

What Happens Between The

COBBLESTONES

IS ON EVERYONE'S LIPS

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



244 years
of not
being
Pennsylvania

Vol. 11 No. 9

Cobblestones Library

June 7, 2020

IT SHOULD BE

Separation Day



1st Delaware Regiment and Fife and Drum Corps

this week in
HISTORY

7 The *United Colonies* makes a name change and become The United States. 1775, *Richard Henry Lee* of Virginia proposed to the Continental Congress a resolution calling for a Declaration of Independence. 1776, The first *'dime novel'* offered for sale on this day. (said to have sold 300,000 copies in the first year) 1860, *J.F. Palmer* patented the cord bicycle tire. 1892, *"The \$64,000 Question"*, a summer replacement show, with host Hal March, premiered. 1955, *Thank God I'm A Country Boy* by *John Denver* topped the charts. 1975

8 Commercially manufactured *ice cream* was advertised for the first time. 1786, *Ives W. McGaffey* received a patent for the suction vacuum cleaner. 1869, Congress authorized the *penny postal card*. 1872, *The Milton Berle Show* premieres on NBC Tv. 1948, *Love Letters in the Sand* by *Pat Boone* topped the charts in 1957

9 *John Barry* copyrighted *Philadelphia Spelling Book*. It was the first American book to be copyrighted. 1790, *Robert H. Goddard* patented a rocket-fueled aircraft design. 1931, Disney's Donald Duck makes his debut. 1934, *Secretariat* won the first *Triple Crown* winner in 25 years. 1973, *The Purple People Eater* by *Sheb Wooley* topped the charts in 1958

10 Dutch colonists settle on *Manhattan Island* 1610, *Benjamin Franklin* flies a kite in a lightning storm and discovers electricity. 1752, *Naval Academy* in Annapolis, held its first graduation. 1854, The *SOS* distress signal was used for the first time. 1909, *Alcoholic Anonymous* was founded. 1935, *Pete Rose* of the Phillies singled off of Houston's Nolan Ryan to tie Stan Musial's baseball career-hit total at 3,630. A baseball strike of 50 days thwarted 'Charlie Hustle's' efforts to break the NL record. 1981

11 The first patent for a stove was issued -- to *Robert Haeterick*. 1793, The movie *E.T.* The Extra-Terrestrial was released 1982, *William Beebe* dove to a record-setting depth of 1,426 feet, in a bathysphere. 1930, *Seattle Slew* wins Belmont Stakes & Triple Crown. 1977, *Flashdance...What a Feeling* by *Irene Cara* topped the charts. 1983

12 *Abner Doubleday* created the game of baseball. 1839, The gas mask was patented by *L.P. Haslett*. 1849, *John Lee Richmond* pitches baseball's first "Perfect Game". 1880, *Harry Houdini* frees himself from a straitjacket while suspended upside down. 1923, *Sen. Huey Long* of Louisiana made the longest speech on Senate record. The speech took 15 1/2 hours and was filled by 150,000 words. 1935, *Ben Hogan* won his first U.S. Open golf classic. 1948

13 *Marquis de Lafayette* arrived in the American colonies to help with their rebellion against the British. 1777, *Walter Hunt* patented the safety pin. 1825, *Albert Berry* made the first successful parachute jump from an airplane. 1912, *Babe Ruth* connected for a 460-foot home run (his longest) deep into the center-field bleachers at the Polo Grounds. 1921, *Pioneer 10* becomes the first satellite to leave the solar system. 1983

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FLAG STATUS



Cobbles...this past week I was in the hospital returning home Thursday afternoon. Not wanting to skip an issue I decided to remember Separation Day which would be this upcoming weekend.

This issue will have a friendly mix of "new news" and previously chosen items! **Enjoy!**

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NASCAR schedule

4/20	Toyota 500	Denny Hamlin
5/24	Coca-Cola 600	Brad Keselowski
5/27	Alsco Uniforms 500	Chase Elliott
5/31	Food City 500	Bristol Motor Speedway
6/7	Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500 Atlanta Motor Speedway	



DOVER Race Date Sun Oct 6

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Happy Cobblestone Birthday

Mon 6-8 Janet Carlin ★ Sue Clayton ★ Earl Bedwell

Tues 6-9 Margie Hitchens ★ Will Atherton ★ Dick Day ★ Brad Whitlock

Wed 6-10 Tracey Connolly ★ Renis Paton

Thurs 6-11 Dustin Lee Fri 6-12 Valarie Leary ★ Dominic Hanna

Sat 6-13 Donnie Gordy

Anniversaries

Mon 6-8 Mary & Bob Davis 46th ★ Tish & Fred Gallagher 44th

Sat 6-10 Natalie & Mack Shane 6th

Fri 6-12 Barb Winkler & Doug Edwards 19th

Birthday or Anniversary approaching?

