

East Falls **NOW**

Vol. 3, No. 10

February 2021

eastfallsnow.com • FREE



3900 block of Henry Ave., scene of numerous crashes.

Traffic Committee wants PennDOT to add speed restraints, narrow lanes on Henry Ave.

by John T. Gillespie
Co-Editor, East Falls *NOW*

The East Falls Community Council's Traffic Committee wants PennDOT to install more active speed restraints, high friction surfacing and narrower traffic lanes on Henry Ave. as part of the state agency's plan to improve safety on the collision-prone road.

PennDOT has announced it will begin construction later this year on the 4.6 mile two-phased project from Roberts Ave. in East Falls to Port Royal Rd. in Andorra. The state already has let some bids and the Traffic Committee wants to make certain that its recommendations are included before the remaining bids for the East Falls sector are finalized. Otherwise, it faces the unwelcome challenge of seeking change orders with uncertain outcomes.

By "active" restraints, according to Traffic Committee

Chair Ray Lucci, the committee means physical impediments such as vegetated medians, raised intersections, and curb bump-outs as opposed to traditional "passive" restrictions, such as speed signs, pavement markings, curve warnings and flashing lights, which committee members view as less effective.

"They do nothing but clutter the landscape," said Lucci during a Jan. 14 meeting with State Rep. Pam DeLissio (D-194.)

The committee stressed that the safety problem has gained urgency with the recent opening of the McMichael Park PlaySpace that has drawn

young families with children crossing Henry Ave.

In a follow-up letter to DeLissio, Lucci said, "The playground has become a magnet for many families living on streets intersecting Henry Ave. from Coulter St. to Indian Queen Ln. We fear for loss of life to those families who must cross Henry Ave. to access the park, as cars continue to speed recklessly through this residential neighborhood. We believe the chances of something horrific happening could be greatly reduced if we consider the following amendments to the plan."

Narrow lanes

The committee's most sweeping suggestion is to narrow Henry Ave.'s four traffic lanes to the minimum allowable width of nine to 10 feet, as opposed to the current width of about 12 feet. The narrowed lanes would force drivers to slow down and free up space for protected bike lanes and sidewalks.

(Continued on page 6)

EFCC to meet Feb. 8

The East Falls Community Council will hold its February General Membership Meeting at 7 pm Monday, Feb. 8 via Zoom. The link will be posted on the EFCC's website, eastfallcommunity.org and on Next Door East Falls.

Large turnout for EFCC Zoning Committee's meeting focuses on three proposals; next meeting set for Feb. 17

A turnout of more than 70 persons for the first meeting of the year of the East Falls Community Council's Zoning Committee showed that there is no lack of debate over development issues in the neighborhood.

The Zoom meeting on January 20 focused on three proposals as the committee sought feedback on each plan: **3018 Midvale Ave.**

A large two-story structure is well under construction behind a home at 3018 Midvale Ave. without zoning or construction permits. It appears to be a residence above a two-car garage.

Construction was halted after the city's Department of Licenses and Inspection issued a stop work order late last year. The owner now is applying for legalization of the structure.

Hilary J. Langer, Chair of EFCC's Zoning Committee, said that near neighbors and committee members will not support the legalization of the current structure. Reasons include the building's 21-foot height, which exceeds the zoning limit of 15 feet. Also, the structure was built too close to a neighbor's property -- within the 36-inch minimum side yard limit.

Zoning Committee members believe that neighbors have understandably strong reactions to the building, as it was built knowingly without approvals, is oversized, out of context and overlooks previously private properties with large windows and doors opening onto a large 2nd floor deck.

Before the January 20 meeting the committee proposed to the owner that as an alternative to demolition, the owner consider making changes to the second floor by

making a more traditional structure with dormer windows. This would effectively reduce the height and large block form of the building.

Langer said that the owner declined this option, citing cost. The owner did agree to improved materials and presented options, but Langer said it is clear that the owner has no intention to make concessions to neighbor concerns or to meeting the zoning requirements.

At East Falls *NOW* press time the owner's appeal to the

Zoning Board of Adjustment for approval to maintain the current structure was set for Wed., January 27 at 2 pm via Zoom. The EFCC Zoning Committee and neighbors were planning to oppose the granting of zoning approval. **3445 Division St.**

The owner of this property originally proposed three townhomes, each three stories. He returned to the community after the Zoning Committee's Dec. 16 Zoom meeting with a proposal for

(Continued on page 2)



New addition to McMichael PlaySpace

The newest additions to the McMichael Park PlaySpace are these wooden seats installed by the City of Philadelphia's Parks & Recreation Department on the northwest side of the facility. Even with the cold weather since the PlaySpace opened last November, the PlaySpace remains popular with parents and their young children, drawing a constant flow of youngsters enjoying the swings and climbing equipment.



Artist's rendering of plans for a 185-unit apartment complex at 4401 Ridge Ave. on the corner of Ridge Ave. and Merrick Rd. -- the last undeveloped parcel of the Philadelphia Housing Authority's property where two 14-story public housing towers were imploded in 1996. The towers and 150 surrounding single-family homes were replaced by a mixture of subsidized and market-rate homes. The EFCC Zoning Committee believes that a court case brought by the EFCC against HUD and the PHA resulted in a 2012 agreement that the corner site would contain 30 rental units.

Large turnout for EFCC Zoning Committee's meeting focuses on three proposals; next meeting set for Feb. 17

(Continued from page 1)
two larger townhomes.

Neighbors previously had pointed out that the height of the homes would take away sunlight from adjacent two-story homes and also would overshadow rear yards of homes on Sunnyside Ave., particularly due to the lack of a required rear set back. The previously proposed (allowable) height of 38' was reduced to 33' and the required seven-foot rear yard setback was incorporated.

Neighbors at the Jan. 20 meeting voiced concerns that construction of the homes would disrupt pedestrian and vehicular access to the homes on Division St. and rear parking access on Sunnyside Ave. Many neighbors would prefer not to see any construction at all, which is not an option as the site is zoned RSA-3 and allows attached single-family homes. This is the same zoning designation of all the surrounding homes.

Zoning Committee members and neighbors felt that the developer did not sufficiently address height concerns on the Division St. front and that a step back similar to the recent new homes at the corner of W. Penn and Conrad St. would effectively address this.

The developer, however, said he was unwilling to make any further changes, claiming he had accommodated the neighbor's concerns to the limit he could. Langer said that the committee and neighbors more than likely will choose to oppose the developer's request for variances until further height and daylight concessions can be made to address the concerns of neighbors on Division St.

4401 Ridge Ave.

This site is the last undeveloped parcel of the former Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) towers and single homes, at the corner of Ridge Ave. and Merrick Rd.

The ATAPCO property firm is in the process of purchasing the site from the Philadelphia Housing Authority and proposes to develop 185 apartments with 189 on-site parking spaces, along with some retail space.

The agreements and settlements between the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, PHA and the community had previously set the development limit for this parcel at 30 market-rate rental units. Langer said these previous agreements, spanning nearly 20 years of negotiations and legal steps, are being reviewed as to their potential impact on the proposal.

