

What Happens Between The COBBLESTONES IS ON EVERYONE'S LIPS

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



Vol. 11 No. 6

Cobblestones Library

May 17, 2020



K. STEWART PHOTO

THE DIG CONTINUES



P. GROSS PHOTO



MSC REDUCES ELECTRIC RATES AFTER COST OF SERVICE STUDY RESULTS

Utility Financial Solutions (UFS) presented a financial projection to the Municipal Services Commission (MSC) at their January 2020 monthly meeting and recommended the electric rates be reduced and water rates increased. The consultant was asked to develop a rate design to be reviewed at the March 2020 meeting. The March meeting had to be canceled due to the State of Emergency declared by Governor Carney as a result of COVID-19. During this national crisis it became apparent that MSC customers have been financially affected by this crisis and after review, the Commissioners voted to approve a 1% reduction in electric rates effective with the May 2020 utility bills. The recommended water rate increase will be considered at a later date. The MSC cares about all their customers and hopes everyone is being safe during these unusual times. Please feel free to contact the MSC at 302-323-2330 if you have any concerns.

this week in HISTORY

17 The *New York Stock Exchange* was founded. 1792, "And They're Off!" as the first *Kentucky Derby* is held at Churchill Downs. 1875, Congress changed the name "Porto Rico" to *Puerto Rico*. 1932, *Jan & Dean's* ♡ *Surf City* was released. 1963, *Bobby Ewing* died on the season finale of *Dallas* 1985

18 Rhode Island passed a law *banning slavery* but it causes little stir and seems unlikely to be enforced. 1652, Artist *Rembrandt Peale* registered a lithographic portrait of President George Washington. 1827, A public reading of Bram Stoker's new novel, *Dracula*, or, "The Un-dead," was performed. 1897, *Jacqueline Cochran* became the first woman to break the sound barrier. 1953, *Gene Roddenberry* suggests 16 names including Kirk for *Star Trek* Captain. 1965

19 The *Revolutionary War* begins as fighting broke out at Lexington. 1775, Connecticut approved the *Bill of Rights* after 148 years. 1939, *Dr. Sally Ride* became the first American woman in space on the shuttle Challenger (STS-7). 1983, *Sonny Bono* was inaugurated as the Mayor of Palm Springs, CA. 1988, Timothy McVeigh bombs the *Federal Building* in Oklahoma City, killing 168 people, and injuring hundreds more. 1995

20 *American Troops* began the siege of British-held Boston. 1775, Edgar Allen Poe's first detective story, *The Murders in the Rue Morgue*, 1841, Chicago's *Wrigley Field* held its first Cubs game with the first Natl League game at the ballpark. (Cubs beat the Reds 7-6 in 11 innings). 1916, ♡ *Honey* by *Bobby Goldsboro* topped the charts. An oxygen tank explodes on *Apollo 13*, preventing a planned moon landing. 1970

21 *John Adams* was sworn in as the first US Vice President. 1789, *Gen. Sam Houston* defeated Santa Anna at the Battle of San Jacinto. 1836, *Mark Twain* dies at the age of 75. 1910, *Bill Carlisle*, the infamous 'last train robber,' robbed a train in Hanna, WY. 1916, *Michael Jackson's* ♡ *Thriller* album slipped a couple of notches. 1984, *Geraldo Rivera* opened a vault that belonged to *Al Capone*. *Nuttin' Honey!* 1985

22 The first official *Natl League baseball* game took place. Boston beat Philadelphia 6-5. 1876, The first *Egg Roll* was held on the grounds of the White House. 1878, *James G. Ray* landed an autogyro on the lawn of the White House. 1931, *Randy Matson* set a world outdoor record in the shot put with a toss of 71 ft, 5-½. 1967, The first "*Earth Day*" was observed. 1970, *Barbara Walters* becomes the first female nightly news anchor. 1976, *Johnnie Taylor's* ♡ *Disco Lady* became the first single to sell over 2 million copies. 1976

