

# East Falls **NOW**

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Getting ready for coffee, high tea and pastries and a September opening are owners Lizette Apy and Brandon Warrick

## Thunder Mug Café to open in Sept. with coffee, pastries and high tea

by John T. Gillespie

East Falls' new coffee and pastry shop, Thunder Mug, will open this month under ownership of two young entrepreneurs and Chicago transplants Lizette Apy and Brandon Warrick.

The renovated storefront at 4233 Ridge Ave., formerly a beauty salon, will feature coffee from Chestnut Hill Coffee and local pastries, including those of Thunder Mug's own pastry chef. It also will offer tea in the English manner every afternoon between 3:30 and 5:30 pm.

It will be a "modified version of high tea," says Lizette. What would prompt a coffee shop to serve high tea?

According to Lisette, it's a question of simple fairness.

"It's time tea drinkers got the same attention as coffee drinkers," she told EF NOW. Like the coffee and pastries, the tea brands are local.

Fallser Christina Kistler, a former pastry chef with the Four Seasons Hotel, thinks high tea is a grand idea. "I can see small sandwiches, scones with jam and small pastry bites, nicely displayed on a tiered serving plate. I hope residents in the area take full advantage."

Lisette and Brandon are no strangers to coffee shops. Lizette spent 13 years in Chicago working as a barista and manager in places such as Starbucks, learning what works and what doesn't.

Meanwhile, the two soaked up culinary tips and savvy with appliances from cookware giant Williams Sonoma,

where both also worked.

They bring a strong sense of community mindedness and millennial commitment to the urban scene, a feeling they hope is reciprocated. "As we patronize the community, we hope the community patronizes us," Lizette said.

Brandon says they want to be a "place where the community can come and chill out."

Space is limited. Tables, bar seating, and a long table for community dining provide some two dozen seats. The space includes a coffee bar and a new kitchen with a double microwave oven. Period touches like a small early 1900's Caloric gas range and two renaissance style chairs break up the modern all-white interior.

(Continued on page 6)

## EFCC meeting Mon., Sept. 9

The first EFCC meeting of the fall season will be at 7 pm Monday, Sept. 9 at the East Falls Presbyterian Church, Midvale Ave. and Vaux St.

Bill Epstein, President of the EFCC, said that the meeting will be a joint session with the EFCC Zoning Committee, owing to the need to address two timely zoning issues. They involve requests for variances at:

- 3588-3600 Calumet St., where the owner seeks to combine two parcels and build five town homes with parking in the rear; and,
- 3521 Ainslie St., where the owner of a tri-plex seeks to

legalize the current usage and plans no new construction.

Todd Baylson, EFCC Zoning Chair, said that materials for both variance requests have been posted at [www.eastfallcommunity.org/zoning](http://www.eastfallcommunity.org/zoning).

In addition to these zoning issues, the general membership will hear from Alex Labee, representing the city-sponsored program Reading Coaches. The program for children who need help with reading from kindergarten to third grade is active in some 30 sites throughout Philadelphia, including schools, recreation centers and community centers.

## A huge day on Saturday, Sept. 28: Mifflin Day and Conrad St. block party!

Saturday, Sept. 28 is shaping up as a very big, busy day in East Falls.

The day will open with the Thomas Mifflin School Fall Festival and Carnival, aka Mifflin Day, from 10 am to 1 pm, rain or shine, at the school, Midvale Ave. and Conrad St.

Being brought back by popular demand from last year – its debut – Mifflin Day will feature games, arts and crafts, face painting, pumpkin painting, pie throwing and more, along with food and fun for the whole family.

Hundreds attended last year, and the sponsoring Friends of Mifflin promise that the 2019 version will be bigger and better. For more information or to volunteer, email Carla Lewandowski, Chair of the Friends of Mifflin, at [carla.cue@gmail.com](mailto:carla.cue@gmail.com).

### Conrad St. Block Party

The celebration of Fall in East Falls will continue later the same afternoon right up the street from Mifflin in the form of a Conrad St. Block Party, from 4 to 9 pm.

These festivities, sponsored by the East Falls Development Corp. and the East Falls Community Council, will stretch from Sunnyside Ave. to Indian Queen Ln. Area restaurants and businesses will participate, and the street will be lined with family fun activities. A fire engine from the East Falls firehouse will be available for kids of all ages to climb on and explore.

Here's another opportunity to volunteer: email [info@eastfallcommunity.org](mailto:info@eastfallcommunity.org).



The Timmons House on The Oak Road will be featured in the Oct. 20 EFCC House Tour.

## Oct. 20 EFCC House Tour to feature the Timmons House

The 2019 East Falls Community Council House Tour has been set for Sunday, Oct. 20, with the featured stop being the Timmons House on The Oak Road.

Pre-ordered discount tickets are \$20. They can be purchased online at [www.eastfallcommunity.org](http://www.eastfallcommunity.org) by using Pay Pal or any credit card. Tickets also can be ordered by sending a check for \$20 per ticket to EFCC, PO Box 12672, Philadelphia, PA 19129 by Oct. 13 to receive the discount. Discount tickets can be ordered online through Oct. 16.

The Timmons House was built in 1907 by Henry W. Brown, a leader in the fire insurance business and a noted cricketer at the Germantown Cricket Club. It was named to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places in

November 2018.

Now owned by the William Penn Charter School, the Timmons House is an excellent example of Colonial Revival style. Designed by architect Clinton Gardner Harris, it is considered the "charter" house of The Oak Road, which Brown developed in the early 1920's. He saved the legacy oak tree in the middle of the street and even named the curving street after it. The original tree since has been replaced.

Brown died in 1925. In

(Continued on page 13)

**Classes Start Tues., Sept. 3 at Mifflin**

**Lots of new features at Mifflin. See Page 10.**

## Your September 2019 East Falls **NOW** Calendar

### Falls of the Schuylkill Library September hours:

Monday and Wednesday, 12 noon to 8 pm; Tuesday and Thursday, 10 am to 6 pm; and Friday, 10 am to 5 pm. On Mon., Sept. 2, the library will be closed in observance of Labor Day. On Thurs., Sept. 12, the library will open late, at 2 pm, due to staff development. Saturday hours will resume on Sept. 21, from 10 am to 5 pm.

The Literary Enrichment Afterschool Program (LEAP), the Free Library's drop-in after school program, returns this month, offering homework assistance, computer literacy and library skills for students in grades K to 12. Sessions take place Monday through Thursday and from 1 to 5 pm Saturdays.

LEAP also offers literacy enrichment activities for elementary school students. Visit the Falls Library to obtain the LEAP monthly calendar.

### 2 Monday

A happy and safe Labor Day to our East Falls **NOW** readers.

### 3 Tuesday

**10 am:** EF Village's Tuesday morning yoga begins, Church of the Good Shephard (Pg. 12)

**10:15 am:** Music and Movement Time at the Falls Library. Babies and toddlers will enjoy a parent-led music and dance story time. Children will play maracas, shake pom-poms, dance and listen to music and dance-themed books. Come tire out your little ones and meet local parents. Groups and daycares please call the library to set up special visits (Pg. 12)

### 4 Wednesday

**1 pm:** Bridge for Beginners at the Falls Library (Pg. 12)

**6:30 pm:** Dinner and theatre at the Trolley Car Diner (Pg. 10)

### 5 Thursday

**9:30 am:** EF Village neighborhood walk. Meet at Falls Library garden (Pg. 12)

**11 am:** Storytime and block play at the Falls Library, for ages two to six (Pg. 12)

**2 pm:** EF Village's Thursday afternoon yoga begins, Church of the Good Shephard (Pg. 12)

### 7 Saturday

**10 am to 2 pm:** East Falls Farmers Market under the Twin Bridges (Pg. 11)

### 8 Sunday

**6:30 pm:** Dinner and theatre at the Trolley Car Diner (Pg. 10)

### 9 Monday

**4:15 pm:** Read with a Therapy Dog at the Falls Library. School age kids are invited to read with Wally or Orchid, certified therapy dogs. Come share a new book or an old favorite in a judgement-free space. (Pg. 12)

