

What Happens Between The COBBLESTONES IS ON EVERYONE'S LIPS Tidbits Overheard. . . Didjanos. . . All The Buzzzzz!

Vol. 11 No. 15

Cobblestones Library

July 19, 2020



MOVIE NIGHT Nearly fifty area residents turned out for the first Movie Night in the Park. Look for new offerings this September

M. PLATT photo

19 The *Rosetta Stone*, a tablet with hieroglyphic translations into Greek, is found in Egypt. 1799, *Samuel Colt*, invented the revolver 1814, First *women's rights convention*. 1848, *Winston Churchill* uses the two finger "V" for victory sign. 1940, *Marilyn Monroe* acted in her first screen test. 1946, *Billy Joel* earned his first gold record with *It's Still Rock and Roll to Me*. 1980, *Christa McAuliffe* was chosen to be the first schoolteacher to ride aboard the space shuttle. 1985

20 A 1,235lb. cheese ball was pressed at the farm of *Elisha Brown, Jr.* and was later loaded on a horse-driven wagon and presented to President Jefferson at the White House. 1801, Sioux Indian leader *Sitting Bull*, surrendered to federal troops. 1881, *Billboard magazine* published its first listing of best-selling singles. 1940, In *"one small step for man, one giant step for mankind"*, *Neil Armstrong* becomes the first person to walk on the moon. 1969

21 The *Battle of Bull Run* at Manassas Junction, the first major battle of the Civil War began. 1861, *Jesse James* and his gang rob their first train 1873, The "Monkey Trial" ended. *John Scopes* is found guilty for teaching evolution and is fined \$100. 1925, Reno Race Track inaugurated *the daily double*. 1931, The last of *Arthur Godfrey's Talent Scouts* programs. 1958

22 Cleveland was founded by *General Moses Cleaveland*. 1796, *Babe Ruth* caught a baseball that had been dropped from an airplane flying at 250 feet. 1926, Bank robber *John Dillon* was shot dead. 1934, *♦ Mona Lisa* by *Nat 'King' Cole* topped the charts. 1950, *VP Nixon* chaired a cabinet meeting. It was the first time that a Vice-President had carried out the task. 1955, An act of Congress restores Civil War Confederate General *Robert E. Lee's* citizenship. 1975, *O.J. Simpson* pleaded "absolutely, 100 percent not guilty" to charges he murdered his ex-wife. 1994

23 *King Edward I* defeats Scots under *William Wallace* at Falkirk. 1298, First *swimming school* in the U.S. opened in Boston. 1827, *William A. Burt* patents his "typographer," an early typewriter. 1829, *William Booth* founds the Salvation Army. 1865, *Charles E. Minches* of St. Louis, Missouri fills a pastry cone with two scoops of ice cream, and the ice cream cone is invented. 1904, *♦ Looks Like We Made It* by *Barry Manilow* topped the charts. 1977, Air Force *Col. Eileen M. Collins* becomes the first woman to command a space shuttle. 1999

24 *Brigham Young* and his followers arrived in the valley of the Great Salt Lake. 1824, *Pres Hoover* announces the Kellogg-Briand Pact which renounces war as an instrument of foreign policy 1929, *Dean Martin* and *Jerry Lewis* ended their team that began a decade earlier. 1956, VP Nixon argued with Khrushchev known as the *'Kitchen Debate'*. 1959, The *Apollo 11* astronauts splashed down safely in the Pacific Ocean. 1969, *♦ Indian Reservation* by the *Paul Revere*



While it's unclear exactly when the hot dog was invented, many attribute it to sausages during the 13th century in Germany. These then most likely immigrants brought by German immigrants during the 19th century. It is believed that as early as the 1860s, hot dogs in buns in New York City. Hot dogs were also sold by a street vendor in St. Louis, Missouri named Antonoine Feuchtwanger.

In 1893, the owner of the St. Louis Browns (now the St. Louis Cardinals) Chris Von de Ahe brought baseball and hot dogs together when he started selling them during games and also at the amusement park he owned. That same year, hot dogs were introduced at the Colombian Exposition in Chicago, Illinois. They became an instant hit.

Many people believe that the term "hot dog" began appearing towards the end of the 19th century. During this time, German immigrants not only brought sausages to America but they also brought dachshund dogs, so the term hot dog may just be a joke about German's thin dogs that got casually transferred to the sausages. This was probably reinforced by the fact that many Germans called these dogs "little sausages."

