IS ON EVERYONE'S LIPS Tidbits Overheard... Didjanos... All The Buzzzzz! Io. 43 Cobblestones Library

DELAWARE STREET **UPDATE**

Vol. 10 No. 43 January 19, 2020



New Castle lost a lifelong resident and devoted servant on Sunday, January 12, 2020, when William E. Thatcher, Jr., know as "Erve" to most, passed away peacefully at home, with his beloved family by his side. Erve had a rich and rewarding life, dedicated to the Goodwill Fire Company where he faithfully served as a member for 65 years (President Emeritus); his service in the Army National Guard, the US Postal Service, the City of New Castle, and with the Board of Trustees. Rest in Peace, our faithful friend. You will be missed.

- **19** Ezra Daggett and Thomas Kensett of NYC patented a canning process to preserve salmon, oysters and lobsters. 1825, New bicycle race *Tour de France* announced. 1903, George Claude of Paris, patented the neon tube advertising signs. 1915, Howard Hughes set a transcontinental air record, flying from LA to NYC in 7 hours, 28 minutes and 25 seconds. 1937 **20** The movie **∜**In Old Arizona was
- released. The film was the first full-length talking film to be filmed outdoors. 1925, Get a Job by *The Silhouettes*, was released. 1958, *The Beatles* release Meet the the Beatles, their first album to the U.S. 1964, At 69 years, 349 days, Ronald Reagan becomes the oldest person to become U.S. president. 1981
- **21** The first issue of the *Daily News*, edited by Charles Dickens, was published. 1846, In NYC, the *Sullivan Ordinance* was passed. It made smoking in public places by women *illegal*. The measure was vetoed by Mayor *George B. McClellan Jr.* two weeks later. The first Kiwanis Club is formed in Detroit. 1915, Sci-fi writer George Orwell dies. 1950, ◆The Graduate soundtrack was released. 1968

- **22** Queen Victoria died after reigning for nearly 64 years. 1901, Fidel Castro was ejected from a Winter League baseball game after hitting a batter. He then gave up baseball for politics. 1951, A historic Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade* legalizes abortion. 1973
- **23** Congress decided all national elections would be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. 1845, *Charles Curtis* of Kansas began serving in the US Senate. He was the first American Indian to become a U.S. Senator, resigning in March of 1929 to become President Hoover's Vice President. 1907, NFL Dallas Texans become Baltimore Colts. 1953, Terry Kath (Chicago) died after accidentally shooting himself in the head with a pistol he didn't know was loaded. He was 32 years old. 1978
- **24** The first Boy Scout troop was organized by Robert Baden-Powell. 1908, Beer was figanized by Robert Baden-Powell. 1908, Beer was first sold in cans. "Krueger Cream Ale" 1935, Elvis Presley recorded Teddy Bear. 1957 Willie Shoemaker topped Eddie Arcaro's earnings record by riding four winners at Santa Anita. 1964, *Winston Churchill* died at the age of 90. 1965, **Penny Harrington** became the first woman police chief of a major city. She assumed the duties as head of the Portland, Oregon, force of 940 officers and staff. 1985

25 *Eliakim Spooner* patented the seeding machine. 1799, G.D. Dows patented the ornamental soda fountain. 1870, Jack Benny married Sadye Marks on this day. Sadye changed her name to Mary Livingstone. 1927, *Mary Martin* recorded My Heart Belongs to Daddy. 1940 The *first Emmy* awards were given out. 1949, John F. Kennedy presented the first live presidential news conference from Washington carried on radio and television. 1961

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6th Annual
atTAcK addiction 5K
Sat. March 2nd
Popietration 7 me Pero State Park

Registration 7am • Race Starts 9am More info ► CLICK HERE

Happy Cobblestone Birthday

Sun 1-19 Lafayette Moore Mon 1-20 Mary Liggett ★ Dave Beaudett
Tues 1-21 Lorayne Titter Sat 1-25 Nancy Hedges
Sun 1-26 Sally Denton ★ Michael Quaranta Tues 1-28 Linda Sobieski
Wed 1-29 Sheri Fay ★ Janet Taylor ★ Frank Quaranta

