

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

April 15, 2011

Parks & Recreation

Administration – Charlie Emerson

I attended a Sidewalk Snow Removal Workshop at the U of D last Wednesday. The focus of the workshop was on policies, practices and requirements for snow removal by public agencies, businesses, schools and private citizens.

I met with recreation and parks personnel to discuss Kells Park soccer field topics. The field is currently under renovation and unavailable for use. We hope to have it back on line by mid May.

Tom and I visited certain park sites to evaluate trees that have concerns to determine what level of care we will apply.

On Friday, I met with a representative of the Delaware Trail Spinners and Delaware State Parks to step up our planning for the Phase III and IV trail relocation and building project at Redd Park. Phases I and II were completed last year. The project entails relocating trails for more long-term sustainability and to offer the trail user a more enjoyable experience. In the end we will have made improvements to about two (2) miles of trails in the park.

I was involved in several discussions with DeIDOT, a Pennoni representative and Carol Houck on final details relating to preparations to advertise the Pomeroy and Newark Rail Trail construction contract.

Recreation – Joe Spadafino

Paula sent out an email blast regarding upcoming youth sports and fitness activities and the start of yoga and fitness classes to previous participants.

Paula worked on the proposals for the Christina School District for the Before and After Care programs for Downes and West Park Elementary Schools.

Sharon prepared for and held the annual Spring Community Clean Up on Saturday. With 171 volunteers participating in the event, 2540 pounds of trash and 6 tires were collected from parks and roadsides throughout the City.

Sharon has been working on other community events including the Nefosky Police Memorial Walk & 5K Run and the Egg Hunt, which are scheduled for April 15 and 16 respectfully.

Sharon has been organizing the Memorial Day Parade scheduled for Sunday, May 15.

Tyler is working on final preparations for the end of year dance recital scheduled for May 7.

Parks & Horticulture – Tom Zaleski

We continued working on the drainage repair project in the City Hall Courtyard. As with many projects like this one, you sometimes don't know what you're going to find until you unearth it. This one was no exception! The crew is doing a good job.

Horticulture staff continued edging all bed areas to prepare for mulching and completed fertilizer/crabgrass control applications. They also started herbicide applications as needed.

Tom spent time finalizing the Main Street Tree Pit contract.

Tom attended a meeting with Charlie and project partners concerning the last two phases of the Redd Park trail rehab project.

Electric

The line crews are assisting a contractor removing a large tree that fell during a storm several weeks ago. After the storm, the tree was tied up and periodically checked to make sure shifting did not occur. After notifying the neighborhood around Baylor Drive several days in advance, the crews de-energized the backyard line for safe tree removal.

The line crews are also installing the finishing touches on the underground cabling installed along Radcliffe Drive previously. Although all the construction and cables have been installed, the cable terminations and pole work are being completed.

The line crews had to repair a cable splice feeding the police station that went bad. A splice and a pole caught fire over the weekend and the crews had to switch the service to another feed. Backup generation and UPS systems kept all critical functions operational.

Engineering along with IT personnel met with the SCADA contractor to go over system changes and enhancements. Security and remote portals to the server were the main focus.

Engineering from electric, water, and public works discussed the Fios installations resuming in the City with Verizon personnel. Concerns about placement of fiber cables where there are existing utilities proved to be a difficult subject for compromise. In the past, Verizon contractors have installed cables and boxes directly over utilities making repairs difficult and time consuming.

Water & Wastewater

Work on Well 14 has been put on hold while issues regarding the well permit are resolved. We have been in contact with the State permitting agency.

The pump has been installed in Well 11. The pump test indicates that the well is performing properly. We are waiting for the bacteriological test to come back before putting the well back in service.

Repairs to the spillway have been completed. The leaks that caused slippery conditions during the summer from algae and winter from icing have been corrected.

The removal of the algae from the sand filter has been going well. The algae was slowing the movement of water through the sand bed causing operational problems.

Police

On Thursday, April 7th at 8:30 a.m., a 19 year-old Newark High School student by the name Stephen Black was arrested by the School Resource Officer for the on-campus sale of a small amount of marijuana to a fellow 17 year-old student. During the investigation, the School Resource Officer contacted Black and discovered that he was also in possession of crack cocaine. Black was arrested on the below charges and committed to Howard Young Correctional in lieu of \$65,000 secured bail.

- Trafficking Cocaine
- Possession of a Narcotic Schedule II Controlled Substance within 1000' of school
- Distribution, Delivery or Possession of Controlled Substance within 300' of a Park
- Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
- Delivery of a Non-Narcotic Schedule I Controlled Substance
- Possession with Intent to Deliver a Narcotic Schedule II Controlled Substance

The 17 year-old juvenile was charged with Possession of Marijuana and released to his parents. There is no indication that any crack cocaine was sold at the high school.

