



CITY OF NEWARK DELAWARE

Below is the weekly report for the week ending today, January 24, 2025.

Items for Newsletters:

1. **Christmas Tree Collection Ends Jan 24:** Christmas Tree collection ends on January 24. Any remaining trees will need to be disposed of by the owner or cut into pieces small enough to fit in their yard waste carts and scheduled for collection.
2. **Backyard Catch Basin and Storm Drain Inspections:** Stormwater crews will begin inspections of catch basins and storm drains in the backyards of homes throughout Newark in early February. Notices will go out to any affected properties. Only inspections will be taking place at this time unless crews uncover a safety concern. Any repairs identified by the inspections will be completed at a later date and revised notices will go out ahead of any work. Please reach out to Public Works if there are any questions or concerns or to verify the crews identity.
3. **Police Recruitment:** Do you know any motivated men and women who may be interested in a career in law enforcement? If so, please ask them to visit either Newark's police recruitment page here: [Home - Join Newark Delaware PD](#) or the new police recruitment page for the state of Delaware here: [Join the Delaware Police Departments](#).
4. **City newsletter:** To sign up for the City's email newsletter, [click here](#).

Public Works and Water Resources

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3. **Brandywine-Christina Watershed Meeting:** Our Environmental Coordinator, Kelley Dinsmore, attended a meeting of the Brandywine-Christina Watershed Group to celebrate the success the group has had in cleaning and preserving the watershed over the past several years. Newark participates financially and through volunteer work with the many groups that make up the Brandywine-Christina Partners and Watershed, which includes all of Newark's waterways. For some perspective, the Christina Creek and White Clay Creek drain all of Newark and drain to the Christiana River. The Brandywine River joins the Christina just before it joins the Delaware River.
4. **Water Main Breaks:** The Water Division is experiencing a rising number of water main breaks in 2025, with more than 7 over the past two weeks. Sustained cold weather, source water temperature, and the poor condition of our mains in many areas all contribute to the increase.

5. **Veolia Water Rate Application (43% Increase):** Veolia Water Delaware, the water supplier for areas surrounding Newark, has made application to the Public Service Commission for a 43% water rate increase. This increase is almost entirely due to the PFAS regulations and the treatment facility it has under construction to remove them from the water supply. As we have discussed in the past, we will need similar treatment at our Curtis Water Treatment Plant and will result in the need to increase our rates to cover both capital and ongoing maintenance costs. As a reminder, we have this treatment in place at our South Well Field Water Treatment Plant.

Police

1. Newark Police continue to make great progress with recruiting new officers. As part of this effort, in partnership with police recruiting agency Epic Productions, we have begun the process of refreshing our video and social media marketing campaign and our recruiting website [Home - Join Newark Delaware PD](#). Updated messages and recruiting information will be available and published in the near future. Newark PD has also partnered with the Delaware Association of Chiefs of Police (DACP) on a statewide law enforcement recruiting campaign designed to draw potential applicants to explore Delaware law enforcement. Similar to the campaign Newark PD has designed, the DACP partnered with police recruiting agency All Star Talent to create a marketing campaign where potential candidates can now explore and apply to all police agencies in Delaware by visiting one website, [Join the Delaware Police Departments](#). Delaware is the first state in the nation to endeavor a project of this nature and it is receiving positive reviews.
2. Last week, Newark PD extended two conditional offers of employment and on Thursday, January 23, two recruits started their training at the New Castle County Police Academy. Newark PD currently has four remaining police officer vacancies and background investigations are underway on potential applicants.
3. On Tuesday, January 21, a conditional offer of employment was extended to a police dispatcher applicant. Additional backgrounds are underway for one remaining police dispatcher vacancy.
4. On Wednesday, January 22, Chief Farrall and Deputy Chief Feeney attended the Newark Chapter NAACP meeting. The meeting, held virtually, was well attended, and included members of the NAACP as well as State Representative Mara Gorman. Chief Farrall and Deputy Chief Feeney provided updates on NPD operations and answered questions from the organization.
5. During the week, Lt. Andrew Rubin, and Cpl. Adam Mease are in the Kensington section of Philadelphia providing instruction to new police Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) students. DRE students travel to Kensington to participate in the field evaluation portion of the training. The DRE program, funded by the Delaware Office of Highway Safety is designed to detect impaired drivers under the influence of drugs. This intensive training program requires approximately 100 hours of classroom and field training and in order to become a certified DRE officer, students must score 100 percent on a final exam that is administered over the course of 12-18 hours. Newark PD is proud to have two instructors in this program and has a total of three DRE certified officers.

Parks and Recreation

1. **Capital Projects:**
 - a. Dickey Park improvement – construction is on-going, progress meeting held
 - b. George Read Park improvements – construction delayed until February/March 2025
 - c. Old Papermill Road Park – pre-construction meeting will be held the end of January

2. Maintenance/Operations:

- a. Snow removal first part of week
- b. Submitted memo to award ITB for Forestry and Arboricultural Services
- c. Continue completing work orders
- d. Working on dog park design for Folk Park, held meeting with Dash In representatives to discuss final location on Jan. 21 and reviewing next steps on Jan. 24
- e. Working on clearing plantings at the George Wilson Center in preparation for electronic sign installation
- f. Working on end of year report
- g. Completed setting up volunteer trailer customization with tools

3. Events:

- a. Upcoming events:
 - i. Employment and Volunteer Fair – 2/1 at Newark Library
 - ii. Summer Camp and Program Fair – March 4 at Downes Elementary
- b. Working to update the Sponsorship Packet for 2025 events.
- c. Started the grant application for Delaware Division of the Arts which supports some of our events
- d. Secured additional gift card donations from Shop Rite to support our 2025 community events

4. Recreation Programming:

- a. 2025 Winter Spring activities registration is ongoing and several programs have started or will be s over the next few weeks including fitness classes, swim lessons, pottery classes, No School Days, martial arts, yoga, chess and more
- b. Before and After School Care
 - i. Working to hire new staff and finalize availability with returning staff who will be back in February for UD spring semester.
 - ii. Starting to prepare for the annual licensing inspection at Downes in March.
- c. Staff are working on annual report and program statistics
- d. 2025 Part-time job postings have been updated on the City webpage and include summer camp counselors, lifeguards, before/after care staff and swim instructor

5. Volunteers

- a. Receiving registrations for Summer Camp Volunteers and started setting up phone interviews.
- b. Planning for Volunteer recognition event 2/1.

Electric

1. Capital Improvement Projects:

- a. CIP E2002 - New Substation: We recently met with 1743 Holdings to provide an update on the new substation project. During this meeting, we outlined the timeline for the interconnection application and the project's projected completion timeline based on the insights obtained during our discussions with Delmarva Power (DP&L).

We have formally requested that 1743 Holdings provide both 5-year and 10-year load forecasts for the STAR Campus, as this information is required by Delaware Power & Light (DP&L) for inclusion in our interconnection application. Furthermore, we have discussed the land approval process for the new substations. We emphasized the importance of expediting this land approval to prevent potential delays to the project timeline. Additionally,

we informed 1743 Holdings about the BRIC grant application related to the new substation. They have indicated that they will relay the updated information to their administration and advocate for a swift approval of the land.