

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

May 7, 2010

Police

In the early morning hours of Sunday, April 4th, two rooms were burgled at the Super 8 Motel at 268 East Main Street, Newark, while the renters were absent. Access to the rooms was gained through unlocked windows. Various pieces of property were stolen from the rooms. The stolen items included: two laptop computers, an iPod, cash, a GPS unit, compact discs, and clothing. Also stolen was a car key, which was subsequently used to steal a 2005 Chevrolet Malibu car from the parking lot.

Based on the witness' description of the suspect, to include the locations and types of tattoos, it was determined that Michael Ruduszewski was responsible for the thefts. Ruduszewski is an acquaintance of the victims, and was with the victims, both at the motel and other locations, earlier in the night. The investigation revealed that Ruduszewski separated himself from the group while they were away from the motel, giving himself the opportunity to enter the rooms knowing the occupants were absent.

The stolen car was eventually found in a parking lot located in the 1000 block of S. DuPont Highway in Smyrna. Items linking Ruduszewski to the crimes were found in the car.

After a joint investigation by the Newark Police, New Castle County Police, and Delaware State Police, Ruduszewski was arrested on Wednesday, April 28th. New Castle County officers located Ruduszewski at the Prides Court Apartments.

Ruduszewski was charged with two counts of Burglary 2nd Degree, one count of Felony Theft, and four counts of Misdemeanor Theft. After an initial court appearance, he was committed to the Howard Young Correctional Facility in default of a \$14,600 bond.

An indecent exposure incident occurred at the Goodwill store in the Newark Shopping Center at 230 East Main Street, around 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 29th. Two children, a 3 year-old girl and an 8 year-old boy, were inside the store when a male customer pulled down his pants and exposed himself to the children. The children immediately told their parent what had happened. Store personnel were notified and the police were called. However, the suspect fled the store.

The Newark Police Department was notified by the Office of Probation and Parole that an officer from that agency had seen Derek Mayhew at the Goodwill around the time of the incident. The Probation and Parole officer knew Mayhew to be a registered sex offender. A Goodwill employee who was present at the time of the incident subsequently identified Mayhew as the person who had exposed himself to the children.

On Friday, April 30th, Mayhew was arrested and charged with two counts of Indecent Exposure 1st Degree. After an initial appearance, he was committed to the Young Correctional Facility in default of \$1,500 bond.

Beginning on Thursday, April 29th and continuing to the end of the University of Delaware school year, the Newark Police Department has resumed the concentrated patrol sectors in downtown and off-campus housing areas. Grant money is being used to have additional officers on foot patrol in the off-campus housing area in order to reduce crime and disorderly conduct.

On Wednesday, May 5th, Captain Williams attended a railroad safety seminar. On Wednesday, May 12th, Chief Tiernan and Captain Potts will be attending a "Leadership Staff Ride for Law Enforcement Executives," sponsored by the New Jersey Association of Chiefs of Police. The week of May 17th, Captain Potts will be attending the Delaware Chiefs of Police Council training conference.

Planning & Development

Planning

The Planning Commission's May 4, 2010 consideration of the Rittenhouse Station rezoning and major subdivision has been rescheduled for a meeting to be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 25, 2010.

Economic Development

On Wednesday Assistant Planning and Development Director Maureen Feeney Roser and Planner Mike Fortner attended the Delaware Economic Development Office's Small Business Summit in Dover that focused on the importance of attracting diverse populations to downtown as an economic development tool.

On Thursday Maureen met with the Chairman of the Newark Senior Center Board to discuss Center facilities operations and their importance to the community.

Also later on Thursday Maureen met with a representative of the University of Delaware's Student Life Office to discuss operations to partner with the University regarding Freshman Orientation Weekend this coming August.

Parking

Parking Administrator Marvin Howard continues to work on plans for compactors in Municipal Lot #4.

Maureen also spent time reviewing parking enforcement officer functions as they relate to interfacing with the Downtown Parking Division's functions and responsibilities.

