



# January\February 2023

## Possible Addition to Livingood Park

*Diane Cikoski, Parks & Recreation Committee Member*

You are invited to a **Town Meeting on Tuesday, January 24 at 7:00 p.m. at Hopewell Manor, 58 E. Main Street** to learn more and share your thoughts.

The Elverson Parks and Recreation Committee proposes to build a small pump track and skate park in the field to the east of the main entrance to Livingood, off route 82.

*Why a skate park and pump track?* Because whatever wheels someone is on—skateboards, in-line skates, scooters, bikes (including balance bikes), ride-on toys, and even RC vehicles, should be able to experience the joy of getting out and riding in a dedicated and safe environment. Such a facility would provide a space for outdoor activities that interest a wide range of ages right here in Elverson. Furthermore, if we want our children and young people to have options and be active, we need to provide outlets and opportunities that interest them. As it happens and all the better, a skate park does not have an age limit. Having such activities is also likely to be an attraction for families with children looking to move to Elverson.

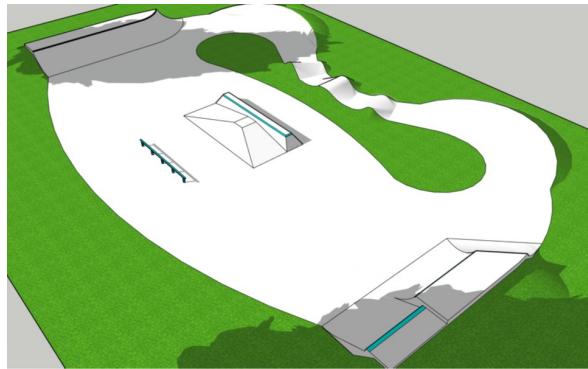
Skate parks are now built using a quality, custom concrete design that has greatly reduced the noise once associated with skateboarding and significantly improved the ease of maintenance. The progress in skateboard design has also helped.

### Major points to be addressed:

- **Development costs must be totally from outside sources.** The Borough of Elverson does not have a revenue stream to support new developments, but the Parks and Recreation Committee, with the significant assistance of some community support, is already working on attracting grants and donations.
- **Maintenance costs must be clearly identi-**

**fied and manageable.** This has been done and a table created which includes liability insurance, trash removal and true maintenance. The total can be supported.

- **Public support must be demonstrated.** Initial responses are largely favorable, but this is the purpose of the Town Meeting.
- **Security issues must be addressed.** Conversations with the State Police have secured daily patrols of the Park, including the new facility. At least one security camera will be added.



*Initial Concept Drawing*

Input has also been given to the Committee and Council on all these points by key personnel overseeing other area skate parks: Chief of Police (2 skate parks), Borough Manager (1 skate park), Parks and Rec Manager (1 skate park). Their full responses are contained in the written proposal, but all are very positive about the benefits of these facilities

for their constituents. Suggestions have been made and incorporated. We also invite you to read reviews written for various area skate parks. Only one mentions maintenance issues – and that one is NOT a concrete design.

Please come on **January 24th** to hear more details. If needed, overflow parking is available, courtesy of Elverson Supply at their lots – almost directly across Main Street from the Manor. If you are unable to attend, but would like to request a copy of the proposal and then submit comments, please email [ElversonParksRec@outlook.com](mailto:ElversonParksRec@outlook.com) or look for the proposal on the Elverson website -- [elversonboro.org](http://elversonboro.org) or mail a request to Elverson Borough Hall, 101 S. Chestnut Street.

We look forward to seeing you.

## It's More Than Pizza

*Doug Streuli*

Thirty years ago, when my family moved to Elverson, there were two restaurants in the borough. One was the Deli on the northeast corner of 82 and 23. The other was Sonny's, just west of that intersection, on the north side of Rt 23. The Deli has since closed, and Sonny's has changed hands a couple of times and is now called Giovanni's. While the menu is essentially the same as it has always been: Pizza, Wings, Cheesesteaks, everything else is different, starting with the owner - a man named Ariel.

Ariel bought the restaurant in 2020, during the height of the first wave of the pandemic. Desiring a break from the lock-down, we ventured in there one night, unaware of the change of ownership, and ordered dinner—chicken parmesan for me and chicken marsala for Gretchen. With the first bite we knew that this was something different. This was something special. This was not pizza joint food. This was not “semi-fast” food. This was a real meal.