The current proposal shows a new building stepping back up the hill. There are two zoning refusals from the city's Licenses and Inspections Department, one for steep slope construction and the other for the lack of a second loading dock. The frontage would be on Ridge Ave. and Merrick Rd. and an internal parking court would be created out of sight from the streets. Access to the development would be from Merrick Rd. only. Plans call for the building to be clad in gray black zinc panels with a dark masonry base.

Jan. 20 meeting feedback included concerns of adding congestion to Ridge Ave., which already sees backed up traffic from I-76 through to Allegheny Ave. in both

directions.

Committee members and neighbors also expressed concern that the proposed development does not conform to the scale and look of East Falls and would be different than everything else around it, including other new development about to start construction.

The developer has applied for a Community Design Review (CDR) with City Planning and representatives of the community. This most likely will take place in late February and will be an opportunity for proposals for aesthetic and visual improvements to be made to the project, along with other functional issues such as vehicular access and sidewalk environment. The appeal regarding the zoning refusals at the ZBA most likely will occur in March. **3568-74 Calumet St.**

This project was not reviewed at the Jan. 20 meeting but was the subject of an earlier on-site meeting. David Ross of Argos properties is proposing to build four townhomes on Calumet St. behind and above 3515 Midvale Ave., along with 12 parking spaces in the rear out of sight for his proposed 3515 Midvale Ave. apartment project. This would eliminate his original plan for a 22-car parking lot only and a bridge to the roof of the 3515 Midvale Ave. building.

Langer reported that some members of the zoning committee and approximately 12 neighbors living on Calumet St. met at the address on Jan. 13. Neighbors generally prefer the proposal to build four townhomes

February 2021 East Falls **NOW** Calendar

Visit the East Falls **NOW** Restaurant and Business Guide on Page 11. 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.

In addition, the East Falls Farmers Market continues every Saturday under the Twin Bridges from 11 am to 1 pm.

5 Friday

2 pm: EF Village Zoom program on Climate Reality. (Pg. 7)

6 Saturday

11 am to 1 pm: East Falls Farmers Market under the Twin Bridges.

8 Monday

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

10 Wednesday

2 pm: EF Village Zoom program on Japan of Past Decades. (Pg. 7)

11 Thursday

7 pm: EF Town Watch Zoom meeting. Link posted at www.eastfallscommunity.org. Or call TW office, 215-848-2033, for log-in information. (Pg. 5)

13 Saturday

11 am to 1 pm: East Falls Farmers Market under the Twin Bridges.

16 Tuesday

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

19 Friday

2 pm: EF Village Zoom "New Year: Music Cheer" Zoom program. (Pg. 7)

7 to 9 pm: Zoom yin yoga at the Library with Justine Bacon. See www.eastfallslibraryfriends.org (Pg. 3)

20 Saturday

10 am to 2 pm: EF Town Watch monthly "Litter Crew Ahead" clean-up. Meet at BP gas station, Ridge Ave. and Calumet St. for work along Kelly Dr. and Calumet St. (Pg. 5)

11 am to 1 pm: East Falls Farmers Market under the Twin Bridges.

22 Monday

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

24 Wednesday

7 pm: EF Historical Zoom program on the Old Academy and Concord School House. (Pg. 6)

27 Saturday

11 am to 1 pm: East Falls Farmers Market under the Twin Bridges.

fronting on Calumet St. with their parking spaces in the rear. This would leave Calumet St. open for shared parking. The added vehicular traffic created by the 12 parking spaces dedicated to the units on 3515 Midvale Ave. was still of concern, but the plan was viewed as an improvement on 22 parking places and lack of a building on the Calumet St. lot.

The East Falls Community Council's Zoning Committee and neighbors will meet on the regularly scheduled third Wednesday of each month on February 17 at 7 PM.

The agenda and Zoom link for that meeting will be posted on the EFCC home page at www.eastfallscommunity.org, on the Zoning Committee tab and on Next Door East Falls.



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Volunteering in the Community

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

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

For more information, go to forphilly.com

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State Rep. Darisha Parker arrives in Harrisburg, ready to serve

Hello and thank you for taking a minute to read my first column in the East Falls **NOW**.

I am state Rep. Darisha Parker, representing the 198th Legislative District. I am taking over for retiring St. Rep. Rosita Youngblood, who served the community, and served it well, for many years.

I was elected in November, and while we are still in COVID protocols my office can assist you in all state government matters. We are here to help connect you with state government for things such as heating assistance through LIHEAP, unemployment claims, and PennDOT issues.

In the coming month we will have a new office address, so please look for that here in this column. But if you need help with any of these or another state-related matter in the meantime, please email me at RepParker@pahouse.net, or call (215) 849-6426.

You also can visit my website at <https://pahouse.com/dparker/>, or follow me on Facebook or Twitter at Rep-DarishaParker.

The 198th district encompasses the city of Philadelphia in parts of Wards 11, 12, 13, 17 and 38.

I am a native of Northwest Philadelphia and I truly believe I understand the issues that matter most to the people and families in this district.

A proud graduate of Germantown High School's magnet program, I earned a bachelor's degree in communications from Bennett College. As an active member of my local Town Watch, I worked on a variety of initiatives to protect the community from violence and to help victims of these senseless acts, including a lifesaving effort that led to the secure return of an abducted woman from Germantown. As your state rep-

resentative, I will continue giving you no less every day.

Upon being sworn-in, I was appointed to several committees and caucuses. These standing House committees are the first step in the legislative process of debating bills and making initial

range of issues to improve the lives of Pennsylvania's senior citizens. The committee works with the Department of Aging and reviews bills which affect senior citizens of the Commonwealth.

Agriculture and Rural Affairs -- reviews bills that directly affect agriculture in Pennsylvania as a whole. The committee has oversight of the Department of Agriculture, the Farm Show Bureau, Milk Marketing Board, State Conservation Commission, Agriculture Land Preservation Board and State Horse Racing Commission.

Commerce -- deals with legislation involving the banking industry and financial services industries and those that control interest rates, wage and employment issues. The committee has oversight of the Department of Banking and Securities, Department of Community and Economic Development, Pennsylvania

Housing Finance Agency, the Securities Commission and the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority to ensure that Pennsylvania stays competitive in a world marketplace.

Consumer Affairs -- has jurisdiction over the Public Utility Commission, as well as many consumer issues. The committee has reviewed bills pertaining to issues such as vehicle lemon laws, consumer privacy and contract language.

I am also part of the Philadelphia County Delegation and the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus (PLBC.) Under the PLBC, I am the chairwoman on the Subcommittee on Women and Girls of Color.

Please reach out to me if any of this information is something you'd like to discuss or have questions about. I am your voice in Harrisburg and am ready to work!



Report from Darisha

by St. Rep. Darisha Parker

changes before sending them to the full House for consideration. I am proud of the committees I have been assigned to and excited to work with my colleagues to get that initial work completed on these committees:

Aging and Older Adult Services -- deals with a wide

Danger Will Robinson! Beware of new gerrymandering

If you are my peer, or are a Lost In Space aficionado, you might recognize the off-heard refrain of the robot who served as companion and guardian to the young Will Robinson. It is a refrain that is still used to this day -- or at least it is a phrase that I use when the occasion warrants; that occasion being a significant and serious mistake about to occur -- a real disaster, actually.