Sat 1-25 Barbara & Jim Whisman
Wed 1-29 Sandy & Daye Jones 54th

Birthday or Anniversary approaching?
Tell The Teditor flytedb13@comcast.net

Notable this week 19th Natl Popcorn Day Robert E. Lee*213 (1870), Edgar Allen Poe*211 (1849), Jean Stapleton*97 (2013), Janis Joplin*77 (1970), Dolly Parton-74, Desi Arnaz Jr. - 63 20th Natl Buttercrunch Day Penguin Awareness Day Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday George Burns*124 (1996), Patricia Neal*94 (2010) Edwin "Buzz Aldrin-90, Bill Maher 64
21st Natl Hugging Day Squirrel Appreciation Day Ethan Allen*282 (1789), Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson*196 (1863), Telly Savalas*98 (1994), Benny Hill*96 (1992), Wolfman Jack*81 (1995), Jack Nicklaus-80, Robby Benson-64, Geena Davis-63 22nd Natl Blonde Brownie Day Answer Your Cat's Question Day Ann Sothern*112 (2001), Bill Bixby*87 (1993), Diane Lane-55 23rd Measure Your Feet Day John Hancock*282 (1793), Ernie Kovacs*101(1962), Richard Dean Anderson-70 24th Beer Can Appreciation Day Ernest Borgnine*103 (2012), Neil Diamond-77, John Belusbi*71 (1982), 25th Opposite Day Dean Jones*89

(2015), Leigh Taylor-Young-75, Alicia Keys-39





Charlie Bowen

on the loss of his partner Toni ~ January 17th

MLK Day NO TRASH PICKUP CITY OFFICE CLOSED

Reg Mon 1/20 **Revised Tues 1/21**Reg Tues 1/21 **Revised Wed 1/22**Yard Waste will be Picked Up on Thurs. Jan23rd
Citywide Recycle pick up will take place on Fri Jan 24th



Mon 1-20 CENTER CLOSED MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY Tues 1-21 12:30 Pokeno

400 South Street - New Castle - 302 - 326-4209

Wed 1/22 10 DHSS presents "Self Esteem" 11 Reminisce Group 12 Afternoon Tea-Terry House Thurs 1/23 9 Bank & PO 9 \$tand By Me 12:30 Shop Rite 12:30-2:30 Jewelry Making Class 4 Movie Night Ft 1/24 12 Entertainment: Music by Cindy and Ed

Vbere Friends Gather"

Castle Senior Center

n**azon**smile Click HERE 9-3 Billiards 9 Pool Exercise

9:30 Park Walk 10 Crafty Seniors 12 Lunch 12:30 Mah Jongg 1 Chair Yoga

Exercise

9-3 Billiards 9:30 Shanghai 10 Bingo 12 Lunch 1 Strength Building/ 9-3 Billiards 9:30 Park Walk 11 Line Dancing 12 Lunch 1 A.B.C. Class

9-3 Billiards 9:30 Shanghai 9:30 9:30 Bridge9:30 Knit/Crochet 10 Games w/Tom 12 Lunch 12:30 Super Market

1 Zumba Gold 2 Qi Gong/Tai Chi 5:30 Yoga 5:30 Bible Study

9-3 Billiards 9:30 Park Walk 10 Bingo 10 Mah Jongg 10:30 Beginner's/ Arthritis Exercise 12 Lunch

the New Castle



1-20 **CLOSED** MLK Birthday 1-21

Adult Tech Class/6p

Family Pizza& A Movie*/5:30p 1-22

"Dora & the Lost City of Gold"

1-23 The Usual Suspects/5:30p

"Meet the Founding Fathers"/7p/Adults

JIGSAW PUZLE SWAP 10a-5p 1-25



See THE WEEKLY for Full Schedules Mon. 1/27 Planning Commission Mtg. 6:30p

Tues. 1/28 Board of Health Mtg. 6p Thurs. 1/30 Municipal Services Commission Mtg. 4p

