

## DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

March 19, 2010

### Water & Wastewater

Dana Johnston has taken the lead on our efforts to take advantage of the EPA **Water Sense** program. The Water Sense is an EPA initiative to publicize water conservation, certify water saving appliances, (similar to **Energy Star** for electric appliances) and assist water utilities by providing advertising products and resources that we can use to communicate with our customers. For our first effort Dana was able to prepare a press release regarding "Fix a Leak Week" which just happens to be this week. I look forward to working with Dana on future opportunities.

At the Water Supply Coordinating Council we learned from the State Climatologist that we can expect a short lived continuation of wetter than normal and a bit more cooler than normal weather that we experienced this winter. Longer term looking to the late spring and summer we are currently at equal chances that we could see above or below conditions for both temperature and precipitation. In other words "your guess is as good as mine".

At the Christina Basin Task Force meeting that I attended last week we discussed a legislative initiative sponsored by Representative Mike Castle. I have copied a portion of a press release issued by Representative Mike Castle regarding his legislation to provide a funding source for water resource issues in the Delaware River Basin. This is great news and will help us build on the momentum that we have been able to generate with little to no outside support these many years. Additional information can be found at Representative Castle's web site or by contacting me.

**Washington | February 25, 2010** - Today, Reps. Mike Castle (R-DE), Charlie Dent (R-PA), Maurice Hinchey (D-NY), and Rush Holt (D-NJ), co-chairs of the Delaware River Basin Task Force in the U.S. House of Representatives, introduced the Delaware River Basin Conservation Act of 2010 to further coordinate conservation efforts in the Delaware watershed. The Delaware River Basin includes part of the states of Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania.

Unlike other geographic watershed programs, the Delaware River Basin lacks a Basin-wide coordinated conservation strategy and dedicated federal support. The *Delaware River Basin Conservation Act of 2010* builds on current efforts in the Basin, and provides a non-regulatory framework for coordinating conservation and increasing resources for on-the-ground projects; and prioritizes living resources, restoring and protecting fish and wildlife habitat, and water quality.

"Under this legislation, we will be creating a needed federal umbrella charged with carrying out a coordinated strategy for protection and restoration efforts in the Delaware watershed, one of the nation's most important water bodies and natural landscapes," said Rep. Mike Castle. "I am pleased to be working with fellow co-chairs of the Delaware River

Basin Task Force, and remain committed to working with stakeholders on the conservation of this national treasure of great cultural, environmental, and ecological importance.”

I also learned that water resource agencies in PA were successful at getting some Federal money through their State program for water resource improvement projects. We will ultimately feel the benefit of the improvements that these projects make to the source water that we treat for distribution within our water system.

## **Parks & Recreation**

### **Administration – Charlie Emerson**

Tom and I met with two gentlemen from the University to discuss a soils research project to determine the effects of soil pH and available calcium on non-native plantings and that impact on breeding and food sources for songbirds in a forest setting. Along with selected sites at nearby County and State parks, we will work with them to provide areas to conduct the research.

Tom, Joe, Dana and I met with a representative of the Delaware Communities Foundation to discuss the concept of establishing a charitable endowment fund for Newark’s Parks. The fund would be designed to provide interested donors the opportunity to help preserve and protect Newark’s parks and open spaces.

### **Recreation – Joe Spadafino**

Paula increased the number of participants for the youth volleyball program to accommodate the waiting list. Twenty-five girls will be participating in the program starting this Saturday for five weeks. She and Tom conducted an inspection of our softball fields and Rittenhouse Park. Maintenance work orders will be completed in preparation for the start of both activities.

Sharon mailed event sponsorship materials and letters to local businesses.

Joe spoke at the Newark Rotary Club about our department and the Curtis Paper Mill project.

Liz, Andee and Joe participated in an online introduction and information session with Maximum Solution, our new recreation registration system that includes online registration.

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

We committed a significant amount of time this week continuing to clean up from tree damage caused by the recent snow storms.

Tom spent some time this week preparing for the Christina Creek (Newark area) Clean Up scheduled for Saturday, April 10.

We began dragging and scarifying the skinned infields at our baseball sites.

The horticulture crew completed the late winter chore of cutting back the grasses at our many landscaped sites.

We are working with Dana to include information on the City website about project opportunities for Eagle Scout candidates. Through the years we have worked with several Eagle Scout candidates to complete projects whereby they achieved that lofty and prestigious status.

The Dickey Park Horseshoe Courts were significantly damaged by vandals earlier this week. In past years we have offered horse shoe leagues and tournaments at Dickey. We no longer do so. As such, we will likely remove four of the six courts and maintain two for community use.

Earlier this week, a vehicle jumped the curb on the Delaware Avenue side of George Read Park and caused considerable damage to the chain link fence along the south side of the Park.

### **Police**

Detectives are investigating a sexual assault that occurred on North Chapel Street. A 21 year old female victim reports that on March 14<sup>th</sup>, she had been celebrating her birthday at two Main Street restaurants. At approximately 11:30 p.m., she was walking alone on North Chapel Street, when an unknown male picked her up, threw her over his shoulder and carried her into a house. The suspect carried her to a second floor bedroom and raped her. After the assault, the victim grabbed her clothes and ran from the house.

