

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

October 22, 2010

Parks & Recreation

Administration – Charlie Emerson

Last Thursday I attended the first Delaware Trails Summit and gave a power point presentation on Newark's trails and their local and regional connectivity. I focused on the James F. Hall and the planned Pomeroy Trail and how they serve as the backbone for non-motorized transportation links in Newark.

On Friday I met with Sharon, Joe and Curt Davis to discuss a couple of issues relating to Newark Nite. In particular, vendor set up and breakdown and opening up the street after the event.

I committed time working with Roger Akin's office and the Army CORP on a Conservation Easement document for a wetland site on the planned Pomeroy Trail.

This Friday I will attend the University of Delaware's Institute of Public Administration's "Local Government Institute" in Georgetown and give a power point presentation. The theme for this year's Institute is "Building Healthy, Sustainable, and Connected Communities."

We completed the installation of four (4) replacement slide units in our parks. The project received a 50% funding match through the Delaware Land and Water Conservation Trust Fund grant program. I'm preparing project reimbursement materials to be submitted later this week.

Recreation – Joe Spadafino

Paula prepared the youth basketball league Skills Day for the Jump Shot and Elementary Leagues and conducted the sessions. Coaches review the skills of the players at the sessions prior to the draft where they select their team members. She also made preparations in advance for the upcoming skills session for the Junior League and draft. She continued to verify coaches practice times and information and sent out another email blast to previous participants reminding them of sign ups.

Paula met with the US Sports Institute representative regarding summer camps for 2011 and some changes/additions that will be made.

Paula stopped by the After Care program at Downes School several times during the week. Preparations are underway for the Harvest Festival scheduled at the end of the month.

The CATCH afterschool program was held on Monday and Wednesday at Downes Elementary School with 13 children, 3 staff and 5 volunteers participating.

Sharon has been preparing for the Halloween Parade. Sixty one applications have been received to date and more are expected in the week leading up to the parade.

The recreation staff continues to work on winter/spring programs as well as the organization of the newsletter.

I am researching skate parks and the design, cost and manufacturing of concrete skate spot features.

Parks & Horticulture – Tom Zaleski

Parks staff completed the removal of large tree stumps that were buried in Phillips Park many years ago and recently caused a sink hole. After removing the tree stumps the hole was back filled and the area seeded.

Parks staff picked up trash collected from a volunteer (U of D students) cleanup along the Christina Creek this past weekend. They focused on the section of the creek from the I-95 south on ramp north to behind Dunkin Donuts.

Tim and Rich committed time working on preparing maintenance cost estimates for Old Paper Mill Road Park and the Curtis Mill site based on the Master Plan concept we and our consultant, Pennoni, are working on.

Parks staff installed a replacement deck on a play unit at Dickey Park. The former deck was damaged by fire.

We started repair work to doors and windows at main City Yard building.

Electric

The lights on the first and second floors of City Hall have been retrofitted with high efficiency ballasts, lamps, and reflectors. Preliminary evaluations show a 30kW reduction in demand with an estimated 100,000kWh per year savings in energy. This will save the City about \$10,000 a year. The lights at the Police Station will be upgraded next and then occupancy sensors will be installed in offices for more energy savings.

Early Monday morning equipment failure on a 34kV transmission circuit caused over an hour long outage. The transition from the aerial circuit to underground cable going under Chestnut Hill Road at Route 72 failed in the rainy conditions. The crews have been busy repairing this issue. The problem could be related to lightning arrestor failures on the circuit in prior weeks. Because of a correlation of the failures to specific brands of lightning arrestors, the line crews have been changing these arrestors to a newer model as a proactive measure to reduce outages.

The line crews have finished removing the aerial wires along the site for the Science Center on Lovett Avenue. Now that the site is clear of electrical services and apparatus, the project is safe to continue. Preparations are being made to install a 750kVA pad mount transformer to feed the cranes needed for construction.

The infrared survey of the circuits has started back up after brief interruptions due to rain. The survey will be completed this week with repairs being made to “hot spots” as quickly as practical.

Water & Wastewater

Final plans and specs for the replacement of the two sanitary sewer lines that cross the Christina Creek will be delivered next week. After final review we will advertise the project. I have been working with the IT Department to advertise the project and provide copies of the plans and specs over the internet to reduce our reproduction and administrative costs.

We have been in communication with the contractor working on Elkton Road. We expect to see construction activity beginning next week. Utility line relocations are supposed to begin on Casho Mill Road. We will incorporate as much system flushing as we can into the work that will be required to make the necessary water system modifications.

Police

On Thursday, October 14th, at 8:53 p.m., Corporal Chris Jones and his K9 partner, Paco, stopped a vehicle for failing to signal a turn. A check of the driver revealed that his drivers' license was suspended and he was wanted out of New Castle County for failure to appear on drug charges. K9 Paco used his sense of smell to locate marijuana and cocaine hidden inside the vehicle. The driver was charged with possession of cocaine, marijuana, and drug paraphernalia. The suspect was committed to the Gander Hill Correctional Facility.

On Friday, October 15th, Newark Police Officers were called to Lieberman's Bookstore on a report of a shoplifting and sell back scheme. Responding officers observed the suspect and arrested him following a brief foot chase. The suspect was charged with shoplifting and one count of conspiracy.

On Saturday, October 16th, two suspects were arrested for a robbery that occurred on Wednesday, October 6th. One suspect was committed to the Young Correctional Facility on \$5,000 bond. The second suspect was released after posting a \$5,000 bond.

