

Potential hazard

A very dangerous situation at the wharf and Battery Park in New Castle was brought to the attention of Cobblestones. A savvy Cobble reader feels the City and/or Trustees should correct this before someone falls off the edge. About 100 feet of fence is needed until proper repairs are made.

A member of the Trustees offered the following:

Many months ago, the Trust, as management authority of the Park, approved a funding match for a State grant to develop construction documents for a living shoreline, approximately 100 lineal feet in length. (see page 7).

The project scope will replace the existing wooden bulkhead. The City of New Castle was the grant applicant, as the fee simple owner of the Park property. The grant application was discussed and approved by Council months ago at a Council meeting and this information was reported widely. Upon completion of the construction documents, funding sources will be identified for the construction, which is expected to be several hundred thousand dollars.

The existing bulkhead, a structure installed decades ago, is maintained for erosion with backfill, as needed, by the Trust. These measures are considered interim, until the larger plan is implemented. There has not been a report, to my knowledge, of anyone that has "fallen off" this low bulkhead and the area is at least as safe as it has been. *Continued on page 7*



this week in HISTORY

16 The National *Deaf Mute College* was incorporated in Washington. 1857, *The Jolly Corks* organization, changed it name to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks *BPOE*. 1868, *Wallace H. Carothers* received a patent for nylon. 1932, *NBC TV* begins it's first nightly newscast *☛The Camel Newsreel Theatre*. 1948,

17 The House of Representatives broke an electoral tie between *Thomas Jefferson* and *Aaron Burr*. Jefferson was elected president and Burr became VP. 1801, The first *gaslit streetlights* appeared on the streets of Baltimore. 1817, *Chester Stone*

patented a washing machine. 1827, *Julius Wolff* was credited with being the first to can sardines. 1876, World chess champion *Garry Kasparov* beat IBM supercomputer *Deep Blue*, 1996

18 *Michelangelo* died in Rome. 1564, Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is published. 1885, A ninth planet is discovered and is named *Pluto*. The discover is *Clyde Tombaugh*, 1930, *Lucille Ball* and *Desi Arnaz* signed a contract worth \$8,000,000 to continue the *☛I Love Lucy* TV show through 1955. 1953

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 *Lucy B. Hobbs* became the first woman to graduate from a dental school. 1866, The first *telephone directories* issued were distributed to residents in New Haven. It was a single page of only fifty names. 1878,

1950 - The first *International Pancake Race* was held in Liberal, Kansas. 1950, *Richard Nixon* becomes the first President to visit China. 1972

22 As you watch the *Oscars* next Sunday...*Popcorn* was introduced to English colonists when Quadequine, brother of Massasoit, brought a bag of the stuff over to dinner this day. No movies so the Indians had a big feast and sat around and watched the sun set. 1630, Organized *baseball's first* game was played in San Francisco. 1860, Frank Woolworth opens the first *Five Cent Store* in Utica, 1879, *President Coolidge* delivered the first presidential radio broadcast from the White House. 1924, First *Daytona 500* auto race-Lee Petty wins (135.521mph) 1959, Genesis first single, *☛The Silent Sun*. 1968

Presidents' Day
NO TRASH PICKUP
CITY OFFICE CLOSED
ON MONDAY, FEB 17th

Reg Mon 2/17 Revised Tues 2/18
 Reg Tues 2/18 Revised Wed 2/19

Yard Waste Pick up on Thurs., Feb. 20th
Citywide Recycle Pick up on Fri., Feb. 21st

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FLAG STATUS



Porto-Fino Pizza

& Restaurant ★ River Plaza New Castle ★ 302-322-3330

OUR NEW MENU ITEMS HAVE ARRIVED



Ordering is as easy as eating a

Pizza! With this app you can register & track your loyalty points, view your coupons, pay with your gift card and order your favorite food online. [CLICK HERE](#)

Come check out our

NEW PARTY ROOM

We are now taking reservations for 10 or more guests!!

