Cobblestones Library November 17, 2019 Vol. 10 No. 34 **Rosehill Plantery**

IS ON EVERYONE'S LIPS Tidbits Overheard... Didjanos... All The Buzzzz!

Just about every New Castle garden gets it's start here. "Gotta go to Rosehill" is as familiar a spring cry as the first robin's call. Generations have stocked up with annual and perennial flowering plants, trays of vegetable garden necessities and everything for a successful growing season. Continued on page 6



COUNCIL SUMMARY PAGE 9

> 17 Congress held its first session in the partially completed Capitol building. 1800, US Post Office issued a 1-cent carrier stamp. 1851, The first underwater submarine journey was taken, from Southampton, England, to the Isle of Wight. 1904, The 'Heidi Game' happened. The Jets/ Raiders football game was cut off to begin a family show ("Heidi") on NBC. TV viewers missed Oakland's two touchdowns (in nine seconds) to win the game 43-32. NBC was flooded with calls and the concept of program delay was instituted immediately by the networks. 1968

18 Capt. Nathaniel Palmer became the first American to sight the continent of Antarctica.

1820, Samuel L. Clemens published "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County" under the pen name Mark Twain in the NY Saturday Press. 1865, US and Canada adopted a system of standard time zones. 1883, Chuck Connors (Los Angeles Angels-the Cubs top farm club) became the first player to oppose the major league draft. Connors later became the star of the television show The Rifleman. 1951, Apollo 12 astronauts Charles "Pete" Conrad Jr. and Alan L. Bean landed on the lunar surface during the second mission to the moon. 1969

19 Abraham Lincoln delivered the *Gettysburg Address*. 1863, The "paper pencil" was patented by Frederick E. Blaisdell. 1895, Two automatic toll collectors were placed in service on the Garden State Parkway. 1954, Sammy

Davis Jr.

was involved in a serious auto accident. Three days later, he lost the sight in his left eve. 1954, Ford Motor Co. announced it was ending the production of the unpopular Edsel. 1959, Mike Schmidt became named Most Valuable Player (3rd time) 1986,

20 First national convention of Grand Army of the Republic (veterans' organization). 1866, Elvís Presley's contract purchased by RCA (the unheard of sum of \$35,000 to Sam Phillips). 1955, The Nixon administration announced a halt to residential use of the pesticide DDT as part of a total phase out of the substance. 1969, 100 million watch ABC-TV movie
The Day After, 1983

21 The *Mayflower* reached Provincetown, MA. The ship discharged the Pilgrims at Plymouth, on Dec. 26th. 1620, M.F. Galethe patented the cigar lighter. 1871, The Yankees purchased the contract of Joe DiMaggio from San Francisco of the Pacific Coast League 1934,
The Roy Rogers Show was first heard on radio. 1944, Rose Mary *Woods* said she accidentally caused part of 18-minute gap in a key Watergate tape 1973, An estimated 83 million viewers tuned in to find out who shot J.R. 1980, Anthology I sold 450,000 copies in its first day. 1995

22 The Marconi Wireless Co. of America was incorporated. 1899, Arthur F. Knight of Schenectady patented the steel shaft. Not a big shaft, actually, but one to replace the less durable hickory wood shafts used to that time -- in golf clubs. 1910, <->Tom Dooley by The Kingston Trio #1, 1958 John F. Kennedy, the youngest person to become a US president, is assassinated in Dallas, 1963, 38,648 immigrants became citizens of the US. It was the

Join Patti & Jim of Rosehill Plantery at their Open House to celebrate their 100th Anniversary on Small Business Saturday, November 30th, from 11am to 3 pm at their store located on the corner of New Castle Avenue and Lambson Lane.