Tell The Teditor flytedb13@comcast.net

Notable this week 7th Natl Chocolate Ice Cream Day Rocky Graziano*101 (1990), Tom Jones-80, Liam Neeson-68, Prince*62 (2016) **8th Name Your Poison Day.** Frank Lloyd Wright*152 (1959), Barbara Bush*95 (2018), Jerry Stiller*93 (2020), James Darren-85, Joan Rivers*83 (2014), Boz Scaggs-76, Scott Adams-63, "Dilbert" cartoonist, Julianna Margulies-54 **9th Donald Duck Day** Cole Porter*130 (1964), Robert Cummings*111 (1990), Dick Vitale-82, Michael J. Fox-59, Johnny Depp-57, Natalie Portman-39 **10th Iced Tea Day** Frederick Loewe*119 (1988), Judy Garland*98 (1969), Tara Lipinski-38 **11th Corn on the Cob Day** Richard Strauss*156 (1949), Jeannette Rankin*140 (1973), first woman elected to Congress, Jacques Cousteau*109 (1997), Vince Lombardi*107 (1970), Gene Wilder*86 (2016), Joe Montana-64 **12th Red Rose Day** David Rockefeller*105 (2017), George Bush*95 (2018) 41st U.S. President, Anne Frank*90 (1945), Jim Nabors*89 (2017), Marv Albert-80 **13th Sewing Machine Day** Malcolm McDowell-75, Richard Thomas-69, Tim Allen-67, Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen twins-34

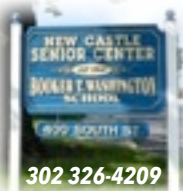


DALBY DIG CONTINUES



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June at Our Senior Center

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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



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

*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



Separation Day
weekend

LIGHTS OUT on Delaware Street

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Ice Cream too!

Reopening Update

Officially reopening our dining room on Mon. June 15th for normal hours. Reservations or tables (*No Bar Seats Yet...sorry!*)! No walk-ins or without mask. Don't worry it won't be this way for long! We Promise.

[Lunch & Dinner Menu](#)



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Separation
Day
weekend



**Alice
delivers the NEWS!**



Spot arrived at the Brandywine Valley SPCA shelter as a stray with a bad skin infection, road rash on his paws and severely underweight, all signs that he had been on his own for quite some time. Once recuperated, Spot started acting like he may have once been owned. This smart boy is well behaved, knows how to sit for treats and walks easily on a leash. Spot is a gentle boy who would fit nicely into just about any family...(Brandywine Valley SPCA, 600 South Street, New Castle, DE 302-516-1000, www.bvspca.org)



www.bvspca.org

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

slow cooker Bolognese



Bolognese usually takes a long time to pull all of these flavors out of their ingredients, that's why the **COBBLE**kitchen brings you Bolognese in the convenience of a slow cooker! This recipe will hit the spot and become a fast favorite for whomever you cook it for!

Ingredients serves 5-6

1 lb ground beef ■ 1 lb ground pork ■ 1 c. Pancetta ■ 1/2 c. red wine ■ 1/2 c. white wine ■ 3 garlic cloves (minced) ■ 1 medium yellow onion (minced) ■ 1 carrot (shredded) ■ 1 celery stalk (minced) ■ 1/4 tsp salt ■ 1 tbsp tomato paste ■ 2 14 ounce cans whole peeled tomatoes ■ 1 28 ounce can of crushed tomatoes ■ 1 c. vegetable stock ■ 1 1/4 c. heavy cream ■ 1 tsp cocoa powder ■ 1 lb pasta (*fettuccine please*)

directions

1. Crumble ground beef and pork into your slow cooker.
2. Stir together red wine, white wine, vegetable stock, heavy cream, salt, and cocoa powder in a separate bowl. Then add these ingredients to the meat.
3. Add whole tomatoes, crushed tomatoes, and tomato paste to the slow cooker.
4. Mince carrots, celery, yellow onion, garlic and add them to the slow cooker.
5. Add the pancetta to the rest of your ingredients.
6. Set your slow cooker to low for 9 hours.
7. Cook pasta to your liking then add the Bolognese sauce. **Molto delizioso!**

