

# East Falls NOW

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Lauren King and daughters Anna, a Mifflin first-grader, and Emma, a future Mifflin student.

## How local parents are dealing with the coronavirus crisis

by Carla Lewandowski, Ph.D. President, Friends of Mifflin

To say we're in difficult times is an understatement. People are dealing with unemployment, underemployment, homeschooling children, working from home, anxiety, and/or loneliness, among other challenges.

Wanting to know how East Falls parents are coping, I asked a few Mifflin parents about their days in quarantine. I heard from several families, including single, working moms with multiple kids, two families with two kids whose parents are medical professionals, and two other families with

(Continued on page 10)

## Coping with COVID-19

### Treating patients by telemedicine

by Tom Smith

As with programs such as Zoom, which increasingly connect people through their computers for business and socializing, telemedicine is an expanding technology designed to connect patients with doctors directly -- but at a distance.

Though it's been around for several years, the use of telemedicine is exploding everywhere in the health field. One reason is the coronavirus pandemic, as doctors need to take pre-cautions if faced with patients complaining of symptoms of COVID 19.

Just as important, patients want to feel safe when seeking help from health care professionals. The value of a "dis-

(Continued on page 8)

## East Falls restaurants are 'holding their own'

by John T. Gillespie and Bill Epstein

East Falls restaurants appear to be holding their own in the storm of the coronavirus pandemic, working under restrictions aimed at limiting the spread of the virus -- reduced hours, part-time staff, take-out only, curbside pickup and home delivery.

"So far, so good," said Mike Murphy, owner of Murphy's Irish Saloonery at Conrad St. and Indian Queen Ln. He says he's happy to be "taking care" of his employees and serving takeout to loyal customers who order in advance.

Jasmine Fields, manager of the Trolley Car Café just off of Kelly Dr. alongside the Twin Bridges, said that every day business is getting better. She said that she is appreciative of the support the café has received from the community.

The vegetarian restaurant Terron on Conrad St. has stayed open throughout, and Chef Fred reports that he and his team intend to stay open and outlast the virus.

Owner Peicha Chang originally shuttered her Vault + Vine plant, flower and coffee shop when the shut-down commenced. But she has since reopened her Midvale Ave. shop for bagged coffee beans, snacks and juices from 10 am to 1 pm Mondays and Thurs-

**East Falls NOW Restaurant and Business Guide Page 11**

days, with additional days of curbside service planned for May.

Fiorino on Indian Queen Ln. similarly closed at the onset of the ban on sit-down service. But starting in May the

(Continued on page 11)

## COVID-19 sparks cottage industry in masks

by John T. Gillespie

The coronavirus pandemic has sparked a cottage industry in face masks, and Fallers have joined the trend.

Recently, Sandy Erickson from Queen Ln. posted a notice on the East Falls Village Bulletin Board on the availability of "homemade but functional" face masks. "I have about 20 extra if anyone needs one," she wrote.

Less than a day later all the masks were gone, delivered door to door by Sandy and her sister, Sue.

The business in masks, now a requirement for outside wear, is one way people are reaching out

to help others in the pandemic and make use of their free time. In the case of the Erickson sisters, Sandy cuts the cloth and sews while Sue attaches the plastic straps. The two learned to sew from their mother.

Joe Leube on Warden Dr. wears an Erickson mask. "The only problem I have is with my glasses," he said. Especially when it's cold outside breath can condense on eyeglasses.

(Continued on page 8)

## EFCC sets Zoom meeting for May 11; Nominations and grants remain open

The East Falls Community Council has scheduled a community-wide virtual meeting for 7 pm Monday, May 11. The Zoom meeting link will be posted on the EFCC's web page, www.eastfallscommunity.org, prior to the meeting.

### Officer nominations open

With a lack of in-person meetings due to the coronavirus pandemic, the process remains open to nominate officers for the 2020-21 EFCC year.

Holly Maher, Chair of the Nominations Committee, said that persons interested in running for EFCC office should indicate so by emailing info@eastfallscommunity.org.

Nominations for all offices are open: President, Vice President for Zoning, Vice President for Events, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Members of the Executive Committee-at-large.

### Grants process extended

Mary Jean Cunningham, EFCC Recording Secretary and chair of its Grants Committee, said that the application process for community grants has been extended to May 15.

The deadline for postmarked applications is that Friday. Applications are available at www.eastfallscommunity.org, and can be mailed to EFCC, P.O. Box 12672, Philadelphia, PA 12929, or submitted on-line at info@eastfallscommunity.org.

Per the EFCC by-laws, the Grants Committee will report its recommendations at a future membership meeting.

## Mifflin parents urge Board of Ed. to deny Lab Charter move to EF

In the midst of the coronavirus crisis leaders of the Friends of Thomas Mifflin School (FOM) testified before two committees of the Philadelphia Board of Education to oppose the move to East Falls by the Laboratory Charter School of Communication and Languages.

Dr. Carla Lewandowski, President of FOM and a parent of three children at Mifflin, urged School Board members to reject Lab Charter's proposal to move from West Philadelphia to 3300 Henry Ave.

Lewandowski appeared April 23 before the Board's panels that deal with student achievement and school district facilities. Also appearing was Mary Alice Duff, parent of one Mifflin student and Vice President of the East Falls Community Council.

Lewandowski and Duff said

Lab Charter's move was unwise for its students and the district's finances.

Lewandowski explained that most of the school's students currently live in the area surrounding the school's present 54th St. location.

"Lab already knows that some students and their families are unwilling or unable to move to its new location," Lewandowski said in testimony prepared for the School Board's Student Achievement and Support Committee.

"Studies have shown that long commutes to school have detrimental effects on children's well-being, especially sleep and exercise," she said.

She stated that the plan of Lab Charter's officials "does not qualify as looking out for the best interests of their students or the community to which they

(Continued on page 7)

# History of "Ken-Crest" Site Revealed

by Nancy Pontone

The complex of one-story buildings at 3625 Michael St. on the corner of Midvale Ave. was placed on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places by the Philadelphia Historic Commission on Friday, February 14, 2020 based on its architectural style and contribution to the social history of the neighborhood.

The chapel section was built on this site in 1916 for the Manor Sunday School Association, previously formed by neighborhood men in the newly developing Queen Lane Manor neighborhood bounded by Henry Ave., Queen Ln., Coulter St. (then called Mill St.) and Stoke-ly St.

The Rev. James Mitchell of Calvary Episcopal Church on Manheim St. in Germantown officiated at the first Sunday School service on March 1, 1914 in a small farmhouse behind houses on the block formed by Midvale Ave., Queen Ln., Stoke-ly and Fox Sts. Subsequently, neighbors were required to take over the mission of the Sunday School after Mitchell grew ill and resigned. After the mission outgrew the farmhouse and subsequently a real estate office, architect Lawrence Visscher Boyd (1873-1941) designed the chapel in the Arts and Crafts style to accommodate the Sunday School children.

Boyd lived across the street at 3130 W. Penn St. and designed houses in the Queen Lane Manor neighborhood for the Queen Lane Land Company formed by the family or estate of William G. Warden, for whom Warden Dr. is named.