1919-2019

They will have refreshments, snacks, door prizes, and of course, items available for sale, including, but not limited to, poinsettias, cyclamen flowers, fresh and artificial (individually hand decorated for uniqueness) wreaths and cemetery memorial decorations, among other garden/flower-themed gift ideas.

largest swearing-in ceremony. 1985, Denver Broncos QB John Elway passed (pun intended) the 50,000-yard careerpassing mark. 1998

23 Henry Burden patented the horseshoe manufacturing machine. 1835, The *first jukebox* made its debut in San Francisco, at the Palais Royale Saloon. 1889, Shirley Booth and Ed Gardner were married on this day. Miss Booth was famous for her television acting role Hope's signature song
Thanks for the Memory recorded by Shep Fields and his orchestra. 1938, Wartime rationing of most foods ended. 1945, Doug Flutie TD pass stuns Miami, 1984



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Newark, Delaware 19713 Contact: halebyrneshouse@aol.com

Sun November 17, 2019 3:00PM - 5:00PM

This Place Matters Series The Public is Cordially Invited to Attend. *"White Clay Creek Landing*

An 18th Century Commercial Hub of Northern Delaware"

Speaker: Walt Chiquoine Co-sponsored by Cooch's Bridge DAR Well-behaved children always welcomed \$5 at the door includes coffee & dessert





Happy Cobblestone Birthday

Wed 11-20 Tish DiMaio ★ Laura Workman Thurs 11-21 Mary Beth Plaisted ★ Mary Kate Rispoli ★ Bob Parker Sat 11-23 Judy Hentkowski Mon 11-25 Judie Baldini ★ Kristin Gantt ★ Margaret Rosado Tues 11-26 Charlie Toner Wed 11-27 Carol Dempsey ★ Erica Suppa

Sun 11-17 (Aniversary Mary Kate & Rusty Rispoli 34th Tues 11-19 (Aniversary Gail & C.T. Seitz Wed 11-20 (Aniversary June & Ted Megginson 65th

Birthday or Anniversary approaching? Tell The Teditor flytedb13@comcast.net

Notable this week 17th Homemade Bread Day Take A Hike Day Rock Hudson*94 (1985), Gordon Lightfoot-81, Martin Scorsese-77, Danny DeVito-75, Lorne Michaels-75, Tom Seaver-75, Isaac Hanson-39 18th Natl Married to A Scorpio Support Day Mickey Mouse Day Imogene Coca*111 (2001), Cameron Mitchell*101 (1994), Alan Shepard*96 (1998), first American in space, Mickey Mouse-91, Margaret Atwood-80, Linda Evans-77 19th American Made- Matters Day Gettysburg Address Day George Rogers Clark*267 (1818), frontiersman, James A. Garfield*188 (1881), 2016 U.S. President, Tommy Dorsey*114 (1956), Indira Gandhi*102 (1984), Larry King-86, Dick Cavett-83, Ted Turner-81, Calvin Klein-77, Meg Ryan-58, Jodie Foster-57 20th Great American Smokeout Universal Children's Day Kenesaw Mountain Landis*153 (1944), first baseball commissioner, Edwin Hubble*130 (1953), Chester Gould*119 (1985), Gene Tierney*99 (1991), Robert F. Kennedy*94 (1968), Richard Dawson*87 (2012), Dick Smothers-80, Bo Derek-63 21st False Confession Day World Hello Day Harpo Marx*126 (1964), Stan Musial*99 (2013), Joseph Campanella*95 (2018), Marlo Thomas-82, Goldie Hawn-74, Mariel Hemingway-58, Nicollette Sheridan-56, Troy Aikman-53, Ken Griffey Jr.-50 22nd Eat a Cranberry Day Charles de Gaulle*129 (1970), Rodney Dangerfield*98 (2004), Robert Vaughn*87 (2016), Billie Jean King-76, Jamie Lee Curtis-61, Boris Becker-52 23rd Doctor Who Day Franklin Pierce*214 (1869), 14th U.S. President, William "Billy the Kid" Bonney*159 (1881), Boris Karloff*131 (1969), Susan Anspach-77, 24th D.B. Cooper Day Zachary Taylor*234 (1850), 12th U.S. President, died in office. Got sick eating cherries and milk. Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec*155 (1901). Dale Carnegie*131 (1955), William F. Buckley, Jr.*94 (2008), Paul Tagliabue-79



