



## September 2017

### THE FIELD THAT SMILES ~

*Brittney Tilson (daughter of Parkside resident, Sonia Barber)*

**S**ummertime is for sunshine and sunflowers in our small town. From the time the red tractor planted the flowers, to the small green sprouts, to the tall budding sunflowers, the field brings smiles and rays of hope and promise.

From our back porch we saw people, young and old, enjoying the majestic field. We heard giggles and chatting as people snapped pictures and made memories picking the gorgeous flowers, their faces as bright as the blooming field. From sunrise to sunset, people stopped from miles around to cut the flowers, to have a piece of the beauty for their home. I picture hundreds of houses in our community and surrounding areas adorned with their freshly picked sunflowers, remembering their times in the field.

Old cameras were dusted off and new cameras broken in to take engagement and anniversary pictures, family portraits and even selfies. Poems and songs were written, the flowers making the perfect muse, simply existing in their beauty for all to see and enjoy.



### ELVERSON SUNFLOWERS - *Conrad Wolff*

Ever since we moved to Elverson,  
The owners of the Car Wash  
Have planted sunflowers  
In the field next to their business.

It was always a local event.  
Big blooms attracting a handful of people,  
Who would come out to enjoy  
The yellow beauty of the field.

Then, last year, an article was published,  
And the admirers came in droves.  
In a single day, every sunflower was cut,  
And carried away, in a frenzy of scattered  
beauty.

This year, the owners posted signs:  
"Photos Only, No cutting"  
And for two weeks the admirers came.  
Now, it seems, Elverson is on the map!!



## How Well Do You Know Elverson Borough?

*Jody Phillips*

Congratulations to Linda Godschall, who patiently walked up and down Main Street until she recognized the historic home I photographed at 33 West Main. She chose a size medium orange tee shirt as her prize. Congratulations also to Shanni Hash, who recognized the home because she owns it with her husband, Josh. She also won a tee shirt.

According to the records, Benjamin McCord built this home in 1860. Benjamin is sometimes referred to as the Founder of Elverson (which was called Springfield at the time). His wife Mary is purported to be a relative of George Washington. The McCords lived in the town for over 200 years, marrying Handworks, Clingamans, Shingles, Hemmings, Fingers, Hartmans and Denglers. You can read about most of these old Elverson families in our history book, "The History of Our Community: Elverson, Pennsylvania."

In 1883, the home was listed in a local atlas as part of the Breou Farm and was owned by Charles Rettew. Charles was also well known in his day. He was Springfield's first postmaster and served in this position from 1849 to 1865. During this time, the name of the Springfield Post Office was changed to the Blue Rock Post Office to avoid confusion, as there were two other Springfield Post Offices in the area. An old map listed the home as HID #57. I surmise that this may refer to it being the 57<sup>th</sup> home designated a historic home in the Springfield's historic district.

In 1885, John and Carla Wertz owned the property. During the time that they lived there, the home had a roof raising, so it may have originally been a single-story house. I wonder if at some point it housed a small business on the first floor, necessitating the family to build a second story for their living quarters. Shanni and Joshua Hash bought the home from Eugene and Kay Yelk in 2015. They completely remodeled the kitchen and replaced 14 windows. They currently have the house up for sale because although they love Elverson, they both work in West Chester and hate the commute.

This month's picture is of part of another historic Elverson house. Because of which part of the house I photographed, please look for it on foot. All who guess correctly will win a "BOGO" breakfast at the Heritage Restaurant in Morgantown. Bring a friend and enjoy a delicious breakfast at The Heritage. Your friend's breakfast of equal or lesser value will be free. When you check out, give the cashier your name and show proof of identity to claim your prize. Call me at 610-286-8913 or email at [jodysfritz@gmail.com](mailto:jodysfritz@gmail.com) by September 20 with your guesses.



## UNDER CONSTRUCTION - BELOW THE SURFACE

*Merle Stoltzfus*

The road surface of Main Street (Route 23) has experienced continual deterioration. We see this regularly failing surface that indicates a much deeper issue below. Many of you will recall a steel plate covering a sink hole on the south side of West Main Street a few years ago. This was just one indicator for a serious problem of a failing storm water system throughout our Borough.



Last year, Representative Tim Hennessey and Senator John Rafferty used their influence to include the repair of the Main Street storm water system in PennDOT's special projects list. PennDOT's initial position on this repair cited 1930's legislation making PA Boroughs responsible for all storm water systems including those located

in State Highways. With help from our elected officials, we were notified last October the project was being engineered to be repaired by the State. This was very good news for Elverson because a multi-million dollar project was not feasible for our small town budget.

In life, things often get worse before they get better. For Elverson, Main Street will be under construction for most of 2018 and maybe a portion of 2019. Below the surface facilities are not a quick fix. Traffic controls can be a disruption to our anticipated daily schedules. An extended project like this will regularly frustrate our tight schedules unless we plan for the possible delays. In most cases the delays are only a few minutes but when unplanned, minutes feel much longer.

