‘Path forward’ for Mifflin playground
by Polly Edelstein

Thomas Mifflin School lies at what is arguably the heart of East Falls. Maybe you pass it when you’re on the way to and from the SEPTA station or the library, or when you’re picking up a cup of coffee at Vault + Vine. Maybe you see the Mifflin School when you’re in your car, wondering, “Will anyone notice if I turn right on red here between the hours of 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.” (Answer: probably not, but still don’t do it.) Or maybe you went to Mifflin, know someone who went to Mifflin, or have a child at Mifflin. Whatever the case, it’s hard for an East Falls resident to not see or pass by Mifflin when out and about in the neighborhood. Mifflin has served the neighborhood for more than 80 years and currently educates approximately 320 children. The school’s dedicated faculty and staff work to engage with students and families, often sacrificing their time and money beyond the traditional school day to provide for their students—some of who need more resources and support to succeed.

One missing resource—a playground—For those of you who have been in tune to Mifflin for the past few years, you know that ‘consider Mifflin’ set for Oct. 8

The Friends of Mifflin will hold its next, monthly “Consider Mifflin” meet-up from 6 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 8 at 3126 W. Coulter St.

The meeting is intended for current parents, teachers and administer- tors to meet, discuss, and figure out what they can do to support the Mifflin School. They are invited to meet with current parents, teachers and administrato- tors to discuss, and figure out what they can do to support the Mifflin School.

‘Consider Mifflin’ set for Oct. 8

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VNA adds two senior staffers

D r. Ligato received his Doc- tor of Osteopathy from Philadelphia College of Osteo- pathic Medicine in 2010. He received a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Chicago and his MS from Tulane University in 2005. He resides in Conshohocken.

New VNA initiative

Hindman joined VNA Philadelphia as the Director of Clinical Services in 1997. He is a Pennsylvania-licensed Masters of Social Worker and a graduate of Temple Univer-

The next general membership meeting of the East Falls Communi- ty Council will be at 7 p.m. on Oct. 14 at the EF Presbyterian Church, Middle Ave. and Vaux St. The agenda for the meeting was being set as East Falls NOW went to press. It will be posted at www.eastfallscommunity.org and in the EFCC’s weekly emails. Readers who do not get the weekly emails should send their email address to info@eastfallscommunity.org.

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**Your October 2019 East Falls NOW Calendar**

Falls of the Schuylkill Library October 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 library will open late, at 2 pm, on Thurs., Oct. 10, due to staff development. It will be closed on Mon., Oct. 14, Columbus Day. The Literary Enrichment Afterschool Program (LEAP), the Free Library’s drop-in after school program, will take place throughout October, offering homework assistance, computer literacy and library skills for students in grades K to 12. LEAP also offers daily library 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 Friends of the Library Fall Book Sale will take place on Sat., Nov. 16. Book collections will be from 11 am to 1 pm on Saturdays, Oct. 26, Nov. 2 and Nov. 9 on the ground floor meeting room of the Falls Library. The librarians at the Falls Library are Drew Birden and Meredith McGovern. For questions, call 215-685-2050.

1 Tuesday
10 am: EF Village’s Tuesday morning yoga begins, Church of the Good Shepard (Pg. 12)

2 Wednesday
1 pm: Beginner’s Bridge in the Falls Library story room (Pg. 13)

3 Thursday
9:30 pm: EF Village neighbor-hood walk (Pg. 13)
2 pm: EF Village’s Thursday afternoon begins, Church of the Good Shepard (Pg. 13)
3:30 pm: It’s “Pumpkin Thursday” every Thursday in October at the Falls Library. Enjoy sweet treats and learn lots about pumpkins. (Pg. 13)
5 Saturday
10 am to 2 pm: East Falls Farmers Market under the Twin Bridges (Pg. 4)

7 Monday
4:15 pm: Read with a Therap-y Dog at the Falls Library. School age kids are invited to read with Wally or Orchid, certified therapy dogs. Come share a new book or an old favorite in a judgement-free space. (Pg. 13)

8 Tuesday
6 to 7 pm: “Consider Mif-flin” meet-up, 3236 W. Coxx-ter St. (Pg. 1)
10:15 am: Music and Move-ment Time at the Falls Library. Babies and toddlers will enjoy a parent-led music and dance story time. (Pg. 13)

9 Wednesday
1 pm: Beginner’s Bridge, Falls Library (Pg. 13)
6 pm: EF-Town Watch meets with officials of the 39th District’s Police Service Area 1 (Pg. 10)
6:30 pm: Grace Kelly Trib-ute, Falls Library (Pg. 13)
10 Thursday
9:30 am: EF Village neigh-borhood walk. Meet at Falls Library garden (Pg. 13)

17 Thursday
9:30 am: EF Village neighbor-hood walk. Meet at Falls Library garden (Pg. 12)
2 pm: EF Village’s Thursday afternoon yoga, Church of the Good Shepard (Pg. 12)
3:30 pm: EF Village’s Thursday afternoon yoga, Church of the Good Shepard (Pg. 12)

19 Saturday
10 am to 2 pm: East Falls Farmers Market under the Twin Bridges (Pg. 4)

20 Sunday
12 to 4 pm: East Falls House Tour (Pg. 1)

21 Monday
4:15 pm: Read with a Thera-py Dog, Falls Library (Pg. 13)
7 pm: Philadelphia Stoics at the Falls Library (Pg. 13)

22 Tuesday
10 am: EF Village’s Tuesday morning yoga, Church of the Good Shepard (Pg. 12)
10:15 am: Music and Move-ment Time at the Falls Library. Babies and tod-dlers will enjoy a parent-led music and dance story time. (Pg. 13)

