

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

October 1, 2010

Police

On Thursday, September 29th, at 9:53 p.m., Corporal Chris Jones observed a vehicle travelling on Christina Parkway. Corporal Jones stopped the vehicle for driving without its headlights illuminated. A check of the driver revealed that he was a wanted person out of Pennsylvania. The driver and passenger admitted they had purchased six bags of heroin in Philadelphia and had just consumer all six bags. A search of the vehicle discovered fourteen hypodermic syringes. One of the syringes still had heroin in it. Numerous empty heroin packets were found, as well as six spoons with heroin residue on them. Both suspects were placed under arrest.

On Saturday, September 25th, Corporal Di Francesco and Corporal Magorry were on plainclothes patrol. The officers observed a group of males standing between a garbage dumpster and a fence on the Laird Campus. As the officers approached, they observed one of the males smoking a marijuana cigarette. The suspect was arrested and found to be in possession of a bag of marijuana. He was also found to have consumed alcohol while underage. The suspect was charged with possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, and underage consumption of alcohol.

On Sunday, September 26th, at 4:52 a.m., Officer Spadola arrested a 20-year-old male for breaking into vehicles in the Apple Road area.

On Sunday, September 26th, at 6:22 p.m., Officer Menden was dispatched to the College Square Shopping Center on a report of a woman acting irrationally. The officer spoke with the woman who thought she was at an airport. The woman attempted to spray Officer Menden with liquid from an aerosol spray bottle and had to be restrained. Crisis Intervention was contacted and the woman was committed for evaluation.

An armed robbery occurred at the Mi Ranchito Store, 13 North Chapel Street, on Monday, September 27 around 2:50 p.m. The suspect entered the store, displayed what appeared to be a shotgun and demanded money. The clerk surrendered cash, and then the suspect ordered the clerk into a storage closet. The employee stayed in the closet until she heard the suspect leave the store.

The suspect is described as a Hispanic male, 20 to 25 years of age, about 5' 1" tall. He was wearing a black jacket with two thin white stripes running down the arms, baggy pants, brown wrap-around style sunglasses, and a New Era baseball cap with a yellow front panel, a dark rear panel, an unknown logo on the front, and the New Era sticker still on the brim.

The employee, a 28 year-old female, was not injured. We thank Marta Pacheco for translating the victim's statement to the police.

Planning & Development

Planning

Because applications were not received by the required deadlines, the October 5, 2010 Planning Commission meeting has been cancelled.

Economic Development

Assistant Planning and Development Director Maureen Feeney Roser spent time this week on the Main Street Mile scheduled for Saturday morning, October 2nd at 8:00 a.m. on Main Street.

Maureen also spent a considerable amount of time this week on the Taste of Newark which will be held on the Old College lawn on Sunday, October 3rd from 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Mike is working on the Annual Report for the upcoming DNP Meeting and Celebration.

On Tuesday the Downtown Newark Partnership received recognition for two of its initiatives at the 2010 Downtown Delaware Awards Ceremony, in conjunction with the DE/MD Revitalization Conference held in Rehoboth Beach, DE. The awards were presented to individuals who best embodied Downtown Delaware's mission of providing Delaware's historic downtowns, communities, and small businesses with tools to revitalize their commercial districts, increase entrepreneurship and innovation, and enhance quality of place. Specifically the DNP was recognized for:

BEST DOWNTOWN RETAIL EVENT

Food & Brew Fest

BEST ECONOMIC RESTRUCTURING STORY

Downtown Gift Card Program

Community Development

On Tuesday evening Mike met with the Community Development Block Grant Revenue Sharing Advisory Committee to continue this year's grant review process.

On Wednesday Mike met with the staff of the New Castle County Department of Community Services to monitor the 35th year CDBG Program.

Parking

Work continued assisting the University of Delaware in developing specifications for the Barnes and Noble parking lot and parking facilities.

Code Enforcement

Fraternity and sorority inspections continue and should be finished up by the end of next week.

Site work has begun on the University's East Campus utility plant.

