

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

May 28, 2010

Electric

DelDOT is proposing that reflectors are to be placed on utility poles in the right of way in order to reduce fatal crashes. They have suggested three different reflective markers for different size poles and equipment on the poles. These markers have significant size, the largest being 12 inches wide and 3 feet tall and the smallest is 6 inches by 12 inches.

The line crews have been replacing poles and moving equipment on Wedgewood Road at Delmarva's request. Delmarva is co-occupant and they are bringing a new phase in, so new poles are needed for clearances. The crews also switched off one of our main transmission transformers at Kershaw so Delmarva could work on their 138kV breaker which feeds it. While the transformer was down, we took the opportunity to filter press the oil in the tap changer compartment.

A faulted house service in Fairfield is temporarily utilizing an autotransformer to restore service. A contractor has been called in to do an underground bore to replace the cable.

The backyard tree trimming crews have finished Fairfield Crest. The next development they will trim is Cherry Hill. They will be working on our system for another four weeks.

Water & Wastewater

I met this week with the Delaware and Federal Emergency Management Agency staff to discuss the Northwest Booster grant application. Prospects still look good for funding for this project. They may not cover the cost of the pumps and electrical controls but there is still a significant amount of grant funds that would be available. They also indicated that the process is moving forward to finalize the grant paperwork for the Sewer Line Crossing of the Christina Creek Project.

We are using our new sewer maps. During the development of the new maps we were able to correct many inaccuracies. In addition the new maps are printed in an 11 X 17 inch format so that one can read them in a vehicle versus the previous 2 X 3 foot format that required a vehicle hood or tailgate to spread out the drawings. Inclement weather is no longer an issue.

We have observed that algae at the reservoir has become more of a problem this year. We applied some algaecide this week intended for potable water applications. The affect of the application is encouraging. We will continue to monitor the situation.

We are reviewing preliminary drawings for an antenna installation on the New London Road Water Tower. I expect final agreement language any time for another antenna company for a second installation on the New London Road tank as well.

Parks & Recreation

Administration – Charlie Emerson

I attended the Newark Area Transportation Plan open house last Wednesday.

I prepared and submitted project documents/reports to Delaware State Parks for projects that we have/will receive Delaware Land and Water Conservation Trust Fund grant money. Those projects include the Curtis Mill/Old Paper Mill Road Park Master Plan, Redd Park Trail rehabilitation, purchase and install of replacement spiral slides at four park sites, Elan Park basketball court rehabilitation, and LeRoy Hill Park baseball field fence and backstop replacement.

I'm working with Tom to complete contract document preparation for the replacement of the LeRoy Hill Park baseball field fencing and backstop. We want to get the contract advertised and awarded for the work to be completed in August. Thanks to Mike Clark for working with us to prepare drawings.

Tom and I attended the Second Annual Bike Summit in Wilmington last Friday. The event focused on on-road and off-road trail projects, issues with design and routing, success stories, safety, education and enforcement of traffic laws as they relate to bicyclist and autos.

The New London Road entrance/exit to the George Wilson Center/Park will soon be closed off and we'll begin using the new entrance/exit on Emily Bell Lane. The developer of the Emily Bell Place subdivision will complete the work. We have notified all who use the center and have installed a new sign on New London Road. We'll work with Dana to put out a PSA.

Recreation – Joe Spadafino

Paula met with Charlie and Dana regarding the ceremony for the designation of the James F. Hall Trail as a National Recreation Trail. We coordinated the invitation list, location and set up for the event that will be held on Saturday, June 5th at 2:30 p.m. at Kells Park.

Paula met with the After Care staff regarding the upcoming end of year carnival. We will be utilizing some of the games used at Community Events for this activity. A Water Olympics Day was also held at After Care this week celebrating the great weather!

Paula sent out another email blast to previous participants and delivered flyers to schools regarding upcoming programs starting.

