

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

November 25, 2009

Police

On Wednesday, November 18th around 2:35 a.m., a street robbery was committed on Prospect Avenue. The victim parked his car on Prospect Avenue and was walking on the street to a friend's house when he noticed he was being followed and ran onto his friend's front porch. While the victim was standing on the front porch waiting to be let into the house, the suspect approached the victim from behind, placed what felt like a sharp object to his back, and demanded money. The victim was then lightly struck on the head with a blunt object. The victim surrendered his wallet, and the suspect ran off toward Wilbur Street. Jack Warrington, D.O.B. 10/10/82 was developed as a suspect from a robbery that New Castle County Police Department was investigating. He was arrested on November 20th for this complaint.

On November 18th, Warren Locket, D.O.B. 03/07/66 was arrested for recent commercial burglaries that occurred at the Tobacco Zone and Fairfield News.

Last week the Newark Police Department instituted a detail targeting bicycle violations in the Elkton Road area. The first day of enforcement, 22 warnings were issued.

Over the past weekend, a two-man aggressive patrol car was directed to patrol Kells Avenue and surrounding areas due to numerous complaints received from residents.

Planning & Development

Planning:

Work has continued this week on the draft "New Center Village" redevelopment plan.

We are also continuing to work with Code Enforcement Supervisor Steve Wilson on the proposed adoption of LEED based requirements for new construction in major subdivisions and at the University of Delaware.

Economic Development:

Assistant Planning and Development Director Maureen Feeney Roser processed one utility grant for a downtown business this week. The DNP welcomes our newest retail store – The Flip Flop Shops which opened yesterday.

Nearly 100 supporters attended the DNP Annual Meeting to celebrate 11 years of working together for downtown enhancement. The DNP's 2009 Annual Report was unveiled and more than \$2,800 was raised toward the Alleyway Improvement Project at the event!

Community Development:

At the Council's meeting Monday evening, the Council unanimously approved the recommendation from the Community Development/Revenue Sharing Advisory Committee concerning the Committee's 36th Year Community Development Block Grant funding and 2010 Revenue Sharing funding expenditures.

Planner Mike Fortner attended a loan signing for a Homebuyer Incentive Program loan this week.

Public Works

Engineering/Planning and Inspection:

- Contract 09-03 - 2009 Street Improvement Program:
Mumford & Miller Concrete, Inc. worked on Francis Circle and Julie Lane and completed the following:
 - 1) (4) sanitary sewer manhole adjustments and p.c.c. collar pours.
 - 2) (1) water valve adjustment and p.c.c. collar pour.
 - 3) 28.8 s.f. of 6" p.c.c. driveway apron replacement.
 - 4) 12.3 s.f. of 4" p.c.c. sidewalk replacement at handicap ramp.
 - 5) 8.0 s.f. of red truncated dome block replacement.
 - 6) 259.45 tons of top hot mix overlay on streets.*Contractor used 5.5 c.y. of DeIDOT Class B concrete in above pours. This completes the payable work on the contract. Punchlist items will be addressed in the Spring of 2010.
- The Woods at Louviers was conditionally accepted by the city.
- A draft Focused Feasibility Study for Cleveland Avenue Landfill was received from Tetra Tech.
- Kelley Dinsmore performed quarterly stream adoption tasks at Rittenhouse Park and forwarded the required informational sheet to DNREC.

Survey Crew:

- Computed and checked the deed descriptions of Phillips Mill and Briar Creek right of way for accuracy.
- Organized the Phase 2.7 residential letters and certified/return receipt labels and began sending them out.

Field Operations

Refuse:

- Working with Jim Baster from the Christina School District to discuss and implement a recycling program at the four schools in the city (West Park Elementary, McVey Elementary, Downes Elementary, and Newark High School).

Streets:

- Street crews continued working on 6th week of fall leaf collection schedule.

Water & Wastewater

I spend a significant amount of time this week preparing a grant application for the Northwest Booster Station to remove the pump station from the flood plain and update the internal equipment. I have also been working on the project to replace the sewer lines that cross the Christina Creek behind Arbour Park. I am also initiating the design phase of a project in the capital budget to install a new water line on Brook Haven Road.

I have also been working on agreements for the placement of communication equipment on the Windy Hills, New London and West Main Street water tanks. These agreements will provide for annual lease payments for the right to use our towers.

Electric

The line crews continued changing services, raising pedestals, and changing transformers for the 4kV to 12kV voltage upgrade around Haines Street. Also an intermittent service problem at Pine Brook Apartments was investigated by the meter technician and fixed by line crews yesterday, November 23.