Being short-staffed, it did not take long for Ariel to emerge from the kitchen and we got to learn a bit about him and his story. Since it is his story, I won't print it here other than to say that he is from Guatemala, and that he can cook Italian, (as well as several other nationalities) with the best of them.

We got to meet his lovely wife, Cynthia, whom you will sometimes find waiting tables or behind the counter. In passing conversation, we learned that they also do catering, so when our church had its annual mission's dinner, and especially because our area of concentration is Latin America, we asked them to cater the event. The food they served, which was Guatemalan and Honduran, was amazing. Feeding forty people at once was no challenge, and those in attendance raved about the food.



Ariel at Giovanni's

Gretchen and I make it a point to dine there every two weeks or so, and the only disappointment that we experience is that the restaurant is almost always nearly empty. Lots of people come and go for carry out pizza, but there is so much more to be experienced (including pulled pork that is to die for). Ariel puts his heart and soul into his craft. You can taste the love.

We often lamented that most of the restaurants in the area were pizza places, and they are all good ones, to be sure. Now we realize that right within walking distance, Elverson has a bona fide restaurant that is so much more than a pizza place. If you have never sat down inside for a meal, now would be a great time to give it a try.



**Sunday, February 26th @ 1pm**  
(doors open at 11:30am)

**Twin Valley Middle School Cafeteria**  
(770 Clymer Hill Rd, Elverson, PA)

**[tvlaxclub.com/designer-bag-bingo/](https://tvlaxclub.com/designer-bag-bingo/)**

Tickets: \$30 pre-order online using link or QR code  
\$35 at the door on day of event - CASH ONLY

**Includes 16 designer purse games, 1 jackpot game, 1 raffle ticket**

## Brick Lane Team Joins with Samaritan's Purse to Help with Hurricane Relief—Doug Mountz

When a disaster impacts a segment of the local, national, or global population, what comes to your mind in terms of the relief and recovery effort? Governmental assistance? Red Cross? Salvation Army? Prayer? You may want to add to that list Samaritan's Purse (SP), headed by Franklin Graham, son of evangelist Billy Graham. Before Hurricane Ian struck west coast Florida, September 28, 2022, SP trucks, trailers, equipment, and materials were in place, ready to be implemented in the recovery effort. But what about the workers?

On Thursday, December 8, 2022, I was part of a nine member group from Brick Lane Community Church (BLCC) in Elverson, journeying to Punta Gorda, Florida, to assist in the recovery effort. We received introductory information at the SP site and were put to work within 2 hours of our arrival.

Our team brought diverse talents, skills, and sensitivities to this ministry to show the love of Jesus. We gathered debris, chainsawed damaged trees, and tore out waterlogged carpeting, moldy wallboard, and ruined insulation. We also prayed for and with homeowners both before and after each work order was completed. A Bible, not a bill, was given to each homeowner. *And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'* Matthew 25:40.

I will share one of many anecdotes. Our team arrived at the destroyed garage-business of a homeowner named Tony. Evidence suggested that this property was already in a sorry state of decline before the storm. Trash and salvageable items had to be separated, the garage cleaned, and then the items stored neatly in the garage. The trash was taken to the edge of the street for pickup.

Tony's presence was formidable. He was wearing a ghoulish, sleeveless cotton shirt that hung on his frame like a loose tent. The storm had ravaged what was now a debris-strewn lot between his small house and his garage. A sign on the fence to the lot bore a skull and crossbones sign

with the warning, "Keep Out". While the lot was being cleared of debris, Denise quietly laid out a large porch mat in the sunlight and arranged a pair of lawn chairs and a small table. Her effort carved out an oasis of comfort in the midst of chaos.

Tony was overwhelmed to the point of tears, expressing how the area in which he lived was evil. Neighbors did not help one another. Earlier in the morning, someone had run over his dog. He had moved onto this property two years ago and had not faced anything like both Hurricanes Ian (9/28/2022) followed by the weaker but widespread Nicole (11/10/2022) six weeks later.

It is likely that Tony had never before experienced the unconditional grace of strangers, coming together through Samaritan's Purse, who were living out

Christ's commandment to, "Love your neighbor as yourself." We all circled with him and prayed before leaving for the next work site.

Our week of work came to an end quickly but the work of Samaritan's Purse continues in its rebuilding projects and in preparation for the next recovery effort when disaster strikes.



Brick Lane Team Members—L to R—Ryan Carter, Brad Hall, Denise Saltsman, Cindy Carter, Diana Anderson, Matt Carter, Donna Mountz, Brynn Carter, Doug Mountz.

