

CENTER NEWS

APRIL

Published by the Clarence Center Community Association

2005

ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday,

April 12, 2005

American Legion Hall

7:00 PM

Speaker: Doug Kohler

The Eschelman Family:
Shaping Clarence Center

FREE Bike Path Maps

Refreshments

COME JOIN THE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

As president of the CCCA we encourage our members and friends to volunteer a small amount of time to one of our upcoming events or projects. By your getting involved you will have the opportunity to meet new people or re-acquaint yourself with old friends. There are several projects that you can help with including: the flower barrels at the four corners, adopt-a-highway cleanup in the spring and fall, assist at the community picnic, or participate in the garden walk.

In the newsletter is a membership application. Please fill it out and return indicating your interest.

Your ideas, support and involvement will help to make Clarence Center a better community to live in.

— Lois Thompson



CELEBRATE THE CLARENCE BICENTENNIAL

Clarence is going to be 200 yearsand we are planning to celebrate! Yes - in three years, 2008, Clarence will celebrate a Bicentennial. In the years leading up to this, we plan to focus on our history in segments of 50 years each.....so in 2005 the focus will be on 1808 to 1857 and all that took place during this time.

As a first step on the History of Clarence, Doug Kohler has written the first of the books on the various hamlets of Clarence. "Clarence-Images of the Hollow" is available and you will find this to be a most helpful source of information. Doug will be writing books to include the history of Clarence Center, Harris Hill and Swormville/North Country over this Bicentennial period.

A Bicentennial Committee is hard at work working on events for this year as well as thinking ahead to 2008. Some of the committees are: volunteer help, finance, communication and media, historical information, web site and event planning. It is our goal for all residents, businesses and organizations to be involved in celebrating bicentennial events during this historical era of Clarence. If you have some interest

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MAYBE IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN ESHELMAN'S CENTER...



Doug Kohler

Although David Van Tine was the first settler in Clarence Center in 1829, it was the Eschelman family who left an indelible mark on our community. John Eschelman came to Clarence in the fall of 1826. He built a farm

and sawmill. His two sons, Jacob and John, embodied the dual traditions that have been a Clarence hallmark ever since: farming and business. Jacob followed his father into farming, as did his own son Levi, but it was Jacob's son, Andrew G. Eschelman who would give the Four Corners its most distinctive landmark: the three-story



Historical photos of the Eschelman Building can be viewed at "The Perfect Gift".

Eschelman building. Clarence Center can also thank the Eschelmans for the maple trees that grace Goodrich Road just north of the Four Corners and Thompson Road just south of Clarence Center. Jacob also served as town supervisor.

A.G. Eschelman went into business with his uncle, John Eschelman. He began his business venture when he purchased William Riegle's store on the northeast corner of Goodrich and Clarence Center, and by the 1850's it rivaled many retailers in Buffalo. In 1872, John Eschelman and his nephew built the "Square Deal" store that many residents still remember as the Emporium. The Emporium had one of the first Pioneer Telephone Company phones. Additionally, A.G. Eschelman built his home, "Birch Lawn," adjacent to the Emporium. He also parceled out several sites along both Goodrich and Long

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CLARENCE ARBORETUM



The new Clarence Arboretum is taking shape. Located on an 18 acre triangular site, just to the North of Town Hall, it will include over 57 varieties of native trees, grouped by species in a setting of winding pathways, bridges, benches and a gazebo. Designed for strolling, education and observation, the project will give all of the community an opportunity to participate in a project that will be a gift to future generations.



In addition to purchasing an individual tree for \$750, a grove of trees, benches and sections of the surrounding stone wall may be purchased and will be marked with a plaque listing the name of the donor and an individual or group in whose memory/honor it is given. All donations to the Arboretum, no matter how small, will be greatly appreciated. For further information on the project please contact Dick Steger at 689-8425 or pick up a brochure at the Town Hall.

