



January 2015

THANKS TO OUR FIREMEN

Cookie Onushko

In the afternoon on Sunday, December 21 we started hearing sirens in the distance. When the sirens got louder we saw the Twin Valley fire truck go up South Chestnut Street past our house with Santa on top. Later that day we heard sirens again, so I ran and got my camera and went out on our front porch.

I waved so the fire truck stopped across the street and I was able to take a couple of pictures. Thank you to all the firemen who volunteer their time each year to make it a special event for Elverson and its surrounding communities.

I am especially thankful for Santa making a special trip to our house to visit our son Peter. Pete looks forward to it every year. We always have a wonderful Christmas and these traditions are part of it.



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



BOB COOK TO RECEIVE THE ELVERSON BOROUGH CANE on January 11, 2015

Bob Cook will be awarded the Elverson Borough Cane on Sunday, January 11 at the Meeting Room at the Elverson Fire Station at 2:30 p.m. This presentation was postponed from October 26.

All of Bob's friends are welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served after the brief presentation.

In case of bad weather, please contact Bob or Jody Phillips at 610-286-8913 for information on postponement.



REMINDER:

Christmas trees will be picked up with the regular trash during the month of January.



Local Historians Needed

Do you love local history? Consider volunteering on the Elverson Historical Commission. We're looking for volunteers to help serve the community. We help with the preservation and dissemination of the Borough's rich history. The Commission has been involved in hosting guest speakers for the community, organizing historical events for Elverson Day, and in 2011 established Elverson's Historical Plaque program. Inquiries can be directed to Chris Cameron at chrisdcameron@yahoo.com or at 610-901-3058.



CREATION STATION PRESCHOOL

Children at Creation Station Preschool recently participated in free vision screenings provided by the Elverson/Morgantown Lions Club. The Lions Club is an international community service organization that focuses on humanitarian needs.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Gundrum, members of the Elverson/Morgantown Lions Club, are trained volunteers who conducted the screenings using a special PediaVision camera.

The PediaVision camera system takes over one hundred images back to the retina in one-half second and instantly provides a one page summary of the screening. The report, which is given to parents, states whether the child tested within a standard range or further evaluation is recommended by an eye care professional.

Creation Station Preschool, located at 32 East Main Street in Elverson, is a non-profit ministry of Elverson United Methodist Church and offers preschool classes for children ages 2-5. For more information about the preschool, call 610.286.0514 or visit our website: www.CreationStationPreschool.org.



HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW ELVERSON BOROUGH?

Jody Phillips

Congratulations to Linda Godschall, who was the only person who called me to identify the sign pictured in last month's "Elverson Borough Newsletter." It is a sign that you might not notice when driving through the borough on Rte. 23 but is easy for pedestrians to spot. It advertises Salon Shine, a full-service beauty salon situated at 77 West Main Street in an old full-dormered, clapboard-sided white Cape, conveniently located just east of the National Penn Bank. The home was originally owned by Homer K. Minnich, who was Mayor of Elverson for six and a half years, from 1999 to 2005. Current owner Kim Keech told me that the house was about 60 years old.

Kim has been in business in this location for about three years but has been a licensed beautician for 28. She employs her daughter Jackie and a friend from Philadelphia, Nicole, who works on Tuesdays. Her talented bookkeeper Dielr keeps the business running smoothly.

The salon is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday by appointment and offers not only hair care but manicures and pedicures, waxing, customized skin care and relaxation massages. There is plenty of off-street parking behind the house and the building is handicapped-accessible. I had my hair cut and styled there in the beginning of December and was very pleased. I especially appreciated being served a hot cup of tea shortly after I arrived.

To start off the New Year, I have chosen a picture that should remind you that although it may be cold outside during Elverson winters, our homes are warm and toasty. Yes, it is another sign, as most signs will not get buried in snowbanks so will still be visible after it snows. Please tell me where the sign is located and what it advertises.

As usual, everyone who calls or emails me with the correct identification of this photo during the three-day period immediately after newsletters are placed in residents' mailboxes will be eligible to win the grand prize of two free workout sessions at the

Elverson Fitness Center or a homemade dessert from the Elverson Deli. I will put the names of these residents in a hat and draw a winning name. Everyone else who guesses correctly will win a runner-up prize of either a free beverage at the deli or one free workout session at the Elverson Fitness Center. If no one identifies the photo in the first three days, the first person who guesses correctly after that

period will win the grand prize. All who contact me with the correct answer will win a runner-up prize.