On March 15<sup>th</sup>, unknown suspects removed two iPods and a GPS from a car parked on McKean Place. On March 16<sup>th</sup>, unknown suspects removed a GPS and a MP3 Player from a car parked on East Main Street.

On March 16<sup>th</sup>, at 8:22 p.m., officers responded to the East Delaware Avenue DART Transit Hub on a report of a subject who would not exit the bus. Upon arriving at the scene, officers observed a Newark resident who appeared to be sleeping. Attempts to wake the suspect were unsuccessful. During the course of the investigation officers discovered on the suspect, marijuana, heroin, and other illegal narcotics. The suspect was charged with possession of the drugs and possession of controlled substance within 1,000 feet of a school.

Extra foot patrols were in place on Main Street on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, and on March 17<sup>th</sup>, Saint Patrick's Day.

The New Castle County Office of Emergency Management is reviewing the City of Newark Emergency Management Plan. Upon completion of the review, the Newark plan will be updated by our Emergency Management Planning Committee.

## **Planning & Development**

### **Planning**

Work continued this week preparing the report for the Planning Commission's consideration that would establish the "New Center Village" overlay zoning district. This report is scheduled for review at the Planning Commission's April 6, 2010 meeting.

Planner Mike Fortner and I met on Wednesday with representatives of FEMA to review the City's participation in the National Flood Insurance Program.

### **Economic Development**

On Tuesday, I joined with Councilman Pomeroy and City Manager Kyle Sonnenberg at a meeting of the Greater Newark Network.

### **Parking**

The Parking Division is continuing making preparations for Sunday operations.

## **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. Progress was hampered by snow piles at some locations.
- Erosion & Sediment Control Inspections: Performed site inspections at Emily Bell Place, 108 E. Main Street, Phillips Mill, Sutton Place, Ivy Hall Apartments Addition, 2 Old Casho Mill Road, and Laura's Glenn (4x). The "Stop Work Order" that was in effect at Laura's Glenn has been lifted.
- Contract 09-03 – 2009 Street Improvement Program (punchlist): Spent considerable time evaluating work completed on contract and compiling a list of items that must be corrected by contractor. Progress was hampered due to snow on curbs at some locations.
- Road Survey Management System: Completed street survey for the southwest section of the City and entered data into computer.
- Annual Stormwater Management Inspections: Performed 6 total stormwater inspections: 1 sand filter inspection, 1 underground storage facility, and 4 stormwater detention basins.
- Sidewalk Program Phase 2.7: Marked out sidewalks for replacement on various locations on Madison Drive.
- Attended a meeting with DNREC to discuss our MS4 permit status (administratively extended for 3 years now), and formulate a path toward getting a new permit issued.
- Stormwater Coordinator and Engineering Assistant attended a Stormwater Utility meeting with the University of Delaware, Public Works Director, Finance Director,

and the City Manager. Engineering Assistant created a spreadsheet to better estimate impervious areas draining to existing stormwater BMP's.

- Aired a pet waste PSA on WVUD in conjunction with the University of Delaware Stormwater Program.

### Survey Crew

- Continued scanning development prints into digital format.
- Continued updating the City limits maps and also converting them into digital drawings.
- Performed curb elevation survey at 108 Casho Mill Road for future installation of handicapped ramp.
- Investigated property lines at the end of Timberline Drive for Utility Inspector.
- Updated the digital copy of the Detail Standards with the up to date digital drawings.
- Walked property lines at Wyncliff open space with Parks Department Supervisor for future walking trail.

### Field Operations/Streets

- Street crews loaded and hauled 4 loads of sweeper material stockpiled in the yard, to the landfill for disposal.
- Street crews assisted Refuse Department on 3-man packer and also unloaded new trash cans delivered to the maintenance yard.
- Street crews repaired potholes citywide as needed.
- Street crews removed obstruction from storm sewer pipe and catch basin on Cherry Hill Manor service road.
- Catch basin crew rebuilt double catch basin at 127 Walker Way.

### Electric

Elkton Road at Delaware Avenue will be closed on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. while the contractor working on DelDOT's project works that corner and island. Information will be posted on Newark Channel 22 and on our website.

An underground bore contractor is being hired to replace a service on Shenandoah Drive because open trenching will damage a mature tree. Currently there is a "service saver" on the house. This is a portable transformer which takes a good 120V leg of a service and converts it to 240V so the whole house has power.

The electricians installed communication devices and wiring to relays that had been upgraded several weeks ago at Sandy Brae substation. This will temporarily allow dial-up communications and ultimately connection to the SCADA system. They also are working on repairing outlet circuits on Main Street.

The bid for upgrading the lighting at the Municipal Building has gone out. Pricing for lamps, ballasts, and occupancy sensors is being obtained for City Council approval as one part of the energy savings projects utilizing stimulus funds.

The line crews continued work on the Kells Avenue voltage upgrade project. All ten poles have been set and framing has started.

KRS/mp