

Clifford Township Newsletter

October 2010 - March 2011

Issue 19

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

Message from the Supervisors

The supervisors are dedicated to improving the information flow between residents and the board. To further that, we voted to place the minutes from township meetings on the township website, www.cliffordtownship.com. Also on that website is contact information and all ordinances being considered for public comment, including the gas drilling ordinance to be voted on October 18. Ordinances are also posted at the municipal building. Please come to the meetings and give the supervisors early input. It is a two-way line of communication. Don't wait until a decision is made. Speak up early and be part of the solution.

Recycling is free to township residents, but costs the township about \$200 per month. The Supervisors voted to put a donation jar at the monthly recycling location to help defray the costs. Those who can afford to donate are helping the township hold down costs. In some cases people dump their recyclables, including garbage, the night before. It costs the township (and therefore the tax payers) extra money to remove this garbage. Cameras are being installed to monitor and prosecute those who dump trash on the township property. In the recent township survey, residents requested extra days each month for recycling. Volunteers are necessary to insure that trash and ineligible items are not dumped in the containers and that items are flattened to make room for all the materials. It is very difficult to get needed volunteers every month. The supervisors have all volunteered for the duty during the past year. However, if we want to see the program grow, we need more community involvement. If you could give just three hours one Saturday a year, please contact the township at 222-9364.

Barry Searle, Dennis Knowlton, John Regan

Village Christmas Celebrates Twelve Years

The Clifford Village Christmas grows each year in terms of community support and participation, for both adults and children! Businesses, organizations and individuals throughout the township help to make the evening a huge success. Free food for all and presents from Santa for all the kids. Come join in the fun 7 - 9 p.m. on Friday December 3rd.

Township Concerns Expressed in Survey

The Board of Supervisors requested that the Advisory Committee of Clifford Township (ACCT) publish a survey in the April - September 2010 Clifford Township Newsletter. Residents were queried for their top concerns regarding the state of the township. There were a total of 22 categories in addition to

an option to include other comments. The six top issues were: Road, Maintenance, Repair, and Runoff; Police Force status; Permits/Ordinance & Code Enforcement; Gas Drilling Issues; Clifford Township Traffic Patterns; and Long Range Township Planning. Another prevalent concern was a request for more communication between supervisors and residents.

Since then the township has been working to improve the roads and a full-time police chief has been hired. A book of all applicable ordinances for residents is being compiled by the ACCT in close coordination with the township secretary. Finally, the members of the ACCT have developed a Business Case Analysis to support a centralized Clifford Township website that could be a gateway to the community to include a link to the Official Board of Supervisors website. The intent is to provide information on the community and the state of the township to residents and prospective home owners 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The ACCT meets the 4th Wednesday each month and meetings are opened to all residents and business owners in Clifford Township.

They will continue to work through the issues presented in the surveys. If you would like to receive monthly minutes and other information, please send your email address to sroberts@nep.net.

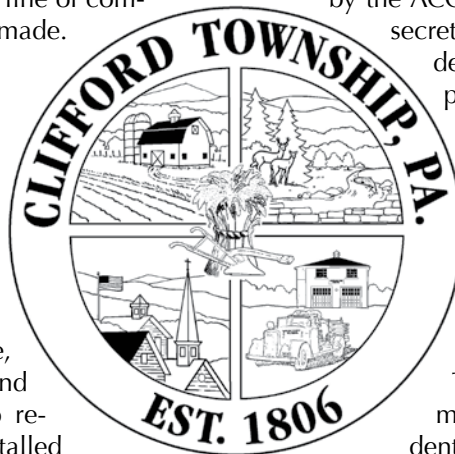
House Watch Program for Clifford Township Residents

If you are going on vacation or plan to be away from home for an extended period of time, the police department's free House Watch Program can give you peace of mind. Details about this service can be found on www.cliffordtownship-police.com. or call 570-342-9111 (the non-emergency number). Reminder: For the fastest response, please call 911 for all true emergencies. You can also leave a message at the police department office by calling 570-222-9444.

