

# OPINION

CEDAR GROVE OBSERVER

· EDITORIAL ·

## Focusing on history

Each of the Cedar Grove history presentations given by Phil Jaeger that we've attended has been filled not only with fun facts but substantive information presented in an organized, thoughtful manner.

Last Wednesday, Mr. Jaeger's talk on the railroads of our area, netted many factoids. Our favorite was that the first sidewalk in Cedar Grove went from the train station to the tavern.

We strongly suggest all attend Mr. Jaeger's slideshow presentations, even those who have only a vague interest in our little town. Two are done and gone but there are four more scheduled. A presentation on the township's businesses is scheduled for Jan. 23, "Organizations and Town Services" on Feb. 27, "Overbrook Hospital" on March 26 and "Roads and Residences" on April 23.

All are held in the library after a brief meeting of the Cedar Grove Historical Society at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments are usually served afterwards.

Mr. Jaeger augments his talks with many old photos and maps. His knowledge of the area is vast and best yet, he is very giving of his time and memory to answer questions from the audience.

Cedar Grove is lucky to have not only a rich history, but a resident so willing to have studied it and share it with us.

## Curriculum changes p

The Cedar Grove School District has embarked upon exciting curricular changes designed to enhance instruction as well as student achievement.

As part of a five-year effort that started in 2006, we have been working to improve the curriculum offerings at every grade level.

The various curriculum committees, chaired by district administrators and developed by instructional staff, have been addressing the need for better delivery of instruction.

The curriculum improvements not only shape the content of individual courses but also ensure that those courses are integrated and coordinated between grades and between buildings. The following are highlights of the progress made so far.

This year at the elementary schools we are piloting a new language arts literacy program in one classroom at each grade level K-4. As part of the district's plan, a committee of elementary teachers and parents met throughout the course of last year. After much discussion and deliberation, the committee selected McGraw-Hill's program entitled *Treasures*, which sup-



The writer is the p  
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