

Clifford Township Newsletter

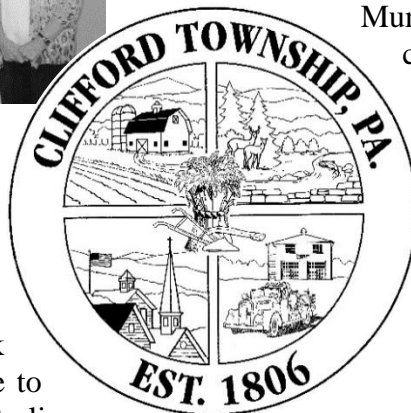
Sponsored by the Clifford Twp. Supervisors, Community Alliance and Historical Society

From the Supervisors

The Clifford Township Supervisors wish to sincerely thank all the individuals who have volunteered their time to be members of Boards, Committees, Clubs, and made individual efforts to improve the township including the Historical Society. Your efforts have not going unnoticed. Last fall the Township received the Countryside Conservancy 2018 Stewardship Award, for work done by the Parks and Recreation Committee, and all our volunteers in improving our park.



On February 21th, The Township received a recognition award from the Greater Carbondale Chamber of Commerce for progress made in improving the quality of life for our residents. We once again thank everyone who has given so much time to make Clifford Township, a good place to live.



We would also like to thank our road crew contractors. We have, as you are aware, several snow, ice, rain, events this winter. Barhites Excavating has been up to the task to keep the roads safe and have shown great response time when emergency repairs to township roads have had to be made.

We have finalized the installation of an emergency generator at the Municipal Building and are working with the Fire Company and Red Cross to become an emergency response shelter. Thank you to Phil Price for taking the lead in this effort. Along the same line, Clifford Township is one of the first in the area to be

FEMA compliant with the acceptance of our Hazard Mitigation Plan. Again thank you to Phil and Joan.

A repeated concern we hear at our township meetings is the lack of a grocery store, bank, and other commercial businesses. We are discussing with several firms to develop a plan to attract more families to the township which will in turn give us the population base to attract more businesses.

The Fire Company and EMS personnel are stretched to a breaking point. We keep calling on the same people but we need "New Blood." *If we are to continue to improve the township we need your help.* We once again invite our citizens to come to the Township Supervisor's monthly meeting on the **second Tuesday of each month at 7pm** at the Municipal Building. Let us know your concerns and issues. Please if you have not done so yet, volunteer and become part of the team that is moving Clifford Township into the future.

2nd ANNUAL FAMILY FUN BIKE RIDE

To Benefit the Susquehanna County Recreation Center

8am to 12:15pm
Saturday, May 11, 2019

CLIFFORD COMMUNITY PARK
119 Cemetery Street, Clifford, PA

Chicken BBQ to follow

Go to www.suscorec.org to register for ride and/or reserve Chicken BBQ



All Ages Welcome!!

WIN A BIKE – WIN A BIKE

(Weather Permitting Reschedule Date: May 18th)

Clifford Township Historical Society

Tour guides of the society will soon be sharing their enthusiasm for our local history when the Hoover School, the historic Baptist Church and the Museum of Local history are open to the public the **third Sunday of each month April through October, 1pm to 4 pm**. The Museum of Local history is also open **Election Day, 9am till 7pm** at the Clifford Community Center. Our homemade jam and jellies are available for sale in the Museum and Hoover School. Our website, Clifford Township Historical Society.org and our app- Clifford township historical society- have directions and additional information on all our venues.

The Clifford Children's Garden, located next to the park, is open dawn till dark for everyone to visit. Bring your young ones to this safe, fenced in area to explore all the different areas of the garden based on the history of our area. The Native American long house, Miller homestead, dinosaur nest and Clifford Coal mine shaft offer a unique play experience. Signage throughout the garden offers historical information that offer a learning opportunity for all ages. Parking is available next to the house at the garden. Bathrooms are also available in the house and are ADA compliant. More areas of the garden are planned so families can enjoy new adventures in the future.

