

East Falls NOW

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Site of the future McMichael Park play space.

Anonymous letter threatens legal action to block McMichael Park play space; Epstein says EFCC 'not intimidated'

by John T. Gillespie

An anonymous document written on behalf of business owners and tenants on the Ridge Ave. commercial corridor threatens legal action to block a proposed children's play space in McMichael Park. The March 1 document was unsigned and was delivered with no return address. It claims that "the owners, ten-

ants, residents and brokers (of Ridge Ave.) object to the proposed playground in McMichael Park."

And it warns that an undefined "we" will "make every effort to use all means, economic, political and legal, to stop it."

Despite the claims and threats, no store owners on Ridge Avenue have said publicly that they object to the McMichael play space.

At least five of the properties in question are owned by East Falls Ridge Avenue Partners LLC. One of the partners is John-david W. Franklin, a former resident of East Falls and husband of Alexis Franklin, president of The Friends of McMichael Park (FOMP), which opposes the playground as a threat to the bucolic, pristine nature of the six-acre park.

Franklin vigorously denies that he or Ridge Avenue Partners is the source of the letter.

The letter contends that the play space, scheduled to open later this year, will rob Ridge Ave. of the foot traffic it needs to grow and prosper.

The four-page missive, written in lawyerly language, was mailed to local government and political figures, civic organizations and Ridge Ave. businesses -- 43 recipients in all.

"Retailers, both existing and potential, will be negatively impacted with the lack and loss of footfalls. For example, a stroller mom, or family with toddlers, will be less inclined to leverage a visit to the Inn Yard Park with a purchase at a coffee shop, pizza restaurant, or basic-day-to-day purchase," the doc-

(Continued on page 11)

Mifflin Principal Leslie Mason wins prestigious Lindback Award

by Carla Lewandowski, President, Friends of Mifflin

Even as Philadelphia schools are closed due to the coronavirus pandemic, the good news and recognition for East Falls' Thomas Mifflin School keeps rolling in with the announcement that Leslie Mason, Principal, is one of just seven city principals to win the prestigious 2020 Lindback Award.

The award from the Christian R. and Mary L. Lindback Foundation recognizes "school principals and teachers who have made significant leadership and humanitarian contributions to his/her school community."

Mason has been Mifflin's

Principal for more than 10 years.

The award process begins when principals are nominated by a committee of two teachers and a parent.

Principals are asked to submit their plans for a \$20,000 stipend that comes with the award. It is to be used to improve the school community. The award winners are chosen by a nomination review committee and then seven principals are chosen from the nominations, which include public and charter schools.

Mason's application included more than 30 letters of recommendation from Mifflin parents, community leaders, teachers, and one former student, Anthony Soda, who is

now enrolled at Central High School.

Soda wrote that Ms. Mason "made sure students were comfortable, respected, and most importantly respectful."

Another letter from a parent wrote that he has "witnessed her compassion, energy, and dedication to the students at Thomas Mifflin. He added: "The teachers have been enthusiastic in their approach to teaching...in no small part due to the positive attitude Principal Mason brings to the job."

Ms. Mason's Lindback award is the second district-wide award she has earned. She was awarded the Robert Poindexter Award for out-

(Continued on page 7)

U.S. Census: The Big Count is here! It's easy for everyone to take part

by Tom Smith

By now everyone should have received an invitation to join the United State Census 2020.

If you haven't already, you can complete the census online by computer, tablet, or smartphone. Just go to 2020census.gov and click on "Take the Census" to the right of your screen. It should take about 15 minutes and there are no tough questions.

You also can use a landline or other phone to call in your response. Or you can use an old-fashioned pen to fill out the paper form you received in the mail.

Whichever option you choose, your participation in the Census is critical. Tabulations affect how federal agencies get funded, how funds are distributed, how businesses plan and how political districts get shaped.

The Census is taken every 10 years. 2020's will mark the 27th count of the entire U.S. population.

The census form asks demographic questions about person(s) living in your household as of April 1. The questions on the short form are: the number of people living in your home; whether you own or rent; age, race, sex of each person; whether a person in the household is of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin; and relationship of each person to the per-

son completing the form.

There are no questions about citizenship. The long form is issued separately to some households.

Your answers are confidential. Census Bureau employees will never ask for sensitive information such as a Social Security number or bank account information. Nor will they ask you to step outside your home. Census takers who come to your home will have a valid photo ID from the Department of Commerce and an expiration date. For more information on how the process will unfold, check out 2020 census.gov.

Be alert for shenanigans

The Inquirer reported that forms looking similar to the U.S. Census forms were mailed to some Delaware County residents. But questions on the form asked about political affiliation, and whether the national media has a "strong bias against all things Donald Trump." Upon closer examination, the form disclosed that it was commissioned by the Republican Party. County party officials didn't comment, according to the newspaper.

And ahead of the census, President Trump's campaign was running ads on Facebook that some say are misleading users into thinking that a data-gathering and fundraising survey for the Trump pres-

(Continued on page 9)

EFCC April 13 meeting is postponed; Nominations and grant processes open

The Tuesday, April 13 General Membership and Candidates Night meeting of the East Falls Community Council has been postponed for a later date due to the coronavirus pandemic.

With the Pennsylvania primary election day moved to Tuesday, June 2, the Candidates Night program will be rescheduled to a date before then, conditions permitting.

Officer nominations open

The process has opened 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@eastfallcommunity.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 begins

Mary Jean Cunningham, EFCC Recording Secretary and chair of its Grants Committee, said that the application process for community grants has opened.

The deadline for postmarked applications is April 30, 2020. Applications are available at www.eastfallcommunity.org, and should be mailed to EFCC, P.O. Box 12672, Philadelphia, PA 19229, or submitted online at info@eastfallcommunity.org.

Cunningham said her committee will report at a general membership meeting subject to the coronavirus crisis.

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Financial Tips for Starting a Business with Your Significant Other

by Shawn C. Smith

This article is sponsored by Ameriprise

Many people dream of starting a business. And, for some, a spouse or significant other is the ideal business partner. The prospect of building an enterprise with the person they share other parts of their lives with may be appealing on a number of levels from shared passion, convenience and common goals. However, it's important to approach the joint venture with the same care a person would apply to any other business dealings.

If you are thinking about starting a business with your significant other or have already started the process, here are three tips to help you maintain your financial priorities on the road to success:

1. Purchase business insurance. The goal of insurance is to protect you and your partner from financial loss if something goes wrong. The types of insurance you buy will depend on the nature of your business. You may be required to hold specific insurance for the work you produce.

2. Have a contingency plan. Consider all possibilities and plan accordingly. For example, if one of you wants or

needs to return to the workforce, how will the business go forward? What if your romantic relationship changes?

3. Continue to save for your retirement. When you're self-employed, you are the boss of your financial future, including your retirement accounts. Enlist the help of a financial advisor to keep your personal finances on track. Your business also deserves financial and tax planning advice on a regular basis.

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Your April 2020 East Falls **NOW** Calendar

A not-so-funny thing happened on our way to putting together the April 2020 East Falls **NOW** Calendar. Essentially, there is no calendar. The Falls Library is closed, events are cancelled or postponed, and all we have to do is remember to wash our hands, stay six feet apart and use the East Falls **NOW** Restaurant Guide on Page 11 – as much as your budget allows – to help our neighborhood eateries by ordering take-out or delivery.