23 Wednesday
1 pm: Beginner’s Bridge, Falls Library (Pg. 1)

24 Thursday
9:30 am: EF Village neigh-borhood walk. Meet at Falls Library garden (Pg. 13)
2 pm: EF Village’s Thursday afternoon yoga, Church of the Good Shepard (Pg. 12)
3:30 pm: EF Village’s Thursday afternoon yoga, Church of the Good Shepard (Pg. 12)

26 Saturday
9 to 11 am: EF Village’s Thursday “Litter Crew Ahead” clean-up, meet at BP Station, Ridge Ave. and Calumet St. (Pg. 11)

28 Monday
4:15 pm: Read with a Thera-py Dog, Falls Library (Pg. 13)
6 pm: EF-Town Watch meets with 39th Police Dis-trict officials (Pg. 10)

29 Tuesday
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30 Wednesday
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31 Thursday
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2 pm: EF Village’s Thursday afternoon yoga, Church of the Good Shepard (Pg. 12)
3:30 pm: “Pumpkin Thursday” at the Falls Library. (Pg. 13)

These dates are beyond October and worth noting in your calendar: • Nov. 1 to 17: Rosencrantz and Guildenstern at Old Academy Playhouse, Pg. X.
• Nov. 2 and Nov. 9, 11 am to 1 pm: Donate gently used book to the Friends of the Library Book Sale. The sale takes place Sat., Nov. 16. (Pg. 3)
• Sun., Nov. 24, 7 am to 11 am: East Falls Cheer Zone for the Philadelphia Marathon, Kelly Dr. between Midvale Ave. and S. Ferry Rd., sponsored by the East Falls Development Council and the East Falls Community Council. Details to come in the Nov. East Falls NOW.

Stay informed. If you don’t receive the EF Community Council’s weekly emails, send your email address to info@eastfallscommunity.org.

**HIDDEN RIVER TUTORING**
By Ray Lucci, M. Ed. (Cherry Hill, NJ)
Offering services in Biology, Chemistry and Environmental Science to the high school and beginning college student. Adjunct Faculty member, Eastern University; recently retired, G.W. Carver High School for Engineering & Science. Fully credentialed, licensed with all state clearances. Reasonable rates and flexible schedule. Contact rplucci@comcast.net.

Join us for a Popular East Falls Tradition

**“An Evening with East Falls Performers”**
Wednesday, October 23 at 7 pm
Live from the Falls Library
3501 Midvale Ave

Featuring performances by local instrumentalists and vocalists
A Wendy Moody/Caroline Davidson Production
Sponsored by Friends of the Falls of the Schuylkill Library
Free and open to everyone
Complimentary refreshments

The Library is the Heart of East Falls
Become a Friends member today: www.eastfallslibraryfriends.org
Both hot: Millfon School and the East Falls housing market

L

eat anyone doubt the appeal of East Falls as a place to buy a house and raise a family, consider our Page 1 reporting by our neighbor Bob Finkle: “The Friends of Millfon – has launched the first step in a sweeping redo of the school’s exterior. The initial goal is to create a playground on what Slowik said. She explained that two 20-foot-wide homes facing

the river remain for sale, and one in the set of 18-foot-wide homes further back on the property is still for sale. “One of the units on the river – the one we’re using as a model – is completed and ready for sale,” Slowik said. “Those other river-front home is still under construction and is available for customizing decisions.” Slowik said that of the resi dents who have moved in, she has been impressed by the number who tell her they have enjoyed walking to the nearby Ridge Ave. restaurants. “It’s been very exciting to watch people come in and hear that they are enjoying everything that East Falls has to offer,” Slowik said.

The riverfront homes have two-car garages, as do the other units. The difference is that in the smaller units the second parking space in each garage is converted into a den. What Slowik called “a Manhattan-style car lift.”

The final phase of the development will be an as-yet unde veloped row of apartments units facing on Ridge Ave. Slowik said they will be “high-rise,” with a construction start date yet to be set. One decision already made, she said, is that they will be on the ground level under the apartment units.

“We’re taking advantage of the feedback from the number of people who come in to see the home models who also are interested in rentals,” Slowik said. “We’re working with their brains to find out what they are looking for in an apartment.”

The Overlook is the Hew Group’s next phase of development. We can and hereby do offer support for the Friends of Millfon School fundraising efforts. And we support the Millfon administration and teachers for their continuing effort to create the outstanding school we know it is and will continue to be.

** * *

On a final and admittedly sort of grumpy note, I’m compelled to note that if you think this proposal to build five tow nhouses at 3588 Calumet St. got pushed through in a sneaky way, you have company. Those of us who heard or took part in the discussion at the Sept. 9 EFCC general membership meeting with the developer, Zack Capp, had reason to believe that his firm was going to seek a brief continuation from the Zoning Board of Adjustment and come back with a significant number of some numbers he had on his plan. As Todd Baylson, our Zoning Chair, reported elsewhere in this East Falls NOW, the numbers weren’t terribly material, but they were in error and they gave skeptics of the proposal grounds to ask what else might be wrong.

Whether one favors the proposal or not, there is a need to think about what is going on. But we can and hereby do offer support for the Friends of Millfon School fundraising efforts. And we support the Millfon administration and teachers for their continuing effort to create the outstanding school we know it is and will continue to be.

