

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

December 23, 2009

Electric

The weekend snowstorm caused little trouble for the Electric Department. There were a couple minor service issues unrelated to the storm. There was a scheduled outage for the 4kV to 12kV upgrade around Haines and Academy Streets that has been postponed because snow piles are making accessibility difficult. The same issues may cause some delays with the Elkton Road project. The 80 pole changes and temporary curbing for nine of them will have to be restaked and the snow will make that difficult. The temporary curbing was to start next week with the pole changes to start early January. The warm weather and rains might solve these issues.

In coordinated effort with the line crews and the electricians, the heater inside the breaker compartment at South Chapel substation was replaced. It is thought that the faulty heater was to blame for the unit's failure two weeks ago. There was arcing inside the breaker compartment that was probably caused by condensation because of the lack of drying without the heater working. Since then the unit has been thoroughly test and load will be restored today.

The meter technician found a faulty neutral on a service in Briar Creek after a flickering light complaint. The line crew used a fault locator to find the damaged wire and made repairs.

Several weeks after a rebuild of a 138kV breaker a small hydraulic leak was detected in the reservoir. This part of the breaker was not rebuilt, but used to fill the hydraulic oil back to operating levels. The location of the leak was determined and the most likely culprit is a small O-ring. The leak is being monitored and repair will wait until transformer T3 has new bushings which are scheduled to arrive February 19th.

Parks & Recreation

Administration – Charlie Emerson:

The 2010 Traffic Island Beautification sponsor renewal letters were sent out last week. A total of 34 businesses, organizations, families or individuals sponsor the various traffic median and roadside landscaped areas.

I completed a review of the final design plan for the Pomeroy Trail. As soon as I receive comments from all City departments, I'll forward the information to Pennoni.

I committed time preparing materials and working through details relating to payments and reimbursements with Delaware State Parks and the New Castle Conservation District regarding the Redd Park Trail rehabilitation project.

Last weekend's major winter storm required us to commit all of our resources to snow plowing/removal efforts early this week. By the end of the day today (Tuesday) or very early tomorrow we should have all areas cleared. The deep packed snow and ice on the sidewalks was a challenging and time consuming task. The crews did an outstanding job!

Recreation – Joe Spadafino:

Recreation Supervisor Paula Ennis updated standings and scores on the City website for the youth basketball programs and adult volleyball leagues.

All programs and rentals were canceled at the George Wilson Center due to the snow storm on Saturday, December 19 and Sunday morning, December 20. Rentals resumed Sunday afternoon.

We met with IT personnel and the Community Affairs Officer about placing a kiosk in the recreation area. The kiosk would be utilized for individuals to sign up to receive the newsletter and/or to access information on other city services.

Joe Spadafino committed significant time organizing for winter/spring registration and the E-newsletter. He also met with the Downes Elementary School Principal and a representative from Nemours Health and Prevention Services about a possible afterschool program targeting low-income students at Downes Elementary School. The program would be conducted in the early spring and would utilize the Nemours CATCH program and an educational component as well.

Parks & Horticulture – Tom Zaleski:

We repaired a hole in the roof at the City garage building.

We spent time last week adding millings to the park maintenance parking area to expand vehicle parking and material storage capabilities.

Park Superintendent Tom Zaleski prepared and submitted materials requesting CEU credits for ISA Certified Arborists who attend the 2010 Delaware Recreation and Park Society Conference. He also started our annual forest interface inspection. Each winter we conduct an inspection of all forested City property that abuts private property to determine if there are any tree concerns.

Snow plowing and removal consumed most of our time this week.

Police

On Thursday, December 17th, Newark Police arrested two suspects for an armed robbery that occurred on November 17th. The investigation revealed that the female "victim" of the robbery was actually a participant, serving as a conspirator with the robber. The female suspect was charged with Robbery, Conspiracy, and Criminal Solicitation. The male suspect was charged with Robbery, Possession of a Firearm

during the Commission of a Felony, Aggravated Menacing, and Conspiracy. He is being held on \$22,250 bail.

On Thursday, December 17th, University of Delaware Police arrested two suspects breaking into an automobile on campus property. Subsequent investigation by Newark Police revealed that the suspects had also committed vehicle break-ins throughout the city. The suspects confessed to committing to four burglaries. A search warrant was conducted at their residence and stolen property was recovered. This was an excellent joint investigation by both police departments.

On Thursday, December 17th and Friday, December 18th, Newark Police arrested three females who committed two strong-arm robberies the first weekend of December.

The Newark Police Department has been working on updating a list of non-functioning streetlights for the Electric Department.

