



March 2014

ELVERSON DELI TO REOPEN SOON

Jody Philips

"I really love this town and I love this building," Bob Watts, owner of the large three-story structure on the northeast corner of Main and Chestnut Streets in Elverson, told me recently. "Traditions are important to me." Bob plans to continue the 160-year-old tradition of this historic site as a place for local residents to meet, visit and enjoy a good meal. "I feel that I am just a caretaker of a very important part of Elverson's history," he concluded.

The building was constructed by Hannah and Evan Dampman between 1854 and 1860 on a lot purchased from Benjamin McCord in 1854 for \$250. Built in the Italian style, it was quite grand by standards of the mid-nineteenth century with its three stories and wide porches. It was operated as the Blue Rock Hotel for many years. In fact, the deed of the property still identifies it as such.

Through 13 owners, the last being Bob, the building has survived as a cornerstone of life in Elverson. It served farmers transporting produce to Philadelphia, drovers moving herds, and people visiting friends and neighbors. Its cupola served as a lookout so that the hotel proprietor could spot a visitor traveling by stagecoach from miles away by the dust kicked up by the horses pulling it. Most recently, it has housed the Elverson Deli, a small estab-

ishment where one can enjoy a tasty breakfast or lunch and grab a quart of milk or a dozen fresh eggs on the way out. The Deli was temporarily closed on February 1 when manager and head cook Kevin Linton left to live and work in Reading. He had managed the Deli for 17 years.



Since then, Bob has been very busy renovating and reorganizing his business. A resident of West Brandywine Township, Bob purchased the building in May of 2000 because he was ready for a career change and was impressed with the borough when he visited friends here. He has never regretted that decision.

He has plans to reopen the Deli sometime in

March if all goes well. He will begin by setting more consistent hours, hopefully staying open later in the day. Eventually, he would like to open for breakfast earlier as well. Bob has not yet announced a Grand Reopening date as he wants to be sure everything is ready when he does. In the future, he would like to make more use of his front porch, perhaps turning this area into a sidewalk café.

With the assistance of his wife Cindy, his 16-year-old daughter Alexandra (Lexie) and the loyal staff who has served the Deli for many years, I'm sure he will attain his goals and the Elverson Deli will be back serving our community once again.

ELVERSON HISTORY DONATIONS: PRESERVING OUR PAST, ONE PIECE AT A TIME

Chris Cameron

The Elverson Historical Commission has recently received several generous donations of Elverson memorabilia that are now on display in Borough Hall. The Commission is building a collection of Elverson artifacts for the community to enjoy for future generations.

Nancy VanLandeghem of Summerfield donated a large oil painting of the Elverson Train Station and train depot. The painting is by artist Donald E. Smith, formerly of Oaks, who now resides in Harleysville. The painting was done in 2002 and depicts the station with the railroad tracks in front of it as it once was.

Nancy moved to Elverson in 1998 with her husband Leonard and fell in love with the community. Leonard wanted a painting depicting the train station that he admired and suggested that Smith, a family friend, paint the station from a photograph. The painting hung in the entryway of VanLandeghem's home for the past 12 years.

The colorful painting is set in a darkly stained frame that adds to its country charm. The painting also shows the blue Elverson train station sign that once stood on the front of the building.

"Leonard had a train set that he would set up for our four children every Christmas," Nancy said. "We both loved living in Elverson so much. Whenever we'd go for a walk people waved or stopped to talk. We called it the Summerfield Wave."

Leonard passed away in 2009 and Nancy is downsizing to a retirement community in New Holland. "It's bittersweet," she said. "I've spent almost 16 wonderful years here, but it's time to move on. I hope that the community enjoys the painting as much as we did."

Tom Hess and his wife, Betty, of Parkside have donated several historical pieces, including a restored milk can

from WH Wilson, Springfield Station marked with the Wilmington and Northern Reading Railroad emblem. The can predates 1911 when Springfield was officially incorporated as Elverson Borough. The can was found under the front porch of a West Main Street resident many years ago and given to Tom. He had the can sandblasted and clear coated to help bring back its original luster.



Tom has enjoyed collecting almost anything related to the history of the community. He has organized a small display in Borough Hall of some of his other items that he has donated, including printing plates from Zook's carriage/surrey shop, cast iron peddler's badges from the 1930s and a large matchbook from the former C-Bar-C Ranch, a country western themed fairgrounds that once stood near the present day intersections of Routes 23 and 401.