On Friday, April 8th members of the Newark Police Department's Special Investigations Unit initiated a search warrant in the 200 block of Courtney Street. During the search warrant, officers uncovered a small marijuana grow operation in the basement of the residence and seized approximately 12 pounds of marijuana valued at over \$50,000. Officers also seized potting soil, grow lights and other items related to the grow operation along with supplies to package the marijuana for distribution. Officers arrested -EXPUNGED-, a University of Delaware student from -EXPUNGED-. -EXPUNGED- was charged with the following:

- Trafficking in Marijuana
- Manufacture of a Non-Narcotic Schedule I Controlled Substance
- Possession With Intent to Deliver a Non-Narcotic Schedule I Controlled Substance
- Maintaining a Dwelling for Keeping Controlled Substances
- Possession of Marijuana
- Possession of Drug Paraphernalia

-EXPUNGED- was released after posting a \$32,000 cash bail.

On Saturday, April 9th, a door to door solicitor later identified as Chelsea Kunupp, who sells magazines for Atlantic Circulation of York, PA, contacted a resident in the Christina Mill Apartment complex in an attempt to sell the resident a magazine subscription. During contact with the victim, Kunupp asked to use the bathroom. After leaving, the victim discovered that his prescription medication was missing from the bathroom.

Kunupp, who did not have a permit from the City, was located by responding officers and found in possession of the victims stolen prescription medication. Kunupp was arrested for Soliciting Without a Permit and Obtaining a Controlled Substance by Theft. She was released on \$350 unsecured bond.

Planning & Development

Planning

This week I met with engineers and contractors for a possible medical office addition to the property at 112 Capitol Trail.

Economic Development

On Thursday Assistant Planning and Development Director Maureen Feeney Roser met with representatives of Delaware Today to talk about the downtown Newark map and its inclusion in the Newark Supplement of the magazine.

This week another Downtown Newark Partnership E-News You Can Use newsletter was written and distributed.

On Friday Maureen met with a representative of Colonial Parking to discuss parking in downtown Newark.

This morning Maureen hosted a free seminar for downtown businesses with national restaurant CEO and motivational speaker David Magrogan at Kildare's Irish Pub.

Community Development

On Tuesday Mike Fortner worked at the Bicycle Safety Checkpoint at the University of Delaware to promote bicycle safety and laws to UD students. Bicycle helmets and lights were distributed. The program was sponsored by DeIDOT and supported by the Newark Police Department and the Newark Bicycle Committee.

Code Enforcement

On Wednesday afternoon Captain John Potts, Code Enforcement Supervisor Steve Wilson, and I met with the State Fire Marshal to review temporary Fire Marshal services for the City to be utilized before a new Fire Marshal is in place.

Public Works

Engineering/Planning and Inspection

- University Courtyard – S.W.M. Maintenance: Met with Bay Country Landscape representatives to review incomplete maintenance items that need to be completed in the wet pond and detention basin facilities on site.
- Erosion & Sediment Control Inspections: Performed weekly inspections at Laura's Glenn, Porter Nissan Dealership Expansion, and U of D Creamery (2).
- VCA-KCI Stormwater Management Basin on Marrows Road: Met with Wilcox Landscaping and Commonwealth management representative to go over maintenance needed at facility.
- Road Survey Management System: Had meeting with Alan Kercher with Kercher Engineering. Entered data onto computer from survey done in northwest section of the city. Started survey for the northeast section of the city.
- Updated the GIS Storm Drainage Project by relocating several catch basins and stormwater management areas for better accuracy.
- Conducted a Quarterly Wet Visual inspection at the maintenance yard as per our industrial NPDES Permit.
- Completed 21 outfall inspections and associated paperwork. Documented maintenance items needed.
- Continued working on the 2010 NPDES Annual Report and started the graphical trending and Effectiveness Narrative portions.

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 updating the list of street lengths.
- Met with property manager at 59 E. Main Street to discuss the repairs to their sidewalk.
- Completed updating Storm Sewer Cleaning Route 3.
- Began making updates to storm sewer map 17.
- Re-inspected Phase 2.6 sidewalk contract addresses and prepared reminder intent letters including photographs of the violations.

Field Operations/Streets

- Street crew rerouted discharge drainage pipe from scale at the transfer station (approximately 80'). Street crew excavated, installed new pipe, and backfilled.
- Concrete crew patched sidewalk at various locations around the Police Department.
- Loader placed mulch outside of gate at 896 water tank and pushed up yard waste at Iron Glen Park for the Refuse Department.
- Street crew continued delivering recycling carts to residents not currently participating in the recycling program (approximately 550 have been delivered so far).
- Sign crew repaired and replaced signs and poles as needed and continued working on the sign survey.

KRS/mp