As Borough Council begins to get more information about this project, we will communicate with every available channel we have to keep you informed. As locals, we will hopefully be aware of open paths around the traffic pinch points.

The helpful thought to remember is true of all of life. When the challenges of the present are producing a greater good in the future, patience is rewarded. For Elverson, this 2018 inconvenience will reward us for 70 years into the future. And, we should be thankful every day (especially tax day) we don't have to fund this project.

## "BORER FREE" WHILE MULCH VOLCANOES ERUPT

As of this moment Chester County is one of only two counties in the state that is free of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). The other is Pike County in the northeast. Even if we were not surrounded and our neighbors did not have EAB, our efforts at preventing this insect from invading our borough would continue. It is coming and it is just a matter of time.

Our ash trees are protected with the systemic insecticide, Imidacloprid; Heilner Landscaping has treated our trees twice over the last three years. Another three treatments will occur over the next seven years and for those of you counting that is ten years' worth of coverage. At the end of this protocol, the Tree Commission will look to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture for further recommendations.

While we enjoy the good news regarding Emerald Ash Borer, we face the bad news regarding mulch volcanoes as they continue to erupt in the borough. I like a nicely mulched tree as much as the next person but I also like to see a little flare.



*Mulch volcanoes*



*Trunk flare*

Trunk flare is the gentle slope that older trees display at the point where the trunk meets the soil. It is the tree's way of stabilizing itself as it grows. The flare increases in proportion to the crown weight that it supports.

Now many people mistake this for the tree rising and exposing the roots but this is not the case. Tree roots may become visible in the lawn under tree canopies away from the trunk and that is natural. In fact I have two trees at home doing just that. So let's do our trees a favor by reducing the height of the mulch we put against their trunks. The insects will not like it, but your trees will.

## Historical Commission Hosts Open House

The Elverson Historical Commission will hold an Open House on **Wednesday, September 20 from 7 to 8:30 pm** in the newly remodeled North Classroom of the old Elverson Grade School on South Chestnut Street (currently Borough Hall). Come see some of the Commission's artifacts – most of which are part of Elverson's history – and relive the days when Elverson was named Springfield and children in grades one through eight attended this one or two room schoolhouse. Long-time Elversonians may even see themselves or people they know in one of the old photographs taken in the 1940's.

The building is handicapped-accessible and all are welcome.





### & OPEN HOUSE

**October 21, 2017**  
**Register for 5K at [TVFD69.COM](http://TVFD69.COM)**

**5K at 10 am**

- 1 MILE FUN RUN @ 9:30 AM
- SNACKS & REFRESHMENTS AFTER RACE

**Open House at 12 pm - 4pm**

- FREE BIKE RAFFLE
- BIKE RODEO  
(ages 16 and under bring your own bike)
- FREE BIKE HELMETS  
(to first 100 people)
- CAR SEAT CHECK  
(from 10 am - 4 pm)
- FOOD & REFRESHMENTS
- DEMONSTRATIONS
- OTHER EMERGENCY AGENCIES

**Twin Valley Fire Department, 4456 Main Street, Elverson, PA 19520**

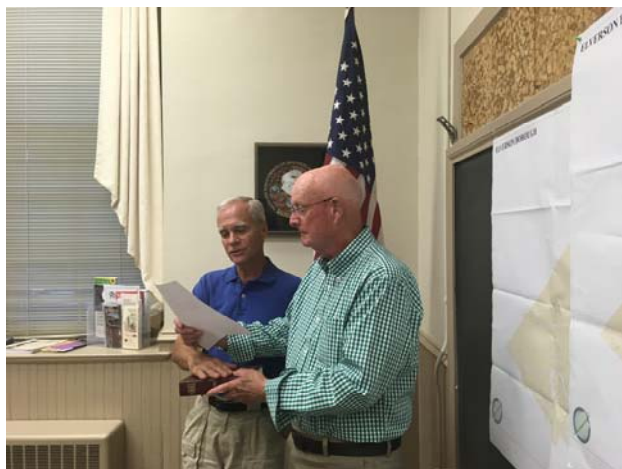
## George Firrantello Joins Council

George is a semi-retired financial manager. From a work history standpoint, after serving in the Navy and then getting his college degree, he obtained his CPA certification while working for a large public accounting firm in NJ. In that role, he assisted small and medium sized businesses from an audit and financial operations standpoint for about 10 years. Following that for over 30 years, he has been primarily involved at the CFO level with Specialty Contractors with his last job being with a medium sized electrical-mechanical contractor out of the Reading area.

From a personal perspective, he has been happily married to his wife, Maureen, for 43 years. They have 2 outstanding children, Joseph (36) and Anthony (30). They have lived in PA for the past 25 years, 23 of that being down the road in Glenmoore and 2 in Summerfield at Elverson.

Now that he is no longer working full time, he would like to use his background to the extent it is beneficial to help Elverson. He is on one of Summerfield's HOA boards as well as the Neighborhood Watch. When the opportunity came to serve on the Elverson Council, he looked at it as a way to expand on that service.