Sharon has been reviewing applications and assigning spaces to Newark Nite vendors, confirming performers, purchasing needed items, and working on the logistics of the event. She has secured several sponsorships and has been working with other departments to have banners hung, send notices to area residents about the street closure and event security.

The Community Events staff held the third Spring Concert, which featured Pollard's Pharmacy. There were approximately 125 people in attendance for the concert. The next concert will feature Gretchen Emery and Dirty Boots.

Our Summer Playground program has been cancelled due to low registrations. We notified those who did register and offered them the option to register for a half day experience in the Camp GWC program.

Tyler and Joe met with Newark High School Counselor Susan Williams and Principal Curt Bedford to discuss partnership ideas for their Ramp Up Academy program for incoming freshman. They are pursuing a grant for the program and would like for us to be a partner in the program.

I completed a grant application for the development of a Newark Trails and Parks map. The grant was sponsored by the Delaware Health and Social Services Department.

The first reviews of the Pomeroy and Newark Rail Trail Kiosk draft are completed. The Kiosks will be located at three (3) sites along the trail with information about the rail lines rich history and importance to Newark's economy.

I observed the Downes After Care CATCH program that involves low to moderate income children who attend Downes Elementary School. The program begins its final week this week. It has been a great success in this, its first year.

Parks & Horticulture – Tom Zaleski

We assisted with the cleanup effort in and around the City Hall elevator following last weekend's rain storms and resulting flooding.

We continued to remove plant materials from the Elkton Road traffic medians in preparation for DeIDOT's road improvement project. We have removed all that we plan to.

We completed the removal of debris from the wooded area at the north end of the Reservoir site.

The crew transported tables for the UDon't Need It program and computer training session at City Hall and completed the setup and tear down of the stage for the weeks Spring Concert.

The mowing and horticulture crews are trying to keep up with our grass cutting and weeding efforts. We love what the spring rains bring, but they do make it a challenge!

Police

On Saturday, May 22nd, at 11:30 p.m. a resident of Shenandoah Drive called police to report that he observed a white male standing on the back porch of his house, possibly trying to gain entry. When confronted by the homeowner the suspect fled. Immediately following, three white males were observed attempting to enter an unlocked garage on

Wood Song Circle. The three suspects then entered a mid size car and fled the area, prior to the police responding.

On Sunday, May 23rd, at 1:55 a.m. an armed street robbery occurred in the parking lot of the Shell gas station located at 1005 South College Avenue. The two victims were walking through the parking lot when three suspects approached them. One displayed a handgun, and struck one of the victims in the face with the gun. All three suspects demanded money from the victims. The victims complied and surrendered cash to the suspects.

At that time, two New Castle County Police Officers who had just finished a duty assignment were driving on S. College Avenue when they observed the robbery in progress and intervened. The suspects ran, and New Castle County officers proceeded to chase the suspects on foot. The New Castle County police officers were each able to catch and take a suspect into custody.

The gun used by the suspects was found discarded nearby. It was determined to be a BB gun that closely resembled an actual handgun.

Both of the victims were males 21 years of age. One of the victims was from Scottsdale, AZ and the second was from Dundalk, MD. Neither one of the victims is a University of Delaware student. The victim from Arizona that was struck with the gun, was taken to Christiana Hospital, and was treated for minor injuries and released. The other victim was not injured.

Both of the suspects were charged with two counts of Robbery 1st Degree and Conspiracy 2nd Degree. Both were transferred to the Department of Corrections on secured bond of \$2,200. The identity of the third suspect is still being investigated.

Traffic control planning is currently underway for this weekend's University of Delaware graduation ceremonies and Newark Nite scheduled for next week.

Planning & Development

Planning

At its meeting Monday evening City Council approved the rezoning and major subdivision at Village of Twin Lakes residential/adult community project.

At its meeting Tuesday evening the Planning Commission recommended approval of the Rittenhouse Station rezoning, subdivision and special use permit for the proposed mixed use development adjacent to the Municipal complex on Elkton Road.

