

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

February 18, 2011

Planning & Development

Planning

Reports are being finalized for the upcoming March 1, 2011 Planning Commission meeting. Agenda items include the following:

- A. "Campus Edge" mixed use redevelopment property on the north side of E. Delaware Avenue adjacent to the TD Bank;
- B. The addition of eight garden apartment units to the University Garden Apartments subdivision on Beverly Road.

The Planning and Development Department is researching and drafting a report to the Planning Commission that will recommend the establishment of a new zoning district for the University of Delaware's Science and Technology Campus.

An administrative subdivision was approved this week adjusting the property boundaries between the single family dwelling parcels at 61 and 53 E. Park Place.

At its meeting Monday evening City Council approved for first reading the establishment of a "campus cuisine colonnade," vending district on Amstel Avenue adjacent to the University of Delaware property.

Economic Development

On Tuesday, Assistant Planning and Development Director Maureen Feeney Roser and I joined with the City Manager, Mayor Funk, and Council members Athey and Pomeroy at the "rollout" of the Newark Economic Development Study Report presented by our economic development consultants at the New Castle County Chamber of Commerce.

Community Development

Planner Mike Fortner met with New Castle County and the consultants from the Delaware State Housing Office on a draft analysis of impediments statewide to fair housing.

Parking

Work continued this week on the proposed "More Park" second deck project for lot #3.

Parking Administrator Marvin Howard reports that as of February 14th municipal parking lots #3 and #4 are operating 24 hours a day.

Code Enforcement

Inspections for property maintenance issues occurred at 812 Elkton Road and corrective action is to be taken at this location.

Permits have been issued for the next set of townhouses at Twin Lakes off Elkton Road.

The Division continues to work on completing a procedures manual that will eventually be available on the City website.

Public Works

Engineering/Planning and Inspection

- Annual State Roads Maintenance Inspection: Began conducting inspection of DelDOT maintained roads within the City limits and compiling a list of maintenance items to forward to DelDOT.
- Annual Stormwater Management Facilities Maintenance Inspections:
 1. Performed 16 annual maintenance inspections, completed inspection reports, and updated computer files.
 2. Contacted “responsible parties” (5) about needed maintenance at their S.W.M. facilities and met three of them (on site) to review needed maintenance.
- Attended a quarterly NPDES coordination meeting at the University of Delaware.
- Signed up Downes and West Park Elementary Schools for the Stroud Water Research Center Program, “From Classroom to Creek”, after coordinating available dates/times with each.
- Attended a meeting at the University of Delaware to discuss topics for the upcoming maintenance yard training session. Topics will include general spill response/stormwater, and basic Right-to-Know.
- Assisted Jen Pyle at the University of Delaware with a stormwater power point slide show for her upcoming Environmental Health and Safety in-service day presentation.
- Twin Lakes: Nichols Construction worked on the following items on South Twin Lakes Boulevard:
 1. Installed 71 l.f. of 24” rcp concrete pipe.
 2. Installed 145 l.f. of 18” rcp concrete pipe.
 3. Installed 55 l.f. of 15” rcp concrete pipe.
 4. Installed 4 pre-cast catch basins.
 5. Encased sanitary sewer laterals and main conflicts.
 6. Placed inlet protection on inlets.

Survey Crew

- Continued working on the Main Street Tree Grate drawing for the Parks Department.

Field Operations/Streets

- Sign crew repaired and replaced signs and poles as needed.
- Street crews are working on putting temporary patch in various potholes citywide.

Parks & Recreation

Administration – Charlie Emerson

I met with recreation personnel to have follow-up discussions about procedures and precautions relating to the incident that occurred at the Wilson Center on February 5.

On Tuesday I met with our consultant and a lighting company to discuss lighting options for the Pomeroy Trail.

On Wednesday I met with a representative of Porter Nissan (on-site) to discuss and review landscaping requirements for their site improvement project.

On Friday I met with a citizen to discuss our forest management program as it relates to Newark's urban tree canopy and a recently completed report by the Delaware Forest Service.

I spent some time with Tom Zaleski discussing details about the Main Street tree pit retrofit project we're working on.

Recreation – Joe Spadafino

Paula secured the dates and times for the use of the University of Delaware pool and rock climbing wall for Rittenhouse Day Camp. She worked on updating the schedules for the groups at camp to ensure they were allocated enough time for all the activities.

Sharon has been working on several publications and mailings for upcoming events, including the Events Sponsorship and Vendor Packages, and Summer Camp Guide. The sponsorship package will be put on the website and mailed the week of February 14th. The vendor package will be available the third week of March. The Summer Camp Guide will also be available in March.

Sharon has been preparing a presentation for the Delaware Recreation and Parks Society Conference. She and Lt Stanko will be presenting on Emergency Management for Special Events.

Joe continued researching grants for skate spots.

Parks & Horticulture – Tom Zaleski

We continued on isolated snow/ice control issues.

Parks and horticulture staff committed a good amount of time on tree/shrub pruning and removals.

We started constructing shelving for better storage of materials/supplies at the Parks Maintenance Building as well as working on maintenance issues.

Parks Staff started building a kiosk for placement in Rittenhouse Park displaying nature and trail oriented information.

