

Clifford Township News

Issue 11

January 2006

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

2006 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 4th Wednesday of every month at 7 PM in the township building. All are welcome!

Upcoming Township Events

First Friday	Feb. 3, 5:30 - 8 PM
Roadside Clean-Up	April 1 - 22
Trash Drop Off	April 21, 22, 8 -4:30 PM
Spring Fling Dinner Dance	May 6, 6:30 PM
Plant Exchange	June 4

Message from the Supervisors John Regan, Dennis Knowlton, Randy LaCroix

January 3, 2006 was our re-organizational meeting. We would like to bid farewell to Adam Baron and thank him for his many years of hard work for the community and to welcome Dennis Knowlton as vice-chairman.

We are proud of the progress we are making towards the maintenance and improvement of township properties. The township applied for and received a \$20,000 grant for the men's and ladies' bathrooms in the township building. Under construction at this moment, they will be handicapped accessible and state-of-the art with automatic flush and water dispensers.

There is a new 40 foot by 90 foot equipment shed behind the township building. The need for this shed was two-fold: frozen equipment and vandalism. The building was placed over the old basketball court and later this year when more money is available, the floor will be concreted. State Aggregate has donated all of the stone placed in front of the building and Barhite Construction has moved the stone around, free of charge. Kozlowski Towing is donating all of the insulation. It is because of the generosity of our local businesses and the fiscal responsibility of the supervisors that this structure has been completely paid for without taking out a loan or increasing taxes.



Dennis Knowlton

John Regan, Chairman

February's First Friday at Fire Hall

This is your last chance until next November to have a good time at the Clifford Township Community Alliance's (CTCA) social get-together and business card exchange to be held on **Friday, February 3 from 5:30 until 8 P.M.**, There will be food and refreshments compliments of Lunkerz Deli, Main Street, Clifford, this event's sponsor. Come and chat. See who is here. Look around at present and future community projects including the Bicentennial Celebration. Special recognition will be given to the youngsters who donated their time to the community tree planting last November. Help us show these young people that their efforts are appreciated. For more information call Chris Marcho at 222-5808.

Raffle Ticket Winners

The raffle ticket sale to help fund the Bicentennial video was a resounding success. The winning tickets were selected at the Clifford Tree Lighting Ceremony. The winners, from first place to fourth, are Rena Beeman, Theresa Solansky, Pat Peltz and Alissa Gojda. Congratulations and thanks to all who bought raffle tickets!

Meet Your Neighbor, Adam Baron

Adam Baron was born on a farm in Pleasant Mount in 1923 and was one of nine children. As a young man he worked on the track crew for the railroad and helped out at a dairy owned by a brother. For two years Adam worked in the Dickson mines, drilling and blasting. The mine eventually had to be shut down because of high gas concentration. This dangerous job became more so as the men robbed the coal pillars as they worked their way out for the final time; the mine would cave in behind them. Employed by S. J. Groves Construction in the 1950s and 1960s, Adam went from truck driver to foreman. Finally, he moved to Clifford in 1965 when he bought the Spedding Hotel on Main Street. It was co-owned by Adam and his brother Charlie until Charlie's death in 1974 after which Adam and his wife Pauline ran Baron's Hotel until 1990. It was then sold and renamed the Clifford Hotel.



From 1990 through 1995 and 2000 through 2005, Adam was one of our township supervisors. Adam's passion was the maintenance of the township roads. He worked with a small crew with only a few pieces of equipment, but because of Adam's extensive construction background, was able to keep the many miles of dirt roads in good shape, year round. Adam has just finished his last term in office and plans to enjoy complete retirement with the companionship of his wife, two daughters and four grandchildren. He hopes to spend time hunting, fishing and catching up with home projects.

The community thanks Adam for his many years of selfless service. Pleased to meet you neighbor!

Trash Talk

The 2006 Pennsylvania Cleanup is scheduled for April. In conjunction with this, our township's roadside cleanup will begin on April 1 with gloves and bags available throughout the month at the Clifford Auto Center, Main Street.