Please call us for your **Holiday Party, Baby Shower, Birthday, Graduation, Business Meeting Events, etc.**



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► **NASCAR Sprint C.**

2/16 DAYTONA 500
2/23 Pennzoil 400,
3/1 Auto Club 400,
3/8: FanShield 500,
3/15 Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500

2:30p International Spdwy
7:30p Las Vegas Motor Spdwy
3:30p Auto Club Spdwy
3:30p Phoenix Raceway
2p Atlanta Motor Spdwy



New Castle City Police Department NOW HIRING

See their Facebook page at
<https://www.facebook.com/NewCastleCityPolice/>

Happy Cobblestone Birthday

Sun 2-16 **Rich Henion**

Mon 2-17 **Maggie Alexander ★ Marsha Andrews ★ Doug Edwards**

Wed 2-19 **Diane Keen**

Thurs 2-20 **Sara Hutchinson ★ Jacob Campbell**

Fri 2-21 **Tara Walsh Sat 2-22 Kevin Dunn**

Sun 2-23 **Carolyn King ★ Jim Graham Tues 2-25 Earl Carpenter**

Birthday or Anniversary approaching?

Tell The Teditor flytedb13@comcast.net



Notable this week 16th Nat'l Almond Day Sonny Bono*85 (1998), Margaux Hemingway*66 (1996), Ice-T-61, John McEnroe-61 **17th Champion Crab Races Day - My Way Day** Hal Holbrook-95, Rene Russo-66, Lou Diamond Phillips-58 Larry the Cable Guy-57 **18th Nat'l Drink Wine Day - Nat'l Hate Florida Day** Jack Palance*101 (2006), Yoko Ono-87, Cybill Shephard-70, John Travolta-66, Vanna White-63 **19th Chocolate Mint Day - Nat'l Lasbes Day** Eddie Arcaro*104 (1997), Lee Marvin*96 (1987), Smokey Robinson-80, Jeff Daniels-64 **20th Love Your Pet Day** Sidney Poitier-93, Sandy Duncan-73, Ivana Trump-70, Patty Hearst-65, Cindy Crawford-53 **21st Card Reading Day** Erma Bombeck*93 (1996), Rue McClanahan*86 (2010), Tyne Daly-74, Jennifer Love Hewitt-41 **22nd Be Humble Day - Walking the Dog Day** George Washington*288 (1799), 1st U.S. President, Robert Baden Powell*163 (1941), founder of Boy Scouts, Olave Baden-Powell*131 (1977), founded Girl Guides, Robert Young*113 (1998), Edward M. Kennedy-88* (2009), Steve "Crocodile Hunter" Irwin*57 (2006), Drew Barrymore-45

Dalby Alley Day



See Page 7

7th Annual atTack Addiction 5K Saturday, March 7th

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."

1,175 PRE-REGISTERED





at Our Senior Center

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

Mon 2-17 CENTER CLOSED Presidents' Day **Tues 2-18 9-12 AARP Tax Aide 12:30 Pokeno**
Wed 2-19 10 Adult Coloring 10 New Castle Court House Museum 11:15 Ethnic Luncheon **Thurs 2-20 9 Bank & PO 9 \$tand by Me**
10 Blood Pressure Screenings 12:30 Shop Rite 4 Movie Club **Fri 2-21 12:15 Birthday Celebrations 12:30 Aerobics for the Mind**

"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

2-17 CLOSED Washington's Birthday
2-19 Family Pizza & a Movie* 5:30p
"Small Foot" All Ages
2-20 THE USUAL SUSPECTS 5:30p
FAMILY STORY TIME 6:30p
"Library Lovers' Month"
THURS. NIGHT @ The MOVIES 6:30p*/Adults
"The Two Popes"

Monday
Computer & Job Search Help* 11:30a Adults
THINKOLOGY 4-5p/Kids 8-14

Tuesday
Crafty Story Time 10:30a/Kids 2+
GED in Spanish* 6:30-8:30p

Wednesday
Teen Time 3:30-4:30PM Teens 12 +

Thursday
Social Worker at Library, 2-4p
Drop-in Computer & Job Search Help 2:30-4PM Adults
GED in Spanish* 6:30-8:30p

