

East Falls **NOW**

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Residents vent frustration over Henry Ave. conditions, but work will proceed; Lucci quits as EFCC Traffic chair

by John T. Gillespie

Some 40 Fallsers poured out their frustrations over traffic safety to city and state officials during a two-hour June 14 Zoom meeting.

Summoned -- more than invited -- by the East Falls Community Council's Traffic Committee and Emily Nichols, President of the EFCC, the officials faced questions about the repeated collisions and fatalities on Henry Ave. that have bedeviled the neighborhood for years.

A recently completed traffic survey by the EFCC among 317 residents laid the basis for discussion.

Respondents expressed concern about traffic safety in East Falls. They ranked Henry Ave., followed by Midvale and Ridge Aves., as the most dangerous streets. They supported stronger enforcement of a ban on dirt bikes, and named speeding as the number one problem.

In a surprise move, Ray Lucci, chair of the EFCC Traffic Committee, resigned suddenly the day after the meeting, creating a search for who will lead the committee at a time

of significant changes to Henry Ave., including the prospect of speed cameras in legislation sponsored by St. Rep. Pam DeLissio (D-194.)

What was generally a civil discussion turned pointed as transportation officials defended the state's plan to overhaul Henry Ave. against claims that the proposals were inadequate or misdirected.

The meeting underscored tensions between some members of the EFCC Traffic Committee and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) just as the agency is embarking on its \$20 to \$25 million Highway Safety Improvement plan to make Henry Ave safer. Some members of the Traffic Committee believe that many of the PennDOT changes are little better than window dressing, and want stricter steps to crack down on speeders.

PennDOT has refused, claiming that it is too late for changes to a plan that has



Part of the wreckage created by a June 20 crash at Henry and Midvale Aves. Onlookers reported the multi-car crash appeared to create no serious injuries.

been in design for nearly eight years. Changes now would exceed the budget and cause further delays, according to agency officials.

The state's Henry Ave. plan calls for curb bumpouts, vege-

tated medians, high friction surfacing, coordinated signaling, raised speed platforms, and Jersey barriers, among other steps, to reduce speed and prevent collisions.

(Continued on page 2)

EFCC meeting July 12: maybe, maybe not

At East Falls *NOW* press time the Executive Committee of the East Falls Community Council had not yet decided if there would be a 7 pm Monday, July 12 general membership meeting.

If a meeting is scheduled, a notice will be posted on the

EFCC website, www.eastfallcommunity.org, Next Door East Falls, Facebook and by email. If any reader of East Falls *NOW* does not receive the EFCC's emails, send your email address with a request to info@eastfallcommunity.org.



Exterior of the new Black Squirrel Pub and Haunt at 3749 Midvale Ave.

Black Squirrel, British style pub, now open for biz on Midvale Ave.

East Falls' newest restaurant, the Black Squirrel Pub and Haunt, has opened at 3749 Midvale Ave. serving upscale English style pub food.

The restaurant is the creation of Chef Arthur Cavaliere and developer Mark Sherman, who describe it as "elevated British style pub in the heart of East Falls." The site is the former home of The Taproom, just steps above Ridge Ave.

The owners spent a year renovating the rustic-style interior with a new bar, banquette seating, tables and chairs, plus outside seating on the front porch. Cavaliere also

operates In Riva at 4116 Ridge Ave. and Foghorn at 4213 Ridge.

Street parking is available as is parking in a public lot a block away at Ridge Ave. and Ferry Rd. under the Twin Bridges.

The opening coincides with the closing after 10 years of the Trolley Car Café at 3269 S. Ferry Rd, in the shadow of the Twin Bridges. Owner Ken Weinstein blamed the COVID-19-related business slowdown for the demise of the café, which followed last year's closing of Weinstein's Trolley Car Dinner on Germantown Ave. in Mt. Airy.

In a statement praising café employees and general manager Jasmine Fields, Weinstein said the restaurant was not "immune to the economic pressures caused by COVID-19." He said:

"These measures were necessary to protect public health, but had a devastating impact on restaurants and many other small businesses throughout our city and region."

Weinstein says he is seeking a "new quality restaurant tenant" for the Bathey House, which housed the Café. Interested restaurant operators should contact JeJuan Ford at JeJuan@PhillyOfficeRetail.com.

Does East Falls need a Neighborhood Conservation Overlay?

by Hilary Langer
Chair,
EFCC Zoning Committee

Here's the question: Does East Falls need a Neighborhood Conservation Overlay (NCO)? The East Falls Community Council's Zoning Committee thinks so.

Ever wonder how that large group of new homes appeared on your narrow street dwarf-

ing the houses opposite and casting long shadows that block daylight? Why do those homes have no back gardens and extend to within a few feet of the rear property line?

Sadly, this is permitted by the City of Philadelphia's current zoning code, Title 14, AKA "by-right", which in our residential district would allow a roof level at 38 feet and a parapet height at 41 and a half feet. Most East

Falls row homes run from 22 to 34 feet in height.

The City Zoning code applies across the entire city and attempts to set a reasonable template for neighborhood development regardless of location. It is one-size-fits-all.

When development exceeds the generous parameters set within the code there are refusals, which trigger a zoning appeal. Neighborhood RCO's (Recognized Communi-



Controversial property that appears out of character at the bottom of Indian Queen Ln. near Ridge Ave.

ty Organizations, of which the East Falls Community Council's Zoning Committee is one) then call upon the immediate neighbors and the community at large to weigh in and see if they want to support or oppose the requested variance.

The problem is that this broad-brush approach of the zoning code cannot possibly be successfully applied to all the different characters and

(Continued on page 9)

Your July 2021 East Falls NOW Calendar

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

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

3 Saturday

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

6 Tuesday

2 pm: EF Village launches its Sum-

mer Zoom Yoga, Tuesdays through Aug. 31. (Pg. 11)

8 Thursday

2 pm: EF Village opens its Summer Chair Yoga on Zoom, Thursdays through Sept. 2. (Pg. 11)

7 pm: EF Town Watch monthly meeting. (Pg. 6)

10 Saturday

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

12 Monday

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

fallscommunity.org. (Pg. 1)

15 Thursday

6 pm: EF Town Watch teleconference with 39th District Police Service Area 1 officers (Pg. 6)

17 Saturday

9 am to 12 noon: EF Town Watch monthly "Litter Crew Ahead" cleanup. (Pg. 6)

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

23 Friday

2 pm: EF Village Zoom program, "A Sweet Tooth with Carla Bednar -- Part 2." (Pg. 11)

24 Saturday

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

26 Monday

7 pm: EF Town Watch teleconference with 39th Police District Captain. (Pg. 6)

28 Wednesday

7 pm: EF Village Zoom program, "Arlen Specter: Policy before Party." (Pg. 11)

31 Saturday

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

Residents vent frustration over Henry Ave. conditions, but work will proceed; Lucci quits as EFCC Traffic chair

(Continued from page 1)

A pointed rebuttal to the objecting members of the Traffic Committee came from St. Rep. DeLissio, who has been mediating discussions between the committee and PennDOT and who defended the agency.

"At some point one has to ask what is in the realm of reality? Planning has to end," she said, adding that PennDOT has met 13 times with communities affected by the changes on Henry Ave. and that she and staff in her Roxborough office had met with affected communities 31 times.

