Elverson Borough Newsletter

March\April
2023

Mark Lucas Wins Photo Award

The 2022 Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation photo contest's theme was "Clean Water and Forested Ecosystems." Categories were selected to highlight the value of clean water and the role forests play in watershed health, such as Water is Life, Caught in the Rain, Raindrop to River, Reflections, Forests, as well as a Young Photographers category.

With nearly 600 photo entries, the Foundation announced that there was stiff competition for the 20 prize awards.

Winning photograph in the Forests category for the Judge's Choice Award.

"The passion people have for their state parks and forests is evident in the volume and quality of images received," said Marci Mowery, president of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation. "Photography is one of many ways that people enjoy these special places."

Mark Lucas of Elverson traveled a distance to capture the magic of Penn's Woods in his winning photo from Gallitzin State Forest, which consists of two separate areas of state forest land located in northern Bedford, Cambria, Indiana, and northern Somerset counties.

Mark won the Judge's Choice Award in the Forests category.

A native of Windber, Mark considers Gallitzin State Forest his "home turf." He has walked its trails many times throughout his life, cherishing the forest's calm nature and history-rich trails. He especially appreciates the quiet that Gallitzin's extensive remote trail network provides.

"This solitude enables me to walk slowly on the trails looking for potential photographic opportunities, take the time to think about a shot, build the photograph in my mind and set up with the proper equipment to capture what I'm seeing and feeling without any kind of disruption," he said.

His winning shot truly captures that magical calm that one finds in nature.

He was walking the 12-mile loop of the John P. Saylor Trail when he chanced upon morning sunbeams coming through the tree cover and illuminating the bright green moss speckled with tiny orange mushrooms at the base of the decaying tree.

"I decided that I needed to try to tell the story of the once magnificent tree being reclaimed by the forest floor. With the young trees in the background looking on, the scene seemed to portray the forest's circle of life," he said.

He lowered himself to capture a shot of growth and decay, science and magic, a shot that brings fairy tales to mind.

Borough of Elverson Primary Election Candidates

District Judge Candidate Jose Colon

josecolonforjudge.com

I am beyond excited to be a candidate from the Borough of Elverson for the vacant position of Magisterial District Judge for Chester County District Court 15-3-06.

Presently, I have 36 years in law enforcement and government service. I have served as a police officer, detective, elected Constable and appointed member of local government. In addition to my extensive experience in the criminal justice field, I am certified by the Pennsylvania Minor Judiciary Education Board to serve as a Magisterial District Judge upon my anticipated election.

As a South Chestnut Street resident, I am very interested in seeking this position and your support. I believe I bring a high level of both experience and passion for the criminal and civil justice system and the desire to continue to serve Elverson. This opportunity will allow me to best use my knowledge and experience in a way that would serve all constituents and those before me in court.

Thank you again for your time and consideration. I look forward to the opportunity to meet you and further explore my background and skills in detail. I am confident that I will earn your trust and your endorsement for Magisterial District Judge 2023 and I look forward to continuing my public service career!

Council Candidate—Laura Pennza

I am a second-generation Italian American, raised in the Midwest by parents who were committed to community service and volunteerism, who modeled and passed those values down to their children. My commitment to my neighbors, to serve others with passion, and to seek improvements for those underserved in my community has been a driving force in my life. For the past ten years, I have worked for a national Real Estate Investment Trust, where I manage the Corporate Community Charitable Initiatives program which primarily benefit Chester County and surrounding areas.

Outside of work, I serve as a block captain for the Elverson Neighborhood Watch. I am seeking election to the Elverson Borough Council, where I will work with Council to identify areas of community concern, work towards meaningful improvements, and serve my neighbors while maintaining the core values and integrity of the community.

Council Candidate—Julia Duffey

I moved to Elverson from Exton in June of 2021. I love the small town feel and the friendliness of my neighbors and other townspeople. I have one dog, a Norfolk Terrier mix that I rescued in the fall and her name is Gemma. I have family in Chester County, North Carolina, Colorado and Illinois. I work as a Clinical Trial Manager in the pharmaceutical industry.

