



May
2015

FEWER WALLS TO SEPARATE—Corinne Iya

I hear that tiny houses are quite the trend in the US these days. Although I have yet to watch any of the shows (and believe me, I fully intend to watch one whenever I can get my hands on one), I am truly surprised that these tiny houses have gone from a few pins on Pinterest to entire television series. It's interesting to me because the tiny living that totally captivates America was widespread in Uganda long before it took HGTV. But it's not entertainment here; it's totally normal. And it's nowhere on Ugandan television. Maybe it's not considered entertainment because most Ugandans haven't chosen to leave a 2,000 square foot home for a much smaller, economical 200 square foot living space. Or maybe it's that the houses here tend to lack the glam that those American customized micro spaces exude.

Whatever the case, Daniel and I moved into a small(er than we were ever used to) house when we moved to Nyenga in January 2014. And by the grace of God, Daniel and I have made this little >100 square foot room our home. For me, it has been a beautiful experience. Limiting living space forced me to evaluate what *stuff* I value, "need", and want in my life. That process in itself has opened my eyes in a very real way to the irrelevance of stuff. It is easy for me to believe that things directly influence my happiness and quality of life, but living with less has guarded me from falling into that futile pursuit. And although I still have a weak spot in my soul for shopping, it's not even tempting to store up treasures when you don't have anywhere to put the "treasures"!

I thank God for the opportunity to be so immersed in the Ugandan culture, growing to know the people whom I serve and serve alongside in a richer way. I pray that I will always appreciate the simplicity of less as well as the convenience of having more (indoor plumbing really is a great idea). And a special shout out to my husband who makes living in tight quarters enjoyable and easy.



Standing outside of our house looking towards the latrines and bathing areas



Panoramic photo of our home, compliments of the iphone.

Corinne grew up in Elverson on Springfield Drive. She and her husband Daniel presently reside in Uganda where Corinne works for the Good Shepherd's Fold Children and Babies Home.

FROM REPRESENTATIVE HENNESSEY

Sla'inte. "Good Health" to Elverson residents from Representative Tim Hennessey's Office in the old Train Station on Main Street. Spring finds us bustling with energy, looking forward to planning and filling our gardens and yards with bargains from wonderful Weaverland Auction and other local nurseries.

On another note, due to statewide redistricting, Representative Hennessey's areas have been changed. While still representing Elverson, he now has most of the district of Pottstown and the following townships: East, North & South Coventry, East Vincent, East & West Nantmeal, Honey Brook, Wallace, Warwick and West Caln

Representative Hennessey is no longer representing Coatesville. His new district office is located near the Coventry Mall at Coventry Square, 351 W. Schuylkill Square 9, Pottstown, Pa 19465. Telephone (610) 326-2626 – fax (610) 326-2526.

Meanwhile, be sure to stop in the Elverson Office with any concerns, problems or requests. Make sure the flag is out as the office is open on a part-time basis or call for appointment at (610) 286-9194. We try to fulfill constituents' requests when we can, such as removing an extra, old telephone pole from private property to letting your dog out while delivering personal documents! (He wouldn't go!)

Best wishes from a second generation Chester Countian. (Chester County was recently voted the 4th best county in which to live in the U.S.)

Briefly, like most residents, it is disturbing to see the appalling trash and litter on the road sides of Pennsylvania. Let's all take empty bags and clean up any roads or areas near your home. I will be working on this end to see what can be done.

Happy spring,
Mary Farmar Wickerham, Legislative Aide to Representative Tim Hennessey.

SANITATION SANITY

Municipal Authority of the Borough of Elverson

Most of us don't think about the sewer system unless we are forced to by way of a problem. One of the expenses incurred by MABE recently related to a sewer back-up experienced by a homeowner caused by a clog at a junction to the sewer manhole. Homeowners are responsible for the sewer from the home to the curb, where the Municipal Authority responsibilities begin. Extra man-hours over and above our maintenance contract are necessary to identify a problem and work to resolve it. So MABE appreciates all homeowner efforts to keep these problems to a minimum.

Homeowners and businesses can help by ensuring that items that do not belong in the sewer system don't get there in the first place. Our plant operator tells

us that the biggest challenge in the wastewater industry is "wipes" that are flushed. Even products that are marketed as "flushable" can be a problem. And not all wipes are biodegradable. From a system maintenance perspective, NONE of these items should be flushed as they can and do cause clogging of the pipes before they even reach the Wastewater Treatment Plant. It also takes more system energy and more human intervention to keep the plant running when wipes are put into the system. Dolls and toys and other non-waste items also cause a problem.

The sewer pipes in some parts of the Borough are only six inches in diameter, which is no longer the industry standard, but is what we are working with. Sewer customers can help by keeping the system in mind when using sinks and toilets and therefore help us to protect this important infrastructure.



HONEYBEE SWARMS

A honeybee cannot live alone but depends on the colony for survival. To propagate the species, a swarm (about half the colony and the queen) moves to a new home. The other half of the colony remains in the hive and raises a new queen. In Southwestern Pennsylvania, most swarms emerge in April, May and June.

After exiting their former lives the swarm may settle on a tree branch, a bush or the side of a building. The swarm normally forms a football-shaped cluster of bees that may be up to three feet long. Scout bees fly from the swarm to look for a new home in a hollow tree or in the eaves of a building. When a suitable spot is found, the scout bees direct the swarm to it. The bees then construct a new honeycomb nest with wax they produce themselves to begin to gather nectar and pollen for food and to raise young.

If you find a swarm of honeybees on your turf and don't want it there, members of the Chester County Beekeepers Association (CCBA) listed at the end of this article are willing to remove the swarm. Time is of the essence. Once the swarm has entered its new home, removal of the honeybees is much more difficult and may



involve opening the wall of a house to get to the bee colony. This is generally beyond the capability of most beekeepers, so contact one of them while the bees are still clustered in a swarm.

