

Below is the weekly report for the week ending today, August 2, 2024.

Items for Newsletters:

1. **National Night Out:** The Newark Police Department is hosting National Night Out this coming Tuesday, August 6th, from 6 to 8 pm on Academy Street between Main Street and Delaware Avenue. More information can be found here: <https://newarkde.gov/1133/National-Night-Out>
2. **City newsletter:** To sign up for the City's email newsletter, [click here](#).

Public Works and Water Resources

1. **Street Improvement Program – East Park Place and Choate Street:** Southbound Academy Street is closed at Courtney Street and a detour is in place so that the contractor can rebuild the curb at the northeast corner of Academy and East Park. Once the curb work is complete, the paving is slated to begin on East Park during the week of August 5. The work has been coordinated with UD and DelDOT and detours will be in place. The road will be opened at the end of each workday. The paving should take approximately one week with good weather. The curb and ramp work of Choate Street is ongoing and the paving will be scheduled prior to student return if possible, otherwise, it will be complete on the first student break in the fall. Temporary patching will be in place until the final paving can be completed. All work and timelines are weather dependent.
2. **Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation – Main Street:** Insituform will be mobilizing to Main Street the week of August 5 to complete Cured in Place Pipe Lining (CIPP) of several segments of sanitary sewer mains on Main Street and surrounding streets. This work is scheduled to occur at night between the hours of 9pm and 7am each night. All affected customers have been notified. This will affect operations of several business and will require early closures when the segment of main serving their properties is lined. Bypass pumping will be in place for this work.
3. **Road Repair – South College Avenue:** Our Street crew will be patching a utility excavation at 399 S College Avenue, which is just at the north end of the bridge over Amtrak in the NB lane. Flaggers will be directing all traffic into the SB lanes and delays should be expected from 8am – 3pm. A final paving restoration will be scheduled for later in the week, depending on the East Park paving schedule, but could be as early as Tuesday with the same lane restrictions.
4. **Water Main Replacement – Tyre Avenue, Dallam Road:** Dallam Road water main improvements are progressing well. The contractor has begun installation of new water services between Fiske and Lafayette and will be working on final services between Lafayette and Baylor late next week. The crew from Dallam will be moving to Tyre Ave early next week to assist the other crew and expedite the work and in an effort to complete Tyre

Ave improvements. This is a time sensitive location with a deadline of 8/19 for final pave and restoration prior to UD student move-in and Newark High School's first day of school.

5. **Sewer/Storm Pipe Repair – Cleveland and Wilbur:** Our contractor (Merit Construction) will be mobilizing to Wilbur Street on Monday 8/5 to begin sanitary sewer and drainage improvements north of the Wilbur and Cleveland intersection. This work will require the closure of Wilbur Street between Prospect Ave and Cleveland Ave. The road will be reopened at the end of each workday, and we anticipate this work will be complete by Friday, 8/16. We have coordinated with Herman's Meat Shop for access and parking as needed.
6. **Delaware Avenue Right Lane Reconstruction and Delmarva Power Gas Main Replacement *Work Underway*:** Delmarva continues their work in the right lane between Academy and South Chapel. Once complete, the road restoration will take place. DelDOT has revised the plan for the right lane between South Main and South College. They will be treating the repair as a pave and rehab project, likely to be done later this fall.
7. **Lead Service Line Identification Survey (Ongoing):** Our final \$1000 winner has been selected. While the free water initiative is complete, we still welcome any surveys to update our database. Newark Water customers are encouraged to complete the online survey at this link: <https://newarkde.gov/lead>. The data we collect will help complete a required inventory of service lines and reduce operating costs for the water utility.
8. **Speed Hump Pilot Study (Ongoing):** Temporary speed humps were deployed to two pilot study areas last week, Madison Drive and Country Club Drive. These locations have a long history of speed related complaints and other traffic calming attempts. We expect to have the humps out for up to 5 weeks while we work with NPD to gather speed and other data on driving habits with and without the humps. We have delivered notices to those residents directly adjacent to these roads to ask for feedback. Link is also provided on our website under 'Newark News' to solicit feedback.
9. **West Main Street and New London Ave CSX Crossings, Striping** DelDOT's contract will be mobilizing to the CSX crossings at West Main Street and New London Ave near Deer Park on August 6th and 7th to complete pavement marking adjacent to the recently reconstructed crossing. This work will be completed during the day and will require a temporary closure of both roads while the work is completed and the pavement markings cure. This work is weather dependent.

