

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

December 30, 2009

Parks & Recreation

Administration – Charlie Emerson:

I held discussions with Pennoni and Delaware State Parks regarding the concept of installing a new trail network on City and State lands in the area of the Curtis Mill site. The state park property consists of nearly 23 acres bordered to the west by the White Clay Creek and to east by the Mill Race with a connection to our Coverdale Park and its existing trails to the north. The network will be included in our Master Plan for the Mill site and Old Paper Mill Road Park.

Following last week's snow event I met with parks personnel to discuss and evaluate our efforts. Considering the amount of snow and ice associated with the storm I was very pleased with how well the crews worked to get areas cleared. Good job gentlemen!

I met with the manager of the University Courtyard Apartments for a final review of the Pomeroy Trail which will pass through their site. There is already an asphalt path running through the Courtyard property. In addition to developing the trail north and south of the Courtyard property, the project will widen that path. Other improvements approved include lighting, emergency call boxes, signage, etc.

We spent time reviewing the planned improvements at the Marrows Court site, in particular the proposed landscape plan.

Recreation – Joe Spadafino:

The Recreation Staff completed their fall program statistics and end of year reports. They also edited the Winter/Spring E-newsletter one last time before it is to be delivered electronically to the more than 3,500 people who registered to receive it.

The Recreation Superintendent has been reviewing flyers and items to be submitted for Channel 22 to promote upcoming programs.

We spent a good amount of time and effort rescheduling activities due to last week's snow storm.

We are continuing to evaluate online activity registration systems. A program will be selected in January and we'll work with IT to have the online registration system in place for summer sign-ups in May.

Parks & Horticulture – Tom Zaleski:

Almost all of last week was committed to snow and ice removal efforts. Included in that effort was considerable time spent cleaning the trucks, plows, and snow blowers.

As we do each week, we inspected the lights on the downtown trees and made repairs as needed.

Police

On Tuesday, December 22nd at 4:50 a.m., officers responded to a report of a one-vehicle accident on Library Avenue. Upon arriving at the scene, the officers found a vehicle off to the side of the road with body damage. The vehicle was occupied by the driver and five passengers. All were arrested for underage consumption of alcohol. The driver was also charged with Driving under the Influence. One passenger was also wanted on three active capiases.

On Thursday, December 24th, at 7:50 a.m., an employee of the Christina Mill apartment complex arrived at work to discover that a 40-inch flat screen television was stolen from the leasing office. All doors and windows were locked and there was no sign of forced entry.

On Saturday, December 26th, an unknown suspect stole a purse that was left unattended at the Newark Library.

On Sunday, December 27th, at 4:47 a.m., the conductor of a CSX train travelling eastbound advised the train had struck a vehicle parked on the railroad tracks near North College Avenue. The owner of the vehicle stated that he believes the car was taken during a party that morning as his keys were missing from his jacket pocket. Suspects have been identified.

Planning & Development

Planning:

This week Planner Mike Fortner met for a second time with representatives of the U.S. Census Bureau to coordinate the Question Assistance Center that will help Newark residents complete their 2010 Census questionnaires.

Economic Development:

Considerable time was spent this week on the Downtown Newark Partnership's new Gift Card Program. This week nearly \$3,300 in gift cards were sold and 40 businesses set up to accept them. Work will continue setting up businesses until all downtown businesses have been given the opportunity to participate.

The new Gift Card Program should be a great benefit to downtown businesses as all gift cards sold can only be used in downtown Newark at participating merchants. Administrative work was also done to set up proper accounting and reporting, etc., for the program.

Time was also spent on Restaurant Week this week.

Community Development:

This week a Financial Draw for the 35th Year (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010) Community Development Block Grant Program was completed and submitted to New Castle County for reimbursement.

This week two new applications for the Community Development Block Grant Home Improvement Program were received.

Parking:

Parking Division staff conducted routine lot maintenance usually reserved for the end of the year.

Public Works

Engineering/Planning and Inspection:

- Sidewalk Notices (Snow): Spent considerable time distributing notices to properties where snow/ice had not been cleared from the sidewalks on W. Main Street, W. Park Place, E. Park Place, Capitol Trail, New London Road, Chapel Street, Elkton Road, Delaware Avenue, Hillside Road, and Cleveland Avenue.

Survey Crew:

- Completed the archiving of the Development Tracings into digital format and began working on the Development Prints.
- Continued processing the data of the 250+/- drill holes on Reservoir spillway to determine amount of movement in one year's time.

Field Operations/Streets:

- Street crews worked on snow removal.

Water & Wastewater

During the last week we repaired water main breaks on Kirkwood Highway and along the Elkton Road service road between Chrysler and Short Lane.

I have been working on the reservoir computer making adjustments to the parameters and reviewing the programming to correct some charting difficulties that we have been having producing year end data tables of the results from the various sensors.

Electric

The line crews were busy yesterday morning with a scheduled outage to the University Student Services Building on Lovett Ave. They are changing the transformers and preparing for a voltage upgrade. Another outage is scheduled for this morning for the Harrington dorms for the same purpose. They also changed out a danger pole on Thompson Circle late last week.

The electric portion of the Elkton Road DeIDOT project is scheduled to start January 4th. There are some pole staking issues to be resolved before the contractors can start. Snow caused some stake displacement, but by the Rodney and Dickinson Dorms, the most likely culprit was students. The surveyors are scheduled to replace missing stakes on January 4th also; so the delay should be minimal.

The meter technician investigated a high bill complaint on Devon Drive by testing the meter and helping the homeowner with troubleshooting ideas. The technician also completed the construction of a University primary metering point associated with the voltage upgrades mention previously.

The electricians installed retrofit lighting samples for the energy saving project at City Hall. The evaluation has come down to comparing T5 and T8 florescent fixtures.

KRS/cw