



## May\June 2023

### ELVERSON EVENTS

#### Elverson Primary Election

Tuesday, May 16—7 am to 8 pm—Brick Lane Community Church,  
52 South Brick Lane

A few reasons to vote on May 16:

- Whether or not you feel like our town should remain dry (no alcohol sales) or want a change to wet (to attract a nice restaurant), show up to vote “yes” or “no” on this initiative. The question on the ballot will be—“Do you favor the granting of liquor licenses for the sale of liquor in the Borough of Elverson of Chester County?”
- There are 3 Borough of Elverson Council candidates running for 3 seats on the Republican ticket.
- Borough of Elverson resident Jose Colon will be on the ballot running as a Republican for District Judge.



#### Elverson Yard Sale

Saturday, May 20—8 am to 1 pm

All of Elverson are selling this year from driveways throughout town. The following communities will be participating—Springfield Village, Parkside, Blue Rock and Summerfield. Others will be selling along Main and Chestnut Street. Food sales will be found at Giovanni’s (Italian delights), 16 E Main Street (smoked carnitas tacos), and 10 W Main (ice cream).



#### Elverson Memorial Day Ceremony

Monday, May 29—10:30 am—Elverson Cemetery, 35 East Main Street  
We will be led in singing by gifted Elverson musician and vocalist, Carol Ruffner. Others participating will be the American Legion Post 537 and the Elverson/Morgantown Boy Scout Troop 37.



#### Elverson Day at the Park

Saturday, June 24—5 pm—Livingood Park, South Chestnut Street  
The day will begin with a 5K run and 1 mile walk organized by Elverson’s Anchored Ministries. To register in advance, go to [anchoredministries.org/5k/](http://anchoredministries.org/5k/). Our evening event will again include food, games and music. We will end with fireworks.



# The Train Doesn't Stop Here Anymore

Jody Phillips

Most Elverson residents are familiar with the Victorian-style train station located at 60 East Main Street, across from Vixen Hill Manufacturing. With almost all of the vestiges of the old Wilmington & Northern Railroad gone, the station is no longer the center of activity it was in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries when the iron industry brought people and businesses to the area, especially to Elverson (which was then called Springfield).

East-West traffic between the Conestoga Watershed and Chesapeake Valley and North-South traffic between Reading and Wilmington met in Springfield and had made it an important commercial center of surrounding towns. The discovery of iron ore along French Creek and the smelting furnaces which sprang up around the mines increased the necessity to move large quantities of heavy goods economically and drew investors to the area. In 1870, the DuPont family completed the construction of the railroad between Wilmington and Reading, which eventually became known as the Wilmington & Northern Railroad. The Springfield Station, built in 1873, was not the attractive building you see today but a simple rural outbuilding sufficient for the needs of the village 150 years ago. But by 1890, the town had grown significantly, almost doubling its population and attracting many new businesses. Goods and passengers moved in and out of Springfield on a daily basis and the railroad was a beeline of activity.

With increased passenger service, the 1873 station was no longer adequate, so in 1893 it was rebuilt and various outbuildings were added. A large house was constructed just west of the station for the station master. In 1895, eight passenger trains (three cars each) and fourteen freight trains (eight cars each) chugged through the village daily. Major freight commodities were iron, steel, coal, stone and timber. Passengers traveled to and from work in Birdsboro, Coatesville, and Reading, and on summer weekends families escaped the heat in the cool waters of French Creek in St. Peter's village, a well-known resort at the time.

According to "The History of Our Community, Elverson, Pennsylvania," Elverson's partnership with the railroad started going downhill during the Great Depression, Automobiles became more common and the trucking industry grew, allowing suppliers to ship goods door-to-door. Iron furnaces were shutting down and fewer trains traveled through the Borough. The last freight train ran in January 1982. The tracks were gradually removed and the last rails were taken up in 1987.



The Elverson Railroad Station today.



Old Springfield Railroad Station circa 1905 showing loading docks with coal bins, two freight depots (one with advertising for Dunkel's Store which sold watches, musical instruments, guns and revolvers), and the station master's house along with an approaching steam engine.

The Borough bought the abandoned train station and its freight depot from the Reading Railroad in 1995. The freight depot fell into disrepair and became the Eagle project of two Elverson Boy Scouts in 1998. In 2001, it was repaired, expanded and repainted, and the loading docks were repaired; and in 2012, it was completely remodeled with a set of 60 cluster mailboxes which were used by residents living on the east end of the Borough. The train station itself was cleaned and repainted the same year.

