



## February 2016

### THE BLIZZARD OF 1996

*Bernie Stasak*

With the 20th anniversary of the Blizzard of 1996 today and tomorrow, I retrieved my personal photograph of the impact of the storm at my Summerfield home on 8 Stable Drive in Elverson, PA. I took this photo on 35 mm film on January 8, 1996, which was "the day after" when Chester County residents were digging out from the blizzard. The storm started here on January 7, 1996, and continued all night and into the next day, January 8, before moving north and northeast from here.

As snowplows came to begin their enormous effort on the streets and driveways, I rallied up some energy and cleared my house front sidewalk with a conventional snow shovel. It required a strenuous effort, of course! As I threw each shovel load upward

to either side of the path, the snow piles on top of the accumulated snowfall itself became higher and higher. The snow pile on the right exceeds the height of the front porch roof (which is over 8 feet high) by about a foot. You can see the numeral 8 on my front door in this photograph....and Christmas lights aglow!

It was a remarkable experience as my Summerfield / Elverson Borough neighbors and I labored to get paths from our front doors cleared. I also remember a wonderful sense of community as we helped elderly neighbors in getting a path cleared to their doors and checking with them to see if they were safe and warm.

The Blizzard of 1996 was a severe nor'easter that paralyzed the U.S. East Coast with up to 4 feet of wind-driven snow from January 6 to January 8, 1996. It was followed by another storm, an Alberta Clipper, on January 12, then unusually warm weather and torrential rain which caused rapid melting and river flooding.



### FAST FORWARD 20 YEARS—THE BLIZZARD OF 2016

*(Continued on p 6)*

Predictions all week for northwestern Chester County were 12-18 inches with more possible. Elverson got the "more possible" with snow fall totals closer to 27 inches. The storm began early evening on Friday and continued until about 11 pm on Saturday. Many waited to shovel out until the snow and high winds ended. Sunday was clean-up day.



Saturday before dawn on Kennelwoods Drive



Sunday—the corner of Main and Park Avenue

## THE NEW YEAR FINDS THE CONGREGATION OF CEFC “BEAMING”

Steel beams framing the new building of the Community Evangelical Free Church (CEFC) on Brick Lane in Elverson have been installed. After months of site preparation work, major excavation and building concrete block towers for stairs and an elevator, the structure of the new building is beginning to take shape. CEFC gives thanks to God for the mild weather that lasted through the fall and the month of December, which allowed the builders to make significant progress. Now, with the steel beams in place, the shape of the building can be seen. The archi-



tect's rendering shown here illustrates the aesthetically pleasing colonial style that matches the current building. The 27,000 square-foot addition to the existing building will house a large worship center, and space on the lower level will accommodate social events as well as Sunday School activities.

For more on CEFC, visit the church's website at [www.cefcelverson.org](http://www.cefcelverson.org). For more about the building project, click on the icon for "Building in Faith, God Enabling Us."

## WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IS IT?

*Merle Stoltzfus (mostly borrowed from Pennsylvania Rural Water Association)*

Water affects nearly every aspect of our lives. Every business, large and small, depends on it. Every family uses it and expects it to be safe, drinkable and always available. We expect to quickly and easily rid ourselves of waste water and we don't expect to be flooded out by storms.

Each year the American Society of Civil Engineers provides a report card for America's water infrastructure. Pennsylvania received a "D" based largely on the physical condition of the state's water, wastewater, and storm-water infrastructure coupled with the lack of capital reserve funding set aside by municipalities, authorities and private water companies to repair and/or replace this infrastructure.

Elverson Borough is not exempt from this aging infrastructure. The Main Street Water Main was installed 60 years ago. The majority of the Sewer Collection System is almost 30 years old. And we have barely begun to form policy and regulate storm water. We cannot expect these systems to eternally function and ignore replacement plans. Besides, these replacement plans will require a capital reserve and coupled with means to fund them. Beyond water and wastewater, Elverson has storm-water

systems. The future needs for best management practices for storm-water management to comply with state (DEP) and federal (EPA) requirements are beyond the current funding resources of our Borough. Whether Pennsylvania municipalities and the state will come together to address the storm-water issues remains to be seen.

Since our expected quality of life depends on these systems, failure is not an option. If we expect our services to continue eternally without thought and resources, we live in denial. So, whose responsibility is it? Public infrastructure is for the convenience of the public. The burden lays on all of our shoulders.



We need to understand the current age of the infrastructure we inherited from our forefathers and understand the need for a replacement plan. The need for and value of adequate systems are critical to our community and way of life. A visit to a third world country will underline this fact.

