

Below is the weekly report for the week ending today, January 26th, 2024.

Items for Newsletters:

1. **Dickey Park Improvements Public Meeting:** The Dickey Park Proposed Improvements Public meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 30 at 6:00 p.m in the Council Chambers at the City of Newark Municipal Building. Attached is a flyer for distribution.
2. **Christmas Tree Collection:** Christmas Tree collection is complete as of January 26. Crews will not be collecting trees after this date.
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. **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.
5. **City newsletter:** To sign up for the City’s email newsletter, [click here](#).

City Manager’s Office

1. Staff met with Representative Romer and Representative Baumbach to discuss potential revenue related charter amendments. Following those meetings, we began preparation of the required council resolutions so they can be considered at a council meeting in February.
2. We continued work on our Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant application and secured a letter of support from Chemours.

Planning and Development (two weeks)

1. Land Use
 - a. At their meeting on January 22, Council approved the minor subdivision and special use permit for an automobile/vehicle refueling service station at 1115 South College Avenue by a 5 to 2 vote.
 - b. The February 6 Planning Commission agenda was finalized and sent for advertisement. Items on the next agenda include considerations of the five-year construction deadlines for The Grove and Briarcreek North, an amendment to the BB zoning code to allow hospitals and medical clinics as an allowable use with a special use permit, an

- amendment to Chapter 27 updating provisions around cost sharing for utility improvements for developers, and an update on the inclusionary zoning effort.
- c. The Planning and Development Department has scheduled three “Coffee Break” virtual public meetings to discuss affordable housing and Inclusionary Zoning with residents. The dates and times include: Tuesday, February 13 at 10 AM; Thursday, February 15 at 2 PM; and Friday, February 23 at 11 AM. Additional events – both virtual and in-person – will also be scheduled in the coming weeks.
 - d. The following development plan submissions have been received:
 - i. [750 Library Avenue](#) (first submission received January 23) – Administrative subdivision to consolidate three parcels into one for the Newark Free Library
 - ii. [515 Capitol Trail](#) (fourth submission received January 23) – Rezoning, major subdivision and special use permit to demolish the existing structure and construct two two-story office buildings and two one-story accessory buildings
 - e. Tyler Enterprise Permitting and Licensing (EPL) configuration training was held January 23-25. Training will continue January 30-February 1, which will take significant staff bandwidth in multiple divisions and departments.
2. Code Enforcement
- a. Code Enforcement staff performed requested inspections of the second and third floors of 3000 Fountainview. 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. Exterior repairs are ongoing.
 - b. Code Enforcement has received the initial structural report for the storm damage at 1119 South College Avenue (Red Roof Inn). The report was reviewed and found to be lacking in scope as only a small portion of the structure was investigated and reported on. Staff has contacted the manager requesting further information.
 - c. The new part-time Administrative Professional I job posting closed on January 12. 10 candidates out of 25 applicants have been scheduled for interviews on January 29.
3. Parking
- a. The license plate reader (LPR) for Vehicle #1103 has had mechanical difficulties and is currently out of service. Staff is currently determining whether it is still within warranty and if it can be repaired. Staff has been informed that our two oldest units will no longer be supported after 2025, so this will likely be a capital project item for FY2025.
 - b. Peak rates for parking resumed on January 16 and remain in effect through June 15.
 - c. Interviews for the first Parking Coordinator position were conducted on January 18 and 22. An offer was extended to and accepted by a candidate who will have a start date of February 19.

Public Works

1. Water Main Breaks: Crews responded to 3 water main breaks on Saturday Jan 20. Despite the bitter cold and wind, the crews repaired each location and restored all services in a timely fashion. Many of these same crew members also spent hours in the plow trucks to clear the snow and ice on Friday. Management will be recognizing these crew members at a safety meeting on Monday Jan 29.

2. American Water Resources Association Annual Dinner: Director Filasky was the Keynote Speaker at the Annual Dinner Meeting for the Delaware Section of the AWRA on Jan 28. The presentation was focused on Newark's innovative approaches to water resources management and the funding needs that accompany these efforts.
3. Water Main Replacement Project: On Jan 29, our contractor intends to begin mobilization to the first site for water main replacement on North Dillwyn Drive. The contract will focus on mostly out of town areas for the first phase and move in town closer to summer 2024. Notices have been handed out to anyone who may be affected by the work.

Parks and Recreation

1. Parks staff have been working to organize the Employment and Volunteer Fair that will be held at the Newark Free Library on Saturday, January 27 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
2. Parks maintenance staff have been working hard on snow removal and ice treatments throughout City Parking lots and the over 10 miles of sidewalks and trails that are maintained by the City due to the two storms.
3. Parks horticulture staff are working on garden display design and plant material order for the spring.
4. Director Spadafino reviewed several subdivision plans for upcoming construction projects.



EDNA C. DICKEY PARK PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

Proposed improvements for Edna C. Dickey Park will be presented at a public meeting on Tuesday, January 30th. A brief background of the project will be provided and an overview of the potential improvements.

Agenda

6:00-6:15 p.m.	Welcome / Review Display Boards
6:15-6:25 p.m.	Project Background
6:25-6:40 p.m.	Presentation of Dickey Park Potential Improvements
6:55-7:00 p.m.	Next Steps
7:00-7:15 p.m.	Wrap Up

Presentation and Project Update

Tuesday, January 30th, Meeting Begins at 6:00 p.m.
City of Newark Municipal Building, 220 South Main Street

For more information about the project, contact the Parks and Recreation Department.
Email: parksrec@newark.de.us | Phone: 302-366-7000