

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

March 5, 2010

Public Works

Engineering/Planning and Inspection:

- Administration: A meeting was held with Rich Lapointe, Dennis McFarland, Kyle Sonnenberg, and five multi-family rental owners to discuss refuse fees to be implemented for dumpster collected multi-family rentals.
- Christina Creek Inspection – Wedgewood Road to Nottingham Road: Performed creek inspection for blockages and notified Tom Zaleski (by memo) of several potential problems that were discovered.
- Escrow Items and Costs for 2010: Evaluated 2006 escrow items and costs and updated projected costs (for 2010) for Public Works Director's review.

Survey Crew:

- Continued scanning development prints into digital format.
- Continued updating the City limit maps and also converting them into digital drawings.
- Converted Pages 71, 75, 76, and 78 of the Detail Standards from hand drawn into digital drawings format.

Field Operations

Refuse:

- Worked with Street Department for snow removal.

Streets:

- Street crews continued snow removal from last storm.
- Street crews worked on uncovering catch basins.
- Cold patch crews repaired potholes citywide.
- Assisted Refuse Department on 3-man truck.
- Backhoe and operator regraded and opened up the road at Iron Glen dump site for brush and yard waste collection.

Electric

The utility pole relocation for DeIDOT's Elkton Road Project is still on schedule even though the operation has slowed down as the crews work around City Hall and the 7-11. It is a busy and complicated corner, but once finished at this intersection, the project will rapidly conclude as the pole line is straight and simpler towards Delaware Avenue.

The electricians worked on a few minor issues for the Water Department and also started installing piping, wire, and disconnects at Kershaw Substation. When the battery bank issues developed last week at Kershaw, the solution was to reroute power from a different battery bank. This was done on a temporary basis and now the circuitry will be installed permanently for quick and easy transfer in case either battery bank or charging system has problems.

Engineering compiled the monthly report of the University's loads for billing purposes and started preliminary design on the services to the proposed buildings on the Newark Dodge property next to City Hall.

The line crews continued preparing for voltage upgrades in Devon, the Binns, and along Kells Avenue.

Water & Wastewater

I attended dam safety training this week in Providence, Rhode Island regarding the hazards of and methods of dealing with woody vegetation (trees) and burrowing rodents.

We are continuing to gear up for the water main flushing later this month.

I have been reviewing the building permit for the installation of Communications Equipment on the West Main Street water tower.

Parks & Recreation

Administration – Charlie Emerson:

I'm working with Pennoni to complete final plans for the Thursday night Public Workshop on the Master Plan for the Curtis Mill/Old Paper Mill Road project. The web page information and comments form has been very effective. Thus far we have received nearly 100 responses to the Master Plan options from this posting. In addition, I've fielded several telephone calls to answer questions and provide more detail about the project.

I along with several department staff attended the annual Delaware Recreation and Park Society (DRPS) Conference last Wednesday. The conference also included the DRPS annual awards program. I'm very happy to report that two of our staff members and a local service organization were recognized:

- Joe Spadafino was the recipient of the William Hopkins Professional Scholarship. Joe will use the funds to attend the first year of a two year Revenue Sources Management School in March. The program will take place for one week in March over the next two years and is sponsored by the National Recreation and Park Association
- Tom Zaleski was recognized as the DRPS Outstanding Member for 2009.

- Newark Lions Club received a Friend of Recreation Award for their volunteer involvement with several of our community events.

Recreation – Joe Spadafino:

We conducted the junior league basketball championship and handed out trophies to league and playoff champions.

Following a thorough process with IT personnel, we selected Maximum Solutions for the new online recreation registration system. Staff training will occur on March 23, 24 and 25. We are currently scheduled to go live in May of this year.

We are working on updating the vendor packets for this year's community events. The vendor packets will go out to a mailing list of over 1,800 both electronically and mail.

We have been working on summer programs and the marketing of these programs. This would include interviewing staff and setting up the program information for the e-newsletter.

We updated the Parks and Recreation Facebook page to include the Curtis Paper Mill/Old Paper Road Park public meeting information as well as sending out the Newark@Play monthly newsletter.

