

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

August 13, 2010

Water & Wastewater

Dam Removal on the White Clay Creek - I listened to the comments made by the gentleman at the most recent council meeting regarding the removal of dams on the White Clay Creek.

None of the comments that I was able to understand were accurate. Of significance was the often repeated comment about the flood protection afforded by the dams. I can state for a fact that none of the dams proposed for removal or mitigation on the White Clay Creek provide any flood control. The two dams that the City owns at the Paper Mill Road bridge and the head of the raceway are of significant although deteriorating construction. Of the other "dams" one is a concrete encasement of a sewer line (city) and the others (private) are what I would call disassociated rock structures (one would not necessarily call them a dam without knowing the history of the site) and deteriorating structures that served various purposes.

For a dam to provide flood control there would need to be the capacity to collect, store, and gradually release the water after the storm has passed. None of the structures proposed for removal provide that capability and none of them ever have.

UD Coordination - We have been coordinating with the University to complete utility work associated with the University Lovett Street Construction project. In the process of exercising valves for a major shut down, we discovered one valve that was broken and one that does not work. We will be making repairs to these valves at the same time that we have the shut down so that the UD can do their work.

Pipe Repairs - We had another opportunity to use our leak correlator to confirm the presence of and locate a water main break. The equipment was able to pinpoint the location of the leak.

Police

On Monday, August 9th, a suspect was charged with the burglaries that occurred in the early morning hours of Thursday, August 5th on North Chapel Street and the early morning hours of Friday, August 6th on Wilbur Street. In both cases the suspect climbed into bed with a female living in the residence. Newark Police Officers observed the suspect on Main Street on Saturday, August 7th and identified that he fit the description of the composite sketch of the burglar. The suspect was interviewed on Monday, August 9th and admitted to committing the crimes.

On Tuesday, August 10th, at 10:54 a.m., Officer Adam Stevens observed a black Chrysler driving into the Howard Johnson's parking lot. Officer Stevens checked the vehicle registration on his computer and found that the license plate on the car was registered to

a Hyundai. The officer made contact with the male driver and female passenger in the main lobby of the hotel and escorted them out to their vehicle. The male stated he did not have a driver's license or identification in his possession. While Officer Stevens was conducting his investigation, the male suspect ran off. The officer gave chase, and after the suspect ignored several orders to stop, the officer used his taser to bring the suspect to the ground. While attempting to subdue the suspect, the male once again broke free and ran off. Officer Stevens used his taser once again to bring the suspect to the ground. The suspect removed the taser wires from his body and advanced on the officer. Officer Stevens was forced to use his baton to subdue the suspect and he was taken into custody. The suspect was transported to Christina Hospital where he was treated for a broken collar bone. A search of the suspect's vehicle found several article of drug paraphernalia and prescription pills. Both suspects were arrested and charged. The male was found to have a revoked driver's license, was unable to provide registration or insurance information for the vehicle, and had three outstanding arrest warrants. He was admitted to Howard Young Correctional Facility. The female passenger was released on \$1,550 bail.

On Tuesday, August 10th, at 6:11 p.m. a male responded to the Newark Police Department and reported that he was assaulted on Sunday, August 8th at approximately 1:30 a.m. The male stated that at that time, he was walking home from the Deer Park Tavern and when he arrived at the Newark Shopping Center a group of girls said hello to them. A male from the group approached the victim and struck him knocking him to the ground. The following morning, the victim went to the hospital for medical treatment and was found to have a broken eye socket and broken cheek bone.

On Wednesday, August 11th, at 12:04 a.m. a male resident was taking a shower in his Benny Street home, when he looked out of his bathroom window and observed a person staring back at him. The suspect is described as a white male with short dark receding hair. The resident slapped the screen and the suspect ran off.

The Newark Police Department Traffic Bureau has been very successful with its education and enforcement program. As of this date, there have been 78 less traffic accidents compared to this date last year. There has been a substantial reduction in personal and property damage over the course of a year. This weekend, the Traffic Bureau will begin traffic road checks in the downtown area.

Planning & Development

Planning

Work continued this week preparing materials for the upcoming September 7, 2010 Planning Commission meeting. The Commission will consider an amendment to the Zoning Code to allow indoor recreational facilities in industrial parks and a companion request for an indoor volleyball facility at 200 Interchange Boulevard.

At its meeting Monday evening City Council approved a special use permit for a proposed bus stop shelter at Thorn Lane associated with the Studio Green Apartments.

On Tuesday afternoon I joined with DeIDOT, WILMAPCO, Delaware Transit, and Norfolk Southern officials on a conference call concerning a proposed U.S. Department of Transportation "Tiger II" planning grant application. We are considering an application for a detailed planning and design fund for a Newark regional transportation center at the current site of the Newark Passenger Rail Station.

