

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

January 7, 2011

Planning & Development

Planning

The Planning and Development Department has received development plans tentatively scheduled for review at the Planning Commission's March 1, 2011 meeting. Plans include the following:

- A. A major subdivision addition of eight garden apartment dwelling units to the existing University Garden Apartments on Beverly Road.
- B. The proposed "Campus Edge" redevelopment project calling for a multi-story building with approximately 12,000 ft. of first floor commercial space, second floor parking (with additional surface level parking to the rear of the proposed building) and 37 upper floor apartments, located on the properties on the north side of E. Delaware Avenue between the TD Bank property and the property at the Delaware Avenue/Haines Street intersection.

Economic Development

Assistant Planning and Development Director Maureen Feeney Roser spent time working on the required application materials – including a video tape – for the DNP's finalist application as part of the National Trust's Great American Main Street Award.

Maureen also continues to work on the update of the Downtown Newark Map & Guide.

Community Development

Planner Mike Fortner has sent out agreements to the grantees who are receiving funding under the 2011 Revenue Sharing Program.

Parking

Parking Administrator Marvin Howard reports that his department continues to gather information on possible installation of trash compactors in Lot #4.

The Parking Office is in the process of renewing monthly parking permits.

Code Enforcement

A building permit has been issued for a new Porter Nissan dealership facility on E. Cleveland Avenue.

Public Works

Engineering/Planning and Inspection

- 2 Old Casho Mill Road: Performed site inspection for Certificate of Occupancy. Calculated escrow needed to cover incomplete items associated with property and notified builder.
- Proposed 2011 Handicap Ramp Contract: Spent time evaluating proposed locations and compiling quantities of curb, sidewalk, etc., to install new ADA compliant ramps.
- Transfer Station Closure Plan – Budgeting: Met with contractor on site to review the detailed closure plan for the transfer station and obtain approximate costs of closure for budgeting purposes. Estimated costs are expected to be received in a couple weeks, according to contractor.
- U of D Frazier Field As-Built Plans: Received and reviewed S.W.M. as-built information, C.C.R. reports, and as-built plans.
- Rittenhouse Station: Reviewed approved plans and compiled discussion topics for future preconstruction meeting.
- 46 Chambers Street: H.I.E. Contractors poured 123.6 s.f. of 8” p.c.c. utility trench patch using 4.0 c.y. of DelDOT Class A road patch concrete.

Survey Crew

- Continued updating citywide handicap ramp map.
- Revised UD Landfill boundary description and drawing.

Field Operations/Streets

- Street crews finished with the fall leaf collection.
- Street crews worked on Christmas tree collection citywide.
- Street crews cleared snow/salted roads after recent snowfall.

Parks & Recreation

Administration – Charlie Emerson

I completed a Plan Review and provided comments to the Code Enforcement Division on the property at 154 Forest Lane and the Porter Nissan project.

Tom and I visited the project site at 73/79 Cleveland Avenue to evaluate a tree that will likely have to be removed.

I committed time working on items relating to the landscaping Letter of Credit and an escrow being held for the White Clay Vista subdivision.

I'm very happy to announce that Andrew Steward (Parks division) recently completed a tour of duty in the Middle East with his Air Force Reserve unit. Stew plans to return to work on January 12.

Recreation – Joe Spadafino

The recreation staff worked on marketing material for winter/spring programs including the news releases, flyers and channel 22 advertisements.

Liz entered program data entry information into the registration software system in preparation for winter/spring signups.

The Winter/Spring E-Newsletter went out to our email list of over 3,000 people on Monday, January 3.

Parks & Horticulture – Tom Zaleski

We continued working on painting and wall repair projects at City Hall and the Wilson Center.

A large amount of time was spent on snow/ice removal at all City parking lots/park areas/sidewalks.

Parks/horticulture staff completed several tree pruning work orders. Now is a good time to prune/thin out trees as the architecture of the tree is exposed and is easy to see where pruning is needed in the tree crowns.

All park/horticulture trucks were washed to remove salt and dirt.