In this instance I am sounding the alarm about judicial gerrymandering. You might have heard me talk about, write about or conduct town halls on and post on social media about gerrymandering and the need for redistricting reform. THAT redistricting reform is about redrawing, every 10 years, the district boundaries for congressional, state representative and state senate districts.

Historically, those districts have been drawn to favor the majority party in control when this event occurs.

These gerrymandered district boundaries create less than competitive races for these offices and contribute mightily to gridlock and polarization at the state and federal level because the successful candidates are often beholden to an ideological extreme to get and stay in office.

I have worked diligently to support legislation and advocates' efforts to create an independent redistricting commission -- one independent of the Pennsylvania general Assembly that currently controls the process from end to end. Districts will be redrawn this year, and our efforts to create an independent commission were not successful. We now serve as vigilant watchdogs to encourage transparency and fairness in this redistricting process that will commence later this year.

But before we even get underway with the usual redistricting, we are being confronted with an immediate and credible threat of

judicial gerrymandering. The judges who sit on the appellate courts (Commonwealth, Superior and PA Supreme) are currently elected through statewide races. Eligible vot-



Pam's Viewpoint

by St. Rep. Pamela A. DeLissio

ers have the opportunity to vote for every judge running for every open seat on each of these courts. Subsequently, eligible voters also vote for retention of the judges that sit on those courts.

Under HB38, a constitutional amendment, eligible voters would be permitted to vote only for judges running from a particular geographic district -- effectively limiting a voter to one judge per court per district. YIKES! Talk

about politicizing the process. Since HB38 is a constitutional amendment, after it goes through both the PA House and Senate chambers in two successive sessions, it goes to the voters to ultimately decide whether or not our constitution will be amended.

HB38 is on the fast track, having come out of the House Judiciary Committee by one vote on January 13, our first week of the new session. This constitutional amendment passed in the previous session as HB196 with no votes to spare in the House or Senate.

By the way, there have been no public hearings on this bill.

The language of the bill is vague in reference to exactly how this amendment will be operationalized. It basically states the General Assembly will figure it out -- a concerning proposition, to say the least.

The number of organizations that have come out against this bill is astounding. However, if these organi-

zations cannot convince sufficient members to vote in the negative, we will have our work cut out for us to educate voters about this amendment. Voters could be asked to vote as early as the May primary depending on whether or not HB38 gets through both chambers before mid-February.

If this constitutional amendment is headed to the May ballot, be assured that I will hold a town hall to answer questions. My January 23rd town hall included this topic; however, a more intense review will be needed to inform voters, including why some members of the General Assembly think this is a good idea.

I do not think this is a good idea. It is a further opportunity for elected officials to draw the district lines for our appellate court judges. We know the disastrous effects of gerrymandering. Adding the courts to this process would be a mistake. DANGER WILL ROBINSON!!

East Falls **NOW**

Published monthly and on-line by the East Falls Community Council
PO Box 12672, Philadelphia, PA 19129

www.eastfallsnow.com • www.eastfallscommunity.org

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Register for vaccine info now

At East Falls **NOW** press time the City of Philadelphia still was assembling its COVID-19 vaccination plan. But it was asking residents to register to receive information when the distribution plan becomes available.

Visit <https://covid-vaccine-interest.phila.gov> and you'll get this message:

"Your information has been submitted. We or a vaccination partner will be in contact with you when you qualify for vaccine. Please note, vaccine availability



varies and it may be several weeks before you are contacted."

The City says residents' information will be kept con-

fidential "and will only be used to connect you with where you can register to receive a COVID-19 vaccine in the near future."

Friends of Library offer yin yoga classes

Join local yoga teacher Justine Bacon for a series of three on-line yin yoga sessions to benefit the Friends of the Falls of Schuylkill Library. The dates are: Fri., Feb. 19, 7-9

pm, Fri., Mar. 12, 7-9 pm and Fri., Apr. 9, 7-9 pm

Yin is a cooling yoga practice that gently stretches ligaments, tendons, fascia, joints and bones. Classes will be held on Zoom. To

attend, submit a minimum donation of \$10 via venmo to Justine on the day of the class.

For complete details visit www.eastfallslibraryfriends.org or www.justinebacon.com

Hank Aaron, 1934 to 2021 – an appreciation

by Wendy Moody

In an unexpected way, fate connected me to baseball great Hank Aaron, who passed away on Jan. 22.

Hearing memorial tributes to him on the media has reminded me of my meeting with him back in 2004.

In Atlanta, my brother, Steve, owned a frame shop, where Aaron was a frequent customer – usually wanting baseball memorabilia encased in Plexiglas, a table made with “bat” legs, or even a new hole in his belt.

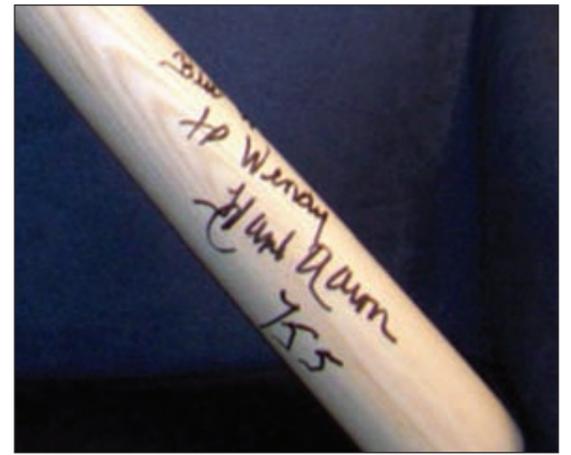
On one occasion, Aaron came into the shop carrying shoeboxes of personal photographs, wondering if someone could put them in albums to surprise his wife, Billie, for their anniversary. Steve phoned and asked me to fly down to do this project.

Just retired, I happily accepted this opportunity and spent a week organizing the photos into themed albums: family trips, grandchildren, photos taken with famous people, baseball photos, etc.

In the process, one could sense what was important to Aaron by what he chose to



Wendy Moody in 2004 sorting Aaron's photographs in her brother's frame shop in Atlanta, GA, and the autographed bat Aaron sent her as thanks.



photograph and save. It was a thrill to later meet him in the shop. He followed up with both a thank-you phone call and, later in the mail, a personalized autographed bat. He was kind, self-effacing, soft-spoken, and appreciative.

As famous as Aaron was, he had his idols: in one photograph, at the Kentucky Derby, Aaron took a long-range picture of Queen Elizabeth II, who was also in attendance, enjoying the races.

I am lucky to have had this unique glimpse of Hank Aaron. It is a cherished memory of a special man.



Baseball legend Hank Aaron, who died at age 86 on Jan. 22.