The society's Agricultural Museum at the Clifford Volunteer Firemen's Picnic is open each night of the Picnic and has proven to be a popular addition to all the other activities. Hand operated farm machines of the past are available to shell and grind corn, grind bones and wash clothes, bringing the past into the present. So mark your calendars for **July 25th, 26th and 27th**. The Historical Society also arranges for Kevin Treat, talented wood carver, to display his talents carving items to be auctioned on Saturday night to benefit our outstanding fire company.

If you order products through Amazon.com and would like to help support the historical society just sign in at smile.amazon.com and Amazon will send the society .5% of all your purchases. Amazon has donated over \$100,000 million so far to charities so there is a potential for non- profits such as Clifford Twp. Historical to benefit from this program – with your help of course!!!

Clifford Twp. Volunteer Fire Department

2018 saw one of the busiest years on record for your volunteers with a total of 989 dispatches for service. This number is for fire, rescue and ambulance.

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 is sharing in this nationwide crisis. Bottom line we need help to continue to protect our community. We ask you take some time and seriously consider volunteering with us at some capacity.



There are multiple major fund raising events that will be rolled out throughout the year. The first our township residents should have already received is the huge "Clifford Cash" raffle!! This is a great fundraising opportunity for the fire company and also you the ticket holder. With 100% of the tickets sold, this raffle will offer over 50 prizes with a total purse of \$147,500!!!!!! If you did not receive an application, please contact us at (570)222-CASH for the application. The applications will also be at businesses throughout the township and available on line. Don't miss out! Secondly, the annual fund drive will be in the mail in the May time frame. 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, **July 25th, 26th and 27th**. 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.

You may ask yourself why all the fundraising events? The answer is simple, you all know how much your household expenses have increased, take that number and increase it at a much steeper rate. Fuel, electric, heating – all those things we face at home. Now couple that with new requirements for apparatus and personal protective gear for each responding member and you have an annual budget that is very difficult to meet.

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.*

Clifford Volunteers

Last issue's article on Phil Price, recognized by the VFW for his outstanding volunteer work, has prompted a new feature. We will be highlighting other volunteers in future newsletters, hoping to inspire more people to get involved. Our dedicated volunteers make Clifford a wonderful place to live. To nominate people to be recognized, please contact Joan Hertzog at 570-222-9364.



Alan Fortuner

“Honest” Al, as he is referred to by his fellow Clifford Township Volunteer Fire Company members, has been a guiding force in the department for many years. An EMT since 1981, he feels he uses those skills and training all the time. It has taught him to remain calm while handling other stressful situations in life, making him a better person. It is important to him that he has helped a lot of people in the community.

His efforts are “my little way of trying to make our community better”.

Alan is proud of the “very talented bunch” keeping the Fire Company going. He describes it as a well-oiled machine of dedicated people. All have something to offer, and do special jobs they are good

at. He speaks of the “tradition of hard work”, with an example of the Clifford Picnic, which he describes as Clifford’s “Old Home Week”. Many families with their friends run the various booths, including Al’s, at the Pizza Stand. It is a standing commitment to Clifford during the last full week in July.

Al has been President of the Fire Company since 2005. His special financial knowledge and leadership skills help with grants, loans, working with state politicians, and running meetings. He is proud of the good working relationship now enjoyed with Clifford Township supervisors. He is accessible during many workdays from his Johnson Motors business and he frequently drives the tanker to fires. The Fire Company is averaging 2 calls per day, a heavy load for a volunteer force.

Many volunteers’ hard work over the last 70 years has made the Clifford Fire Company what it is today: the best of the best. Al does have concerns about making sure it continues into the future. The company meets every Monday night. Anyone interested in volunteering can fill out an application. Junior members, ages 14-18, will learn the value of being part of an organization. Not everyone is on the front line of fighting fires, as there are many other jobs including fund raising and stuffing envelopes!

“It’s your community, and if you try to make it a better place, you will.” *-Thank YOU Al!*

2019 Clifford Parkfest!

We are already planning the 2019 Clifford Parkfest! Saturday, **September 7th, 10am to 5pm.**

This year's theme... Wild, Wild West. Go back in time with special guests, "Shadows of the Old West," where you will take a trip back in time to the days of cowboys, Billy the Kid, and the OK Corral.