*"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children" Native American Proverb*

## LOCAL TAX RETURN IS DUE APRIL 18

It's that time of year again. The 2015 local earned income tax return filing deadline is approaching. The due date is extended to Monday April 18 this year because Washington DC is commemorating Emancipation Day on Friday April 15.

Did you know the quickest way to get your refund is to file online? If you live and work in Pennsylvania, you can e-file on our tax administrator's secure website, which is available 24/7 at [www.KeystoneCollects.com](http://www.KeystoneCollects.com).

Keystone Collections Group's e-file is the easy, fast and secure way to file your 2015 tax return. It lets you file your tax return when it is most convenient for you. You will need your W-2, your Social Security Number and any other income documents that may apply (such as a PA-UE or a Schedule C).

Keystone redesigned e-file to make it even faster and more user-friendly.

If you have questions regarding local tax filing, visit Keystone's Frequently Asked Questions or call Keystone's Taxpayer Helpline at 1-888-328-0565 to speak with a local, knowledgeable Taxpayer Service Agent. You can also email your questions 24/7 to Taxpayer Support. Taxpayer Service Agents try to respond to all online inquiries within three business days.

Taxpayers with earned income in 2015 are required to file a Final Tax Return by Monday, April 18.

Elverson family physician, Dr. Chris McCarty and his wife, Natalie, are proud to announce the birth of their first child, a beautiful little girl named Cora Noel born January 5th and weighing 7 pounds, 10 ounces. "All are doing well," Dr. McCarty wrote, "and she is a huge blessing. She lives in the house that her great great grandparents purchased when they immigrated from the Ukraine." Congratulations to the McCarty family!



## THANK YOU ELVERSON RESIDENTS

*Betty Shaw*

Christmas at the Coatesville V.A. Medical Center was phenomenal thanks to the residents of Elverson. Past years have been very successful and we have been able to provide over 300 gifts with our veterans' drive. This year we partnered with the company I work for, TMACC and their members.

On Tuesday, December 22, 2015 we delivered 702 gifts! We loaded up two buses with gifts and were able to help three different divisions of the hospital. The gifts donated ranged from money (which was used to purchase gifts)

microwave ovens, toasters, toaster ovens, blenders, coffee makers, vacuum cleaners, irons, personal items, clothing, home-made quilts and lap blankets, toothbrushes and toothpaste donated by Drs. Wallace and Wolitarsky, and a very generous check from the Twin Valley Rotary Club in memory of David Ballantyne a Chaplain at the medical center who passed

away in October 2015. This gift drive could not have been a success without the caring, compassionate and extremely generous support of everyone in our community.

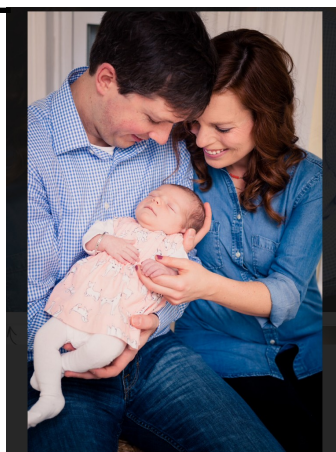
This gift drive was also able to help the Multi Services Center with providing items necessary to help create a kitchen, bath and bedroom for newly housed, previously homeless vets!

I look forward to working with each of you again when we start the drive for 2016! Happy New Year to all of you and I hope it will be the best ever for all of us!! Thank you!!

## Save The Date

Our annual Elverson Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for **Saturday, March 19** with the location to be the Elverson Fitness Club.

More information to follow in our next issue.



## ELVERSON NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH HOME SMOKE DETECTORS ALERT

*Jay Fetterman*

**T**his is to advise you of some very important information that I found out for those who live in Summerfield, Parkside and anyone who lives in the Elverson Borough and have direct wired (hard wired) smoke detectors, which were probably installed when your home was built. **THE IMPORTANT INFORMATION IS THAT YOUR CURRENT SMOKE ALARM WILL PROBABLY NOT WORK AND MUST BE REPLACED.**

If your smoke detector is like the ones installed in my home, (which is now about 17 years old), it is a smoke detector manufactured by the Maple Chase Company, and is model # G-6. The Maple Chase Company is no longer in business and was bought out by Kidde Company. Kidde sell through the company direct ([www.shopkidde.com](http://www.shopkidde.com)) or through Home Depot.

The original smoke detectors were guaranteed for 5 years. In talking to the Kidde Company I found out that the maximum life for a smoke detector is between 8 and 10 years. There are national fire codes that require the smoke detectors to be replaced in 10 years.

