

## **DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS**

**December 11, 2009**

### **Public Works**

#### **Engineering/Planning and Inspection:**

- Erosion & Sediment Control Inspection: Performed site inspection at U of D Tubby Raymond Field, Laura's Glenn, Emily Bell Place, University of Delaware Gilbert Dorms, and Choate Street Commons.
- Christina Creek Inspection (Wedgewood Road to Nottingham Road): Performed creek inspection for blockages and found none. Provided Parks Superintendent with a list of potential problems noticed during inspection.
- Cider Mill: Reviewed punchlist items compiled prior to last Certificate of Occupancy (Bldg. #6). Met with developer on site and reviewed incomplete items required to be completed before escrow money is returned.

#### **Field Operations/Streets:**

- Street crews continued working on 8th week of fall leaf collection schedule.
- Street crews cleared blockage of debris and trash at Barksdale Road bridge culvert twice.
- Cleaned off catch basins for flooding issues.

### **Water & Wastewater**

Last week I attended the Water Supply Coordinating Council meeting. With all the rain we have had this year we have very little to talk about except the abundance of rain and the lack of water use. The other interesting bit of information that we received is a 3 month outlook from the State Climatologist. The 3 month outlook for precipitation and temperature are most interesting. In each case the forecast can be one of four options:

- Above Normal
- Normal
- Below Normal
- Equal Chances

Earlier in the year we have been "Equal Chances" in just about every category. What that means is that we have equal chances of being any one of the other three choices. Or, as the climatologist says, it's a fancy way of saying we can't tell.

For the next three months the forecast for precipitation is “Above Normal” and the forecast for temperature is “Below Normal”. Sounds like snow to me. This should set us up well for next year with lots of water in the ground.

The State Department of Emergency Management has forwarded our application to FEMA for consideration of our Northwest Booster Station Hazard Mitigation Project. This project which is part of Capital Program will remove the pump station from the 100 year flood plain and allow us to operate through a storm versus pulling the electric motors to keep them from being damaged.

### **Electric**

Engineering worked with the SCADA contractor on the development of the next phases to be developed and evaluated the currently running system for any deficiencies. After establishing that some values i.e. power factor were lacking in accuracy, data was then captured from some field devices and the SCADA system to be compared and used to correct data resolution issues.

The engineering firm doing a study for the circuits needed for the new University chiller plant and science center on Lovett Avenue gave a preliminary report to the Director. Changes to the design were discussed and will be implemented in the final design.

Engineering spent considerable time evaluating the different possibilities for a lighting upgrade to the Municipal Building. Orders have been placed for three different types of retrofits to the existing lights. Two use the same fixture, but different lamps and ballasts, and the third type only uses the shell of the existing fixture and retrofits an efficient lens and reflector along with new lamps and ballasts.

The line crews installed new cable and terminations on the circuit that initially caused the major outage last Monday. The crews continued work on the 4kV to 12kV voltage upgrade around Haines Street, Academy Street, and Water Works Lane. They also continued changing services and raising pedestals at various locations.

### **Parks & Recreation**

#### **Administration – Charlie Emerson:**

On Wednesday, I met with the two superintendents for an update on the park information and map kiosk we’re planning for Rittenhouse Park.

DelDOT’s Elkton Road project will entail significant modifications to the traffic medians which will impact the landscaping on each. Tom Zaleski, Park Superintendent, and I met to begin planning for the project as it relates to our operations.

### Recreation – Joe Spadafino:

Paula Ennis, Recreation Supervisor, worked on winter/spring activity data entry forms, started submitting information to the calendar of events for the News Journal, Delaware Moms and Find Sports Now websites regarding upcoming classes. She also conducted a staff meeting/orientation for the basketball referees for our youth leagues and attended the staff meeting for the Before and After Care staff to introduce the new site Supervisor/Administrator.

The George Wilson Center Coordinator prepared materials for and led the bus trip to New York City on Saturday, December 5. The trip was full with 44 participants and, despite the rain, it was a good trip.

Michele Marsilii, Recreation Specialist, completed her last day with the department. She was a great event planner who served in the position for nearly two years. Her coordination of event volunteers and her expertise in planning the Safety Town program were a great asset.