**7 pm:** EFCC General Membership Meeting, EF Presbyterian Church (Pg. 1)

### 10 Tuesday

**10 am:** EF Village's Tuesday morning yoga continues (Pg. 12)

**10:15 am:** Music and Movement Time at the Falls Library for babies and toddlers (Pg. 12)

### 11 Wednesday

**1 pm:** Bridge for Beginners at the Falls Library (Pg. 12)

**6 pm:** Town Watch meeting with 39th District PSA 1 officers (Pg. 8)

**6:30 pm:** Dinner and theatre at the Trolley Car Diner (Pg. 10)

### 12 Thursday

**9:30 am:** EF Village neighborhood walk. Meet at Falls Library garden (Pg. 12)

**2 pm:** EF Village's Thursday afternoon yoga continues, Church of the Good Shephard (Pg. 12)

**7:30 pm:** EF Town Watch meeting, 3540 Indian Queen Ln. (Pg. 8)

### 14 Saturday

**10 am to 2 pm:** East Falls Farmers Market under the Twin Bridges (Pg. 11)

### 15 Sunday

**6:30 pm:** Dinner and theatre at the Trolley Car Diner (Pg. 10)

### 16 Monday

**4:15 pm:** Read with a Therapy Dog at the Falls Library (Pg. 12)

**5:30 pm:** Advanced Bridge at the Falls Library. (Pg. 12)

### 17 Tuesday

**10 am:** EF Village's Tuesday morning yoga continues (Pg. 12)

**10:15 am:** Music and Movement Time at the Falls Library for babies and toddlers (Pg. 12)

### 18 Wednesday

**1 pm:** Bridge for Beginners at the Falls Library (Pg. 12)

**6:30 pm:** EF Historical Society program on William Penn, Falls Library (Pg. 12)

**6:30 pm:** Dinner and theatre at the Trolley Car Diner (Pg. 10)

### 19 Thursday

**9:30 am:** EF Village neighborhood walk. Meet at Falls Library garden (Pg. 12)

**11 am:** Storytime and block play at the Falls Library, for ages two to six (Pg. 12)

**2 pm:** EF Village's Thursday afternoon yoga continues, Church of the Good Shephard (Pg. 12)

**6 pm:** Inn Yard Park Jazz Concert (Pg. 14)

**6 to 11 pm:** EF Beer Garden under the Twin Bridges (Pg. 12)

### 21 Saturday

**10 am to 5 pm:** Saturday hours resume at the Falls Library (Pg. 12)

**10 am to 2 pm:** East Falls Farmers Market under the Twin Bridges (Pg. 11)

**1 to 3 pm:** Demonstration of new voting machines, Falls Library (Pg. 10)

### 22 Sunday

**6:30 pm:** Dinner and theatre at the Trolley Car Diner (Pg. 10)

### 23 Monday

**4:15 pm:** Read with a Therapy Dog at the Falls Library (Pg. 12)

**6 pm:** Town Watch meeting with 39th District police (Pg. 8)

### 24 Tuesday

**10 am:** EF Village's Tuesday morning yoga continues (Pg. 12)

**10:15 am:** Music and Movement Time at the Falls Library for babies and toddlers (Pg. 12)

### 25 Wednesday

**1 pm:** Bridge for Beginners at the Falls Library (Pg. 12)

### 26 Thursday

**9 am to 12 noon:** St. Rep. Pam DeLissio's Annual Senior Expo, Roxborough Hospital (Pg. 10)

**9:30 am:** EF Village neighborhood walk. Meet at Falls Library garden (Pg. 12)

**11 am:** Storytime and block play at the Falls Library, for ages two to six (Pg. 12)

**2 pm:** EF Village's Thursday afternoon yoga continues, Church of the Good Shephard (Pg. 12)

### 27 Friday

**10 am to 2 pm:** East Falls Farmers Market under the Twin Bridges (Pg. 11)

**4 to 9 pm:** Conrad St. Block Party (Pg. 1)

### 28 Saturday

**9 to 11 am:** EF Town Watch "Littler Crew Ahead" clean-up; meet at Inn Yard Park (Pg. 8)

**10 am to 1 pm:** Mifflin Day at Thomas Mifflin School (Pg. 1)

**4 to 9 pm:** Conrad St. Block Party, sponsored by the EF Development Corp. and the EF Community Council (Pg. 1)

### 30 Monday

**4:15 pm:** Read with a Therapy Dog at the Falls Library (Pg. 12)



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# Bike share could come soon to East Falls and entire NW and NE

Talk about a moving target. Less than one year ago I was meeting with Kathleen Hogan, former Executive Director of the East Falls Development Corp., and various parties interested in bringing a bicycling share program to East Falls, Manayunk and nearby parts of Northwest Philadelphia and Lower Merion.

Kathleen is an avid cyclist. Bike sharing, especially the dockless kind, has been a pet project for her. She's worked with a group of stakeholders, community leaders, developers, business leaders and universities to bring it to the Northwest.

The City of Philadelphia's Indego bike program has never reached us or any of our neighbors. It was unclear when or if a city-wide effort would do so.

At the beginning of 2019, we learned that the city was planning to expand its program.

At the same time, developments in the two-wheeled world were moving quickly.

The subject no longer was bikes. It rapidly had become bikes and electric-assisted bikes. And motorized scooters? Another subject altogether.

As for vendors, the scene no longer was small, regional start-up firms looking to provide a service and make a few bucks. Now Uber and Lyft



A message from the  
**EFCC**  
President

by Bill Epstein

were getting into the business big-time in cities more bike-sophisticated than Philadelphia.

Today, the car-ride giants own the largest share of bike networks in the country, including ones in New York City, Boston and Chicago.

Fast forward to last month,

when the City of Philadelphia's Office of Transportation and Infrastructure Sustainability (OTIS) issued a request for letters of intent from companies interested in providing a dockless bicycle pilot program in Northwest and Northeast Philadelphia.

Count on the product looking different than the city's current bulky blue bike operation whose docking stations never worked their way up the Kelly or MLK Drives.

For one thing, the big guys have entered the business. They have access to capital and can deliver on a large scale, especially electric-assisted vehicles. Secondly, "dockless" means that OTIS envisions a program in which riders don't have to return their bikes to a docking station. OTIS requires that bikes be equipped with locking mechanisms. They must "possess a device which may be used to securely fasten the bicycle to a fixed object when not in use" – presumably to be

retrieved by the operating companies when a rental ends, according to the request for letters of interest.

For civic associations such as the East Falls Community Council, this requires a conversation with the city and potential vendors about how "dockless" will work. Will bikes be left for days chained to utility poles and fences all over our neighborhoods? And how do electric scooters, now making their appearance in other cities, fit it? (The city's request for interest is silent on them.)

I'm not suggesting that the city, OTIS and their prospective vendors are ignoring these issues, or that they are inexperienced or uncaring about them. Rather, I'm noting that the EFCC and other civics will have to be prepared to discuss them and offer some good ideas as the process moves forward.

I'm confident that while I'm not one of them, we have enough bike experts in East

Falls to participate effectively and productively.

The first phase of the city's process ended Aug. 30, the deadline for companies to indicate their interest. By Sept. 13, it gets serious. Plans, fees and all kinds of operational and legal stuff are due. That's when we'll see who's really interested.

We'll track developments monthly in future issues of East Falls *NOW* and in our weekly email newsletters. In the meantime, Fallsers interested in helping shape the EFCC's participation in the process can drop me a note at [info@eastfallscommunity.org](mailto:info@eastfallscommunity.org). Use that same address if you're not receiving our weekly emails.

Here's hoping that everyone has had a pleasant and restful summer. As we head into the fall, drop me a note, also, if you're interested in any of the EFCC's committee work – Zoning, Events, Education, Traffic, Solar, Communication and Governance.

## Thankfully, Nick checked in as 'Safe'

The recent events in El Paso, TX and Dayton, OH hit close to home for me personally. My nephew, a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army stationed at Fort Bliss, in El Paso, checked in "safe" via Facebook.

I was relieved and horrified simultaneously. He was literally a few miles from the incident, and once upon a time the idea of having to check in as safe was not a normal task.

The following day Nick and I had an extended conversation that included the fact that the military keeps weapons under lock and key and the ammunition is stored separately. There are strict processes and protocols for accessing those weapons, too.

It is, therefore, baffling to me how many citizens are highly concerned that any type of legislation that regulates gun use

would be infringing upon their rights as gun owners. And by regulation, I am referring to universal background checks, red flag laws and ensuring that the use of military style weapons is limited to...yes, the military.



Pam's  
Viewpoint

by St. Rep. Pamela A. DeLissio

Recently I read an article that talked about various counties across the country that were declaring themselves "sanctuary counties" for the purpose of ignoring various gun control laws that were or could be enacted

in their respective states. Examples given were laws such as universal background checks and red flag laws.

Red flag laws are defined as laws that permit police or family members to petition a state court to order the temporary removal of firearms from a person who might present a danger to others or themselves without due process. A judge makes the determination whether to issue the order. Red flag laws are also known as extreme risk protection orders – ERPOs.

Historically, gun laws are regulated by the state. When efforts have been made by local governments to enact gun control legislation, the PA General Assembly has introduced legislation to pre-empt such efforts.

For Philadelphians, as elsewhere, gun violence is real, and has, in many instances, taken or altered lives irrevocably.

Perhaps if we cannot agree on policies to be enacted statewide, we will need to enact laws by municipality. The chair of the PA Senate Judiciary Committee will be holding hearings on the topic of gun regulation. As of this writing, the PA House Judiciary Committee has not scheduled any such hearings.

In April of 2018, the PA House Judiciary Committee held a series of six meetings on the topic of public safety and gun laws and gun violence. At that time, at least 10 pieces of legislation had been introduced on matters such as universal background checks and banning assault weapons.

In our current legislative session similar legislation has been re-introduced.

It would be most helpful if East Fall *NOW* readers could email or call the offices of the majority and minority chairs of the PA House Judiciary Com-

mittee to ask that hearings be scheduled for pending gun safety legislation.

Majority chair Rob Kauffman can be reached at 717-705-2004 or at [www.repkauffman.com/contact](http://www.repkauffman.com/contact).

Minority chair Tim Briggs can be reached at 717-705-7011, or at [www.pahouse.com/Briggs/contact](http://www.pahouse.com/Briggs/contact).

I am interested in your thoughts and ideas about solutions and policy initiatives regarding gun regulation. My personal preference is that we proceed with the utmost respect for the 2nd amendment. Please email me at [RepDeLissio@pahouse.net](mailto:RepDeLissio@pahouse.net), attend one of my monthly town hall meetings, stop me as I am out and about in the district or call my office at 215-482-8726.

