

Clifford Township Newsletter

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

From the Supervisors

The Clifford Township Supervisors look forward to an active and productive summer construction season. As you are aware our efforts last fall centered on work on the building to meet codes required for the Endless Mountain Learning Center. Now that the center is established and functioning, we can, with the help and recommendations of the Park and Recreation Commission, return our efforts on the Park Area.

Our plans are to complete the year round outdoor bathrooms, multipurpose court, and soccer field. As well as (if the grant applied for is approved) building a bridge across the creek before winter. In addition, we have approved funds to assist with the "Children's Garden" building bathrooms and roofing.

We are extremely pleased with the number of "walkers" who have availed themselves of our walking trails and look forward to an active baseball season. As always our goal is to make our Park a safe, high quality, and user friendly experience for all of our citizens. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of the volunteers who have worked to make this happen and invite all to take a little time out of their schedule to see the progress being made.

We look forward to seeing you on the second Tuesday of every month at 7 pm at our monthly Supervisor's Meeting and invite your suggestions as to what other efforts can be made to improve the quality of life of our citizens.

Other Township News

The recycling program has been operating successfully. The recycling bins are available for public use all day, every day. All recyclables can be comingled in the bins. A sliding door on the side of one bin makes for easy loading. This system will remain in use as long as it is not

abused. Please check the Township website www.cliffordtownship.org for information on items eligible for recycling.

The Township Secretary, Christy Bennet, is hard at work adding all township businesses to the township website for easy reference for folks needing their services. Please help with this huge job by contacting her at cliffordtownship@yahoo.com with your business information.

Dick Vauter was approved as our new road master. He can be reached at the township office (570)222-9364.

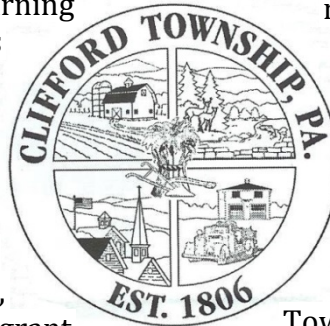
Township Supervisors voted to purchase an additional seven acres of property adjacent to the rear of the park. Act 13 Funds will be used for the purchase. Preparation is underway to apply for a DCNR acquisition grant that, if funded, will reimburse the township for half of the purchase price. This additional acreage will offer space to more than double the walking trail and provide open space to fly kites, drones and model airplanes, offer a full-size soccer field and other open space for a variety of activities. Soon there will be something for everyone to enjoy at the park and hopefully all township residents will visit this very special addition to our community.

Mountain View Garden Club

Save the Dates!

March 15th: Organic gardening with Sheryl Popkin; **April 18th:** Growing Lavender with Gayle O'Brien from Humming Hill Lavender Farm & Apiary; **May 17th:** "Paint Your Garden" demonstration by artist Joe Kluck

All meetings are open to the public and held at the Clifford Fire Hall at 7:00 pm. For more information, contact Mary Ann O'Pecko at maopecko2000@yahoo.com or (570)785-5691.



Clifford Township Volunteer Fire Company

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 multiple area volunteer ambulances closing their doors citing lack of volunteers and lack of funding. The fire/rescue service in the region suffers from many of the same factors. There has been an approximate 80% reduction in active volunteers over the last two decades. Those reductions weigh heavily on all aspects of the Fire Company operations. This stretches from 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. Clifford Fire Company will be launching a significant recruiting campaign in 2016 for all disciplines within the fire station. We ask you take some time and seriously consider volunteering with us at some capacity.

The major fundraisers start very soon. The first you will see is the fund drive you will receive in the mail. This is one of the biggest sources of revenue for the department. Please donate to the best of your ability. This will be followed by the annual picnic. The event requires over 200 volunteers to operate. With the help of 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 the most up-to-date, 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 to our community.

We told you in 2015 the company was in the process of replacing its heavy rescue. This vehicle provides life-saving resources for all disciplines your fire company responds to including vehicle

accidents, fires, hazardous material incidents to technical rescues such as high angle, confined space, trench, silo and many more. We are happy to report that the new rescue is nearing completion and is expected to arrive in April. You will see it around town working through operator training along with crew orientation. The volunteers will spend countless hours mounting tools and readying the rescue for its in-service which is expected the end of May.

