



November/December 2019

Our Elverson Parade

Esther Prosser

With our theme The Deep Blue Sea, many entries creatively decorated water with sea creatures of interesting sorts. Our scheduled date of Wednesday was miserable with driving rain. Thursday, though windy and cold, was at least dry and parade participants and spectators weathered the frigid temperatures for what proved to be another year of fun. Closing Main Street for a party is always a good thing. Thanks to all who joined in the fun!



ELVERSON TRAILS AND RECREATION

Lisa Palser, Elverson Trails Committee Member

Are you aware that there is a comprehensive plan for our Borough? Furthermore, it is periodically reviewed and updated. Please take a look, if you haven't already: www.elversonboro.org/government/comprehensive-plan/. Chapter 8 addresses plans for *Parks, Recreation, and Open Space* and page 8-5 has a diagram (see below). Within this Plan is a section on trail and bicycle networks and, as mentioned in a recent article by Esther Prosser, there is a group of residents beginning to address this portion of the Plan.

Our goals? Create trail loops within the Borough connecting neighborhoods and providing opportunities for safe access to services, passive recreation, and pet walking. In addition, the intent is to open up access to existing recreation centers such as Livingood Park, Borough Hall Park, and Twin Valley Elementary Center (outside regular school hours).

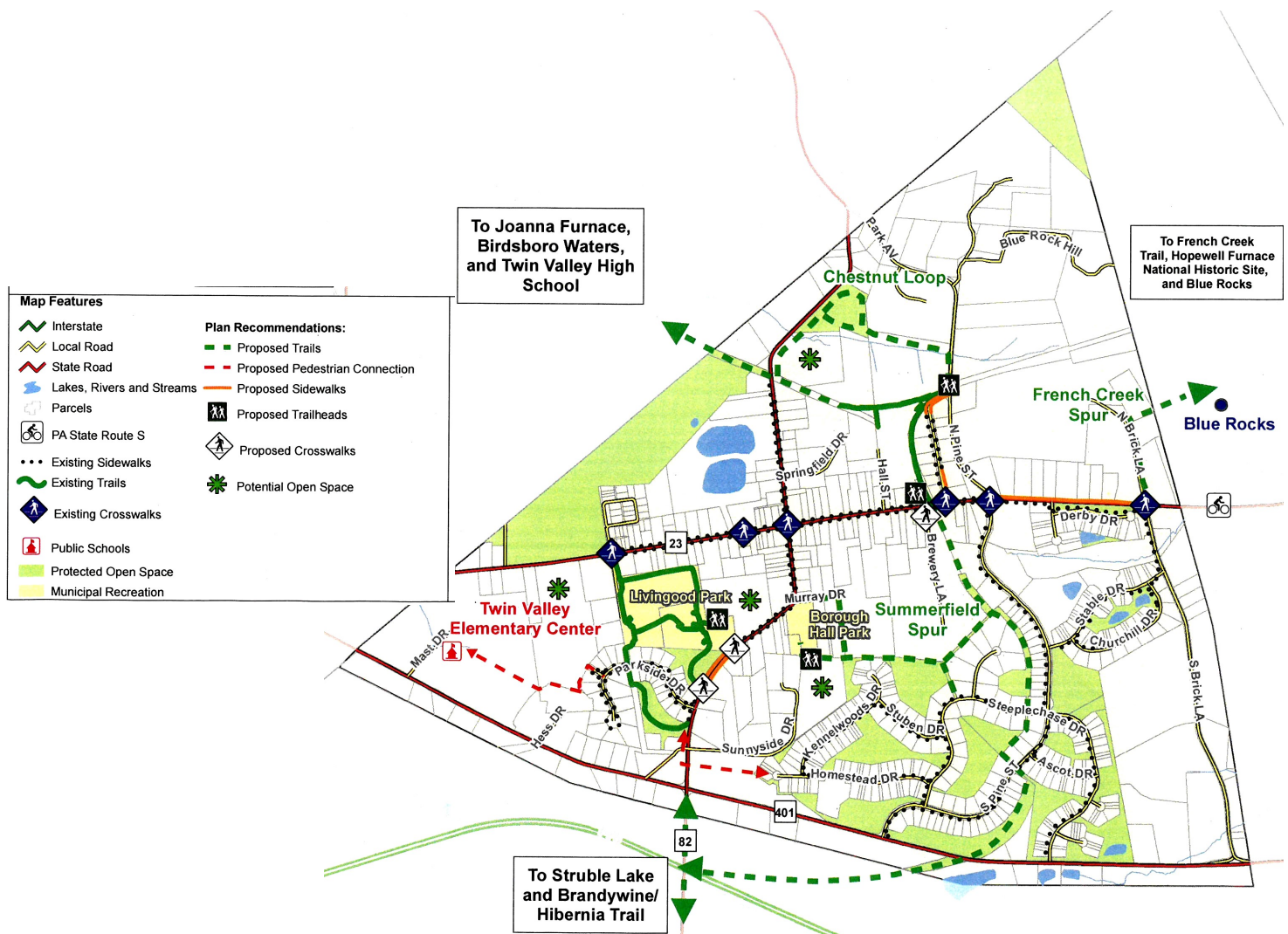
The first planned step is to connect Summerfield to

