



April 2015

ELVERSON BOROUGH EASTER EGG HUNT

Chris Cameron

Despite some blustery winter weather from Mother Nature, this year's Elverson Easter Egg Hunt was a hopping success! The Easter bunny didn't just bounce into Elverson's Livingood Park, he rode in on style atop a Twin Valley Fire Department truck.

The event was organized by Jenny Cameron and Lauren VanSteenvoort; volunteers included Jen Dunbar, Kelly Whitehouse, Catriona Mason, Martin and Ellen Carmody, and Jody Phillips. Special thanks to Elverson Borough, National Penn Bank, and Walmart for sponsoring the event. Stell Environmental of Elverson donated the grand prize to one lucky egg hunter. Morgantown Coffee House served up some warm java for adults. Hundreds of eggs were stuffed and hidden around the tennis courts and gazebos in the park.



Event organizer, Jenny Cameron with the Easter Bunny (our Mayor).

Over 100 children attended the egg hunt with their families.

"Despite the cold weather, the event was a great success," Cameron said.

As children began to congregate the Elverson fire truck siren announced the arrival of the Easter bunny. Children crowded near the tennis courts to see the bunny hop down from the truck to kick off the day's events. Mayor Bob Broderick reprised his role as the Easter bunny and was happy to say "hi" to all of the children and posed for many photos.

Broderick, a former elementary school teacher, was very excited to play the part and did a wonderful job.



Our thanks to the Twin Valley Fire Department for their part in the event.

Volunteers of the Twin Valley Fire Department were happy to talk and take pictures with families, letting children sit inside the cab and answering questions about the equipment. Children watched in awe as the ladder was raised into the air. Registrant donations benefitted the Fire Department.



Our thanks to Stell Environmental for donating our grand prize.

There was plenty of candy and plenty of smiles at this year's egg hunt. It's safe to say that Borough children are looking forward to this sweet event next year.

THE LEGACY OF ROBERT E. COOK

Merle Stoltzfus

February 3, 2015 was a significant day for Elverson; a day that should help us to consider our own lives.

There is good reason I've titled what I want to say, "The legacy of Robert E. Cook" in remembering his life. Webster's Dictionary defines the word legacy as "A gift from the past; something inherited". There have been many other men I have known in Elverson in my life time. There are only a few who have given and served our greatest square mile as selflessly and quietly as Bob Cook. Apart from his life long commitment to keeping Elverson Supply serving our town, Bob served as President of Borough Council for the years when Elverson got public sewer, public water followed by a population which quickly doubled. These were challenging days for our town. Bob's quiet but firm leadership kept us working together through the challenges of those years. Bob did not hide behind the Borough solicitor and/or engineer. He guided council as the elected officials to make the decisions. In doing this he set a standard leaving all of us a legacy; a gift from the past.



Public service has significant challenges. In a small town, the electors are also neighbors and acquaintances to public officials so the challenges often become quite personal. Robert Cook's sacrifices for Elverson are easy to forget in the conveniences we enjoy because of his service.

So, firstly, we should be thankful people for Bob Cook and the inheritance we all enjoy because of his many, many hours of public service. And secondly, this should be a day when we again consider our own lives. May the legacy of Robert E. Cook help us pause and consider how we use our time and space on this earth and commit ourselves to leave a legacy, a gift to future generations and not consume our time and wealth selfishly; just on ourselves.

I encourage all of us to be inspired by this man and commit ourselves to think far beyond him; to think eternally. Truly, God has placed eternity in our hearts. As we consider the life of Robert E. Cook, these thoughts should help us better understand the opportunity each of us have to leave a gift for future generations.

I am grateful and we are all grateful for the life of Bob Cook. Because a local public servant like Bob automatically brings his family to share in his service, we're grateful to Ruth and the family as well. It's the sacrifices of this kind of life that will continue to make Elverson the greatest square mile.

ELVERSON 5K BENEFITS WOUNDED WARRIORS

Come join us for our first 5K and Family Fun mile, benefitting The Wounded Warriors Project, on **Saturday June 27th** right here in Elverson. Let's have some fun and support a great cause! Medals for the top male and female finishers (1st-3rd) in each age group (10 year span) at the 5K and prizes for Best Superhero Costume, Most Original Superhero and Best Superhero Group will be handed out at both events! (costumes optional) Vendors, dancing and fun will be had by all! Call Elverson Fitness Club at **610.901.3373** or email **efcruns@gmail.com** for information. We are looking forward to a great event for runners, families and superhero fans of all sizes!