MSC Office 216 Chestnut Street

Mon. 2/3 Tree Advisory Committee 4p Tues. 2/11 City Council Meeting 7p

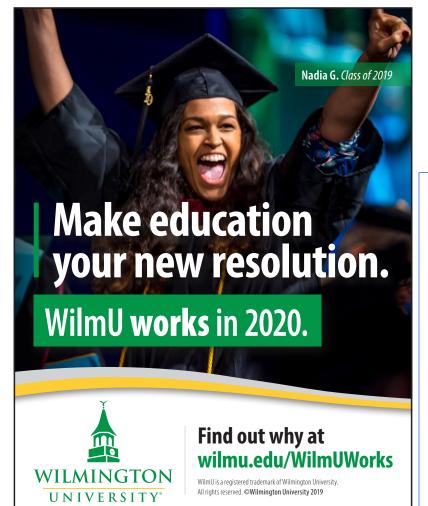
http://newcastlecity.delaware.gov/

Archived New Castle newspapers ►CLICK HERE

424 Delaware St - New Castle DE 19720 - 302-328-1995

*registration required > www.nccdelib.org/newcastle

Mon 10-9 Tues 10-9 Wed 2:-9 Thurs 2-9 Fri 10-5 Sat 10-5 Sun Closed



celebration THE ITALIAN IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE IN NEW CASTLE Open 1 pm to 4 pm Friday - Sunday thru March 29, 2020 HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Lecture: An Italian American Story

Wed, February 12th

7 PM - 8:30 PM New Castle Historical Society 30 Market St, New Castle



JOB OPENING

Customer Service Representative 1

Open January 2, 2020 Closing January 20, 2020

The Municipal Services Commission (MSC) is the public utility for the City of New Castle. The MSC is looking for a Customer Service Representative 1 with strong computer skills and the ability to multi-task in a fast-paced environment. Banking or cashiering with customer service and collections experience required. Candidates must have a HS diploma or GED. This is a Union position with benefits.

E-mail resume or application to Mary Jane Stubbs, Human Resource Manager stubbsmj@newcastlemsc.delaware.gov by January 20, 2020. Please visit our website for an application and view job description: https:// newcastlemsc.delaware.gov

The Municipal Services Commission is an equal opportunity employer (EOE)



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523 Cherry Street NOW UNDER CONTRACT

Stunning new bath and kitchen. Townhome with 3 bdrms and a great layout. Offered at \$154,900. See at www.psre.com/9373

22 E Fourth Street BRING YOUR OFFER!

Lovely porch-front home with a two-story addition. Chef's kitchen, fabulous baths, central air and more! Offered at \$217,990.

See at www.psre.com/6743





42 West Third Street

in Historic New Castle Lovely 3 bdrm 1.5 bath ranch rental! Pristine condition. Lg renovated kit. Drive, porch, C/A. \$1800.

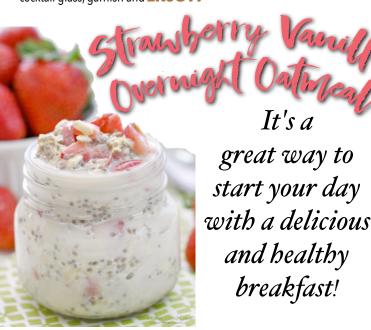
Call for information on the market and available properties! Dedicated to Your Success and Satisfaction!





inside of your glass and set to the

side. Combine the first eight ingredients, and the ice, into a blender. Blend until its **smooth and well combined**. Pour into your favorite cocktail glass, garnish and **ENJOY!**



1/2 cup old-fashioned oatmeal - 1 tbsp. chia seeds - 1/2 scoop vanilla protein powder - 1 tbsp. maple syrup - 1/4 tsp. vanilla extract - 3/4 cup low-fat milk - 4-5 fresh strawberries, chopped

Mix all ingredients in a 2-cup bowl. Refrigerate 6-8 hours or overnight. Stir before serving.



Beagle lovers, Waffle can't wait to meet you.

This cutie brings an adorable mix of sweet and sassy. He has gotten along with other dogs in the shelter's playgroups and is open to meeting any other dogs in a home. Waffle can be adopted for a fee you name though Sunday, January 26. Brandywine Valley

Brandywine Valley SPCA, 600 South Street, New Castle, DE 302-516-1000.

