



## May/June 2018

### W - A - I - T *We're All In Together*

The Main Street Communications Committee has been actively engaging PennDOT to communicate with Elverson businesses and residents. The meeting for local business owners filled the McElroy Room at the Borough Hall on the afternoon of March 14<sup>th</sup>, when PennDOT presented their plans for traffic detours and construction scheduling. The State then presented the same information at a meeting for residents on the evening of April 4<sup>th</sup>, when more than 100 residents were hosted in the Hopewell Manor gathering room.

Issues voiced, clearly indicate these two groups (businesses & residents) have strong and stark conflicting concerns; desires not very different than those we experience every day. It became obvious the Main Street project will exacerbate these differences. For example, businesses want access to their locations (traffic) normally provided on State Highways, to be temporarily provided by the use of Borough Streets. Residents, however, want to prohibit additional traffic on Borough Streets caused by detours on State Highways. This is just one example of several obvious conflicting goals.

There will be a definite need for each of us to consider the needs of each other through this project in order for our Borough to maintain the local services we enjoy. Access to business locations for customers, deliveries and receiving is greatly complicated

by detours. More than ever, it is important we visit our Elverson businesses for all of our supplies and services for the duration of this project, or we may permanently lose them. Businesses, however, will need to educate their customers and business associates (especially truckers) to safely use only those streets adequate for their vehicles, and being considerate of the residential environment through which they travel.



The contrasting and divergent desires for traffic control is just one example of several obvious conflicts. Elverson (that is me and you) will have repeated opportunities to show understanding and grace to each other over the next two summers. Opportunities may go further, to include inconvenience, or even sacrifice, of our individual desires for the sake of the community as a whole.

Since the project will extend into late 2019, we will need to repeatedly remind each other "We're All In Together." The long term benefits of this Main Street project to our Borough are immense. The short term challenges will be real. Like all hardship, we have the opportunity to grow stronger through it, or become selfishly destructive. "In it together," we have the opportunity to experience something more positive than we may now imagine. Let's prepare ourselves to think unselfishly, and experience good things, which may in the long run, be much more significant for this Greatest Square Mile than just the physical improvements.

### ELVERSON EVENTS

Elverson Yard Sale—Saturday, May 19—8:00 am—all over town  
Memorial Day Ceremony—Monday, May 28—10:30 am—Elverson Cemetery  
Elverson Day in the Park—Saturday, June 30—5:00 pm—Livingood Park

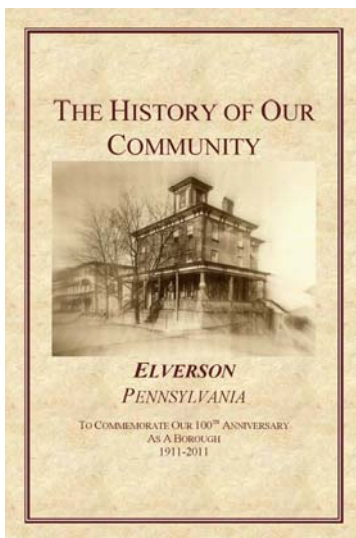
## How Well Do You Know Elverson Borough?

Jody Phillips

Congratulations once more to Linda Godschall who, the day after her last Elverson Borough Newsletter arrived in the mail, walked throughout Elverson's Historic District until she found the historic district plaque which exactly matched the one in the photo printed in my column. She identified it by the shape of the stone on which it was mounted. The historic home I featured is located at 16 East Main Street and resembles several of stately Georgian homes in this part of the Borough. I chose to photograph it because it belonged to a well-known Elverson resident in the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century – Dr. Matthias Mengel - who practiced medicine in Elverson for over 60 years.

Dr. Mengel is said to have never posted a sign on his door because everyone knew where he lived. He was available to everyone who came to his residence, regardless of their ability to pay, and if someone could not afford his small fees, he would take food or services in lieu of payment. He made house calls at any hour of the day or night in any kind of weather. He was an old-fashioned country doctor and yet some of his skills were way ahead of their time. He pioneered the use of many advanced surgical methods and equipment

and developed a microscopic diagnosis of acute kidney disease. According to our Elverson History book, "The History of Our Community- Elverson, Pennsylvania," compiled in 2011 by Bob Patry, he also designed and owned a special instrument used in brain surgery to alleviate pressure inside the skull, using a method later used by only highly skilled brain surgeons.