WEEK 12 Thurs, Nov 21 Indianapolis @ Houston 8:20p NFLN Sun, Nov 24 NY. Giants @ Chicago 1p FOX Miami @ Cleveland 1p CBS Oakland @ NY. Jets 1p CBS Pittsburgh @ Cincinnati 1p CBS Tampa Bay @ Atlanta 1p FOX Detroit @ Washington 1p FOX Denver @ Buffalo 1p CBS Carolina @ New Orleans 1p FX Jacksonville @ Tennessee 4p CBS Dallas @ New England 4:25p FOX Green Bay @ San Francisco 4:25p FOX Seattle @ Philadelphia 8:20 NBC **Mon, Nov 25** Baltimore @ L.A. Rams 8:15p ESPN **Bye:** Arizona, Kansas City, L.A. Chargers, Minnesota

► EAGLES ► REDSKINS and ► RAVENS



Saving Delaware History





<u>Court House Museum</u> and the <u>Zwaanendael Museum</u>, open 10a–4:30p

302-744-5054.

COBBLESTONES

Making homemade mashed potatoes is SO easy, it would make no sense for you to reach for instant ones. But what actually separates AMAZING mashed potatoes from subpar ones?

Gonna Need 3 lb.potatoes (about 4 large, combo of russets and Yukon Golds) • Kosher salt • 1stick real butter, plus 2 tbsp for garnish • 1/2 c. Real milk • 1/2 c. sour cream • Freshly ground black pepper

Easy Steps

- 1. In a large pot, cover potatoes with water and add a generous pinch of salt. Bring to a boil and cook until totally soft, 16 to 18 minutes. Drain and return potatoes to pot.
- 2. Use a potato masher to mash potatoes until smooth.
- 3. Meanwhile, in a small saucepan, melt butter and milk until warm.
- 4. Pour over warm milk-butter mixture and stir until completely combined and creamy. Add sour cream and stir until combined.
- 5. Season mashed potatoes generously with salt and pepper.
- Transfer potatoes to a serving bowl and top with remaining two 6. tablespoons butter. Season with more pepper before serving

Peel or Don't

This is the age-old debate: Should you peel your potatoes for mashed potatoes?! The Cobble kitchen falls into the camp of people who happen to love the texture that the skin adds, so we don't peel our potatoes, but it's entirely up to you. **Seasoning** Mashed potatoes are *begging* for salt and pepper. Potatoes need a lot of salt-go heavy! This will help bring out their buttery flavor and ensure they don't taste lackluster. Add it all! CobbleKitchen is obsessed with loaded mashed potatoes-who isn't?!-so we totally encourage you to stir in shredded cheddar or Parmesan, cooked bacon bits, chives, the works, after you add the melted butter-milk mixture. Truly any fresh herb or cheese will only help mashed potatoes taste amazing.

Another holiday must, this extra delicious

Pecan Pie

comes together with just 15 minutes of prep time and taste like a dream!

Ingredients 1 cup packed brown sugar • 1/3 cup butter,

3/4 cup light corn syrup
 1/2 tsp salt
 3 eggs
 1 1/2 cups

melted pecan halves or pieces • 1 frozen deep dish pie crust Steps

Make oven happy at 375°; place cookie sheet in oven to preheat. In medium bowl, beat brown sugar, butter, corn syrup, salt and eggs with whisk

until well blended; stir in pecans. Pour into frozen crust.

Bake on preheated cookie sheet 35 to 45 minutes or until center is set. After 15 to 20 minutes of baking, cover crust edge with strips of foil to prevent excessive browning. Cool 30 minutes; refrigerate at least 2 hours until chilled before serving. Cover and refrigerate any remaining pie.