23 The first English *order of knighthood* was founded. *Order of the Garter*. 1348, The *Vitascope*

system for projecting movies onto a screen was demonstrated. 1896, *Johnny Longden* became the first race jockey to ride 3,000 career winners. 1948, *Pete Rose* got his first hit. A booming triple off the Pirates' Bob Friend. 'Charlie Hustle' went on to break Ty Cobb's all-time hitting record more than 20 years later, playing for the Reds, the Phillies and the Expos. 1963, *Johnny Cash*, *Jerry Lee Lewis* and *Carl Perkins* reunited in Stuttgart, Germany and recorded ♡ *The Survivors*. 1981

WHAT'S INSIDE

Birthdays & 9th Modification	2
Hale Byrnes House	2
Police recovery	3
Adopt Cupid	4
CobbleKitchen - Locals Honored	5
Colonial School District	6
Weather Almanac, NC Historical Society	6
City Council Summary	7-9

Porto-Fino Pizza

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

Now Offering → **CURBSIDE CARRY OUT**



ORDER

Place your order & let us know you want curbside carry out



PAY

Pay with credit or debit. Please add tip at this time to reduce contact



PARK

Upon arrival, park in a designated parking area



CALL

Call & one of our associates will bring your order to your car



Thank you for your support! #EatLocal

and always our famous

PIZZA ♦ WINGS ♦ SALADS ♦ BURGERS

YOUR FAVORITE GATHERING PLACE FOR 36 YEARS



Mayor Signs 9th Modification

of State of Emergency Declaration extending the current State of Emergency in the City through May 19, 2020.

Effective Thursday, April 14, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

E.S.T., Battery Park shall be closed to all persons other than individuals who maintain their permanent residence in the City of New Castle. We will continue to monitor this extremely serious and fluid situation and will provide updates as they become available to us.

Your summer salads await you at Rosehill Plantery



Jim Piovoso, and his lovely wife Patti, have owned and managed Rosehill Plantery for more than thirty-five years.

This couple brings knowledge and experience to the gardening world.

→ Rosehillplantery@comcast.net

Happy Cobblestone Birthday



Sun 5-17 **Fred Gallagher** Mon 5-18 **Bill Renzulli** ★ **Roy Sippel**

Tues 5-19 **Tom Episcopo** Wed 5-20 **Jason Davis**

Thurs 5-21 **Danny Susie** Fri 5-22 **Angel Ramos**

Sat 5-23 **Michelle Gott** ★ **Cork Viola**

Sun 5-24 **Ellie Gerhart** ★ **Margaret Metts** Mon 5-25 **Barbara Whisman**

Tues 5-26 **Bonnie Hayslette** ★ **Baily Nagle** ★ **Judy Smith**

Wed 5-27 **Paul Freebery Sr**

Thurs 5-28 **Laurie Moison** ★ **Tom Clayton**

Sun 5-24 **6th Anniversary** **Gaby & Lew Indellini**

Thurs 5-28 **10th Anniversary** **Megan & Dave Prensner**

Birthday or Anniversary approaching?

Tell The Teditor flytedb13@comcast.net

Notable this week 17th Pack Rat Day, Maureen O'Sullivan*109 (1998), Dennis Hopper*84 (2010), Sugar Ray Leonard-64 **18th InterNat'l Museum Day** Frank Capra*123 (1991), Perry Como*108 (2001), Pope John Paul II*100 (2005), Pernell Roberts*90 (2010), Robert Morse-89, Brooks Robinson-83, Reggie Jackson-74, George Strait-68, Tina Fey-50 **19th Boy's Club Day** Jim Lebrer-85, David Hartman-84, Francis Scobee*80 (1986), Pete Townshend-74, Kyle Eastwood-51 **20th Bike to Work Day - Armed Forces Day** Henri Rousseau*174 (1910), James Stewart*110 (1997), Joe Cocker*74 (2014), Cher-72 **21st Waiters and Waitresses Day** Fats Waller*113 (1943), Raymond Burr*100 (1993), Peggy Cass*93 (1999), Leo Sayer-69, Mr. T-65, Judge Reinhold-60 **22nd Sir Arthur Conan Doyle*158** (1930), Lord Laurence Olivier*110 (1989), Paul Winfield*76 (2004), Tommy John-74, **23rd Artie Shaw*107** (2004), Helen O'Connell*97 (1993), Rosemary Clooney*89 (2002), Joan Collins-84, Marvelous Marvin Hagler-63, Drew Carey-58



Offering Our Full Lunch and Dinner Menu to Go

(3 to 8pm)

Don't Forget: 25% Off

Wine Bottle, Beer Bottle, Crowler & Growler Fills

Give Us a Call or Stop on Down

(302) 322-6111

Lunch & Dinner Menu

Ice Cream too!