911 House Numbers

Did you know that your house number tells emergency responders exactly how many miles your home is from a reference intersection? For example, if you live at 720 Airport Road in Clifford, your home is approximately 0.720 miles from the intersection of Airport Road and Route 106. If your house number was 1720 Airport Road, then you are located 1.720 miles from the intersection. Reflective house number signs are still available from Clifford Fire on Monday nights, 6:20 - 8:30 p.m. or call in your order at 222-3741.

Clifford PA Now on Facebook - Check it Out!



Street Signs Coming Soon

The supervisors have allocated funds to start purchasing and installing the new 911 street signs. The township is responsible for signing all township roads plus all state routes with names approved by the township. Approximately 80 signs are needed at a cost of \$47.50 per sign plus an additional \$32.50 for the post, for a total of \$80.00 per sign. The CTCA has graciously offered to pay for the signs on Main Street. A few residents have offered to pay for their road's sign to help stretch precious township dollars. One third of the road signs will be installed this year. The remainder will be purchased as funds are available, before the 2012 state mandated deadline. Signing of private roads are the responsibility of the owner. Questions or suggestions can be directed to Jim Locker, roadmaster at jlocker@echoes.net or 806-1811.

Township Recycling

Our township recycling program happens on the third Saturday of each month, from 9 a.m. to noon. All eligible recycling products can be brought to the municipal building for collection and shipment to our county recycling center in Montrose. Susquehanna County recycling can refuse to accept any load that includes ineligible items. If one of our loads is refused, it must be hauled to a landfill, at township expense, and future access to recycling services may be denied.

Please try to have all recycled products clean and, if you are physically able, also crush any cans or plastics, especially milk jugs, to conserve storage space. Labels do not need to be removed. Lids can be recycled but must be removed from containers. Remember the plastic bags that you carry your recyclables in are not eligible to be recycled, so please take them home with you. (These bags jam up the recycling equipment.) Flyers with recycling details are available at the Saturday recycling and details can also be found at www.clifford-township.com. If you have any questions, call the Recycling Center: 570-278-3589 or 3509. Thank you!!

Clifford Township Historical Society News

Have you seen the new tile floor in the township building? The township supervisors purchased the materials while the historical society provided the labor. Volunteers Larry Wilson, Mark and Sandy Wilmot, Ed Marquez, Jerry Verboys, Jerry and Vicky Lewandowski, Barry and Marvis Searle, Tom and

Pat Williamson, John Swetter and Dennis Knowlton provided their time, talents and tools to tile the municipal building floor in preparation of turning the hallway into an area for historical displays. The 16th century dug out Indian canoe, a donation from Jim and Valerie Cole, will be the first display, located in the front entrance of the building. Framed items and display cases of museum quality will grace the 130 feet long hallway. This ambitious project by the historical society volunteers will transform our township building into a community showplace for all to be proud of.

The historical society also hosted a very successful stonewall seminar on August 29th. A good portion of the Elkdale Cemetery stonewall was rebuilt, with the cooperative effort of the Carbondale Historical Society, Simpson Boy Scout Troop 312, Ken Ely (PA Humanities Council Commonwealth speaker) and Dennis Halstead and family. D.J. Halstead is working to renovate and upkeep the cemetery as his senior project and eagle scout project. We hope to bring Ken Ely back again in the Spring of 2011 for another stonewall seminar and hands-on workshop, this time at the Burdick cemetery.



In keeping with our mission statement of preserving local history, our 2011 calendar will feature pictures and commentary of our area stonewalls. This will be a full color calendar selling for \$8.00. Profits from the calendar will help cover some of the costs of our hallway project. Many thanks to the Community Bank, the Spring Hill Foundation and the Spano Family Foundation for their contributions to help defray printing costs. These calendars make great Christmas gifts for folks out of the area as well as for local residents so please consider supporting our projects by purchasing this beautiful calendar.