None of this would be possible without your help – both financially and your volunteerism. Please stop by and visit us and make every effort to get involved.

Please Join the Ladies Auxiliary at the 4th Annual Ladies Night Out



When/Where: Saturday April 23rd
Clifford Fire Hall
Doors Open at 5:00 PM
Games Start at 6:00 PM

Tickets: \$20.00 in Advance
20 Games on 20 Boards
250 Tickets, First Come First Serve

Advance tickets available at:

- *Ellie DeFazio's Hair Salon*
- *Bella Pizza*
- *Smoke Shop*
- *Clifford Supply*
- *Endless Mountains Pharmacy*
- *Purchase from any Auxiliary member or call Ellie DeFazio at (570)222-4105*



Special games for an additional price, offering Coach Purse prizes for 3 of the 5 games!

Food and baked goods will be available for purchase.

Clifford Township Historical Society

2016 will be another busy year for the Historical Society members and volunteers. During the winter, work has continued in the Museum of Local History. Last month a general store was added to the museum representing the many local general stores in our area. Our shelves are stocked with merchandise for sale as well as items for display only. Adjacent to the General Store is a barber shop/doctor's office with many old remedies on display.



A special exhibit honoring Owen Phillips, Clifford's Civil War hero, is now located in the hallway alcove.

Next winter, a major addition to the museum will be an area of panels displaying pictures and written materials covering all areas and facets of life in the past.

Richard Burdick donated a beautifully framed blueprint of the elementary school. We are asking for copies of class pictures to add to this exhibit. Please email scanned copies to peltz@nep.net or mail to CTHS, PO Box 161, Clifford, PA 18413.

Our museum is open every third Sunday 1 to 4 PM. In the future the society hopes to train more docents to give tours so the museum can be open to the public every Sunday. The Baptist Church and Hoover School are open to the public the same time April through October.

Work will continue on the renovation of the Yarns Cider Mill at the Suraci Farm, bringing that major project ever closer to completion.

There is much to be done on the Children's Garden but many hands make light work. So far 32 young people, Harford Girl Scout Troop 50774, plus many adults have created the beginning of this

unique acre of learning and exploring. Township supervisors have supported the installation of a bathroom and other improvements in the Garden House. Plans are to add a log cabin and covered wagon at the early settler's farmstead, an Indian Village and a dinosaur nest and mural this Spring and early Summer. The Garden is open to the public for you to explore. We hope to have our Grand Opening later this year, although the Garden will not be completely finished for at least another year.



Girl Scout Troop 50774 Painting at the Garden

Our homemade jelly, jam and apple butter fundraiser continues with jars at \$5.00. Election Day, April 26th, jelly sales will be held in the museum room - not in the hallway - so please come visit us! Jars are also for sale at Country Hearth Antiques, Endless Mountains Pharmacy, Clifford Supply, Dunnier's Country Store and Idlewild Ski Shop. We thank these businesses for their support!

We have also registered with Amazon Smile. This is a program through Amazon, please visit <http://org.amazon.com>. They will donate five cents to our society for every dollar spent on eligible products at Amazon. Five cents isn't a lot but if enough folks participate, it adds up to a nice amount to help fund our projects. Look for us if you shop at Amazon!

Our thanks go out to all who continue to support the society's many efforts. Without your help our plans would never become reality.

Our Agricultural Museum at the Clifford Vol. Firemen's Picnic was enjoyed by many last July.

This year we will add even more hands-on activities for all ages to “experience” the past. The Society will also again host chain saw carver Kevin Treat, with support from UGI Energy Services. Donated antiques and Mr. Treat’s carvings will be auctioned on Saturday night. If you have any old items that you would be willing to donate, please contact Sandy Wilmot at (570)679-2723. We will gladly clean, refinish or restore whatever items you might have. Mark your calendar for the firemen’s picnic – July 28, 29 and 30th.

