

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

July 2, 2010

Water & Wastewater

I will be meeting next week with State DNREC staff to discuss aquatic weed removal in the raceway. This is turning out to be an issue about every other year. I expect to come up with a workable plan to deal with this issue.

Well 15 is back in service. The capacity was dramatically improved. We will watch the well to see at what point the performance starts to drop off to see if we can identify the reason this is happening.

AC Schultes has been inspecting our wells and pumps to assess their performance and identify any pending problems so that we can fix them before they become critical and fail. They use an assessment of the pump output to determine wear on the impellers and vibration analysis to assess the condition of the bearings. Comparing this information to the data gathered the year before allows us to judge the point at which repairs should be made.

The blower motor will be put back on the aerator tower at the South Well Field treatment plant on Friday the 2nd. The motor was damaged during the storm last week. We are also replacing the muffler (it had worn out) which we will get later this month and install as soon as we can after it is delivered.

Police

An indecent exposure incident occurred in the Acme supermarket located at 100 Suburban Drive, Newark, on Sunday, June 27th around 9:50 p.m. A 40 year-old woman and her 9 year-old daughter were shopping in the store when a man walking past them in an aisle raised the leg of his shorts and exposed his genitals to the victims.

The mother notified store personnel, who called the police and prevented the suspect from leaving the store until an officer arrived to take him into custody.

The defendant:

Joel Stevenson	11/20/1967 (42 years)	23 Lamatan Rd., Newark, DE
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Stevenson was charged with one count of Indecent Exposure 1st Degree, one count of Indecent Exposure 2nd degree, and one count of Lewdness. He was committed to the Young Correctional Facility in default of \$1,100 secured bond.

A commercial burglary occurred at the Pot of Gold Web Auctions located at 423 New London Road, Newark (Fairfield Shopping Center) on Tuesday, June 15th. Around 3:45 a.m. officers responded to an alarm at the business. The glass of the front door was

found to be broken. The suspect had already fled the scene. Stolen from inside the store were a laptop computer, a SanDisk connection, and a memory card. The total value of the stolen property is \$550.00.

The detective handling the investigation collected video surveillance footage from other businesses in the shopping center. Based on the video, Bradley Hooks was developed as a suspect. On Tuesday, June 29th, a search warrant was executed at Hooks' house. The memory card and SanDisk were found inside the house. Clothing matching that worn by the subject in the video was also found. The detective also learned that Hooks had traded the computer for a tattoo.

Hooks was taken into custody without incident. He was charged with one count each of Burglary 3rd Degree, Theft, and Criminal Mischief. After an initial court appearance, he was released on \$2,000 unsecured bond.

On Wednesday, June 30th, members of Newark Parks and Recreation, the Newark Police Department, and University of Delaware Police Department met to finalize plans for the Liberty Day celebration and fireworks. In addition to traffic and crowd control, the Newark Police Department will have uniform and plain clothes officers assigned to the area to suppress disorderly conduct.

The Traffic Bureau continues its aggressive education and enforcement program. The number of reported accidents in 2010 has significantly decreased from the same time period in 2009.

Planning & Development

Planning

At its meeting Monday evening City Council approved the major subdivision for the Armed Forces Reserve Center at Ogletown Road.

Also on Monday evening at the Council meeting, Planner Mike Fortner gave a summary presentation on the 2009 Residents Survey to City Council.

We are following up on an inquiry from Councilman Tuttle regarding the possible installation of "transponder" type equipment in the Unicity buses so their location can be tracked; the University of Delaware is using a system like this for their UD Transit vehicles.

Economic Development

The major news this week is the beginning of our Wadley-Donovan economic development study interviews and local site work.

Maureen spent time working on the Food & Brew Fest as well as our community banner program.

Maureen also has been busy making arrangements for the branding/marketing resource technical assistance visit with a consulting firm scheduled for August 17th-19th. This technical assistance for the City is made possible through the DNP's participation in the Delaware Main Street Program.

Community Development

Mike completed an update to all the City's zoning and parcel maps for our departmental files.

A Home Improvement Program loan signing was completed this week as well as a financial draw to New Castle County for the 35th Year CDBG Program.

Parking

Maureen and Parking Administrator Marvin Howard continue to work with a local trash collection firm regarding trash compactors for Municipal Lot #4.

Code Enforcement

I have been working with United States Green Building Council's Washington, D.C. main office regarding a follow-up to Council's consideration of amendments to our Building Code that would specify LEED type mandatory requirements.

The University of Delaware is acquiring the last two commercial spaces in the Washington House.

Tuesday afternoon's gas leak at 46 W. Cleveland Avenue apparently was as a result of a tree growing around the pipe. There are other issues at the home that the Code Enforcement Division is handling.

The City Secretary's Office has completed the first draft of the Division's proposed amendments to the 2009 Building Code. These will be forwarded back through the City Secretary's Office to Council sometime this summer.

Public Works

Engineering/Planning and Inspection

- Streets, Sidewalks, and the Americans with Disabilities Act Seminar: All inspectors, Street Foreman, and Maintenance IV attended half day seminar at the U of D presented by the Delaware T2 Center.
- Erosion & Sediment Control Inspections: Performed weekly inspections at Laura's Glen, Ivy Hall Apartments Addition, 2 Old Casho Mill Road, University of Delaware (Cross Walk, Advanced Utility Installation, and Penny Hall Steam Line Installation), 108 E. Main Street, and 129 E. Main Street.

