



## August 2014

### MOVIE NIGHTS ON THE LAWN

By Jere Scott Bradshaw

Most nights when the orange sun sets behind the western horizon, the giggles and laughter of children playing on the jungle gym in Livingood Park dissipate, but for two Fridays in July the night was just beginning because "Movie Nights on the Lawn" was about to start. The conversations between young adults from Community Evangelical Free Church about having a safe, family friendly event that would benefit two organizations had become a reality.

On July 11<sup>th</sup>, Clint and Dawson Estes regaled observers, reclining on picnic blankets and folding chairs, with a wide mixture of songs from Coldplay to Simon & Garfunkel. As the lightning bugs twinkled against the encroaching velvet night, "The Sandlot" projected on to an inflatable screen in the middle of the soccer field.

On July 25<sup>th</sup>, the songs and wit of "The Muppet Christmas Carol" filled the cool night as guests celebrated Christmas in July. The combination of Clint Estes on guitar at 8:00 and a singing, dancing frog dressed as Bob Cratchet on screen at 9:00 served to complement the sweet smell of fresh popcorn wafting from the concession stand.

The Elverson Borough, the Friends of the Twin Valley Fire Department, and Vine & Branches (a ministry of Community Evangelical Free Church) united to provide these free nights out while raising donations for the Twin Valley Fire Department and Good Shepherd's Fold Orphanage.

Our local fire department is comprised of 52 active volunteers who go through a minimum of 140 hours of training. In this year alone, they have responded to over 210 incidents as they serve six townships. The gracious service of these firemen and firewomen keep taxes down in our area and do so while operating within a 10-year budget.

In addition to serving the residents of our area, we wanted our community to help another community. Since 1994, Good Shepherd's Fold (GSF) in Jinja, Uganda has provided a Christian home to orphans and destitute children. In addition to being a children's home for 83 residents, a school for 450 students, and a farm to employ local, GSF also provides medical care for infants and the elderly. All these activities occur even though the average annual income in Uganda is \$455 (1% of the average annual income in the United States).

On August 8<sup>th</sup>, "Movies on the Lawn" will have its final feature film of the summer, *The Princess Bride*. Snacks and concessions will go on sale at 7:45 pm. Chris Burkholder will take to the microphone at 8:00 with guitar in hand. This family favorite features, as one character says, "Fencing, fighting, tor-



## STORM-WATER IDEAS HAVE CONSEQUENCES

Merle Stoltzfus

For my entire life I have enjoyed the privilege of making my living off of the land. My first 36 years the land provided grain. This crop fed chickens which produced eggs for purchase to customers, providing income for our living. The past 25 years, the land has been subdivided into plots of land to build homes for purchase to customers, providing income for our living. In both segments of these work models, this use of our land has had an affect on adjoining land owners and neighbors. And, the way my neighbors use their property also affects us. Yes, private property rights and freedom has risks. Security from risk and adversity has a price because it is usually traded for freedom. Want security, wear a helmet. Want to feel really free? Ride your motorcycle without a helmet.

A year ago Elverson was given notice by Chester County of their adoption of a Storm-water Ordinance. This County law was mandated by the PA State Department of Environmental Protection because it was required by the Federal Government. In simplified terms, Elverson received notice through our County government of our need to comply with federal government ideas about storm-water. After attending several County level meetings instructing us how to comply, Borough Council has been learning and drafting a new Storm-water Ordinance. Yes, these Federal government ideas have significant consequences.

Since 1987, I've had the privilege of serving on Borough Council. In all those years, I've never been part of such a massive unfunded mandate. The root idea behind this law is that this earth is at its best when the surface of the land is either meadow grass or woodland. Any other use of

the land creates a risk of flooding from storm-water. The consequence of this idea is that from this day forward, any one changing the surface of the land (your private property) will be required to determine how to be sure your property receives rain like it is a meadow and/or woodland. This federal government idea has added 80 pages of land use regulation to the laws of our square mile. The details of the regulation are beyond comprehension but by an engineer. Only if you educate yourself are you free to understand why you can change the use of your property.

For the most part, I believe I represent your Borough government in expressing our displeasure with this unfunded mandate from above. We've spent precious local tax dollars to comply with ideas that are unnecessary and onerous to our Borough.