Dr. Mengel is one of many interesting and talented people who lived in Elverson Borough in the past 200 years. I have been photographing their homes and places of business for over two years now, using our history book and other sources to share their stories and to try to bring their past back to life. However, it is becoming harder and harder for me to find interesting and unique subjects to photograph and residents seem to be less and less interested in looking for them.

So, this will be my last "How Well Do You Know Elverson Borough?" column. Hopefully, you know it better than you did two years ago. If you want to learn more about the historic little town in which you live, please

contact me at 610-286-8913 or call or visit Borough Hall and purchase an Elverson history book for your library. The cost is only \$15.

## WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT!

Please, please throw it out! That may not be the message you want to hear near Earth Day, but the truth is "too zealous recyclers have contaminated the recyclables with trash." They are ruining the ability to market the material nationwide. Chester County residents are great recyclers, but shouldn't be tempted to be too passionate putting items in the bin that do not belong and "trashing" the recyclables. Properly prepared and collected recyclables are valued commodities sold on a global market. When too many non-recyclables (trash) are mixed in with the recyclables it all becomes "trash", is too costly to separate and requires disposal at a landfill. Meanwhile too much money has been spent on collection, transportation and processing material that wasn't worth collecting in the first place.

Scrap metal, hangers, pieces of rope or hose, pieces of wood, yard waste and children's toys are just a few of the items that "contaminate" the recyclables. Scrap metal may be taken to a scrap dealer, yard waste should be composted and reusable children's toys may be donated or thrown away if broken. Do not put them in the recycling bins.

Plastic bags present another problem. Recyclables should



never be put in plastic bags. Plastic bags are not recyclable in curbside programs. They jam the source separating equipment at recycling facilities. Plastic shopping bags can be returned to your local grocery store and plastic trash bags should be used for trash only not recyclables.

Most curbside programs in Chester County collect mixed paper, flattened corrugated cardboard cut down to 18" x 24", glass bottles and jars, steel and aluminum cans, plastic bottles and containers #1-5 plus 7. Our programs also collect clean aluminum foil and pie tins and empty steel aerosol cans. No Styrofoam, polystyrene, foam. Everything else should be thrown away and that's okay. Remember only plastic containers and bottles with recycling symbols can be recycled. If there is no recycling symbol, throw it out. Most recyclables will come from the kitchen or in the mail as paper or corrugated cardboard. If you really want to do something positive for the planet, do it right. If in doubt, throw it out!

Still unsure or want to know more? Contact Eagle Disposal (717.355.9560) or log onto [www.chestercountyswa.org](http://www.chestercountyswa.org) for more information.

# The History of Vixen Hill Manufacturing

Jody Phillips

Vixen Hill Manufacturing is located at 69 East Main Street, just west of Elverson Supply Company. The company manufactures and sells gazebos, screened-in garden houses, cabanas and shutters made of prime-quality cedar which is shipped in from Vancouver, British Columbia. The business, owned by Chris Peebles, and in operation for about 30 years, is larger than it appears from the street as it is comprised of four buildings which sit on eight acres. There is a private residence at the end of the driveway, on the right side of a cul-de-sac.

The most recognizable building in the complex is the original wooden structure just to the left of the start of Vixen Hill's long driveway, which some have mistaken as a road. Its roofline is topped by a tower which supports an attractive gazebo, advertising one of the businesses main products. Inside are a spacious showroom, offices and a machine shop for shutter assembly.

A small pole barn for drying and storing lumber is sited next to the showroom and beyond that is the mill, a spacious metal building where the cedar, which is shipped in large blocks or "cants," is cut up into boards of various lengths and thicknesses and sorted according to its future use. Milled lumber is then dried on skids in a third wooden building near the end of the lane, which features large fans which ensure that all lumber is completely dry before it is assembled into products. This assembly (except for shutters) takes place in a fourth building, which is also the complex's newest and largest, having been constructed in 2001 and comprising more square footage than the other three buildings combined. There is a bin at the end of the driveway where large plastic bags of cedar scraps are offered for sale for \$5. These are quickly purchased.