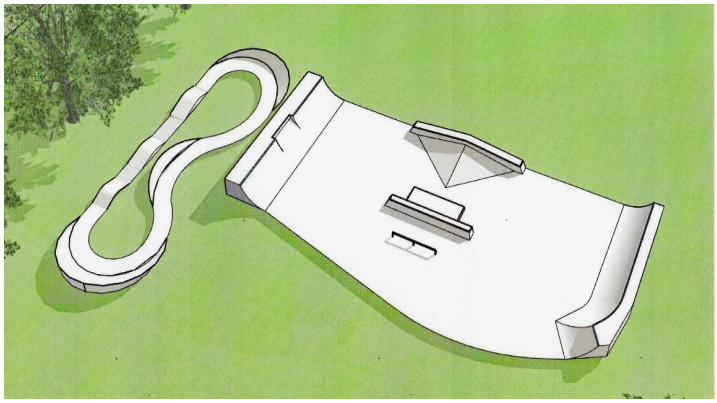
I am running for Elverson Borough Council to be of service to my community. I'd like to give back and be involved with the future of Elverson. I am honest, open, live my life with integrity, and my belief in God is most important in my life. I look forward to meeting more folks and hearing their ideas for the future of Elverson.

Mike Trojecki's name will also be on the ballot for Elverson Borough Council. He is presently serving on Council and is running again.

Elverson Skate Park and Pump Track

Diane Cikoski, Parks and Rec Committee, ElversonParksRec@outlook.com

Thank you to all who attended our Town Meeting on January 24th and for all who sent messages via email and NextDoor. The significantly positive interest and response has propelled us to the next stage.



The Borough Council has agreed that the currently unused field to the east of the main entrance may be used to develop a skate park and pump track. If we can raise sufficient funds from donations and grants to build the facility, then we will gift it to the Borough for its on-going life and our community's enjoyment. Council Members will be kept informed throughout the process and will approve the final design before construction begins.

We are very excited to enter this next phase. We will soon share information about our fundraising efforts, but one part of those efforts will be offering a means for making a tax-deductible contribution to this project. We are currently working with two groups to get this established. In the meantime, we will look for corporate sponsors and other funding sources.

We have shared a preliminary concept so that all of you could picture what we meant by a skate park and pump track. We even have received suggestions from some of you. The result is what we are calling Skatepark Concept 1. This is still preliminary. Please note that the pump track has gotten a little more interesting and is now separated from the skating area. And the skating area has become a bit more open. The sides still have ¼ pipes with angled sides. The placement of the one pipe also serves as a safety barrier from stray boards rolling onto the pump track. The elements in the very center are for those practicing ollies. (Yes, I had to look that up and invite other non-skateboarders to do the same.) The openness is very inviting for the variety of wheeled equipment we hope to see using the park.

We look forward to sharing our progress with you.

Responsible Dog Ownership Please!

ElversonParksRec@outlook.com

Did you forget your bag for your dog's waste? I know this can happen – but please do go back to clean up! To aid dog owners who forgot their bag while in Livingood Park, Elverson has added a dispenser at the Yeingst Drive parking lot. This supply is not meant to be your regular supply of bags, so please do try to remember your own. For the occasions you don't have a bag when walking around town, perhaps the next time you walk your dog, go the same route and clean up the prior 'deposit'. Most dog owners here are good neighbors and pet owners and do keep their dogs leashed and cleaned up after. But there has been a rise of 'dog deposits' left behind at Livingood Park – and maybe elsewhere. Waste left behind is not just unsightly and a hazard to clean feet and our children's play, it can also be a health issue for people and other dogs. If you see someone walking away after not cleaning up after their pet, please do ask them to come back to clean up, if you feel safe doing so.

Thank you for your consideration. Thank you for remembering that Livingood is not a dog park. And a very special thank you to those good neighbors that clean up what others have left behind!

