

What Happens Between The COBBLESTONES

IS ON EVERYONE'S LIPS

Tidbits Overheard. . . Didjanos. . . All The Buzzzzz!

Vol. 10 No. 44

Cobblestones Library



The Read House welcomes archaeologist Wade Catts, consultant to the Brandywine Battlefield Task Force, for a discussion of his recent findings about troop movements through Delaware leading up to the 1777 battle. Catts has gained new insights by putting historical documents into dialogue with modern imaging technologies.

Wade P. Catts, R.P.A., is a historical archaeologist and serves as archaeological consultant to the Brandywine Battlefield Task Force. He is President and Principal for South River Heritage Consulting, LLC.

His work in cultural resource management is recognized throughout the Middle Atlantic and nationally, including many projects supported by the American Battlefield Protection Program. Catts is currently completing a book on the Battle of Cooch's Bridge, Delaware's only Revolutionary War engagement. He holds a graduate degree in American History from the University of Delaware.

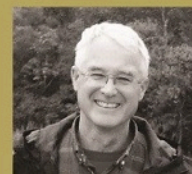
FREE and open to the public, with registration requested [here](#)

A complimentary house tour will be available at 5:30 p.m. to guests who reserve a space in advance.

*"Left Newport . . . before daylight
and march'd to Chad's Ford":*

'New Insights and Interpretations of the Battle of Brandywine 1777

Read House
& Gardens



Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2020
6:30 p.m. Lecture
Free and open to the public

this week in
HISTORY

2 British sailor **Alexander Selkirk** is rescued after being marooned on a desert island. His story is the inspiration for Daniel Defoe's "Robinson Crusoe" 1709, The Mexican War was ended with the signing of the **Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo**. 1848, The beginning of **Groundhog Day** in Punxsutawney. 1887, **William Painter** patented the bottle cap. 1892, The first **Buck Rogers** automatic pistol was made. 1946, **What's My Line** debuted on CBS television. 1950, A poll conducted by "People", readers selected **Katharine Hepburn** and **Cary Grant** as their favorite, all-time acting greats. 1987

3 The world's first **commercial cheese factory** was established in Switzerland. 1815, Edwin Booth opened his new theatre in NYC. The first production was "Romeo and Juliet". 1869, Rock singers **Buddy Holly-22**, **Richie Valens-17** and the **Big Bopper** (J.P. Richardson)-28 died in a plane crash. 1959, **Bob Dylan** made his first recording, taping **San Francisco Bay Blues**. 1961, **Lynn Anderson** received a gold for the single, **Rose Garden**. 1971

4 Britain declared a **formal cessation** of hostilities with its former colonies. 1783, the first **US Telegraph Company** established. 1847, **Louis Perlman** received a patent for his famous demountable tire-carrying rims. We call them wheels. 1913, The **USO** founded. 1941, Smith-Corona began selling portable **electric**

typewriters. The first machine weighed 19 pounds. 1957, Comic **Hagar The Horrible** debuts. 1973

5 First **US gas company** incorporated, Baltimore. 1817, Kinematoscope patented by **Coleman Sellers**, 1861, The **BBC time signals**, or "pips", from Greenwich Observatory were heard for the first time. 1924, **Disney's** film **Peter Pan** opened at the Roxy Theatre NYC, 1953, **Apollo 14** - 3rd manned expedition to moon lands. 1971

6 New Jersey issued the first American railroad charter to **John Stevens**. 1815, The first minstrel show in America, the **Original Virginia Minstrels**, opened at the Bowery Amphitheater. 1843, First great train robbery by **Dalton Gang**. 1891, **Dog sled racing** happened for the first time in Olympic competition. 1932, Britain's King **George VI** died. His daughter, **Elizabeth II**, succeeded him. 1952, **Alan Shepard** hits three **golf balls** with a six-iron on the moon. 1971

7 The first **Guernsey Cattle Club** was organized. Mooooo. 1877, **Charlie Chaplin** debuts "The Tramp" in "Kid Auto Races at Venice" 1914, **DeWitt and Lila Acheson Wallace** offered 5,000 copies of Reader's Digest magazine for the first time. 1922, **Don't Let the Stars Get in Your Eyes** by **Perry Como** a chart topper in 1953, six years later **Smoke Gets In Your Eyes** by **The Platters** took the top spot. **The Beatles** come to the U.S. for the first time. 1964, Sports Illustrated released its **annual swimsuit edition**. It was

the largest regular edition in the magazine's history at 218 pages. 1985,

8 The **Confederate States of America** was formed. 1861, The **Boy Scouts** were founded by William D. Boyce. 1910, The **Stars and Stripes** newspaper first published. 1918, The first **Nat'l Football League draft** was held. Jay Berwanger was the first to be selected. He went to the Philadelphia Eagles. 1936, **At the Hop** by **Danny and the Juniors** was #1. 1958, The last issue of the **Saturday Evening Post** was published. 1969