Tom is a member of the Elverson Historical Commission and served as the chief of the Elverson Fire Company. Tom also donated many fire company artifacts to the Twin Valley Fire Department and helped to organize the fire company's museum. He has lived in the Borough since the 1940s and he is the former owner of West Philadelphia Machine Works, a metal fabricating company within the Borough.



The Elverson Historical Commission is always accepting donations of Elverson and community memorabilia, from old letters and postcards to newer, larger items. Please help us to preserve the history of our town through your donations.

For inquiries contact Chris Cameron, EHC chairperson at 610-901-3058 or chrisdcameron@yahoo.com.

OUR NEWEST COUNCIL MEMBER—
DOUG HOSKINS

I've lived in the Summerfield section of Elverson for 14 years. My wife Sue and I have three children and five grandchildren.

I was raised in the New York Metro area where I also graduated from Fairleigh Dickinson University with a Bachelor of Science degree in business. This was followed by a short active duty stint in the Army (National Guard) and then six years in the reserve service as a 1st Lieutenant.

I retired from the General Electric Company after 30 years of service in 1998. While visiting friends in Exton in the late 80's and 90's both Sue and I liked the rolling hills of Pennsylvania, the people, the food, not to mention the cost of living advantage compared to New Jersey. We moved to Elverson in 1999.



Concerning what I can contribute as a Councilman in Elverson, I hope to be another rational voice that supports prudent, well thought-out policy. Let's maximize the use of our assets to minimize our expenditures. When spending other people's money, you should treat it as if it was yours, carefully and with forethought.

You will probably see me walking the streets of Summerfield with "Miss Daisy" our rescue dog styling in her red plaid coat. If you can't stop to say "Hello," just wave or beep.

Doug Hoskins.

Municipal Authority of the Borough of Elverson
Adopted Rate Increase

To Our Customers:

After careful review, the Board of Directors has authorized a rate increase to be effective for the 1st Quarter of 2014 (Jan, Feb, Mar). The rate will increase from \$183.00 per Quarter (\$732.00 per year) to \$186.00 per Quarter (\$744.00 per year). Reservation Fees will increase from \$66.00 per Quarter (\$264.00 per year) to \$69.00 per Quarter (\$276.00 per year).

Unfortunately, the harsh winter has had a severe impact on the plant, creating additional expenses that were not budgeted for. Proper operation of the Wastewater Treatment Plant remains the top priority. Customer payments pay for the service that is provided to you as a homeowner and is also an investment in maintaining our sewer system. No customers connected to the sewer system are exempt from payment. Thankfully, the majority of our customers pay in a timely manner and we appreciate that.

MABE Board meetings are open to the public and are held on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm at Borough Hall.

The Board Members currently serving the Municipal Authority are:

Rick Shaw – Chairman
Floyd Jennelle – Vice Chairman
Darrell Gible – Secretary
Mike Popow – Treasurer
Doug Mountz – Board Member

Sincerely,
The MABE Board

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

A Public Information Meeting for the Comprehensive Plan update will be held on **Tuesday, April 8, 2014 at 7:00pm at the Springfield Room at Hopewell Manor located at 58 E. Main Street, Elverson.** Borough residents are encouraged to attend and participate. Parking at Hopewell Manor is limited. Please plan on car pooling, walking or parking along Main Street.

If you plan to attend please RSVP with Lorrie Stolz, Borough Secretary at lorrie@elversonboro.org or 610-286-6420.



HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW ELVERSON BOROUGH?

Jody Phillips

Because no one identified the photo in last month's Elverson Borough Newsletter, I have decided to rerun it. Also, the short paragraph that posed the question I was asking was inadvertently omitted from the article. Considering that and the icy condition of some of the sidewalks in the borough, I'm not really surprised that no one was out looking for the particular historical marker I had photographed.

Please tell me where the building with this placard is located. I will give you three hints. First of all, it is not the old Elverson Bank. Secondly, although the building does have a street address, none is visible from the outside so you may just describe the location by naming the street it faces and the addresses of nearby homes. Finally, you may not be able to see the placard from a car, especially with the possibility of snow banks from recent snowstorms partially in the way.



