

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

June 10, 2011

Water & Wastewater

The contractor working on the sewer crossing project of the Christina Creek will be starting in earnest next week. I have been coordinating with the Arbour Park community group and Persimmon Creek pool leadership.

I have submitted the historical and environmental review forms for the Security Gate grant funding that I received through the State Department of Homeland Security. I will be able to move forward with the project once they have reviewed the information and released the funding.

We have completed our first round of root foaming of our sewer lines. This is a yearly project that we have implemented to keep root growth and in turn sewer back-ups to a minimum.

Police

On Wednesday, June 1st, the Newark Police was notified of an assault that had occurred at approximately 2:05 a.m. in Parking Lot #1 located at 54 East Delaware Avenue. The victim had been taken by private car to Christiana Hospital after sustaining serious physical injury to his head and face. The injuries consisted of fractures to the nose and eye area, and possible brain injuries.

The investigation revealed that the victim and his girlfriend (also a victim) were involved in a confrontation with the suspect at a business on East Main Street. During this incident, words were exchanged and the suspect punched the male victim, causing no injury. The victims left the area and walked to the NPA lot to pay and leave. The victims were followed by the suspect to this location. The suspect approached them and knocked the female victim to the ground, by sweeping her legs out from underneath her. As the male victim was attempting to pay for parking at the automated pay station, he was punched in the face, causing serious injury. The investigation led to the identity of the suspect and an arrest warrant was issued.

On Thursday, June 2nd, detectives arrested Joseph E. Murach, DOB 11/11/1988, 2403 Scholar Drive, Newark, DE. Murach was charged with the following:

- 1 count of Assault 2nd Degree
- 2 counts of Offensive Touching

Murach was arraigned through Justice of the Peace Court #2 and issued \$6,000 secured bail, which was posted and he was released.

The Newark Police Department was awarded a grant in the amount of \$27,000 to purchase three additional downtown security cameras. The department was also notified it is eligible for \$33,139 in grant money for overtime foot patrol.

Security at Newark Nite was a great success. All of our officers, dispatchers, parking enforcement officers, and animal control officer did an outstanding job in keeping surrounding traffic moving and the event safe. With well over 20,000 people in attendance only 7 arrests were made for minor violations.

Planning & Development

Planning

At its meeting Tuesday evening, the Planning Commission recommended approval of the rezoning, major subdivision and special use permit at 116 Amstel Avenue to demolish and replace with a new Delaware Baptist Association building for its existing use and to add six townhouse apartments.

Economic Development

Considerable time was spent this week preparing for Newark Nite. The event was held Saturday, June 4th and attracted nearly 40,000 people to downtown. The Downtown Newark Partnership booth was very busy during the event.

This week one E-News You Can Use e-newsletter was prepared and distributed to businesses regarding summer promotions and Newark Nite.

On Monday, the Downtown Newark Partnership hosted a press conference and celebration in honor of our Great American Main Street Award. Nearly 100 people attended the ceremony including Governor Markell, Secretary of Economic Development Levin, State Senator Sorenson, State Representatives Kowalko and Schooley, New Castle County Executive Clark, Assistant Director of the National Main Street Center Lauren Adkins, Mayor Funk and several members of Council, former Mayors Ron Gardner and Hal Godwin, as well as business and property owners, and University and City representatives.

On Tuesday morning, Roy and I had the business recruitment brainstorming session with a couple of members of the Downtown Newark Partnership Board to discuss ways to recruit and encourage more independently owned retail establishments in downtown.

Some time was spent on Capital Budget projects.

On Tuesday morning, June 7th, Planner Mike Fortner staffed the Design Committee meeting where they reviewed the design proposal for 70-74 Amstel Avenue.

Community Development

The Public Hearing for the 38th Year CDBG Program and 2012 Revenue Sharing Program has been set for June 23, 2011 at 7 PM in the Council Chamber.