In 1992, 12<sup>th</sup> District Representative Tim Hennessey began leasing the building to better serve his constituents in the southern part of his district. He vacated the station last November and our new State Representative Paul Friel is in the process of moving in. He will also serve the southern part of his district from our picturesque train station. He plans to have office hours on Thursdays from 10 am to noon and offer the same services available at his District Office located at 68 Glocker Way in Pottstown. His office can help with unemployment concerns or questions; PennDOT assistance, including disability placards and drivers license and registration issues; free SEPTA Senior Key cards – new applications and renewals; proper-

Continued on p 6.



### Elverson Borough Resident is District Judge Candidate

Hello and thank you for your time! I am very excited to be on the ballot for Magisterial District Judge for the primary election on Tuesday, May 16.

I have 36 years in law enforcement and government service, serving as a police officer, detective, elected Constable, and appointed local government official. 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.

I bring high levels of experience and passion for the criminal/civil justice system and the desire to continue to serve my community. This opportunity will allow me to best use my knowledge and experience in a way that would SERVE YOU, my constituents, and all those before me in court.


Nobody else on the ballot brings all of these qualities to the Court! EXPERIENCE, COMPASSION and LOCAL COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS MATTER! Remember: I represent you, my fellow Elverson residents!!" God Bless you All.

Jose A. Colon

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### Trees and Duff

Herb Hamilton, Elverson Shade Tree Commission

I enjoy walking my dog along the tree-lined streets in our borough. The trees offer summer shade, fall color and winter interest. Then there is the duff they drop. Ugh...the duff. But what is this duff?

Duff is organic matter such as leaves, bark, twigs, and branches that have fallen to the ground. It is nature’s way of replenishing the nutrients in the soil that the trees need to grow. In a forest we welcome this natural occurrence, but in a cultivated setting it is described as messy and unclean. It isn’t. It is nature doing what it does best, taking care of itself. Under cultivation, the natural rules governing our trees are changed but they don’t know that. They do not need to rely on duff because our lawn fertilizer feeds them. This leaves us, as responsible stewards, to clean up the duff.

The trees that probably drop the most duff are the ash and sycamore trees. Their leaves are prone to fungal issues. We see them begin to drop leaves in late spring, early summer and this goes on all summer long. Of course, all trees drop twigs and branches as they mature. This natural sloughing is caused by inner branches not getting enough sunlight.

Fortunately, we have eight different types of trees lining our streets, so the amount of duff will vary depending on the tree. I say fortunately because this variety is important. For example, ash trees are prone to emerald ash borer but not the other trees, and maple trees are prone to spotted lanternfly but not the others. This makes it harder for one insect or disease to cause widespread mayhem.

Remember, we have taken the trees from the wild and brought them under cultivation for our benefit, and while duff is a downside there are a great many benefits to having tree-lined streets. I will cover the benefits in a future article but for now, give this a try the next time you pass a tree. Touch it. Run your hand up and down the trunk. It can be quite a grounding experience. As for me, I’m a hugger...but you don’t have to go that far.



# Livingood Park Update

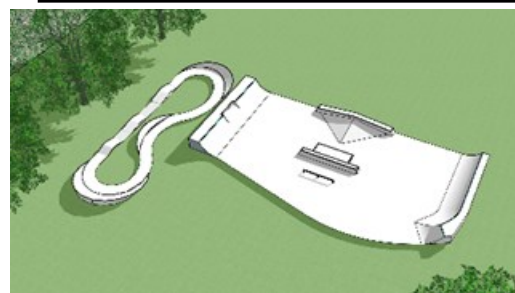
ElversonParksRec@outlook.com

The Parks and Recreation committee has 'refreshed' our volleyball court with some new sand and cleared grass and weeds from the side edges of the court, so bring your ball and come out and play! Over the spring and summer, we will continue to patch the cracks in the park's walkway. And while we don't know the timing yet, Council has agreed to install a water bottle filling station which will be attached to the storage shed near the picnic pavilion. Water will be available roughly the same time period as daylight savings time (late March to early November) and off during the months where there is risk to the water freezing in the pipes. We appreciate the efforts of individuals and businesses who support our vision for an inviting Borough Park.



Sand volley ball court

Fundraising has begun for the proposed Elverson Skate Park and Pump Track. We have established an account with GiveSendGo to make it easy for anyone to make a donation to move us forward in making this addition to Livingood Park a reality. Donations are forwarded to a registered 501 (c)(3) company, so all gifts are qualified as tax-deductible. You can also monitor our progress. Gifts of all sizes are welcome. Your support is encouraged and greatly appreciated. Indeed, the larger the response, the better the story as we approach other organizations. Thank you – in advance.  
Link: [www.givesendgo.com/elversonskatepark](http://www.givesendgo.com/elversonskatepark)



Proposed Skate Park and Pump Track

In the meantime, we continue to build a list of companies and organizations to approach. If you have any suggestions for us, please do send that information to the email address given above.