* December 14, 2019 * NATIONAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY



fallen_HONOR those who Serve_TEACH out children the value of freed Click below to sponsor: Delaware State Society -**DAR Wreaths Across America**



#EveryonePlaysAPart

TEACH

Help Decorate Historic New Castle for the Holidays at Arasapha Garden Club's 2019 Wreath Workshop

You don't need any artistic talent to join the fun! We will show you what to do. Please join us to share some time with neighbors and get the thrill of seeing your wreath creation on one of the windows or doors around town.

Tues. Dec 3 ~10am to 3 pm

We bundle dried flowers onto flower picks so they can be easily attached to wreaths. Wed., Dec. 4 ~ 9 am to 7 pm Thurs., Dec. 5 ~ 9 am to 1 pm

We decorate the wreaths with dried flowers and fresh fruits, vegetables, and greens. All are in the New Castle Presbyterian Church Christian Education Building 25 E. 2nd St, New Castle, DE

Bring your clippers if you have them. Wed. Dec. 4 4:30-6:30 PM

"Make and take" – you make it and take it with you - we supply the wreath and materials - \$25.

The Wreath Workshop is supported by grants from the Trustees of New Castle Common and the City of New Castle, along with proceeds from A Day in Old New Castle.

Questions? Visit www.arasapha.org/holiday-greening or e-mail <u>ArasaphaGarden@gmail.com.</u>





Monday Even #'s Tuesday Odd #'s: 7 - 10 am Boothhurst including Edgewood Drive (Rogers Manor) Wed. Even #'s Thursday Odd #'s: 7 - 10 am Buttonwood, including Buttonwood Avenue, Arbutus, Meehan Lane, Lincoln Street, A Street, Railroad Avenue, Jacquette Square, William Penn Square, Holcomb Lane and Booker Circle.

NOVEMBER								
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30		

THANKSGIVING WEEK Schedule Changes Wed., Nov. 27 City-Wide-Recycling Pickup Wed., Nov. 27 NO Yard Waste Pickup

CITY OFFICES CLOSED Thurs., Nov. 28 & Fri. Nov. 29 NO Recycle Pick up

<section-header>

Saint Peter the Apostle

FRIDAY, 12/6; 5-8pm; Tree Lighting 6pm SATURDAY, 12/7; 9am-3pm; Breakfast with Santa 9-11am in Crowley Hall The Santa Train is Back! - Saturday 9am-1pm SUNDAY, 12/8; 9am-3pm; St Anthony Society Spaghetti Dinner 12-6pm in Cafeteria



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Jim Piovoso's dad, Benedetto, at the age of 16, along with Benny's siblings and mother, traveled by boat, to America from Nusco, Province of Avellino, Italy, in 1919. His father was already here working hard to save money for his family to join him. When they did, they all shared in the work. They rented and worked a farm in the Eden Park area. When Benedetto's father passed away later that year, saddling him with \$2,000 debt (can you imagine that,) Benny assumed responsibility for the family. The Piovoso family grew vegetables and sold to high-end grocery stores, calling each one every week to see what they needed. Benny shared with us later that those grocery stores could not buy a better quality product then what they purchased from him. He was feeling especially proud remembering that he washed his spinach so well, you would not find a piece of sand/dirt anywhere. The stores were willing to pay top dollar for such quality.

Around 1930, the family moved to our current location on New Castle Avenue and Lambson Lane. They also rented 30 acres to farm, including what is now Rose Hill Community Center across the street. Around 1940, Benny was able to purchase a tractor for plowing and a panel truck for delivering, so no more horses. As it turns out, it was less expensive to buy a tractor, since the feed for the horses went up dramatically, not to mention the extra time to care for the horses' daily needs. Benny did suffer from back issues, so when an opportunity arose for the family to purchase the 30 acres that they had been renting, he decided to pass, thinking that he couldn't handle that heavy work load much longer. Fast forward several years to 1974 when Benny had a serious heart attack, which he survived. However, he needed to make a decision on what to do with the business. His youngest son, Jim, in his third year of college, studying accounting, quit school to take over the business. His parents continued to work with him every day until their deaths in 1991 and 1999. We still have customers that come in our store telling/sharing stories about the old days when Mom and Pop were here. They always bring a smile to our faces.