One of the wealthiest men in Philadelphia and a trustee of Standard Oil, Warden by the time of his death in 1895 had



Former KenCrest building at Midvale Ave. and McMichael St., now being converted into two residences.

bought up most of the available estates and farms where he lived east of Henry Ave. in present-day East Falls. Developers Wendell and Smith, known for the creation of Overbrook Farms and Pelham, marketed properties in the new neighborhood.

Homes in Queen Lane Manor, mostly single and twin houses of two and a half stories, were advertised as situated in a bucolic suburb with access to the city via the Queen Lane train station. Several architects designed houses primarily in the colonial revival or Tudor revival style with the latter showing Arts and Crafts details. Many of the new residents were upper middle-class families with children under the age of 10, according to census records. The neighbors formed the Queen Lane Manor Civic Association and the Queen Lane Manor Women's Club, but the first thing that the new neighbors actually built was the Sunday School for their children.

The original 1916 frame chapel represents an appealing application of c. 1900 Arts and Crafts features on a chapel form dating back to medieval times. The bell-cote, slanting buttresses, circular window with leaded glass and half-timbered battered porch define this unique building. The chapel built as a temporary structure has survived for more than 100 years.

As the Association grew, the Chapel of the Good Shepherd was formed and it became an Episcopal Church in 1921. A gift from the sons of Henry W. Brown provided for a new, much larger, church on The Oak Road, becoming the Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd. The chapel was sold to the Park Congregational Church in 1926. Subsequent one-story additions complemented the original chapel with leaded glass windows, stucco and slate roofs. The Church dissolved in 1981, but had conveyed the property to a Lutheran family services non-profit and ultimately to Ken-Crest Services that until recently used the complex for social services.

RTR Realty Associates bought the property in May 2019 and is converting it into two residences. Historic designation will ensure that defining features of the property are maintained with complementary adjustments to accommodate its reuse. Additions at the rear of the complex are considered "non-contributory" to the historic designation.

Interested in East Falls History? The East Falls Historical Society is at [eastfallshistorical-society.org](http://eastfallshistorical-society.org) (under rebuilding). And we are on Facebook. For inquiries, use [eastfallshistory@gmail.com](mailto:eastfallshistory@gmail.com).

## Your May 2020 East Falls **NOW** Calendar

No surprise. Once again the coronavirus pandemic has decimated public events. The Falls Library remains closed, events are cancelled or postponed, and we should continue to wash our hands, use masks, stay six feet apart and visit the East Falls **NOW** Restaurant and Business Guide on Page 11. Use this guide to help our neighborhood eateries by ordering take-out or delivery.

In addition to the restaurants listed in the East Falls **NOW** Restaurant and Business Guide, the East Falls Farmers Market continues with its 11 am to 1 pm Saturday hours under the Twin Bridges. Order and pay in advance at [www.eastfallsfarmersmarket.com](http://www.eastfallsfarmersmarket.com). Customers who cannot do credit card or e-payments should contact David Dettmann at [eastfallsfarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:eastfallsfarmersmarket@gmail.com).



Alexis Franklin (center), President of the Friends of McMichael Park, greets officers of the 39th Police District while delivering lunches donated by the LeBus Restaurant to thank officers for their service during the COVID-19 crises.

## Happening in or near East Falls

### McMichael Park

As with all East Falls organizations, due to the coronavirus pandemic all events

planned by the Friends of McMichael Park (FOMP) have been postponed for the time being.

The FOMP and LeBus Restaurant on April 24 honored police officers at the 39th District for their service to East Falls and the entire 39th. FOMP took boxed lunches donated by Le Bus to police district headquarters, 22nd St. and Hunting Park Ave. Alexis Franklin, President of the FOMP, said the FOMP wanted to "thank police for all they do to keep us safe during this time."

The Friends are maintaining their "McMichael Park Turtle Friends" web page with weekly features at <https://mcmichaelparkturtlefriends.com/>

### Tree tenders – Indoors!

Our friends at East Falls Tree Tenders advise that as the pandemic continues, the Philadelphia Horticultural Society has created a list of "Web-based Learning Resources about Trees." The list has a range of activities and webinars for children and adults.

Visit [www.phsonline.org](http://www.phsonline.org) for games and interactive resources provided by the Arbor Day Foundation, the US Forest Service and other organizations. Whether you are interested in the latest policy on urban forestry or want to introduce children around the world, this is an opportunity to learn how trees do so much to remove to trees pollutants from the air, generate oxygen, decrease stormwater runoff and combat global warming.



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# Here's hoping for some celebratory moments amid the crisis

It's difficult to describe the seriousness of the coronavirus crisis – whether it be deaths, horrible illness, unemployment, or the bravery of first responders, nurses, doctors, mail carriers, transit and supermarket workers and others.

With so much to concern us, I hope we can agree that amid it all we can recognize some celebratory moments.

Hopefully we all have some.

My wife and I had one when she tied balloons and “Happy Birthday” signs to her car and we joined friends in a caravan to Mt. Airy to wish a mutual friend a surprise, noisy, drive-by happy birthday.

Another has been spending more time with our grandchildren on Facetime. More time than we did in person and Facetime added together before the crisis.

Today, I ask you to forgive

me for this one admittedly self-centered celebratory moment, and to share in it:

With this issue, East Falls **NOW** marks its third year of publication.



A message from the  
**EFCC**  
President

by Bill Epstein

In May 2018, the East Falls Community Council published its first issue. My partners in monthly journalism were and remain fellow members of the EFCC Executive Committee – Chris Caporellie, who provided the leading encouragement for us to venture forward, and who now supervises advertising for us, and John Gillespie,

a fellow former newsman and long-time communications professional.

We had hoped to print eight pages. Instead, we surprised ourselves and our friends in the composing room of the Chestnut Hill Local by having enough ads and news for 12 pages.

The pages are yellowing now, but in our first issue we reported that Monaco's Prince Albert was scheduled to speak at Jefferson University's commencement and to review progress on the renovations of the Kelly Mansion. Elsewhere on the front page we reported on continued progress at the Thomas Mifflin School and the debate on whether there should be a play space in McMichael Park. (Does anything ever change?)

Since then, every month our entirely voluntary non-profit

venture has broken even or made a few bucks for the EFCC treasury. These funds are devoted to our annual grants to community groups.

Our modest success has been made possible by the support of our advertisers and our contributors of editorial content, on both accounts way too many to thank here.

I'll just say that we continue to need both – advertising and ideas for news content.

We've already lost some advertising due to the coronavirus pandemic, but not as much as weekly newspapers throughout the city and the major newspapers in Philadelphia and the U.S. We're hopeful that we can hang in here until this crisis passes. I fear that's more than many businesses, large and small, can say.

Since we plan to be here when this pandemic works its

way past us, feel free to send us your ideas and your offers to help. The bottom front page of this Vol. 3, No. 1 shows how to reach us.

In the meantime, please check out our East Falls **NOW** Restaurant and Business Guide on Page 11. These businesses need our assistance to the extent all of us can afford to order take-out.

