

Clifford Township News

Issue 7

October 2004

Newsletter sponsored by The Clifford Township Community Alliance CTCA



Upcoming Township Events

First Friday: November 5
Clifford Village Christmas: December 3
Lights on Main Street: December 24

CTCA Committee meets the 4th Wednesday of every month at 7 pm in the Township Building. All are welcome!

Township Recycling Made Easier

It is no longer necessary to separate cans, bottles and plastics. There are now just two categories: newspapers and everything else! Recycling is the third Saturday of each month, 9 am til noon at the Township Building.

The First "First Friday"

The banquet room at the Mountain View Restaurant was a welcoming location for the Clifford Township's "First Friday Community Social" held at 7:30 on October 1. A centrally located hors-d'oeuvre table decorated with seasonal flowers greeted the guests. Also offered were complimentary non-alcoholic beverage and a cappuccino bar; a cash bar was available. Soothing background music added to the cocktail party ambiance. The five dollar per person donation helped with expenses.

Surrounding the hors-d'oeuvre table were displays highlighting community activities and achievements. Members of the Clifford Township Community Alliance (CTCA) and the township supervisors were there to answer questions and elicit feedback on township programs. They would like to thank all the residents who came to mingle. Conversations ranged from individual concerns, to offers of help with ongoing projects (Christmas Celebration, Main Street Flags, newsletter and Spring clean-up), and to discussing the recreational park. Suggestions for new projects included applying for tree grants, putting together an historical book to coincide with the upcoming bicentennial of our township and a business directory. Thanks for great ideas! Calls have already been made to get the ball rolling on some of these.

Since there are more people out there who want to see "what's up" and have input into community happenings, November's "First Friday" is scheduled for **November 5** in the banquet room of the Mt. View Restaurant at 7:30. The theme is Mexican Fiesta (affecting only some of the food and not attire). A different display of historical pictures will be featured. Several colored renditions of the proposed "Welcome to Clifford" sign will be available for viewing.

Sixth Annual Holiday Celebration

On Friday, December 3, the annual Christmas Tree Lighting and festivities will take place in the parking area in front of the Clifford Supply and Auto starting at 7 pm. There will be hot food, cookies and cocoa, elves dispensing holiday tokens, festive music and pictures taken with Santa. The entire event is free due to the donations of time and money of the local businesses and townspeople. All are welcome. Please pass the word to your friends and neighbors and join in the fun!

Meet Your Neighbor

William "Buzz" Boomer was born and raised in Rochester, NY but for the last eight years he has called Clifford his home. He was employed at the University of Rochester for 30 years as their swimming coach while also performing other duties including supervising the recreation program and coaching soccer and track. He did not have a background in swimming and, interestingly, he learned to swim while training to be a coach.

William was first asked to coach swimmers in training for the Olympics in 1990 and has been involved with Olympic training ever since. He has coached individuals for the Olympics in Barcelona, Atlanta, and Sydney. This past July he attended the Olympic Training Camp at Stanford University in California where he worked with both men and women who were on their way to the Athens Games. Some of his trainees won their respective matches there and William feels a well-deserved sense of accomplishment and pride in this.

His task with the Olympic swimmers has been to develop their swimming technique. He describes the nature of his teaching method as tuning a fine instrument, the instrument in this case being the swimmer's spine. Swimming athletes can only be at their best when their spines are in proper aquatic alignment.

For the last fifteen years, William's involvement has been international, working with coaching staffs and swimmers of Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain and many Scandinavian countries. This past September he did a swim clinic for coaches in Finland.

William lives on Airport Road in Clifford Township with his wife, Sally in their beautiful log cabin which they built from scratch. Sally's ancestors have been residents of



this area since the early 1800's. When not traveling around the world to work with swimmers, William takes pride in caring for their

cabin and the equally attractive surrounding wooded acreage. Pleased to meet you, neighbor!

Share the Light

Anyone traveling down Main Street on New Years Eve, 2003, got a lovely surprise. From one end of town to the other candle lights were glowing through white paper bags. The inspiration was the annual Christmas display seen over the hill in Dundaff. Originally Main Street residents hoped to do this on Christmas Eve, but rain and open bags do not work. Consequently, plastic jugs with caps will be used this year so inclement weather will not foil this Christmas Eve's efforts. Volunteers will place the weighted jugs on the roadside. Anyone having clean gallon plastic jugs with caps is encouraged to drop them off at Clifford Supply and Clifford Auto. Treat the family to a slow ride through town after dark. Clifford wishes you a "Happy Holidays"!