She said that East Falls had received special attention because of its wide interest in the plan and number of traffic accidents in the community.

"We need to give PennDOT's plan a chance and see what

works. We don't need to meet for further review at this point," DeLissio said.

Similarly, Sarah Clark Stuart, executive director of the Philadelphia Bicycle Coalition, urged the committee to give the PennDOT plan a chance.

"A lot of time and money have gone into this," she said. "It's got to be given time to work," adding that the Streets Department has "very few resources available for traffic calming."

Proposed roundabout

In response to complaints that the Philadelphia Streets Department has dragged its feet installing a long anticipated mini-roundabout at Fox and Queen Sts., David Dlugosz, a Streets Department district traffic engineer, blamed the delay on the rebuilding of the 120-year-old

Coulter St. Bridge over SEPTA tracks on the east side of Wissahickon Ave.

That project, which will not be completed until 2023, has forced rerouting of the K bus onto Queen Ln. away from its customary route on Midvale Ave. Once the bridge project is completed and the K bus is restored to its former route, work on the mini-roundabout will proceed, Dlugosz said.

Lucci resigns

The day after the meeting, Ray Lucci, chair of the Traffic Committee for the past six months, announced in an e-mail to committee members that he intended to resign. So far, he has refused to respond to entreaties that he reconsider.

"I am cutting all ties to this effort and place it fully behind me," he said in an e-mail. He

blamed the political establishment.

"Our elected officials, state and city, are not truly motivated to...push the needle, change the paradigm and act courageously on behalf of their constituents. The political structure of Philadelphia loathes change and paradigm shifts."

Lucci believes that East Falls' traffic problems -- and the problems of Henry Ave. -- are rooted in a failed, hopelessly congested Schuylkill Expressway and what he calls a "disastrous" decision over community opposition to convert Henry Ave. from a two-lane roadway to four lanes in the 1980s. To undo the damage, he believes, would take more changes to the road than the PennDOT is ready or capable of making.

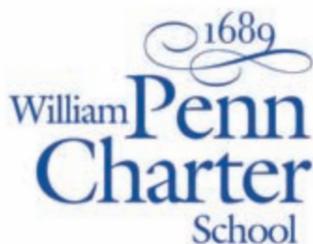
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With so many new books for children published every year, plus all our favorite classics, the choices can be daunting. Here are some books our librarians think children pre-K to grade 5 will enjoy.



View the suggestions, listed by grade, at penncharter.com/read2021.

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Let's settle on the real meaning of 'choice' for women

The definition of choice is an act of selecting or making a decision when faced with two or more possibilities.

Recently, in Harrisburg, two bills were voted out from the House Health Committee and then voted on final passage from the floor to eliminate a woman's choice pertaining to her pregnancy.

As of this writing (mid-June), both bills are pending in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee:

- HB1500, titled Down Syndrome Protection Legislation, would prohibit "the abortion of any child solely due to a diagnosis of possible Down Syndrome." The language is taken directly from the prime sponsor's co-sponsorship memo.

- HB 118, titled Unborn Child Dignity Legislation, would establish requirements "for the final disposition of the remains of unborn children after their demise." Again, the language is taken directly

from the prime sponsor's co-sponsorship memo.

My vote on both bills was "no." I received emails from constituents who were in favor of these bills and those who were opposed. Those who were opposed outnumbered those in favor.

In reference to HB1500, under current law a woman can obtain an abortion prior to 24 weeks gestational age for any reason if a physician deems it is necessary, except if the woman's sole reason is to select the sex of the fetus. This bill will expand that exception to prohibit terminating a pregnancy solely due to a prenatal diagnosis that the unborn child has Down Syndrome.

Of note is the fact that in 2014, Act 130, known as Chloe's Law, requires health care practitioners to provide complete information to women who receive a prenatal diagnosis for Down syndrome. HB1500, therefore, would ensure that regardless of the

decision reached after being informed via Chloe's Law, a woman is prohibited from terminating the pregnancy. There are no allowances for rape or incest and there are no allowances for other health-related matters to the fetus.

HB118 mandates the burial or cremation of a pregnancy from conception forward, instead of the current 16



Pam's Viewpoint

by St. Rep. Pamela A. DeLissio

weeks. The legislation is poorly drafted, and my questioning of the prime sponsor during debate on the floor of the House highlighted the confusion and consternation around this bill.

The prime sponsor stated that parents have the choice to

bury or cremate remains. However, the legislation does not expressly permit a woman's decision to donate her miscarriage for the purposes of research. If anything, the legislation states that if parents want to make a different decision, they must bear the costs of same.

The bill further complicates a very personal and private matter by stating that if a miscarriage occurs in a health care facility, these rules apply but if such a miscarriage occurs outside a healthcare facility this law does not apply. It is not even clear how the healthcare facility would comply if the remains of a miscarriage at four or eight weeks, for example, were to occur.

One group advocating for this legislation stated that "this legislation will give parents the option of either taking the fetal remains or leaving them with the health care facility for cremation or burial. Their rights and all decisions

would entirely be their choice."

The parents can take the fetal remains?! This is deemed a choice?!

Please know that a decision such as deciding whether or not a pregnancy should be terminated is a deeply personal decision between a woman, her health care provider and whomever else she chooses.

These situations are highly nuanced with specifics that can be unique to each pregnancy. My vote on these matters will continue to reflect the fact that we should not be legislating these very personal and difficult decisions and the fact that Roe v. Wade protects a woman's right to safe abortion care.

I respect women's individual and personal decisions in matters of reproductive health; therefore, I support a woman's right to choose.

As always, please reach out with your thoughts and ideas on state policy at RepDeLissio@pahouse.net or at 215-482-8726.

Kitchen Corner

Fresh, sweet corn – great however you eat it!

by Anne Farnese

An official sign of summer is when fresh, sweet corn on the cob is on the menu. Boiled, steamed or grilled, it's the classic summer food to enjoy at a week-day family supper, backyard picnic or barbecue.

When purchasing, look for corn with bright green husks that fully cover the ear. Check for small brown holes, which are a sign worms or insects have penetrated the husks. Make sure the stem end is moist and give the ear a squeeze to check if the kernels are firm.

Ideally, cook your corn the same day it's purchased. To store it, place unhusked in a paper bag or husked in a plastic bag in the vegetable drawer of your refrigerator for up to three days.

It can be fun to observe the different techniques folks employ to eat an ear of corn.

Most use what has been dubbed the typewriter method, which means they systematically bite off a few rows kernels from left to right then turn the ear and proceed left to right again. Some use a rotary or rolling pin style by turning the ear after their first bite and continue in an orderly circular fashion to fully clear that section of their cob. They repeat their technique until the cob is kernel clean. Others don't have a method. They just bite the kernels haphazardly.

Purists will argue that a slather of butter and a sprinkle of salt is the only and best way to enjoy corn on the cob. But they might adjust their argument after trying these flavored-butter suggestions:

Herb butter

Mix ½ stick of softened butter with 1 tablespoon minced fresh parsley, 1 tablespoon minced chives and 1/8 teaspoon garlic powder

Italian butter

Mix ½ stick of softened butter with ¼ teaspoon garlic salt, 1 tablespoon chopped fresh basil leaves and 1 tablespoon chopped fresh oregano leaves.

