

# Clifford Township Newsletter

Issue 16

March - May 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**

**2008 CTCA CoChairs**

Chris Marcho 222-5808  
Jim Pettinato 222-3930

## News from the Township Supervisors

Many good things are happening in Clifford Township. Our township supervisors, John Regan, Randy La Croix and Dennis Knowlton, are pleased to announce that they have signed an agreement with Chesapeake Energy to lease the 14 acres of township property for \$750 an acre plus roughly a 13% royalty fee. Our township will receive \$11,500.

At long last, the new township building doors have arrived and will be installed this Spring. It took longer than expected to have them fabricated. Also, we have been accepted into PennDOT's Agility Program for the next five years. Because we now have a boom-arm mower, we can do the road-side maintenance on non-township roads and PennDOT will reciprocate with services that we cannot handle. It's a great trade!

In an effort to be more environmentally conscious, Clifford Township's newly erected road-care storage shed eliminates the possibility of contaminants from winter-maintenance run-off from entering the East Branch of the Tunkhannock Creek, which runs directly behind the municipal building and the recreational area. The storage shed, with its separate compartments for road salt and cinders, allows salt and cinders to be mixed according to road conditions to do a better job.

## Upcoming Events Described in This Newsletter

### Saturday, May 3

Tire and Spring Clean-up

### Sunday, May 11

Mother's Day Dinner, Dundaff

### Sunday, June 1

Plant Exchange & Marketplace

### Sat and Sunday, July 12, 13

Clifford Chautauque Weekend

## Business Directory Expansion

The business directory (the preliminary form was an insert in the last newsletter) will eventually be expanded into a booklet which will have more detailed information. Anyone interested in being included is requested to send in their physical address, mailing address, phone number, email/website, contact person and description of business. Please fax this to Dr. Lisa at 222-9331 or email [dralisa\\_dc@msn.com](mailto:dralisa_dc@msn.com). If any business was not included or if corrections need to be made, now is the time to get the information to Dr. Lisa. There is no fee; this is done as a service by the Clifford Township Community Alliance (CTCA). As a part of the ongoing CTCA mission to improve the economic health of the township, there are future plans to distribute the directory to outlying communities. Don't be left out!

## Hometown Pride Award

The Mountain View Garden Club congratulates Louis C. Parise of The Shifler-Parise Funeral Home in Clifford as the first recipient of the "Hometown Pride Award". The "Hometown Pride Award" recognizes businesses or organizations for upgrading the appearance of their business establishment's exterior, improving the appearance of their neighborhoods, and beautifying the region.

Also eligible for awards are organizations hosting projects/festivals that enhance the area's quality of life. The recipient(s) will receive a plaque from the Garden Club, recognition in the CTCA newsletter, and their name on the new billboard in Clifford. To download the judging criteria and nomination submission instructions, please go to [www.mountainviewgardenclub.com](http://www.mountainviewgardenclub.com).

## Advertisements

If interested in advertising in newsletter, please contact Cherie Swetter at 222-4628.



Pictured (left to right) are: Donna Caputo, Helene Tinsley, Louis C. Parise, JoAnn Hall, and Meg Suraci.

## Apparatus Consolidation a Success

In the spring of 2007, the Clifford Township Volunteer Fire Company announced plans to consolidate apparatus operations from a fire engine and ladder truck into one multi-functional quint fire apparatus. After much planning, this concept and operation was methodically placed into service in December of 2007. The first mission of the quint was to deliver Santa to the Village tree lighting!



The Quint: Fire Pump, Water Tank, Hose, Ground Ladders and Aerial Ladder all in one

Since the in-service of the quint, officially logged as Ladder 18 in the county communications center, the rig has responded on many calls in which it has substantiated the need and the concept again and again. During this period, some very intelligent questions have come from the community:

1. Does it have a water pump? Yes. The "quint" terminology refers to five functions: 1) fire pump; 2) water tank; 3) hose; 4) ground ladders; 5) aerial ladder. The water pump on this apparatus can pump 2000 gallons per minute which gives us the ability to pump more water on a fire than the fire engine it replaces.

