



November 2015

ELVERSON PARADE 2015



A record number of spectators lined Main Street to watch the Elverson Halloween Parade on Wednesday evening, October 21. Clear skies, mild temperatures and a popular theme combined to make this year's parade one of the best ever. Children especially showed their talent and imagination as they rode in wagons, carts and strollers decorated as planes, trains, automobiles and fire trucks. The floats were spectacular with several show-casing hand-made airplanes. Forty entries vied for prizes and the judges had a challenging job choosing the best entry in each category.

Many may not realize that all costs incurred by this event are covered by many very generous local businesses. The names of these sponsors are listed on the back of the Parade Line-up brochure. Please thank them for their support when you visit them.

Best of Show: Hopewell Christian Fellowship

Commercial Float:

- 1st - Wallace & Wolitarsky Dental Associates
- 2nd - Goddard School

Non-Commercial Float:

- 1st - Morgantown Community Church
- 2nd - Community Evangelical Free Church

Marching Unit:

- 1st - TV Football Cheerleaders
- 2nd - Freedom Riders

Best on Wheels:

- 1st - Blayze Leisey
- 2nd - Ember Leisey

Scout Group:

- 1st - TV Girl Scouts
- 2nd - Cub Scout Pack 543



Best of Show—Hopewell Christian Fellowship



Morgantown Community Church



Community Evangelical Free Church

MESSY CHANGES—*Adrienne Kurtz*

Elverson has seen changes in its days. And I've certainly seen Elverson change in my days. As kids, my cousins and I used to trudge through the field, crossing invisible rows of beheaded cornstalks buried by feet of snow. Poppop built a bonfire, Mommom provided hot cocoa, and it was bring-your-own-sled. Today, in order to reach that sledding hill, you would cross Kennelwood and Homestead Drives. Wherever the popular sledding hill is now, it has been relocated.

Each year as December rolled around, the flea market held at the old fire hall doubled its customers. My siblings and I walked along the tired, old iron fence on South Chestnut Street, crossed Main Street, and lost ourselves among tables of vendors, searching for the perfect Christmas gifts to place under our tree. (Do residents of Hope-well Manor realize bartering took place in their community center?)

When I turned eighteen, I entered the voting booth for the first time in the tiny Boro Hall. I understand registered voters now enter the foyer of the church on Brick Lane to cast their votes. Elverson has grown enough that the Boro Hall can no longer accommodate its expanding population.

Now, that same church on Brick Lane, Community Evangelical Free Church, is also undergoing some changes. Maybe you have noticed if you've walked through its muddy parking lot (currently a labyrinth of patched pipe lines) or driven along Brick Lane, the eastern border of the borough's one square mile, and seen (or heard) monstrous machinery guarding the premises. But it's not the first time the church has experienced change.

In the 1970s, a small group of people began to meet together on Sunday mornings to worship in one another's homes. It didn't take long to outgrow their living rooms, and by the time I was school age they had moved from the Twin Valley Elementary Center (now demolished) and began renting a room in the fire hall right in the center of town. (Yes, that same room that held the flea market.) I am told the nursery and children's Sunday schools were held in the Annex, now Warwick Bible Church. Finally, in 1989, the congregation purchased property in

the middle of a corn field and built its first building, a small brick colonial style church with a white steeple visible from Route 23. Once the first stages of Summerfield were complete and the trees grew to maturity, the steeple became invisible, but it has never moved.

The congregation continued to grow, and with it, the building. An education wing was added, and in 1999 the sanctuary walls were extended to seat more people as well as make the foyer larger. That is the current building many of you are familiar with as you enter your polling place.

Well, sixteen years and a few additional modifications later (more nursery space? Okay. More offices? Yes.), we are expanding again. The youth group has exploded in size and has required the use of space off the church campus. Two morning services have still occasionally neces-

sitated additional chairs set up in the foyer. And if the ruckus of gurgling babies in the nursery gives any indication as to the numbers of the future, we're in big trouble.