Parking

This morning, Parking Administrator Marvin Howard and I hosted the DNP Parking Committee meeting. Expanding inventory efforts dominated the discussion.

This morning, Mayor Funk and I met with the Greater Wilmington Convention and Visitors Bureau to discuss ways to promote our recent GAMSA Award.

Marvin reports that the Parking Division staff continues clean up of the parking lots.

Public Works

Engineering/Planning and Inspection

- Contract 11-06 – 2011 Street Improvement Program: Produced “Quantities for Invoicing” spreadsheet and “Weekly Update” spreadsheet for upcoming contract. Also worked on putting together the “Field Book” for the contract.
- Contract 10-03 – 2010 Street and Parking Lot Improvement Program Punchlist: Fontana Concrete Contractors Inc. worked at the Delaware Avenue entrance/exit to Parking Lot #1 completing curb repairs and replacement of 26.0 s.f. of 6” p.c.c. sidewalk using 1.0 c.y. of DeIDOT Class B concrete.
- Erosion & Sediment Control Inspections: Performed weekly site inspections at Porter Nissan Dealership Expansion, Sutton Place, and Laura’s Glenn.
- Conducted 15 dry weather outfall inspections and associated paperwork.
- Investigated a paint complaint at the Foxcroft Apartments dumpster area.
- Dropped off educational stormwater stress balls for use at Lab Corp.
- Participated in an EPA Stormwater webcast, “EPA’s Proposed Construction General Permit (CGP)”.
- Compiled an updated list of stormwater BMP’s on GIS and exported the data for Andrew at UD Water Resources Agency.
- Worked on a corrugated metal pipe GIS map for the Engineering Assistant.
- Participated in Newark Nite by setting up an NPDES stormwater public education/ outreach booth.
- Road Survey Management System: Continued working on street survey for west 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 topographic location survey at Leroy Hill Park.
- Finalized 2.7 contract and began creating CD’s with images of the violations to send to contractors.

Field Operations

Refuse

- Several employees assisted this week with UDon't Need It? student move-out program as required.

Streets

- Catch basin crew rebuilt double catch basin at 1107 Barksdale Road.
- Concrete crew excavated, formed, and poured 26 l.f. of integral curb and bonnet across from 1107 Barksdale Road and also formed and poured 76 l.f. of 4' wide sidewalk at 3 locations along Handloff Park on Barksdale Road.
- Hot mix crew excavated and applied 210 s.f. of hot mix at 2 Creek Bend Drive.
- Street crew implemented detours and road closures and assisted Parks Department with Newark Nite.
- Street crew assisted Refuse Department with 3-man packer and bulk pick-ups with the knuckleboom.
- Some members of the street crew assisted with UDon't Need it? providing backhoe work, manpower, and clean-up operations at various times last week.
- Sign crew repaired and replaced signs and poles as needed and applied thermoplastic at the intersections of Orchard Road and W. Park Place and S. Chapel Street and Wyoming Road.

Parks & Recreation

Administration – Charlie Emerson

I committed significant time this week working with Pennoni to answer questions of contractors, regarding the Pomeroy Trail contract, and preparing an addendum.

I met with Tyler Jacobson, Joe Spadafino and Elizabeth Gellens to talk about her interest in making a donation to a fund for the purpose of constructing Skate Spots in our parks.

On Thursday, I met with our consultant and internal committee regarding the Curtis Mill/Old Paper Mill Road Park Master Plan. The final public meeting will be held on Monday, June 20 at 7 pm in the Council Chamber. The Plan will be presented to City Council at their July 11 meeting.

We conducted a very successful Newark Nite this past Saturday. Sharon and Debbie did a great job coordinating the event with lots of help from several volunteers and staff from this department, Police, Electric and Public Works.

Our work with the Delaware Trail Spinners at Redd Park to relocate and construct new trails for better sustainability and to enhance to trail users experience is progressing very well.

Recreation – Joe Spadafino

Paula awarded the bus bid for the summer programs. Buses support scheduled trips for the Rittenhouse Camp and Safety Town.