Over the next twenty years, Jim began building more greenhouses to grow plants for sale. He was gradually converting the farming and selling of vegetables to growing plants for people to grown in their own home gardens. Customers' interests were changing. People were beginning to take more interest in beautifying their homes with flowers and less interest in purchasing fresh vegetables. He built a new store on this same three-acre property, and has since made several upgrades to the property.

The last few years have been swinging back up. Times are changing again. More and more people are appreciating organic food and a renewed interest has developed in family home gardens. People want to know what's in their food and what better way to know than to grow it yourself. Also, people are interested in dressing up their homes with beautiful flowers.

The farmers' markets are becoming more and more popular, with reason. There is nothing better than freshly grown vegetables, as well as other home-made goods available for purchase. If you haven't visited a nice farmers' market, you're missing out. Jim attends two markets (May – October,)

Carousel Farmers Market on Fridays and the Newark Co-Op Farmers Market on Sundays. Move ahead to 2019, 100 years later. It is mind-blowing to realize that we have been part of something so special for this amount of time. We are a small business, in the smallest sense of the meaning. We do most of the work ourselves, with the help of a few good friends. Our one full-time employee, Lori, is invaluable. Her loyalty is unquestionable and we can count on her for anything. We currently have four other helpers, all volunteers, all retirees, who help us as needed. One of our volunteers, Steve, actually worked here in 1957 as a young teenager, hoeing the tomato fields.

We don't spend money advertising, but word gets around. Over the years, some customers have moved out of town, or moved on to another world, but there are always new ones showing up. Most of them have a story about where they heard about us. Our social media footprint could be better, but we are out there. Our customers come from all over, and are so loyal that recently they have voted us No. 1 (without our solicitation) in both the Reader's Choice awards in the News Journal and also in The Delaware Today magazine. One couple that moved several states away, comes in to visit every so often. They said they usually only make it back to Delaware once a year, if that, but Rosehill Plantery, is always one place

which they come to visit, even if they are not buying anything. They just come in to say hi. Rosehill Plantery is a true mom and pop shop, being handed down from one mom and pop to a son and wife who have graduated into the new mom and pop. We don't have every product or many locations or tons of employees. What we do have is old-fashioned values that we share with our customers. Our mission statement includes selling a quality product (no cutting corners on materials) at a fair price. We are friendly and truly care to help you achieve what you want with your gardening experience. We will tell you the truth when you are looking to buy something that won't work in your area. We offer (free) advice. We'd rather have a happy customer that will come back than make an intentionally fraudulent sale. These attitudes are a staple of our business.

We truly appreciate that our customers call us their "favorite" place to visit.

The work is hard, the hours are long and the money is marginal. If we were smart, we would have thrown in the towel years ago, as many similar small businesses like ours have been forced to do. But, when you love what you do and your customers love you back, what else is there!







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APARTMENT with a VIEW 222 Delaware Street One bed EASE F/P. 6 s., deck with views!

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

November 17, 2019

COBBLESTONES



November 17, 2019



The longest discussion was regarding the crosswalks on Delaware Street

CITY COUNCIL SUMMARY

between 3rd St. and The Strand. The final decision was to designate the crosswalks with 2 single lines rather than the "piano key" pattern favored by DELDOT. This decision is

contingent upon the single lines being legally permissible. More details on this and other issues around the Delaware Street project follow.

We reviewed, amended, and approved minutes of all regular and special meetings since June. The City Clerk is now current with the submission of minutes.

City Treasurer Janet Carlin reported that 100% of property taxes have been received.