The park will be filled to capacity with crafters, antiques, great food, horse and carriage/pony rides, Bounce Party, face painting, bake sale, basket raffle, DJ, and a chili cook-off.

So, bring your whole family and as always join us in the park for a fun filled day! See ya all!

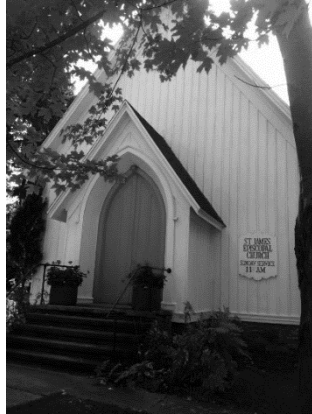
All vendors, entertainment, and chili entries contact Donna Jacoby at djacoby433@gmail.com or 570-280-8636.

Clifford Township Memorial Brick

Engraved Memorial Bricks are still available for anyone wishing to make a purchase. Contact the township secretary at 570-222-9364 or visit www.CliffordTownship.org for more information.

St. James, Dundaff

Regular worship services are on Sunday mornings and will begin on Memorial Day weekend **May 26th at 10:30am**. Our pastors this summer will be Deacon John Davis for May and June and Father Peter Pearson for July and August. 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.



Cleanup Day will be Tuesday, **May 14th, 9am to 12pm** We will be having a yard sale in conjunction with Christ Church, Forest City, on Saturday, **July 20th** at St. James. Come and find your treasure.

St. James, Dundaff, is located at 2074 Route 247, Dundaff Corners, near Crystal Lake in Clifford Township. Please call Senior Warden Bob Schreiber, 570-780-4356, for more information.



Join retired district forester Jim Kessler for a spring hike on the D&H trail in Union Dale on **May 4th at 10am**. We will meet at the Rail-Trail office at 948 N. Main St. Union Dale Pa 18470. This two hour hike will take us to places on and off the trail where we will discover hidden secrets of Spring!

June 23rd Let's Celebrate the connection of the D&H Rail- Trail and the LHRV trail with a bike ride and lunch. Bike from Ararat to Carbondale (20 miles downgrade) and enjoy lunch at Hotel Anthracite. Bikes available for rent and transportation to Ararat.

Registration is required for bike ride and lunch. More details and pricing to come, please see our website and facebook or email us at trails@nep.net.

September 8th - 11th annual D&H ½ Marathon and 5k on the D&H Rail-Trail **9am** Forest City – check www.dhdistanacerun.com for more information

Clifford United Methodist Church

Clifford United Methodist Church,
106 Main Street, Clifford, PA
Sunday Worship Service: **11am**
Pastor: Pat Hanley
Open Hearts, Open Doors-All are Welcome!

Chicken-n-Biscuit or Ham Dinner
Tuesday, May 21st, Wednesday, June 19th, July 17th, August 21st, September 18th, October 16th & Tuesday, November 5th. 4pm to 6pm
Take out or Dine with us
Donation \$9.95 includes dinner, drink & dessert.

Vacation Bible School

The "Mane" Event



Clifford United Methodist Church
June 24th-28th 1pm to 4:45pm
Come join the fun! Discover how when life gets wild, God is Good at Clifford's Roar Vacation Bible School. Register online at www.cliffordumc.org, click the VBS link and complete your registration. You can also register Sunday, **June 23rd from 3pm to 6pm** at Clifford UMC or the first day of VBS at VBS check-in beginning at 12:00 noon. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged to make you and your child's first day run smoother. Questions? Call or email Director, Dane Barhite, at (570)222-5493, danebarhite@gmail.com.

Music in the Park Sunday, **August 4, 10:30am**
Worship Service with Contemporary and Traditional Christian Music to follow. Many local talents at the Clifford Fireman's Fairgrounds Route 106. Refreshments available for a minimal charge. Check out our website: www.cliffordumc.org.

St. John the Baptist Russian Orthodox Church

St. John the Baptist Russian Orthodox Church in Dundaff will be holding its annual Mother's Day dinner on **May 12th**. Featured will be 1/2 BBQ chicken, mashed potatoes with gravy, piggies, vegetable, beverage and dessert. Takeouts available from **10:30am until noon**. Dinners will be served from **noon until 2pm** or until sold out. Please call 570-222-3293 to place an order.

