

# Clifford Township Newsletter

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

## News From the Supervisors

The Clifford Township Supervisors are very happy with the increased and positive public interest in the current operations and future of the township. We have been looking at the local newspaper reports on the meetings of other townships. Many are highlighted with complaints and arguments.

We are fully aware that, "you can't please all the people all the time." Over the last year the meetings have become more of a team effort between citizens making recommendations, and the supervisors attempting to implement those recommendations we deem most appropriate.

Central to that effort is the Clifford Township Advisory Committee. This committee consisting of representatives from our many organizations such as the "Clifford Alliance," the Clifford Fire Company, Historical Society and interested individual citizens, conducted a survey (about 1400 surveys were sent out) about 14 months ago. Those results are the basis for action issues that we continue to work on.

Clifford Township has many of the same issues and concerns as other townships in our area. The Supervisors are attempting to keep all of our citizens informed of our actions to address those issues and concerns. We make our monthly meeting minutes public record on our website. When we are considering new ordinances, we put them on the website BEFORE we act on them. [www.cliffordtownship.com](http://www.cliffordtownship.com) We want and need public comment early and often. We want the citizens to become part of the solution.

Last month the committee recommended that we look into retrofitting the municipal building with more insulation and more energy efficient windows. We are studying what we can do and at what cost. We will be looking for volunteer labor to assist in keeping the cost to an absolute minimum. There will be more to follow on that recommendation.

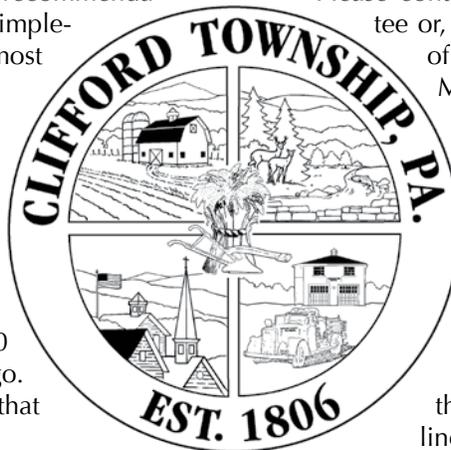
More long term we are looking at developing a "Comprehensive Plan" for the township. The Advisory Committee has done some initial investigation and has recommended people for us to talk to. Some may ask why are we looking at this, "I like our area as it is, and don't want anything changed".

As you are aware, our township is changing already. "Gas drilling" is coming closer each day with its anticipated good and bad effects on the lifestyle of the township. We see an increase of new people moving into the area. We are changing from an almost 100% farming community 50 years ago

to "what??" That question is why we need to put together a plan for the future. The future and changes are coming to Clifford Township. They cannot be stopped. We must be proactive and plan for what we want, or our township may change to what we don't want. More will be forthcoming on that long-range project. As is our standard procedure for the township, whatever we are considering will be made public BEFORE adoption and every citizen will have the opportunity to give input early and often.

Please contact the members of the Advisory Committee or, better yet, attend their meetings to be part of the solution. Or even better, come to the Monthly Township Supervisor meeting the second Monday of the month at 7 PM and tell us what you think. This monthly input to the supervisors makes "running the township" a team effort.

One final note: Please help clean up the township. Now that the snow is gone, we have been noticing cans, bottles, and trash along the roads of the township. Please take the time to walk, either side of your property line and pick up the trash. It is good exercise, and it will help the township look better.



## Spring Clean Up and Recycling

Our township is again offering Spring Clean Up so citizens can dispose of larger items. It is a perfect time to get rid of your old TVs, appliances, computers, furniture, or a truckload of assorted smaller items. The date is Saturday, April 16, from 8 AM to 3 PM at the township building. A schedule of fees and a list of acceptable materials can be found on the township's web site at [www.cliffordtownship.com](http://www.cliffordtownship.com) or call 222-9364.

Regularly scheduled recycling will also take place that day (third Saturday of the month). Volunteers are always needed to assist with this effort. There is a donation box on site to help defray the monthly costs of \$300. Please take advantage of this recycling effort and provide a donation if possible.

## Clifford Township Fire, Rescue and EMS

After answering nearly 500 emergencies in 2010, the Clifford Township Volunteer Fire Company is off to a record pace so far for 2011. To date, the volunteers have answered over 100 emergency calls. With the township's growth, the increased call volume is only forecasted to trend upward.