Hale Byrnes House and the American Revolution Round Table of Northern Delaware

Cordially Invite You to Join Us!

Hale Byrnes House May 16 & 17 Programs will be held on Zoom. Please rsvp to join us and do invite your family & friends to sign up, too!

Link to RSVP to Register in advance for this Saturday evening

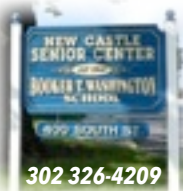
ARRTND E webinar by Bill Knightly:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6481262044>

WN_vhgTI6EERsSV8MnRyXGfpw

All of the above programs will be held at Hale-Byrnes House.

Best address for your GPS is 550 Stanton-Christiana road, Newark, DE 19713. When you "have reached your destination" come down the ramp to the 18th century house below.



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

CLOSED

"Where Friends Gather"

▶ New Castle Senior Center
amazon smile
Click ▶ [HERE](#)



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

MON

9-3 Billiards
9 Pool Exercise
9:30 Park Walk
10 Crafty Seniors
12 Lunch
12:30 Mah Jongg
1 Chair Yoga

TUES

9-3 Billiards
9:30 Shanghai
10 Bingo
12 Lunch
1 Strength Building/
Exercise

WED

9-3 Billiards
9:30 Park Walk
11 Line Dancing
12 Lunch
1 A.B.C. Class

THUR

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

FRI

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

LIBRARIES CLOSED
Effective March 16, 2020, all New Castle County Libraries are closed to help combat the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19). We are sorry for the disruption.

WHAT TO KNOW

- Due dates for all materials checked out have been extended to **04/01/2020**
- You will **NOT** be fined for material
- You can still call your local branch or go online to answers.delawarelibraries.org for help with your library needs
- Visit <https://lib.de.us/emedial/> for eBooks, eAudiobooks and other electronic resources
- For up-to-date info, including additional services that will be offered, check out our website (<https://nccde.org/286/Libraries>)

*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

JUST A REMINDER:
*Free Wifi Access
in the New Castle
Public Library
Parking Lot!*



MARIANNE CAVEN
302.588.7410
Email: mcaven@psre.com



Office: 302.429.4500



RECOVERED
**Seeking Information:
Missing Hawaiian Ice Trailer**

New Castle City Police are asking for the public's help in locating a Hawaiian Ice Trailer that was reported stolen earlier this week.

New Castle City Police are asking anyone with information regarding this incident to

please call Detective Davis at (302) 221-4541.

If anyone knows the location of the trailer **please call 911.**

During these challenging times
Patterson-Schwartz and I have adapted to meet your real estate needs while protecting your peace of mind. Please know that we are ready to work with you remotely in ways that are accessible to you and put your health and safety first. See our current market summary to learn about local housing trends at this time. We've also included some timely home and lifestyle-related articles and videos to keep you informed on the latest in everything from interior decorating trends to personal finance advice.

Here's a link to visit homes, explore today's market, and learn lots, in the comfort of your home!

<https://mcaven.psre.com/realestatenews>

Call for information on the market and available properties!

Dedicated to Your Success and Satisfaction!



*New dinner, brunch, wine
&
cocktail menu coming soon!.*

*Please call or message ahead
for pick-up.*

Multiple days available in advance.

Pickup between 4-8 Thur – Mon

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



**Make education
your new resolution.**

WilmU works in 2020.



**Find out why at
wilmu.edu/WilmUWorks**

WilmU is a registered trademark of Wilmington University.
All rights reserved. ©Wilmington University 2019

KG

Krienen-Griffith INC.