Friday
Toddler Stay & Play 11a Kids 2 & older
 *registration required

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



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



Personal All States
 Audit Representation
 Delinquent Returns

Business
 All Schedules
 Bookkeeping

John A. Di Mondì E.A.
 (302) 328-4148
 Tax & Accounting

johndimondi@hotmail.com

P.O. Box 72
 301 W. 7th Street
 New Castle., DE. 19720

E-File Provider
 Enrolled Agent
 Fax: (302) 328-4268

See **THE WEEKLY** for Full Schedules

Fri. 2/21 **SPECIAL** City Council Mtg. 1:30p
 Mon. 2/24 Planning Commission Mtg. 6:30p
 Mon. 3/2 Tree Advisory Commission 4pm
 Tues. 3/10 City Council Meeting 7pm
 Thurs. 3/12 Historic Area Commission Mtg. 6:30pm
 ▶ <http://newcastlecit.delaware.gov/>



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.

Congratulations



Cobble **Rikki Barnett** received the **Colonel SBI Duncan Leadership Award**. The award is only given to two members of the entire Delaware National Guard each year, and was received based on her significant contributions in recruiting, industry, devotion to duty, task accomplishment, influencing and directing others, and community involvement.



Nadia G. Class of 2019

Make education your new resolution.

WilmU works in 2020.

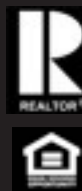


Find out why at
wilmu.edu/WilmUWorks

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Townhome with 3 bdrms and a great
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Call for information on the market and available properties!

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The Weekly is back at...



Thanks to all who wrote, called and stopped into
Walgreens to express your desire for them to carry
The Weekly. The newspaper has recently been
notified by Walgreens corporate headquarters in
Illinois that they will carry it again,
starting immediately.



Marley is as charming as he is adorable. He works his magic with
anyone who comes into the free-roaming cat room, where he gets along well
with the other kitties. This spunky kitty is tri-pawed from a prior injury, but you'd
never know watching him work a room. Marley is just a year old and should do
well with most families. Marley can be adopted for a fee you name through
Sunday, February 23rd.
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

For your weekend pleasure, let's serve up the most epic cinnamon swirl pancakes.



There's a good chance you have all the ingredients in your kitchen cupboards and fridge to make these this very weekend. **All you need is flour, sugar, baking powder, milk, eggs and vanilla. For the cinnamon sugar swirl you'll need dark brown sugar, butter and cinnamon.**

In a medium bowl whisk together the **2 cups flour, 1 tbsp of both sugar and baking powder and a tsp of kosher salt.**

Next, pour in the **2 cups of milk, crack in both eggs and 1/2 tsp of vanilla extract.**

Whisk until the wet ingredients are incorporated into the dry, pour in the tbsp of coconut oil and set aside.

In a small saucepan, melt the **1/2 cup (1 stick) of unsalted butter and stir in the 3/4 cup of dark brown sugar and rounded tbsp of cinnamon.** Pour it into a reusable squeeze bottle, which will make it a whole lot easier to drizzle into a spiral. Otherwise you can pour into a ziplock baggie and snip the corner. Happy your griddle to 400° and grease with coconut oil. **Pour 1/3 cup of the pancake batter on to your griddle.** Now that the batter has spread out, start in the center, and **then drizzle the brown sugar and cinnamon mixture in a spiral design.**



Then, once the bubbles pop and stop filling back in, flip and cook for an additional 1 to 3 minutes. You want the brown sugar mixture to have a chance to caramelize.



SEE 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

This decadent dessert drink is perfect for those of you who love Irish Coffee. A frozen boozy drink that is sure to please anyone! Creamy, cold, refreshing, and a definite must try!

BAILEY'S MOCHA FRAPPUCCINO



ON THE COUNTER!

2 cups ice cubes - 1 cup brewed coffee - 1/2 cup **Bailey's Irish Cream** - 1 cup milk - 1 tbsp sugar - 2 tbsp chocolate fudge sauce - whipped cream/sprinkles

- In a blender, combine the ice cubes, coffee, Bailey's, milk, sugar, and chocolate sauce.
- Blend until smooth and creamy.
- Pour into two glasses evenly, enjoy jointly!