Together we can make our neighborhoods a safer place for everyone to live, work and play.

## East Falls **NOW**

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## A remembrance – Growing up in East Falls

by Ellen Sheehan, Co-Chair,  
EF Historical Society

Growing up in East Falls, a weekly ritual on Saturday mornings for us kids was hanging on the mailbox across from the Methodist Church on Indian Queen Ln., catching sight of the brides and their guests. Today, if you want to see a bride, prepare to fly to a destination beach. Things are so different.

Consider language. We called our female parent mother. There were "Mom and Pop" shops but these were not people we actually lived with. Now everyone calls this person mom. And not always respectfully as in "mom jeans." Which is not a compliment.

After school we went outside and played with whomever was there. Physical stuff like Hopscotch, jump rope and "Red Rover." The mental games were "I packed my trunk for Paris" and "Simon Says." A birthday party was

cake and ice cream and presents like pencils and hair ribbons. Now play dates are arranged ahead of time by parents who supervise in their homes. Limos arrive to transport kids to birthday parties with a theme at places like Sky Zone and Chucky Cheese. Clowns and nannies are hired to assist in the mayhem. Can't even imagine what a present costs for a seven-year old today.

We were brought up on adages. "Waste not, want not," a throw-back to the Great Depression, was still popular in my childhood. Does anyone else still twist and mutilate the toothpaste tube to wring out the last bit? Or save oodles of free bread ties on the slim chance we might need them later.

We were admonished to "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." A golden thought if not rule. Today thankfully "pay it forward" reminds us to do good where we can because we are all in this together.

The good sisters at St. Bridgets, after marking our report

cards for subjects, gave us A-F letters for personal habits. Yes, cooperation, obedience, perseverance, deportment, and the all-important self-control (did anyone ever ace this?) were considered just as important as reading, math and the Palmer Method. Which, by the way, was very important to the good Sisters of St. Joseph.

Did your parents tell you things that didn't make sense, but you didn't question at the time? We weren't allowed to wear sneakers when we were kids because my mother said they "draw your feet." What, with tiny paint brushes attached to the laces? As an adult I asked my mother what exactly did this mean. "Well, the rubber in the soles drew the blood away from your heart." That is gross! Who would even think that this is possible? Obviously, a lot of kids survived this malady.

My grandson wears sneakers that cost \$250. I worry about the effect this may have on his heart, not to mention his wallet.

# Parks on Tap completes five-day run

by Alexis Franklin

The Friends of McMichael Park's year-long celebration of the park's 90th anniversary continued through the summer with the Love Your Park clean-up, a Pop-up-Play, Movie Night, Story time with the Falls of Schuylkill Library, the EFCC's Flea Market, Qigong, boxing, dog pack walks, and, lastly, "Parks on Tap."

The FOMP honored our nation's military with its now annual Memorial Day celebration at the restored East Falls War Memorial. The remodel and renovation of the memorial is a prime example of the dedi-



Three W. Coulter St. generations enjoying Parks on Tap and good weather at McMichael Park are, from left, Nancy Petro; her daughter, Stephanie; and her granddaughter, Sophie. (Photo by Marie Filippini)

and ukulele thrown in for extra measure. Musical numbers from the Rolling Stones and Carol King happily caught everyone by surprise -- not to mention some audience participation as well. The Friends of McMichael Park provided birthday cupcakes for all to celebrate the 90th Anniversary.

### Updates:

Our Big Ash in McMichael Park, looks bad right now, with lots of suspect dieback and dead limbs. Philadelphia Psrkd & Recreation has come to the rescue and is looking into it. Several trees have been treated already.

At the July meeting of the FOMP with Parks & Rec's Jason Mifflin we firmed up plans for turf remediation. This will begin this Fall. Jason is working with the Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) to determine the scope of storm water remediation within the park. He's also working with PWD for its recommendations with the stormwater problems in McMichael Park.

Our doggie bag stations have two new volunteers to keep up with inventory. The team of McCoy-Logan just ordered 4,000 bags, which should keep the park clean till the end of the year. Funded by FOMP with thanks to all the dog walkers, too. And thanks to FOMP volunteer Allison O'Callaghan for her efforts this past year with the dog bag restocking.

Stay updated and follow the FOMP on Facebook.

These features have led them to be put to use as formal and informal gathering spaces, for civic or community events, and for planned or spontaneous events. Parks have even been put to unexpected dramatic use in times of crisis as a place for people to gather and for authorities to provide services to those in need.

Much as early promoters touted many social and economic benefits of parks, advocates today cite impacts such as:

- Parks attract non-resident visitors who put new dollars into local economies.
- Proximity to parks and open space enhances the value of residential properties and produces increased tax revenues for communities.
- Open space captures precipitation, reduces storm water management costs, and protects underground water sources that

often provide drinking water.

- Trees and shrubs reduce air pollution control costs.
- Parks provide habitat for wildlife.

### Measure for Measure

The 12th year of FOMP's Free Theater in McMichael Park proved that we can't always get what we want. In this case, we got rain, and lots of it!

Our annual free production was brought inside due to weather, for the third time in 12 years. Fortunately, we have Penn Charter School and its Kurtz Center to thank! The well-casted performance of William Shakespeare's Measure for Measure performed by the Commonwealth Classic Theatre, our annual partner, was a quirky, witty and contemporary show with a guitar, trumpet

## Happening in or near East Falls...

### Monthly EF Beer Garden

Don't forget the East Falls Beer Garden, on Sept. 19 and every third Thursday of the month on the parking lot under the Twin Bridges. Plenty of food, drinks and games for the whole family (food and games, that is.) Join the fun from 6 to 11 pm.

### New Fairmount Park performances

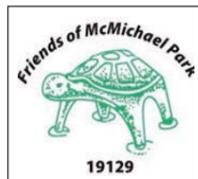
From Sept. 24 to 29, East Fallsers can experience Fairmount Park in a new way -- with the debut of *In Motion, In Place*: Trisha Brown Dance Company in Fairmount Park!

*In Motion, In Place* will take place in the park and on the rooftops surrounding Logan Circle in a series of free performances.

- Roof Piece on the rooftops surrounding Logan Circle, Tues., Sept. 24 and Wed., Sept. 25, at 2:30 and 5:30 pm;
- Foray Foret on the grounds of the historic Mount Pleasant Mansion in East Fairmount Park, on Sat., Sept. 28 at 1 and 5 pm and Sun. Sept. 29 at 1 pm; and,
- Raft Piece on the Strawberry Mansion Reservoir at the Discovery Center in East Fairmount Park, Sat., Sept. 28 at 2:15 pm and 6:15 pm and Sun., Sept. 29 at 2:15 pm.

All performances are free, but guests are encouraged to reserve their free tickets on line at [www.fairmountpark.ticket](http://www.fairmountpark.ticket)

(Continued on page 5)



## Turtle Talk

ation of the FOMP to the preservation of this pristine place.

From the late 1800s through today, parks have been a point of pride for a city.

Emerging towns in frontier America would boast of their parks in promotional materials designed to lure investors and settlers from the East. The wide array of early postcards depicting local parks is additional evidence of communities' pride in them.

Urban parks are typically open, public places that can hold many people at once.

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# Absorbing water is better than letting it run off

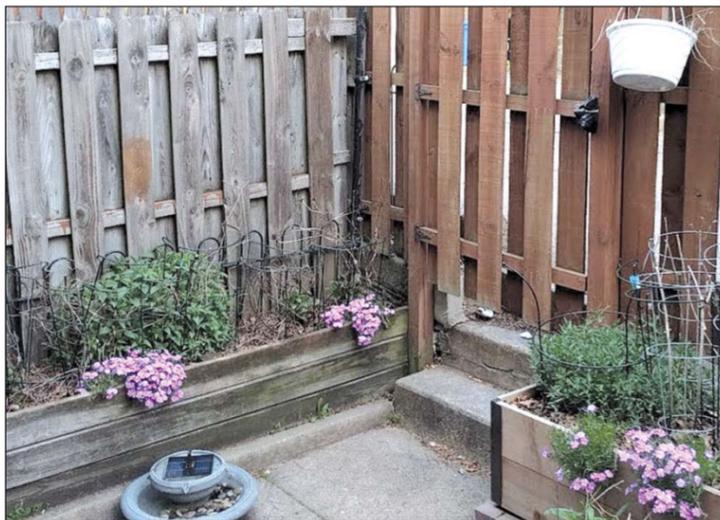
A summer rain is one of my favorite things. There's nothing like a nice downpour to bring the hot summer temperatures down and make the plants look lush and happy again.

But with the amount of rain we've had this summer, there are some downsides as well, especially in an urban city such as Philadelphia.

On the way the water collects all kinds of waste from the streets, often plastics, oils, pesticides and fertilizers, heavy metals and antifreeze -- before dumping them all into our waterways, polluting them and destroying important habitat. Since all the water from higher elevation areas runs downhill, it also has the potential to increase flooding in lower lying areas.

Older cities such as Philadelphia also have a majority combined sewer system -- a single system for wastewater and stormwater. Normally, the system is capable of handling and treating the sewage, but when it rains, the waste and storm waters mix together and overwhelm the system. When that happens, the overflow runs into creeks and rivers at outfall points, untreated, leading to even more pollution.