Mountain View Garden Club

On Tuesday, **April 16 at 7pm** the garden club will be holding a public meeting on the Spotted Lanternfly at the Clifford Fire Hall. Vincent Cotrone, a Penn State Urban Forester, will do a presentation on the Spotted Lanternfly threat which is moving toward our area of Pennsylvania. This invasive, non-native species could be devastating to our trees! Please spread the word with friends and neighbors about this public meeting so we can all be more aware and on the lookout for this deadly insect.

May 21st The Garden Club meeting will be held at the Fire Hall on the with Naturalist and Herbalist Charlene Wilde doing a presentation on Herbal Rubs & Seasonings.

The annual Plant Exchange & Marketplace will be held on Sunday, **June 2** at the Clifford Township Community Center, 119 Cemetery Street, Clifford. The Marketplace will feature local artisans from **11:30am until 3pm** and the plant exchange and sale will be held from **1pm until 3pm**. We will have lots of perennials grown in area gardens sold at reasonable prices or you may bring two potted perennials from your garden to exchange for two plants of like size or value. There will be food vendors, music and the 2nd Hand Rose flea market. The Children's Garden and Historical Society will also be open.

The garden club gives annual \$750 scholarships to deserving seniors from both Forest City and Mountain View High Schools who are enrolled in a college, university, trade school or certificate program and have an interest in nature and/or the environment. Application forms can be found on our website www.mountainviewgardenclub.org. The Hometown Pride Award is presented annually to a local business which makes improvements to their

establishment's exterior, thereby helping to beautify the area.

Meetings are generally held on the third Tuesday of the month at the Clifford Fire Hall with informational and entertaining programs. Garden Club dues is \$25 per year. For more information on the garden club, contact Membership Chair Louise Guszick at imguszick@aol.com or 570-222-2233.

Elkdale Baptist Church

April 19th, at 7pm Easter Musical "Take Up Your Cross" Free to the public, refreshments to follow.

April 21st, Easter Sunday Service, Special Easter Dinner after the morning service. General public invited to this special Resurrection Sunday Service and free dinner to follow.

Saturday, May 18th Annual Ladies Banquet with Guest speaker Linda Schindler.

Sunday, May 19th 11am and 7pm Special guest speaker Dr. Fred Schindler.

Sunday, May 26th Special Memorial Day Service and dinner to follow.

Sunday, July 14th through the 21st.

Annual Tent meeting and Bible school week **7pm – 8:30pm.**

Closing with a special BBQ Chicken dinner on Sunday, **July 21st**. Monday through Friday 7pm to 8:30pm each evening. The Bible School Theme is "*Giddyup Junction..*" "*Taking God's Love to New Frontiers..*"

Sunday September 1st Picture Sunday, a free family portrait will be taken of each family that attends.

Sunday School for all ages at **10am**, Morning Worship at **11am**, Sunday Evening Hymn Sing and Bible Study Service at **7pm** and Wednesday Evening Prayer and Bible Study at **7pm**. For more information call or visit 570-222-3723, www.ElkdaleBaptist.com or ElkBaptist@nep.net.



You can now drop off gently used items at the new Salvation Army Donation Bin located behind the Community Center. For larger items to be picked up you can call 1-800-SA-TRUCK to schedule an appointment.



Reminder:

Township recycling does not accept plastic bags. Please wait to drop off your recyclables if the bins are full. You can find a complete list of acceptable recyclables at CliffordTownship.org

Thank you!



**CLIFFORD TOWNSHIP
ANNUAL CLEAN-UP DAY
SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2019
9am - 12am**

Bring items to the Community Center.

Cost for a pickup truck size load of miscellaneous small items is \$30 for a full truck load. \$15 a half truck load.

Large items have an individual charge.

A detailed list can be found at www.CliffordTownship.org under Recycling/Spring Clean-Up or call (570) 222-9364.



A special Thank You! to Robo Keating and all of the people who have helped make this event possible for the last 17+ years!!!

CTHS
PO Box 161
Clifford, PA 18413

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Or Current Resident