## Looking Out the Pondview Window

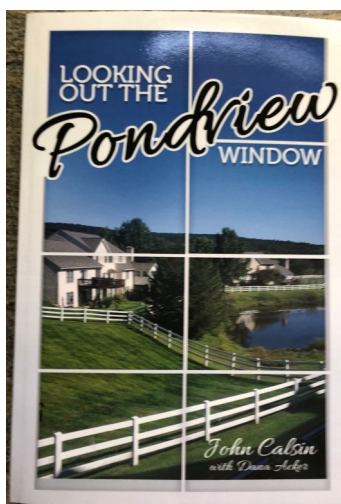
John Calsin

I am an Elverson Borough resident and I have a book coming out on May 25 that highlights a feature of my Summerfield neighborhood. *Looking Out the Pondview Window* is the title.

The book is a seasonal, Christian devotional book written more in the flavor of two of my favorite books, *When the Water Smokes: Tides and Seasons on a Wooden Boat* by Bob Simpson and *The Outermost House, A Year of Life on the Great Beach of Cape Cod* by Henry Beston; with perhaps a nod to *Beautiful Swimmers* (a book about Blue crabs, the watermen, and the Chesapeake Bay) by William W. Warner, or *On Good Land* (about a California urban farm) by Michael Ableman.

Written over an almost two-year period, *Looking Out the Pondview Window* is an accumulation of devotions I

wrote when COVID-19 caused me to lose my job.



My desire in writing this is to share with readers the joy of the seasons, the wildlife, and all of God's natural and biblical wonders as they were revealed to me, and by my shared life experiences, through the seasons while *Looking Out the Pondview Window*.

These devotions reveal my life and travels from the East Coast to beyond Hawaii and from Texas to Alaska. I am now officially retired.

The book will be available beginning May 25 and through on-line sites such as Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Walmart, Thrift Books, Books-A-Million and more. It will

also be available through bookstores.

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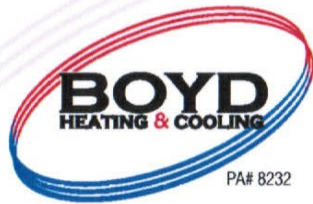
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*Send your Elverson news and stories to our editor at [brenda@stoltzfus.com](mailto:brenda@stoltzfus.com) by July 1 or call her at 610.286.5115. Newsletters can be found on [elversonboro.org](http://elversonboro.org).*

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*Continued from p 2*

ty tax/rent rebate applications; and many other age-related rebates, discounts and other benefits.

In a recent letter to Elverson Borough Council, Representative Hennessey wrote “I have always enjoyed this office for its historical significance as a station on the old Wilmington and Northern line, and in a larger sense, a part of the great era of railroading in the Commonwealth and in America. But beyond that, the Elverson Station became a refuge for me from the issues occurring elsewhere in District 26. I’ve loved the tranquility of the Borough and the sense of history which pervades the town.”

Walk over to the station and sit on one of the recently installed park benches on the loading dock in front of the freight depot. Imagine the far-away sound of an approaching steam engine chugging its way through Penn’s Woods and you too may feel the sense of history and tranquility of Elverson Borough.



## **Trucks on Main**

*Esther Prosser*

Several Main Street residents have recently voiced their displeasure with the noise and speed of big trucks, especially wide load trucks. This is nothing new, of course, and is a result of growth. But, I am monitoring truck speeds and gathering pictures of wide load trucks who are exceeding our 35 mph speed limit. If you have pictures, please text or email them to me.

I contacted Morgantown’s Sheds Unlimited to see if the speeding trucks were hauling their sheds. They assured me that their sheds are pulled by their own trucks and offered their help in identifying who is driving unsafely through Elverson.

I’ve also contacted our State Police to encourage their presence along Main, specifically traveling east where Main slopes downward. We are also installing “no Jake brake” signs as their use is disruptive. I would love a 25 mph speed limit through town and have discussed this desire numerous times with PennDOT to no avail (I thought). Then, this week this sign pops up, installed near the 82/23 intersection. Every now and then we get surprises and this was one of them (pleasant indeed).

Please feel free to call, text or email me with your suggestions in helping to keep Elverson the safe town we all love (esther@stoltzfus.com, 484.269.7153).