

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

June 17, 2011

Police

The Newark Police Department has arrested 21-year old Jaron Starkey of Wilmington for Trafficking PCP and several weapons offenses following the investigation of a domestic dispute in Newark on June 7, 2011. At approximately 9:15 a.m. an officer on patrol was alerted by a passerby to a possible domestic dispute on Willa Road in Newark. The officer responded to the area and observed Starkey involved in a domestic dispute with his 26-year old girlfriend. As the officer approached he observed Starkey drop an unknown item onto the ground. Starkey was taken into custody for questioning and it was discovered that the dropped item was a bottle containing liquid PCP. It was also learned that during the domestic dispute, which started in an apartment in the 100 block of Thorn Lane, Starkey had punched his girlfriend in the face, broken the window out of her vehicle and stolen her laptop computer. The girlfriend was uninjured during the altercation.

Following the discovery of the PCP, officers initiated a search warrant at Starkey's home. During this search officers recovered a second bottle containing a small amount of liquid PCP, two handguns, one with an obliterated serial number, and ammunition for the weapons.

Starkey was arrested on the below charges and transported to Howard R. Young Correctional in lieu of \$91,500 secured bail.

Defendant: Jaron Starkey, DOB 11/29/89
415 W. 35th Street
Wilmington, DE 19802

Charges: 1ct Trafficking PCP
2cts Possession of Deadly Weapon by Person Prohibited
1ct Possession of Weapon with Obliterated Serial Number
1ct Possession of Ammunition by Person Prohibited
1ct Theft under \$1500
1ct Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
1ct Offensive Touching
1ct Criminal Mischief

On Saturday, June 11th, at 1:20 a.m., Corporal Conover stopped a motorist for driving a vehicle with an overdue registration. The driver of the vehicle was found to have a revoked driver's license and had no proof of insurance. Further investigation found marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

The Newark Police Department has received and installed a video conference camera phone system in the police emergency operations room. The system was purchased by DEMA and installed in Newark to be used during regional emergencies.

Planning & Development

Planning

Work continued this week preparing materials for the upcoming July 5, 2011 Planning Commission meeting. Items tentatively scheduled for review include the following:

- A. The 2012 – 2016 Capital Improvements Program.
- B. A redevelopment of the property at 70-74 Amstel Avenue.
- C. A rezoning and resubdivision of the Wilson Farm property for fee simple single family homes and townhouses at this site on Casho Mill Road.

At its meeting Monday evening, City Council unanimously approved the Campus Edge rezoning, major subdivision and special use permit for this mixed use property on Delaware Avenue.

On Friday, I attended a WILMAPCO hosted meeting for the consultant presentations regarding the second phase of the planning and preliminary engineering for the proposed Newark Regional Transportation Center.

Economic Development

Of course, the very big news from the week was the announcement from Governor Markell's Office of the pending arrival in Newark of Bloom Energy to be located at the University of Delaware's and Newark's Science and Technology Campus. The coming of this company with its hi-tech jobs represents the culmination of many months of our work with the Governor's Office, the Delaware Development Office, the University of Delaware, and company representatives. Obviously, we are very excited.

On Wednesday, Assistant Planning and Development Director Maureen Feeney Roser and Mayor Funk filmed a segment for the Greater Wilmington Convention and Visitors Bureau's new website - <http://www.visitwilmingtonde.com/blog/index.cfm/2011/6/9/Putting-the-New-in-Newark-A-chat-with-Mayor-Funk-and-Maureen-FeeneyRoser/>. This footage focuses on downtown and why Newark deserves the GAMSA Award and, of course, why our downtown is a great place to eat, shop and enjoy.

Maureen also spent considerable time on downtown summer promotions, the Hops & Shops Sidewalk Sale, and its companion event the Food & Brew Fest, to be held on July 23rd.

Maureen is also working on revising our business recruitment package based on discussions with interested DNP Board Members who will be distributing them for business recruitment purposes.

Community Development

Applications for the CDBG and Revenue Sharing Program were mailed out to approximately 50 area non-profits and other groups providing services in Newark. A public hearing will be

held on Thursday, June 23rd to distribute information and answer questions about the application process.

On Friday, Mike spoke at the Wilson Elementary School about City planning.

Parking

Parking Administrator Marvin Howard reports that the Parking Division continues to work on obtaining compactors for Lot #4.