So, here we go again. The huge hole in the ground now marks the foundation of a new sanctuary, which will face east. More parking space has been carved out on the northeast corner, and the current sanctuary will be utilized for the displaced youth group. We're making room.

Sure, it's messy. And muddy. And dirty. Just like the people who enter its doors on Sunday mornings. New people and returning people. People coming from Downingtown, Coatesville, Pottstown, East Earl, and Reading and places in between. They dress in heels or jeans,

drive shiny Escalades or beat up Plymouth Neons, but they all come to seek refuge from their messy, weary lives. It's not the people that make it a special place (although to me they are), and it's not the building. It's Who is taught and what about Him is taught there that makes it special. These people all come to a common place of worship to hand over their dirt to their God, their Creator, their Savior, Who is in the business of turning messy things into something beautiful.

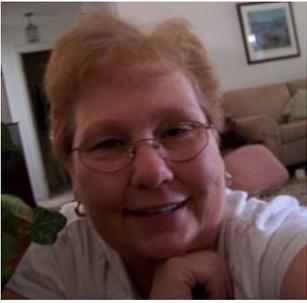
Sometimes that takes a while. But it will happen. Just like the construction taking place. Thank you for your patience with our mess.



Adrienne and family at ground breaking.

BOROUGH OF ELVERSON COUNCILPERSON CANDIDATES

There are three Borough of Elverson candidates running for three open seats for our November 3rd elections.. All are incumbents. They are Shirley Crehan, Doug Hoskins and Jack Stewart. They have all answered questions we feel are important to our Borough.



Shirley Crehan

1 – We currently have no Borough property tax. Do you think we need one?

Life would certainly be excellent if there wasn't a need for taxes but in many cases it is a necessary evil. Council has had the issue of taxes as an ongoing discussion over the last few years. I believe that we do the best we can with what has been budgeted. I would support a tax with the understanding that it goes to our streets, roads, and Borough Hall as its first priorities. It must be understood that such a tax would need to be paid by our businesses and residents. Would a tax make it financially difficult for some of our small businesses or our elderly? I can't say. We are an aging population that has had the benefit of zero taxes for some twenty years. A small tax back then would have gone a long way to preventing our considering bringing back that tax today. Although taxes are not a favorite item of mine, Council as a group would have to weigh the pros and cons of enacting such a tax. As a senior citizen myself, I would be willing to pay

such a tax for the reasons identified below. Our Borough hall is an aging facility that Council has addressed only a few major repairs over the last fifteen plus years. Rather we have patched rather than replaced. Our hot water heater recently began pushing brown colored water through the pipes which turned out to be rust. We, as a Borough, can't have staff members working in an environment that is unhealthy. Boy Scouts should not be meeting in a room with a sink without water and electrical outlets that are not functional. Roads in our Borough have had a plan for maintenance but not necessarily implemented. This past year, Council approved filling the cracks in our roads. Although an expense, it will extend the life of the roads for several years until they can be redone. Some roads have reached their end of life, and now require major improvements.

2 – We are presently rewriting our zoning ordinances. What are your views with the proposed changes?

Our last writing of the zoning, construction and housing development ordinances and rules was back in 1998. The process I believe is a good one. If you review the volume of work completed so far, only a few items were found controversial when taken before the public for discussion. Our process being used requires that the public be involved. This is the only way for the public to express what they think about the changes that are being proposed. What I think has been missed is that the review by the public will be ongoing and will continue until this initiative is completed. As of this narrative, nothing is written in stone or finalized. The committee will be working over the next year continuing the review, rewriting and evaluation of the 1998 regulations and processes. To me it makes sense that building construction codes that are current be in place. Items like wiring, insulation, wood construction, siding and others need to be reviewed and updated continually. We would be remiss as a Council to not review them. The public will continue to have their input as this process continues. Last year the Borough Council completed its comprehensive plan. Just like the SALDO and zoning it held public meetings for input during and before its final review.

3 – What do you consider to be the most important issue in our Borough?

