

East Falls **NOW**

Vol. 4, No. 1

May 2021

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Left, Cal Monast and his poodle, Penny, following Monast's recovery from being struck by a vehicle at Midvale Ave. and Fox St. in January. Right, this is all that remained of a fence at the corner of Fox St. and Queen Ln. after a two-vehicle collision around midnight April 18. Crash photo by Ray Lucci.

Pedestrian is blindsided, injured in crash; April sees a rash of car crashes in East Falls

by John T. Gillespie

With the latest rash of traffic crashes in East Falls creating fears that streets are basically unsafe for driving, pedestrians are finding that some streets might be unsafe for crossing, as well.

Consider the case of Cal Monast and the intersection of Fox St. and Midvale Ave., the site of a number of recent incidents.

Last January 21, Monast and his dog, Penny, were crossing Midvale Ave. at Fox St. when seemingly out of nowhere the driver of a sedan

swung left from Fox onto Midvale, striking Monast on his back and knocking him unconscious to the crosswalk.

Minutes later he came to, face down in a pool of blood, suffering from a broken wrist and lacerations. The driver of the sedan, whose name is being withheld by police, stopped and inquired and later followed up with a phone call. No charges have been filed, and Penny escaped injury.

Three months later, a recovered Monast, 37, recalls "I was walking my dog toward Midvale and Fox, on the Schuylkill River side of the

(Continued on page 2)



The pink sign welcoming customers to Little Miz Cupcake.

Commentary: Cupcake shop now in Sherman Mills

by William Epstein

How much does East Falls like cupcakes?

We're about to find out, with the arrival of Jamie Lloyd and her Little Miz Cupcake business in the upper section of Sherman Mills.

Jamie lives in Mt. Airy but is a native of the nearby

Allegheny West area, where her mother, Margaret Rhodes, who works with her, still lives.

Jamie has been baking professionally since 2011 from her home, catering events and conducting what she calls her "sweet side hustle" at different spots, including selling from a kiosk for one year at the Willow Grove Mall.

(Continued on page 5)

COVID-19 shots available Sat., May 8

If you haven't had the opportunity to get the COVID-19 vaccination -- or if you know someone who hasn't -- here's your chance to get protected and protect those you love.

From 9 am to 1 pm on Saturday, May 8, the Greater Philadelphia Health Action's Hunting Park Health Center and the 39th Police District Chaplains will team up for COVID-19 Vaccination Day.

Pre-registration is required, and can be accomplished in either of two ways:

- Log on to www.gphainc.org

and select the button "COVID-19 Vaccination Request." This will enable you to access the necessary forms. Or,

- You can pick up paper registration forms at the Health Center, 1999 W. Hunting Park Ave., which is the building fronted by a blue awning at the intersection of 20th St. and W. Hunting Park Ave. This is where the vaccination shots will be administered.

Call the Health Center at 888-296-4742 for additional information.

EFCC Zoom meeting Mon., May 10

The monthly EFCC general membership meeting via Zoom is set for 7 pm Monday, May 10, featuring Casey Kuklick, senior staffer at the Philadelphia Horticultural Society. The Zoom link for the meeting will be posted on the EFCC's website.

Regarding the EFCC's grants and nominations for officers for 2021-22, visit the website, www.eastfallscommunity.org.

Thomas Mifflin School getting ready to move on new playground as fundraising reaches \$45g

by Polly Edelstein
for the Friends of Mifflin

At long last, a playground is coming to Mifflin!

After years of research, planning, fundraising, navigating hurdles and negotiating with community members, the Philadelphia School District, teachers, students and more, the Friends of Mifflin (FOM) have announced that a much-awaited playground for the school has moved to the reality stage.

After raising more than \$45,000, the Friends have been informed by the School District's Office of Capital Programs that it generously has agreed to close the gap and push FOM across the finish line of our fundraising

goal. Phase One of the Friends of Mifflin fundraising efforts is complete!

Many people have been part of this playground project, and it would be impossible to thank all of them. Still, we would be remiss in not giving a special thank you to the leadership and members of the East Falls Village. They have been long time supporters of Thomas Mifflin School and also have put in many volunteer hours and specifically donated \$5,000 to making this playground a reality.

In addition to the generous support of East Falls Village, FOM is pleased to report that tens of thousands of dollars were raised from our local neighbors and from a grant from the Lindback Foundation honoring our Principal, Leslie Mason, and her commitment to the community

and her students.

Whether they donated \$5 or \$5,000, many people helped get us to this point and the entire Mifflin community thanks you!

We had anticipated breaking ground this spring, but currently the school board is in a holding pattern on approving playground construction. As soon as we are given approval, we will move forward with our plans.

Please email the president of the Friends of Mifflin, Carla Lewandowski at carla.cue@gmail.com, if you were unable to support our original fundraising efforts for the playground and would like to help or if you have any questions.

Thank you, again, to the East Falls community and everyone who has supported a playground at Mifflin.



Just a few of the Mifflin students who soon will enjoy a playground on the school property.

Your May 2021 East Falls **NOW** Calendar

Visit the East Falls **NOW** Restaurant and Business Guide on Page 10. We'll do our best to keep it up to date on our website and in the weekly emails from the East Falls Community Council. If you don't get those emails, send your email address to info@eastfallscommunity.org.

The East Falls Farmers Market continues every Saturday under the Twin Bridges with its summer hours, 10 am to 2 pm.

1 Saturday

10 am to 2 pm: East Falls Farmers Market under the Twin Bridges

5 Wednesday

6 pm: EF Town Watch meeting with 39th Police District officials for Police Service Area 1. Dial 605-313-5071, code 946071#. (Pgs. 4 and 5)

7 Friday

2 pm: EF Village Zoom program, "Alsace by Bike, then to Paris." (Pg. 6)

8 Saturday

10 am to 2 pm: East Falls Farmers Market under the Twin Bridges

9 Sunday - Happy Mother's Day!

10 Monday

7 pm: EFCC General Membership Meeting, via Zoom. Link posted at www.eastfallscommunity.org. (Pg. 1)

13 Thursday

7 pm: EF Town Watch Zoom meeting. Link posted at www.eastfallscommunity.org. Or call TW

office, 215-848-2033, for log-in information. (Pgs. 4 and 5)

15 Saturday

9 am to 2 pm: EF Town Watch monthly "Litter Crew Ahead" clean-up. (Pgs. 4 and 5)

10 am to 2 pm: East Falls Farmers Market under the Twin Bridges

20 Thursday

3 pm: EF Village Zoom program, "Learn about Green Burials," by West Laurel Hill Cemetery. (Pg. 6)

21 Friday

2 pm: EF Village Zoom program, "Favorite Places -- Islands in the Sun." (Pg. 6)

22 Saturday

10 am to 2 pm: East Falls Farm-

ers Market under the Twin Bridges

24 Monday

6 pm: EF Town Watch 39th Police District-wide meeting; dial 605-313-5071, code 946071#. (Pgs. 4 and 5)

26 Wednesday

4 pm: EF Village Zoom program, "Home Safety Scavenger Hunt." (Pg. 6)

29 Saturday

10 am to 2 pm: East Falls Farmers Market under the Twin Bridges

31 Monday

Happy Memorial Day, with the East Falls **NOW** team's fullest respect for our service members and those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

Pedestrian is blindsided, injured in crash; April sees a rash of car crashes in East Falls

(Continued from page 1)

street. When we reached the intersection, we had a red light, so we stopped and waited for green. I remember because I made my dog sit, which is a bit of a task.

"Once the light turned green, we started out into the intersection in the crosswalk. We got about halfway across the street and that's all I remember."

Neighbors summoned the police and officers filed a report, whose contents have not been made public. The accident interrupted Monast's daily walk routine with his standard poodle, following a route that Penny and Monast have followed hundreds of times, starting from his home in the 3300 block of W. Penn St. to Fox, across Midvale to W. Coulter via Stokley St.,

down W. Coulter to Netherfield Rd., around Netherfield, then back to W. Penn St. via McMichael St. He has since resumed the route with Penny.

