

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

August 20, 2010

Police

On Monday, August 16th at 11:52 a.m., Officer James Spadola checked the registration of a vehicle parked on South College Avenue to find the license plate on the car was reported as stolen in New Castle County. Officer Spadola observed the vehicle until a male approached it and opened the trunk. The officer questioned the owner of the vehicle who admitted stealing the license plate and placing it on his vehicle. The suspect was arrested and issued a summons to appear in court.

On Monday, August 16th at 4:00 p.m., members of the Newark Police Department Street Crime Unit conducted a motor vehicle stop in the Newark Shopping Center. The officers detected an odor of marijuana in the vehicle. A search of the vehicle recovered, 76 grams of marijuana, 16 doses of Ecstasy, and drug paraphernalia.

This past weekend the Traffic Bureau began conducting evening road and seatbelt safety checks in the downtown area. These checks will continue through the first week of September.

Beginning on Friday, August 20th, the Newark Police 2010 Fall Crime Suppression Plan will be implemented. Newark Police Department officers along with University of Delaware police officers will be located in concentrated patrol zones in areas surrounding the university campus and off-campus housing areas. Officers will be patrolling in both marked and unmarked vehicles, as well as on foot. This is the third year of our Fall Crime Suppression Plan. As a result of this initiative, since its implementation two years prior the department has seen a significant reduction in street crime. The City of Newark has seen 6 less robberies this year to date, compared to this date last year.

The Newark Police Department has been awarded a \$45,000 grant from the Department of Justice. The grant will pay for two additional surveillance cameras and a "fixed location" automatic license plate reader. The "reader" automatically checks vehicle registrations to see if the vehicle has been reported stolen or wanted.

Planning & Development

Planning

Work continued preparing materials for the upcoming September 7, 2010 Planning Commission meeting. The Commission will review a proposed amendment to the Zoning Code that would permit indoor recreational uses in the MOR (Manufacturing Office Research) district and a companion request for a special use permit for such a facility in the Interchange Business Park.

Economic Development

Assistant Planning and Development Director Maureen Feeney Roser spent time this week preparing for and facilitating the DNP's branding and marketing resource visit from the nationally renowned branding consultants – Arnett Muldrow.

Maureen is also preparing nominations for the 2010 Downtown Delaware Awards to be presented at the Delaware/Maryland 2010 Downtown Revitalization Conference to be held in Rehoboth in September.

Parking

The Parking Division spent time this week managing the construction in Lot #1. We anticipate that this project will be completed on Thursday afternoon and the lots will be fully opened by the weekend.

Code Enforcement

A CO application has been submitted for the addition to the Ivy Hall Apartments; occupancy is anticipated early next week.

The 109 Elkton Road project will be starting shortly (old Daffy Deli site).

Fire Marshal Matt Shumacher will be assisting the University of Delaware in a Fire and Safety Conference dealing with dorm safety this week. This is our third year participating in this important life safety program.

Public Works

Engineering/Planning and Inspection

- U of D Frazier Field: Clark Companies continued stone placement in field area. The Stormtech System installation has been completed and the temporary sediment trap and temporary riprap swale removal has been completed.
- Contract 10-03 – 2010 Street & Parking Lot Improvement Program: Fontana Concrete Contractors worked on Vassar Drive completing:
 - 1) 87.5 s.f. of 4" p.c.c. handicapped ramp sidewalk installation
 - 2) 8.0 s.f. of red truncated dome block installation
 - 3) 21.00 tons of base hot mix patching at curbs
 - 4) 956.9 l.f. of p.c.c. rolled curb replacement
 - 5) 12.0 l.f. of sawcut for concrete removal
- Performed a quarterly routing inspection at the maintenance yard as per our industrial NPDES permit.
- Responded to an inquiry about a University of Delaware pool draining operation planned, and coordinated a response with DNREC and the Water and Wastewater Department, due to the potential for zinc floc, rust, chlorine and cleaning agents in the discharge.

- Sent an educational mailing to civic associations who retain maintenance responsibility for their stormwater management areas.
- Performed a quarterly wet visual monitoring inspection at each of the four outfalls from the Maintenance yard, as per our industrial NPDES permit. Copies of the inspections were also placed in Ed's files.
- U of D Basketball & Volleyball Training Facility: Reviewed revised Site and Sediment & Stormwater Plans and Stormwater Management Report. Public Works forwarded an approval letter to the Engineer.
- U of D ISEB & ECUP Buildings: Reviewed revised Site and Sediment and Stormwater Plans. Public Works forwarded copy of approval letter to engineer.
- The Greene & Villages at Twin Lakes: Public Works received the CIP's from the owner and distributed the plans to the other departments for their comments. The Public Works Department started reviewing the plans and Stormwater Management Report.
- U of D East Campus Dormitories Meeting: Met with the U of D, Public Works Director, engineer, and architect regarding parking and utility related issues for the proposed project.
- DNREC Maintenance Subcommittee Meeting: Attended a Maintenance Subcommittee Meeting with the Stormwater Program Coordinator regarding stormwater facility maintenance with regard to the new regulations.

Survey Crew

- Began compiling data for certified letters for part of Phase 3.1 of the Sidewalk Maintenance Program.
- Continued compiling City boundary information for City Planner.
- Inspected and mailed 16 Sidewalk Obstruction Notices along Barksdale Road and other locations within the City.
- Modified the dimensions and began marking out the soccer fields at Fairfield Park and Kells Park.
- Measured, marked-out, and graded approximately 1,000 l.f. of curb on Briar Lane and 70 l.f. of valley gutter on Hullahen Court.