To open or not to open … That is the question

P

ennsylvania is one of only nine states that shuts independent voters out of primary elections. Approximately 790,000 citizens in our commonwealth are registered as independent and because they made this choice, versus affiliat ing with either of the two major party, they are excluded from voting in primary elections. There is a strong national movement for all states to hold a vote for independent voters and that movement is happen ing in our state. SB300 was voted out of the PA Senate on June 25, 2019, by a vote of 42 to 8. It is now in the PA House State Government Committee. On the day of the primary election, this bill would allow independent voters to choose to register their vote on either the Republican or Democrat ballot. Voters who are registered with either the Republican or Democ ratic Party will continue to be required to vote on their respective ballots.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), 16 states utilize some form of an open primary for unaffiliated voters. These states are Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah and West Virginia. According to the website OpenPrimaryPA.org, there are many positive outcomes to open primaries, including reducing polarization, ensuring accountability and promoting competitive races. These resources are paid for by tax dollars, yet many voters are precluded from exercising those rights because they are not registered with either of the two major parties. This last point has even been referred to as taxation without representation.

My office tracks voter turnout data for Montgomery and Philadelphia counties and that turnout, except for Presidential election years, often does not exceed 20 to 25 percent. Please keep in mind that this is the percentage of registered voters and not the percentage of eligi ble voters. Perhaps the low turnout can keep in mind that this is the percentage of registered voters and not the percentage of eligi ble voters.

Parking is an issue. The low turnout can be attributed to voters feeling disenfranchised by the extremes of both major parties, who have taken control of our primary process. Perhaps citizens need a refresher course on the impact of polarized politics. Regardless of the political leanings of government have on their lives.

We, therefore, allowing more people the opportunity to have a voice in their representation is an important step toward en sureng democracy. I am trying to learn as much as possible on this topic. In a recent meeting with Senator Sue Wescott, it was apparent to me that this legislation made an appearance in the Senate with such an overwhelm ing majority.

We, therefore, allow voting improve ments. These include no-excuse absentee ballots, early voting, reducing the cutoff age for registration to 17 so that they are ready to vote at 18, and extending the cutoff for registration importantly, that it is less than the current 30 days before election day.

To open or not to open ... That is the question

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A summer gives way to fall, we are greeted with crisp mornings and glorious autumn colors. Many birds are migrating south, and butterflies either have migrated or are overwintering. Traditionally, late fall is the time gardeners go to work cleaning up their gardens in preparation for the winter. The falling leaves need to be raked, the stems of perennials need to be cut down – lots to do before the frost sets in. But a messy gardener does more to encourage wildlife than a neat one. Leave the stems of perennial flowers and grasses standing all winter long rather than cutting them down. The seed heads of flowers such as coneflowers, sunflowers, native grasses and many more provide birds with a food source throughout the winter. You can spot goldfinches, chickadees, sparrows and winter finches on your dried flowers munching away on nutritious seeds to keep their energy reserves even on the coldest of days. The birds need these seeds to survive the winter and reproduce the following spring. Berries on plants such as Virginia creeper, Viburnums, American pokeweed and many other shrubs and trees also serve as food for American Robins, Cedar Waxwings and Cardinals. In addition to providing seeds and fruits for birds, stems left standing also serve as egg sites and hiding places for many insects. You can find Carolina mantis egg cases, chrysalis of butterflies such as swallowtails, etc. on perennial stalks. Some insects – bees, for example – also use the hollow stems of certain plants to take shelter from the cold temperatures. Many of these insects, including the native mantises, are beneficial and can give you a head start in tackling any pest problems come spring. Some of these insects can also be protein-rich food for overwintering resident birds such as woodpeckers. Another traditional fall activity that can be ignored or minimized is raking. Not only is it easier for you, but letting leaves stay where they fall is very beneficial for wildlife, too. The leaves slowly break down releasing essential nutrients into the soil. They act as a cover protecting from front the roots of less hardy perennials in your garden. Besides being advantageous to your plants, they also harbor many beneficial insects. Firefly larvae overwinter in leaf litter where they prey on other insects and snails before emerging as adults in the spring and summer the following year.

So, if you want fireflies in the summer, leave the leaf litter in the winter. Many butterflies and moths overwinter as chrysalides in the leaf litter, as well. Amazingly some butterflies overwinter as caterpillars wrapped up in the dried leaves or in holes under tree bark. I’ve eliminated some fall activities, but if you want things to do during the fall in your garden, consider building a brush pile. This is nothing more than loosely piled branches. These will provide shelter for winter foraging birds. Also consider planting perennials in the fall before the frost sets in. Fall-planted perennials have time to establish their roots before the winter and come back stronger and earlier come spring.

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

Kitchen Corner
October is time for winter squash

by Anne Farnese

The distinctive shapes and colors of winter squash add beauty to produce markets in October. Native to America, winter squash belongs to the cucurbitaceae, or gourd, family. The hardy vegetable’s tough skin provides protection that allows it to remain edible for as long as three months when stored properly in a cool dry place. This quality was especially valued by early settlers in the New World. This quality was especially valued by early settlers in the New World. The hardy vegetable’s tough skin provides protection that allows it to remain edible for as long as three months when stored properly in a cool dry place. This quality was especially valued by early settlers in the New World.

Popular varieties of winter squash include butternut, acorn, hubbard, sweet dumpling and pumpkin. All have dense flesh that retains its sweet flavor whether roasted, boiled, baked or microwaved. The versatility of cooking methods is prized by cooks who can use it in recipes that range from sweet to savory.

When purchasing, choose a squash that feels solid and heavy with no signs of spots or softness. Care should be exercised when removing the skin. Start by cutting off both ends with a chef’s knife, then stand the squash upright. Carefully remove the skin in a downward motion with a sharp knife or high-quality serrated vegetable peeler deeply ridged squash, such as acorn, cut into rings to make skin removal easier. McCann’s Farm at the East Falls Farmer’s Market offers a good variety of just-picked produce, including winter squash, at budget-friendly prices. The market is held on Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm at 4100 Ridge Ave. under the Twin Bridges.