Traffic watchers such as Ray Lucci, chair of the East Falls Community Council's Traffic Committee, say the accident points up the existential threat Fallers face in the absence of enforcement of the traffic laws, distracted drivers, and less than optimally safe streets.

"He's very lucky to be alive," he says.

It would take a splint at Einstein Hospital, a permanent metal plate at Rothman Orthopedic Institute and weeks of physical therapy to repair the wrist. It would take more than that to relieve Monast's anxiety and

restore his confidence in the safety of East Falls' streets. He and his wife, Sarah, have lived on W. Penn St for six years and say they love East Falls, apart from the "aggressive" drivers.

One might well ask how a driver can make a left turn without seeing and hitting a 6'2" man wearing a bright red and blue hat. But that is what happened.

The Philadelphia Streets Department and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation have taken steps to curb speeding and reckless driving in East Falls by installing speed cushions on stretches of Queen Ln., W. School House Ln. and W. Coulter St. The process is slow and requires 75 percent approval by residents via signed petition, plus evidence

that at least 85 percent of vehicles traveling the street are going faster than 10 miles above the posted limit of 25 mph. Critics chafe at the requirements, claiming that they are excessive and an impediment to progress on safer streets.

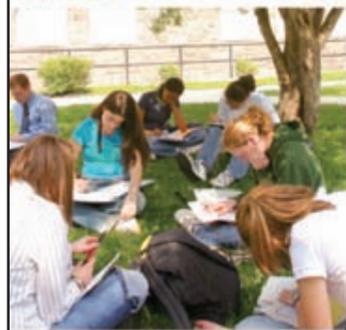
The Streets Department instituted the residential approval requirement for speed cushions -- first it was 70 percent, now it's 75 percent -- following the rancorous introduction of cushions on W. School House Lane several years ago.

Some residents complained they hadn't been given adequate notice and didn't want or need the cushions. The controversy highlighted a rift between America's auto-centric culture and those who favor adjustments to that culture for safety and environmental reasons.

Geoff Brock, who lives at Fox and W. Coulter Sts., a block from where Monast was struck, can observe cars running the stops signs on W. Coulter from his front porch all day long. "Virtually, nobody stops," he says. "Some cars come to a rolling stop; others just fly by."

As he is talking, a household security camera is recording the stop sign violators from his porch.

April turned out to be a busy month for vehicle crashes in East Falls. The most serious cost a dirt bike rider his life when he was struck by a car at Henry and Roberts Aves. Another crash involving two vehicles at around midnight Sunday, April 18 took place at Fox St. and Midvale Ave. And a third took place at Queen Ln. and Fox St.



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Volunteering in the Community

The City of Philadelphia has set up a warehouse to partner with local food pantries to assist with getting meals to the City's most vulnerable population during the COVID-19 pandemic. This warehouse will be the main hub through which food will be sorted, packed, and distributed.

Volunteers will work in teams of 6 to 10 people to sort food and pack meals. The City is committed to keeping volunteers safe through practicing social distancing and following guidelines from the CDC and the Philadelphia Department of Public Health. Ages 18 and up. 10 AM to 12 PM.

For more information, go to forphilly.com

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EF **NOW** heads to the next three years...ready for the next step

With this issue, East Falls **NOW** begins its fourth year of publication.

As it does, some history:

It was a little more than three years ago that the members of the East Falls Community Council's Executive Committee were sitting on the front porch of my Penn St. home for our monthly meeting -- meetings that I plead guilty to convening on a less than monthly basis.

My successor, Emily Nichols, has been much more effective in this regard.

That aside, on that warm early spring night we were having one of our periodic discussions about how the Community Council needed a monthly newspaper to replace Julie Cam-

burn's privately published newspaper, The Fallser, which had ceased operations.

Our negotiations to purchase The Fallser had stretched over more than a year, and had



A message from the Co-Editor

by Bill Epstein

proven unsuccessful. While we had succeeded in stepping up our electronic presence with a weekly email under the direction of Larry Benjamin and then Christina Spolsky -- an elec-

tronic presence first established years earlier by Chris Caporellie -- at this point we were operating without a regular printed voice.

On that April night on my front porch, Chris -- long-time EFCC volunteer on many fronts -- articulated the need for the community council to produce a printed publication to serve the organizations and residents of our community. We knew Chris was right.

He volunteered to chair the advertising effort. John Gillespie volunteered to help with the news and editing tasks. And thus was born East Falls **NOW**.

Thirty-six issues later, we're still here. Many people helped set us up. Many others have

offered ideas, monthly editorial submissions, advertising leads and better yet real advertising. We're grateful for such support.

Our goal was to provide a neighborhood voice for East Falls, without putting the meager treasury of the EFCC at risk. We hoped to make a few bucks for the EFCC along the way.

With considerable effort, we have succeeded.

Little did we know in 2018 that a pandemic would wipe out the EFCC's large crowd events -- mainly the annual June flea market -- that provide most of the funds to operate the EFCC. And we certainly didn't know that we would create a just-above-cost operation that would make up the difference for the

EFCC's treasury.

This is a long way of saying that while East Falls **NOW** is on solid footing, we're looking for help to take the next step.

Advertising always comes and goes. We need to make sure that more is coming than going. And every newspaper in the world can use good story ideas.

So that's where we are as we enter our fourth year of publication. We think we're going to continue to be in okay shape. But we'd like some help making sure.

Don't be shy. You can reach Chris Caporellie at ads@eastfallsnow.com, and John Gillespie and me at editor@eastfallsnow.com.

Please enjoy this, the first issue of our fourth year.

Proposed amendments would limit emergency declarations

Yes or No?

State constitutional amendments are a serious matter. I swore an oath to uphold said constitution, and it is the ultimate governing document for our Commonwealth.

If a proposed constitutional amendment passes both chambers in two consecutive sessions of the General Assembly, the amendment is placed on the ballot for voters to decide.

Three such amendments will appear on the ballot on Tuesday, May 18.

Even though Pennsylvania is a closed primary state, independent or non-affiliated and third-party voters can vote on ballot questions in the primary election, and I strongly urge all eligible citizens to exercise their right to vote on these critically important matters.

SB2 has successfully passed both chambers this session -- within the first four weeks of the start of session -- and had already passed last session.

SB2 is a resolution that contains three separate proposed constitutional amendments. Please note that I was a "no" vote on SB2.

Here's a description of these amendments, including the exact language of the ballot questions.

The first question would amend Article IV in the constitution (relating to the executive branch) by adding Section 20 relating to disaster emergency declaration and management. It would authorize the Governor to declare a state of disaster emergency in response to conditions in the Commonwealth. Such a declaration of a disaster emergency could last no longer than 21 days, unless extended by the General Assembly.

Ballot Question 1: Shall the Pennsylvania Constitution be amended to change existing law so that: a disaster emergency declaration will expire automatically after 21 days, regardless of the severity of the emergency, unless the General Assembly takes action to extend the disaster emergency; the Governor may not declare a new disaster emergency to respond to the dangers facing the Commonwealth unless the General Assembly passes a concurrent resolution; the General Assembly enacts new laws for disaster management?

This amendment would limit a disaster emergency declaration to 21 days. If that declaration needs to be extended it would require action of the

General Assembly. Currently, the Governor can extend emergency declarations without legislative action.

Having served in the House for the past 10 years, there is nothing more concerning than what is being proposed by this constitutional amendment. As I reflect on the severe and impactful consequences of COVID-19, a pandemic, and further reflect on my colleagues



Pam's Viewpoint

by St. Rep. Pamela A. DeLissio

who do not fully embrace the science behind the pandemic -- or the mitigation efforts intended to preserve public safety and health -- I would be alarmed at the prospect of placing such a decision in the hands of 253 individually elected officials (collectively the PA House and Senate) who would have limited and or varying access to the expertise required to make the most informed decisions regarding an emergency for our commonwealth.