Tax Collector

Janice “Jan” Price is the newly appointed Tax Collector for Clifford Township. She replaces Harry Philips who retired after 18 years. Jan is a lifetime resident of the township, residing at her current address for over 30 years.

Her office is located at 247 State Route 2012. You may enter and park in the driveway adjacent to the ramp and enter through the front door. A silver box located near the entrance door serves as the mail slot. Her phone number is 570-222-4210. If no answer, please leave a message. She will generally be in the office in the morning. The exception will be on April 19, 21, 22, 26, 28 and 29, office hours will be noon to 4:00 PM.



Montrose Area Adult Classes in Clifford

The Montrose Area Adult School created a satellite site in Clifford several years ago. During fall and spring, courses are offered in the Clifford area to accommodate students closer to home. The spring term begins April 4th and includes these five classes:

Basket Making: Instructor: Charlie Ahearn, four Thursdays beginning April 20 at 10:00 am in the Clifford Community Center. Fee is \$20 plus a small materials fee.

Canine Behavior: Instructor Ann Vitale, two Saturdays, May 7th and May 14th at 10am in the Clifford Community Center. Fee is \$10.00

Creative Writing: Instructor, Ann Vitale, four Thursdays beginning April 7th at 6:00 pm in the Clifford Community Center. Fee is \$20.00

Create a Sampler Quilt: Instructor Catherine Wallace, six Thursdays beginning April 7th at 1pm. This class is held in the instructor's home studio and directions are provided with confirmation. Fee is \$30.00

Yoga for Life: Instructor Tiffany Debish, eight sessions on Tuesdays and Fridays beginning April 12th at 9am in the Clifford Community Center with a fee of \$40.00

A complete listing of classes and printable registration forms can be found at www.montroseadultschool.org. Questions? Contact info@montroseadultschool.org or (570)432-0184.

More Mountain View Garden Club News! Plants! Flowers! Crafts! Refreshments!

Come join the fun and festivities on Sunday, June 5th at the **12th Annual Plant Exchange and Marketplace**, sponsored by the Mountain View Garden Club at the Clifford Fire Company picnic grounds. From 1 to 3 PM, there will be a wide variety of perennials for sale at very reasonable prices, with an option to bring 2 from your garden to exchange. Starting at 11:30, many local artisans and businesses will sell paintings, photography, jewelry, maple syrup, mustard, apple butters and jellies, herbal soaps and lotions, garden equipment, herbs and annuals, trees, shrubs and hanging baskets. Food stand proceeds will benefit the Clifford Fire Company. Live music will add to the party. For additional details, please call JoAnn at 570-222-3591 or visit www.mountainviewgardenclub.org.



Clifford United Methodist Church

Located at: 106 Main Street, Clifford, PA
Sunday Worship Service: 11 am
Children's Sunday School: During Worship
Lay Pastor: Eric Watkins
Open Hearts, Open Doors
All are Welcome!

"Moms in Prayer" meets every Monday evening at Clifford Church from 6:30 to 7:30 pm.
All women are welcome!

Mark Your Calendars!

Chicken-n-Biscuit or Ham Dinner

April 26th, May 18th, June 15th, and July 20th
4:00 to 6:00 pm
Take out or dine with us
Donation \$8.95
Includes dinner, dessert & drink



Vacation Bible School

June 13th-17th
1:00 to 4:45 pm

Come join the fun learning about God with "Finding the Light of Jesus through Cave Quest"! 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. Questions? Call Dane Barhite at (570)222-5493.

Clifford Baptist Church

Chicken BBQ

When: Saturday, April 16th

Pick-up dinners from 11:30 -12:30pm

What: Chicken BBQ dinner includes chicken, potato, baked beans, cole slaw, roll and cupcake.

Cost: \$10.00

Please pre-order by April 2nd by calling (570)222-4210 or (570)281-7405 or by purchasing a ticket from any church member.

