

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

July 16, 2010

Planning & Development

Planning

Work has begun preparing materials for the upcoming August 3, 2010 Planning Commission meeting. Tentatively scheduled for review is a proposed WSFS Bank at the southwest corner of the intersection of Elkton Road and Christina Parkway extended.

The Planning and Development Department has begun researching the possibility of amendments to the Zoning Code that would allow indoor recreational uses with a special use permit in industrial zones.

At its meeting Monday evening City Council approved a special use permit to allow the sale of beer or wine at the Seasons Pizza facility at the intersection of E. Main and S. Chapel Streets.

Community Development

Planner Mike Fortner continues to work on the Grantee Performance Report that will be forwarded to New Castle County for the City's use of the 35th Year of CDBG funding.

Mike also met with two organizations that are considering applying for next year's CDBG and Revenue Sharing Programs.

The Newark Residents Survey has been posted on the City website.

Parking

This morning Parking Administrator Marvin Howard attended a preconstruction meeting concerning the repaving of municipal lots #1 and #3.

Code Enforcement

Work continues preparing amendments to the 2009 Building Codes.

Public Works

Engineering/Planning and Inspection

- Temple Beth El: Held pre-construction meeting on-site with SCA Construction, Dave Roser, and Tom Reed. Discussed erosion & sediment control and stormwater management. Sent meeting minutes to all attendees.

- Weekly Erosion & Sediment Control Inspections: Performed weekly Erosion & Sediment Control Inspections at University of Delaware (Cross Walk, Advanced Utility Installation on Lovett Avenue, and Penny Hall Steam Line Installation, 108 E. Main Street, and 129 E. Main Street.
- Wyncliff: Met with builder on site and went over outstanding items remaining for the conditional acceptance of the development. Called homeowner regarding forming of maintenance corporation.

Field Operations/Streets:

- Concrete crew excavated, formed, and poured 292 s.f. of sidewalk at 300 Arbour Drive.
- Catch basin crew rebuilt catch basin at 1 Patrick Henry Court and 1 Nathan Hale Court.
- Hot mix crew applied base hot mix at 300 Arbour Drive.
- Loader cleaned up and hauled away brush that was dumped outside of gate at 896 water tank and placed mulch outside of gate.
- Street crews assisted Refuse Department on three man packer and delivered cans citywide.
- Street crews unloaded and stockpiled new recyclable cans in the City yard.
- Marked out for future street repairs on Academy Street.

Parks & Recreation

Administration – Charlie Emerson

I committed a large amount of time reviewing and commenting on the Pomeroy and Newark Rail Trail contract document and final drawings. Other City personnel are doing the same. Comments will be forwarded to Pennoni when everyone has completed their review.

I met with a representative of DeIDOT's Traffic Division and one of their consultants at Olan Thomas Park to discuss whether or not it might be feasible to transform part of the site to a skate spot. This site was suggested at a meeting of neighbors to the Old Paper Mill Road site as an alternative to locating the skate spot at the Old Paper Mill Road site.

Recreation – Joe Spadafino

Paula sent out email blasts to fitness class participants, before and after care and preschool participants reminding them to register for the upcoming programs.

Paula worked with the fitness instructors regarding upcoming classes, sending rosters and attendance sheets and confirming participants.

Paula sent out letters to the 3rd session participants for Rittenhouse and Hobbit Camps, the full-day and half-day Multi-Sports Camps, Lacrosse Camp, Sports Squirt Camp and the Golf Camp.

Tyler and Joe met with Principal Schwartz at Downes Elementary to discuss the CATCH afterschool program for next year.

I met with the Community Events staff to review the 4th of July fireworks event and clean up.

I worked on the Community Development Block grant application. If awarded, the money would be used to help fund our fee assistance program.

Parks & Horticulture – Tom Zaleski

We committed time this week cutting back plant growth on the trail system adjacent to the Christina Creek.

We did a good amount of landscape watering this week. More rain, please!

The crews continued to do tree work as a result of recent pop-up storms.

Horticulture personnel completed a lawn repair job for the Electric Department.

We water sealed several wood footbridges at various park sites.

Electric

The backyard tree trimming crews are finishing this week. They have been trimming in the older central section around Winslow, Sunset, and Townsend Roads. The older trees in the backyards can be problematic during storms; therefore sending a contractor to blitz these areas helps immensely with reliability.

At the same time, the line crews are busy trimming the 34kV lines. These lines require more care and qualifications to be around, so linemen are the best choice for these jobs.

The University's Barnes and Noble Bookstore Project on Main Street has been reviewed by engineering. A pole will have to be moved for the entrances and a primary feed will be built on Academy Street.

A new cable was installed by a horizontal boring contractor in Timber Creek. A house service had failed several weeks ago and was temporarily repaired. Because of the dry hot weather, the ground has been too hard to drill through until recently.

Water & Wastewater

Plans and specifications for the redrilling of Well 14 are complete. I am working with our consultant and city staff to begin the advertisement and award process of the project.

The recent rains have stirred up the creek prompting us to use the reservoir. When the water clears, we will refill the reservoir.

We received the sanitary sewer easement machine last week. This machine will allow us to more easily clean sanitary sewers in easements behind homes and through wooded areas and fields.

I am reviewing the scope of work for the design services to develop an RFP for our SCADA system for our water and wastewater facilities. I will also be receiving in the near future a scope of work to design our new 16 inch water line crossing of the White Clay Creek. This will give us a second water line across the creek.

Police

On Thursday, July 8th, at 1:38 a.m., Officer Peter Barnes observed a vehicle driven by Delanie Laws, exit parking lot number one without paying for parking services. The vehicle allowed the car in front of it to pay, and then quickly exited the lot before the gate arm closed. Ms. Laws was also not in possession of her vehicle registration and insurance card. She was transported to the Newark Police Department where she was processed and released with a summons.

On Thursday, July 8th, at 1:40 a.m., Cpl. Patrick Craig observed a vehicle driven by Kevin Markle, exit parking lot number one without pay for parking services. He was issued a summons and released.

On Friday, July 9th, at 10:50 p.m., members of the Newark Police Department Street Crime Unit along with a member of the University of Delaware Police Department, who is assigned to the unit, observed a drug transaction involving crack/cocaine. All suspects were arrested.

This week completes the second of three five week training cycles. All officers in the department qualified with firearms and attended classroom training on a variety of subjects. The training began on Tuesday, June 15th and ended on Tuesday, July 13th.

The Newark Police Department has received federal grants for a variety of equipment. This week we should receive the equipment for the security cameras that will be placed downtown in off campus student housing areas. The purpose of installing the cameras is to reduce the chances for students to become victims of crime. We were also awarded a mobile license plate recognition camera. This camera automatically reads each license plate it passes and checks to see if the vehicle is stolen or if the owner is wanted in connection with criminal activity. We are also receiving three vehicle cameras. These cameras will record each motor vehicle stop made by an officer using the equipped police vehicle. The license plate recognition camera and recording cameras will not be installed until the new police vehicles arrive. It is anticipated that the new cars will arrive in the fall.

KRS/mp