

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

September 24, 2010

Water & Wastewater

I attended the Water Supply Coordinating Council Meeting this week. Weather forecast predicts continued dry weather unless we are able to pick up some rain from a passing tropical storm. We will have a phone conference in two weeks to discuss the water situation after we have complete information for the month of September. This summer has been very dry.

We have been checking valves in anticipation of the construction project on Elkton Road so that we can make the necessary shut downs to accommodate the replacement of water lines associated with the project.

We have issued a purchase order to:

1. Rebuild a spare backwash pump at the Newark Treatment Plant.
2. Supply a new high efficiency motor for the rebuilt pump.
3. Remove the old backwash pump and motor. (Stuffing box can no longer be adjusted and must be replaced, pump and motor unit has also been in service for 18 years.)
4. Install the new motor and rebuilt pump.
5. Rebuild the old pump and motor and return to us for storage and future use.

This work will allow us to replace the current backwash pump and motor with limited down time of the Newark Treatment plant. It costs us about \$2,000 a day to purchase water to replace the production from one of our plants so it is prudent to keep spare components of our critical infrastructure elements.

Police

Our K9 partners continue to be active. On Wednesday, September 15th, Corporal Jones and his K9 partner Paco stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation on South College Avenue. The driver was found to be in possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia. On Thursday, September 16th, Cpl. La Rue and his K9 partner Sjors stopped a vehicle on Christina Parkway for travelling a speed of 106 mph. The driver was arrested for DUI. On Friday, September 17th, Corporal Jones and his K9 partner stopped a vehicle in the Burger King parking lot. The driver was arrested for DUI, possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

Last week Detective Fred Nelson arrested one of the suspects in the robbery that occurred on Saturday, August 28th. In that robbery two university students were walking on North Chapel Street when two females approached them, sprayed them with pepper spray and stole their purses. Detective Nelson has identified the second suspect and the investigation is continuing.

On Saturday, September 18th, a Kells Avenue resident awoke at 4:30 a.m. to find a stranger in his bedroom. The resident and his roommate chased the suspect from the house and held him until the police arrived.

On Saturday, September 18th, at 11:04 p.m., Officers Hodge and Marsilli were dispatched to Margherita's Pizza on a report of a fight in progress. Upon arriving at the scene, witnesses reported that approximately seven males severely beat the victim, breaking his jaw. The investigation revealed that a suspect yelled out to a female in the victim's company. The two had words and the suspects began to beat the victim before running down Main Street. When the initial call came into the police station, Lt. Hargrove activated the security cameras that were recently installed on Main Street. The cameras captured the suspects running down Main Street; with one suspect removing his red sweatshirt as he ran. The cameras tracked the suspects into a parking lot. Patrol officers were alerted and responded to the area where they located and arrested several of the suspects. The newly installed camera system will be fully operational the week of September 27th. Based on this one incident, the cameras should be a valuable asset to ensuring safety in the downtown area.

The Patrol, K9, and CID divisions, all continue to do an outstanding job with our fall crime suppression plan. The number of robberies has been reduced by 5 from this same time period last year. Numerous alcohol and disorderly premise arrests continue to be made.

The Traffic Division had been very active with traffic education and enforcement. The four members of the Traffic Division have been conducting pedestrian enforcement in the downtown area as well as speed and other traffic enforcement throughout the city. As a result of these efforts, the number of motor vehicle accidents has been reduced by 87 from the same time period last year. The division will be reduced to three officers while Cpl. Bolden attends a three week SWAT training program.

On Tuesday, September 21st, Det. Michael Van Campen received a Certificate of Appreciation for his work on Organized Crime Drug Task Forces from the Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice and the Department of Treasury.

Planning & Development

Planning

We have spent time this week on the relocation of the "Recognizable Something" sculpture to be reincorporated at the 129 E. Main Street site.

Economic Development

Assistant Planning and Development Director Maureen Feeney Roser managed the Downtown Newark Partnership booth for Community Day this past Sunday.

Maureen has also met with a Hotel and Restaurant Management “Renaissance Scholar” UD student and an Urban Affairs graduate student to discuss internship assistance with DNP projects.

Maureen has also spent time working on the upcoming Main Street Mile, scheduled for Saturday, October 2nd as well as October 3rd's Taste of Newark.

Community Development

Planner Mike Fortner attended Thursday's WILMAPCO Technical Advisory Committee meeting.

Later on Thursday, Mike attended the Newark Bicycle Committee meeting. The Committee reviewed and prioritized downtown locations for 16 bicycle racks provided to the City by DeIDOT.

Parking

Time continues to be spent working on the Barnes and Noble parking facility.

The Division has also spent time this week locating vehicles on our parking tow list to ensure that required fines are paid.

Code Enforcement

The annual fraternity and sorority safety meetings and inspections will wrap up this week and next.

The University's Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering Building will have its building permit issued later this week.

Architectural drawings for the Barnes and Noble facility have been received and are under review. The footings and foundation permits have been issued.