These issues can be addressed by "softening" our cities. By reducing the amount of area that is paved and impermeable, we can let the rain water be absorbed into the ground as is supposed to



Planters such as these will absorb rainwater and reduce runoff.

be. This can lower the amount of water that flows down our streets or into our combined sewer systems, reducing flooding and pollution.

Depaving also has a few other added benefits. Paved surfaces get much hotter than unpaved areas covered with natural vegetation. Highly paved urban areas can be up to 10 degrees hotter than surrounding rural areas with less

pavement. With rising temperatures due to climate change, these urban areas will become more unbearable.

Reducing pavement allows us to add green space, and there is an increasing body of scientific literature that directly links our mental wellbeing with the amount of green space around us. Adding plants and trees will improve air quality and provide habitat

for wildlife, as well.

Organizations such as Depave have sprung up in various places in the country to tackle the problem of over-paving and to reconnect urban landscapes to nature. The Philadelphia Water Department has its Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) program to reduce the amount of stormwater that flows into the sewer system through the use of rain barrels, green roofs and planting more trees. It has programs that aim to convert alleyways and driveways to permeable surfaces or to send runoff to GSIs at the end of alleyways.

Through clever initiatives, including GSIs, and the engagement of our communities, we can help reduce the impact of storms as well as heat island effects, while at the same time beautifying our neighborhoods and providing a haven for wildlife.

As usual, if you have any comments, questions or suggestions for future articles, please email me at navinsasikumar@gmail.com.



## Navin on Nature

by Navin Sasikumar

Urban areas such as ours have a lot of paved surfaces -- streets, sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, paved yards and houses. When it rains, the water that would normally be absorbed by the ground and the plants hits these impervious surfaces and starts flowing downhill or goes into stormwater drains.

# The twists and turns of the Mulberry Trees

by Linda Good

The home I moved into in 1990 in West Mt. Airy had a mulberry tree on either side of the front walkway, in any season a splendor to behold.

Once, my husband and I had them professionally pruned and they took on the appearance of giant oriental bonsai. The horticulturalist said that they probably dated from the early 1930s when the house was built.

The birds especially enjoyed the purple seedy berries which showed up as messy splatter on our cars for a few weeks every spring -- a small price to pay for the satisfaction of seeing and hearing our feasting feathered friends. Winter snows showed off the trees at their best with a white blanket on

the cantilevered domes of gnarly branches.

Unperceptively at first, the trees both started to lean, like old ladies gracefully reclining over the yard. Eventually the sidewalk was completely blocked, but we had such respect for these majestic creatures that we developed a foot path around them through the grass. Neighbors and friends and delivery people must have thought us very neglectful to allow this obstruction to the front access to the house, but we could not part with these old centurion guards to our entrance way.

Alas, the trunks became knotty and twisty and finally a hole developed through the main trunk of one of them, signaling impending collapse, despite full leafing and even some berries this spring. We regretfully called our tree sur-



Remnants of a Mulberry Tree repurposed by Linda Good as a sidewalk treasure.

geon to remove them. Thankfully he arrived while we were out of town, so we did not have to hear the saw or witness the slaughter. Per my request, the trunks and main branches were left for me to repurpose as ornaments for my rock gardens along the curb.

A master gardener friend of mine advised as to how best to

incorporate the trunk and main branch features among plants, rocks, shrubs and trees. Recently, however, the mulberry tree saga took on a bizarre twist when one of the trunks mysteriously disappeared. I just couldn't imagine why any gardener, a person who loves and respects the work of fellow gar-

deners, would have stolen my ornament.

My husband theorized that the trash men picked it up as just another curbside deposit. Yes, there were a few weeds growing around the trunk, but it couldn't have been that indistinguishable from trash! Perhaps some partying teenagers snagged it for a bonfire.

I will never know. Is there a moral to my story? Or some point to my writing about it? For me the theme of impermanence, transition, appreciating and then letting go of living treasures is again illustrated in the world of nature, as all gardeners know all too well.

*This column is dedicated to your stories about your garden experiences and relationship to gardens. Contact Deborah Kaplan at dkaoplan8@verizon.net.*

## Happening in or near East Falls...

(Continued from page 4)

leap.com.

*In Motion, In Place* marks the first time these works will be presented in Philadelphia, expanding on Trisha Brown Dance Company's recent engagements with presenters worldwide to explore outdoor spaces such as the High Line in New York and the Palazzo Strozzi in Florence, Italy.

### Marathon Cheer Zone

Sunday, Nov. 24 will see the first official East Falls Cheer Zone for the Philadelphia Marathon.

Sponsored by the East Falls Development Corporation and the East Falls Community Council, plans are still in the making for this 7 am to 12 noon welcoming as the marathon runners pass through East Falls. Volunteer by emailing info@eastfallscommunity.org.

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# How the “oldest old” – 85 and up – are coping

by John T. Gillespie

“Old age is a shipwreck,” said Charles deGaulle.

Fewer people would offer so blunt an assessment today, thanks to modern medicine.

More people are living past age 85 than at any time in human history -- nearly six million in America, up from under one million in 1960. And they are living longer once they get there.

New York Times reporter John Leland takes a look at the lives of six over-85 people – the “oldest old” he calls them in his best seller, *Happiness is a Choice You Make*. He found no elixir of life. But he did find that all adapted with varying degrees of success and in ways that achieved some happiness. All had a purpose.

“The challenge,” he wrote, “is to find a purpose in life that will sustain you through the latter years.” In keeping with the book’s title, that choice might be anything from painting, political activity,

and time with family, to feeding the hungry, playing the piano, or just recalling old memories.

In his year-long journey of discovery, Leland uncovered as many approaches to aging as his subjects: a former decorator, 91, who wanted to die but still found life-affirming enjoyment in the latest operatic recording or piece of decorative art; a World War II veteran, 87, who spent his life as a bon vivant, had few regrets, and hoped to live to 110; a Jewish widow, 90, who found new love in a nursing home with a man 15 years her junior; a Cantonese widow, 89, who stayed sharp with a game of mah-jongg every day; a filmmaker and scriptwriter, 91, who continued to find reward in work; a 91-year-old woman who kept herself busy reading books and newspapers and staying in touch with family.

None spent time wondering what the future would bring, reassessing their lives, or contemplating life after death. Some engaged in positive thinking, winnowing out the



NY Times reporter John Leland (right) with Frederick Jones, 87, World War II veteran, one of six “oldest old” people whose lives suggest ways to cope with advanced age.

bad memories from the good. All, it seemed, were reconciled to their lives as lived. Complain some did, but only occasionally and incidentally. The term “chronic complainer” did not apply.

The emphasis was on the present and finding enjoyment in small, often inconse-

quential, pleasures such as a TV show, a dish of ice cream, a book, sharing fond memories or a visit from friends and family.

None fought their infirmities. They were instead accepting or resigned. “The lesson was to find happiness not in the absence of pain and

loss but in their acceptance.”

Ping Wong, the 89-year-old Cantonese widow fond of mah-jongg, “kept up her spirits by accepting her pains as a part of life – not barriers to happiness but accompaniments to it.”

While there was no talk of an afterlife and in 91-year-old decorator John Sorenson’s case, outright rejection, a recurring theme among the elderly, was gratitude, recognized by all great religions as a virtue. For Fred Jones, the bon vivant who hoped to reach 110, “Giving thanks made him happy, which made him grateful, which made him happy.”

Leland himself is grateful for what he learned from the elders. Patience, gratitude, purpose, camaraderie, love, family, and usefulness are his to receive, he writes. “These days I’m kinder, more patient, more productive, less anxious, possibly closer to being the person I always should have been.”

*Reprinted with permission of Village Voices.*

## Thunder Mug Café to open in Sept. with coffee, pastries and high tea

(Continued from page 1)

Brandon juggles a second job as mandolin player with the River Bones, a local blue grass band. He’s played the Wissahickon Brewery on School House Ln. and venues in South Philadelphia.

He calls Ridge Ave. a “catalyst” for retail development and praises the welcome he and Lizette have received, including from tenants upstairs.

Thunder Mug – the name

means “chamber pot” -- joins two other new businesses opening on Ridge – Dreams Lash Bar at 4161 Ridge Ave., and PIT, or Prime Intensity Training, at 4014 Ridge.

Meredith Johnson, executive director of East Falls Development Corp., says she hopes to fill other vacant buildings along Ridge Ave. with invested long-term tenants such as Thunder Mug.

The East Fall Community Council’s weekly email and

website, [www.eastfallscommunity.org](http://www.eastfallscommunity.org), will convey the exact opening date for Thunder Mug. If any EF *NOW* reader does not received the weekly message, email [info@eastfallscommunity.org](mailto:info@eastfallscommunity.org) and ask to be added to the distribution list. Also, the Thunder Mug Facebook page will contain the latest information on the opening, and questions can be directed to [thundermugcafe@gmail.com](mailto:thundermugcafe@gmail.com).

## Kitchen Corner

### Local gin and lime make for tasty marinade

by Anne Farnese

Dean Browne, owner and Master Distiller of Rowhouse Spirits, sets up space at East Falls Farmers Market every other Saturday. Dean’s small-batch distillery, located in East Kensington, produces a variety of spirits with creative names such as Drowned Devil Rum, Bear Trap liqueur and Le Coeur Noir -- an herbal, coffee liqueur.

Rowhouse Spirits 96 proof gin won a bronze medal at the New York International Spirits Competition in 2015 and was recognized by Philadelphia Magazine with a Best of Philly award in 2016.

