

## **DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS**

**June 25, 2010**

### **Electric**

Tuesday night at about 6:30 a lightning storm rolled through Newark and created havoc on the electric system. Nine men worked until 1:30 a.m. to make repairs and restore power to multiple locations. A substation transformer tripped when wires burned down on Rt. 72 in front of BJs. A cable that feeds Abbotsford and several fuses in Silverbrook blew. A transformer at the UD farm and one in Country Hills blew fuses and spacer cable in several spots had to be repaired. All the issues are attributed to lightning strikes. All power was restored, but the damages are still being investigated and repaired.

A contractor was scheduled to inspect the tapchanger at Freemont Road Friday. After checking the loads and taking into account the heat wave and switching involved, it was decided to postpone until next week when cooler weather is predicted.

The University has asked the contractor for the line construction feeding the Lovett Avenue Science Building and Chiller Plant Project to break out portions of the job that may be postponed. Currently, the reconductoring of an existing circuit is permitted, but last minute issues with utility easements along the Pomeroy Trail are delaying the new pole line approval.

The line crews have been replacing backyard transformers in Nottingham Green this last week.

### **Water & Wastewater**

This week I will be conducting my second tour of the reservoir for the year. People seem to really enjoy the opportunity to learn about the reservoir.

My work with DEMA and FEMA on the Northwest Booster station has resulted in the reversal of a FEMA decision to exclude \$90,000 for the cost of the new pumps and motors. The replacement of the pumps and motors has been determined to be an integral part of the project and not simply a matter of general maintenance. This project is now eligible for 75% federal funding of the full \$300,000 project cost.

Our flushing this week along Kirkwood Highway and areas in the City north and east of the White Clay Creek is going well.

We are reviewing the specifications for the redrilling of Well 14. The project will be advertised after we have made the necessary modifications.

We are still waiting for FEMA to issue a Funding letter to DEMA so that we can finalize the grant documents for the Christina Creek Sewer mitigation project. DEMA tells me that

they are expecting the funding authorization at any time. We will have a preaward meeting with DEMA, FEMA, and City staff prior to the issuance of the grant documents.

## **Police**

M/Cpl. Bryda and Cpl. Keld have begun speaking at the University of Delaware parent orientation programs. On each day parents of the incoming freshman class receive an orientation concerning the university. M/Cpl Bryda and Cpl. Keld speak to the parents about actions their child can take to ensure they do not become a victim of a crime. The program is held every day and ends in late July.

Last week, on two separate nights, unlocked vehicles were entered and items were removed. Residents were notified to lock their vehicle doors and remove any valuables. Patrols were increased in the residential neighborhoods during the overnight hours. As a result, we have not had any thefts from vehicles during the overnight hours since last week.

On Wednesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, Chief Tiernan attended an emergency meeting of the Delaware Police Chief's Council concerning House Bill No. 478. The Bill seeks to add an additional penalty on each fine assessed to any person convicted of a criminal or traffic violation.

## **Planning & Development**

### **Planning**

In preparation for upcoming Council review, time was spent this week working with the City Secretary's Office on the subdivision agreements for the proposed Rittenhouse Station redevelopment project, and the Armed Forces Center facility.

The Planning and Development Department has completed a review of the State Planning Office's "Strategies Map" and forwarded comments to the Planning Office.

### **Economic Development**

Assistant Planning and Development Director Maureen Feeney Roser has spent time this week on the DNP Gift Card and Downtown Validation Programs. We have successfully signed up 52 and 58 businesses respectively for each of these programs.

Maureen has been working on the information in the Starting a Business in Newark brochure. We hope to have the update available on our website by the end of the week.

Maureen is also preparing for the upcoming downtown branding technical assistance visit with ArnettMuldrow and Associates who will be coming to Newark in August.

## Community Development

Planner Mike Fortner continues to update the City's official maps on our Arc View GIS System in order to have maps available for public use. A color City of Newark official zoning map is now available online.

On Thursday evening, Mike held a Community Development Block Grant public hearing regarding the use of 37<sup>th</sup> Year CDBG and 2011 Revenue Sharing funds.

## Code Enforcement

The Code Enforcement Division is working with local shopping center landowners at the Park "N" Shop, Newark Shopping Center and Fairfield Shopping Center regarding required improvements to their parking facilities.