Parkside from the top of Homestead to extend the existing Hopewell Spur Trail to North Chestnut. In the comprehensive plan there are additional ideas which will be evaluated in a feasibility study to further connect Summerfield to Borough Hall Park and Main Street, Parkside to the Elementary Center, and longer term, opportunities to link to other trail systems and geological features such as the Blue Rocks.

Our fledgling trail committee seeks input from community members and invites interested individuals to join us. Your thoughts and suggestions are needed. As plans develop, they will be shared and your thoughtful consideration and support for these efforts will be requested.

If interested in participating with the trails committee, please join us. If you cannot, but have ideas to share, please email them to:

secretary@elversonboro.org or mail to 101 S. Chestnut Street, Elverson, PA 19520 and mark "Attn. Lisa Palser".



Elverson Borough Council Candidates

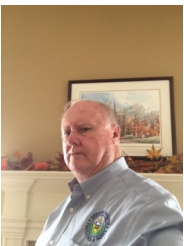
Voting is Tuesday, November 5 at the Brick Lane Community Church—4 candidates for 3 seats

I'm running for re-election so I can continue to make a contribution on behalf of the citizens of Elverson. I favor a "no Borough taxes" platform, a no salary stance for Council members, and a smart growth vision. I've served for over 5 years and have been instrumental in the creation and funding of a Capital Improvements fund, road improvements, and day to day decisions that hopefully appear seamless to everyone. However, let's get to the heart of what I envision for Elverson, the challenge of keeping expenses low, maximization of revenue, and the constant quest for County and State grants so we keep a no property tax stance well into the future. Doug Hoskins. P.S. Thanks for your past support.



I am running for a second term on the Elverson Borough Council. During my first term I have seen the dedication of those involved with Elverson's governance and learned more about the needs of the Borough. It would be my privilege to continue on the Council to assist in the development of Elverson from a business and residential standpoint as well as maintaining the attributes that make it a great place to live.
Thank-you for your consideration.
George Firrantello

Originally from central-western Pa, my father was a life-long coal miner and fought in the Pacific in WWII. I am also a veteran - having served in the US Army as a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division. I have been a resident of Chester County since 1991. My professional experience includes being a business owner, working as an analyst for a financial company, and being a manager of IT operations. I am running for Member of Council because I believe there is value in having a more diverse government - even on a local level. And I believe Elverson could benefit from fresh ideas and a new perspective.—Steve Solnosky



Jack Stewart
510 Kennelwoods Dr
Lived in Elverson 9 years move from Glenmoore, lived there 35 years
age 68 Married to Terri 49 years
server on borough council 8 years and want to keep Elverson a nice place to live and keep taxes low.

