

Clifford Township Newsletter

Issue 15

December 2007 - February 2008

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

2007 CTCA Directors

Chris Marcho 222-5808
CoChairman

Jim Pettinato 222-3930
CoChairman

Janice Bevaque 222-9312
Secretary

Harry Phillips 222-4589
Treasurer

Dennis Knowlton 222-4509
Playground Grant

Cherie Swetter 222-4628
Media/Tree Grant

Upcoming Township Events

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Dec. 2 | Christmas Care Breakfast, Fire Hall, 8 am - 12 noon |
| Dec. 7 | Clifford Village Christmas, Main Street, Clifford, 7 pm |
| Dec. 8 | 60th Anniversary Banquet for Fire Company, 6 pm
Christmas Play, Lenoxville Methodist Church, 6 pm |
| Dec. 9 | Christmas Play, Clifford Methodist Church, 3 pm |
| Dec. 16 | Children Christmas Party, Fire Hall, 3 pm |
| Jan. 20 | Clifford Twp Historical Society Annual Meeting, 1-3 pm, Fire Hall |

News from the Township Supervisors

The township has entered into a winter maintenance agreement with PennDOT. By taking over the plowing of Church Street with our own truck (the truck purchased at no cost to the taxpayer), the State will reimburse us \$64,000 over the next 5 years. This money will be placed in a road paving account and will be used to pave the Tennessee Gas Road from the Rt. 374 crossroad to the Williams Rd. intersection. Our efforts to find ways to improve our township without raising taxes are paying off! The new cinder shed, pictured on the right, neatens up a prior eyesore at the Township Building. It was also purchased at no cost to the taxpayer.



Community Christmas Celebration

It is hard to believe that the Clifford Township Community Alliance (CTCA) is organizing the Clifford Village Christmas Celebration for the ninth time! As always, it is scheduled for the first Friday in December; this year it will be held on December 7 starting at 7 PM. Once more, Santa and his elves will join us. Tiny tots will enjoy Elmo while bolder children will confront the crazy Grinch. Either way, candy and gifts make it a happy affair. Save room for chili and hot dogs, cookies and cocoa! Choir music starts the evening which culminates with a special raffle for two lucky children. All is free! All are welcome! This event is possible due to the support of our local businesses, social and civic groups. Join the holiday fun!

The Clifford Village Christmas tree is now a permanent and living fixture. It was recently purchased from the Jeffers Tree Farm with money from the tree grant received from the Northeastern PA Urban and Community Forestry Program.



Members of the CTCA planted it in November and will continue to maintain it. The tree has been placed near the CTCA Community Marquee where it will be incorporated into a larger landscaping plan which will be implemented in the Spring of 2008.

Main Streeters Take Action

The collapse of the Main St., Clifford bridge has caused business owners and residents of Main St. to talk about a "wish-list" for the area. A common thread of concern is public safety. With this in mind, members decided to pursue information regarding the incorporation of a sidewalk and lighting into the final design of the replacement bridge. With the help of the township supervisors, a formal request has been sent to PennDOT. A response is expected by spring.

Advertising in Newsletter

Contact Cherie Swetter, 222-4628, to find out how to advertise here.

Fire Company News

As the holiday season approaches, the volunteers at the Clifford Fire Company are very busy planning December's upcoming events. The list of events is as follows:

- On Sunday, December 2 from 8 am – 12 noon, the Clifford Fire Company in conjunction with the Ladies Auxiliary will be holding the annual "Christmas Care" breakfast. All proceeds provide assistance to less fortunate families throughout our area for the holidays. On average, 25 families are assisted annually through donations to Christmas Care and the proceeds from this breakfast.
- On Saturday, December 8 starting at 6 pm, there will be a 60th anniversary banquet held to mark this achievement for the Fire Company and Ladies Auxiliary. Please contact Harry Phillips for tickets and more details. You will see posters throughout the village and on our website at www.cliffordfire.com
- Finally, on Sunday, December 16 at 3 pm, the Fire Company will host the annual Children's Christmas party. Santa will arrive for the event along with the clown, singing and snacks!! Please bring the little ones out for the event. Admission is free.

With the holidays before us, please remember your fire safety while decorating. Christmas is a wonderful time of year; however, it also yields a very busy time for the fire service. Be sure to check your smoke alarms and change your batteries, install a Carbon Monoxide detector; be safe and have a wonderful holiday season.

