

# East Falls **NOW**

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Thomas Mifflin students in Science Club

## Mifflin: 11th best gain out of 303 Phila. schools

by Carla Lewandowski, President, Friends of Mifflin and William Epstein, President, EFCC

East Falls' Thomas Mifflin School scored the 11th highest improvement in academic and climate/safety out of 216 traditional and 87 charter public schools in the city, according to the Philadelphia School District's School Progress Report (SPR) issued Feb. 10.

The District's results showed that Mifflin, kindergarten-to-eighth grade, tallied 61 points in scoring for 2018-19, out of a possible 100 points. Its score for the previous school year, 2017-18, was 35 points.

This marked an increase of 26 points – good for the 11th largest gain in the city.

Mifflin's SPR improvement was an increase of 74 percent over 2017-18. Its score of 61 points was the fifth highest among the 20 schools showing

the most improvement in the city. It was highest of any nearby traditional and charter school, and was well above the city-wide average of 44 points.

The leaders of Friends of Mifflin told East Falls *NOW* that the performance of Mifflin's students in the District's SPR shows an improvement in scores for the third consecutive year across all categories measured in the SPR – academic achievement, progress and climate.

They said the Friends of Mifflin have nominated the school's Principal, Leslie Mason, for the prestigious Lindback Foundation award. The nomination was "for all of her work in making Mifflin a community to which students love to come," the Friends said. Allison McConnell, Data Specialist and Mathematics Lead, detailed how Ms. Mason has helped transform the school

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## Parochial administrator named to St. Bridget



Rev. Bernard J. Taglianetti

The Rev. Bernard J. Taglianetti, S.T.L., M.Div., M.A., has been named parochial administrator of St. Bridget Catholic Church on Midvale Ave.

The appointment is an interim step in what is expected to become a full-fledged pastorate in June.

Fr. Taglianetti is professor of moral theology at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Lower Merion. He told East Falls *NOW* that he will continue to wear both hats pending further evaluation by

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## EFCC to meet March 9

The regular monthly general membership meeting of the East Falls Community Council is set for 7 pm Monday, March 9 at the EF Presbyterian Church, Midvale Ave. and Vaux St. The meeting will include a Zoning Committee meeting.

The agenda will include:

- A presentation by Dr. Greg Skochko on his plans for the Salveo Wellness Center, scheduled to open later this spring at

4400 Ridge Ave;

- A presentation from Dr. Andrea Coleman Hill, Chief Executive Officer of Laboratory Charter School of Communication and Languages, on her plans to locate the school at 3300 Henry Ave; and

- A presentation by the owner of 3521 Ainslie St. requesting EFCC support for her revised plans for a zoning variance for two units at the property.

## Speed camera bill to be reintroduced for Henry Ave.

by John T. Gillespie

St. Rep. Pam DeLissio plans to reintroduce legislation to allow speed cameras on Henry Ave. – a proposal tabled more than a year ago in the PA Senate.

DeLissio (D-194th) said she will bring the legislation to the floor in the spring or early summer.

Her bill, planned as an amendment to a pending Senate measure allowing city police to use radar in Philadelphia, will call for cameras on Henry Ave. between Hunting Park Ave. on the border of East Falls and Port Royal Rd. in Andorra. The 4.7-mile stretch of road has seen recurring crashes in which speed often is a factor.

"Attaching it as an amendment to an existing bill improves the odds," said DeLissio, whose efforts were defeated last year. Increasing chances of favorable reception this time, St. Reps. Tim Hennessey (R-26) and Mike Carroll (D-118), majority and minority co-chairs of the House Transportation Committee, have agreed to the amendment.

The city currently is installing speed cameras along crash-prone Roosevelt Blvd. as part of a pilot program to target violators, who will face fines of up to \$150 following a 60-day trial period. Some 32 cameras eventually will be installed along the Boulevard's 12-mile stretch from 9th St. to the Bucks County border.

Seven people died in crashes on the Roosevelt Blvd. in 2018



**Slow down!** Henry Ave. speed cameras could soon be at work under terms of legislation to be introduced by St. Rep. Pam DeLissio.

and 21 died in 2019, making them among the deadliest years in the road's 94-year history.

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Henry Ave. saw 352 crashes of varying severity, including fatalities, between 2013 and 2018. Both Roosevelt Blvd. and Henry Ave. are state roads.

The move to automated speed cameras comes amid rising concern that traditional speed limit signs and road markings are not sufficient in reducing speeding, that traffic enforcement is non-existent, and that more active restraints such as speed tables, bump outs, and median barriers are needed to slow traffic and prevent crashes. PennDOT plans to incorporate some of these changes in its \$16.8 million Highway Safety Improvement Plan for Henry Ave. two years from now. Speed cameras are

(Continued on page 11)



Rendering of proposed new SEPTA Wissahickon Transfer Center at Ridge Ave. and Main St.

## Protests win changes in SEPTA plans for Wiss. Transfer Ct.

by John T. Gillespie

SEPTA has responded to protests from a coalition of Northwest civic groups over plans for a new bus transfer station where Ridge Ave. meets Main St.

Leaders of the groups from Roxborough, Manayunk, Wis-

sahickon and East Falls, including the East Falls Community Council, said the original design -- anchored by a 150-foot-long canopied one-story bus station -- conflicted with the natural beauty of the Schuylkill riverfront.

They urged a more architecturally distinctive, less prefabricated-looking roof design. They

called the original plan a futuristic "Jetsons"-style look, after the animated television show.

At a public charette-style meeting Feb. 26 just as East Falls *NOW* was going to press, SEPTA unveiled a new design for the roof. It replaced the "Jetsons" canopy with a look

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# Your March 2020 East Falls *NOW* Calendar

**Falls of the Schuylkill Library**  
**March hours:** Monday and Wednesday, 12 noon to 8 pm; Tuesday and Thursday, 10 am to 6 pm; Friday, 10 am to 5 pm; and Saturday, 11 am to 5 pm.  
The Literary Enrichment Afterschool Program (LEAP), the Free Library’s drop-

in after school program, will take place through March. It offers homework assistance, computer literacy and library skills for students in grades K to 12. LEAP also offers daily literacy enrichment activities for elementary school students. LEAP takes place Monday through Thursday

from 3 to 5:30 pm and Saturday from 1 to 5 pm. No sign-ups are required; children under seven must be accompanied by a caregiver. Visit the Falls Library to obtain the LEAP monthly calendar.  
The Library will open late, at 2 pm, on Thursday, March 12 for staff development.

The program Read with a Therapy Dog is taking a hiatus. For more information call Librarians Drew Birden or Meredith McGovern, 215-685-2093.