A-Z Urgent Care

Merle Stoltzfus

NO, NOT Main Line, Penn State, Tower Health or Penn Medicine. Instead, Elverson will now have A-Z health care services covering in-network coverage with fifteen (15) local and national insurance companies. Private ownership unencumbered by the politics of a large network gives Elverson the combined benefits of all the systems with the broadest possible coverage. Urgent non-life-threatening medical services needing immediate attention, blood work and x-rays are coming back to 45 South Pine Street with the dedication, commitment and permanence of local private, board certified physicians with decades of experience and medical care.



Put **December 9th** on your calendar to celebrate the opening day of A-Z Urgent Care. Elverson now will have quality medical care within minutes of home. We will again avoid the long waits of the overcrowded, overpriced emergency rooms and receive prompt, efficient and more affordable healthcare from a compassionate team of local physicians open seven (7) days a week. Elverson gladly welcomes and thanks CEO Justin Pepperling and Medical Director Gary Herring, MD for bringing these amazing services to our community to make our greatest square mile even better.

One Hundred Years of the Cook Family Business Known as our Elverson Supply



The door of Isaac Sigman's small business office faced west. At the left is Main Street. Man in doorway faces the RR tracks, 30 yards away.

The story of our town's enduring lumber and hardware business actually goes further back than 100 years. Before the Cooks came on the scene, Isaac Sigman, 23, started a coal and lumber trade at this location in 1874 and ran it until 1918, a total of 43 years.

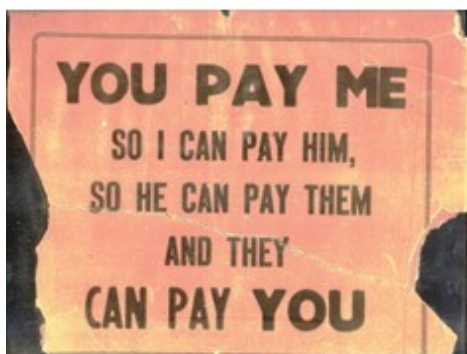
The property and business was sold to H Bernard Fox, who kept it only one year. In 1919 he sold it to Robert C. Cook, 54, and his only son George B. Cook, 22. (See family picture at right, with wife and mother, Bertha and one of four daughters.)

This father and son business was aptly named **Robert Cook and Son**, and they quickly began to diversify their new enterprise. They continued as a lumber yard and still carried coal, but they sought to meet the needs of local farmers with a major investment for a large feed mill, and they began marketing a small supply of hardware.

By 1932 Robert C. Cook had died, and George, now a father of 5 young children, ran the business for about 15 years with the help of a relative, J. Howard Rapp. But by about 1947, two of George's four sons were old enough to join the company. With the addition of George's sons, the name became **Robert Cook and Sons**.



Sigman in his wagon, with horse facing south. Frame home behind is the back of 105 E. Main Street, built in 1860, and later plastered over.



Tattered vintage sign that hung in the old store for years



In the photo below, World War 1 army vehicles were heading to Philadelphia around 1915. Note the brick house at rear (103 E. Main St) that was built in 1910. Isaac Sigman's business now shows an elevated RR trestle for off-loading coal, one of his major business commodities.



This 1936 photo shows the Cooks still using the original business office from Sigman's days, plus the huge feed mill they added on to it in 1920. Also their business at this time sold gasoline from two gas pumps in the middle of Main Street! Shade tree at left was at corner of Park Ave and Main. (Photo taken from middle of Park)





**100
YEARS!**



After WWII, two of George B. Cook's sons became the third generation of Cook business owners: brothers, George H. Cook (left) and Robert E. Cook. George and his wife Esther made their home in the historic house at 105 E. Main, while Bob and his wife Ruth lived next door in the brick house at 103 E. Main

This painting, part of a primitive mural by Elverson native, Kathryn Winn, shows two changes that took place with the Cook business after the war. The old wooden office of Isaac Sigman's was finally replaced by a spacious, brick store that could carry more hardware inventory. And in 1955 Once again the name changed to be **Elverson Supply Company**.