WHAT'S INSIDE

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FLAG STATUS



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Happy Cobblestone Birthday

Sun 2-2 **Fiona Lynn** ★ **Sally Sorget**

Mon 2-3 **Linda Hiner** Tues 2-5 **Ronda Baker**

Thurs 2-6 **Linda Diana**

Fri 2-7 **Beverly Ross** ★ **Kim Wipf** ★ **Brian Whitaker**

Sun 2-9 **Gay Cannon** Tues 2-11 **Sue Brandt** ★ **Debby Rucker**

Wed 2-12 **Chris Antonio**

25th Anniversary Sat 2-8 **Deb Shane** & **Bryan Shelton**



Birthday or Anniversary approaching?

Tell The Editor flytedb13@comcast.net

Notable this week **2nd Groundhog Job Shadow Day - Sled Dog Day - Play Your Ukulele Day** Tommy Smothers*83, Farrar Fawcett*73 (2009), Christie Brinkley*66 **3rd National Girls & Women in Sports Day** Norman Rockwell*126 (1978), Joey Bishop*102 (2007), Morgan Fairchild*70 **4th Facebook's Birthday - World Cancer Day** Charles Lindbergh*118 (1974), Clyde Tombaugh*114 (1997), discovered planet Pluto, Alice Cooper*72, Dan Quayle*73 **5th Shower With A Friend Day - Weatherperson's Day** John Jeffries*266 (1819), America's first Weatherman, Red Buttons*101 (2006), Hank Aaron*86 **6th Ice Cream For Breakfast Day - Take Your Child To The Library Day** George Herman "Babe" Ruth*125 (1948), Ronald Reagan*109 (2004), 40th U. S. President, Zsa Zsa Gabor*103 (2016), Tom Brokaw*80, Fabian Forte*77, **7th Wave All you Fingers at Your Neighbor Day - Superbowl Sunday** Charles Dickens*208 (1870), Garth Brooks*58, Chris Rock*55 **8th Boy Scout Day - Chinese New Years** Lana Turner*99 (1995), Jack Lemmon*95 (2001), James Dean*89 (1955), Ted Koppel*80

We're back!



Low-fare carrier **Frontier**

Airlines announced its return to Wilmington - New Castle Airport (ILG) with new nonstop service to Orlando beginning right in time for the busy summer travel season. The company's website shows flights from Wilmington (ILG) to Orlando (MCO), beginning on May 14. **Flights depart Wilmington at 12:38 p.m. every Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday**
FlyFrontier.com.

"We're thrilled to bring our unique brand of low fares and friendly service to Wilmington - New Castle Airport and offer the only commercial service from Delaware," said Daniel Shurz, senior vice president of commercial for Frontier Airlines.

6th Annual atTack Addiction 5K Saturday, March 2nd

St Peters Church - New Castle • 515 Harmony Street, New Castle

Walking ♦ 5K ♦ Elite ♦ Beginner ♦ Intermediate ♦ Advanced

Here is your chance to run a great 5k course through Old New Castle. Proceeds from this event will benefit atTack addiction. > [REGISTER HERE](#)

"atTack addiction is a grassroots advocacy group for those who have lost loved ones to drug overdoses, have been impacted by addiction, and individuals at various stages of recovery. atTack addiction educates families about opiate addiction and treatment options, works to prevent drug use, advocates to reduce the stigma associated with the disease, and lobbies for legislation that supports their causes."

690 PRE-REGISTERED





at Our Senior Center
400 South Street - New Castle - 302 - 326-4209

Mon 2-3 10 Cigna: "Hypertension" 11 Reminisce Group 12:30 Aerobics for the Mind **Tues 2-4** 9-12 AARP Tax Aide
Wed 2-5 9:30 Bloodwork 10 Chair Yoga 10 St. Francis Life: "Living Indep." 11 Lunch out: **Red Lobster**
Thurs 2-6 9 Bank & PO 12:30 Shop Rite 5 Potluck Dinner **Fri 2-7** 12 Entertainment: **Bruce Thomas**

"Where Friends Gather"
► [New Castle Senior Center](#)
amazon smile
Click ► [HERE](#)

MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI
9-3 Billiards 9 Pool Exercise 9:30 Park Walk 10 Crafty Seniors 12 Lunch 12:30 Mah Jongg 1 Chair Yoga	9-3 Billiards 9:30 Shanghai 10 Bingo 12 Lunch 1 Strength Building/ Exercise	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 Bridge 9:30 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



Archived New Castle newspapers ► [CLICK HERE](#)

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

► www.nccdelib.org/newcastle

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



New Castle
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Join us at the Arsenal, Wed., April 8th at 7 - 8:30p for a free presentation about renowned Philadelphia architect **Frank Furness** with **James Tevebaugh**. James Tevebaugh, of Tevebaugh Architecture and the Friends of the Furness

Railroad District, will discuss style and works of Frank Furness including New Castle's Old Library which has been variously attributed to both Furness himself or his firm.

