



October 2014

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY TO THREE ELVERSON HOMES

Donna Mountz

This year saw another three historic homes turn 100 years old, and their homeowners were awarded the special oval “Historic Home” plaque by the Elverson Historical Commission. The proud owners, pictured here, are as follows: Michael Beattie of 105 South Chestnut Street, Brandon and Roanna McMillan who live at 28 Park Avenue and Jack Serdy who owns the house at 21 West Main Street.

The plaques were manufactured in 2011 to help commemorate the centennial of Elverson’s date of incorporation which was 1911, even though our town and many of its very historic buildings were here as far back as the 18th and 19th centuries. Over the course of several months in 2011 most of the houses and businesses that were a century or more of age were awarded the plaques which were promptly displayed on the fronts of the buildings. Some owners were unable to be contacted and a few did not want to receive a plaque, but in all now 80 homes or municipal buildings are over 100 years old, and 68 of them now bear a plaque.

The plaques do not come with a mandate about what the owner can or cannot do with his or her building. They are simply a celebration of the historicity of our special town and hopefully will generate more of an interest in the historic district among our citizens and a desire to preserve what we can of it. A few plaques remain, and the Historical Commission will offer three more in 2015 when three more homes are due to celebrate their 100th year!



Michael Beattie—105 Chestnut Street



*Brandon & Roanna McMillan
28 Park Avenue*



Jack Serdy—21 West Main Street



ELVERSON'S MAIN STREET OCTOBER HAPPENIN'S—Chris Cameron

Elverson's Halloween Parade and the Pumpkin Carving Contest will be lighting up Main Street with plenty of tricks and treats this year.

The Halloween festivities will kick off with the Annual Pumpkin Carving Contest on **Sunday, October 12th from 6-8 p.m.** along Elverson's Main Street. Event organizer, Jenny Cameron, said the contest has grown each year and the prizes have increased with awards for the following categories: Funniest, Scariest, Most Halloween, Most Creative, People's Choice, and Parade Theme: Down on The Farm.

Contestants are allowed to submit multiple entries and should register for the contest either through www.eventbrite.com or at www.elversonboro.org.

"We're going paperless this year," Cameron said.

"Contestants want to register online and they'll also be able to vote for their favorite pumpkins via text messages."

Contestants can display their entries along Main Street. Those who do not live on Main Street can display their pumpkins on the Stoltzfus Enterprises porch at 26 E. Main. As always, one of the goals of both the Pumpkin Carving Contest and the Parade is to get residents out on Main Street sharing in the festivities. Even if residents are not entering pumpkins in the contest, they are encouraged to walk the street and view the entries.

The Elverson Halloween Parade, scheduled for **Wednesday, October 15 at 7 pm** (rain date is the next evening), is all about community and because Elverson Borough and the surrounding area is a community rich in agricultural history, this year's theme pays tribute to the small town farms that continue to thrive and add to Elverson's charm.

This year's advertisement for the "Down on The Farm" Halloween Parade features a colorful photo of Gary Stoltzfus' dairy farm on the west end of Main Street. Farming is in his blood and it's a skill that he learned from his father and grandfather. Stoltzfus said that the farm has been in his family for three generations. He was born on the farm and he stressed the importance of farming within the community, saying that one of the attractions that brings people to Elverson is the open space of the farms.

"You can live in a town, but still feel like you're in the country," he said.

It's fitting then that Elverson's Halloween Parade recognizes the importance of the Borough's open spaces

that create its rustic appeal.

The parade brings the community together and features floats, marching bands, fire trucks, antique cars, dance groups, candy and more.

The parade hosts approximately 40 entries from Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts groups, preschools, cheerleaders, businesses, sports groups and different fire companies.

Music is a huge highlight of the evening. Pre-parade entertainment will feature John Barnett again this year beginning at 6 pm at the Elverson Supply Company parking lot. Local musician, Clint Estes, will sing and strum at the Elverson Deli porch. The marching bands in the parade include Twin Valley High School, Twin Valley Middle School and Owen J Roberts High School.

The Elverson United Methodist Church will open its doors once again and offer free hot cocoa, cookies and other snacks, as well as water and the use of their bathroom facilities.

Line-up will begin on South Pine Street at 6 pm with participants entering South Pine Street from Route 401.

Entries will be given line up numbers before parade night. Placards with numbers will be placed along South Pine Street to direct participants where to line up. Show cars will park on Park Avenue this year. Drivers should plan to arrive by 6 pm. The parade route will follow

Route 23 west and end at the National Penn Bank. **Route 23 will be closed to all traffic at 6:30 pm.**

Spectator parking will be available at the Community Evangelical Free Church on Brick Lane, Elverson Borough Hall, National Penn Bank and Livingood Park. There will be no parking along South Pine Street, which includes the Elverson Fitness Club, St. Joseph Health Network and the Heritage Medical Building. These areas are reserved for designated parade participants.