Public Works

Engineering/Planning and Inspection:

- Contract 09-03 – 2009 Street Program Punchlist: Mumford & Miller Concrete Inc. worked on punchlist items at various locations which included:
 - 1) Bellevue Road – catch basin adjustment and collar pour.
 - 2) Farnsworth Drive, Devon Drive, Timberline Drive, and Briar Lane – topsoiling and reseeding of areas for restoration behind curbs.
- Erosion & Sediment Control Inspections: Performed weekly site inspections at Fountainview, Emily Bell Place, 108 and 129 E. Main Street, 2 Old Casho Mill Road, Ivy Hall Apartments Addition, and Laura’s Glenn. Met with Taylor Made Homes representative to discuss deficiencies at Laura’s Glenn and 2 Old Casho Mill Road.
- Building Permits Reviewed:
 - 1) 135 S. Chapel Street – fence
 - 2) 7 Kinross Court – addition
 - 3) 4 Green Meadow Court – shed & fence
 - 4) 9 Confluence Court – deck replacement
 - 5) 105 Cheltenham Road – porch to sunroom conversion
 - 6) 916 Quail Lane – 3 season room
 - 7) 303 E. Cleveland Avenue – repave parking lot
 - 8) 219 Dallam Road – front entry portico
 - 9) 116 Tanglewood Lane - fence
- 135 S. Chapel Street: Performed C.O. inspection reviewing lot grading and stabilization.
- Miscellaneous Street Patches: Guardian Construction Co. (for Delmarva Power) completed p.c.c. utility trench patching and hot mix paving at 115 E. Park Place, 27 North Street, and Orchard Road (at Kent Way) by pouring 187.5 s.f. of 8” p.c.c. utility trench patch using 6.5 c.y. of DelDOT Class A concrete. Contractor also placed and compacted 49.7 s.y. of recycled Type C hot mix to complete these patches.
- Participated in the Stroud Workshop “From Classroom to Creek” at Downes Elementary School.
- Continued NPDES work on trend graphing in order to update the effectiveness narrative section of the annual report.
- Wyncliff: Keating and Sons worked on storm sewer and stormwater management punch list items as part of the conditional acceptance.
- White Chapel Village: Met with civic association representative to look over sidewalk issues and concerns.
- Marrows Court Apartments: Met with Kevin’s Landscaping to go over grading issues for C.O.
- Fountainview: Performed lot inspection for Lot #12 for C.O.
- Annual Stormwater Maintenance Inspections: Inspected 2 stormwater basins and 1 bio-retention basin.
- Assisted Street Department with installation of grease trap and pipe installation.

Survey Crew

- Continued updating Storm Sewer Cleaning Routes, including mapping missing basins on Wyoming Road.

- Continued converting hand drawn City lines to digital format.
- Provided support for street crew with installation of pipe and grease trap at wash bay area.
- Completed field location of Leroy Hill Park and began drawing and design of proposed renovations.

Field Operations

Refuse:

- Began reorganized rear loader routing to transform to a one route schedule from a two route schedule. New routes were designed to meet a five day, one route collection.

Streets:

- Hot mix crew excavated and applied 16 tons base hot mix in front of 16 Farmhouse Lane and at the intersection of Farmhouse Lane and Falling Tree Court.
- Concrete crew excavated, formed, and poured 144 s.f. of 8" valley gutter at the City garage and installed 2 new storm sewer manholes over previously installed precast concrete.
- Street crews loaded & hauled 6 loads of sweeper material from the City yard to the landfill.
- Street crew assisted Refuse Department on rear loader and delivered and exchanged refuse cans at various locations.
- Street crew pushed up yard waste at Iron Glen Park for the Refuse Department.
- Street crew placed mulch outside gate at 896 water tank.

