East Falls NOW

Vol. 9, No. 7 | November 2026 | FREE



The Midterm General Election is Tues., Nov. 3.

Elex Day is Tuesday, November 3; Polls are open from 7 am to 8 pm

The Midterm General Election is Tues., Nov. 3. Polls are open from 7 am to 9 pm.

Voters who use a mail-in ballot can deposit their ballot in the secure drop box outside of the Falls Library, Midvale Ave. and Warden Dr., or the Kendrick Recreation Center at 5800 Ridge Ave. up until 8 pm.

The Falls of Schuylkill Library is closed for the installation of heating and air conditioning. Voters in the divisions that normally vote there have been reassigned.

All voters can check the location of their polling place by going to *vote.phila.gov-find mypollingplace.*

Voters should know that If lines to vote develop at the end

(Continued on page 4)

Indego tells EFCC it is adding two new bike share docks in EF

Indego, the City of Philadelphia's bike share program, is adding two new stations in East Falls.

The new docks, both along School House Ln., join the existing local stations -- on Midvale Ave. at the East Falls SEPTA regional rail station and in the East Falls Development Council's parking lot under the Twin Bridges -- as Indego expands from its Center City origins into Northwest Philadelphia.

Nate Bowman Johnson, of Indego, described the new installations at the Oct. 12 General Membership Meeting of the East Falls Community Council.

Johnson said a new station at Vaux St. and School House Ln. will have space for 13 bikes. The second new station, on School House Ln. at Cherry Ln. by the William Penn Charter School, is now available and houses 15 bikes.

Both stations will include electric-assisted bikes. They will be part of a system that allows riders to purchase time for a bike at one station and drop it off at any other location in the more than 300-station program.

Indego is an initiative of the City and is sponsored by Independence Blue Cross. For more information, visit *ridein dego.com*.

(Continued on page 4)

EFCC to meet Mon., Nov. 9

The next General Membership Meeting of the East Falls Community Council (EFCC) is at 7 pm Mon., Nov. 9, at the East Falls Presbyterian Church, Midvale Ave. and Vaux St.

Follow the EFCC at any or all of these three:

- *eastfallscommunity.org*
- *facebook.com/eastfallscc*
- *instagram@eastfallscomm council*

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An appreciation:

After nine years, it's 'last meal' at Le Bus

by William Epstein
Editor, East Falls *NOW*

After nearly nine years of serving consistently good brunches, lunches and dinners indoors and outdoors on the corner of Ridge and Midvale Aves., owner David Braverman has closed the doors to his Le Bus East Falls restaurant.

The last service was at 3 pm Sunday, Oct. 25.

Braverman, 77 and a longtime resident of East Falls, told East Falls *NOW* that managing the restaurant and his bakery in King of Prussia had become more than he wanted to handle. He intends to focus now on the bakery business, based in K of P since 2000.

That's good news to anyone who has enjoyed the bread and pastries at Le Bus. To describe them as outstanding is an understatement. They are properly featured in fine restaurants and top-shelf retail outlets.

A real bus

Attending the University of Pennsylvania and working in his family's West Philadelphia eatery, Braverman started his own voyage in the restaurant business in 1978 by obtaining a past-its-prime bus and outfitting it to produce soups and sandwiches in the campus neighborhood.

He eventually opened an eat-in bricks and mortar restaurant on the 3400 block of Sansom St. in 1984. The block also housed Judy Wick's White Dog Café, making the narrow strip of former row homes a must stop on Philadelphia's then-emerging restaurant scene.

Along the way in 1996 came a café and bakery on the 100 block of S. 18th St., which fell

(Continued on page 4)



The iconic ceramic murals on the outside walls of Le Bus, designed and installed by East Falls tile muralist Trish Metzner.



City to collect leaves in streets Mon., Dec. 7, through Fri., Dec. 11

Here's a chance to do your back a big favor. Take advantage of the City's collection of loose leaves in the streets of East Falls. It's scheduled for the week of Mon., Dec. 7, through Fri., Dec. 11.

All we have to do is rake or blow the leaves into the street by 7 am that Monday. No bending over. No lifting.

And no piling of the leaves is necessary. In fact, City officials discourage it.

Workers from the City's Department of Streets will invade the neighborhood with equipment to load the leaves and deliver them to a nearby mulching location.

The area to be covered in East Falls is bordered by Ridge Ave., W. School House Ln., Wissahickon Ave., Queen Ln., Henry Ave. and Indian Queen Ln. back down to Ridge Ave.

For anyone who misses the mechanical sweep or whose back is saying, "What the heck, let's rake these leaves," the City will operate Saturday drop-off centers for bagged leaves. Two of these centers will be near East Falls -- in Andorra at E. Cathedral Rd. and Ridge Ave., and at the Happy Hollow Recreation Center, 4800 Wayne Ave.

The centers will be available from 9 am to 3 pm on these Saturdays: Nov. 7, Nov. 21, Dec. 5, Dec. 12 and Dec. 19.

Your November 2026 East Falls *NOW* Calendar

Send your calendar entries to: *editor@eastfallsnow.com*.

• The next General Membership meeting of the East Falls Community Council is set for 7 pm Mon., Nov. 9, at the East Falls Presbyterian Church, Midvale Ave. and Vaux St. (Pg. 1)

• The East Falls Farmers Market continues every Saturday through November, except for Thanksgiving weekend, from 10 am to 1 pm. (Pg. 2.)

• The Falls of Schuylkill Library is closed until mid-January for the installation of heating and air conditioning equipment. The book drop also is closed. Books on hold can be picked up at the Roxborough Library, 6245 Ridge Ave. Hours there are 11 am to 7 pm Monday and Tuesday, and 10 am to 5 pm Wednesday through Saturday.

2 Monday

7:30 to 10 am: All Saints Day candle lighting with Pastor Kari of the East Falls Presbyterian Church. Pastor Kari will provide candles at Thunder Mug Café (Pg. 7)

3 Tuesday

7 am to 8 pm: ELECTION DAY! VOTE! If you haven't voted by mail, the polls are open from 7 am to 8 pm. To find your polling location, visit *vote.phila.gov*.

6 Friday

7 pm: EF Village program on how best to deal with emergencies in the home, Roxborough Hospital's Wolcoff Auditorium (Pg. 11)

7 Saturday

11 am to 1 pm: EF Farmers Market (Pg. 2)

9 Monday

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

12 Thursday

7 pm: EF Town Watch monthly meeting, Carfax Bldg. (Pg. 2)

14 Saturday

11 am to 1 pm: EF Farmers Market (Pg. 2)

16 Monday

2 pm: The EF Historical Society and Old Academy Players present *"Grace Kelly at the Movies"* at the Old Academy Playhouse, 3544 Indian Queen Ln. (Pg. 7)

18 Wednesday

2 pm: EF Village program on "How we memorialize those we've lost" at the Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd, 3820 The Oak Road (Pg. 11)

21 Saturday

10 am to 12 noon: EF Town Watch's "Litter Crew Ahead" cleanup, Roberts and Henry Aves. (Page 2)

11 am to 1 pm: EF Farmers Market (Pg. 2)

24 Tuesday

6 pm: Friends of the Falls of Schuylkill Library Annual Meeting, East Falls Presbyterian Church (Pg. 12)

Cozy up with great food and drinks at the EF Farmers Market

by Julia Margulies
for East Falls *NOW*

Fall is a comforting time of year as folks head indoors and enjoy each other's company. At the East Falls Farmers Market, we like to think the market supports entertaining by offering wonderful fruits and vegetables and ready-made foods to share.