February Long Range Weather Forecast

Feb 1-8 Snow showers, very cold
Feb 9-15 Rain and snow showers, mild
Feb 16-19 Rainy, quite mild
Feb 20-23 Rain and snow showers, mild
Feb 24-29 Snow showers, cold

February
 temperature 25° (2° above avg.)
 precipitation 2.5" (avg.)



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

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).

Flytedb13@comcast.net Please make check payable to: Ted Joslin - 112 Delaware Street, New Castle DE 19720.



Very economical advertising rates available. Thank You



Teditor



- 3-7 Sr. Ctr. St. Patrick's Party
 3-21 TRUSTEES ELECTION
 3-21 St. Anthony's Wine Tasting & Dinner
 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

- 2 until
 2/17 **Presidents' Day**
 10 until
 2/25 **Mardi Gras**
 23 until
 3/9 **Daylight Saving Time**
 31 until
 3/17 **St. Patrick's Day**
 34 until
 3/20 **SPRING**
 46 until
 4/1 **April Fools Day**
 57 until
 4/12 **Easter**
 76 until
 5/1 **May Market**
 80 until
 5/5 **Cinco de Mayo**
 85 until
 5/10 **Mother's Day**
 91 until
 5/16 **Day in Old New Castle**
 118 until
 6/12 **Separation Day**
 133 until
 6/20 **Summer**
 127 until
 6/21 **Father's Day**
 159 until
 7/23 **Del. State Fair**

TIDES & CURRENTS		Reedy Point Tides			
		h	m	ft	cm
16		16	05:19 AM	5.3	162
			12:27 PM	-0.1	-3
		Su	05:51 PM	4.8	146
17		17	12:41 AM	-0.1	-3
			06:21 AM	5.3	162
		M	01:28 PM	0.0	0
			06:53 PM	4.8	146
18		18	01:39 AM	0.0	0
			07:22 AM	5.3	162
		Tu	02:28 PM	0.0	0
			07:53 PM	4.8	146
19		19	02:37 AM	0.0	0
			08:21 AM	5.3	162
		W	03:26 PM	-0.1	-3
			08:49 PM	4.8	146
20		20	03:32 AM	-0.1	-3
			09:15 AM	5.4	165
		Th	04:19 PM	-0.1	-3
			09:41 PM	4.9	149
21		21	04:23 AM	-0.1	-3
			10:05 AM	5.4	165
		F	05:07 PM	-0.2	-6
			10:29 PM	5.0	152
22		22	05:11 AM	-0.1	-3
			10:50 AM	5.5	168
		Sa	05:52 PM	-0.2	-6
			11:14 PM	5.0	152



16		6:55am		5:38pm
17		6:53am		5:39pm
18		6:52am		5:40pm
19		6:51am		5:42pm
20		6:49am		5:43pm
21		6:48am		5:44pm
22		6:47am		5:45pm



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WP MEDIA STUDENTS



William Penn Media students, Evan Philakhone, Alexander Shumate, Journei Brandon, A'Javier Balkum, Beth Waguespack preparing for a shoot of a promotion ceremony with the Delaware Capitol police. This team is available to film or photograph *any event!*

www.thewpmedia.com

Tell them you saw it in the

COBBLESTONES



2020 BASEBALL/SOFTBALL ★ REGISTER NOW! ★

REGISTER ONLINE

WWW.NEWCASTLELITTLELEAGUE.COM

DOCUMENT DROPOFF AT NCLL CLUBHOUSE

FEB. 8th 10-12PM & FEB. 12th 6-8PM

2020 EARLY BIRD PRICING

SENIOR BASEBALL* (AGES 13-16)	\$220	SENIOR SOFTBALL* (13-16)	\$195
JUNIOR BASEBALL* (13-14)	\$220	JUNIOR SOFTBALL* (13-14)	\$195
MAJORS BASEBALL* (9-12)	\$195	MAJORS SOFTBALL (9-12)	\$150
MINOR A BASEBALL (8-12)	\$150	MINOR SOFTBALL (6-10)	\$150
MINOR B BASEBALL (6-8)	\$150		
TEE BALL (4-6)	\$125		

*STANDARD PRICING: Add \$25 per registration after Feb. 24th.