2. Why do we need a ladder in Clifford? With today's construction, size of homes and exposures the Fire Company must respond to, the safety of the firefighter is number one. Operating from a ladder truck during roof top operations raises the level of protection for our firefighters to a very high level. A good example would be a simple chimney fire. Typically we do not respond to homes for chimney fires in July when the roof is dry; it is in the winter months when the roof is covered with snow and ice. Operating from the snow covered roof is difficult and dangerous – while operating from the aerial ladder is much more secure.

3. Why the 110' ladder – we don't have four story buildings? The original ladder was 100'; the vehicle that was purchased had a 110' heavy duty ladder. In a rural setting such as ours, the ladder length takes on a much different function. In city or suburban areas, firefighters arrive on the city street traditionally with a side walk, 10' of front yard and the structure. Other than Main Street, when was the last time you saw a house 15' from the street? The priority for Clifford now becomes "reach" not "height". Maintaining the length of the ladder, we are able to address most structures setback or how far away from the road or driveway.

As with any "change" there are always questions – and we welcome them. The Clifford Township Volunteer Fire Company places great dedication and pride in protecting the residents of Clifford Township with the most state-of-the-art resources possible. We appreciate your support and look forward to serving you in the future. Volunteers are always needed. You don't have to fight fires to be a very valuable member – administrative and fundraising duties are also available. Please contact us at 222-3741 or [clfst18@nep.net](mailto:clfst18@nep.net) if you are interested.

## Homemade Easter Egg Sale

The Clifford Community Youth Group is selling Homemade Easter Eggs available in two varieties - Peanut Butter and Coconut Cream, both covered in Milk Chocolate. The cost is \$1.50 each. Orders are being taken until **Sunday, March 9th**, with the youth making the eggs on March 14th and 15th. Proceeds will benefit Youth activities.

If you have already taken an order envelope, thank you. If you wish to help us out by placing an order, please contact either Pastor Peg at 222-3331, [pearlebell@hotmail.com](mailto:pearlebell@hotmail.com) or Robin at 222-4344, [rmcorrell@yahoo.com](mailto:rmcorrell@yahoo.com) Every order counts. Thank you for continuously supporting the Clifford Community Youth Group.

## Dinner on Mother's Day

St. John's Orthodox Church in Dundaff (off Route 247) is holding its annual Mother's Day Dinner on **Sunday, May 11th**, featuring BBQ chicken and holupki. Takeouts from 10:30 to 11:30. Dinner servings starting at noon until sold out. Adult and children prices will apply. For advance tickets call 222-3293.

## Clippings...from the Mt. View Garden Club

The members of the Mountain View Garden Club are looking forward to an exciting 2008! The program committee has come up with some great programs for this year. The Spring programs are: **March 18** – tree pruning and deer control presented by Donna Zagrapan and Colleen Bobrovcan, Master Gardeners; on **April 15** the program will be on garlic and its healthy benefits presented by Rich and Wendy Seymour from Burdick Creek Gardens; and the **May 20th** program will be on rain barrels – how to help the environment by saving rain water – presented by Donna Zagrapan, Master Gardener.

All three programs will be held in conjunction with our regular meetings **Tuesdays, at 7:00** at the Clifford Twp. Fire Hall. If you're interested in hearing any of the speakers, please join us. If you'd like to join the Garden Club, please contact Linda Shuma, our membership chair, at 222-3377. The annual club dues are \$25. Watch for the summer and fall programs in this newsletter or check our website at [mountainviewgardenclub.org](http://mountainviewgardenclub.org).

The garden club is also planning two field trips for this year. We will be going to Longwood Gardens on **Friday, May 2** and to Chanticleer on **Friday, August 22**. For more information on the trips, please contact Helen Newsum at 679-2443 or Deb McNamara at 222-4429.