This action of the General Assembly could not be vetoed by the Governor.

Keep in mind that these decisions would be time sensitive and could ostensibly be politically motivated.

A second ballot question amends Article I relating to the Declaration of Rights by adding a Section 29, which would prohibit the denial or abridgement of equality of rights based on race or ethnicity of an individual.

Ballot Question 2: Shall the Pennsylvania Constitution be amended by adding a new section providing that equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged because of an individual's race or ethnicity?

This already is covered in statute and an amendment was introduced to include the inability to deny equality based on gender identity or sexual orientation. That amendment was defeated.

The third ballot question amends Section 9 of Article III relating to Legislation to establish that a resolution terminating or extending a disaster emergency declaration, including a portion thereof, need not be presented to the Governor.

Ballot Question 3: Shall the Pennsylvania Constitution be amended to change existing law and increase the power of the General Assembly to unilaterally terminate or extend a disaster emergency declaration—and the powers of Commonwealth agencies to address the disaster regardless of its severity pursuant to that declaration—through passing a concurrent resolution by simple majority, thereby removing the existing check and balance of presenting a resolution to the Governor for approval or disapproval?

In plain English, this amendment states that the legislative action regarding extending or not extending an emergency declaration cannot be vetoed by the Governor.

If you want to vote via mail-in ballot, please make sure you apply for that ballot as soon as possible. You must apply annually. My office can mail you a mail-in ballot application or you can apply online at www.VotesPA.com.

As always, I am interested in your thoughts and ideas about state government. You can reach me at 215-482-8726 or at RepDeLissio@pahouse.net.

East Falls **NOW**

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Your East Falls Community Council Executive Committee:

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Ray Lucci, Member at-large, Executive Committee and Traffic Committee Chair

Linda Norris, Member at-large, Executive Committee

William Epstein, Immediate Past President

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EAST FALLS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Volunteer powered, the East Falls Community Council represents the interests of the people of East Falls. We improve our quality of life through the work of our Zoning and Traffic committees, and by supporting:

- EF Town Watch • Friends of Mifflin
- Falls of Schuylkill Library • EF Village • Grants
- EF Tree Tenders • EF Sports Association
- EF Historical Society • McMichael Park
- Inn Yard Park • EF Community Garden
- Solarize East Falls • EF Dog Park, coming soon

We also sponsor events that improve and bring together our community:

- Mifflin Arboretum Clean-up • EF Flea Market
- Fallser Fest 2018 • Holiday Sing • EF House Tour

Use a credit card or PayPal online at www.eastfallscommunity.org or mail a check to:

EFCC, PO Box 12672, Philadelphia, PA 19129

East Falls Town Watch maintains pressure on litter and graffiti vandals

East Falls Town Watch had a busy month removing graffiti and litter throughout East Falls, including participating in the city-wide Philly Spring Clean-up on April 10.

Below, taking part in the effort -- focused on the Roberts and Wissahickon Aves. area -- were, kneeling from left,

Andrea Sunderland, Madelyn Koch and Monica Czuczman; in rear from left, Janine Kratz, Sara Sabatino, George Savior, Lavelly Twyman, Marie Filipponi and Cory Czuczman. Not photographed but participating were Ben Stravinsky, Mary Jean Cunningham, and Denise Smylie. Below, right, Cheryl and Steven Edwards,

of the 2600 block of Roberts Ave., also joined the April 10 effort.

Graffiti removal efforts are ongoing. For information contact eastfallstownwatch@gmail.com.

The May EF Town Watch calendar:

Wed., May 5, 6 pm: EFTW
(Continued on page 5)



Franz Ostertag signs in for EF Town Watch 'Litter Crew Ahead' Clean-up.



Trevor and Emma Baley at EFTW's every-third-Saturday "Litter Crew Ahead" clean-up, which on April 17 took place along Henry Ave.



Pitching in for the East Falls Town Watch clean-up on Calumet St. were, from left, Chris Bauer, Franz Ostertag and Sebastian Esquivel.



Joining the April 17 effort were, from left, Wendy Moody, Michele Montalvo and Daphne Hanford, and Joan McIlvaine.

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East Falls Town Watch

(Continued from page 4) telephone meeting with Lt. Sean Bascom from the 39th Police District's Service Area 1, covering East Falls. Call 605-313-5071, code 946071#.

Thurs., May 13, 7 pm: Monthly Town Watch meeting. See www.eastfallscommunity.org for Zoom link.

Sat., May 15, 9 am to 2 pm: Monthly "Litter Crew Ahead" community cleanup in two shifts and two locals. From 9 to 11 am meet at the intersection of Queen Ln. and

Wissahickon Ave. From 12 noon to 2 pm TW will set up at School House Ln. and Ridge Ave. For both shifts TW will provide bags, gloves, tools, safety vests, soap, water and hand sanitizer. Please wear masks.

Mon., May 24, 6 pm: Telephone meeting with 39th Police District Capt. Anthony Ginaldi. Call 605-313-5071, code 946071#.

Photos by Jessica Esquivel, Bill Epstein and Mary Jane Fullam.



Covering over graffiti on trestles below the Roosevelt Extension of the Schuylkill Expressway as part of EF Town Watch's effort to wipe out vandalism in the community are Andrea Sunderland, top, and Ivan Dmochowski.



Jamie Lloyd, proprietor, at her bookcase. Every youngster who visits has the option of leaving with a book.



The display of iced cupcakes, cupcake parfaits and cheesecakes at Little Miz Cupcake.

Little Miz Cupcake opens in Sherman Mills

(Continued from page 1)

But Jamie decided to open a store closer to home in early March of this year.

And what a pink-centric store it is.

Jamie and her mother produce a range of 25 flavors of cupcakes, along with cupcake parfaits and cheesecakes. Her sister, Myzette Lloyd, staffs the customer side.

Her biggest seller, Jamie says, is the banana pudding cupcake, although I found it impossible to leave without trying one of her cookie and cream creations -- and was not disappointed.

"Everyone has embraced us since we opened," Jamie says. "People have been happy to know that we are here, and

business has been good."

The store -- her first place to bake outside of her home -- combines Jamie's baking talent and her interest in education, both of which trace back to her youngest years.

She was a student at the Whittier Elementary School, at 2600 Clearfield St., when the divisive debate over busing for school desegregation broke out in the 1970's. On the first day she was bused to the Spruance Elementary School in Northeast Philadelphia, she found herself to be the only black child in the class.

"I came home and told my mother that I wasn't going back," Jamie told East Falls NOW.

"But my mother said, "You are going back. The world is a bigger place than North Philadelphia, and you're getting on that bus tomorrow."

She did, and she said she "finally got it," making friends and having to take three buses to get to their birthday parties in the Northeast. It led to lifelong friends at Hallahan -- the country's first diocesan Catholic high school -- followed by a degree in criminal justice from Temple University and a master's degree in education from Rosemont College.

That accounts for the bookshelf in the store. Every youngster who enters can select a book to take home and keep -- sure to last longer than the cupcakes that accompany the books.

Jamie taught at the Richard Allen Charter School for five years, but all along had an interest in baking nurtured by her late father, who had been a cook in the Marines. That led to her second career as Little Miz Cupcake, and her arrival in East Falls. She's now getting ready to prepare Mother's Day cakes -- sized six and nine inches. Visit or call for details.

Good luck to the newest business in East Falls!

Little Miz Cupcake
Building 21,
Sherman Mills
12 to 6 pm Thursday
through Sunday
215-960-7684



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West Laurel Hill Cemetery's Nature Sanctuary, the award-winning green burial area, will be featured in an EF Village Zoom program on May 20.

Meeting French designer Coco Chanel

As part of a recent *Books, Books, Book!* program sponsored by East Falls Village, Chanel's *Riviera* by Anne de Courcy was discussed. Village member Frankie Jueds read the following report, sent to her by an old college friend, Jeffie Pike, whose mother, Marion Pike was a well-known artist and close friend of Chanel. Jeffie's account:

In 1968, my mother took me to Paris, where we met Coco Chanel. To my mother's dismay, all I had to wear were mini-skirts. Apparently Chanel had a horror of mini-skirts.