Kitchen Corner

Make and sprinkle toasted breadcrumbs – ‘poor man’s cheese’

by Anne Farnese

Italian cookbooks often include recipes that call for a sprinkling of toasted breadcrumbs rather than the customary showering of Pecorino Romano or Parmigiano cheese.

The reason is twofold:

The first is practical: often peasants could not afford cheese and a small piece of

leftover bread grates a good quantity of crumbs. Indeed, these breadcrumbs are sometimes called “poor man’s cheese.”

The second is religious: Catholicism had a profound effect on Italian culture and its food customs. Church laws governing fast days forbade consumption of all animal food, including cheese. Leave it to the clever Italians to find a delightful and delicious way

to enhance their pasta and vegetable-based dishes.

Toasting breadcrumbs is easy, but it’s important to pay close attention to the process.

Coat a small amount of olive oil, about two to three tablespoons, in a gently heated skillet.

Add ½ cup of dried Italian breadcrumbs and increase the heat slightly.

Vigorously shake the skillet back and forth. As soon as

the crumbs begin to color, turn off the heat and continue shaking the skillet until the crumbs are a rich brown, then quickly empty into a bowl to avoid burning.

Pasta with Cauliflower

1 medium head of cauliflower separated into small florets

1/3 cup dry unseasoned breadcrumbs, toasted per the directions above

3 tablespoons olive oil

1 large onion, diced

3 oil-packed anchovies,

rinsed and patted dry, cut into pieces

20 oz. can of Italian-style tomatoes with liquid

2 to 3 tablespoons raisins

2 tablespoons pine nuts (optional)

½ pound pasta (Corkscrew-shaped will capture the sauce)

Bring a large pot of water to a boil. Cook cauliflower until tender.

Drain florets with a slotted spoon, place in a bowl. Set

aside. Save water for pasta. Soak raisins in ½ cup of warm water.

Toast breadcrumbs and pine nuts. Set aside.



Heat oil in a large skillet; add onion until soft; add anchovies until they dissolve.

Add tomatoes and simmer for 20 minutes. Stir in cauliflower, pine nuts and raisins.

Keep warm.

Cook pasta until tender. Drain. Combine with cauliflower mixture.

Add salt and pepper to taste. Sprinkle toasted breadcrumbs on top, and serve hot.



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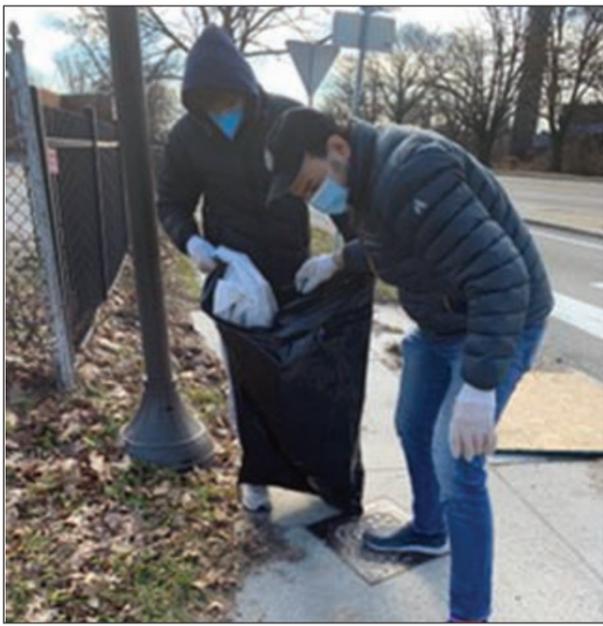
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Ivan Dmochowski and his son, Oliver, take part in the EF Town Watch Martin Luther King clean-up. More than 50 bags of trash and recyclables were collected in the Henry and Roberts Aves. area. Photos by Monica Desiree and William

EF Town Watch sets community cleanup for Saturday, Feb. 20

East Falls Town Watch has scheduled its next monthly Litter Free community cleanup for Saturday, Feb. 20 from 10 am to 2 pm.

Mary Jane Fullam, President, said Town Watch will provide gloves, safety vests, trash bags and tools. Participants should meet with masks at the BP gas station at Ridge Ave. and Calumet St. anytime between 10 am to 2 pm and will set out to clean up two areas – Kelly Dr. and Calumet St.

members remain intent on not letting vandals leave their mark on the community. She said they understand the frustration in the nature of the repetitive effort to paint over graffiti, but they see it as the necessary steps to end the problem.

Town Watch board members have used financial donations from community members, the city and the EFCC to purchase paint-spraying equipment to cover the destructive work of vandals.

Fullam said that neighbors interested in supporting the anti-graffiti effort and TW litter cleanup efforts can contribute on-line at www.eastfallscommunity.org or by mail at 3540 Indian Queen Ln. Persons interested in helping with graffiti removal should contact TW at eastfallstownwatch@gmail.com or call 215-848-2033.

Monthly TW meeting

The monthly EFTW meeting will take place via Zoom at 7 pm Thursday, Feb. 11. Contact the TW office for log-in information or visit eastfallscommunity.org for the link.

Town Watch February calendar:

Thurs., Feb. 11, 7 pm: TW monthly meeting via Zoom. Contact TW office, 215-848-2033 for log-in information or visit eastfallscommunity.org



Taking to the hillside high above the Schuylkill River to paint over graffiti vandalism on the wall supporting the Schuylkill Expressway were, from left, Mary Jane Fullam, Andrea Sunderland and Curtis Jablonka. Photos by William Epstein. Taking to the hillside high above the Schuylkill River to paint over graffiti vandalism on the wall supporting the Schuylkill Expressway were, from left, Mary Jane Fullam, Andrea Sunderland and Curtis Jablonka. Photos by William Epstein.

for link.

Tues., Feb. 16, 6 pm: TW call with 39th District Police Service Area 1 officers. Dial 605-313-5071, code 946071#. Call the 39th District at 215-686-3390-1 to confirm.

Sat., Feb. 20, 10 am to 2 pm: TW monthly "Litter Crew Ahead" COVID-19 compliant community clean-up. Meet at the BP gas station at Ridge Ave. and Calumet St. anytime between 10 am and 1 pm. Call 215-848-2033 for more information.

Mon., Feb. 22, 4 pm: TW 39th Police district-wide meeting; dial 605-313-5071, code 946071#. Call TW office at 215-848-2033 or the 39th District at 215-686-3390-1 to confirm.



Emerald and Trevor Bailey assist at Town Watch's February Litter Free Clean-up. Photo by Monica Czuczman.



MLK Day clean-up

More than 25 East Falls residents joined in EF Town Watch's Martin Luther King Day clean-up of the area surrounding the intersection of Henry and Roberts Aves. More than 50 bags of trash and recyclables were collected and the surrounding blocks looked much better for the effort.

Some volunteers cut back overgrowth, reaching more litter and making a long-lasting neighborhood improvement.

Those taking part included Luke Serensits, Maggie McCormick, Andrea Sunderland, Jen DiCandilo, Shayla and Dan Schafhauser, Cory Czuczman, Monica Czuczman, Nina Coffin, Wendy Moody, Emerald and Trevor Bailey, Daphne and Elias Hanford, Mary Jean Cunningham, Anna Rogallia, Jane, Ivan, Oliver and Penelope Dmochowski, Ryan Bernstein, William Epstein, Joan McIlvaine, Marie Filipponi and Mary Jane Fullam.