Gather up

2 Celery ribs • 2 strips thick cut bacon • 1/2 tsp chili powder
2 tsp brown sugar

Cocktail

1 cup Calamato or tomato juice • 1 cup IPA beer • 1/2 tsp celery salt (plus additional for glass rims) • 1 tsp Sriracha • 1/2 tsp Worcestershire • 2 tsp brine for a jar of spanish olive • 1/4 tsp cream style horseradish • 1 tbs lime juice, 1 tbs lemon juice • 1/2 tsp black pepper • Ice

The how to

Preheat oven to 350°
Thread the bacon through oven safe skewers.
Sprinkle with brown sugar and chili powder.
Place on a wire rack over a baking sheet.
Bake until bacon is crispy, about 15 minutes.
Rim glasses with celery salt. Add all cocktail ingredients to a shaker half full of ice, swirl to combine. Strain into prepared glasses, garnish with celery and bacon skewer.

SRIRACHA Bloody Beer with Chili Sugar Bacon



Delaware state museums reopening with self-guided tours

Reservations and face coverings required June 4, 2020



Section from the exhibit A Seaborne Citizenry: The DeBraak and Its Atlantic World at the Zwaanendael Museum in Lewes. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Delaware's five state museums will begin reopening this week with self-guided tours that allow visitors to experience the history of the First State while continuing to take all recommended steps to safeguard public health.

In accordance with the Phase I reopening plans issued by Gov. John Carney, museums administered by the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs are accepting reservations for tours offered Friday-Sunday, June 5-7.

Tours will take place at 10 and 11 a.m., and 1 and 2 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and 1:30, 2:30, and 3:30 p.m. on Sundays (except for the Johnson Victrola Museum). To make a tour reservation, patrons must call the museum they wish to visit. For more information, go to www.history.delaware.gov.

With state museums closed in response to the coronavirus pandemic, the division's site managers and historical interpreters have spent the last several weeks retooling tour programming. The new self-guided tours include all the engaging content visitors expect at Delaware's nationally accredited state museums, presented in a way that allows for effective social distancing.

"We are very excited and proud to welcome the public back to Delaware's historical sites in a safe and deliberate manner," said Tim Slavin, Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs director. "Our team has worked hard to design an experience for visitors that connects them to the people, places and artifacts of our shared past, while respecting the demands of the present."

Delaware's state museums include the Zwaanendael Museum in Lewes, the John Dickinson Plantation, the Old State House and the Johnson Victrola Museum in Dover, and the New Castle Court House Museum.

Self-guided tours will be 30 minutes in length and will include reference materials that can be accessed via smartphone or in single-use printed form. Due to space constraints, some museum areas will remain closed for the time being. Tour groups will be limited to four or six visitors, depending on the museum, and cloth face coverings must be worn at all times by staff, volunteers and patrons. All public museum areas will be cleaned between tour groups according to guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

**“I'm trying
a new wine diet,
so far I've lost
3 days!”**

overheard locally



Separation Day



Jim Whisman, with David Price, Bob Vander Decker and Robert Sigmund

Garden of the Week



Amstel House garden



7	☀	5:35am	☾	8:28pm
8	☀	5:34am	☾	8:28pm
9	☀	5:34am	☾	8:29pm
10	☀	5:34am	☾	8:29pm
11	☀	5:34am	☾	8:30pm
12	☀	5:34am	☾	8:30pm
13	☀	5:34am	☾	8:31pm

Last Qtr: 2:25am



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TIDES & CURRENTS

Reedy Point Tides				
	h	m	ft	cm
7	01:08 AM		6.5	198
	08:28 AM		-0.1	-3
Su	01:41 PM		5.3	162
	08:27 PM		0.4	12
8	01:56 AM		6.3	192
	09:17 AM		0.1	3
M	02:32 PM		5.2	158
	09:15 PM		0.6	18
9	02:44 AM		6.1	186
	10:05 AM		0.2	6
Tu	03:23 PM		5.1	155
	10:03 PM		0.7	21
10	03:34 AM		5.9	180
	10:52 AM		0.4	12
W	04:15 PM		5.1	155
	10:52 PM		0.9	27
11	04:25 AM		5.7	174
	11:38 AM		0.5	15
Th	05:08 PM		5.1	155
	11:42 PM		1.0	30
12	05:19 AM		5.5	168
	12:24 PM		0.5	15
F	06:02 PM		5.1	155
13	12:35 AM		1.0	30
	06:14 AM		5.4	165
Sa	01:10 PM		0.6	18
S	06:55 PM		5.3	162

