

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

June 11, 2010

Planning & Development

Planning

On Tuesday morning, I met with Derrick Kennedy of Orth-Rodgers to review items associated with the ongoing Newark Transportation Study.

The department has received an application for a special use permit for the sale of alcoholic beverages (beer and wine) at the Seasons Pizza Restaurant at E. Main Street and S. Chapel Street. This item will be reviewed by City Council in the near future.

Economic Development

Assistant Planning and Development Director Maureen Feeney Roser provided promotional and related materials for the University's New Student Orientation Program.

On Tuesday morning, the DNP hosted nationally renowned retail consultant expert Margie Johnson of ShopTalk for a free breakfast workshop regarding opportunities, interventions and strategic business course corrections intended to influence consumers' purchasing decisions. In addition to the workshop, Ms. Johnson visited three downtown businesses for a one-on-one consultation. Her visit, part of the DNP's ongoing business retention program, was partially funded by the Delaware Main Street Program. Approximately 25 business owners participated.

Maureen also spent considerable time last week preparing for the DNP presence at Newark Nite this Saturday evening.

Maureen also notes that through the first five months of this year we have sold \$9,000 worth of DNP gift cards.

Parking

Parking Administrator Marvin Howard hosted a meeting of the DNP's Parking Committee meeting this morning.

Code Enforcement

Contractors have secured the properties and have had the grass cut and exterior areas appropriately maintained at 918 Rahway Drive and 331-333 Paper Mill Road.

Utility work has begun for a University facility at Academy Street and Lovett Avenue. As a result, Lovett Avenue will be closed for the summer.

A demolition permit has been issued for the Barnes and Noble at 83 E. Main Street.

Public Works

Engineering/Planning and Inspection

- Worked on making final changes to the 2009 NPDES Annual Report, hyperlinking supporting documentation, and making copies.
- Investigated an asphalt dumping complaint on Casho Mill Road. Documented with pictures and forwarded to DelDOT, since they recently repaved at this location.
- Set up and manned an educational stormwater booth at Newark Nite. Approximately 529 people stopped by the booth during the course of the night.
- Previewed RegScan 2.0, a regulatory tracking software program.
- Alan Kercher, Rich, Jimmy, and Pusey spent time looking at roads in question from results that came back from Kercher Engineering.
- 108 East Main Street: Met with Paoli Services on Center Street to go over street opening for new water line installation.
- 67 Kennard Drive: Met with Building Department to look at drainage problem in rear of yard.
- Stormwater Management Inspections: Inspected 15 stormwater management areas including 5 sand filters, 2 bio-filtration swales, and 8 detention basins, and entered data into computer.
- Weekly Erosion and Sediment Inspections: Performed inspections at 108 & 129 E. Main Street and the University of Delaware for the Advanced Utility Package and Penny Hall Steam Line Installation.

Survey Crew

- Continued re-inspections for Phase 2.6 Sidewalk Program.
- Met with contractors at numerous locations to identify specific requirements on sidewalk repairs.

Field Operations

Refuse:

- Worked on UDon't Need It student move-out.

Streets:

- Concrete crews excavated, formed, and poured 85 s.f. of rolled curb at 111 Tanglewood Lane on Bent Lane. Concrete crews also formed and poured 20 s.f. of 4" sidewalk at 111 Tanglewood Lane, 64 s.f. of sidewalk at 41 Woodhill Court, and 20 s.f. of sidewalk at Blue Hen Ridge and N. Fawn Drive.
- Catch basin crews rebuilt the following catch basins: 2 Rising Road, 3 Bridgeview Court, and 36 Hidden Valley Drive.
- Street crews removed a fallen tree branch that was blocking the road on Allison Lane.
- Storm sewer crews repaired sink hole on Cook Way.
- Street crews removed blockages at the Church Road bridge.

- Loader crew pushed up yard waste at Iron Glen Park for the Refuse Department and put mulch outside gate at 896 water tank.
- 2 Street Department employees worked on the UDon't Need It student move out and removed remainder of furniture from tent area, placing it in dumpsters.
- 2 Street Department employees implemented and took down detour for Newark Nite and assisted Parks Department during Newark Nite.
- Street crew backfilled with topsoil previously poured curb on Bent Lane.

Electric

The cable coming from a Fremont Road substation circuit failed when squirrels chewed through it on Thursday, June 3rd at 6 p.m. The circuit was out for about an hour until the crews switched the circuit. The cable repairs were completed by Monday and Tuesday the circuits were restored to normal. While the circuit was out the breaker was tested for proper operation.

The circuit board malfunctioning on one of the City's main transformers as reported in last week's report was successfully repaired in-house and installed. The tapchanger controlled by this board has showed no irregularities since.

A failed service in Fairfield was repaired by line crews after a contractor bored in 75' of underground pipe from a pedestal to the meter. The line crews have also been replacing backyard transformers in Nottingham Green.

Communications issues with West Main substation have been investigated. Repair is forthcoming.

Water & Wastewater

After having pulled the pump assembly at Well 15 we televised the well and determined that significant fouling of the well screen had taken place since the last time the pump was replaced. We will have the well screen cleaned prior to the reinstallation of the pump. This will increase the hydraulic efficiency of the well.

Thursday and Friday mornings of this week we will have completed flushing of the water system in the downtown area of the City. We have found that we need to do the flushing at this time to avoid disruptions to University operations and local businesses. Working at night we are able to do much more aggressive flushing without all of the problems that the dirty water and low pressure can cause during the day.

I am working with the State Emergency Management Office to update the application for the Northwest Booster Station to address concerns raised by the Federal Emergency Management Office. Once the application has been updated I expect the project will receive final approval and continue in the pipeline towards final approval and funding.

