



January/February 2021

Uniquely Elverson—Merle Stoltzfus

There are 73 municipalities in Chester County. Elverson is one of only three local governments not assessing a local property tax. **Uniquely, Elverson is the only Borough.** The others are Warwick and Wallace Townships. Eliminating Elverson's local property tax about 25 years ago became possible when growth began in the 1990's. Continuing our local property tax-free status has taken discipline bolstered by conviction (everyone else is doing it). There are always many special interests clamoring for public funds. We learned there are other ways to accomplish and pay for projects besides piling addition property taxing on top of the County and School District. Elverson has accomplished some unique funding for projects over these past twenty-five years. Sometimes we wait a few years but planned growth has been good for our square mile.

But growth is not the sole reason Elverson balances budgets without revenue from property taxes. Twenty-five years ago, Borough Council **uniquely voted to cease compensation** for local officials and govern through volunteerism. Volunteerism (Noun) - the practice of donating one's time, energy and talents for the benefit of other people and causes rather than for financial benefit (dictionary).

The necessary services to operate, expand and maintain a municipality are numerous, varied and sometimes complicated. Elverson has avoided selling out to consultants to handle the complications of governing in our 21st century. The temptations are

great to hire outsiders to serve us, especially when the County, State or Federal government throws some urgent new mandate our way. But, instead, Elverson has engaged our generous volunteer citizens to study, learn and accomplish our needs. With the support of our Borough Secretary and volunteerism, we are 21st century prepared and ready. You would be amazed how many generous and talented volunteers serve each day.



Volunteers planting flowers for our Main Street flower pots



Jen Cameron, Elverson Egg Hunt organizer.

Volunteerism is a healthy activity for any community. Every giving human being knows the satisfaction of sacrificing for neighbors. God created us to experience deep joy through self-sacrifice. Consider a world without this "made in the image of God" activity. No one would risk anything to help others. In Elverson, no one would volunteer time, talent or energy. We would all be less satisfied and more taxed. Does anyone really enjoy and experience satisfaction paying unnecessary taxes?

Without a local property tax, Elverson is unique of all the Boroughs in Chester County. Elverson is also uniquely governed, operated, maintained and growing mainly through volunteerism. The two uniquely Elverson amenities aren't possible without each other. Only one unique community can be the "greatest." Let's enjoy continuing the satisfaction of sacrificially giving of ourselves to each other. The reward for this uniqueness is assured from the joy produced within us. The overflow of this reward is a community of happy neighbors in the greatest square mile—Uniquely Elverson.

Volunteers Wanted

The Elverson Borough would like to re establish The Elverson Town/Neighborhood Watch. Volunteers are needed! Anyone interested in becoming a member or who has questions should contact the Elverson Borough Secretary at 610-286-6420 or secretary@elversonboro.org

MEALS ON WHEELS OF CHESTER COUNTY

Honey Brook Chapter

We are looking for volunteers for a new route. **ONE STOP** to Hopewell Manor at 58 E. Main Street in Elverson Monday – Friday at lunchtime. The Honey Brook Chapter already has two routes that take meals to 8-10 different homes in the area. However, there is a need for a new route to just go to Hopewell Manor which is about 10 miles from Tel Hai.



Hopewell Manor—58 E Main St

Pick up 2 coolers (one for hot meals, and one for cold items) from the Tel Hai kitchen and go to Hopewell Manor to distribute meals to 8-10 residents.

You can sign up for every week, twice a month or once a month. Coolers must be returned to the Tel Hai kitchen when you are finished.

NOTE: This route will only start once we have enough drivers for every day of the month.

**CALL Meals on Wheels office
for more information at:**

610-430-8500

Borough and Park Improvements

The gazebos at Livingood Park have been quite popular with the community for many years. They are situated with beautiful views that overlook the park and surrounding landscape. There have been many requests for use of the gazebos for events, including wedding ceremonies, prom pictures and even memorial services. Borough Council Members recently contracted maintenance work to replace the roof, along with the broken posts and railings. The work is partially complete, and has already improved the overall look of the gazebos tremendously. Once the additional cedar wood materials become available, the remaining work will be scheduled for completion in the spring of 2021.

Due to recent rain and wind, the pavilion at Livingood Park experienced excessive deterioration, which created an urgent need for roof replacement work to be done as soon as possible. The new pavilion roof now matches the improvements made to the gazebos, and truly has created a much needed update and aesthetically pleasing look to the park.



Signs have also been updated and improved on. The Livingood Park and Borough Hall signs have been replaced with maintenance-free signs and pet signs have been added on both the east and west entrances.

Many residents have expressed appreciation for the improvements made to the park structures. It is the hope of Borough Council, and the Borough's Park and Recreation Committee, that the community will continue to enjoy the parks for many years to come.





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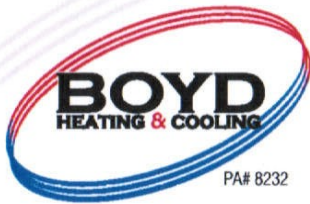
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Send your Elverson news and stories to our editor at brenda@stoltzfus.com by March 10 or call her at 610.286.5115. Newsletters can be found on elversonboro.org.



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The Winter Garden

Herb Hamilton, Elverson Tree Commission Chairman

What do you do with your garden in the winter? It's a good question and the truth is that there is not much to do except pruning and planning. Trees and shrubs are dormant so now is the perfect time to prune and it is also the perfect time to plan any additions or changes that you want to make.

Winter simply is the best time to prune. Prune back plants that have encroached on your sidewalk, drive and home. Do you have a hedge that is too tall or too wide? Prune it back now. Any trimming of spring flowering plants will remove a few flowers, but if your dogwood needs pruning, do not let that deter you.

Thinking about changing your garden? Let's go. For major renovations, hire a designer. You don't have to hire them to do the planting but having a professional design is money well spent. For those of you who are DIY inclined, search "*10 Important Things to Consider*

When Planning Your Landscape Design". It is a good place to start.



Search engines today make it much simpler than it used to be. Need plant suggestions? Search "*what kind of shrubs stay small?*" Make sure you use terms like perennials, shrubs or trees and not plants. If you type in plants, indoor plants will be included in the results.

When it comes time to buy the plants for your garden, support your local garden center. Local garden centers have a wider, healthier plant selection and professionals who can answer your questions and guide you through the selection and planting process. Yes, it makes a difference.

Happy Gardening.