Vixen Hill products are sold throughout the country and several of them are currently in use in the Borough – namely the large three-room gazebo at Livingood Park and the two mail kiosks on West Main Street at the end of both Springfield Drive and Yeingst Drive.

Several businesses have thrived in this location, partly due to the railroad siding that used to run along the east side of the property. In 1906, Henry Dolfiner built a milk shipping station and ice house there. The complex housed a milk separator, pasteurizing plant and refrigeration room and was known as Dolfiner Milk Depot and Creamery. Milk sold for 18 cents a gallon. The Creamery burned down in 1924. In the mid 1930's (1936 to about 1938) the Old Orchard Distillery brewed and sold peach brandy and apple jack on the

property. Chris told me that he discovered some fairly pungent-smelling soil while digging around one of the old buildings one day and realized that the ground there was probably very well fermented. Around 1950, a sewing factory named DeMayo Fashions occupied the old wooden building. Again, Chris discovered evidence of this building's former use when he refinished the floors in the building and found deep-set, old stains which appeared to have come from machine oil. Finally, in the 1970's the main building housed the U.B.C. Grain Company U.B.C. stood for Upper Berks County but its product was suspected not to be grain, (It is rumored that the company was the largest manufacturer of filtration smoking pipes on the east coast). Chris has not found evidence of this business on his property.

Chris welcomes you to visit his showroom during business hours. If he is not busy, he would be happy to give you a tour of this historic Elverson property.



## LOVE YOUR DOG, LICENSE YOUR DOG

In an effort to make sure both pets and people are safe, the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement will be conducting a license canvas in Chester County during the weeks of May 7<sup>th</sup> and May 14<sup>th</sup> between the hours of 8 AM and 4 PM. Multiple wardens will be going door to door educating dog owners as well as checking the status of their dog licenses and rabies vaccinations.

All dogs three months or older must be licensed by Jan. 1 of each year. Violators can be cited with a maximum fine of \$300 per violation plus court costs.



If your dog gets lost, a current license is the fastest way to get him back. A license can be purchased from your county treasurer or issuing agent.

For additional information, you can visit the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement website at [www.licenseyourdogpa.com](http://www.licenseyourdogpa.com) or [www.agriculture.pa.gov](http://www.agriculture.pa.gov). Questions can be directed to the Chester County Dog Warden, Maureen Siddons, at 610-909-5666 or via email at [msiddons@pa.gov](mailto:msiddons@pa.gov).



Don't miss

# ELVERSON

—Day in the Park—

JUNE 30, 2018 >> 5PM

*Livingood Park, Elverson*

FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL



FIREWORKS



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# **Elverson's YARD SALE**

**SATURDAY, MAY 19 – 8 am to 1 pm**

***Rain or Shine!***

Yard Sale will be in the Heritage Center Parking Lot  
across from the Post Office  
AND along Elverson's Main Street (Route 23)  
AND Parkside Drive

Over 60 families will have tables  
Hot Dog Stand & Bake Sale Stand  
located in the Heritage Center Parking lot at 11 South Pine Street.  
Call Sally Horning at **610.913.6712** to reserve a parking lot sale table.

Main Street residents are encouraged to sell from their front yards or porches. If you need a location, contact Esther Prosser – [esther@stoltzfus.com](mailto:esther@stoltzfus.com), **484.269.7153**.



## CHESTER COUNTY LIBRARY & DISTRICT CENTER AND HENRIETTA HANKIN BRANCH



April was a busy month at the library. The AARP Tax Foundation volunteers helped 331 people complete their tax returns through the tax season. Many thanks go out to these volunteers for their time, expertise and their patience as we moved to a new reservation system. We also recognized our library volunteers who shelve books, teach classes and do a variety of other activities that keep the library running smoothly. We thank them for their time and dedication.