Click HERE to learn about all my friends on South Street



Brandywine Valley SPCA - 600 South Street, New Castle, DE 19720 Phone: (302) 516-1002



ST. PADDY'S PARTY

Close by at the RIVER ROOM 400 S. STREET

Sponsored by





THE WEEKLY

5

Tickets available at the **New Castle Senior Center**

Reserve Your Table Now! 302 326*4209

You Must Be 21 years old to attend this event



Black Tie Tailgate February 7th 7-11:30 pm INFO HERE

February 8 - 17, 2020

Saturday, 2/8: 9am – 10pm Sunday, 2/9: 9am – 8pm

Monday - Friday, 2/10 - 2/14: 12pm - 10pm

Saturday, 2/15: 9am – 10pm Sunday, 2/16: 9am – 8pm

Monday, 2/17 (Presidents' Day): 9am - 5pm

The Pennsylvania Convention Center 1101 Arch Street, Philadelphia PA 19107

Driving Directions | Transit Directions





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the date

3-7
Sr. Ctr. St. Patrick's
Party
3-26
New Castle Historical Society
Annual Meeting
4-18
New Castle Sailing Club
Battery Park Beach Cleanup
5-1 & 2
May Market
5-16
Day in Old New Castle
6-12 & 13

Countn' The Days
15 until
2/2 Groundhog Day
27 until
2-14 Valentine's Day
30 until
2/17 Presidents' Day

Separation Day Weekend

38 until

2/25 Mardi Gras

51 until

3/9 **Daylight Saving Time 59** until

3/17 St. Patrick's Day

62 until 3/20 **SPRING**

73 until

4/1 April Fools Day

84 until

4/12 Easter

103 until

5/1 May Market

107 until

5/5 Cinco de Mayo

112 until

5/10 Mother's Day

118 until

5/16 Day in Old New Castle

145 until

6/12 Separation Day

153 until

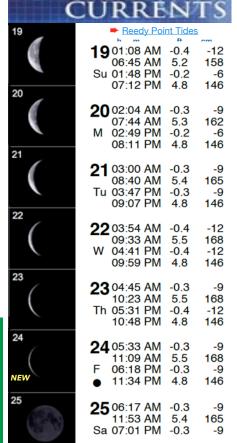
6/20 Summer

/20 **3u**111111

154 until

6/21 Father's Day

Teditor





19 7:20am 5:05pm 20 7:20am 5:06pm 21 7:19am 5:08pm 22 7:18am 5:09pm 23 7:18am 5:10pm 24 7:17am 5:11pm

New moon

25 🥶 7:16am 🌜 5:12pm



New Castle
VISITOR
CENTER

at The Arsenal

30 Market St New Castle, DE 19720 Open Daily • 9:30AM-4:30PM Sun. 11:30 am - 4pm (302) 322-2794 INFO HERE

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Very economical advertising rates available. Thank You

This Summary of the January 14th City Council meeting from the notes of Council member Suzanne Souder and **NOT** an official record of the meeting.

We began with the **Public Hearing** on Ordinance 524 which

requires Council approval of Mayoral appointments to the HAC. City Solicitor Dan Losco summarized the ordinance by saying that it makes Mayoral

appointments to HAC consistent with

other Boards and Commissions such as Planning, Health, and the Tree Commission. He described it as "somewhat of a housekeeping matter".

CATY COUNCIL SUMMARY

Councilperson Michael Platt asked Mr. Losco if he thought the current code, which does not require Council approval of Mayoral appointments to the HAC, was intentional. Mr. Losco said not that he knows. As far as he could determine from his research, the issue was not discussed during the re-working of the portion of City Code dealing with the HAC in 2016. He did not know when the current code was passed.

Council President Ratchford said that in the past Council has approved Mayoral appointments to the HAC until we realized, at the time of the recent appointments, that it was not required by code. She said that the Mayor did offer to submit his most recent appointments for Council approval but she felt we should follow the Code.

Mr. Platt asked if Council had ever denied a Mayoral appointment to HAC. Mr. Losco said he could find no record of that happening. Mr. Platt then asked why Council does not have to approve Mayoral appointments to the MSC. Mr. Losco said that the MSC is different as it is not a City body and thus is different from other Boards and Commissions. Mr. Platt explained that these were questions constituents had asked him.