See **THE WEEKLY** for Full Schedules

Mon. 2/3 Tree Advisory Committee 4p
Tues. 2/11 City Council Meeting 7p
Thurs. 2/13 Historic Area Commission Mtg. 6:30pm
Mon. 2/24 Planning Commission Mtg. 6:30pm
► <http://newcastlecivil.delaware.gov/>



FEBRUARY
4TH 7PM

TRUSTEES ELECTION

Saturday March 21st

Goodwill Fire House 4th and South Streets, New Castle
10am to 6pm

Deadline to file as a Candidate

Thursday, February 20, 2020

Applications For Candidacy Are Available at
The Trustees' Office at 201 Delaware Street

Call 322-2809 For More Information

Candidates Must Be A Resident of The City of New Castle for at least Two Years Prior to The Election Date, and be a Registered Voter

(On The Trustees' Voter List) and be at least 25 Years of age by the Date of The Election on March 21, 2020.

ELECTION DATE: MARCH 21, 2020

PLACE: GOODWILL FIRE STATION

TIME: 8 AM UNTIL 4 PM

Early Voting will be open in the Trustees' office at 201 Delaware Street opening on March 4, 2020 and closing on March 20, 2020 at 2 PM, during normal business hours usually 10 AM to 3 PM.



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Don't let the grumpy face fool you; **Rosie** is a complete softie. This gorgeous tabby loves people and especially enjoys affection. Rosie also gets along well with the other cats in the shelter free-roaming cat room. This 7-year-old should fit well into most homes, including a family with kids. You can adopt Rosie for a fee you name through Sunday, February 9.

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

Click [HERE](#) to learn about all my friends on South Street

DELAWARE STREET UPDATE



With the work having already begun at the wharf by the City contractor Cirillo Brothers, the utility phase of the Delaware Street Project is set to begin on February 3rd. From Tuesday, January 28th until Friday, January 31st, Henkels and McCoy, the contractor for Delmarva, MSC, Comcast and Verizon will be doing preliminary work in order to prepare for the actual project to begin February 3rd; when they will begin saw cutting from 4th Street to The Strand. The saw cutting phase should take 5 days, with "No Parking" restrictions on various lengths of Delaware Street based on the daily progress made by the contractor.

You can follow project updates at www.newcastlecity.delaware.gov, or call the City office at 322-9812.

Delaware Street is closed from The Strand to the wharf during this phase of construction. The sidewalks will remain open for pedestrian use.

Cars will be detoured on Delaware Street from Second Street to Harmony to The Strand, with Delaware Street being one way from The Strand to Second Street.

This phase of construction is estimated to be approximately 6 weeks in duration.

Please contact the City office at 322-9801 with any questions or concerns.

We will provide updates as they become available.

Please contact the City office at 322-9801 with any questions or concerns.



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

Skip the freezer aisle selection and make your own popcorn chicken right at home! This easy recipe comes complete with a blue cheese dipping sauce that makes the whole thing addictive and downright irresistible

POPCORN CHICKEN



FOR THE CHICKEN

Extra-virgin olive oil - 2 lb. skinless chicken breast, cut into 1" pieces - Kosher salt - Freshly ground black pepper - 2 large eggs, beaten - 2 c panko bread crumbs - 1/2 c. Cornmeal - 1/2 c. - freshly grated Parmesan - 1/2 tsp. cayenne pepper

FOR THE DIPPING SAUCE

1/2 c. Mayonnaise - 1 tbsp. - Dijon mustard - 1 tsp. - honey - 1/8 tsp. cayenne pepper

HERE'S HOW

- Make oven happy at 400° and grease two large baking sheets with oil. Season chicken with salt and pepper.
- Add eggs to a medium shallow bowl. In a separate shallow bowl, whisk together bread crumbs, cornmeal, Parmesan, and cayenne. Season with salt.
- Working in batches, add chicken to eggs then dredge in bread crumb mixture until fully coated. Spread chicken in even layers on prepared baking sheets.
- Bake chicken until golden and cooked through, flipping halfway through, about 25 minutes.
- Meanwhile, make dipping sauce: 2 bricks [softened] cream cheese - 1/2 cup blue cheese dressing - 1/3 cup hot sauce - 1/4 cup of crumbled blue cheese - 1 cup Monterrey jack cheese - 2 green onions and extra blue cheese (because there's no such thing as too much blue cheese)

Serve chicken with dipping sauce and **ENJOY!**

Hot new sauce is flying off the shelf. Catch some if you can! Perfect for your Bloody Mary and Wings!