**2 Monday**

**10:15 am:** Music and Movement Time for babies and toddlers, Falls Library (Pg. 11)

**6:30 pm:** Wagner Institute of Science class at Falls Library (Pg. 11)

**3 Tuesday**

**9 am:** Mifflin Kindergarten Open House (Pg. 1)

**5 Thursday**

**10:30 am:** Stories and play for kids ages two to six, Falls Library (Pg. 11)

**6 Friday**

**8 pm:** Old Academy Players present Sam Shepard’s Buried Child (Pg. 7)

**7 Saturday**

**10 am:** Mifflin Pollinator Project meeting (Pg. 1)

**11 am to 1 pm:** EF Farmers Market under the Twin Bridges

**8 pm:** Old Academy Players present Sam Shepard’s Buried Child (Pg. 7)

**8 Sunday**

**4 to 7 pm:** Kick-off reception for Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion black history tours (Pg. 4)

**2 pm:** Old Academy Players present Sam Shepard’s Buried Child (Pg. 7)

**9 Monday**

**6:30 pm:** Wagner Institute of Science class at Falls Library (Pg. 11)

**7 p m:** EFCC joint General Membership and Zoning Committee meeting (Pg. 1)

**10 Tuesday**

**10:15 am:** Music and Movement Time for babies and toddlers, Falls Library (Pg. 11)

**2 pm:** EF Village member Roger Marsh will describe his recent trip down the Irrawaddy River in Myanmar, formerly Burma. Open to all. (Pg. 6)

**11 Wednesday**

**3:30 pm:** For school-age kids, celebrate the right to vote at the Falls Library (Pg.11)

**6 pm:** EF Town Watch meets w/ 39th District Police Service Area 1 officials (Pg. 7)

**12 Thursday**

**2 pm:** Falls Library opens late to allow for staff development (Pg. 11)

**6:30 pm:** How to make perfect par-faits, free at the Falls Library (Pg. 11)

**7:30 pm:** EF Town Watch meeting, 3540 Indian Queen Ln (Pg. 1)

**13 Friday**

**10:30 am:** Music and stories for toddlers and pre-schoolers by Jump Jive & Jam!, Falls Library (Pg. 11)

**8 pm:** Old Academy Players present Sam Shepard’s Buried Child (Pg. 7)

**14 Saturday**

**11 am to 1 pm:** EF Farmers Market under the Twin Bridges

**8 pm:** Old Academy Players present Sam Shepard’s Buried Child (Pg. 7)

**15 Sunday**

**2 pm:** Old Academy Players present Sam Shepard’s Buried Child (Pg. 7)

**16 Monday**

**3:30 pm:** For school age kids, make and taste healthy world snacks, free at the Falls Library (Pg. 11)

**6:30 pm:** Philadelphia Stoics meeting, Falls Library (Pg. 11)

**17 Tuesday**

**10:15 am:** Music and Movement Time for babies and toddlers, Falls Library (Pg.11)

**6:30 pm:** “Considering Mifflin” for prospective Mifflin parents, Rutabaga Toy Library, 3452 Conrad St. (Pg. 11)

**18 Wednesday**

**3:30 pm:** For school-age kids, learn about and practice the art of Frida Kahlo, Falls Library (Pg.11)

**19 Thursday**

**11 am:** For children ages two to six, Explore the World Storytime and Play, Falls Library (Pg. 11)

**3:30 pm:** For school-age kids, explore Mexico in the World Traveling Trunks, Falls Library (Pg. 11)

**21 Saturday**

**10 am to noon:** EF Town Watch “Litter Crew Ahead” clean-up, (Pg. 7)

**11 am to 1 pm:** EF Farmers Market under the Twin Bridges

**23 Monday**

**3:30 pm:** For school age kids, it’s Be a Hero with Wonder Woman, Falls Library (Pg. 11)

**6 pm:** EF Town Watch meets w/ 39th Police District leaders, 22nd St. and Hunting Park Ave. (Pg. 7)

**24 Tuesday**

**10:15 am:** Music and Movement Time for babies and toddlers, Falls Library (Pg. 11)

**12:30 pm to 2 pm:** Voter registration at Jefferson Un. (Pg. 8)

**26 Thursday**

**10:30 am:** Stories and play for kids ages two to six, Falls Library (Pg. 11)

**27 Friday**

**10:30 am:** For preschoolers, a Spring Spectacular dance and singing session, Falls Library (Pg. 11)

**28 Saturday**

**10 am to 1 pm:** Mifflin Annual March Madness (Pg. 1)

**11 am to 1 pm:** EF Farmers Market under the Twin Bridges

**30 Monday**

**6 pm:** Falls Library Book Group meeting (Pg. 11)

**31 Tuesday**

**10:15 am:** Music and Movement Time for babies and toddlers, Falls Library (Pg. 11)

**And this date beyond March is worth saving:**  
**Sat., May 30:** Thomas Mifflin School Gala

**Stay informed. If you don’t receive the EF Community Council’s weekly emails, send your name and email address to [info@eastfallscommunity.org](mailto:info@eastfallscommunity.org). To join the EFCC, visit [www.eastfallscommunity.org](http://www.eastfallscommunity.org).**



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Associate Broker  
Cell/Text: 267.973.4847  
[heather.petroneshook@foxroach.com](mailto:heather.petroneshook@foxroach.com)



Joseph Petrone  
Associate Broker  
Cell/Text: 610-247-8668  
[joseph.petrone@foxroach.com](mailto:joseph.petrone@foxroach.com)





# Some progress on the school buses – for the time being

We shouldn't pass up some good news, even if it's not total good news and involves a situation that will require constant monitoring.

Talking here about the pollution-producing line of seven school buses pulling up daily on Crawford and Conrad Sts., diesel engines idling as the bus drivers wait to pick up students from Pierce Elementary School.

The students are using the building at the rear of 3300 Henry Ave. while their school in North Philadelphia under-

goes asbestos removal. This will go on until the end of the



A message from the  
**EFCC**  
President

by Bill Epstein

school year.

Problem is, the residents of Crawford and Conrad Sts. found their air and traffic con-

ditions seriously compromised.

The bus drivers ran their engines for up to 20 minutes waiting for the kindergarten to sixth grade students to be dismissed. They also blocked parked cars and ignored requests from neighbors who needed to get their vehicles out from in front of their homes.

Hardly a way to treat neighbors.

Unfortunately, it took the neighbors having to call television news people and lots of noise from East Falls NOW, the EF Community Council and Councilman Curtis Jones' office

to get the attention of the School District before we achieved intervention.

Especially disappointing was the failure of the School District to respond until the neighbors called the news media. Anyone disagree with that?

Starting mid-February, the School District's Office of Transportation assigned personnel to be on site to communicate with and direct the seven bus drivers to pull up one at a time at dismissal to pick up the children. The plan includes NO IDLING of engines.

Neighbors report that the

plan is working, at least for the time being. Let's hope it continues to work, and be improved upon, because it appears that between the School District's asbestos problems and charter schools looking for space, chances are this building that backs up to Scotts Ln. has a future as a school.

If that's true, let's hope we get a more respectful bus vendor and a more timely response from the School District if neighbors encounter a problem.

# Holding elected office: It's all about representing

It's in the title. State Representative. The definition of representative is a person chosen to act or speak for others.

Being the State Representative for the 194th District is a responsibility that I am honored to have, and I have the utmost respect for the responsibility which I have been given.

To that end, my commitment to dialogue with constituents is paramount. For instance, my 93rd town hall is scheduled for March 30th. In 2019, I initiated a book club that meets quarterly. Books are selected based on their relationship to state policy. The book club has attracted additional constituents whom previously I had not met.

My commitment to attend at least two civic association meetings a month personally is another way in which I interact with the community members to hear what is on their mind, neighborhood by neighborhood.

There are 13 civic associations in the 194th District and many of them meet on days when I am in session in Harrisburg. However, my commitment to share with each of the civics information is an endeavor I strive to uphold. In 2010, when I first ran for



Pam's  
Viewpoint

by St. Rep. Pamela A. DeLissio

election, I got asked a myriad of questions, a few that I remember to this day.

Two frequent questions were: "Was my job a volunteer position?" (No.); "Was it in Washington?" (No.)

Many folks would tell me their

concerns about city matters and problems related to city government, not state matters. Many citizens just want their needs met and are not concerned about different levels of government (local, state, federal), let alone different branches of government (executive, legislative and judicial.) But the reality is that citizens must be informed and concerned about "how it works" if they want a truly representative form of government.

Constituent's questions and concerns made me realize that many folks wonder what the role of a state representative is, and possibly why anyone would love the role as much as I do.

My job is to represent you in Harrisburg and to represent, to the best of my ability, the diversity of thoughts and opinions that are reflective of the citizens in the 194th legislative district.