The GIS technician continued working on the construction standards in preparation for the Elkton Road project while engineering has been fielding calls about the temporary curbing bid due December 1 for this project. Some of the utility poles are being moved onto the edge of the street and temporary curbing will be installed around them for safety before the permanent curbing is installed by the state.

The electricians are completing the last few items for the police 911 center and are checking and repairing the Christmas light strings for the trees.

Engineering has been concentrating on the upcoming Elkton Road project by assisting the GIS technician with the construction standards and making sure the material has been ordered and has arrived. Engineering also fixed a meter problem at the Phillips Avenue substation. One meter had not been calling in with the monthly loads and it was determined the program was faulty. The meter was reprogrammed and the issue resolved.

Parks & Recreation

Administration – Charlie Emerson:

I committed time this week working with Roger Akin on the development of a conservation easement for a wetland site on the route of the proposed Pomeroy Trail.

I completed writing three (3) park project grant proposals to be submitted for the upcoming funding cycle of the Delaware Land and Water Conservation Trust Fund grant program. The program provides for a 50% funding match for approved projects. Proposals for the following 2010 Capital Improvement projects will be submitted: Elan Park Basketball Court Resurfacing; LeRoy Hill Park Baseball Field – Remove and Replace Fencing and Backstop; Curtis Paper Mill/Old Paper Mill Road Park Master Plan.

My compliments go to Tom Zaleski and his group of Scout volunteers who completed the installation of a new Rain Garden at Lumbrook Park. More than 200 individual plants were planted in an area that stays wet a good part of the year. This was the third Rain Garden we have placed in our parks. The others are at Devon Park and Handloff Park. We are planning one for Rittenhouse for sometime in the future.

The Main Street tree lights will be activated on Wednesday, November 25.

Recreation – Joe Spadafino:

Recreation Supervisor Paula Martinson met with a new instructor for children's yoga classes and set up a schedule to offer yoga for 3-5 year olds with their parents beginning in February and March with the hopes of also offering a summer for older kids. She also completed a basic staff orientation with the new Before and After Care Administrator and sat in on the Before and After Care orientation conducted by the Recreation Specialist. Plans are for the new Before and After Care Administrator to start working at the site on December 7 and start the transition prior to the holiday break.

George Wilson Center Coordinator Tyler DeBruin worked on preparing for the upcoming 23rd Annual Thanksgiving Day Breakfast. The Breakfast is a great community event that is enjoyed each year by over 100 people and 40 volunteers.

The Community Events staff prepared for and held the 37th Annual Turkey Trot on Saturday. The 5K and 10K races went very well with 685 finishers. Participants brought coats to be donated to the Sunday Breakfast Mission. Giveaways were donated by a variety of local businesses. Thanks to Newark Police Department, the parks maintenance, and recreation staff for all of their help with the event.

The Community Events staff has been preparing for Winterfest, Snack With Santa, and Santa's Secret Shoppe, which will be held on Friday, December 4 and Saturday, December 5 respectively. Local organizations have been contacted about performances, volunteers are being recruited, and Santa has been contacted about his arrival plans.

Recreation Specialist Carol Protack organized the Preschool Thanksgiving Day feast that was held for the 3, 4 and 5 year old preschool participants. The event is attended by the children and their parents and food and refreshments are enjoyed in a Thanksgiving themed atmosphere.

Recreation staff have been reviewing and editing the upcoming Winter/Spring Newsletter and organizing the programs for that season. They are also working on Fall activity statistics, analysis forms and their end of year report.

Recreation Superintendent Joe Spadafino attended a demonstration for a possible new online activity registration system. The system will be a hosted version that will provide easier registration for participants with internet access. He is also working on the equipment and supply request for quotations for 2010.

Parks & Horticulture – Tom Zaleski:

We acquired and placed the large donated Christmas Tree at the Academy Building lawn. Lights will be added and the tree will be lit during the Christmas season.

Park Superintendent Tom Zaleski committed time working on items relating to the 2010 Delaware Recreation and Park Society's annual conference, attended a Hazardous Trees workshop at the Morris Arboretum, continued researching possible grant opportunities to help fund maintenance and repair work at the Old Train Station and worked with a scout troop to install a rain Garden at Lumbrook Park.

The crews committed a good bit of time preparing for the Turkey Trot event on Friday and placing materials back into storage on Monday.

We installed a dual catch basin and drain pipes in Lumbrook Park to help control rain water drainage and icing concerns.

At the request of the Electric Department, we repaired turf at 3 Cornwall Drive.

On Monday we visited the pick-up sites to remove debris collected by the volunteers who assisted with Fall Community Clean-up.

KRS/mp