Nevertheless, off we went to the Rue Cambon, into the Chanel boutique on the first floor, up the curved staircase to Chanel's private sitting room. She was sitting on a suede couch reading her horoscope, with a Coca Cola bottle within reach. She had on a hat with a jeweled pin, an assortment of chain necklaces, and a gold maltese cross. And no expression at

all on her face. She nodded in greeting and indicated with a little wave a straight-backed chair for me.

Then with considerably more warmth, she patted the couch next to her for my mother to sit. Without another glance at me she began talking to my mother in such a low voice I could not hear a word. I sat in exile trying to figure out how to pull my dress down over my knees.

Chanel was famous for her jealousies. She did not like anyone close to her (my mother) to be close to anyone else (me). We had dinner at the Ritz, across the street, in her apartment. The pattern held, Chanel talking exclusively to my mother while I tried to disappear.

That night when my mother called Chanel to say good night, Chanel told her that she had observed me carefully and decided she liked me. In her experience most mothers and daughters were jealous of each other and the relationship was full of con-



Portrait of Chanel by Marion Pike.

flict. What she said she saw was a daughter who looked at her mother with such kind eyes.

I was invited to lunch the next day. She asked to see a photo of my son and said she missed having a child herself. She showed the little photo around, giving it little kisses. At the same time, she seemed quite dissatisfied with me. Fussing and poking

(Continued on page 8)

EF Village resumes rides and tech help for members

by Mary Flournoy

Neighborhood virtual villages were founded to help older residents stay in their own homes as long as possible.

While each of the 280 villages across the country differs, almost all offer rides to their members -- rides to medical appointments and sometimes grocery shopping. This service has been a lifeline for some members.

The East Falls Village ride service has been on hold for more than a year due to the pandemic, but now many of our volunteer drivers have been vaccinated and are willing to drive again.

Another service that East Falls Village offers to its members is Tech Help. The volunteer members of the Tech Team provided some over-the-phone help during the pandemic, but they, too, have been vaccinated and are able to make house calls to help members with computer, printer, phone and even TV issues. One EF Village member said, "An hour of tech help is worth our annual dues."

These services are just for members of East Falls Village. If you are not a member, but are interested in joining, see the "How to Join" section of www.eastfallsvillage.org for more information, and a link to both the online and paper applications. You can join online and pay dues with a credit card. For a copy of our new membership brochure and application, call 267-444-4507.

Zoom Programs

"Alsace by Bike. Then on to Paris" is the topic of a Zoom presentation by Village members Kathi and Rick DiMenna on Friday, May 7 at 2 pm.

The DiMennas spent a year living near Strasbourg in the early '80s before returning to East Falls, and decided on a return visit to France, this time touring by bicycle. Several years ago, they shared slides of another European bike trip with the EF Village --

offering interesting anecdotes, beautiful slides and tips on touring by bike in Europe.

"Favorite Places -- Islands in the Sun" will be the topic of another travel-related program presented by EFV members, each sharing photos and what is special about their favorite Caribbean island that draws them back year after year. The featured islands will be Virgin Gorda, Anguila, and Provo in the Turks and Caicos. This program will be Friday, May 21 at 2 pm.

"Learn about Green Burials with a Team of Professionals from West Laurel Hill Cemetery" is set for Thursday, May 20 at 3 pm. The presentation will include an introduction to the "green" funerary movement and the trends of "green" or natural funeral and burial services for end-of-life planning.

In addition, West Laurel Hill's lead horticulturist will discuss the development and maintenance of the cemetery's award-winning "green" burial section, Nature's Sanctuary, the first cemetery to receive the SITES Gold Certification from the Green Business Certification Inc.

During this virtual presentation, we will explore cultural understandings of death as it relates to the environment and its impacts on the deceased. A Q&A session will follow the presentation.

The graduate Occupational Therapy students from Jefferson University will present a "Home Safety Scavenger Hunt" on Wednesday, May 26 at 4 pm.

Learn how to identify and rectify potential home safety and fall hazards from the comfort of your own home. Registrants will receive a handout in advance to print.

Register for these Zoom programs by emailing info@eastfallsvillage.org ahead of time. These programs are open to all -- EF Village members and non-members.

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- Saturday, May 15th at 4800 Parkside Ave.
- Saturday, June 19th at Domino Ln. & Umbria St.
- Friday, July 16th at 8401 State Rd. at Ashburner St.
- Saturday, Sept 25th at 22nd St. & York St.
- Saturday, Oct 9th at 3033 South 63rd St.
- Saturday, Nov 6th at 3901 Delaware Ave.



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A dead Fox Sparrow after it hit a window overnight in Center City while migrating north for the summer.

High-rise building lights cause tragic end for birds – but a hopeful solution exists

One morning last October, hundreds of birds were found dead all over the city, with the largest concentrations of dead birds found in Center City.

Fall migration, when birds migrate south for the winter, happens at least partly in October, and all of these dead birds were heading to their wintering grounds before their journeys were cut cruelly short in Philly.

These birds didn't end up dead due to an intentional act of malice on anyone's part, but they were collateral damage to our way of life.

Many birds, especially songbirds, migrate at night. On good migratory days, nights with good weather conditions and strong tailwinds, you'll have thousands upon thousands of birds of many species migrating high above us as we sleep. Often these migrating birds even show on weather radar.

They use the stars to guide them on their way south. But city lights can disorient birds, and often they are attracted to the lights on our buildings and homes. Cloudy days exacerbate this phenomenon, because the stars are not as visible, but the city lights are.

Night-migrating birds are attracted to these lights, which result in them colliding with the big glass windows of many of our modern buildings. Colliding with these buildings at such high speeds is fatal for the birds and they

end up dead at the foot of these buildings. This perfect storm of events is what led to the massive die-off last October.

While I started this story on a grim note, there is hope. Many local bird and science organizations teamed up after this event to start the Bird Safe Philly project and the Lights Out initiative.

Under this initiative, build-

the thousands of homes in residential areas.

You can help by turning off outside light or by using motion detected lights outside. You can close your blinds at night so that birds aren't attracted to the lights through your windows, and also use the right tools to make your windows visible to birds.

You can spread the word by letting your neighbors, friends and family know about the dangers of light pollution to migrating birds, in person, on social media and at neighborhood events. Do the same at your workplaces.

You also can encourage the city and other property owners to use lights that direct the light downwards and don't leak light into the night sky. You can report dead birds that you might find. You can find out more and pledge to make your house bird safe at birdsafephilly.org

And while I've talked mostly about light pollution's effect on birds, it also affects many other creatures from fireflies and moths, to bats and other nighttime critters. Watch out for more in a later article.

In other news, if you are reading this before May 3rd, be sure to participate in the City Nature Challenge from April 30 to May 3rd -- a worldwide effort to take photos of plants, birds, insects and other wildlife using the iNaturalist app. More info at cncphilly.org.



Navin on Nature

by Navin Sasikumar

ing owners and tenants are asked to voluntarily switch off their lights from midnight to 6 am from April 1 through May 31 during the spring migration, and from Aug. 15 to Nov. 15's fall migration. This will reduce, though not eliminate, nighttime bird window collisions.

This program has seen some early success, with the owners of 20 or so buildings, including the Comcast Center and Liberty Places, participating. I hope to see even more buildings taking part in this initiative.

While large concentrations of dead birds are found in dense areas such as Center City, a significant number of birds also are affected across

Love Your Park Day set for Sat., May 8; activities ramp up in McMichael Park

by Rich Lampert

Spring has been in full swing in McMichael Park, and not just the kids who have been swinging and climbing in the Play-Space.

Carla Lewandowski and a group of families got the month of April off to an energetic start with an Easter Egg

Or, you can register by googling Love Your Park, selecting Love Your Park Week and then McMichael Park.