State government affects our daily lives and the quality of

those lives – everything from funding basic education and helping to ensure that we have a ready workforce to ensuring that our roads and bridges are safe, and that our criminal code administers true justice.

In order to represent your ideas, I need to be in touch with you on a regular basis, and I am indeed passionate about communication. Whether by email, newsletter, press release, town hall, social media, office appointments, policy round tables, the quarterly book club I hold or in the aisles of the local market or this monthly East Falls NOW column, I always want to be in touch and to hear from you.

And that is probably what I like best about my job – listening to my constituents and disseminating information to my constituents and helping them to better understand the nuances of state government. I am a firm believer that knowledge is pow-

er, and I never hesitate to share knowledge.

These dialogues are important for both of us. We share ideas and opinions, ask questions to gain clarity, and I know I always walk away with more to think about on any number of topics.

It is truly an honor and privilege to represent and serve and I have all of you to thank for that opportunity.

Thoughts? Suggestions? Concerns?

Make your voice heard by visiting my office at 6511 Ridge Ave. or calling (215) 482-8726 or emailing me at RepDeLissio@pahouse.net.

Stay in the know by signing up for my electronic newsletter (delivered twice monthly) or my paper newsletter (delivered twice a year) by calling my office at 215-482-8726.

# Being a citizen means different things to different people

Throughout my life I've encountered watershed moments that have allowed me to feel like Mr. Curtis Jones, Jr. (Citizen). The first time was when I received a piece of mail with my name on the package. I was 4 years old and it was a Dr. Seuss book, Cat in the Hat. That piece of mail symbolized me as an individual in this world.

There was my drivers' license, which established my rights as a citizen to be identified as a driver free to operate

vehicles like other citizens.

Greatest of these might have been my voter registration



Curt's  
Corner

by Curtis J. Jones, Jr., Councilman

card, which memorialized my right to vote and established

that I counted to aspiring elected officials seeking my vote.

Today I have come to realize as important as any of these is my responsibility to stand up and be counted in the U.S. Census.

In the past, people have been reluctant to fill out the census because they feel "big government" would intrude upon their lives by having their information. But here's a news flash: with modern technology, most of your personal information is already on the internet. Some of the \$700 billion in programs that are determined

by the US Census are the National School Breakfast and Lunch Programs (Philadelphia is at a 26 percent poverty rate), Federal Highway and Construction dollars (most Philadelphia bridges are in poor or dangerous conditions), Section 8 Housing Vouchers (with a three to four-year waiting list), Federal Pell Grant Programs, Medicare, Low Income Home and Energy Assistance, CDBG Block Grant (affordable housing dollars have been reduced from \$83 million to \$47 million since the 1990's), Foster Care-Title 4,

Federal Transit Grants -- just to name a few.

During the last Census, Philadelphians were severely under-counted. Officials challenged the count and were credited with a fair count, which equated to millions of dollars for Philadelphia.

I am a citizen who pays taxes and therefore deserves my fair share coming back from the Federal Government in Washington D.C., and so do you. Stand up and be counted.

For more information, visit 2020Census.gov.

## East Falls**NOW**

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## Mifflin: 11th best gain out of 303 Phila. schools

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since she arrived as Principal in 2009.

"After assuming the Mifflin principalship, Ms. Mason set out to improve our School Progress Report rating. She knew that in order for students to truly grow academically, she would need to nurture each child's innate ability to care for one another as well as oneself, and that she would need to extend herself outside of the school and into the community to build trusting relationships," McConnell said.

"She not only learned each child's name, she also made sure to learn about his or her family.

"It is evident to anyone who walks into the building that our Principal absolutely knows and genuinely loves each of the children, laying the foundation for the immense growth in the school's SPR.

"Using a comprehensive data tracker for each grade level, teachers have taken ownership of their students' progress. Additionally, Ms. Mason has consistently supported the District's focus around early literacy instruction and has provided continuous professional development on standard-aligned instruction. To keep the momentum going, Ms. Mason established more systems to streamline student work analysis, professional development, data talks, and maintaining a positive school climate."

The number of students at Mifflin has grown by 10 percent since last year and kindergarten registration for the fall of 2020 is underway. The Friends of Mifflin report that they have seen more families coming to their Considering Mifflin series, which allows prospective parents to speak to current parents about the school.

### Lots of upcoming events At Thomas Mifflin:

**9 am Tues., March 3:** Join Mifflin's Kindergarten Open House and check out Mifflin's two kindergarten classes in action. Meet teachers and Principal Leslie Mason and ask them your questions about the curriculum.

**10 am Sat., March 7:** Learn about the new Mifflin Pollinator Project, help Mifflin's garden grow, and learn how to build your own pollinator habitat. All welcome!

**9 am Sat., March 14:** Friends of Mifflin meeting. Everyone is invited to plan our events and to find out what's happening in school. Location TBD.

**6:30 pm Tues., March 17:** "Considering Mifflin," your chance to explore Mifflin with current parents. Bring your prospective students to the Rutabaga Toy Library, 3452 Conrad St.

**10 am to 1 pm Sat., March 28:** It's time for the Annual Mifflin Madness. Cheer as students vs. teachers on the basketball court. Fun and games for kids and adults of all ages. This is a must not miss!



Kitchen Corner

Brotchan Roy for St. Patrick's Day

by Anne Farnese

Each year, East Falls leprechauns paint a giant shamrock at the intersection of Ridge and Midvale Aves. to mark Saint Patrick's Day, which has evolved from a religious feast honoring Ireland's patron saint into one that celebrates Irish culture.

One way to honor the day is with Irish soup, specifically Brotchan Roy -- which means a broth fit for a king.

Brotchan is derived from

the Gaelic word for broth; Roy is a derivation of Ri, which means king. Some culinary lore suggests this leek soup's history could extend back to when Druids preached in Ireland. There is no way to know if that's true, but what is true is Brotchan Roy is a stick-to-the-ribs dish.

Irish oatmeal is what makes the soup so hearty. Irish oats, because they are cut instead of rolled, have more texture and are nuttier in taste.

Leeks require a thorough washing because sand and

grit hide in the vegetable's leaves and membranes. To prepare, cut off and discard the tough green leaves and leave about an inch of the pale green attached to the white part of the leek. Trim the root fibers, but leave the base intact.

Split leeks lengthwise just short of the root. Fan the leaves, then rinse under cold running water. Roll in a kitchen towel to dry.

After drying, cut off and discard the root.

Kitchen Corner recommends using McCann's steel

cut oatmeal and Kerrygold butter in this recipe for-Brotchan Roy:

- 3 or 4 leeks depending on size
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 3 cups chicken or vegetable stock
- 1 cup milk
- 1 cup Irish oatmeal
- Salt and pepper
- Pinch of mace
- 2 tablespoons chopped parsley

Cut cleaned leeks in thin slices.

In a Dutch oven pot, melt butter then sauté leeks until just softened.

Add liquids and bring to a boil.

Sprinkle in oatmeal, stir constantly and bring back to a boil.

Cover and simmer for one hour or until leeks are cooked. Add salt and pepper to taste. Sprinkle in parsley and mace.

Boil for one minute. Serve with a slice of Irish soda bread.

For the Love of Gardens: Witch Hazels -- harbingers of spring

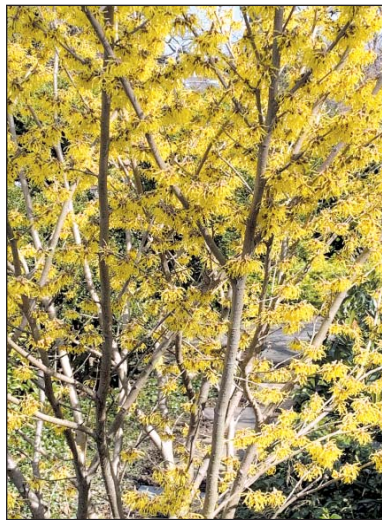
by Christina Spolsky  
cmspolsky@gmail.com

Each year, by mid-winter, I begin to look at the buds on my witch hazels to see if they are enlarging -- wishing I could will them into blooming.