Parks & Recreation

Administration – Charlie Emerson

On Saturday at a ceremony held in Kells Park representatives of the National Park Service presented the City with a certificate from the US Department of Interior and National Park Service designating the James F. Hall Trail a “National Recreation Trail”. Thanks to Dana and Paula for their assistance.

We held another very successful Newark Nite last Saturday. Sharon and Ann did a great job coordinating the effort and parks personnel did a fantastic job with set up and after event tear down. I appreciate the support and assistance provided by the Police, Electric and Public Works Departments.

I committed a great deal of time this week working with DeIDOT and Pennoni on matters relating to Permanent and Temporary Construction Easements required for the construction of the Pomeroy and Newark Rail Trail.

I worked with the Rittenhouse Station developer to finalize several items relating to the landscape plan for the site.

This past Sunday I worked with more than 20 volunteers at Redd Park to continue building and relocating trails for better long-term sustainability and constructing foot bridges over tributaries feeding into Jenney’s Run. The current effort is phase 2 of a 3-phase trail project at the park. The Delaware Trail Spinners and Delaware State Parks trail crew have been outstanding partners in the project.

I committed time working with Roger Akin’s office preparing a Conservation Easement document required by the Army CORP for a wetland site on the Pomeroy and Newark Rail Trail.

Recreation – Joe Spadafino

Paula filled up racks at the Newark Library with brochures and flyers. It continues to be a popular spot for people to get information as the racks are empty every week! Paula gathered supplies for the end of the year carnival that was held at the After School program. The carnival was held on Thursday and the kids had a great time! We had 8 games for them to enjoy along with popcorn, cotton candy and hot dogs!! Many thanks to several parents who came and volunteered time to help as well!

Paula gathered supplies and equipment needed for the presentation of the plaque for the James Hall Trail National Recreation Trail designation ceremony. She attended and assisted in the set up/tear down of the ceremony prior to Newark Nite.

Tyler met with Susan Williams at Newark High School to discuss partnership ideas for an afterschool program and completion of a grant application.

Tyler is preparing for the opening of our outdoor pools scheduled to open on June 8 at Dickey Park and the George Wilson Center.

The Community Events staff had a very busy week preparing for Newark Nite. With over 200 vendors and approximately 30,000 attendees, it was a busy night. The new start and end times worked well. The performers and most vendors were very pleased with the evening.

Sharon has been preparing for the start of summer programs and will be meeting with and training staff for Tot Lot over the next several weeks.

I have been working on a grant proposal with Newark High School to help their students with Academic Confidence and Cardiovascular Health.

Parks & Horticulture – Tom Zaleski

The LeRoy Hill Park backstop and fence replacement contract was distributed and advertised this week. The work will be completed following Newark American Little League's summer season. The project is funded in the 2010 Capital Improvements Program. In addition, we received grant funding from the Delaware Land and Water Conservation Trust Fund to cover 50% of the project cost.

Tom committed a great deal of time preparing a grant application to the Delaware State Forest Department for the purpose of reforesting certain areas of parks throughout the city's park system.

Parks personnel committed time loading and unloading trucks and trailers with materials and equipment necessary for Newark Nite.

The horticulture crew mulched several landscaped sites this week.

Tom spent time preparing for this year's Youth Beautification Corp (CDBG funded summer youth work program).

The dry weather has caused us to commit time watering newly planted trees, shrubs and perennials.

Police

On Sunday, May 30th between the hours of 3:00 and 4:30 a.m., an unknown subject entered an apartment in the 200 block of East Main Street and removed a cell phone and a laptop computer. The apartment was unoccupied at the time and was intentionally left unlocked. There are no suspect(s).

Two white male subjects entered two unoccupied Wilbur Street residences during the evening hours of Monday, May 31st and attempted to remove copper pipe. The former resident returned to the residence intending to return his key and startled the suspects, who damaged a basement window and fled from the scene. The surrounding area was searched; however the suspects were not located.

On Tuesday, June 1st, two black male suspects entered a Marvin Drive apartment between the hours of 7:00 and 11:30 a.m. and removed several electronic items. It is

believed that the suspects used a key to gain entry, since the residence was locked when the victim returned home.

Personal property inside an O'Daniel Avenue apartment was damaged while the resident was at work on Thursday, June 3rd. The victim's estranged boyfriend is the suspect, and the investigation is continuing.

On Saturday, June 5th, at 9:13 p.m., a 19-year old subject was arrested by uniformed officers while he was throwing a traffic barricade. After a brief struggle in which the suspect was subdued with the ASP (metal baton), he was taken into custody and subsequently charged with 3 counts of reckless endangering 2nd degree, aggravated assault and underage alcohol consumption.

A car-jacking occurred on Saturday, June 5th, at 9:15 p.m. in a parking lot located at 850 Library Avenue. Two unknown black male subjects forcibly removed the victim from his vehicle and assaulted him while he was on the ground. As the suspects fled, they ran over the victim's leg and wrist with the vehicle. The subjects then struck a nearby fence, abandoned the vehicle, and fled the area on foot.

On Saturday, June 5 at 11:00 p.m., two officers were dispatched to Union Hospital to contact a black male subject who claimed to have been stabbed in the forearm during a fight. The victim claims to have been stabbed with an unknown object in an alley on East Main Street near Dunkin Donuts between 9:30 and 10:00 p.m. while assisting a friend who was being assaulted by several subjects. Little additional information was forthcoming, and the investigation is continuing.

On Saturday, June 5 at 9:52 p.m., a male and female walking along Basset Place were approached by four or five black male subjects. One of the suspects demanded the victims' property while a second suspect displayed what was believed to be a hand gun. The victims fled the area and contacted police. The area was searched, and four suspects were located. One subject was positively identified. The suspects were interviewed by detectives, and two of the suspects were charged in this case.

KRS/mp