

Below is the weekly report for the week ending today, August 30, 2024.

Items for Newsletters:

1. **Community Day:** Community Day is scheduled Sunday, 9/15. We have 140 vendors registered to attend.
2. **City newsletter:** To sign up for the City's email newsletter, [click here](#).

Public Works and Water Resources

1. **Water Main Replacement – Dallam Road, Lark Drive, Briar Lane:** PWWR has successfully completed the water main installation on Tyre Avenue and has restored the work area just in time for UD students to return to town and Newark High School students to return to classes. Now that the downtown areas are complete, our contractor has moved back to Dallam Road to complete water service replacement and tie customers into the new main. The second crew will be moving to Lark Drive to begin water main replacement on Monday, August 26th. Notices have been issued to all customers on Lark Drive that will be impacted by the planned improvements. Notices will be delivered to residents on Briar Lane shortly to begin the work from Dallam Road to Bent Lane.
2. **Sanitary Sewer Cleaning and Inspection (Cool Run Interceptor):** Our contractor, Reybold along with engineering consultant, JMT, have begun the cleaning and inspection of our large sanitary sewer interceptor on the south part of town near Newark Charter School. This first phase of inspection will continue eastward through the STAR Campus in the next few months.
3. **Street Improvement Program – Bent Lane and Chickory Way:** PWWR has also successfully completed the pave and rehabilitation of East Park Place and Choate Street just in time for UD students to return to town. Our contractor is actively working on curb replacements on Bent Lane (Briar Lane to Casho Mill Road). Curb replacement is anticipated to be completed by Thursday, 8/29 (weather depending). The concrete crews are scheduled to move to Chickory Way on Tuesday Sept. 3 (notice attached). Our contractor's paving crew will be unavailable until the end of October due to contractual obligations on DelDOT projects. Scotch Pine Road will be the first location to be milled once the crew mobilize back to Newark. Locations that have curbs replaced will be temporarily patched until the paving crew mobilizes back to the City for mill and overlay operations.
4. **Speed Humps:** Speed humps on Country Club Drive and Madison Drive were removed on Thursday, 8/22. Speed analyses has been conducted by NPD and the data has been passed along to Public Works for review. We will review both the pre and post speed hump speed data for each road segment and provide a recommendation as to if we believe the speed humps have been effective in these locations and whether or not we recommend permanent speed humps be installed. A cursory review of the speed data indicates the

speed humps were effective in reducing speeds in each location; however it should be noted that the pre-speed hump analyses also indicates neither of these road segments have significant violator counts. Madison Drive had the highest percentage of violation counts, likely due to the lower posted speed limit.

5. **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.

Purchasing/Facilities Maintenance

1. **Grants:** The City received \$100,000 this week for an awarded Homeland Security Grant Program allocation. This funding is for the fencing installed around the Police Department.
2. **City Hall Floodproofing:** Facilities completed repairs to broken/damaged piping in both the NPD and City Hall sump pits using ARPA funding approved by City Council on 8/19.
3. **Records Transition:** CPPO Jeff Martindale spent the majority of the week acclimating himself to the policies and procedures of the Records Division after its transition to the Administration Department. He will work with Records staff over the next few weeks to review their roles and responsibilities. Meetings will also be held with department directors to identify areas of efficiencies in the records retention process moving forward.

Police

1. **Student Move In:** This past weekend, Newark PD had additional officers on hand to assist with traffic issued related to the University of Delaware student move-in weekend. There were no major traffic issues and feedback received was extremely positive on the procedures implemented by the University of Delaware.
2. **DUI Enforcement:** On Tuesday, August 27, NPD disseminated a press release highlighting the agencies DUI enforcement efforts. Over the past three weeks, NPD officers have arrested eleven people for DUI including four for felony level DUI. In Delaware, a DUI rises to a felony when the driver has two or more prior convictions for DUI anytime in their lifetime.
3. **Town and Gown:** On Tuesday, August 27, Chief Farrall and members of the Executive Staff met with Chief Ogden and his Executive Staff to discuss fall initiatives and collaborative operations for the upcoming year.
4. **Recruitment:** During the week, conditional offers of employment were extended to four police applicants including three certified police officers from other agencies.