In mild winters in the Philadelphia area, these harbingers of spring can begin to bloom by late January to early February or, in winters with prolonged cold, they may not bloom until early March. It's an amazing sight when plants begin to bloom while snow is still on the ground.

The delicate spider-like petals are most commonly bright yellow, although cultivars bloom in a range of yellows, as well as with orange, red, and even purplish or pinkish blooms. The petals unfurl on warmer sunny days, curling up on cold days. Depending on when the plants begin blooming, and how quickly the weather warms up, the flowers can last up to seven or eight weeks -- quite a show!

These showy early-blooming



Witch hazel blooming at the Penn St. home of Pat and Pete Deacon.

witch hazels are one of two Oriental species. The Chinese witch hazel, *Hamamelis mollis*, has only a few cultivars, all with fragrant bright yellow blooms. The Japanese species, *H. japonica*, is much rarer. Most common in this country is *Hamamelis x intermedia*, a hybrid between the Chinese and Japanese species. Hybridization has allowed for the selection of a variety of cul-

tivars with different forms, from an upright small tree to a more shrubby and wide-spreading shape, and for a wider spectrum of interesting flower colors.

You might have noticed a strange phenomenon with some witch hazels: they have two different types of branches, some with flowers on them, others completely devoid of flowers. What's going on?

Oriental witch hazels often are grafted onto rootstock of the native fall blooming witch hazel, *H. virginiana*, because of its hardiness and vigor. This same vigor, however, allows suckers to grow from the native rootstock below the graft union. Look for shoots that originate at or below ground level.

You might see that the bark and leaves on these shoots look different from those on flowering stems. Rootstock shoots grow more vigorously than the desirable graft and will overtake the desirable plant you thought you had purchased. When planting a new witch hazel, keep the graft union above ground. If you do get

suckering, you will have the minor inconvenience of pruning out rootstock suckers once or twice a year.

Witch hazels are deer-resistant and have been relatively free of pests and diseases. However, a disfiguring fungal blight recently has begun affecting many Oriental witch hazels. The fungus does not kill the plant outright, but weakens it and affects the flower display. In addition, leaves develop brown spots and begin to dry up in the summer. In the worst cases, all the leaves on a tree turn completely brown and drop off the tree.

Native witch hazels are resistant to this blight. Some Oriental witch hazel cultivars (*Wisley Supreme*, *Primavera*, *Early Bright*, *Jelena*), also are said to be resistant to this blight.

A curiosity I have noticed with Oriental witch hazels in my garden: the two that get blight every summer are grown on their own roots, while the third one, blight-free, is grafted onto native *H. virginiana* stock.

(Continued on page 6)

Happening in and near East Falls...

Concert Sat., Feb. 29 at EF Presbyterian Church

A recital and reception to benefit the East Falls Presbyterian Church is set for 5:30 pm Saturday, Feb. 29 at the church, 3800 Vaux St. at Midvale Ave. A free will donation will help the congregation continue its mission into 2020 and beyond.

The program will feature cellist Richard Maurer, pianist Judy Song and soprano Sheila McCaffrey performing works by Bach, Piazzolla and Chaikovsky.

Black history observations set at Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion

An opening reception to mark a new interpretive docent-led tour -- *Deep Roots -- How African Americans Waded through the Waters of Oppression to Achieve Greatness* -- is planned for 4 to 7 pm Saturday, March 7 at the Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion, 200 W. Tupehocken St.

The Sunday tours will begin on April 5 at 1:15 and 2:15 pm. They will continue on selected Sundays for several years.

As guests move from room to room they will be greeted by images, sounds and live reenactors sharing their knowledge of well-known and lesser-known 19th-century African Americans.

The March 7 kick-off reception will cost \$10 per person, and reservations are requested by calling 215-438-1861 or visiting [ebenezermaxwellmansion.org/deep-rivers/](http://ebenezermaxwellmansion.org/deep-rivers/).

Johnson resigns as EFDC director

The board of directors of the East Falls Development Corporation announced Feb. 12 that Meredith Johnson had resigned, effective immediately.

In a news release from Heidi Grunwald, President of the board, the EFDC said it had launched a search and that in the interim the EFDC board members and committee chairs will continue the organization's business and initiatives.

Census Bureau is hiring

The U.S. Census Bureau's Philadelphia Area Office has full-time and part-time job openings in several areas, including Recruiting Assistants, Census Field Supervisors, Office Operations Supervisors, Enumerators and Clerks.

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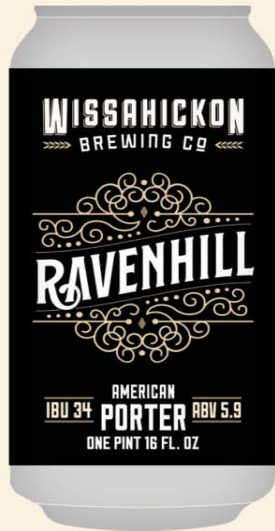


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# March: Women's History Month

March is Women's History Month, and many Fallers will think first of Grace Kelly, native daughter who became a renowned actress and European princess.

But important to the careers of thousands of women was the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania (WMCP), which moved to Henry Ave. in East Falls in 1930. WMCP was opened in 1850 in Center City by a group of progressive Quaker physicians. It was the first medical school in the world established to train women in medicine and chartered to award the M.D. A graduate of the first class, Ann Preston, went on to become the college's first woman dean and helped found Woman's Hospital of Philadelphia.

By the 1920s the school was

outgrowing its 1875 building and hospital near Girard College, and that region had become blighted; an element of racism also drove the move. The East Falls site, the former Abbottsford estate, offered height, light, and air.

For educational needs, the area promised "clinical material," meaning persons of lower incomes for the wards, the middle class of East Falls and some wealthy Germantowners for the private rooms, along with workers at Dobsons' Mills, Budd, Midvale Steel and other factories for the emergency department.

The president of the board in the 1920s, in effect the CEO, was Sarah Logan Wister Starr, owner of the Belfield farm and house in Germantown. She knew the northwest part of the



The Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania shortly after it moved to its Henry Ave. location in 1930.

city and chose the site.

The College leadership selected a prominent architectural firm, Ritter and Shay, known for its Art Deco Drake Hotel and Market Street National Bank. The style of the WMCP building, however, might be

called classical or Colonial revival. A colossal four-story portico dominates the façade. The building steps down from five levels in the central block to four laterally, with some sections projecting forward. This gives the structure considerable

eye interest.

Originally, the hospital occupied the northwest section, the medical school the southeast. Many additions followed with growth of the school and its hospital. Men were admitted to the MD classes for the first time in 1970, and WMCP became simply MCP.

Its later mergers, and eventual closing, form a sad and complicated story for another time. To some extent, Drexel University College of Medicine continues MCP's programs.

As Falls Center, the complex still houses some health care facilities. We even have a return to Grace Kelly, as her mother, Margaret, was head of the WMCP board and helped save the school from absorption by Jefferson Medical College in 1946

## The Turtle Talks: 'Where's the Batter?'

As the Friends of McMichael Park (FOMP) celebrate 30 years of volunteering, we look ahead to additional volunteer participation in our neighborhood during 2020 and beyond.