FUNERAL HOME

Established 1917

100
years

WILLIAM J. KRIENEN III

1400 KIRKWOOD HWY.
WILMINGTON, DE 19805
302-994-9614

34 WEST 6TH STREET
NEW CASTLE, DE 19720
302-328-9300

WWW: DELAWAREFUNERAL.COM EMAIL: DEFUNERAL@VERIZON.NET
FAX: 995-9630



Perfectly named, *Cupid* is the God of Love. This big boy (topping the scales at 20 pounds) is outgoing, friendly and affectionate. He is a vocal guy who loves to chat with everyone he meets. Cupid does well with other cats and would fit into a home with people of all ages. You can adopt Cupid for a fee you name through Sunday, May 24th.



www.bvspca.org

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

MEATBALL SUB SOUP

All the flavors of the sandwich mashed into one gloriously cheesy soup.



For the meatballs

1 lb. ground beef - 1/2 c. Italian bread crumbs - 2 cloves garlic, minced - 1/4 c. fresh Italian parsley, chopped - 1 tsp. crushed red pepper flakes - kosher salt - Freshly ground black pepper

for the soup

2 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil - 1 large onion, diced - 1

large clove garlic, minced - 2 tbsp. tomato paste - 1 28-oz. can crushed tomatoes - 3 c. low-sodium beef broth - 1 c. skim milk - 3 c. shredded mozzarella - 1/2 c. freshly grated Parmesan - 1 tsp. dried oregano - kosher salt - Freshly ground black pepper - Baguette slices, for serving

here's how...

maka' da meatballs Crank up oven to 350° and line two baking sheets with parchment paper. In a large bowl, combine ground beef, bread crumbs, garlic, parsley, and crushed red pepper flakes and season with salt and pepper.

Roll into meatballs and transfer to one prepared baking sheet.

Bake until browned and cooked through, 15 minutes, then heat broiler.

maka' da soup In a large pot over medium-high heat, heat oil. Add onion and cook until soft and golden, bout 6 minutes, then add garlic and cook until fragrant...ummm, 1 minute or so. Add tomato paste and stir until combined, then add tomatoes, beef broth, and milk and stir until combined.

Add meatballs and bring to a simmer, then add half the mozzarella and all the Parmesan. Season with oregano, salt, and pepper. Ladle soup into four oven-safe ramekins and top with a baguette slice. Top with remaining mozzarella and broil until browned and bubbly, 2 to 3 minutes. Serve hot.

James A. Whisman, Jr.

Certified Public Account (CPA) Certified Financial Planner (CFP®)

Accredited Estate Planner (AEP®)

Registered Representative / Financial Advisor

Wharton Investment Consultants

jwhisman@ceteranetworks.com

700 Delaware Street, New Castle, DE 19720

Tel: 302-239-2111 Fax: 888-438-6460

Our highly qualified team can help develop personalized solutions for your unique investment and planning needs.

Reviews are made timely to help ensure financial objectives are met.



Securities and advisory services are offered through Cetera Advisor Networks LLC, member FINRA/SIPC, broker/dealer and Registered Investment Advisor. Cetera is under separate ownership from any other named entity.



Kim Burdick honored

Kim Burdick, MA, MPA, Delaware Advisory member of US Global Leadership Coalition (USGLC) and recently-retired Executive Director of People to People Delaware, was honored at the Institute for Global Studies' "Best of UD Global" celebration held on Zoom Monday, May 11, 2020.

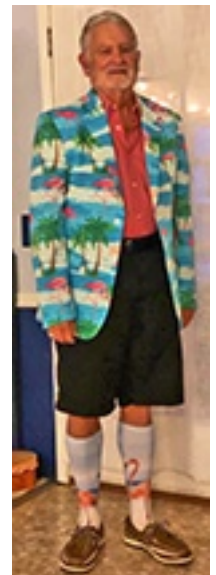
The Institute for Global Studies was created in 2009 to enhance the international dimensions of teaching, research, and outreach at the University of Delaware.

Perhaps best-known as an historian, after receiving her MPA from University of Delaware's College of Urban Affairs, Kim Burdick staffed the Governor's International Trade Council for ten years and later served as a Board member of World Trade Center Delaware. Kim also holds a DALF degree in French, attended the Study Abroad program at l'Université de Neuchâtel, Switzerland, SUNY Cortland, and has a Masters' Degree in American Folk Culture and Museum Studies from the Cooperstown Graduate Program.

