



May/June 2022

Elverson’s Main Street Yard Sale—Saturday, May 21, 8 am to 1 pm



Summerfield residents will be selling baked goods, hot dogs and beverages at the Heritage Medical Building, 11 S. Pine Street. The Elverson Garden Club will be selling plants and others will set up tables and sell there as well. If you would like to set up in that area, contact Linda Petrecca, lindapetrecca@yahoo.com.

A multi-family yard sale will be held in front of 102 E Main St. Fresh smoked carnitas tacos topped with sauces (along with Nate’s signature slaw, fresh cilantro, onion and lime) will be sold at 16 East Main Street. Others will be selling along Main. Get your bargains or sell your stuff.

Elverson Memorial Day Ceremony—Monday, May 30, 10:30, Elverson Cemetery

Begin the holiday remembering those who have served our country. American Legion Post 537 and Elverson Boy Scout Troop 37 will contribute to our ceremony. A local duo, Mr. Paul and Holly B, will lead us in our National Anthem and other patriotic songs. Join us!



Elverson Day—Saturday, June 25, Livingood Park *(rain date is the next evening)*

After a chilly and rainy spring, it’s hard to believe that Elverson Day is just around the corner. We’ll kick the day off to a running start with a 5K race hosted by Anchored Ministries. (Check our Elverson Day Facebook page for more information on time, location and signups!)

Head to Livingood Park around 5 pm for free children’s activities like face painting, moon bounces and a picture book reading by a local author (though grownups are welcome to pet the puppies and visit the exotic animals too!) Older kids will enjoy games and contests put on by Brick Lane Church down on the baseball field, and local restaurants will be serving up a delicious dinner menu with ice cream for dessert, so come hungry! Bring a lawn chair or picnic blanket and enjoy catching up with friends and neighbors to the sound of our fantastic local musicians. We’re excited to welcome back hometown acts Ring of Fire and Carol Ruffner and Company, as well as the West Chester Swing Kings, who will treat us to swing and patriotic favorites up until the fireworks show.

We’re all grateful for our one-of-a-kind community here in Elverson – and what better way to show your smalltown pride than with an Elverson tee? For the first time ever, we’ll be selling throwback style “Greatest Square Mile” t-shirts for both adults and kiddos, so check out the Info Booth to snag one for everyone in the family.

Thank you to our generous sponsors and planning committee for making this celebration possible. Keep an eye open for our event posters hitting town soon, and feel free to visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/elversoncommunity for further information. We look forward to seeing you all soon!



Elverson Parks & Recreation Bulletin

Lisa Palsler

The Trails Committee is now a subcommittee of Parks & Recreation, so we will be reporting all recreation activities under the P&R banner going forward. Regarding the trail to the Blue Rocks, volunteers have been doing preliminary work so that the trail may be further developed with proper documentation in place. The walkway from the Blue Rocks Community on Wildflower Court into town is apparently on schedule for completion in the next couple of months. Other conversations are in progress, but nothing to report at this time.

The Committee is very interested in making full use of Livingood Park and is gathering community input and suggestions for accomplishing that. In the past, there has been usage by soccer and field hockey programs. Is there an opportunity for the Park to be used for an intramural program or as a practice field? What about rehabilitating the volleyball court? We are also looking for ways to develop the area to the east of the driveway (off route 82).

So, we are gathering ideas. Elverson residents have already proposed a few: skate park, pump track, bike grid for young riders – also suitable for bicycle safety training.



Reamstown Pump Track



Denver, PA Skate Park

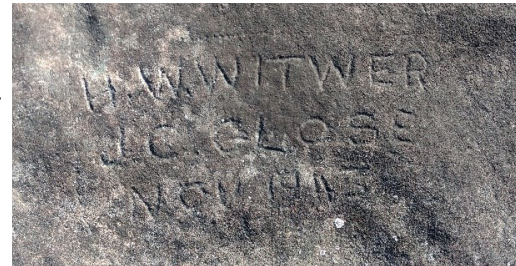
Parks and Rec will have a table on Elverson Day, June 25th. Please stop by – share your ideas and/or comment on others' ideas. We look forward to seeing you there!

REMEMBER TO VOTE—Polls are open from 7 am to 8 pm for primary elections on Tuesday, May 17. The polling location for the Borough of Elverson is the Brick Lane Community Church at 52 S Brick Lane.

Mystery of Blue Rock Carvings and Elverson of Years Gone By

Heather Bender

The couple who made the carvings at Blue Rocks is pictured. Harvey Witwer and Janice Close made the carvings prior to their marriage in Washington state before Harvey shipped out with the Navy in WW2. This particular picture was taken years later at Harvey (Sr) and Mabel's 49th wedding anniversary.