How old is your home? Also, if you push the Test button and it makes the alarm sound, that alone does not mean the smoke detector is working and that it probably is only indicates that it has electric connected and does not indicate it will sense a fire/smoke.

One problem with the current installed smoke detector G-6 is that it has a connector that will not connect with the new smoke detectors sold by Kidde or other manufacturers. They advise that a licensed electrician install your new detector. They also recommend detectors with a battery back-up, in case you have lost the electric.



## HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW ELVERSON BOROUGH?

*Jody Phillips*

**C**ongratulations to John Mohl, who knew that the red painted bluebird house pictured in the last issue of the "Elverson Borough Newsletter" is located on the north (cemetery) side of the Warwick Bible Church on the inside of the bend in South Chestnut Street. He also volunteered that it was placed there by Lois Shank, a former Elverson resident, who has moved to a warmer climate.

The Warwick Bible Church was constructed as the United Brethren Church in 1883-1884 for a sum of "upwards of \$2500." The land for the church was donated by a very generous Springfield resident, Mr. Christian Kurtz, who also donated the land for the adjoining cemetery and the iron fence surrounding it. Kurtz chose the first burial lot in the cemetery, and is buried in the large monument in its center. Six independent congregations have worshipped in the church since 1959, five of which moved to larger facilities. The Warwick Bible Church has held services there since 1987. Originally the front entrance extended upwards to include a bell tower, but the tower was struck by lightning and destroyed and was never replaced.



This month's photo is of an historic Elverson building. Please tell me the address of this old farmhouse, which can be seen from the road. As always, be careful if you drive around the Borough looking for this house as I suspect there will be snow alongside the roads very soon.

Contact me at [jodysfritz@gmail.com](mailto:jodysfritz@gmail.com) or **610-286-8913** if you think you know where this home is located. All who know will win an Elverson tee shirt. John, who won the contest a few months ago, has chosen to receive another royal blue shirt. He told me that he wears his all the time and so would love to have another one

***Send your Elverson news and stories to our editor at [brenda@stoltzfus.com](mailto:brenda@stoltzfus.com) by February 20 or call her at 610.286.5115. Newsletters can be found on [elversonboro.org](http://elversonboro.org).***



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

92 Kemp Road  
Pottstown, PA 19465  
(p) 610-705-0201  
(f) 610-705-0180

83 W. Main Street  
Elverson, PA 19520  
(p) 610-286-7000  
(f) 610-286-7003

[www.mccormickchiro.com](http://www.mccormickchiro.com)

## Stell Environmental

Stephen W. Bell  
Operations Director

25 East Main Street, Elverson, PA 19520  
mobile: 484.366.2008 | corporate: 610.286.0100  
[sbell@stellee.com](mailto:sbell@stellee.com) | [stellee.com](http://stellee.com)

SB/SDB/WOSB/DBE/WBE



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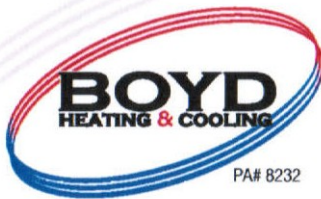
Vice President, Branch Manager  
Originator ID # 640646

**Morgantown Branch** | 3697 Main St. | Morgantown, PA 19543  
p 610.286.8228 | f 610.286.8275

**Elverson Branch** | 83 West Main St., Suite 1 | Elverson, PA 19520  
p 610.286.8242 | f 610.286.8241

[joann.steffy@nationalpenn.com](mailto:joann.steffy@nationalpenn.com) | [www.nationalpenn.com](http://www.nationalpenn.com) | Nasdaq: NPBC

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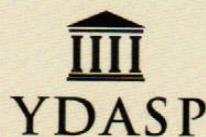
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[sales@stoltzfus.com](mailto:sales@stoltzfus.com)



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### JAMES D. SCHEFFEY ATTORNEY AT LAW

50 S. Pine Street  
PO Box 526  
Elverson, PA 19520

610-286-0058 Fax 610-286-0068

[jdscheffey@ydaspc.com](mailto:jdscheffey@ydaspc.com)  
[www.ydaspc.com](http://www.ydaspc.com)

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If you would like your  
business  
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please contact  
Esther Prosser,  
[esther@stoltzfus.com](mailto:esther@stoltzfus.com),  
484.269.7153.

Elverson Borough  
PO Box 206  
Elverson PA 19520

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## THE BLIZZARD OF 2016 IN ELVERSON

*Photos compliments of Jody Phillips and Seawolf*