Although Rowhouse Gin is best enjoyed neat or in a cocktail, its floral and juniper notes enhance a marinade for chicken.

#### Gin and Lime Chicken Thighs:

8 boneless chicken thighs  
Combine and whisk the

following in a large bowl:  
2 tablespoons light olive oil  
¼ cup fresh-squeezed lime juice

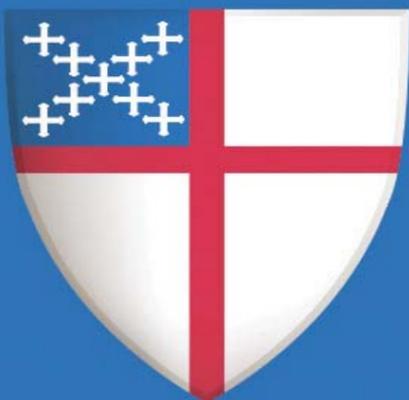
¼ cup gin  
¼ cup brown sugar, packed  
Add chicken thighs and toss to coat.  
Cover and set-aside for ½ hour.

Heat oven to 350 degrees.  
Use tongs to transfer chicken to shallow baking pan, skin side up.  
Pour ½ the amount of marinade over the chicken.  
Save remainder in a small saucepan. Bake chicken for 30 minutes.  
Boil reserved marinade.  
Turn chicken skin side down, baste with marinade, cook for 10 minutes.

Adjust heat to broil, turn chicken skin side up, baste, then broil to crisp skin.  
Serves four.

East Falls Farmers’ Market takes place on Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm in the parking lot under the Twin Bridges, 4100 Ridge Ave.

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## Town Watch cameras nab break-in thieves and graffiti vandals; National Night Out celebration draws large crowd



**Caught on EF Town Watch's** cameras at the EF SEPTA station were two perpetrators who were breaking into cars along Cresson St. — leading to an arrest — and two graffiti vandals whose identification are still being sought. Do you know these people? Anonymous tips can be submitted to 215-686-TIPS.



The security cameras installed at the East Falls SEPTA station by EF Town Watch continued to pay dividends in August. Early in the month the cameras captured images of thieves breaking into neighborhood cars near the station. With the assistance of the photos, police from the 39th District were able to arrest one young man. Police hope that the further arrests will take place, and that they will put a dent in the volume of cars being ransacked

in East Falls.

Later in the month the cameras caught two other young people coming up the steps from the pedestrian tunnel under the SEPTA tracks. They were photographed at the time the graffiti is believed to have taken place.

The photo provided here in East Falls NOW shows one of the persons one carrying what appears to be a can of spray paint. The Town Watch video shows him heaving away the can as he gets to the top of the

steps.

Mary Jane Fullam, President of EF Town Watch, said these images, too, have been turned over the 39th District Police and SEPTA authorities, along with photos of the graffiti.

Fullam said that East Fallers who want to help finance the ongoing use of the cameras and the internet service they require can send contributions to the Town Watch office, 3540 Indian Queen Ln. Or, call 215-848-2033.

## EFCC zoning meeting Sept. 9

The East Falls Zoning Committee will meet at 7 pm Monday, Sept 9 at the East Falls Presbyterian Church, Midvale Ave. and Vaux St., as part of the EFCC's monthly general membership meeting.

Todd Baylson, Vice President of EFCC and chair of its Zoning and Land Use Committee, said the combined meeting is due to scheduling deadlines faced by the EFCC and developers seeking variances from the city's Zoning Board of Adjustment on two properties:

- The owner of 3588-3600 Calumet St., where Dobson St. intersects with Calumet St. near Frank's Pizza, has applied for a variance to combine two properties that sit on the right side of Calumet St. as one travels up the street from Ridge Ave. The owner



**3588-3600 Calumet St.**, one of the properties on the agenda for the Mon., Sept. 9 EFCC joint general membership/Zoning Committee meeting at the East Falls Presbyterian Church, Midvale Ave. and Vaux St.

proposes to build five town-homes with six parking spaces at the rear of the properties. The License and Inspection issued refusals on the proposal, thus requiring variances dealing with parcel widths and land areas smaller than those allowed by the zoning code.

- The owner of 3521 Ainslie St. seeks a variance to legalize the existing usage of the property. No construction is planned.

Materials providing additional details on both zoning variance requests are available at [www.eastfallscommunity.org/zoning](http://www.eastfallscommunity.org/zoning).

# Town Watch



City Councilperson Curtis Jones, Jr. admires the work of the city's program to put bandit signs to creative use.



St. Sen. Vince Hughes enjoys water ice and conversation with EF Town Watch board member Joan McIlvaine at National Night Out

## Town Watch dates:

**Important EF Town Watch dates for September. All welcome to all meetings:**

**Wed., Sept. 11, 6 pm** – Meeting with 39th District Police Service Area 1 officers, Canaan Baptist Church, 5430 Pulaski Ave.

**Thurs., Sept. 12, 7:30 pm** – Town Watch meeting; 3540 Indian Queen Ln.

**Mon., Sept. 23, 6 pm** – Meeting with 39th Police District officials, 22nd St. and Hunting Park Ave.

**Sat., Sept. 28, 9 to 11 am** – Litter Crew Ahead Clean-up, starting at Inn Yard Park.

# marks National Night Out



On Board Engine 35 from the East Falls firehouse are Quentin Smith and his father, Matthew Smith, of Calumet St.

On a brighter note, the largest and liveliest crowd ever for Town Watch's annual National Night Out celebration turned out on TW's Indian Queen Ln. patio and lawn. State Sen.

Vince Hughes, State Rep. Pam DeLissio and City Councilperson Curtis Jones, Jr. were among the dignitaries, but the star of the show were the men and women of the East Falls firehouse who

brought Engine 35 for kids of all ages to climb on and inspect close-up – even to use the engine's water hose.



Part of the large crowd that enjoyed the August 6 East Falls Town Watch participation in National Night Out, held on the porch and lawn of the Carfax Bldg. next to the Old Academy Players theatre.



Joining EF Town Watch for National Night Out festivities on Indian Queen Ln. were, from left, Maeve Siu and her daughter, Mable, of Midvale Ave.; St. Rep. Pam DeLissio; and Julia DeKovich and her daughter, August, of Hayward St.



Olivia Parham and her mother, Genille Patham, get water hose instructions from Engine 35 firefighter Bill Boub.



Examining the products of the City of Philadelphia's program to make artistic use of former bandit signs are Nova Sullivan and her father, Tim Sullivan, of Midvale Ave.

# Bringing back paper ballots; demo set for Sept. 21

by John T. Gillespie

Voters in East Falls got a look at the new voting machines they will face for the first time in the November 5th general election at a city-sponsored demonstration last month at the Falls Library.

A second demonstration is set for Sat., Sept. 21 between 1 and 3 pm in the meeting room of the Library.

The all-digital, touch-screen machines, with paper ballots for verification, will replace the mechanical machines in use for the past 17 years.

City officials say that the new machines from Election Systems and Software (ESS) will ensure greater access and will guard against fraud and potential manipulation of the election data.

"Every voter in Philadelphia should be confident that their ballots are cast securely, and their votes counted accurately," said Al Schmidt, Vice Chair of the Philadelphia City

Commissioners. "Our new auditable paper ballot system will help ensure that."

The Commissioners oversee elections in the city. Operating under a state-imposed deadline, they have been rushing to introduce voters to the machines – 3,750 were purchased – in the city's 66 wards and 1,703 voting divisions. Gov. Wolf has threatened to decertify existing machines that are not replaced by the 2020 election. Voting officials in Pennsylvania's 67 counties have until the end of 2019 to order the new technology from a choice of manufacturers.

Michelle Montalvo, in charge of communications for the Commissioners, led the hands-on display of the new ESS machines in the main reading room of the Falls Library August 1. The demonstration was set up by Mark Green, Democratic leader of the 38th ward. About 25 people attended. If anything, the new digitized



East Falls' Linda Norris inserts paper ballot into new voting machine during earlier demonstration at the Falls Library.

process will make it easier to cast one's vote by minimizing delays and confusion.

The steps in voting will be similar to those in past years, but the process should move more quickly. As is the case now, a voter will check in at

his or her polling place, this time in an electronic poll book linked to the voter registration system. If a name does not appear in the book, the voter can vote by provisional paper ballot as now. Deputy Commissioner Seth Bluestein stressed another advantage:

"The advantage to using an electronic poll book rather than the current paper poll books is that any voter who is registered but just happens to be at the wrong location will be found in the electronic poll book and will be directed to the correct location without guesswork and delays by poll workers."

After signing in, voters will receive a paper ballot showing the date and type of election, party, ward and division.

They will insert this into the voting machine and bring up the official election ballot for the ward and division. They then make their selections on the touch-screen and can or edit the selections before casting the ballot. The machine

keeps the paper ballot as a verifiable record. This ballot can be counted in the event of a recount and can be audited under new audit procedures being developed by the state.

The screen has benefits for persons with visual impairment – it can be changed from black type on a white background to white type on a black background and can enlarge type if needed. The text can also be switched from English to Spanish.

The Commissioners rejected calls for hand-marked paper ballots, choosing instead to stick with an all-machine method of voting because of voters' preference for the current style of voting on full-faced machines, the short timeline to retrain poll workers and voters, and concerns of disability advocates that implementing hand-marked paper ballots would treat voters with disabilities unequally by requiring them to use a separate voting system.