Electric

Engineering attended the pre-bid meeting for the construction of the new circuits for the University Science Center and Chiller Plant on Lovett Avenue. Six contractors are bidding and they all walked most of the route along the future Pomeroy Trail. Engineering also met with Delmarva Power about right of way issues with this project, as our pole line will be near the concrete transmission poles owned by Delmarva. Engineering and IT worked with the SCADA contractor on some connection issues with the SCADA server. Engineering completed the compilation of loads from the University's metering points for the monthly billing.

The line crews have finished the 4kV to 12kV upgrade along Kells Avenue and have started getting oil samples from backyard transformers for PCB testing. The process is slow because of access issues and the necessary use of the backyard bucket machine.

The electricians have been working on the substation transformer that malfunctioned last week. There was arcing inside the breaker cabinet along with broken insulators that had to be cleaned and other systems checked for proper operation. The electricians are also working on a water leak in the atrium area at City Hall. Broken underground electric pipes

are being repaired. They had rusted and allowed water to penetrate the building. They also installed special recombination caps on the batteries at Kershaw substation. These caps take the charging byproducts of hydrogen and oxygen and turn them back into water, essentially making the batteries maintenance free.

Water & Wastewater

The new pumps at Silver Brook Lift station have been installed and have been running for a week now. The system is working well and the increased capacity, ease of maintenance, increased reliability, and availability of spare parts will be a welcome change from the old equipment.

Our contractor has begun mowing of water and wastewater sites. We like to get them started in May as the 18 cuts that we contract for will generally get us through the summer if we do not start too early.

Parks & Recreation

Administration – Charlie Emerson

The Curtis Mill/Old Paper Mill Road Park planning committee met to review and discuss the final Master Plan concept design. The plan will soon be given to DNREC for review and to provide an opinion on what areas of the Curtis site and components of the plan might well qualify for brownfield funding. A final public workshop will be planned for later this spring or early summer.

Recreation – Joe Spadafino

Paula completed flyers and PSA's for programs in the summer brochure for distribution and display. She also prepared some target emails with program information, flyers, and registration forms for upcoming classes.

Our Adult Volleyball and Softball leagues started this week.

Paula completed the state licensing inspection at Downes Elementary School. We passed with flying colors! Good job Paula and the site staff.

Pictures for the Dance program participants were taken on Sunday, May 2 at the George Wilson Center. The end of year recital is scheduled for Saturday, May 8.

Preparations are well underway for Newark Nite. The vendor registration deadline is Friday, May 7. All vendors applying after that date will be subject to a late fee.

Sharon and I completed the review of fireworks submissions and recommended that Schaefer Pyrotechnics be awarded the 4th of July Fireworks display again this year.

Sharon has been preparing for the start of the Spring Concert Series, which will begin on Thursday, May 6th with a performance by Jerry Haines. She has completed needed work orders, ordered signs, and visited the site to conduct a walkthrough of the area. She also made posters for downtown businesses and delivered flyers to the Newark Day Nursery which is, once again, one of the Spring Concert Series sponsors.

Recreation and office staff have been preparing for summer registration; this includes developing and printing flyers as well as sending out news releases.

Joe spent a good amount of time preparing for the first week of registration and going live with our new online registration system. Liz has been working hard inputting information and troubleshooting some issues with the program.

The first draft of the three kiosks that will be on display along the Pomeroy and Newark Rail Trail is currently being reviewed. Intern, Arthur Wicks, is working very hard on the project and is doing a great job on the design and layout.

Parks & Horticulture – Tom Zaleski

We worked with a student group from the Newark Center For Creative Learning who completed a tree whip planting at Folk Park as part of an environmental studies project.

We had small soil borings taken from a low wet area at Rittenhouse Park as part of grant application for the installation of a Rain Garden and Wetlands Meadow.

Parks and Horticulture personnel committed time removing plant material in the traffic medians on Elkton Road in preparation for DelDOT's street rehab project scheduled for this summer.

Tom is nearly finished preparing the draft contract document for the removal and replacement of the backstop and field fencing at Leroy Hill Park. The survey crew is doing field work and preparing drawings for the project. The work will be completed in the late summer.

KRS/mp