## Plant Exchange and Marketplace

The fourth annual plant exchange will be held on **Sunday, June 1 from 1:00 til 4:00**. The plant exchanges are held at garden members' homes. This year's location is on Bell Mountain Road between Clifford and Tompkinsville. Look for signs the day of the event! This year we're changing the name to **Plant Exchange and Marketplace** to better describe the event. It truly will be a Marketplace with many vendors selling garden items, paintings and much more. You can bring a plant or two to exchange for perennials grown by garden club members and other gardeners from the area. Or just come and peruse the plants and other goodies we'll have for sale. This year Rob Rave from Rave Landscaping, Inc. will be giving tours and sharing insight on the many plants you'll see in the truly beautiful garden at this year's location.

## Waste Tire Collection & Community Clean-Up

On **Saturday, May 3**, there will be a coordinated tire collection and community clean-up at the Township Building. Tires can be brought from **8 AM until noon**; the township spring clean-up is from **8 AM until 3 PM**.

The tire collection is sponsored by the Susquehanna County Recycling Center and they request that participants register ahead of time so that adequate provisions for tire removal are available. Call (570) 278-3589 or 3509 or write to Susquehanna Co. Recycling Center, PO Box 218, Montrose, PA 18801. They need to know the estimated number of tires and their sizes. The fees are as follows: small (under 50 pounds) - \$1.50 each, large (50-85#) - \$3.00 each, truck tires (20-22 inch, up to 120#) - \$8 each. Industrial tires will be accepted only at the Susquehanna Co. Recycling Center in Montrose on **Saturday, May 31, 8 AM to 1 PM**, at a cost of 8 cents a pound.

All tires must be off the rim. There is a 100 tire per participant limit. The collection fee is due at the time of drop-off, payable by cash or check with proof of residency. The county tire pick-up ends at noon. The fee for tires brought in any time after noon doubles, due to the difficulty for the township to make additional disposal arrangements.

The Clifford Township spring clean-up will follow the same guidelines as previous years. One change from last year is the fee per truck load. One truck load of anything, including metal is \$30. Obviously, half of a load is \$15. Rob Keating, chairman of the cleanup campaign, can be contacted at 570-679-2926 if there are questions. Other fees are:

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large stuffed chair-\$10, mattress-\$10, bed springs-\$10, stove-\$8, dishwasher-\$8, washing machine-\$8, clothes dryer-\$8, lamps-\$2, lawn furniture-\$4, carpet roll-\$10, couch-\$15, refrigerator-\$30, freezer-\$30, air conditioner-\$30, TV-\$15, and computer-\$10.

This community service is a joint venture of the township supervisors and CTCA to keep our community beautiful. 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, Clifford.

## Township Crime on the Rise

Clifford Township has seen a steady increase in crime. The following is an account of reported incidents since 2000:

2001 - 51 incidents	2005 - 386 incidents
2002 - 62 incidents	2006 - 623 incidents
2003 - 74 incidents	2007 - 1,005 incidents
2004 - 127 incidents	2008 - 161 (thru 2/18)

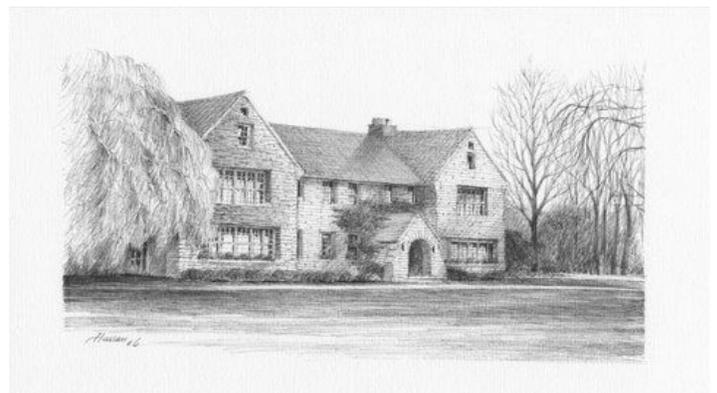
Fortunately, Clifford does have a police department. Chief Donald Carroll can be contacted at (570) 222-9444 or by fax at (570) 222-2587. Since Chief Carroll is not always in his office in the township building but is often on patrol, a message can be left on the answering machine. He has noted that certain areas of the township have experienced higher than normal crime rates. In the case of Dundaff, Chief Carroll instituted a Crime Watch program. That area is posted with crime watch signs and the residents are allowed to call the county dispatch (570-342-9111) to report a crime in progress. The caller is not required to identify him- or herself. So far this has been an exceedingly successful program.

