

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

October 15, 2010

Public Works

Engineering/Planning and Inspection:

- Contract 10-03 – 2010 Street & Parking Lot Improvement Program:
 - 1) Fontana Concrete adjusted four sanitary sewer manholes on Adelene Avenue.
 - 2) Harmony Construction completed the milling and paving on White Chapel Drive and Old Oak Road. Crews also completed the milling and base hot mix installation on Adelene Avenue.
- Erosion & Sediment Control Inspections: Performed weekly inspections at University of Delaware Lovett Avenue Utility Installation, 108 and 129 E. Main Street, Laura's Glenn, Mayer Subdivision, and 2 Old Casho Mill Road.
- Emailed the EPA Regulated MS4 Stormwater Questionnaire and associated certification statement back to EPA.
- Set up and participated in a Rain Barrel Workshop at the UD-NCC extension office, where participants learned about rain barrels, stormwater, the White Clay Wild and Scenic Program, and the UD-NCC Extension program offerings. In addition, 25 rain barrels were distributed.
- Performed wet weather SWMA inspections during a significant rain event.
- Set up a GIS project to identify and track corrugated metal pipe culvert crossings, and document their condition. In addition, pictures were hyperlinked to the project.
- Woods at Louviers: Finished final acceptance punch list and forwarded to Pulte Homes.

Survey Crew

- Began inspection of Phase 2.7 Sidewalk Program area for reminder letters.
- Mailed Requests for Quotations to contractors for estimates on Phase 2.6 Sidewalk Program.
- Re-staked spillway location at the New London Road bio-retention area for the Street Department.
- Uncovered and located concrete monuments at Cleveland Heights and staked out property line for future fence installation.
- Responded to and inspected two complaints at 10 and 65 S. Fawn Drive for sidewalk obstructions and left notices to correct the problems.

Field Operations/Streets:

- Street crews continued with crack sealing program.
- Street crews are preparing trucks for the fall leaf collection.
- Street crews repaired Hall Trail for Parks Department.
- Street crews completed grading at 896 leaf pile bio-retention area.

Parks & Recreation

Administration – Charlie Emerson

I conducted my bi-monthly Christina Creek and trails inspection this week. Items requiring maintenance attention will be forwarded to Parks.

On Wednesday, I met with representatives of Delaware State Parks to discuss the Pomeroy Trail and related maintenance and management responsibilities.

Tom, Rich G. and I met to discuss the reporting and documentation procedures for graffiti incidents in parks.

Carol Houck and I participated in a conference call with representatives of Pennoni to resume work on the Curtis Mill and Old Paper Mill Road Park Master Plan.

I participated in a walk-thru of McKees Park with Roy Simonson and Rich Lapointe to ID areas needed for utility access in consideration of the installation of fencing around the site.

I committed time this week preparing for a presentation I will make this Thursday at the Delaware Trails Summit. The presentation will focus on the Hall and Pomeroy Trails and their importance for local and regional recreation and alternative transportation.

Recreation – Joe Spadafino

Paula held a winter volleyball coaches meeting for the 16 teams involved. League play will start the second week in November and games will be played at Newark Charter School.

Paula ensured certificates and evaluations were taken out to the Tiny Tot Soccer and Little Kickers Soccer programs in advance of their final days of class next week. She checked in on the Whee Wonna Play Day being held at the Wilson Center in lieu of no school for the Christina School District this past Friday.

Tyler, Joe, Charlie and Kyle visited a skate spot in Silver Spring, MD and attended a very informative skate spot information workshop. Sharon set the dates for the 2011 community events and has been working on facility request forms for upcoming activities.

Sharon created and has been producing road closure notices for upcoming fall events that are being added to utility bills. These notices cover closures for the next three community events (October through December) 2010.

Parks & Horticulture – Tom Zaleski

Parks staff continued working on removing park amenities at McKees Park.

Tom completed "Tree City USA" and "Growth Award" applications for 2010.

We completed the installation of a Rain Garden in Rittenhouse Park.

Tom and Ron attended a workshop at Morris Arboretum on controlling invasive plants in meadows.

Volunteers from a local reality firm did trail maintenance work along the Christina Creek area from Church Road south to Rittenhouse Park. Also a group of volunteers from the University did a clean up along the Christina Creek from the I-95 South on ramp north to behind the Dunkin Donuts.

We are back mowing following a few intermittent rain days.

We want to thank Public Works personnel for replacing a section of the Hall Trail (in Kells Park) that was being heaved/lifted by tree roots.

Tom and Rich started working up maintenance costs estimates for Old Paper Mill Road Park and the Curtis Mill site.

Electric

The line crews executed an important shutdown of University facilities on Saturday, October 9. The shutdown of the Chiller Plant, Brown Lab, and Drake Hall was necessary in order to change the electric feeds from the old pole line that is to be removed to the newly built pole line along Lovett Avenue. The eight hour shut down and construction work could have taken less time, if not for a pole hit on Nottingham Road near Briar Lane, which crews had to attend to immediately. Fortunately, the University was told the work should take four to five hours, but to plan for an eight hour outage.

In the aftermath of the successful changeover of the facilities to the new pole line on Lovett Avenue, the line crews are now moving and upgrading a capacitor bank from the old service and are installing new services to a house and the church on Lovett Avenue. After completing these tasks, the old pole line will be ready for demolition, which is important for the Science Center construction to move forward.