It is not a single issue but a two-fold one. It is in part the financial well being of the Borough to do the work that needs to be done and it is getting qualified individuals to serve and spend the amount of time needed to do that work. Our funds are limited and some we receive simply pass through funds to other entities. We receive funds from the state for the fire company that is simply passed through as an example. Limitations are placed on how much one can spend on a particular service. If roadwork is done, and it goes over \$10,000 a set of bid specifications must be written. If no one has that expertise, then an area expert must be hired to create those specifications that add cost to the work being done. We are not staff heavy as we have a single part-time secretary/treasurer. Meetings and requirements of the office of a Council member unfortunately take time away from family and friends. Tasks range from creating bid specifications in order to get the best trash hauler at the cheapest price for our residents, nighttime Council meetings, attending local events, county-wide meeting on grants or funding options, designing and hosting family events such as Elverson Day, responding to the county in order to qualify for a grant, writing up information on the Borough's application for state reimbursement. It is a never-ending set of push and pulls on Council Members to accomplish what is either mandated or needed. If by chance you see a Council Person, go up, shake their hand and thank them for their time and energy, which they take to serve the people of this Borough to the best of their abilities.

4 – Elverson has been called the greatest square mile. What do you think makes Elverson the greatest square mile?

For me, it has to be the people. We are a community and constantly grow as one. I grew up in a small community as a child. Early in my career and when I was first married, lived in one in Montgomery County. North Wales was a one small Borough. When I walked down the street, I was recognized; usually conversation took place as well as the latest news. Everything about that made and continues to make me happy. So say hello today to someone you know when you are going for the mail, walking to the Deli or Gio's or just in your yard. Elverson exudes everything about what makes a community the greatest square mile in Pennsylvania.



Doug Hoskins

Question 1: We currently have no Borough property tax. Do you think we need one?

The answer to this question is yes and no. Do we need one right now, no. Our budget for 2016 (Revenue and expense projection) is complete and there isn't any provision nor was there any discussion about a Borough property tax for 2016. We haven't had a Borough tax since 1994 as we were able to generate additional earned income tax and transfer fees with the development of Summerfield, Parkside, and Springfield Village. Unless we get hit with a large unforeseen expense we should remain "Borough Property Tax Free" for the immediate future.

Question 2: We are presently rewriting our zoning ordinances. What are your views with the proposed changes?

Until we get further clarification on some of the proposed changes, it's hard to comment. The new zoning map was a "Draft" and is subject to changes. Getting the details of the proposed new classifications, "NC" to "C" for example, will clarify exactly what changed. A separate committee within the council will continue to interact with the County with the knowledge of residents' concerns as voiced at the September meeting at Hopewell Manor. It's a long way from being approved.

Question 3: What do you consider to be the most important issue in our Borough?

Storm Sewers! What you and I can't see may be the biggest problem we have. The storm system under Main Street will need to be replaced at some point. It's a very old system and showed its age when field tested. This was originally installed by PennDot but current law states it's now the Borough's responsibility to replace.

Question 4: Elverson has been called the greatest square mile. What do you think makes Elverson the greatest square mile?
The people!



Jack Stewart

Question 1: We currently have no Borough property tax. Do you think we need one?

Not at the present time, but it gets harder and harder to run the borough. I will do my best not to add any tax to the residents of Elverson.

Question 2: We are presently rewriting our zoning ordinances. What are your views with the proposed changes?

We are only in the draft stages and waiting to see all residents comments. There will be some changes to what we are hearing from the last meeting.

Question 3: What do you consider to be the most important issue in our Borough?

Traffic and speed on route 23, and the safety of our residents.

Question 4: Elverson has been called the greatest square mile. What do you think makes Elverson the greatest square mile?
Low taxes, good school, low crime rate, and a good place to live and raise a family.



HELP WANTED

ELVERSON BORO ELECTION BOARD CLERKS

½ DAY – 6:30AM TO 2:30PM

OR ½ DAY – 2:30PM TIL CLOSING 9PM

OR FULL DAY 6:30AM TIL 9PM

IF INTERESTED, CALL SUSAN GIBBLE 610-286-6187.