## Dinner and theatre at Trolley Car Café

Juniper Productions will present *Destiny is a Careless Waiter* -- three short comedies followed by dinner at the Trolley Car Café for six performances on Wednesdays and Sundays Sept. 4, 8, 11, 15, 18 and 22.

All performances start at 6:30 pm, with dinner at 7:30 pm.

*Destiny is a Careless Waiter*, by playwright Julie Zefferano, describes how true love doesn't run smoothly, especially when a waiter disrupts the path of romantic destiny over dessert.

Doors at the Trolley Car Café, at 3269 S. Ferry Rd. under the Twin Bridges, will



open at 6 pm for patrons to pre-order their dinners from an ala-carte menu, and a bar will be available. Theatre

tickets are \$15 in advance at [www.juniper.agency](http://www.juniper.agency) and \$18 at the door, in addition to dinner.

## New features added as Mifflin classes begin

The Thomas Mifflin School started the new academic year with several new features, according to Principal Leslie Mason.

Added this year is a full-time Spanish teacher, who will work with all grades in the K-8 building.

While this is a welcome development, it came with some pain. Because of the School District's financial picture, Mason was faced with a decision to add the Spanish instructor at the expense of eliminating an art teacher.

It was a choice she did not want to make. She told East Falls *NOW* that while both

are necessary, she was hearing from the high schools and middle schools to which Mifflin students apply that second language capability is important.

As a result, not only will every grade have a Spanish component, but an after-school Spanish Club will be established.

Also new this year will be a Keyboard Club and a Chess Club. Community volunteers who want to assist should email [eastfallscommunity.org](mailto:eastfallscommunity.org) and the EF Community Council will pass along this information to Mifflin.

## DeLissio Senior Expo Sept. 26

Senior citizens in East Falls are invited to attend St. Rep. Pam DeLissio's fifth annual Senior Expo on Thurs., Sept. 26, from 9 am to 12 noon at Roxborough Hospital. The event will be part of the hospital's Good Neighbor Day Health Fair, and will take place beneath a large white tent on the School of Nursing parking

lot adjacent to the hospital.

The Senior Expo will feature representatives from state, county and local governments, non-profit agencies and the civic associations in DeLissio's district – including the East Falls Community Council. All will offer information of interest to older adults.

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# Old Academy opens 97th season with Purlie Victorious

East Falls' historic Old Academy Players will celebrate the opening of its 97th season by presenting its 521st production, Purlie Victorious -- a thought-provoking satirical dramedy written by Ossie Davis. Directed by Loretta Lucy Miller, stage managed by Kimberly Hess and produced by Mary Jane Fullam, the show dates are Sept. 13, 14, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, and 29.

Show times are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm, Sundays at 2 pm.

The show relates how dynamic traveling preacher Purlie Victorious Judson returns to his small Georgia town hoping to save Big Bethel, the community's church, and emancipate the cotton pickers who work on oppressive Ol' Cap'n Cotchipee's plantation. With the assistance of Lutiebelle Gussie Mae Jenk-

ins, Purlie hopes to pry loose from Cotchipee an inheritance due his long-lost cousin and use the money to achieve his goals.

The New York Herald described the play as "a bucketful of bristling laughs...a rich and rollicking irony, unique in style, rich in its highly individual humor."

Purlie Victorious is set in 1960 when a Southern plantation owner, upended by desegregation laws, is held accountable by a Gospel preacher. The play was written by Ossie Davis, American film, television and Broadway actor, director, playwright, and civil activist. Davis and his wife, Ruby Dee, starred in the Broadway show and in the 1963 film, "Gone Are the Days!" based on the play. In 1970 the play was adapted into the Tony-Award nominated musical, Purlie.



**Old Academy's Purlie Victorious cast**, in back from left: Jerome Scott, Anthony Wilcox, Norm Burnosky, and Mort Patterson; in front, from left: Rich Geller, Vanessa Ballard, Tiffany Bentham Gross, Morgan Grace Glanton and Jason Corn.

Old Academy Players' cast includes Jerome Scott as Purlie, Tiffany Bentham Gross as Lutiebelle, Anthony Wilcox as Gitlow, Morgan Grace Glanton as Missy, Mort Patterson as Ol' Cap'n Cotchipee, Vanessa Bal-

lard as Idella, Jason Corn as Charlie, Norm Burnosky as The Sherriff and Rich Geller as The Deputy.

Parking for all performances is free. Ticket price is \$20 per adult; \$10 per student with

valid ID. Buy tickets online at [www.OldAcademyPlayers.org](http://www.OldAcademyPlayers.org). Old Academy welcomes groups, at discount prices of \$17 per person with 15 or more people in a group. Call 215-843-1109 for more information and tickets.

Following Purlie Victorious, the Old Academy will present Tom Stoppard's Rosencranz and Guildenstern are Dead, from Nov. 1 through Nov. 17.

Old Academy Players, where Grace Kelly and Robert Prosky made their stage debuts, is a non-profit community theater located at 3544 Indian Queen Ln. Constructed in 1819, the Old Academy building has been the company's home since 1932. Old Academy Players has provided continuous community theater since 1923 and is a member of the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance.

# Food, crafts and fun highlight EF Farmers Market

The East Falls Farmers Market under the twin bridges has a full schedule of food and fun for the Labor Day weekend and continuing into Saturdays in September. While the schedule is subject to change, every week has a full roster of food, crafts and community and kids' activities.

**Sat., Aug. 31:**

The Market will mark the end of summer with an opportunity for voter registration, food by Amira's Delites (vegan baked goods), Betty's Acres, Bright Land Coffee, Brophy Spring Hollow Farm, McCanns Farm, Rowhouse Spirits and Side of the Road Jerk Chicken. Crafts will include SCB Naturals, Simply Hecardo and Vessna Schiff. Kids activities will be direct by Brandy, and Piggyback

Treats will handle pet goodies. **Sat., Sept. 7:**

The market will kick off the new month with an opportunity for Fallers to examine the City of Philadelphia's new voting machines. Voter registration forms will be available, and Drexel University School of Medicine will provide information on its Naloxone Outreach program. Food vendors leading the way will include Amira's Delites, Bright Land Coffee, Brophy Spring Hollow Farm, McCanns Farm and Side of the Road Jerk Chicken. IDEATE and SCB Naturals will head the crafts folks, children's activities will be directed by Brandy, and music will be provided by the Rawk U. School of Music.

**Sat., Sept. 14**

This will be EF Farmers

Market's Pawsome Day-- an opportunity for complete pet care. On hand will be Spay and Save, Madison Chamberlain's Pet Portraits, One and Oney Designs, Piggyback Treats, Queenies Pets and The Collar Club. The food vendors will be Amira's Delites, Betty's Acres, Bright Land Coffee, Brophy Spring Hollow Farm, McCanns Farm, Mac'n! by Mari, Rowhouse Spirits, and Side of the Road Chicken. Crafts persons will include Nana Catherine's Apothecary and Toasted. Brandy will direct the kids' activities, voter registration forms will be available and music will be by Last Chance.

**Sat., Sept. 21**

Here's another opportunity for voter registration. In addition, crafts people will include Amazing Essence, IDEATE,

Piggyback Treats, SCB Naturals and Vessna Schiff. Heading the food vendors will be Amira's Delites, Betty's Acres, Bright Land Coffee, Brophy Spring Hollow Farm and McCanns Farm. Brandy will oversee activities for the young ones.

**Sat., Sept. 28**

The Farmers Market ends

the month with one more opportunity for voter registration. Amazing Essence, Nana Catherine's Apothecary, Piggyback Treats and Toasted will provide the crafts. Food vendors scheduled are Amira's Delites, Bright Land Coffee, Brophy Spring Hollow Farm, Mac'n! by Mari, McCanns Farm and Rowhouse Spirits. Brandy will handle kids' activities.

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## Yoga, walks, and Medicare – all in the EF Village

by Mary Flourney

Have you thought about trying yoga? East Falls Village offers gentle yoga in two four-part series in September -- Tuesday mornings from 10 to 11 am and Thursday afternoons from 2 to 3 pm. These are good opportunities to see if these yoga classes would be a good fit for what you need or want.

The Tuesday morning series of classes will be September 3, 10, 17, and 24. The Thursday afternoon series will be September 5, 12, 19, and 26. No formal registration is required for the September classes. Just come and bring a check to your first class. The rate for each series is \$28 for members of East Falls Village and \$36 for non-Village members. The check should be made payable to EFCC.

Our instructor, Lillian Rozin, has experience teaching yoga to all ages -- and folks with joint replacements, arthritis, etc. She can adapt

poses and she says, "If it hurts, don't do it!" Some of the movements can be done sitting or holding onto a chair. Each class begins and ends with breathing and relaxation.

Benefits of yoga include lower blood pressure, improved balance, reduced anxiety, and better overall well-being.

Yoga is especially recommended for seniors. The age range in the EFV classes is from 50 to 90, but all ages of women



and men are welcome.

Interested? Join us! All the classes are held at The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd, 3820 The Oak Road.

The Fall Series (October through December) will be announced in the October issue of EF NOW. For more information, email [info@eastfallsvillage.org](mailto:info@eastfallsvillage.org).

### Thursday Morning Walks

Each Thursday morning at 9:30, a small group meets at the garden of the Falls Library for a walk around East Falls, followed by a stop for coffee (or more). Interested in some exercise, coffee, and company? Just show up at the Library!