For more information on UD's Institute for Global Studies' programs, contact: Dan Bottomley at dbott@udel.edu

Lion Dave Jones honored

PDG Dave Jones was named Delaware Lion of the Year for 2019-20 at a virtual meeting attended by 18 Clubs and approximately 42 Lions. Traditional Convention Outfit.



“A mother understands what a child does not say”

Jewish proverb

Colonial
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Grab & Go Continues



Every Monday children will continue to receive (2) breakfast and two (2) lunch meals-four per child. Every Wednesday, children will receive three (3) breakfast and three (3) lunch meals-four per child. For the latest information about Grab and go sites and times, visit

www.colonialschooldistrict.org

Class of 2020
Nicholas Poore

“As I leave Colonial School District, I have had so many wonderful experiences. Thank you to everyone who has helped me through the years. You have made some of my days, the very best! I will miss you!”

- Nick Poore

CONGRATS NICK!

Read more about Nick & others graduating at colonialschooldistrict.org

End of Year Senior Events.

The week of June 16th graduates will return to William Penn or Wallin to receive their diploma, cap and gown, senior t-shirt, and graduation program. Information about the diploma distribution and yearbooks will be forthcoming. Please use this form-
<https://form.jotform.com/201145961800044> to order your t-shirt and cap and gown size.

Please visit William Penn and Wallin Websites for more detailed information.



Because you're an adult now!

gonna need....

1 c. milk, 1 tsp. vanilla extract, 1 6-oz can frozen orange juice concentrate, 1/3 c. sugar, 1½ c. Ice, 4 oz. Your fav vodka

fixn' is easy...

Combine all ingredients in a blender.

Blend until slushy. Serve immediately.

BOOZY JULIUS



17	☀️	5:46am	🌙	8:11pm
18	☀️	5:45am	🌙	8:12pm
19	☀️	5:44am	🌙	8:13pm
20	☀️	5:44am	🌙	8:14pm
21	☀️	5:43am	🌙	8:15pm
22	☀️	5:42am	🌙	8:16pm
		New moon		
23	☀️	5:41am	🌙	8:17pm



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](#)



Reedy Point Tides				
	h	m	ft	cm
17	03:03	AM	0.8	24
	08:45	AM	5.4	165
Su	03:31	PM	0.5	15
	09:17	PM	5.6	171
18	03:56	AM	0.7	21
	09:35	AM	5.4	165
M	04:17	PM	0.5	15
	10:04	PM	5.8	177
19	04:47	AM	0.5	15
	10:23	AM	5.4	165
Tu	05:01	PM	0.5	15
	10:47	PM	5.9	180
20	05:36	AM	0.4	12
	11:08	AM	5.3	162
W	05:43	PM	0.5	15
	11:27	PM	6.0	183
21	06:23	AM	0.4	12
	11:50	AM	5.2	158
Th	06:23	PM	0.5	15
22	12:03	AM	6.0	183
	07:08	AM	0.3	9
F	12:30	PM	5.1	155
	07:02	PM	0.6	18
23	12:37	AM	6.0	183
	07:52	AM	0.4	12
Sa	01:08	PM	5.1	155
	07:40	PM	0.7	21

Tell them you saw it in the

COBBLESTONES

This Summary of the May 12th Regular City Council Meeting from the notes of Council member Suzanne Souder and NOT an official record of the meeting.



All members of Council present plus Mayor Quaranta, City Administrator Bill Barthel, City Solicitor Dan Losco, Building Official Jeff Bergstrom, City Engineer Dave Athey, City Clerk Brian Whitaker, and Treasurer Janet Carlin.

The meeting was held via Zoom. *I am aware of at least 1 person who tried to sign in from the link on the City website and got a message saying “invalid meeting code”. Multiple attempts on different browsers brought the same result. The log in information in the Weekly was the same as that on the City website. Did anyone else have this or any other problem logging into the meeting? If so, please let me know.*

The major issue was City Engineer Dave Athey’s report on resiliency..

Council President Ratchford began by thanking the City workers for keeping us safe and our city clean. She also thanked Good Will Fire Department for their work as we all deal with the pandemic. Minutes of the April 14 Regular meeting were approved with 2 minor corrections.