*Sibling discount: First child full price, each additional child receives \$50 discount.

*Includes Umpire Fee.

PLAY FOR FREE: Receive the equivalent number of raffle tickets based on your registration fees. Sell the raffle tickets and keep the money. If you sell them all, you get all of your money back and your child(ren) play for free!!

BRING A COPY OF ONE DOCUMENT FROM EACH OF THE FOLLOWING GROUPS:

GROUP ONE Driver's License School records Vehicle records Employment records Insurance documents	GROUP TWO Welfare/child Care records Federal records State records Local (municipal) records Support payment records Homeowner or tenant records	GROUP THREE Voter's Registration Utility bills Financial Records Medical Records Internet, cable, satellite records
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Please Note: Documents must be dated between 2/1/19 and 2/1/20



NEWCASTLELITTLELEAGUE@GMAIL.COM



CROSSWORD PUZZLE COMPETITION

@ New Castle
Public Library

424 Delaware St.
New Castle, DE, 19720

Sponsored by:
Patio Printing,
James Whisman,
The Flower Place,
New Castle
Weekly,
Cobblestones,
Cafe New Castle



Fun,
Informal,
Challenging,
Bring a friend!

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



REGISTRATION REQUIRED - CALL 302-328-1995 TO REGISTER

Bulkhead *from page 1*

A recent storm caused some erosion, as those intense storms typically do, but there was no apparent structural change to the bulkhead.

Erosion repairs have already been made and much of the debris and wash up trash has been removed by the Trust maintenance team. This living shoreline is one of the many multiphase green infrastructure property improvements, led by the Trust. These property advancements include meadow developments throughout the City, drainage infrastructure through the Park, supporting water quantity and quality run off from Delaware Street, W. 3rd and W. 4th Street, as well as walkway and other open space improvements.





BUDGET REVIEW- All Council members present except Mr. Platt who had an unexpected work commitment. Treasurer Janet Carlin, Finance Director Kathy Walls, and City Administrator Bill Barthel were also present.

According to Linda Ratchford, property taxes are our biggest income source. While discussing the possibility of a tax increase at our last budget meeting, we asked for the breakdown of residential and commercial properties in the City. We learned tonight that we can't get exact numbers as City records don't break things down this way and all types of properties are taxed at the same rate, currently \$1.2 per \$100 of assessed value. In New Castle County, only the county does reassessments and last did so in 1983. We could reassess on our own but would have to pay for it and it is very costly.

Based on New Castle County tax records we have about 2600 properties. Of these, 122 are commercial, 10 apartments, 60 industrial, 63 exempt commercial (we weren't sure what this is, it could be government buildings), 12 utilities, 1 farm, and 2331 residential.

Another way of looking at it is by the number of water meters for various types of property. According to the MSC we have 1882 single family homes, 75 multi-family master (a single meter for multiple units), 177 multi-family individual (each unit has own meter), 16 government, 144 commercial (includes nonprofits), 3 agricultural, and 16 city/MS.

We discussed what other cities do and compared tax rates. Russ Smith said that Odessa and Elsmere apply different tax rates to residential and commercial properties. Ms Ratchford mentioned that some cities charge various fees per unit. For example, Elsmere charges \$437 plus the tax based on assessed value. Middletown has a street fee to cover street maintenance. Wilmington and others have storm water fees.

We compared New Castle tax rates to those in other cities in the county. These range from \$1.99 per \$100 (Wilmington & Hockessin) to \$0.30 in Middletown which has other fees as mentioned above. So, New Castle is about in the middle.

I asked when the City tax rate was last raised. It was in 2009. I looked up the inflation rate since then on a US Dept. of Labor website and found that from Jan. 2009 to Dec. 2019 inflation totaled 21.7%. The City has done a lot of economizing during this period through reorganization so we are "keeping the lights on" but don't have much left over for capital projects or grants to non-profits such as Goodwill Fire Company or the Historical Society which runs our Visitors' Center.

