

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

April 21, 2011

Electric

On Tuesday the line crews worked from 8:30 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. assisting Verizon in setting two poles on Delaware Avenue for the Barnes & Noble Bookstore being built. After the poles were set, all the circuitry and associated hardware were transferred as well as moving a capacitor bank.

An infrared scan of all substations was performed and nothing major has been found. The line crews and electricians worked together to add oil to a substation transformer after the scan and other repairs will be made as soon as practical.

The line crews in tandem with the electricians have been working on the turn out signal at North Chapel Street. The signal activates when trucks are too high to go under the CSX Bridge. The cause of the malfunctioning signal is still under investigation.

The substations have all been sprayed to keep the grounds clear of weeds. An annual spaying is done by a contractor accompanied by electrical personnel inside the substations.

Engineering added communication hardware to two substation relays that had recently been upgraded. Engineering also reprogrammed relays and a switched capacitor bank associated with circuits feeding the Lovett Avenue Science Center project.

Engineering and field personnel met with a cellular telephone contractor about a pole and equipment that will be installed inside a City substation. Currently the City leases space to several cellular providers and have projects started for several more.

Water & Wastewater

Well 11 is back in service.

The back wash pump at the Newark treatment plant is back in service. The new motor is being reworked to match the shaft size of the pump and will be delivered in the next week or two.

Well 15 is going to be pulled to determine what caused it to fail.

Water line flushing went well this year. We seem to be getting better results and fewer complaints each year.

I am making progress working with DeIDOT and DNREC regarding contractor proposals to modify the construction sequence for the sanitary sewer line project.

We have been in contact with DNREC regarding the drilling of Well 14. I believe we are working through the issues created when the contractor started drilling prior to getting the permit.

I met this week with staff from County Special Services to discuss county financial participation in the cost of the Sanitary Sewer Crossing project.

Landscaping work at the reservoir has been completed. The Red Twig Dogwoods were trimmed in coordination with Tom Z. and the contractor.

City crews have raked the organic debris from the sand filter and are in the process of removing the piles that they have created.

Police

The Newark Police Department has begun its preparation for the order maintenance problems associated with warmer weather. The Department started its crime suppression plan on April 1st. This has been successful in the past in preventing street muggings and various other disorderly type crimes. Extra weekend patrols have been added in the area of East Park Place and Kells Avenue in an effort to maintain the peace there. Letters were mailed to the parents of North Chapel Street residents in an effort to thwart Chapelfest.

On Thursday, March 10th at approximately 11:00 p.m., the Newark Police responded to the 7-11 located at 202 Elkton Road for a report of a robbery. The victim clerk told officers that the suspect entered the store and walked down one of the aisles. The suspect grabbed an item off the shelf and walked up to the register area. As the clerk told the suspect the total price for the item, the suspect demanded the money from the register and implied that he had a gun, although one was not displayed. The clerk handed the suspect an undisclosed amount of cash and then the suspect fled out of the store.

Through investigation, the defendant in this case was identified as Thomas Bartley of the 800 block of Lehigh Road. He was arrested on April 19th and committed to the Howard Young Correctional Facility in lieu of \$10,000 secured bail.

The Newark Police Department has identified and arrested two individuals for their involvement in the spring break burglary of a rental apartment in the 400 block of Scholar Drive.

The burglary was initially reported by the victims, both UD students, on April 4th upon their return from spring break. During the burglary several items including a video gaming system, laptop computer and a hair straightener were stolen from the apartment. Soon after, several of the stolen items were discovered for sale on Craig's List. On April 6, 2011 undercover officers arranged for the purchase of one of the stolen items and arrested David May of Bear, Delaware after he sold the item to the undercover officers.

Melanie Sturgis of New Castle, Delaware was also identified as a suspect in the burglary and turned herself in to investigators on April 19th. It was determined that the defendants were both acquaintances of one of the victims, knew the apartment would be unoccupied for spring break, and had access to a key which was used to gain entry to the apartment.

Defendant 1: David May DOB 2/1/82
24 St. Georges Terrace
Bear, DE 19701

Charges: 1 count Burglary 2nd
 2 counts Theft under \$1500

Committed to Howard Young Correctional on \$7,000 secured bond.

Defendant 2: Melanie Sturgis DOB 5/1/89
375 New Churchmans Road
New Castle, DE 19720

Charges 1 count Burglary 2nd
 2 counts Theft under \$1500

Released on \$6,000 unsecured bond.

Planning & Development

Economic Development

This week we hosted a motivational seminar for downtown businesses entitled “How to Charge in any Economy” with David Magrogan.

We are also assisting the AZD Sorority with their 5K Walk/Run, which had previously been co-sponsored by the DNP. The event went well and with our assistance and the previous ground work we have provided, it looks like the Sorority will be able to handle the entire event on their own in years to come.

On Monday, Maureen attended training sponsored by Downtown Delaware regarding fundraising and sponsorship strategies.

Community Development

On Tuesday morning, Planner Mike Fortner attended the Chesapeake Science and Security Corridor’s Regional Rail Committee meeting in Aberdeen, Maryland.

On Wednesday, Mike assisted with the Bicycle Safety Checkpoint on N. College Avenue. This is an effort between DeIDOT, the Newark Bicycle Committee and the Newark Police Department to increase awareness of Delaware’s Bicycle laws and distribute bicycle lights and helmets to University students riding bikes.

