



CITY OF NEWARK DELAWARE

Administrative Report

October 3rd, 2025

Items for Newsletters

1. Upcoming Events:

- a. 10/4 – Music on Main
- b. 10/4 - Fall Tree Giveaway – Hillside Park.
- c. 10/11 - Community Cleanup
- d. 10/11 - Folk Park celebration with the Wills Group – 11am (flyer below)
- e. 10/12 – Faith and Blue BBQ in Handloff Park – 12pm-4pm
- f. 10/17 - Family Movie Night at The Reservoir
- g. 10/26 - Halloween Parade
- h. 11/08 – Music on Main
- i. 11/22 - Turkey Trot

We've partnered with Nic DeCaire of Fusion Promotions to launch three exciting community events this fall: Music on Main on October 4 and November 8, and Family Movie Night on October 17. Family Movie Night, sponsored by DEMEC, is free for all attendees, and so far, 33 people have claimed tickets. This weekend's Music on Main will feature four live musicians and 10 local vendors offering various items including handmade candles and soaps, jewelry, children's books and seasonal decor. To further support these efforts, we've created a new social media page, Newark Live!, which we're gradually filling with business-submitted content to boost visibility and drive more visitors to downtown.

2. **SR 896 Pave and Rehab (Welsh Tract Road to SR 4):** DelDOT is tentatively scheduled to begin paving of SR896 from Welsh Tract Road to SR 4 beginning 10/15, weather permitting. This will be night work with work hours between 9pm and 6am each day. The estimated duration of this work is 4-5 days.
3. **Electronic Speed Enforcement:** As a reminder, due to datacenter migration scheduling at our vendor, the go-live date for our speed cameras has been delayed from mid-October to early November.
3. **2025 Police Trading Card Contest:** The Newark Police Department, in partnership with the Newark Police Athletic League (PAL), is proud to announce the launch of the 2025 Trading Card Contest, beginning October 1, 2025.

The contest kicks off with card giveaways at Newark Elementary Schools and K-5 programs, followed by the Trading Card Launch Event on October 4, 2025, at The Grove, Community Green (between WSFS and Raising Cane's), 100 Grove Lane, Newark, DE 19711, 3:00 pm through 6:00 pm. At the launch, participants will receive Starter Packs that include police officer trading cards, contest rules, coupons, and more. The Starter Packs will contain randomized cards to encourage interaction and trading among kids in the community. Some lucky participants may also pull Ultra Rare NPD Chrome 1:1 Cards from their Starter Packs, instantly winning a prize.

Over the 8-week contest period, which concludes on November 23, 2025, participants will be challenged to collect the complete set of police cards, 100 in total. Community events will provide opportunities for contestants to meet officers face-to-face and obtain rare, hard-to-get cards, helping them complete their sets while fostering positive interactions between officers and

community members.

Several events will also feature “Officers of the Day,” offering limited opportunities to collect exclusive cards available at specific appearances. We will post the events on the Newark Police Department’s social media platforms, and they will be listed on the Newark PAL’s website under the “Events” section. The contest encourages youth and families to engage with officers in a fun and interactive way, helping strengthen the bond between the police department and the community.

This program is about more than trading cards; it’s about building relationships. Every card represents an opportunity for our officers to connect with young people in a positive and meaningful way.

Contest Prizes

This year’s Grand Prize is a trip to Walt Disney World, valued at \$6,000.

Additional prizes include:

- Kalahari Resort-overnight stay
- Great Wolf Lodge-overnight stay
- Trek Bicycles
- PlayStation 5
- Nintendo Switch 2
- And more exciting surprises!

How to Learn More

Complete contest rules and details can be found at:

newarkdepal.org/event/2025-newark-pd-trading-card

Community members are also encouraged to follow the Newark Police Department and Newark PAL on social media for “Officer of the Day” announcements, contest updates, and event highlights.