We discussed needed capital projects. The City Engineer and the Building Official keep a list of needed projects in priority order. The order can shift as things change but currently 13th St & Baldt Ave, 2nd St, and 2 others Mr. Barthel couldn't recall are at the top. As I reported about the last budget meeting, the cost of capital projects is not evenly distributed. Some years we do a large project such as Delaware St. while less is done in other years. For perspective, cumulative expenditures for major road and drainage projects from FY11 through FY 21 total \$5,984,000 for an average of \$536,731 per year. Not all of this is funded from City income because we receive Municipal Street Aid from the State. Also, state legislators have Community Transportation Fund money to distribute for such projects in their districts. New Castle is fortunate to also have the Trustees to assist with such projects.

Russ Smith asked if we have a backlog or are keeping current. Bill Barthel said we aren't really keeping current but have increased these expenditures in recent years. He added that streets don't deteriorate at an even rate as some areas have more truck traffic, etc. He added that we will have a better sense of what is needed for FY21 in another month or two after costs for current projects become more certain. For example, we are still waiting for final numbers on changes to the Delaware Street Project due to the utility work being combined with the repaving. (More about this in the notes on the regular meeting.)

Ms Ratchford explained that the Street Aid from the State is a set formula of so much per mile of roads per year. Transportation Fund grants from our legislators are less predictable. We have also received

other grants for specific projects such as from DNREC and the Conservation District.

We discussed the possibility of designating most or all of any tax increase to capital projects. I said I thought a tax increase might be more acceptable to most residents if they knew the money was going to street repair and other capital improvements. Kathy Walls, City Finance Director, reminded us that any such commitment we make could not dictate the action of future Councils. In other words we could designate an amount to go into a capital reserve fund but a future Council could choose to spend the money for other things. I said we can't control the actions of future Councils but they would have to answer to residents for their decisions.

We had a brief discussion of other items such as funding for plantings in the City, holiday decorations, etc; money for Goodwill Fire Company; and funding to staff the Visitors' Center full time at least during our peak season.

Ms Walls pointed out that we don't yet know how much income will decrease due to the Downtown Development District fee and tax waivers. So far there are 3 applicants for this program. Mr. Barthel said that by April or May we should have the report on the MSC/City campus plan which would spell out the next phase and cost estimates should we decide to proceed.

We ended with the decision to each submit a list of our top priorities for spending (in priority order) to Mr. Barthel with approximate costs included. We will meet again in March to consolidate the lists.

REGULAR MEETING-All Council members present plus Mr. Barthel, Ms Carlin, Building Official Jeff Bergstrom, Mayor Quaranta, and Chief McCabe

This was a relatively short meeting with **no Resolutions or Ordinances**

We began with **A PROCLAMATION** from the Mayor honoring **Sally Monigle** for her many contributions to the historic preservation of the City of New Castle. Mrs. Monigle was unable to attend due to her health but 2 of her grandsons and several friends were present. A signed copy of the proclamation will be given to Mrs. Monigle.

MSC Report on placing wires underground along Delaware Street

Pam Patone, General Manager of the Municipal Services Commission, gave a presentation about placing utility lines underground along Delaware Street as part of the large project to repair the street. Ms Patone said they have been working on this for some time. She met with representatives of Delmarva Power, Verizon, and Comcast as well as meeting with the citizens affected by the project to discuss how power lines will be attached to their homes or businesses.

The full cost of the project is \$760,000 which includes new transformers. This will cover Delaware Street from the Wharf to 4th St. plus Dalby Alley which is crucial to manhole placement. The project was approved by the MSC at a meeting on Jan. 16, 2020.

They have to work on right-of-way issues such as on sidewalks and coordinate scheduling. Ms Patone will serve as coordinator among all the contractors since she is located in New Castle. The process will start with contractor Henkels & McCoy preparing the street; then MSC, Verizon, and Comcast will place their wires and transformers; poles will be removed; and sidewalks will be repaired.