Winter squash selections

- Butternut squash
- Acorn squash
- Hubbard squash
- Sweet dumpling squash
- Pumpkin

Heat oven to 350°. Pare squash, cut vertically in half. Remove seeds and fibers, cut into ½-inch slices Stir together remaining ingredients except apple slices. Stir together remaining ingredients except apple slices. Stir together remaining ingredients except apple slices. Stir together remaining ingredients except apple slices. Sprinkle sugar mixture over top; cover with foil. Bake 50 to 60 minutes or until squash is tender. Kitchen Corner uses Honey-crisp apples, nutmeg or cinnamon can be substituted for allspice.

SQUASH AND APPLE BAKE
This crowd and true recipe is from a vintage Betty Crocker cookbook.

Ingredients:

- 2 pounds butternut squash
- ½ cup brown sugar, packed
- ¼ cup butter, melted
- 1 tablespoon flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup apple slices
- 1/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/4 cup chopped nuts
- 1 tablespoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves

Preparation:

1. Pare squash, cut vertically in half. Remove seeds and fibers, cut into ½-inch slices. Stir together remaining ingredients except apple slices. Sprinkle sugar mixture over top; cover with foil. Bake 50 to 60 minutes or until squash is tender. Kitchen Corner uses Honey-crisp apples, nutmeg or cinnamon can be substituted for allspice.

Farmers Market

The East Falls Farmers Market will kick off its October run on Sat., Oct. 5 with a demonstration of the Philadelphia’s new voting machines by city officials throughout the market run from 10 am to 2 pm under the Twin Bridges. Voter registration forms also will be available.

On the crafts side for the first Saturday in October, Amazing Essence, IDEATE and SCB Naturals will be at the Market.nPennywise the Firefly will find Amira’s Delites (vegan baked goods), Bright Land Coffee, Bright Land Hollow Farm, McCanns Farm and Rowhouse Spirits. On the crafts side, shoppers will find Nana Catherine’s Apothecary, Toasted and Madly Tree Books. Piggyback Treats will serve your pet’s needs, and voter registration forms also will be available.

October 12

Food vendors for the following week, Oct. 12, will include Amira’s Delites, Betty’s Acres, Bright Land Coffee, Bright Land Hollow Farm, McCanns Farm and Rowhouse Spirits. On the crafts side, shoppers will find Nana Catherine’s Apothecary, Toasted and Madly Tree Books. Piggyback Treats will serve your pet’s needs, and voter registration forms also will be available.

October 19

The food vendors on Oct. 19 will be Amira’s Delites, Betty’s Acres, Bright Land Coffee, Bright Land Hollow Farm and McCanns Farm. Crafts will be provided by IDEATE, Modest Traditions and SCB Naturals.

Cure Penn Dispensary will be on-site, as will the Drexel Med Naloxone Outreach Program and voter registration forms.

October 26

Crafts on Oct. 26 will come from Modest Traditions, Nana Catherine’s Apothecary, Toasted and Vesna Schoeff. Wrapping up the month for food will be Amira’s Delites, Bright Land Hollow Farm, Mac’s By Mari, McCanns Farm and Rowhouse Spirits. Pets will enjoy Piggyback Treats and Queenie’s Pets.
The tyranny of vegetables

by Caroline Wiseblood Meline

Having been raised with the specter of starving children in India, I am loath to waste food. But trying to get my vegetables off the vines while they’re ready to eat and before they go to rot is not so easy.

No sooner do I bring in an armful of cucumbers than on the next trip outside I see more, plus tomatoes ripening and kale growing wildly and Swiss chard, and... I am not a farmer! I am a little old lady who grows a lot of flowers plus a few vegetables, and even that small amount is too much!

For example: Two beautiful eggplants caused me to devote three hours to making eggplant parmesiana, because the eggplants needed harvesting. But no one in my family was around just then to justify cooking this complicated dish. So I decided to invite a friend over and share. That meant I had to clean the house to get ready for the person, which added two more hours to the preparation.

Or take kale. Kale requires me to cook stir fry dishes, which are very healthy, but not that simple to prepare. There is a lot of washing and chopping. And if I’m making a stir fry, I want to throw in purslane, which grows at the edges of every flower bed. I didn’t know purslane was an edible weed until a few years ago, and then I stopped pulling it out. Now I snip it instead of taking out the entire plant, but there is a lot of it growing, so that pressures me, too.

My garden is also full of herbs, but I am embarrassed to admit that I hardly use them. I have enough oregano to provision a city. Yet, I grow it mainly for the honey bees, which adore it. The same is true for the sage, thyme, mint, fennel, chives, cilantro and tarragon dispersed among the flower beds. I like their foliage and flowers, and they attract beneficial insects.

Fennel is my favorite herb, based on how it looks, but I have never once dug up a plant and used its root for food. How can I do that when the black swallowtail butterfly needs the fennel leaves for its caterpillars? In late summer you can see the plants come alive with green, yellow, and black striped crawlers. I love showing them to kids going to and from school.

I haven’t mentioned that all of this organic activity takes place along both sides of the sidewalk strip that fronts my property on a busy corner. When I am still overflowing with produce, after having given it to every relative and friend, I rely on passersby, whom I might or might not know, to make sure nothing goes uneaten.

The food plants are relentless in bearing their offspring, according to their nature, while this gardener feels compelled to harvest every single nourishing piece, according to her nature.