TREE BASICS—Herb Hamilton

It's fall, a wonderful time of year and prime time for trees. As a nurseryman, I have been growing and selling trees for the last 30 years. As a gardener, I have been working with plants since I was knee high to a grasshopper. In all my experiences and studies I have learned a thing or two and I am excited by this opportunity to share my knowledge. I present tree basics and hope that you will fall in love with trees for more reasons than just their fall color.

Trees grow at different rates and tree life spans vary. Terms like slow, medium and fast or short, medium and long have no meaning or very little without definition. Let's start with these.

Slow growing trees grow less than 12 inches a year; medium growing trees grow 12-24 inches a year with fast growing trees adding over 24 inches in height a year. Now there is some deception in those averages. There is vigor in youth and trees grow faster when young. They slow down with age. Sounds familiar doesn't it? Tree growth is averaged over the life span of the tree. So an accurate description is usually a combination of its speeds. For example, a red maple, like we have along Main Street, is a medium growing tree whose growth becomes slow with age.

How long will that red maple live? Good question. Once again the terms are averages of an entire species or group. Short lived trees live less than 50 years, medium lived trees live 50-100 years with long lived trees living over 100 years. Trees in the wild typically live longer than those under cultivation meaning the ones that we plant will die long before the ones that grow wild in nature. The answer to the red maple lifespan question is 50 - 100 years. By the way, the sycamores that we have in the borough should live well over 100 years.



I mentioned a difference in the lifespan between wild trees and cultivated trees. Trees in nature survive longer because they don't face the problems found in urban or suburban settings. Cultivated trees face unnatural forces that shorten their life such as injury from string trimmers or mowers, salt damage from spray treatment along roads in winter and soil compaction from activity around the tree. Mulch volcanoes also contribute to early decline. Mulching up the tree trunk keeps the trunk wet, opens it to attack by insects and allows adventitious roots

to develop that can girdle the tree. These are just a few of the factors that contribute to the decline of cultivated trees. A related subject to lifespan is tree shape which develops over a lifetime, a tree's lifetime. Our concept of time and a nature's concept are different. We are concerned with instant gratification while nature is not. We look at rounded tree shapes and

we want that for our yard only to find that the red maple we planted isn't rounding as quickly as we hoped. That is to be expected. Trees sprout up in youth, get their spread in middle age and display their majesty in old age. Wow. That really sounds familiar. The red maples along Main Street will be around 25' tall or so before their spread starts to become noticeable. Eventually they will mature to 45' tall and 35' wide and they will be stunning every fall.

Mom raised me in the garden with the earth between my toes and all manner of creepy crawlies in my hands. She instilled a deep appreciation and affection for the natural world. I look forward to sharing my love of trees as time goes by. Happy gardening.

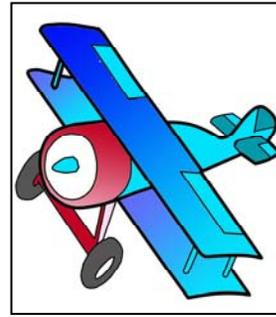
Herb is a new member of the Tree Commission. He received a certificate of merit in ornamental horticulture from Longwood Gardens and works as a wholesale nursery manager in southern Chester County.

COACH BAG BINGO

Coach Bag bingo is scheduled for **December 6 at 2:00 pm at the Twin Valley High School cafeteria**. Tickets are \$20 in advance, or \$25 at the door. All proceeds will benefit the Twin Valley Elementary Center Partners in Education. You may contact tvecpie@yahoo.com for questions or tickets.