Mayor Quaranta said that in all levels of government there is a "healthy tension" between the administrative and legislative branches. He thinks we need to review the role of the Mayor in New Castle as the powers have been reduced over the years. He said any changes should not take effect until a new Mayor is elected as he was elected under the current Code. He went on to say that we have missed things in the past such as when appointees to Boards and Commissions continued to serve after the expiration of their terms without formal re-appointment. Ms Ratchford added that correcting this is another example of "housekeeping changes" made from time to time as we discover an issue.

To be clear, I asked Mr. Losco if prior to the 2016 changes to the Code governing the HAC Council was required to approve Mayoral appointments. He said it did not. I asked if this was a conscious decision in 2016. He said it was not even discussed.

Ms Ratchford said such appointments are important as we rely on volunteers. Mr. Platt agreed and commented that the powers of the Mayor have been reduced over the years. Ms Ratchford responded that role of the Mayor stem from our Charter. Other cities have different structures. In some the Mayor presides at Council meetings and there is no Council President. She said there have been no changes to the Mayor's power in the last two Charter changes. Mr. Losco confirmed this statement.

City Administrator Bill Barthel added that in the past the Mayor participated in Executive Sessions of Council until the Delaware Attorney General's office said that this was illegal under our Charter.

There was no public comment on this Ordinance. Later, during the regular meeting, Ordinance 524 passed 4-1 with Mr. Platt voting against it.

Regular Meeting

The regular meeting began with a presentation by City Auditor Vincent Barbone of the firm Whisman Giordano & Associates. He has conducted our audit for the past 5 or 6 years. He reported that the summary audit is conducted the same as it would be for a business. It compares FY 2018 with FY 2019 (our fiscal year runs from July through the following June). He reported a decrease of \$137,341 in assets due to recent expenditures for capital improvements. Mr. Bardone further reported that our liabilities increased by \$357,974 due to an increase in accounts payable for the capital projects, not due to increased debt. Our net position improved by \$470,217.

He found no irregularities, errors, or fraud. He said that the City has good controls in place and that the staff was helpful as he conducted the audit. He reported that the Council and City Administration are responsible. We have reserves sufficient to cover 6-7 months of normal operating expenses. In summary, he said our position is about the same as last year and described the City as "healthy but not wealthy". Some cities he has audited have a negative balance.

Council voted unanimously to approve the audit. We then resumed the order of the meeting as published in the agenda. We could not review the minutes of the Dec. meeting even though the Clerk has prepared them because of an error in the agenda stating that the Nov. minutes would be reviewed. This will be covered in the Feb. meeting.

Treasurer's Report Ms Carlin reported that we are half way thorough our fiscal year and have received 69% of projected revenues and spent 51% of budgeted expenses.

City Administrator's Report

Mr. Barthel had 3 items to report:

- Work on the Delaware St. project will begin Jan. 20 at the Wharf. This phase is expected to take about 6 weeks. He is still pushing Delmarva Power to start their work in late Jan. The MSC has not yet committed to underground utilities but he expects a decision by the end of this week as they have a meeting on Thursday evening.
- Replacement of the traffic light at 6th and Delaware Streets has been pushed back to late summer. DELDOT does not think there is room for the skirt of the decorative poles discussed at last month's meeting. Also, the manufacturer of the skirts is having problems. He is working on the final numbers. The delay in beginning the work gives us more time to decide what type of poles we want.
- DELDOT advised the City that work on the railroad crossing on Delaware St. has been pushed back to July 2021 rather than starting this July as originally planned.

Chief of Police

Chief McCabe reported that crime numbers are up a bit in 2019 compared to 2018 but thinks this is due to increased police activity rather than an increase in crimes. There is nothing alarming in the 2019 statistics. City police made a significant drug arrest recently. We have 3 officers in the Police Academy who will graduate in March.

Council Communications

Councilperson Russ Smith gave a shout out to the MSC for the improved Christmas lights in town this year. The Public Works Dept. also participated in the placement of the lights.