Mr. Barthel said that these additions move expected completion of the Delaware Street Project from late May to late October. Ms Patone added that their work will be completed in Nov. She will keep affected residents updated.

Ms Ratchford asked if MSC will also co-ordinate with Delmarva Power and Ms Patone replied that they will. Ms Ratchford also asked about the placement of electric meters. Scott Blomquist, Electric Utility Manager, said that most will stay in their current locations. Ms Ratchford then asked about landscaping for the gas meters. Ms Patone said Delmarva is trying to work with residents to give them options. Ms Ratchford said she hoped Delmarva would work to minimize the impact on historic buildings.

Mr. Barthel talked about the contractors minimizing vibrations and noise in town. He said they are very cooperative and use saw cuts instead of jack hammers whenever possible.

Ms Patone closed by saying that all residents she has spoken with are very excited about getting the wires underground and are co-operative.

Ms Leary asked about row houses with no exposed sides if residents don't want the gas meter in front. Ms Ratchford said meters can be inside, only the regulators, which are quite small, must be outside. Ms Leary then asked why the gas lines are being changed. Mr Blomquist said they are changing to a more efficient high-pressure system which does require the outside regulators for safety.

Ms Ratchford said that this will be a Tier 1 review with HAC and Delmarva is currently completing the paperwork. She then asked if Verizon and Comcast wires will also be underground. Ms Patone said they will and the companies have been very cooperative. MSC is absorbing the cost of the excavation. Verizon is charging for this conversion as they have no business reason to do it. MSC is paying this as a contribution as it is not part of the electric conversion. She added that both Comcast and Verizon are using good contractors.

Ms Ratchford reminded us of the pending Ordinance requiring all new utility wires to be placed underground which will be the subject of a public hearing. Mr. Platt added that the residents of Van Dyke Village are very happy with the project to place wires underground there. He asked where the transformers will be placed in town. Ms Patone said they will be in the manholes as there is no other place for them. Mr. Blomquist added that the transformers are designed to be submersible. Ms Ratchford then asked for public comments or questions on this issue.

Victor Bryson wanted to know if there would be any cost to homeowners for this, now or in the future. Ms Patone replied that their rate design includes improvements and rates are actually going down. Ms Ratchford added that having wires underground reduces liability and eliminates problems from trees falling on power lines. Mayor Quaranta asked how rates can go down with all this work. Ms Patone said they buy power through 5-year contracts. The price of natural gas has declined since the last contract so rates can be lower.

As we moved on to the next phase of the meeting, Mr. Platt asked if there were minutes from the prior meeting. Ms Ratchford said they were not yet ready.

Treasurer's Report

Janet Carlin reported that we remain on schedule in the budgeting process.

City Administrator's Report

Mr. Barthel reminded us that the repair of the railroad crossing at Ferry Cutoff has been delayed to July of 2021. In connection with that we had discussed the possibility of a traffic light at 9th and Delaware St. with DELDOT. They are in the final stages of their review but think the light will be needed for safety reasons even though it is not justified by traffic volume. Mr. Barthel wants to have a DELDOT representative attend a future meeting to explain this fully.

Ms Ratchford asked **how the drains performed** given all the recent rain. Mr. Barthel said that the work done on the drains has helped and things are in decent shape considering the amount of rain we've had. DELDOT cleaned the area near the Ice Cream Corral on Ferry Cutoff. There was still some accumulation of water there but not as much as in the past. Mr. Platt said he doesn't think they cleaned it well as there is still a lot of trash in the ditch. He said it appears all they did was cut the phragmites.

Mr. Smith asked **who was responsible for the storm drains at 2nd and Chestnut** near the meadow as they also need to be cleaned. Mr. Barthel said we asked the Conservation District. The Trustees did some clean up there a few years ago. Mr. Smith then said that drainage at the intersection of 7th and Washington St. was still a problem due to run off from the apartments. Mr. Barthel said there are several catch basins there. Mr. Smith added that drainage on 3rd Street was much improved thanks to the Trustees and the City.