In 1988 the wooden feed mill was removed to make way for the present store and warehouse. The brick portion became offices, and the whole front façade was updated and unified in an attractive rustic style. Store address is 101 E. Main St., Elverson, PA 19520



Elverson Supply employees in 1996: From left, George Cook, Eddie Hartz, Rob Rapp, Bob Cook Sr, Bob Cook Jr, Jack Hess, Dave Cook, Ben Mountz, Jim Cook, and Paul Pfaehler. Other store employees through the years also included John Zook, Jake and Joe Wertz, Tom McCord, Howie (Bob) Rapp, Harold Fisher, Paul (Slim) Miller, John Pfaehler, Alan Stefano, Nate Spece, Bud Aikman, Will Cook, and Mike Kazmierczak.



The fourth and fifth generations of Cook family businessmen. From left, the three sons of Robert E. Cook in age order: Jim, Bob, (Robert R.) and Dave, and 5th generation Jeff Cook, son of Bob.



Treasurer and bookkeeper, Peggy Cook, wife of Bob, lends a woman's touch to this largely male domain.

We congratulate the entire Cook family on this amazing achievement of 100 years as a business serving our tri-county area. And residents of our small town of Elverson can know how fortunate we are to have such friendly and personal service for all of our remodeling and home-repair needs.

- Donna Mountz

Radar Signs To Be Installed On Main Street

As part of continued traffic calming efforts, the Borough Council Members have approved the purchase of two radar signs. The signs will be posted on Main Street, at the East and West end of the Borough limits, and will display the rate of speed at which vehicles are traveling as they enter town. The purpose of the signs is to assist in making drivers aware of their speed as they travel through the Borough, and act as a reminder to abide by the 35 MPH posted speed limit.



Each radar sign will track the number of vehicles traveling in excess of the posted speed limit. The information collected will be provided to the Pennsylvania State Police for review, to determine if the data indicates the need for additional traffic monitoring.

Your help in keeping your community safe, and supporting traffic safety efforts on Main Street, and on all Borough Streets, by traveling the posted speed limit, is greatly appreciated.



The Whole Child Learning Center, Inc.

**Community Holiday
Shopping Event**

Saturday, November 9, 2019

9:00am – 2:00pm

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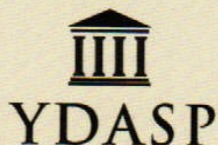
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Send your Elverson news and stories to our editor at brenda@stoltzfus.com by December 15 or call her at 610.286.5115. Newsletters can be found on elversonboro.org.

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ELVERSON SUPPLY COMPANY'S 100TH CELEBRATION—*Jody Phillips*

The Cook family celebrated the milestone of having owned a building materials and hardware store at the same Elverson location of 101 East Main Street for 100 years on Friday, October 25 with an appreciation event. Customers and well-wishers who dropped by that day were treated to a catered lunch by Stampede Barbecue and pizza by Giovanni's. They also were offered a raffle ticket for prizes and a commemorative tote bag containing a 100th Anniversary tee shirt, carpenters' pencils, pens, notepads, and a ruler, supplied by Elverson Supply and some of their vendors. These vendors had set up displays in the parking lot showcasing windows, synthetic deck materials and tools. The 1936 Elverson fire engine was parked across the street and the Twin Valley Fire Department ladder truck hung old glory across Main Street, which showed all who drove by that a celebration was going on at Elverson Supply. Everyone was smiling that day and no one was speeding through the Borough. Thank you, Cook family and Elverson Supply.

(Please see pages 4 and 5 of this issue for the history of this remarkable Elverson family business.)