The judge's stand will be located in front of Shear Heaven Hair Salon, 70 West Main St., close to the National Penn Bank. Prizes will be awarded to first and second place entries in the following categories: Best of Show, Commercial Float, Noncommercial Float, Marching Unit, Scout Group and Best on Wheels. These awards will be announced from the Judge's Stand immediately following the Parade.

Preregistration is required. All area businesses and residents are invited to enter by completing a registration form available at www.elverson.org, by calling Esther Prosser at 484-269-7153 or emailing esther@stoltzfus.com.



MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY UPDATE

The Municipal Authority continues to experience a high level of activity and following are updates on the projects MABE is currently working on:

Disinfection Upgrade – This project will replace antiquated equipment with newer more energy efficient technology by replacing the chlorine contact tank, sand filter and post aeration tank with an ultra-violet disinfection process and stainless steel filtration unit housed in a new masonry building. The office/lab will be relocated to the new building, centralizing the operations of the plant. A generator capable of running the plant during power outages is also included in the upgrade. This project is expected to reduce energy usages by eliminating unnecessary electrical equipment and will reduce chemical costs by eliminating corrosive chlorine and sodium bisulfate from the process. Construction on the masonry building is nearing completion. Project completion is planned for November 2014.



Equalization Tank Repair – All that remains of this emergency repair that began in January is the installation of the walkway. While these expenses were unexpected, the repair work included improvements to the plant property and should extend the life of the Equalization Tank. We are happy to have this project mostly behind us and the plant operating more efficiently.

Lagoon Closure – The work to close the two remaining lagoons continues towards the 2018 DEP deadline. Unfortunately, competition for Chester County grants is stiff and we did not receive a grant for this project in 2014. Currently, lagoons 2 and 3 are being drained in preparation for final sludge testing and filling in. This project will require some destruction of existing concrete inlets and structures that were part of the lagoon process and will improve the overall appearance of property.

The MABE Board continues to meet monthly on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm at Elverson Borough Hall to conduct the business of the Authority. Residents are encouraged to attend meetings to ask questions or better understand the issues facing the Board members. As Borough residents, Board members have a vested interest in the decisions that are made.

TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE

Esther Prosser

If you received a letter in the mail recently with the letterhead reading “International Free Lotto” and the address as Madrid Spain promising cash of \$1,850,000 (yes, one million eight hundred and fifty thousand dollars), please don’t begin dreaming about how you’re going to live life to the fullest on lots of money coming your way. Of course, there are conditions as you are asked to contact your claims agent, Mr. Fred Hinen (phone number and email are given) who will give you details on how to transfer the funds into your account. The recipient of such a letter, Chuck O’Donnell of Churchill Drive, would like to alert all Elverson folks that these scam artists are out for your bank account information and any money they can get from you to “process the claim.” Please disregard the information for what it is – trash.

Also, in posting two cars on cars.com in order to sell them in the last year, I’ve had two people text, then email me that they wanted to pay full price for the car but were in the military in a remote location so could not see or test drive the car. Instead, they wanted me to send it. They promised full payment in advance of course but did not have the means to get the money to transport the car – could I advance that and they’d reimburse when they paid through paypal? I googled my situation and found many others with similar promises – thieves out to get your bank account information and/or money in advance.

The adage, “if it sounds too good to be true, it is” holds for both these situations and probably others you’ve encountered.



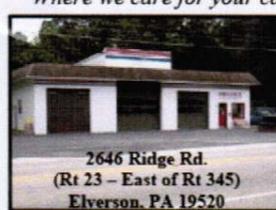
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If you would like your business included in this newsletter, please contact Esther Prosser, esther@stoltzfus.com. 484.269.7153.

A PIECE OF ELVERSON IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Nathaniel Hampton

For the past five summers, Community Evangelical Free Church has sent a group of teens and adults to the Czech Republic to teach at an English camp in collaboration with a small church from Ostrava, Czech Republic. During these two week long trips, the American team is in charge of not only teaching English each morning of the camp, but also leading discussions about the Bible, creating activities and games for children, getting to know the Czech people who attend the camp and speaking with them about Jesus Christ. I have been part of these teams for the past four years and have built many relationships with the people.

Last October, I was invited by this Czech church to join them for at least a year to help them as they desire to grow their ministry to the teens in and around Ostrava, the third largest city in the Czech Republic. The Czech Republic is considered one of the least religious countries in the world after Communism stripped the people of many of their freedoms including religion. Many of the young people have heard little to nothing about the Bible but like many people are searching for some purpose in life.

