

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

March 11, 2011

Electric

After testing one of the main transformers feeding the City, it was found that a 138kV bushing is faulty. The transformer will be off line until the part can be obtained, which can take up to twelve weeks. Then, a specialized contractor will be hired to replace the bushing.

The line crews continued their work on the pole line for a new primary service at the University's Chrysler site. The 17 poles have been framed and set. Now they are finishing the conductor pulls and installing primary metering.

The backyard tree trimming crew is currently working along Gravenor Lane. Last week they finished the lines in Devon next to the railroad tracks.

Engineering and electricians attended a five hour National Electric Code class about the changes to the code as part of continuing education requirements. Also the electricians and line crews are attending flagger training and defensive driving training this week.

Engineering will be evaluating a tool that will detect failing pole line equipment from a distance while energized. If the tool is successful, equipment failures can be detected before outages occur.

Water & Wastewater

Activity on the Sanitary Sewer Crossings of the Christina Creek is picking up. I meet on Thursday, March 10 with the Arbour Park Civic Association (APCA) to discuss the sewer line project. I am working on scheduling the preconstruction meeting for next week with Merit Construction. I have been coordinating with the President of the APCA details of the project and upcoming meeting.

Work on the drilling of Well 14 is progressing nicely. The upper casing has been placed.

The down hole video of Well 11 subsequent to redevelopment allowed us to see that the screening has collapsed at one location. This is due to some settlement that took place around the well screen. Next week they will place a test device down the hole to determine the internal diameter of the well screen at the collapsed area. If the pump and discharge pipe can pass we will leave the screen as is. If not, we have options similar to opening a clogged artery that can be implemented to expand the restriction.

We were able to get one soil boring completed this week for the design of the 16 inch water line crossing of the White Clay Creek. The second test boring was washed out by the rain. The engineer is preparing the report from the samples that were retrieved and his observations. When we are able to complete the second soil boring we will be able to

finish the design and start the permitting process with the State, Corps, and other assorted agencies.

The structural investigation of the concrete water tank on Paper Mill Road has identified significant deficiencies in the roof structure. We will be looking into alternative roofing materials and will update the Capital Improvement Program in the upcoming program cycle.

Police

On Saturday, March 5th, 2011 at approximately 1:06 a.m., a Newark Police Officer on patrol was flagged down at the North Chapel Street entrance to Newark Shopping Center for a report of a strong arm robbery. The victim advised the officer that he was walking off of North Chapel Street into the shopping center when he was grabbed from behind by the suspect. The suspect then reached into the victims pocket, removed his wallet and then threw the victim to the ground. The suspect then fled on foot with the victim's wallet and was last seen running northbound on North Chapel Street.

The suspect was described as an 18-22 year-old white male, 5'8" to 5'10", average build wearing a black hoodie and blue jeans.

The victim, a 21 year old-white male, sustained minor abrasions and lacerations to his left knee.

On Sunday, March 6th, at 1:11 a.m., Master Corporal Nelson and Sergeant Simpson observed a male suspect in the Newark Parking Lot #1. The suspect pushed up on the parking gate arm until it broke. Sergeant Simpson stopped the suspect as he was walking away from the area. The suspect stated that he was attempting to lift the arm so that his friend could drive out of the lot and did not think the gate would break. The cost to replace the gate is \$125.00. The suspect was given a summons to appear in court and released.

Seven new closed circuit security cameras have arrived at the Police Department and will be installed within the next few weeks.

During the upcoming St. Patrick's Day week, there will be an increase of foot patrol and drunk driver enforcement patrol. Grant funding has been provided for the extra patrols.

The Newark Police Department's plans for Newark Nite are being finalized. The University of Delaware will be hosting their Alumni Weekend at the same time. In the near future the Newark Police Department will meet University of Delaware Police Department to coordinate these events.

Planning & Development

Planning

The major news this week was the receipt from the U.S. Census Bureau of the 2010 population data for Newark. The census count for Newark shows a population of 31,454, a growth of 10.2% over the 28,547 census count for the year 2000. Once Council appoints a reapportionment committee, we will begin to use this data for local redistricting.

Work continues on items tentatively scheduled for review at the April 5, 2011 Planning Commission meeting. These items include the following:

- A. A rezoning, major subdivision and special use permit for a mixed use commercial/apartment project at 70-74 Amstel Avenue.
- B. The establishment of a new zoning district for the University of Delaware's Science and Technology Campus (old Chrysler site).

Economic Development

Considerable time was spent this week on editing verbiage for the new business welcome brochure.

Considerable time was also spent this week collecting information on professional offices and services for the Downtown website reconstruction process.