Winter Market

For starters, save these dates for next month! The 5th Annual East Falls Winter Market, presented by the East Falls Farmers Market, will return to the Fallser Club on Sat. and Sun., Dec. 5 and 6, from 11 am to 5 pm. The Club is at 3721 Midvale Ave.

November will mark the last month of warm weather hours for the market, from 10 am to 1 pm:

Sat., Nov. 7: Enjoy music by local celebrity Jeff Alexander. We have some great options for gift giving with Mystikala, Dviniti Skincare, East Falls Needlework and Hideaway House Studio. Ready to eat food is on offer with Guilty Good Pastries and Letz Eat.

Sat., Nov. 14: Stock up on jams, jellies and pickles from Mediterranean Goods, Spotted Horse Provisions and Fifth of a Farm Creations. This is Backyard Biome's final market of the season if you want to get your garden ready for the Spring, and we will welcome our newest local vendor, Sweet Treat Hut.

Sat., Nov. 21: Celebrate the upcoming holiday by listening to live music with Koser. Grab some grub from Southern Komfort Kitchens once you've shopped for your Thanksgiving vegetables. Get treats for your hosts from Attic Brewing, Azucar jams and Dviniti Skincare. Don't forget a treat for the pups from Saint Rocco's Treats.

Sat., Nov. 28: The market is closed for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Our next market after Thanksgiving will be on Sat., Dec. 5, when winter hours begin, from 11 am to 1 pm.

Our roster often changes, so check out our website, eastfallsfarmersmarket.com or follow us on Instagram *@eastfallsfarmersmarket* for our weekly vendor list.

EF Town Watch sets cleanup for Saturday, November 21

The East Falls Town Watch's (EFTW) November "Litter Crew Ahead" cleanup will take place from 10 am to 12 noon on Sat, Nov. 21, at Roberts and Henry Aves.

The cleanup will be in concert with the state's Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful autumn statewide campaign. Supplies will be provided by PennDOT.

The Town Watch calendar includes its monthly meeting at 7 pm Thurs., Nov. 12 at the Carfax Bldg., 3540 Indian Queen Ln. All Fallsers are invited to participate and to comment on and participate in EFTW's community safety patrols and cleanup activities.

Join your neighbors now! Become a member. Participate. Make a difference!

East Falls
Community Council

Annual Membership Drive

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

We also sponsor events that improve and bring together our community:
Mifflin Arboretum Clean-up • EF Flea Market • Holiday Sing • East Falls Fest

Use this form or visit *eastfallscommunity.org*, "Donations & Memberships"

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Note: Membership is limited to residents of East Falls. Associate Membership is available for businesses and institutions within East Falls, which excludes voting rights.

Membership Status:_____Renewal _____New
Name: _____
Home Address:
_____
Phone #: _____
Email (please PRINT legibly)_____

Standard Dues $10/per person
Per the EFCC By-Laws, courtesy memberships are available upon request. Additional donations are encouraged and serve the community well. EFCC is a 501(c)(3) organization, and donations are tax deductible.

Suggested Donations:
Queen Sized Donation $25 Mayoral Donation $50 Gubernatorial Donation$100
Senatorial Donation $200 Presidential Donation $500

I am enclosing $_____ membership dues and $_____ additional donation.
Make Checks Payable to: **EFCC** *Send to:* **PO BOX 12672, Philadelphia, PA 19129**

Angels in the Trees of East Falls



A message from the EFCC President

by Emily Nichols

A few weeks ago I attended the 2026 POWER Advocate Awards breakfast, honoring individuals "who champion advocacy, leadership, and empowerment for women in business and beyond." I braved I-76 westbound on a Thursday morning only because I was promised bacon, one of my favorite things. And as an added bonus, I came home with a book, also one of my favorite things.

The event's keynote speaker was former journalist and current professor Suzy Welch, founder of the Becoming You Labs at the NYU Stern School of Business. Her talk, entitled "Angels in the Trees," chronicled her journey from young girl to journalist to professor to author of a book entitled "Becoming You," which offers a scientifically proven method for "crafting your authentic life and career." She has apparently cracked the code on how each of us can find our individual meaning of life.

This is not about that! I love the idea of becoming me, or becoming my best me, but I do not believe that the origins of my becoming the best possible Emily I can be will be traced back to a professional networking event at the Philadelphia Country Club on a random Thursday in October. Let's all go place bets, oops, purchase outcome futures, on a prediction market based on that possibility and see what becomes of it, shall we?

What this is about is "Angels in the Trees," Suzy's name for the people that mentored, sponsored and guided her along her life's journey to finding her purpose. An appropriate speech for an event about leadership and advocacy honoring people who advocate for other people.

Since March of 2020, my life (and likely yours as well) took a detour that led down some unfamiliar and rocky paths. I am a terrible navigator, who once got lost hiking the Wissahickon trail and had to use the GPS on my phone to guide me to Hermit Lane to find my way home. If this were a text message, I would insert the face plant emoji here! Therefore, you won't be surprised to learn that there have been times over the last six years when I didn't know where I was going. I was lost in metaphorical woods, and my phone's GPS was of no help.

Fortunately for me, the woods are full of trees, and according to Suzy, trees are full of angels. Driving from the suburbs of Lower Merion to my new job in the Fairmount neighborhood of Center City, I started listing all the Angels in the Trees that had helped me navigate the six months hiring journey to my new job and the two years preceding, wherein I selected a destination and carefully charted the best course to follow on my professional path.

That led me to the even longer list of Angels that have been a part of my life journey. A journey that has travelled through two countries, five states, a dozen cities, two universities and half a dozen apartments, finally arriving at one old -- she prefers to be called mature -- house in East Falls with a lovely porch in the front and a few trees out back. Who are the Angels lurking in my majestic London plane and my scrappy little dogwood?

I imagined various friends, family and acquaintances perched in the branches shading my backyard. (It's important to find something to smile about when you're driving on the Blue Route in midday traffic!) I then wondered who might be perched in the diseased and deformed Peach tree that I have dubbed my spite tree for reasons too complex to discuss here. Probably not Angels. Demons! Demons with the face of the guy driving the Tesla that cut in front of me and now is driving far too slow for the left lane!

But this isn't about that! This is about the title of this month's word journey: Angels in the Trees of East Falls. Our neighborhood is full of trees and those trees are home to quite a few Angels. The volunteers that serve in Friend's groups, the East Falls Village, Community Council, and on assorted committees working for the betterment of our neighborhood. The many business owners who sponsor community events, serve on boards and lend their spaces and places for community gatherings. And the residents of our community that show up for one another in little and big ways throughout the year.

So, as this is the season of giving thanks, I want to publicly say thank you to the very many Angels in the Trees of East Falls! And privately, I'm going to spend the month of November saying thank you to the very many Angels in my life, some near, some far, but all of whom have in some way provided light when things were dark, or just a bit shady.

Next time you take a walk down a tree-lined street in East Falls enjoying the beautiful fall foliage, imagine who you would see perched on those limbs. Who are the friends, family, acquaintances and neighbors lurking in the trees? Who are your Angels?

Happy Thanksgiving, East Falls! See you at 7 pm Mon., Nov. 9 at the EFCC General Membership Meeting. All Angels welcome!