Horseradish butter

Mix ½ stick of softened butter with 1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley, 2 teaspoons prepared horseradish and ¼ teaspoon salt.

Chili Lime butter

Mix ½ stick of softened butter with 1 teaspoon of chili powder, 2 teaspoons lime zest, 2 teaspoons chopped fresh cilantro and ¼ teaspoon salt.



EAST FALLS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

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

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

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Penn Charter's grads take a well-earned celebratory lap

The 119 members of the Class of 2021 graduated from William Penn Charter School on the morning of Saturday, June 12, in a socially-distanced ceremony that was also broadcast by livestream. Family, friends, faculty and staff gathered on Maguire Field, which was temporarily outfitted with a stage and two large display screens to accommodate the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Head of School Darryl J. Ford spoke to the Class of 2021's leadership in the areas of academics, arts, athletics, service learning and diversity, equity and inclusion.

"Know that your parents and teachers are certain of your talents and potential," Ford said. "We believe in you -- even in these uncertain times. Pursue your own truths and passions, and believe in yourselves."

Student speakers Zora Johnson and Daniel Rodriguez were selected by their peers and faculty members to address the assembly. Johnson spoke to her

class's willingness to confront the many challenges it faces as a society: "As Audre Lorde said, 'There are so many roots to the tree of anger,' and we have seen these roots in the different forms of discrimination in our community, but the Class of 2021 has been active allies and advocates for change," Johnson said.

Rodriguez mentioned the various "sparks" of inspiration, encouragement and curiosity that he and his classmates had experienced throughout their time together.

"As we look to a future beyond Penn Charter," he said, "I challenge each and every one of you to be that spark wherever you go, so you can ignite the best in those around you."

Liam La Barge received the Alumni Society Senior Award, presented to a member of the senior class who on qualification of scholarship, character, leadership and athletic ability exemplifies the best Penn Charter type. Three finalists for the award were also recognized: Kaylee



Penn Charter graduate student speakers Zora Johnson (left), of Overbrook, and Daniel Rodriguez, of Germantown.

Dyer, Zora Johnson and Peyton Parker.

The ceremony included a performance by Quakers Dozen, Penn Charter's select a cappella group, and processional music played by an ensemble of student and fac-

ulty instrumentalists. Graduates concluded the morning with a celebratory lap around the track as teachers and families gathered at the perimeter to applaud.

A recording of the ceremony is available at PennChar-

ter.com/commencement2021, and photos are at Flickr.com/penncharter.

Join the East Falls Community Council at www.eastfallscommunity.org

Taking a shower can pose challenges for senior citizens

by Abiba Namen

Are your parents or other elderly relatives and friends showering correctly? Are they showering often enough?

Here, prepared by Better Care Home Health Services, are some of the mistakes older adults make when it comes to bathing and personal care.

Stepping over the side of a tub to get into the shower can be tough if arthritis is present.

Keeping one's balance while standing on slippery tiles or floors also is hard.

Proper equipment

If your mom or dad can't stand for long, a shower seat with suction feet is ideal. The seat's feet hold it in place while your parent showers.

Grab bars can prevent falls and help with balance.

A long-handled brush or sponge will make it easier to reach the back or feet. A soft washcloth is also important, as it's gentle on aging skin.

Proper soap

Ideally, your parents want to pick a soap that has very few ingredients. Goat's milk soap, shea butter, coconut oil or one made with olive oil is better than one that uses a lot of chemicals or fragrance.

Once they're done soaping their skin, they need to rinse thoroughly. Any remaining residue will be drying and may even irritate the skin.

Forgetting to moisturize

Once they're done with their showers, your parents need to

dry their skin. Some moisturizing products are designed to go on when the skin's still wet. Check the instructions on your parents' favorite products.

They could keep things simple and use coconut oil or almond oil to moisturize their skin. If they use these oils, they need to remember that a little goes a long way.

Your parents shouldn't get dressed until the skin is dry. Trapped moisture can lead to irritation or infection. Moisture between the toes can cause the skin to dry out and crack, which might impact your parents' mobility.

Water can be too hot

Hot water might feel good on a cold winter's day, but it dries the skin. If it's too hot, it could scald the skin. Ideally, you don't want the shower water to be hotter than 112 degrees Fahrenheit.

Some showerheads have built-in thermometers to alert you to water that's too hot or too cold. They're not expensive, so an upgrade from a current

showerhead might be a good idea.

Turning down the water heater so that it's no higher than 120 degrees also is helpful. Most are factory-set at 140 degrees. If you see your parents' water heater is set too high, turn it down.

If you're worried that your parents aren't taking care of their skin and hair during a shower, talk to them about it. They simply might need help choosing better skincare products. They also might need help reaching areas of the body, such as their feet. A senior care aide can help them with that.

Once you've discussed showering and personal care, talk to a senior care agency to make arrangements. Your parents might not need daily care, but even a few days a week can make a difference.

If you or an aging loved-one are considering hiring help, feel free to talk with the staff at Better Care Home Health Services LLC at 4215 Ridge Ave., (267) 766-5218.



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Friends of McMichael Park hold Memorial Day ceremony

by Christina Kistler for East Falls **NOW**

A cold and rainy weekend cleared just in time for East Falls residents to gather for a Memorial Day morning commemoration in McMichael Park.

Under clearing skies, a group of approximately 50 East Falls residents gathered to honor our fallen military. I was honored to open with a welcome and reminder that our freedom does not come for free. We were there to honor those who gave their life for our freedom. The commemoration continued with a welcome by Rich Lampert, Coordinator for Friends of McMichael Park.

Members of St. Bridget Adult choir, led by Choir Director Bill Riechers, helped lead our national anthem before St. Bridget's Pastor Rev. Bernard Taglianetti gave an opening prayer in memory of military service members who died for our country.

After many joined in singing America the Beautiful, led by our Memorial Day choir, we heard of the military history of our guest speaker, Captain Norris Childs, USN, MC (Ret). He originally presented his bio to the Friends of McMichael Park as follows:

I have a mixed military history. I fled the US in 1966 to avoid getting drafted to go to Vietnam. I joined the Peace Corps, which gave you an exemption while you served, which I did in India for two years and three months (teaching farming as a good farmer boy from Philadelphia!) When I returned and finished college, I applied for a conscientious objector status as a Quaker. I was bluntly told that that was irrelevant as the draft had been abolished. So, I went on with life, finishing medical school and surgical training and starting practice in Philadelphia.

At age 42 I decided to respond to the monthly letters I got from all branches of the military asking me to join by joining the Navy. After all, my grandfather and father had both served in the Navy in World War I and World War II respectively, and I felt that serving as a non-combat-

ant physician would be consistent with my pacifist principles. So, I applied and was commissioned. Within a year of joining I was granted my ultimate wish, which was to go to war! My hospital was called up to go to Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Storm. We went, and while there I learned that war is indeed bad for children and other living things.

