



# November\December 2023

## Elverson's Parade—Our 50th Year

With our theme—*The 70's, A Throwback for Elverson's 50th Anniversary*, the Elverson Parade filled the third Wednesday evening of October with fun, excitement, music, candy, trucks, kids, antique cars and good food. Thanks to all who joined us on Main, either as part of a float or just sitting and enjoying our once-a-year Main Street spectacle. Congratulations to our three winners (pictured below).

Our theme for 2024 is *Advance to Go, Elverson! Celebrating our Favorite Board Games*. And it's always the third Wednesday evening in October—for **2024 that's October 16.**



Best of Show—TV Mountain Biking



Most Creative—Cub Scout Pack 543



Best Performance—Owen J Roberts HS Band

## Christmas Lights and Carol Singing Revived in Elverson

Donna Mountz

When I was a girl growing up in West Chester in the 1950's, the borough would install strings of colored Christmas lights above the major street, as many towns did back then, such as is seen in Bedford Falls in the movie "It's a Wonderful Life". My siblings and I would urge our parents to return home from our Thanksgiving family dinner by driving through the center of town, because that was the first sign of Christmas: that night the Christmas lights were first turned on!

We have our own Christmas traditions in Elverson. Some have changed over the years, some lost and others have been added. The Twin Valley Fire Company drives one of their engines slowly through town on a December afternoon, with Santa Claus waving to the young children in homes and giving out surprises. The use of sidewalk luminaries has been a fairly recent addition in Summerfield and on Main Street and the Methodist Church, and many continue that practice.

About 20 or more years ago, a single Blue Spruce tree was planted at the front of the Elverson Methodist Cemetery, and for many years following, it was adorned at Christmas time with blue Christmas lights. Why blue? The reason was because early in Elverson's history, our town was named Blue Rocks (after the glacial deposit of blue-gray rocks in our northeast corner). In the mid-eighteen hundreds, we were renamed Springfield, which confused many postal workers because of two other Springfields in PA. So, in 1899, we were renamed Elverson. At some point along with the tradition of the blue Christmas lights, a one-time community carol sing began at the location of the tree, which was hosted by the Methodist Church. Those were special times to

us and many of our neighbors and friends in town came to sing or just to listen and be together. This continued for many years. But as the tree grew, it became more and more challenging and finally impossible to cover it with lights. Both traditions fell by the wayside.

**Announcing a revival of an Elverson Christmas tradition:** This year the Elverson Cemetery now has two brand new Blue Spruce

trees and they will both be lit in early December with, not blue, but colorful strings of lights. And the community is invited on **Sunday evening, December 17<sup>th</sup>** to assemble in the glow of them to sing Christmas carols **at 4:30 PM**. Following the singing, all are invited across the street to the Methodist Church's fellowship hall to partake of hot chocolate or coffee and nibble some Christmas cookies or

brownies while chatting with neighbors.

This is a great opportunity to meet some of our newest residents and reconnect with many neighbors we don't generally see when it becomes cold. Any cookie donations for the affair would be gladly accepted, since the Methodist ladies don't know how many people to expect, and we can help them out. No need for home-made; packaged store cookies are fine. But put this on your calendar for the evening of December 17<sup>th</sup>! Music sheets with the words will be available to all singers and if you have any candle lanterns or flashlights, bring them, so you can read all the words. And we will huddle together in the glowing lights and revive a meaningful Elverson Christmas tradition this December.



Blue Spruce trees at Elverson Cemetery on Main

## Elverson Fitness Club

Kate Zwizanski

Elverson Fitness Club, located on South Pine Street in the heart of Elverson Borough, fosters a community-driven and supportive approach to health and wellness. Owned by Dr. Gary Herring, Elverson Fitness Club offers the community a friendly and relaxed atmosphere, welcoming to all fitness levels and goals. The spacious, well-appointed, 24-hour gym has a full complement of fitness equipment, including free weights, mechanical weights, cardio and stretching equipment. The gym also offers a robust schedule of group-based fitness classes that are warm and welcoming, and best of all, included in the cost of membership.

