

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

April 16, 2010

Public Works

Engineering/Planning and Inspection:

- Erosion & Sediment Control Inspections: Performed weekly site inspections at Emily Bell Place, 108 E. Main Street, 127 E. Main Street, Laura's Glenn, 2 Old Casho Mill Road, and Ivy Hall Apartments Addition.
- Christina Creek Inspection – Wedgewood Road to Nottingham Road: Performed creek inspection for blockages. No blockages were discovered but a list of potential problems was generated and sent to the Parks Superintendent for review.
- Drainage Concerns: Investigated drainage concerns at 38 Hidden Valle Drive and 145 Timberline Drive.
- Reviewed plans and forwarded comments to the Public Works Director for the following: U.S. Army Reserve and National Guard Reserve Center, U of D Barnes & Noble Subdivision, Rittenhouse Station, and U of D East Campus Advanced Utility Package.
- Annual Storm Water Management Inspection: Inspected Washington House underground storage and Downes School and Main Street Galleria sand filters.
- Road Survey Management System: Continued to work on survey for the western section of the City.
- McIntyre Drive: Finished marking out base hot mix patches and curb to be replaced. Met with Harmony Construction and Cirillo Brothers on site to go over items for conditional acceptance.

Survey Crew

- Completed Miss Utility Mark-outs as needed.
- Continued meeting with residents in Phase 2.7 of the sidewalk repair program area to discuss the nature of the violations and provide technical advice on how to conform to current code.
- Continued updating storm sewer cleaning routes including mapping missing basins on Marrows Road, Wyoming Road, and Academy Street.
- Obtained elevations for sewer manhole tops and inverts along Pomeroy Trail for the Water Department.
- Investigated and sent out sidewalk obstruction notices to 1015 Old Coochs Bridge Road and 102 Casho Mill Road.
- Located rear property corners at 10 Timber Creek Lane with Parks Superintendent.

Streets:

- Sign crew repaired and replaced signs and poles as needed and reinstalled the following signs with banding materials on state poles (removing old poles) at S. College Avenue & E. Delaware Avenue, S. College Avenue & W. Delaware Avenue, Elkton Road & Veterans Lane, E. Main Street & S. College Avenue, Pomeroy Street & E. Delaware Avenue, E. Delaware Avenue & S. Chapel Street, and Hillside Road.
- Street crews applied approximately 450 s.f. of hot mix on Old S. Chapel Street at transfer station and the entrance to White Chapel Drive.
- Vac-all is completing the fourth and final week of Spring Leaf Collection.
- Catch basin crews rebuilt the following catch basins: 42 Shenandoah Drive, 33 Fallbrooke Road, 919 Quail Lane, and the driveway entrance to U of D at S. College Avenue & E. Park Place.
- Street crews assisted Refuse Department on 3-man packer and also picked up bulk pick-ups.
- Street crews assisted with the creek clean-up by delivering and picking up dump trucks at the Curtis Paper Mill and loaded and hauled 2 loads of tires.
- Street crews saw cut Wyoming Road for future hot mix repair.
- Street crews loaded and hauled 2 loads of sweeper material from the City yard to the landfill.
- Loader pushed up yard waste at Iron Glen Park and also placed mulch outside of gate at 896 water tank.

Electric

The utility pole relocation for DeIDOT's Elkton Road Project is complete. The contractor is done with the project with the exception of removing the old poles. Telephone, cable, University fiber, and Gore fiber optic cables are being transferred to the new poles and the contractor will return in August to pull the remaining pole stubs.

Engineering and Delmarva Gas met with the residents of the Newark Housing Authority. The Housing Authority has recently gone from a central meter for all of the residents to individual meters and asked the City to discuss energy conservation.

The yearly infrared survey on the substations was performed and only one "hot spot" was identified. This survey is done with a contractor who uses an infrared camera to look at all the electrical equipment to find any issues that need attention.

The battery charger at Sandy Brae Substation was fixed. The unit was turned off to replace a lightning arrestor and failed to turn on. The charger was recently replaced and it was found that the factory settings were wrong. After correcting the problem, the unit was tested and put back in service.

After all corrective scenarios were evaluated, the line crews installed a new pole in the backyard of a Briar Lane resident in order to raise the low wires across the property.

Depending on the situation, usually a less expensive solution can be used to meet the minimum height requirements.

Water & Wastewater

On the water front: The Water Resource Group that applied for the American Rivers Grant to fund the removal of dams on the White Clay Creek was not successful. I am continuing to work with the interested parties to facilitate their efforts and take advantage of any funds that might be available to assist us with our future project to deal with the aging water diversion dam that feeds the treatment plant and reservoir pump station.

This week we had a representative from Case Equipment come in and talk with our maintenance employees about the safe operation and safety features of the back hoe that we operate. It was a good discussion and everyone walked away with a better understanding of the equipment. The representative was impressed with the way we have maintained the machine.

I met with the firm that provides our root control services to discuss a proposal they have to provide a promising service. They would like to demonstrate to me that they can effectively reduce the BOD, TSS, and Fats, Oil and grease (FOG) in our waste water before it reaches the county sewer system. If they are successful this technology could be beneficial to our operation and financial situation. It has worked in other systems so I am hopeful they will be able to demonstrate the same thing here. If successful we will then discuss pricing, etc.

Parks & Recreation

Administration – Charlie Emerson

I spent a good amount of time reviewing and commenting on the landscape plans for the WAWA Barnes and Noble projects.