Since April was National Poetry Month, the crafty reference librarians created a haiku tree and many of you offered a haiku to be added to it. We also celebrated National Library Week with a display of books on literature with themed bookmarks for customers.

Our second Girls Who Code Club session ended at the beginning of April. Nine girls delved into computer programming and worked together to complete a project about places to visit around the world.

Planning for summer reading clubs kicked into high gear too. People of all ages will be able to participate by reading/listening to books and engaging in other activities focused on the theme "Libraries Rock." Those completing specific activities earn raffle tickets for prize baskets/books that are awarded at the end of the summer.

Going forward, I have a couple of quick reminders. The library will be closed for Memorial Day on both Sunday the 27th and Monday the 28th. The library is closed on Sundays from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend.

Happy Mother's Day to the Moms out there!

*Beverly Lawler*

*Henrietta Hankin Branch Library*

*215 Windgate Drive, Chester Springs*

## Free CPR Course Offered at TVFD

Elverson-Honey Brook EMS will be hosting a free CPR course **Saturday June 16th 2018** for the community.

Class will be held in the training room at Twin Valley Fire Dept. 4456 Main St. Elverson PA.

Class size is limited to the first 25, students and students must be 14 years of age or older.

Students will learn care for a choking victim, and use of an AED for adults, infants, and children.

Class will begin promptly at 9:00 AM.

To sign up please e-mail Joseph Carmen director of operations - [jcarmen@ehbems.org](mailto:jcarmen@ehbems.org) or call 610-286-8925 and leave a message with your name and contact number.

Thank you everyone for your continued financial support of Elverson-Honey Brook EMS.



*Esther Prosser*

If you have interest in what Chester County is planning for Elverson, take an evening to participate in a public meeting to hear about our future and provide your own input. Did you know we are called an "urban center?" What does that mean for Elverson? Topics will be transportation, open spaces, housing, towns and trails.

The closest meeting location is in the western region of Chester County—**Public Safety Training Campus**  
**137 Modena Rd, Coatesville**

**Date—Wednesday, May 16—the open house begins at 5:30 with the presentation at 6:30.**

Information is available at [www.chescoplanning.org](http://www.chescoplanning.org). If you would like to attend with me, feel free to email me—[esther@stoltzfus.com](mailto:esther@stoltzfus.com).

Also, please RSVP to our Borough secretary, Lori, [secretary@elversonboro.org](mailto:secretary@elversonboro.org).

Phone: 610-286-1660  
Fax: 610-286-1662  
[www.johnfperryorthopedics.com](http://www.johnfperryorthopedics.com)

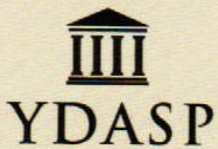
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*Orthopedic Surgery & Sports Medicine*

25 S. Pine Street, PO Box 210, Elverson, PA 19520  
1121 Penn Avenue, Wyomissing, PA 19610  
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## Garden Houses Shutters - Porch Systems



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## PHOENIX Rehabilitation & Health Services

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[phoenixrehab.com](http://phoenixrehab.com) **PHOENIX**  
Rehabilitation and Health Services, Inc.

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



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## **ELVERSON'S MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY**

What better way to remember those who serve or have served our great country than by attending an event on the day set aside for this in your own town? We, in Elverson, have been privileged to gather each year at the Elverson Cemetery on Main Street to do just that. Join us!

**Monday, May 28—10:30 am  
Elverson Cemetery**



## **OUR MAIN STREET POTS**

*Donna Mountz*

There was some discussion this year about whether we should carry on with planting and placing our flower pots on Main Street since our street is going to be torn up and traffic patterns disrupted. But we decided that this year and next will be more important than ever to have fresh, colorful flowers offsetting the construction mess.

*We need your help with this!* If you would like to take a pot or two and fill them with your beauty, we will have dirt and fertilizer already in the pot. Or you can assist by watering the pots already planted. Both are opportunities to contribute to the beauty of Elverson.

We have 15 pots so it's first come, first serve. Pick your location, number of pots and plant what you like. I would love to hear from you—([dwmountz48@hotmail.com](mailto:dwmountz48@hotmail.com) or 610.286.9742).

