

December 2016

How Well Do You Know Elverson Borough?

Jody Phillips

ongratulations to Larry McGoog, who was the only one who identified the location of the house with the fleur-de-lis rooftop decorations that

was pictured in the November issue of the Elverson Borough Newsletter. It is located at 29 East Main Street. We both chuckled when he told me his address because it is the same as that of the featured house.



Not only did Larry identify his home, he gave me some historical information that was not printed in Bob Patry's "The History of Our Community – Elverson, Pennsylvania."

Known as the Mast/Shelley/McCoog House, this attractive Victorian with a turret on the northeast corner and large wrap-around porch was built in the late 1800's. Its earliest residents (that anyone can remember) were Clarence and Florence Mast, who resided there in the 1920's. Harvey and Ida Shelly owned the home through the Depression years through the 1940's, after which their son lived there with his family until Larry purchased it in 1979.

When Larry and his wife Barbara moved in, the house was in poor condition. The slate roof leaked badly, the home's siding was made of asbestos and wallpaper was peeling off the walls in the upstairs bedrooms. The lovely copper fleur-de-lis were eroding and discolored. Larry told me that he had the roof fixed first and that his roofer removed the fleur-de-lis, took them to his shop and totally reconditioned them. He then added a large garage and attractive portico behind the house and rebuilt the porch, adding new railings and front entrance stairway. Larry's wife Barbara, who is an avid gardener,

planted a beautiful garden on the front slope to the east of the stairway and the couple recently built a lovely brick patio there, which is decorated with hanging baskets, potted plants and a

wrought iron table and chairs set. Larry joked that this was also a good place to put snow in the winter months.

Larry added that the houses on either side of his home were all built by the same man for his sons. This man built the residence at 27

East Main street first, presumably for his family, and then built the home at 29 East Main for his first son and the one at 31 East Main for his second son. These homes are rumored to have been "kit" houses, which arrived from the factory in pieces to be put together by the owner.

I took the December mystery photo in early November. You can see the brilliant fall foliage through (reflected in?) the glass of the door I have photographed. Please



identify the address of the building whose door is pictured.

Call or e-mail me if you think you know the answer at jodysfritz@gmail.com or 610-286-8913. All who know the correct answer to this question will win an Elverson Day tee shirt. By the way, if you would rather purchase a tee shirt, contact me and I will sell you one for only \$5. I have a lot of shirts in (unisex) size Small and Medium and a few Extra Large shirts available. Most are royal blue but I have a few orange and yellow shirts as well.



The Henrietta Hankin Branch Library continues to be a

busy place! I hope you had the opportunity to stop in when we hosted our Artisan Show on November 5th or the Friends of the Henrietta Hankin Book Sale on November 11-13th. Our programming recently included visits via the web to both the Pacific Historic Parks in Hawaii and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Collection in Landover, MD. The memorial collection includes items left at the wall which are categorized and stored. Both events were very interesting and educational.

With the holidays upon us, everyone else will be busy too. We have cookbooks to help you with your party menu, books to

help you decorate your home and table, and books you can read to forget everything else you have to do!! There are holiday movies and music too to complete your holiday fun.

As budgets are being finalized in our townships, remember to tell the supervisors how the library impacts your life. We appreciate contributions from our local municipalities to help us provide the materials and services you need.

May your holidays be merry and your travel safe. We look forward to seeing you at the library in the New Year.



ELVERSON HISTORY MAKES A GOOD GIFT

Looking for a nice gift for your friend or relative who enjoys living in Elverson Borough and is interested in its past? For only \$15, you can purchase what is frequently referred to as the Elverson History Book.

Compiled and written by Bob Patry in honor of the Borough's 100th anniversary of its incorporation as a Borough and published in 2011, "The History of Our Community: Elverson, Pennsylvania" chronicles 300 years of history of the triangular-shaped square mile that Elversonians call home. Its many black and white photographs and drawings and quotations from local newspapers and long-time residents will take you back to a time when life was certainly simpler but not easy. One of my favorite chapters, "Memories and Tales," contains firstperson accounts of the way things were back then. Thirty pages long, it brings history alive in a delightful way, preserving the past for future generations.

If you would like to order this book, please contact Elverson Historical Commission member Jody Phillips at jodysfritz@gmail.com or by calling 610-286-8913. Jody will deliver your book free of charge in the Borough.

DESIGNER HANDBAG BINGO

Jan 20, 2017 at 6:30 pm at Caernarvon Township Municipal Building – Ladies Night!

Twin Valley Elementary Center, in partnership with P.I.E./PTO, is holding a fundraising event to benefit our elementary students. All funds raised will be used for field trips, technologies in the classroom and various other education needs.

Tickets for the event are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Please contact email tvecpie@yahoo.com to purchase tickets.

Send your Elverson news and stories to our editor at brenda@stoltzfus.com by December 20 or call her at 610.286.5115. Newsletters can be found on elversonboro.org.

THE HISTORY OF OUR

COMMUNITY

ELVERSON

PENNSYLVANIA



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CHRISTMAS GIFT DRIVE

Attention, Elverson Borough Residents— Once again I look forward to hosting a Christmas gift drive for the residents and patients at the Coatesville V.A. Medical Center. If you would like to donate, please contact Betty Shaw at 610-286-0758 or bettyshaw@reagan.com for a list of gift suggestions and where to deliver the items for collection. A gift receipt for tax purposes can be issued if needed. I will also accept a monetary donation if you prefer and then I will give you a copy of the receipt with items purchased.

We would like to have all gifts received no later than December 18, 2016 so delivery to the V.A. and other areas in the county can be made in a timely manner.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call and once again, thank you so much for helping to make this upcoming holiday season special to these exceptional and extraordinary individuals.

Thank you, Betty Shaw

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NEW SANCTUARY OPENS IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS

Y ou're invited! Community Evangelical Free Church at 52 South Brick Lane in Elverson will have its new sanctuary doors open just in time for Christmas! Join us for our Christmas Eve service on Saturday, December 24 at 6 pm or for a worship service Sunday, December 25 at 10 am.

Elverson residents are invited to a special walk-through tour event of the new building January 10, 11, & 14 from 1-3 pm and January 12 from 5-7 pm. We would love to have you visit!





Santa Claus is Coming to Town

Keep on the look out for Santa who plans to make his annual trip through Elverson during the afternoon or evening of Sunday, December 18 on board the Twin Valley Fire Company truck (only for the boys and girls who have been good, of course)!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!