The pictures below depict Elverson of years gone by when the Witwers bought Zook's Wagon Works and turned it into HS Witwer & Co Motor Cars. Both the main garage and the Victorian house on the corner of East Main Street and Park Avenue still stand to this day. There used to be iron railings where the horses were tied when they came to do business with the Zooks, but those were removed in the last few decades. The Office is now known as Side Street Salvage.



How-to Meet Your Emotional Health Needs Outside Your Back Door

Alicia McBride

May is Mental Health Awareness month. Mental health and meeting your emotional needs can easily be overlooked. Especially when life gets busy. I'm here to gently remind you to take some time for yourself, and you can do it right here, in our hometown.

I moved to the borough last year and I am so pleased with my decision. Elverson is beautiful. The town is small, it has a lot of open space, it's surrounded by farmland, and thankfully, doesn't have any traffic lights. This town is friendly and I immediately made friends.

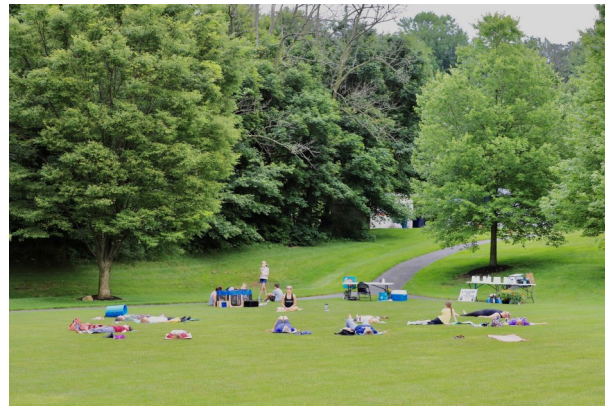
Livingood Park is at the heart of my activities with friends and family. Last summer, I enjoyed outdoor Yoga classes at the park with Christina Benz, who also lives in the borough. She's now teaching outside at the park again. Yoga is a great way to practice self-care and meet your emotional needs. It centers your mind, reduces anxiety, improves your strength, eases arthritis, benefits your heart, and moves your body.

Both of my kids had their birthday parties under the pavilion in the park. Running around in the sunshine will help you soak in vitamin D, improve your sleep, strengthen your immune system, and help fight off depression.

Last summer in the park, I took professional headshots of Becky Wilson, who is another borough resident and co-author of our book called *The Empath Effect*. You can find a signed copy of this book in the Little Free Library in Livingood Park. (Unless someone borrowed it already.) Reading exercises your brain, it also reduces stress, helps



Alicia McBride and Christine Benz in Livingood Park.



Christina's Kitten Noses and Yoga Poses adoption fundraiser in the park last year.

you sleep, and improves your ability to focus.

This year, I participated in a healing circle held by another borough resident, Rose O'Connor. Healing your heart and soul is another great option to boost your emotional health and puts you on the path to personal growth. She hosts them once a month in her home, right down the road.

I also recommend going for a walk around town. Walk down to the

Post Office and have a nice chat with the lovely ladies behind the desk. They have been wonderful to me! Friendly conversation can help fill your cup and bring a smile to your face.

If being out of the house isn't your thing, you can find community in the "In Twin Valley" group on Facebook, run by Michelle Raymond. I look forward to meeting her in person because she has been fantastic to work with online. Being part of a com-

munity and knowing you can rely on your neighbors is a beautiful feeling.

I love being part of the Elverson community, thank you for welcoming me home. Next time you see me give me a wave! You'll know it's me because I'll be pulling my kids to the park in the wagon.

Remember, it's okay to take care of yourself and meet your needs. You are better equipped to help others if you have helped yourself first. You cannot pour from an empty cup. Take the time for yourself, and your body, mind and soul will thank you with good health and happiness. Thanks for reading.

Alicia McBride is a local author and a leading voice for empaths today. She is known for her international best-sellers; I Feel Too Much: A How-To Guide For The Beginner Empath and The Empath Effect: Powerful Stories of Love, Courage & Transformation. Her calling is helping empaths and other sensitive people understand how to use their gifts and navigate this world. She would love to hear from you, find her online at HealingLightEmpath.com.

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The Desk That Turned into a Book

Susan Englebert

This is the story of a desk that turned into a book. The desk was a family heirloom that was to be handed down to the oldest living Englebert descendant. When the desk came to my husband Richard, we discovered it also harbored a treasure of 19th Century documents.