We'll update the guide regularly on our website, [www.eastfallcommunity.org](http://www.eastfallcommunity.org), and we'll include it in our weekly emails. If you don't get them, feel free to send your email address to [info@eastfallcommunity.org](mailto:info@eastfallcommunity.org). Use that same address to submit changes to the guide when you know of them.

One last hope: let's stay safe and healthy, and trust each other. We'll get through this.

## The coronavirus – lessons learned

On Friday, March 6 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania confirmed the first two cases of the novel coronavirus, also known as COVID-19.

As of this writing more 40,000 cases have been confirmed in our state. The lessons learned from this pandemic will continue to be identified and evaluated for months and months to come.

Let me share a few of the challenges I have identified that can be addressed by the members of the Pennsylvania House and Senate, if the political will is there.

Working and learning remotely were immediate responses to the county-by-county stay at home orders and then subsequently the statewide stay at home order issued by Gov. Tom Wolf. It became evident very quickly that using the Internet, and specifically having access to high speed Internet (AKA broadband), was a must. It should make no difference if you live in an urban/suburban area or a rural area; every citizen needs access to afford-

able highspeed Internet.

The Internet should be treated the same as any other utility – heat, electricity and water. Can you imagine not having access to those utilities because the free market deemed it inopportune to serve all citizens, and at a controlled price point?



Pam's  
Viewpoint

by St. Rep. Pamela A. DeLissio

Broadband has been instrumental in delivering telemedicine. Telemedicine has proved successful to ensure that physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants can continue to provide medical care to their patients.

Healthcare is another policy area that should be changed. Insurance-driven products place our citizens at the behest of insurers as to what care is covered and if there is

cost sharing to be enforced. Healthcare is primarily provided via employers, and this pandemic has highlighted at least two major problems with the current system. First, if an employer has been deemed non-essential and can no longer provide healthcare coverage, it leaves citizens scrambling. Second, due to variations in insurance policies, an individual's coverage can vary greatly. Their financial exposure can vary greatly at a time of economic uncertainty. I look forward to reintroducing my bill, HB1688, The Pennsylvania Healthcare Plan, a single payer, Medicare for All healthcare plan.

For the balance of this school year, remote learning for basic education is dependent on having the tools to obtain an education remotely. This includes computers, broadband and teachers familiar with how to teach remotely. The current pandemic demonstrates the need for all schools to be equipped with computers in sufficient quantities for all children to use and learn on while in

school, and then if a future similar situation were to occur, computers would be in place to deploy for home use.

Citizens that experience poverty have been particularly hard hit. If we ensured a sustainable wage, citizens could, perhaps, save a few dollars for unanticipated events, such as being unexpectedly unemployed.

My commitment is to continue to advocate for state policies that will level the playing field for citizens and not create barriers to education, employment and healthcare.

The more robust our education system, the better prepared our workforce. The better prepared our workforce, the more financially independent our citizens. The more financially independent citizens are, the better prepared for life's hiccups. I certainly do not consider this pandemic a hiccup. It is a full-fledged disaster. If we do not take heed of these lessons learned, and respond accordingly, history may indeed repeat itself and our commu-

nity will not be a better place for the experience.

Citizens have in their hands the power to get better policies legislated at the federal, state and local levels of government.

That power is in the power of the vote! We vote twice a year -- a primary election in the spring and a general election in the fall. Historically, voter turnout indicates that many citizens are either unaware of the power they hold or, for reasons beyond my comprehension, are not interested in using that power.

If you are concerned about going to the polls on June 2, I strongly urge you to vote from home by requesting a mail-in ballot.

Visit [www.votespa.com](http://www.votespa.com). It is the website where you can apply online to have the ballot mailed to you. Or, see Page 7 of this East Falls **NOW**. Also, you are welcome to contact my office at 215-482-8726 and we will mail you the application. The deadline to request the ballot is May 26th. Please don't delay or procrastinate.

## East Falls **NOW**

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From East Falls **NOW** to all of our readers, advertisers and their families, here's wishing on a rainbow that all of us stay safe through these challenging days.



# EF Village builds community connections in spite of coronavirus

by Mary Flournoy, Co-Chair, EV Village Operating Group

One of the benefits of East Falls Village has been the feeling of community that has developed within our membership. Many of our members say they have met many more people in East Falls through the Village. Susan Smith says, "During my working years, I knew some neighbors only slightly, and many not at all. The Village has opened the door to countless new and enriching friendships."

Members get to know each other through our activities – yoga classes, our Thursday walks, trips to museums and other sites, programs, and our very popular happy hours. Unfortunately, all these events have had to be cancelled due to COVID-19, but members are reaching out to other members

through phone calls.

Our yoga classes have moved from in-person classes at the Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd to ZOOM computer video. We are able to see and follow along with our instructor through guided breathing, yoga stretches and movements for



flexibility, and a soothing period of relaxation at the end. After almost a month of no yoga classes, participants agree it has been good to get together again – and to have some exercise and de-stressing.

EF Village also has built community through our volunteer

service. Our volunteers drive members to doctor's appointments and other errands, help with some in-home chores, provide tech consultations, host programs, answer the Village phone, read to Mifflin students or work in the school library, and/or serve on one or more of the eleven service teams that run the Village. In 2019, 88 volunteers served 4,707 hours in these services.

East Falls Village is part of the broader community in many respects. Our members are active in many organizations within East Falls – the Historical Society, Tree Tenders, the Friends of the Falls Library, the Friends of McMichael Park, Town Watch, and of course our parent organization, East Falls Community Council. Not only do we help promote their activities through our weekly email update, but some of our mem-

bers have become active in these groups because of their membership in the Village.

During this challenging and unusual time, community is especially important. Many of us are taking walks through our great neighborhood. I see Village members almost every time I go out in the afternoon, and we shout to each other across the street or talk through our masks. I also see people of all ages enjoying McMichael Park. Everyone seems to be more neighborly and welcoming. We're all in this together.

We invite you to join East Falls Village as a member and/or volunteer. Visit our website, eastfallsvillage.org. Click on "How to Join" for membership information and "Volunteer Info" to learn more about volunteering for the Village or in our projects at the Mifflin School, "Help Children to Read."

## Kitchen Corner

### Perfect for Mother's Day – Pineapple upside-down cake

by Anne Farnese

On May 10th, when folks celebrate and remember their mothers, many of their memories will be food-related. That's not surprising, as psychologists note that the reason food memories are so powerful is because they involve all five senses.

Reach back. Perhaps when you eat a bowl of Campbell's tomato soup and a grilled cheese sandwich, there's a chance you remember eating the iconic combo after playing in the snow.

Many moms served this traditional snow-day lunch.

Others might remember the fun of weekend-morning pancakes and can almost hear the sizzle the batter made when poured on the hot griddle and the how the steamy smell it produced filled the kitchen and mingled with the distinctive scent of maple syrup.

Some might recall the mechanical sound of Mom's electric mixer and the fascinating way the beaters combined the ingredients for a cake and how their mouths would water while waiting to be handed a batter-coated beater to lick. How sweet the taste!

