



## May/June 2020

### Good Things Come Hard

*Merle Stoltzfus*

**A**n old saying from Amish roots will help us through the challenging weeks of this pandemic. No one wants or seeks after hard times just to experience them. But anyone coming out of the other side of difficulty can usually recognize benefits that would not otherwise have been born. A seed is buried before it can sprout. There is labor before delivery. Trials birth character not otherwise developed.

What is often referred to as “the greatest generation” endured the horrors and destruction of World War II. We all know and admire those who shine brightly because of dark trials. We all want to be that person but none would volunteer entering the refining fire. But Providence blesses us with opportunities.

COVID-19 is unprecedented in our lifetime. We’re still experiencing the turmoil. Rich, poor, PhD and child; the uncertainty is equally disturbing for everyone. The year 2020 provides all of us with this unique time in history. What can we best learn? I suggest it is more personal than we like.

Now is our opportunity to see things about ourselves we otherwise would not have noticed. The perspective from the COVID platform presents a view not available two

months ago. Considering death while still alive is a good thing. Pondering the brevity of life and the limited opportunities we have to influence positive relationships around us is very healthy. The friction of continual sheltering at home exposes selfishness otherwise undetected. Looking inside ourselves isn’t easy or encouraging.



*16 West Main front porch*

The most intelligent people on earth admit they don’t know what’s ahead. What the future holds for all of us in community is anyone’s guess. But there is opportunity for each of us to experience benefits like never before. Individually each of us has been exposed to personal insights never before apparent. Taking care of personal business brought to focus through the difficulties of COVID-19 is something we CAN know and do. Each of us honestly dealing with ourselves provides the greatest opportunity for future community together. Our future community together will look brighter because our personal blindness has been exposed through this hard time. Confession is good for the

soul.

The collective future we call “New Normal” can be something positive to anticipate. There is much we don’t know. But when we do what we can know, Elverson can look back and after COVID-19 declare, “Good Things Come Hard.”

# Container Gardening

Herb Hamilton

**T**he weather has been a roller coaster but it looks like warmer weather is here to stay, finally. Now we can add those splashes of color to our garden and containers without fear of losing plants to freezes or frost. Annuals add consistent color to the garden all summer and into the fall. Using them in containers is one of the easiest ways to add that pop and sizzle around your home and garden.

Larger, heavier containers should be filled and planted where they will be displayed. There's no sense in creating more work for yourself trying to move a large container after it is planted. Pro Tip: Use Styrofoam or other lightweight material to fill the bottom third to half of your large container. This reduces the amount of potting soil that you will need.

Annuals used in containers may be described as



thrillers, fillers and spillers. The thrillers are the taller plants exploding out of the center. Thrillers are the star. The spillers are the trailing plants cascading down the sides. The fillers are the plants tying the thrillers and spillers together.

Thrillers are the centerpiece and good thrillers include upright plants like Cannas, umbrella plants like Elephant Ears and ornamental grasses like Fountain Grass. Fillers add mass while hiding the base of the thriller. Fillers also add texture and color to the overall scheme. Spillers soften your container and complete the planting. Spillers may compliment or contrast the other plants.

Containers give you the chance to express yourself through plants. Visit your local garden center and gather thrillers, fillers and spillers that you find appealing. Play with color and texture and see what works for you. Have fun. It's what playing in the dirt is all about.

## Elections

Primary Election is **June 2nd** at Brick Lane Community Church, 52 South Brick Lane, Elverson from 7AM—8PM.

If you plan to vote through a mail-in ballot, your completed application must be received in the county office by 5PM on May 26th. *Or you may return it directly to the county office by 8PM June 2nd.*

We want to alert you to upcoming activity on our campus.

**On Monday, June 1, there will be a Red Cross Blood Drive from 2 – 7 PM.** Donors are required to make appointments ahead of time and no walk-ins are permitted so that appropriate social distancing can be maintained. Most slots are filled.

On **Tuesday, June 2**, we will again be hosting community polling for the primary election. Both activities are authorized under the current restrictions.

*Please note that only the lower level of the building will be used, which is accessed through the entrance facing Brick Lane.*

Also, planning for reopening the church has begun. A task force is researching and strategizing how and when we can gather again for worship, with a desire to honor God, one another, and our neighbors.

**Dawn A. Kimball, Brick Lane Community Church, 52 S. Brick Lane, Elverson—(610) 286-6790 ext. 112**

## From the CEO & Medical Director of A-Z

Hello Elverson-

I wanted to reach out and share how much Dr. Herring and I appreciate your continued trust and support during this national pandemic. A-Z has continued to follow state and CDC guidelines to ensure the safety of our patients and staff while remaining open and available to Elverson and the surrounding communities for all non-emergency healthcare needs. Even though our hours are a little different during this time, we are still here 7 days a week: **Monday-Friday 9:00 am - 6:00 pm and Weekends 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm.**



nering with Integrated Medical Specialists to bring orthopedic surgical specialists to Elverson. We are also expanding our Primary Care services by adding another primary care provider in July.