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## Borough of Elverson Budget 2023

	2023 BUDGET					
	General Fund	Federal & State Grants	Capital Reserve	ARPA Grant	Trails	Total
<b>INCOME</b>						
Prior Years' Unused Proceeds		9,600	36,500	106,686	-	152,786
Real Estate Transfer and Income Taxes	280,000	-	-	-	-	280,000
Cable Franchise & Licenses / Permits	8,200	-	-	-	-	8,200
Rents	3,900	-	-	-	-	3,900
State Capital & Operating Grants	4,600	-	-	-	-	4,600
Shared Revenue Entitlements	10,200	-	-	-	-	10,200
Local Governments Grants	-	31,600	-	-	-	31,600
Sale of Code of Ordinances & Zoning Fees	500	-	-	-	-	500
Permits	10,000	-	-	-	-	10,000
Culture - Pavilion Rental - Donations -Historical	9,100	-	-	-	-	9,100
Private Contributions	11,400	-	-	-	-	11,400
Other Income	1,200	-	-	-	-	1,200
Interfund Transfer	-	-	54,000	-	1,000	55,000
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>339,100</b>	<b>41,200</b>	<b>90,500</b>	<b>106,686</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>578,486</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
Salaries/Engineering/Auditor	65,400	-	-	-	-	65,400
Government Office Supplies	3,000	-	-	-	-	3,000
Advertising/Printing/Communications	9,000	-	-	-	-	9,000
Utilities/Rentals/Web Pages/Dues/Fees	40,200	-	-	-	-	40,200
Emergency Services	60,400	-	-	-	-	60,400
Highways/ Roads/ Streets	16,200	41,200	90,500	-	1,000	148,900
Street Lighting	22,500	-	-	-	-	22,500
Parks/Historical/Trees/Cultural	57,000	-	-	-	-	57,000
Insurance	8,900	-	-	-	-	8,900
Federal Grant under ARPA guidelines	-	-	-	106,686	-	106,686
Other Expense	1,500	-	-	-	-	1,500
Interfund Transfer	55,000	-	-	-	-	55,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>339,100</b>	<b>41,200</b>	<b>90,500</b>	<b>106,686</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>578,486</b>
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>



### Winter-Spring GriefShare Group Forming Now

**February 6—May 1**  
**Mondays 9:30-11:30 AM**

*Help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, family member or friend.*

Contact [al.kimball@brick52.org](mailto:al.kimball@brick52.org)

Sign up online or with QR code →



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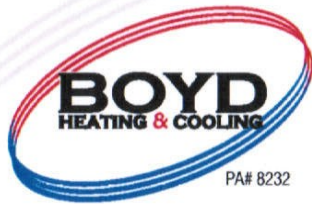
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*Send your Elverson news and stories to our editor at [brenda@stoltzfus.com](mailto:brenda@stoltzfus.com) by March 10 or call her at 610.286.5115. Newsletters can be found on [elversonboro.org](http://elversonboro.org).*

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## **Elverson from Dry to Wet?**

*Esther Prosser, Elverson Mayor*

Some history - A “dry” town in the state of Pennsylvania is defined as one that doesn’t allow for the sale of wine, spirits and/or malt and brewed beverages. At the end of Prohibition in 1933, all Pennsylvania municipalities were deemed “wet” for alcohol sales. State law made allowing alcohol sales a local option with voters in each municipality given the choice to ban sales. Elverson voted to become dry decades ago.

Many of us would like to see a change which may encourage businesses to consider Elverson as a good location to open up a nice restaurant. This change would also allow alcohol sales at Elverson events.

Converting to wet would not give businesses free reign to sell alcohol. Instead, anyone desiring to open a restaurant would need Council approval (and of course, a liquor license). In other words, our governing board would have authority

over who is permitted to sell alcohol.

In order to make this change, Elverson residents need to support it as a referendum with a majority vote on a primary ballot. Before it appears on the ballot, 111 signatures are required from Borough of Elverson residents (25% of the highest vote cast for any office in the municipality in the preceding general election) during a 3-week period between **February 14 and March 7** (the 10<sup>th</sup> Tuesday before the primary election). The primary election date is **May 16**.

Our immediate need is help with gathering signatures. If you love the idea of improving our greatest square mile with this change and would like to help, please contact me.

I would appreciate hearing from anyone who has questions or concerns – **484.269.7153**,  
**[esther@stoltzfus.com](mailto:esther@stoltzfus.com)**.