- 109-111 Elkton Road: Spent time reviewing approved plans and compiling notes in preparation for the upcoming preconstruction meeting for erosion and sediment control, and stormwater management.
- 129 E. Main Street: Paoli Services installed new fire and domestic water services across from Haines Street and backfilled trench with crusher run backfill.
- University of Delaware Advanced Utility Installation: Brandywine Construction continued working on the installation of a new water main at the intersection of Haines Street and Lovett Avenue. Worked on installation and backfilling of new chilled water lines at the intersection of Lovett Avenue and Academy Street. Duffield and Associates monitored and performed compaction tests.

Survey Crew

- Began checking for current owners for Phase 2.6 intent letters and sent certified letters electronically.

Field Operations/Streets:

- Loader moved and relocated 75% of the leaves stockpiled at Iron Glen Park in prep work for the incoming tub grinder. Vannoy Contractors also began hauling out previously stockpiled leaves.
- Catch basin crew rebuilt catch basins at 9 Spring Water Way, 1 Stone Barn Court, and 420 Timberline Drive. Also repaired brick work for Electric Department around utility pole at S. College Avenue & Main Street.
- Street crew saw cut Gravenor Lane, Middle Run Meadow, and the intersection of N. Country Club Drive & Windsor Drive for future hot mix and catch basin repairs.
- Sign crew installed new parking meter pole on Amstel Avenue, painted fire lane under the S. College Avenue Bridge near the old train station, and repaired and replaced signs and poles as needed.
- Street crew backfilled and topsoiled newly installed catch basin on Gravenor Lane and finished backfilling previously poured curb on Bent Lane.
- Street crew exchanged and delivered trash cans for the Refuse Department.
- Vac all cleaned loading dock area behind City Hall of debris and leaves and continued working on catch basin cleanings as per schedule.
- Street crew repaired sidewalk patches at City Hall.
- Street crews removed storm debris from City streets and assisted the Parks Department with tree removal at Rittenhouse Park with the backhoe and labor.
- Street crew loaded and hauled 3 loads of previously dumped concrete and hot mix from the City yard to Batten for disposal.

Parks & Recreation

Recreation – Joe Spadafino

The first week of Rittenhouse and Hobbit Camps began with almost 100 children attending. New implementations for canoeing and archery instruction occurred. Preparation for the trip to the University of Delaware Outdoor Pool took place with

permission slips being sent home. Hot temperatures did not deter the kids from having a great time! The storm did knock over a couple of large trees within the park that affected some of the areas normally used during the camp; however, the Parks Department was speedy in the clean up.

Paula sent out letters to last year's soccer coaches regarding the upcoming season and letters to the participants for the next session of Rittenhouse and Hobbit Camps.

The Recreation staff worked on updating the fall brochure and facility request for the upcoming programs.

Paula rescheduled the adult softball games that were cancelled due to inclement weather and sent the schedules to the coaches and umpire association. She also worked on rescheduling the adult volleyball matches.

Tyler completed his first week of camp GWC with 16 participants enrolled in the full day program and 11 in the half day session.

The following specialty camps were held at the George Wilson Center all week: Mad Science, Pottery Camp, Broadway Musical Theater, State Fair Art Camp and State Fair Photography Camp.

It was a busy week at the outdoor pools, with the hot weather Dickey Pool ran at about maximum capacity for most of the week. The George Wilson Center pool was also well attended.

Sharon and her staff began the first session of Tot Lot this week with 19 campers. The children had a lot of fun making crafts and doing activities with a sports theme. Wednesday and Thursday, due to the extreme heat, the group did their crafts outdoors and then went into Downes Elementary School for the activities and snack.

State Fair Craft Camp and State Fair Photography Camp were held with 5 and 6 participants in each. The children had lots of fun creating projects to be entered in the Delaware State Fair Craft competition. Those enrolled in the photography portion, took several field trips to take pictures.

Sharon has been meeting with University and City department representatives, as well as individuals from AETNA HHL about the 4th of July fireworks and the logistics involved with the set up, launch, parking, crowd management, and traffic control. She also sent the vendor information packets to the vendors that have registered for the event.

Parks & Horticulture – Tom Zaleski

The Youth Beautification Corp started Monday, June 21.

Parks staff completed installation of one 2-5 year old play unit at Dickey Park.

Parks Superintendent completed research on gum removal chemicals and equipment as well as researching possible grant opportunities/availability for doing reforestation at selected sites in park system.

Parks staff started clean up from storm damage at several park sites.

Electric

Thursday, June 24 at 4pm, a thunderstorm rolled through Newark with very high winds and lightning. Multiple issues arose from the lightning burning down wires and the high winds causing tree limbs to fall. About one third of the City was affected by outages. Some were only momentary, as the relays could reclose if the faults cleared quickly. Multiple lightning strikes caused circuits on the transmission system to trip which turned off whole substations and their associated neighborhoods. These circuits had to be patrolled for trouble and repaired before manually being turned on. The northwestern area from New London Road to Elkton Road and the central areas between the Amtrak rails and Elkton Road were the most affected with longer outages. All the power was restored by 5:15pm, although the crews worked late to fix up smaller issues, such as trees on lines and house services.

The crews are replacing transformers in Nottingham Green and trimming the 34kV transmission loop. The last few years, the wet weather has been very conducive to tree growth, so the Electric Department is taking a proactive approach and vigorously trimming the system to reduce outages. Also, our resources were used to remove two trees which were public safety issues, although not electric related. One on Nottingham Road and another on Chestnut Hill Road needed immediate attention.

The Fremont Road substation transformer's tapchanger was inspected after oil samples revealed increases in carbon. The inspection revealed no issues and it was recommended to clean and flush the compartment.

KRS/cw