Elverson Borough Newsletter

July 2013

A Day at the Park—*Jody Phillips*

Picture-perfect weather with bright sun, blue skies and a cool light breeze greeted the first to arrive at Livingood Park on June 22 to celebrate Elverson Day 2013. Runners in the Elverson 5K Race, which began at 8:30 a.m., seemed to fly around the course, which was touted as fun, well-marked and surprisingly hilly. But this was only the beginning of Elverson's gala celebration. By 4 p.m. that afternoon, most of the food vendors had set up their booths and the smells of grilling hamburgers and barbecue pork filled the air. The crack of bats could be heard as a baseball game between the Twin Valley and Churchtown fire companies began at the ball field and people were gathering for the first historical wagon ride.

Soon the crowd began to grow. The Moon Bounce took shape and children of all ages raced to enjoy this popular attraction. The Cripple Creek Band tuned up their fiddles and guitars and feet started tapping to the beat of country and blues tunes. Pipper the clown twisted colorful balloons into incredibly lifelike animals and elegant headgear while face painters transformed children's faces into animals, scary creatures, and glamorous princesses. The three ponies were kept busy carrying laughing children up and down the field. Throughout the park, children ran and played in the lush, green early summer grass. Adults chatted with friends new and old. It was a wonderful afternoon.

Word of the historical wagon rides spread and the second wagon left the park with many more passengers than the first. The crowd grew as Midnight Sky took the stage with Johnny (Cash) Barnett belting out classic Johnny Cash songs. As Johnny "walked the line," another line formed in front of the Lickety Split Ice Cream Truck. This line never really ended until the last people were leaving the field well after dark. After all, everybody loves ice cream.

The final band to take the stage, the West Chester Concert Band, sounded smooth as their volunteer musicians moved from popular songs of the 20's through the 30's and 40's, and on to music of more recent decades. A salute to our troops, with a moving rendition of the official hymns of each branch of the Armed Forces with most who served standing when they heard their song played, brought tears to many eyes. After a couple of patriotic tributes and marches, the strains of "Stars and Stripes Forever" filled the air, the last bars echoed by the first bang of a glorious fireworks display.

The fireworks were incredible this year. They lit up the clear sky brilliantly, especially what I called the sizzlers, which featured sparkling silver columns spraying up like a fountain and making a sizzling noise like a juicy steak on the grill. Many declared that these were the best fireworks ever and several donations for next year's Elverson Day fireworks were collected so that the fireworks can continue as the grand finale of Elverson Day next year. Come to Elverson Day in 2014 and enjoy another day at the Park.

ELVERSON'S FARMERS' MARKET

Jessica Stone

To market, to market to buy a fat pig… The old rhyme still rings true for me every Saturday at the local Elverson Farmers' Market. How the little song ends now is up to the children.

Three years ago my husband and I decided to buy a charming old house in the area with some space to garden and play. The surrounding state park, open land and quiet community were attractive to us. He had grown up in the area, and I always liked the area as well. Originally more of a city girl, I did wonder sometimes what I would do living in a town, which much to my honest disbelief, didn't have stoplights. "Seriously," I asked my husband, "no stoplight?" Around the same time we moved in, signs for the local Elverson Farmer's Market were popping up, and we thought we would give it a try. I was equally charmed when we arrived at the market the first week and found vegetables, fruit, meat, coffee, crafts, flowers, baked goods, cheese and live music. "Really?" I thought. "All of this hiding in a quiet little corner of Elverson?" How wonderful! My children loved helping choose what we would buy and the extra time to hit the playground when we were finished. From spring to fall, the tables were full of the freshest seasonal produce, sweets, snacks and local crafts. We met new people, enjoyed the open-air environment and the Saturday morning routine was born.

The market has changed and grown here and there over the last few years and so has our routine. When we started our Saturday morning jaunts my older children were just five and six, and they sang the old nursery rhyme ending it with a line about whatever we were planning to purchase. The youngest of my three children was just shy of two, and I can say with some certainty now that she doesn't know anything else on a Saturday morning. Now at school age she is choosing and buying. These days I give each child five dollars every Saturday morning to spend however they wish. This is their market, too. Will they put their resources together and buy something big? Will they buy a bounty of one thing for family dinner or one of everything to enjoy throughout the week? Sometimes they surprise me. Will they try something new? Will the purchase actually make it home? (Recently they ate an entire quart of sweet peas while I was chatting!) We have planned whole picnic dinners around their selections. I am not kidding when I say that sweet, crunchy apples, fresh apple doughnuts and coffee have been THE meal in early fall. What doesn't grow in our backyard garden can be found at the market. We can always find the perfect gift to share as a hostess gift or picnic contribution. It is their chance to learn when things are in season, how to prepare the food, how to make a purchase, and more importantly truly become part of their local community.