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All Council members present although Ms Leary was calling in from work and so was in and out of the meeting due to her obligations there. City Administrator Bill Barthel, Chief of Police Richard McCabe, City Solicitor Dan Losco, and Mayor Mike Quaranta were also present. City Clerk Brian Whitaker joined us part way through the meeting. Council Secretary Kim Burgmuller acted as host of the Zoom meeting and Kathy Weirich was our stenographer. Council President Ratchford opened the meeting by saying that the current State of Emergency declaration expires May 31. The Mayor will not be renewing it. While the number of COVID cases is flattening, we still need to be safe and follow

CDC guidelines. She invited the Mayor to comment.

Mayor's Comments on ending the State of Emergency

Mr. Quaranta thanked everyone for their patience, both city residents and those in the greater New Castle area. He also thanked the members of Council, the Police Department, and City staff for their work. He said that we have never seen anything like this and have all been learning as we went along. He thanked everyone for all their comments, suggestions, and criticism as he knows all were made with good intent. He made the following points:

- Since the Governor will allow up to 250 people to gather outdoors as of June 1, we could resume having outdoor events such as concerts and/or outdoor movies. He thinks we can do this strategically and safely. The end of the State of Emergency means that non-residents may resume coming to Battery Park.
- We need to re-open the parking lots and restrooms in Battery Park. He believes that keeping them closed will create other problems. The City shares responsibility for the Park with the Trust.
- While the Governor's order recommends that playgrounds remain closed, he believes they could be re-opened since the young are less vulnerable to the serious effects of the virus.
- He thinks we could resume in-person meetings of Boards and Commissions with social distancing. If this can't be done right away, he thinks it could be done soon. This would require extra cleaning which would mean extra expenses. He has heard no complaints about virtual meetings
- He has spoken to Ms Ratchford and Mr. Barthel about the City Office and believes we can keep that as it is for now.
- He is glad to be getting back to normal order.

Legal Issues

Ms Ratchford said that the transition raises a number of issues and asked Mr. Losco for his comments about the role of the Council since we are still under State orders as we move into Phase 1 of re-opening.

Mr. Losco said that the ending of the State of Emergency means that responsibility for Battery Park now falls to the Trust. The City is responsible for all other parks in the city and thus they are under the jurisdiction of the Council. He expressed concern that as things open up there may be a resurgence of COVID cases requiring a new State of Emergency but hopes this will not be necessary.

Ms Ratchford said she thought things had been working well in Battery Park. I asked Mr. Losco if the City could be liable if we re-open faster than State guidelines provide. He said if the State issues an order we must follow it. If the State issues guidelines we could choose to do things differently but he thinks the safest thing to do is follow State guidelines.

Ms Ratchford said that Phase 1 guidelines provide that playgrounds may be re-opened if closely monitored. She doesn't think we could do that and reported that most other cities are keeping their playgrounds closed. She also recommends sticking with State guidelines. Mr. Smith agreed as do I. As for the restrooms, State guidance says they should be cleaned multiple times per day. We don't know if the Trust is willing to do this. She raised the issue of the tennis courts since that game does not normally require close contact so wondered if we could open them. Some cities are opening them while others are keeping them closed. She asked me about guidance from the US Tennis Association. I said this organization has put out guidelines for the safe operation of tennis courts which require a combination of personal responsibility for the players and actions by those operating the courts. Mr. Smith pointed out that the tennis courts are managed solely by the Trust and are not part of Battery Park. In comparison, playing basketball normally does mean close contact with others and she thinks those courts should be kept closed. Ms Leary agreed. She also said she thinks the benches should be uncovered. I agreed and pointed out that the State guidelines say there is no need to clean wooden surfaces.

Mr. Platt asked why the Council needs to make a decision if we just follow the Governor's direction. Ms Ratchford said we should open the parking lots. Ms Leary agreed with Mr. Platt and Ms Ratchford. Mr. Losco suggested that the Council not make recommendations to the Trust but announce their decision about the City-operated parks which the Trust could follow if they chose.