City Administrator’s Report

In his report, Mr. Barthel reported COVID-related expenditures of nearly \$18,000. We have received a grant of \$3000 to offset this. Of the City expenses, about \$6500 was for legal advice relating to the emergency declarations and other issues. The Police Dept. also received a grant of \$6500 to help with their expenses.

New Castle County received \$323 million from the Federal CARES Act. Of this, \$188,000 was allocated to the City for COVID-related expenses not budgeted prior to March 15. It cannot be used to make up for lost revenue but can be used for the \$15,000 unreimbursed COVID expenses to date. Mr. Barthel further reported that the Delaware Street project is moving along smoothly and is on schedule.

Regarding the money from New Castle County, Mayor Quaranta added that the County Executive had a conference call with mayors about a month ago in which he said that states also got a share of the CARES funds. Delaware received approximately \$1.2 billion. New Castle County made a separate application. Money from the Heros Fund can be used for police overtime. The details about the use of this money are still under discussion.

Building Official’s Report

Building Official Jeff Bergstrom reported that he met with a DELDOT representative regarding the concerns about Rt. 9 raised by Mr. Platt at last month’s meeting. Both the 4th and 6th Street bridges are structurally sound. The 4th St. bridge will be repaved in July. The ditches around the 6th St. bridge will be cleaned out to prevent flooding and the wall will be repaired as soon as possible. Mr. Barthel added that the ditches have to be cleaned out every 2 years or so and suggested that the City approach Sen. Poore regarding funds for a permanent solution. Mr. Platt agreed. Mr. Bergstrom added that DELDOT has the necessary permit from DNREC to work in the wetlands. Ms Ratchford said she will work with Mr. Platt and staff to prepare the request as the flooding presents a safety hazard, especially when it freezes. Mr. Bergstrom concluded his report by saying that a permit will be issued for storm water work in Washington Park which should relieve some long-standing flooding problems.

Chief of Police’s Report

Chief McCabe reported that they have a suspect for the recent rash of thefts from vehicles and a warrant has been issued. The thefts have stopped. There have been some complaints about the construction on Rt. 273. They will be switching to night work next week.

Ms Ratchford thanked the Chief and his officers for keeping us safe.

Treasurer’s Report

Ms Carlin reported that 7 major income lines show an increase of 10.8% over budget for this year which used conservative estimates. She believes we should keep this conservative outlook as we prepare the FY21 budget. Mr. Smith asked if the state grant for Separation Day can be carried over to next year. Ms Carlin replied that it can. Mr. Platt asked if it could be put in a restricted fund. Both Ms Carlin and Mr. Barthel said that it is already restricted. The State gave the City the grant for Separation Day expenses and it can only be used for that. The report was approved unanimously.

Council Communications

Mr. Smith reported on the ZIP code issue. He said in the past few weeks there have been several issues reported as being in New Castle which were all out of the City. The State Police are “not enthusiastic” about changing their reporting so we must keep up the pressure. The Post Office referred our request for a separate ZIP code for the City to the District Supervisor in Belmawr, NJ who reported that they “can’t support” a new ZIP. Residents have the option of using a “preferred name” such as Historic New Castle or New Castle City. Mail would still be delivered as usual if this was shown as the address. However, that wouldn’t solve the police reporting problem. Mr. Smith wants to offer this option to residents. Also, there will soon be a new District Supervisor although the current one is being promoted and will be the new supervisor’s boss. He thinks we should keep up the pressure on the media as well and has noticed more crimes being reported as occurring “near New Castle” which is

at least an improvement. He has spoken to a member of Sen. Carper's staff who says that Congress has no pull with the Post Office since it is independent. Mayor Quaranta said he thinks Carper has some power as he is the ranking member of the Post Office Committee. He also noted that St. Georges and Delaware City are smaller than New Castle and have their own ZIP codes. Mr. Smith said he had raised this issue and was told they were different because all mail in those cities is delivered to PO boxes.

I reported that I participated in a DNREC webinar on living shorelines last week. I learned some things about where and how they are used and what problems they can and cannot solve. (They are primarily used to reduce erosion.) Later in the meeting, City Engineer Dave Athey reported that he also attended this webinar.

