

Below is the weekly report for the week ending today, March 22nd, 2024.

Items for Newsletters:

1. We are continuing to coordinate with Fusion Racing to organize the Big Red Truck Pull to benefit AHHL on Sunday, April 28. Five teams are officially registered, and we have verbal commitments from another five groups. Due to a lack of interest or availability from the restaurant community to participate in a chili cook-off, we are pursuing the idea of selling hotdogs and hamburgers instead. We have asked about a dozen Newark area businesses to sponsor the event by donating food items to maximize the amount of money earned by AHHL. Standard Distributing is still on board to supply the beer garden and 100% of alcohol sales will be donated directly to AHHL. The application for the gathering license was submitted and approved earlier this week.
 - More info: <https://www.adventuresignup.com/Race/DE/Newark/BigRedTruckPull>
2. **Free Water for a Year initiative:** We have selected our 3rd winner in the free water survey drawing! There is 1 more chance 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.
3. **Asphalt Patching:** Beginning March 11 and lasting through mid-April, City crews will be completing asphalt patching at various locations throughout the City. Each area will take approximately 2 days in order to properly address the base layer and top layer of asphalt. Traffic impacts will be minor, and crews will be handling any needed traffic control. Major detours will be signed and posted ahead of the work. District specific concerns will be sent to the Councilperson.
4. **City newsletter:** To sign up for the City's email newsletter, [click here](#).

Public Works

1. **Weekend Rain Event:** We expect heavy rainfall beginning late Friday night throughout the day on Saturday. Up to 3" has been forecast for our area. Public Works crews have been preparing for the storm throughout the week by clearing drains and bridge crossings. With the steady nature of the rainfall, we do not expect heavy street flooding, but ditches and creeks will be high during and after the rainfall into early next week. Please use caution and report any blockages to Public Works.
2. **CSX Crossing Improvements (Road Closures) **Update**:** The work on West Main/New London is complete. No new dates have been offered or confirmed for the North College work.

3. **Water Tank Painting – Notices:** Residents within 1000-feet of the Arbour Park Water Tank, located near Dove Drive in Arbour Park, will be receiving notices via Certified Mail informing them of the upcoming work to remove the lead-based paint from the tank and recoat it with a lead free coating. Notifications include our scope of work along with contact information for the department for any questions or concerns.
4. **Fremont Connector Trail Closure:** The Sanitary Sewer CCTV work is complete and the trail is open. The contractor will return later in the spring to begin the rehabilitation of the pipe. New notices and closures will be announced at that time.

Police

1. **St. Patrick's Day:** On Saturday, March 16th, NPD assigned several officers to an order maintenance detail in anticipation of St. Patrick's Day celebrations throughout the city. Due to the nice weather, officers encountered large crowds and off-campus parties particularly in the area of E. Cleveland Ave., N. Chapel St., W. Main St., and Choate St. As a result of the detail, NPD issued 18 daytime noise warnings, 10 summonses for noise violations, 30 summonses for alcohol violations, 4 summonses for disorderly conduct, 7 summonses for disorderly premises, 3 warnings for holding a gathering with over 150 people w/o a permit, 1 summons for resisting arrest, and 5 citations for traffic offenses.
2. **New Hire:** On Monday, March 18th, Mr. Seth Leader started as the newest addition to the 911 Center as a dispatcher. Mr. Leader will spend the next couple of weeks taking certification/training classes followed by field training.
3. **Child's car seat safety check:** On Saturday, March 23rd, M/Cpl. Menden will be participating in a child's car seat safety check event hosted at the buybuy Baby located in the Christiana Town Center. The retailer selected a group of "pros" from area police/fire departments and offer the car seat safety check free of charge.

Parks and Recreation

1. **Before and After Care Licensing:** The annual Office of Childcare license renewal inspection was held at Downes after school care, all went very well, a few items to follow-up on and license will be renewed for another year.
2. **Community Gardens:** Dickey Community Garden is full and 50 of 57 plots are filled at Fairfield Park Community Garden.
3. **Annual Egg Hunt:** The Egg Hunt will be postponed due to the heavy rain event that is forecasted for Saturday. The event will now be held at Newark High School on the rain date of Sunday, March 24, with the first hunt beginning at 2:00. Staff are preparing supplies for the Egg Hunt including working with volunteers to stuff over 8,000 eggs and picking up donations.

4. **Summer Camp Licensing:** Submitted license exemption forms to the Office of Child Care Licensing for summer camps to be covered under Public Health.
5. **Maintenance Staff:** Delivered material to Redd Park for the trail improvement project. All work should be completed by the end of the weekend, weather permitting. Started painting the interiors of the pool pump houses at Dickey Park and George Wilson Center Pools.

Finance and Information Technology

1. **Council Chamber AV:** Wireless microphones were installed in the council chamber to be used at the podiums.
2. **Electric Rate Study and Impact Fees:** Directors Patel and Del Grande met with our consultants regarding the impact fee study for water and sewer, along with the rate study for electric. Both preliminary reports should be in our hand by the end of next week.
3. **2023 Audit:** They City's auditors will be onsite next week to continue the 2023 financial audit.
4. **Council presentation on NCC's Reassessment Process:** Director Del Grande reached out to New Castle County's Assessment office. Their consultants from Tyler will be coming to our Council meeting on June 10th to discuss the reassessment process.
5. **Utility Payment Methods:** Staff are working on a marketing package to encourage utility customers to switch their preferred method of payment to ACH using our auto-pay feature.
6. **Security Awareness Training:** IT is working with all employees to complete their annual Security Awareness Training. Councilmembers must also complete this training. It's an online class that takes about 20 minutes to complete. This training is required for all staff as a condition for the City to obtain cybersecurity insurance coverage.

Electric:

1. **Outage Reports:**
 - a. On Friday, March 15th, we experienced an outage due to a fault on the 34kV line that supplies the Sandy Brae substation. This outage affected 866 customers and lasted for 2 hours and 31 minutes. The cause of the outage was a bad underground cable.
 - b. On Tuesday, March 19th, the T4 and T5 transformers were offline for 6 hours due to a request from Delmarva Power. They had to take an outage on the 138kV line that feeds the T4 and T5 transformers to carry out relay testing.
2. **Development Projects:**
 - a. **132 E. Main St (Dannemann Project):** As part of this project, we had to disconnect the existing underground service to Chipotle and re-arrange the existing aerial wires to the

newly installed pole. This required a 5-hour outage to Chipotle and Kate's Place. During this outage, we moved the Chipotle service to a temporary service so that the developer could remove the old underground cable and the old pole to continue their work.

- b. **Twins Lakes Project:** We had to relocate an existing transformer as part of this project, which caused an outage to 9 customers for 6 hours. The transformer was conflicting with the proposed sidewalk.
 - c. **268 E. Main St. (Super 8):** We have completed all the primary and metering work, and the crew is now finishing the secondary work at the transformer. We should be ready to energize the new service by next.
3. **Other Work:** Delmarva Power is relocating some utility poles on Paper Mill Road. Since we are sharing the poles, the line crew is working with them to relocate our aerial lines to their new poles.