Since August, I have been living here as a missionary and working with the teens by building and growing relationships and teaching them from the Bible. I have also been working with children and adults. In late August, I worked with some of the members of the Czech church at an Awana camp that they run. It was very interesting trying to communicate with these kids since I know very little Czech and they know very little to no English. I was able to teach some of them a little English, help them build boats for their boat race, and play games with them during that week. I have also begun meeting with people in local parks along with a member of the church and speaking with them about Jesus Christ and I will soon be leading English discussion groups with adults in the area.

Although I very much enjoy being here and serving God, I do miss the little things back home. I miss running into people that I know and love from Elverson in the aisles of Walmart and chatting for a few minutes IN ENGLISH. I miss picking up my favorite coffee at Twin Valley Coffee. I miss walking up Chestnut Street and grabbing dinner with my family from the Elverson Deli. And, I miss worshiping with the people of Community Evangelical Free Church on Sundays. I am now living in the Czech Republic but I have brought with me a piece of Elverson in my heart.

If you would like to see updates on my time here you can visit my blog at: natehampton.blogspot.com.

October 2014



HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW ELVERSON BOROUGH?

Jody Phillips

Congratulations to the two Elverson residents who knew that the dormer pictured in my last column was on the house at 16 East Main Street known as Dr. Mengel's House. Both Laura Wade and Esther Holloway recognized this unique dormer, which has three glass windows containing nine panes each. In a random drawing, Esther's name was drawn as the grand prize winner of two complimentary exercise sessions at the Elverson Fitness Club and Laura Wade will win a runner-up prize of one free session.

This historic Georgian style home, built around 1832, is the first house east of the Elverson Deli. It

has no chimney, which implies that the home was probably heated by a free-standing stove, such as an early Franklin stove. The original house was stucco instead of stone, with a Victorian portico surrounding the front door. The front yard was fenced but shutters bracketed the front windows and a garage was located in the rear. The VanSteenvoort family currently owns the home and Laura VanSteenvoort told me that they had re-shingled the roof since I took my photo. Of course Laura knew the identity of the photo but did not enter the contest. Dr. Mengel was well known in Elverson and practiced medicine there for over 60 years, treating anyone who came to his door. You may read more about him on pages 82 and 83 in "The History of Our Community, Elverson, Pennsylvania" or by visiting the borough's website.

In keeping with the spirit of October's most popular holiday, Halloween, I have photographed two tombstones for you to identify this month. These are not nearly as old as the one I photographed last year but should be more challenging to find. Please tell me where these memorial stones are located and who is buried there.

As usual, please contact me at jodysfritz@gmail.com or 610-286-8913 with your guess. All correct answers received within three days of the day I receive my newsletter will be eligible to receive the grand prize of two free sessions at the Elverson Fitness Club. I will choose one of their names at random to determine the winner. If no one sends the correct answer in the first three days, the next person who guesses correctly will win the grand prize. All who do not win the grand prize but who knew the correct answer will receive one free session at the fitness club. Please don't stop entering after the three-day "grace" period is over because you never know if anyone else has contacted me.



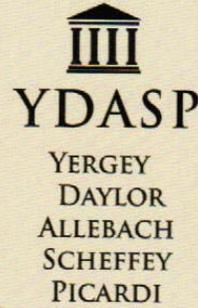


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Rob Fischer Sr. and Rob Fischer Jr.

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OUR BOROUGH ASH TREES

You may have read about the ash tree problem in our August newsletter. An insect called the emerald ash borer is a threat to every ash tree within the Borough. Beginning in 2002 with ash trees in Michigan, this insect worked its way east and was first found in Pennsylvania in 2007. As of August of this year, this destructive insect has been detected in 53 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties. There are about 300 million ash trees within the state of Pennsylvania, all of which are expected to die without treatment. A lot of good information is available at the North-eastern Area State and Private Forestry website (www.na.fs.fed.us) and an

excellent brochure can be found at the following link - http://www.na.fs.fed.us/pubs/misc/whatis_eab/ashborer.pdf.

The Elverson Tree Commission has adopted a management plan to treat the 27 ash trees along South Pine Street and 5 within the Livingood Park beginning in the Spring of next year.



If you have ash trees on your property and are concerned about their survival, feel free to contact any Elverson Tree Commission member for advice - Esther Prosser - esther@stoltzfus.com, George Summer - geomarsum@gmail.com, Teri Tegtmeier - thetegtmeiers@windstream.net, Angie Facciolo - angifacc@ptd.net.

Send your Elverson news and stories to our editor at brenda@stoltzfus.com by October 15 or call her at 610.286.5115. Newsletters can be found on www.elversonboro.org.