Public Works

Engineering/Planning and Inspection

- Contract 10-03 – 2010 Street & Parking Lot Improvement Program: Fontana Concrete Contractors completed curb replacement on Old Oak Road and began curb replacement work on White Chapel Drive.
- Erosion & Sediment Control Inspections: Performed site inspections at Laura's Glen, Mayer Subdivision, 2 Old Casho Mill Road, University of Delaware Advanced Utility Package and Penny Hall, and 108 and 129 E. Main Street.
- Met with Jen Pyle from the University of Delaware to discuss our pending DNREC application, rain barrel workshop, and Community Day booth.
- Set up a stormwater booth at Community Day with the University of Delaware.

- Performed quarterly chemical and biological stream adoption tasks at Rittenhouse Park, and sent associated documentation to DNREC.

Field Operations/Streets

- Hot mix crews excavated and applied 200 s.f. of hot mix at Sunset Road and Apple Road.
- Backhoe Operator assisted Electric Department with installation of underground trenching near the old train station.
- Loader and Operator pushed up brush for Refuse Department at Iron Glen Park.
- Delivered trash cans for Refuse Department.
- Street crew are cutting swales and regrading area around the bio-retention pond at the 896 water tank.
- Catch basin crew rebuilt catch basin at 203 Wilson Road.
- Street crew saw cut 4 locations on the Jim Hall Trail for future hot mix repairs for the Parks Department.
- Repaired and replaced signs and poles as needed and implemented and took down the detour for Community Day and assisted Parks Department with Community Day activities.

Parks & Recreation

Administration – Charlie Emerson

I met with Hal Prettyman regarding certain requirements for his project at 140 E. Cleveland Avenue.

The Conservation Advisory Commission did not have a quorum for its September meeting Tuesday night.

Wednesday night Sharon, Joe and I attended the Memorial Day Parade Committee meeting. The Parks and Recreation Department has been asked to take over the duties of working with the committee to help coordinate the event and the assistance of other City departments as needed.

Tom and I attended a meeting with other City personnel and members of the Newark Bicycle Committee to discuss the placement of 16 bike racks provided to the City by DelDOT. The racks will be placed at locations along Main Street.

I conducted park inspections and provided Tom with follow-up information on locations and items needing attention.

I'm continuing to work with Roger Akin's office to create a Wetland Conservation Easement agreement, as required by the Army CORPS, for a wetland area along the proposed Pomeroy and Newark Rail Trail.

I also spent time working with and discussing construction easement matters, relating to the Pomeroy Trail, with DeIDOT's real estate office.

Recreation – Joe Spadafino

Paula started working on gathering information for programs and instructors for the winter/spring season.

Paula went by the After School Program at Downes throughout the week. Three new kids were enrolled from the waiting list to fill the program at 60.

Paula continued to confirm adult winter volleyball teams and youth basketball coaches for the coming season.

Paula sent out promotional flyers to previous participants for the Toys for Kids charity softball teams scheduled at the end of October.

Sharon and Ann spent the week preparing for Community Day. There were last minute changes because of reseeding on the Green that made for a challenge at the end of the week, but vendor relocations were successfully accomplished and the vendors were notified without any problems. Community Day was held on Sunday with beautiful weather. The time change this year eased the set up and breakdown of the event. The number of visitors and vendors were down a little from previous years. Community Day was nominated for the BEST EVENT in the News Journal's Reader's Choice Awards. The Best Event section is open for voting until October 8th.

Sharon, Joe and Charlie met with Linda Burns about the Memorial Day Parade. We also attended the Newark Memorial Day Committee meeting in order to introduce ourselves to the committee. Sharon will begin taking over the City responsibilities from Linda Burns.

Tyler and Joe met with the principal at Downes Elementary School regarding the CATCH afterschool program that begins in October.

Primary Election Day voting was held at the George Wilson Center on Tuesday, September 14.

I conducted a Recreation Supervisors meeting to discuss everyone's program areas and updates on City projects and issues.

The recreation staff put together promotional material and display information for our Community Day booth.

Parks & Horticulture – Tom Zaleski

Parks staff replaced the roof on a small block building at Windy Hills water tank site.

We replaced the lexan window and trim at Transfer Station building.

Parks staff prepared soccer fields for mid-week practices and weekend games.

Parks and horticulture staffs loaded all materials/supplies for Community Day. Members of both staffs then set up and took down materials/supplies the day of the event.

In preparation for re-routing a section of washed out trail along the Christina Creek at Abbotsford, we began clearing underbrush in the area of the outfall of the storm water basin.

Horticulture staff completed mulching at City Hall, Redd Park and touching up other horticulture sites.

Tom and Rich started organizing for new roof installation on the Rittenhouse Park camp building.

Tom met with Pat Michini to coordinate efforts to repair a section of Hall Trail in Kells Park. The work should be completed within the next two weeks.

Electric

Engineering personnel attended a two day workshop in Dover on emergency response and preparedness for electric utilities given by FEMA. Engineers and supervisors have periodically been participating in the National Incident Management System training as mandated by Homeland Security. The course covered responses and preparations for natural disasters and terrorist attacks focusing on the electric utility's roles during an incident.

The line crews have been working on crossing the railroad at the College Avenue Bridge. Underground cables tying together aerial lines on each side of bridge have been pulled into conduits attached to the bridge. The line crews are also preparing for a service to the Chrysler site and a service to temporary construction trailers for the Bob Carpenter expansion project.

All the danger poles identified during pole testing have been replaced and the services to the University's Public Safety cameras mounted on utility poles have been energized.

KRS/mp