For this land owner, I'd rather retain the freedom and risk from my neighbor's storm-water than the proposed security provided by this faulty federal idea. In fact, if this idea were actually true, undeveloped third world countries would have less flooding. The idea is grounded in a false world view and the consequences will create unnecessary conflict.

I've been wrong in the past so, possibly I'm missing something. I've spent a lifetime in land use but there may be something obvious I don't understand. But in the meantime, your Borough Council is complying with this mandate to avoid stiff penalties and fines. And all of us should be prepared for the frustrating consequences of an idea that will indeed affect you when changing the character of more than 1,000 square feet of your property.



Daniel J. Fick, PT, MPT  
Facility Director | Physical Therapist

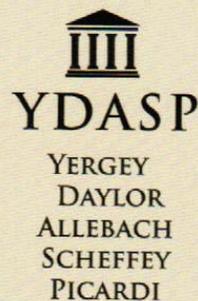
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[www.elversonboro.org](http://www.elversonboro.org).

## INVASIVE BEETLE ATTACKING PENNSYLVANIA ASH TREES

In recent years, a destructive wood-boring insect has made its appearance in the United States. First detected in 2002 in southeast Michigan, this invasive pest, the emerald ash borer (abbreviated as EAB), native to northeast Asia, has been waging war on ash trees across the country. It is thought to have made its entry into the US in infested wooden packing material. Since the first detection of EAB, an estimated 20 to 55 million ash trees have been killed by this pest with damage costs projected to reach over \$10 billion by the end of the next 10 years.

Emerald Ash Borer was first found in PA in 2007, attacking ash trees in Butler County and moving eastward roughly along the PA turnpike. Ash trees are found in every county in Pennsylvania and are estimated to number more than 300 million trees. Ash trees are in privately owned woodlots, fencerows, state owned forested land, in state and national parks, in playgrounds, along trails, country roads and city streets, in Allegheny National Forest, as well on the lawns providing summer shade to many PA homeowners, rural and urban. As of April 2014, EAB infestation has now been confirmed in 51 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties with Lancaster, Berks, and Chester counties expected to be facing EAB infestation soon.



The adult emerald ash borer is bright, metallic green, a half inch long, has a flat body, and feeds exclusively on ash tree leaves. The females lay their eggs under the bark of ash trees where the eggs hatch, becoming larvae. The white colored larvae feed just under the ash tree's bark which disrupts the flow of water and nutrients throughout the tree. This deprivation causes the tree to die within a few years of being infested.

Dealing with this imminent EAB threat to our ash trees involves first becoming informed. A good start is checking reliable websites as the DCNR: [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/insectsdisease/eab/index.htm](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/insectsdisease/eab/index.htm), the USDA website: <http://na.fs.fed.us/fhp/eab/>, [www.emeraldashborer.info/](http://www.emeraldashborer.info/), and Penn State University Extension: <http://ento.psu.edu/extension/trees-shrubs/emerald-ash-borer>. Private property owners with ash trees are especially encouraged to check out this information before evidence of EAB is present since the loss of any tree can be costly. There are chemical treatment options available for ash trees of high-value but tree removal is the only option for sick and dying trees which can then be replaced with a non-host tree of another species.



Pennsylvania communities are being encouraged to develop a management plan to mitigate the damage caused by EAB. The Elverson Shade Tree Commission is currently working on a 10-year plan to manage the 5 ash trees in Livingood Park as well as 25 street trees which are ash along South Pine Street.

If you have ash trees on your property and are concerned with their future, feel free to contact any member of the tree commission for advice—Esther Prosser—[esther@stoltzfus.com](mailto:esther@stoltzfus.com), George Summer—[geomarsum@gmail.com](mailto:geomarsum@gmail.com), Teri Tegtmeier - [thetegtmeiers@windstream.net](mailto:thetegtmeiers@windstream.net), Angie Facciolo—[angifacc@ptd.net](mailto:angifacc@ptd.net).

Elverson Borough Shade Tree Commission

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## LOST AND FOUND

Jody Phillips

As part of the Elverson Day 2014 celebration, I made up 30 questions for a historical quiz for residents to answer as they were listening to music and waiting for the fireworks to begin. Since members of the Historical Commission were unable to find a wagon to use for the Historical Wagon Rides that were offered last year, they figured that a quiz would be a fun and educational activity to replace the rides.