THE VIDEO



come in to try our new menu. lunch too!



Sonora at the David Finney Inn

222 Delaware St. New Castle, DE 302•276•7038
Monday 11-9 Wednesday Closed
Thursday-Friday 11am-11pm
Saturday 10am-11pm Sunday 10am-9pm

Nadia G. Class of 2019

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“If I could pick winning football teams half as well as I pick the stupidest, slowest cashier in Walmart, I could afford to shop elsewhere.”

Overheard Locally

HOW *celebrazione* BECAME *celebration*



THE ITALIAN IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE IN NEW CASTLE

Open 1 pm to 4 pm
Friday - Sunday
thru March 29, 2020



Lecture: An Italian American Story

Wed, February 12th

7 PM - 8:30 PM

New Castle Historical Society
30 Market St, New Castle



3-7
Sr. Ctr. St. Patrick's Party

3-21
TRUSTEES ELECTION

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
Separation Day Weekend

Countn' The Days

0 until

2/2 Groundhog Day
13 until

2-14 Valentine's Day
16 until

2/17 Presidents' Day
24 until

2/25 Mardi Gras
37 until

3/9 Daylight Saving Time
45 until

3/17 St. Patrick's Day
48 until

3/20 SPRING
60 until

4/1 April Fools Day
71 until

4/12 Easter
90 until

5/1 May Market
94 until

5/5 Cinco de Mayo
99 until

5/10 Mother's Day
105 until

5/16 Day in Old New Castle
132 until

6/12 Separation Day
140 until

6/20 Summer
141 until

6/21 Father's Day

TIDES & CURRENTS				
Reedy Point Tides				
	h	m	ft	cm
2	05:16 AM	4.7	143	
	12:18 PM	0.4	12	
Su	05:51 PM	4.4	134	
3	12:21 AM	0.2	6	
	06:11 AM	4.8	146	
M	01:20 PM	0.4	12	
	06:49 PM	4.4	134	
4	01:18 AM	0.2	6	
	07:08 AM	5.0	152	
Tu	02:21 PM	0.3	9	
	07:46 PM	4.4	134	
5	02:17 AM	0.1	3	
	08:05 AM	5.1	155	
W	03:21 PM	0.2	6	
	08:41 PM	4.5	137	
6	03:16 AM	0.0	0	
	08:59 AM	5.4	165	
Th	04:17 PM	0.0	0	
	09:33 PM	4.6	140	
7	04:13 AM	-0.2	-6	
	09:50 AM	5.6	171	
F	05:10 PM	-0.2	-6	
	10:23 PM	4.8	146	
8	05:07 AM	-0.4	-12	
	10:40 AM	5.8	177	
Sa	06:00 PM	-0.4	-12	
	11:11 PM	5.0	152	



2	☀️ 7:10am	🌙 5:22pm
3	☀️ 7:09am	🌙 5:23pm
4	☀️ 7:08am	🌙 5:24pm
5	☀️ 7:07am	🌙 5:25pm
6	☀️ 7:06am	🌙 5:26pm
7	☀️ 7:05am	🌙 5:28pm
8	☀️ 7:04am	🌙 5:29pm



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INFO HERE

COBBLESTONES Published weekly. Emailed every Sunday morning to over 925 residents and neighbors in the tri-state area and others nationwide with ties to our community and its history. Another 250 plus view the Cobblestones Facebook page weekly.

Supported by **SUBSCRIPTIONS/DONATIONS** @ \$15 per year (more if you wish).

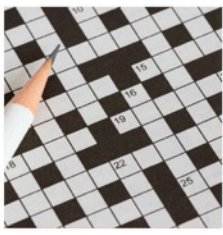
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE COMPETITION

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Fun,
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Bring a friend!