The community events staff prepared for and held three events this weekend including Winterfest, Snack with Santa, and Santa's Secret Shoppe. All of the events went well and had good participation. Thanks to Santa Claus for taking time out of his busy schedule to visit Newark and to all of the departments who assisted with Winterfest.

The Joe Spadafino, Recreation Superintendent, attended the University of Delaware Reunion weekend planning meeting. Their event will be held the weekend of June 5 and 6 and will coincide with Newark Nite. Logistics were discussed to coordinate the two events. The Reunion weekend should have little impact on Newark Nite 2010.

### Parks & Horticulture – Tom Zaleski:

We committed a good amount of time dealing with a drainage matter at the Transfer Station.

Parks personnel assisted with the set up and tear down of materials and equipment for the Winterfest event. They also transported materials to and from the Wilson Center for the Snack with Santa and Santa's Secret Shoppe programs.

We spent time changing Kubota mowers from a grass cutting mode to snow removal by removing mower decks and installing cabs and snow blower units.

We also spent time replacing Christmas lights on the Main Street trees due to vandalism.

### Police

On Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, officers responded to a domestic dispute. The female victim reported that her boyfriend held a knife to her throat and told her that he was

going to kill her. The suspect hit and kicked the victim several times. Warrants were issued for the suspect who was not on the scene when police arrived.

On Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, members of the Newark SWAT Team assisted the Criminal Investigations Division in detaining four suspects in a prostitution/ firearms/ narcotics investigation. One male suspect was charged with possession of a firearm by a person prohibited. A second male suspect and a female suspect were arrested on out-of-state fugitive warrants. A firearm and over \$1,900.00 in cash was seized. The money is suspected to be proceeds from drug and prostitution activity. Detectives are continuing to investigate drug and prostitution activity in the city.

On Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, at 11:17 p.m., Cpl. Pagnotti stopped a motor vehicle for not having lit taillights. The driver was found to have a history of drug arrests. During the course of the investigation, Cpl. Pagnotti found that the suspect was armed with a handgun. A passenger in the vehicle was found to be in possession of marijuana. The driver was arrested and charged with possession of the handgun and traffic offenses. The passenger was charged with possession of drugs with intent to distribute and possession of drug paraphernalia.

On Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, at 1:25 p.m., a University Student was walking along South College Avenue in the area of the Morris Library. The victim felt a jerk on the backpack he was carrying on his back. The victim turned and saw two male suspects running with his backpack which contained his laptop computer.

On Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, at 6:09 p.m., officers responded to a domestic dispute on MacDuff Court. A husband punched his wife in the nose with a closed fist. The husband was arrested and released on \$1,000 unsecure bond. He was also issued a no-contact order.

### **Planning & Development**

The big news this week is that the Planner Mike Fortner has just received the first copies of the book he has published – Greetings From Jungle Land - - a fascinating memoir of Mike's two year service in the Peace Corp's in Togo West Africa. We are very excited and proud of Michael, of course.

#### **Planning and Development:**

We have received a traffic analysis from the Delaware Traffic of Transportation as a result of the City's request to examine the traffic flow and pedestrian safety at Delaware and South College Avenues as well as other nearby intersections. Based on the results of their analysis, they recommend no changes in the current operation of the Delaware and South College Avenue intersection. As a follow up to this study, DelDOT has indicated, and we have concurred, that analysis of other nearby intersections and related potential pedestrian safety improvements will be re-examined in the soon to be underway update of the Newark Transportation Plan.

Regarding the Newark Transportation Plan, on Monday Mike Fortner and I participated at a WILMAPCO review submitted of the RFP's to develop a short list of consultants for interviewing that will occur next week.

Economic Development:

Maureen spent time this week enrolling merchants in the new Downtown Gift Card Program. Most enrollments have gone smoothly but some software changes are necessary that may delay the sale of cards, scheduled to begin on Friday.

On Friday evening the DNP hosted a table at Winterfest.

On Saturday the first free holiday matinee – A Christmas Story, sponsored by Captain Blue Hen Comics – was held at the Newark Cinema Center 3.

Code Enforcement:

The owner of the 432 New London Road property for which we have received complaints concerning outdoor kennel runs, did not show for her court hearing scheduled Wednesday.

By way of summary, the Code Enforcement Division has noted that 126 citations were issued in 2009, with over \$13,000 collected in fines.

KRS/mp