MAIN STREET YARD SALE

Esther Prosser

It's a great time to clean out closets and get rid of stuff. If you haven't used it in a year, put a price tag on it and make some money.

Our Elverson Main Street Yard Sale, scheduled for **Saturday, May 9**, allows anyone living on Main Street to set up tables and sell. If you don't live on Main and would like a Main Street location, please contact me (esther@stoltzfus.com, 484.269.7153) and I will help you find a place. Times are 8 am to 1 pm (although customers have been known to show up at 6 am).

The Summerfield community sets up on the east end of town at the Heritage Medical Center parking lot. If you would like to join that sale, contact Sally at 610.913.6712.

If you have no interest in selling, join others who walk Main on that day to visit with neighbors and get bargains.

The rain date is the next Saturday. Check our Elverson Borough website www.elversonborough.org if the weather looks questionable.

STORM-WATER MANDATES

Merle Stoltzfus

Last August, in an article titled “*Storm-water Ideas Have Consequences*,” I wrote about the massive unfunded federal mandate handed down to local governments to strictly control storm-water. Whether or not we agree with these federal and state requirements, it will be helpful for all of us to understand the issues.

Paying our quarterly sewer bill reminds us all of the cost to responsibly handle our sewerage. A century ago it was common practice to dump our waste water into our storm-water system. With some understanding and experience, this practice now seems primitive to us. These combined systems are common in most developing countries around the world and has destructive effects on streams and rivers.

It was only 27 years ago Elverson constructed our waste water collection and treatment facility. Many of us can still recall seeing steamy waste water running down the curbs of our streets into the storm inlets. The past 50 years have dramatically improved the condition of our water resources. Technologies and techniques have been implemented by all sectors of society returning odorous, multicolored flows of discharges of untreated wastewaters into clear flowing streams.

But some of the most persistent problems remain with over 20% of the streams in Chester County currently impaired by pollutants and discharges. In the past 30 years the growing communities and neighborhoods in our County have consumed more land at a faster rate than at any time in history. In order to responsibly sustain this growth we need to increase water supplies and obtain viable alternatives for increase wastewater without further impairing our ground water and streams.

The Borough of Elverson has until 2018 to complete planning and implement a plan that will enable us to obtain a “Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System” (MS4) permit. We are currently seeking to assemble a task force of residents who are willing to lead this initiative for us. We need people with a variety of gifts, talents and knowledge to complete this plan.

Not since our need for public sewerage have we faced a challenge as extensive as this MS4 federal mandate. Serving with this task force is an opportunity to leave a legacy to our Borough. Please contact Lori at 610-286-6420 if you are willing to learn more.

TRI COUNTY ART SHOW & SALE

The 20th Annual Tri-County Art Show & Sale, sponsored by The Rotary Club of Twin Valley, will be held at the Caernarvon Township Community Center, 3307 Main Street in Morgantown, from April 10 to April 12, 2015.

Approximately thirty local artists and potters will display and sell their artwork. Marilyn Shafer Bush is this year’s featured artist. In addition, student artists from Twin Valley High School will present their work.

The Community Center will be converted into an art gallery. On Friday evening, April 10, there will be a gala preview reception from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Food and wine will be served and guests will have an opportunity to meet the artists and to participate in a silent auction. In addition, Twin Valley High School musicians will be playing from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Advance tickets for the Artists’ Reception are available at \$25.00 per person by contacting Ron Moyer at 610-286-7689 or rmoyerfb23@gmail.com. Tickets will also be available at the door.

The art show will be free to the public on both Saturday, April 11 and Sunday, April 12, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

This show is the primary fundraiser for The Rotary Club of Twin Valley. Proceeds from the event will benefit community and charitable activities in the Elverson, Morgantown, and Honey Brook areas.



Marilyn Shafer Bush is self-taught in acrylics and she loves painting animals and the area countryside. She is best known for her mountain gorilla portrait put into limited edition print by the Diane Fossey Gorilla Fund Int. in 1999. Marilyn has been a guest on CW’s morning show “Talk Philly” with Tyme Gallery owner Edna Davis to talk about her work. Marilyn also did a painting for the CD cover “Love Has Many Faces” by Seattle based singer/songwriter Marilyn Milano. Proceeds from the sale of this CD help animal rescues around the country. Visit www.marilynmilano.net. You can find Marilyn’s work at Chadds Ford Gallery, Chadds Ford, PA. (www.awyethgallery.com)

ELVERSON HISTORY RETURNS HOME

Chris Cameron

The Elverson Historical Commission is beginning to receive a flurry of artifacts for preservation. It's always exciting to see just what is going to come through the doors of Borough Hall for a historical donation. Recently the Borough received a really unique piece of history from a generous genealogist and preservationist in California.