Upon returning I stayed in the reserves for another 21 years and had a lot of adventures. I served with the SEABEES for seven years, spending two and a half weeks on a project in Albania, spending two and a half weeks in Iceland during January, then US Strategic Command in Omaha for two years, and then with an administrative unit in Washington DC. During that latter time, I got called up again for Operation Enduring Freedom for a year and was "deployed" to Jacksonville, FL, and Portsmouth, VA (for definite hardship duty!) But during that time, I was able to go to Iceland during the summer to take a tropical medicine course at USUHS and the Marine Corps' Cold Weather Medicine training course. As a result of those I was able to spend time in Guyana seeing real third-world medicine, and in Kenya teaching trauma care. During my last six years of service I taught about 85 courses on advanced trauma life support to young military physicians at Ft. Sam Houston in San Antonio. At no time did I feel that my joining, or my service, or the service of any I served with, compromised any of the principles I had grown up to believe in.

East Falls resident Patricia Latanzio had carefully swept the war memorial before the day and donated a new wreath for this year's commemoration. The wreath was hung by local resident Gus DiStefano during the ceremony, while the bells at the former church at McMichael St. and Midvale Ave., now home to Robert Weinberg and Eric Matzke, rang out.

To conclude the ceremony, Taps was played by trumpeter and Penn Charter teacher Tim Clarke, who has volunteered his time to our Memorial Day ceremonies over the



Capt. Norris Childs delivers his Memorial Day address at program sponsored by the Friends of McMichael Park as (left to right) Rev. Bernard Taglianetti, Gus DiStefano and Rich Lampert join in listening with attendees.

last few years

A special thank you to all of those who volunteered to support the event, as well as the many who attended, including St. Reps. Pam DeLissio and Darisha Parker.

One tangible outcome of the Memorial Day gathering was

a generous offer from an anonymous donor enabling Friends of McMichael Park to buy a replacement for the badly weathered flag that was flying over the ceremony. The new flag was raised in mid-June, while the old flag was taken to American Legion

Post 355 in Bala Cynwyd for proper disposal.

If you would like to be part of next year's Memorial Day commemoration, please reach out to McMichaelPark@gmail.com, and we will contact you as we plan our next ceremony.

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From left, Trevor and Emme Baley and Kelly Molnar participating in the East Falls Town Watch June "Litter Crew Ahead" clean-up on Ridge Ave.



Penelope and Ivan Dmochowski also took part in the June 19th clean-up effort.



This apparently illegal and definitely graffitied billboard on Ridge Ave. near the on and off ramps to I-76 is on EFTW's radar for removal.

TW targets include speeders, short-dumping and illegal billboard

by Mary Jane Fullam
President, EF Town Watch

Promoting a clean and cared-for neighborhood, doing safety patrols, meeting with police and helping neighbors solve problems -- the work of East Falls Town Watch continues.

Anyone who wants to help can reach us at www.eastfallstownwatch@gmail.com. We welcome the involvement of all neighbors.



Several recent issues brought to the front burner by neighbors and being pursued by EFTW include:

- Enforcement of speed limits on Kelly Dr., spearheaded by TW volunteer Curtis Jablonka. Jablonka has been in contact with Police Capt.



From left, Ivan Dmochowski and Daphne Hanford take part in EF Town Watch's campaign to remove graffiti on the Schuylkill Expressway wall that faces East Falls (photo by Andrea Sunderland.) This involved a considerable climb from the expressway ramp that gives access to the wall. But nearby, Curtis Jablonka scores even more points for a higher risk move on the bridge carrying the expressway over City Ave. (Photo by Mary Jane Fullam.)

Gregory Riley, traffic district commander, who responded by arranging for the Streets Department to set up two electronic radar speed limit signs on Kelly Dr. Jablonka reports that Riley said the police are starting focused enforcement, and that tickets will be issued in most cases. He also said that Philadelphia Police are coordinating with

the State Police for regular speed enforcement using radar starting in July.

- A serious short dumping problem has developed off of 3500 Scotts Ln., red-flagged by EFCC Zoning Chair Hilary Langer. Photos have been supplied to Capt. Anthony Ginaldi, Commander of the 39th District.
- An apparently illegal



small billboard on Ridge Ave. near the juncture of I-76 off-ramps entering East Falls has been an EFTW concern for some time. A new posting on the board of a business in Bala Cynwyd caught the attention of Wissahickon Brewery owner Tim Gill, and TW will continue its efforts to confirm the identity of the owner of the property and

seek the removal of the board.

July 17 clean-up

Upcoming is our July 17th "Litter Crew Ahead" beautification project, focusing on the Kelly and M.L.K Drs. in the vicinity of the Falls Bridge. Volunteers will meet at Kelly Dr. and Calumet St., where bags, safety vests and gloves will be provided. We'll be

(Continued on page 7)

Food market at Tilden and Vaux

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HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Due to new PA Department of Environment Protection COVID protocols, residents must now register for Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events. There are dates provided to Philadelphia residents for drop-off at Streets' Sanitation Convenience Centers between the hours of 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Go to the streets dept website in order to schedule an appointment.

- Friday, July 16th at 8401 State Rd. at Ashburner St.
- Saturday, Sept 25th at 22nd St. & York St.
- Saturday, Oct 9th at 3033 South 63rd St.
- Saturday, Nov 6th at 3901 Delaware Ave.

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TW targets include speeders, short-dumping and illegal billboard



This short dumping site has cropped up at the end of the driveway at 3500 Scotts Ln. and will require some heavy-duty lifting to remedy.

(Continued from page 6) working from 9 am to 12 noon. Even an hour of help would be appreciated.

The July EFTW calendar also includes:

- **Thurs., July 8, 7 pm:** an in-person meeting at our headquarters in the Carfax Bldg., 3540 Indian Queen Ln.

- **Wed., July 15, 6 pm:** the 39th District Police Service Area 1 teleconference with Lt. Sean Bascom, 6 p.m. Dial 605-313-5071 and use code 946071#.

- **Mon., July 26, 7 pm:** The 39th District Captain's monthly community meeting is set to be held at the Police District headquarters, 22nd St. and Hunting Park Ave. This can be confirmed by calling 215-686-3390.

Reported crime:
May 12, 5 pm

3300 block Warden Dr.
 Fraud

May 13, 6:40 pm
 3400 block Vaux St.
 Theft

May 14, 1:36 pm
 3400 block W. Penn St.
 Assault

May 18, 10:25 pm
 3500 block Vaux St.
 Motor vehicle theft

May 25, 2:51 pm
 3600 block Haywood St.
 Theft

May 25, 4:46 pm
 3300 block Henry Ave.
 Theft from vehicle

May 30, 4:17 pm
 3400 block Midvale Ave.
 Theft

June 1, 9:24 am
 3500 block Indian Queen Ln., garage
 Assault

June 1, 4:20 pm
 2900 block W. School House Ln.
 Theft

June 2, 6:27 pm
 3500 block Sunnyside Ave.
 Assault

June 4, 3:57 pm
 3400 block W. School House Ln.
 Theft

June 21, 4:57 am
 Wissahickon Ave. and W. Queen Ln.
 Assault

June 21, 12:56 pm
 5500 block Wissahickon Ave.
 Theft

June 21, 7:39 pm
 3200 block Fox St.
 Theft

For more information, contact the 39th Police District, 215-686-3390.

Man arrested as suspect in EF workplace slaying

Philadelphia police have charged a 39-year old Delaware man with the murder of his mother in East Falls last February.

