



CITY OF NEWARK DELAWARE

Below is the weekly report for the week ending February 21, 2025.

Items for Newsletters:

1. **Water Main Breaks:** Water Mains continue to break at a high rate this year. Weather patterns and aging infrastructure are several factors that play into the number of breaks in any given year. We are up to **27** for this season already versus 16 in each of the last 2 years. Any outages or notices will be given directly to affected residents and we do our best to make sure everyone is kept informed while the repair is made safely and efficiently. Residents are encouraged to report any water coming out of the ground or running in the street that is out of the ordinary. Our crews are doing a great job of making the repairs quickly and limiting the disturbance for our customers.
2. **City newsletter:** To sign up for the City's email newsletter, [click here](#).

Public Works and Water Resources

1. **Newark Reservoir Maintenance (Feb 24-Feb 28):** City crews along with a contractor will be performing maintenance activities around the reservoir over the next week. The inspections will focus on the tower/bridge and the inlet and outlet pipes that feed the reservoir and treatment plant. Use of the trails and amenities should not be affected; however, trucks and crews may be present and require short term closures to move into place. Please use caution as you enjoy the cold weather at the reservoir.
2. **Delaware Avenue Fiber Installation (Nightwork Feb 10 – March 7):** A contractor for DelDOT will continue installing fiber optic cables along Delaware Avenue for approximately 2 more weeks. This work will take place overnight and a noise waiver is in place for the work. Lane closures for vehicles and bicycles will be necessary for the duration of the project and flaggers and police will be present during the work. Please use caution and obey any traffic control signage or direction from personnel onsite.
3. **Veolia Water Treatment Plant Tour:** Veolia Water Delaware, the water supplier for areas surrounding Newark, invited our team, including Director, Deputy Director, Water Operations Superintendent, and City Manager, to tour their Stanton Treatment Plant where they are currently installing treatment for PFAS, similar to our installation at South Well Field. Due to their size and source water, they are installing 42 treatment units, more than 10 times the size of our SWF installation. This is similar, if larger in scale, to what we expect to need at our Curtis plant in the next few years. Keeping up to date and fostering the relationships with neighboring utilities helps us collaborate and learn from each other's work to tackle similar issues. Below is a picture from inside their facility under construction. It is hard to appreciate the scale of the facility, but it is approximately the size of an ice rink, and the ceiling is probably 30' high.



Police

1. **Recruitment:** On Friday, February 14th, NPD extended two conditional offers of employment for police applicants. NPD will have four recruits attending the Delaware State Police Training Academy beginning in mid-March.
2. **Community Engagement:**
 - a. From February 10 to February 22, 2025, the Community Engagement Unit (CEU) collaborated with the Behavioral Health Unit for Homeless Outreach, providing resources to those in need. Officers continued the School Mentorship Program at West Park and Downes Elementary Schools and led a Driver's Education session on impaired driving for high school students.
 - b. The CEU (with the Explorers Program) hosted Wilmington PD's Ordinance Disposal Unit for a Public Safety Explorers Post presentation and attended a University of Delaware Job Fair for recruitment.
 - c. CEU attended a dinner function at the Vero/Juniper Village, where they interacted with the cooks and residents.
 - d. They also met with the Fusion Foundation to plan the 2025 trading card project and participated in Downes Elementary's Health Night on February 20 and a reading competition at West Park Elementary on February 21.
3. **Operations:** On Saturday, February 22nd, members of NPD will assist with a memorial service and funeral motorcade at the Fred Rust Ice Arena for the five local victims of the DC Plane Crash.

Parks and Recreation

1. **Capital Projects:**
 - a. Dickey Park improvement – construction is on-going, progress meetings held monthly
 - b. George Read Park improvements – pre-construction meeting held, construction will begin in late March/early April, notification will be sent to surrounding neighborhood
 - c. Old Papermill Road Park – pre-construction meeting held, notification sent to surrounding

neighborhood of start day beginning the end of February

- d. Olan Thomas/Kershaw Trail – setting up meeting with Electric to discuss tree line area that needs to be cut back in preparation for the start of the project

2. Maintenance/Operations:

- a. Performed numerous tree inspections following recent storms including rain and strong winds. Working to get contractor out to address issues where needed.
- b. Started ballfield and Rittenhouse Park inspections in preparation for the start of Little League practices beginning in early March, weather permitting, and summer camp.
- c. Continued to install new parking lot rule signs in park parking lots.
- d. Installed new traffic island beautification signs to assigned spots.
- e. Retrieved holiday floating tree from Hillside from frozen pond.
- f. Completed snow removal operations from inclement weather.
- g. Coordinating removal of 3 trees from 262 S. College after receiving approval from Council.

3. Upcoming Events:

- a. Summer Camp and Program Fair – March 4 at Downes Elementary

4. Recreation Programming:

- a. Staff are working to get summer camps planned and ready for the summer camp guide that comes out in March.
- b. We are accepting and receiving summer camp staff applications
- c. Preparing to open the Community Gardens in March
- d. On 2/7, we had the Cocoa and Constellations event at the Reservoir where we supplied cocoa for the 50+ in attendance while they got to look at different constellations and planets that were visible from the multiple types of telescopes. The Delaware Astronomical Society was kind enough to partner with us for this event.
- e. Inclement weather has led to several program cancellations and schedule adjustments over the last two weeks.
- f. Before and After School Care at Downes and West Park
 - i. Preparing for the annual licensing inspection at Downes in March.
 - ii. Nick Minnix, Recreation Supervisor, completed the Office of Child Care Licensing Center Information Session to initiate the process of becoming the official primary administrator of School-Age Care.
- g. George Wilson Center
 - i. For the week of 2/3, we had our seven long term rentals, and two short term rentals in addition to the classes and programs that are taking place for martial arts, yoga, and fitness

5. Volunteers

- a. Setting up phone interviews for the Summer Camp Volunteers. As of now, there are eight volunteers who have registered.
- b. Adopt a Park Volunteers - Andrew Bradley stopped by the Parks & Recreation office to pick up his certificate, NPR Swag, and a gift card to Helen's Sausage for outstanding Adopt a Park volunteer.

Electric

1. Outage Report:

- a. On February 17, 2025, a storm caused several trees to fall, resulting in power outages for many customers. In total, 1,143 customers were affected, and here's how the outages

played out:

- i. 991 customers experienced a quick restoration, with only 25 minutes without power.
- ii. 59 customers faced an outage lasting 84 minutes.
- iii. 74 customers were without power for 1 hour and 40 minutes.
- iv. 9 customers experienced a 2-hour power interruption.
- v. 10 customers had their power restored after 3 hours.

Our response team acted swiftly and efficiently to minimize downtime, demonstrating our commitment to restoring power as quickly as possible. We appreciate the understanding and patience of all customers during this event, and we remain dedicated to improving our services.

2. Other Items:

- a. The line crew is effectively tackling underground cable issues at the following locations:
 - i. A faulty primary cable on Panorama Drive, between W. Church Road and S. Townview Lane.
 - ii. A defective secondary cable in front of 725 Chrysler Avenue.
 - iii. A problematic secondary cable in front of 952 Alexandria Drive.
- b. The line crew successfully assisted the Newark Free Library in relocating a statue from the library to storage at a City facility.