Parking

Work continued this week on various fronts to expand the availability of downtown parking.

Public Works

Engineering/Planning and Inspection

- Christina Creek Inspection – Wedgewood Road to Nottingham Road: Performed creek inspection for blockages and found one partial blockage behind 39 & 41 Hidden Valley Drive (notified Tom Zaleski). Also noticed several large tree limbs that were cut and left in the stream. Resident was notified that they need to be removed before a problem developed.
- U of D Creamery: Conducted C.O. inspection.
- Stormwater Management Facility Maintenance: Contacted responsible parties for S.W.M. maintenance at Sleep Inn, Delaware Technology Park, Stone Spring, Abbotsford, Matt Slap Subaru, and 123 E. Main Street to inquire when maintenance will be scheduled.
- Erosion & Sediment Control Inspections: Performed weekly inspections at Laura's Glenn and Porter Nissan Dealership Expansion.
- Met with Parks Department Director to review capitol projects at 3 parks.
- Attended pre-bid meeting for Main Street Tree Pit Renovations – Contract 11-03.
- Road Survey Management System: Continued survey for the northeast section of the City.

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.
- Completed updating the list of street lengths.
- Identified the property lines at 6 Sue Lane for the Parks Department (4.08.11).
- Assembled and mailed Phase 2.6 intent reminder letters.
- Completed the updates to Storm Cleaning Route #3 and printed a copy for this year.
- Continued updating incomplete storm sewer data.

Field Operations/Streets

- Hot mix crew applied base hot mix at 226 W. Park Place.
- Construction crew excavated in attempt to locate sink hole over storm sewer drainage ditch at Academy Street and Park Place.
- Street crew loaded and hauled one load of sweeper material from city yard to landfill.
- Street crew completed distributing approximately 830 recycling carts citywide.
- Street crew loaded and hauled old brick pavers from contractor and restacked them for future use at the city yard.

- Sign crew repaired and replaced signs and poles as needed and continued working on the sign inventory survey.

Parks & Recreation

Administration – Charlie Emerson

I completed a final review of the Pomeroy and Newark Rail Trail contract document and forwarded comments to Pennoni. DeIDOT is completing its final review as well. I also committed significant time in discussions with DeIDOT and Pennoni wrapping up items in preparation to advertise the contract.

I visited several park sites with Pusey Pemberton to evaluate basketball, tennis court and parking lot surfaces in preparation for the 2012-2016 CIP.

I attended a meeting with Parks and Public Works personnel to go over details relating to the Memorial Day Parade.

Tom, Rich Gregg and I visited Stafford Park to consider options for making repairs to the street hockey court surface.

Recreation – Joe Spadafino

Paula completed the monthly newsletters for the Preschool and After Care programs and sent them to the parents, completed May's work schedule for the before and after care program and sent to staff, emailed rosters for the start of yoga and fitness classes to the instructors, and sent out email blasts to previous participants for upcoming summer camps and fitness classes.

Paula completed the proposals for the Christina School District for the Before and After Care programs for Downes and West Park Elementary Schools and sent them in for approval.

Paula emailed league schedules to the adult softball and volleyball teams and posted the schedules to the City website for the start of the season next week.

Tyler worked on flyers and marketing for summer programs.

Tyler delivered promotional flyers to local schools for the upcoming Youth Escape School spring break camp scheduled at GWC, April 25-29.

Sharon prepared for and held two events this weekend; the Nefosky Police Memorial Walk and 5K Run and the Newark Easter Egg Hunt. The weather cooperated for both events and they were well received by all who attended. Over 250 people registered for the Nefosky Walk and 5K Run and several hundred children attended the Egg Hunt. Thanks to the Newark Police Department for their ongoing support of the walk, to the UD softball and volleyball teams for stuffing eggs and to the many local businesses that donated prizes to both events.

Sharon met with the Memorial Day Parade Committee. She prepared and sent VIP invitations and has been working on the event logistics.

Charlie Zusag and I met with Networks Cooperative Education Coordinators about a possible summer youth program for their students.

Parks & Horticulture – Tom Zaleski

We completed the infrastructure portion of the City Hall Courtyard drainage project. In the fall we will do some landscape work to finish.

Horticulture and seasonal park staff started mulching landscaped areas.

Tom attended the Delaware Arborist and Tree Care Seminar in Dover and continued to organize for Saturday's 2011 Christina River Clean Up.

Parks staff continued water clean-up efforts in the gym in the police building.

Recent wet weather conditions have made it difficult for us to get certain timely tasks completed, particularly those relating to our baseball/softball fields.

Parks staff picked up trash/debris collected from Christina River Clean Up on Saturday, April 16. Volunteers cut vines growing into trees at two areas along the Christina as well as removing several items from the Christina itself. An early total of trash/debris removed is over 2000 pounds including two tires.

Parks Superintendent completed the following:

- Continued to organize for a silent auction at the 20th anniversary event of the Christina River Clean Up
- Met at Hill Park with representatives from Newark American Little League and other city departments about drainage issue in outfield area
- Attended a prebid meeting dealing with Main Street Tree Pit contract
- Met with police concerning fire damage to footbridge in Redd Park
- Conducted weekly park inspections

Park staff started mowing operations (limited to wet soil conditions) and continued on the ball field preparation list for upcoming season.

KRS/mp