Plans for Memorial Day were pending at East Falls NOW press time. Again, please follow us on Facebook, and we'll provide the details.

Any questions or concerns? Drop us a note at McMichael-Park@gmail.com.



Lots of kids, lots of Easter eggs and lots of fun in McMichael Park.

hunt. It wasn't a Friends of McMichael Park activity, but it was certainly a welcome activity.

Then came the cherry blossoms and the leaves on the deciduous trees – and of course the infernal onion grass. East Falls wouldn't be East Falls without a heavy crop of onion grass.

For Friends of McMichael Park, the month of May brings two major events – Love Your Park Day and Memorial Day.

Love Your Park Day, scheduled for May 8 with a rain date of May 15, is our community's chance to give the park a good dose of hands-on attention -- planting, weeding, mulching, pruning and generally tidying up.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we're limited to just 25 volunteers, and at press time a lot of the slots were already taken. If you'd like to volunteer, please see posts on our Facebook page, McMichael Park East Falls, for a link to the simple online registration page. Once you're registered, you'll receive emails with further instructions.



**Take part in the monthly
East Falls Town Watch meeting
7 pm Thursday, May 13. Zoom link at
www.eastfallscommunity.org**



**East Falls
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*Discovering, Preserving and Appreciating
the History of East Falls*

**Special Program: Mid-Century Modern Houses of
School House Lane in their Context**
David Breiner, PhD
June 1, 6:30 PM, via Zoom
See article in this issue, and our website



And, support us as a member!
Find the membership form on our website, or email.
For all inquiries: eastfallshistory@gmail.com.
Eastfallshistoricalsociety.org And, visit us on Facebook!

MAY! A Fun Month for Kids at the Library (Virtually)

The Falls Library may not yet be open (word is mid-May) but Children's Librarian Meredith McGovern organized these fun activities:

May 6
10 AM *ALL AGES
WELCOME*

Virtual Pet Party!
In honor of National Pet Month, Children will hear a story about pets then show and tell about their real pets or favorite stuffed animals.

May 26
4PM *AGES 10-13*

Virtual Chapter Book Club
Participants read a book each month which they receive for free and keep. Activities are designed around the book. Meetings are also set for June and July.

For details check the Falls Library Facebook page or email Ms. Meredith at mcgovernm@freelibrary.org. Funds raised by the Friends of the Falls of Schuylkill Library support the Chapter Book Club.

The Library is the Heart of East Falls
www.eastfallslibraryfriends.org

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Kitchen Corner

Here's an easy to make cake for Mother's Day

by Anne Farnese

Snacking Cakes by Yossy Arefi is a sure-to-please Mother's Day gift for a mom who loves to bake. Arefi describes a snacking cake as "A single layer cake, probably square, covered with a simple icing -- or nothing at all -- and it must be truly easy to make."

The recipes in Snacking Cakes eliminate the need for a mixer and the time-consuming direction to soften butter

der
¼ teaspoon baking soda

1. Position rack in center of oven and heat to 350°F. Butter or coat a 9-inch round cakepan with nonstick spray. Line bottom of pan with parchment.

2. Zest lemon directly into a large mixing bowl. Add ¾ cup (150 g) sugar and the eggs. Whisk until pale and foamy, about one minute.

3. Add sour cream, butter, vanilla and salt. Whisk until



Perfect for Mother's Day -- a Lemony Currant Cake.

then cream it with sugar and eggs. Arefi's one-bowl recipes use neutral flavored oil or melted butter, which speeds the mixing process. Each recipe includes a useful sidebar with three headings: Use Another Pan, Flavor Variations and Dress It Up.

Kitchen Corner recommends serving this luscious cake for a Mother's Day brunch or tea. It's so delicious, there's no need to dress it up.

Lemony Currant Cake

1 lemon
¾ cup (150g) plus 2 teaspoons sugar
2 large eggs
½ cup (110g) sour cream
½ cup (113g) butter, melted
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
¾ teaspoon salt
1½ cups (190g) all-purpose flour
¾ cup (110g) dried currants
1½ teaspoons baking pow-

smooth.

4. Add flour, currants, baking powder and baking soda; stir with a rubberspatula until well-combined and smooth.

5. Pour batter into the prepared pan and tap the pan gently on the counter to release air bubbles. Smooth the top of batter with an offset spatula. Sprinkle the remaining two teaspoons sugar over the top.

6. Bake the cake until puffed and golden and a tester inserted in the center comes out clean, 35 to 45 minutes.

7. Set pan on a rack to cool for about 15 minutes. Invert cake on a rack, peel off parchment. Use a clean rack and invert cake again so it is right side up. Cool completely. Store cake well-wrapped at room temperature for up to three days.



An example of a School House Ln. Mid-Century modern house that will be the subject of an EF Historical Society Zoom program on June 1.

EFHS sets June 1 Zoom program on School House Lane homes

The East Falls Historical Society will present an illustrated zoom talk, Mid-Century Modern Houses of School House Lane in their Context, directed by Dr.

David Breiner at 6:30 pm Tuesday, June 1. The program is free and all are welcome.

Breiner, Associate Dean of the College of Architecture and the Built Environment at Thomas Jefferson University's East Falls campus, will give a brief history of "School

Lane Hills" and two adjacent estates, and the houses that were built on them along W. School House Ln., Timber Ln., Apalogen Rd. and Gypsy Ln.

Selecting examples of houses that represent the Mid-Century Modern style, most popular from the 1940s to the 1960s, he will discuss the characteristics of this architecture, the local architects who designed these houses, and a bit about the people who bought them.

Dr. Breiner's research is part of a planned book, School House Lane, which is near completion.

This presentation received enthusiastic feedback when a version of it was presented in March for the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia.

The Zoom link for this program will be posted on the East Falls Historical Society website, eastfallshistoricalociety.org, on May 31, and will be sent by email to members.

Meeting Coco Chanel

(Continued from page 6)
and pulling at my dress she sighed with exasperation. Finally, I said I had got the dress in New York off the rack. Her reply was "ca ce voit" -- one can see that.

We had dinner with Chanel nearly every night for 3 weeks. Her presence was extraordinary. The stiff expressionless figure I first saw, when she was taking my measure, never reappeared. For the rest of my visit she was like a myth maker, a

prankster, an actress. My mother told me she had 1,001 stories about who she was, why she was here, and where she was going, making up different versions of all her stories for different people.

One story she told me was about a quarrel she had with the Duke of Westminster while aboard his yacht. She went off to her cabin in a huff. He appeared with an emerald bracelet to make up -- which she promptly threw out the porthole to show him



Portrait of Ronald Reagan, by Marion Pike, on the Oct. 7, 1966 issue of Time Magazine and now in the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, DC.

she was not for sale.

I remember she told me "What is important is not what you do, but who you are."

Frankie Jueds' friend and narrator is Jeffie Pike whose mother, Marion Pike (1913-1998), was a distinguished portrait painter with a studio in Paris. A mutual friend introduced her to Coco Chanel and they formed a close bond. Ms. Pike's portraits include many of Chanel and of other well-known people of the time. Her portrait of Ronald Reagan appeared on the cover of Time magazine on Oct. 7, 1966 and is now in the National Portrait Gallery.