Maintaining the Park has been a labor of love for FOMP members, and our efforts to rehabilitate and maintain a pristine green park obviously have brought McMichael Park to the attention of all levels of Philadelphia Parks & Recreation (PP&R) and the City of



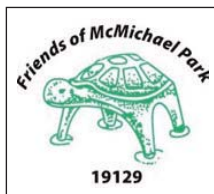
The 2020 McMichael Park Lovelights Tree.

neighbors, but also because Commissioner Ott Lovell in her presentation at a recent neighborhood East Falls Community Council meeting in January stated, "You must be committed 100 percent. So 'batter up' and participate."

Where is the batter?

As much as The FOMP has sought to include playground supporters in volunteer activities, this group has consistently and repeatedly failed to show up to help. "Where is the batter?" is an oxymoron for this group. They are not even in

(Continued on page 8)



### Turtle Talk

Philadelphia.

Commissioner Kathryn Ott-Lovell and Councilmember Curtis Jones Jr. are now completely committed to building a playground in the park, an endeavor that never would have been initiated had McMichael Park not been elevated to the status and outstanding condition it has achieved. All thanks to the FOMP group.

McMichael Park exists because of the volunteer commitments of the members in the FOMP. It has been restored to its original design and has become a respite from city strife and the core and epicenter of neighborhood activities. Noticeably absent from volunteer activities are those individuals who support a playground. The FOMP has always and regularly promoted open meetings, service days, theater, children's events and clean-up activities. Everyone in the neighborhood is invited to participate.

The volunteer events hosted by the FOMP are open to all, and always are prominently advertised as such. The FOMP has made multiple attempts to include playground supporters in volunteer events, but the loose assemblage of individuals has not participated, or moved away. PP&R has been unable to provide a point of contact for this playground group. This is very disconcerting.

It not only speaks volumes to the commitment level of these

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## Historical Society adds officers, board members

The East Falls Historical Society elected officers and board members at its Feb. 5 annual meeting at the Falls of Schuylkill Library.

Patty Cheek, who has served as co-President with Ellen Sheehan, will assume the title of President, with Sheehan stepping down to work on several projects, including the Grace Kelly collection and the society's historic photographs.

Retired architect Ellen Prantl was elected recording secretary and Steven Peitzman was elected vice-president. Katy Hineline will serve as treasurer, and Lyda Doyle as corresponding secretary. New at-large board members are architect Glenn Snyder, property owner and businessman William Ross, III, writer and editor Richard Lampert, and Caroline Slama, a staff member of the Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia.

The board expressed appreciation for the work of outgoing board members David Breiner, Paul Furlong and Joe Leube. Sheehan concluded the meeting with words of condolence for Ken Hinde, the society's beloved board member and walking tour guide, who passed away in 2019

after a sudden and brief illness.

The EF Historical Society welcomes new members. For information, email eastfallshistory@gmail.com.

Outgoing co-president Sheehan reported on accomplishments during the past two years, including successful walking tours, lectures, several acquisitions, and the addition of oral histories of senior Fallers. The Grace Kelly collection was a popular addition to the 2019 Chestnut Hill Holiday House Tour and soon will be on display at the New-Courtland complex on Henry Ave., where EFHS is being allocated free space to house its archival collections. EFHS researchers supported nominations to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places: Palestine Hall (1868); the Henry W. Brown (aka Timmons) House (1907); and 3625 McMichael St., the 1916 Chapel of the Good Shepherd and former home to the Ken-Crest social service agency. The Society advocated for preservation of "Lycoming," a Wilson Eyre property on School House Ln., but unsuccessfully. Roger Marsh is kindly helping to restore the EFHS web site following the site's period of multiple difficulties.

## What is East Falls Village?

Some people think East Falls Village is a retirement community with apartments, such as Cathedral Village. Some think it's an apartment complex, such as Falls Village on School House Ln. Other people think it's a lifetime commitment.

East Falls Village is none of these.

It was established in 2011 as a program of the East Falls Community Council to enhance the lives of residents in East Falls as they grow older in their own homes. The Village is a volunteer-driven organization. Membership is an annual commitment, not a lifetime commitment.

Services provided to our members include technology help, rides to appointments, a service provider list and programs and social events that are members-only. Our Tech Team members can make house calls to help members with their computer, printer, phone, or TV. We host small group sessions where members can bring a smartphone to get help with apps, settings, or other problems. Members can request rides to medical appointments or even supermarkets. The Service Provider list, available online to members, is a list of providers recommended by other members.

Our programs are our most visible "product." Some programs just for members include musical events held in



**EF Village member Roger Marsh** will share his recent trip down the Irrawaddy River in Myanmar, formerly Burma, at 2 pm Tuesday, March 10 at the Falls Library. Photo by Roger Marsh

private homes, bridge, memoir writing, and Happy Hours. In addition, some of our tours to museum and lunches are just for members.

But many of our programs are open to everyone – especially programs we present at the Falls Library. These programs include the annual Medicare Update, the recent information session on the REAL ID card, low vision aids, screenings for the risk of falling and other programs presented by occupational therapy students from Jefferson University.

### Burma – from Mandalay to Rangoon

Village member Roger Marsh recently took a 10-day tour by boat down the

Irrawaddy River and will share slides and his impressions of his trip at 2 pm Tuesday, March 10 at the Falls Library. Everyone is welcome to this free program.

Roger found glittering gold statues of Buddha, a town with 3,000 ancient temples and pagodas, small towns rarely seen by foreign tourists, and friendly, welcoming people. He also will talk about the history of Burma and its current challenges. The country was full of natural resources and promise after gaining independence in 1948, but decades of military rule left it isolated and impoverished. After gaining a measure of democracy, Burma (renamed Myanmar by the military regime) was welcomed back to the international community, only to be shunned after its brutal expulsion of the Rohingya people.

### For more information

To find out more about our programs and services, visit eastfallsvillage.org. The website also has information on membership (How to Join). One can join online and pay with a credit card, print out the application, or pick up a brochure/application at the front desk of the Falls Library.

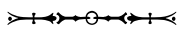
Questions? Email [info@eastfallsvillage.org](mailto:info@eastfallsvillage.org) or call 267-444-4507.



## East Falls Historical Society

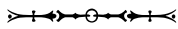
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#### Watch for details of a new walking tour in the spring!

Now on the Philadelphia Register: 3625 McMichael Street, the 1916 Chapel of the Good Shepherd.



We are seeking a new volunteer membership manager.  
Inquire using email address below.

For other inquiries: [eastfallshistory@gmail.com](mailto:eastfallshistory@gmail.com).  
[www.eastfallshistoricalsociety.org](http://www.eastfallshistoricalsociety.org)  
And, visit us on Facebook!

## For the Love of Gardens: Witch Hazels -- harbingers of spring

(Continued from page 4)

Could it be that the native rootstock is providing resistance to the blight?

I'm interested in discovering whether the cultivars that are blight-resistant are still resistant when grown on their own roots. Let me know whether

your witch hazels are showing any signs of blight, and whether or not they are grafted. If you know, tell me the cultivar as well.

These showy early bloomers should be used more than they are. In the dreary days of winter, they provide a bright

cheery note and a promise of spring on the way.

*This column aims to inspire your stories of how you've experienced gardens or the wilderness. We're hoping to see some kid's stories too! Please submit 450 words and a photo to Deborah Kaplan at [dkaplan8@verizon.net](mailto:dkaplan8@verizon.net)*



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## EF Town Watch sets March 21 clean-up

by Mary Jane Fullam  
President, EF Town Watch

**A**spruced-up neighborhood lifts spirits and deters unwanted activity.

Since last March, when East Falls Town Watch coordinated three clean-ups as part of the annual Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful campaign, we have led 11 beautification projects throughout East Falls.