There was the great grandfather's birth certificate from Liege Province in Belgium, and the great grandmother's baptismal scroll from Trinity Lutheran Church in Reading. It contained a promissory note in Dutch guilders from 1816 and another from 1824 in a currency called the Hamburg mark banco. The desk held a thrilling tale of a lost family fortune, and many other clippings that revealed small pieces of their lives.

Of course, I needed to find out more. With the help of Ancestry.com, Newspapers.com, and those invaluable 19th Century census reports, I learned that Cornelius Englebert arrived in Philadelphia in 1827 and set up his Ladies Shoe and Boot Store in the Old City area.

As I started documenting this immigrant's life, I found that his second son, Jacob Lee, my husband's great uncle, left a large footprint that touched many significant events in American history. It was a life that was worth documenting.

Jacob Lee served in the Civil War under General George McClellan. He was captured, imprisoned in Libby Prison in Virginia, and later commanded his cavalry troops at Antietam and Gettysburg, giving him a unique perspective into General McClellan's Army of the Potomac.

In researching Colonel Englebert's life, I found that he authored several memoirs about soldier life and about

General McClellan, in particular. So while I have stitched his story together and imagined some conversations, much of it was actually written by Jacob Lee himself.

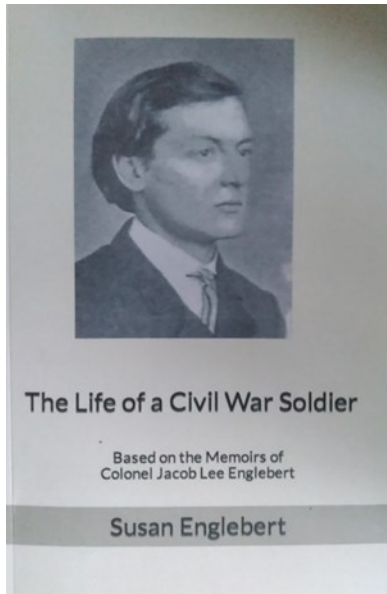
For several years after the Civil War, Colonel Englebert and his wife Fannie lived in West Chester. During that period he clerked in his mother-in-law's "Fancy Store" on Gay Street. He travelled to Western Pennsylvania in search of "black gold." He became head revenue agent for the Pennsylvania 7th District and was charged with managing the collection of the nation's first income tax. In 1871, he served his country as Indian Agent at Cheyenne River Agency in the Dakota Territory.

In writing the book, I slogged through endless Internet searches, visited churches and cemeteries and courthouses. Each new discovery was exhilarating. Now that the book is finally published, I find that I miss the adventure of writing it.

The book is available from Amazon in both paperback and Kindle format. You can contact me at possengle@earthlink.net.

The Engleberts purchased a rental property in Elverson many years ago, and after finding they enjoyed the beautiful countryside and charming village, they

converted a garage on their property into a cozy bungalow and moved here from Lyndell in 2005. Susan is a retired technical writer and Richard is a retired teacher, having taught in the Great Valley School District for 32 years. They enjoy gardening and spend most of their free time tending to their many ponds and gardens.



Yard Waste Pick Up for Trash and Recycling Customers

- Dates for pick up (all are Saturdays) - May 7, June 18, September 14, November 5. Put at curbside by 5 am.
- 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.
- Place in biodegradable brown paper bags or bundle with biodegradable twine in easy-to-handle bundles.
- No more than 5 biodegradable bags of yard waste per collection. No more than 15 bags of leaves per collection. No more than 4 bundles of branches per collection.



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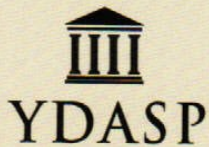
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Send your Elverson news and stories to our editor at brenda@stoltzfus.com by July 10 or call her at 610.286.5115. Newsletters can be found on elversonboro.org.

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Elverson Cemetery

Elverson News

Esther Prosser, Mayor

We have been enjoying pickleball each Monday at 5 pm at the Borough Hall courts, weather permitting. If you'd like to be in the know, check out our Elverson Pickleball Nextdoor page and request membership. We put up two portable nets each week so eight can play at a time. If there are more present, we rotate. Drop in for some fun.

And did you know that Elverson has been a dry town since 1979? Liquor sales in the Borough are not permitted. Our Elverson Day committee was interested in adding Suburban Brewery from Honey Brook to our food vendors, selling hot sandwiches and cold beer. But not this year. We are interested in a change so we can include them in 2023. In order to do so, we need to circulate a petition with at least 100 signatures and then include this as a referendum on the 2023 primary election ballot. If you want to help with this effort, let me know esther@stoltzfus.com, 484.269.7153.

Thanks to many of you who have agreed to serve as Block Captains for your street. With cameras installed at the park and many on the look-out for trouble, our town will be safer.



Elverson Pickleball players