Along with the emergency runs, the crews keep a steady schedule of training. The month of March has seen 6 members complete a 16 hour fire fighter survival course held in

Montrose. This course is designed to teach the fire fighters how to self-rescue in the event they become trapped or impeded within a structure during a fire. It is something one does not want to think of; however, it is a reality every time a fire fighter enters a burning building. The course was an excellent training opportunity for the crews. Clifford will be host for two upcoming 16 hour programs that will focus on technical rescue situations that the volunteers encounter throughout the year. These courses will be conducted in March and May.

With the weather breaking into the spring atmosphere, it begins our planning and preparation journey to the 2011 Clifford Fireman's Picnic!! This year picnic dates are July 28, 29 and 30. The Thursday kick off will be the parade at 7 PM sharp. Friday night will be fireworks followed by Saturday's chicken bar-b-que. There will be live bands all three nights. As most of you know, this event would not be possible without the unprecedented community support. Countless community members volunteer to staff stands and assist with preparations. We once again ask for your continued support and patronage during the picnic. If you are available to help, please contact us at 222-3741.

The Clifford Township Volunteer Fire Company continues to recruit new volunteers to assist in many ways. From administrative duties, fund raising, driving and answering calls, we ask you to consider volunteering. Most will say "I just don't have the time" – give us and yourself the opportunity to explore your possibilities as a volunteer. We are at the fire station Monday evenings from 7- 9 PM and our monthly business meetings are the first Thursday of the month. Stop in and check us out. Being a member of the Fire Company can be a very satisfying and rewarding way of life. Hope to see you soon!

### Ladies Auxiliary Events and Cookbook

This spring, the CTVFC Ladies Auxiliary will be hosting three events. **Clam Chowder Sale:** April 15, 12-5 PM at the fire hall. Both New England and Manhattan clam chowders will be available by take-out only. To place your pre-order, please contact Connie Tellep at 222-4409 or email [ctvfcladiesauxiliary@yahoo.com](mailto:ctvfcladiesauxiliary@yahoo.com). **Children's Easter Egg Hunt:** April 16, 2 PM sharp, at the Picnic Grounds for newborn to 12 years of age only. **Blood Drive:** May 6, in honor of Adam Baron, times TBA. Details will be on posters around town and also on the website [www.cliffordfire.com](http://www.cliffordfire.com). The Ladies Auxiliary will also be selling the cookbook called "Cooking Secrets of Clifford Vol #2" at the annual picnic and around town. As a bonus, the new cookbook will include all the recipes from Volume #1.

### Upcoming Events Mountain View Garden Club

The Mountain View Garden Club is sponsoring its 3rd Speakers' Luncheon on Wednesday, May 4, at Elkview Country Club at Crystal Lake. This year's featured speaker is Jerry Fritz, proprietor of Linden Hill Gardens and Jerry Fritz Garden Design in Ottsville, Pennsylvania. Jerry is a garden designer who loves to share his passion for perennials and will have plants to sell following the program. He has appeared numerous times on The Martha Stewart Show. The luncheon starts with a time of hospitality at 11:30 and lunch at 12:30 followed by

the program. The cost is \$25.00. Reservations can be made by mailing your check to Mountain View Garden Club, PO Box 81, Clifford, Pennsylvania 18413 by April 27. For more information, contact JoAnn at [jodihall@nep.net](mailto:jodihall@nep.net) or 222-3591 or Linda at [rshuma@nep.net](mailto:rshuma@nep.net) or 222-3377.

The Mountain View Garden Club is holding the 7th Annual Plant Exchange & Marketplace on Sunday, June 5 from 1:00 - 4:00 PM at the Ross Farm, 416 Bunnell Farm Road, Elk Mountain. You can exchange two perennials from your garden for plants of equal value/size or purchase plants grown in area gardens at very reasonable prices. Approximately twelve local vendors will be selling their wares at the Marketplace featuring water colors, soaps, mustards, maple syrup, hand carved and painted signs, candles, jewelry and art ware. Admission is free. For more information, contact JoAnn at [jodihall@nep.net](mailto:jodihall@nep.net) or 222-3591 or Donna at [donnac@ncx.com](mailto:donnac@ncx.com) or 281-3335.