Sunday, March 15
Doors open @ 12
Puzzles start @ 1
\$5 Entry Fee



REGISTRATION REQUIRED - CALL 302-328-1995 TO REGISTER



The Delaware Chronic Pain Self-Management Program

FREE Chronic Pain Education

New Castle Senior Center

400 South St

New Castle, DE 19720

When: 3/9 - 4/13/20

Mondays, from 9:30am - 12pm

(3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 3/30, 4/6 & 4/13)

More knowledge about chronic pain can:

- Help prevent and/or delay health complications
- Identify techniques to help diminish chronic pain
- Help people with chronic pain understand the importance of an action plan for chronic pain control
- Improve chronic pain self-management

More knowledge about chronic pain can improve your life!



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Division of Public Health

Bureau of Chronic Disease

Call today and sign up for free classes!

Register online at HealthyDelaware.org/SelfManagement or call:

Self-Management Programs 302-990-0522 or

New Castle Senior Center 302-326-4209



Sat, Feb. 15 "African Americans on the Eastern Shore." Lecture by Jim Blackwell of the Seaford Museum exploring Eastern Shore history, slavery, the Ross family and Harriet Tubman. Presented in celebration of African American History Month. Zwaanendael



Museum, 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. Program at 2

p.m. on the museum's 2nd floor (entry via staircase; no elevator). Museum open 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Free admission but, due to space restrictions, reservations for the lecture are required by calling 302-645-1148 no later than Feb. 14.

Sat, Feb. 15 "Out of the Many, the One." Screening and discussion of the final episode of the three-part PBS documentary "American Epic" which explores how the ordinary people of America were given the opportunity to make records for the first time. Presented in celebration of African American History Month. Johnson Victrola Museum, 375 S. New St., Dover. Screenings at 10 a.m., Noon and 2 p.m. in the 2nd floor gallery (entry via staircase; no elevator). Museum open 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. 302-739-3262.

Sat, Feb. 15 "The African American Experience in Delaware." Historic-site interpreter Dennis Fisher explores Delaware's rich African American culture, history and legacy from the 18th to the 20th century. The Old State House, 25 The Green, Dover. Program at 1 p.m. Museum open 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. 302-744-5054.

Mon, Feb. 17 Presidents Day. The following museums of the State of Delaware will be open: The Johnson Victrola Museum and The Old State House, open 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The following museums will be closed: The John Dickinson Plantation, the New Castle Court House Museum and the Zwaanendael Museum. 302-744-5054

Sat, Feb. 22 "Revisiting the Founding Era." Presentation by Bob Vander Decker, historical interpreter for the New Castle Court House Museum and Boy Scouts of America district leader. Presented in partnership with the New Castle Public Library. Boy Scouts can earn requirements for several scout-related merit badges by attending the program. Girl Scouts and all interested youths (ages 12-18) are also welcome. New Castle Public Library, 424 Delaware St., New Castle. Program 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. followed by a tour of the New Castle Court House Museum at 1:30 p.m. Lunch provided. Free admission but registration required by calling the library at 302-328-1995 or the museum at 302-323-4453.

Sat, Feb. 22 "The Women's Suffrage Movement: Below the Color-Line." African American History Month program by historian Syl Woolford explores the struggle for women to gain the right to vote and the role played by black women in the movement. The Old State House, 25 The Green, Dover. Program at 1 p.m. Museum open 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. 302-744-5054.

Sat, Feb. 22 "Coffee, Cross Stitch and Conversation." Stitch-along program with guidance from museum historical interpreter and cross stitcher Madeline Golden. One of two original patterns featuring the Zwaanendael Museum will be available for participants as they enjoy refreshments and conversation while working on their chosen design. Appropriate for both beginners and advanced cross stitchers. Zwaanendael Museum, 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. Program at 2 p.m. on the museum's 2nd floor (entry via staircase; no elevator). Museum open 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Admission fee of \$10 includes materials for visitors to create their own cross stitch. Due to space restrictions, reservations for the workshop are required by calling 302-645-1148 no later than Feb. 15.



Harriet Tubman will be one of the subjects explored in the program, "African Americans on the Eastern Shore," at the Zwaanendael Museum on Feb. 25.

Sunday, Feb. 23 "George Washington's Unique Skill in Picking Top Talent." Presentation by Dr. Sam Hoff of Delaware State University and museum historical interpreter Tom Welch on the men that Washington chose to serve in the military, in his spy networks, in his Cabinet and on the Supreme Court. The Old State House, 25 The Green, Dover. Program at 2 p.m. Museum open 1:30-4:30 p.m. Free admission but, due to space restrictions, reservations are suggested by calling 302-744-5054.

Ongoing "Delaware Railroads: Elegant Travel and Timely Transport." Exhibit explores the history of rail travel and transport in the First State emphasizing the New Castle and Frenchtown Railroad (1832), the Delaware Railroad (1852), the Junction and Breakwater Railroad (1857) and the Queen Anne's Railroad (1896).