Anti-graffiti efforts

January saw Town Watch continue its offensive against graffiti vandalism, which TW President Mary Jane Fullam said remains a problem.

Areas hit hard include Kelly Dr. and the ramps connecting it to Lincoln Dr., Ridge Ave. and the City Ave. Bridge, and the Schuylkill Expressway wall visible to drivers as they commute across the bridge connecting East Falls to City Ave.

The hilltop of the Schuylkill Expressway wall is a particularly challenging area to navigate with paint and tools, but Fullam said that Town Watch

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Left, a view most Fallers don't see: the belly of the Falls Bridge. Some floor beams will need repair or replacement. Center and right, the bridge from downriver years ago and now from the East Falls side of the Schuylkill River.

East Falls Bridge – from 1809 to the future

by Steven Peitzman and Wendy Moody for the EF Historical Society

The year 1809 saw the completion of the first bridge to span the Schuylkill River at East Falls -- known earlier as Falls Village or Falls of Schuylkill. That bridge was an innovative chain suspension bridge.

A novel wire suspension bridge followed. Fallsler Josiah White had started a wire mill in the town. Innovative but not durable, both bridges soon failed.

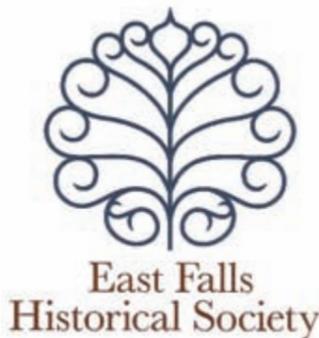
Subsequent bridges yielded, one after another, to floods or wind. Finally, city engineer George Webster designed a heavy steel truss bridge capable of resisting water, wind, and fire.

Completed in 1895, it reached 125 years of service in 2020. To mark this occasion, the East Falls Historical Society on December 9 hosted Justin Spivey, a preservation engineer and authority on Schuylkill River bridges, to provide a Zoom talk on the bridge. A video of the presentation can be found on our website, eastfallshistoricalociety.org under the "events" tab.

Why was bridging the Schuylkill at the Falls important by the early and mid-nineteenth century? This was, of course, before Fairmount Park and the river drives, which the span now connects.

Falls Village had become an important industrial site. Industry also flourished on the west bank, most notably

Simpson's Mills, a large complex focused on printing and dyeing textiles. South of it was a small village which might



have had the name Coxsackie or Cocksockie. No visible trace of these exists.

But beyond the local connection, the Falls of Schuylkill was where the Ridge Rd. from Philadelphia

met two lanes from Germantown. The bridge offered a route for goods and people not just to the west bank, but onward to the western part of the Commonwealth and nation.

The Falls Bridge is a Petit truss, a sub-type of the popular Pratt through-truss bridge. It comprises three spans for a total of 540 feet, and is 40 feet wide. Two piers and abutments of stone masonry, built on solid bedrock, form the substructure. These supports were started nearly 10 years prior to the bridge's completion.

Many of the various components under tension or compression are joined by pins, an American technique. The bridge is steel, though the railings which we admire are of wrought iron. The bridge is

on a slight incline, downward from west to east, as cyclists will recognize.

The original flamboyant paint colors of red, buff and light blue made the bridge a striking sight.

The Falls Bridge was designed to support an upper deck -- hence the top-heavy appearance -- for connecting the high ground on both sides, and possibly for a streetcar line. Probably for reasons of budget it was never completed.

The bridge has held up generally well for so long in part because it was never stressed by two levels of traffic, and mostly has been spared heavy trucks.

But even steel wears out, and our beloved Falls Bridge is in need of serious repair, particularly the heavy plate girders forming the floor beams. PennDOT will carry out the work, with federal funding.

Because the bridge lies in an historic environment, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission will monitor the developing plans. The East Falls Historical Society has signed on as an interested organization, and has engaged Justin Spivey as its consultant.

The EFHS's goal is to see the bridge's appearance unaltered and as much original fabric as possible preserved.

While it's not clear yet when actual work will begin, PennDOT expects that the bridge will be out of service for two years. So enjoy it and study it, preferably by foot or bicycle, while you can.

Have questions about East Falls history, or want to know more? See our growing website at eastfallshistoricalociety.org, or contact us at eastfallshistory@gmail.com. And join!

Traffic Committee wants PennDOT to add speed restraints, narrow lanes on Henry Ave.

(Continued from page 1)

They also would constitute a change -- however slight -- in the physical boundaries of the road, a step PennDOT has fiercely resisted as adversely affecting the "level of service" or flow of traffic, currently about 23,000 cars a day. Much of the traffic is during morning and evening rush hours.

According to the National Association of City Traffic Engineers, lane widths of 10 feet are appropriate in urban areas and have a positive

impact on a street's safety without impacting traffic operations.

While acknowledging no road engineering expertise, DeLissio promised to continue facilitating discussions with PennDOT. She also defended PennDOT's reliance on traditional speed control devices -- passive signs and pavement markings -- as better than nothing. "They may not help that much, but they can't hurt," she said.

In another traffic calming

measure, the Traffic Committee wants the Philadelphia Horticultural Society to help plant more trees and plants in medians and vegetated islands.

The committee's major proposed additions to PennDOT's plan include:

- A second raised Intersection at Henry and Midvale Aves.;
- More raised and vegetated concrete medians;
- Extension of high friction treatments to all curved sections of the road;

- Speed tables across Henry Ave. at Coulter St. and again at Queen Ln.;

- Flashing signal pedestrian crossings at Bowman and Ainsle Sts. (both SEPTA bus stops) to be coordinated with the nearest traffic signal;

- Increased countdown time for pedestrians crossing at three intersections with Henry Ave. (Queen Ln., Midvale Ave. and Coulter St.); and,

- Enforcement of the existing prohibition against trucks and commercial vehicles.



East Falls
Historical Society

Discovering, Preserving and Appreciating
the History of East Falls

Our Winter Presentation, via Zoom:

"Two Educational Stories: Germantown's
Concord School House, and the Old Academy in East Falls"

Wednesday, February 24, 7:00 pm. Details on our website.



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Zoning Committee meeting
7 pm Wednesday, Feb. 17
Zoom link at
www.eastfallscommunity.org

Take part in the EFCC
general
membership meeting
7 pm Monday, Feb. 8
Zoom link at
www.eastfallscommunity.org



One of the many temples that Roger Marsh will talk about in his Zoom talk, "Japan Less Traveled" at 2 pm Wednesday, February 10.

EF Village programs to feature climate change, Japan and music

by Mary Flournoy,
Co-chair, EF Village Operating Group

East Falls Village continues to offer a variety of programs via Zoom, and they are free and open to all who register by email at info@eastfallsvillage.org by the day before each program so that the Zoom link can be emailed to you.

The February programs feature climate change, a trip to Japan, and a concert by a local duo.