Paula sent out the final payment due notice to the camp registrants that haven't completed paying their balance for Rittenhouse Camp. She also completed updating the camp manual in preparation for staff orientations.

Paula and Tyler met with a Public Health Inspector and completed inspection of Rittenhouse Park for our summer nature camp program.

The recreation staff worked on fall program ideas, confirming instructor availability and facility usage.

Paula met with a Nemours representative regarding implementation of an initiative for the After School program at Downes for the upcoming school year. Make School a Moving Experience includes a plan for 100 minutes of physical activity for children per week at the After Care program.

Tyler is preparing supplies and finalizing staffing for the summer camp and pool seasons at the George Wilson Community Center.

Sharon and Debbie prepared for and held Newark Nite. They confirmed performances, followed up check requests and purchase orders, accepted and assigned late vendors, made calls about donations for the volunteer retreat, worked with sponsors, set performance schedules, designed and printed marketing materials, met with the parks staff and followed up on questions and requests from vendors, performers, and the public. It was a very smooth running event, thanks to the support of Newark Police and AETNA HHL and surrounding fire departments. Thanks also go out to the City's Electric, Public Works, and Parks and Recreation staff that worked the event.

The fifth Spring Concert, featuring Brene Wilson, was held with approximately 100 people in attendance.

Debbie sent emails to potential Safety Town and Tot Lot volunteers to set up interviews and have them complete a supplemental information form.

The recreation and office staff worked Newark Nite in various supporting roles. It was a great evening with an estimated 30,000 people in attendance.

I attended a Curtis Paper Mill meeting with Charlie and Pennoni Associates in preparation for the public meeting that will be held in July.

I am doing research on skate spot rules and regulations as well as bike vs skateboarder information.

Parks & Horticulture – Tom Zaleski

Horticulture staff completed the following;

- Continued on planted bed maintenance
- Potted up hosta divisions that were donated by a resident to be planted this fall
- Brought over to the Parks Building the 5 red bananas from Kirks Greenhouse for possible planting
- Mowing all horticulture areas
- Assisted with loading for Newark Nite
- Continued mulching planting bed areas

Parks staff completed the following;

- Mowing of park areas
- Loading/set up of materials/supplies for Newark Nite
- Removed a crabapple tree that fell in front of Ali-Baba Restaurant on Main Street
- Continued to prepare pools for the summer season
- Watering of newly planted area at 896 leaf area, trees on Main Street, and perennials throughout park system

Parks Superintendent and Supervisor completed the following;

- Attended a meeting concerning final master plan of Curtis Mill and Old Paper Mill Road Park
- Continued to research battery operated cameras for park use
- Started researching required maintenance for outdoor "Bike Pump" tracks
- Attended a meeting with representative of Lennope Properties and Parks Director concerning a possible trail connection to Redd Park

We are continuing to coordinate with contractor to start Main Street tree pit project. The tree grates are on order and the work should be started in late July when they arrive.

Electric

A glowing red connector was called in by a citizen Sunday night. The line crews came out and switched the 34kV transmission circuit around to save an outage on nine distribution circuits. Two connectors on a switch were overheated and repaired the next day and all circuits switched back to normal.

The line crews have been called out for a couple of flickering light problems. At a house on Vassar Drive and one on Woodsman Drive, loose neutrals were causing flicker. By using a load testing device, the crews quickly identified and fixed the problem.

The line crews have continued their maintenance projects of changing lightning arrestors to a newer technology arrestor and changing old metal pedestals in Barksdale Estates.

The electricians continued checking older pad mount transformers with an infrared camera to avoid outages caused by overheating connections. So far they have scanned eight neighborhoods and found six problems.

The meter technician helped reconfigure the service to Martin Honda on Cleveland Avenue. The technician was on hand to open distribution equipment and find alternate paths for service after it was found that the Service Center would lose power while constructing a new showroom.

CSH/mp