He also discussed the resolution passed a few months ago concerning the problem of the large area included in ZIP 19720 affecting the City's reputation. We have asked the Post Office to establish a new ZIP. They have 60 days to respond. He also spoke to Sen. Carper's staff about this problem. He tried speaking to the head of the State Police about the issue but had little response. He is working with the media to be more specific in their crime reports, for example to say that a crime occurred in a specific development rather than just reporting it as "New Castle" based on the ZIP code. He urges citizens to email reporters when they see stories that report crimes from outside the City as being in New Castle. Councilperson Leary added that she sends a map showing the City boundaries and the separate location of the crime when she becomes aware of this issue.

Mayor's Report

The Mayor thanked Dennis Young and City staff for the improved calendar. He agrees with Mr. Smith about the ZIP code issue and that it is important for us to respond when we see misleading reports. He has reached out to the MSC to encourage them to place utility lines underground.

He raised the issue of the City obtaining a credit rating in case we ever need to go to the bond market, for example, in the event of a natural disaster. He thinks this would help us get a faster response in such a critical time.

He is glad to see the Delaware St. project get underway and thanked the Trustees for making it possible to do such a large project. He would like to see us work together, perhaps again with the Trustees, to make our sidewalks safer. Repairing and replacing sidewalks is expensive but he thinks it would add value and curb appeal to properties and the community at large. He thought the Spirit of Christmas was a big success and urged residents to consider opening their homes next year.

Finally, he asked that we remember William (Erv) Thatcher, a long-time member of Goodwill Fire Company who died on Jan. 12. Mr. Thatcher was president of Goodwill for a total of 11 years and in 2008 was named Firefighter of the Year by the Royal Order of Moose Lodge 1587.

Report of Council President

Ms Ratchford reported that she and Mr. Barthel attended a WILMAPCO meeting with our representative, Gail Seitz, regarding through traffic in New Castle on routes 141, 273, and 9. They recommend that we update our transportation plan since it was last done in 1999. The City would have to provide 20% of the \$120,000 cost (\$24,000) over the next 2 years to complete this.

She and Mr. Smith went to a meeting about signage on designated by-ways and the need to coordinate this with other signs in the city.

Comments from the floor on agenda items: None **New Business**

We had the first reading of **Ordinance 525** requiring newly installed utility lines to be placed underground. This ordinance was recommended by the firm assisting us in our negotiations with Verizon. There will be a public hearing, second reading, discussion, and vote at a later date.

Resolution 2020-02 approves the sale of **615 Clymer St**. as discussed at the Dec. meeting. This property is not wanted by the Trustees or the MSC and failed to sell at Sheriff's Sale. It was appraised at \$10,000. The highest offer received was for \$5000 with a commitment to restore it to a habitable condition within 9 months.

Mr. Barthel said there were 2 other offers, 1 for \$3500 and the other also for \$5000. The other \$5000 offer came from someone with no experience rehabilitating such properties whereas the offer the resolution proposes to accept comes from a firm with a good track record in such restorations.

Mr. Losco added that this property is in very bad condition. It has standing water in the basement, mold, and many other problems. These things are expensive to restore.

The resolution passed unanimously.

Resolution 2020-03 authorizes an easement agreement with the Trustees to facilitate the construction and maintenance of the Dobbinsville fishing pier. Construction of this pier was previously approved in concept by Council. The easement allows a driveway to cross Trustee property and has been discussed with the Trustee's attorney. DNREC requires this easement to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City regarding responsibility for maintenance. The State will be responsible for construction and maintenance of the pier itself and the City will provide maintenance of the parking area including the utility costs for the lighting. The MOU will also provide that the City will have no liability for personal injury on the premises.

Ms Ratchford said that the Council has been working on this with the State for several years. Once constructed, the pier will provide a place for family activities.

I asked if the MOU could include a provision for installation of signs warning of the health hazards of consuming fish from the Delaware River. There used to be signs in Battery Park saying that it was unsafe for children or pregnant women to eat fish from the river and other adults should consume limited quantities of these fish. As far as I know, the condition of the river has not improved such that these warnings no longer apply. Mr. Losco said this could be made part of the MOU. He also said it is envisioned that most people would fish for pleasure only and throw back the fish they catch. I said I think it is important that people be advised of the possible harm from eating fish from the Delaware River. He agreed.

Public Comments None

We adjourned to Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

To view this discussion on the web, visit

https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/council-updates/d6987499-f92b-4523-9b7c-57bd41a8b8a0%40googlegroups.com.