



July\August 2023

Elverson Day - *Caroline Estes*

All year long, kids in the area look forward to Elverson Day, when they can have a few hours of incredible fun. What kind of fun? Well, the day starts with the Anchored Ministries 5K and 1 mile run. This year I ran the mile (down Main Street!) and it was really exciting. We rested up all afternoon so that we could go to Livingood Park later that evening, where we loved exploring the moon bounce, the petting zoo, the barrel train, face paint, fire trucks and amazing music. When I looked around, I saw kids running, laughing and smiling as they enjoyed themselves. As a kid myself, I can't blame them! My brother, sisters and I always count down until Elverson Day (and hope there won't be rain in the forecast!) This year the weather was perfect – not too hot! The celebrations ended with the band playing “Stars and Stripes Forever,” and a fantastic fireworks show. Elverson Day is one of the things I love most about living in The Greatest Square Mile.



Anchored Ministries 5K Run



Hopewell Flower Farm Vendor



Elverson's Carol Ruffner and Company



T Shirt Painting

I Know Elverson Well

Jody Phillips

My husband and I arrived in Elverson in late June of 2011, during the town's celebration of the 100th anniversary of its incorporation as a Borough. We learned about Elverson Day before we became residents of the town through our Real Estate Agent, Esther Prosser, and decided to attend the event to learn a little bit about our new town. We met some very nice people. Elverson, we thought, was a good place to live. A couple of weeks later we moved into our Kennelwoods Drive home, and shortly after the movers left, a neighbor stopped by, introduced herself and gave us a loaf of home-made zucchini bread and a bottle of wine. Yes, we were going to enjoy life in Elverson.

Having always been interested in local history, I asked Esther about the history of the area. She directed me to a new book, just published that May to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the town's incorporation as a Borough, sponsored by the Elverson Historical Commission (EHC). It was titled "The History of Our Community: Elverson, Pennsylvania." Over the next few days, I read its 236 pages, especially enjoying a chapter titled "Memories and Tales," written by several long-time residents. I wanted to learn more. Esther told me the EHC was looking for new members, so I went to a meeting and joined the group. More great people became my friends.

Over the next 15 years I enjoyed working with this group of dedicated individuals. We planned and offered a historical wagon ride through the Borough during Elverson Day in 2013. I remember how hard it was to speak over the noise of the tractor engine, so we had to limit our talks to times when the tractor stopped. I spoke about the history of the Methodist Church in Elverson and its beautiful cemetery on East Main Street. I can still remember the location of Elijah Bull's and Benjamin McCord's gravestones. We held open houses after the historical museum at Borough Hall was opened. I really enjoyed telling people about the history of my little town.

One of our most ambitious projects was remodeling and refurbishing the front (north) classroom of the old Elverson Grade School on South Chestnut Street and gathering and arranging the memorabilia. We decided to name the two classrooms after their most long-lived teachers, and the north room is now known as Mrs. McElroy's room. She taught grades 5-8 in that room for 42 years. The local Boy Scout Troop meets there regularly, and it is also used for meetings of town groups.

Another of my EFC projects was the (in)famous Elverson Borough Cane. Having lived in New Hampshire for 22 years prior to relocating back to my home state of Pennsylvania, I was familiar with the tradition of the Boston Post Cane and thought it might be fun to establish a similar tradition for Elverson. Sponsored by the EFC, the cane would be presented to the Borough's next oldest citizen to be held and used until his or her passing or until the holder moved out of the Borough, at which point it would be presented to the next oldest citizen. It was not difficult to find the first recipient, as Margaretta Sheeler Fries was turning 100 that year, on June 25, 2013. She received the cane in a special ceremony, and June 25, 2013 was proclaimed Margaretta Sheeler Fries Day in Elverson. Unfortunately, Margaretta did not hold onto the cane very long as she passed away in October of that year. But Harry Barnett, the next oldest citizen was eager to receive the cane in January of 2014. After he died in June of that year, Robert E. Cook was presented with the cane and held it until his death in January of 2015. After this, although I made several pleas in the "Elverson Borough Newsletter," no one stepped forward to claim the honor of being Elverson's oldest citizen. When two direct offers were rejected, I quietly retired the cane to its current resting place in a showcase in the EHC museum where you may view it during Borough Hall hours.

