

## **DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS**

**February 12, 2010**

### **Parks & Recreation**

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

Along with the City Manager, Finance Director and other parks and recreation staff, I attended a meeting with a representative of the Delaware Community Foundation for a Q & A regarding their program with thoughts of possibly creating a foundation fund to benefit parks here in Newark.

I attended a meeting last Friday with police and planning personnel and a representative of the Graffiti Brigade to discuss the idea of expanding their efforts in Newark for removing graffiti.

The Conservation Advisory Commission meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 9 has been cancelled due to an approaching snow storm.

#### **Recreation – Joe Spadafino:**

We contacted our youth basketball coaches regarding playoffs and the final schedule changes due to weather related school closings. We also updated the standings and scores on the City website for the youth basketball league and adult volleyball leagues.

We prepared for the impending inclement weather last Friday by contacting parents, staff and coaches of the early dismissal of school and the early start of After Care and for the cancellation of programs for Saturday and Sunday.

Work on the 2010 Sponsorship package for the Parks and Recreation Department has begun. Sponsorship will again be vital in enhancing our events and activities for this year.

We have been in communication with several different volunteer groups and individuals about upcoming events and activities that we are recruiting volunteers for.

The George Wilson Center was closed and all programs cancelled on Saturday and Sunday due to the snow storm. The Wilson Center was able to open on Monday thanks to the parks staff doing a great job of snow removal at the Center.

We are working with delawareonline.com to develop web based advertising on the News Journal web site; the advertising is scheduled to begin in March.

#### **Parks & Horticulture – Tom Zaleski:**

We've been busy since last Friday with snow plowing and removal efforts.

Park Superintendent Tom Zaleski attended a planning meeting for the 2010 Christina Clean up.

### **Police**

During the months of November and December of 2009, the Newark Police Department investigated four residential burglaries that occurred to college student rental homes. Two occurred on North Street, one on North College Avenue and one on White Clay Drive. During the burglaries, electronic items such as gaming systems, games, DVD's, guitars and amplifiers were taken. During one of the burglaries a Sony PlayStation 3 was taken. The suspect used the stolen PlayStation to log onto the internet and made purchases using credit card information that was stored in the PlayStation. Detectives were able to track down the location where the PlayStation was being used by the IP address. Detectives then obtained a search warrant for the suspects' mothers' residence. During the search, a majority of the stolen property from the burglaries was recovered.

On Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, a fifteen year-old Newark resident (not identified due to the age) was charged with 16 crimes as follows: 4 counts of Burglary 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree (Felony), 2 counts of Theft > \$1500 (Felony), 7 counts of Theft < \$1500 (Misdemeanor), and 1 count of Unlawful Use of a Credit Card (Misdemeanor).

On Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, a Newark resident was charged with "Falsely Reporting an Incident." Previously, on December 28<sup>th</sup>, the resident reported to Newark Police that he was robbed at gunpoint while walking through College Square Shopping Center. Detectives reviewed a surveillance video of the area and were able to determine that the robbery never occurred.

On Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, at 1:19 a.m., Newark Police responded to the Galleria on a report of a stabbing. Upon arriving at the scene, officers observed several drops of blood on the floor near Kildare's Bar and Restaurant. Employees from Kildare's told police that they had earlier ejected several patrons. Once outside the bar, the subjects began to fight with once person stabbing another. Both the suspect and the victim left prior to police arriving. Surveillance video captured the incident and is being reviewed by police.

The Newark Police Department was extremely busy on Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup> dealing with the snowstorm and other related issues.

### **Planning & Development**

#### **Planning:**

Work continued this week preparing materials for the upcoming March 2, 2010 Planning Commission meeting. Agenda items scheduled for review are:

- A. The major subdivision and parking waiver for a proposed Barnes and Noble bookstore at the 1.73 acre properties at 83 and 87 E. Main Street; 78 E. Delaware Avenue; and 16, 20, 22 and 26 Academy Street.
- B. Adding Continental Avenue to the roadways exempt from the Student Home Ordinance.

#### Economic Development:

On Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, the Planning and Development Department hosted the annual Downtown Newark Partnership's Volunteer Appreciation Reception at the Deer Park Tavern.

This week several e-newsletters were prepared and sent regarding snow removal, Sunday parking fees and an upcoming promotional opportunity through the Wine & Dine event scheduled for Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>.

On Friday afternoon, I participated in an anti-graffiti meeting with a representative of the Brooklyn Terrace Civic Association and the Police and Parks Departments.

#### Community Development:

This week a Financial Draw to New Castle County for the 35<sup>th</sup> Year Community Development Block Grant Program was completed and submitted.

#### Parking:

The Parking Division focused on snow removal.

### **Public Works**

#### Engineering/Planning and Inspection:

- Proposed 2010 Handicapped Ramp Contract: Spent considerable time evaluating proposed ramp locations and compiling quantities of items needed for ramp construction.
- Participated in an EPA stormwater webcast, "Listening Session on EPA's Proposed Stormwater Rulemaking for New and Redevelopment". This webcast addressed proposed changes to the MS4 stormwater regulations, and provided a venue for public comment.
- Road Survey Management System (RSMS): Allen Kercher met with representatives from public works with regard to evaluating existing street ratings system and decision tree options for utilizing with the proposed new pavement management software.

#### Field Operations/Streets:

- Street crews worked on snow removal from recent storms.

## Electric

The blizzard of 2010 hit us with ferocity Wednesday. All hands reported in for what turned out to be a 16-hour day. By midnight all the power was restored and the crews went home for some much needed rest. They also spent all day Thursday responding to storm damage issues and are still dealing with trees on wires and services down. There were many backyard issues with trees on services, wires arcing and wires down, transformers blowing fuses, etc. These were being taken care of throughout the day. The biggest single outage occurred on Wednesday afternoon when a tree fell on the primary 12kV lines on Nottingham Road at Casho Mill Road. About 900 customers were out for about two hours while the crews switched to get almost everyone back on. Twenty to thirty customers had to stay off for at least six hours while the tree was removed and the crews had to replace two poles and install transformers and conductors in peak of the whiteout conditions Wednesday night. Christianstead, Westbranch, TimberCreek, Pheasant Run, and Cherry Hill were all affected.

Although this video clip claims to be Delmarva crews, it is our City of Newark linemen working at Nottingham and Casho Mill Roads during this incident.

<http://www.delawareonline.com/section/VideoNetwork?bctid=66186080001#/News/Crews+work+to+restore+power/43042526001/42498973001/66147285001>





### **Water & Wastewater**

Snow is the word for the week. We spent the better part of the week keeping access clear to the water and wastewater facilities.

Next week I will be meeting with staff from the DNREC SIRB Office to discuss State efforts to address the contamination of Well 16 resulting from the Syntec Chemical fire many years ago. More on this issue next week.

KRS/mp