Today, there are a variety of ways to serve the hot dog - with many regional variances in the United States. Some of the more popular hot dogs include the New York Dog, the Chicago Dog, the Fenway Frank, the Coney Dog, the Rockie Dog, the Sonoran Dog, Michigan Coney Island Dog, Texas Dog, the Philadelphia Dog, Cleveland Polish Boy, Alaskan Reindeer hot dog, Seattle Cream Cheese Dog, Cincinnati Coney and the West Virginia Dog, among others.

See page 5

& the *Raiders* topped the charts. 1971, *Billy Martin* resigned. It was his first of three exits as manager of the Yankees. 1978

25 American forces defeat the British at the *Battle of Niagara Falls Lundy's Lane*. 1814, The paper collar was patented by *Walter Hunt*. 1854, *Judy Garland* joined *Gene Kelly* to record *♦ For Me and My Gal*. 1942, 52 of the 1,662 passengers and crew on board the *Andrea Doria* died in a collision with the Swedish-American liner "Stockholm" near Cape Cod. 1956

Ty Cobb's record for most singles (3,503) in a career. 1984

WHAT'S INSIDE

Birthdays, Phillies & NASCAR	2
Movie Night ZOOM	3
Concerts	4
Adopt Method Man	4
CobbleKitchen	5
Hale Byenes House	5
Weather Almanac	6
Electric Vehicle Charger Rebate	6

Porto-Fino Pizza

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

So many things are happening at Porto-Fino's!

- Porto-Fino's **NOW OPEN** for **DINE-IN**
- The **BAR** is **OPEN** again
- Reservations **NOT** required

Introducing our New Limited Time Specials!!

- Customers who placed pick-up orders are allowed inside to pick up their order

Let's hope the worst is behind us and please stay safe and healthy!!!

From all of us at Porto-Fino's we Miss you & looking forward to seeing everyone again soon!



YOUR FAVORITE GATHERING PLACE FOR 36 YEARS

Phillies



Date		Opponent	Time
18	@	Nationals	6p *SC
19	vs.	Orioles	6p *SC
20	@	Yankees	6p *SC
24	vs.	Marlins	7p
		Phillies home opener	
25	vs.	Marlins	4p
26	vs.	Marlins	1p
27	vs.	Yankees	7p
28	vs.	Yankees	6p
29	@	Yankees	7p
		Yankees home opener	
30	@	Yankees	7p
31	@	Blue Jays	6:37p

*Summer Camp and do not count toward the 2020 regular season.



R.I.P. Tony Taylor

Happy Cobblestone Birthday



Tues 7-21 **Ellie Green** ★ **Vince Wolski**
 Thurs 7-23 **John Behornar** Sat 7-25 **Susan Olds Townsend**
 Sun 7-26 **Charles Wyszynski** Mon 7-27 **Roger Girke**
 Tues 7-28 **Jerry DuPhilly** ★ **John Powell**
 Wed 7-29 **Julie Lumb Burns** ★ **Michael McHugh** ★ **Steve Suskie**
 48rd. Anniversary Wed 7-29 **Joan** & **Gary Phillips**

Birthday or Anniversary approaching?

Tell The Teditor flytedb13@comcast.net

Notable this week

19th Flitch Day Lizzie Borden*160 (1927), George McGovern*98 (2012), Vikki Carr-80, Ilie Nastase-74, Anthony Edwards-58 **20th Natl Ice Cream Day** • **Ugly Truck Day** Sir Edmund Hillary*101 (2008), Diana Rigg-82, Natalie Wood*82 (1981), Carlos Santana-73 **21st Natl Junk Food Day** • **No Pet Store Puppies Day** Ernest Hemingway*121 (1961), Isaac Stern*100 (2001), Don Knotts*96 (2006), Janet Reno*81 (2016), Edward Hermann*77 (2014), Kenneth Starr-74, Cat Stevens-72, Robin Williams*68 (2014), Jon Lovitz-63 **22nd Hammock Day** • **Ratcatcher's Day** Rose Kennedy*130 (1995), Robert Dole-97, Oscar De La Renta*88 (2014), Louise Fletcher-86, Alex Trebek-80, Albert Brooks-73, Danny Glover-74, Don Henley-73, Willem Dafoe-65 **23rd Natl Hot Dog Day** ~ **Vanilla Ice Cream Day** Pee Wee Reese*101 (1999), Gloria DeHaven*95 (2016), Don Drysdale*84 (1993), Woody Harrelson-59, Monica Lewinsky-47, Daniel Radcliffe-31 **24th Amelia Earhart Day** ~ **Cousins Day** Amelia Earhart*123 (1937), Ruth Buzzi-84, Robert Hays-74, Lynda Carter-69, Karl Malone-57, Barry Bonds-56, Jennifer Lopez-51 **25th Merry-Go-Round Day** ~ **Nail Day of the Cowboy** Thomas Eakins-176 (1916), painter, Walter Brennan*126 (1974), Jack Gilford*113 (1990), Estelle Getty*97 (2008), Walter Payton*66 (1999), Matt LeBlanc-53, Louise Brown-42 first test-tube baby

Tell them you saw it in the

COBBLESTONES

James A. Whisman, Jr.

