

Below is the weekly report for the week ending today, April 5, 2024.

Items for Newsletters:

1. **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.
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 April, City crews will be completing asphalt patching at various locations throughout the City. Each area will take approximately 2 days 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. Recent rains have slowed our progress, so the work will likely last through April.
4. **Channel 22 Reestablishment:** We are pursuing reestablishing Channel 22, the city's public access channel. The communications, finance, and IT teams have been working to restore logins and functions, and began training this week with TelVue, the company that hosts our content and cloud-based system.
5. **Big Red Truck Pull:** We are up to 13 teams for the Big Red Truck Pull. The goal is to have a minimum of 20 teams, so we are a little over half way there. There is only one all-male team, so we need to have at least one more men's team sign up to be able to continue with that category. Wawa is donating bottled water to the event participants and the Kenny Family Foundation has also committed their support, although we aren't sure what that support entails yet.
 - o More info: <https://www.adventuresignup.com/Race/DE/Newark/BigRedTruckPull>
6. **City newsletter:** To sign up for the City's email newsletter, [click here](#).

Police

1. In late April 2023, Newark Police arrested a 66-year-old Newark man for a series of sexual assaults of a child that occurred more than 30 years ago. The arrest was the culmination of an extensive investigation into the acts of the man who was a Boy Scout Leader in the late

1980's. During the week of March 25th, following a three-day trial, the former Newark Boy Scout leader was found guilty of multiple felonies. Sentencing will occur later this spring and he faces a minimum mandatory sentence of over 80 years in prison.

2. On March 29, 2024, Lt. D'Elia began a ten-month extensive executive leadership program at the prestigious FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA. Nationally, fewer than 1% of law enforcement officers attend the program and upon his graduation he will be the 19th officer in NPD history to complete the program and will be the 6th member of the current NPD Command Staff who have attended.
3. On April 3, 2024, NPD hosted the 2023 Awards Ceremony. The ceremony recognized Fifty-two Newark PD officers and civilian employees along with a University of Delaware Police Officer and two civilians for their outstanding contributions to the safety and security of Newark during 2023. The ceremony also recognized NPD's two new Police Chaplains, Pastor Kevin Benjamin from Newark United Methodist Church, and Pastor Lonnie Rector from Pilgrim Baptist Church.
4. On April 4, 2024, Chief Farrall and Master Corporal Alex Whitt attended a ceremony hosted by VFW Post 475. M/Cpl. Whitt was recognized as the VFW Officer of the Year for his outstanding work on several investigations of violent crime including a 2021 homicide. M/Cpl. Whitt is a nine-year veteran of the Department and is currently an assistant shift supervisor in the Patrol Division.

Planning and Development

1. Land Use

- a. Interviews for the vacant Planner I position took place on March 22. An offer was extended to a candidate and accepted with a tentative start date of July 1.
- b. The Planning and Development Department held three affordable housing and Inclusionary Zoning discussions in the month of March. Approximately 35 unique individuals total attended the three meetings. Staff are working to schedule the next set of meeting and will work with the Communications team to publicize the events when they are finalized.
- c. Staff issued the following Subdivision Advisory Committee comment letters:
 - i. Minor subdivision to divide two parcels into three parcels and construct one additional dwelling at [261 and 263 South Chapel Street](#) (first submission) issued on March 27.
 - ii. Comprehensive Plan Amendment, rezoning, and major subdivision by Site Plan Approval to construct 13 4-bedroom townhouse-style apartments at [55 West Cleveland Avenue and 46, 52, and 54 Church Street](#) (first submission) issued on March 27.
 - iii. Comprehensive Plan Amendment, rezoning, and major subdivision to construct two five-story buildings with 80 3-bedroom apartments and 3,448 square feet of commercial retail space at [30 South Chapel Street](#) (third submission) issued on April 2.

2. Code Enforcement

- a. Code Enforcement Manager DeBenedictis has been participating in the State Energy Stakeholders meetings and is working with the members to provide comments regarding upcoming legislation on energy stretch codes.
- b. Fire safety and property maintenance inspections were performed at six fraternities and sororities.
- c. 120 rental inspections have been scheduled for the March and April billing cycle.
- d. The Property Maintenance Team, in coordination with UD Conflict Resolution/Student Life team, performed their annual door to door educational walk of East Park Place, North Chapel Street, and Choate Street where they spoke with students and handed out literature about the rental program and their rights as tenants.
- e. IT completed the updates to property maintenance citations for the property maintenance inspectors to be able to issue nuisance property citations in the same manner as other citations instead of having to file them through the Alderman's Court. This should provide a much quicker turnaround for citation issuance.

3. Parking

- a. Interviews for the vacant FT Parking Ambassador position took place on March 21. An offer was extended to a candidate and accepted with a start date of April 29.
- b. The [PT Parking Ambassador position](#) posting is open until filled. An initial review of applicants is underway to schedule interviews for two current vacancies.
- c. The LPR unit on vehicle #1103, which has been having ongoing issues, was replaced under warranty by the vendor.
- d. Public Works assisted the Parking Division with needed repairs in Lot #2 and #4 for areas of missing bricks and broken asphalt that posed safety concerns.

Public Works

1. **Recent Rain Events:** After the recent heavy rains, we have been receiving phone calls regarding yard drainage and small stream flooding. Staff will be prioritizing site visits to meet with residents to help address concerns. Generally, the extended duration of the rainfall meant that our stormwater conveyance systems held up well throughout the week. The pond at Hillside Park was quite high, but never crested its spillway and is functioning as designed.
2. **Mid Atlantic Utility Conference:** Director Filasky attended the 2024 Mid Atlantic Utility Conference in Hanover, MD this week. This conference brings together industry professionals from the Chesapeake Region to collaborate and learn from others with similar challenges. Discussions focused on several federal regulations that will impact our water and sewer utilities in the coming years, including lead service line identification and PFAS removal.

Purchasing/Facilities:

1. **Grant update:** The City's second fund disbursement request to Energize Delaware was submitted in compliance with the terms of the \$490,000 grant received last year. All EVs and EV charging

stations are procured; three of the six charging stations are now installed. Of the \$490,000, the City has completed work to receive \$472,000 to date.

2. **Council Chamber ADA Renovations Update:** Demolition of the Council Chamber is complete and renovation construction is well underway. This work is estimated to last into June. Staff met this week to discuss contingency plans for an alternative location for council meetings should the project not progress far enough to hold the organizational meeting on the 18th and regular council meeting on the 22nd. We are going to test using the Alderman's Courtroom as our preferred alternative. There is a gap after the April 22nd meeting until May 13th so we don't anticipate issues after April.
3. **Cornice Repair Update:** The Municipal Center cornice repairs have begun as well. The attached photos show a before-and-after of some of the cornice on the Police Department, some of which can be seen from Apple Road and the Municipal Center parking lot. This project should also wrap up in June.
4. **VFW Paving Project:** The VFW parking lot repaving project should also take form over the next several weeks. This will not be a long project and should be completed in May.