Dozens of volunteers have participated. Scores of bagged trash have been gathered. PennDOT has hauled away most of the debris; SEPTA and local businesses also have helped.

For the foreseeable future our "Litter Crew Ahead" core group has decided to make the third Saturday of each month the designated date for our efforts. This month, on March 21, we will start on the Queen Lane Reservoir corner of Henry Ave. and W. Queen Ln, branching out from there. We'll cover as much ground as we can, depending on the number of people who show up to participate. Everyone is invited to

pitch in. Town Watch will provide safety vests, gloves and bags. We hope you'll join us!

In addition to these regularly scheduled clean-ups, EF Town Watch conducts safety patrols, observing, documenting and reporting issues that need to be addressed -- including, but not limited to, vandalism, loitering, graffiti, light outages, sanitation problems and abandoned property.

We meet each month, usually the second Thursday, at 7:30 pm at 3540 Indian Queen Ln. next to the Old Academy theatre.

We also meet regularly with officials from the 39th Police District. We monitor video surveillance at the East Falls train station. And we organize monthly safety awareness patrols at dismissal times at Mifflin School.

Town Watch is discussing with 39th Police District officials the continuing presence of young people harassing customers at the Sunoco gas station at Ridge & Midvale Aves., and the illegal parking of trucks on Fox St., Henry Ave. and

Abbottsford Rd.

In our efforts to improve safety for Mifflin students Town Watch volunteers post themselves with large "Slow Down — School Zone" signs to encourage drivers to observe the 15-mile-per-hour speed limit at dismissal time. Officers from the 39th District have helped with this effort, which is especially important on early dismissal days when the blinking speed limit signs do not flash. For further information, contact the EF Town Watch at 215-848-2033.

**Reminder:** Don't leave valuable or non-valuable items in your car. They are an invitation for thieves.

And don't place items in your car trunk if people can see you



**Part of the refuse** collected by EF Town Watch volunteers during the February 15 "Litter Crew Ahead" clean-up at Ridge Ave. and Scotts Ln. The next effort is scheduled for 10 am to 12 noon on Saturday, March 21 at Henry Ave. and Queen Ln. Photo by Andrea Sunderland



doing it. That, too, is an invitation for thieves.

**The March Town Watch schedule:**

**6 pm Wednesday, March 11:** EF Town Watch meets with 39th Police Service Area (PSA) 1 officials, Canaan Baptist Church, 5430 Pulaski Ave.

**7:30 pm Thursday, March 12:** EF Town Watch monthly

meeting, 3540 Indian Queen Ln. (April meeting will be April 2.)

**10 am to 12 noon Saturday, March 21:** "Litter Crew Ahead" cleanup, meet at corner of Henry Ave. and Queen Ln.

**6 pm Monday, March 23:** EF Town Watch meets with 39th District police officials, 22nd St. and Hunting Park Ave.

## Old Academy Presents Shepard's *Buried Child*



**Eric Rupp as Bradley, Kelsey Hébert as Shelly** in Old Academy Players production of Sam Shepard's *Buried Child*.

Shelly, Lee Stover as Vincent, Lorraine Barrett as Halie, Rob Rosiello as Tilden, and Tim Andersson as Dodge.

Parking for all performances is free. Tickets are \$20 per adult and \$10 per student with valid ID. They are available online at [www.OldAcademyPlayers.org](http://www.OldAcademyPlayers.org).

Group discounts are available for \$17 per person with 15 or more people in a group. Call 215-843-1109 for more information and tickets.

## Jefferson athletes recognized for 'giving back'

**T**he fall semester at Thomas Jefferson University's East Falls campus saw student athletes score wins not only on the field but in their participation in the Greater Philadelphia community.

The Jefferson Rams participated in the NCAA Team Works and Helper Helper Challenge, a collegiate community-service mission. In doing so, the Ram baseball team topped the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference and was second among all Division II conference schools. Across all teams in the NCAA Team Works and Helper Helper Challenge, Jefferson cracked the Top 10.

Team Works coordinates community service efforts, while Helper Helper is a volunteer management and tracking platform. The Challenge ran from September to November, tracking the number of service hours



completed by student-athletes.

According to Pat Horvath, the university's Coordinator of Community Engagement and head baseball coach, Rams student-athletes logged 3,583 total hours of community engagement. Of that, the baseball team averaged 32 hours per student-athlete, logging nearly 1,500 hours collectively.

The highlights included the Erving Youth Basketball Experience, Beats for Bella golf out-

ing, Special Olympics Pennsylvania Youth Summit and the Women's Soccer vs. Cancer Game.

Horvath said the ranking reflects increased community engagement levels each year since 2015.

"We have built great relationships with Athletes Helping Athletes, Special Olympics Pennsylvania, Beats for Bella, Team IMPACT and Erving Youth Basketball Experience," Horvath said. "With these partnerships, our athletic department has been able to have a greater impact on the youth in our area."

"Jefferson's Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) has done tremendous job of hosting and organizing our community engagement events and getting involvement from student-athletes."

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Also signing up were Aliyah McLaurin (center), of Long Island, NY and Logan Perrin (right), of Philadelphia, with volunteer Lori Jardines.

# Register now for primary election, April 28

The Arlen Specter Center on the East Falls campus of Thomas Jefferson University will hold a voter registration drive from 12:30 to 2 pm on Tuesday, March 24 for the April 28 Pennsylvania Primary Election.

All students and members of the community who are not registered to vote are invited to stop by and sign up for the 2020 Primary and General elections.

The last day to register for the PA primary is April 13. The last day to request an absentee or mail-in ballot is April 21, and those ballots must be returned to county election officials by April 28.

Voter registration forms, absentee ballot applications and information will be available on March 24 on campus at the Kanbar Performance Center, on the balcony at top of the steps to Common Thread.

If unable to make this session, send an email to [info@eastfallscommunity.org](mailto:info@eastfallscommunity.org) and the East Falls Community Council will mail you a voter registration form.

# Restaurant Review: Terron Restaurant

by Shannon Mahoney

Nearly a year ago I was frequenting a small vegan café on Conrad Street every weekend while looking to purchase a home in the neighborhood. This local vegan joint was not part of the reason I chose East Falls, but it sure did help.

Although the original spot closed, I was so excited to hear the place was reopening with the same vegan vibe and same chef, now called Terron.

This place is casual. Service is simple. The water is infused with fruit. Don't go expecting silver service. Bring your Hydro Flask, your laptop, and your friends! Everyone who works there – happy to help so if you need anything -- just wave a hand. At the end of the meal, head up to the counter to pay.

Brunch: Chef Fred is making it all vegan (organic eggs if you prefer). I've been attempting veganism for the past two years and this restaurant will be the saving grace for anyone trying to get there without feeling like you are sacrificing. Get the Frittata served with perfectly cooked potatoes wedges and thank me later. You might think the wedge serving is small at first, but it is all you need while simultaneously enjoying a tofu scrambling of two cheeses,



Sunnyside Ave. at Terron, 3426 Conrad St.

beans, Pico de Gallo and sour cream with killer tortilla chips.

For a more compact version, go for the Breakfast Bomber. I have tried to recreate it in my own kitchen with not even half of the mouth-watering success that comes with brunch at Terron. The seitan on the Sunnyside Ave. includes grill marks on the "meat". When you've had a lot of vegan dishes, you know that's special.

Lunch/Dinner: Everything on the menu will pair seamlessly with whatever bottle/six-pack you decide to bring for the meal. Here's the breakdown: Bombers, Tacos, Noodles, and Greens/Salad. The Zesty Moroccan is a mix of things my naive palate cannot fully distinguish nor do I care what I am eating while shoving the first half into my mouth. I do know, only from reading the description on the menu, the cucumber-mint mayo paired

with the harissa styled "meat" makes this bomber the most unique and exciting sandwich I've encountered. The Ultimate is your typical veggie burger with insane toppings and some cool cheese art you'll have to see in person. The Spicy Bahn Mi earns its name with more jalapenos than some may know what to do with.