Kaylena Radcliff Releases Second Book in Fiction Series

Kaylena Radcliff, a local author, is pleased to launch the second book in her dystopian fantasy series aimed at older teens and young adults: *Fox: The Elmnas Chronicles Book II.* A book launch party will be held at **The Village Library of Morgantown at 7 PM on Friday, March 31.**

Kaylena has lived in Elverson since August 2021, moving from Bucks County with her husband in 2021, Tim, and their two children after Tim became the pastor at CROSSroads Bible Fellowship Church. While Elverson is a change of pace from the busy suburban town she hails from, Kaylena has fallen in love with Elverson's bucolic landscape and country living. When she isn't writing, managing the quarterly publication she edits, or helping at the church, she might be found on one of the many nearby hiking trails.

Kaylena has always had a passion for writing and has been inventing stories since she learned to spell. Many authors have inspired her sense of wonder in literature, but she credits C.S. Lewis and his *Chronicles of Narnia* for nurturing her aspiration to become an author. She published her first book, a children's biography on Corrie ten Boom, in 2014. Since then, Kaylena has published numerous short stories, poems, and articles. *Mouse,* the first book in *The Elmnas Chronicles*, was published in 2019.

Copies of both books in the series will be available for purchase at the launch party, but you can find more information at www.kaylenaradcliff.wordpress.com. You can also follow Kaylena on social media @KaylenaRadcliff.

ANCHORED MINISTRIES

Anchored Ministries is a local, Elverson-based non profit organization, dedicated to providing basic necessities in the areas of clothing, food & nutrition, and community, to local areas in need.

Prom 2023 Season Wrapped Up! **-** On February 10th, we set up 500 formal dresses, along with suits, shoes, dress shirts, accessories, and more in a classroom at TVHS. It was a wonderful day meeting 195 students and teachers while helping them get prom ready! On February 25th, our partners at Brick Lane Community Church graciously hosted us for a Community Prom Boutique. We met students from 6 different schools, while helping them all find formal wear and accessories. Thank you to all who donated and made the 2023 Prom Program a success!

Easter Basket Program - Each year, Anchored Ministries makes free Easter Baskets available to our local children, aiming to take that burden off of the parents or guardians. If you, or someone you know, could use a little extra help this Easter and would like additional information or to sign up for a free Easter Basket, please head to AnchoredMinistries.org/Easter

Specific Needs: For additional information, please send an inquiry to contact@anchoredministries.org or stop by the building at 40 S. Chestnut Street in Elverson, Monday-Thursday 9 am to noon. Current, specific needs: Laundry Volunteers (weekly or monthly), Donation Sorting (individuals or groups), Community Meal Prep (2nd Tuesday, Monthly), Financial Support.

Erika Kanter—Executive Director—(484) 525-0803
www.anchoredministries.org

The Black Box

Doug Streuli

It is my opinion that every boy should have a box. Not a packing box. Not an old cigarette carton. Not a plastic box. A box. A box where he keeps his absolutely most cool stuff. A box that is only his.

Anyone who has seen "To Kill a Mockingbird" will remember that Jem had such a box. His was a cigar box, and in it he had some old pennies, a pocket knife, and other items that Boo Radley had hidden in the tree for him.

When I was young, I had such a box. My father made if for me when I was in middle school, and I kept some of my best coins in it. I still have that box. It is worn, after 55 years, and it lives on a shelf in a closet. That box, however, is not my special box. My special box lives on top of my dresser. I liked it the moment I saw it, early in my freshman year in college. Nick and Leon were hosting a table at the annual Dusk till Dawn at the Student Union. They were giving away raffle tickets, so I took one, dutifully filling out my name and dorm room number. I promptly forgot about it, until a week later when there was a knock on my door. There were Nick and Leon, with a litter filled with all manner of things.

"Are you Doug? You've won! You've won! Pick a prize." I knew what I wanted right away. In the middle of the pile of stuff was a small black box - maybe seven by nine inches, and an inch deep. On one side was a change scoop, and a black lid with a brass grip covered up an inside with nine velvet-lined compartments of varying sizes. I snatched the box and thanked them. In truth, I think everyone who entered the raffle won a prize.

That was August of 1972, and that box adorns the top of my dresser to this day. Only the most cool stuff goes in it: My grandfather's dog tags and service photo from World War I. A Tissot watch (broken) that my Uncle Henry gave me for Confirmation. Another watch (also broken) that Gretchen gave me at our wedding. Two wisdom teeth. Coins, cuff links (remember cuff links?), tie tacks, my baby spoon…. My most cool stuff is in that box! I once told my son that if he could only inherit one thing from me I knew what it would be: The Black Box. He nodded in agreement.