==> In addition to the restaurants listed in the East Falls **NOW** Restaurant Guide, Page 11, the East Falls Farmers Market continues with its Saturday hours under the Twin Bridges:

As an essential "life-sustaining" service, the East Falls Farmer's Market is committed to supplying the EF community with food resources during this trying time. The market will maintain its extended season schedule every Saturday from 11am to 1pm. That said, the market will

no longer be a place to congregate and browse for groceries. Instead, customers are asked to order items ahead of time from vendors whenever possible, and pay online. Purchases will also be possible day-of, but only with chip readers for credit cards or other contactless e-payment methods. Customers who cannot do credit card or e-payments should contact David Dettmann at eastfallsfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

Order pickups will be at the parking lot under the twin bridges (4100 Ridge Ave). To order, visit the East Falls Farmer's Market Vendor pages at eastfallsfarmersmarket.com. Stay strong, East Falls!

==> The Friends of Mifflin remain hopeful that they will be able to stage their Mifflin Gala on Saturday, May 30, but a final decision has yet to be made. Stay tuned for the May issue of East Falls **NOW** and the East Falls Community Council's weekly emails. If you don't receive these emails, send us your email address at info@eastfallscommunity.org.

Yoga can help all of us at this time

by Mary Flournoy

The focus of this article was to have been the East Falls Village Spring Yoga Series, starting in April, and our Yoga Dance session on April 25, when adults and kids could "shake their sillies out." Unfortunately, the classes and other events scheduled by East Falls Village have been put on hold due to COVID 19.

East Falls Village members who take yoga say it is enjoyable, relaxing, and affirming. The benefits of Yoga include improved balance, increased focus, lower blood pressure,



Lillian Rozin, Yoga instructor, offers useful do-it-yourself-at-home tips.

reduced anxiety and better overall well-being. And there

is no need to twist into a pretzel!

Even if you have never taken a yoga class, you could try the movements that we do sitting in a chair – stretching arms, legs, even rotating the head slowly in a circle – or just sitting quietly and focusing on breathing deeply and trying not to clutter our minds.

Because our classes have been cancelled, Lillian Rozin, one of our yoga teachers, sent this email to EFV yoga class members, and I wanted to share it with the community.

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Dear East Falls community yogis:

Well, nature couldn't have given us a more blatant signal to slow down and practice self-care! So, in the absence of our regular classes, take this as an opportunity to slow down your nervous system and racing minds, and practice gratitude for all that we do have. Here are a few things I am doing myself, and invite you all to consider.

- Stretch daily with the breath. Why not use this time to develop a daily practice? Put on some soothing music and mindfully move. Five minutes is better than none at all.

- Take some moments each day to connect to nature. Walk if you can, open a window and feel the early spring breeze, or just look out a window and take in the light.

- Turn on some of your favorite music and just dance! We need to keep experiencing joy, even through this challenging time.

- Consider minimizing how

(Continued on page 8)

A guide to EF take-out and delivery from East Falls

These have been challenging days, with more such days ahead of us.

Those of us at the East Falls Community Council and East Falls *NOW* will leave it to the experts to estimate how long the coronavirus pandemic will last, or how much worse it might become.

In the meantime, we know that some people and families who live or work in East Falls are hurting.

Just walk into any restaurant or bar in the neighborhood – not to sit down, of course – but to see what’s going on.

The answer: not enough. Not nearly enough to support the jobs in those restaurants and bars.

That’s why my partners in community journalism -- John

Gillespie and Chris Caporellie -- and I have identified one way to help – to encourage our community to rally around the people who serve us and cook for us in East Falls’ eateries

We can help by ordering take-out and delivery whenever possible from our neighborhood establishments trying to stay open.

For sure, not everyone has the resources to order out with regularity. But if you can do it even once, we want to make it easy.

It won’t defeat the coronavirus. But it might make a difference in the life of a person who depends on a job in an East Falls restaurant to put food on his or her own or family’s table.

Please see Page 11 for the

East Falls *NOW* Restaurant Guide. It makes it easy to take-out or order delivery from the 21 eating establishments in East Falls. Several are closed because of the virus



A message from the **EFCC President**

by Bill Epstein

emergency, with at least one doing renovations, but hopefully they’ll be back soon.

Let us know if we’ve missed anything by sending an email to editor@eastfallsnow.com. We’ll use the EFCC’s website,

www.eastfallscommunity.org, and our weekly EFCC emails to keep this information updated. Information will change, so we invite you to check the website regularly. If you don’t get our weekly emails, please send your email address to info@eastfallscommunity.org.

This is by no means the only way to help. Stop by the closed Vault + Vine on Midvale Ave., for instance, and read the note on the door telling how we can help the shop’s employees until this plague leaves us.

In the meantime, judging by the lack of vehicle traffic and closed doors on the Ridge Ave., Midvale Ave. and Conrad St. commercial strips, it appears that folks in East Falls are doing their part to

minimize the virus in our midst.

Here’s hoping that in East Falls we continue to support each other and that all of our families, friends and work colleagues stay safe.

**East Falls
NOW
Restaurant
Guide
Page 11**

Charter schools: They really are public schools

In 1997 the charter school bill was signed into law.

Charter schools include brick and mortar schools and cyber charter schools. All are funded with state tax dollars.

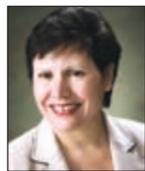
Charter schools were designed to provide innovative educational alternatives for Pennsylvania students. They were designed to: improve pupil learning, increase educational opportunities for students, encourage innovative teaching methods, provide varied opportunities for teachers, including responsibility for the educational program, provide parents with educational choices, and meet measurable academic standards.

Charter schools are non-profit public schools originally designed as an innovative educational alternative to traditional public schools. As such, they are free of many of the mandates governing traditional public schools, except mandates and laws related to nondiscrimination, health, safety, suspension and expulsion of students, academic assessments and federal spe-

cial education law.

Charter schools can be created by a variety of entities, including community members, parents, teachers, businesspeople and non-religious colleges or universities. Charter schools are authorized by the school board within the district in which the brick and mortar buildings are located.

A cyber charter school is an



Pam’s Viewpoint

by St. Rep. Pamela A. DeLissio

alternative type of charter school, authorized by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), that uses the internet or other electronic/digital method to provide instruction to students.

When enrolling students, charter schools must give preference to students currently residing in the local authorizing school district.

Entry is awarded through a lottery system when more students apply than the charter school can accommodate.

Students who do not reside in the local school district can be enrolled in the charter if space is available. Charter schools may also give preference to students with siblings currently attending the charter school. They must admit students regardless of any disability and cannot use any method of student selection that would be illegal in a traditional public-school district. Cyber charter schools may enroll students from anywhere in the state.

Currently, about 143,000 students are enrolled in both brick and mortar and cyber charter schools throughout the Commonwealth

There is no set tuition rate for an individual charter or cyber charter school; the tuition payment is solely based on what each student’s home district costs were the previous year. This means that a charter or cyber school might receive tuition from one student of \$12,000 and tuition

of \$18,000 for another simply based on where the student resides.

With this history and facts about charter schools, I am sharing the charter school funding reforms proposed in the Governor’s 2020-2021 budget. The two proposed reforms will save taxpayers \$280 million per year.