Zwaanendael Museum, 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. Nov. 1-March 31: Wed.-Sat., 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. April 1-Oct. 31: Tue.-Sat., 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30-4:30 p.m. 302-645-1148.

Ongoing "Five Stories." Display explores the varied lives of people who lived on the plantation including Dickinson family members, tenant farmers, tradesmen, free blacks, indentured servants and enslaved individuals. John Dickinson Plantation Welcome Center, 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Oct. 1-March 31: Tue.-Sat., 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. April 1-Sept. 30: Tue.-Sat., 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30-4:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.



Tell them you saw it the

COBBLESTONES



What was originally planned as just a mid-year budget review became much more when honorary resolutions, a resolution re: the style of pole to be used for the traffic light at 6th & Delaware, a resolution to authorize funds for a WILMAPCO transportation study, and a resolution to revise guidelines were added.

HAC

The honorary resolutions were added by the Mayor for long-time Goodwill and Auxiliary members **Wallace Cannon** and **Lois Casson** and for recently deceased long-time Goodwill member **William "Erve" Thatcher**. The Mayor was a little late arriving for the meeting which changed the order of items on the agenda. This became an issue later when Dorsey Fiske arrived after the public comment period but still wished to speak about the HAC guideline revisions. More about that in the discussion of that issue.

We approved the minutes of the Dec. 10, 2019 regular meeting which could not be considered at the January regular meeting due to a clerical error in the agenda. From this we went to public comments since the Mayor had not yet arrived.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

Judy Baldini asked for clarification of difference between the types of poles and asked if there will be a separate electronics box. City Administrator William Barthel said there will be a separate electronics box on a different corner from the pole. Councilperson Platt said he thinks the box will be on the corner where the tree was removed.

Dave Baldini said he thinks funds for the traffic study will be money well spent since it is all-inclusive.

Rod Gillespie said he thinks the resolution amending HAC guidelines is about the 3rd Street parking lot and thinks it was proposed because bids were high for a brick or concrete surface in the lot even though these surfaces were specified in the HAC-approved plan for the parking lot. He went on to say that he thinks the Trustees asked for this revision and, if so, asked if this means the previous HAC ruling is overruled and the Trustees will have to start the process again. Council President Ratchford did not answer his questions but said that this is a "generic change" to the guidelines.

Binney Beale referred to **Ordinance 510** (allowing parking lots in the Historic Area by special exception) and said he thinks it is a strike against the historic nature of the City and that the lot is not needed. Ms Ratchford reminded him that comments must be about tonight's agenda items. Mr. Beale went on to say that there are not enough spots in the proposed lot for visitors at big events so he thinks the lot is to serve commercial interests. Since the Trust owns the land, it is a public entity.

Mayor's Honorary Resolutions

The Mayor arrived during the comments so we went back to his honorary resolutions at this point. He apologized for being late. He said these resolutions are timely as Goodwill Fire Dept. has a banquet planned for Sunday.

Resolution 2020-04 regarding the style of pole to be used for the traffic light at 6th & Delaware

Ms Ratchford then moved on to the remainder of the agenda. Dorsey Fiske, who arrived only a few minutes before this, asked when there would be time for public comments. Ms Ratchford said the agenda had been taken out of the published order and the public comment period was over. Ms Fiske objected because she was late due to a disability and thus should be accommodated. Mr. Gillespie added that the reason the agenda was taken out of order was because the Mayor was late and asked that Ms Fiske be allowed to comment on agenda items. Ms Ratchford would not permit this and we began the discussion of Resolution 2020-04.

Mr. Barthel reminded us that Mr. Platt had asked for an evaluation of the corners to determine if there was sufficient space for the decorative poles with a skirt. DELDOT determined that there was not enough space. They have also found that the placement of the skirt makes it difficult for people to reach the button to press for pedestrian crossing. Ms Ratchford said she thought this left us with 2 choices, the plain black pole at a cost to the City of \$9023 or an ornamental, fluted black pole at a cost of \$16,958. The pole with a skirt carries a cost of \$22,318.

Councilperson Smith asked if DELDOT will still use the pole we select for this intersection at the Ferry Cutoff intersection when that pole is replaced without charging the City an additional fee. Mr. Barthel said yes. Ms Ratchford asked if we have to pay the fee in FY20 since the traffic light won't be installed until FY21 (after 7/1/20). Mr. Barthel said we may have to make a down payment in FY20 and thinks we have funds available to do this.

There was a motion to approve funds for the ornamental pole with no skirt at a cost of \$16,958. This was approved unanimously.