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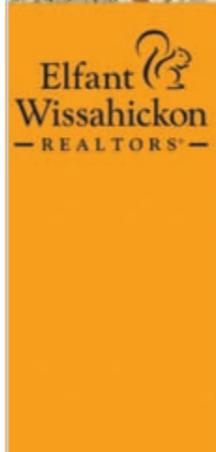
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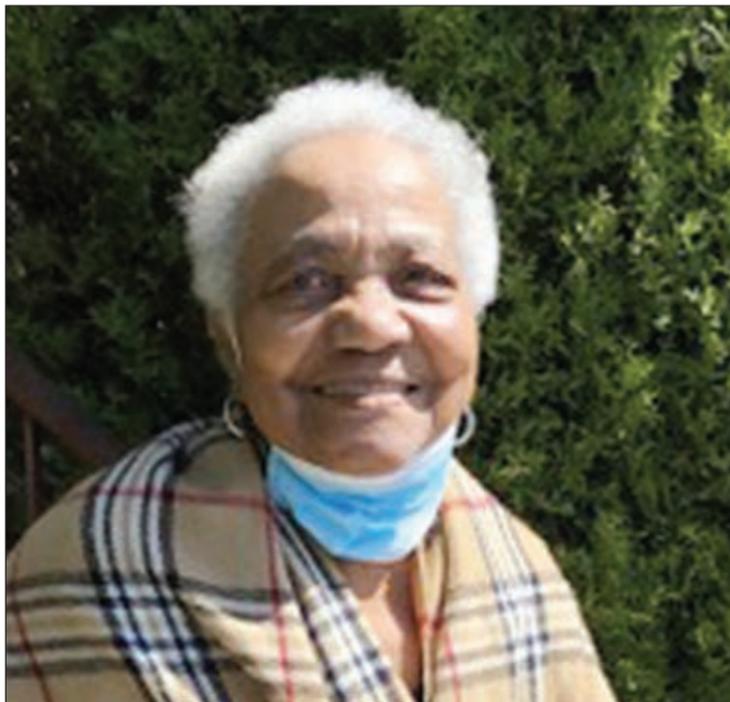
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Abbottsford residents -- past and present -- describe life in the Philadelphia Housing Authority homes originally designed for families of World War II civilians working at nearby factories manufacturing supplies for the war effort. Above is Lorraine Brown; below is Audrey Hood.



Abbottsford Homes: A rich history and an evolving neighborhood

by Rich Lampert and Wendy Moody

Last month's column by the East Falls Historical Society (EFHS) described the origins of Abbottsford Homes, built during World War II on an estate formerly owned by the family of James Dobson, one of the owners of Dobson Mills. This column explores what it was like to live at Abbottsford Homes, as seen through the eyes of two people who lived there during different eras.

Lorraine Brown was interviewed in 2019 by Katy Hine, President of the EFHS, and Wendy Moody, EFHS Oral History Chair. A telephone interview with Audrey Hood was conducted recently by Wendy, thanks to an introduction by Linda Norris.

Brown lived at Abbottsford for about three years starting in 1953, moving there shortly after the federal government sold the complex to the Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA.) The city agency envisioned using it as housing for veterans.

Brown, married and with her second child on the way, moved to an apartment on Defense Terrace, one of the streets named to honor veterans, and paid \$50 per month. She recalls, "There were very few people who were not white."

The two-bedroom apartment was spartan. News reports stated that there were no doors on the closets - only a curtain rod on which a resident could put their own curtain. An open area called "the gully" was available for walking and sports. There was no playground, although one was built later. There was an onsite grocery store. Brown recalled, "It was no Giant, just one person waiting on you at a counter."

Brown recalls a warm community, bonded by the shared experiences of the veterans. She said of the

veterans: "[Abbottsford] gave me a new sense of what these people went through and what turmoil they must have lived. And I think this quieted them. They were patriots -- on holidays with flags, they didn't disappoint."

Unfortunately for Brown and her family, pressure was building on PHA to restrict Abbottsford Homes to low-income renters. Brown moved before Abbottsford was formally designated for low-income people, but she

for monthly resident meetings. There used to be a lot going on here -- Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, an Abbottsford parade, a Miss Abbottsford contest."

Did Abbottsford residents consider themselves part of East Falls? Hood said: "My children used the Falls Library and went to Mifflin School, where I served as President of the Home & School Association. But if you asked me where I lived, I would tend to say Abbottsford, not East Falls."

Hood has seen changes over the 63 years she has lived at Abbottsford. "Families started breaking up and women moved in with their boyfriends. There were some cases of domestic abuse and some drugs. Gradually, over five or six years, most of the white families left."

While the erstwhile Schuylkill Falls project on Ridge Ave. near the river was undergoing its radical and contentious makeover into Falls Ridge, Abbottsford underwent its own significant physical change, most obviously the reduction in total units from 700 to 236. Hood recalls, "My house was one of [those that were demolished], and I moved to another unit. In my new unit there is no room to store anything. The Housing Authority made promises they didn't keep, saying they would rebuild the houses that were torn down, but this still hasn't happened. I miss my old house, and I'm disenchanted."

Still, Ms. Hood says, "I feel safe at Abbottsford -- everybody knows everybody and we look out for each other."

And Abbottsford continues to be an integral neighborhood with ties to the East Falls community.



East Falls
Historical Society

recalls moving "in the middle of the transition -- people were leaving and coming."

Audrey Hood moved to Abbottsford in 1958, and still lives there. She applied to move there after noticing the homes when taking her children to the Woman's Medical College pediatric clinic on the opposite side of Henry Ave. By then, the apartments did have closet doors and cabinets, but tenants had to purchase their own washing machines.

She recalls that most of the families in 1958 were white, although the proportion of white families declined steadily. "When we moved there it seemed like a summer resort," Hood remembered. "There were white picket fences, a playground, a basketball court, a little grocery store and a community center with a big room

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East Falls **NOW** Restaurant Guide - Page 10

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Membership

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East Falls **NOW** MAY 2021 Restaurant and Business Guide

East Falls **NOW** and the East Falls Community Council present this service to our readers and to the restaurant owners and workers in our community.

Please visit www.eastfallscommunity.org for the latest information. We'll update this alphabetical guide regularly. For questions or to change or add information, please email us at editor@eastfallsnow.com.

We'll also carry this guide in the EFCC's weekly emails. If you don't get them, send your email address to the same address, editor@eastfallsnow.com.

At this time restaurants are permitted to operate with outdoor seating and indoor seating limited to 25 or 50 percent of capacity, depending on ventilation, with no more than four people of the same household to a table. Take-out and, in some cases, delivery, are available. Alcohol can be served at tables, but seating or standing at bars is not permitted. Masks must be worn while entering and exiting the premises.

4th Street Famous Cookies, 4177 Ridge Ave., 215-625-9870 or www.famouscookies.com; order 9 am to 3 pm Mon. to Thurs., 9 am to 1 pm Fri.; Grub Hub.

Apollo's Pizza, 3542 Conrad St., 215-842-0178; take-out 11:30 am to 8:30 pm Mon. to Sat. Closed Sun.

Black Squirrel, 3749 Midvale Ave.; plans to open as soon as allowed with an English pub-style menu.

Cranky Joes, 3501 Indian Queen Ln., 215-844-5626; 11 am to 10 pm. Call for take-out food and beer.

East Falls Deli, Conrad and Tilden Sts.; 267-297-5746; order online at www.fallsdeliphilly.com; takeout and delivery; 7 am to 3 pm, Mon. to Tues.; 7 am to 7 pm, Wed. to Sun; limited indoor seating.

East Falls Farmers Market, under the Twin Bridges between Kelly Dr. and

Ridge Ave., 11 am to 1 pm Sat.

Fiorino, 3572 Indian Queen Ln., 215-843-1500 or 877-585-1085; take out 12 noon to 8:30 pm Tues. through Sun.; sidewalk table service if weather permits; limited indoor dining.

Foghorn Fried Chicken, 4213 Ridge Ave; 267-335-3061; order online: www.foghornphilly.com; take-out and delivery 12 noon to 8 pm daily.

Founded Coffee and Pizza, 3300 Henry Ave., 267-900-5338; order online at www.foundedpizza.com; take-out and delivery 10 am to 10 pm daily. Full pizza, sandwich, salad and platter menu.

Franklins, 3259 Cresson St., 267-336-7420, google Franklins East Falls; take-out limited menu and beer. Wed. to Sun., 12 noon to 9 pm.

Frank's Pizza, 3600 Fisk Ave., 215-848-6433; order online at www.frankspizzaeastfalls.com; take-out and delivery; Grub Hub; pizza, steaks, hoagies, salads and platters; 11 am to 10 pm Mon. to Thurs., 11 am to 10:30 pm Fri. and Sat., 11 am to 9:30 pm Sun. Limited outdoor dining if weather permits.

