

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

May 6, 2011

Police

On Monday, May 2, 2011 at approximately 1:00 a.m., a large group of subjects began to form in the area of E. Main Street. The group, which eventually numbered 300+ persons, were chanting and singing in response to the reported death of Osama Bin Laden. The group moved from E. Main Street to the University of Delaware Mall and back to Main Street where they congregated at the intersection of E. Main Street and Academy Street. The crowd continued to grow and traveled back down E. Main Street to the area in front of Old College Avenue and traveled up N. College Avenue to north campus and then back down to Kent Way in front of the University of Delaware President's house. The crowd then moved to the area in front of Morris Library and then finally began to break up at about 2:49 a.m. Many subjects were carrying American flags. A specific leader of the group was not identified.

Delaware State Police units were requested to assist both Newark Police Department and the University of Delaware Police Department. The crowd was generally orderly and did not appear to cause any damage to property. Officers monitored the group during the incident. The group was constantly on the move and did not stay in any one location for more than 5-10 minutes. No apparent crimes occurred and no arrests were made.

The Newark Police Department has arrested three individuals for a weekend burglary in the unit block of Cochran Way in which a bicycle was stolen from an unsecured attached garage.

On Saturday, April 23rd at approximately 4:10 p.m., the Newark Police was notified after a resident observed three suspicious male subjects in the area of Cochran Way, one of which entered into an unsecured garage and removed a bicycle. A responding officer observed the three subjects, all riding bicycles, as they entered into the School Lane Garden apartment complex. When the responding officer entered the complex he contacted the first subject, Andre Money, who was still riding a bicycle and was found to be in possession of bolt cutters. Money was taken into custody without incident. Officers then observed that the other two subjects had discarded their bicycles and had walked behind an apartment building on foot. The officers located the subjects and ordered them to stop. One of the two, Millard Bayard, stopped and was taken into custody without incident. The third subject, Ron Harris, fled on foot and was apprehended after a brief foot chase.

One bicycle, operated by Andre Money, was confirmed as stolen from the Cochran Way residence. It is unknown if the other two bicycles, described as an orange and white Raleigh Retroglide and a blue and black Trek 3700 mountain bike, are stolen. Both bikes are secured at NPD Headquarters pending the identification of the owners.

Defendant 1: Andre Money DOB: 01/19/1989
406 W 30th Street
Wilmington, DE 19802

Defendant 2: Millard Bayard DOB: 01/30/1961
701 E 10th Street
Wilmington, DE 19801

Defendant 3: Ron Harris DOB: 09/14/1988
302 Cedar Street
Georgetown, DE 19947

On Monday, May 2nd, the Newark Police Department began implementation of the New World evidence tracking system. This will tie our evidence tracking system into the New World records system. The company that manufactured the department's old system is no longer in business.

Planning & Development

Planning

Time was spent this week preparing information for the June 7, 2011 Planning Commission meeting. Tentatively scheduled for review is the Trader's Alley redevelopment plan.

Economic Development

On Wednesday afternoon I met with various ad representatives to talk about downtown Newark summer promotions to be discussed at the DNP Merchants Committee meeting this morning.

Considerable time was spent on content preparation for the new downtown Newark web page.

On Tuesday afternoon I met with a downtown Newark business to talk about nonconsensual towing regulations.

On Tuesday afternoon I attended the Downtown Newark Food & Brew Fest organizational meeting.

Some time was spent on the downtown Newark supplement for the June issue of Delaware Today.

Community Development

On Tuesday Planner Mike Fortner staffed the DNP Design Committee meeting. The Committee discussed a proposal to improve way-finding signage to downtown public parking.

On Wednesday Mike attended the DNP Merchants Committee meeting to promote Bicycle to Work Day on May 20th.

Parking

Parking Administrator Marvin Howard reports that he continues to work with property owners to consolidate dumpsters in Lot #4.

Code Enforcement

Code Enforcement Supervisor Steve Wilson reports that the full building permit has been issued for the buildings at 250 Elkton Road (Rittenhouse Station).