In the Governor’s proposed 2020-2021 budget he calls for applying to charter schools the same special education funding formula applied to traditional public schools.

Currently charter schools receive a flat rate for special needs, regardless of the degree of the special needs of their students. By applying the existing four-tiered formula for traditional public schools, the Governor is eliminating the flat rate and proposing that charter schools be funded for their special needs students based on the degree of special needs. Traditional public schools are funded in this manner for their special needs students, with funding tied to the needs of the students. Charter

schools object to this change because historically the often-robust payments they have been receiving will be greatly reduced, as in many instances current payments are in excess of the services required by their special needs students.

The Governor also proposes that cyber charter schools be paid a flat tuition rate. Currently, cyber charters are paid tuition based on the per pupil cost of where the cyber student lives, and the school district must remit the per pupil cost for that district. This per pupil cost has no relation to the cost of operating the cyber charter school.

I have long supported charter school funding reform, including looking at the payment structure -- in particular where a for profit management company is in place. The Governor’s proposal of these reforms provides this opportunity for reform, yet again.

For more information on charter schools please see the PDE website at: <https://www.education.pa.gov/K12/Charter%20Schools/Pages/default.aspx>

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Helpful resources for life in coronavirusville

By the time this issue of East Falls *NOW* reaches you, thanks to the coronavirus pandemic most of us have been without some combination of work, school, the library, the orchestra, movie houses, sports, bars, restaurants or any of the many other places and activities that are important to us.

Here’s hoping that before we publish the next issue of East Falls *NOW*, some of these places and activities have returned or, failing that, our coping skills have accommodated to the challenges of life during this virus time.

Until then all of know the drill. Avoid crowds, wash your hands like crazy, don’t touch your face, call your doctor if you have symptoms,

keep safe distances and check on your neighbors. Also, know that there are resources if your coping skills need a helping hand. Among them are www.inquirer.com/coronavirus, which the Philadelphia Inquirer is making available free during the crisis.

• Experts point to a link between financial stress and domestic violence. If you need assistance with domestic violence, call 911 or the National Domestic Violence Hotline, 24/7, at 1-800-799-7233 or 1-800-787-3224 for TTY. If you’re unable to speak safely, visit thehotline.org or text LOVEIS to 22522.

• Stress and anxiety created by coronavirus pandemic, financial insecurity, and feel-

ings of isolation can put people at risk of self-harm. If you’re feeling alone and struggling, you can reach out 24/7 to The Crisis Text Line by texting TALK to 741741 or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255.

• With schools closed children are isolated from friends and extended family. If you have a firearm in the house, assume that kids know where guns are stored and keep them locked, unloaded, and separate from ammunition. Find out more at besmartforkids.org.

Let’s take care of ourselves, and don’t hesitate to seek help if we feel we’re in a crisis.

**Join the East Falls Community Council
by visiting “Become a Member” at www.eastfallscommunity.org**

Get ready – take part in the City Nature Challenge

The City Nature Challenge (CNC) is a four-day competition in April in which cities around the world compete to see who can find the most species of wildlife in their cities.



Navin on Nature

by Navin Sasikumar

I wrote about the CNC in this East Falls *NOW* column last year, when it was Philadelphia's first time competing.

We did fairly well last year, coming in the top 25 out of more than 150 cities around the world in both the number of observations made and number of species seen. But

we did even better for the number of people who participated, coming in 16th, even topping New York City with our more than 500 Philadelphia-area residents making at least one observation of wildlife (plants, animals, mushrooms, etc.)

This year's competition will take place from April 24 to 27, Friday to Monday. The city's organizers (I'm one of them) were in full planning mode working with partner organizations organizing walks to be held all over the city and the surrounding counties.

But then COVID-19 reared its ugly head and we've had to scramble to make alternate plans. While the challenge will still happen, many of the individual events we planned for this time have been canceled. As of press time, state parks have been closed in Delaware, Montgomery, and



Red Deadnettle

Bucks counties, but Philadelphia parks remain open.

Since we've been advised to practice social distancing, many, if not all, scheduled events will be canceled unless the situation drastically improves.

That said, you can still participate in the CNC. There is plenty of wildlife all around you, in your backyard, on the sidewalk, etc. Simply down-

load the iNaturalist app on your cell phone and start taking photos using the app.

The weedy dandelions popping up all around? That's an observation. So are the dead-nettles, chickweeds and violets. The birds at your feeders and the squirrels raiding them are observations, too. If you read my EF *NOW* February column, you might know how to spot some lichens, too.

Try taking photos of the bees and other insects visiting your flowers. All these are observations that will count towards Philly's total.

You don't need to know what it is that you are taking a photo of. Simply take a photo using the app and the app will analyze the photo and make some suggestions on what your photo might be. You can pick one of those automatic suggestions or let one of the community members identify it for you.

Being stuck at home, especially with Spring coming, might not be what you had hoped for, but it's for the best so that we can get over this virus. Taking photos of wildlife in your yards is a healthy way to have some fun. Give it a try and you might be amazed at the wildlife that lives all around us. The weeds that you've ignored or pulled away might suddenly become interesting. Look closely and you might see tiny flowers that you had missed before and the minute life that they support.

So, between April 24th and 27th, download the iNaturalist app and take as many photos of wildlife as you can and help Philly do well again this year. Even better, you can keep using the app before and after the CNC! For more information and the latest updates, please visit www.cncphilly.org.

Kitchen Corner

Braided lemon egg bread – good anytime of the year

by Anne Farnese

Since the earliest days of mankind, the egg has been a symbol of new life. So it is easy to see why it is associated with spring, a time when nature is reborn. That makes sense, but it's just one aspect of why the egg is emblematic of spring.

Although ancestors of today's hens were first domesticated as early as 2000 B.C., they could not produce eggs year-round because they require 12 hours of light to lay eggs. That could happen only after the vernal equinox occurred. It is not surprising, therefore, that eggs became the quintessential way to celebrate spring observances and celebrations.

Some cultures make sweet

Easter breads with eggs pressed into the dough. Greeks insert dyed red eggs into their Tsoureki bread; Italians add whole colored-eggs to the dough of Pane di Pasqua -- a sweet, anise and orange flavored bread.

This recipe for Braided Lemon Egg Bread is yummy any time of year.

Braided Lemon Egg Bread

2½ cups all-purpose flour, divided
¼ cup sugar
1 teaspoon salt
1 package active dry yeast
2/3 cup milk
2 tablespoons butter
2 eggs
2 tablespoons grated lemon peel
5 whole eggs
2 tablespoons butter, melted



Braided lemon egg bread

In a large bowl, combine one cup flour, sugar, salt and yeast; stir well.

Combine milk and butter in a small saucepan; heat until milk is warm and butter is softened, but not melted.

Gradually add the milk and butter to the flour mixture; stirring constantly.

Add two eggs and ½ cup flour; beat well.

Add grated lemon peel to remaining set-aside one cup of flour and add the flour ½ cup at a time, stirring well after each addition.

When dough has pulled together, turn it out onto a lightly floured surface and knead until smooth and elastic, about eight minutes.

Lightly oil a large bowl, place dough in the bowl and turn to coat with oil.

Cover with a damp cloth and let rise in warm place until doubled in volume, about one hour.