A-Z Urgent Care will continue to identify and expand our services so that we can continue to make a difference in this community.

With that in mind, we ask that when you come for urgent care services, please call us at (610) 901-3900 from the parking lot. We will direct you how to proceed so that you can be treated safely without further risk.

Dr. Herring and I are excited to share some new and expanded medical services we are working on. Rolling out COVID-19 antibody testing is our top priority and will be available in the coming weeks. We will communicate the availability of these tests as soon as we have more information. A-Z is also part-

I personally appreciate the overwhelming support from the Elverson community since we opened and look forward to practicing continued patience, compassion, and understanding while navigating this pandemic together.

## Elverson Happenings

*Esther Prosser*

**W**e missed our Memorial Day Ceremony this year because of COVID-19 of course. Flags were added by our Mayor and several military people instead and I think we will appreciate next year's gathering even more because of this year's cancellation. Planning our Elverson Day celebration (scheduled for Saturday, June 27 at the Livingood Park) had begun and then the virus hit. Our committee is rethinking whether to move forward with a modified event (perhaps just music and fireworks?) or reschedule to later in the year. We will keep you posted as things open up in PA and we figure out how to gather safely.

As more of you have been walking our town, I'm sure you've come to appreciate our sidewalks, pathways and trails. We have a committee gathering

funding to connect the trails in Elverson and will share more as our study progresses. Flower pots have been planted, thanks to many who have volunteered to plant and water.



One benefit of the virus is a quieter Main Street. And personally, I have found motorists will accommodate pedestrians more frequently by stopping while we bike or walk across.

We have not forgotten about plans to begin pickle ball in Elverson. It's another event that is on hold for now.

If any of these items interest you, and you would like to become involved, please feel free to call or email me—[esther@stoltzfus.com](mailto:esther@stoltzfus.com), 484.269.7153.

## FRENCH CREEK GOLF CLUB – EMBRACING OUR COMMUNITY

**O**n March 15, 2020, the state of Pennsylvania mandated that many businesses close their doors to limit the spread of COVID-19. French Creek Golf Club (FCGC) abided by the state mandate. Like many seasonal businesses, FCGC was getting ready for both the golf and event season. Many golf tournaments, weddings, and graduation parties take place April-June. FCGC will not have any events during this period. However, FCGC has continued to employ all full-time employees at their regular pay and kept all benefits in place. This represents 90% of the total payroll and related costs. Grass does not know there is a pandemic and continues to grow. Some full-time clubhouse employees moved to the grounds maintenance department during this time.

On April 30, FCGC started take out service and on May 1, the state allowed limited golf play. To help their neighbors, FCGC is now offering take-out service for non- members. Residents can visit [www.frenchcreekgolf.com](http://www.frenchcreekgolf.com) for the menu and ordering instructions. Take out service is available Thursday-Sunday starting at 2pm.

Additionally, starting June 2, French Creek Golf Club will allow those on the front lines who have sacrificed so much to play the course for free. The program is called "Heroes on the Green" and will be available for four players each day Tuesday-Thursday. Hospital, police, fire, and EMT professionals can call the pro shop to arrange to play, 610-913-6330 ext 103.

In these difficult and challenging times, French Creek Golf Club is working to make life a little easier for its neighbors and to reward front line professionals.





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

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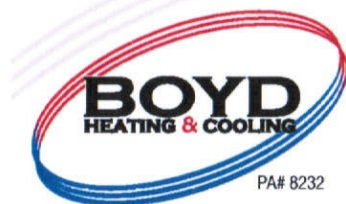
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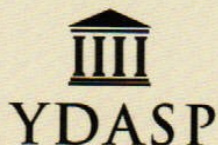
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## BRICK LANE SELF STORAGE

76 South Brick Lane  
Elverson, PA 19520

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## PHOENIX Rehabilitation & Health Services

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



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## Elverson and COVID-19

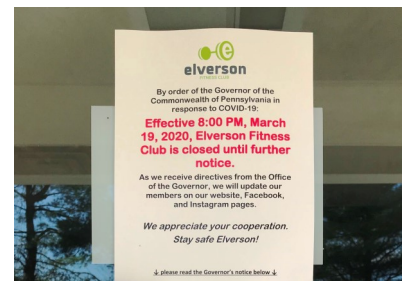
*Donna Mountz*



*Please Wash Me—1 Yeingst Drive*



*Giovanni's—18 W Main*



*Elverson Fitness Club—51 S Pine*



*Stoltzfus Enterprises—26 E Main*



*Front porch—14 W Main*