Honeybees are a valuable part of nature because they pollinate crops, produce honey, beeswax and pollen and their stings are widely accepted as an aid in the treatment of arthritis. So, as you observe them swarming, contemplate this marvelous phenomenon and call a beekeeper to remove the swarm and put it to beneficial use. The listed members of CCBA will remove honeybee swarms, usually at no cost.

The CCBA takes no responsibility for the services provided by its members. This information is provided only as a public service. Please contact one of the names below for swarm removal:

Jack McMichael 484.680.0876 jmcmich552@aol.com
Thomas Frederick 610.384.3066
Howard Frysinger 610.858.4859
Jared Spidel 484.558.0395
Rod Merrill 610.256.4128
Michael Chen 610.613.1525
Keith Jardine 610.291.3438 ccbakeith@gmail.com

OUR LIVINGOOD PARK—*Esther Prosser*

The Livingood Park is a beautiful outdoor area that many in Elverson appreciate. Baseball and soccer fields, a sand volleyball court, pavilion, gazebo, playground and walking paths invite many to come outside to compete and mingle. We use our park for the Elverson Egg Hunt and Elverson Day at the Park. Families and businesses rent it for parties. Ball teams schedule games. Wedding photos are taken at the gazebos.

But, with all this activity, the park needs attention—the attention of a group of Elverson residents who care deeply for its use, care and safety—a Parks and Recreation committee. If you love our park and want to be involved in making it the best possible, please contact me. If you're wondering if this is necessary, take a look at our tennis courts.

This is your chance to make a difference in Elverson.

Email or call me—esther@stoltzfus.com, 484.269.7153.



HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW ELVERSON BOROUGH?

Jody Phillips

The lovely Stone Colonial farmhouse pictured in the April edition of the Elverson Borough Newsletter is located at 76 S. Brick Lane and belongs to Carl and Linda Stoltzfus, who moved there in 1974. Built in the late 1700's to early 1800's, the stone walls of this large home were at one time stuccoed over – a common practice during the days when homes were heated by wood and coal stoves and a layer of stucco added insulation. The stucco was removed in 1978 to reveal the beautiful stonework underneath. The home originally sat on 140 acres that stretched from Rte. 401 to the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Carl is interested in learning about the history of his home and invites anyone who might know anything about it to contact him. One of the Elversonians who recognized the location of this home, Joe Sullivan, told me that his grandfather had been born there so that might be an important piece of the puzzle.

In addition to Joe, the following Elverson residents recognized the home and contacted me about it: Harriet Bunch, Jim Huxal, William Walsh, Lauren Van Steenvort, Chris Peeples and Clyde Godschall. Once again, Clyde won the random drawing for the grand prize – a beverage of his choice from the Elverson Fitness Center. The runners-up each receive two free passes to the gym, which can be used for a guest (or two guests).

This month's photo depicts part of an Elverson building that has an interesting history. Please tell me the address of the building, its current use, and anything you know about its history. Once again, all who know the answer and contact me at Jodysfritz@gmail.com (or 610-286-8913) within five days of the date on which I receive the May Newsletter in my mailbox will be eligible to win the grand prize, this month a beverage of your choice from the Elverson Fitness Club cooler.

Everyone who guesses correctly by May 14 will win two free guest passes to the Elverson Fitness Club. Good luck!



ONE-ACT PLAY TO BE PERFORMED AT HOPEWELL MANOR

A one-act play will be performed on **Wednesday, May 13, at 7 pm** at Hopewell Manor on Main Street in Elverson. "From Out the Fiery Furnace" traces the life of a woman who came to Hopewell Village in the mid to late 19th century as a young child and grew up there as an indentured servant, receiving a place to stay, food and education in return for helping out in the Ironmaster's house and a small stipend. She reminisces as she describes her relationship with the various people she has met and known during her life there.

Actress Barbara Hannevig, who portrays the woman, is a 40-year veteran of the stage and screen. She truly brings Ruth to life as she laughs, cries and sings about her life at Hopewell Furnace and the people who enter her life, bringing them to life as well.



After the 45-minute presentation, Barbara will be available to answer questions. Light refreshments will be served.

The public is invited to attend. Please carpool as parking at Hopewell Manor is limited.

ELVERSON EVENTS

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

ONE ACT PLAY
Wednesday, May 13—7 pm
Hopewell Manor

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



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Dr. Darryl Hajduczek
Dr. Leslie Freeman**

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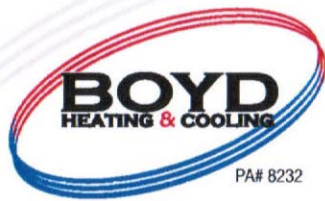
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IN HONOR OF ROBERT COOK *Jody Phillips*

Three wooden bluebird houses have been erected in Livingood Park in honor of Robert E. Cook. Bob's family donated the sturdy birdhouses in areas where they know bluebirds like to nest. Bob's son, Jim, told me that bluebirds prefer a relatively open area with at least one tall tree nearby. All houses are located near a path or parking area. Look for them as you stroll around the park and speak softly so as not to disturb these beautiful creatures.



LOVE FLOWERS? ADOPT A POT!

If you love flowers and planting them, we encourage you to get involved in our Main Street flower pot project. Each year for the past seven, we have placed 20 flower pots along Main Street. Last year, we opened the planting to those of you who have a passion for flowers.

If you want to purchase and plant flowers in one or more pots, please contact Donna Mountz at dwmountz48@hotmail.com or 610.286.9742 by May 8 for details. Your gift of flowers will be enjoyed by all in Elverson.



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