Police had been investigating Keith Gibson ever since the Feb. 8 fatal shooting of his mother, Christine, a counselor at the social service agency United Peers, Midvale and Ridge Aves.

Keith Gibson was paroled in from prison in Delaware 2020 after serving time for manslaughter in a 2010 case.

Christine Gibson was found dead inside her office workplace. Police said at the time they found no sign of forced entry, and that they believed she either let in someone she knew or was followed when she opened the office that morning.

The case took a turn in early June when Philadelphia police posted footage of a sus-

pect in the June 5 murder of a Dunkin' Donuts manager on Lehigh Ave. in the Fairhill section of Philadelphia.

Delaware officials said the suspect and circumstances matched those in robberies and homicides they were investigating, and on June 8 Wilmington police arrested Gibson. He is suspected of a spree of robberies and murders and also of violating his parole if he was in Philadelphia at the time of the fatal shooting of his mother in February and the Dunkin' Donuts manager in June.

Philadelphia police said they are investigating to determine if Gibson was involved in other holdups and slayings, including a January double homicide on the 3600 block of Germantown Ave., when two men were found slain in the Ali-Madinah Traders store.



Painting and singing for Alex's Lemonade



Top right, East Falls dog portrait artist Jay McClellan sells lemonade and self-authored coloring books in McMichael Park on behalf of Alex's Lemonade Stand to combat childhood cancer. He was joined by mothers and children gathered to enjoy musical therapist Gina Ferragame and her weekly sing-along, Gina and her Music.

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

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 ✓ Zoom: East Falls as seen in Historic Maps
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Our dues are little but the rewards of becoming a member of the Friends of the Falls of Schuylkill Library are great! Dues and funds raised by the Friends cover programs, materials, activities, furnishings, building upgrades, repairs and much more at our Falls branch not funded by the Library budget.

Become a Friends member and join in this important work that strengthens our Library branch and our entire community.

Renewals are being sent to current members and those interested in joining will find an application on the Friends' website at eastfallslibraryfriends.org. Our new PayPal option makes it easier than ever to join. Act today!

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

West Falls Bridge carried anthracite to the world

by Steven J. Peitzman

The February 2021 issue of East Falls NOW included an article on our beloved Falls Bridge. Here we feature another of our historic bridges, the West Falls Bridge, or more correctly (and bulkily), the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Schuylkill River Viaduct. It's also sometimes called the "Skew Bridge."

We chose this topic having in mind the current on-site and on-line exhibit at the Library Company of Philadelphia, "Seeing Anthracite," created by staff conservator and visual artist Andrea Krupp. It merits a careful viewing.

Pennsylvania contains the largest deposits of anthracite in the world, in enormous veins to the north and west of the Delaware Valley. East Falls can claim several connections with anthracite.

Inventor and entrepreneur Josiah White (1781-1850) as a young man owned property in the Falls Village (and resided here), and attempted to become wealthy by taming the falls for water power. It didn't work out.

He also set up a mill to make wire and nails, also short-lived. Later, as an ex-Fallser in Mauch Chunk -- today Jim Thorpe -- he is credited with finding the way to burn the dense anthracite coal, which can be close to 99 percent pure carbon.

His passion for waterways

as commercial conduits -- canals particularly -- fostered the spread of anthracite as an industrial and household fuel.

Although it was not one of White's many projects, the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad (it never was actually formally known as the "Reading Railroad") was char-

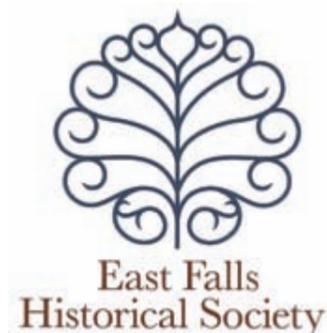
tant, as steam locomotives tended to ignite their neighborhoods.

Designed by the railroad's "General Superintendent" Gustavus A. Nicolls, the stone arch viaduct we now view near the Route 1 bridges overhead was completed in 1855, when coal cars carried only a few tons each and the steam locomotives were small. But a century later it easily held the weight of massive "T-1" steam locomotives pulling enormous strings of heavy loaded coal hoppers.

The coal is mostly gone, but the bridge still sees occasional use more than 160 years since it was built. The structure comprises seven arches, each 90 feet in length, over the river and 35 feet over the Kelly and MLK Drives, for a total length of about 700 feet.

Its deck rises about 3 inches per 100 feet from west to east.

What about the "skew?" American railroads often were built along rivers. That's where the towns were, and it was cheaper. Trains cannot make sharp turns, so when a line needed to cross the river, it would do so on an angle, or skew. This also maintained the direction of the route. That presented a problem for stone arch bridges, since both the water passages and the piers need to be aligned with the flow of the waterway. Both will be perpendicular to the line of the bridge in a simple construction, not on a skew. In



tered in 1833 to haul anthracite along the Schuylkill River to Philadelphia. To ship the "black gold" to the world, it created the docks of Port Richmond on the Delaware River, and opened its "Richmond branch" in 1842.

Reaching Philadelphia on the west bank of the Schuylkill, the Reading had to cross the Schuylkill to then run north and east through the city to the Delaware, and company officials chose to do the river crossing at Falls of Schuylkill.

At first, it built a wood bridge, but soon something more durable and stronger was required for heavier trains and locomotives. Also, being fireproof was impor-



Top, the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Viaduct, aka West Falls Bridge, in its earlier days, as a heavy Reading freight train pulled by a T-1 "northern" type steam locomotive crosses the Schuylkill River on the viaduct. Bottom, the viaduct today.



our viaduct, the solution was building eight thin series of parallel arches joined together, but staggered. This is a lot easier seen than described, at least by me. Go take a look.

So in the heyday of anthracite and steam engines, immense trains struggled upgrade across the viaduct, then through East Falls on an even sharper gradient. Fallers were afflicted with smoke, soot, and roaring

noise. The train buffs loved it. But why do we see a second rail bridge (built in 1889), this time curving? That's the "Blue Line Bridge," a story for another time.

Do you have questions about East Falls history, or want to know more? See our growing website at eastfallhistorical.com, or contact us at eastfallhistory@gmail.com. And join! You can do so on our website.

EAST FALLS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Join the East Falls Community Council by visiting our website at www.eastfallscommunity.org. See "BECOME A MEMBER." Dues are \$10 per year, waived upon request.



Join the East Falls Town Watch May "Litter Crew Ahead" community cleanup on Saturday, July 8, 9 am to 12 noon. Meet at Kelly Dr. and Calumet St.



Located in Philadelphia's East Falls Community at the corner of Ridge and Midvale



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Save the bees -- but the right ones!

Many of you who are regular readers of this column will have heard the phrase, 'save the bees' before.

This phrase usually is accompanied by images of honey bees. The 'save the bees' campaign often is linked to conservation and environmentalism.



Navin on Nature

by Navin Sasikumar

Unfortunately, honey bees are the bees that are in least need of saving, at least in North America. They are an agricultural livestock species that is not native to our area and can have detrimental effects to our ecosystems.