Beechwood Settlers, our latest publication, compiled by Patricia Peltz has been very well received. This 200 page book with over 800 pictures is available to purchase at Clifford Supply, Clifford Pharmacy and many other area stores. Historical Society information, including ordering information for the book and calendar can be found at www.cliffordpa.com.

Our last Hoover School open house for 2010 will be Sunday October 17, from 1 to 4 p.m. There are many items constantly being added to the displays in the school, so come and experience local history first hand at our wonderful restored school, now complete with an out-house! We are always interested in historical artifacts and photographs that may be available to be preserve. Contact Pat Peltz at peltz@nep.net or Sandy Wilmot at 570-679-2723.



Busy Fall Ahead For Clifford Fire

As summer closes and fall begins, the volunteers at Clifford Fire continue to balance training, fund-raising, maintenance and running emergencies. The summer months produced an increase in call volume while we also prepared for and operated the annual Picnic, one of our biggest fund raising events. As fall is upon us, training activities increase prior to the winter months. Training in EMS, rescue and fire are on-going and continue to streamline current skills and gain knowledge in other arenas.

The gun/cash raffle is in full swing for the month of October. This is another significant fund-raiser for our organization. The raffle is awarded every night using the evening daily lottery number. Each winner has their choice of the gun or the cash prize for the day. In December, please join us for our Christmas Care breakfast and the Kids Christmas party. These dates will be announced soon and will be on our website www.cliffordfire.com.

Anyone interested in becoming a member is asked to please contact us. There are many tasks that need to be accomplished both operational and administrative. We are at the Fire Station on Monday nights from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Stop in and visit us. The Officers and members of the Clifford Township Volunteer Fire Company would like to thank you for your support throughout the year.

Ladies Auxiliary

Monthly events keep the The Ladies Auxiliary busy! The Children's Halloween Party will be held at the fire hall on Saturday October 30th, followed in November by a Clothing Drive. December events include assisting in the Christmas Tree Lighting and the Christmas Care Breakfast. Watch for signs!

News from Mountain View Garden Club

Upcoming events for The Mountain View Garden Club include the annual meeting on October 19th with a program on Fresh and Dried Flower arranging by Michael O'Neill from House of Flowers and a meeting on November 16 with a program on Still Life with Flowers by artist Roderica Tilley. Both meetings are at the Clifford Township Fire Hall at 7:00 p.m. Our first meeting in 2011 will be on March 15 at the fire hall. All our meetings are open to the public unless indicated otherwise. Come join us. Any one wanting information on the Garden Club contact Helen Newsom at 679-2443 or hnewsom@yahoo.com. or Lois Todd at 222-9200 or ltodd@nep.net.

Clifford Township Church News and Events

Clifford Baptist: Order "Angel Food"! Use one of the following methods: (1) Pre-order at church on Sundays 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. (2) Contact Jan Price at (570)222-4210, Jacki Pruden at (973)919-9955 or John McCarty at (570)222-2288 (3) Pre-order on line @ angelfoodministries.com Once you have entered the site, your host site will be Country Alliance Church in Clarks Summit. You can pick up your order from Clifford Baptist Church. The specific date of pick-up will be posted

when your order is placed. Also, we will host a Harvest Dinner on Saturday, October 30th from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Clifford United Methodist: Chicken-n-Biscuit or Ham Dinner, 4 - 6 p.m., on Wednesday, October 20 and Election Day, Tuesday, November 2. Take out or dine with us for a \$7.95 donation for dinner, dessert and drink. On Saturday, October 30th, a Pancake Breakfast benefit for the Mission of Peace youth mission trip at Applebees at the Viewmont Mall from 8-10 a.m. One of our youth, Emma Musto, will be traveling with about 20 other teens from the area to China for a week in December. All tickets must be pre-purchased (\$6) by contacting Robin at 222-4344 or Pastor Peg at 222-3331. Holiday Cookie Walk, Saturday morning, December 18th. Participants will purchase one of two different sized containers at the church and then choose from thousands of delicious, home-made cookies donated for the event. All containers must close! Watch for posters with details as the time nears. If interested in donating cookies, please contact either Robin or Pastor Peg. All proceeds benefit the Youth 2011 fund. Come support the CCYG while getting your holiday baking done at the same time.