Typically, most folks have distinct memories of holiday meals. When they recollect those times, invariably some foods are prominent in their mind -- crispy latkes or the varied textures and tastes of the Seder plate, roasted, thyme-kissed turkey or glazed

(Continued on page 6)

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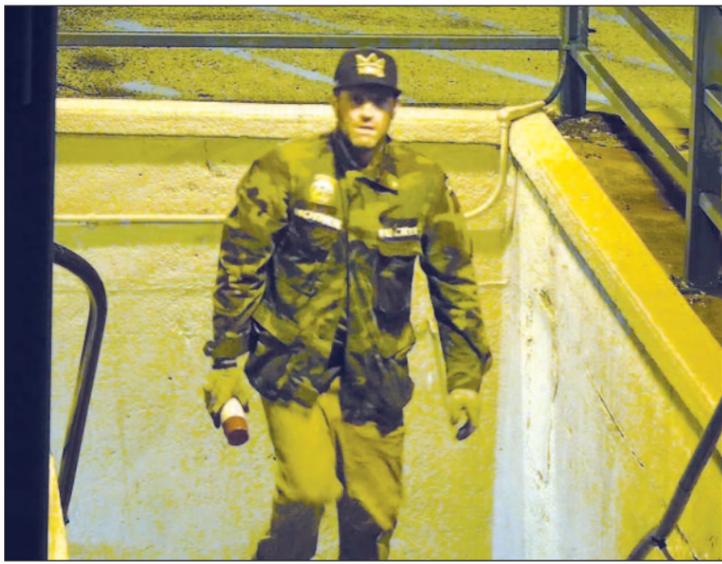
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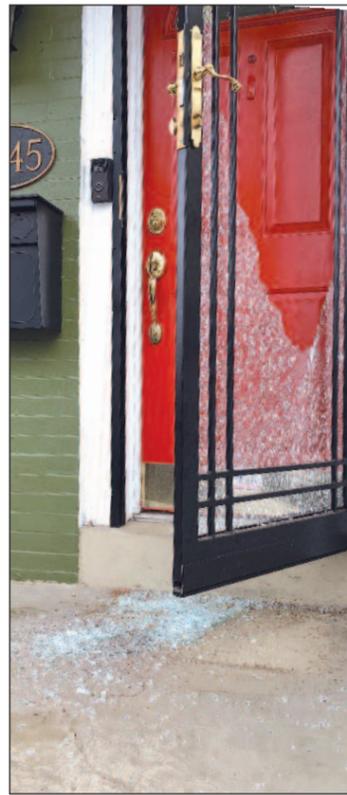
**Above, alleged graffiti vandal suspects captured** on East Falls Town Watch's cameras at the East Falls SEPTA station. They are believed to be some of the graffiti vandals who have destroyed public and private property in the neighborhood. Philadelphia police and SEPTA police are working on the investigation. **At right,** remaining signs from the March 31 shooting on the 3500 block of Indian Queen Ln., from left, bloodstains left on the sidewalk, an unrelated screen door smashed by the hail of bullets near where the shooting took place, and an equally unrelated car that was parked on the street that shows where a bullet exited the side of the car after having entered through the trunk.

# Caught! Town Watch cameras nail three alleged graffiti vandals

The set of eight surveillance cameras installed at the East Falls SEPTA station last year by East Falls Town Watch proved their value again in April when they captured images of graffiti vandals who have caused widespread damage throughout the neighborhood. Philadelphia police tell East Falls *NOW* that they are investigating two individuals pictured at left who they believe have vandalized the

East Falls SEPTA station and properties throughout the community. Their vandalism includes the inscription "Blake." Other vandals left their mark on the cement pillars under the Twin Bridges along the Roosevelt Exp. ramps leading to and from Ridge Ave. EF Town Watch arranged for Philadelphia city officials to paint over the damage on April 20. Residents of the 3500 block

of Indian Queen Ln. were awakened by repeated gunshots around midnight to 1 am March 31. Police tell East Falls *NOW* that, tragically, a young man was killed in a targeted shooting. He recently had taken up residence in a home on the first block down from the SEPTA tracks. Officers of the 39th District say that an investigation is continuing.



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# Tax audits – and how you can avoid them!

by John D. Gringsby, CPA and Professor, Jefferson University

**M**uch like height, needles and spiders, being selected by the IRS for a tax audit is near the top of the list of things that people fear. Audits can be intimidating, time-consuming and expensive. The best defense is to avoid them. Here are some ways to steer clear of the IRS radar.

**Stay Within the IRS “Norms”:** The IRS uses two main methods to select returns for audit -- random selection and computer screening. The computer screening is done by a sophisticated system that seeks anomalies in returns by comparing yours against “norms” for similar returns. This could turn up unusually high deductions or tax credits, dependents claimed by more than one taxpayer or unreported income. Returns selected at random include returns without any issues, so selection for an audit does not always mean there’s a problem.

Taxpayers who elect to file as single or jointly with their spouse and have incomes between \$54,000 and \$200,000 fall within the IRS income “norms” and are less likely to be audited. Taxpayers with incomes outside of the “norms,” especially those at the ends of the income spectrum, have a greater risk of being scrutinized.

**Report All Income:** You should report all income that you received during the year, including tips and cash payments for services. Your employer will issue you a Wage and Tax Statement (W-2) for your earnings and Forms 1099 MISC will be issued for services that you provided during the year. Forms 1099 INT and 1099 DIV will be issued for any interest or dividend income you received and Form 1099-R will be issued for retirement account distributions. Copies of these forms are given to the IRS, too, so be sure that you received all of these forms and reported all income.

Cash-based businesses such as dry cleaners, coin-operated laundromats and car washes are highly scrutinized by the IRS because there is no audit trail. If you operate a cash-based business, you should maintain records showing all of your bank deposits of cash. Banks are required to report all cash transactions over \$10,000 to the IRS. All income from cash transactions should be accounted for and reported.

**Take Realistic Deductions:** The government wants you to take every deduction you are entitled to. But deductions disproportionate to your income outside of the IRS “norms” will generate red flags. For example, avoid claiming a charitable deduction of \$20,000 and reporting income of only \$35,000, or taking a home-office deduction

when your only income is from your employer who provides you with an office.

Be cautious about taking deductions and losses in categories highly scrutinized by the IRS. Common examples include travel and entertainment expenses, home office deductions, recurring operating losses, hobby losses, automobile expenses and charitable contributions.

**Beware of Losses:** Self-employed taxpayers are 10 times more likely to be audited, especially if they show operating losses from year to year. As business owners, they are able to take advantage of many deductions that other taxpayers aren’t entitled to, such as automobile and travel deductions, home office deductions and deductions for meals and entertainment. These types of expenses are incurred for both business and personal use and taxpayers often take deductions for personal expenses when they can’t distinguish between the two. The IRS can detect this abuse by using business classification codes to compare returns with similar codes.

Taxpayers who report losses for more than three out of the last five years run the risk that the IRS will reclassify their business as a hobby subject to the less attractive hobby loss rules.

**Double-check Your Return:** Simple math errors or omissions of information can be

costly and are preventable. Mistakes, such as entering a wrong social security number or taking a \$10,000 deduction when you meant a \$1,000 deduction, could trigger an audit. Compare your return to last year’s for discrepancies. For example, if you reported interest income from a bank account last year, you should make sure that you reported the interest income again this year.