We have received notification from Federal Emergency Management Agency consultants regarding our five year recertification site review concerning Newark's participation in the National Flood Insurance Program's "Community Rating System." As a result of this review, the City has retained its very high "Class 7," which means significant reductions in flood insurance for Newarkers for properties in the 100 year floodplain.

Economic Development

Assistant Planning Director Maureen Feeney Roser continues to prepare for next week's downtown Newark branding site visit with consultants funded through the Delaware Main Street Program.

Maureen also continues to work on the Main Street Mile and the Holiday Ad Campaign.

Community Development

On Thursday Planner Mike Fortner attended a seminar sponsored by the University of Delaware's Institute of Public Administration regarding economic development.

Mike, also this week, distributed the packets containing the CDBG and Revenue Sharing applications, with supplemental information, to members of the Community Development and Revenue Sharing Advisory Committee.

Mike also completed the 35th Year CDBG Program Performance Grantee Report which was forwarded to New Castle County.

Code Enforcement

There will be a final inspection of office space sold to the University of Delaware in the Washington House this week. All the commercial space in this facility is now occupied.

This week the University has applied for a building permit for the Barnes and Noble facility. We hope to have a footing and foundation permit out later next week.

The building plans for the new University of Delaware "ISEB" building at 313 Wyoming Road have been submitted.

The tenant fit out for the relocation of Gambles Florist at 257 E. Main Street has been approved.

Public Works

Engineering/Planning and Inspection

- Contract 10-03 – 2010 Street & Parking Lot Improvement Program:
 - 1) Harmony Construction worked in Parking Lot #1 and completed:
 - 2.5 c.y. of undercut excavation
 - 5.00 tons of base hot mix in undercut excavation
 - 481.46 tons of base hot mix in patch areas
 - 298.20 tons of top hot mix in patch areas
 - 12,189.3 s.y. in. of milling in patch areas
 - 2) Fontana Concrete Contractors worked on Woodsman Drive & Vassar Drive and at Parking Lot #1 and completed:
 - 68.2 s.f. of 6" p.c.c. driveway apron replacement
 - 176.9 s.f. of 4" p.c.c. sidewalk at handicapped ramps
 - 16.0 s.f. of red warning block installation
 - 121.6 s.f. of brick paver replacement
 - 1 single catch basin adjustment and bonnet pour
 - 1,339.3 l.f. of p.c.c. rolled curb replacement
 - 39.9 l.f. of sawcut for p.c.c. removal
- Contract 09-03 – 2009 Street Improvement Program: Met with Mumford & Miller Concrete Inc. representatives to review incomplete punchlist items. Work on punchlist is scheduled to resume on Monday, August 9.
- Reviewed plans and stormwater and sediment controls plans for U of D Barnes & Noble, Rittenhouse Station, U of D ISEB & ECUP Buildings, Interchange Business Park Volleyball Facility, Christina Creek Sanitary Sewer Crossing, and U of D Basketball & Volleyball Training Facility.
- Sediment and Stormwater Regulations: Reviewed revised draft with Stormwater Program Coordinator and sent comments to DNREC.
- Stormwater Management Maintenance/Drainage Agreements: Drafted agreements for the U of D ISEB Buildings, the U of D Basketball-Volleyball Training Facility and the U of D Barnes & Noble Project. Forwarded agreements to owners to sign.
- Rt. 896 Leaf Compost Area Bio-Retention Facility: Worked on revised plan layout and grading of bio-retention facility based on surveyors revised topo of the area. Forwarded to surveyors to redraft the facility and profile with their computer software. Obtained prices for bio-soil mix and mulch. Submitted purchase order request to Public Works Director.

Survey Crew

- Completed Miss Utility Mark-outs as needed.
- Continued meeting with residents in Phase 2.7, and began meeting with residents who received notices of intent for Phase 2.6 of the sidewalk repair program areas to discuss the nature of the violations and provide technical advice on how to conform to current code.
- Acquired weekly gas boy log data at Municipal fueling station, completing the fuel inventory spread sheet for July 2010 and beginning one for August 2010.
- Completed scanning of Police Department plans for digital archiving.

- Acquired additional topographic data at the New London Road leaf pile.
- Began printing a new set of water maps for Utility Inspector.
- Began compiling City boundary information for City Planner.
- Began inspections for Phase 3.1 of the Sidewalk Maintenance Program.