Are there angels in trees? Maybe so. This tree is not in East Falls, but it's the famed Angel Oak tree on Jones Island, SC.

Christmas tree sale starts Dec. 3

An East Falls tradition will continue as the folks at Vault+Vine, 3507 Midvale Ave., prepare to host the annual Christmas tree sale benefiting the Friends of the Falls Library, beginning Thurs., Dec. 3.

Some 100 trees from three to eight feet high are expected to be available. The sale will run through Friday and Saturday as long as the supply lasts.

Follow the East Falls Community Council:

On Instagram: *@eastfallscommcouncil*

On Facebook: *EastFallsCommunityCouncil*

On the web: *www.eastfallscommunity.org*

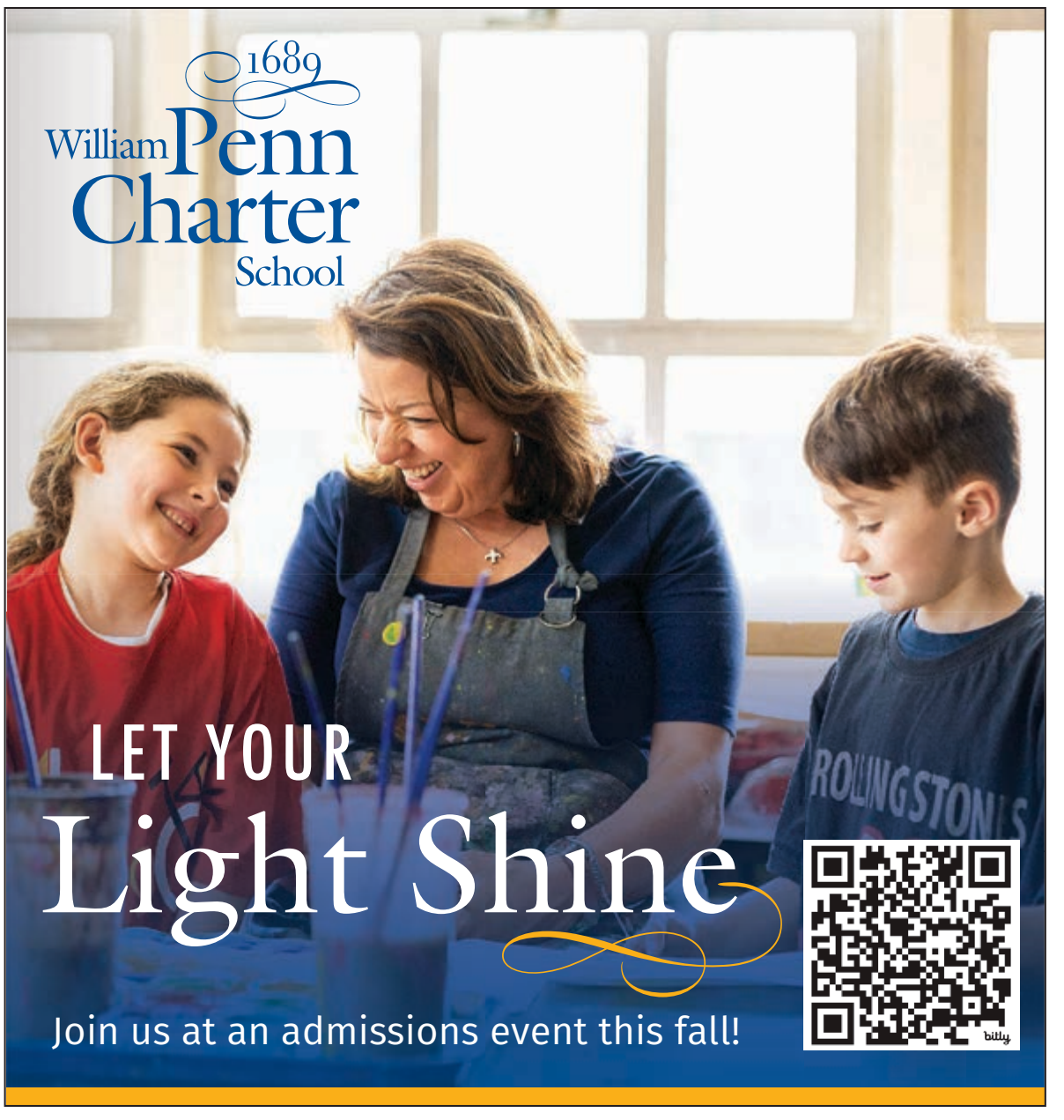
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New Indego bike station on School House Ln. by Cherry Ln. near the William Penn Charter School.

New Indego stations

(Continued from page 1)

Candidates Night

In other news from the EFCC's Oct. 12 meeting, Independent candidate for the US House of Representative's 3rd PA district, Dennis Mahoney, was the only candidate to appear at the General Election Candidates' Night.

Mahoney described his priorities as opposing cuts in food, housing and healthcare benefits for families that work, providing affordable housing and help for first-time home buyers and investing in education. He faces Democratic nominee Chris Rabb in the Tues., Nov. 3 mid-term General Election.

Join the East Falls Community Council by visiting "Become a Member" at *eastfallscommunity.org*





Right, the entrance to Le Bus. Left, sign announcing the closure of the restaurant.

Le Bus closes

(Continued from page 1)

victim to the COVID-19 crisis in 2020, and Winnie's Le Bus in Manayunk.

Braverman exited from Winnie's in 2003 and took the "Le Bus" name with him, using it to brand his East Falls restaurant in June 2018.

The site was the former Johnny Mananna's Tex-Mex restaurant.

Braverman's lease on the space runs for another year, and he says he is not averse to another party taking over the space, which includes a liquor license.

For now, though, Braverman told the Philadelphia Inquirer's Michael Klein that he's looking forward to focusing on Le Bus's 150-employee bakery and a less demanding schedule, and that "I still have a lot of energy left."

Election Day

(Continued from page 1)

of the day, anyone who is in line by 8 pm is entitled to vote and should remain in line.

The Election Day ballot includes votes for Governor and Lt. Governor, the U.S. House of Representatives, State Representative and two questions on proposed changes to the City Home Rule Charter.

Questions? Call the state's toll-free voter hot line at 877-868-3772 Monday through Friday from 8 am to 5 pm.





The secure ballot drop boxes at the Falls Library (left), Warden Dr. and Midvale Ave., and the Kendrick Recreation Center (right), 5800 Ridge Ave. Ballots are due by the time polling places close at 8 pm Nov. 3.



East Falls Eye Associates

For appointments: 215-844-2406 • 4189 Ridge Ave.
Dr. Jesse A. Jones • www.eastfallseyes.com

Save the Date for
The 2026 Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Falls of Schuylkill Library

Tuesday November 24 at 6 PM at
East Falls Presbyterian Church
Midvale Ave and Vaux St

Guest Speaker **Jessica Hamilton, MLS,** will discuss **"Navigating AI in Academic Libraries."**

Ms. Hamilton is Assistant Director of Reference and Instructional Services, Gutman Library, Thomas Jefferson University, East Falls Campus.