On Saturday, October 16th, members of the Newark Police Department Street Crime Unit, observed a group of people acting suspiciously in the area of Christiana Tower East. UDPD Detective Ryan Welsh, a member of the Street Crime Unit, reported that the wooded area surrounding the towers often has drug related activity. The officers approached the group. One of the individuals admitted that they had gone into the woods to smoke marijuana. Upon the completion of the investigation, one of the suspects was charged with possession of marijuana, paraphernalia, and underage consumption of alcohol. Two other individuals in the group were also charged with underage consumption of alcohol.

On Sunday, October 17th, members of the Street Crime Unit observed two males exit the Rodney dorm complex and begin to walk down Dallam Road. The officers observed the suspects smoking a cigarette that contained marijuana. One suspect was charged with possession of marijuana and underage consumption of alcohol. The second suspect was charged with possession of marijuana. Both suspects were released at the scene.

The Fall Crime Initiative continues. This year the Newark Police Department has made 653 alcohol arrests. This is an increase of 125 alcohol arrests from this time last year. We have also made 353 noise/disorderly premise arrests. This is an increase of 101 arrests in this category from this time last year.

On Wednesday, October 20th, a Police Department staff meeting was held to discuss citizen complaints in the area of Ritter Lane and Wollaston Avenue. Complaints made by residents of the George Read Village community were also discussed.

Due to aggressive enforcement efforts, traffic accidents have been reduced by 105 compared to this time last year.

Planning & Development

Planning

On Tuesday evening Planner Mike Fortner and I joined City Manager Kyle Sonnenberg, Recreation Supervisor Joe Spadafino, and Council members Clifton and Temko at a non-profit organization forum held at the Newark Senior Center.

Economic Development

At the DNP Board meeting on Thursday evening staffed by Assistant Planning and Development Director Maureen Feeney Roser, the Board discussed downtown awards; the Great American Main Street application; approved 2011 Committee Work Plans; approved Branding Resources; and reviewed events held in 2010.

Maureen also made preparations for Downtown Delaware's "Idea Exchange for Main Street Managers" that was held on Tuesday morning at Caffé Gelato. Two consultants addressed the group and I provided a brief tour of downtown, including the Washington House condominiums.

Community Development

Planner Mike Fortner continues to work with the Community Development Revenue Sharing Advisory Committee on preparing their recommendations for City Council.

Today Mike will be attending the Chesapeake Science and Security Corridor (CSSC) Regional Rail Committee meeting in Aberdeen, Maryland.

Parking

Time has been spent continuing to review off-street parking designs and layouts for our existing facilities.

Public Works

Engineering/Planning and Inspection

- Contract 10-03 – 2010 Street & Parking Lot Improvement Program: Harmony Construction completed the final paving of Adelene Avenue. This completes the street paving portion of the contract. Spent time inspecting sanitary sewer manholes adjusted on contract and compiled some items for punch list.
- Erosion & Sediment Control Inspections: Performed weekly inspections at 108 and 129 E. Main Street, Laura's Glen, Mayer Subdivision, and 2 Old Casho Mill Road.
- Performed inspection per Whiting Turner request at the University of Delaware Utility Plant and new Science Building during rain event so that the contractor may demo trees and remove hot mix in the parking lot. CCR could not be present.
- Christina Creek Inspection - Wedgewood Road to Nottingham Road: Performed creek inspection and noticed no blockages. Notified Parks Superintendent of several tree issues that could develop into significant problems. A meeting was scheduled to take a look at these tree issues next week.
- Participated in an EPA Watershed Academy webcast, "EPA Healthy Watersheds Initiative: Protecting Our High Quality Waters and Watersheds".
- Investigated an erosion complaint at 807 Briar Lane with the Engineering Assistant.
- Conducted quarterly wet visual monitoring at each of the Maintenance Yard outfalls, in accordance with our industrial NPDES permit.
- Contract 10-02; Handicap Ramp Installations: Fontana completed the following p.c.c. handicap ramps:
 - 1) Replaced a total of 185 l.f. of rolled p.c.c. curb.
 - 2) Replaced 1,122.35 s.f. of 4" p.c.c. sidewalks for handicap ramps.
 - 3) Installed 104 s.f. of red truncated domes.
 - 4) Hot mix patched 9.4 s.y. of hot mix patching using 31 c.y. of Class B concrete.
- University of Delaware – Barnes and Noble Bookstore: Conducted a pre-construction meeting for erosion and sediment control and stormwater management for the new bookstore on Main Street.

Survey Crew

- Located and staked the property line at 304 Walker Way for the Parks Department for relocation of the Redd Park Trail.
- Responded to an overgrowth complaint at 23 Hayden Way and handed a violation notice to the homeowner.

Field Operations/Streets:

- Street crew loaded and hauled 2 loads of sweeper material from City yard to landfill.

- Backhoe pushed up brush and yard waste at Iron Glen Park for Refuse Department.
- Street crew applied crack sealant to the following streets: parts of Country Club Drive, parts of Fremont Road, parts of Courtney Street, Gravenor Lane, Hillside Road, Tyre Avenue, Bent Lane, N. Country Club Drive, Hillside Road, Cambridge Drive, Fir Court, Patrick Henry Court, parts of White Chapel Drive, B Street, Haslet Place, and McKean Place.
- Street crews started first week of the Fall Leaf Collection.
- Cleaned drain between 3 & 5 Julie Lane and cleaned the storm sewer outflow at Wharton Drive.

KRS/mp