Parks Superintendent completed the following:

- Met with representative of West Recreation on the possible placement of "nature oriented" play units along the Hall Trail.
- Walked trails in Rittenhouse Park to identify tree issues to be completed during the upcoming Christina River Clean Up.
- Attended meeting with Parks Director concerning lighting options for the Pomeroy Trail.

Electric

The line crews have installed and energized a pad mount transformer for the temporary construction service at the Barnes and Noble site on Main Street. They pulled conductors for the University Creamery service near the Field House and will be installing a primary gang operated switch to complete the service. The line crews also finished a conductor upgrade on Cleveland Avenue where they installed two spans of primary and three switches.

The line crews finished installing a second primary phase on Old Paper Mill Road for better load distribution. The project will be completed when the weather gets better to minimize the inconvenience to customers when they are moved to the new phase.

Engineering has been carefully checking the equipment that the contractor is installing for the University's Science Center on Lovett Avenue. A high ampacity conductor is being installed for the first time on Newark's electric system and issues with the associated pole line equipment are being researched and addressed. Engineering also met with the crane company on the logistics of removing the City's oldest transformer to make room for a new one. Oil tests have been showing that the transformer is at the end of its usable life.

Engineering and the electricians have worked with parks personnel on designing and bidding a lighting system for the tree pits on Main Street. Engineering also has been working with the SCADA developers on the communication system to be installed at the Wyoming Road substation soon.

Water & Wastewater

Work on Well 11 is progressing. The contractor has been working on redeveloping the well. We have experienced some settlement around the well casing which we are dealing with. We will examine a video of the casing pipe and screen after they are finished with the redevelopment to make sure that the casing is intact.

I have selected a contractor to make the repairs to the concrete spillway at the reservoir. This is a maintenance activity to correct some seepage through construction joints in the concrete spillway. It does not affect the integrity of the structure nor create a safety concern other than the icing that takes place on the walking surface.

We are gearing up for spring water main flushing. I am also working with a contractor to try a procedure to clean our unlined pipes versus relining them. If this is successful we may be able to use both the cleaning and relining procedure as we work to improve the water quality. The cleaning will be a shorter term solution but may be prudent for lines that we ultimately want to replace. It may also allow us to improve the water quality of more pipes each year and carry us through until we are able to reline the pipe at a later date.

Police

On Wednesday, February 9th, at 7:30 p.m., officers responded to Kershaw Street on a report of a home invasion robbery. Upon arriving at the scene, officers learned that two males knocked on the door to the home. When the door was opened by the victim, the two males entered the house armed with a handgun. The victim and a roommate were ordered to sit on the couch. One of the suspects struck one of the victims in the face with the handgun. A safe containing \$2,000 was stolen. The victim of the stolen safe admitted that he sells drugs from the residence.

On Friday, February 11th, Officer Wolfrom and Corporal Kendrick responded to Pomeroy Station on a report of a suspicious person. Upon arriving at the scene, the officers observed a 21 year-old white male that was naked standing in the hallway. The suspect stated he was in a female's room but got locked out of the apartment. The male was charged with disorderly conduct.

On Friday, February 11th, at 10:39 p.m., Parking Enforcement Officer Pietschmann observed a vehicle parked on Main Street without a registration tag on it. A female exited a business and entered the vehicle. The officer asked the driver for the vehicle registration. The driver refused and began to drive toward the officer. The officer jumped back and the vehicle turned toward him, striking the officer. The incident was radioed into police headquarters and the motorist was stopped and arrested. The incident was recorded on our police surveillance cameras.

On Sunday, February 13th, Corporal Beighley responded to the University of Delaware Health Service Center on a report on an assault in the past. The injured party stated that he attended a party "somewhere" on South College Avenue with a friend. At approximately 1:00 a.m., the victim observed his friend involved in a fight. The victim

“jumped in” to assist his friend and was punched in the ear, receiving a laceration. Corporal Beighley responded to the victim’s friend’s dorm room. The friend/witness stated that he and the victim were at a party on South College Avenue. After consuming 5 shots of alcohol, he went outside to urinate on the side of the house. When the witness attempted to return inside the house, he was told he was not welcome and pushing began. That is when the victim was assaulted. The incident is under investigation.

On Tuesday, February 15th, at 8:47 a.m., officers responded to the TD bank located on Delaware Avenue on a report of a bank robbery. A male approximately 45-55 years of age presented the bank teller with a note stating that he had a gun and demanded money. The teller handed over cash and the suspect left the bank. The robbery is under investigation by Detective Watson.

On Tuesday, February 15th, at 8:04 p.m., officers responded to a report of a home invasion robbery on Scholar Drive. Upon arriving at the scene, Corporal Vernon found one of the victims covered in blood and holding a rag to his eye. The victim stated he was in his apartment living room when there was a knock at the front door. The victim opened the door and was “rushed” by three suspects and then struck in the face with a baseball bat. One of the suspects was armed with a handgun and removed money from the victim’s wallet. A safe was also removed from the apartment. The case is being investigated by Detective D’Elia.

On Wednesday, February 16th, the Police Department and Parks and Recreation Department met for the first time to begin planning for this year’s Newark Nite. Last week, officers from the Traffic Division travelled to Kennett Square, Pennsylvania to discuss how the Kennett Square Mushroom Festival was organized with controlled access.

KRS/mp