Resolution 2020-05 to commit \$15,000 per year for the next 2 years for a WILMAPCO transportation plan update

Ms Ratchford introduced the resolution by saying that it is related to our pending comprehensive plan update. We want the State to consider the problem of through traffic in New Castle on state roads (Routes 273, 9, and 141). Completion of this study will help the City get the attention of DELDOT. While there is no guarantee that the study would lead to DELDOT funding, without it projects in the City are unlikely to be funded.

Mr. Smith said he hopes the study will address the flooding problems on Rt. 9 south of the City as we are currently a long way out on the planning cycle on this issue. The last transportation study was in 1999 and there have been many changes in 20 years so he thinks the study is much needed. Mr. Platt agreed.

The resolution passed unanimously. Ms Ratchford said there will be citizen input in defining the scope of the study.

Resolution 2020-06 a to amend HAC Guidelines regarding paving materials for multi-use trails and commercial/institutional/public parking lots

Ms Ratchford said that the Guidelines were approved about 5 years ago as proposed by the Historic Area Review Commission. Council approved most of the revisions suggested by the Commission.

Mr. Smith said that it was unfair to ask HAC to make a decision on the 3rd Street parking lot when the guidelines didn't address parking lots. He said there are 11 parking lots in the historic area and all are paved with asphalt. He also thinks large slabs of concrete are unattractive.

Ms Ratchford said the Guidelines as written were never intended to apply to parking lots and that this resolution just allows options. She noted that the historic area in Cape May, NJ says that concrete is not appropriate.

I said that I wasn't as concerned about asphalt vs. concrete as about the precedent established by having Council amend the Guidelines of its own initiative. City Code provides that the changes to the Guidelines may be proposed by Council, the architect, the HAC, or a commission appointed by Council. I asked under what circumstances Ms Ratchford envisioned the Council initiating revisions in the future. She referred the question to City Solicitor Losco who said it would depend on circumstances but Code did allow Council to initiate changes.

I also asked if HAC had reported a problem applying the Guidelines to a specific proposal before them. Ms Ratchford said they made no formal request but she understands that they had trouble with this issue. I asked what City Architect Leila Hamrout thought of this resolution. Ms Ratchford said she had not been consulted. I commented that since we pay for her professional expertise, why would we not consult her on such an issue. Mr. Platt said that infrastructure is the purview of Council. He also said that Rod Gillespie told him that asphalt is "more historic" than concrete.

The resolution passed 4-1. I voted no and said that I did so because there had been no input from HAC or Ms Hamroun.

Budget Review

Mr. Barthel began the discussion with an overview. He said that, based on the current budget, unless a major issue arises unexpectedly we're in good shape and within our budget. No spending categories are out of line.

Ms Ratchford said that in recent years there has been much focus on administrative efficiencies which have made a difference. Mr. Barthel said that in 2013 we spent \$1.4 million for administration and public works. In 2019 this was \$1.3 million, \$124,752 less. The comparison includes negotiated wage increases as well as increases in costs for health insurance and other items. Savings were achieved by reducing middle management. In public safety, in 2013 we spent \$1.6 million for 16 police officers, the chief, and 2 administrators. In 2019 we spent \$1.7 million for 17 officers, the chief, and 1 administrator. This includes an 11% wage increase negotiated with the FOP which was an actual increase of 8.3% in personnel costs due to increased efficiencies.

Treasurer Janet Carlin commented that the budget is created each year based on history. It is an educated guess. She and the Finance Coordinator Kathy Walls need to know what Council wants so they can plan accordingly.

Mr. Smith spoke about grant issues. He thinks these should be part of the base budget, not appropriated from what is left after other expenses are met. Mr. Platt said we still have a number of major infrastructure projects to complete, for example Casimir Dr. He said that Public Works and the Police Dept. have done well but we must look at what needs to be done if Delmarva will be replacing all gas lines in the City. We should repave the streets as this is done which costs about \$200,000 per block. He suggests we talk to Building Official Jeff Bergstrom and Code Enforcement Officer Furio Casale as they are "on the road all the time".

Councilperson Valerie Leary asked if there is still a "triage" list of projects. Mr. Barthel said yes, Mr. Bergstrom reviews and prioritizes what needs to be done. He added that we have to match need with available funds so that if the top priority item costs more than we have but the 2nd priority fits within our budget, we do the 2nd priority.

Mr. Smith asked if we are keeping pace or falling behind. Mr. Barthel said that Mr. Bergstrom says theoretically we should spend \$1 million per year on paving to keep up. Some years we do big projects like Delaware St. which cost more, other years we do less. Much of our funding for this comes from the State but estimates are that the State funds only 20% of needs statewide. He said that compared to other towns we do fairly well, "holding our own".