Ar.bo.re.tum

- n. 1. A place where many kinds of trees and shrubs are grown for exhibition or study; hence
2. a wooded public park

The CCCA will be working toward the donation of a section of the stone wall and a bench for the Arboretum as our gift to the Town for today and tomorrow. Profits from some of our ongoing projects will be used to help fund this effort. In addition, if members have ideas for a specific fund-raising project please call Lois Thompson at 741-2027.

— Joanna Pickering

2nd ANNUAL CLARENCE CENTER IN COLOR GARDEN WALK SUNDAY, JULY 17TH

The CCCA will be holding its second garden walk that has been entitled "Clarence Center in Color". Last year's inaugural garden walk included 16 homes in the Clarence Center area. Approximately 325 people toured the gardens and comments received were all very favorable. For a modest donation, guests were given a program guide that included a map of the participating households. Not only were there descriptions of the various gardens that would be viewed, but in many cases, short historical narratives of the homes were provided by several homeowners. Each of the homes provided refreshments of



Booklets on sale with garden and history of premises.



Nicole and Lou Vitello's home on 5970 Goodrich Road.

water, tea or lemonade. Many of the homeowners also provided cookies for the guests. At the registration table at the Bank of Akron parking lot, guests were treated with refreshments as well, and the opportunity to purchase various plants from some of the homeowners.

Some of the comments that were received were, 'very well organized' – 'awesome diversification of garden selection' – 'thanks for the refreshments' – 'every homeowner was so friendly.'

(continued on page 7)

HISTORIC WINDOWS AN INTEGRAL PART OF BUILDING'S CHARACTER, VALUE

Windows on historic buildings are a major aspect of their architectural character and are too often thrown away and replaced with inferior vinyl products.

On many old buildings, windows are an important design element offering symmetry and balance to the facade. They also present examples of the high standards of the day—from the dense, tight-grained old growth lumber used to make the sashes, which was extremely rot-resistant, to the brass and cast-iron pulleys and sash locks that are virtually indestructible.

Peeling paint, cracked or missing putty, broken sash chords and cold drafts in the winter are the common complaints. All can be remedied with items still available at any hardware store, and made virtually air-tight using a variety of weather-stripping products not available in the old days.

In conclusion, vintage windows are well worth saving. When properly restored and maintained, they can last hundreds of years. Recently, I have restored the curved glass and rectangular windows in the home at 9540 Clarence Center Road in Clarence Center.

I often refer homeowners to the National Park Service Technical Preservation Service's web page for free information on restoring historic wooden windows, and a host of other information:

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/briefs/presbhorn.htm>
— Danial M. Farrell
Licensed Restoration Contractor, Lost Cities Restoration

FLOWER BARRELS



Thank you to everyone who assisted in the planting, watering, and maintenance of the beautiful flower barrels at the four corners in Clarence Center. The flowers this past summer were exceptionally beautiful and were enjoyed by the community. It is a lot of work and time, but your efforts are greatly appreciated.

— Lois Thompson

REMEMBERING THE PEANUT LINE

1959

What fun to remember the train that traveled on the old Peanut Line in Clarence Center. We came to this area in the fall of 1955 and moved into an upper apartment four buildings north of the Peanut Line. When our two boys were toddlers, that train was really special to them. It ran at different times but there was a time when it made a regular run to the Gypsum Mine in the middle of the night — 1 a.m. or so. As quietly as possible, the crew blew the whistle at the sign east of Goodrich Road and then moved slowly across Goodrich on their way to the Gypsum plant. As soon as that whistle blew, we would hear the patter of little feet as the boys ran into our bedroom where the only window with a view of the train was. They would fling back the venetian blind

“ We missed it when the operation ceased in 1977. ”

and stand watching the train until it had moved out of sight, then right back to their beds.

In 1959 we bought our home and moved right next to the Peanut Line. Our first morning in our new/old home was a greeting from the train crew as they slowly rode by on their way toward Batavia. It was a surprise for us because we were still in bed and we hadn't hung the drapes and curtains yet after an exhausting day of moving. That was a first priority, believe me.