Our township's fourth annual trash collection sponsored by the Clifford Township Community Alliance (CTCA) and the supervisors is scheduled for **April 21 and 22 from 8 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.** at the township building. The township pays the costs in excess of what is charged as a community service to help keep our township clean. Offered to township residents only, proof of residence may be required. The fees are set to be affordable. Fees for large furniture and appliances range from \$6 to \$8. Items requiring special handling because of freon (refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners and dehumidifiers) have a \$25 fee. There is no charge for window glass in boxes, bagged or bundled aluminum or paper. Large plastic items can be recycled including swing sets, picnic tables and slides. Cash or checks payable to "Clifford Township" are due at the time of drop-off. Unacceptable items are tires or rims, farm equipment or construction debris including vinyl siding. Details about acceptable items can be found at www.geocities/cliffordtwp/welcome.html.

The CTCA is grateful to Rob Keating who has stepped up to act as chairman of the township's cleanup campaign. If you have used this volunteer-run service, would you consider giving a few hours of your time to help Rob on April 21 or 22? Contact him at 679-2310.

2006 Bicentennial Celebration Highlights

May 6, Saturday: Spring Fling Dinner Dance at Fern Hall

June 30, Friday: Square Dance and Barbeque Dinner at the Fire Hall, sponsored by the Mt. View Garden Club

July 1, Saturday: Parade of Antiques, refreshments by churches and civic groups, dinner at Methodist Church

July 1 and 2, Saturday and Sunday:

Bicentennial Booths at Picnic Grounds

Civil War encampment

Artisan and vendors

Sale of historical calendar, book and video

July 2, Sunday:

Firemen's breakfast

Ceremonies and Events at Township Building

Dedication of veteran's memorial

Bicentennial tree planting ceremony

Bury time capsule

Baseball game and refreshments

Antique Auction at Picnic Grounds

There will be free parking and no admission fee. Other activities are being planned, so stay tuned. The exact details of times and locations will be published in the May CTCA Newsletter or visit www.cliffordpa.com.

Bicentennial Booths

The Bicentennial Booths at the Fire Company picnic grounds will display different themes of township history; schools, churches, farming, geology, forestry, barn architecture, the fire department and early pioneer life. Each booth will have photographs, artifacts and hands-on exhibits for all to enjoy. Folks knowledgeable in the topics will be at each booth to answer questions and share stories of the past. If you have items to loan for these booths, please contact:

One room schools: Pat Peltz at 679-2870

Churches: Norma Genevich at 222-4368

Farming: Mark Wilmot at 679-2723

Pictures: Carol Gargan, e-mail at elkdale@nep.net

Other items (including your time!): Sandra Wilmot, 679-2723 or Sally Fischbeck at 222-3520.

We are still hoping to find pictures of Yarn's Cider Mill and old-time Dundaff.

The next bicentennial meeting is scheduled for **7 P.M., February 22**, at the Clifford Township Building. All are welcome. It's a great way to meet interesting people and get involved.

Bicentennial Logo - A Gift

This project is another testament to the talent existing in all corners of Clifford Township. Helmut and Barbara Kunst at Apple Hill Custom Framing and Gallery, Clifford, developed the logo gratis for the Bicentennial Celebration and it will be featured on many bicentennial items. (See it on page 4 of this newsletter.)

Much careful thought went into the design. Each quadrant highlights a significant part of the township's history. Clockwise, the first quadrant celebrates the dominance of farming from the earliest days until recently; the second refers to the natural beauty of the wooded mountains, lakes, the wildlife and stone walls; the third speaks of voluntarism exemplified by the Clifford Township Volunteer Fire Company; and the fourth represents the importance of the community, its churches, schools and homes.

The essence of our township is the long tradition of its people working together to make the community better for all, the newest effort being the upcoming three day Bicentennial Celebration. The true meaning of our logo is, "Welcome to our wonderful life."