Certified Public Accountant (CPA) Certified Financial Planner (CFP®)
 Accredited Estate Planner (AEP®)

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Fiduciary Advisors

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

Reviews are scheduled often to help ensure we are working towards your financial objectives.



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.



NASCAR schedule

7/12 Quaker State 400 **Cole Custer**
 7/15 NASCAR All-Star Open **Matt DiBenedetto**
 7/15 NASCAR All-Star Race **Chase Elliott**
 7/19 O'Reilly Auto Parts 500 **3p**
 Texas Motor Speedway
 Fort Worth, Texas - 334 laps / 501 miles
 7/23 Super Start Batteries 400 7:30p
 Kansas Speedway



DOVER Race Dates Sun Aug 22 - 23



JULY at Our Senior Center

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

CLOSED

"Where Friends Gather"

▶ New Castle Senior Center
amazon smile
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

CURBSIDE PICK-UP

The New Castle Public Library is closed to the public, but we are offering curbside pick-up.

You can order library materials over the phone (302-328-1995) or online (<https://dlc.lib.de.us>). Once the item is available for pick-up, you can visit the library on the following days and times:

Starting July 6th

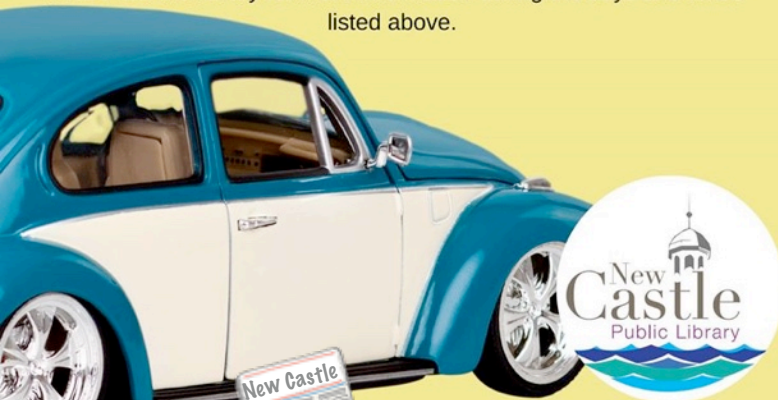
Monday & Tuesday from 10 am to 6:30 pm

Wednesday & Thursday 2 pm to 6:30 pm

Friday & Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm

Once you arrive at the library, park in an assigned curbside pick-up spot and call the library.

Please call the library for more information during the days and times listed above.



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

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

▶ www.nccdelib.org/newcastle

*registration required

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



Office:
302.429.4500

MARIANNE CAVEN

302.588.7410

Email: mcaven@psre.com



10 East Fourth Street

Old New Castle

Adjacent to the
Amstel House Gardens

Offered at \$276,000

With a rich history dated to the 1700s, this home reflects decades and centuries of expansions and improvements. Wood floors, crown moldings, a new main level half bath, a cheery kitchen/family room with a gas fireplace that overlooks a deck and deep gardens, three bedrooms, an upper level laundry room, easy street

access from a side walkway and more makes this home one of the Historic District's most desirable ones! Don't delay to see this one! In the heart of Old New Castle and not in the flood plain.

Call for information on the market and available properties!

Dedicated to Your Success and Satisfaction!



Immanuel's next
Movie Night on ZOOM is Sat., August 1st • 7pm

The film to watch before is
THE GOOD LIAR

Zoom leaders: Glenn Rill and Suzanne Souder RSVP to
glennrill@hotmail.com if you plan to participate so he can send

you the link to join the Zoom meeting

Watch the movie, then join us for discussion.



Keep your education plans on track.

WilmU works.



Next classes start August 31!
Get started at
wilmu.edu/StartNow

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#KeepDELitterFree
de.gov/litterfree

Battery Park Concerts 6:30 ~ 8

Jimmy Pritchard *this Wednesday!*

The patio is OPEN
Live music Thursday nights!
&
Yoga Saturday morning.

Crab feast & dinner pairings monthly.
Like us on Facebook!