Special Thanks to Our Sponsors

This program would not be possible without the generous support of our local community partners. Newark Police Department, and Newark PAL want to extend their heartfelt thanks to:

- The Friends of Fusion Foundation
- Bing’s Bakery
- Bloom Energy
- Boulden Brothers
- Deer Park Tavern
- Do Big Things Collectibles
- Fusco Management
- Hockessin Gossip Girls
- Home Grown Café
- Klondike Kate’s
- Lang Cares
- Price Toyota
- Grain Craft Bar + Kitchen
- Jerry’s Artarama
- Fusion Racing
- Captain Blue Hen Comics
- Law Offices of Vance Funk
- Newark Area Welfare Committee
- Raising Cane’s
- Standard Distributing Company
- NPD Retirees
- Bing’s Bake and Brew
- Splash In
- State Farm – David Rosengarten

- Christine and Butch Smythe
- Treemendous
- Fusion Racing

Their commitment to Newark youth and families helps make this initiative a success year after year.



4. **Parking Survey:** The Parking Advisory Committee's downtown parking survey kicked off at Community Day on Sunday, September 21. The survey will run for 10 weeks and everyone who fills out the survey will be entered to win a weekly prize of \$50 of free parking downtown. The graphic below provides a QR code with a link to the survey. Materials have been provided to downtown businesses and sent to Council to assist in promotion. Over 400 responses have been received so far. The week 1 winner has been selected and notified with an announcement pending the delivery of the prize.



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

Public Works

1. **Curtis Water Treatment Plant – PFAS Pilot Study:** PWWR staff, in collaboration with Calgon Carbon engineers, have successfully installed a new Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) pilot system at the Curtis Water Treatment Plant. This pilot study will run for 8 to 12 months and includes three different pilot-scale configurations. Each configuration will test the performance of various GAC media types in removing PFAS from the White Clay Creek surface water, which serves as the plant’s raw water source. The primary objective is to evaluate the effectiveness and lifespan of each GAC media type for PFAS removal. The results will help us select the most cost-effective media and system configuration for the full-scale treatment upgrade. Additionally, this data will help us more accurately estimate our annual operating cost projections for Curtis once the permanent system is in place. We encourage council to reach out if they have any interest in taking a tour of the plant to see the new pilot system in operation.
2. **Curtis WTP - Raceway and Wasteway Rehabilitation Project:** Our contractor has made significant progress in installing the new precast box culvert between the raceway and the wasteway at our Curtis WTP. Other planned improvements include the installation of sluice gates that will allow us to convey flows from the raceway to the wasteway when necessary, electric actuators to open or close the sluice gates, and dredging of the raceway to improve flow to our raw water pump station. A project profile is attached and a few photos are included below for council’s reference.



3. **Louviers Elevated Storage Tank – In-house Valve Vault Improvements:** PWWR in-house crews successfully and safely completed the removal of old piping and installation of new mechanical piping in the valve vault at our Louviers elevated storage tank. The old piping and components within the vault were used to prevent overfilling of the tank and required frequent and costly maintenance. The primary purpose of the improvements was to remove a failing altitude valve that was used to control high water level of the tank and void overflows during filling. The altitude valve has been replaced with a new pressure transmitter that will monitor the water elevation in the tank communicate directly with our booster station and SCADA system to manage tank levels more efficiently. By completing this work in-house, we avoided the cost of hiring external contractors, resulting in significant savings for the department. We plan to continue leveraging in-house resources for similar system improvements where appropriate.

Police

1. **Recruitment Update:** This week, Newark PD launched an updated version of the

www.JoinNewarkPD.com website. The new and improved website includes more intuitive navigation as well as updated hiring information along with new videos and photos. As part of this project, new social media advertising has been launched through the major platforms and search engines.

