

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

May 27, 2011

Parks & Recreation

Administration – Charlie Emerson

Joe and I met with a representative of Delaware State Parks to discuss mapping design and production options for a Newark Area Trails map.

I committed time reviewing the Newark Transportation Plan and will prepare and forward comments to WILMAPCO.

I spent time working with two developers regarding landscape escrow items and their landscape surety requirements.

Along with Pennoni and DeIDOT, I prepared for the contractor pre-bid meeting for the Pomeroy Trail project.

Recreation – Joe Spadafino

Paula attended the No Child Left Inside-Children in Nature active living committee meeting. She continues to brainstorm and work with the committee members to develop parts of the overall Environmental Literacy Plan for the State of Delaware.

Paula worked on gathering informational materials to present to West Park Elementary School parents at the scheduled Open House on May 26th for the possibility of a Before and After Care program. She contacted the PTA president and was able to get information out for the recent PTA meeting along with one of the scheduled school functions. Paula also distributed flyers to the school.

Paula submitted the signed contracts for the renewal of the Before and After Care program for Downes Elementary and the start of the new programs for West Park back to Christina School District for their signature. She also forwarded the Purchase of Care paperwork for subsidized child care to the Department of Health and Social Services for Downes Elementary. This can be set up for West Park once the program is running.

Paula is working with Nemours Health and Prevention Services to set up the new Make School A Moving Experience program sponsored by Nemours as part of the Downes Elementary School After Care program.

Tyler is preparing for the summer pool season by ordering supplies and water quality chemicals. The parks staff has been power washing the pools and gearing up the pumps.

Sharon and Joe attended the final Memorial Day Parade Committee meeting for the 2011 parade. All members agreed to prepare for a modified ceremony in case of inclement weather in the future.

The third Spring Concert was held on Thursday featuring Crabmeat Thompson. Due to rain, the concert was held indoors at the rain location and was attended by 30 people. Thanks to Aetna HH&L for generously allowing us to use their space for our rain location.

Parks & Horticulture – Tom Zaleski

Parks staff completed the following:

- Prepared ball fields for play and raked off/leveled horseshoe pits
- Set up stages for Spring Concert at Academy Street
- Mowed park areas
- Cut up some downed limbs throughout parks as needed
- Did monthly fire extinguisher inspections and completed several building maintenance work orders
- Completed several miscellaneous park work orders
- Conducted front line maintenance on mowing equipment
- Assisted Public Works with Memorial Day Parade set up
- Continued working on both pools for their June opening

Horticulture staff completed the following:

- Mowing of all horticulture sites
- Continued mulching horticulture sites
- Conducted front line maintenance on mowing equipment
- Watering of newly planted perennials at Woodlawn Triangle, Olan Thomas and Wilson Center
- Assisted parks staff with work orders

Parks Superintendent and Supervisor completed the following:

- Started on measuring mowed areas throughout park/horticulture areas
- Started organizing for planting at City Hall on south side of building next to steps
- Play unit repairs at Dickey
- Assisted Public Works to do initial watering in newly planted area at Rt. 896 leaf storage area

Electric

A lightning arrester on a 34kV transmission circuit caused a widespread outage Friday night, May 20, for about an hour. The arrester had been infrared checked weeks before with no sign of distress. Engineering conducted a thorough investigation into the relay and breaker performance afterwards to determine whether the reclosing functions of the breaker could have reduced the outage time. It was found the arrester never cleared, so manual isolation was necessary to restore service.

The line crews have been busy preparing for the relocation of a substation transformer. Poles and aerial equipment have been removed and a new base of stone and concrete ties is being constructed.

The line crews energized the service for the new addition to the Bob Carpenter Sports Complex and started installing aerial circuitry for University equipment at the former Chrysler Plant. The line crews have also started changing old metal pedestals in Barksdale Estates to plastic because of corrosion and difficulties when repairs are needed.

The electricians are checking older pad mount transformers with an infrared camera to preempt any outages caused by overheated connections. They also worked at the transfer station identifying circuitry for the operators.

Water & Wastewater

Greggo and Ferraro has connected the first length of new water line on Elkton Road from Short Lane to West Park Place into our distribution system. The tie over was completed without too many problems.

We have received the permit for Well 14 from DNREC. We are meeting with AC Schultes to go over the requirements and discuss the resumption of well development.

The cleaning of the sand filter at the reservoir was very successful. We will be developing an ongoing cleaning program to maintain the performance at an acceptable level.

We are reviewing the recommendations we have received regarding the repairs to Well 15. It has been suggested that the shafts are breaking because the well casing is crooked which puts extra stress on the rotating shaft. A submersible pump has been recommended. We are seeking another opinion in this matter.

The project to replace the Bellevue Lift Station is expected to begin in June. All of the submittals have been received and we are waiting now for the delivery of the pumps and controls.