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

Tell them you saw it in the
COBBLESTONES



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FAX: 995-9630



Handsome *Method Man* adores people and has been around children as young as a year old. He is amazing with other dogs and has been helping some of the shy ones come out of their shells in playgroup. The perfect family dog, you can adopt Method Man for a fee you name through Sunday, July 26th.... (Brandywine Valley SPCA, 600 South Street, New Castle, DE 302-516-1000, www.bvspca.org)



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



THE STUFF

4 hot dog buns - 2 tbsp. butter, softened
 1/4 tsp. garlic powder - 1/4 tsp. onion powder - 4 hot dogs, split
 lengthwise (be careful not to cut all the way through) - 3 c. shredded
 cheddar - 4 - Green onions, sliced

THE DOING

1. Flatten open hot dog buns with a rolling pin. In a small bowl, stir together butter, garlic powder, and onion powder. Spread all over outsides of buns.
2. In a large skillet over medium heat, sear hot dogs (working in batches if necessary) until charred, 2 minutes per side. Set aside.
3. Place a bun buttered-side down in skillet and top with 1/2 cup of cheddar cheese, a hot dog, a little more cheddar cheese, and 1/4 cup of green onions.
4. Cover and cook over medium heat until cheese melts, then use a spatula to close the bun. Repeat with remaining ingredients to make 4 cheese dogs total. [THE VIDEO](#)



Hale Byrnes House Sun., July 19th 3-5:00 PM

The Public is Cordially Invited to Attend. "History of Auburn Heights"
 Speaker: **Dan Citron**
 Well-behaved children always welcomed \$5 at the door includes coffee & dessert

Please note:

All Covid-19 restrictions will be in place. Please wear your mask; bring your own lawn chair; and observe social distancing.



A New Castle favorite is the Paulownia Tree with large purple blooms. The tree tells a tale of 1700's ships full of Chinese export porcelain being unloaded in New Castle and the dried pods from the Paulownia used as packing material being discarded, only to later sprout and grow into these big, beautiful trees. (see *The Big Green Umbrella at the NC Historical Society*). The wood is highly prized in China for dowry chests, and I remember many years ago hearing that the Chinese were trying to buy trees in Delaware to import back to China, because they could not get enough of the wood for their daughters' dowries! Nick McIntire muses in the April 3, 1959 *Behind the Times*, "Of course, the Paulownia is one of our most interesting and beautiful trees, especially in the spring when it puts out its foxglove-like purple flowers which have a delicate fragrance. We know there are those who contend the paulownia is a "dirty" tree, and while not disputing such assertion would counter with what trees are not"?

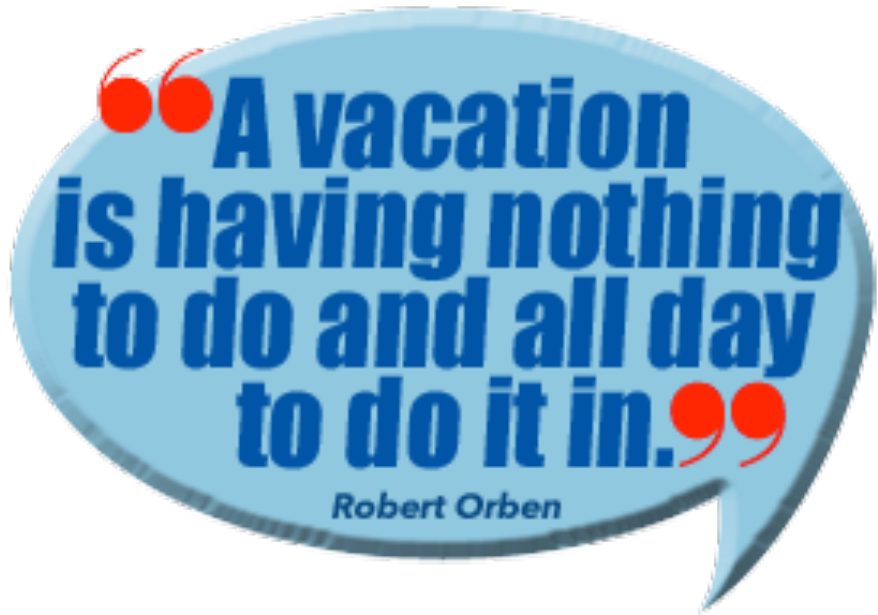


MSC Announces New Electric Vehicle Charger Rebate Program

The Municipal Services Commission (MSC) of the City of New Castle has developed a new Electric Vehicle Charger Rebate Program to provide incentives for MSC customers to install electric vehicle charging stations at their home or business. The MSC is offering up to \$250 or \$500 in rebates for residential and commercial chargers, respectively.

"The MSC is committed to protecting our environment and supporting customers that want to do the same. We are proud to partner with our customers and DEMEC to take advantage of today's technology and continue to meet the needs of our local community," stated Pam Patone, MSC General Manager.