5. **Fatal Accident Investigation:** The Newark PD Traffic Unit continues their investigation into a fatal crash which occurred on August 27th that resulted in the death of an 18-year-old pedestrian who was struck and killed by a motorcyclist fleeing from law enforcement at a high rate of speed. On August 29th, the motorcyclist was arrested for Murder 2nd and related charges. He was committed to Howard R. Young correctional on \$362,005 cash bail.

Parks and Recreation

1. Capital Projects:

- a. Dickey Park construction bids due and scheduled to be opened Tuesday, 9/3
- b. George Wilson Center basketball court resurfacing began Monday, 8/26
- c. George Read Park improvements: met with Councilwoman Ford, Mayor Clifton and resident Tina Jackson regarding concerns over the approved design, working through possible changes to the design.

2. Maintenance/Operations:

- a. Six (6) requests for tree inspections
- b. Continuing to work on renovating ball fields - 90% completed
- c. Ordering fall plantings and preparing for soccer season
- d. Working on plan to reseed Fairfield Park outfield area this fall
- e. Pools have been covered for the season

3. Events:

- a. Parks on Draft was held on Friday, 8/23 at Handloff Park
- b. Community Day is scheduled Sunday, 9/15. We are up to about 140 vendors.
- c. The City will once again be hosting the Patriot Day Ceremony at Olan Thomas Park on Wednesday, Sep. 11 at 9 a.m. followed by a volunteer event from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

4. **New London Avenue School Museum at the GWC:** The grand opening for the New London Avenue School Museum was held on Saturday, 8/24 at the George Wilson Center with approximately 50 people in attendance.

5. Recreation Programming:

- a. Summer camps have concluded as of Friday, 8/23.
- b. Preparing for the start of before/after school care programs at Downes and West Park Elementary Schools beginning on Tuesday, 9/3. Additional staff are being hired and children are enrolling. We currently have 30+ children enrolled at each school
- c. Fall activity guide is live and registration began 8/19. Many programs will begin in the next few weeks.

6. Volunteers/Adopt a Park/Trail:

- a. There were 10 volunteers from TD Bank who completed park maintenance at Leroy Hill Park on Wednesday, 8/21. They completed a total of 18 hours.

Electric

1. Electric Outages:

- a. At 9:09 AM on August 28, a squirrel caused a 34-minute power outage on Madison Drive, directly affecting 116 customers.
- b. At 6:40 AM on August 29, a squirrel caused a power outage at Paramount Senior Living on Fountainview Circle. The power disruption lasted for 1 hour and 30 minutes.

2. Recloser Project: We completed the installation of the 12kV recloser on Christina Parkway to enhance our restoration time and reliability for customers in the Sandy Drive and Arbour Park area.

3. NERC Registration: Our engineering team is currently in the process of preparing a presentation for the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) RC Reliability First (RF) registration. Our intent is to register our electric utility exclusively as a Distribution Provider UFLS.



PUBLIC WORKS & WATER RESOURCES
CITY OF NEWARK

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August 29, 2024

**Notice To Residents of Chickory Way
(Country Place Drive to Cul-de-sac)**

On Tuesday, September 3, 2024, Grassbusters Landscaping Co., Inc. is scheduled to begin curb replacement on your street as part of the annual Street Improvement Program, **weather permitting**. The curb replacement will be followed by the milling of the existing street surface and the installation of new asphalt pavement. **You will receive another notice prior to milling and paving the street.**

NO PARKING WILL BE PERMITTED ON THE STREET between the hours of 7 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday thru Friday, until all the work on the street is completed. Vehicles that are parked on the street and block access during these working hours will be **towed at the owner's expense** because of the considerable delay and expense this situation can cause the contractor. Owners of towed vehicles must obtain a "Vehicle Release Form" from the Newark Police Department at 220 S. Main Street to retrieve their vehicle.

It will be necessary to close driveways for several days to pour and cure the concrete when driveway curbs are replaced. The curbs to be replaced will be marked with white paint. The contractor has been instructed to notify residents before removing the curb at their driveway so that no vehicles will be blocked in. **Affected residents should park their vehicles on adjacent streets, well away from the work area, until their driveway has cured and reopened for use.**

Please note that on regularly scheduled refuse, yard waste, and recycling collection days, your carts must be placed at the curb after 6 p.m. the evening before to accommodate an earlier collection.

If you have a sprinkler system or invisible dog fence installed near the street, or if you have any questions regarding the proposed work, please contact the Department of Public Works and Water Resources at (302) 366-7000.

Your patience and cooperation are greatly appreciated!