The column is dedicated to your stories about your garden experiences and relation to your garden. Contact Deborah Kaplan at dkaplan8@verizon.net

Nov. 4 lecture on Roman Catholic’s ‘Lost Boys’ of World War 1

The East Falls Historical Society will sponsor a lecture by author Chris Gibbons on ‘In Search of Roman Catholic High School’s Lost Boys of World War 1.’ The free program will take place at 6:30 pm Mon., Nov. 4 at the Falls of Schuylkill Library, 3501 Midvale Ave.
Storm-related damage remediation planned for McMichael Park

Before getting to the good news about City Councilmember Curtis Jones, Jr. arranging for an activities grant for the Friends of McMichael Park (FOMP) and the success of the five-day Parks on Tap event in McMichael Park, it’s important to note that storm water damage remediation is planned for this fall. 

In McMichael Park, tuna overuse has caused a number of landscape experts to agree that McMichael Park’s turf is in poor condition. As to the turf, a number of landscape experts agree that the condition of McMichael Park’s turf is the product of overuse. They say that McMichael Park will never look like a fairway at Merion. Many dog walkers, frisbee players, and active users of the Park make it difficult to maintain golf course-like grass. McMichael Park is utilized, and that’s a good thing.

We’re seeking answers from professionals as to how to keep McMichael Park beautiful. Keep using your park. It is hardly underutilized. That’s also a good thing!

Activities grant

Many thanks to Councilmember Jones for awarding the Friends of McMichael Park another activities grant, this time for fiscal year 2020. The grant of $1,000 was submitted by FOMP volunteer Rich Lampert. This is the second year in which the FOMP received these funds. They enable FOMP to continue presenting the great variety of programs in McMichael Park.

Parks on Tap

We’re also pleased to report that a successful Parks on Tap event in McMichael Park is a wrap. What a great five days it was. After a brief, yet drenching, downpour during our kickoff Wednesday afternoon, the skies cleared and we could not have had better weather.

Our East Falls neighbors and surrounding communities joined in on the first day, in which five percent of the proceeds went to the Friends of McMichael Park. Thursday through Sunday continued to bring out the crowds straight through the final hour on Sunday night.

With a full selection of beer, hard cider, wine and non-alcoholic beverages, Parks on Tap had something for everyone. The variety of food, using seasonal ingredients, ranged from beet salad, focaccia pizza, brisket cheesesteak and a variety of crowd-pleasing nachos. If you had the opportunity to enjoy the Saturday special of Panzanella Salad with Heirloom tomatoes, you were not disappointed.

The Friends of Mifflin had a great turnout of parents and students on Sunday, with many kindergarten and first graders running about. The Friends of Mifflin planned their activities for the upcoming school year and signed up volunteers for their initiatives.

Thanks to Joan McIlvaine and East Falls Town Watch for their diligence in picking up trash around the park perimeter before this event.

In speaking with the Parks on Tap officials, they indicated that the turnout of East Falls and surrounding neighbors exceeded their expectations. It was a great showing by our section of Philadelphia. How about Parks on Tap 2020, East Falls?

William Penn Charter tree dies

Sadly, we have to report that the William Penn Charter tree that was planted 20 years ago has died. Students had sold earthworms to raise money to buy the tree and planted it in 1999. The tree sported lovely pink buds even this past spring. FOMP volunteer Robert Rabionowitz was kind enough to remove the tree. A replanting is planned for this fall.
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Offices in Rittenhouse Square, Flourtown, and coming soon to Spring Arts and Fishtown.
ZBA approves homes at 3588 Calumet

by Todd Baylson, Chair, EFCC Zoning Committee

East Falls NOW readers who attended the Zoning Committee meeting on Sept. 9 know that for the 3588 Calumet St. project – five townhomes – there was a discrepancy caught by a few members of the audience in the plans vs. the city’s refusal paperwork. There also was a lot of concern about the current curbside “no parking” in front of the property. The idea that “no parking” would be removed was an unfounded rumor as far as I know. Also, there was concern about the issues that came up.

The night of the meeting the EFCC Zoning Committee wrote to the ZBA requesting that it grant a continuance, stating that if the board moved forward with the project in its current form the variance would be necessary for the property. We learned that in fact the developer did proceed and was granted his variance, despite our letter of opposition. I have learned that the City issued some type of correction around the mistake it made on the width of one unit, which actually reduced the number of refusals.

The developer emailed me: “Regarding the neighborhood’s concerns about street parking in front of the property, I want to assure you I have no interest or desire in putting parking there and would be happy to cooperate with the neighborhood to lobby Councilman Jones to make sure it remains “No Parking”. If I can be of any assistance on that matter please let me know. Please let me know if you have any other questions or concerns. Best, Fred, Fred Camp J.D., Realtor.”

I appreciate that the timing of the correction might be seen by some people as a problem but to that I would say that the number of refusals decreased. It had increased, that would be a different story. However if anyone wants to find a path to protect the ZBA on account of the timing of the correction, please email zoning@eastfallscommunity.org. Also, you’ll see the developer indicates strong support for no parking to remain on Calumet St. in front of the homes.

I’ve asked for more information on the discussions and the developer’s reasoning for going ahead with the ZBA meeting and will try to report once I hear more. I’m sincerely surprised that they moved forward under these circumstances and also surprised that they got approved by the ZBA under the correction.

Sowisdral family to reopen deli on Conrad Street

Sowisdral has been a long-recognized name in construction and home remodeling in East Falls. Now the family has taken a lease on the corner property at Con ral and Tilden Streets – most recently known as Laxmi’s Indian Grille – and plans to reopen the site as a deli once located on the property for many years.

The developer emailed me: “I can’t think of any reason why our students at Thomas Mifflin and the East Falls community shouldn’t have a well-equipped rec yard and play space, I implore anyone who can help us achieve this goal to come visit Mifflin and see for yourself!” – Nicole Boyd, fourth grade teacher at Mifflin.
Volunteer powered, the East Falls Community Council represents the interests of the people of East Falls. We improve our quality of life through the work of our Zoning and Traffic committees, and by supporting:

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

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

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

Join today. Support your neighborhood. Make your voice heard. Dues: $10 per person per year, waived upon request.