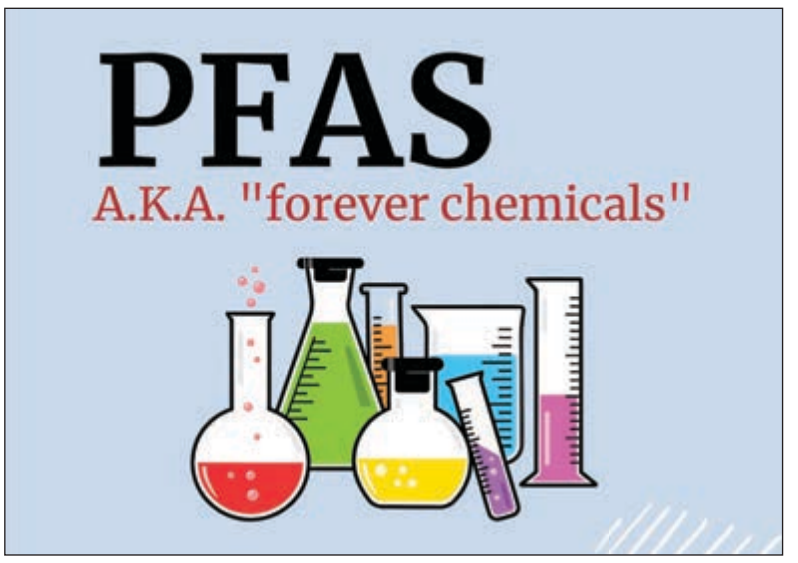
Also on the agenda:

- Welcome remarks from:
  - Jenn Estepp, Falls Branch Manager
  - Jenna Musket, Friends President
- Committee reports
- The election of two officers:
  - Friends President and Treasurer

Join us for this interesting and informative event. All are welcome. Refreshments provided

The Library is the Heart of East Falls
3501 Midvale Ave
eastfallslibraryfriends.org
215 - 685 - 2093

Toxic fish in the Wissahickon should be our wake-up call





Tarik Speaks

by St. Rep. Tarik Khan (194th)

Growing up in Philadelphia, my best friend Troy and I spent just about every weekend exploring Fairmount Park. We'd hike through the woods, follow the creeks, and even venture out onto the frozen water in winter, trying not to fall through the ice.

Looking back, some of the things we did probably weren't the smartest. But we were kids, exploring nature and having the time of our lives.

Here in East Falls, we're blessed to have the Schuylkill River and the Wissahickon Creek flowing into it nearby. Generations of families have enjoyed these waterways -- fishing, hiking or simply taking in the beauty of nature.

But imagine taking your child fishing in the Wissahickon, catching a fish together, and then learning that it's too contaminated to eat.

That's now our reality.

Earlier this month, Pennsylvania issued a "Do Not Eat" advisory for all fish caught in the Wissahickon Creek and its tributaries after testing revealed elevated levels of PFOS, one of a group of toxic substances known as PFAS, or "forever chemicals."

The state's Fish and Boat Commission also canceled a planned trout stocking in the creek because of the contamination.

Unfortunately, the problem goes far beyond the Wissahickon.

A new report released by PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center and its partners found PFAS in 96 percent of the state's waterways tested and 91percent of those tested in New Jersey.

Of course, nobody was lining up to drink straight from the Schuylkill. But knowing our rivers and streams are contaminated with these dangerous forever chemicals is deeply troubling.

As a lifelong Philadelphian, nurse practitioner and state representative, I believe these findings are a wake-up call for Pennsylvania.

PFAS are called forever chemicals because they break down extremely slowly in the environment. They accumulate in our bodies, waterways, soil and wildlife.

Exposure to certain PFAS has been linked to cancer, elevated cholesterol, weakened immune responses, pregnancy complications and developmental problems in children.

As a healthcare provider, I've spent much of my career helping people manage illnesses that might have been prevented. We should bring that same focus to protecting our environment.

We need to do more than respond to pollution after the damage is done. We need to prevent these chemicals from entering our environment in the first place.

We know how many of the ways these chemicals enter our environment, including firefighting foam, consumer products, industrial discharges and contaminated sewage sludge spread on farmland. And we have solutions.

That's why I'm helping lead legislation to ban PFAS-contained pesticides when safer alternatives are available. I'm a co-prime sponsor of House Bill 2145, bipartisan legislation authored by Rep. Greg Scott (D-54th) that would ban PFAS in certain everyday products, including cosmetics, dental floss, menstrual products and children's products. It passed the Pennsylvania House overwhelmingly, 188 to 13.

I'm also a co-sponsor of House Bill 1261, bipartisan legislation by Reps. Brian Munroe (D-144th) and Zach Mako (R-183rd) to phase out PFAS-containing firefighting foam. Similar legislation recently was passed by the State Senate, 48 to 1.

Protecting our families from forever chemicals isn't a Democratic or Republican issue. We have overwhelming bipartisan agreement that we need to act.

We also need to investigate whether industrial polluters upstream are contributing to contamination in our waterways -- and hold anyone breaking the law accountable.

And we need to address PFAS in sewage sludge that's spread on Pennsylvania farmland as fertilizer. Our Department of Environmental Protection is working on new restrictions, but the proposed approach focuses on only a small fraction of the thousands of PFAS chemicals. We need stronger protections to keep these chemicals out of our soil, water and food.

Pennsylvania has a proud industrial history. Nowhere is that more evident than along the Schuylkill River. We can continue supporting good jobs without sacrificing clean water or public health. These things aren't mutually exclusive.

This isn't about just fish. It's about our families, our health and the environment we're leaving our children.

Looking back on my childhood adventures with Troy in Pennypack Park, I realize how much those experiences shaped my life, from my love of the outdoors and sense of adventure to my appreciation for our city's incredible park system.

Our kids deserve those same experiences -- without their families having to worry about them being poisoned by toxic chemicals.

Clean water shouldn't be a luxury. And pollution shouldn't be a price of doing business.

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Philadelphia Cultural Fund opens applications for three-year grants

The Philadelphia Cultural Fund (PCF) has announced that applications for its 2027-2029 grant cycle will open on Wed., Nov. 4, 2026.

Guided by PCF's recently announced Strategic Plan, the new multi-year grant cycle will provide eligible community-based art and culture organizations with three years of unrestricted general operating support.

Application guidelines and the online application are available at www.philaculturalfund.org.

The grant cycle puts PCF's FY27–FY29 Strategic Plan into action, translating feedback from Philadelphia's art and culture community into a funding approach that supports long-term organizational health that impacts organizations' sustainability, capacity and ability to plan for the future. The plan also expands PCF's role as a resource and convener, connecting organizations with professional development, practical guidance and opportunities to learn from one another.

"Philadelphia's art and culture organizations need sustained, predictable funding that allows them to plan with greater confidence," said Gabriela Sanchez, Executive Director of the Philadelphia Cultural Fund. "Putting our new Strategic Plan into action marks and important step forward in providing that needed support across the arts and culture community. By providing unrestricted support over three years, we are giving organizations more room to strengthen their operations and continue serving their communities, while growing PCF's role as a trusted partner and resource."

The three-year funding model is designed to help organizations deepen their operational strength and programming through sustained support. Organizations that qualify to receive multi-year funding will receive an Art & Culture grant each year from 2027, 2028 and 2029. A subset of these organizations can additionally qualify to receive a $10,000 Community Impact Grant annually, powered by the William Penn Foundation.

While the new model will allow stability by removing the need to apply for funding each year, the amounts distributed in the Art & Culture Grants will vary year to year based on the budget allocation that PCF receives from the City of Philadelphia.