City Administrator William Barthel reported on 3 issues:

• In Jan. the City contacted DELDOT seeking resolution of the flooding and icing which regularly occurs on Rt. 9 in front of Three Countries Pizza. The needed correction required DNREC approval as wetlands are involved. It was approved and the needed repairs will be made. He hopes the work will begin soon. This was last done 10-12 years ago.

Tom Wilson contacted the City on behalf of the Trustees to express their interest in getting rid of the phragmites in the Bull Hill area. This is necessary to protect the dikes which the City is required to maintain. They have sprayed the invasive plants and will remove them in the spring.

• Mr. Barthel, City Engineer Dave Athey, and Building Official Jeff Bergstrom met with Cirillo Brothers to discuss the construction schedule (more details follow in the discussion of Mr. Athey's presentation). Delmarva Power advised the City that they want to change out the gas lines between 4th St. and The Strand while the street is dug up. This may delay things a bit but is better than having the new paving dug up later for this work.

Building Official Jeff Bergstrom reported that the bike trail along Rt. 273 to Hare's Corner will be repaved starting Nov. 13. This is needed following the utility construction in the area.

Chief of Police Richard McCabe said they have already made several referrals under the program for drug offenders he described last month. He said the department has already received many teddy bears for children who are victims of trauma and, unfortunately, have already had to use some of them. They do not need additional teddy bears at this time. The Police and Goodwill Fire Dept. are soliciting donations for needy families. Gifts for children will be distributed at the Dec. 21 Christmas

Chief McCabe also reported that the department is seeking accreditation from the State. This is a long process involving 108 items. They will have to rewrite some directives and hope to complete it by

He reported that thefts are up somewhat but there are no trends. Highlights of police activity last month include discovery of spent shell casings in a vehicle involved in a traffic stop. Information has been shared with neighboring jurisdictions investigating recent shootings. Another traffic stop resulted in the driver being charged with Drug Dealing after methamphetamine and a significant amount of cash were found in the car. A Washington Park resident wanted as a material witness to a homicide was taken into custody without incident. Patrol Officers made 6 DUI arrests, two of which were the result of crashes.

Council Communications

I reported that Council President Linda Ratchford and I will be attending an all-day workshop in Dover Nov. 15 presented by the Delaware Resilient and Sustainable Communities League. It will focus on land-use practices that integrate wetlands, green infrastructure, and other strategies to help coastal and inland communities manage climate change. It will give us some tools for evaluating the results of the study of options for dealing with the rising water levels in New Castle which is currently under way as well as the opportunity to network with officials from other coastal cities.

Valerie Leary reported that she and (New Castle Community Partnership President) Laura Fontana and their spouses attended a Tall Ship Festival in Chestertown, MD. They spoke with the crews of 7 ships, 6 are interested in coming to New Castle. The 7th is confined to ports in Maryland.

Michael Platt recognized a resident who took a day off from work to help with the recent clean up.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Quaranta commended our veterans and encouraged residents to consider contributions to help the needy at Thanksgiving.

He hopes that Council will consider communications challenges faced by all organizations in the City. They have met to improve collaboration but he said that volunteers can only do so much in today's environment of a 24-hour, 365 day news cycle. He thanked the Lions Club and everyone associated with the Halloween Parade and hopes everyone will consider volunteering for the Spirit of Christmas 2019.

Council President

Ms Ratchford reported that the City netted about \$4000 from the River Towns Festival. Council previously determined that this should be spent to promote biking and tall ships in New Castle. She suggests using half the money for each for things such as improved signage, bike racks, and promotion of tall ships. She is open to suggestions. The City Office has maps of the Jack A Markel (JAM) bike trail for those who want them.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

Bill Emory doesn't like the idea of painted cross walks in our historic city and thinks the stamped asphalt is the best option since real bricks are too expensive and hard to maintain.

Proclamations from the Mayor

Mayor Quaranta read proclamations honoring veterans, declaring Nov. 19 as World Pancreatic Cancer Day, and declaring Nov. 30 as Small Business Saturday.