Golden Crust Pizza, 3732 Midvale Ave.; 215-848-4400; order online at www.goldencrustpizzaiii.com; pickup and delivery; full pizza, sandwich, salad and platter menu, daily including Sunday.

In Riva, 4116 Ridge Ave., 215-438-4848; order online at www.in-riva.com; limited indoor dining; take-out, curb-side service and delivery; Opentable; specials: ½ off draft beers, pizzas and specialty cocktails, and \$5 house wines; 1 pm to 8 pm Tues. through Sun; closed Mon.

LeBus, 4201 Ridge Ave., 484-255-2100; order online at www.lebuseastfalls.com; Opentable; heated sidewalk table service, limited indoor dining, takeout and delivery; 11 am to 9 pm Mon. through Fri., 9 am to 9 pm Sat. and Sun.; limited indoor dining.

Little Miz Cupcake, 3502 Scotts Ln.,

Bldg. 21 in Sherman Mills; 215-960-7684; www.littlemizcupcake.com; LittleMizCupcake; classic and specialty cupcakes, cakes, cheesecake, cupcake parfaits and small batch sweets; 12 noon to 6 pm Thurs. to Sun.

Majors, 4207 Ridge Ave., 215-848-0848, grocery and sandwiches 9 am to 8 pm Mon. to Sat.; closed Sun.

Murphy's Irish Saloon, 3333 Conrad St., 215-844-9683; sidewalk table service weather permitting and take-out 4 to 10 pm, Tues. to Sun. Limited indoor seating.

Nou Vaux Market, 3539 Vaux St., corner of Tilden and Vaux Sts., 215-438-7600; local meats, Marchiano's breads, vegan and gluten-free products, dairy, pet needs, lottery, seasonal plants, tools and soil; 8 am to 8 pm Mon. to Fri., 8 am to 7 pm Sat. and Sun.

Shan Chuan, 4211 Ridge Ave., 215-844-7889, shanchuaneastfalls.com; take out 11:30 am to 10 pm Mon. to Thurs., 11:30 am to 11 pm Fri. to Sun., 12 noon to 10 pm.

Side of the Road Jerk Chicken, 3502 Scotts Ln., Bldg. 21 in Sherman Mills, 267-297-7286 for take-out and delivery; 12 noon to 8 pm Tues. to Sat., 12 noon to 6 pm Sun.

Slices Pizza, 4249 Ridge Ave., 215-843-4747; take-out and delivery; 11 am to 9 pm Tues. to Wed.; 11am to 10 pm, Thurs to Fri.; 12 noon to 10 pm Sat.; 12 noon to 9 pm. Sun.

Terron vegan restaurant, 3426 Conrad St., 215-716-7111, order at www.terronkitchen.com; take-out curb-side service; free local lunch delivery and delivery via Grubhub and Doordash; 11 am to 2 pm and 5 to 9 pm Mon. to Fri., Sat. brunch 9 am to 2 pm, dinner 5 to 9 pm, Sun. brunch 10 am to 3 pm, dinner 5 to 9 pm.

Thunder Mug, 4233 Ridge Ave., 267-766-6950; take out only; call to order ahead or on-line at www.thundermug-

cafe.square.site for coffee and pastries; 8 am to 3 pm daily.

Trolley Car Cafe, 3269 S. Ferry Rd. under the Twin Bridges, 267-385-6703; trolleycarcafe.com; outdoor table service, take-out and delivery, Uber Eats and Grub Hub; 9 am to 3 pm daily.

Vault + Vine, 3507 Midvale Ave., 267-331-6292, cafe@vaultandvine.com; café open for bagged coffee, drink and pastry curbside pick-up 8 am to 3 pm daily; plant shop open Thurs. to Sat. for delivery, hello@vaultandvine.com.

Wissahickon Brewery, 3705 W. School House Ln., 215-483-8833 or order online at www.wissahickonbrew.com; take-out and delivery of beer, snacks and doggy treats; 12 noon to 7 pm daily. Order before 2 pm.

Please consider giving to this go-fund-me site to assist employees of restaurants and bars in East Falls who have been impacted by the coronavirus pandemic: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-east-falls-restaurant-and-bar-workers>

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East Falls Family Dentistry, Dr. Hyosun Christine Kim, 3722 Midvale Ave., 215-849-1826

F.X. Duffy & Co., CPAs, 4265 Kelly Dr., 215-438-8400

Midvale Auto, 3629 Midvale Ave., 215-843-1533

RG Group, quality printed sportswear, 877-549-7712 or ronangill.com

Rutabaga, toy lending library and gathering space, 3426 Conrad St., www.rutabagatoylibrary.com

SoLi Fitness, Derrick Johnson, 267-971-2943



Falls Library will open soon, but now running Zoom programs

The Falls Library has yet to reopen as infrastructure repairs continue – mid-May is a possibility – but two virtual programs for children have been scheduled for May.

At 10 am Thurs., May 6, the library will host a pet party

for children of all ages. In honor of National Pet Month, youngsters will hear a story about pets and then share a story about their pets or favorite stuffed animals, while showing them on-line.

At 4 pm Wed., May 26, children aged 10 to 13 are invited

to discuss a book that they receive for free as part of the Virtual Chapter Book Club.

For details on either program, visit the Falls Library Facebook page or email Ms. Meredith McGovern at mcgovernm@freelibrary.org.

We mourn the loss of:

Ingrid Hillson

Ingrid C. Hillson, 90, of East Falls, died April 17. She was born in Germany, and was the wife of the late Charles Hillson. She is survived by her five children: Carsten, Franklin, Gloria, Larry and Terry, nine grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren plus two more on the way. She also is survived by her sister, Hildegund, and brother, Bruno, in Germany and many nieces and nephews. Ingrid was a devoted mother and she loved her work at Penn Reels, the fishing tackle company. Her viewing and funeral service were held at the McIlvaine Funeral Home. Interment was at Union Cemetery in Richboro, PA.



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Two East Falls zoning cases remain on the EFCC radar; Both are in front of city's Zoning Board of Adjustment

The alleged two-story garage being built at the rear of 3018 Midvale Ave. remains on the radar of the East Falls Community Council's Zoning Committee and neighbors who oppose the structure because it is being built without permits and in violation of the zoning code.

So, too, does the proposal for a 185-unit apartment house at 4401 Ridge Ave. Variances for both properties are on the agenda of the city's Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA.)

Hilary Langer, Chair of the Zoning Committee, has communicated with the office of Councilmember Curtis Jones, who has written to the ZBA in support of the 3018 Midvale Ave. structure.

"The EFCC and the neighbors are unanimous in the decision to oppose a variance to allow this building," Langer said.

mate concerns.

"I hope, in light of all of the above, you will reconsider your position," Greenfield said.

Bill Hoffner, also a former EFCC President, asked the Zoning Committee whether "anyone has sent a letter or email to (Curtis Chief of Staff) Josh Cohen and Councilman Jones asking them to rescind or minimally suspend their support of the zoning variance request."

He wrote to the committee: "They could not have known at the time they drafted their letter that there were misrepresentations about acceptance within the community and the full extent of zoning violations and misrepresentation of the original application scope."

4401 Ridge Ave.

The development proposed for 4401 Ridge Ave. was discussed at the city's Civic Design Review Commission on

at the high point on Merrick Rd., towering above the two-story owner-occupied homes opposite."

Decades ago, when all three phases of the former Philadelphia Housing Authority site were being negotiated with residents living on the site, the vision at that time was to keep a control on the overall density to perpetuate the principles of open and natural space and to continue to provide the opportunity for homeownership and access to market rate rentals at a residential scale.

Langer said that it has been suggested that the subsequent zoning of the site as CMX-3 now overrules this lower density.

"CMX-3, however, also permits lower densities and owner-occupied homes. So it would appear the developer has a business plan and return on investment from



Structure built without permits or required zoning variances behind 3018 Midvale Ave.