Be sure to include all forms and attachments required to be filed with your return. For example, you must file Form 8283-Noncash Charitable Contributions if the amount of your deduction for a noncash contribution is more than \$500. Instructions for each form will tell you whether additional forms or attachments are required.

The IRS does not know whether an error was intentional or simply a mistake. If the error was a mistake due to negligence or disregard of the tax rules, substantial penalties can be imposed for an underpayment of tax. If the error was intentional, consequences are severe.

**File Electronically:** Electronically filing your return can reduce errors and lower the chances of being selected for audit. The IRS claims that the error rate for electronically filed

returns is less than one percent, while the error rate for paper returns is more than 20 percent.

**File Your Return on Time:** You should file your return by the due date – which has been pushed back to July 15 this year -- even if you don’t have the money to pay the tax. Failure to file by the due date will result in a substantial penalty and also will suspend the statute of limitations for the IRS to examine your return. The IRS can put you on an installment payment plan if you can’t pay the tax by the due date. You can file for an extension of six months to file your return, but an extension does not extend the time to pay. You should not file your return early, either, even if you are expecting a large refund. If you later receive a tax form for income that you forgot you will have to file an amended tax return. Also, remember to sign your return, since unsigned returns draw attention.

**Fear Not:** The good news is that tax audits are on the decline. Your chances of being audited are extremely low. You can reduce your odds by taking steps to avoid an audit in the first place. If in spite of your best efforts you are selected, don’t panic. Most audits are conducted through the mail and are relatively painless. You might even end up with a refund.

## Perfect for Mother’s Day – Pineapple upside-down cake

(Continued from page 4)

Easter ham.

No matter what your food-related memory is, most likely your mom is one to thank for it.

This recipe for pineapple upside-down cake is from the first edition of Betty Crocker’s Picture Cookbook, which belonged to my mother. Although she made the cake only once a year, I clearly remember that I always ate the cherry first.

### Pineapple Upside-Down Cake

1/3 cup butter  
1/2 cup brown sugar  
7 slices canned pineapple, drained  
7 maraschino cherries, drained

2 eggs  
1 cup sugar

1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1 cup sifted flour (sift then measure)  
1/2 teaspoon baking powder  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
Sift these three ingredients together

Heat oven to 350°. Pat dry the pineapple slices and cherries.

Melt butter to coat a heavy ten-inch skillet or 9” round cake pan including the sides.

Evenly sprinkle brown sugar over the melted butter. Arrange pineapple slices over butter-sugar coating. Garnish with maraschino cherries. Set-aside.

In a bowl, beat eggs until thick and lemon-colored, about five minutes.

Gradually add sugar, then mix in vanilla extract. Beat in the sifted-flour mixture.

Pour over the fruit. Bake until a wooden pick thrust into the center comes out clean, about 45 minutes. While cake bakes, set up a serving plate to have on hand.

When cake is done, remove from oven and turn upside-down on serving plate.

Do not remove pan for a few minutes. The brown sugar mixture will run down over the cake.

Remove pan. If fruit is askew, push it back in place with a fork.

If brown sugar clings to the pan, scrape it up and spoon over the cake.

Serve warm with whipped cream, if desired.



## Plan now for Tree Tenders planting next Spring

**M**any flowering trees on East Falls streets stand out as especially stunning, including this expansive Sargent Cherry (*Prunus sargentii*) on the 3000 block of W. Coulter St.

East Falls NOW knows that we have the East Falls Tree Tenders to thank for this beauty and many others in the community.

EFTT volunteers planted this Pennsylvania Horticultural (PHS) TreeVitalize Tree

in March 2007. At the time it was a toddler compared to its neighbors.

Although the deadline has passed for this coming fall’s TreeVitalize planting, it is not too early to let EFTT know you would like to be notified when PHS announces its application period for next spring. Contact Cynthia Kishinchand at crk3114@msn.com or (215) 849-2474.



## OLD ACADEMY PLAYERS

During these uncertain times, the Old Academy Players extends its very best wishes to our patrons and the East Falls Community. Our hearts go out to everyone who has been impacted by the world-wide Coronavirus COVID-19 crisis. Our theater is currently closed in compliance with CDC guidelines, but we look forward to performing for you again soon.

For all Old Academy updates, follow us on <http://www.oldacademyplayers.org> and [facebook.com/OldAcademyPlayers](https://www.facebook.com/OldAcademyPlayers).

We thank you for your ongoing support.

Take care and be well!

3540-3544 Indian Queen Lane • Philadelphia, PA 19129

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KEVIN P. DUFFY, CPA

# Parents 'deny charter move'

(Continued from page 1)

moved.”  
Duff cited School District projections that the move by Lab Charter would cost taxpayers an additional \$3.7 million when the coronavirus crisis leaves the district saddled with a budget deficit as large as \$1 billion over five years.  
“More than ever, our school

budgets need to be prioritizing neighborhood public schools, ensuring they're safe, and that teachers and administrators have the resources they need to educate our students – not dumping money into charter school growth,” Duff said.  
“It would be downright irresponsible to allow Laboratory Charter school to grow when they can't seem to manage the

financial resources they currently have,” she added.  
Lewandowski told the School Board's Finance and Facilities Committee that while Lab Charter seeks to add students in its proposed move to East Falls, it has a checkered financial record.  
She said the board's own evaluation report “states that the school did not submit a budget or budget narrative,” making it impossible to say

that revenues and expenses are realistic.  
“Concerns remain about the charter school's financial health because the school is extremely vulnerable to even small unanticipated increases or loses of revenue, Lewandowski said. “It undoubtedly will result in unanticipated costs to a (School District) budget that we have not even seen. It would be imprudent to give more money to a school that

has a history of improper money handling, especially one that did not submit documents regarding financing with its application.”  
Citing the School District's large projected deficits due to the coronavirus crisis, Lewandowski told the Board that this is “not the time for significant change, nor is it our responsibility to fix Lab Charter's financial problems by  
(Continued on page 11)

## June 2 Primary Election: apply now to vote by mail!

**D**ue to the coronavirus crisis Gov. Tom Wolf and the Pennsylvania legislature have rescheduled the state's Primary Election for Tuesday, June 2. Polls will be open from 7 am to 8 pm.  
This will be the first election under the state's recently enacted election reform law. This law pro-

vides for “no-excuse” absentee voting and for voting by mail for everyone.  
The application for a ballot by mail must be submitted by Tuesday, May 26. Use this link to apply for your ballot: [www.pavoterservices.pa.gov](http://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov). Or, you can complete this form, cut it out and mail it to the address on the

reverse side.  
According to the election reform law, once you submit this application on-line or by mail you automatically will receive a ballot for the November General Election and the opportunity to receive ballots by mail in future elections.  
**Here are the important dates to remember for the June 2**

- General Election:**
- Last day to register to vote: Monday, May 18.
  - Last day to apply for a mail-in ballot: Tuesday, May 26.
  - Election Day: Tuesday, June 2; Polls open 7 am to 8 pm. Mail-in ballots must be received by 8 pm.