Climate change science

"Climate Reality" is the title of a Zoom at 2 pm Friday, Feb. 5. Margharita Abe's presentation will focus on climate change science, current status and ongoing solutions. Abe is a graduate of the Climate Reality Hub's July 2020 Global Climate Reality Leadership Corps Training.

This organization, started by former Vice President Al Gore, focuses on catalyzing a

global solution to the climate crisis by making urgent action a necessity across every sector of society. The slides and other materials used in the presentation are from the Climate Realty Hub.

Abe is a member of Penn's Village in Center City and graciously offered her presentation to East Falls Village.



Japan of past decades

"Japan Less Traveled" will be presented on Wednesday, Feb. 10 at 2 pm by Roger Marsh, a member of EF Village.

Marsh has traveled to Japan a number of times. His presentation will take us to areas north of Tokyo to regions that feel much like the Japan of past decades,

where fewer foreign tourists visit.

Once remote, these destinations are within easy reach of the bullet trains. Marsh will show us shrines at dawn, temples that climb a thousand steps up a mountain and more.

The Village Ramblers, or at least half of them

"New Year: Music Cheer" will be the title of an informal EF Village concert on Friday, Feb. 19 at 2 pm.

Kathy Regele and Chris Coxe, members of a four-person band, the Village Ramblers, will perform as a duo, presenting oldies, Americana, spirituals, at least one original, and even a nostalgic nod to the past holiday (Jingle Bell Rock, anyone?)

Chris will perform on guitars and Kathy will play the harmonica and various percussion instruments. Kathy and Chris are members of EF Village, and the Village Ramblers have performed at several EFV events.

EF Historical Society sets Wed., Feb. 24 program

The East Falls Historical Society has scheduled a free Zoom program for 7 pm Wednesday, Feb. 24 on two remarkably surviving buildings – one in East Falls and one in Germantown.

"Stories of the Old Academy and the Concord School House" will focus on the Old Academy, now the home of the Old Academy Players at 3544 Indian Queen Ln., and the Concord School House on the 6000 block of German-

town Ave.

The Old Academy building dates to 1819, and the Concord School House to 1775.

Both began as community efforts, with similar objectives. Both found new uses and meanings when no longer needed as one-room schoolhouses. Some of the history of the Old Academy Players also will be presented. For more information and the Zoom link, visit eastfallshistoricalsociety.org.



The original Old Academy on Indian Queen Ln., subject of the EF Historical Society Zoom program "Stories of the Old Academy and the Concord School House" on Feb. 24.

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Celebrating arrival of 2021 on Indian Queen Ln.

All dressed up to celebrate the arrival of 2021 on New Year's Day -- and hoping for a better year than 2020 -- were Indian Queen Ln. neighbors Anna Rogallia (left) and Julie Margulies. Anna and Julie marked the start of 2021 with hot apple cider and mochi -- a traditional Japanese edible that brings good luck in the new year -- for passersby on the 3600 block of IQL. The latest count showed all of said passersby seconding their neighbors' notion.

Penn Charter resumes sports competition; John Estok named PA Coach of the Year

Penn Charter has announced that upper school winter sports teams are gearing up for a return to competition following the announcement of an abbreviated Inter-Ac season.

Athletes began conditioning on January 19 in preparation for a series of contests planned for February. Basketball, indoor track, swimming and diving, squash and wrestling teams all will have the chance to face off against a limited number of opponents within the Inter-Ac League.

To mitigate risks, PC Athletics has implemented a number of safety protocols, including temperature checks before practice sessions, frequent mask changes, limited spectatorship and separation by cohort.

Estok wins coaching honor
John Estok of William Penn Charter School has been named Coach of the Year in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by the National High School Strength and Conditioning Association (NHSSCA).

Estok is Chair of Penn Charter's Health and Physical Education Department and head strength and conditioning coach.

After becoming the school's first head strength and conditioning coach in 2013, Estok played a major role in integrating those practices



Penn Charter's Coach John Estok.

more fully into Penn Charter's athletics program and physical education curriculum. As a health and physical education teacher and department chair since 2017, he has helped lead a shift in curriculum to include a greater focus on wellness, including topics such as fitness, nutrition, sleep, sexual health education, mindfulness and yoga.

Estok, 30, was born in the Philippines and raised in Erie, PA. He graduated from

the University of Pittsburgh in 2012 with a B.S. in Exercise Science and earned an M.S. in Exercise Science the following year from the California University of Pennsylvania. His graduate studies included an internship with the University of Maryland football team. Before coming to Penn Charter, Estok worked as an Assistant Strength and Conditioning Coach at Villanova University.

The NHSSCA was founded in 2016 to advance the work of fitness professionals at the high school level. Estok has been active with the organization since its inception, attending regional and national conferences and connecting with educators across the country through the NHSSCA's virtual network. He currently serves on the organization's state advisory board for Pennsylvania.

"This accolade for John Estok is well deserved," said Darryl J. Ford, Penn Charter's Head of School. "He has been a leader in strength and conditioning at our school, regionally and nationally. His students love his workouts and love working with him. This is an indication of a great teacher."

Podcasts: learn what you need to know to enjoy them

by John T. Gillespie

Podcasts may be the ultimate expression of free speech. They're free, unrestricted, and easily accessible.

Ask East Falls Village member and podcast aficionado Kathy Woods.

"Some are short, some are long," she says. "Some have purpose, some are meaningless. There's even a sleep podcast that works by boring listeners with boring speakers and topics."

The something-for-everyone quality underscores the insatiable demand for podcasts. You can listen to the

latest interviews by NPR's Terry Gross, play episodes from your favorite shows, explore podcast recommendations just for you, and manage your listening pleasure. "You can listen while you're doing the dishes or vacuuming the living room," says Kathy.

One of her favorites is The

Daily, aired weekdays by the New York Times, which recently featured an interview with Georgia's outraged Republican election official Gabriel Sterling, who blamed President Trump for encouraging violence with his anti-election and conspiracy rhetoric.

Other favorites include Washington Post PR; Hope Through History with historian Jon Meacham; Weeds, Vox's podcast for politics and policy discussions every Tuesday and Friday with Matthew Yglesias and Ezra Klein; Apple's Michelle Obama Podcast, featuring the former First Lady in conversation with family and friends; Shrink Rap Radio, the psychology podcast; and NBC Sports' Eagle Eye Podcast, with Reuben Frank and Dave Zangaro on everything

Philadelphia Eagles.

How to access and listen to podcasts

To help the uninitiated, the British newspaper The Guardian ran an article which says that listening to podcasts is simple if you have access to the internet. You just need to find a podcast platform or app that suits you and then sample some of the many thousands of podcasts made around the world. All podcasts are free, and most are available via many different apps.

On a website

The simplest way to listen to podcasts, writes The Guardian, is on a web browser such as Chrome, Safari or Microsoft Edge. You can do this from a computer or from the web browser on your phone:

(Continued on page 9)

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Romance that started at Old Academy Players leads to appearance on ABC's *The Goldbergs*

by William Epstein
Co-Editor, East Falls **NOW**

In 1992, Brea Bee was a 17-year-old student at Little Flower High School. She was in the early years of her acting career.