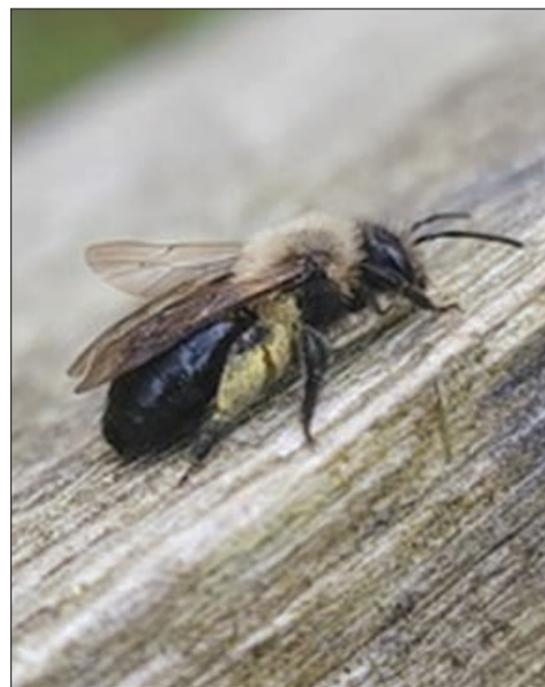
Honey bees belong to the genus *Apis*, and the most common species we use for

agriculture here is the western honey bee (*Apis mellifera*). They are an old world species, originating in Asia or Africa and spreading to Europe.

On every continent Thanks to European colonizers, they now are found on every continent except for Antarctica. While they have a significant value to agriculture, equating them to conservation is a trap that many people have unwittingly fallen into, helped in no part by commercial beekeepers and media narratives around honey bees.

I myself believed that we needed to save honey bees up until a few years ago. But listening to bee researchers and reading about the harm that honey bees can cause to our native bee populations has helped changed my mind. To paraphrase a quote I saw online, "helping honey bees to save bees is like helping cattle to save bison."

North America has more than 4,000 species of native



Left, the Sweet Bee, and right, the Mining Bee.

bees. Unlike honey bees, most of them are solitary, which means that they don't form large social hives. Many nest in the ground by making small holes. Some are leaf cutters; they cut leaves to line their nests.

Some, such as the cuckoo bees, parasitize other bee nests. Some native species such as those in the bumble bee genus are seasonally social -- they don't overwinter

in hives and new colonies are started each spring.

A lot of our native bees are tiny and often you might overlook them. Others are quite large and noticeable, including the Eastern Carpenter Bee.

Some are picky about eating.

Many of our native species are specialists in that they feed on and pollinate only the flowers of some plants. This

is quite different from honey bees that are generalists and will feed on a vast array of plants.

Many of our native bees are endangered. Some, such as the American Bumblebee (*Bombus pensylvanicus*) are rapidly declining in range and now are functionally extinct in Pennsylvania.

While the 'save the bees' campaign has helped in rais-

(Continued on page 10)

Does East Falls need a Neighborhood Conservation Overlay?

(Continued from page 1)

diversity of neighborhoods across the city. Think of the similarities of University City to Manayunk (none!), Mayfair to East Falls (none!), Chestnut Hill to South Philly (none!) But the same zoning code applies.

Therefore, in order to assist each neighborhood to protect its unique character, legislation was enacted by the City in 2004 for each neighborhood to write special requirements to protect, and even amplify, its special defining character either through the device of an NCO in the residential sections of a neighborhood or a Neighborhood Commercial Area in the business part of a neighborhood.

For East Falls, an NCO would have been particularly useful in the case of 3445 Division St. Here a developer is proposing to build two townhouses at 38 feet high directly across a barely passable street from two-story homes at 22 feet high. The EFCC prevailed at the Zoning

board of Adjustment (ZBA) in opposition to the project after several continuances and delays, but now the developer is appealing to the Court of Common Pleas. An NCO in place at the time would have terminated any debate on setbacks or height on which a developer is unwilling to negotiate, as he is within his rights under the current zoning code.

Many NCO's already are established around the city. Locally these include one in Wissahickon and Roxborough.

The goal of the Wissahickon NCO states its intention "to protect the existing walkable and aesthetic character of our neighborhood." It states:

"Walkability serves the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens by providing human-scale design, interesting and pedestrian-friendly facades, and 'eyes on the streets,' all in close proximity to useful commercial destinations, parks, and transit. The NCO applies to new

building construction, the expansion of an existing building, and major alteration of an existing building. The mission is to maintain the public streetscape and building form and visual qualities/characteristics of our District."

The guidelines to establish an NCO include:

- Recognition that a particular neighborhood has integrity of form and streetscape that warrant conservation
- Regulation of significant

work to a building façade (that is visible from a public right-of-way), replacement of existing buildings, and construction of new structures, but does not regulate interiors or stop demolitions.

- Maintaining of the public streetscape and building form (i.e. setbacks, cornice lines, landscape features) and visual qualities/characteristics of the district

- No overlap with an existing or proposed municipal historic district

- Maximum size is 25 blocks; minimum size is two blocks by two blocks

- 70 percent of land must be residentially zoned and contain a residential use and no more than 20 percent of the land can contain vacant lots

- Must possess a consistent architectural character as a result of a concentration of residential buildings of similar character or a continuity established by an overall plan.



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

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

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

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

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

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

Black Squirrel, 3749 Midvale Ave.; English pub-style menu; 215-323-2611; Wed. to Fri., 3 to 10 pm; Sat., 12 noon to 10 pm.

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

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

East Falls Farmers Market, under the Twin Bridges between Kelly Dr. and Ridge Ave., 11 am to 1 pm Sat.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Little Miz Cupcake, 3502 Scotts Ln., Bldg. 21 in Sherman Mills; 215-960-7684; www.littlemizcupcake.com; LittleMizCupcake; classic and specialty cupcakes, cakes, cheesecake, cupcake parfaits and small batch sweets; 12 noon to 6 pm Thurs. to Sun.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thunder Mug, 4233 Ridge Ave., 267-766-6950; take out only; call to order ahead or on-line at www.thundermugcafe.square.site for coffee and pastries; 8 am to 3 pm daily.

Trolley Car Cafe, 3269 S. Ferry Rd. under the Twin Bridges, 267-385-6703; trolleycarcafe.com; outdoor table service,

take-out and delivery, Uber Eats and Grub Hub; 9 am to 3 pm daily.

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

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

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

Also open in East Falls:
Aikikai Martial Art of Peace of Philadelphia, 215-843-2200

BeautiFitStrong, 4027 Ridge Ave., 215-432-0414

Connie Gillespie, Elfant Wissahickon Realtors, 215-805-0695

Dr. Leaks, www.drleakspilly.com, 215-717-9667

East Falls Eye Associates, Dr. Jesse Jones, 4189 Ridge Ave., 215-844-2406

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

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

Fred's Mobile Lock Shop, 215-483-1302

McIlvanie Funeral Home, 3711 Midvale Ave., 215-844-0211

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

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

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

SoLi Fitness, Derrick Johnson, 267-971-2943

The NouVaux Market, Tilden and Vaux Sts., 215-438-7600

We mourn the loss of...

Jack McNicholas

John E. "Jack" McNicholas, for 37 years a familiar figure as a mailman in East Falls, died June 7 surrounded by family and relatives at his home on Indian Queen Ln. He was 89.