As usual, call me at 610-286-8913 or email me at jodysfritz@gmail.com if you think you know the answer. All correct answers received within three days of the day I receive my newsletter will be eligible to receive the grand prize of a \$10 gift certificate for food at the Elverson Deli. 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 a free beverage at the Deli. Please don't stop entering after the three-day "grace" period is over because you never know if anyone else has contacted me.

As most of you know, the Deli is under new management as Kevin left on January 31st. The owner of the Deli has closed the business temporarily while he reorganizes and renovates his building. As you read this, the Deli may have reopened. He has reassured me that he will continue to support this column. So keep looking for the answers and show everyone how well you know Elverson Borough.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE ELVERSON DELI

(a letter Kevin sent to his faithful customers a few days before he closed)

As of January 31, 2014, I, Kevin Linton, am retiring from the Elverson Deli. It is with heavy heart that I make the following announcement.

It has been 17 years this month that I have owned and operated the Deli. It has been a long road traveled and I felt the time was finally right to start a new venture in my life.

The future of the deli has not been determined fully at this point in time. But the landlord has all intentions of keeping it up and running after my departure.

My biggest thanks to all of the wonderful people that visited us daily. I have made so many special bonds and friendships throughout the years here! I will miss everyone very much! A SPECIAL thanks to Jim Cook from the Elverson Supply Co. who has been our daily lunch guest since we opened in 1997. May you have the best years of your life yet to come! It was a dream fulfilled. I will be taking with me 17 years of GREAT memories and friendships.

And I especially thank all of the fantastic people who worked with me to keep this business alive all these years. Their commitment to the Deli was amazing!! They are the BEST and I have always thought of them as my second family. So I bow to my current family working with me who have given so much time, dedication and devotion to this wonderful little establishment. God bless them all! I thank you Kitty, Wanita, Louise, Todd, Alley, Marissa and Amanda. I stand and applaud each and every one of you!



I bid farewell and THANK YOU for allowing my family and I to serve you these past wonderful 17 years!

Sincerely, Kevin



OUR THANKS TO THE ELVERSON BUSINESSES WHO SUPPORT THIS NEWSLETTER.

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



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Dr. Darryl Hajduczek
Dr. Roger Walker

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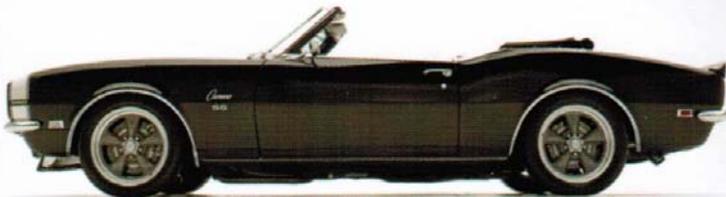
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KEITH DEWALT ~ DON FREY
ESTHER PROSSER

DATES TO REMEMBER

THE FARMERS' MARKET AT ELVERSON

Saturday, March 22—10 am to noon
Twin Valley Fire Company

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE MEETING

Tuesday, April 8—7 to 9 pm
Hopewell Manor

STREET SWEEPING

Friday May, 2 & Monday, May 5
Please park off street those days

MAIN STREET YARD SALE

Saturday, May 10—8 am to 1 pm

ELVERSON DAY

Saturday, June 21

**Elverson Borough
PO Box 206
Elverson PA 19520**

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STOPPING BY CAR ON A WINTER MORNING

By Jody Phillips (with apologies to Robert Frost)

Whose car is this? I think I know.
You can't tell by its color though.
A week now it has sat this way,
Its roof and tires encased in snow.

Its owner might be far away
And might return 'most any day.

But if he's happy, warm and dry,
He might come back in March or May.

More snow will fall, then rain, and I
Will watch the car as I walk by.
And hope one day to clearly see
What color it turns out to be.



Where'd this come from?

Would you like to improve our town?

There are many ways to help. Let me suggest a few:

- ◆ Our Elverson Day committee is looking for help planning Elverson Day and gathering business support.
- ◆ The Newsletter Committee needs people to format and write.
- ◆ We'd love an energetic parent to organize an Elverson Easter Egg Hunt.
- ◆ The Elverson Halloween Parade committee needs strong leadership for our line up on South Pine Street.

*Send your ideas my way and let me know how you'd like to help! Thanks.
Esther Prosser, esther@stoltzfus.com, 484.269.7153.*