Public Works

Engineering/Planning and Inspection

- Contract 10-03 – 2010 Street and Parking Lot Improvement Program:
 - 1) Harmony Construction completed the milling and base hot mix installation on Hullahen Court.
 - 2) Fontana Concrete Contractors completed curb and sidewalk work on Old Oak Road and White Chapel Drive. Crew also completed 90% of the curb and sidewalk work on Adelene Avenue.
- 2 Old Casho Mill Road: Met with developer on site to discuss requirements for street patching after water and sewer for the lot are installed.
- Attended a Creek Fest informational meeting with the White Clay Wild and Scenic Program River Administrator and the Recreation Superintendent.
- Met with two representatives from North Creek Nurseries to discuss a planting plan for the 896 bio-retention basin.
- Met with the Engineering Assistant and Public Works Director to discuss select questions on the mandatory EPA stormwater questionnaire. Continued compiling our answers and entering them into the spreadsheet.
- Worked with the Community Affairs Officer to advertise the rain barrel workshop through City service emails. The response was overwhelming: The class filled in the first hour, and the waiting list was full 10 minutes after that.
- Woods at Louviers: Started working on final punchlist on Phase 4 for the Woods at Louviers for final acceptance.
- University of Delaware Advanced Utility Package: Brandywine Construction worked on the punchlist completing patch at handicap ramp area. Contractor re-installed non-compliant brick pavers at handicap ramp and added handicap ramp dome pavers at the intersection of Academy Street.
- University of Delaware Bob Carpenter Center Basketball and Volleyball Facility: Performed perimeter erosion and sediment control inspection with contractor, CCR, and site contractor prior to bulk grading.
- City of Newark Water Tank Bio-Retention Basin: Helped with City Public Works crew on bio-retention basin behind 896 water tower.
- Marrows Court: Tassone Concrete replaced 17 l.f. of integral curb and gutter with handicap ramp and 142 s.f. of 4" p.c.c. sidewalk with handicap ramp using Class B concrete.
- The Greene & Villages at Twin Lakes: Reviewed revised CIP comments for E&SC as submitted by the Engineer.
- Suburban Plaza II, WSFS Project: Started reviewing revised plans and stormwater report.

- U of D Barnes and Noble: Public Works has approved the Construction Improvement Plans for the Project Engineer and has forwarded required copies of plan for distribution.
- U of D East Campus Housing: Met with Engineer regarding preliminary stormwater management approach for the project.
- 2010 Delaware Sustainability conference: Attended one day conference with Special Projects Coordinator.
- 503 Nottingham Road: Issued a Standard Plan E&SC Permit to the Owner for the construction of a four car garage.
- 768 Oriole Drive: Met with owner and Special Projects Coordinator regarding drainage concern on property.

Field Operations/Streets

- Catch basin crew rebuilt catch basin at 101 S. Chapel Street.
- Street crew patched curb at 5 Timber Ridge Court and ground tripping hazard at the handicap ramp at the intersection of Hidden Valley Drive and Rising Road.
- Street crew applied grass seed, topsoil, and matting material on previously graded areas at 896 leaf pile near the bio-pond and backfilled and seeded Apple Road and Sunset Road where curb and sidewalk work had been previously completed for the handicap ramp.
- Street crew loaded and hauled 4 loads of sweeper material from the city yard to the landfill and loaded and hauled previously excavated material left over from work completed for the Electric Department.
- Street crew unloaded and put together new yardwaste cans for the Refuse Department.
- Street crews continue working on calibrating salt spreaders on dump trucks with the Maintenance Department, most recently truck 553.
- Repaired and replaced signs and poles as needed and painted yellow curb at fire hydrant locations on Choate Street and New Street and 1 location on New London Road.

Parks & Recreation

Administration – Charlie Emerson

I committed a good amount of time this week preparing materials for a power point presentation on the Hall and Pomeroy Trails for two workshops that I will attend in October as a presenter. The first will be at the Delaware Trail Summit to be held in Rehoboth on October 14 and then on Friday, October 22 at the IPA Local Government Institute's "Building Healthy, Sustainable and Connected Communities" workshop in Georgetown.

Several members of the Parks and Public Works Departments viewed a Web Broadcast titled "Urban Street Trees".