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I'm Interested in (circle one or more): Zoning • Traffic • Community Garden • Dog Park Holiday Sing • Arboretum Clean-up • Solarize EF • Library • Mifflin School Flea Market & other events • River Access • Other: ____________________________

Use a credit card or PayPal online at www.eastfallscommunity.org or mail this form and checks to: EFCC, PO Box 12672, Philadelphia, PA 19129
East Falls Town Watch last month won the quick removal of major graffiti that vandals had painted on the walkways of both sides of the bridge that carries Calumet St. over SEPTA’s Manayunk-Norristown tracks.

Mary Jane Fullam, EFTW President, said that the vandalism was spotted by Town Watch patrollers on Sept. 10th and was reported immediately to the city’s 311 line. “One week later we were pleased to see that the graffiti on the bridge and in several other locations in the Cressen St. area had been painted over by city workers,” Fullam said.

“The best way to discourage these vandals is to paint over their destructive work as quickly as possible,” she added. “Our Town Watch patrollers will remain alert and continue to report incidents of vandalism.”

Town Watch patrollers often use spray paint and rolled paint to cover smaller areas of graffiti. They count on the city to handle larger acts of vandalism.

Fullam also reported that at the urging of EFTW and the East Falls Community Council, Sunoco officials have installed signs on each of the gasoline pumps at the property at Ridge and Midvale Aves. asking patrons to not allow anyone to pump gas for them.

The signs come after continuing incidents of customers being harassed by youngsters seeking tips to pump gas, and reports of individuals seeking cash from customers but using stolen credit cards to pay for gasoline.

“No one step is going to eliminate these activities at the Sunoco station,” Fullam said. “But by posting these signs at every pump the company finally is validating what we have been arguing these many months that it must discourage the enablers from abetting this anti-social behavior. We will continue to remind customers not to engage with people hanging out on the property, and we will continue to work with the police and the company to discourage this behavior.”

On another Town Watch front, the group has asked the Philadelphia Streets Department to relocate the west-bound school zone sign on Midvale Ave. near Warden Dr. The sign blinks a 15-mile-per-hour warning at the Mifflin School dismissal time, but it is located 15 yards past the school and would be more effective if relocated further up Midvale Ave. before the road reaches the school. The October EF Town Watch calendar (all meetings are open to the public):

Wed., Oct. 9, 6 pm – Meeting with officials of 39th District Police Service Area 1, Canaan Baptist Church, 5430 Pulaski Ave.

Thurs., Oct. 10, 7:30 pm – EF Town Watch monthly meeting, Carfax Bldg., 3540 Indian Queen Ln.

Sat., Oct. 26, 9 to 11 am – Town Watch’s monthly “Litter Crew Ahead” clean-up; meet at BP Stations, Ridge Ave. and Calumet St.

Mon., Oct. 28, 6 pm – Meeting with top officials of 39th Police District, 22nd St. and Hunting Park Ave.

Graffiti reported by East Falls Town Watch and removed by the city on each side of the bridge carrying Calumet St. over SEPTA’s rail tracks.

New signs at Sunoco pumps
Grace Kelly tribute set for Oct. 9

by Ellen Sheehan, Co-President, EF Historical Society

With 2019 marking the 90th anniversary of the birth of Grace Kelly, the East Falls Historical Society will celebrate what Grace meant to East Falls and eventually to the world with a tribute to the late actress and princess on Wednesday, Oct. 9 at 6:30 p.m.

The program will take place at the Falls of Schuylkill Library, and will be free and open to the public.

Kelly’s career in acting began in East Falls at the Old Academy Playhouse on Indian Queen Ln. At the age of 12, she stepped on stage for the first time, replacing her sister, Peggy, who came down with chicken pox on opening night. Six appearances in other plays followed, including a production by her uncle, Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright George Kelly. She left for New York as a teenager and we all know the rest.

Do we? Albert Crescenzo, historian with the Ocean City, NJ Historical Society, has made a study of the career of Grace Kelly and her work as an actress on stage, TV and screen. Crescenzo will share little known details of her performances.

The program will include film snippets of Grace’s popular movies. Crescenzo will explain how she got the parts in each of her movies and what each meant to her career. The movies progressed from mere seconds on screen to star billing, leading lady status and a meteoric rise to stardom. Her career culminated in an Academy Award for her role in the 1954 film The Country Girl, the only part that did not capitalize on her beauty and style.

Parking is available on the streets surrounding the library. Come and bring a friend. Refreshments will be provided. For details, contact Ellen Sheehan at 215-848-8396 or sheehan21@comcast.net.

Friends Mourn Death of Ken Hinde

by Steven Peitzman

East Falls lost a valued resident and unique contributor with the death of Kenneth Andrew (Ken) Hinde on August 29, 2019, following a sudden and aggressive illness. He was 71 years old.

Ken lived in East Falls and studied its history and architecture for many years. As a member and board member of the East Falls Historical Society, he led and co-led a variety of walking tours of our streets and sites. In April of this year, his presentation on “200 Years of East Falls Architecture” overflowed the Falls Library lecture hall.

In his lectures and tours, Ken always knew how much information to give, how to relate buildings to the history of people occupying them, and how to clearly project despite the competition of street traffic and barking dogs. It is safe to say that many tens of thousands of Philadelphia area residents and visitors benefited from his comprehensive knowledge of Philadelphia history, city planning, and architecture, and his skill in sharing it.

Opening the eyes of Philadelphia residents to the city’s excellence in architecture remains a critical task, and we have lost one of the best at this work. He is already sadly missed by many friends, family, and colleagues.