Applications can be placed in the MSC administrative drop box outside 216 Chestnut Street in New Castle or mailed to the Delaware Municipal Electric Corporation (DEMEC) c/o MSC Electric Vehicle Rebate Program at PO Box 310, Smyrna, DE 19977. You must be an MSC electric customer to apply. Applications can be found at: <https://newcastlemsc.delaware.gov/forms-applications/>. The Electric Vehicle Charger Rebate Program will continue until funding has been exhausted or until Dec. 31, 2021.



19		5:50am		8:27pm
20		5:51am		8:26pm
21		5:52am		8:25pm
22		5:53am		8:25pm
23		5:54am		8:24pm
24		5:54am		8:23pm
25		5:55am		8:22pm

TIDES & CURRENTS				
Reedy Point Tides				
		h	m	ft cm
19		06:17 AM	0.4	12
		11:33 AM	5.0	152
Su		06:05 PM	0.5	15
		11:43 PM	6.2	189
20		07:05 AM	0.3	9
		12:17 PM	5.1	155
M		06:54 PM	0.4	12
21		12:26 AM	6.3	192
		07:52 AM	0.2	6
Tu		01:01 PM	5.2	158
		07:43 PM	0.4	12
22		01:09 AM	6.4	195
		08:38 AM	0.1	3
W		01:45 PM	5.3	162
		08:32 PM	0.3	9
23		01:54 AM	6.4	195
		09:23 AM	0.1	3
Th		02:31 PM	5.4	165
		09:23 PM	0.4	12
24		02:42 AM	6.3	192
		10:09 AM	0.1	3
F		03:21 PM	5.5	168
		10:17 PM	0.4	12
25		03:34 AM	6.2	189
		10:57 AM	0.1	3
Sa		04:14 PM	5.7	174
		11:14 PM	0.4	12

DELAWARE BEACHES

RESTAURANTS & BARS ARE OPEN!

We are open & ready to safely serve you, but here are a few things to know about bar service in the following Sussex County communities
(effective in 19966, 19945, 19975, 19944, 19967, 19970, 19930, 19971 and 19958):

While still under Phase 2 Guidance, the only new restriction is that **you may not sit, stand, or order at a bar** within certain Sussex County zip codes. You can still dine & enjoy drinks at your favorite beach bars -- but a friendly server will bring all food & drinks to your table!

ENJOY CARRY OUT ALCOHOL!

Rehoboth Beach has removed the ordinance and masks are no longer required while enjoying our beaches, however they are still required in shops, restaurants, and while on the boardwalk.

NO RESERVATIONS REQUIRED!

Sources: Delaware's Official Website (delaware.gov)



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](#)

HISTORIC
New Castle
Distinctively American



Present at the Public Hearings: Council President Linda Ratchford, Council Members Michael Platt and myself, City Clerk Brian Whitaker, Building Official Jeff Bergstrom, City Solicitor Dan Losco, City Administrator Bill Barthel, Council Secretary Kim Burgmüller

(Zoom host), stenographer Kathy Weirich, City Planner Chris Rogers, and Planning Commission Chair Dave Baldini. Council Members Russ Smith and Valerie Leary joined us shortly after the meeting began.

Hearing on **Ordinance 526**: to amend the Comprehensive Plan and rezone the property located at 604 Frenchtown Rd which was previously known as Wilson's Radiator Shop. It is currently zoned R-1 (Residential) and the ordinance changes the zoning to Retail/Commercial.

Mr. Rogers summarized the issues for us. The amendment to the 2009 Comprehensive Plan is needed to keep the plan and the zoning consistent as required by State law. The proposal was reviewed by the State land use program (PLUS) which found no issues. The Planning Commission recommended approval with a minimal revision to make the wording consistent. The correct new zoning category is Retail/Service rather than Retail/Commercial.

Shawn Tucker, zoning council for the property owner George Velitskakis reminded us that the property was used as a radiator shop for many years and prior to that was a gas station. It has always been a commercial property even though it was zoned residential. It is located on the corner of Frenchtown Rd. and Rt. 141, across from the Dunkin Donut/Volaro station. The building is approximately 1300 square feet and the land approximately .07 acres. There are homes behind the property and he spoke to all the neighbors. All are in favor of the change and he presented a petition with their signatures. He noted that the location is walkable from Washington Park and therefore this change is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan's goal of establishing walkable, mixed-use communities and encouraging local retail shops.

Mr. Velitskakis said that presently the property is an eye sore. Mr. Baldini added that they have gone through the full process and he believes this will be an improvement to the community.

Ms Ratchford opened the meeting for public comments. Phil Gross agreed that the change will be an improvement. Ms Ratchford thanked Mr. Velitskakis for investing in our community by improving the property and said she too had spoken to the neighbors who all agree this will be an improvement.