New Banners

Did you notice that the fall foliage this year has been particularly outstanding! The colors and design of the new seasonal banners lining Main Street, Clifford, do justice to the surrounding scenery. By the time the last leaf has fallen, those banners will be replaced with the winter motif to set the stage for the Christmas tree lighting festivities. Many thanks to those who donated towards the purchase of these handsome banners and to those making the effort to change them each season.

Garden Club

Several people have suggested starting a garden club and plant exchange. Although this is not one of the objectives of the CTCA, the Alliance can help get interested parties together. Dates for meeting and events can be posted in this newsletter and on the Clifford page of the Carbondale News. Those interested in pursuing this great idea, please call Betsy at 222-9553 or Cherie at 222-4628. Start now and the group will be sharing information and plants by spring!

Clifford History on the Web

http://dsdata.com.au/genealogy/nepa/stocker_clifford1.html

Clifford Fire Co. Honored Site of Pilot Certification Program

On Friday evening October 15th and Saturday October 16th, a goal eighteen months in preparation became reality. The Clifford Township Volunteer Fire Company made a monumental step for not only itself, but for the majority of fire companies in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The step taken was to successfully offer Fire Fighter 1 certification in the field.

Typically a company must travel long distances with their personnel to a fixed training facility, enduring significant expenditures for testing, lodging and travel. Through an unprecedented commitment from our members, Greenfield Fire Company Chief Fred Bales, and many of Greenfield's members, we were able to bring a pilot certification program to Clifford. Chief Bales served as the test site coordinator through the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy and assisted in organizing the program. Our members spent countless hours training and preparing for the certification opportunity. In all, members from Clifford, Greenfield, Hallstead, Edwardsville, and Whites Crossing fire companies participated.

Currently, Fire Fighter 1 is a voluntary certification that tests fire fighters on written and practical skills. This certification proves a person has demonstrated competency in the knowledge and skills required in a specific field and is a prerequisite to many specialized and advanced courses. To qualify for this program, the fire fighter had to possess many prerequisites including training in the essentials of fire fighting (88 hrs), live structural burn session (16 hrs), hazardous materials training (4 hrs min), medical training certification (most had 68 hrs min) and CPR/AED training (8 hrs).

The State Fire Academy awarded Clifford Township Volunteer Fire Company the pilot certification program after Clifford demonstrated it could provide facilities for a written test, offices for the evaluation staff, and the resources and facilities for 26 practical skill stations. With minimal upgrades to the picnic grounds done by its dedicated volunteers, Clifford Fire was able to rise to the challenge: a search maze was constructed, replacement stairs and a working fire hydrant installed to

name a few of the upgrades.

During the two days, Clifford Fire was honored to host the event along with the Pennsylvania State Fire Commissioner Ed Mann, and other State and County certification committee members present. A review of the pilot must be completed but initial comments are very positive. If this pilot is deemed successful, Clifford Township Volunteer Fire Company will have set the stage for "on-the-road" firefighter 1 certification in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania! Clifford Township Volunteer Fire Company will be the first fire company in Susquehanna Co. to be an official participant in the Professional State Certification program.



Photo and Atricle Submitted by Trent Turner, Assistant Chief, Clifford Fire Company

Participants in 1950's First Aid Class (picture on back of newsletter)

Top Row: Adam Decavage, Kenny Rivenburg, Maynard Farrell, Wally LaCoe, Morgan Turner, Wesley Stephens, Clinton Wells, Owen Gifford, Leo Franklin

Middle Row: Charles Horton, Billy Wells, Joe McCalla, Rev. Ernest Atkins, Jimmy LaCoe, Doug Jones, Harold Bennett, Steve Lynch, Joe Turner

Front Row: Della (Tellep) Rivenburg, Lois (Snyder) Stephens, Agnes Johnson, Viola Bennett, Mini Franklin, Florence Buckland, Mildred Arnold, Molly Wells, Kathern Wells, Dr. Raymond Bennett

Clifford Township Volunter Fire Company First Aid Training Class



Dr. Raymond Bennett (last person on the bottom row) conducted a First Aid Training class upstairs in the former Clifford Fire Hall sometime in the mid-to-late 1950's. How many people can you identify? Answers on page three of this newsletter. Photo submitted by Stephen Lynch.

Clifford Township News
PO Box 339
Clifford, PA 18413

PRESORTED STANDARD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
CLIFFORD, PAS
PERMIT NO.6

POSTAL CUSTOMER