

# Clifford Township News

Issue 10

October 2005

Sponsored by the Clifford Township Community Alliance (CTCA)



## CTCA Mission:

To improve the quality of life, the environment and the economic health of the community

## 2005 CTCA Board of Directors

Chris Marcho 222-5808  
CoChairman

Jim Pettinato 222-3930  
CoChairman

Janice Bevacqua 222-9312  
Secretary

Harry Phillips 222-4589  
Treasurer

Dennis Knowlton 222-4509  
Playground Grant

Cherie Swetter 222-4628  
Media/Tree Grant

Sally Fischbeck 222-3520  
History Group

CTCA Meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month at 7 PM in the township building. All are welcome!

## Upcoming Township Events

Tree Seminar	7 PM, November 2
First Friday	5:45 PM, November 4
Clifford Village Christmas Lights on Main St	7 PM, December 2 December 24



## Message from the Supervisors: Randy LaCroix, Adam Baron, John Regan

You may have noticed that we were almost a month behind in the road work this past spring. The reason for this was a township audit by the Attorney General's office. Gathering all the information to answer their questions was time consuming but happily your township did pass the audit.

With bad weather coming in the near future, township residents are turning their eyes towards road conditions and maintenance. Please note that the only hard top roads under our jurisdiction are Elkview Drive and Welch Hill Road. All the other roads we maintain are dirt roads. We recently took over another dirt road, Wrights Road (off Route 374) from Penn Dot. The state will pay the township \$117,000 for repair and maintenance; we estimate the actual expense to be closer to \$50,000. The excess money will go towards the purchase of a new backhoe.

Taxpayers like to know where their money goes. Now that you are aware of the enormous number of dirt roads versus paved roads we take care of, you can understand why it cost \$22,000 to oil our dirt roads. One exception is roads heavily traveled by trucks; they are treated with calcium.

*John Regan*, Chairman

## Recycling Program in Jeopardy

If recycling rules continue to be ignored, Susquehanna County will discontinue recycling in Clifford Township. Acceptable recycling items are as follows: rinsed glass bottles without tops, rinsed cans with lid totally removed, paper, magazines and all cardboard. The only plastics allowed are plastic bottles with necks. For example, plastic bags and yogurt containers are not allowed as they do not have necks. More recycling information can be found at the Clifford Township web site: <http://www.geocities.com/cliffordtwp/welcome.html> . Thank you.

## **T.G.I.F.**

"First Friday" returns and promises to be an enjoyable night out. The CTCA is pleased to host this community gathering to be held on **Friday, November 4** from **5:30 until 8 PM** in the banquet room of the Clifford Fire Company. The social get-together will be co-sponsored by Munley Catering and the Mountain View Garden Club. This event is free and open to all. CTCA Board Members will be available to answer questions about its mission and past or present projects. This is an opportunity for local, self-employed people to share their business cards with the public and each other. Representatives of other commercial interests such as Community Bank and Trust and the Greater Carbondale Chamber of Commerce will be in attendance. This event can help to develop community spirit and foster business connections. Please join us!

## **Clifford Village Christmas**

It's hard to believe that plans are being made for the holiday festivities on December 2 (always the first Friday in December). For those new to the area, this is a community celebration sponsored by the CTCA and supported 100% by donations. Everyone is invited and everything is free. Held in the parking area in front of Clifford Supply and Clifford Auto on Main St., Clifford, the event starts at 7 PM with the arrival of Santa and his helpers who light the tree. Come and enjoy food and drinks served with a smile, gifts handed out by elves, a picture taken of your child on Santa's lap (you get to keep the photo!) and caroling by local church groups. Please mark this date on your calendar and bring your parents, children and neighbors. For those who would like to volunteer their time in this "feel good" endeavor, the first organizational meeting will be held in the township building on **Monday, October 24 at 7 PM**. At this time we will also make plans for assembling and placing the luminaries which line Main Street, Clifford on Christmas Eve. Thanks for your support!