The vendors have become our Saturday morning friends. They know the children, and they are watching them grow. They are helping them learn what it means to be part of a community. They know I love the smell of freshly roasted coffee and that sadly, coffee is not my cup of tea. (Dad reaps the rewards of a stop at that table.) They know that my oldest is as drawn to the seasonal flowers, pumpkins and gourds as she is to the produce. They know my children are coming prepared to spend every last cent of their five dollars.

We spend the weeks rushing through the usual list of business and events like so many other families. On Saturdays, we slow down a bit. We relax a bit, and we recharge. Come to the market. You'll see what I am talking about. Buy a little, buy a lot. Buy for you, buy for a neighbor. Come to the market and take it all in. We'll see you there. Home again, home again jiggety, jog.

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW ELVERSON BOROUGH? *Jody Phillips*

Jenny Carmody must know it well because she sent the correct answer to this question as it relates to the photo published in the June issue of the Elverson Borough Newsletter. Not only did she identify the photo on the first full day after the Newsletter was delivered, she was the only one to do so in the first week after publication. Congratulations!

The photo is the bell tower on top of the Elverson Borough Hall, which is located at 101 South Chestnut Street (Rte 82), near the sharp bend in the road. This bell tower was constructed in 1911 as part of an enlargement project for the fourth elementary school. The oldest part of this building dates back to 1873, when it was built to house the school in what was then Springfield in West Nantmeal Township. This one-room school served students in grades one through eight in the same room, who were all taught by the same teacher.

In 1911, the school was enlarged. An extension, similar to the size of the original school, was added to the north side of the building, and a vestibule was erected on the east side. Children in grades one through four were taught in the south (older) classroom while the older children occupied the newer north room. The bell tower was erected on the top of this new vestibule, which greatly enhanced the appearance of the building. The Elverson Grade School closed in 1967. Shortly thereafter, the building became known as the Elverson Borough Hall and the borough's municipal offices moved into its south section. When the Methodist Church Hall (Youth Center) on Main Street was torn down in 1969, Elverson Boy Scout Troop 37 moved

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OUR THANKS TO THE ELVERSON BUSINESSES BELOW WHO SUPPORT THIS NEWSLETTER. If you would like your business included, please contact Esther Prosser, esther@stoltzfus.com. 484.269.7153.

JAMES D. SCHEFFEY
ATTORNEY AT LAW

YERGEY • DAYLOR
ALLEBACH • SCHEFFEY • PICARDI
50 South Pine St. • Suite 1 • PO Box 526
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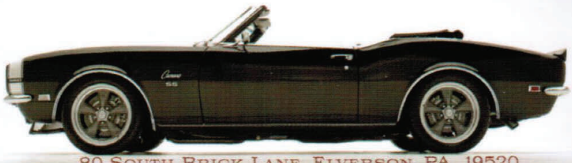

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Originator ID # 640646
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Vacation Bible School

The Go Fish Guys are more passionate than ever about putting the Bible Back into Vacation Bible School!

Gotta Move! is a Vacation Bible School curriculum designed to give children a biblical understanding of what it means to be a Christian and walk with God. Each day children will see that God provides everything we need to be close to Him. However, He does require a response—having faith means we Gotta Move!

To register, go on-line to cefcelverson.org and click on the VBS link, or call Ginny Foltz at (610) 286-6790.

Children ages 4 thru 6th grade completed
July 8 – 12
6:15 PM – 8:45 PM
at
Community Evangelical Free Church
52 S. Brick Lane
Elverson, PA 19520

Submission Deadline is July 20th
for the August issue to brenda@stoltzfus.com, 26 East Main Street or 610-286-5115. Remember to check out the newsletter ***in full color*** online at www.elversonboro.org.

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Continued from p 2 into the old school's north room. And the bell tower sits atop the vestibule just as it has for over 100 years, a testament, perhaps, to the way things were built way back then.

Again, remember that this is a test of how well you know Elverson Borough - not just the buildings on Main Street. Also, all of the questions have unique and specific answers. I won't take a picture of an unusually-shaped tree trunk and ask you to name its location. Also remember that all who send the correct answer to me (jodysfritz@gmail.com) by the third day after the newsletter is put in residents' mailboxes will have their names placed in a box and I will draw the name of the winner from this box. Everyone else who guesses correctly (before the answer is published) will receive a free beverage at the Elverson Deli.

Granted, a $10 gift certificate at the Deli is more valuable than a free beverage, but you can add a delicious sandwich or a luscious piece of fresh home-baked pastry and enjoy a nice meal or snack. Kevin's pastry is the best deal in the borough - and possibly in the county. Where else can you get a generous slice of pie or cake for only $1.50? I have heard that Kevin's Philly cheese steaks are every bit as good as the ones you have to drive 60 or so miles to the "city" to find. Come on over to the corner of Main and Chestnut Streets and "set a spell." It's always good to shop locally.

Now to this month's contest photo. I promised some of my readers an easier photo this time - though I don't think any of them are that hard! So write to me at Jodysfritz@gmail.com and tell me where this sign is located and what it is being used for. You may just win the grand prize.