Mayor's Report

The Mayor thanked everyone for their patience and hard work in difficult times. June 1 is the current date for Phase One re-openings in Delaware. While he would prefer to move sooner he will accept the advice from others to remain in sync with the State. We will hold the 2020 Separation Day grant for 2021 as there may be no grant next year due to reduced State income. He would like to try to have at least some summer concerts since we can use the space in the park to spread people out. The organizers have the final say; he hopes they will wait until at least June 1 to decide. He will press for comparison with opening the beaches. I pointed out that currently people are only allowed to exercise or walk their dogs on the beach. They may not sit on the sand. This is different than people sitting to listen to a concert.

Ms Leary said she doesn't think spacing would be an issue at concerts because people will do it on their own. Ms Ratchford said she had spoken to Jeff Lank of the JayCee's who organize the concerts. The problem is that Phase One still limits gatherings to 10 people. This will increase to 50 people in Phase Two but that is still less than the number who usually attend concerts. Also, the larger bands are uncomfortable gathering closely on the stage and haven't been able to practice together. The Mayor suggested trying only solo acts or duos. Another option he suggested was movie nights using a large, portable screen.

Mr. Quaranta said he met recently with some residents of Washington Park who are concerned about problems with rentals through social programs which have excessive calls for service. He said we need to talk to the State about this since they fund the social service programs. He thinks the City needs to know how many such programs exist in the City and where they are located.

Finally, he reported that as the recent purchaser of an electric vehicle he is thinking about charging stations. He has spoken to Ms Patone at the MSC. We don't have variable rates as some cities do. When rates are lower at night that is when people charge their electric vehicles. He thinks we need to plan for the future as the use of electric vehicles is increasing.

Council President's Report

Ms Ratchford was pleased to note that the MSC is reducing electric rates by 1%. She, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Barthel have been working with an expert in Downtown Development Districts (DDD). We have access to many potential customers within a 30 mile driving radius and could draw businesses. They hope to offer services to businesses to take advantage of this.

Ms Leary said that she has heard that the new owners of Penn's Place are interested in having a coffee shop and hopes the City will reach out to them. Ms Ratchford said that Mr. Bergstrom has already spoken to them and is hopeful about their plans. They are making extensive renovations to the building.

Public Comment

No email comments or questions were received. Phil Gross of Moores Lane spoke on several issues. First, he said he manages a band and knows seats can be arranged with specific spacing. He likes the idea of movie nights as more people are likely to stay seated than during a band concert when they tend to come and go. He asked for a repetition of the funds spent on virus issues and was told \$17852 of which \$3000 is covered by a grant.

Report of City Engineer on Resiliency Planning

Mr. Athey began by summarizing past activity. Work on our dikes has been ongoing over the past 10 years. During this time FEMA changed the flood maps so that we are now under the 100-year flood projection. The New Castle County All Hazards Mitigation Plan is currently being updated. The City Emergency Operations Plan was last updated in 2008 and needs to be further updated to reflect current modeling. The new Comprehensive Plan is also addressing these issues. The Trustees have been active regarding the shoreline in Battery Park.

The City has been working with the Delaware Coastal Programs (DCP) and Resilient Community Partnership for several years to understand our vulnerability to flooding. The issues to be considered are present day flood hazards, future high tide due to sea level rise, and future flood hazards due to sea level rise. We need more data in all 3 areas. Mr. Smith asked who gathers such data. Mr. Athey replied that there is no one person or entity. We need professional help with this and have been chipping away at the current recommendations.

Our dikes and structure flood-proofing measures were assessed in 2019. This was funded solely by DCP. They did a desktop analysis to evaluate the cost and viability of dry flood proofing. I asked what this meant. Mr. Athey said it includes things like gates or walls to keep water out. Wet flood proofing allows water to enter in ways which minimize damage such as raising structures or providing drainage. Mr. Bergstrom added that dry flood-proofing is not practical on residences as keeping the water out creates too much pressure on the walls and they collapse. He believes dikes are the best way to go here.