The Code Enforcement Division continues to get high grass complaints – we are following up as quickly as we can. It's that time of year. If anyone receives a complaint for this, please let Angie know. Angie has a copy of the current list of properties that have already received letters.

Public Works

Engineering/Planning and Inspection

- University Courtyard – S.W.M. Maintenance: Bay Country Landscape completed needed maintenance at the west detention basin. Maintenance items at the wet pond remain incomplete.
- 46 Chambers Street: Met with contractor, owner, and engineering assistant to review lot grading before sod installation. Inspected site (after sod installation) after thunderstorm to observe function of grading.
- Erosion & Sediment Control Inspections: Performed weekly site inspections at Laura's Glenn and Porter Nissan Dealership Expansion. Also toured Rittenhouse Station site after thunderstorm to observe function of perimeter controls.
- Cider Mill: Met with developer to review items that need to be completed before escrow can be released.
- Road Survey Management System: Finished road survey for the southeast section of the City. Entered data from both the northeast and southeast sections onto computer.
- WSFS: Held pre-construction meeting on site with Nichols Construction, site developer, and CCR. Nichols Construction began to remove topsoil and began installation of silt fencing and sediment trap.
- Reviewed the proposed Sediment and Stormwater Regulations/Technical Document and provided comments to the Engineering Assistant and Public Works Director.
- Finalized the 2011 NPDES Annual Report and sent it down to DNREC for review.
- Conferred with the IT Network Administrator, then proceeded to download the 2009 aerial file into the GIS from the NRCS Geospatial Data clearinghouse website.
- Prepared an NPDES Stormwater display board and associated educational materials in preparation for CreekFest.
- Performed quarterly chemical and biological stream adoption tasks at Rittenhouse Park, then forwarded the documentation to DNREC.

- Sent our revised 2011 stormwater plan to DNREC to advise them of changes.

Survey Crew

- Began compiling and mapping an inventory of CMP's citywide.
- Sent certified violations to 113 Delrem Drive, 10 and 24 Center Street, and Main Street Galleria.
- Met with assistant engineer at Leroy Hill Park to identify area to be surveyed.

Field Operations/Streets:

- Catch basin crew rebuilt catch basin at 13 Farmhouse Road.
- Concrete crew excavated, formed, and poured 28 ft. of integral curb and bonnet at 13 Farmhouse Road and 22 ft. of integral curb and bonnet at the corner of Farmhouse Road and Hidden Valley Road.
- Hot mix crew excavated and applied base hot mix at the corner of Farmhouse Road and Hidden Valley Road.
- Street crew cleaned and placed new trash can liners at 3 locations on Main Street for recycling cans.
- Street crew saw cut Barksdale Road, Apple Road, W. Chestnut Hill Road, and Delgrove Avenue for future curb, catch basin, and hot mix repairs.
- Street crew unloaded approximately 200 trash cans that were delivered to the maintenance yard for the Refuse Department.
- Delivered and exchanged trash cans for the Refuse Department.
- Sign crew repaired and replaced signs and poles as needed and continued working on the sign inventory survey.

Parks & Recreation

Administration – Charlie Emerson

On Wednesday I attended a meeting of the Governor's Council on Greenways and Trails. The primary focus of the meeting was to review and vote on recommended funding for statewide trail and/or greenway projects by the grants sub-committee. We (Newark) submitted a grant proposal for the Redd Park trail project. The project was recommended for award and the Council voted unanimously in favor of the project. The program provides a 50% funding match. The vast majority of our local match will come in the form of volunteer labor.

We're continuing to play catch up with our mowing operations. Typical spring time rains are causing us to fall behind.

Great news, we received the Notice to Proceed from DeIDOT for the Pomeroy and Newark Rail Trail. We can now move to advertise the project for the purpose of hiring a contractor to construct the trail.

Recreation – Joe Spadafino

Paula sent out letters to volunteers for Rittenhouse Camp for their scheduled volunteer time. Over 20 volunteers will be working with us at camp during the summer.

Paula attended the first night of the adult volleyball league matches. The first week went off without any weather delays for the 35 teams involved.