Lynda Linaugh tracked our organization down via the internet and was wondering if Elverson was formerly Springfield and if we knew anything about a woman named Jemima Ackley. Elverson Borough was incorporated in 1911 and was previously Springfield and Blue Rock. Recognizing the name Ackley, we were immediately intrigued.

Lynda tracked down a beautiful wooden box inscribed "Jemima Ackley, 24 Feb. 1874, Springfield, Chester County, Pennsylvania." The box was being sold on a social media genealogy website that she belongs to and was listed for sale from someone outside of Pennsylvania.

With the help of historical records and the knowledge of some of our Borough residents, we were able to find out that Jemima Ackley lived at the log cabin at 24 Hall Street until the early 1950s. She was born in the house, which was purchased by Isaac Ackley in 1842. The house itself is thought to date back to the 1730s.

Jemima and her family had a rich history in the town and she would have been a young girl when this box was inscribed. She had a brother who fought in the Civil War and died in a Confederate prison in Andersonville, GA. After her father's death in 1905, Jemima, lived at the house at 24 Hall Street for almost the rest of her life. She never married and had no running water in the home. There have been accounts from relatives that she chopped her own firewood and would gather wa-

ter from the nearby spring when the well went dry until she was close to 90 years of age. The house was sold in 1955 to Victor and Kathryn Winn.

Cookie Onushko, Historical Commission member, remembers as a girl visiting the property when it belonged to the Wynn's and Kathryn would dress up as "Aunt Jemima" on special occasions and give historical tours of the home. As Winn liked to say, the house was "hacked out of the wilderness." Jemima Ackley's box looks like a wilderness piece as well and has unusual designs marked onto the front—definitely an early primitive piece of Americana.



Needless to say, once Lynda told us that she had purchased the box and wanted to donate it to the Borough, we were ecstatic to have such an early piece of the town's history returned to us. Lynda said that when she saw the box it just spoke to her and she imagined what Jemima would have kept in it. Lynda is originally from Pennsylvania and has an interest in this area's history.

Elverson resident, Shirley Crehan, also donated several pieces to the Commission, including some early artifacts specifically from Elverson. There are two matchbook covers; one from the Elverson Fire Co. and the other from Houck's Food Service. We also received two early Elverson postcards. Shirley is very active in several Borough organizations, including the Historical Commission.

All of our artifacts will be on display for visitors inside Borough Hall. Without the generous donations of residents and friends, the Borough's rich history would be forgotten. Thank you Lynda and Shirley for getting these artifacts back home.

MULCH VOLCANOES CAN BE DEADLY!

Elverson Shade Tree Commission, 2015

Mulching trees, when done properly, is beneficial for their health. Mulch helps conserve moisture, suppress weeds, moderate soil temperature, and improve soil structure and fertility. A mulch thickness greater than 2 to 4 inches, however, is over-mulching. If mulch is piled high against the tree trunk, the consequences of over-mulching can eventually kill the tree.

Over-mulching often looks like a big “**mulch volcano**” at the base of a tree. This causes numerous problems for the tree with symptoms often taking years to appear. With mulch piled against the tree’s trunk, the bark softens because of moisture and becomes susceptible to cankers, splits, and bark rotting. The moist environment leads to fungal and bacterial disease and insect attacks which results in further decline in the health of the tree. Mulch volcanoes provide winter cover for rodents like mice and voles that chew through the bark to get to the nutritious inner bark. This damage disrupts the tree’s flow of water and nutrients and can starve the tree to death.

Thick blankets of mulch often become matted and prevent water and air from getting to tree roots. This lack of air results in oxygen deprivation to the roots causing root suffocation. Tree roots seek out the easiest source of moisture so often grow up into the moist mulch volcano instead of growing outward, only to dry out in hot weather. These roots also sometimes form girdling roots which encircle and eventually strangle the tree.

What is the correct way to mulch a tree?