Field Operations/Streets

- Hot mix crew excavated and applied 60 s.f. of Type C hot mix at Country Club Drive and Windsor Drive, 80 s.f. of hot mix at Middle Run Road, and backfilled, topsoiled, and seeded same locations.
- Catch basin crew rebuilt the first catch basin at the entrance way to the Hunt at Louviers.
- Loader was serviced for maintenance by the operator/mechanic.
- Loader and operator are working down at Iron Glen Park moving left over material from tub grinder into new stock pile area.
- Street crews assisted Refuse Department on 3-man packer, on the knuckleboom for special pick-ups, and delivery/pickup of refuse/recycling cans.
- Street crew repaired the storm sewer line at White Chapel.
- Street crew put mulch outside of gate at 896 water tank.
- Sign crew repaired and replaced signs and poles as needed and installed 6 new parking meter posts on Main Street.

Parks & Recreation

Administration – Charlie Emerson

Tom and I met with the Downtown Partnership's Design Committee to discuss our Main Street trees and future plans.

Last Tuesday we had a bid opening for the LeRoy Hill Park Fence and Backstop replacement contract. Four (4) bids were received. We're checking references and will soon forward a recommendation to the City Manager's Office.

I'm doing some research of the Federal Highway Administration's Transportation Enhancement program as a possible funding source for maintenance needs at the Old Train Station.

The recreation staff has done a great job overseeing our outdoor summer program participants, instructors and counselors. The long period of 90 plus degree days with high humidity has been a challenge. I'm very happy with their efforts!

Recreation – Joe Spadafino

Paula conducted the soccer skills night for the upcoming youth soccer league. A make up skills night and draft will be held with the coaches and practices will start the week of August 16th.

Paula contacted the fitness instructors and sent current rosters to them for classes starting this week. She also sent out first day letters to the soccer camp participants registered for the upcoming camps.

Paula and the Preschool Administrator reviewed the applications submitted for the assistant preschool teacher and set up interviews with candidates.

Paula completed the last two playoff schedules for the adult volleyball leagues and sent the information to the coaches. Updated schedules and standings for the adult softball and volleyball leagues were posted on the City website.

Camps held at the George Wilson Center this week included: Safety Town, Art Camp, and two Computer Explorers Camps.

The community events staff has been running the Safety Town program at the George Wilson Center. This two week program teaches 4 to 6 year olds the basics about being safe. This week's topics included Strangers, Fire Safety, Animal Safety, 9-1-1, and more. Thank you to NPD and AETNA HHL for all of their support during the program.

Parks & Horticulture – Tom Zaleski

We committed a good amount of time limbing up trees in park areas to an eight foot clearance for mowing operations.

Parks staff and volunteers from Ogletown Baptist Church started topdressing woodcarpet safety surfacing in all play/swing units throughout park system.

The Parks Superintendent completed the following this past week: completed research on possible park maintenance efficiency ideas, started on 2011 operational budget, attended the bid opening for Hill Park baseball field fence/backstop project, attended a meeting with Public Works and the developer at Wyncliff to discuss issues about the storm water basin and bioswale areas, and attended meeting with Parks Director and a DeIDOT representative concerning mowing maintenance of a DeIDOT owned lot at the corner of Capitol Trail and Anna Way.

Building maintenance staff started exterior/interior painting projects at City Hall and Police Station.

Parks staff removed damaged pieces of deck from play unit at Dickey Park that was set on fire. The unit also was washed down to clean off soot. We do have to replace a couple parts, but the unit is still structurally sound.

Electric

Engineering has worked on an alternate route for a second feed for the Lovett Avenue Science Center. The best route is along the Pomeroy Trail, but Delmarva is in litigation about easement issues and no construction can be done until that is resolved. Because of time constraints, other routes are being explored and easements from property owners

will need to be obtained. Currently, the property owners are amicable to the route proposed.

The line crews are setting a pole at Lovett Avenue and Haines Street for the Science Center project. A pole line needs to be moved and has to wait until September because of the curbing construction. By setting one pole on the corner early, an outage to the Student Services Building can be done now instead of when the students are in session.

The crews are also working on crossing the railroad at the College Avenue Bridge. An extension of the 12kV line built from Phillips Avenue Substation earlier this year will go into conduits attached to the bridge.

The horizontal bore contractor finished work by the Pond to feed the Army Reserve Building off Ogletown Road. He is at another location in Nottingham Manor preparing to bore primary cable along Radcliffe Drive to divide up and upgrade the circuits there. Currently there is congestion in the area and aerial primary on backyard pole lines. This project will alleviate the congestion, spread the circuitry out, and create better reliability. Presently, tree problems can create large outages. After the reconfiguration, fewer customers will be affected during an incident.

KRS/mp