The current 100-year flood elevation requires 9 ft. dikes; our current dikes are 8.5 ft. Raising the dikes without a wall requires a lot of land as the base must be widened. Another option is to add a wall to the top of the current dikes which requires little or no additional land and is less expensive but is less aesthetically pleasing. These are the options identified to date:

- Elevation 9 feet with a concrete parapet wall - \$920,000

- Elevation 10.5 feet with earth and rock fill or vinyl sheet pile - \$5,020,000 and \$3,370,000 respectively
- Elevation 13.5 feet with earth and rock fill or vinyl sheet pile - \$11,410,000 and \$9,340,000 respectively

The earth and rock fill option could impact wetlands or other natural features and necessitate land acquisition or easements.

The City applied for a grant to survey our most vulnerable structures. This data could be added to a model to estimate the benefits of multiple scenarios and weigh this against the cost. This application has been approved at the State level (DEMA) and now goes to the Federal level (FEMA). We expect a response by early fall.

Mr. Athey went on to say that in 50-100 years New Castle could have major problems due to sea level rise. We can raise the dikes or accept the fact that the water is rising and deal with it. There are problems with flood-proofing structures. FEMA has limits – they won't support spending over 50% of the value of the structure on flood proofing. Historic structures are difficult to flood proof.

The resolution before Council tonight is to approve application for a grant from the Delaware Coastal Programs for data gathering about how we could use our wetlands to make New Castle more resilient. There is no cost to the City to make this application. The data we receive can be used to try to get DNREC funding to move forward.

Ms Leary asked why, if we have already had many studies, we still need data. Mr. Athey said it is very expensive to gather this type of data. Much of the earlier data is from review only and we need more detailed information. It will be entered into complex models and we need good data to get good results. Mr. Platt said that Van Dyke Village residents now need flood insurance when they didn't in the past. He asked if these studies are just about downtown. Mr. Athey said no, if the dikes are raised flood insurance rates would be reduced for everyone. Mr. Platt also asked, if FEMA keeps raising the requirements, what's the point? Mr. Athey said the flood maps are projections and FEMA changes them as they get more data. A vulnerability assessment doesn't set out a plan of action. The City is doing what we can. These are multi-year issues and we need to keep moving forward.

Ms Ratchford said she knows all this is frustrating to residents who want us to "do something". We need good data to make good decisions. Any solutions will be very expensive and we need to build our case to win grants to fund them. DNREC has shown support because Council keeps working on these issues so we need to keep moving forward.

Mr Athey closed by saying that even modest estimates of sea level rise show great impact on Delaware. There will not be enough money to fund all communities. The more we partner with DNREC the better chance we have of getting the funding we'll need.

Resolution 2020-13; in support of the City of New Castle's application to the Delaware Coastal Program for Resilient Community Partnership passed unanimously.

Ms Ratchford noted that City Clerk Brian Whitaker had signaled his desire to speak and invited him to do so. Mr. Whataker said that he normally attends a national conference of municipal clerks but it has been cancelled this year. He also wanted residents to know that the Veterans' Garden at Rose Hill will be distributing the fruits and vegetables they grow at the Rt. 9 Library. The Food Bank of Delaware provided the plants. He also said he participated in a call where a Sussex County representative made suggestions regarding emergency plans. Ms Ratchford thanked him for his work on the Veterans' Garden and for sharing the information about the produce distribution and suggested he email the details regarding the emergency plan.

Resolution 2020-14; approving Mayor's reappointment to the Planning Commission of Erin Sabatella

The Mayor said Ms Sabatella has lived in New Castle most of her life and has been contributing to the work of the Planning Commission. Ms Sabatella said she appreciates being reappointed and looks forward to continuing her work on the Comprehensive Plan. Her reappointment was approved unanimously. Her term expires May 9, 2023.

The final item on the agenda was a Council discussion on City operations, budget, or recovery due to COVID-19. Council has a budget meeting scheduled for Friday afternoon at which we will address that issue in more detail. Ms Ratchford and Mr. Platt both noted that, as we are unsure of tax, transfer, and fee income next year we should be conservative. Mr. Quaranta noted that the State is also facing financial headwinds so we cannot rely on the usual level of support for things such as Municipal Street Aid. Ms Ratchford concluded by saying that we will look at things we might do to support our businesses as they reopen.

To view this discussion on the web, visit <https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/council-updates/5c12c9be-2bb4-4c6f-9c18-fbee844d04e2%40googlegroups.com>.