I met with Tyler and Joe to get an update from them on their research of skate spots. Over the next few weeks we plan to speak with representatives of municipalities that have constructed skate spots and gather information about design, construction costs, maintenance, noise levels, community support, etc. We'll likely visit some of the locations as well.

Recreation – Joe Spadafino

Paula coordinated with Zumba and Archery instructors for the start of their classes this week.

Paula continued her effort to recruit youth basketball league participants for our fall/winter leagues. She also continued to verify volunteer coaches for each league. She worked on the rules for the upcoming coaches meetings.

Paula sent letters to the contracted organizations who provide officials for the summer softball and volleyball leagues regarding the fees for next year.

Paula confirmed the winter volleyball league teams for this season. Both leagues will have 8 teams and games will be played at Newark Charter School on Wednesday and Thursday evenings.

The Fall Flea Market was held at the George Wilson Center on Saturday, September 25. Vendor registration was down – 9 total, but overall it was a nice day with great weather and an average turnout of customers.

Sharon and Ann have been wrapping up items associated with Community Day. They met with the parks staff and Recreation Superintendent about the event. Volunteer service hour letters were sent to volunteers from the event. Sharon worked on the event finance tracking.

Sharon created an event planning presentation for a U of D Hotel and Restaurant Management Class. She gave the presentation on Monday, September 27th.

The Fall Community Clean Up will be held on Saturday, October 2nd. There are currently few volunteers signed up for the Clean Up. A second effort has been made to contact local schools, volunteer groups, and individuals that have participated in clean ups in the past in order to increase the number of participants.

Liz and I are preparing an abbreviated fall newsletter that includes programs that run from October through December in an effort to increase marketing for those remaining programs.

I am meeting with the recreation staff on winter/spring program plans and the organization of the next e-newsletter.

Parks & Horticulture – Tom Zaleski

We replaced the shingle roof on the block building at Rittenhouse Park.

We repainted the playing lines on the basketball courts at Dickey Park.

Parks and horticulture staff stored away materials/supplies from Community Day including cleaning up the Green at the University.

Horticulture staff mulched the landscaped traffic medians on Elkton Road.

Tree roots have caused a section of the Hall Trail in Kells Park to heave. Public works personnel removed the asphalt surface and we cut back the trees roots. Next week we will resurface the area with asphalt. The trail has been temporarily rerouted.

We painted the tennis wall at Kells Park.

Tom continued working with the owner and site superintendent at 129 East Main Street concerning the tree pit installation including the up light, tree grate/frame and tree planting. He is also providing coordination between the City Electric Department and the electrical contractor/site superintendent for the photo cell/electrical hook up of up light.

The contractor started preparing the soil and installing a "Rain Garden" in Rittenhouse Park. The Rain Garden is being placed in an area of the park which stays wet a good part of the year.

Tom met with a UD student representative about doing a trash clean up along the Christina from the I-95 south on ramp north to behind the Dunkin Donuts site.

Electric

A fiber optics company has requested to attach to 200 City poles. It is necessary for engineering to survey all the poles to ensure that proper spacing can be maintained between electric, telephone, and cable lines. Currently about 130 poles have been looked at with minor spacing problems.

Engineering is troubleshooting a new relay which malfunctioned and combined with a lightning strike caused a prolonged outage. The circuit was switched and the relay tested. No issues were found with the testing and the associated breaker. Technical support is analyzing the data and resolution will likely involve sending the relay back.

The line crews were called out early Tuesday morning for a pole hit on South College Avenue. A truck broke the pole and crews took four hours to change it out. The line crews have also completed the cable terminations on both ends of the South College bridge. The cable pulled into conduit last week ties aerial lines on both sides of the bridge together.

Water & Wastewater

The rains this week have allowed us to fill the reservoir. We should be able to continue filling for several days before we have to stop again.

I have begun working on plans to install automatic gates at our treatment plants. This is being funded with a state grant to improve security at our treatment facilities.

Bill Zimmerman and I watched a flu pandemic planning webinar this week. We picked up several good ideas that we will keep in mind as we go into the flu season.

KRS/mp