

## **DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS**

**December 22, 2010**

### **Police**

On Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, a promotion ceremony was conducted promoting Sgt. Mark Farrall to the rank of Lieutenant, M/Cpl. Andrew Rubin to the rank of Sergeant, and Cpl. Fred Nelson to the rank of Master Corporal. Chief Tiernan swore in each officer and City Manager Kyle Sonnenberg read the charging document officially promoting each officer to their new rank. Mayor Vance Funk and Councilmember Jerry Clifton addressed the audience and congratulated the newly promoted officers. Mr. Sonnenberg thanked the families for their continued support. Attorney General Beau Biden was the keynote speaker. In addition to family and friends, members of the following agencies were also in attendance, Attorney General's Office, Delaware Capital Police, Delaware State Police, New Castle County Police, New Garden Township Police (PA), Newport Police and University of Delaware Police.

On Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, a search warrant was executed and proceeds from several burglaries were recovered. Three suspects were arrested. The investigation is continuing.

On Tuesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, at approximately 2:00 a.m. officers responded to a report of a burglary in progress on North Chapel Avenue. The suspect was arrested. Further investigation revealed that the suspect had just broken into four other houses on South College Avenue. Officers recovered three cell phones, an iPod, Xbox games, gift cards, a flat screen television, as well as other stolen items.

On Tuesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, Chief Tiernan, Lt Henry and Roy Lopata (Planning & Development Director), met with the owners of a local hotel to discuss recent problems on the property.

### **Planning & Development**

#### **Planning**

The Planning and Development Department has received a major subdivision plan for an addition to the existing University Garden Apartments on Beverly Road that would add eight dwelling units to this site.

#### **Economic Development**

Assistant Planning and Development Director Maureen Feeney Roser is now working on completing the DNP semi-finalist application for the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Great American Main Street Award competition.

Maureen also continues to work on holiday advertising and promotions and has now begun preparing materials for upcoming “tabling opportunities” at Blue Hen men’s and women’s basketball games in January.

We also continue to work on a new welcome package for new businesses.

### Community Development

Planner Mike Fortner submitted a request to DeIDOT to allow the City Bicycle Committee, in conjunction with the Parks Department, to place bicycle racks at three locations on Main Street on the west side of our pedestrian “bump outs.” While bicycle racks located in such areas are common in other regions of the country, this will be the first time this approach has been implemented in Delaware and, therefore, needs approval from DeIDOT.

### Code Enforcement

A building permit has been issued for the remainder of the University of Delaware’s Barnes and Noble Bookstore at 83 E. Main Street.

A certificate of occupancy for the new IHOP Restaurant at 108 E. Main Street has been issued.

## **Public Works**

### Engineering/Planning and Inspection

- Proposed 2011 Handicap Ramp Contract: Considerable time was spent examining existing ramp conditions at proposed locations and compiling quantities of curb, sidewalk, etc., to install new ADA compliant ramps.
- Erosion & Sediment Control Inspections: Performed site inspections at 2 Old Casho Mill Road, The Mayer Subdivision, Laura’s Glenn, 108 E. Main Street, and the University of Delaware Creamery.
- Attended an EPA Listening Session on the proposed stormwater rulemaking in Georgetown, DE. The national rulemaking will directly impact our pending and future MS4 permits.
- Prepared a GIS map of storm drainage on Delaware Avenue for McBride & Ziegler.
- Spent time reviewing a second set of comments from AquaLaw, as well as comparing them to conference call notes and older comment versions, finalized comments and submitted to DNREC.
- Worked on GIS maps for the Survey Crew of the Veterans Lane and McKees Park areas.
- Responded to an illicit discharge complaint on Delaware Avenue in front of the 7-11.

### Survey Crew

- Continued updating citywide handicap ramp map.

- Created aerial map of McKee's Park showing the newly installed fence line that was previously located.

### Field Operations/Streets

- Street crews completed all schedules on the Fall Leaf Collection.
- Removed all leaf boxes from dump trucks and installed plows and spreaders.
- Worked on spreading salt after ½ inch snowfall/icy conditions.

## **Parks & Recreation**

### Administration – Charlie Emerson

I attended the Conservation Advisory Commission meeting on Tuesday night. The majority of the time the members discussed the City's green energy purchase.

On Thursday I gave recreation and office staff an update (via power point) on the Curtis Mill/Old Paper Mill Road Park Master Plan.

I submitted the final request for reimbursement to the Delaware Land and Water Conservation Trust Fund administrator for grant funding we were awarded for the replacement of four (4) spiral slide units, one each at these park sites: Handloff, Devon, Kells and Stafford. The new slides were installed this year.

### Recreation – Joe Spadafino

Paula sent out information to previous participants in Co-Rec volleyball and NBA basketball regarding the start of the new programs in January.  
Joe worked on updating the City web page and events calendar.

### Parks & Horticulture – Tom Zaleski

We completed bushhogging all meadow and ROW areas.

Tom committed time to these tasks:

- Evaluated landscaping at basin and bio-swale in the Wyncliff addition development for acceptance.
- Assisted Parks Director with "tree friendly" items the City has done and is doing to protect the urban forest in Newark.
- Started researching issues/locations concerning "Play Spots" along the Hall Trail and other possible sites.

Horticulture staff continue on fall clean ups/cut backs in bed areas in traffic median and at park sites.

We committed a good amount of time painting in City Hall.

Last Thursday's snow event caused us to commit time with snow and ice operations.

### **Electric**

The line crews have been busy assisting the tree trimming contractor. They have completed tree trimming on West Chestnut Hill Road and have started trimming along Paper Mill Road going north from Cleveland Avenue.

The line crews have installed a second temporary transformer at the Science Center on Lovett Avenue. This 500kVA pad mount transformer will feed cranes and panels for site work near Haines Street. An outage to Harrington Dorms has been arranged with the University in order to tie the transformer into the primary circuit.

The electricians have been installing energy efficient lights at the police station and worked with Water Department personnel to troubleshoot a malfunctioning pump at the Curtis Water Plant.

The engineering department is evaluating outage software which will keep track of performance measurements in regards to customer interruptions. Also, engineering is also very involved in rate analysis and rate comparisons pertaining to electric rate restructuring.

### **Water & Wastewater**

Water main breaks are keeping us busy these days. Cold weather causes the ground to shift. The forces that are developed can cause the pipe to break. We have been making good use of our water leak correlators and vacuum excavator. The correlators have helped us to pinpoint the leak and the vacuum excavator has made hand digging around other utilities a thing of the past. The crews are impressed with the speed that they can expose the pipe and the backs that are spared the effort of slinging heavy mud from the hole. The valve exerciser that was recently approved will be another nice addition to our equipment choices when we take delivery early next year. Closing and opening our valves is a two-man operation that requires significant effort and risk of back and shoulder injury. The valve exerciser will make this a one-man operation and result in better shut offs and reduced injuries.

The project to replace the two sanitary sewers across the Christina Creek has been advertised. Bid opening is scheduled for the end of January.

AC Schultes will be mobilizing to the Newark Water Treatment Plant to replace the Back Wash Pump with a new motor and our spare pump. The spare pump was refurbished after having sat in the building for 20 years. We will have the old motor and old pump repaired and prepared for long-term storage so that we have a spare pump and motor for future maintenance.

I met with representatives from Tetra Tech to provide information for a county wide assessment of sanitary sewer infrastructure that the State Clean Water Advisory Council has commissioned.

KRS/mp