Tickets sponsored by Atty. Joseph McGraw



St. James, Dundaff, Prepares For Summer

Well, this has been a rather mild winter for Northeast Pennsylvania, where Crystal Lake sits normally frozen and quiet through April, but the Christmas tree had already fallen into the lake on March 2. Regardless, the vestry and congregation at St. James are busily planning for summer. Notice our new paint job and bright red doors.

Regular worship services on Sunday mornings will begin May 29th at 11:00 am to accommodate Father Peter Pearson from SSs James and George in Jermyn. He will be our Eucharistic celebrant and pastor for the summer. We welcome all who are visiting us

and want you to know that all baptized Christians, of every age and tradition, are invited to share with us in the Bread and Wine of the Eucharist. Anyone not wanting communion can approach the communion rail with arms crossed and receive a blessing from the priest.

St. James, Dundaff, is located on Route 247, Dundaff Corners, near Crystal Lake in Clifford Township. Please call Senior Warden Bob Schreiber, (570)780-4356, for more information.



St. John's Russian Orthodox Church

St. John's Russian Orthodox Church will be holding its annual Mother's Day Dinner on Sunday, May 10th at their Hall in Dundaff. Take outs are available from 10:30 am and dinner is served at noon until sold out. Featured will be 1/2 BBQ Chicken, mashed potatoes will all the trimmings, piggies and dessert. Come and bring Mom for a delicious and festive meal!

Reservations may be made by calling Mary Congdon at (570)222- 3293.

St. John Vianney
7th Annual Summer Rummage & Bake Sale

Where: Corpus Christi Church, 704 Montdale Road, Scott Twp.

When: The sale will be held Friday, July 8th through Sunday, July 10th.

Doors will be open July 8th from 9 to 2 pm, July 9th from 9 to 6:30 pm, and July 10th from 9 to 2 pm.

What: Filling 6,000 square feet, items for sale will include clothing, children's toys, household items, books and furniture.



All proceeds benefit St. John Vianney Parish.

Elkdale Baptist Church of West Clifford

Children's Sunday: Sunday Morning April 10th at 11:00 am. The entire service is focused on the children with a message geared to young people and special children's music.



Special guest speaker George Dubish Missionary to India is visiting this month. He will present a special Missions Message just for the children. There will be a special treat for the children after the morning service.

Recreational Music program. If there is enough interest in the community the Elkdale Baptist Church is offering a free introductory music class called **"GOD MADE MUSIC"**. The class will be geared toward adults who always wanted to learn the piano. Music is therapeutic and promotes spiritual wellness, as well as physical and mental health benefits. Pastor Frank Bissol will be offering a short course on Easy Play, Hymn Style

Music Lessons. Learn to play four easy Hymns in just four weeks. If you are interested in participating in these lessons, email Pastor Bissol at bissol@nep.net or call him at (570)352-5501. The church has a piano lab set up and can accommodate up to eight students.



Ladies Banquet: On May 14th at 5:30 pm, Elkdale Baptist Church Of West Clifford will have its annual Ladies Banquet with guest speaker Mrs. Linda Schindler. The Dinner is catered by the men of the church and there is no charge for the event. Mrs. Schindler is from Exton, PA, and has a great testimony having lost her husband to cancer. She will share great insight about how to trust the Lord in times of suffering and need.

FITNESS CLASSES

Exercise Classes at the Community Center

The exercise classes have been a great success. Classes will continue beginning April 4th and will run for seven weeks. The program is run by Patti Walker, certified fitness and Pilates instructor. Patti has instructed various fitness classes and small group training at the Carbondale YMCA for the past six years. She works with many levels of fitness, modifying as needed, and challenging those who are looking for more difficult workouts.

Classes offered are: **Circuit Fitness Training**, 30 min. class focused on toning core & cardio exercises. **Mon/Fri, Session 1** 7:30- 8 am; **Session 2** 8:20-8:50 am. These are 2 different classes.

Yoga/Pilates Class, Mon 9am. Improves flexibility, works core and balance, 45 minutes.

Sign up for ALL classes, any combination 2 days for \$70 for 7 weeks, 1 day any combination \$50 or \$10 per class. For more information contact Patti at walkerpatti102@yahoo.com or (570)-430-7420.