Grant Overview

PCF's 2027–2029 grant cycle provides three years of support to strengthen Philadelphia's art and culture organizations through two grant opportunities:

Art & Culture Grants provide unrestricted funding to eligible Philadelphia organizations across artistic disciplines and cultural practices. Award amounts will begin at $10,000 in 2027 and may vary each year based on PCF's funding allocation from the City.

Eligible organizations must have a mission dedicated to art and/or culture through creation, education, exhibition, performance, presentation, preservation or service; an organizational budget of $1.5 million or less; and 501(c)(3) status or a contract with a fiscal sponsor or parent organization. Organizations must serve Philadelphia residents, with the majority of their programming taking place within the city.

Community Impact Grants, powered by the William Penn Foundation, provide an additional $10,000 annually to a subset of approved Art & Culture grantees with organizational budgets of $500,000 or less.

Eligible organizations must have missions dedicated to creating, performing and/or presenting programs and experiences centered on creative expression, cultural practices and/or cultural heritage that engage, inspire or connect audiences and communities. Organizations also must demonstrate strong community ties through meaningful cultural experiences, support for local artists and programming that reflects Philadelphia's diverse voices.

To help organizations prepare, PCF will offer virtual information sessions on the application operations and finance requirements on Nov. 10. PCF also will host "From Pen to Power" on Nov. 18, a virtual workshop led by Andreana Barefield and Nigel Charles to help participants communicate their missions and impact to community partners and potential funders.

To learn more about the grant application process and read PCF's FY27–FY29 Strategic Plan, visit *www.philaculturalfund.org*. Questions about grant eligibility and the peer panel process may be directed to *grants@philaculturalfund.org*.

East Falls NOW
We're growing every month, and we need volunteers.
Writing • editing • photography • ad sales
If interested, contact: *info@eastfallsnow.com*

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ads@eastfallsnow.com



EF Historical Society to present 'Grace Kelly at the Movies' Nov. 16

by Mary Flourney
and Steven Peitzman
for the EF Historical Society

In honor of Grace Kelly's birthday -- Nov. 12, 1929 -- the East Falls Historical Society and the Old Academy Players will present "Grace Kelly at the Movies" at 2 pm Mon., Nov. 16.

The free program will be held at the Old Academy, 3544 Indian Queen Ln.

It is a fitting venue, since our local theater is where Grace began her acting career in 1942 with the Old Academy Players. She had roles in six productions. Her enthusiasm for performance on stage endured and she continued to act on Broadway and in early live television dramas before her film career blossomed. Her family supported the Old Academy Players in its early years, and Grace's two sisters also performed there.

Our speaker will be Al Crescenzo of the Ocean City Historical Society. He will present an anecdotal history of Grace's film career -- with insights into how she got her parts and a discussion of her films. Excerpts from eight of her films will be shown.

To advertise:
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Grace Kelly and Ocean City

What is the connection of Grace Kelly with Ocean City, NJ?

The Kelly family chose Ocean City as its summer vacation site and built a Spanish-Colonial home there. Grace returned over many summers, well into her years as a movie star and then princess.

East Falls Historical Society

Crescenzo completed a 35-year career as a social studies and history teacher for the Philadelphia School System. He grew up and worked in South Philadelphia, then retired to Ocean City in 2004.

He has been a volunteer at the Ocean City Historical Museum for 17 years and is now Head Docent. The museum houses a varied collection of Grace Kelly memorabilia, including a replica of her wedding gown.

Old Academy dates to 1819

The Old Academy building, one of the oldest in East Falls, was completed as a community effort in 1819. Its founders intended it to serve as a school during the week and for religious worship on Sundays. Most of the congregations of East Falls held their first services there.

Later the building housed a branch library. In 1932 it became the home of the Moment Musical Club, now the Old Academy Players, a much-respected community theater company that stages a sophisticated range of plays and musicals.

The East Falls Historical Society (EFHS) was founded in 2004 to explore and make known the history of East Falls, formerly Falls Village and Falls of Schuylkill. The society presents programs and walking tours, maintains research collections and a web site, conducts oral history interviews, and advocates for preservation of historic sites. It maintains a gallery of Grace Kelly items at New-Courtland's Tower on Henry Ave.

The Old Academy Players and the EFHS are pleased to collaborate on the Nov. 16 program.

A reception with refreshment will follow the program. Free parking is available in the lot behind the Old Academy and on the street. The program is free and registration is not necessary.



Grace Kelly on shipboard heading to Monaco. (Library of Congress digital collections)

Pastor Kari of EFPC to oversee All Saints Day candle lighting

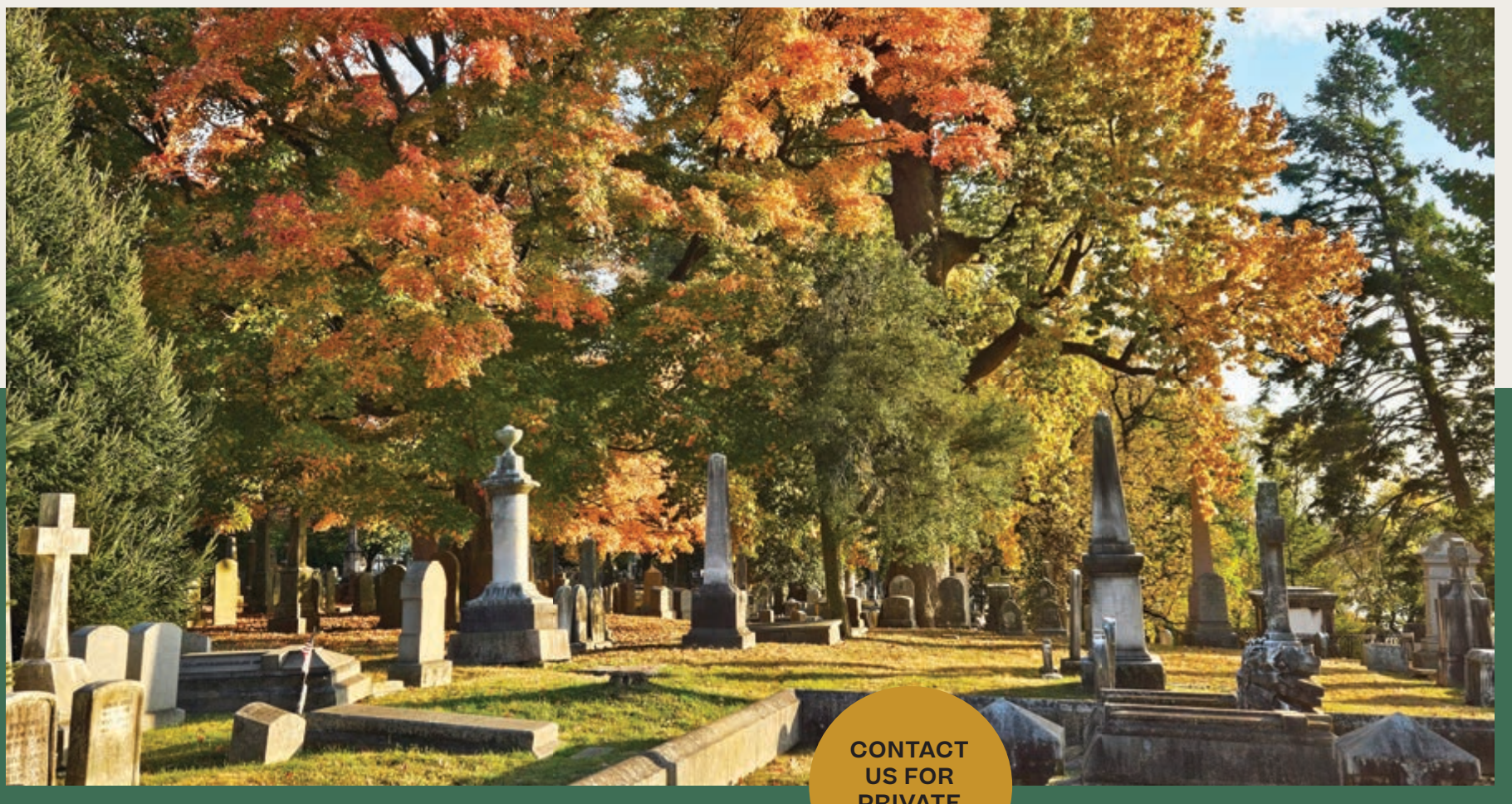
All East Fallsers who want to light an All Saints Day candle in memory of a loved one are invited to do so from 7:30 to 10 am Mon., Nov. 1, at Thunder Mug Café, 4233 Ridge Ave.