Deflate dough and turn it out onto a lightly floured surface.

Divide the dough into two equal size rounds; cover and let rest for 10 minutes.

Roll each round into two ropes, each about 36 inches long and 1½ inches thick.

Form the ropes into a loosely braided ring leaving spaces for the five eggs. Seal the ends of the rings together and use your fingers to slide the raw eggs between the braids of dough.

Heat oven to 350°.

Place dough on a buttered baking sheet and cover loosely with a damp towel.

Place loaf in a warm place and let rise until doubled in bulk, about 45 minutes.

Brush loaf with melted butter. Bake until golden brown.

(If desired, dye eggs before inserting into the braid.)

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For the love of gardens: You, too, can be a “grower”

by Robert Costelo

Winter’s chill capitulates as the Earth embarks on a waxing tilt toward the Sun. Days grow longer, and the soil warms -- a welcome indication spring has arrived. Soon the fine greenery of our neighborhood will transform the surrounding ecological aesthetic with idyllic and vibrant blooms.

As in an orchestrated and orderly march, the Prunus will spout cherry blossoms, and trees and shrubs formerly naked and grey will become verdant, playing host to the bustle of squirrels, birds, and insects alike.

Spring is spectacular. It is the time of year when nature awakens from its metabolic hibernation to capture and transform energy released by

the sun. Primary producers (e.g. grasses and all other vegetation) lay the groundwork by photosynthesis.

As such, their cellular chloroplasts endure bombardment by the sun’s waves. The pulses of energy carry on through the cell and power enzymatic turbines which catalyze biochemical reactions.

These reactions form molecular bonds that otherwise, entropically, would not occur. Molecules and their associated kinetics subsist to constitute cells which constitute organisms, which ultimately constitute mind. The process is impossibly complex and can no more elegantly be demonstrated than through real-time visualization. I encourage you to watch a fertilized seed grow.

Germination is the process that occurs in plants. As a means to reproduce, a seed is



Vegetable seedlings

sown. From there, it patiently waits in the soil until the conditions around it feel right. Optimally, the soil is moist and warm.

When the seed senses this it projects a receptor toward the sun and one opposite, to

remain grounded for support. Its upward receptor captures light and transforms it to sugar, mainly glucose. The other simultaneously supports the structure and interacts with a chemical network of signals in the immersive environment. Day by day, cycle by cycle, the plant grows to bear fruit of its own.

What is truly wonderful is that while germination is intellectually complex it is intuitively simple. Ten thousand years ago our early Sapien ancestors began to reiterate the process on their own terms. Their practice of agriculture would revolutionize the then existing primate societies and strongly influence the trajectory of natural history.

Admirably, such amazing power still exists in our hands today, and it can be exercised

by any and all.

At the Philadelphia Flower Show earlier this month I purchased some vegetable seeds to germinate myself. After a week I could see results and feel the reward and bewilderment. For those who are curious future growers, let my experience stoke your encouragement. You, too, can do it! There are many great resources online to get started. We at East Falls *NOW* look forward to seeing your pictures and hearing your stories!

This column aims to inspire your stories of how you have experienced gardens of the wilderness. We’re hoping to see some kids’ stories, too. Please submit 450 words and a photo to Deborah Kaplan at dkaplan8@verizon.net.

Peg Shaw named interim Executive Director of EFDC

The East Falls Development Corporation (EFDC) has named local resident Peg Shaw as Interim Executive Director.

Shaw has been a resident of East Falls since 2008.

“We’re fortunate that Peg has agreed to take on the interim ED position,” said Heidi Grunwald, who chairs the EFDC board of directors. “Peg has significant neighborhood planning, landscape architecture and community

organizing experience that will ensure our key projects and initiatives continue as planned in 2020.”

Shaw has experience in landscape architecture, urban forestry, watershed restoration, neighborhood planning and event planning. She owned her own small business for 10 years, bringing to the job, according to Grunwald, “a unique perspective and appreciation for what’s required to open and maintain a business



Peg Shaw

in East Falls and how EFDC can support business owners while also promoting the neighborhood.”

Shaw said that she strongly believes in the mission of EFDC and “looks forward to helping the organization continue to grow and thrive.”

EFDC’s strategic plan for 2020 includes streetscape initiatives throughout the business corridor, a multi-faceted marketing and digital engagement push, and support for

development initiatives.

“This opportunity is particularly exciting given the multiple developments underway throughout East Falls,” said Shaw. “My immediate focus will be managing the public boat launch project scheduled for construction later this year and kicking off the recently awarded commercial corridor clean-up initiative, among others.”

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Town Watch spurs city response on lights, grafitti

by Mary Jane Fullam
President, EF Town Watch

Before the coronavirus crisis put the brakes on the city's response to community issues, East Falls Town Watch was able to secure repairs to four lights on Henry Ave. that were out of commission – apparently due to vehicles striking utility poles.

The lights, along Henry Ave. between Hermit Ln. and the Henry Ave. Bridge, required the replacement of three downed poles and repairs to a fourth.

The city also eliminated graffiti on 3100 Henry Ave. between Roberts and Hunting Park Aves. at the request of EF Town Watch.

At the monthly meeting for community members with the 39th District's Police Service Area 1 officials, Lt. Sean Bascom reported that car break-ins in East Falls have increased so far in 2020. He stressed the importance of calling 911 and asked for patience if police don't respond immediately to non-emergency calls, stressing that the number of calls to

911 generate the amount of police patrols assigned to neighborhoods.

Lt. Bascom also agreed to contact the owner of the car repair shop on the corner of Fox St. and Abbottsford Rd. who has been screwing his bandit signs into trees on Fox St. EFTW has removed the signs.

On March 10, EF Town Watch members joined 39th District officers and the city's Community Leadership Improvement Program (CLIP) to clean up the sidewalks surrounding the 39th District headquarters at 22nd St. and Hunting Park Ave. CLIP officials agreed to examine other areas in and near East Falls that need a clean-up, including the hillside of 4600 of Ridge Ave. and the hillside on the right side of the Roosevelt Exp. and exit ramp to Ridge Ave.

Town Watch has scheduled its April "Litter Crew Ahead" clean-up, if coronavirus conditions permit, for 9 to 11 am Saturday, April 18. We will meet on the Cresson St. side of the EF SEPTA station. To join the effort, call EFTW at 215-848-2033.



ABOVE: Mary Jane Fullam (left) and Joan McIlvaine completing clean up at 22nd St. and Hunting Park Ave. (Above right) Neighborhood US mailboxes look like new after removing the work of graffiti vandals. (Right) TV volunteers also painted over vandalism at Fisk and Cresson Sts.



NW Phila. bike share expansion update

by Kathleen Hogan

Since my departure from the East Falls Development Corporation (EFDC) one year ago, I have been spearheading a successful bike share expansion in coordination with Penn Real Estate Group, the Northwest Corridor Coalition, and the City's Indego bike share program.

Many East Falls business owners and residents will remember me beyond "cycling through" the community. I helped recruit five new businesses, most notably Dr. Greg Skochko's Salveo Wellness Center in the 4400 block of Ridge Ave. I secured solid funding from city departments while working closely



with businesses such as LeBus -- the recipient of a full Storefront Improvement grant -- and helped Vault+Vine, 3507 Midvale Ave., win a 2018 Storefront Challenge Award.