### From the Advisory Committee of Clifford Township (ACCT)

**Email Blasts:** In our continued effort to provide open communications, we are sending monthly messages via email containing topical information pertaining to the township. If you would like to begin receiving these messages please send your name and email address to Sally Roberts, secretary of the Advisory Committee of Clifford Township (ACCT), at [sroberts@nep.net](mailto:sroberts@nep.net). We will also experiment with sending the newsletter to the township list by email, to save printing and mailing costs.

**Comprehensive Plan:** The committee researched the feasibility of developing a Comprehensive Plan for Clifford Township. Such a plan is considered to be an Emergency Management Plan for townships. Details of a sample plan can be found at: <http://www.psats.org/mpc/MPCCode.pdf>.

**General:** There are several other projects on the table for the ACCT as a result of the spring 2010 survey that will be further defined during 2011. The ACCT meets the fourth Wednesday each month at the municipal building at 7 PM. All residents and business owners are invited to attend. Our mission is to work with the Clifford community to communicate the concerns of the citizens, research solutions, and present them to the Supervisors for their consideration and action.

### Historical Society News

We would like to thank all of you who supported the society with a purchase of Pat Peltz's book "Beechwood Settlers" and our 2011 calendar, "Stone Walls: A Gift from the Past". Both items are still available at Clifford Supply. Proceeds from these sales will support our current project of displaying artifacts in a museum like setting in the municipal building. The Native American dugout canoe donated to the society by Jim and Valerie Cole in 2007 will finally have a home. The unveiling of the canoe display will be on Election Day, May 17th.

A very special part of this dugout canoe display is a five by twenty foot mural painted by local artist Michelle Jaconia McLain. She will be at the display all day on May 17th to explain the details and process for developing the mural. Mi-

chelle and Society Director Carol Gargan will hold a discussion of the display and mural for the public at 7 PM, focusing on children's interests.

To further celebrate this event, Dr Marshall Becker, from the Philadelphia area, will give a hands-on presentation on local Native American lifestyles, focusing on the local Lenape tribe which he has researched for 40 years. His free presentation will be on April 21, at 6:30 PM at the Clifford Fire Hall. Light refreshments will be served. Please bring your kids!

We will be sponsoring Ken Ely's stone wall seminar again this year, on May 15 at the Clifford Municipal building at 1 PM. The hands-on part of the seminar will be held at the Burdick cemetery from 2 PM until everyone gets tired! In addition to more stonewall improvements, a new sign will be installed on this day. The Burdick Cemetery is located at the north end of Tinkerbrook road, directly above Donald Peterka's garage.

The Hoover School will again be open to the public every third Sunday of the month from 1 to 4 PM. Folks who visited the school last year thoroughly enjoyed the experience. We hope you will make the effort to view the old one room school and see the ever-increasing amount of historical information in the school. Call 679-2723 or email Peltz@nep.net for entrance to the school anytime. Come visit our booth at the Clifford Volunteer Firemen's Picnic! We love to share knowledge of local history with you. And as always, [www.Cliffordpa.com](http://www.Cliffordpa.com) has pictures and information about our society.

### **St. James, Dundaff, Prepares for Summer**

The congregation at St. James is busily planning for summer. Regular worship services on Sunday mornings will begin May 24 at a new time: 10:00 am. That will give the congregation a bit more time to enjoy the lake!

Thanks to a Congregational Development Grant from the Diocese of Bethlehem, the first Saturday of June, July, August, and September, the parish will offer a "Blue Grass Mass" at 6:30 PM, and the entire offering will be donated to the local food bank. An Old Time Gospel Hymn Sing will take place on June 19 at 6:30, with biblical storyteller. The "Sale of All Things" will be July 16, and an outdoor fellowship and worship will be held August 20 at Merli-Sarnoski Park.

Local blue grass musicians are needed for the Saturday evening services, as well as a keyboardist or organist for the Sunday services. St. James, Dundaff, is located on Route 247, Dundaff Corners, near Crystal Lake in Clifford Township. Please call Reverend Lou Divis, 570-878-4670, or Senior Warden Bob Schreiber, 570-222-2724, for more information.

### **Methodist Church**

The Clifford United Methodist Church will hold its Chicken-n-Biscuit or Ham Dinner on the following dates: Tuesday, May 17, Wednesdays; June 15, July 20, and August 17 from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. Take out or dine in, for a \$7.95 donation that includes dinner, dessert and drink.