Mr. Platt asked about possible traffic issues since the property is on a busy intersection. Mr. Tucker said this will be worked out with Mr Bergstrom and DELDOT. He said that the current access via curb cuts is less than ideal. He added that this will be a small operation so he doesn't think the traffic will be significant. Mr. Platt asked if the property had been checked for toxic waste and, if any is present, who will be responsible for the cleanup. Mr. Tucker said that Mr. Velitskakis is now responsible unless other provisions were made at settlement when he purchased the property. Mr. Velitskakis said he had a DNREC certificate showing that the underground gas tanks had been removed and no problems were detected in the soil tests.

The Public Hearing was adjourned. Later, during the Regular Meeting, Council unanimously approved the ordinance with the change to "Retail/Service" rather than "Retail/Commercial".

Hearing on **Ordinance 527**: to amend and restate a number of chapters of the City building code.

Ms Ratchford asked Mr. Bergstrom to give us an overview. He reiterated what he told us at last month's regular meeting. The purpose of these changes is to update the City to be in agreement with the 2018 version of the International Code and to bring us into compliance with the County code. This will make things easier for contractors as the codes will be consistent across jurisdictions. It is also necessary to maintain our fire insurance rating as current code is based on the outdated 2000 version of the International Code.

There were no comments from Council and Ms Ratchford invited public comment. Phil Gross asked if there were any major changes and what was the purpose of the change other than the fire insurance rating. Mr. Losco said that building standards have changed in 18 years, there are new materials, and new standards due to climate change. Mr. Bergstrom said he has had the option to use the new code on projects and has done so; this makes it official.

The Public Hearing was adjourned. Later, during the Regular Meeting, Council unanimously approved the ordinance without further discussion.

Regular Meeting: All Council Members present plus Mr. Barthel, Mr. Losco, Mr. Bergstrom, Mr. Whitaker, and Treasurer Janet Carlin, Chief of Police Richard McCabe, and Mayor Michael Quaranta. Ms Burgmüller continued as our Zoom host and Ms. Weirich as our stenographer.

We reviewed the minutes of the June 4 Budget Workshop, the June 9 Regular Meeting, and the June 15 Budget Workshop. They were all approved with minor clerical corrections.

Treasurer's Report Ms Carlin said that we finished fiscal year 2020 at 92% of budgeted expenses which puts us in a good position going into a tough year. All revenue categories were strong in FY2020 and she is hopeful for 2021.

City Administrator's Report Mr. Barthel said the Delaware Street project continues to go well and is on schedule for completion in late October. Cement curbs are being replaced with granite and old granite is being reused whenever possible. He reports that the Chief is in agreement with painting the street rather than the curbs yellow to designate no parking zones. These will also have signs. The Chief's primary concern was that those receiving tickets for parking in no-parking zones would challenge them on the grounds that the curb wasn't yellow. He is willing to test this with a judge. If we find there is a consistent problem we may have to revisit this decision.

Mr. Barthel said the feasibility study regarding the creation of a City campus for City government and the MSC is complete. He would like to present this at a public meeting and prefers to wait until it can be done at an in-person meeting.

Chief of Police Report Chief McCabe reported that, as of Monday, the department is at full strength with 17 officers. The rookies completed their field training and are now able to patrol on their own. He reported another rash of thefts from vehicles although little was taken, mostly the vehicles were ransacked. The suspects were identified and arrested. He said the community was very helpful in identifying the suspects and many shared footage from home security cameras. The suspects were very young. The department also arrested a suspect in the smash and grab break-in at Walgreens last month.

Council Communications Mr. Smith thanked the New Castle Community Partnership and the JayCees for the concerts and thanked the Mayor and the Arts Council for the movies. Mr. Platt agreed. He said he and his wife attended the movie and observed that people practiced social distancing. He went on to say that he thinks Council should return to the system of appointing a council member as a liaison to each City Department. Mr. Smith agreed but said he knows there were problems with this system in the past with some (no present members) Council members inserting themselves between the City Administrator and City departments. Ms Leary said she agrees with Mr. Smith and Mr. Platt.

Ms Ratchford said she had served on multiple councils including when this system was in place. She said she thinks all Council members want to be involved with all departments. Also, not all Council members followed up with their assignments. She prefers a project approach where 1 or 2 Council members work together on an issue. Mr. Platt disagreed and said perhaps there should be a resolution on this issue. He thinks Council was left out of much of the recent emergency planning and many other issues. He complained that he didn't know about the requirement to sign a waiver to attend the concerts or movie until he read about it in Cobblestones. He said that his neighborhood (VanDyke Village) feels left out of many things. Ms Ratchford said the liaison system caused confusion for City workers who didn't know whose direction to follow. I said I thought the City was not large enough to require such specialization and that all members are interested in all aspects of City government. I also said I didn't see how having liaisons would change emergency management or improve communication. We have already agreed that we need to revise the Code on establishing a State of Emergency and, in fact, the issue is on tonight's agenda.