“There is no greater reward than seeing friendships built at the gym, and the community coming together as we’ve done in the past with food drives, holiday gift donations, and other events throughout the year” says Christina Benz, one of the long-time group fitness instructors. Addition-



**elverson**  
FITNESS CLUB

ally, the gym offers a wide variety of evening classes and 1:1 personal training sessions.

The gym has incorporated a lot of exciting changes. Recently at the helm of new management is Tony Benz and his wife, Christina. Christina teaches All-levels Fitness, Total Body Challenge, and Cycle classes on-site and Tony is a retired Navy veteran and current Business Analyst. Both have a life-long passion for physical fitness and wellness and are eager to serve the EFC community. They have two children, Preston and Ella, and reside in Elverson Borough.



Elverson Fitness Club Manager, Tony Benz with family

The gym proudly welcomes new members, and monthly memberships are \$45/adult, \$25/ students & seniors. Family rates are also available. Stop by during staffed hours (M-Sat 9-12p; M-Thurs 4-7p) for an in-person tour, or check out our website ([elversonfitnessclub.com](http://elversonfitnessclub.com)) for more information. Sign up today!

## Give Elverson this Christmas

Katie Estes



On the hunt for that perfect Christmas gift? Or just looking to show a little hometown pride? Consider an Elverson t-shirt! Kids and grownups alike can sport a comfortable, retro tee and represent the greatest square mile in style. Adult sizes are now available for \$15 in both the white and green styles, while kids' t-shirts are available in green for \$10.

Contact our Borough Secretary, [secretary@elversonboro.org](mailto:secretary@elversonboro.org), 610.286.6420 to reserve your shirt or stop by the Borough Hall (open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 9 am to 3 pm) to pick one up.



## My Interest in Art

*Ed Castaldi*

I moved to Derby Drive in Elverson with my companion, Patty and her mother, Dorothy ten years ago. I was born in Chester County, growing up on a farm that had been in our family for over 100 years. No matter which direction I looked, there was always a picturesque landscape. I've had an interest in art from a young age, but my abilities took a back seat as I jumped into a career and started a family which left little time for painting. My talents remained largely unknown to my family and friends until I retired at age 62, when I picked up the brush once again and began sharing my work.

Over the last few years, I have participated in many art showings and have had the fortune of selling numerous prints and originals throughout the local area.

Recently, I was accepted into the Boyer Gallery at The Hill School and also into the gallery at the Montgomery County Community College in Pottstown. I have been a member of the Pottstown Area Artists Guild for three years. Twice this year, I was selected as the recipient of the People's Choice Award for landscape oil paintings. George Inness and William Bliss-Baker are strong influences in my work.

Since my retirement and reinvestment in art, I have created over 70 different pieces. My most noteworthy works are "Fairview Church" and "Moonlit Bay" (pictured below). If you have interest in my paintings, feel free to contact me at [ed.castaldi@gmail.com](mailto:ed.castaldi@gmail.com) or 610.823.5398.



### YARD WASTE PICK UP

**Date: Saturday, November 18—place at curb before 5:00 am**

Place in biodegradable brown bags or bundle with biodegradable twine in easy-to-handle bundles. For more information go to the Borough website—[elversonboro.org](http://elversonboro.org)

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

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## **Elverson - the Great Square Mile** *Esther Prosser*

The Elverson Parade is just one of a few events we organize in our greatest square mile. We are resurrecting Elverson Caroling, scheduled for Sunday, December 17 (see p 2). Bundle up and join us.

Another gathering that I'd love to bring back is the Elverson Easter Egg Hunt. If you would like to help in planning this, please let me know. A quiet, safe and friendly town doesn't just happen. It takes planning. Want to help? Contact me—484.269.7153, [esther@stoltzfus.com](mailto:esther@stoltzfus.com).



Our thanks to the Twin Valley Fire Police and Department who help each year with traffic and safety for our parade.