This will be our 11th Annual "Music in the Park" held behind the Clifford Fireman's Fairgrounds, Rt. 106, Clifford on August 7, 2011. The 10:30 AM Worship Service will be followed by Contemporary and Traditional Christian Music from 11:30 to 5:00 PM. Bring the family for the whole day or just stop by. Refreshments are available at a minimal charge. This event is supported by our local Community Churches.

### **Clifford Community Youth Group News**

The Clifford Community Youth Group continues to be very active in the Clifford area. Based out of the Clifford and Lenoxville United Methodist Churches, we are a group that looks to serve God through serving others in mission, learning as we go, and having lots of fun, too! We are always welcoming new youths between the ages of 8 and 18.

Our schedule is varied. Some upcoming projects/fund-raising endeavors include "April is Helping Hands" month. Have an odd job around the house to be done? Call on us. There will be no specific cost, but donations are welcome. We also will be making and selling homemade Easter Eggs for \$2.00 each. To order your Peanut Butter or Coconut Cream eggs, contact us. Deadline for orders is early April. On June 25th from 8-10 AM, we will sponsor a Flapjack Breakfast at Applebee's in Dickson City - pre sale tickets are available. AND watch for our annual Car Wash at the Lenoxville UMC in July. See any youth member or call Pastor Peg at 222-3331 or Youth Advisor Robin Correll at 222-4344 for more information or to get involved. We'd be glad to have you on board with us!

### **St. Pius X (Royal) /Corpus Christi (Montdale) Youth Activities**

Summer Youth Liturgy: "Rockin' Mass with Father Michael", with contemporary Christian music: Saturdays 5 PM: June 4,18; July 9,16; Aug 13, 27. Christian themed movies (Avatar, Lord of the Rings, Narnia) with discussions to follow. Refreshments include pizza, popcorn and soda. Location: Corpus Christi Church in Montdale. Join us for worship and fellowship! Call Jennifer for more information 222-2136.

### **Elkdale Baptist Church of West Clifford**

Musical events open to the public include a Good Friday Musical Hymn Sing and Praise service (April 22 at 7 PM) and a Hymn Sing service Special Music with guest musicians (Sunday July 10, 7 PM). Free dinners will follow the Sunday 11 AM services on Easter, April 24; Memorial Day, May 29; Fathers Day, June 12; and on July 17. Special Revival Tent Meetings, July 11-14, will feature music, refreshments and Children Bible Classes. Other events for children include special services at 11 AM on June 12 and Sept. 11; and Youth day July 15, with paint ball shooting, a barbecue picnic and a special teen meeting. On Saturday May 14 at 5:30 PM there will be a Ladies Banquet with guest speaker Linda Schindler. On Saturday September 24, there will be a church picnic at Lackawanna State Park. For additional details about each of these events, other meetings with evangelistic speakers, and the regular church service times, please visit [www.elkdaleBaptist.com](http://www.elkdaleBaptist.com) or email [bissol@nep.net](mailto:bissol@nep.net) or phone 222-4997.

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### Pictures From the Past



The outlet of Newton Lake provided water to power a large gristmill as seen in this postcard. Just a short way below the mill towards Clifford, a glass factory was powered from this same water source. Between 1831-1834 over 100 men were hired to make glass using the high quality sand from Crystal Lake. The glass factory closed after only a few years due to delivery problems, as the poor quality of the roads caused too much breakage! The stone foundations of both the gristmill and glass factory are still evident.



The Millard sisters Clara, Silona, Martha, Mary and Ella were daughters of John Millard and Lydia Harding of Lenox Township. Martha was a school teacher in Lenox and just sixteen years old when she kept a diary in 1863. In it she recorded her daily activities at school and home, including sewing a Garibaldi waist and making hard soap. The diary and many other interesting artifacts of the pioneer settlers can be seen at the Hoover School Open House the third Sunday of each month, May through October, 1 - 4 PM. (Photo courtesy of Stu Spence.)

Feedback on the Newsletter? Please contact Sally Fischbeck at [salfisch@gmail.com](mailto:salfisch@gmail.com) or Barry Searle at [ctsbs@yahoo.com](mailto:ctsbs@yahoo.com).