Parks & Horticulture – Tom Zaleski:

We spent time finalizing a grant proposal to be submitted to the State Urban Tree Management Grant program to complete certain tree projects.

Horticulture personnel were busy cutting back grasses and doing litter sweeps at various landscaped sites.

We spent a good amount of time doing tree work as a result of the recent snow events.

Police

Detectives completed the investigation into the two-year-old girl that was abandoned in a local gas station restroom. Tips from the public led Newark Detectives to the child's home in North Brunswick, NJ. An additional tip phoned into the Newark Police Department located the child's murdered mother's body in New York State. Newark Detectives were able to give New Jersey authorities information on the murder, the suspect, and the location of the victims' body.

A home invasion robbery occurred at the Main Street Courtyard Apartments located at 329 East Main Street in Newark on Thursday, February 25th around 7:15 p.m. Two masked suspects, both armed with handguns, entered the victims' apartment through an unlocked door. Once inside, the suspects tied up the three victims and began to search the apartment. The suspects appeared to be looking for something specific, and several times asked the victims' for the apartment number (as if the suspects

realized they might be in the wrong apartment). The suspects stole cell phones and money, and then left the apartment, leaving the victims restrained. One victim was able to free himself after a few minutes and called 911.

On Tuesday, March 2nd, a resident of Amoroso Way returned home to find the rear door of her home kicked open and several pieces of electronic equipment stolen. The family dog was placed in the master bedroom by the burglars during the commission of the crime.

On Wednesday, March 3rd at 1:20 a.m., Cpl. Chris Jones observed a vehicle leave Newark parking lot #1 without paying for parking. The driver was stopped and given a summons for theft of services.

Resident surveys of police services in Newark consistently reveal that residents report a lack of visibility of police patrols. Our computer entries show that residential areas are being patrolled, however police vehicles are not being observed by residents. Our new police vehicle purchase will be black and white colored cars. Recent studies have shown that the black and white contrasts make the cars more noticeable to citizens and may reduce the number of police car collisions. The densely populated City of Wilmington currently uses black and white police vehicles, and Middletown also uses two-toned vehicles.

The first two months of 2010 have shown an increase in robbery, aggravated assault, alcohol offenses, disorderly conduct, and a sizable increase in the number of traffic accidents.

Planning & Development

Planning:

At its meeting Tuesday evening the Planning Commission voted 3-3 not to approve the University of Delaware Barnes and Noble Bookstore parking waiver and major subdivision project.

Plans have been received regarding the redevelopment of the 4.39 acre Newark Dodge property adjacent to the Municipal Building complex. The applicants are proposing a rezoning and a redevelopment of the site for mixed use of commercial space and residences.

On Tuesday morning Planner Mike Fortner provided staff assistance to the DNP Design Committee. The Committee reviewed design aspects of the proposed Barnes and Noble University of Delaware Bookstore.

Mike also worked with the Newark Bicycle Committee on its application to the League of American Bicyclists for designation of Newark as a "bicycle friendly community." Designations will be announced this fall.

Economic Development:

Assistant Planning and Development Director Maureen Feeney Roser met on Monday with Mayor Funk, Community Affairs Officer Dana Johnston and representatives of Delaware Today magazine to discuss a proposed Newark supplement for the June issue.

On Tuesday morning Maureen met with a representative from Comcast Spotlight to discuss downtown television commercials.

This morning Maureen hosted a meeting of the DNP Merchants' Committee. Special events and holiday parking, Newark's Wine & Dine Downtown, and the Delaware Today June supplement were among the items discussed.

Also on Wednesday, Maureen met with Julie Demgen of the University of Delaware College of Arts and Sciences to discuss DNP partnering with the University regarding upcoming conferences and special events.

Parking:

On Tuesday afternoon Maureen, Traffic Lieutenant George Stanko and Parking Administrator Marvin Howard met to review the Sunday parking fees implementation and enforcement issues.

Code Enforcement:

A demolition permit has been issued for the Temple Inland Container site at 1001 Ogletown Road to make way for the new Armed Forces Reserve training facility.

A Certificate of Occupancy has been issued for the relocation of Formal Affairs from 129 to 257 E. Main Street.

A demolition permit has also been issued for the 129 E. Main Street Site.

KRS/mp