Moving on to tacos is one I'd get every time called the Bella Bing. It is a must-try with its mushrooms, insanely creamy non-dairy sauce combination, and adorable sprinkling of pepitas. From tacos to Thai food, Terron has the Nutty Pad Thai. This dish is huge, spicy, and delicious. My last suggestion is the Shroomy Mac & Cheese which is a meal that will be there for you when no one else can. This amazingly generous serving of pasta will allow all dairy sufferers to once again enjoy the comfort food frontrunner.

I've tasted a lot on both menus and am happy to share this spot with everyone I know! Terron is a new, fresh space fully deserving of some more locals to fall in love with it, too.

Terron, 3426 Conrad St  
Tuesday to Friday: 11 am to 2 pm and 5 pm to 9 pm  
Saturday: 9 am to 2 pm and 5 pm to 9 pm  
Sunday: 9 am to 2 pm  
Monday: Closed

# The Turtle Talks: 'Where's the Batter?'

(Continued from page 5)

the ballpark.

The FOMP hosts between five to seven volunteer events on an annual basis. They include the popular Lovelights — the annual fundraiser now in its 21st year -- an event that sees the FOMP light the Anniversary Tree in a spectacular array of red lights for Valentine's Day. There are multiple park cleanups, bench paintings, summer story readings for children, the annual Shakespeare in the Park theater performance, pet adoptions and summer movie nights.

These events take time, talent, energy and money.

The FOMP estimates that in its 30-year history it has invested the equivalent of \$1.5 million in time, talent and energy; volunteer work in lieu of compensation, such as in-kind contributions of sweat and creativity. In addition, FOMP members have donated thousands of dollars consistently and without reservation to the upkeep of the park.

The FOMP has a 30-year history of "stepping up to the plate" and "knocking it out of the park" with our volunteer events, every time at bat. The Commissioner was not referring to the existing Friends of McMichael Park!

The East Falls Community

Council measures support for the playground by the clapping of hands at their meetings. This is not a popularity contest. Who from that group is stepping up to the plate? Who is in the dugout?

The FOMP most recently "stepped up" again for the 2020 Lovelights celebration, and we are planning Love Your Park Activities for May 2020.

Again, we look forward to your participation and invite you to get in the game.

Visit the Friends of McMichael Park page on Facebook to keep track all upcoming events in McMichael Park: <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfMcMichaelPark/>



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- ✓ Re-landscaped the grounds
- ✓ Purchased space-saving mobile book shelves
- ✓ Installed new AV system
- ✓ Furnished staff "picks" boards for books recommended by staff
- ✓ Ordered popcorn maker for children's and community programs
- ✓ Updated children's area with new rugs and toys

**Find out how YOU can leverage membership in the Friends to help the Library by joining today**

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



**East Falls Village**

STAYING IN PLACE IN OUR COMMUNITY

East Falls Village, a program of the East Falls Community Council, was established in 2011 to enhance the lives of residents in East Falls as they grow older. The Village is not a physical space, but a volunteer-driven organization.

### Benefits for East Falls Village Members

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



### East Falls Village Members Say

- "I don't know what I would do if EFV did not exist. Membership has enabled me to maintain my independence... I rely on the wonderful volunteer drivers who take me to doctor visits, the library, and grocery stores. I've made some really good friends as well."
- "I have met many new people through the Village."
- "I love the social events and the opportunity to volunteer as a driver."
- "One hour of Village tech help was worth our annual membership dues."

### Learn More or Join:

Call (267) 444 - 4507  
Visit [EastFallsVillage.org](http://EastFallsVillage.org)



# EFSA baseball and soccer registration



Registration continues on the East Falls Sports Association’s website for spring sports at the McDevitt Recreation Center. Children ages three to seven are invited to participate in co-ed Saturday morning baseball. They will play in two age divisions: Tee-ball for ages three and four, and Rookies for ages five to seven. Both will play at 9 am on Saturdays. Practices will begin on Saturday, March 28. Spring soccer will play on Sundays at 10:30 am for children ages six to 11 at McDevitt. That season will begin Sunday, April 5. Both sports are seeking volunteers to help coach. Please reach out to Jen Arnoldi by email if you are interested: [jmartell@att.net](mailto:jmartell@att.net). More information and the links for registrations can be found on the EFSA’s website, [www.efsasports.com](http://www.efsasports.com).

# Protests greet SEPTA’s plans for Wissahickon Transfer Center

(Continued from page 5)

that community leaders agreed fits in better with the communities in this gateway to the Northwest. Meetings with SEPTA have been chaired by St. Rep. Pam DeLissio, in whose district the current Wissahickon Transfer Center is located. SEPTA plans further public meetings. John Hunter, of the Manayunk Neighborhood Council and a spokesperson for the coalition of community groups, said that at the start of the series of meeting the coalition sought from SEPTA “a more characterful frontage on both sides of Ridge Ave.” He said: “The transit center is the first and last impression you have of the area. As the gateway to Roxborough and Manayunk and East Falls, it needs to be more visually integrated.” To increase visual compatibility, SEPTA has changed its original plans to employ red brick and Wissahickon schist -- both predominant in the area. But critics contend, it needed to do more to achieve distinction and functionality worthy of a major bus center and gateway to the northwest.



Current Wissahickon Transit Center

SEPTA says the current station is not adequate to handle existing or future bus service. Part of the problem is a congested Ridge Ave. which lacks a dedicated left-hand turn lane for buses entering the transit center. This leads to delays and queuing. Plans call for widening of Ridge Ave. in both directions and an exclusive left-hand turn lane for buses. To accommodate the expanded center and bus service, SEPTA purchased adjoining properties in the 5000 block of Ridge Ave. -- the former Cadence Cycling and Multisport Center and Restaurant Depot. Those buildings will be demolished to make way for the canopied station and turning loop that can accommodate as

many as nine buses, including larger articulated buses. SEPTA plans to add 195 bus trips a day on top of the 885 trips that already pass through the center. It will do so by adding or extending routes, including the K, 52, Roosevelt Blvd. Express and 60. Will Kunkle, SEPTA’s project manager, told the Feb. 19 meeting of civic leaders organized by DeLissio at Northern Children Services that the larger center will relieve congestion and allow pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicles to more safely navigate the area. Among features he listed were:

- Up to nine handicapped-accessible boarding and alighting areas for different routes;
- Amenities, including bath-

rooms, indoor waiting room, and a bagel/coffee shop;

- More and improved bus route options; and,
- A dedicated and protected bike and pedestrian path running behind the facility, instead of in front of it -- part of the Wissahickon Trail.

SEPTA plans to purchase land -- the site of Deke’s Barbeque -- to install a small canopied station across the street just below the Manayunk-Norristown regional rail line. Kunkel said the design is 30 percent complete. He said he expects bids to go out this summer with construction to start in the fall and be completed next year. “No construction will start before the design is complete and approved,” he said. DeLissio linked her support for the project to the coalition of community organizations. “If this group cannot support the project, I cannot support it. If we need to put the brakes on it, we will,” she said. For more information, contact SEPTA Customer Service at 215-580-7800 or visit <http://septa.org/rebuilding/station/wissahickon.html>

# McMichael logs to find new life in play space

Logs and branches that were downed by age or trimmed for safety and the health of trees in McMichael Park will be used in the construction of the play space planned for the park this

year, according to City officials. Nancy O'Donnell, Parks & Capitol Project Manager for the City’s Department of Parks & Recreation, and Tara Rasheed, Design & Construction Project Manager in the Office of the

Managing Director, told East Falls *NOW* following trimming work in the park in late February that to the extent possible the logs and branches will be saved and incorporated into the play space.