The train crews were truly thoughtful, considerate "neighbors" and concerned with making the tracks a safe place for Clarence Center. There was only one accident that I recall. A lady ignored the warning flares that were placed on the road before the train crossed and she hit the train, damaging her car. When some local young boys were "jumping the train" for a ride, the crew came and talked with us about safety and ways to assure that no young people were hurt. Eventually, that very dangerous practice finally abated and fortunately, no injuries. Because of the contact with

PEANUT LINE BIKE PATH COMPLETION

The Town of Clarence was pleased to receive a Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council grant to complete the Peanut Line bike path two years ago. The GBNRTC administers State DOT Federal Aid projects and is a strong proponent of wellness through exercise. Benefits are weight loss, stress reduction, enhanced self-esteem and improved overall well being. Since the initial award notice, design, engineering, archeological and environmental studies have been completed.



The Peanut line runs from Transit Road to the Newstead Town Line, a distance of 6.1 miles. The grant will pay 80% towards the portion of the path between Strickler and Kraus Roads and a portion from Bridlewood Drive going west. The Town Board gave support for the completion on January 19, 2005.

The Town arranged for a public information meeting on December 6,

2004 so that residents had the opportunity to learn all about the project, ask questions and express their thoughts. More than one hundred people attended and all comments were recorded and taken into consideration.

The plan is to not have the path open onto Transit Road but involve a cul-de-sac east of Transit Road and only a sidewalk to Transit. Emergency phones will be installed, intersections identified, mile markers placed and three gazebos will be built, also included in the grant.

The 2005 Town Budget provides funding for an additional Parks security position. There will be increased Security presence on the bike path, quite probably on a four wheel vehicle even though the general public is prohibited from using motorized vehicles on the path.

Construction should begin in the Spring of 2005.
— Kathleen Hallock
Town of Clarence Supervisor

Remembering the Peanut Line...

the train crew, our boys got a legal opportunity to ride the train. What a treat for our boys!

I'm not sure of all of the businesses serviced by the train. National Gypsum, definitely, maybe Atlas Cement, and boxcars of lumber were brought in for Folgelsonger's. Perhaps the Ebersole Grain Mill may have had merchandise brought in. Another 'export' was



hay. During haying season, there were wagonloads of hay bales brought to the siding from the farms in the north of Clarence. I was told that these hay filled boxcars were sent for use at racetracks. We missed it when the operation ceased about 1977. The

trains were good neighbors and the loss marked a change in the history of Clarence Center.

— May Coppola
Clarence Center Resident

Become a CCCA Member!

Fill out the enclosed form and mail today!

Become Part of Your Community.

HISTORIC HOME



6020 Goodrich Road

The former residence of Andrew G. Eshelman and family. The family called this home "Birch Lawn." However, all the birch trees are now gone. A.G. Eshelman was the proprietor of the "Square Deal Store," the postmaster of Clarence Center from 1891 to 1894 and again in 1898. Mr. Eshelman was one of the largest property owners in Clarence Center and was responsible for its development.

Eastern Hills Mall (continued from page 8)

New Jersey, purchased Eastern Hills Mall in July of 2003, and has been steadfast in its commitment to see the mall regain an upscale retail environment.

The many changes to the mall include the renovation of the new, international food court, with double sided fireplaces, and plasma screen TV's.

Our "Summer in January" event was a great way to warm up the long post holiday winter. Children played in our giant indoor beach daily, received FREE sand toys, sunglasses and beach ball, and adults received a FREE summertime floating butterfly candle. There was an Ice Cream Eating Contest, and Beach Music party, with FREE ice cream for everyone. Easter will bring the arrival of the Easter Bunny, and a spectacular Easter egg hunt this year! Hope to see you there.