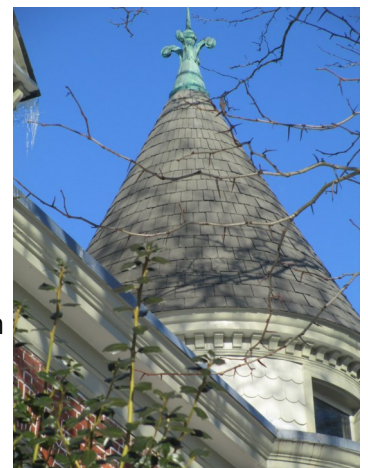
When two of my neighbors admitted that they had never heard of the Elverson Borough Cane because they



Historical Wagon Ride—Elverson Day 2013



Presenting Borough cane to Harry Barnett.



How Well Do You Know Elverson?

Continued on p 3

never read the "Elverson Borough Newsletter," I spoke to Esther about a plan to attract readership using a contest with prizes and proposed a kind of scavenger hunt where readers had to identify the location of a photo taken in the Borough. "How Well Do You Know Elverson Borough?" ran from February 2013 until late 2017 and was very popular. The Elverson Deli, Elverson Supply, St. Joseph Urgent Care and the Elverson YMCA supplied prizes and sometimes there were multiple winners. Each time I announced the mystery photo's location, I wrote a short history of the subject, so I was getting to know the Borough better along with my readers. I stopped writing the column when I could no longer find sponsors for the contest.

Meanwhile I continued to enjoy several traditions that are uniquely Elverson. I joined the Elverson Day and Halloween Committees in 2014 and participated in both celebrations, marching in the parade five times and winning the Best on Wheels category twice when the theme featured Rodeo and Circus themes. I sang karaoke at Elverson Day and organized trivia contests. I watered sidewalk planters using my wagon to transport gallon jugs of water from a spigot at 21 S. Pine Street, which always drew smiles from passers-by. I met many wonderful people and had a great time in the Greatest Square Mile.

Now we are relocating to New Hampshire to be closer to our family. I will miss Elverson a lot and do plan to return to visit. I only hope that my new hometown will offer similar opportunities to get together and support the local community. I understand they have a Recreation Committee and Historical Commission. Perhaps someday I will feel qualified enough to write a column in their newspaper called "How Well do you Know Brentwood?" You never know.

Our address as of July 27 will be 85 Three Ponds Drive. Brentwood, NH, 03383, 610-400-4660.

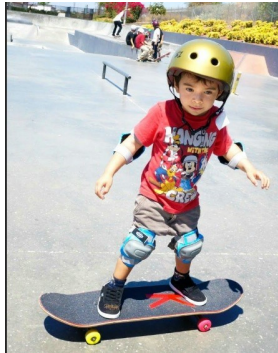


Elverson Parade Entry—Rodeo Theme (calf roping)

Livingood Park Update – July 2023

ElversonParksRec@outlook.com

We have a very nice start to the fundraising for the proposed Elverson Skate Park and Pump Track. THANK YOU to all who have contributed so far! We have received some questions from some of you that we wanted to share with anyone else who might be considering giving a donation. With full council consent, the Parks and Rec Committee and the residents of Elverson who volunteered to lead this effort are working through Action Impact organization to manage the fundraising and construction -- and at completion would be donated to the Borough.



The donations are being collected and managed via a separate fund set up by Action Impact specifically for the Elverson Skate Park. The Parks and Rec committee is in regular contact and coordination with the members of Action Impact (and residents of Elverson), who are overseeing this fund. It is not part of the general operating funds of Action Impact. While it may take more than a year to collect sufficient donations to build the park, we are expecting to be successful. If we (Action Impact and the Parks and Rec committee) no longer see a path to obtaining sufficient funding, then we will work to return the donations made. They will NOT become part of the operating funds of Action Impact.