Planning and Development

5. Land Use

- a. The October 21 Planning Commission meeting was finalized for advertisement and will include the election of officers, appointment of the UD student representative for the Comprehensive Development Plan VI Steering Committee, review of the 2026-2030 Capital Improvement Program, review and recommendation for the 2025 Newark Bicycle Plan Updates, and an update on the Comprehensive Development Plan VI plan public outreach progress.
- b. Subdivision Advisory Committee comment letters issued over the last two weeks include:
 - i. 24-30 North Chapel Street – second submission SAC letter sent on September 24
 - ii. 268 East Main Street (subdivision amendment) – first submission SAC letter sent on September 25
 - iii. 73 West Delaware Avenue – third submission SAC letter sent on September 25
- c. Staff have been working to move forward with various projects using the consulting budget provided by Council for 2025. Statuses for those items are as follows:
 - i. Rental and business license audit
 1. Status meeting held on October 3. Preliminary data was reviewed with staff and preliminary data sets will be forwarded by the vendor for staff to review and identify any concerns before the final audit delivery. It is expected that the receipt of the final audit will be ahead of the originally projected delivery date of January 2026.
 - ii. Comprehensive Development Plan 10-year review
 1. Public kickoff for the Comprehensive Development Plan 10-year review was at Community Day on September 21. 40 individual interviews were conducted (each interviewee responded to a minimum of three questions) and there were 70 additional interactions with the SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) mapping activity, for a total of 110 data points.
 2. The City's PublicInput portal has been launched. Residents, businesses, and other Newark stakeholders are encouraged to provide their input for the Comprehensive Development Plan and sign up to stay notified about opportunities to get involved with the process at <https://publicinput.com/newarkcompplan>.
 3. The first meeting of the [Comprehensive Development Plan Steering Committee](#) will be held on Thursday, October 9 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers with a hybrid option available for those who would like to attend virtually. A student representative from the University of Delaware has been submitted for the Steering Committee, so it is at full membership for its launch. The agenda includes election of a chair, orientation of the members to the Comprehensive Development Plan process, discussion of the public outreach and participation plan, review of feedback collected so far, and setting the regular meeting schedule.
 4. Staff will have pop-up community outreach tables at the Family Movie Night on October 17 and at the Newark Co-Op Farmers Market on October 19.
 - iii. Comprehensive fee review
 1. We are finalizing the list of staff for the consultant to work with to review each of the 100+ fees in code that encompass the project scope. Once that is delivered, the consultant will reach out to the departments to schedule meetings to review.

- d. The Community Development/Revenue Sharing Advisory Committee held its first meeting on October 1. Since a quorum of members was not available, attendees reviewed the applications and provided questions for further information on the application. No votes were taken. \$525,425 has been requested by 19 organizations against an available budget of \$374,037.

6. Code Enforcement

- e. Code Enforcement responded to a vehicle collision with a building at 414 Cleveland Avenue. Two bollards and a fire hydrant worked to stop the car. A storefront window was broken and some supports bent.
- f. Code Enforcement worked with the property owner at 124 East Main Street regarding a sprinkler break that damaged Home Grown Café. The sprinkler system was repaired and back online the same day. An electrical inspection was conducted prior to Home Grown reopening to ensure the safety of the electrical system after the water issues were resolved.
- g. Staff spent time reviewing the most recent nuisance property data in preparation for the next round of warning letters and citations, which are anticipated to go out within the next two weeks.

7. Parking

- h. Staff met with the City's parking kiosk vendor to discuss the possibility of putting gates back into the City's lots to allow for a post-payment system in the municipal parking lots. Lots #1 and #4 have been identified as the most feasible possibility for this effort, with Lot #4 being most likely to serve as an initial pilot. Staff is now waiting on pricing information before potentially bringing this forward for further consideration.

Parks and Recreation

1. Projects

- a. Folk Park - Community celebration scheduled for October 11 at 11 a.m. (information below), tennis court and basketball court were resurfaced and repainted
- b. Elkton Road Landscaping – project started by DelDOT along Elkton Road and mitigation sites including Devon and Folk Park. Working with DelDOT to add Coleman Park as a third mitigation site in place of Redd Park.
- c. Dickey Park – street hockey court was resurfaced and repainted
- d. Elan Park – basketball court is getting resurfaced and repainted. Should be completed within two weeks.

2. Events:

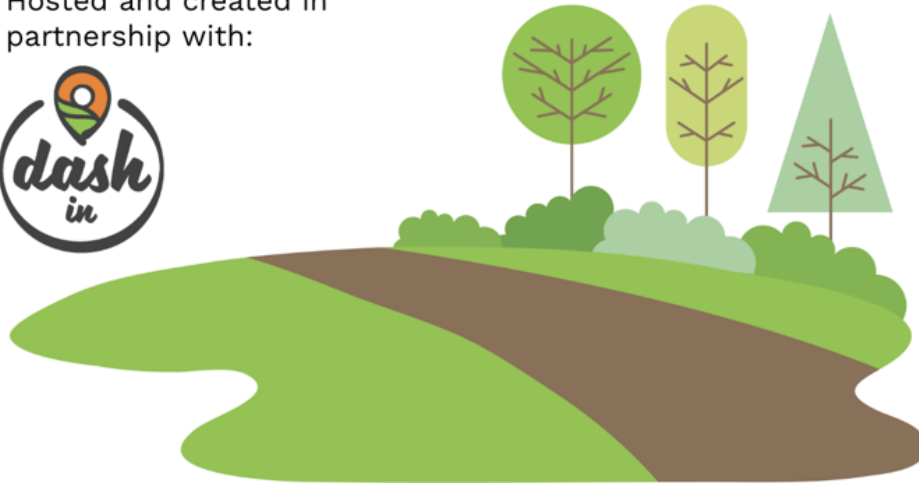
- a. 10/4 - Fall Tree Giveaway – Hillside Park.
- b. 10/11 - Community Cleanup
- c. 10/11 - Folk Park celebration with the Wills Group – 11am
- d. 10/26 - Halloween Parade
- e. 11/22 - Turkey Trot