*Destination: Christmas
A Christmas Party for Children*

*Friday, December 4, 2015
6:15 to 8:30pm*



*Play games, sing songs, make crafts and enjoy cookies
as we travel "Flight 1225" back to the very first Christmas!*

*All children grades Kindergarten through 6th grade are welcome
(minimum age 5)*

Community Evangelical Free Church
52 S. Brick Lane, Elverson, PA
610-286-6790
www.cefcelverson.org

PA TURNPIKE RECONSTRUCTION

The PA Turnpike Commission has scheduled an Open House Plans Display on **November 17th** in the **Twin Valley High School cafeteria**. This meeting is to update the public on the total reconstruction project between milepost 289 (Morgantown Interchange) and 302 (Yoder Road).

The project will widen the existing roadway from two lanes in each direction to three lanes in each direction with 12-foot right and left shoulders. It will also construct new storm water facilities and provide wetland and stream mitigation. The Twin Valley Road and North Manor Road (Rt 82) bridges that cross over the turnpike will be replaced to accommodate the widening. The turnpike bridge over Yoder Road will also be replaced.

At the meeting residents will be able to view project plans, see location of bridge replacements and associated detours, review information on the noise analysis and mitigation and view maps showing impacts to property owners. Project team members will be on hand to answer questions about the project and to provide information about the right-of-way acquisition process. Visit the project website for updated project information <https://www.patpconstruction.com/mp298to312>.

ELVERSON PARADE "GUESS THE WEIGHT OF THE PUMPKIN CONTEST"

Tory Lingg

The response was very positive about the 2015 Elverson Parade. Enthusiastic kids and adults flocked to try to guess the weight of one of the five pumpkins. Three year old Blayze Leisey of Honey Brook came closest to her guess of 3.5 pounds with the smallest pumpkin in the 8 and under group. She was very surprised. She was one of 31 contestants in her group.

Connor Stasik of Morgantown won the pumpkin in the 9 to 11 age group. Christ Fitzmaurice, age 14, of Mohnton

won in the age 12 to 14 group. He was very happy and surprised. The fourth pumpkin went to Caleb Ober of Elverson in the 15 to 17 age group. He was thrilled.

Of the 45 contestants, Billy McConnell, owner of Billy Burgers near Walmart won the largest pumpkin weighing 23.8 pounds. He said he would donate the pumpkin and \$10 to a worthy family. He volunteered to help with the 2016 parade. All contestants got \$10. Thanks for a great parade.

*Send your Elverson news and stories to our editor at brenda@stoltzfus.com by November 20
or call her at 610.286.5115. Newsletters can be found on www.elversonboro.org.*



*Summerfield
&
Borough of Elverson Residents*

Coatesville V.A. Medical Center Community Gift Drive

Attention Summerfield Homeowners and Elverson Borough Residents, I will once again be hosting a Christmas gift drive for the residents and patients at the Coatesville V.A. Medical Center. In past years, Summerfield and the residents in the Borough of Elverson have been very generous with their gift giving for our military veterans who otherwise may be forgotten.

Last year we were able to not only have a gift for each patient at the Medical Center, but we were also able to help Veterans who had previously been homeless with items to use in their new housing provided by an organization "100 Homes for 100 Vets".

Gift requests in the past have been items many of us take for granted. To the individuals in need, these items are true luxuries. If you would like to donate, please contact Betty Shaw @ 610-286-0758 or bettyshaw@reagan.com for a list of gift suggestions and where to deliver the items for collection.

We would like to have all gifts received no later than December 16, 2015 so delivery to the V.A. and other areas in the county can be made in a timely manner. Please consider picking up an extra gift as you shop the end of season sales.

This year we hope to fill a *ChescoBus* (Coatesville Link) again with gifts and deliver these presents to a very surprised group of extraordinary men and women. Please help us show our Veterans that they hold a special place in our hearts and that we will be there for them just as they have always been there for us.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call and once again thank you so much for helping to make this upcoming holiday season special to these very special people.

Betty Shaw
610-286-0758 – home
484-947-6986 - cell



Betty Shaw
58 Saddler Drive
Elverson, PA 19520

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW ELVERSON BOROUGH?

Jody Phillips

Congratulations to Donna Murray of Murray Drive who is the only one who contacted me with the correct location of the mud wasp's nest pictured in both the September and October issues of the Elverson Borough Newsletter. She said she actually identified it the first month but kept forgetting to call.