## **Bicentennial Celebration Planning Begins**

The Clifford Township Bicentennial Committee has had several monthly meetings to plan next July's celebration. One year ago, the CTCA's historical committee began work on projects related to this event. These projects, still in progress, include an historical video, a calendar highlighting the township's twelve one-room school districts, a history book, a bicentennial/township seal, and a pictorial collection of our remaining barns.

Until next July, the CTCA and Historical committees will be meeting at the same time with the Bicentennial Committee. Meetings are at the Township Building on the

**4th Wednesday of every month**, except for December. These meetings are open to all.

The Steering Committee for the Bicentennial Celebration is as follows: CoChairmen: Chris Marcho and Phillip Price, Secretary: Janice Bevacqua, Media: Cherie Swetter, Advertising: Meg Suraci and Lynn Conrad, Parade: Harry Phillips and Jerry Verboys, Veterans Memorial: Jack Tellep, Artisans: Barabara and Helmut Kunst, Vendors: Lewis DeJoseph, Grants: Sandy Wilmot, Historical: Sally Fischbeck and Sandy Wilmot. Three additional committees in the process of being formed are childrens' activities, entertainment and finance. All bicentennial committees seek additional participants. What a great way to meet interesting people and get involved in a once in a lifetime project. The official bicentennial website is: **[www.cliffordpa.com](http://www.cliffordpa.com)**.

As with all good works, the support of the community is essential. The Bicentennial Committee is holding a raffle. Tickets are on sale now through December 2 by committee members and at local stores. Purchasing them will assist with the preservation of the township's history for this and future generations. Your help is greatly appreciated. The drawing for cash prizes (\$500, \$250, \$125 and \$62.50) will be made at the end of the evening at the Clifford Village Christmas celebration.

## **Hug a Tree Today**

Thanks to the commitment and foresight of our supervisors, Clifford Township applied for and has been awarded a \$8000 grant for planting and maintaining trees. The grant is from the NE Pennsylvania Urban and Community Forestry Program, funded by the USDA Forest Service. Congressman Sherwood has been instrumental in securing funding for the program. The project director is Cherie Swetter and the project manager is Meg Suraci.

To jumpstart the project, a four hour seminar was presented by Vincent Cotrone, Penn State Extension Urban Forester. The topic was how to conduct a successful tree inventory. This information will help us prioritize our efforts and money expenditures, assist in scheduling work or hiring help, and determine what trees are best suited for a site.

A field trip was conducted to put this information to the test. Community participants included Lynn Conrad, Kathy Flora, Vicky Lewandowski, Meg Suraci, Cherie Swetter and Jerry Verboys. The survey started on September 2 and will continue during the next few months.

In preparation for the November planting, a seminar

by Lynn Conrad, NE PA Urban and Community Forestry Program Administrator, will be held **7 PM, Wednesday, November 2** at the Township Building to teach participants how to plant bare-root trees and prepare them for winter. All volunteers are encouraged to attend.

### **Meet Your Neighbor, Jack Tellep**

As a life-long resident of Clifford Township, Jack Tellep has seen a lot of history. Raised in Clifford and Royal, he attended the one room school house which was by the Baptist Church on Church Street. His first three years of high school were in Forest City in the days when Clifford Township would pay transportation and tuition fees to either Harford or Forest City. When Mountain View High School opened its doors in 1959, Jack was in its senior class. Upon graduation, he enlisted in the Army.

As a member of the Armored Cavalry during the years of the Cold War with the Soviet Union, he patrolled the East-West border of Germany, returning to the States in 1964 as a Sergeant. It was in December 1964 at Fort Hood, Texas, in a training accident that his right arm was shot off with a 50 caliber spotting gun. After recovering from amputation and fitted with a prosthesis, Jack returned to Royal and became a design draftsman. He worked as a disabled veterans employment representative for four years and as a quality assurance specialist working under the Dept of Defense for 21 years and is recently retired.