Contact me by email at Jodysfritz@gmail.com or by phone at 610-286-8913. The deadline is January 15.





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THE ELVERSON BOROUGH BUDGET 2015

Real Estate Transfer and Income Taxes	\$207,000
Cable Franchise & Licenses / Permits	\$10,380
Fines	\$500
Interest Earnings	\$250
Rents & Royalties	\$3,900
State Capital & Operating Grants	\$10,300
PA Liquid Fuels & Community Development Income	\$37,700
Sale of Code of Ordinances & Zoning Fees	\$40
Public Safety Permits	\$19,800
Sanitation	\$0
Culture - Pavilion Rental - Donations -Historical	\$5,200
Private Contributions	\$13,350
Interfund Operating Transfers	\$29,715
Refund of Prior Year Expenditures	\$0
TOTAL INCOME	\$338,135



Salaries/Engineering/Auditor	\$97,940
Government Office Supplies	\$4,800
Advertisin/Printing/Communications	\$9,400
Rentals/Web Page/Dues	\$25,950
Contributions/Grants	\$250
Emergency Services	\$51,350
Highways/ Roads/ Streets	\$63,100
Street Lighting	\$24,200
Parks/Historical/Trees	\$36,810
Community Development	\$10,000
Employer Paid Withholding	\$3,025
Insurance	\$11,310
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$338,135

PLEASE SEND US YOUR WRITINGS ~ *Esther Prosser*

It is our desire to have this newsletter reflect Elverson and its happenings. If you live in Elverson and enjoy writing, feel free to submit your experiences. Have you recently taken an fun vacation? Let us hear about it. Has your family grown? Send us a photo. Are there things about Elverson that amaze or interest you? Write about them. Are you frustrated or concerned about our town? Writing can be therapy, you know (see my Happy Holidays piece on page 6).

This newsletter is a monthly publication about Elverson and its residents. It is only as interesting and informative as the articles we include. We need your participation. The deadline for submission is the 15th of the month (to brenda@stoltzfus.com), although we've been known to extend that many days. So, please, please, please—send us your writings. THANKS!

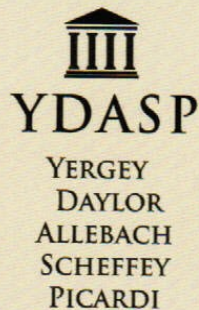


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OUR THANKS TO THE
BUSINESSES WHO
SUPPORT THIS
NEWSLETTER.

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



**KEITH DEWALT ~ DON FREY
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HAPPY HOLIDAYS - *REALLY?* Esther Prosser

As I'm driving down Main Street Elverson a day or two before Christmas, I notice, yes, on our digital Borough sign, bright and bold – HAPPY HOLIDAYS. “No, not in Elverson,” I’m thinking, “Really?” How did we get from Merry Christmas to Happy Holidays *in Elverson*?

I grew up hearing the story of the birth of Jesus from the Gospel of Luke each Christmas in our home. And I still believe that Jesus in the manger, proclaimed by the angels, reported by the shepherds, sent to rescue the world continues to be the crux of it. How can you have Christmas without Jesus? And why would you change the name to some generic holiday? It makes no sense. Why celebrate at all if you don't believe Jesus was born?

But wait – this isn't about me and what I believe. It's a Borough sign, not my personal billboard. So, what is appropriate to put on our sign as a greeting during this season I call Christmas? As a Borough Council member, I'm asking, “What represents our town?” Are many driving by, like me, wondering what happened to Merry Christmas? In the



name of tolerance and inclusion, is Happy Holidays appropriate for Elverson? As a council person desiring to serve others, what does that look like in this case?

I try to govern with “love your neighbor as yourself” in my thinking. I am sure I fall short many times. There are different scenarios that pop up around the table every first Tuesday evening of the month as we seven Council persons, whom you have elected, wrestle with issues and differing opinions. And the Christmas message is one of those issues.

Does this really matter? Is it even worth a discussion? Should I move on and let greetings be greetings? I would love to hear your thoughts. Call or email me anytime – esther@stoltzfus.com – 484.269.7153.