Our Music Festival is sure to please with a variety of entertainers to perform for your enjoyment. Our Children's' Summer Theater was a tremendous success last year, and will be repeated again this summer with 10 weeks of FREE entertainment, gifts, and professional performers that children of all ages will enjoy.

We may not be the Eastern Hills you remember, and we are sure to be the Eastern Hills you'll never forget! Give me a call at 631-5812 if you would like to organize an event using our wonderful mall facilities to benefit your organization.

— Ellen Kaminsky,
Marketing Manager

CCCA ACTIVITIES

HOLIDAY WREATHS



Holiday Wreaths again added to the festive decorations of Historic Clarence Center, adding charm and a sharing in the sense of community with everyone passing through our town. Thank you to all of the many people who helped in preparation and hanging of the wreaths. Over 45 wreaths are annually mounted on poles primarily on Goodrich and Clarence Center Roads near the four corners.

Thank you from Flora Leamer

*Become a Member!
Fill out the enclosed
form and mail today!*



*Community Picnic - July 22, 2004
Girls Scouts providing help and entertainment at the Summer
Community Picnic in July*



*Community Picnic - July 22, 2004
National Honor Society and Girl Scouts providing fun and games for
the children*

COMMUNITY PICNIC

On July 22, 2004 the Community Association held another Community Picnic in the pavilion at Town Hall Park on Goodrich Road. Families were invited to bring a dish to pass, as well as their friends and neighbors. An assortment of games and activities was provided including; face painting, animal balloons, piñatas, and other games. Girl Scout Troop #149 brought crafts and entertained the small children. National Honor Society students assisted with entertainment and the picnic details. Music was provided by Paul McCarthy "Talk of the Town". Please plan on joining us in July 28, 2005. It is a great way to meet your neighbors, and have a good time.

ANNUAL CCCA FAMILY & FRIENDS COMMUNITY PICNIC

THURSDAY, JULY 28TH, 2005

WHERE: Clarence Town Hall Park - Goodrich Road **TIME:** 5:30 - 9:00 pm

BRING: Your favorite dish to pass, place settings and meat to grill

DINNER: 6:00 - 7:00 pm **PROVIDED:** grills, pinata's and games

FREE: face painting, petting zoo, entertainment, beverage and more!

Come meet your neighbors, bring the kids, have a good time!!!

*It's a perfect time to bring your out-of-town extended family
to meet the rest of the 'ol community.*

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Curb Appeal (continued from page 8)

and north and south, on Goodrich, not because we're a big shopping center or a big metropolis or because we want more business or more people, but just because we want people to know there is a Clarence Center; it has its own identity and it is NOT Clarence or the Clarence Hollow.



But this opens up a whole can of worms. If we want signs, how big should they be? What should they be made out of, cast iron? Cast aluminum? Machined aluminum? What should the signs say? Should they be plain, or designed? And, where should they go? By the school? Out by the church to the east? Up to the fire hall on the west? Further up, around the bend? To the bike path on Goodrich or further north? To the creek on the south, or to Roll Road? Or maybe Greiner?

If you have any thoughts about signs — what you'd like to see, where, what they should say, how they should say it, even what they should be made out of, please let your association know. We're seeking your input!

WRITE:

**CCCA-Sign,
 PO BOX 295**

Clarence Center, NY 14032

BICENTENNIAL (continued from page 1)

in helping in some way please contact me at 759-6170.

Note that in mid-October 2005 the Brant Volunteer group will return to the Town Park to enact a "Living History" for a Colonial Day in the Park. The group were followers of Joseph Brant who was a Mohawk Chief and was loyal to the King of England. We have a wonderful community and it will be a joy to celebrate all that we are.— *Mark Woodward*

Town Historian, Clarence
 PH:759-6170 • shepherdmh@adelphia.net

Eschelman (continued from page 1)

Streets for development: "Maple Slope," "The Evergreens" and "The Orchards."