Paster Kari of East Falls Presbyterian Church is organizing the event and providing candles.

"This is a space to name and remember loved ones and to know that they are held in the light," Pastor Kari told *East Falls NOW*. "Whether or not you're religious, if it would be meaningful to you please know that you will be very welcome."

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East Falls Needlework



East Falls Historical Society

Join the
East Falls Community Council
for its next
general membership meeting
7 pm Mon., Nov. 9
East Falls Presbyterian Church
Midvale Ave. and Vaux St.

Khan's bill to protect nurses, healthcare workers passes General Assembly; ready for Gov.'s signing

St. Rep. Tarik Khan (D-194th) -- a nurse practitioner and long-time advocate for healthcare workers -- announced that his bipartisan legislation to protect nurses, surgical teams and patients from harmful surgical smoke has passed the Pennsylvania General Assembly and is headed to Gov. Josh Shapiro's desk.

House Bill 27 was introduced by Khan and Republican state Rep. Tim Bonner (R-17th.) It will require hospitals and ambulatory surgical facilities to adopt policies using surgical smoke evacuation systems during procedures that generate surgical smoke.

"As a nurse, I know firsthand how important it is to protect the people who care for us," Khan said. "No nurse or healthcare worker should have to put their own health at risk just to do their job. This legislation is an important step toward making our operating rooms safer for both healthcare workers and patients. I'm proud we worked across party lines to get this done."

During surgery, cauterization and other procedures can burn human tissue, producing smoke that contains potentially harmful chemicals and microscopic particles. Nurses, surgeons and other operating room staff can be exposed to this smoke repeatedly throughout their careers.

House Bill 27 requires facilities to implement policies using smoke evacuation systems that capture surgical smoke at its source, reducing exposure for healthcare workers and patients.

"Healthcare workers spend their careers protecting others. We have a responsibility to protect them, too," Khan added. "This is what we can accomplish when Democrats and Republicans work together to solve real problems and make workplaces safer."

Khan thanked his Republican co-prime sponsor, Rep. Bonner and lawmakers from both parties for their support in advancing the legislation.





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Volunteering in East Falls

Have some extra time on your hands? Interested in giving back to the East Falls Community? Here are some organizations that would welcome your help!

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Keeping the history of East Falls alive
eastfallshistory@gmail.com

East Falls Sports Association
Help East Falls children participate in sports
jmartell@att.net

East Falls Town Watch
Serving our community
eastfallstownwatch@gmail.com

East Falls Tree Tenders
Help planting trees in East Falls.
rplucci@comcast.net

East Falls Village
Help older adults in East Fallls by driving them to appointments and/or help children at the Mifflin School with reading and using the school library.
info@eastfallsvillage.org

East Falls Zoning Committee
Stewardship of East Falls Zoning issues
zoning@eastfallscommunity.org

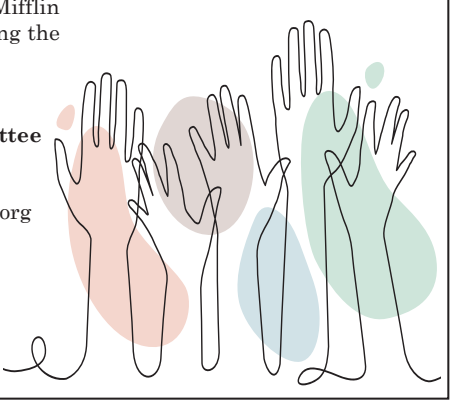
Friends of the Falls of the Schuylkill Library
Promotes the needs and the knowledgeof the library:
friendsofthefalls@gmail.com

Friends of Inn Yard Park
Help maintain Inn Yard Park.
jmartell@att.net

Friends of McMichael Park
Help maintain McMichael Park
mcmichaelpark@gmail.com

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Village to highlight Medicare, calling 911 and author Tom Keels

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

East Falls Village (EFV) often promotes programs presented by other villages in Northwest Philadelphia -- including Northwest Village Network (NVN) in Mt. Airy, Chestnut Hill, and Germantown, and Village on the Ridge in Roxborough and surrounding communities.

Medicare

EFV annually has presented a Medicare Update to alert people to changes in Medicare for the upcoming year. This year, we publicized a Zoom presentation that PA Medical Education and Decision Insight (MEDI) counselor Joan Adler did for NVN. She encouraged folks with questions to call her at 267-331-0339. The Medicare Open Enrollment period ends Dec. 7.

Adler's advice includes:

• Don't pick up the phone when Medicare plans call.

• She talked about how the changes in Washington have affected Medicare, including one good new feature -- the ability to add a "representative" (a spouse, child, or trusted friend) who can work with Medicare on your behalf.

• She showed how to compare prices from one drug plan to another. Interestingly, one plan pays for six Viagra pills a month and another provides 12 a month, but they were quite expensive. She said Good Rx is much cheaper for that -- and for many other drugs.

• She also talked about the state's Pharmaceutical Assistance Contract for the Elderly (PACE) and PACE Needs Enhancement Tier (PACE NET.) The PACE income limit for a single person is $14,500 a year, and for PACE NET it's $14,501 to $33,500 -- and they do not count assets. Adler can help people apply for these programs.

Calling 911

At 7 pm Fri., Nov. 6, retired Philadelphia Fire Department paramedic Lt. Joe Mancini will talk about dealing with medical emergencies, the five most common emergencies encountered by older adults, simple yet crucial steps that you can take to lessen your chances of a home injury, and how to avoid life-threatening events.

This program is sponsored by VOR and will take place in the Wolcoff Auditorium behind Roxborough Hospital, 5800 Ridge Ave. Register by emailing *info@eastfallsvillage.org*.

How we memorialize those we've lost

Tom Keels, an author and historian, will present an illustrated journey through our death practices and funerary architecture -- from the simple burials of the Lenni Lenape to today's green burials and ornate monuments in cemeteries, such as Laurel Hill. This program will be held at the Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd, 3820 The Oak Road, at 2 pm Wed., Nov. 18. The program is free and open to all, but registration is recommended by emailing *info@eastfallsvillage.org*.



