

Below is the weekly report for the week ending today, January 12th, 2024. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Items for Newsletters:

1. **Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Refuse Changes Week of Jan 15**: Due to the MLK holiday, trash normally collected on Monday will be collected on Tuesday and trash normally collected on Tuesday will be collected on Wednesday. There will be no changes to recycling collection next week. **There will be no "Green Wednesday" Yard Waste Collection on Wednesday.** Please contact the City of Newark Public Works and Water Resources Department at (302) 366-7000 with any questions.
2. **Christmas Tree Collection**: Christmas Trees will be collected from the curb until Jan 26, 2024. Please place trees at the curb by Monday at 7am each week. Crews will pick up trees throughout the week, but they must be placed out by Monday at 7am.
3. **Free Water for a Year initiative**: We have selected our second winner! There are 2 more chances to win \$1000 worth of free water for anyone who completes a survey before June 2024. Newark Water customers are encouraged to complete the online survey at this link: <https://newarkde.gov/lead> to enter a sweepstakes for free water for a year, up to \$1000 value! The data we collect will help complete a required inventory of service lines and reduce operating costs for the water utility.
4. **Reduced Price Parking**: Off-peak parking rates began on December 16th and are in effect until January 15. On-street meters are \$1.25 per hour and off-street parking lots are \$1.00 per hour. Parking will be complimentary downtown December 24-26, December 31-January 1, and January 15 due to City holidays.
5. **Yard Waste Collection – Winter Schedule**: City-wide Yard Waste Collection will be available by appointment only until March 2024. Residents may call Public Works to schedule a yard waste collection during this period. Pickups will be scheduled for Wednesdays during weeks without a City Holiday.
6. **Fall Leaf Collection is Complete**: Fall leaf collection has been completed and collection trucks will be switched over to snow and ice control. **Any additional leaf pickup must be through the scheduled yard waste cart pickup. Residents can call Public Works to schedule a pickup until regular yard waste collection resumes in March (See #2).**
7. **City newsletter**: To sign up for the City's email newsletter, [click here](#).

Planning and Development (three weeks)

1. Land Use
 - a. The Planning Commission met on January 2. The Commission recommended Council approve the Comprehensive Plan amendment and rezoning by a vote of 6-0 and recommended Council approve the major subdivision by site plan approval by a vote of

5-1 for the redevelopment of 313 East Main Street. This ordinance for this plan will be on the Council agenda for first reading on January 22 and second reading and public hearing on February 12. Planning Commission also voted 6-0 to recommend Council approve a Chapter 32 amendment to consolidate the location of the criteria for cellular towers and a Chapter 32 amendment to allow office uses as a by-right use in the MI zoning district.

- b. Tyler Enterprise Permitting and Licensing (EPL) configuration training was held January 2-4 and January 9-11. Training will continue January 23-25, which will take significant staff bandwidth in multiple divisions and departments.
 - c. Staff issued a Subdivision Advisory Committee comment letter for [141 East Main Street](#) (major subdivision to construct a five-story mixed use building with commercial and parking on the first floor and 52 apartments on the second through fifth floors) on January 8.
 - d. Six development plan submissions have been received over the past three weeks as follows:
 - i. [55 Benny Street](#) (third submission received December 15) – Comprehensive Plan amendment, rezoning and minor subdivision to construct 3 3-story townhouse-style apartments with associated parking
 - ii. [55 West Cleveland Avenue and 46, 52 and 54 Church Street](#) (first submission received December 18) – Comprehensive Plan amendment, rezoning and major subdivision with site plan approval to construct 13 3-story townhouse-style apartments with associated parking
 - iii. [261-263 South Chapel Street](#) (first submission received December 21) – Minor subdivision to subdivide two parcels into three lots for multi-family residence
 - iv. [50-54 Corbit Street](#) (second submission received December 27) – Comprehensive Plan amendment, rezoning, and minor subdivision with site plan approval to construct 5 garden apartments
 - v. [30 South Chapel Street](#) (third submission received January 2) – Comprehensive Plan amendment, rezoning and major subdivision to construct 2 5-story buildings with 80 apartments, 3,448 square feet of commercial retail space and associated parking
 - vi. [313 East Main Street](#) (Council submission received January 5) – Comprehensive Plan amendment, rezoning and major subdivision by site plan approval to subdivide the existing parcel into two and construct a mixed use building with 52 apartments and 3000 square foot of retail space and 2000 square foot of office space on the first floor on the northern parcel. In addition, five apartment buildings will be constructed on the southern parcel with 4 units in each building, for a total of 20 units.
2. Code Enforcement
- a. Staff responded to the collapse of a portion of the façade for the Red Roof Inn due to the storms on January 9. While there was not extensive structural damage, the water penetration caused extensive pest issues within the affected building, resulting in condemnation of the affected building. Red Roof Inn was able to provide rooms for all displaced persons in the building that is still open and no one was required to be moved off site.
 - b. Code Enforcement staff performed the first requested inspections (all visits and inspections prior to this have been performed as part of our multi-weekly site visits) of the first and fourth floor. All units on these floors have received rough electrical

inspection approval from a third-party inspection agency, all penetrations are sealed, and with the exception of units undergoing exterior repairs all units on these floors have been approved for insulation. Inspections for the second and third floor have been requested for Friday, January 12. Exterior repairs are ongoing.