Field Operations/Streets:

- Catch basin crew rebuilt the catch basin at the exit roadway at the Hunt at Louviers.
- Loader pushed up brush for Refuse Department at Iron Glen Park and placed mulch outside of gate at 896 water tank.
- Street crews assisted Refuse Department on the three-man packer, picking up bulk items, and delivered new recycling cans
- Street crew ground tripping hazards in the back and front of City Hall and on Apple Road.
- Street crew replaced storm sewer manhole and poured new concrete to secure it on S. College Avenue at Amstel Avenue.
- Dropped off and picked up barricades for block party on Apple Road.
- Street crew cut-up, loaded, and hauled away debris from fallen tree from blocked roadway on Allison Lane.

- Sign crew repaired and replaced signs and poles as needed and implemented detour and road closures for the installation of the new manhole on S. College Avenue.

Parks & Recreation

Administration – Charlie Emerson

I committed time working with DeIDOT Real Estate personnel on items relating to construction easements for the Pomeroy Trail project

I had discussions with the developers for the Barnes and Noble project on minor revisions to the project's landscape plan.

I completed a review of the CIP for the Villages of Twin Lakes and forwarded comments to Public Works.

Recreation – Joe Spadafino

The final session of Rittenhouse Camp was completed. All the sessions went well and the kids had a great time at “mud camp”!

Trophies were distributed to the volleyball league champions and softball playoff champions. Playoff information was updated on the City website.

Paula conducted the make-up soccer skills session and soccer draft with coaches. Coaches selected their teams and then rosters and practice schedules were emailed to them. Equipment was distributed to the fields in preparation for the start of practices on August 16.

Paula conducted a wrap up summer volleyball season meeting with the coaches to address some concerns with the league rules and some changes for the next season.

Sharon and Ann held the second week of Safety Town with 56 children in the first session and 17 in session II. Strangers visited Safety Town on Monday to see how well the children learned their lesson about strangers. On Tuesday, Session I children enjoyed a field trip to the Newark Police Department while Session II visited the Fire Station. Wednesday was vehicle day. Participants enjoyed seeing vehicles and personnel from the City of Newark Police Department, New Castle County Mounted Police, the Delaware State Police Helicopter, and Fire equipment from Aetna Hose, Hook, and Ladder. Thank you to all of the staff and volunteers who provided support to this program.

Registration for Newark Community Day continues to come in. The registration deadline for the event is August 20. Groups may still register until September 16 however, they will be charged a \$10 late fee. As of August 6, there were 48 groups or individuals registered for the event.

Camps held at the George Wilson Center this week included: Safety Town, Computer Explorers and Rock and Roll Robots camp.

The George Wilson Park and Dickey Park pools closed for the season at the end of the day on Saturday, August 14.

We continue to prepare for the upcoming fall registration period that will begin Monday, August 23. This includes inputting data entry information and organizing the fall e-newsletter, printing flyers and completing news releases.

Parks & Horticulture – Tom Zaleski

We made adjustments to the City Hall elevator hydraulic fluid overflow container and cleaned floor of the elevator shaft.

We placed mulch in several planting beds.

A very large tree came down in Rittenhouse Park. As it fell, it knocked over other trees which landed on private property. We committed a significant amount of time cutting and removing the tree that fell on private property.

Electric

The lighting project is going well at City Hall. The electricians have been busy retrofitting the lights with new reflectors, lamps, and ballasts. The reflector manufacturer made a video of the electricians changing out an office and interviewed them on camera for their marketing. The before and after light readings showed higher levels with half the energy being used. Now that the electricians are movie stars, they are looking for agents.

The horizontal bore contractor has been pulling in cables along Radcliffe Drive for the Nottingham upgrade. Engineering has met with several homeowners about the placement of junction boxes along the route.

The easement issues for the alternate route to feed the Lovett Avenue Science Center has potentially been resolved. Homeowners have given a verbal approval. Legal documents have been drawn up and the University notified about the cost of procuring the easement.

The line crews have been working on maintenance items. Some are from a list of outstanding items, i.e. go back and fix something that was temporarily repaired in the middle of the night or a storm, and others are the result of pole testing, i.e. a sixty-year old pole at the East Main Substation has less than 50% of its strength left and needs replacing.

Engineering is in negotiations with a telecom company about putting an antenna at West Main substation. The antenna would go on an existing pole and the company would rent the space for a monthly fee.

Water & Wastewater

This week I attended a meeting of the Delaware Clean Water Advisory Committee. A workshop has been scheduled for later this year to discuss a statewide assessment of the wastewater facilities in the State of Delaware which is being developed by Tetra Tech. Tetra Tech has already been in contact with me gathering information to begin putting this assessment together.

I also attended a presentation sponsored by the American Public Works Association (APWA) regarding the use of Structural Soil. Proper use of structural soil will provide conditions suitable for trees and other vegetation to thrive and grow in parking lots and in sidewalk planting strips without the use of large planting islands or planting pockets while avoiding the damage usually associated with tree roots and pavement. I have literature sources that I will share with other City departments. I plan to use this material to construct the access easement between the houses along Arbour Drive leading to my sewer crossing project. This material will support maintenance vehicles and still allow the development of vegetation.

Bids are due next week at 2:00 p.m. on the 24th for the redrilling of Well 14. I plan on having an award recommendation for the Council at the September 13 meeting.

I am working on another agreement to place communication equipment on the Main Street water tank. When signed this will be the fifth agreement to lease space on the tanks at a rate of \$2,500/month. I hope to have this agreement for the Council to consider at the September 13 meeting.

KRS/mp