### Pennsylvania Application for Mail-In Ballot

Page 1  
Use black ink

**Print your name**  
Please print your name exactly as you registered to vote.

1  
Last name \_\_\_\_\_ Jr Sr II III IV (circle if applicable)  
First name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle name or initial \_\_\_\_\_

**About you**  
Phone and email are optional and used if information is missing on this form.

2  
Birth date   /   /      
Phone  -  -        
Email

**Your address**  
Please print your address exactly as you registered to vote.

3  
Address (not P.O. Box) \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. number \_\_\_\_\_  
City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ State PA Zip code        
Municipality \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_  
Ward (if known) \_\_\_\_\_ Voting district (if known) \_\_\_\_\_  
I have lived at this address since: \_\_\_\_\_

**Where to mail ballot?**

4  
 Same as above Address or P.O. Box \_\_\_\_\_  
City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ State   Zip code

**Identification**  
If you have a PennDOT number, you must use it. If not, please provide the last four digits of your Social Security number. See “Necessary Identification” on Page 2.

5  
PA driver's license or PennDOT ID card number          
Last four digits of your Social Security number XXX-XX-     
 I do not have a PA driver's license or a PennDOT ID card or a Social Security number.

**Declaration**

6  
I declare that I am eligible to vote by mail-in ballot at the forthcoming primary or election; that I am requesting the ballot of the party with which I am enrolled according to my voter registration record; and that all of the information which I have listed on this mail-in ballot application is true and correct.  
Voter signature here X \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual mail-in request**

7  
If you would like to apply to receive mail-in ballots for the remainder of this year and if you would like to automatically receive an annual application for mail-in ballots each year, please indicate below.  
 I would like to receive mail-in ballots this year and receive annual applications for mail-in ballots each year.

**Help with this form**  
Complete this section if you are unable to sign the declaration in Section 6.

8  
I hereby state that I am unable to sign my application for a mail-in ballot without assistance because I am unable to write by reason of my illness or physical disability. I have made or have received assistance in making my mark in lieu of my signature.  
Mark of voter X \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Address of witness \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of witness X \_\_\_\_\_

## Masks

(Continued from page 1)

The tip book says to tighten the fit of the mask around the bridge of the nose.

Joan McIlvaine on Midvale Ave. has an Erickson mask. So do Fran and Lena Dolan, who wear them on walks outside their house on Vaux St. So does Heather Boyd-Monk on Gypsy Ln., who posted on the Village Bulletin Board, "I could use one if you have any left." Turns out the Ericksons had one left.

Some people mistook Deena Pollock on Earlham St. as a mask maker. Her name cropped up on the EF Village Bulletin Board in a case of mistaken identity. "I guess a lot of people want masks," she said.

Joanna Schlesinger from Midvale Ave. thanked Deena, anyway. "No matter which neighbor gets one, you are making us all a bit safer."

Ellen Prantl on Sunnyside Av., who, like the Ericksons, learned

to sew from her mother, gives her masks to neighbors and relatives. "I felt it was a shame that people couldn't get them," she said. She uses 100 percent cotton in two colors. Neighbor Peg Hallenbeck supplied the plastic straps.

Janice Smalley on Merrick Rd. bought her mask on the website ETSY, which sells dozens of home-crafted masks for those hoping to make some money. "Protective, washable, reusable, soft cloth materials" runs the advertisement for a \$15 spandex mask in "small, medium, large and extra large." Janice was so impressed she bought a pair of masks and gave them to friends.

Are face masks a fashion accessory of the future? Ask designer Louis Vuitton, who just announced it would reopen five facilities in the US — one in New Jersey, one in Texas and three in California — to make nonmedical cotton face masks. The masks will be washable and reusable.

## Telemedicine

(Continued from page 1)

tancing" mechanism is rapidly increasing, and the computer is one important tool.

As an emerging form of medical practice, the field has many varieties. Two issues are worth noting. First, a growing number of telemedicine programs have come into medical practices. Second, variations exist in how much and how well telemedicine "visits" will be covered by insurance.

It's important to note that telemedicine has had one form routinely seen in the past: a phone call to one's physician. The phone's use is limited, usually, to fairly routine issues. The new wave of telemedicine allows fuller interaction with a human touch and provides stronger security. Patients and physicians can see and speak with one another via software and com-

puters. More involved medical issues can be addressed -- as if patient and doctor were together in an exam room.

How does all this work for the patient in an era of social distancing? It's pretty much the same as past experience: you start out by calling your health professional's office to request an appointment. You might or might not get one immediately.

If a time isn't set then and there, you'll look for an e-mail "invitation" from your doctor, offering a time and date for the visit. Your response mechanism is then built in. Click on a link in the email to accept the visit time, or respond that it's not convenient. When the meeting time is set, you'll get a second e-mail with a click-in to connect you with your doctor.

Important to note: you'll need a computer (usually a laptop) with audio capabilities and a camera facing you. This does limit use of this growing form of

telemedicine to those with a computer. You also can use a smartphone.

Depending on your health care professional, you might be asked to furnish, at the time of the "visit," a few vital signs: weight, height, pulse rate and blood pressure. You might not have these at hand, which can be another drawback.

Finally, you might want to contact your insurance provider to get information about coverage for a visit of this type. There are variations, and it's important to know how much of a visit's cost is covered.

Concerns about coronavirus are spurring wider use of telemedicine. When it's time for your next medical visit, take time to learn how much telemedicine figures into your doctor's practices, and how it can work for you.

*Reprinted with permission of East Fall Village.*

**Get your mail-in vote application at  
[www.pavoterservices.pa.gov](http://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov) or fill out the other side of this  
 page, clip the form and mail it to be received by May 26 to:**

**142 City Hall  
 1400 JFK Blvd.  
 Philadelphia PA 19107**



# Keep an eye out for the East Falls Red Fox(es)

I love keeping yard lists. What are all the birds I've seen from my yard? How about the insects and spiders? You can build up fairly large lists for those. For example, I've seen more than 30 species of birds from my yard alone.

But wild mammals are a different story altogether. There aren't that many around, and many of them are nocturnal.

across North America and Europe and you can readily find them in rural and suburban areas. They have been increasing steadily in urban areas. While you can see them throughout the day, they are crepuscular hunters, preferring the dawn and dusk. They also tend to be more nocturnal in urban regions, primarily to avoid humans.

Like many successful urban species, red foxes are highly adaptable and omnivorous. They eat everything from rodents to invertebrates, and birds to berries. In spite of being very good hunters -- I've seen a fox tracking prey under the snow and leaping high into the air and landing on the prey to complete the kill -- berries form a large portion of their diet, especially in the fall.

While they are one of the larger fox species in the world, they are fairly lightly built. They average about 18 inches in height and weight anywhere from 6 to 15 pounds, but average about 10 to 11 lbs. (Both my cats weigh more than that!)

The breeding season for the Red Fox begins early in the

year. During this time you might hear the blood-curdling scream of the female fox (vixen) that sounds like someone being murdered. Once mated, and after a gestational period of around 50 days, a litter of around four to five kits are born sometime in April. Foxes raise their young in 'dens' which can be burrows in the ground, under the roots of trees or sometimes even in crawl spaces under houses and sheds.