George was sworn in at the August Council meeting by Elverson Mayor Bob Broderick. He replaces Carol Ruffner who recently resigned.



## HENRIETTA HANKIN LIBRARY

I was recently contacted by a township secretary in our service area who wanted to let the residents know about everything that the Henrietta Hankin Branch Library offers. She had been to our website – [www.chescolibraries.org](http://www.chescolibraries.org) - and was pleasantly surprised by what she found. Working at the library, we forget that not everyone is aware that libraries offer far more than books. Some of the free options we have beyond books and magazines may surprise you!

You can enjoy current magazines, at home, via our website and a digital service named Flipster. We have eAudiobooks and eBooks available, for free, with Overdrive and the Libby app. Other digital services offer a wide variety of experiences. You can take practice tests concerning citizenship or practice for the SAT with Learning Express. Mango Languages is a self-paced online option to learn a foreign language. For children or grandchildren, explore BookFlix which allows children to watch stories, read books online with audio, and test their comprehension. You can read Consumer Reports articles through Master-File Premier – a database that provides access to many full text magazine articles.

If you make arrangements for your local book club, the 'Book Club in a Bag' is a great option. The bag contains ten or eleven copies of a book and discussion questions. You can reserve the bag months in advance. Additional details are on the website. If you need help with technology, we offer a 1-on-1 tutoring service. You can bring your device or we can use our system to teach you about Microsoft products, how to borrow books for your Kindle or Nook, or answer questions you have (reservation required 610-321-1710).

One of the best FREE items the Henrietta Hankin Branch and Chester County Library in Exton have are museum and garden passes that you can reserve in advance and check out. These items are very popular, so we ask that you check them out and return them as required so that the next reservation can be filled. Included in this program are the Elmwood Park Zoo, The Academy of Natural Sciences and the National Constitution Center, among others.

So, libraries are far more than just books in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. We are a place for relaxation, learning, collaboration and exploring. From babies to adults, there is always something for you at the library. Please, come visit and see what we have to offer *you*.

## ELVERSON EVENTS

**Elverson Historical Commission Open House Borough Hall North Classroom**

*Wednesday, September 20 7:00 to 8:30 pm*

**Elverson Parade Main Street**

*Wednesday, October 18 7 to 9 pm*

**Twin Valley Fire Department Run & Open House Twin Valley Fire Department**

*Saturday, October 21 Run—9:30 am Open House—12 to 4 pm*



**Dr. Leo McCormick  
Dr. Darryl Hajduczek  
Dr. Leslie Freeman**

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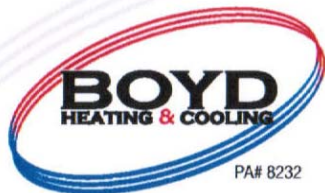
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If you would like to see your business card in this newsletter, please contact our Borough office by calling **610.286.6420** or emailing *secretary* @[elversonboro.org](http://elversonboro.org) for details.

It is a win/win as your business gets local exposure and your contribution supports this free publication

*Send your Elverson news and stories to our editor at [brenda@stoltzfus.com](mailto:brenda@stoltzfus.com) by October 15 or call her at 610.286.5115. Newsletters can be found on [elversonboro.org](http://elversonboro.org).*

Elverson Borough  
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Elverson PA 19520

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## UNDER THE BIG TOP—*Esther Prosser*

It's parade planning time again in Elverson as it has been each year for 30+. I have not been involved since the beginning but have a high regard for those who were. This is an Elverson October tradition that has stood the test of time.

Our parade is always scheduled for the third Wednesday evening in October which this year falls on **October 18** with the rain date the next evening. It's a Main Street party which begins well before the 7 pm parade time.

Our 2017 theme is **Under the Big Top**, which encourages entries to decorate floats around circus themes. Now, that should be fun! We will also carry over many of the parade traditions of pre-parade music, antique cars early on in the line up, food trucks scattered throughout town, our pumpkin guessing contest and Main Street front porch parties.

We are forever indebted to our fabulous volunteer firemen and fire police from the Twin Valley Fire Department who recruit neighboring crews to help with traffic control and contribute fire

trucks for interest and lighting. Closing Main Street is not an easy venture but these guys rise to the occasion year after year.



Our school marching bands also add to the evening. We will again enjoy the Owen J Roberts High School and Twin Valley Middle and High School bands. Numerous businesses, scout troops, dance groups and private citizens join the 40+ entries whom are judged by locals and awarded with certificates and prizes.

If you would like to help us plan, please contact me.

(484.269.7153, [esther@stoltzfus.com](mailto:esther@stoltzfus.com)). If you would like to register, go to the Borough website—[elversonboro.org](http://elversonboro.org) or email me.

And if you live in the Borough of Elverson, mark this date on your calendar because traffic in and out of town after 5 pm on October 18 will be crawling. Our Main Street will be closed from route 401 to Brick Lane by 6:30 that evening. Get home from work early, pick up your lawn chair and enjoy our October Elverson tradition—the Elverson Parade!