- If mulch is piled against the tree trunk, pull it back 8 – 12 inches from the trunk exposing the trunk and root flare to the air.
- Spread a thin layer of mulch around the tree to a depth of 2-3 inches forming a mulch “ring” with no mulch touching the tree’s bark.
- In the spring, rake existing mulch to refresh and break up the top crust. Add additional mulch if needed to a depth of 2-3 inches.

Mulching the right way helps support healthy lateral root growth and also protects trees from lawn mower and string trimmer damage. Trees with a trunk diameter larger than about 10 inches usually do not need to be mulched.

Additional resources:

Penn State: <http://www.extension.psu.edu/perry/news/2012/tree-planting-tips>

PA Trees (with video): www.patrees.org/mulch

International Society of Arboriculture: <http://www.treesaregood.com/treecare/resources/ProperMulching.pdf>

New Jersey Ag Experiment Station: www.rutherford-nj.com/shadetree/Proper_Mulching.pdf

Arborist-Treecare: <http://www.arborist-treecare.com/mulch.html>



HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW ELVERSON BOROUGH?

Jody Phillips

Congratulations to Linda Godschall, Joe Sullivan and Roseann Thomas who correctly identified the location of the Elverson Borough home pictured in the March issue of this newsletter at 28 West Main Street. I have always admired this attractive three-story, black granite home with its two chimneys and three dormers. I particularly like the graceful lines of the front porch, which I photographed.

According to Bob Patry's "The History of Our Community: Elverson, PA," this lovely home was built in 1880 by the Sigman family and is an excellent example of mid-Victorian architecture. Hunter Sigman was most likely its first owner and in the 1950's the property was the home and butcher shop of Paul Houck, who restored it.

Art and Estelle Oppenheimer owned the large house until 1970 when Joe and Roseann Thomas bought it. Joe and Roseann organized the first Elverson Halloween Parade in 1972 and are still very involved in this event. They sold the house in 1991 to Chris Peeples, who remodeled it once more and turned it into a rental property.

The life-size statue of Asclepius, the Greek God of Healing, was erected in the 1990's by one of the home's more interesting tenants, skin Surgeon Dr. Dean Burgette. Although Dr. Burgette no longer resides in Elverson, his attention-getting statue still stands at the entrance of the home's driveway. Several outbuildings dot the back yard. One is purported to be an old smokehouse. Another smaller outbuilding is probably a three-seater out-house which has been preserved from the home's earliest days. The grounds are dominated by a large maple tree, which may have been planted by the Sigman family well over 100 years ago.

This month's contest features an entire house for you to identify. Please tell me where this beautiful old farmhouse is located.

I asked Cindy Watts at the Elverson Deli to choose the winner of the March contest and when I unfolded the piece of paper she had selected, I read "Linda." Linda has been runner-up in this contest several times - always knowing the correct answer but not often lucky enough to have her name chosen as the winner. She told me that she can already taste the delicious home-made apple cake that she plans to enjoy with a hot cup of tea the next time she goes to the



Deli.

Deli.

As always, e-mail me at jodysfritz@gmail.com or call 610-268-8913 if you think you know where this house is located. If you submit the correct answer within five days of the day when I receive the Newsletter in my mailbox, you will be eligible for the grand prize. All who are not chosen to win the grand prize but who answer correctly by April 15 will win a runner-up prize. Bob Watts, owner of the Elverson Deli, is in the process of expanding his menu with lighter fare to usher in the warm days of spring, when he hopes customers will drop by and "set a spell" on his front porch - perhaps munching on a crispy salad or sipping on a tall glass of freshly made ice tea. For this reason, he is not sponsoring this month's contest. However, Becca at The Elverson Fitness Club is offering a free beverage to the grand prize winner and two free guest passes for the fitness center for all runners-up. Good luck!



Take a minute and sweep those ugly cinders off your sidewalks. Pedestrians will love you for it! *Thanks for helping us keep our Borough looking clean.*



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Dr. Leslie Freeman**

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ELVERSON EVENTS

STREET SWEEPING Monday, April 27 & Tuesday, April 28—Main Street

MAIN STREET YARD SALE Saturday, May 9—8 am to 1 pm—Main Street

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE Monday, May 25—10:30 am—Elverson Cemetery

ELVERSON DAY AT THE PARK Saturday, June 27—3 pm to dark—Livingood Park

Send your Elverson news and stories to our editor at brenda@stoltzfus.com by April 15 or call her at 610.286.5115. Newsletters can be found on www.elversonboro.org.