Work continued on Park Maintenance computer program to track labor/materials costs.

Electric

The line crews have been tree trimming along Park Place Avenue and will be moving to Hillside Road next. Tree trimming outages have been reduced by these efforts. Last year's tree related outages (excluding storms) were the lowest ever with only nine outages. Three were primary circuits, while three were on secondary bus line, and three were individual services to residents.

Sunday morning at approximately 5:30 a piece of Delmarva's pole line equipment broke and touched a City circuit near Route 72 and Chestnut Hill Road. The circuit breaker tripped three times before locking out as programmed. The crews repaired damage caused by the arcing circuit and restored power after two and a half hours.

The construction of a storm drain under Elkton Road has made it necessary to hold some of the utility poles with line trucks as the construction passes close by. The line crews are also preparing for the new pad mount service to the Army Reserve Building off of Marrows Road.

Engineering met with a directional bore contractor for a project on Beverly Road to replace old failed underground cable to streetlights.

Water & Wastewater

We held a pre-bid meeting this week for the renovation of the Bellevue Sanitary Sewer Lift Station. Multiple vendors and contractors attended the meeting. This project will eliminate a confined space that we had to enter on a frequent basis. It will also provide us the ability to bypass the pump station in an emergency situation.

I have been responding to a variety of questions regarding the Christina Creek Sanitary Sewer Crossing project advertisement. The pre-bid meeting for this project will be held on January 11th.

We are preparing a purchase order for the redevelopment of Well 11. Tests of this well have indicated that renovation is required to restore the well to a production rate closer to original conditions.

The contractor will be remobilizing to the South Well Field Treatment Plant next week to begin work on the production well to replace Well 14. Information gathered from the monitoring well that they drilled last year indicates that we have a good chance of finding water at a rate that will satisfy our requirements.

Police

On Friday, December 31st, Newark Police was contacted by the Wilmington Police Department concerning a body recovered at the Cherry Island Landfill located in the City of Wilmington. It was determined the body was dumped from a Waste Management refuse truck that had made all of its pickups within the City of Newark. At that time, Newark detectives began an investigation. Later in the day, the Delaware Medical Examiner's Office conducted an autopsy on the victim, John P. Wheeler III, and ruled the death a homicide. Since that time, Newark detectives have been working around the clock on the investigation. The New Castle City Police Department is an active partner in the investigation and the Federal Bureau of Investigation has been assisting with the investigation.

On Monday, January 3rd, Corporal Beighley and Corporal Dawson responded to a hotel located on South College Avenue on a report of a domestic incident. Upon arriving at the scene, a 54 year-old Middletown resident was arrested and found to be in possession of 2 bags of cocaine. Further investigation lead to obtaining a search warrant of the hotel room. Additional cocaine, hypodermic needles, oxycodone pills, xanax pills, additional drug paraphernalia, and \$7,000 in cash were recovered from the hotel room. Two suspects were arrested and charged.

The Newark Police Department conducted an aggressive traffic education and enforcement program in 2010. In early December, we had reduced the number of motor vehicle accidents by 133 from that time period in 2009. A snow fall in the late afternoon of Thursday, December 16th resulted in numerous minor accidents throughout the city. At the close of 2010, there were 96 less motor vehicle accidents than 2009. This is on top of the 8% reduction we had in the number of accidents in 2009 from 2008.

In 2010, the Newark Police Department has reduced robbery in the city by 11.9% from 2009. The downward trend of robberies in part can be credited to establishing a Street Crime Unit in 2007 as well as the implementation of the Fall Crime Suppression initiatives from 2008 through 2010. The number of robberies from 2006 through 2010 has been reduced by 52.6%.

In 2010, 475 people were arrested for loud and disorderly premises. This is an increase of 156 arrests from 2009. In addition, 199 people were charged with disorderly conduct. This is an increase from the 159 people arrested for this charge in 2009.

The Newark Police Department responded to 38,552 calls in 2010. This is an increase of 8,614 calls from 2009.

KRS/mp