Grace Kelly, East Falls-born actress and Princess of Monaco.

What each meant to her career. The movies progressed from mere seconds on screen to star billing, leading lady status and a meteoric rise to stardom. Her career culminated in an Academy Award for her role in the 1954 film The Country Girl, the only part that did not capitalize on her beauty and style.

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VNA adds two senior staffers

(Continued from page 1)

sity’s School of Social Work. A lifelong resident of PA, Hindman received his BA from Penn State University. Recently, he was promoted to oversee the VNA’s new Popu-

lation Health initiative, an interdisciplinary, customiz-
able approach to health essential to improving patients’ quality of life and community resources.

“Population Health, to me, is looking at the needs of our patients and going above and beyond basic medical care,” said Hindman.

One such need in Philadelp-

hia, the “poorest big city” in the United States, is food. As such, Hindman recently creat-
ed the food pantry – the first initiative of VNA’s Population Health initiative.

With fresh produce donated by Philabundance and nutri-
tious meals from Aid for Health initiative, founded in 1886, it serves more than 50,000 residents of Philadelphia and the sur-
rounding suburbs. VNA Philadelphia is Medicare Cer-
ified, licensed by the State of Pennsylvania and accredited by the Community Health Accreditation Program.

To find out more about the VNA, call 215-473-0772 or visit VNAPhilly.org.

All at EF Village: Yoga, Medicare and forcing bulbs

by Mary Flournoy

From yoga classes to Medicare updates to a class on how to grow bulbs indoors as the cold weather approaches, East Falls Village has a full sched-
ule of activities to fill the fall season.

Fall yoga classes

The Village’s fall yoga class-
es begin in October. Two series are scheduled – Tues-
day mornings from 10 to 11 a.m. and Thursday afternoons from 2 to 3 p.m. All classes are held at the Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd, 3820 The Oak Rd.

The 12-week Tuesday morn-
ing series costs $84 for Village members and $108 for non-Village members. The 11-
week Thursday afternoon as-

sion series costs $77 for Village members and $99 for non-Village members. Participants can make checks payable to EFCC and bring them to the first sessions.

Medicare Updates

Do any East Falls Village readers have questions about Medicare for themselves or a

family member? Are you con-
sidering changing your Medicare plan during the

Open Enrollment period from Oct. 15 to Dec. 7th? Come to one of the Village’s free Medicare Updates presented by Joan Adler, the director of the APprise program in Philadelphia. APprise is a free service of the PA Depart-

ment of Aging.

The afternoon program will be

Tuesday, Oct. 1 at 1 p.m. and

the evening program will be on Wednesday, Oct. 16 at 6:30 p.m. Both programs will be held at the Falls Library, 3501 Midvale Ave.

How to grow bulbs – inside and out

Art Wolke, who has more than 30 years of experience in growing and exhibiting bulbs for the Philadelphia Flower Show, will present a free pro-

gram on “forcing” tulips, daf-

dolies, crocuses, and the rest of their spring blooming rela-

tives indoors, all winter long when the view outside your window is snow. He also will give tips on planting bulbs for your best-ever spring garden.

Wolke has been called the “Dave Barry of garden writ-

ing” and combined sense of humor with clear, concise information. This free pro-

gram is open to all and will be held at the Falls Library on Saturday, Oct. 19 at 11 am Come and get inspired!

Thursday morning walks

If you want to enjoy the fall weather, get some exercise, and then stop for a coffee break at one of our local restaurants, just come to the Falls Library Garden Thurs-

day mornings at 9:30 am to

join a small group of Village walkers.

Help children read at Mif-

flin

Volunteers are needed for the Read 2 Me program every Wednesday at the Falls Library, and for Library Time on Mondays and Fridays. You do not need to be a member of East Falls Village, but you must have clearances. For more information on the clearances needed, see Volunteer to Help – Help Children to Read at East-

FallsVillage.org or contact Kathi DiMenna at kadimenna@gmail.com

Join East Falls Village!

For more information, see EastFallsVillage.org. “How to Join” includes information on our service area and member-

ship levels, including Assisted Memberships. Pick up a mem-

bership brochure at the front desk of the Library or call 267-444-4307 to have one sent to you.
Rosencrantz and Guilderstern Are Dead next at Old Academy, Nov. 1 to 17

Tom Stoppard’s Rosencrantz and Guilderstern Are Dead will be the next production in the 97th season of the Old Academy Players, running Nov. 1 through Nov. 17. Rosencrantz and Guilderstern Are Dead is an award-winning play by Stoppard, set against the backdrop of Hamlet.

Two hapless minor charac-
ters, Rosencrantz and Guilderstern, find themselves thrust center stage in this 1968 Tony Award winner for Best Play. As the bewildered duo stumble their way in and out of the action of William Shakespeare’s classic drama, they become increasingly out of their depth as their hilari-
ous version of the iconic story unfolds in the 52nd production by Old Academy Players.

The play, directed by Sarah Lahov, was acclaimed by Broadway critics as a modern dramatic masterpiece. It will run at the historic Old Academ-

y Playhouse on Nov. 1, 2, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16 and 17. Show-
times are Thursdays and Sat-

days at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m.

Stoppard is a Czech-born British playwright and screenwriter. He has written prolifically for TV, radio, film and stage, finding prominence with plays such as Arcadia, The Coast of Utopia, Every Good Boy Deserves Favour, Professional Foul, The Real Thing, The Invention of Love, and Rosencrantz and Guilderstern Are Dead. He co-wrote the screen-

plays for Brazil, The Russia House, and Shakespeare in Love, and has received an Academy Award and four Tony Awards.

Stoppard has been a key play-

wright of the National The-

atre and is one of the most internationally performed dramatists of his generation.