Planning and Development

1. Land Use

- a. Staff finalized and posted the agenda and packet for the August 6 Planning Commission meeting. The following items will be on the agenda:

- i. Rezoning, minor subdivision, and three special use permits for the proposal to build a Dash-In convenience store, gas pumps, car wash and EV charging station on the existing Rodeway Inn/Wise Guyz site located at [1110 South College Avenue](#).
 - ii. Major subdivision for the proposal to build a five story mixed use building with retail space, parking and a lobby on the first floor and 52 apartments on the upper floors behind the existing Starbucks/Funtivity/Helen's Sausage House buildings located at [141 East Main Street](#).
- b. Staff held an information session for potential applicants for the Community Development Block Grant and Revenue Sharing programs to provide them with information on the application process and eligibility on Tuesday, July 30. The purpose of the session was to distribute information on previous funded grant projects, discuss the feasibility of potential projects by potential applicants, and answer any questions. Staff met with two (2) potential new applicants in person at the session and has also met or discussed the program with other applicants either through Teams meetings or phone calls. The deadline for applications for the upcoming grant year is August 28. For more information about grant eligibility and a link to the application form, please visit our website at <https://newarkde.gov/323/CDBG-Revenue-Sharing-Programs>.
- c. Staff presented the following items at the July 22 Council meeting:
 - i. First reading for Bill 24-19, which would amend Chapter 32, Zoning, related to providing zoning regulations for marijuana-related businesses in the BC, MOR and MI zoning districts. Please note that the second reading for this bill has been moved to the August 26 Council meeting.
 - ii. Special Use Permit for indoor commercial recreation for The Picklr indoor pickleball courts at 301 Grove Lane, which was approved 6-0.
 - iii. Comprehensive Development Plan amendment, rezoning and major subdivision for two five story mixed use buildings with retail, lobbies and parking on the first floor and 80 apartments on the upper floors on the former Burger King site located at 30 South Chapel Street, which was approved 6-0.
- d. Staff received the following development plan submissions:
 - i. Comprehensive Development Plan amendment, rezoning and major subdivision by site plan approval to construct three three-story garden apartment buildings at [509 Capitol Trail](#) on July 23 (first submission).
 - ii. Major subdivision for the proposal to build a five story mixed use building with retail space, parking and a lobby on the first floor and 52 apartments on the upper floors behind the existing Starbucks/Funtivity/Helen's Sausage House buildings located at [141 East Main Street](#) on July 24 (fourth submission). This project will be on the August 6 Planning Commission agenda.
- e. Staff issued the following Subdivision Advisory Committee comments:
 - i. Rezoning and major subdivision by site plan approval for [87 South Chapel Street](#) on July 30.
 - ii. Rezoning, minor subdivision, and three special use permits for [1110 South College Avenue](#) on July 31.
 - iii. Major subdivision for [141 East Main Street](#) on July 31.

- f. Please welcome Lauren Dykes who will be starting as the new Community Planner I on August 5.