I asked when taxes were last increased – 2009. I pointed out that while inflation hasn't been high during the last 10 years, there has still been inflation and our taxes need to keep pace. If we increase taxes, I think a substantial portion should be designated for capital improvements. Ms Ratchford spoke of the option to create specific fees dedicated to specific needs. I had done some simple math and said that, based on FY2020 tax receipts, if we increased taxes by 2% it would bring additional revenue of \$76,158. Based on my own property tax, this would be an increase of \$13 per year. A 5% increase would bring \$152,316 to the City and increase my City tax bill by about \$32.

Mayor Quaranta said that infrastructure is a national problem and we're in better shape than most. The Port of Wilmington is expanding which will bring increased truck traffic to the City. Delaware's population is aging. Other areas have programs to help homeowners improve their property with a lien which is satisfied when the property is sold. He said that we need to repair our sidewalks and should look at this on a block-by-block basis. Repairing the walks on a whole block at once would reduce costs. He thinks the public is more likely to support a tax increase if they see benefits in infrastructure.

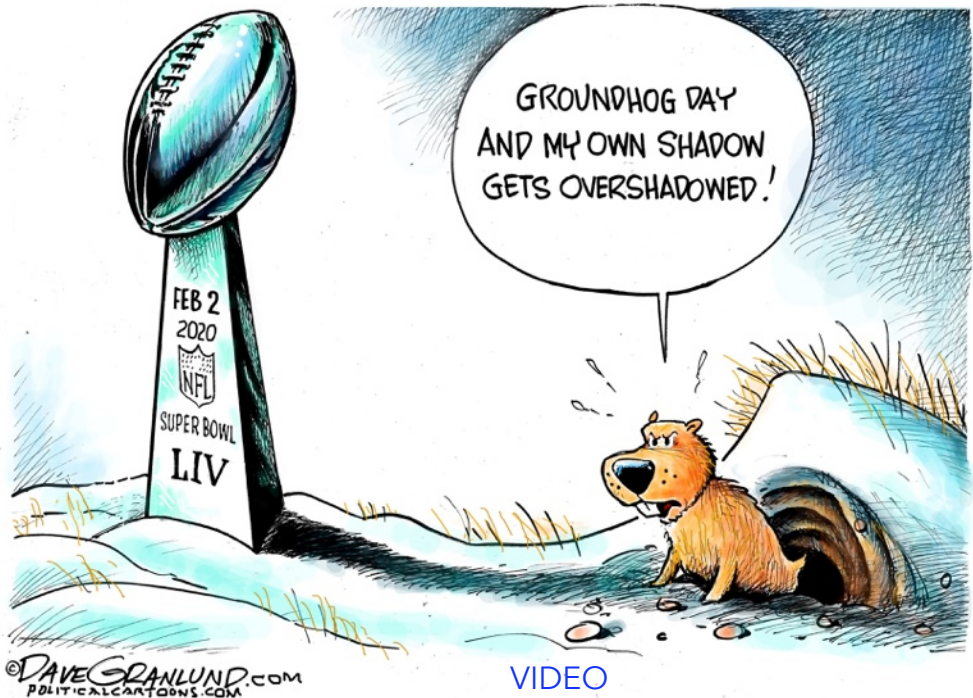
Mr. Smith said we will need money for resiliency and will know more once we get the results of the study of options for shoreline protection. Mr. Platt said he is concerned about the impact of a storm water fee aka "rain tax" on non-profits such as churches, the fire department, senior center, etc with large parking lots since such fees are calculated based on the amount of impervious surface. Ms Ratchford said some places charge these fees at a flat rate, 1 for homes and another for businesses which is less burdensome.

Mr. Quaranta asked how many residential properties are in the City and how many commercial. Ms Walls said they don't have that breakdown but she can try to get it. Our property tax is charged at the same rate for all types of property so the only thing she can do is look at the zoning codes for commercial and residential.

He also spoke of the need to modernize communications to promote the City and help our organizations promote their events. Perhaps this can be done as a contract since the work probably wouldn't be enough to justify even a part-time employee. He added that the City should consider creating a non-profit organization to receive contributions from major businesses such as Amazon. Mr. Smith commented that the problem is you can't control the non-profit. Ms Leary said that the Community Partnership already works to promote the City and its events; there is no need to reinvent the wheel.

We agreed to have another special meeting in Feb. devoted entirely to the budget..

To view this discussion on the web, visit <https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/council-updates/67a0f28e-a676-44c5-b79e-0385c740fc4c>



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