



CITY OF NEWARK DELAWARE

Administrative Report

September 5th, 2025

Items for Newsletters

1. Upcoming Events:

- a. Parks on Draft – 9/13 at Handloff Park
- b. National Day of Service – Thu, Sep. 11
- c. Community Day – Sun, Sep. 21 – preparations are ongoing. We have over 110 vendors so far.

2. **Main Street Pedestrian Safety Improvements:** Most short-term improvements have been installed and we are in the evaluation phase of the measures through data collection and observation. We have replaced the standard Stop signs with LED flashing signs at the new stop control at McKees and Haines Streets to better alert drivers to the new traffic patterns. These signs will be switched to single flashing lights over the next few months. Pedestrian crossing signs have also been installed in the crosswalks on Main Street. Overall, the improvements appear to be making a difference in driver behavior. We are working with our consultant to begin planning the medium-term improvements.

3. **City newsletter:** To sign up for the City's email newsletter, [click here](#).

Public Works

1. **Annual Street Improvement Program:** Milling and paving of Dallas Avenue and curb work on Madison Drive are both scheduled to begin Friday September 5. Attached notices were handed out to all affected residents.
2. **Curtis Water Treatment Plant – PFAS removal pilot study:** Staff is working with Calgon Carbon, our PFAS treatment equipment supplier, to install a pilot system to analyze the treatment process and dial in the material run times and potential costs over the long term. We expect the system to be operational by the end of the month and will be online for 6-12 months while we begin preliminary design on the plant.
3. **Refuse collection with student return:** Refuse collections typically spike over the first few weeks of classes at UD. Staff and crews have been proactively sending notices and educational materials to help ease the transition. Our goal is to have everyone putting the correct things in the correct bins to avoid contamination and reduce costs associated with disposal.

Planning and Development

1. Planning

- a. Deputy Director, Planner Raskin and Community Planner Dykes attended UD's Homelessness in Delaware Conference
- b. Senior Planner Fortner and Community Planner Dykes have met with our consultant and are preparing for all future events regarding Comp Plan Kick Off.
- c. 900 Ogletown Road have submitted Version 2 for review for the Major Subdivision with 2 Special Use Permit requested at the property.
- d. 40 Benny Street has been released for review for a Major Subdivision by Site Plan Approval,

Comp Plan Amend, and Rezoning. This plan is testing a new format in EPL to help staff and applicant streamline the application process.

2. Parking

- a. Lot 1 - Beautification Project Complete. New soil and grass seed planted. Fixed to erosion areas on Delaware Avenue with rock. Removed weeds from problem areas.
- b. Lot 3 – Changed exit from Lot 3 adjacent to Café Gelato to an entrance only from Main Street. This will improve pedestrian safety on the sidewalk at this location. Additional speed bumps have been installed in Lot 3 to reduce speeding behind Green Mansion exiting onto Center Street.

3. Code Enforcement

- a. The Nuisance Violation appeals for 41 N. Chapel Street, and 85 W. Park Place were originally ruled as summary judgements for the City due to the owner's failure to show. The Alderman has since rescheduled both appeals for October 9, 2025. She doesn't believe based on State code that a summary judgement is permitted due to the size of the fine.
- b. 4 Patrick Henry Ct. was condemned due to a large yellow jacket infestation inside the wall cavities that were finding their way to the interior of the home. The Property Maintenance team has been working with the Newark Housing Authority to get this resolved.
- c. Property Maintenance and Fire Prevention Teams assisted in the annual UD Resident Advisor Training
- d. The Property Maintenance team is scheduled to do one of their bi-yearly canvassing and door knocking with UD Community Standards and Conflict Resolution on September 3, 2025, where we will hand out information related to our rental program.

Parks and Recreation

1. Projects

- a. George Read Park improvements – Play feature installation was completed this week. Grand re-opening will be scheduled after the new play feature and benches are installed.
- b. Old Papermill Road Park – construction progressing well with the nice weather; progress meetings held monthly; continuing work on grass multi-purpose field; also working on installation of pickleball courts.
- c. Olan Thomas/Kershaw Trail – planning for bid request in late fall 2025. Staff preparing cost estimates and draft bid documents; environmental review nearing completion.
- d. Folk Park project – stone dust trail installation is complete; plant installation scheduled for September with community celebration in early October. Plant delivery confirmed; volunteer planting shift sign-up has begun.
- e. Coleman Park – tree contractor began work last week and is progressing nicely; expected completion by the second week of September.

Police

1. Recruitment Update: NPD continues to make progress on filling the current vacant police positions.

- a. On August 20th, Mayor McDermott joined Chief Farrall and members of the department at the Delaware State Police Academy graduation where we welcomed Officer Andressa Rodriques Do Vale to the department. After completing six months of training at the academy, she will now move on to a three-month field-training program.
- b. On August 21st, NPD extended a conditional offer of employment to a certified police officer from Virginia. This officer will complete several pre-employment screenings and is anticipated to begin employment in the coming weeks. Due to his training and experience he will not have to attend the police academy and is estimated to have a short period of onboarding before beginning field training.
- c. On September 10th, recruits Madison Finnan and Julien McGonigal will begin academy

training at the New Castle County Police Academy.

- d. Also in September, NPD, in partnership with Epic Productions, will launch a refreshed version of the www.JoinNewarkPD.com recruiting website. They have also updated our recruiting ads with new interviews, videos and photos which will be disseminated via social media platforms and search engines.
 - e. Additionally, in the coming weeks, Newark PD will be the featured agency for targeted advertising via All Star Talent. All Star Talent is the agency selected for the statewide recruiting project via the www.JoinDelaware.com recruiting page. NPD recently participated in a virtual recruiting fair organized by All Star Talent which was very well attended. NPD currently has five vacancies.
- 2. Student Move In:** Two weekends ago, NPD Officers assisted with the University of Delaware Move-In Weekend. This event created significant traffic issues around the central campus. NPD has completed an after action review and will provide the university with feedback and recommendations for next year.
- 3. Fall Crime Suppression:** With the return of the students to the city, NPD have increased patrols in the business district and student rental areas.
- 4. Pedestrian Safety:** NPD has also launched a pedestrian education and enforcement campaign which will continue through the month of September to educate the students on traffic safety protocols. UDPD will be assisting with this project, which is funded by the Office of Highway Safety. Both agencies are also in talks with the Office of Highway Safety on the development of a targeted educational video.