The Benson Mausoleum at Laurel Hill Cemetery, one of the subjects of Tom Keels' presentation for East Falls Village on Wed., Nov. 18.

Keels is the author of eight books, including *Philadelphia Graveyards and Cemeteries* and the recently published *Sinners and Scandals of Laurel Hill Cemetery*. His *Sinners and Scandals* is based on a popular long-running tour that he has conducted at Laurel Hill for many years. It profiles 13 "colorful" men and women with personal stories that range from the sordid and salacious to the sorrowful and suspenseful.

A confirmed "taphophile" -- defined as a person who has a passion for and appreciation of cemeteries, gravesites and funerary culture -- Keels has been a tour guide at Laurel Hill for more than two decades. At the program he will sell copies of these two books, along with *Wicked Philadelphia: Sin in the City of Brotherly Love*. Attendees can pay by cash, check, or Venmo.

This program is part of the EFV "Life & Legacy" series on end-of-life issues.

The series will conclude on Fri., Dec 4 at 2 pm with "Life & Legacy: Respecting Your Wishes." Barbara Mancini, an advocate for helping people ensure that their end-of-life issues are met, will speak. The program will be held at the Church of the Good Shepherd and is open to all. Register by emailing *info@eastfallsvillage.org*.

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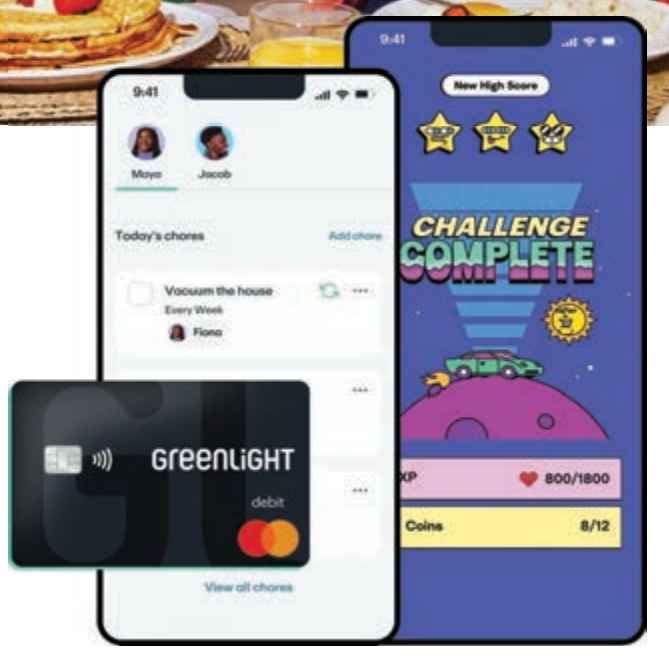
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Friends of the Falls Library set Nov. 24 for 2026 Annual Meeting

The Friends of the Falls of Schuylkill Library will hold their 2026 Annual Meeting at 6 pm Tues., Nov. 24 at the East Falls Presbyterian Church, Midvale Ave. and Vaux St.

The meeting will include the election of officers and a guest speaker, Jessica G. Hamilton, Assistant Director of Reference and Instructional Services at the Paul J. Gutman Library on the East Falls Campus of Thomas Jefferson University.

Hamilton will discuss *"Navigating AI in Academic Libraries."*

Hamilton's comments will explore how artificial intelligence is changing academic libraries, and how academic librarians are adapting and helping students navigate these new tools in the information ecosystem. Her remarks will be an opportunity for attendees to gain insight into the tension between library values and the technological change of AI.

The first 30 minutes of the meeting will include a report from Branch Librarian Jenn Estepp and reports from the current Friends Treasurer and President. It also will include the election of two officers of the Board for the coming two-year term -- the President and the Treasurer.

For more information about the nominating process, email Connie Gillespie, Chair of the Friends Nominating Committee, at *friendsofthefalls@gmail.com*.

Light refreshments will be served.



Jessica G. Hamilton, Assistant Director of Reference and Instructional Services at the Paul J. Gutman Library on the East Falls Campus of Thomas Jefferson University, who will speak at the Nov. 24 meeting of the Friends of The Falls of Schuylkill Library.

East Falls crime report

Provided to *East Falls NOW* by East Falls Town Watch. For further information, contact: 39th Division Philadelphia Police headquarters, 215- 686-3394.

Sept. 20, 5:51 pm, 3300 block Bowman Ave., assault, no firearm
Sept. 23, 1:52 pm, 3100 block W. School House Ln., theft of motor vehicle
Sept. 23, 5:25 pm, 3100 block W. School House Ln., theft of motor vehicle
Sept. 23, 6:52 pm, 3100 block W. School House Ln., theft of motor vehicle
Sept. 26, 4:11 am, 3500 block Vaux St., theft of motor vehicle
Sept. 27, 5:09 pm, 3000 block W. Queen Ln., theft of motor vehicle
Sept. 30, 6:58 pm, 3400 block W. School Louse Ln., theft
Oct. 5, 2:13 pm, 3400 block Scotts Ln., assault, no firearm
Oct. 5, 5:25 pm, 3300 block Henry Ave., assault, no firearm
Oct. 7, 5:50 am, 3000 block W. Queen Ln., theft of motor vehicle
Oct. 11, 2:43 pm, 3500 block Midvale Ave., robbery
Oct. 15, 9:31 am, 3400 block Scotts Ln, theft of motor vehicle
Oct. 15, 11:43 am, 3400 block Henry Ave., theft from motor vehicle
Oct. 20, 11:36 am, 3400 block Warden Dr., theft of motor vehicle
Oct. 21, 5:19 pm, 3400 block Penn St., theft of motor vehicle

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East Falls Village

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Library of Congress digital collections

Monday, November 16 at 2:00 PM
At the Old Academy
3544 Indian Queen Lane
Free and all are welcome
Refreshments after the program

See the article in this issue of EF *Now*

Weavers Way Co-op to close next summer for renovations

by Tommy Tucker, of the Chestnut Hill Local

Weavers Way Co-op's Chestnut Hill location plans to close for eight to 10 weeks next summer for renovations.

The Chestnut Hill location opened at 8424 Germantown Ave. in 2010. Weavers Way General Manager Jon Roesser said the store's now 16-year-old equipment is reaching the end of its life cycle.

"We'll fix the floor, put in new lighting, new paint, make some repairs to the HVAC system and electrical and plumbing work and whatnot, and then put in a bunch of new equipment," Roesser said. "All the new stuff goes in, and we fix some of the store's choke points.

"We improve the front end, we make some improvements to the back of the store, which is also kind of a customer service choke point. In order to do it as quickly and painlessly as possible, closing the store is really the only way to do it."

Some of the improvements have already begun . A new walk-in freezer was added to the outside, which will create more space inside once the renovations start. The front of the store will see a fourth register added, more freezer doors, and the return of the hot food bar, which was removed during the pandemic.

At the back of the store, the renovations will remove a stone masonry column and replace it with a steel beam, freeing up more space for customers.

"It's all subject to change because it's all subject to business conditions, economic conditions.," Roessner said. "So we haven't signed anything yet. The other big piece is related to when we can procure the equipment that we would need, because the timing of that stuff is critical.

"We did this at our Mt. Airy store in 2013 … It's the slowest time of year. If you're going to pick a time of year to shut the store down, summertime is the best time for it. A lot of our customers just migrated up to the Chestnut Hill store, and that worked out fine."