In April of 2010, the State of Delaware will begin installing high-speed easy pass on I-95. This will require them to close some lanes on I-95. The project is expected to take 500 days to complete. Lt. Stanko will complete a traffic impact report when he obtains more information. This project is expected to have a major impact on local Newark streets particularly Elkton Rd., Christina Parkway, and South College.

City Manager's Office

Community Affairs - Dana Johnston:

Last week, I sent out the first e-mail service reminder regarding recycling collection schedule changes, Christmas tree disposal and sidewalk snow removal to residents who signed up for it while signing up for the e-newsletter. Some residents replied with questions, which I was able to answer quickly for them.

The Municipal Newsletter has been completed and is in the editing process. The e-newsletter will be e-mailed on Monday, January 4 and a limited number of printed copies will be available at the Municipal Building, Newark Free Library and at the Newark Senior Center.

Planning & Development

Planning:

The New Center Village Redevelopment Plan Report has been completed and forwarded to the City Manager. Discussion of this matter will be scheduled for an upcoming City Council meeting early next year.

Because plans have not been received by the required advertising schedule, the Planning Commission January 5, 2010 meeting has been cancelled.

Community Development:

On Thursday, Mike attended the monthly WILMAPCO Technical Advisory Committee meeting.

Also on Thursday, Mike attended the Newark Bicycle Sub-Committee meeting.

On Thursday, Mike and I reviewed presentations from consulting firms that had responded to the WILMAPCO RFP for the Newark Transportation Study.

On Friday, Mike met with a representative of the U.S. Census Bureau to discuss coordination during the Census count period and related 2010 census matters.

Public Works

Engineering/Planning and Inspection:

- Contract 09-03 – 2009 Street Improvement Program: Spent time going through daily reports in an effort to help clear up a billing conflict between a curb subcontractor and the primary contractor. Dates, locations, and quantities were provided to Mumford & Miller Concrete Inc. (primary contractor).
- Sump Pump Concerns (404 Radcliffe Drive): Met with owner to review discharge of sump pump which causes ice on sidewalk in freezing temperatures. Discussed possible options that may minimize icing conditions.
- Emily Bell Lane:
 - 1) Nichols Excavating completed fine grading and compacting of crusher run stone base.
 - 2) Cirillo Bros. packed 146.48 tons of base hot mix on street.
 - 3) Nichols Construction stoned, formed, and poured a total of 634 s.f. of 4" p.c.c. sidewalk and handicap ramp on Emily Bell Lane. Contractor used a 9.5 c.y. load of Class B concrete.
- Met with Leslie York-Hubbard from the University of Delaware and the Newark Cinema Center Manager to discuss our collaborative educational stormwater slide, and preview it.
- Conducted a semi-annual Comprehensive Site Evaluation inspection at the Maintenance Yard as per our industrial NPDES permit.
- Choate Street Commons:
 - 1) Bowman Concrete machine poured 258 l.f. of 6" p.c.c. vertical curb along New Street and Choate Street using a total of 13 c.y.'s of Class B concrete.
 - 2) Austin and Bednash completed the following:
 - a. Excavated and poured 773 total s.f. of utility patching on both New Street and Choate Street using a total of 23 c.y.'s of DelDOT road patch with fibre mesh.

- b. Backfilled in front of curb with crusher run.
- c. Placed 550 s.f. of Type B hot mix in front of curbs at 4" thick.
- d. Placed 653 s.f. of Type C hot mix in front of curbs. The final patch on New Street was completed and temporary patch in front of curbs until final milling and paving.
*Contractor used a 23.38 ton load of Type B mix with 3 tons left.
Contractor also used partial load of 15.50 tons of Type C mix.

Survey Crew

- Relocated and began processing 250+/- drill holes on reservoir spillway to determine amount of movement in one year's time.
- Responded to sidewalk complaints at four locations in the city stemming from a concerned resident in the 2.7 sidewalk program area and sent violation notices accordingly.

Field Operations/Streets:

- Street crews finished with the fall leaf collection.
- Street crews worked on snow removal.

Water & Wastewater

Clearwire has expressed interest in using the Arbour Park water tower as another site for their communications equipment. They will be conducting a preliminary evaluation to see if the site will provide an acceptable service area and integrate with the other communication sites.

We received the Army Corps of Engineers permit this week for the project to relocate the two sanitary sewer lines that cross the Christina Creek. In the coming weeks I will be working with the consultant to incorporate any changes so that we may finalize the plans and specs and forward them to DEMA and City staff to be reviewed and approved for advertisement.

We are putting together the root control program for the coming year. This program has been effective at reducing the manpower required to keep the sewers clean and free flowing.

KRS/mp