On Thursday I conducted an inspection of the Christina Creek/Trail between the Christina Parkway and Barksdale Road and prepared a list of items requiring attention.

I completed a review of the landscape and Private Open Space/Park area plans for the Villages of Twin Lakes subdivision. I will meet with the developer in the near future to discuss and decide on the open space/park amenities to be included.

The Delaware Trail Spinners will continue their volunteer trail work at Redd Park this week. On Thursday and Friday they plan to install a footbridge across a tributary of Jenney's Run. Later this spring they will get started with a second phase of relocating and making trail improvements for more sustainability and to enhance the trail users experience.

Recreation – Joe Spadafino

Paula assisted in reviewing the information on the new online registration system to ensure for accuracy of program information including dates, times, prices, etc. for the start of the programs beginning of May.

Tyler and Sharon met with returning summer camp staff to discuss opportunities and needs for this summer at Tot Lots, Playgrounds and Camp GWC.

The front office staff has contributed a lot of time getting data entered into the new registration system. Online registration will begin in May.

Recreation staff worked on the Summer Recreation Camp Guide that is now available online. It was also delivered electronically to over 2,500 individuals on our e-mail list.

With the change in the weather, park reservations continue to book quickly with ten reservations in the past two weeks being completed.

Recreation staff has been editing the summer e-newsletter in preparation for its delivery on May 3.

Sharon continued organizing the Nefosky Run and Community Clean Up events that are both scheduled for April 24. She also completed the bookings for the spring concert series that will be held on Thursdays in May and June.

Parks & Horticulture – Tom Zaleski

We finally finished with the contracted tree work that resulted from the winter snow storms. Much of the work was funded through a grant we received from the State Urban Forest Department.

Our mowing operation got underway this week.

This past Saturday we took part in the annual Christina Clean up event. Tom coordinated the Newark section efforts. He was able to secure more than 125 volunteers including a couple of local contractors who donated equipment and personnel to assist, a Boy Scout Troop, employees of Stine-Haskell, students and parents from the Newark Charter School and others. An estimated 19,600 lbs. of trash and debris and 3,400 lbs. of metal was collected and disposed of. Great job!!

Tom met with a neighborhood representative of Ridgewood Glen (Nightingale Court) to discuss their mowing of a small open space area.

Tom met with a family who has agreed to adopt Fairfield Crest Park. Fairfield Crest is one of several parks that have been adopted by families, community groups or individuals. As an adopter they agree to do a litter sweep at least one time each month and to assist us in watching the park to let us know if they observe a maintenance concern or any other item requiring our attention.

Police

On Sunday, April 4th, at 1:30 a.m., Newark Police responded to a call of a man that attempted to break into a house on East Cleveland Avenue. The suspect was arrested and charged with attempted burglary, possession of burglary tools, carrying a deadly weapon, and criminal mischief.

On Thursday, April 8th, members of the Newark Police Department and the University of Delaware Police Department participated in Crowd Control Training under the instruction of the Delaware State Police. This is the second year of this training, which takes place in anticipation of Chapelfest.

On Monday, April 12th, at 2:34 a.m., Officer Barnes came upon a 41-year-old female at the corner of Old Oak Road and Sypherd Drive. The female stated she left the Deer Park Tavern with a male she met there. After driving in the suspect's vehicle, the suspect pulled to the side of the road and raped the female. Following the assault, the suspect pushed the victim out of the car and drove off.

On Tuesday, April 13th, Chief Tiernan and Lt. Stanko attended a public meeting with the Delaware Department of Transportation concerning the toll construction on I-95. During peak construction, traffic lanes on I-95 will be reduced to seven lanes in each direction instead of the current ten lanes in each direction. As a result, this will increase local traffic in Newark.

On Wednesday, April 14th, Chief Tiernan and members of the administrative staff travelled to the East Orange, New Jersey Police Department to review the closed circuit security camera system.

Chapel Street landlords and the Newark Police Department have sent letters to all Chapel Street residents advising them of the consequences of illegal activity resulting from Chapelfest. Next week Chief Tiernan and Captain Williams will go door to door and speak to each resident of Chapel Street to discuss any concerns.

Planning & Development

Planning

Considerable time was spent this week preparing for the upcoming May 4, 2010 Planning Commission meeting. The review of the proposed "Rittenhouse Station," rezoning and major subdivision [the old Newark Dodge site] is tentatively scheduled for review at this meeting.

On Tuesday the Planning and Development Department hosted a Subdivision Advisory Committee meeting to review the proposed Armed Forces Reserve Center major subdivision.

Economic Development

Assistant Planning and Development Director Maureen Feeney Roser spent time this week preparing for Saturday's (April 17, 2010) AZD/DNP 5K Walk/Run.

On Thursday evening Maureen hosted a DNP Board meeting.

Maureen has also met with representatives of the IPS Sports Marketing Company to talk about advertising options through the University of Delaware's football and basketball programs.

Community Development

Planner Mike Fortner conducted two Home Improvement site visits this week.

Mike also gave a presentation on the 2009 Newark Residents Survey to the DNP Board on Thursday evening.

Parking

Time was spent this week preparing for Sunday parking fees, including stickers and warning notices to make the public aware of the Sunday charges for parking.

Maureen and Parking Administrator Marvin Howard also spent considerable time this week on the Downtown Parking Validation Program.

Marvin is working on repairing the considerable damage done to the exit lane equipment at Lot #1 on Sunday evening.

KRS/mp