2. Code Enforcement

- a. 268 East Main Street is working towards obtaining certificates of occupancy. 53 of 56 units have passed building inspections. 3 units and the common areas are still outstanding. Fire inspections are in process and waiting for damaged sprinkler heads to be replaced on all floors in order to reschedule testing of fire systems.
- b. Code Enforcement responded to a complaint from NPD of a homeless encampment at the Rodeway Inn. Notice was issued to repair or raze the vacant restaurant building on the site.
- c. EPL is moving into the final stages of the project with the following timeline:
 - i. August 19-23 – Testing of the system.
 - ii. September 9-13 – Train the trainer sessions for staff subject matter experts.
 - iii. October 1-4 – On-site go live for system.
- d. Code Enforcement vacancies in process include the following:
 - i. Mark Scrocca has been promoted to Code Enforcement Officer effective August 5. This will fill the vacancy left by the retirement of Brian Sargeni.
 - ii. The internal posting for Administrative Professional I position closed on July 31. Two applicants have been scheduled for interviews on August 8.
 - iii. The vacant Property Maintenance Inspector position created with Mark Scrocca's promotion has been posted and will be open for applications until August 30.

3. Parking

- a. Reduced parking rates went into effect on June 16 and will remain until August 15. During this time, on-street parking will be \$1.25/hour and off-street parking will be \$1.00/hour.
- b. Parking vacancies currently in process include the following:
 - i. Interviews for the second Parking Coordinator position took place on July 25. Angel Rodriguez, who is the current evening Parking Coordinator, has been offered and accepted the daytime position.
 - ii. The vacant evening Parking Coordinator position created with Angel Rodriguez's position change has been posted to internal candidates only and will be open for applications until August 15.
 - iii. Abrar Ahmed and Stephen Harper have been hired as part-time Parking Ambassadors starting August 9.
 - iv. PT Parking Ambassador Christopher Zelaya submitted his notice and his last day was July 30. We wish him well in his future endeavors. The part time Parking Ambassador [posting](#) is open until filled.

Parks and Recreation

1. Capital Projects:

- a. Dickey Park construction documents were advertised today.
- b. Lewis Park tennis court refurbishment was completed. The Contractor has moved onto Lumbrook Park tennis courts for refurbishment and addition of pickleball lines

to the existing tennis courts. Fairfield Crest tennis court and the George Wilson Center basketball court will follow.

2. **Maintenance Staff:** We received 15 requests received for tree inspections. Crews spent time this week watering of all islands and horticulture sites. The trees on Main Street were fertilized. Ballfield Maintenance is our current priority along with mowing. Both large mowers are out of service again but fortunately the dry weather has lessened demand at least temporarily.
3. **Events:**
 - a. Parks on Draft scheduled for August 23 at Handloff Park
 - b. National Night Out- scheduled for August 6 and we have staff supporting the event
 - c. Community Day meeting was held with representatives from UD, Christina School District and TNP in preparation for upcoming event scheduled for Sep. 15
4. **New London Avenue School Museum at the GWC:** The grand opening for the New London Avenue School Museum is schedule for August 24th at the George Wilson Center from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
5. **Recreation Programming:**
 - a. Conducted interviews for the Recreation Supervisor position
 - b. Full day camps are running at maximum capacity including Rittenhouse Camp and Camp GWC.
 - c. We added a new bike camp and science camp with great feedback for both and the cooking camps continue to be a big hit!
 - d. Recreation staff continuing to update fall activity guide information in preparation of the brochure going out on August 19.
 - e. Rittenhouse Camp: 6 volunteers totaled 183 hours for the week & Camp GWC 3 volunteers totaled 89.5 hours for the week
6. **Adopt a Park/Trail:**
 - a. Reservoir – 6 people from the Newark Morning Rotary Club spend a total of 6 hours cleaning for the month of July
 - b. Mason/Dixon Trail – Wilmington Trail Club spent 2 hours maintaining part of the trail (Elkton Rd to north of the Railroad bridge).
 - c. Kells and Lewis Parks: Andrew Bradley spent a total of 2 hours cleaning trash on 7/20
 - d. Hillside Park: The Stickley family (4 people) spent a total of 4 hours picked up two trash bags worth of trash on 7/20