During the years after his return to the area, Jack and his wife of twenty-nine years, Connie, have worked tirelessly for the Clifford Township Volunteer Fire Company; Jack in administration

and Connie with the ladies auxiliary. Although they share passions for gardening, cooking and golfing, their



newest endeavor is building a database for all Clifford Township veterans. Jack is also spearheading the creation of a veterans memorial at the township building which will be dedicated next July. Obviously, retirement does not mean "take a break". Thanks Jack for the enthusiasm and dedication you have brought to community service. We're pleased to meet you!

### **Honoring Their Sacrifice**

A veterans memorial will be built this spring and dedicated on July 2, 2006. A field stone wall will have a recessed 3

ft. by 4 ft. piece of blue stone with an engraved message. In front of the wall on the ground will be red bricks laid in the shape of a "V" for veteran. Each brick will have the name of a township resident who died while on active duty. In order to commemorate their sacrifice, help is needed to track down the identity of these heroes who fought in conflicts from the Civil War to the Persian Gulf War. Behind the wall will be a new flag pole. The entire site will have lighting.

In order to raise money for this memorial, additional veteran bricks will be located around the perimeter of the memorial and non-veteran bricks will be located in the walkway to the memorial. The bricks may be ordered by anyone, not just Clifford Township residents and may be purchased in honor of anyone, living or deceased, male or female and may include a brief message.

The engraved bricks can be ordered after Nov. 1 for \$50 each. What a unique and long-lasting gift! Please contact Jack Tellep at 222-4409 or any CTCA director (phone numbers on front page). Those wishing to make a monetary donation may send a check to CTCA, attn. Veterans Memorial, PO Box 339, Clifford, PA 18413.

### **Veterans Database**

Jack and Connie Tellep are working on a database for all veterans who ever lived in Clifford Township. The information needed is name, branch of the service, dates of service, rank, living or deceased, prisoner of war or died in line of duty. This is a huge undertaking and they need your assistance; even just one name will help. Whether you are a relative, friend or neighbor, you may be the only one to add that particular veteran's name. This list will eventually be printed, framed and hung in the municipal building.

### **Playground Needs Volunteers**

Last spring Clifford Township happily accepted a state grant for a new recreational center behind the township building. Dennis Knowlton from CTCA accepted the lead role in its implementation and has already had the old playground equipment removed and the new recreational center designed. Now he needs volunteers to help with the preparation of the ground for the recreational area and parking, the design and construction of the basketball court, and picking out and installing new playground equipment. Volunteers will work under the guidance of Mr. Knowlton and the township supervisors. This project will benefit people of all ages in our community, so please consider giving of your time. Dennis can be reached at 222-4509.



*Courtesy of Maureen Spedding Warren*

**Fifty Five Years Ago**

Arthur Godfrey, national radio and television star of the 1940's and 1950's came to Clifford on October 1, 1950, landing in the DC-3 shown above at the Carbondale-Clifford Airport to the delight of a huge local crowd. Duane Johnson, owner of the airport, was instrumental in the planning of the event. A trained pilot, Godfrey promoted the glories of air travel with the public. Through most of the 1950s, Godfrey hosted a daily radio program and appeared in two top-ten primetime TV shows for CBS.

**October 30**

Deadline to submit photos for the Clifford Township History Book and Video. Call Sally 222-3520 or Sandy 679-2723. Photos of special interest include early businesses in Dundaff, Royal and Elkdale, including the Elkdale Creamery.

**DON'T MISS THE  
Carbondale  
JAYCEE AIR SHOW  
CARBONDALE  
CLIFFORD AIRPORT  
OCTOBER 1ST, 1950  
Rain Date Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>, 1950 --  
-- ROUTE 247 --**

*See* 

**ARTHUR GODFREY**  
*in Person*

**•Rodney Jocelyn•**  
*INTERNATIONAL AEROBATIC CHAMP*

**•Bill Fuchey•**  
*INTERNATIONAL GLIDER CHAMP*

*And Many Others*

*Adm. \$1<sup>20</sup> tax incl.*



*Courtesy of Sandi Johnson Mowry*

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