Clifford Fire Lands Round 7 Department of Homeland Security Vehicle Acquisition Grant

On Friday, September 7, the Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Grant program announced Round 7 awards. Clifford Fire was blessed with a Vehicle Acquisition award totaling \$250,000. This grant will be used to replace our 1978/1989 tanker. Clifford Fire is required to contribute 5% or \$12,500 toward the project. There were over 1.2 billion dollars in requests or approximately 7500 applications for vehicle acquisition grants for the 2007 program. It is estimated less than 10% of these requests will be funded. DHS prioritizes the requests by issues such as age of the current vehicle, condition, justifying financial need and overall scope of the project. With our response area being rural and non-hydranted coupled with a nearly 30 year old unit, our grant was successfully funded. The magnitude of this grant allowing the replacement of this piece of apparatus cannot be placed into words. The new unit will carry more water to the scene than previously capable and allow a much safer operation due to new standards and technology than the current apparatus. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to DHS for their consideration of our project and their dedication to helping us help others. This vehicle acquisition grant, coupled with the Round 1 operations and safety grant for protective clothing has yielded \$309,725 for our community. These projects would not have been possible without this funding. The Clifford Fire Company is very aggressive in pursuing grant projects to financially assist in providing the best possible equipment to protect its residents.

Cub Scout News

Clifford Cub Scout Pack 190 is off to a great start for the fall season. We started this season with 11 new boys. The new total for our pack is 25 cub scouts. Two more adult leaders will be finishing their training on November 10th. On October 26th, all the cub scouts met with Gary Wilder at the Montrose Courthouse to learn the process of voting. On Oct 27th & 28th was Harvest Fest for all the cub scouts and their families at Camp Acahela. Everyone that went had a wonderful time. The Webelos (4th & 5th graders) have just participated in a blanket drive for St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen in Scranton. On November 5th we were excited to have Sandra Major, State Representative, come and talk with us. She brought us a Pennsylvania State Flag. We went to the Everhart Museum to see the Vietnam War Memorial and to tour the Museum on November 11th. The Wolves and Bears (2nd & 3rd graders) also collected food (canned and dry goods) for Montdale Methodist Church food pantry on November 20th. The Clifford Cub Scouts have many more events and trips planned for the coming year. Anyone who would like to help with donations and/or volunteer can contact Carrie Galambos 222-3945. We would also like to start a Clifford boy scout troop. If there is anyone interested in helping, please contact Amy Parry at 222-4144 or email Amy at amwp76@yahoo.com.



Back: Andy Graham, Josh Jumper, Jairus Parry, Sandra Major, **Middle:** James Eskra, Marshall Ward, Dane Barhite, Jacob Baranski, **Front:** Justin Alessi, Ewan Sands, Robert Belcher, Ryan Butler.

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Christmas at Bethlehem Gulch

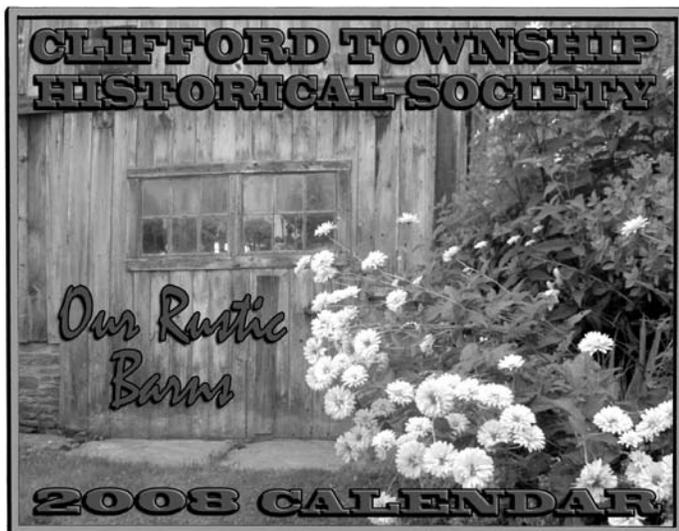
The Clifford Community Youth Group, in conjunction with the Sunday School classes of the Lenoxville and Clifford United Methodist Churches have been working hard in preparing for their upcoming Christmas program entitled, "Christmas at Bethlehem Gulch." This children's musical, written by Pam Andrews and arranged by John De Vries, takes place on a sheep ranch as a group of children from out of town come for their annual Christmas party. While expecting a cattle ranch, they are disappointed, but learn throughout their visit about the best Christmas gift ever... Jesus. Around 25 young people from our community will share two performances. They are scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 8 at 6:00 PM at Lenoxville United Methodist Church and on Sunday, December 9 at 3:00 PM at Clifford United Methodist Church. Admission is free and all are welcome!

Clifford Historical Society's Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Clifford Township Historical Society will be held Sunday, January 20 (snow date January 27), 1 to 3 pm at the Clifford Fire Hall. The meeting will include an open house to display area items of historical significance collected and donated to the society since the bicentennial celebration. A special program and refreshments will complete the afternoon. Everyone is more than welcome to attend! If you have pictures or an item you would like to donate or allow the society to copy for their archives, we will have computers available during the open house to do the duplication.