One of my proudest achievements was initiation of a bike

share expansion to East Falls, which I have continued to work on while recruiting new stakeholders such as Jefferson University and the East Falls Community Council.

In August 2019, this bike share expansion effort was approved by the City's Office of Transportation, Infrastructure and Sustainability (OTIS) as a pilot. Unfortunately, the coronavirus pandemic has caused inevitable delays.

The pilot will center initially in the northwest Schuylkill River corridor and include East Falls, Manayunk and Roxborough, then spread into neighboring northwest communities.

Last April at Drexel University I spoke at the 2019 Transportation Camp about the northwest bike share initiative, which was featured in WHYY's Plan Philly. I continue to actively recruit a prospective vendor for the northwest bike share pilot and have engaged Uber, Lyft and more recently a strong candidate, WHEELS, which has solid backing from venture capital funding.

In December 2019 I met with WHEELS officials at their Los Angeles headquarters. They expressed a strong interest and commitment to participate in the northwest bike share pilot in Philadelphia.

The WHEELS bike is a fully electric bike with non-operable pedals and currently is looking to expand its operations to northeastern United States. WHEELS has engaged a lobbyist to secure its eligibility as a bike and not a motor-driven cycle or moped in accordance with PennDOT's definition and criteria. The WHEELS bike is

(Continued on page 10)



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.

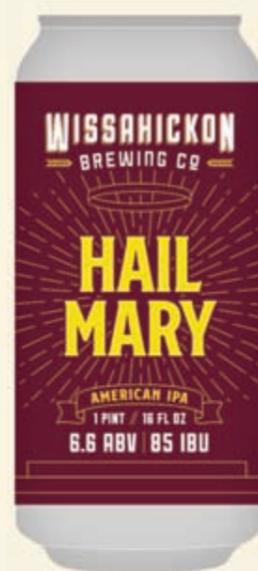
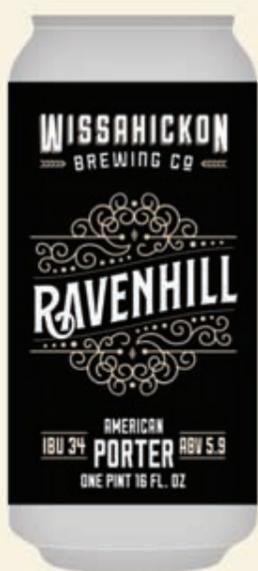
For all Old Academy updates, follow us on

<http://www.oldacademyplayers.org>
and [facebook.com/OldAcademyPlayers](https://www.facebook.com/OldAcademyPlayers).

We thank you for your ongoing support.

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A good read: Say Nothing: A true story of murder and memory in Northern Ireland

by Patrick Radden Keefe
Reviewed by John T. Gillespie

Silence is the leitmotif in the battle between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland. During the time of Troubles, if you valued your life you didn't talk. If you did, your life was more than likely forfeit. Above all, you said nothing.

Jean McConville, 38-year-old widowed mother of 10, talked and paid with her life. One can only guess what she might have revealed because no written record exists of her court martial or interrogation by the Irish Republican Army.

She was abducted by a masked gang from her home in December 1972, her children wailing and clinging, and she was never to be seen again. In the jargon of the conflict, she was "disappeared" along with hundreds of other victims. Thirty-one years later her body was

found buried on a beach, having been shot in the back of the head. Her children identified her by the diaper or "nappy" pin she wore as a reminder. Her abduction and murder would become a symbol of the savagery and mercilessness of the brutal rebellion.

Jean was a Protestant who turned Catholic when she married Arthur McConville. Mixed marriages were unusual in a Belfast divided by sectarian violence. Besides her conversion, little is known of her political views. She was a widow, living without help, coping with her brood of children. One thing is certain. She was no high-level informant with important secrets to betray. A single photo, shown here with three of her children, is the only one known to exist.

She was a good Samaritan, caring for a wounded British soldier one night outside the front door of Divis Flats, the



Jean McConville with Robert, Helen and Archie.

public housing project where she lived after her husband died from lung cancer. The next morning "Brit Lover" was scrawled across the door. Later she was found with a

radio transmitter, questioned and warned, then found with a second transmitter. She was a marked woman, but a sympathetic victim to all but the most hardened IRA appa-

ratchiks. Unlike the fate of most informers or touts, she was buried – instead of being dumped on the street as an example to others -- a small

(Continued on page 8)

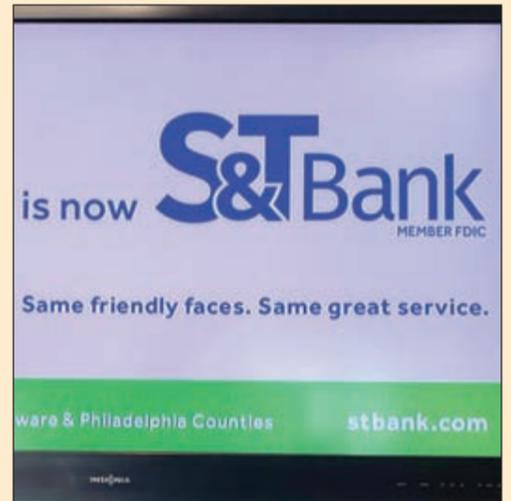
Changes coming to East Falls

If change is good, East Falls is sitting pretty. The former AM/PM carry-out store and world headquarters for kids hassling customers to pump their gasline at Ridge and Midvale Aves. is now a 7-Eleven store, in keeping with the 7-Eleven take-over of Sunoco's retail properties last year. Our local store is one of the last to be converted to the new name.

Gasoline remains under the Sunoco banner. Also remaining is the resolve of the East

Falls Community Council and East Falls Town Watch to end the harassment and find something more productive for the youngsters to do.

On the financial front, both long-ago local banks have gone through mergers. The former DNB First at 4341 Ridge Ave. is now S&T Bank, and the former BB&T at 3617 Midvale Ave. is now Truist Bank, as a result of a merger with Sun Trust Bank. The new Truist sign has yet to appear in East Falls.



Goodbye, AM/PM, hello 7-Eleven; and goodbye, DNB, hello S&T. BB&T will debut soon as Truist Bank.

Mifflin Principal wins prestigious Lindback Award

(Continued from page 1)

standing elementary school principal in 2018.

Asked if she has any plans to leave Mifflin, Mason said that she still has more work to do at the school.

The award to Mason follows by one month the news that Mifflin scored the 11th highest gain in academic performance and climate/safety measures in the entire city. The ranking covered all 303 public schools – 216 traditional and 87 charter schools.

Mifflin's gains also were the largest of any school in Northwest Philadelphia.

Prior to the school closures due to the coronavirus pandemic, Mason was to have received her Lindback Award at an awards program on Tuesday, April 21. Check with the East Falls Community Council's weekly emails to get the latest news on scheduling. If you don't receive them, send your email address to info@eastfallscommunity.org.

The Lindback Foundation has focused on education programs in Pennsylvania and New Jersey its charitable giving in the course of its nearly 60-year history.

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Remembering Gene London in East Falls

by Ellen Sheehan

Gene London, children's TV star of the '60's and '70's and curator of fashions from the movies, died January 19 in Reading, PA. Gene was known in Philadelphia for hosting "Cartoon Corners" and "The Wonderful World of Gene London" on WCAU-TV from 1959 to 1977. Later he became a fashion designer for shows, films and TV productions in NYC.