Because a few of the questions were more difficult than others, I made up cards with some of the answers, covered them with clear tape front and back to protect them from the weather and placed them in the area where people would be gathering that day. Most answers could be found at the park so it was really a scavenger hunt. Individuals and families were urged to participate.

One of the questions was "Name one of the two recipients of the Elverson Borough Cane." I left a hint by printing a sign which read, "In remembrance of Margretta Fries and Harry L. Barnett, recipients of the Elverson Borough Cane." I propped this card up against a rock near the gazebos and checked it several times during the afternoon to be sure it had not blown away or been moved. It had fallen away from the rock several times so I had to keep adjusting it.

Just before dusk, I went out to retrieve my signs and noted that this one was missing. I picked up most of the others and didn't worry about the missing sign, figuring that someone had found it lying on the ground and put it in the trash. The information was on my computer so I could reproduce it if necessary.

Imagine my surprise when two days later I found a message on my answering machine from Cindy Barnett, Harry Barnett's daughter-in-law. Her son had spied it lying on the ground that evening and exclaimed, "Oh, look! There's grandpa's name on that sign!" Cindy told me that she had brought it home and then decided the next day to return it to the park in case someone might be looking for it. She mentioned having tacked it to a stake and stuck it in the ground and hoped she hadn't caused any problems by removing it. And somehow she knew to call me about it.

Of course, I had to go right to the park to investigate. I had no trouble finding the sign because it had been mounted on a piece of wood, nailed to a stake and placed in the ground exactly where I had originally placed it. I decided to leave it right where it was. And it was still there two weeks later.

When I returned Cindy's call, I told her how I had placed the sign at the park, unsecured. This explained one mystery for her. But neither of us can explain the seeming coincidence that of all the people milling around at the park that day, Harry's grandchild happened to notice the sign and pick it up, and that the sign was returned to the exact same spot where it had been before.

Obviously. I plan to leave the sign where it is - at least as long as it is readable. That may be a while as it seems to be holding up just fine.

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## HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW ELVERSON BOROUGH?

*Jody Phillips*

Congratulations to Linda Godschall, George and Mary Summer and Arden Musselman, who recognized that the door lintel pictured in the last month's Newsletter was located above the front door of the Elverson United Methodist Church at 32 East Main Street. The building is used as a place of worship. (This was sort of a trick question.)

Elverson Borough Secretary Lori Kolb drew the winning name out of my hat, and Arden Musselman has won a free scoop of mulch from Elverson Supply. The two runners-up listed above have each won a package of five leaf bags from Elverson Supply. Please present this newsletter at the store to receive your prize.

What is pictured in the photo below and where is it? This one is VERY easy so I will be strictly adhering to my three-day deadline to be eligible for the grand prize. Also, in order to be eligible for any prize, you must contact me with the correct answer within that three-day period. Write to me at [jodysfritz@gmail.com](mailto:jodysfritz@gmail.com) or call 610-286-8913. Happy guessing and happy gardening!





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ture, revenge, giants, monsters, chases, escapes, true love, miracles...” and will start at 9:00.

There is no cost to attend, but donations are welcome. All proceeds from concessions and “Movies on the Lawn” t-shirts go directly to the Twin Valley Fire Department and Good Shepherd’s Fold Orphanage. Checks should be made out to “Community Evangelical Free Church” with “Movie Nights” written in the memo line.

Come on August 8<sup>th</sup> to watch *The Princess Bride* under the stars as we support two organizations that serve their communities. If you are unable to attend, but would like to support these two organizations, you may do so by sending a check to Community Evangelical Free Church, PO Box 299, Elverson, Pennsylvania with the above designation.



**MOVIE ON THE LAWN**—Livingood Park —**Friday, August 8**—Music at 8 pm,  
The movie “The Princess Bride” will begin at 9 pm

**LABOR DAY TRASH PICK UP**—Trash will be picked up Wednesday, **September 3rd**

**ELVERSON HALLOWEEN PARADE**—Theme: Down on the Farm—**Wednesday, October 15, 7 pm**