A graduate of Roman Catholic High School, lifelong member of St. Bridget parish and U.S. Navy Veteran of the Korean war, Jack spent many years as a union representative for his postal colleagues. He coached little league baseball and served as a league commissioner for 12 seasons for the East Falls Sports Asso-

ciation. He also worked at what was then Philadelphia College of Textiles & Sciences. He and his late wife Lillian (nee Quinn) are survived by their 10 children: James (Marge), Mary (Jonathan), Matthew, Rose (Richard), Edward (Megan), Dominic (Amanda), Monica, Thomas and Daniela (Tom), 20 grandchildren, two brothers and six sisters and spouses, and 40 nieces and nephews and their families. Donations in his name can be made to Saint Bridget parish or Roman Catholic High School. (photo Obits McNicholas)

Joseph P. Long

Joseph P. Long, husband of Maureen Steffy and father of the late Joseph, Jr., William (Jeannette), Kevin and Sean (Kimberly) and stepfather to Arley, died on June 2 after a long illness. He was the long-time owner of Joe Long's East Falls Auto on Indian Queen Ln., and was the first recipient of the East Falls Town Watch Good Neighbor of the Year Award.

Agnes E. Burns

Agnes E. Burns of East Falls and Cape May, N.J., died June 11 at the age of 77. She was the wife of Joseph A. Burns and mother of Katherine Klinger (Philip), Joseph (Gina), Michael (Monica), Theresa Mullen (James), David (Sarah Costelloe) and



John E. "Jack" McNicholas



Agnes E. Burns

Mary Montovani (Jon), grandmother of 14 and great grandmother of one. She is survived by two sisters, Pat Proses and Mary Conway, and one brother, David Bischoff, and many cousins, nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by five siblings: Joseph, Francis and Robert (Gus) Bischoff, Winifred Sontag and Barbara

Kenney.

Roberta C. Grimes

Roberta "Bobbie" C. Grimes, of East Falls, died April 2 at the age of 76. She was the wife of the late Danny Grimes and mother of the late Catherine Gonzalez (Brian). She is survived by her son, Terence.

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Save the bees -- but the right ones!

(Continued from page 9)
ing awareness about eliminating neonicotinoid use and increasing pollinator-friendly habitat that undoubtedly will help our native bees, focusing only on honey bees takes away money and other resources that we need to save our native bees, many of which are better pollinators of our native plants than honey bees.

Selectively bred

Honey bees also compete directly with native bees for

resources such as nectar and pollen. Since honey bees are a domesticated species, they have been bred selectively to over-harvest nectar for our consumption, reducing the amount available to our native bee species.

Honey bees also are disease vectors. Being kept in high concentrations in some areas, they rapidly can spread diseases to native bees. While honey bees are generalist, being non-native, they prefer to pollinate non-

native plants such as Japanese Knotweed and multiflora rose. This increases the invasive plants and decreases the space available for native plants that our bees need to survive.

So, to actually save the bees, focus on native species. Plant native pollinator friendly plants. Put your resources towards native rather than honey bees, and educate others on the bees that actually need saving.

EF Village resumes volunteer services, sets full list of Zoom programs for July

by Mary Flournoy,
Co-chair,
EFV Operating Group

July should prove to be a busy month for East Falls Village, with a full schedule of Zoom programs and the resumption of EFV volunteer services for members -- rides to medical and other appointments and in-home tech help, as well as some social activities open to members.

For further information, call 267-444-4507.

Yoga classes on Zoom

One of our members wrote that "the East Falls Village Zoom Yoga classes have been so convenient and...are a great help as they relieve stress and energize at the same time." Participants can join even from the beach -- or wherever they are vacationing.

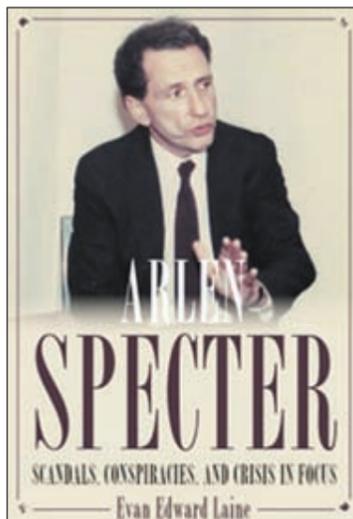
The Tuesday Yoga classes, which involve using a mat

and getting on the floor, will run from July 6 through August 31 at 2 pm. The Thursday Chair Yoga classes will run from July 8 through September 2, also at 2 pm, done seated in or standing behind a chair.

The classes are open to non-members of East Falls Village. The cost for each series is the same -- \$50 for members of EFV and \$65 for non-members. Register by emailing info@eastfallsvillage.org and sending a check, payable to EFCC, to 4055 Ridge Ave., Apt. 1301, Philadelphia, PA 19129.

Sweet tooth trek

Village member Carla Bednar presented part 1 of her "Sweet Tooth Trek" in March, when she covered Portland, Maine to Scandinavia in a fun travel show featuring desserts, history, art, and architecture and more desserts! In Part 2, she will cover St. Petersburg, Russia and the Benelux countries of



July 23 program

Belgium and the Netherlands.

Carla invites viewers to share their memories of these places, too! Register by emailing info@eastfallsvillage.org to get the Zoom link to her presentation on Friday, July 23 at 2 pm.

Arlen Specter: Policy

Before Party

Evan Laine, MA, JD, Associate Professor of History at Thomas Jefferson University and Faculty Director of the Arlen Specter Center at the University, examines Senator Arlen Specter's decades-long career through storytelling and photographs as covered in his book *Arlen Specter: Scandals, Conspiracies, and Crisis in Focus*.

Laine will discuss how Specter regularly put policy before party, often to the detriment of his career. In particular, he will discuss how Specter defeated his party's filibuster attempt to prevent President Obama's stimulus package from becoming law after the economy collapsed due to the bursting of the housing bubble. He also will discuss Specter's change of party from Republican to Democrat in 2009.

Register by emailing info@eastfallsvillage.org to get the Zoom link to his pre-

sentation on Wednesday, July 28 at 7 pm.

Neighborhood walks

Join Village members on most Thursdays for a stroll through East Falls. We usually meet at 10 am in the Library Garden and decide where to go. But we sometimes have special destinations, or cancel the walk because of the weather or another reason.

If you would like to receive occasional emails about special destinations or weather-related cancellations, send an email to info@eastfallsvillage.org.

If you are not a member yet, but would like more information about our programs and services, visit www.Eastfallsvillage.org. You can join online under the "How to Join" section and pay by credit card. Or, to receive the new East Falls Village membership brochure and application, call 267-444-4507.

Old Methodist Church reborn as community office building

by John T. Gillespie

Take an abandoned church with a wide-open sanctuary, throw up some interior walls, call it 3580 IQL or Studio IQL for 3580 Indian Queen Ln, and what you get is a hip community office building -- home to a half dozen design and wellness businesses in East Falls.

The creators are husband and wife team Val Nehez and Anthony Tyler, who purchased the historic Falls United Methodist Church in 2006, a year after it closed for lack of congregants. Both are interior architects with their own sense of style and commitment to preservation. In a reminder of the building's origin, the former church's old organ pipes hang suspended in solitary array from the ceiling in the main conference space.