## **Public Works**

### Engineering/Planning and Inspection

- Briarcreek – S.W.M. Enhancement: Briarcreek Homeowners Association members worked on the installation of the floating planters and planting wetland plants around the forebay and micropool areas.
- Erosion & Sediment Control Inspections: Performed weekly inspections at Laura's Glenn, Ivy Hall Apartments Addition, 2 Old Casho Mill Road, U of D Frazier Field, University of Delaware (Advanced Utility Package and Penny Hall Steam Line), and 108 and 129 E. Main Street.
- U of D, Frazier Field: Clark Companies worked on erosion and sediment control installations which included:
  - 1) Silt fence installation.
  - 2) Stabilized construction entrance installations (2).
  - 3) Temporary sediment trap installation & temporary swale construction.Perimeter controls were adequately installed and permission was given to Clark Companies to begin excavation of site.
- University of Delaware – Delaware Avenue Crosswalk: Held pre-construction meeting, prepared meeting minutes, and distributed copies to all attendees.
- City of Newark Bio-retention Basin at New London Water Tank: Spent time with Mike Sistik, Pat Michini, and Tri-State Lawn on excavation and coordination of hauling in fill for site.
- Contract 10-03: Reviewed bids for the 2010 Street Improvement Program, completed bid summary and recommendation letter, and forwarded to Purchasing.

### Survey Crew

- Sent sidewalk obstruction violations to several residents in Fairfield Crest, along South College Avenue, and various other locations.
- Acquired elevations at the New London Road leaf pile bio-retention area.

## Field Operations/Streets

- Hot mix crew excavated and applied 1,200 s.f. of hot mix at 111 Tanglewood Lane on Bent Lane.
- Street crew spread fill dirt, placed mulch, and hauled debris at the 896 water tank.
- Street crew cleaned paper and debris from yard waste pile at Iron Glen Park.
- Catch basin crew excavated old and installed new double catch basin on Gravenor Lane.
- Street crew excavated and regraded approximately 50 ft. of new swale in Rahway Drive Park.
- Vehicle 511 was serviced by operator/mechanic.
- Street crew excavated old hot mix, curb, and sidewalk for future repairs at 300 Arbour Drive.
- Street crew exchanged and delivered trash cans for Refuse Department.
- Sign crew repaired and replaced signs and poles as needed.
- Sidewalk sweeper continued with duties on Main Street.
- Vac-all continued working on catch basin cleanings as per schedule.

## **Parks & Recreation**

### Administration – Charlie Emerson

I conducted park inspections this week and forwarded items requiring attention to Tom.

I committed a good amount of time working with DeIDOT and Pennoni on matters relating to the permanent and temporary construction easements for the Pomeroy Trail.

We pushed back the bid opening date for the Hill Park Baseball Field Fence and Back stop Replacement contract to revise plans for dug out construction.

I attended a meeting of the Newark Bicycle Committee.

Many of our summer camps started this week. Recreation personnel have been extremely busy making sure everything got off to a good start.

As part of the Emily Bell Place subdivision and street project, working with the City, the developer and contractor constructed a new entrance to the park and center on Emily Bell Place. In addition, they closed off the old entrance/exit on New London Road and added sidewalk as needed. The new entrance/exit is now in use.

### Recreation – Joe Spadafino

Joe, Paula, Tyler and Sharon conducted a joint orientation for summer camp staff on Thursday, June 17 for approximately 35 employees. Paula, Tyler and Sharon then split off and conducted program specific orientations with their summer staff on Friday, June 18. All camps begin Monday, June 21. Paula and Tyler met with the Public Health

inspectors to complete the licensing procedures for their camps. Paula, Tyler and Sharon prepared necessary paperwork for the camps first day and normal daily operation.

Soccer Camp was held at West Park Elementary with 15 kids enrolled.

The Dangerous Camp for Boys was held all week at the George Wilson Center with 8 enrolled.

Tyler prepared materials and met with the Trip Leader for the Bus Trip to New York City held on Wednesday, June 16 with 40 people.

The community events staff has been busy preparing for summer programs, including Safety Town, Tot Lot, Art Camps, and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks.

### Parks & Horticulture – Tom Zaleski

Parks personnel assisted Carol with preparations for the City Hall window replacement project.

Tom worked on these items this week:

- A reforestation grant application
- Participated in a pre-bid meeting at Hill Park (baseball field)
- Participated in our summer camp staff orientation discussing play ground safety
- Met with a Eagle Scout candidate to discuss park project ideas
- Attended a Sustainable Landscape Workshop

We committed a lot of time watering newly planted landscaping

Parks personnel spent a good amount of time delivering supplies and materials to various summer program/camp sites.

KRS/mp