Old is In

Please participate in the bicentennial parade. Whether you are inside or outside of Clifford Township, this is what brings people and communities together and teaches an invaluable civic lesson to our children. Old vehicles, be it tractors, cars, motorcycles or horse drawn carriages and wagons are what we are looking for. While researching our farming history it was discovered that oxen were common on our area farms. If anyone has a pair which can walk in the parade or pull a cart, please contact Jerry Verboys, co-chairman of the parade committee, at 222-4820. Floats by businesses or organizations are also encouraged!

Calendar in Second Printing

The sale of the historical calendar has been so successful that a second printing was necessary. It is available at Clifford Hardware, Lenox Propane, Kavulich's General Merchandise and the Dundaff Country Store for \$10.

Spring Fling – May 6, 2006

The Clifford Township Community Alliance (CTCA) would like to announce that its third annual dinner-dance will be held on **May 6, 2006** as the preliminary event in the celebration of our township's bicentennial. The theme will reflect the twenty decades leading to our present, in the decoration, the music and optionally, in apparel. If not attired in an outfit reminiscent of times past, the dress code requires jacket and tie.

The dinner dance will be held in historic Fern Hall, Crystal Lake. The CTCA is proud to have its dinner-dance be a part of Fern Hall's history. The meal will include appetizers, the main course will be a buffet featuring top round with mushrooms,

seafood scampi and chicken fraicaise and a variety of desserts will be served. Wine and beer will be complimentary during the cocktail hour; a cash bar will be available all evening.

The cost for the dinner-dance remains \$50 per person. This delightful setting can accommodate limited numbers, so tickets will be sold on a first-come, first-serve basis. To reserve a seat, send your check to CTCA, PO Box 123, Clifford, PA 18413. If you want to be seated with specific people, please include their names. The CTCA thanks our friends and neighbors for attending this yearly fund-raiser. For additional information call Cherie Swetter at 222-4628.

House Watch

The Clifford Township Police Department is providing a "house watch" service for residents who are going out of town. A form may be acquired by contacting Officer Donald Carroll at 222-9444. This information is strictly confidential and the form is locked in the police office. Whether a business or private residence, this allows for additional security checks and, in case of emergency, supplies contact information.

Playground Has Arrived

Dennis Knowlton, CTCA director and recently installed township supervisor, announces that the new playground equipment for the township's recreation center has arrived. As soon as spring weather allows, probably April, the grounds will need to be prepared and the equipment installed. Also, the evergreens donated by Elk Mountain Ski Center will be planted at this time. Please leave your name and phone number at 222-4509 to be added to the volunteer list so that you can be contacted when this work gets scheduled. Your support is making a difference.

Sergeant Slebodnik Remembered

Sgt. Eric Slebodnik of Greenfield Township was killed in action on September 28, 2005 in Iraq. The Clifford Township supervisors voted to purchase a memorial brick in his honor to be placed in the Veteran's Memorial being constructed at the township building this spring and dedicated on July 2. Information about the bricks is available through Harry Phillips at 222-4589 and at the bicentennial website www.cliffordpa.com .

Plant Exchange Scheduled

The Mountain View Garden Club, an eager participant in our community's beautification, announces its Plant Exchange will take place on **June 4**. This phenomenally successful event includes offerings from club members' gardens and local vendors and will be held at the residence of Kathy Flora. Mark your calendar. Additional information and directions will be available in CTCA's May Newsletter, the May 17 issue of the Carbondale News on the Clifford page, and on the garden club's website www.mountainviewgardenclub.org .

Clifford Township Historical Society, Inc. is official. Details to follow!



The original Fern Hall on Crystal Lake was a wooden structure built in 1889 by Robert Johnson of Johnson & Johnson fame and burned in the early 1900s. His brother James rebuilt the current stone building in 1916. The present Fern Hall has been used for fine dining, a sheep farm, a bed and breakfast and wedding receptions. On May 6, Fern Hall will be the site of the Spring Fling Dinner Dance, kicking off the Bicentennial Celebration of Clifford Township. Reservation details are on page three of this newsletter. (Photo courtesy of the Tom Holmes Family.)

Clifford Township News

PO Box 339 Clifford, PA 18413



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

Postal Customer