cliffordtownship.com)

Clifford Township Volunteer Fire Company

Volunteerism, fundraising and apparatus replacement are the focus for 2015. Volunteerism is dwindling throughout the country and is no different in our home town. I'm sure many of you have seen or read the recent reports of many area volunteer ambulances closing their doors citing lack of volunteers and funding. The fire/rescue service in the region suffers from many of the same factors. There has been an approximate 70% reduction in active volunteers over the last two decades. Those reductions weigh heavily on all aspects of fire company operations, including administrative needs, field operations and fund raising. The normal response from perspective volunteers is "I don't have the time." The current volunteers are faced with family and work like most folks, yet they still manage enough time to help protect their fellow residents. We ask you to take some time and seriously consider volunteering with us in some compacity.

The major fundraisers start very soon. The first is the fund drive you will receive in the mail and this is one of the biggest sources of revenue for the department. Please donate to the best of your ability. Next is the annual picnic and this requires over 200 volunteers to operate. With help from you, the community, we are able to make this fund raising event a success.

Lastly, the fire company established an apparatus replacement program over 25 years ago that would provide the responders with the most up-to-date and safe apparatus while remaining fiscally responsible. As the response needs continue to change within our community, it is of utmost importance to continue apparatus replacement in small steps toward providing the best possible service. You will see some changes in apparatus for 2015. In March, the fire company took delivery of our new ambulance. It has many updated safety features for both responders and patients, along with a 4-wheel drive chassis for challenging terrain in the coverage area. In addition, the fire company has begun the process of replacing our rescue truck. This vehicle, along with the ambulance, are two of the most used pieces of apparatus in the fire station. Our old rescue truck has been sold and you will see a "reserve rescue" handling the incidents until the new rescue arrives.

Visit our company website www.cliffordfire.com or our facebook page for updates. These updates would not be possible without your financial help and your volunteerism. Please stop by to visit us and make every effort to get involved.

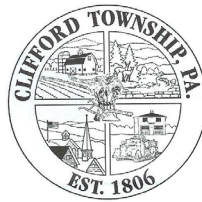


Detail from painting by Michelle Jaconia McLain

CTHS
PO Box 161
Clifford PA 18413

NEWSLETTER

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MOUNTAIN VIEW GARDEN CLUB

11th Annual Plant Exchange and Marketplace

Sunday, June 7, 2015
Clifford Fire Company Picnic Grounds
Route 106, Clifford PA

The Mountain View Garden Club held its first meeting of the spring season on March 17 at the Clifford Fire Hall. The program on organic farming was presented by Liz Piriczky from Overlook Farms at the Fuller Estate in Dalton. Upcoming meetings scheduled to be held at the fire hall include a presentation on flowers for pollinating on **April 18** and the art of bonsai on **May 19**. Both meetings will start at 7:00 and the public is invited.

On June 7 the garden club will sponsor its 11th annual **Plant Exchange & Marketplace** at the Clifford Firemen's Picnic Grounds. The marketplace will be held from 11:30 till 3:00 and will feature local artisans, food and music. The plant exchange and sale will be held from 1:00 till 3:00 with perennials for sale from local gardens. You also have the option of bringing two potted perennials from your own garden to exchange for two perennials of like size and value. Many local gardens have benefited from our plant exchange and sale over the years by obtaining very reasonably priced perennials which have been locally grown.

The garden club provides book scholarships each year to a graduating senior from both Mountain View and

Forest City High Schools. The student must be enrolled in a college or university or certificate program to pursue his or her interest in a career related to the environment, land, horticulture or ecology. Some of the many possible majors include agriculture, forestry, biology and landscape architecture.

Another project of Mountain View Garden Club is to encourage community pride in keeping our surrounding areas in good repair, clean and attractive. An annual *Home Town Pride Award* is given to a business or organization which has shown a commitment to beautification of the Elk Mountain area and surrounding communities.

For additional information on the garden club, their programs and activities, contact membership chair Mary Ann O'Pecko at maopecko2000@yahoo.com or 570-785-5691