The Northeast Philadelphia native was performing in the Old Academy Players production of *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, by Neil Simon.

That's when she met Adam Goldberg, who was playing the role of Eugene, the lead in the play.

Goldberg was a 16-year-old student at Penn Charter from Jenkintown. He went on to create the ABC-TV hit series *The Goldbergs*, now in its eighth season of recounting Goldberg's teenage years.

Silver Linings

Bee eventually moved to Los Angeles to pursue her career, which included a return trip to the East Coast to play the role of Nikki, the former wife who Bradley Cooper tries to win back in his 2012 hit film *The Silver Linings Playbook*. It was filmed in Delaware County and Philadelphia.

Now, nearly 30 years after her Old Academy Players' experience, the most recent stop in Bee's career found her playing her own mother on *The Goldbergs*.

Bee described to *The Philadelphia Inquirer's* Ellen Gray how during rehearsals for *Brighton Beach Goldberg*, when he was supposed to be writing in his journal, actually would write notes and give them to her at the end of rehearsal.

She would take the notes home and respond with her own notes at the next rehearsal.

Soon enough, Bee told *The Inquirer's* Gray, Goldberg wrote to ask if Bee would go out with him. She did, and she told Gray that "it was the sweetest, most romantic thing that ever happened to me."

The romance ended, but Bee and Goldberg stayed in contact through the years. When Bee moved to Los Angeles in 2011 Goldberg invited her to join the cast of his Fox-TV show *Breaking In*. She also made an appearance in Season Four of *The Goldbergs*.



Adam Goldberg (far left) and Brea Bee (far right) on stage in the Old Academy Players' 1992 production of Neil Simon's *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. In the center, from right, are Lauren Stutz, Charlotte Cook and Mickey Goldhaber.

More recently, though, in the current season, she joined the cast to play her own mother, whose real name is Vickie but whose name is shortened to Vicki in the show.

Bee's family still lives in Northeast Philadelphia. Nearly three decades

removed from the Old Academy Players stage, Bee told *The Inquirer's* Gray that her mother knew Adam Goldberg's mother, Beverly Goldberg.

"My mom would drive me to Adam's house and it was just the kind of your normal teenage experience. Never in

our wildest dreams did we ever think that so many years later we would actually be seeing it and I would be portraying it on a national television show. So both of us are just kind of thrilled."

And it all started in East Falls on the Old Academy Players stage.

Podcasts: learn what you need to know to enjoy them

(Continued from page 8)

- Find a website that has podcasts you like.
- Find the player on the page, check that your device's sound is switched on, and click play to listen to the podcast.

On your iPhone or iPad

According to The Guardian, if you have an iPhone you can use the Apple Podcasts app to listen to podcasts.

- The Podcasts app should already be downloaded on your phone, so search your apps for 'Podcasts'. If it's not, go to the app store and download it.

• Open the Podcast app and go to the search page (click on the magnifying glass button in the navigation at the bottom).

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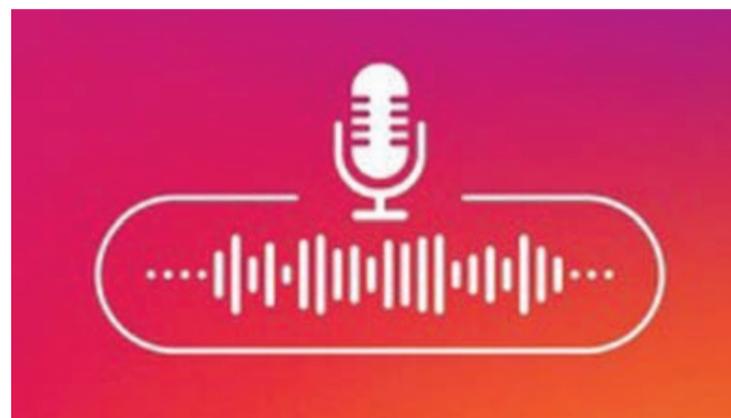
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This information is based on an article in The Guardian and reprinted here with its permission and with permission of East Falls Village Voices.



Yoga for the Library

Fri. 2/19 | Fri. 3/12 | Fri. 4/9 7-9 PM

Join local yoga teacher Justine Bacon for a series of three online yin yoga sessions to benefit the Friends of the Falls of Schuylkill Library.

Yin is a cooling and gentle yoga practice. Anyone can participate from yoga beginners to those with more proficiency. Classes will be held on ZOOM. To attend simply submit a minimum donation of \$10 via Venmo to Justine on the day of the class.



For complete details visit www.justinebacon.com. All donations will go to the Friends to support Falls Library programs. Plan to join all three sessions!

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7 pm Monday, Feb. 8
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A rare sighting here at a rare time -- an Allen's Hummingbird

When you think of seeing hummingbirds, you imagine warm days and flowers blooming all around.

But that wasn't the case in East Falls in early January.

East Falls resident Peter DeStefano had just returned home from a morning of birding at the Art Museum area when he saw a hummingbird zip by over his head, up to the top of the spruce tree across the street from his house.



Navin on Nature

by Navin Sasikumar

"I got my binoculars on it and noticed orange. I immediately knew it was a big deal. It wasn't a ruby-throated, and what is a hummingbird doing here in January?" Pete asked himself.

Hummingbirds are fairly common here, but this was not just a late straggling Ruby-throated hummingbird, which is the only species of hummingbird we have in the summer. This was either a Rufous or an Allen's hummingbird, according to the

orange coloration that Pete saw.

They are extremely difficult to tell apart in the field. Pete got some photos and put the word out to the local birding groups. On hearing the news, birders from around Philly started arriving to catch a glimpse of this rare hummingbird. This was the first-ever non-ruby-throated hummingbird seen in Philly, and birders were naturally very excited.

These hummingbirds are Western species, usually found along the Pacific Coast. Due to unknown reasons, a handful of these western hummingbird species migrate east instead of heading south for the winter, treating eastern birders to these little western jewels in the cold of winter.

For the first few days after Pete's initial sighting, the hummingbird would visit the spruce tree a few times in the morning and then disappear for the rest of the day. Pete and his wife Kat Minakakis put up feeders outside their house, but it took a few days for the hummingbird to find the feeder. "It has continued to visit the feeder and spend time in and around our yard since then," Pete said.

Due to the rarity of the bird, hummingbird bander



A rare sighting in our part of the country -- an Allen's hummingbird seen in East Falls in January. Photos by Pete DeStefano for East Falls NOW.

Sandy Lockerman visited Pete's house. Photos had shown that the bird had a band on its leg, and when Sandy was able to catch the bird and check the band, she confirmed it was the same adult female Allen's hummingbird -- fondly named Allena -- that she had caught and banded in Delaware County last month. "Sandy took her many hummingbird measurements to compare against the measurements from a month earlier, and we learned that the bird has put on weight since then, as she prepares to trav-

el back west to breed," Pete said.

I asked Pete what the experience of finding a rare bird was like.