Andrew's brother, Emmanuel, also went into business when he purchased the general store on the southwest corner of Goodrich and Clarence Center. Andrew Metz had previously run the store. Thus, for a time the three of the Four Corners were all Eshelman-run businesses. — *Doug Kohler*

Garden Walk (continued from page 2)

This year "Clarence Center in Color" will be Sunday, July 17th. The committee has already begun making plans. We are seeking additional gardens to be entered into the walk. If you are interested in participating, or would like to share some ideas, or help on the day of the event please contact me at 984-5164 or email to clarencegarden@yahoo.com. We look forward to presenting our second annual "Clarence Center in Color".

— *John Leamer, Chairman*



Board of Directors

- Lois Thompson President
- Tom Muscarella Vice President
- Flora Leamer Treasurer
- Ed Harder Secretary

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HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

CLARENCE CLARENCE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING

~ TUESDAY ~

APRIL 12, 2005

AMERICAN LEGION HALL • 7 PM
5850 Goodrich Road

TOPICS:

Bike Path (Pick up a FREE Map)
Local History • Refreshments • Garden Walk



CLARENCE CENTER
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 295
Clarence Center,
New York 14032

UPCOMING EVENTS - 2005

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>April 12 CCCA Annual Meeting
American Legion Hall • 7:00 pm</p> <p>April 19 Community Picnic Planning
Committee Meeting
Zion Lutheran Church • 7:00 pm</p> <p>May 6 and 7 Adopt-a-Highway Spring
Clean-up
Clarence Town Hall • 9:00 am</p> <p>May 28 Flower Barrels</p> | <p>July 17 Garden Tours, <i>Sunday</i></p> <p>July 28 Community Picnic, <i>Thursday</i>
Town Hall Park
Lions Den Pavillion • 6 - 9 pm</p> <p>September 30 Adopt-a-Highway Fall Clean-up
Clarence Town Hall • 9:00 am</p> <p>October 1 Adopt-a-Highway Fall Clean-up
Clarence Town Hall • 9:00 am</p> | <p>November 1 Prepare Christmas Wreaths at
Parks Department.</p> <p>November 12 Hanging of Christmas lights
and wreaths</p> <p>December Business Membership
drive begins</p> <p>March, 2006 TBD • CCCA Picnic Planning</p> |
|--|--|--|

Thank you for your participation and support!

EASTERN HILLS MALL IS THERE FOR YOU

Eastern Hills is committed to its' support of local organizations with continuing programs for schools, and community service groups of all kinds at no charge to the organization. Our many programs for our regular customers include a mall walkers



Newly renovated mall has big plans for the community.

program, frequent shoppers program and Birthday club for kids.

Eastern Hills Mall is experiencing a renaissance in our efforts to provide the surrounding community with a beautiful jewel of a Mall. Mountain Development Corporation, based in

(continued on page 4)

HISTORICAL PLAQUES

The Clarence Historical Society has a Historical Plaque program. "*Landmarks of Clarence*".

Plaque applications will include pertinent information about your home or building. That information will determine if your property meets the appropriate criteria for historical recognition. The program will help educate and inform the community about the many historic treasures within Clarence. The Clarence Historical Society will assist you with the application form.

The bronze plaques are a classic 8" x 11" design. For more information please contact the Clarence Historical Society at 759-8575 or Flora Leamer at 741-9999.

List of plaqued homes in Clarence Center:

- 1) Schettler Homestead, 9540 Clarence Ctr. Rd.
- 2) 9495 Clarence Center Road
- 3) 9070 Lapp Raod



CURB APPEAL



Location, location, location. Everybody knows that Clarence Center is a great place to live and grow, but how many people passing through the hamlet know where they are?

Some board members have suggested that the time has come for new signs at the entries to the area, telling people that they're now entering Clarence Center. We have signs on Clarence Center Road now, just past the elementary school, that have been there as long as anyone can remember. Is that enough or should they be replaced?

Some members of the board feel that we need new signs east and west of the hamlet, on Clarence Center Road,

(continued on page 7)