The Parking Division is working on the summer maintenance program for the municipal parking lots.

Code Enforcement

The third set of townhouses have begun construction at Twin Lakes.

The Barnes and Noble Bookstore will begin loading materials on Thursday if all goes well with the sprinkler and alarm testing on Wednesday.

Rittenhouse Station will be asking for townhouse COs in the next few weeks.

Public Works

Engineering/Planning and Inspection

- College Square Shopping Center – S.W.M. Maintenance: Met with Fusco Enterprises Construction Manager to review needed maintenance at the detention basin on site.
- Matt Slap Subaru – S.W.M. Maintenance: Turf Pro completed needed maintenance in the north and east sand filter systems on site per the annual stormwater maintenance inspection reports.
- Contract 10-03 – 2010 Street & Parking Lot Improvement Program: Fontana Concrete Contractors completed concrete repairs and resetting of bricks at the Main Street entrance to Parking Lot #1.
- Contract 11-06 – 2011 Street Improvement Program: Spent time measuring streets to be milled on upcoming contract.
- Erosion & Sediment Control Inspections: Performed weekly inspections at Laura's Glenn, Sutton Place, and Porter Nissan Dealership Expansion.
- Martin Honda: Held pre-construction meeting with Cedar Rock Construction and Keating & Sons site contractor.
- University Garden Apartments: Held pre-construction meeting with owner/site contractor and CCR for sand filters and bio-retention basin. Wrote minutes for meeting and sent out copies to all attendees.
- Road Survey Management System: Continued survey for west section of the City.
- Annual Stormwater Maintenance – Newark Maintenance Yard: A-1 Sanitation pumped out wet chambers of both sand filters and Tri-State Lawn replaced dirty sand out of both sand filter locations.

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 2.7 contract and mailed to contractors for proposals.
- Created a digital topographic map of Leroy Hill Park from previous survey of outfield and surrounding areas for future grading and drainage of low/wet areas.
- Responded to a complaint at 206 Murray Road about sidewalk obstruction.
- Assisted Water Department Inspector with grades of sewer line replacement at 101 Delrem Drive.
- Began highlighting CMP's on storm sewer maps as a visual aid and future maintenance program.

Field Operations/Streets

- Concrete crew excavated, formed, and poured 12 l.f. of 4' sidewalk at 1206 Barksdale Road, 20 l.f. on Barksdale Road near Williamsburg Village, 16 l.f. across from 1208 Barksdale Road, 16 l.f. on Casho Mill Road at Leroy Hill Park, 8 l.f. across from 1090 Casho Mill Road, and 12 l.f. next to 947 Rahway Drive.
- Hot mix crew excavated and applied 290 s.f. of hot mix across from 1107 Barksdale Road.
- Street crew assisted Refuse Department on the 3-man packer and knuckleboom.
- Storm sewer crew repaired storm sewer line on Academy Street at E. Park Place.
- Street crew pushed up brush for Refuse Department at Iron Glen Park and placed mulch outside of gate at 896 water tank.
- Street crew trimmed limbs obstructing the entrance way to Iron Glen Park.
- Sign crew repaired and replaced signs and poles as needed and applied thermoplastic at the following locations:
 1. Intersections of W. Park Place and Willa Road, Willa Road and Lehigh Road, W. Park Place and Apple Road (all 4 sides), Sypherd Drive and Hillside Road, Wyoming Road and S. Chapel Street, and on Rahway Drive.
 2. The crosswalks on E. Main Street at the Deer Park (2), crosswalks at E. Delaware Avenue and Elkton Road (2), and crosswalks on Academy Street at the student center.

Parks & Recreation

Administration – Charlie Emerson

Last Tuesday I escorted my office and recreation staff on a tour of Redd Park to walk and view the trail work we're doing with the help of the Delaware Trail Spinners. With the construction of the new trails we're seeing increased use of the trails. The hike, explanation of what we're doing and pointing out the park/trail ingress and egress locations will help staff to better answer questions from the public.

Tom and I visited several locations to evaluate trees that are in decline and need some type of care or removal.

Joe and I met to discuss various items relating to the Skate Spot program we're working on.

I reviewed and commented on the landscape plan for the Wilson Farm subdivision.