The Old Academy cast lists Brendan Sterling as Rosen-


crantz, Brian Jedinak as Guilderstern, Chuck Mueller as Player, Brittany Faunzer

as Ophelia, Carl Heineus

Clausdins, James White as Polonius, Lauren McCordel as Gertrude, Nick Ware as Ham-

let and Nora Brunsky-Adam Landen, Robert Ruelan, Rafael Schneider and Ina

Louise Thomas as Tragedians.

Parking for all perfor-

mances is free. Tickets are $20 per adult and $10 per student with a valid ID.

You can buy tickets online at OldAcademyPlayers.org. Old Academy welcomes groups. Take advantage of group discount pricing at $17 per person with 15 or more people in a group. Call 215-843-1109 for more information and tickets.

Old Academy Players, where Grace Kelly and Robert Prosky made their stage
debut, is a non-profit com-

munity theater located at 3544 Indian Queen Ln. in East Falls.

Constructed in 1819, the Old Academy building has been the OAP home since 1932. Old Academy Players has provided continuous com-
munity theater since 1923 and is a member of the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance.
Inn Yard rocks to jazz concert

The Friends of Inn Yard Park on Ridge Ave. created a lively scene and an appreciative audience on Sept. 19 with a good time jazz concert headlined by saxophonist Henry Tirfe.

Apply now for Spring trees, EF Tree Tenders suggests

Spr


Venice Island Arts Center sets open house for Oct. 19

The public is invited to tour the new Venice Island Arts Center, which will open at an open house and community night on 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 23 at the Center, 7 Lock Rd. on Venice Island.

Noah Herman, the center’s Community Partnerships and Art Curator, will offer tours of the center and discuss programming plans for the center. The evening will include desert and non-alcoholic beverages.

Open studio day Oct. 19 at Scotts Mills Studios

Sixteen artists will open their doors in Scotts Mills Studios, on Scotts Lane, for a free look at their art and discussions on how they create it from 12 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 19 in Building 32 of 3510 Scotts Ln.

The day of open studios will be sponsored by the Philadelphiapost open studio tour (POST), artists in Northwest Philadelphia.

POST is staged annually by the Center for Emerging Visual Artists. Most of the art is available for purchase and includes ceramics, glass, illustration, light art, mixed media, painting, photography and sculpture.

The participating artists are Andrea Beizer, East Falls Glassworks, Susan D’ Alessio, Dora Ficher, Lyn Godley, Dorothea Ficher, Shelly Lependorf, John Howell White, Brenna, Steve Walter, Marie Weaver, John Howell White, and David Haas.

Friends of the Wissahickon set Oct. 11 celebration

The Friends of the Wissahickon are celebrating 95 years of successful stewardship of Wissahickon Valley Park with Love Where You Live – a 95th Anniversary Celebration Party at Erdenheim Farm on Oct. 11.

There’s still time to join the party. FOW will honor individuals who are essential to the fulfillment of its mission to “conserve the natural beauty and wildness of the Wissahickon and stimulate the public interest therein,” presented by FOW president Cindy Atfield with its long-standing Wissahickon Award, and David Haas with the organization’s first Founders Award. The event is being co-sponsored by FOW past president Will Whetzel and his wife, Kim. All proceeds benefit the organization’s ongoing conservation and advocacy efforts.

East Falls NOW is hoping for shine! Erdenheim Farm has significance as a green space in the heart of the Wissahickon Watershed and the critical environmental role it plays. It embraces a portion of the Wissahickon Creek and forms part of the greenway system that begins at the creek’s source in Montgomery Township, extending south through 11 municipalities and ending in the Schuylkill River. A working farm, Erdenheim is owned and preserved by Peter and Bonnie McCausland, who granted easements for the construction of public trails on the perimeter of several tracts. This enabled completion of the Montgomery County Green Ribbon Trail linking Fort Washington State Park and Wissahickon Valley Park, as well as provided connections with the Township’s trail system.

“We are incredibly proud to celebrate 95 years of caring for the Wissahickon Valley Park, one of Philadelphia’s greatest resources,” said Laura McCarthy, FOW’s executive director. “As we look ahead to nearly a century of service, we hope you will join us to mark this milestone in our history and our continued work to conserve the watershed, habitat, history and sheer beauty of our beloved urban oasis.”

Ticket prices start at $350. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit FOW.org/FOW95th, or contact Sarah Marley at marley@fow.org.

Gravediggers Ball Oct. 18

Laurel Hill & West Laurel Hill Cemeteries will stage their 15th Annual Gravediggers Ball on Friday night, Oct. 18 at the Mutter Museum of the College of Physicians, 19. S. 22nd St.

The black-tie masquerade event will feature live bands, dinner stations and an auction. Proceeds benefit the Friends of Laurel Hill & West Laurel Hill Cemeteries, a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization that supports the National Historic Landmark cemeteries, Laurel Hill on Ridge Ave. and West Laurel Hill in Lower Merion. For further information and ticket sales, visit www.gravediggersball.org.

Chris McCabe selected as a “best lawyer”

Fallsburg Chris McCabe of Charlson Braber McCabe & Denmark has been selected for inclusion in the 26th edition of The Best Lawyers in America in the field of construction law. McCabe is among one of only a handful of Philadelphia-area lawyers selected by Best Lawyers in the field of construction law. Charlson Braber McCabe & Denmark is a business and construction law firm serving clients in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York.

This Free Program will be presented twice twice a month of Schubert Library!

Monday, October 1st at 1:00 pm
Wednesday, October 16th at 6:30 pm

Falls Library, 3501 Midvale Avenue (Garden Entrance)

East Falls Village

East Falls NOW

October 2019

15
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