Mr Smith asked Mr. Barthel for his thoughts on this subject. Mr. Barthel said that, having served as both Council President and City Administrator, he recommended elimination of the liaisons. He said they tended to usurp the authority of the administrator which became "a political and managerial nightmare." Ms Carlin added that she has worked with many Councils and thought that, while sometimes the liaisons worked well, she thinks the current system is better.

Ms Ratchford agreed that communication needs to be improved. Ms Leary said she thinks having liaisons with the various departments would help communication. Mr. Barthel said the requirement for a waiver to attend

concerts or movies in the park was a process decision based on a desire to shield the City from liability and was made with Mr. Losco's input. Mr. Platt and Ms Leary again complained about not being informed of this decision.

Mayor's Report Mr. Quaranta said the waiver wasn't something he wanted but felt he had to protect the City. He reported that 45-50 people attended the movie and no one complained about the waiver. He felt they had a good "soft launch" and got good feedback. He will send further notes after the Arts Council has a Zoom meeting to evaluate the process. There are no further movies scheduled at this point. He said they may want to wait until Sept. for the next one as sunset will be earlier then so the movie can start sooner and be over by around 9. They couldn't start the movie until nearly 9 this week and thus it was nearly 11 before it was wrapped up. He was concerned about disturbing the neighbors as well as keeping people out so late. There is also less chance of thunderstorms in Sept. He invited anyone with further comments to email him.

He also reported that he received information from the Delaware Dept. of Agriculture about the arrival of the spotted lantern fly in this area. It is a highly invasive insect which damages fruit trees and other agricultural products. He noted that the insect seems to prefer the Tree of Heaven as a host and that these trees are common in industrial parks. He wants to try to get a handle on this issue and will consider any recommendations from the Tree Commission. Mr. Smith said that these trees are common along railroad tracks as the seeds fall out of packing material. Since many industrial parks have rail access, the tree is often found there. The tree itself is also an invasive species.

He mentioned the press release sent by MSC offering financial rebates to residential and commercial customers that invest in vehicle charging equipment or infrastructure. He welcomes this initiative. He also realizes that this could be an issue in the Historic District and other parts of the City where residents rarely have off-street parking. He suggested that the City consult Leila Hamroun, the City Architect for advice and ask HAC for input.

He noted that about a third of child care centers are closing and this presents challenges for working parents. He believes New Castle has under-used buildings which would be good for child care centers. He thinks encouraging this would encourage young families to move here. Ms Leary asked for examples of under-used buildings. He said some schools are underutilized so a portion of these buildings would be good sites for child care centers as the buildings already meet the standards for serving children.

He closed by again thanking City workers for their service and noting that Joe Day's term as chair of the Health Commission expires soon and he expects to nominate him for another term.

Council President's Report Ms Ratchford thanked residents for observing "COVID courtesies" and noted that most seemed to be following directives for wearing face coverings and keeping social distance. Delaware is improving as we now have an infection rate under 5%. Neighboring states no longer require Delawareans traveling there to quarantine.

There have been 7 responses to WILMAPCO's Request for Proposals for the transportation study of New Castle. Council will have to approve the final plan. She has asked Mr. Smith to help with reviewing the proposals. She noted that there are a number of Health Commission members whose terms expire soon and asked Mr. Barthel to prepare a list so we can be sure new appointments or renewals are completed timely.

Public Comment – any topic Phil Gross thanked the Mayor for the movie and the New Castle Community Partnership and JayCee's for the concert and commended the Chief for having an officer in the area even if none could be there throughout the event. He was unclear how Council members didn't know about the waiver requirement. He noted that he saw a Council member without a mask even though that person was not seated. He said that City workers have done a great job and hopes Council remembers this in collective bargaining. He doesn't think we need Council liaisons with City Departments.

COVID Issues Ms Ratchford asked Mr. Barthel to report on our current status. He thinks things are going well. We are still in Phase 2 with no indication when the Governor will move to Phase 3. We are doing the same things we've been doing regarding City services. Residents can make appointments if they wish to come to the office for something such as a receipt for a tax payment or if they want to pay in cash. He is working with architect Leila Hamroun on the design of safe work space.