St. John Vianney Parish of Royal and Montdale: Harvest Festival turkey dinner on Sunday, October 3, from noon to 5:00 p.m. at Corpus Christi Church in Montdale. Tickets are \$9 for adults and \$4 for children with take-out available. This year's Harvest Festival features an expanded eating area as well as bigger and better bountiful baskets, several booths with items for sale and raffle, including wreaths and wall hangings, homemade crafts, baked goods and gift certificates for various restaurants. Directions: Take 1-81 to exit 201 (East Benton) and turn right heading east onto Route 438. Corpus Christi Church is located two miles on the right.

The Elkdale Baptist Church of West Clifford: On October 31st at 7:00 p.m. there will be refreshments, treats and skits at a fall family fellowship. Special services for Thanksgiving (November 14) and Christmas (December 12) at 11 a.m., will be followed by free dinners at 12:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend. On December 31, the Church will present a special Musical Play entitled THE GROUCH WHO FOUND CHRISTMAS at the Annual New Years Eve Service at 7:00 p.m. This is an original play written by Pastor Bissol and Family. The Annual Appreciation Banquet on January 26th, 6:30 p.m. is a free banquet to the friends and church members sponsored by Pastor & Elaine Bissol. The Annual Hunters Sportsman's Banquet will be held on February 26th, on Saturday at 5:30 p.m., headed up by Evangelist Peter Accardi. There will be a game dinner with special awards and gifts geared to hunters. Special speakers will bring topics of interest to hunters trappers and outdoorsmen. All are welcome. There is no charge for the event, but a free-will offering will be taken for guest speakers. Seniors interested in free music lessons with a loaner instrument for 6 weeks, to be taught in Clifford should contact Pastor Bissol at 222-4997.

D&H Rail-Trail Community Fall Walks

How can we better connect to the "air" around us? Linking our breath with our mind/body connection can enhance

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our walking/hiking experience. Ed Golecki will provide information and a short presentation regarding yoga/breath work/mindfulness on Thursday, October 7th at 5:00 p.m. at the Union Dale Trailhead, next to the Cables Store Rail-Trail office. Afterwards, there will be a short walk/hike to incorporate the information into the activity. Join us for a nice evening with a bit of information/education and a bit of a walk to enjoy an evening in the Fall. On Saturday, October 23rd at 9 a.m., we'll practice what we have learned with a brisk morning walk leaving from the Forest City Trailhead. Call the Rail-Trail office for more information 679-9300.

Trees on the D&H Rail-Trail

Over the past three years, over 50 trees have been planted along the D&H trail in Forest City. The trees can be found along the trail from the Industrial Park Road to the Erie Street access point. To date, more than 60 different species of new and existing trees are labeled with their common and scientific name. Our summer Vista worker has worked to weed and mulch around all the trees as well as map the trees using GPS and Google Maps. There are also 12 numbered trees to be identified;

these 'unknowns' are the same species as labeled trees. The identification list is our website www.nepa-rail-trails.org. A map will soon be available on-line. If you'd like to see a Dawn Redwood, a Kentucky Coffee Tree, a Yellowwood, or various species of oaks and maples, get out on the trail!

Veteran's Day Program

Veteran's Day Program will be held on Sunday, November 14th at 2:00 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial at the Clifford Municipal Building. Everyone is invited. Please bring your own lawn chair for seating. This beautiful memorial was built in 2006 during the Clifford Township's Bicentennial.