Old Business – Delaware Street project updates and decisions

Dave Athey and other officials met with Cirillo Brothers to sign the contract for the Delaware Street project and to make the changes per the Sept. 23 Council meeting. They must coordinate with our MSC and with Delmarva Power (as mentioned in Mr. Barthel's report). A meeting with Delmarva Power is scheduled for Nov. 14.

He recommended the following:

Moving the stop sign on Delaware St. at 4th St. to 3rd St

Painting crosswalks with "piano key" design

Moving some parking spaces designated for the handicapped

Installing a sign on the outbound side of Delaware St. at 2nd St. saying "Oncoming traffic does not stop"

No parking in loading zones being extended from 6 am - noon to 6 am - 4 pm, one on 2nd in front of Mo'zart and one in front of the City Administration building

A yellow line in the middle of Delaware St. from Market St. to the corner of 2nd & Delaware plus directional arrows painted on Delaware St. to designate turn lanes at the intersection of 2nd and Delaware.

There was considerable discussion of these items. Russ Smith suggested that the sign at 2nd and Delaware read "Oncoming traffic has right of way" to account for those turning left onto 2nd St. and all agreed with this suggestion. Valerie Leary asked if we really needed to restrict parking for the loading zones as early as 6 am since this is before many residents leave for work. Both the Mayor and I noted that we have seen Sysco trucks making deliveries between 6 and 6:30. The Chief said that if the loading zone is not designated it leads to double parking. We agreed to keep the extended hours.

Regarding the movement of the stop sign from 4th to 3rd rather than leaving the sign at 4th and adding one at 3rd, the Chief said evidence shows if there

are too many stop signs too close together drivers become frustrated and go faster. Mr. Athey said that the T2 Center at the University of Delaware (a group which advises local governments on transportation issues) reviewed our plans and agreed with them. Ms Leary said she thought it was a bad idea to remove the stop sign at 4th as there is a lot of pedestrian traffic for the Amstel House on that corner. She said if removing it proves to be a problem we can always put it back.

The Chief said the directional arrows should help the flow of traffic as the current situation at 2nd & Delaware is confusing to many drivers.

Mike Platt asked if the crosswalks and directional arrows could be painted in yellow rather than white as he thinks that would be less intrusive in the heart of the historic area. He also asked if we can avoid painting the granite curbs as they are expensive and it seems a shame to paint them. The Chief responded that he thinks blue curbing for the designated handicapped parking spaces is required by State law. He also said he would have a hard time enforcing no parking zones if the curbing was not painted yellow. He thinks the cross walks and directional arrows would be less noticeable to drivers if painted yellow rather than white as in most places. He agreed that we could probably eliminate painting the curbs white in other areas such part of the loading zones. Mr. Athey observed that following the Chief's recommendations would result in only a small portion of the granite curbing being painted.

Council amended the resolution to say that the crosswalks will be designated by single lines rather than "piano keys" unless State law requires otherwise and the resolution passed unanimously.

Mr. Athey said that construction will begin at the Wharf in early to mid-December with the curb and sidewalk work and move towards 5th St. This will require temporary no parking areas on week days. Traffic control for the paving is not yet determined. This will not begin until March. Mr. Smith asked if the temporary parking restrictions will affect Spirit of Christmas on Dec. 14. Mr. Athey said there is no work on Saturdays and Cirillo has always been cooperative in working around activities in town.

New Business

1) Resolution approving a grant-in-aid application to the State for \$45,000 to fund Separation Day 2021 (The State requires such applications 2 years in advance. A grant for Separation Day 2020 has already been approved.)

Ms Leary asked if Council could see the actual application. Mr. Barthel replied that it is available for review in the City office. He pointed out that we have received grants for Separation Day for many years and the application is similar from year to year. We received \$33,000 for 2019 and were awarded \$35,000 for 2020. We have requested \$45,000 for each of the past several years but received less.