He said so far we have about \$22,000 in COVID-related expenses. He will be submitting these to New Castle County for reimbursement through the CARES Act. The County just set up their website for doing this after some initial confusion. Mr. Platt asked what portion of the expenses is for legal fees. Mr. Barthel said about 40%, mostly from the early part of the State of Emergency when there were daily calls of an hour or more 6 or 7 days a week. The County recommended that City Solicitors review many issues.

These expenses will be submitted for reimbursement. While he will purchase necessary items, he won't buy things that can wait until he knows more about what will or will not be approved for reimbursement.

There are many unknowns about resuming face-to-face meetings. When we do this we will still have to provide an option for on-line attendance for those who don't feel comfortable coming to a public meeting. A "hybrid" meeting involving the broadcast of a live meeting with a means for people to participate online is much more complex than a meeting held only via Zoom. This will require technical support which he estimates will cost \$1200-1500 per meeting.

Ms Ratchford said that playgrounds remain closed at the State level but New Castle County is about to re-open theirs. We previously decided to keep ours closed until Phase 3. Ms Leary asked why the swings were removed. Mr. Barthel said that the Trustees plan to replace them as new swings were needed anyway. Only Nora Lee's requested special outdoor seating. Mr. Barthel said there is nothing new on this so far. The special permission from the State expires July 31. He has heard that the Senate is considering a new bill but has few details. If the State doesn't extend the rules for outdoor seating beyond July 31 the City could do it. Ms Leary noted that Nora Lee's did a great job creating their outdoor seating area and thinks we should encourage them to seek permission for permanent seasonal use. Mr. Smith agreed but thinks they could do a better job communicating about the use of this area. Ms Ratchford asked what the Council has to do. Mr. Barthel said we can approve the use of the outdoor area but they still have to get permission from the State Alcoholic Beverage Commission.

Ms Ratchford said she understood the Trust has opened the restrooms in Battery Park for standard hours. Mr. Barthel said he isn't sure and thinks they may only be opened for events such as concerts. Mr. Smith noted that he is on the Battery Park Commission and hasn't heard that they are open for standard hours.

Council Discussion of revisions to Chapter 28 of City Code regarding States of Emergency Ms Ratchford said the intent is to get Council involved and maintain flexibility. Our system of government is different from many cities which have a Mayor and Council system. Mr. Losco has not yet reviewed the draft revision which does need legal review.

Mr. Platt said he was never against the Mayor's authority during the State of Emergency, he just wanted more information given to Council. He noted that we need to distinguish between an emergency and a crisis. He also thinks that the fines are too low and the restrictions on firearms are unconstitutional. He noted that this issue has been fought in other states.

Ms Ratchford asked the Chief if there was anything he needs that wasn't mentioned. He responded that he follows the lead of the Attorney General who said that, in the current crisis, we should lead with education rather than enforcement. He noted that some restrictions are not realistically enforceable. Mr. Smith said that we need to look beyond the current situation to consider other types of emergencies. I noted that the proposal provides a line of succession which, after the Mayor and Council President, starts with the longest-serving member of Council but does not address how this is determined for Council members elected on the same day. Regarding the section on the duration and terms of the state of emergency (SOE), I suggested that the code could provide for an initial SOE declared by the Mayor for up to 10 days. A Council meeting could immediately be scheduled and the required 7-day notice given. The Council could then approve and extend the SOE as needed. Mr. Losco pointed out that, depending on the nature of the emergency, Council may not be able to meet as some may be ill or unavailable. Current State law permits Zoom meetings only during a state-declared SOE. I acknowledged that this was a possibility I hadn't considered. The draft simply states that Council should convene "as soon as possible under current law".

Resolution 2020-17; Requesting the US Post Office Designate "Historic New Castle" as an Optional Preferred Mailing Address Mr. Smith introduced the resolution by saying that it doesn't solve the problem of crimes being shown as committed in New Castle when they are outside the City limits. He hopes it will provide a means of distinguishing the City from the rest of the 19720 ZIP code area. Mr. Quaranta said if we do this it will be important to be consistent to try to change the perception of New Castle. I said I had no objection to the idea of a preferred address but thought "City of New Castle" would better reflect the entire City because most people equate "Historic New Castle" with the historic district. I said I thought using "Historic New Castle" was not only inaccurate since most of the current City was not part of the original City chartered in 1672, but use of this preferred address was a disservice to the parts of New Castle outside the historic district. Mr. Platt agreed but said he didn't think it would make much difference either way. Ms Leary said using "Historic New Castle" could help to promote the brand of the City. The Council voted 4-1 in favor of the resolution. I cast the only negative vote. Mr. Smith said he will continue to pursue the issue of reporting crimes in "New Castle" with the newly appointed Superintendent of the Delaware State Police.