Rendering of the Atapco Group's proposal for a 185-unit apartment building at 4401 Ridge Ave. on the corner of Ridge and Merrick Rd.

The ZBA has held one hearing on the building, but it placed the matter on hold and has not scheduled a further hearing.

"We are unanimous in our decision that this is such blatant and intentional disregard for the zoning code, the process and the neighborhood, and that our first choice in License & Inspection (L&I) enforcement would be removal of the structure," Langer said.

"If there were no option but to negotiate, we would consider the complete removal of the 2nd floor dwelling unit and turn this project into the original application of a garage with attic storage above inside a gabled structure to match other structures close by. Neighbors do not want to see a dwelling unit on the 2nd floor."

Meg Greenfield, former EFCC President and former Zoning Chair, also pointed out in a letter to Jones that the owner of 3018 Midvale Ave. "failed to obtain required permits for the construction. When a stop work order was issued, he ignored it. The building, according to neighbors, is too close to, or over, the property line.

"The owner told the EFCC Zoning committee that the building is intended for storage, but the design betrays that proposed use. Big picture windows are not needed for storage.

"Neighbors oppose the project. EFCC opposes it. Approval will reward someone who broke the law and disregarded his neighbors' legiti-

April 6 and presented once again by Atapco Developers out of Baltimore.

This review followed three meetings with East falls neighbors organized by the EFCC to include all stakeholders, and one question and answer meeting hosted by East Falls Forward.

The general feedback provided in these meetings expressed serious concerns about the size of the 185-unit proposal and the resulting traffic that will impact already congested roads, especially along with all the other development either being currently permitted or under construction.

The design of the complex, which includes 190 internal parking spaces and 4,800 square feet of ground floor retail space, consists mostly of one-bedroom units. While some commenters at the meetings welcomed the proposal, most were concerned about added traffic on Ridge Ave. and the proposal's lack of the residential scale that exists on Ridge Ave., along with the diversity of materials. The proposal is a large project with one material -- metal panel -- proposed for all building faces except for colored concrete at the base.

"Most significantly," Langer said, "comments noted that the proposal fails to recognize that homeowners are our best investment in our neighborhood. Renters, especially those in one-bedroom units, are transient and isolated up in their apartments at best. To add insult to injury, a 90-foot tall building is proposed

which it does not wish to deviate," he said.

"EFCC is wholeheartedly in support of much-needed development," Langer explained.

"We also have pointed out that if Ridge Ave. is to be enlivened and redeveloped, the bulk of the construction should be on Ridge Ave. itself. This project places the least development and construction on Ridge Ave. by building a corner retail concession and a warehouse apartment block at the rear of the site that has been described as reminiscent of the towers demolished years ago.

"It also would create yet another unbuildable gap (along with our gas stations) by placing the interior court parking lot within view of Ridge Ave.

"This flies in the face of established commercial revitalization principle, whereby frontage, eyes on the street and continuity are essential components of a neighborhood

street with amenities that provide seamless connections between its elements." Langer added:

"Throughout all the meetings and the first Civic Design review the developer has made no substantive changes to the project to address stakeholder concerns except for the addition of a few balconies, and it remains to be seen if there will be changes forthcoming at the next civic design review scheduled on May 4th. We sincerely hope so."

From there the project will go forward to the ZBA hearing on June 9th where the refusals (steep slope and only one loading dock where two required) will be reviewed along with many other aspects of the project and the application will be approved or denied by a vote of the Zoning Board.

East Falls Village

STAYING IN PLACE IN OUR COMMUNITY

East Falls Village, a program of the East Falls Community Council, was established in 2011 to enhance the lives of residents in East Falls as they grow older. The Village is not a physical space, but a volunteer-driven organization.

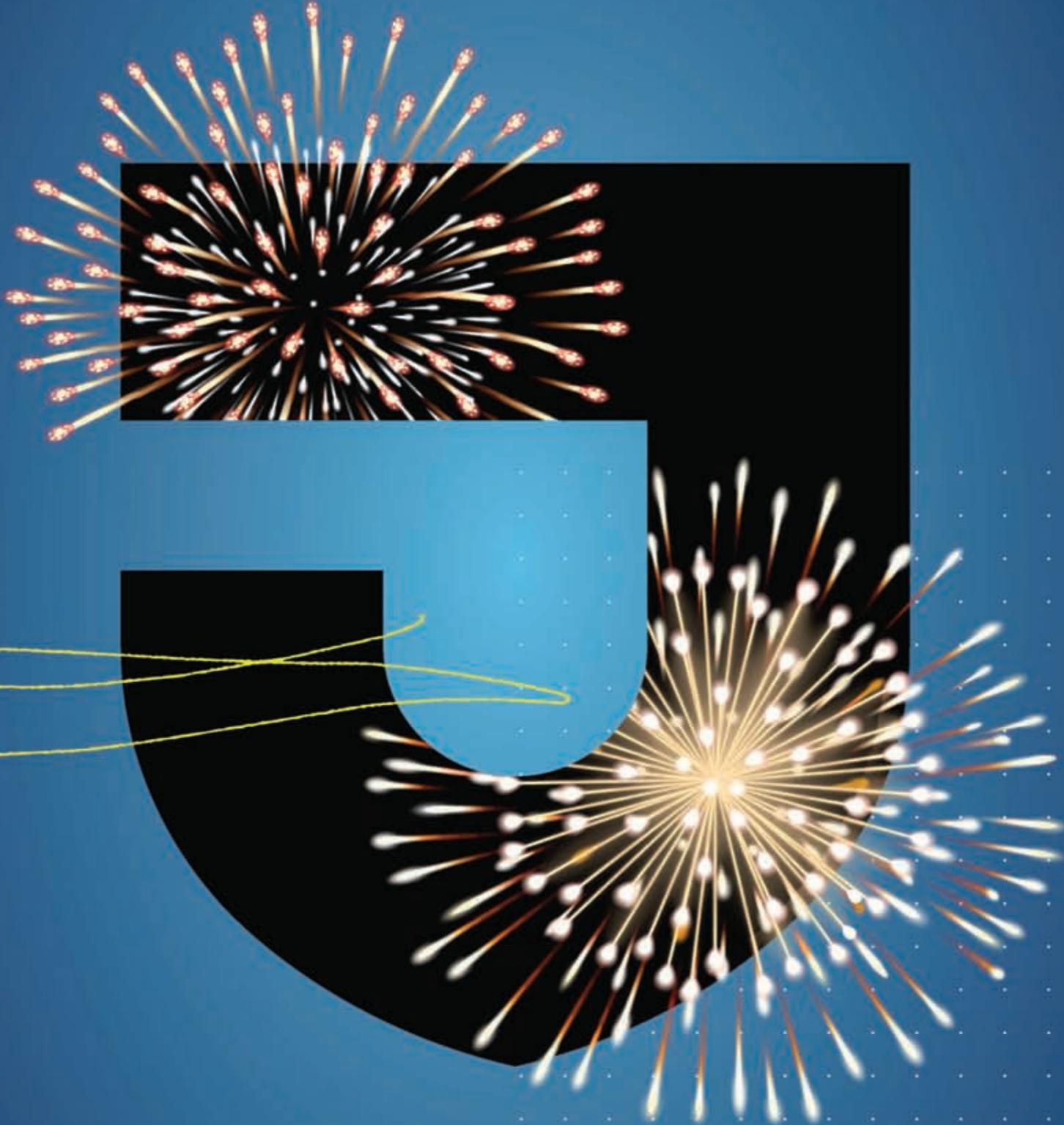
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- Rides to appointments
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East Falls Village Members Say

- "I don't know what I would do if EFV did not exist. Membership has enabled me to maintain my independence... I rely on the wonderful volunteer drivers who take me to doctor visits, the library, and grocery stores. I've made some really good friends as well."
- "I have met many new people through the Village."
- "I love the social events and the opportunity to volunteer as a driver."
- "One hour of Village tech help was worth our annual membership dues."



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