Also due to some questions, we have some tips on using the GiveSendGo (GSG) service: First, when you enter in the amount you wish to donate to the Elverson Skatepark fund, GiveSendGo (GSG) also asks if you are willing to donate to GSG as well to keep their service operational. There is a grey box under where you entered your donation amount that GSG defaults to 15% of what you donate. We recommend you change the selection to "Other" from the figure they present, and then enter any amount that you wish to give to GSG itself (\$0, \$5 or whatever). Be sure to verify the Total amount before you confirm (can click on Back to go back to change the amount)! Second, the donation for the Skate Park is tax deductible – it's why we are working through Action Impact. It is only the amount you may choose to give to GSG itself that is not tax deductible. The receipt shows both amounts separately. Your receipt will first show the amount and EIN number for Action Impact which will be a record to show the tax people, if needed, that they are a qualified charitable organization.

Gifts of all sizes are welcome. Your support is encouraged and greatly appreciated to make this addition to Livingood Park a reality. Thank you – in advance.

Link: <https://www.givesendgo.com/elversonskatepark>

Get Your IT Back

Dr. Chris Coppins PT, DPT – Kinetic Physical Therapy

Hello Elverson Residents! I am the Clinic Director at Kinetic Physical Therapy in our newest location inside of Elverson Fitness Club at 51 S Pine St. I grew up in Ludwig's Corner and now reside in Honeybrook with my wife and one year old daughter. Outside of working, I enjoy being outside hiking, camping, and fishing with my family. I also enjoy playing ice hockey and golf in my free time. I earned my doctorate degree in physical therapy from the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia and have been working for Kinetic since 2015. Growing up as an athlete and recovering from a serious knee injury in high school brought my attention to the value and importance of physical therapy treatment and successful recovery administered by a Doctor of Physical Therapy.



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goals whether that be playing with your grandchildren, gardening, playing pickleball or golf, or walking the beautiful local parks and trails. Our personalized treatment plan also reflects a commitment to working with your medical team to advance your recovery through outstanding communication protocols. Check out the other auxiliary programs Kinetic has to offer including Post-Pandemic recovery, Sports Performance Training, and Kinetic Stretch at kineticptpa.com. Call to schedule an evaluation with Dr. Chris Coppins for any pain or functional limitations you may have at **610-424-1100**.

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Christina Benz

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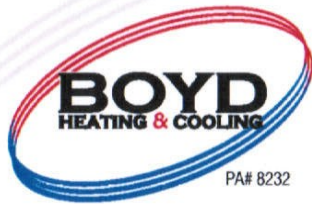
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Send your Elverson news and stories to our editor at brenda@stoltzfus.com by September 1 or call her at 610.286.5115. Newsletters can be found on elversonboro.org.

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Elverson Fun

Esther Prosser



We are truly blessed to be living in a small, friendly and safe town in rural PA—the greatest square mile. When I think of the danger in Ukraine, the torture in North Korea, the controls in China and the poverty in Haiti (just a few examples of hardships in our world), I have come to love Elverson more. This is why I work with many of you to keep our town safe.

Which takes me to our Main Street and the speeding traffic. We have ordered three pedestrian crossing signs and plan to place them in the middle of Main at the following crosswalks—Main and Park Ave, Main and 82 (west side) and Main and Yeingst. Will the wide loads wipe them out? This is a wait and see as our thoroughfare is a narrow one. I am hoping it will slow all traffic, particularly truck traffic. Please be diligent in watching these signs with me. If you see a truck hitting one, take a picture and email or text me. I will report it to the trucking company. If we get no where with that, the State Police will be my second call. Also, the PA state trooper attending our July Council meeting reminded all to lock cars and install ring cameras, if possible.



On to Elverson fun—despite a dismal weather forecast for Elverson Day, our evening was gorgeously fun. Our Elverson pickleball group has been playing Monday at 5 and Thursday at 6 at the two Borough Hall courts. It's a fun game and easy to learn. Come and give it a try. And our Elverson Parade is always the third Wednesday evening in October. This year that date is October 18. If you would like to help organize, please contact me. The fun is worth the inconvenience!

Call, text or email me about anything Elverson—esther@stoltzfus.com, 484.269.7153. I love hearing from you.