Join us for a community celebration at Folk Memorial Park

Come celebrate enhancements at Folk Memorial Park
with tours, activities, food, and beverages!

October 11, 2025, 11:00 am

Hosted and created in
partnership with:



3. Recreation Programming:

- a. School Age Care: The application for license renewal for West Park Place was submitted. Annual inspection will take place in October
- b. Community Gardens: Clean Out and end of season celebration for gardeners is set for Sat, 11/1/25

4. Volunteers:

- a. Community Day Volunteers - 43 participated and spent a total of 156.25 hours volunteering

Electric

1. Outage Report:

- a. On September 28, 2025, a squirrel caused a power outage lasting one hour and 42 minutes, affecting 146 customers on Madison Drive.

2. SAC Requests: Completed our review and provided our comments to Planning for the following SAC requests:

- a. 268 East Main St

3. CIP, L&G, and As-Built Plan Reviews: Completed our plan review and provided our comments to PWWR for the following projects:

- a. 268 E. Main St - As-Built review
- b. 1105 Elkton Road (Wawa) - L&G review
- c. 200 McIntire Dr - L&G review

4. Development Projects:

- a. 55 Benny St - attended Pre-Construction meeting
- b. BPG at STAR - had a field meeting to discuss service to the Liquor store. The pole that serves

the liquor store is located on BPG property, and the developer would like to remove the pole.

5. Capital Improvement Projects:

- a. E1810 - Lighting Arrestor Replacement - We replaced 57 lighting arrestors on our 12kV distribution system in September. To date, we have replaced the lighting arrestors on 205 poles, totaling 615 lighting arrestors. We still have 250 poles remaining.

6. Other Items:

- a. We completed the fall infrared scanning at the substations and along the aerial lines. During this scanning, we identified three hotspots in the Kershaw substation, which have since been repaired.
- b. Additionally, we installed Halloween parade banners and new hardware for the NAACP/FOSHA banners along Cleveland Avenue, Corbit Street, and New London Road.



CURTIS WATER PLANT RACEWAY & WASTEWAY REHABILITATION

The Raceway at the Curtis Water Treatment Plant (CWTP) conveys water from a dam on the White Clay Creek to the plant as well as to the pumphouse that feeds the Newark Reservoir. In combination with the raceway, the wasteway allows excess or sediment laden flow to be diverted back to the creek in times of high flow utilizing a set of sluice gates to control the flow. A culvert that holds the sluice gates allows vehicle access over the wasteway to the raceway access road, control gates, and part of the Laird Tract Well Field. The existing sluice gates are made of wood, must be turned by hand, and are very leaky which allows water to pass even when the gates are closed. The existing culvert is in poor condition and cannot continue to support large vehicles necessary for proper maintenance of the raceway, dam, wells, etc.

Project Profile:

Project Location: Curtis Water Treatment Plant

Newark Project Team:

Mark Neimeister – Water Operations Superintendent

Ethan Robinson – Deputy Director of PWWR

Tim Filasky – Director of PWWR

Contractor: Merit Construction Engineers

Bids Received: 2

Contract Awarded: December 2024

Project Completed: September 2025 (Estimated)

Total Cost: \$484,500

Funding Sources:

1. American Rescue Plan Act

New Concrete Box Culvert

Stainless Steel Sluice Gates

**Electric Powered
Actuators/Gate Operators**

Raceway Dredging

Water Main Relocation

**Raceway Trail/Roadway
Improvements**