Mr. Platt said he is still **concerned about the drainage in front of the Ice Cream Corral** especially when the accumulated water and splashes from cars driving through freeze. Mr. Bergstrom, City Building Official, said he will ask the City Engineer to review this area. Mr. Barthel agreed. Mayor Quaranta pointed out that we have asked **WILMAPCO to review the entire Ferry Cutoff area** and thinks we need a holistic rather than a piecemeal approach to correcting the problems. Ms Ratchford said this review begins in May and flooding is one of the issues to be considered.

Chief of Police Report

Chief McCabe said the **atTack Addiction walk/run takes place on March 7**. He asked us to follow the Police Dept. on Facebook for information about the route as this event gets larger every year.

He saw no patterns in the quality of life complaints and reported that there were several significant drug arrests including one in Van Dyke Village. Ms Ratchford asked about porch pirates. Chief McCabe said that hasn't been a big problem here but knows it is in some surrounding areas. He said if possible have neighbors take in packages or have them delivered somewhere safer than the front porch.

Ms Ratchford asked about the water on Rt. 9 south of Dobbinsville. She wondered if people who drive through the water can be ticketed if there are signs up indicating that the road is closed. The Chief said they can be ticketed but we don't have enough officers to cover that area constantly when there is flooding. The officers do try to drive by as often as possible.

There were no communications from Council members or the President of Council.

Mayor's Report

The Mayor reported on the successful job fair at the Library held by **Just Food For Dogs**, a new business in the City which is located in Center Point Industrial Park. They will be hiring 70 or more people as they move towards their planned opening in March. The company makes fresh, human-grade food for dogs which will be distributed through PETCO in this area. Mr. Platt said he also attended and was impressed with their enthusiasm. They offer jobs at \$15 per hour with benefits. Mr. Quaranta said he hopes the Brandywine Valley SPCA will work with them and added that, with this addition, Center Point Industrial Park is full.

The **City Arts Council** has been active and **Opera Delaware** will host a performance on March 13 in the Parish House with some stand-up comedy at Sonora Restaurant after the opera performance. He thanked all who worked to make this happen and Paul McConnell of McConnell Development who made a generous contribution.

He said he has looked at the **signage for bikers coming to town** on the Markel Trail and thinks it could use some improvement. Ms Ratchford said Mr. Smith is working on this and that we have funds from the River Towns Festival designated for biking.

Mr. Quaranta ended by saying he attended the Goodwill banquet on Feb. 1 where the recognitions approved at the last Council meeting were read.

Public Comments

Victor Bryson said the problem with the road in Dobbinsville needs to be fixed. There are many bumps which are noisy when trucks hit them or the manhole covers. He thinks a small adjustment would correct this. He also took note of Mr. Barthel's report that the contractors working on Delaware St. use saws rather than jack hammers. He said that when work was done in Dobbinsville they used heavy jack hammers which caused vibrations in houses, cracking the plaster. Ms Ratchford said we would look into the noise problem.

Phil Gross said the bulkhead along Battery Park is in bad shape after recent storms and could be a major liability problem. He thinks it needs immediate attention rather than building an unnecessary parking lot. Ms Ratchford said short term repairs will be made.

Rod Gillespie said Council should pressure the Trustees to suspend work on the 3rd Street parking lot as the project is based on false premises. The AECOM study recommended making better use of existing parking before building new lots. He thinks the lot was approved based on the work of UD students which was not a valid study done by professionals. He said a FOIA request to the City showed that there was no request for a proposal and no invoice for what he called "a real study".

Karen Whalen asked if the 3rd Street parking lot was reviewed by the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs. She said she has heard both that it was and that it was not. Ms Ratchford said the Division was not consulted as this was City and private business. Ms Whalen said she thinks something of this size and impact should go through the Division as HAC is not qualified to review such projects. They review proposals for work on houses. She believes the lot was "ramrodded through" and will create a black mark which will damage the City's brand.

To view this discussion on the web, visit <https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/council-updates/6421068e-c6cb-408b-a3e6-51fd24d4b802%40googlegroups.com>.

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