Gene was known throughout the world for exhibits of his collection of more than 60,000 movie star's costumes and accessories. An extra outfit is made for each movie in case the original is damaged during filming. Gene would acquire one of these at auction.

I met Gene London in 2003 at the Old Academy Playhouse at a party to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the theater. He was invited by Lizanne Kelly LeVine, sister of Grace Kelly. Gene was the keynote speaker and brought his collection of Grace Kelly dresses and memorabilia.

Among the memorabilia were letters Grace had written to family and friends, baby clothes of Grace and, of course, pairs of her gloves. He had six dresses Grace wore in a movie or a fashion shoot.

At the end of the evening I helped to dismantle the display and repack the items because Gene was surrounded by attendees wanting to speak with him and have a photo taken with him.

In 2012 I emailed him about coming to our dedication of the Kelly Historical marker. He replied he was hosting a show in Florence, Italy about Marilyn Monroe and sent a video of same. One time he was in China, another time Baltimore, always exhibiting his popular shows around the world.

Some years later Gene brought his collection of fashions to the Philadelphia Flower Show when the theme was "The Movies." I was amazed to see the variety of "Golden Age of Movie Star Fashions" represented in his collection: Ester William's swim-suits, Audrey Hepburn's black dress, Marilyn Monroe's



Gene London in 2013 photo with Eileen McDade, manager of the Lily Pulitzer Dress Shop in Ardmore. Part of London's collection, the dress that Grace Kelly wore to the Academy Awards when she won for Best Actress, is at right in the background.

white pleated blow-up dress, Debbie Reynolds's Molly Brown gown and so much more. He exhibited six of

Grace Kelly's dresses. I made arrangements with him to bring the Grace Kelly dresses to the opening of the Grace

Kelly Gallery at the Falls Center in 2013.

Gene's willingness to share his professional experience as a stage designer was helpful in the arrangement of the Gallery. He brought with him six of Grace's dresses: the gold gown and pink/white dress from "To Catch a Thief," a copy of her bridal gown, the fur trimmed red dress, the Academy Award Oscar acceptance blue gown and the black and white dress from "Rear Window."

He was gracious at the event, going from table to table and posing for photos with everyone. People were happy to meet him and share memories of watching him on TV and what he meant to them growing up. His kindness and charm were genuine. At the end of the event, Gene asked Patty Cheek and me, "What's next?"

What's next was Gene's assistance in the effort to have the Kelly house sold back to the Kelly family when its long-time owner passed away. Gene knew the surviving owner of the house and approached her and her family after her death about the possibility of selling the house to Prince Albert. With Gene's help, this became a reality.

'Say Nothing'

(Continued from page 7)

dignity reportedly granted by Gerry Adams, former leader of Sinn Fein. Adams has denied all responsibility for her abduction and death. As to her motive in talking to the British, she was living on a widow's meager government pension and needed money.

Patrick Keefe, a staff writer for The New Yorker, has written a riveting account, based on exhaustive reporting and interviews with multiple protagonists and players on both sides of the conflict.

"Who Killed Jean McConville?" might just as well be the subtitle of this book. Keefe manages to identify with a high degree of probability her judges and three-person execution squad, including the woman, one of the two notorious Price sisters, who pulled the trigger. As one reviewer wrote, Keefe "not only peels back layer by layer, the truth behind one of the most important and mysterious crimes of a terrible conflict. He also illuminates its repercussions to this day.

Yoga can help all of us at this time

(Continued from page 1)

much news you consume. At a certain point, you might be better off working in the garden, having a connecting conversation with a friend, or reading a good book.

- Find a lovely, uncluttered spot to sit, and concentrate on breathing deeply. Try to make the exhale longer. Whatever works! And then, maybe count your blessings. Sounds corny, but it will help counter the

anxiety and distress generated by our overworked brains.

More Village information:

East Falls Village has programs – some on senior issues, some on interesting topics. We have lunches and tours of museums. Services for members include help with technology (phones, all types of computers, printers) and rides to medical appointments or grocery shopping. For more

information, see www.Eastfallsvillage.org. The "How To Join" page includes information on our service area and membership levels, including Assisted Memberships. Call 267-444-4507 to have a membership brochure sent to you.

Watch this column in EF NOW and the Calendar of Events on EastFallsVillage.org for information on when yoga classes and other EFV programs will resume.

Trees: poets have celebrated them; Sign up now for a street tree now

by Ray P. Lucci

Do you ever consider how many times trees have inspired poets to write about them?

For as long as there have been humans on this planet, we have variously worshipped trees, made use of them, admired them, and destroyed them -- but poets have long chronicled the intertwining relationships between us and trees. Poets from Homer and Virgil to Wordsworth, Whitman, and Thoreau, Shakespeare to Sandburg from Kilmer to Frost have celebrated sacred groves, wild woodlands, and bountiful orchards, and the results include some of our most beloved poems.

They all speak to the special qualities inherent in trees and how to speak to the various aspects of our lives. For example, in this stanza from a poem by Nenita Wells, we are reminded of how a tree can be a protector and steady presence in the journey of our lives, especially when there are challenges



In each of the two years of East Falls NOW's publishing, we've run our spring photo in the May issue. Given the early arrival of the season this year, however, and given our suspicion that we can't have too much brightness in our lives right now, we offer this photo of spring's arrival from the Henry Ave. and McMichael St. corner of McMichael Park.

that threaten our mooring in time and place.

Oh tree, your shadows lend comfort to creatures who long Resisting the unending turbulence of life furious, strong Like a river's current, sweeping, tugging, tagging us along

As we remain steadfast in our quest for peace here, we

belong.

Poets have a way of communicating to us the unique importance that trees have in our lives. They nurture, they shelter, they protect, they house, they mark time, they give a sense of place, they bear witness, they evoke emotion, they define a space and they are a vital part of

the ever-changing palette of Mother Nature's artistry

Trees predate our presence on the planet by many tens of millions of years all the way back to the Cretaceous period in the Mesozoic Era. They shaded dinosaurs large and small and they harbored the first birds, such as Confuciusornis. Later, they would shelter our more remote ancestors, the early primates, and then apes. At some point, our hominid ancestors left them as climate changed and they left their homes among the limbs and branches and embarked on new journeys beyond the then dwindling primeval rainforests of Africa. But as noted earlier, we still maintained a primal bond.

Today, more than ever, that bond requires a reinforcement and a reacquaintance that united will enhance our lives, reconnect us to our roots in nature and heal what ails our environment. It requires us to look up from our phones, our

tablets, disengage (at least for a few moments) from Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, texts, e-mails, March madness, online shopping and other distractions and reconnect with the world naturally and one another. Trees can help us do that.

Increasingly warm winters, early arrivals of spring, massive forest fires, rampaging and deadly tornadoes and the constant and rapid emergence of new virulent viruses are signs of a changing climate due to unprecedented human-caused environmental malfeasance.

Help us to enhance community and do something positive for everyone! Sign up now for a free street tree to be planted this fall. E-mail me at rplucci@comcast.net and I will help you fill out an application.