The couple has shown its commitment to the community by moving into the rectory alongside the church and by "donating" the adjoining sidewalk along Krail St. to Fiorino's restaurant for outdoor seating for up to 45 diners. Not only has this been a god-send during COVID for the popular if small Italian eatery, it's brought a "touch of Rome and Florence" to the neighborhood, says Val. "We've turned our beautiful East Falls corner (Indian Queen Ln. and Krail St.) into a go-to hot spot for people from all over the city and beyond," she says.

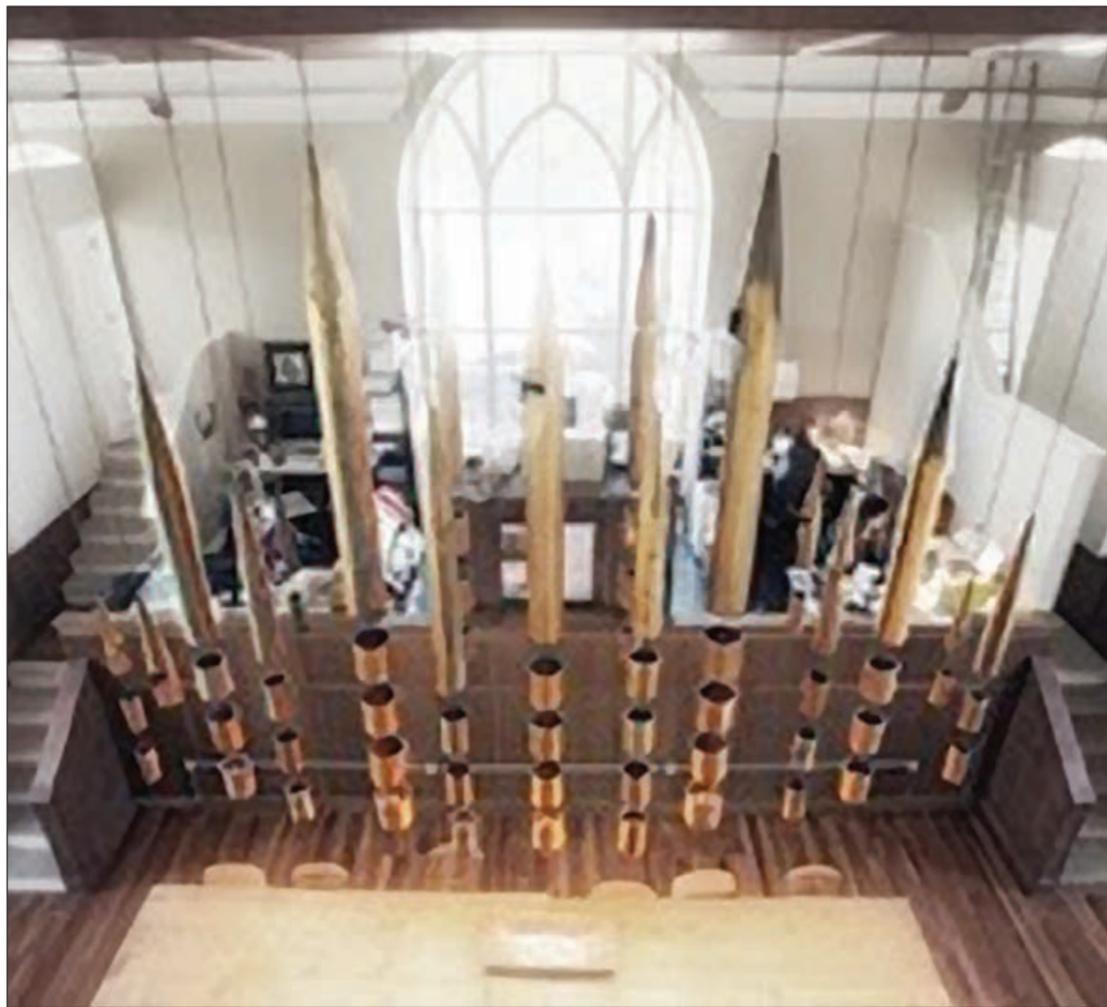
"My husband and I have lovingly converted and restored every square foot from a church to a creative office community," she says. "We are now an incubator for many East Falls businesses, including a cupcake bakery, a forest drone company, artists and filmmakers, to name a few."

Former tenant and graphic designer Kristin Puls of Kristen Does Design, now moved to Colorado, says she "loved" her studio office. "I was nervous about making the leap, but it proved to be the best career decision I've made yet. With vaulted ceilings, natural patina from the exposed plaster and great light from the old church windows, I felt right at home as an artist."

Besides the space, Puls appreciated the eclectic work environment. "The community that formed around IQL was diverse and motivating. There were always new faces coming in and out from different parts of the city, various industries and expertise."

Newest tenant Michelle Feldman, executive director of the East Falls Development Corporation (EFDC), raved about the space -- "It's gorgeous!" -- and its proximity to Ridge Ave., East Falls' commercial corridor.

Val sees Studio IQL as a post-COVID trend to satellite offices by people who prefer to work closer to where they live and pay much less. Her rents are a "fraction" of office rents in Center City. Tenants also



Old organ pipes hang over conference table at Studio IQL, 3580 Indian Queen Ln.

save themselves a commute and expensive parking fees, although some residents along Indian Queen Ln. complain about the daily influx of cars and parking on already congested streets.

COVID has taken its toll. Val says the pandemic depleted almost half their tenants. The decision by EFDC to set up shop in the former church hopefully will be a new wave.

"We are working hard to get back to full capacity," says Val. "Now that many businesses are reconsidering their larger, costly, center city office spaces and opting for small satellite locations closer to the homes of their workforces, this is the perfect time to draw thriving businesses to our unique neighborhood hamlet."

Falls of Schuylkill Methodist Episcopal Church

was officially established in 1855. In 2005, known as Falls United Methodist Church, the church was discontinued. The Falls United Methodist Church records, 1851-2009, include a large amount of meeting minutes and vital and membership records, and other records relating to the property, nursery school, church history, chorus, and other topics.

Be safe: COVID-19 vaccines now available in East Falls

Do the smart thing: If you're not vaccinated against COVID-19, it's easy to get yours now at five East Falls locations. It's safe, fast and free, and it protects you, your family and your community.

Pharmacies in the Acme at

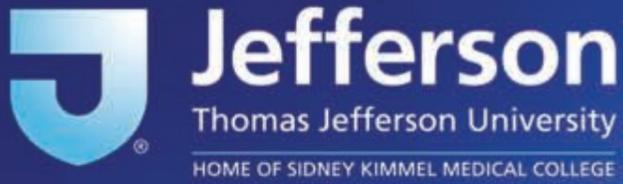
5927 Ridge Ave., three nearby Rite Aids -- 3601 Midvale Ave., 5911 Ridge Ave. and 164 W. Chelton Ave. -- and the CVS at 3780 Main St. all have the vaccines.

For more information: Acme Ridge Ave. -- 215-487-3419



Rite Aid Midvale Ave. -- 215-842-2950
Rite Aid Ridge Ave. -- 215-482-1992
Rite Aid W. Chelton Ave. -- 215-438-5167
CVS Main St. -- 215-508-3607

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