A cigar box makes a great box, or an old humidor. They are better if they aren't brand new. It should be something that the boy wants, not something the parent picks out for him. It is his special place. Only the most cool things get a place in the box.

I've had my little black box for 50 years and, other than my wedding ring, it is my most cherished possession.

The Cougar 5K

Conestoga Christian School is hosting a 5K timed race/walk and Kid's Fun Run on **Saturday, May 13** at 8am at our own Livingood Park. The morning will be filled with family fun and live music. The proceeds from the race will go towards CCS's annual "Race for Education " fundraiser.

Early-Bird registration will open on Monday, March 13th at www.conestogachristian.net/5k and will be $25 per participant. After April 13th, the cost is $35 per runner. The first 100 registrations will receive an event t-shirt.

critter rescue

Calla's Critter Rescue is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that rescues local cats and provides sanctuary and quality care until their forever home is found. Calla strives to limit the millions of unwanted animals in the US and seeks to protect the billions of native wildlife affected by outdoor cats each year.

If you need help with a cat and/or kitten situation, or if you want more information about adopting, please email **callascritterrescue@gmail.com.**

Trash & Recycling Service

A.J. Blosenski, Inc.

YARD WASTE PICK UP FOR TRASH AND RECYLING CUSTOMERS ONLY

A. J. Blosenski, Inc. will be providing yard waste collection **to current trash and recycling customers** on the following dates:

Saturday May 6, 2023
Saturday June 17, 2023
Saturday September 23, 2023
Saturday November 18, 2023

Yard waste materials are leaves, grass clippings, tree trimmings, shrubbery and other organic landscape vegetation.

NO GARBAGE, FRUITS, VEGETABLES, TREE STUMPS OR DIRT AND STONES WILL BE COLLECTED!

HOW TO PREPARE YARD WASTE FOR DISPOSAL

Place yard waste in biodegradable brown paper bags, or bundle it with biodegradable twine in easy-to-handle bundles.

- No more than 5 biodegradable bags of yard waste per collection
- No more than 15 biodegradable bags of leaves per collection
- No more than 4 bundles of branches per collection
  - Bundles may be no longer than 5 feet in length
  - Bundles may not weigh more than 30 pounds each
  - Bundles may not exceed 17 inches in diameter and branches may not exceed 2 inches in diameter
- Once prepared, yard waste must be placed at the curb on scheduled pick up day before 5:00 am.

YARD WASTE IN PLASTIC BAGS WILL NOT BE COLLECTED!

This notice is being provided by the Elverson Borough Council Members

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

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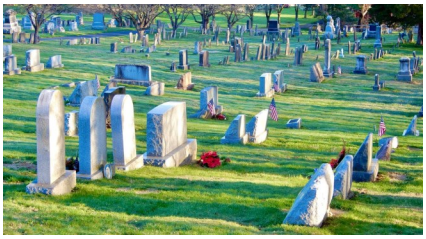
Callascritterrescue.com

Elverson Events

Elverson Primary Election—*Tuesday, May 16—Brick Lane Community Church, 52 S Brick Lane,* Poll hours—7 am to 8 pm. The wet/dry issue will be on the ballot.

Elverson Yard Sale—*Saturday, May 20—8 am to 1 pm throughout our town.* Your chance to get rid of your junk and make a few dollars or get some deals on others selling. We hope to get Main Street businesses involved this year. Food will be sold throughout the town so arrive hungry and get some deals.



Elverson Memorial Day Ceremony—*Monday, May 29—10:30 am—Elverson Cemetery.* Join us on Main Street to begin the holiday remembering why we celebrate the Day.

Elverson Day at the Park—*Saturday, June 24—Livingood Park*
A 5K Run starts at 9 am sponsored by Anchored Ministries. Food, activities and music begin at 5 pm and continue through the evening with a fireworks display to end the night. Rain date is Sunday, June 25.