Paula sent out archery information for the start of classes next week. She was able to add another class to accommodate some on the waiting list. There are 25 people enrolled in the spring basic introduction to archery class.

Sharon has been working with M&T Bank/Wilmington Trust on a sponsorship agreement for title sponsors for this year's 4th of July fireworks display. This will help offset the cost of the display and festivities significantly.

Sharon has been preparing for the Spring Concert Series, which starts this Thursday and the Memorial Day Parade, which will be held on Sunday, May 15th. She has been holding and attending meetings for the Memorial Day Parade and will be sending out line up assignments this week to groups that have registered to participate. Calls were made and emails sent to remind past participants that registration for the parade is due.

Tyler participated in the CATCH (Coordinated Approach to Children's Health) Kids Club "Train the Trainer" sessions held at Nemours April 25-27. The training focused on how to train staff to implement CATCH programs focusing on non-elimination physical activities and lessons on healthy eating. We incorporate the CATCH program into our Downes School Before and After Care program and several summer camps.

The Youth Escape School (spring break camp) was held at the Wilson Center from April 25-29 with a total of 33 children registered.

The Summer E-newsletter was delivered electronically to our email list on Monday, May 2.

I worked on design and format information for a possible Newark trails and park map.

Parks & Horticulture – Tom Zaleski

Parks staff completed the following:

- Continued to prepare ball fields for league play as weather and infield conditioned permitted
- Mowed park areas as permitted
- Repaired area of outfield at Handloff Park ball field #1 due to rutting by mowers in soft/wet soil conditions
- Conducted fire extinguisher inspections
- Checked/cleaned grease traps at Wilson Center
- Repaired the storage cylinder at Dickey Park
- Tree/shrub pruning at some park sites

Horticulture staff completed the following:

- Planted annuals in pots at City Hall (bus shelter/atrium areas) and at Wilson Center
- Mowing of all horticulture sites as well as assisting parks mowing crew at several park sites
- Planted perennials in police sign bed and flagpole bed at City Hall and at Woodlawn Avenue triangle where junipers were removed
- Continued checking on interior planting areas in Court area

Parks Superintendent completed the following:

- Attended the post Christina Clean Up meeting
- Organized for pick up of plant materials for planting on hillside at City Hall next week
- Went with Parks Supervisor to several mulch dealers to locate a high quality double shredded hardwood bark mulch for our use
- Conducted park inspections
- Met with our tree contractors on several tree related issues

Electric

The line crews continued working on the circuit upgrade in the Nottingham areas. They have changed transformers, installed terminations, and set a new pole. The line crews have also worked at the Barnes and Noble site off Main Street installing protective line hose on energized primary circuits for safety and assisted the electrical contractor installing the service cables.

The electricians have installed circuitry that will be used in a relay upgrade on a substation transformer. The current electronic relay will be upgraded to a microprocessor type that can be integrated into the SCADA system. An electrician assisted an insurance company technician using infrared scanning to check substations for any signs of overheating and potential problems.

Engineering and the meter technician have reprogrammed several meters in the field with issues reported on earlier. Engineering compiled the monthly load report for University meters and for all of the substation circuits.

Engineering conducted a monthly safety meeting for all electrical personnel. Topics of the day were discussed and a safety video about line work was watched.

Water & Wastewater

The inspection of the reservoir inlet/outlet structure was completed this week. The final report will be delivered in the next week or two.

The pump in Well 15 was removed this week for repairs. The shaft had snapped.

We recently had the filters at the South Well Field inspected. During the previous inspection we discovered that the filter media was balling up and fouling. We altered the treatment process at the recommendation of the system manufacturer and have found that the filter has returned to a normal state. We have been happy with the water quality so we will continue with the modified treatment process.

I reviewed the proposals for solar panel installations at the reservoir and made several comments that should be addressed.

We have started developing the project to renovate the three oldest treatment units at the Newark Treatment Plant. This will involve cleaning the steel to bare metal, repainting, media replacement and some piping changes to accommodate treatment process changes that are coming down the line.

KRS/mp