On Thursday, Planner Mike Fortner attended the WILMACO Technical Advisory Committee meeting and the Newark Bicycle Committee meeting.

On Friday, Mike attended the Delaware Bicycle Summit held in Wilmington.

Economic Development

System Planning Director Maureen Feeney Roser spent time working on the Main Street Mile Event – scheduled for Saturday, October 2nd and also spent time working on Newark Nite which will be held on June 5th.

On Thursday, Maureen and I participated in a conference call with our Economic Development Study Consultant – Wadley Donovan – laying the ground work for this now under way project.

Maureen met this week with “Today Media” to review the proposed contact content for the September Delaware Today supplement featuring Newark.

Maureen also provided promotional materials regarding the City to New Castle County to be included in a BRAC relocation event to be held in Fort Monmouth, New Jersey this week.

Parking

The Parking Division is working on the process of the annual summer renewal of monthly permits for our downtown facilities.

Public Works

Engineering/Planning and Inspection

- A major elevator hydraulic leak was taken care of in-house for approximately \$900 in comparison to quote received from elevator company of \$9,400.
- Contract 10-03 – 2010 Street & Parking Lot Improvement Program: Spent time compiling field book data for upcoming contract. Produced “Quantities for Invoicing” spreadsheet and a “Weekly Update” spreadsheet for use during contract. Also conducted sign inventory at areas of proposed contract work.
- Sidewalk Violation Notice – 11 Wilbur Street: Notified Todd Ladutko (owner) of mud covering sidewalk due to cars driving onto lot where no driveway exists. Notified Property Maintenance Inspector also.
- Erosion & Sediment Control Inspections: Performed weekly inspections at 2 Old Casho Mill Road, Ivy Hall Apartments Addition, Laura’s Glenn, Emily Bell Place, 108 and 129 E. Main Street, University of Delaware Utility Package off Lovett Avenue, and University of Delaware Steam and Condensate for Allison Hall.
- Building Permits Reviewed:
 - 22 Sue Lane – deck
 - 36 Hawthorne Avenue – deck
 - 208 Walker Way - deck
- Attended a Christina Basin Coordinating Committee meeting at the Brandywine Valley Association offices.
- Performed quarterly stream adoption tasks at Rittenhouse Park and submitted the form to DNREC.
- Met with the Planner and Engineering Technician to discuss zoning map edits in Arcview GIS.

- Investigated a grass dumping complaint in the Binns neighborhood.
- Reviewed several lawn related PSA's and made recommendations to Jen Pyle at the University of Delaware for her quarterly inclusion in WVUD broadcasting.
- Produced a GIS floodplain map of the Cherry Hill area for a Utility Inspector.
- Annual Stormwater Management Inspections: Inspected Twin Lakes storm water basin and grass filter strips along with South Ridge and Cobblefield detention basins.

Survey Crew

- Completed Miss Utility Mark-outs as needed.
- Continued updating Storm Sewer Cleaning Routes, including updating basin information along S. College Avenue.
- Continued drawing and design of Leroy Hill Park for proposed renovations.
- Sent out sidewalk violation notices.
- Along with Utility Inspector, inspected sidewalk installations at 19 locations.

Field Operations

Refuse

- Worked on student move-out.

Streets

- Concrete crew excavated, formed, and poured 70 l.f. of rolled curb on Bent Lane at the intersection of Tanglewood Lane.
- Catch basin crew rebuilt catch basin at 10 Farmhouse Road and repaired the storm sewer at the intersection Blue Hen Ridge and N. Fawn Drive.
- Street crew loaded and hauled 2 loads of sweeper material from City yard to landfill.
- Loader crew pushed up brush for Refuse Department at Iron Glen Park and placed mulch outside of gate at 896 water tank.
- Street crew provided manpower and backhoe to assist with student move-out at the Curtis Paper Mill.

KRS/mp