Historical Calendars Now Available

The Clifford Township Historical Society is proudly selling our **color** 2008 calendar, titled **OUR RUSTIC BARNS**. The year 2008 has been declared the "Pennsylvania Year of the Barn" so the calendar has been distributed to cultural organizations across the northeast region of the state. This third calendar in the series is available at most area businesses as well as on the website www.cliffordpa.com (see merchandise) for \$10. The historical society hopes the captions associated with the beautiful barn pictures will enhance public knowledge of our wonderful old barns. The profits from these calendars will be put to good use by the volunteers working on the renovation of the Hoover



School. The school now has a new roof, new exterior paint and several repaired windows. When the school renovation is complete, our historical society will invite all area school districts to plan "a day at a one room school" for their students. Youngsters will spend time at the school in the fashion of yesteryear, complete with teaching methods, outside plumbing, first-hand stories from former students, lunch on the potbelly stove and games at recess.

The school will also be the site for planned historical society activities, including an art auction, historical programs and speakers. So please look for our calendar. It makes a terrific Christmas gift for folks with ties to our area.

Clippings from the Mountain View Garden Club

The Mountain View Garden Club was formed in 2005 for the purpose of sharing knowledge and the love of gardening while beautifying the area. The club meetings have educational components which have included some very prominent speakers. Paul Epton, from Greystone Gardens, delighted us with a slide show of his own beautiful backyard and highlighted shrubs and perennials which are hearty and deer resistant. Molly Philbin, an educator who has made presentations at the United Nations, taught us about an innovative growing system (Earthbox) which is changing agriculture world-wide. Most recently, Lee Nelson, a college professor of horticulture, shared her insights on her own garden experiences and how community gardening can impact people's lives. Many more educational programs of this caliber are planned for 2008.

The club also has field trips. Last August, members took a bus trip into N.Y.C. to visit the gorgeous Wave Hill Garden which overlooks the Hudson River. We also had time for a tour of the Cloisters, a 20th century reproduction of a medieval monastery with historically-accurate gardens. Next year's trips are in the planning stage.

The garden club is also very interested in community service. Besides planting and maintaining trees and helping with seasonal roadside clean-up, it has given book scholarships to two deserving students from the area: Chelsea Marcho who graduated from Mountain View High School and Michaela McHale from Forest City High School.

The club does not meet in January and February. Beginning in March the meetings will be held the third Tuesday of the month. If you're interested in joining the club, please call JoAnn Hall at 222-3591 or Linda Shuma at 222-3377 for more information. Or please feel free to attend any of the programs that are of interest to you. Information is also available at www.mountainviewgardenclub.org.



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A Clifford PA Poem printed in an August 17, 1906 newspaper article

Clifford has three churches of much renown;
Two are kept in fine condition, one has tumbled down;
We have two as able preachers as any we know; They will show by the gospel the way we should go.

We have a creamery, and fine butter we can make;
Finn is the manager-- as good as any in the State.

We have three fine stores, with merchants attached,
Three as nice men as ever were "hatched."

Here is Rivenburg, our druggist, merchant, too;
As nice a little fellow as ever we knew.

He is genteel and kind, never gets in a strife.
The main thing needed is a nice little wife.

There is Harris, our postmaster and merchant, it is said
Always wants to spark, but never to wed.

And there is Merchant Bliss, polite, genteel and true,
Takes orders for undertaking, sells furniture, too.

Here is Taylor, undertaker and tinner combined,
As fine a workman as any you will find.

We have two blacksmith shops, wagon repairing complete;
The Lott's are our workmen, and they are hard to beat.

Here is Spedding, our Landlord, hotel painted new;
He is accommodating, and will look after you;
His tables have abundance, his rooms are neat.
His bar is tidy and his barns are complete.

Here is Doctor Hager who keeps us well;
An able physician; few can him excel.

There is Oakley with his auto, rides through town with great speed;
He will take your order for iron roof if any you may need.

We have two cemeteries, the old and the new,
Kept up in good condition, we expect soon to be there, too.

The scenery is magnificent, as many do tell,
Here we will leave you and bid you a long farewell.

<http://www.susqcohistosoc.org/hyapages/20060817.htm>

Submit your poem to CTHS at mswilmot@nep.net or mail to PO Box 442, Clifford, PA 18413

Poem Contest

Submit your 2008 poem about Clifford Township! Deadline: 01/14/08. The writer of the best poem will win \$50, awarded at the Annual Meeting of the Clifford Twp. Historical Society on January 20, 2008.



Clifford Township News
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