Urban foxes face many threats, ranging from traffic to mange to poisoning. When people use poisons to kill rodents in their homes, these rodents don't die right away, but they make easy targets for foxes and raptors that catch and eat them. This way the poisons build up higher in the food web, killing the natural pest control we have.

Many people are concerned about their pet cats being preyed on by foxes, but they mostly avoid each other. If they do get into an encounter, the foxes usually end up faring worse. Still, best to keep your cats inside.

Humans have nothing to fear from healthy foxes, as



**Red Fox running** on the W. Penn St. in East Falls. It's a bit blurry, but the fox wasn't in the mood to pose for East Falls NOW.

they would rather flee from humans than risk any confrontation.

Have you seen any foxes around? What wild mammals besides squirrels have you

seen in your yard? Let me know that and if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions for future articles, please email me at [navin-sasikumar@gmail.com](mailto:navin-sasikumar@gmail.com).



## Navin on Nature

by Navin Sasikumar

Of course, the Eastern Gray squirrels are always around, but after that it gets quite hard. I've seen a few chipmunks swing by on occasion and a rare opossum or two. But my favorite yard visitor has been a Red Fox. It (or maybe they) comes by occasionally to grab a drink of water and sniff around, but never stays long.

The Red Fox is widespread

## East Falls NOW Restaurant Guide - Page 11

## Mt. Airy Learning Tree goes viral

Mt. Airy Learning Tree (MALT), a community education non-profit, has worked for 40 years to connect diverse neighbors through shared learning experiences.

As the current global health crisis was dawning, the organization's staff and board got together to ask the question, "How do we work to fulfill our mission when physical gathering is prohibited? What does 'Neighbors Teaching Neighbors' look like in a moment of social isolation? How do neighbors teach neighbors under quarantine?"

MALT's learning curve has

been steep, but with overwhelming enthusiasm from the organization's instructors, it has been able to adapt more than 85 of its spring term course listings to an online platform. From language classes to cooking demos, watercolor, pilates, and even Senior Ballet, MALT's staff has been able to continue to facilitate neighbor-to-neighbor learning and sharing -- all from the comfort of one's own home.

Some ongoing classes have already made the transition to an online platform. One student in MALT's 'Introductory Irish' class reported, "I was

uncertain how it could possibly replace our live class, but was really delighted with how glitch-free it was. I'm not usually a fan of virtual technology, but I was so grateful we could finish out the class sessions and still enjoy each other and the material!"

In this moment of extreme social isolation, MALT's mission to connect diverse neighbors through shared interests and experiences feels more important than ever. The full online course catalog and registration is available at: [bit.ly/MALTOonline](http://bit.ly/MALTOonline)



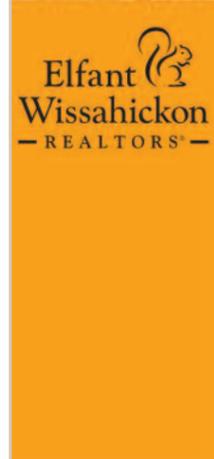
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For appointments: 215-844-2406 • 4189 Ridge Ave.  
Dr. Jesse A. Jones • [www.eastfallseyes.com](http://www.eastfallseyes.com)

### From the Friends of the Falls of Schuylkill Library

We hope that you and all those close to you are well and keeping safe.

Due to COVID-19 we have cancelled the May 9 Library Spring Sale and Book Sale. The Fall Book Sale will return in November.

The good news is our beautiful Library garden is always open and is in full bloom in May.

We look forward to the eventual opening of our Falls of Schuylkill branch.

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#### In the meantime...

Check out [freelibrary.org](http://freelibrary.org) for a full array of its digital collection of audiobooks, movies, TV, magazines, homework help, online courses and much, much more—all you need is your library card.

Drew Birden, Falls of Schuylkill branch head, is available to answer reference questions at [birdend@freelibrary.org](mailto:birdend@freelibrary.org)

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Look for Friends Membership Renewal in your mail in May.

The Library is the Heart of East Falls  
Become a Friends member today:  
[www.eastfallslibraryfriends.org](http://www.eastfallslibraryfriends.org)



# East Falls NOW Restaurant and Business Guide

As we face the coronavirus crisis together, 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.

We'll update this alphabetical guide at [www.eastfallscommunity.org](http://www.eastfallscommunity.org). For questions or to change or add information, please email [info@eastfallscommunity.org](mailto:info@eastfallscommunity.org).

We'll also carry it in the EFCC's weekly emails. If you don't get them, send your email address to the same address.

Restaurants are permitted to operate for take-out only if orders are called-in or submitted on-line ahead of pick-up. They also can make deliveries.

**4th Street Famous Cookies**, 4177 Ridge Ave., 215-625-9870 or [www.famouscookies.com](http://www.famouscookies.com); order 8 am to 3 pm Mon. to Thurs., 8:30 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 daily.

**Black Squirrel**, 3749 Midvale Ave.; will open with an English pub-style menu when sit-down service is permitted.

**Cranky Joes**, 3501 Indian Queen

Ln., 215-844-5626; 12 noon to 6 pm, call for take-out food and beer.

**East Falls Deli**, Conrad and Tilden Sts.; 267-297-5746; order online at [www.fallsdeliphilly.com](http://www.fallsdeliphilly.com); takeout and delivery; 7 am to 3 pm, Mon. to Tues.; 7 am to 6 pm, Wed. to Fri.; 7 am to 3 pm, Sat. and Sun.

**East Falls Farmers Market**, under the Twin Bridges 11 am to 1 pm Sat.; order and pay in advance: [eastfallsfarmersmarket.com](http://eastfallsfarmersmarket.com).

**Fiorino**, 3572 Indian Queen Ln., 877-585-1085; open 4 to 8 pm for take-out

**Foghorn Fried Chicken**, 4213 Ridge Ave; 267-335-3061; order online: [www.foghornphilly.com](http://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](http://www.foundedpizza.com); take-out and delivery 10 am to 9 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](http://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.

**Golden Crust Pizza**, 3732 Midvale Ave.; 215-848-4400; order online at [www.goldencrustpizzaiii.com](http://www.goldencrustpizzaiii.com); pickup and delivery; full pizza, sandwich, salad and platter menu.

**In Riva**, 4116 Ridge Ave., 215-438-4848; order online at [www.in-riva.com](http://www.in-riva.com); take-out, curb-side service and delivery; opentable; specials: ½ off draft beers, pizzas and specialty cocktails, and \$5 house wines; 12 noon to 8 pm daily.

**LeBus**, 4201 Ridge Ave., 484-255-2100; order online at [www.lebuseastfalls.com](http://www.lebuseastfalls.com); opentable, open for takeout, delivery and curbside service; 11 am to 9 pm Mon. to Thurs., 11 am to 10 pm Fri., 9 am to 3 pm and 4 pm to 9 pm Sun.