The police department information was unintentionally omitted from the Township Directory. Please add it to your copy and remember to report all incidents so that the township police can be aware of the types, quantity and trends in criminal behavior in our neighborhoods.

## Speaker at Historical Society Meeting

**Thursday, April 17**, the Clifford Twp. Historical Society meeting at the Mt. View Restaurant at **7 PM** will also feature Lisa Schmidt who will inform us of the developing "Keeping it Local Movement" in Susquehanna Co. All are welcome!!

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 (continued from page 4) Please plan to attend one or all of the activities available **July 12 and 13**. Save gas and make great summer memories right here this year!! Questions?? Email Carol Gargan, elkdale@nep.net or Sandra Wilmot mswilmot@nep.net .



## Historical Society Planning the Clifford Township Chautauqua Weekend July 12 & 13

What's that you ask??? Chautauqua is defined in the dictionary as an assembly for education and entertainment with lectures, concerts, and other cultural activities. Events for our Chautauqua weekend begin on **Saturday, July 12** on the lawn of Wiffy Bog Farm Bed and Breakfast. Native American historian, Frank Little Bear will present an incredibly interesting talk on the real history of his Cree tribe and Native American cultures in general. Then he will teach and perform the music and dances of his culture. We hope entire families, especially those with young children, will participate in this unique learning opportunity.

After everyone works up an appetite singing and dancing with Frank Little Bear, our area Purveyors of Fine Food and Spirits will welcome everyone to partake of their "Chautauqua Specials." The next stop on the weekend agenda will be the Willow View Cemetery for the 7:00 pm performance of our cemetery theater.

"Beacon Fires," our five act play, took two years of research and masterful writing by Carol Gargan, local educator, life-long student of the arts and participant in CIA (Community Interdisciplinary Art) to become a reality. The acts portray the lives of former residents of our township: Native Americans who lit beacon fires high atop Elk Mountain; the little Burn's boy lost in the woods; the heroic deeds of Owen Phillips during the Civil War battle at Gettysburg; two local brothers named Johnson who developed Dr. Lister's idea of

sterile bandaging, saving untold numbers of lives after the Civil war; the "widows' haul" which was the first catch of shad used to sustain widowed women and their children; one widow's loss of home and land reclaimed by her family members, this being the same land where the Native Americans lit those Beacon fires two centuries earlier.

Stephen Foster songs, played between acts, will add to the depth of the production. Carol Gargan will be available after the play to answer questions and discuss the historical information used in writing the production.

On the afternoon of **Sunday, July 13**, at one o'clock, our weekend events begin on the grounds of historic Fern Hall at Crystal Lake. Bruce Young, a participant in the Pennsylvania Humanities Council Commonwealth Speakers Program, will present Pennsylvania Mountain Voices, highlighting music of early Pennsylvania settlers, which includes Stephen Foster tunes. Mr. Young's musical workshop brings a unique quality to our Chautauqua weekend as it leads into the performance by Andy Biskin at 2:30. Andy is a world-class folklorist, coming to us from New York City with his modern interpretation of Stephen Foster songs. The second performance of Beacon Fires will be held Sunday evening at the Willow View Cemetery at 7:00 pm.

A goal of the Clifford Township Historical Society is to foster an appreciation of our area's rich history through community programs and cultural events. We also want to make this learning experience fun, especially for the youngsters. With help from sponsors and grants, we are hoping to offer all the events of our Chautauqua Weekend free to the public!! (this article is continued on page 3)

Clifford Township News  
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