Implications of CARES Act

Mr. Barthel said he has discussed the provisions of the CARES Act with Mr. Losco. It requires that bathrooms be "disinfected" not merely cleaned. If we do this, we should be eligible for reimbursement for the cost. Mr. Smith asked if the City pays for disinfecting the bathrooms are we also taking responsibility for them. Mr. Losco still thinks we should only make recommendations to the Trust. I asked if the Trust could request reimbursement for the extra cost through the CARES Act. Mr. Losco said only local governments are eligible. I asked if we take responsibility for the restrooms, does that change the issue with the Trust. Mr. Losco said that it does. Ms Ratchford raised the issue of keeping the restrooms closed and bringing in portable toilets, asking if that changed our responsibility. I asked if the contract with the company from which we rent the toilets requires disinfecting, does that give them responsibility. Mr. Losco said that whether the City takes responsibility for disinfecting the restrooms or renting portable toilets, the City is responsible. However, if the contract for the portable toilets specified that they were to disinfect them and we left the method to their discretion then they would be responsible. Mr. Losco said we could ask New Castle County if they would reimburse us if we reimburse the Trust. He thinks they probably would since it would be done to prevent the spread of the virus. Ms Ratchford asked about returning a portable toilet to the parking lot in Dobbinsville used by people who fish in the river.

Mr. Platt asked about placing signs saying "enter at your own risk" in the restrooms and at entrances to Battery Park. Mr. Losco said we could do that but probably should still clean portable toilets 3 times per day the same as the restrooms. He said the City should establish a protocol for the extra cleanings and a way to document that they are done. Ms Ratchford agreed.

Mr. Quaranta said that if we don't provide restrooms in the park it will push people into town where they will ask to use the facilities in businesses. He said the CARES Act clearly gave money to States; Cities are incorporated within States and thus are included. He doesn't think we have to worry about



liability but that we just need to open the restrooms and do it right. Ms Ratchford pointed out that other cities such as Lewes and Rehoboth are opening their restrooms so we should just do it and seek reimbursement for the extra cleaning costs.

Summer Concerts in Battery Park

Laura Fontana (for New Castle Community Partnership) and Jeff Lank (for the JayCees) then joined us to discuss resuming the concerts in Battery Park. Ms Fontana spoke for both groups. She said they have been working together and would like to start the concerts in late June since the new guidelines allow outdoor gatherings of up to 250. They have cancelled the June 17 concert to give them more time to work out the details and to see how things go in Phase 1 but would like to have the first one June 24. They have a local musician lined up who performs with only 1 or 2 others who could keep 6 feet between them on stage. Larger groups are not suitable at this time as they cannot maintain distance on stage. She went on to say that the park is large enough to accommodate the 100-150 people who usually attend. They are considering using spray paint to mark out spacing with aisles to keep family groups separated as required. They would not have portable toilets due to the cleaning issue and, at least at first, would not sell food. I asked how they plan to enforce the social distancing. She said they are still thinking that through but might hire a police officer.

Mr. Platt said he sees no need to paint blocks to the grass as he believes people will voluntarily maintain social distancing. He thinks we should “let adults be adults”. Mr. Smith agreed.

Ms Ratchford pointed out that there will be no seasonal police officers this year and asked the Chief about enforcement. He said he doesn’t think the regular patrol is sufficient; someone should be there throughout the concert. If no officer is stationed there they would have to call 911 for dispatch if an issue arose. Ms Fontana asked who is responsible for keeping the group under 250 people. The Chief said the organizers. Mr. Losco added that if there is a repeated pattern of the City condoning a breach of the guidance, we could be sued, but so long as it was not repeated he doesn’t see meaningful liability. Ms Fontana said she has the numbers for past attendance which averages 150. Ms Leary said that once or twice when she was organizing the concerts they had attendance of about 200, maybe 250.