**Majors**, 4207 Ridge Ave., 215-848-0848; closed.

**Murphy's Irish Saloon**, 3333 Conrad St., 215-844-9683; take-out 4 to 8 pm, Thur. to Sun.

**NuoVaux Market**, 3539 Vaux St., corner of Tilden and Vaux Sts., 215-438-7600; 8 am to 7 pm Mon. to Fri., 8 am to 5 pm Sat., 8 am to 3 pm Sun.; local meats, Marchiano's breads, vegan and gluten-free products, dairy, pet needs, lottery, seasonal plants and soil.

**Shan Chuan**, 4211 Ridge Ave., 215-844-7889, [shanchuaneastfalls.com](http://shanchuaneastfalls.com); closed for renovations; hours upon reopening 11:30 am to 10 pm Mon. to Thurs., 11:30 am to 11 pm Fri. and Sat., 12 noon to 10 pm Sun.

**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 11 pm Sun. to Wed., 11 am to 12 midnight Thurs. to Sat.

**Terron**, 3426 Conrad St., 215-716-7111; order at [hello@terronkitchen.com](mailto:hello@terronkitchen.com); take-out, delivery and curb-side service; 11 am to 2 pm and 5 to 9 pm Tues. to Fri., 9 am to 2 pm and 5 to 9 pm Sat., 9 am to 3 pm Sun., closed Mon.

**Thunder Mug**, 4233 Ridge Ave., 267-766-6950; call to order ahead

or on line at [www.thundermug-cafe.square.site](http://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](http://trolleycarcafe.com); take-out and delivery, Uber Eats and Grub Hub; 9 am to 3 pm daily.

**Vault + Vine**, 3507 Midvale Ave., 267-331-6292, <https://vault.vaultandvine.co/shop/>; plants, flowers, coffee and pastries; open 10 am to 1 pm Mon. and Thurs. for bagged coffee beans, snacks and juices. Call for May schedule.

**Wissahickon Brewery**, 3705 W. School House Ln., 215-483-8833 or order online at [www.wissahickonbrew.com](http://www.wissahickonbrew.com); take-out and delivery of beer, snacks and doggy treats; 12 noon to 7 pm daily.

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>

#### Also open in East Falls:

RG Group, quality printed sportswear, 877-549-7712 or [ronangill.com](http://ronangill.com)

## East Falls restaurants

(Continued from page 1)

restaurant is offering take-out service from 4 to 8 pm daily.

While no eatery is having an easy time of it in the coronavirus shut-down, Jim Williamson, co-owner of Slices Pizza on Ridge Ave., says that most of his business prior to the virus was take-out. While volume is slightly off, he's been able to maintain traffic during the crisis.

Apollo's Pizza, at the corner of Conrad St. and Queen Ln., closed down for the first several weeks of the crisis, but now has opened for take-out from 11:30

am to 8:30 pm daily.

On Fisk Ave., the staff at Frank's Pizza reports that "things have been picking up." They have maintained their seven-day-a-week schedule and full menu of pizza, steaks, hoagies, salads and platters.

So, too has Golden Crust Pizza on Midvale Ave. and LeBus, in spite of losing their table seating and being limited to call-in and on-line orders.

Maddie Sowisdril at East Falls Deli, Conrad and Tilden Sts., supplements local takeout orders with prepackaged meals delivered by nationwide ezCater to non-profits such as Feed the

Front Lines and Food for Staff, representing police, fire and hospital workers. EzCater has waived commissions so that East Falls Deli can keep 100 percent of the profit. "Could be better, but we're doing OK," says Maddie.

Nuovaux Market on Vaux St. has expanded its outdoor display of seasonal flowers and soil, complementing its indoor shelves of grocery items and PA lottery ticket sales.

Arty Cavalier, owner-manager of In Riva between Ridge Ave. and Kelly Dr. by the Twin Bridges, says he's hired back food staff thanks to take-out and curbside service. "We' OK," he says.

At Foghorn Fried Chicken on Ridge Ave., owned by In Riva, Cavalier says business is "steady" and "nights are pretty good." The soon-to-open Black Squirrel, formerly the Falls Tap Room on Midvale Ave. just above Ridge Ave., will offer an English-style pub menu. Cavalier says "things are on hold" pending the health crisis.

"Doing OK" captures the reality and mood of restaurateurs who have been forced to improvise to stay in business. As for the public, take-out and curbside service offer the taste and convenience, if not the atmosphere, of a restaurant meal without the risk of COVID 19. Experts say there is currently

no evidence that the coronavirus is food-borne.

"We don't really have any evidence that food or food packaging is a source for getting sick" from Covid-19," says Benjamin Chapman, a professor and food safety specialist at North Carolina State University.

Consult the East Falls NOW Restaurant and Business Guide on Page 11 for the latest on hours and service for all East Falls eateries. Updates will be posted at [www.eastfallscommunity.org](http://www.eastfallscommunity.org), and will be distributed in the East Falls Community Council's weekly emails. If you don't receive them, drop your email address to [info@eastfallscommunity.org](mailto:info@eastfallscommunity.org).

## For the Love of Gardens:

(Continued from page 10)

by Wright and formal planting plans were drawn up in 1990 by the landscaping firm of East Falls residents Sallie Maser and Winifred Blacklow. Those original plantings include the now large hollies and the pair of weeping crabapple trees flanking the central walkway. Sallie Maser and co-chair Gayle Henze led the volunteer group for many years before passing off that duty to me and founding member Mary Ann Venezia in 1999.

In recent years, we have introduced more host plants for bene-

ficial insects including asclepias, a host plant for the monarch butterfly, and bronze fennel, a host plant for the black swallowtail butterfly. If you would like to join the library gardening group please be in touch with me at [suzanneppenn@gmail.com](mailto:suzanneppenn@gmail.com). It's a great opportunity to learn about, or share your knowledge of gardening.

This column is for your stories, adults and children, about your relationship and love of gardens. Please feel free to submit your 450-word stories to [dkaplan8@verizon.net](mailto:dkaplan8@verizon.net).

## Parents "deny charter move"

(Continued from page 7)

allowing them to move across the city and grow."

The school's Chief Executive Officer appeared in March before the general membership meeting of the EFCC. She encountered critical questions related to how the school would handle student bus traffic in light of the problems that buses from the Pierce School had created on Crawford and Conrad Sts. prior to the coronavirus shutdown. Pierce students were using the same building that Lab Charter seeks to use while asbestos problems were

fixed at Pierce.

Dr. Andrea Coleman Hill, Lab Charter's CEO, left nearby neighbors unsettled when she said that school bus vendors would have to resolve transportation issues. The neighbors and the EFCC were unhappy about excessive engine idling and traffic congestion caused by the Pierce buses, and were not pleased at the prospect of Lab Charter putting responsibility for these issues on a bus company that might not respond to the community.



## 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.

### Benefits for East Falls Village Members

- Rides to appointments
- Help with technology – cell phones, computers, etc.
- Social events



Learn More or Join:

Call (267) 444 - 4507

Visit

EastFallsVillage.org

### 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."

# THANK YOU

to all our neighbors and our faculty and staff who are on the front lines of serving our community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please stay safe and healthy.

—Thomas Jefferson University

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