Because this photo posed such a challenge to readers. I decided to print another picture of it taken from further away, which provides more hints on its location. Without reading the rest of this column, I bet many of you now know where it was taken. The key to identifying this picture was to realize that public ways are not just roads but also public parking lots and alleys and that mud wasps like to build their nests in high places. This one, under the eaves of the bell tower at Borough Hall (the first Elverson Elementary Schoolhouse) was almost unnoticeable and therefore quite safe for quite a while.

Most of you know the history of this historic building. Originally built in 1873, it originated as a one-room schoolhouse for students from grades one through eight in what was then the village of Springfield in West Nantmeal Township. The vestibule housing the bell tower was erected in 1911 when the building was enlarged to almost double its original size and a second classroom was added. Shortly after the Elverson Grade School closed in 1967, the Borough's municipal offices moved into its older section and other groups began meeting in the newer North room, including Elverson Boy Scout Troop 37.

After 140 years, the entire building was in need of repairs and renovation, and the Borough along with the Elverson Historical Commission has recently begun to preserve this valuable part of

Elverson history. A new roof and beautiful naturally stained wood doors are the most obvious improvements, but work is on-going inside as well – repairing walls and floors. There are plans to prepare the North room of the building for an expanded purpose as a Borough meeting room and a museum for some of the historical artifacts currently being donated to the Borough. As much of the original building is being preserved as possible with materials, including paint, being carefully chosen to restore its appearance to the way it looked in the late 19th century. Once repairs are complete, Elverson Boy Scout Troop 37 will once again be meeting in this room.

Now to this month's photo. Please tell me where this picture was taken and what you think might be missing from it. I am 99% sure that I know what was originally there and personally would love to know what happened to it.

Email me at Jodysfritz@gmail.com or call 610-286-8913 if you know the answer. All who notify me with the correct answer by November 15 will win an Elverson tee shirt, which are available in three colors and most sizes. If you know what size and color you prefer, I will deliver the shirt to your borough home. Good luck!



FROM OUT THE FIERY FURNACE

A one-act play will be performed on **Monday, November 16, 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 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 Iron Master'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 and playwright Christine Emmert, who portrays the woman, currently works with the Outreach program at Hopewell Furnace to share an intimate glimpse of what life was like at Hopewell Village when the fiery furnace sometimes blasted around the clock. She is a writer, actress, director and educator who has been involved in theatre for over 50 years. She studied at the Royal Academy of Arts in London as well as the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York. Her plays have been performed throughout the United States and Canada. 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, Christine 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 very limited.



**Dr. Leo McCormick
Dr. Darryl Hajduczek
Dr. Leslie Freeman**

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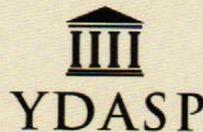


Christopher G. McCarty, DO

45 S. Pine Street, Elverson
(Located in the Elverson Urgent Care Facility)
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Hours: Monday 8-4, Tuesday 9-7,
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www.ydasp.com

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If you would like your business included,
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esther@stoltzfus.com, 484.269.7153.

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Elverson PA 19520**

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Best on Wheels



LIGHTING UP MAIN STREET, ONE PUMPKIN AT A TIME

Chris Cameron

This year's Elverson Pumpkin Carving Contest was full of surprises, from the weather to the pumpkins. There were moments when contestants wondered if the contest was going to happen as we were peppered with small bursts of rain and sleet showers throughout the day. Eventually the skies cleared and it was a chilly, but enjoyable night to walk along Main Street and enjoy pumpkins carved/created from toddlers to seniors.

"It was hard narrowing down the winners this year," event organizer Jenny Cameron said. "Many of the contestants have been developing their skills over the past few years and the entries were really exceptional."

Light refreshments were provided by the Elverson Historical Commission and were available on the porch at Stoltzfus Enterprises. Stell Environmental Enterprises donated prizes and candy for the participants.

Judge from the photos below to see just how great the entries were!