The resolution passed 4-1 with Ms Leary voting no.

2) Resolution appointing William Walters as the Planning Commission representative to the Historic Area Commission. City Code requires such an appointment. Mr. Walters has served on the Planning Commission for many years. The resolution passed unanimously. Mr. Walters' term on HAC expires 11/12/22.

3) Resolution appointing John Lafferty to fulfill the unexpired term of **Peter Toner on the Planning Commission.** Mr. Lafferty was present at the meeting and Ms Ratchford asked him why he was interested in this appointment. He replied that he has lived in New Castle for 12 years and has seen much progress. He wants to be part of continuing this progress. He

previously lived in the historic area of Philadelphia and is interested in the history of the Revolutionary War. Ms Ratchford asked how he would prepare to join the Planning Commission. He said he has read the 2009 Comprehensive Plan and attended the most recent meeting of the Planning Commission. Mr. Platt asked his view on high-density housing. He said he prefers town homes or single-family dwellings but recognizes the need for a good mix and balance in the types of homes available here.

After his nomination was announced, Mr. Lafferty reached out to me and other members of Council to express his interest in serving. He responded to individual questions we asked him prior to the meeting. The resolution passed unanimously. His term expires 8/14/21.

4) Resolution appointing **Sheila Shannon to the Tree Commission to fulfill the unexpired term of David Robinson.** Ms Shannon was present at the meeting. Ms Ratchford asked her about her professional experience. Ms Shannon replied that she has worked on water treatment for 30 years. She has a Masters degree in Environmental Management. She has lived in New Castle for 3 years. She plans to retire next year and wants to become more involved in City issues. Mr. Smith asked her about her ideas for the Tree Commission. She said that while she understood the need for smaller trees where they might interfere with overhead wires or where their roots could invade water or sewer lines, she favored larger trees where appropriate.

Public Comments

Glenn Rill said that he thinks it will be a mistake to remove the stop sign on Delaware at 4th St. because 4th is a major north-bound route out of town. He sees this decision as inconsistent with the placement of stop signs on Harmony St. which has less traffic than Delaware St. and the Chief previously stated that consistency is important. He is also concerned about pedestrians going to the Amstel House.

Binney Beal spoke about 2 incidents on The Strand where the Fire Department was called to a home but no one answered the door and they didn't know how to contact the resident. He said that the Fire Department needs to know who lives where. He suggested consideration of placing "Knocks Boxes" containing a key on homes. The Fire Department would have a key to the box which would enable them to enter the home. Tim Moore, speaking for the Fire Department, said these were originally designed for business and commercial properties but are sometimes used on residences. He said Fire Department members have to enter a code to access the key so it is known who entered the premises and when. Ms Ratchford said she would like more information about these boxes. Mr. Moore said these boxes enable them to enter a home to check for fire or other issues such as gas leaks without damaging the home by breaking down the door.

Alice Riehl said she hadn't seen the plan for Delaware St. until tonight and thinks the yellow line and painted directional arrows on Delaware St. will be garish and disruptive in the historic area.

Phil Gross said he agrees with Ms Riehl about the lines and arrows. He thinks signs and painted crosswalks are sufficient. He also spoke about the request for grant-in-aid funds for Separation Day, saying that if we get this money and with Event Allies managing the event for profit there should be no need to charge admission. (Admission has been charged for the Barbecue Contest but not for other Separation Day events such as the parade and fireworks.) He also said that he wishes all nominees for Commissions had to appear at the Council meeting when their nominations are considered.

Tim Moore from Goodwill Fire Department thanked everyone who came to their Open House and reminded us of the Breakfast with Santa on Dec. 7.

Mayor & Council new contacts

mquaranta@newcastlecity.delaware.gov lratchford@newcastlecity.delaware.gov vleary@newcastlecity.delaware.gov mplatt@newcastlecity.delaware.gov rsmith@newcastlecity.delaware.gov ssouder@newcastlecity.delaware.gov