"It's exciting enough to observe a rare bird in the field, but in this case, she's basically hanging out at my house," he said. "It's hard to convey how much this has meant to me. I'm going to miss Allena when she's gone."

Besides the excitement of finding the bird itself, Pete said, "one thing that's been cool for me is meeting all the birders visiting my block to

see the hummingbird, from all these well-known Philly birders to people from out of state. Knowing that I've helped them add a bird to their life list has been extremely gratifying."

We still don't know where the bird goes when she's not at Pete's house. So keep your eyes open, East Fallers! And I would also encourage everyone to keep their hummingbird feeders out in the winter (bring them inside at night if it's going to freeze). You never know when a rare hummingbird might show up at your feeder!

Mid-winter count proves EF is a special place for birds

by Wendy and Winston Moody

As we conducted the Mid-Winter Bird Census in our neighborhood on January 9, as part of a city-wide initiative, we had a chance to celebrate East Falls as a place where birds thrive

and where our residents care about their welfare.

In conducting the census, we covered as much of our neighborhood as we could in nine hours. We walked the banks of the Schuylkill River and the Wissahickon Creek, explored the edges of Fairmount Park, scouted the campuses of Jefferson University

and Penn Charter, and drove around the Queen Lane Reservoir.

But no areas were more rewarding than the back yards of East Falls residents. Some 36 families invited us to observe their bird feeders. Eight others reported observations to us.

Together we identified 37

species -- the most ever -- and counted 1,054 birds. This is heartening, considering the concern in recent years over the world-wide decline of birds.

In the census, we found usually high numbers of House Sparrows and Starlings, expected low numbers of Nuthatches and Tufted Titmice, and surprising increases of Juncos and Goldfinches. Indeed, this seemed to be the year of the Junco -- 147 of them. Unusual birds included Kinglets (Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned), a Merlin and an Eastern Towhee.

Speaking of the unusual, would you believe a hummingbird came to East Falls in January? See East Falls NOW's Navin on Nature report on this page.

Out of range and season, an Allen's Hummingbird flitted into and out of an evergreen

in woods on Calumet St., a block up from the Falls of Schuylkill Library. We tried to spot it twice and missed after waiting 2 hours, but two experienced birders, Peter DeStefano and Stephanie Egger, saw it and took pictures of it.

When we sent our census results to Keith Russell, Coordinator of the Philadelphia Mid-Winter Bird Census for Pennsylvania Audubon and The Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, he was quite impressed with the commitment of East Fallers in providing food and water for visiting birds, and with their enthusiastic support of the census. We are lucky to have shared this day with our neighbors in East Falls.

If you would like an emailed copy of our census results, you can request one by emailing us at wmoodyw@aol.com

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East Falls *NOW* February 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 info@eastfallscommunity.org.

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, info@eastfallscommunity.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Frank's Pizza, 3600 Fisk Ave., 215-848-6433; order online at www.frankspizzaeastfalls.com; take-out and delivery; Grub Hub;

pizza, steaks, hoagies, salads and platters; 11 am to 10 pm Mon. to Thurs., 11 am to 10:30 pm Fri. and Sat., 11 am to 9:30 pm Sun. Limited outdoor dining.

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

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

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

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

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

Nou Vaux Market, 3539 Vaux St., corner of Tilden and Vaux Sts., 215-438-7600; local meats, Marchiano's breads, vegan and gluten-free

products, dairy, pet needs, lottery, seasonal plants, tools and soil; 8 am to 8 pm Mon. to Fri., 8 am to 7 pm Sat. and Sun.

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

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

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

Terron vegan restaurant, 3426 Conrad St., 215-716-7111, order at www.terronkitchen.com; take-out curbside 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; out-

door 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 Sun. 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 gofund-me site to assist employees of restaurants and bars in East Falls who have been impacted by the coronavirus pandemic: www.gofundme.com/f/support-east-falls-restaurant-and-bar-workers

Also open in East Falls:

RG Group, quality printed sportswear, 877-549-7712 or ronangill.com
East Falls Eye Associates, Dr. Jesse Jones, 4189 Ridge Ave., 215-844-2406
SoLi Fitness, Derrick Johnson, 267-971-2943

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

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

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

Connie Gillespie, Elfant Wissahickon Realtors, 215-805-0696

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

For the Love of Gardens: A winter gardening project will bring value in the Spring time

by Robert Castelo

This project is a wonderful way to spend time using your hands to create an object that will bring practical value to your home garden this spring.

The following instructions are a written blueprint for the protective plant-encasement seen in the photographs.

The construction of PVC and poultry wire is set to secure your vegetables from furry scavengers come the spring and summer months. Note: beginning this project with a glue-gun will make life easier, and the use of a wire cutter is essential. If you don't have a glue-gun do not fret; successful construction is attainable without one.

The following is important when considering the dimensions of your encasement and also when acquiring the material for it. The height and width of the encasement are intentionally designed to be equal in measure. This length was determined by the widths of poultry wire available for purchase at the store. Poultry wire is sold as a rolled sheet, and it is critical to match the width of the sheet with the height and width of the encasement.

The length of the encasement can be set arbitrarily. In other words, feel free to design your own dimensions, just be aware that the height

and width should match the width of the poultry wire you choose to purchase.

Here is the short list of materials for a 5 by 5 by 5 foot cube:

PVC, 2x quarter inch (1/4') diameter, length 30 feet.

PVC joints, eight three-prong quarter inch diameter.

Poultry wire, five-foot wide sheet. Total length: 35 feet. Poultry netting can be made from plastic or metal.

Wire ties, size small, 100 count.

Instructions:

Cut each of your two 30-foot PVC pipes in half. You will now have four pieces, each 15 feet. Cut each piece into thirds. This yields 12 pieces of five-foot PVC.

Using your eight, three-prong PVC joints and twelve PVC rods, assemble your encasement. The use of a glue-gun is recommended but not necessary.

When assembled, coat the cube with poultry wire. To do this, attach the leading edge of the poultry wire to any vertical edge of the cube with wire ties. Unroll the sheet across adjacent lateral faces of the cube until you return to your starting point.

Use wire cutters to trim the sheet to its appropriate length. Secure the wire mesh around the cube's vertical edges with additional wire ties. Complete covering and securing the top of the cube with wire and leave

the bottom face free.

We at the East Falls *NOW* hope you have fun with this project and also find it useful!



Assembled encasement (left) and detail showing netting secured by wire ties.

Zoom with East Falls Village!

All are welcome to attend this program.

Register in advance by emailing info@eastfallsvillage.org.

Climate Reality

Climate Change Science, Current Status, and Ongoing Solutions

Friday, February 5 at 2 pm

Presented by Margherita Abe, a graduate of the Climate Reality Hub's Leadership Corps Training. This organization was founded by Al Gore.



A Free Program, open to all, presented by



East Falls Village, a program of the East Falls Community Council, was established in 2011 to enhance the lives of residents in the East Falls neighborhood of Philadelphia as they grow older. For more information on the Village, visit eastfallsvillage.org or call 267-444-4507.



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