Roesser says they have not finalized the exact date of the renovations, but that during the closure, customers can shop at the Mt. Airy, Germantown, or Ambler stores.

The Germantown store is at 328 W. Chelten Ave.

Weavers Way will park its mobile farm market truck behind the Chestnut Hill store to offer a smaller selection of produce during the closure. The truck was purchased using a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

"A lot of our employees who work in Chestnut Hill during the closure will probably be moved to the Ambler, Mt. Airy, or Germantown stores because all those stores are going to be busier and they're going to need the extra help," Roesser said. "Any employee that is interested in a temporary layoff during the closure, we can make that happen. We are going to have to retain some people to continue to work in Chestnut Hill, because we do plan to offer limited product offerings outside through the farm market truck."

As the renovation project moves forward, Weavers Way will hold a member loan campaign to raise funds. It held similar campaigns for previous store openings and renovations. The Chestnut Hill store is projected to be a multi-million dollar project.

"One in three households in Chestnut Hill are members of Weavers Way," Roesser said. "That's a concentration of members that we don't have even in Mt. Airy, where we've been since 1973. If we do a member loan campaign, we've got a critical mass of members who shop in the Chestnut Hill store who would support that campaign."

Join the East Falls CommunityCouncil at *eastfallscommunity.org*

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When will Philadelphia start treating street trees as Infrastructure?

by Ray Lucci, Coordinator, East Falls Tree Tenders

Volunteers across East Falls spend countless hours planting, watering, pruning, and advocating for street trees. Yet too often, city projects seem to undermine those same efforts.

Earlier this month, photographs of construction work at the southeast corner of Penn and Conrad Sts. were shared with me. The Streets Department is installing ADA-compliant curb ramps -- an important and necessary improvement. But accessibility and environmental stewardship should not be competing priorities.

When excavation began around three mature London plane trees at the intersection, it appeared the project would accommodate them. The outcome suggests otherwise. One tree has since been removed, and one of the remaining two appear to have been entrapped in poured concrete up to its trunk! In a matter of days, decades of environmental benefits might have been compromised.

The loss is particularly troubling because this corner sits at the edge of one of East Falls' most heavily paved and densely developed areas. With steep Piedmont topography and limited canopy cover, the neighborhood already struggles with stormwater runoff during major rain events. Mature trees help intercept rainfall, reduce flooding, cool streets and improve air quality.

Those benefits cannot simply be replaced by planting a new sapling elsewhere. It takes decades for a young tree to provide the ecological value of a mature London plane. This raises an obvious question: where is the coordination?

Street trees are not ornamental afterthoughts. They are infrastructure, just as vital as sidewalks, storm drains, sewer lines and utility corridors. Yet city projects continue to treat them as obstacles rather than assets.

Was tree preservation considered before construction began? Were alternatives explored? Were urban forestry specialists consulted? Residents deserve answers.

This intersection lies within Philadelphia's Fourth Councilmanic District, and the situation highlights a broader concern. City leaders frequently champion sustainability, climate resilience and canopy expansion. Yet mature trees continue to disappear during routine infrastructure projects with little public discussion. In 2022, at the edge of West Philadelphia, 120 acres of mature trees were felled to accommodate the revival of a golf course in the Fourth Councilmanic District. This had City Council's approval!

Philadelphia cannot plant its way to a greener future while failing to protect the mature trees it already has. Every public works project should begin with a simple question: How can we accomplish this work while preserving existing trees whenever possible? Until that becomes standard practice, volunteers will continue to wonder why they work so hard to grow Philadelphia's urban forest while public projects steadily chip away at it.

The removal of a single tree at Penn and Conrad might seem minor. But multiplied across hundreds of projects citywide, the cumulative loss becomes impossible to ignore.

Philadelphia's urban forest is essential infrastructure. The city should start treating it as such.



Out of control cement pouring by a firm contracted by the city seems to be the cause of this mature London Plan tree on the southeast corner of Penn and Conrad Sts. being enveloped by concrete. East Falls Tree Tenders want to know: When will the city regard its urban forest as essential infrastructure?

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Ron Nano - LEGACY President & CEO

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Saturday, Nov. 7, 2026	Port Richmond	3901 N. Delaware Ave., 19137

Love Your Park -- on Sat., Nov. 14, and every day!

by Tara Rasheed,
Co-Coordinator,
Friends of McMichael Park

The leaves already are beginning to turn, the sun is rising later in the mornings, and McMichael Park is ready to prepare for the long winter.

But before that? LEAF PILES!

Come build giant piles from 10 am to 12 noon on Sat., Nov. 14, at the annual McMichael Love Your Park Fall event. This family-friendly event is supported by the Fairmount Park Conservancy and Philadelphia's Department of Parks and Recreation.

Join the community to plants bulbs, maybe a few trees, move mulch into the PlaySpace, and install tree ID tags.

While the majority of the existing tree canopy species and size is publicly available on our website, *friendsofmcmichaelpark.org,* with more than 25 unique species of tree at the park, ID tags will enable the public to know and learn more about the nature around us.

Register for Love Your Park at *givepulse.com*.

The Friends of McMichael Park depend on the support and participation of volunteers to keep the park tidy, safe and activated.

There is no end to surprises at a public park! Last month members of the Executive Committee of the Friends rallied to alert ACCTPhilly of a rabid skunk walking around the neighborhood in broad daylight. We also coordinated the set up and breakdown for a movie night which was ultimately canceled due to a surprise downpour that dispersed a nice gathering of neighbors from near and far.

Volunteer days are coordinated throughout the year with local schools and organizations to collect trash, remove sticks and pull weeds. Fallsers have been recruited to adopt corner garden beds, sometimes for years, as their contribution to the beautification of the park.

The Friends group always is in coordination with the city to remove dead trees, repair the water fountain and maintain the PlaySpace. We also have applied for numerous grant opportunities to support ongoing tree canopy maintenance and free access to all park activations.

Participation in cleanup events is integral to keeping our park welcoming to the community. As a volunteer community group we are not sustained by membership, but by donations of both time and treasure. The executive committee has an opening for co-chair this coming January, and we encourage those who might be interested in the role to reach out to *mcmichaelpark@gmail.com*.

Sun., Nov. 1 at 11 am will be our final garden club meet-up for 2026. Don't forget to register for Love Your Park on Nov. 14 at *givepulse.com*.

Two major events for December:

- The Holiday Tree Lighting will be hosted by Vault+Vine at sunset -- approximately 4 pm -- on Sun., Dec. 6. The event will include beverages and treats and a visit by Santa.
- The East Falls Community Council will host its annual Holiday Caroling at the memorial at 6 pm Wed, Dec 16, followed by the traditional cookies and cakes made by the Friends of the Falls Library and served at the East Falls Presbyterian Church.

Movie night will be rescheduled for spring.

Donations always are welcome through Venmo *@friendsofmcmichaelpark*. Contributions support improvements such as doggie bags, signage, plant replacements in the garden beds, repairs to the PlaySpace, and free activities such as movie nights and performances.

See you at the park!



This unwanted guest wandering the neighborhood -- a skunk believed to have rabies – was reported to City animal control officials by members of the Executive Committee of the Friends of McMichael Park. The skunk was captured and the Philadelphia health department had it tested and confirmed it was rabid. The department then posted notices around the park and the 3200 block of W. Penn to alert everyone to receive rabies shots in case they or their pet were scratched or bitten.

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