### Questions about Medicare?

East Falls Village will present two programs in October, on Tues., Oct. 1 at 1 pm and Wed., Oct. 16 at 6:30 pm. Both sessions will be at the Falls Library. More information will be published in the October issue of EF NOW.

### Join East Falls Village!

For more information, see [eastfallsvillage.org](http://eastfallsvillage.org). "How to Join" includes information on our service area and membership levels, including Assisted Memberships. Pick up a membership brochure at the front desk of the Library or call 267-444-4507 to have one sent to you.

## Historical Society sets Sept. 18 program on Wm. Penn

Living with the William Penn Charter School as a neighbor, perhaps some of us take Penn for granted.

Was he not the progressive founder of Pennsylvania, seeking religious tolerance for all, and concerned for fairness to the Lenape Indians? Does he not look benignly down on us from the peak of City Hall?

All of this is true, at least in good part, but Penn also was a real estate dealer and trans-Oceanic urban planner. On Monday, Sept. 18, at 6:30 pm at the Falls of Schuylkill Library, writer and Philadelphia tour guide Jim Murphy will present his lively overview of one of Penn's singular achievements: how Penn turned wilderness into North America's fastest growing city -- Philadelphia, in the mid-1700s, while actually spending very few years here.

Murphy is a certified Philadelphia guide who has



William Penn, subject of Sept. 18th program by the EF Historical Society.

served as board member and officer of the Association of Philadelphia Tour Guides. He is author of numerous articles about Philadelphia and Philadelphians, and loves to wind improbable stories and oddities into his fact-based presentations. He is now compiling some of his essays for a book to be published by Temple University Press. The program is free, and light refreshments will be served.

## Falls Library to resume Sat. hours Sept. 21

Here's the sad but official proof for East Falls NOW readers that summer is over:

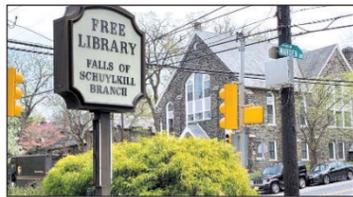
The Falls Library will resume Saturday hours, from 10 am to 5 pm, starting Sat., Sept. 21.

Otherwise, the weekday hours as the Library heads into the fall remain the same: Monday and Wednesday, 12 noon to 8 pm; Tuesday and Thursday, 10 am to 6 pm; and Friday, 10 am to 5 pm.

The Library will be closed on Mon., Sept. 2 in observance of Labor Day, and it will have a 2 pm opening on Thurs., Sept. 12 to allow for staff development.

The Friends of the Library twice-annual Book Sale will

return in November. Book donations will begin in October. Library officials request that Fallsers hold their book donations until the collection dates are announced in the EF NOW



and the East Falls Community Council's weekly emails. If you do not receive the weekly reports, email your email address to [info@eastfallscouncil.org](mailto:info@eastfallscouncil.org).

Bridge for Beginners will kick off the month of September at 1 pm Wed., Sept. 4, and will be repeated every Wednesday of the month. All are welcome to the games, hosted by Friends of the Library member Victor Lewis.

For advanced bridge players, Lewis will host a session for experienced players at 5:30 pm Mon., Sept. 16.

### Program on Wm. Penn

September's Speaker Event will feature Jim Murphy, certified tour guide and author of more than 50 articles on historical sites. He will discuss William Penn's success in turning a "howling wilderness" into

America's fastest growing city. The program at 6:30 pm Wed., Sept. 18 in the Library's meeting room will span 300 years of Philadelphia's history.

Sat., Sept. 21 will see not only the resumption of Saturday hours at the Library but the return by popular demand of a demonstration of the city's new voting machines. Fallsers can stop by between 1 and 3 pm to speak with representatives of the Office of City Commissioners as they demonstrate the new machines, scheduled to make their debut in the November 5 election. Library officials request that participants enter by the garden doors on Midvale Ave.

### Children's programs

The city's Literacy Enrichment Afterschool Program (LEAP) returns in September. This is an after school drop-in program that offers homework assistance, computer literacy, and library skills for students in grades K through 12. It also offers daily literacy enrichment activities for elementary school students.

This program is available every Monday through Thursday from 3 to 5:30 pm, Saturdays from 1 to 5 pm.

The monthly LEAP monthly calendar is available at the library.

Every Monday in September at 4:15 pm it's time for Read with a Therapy Dog. School age kids are invited to come read with Wally or Orchid, certified therapy dogs, and share a new book or an old favorite in a judgment free space.

Every Tuesday at 10:15 am, the library will host Music and Movement Time. Babies and toddlers will enjoy a parent-led music and dance story time. Children will play maracas, shake pom poms, dance, and listen to music and dance-themed books. Come tire out your little ones and meet local parents. Groups and daycares should call the library to set up their own special visits.

Closing out the children's activities is Storytime and Block Play, on Thursday, Sept. 5, 19 and 26 at 11 am. Stories and songs will be followed by playtime with the library's wooden blocks. This program is recommended for ages two to six, accompanied by an adult. Siblings are always welcome. Imagine, build, and create! Groups are asked to call the children's librarian to schedule separate appointments.

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## East Falls Historical Society

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September 18, 6:30, at the Library:  
How William Penn Turned Wilderness  
into Philadelphia

by author and tour guide Jim Murphy

For membership information: [katy.hineline@gmail.com](mailto:katy.hineline@gmail.com).

For other inquiries: [eastfallshistory@gmail.com](mailto:eastfallshistory@gmail.com).

[www.eastfallshistoricalsociety.org](http://www.eastfallshistoricalsociety.org)

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# Jefferson students partner With Town Watch in clean-up



**(Above) Contributing** their labor to EF Town Watch as part of Jefferson University's Community Service Plunge program – as in “dive right in to community service” – were new students, from left, Ariella Menecola, of Bangor, PA; Victor Perez, of Bensalem, PA; Eleanor D'Angelo, of Oreland, PA; Micailah Cialella, of Butler, PA; Brian Aylesworth, of Cherry Hill, NJ and Marie Filipponi, Secretary of EF Town Watch.

**(Right) The other part of the Jefferson crew:** front, from left: Aetika Patel, of Langhorne, PA; Makhshoda Mills, of Springfield, Delaware County, PA; and Ann Marie Coates, of Willow Grove, PA. Middle, Shelby Cooper, of Ridley in Delaware County, PA; Abby Connor, of Philipsburg, PA; and Ryan Clark, of Vineland, NJ. Top, Alena Chuprinsky, of Reading, PA; Christopher Corsair, of Blackwood, NJ; Riley Molway, of Laural Springs, NJ; Keonei Mahoney, of Clark's Summit, PA; EF Town Watch President Mary Jane Fulam; Shania Mill, of Philadelphia; Tathiana Millien, of Allentown, PA; and Meredith Conway, of Spring City, PA.



Newly arrived students from Jefferson University's East Falls campus pitched in to help EF Town Watch clean up under the Twin Bridges and on adjoining streets. The 18 students collected 25 bags of trash and recyclable materials.

The students were taking part in Jefferson's Community Service Plunge program, in which they volunteer for community service before classes begin. In addition to working with EF Town Watch, they worked with the Thomas Mifflin School, the Friends of Inn Yard Park, Old Academy Players, Mercy Career & Technical High School, E.W. Rhodes Elementary School, Rutabaga Circle, Saint James School and SHARE.

# New city rebate available for residential solar

If you're thinking about solar energy for your home, the addition of a new City of Philadelphia rebate makes the option more attractive than ever. The Philadelphia Energy Authority (“PEA”) reports that 124 home owners have signed up for free evaluations in this round of the PEA's Solarize Philly program. Eighteen East Falls homeowners already have signed contracts to install solar this year.



The City of Philadelphia is offering a new rebate for residential solar energy installations.

Homeowners who install before the end of the year will get a federal tax credit for 30 percent of the cost. In addition, they will receive a new rebate from the City of \$.20 per watt. That means a \$1,000 rebate for a 5kWh system. The city has allocated \$500,000 for rebates of 20 cents a watt for installations done after July 1, 2019.

The PEA Solarize Philly program, now in its third year, has helped more than a dozen East Falls homeowners go solar. The city program now offers a special financing option for 45 moderate income households as a pilot program. This option will be structured as a \$0 down 15-year lease. The homeowner will

make monthly payments for the solar power produced. The lease payments will be structured with a goal of providing 20 percent savings on electricity in year one.

But don't wait, advises Meg Greenfield, who has led the East Falls Community Council's Solarize East Falls effort, because the federal tax credit starts dropping for installations done after December 31, 2019.

For more information on how to reduce your electric bill and your carbon footprint, go to SolarizePhilly.org. Sign up for a free evaluation to learn what it will cost and what you will save.

# Oct. 20 EFCC House Tour to feature the Timmons House

(Continued from page 1)

1937, his family sold the house to John J. Hohenadel, the brewer of East Falls. When he died, the house was sold to John Spence Timmons, who invented the “Timmons Talker,” one of the earliest loudspeakers for radio. His company eventually became part of the Philco Corp. Timmons deeded the property to Penn Charter in 1963, but did not vacate it until 1974.

In addition to the first floor of the Timmons House, the

House Tour will include private homes in East Falls representing a variety of architectural styles.

The popular self-guided tour will be held 12 noon to 4 pm. Program books and maps can be picked up from 11:30 am to 2 pm that day at the East Falls Presbyterian Church, 3800 Vaux St. Tickets also can be purchased then for \$25.