Engineering has met with contractors bidding on Rittenhouse Station. The new apartment complex with commercial space to be built at the Dodge dealership next to City Hall will need underground primary and two pad mount transformers in one section and an aerial service in another section of the project.

Engineering has been working with technical support on a malfunctioning relay reported on two weeks ago. The relay is being sent back for further evaluation. The dialog was helpful because the relay engineers picked up on a wiring issue at the substation. Although not the cause of the malfunction, the issue is a significant mistake by the substation contractors that was not identified during acceptance testing.

Water & Wastewater

The reservoir has been filled to capacity. We used the reservoir for 30 days during the dry spell.

I have been working on revising the emergency action plan for the reservoir as part of the yearly dam safety inspection.

A.C. Schultes is submitting the permit for the redrilling of Well 14. Once the permit is in hand they will begin to drill the new well.

Whitman Requardt is finishing up the plans and specifications for the replacement of the two sewer lines crossing the Christina Creek. I should have a final document by the end of next week. Advertisement of the project should take place early next month.

Survey and wetlands delineation activities have been completed for the design of the new 16 inch water line across the White Clay Creek.

I have reviewed the scope of work for the first phase of our sanitary sewer investigation. I will be discussing my comments with the consultant this week.

T-Mobile and AT&T will be submitting their applications for building permits to install their antenna equipment on the New London Road tank.

Police

It was another busy week for the Newark Police Department regarding alcohol and disorderly premises arrests. There were 38 alcohol arrests and 13 noise/disorderly premises arrests. Officers continue to have a large patrol presence in the downtown area.

An incident involving a shotgun took place at the Main Street Courtyard Apartments located at 329 E. Main St., on Sunday, October 10th around 1:15 a.m. A resident of a third floor apartment returned to the building with friends and found a crowd of people on the common balcony area of the third floor. The crowd was apparently from a party in a nearby apartment that had spilled out onto the balcony. A friend of the resident became involved in an argument, and then a physical fight occurred with a member of the crowd.

In response to the fight, the resident retrieved a shotgun from within his apartment. Upon exiting his apartment, he hit one person in the head with the butt of the gun and pointed the gun at that person, and then fired a shot into the air (the building has no roof overhead). The crowd quickly cleared from the building. During the incident, a window of the suspect's apartment was broken.

Responding officers found the suspect and the shotgun inside his apartment. During a subsequent search, a marijuana grinder and water pipe/bong were also found.

The suspect, who is not a student at the University of Delaware, was charged with Assault 2nd Degree, Reckless Endangering 1st Degree, Aggravated Menacing, Possession of a Firearm during the Commission of a Felony, Discharging a Firearm, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. He was committed to the Young Correctional Facility after failing to post a secured bond in the amount of \$50,150.

On Tuesday, October 12th, three people were arrested after they were apprehended while preparing to steal parts from vehicles at a Newark car dealership. A security officer working for Porter Nissan saw a van pull into the vacant Cleveland Heights neighborhood, but did not notice the van leave. (Cleveland Heights borders Porter Nissan). The guard notified the Newark Police Department.

Responding officers found the van parked in the rear yard of a house, near the fence line of Porter Nissan. The door to the van was open, and the officer saw a person inside. He was taken into custody. Immediately thereafter, two other people who were found crouching behind the house were also taken into custody.

An inspection of the van showed that the rear seats had been removed to provide cargo area. Dark plastic trash bags were taped to the interior of the windows to prevent anyone from seeing inside. Found in the van were a hydraulic jack, a crate of bricks and concrete blocks, bolt cutters, a hammer, two tire wrenches, several lug nut keys, and gloves.

Each of the three suspects was charged with Possession of Burglar's Tools, Attempted Theft, Conspiracy 2nd Degree, and Trespassing. All were committed to the Young Correctional Facility in default of \$7,000 bond.

On Wednesday, October 13th at 1:15 a.m., Corporal Beighley observed a vehicle on Delaware Avenue was driving in a swaying manner from side to side. The vehicle was stopped and the driver was arrested for driving under the influence.

On Wednesday, October 13th, Newark Police assisted in the security for the United States Senate Candidate Debate at the University of Delaware.

Planning & Development

Planning

On Wednesday evening Assistant Planning and Development Director Maureen Feeney Roser and I had the opportunity to review the Department's services and programs for the community with attendees at the City's ongoing Citizen's Academy.

At its meeting Monday evening City Council approved for first reading a series of Code amendments updating the City's Building Code requirements.

Economic Development

Wednesday afternoon the City Manager and I will be participating in a conference call with our economic development consultants to review their initial findings and discuss where we go from here.

Maureen prepared a lengthy nomination from the Downtown Newark Partnership to the National Trust for the City's recognition under the Trust's "Great American Main Street" program.

Maureen has also been preparing the DNP's Annual Report for 2010 to be issued at the Annual Meeting and Celebration on Thursday, November 4th.

Maureen also has been helping to make arrangements for the Downtown Delaware Idea Exchange Workshop for Main Street Managers to be held on Tuesday, October 19th downtown.

Community Development

On Friday Planner Mike Fortner and I met with representatives of the Newark Housing Authority to discuss possible redevelopment proposals at their Cleveland Heights site.

On Monday Mike represented the City at the DuPont Company Community Advisory Committee meeting.

Parking

The Parking Division continues to review the "More Park" design proposal for providing additional spaces at Lot #3.

The Division is also working on trash dumpsters in the municipal parking lots.

Code Enforcement

The Division continues to work diligently on enforcement and related issues associated with off-campus "fraternities," and rentals.

KRS/mp