Due to measures to counter and mitigate the threat from corona virus pandemic, there is the possibility of an extension of the deadline for submission of applications. If you go online and apply, please notify East Falls Tree

10 ways to stay connected via Friends of McMichael Park

by Alexis Franklin

As our country, state and city monitor the Covid-19 pandemic, we're in an unstable situation, learning new things each day. Since the last printing for East Falls NOW, The Friends of McMichael Park have planned a number of upcoming events which we hope can go on.

Cancellations, however, might occur as this health crisis unfolds. Please stay connected to our various sites as well as eastfallscommunity.org, and The Friends of McMichael Park will keep everyone updated.

In the meantime, here are 10 ways to stay connected via McMichael Park:

1. **Love Your Park:** As East Falls NOW goes to press, Love Your Park week is on as planned from May 9 to 17. Our McMichael Park is registered. How would you like to help? Send me an email and let me know what you can do. Volunteering is free and available to everyone in our

community. Contact me at Lexy3904@gmail.com.

2. Not available from May 9 to 17th? Other days can be added for various projects, and we can gladly provide assignments based on your availability. We have many projects on the schedule and The Friends of McMichael Park openly and transparently allow for participation in them. Send me an email.

3. Shakespeare Live is planned for June 2020. This summer, we are pleased to present a new production company, ShakespeareNJ. The performance will be something appropriate and timely -- a new production especially for us of William Shakespeare's Julius Caesar. The date will be Tuesday, June 2 with a rain date of Thursday, June 4. Please note this is earlier than prior years. This Shakespeare Live performance should run approximately 70 minutes and will be followed by a post-show discussion with the cast. As in the past 12 years, we invite everyone to open air theatre, free, and we encourage picnics and lawn chairs.



Morton the McMichael Turtle

This is one of the most popular of William Shakespeare's plays, suitable for the entire family.

4. Parks on Tap will return in August 2020. This is Philadelphia's traveling beer garden that gives back! With a partnership between Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, Fairmount Park Conservancy and FCM Hospitality, Parks on Tap brings a beer garden to various parks throughout the city all summer long. Each location provides fresh food, beers on tap, wine, and non-alco-

holic beverages in a festive outdoor environment with comfortable chairs, hammocks, and clean restrooms. Parks on Tap is family-friendly. Dogs on leashes are welcome. Since 2016 Parks on Tap has been a way to engage the Philadelphia community and give back to neighborhood parks. A portion of all proceeds are donated to The Friends of McMichael Park to help restore and maintain our open green spaces.

5. We have a new blog

called McMichael Park Turtle Friends highlighting our 30 years of volunteering in McMichael Park. Visit #FOMP30.

6. Check out all updates on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfMcMichaelPark/> Click Here

7. Or on Instagram at https://www.instagram.com/friendsofmcMichael/?utm_source=ig_embed Click Here

8. Take a walk. Research shows that spending 20 minutes in nature can reduce stress levels. Enjoy the fresh air in McMichael Park.

9. Take note of your favorite nearby tree. Download the iNaturalist app and identify the plants and wildlife in our community.

10. Submit a proposal! Philadelphia's community-based groups are embarking on creative projects and activities that are free and open to the public. Apply for grants through this Creative Avenues initiative at <http://creativephl.org/ca/>. The deadline is Friday, April 10.

U.S. Census: The Big Count is here!

(Continued from page 1)

idential campaign actually is the official US national census. Facebook plans to take the ads down.

Key dates:

Counting every person living in the United States is a massive undertaking, and efforts begin years in advance. Here's a look at some of the key dates along the way, although some are undergoing changes due to the coronavirus crisis:

2020:

March 12 - 20: Households began receiving official Census Bureau mail with detailed information on how to respond

to the 2020 Census online, by phone, or by mail.

March 30 - April 1: The Census Bureau planned to count homeless people over these three days.

April 1: Census Day is observed nationwide. Once the invitation to participate arrives, you should respond for your home in one of three ways: online, by phone, or by mail.

April: Census takers will begin visiting college students who live on campus, people living in senior centers, and others who live among large groups of people.

May - July: Census takers will begin visiting homes that haven't responded to the 2020 Census to help make sure everyone is counted.

December: The Census Bureau will deliver apportionment counts to the President and Congress as required by law.

2021: March 31: By this date, the Census Bureau will send redistricting counts to states. This information is used to redraw legislative districts based on population changes.



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Saturday May 9, 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Library Garden, Midvale Avenue and Warden Drive

Welcome Mother's Day 2020 with your purchase of:

PLANTS including flowering annuals, hanging baskets, plants in containers, herbs and tomato plants. Our expert gardeners will be on hand to answer plant and gardening questions.

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HOT DOGS, COFFEE and FRESHLY POPPED POPCORN from the Library's new popcorn machine!

Goodies for the bake sale are welcome. Drop off the day of the sale preferably before 9:30 AM. Include a list of ingredients.

For more bake sale information, contact Mary Jean Cunningham at mary.jean.cunningham@gmail.com or Marie Filipponi at mariefil@verizon.net

See you at the Sale!

Proceeds benefit the Falls of Schuylkill Library. The Library is the Heart of East Falls

Because of uncertainty surrounding coronavirus, the book sale has been postponed until fall.

St Bridget live streams Mass; Hears confession in parking lot

St. Bridget Church will live stream Mass every Sunday at 9 am at www.stbridgeteastfalls.org and hear confession in the church parking lot Saturdays from 3 to 3:45 pm during the closing of churches in the Archdiocese.

In a message to parishioners the parochial administrator, Fr. Bernard J. Taglianetti, advised would-be penitents, "Drive up in your cars and I will be sitting on a park bench in the parking lot. "I will practice social distancing standing six feet from your car. You will know me because I'll be all in black. If there is more than one car in the parking lot for confessions, please give some space between cars respecting the seal of confession."

Those who cannot make Saturday 3 to 3:45 pm for Confession may contact the rectory at 215-844-4126 or send an email to Fr. Taglianetti at pastor@stbridgeteastfalls.org to make an appointment.

Mass will continue to be offered in private and all requested Mass intentions will be honored.

At the discretion of Fr. Taglianetti, the church will open for private prayer and life events such as baptisms, confessions, marriages and funerals. The number of participants will be limited and social distances observed.

These measures will remain in effect during the coronavirus crisis and will be reviewed periodically by the Archdiocese with city and public health officials.

--by John T. Gillespie



Fr. Bernard J. Taglianetti



Foundation for new tool shed at Inn Yard Park.

Inn Yard Park getting tool shed

The Friends of Inn Yard Park have cleared space and poured the foundation for a new tool shed next to the playground in the park. The shed will be used to store

the equipment necessary to maintain the park on Ridge Ave. Unfortunately, the city has closed all playgrounds due to the coronavirus pandemic.



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Join the East Falls Community Council by visiting "Become a Member" at www.eastfallscommunity.org

NW Phila. bike share

(Continued from page 6)

ideal for multi-modal commuting and for the high elevated areas characteristic of

northwest Philadelphia.

I am excited about this bike share pilot and the positive impact it will have on northwest Philadelphia. I will report back via East Falls NOW with further information regarding the northwest bike share pilot as soon as our world begins to normalize and meetings are resumed. I hope everyone is well during this difficult period.