For more information, email Mary Flournoy, coordinator of the House Tour for the EFCC, at mary.flournoy1@gmail.org, or text or call 215-589-4344.

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1. Check out some books for the kids and some DVDs for myself at Falls Library.
2. Renew my membership in the **Friends of Falls Library** online at [www.eastfallslibraryfriends.org](http://www.eastfallslibraryfriends.org)
3. Ask my new neighbors to join the Friends, it's so easy at [www.eastfallslibraryfriends.org](http://www.eastfallslibraryfriends.org)
4. Remind the new neighbors to get library cards for the whole family at Falls Library

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# Inn Yard sets jazz concert for Sept. 19; Christopher Robin screened Aug. 8



Saxophonist Henry Tirfe will headline a Sept. 19 concert in Inn Yard Park.



Banner made by Lauren Arnoldi welcomes crowd to Inn Yard park screening of Christopher Robin; Below, Lauren takes in the scene, Sue Park dishes out water ice and Jen Arnoldi serves up popcorn.



by Sue Park

The threat of rain and the first Eagles pre-season game notwithstanding, a respectably-sized crowd turned out and had a great time as the Friends of Inn Yard Park presented the Disney classic Christopher Robin. Viewers enjoyed refreshing water ice and buttery popcorn. It was great to see little kids running around the park in the dark relishing the freedom of summer while their parents and older kids enjoyed the movie.

Thanks to all the volunteers of the Friends of Inn Yard Park, whose members wrote a grant for the movie and provided the refreshments. The next big event in Inn Yard Park will be at 6 pm Thurs., Sept. 19 when Philadelphia City Council and Councilperson Curtis Jones, Jr. brings the city's Summer Jazz Series to East Falls. The concert will feature Henry Tirfe, acclaimed Philadelphia-based saxophonist. We guarantee no Eagles game that night, and hope for no rain. Born in Philadelphia and

raised in Upper Darby, 24-year-old Tirfe has performed with The Roots, Joey DeFrancesco, Chill Moody, Solange Knowles, Eric Roberson, Jay Bratten, Robin Eubanks, Ted Nash, Killiam Shakespeare, Bilal Oliver and Patti LaBelle. He is a two-time "Outstanding Soloist" winner at the Next Generation Jazz Festival. The Friends of Inn Yard also participated in a clean-up of the park with students from Jefferson University as part of the University's Community Service Plunge Program.



Herb garden created by Friends of Inn Yard Park volunteers and Jefferson University students.

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# Tree Tenders welcomes new member; classes available

by Cynthia Kishinchand

After reading the East Falls Tree Tenders article about the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's fall tree tender course in the July East Falls **NOW**, Melissa Frost immediately registered for three classes. A gardener since the age of 12, she moved to Carlton Park last fall and since then has manifested her love of plants by gracing the grounds by her unit with containers of beautiful, healthy caladium and other shade-loving species.

Her affiliation with the outdoor world comes to her naturally. When she visited her grandparents at their Roxborough home at Green Ln. and Pechin St. as a child, she took special delight in her grandmother's rock garden. Her mother was a bird watcher while her father was a landscaper and tree surgeon. Thus, it's no surprise Melissa is a gifted gardener and wields loppers and clippers with great skill when she encounters a tree whose lower branches need pruning.

As the Center Manager at Castor Health Center, Planned Parenthood Southeastern Pennsylvania, Melissa has myriad responsibilities. She noted "gardening is a stress reliever" and, as we all know, makes our community more attractive.

So, follow Melissa's good example and register for the PHS three-class course, 5:45 to 9:15 pm, Wednesdays, September 18 and 25 and October 2. Learn about tree biology trees, identification, how to properly plant and care for trees and how to work in your community so every street is lined with trees appropriate for each location. Visit [www.phsonline.org](http://www.phsonline.org) or contact Mindy Maslin, PHS Tree Tender Program Manager, at [mmaslin@pennhort.org](mailto:mmaslin@pennhort.org) or (215) 988-8844. For information on East Falls Tree Tenders, contact Cynthia Kishinchand at (215) 849-2474 or email [crk3114@msn.com](mailto:crk3114@msn.com).



**Holding her energetic pet,** Donna Bella, Melissa Frost with some of her plants gracing the grounds of Carlton Park.



**A righted Cherry Tree:** When Midvale Ave.'s Peggy Gertz noticed the sad state of an Autumn Flowering Cherry (*Prunus subhirtella* 'Autumnalis') planted in 2016 in front of 3722 Midvale Ave. near East Falls Family Dentistry, she immediately notified EFTT. Within days she and Ed Ruback, both experienced Tree Tenders, weeded the pit and replanted and restaked the tree, a challenging chore because the soil was so hard. The Cherry Tree is now cheery and its posture a model for its neighbors, trees or humans.



## Canoe Club hosts Schuylkill Sojourn

The East Falls-based Philadelphia Canoe Club hosted the final day of the 2019 Schuylkill River Sojourn – a seven-day paddle aimed at connecting citizens to the Schuylkill River and the Schuylkill River Bike Trail.

Beth Fast, who trains kayakers at the Canoe Club and helps coordinate the Sojourn, said the annual event was sponsored by the Schuylkill River Greenways, an organization headquartered in Pottstown that works to maintain the river and the trail "and to create a greater appreciation for both."

Fast said the theme of the June 1 to June 7 trip was Our Working River, with a focus on the development of industry along the river and how best to reclaim the health of the waterway.

More than 200 paddlers were able to take part in the entire trip or parts of it, many camping along the way. The route started in Schuylkill Haven just above Pottstown, 112 miles above Philadelphia.

Some 70 paddlers made the entire trip, Fast said.

The Canoe Club's riverfront clubhouse is located off of Ridge Ave. adjoining the SEPTA bus terminal, where the Wissahickon Creek meets the Schuylkill. As paddlers approached the final leg of the Sojourn on Friday, June 7, the club provided breakfast and lunch for the participants.

This year's Sojourn was the 21st time for the event, coming three weeks before the Canoe Club hosted its annual open house. Watch upcoming issues of *EF NOW* for the date of the next open house.



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## Register now for EFSA coed soccer; play starts Sept. 7



The East Falls Sports Association's recreational coed soccer program will begin on Sat., Sept. 7 at the McDevitt Recreation Center on Scotts Ln. Registration is available at the ESSA website, [www.efsasports.com](http://www.efsasports.com).

All practices and games will take place on Saturday mornings through Nov. 9. Youths ages three to nine will begin at 9 am; ages seven to 11 will begin at 10:30 am.

The EFSA welcomes volunteers for coaching, refereeing and running the snack shop. To volunteer or for additional information, contact Jennifer Arnoldi at [jmartell@att.net](mailto:jmartell@att.net).



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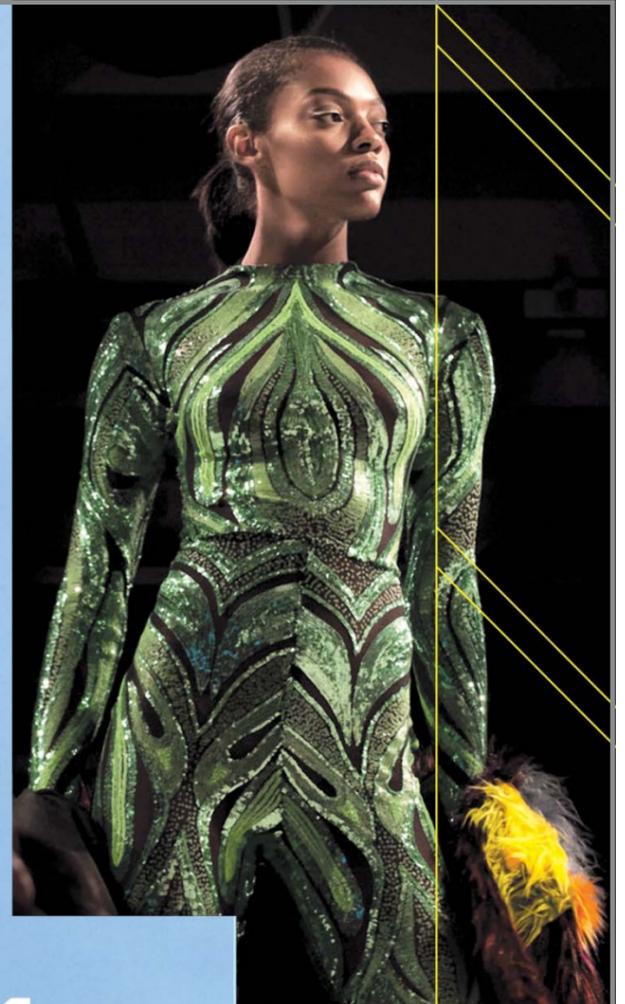
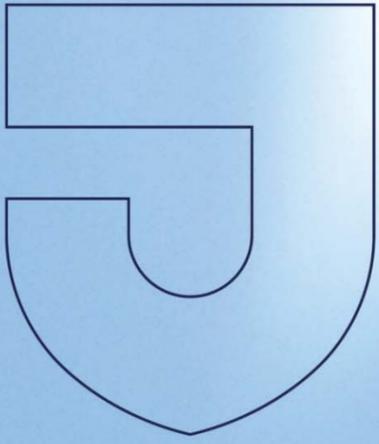
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