- c. The footings and foundations permit was issued for 134 East Main Street. Work for the site commenced on January 8.
 - d. The Fire Protection Specialists responded to a fire at the Kung Fu Hot Pot restaurant. Due to the damage, the unit was condemned until repairs are made.
 - e. The Fire Protection Specialists have re-started the required annual fire inspections for businesses.
 - f. Property Maintenance Inspectors have begun the revised rental inspection program with required exterior inspections that was adopted by Council on December 12.
 - g. Code Enforcement has several current [job openings](#):
 - i. The two Code Enforcement Officer positions (1 vacant and 1 new) had interviews conducted on December 28 and 29. Offers were extended to and accepted by two candidates who have a start date of February 5.
 - ii. The Property Maintenance Inspector I position had several cross over candidates with the Code Enforcement Officer position. A candidate was identified during the Code Enforcement Officer interviews, an offer was extended to and accepted by him, and he has a start date of February 5.
 - iii. The new part-time Administrative Professional I job posting closes on January 12 with interviews anticipated to take place January 29.
3. Parking
- a. Off-peak parking rates began on December 16 are in effect until January 15. On-street meters are \$1.25 per hour and off-street parking lots are \$1.00 per hour. Parking will be complimentary downtown January 15 due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday.
 - b. The east end of Lot #4 was closed during the day from January 8-12 due to the 132-136 East Main Street construction project. The trenches in the lot were plated at the end of each day and the lot was reopened in the evenings for parking. Fencing for this project was blown down during the January 9 storm, but there were no injuries or vehicular damage. The contractor had the fencing back in place by 7:00 a.m. on January 10.
 - c. Parking has current job openings:
 - i. The first new Parking Coordinator job posting closed on January 5 with interviews scheduled to take place January 18-19.

Public Works

1. Possible Winter Weather: Next Tuesday appears to be a good chance for our most significant snow in a few years. Only 2" forecast, but it has been over two years since we have had more than a dusting. We will continue to monitor the weather, ready equipment, and respond as necessary. Residents are reminded to help keep storm drains cleared and park in driveways when possible.
- 2.

Police

1. On Tuesday into Wednesday, the City experienced severe weather including high winds, heavy rain, and some localized flooding. During the inclement weather, the 911 center handled a total of 244 inbound and outbound calls and officers responded to 31 calls for service, mostly related to utility problems, traffic hazards and collisions.
2. On Thursday, NPD hosted three University of Delaware students who are participating in a UD Job Shadow program. The program is designed to provide students with direct experience in potential career fields, including law enforcement. The three students will spend two days with NPD learning about the various divisions, participating in ride-alongs and observing several demonstrations from various units.
3. On Thursday, following an extensive background investigation, NPD extended a conditional offer of employment for a police dispatcher. In the coming days, a second offer of employment is anticipated which will bring the 911 center back to full staffing levels.
4. Recruitment efforts continue for the police department. During the week, one applicant took the written test, four applicants completed polygraph examinations and on Friday, Chief Farrall and Deputy Chief Feeney will conduct applicant interviews with three police applicant finalists. Background investigations for additional police applicants are ongoing.

Parks and Recreation

1. Director Spadafino and Deputy Director Martinson-Ennis met with our engineering consultant, JMT, about upcoming projects at George Read Park and Dickey Park.
2. The first week of winter/spring registration went well with Rittenhouse Camp filling each session 75% and Rittenhouse Rocks filling completely for the August session. Camp GWC & Safe Kids Camp also began registration. Additional summer camps will be available for registration in March with the summer camp guide.
3. Parks maintenance staff have been busy cleaning up downed trees and limbs from this week's storm and preparing equipment for the possible threat of snow and freezing temperatures next week.
4. Staff are working on year-end reports and statistics as well as closing out end of year invoices.

Electric

1. On Tuesday, January 9th a very strong storm impacted our area. Below is a summary of the storm related power outages we experienced. Our prompt response and the efficiency of our automated switching system played a crucial role in mitigating the impact on our customers.

Overview:

- **Affected Customers:** A total of 240 customers experienced power outages in various areas due to downed trees on primary wires.
- **Automated System Success:** Swift action by our automated switching system prevented outages for 2,955 customers.

Outage Details:

- **George Read Village (32 customers):** A downed tree on a utility pole behind Newark Library resulted in power outages for 32 customers.
- **Arbour Park (159 customers):** A downed tree on the primary wire in Arbour Park affected 159 customers.
- **Willa Road, Firethorn, and Shull Drive (43 customers):** Outages were experienced by 43 customers due to a downed tree on the primary wire in this area.
- **Roadway In:** Power loss occurred in Roadway In due to a downed tree on the primary wire.
- **Fremont Substation (3401 circuit - 707 customers):** The 3401 circuit, which feeds the Fremont substation, was tripped due to DP&L's primary wire on our 34kV line. However, our automated switching system was able to restore the substation within seven minutes, which prevented any further outages.
- **Sandy Brae Substation (3406 circuit - 2,248 customers):** The 3406 circuit, feeding Sandy Brae substation, Bloom, and Chemours, experienced a fault due to a downed tree on the 34kV circuit. However, our automated switching system quickly identified and isolated the faulted area. This helped in preventing a widespread outage.
- **Five more customers** were affected by power outages caused by the damaged service wires.