Relevant links:

Bike Share Pilot Approval: <http://www.phillyotis.com/portfolio-item/dockless-bike-share-pilot/>

WHYY Plan Philly Article: <https://whyy.org/articles/dockless-e-bike-share-coming-to-philly-in-2019>

WHEELS E-Bikes: <https://www.takewheels.com> and <https://www.crunchbase.com/organization/wheels-7fda#section-overview>

Transportation Camp: <http://transportationcamp.org>

East Falls Historical Society

Discovering, Preserving and Appreciating the History of East Falls

Programs, Archives, Research, Oral History & Preservation

Our program committee is considering a tour in late May centered on modern houses in East Falls. But this is very tentative, of course

We are rebuilding our website: take a look soon. And we are on Facebook.

For other inquiries: eastfallshistory@gmail.com. www.eastfallshistoricalsociety.org And, visit us on Facebook!

EAST FALLS FAMILY DENTISTRY

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Presenting the East Falls NOW Restaurant Guide: Call or email for take-out or delivery

East Falls NOW and the East Falls Community Council (EFCC) present this service to our readers and to the restaurant owners and workers of our community -- all of whom are struggling, as are most businesspeople, because of restrictions related to the corona virus.

Here's a guide to take-out and delivery at our area's eateries until such time as we can sit in restaurants and eat like ladies and gentlemen.

At the current time, Philadelphia restaurants are permitted to operate for take-out -- only if called in or ordered on-line ahead of pick-up. They also can make deliveries.

We'll post and update this alphabetical East Falls NOW Restaurant Guide at www.eastfallscommunity.org. For questions or to change or add information, please email info@eastfallscommunity.org. We'll also carry it in in the EFCC's weekly emails. If you don't get them, send your email address to the same place.

Apollo's Pizza, 3542 Conrad St., 215-842-0178; closed for coronavirus until further notice.

4th Street Famous Cookies, 4177 Ridge Ave., 215-625-9870; take-out and Grub Hub; 8 am to 3 pm Mon. to Thurs., 8:30 am to 1 pm Fri., closed Sat. and Sun.

Billy Murphy's Irish, Saloon, 3335 Conrad St., 215-844-9683; closed due to coronavirus until further notice.

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; closed due to coronavirus until further notice

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.

East Falls Deli, Conrad and Tilden Sts.; 267-297-5746; order online at 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.

Fiorino, 3572 Indian Queen Ln., 877-585-1085; closed due to coronavirus until further notice.

Foghorn Fried Chicken, 4213 Ridge Ave; 267-335-3061; order online at www.foghornphilly.com; pick up and delivery, Grub Hub; 11 am to 10 pm Fri. to Sat.; 12 pm to 8 pm Sun.; 11 am to 9 pm Mon. to Thurs.

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 Mon. to Thurs., 10 am to 11 pm Fri. and Sat., 11 am to 10 pm Sun.; full pizza, sandwich salad and platter menu.

Franklins, 3259 Cresson St., 267-336-7420, google franklins east falls; take-out full menu and beer; 12 noon to 10 pm Mon. to Thurs., 10 am to 11 pm Fri. and Sat., 11 am to 10 pm Sun.

Frank's Pizza, 3600 Fisk Ave. (Fisk Ave. and Dobson St.), 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.

In Riva, 4116 Ridge Ave., 215-438-4848; order online at www.in-riva.com; take-out,

curb-side service and delivery; opentable; specials: 1/2 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; 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; sandwiches and groceries 9 am to 8 pm Mon. to Sat., closed Sun.

NuoVaux Market, 3539 Vaux St. at 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 and lottery.

Shan Chuan, 4211 Ridge Ave., 215-844-7889, 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.

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 online at hello@terronkitchen.com; take-out and delivery; 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; coffee and pastries to take-out; 7 am to 3 pm Mon. and Tues., 7 am to 4 pm Wed. to Sat.

Trolley Car Cafe, 3269 S. Ferry Rd. under the Twin Bridges, 267-385-6703; trolley-carcafe.com; take-out and delivery, Uber Eats; 8 am to 3 pm Sun., 7 am to 3 pm Mon. to Sat.

Vault + Vine, 3507 Midvale Ave., 267-331-6292, <https://vault.vaultandvine.co/shop/>; plants, flowers, coffee and pastries; closed during corona virus.

Wissahickon Brewery, 3705 W. School House Ln., 215-483-8833; order online at www.wissahickonbrew.com; take-out and delivery from the tasting room, plus rotating food trucks, including Deke's Barbeque, on site; 12 noon to 7 pm daily.

Anonymous letter threatens legal action to block play space

(Continued from page 1) ument says.

Brian Beard, owner of the Allstate Insurance office at 4223 Ridge Ave., dismissed the economic objections to the McMichael play space as "nonsense," saying that the play space "will have no impact on Ridge Ave. whatsoever."

The document is notable for its assertive tone. "Any decrease in sales affects rents and values and importantly the ability to effectively influence future retailers," it says.

It takes particular aim at the East Falls Community Council (EFCC), which has voted to support the playground. "As stakeholders of the Ridge Avenue Commercial Corridor, we fail to see the purpose and adamant determination of the East Falls Community Council to undermine our success."

Bill Epstein, president of the EFCC, said he was "disappointed that the sender or senders of the letter would choose to remain anonymous." He said the letter's claims are unsupported.

"Those opposed to the park are convinced that the play space will radically change the nature of McMichael Park and devalue the efforts that The Friends of McMichael Park have made for many years to upgrade this important asset in East Falls," Epstein said.

"Neither claim is true. The play space will be a valuable addition to our community, one that will be enjoyed by young children and their families in a location central to the entire neighborhood."

Epstein said the EFCC membership voted in a democratic process, at the request of the FOMP, to support a play space in the park.

"Whoever wrote the anonymous letter should know that the EFCC will not be intimidated by anonymous threats of legal action," he said, adding:

"City officials, including Councilmember Curtis Jones, Jr. and staff in the Department of Parks & Recreation, assure us that they are moving for-

ward with plans for the play space.

"Lastly, the claims that a play space in McMichael Park will detract from efforts to secure a playground at the Thomas Mifflin School are totally without merit. The EFCC is working with the Friends of Mifflin to create a campaign that will deliver a top-quality facility for the students on the Mifflin property. I have every confidence that we will succeed."

According to the city's Parks and Recreations Department, bids for the McMichael play space were to have been in March with a ribbon-cutting

expected this summer.

The letter describes the McMichael play space as unnecessary, the project of a "privileged [and] transient minority" which, it says, already enjoys a surplus of recreational choices in the neighborhood, namely Inn Yard Park on Ridge Ave., Mifflin and McDevitt Recreation Center.

"We object as the major economic risk takers and investors in the community, to any investment to placate a privileged minority who has proven to be transient."

When asked, business persons along the Ridge appeared

unaware of the controversy or indifferent. Brandon Warwick, manager of the coffee shop Thunder Mug, 4233 Ridge Ave., said "I pretty much stay away from things like that." Michael Jose at San Chuan Restaurant, 4211 Ridge Ave. said he was not familiar with the issues.

The letter concludes with an appeal to Mayor Kenney, district Councilperson Jones, and the Department of Parks & Recreation to "cease and desist in McMichael Park and redirect these resources to Inn Yard Park and Thomas Mifflin elementary school."

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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

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."



Learn More or Join:

Call (267) 444 - 4507

Visit EastFallsVillage.org

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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