Along with our consultant, I'm planning for the final public meeting for the Curtis Mill/Old Paper Mill Road Park Master Plan. The meeting will take place on Monday, June 20 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

The pools at Dickey and Wilson Parks opened for the summer this week. They will operate Tuesday – Saturday from 12:30 – 5:00 p.m. through August 20.

I committed time working with our consultant to answer questions and prepare an addendum for the Pomeroy Trail contract. The bid opening is scheduled for Tuesday, June 21 at 2 p.m.

Heavy rains last Saturday evening caused some flooding in the Municipal Building. Crew members came in to conduct emergency clean up operations and finished the work on Monday.

Recreation – Joe Spadafino

Paula sent out first day letters to registrants for Rittenhouse and Hobbit Camps for session I. She also contacted people on the waiting list to start filling spots that have recently opened up.

Sharon and Debbie have been wrapping up several items associated with Newark Nite, including, performer check requests, signing off on POs and following up with vendors..

Sharon has been preparing items for the 4th of July Fireworks, which has been title sponsored by M & T Bank. Please be sure to use the following when addressing the event this year: **M & T Bank presents Newark's 4th of July Fireworks and Liberty Day Celebration.**

I am organizing the fall e-newsletter that will be electronically delivered on Monday, August 22.

I am working on the Rittenhouse Park trails map with State Parks in an effort to make it more detailed and user friendly.

Parks and Horticulture – Tom Zaleski

Horticulture staff completed the following:

- Assisted with unloading and clean up of materials/supplies from Newark Night

- Mowing of horticulture areas
- Assisted parks trim crew at Handloff Park to prepare site for Special Olympics event last weekend
- Watering of newly planted plant material and trees
- Continued on bed maintenance

Parks staff completed the following:

- Set up/removal/storage of materials/supplies from Newark Night
- Mowing of park areas
- Completed pool opening list and have one item remaining on opening list for Rittenhouse Day Camp
- Continued preparing ball fields for league play
- Continued doing work orders throughout park system

Parks Superintendent and Supervisor completed the following:

- Continued on park inspections
- Met with tree contractors concerning tree issues throughout park system
- Continued researching battery operated cameras for use in park system
- Continued researching required maintenance for outdoor "Bike Pump" tracks

Started coordinating for painting alley wall for the Parking Division.

Electric

Saturday night into Sunday morning, June 12, there was an outage on a transmission and distribution circuit when they were struck by lightning and wires from one circuit burned down. The circuits were restored in the early morning after several hours.

At the WSFS site on Elkton Road, a contractor dug up primary cables feeding the Home Depot. Home Depot lost power, but it was quickly restored by switching to another feed. The line crews are replacing the cables and fixing the broken conduits.

The line crews also replaced two poles on New Street and energized a service to pump houses on the University's Chrysler site.

The electricians continued checking older pad mount transformers with an infrared camera and started work on mounting receptacles on streetlights in strategic places on Main Street for events. They also worked on issues at the Water Treatment Plant.

Engineering worked with the SCADA developer, preparing for the next substation to be installed on the system. Also design issues at the Village at Twin Lakes were addressed and review of tree pit lighting on Main Street was done.

Water & Wastewater

Merit Construction has installed the temporary bridge over the West Branch of the Christina Creek and are in the process of constructing the access road to reach the second vault site on the south side of the creek. As soon as we receive the permit from the state for the access to RT 4 Merit will be able to complete the access roads to the north side of the creek and then get started on the construction of the new sewer lines across the creek.

We had been experiencing some pinhole leaks at the reservoir in the wetlands piping. We learned this week that copper products and aluminum piping do not interact well. We use Copper Sulfate at the reservoir as an algacide. We will modify our treatment protocol to reduce the impact to the aluminum pipe. In the mean time we have been successful plugging the holes with a two part epoxy putty. This is a maintenance issue and not a safety concern.

Work on Elkton Road is proceeding at a rapid clip. We have been spending a significant amount of time inspecting and coordinating with the contractor, adjoining residents and businesses. A major source of the rush is the window of opportunity this summer to complete the northbound lane between Apple and Delaware Avenue with a base course of asphalt. There is a disincentive should they fail to complete this work on time.

I will be making a presentation this week to the Brandy Wine Valley Association regarding the study we have started (first meeting of stake holders on July 7th) to look at the options for drawing water from the White Clay Creek. We know that the dam and raceway we currently use will need to be repaired or replaced in the near future. This study will help us identify alternatives that we might pursue.

KRS/mp