Ms Ratchford said she thinks the crowd will be small as people are still cautious and it is generally a well-behaved crowd. The Chief said we will need to establish the rules. Ms Fontana said they plan to include the rules about masks and distancing in the publicity and announce them at the beginning of the concert. The Chief said they will need to keep a count of attendees and people need to keep 6 feet apart and wear a mask at all times. They cannot just put on the mask if they are closer than 6 feet to another person outside their household. Ms Ratchford agreed that the guidelines say masks must be worn and that we must provide hand sanitizer. Ms Fontana said she thinks they have a sponsor for that. Mr. Platt said he could help out if not. Ms Fontana said the only remaining problem is that the musicians can’t wear masks while they sing and will have to think about how to resolve that issue. She asked if she needs to make a request to the Trustees. Mr. Barthel said she does as they issue permits for use of Battery Park. Ms Ratchford said that it will be great to have the concerts back but we have to follow the rules. Mr. Quaranta said he thought if people are stationary and more than 6 feet from non-household members they don’t have to wear a mask. Mr. Platt said he thinks that is incorrect – if there is a large gathering everyone must wear masks at all times. He said that in church services singers may remove their masks while singing and then put it back on. The Chief said that if we don’t follow the rules we could be shut down. He will see further clarification.

Other Issues regarding re-opening

Ms Ratchford asked if there were any other issues regarding re-opening. Mr. Smith said we need to work on revising City Code regarding establishing a State of Emergency as the current code is very old and inadequate for current issues. He thinks if anything comes up that requires another State of Emergency we should use our authority to have an emergency Council meeting with 24 hours’ notice. Mr. Platt agreed.

Ms Ratchford asked if any businesses have asked for assistance. Mr. Barthel said Nora Lees made a request for outdoor seating but hasn’t yet gone to the Alcoholic Beverage Commission. There is a question as to how long the special permits will last. The State says until July 31 but the restaurants would like to keep the new outdoor spaces through October. They are reluctant to make the investment in tables, umbrellas, etc for just 2 months. Ms Ratchford asked him to keep us informed about this issue.

She said Boards and Commissions can meet via Zoom once the State of Emergency ends. Eventually, face-to-face meetings will resume and the City is exploring options for this. Mr. Barthel said he spoke to the director of the Senior Center. They are willing for Council to meet there so long as we do the necessary cleaning after the meeting. He thinks that is the best place as it provides sufficient space for social distancing. He also talked to the people who manage Buttonwood School. They would charge for the use of the building. He is also concerned that the room is too narrow to allow proper distancing. Ms Ratchford said that some small commissions such as the Tree Commission may be able to meet in Council Chambers because they have few attendees and could maintain proper spacing. There is not enough room for Council to meet there. She then asked for reports on city operations.

Mr. Barthel said that the staff continues to work from home with one person physically in the office. This is working well and will probably continue through Phase 2. They may start allowing appointments for residents who can’t do business by phone or on-line. There is no change for Public Works at this point; they are waiting for additional guidance from the State.

The Chief said the Police Department will continue as they have been with limited public access to the building. They will see increased activity as restrictions are lifted. For example, as more people resume driving there will be more traffic issues. They still have staggered shifts to minimize contact. Mr. Smith asked if the rookies are able to patrol on their own. The Chief said not yet but they will probably be ready in about a month.

Ms Ratchford said the Governor is now referring to it as “rolling” re-opening. We hope for good news as things continue to improve. She has received no complaints about City services. Mr. Barthel said they are doing everything, even responding to FOIA requests. We will apply to New Castle County for reimbursement of COVID-related expenses.

Mr. Quaranta asked for an estimate of the cost of responding to FOIA requests this fiscal year. Mr. Barthel did not have that figure available but will have it for the next Council meeting.

Public Comments

Ms Ratchford then opened the meeting for public comments.

Brian Whitaker said he thought the “Medical Board” should reconvene and review receipts for medical issues although they couldn’t address legal issues related to COVID. He said Rehoboth has hired people to staff their portable toilets since this is required for the re-opening of the beaches. He thinks we need to be careful as the Governor could “pull the plug” if there is a rise in cases. He asked about enforcement in Battery Park as he knows non-residents have been going there. Ms Ratchford thanked him for his comments and added that there are special rules for beaches.

Phil Gross thanked the Mayor for his ideas. He said he and others have been picking up trash and tires along the Delaware River. He thinks this issue needs to be addressed. He also thinks Council should initiate contact with businesses to explore issues. He said he is involved with managing a band and is not aware of resumption of any concerts. He doesn’t think this will work well as people move around during a concert and often bring alcohol. He thinks the movies suggested by the Mayor are a much better idea as they would attract families and people stay in one place.