On Friday afternoon, Assistant Planning and Development Director Maureen Feeney Roser and staff members attended a meeting with representatives of the More Park system to discuss potential improvement to Lot #3.

Community Development

On Monday, Planner Mike Fortner attended DeIDOT's Elkton Road Construction Project Working Group meeting.

Parking

This morning, Parking Administrator Marvin Howard hosted the DNP Parking Committee meeting.

Code Enforcement

The Indian Sizzler has now received a Certificate of Occupancy and is opened at 72 E. Main Street.

We understand a permit should be issued within a week or two for the Wawa at the old Bennigan's site.

The Division has received an application for a building permit for the WSFS Bank approved at Suburban Plaza.

Public Works

Engineering/Planning and Inspection:

- Contract 10-03 – 2010 Street and Parking Lot Improvement Program: Began inspection work performed on last year's contract and compiling punchlist items that need corrective measures by the contractor.
- Porter Nissan Dealership Expansion: Held preconstruction meeting on site for erosion and sediment control and stormwater management with owner's representatives and site contractor representatives. Compiled minutes of meeting and sent to all attendees.
- 325 Markus Court – S.W.M. Maintenance: Maintenance of sand filter system on site was completed by owner.
- Stormwater Management – Annual Maintenance Inspections: Inspected 39 stormwater facilities, produced maintenance reports, and updated data in computer files. Conducted seven (7) meetings with "responsible parties" about maintenance needs at their S.W.M. facilities. Met with Jen Pyle from the University of Delaware to give her reports on what facilities need maintenance. Sent certified letter to Rite Aid for maintenance.
- Road Survey Management System: Spent time with Alan Kercher and Pusey going over road conditions for RSMS survey.
- University of Delaware ECUP & ISEB Building: Met with Whiting Turner about truck routes from construction activities.

Survey Crew

- Completed Miss Utility Mark-outs as needed.
- Continued meeting with residents in Phase 2.7 and 3.1 of the sidewalk repair program areas to discuss the nature of the violations and provide technical advice on how to conform to current code.
- Continued working on digital drawings showing city lines where they intersect with various streets.
- Located and staked rear property line at 261 Old Paper Mill Road for the Parks Department.
- Set up traffic counters on Stamford Drive and Wilshire Lane.
- Located an outfall pipe behind 920 Quail Lane.

Field Operations/Streets:

- Sign crew repaired and replaced signs and poles as needed.
- Sidewalk sweeper continued with duties on Main Street.
- Street crews are working on putting temporary patch in various potholes citywide.
- Vac-all continued working on catch basin cleanings as per schedule.
- Street crew worked on catch basin repair.

Parks & Recreation

Administration – Charlie Emerson

I visited several park sites with Tom to evaluate damaged and declining trees to determine a course of action.

I committed a significant amount of time working with DeIDOT's real estate section to finalize permanent and temporary construction easements for the Pomeroy and Newark Rail Trail. I also met with the owner of Pomeroy Station (on site) to review several items relating to the trail which passes along their property line.

Joe, Carol and I met with Pillar Design (skate spot design firm) to get information on the design and construction of skate spots.

Tom and I met to discuss some final details relating to the Main Street tree pit project. We hope to have a contract ready soon. This will be a phased project to replace the existing tree grate structures with flush mounted grates. We also discussed the landscape plan for DeIDOT's Elkton Road street rehab project and some changes we'll propose.

Recreation – Joe Spadafino

Paula sent out email blasts for upcoming youth and adult programs to previous participants.

Sharon completed and submitted the 2012 Delaware Division of the Arts Grant.

The CATCH (Coordinated Approach to Children's Health) afterschool homework club held at Downes Elementary School completed the session on Monday, February 28. It was a successful 6 week program with 12 children attending. Several volunteers from the Newark Morning Rotary Club and students in the University of Delaware Physical Therapy program participated throughout the session.

Tennis Night in America, a national campaign of several local events throughout the country sponsored by the United States Tennis Association to promote youth tennis classes, was held on Wednesday, March 2 at the George Wilson Center. Thirteen children and their parents attended and received a demonstration of the Quick Start tennis format and received information on our upcoming instructional lessons.

Joe and Charlie met with two skate park design and construction companies about the design build process and their companies.

Parks & Horticulture – Tom Zaleski

Rich escorted Honeywell representatives through City Hall, the parks maintenance facility and old train station as part of the energy audit being done.

Tom committed time working on the Main Street tree pit contract.

Recent wet weather and high winds have caused tree damage in the parks. We have and will continue to commit a lot of time to this.

We spent considerable time completing park work orders and various building maintenance tasks.

KRS/mp