Police

On Sunday, May 21st at 2:21 a.m., 15 people were playing foosball in a detached garage on Paper Mill Road. Four suspects entered the garage; one of the suspects was armed with a handgun. The suspects ordered the victims to the ground and told them to empty their pockets. One of the suspects repeatedly struck one of the victims in the head. Upon arriving at the scene, police activated a cell phone tracking application. The suspects were located and arrested by Newark Police in the University Plaza Shopping Center. Three adults were committed to the Howard Young Correctional Institution with a bail amount ranging from \$56,000 to \$63,000. A juvenile suspect was committed to the New Castle County Detention Center on a \$56,000 bail.

On Wednesday, May 25th, at 1:27 a.m., a university student that was under the influence of alcohol, entered Main Street D.P. Dough and attempted to remove money from the tip jar. A witness saw the suspect remove the money and grabbed him by the shirt. The suspect dropped the money and left the store yelling obscenities. A few minutes later, the student entered the store through the employee door and attempted to steal a laptop

computer. He was tackled to the ground by two employees. Responding officers determined the suspect's blood alcohol content to be .27% B.A.C. Due to the student's high blood alcohol content, he was transported to the hospital for evaluation.

On Saturday, May 21st, officers continued to check for large and/or loud end of semester parties. One party was cleared from Chapel Street and the host was charged with violating the noise ordinance.

On Tuesday, May 24th, staff from the Police Department, Parks & Recreation Department and members of the Aetna Fire Department met to finalize plans for Newark Nite.

As of May 21st, Part I Crimes (serious crime) continues to decline in the City of Newark. Year to date, there have been a total of 96 less Part I crimes from this time last year and Part II Crimes, (less serious crime) has also seen a significant reduction year to date, declining by over 200 offenses.

Planning & Development

Planning

Work continued preparing materials for the upcoming June 7, 2011 Planning Commission meeting. The Commission will be reviewing a rezoning, major subdivision and special use permit for a mixed use, commercial and residential project at 116 Amstel Avenue.

On Thursday, Assistant Planning and Development Director Maureen Feeney Roser, City Manager Kyle Sonnenberg, and I hosted an Urban Land Institute Workshop featuring downtown Newark. The event was well attended and seemed to be very successful.

On Tuesday evening, I attended WILMAPCO's public workshop on the draft Newark Transportation Plan.

Economic Development

Of course, the GREAT NEWS for the week was the announcement at the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Banquet that our downtown and the Downtown Newark Partnership has been awarded one of this year's five Great American Main Street Awards. Of course, we are all very excited and pleased with this announcement – a special congratulations goes to Maureen for all the hard work that she has put in over the years that has led to this award as well as to her many hours of preparation for submitting the award application and related documentation.

Code Enforcement

Phase one of the Code Enforcement Division's property maintenance sweep through Cherry Hill Manor was completed on Monday. The Division concentrated on high grass, fences, sheds, and trash. The second phase will deal with allies and related issues.

A Certificate of Occupancy was issued late last week for 111 Elkton Road.

Public Works

Engineering/Planning and Inspection

- Contract 11-06 – 2011 Street Improvements: Contract specifications are complete and contract has been advertised for bid. Bids are due June 7.
- Contract 10-03 – 2010 Street Improvements: Fontana concrete worked on punch list items for Adelene Drive and White Chapel Drive.
- Conducted 6 dry weather outfall inspections and associated paperwork.
- Investigated a turbidity complaint at the creek crossing on the Jim Hall Trail near Apple Road.
- Participated in the quarterly NPDES coordination meeting with the University of Delaware.
- Met with John Easom from ACF to obtain estimates for Suntree catch basin inserts for 3 drainage areas at the maintenance yard.
- Attended a Chesapeake Water Environment Association seminar, “Meeting the Challenge of Achieving Bay Area Stormwater Requirements”, in Linthicum, MD.
- Participated in a Center for Watershed Protection webcast, “Ultra-Urban Stormwater Design and Retrofitting”.
- Met with the Sussex County Conservation District at the Gore Hall detention basin to discuss the plan for sediment removal.
- Performed a Comprehensive Site Evaluation at the Maintenance Yard as per our industrial stormwater permit. Forwarded recommended actions to the Public Works Director.
- Road Survey Management System: Finished street survey for the southwest section of the City and entered data in computer.
- Twin Lakes: Had meeting with Chris Locke, Nichols Construction, Matt Eagan, and Mike Sistik over erosion and sediment issues that remain outstanding.

Field Operations/Streets

- Street crew excavated and repaired 4' corrugated metal pipe of storm sewer line in front of 2 Creek Bend Drive and excavated and hauled away debris from outflow pipe in the wooded area behind 2 Creek Bend Drive.
- Street crew marked out and started saw cutting for future hot mix patch work on Academy Street.
- Street crew loaded and hauled 3 loads of previously stockpiled hot mix from the City yard to Batten for disposal.
- Street crew worked on various projects at Curtis Paper Mill for the U Don't Need It? student move-out program.

KRS/mp