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# New lights at Laurel Hill Cemetery

**Laurel Hill Cemetery officials** flipped the switch on Feb. 13 to inaugurate new lighting for the facility's pedestrian entrance at Kelly Dr. and West Hunting Park Dr. Turning on the lights were (from left) Janet Haas, Board Chair of the William Penn Foundation; Nancy A. Goldenberg, President and CEO of Laurel Hill and West Laurel Hill Cemeteries; Jon C. Sirlin, Board Chair of the Friends of Laurel Hill and West Laurel Hill Cemeteries; James L. Pope, Chair of the Laurel Hill Cemetery Company; Aparana Palantino, Deputy Commissioner of Philadelphia Department of Parks & Recreation; and Wilson L. Smith, Chair of the West Laurel Hill Cemetery Company. *Photo by Rob Cardillo Photography*



# Parochial administrator named to St. Bridget

(Continued from page 1)

the archdiocese of his dual status.

Following his first mass at St. Bridget Feb. 20 he paused for a brief interview and said his first task is to get to know the people of the parish.

“My mission, simply put, is to lead people closer to Christ,” he said, referring to the parish motto: “A people called to know Jesus, to love Jesus, to serve Jesus.”

The Rev. Stephen P. DeLacy, M.Div., director of vocations for the Archdiocese and resident priest, said St. Bridget had “hit a home run” with Fr. Taglianetti’s appointment. He and Fr. Taglianetti are friends from their shared assignments to St. Charles as vocations director and professor of moral theology respectively.

Fr. Taglianetti was ordained for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia by Archbishop Justin Rigali in 2005. He was assigned as parochial Vicar to St. Anastasia Parish in Newtown Square from 2006 to 2009 and Saint Ignatius of Antioch in Yardley from 2009 to 2012. He resided at Saint Cosmos and Damien Parish in Conshohocken from 2012 to 2014 while he attended the Pontifical John Paul II Institute of Marriage and Family at Catholic University in Washington DC. where he earned a Licentiate in Sacred Theology (STL).

Fr. Taglianetti replaces the Rev. Robert T. Feeny, who was reassigned in January to St. John’s in Manayunk.

*by John T. Gillespie*



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# Falls Library: Leading off with something good to eat

by the East Falls **NOW** staff

It's not easy for East Falls **NOW** editors to decide how to list the Falls Library's many programs.

In date order? Alphabetically? Kids first? Adults first?

So here's an executive decision that tells you where our hearts and minds (and our stomachs) are.

We're going first with what sounds the best tasting.

At 6:30 pm Wednesday, March 11, EF **NOW** readers will have an excuse to make and eat a delicious and healthy treat. Take part in Perfect Parfaits, presented by health professional Audra Anusionmu, founder of BeutiFitStrong Fitness Studio at 3510 Scotts Ln.

This is a free program underwritten by the National Library of Medicine and, the National Institutes of Health and the non-profit mental health organization COFFEE 501c3. Participants will choose from a variety of ingredients and make their parfaits in take-home reusable mason jars. Feel free to bring a friend!

Now for the business of running the Library. Look for a

late opening on Thursday, March 12 – at 2 pm -- to allow for staff development.

On the first two Mondays of the month, at 6:30 pm March 2 and 9, the Library will complete its series of programs presented by the Wagner Free Institute of Science, exploring the history and controversies surrounding the Nobel Prizes. The focus will be on prizes given in physics and chemistry. No preregistration required.

Rounding out the Library's adult programs for March will be a 6 pm Tuesday, March 30 meeting of the Falls Book Group. The selection for March is *The Corrections*, by Jonathan Franzen. Also, the Philadelphia Stoics will hold their monthly discussion of this ancient Greek philosophy at 6:30 pm Monday, March 16.

## Children's Programs

The Library's free drop-in after school program for students in kindergarten through 12th grade will continue through March.

The Literacy Enrichment Afterschool Program (LEAP) offers homework assistance, computer literacy, and library skills Monday through Thurs-



day from 3 to 5:30 pm and Saturday from 1 to 5 pm. Sign-ups are not required and children under seven must be accompanied by a caregiver.

The Falls Library's Read with a Therapy Dog program is taking a hiatus. For more information, contact Meredith at mcgovernm@freelibrary.org or 215-685-2093.

## For Toddlers and Pre-Schoolers

At 10:15 am every Monday in March, babies and toddlers will enjoy a parent-led music and dance story time in Music and Movement. 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 day-cares should call the library to set up their own special visits.

At 10:30 am Thursday, March 5 and 26, it's time for Stories

and Play. Join in stories, movement, and play for children ages two to six, along with a caregiver. Siblings always are welcome. Groups, please call ahead.

And at 10:30 am Friday, March 13, the Library will rock and roll with music and stories by Jump Jive & Jam! -- a music class with play and sensory activities for toddlers and preschool age children. Groups, please call ahead.

It's time to travel to Mexico at 11 am Thursday, March 19 when the Library hosts Explore the World Storytime and Play, for children aged two to six and their caregivers. Don't forget to get your Traveling Trunk passport stamped.

Wrapping up the Library's March programs for preschoolers at 10:30 am Friday, March 27 is a kick-off to spring – the Spring Spectacular with Briar Bush Nature Center. Celebrate the season by doing the bee dance, growing like seeds, and singing like birds. Come meet a live animal! Groups must call ahead.

## For School-Age Kids

Leading off the month for school-age youngsters is a 3:30 pm Wednesday, March 11 cele-

bration of the right to vote. The program will note the 100 years of the 19th Amendment and women's right to vote. Participants will hear a story about suffragettes and make their banners or Suffrage Cat mascots.

LEAP turns to world snacks at 3:30 pm Monday, March 16 with LEAP into World Snacks. Kids will learn how to make and will taste paletas, a dairy-free Mexican treat.

The Art of Frida Kahlo takes center stage at the Library at 3:30 pm Wednesday, March 18 as students hear the story of Frida Kahlo and her Animalitos and create their own animal work of art.

It's World Traveling Trunk time at 3:30 pm Thursday, March 19 when students travel the world without leaving the Library! This trip is to Mexico, and don't forget to get your Traveling Trunk passport stamped.

Wonder Woman visits at 3:30 pm Monday, March 23 at Be a Hero with Wonder Woman time. Students will learn about one of the most famous female superheroes, and make their own versions of her bracelets using paper towel rolls.

## Speed camera bill to be reintroduced for Henry Ave.

(Continued from page 1)

another restraining tool.

Drivers will get a break of 10 miles per hour over the posted speed limit before they are tagged with committing a violation and incur a fine. That means drivers won't face fines until they hit 46 miles per hour. The posted limit on Henry Ave. is 35 mph.

Drivers also will receive warnings when they enter a camera-monitored zone. No points will be added to drivers' records for violations. The program will be administered and fines issued by the Philadelphia Parking Authority, which oversees Henry Ave.'s single red light camera at the intersection of Walnut Ln.


In DeLissio's first attempt to pass a speed camera bill for Henry Ave., she introduced an

amendment last year to legislation for the Roosevelt Blvd. project. The Senate passed the Roosevelt Blvd. pilot without the Henry Ave. language. This time DeLissio says she is more confident of its chances.

Speed cameras are supported by the Philadelphia Zero Vision Alliance, the American Association of Retired Persons, the

American Automobile Association's Mid Atlantic Division, the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce and the East Falls Community Council's Traffic Committee.

Mayor Jim Kenney has said that speed cameras "are one of the most effective steps that we can take toward eliminating traffic deaths."



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