

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

June 24, 2011

Planning & Development

Planning

Work continues preparing materials for the upcoming July 5, 2011 Planning Commission meeting. The Commission will be considering the following:

- A. The 2012-2016 Capital Improvements Program;
- B. Review and consideration of the redevelopment of the properties at 70-74 Amstel Avenue for a mixed use commercial and 16 townhouse apartments project; and,
- C. The rezoning and major subdivision of the Wilson Farm property on Casho Mill Road for 18 single family dwelling units and 63 townhomes.

At its meeting Tuesday evening the Reapportionment Committee completed its review and recommended to City Council a redistricting plan based on the Newark population counts in the 2010 United States Census.

Economic Development

Assistant Planning and Development Director Maureen Feeney Roser spent time this week on summer promotions for downtown.

Some time was spent on banner replacements.

Community Development

On Thursday Planner Mike Fortner attended a WILMAPCO Technical Advisory Committee meeting.

Later on Thursday Mike attended a Newark Bicycle Subcommittee meeting.

Mike completed a loan signing for the Home Improvement Program this week.

Mike is also working on updating the Planning and Development Department's Facts and Figures brochure providing the latest demographic information for our community.

Parking

This week Parking Administrator Marvin Howard met with the property owners concerning compactors in Lot #4.

Marv also reports that the Parking Division is moving forward with setting up monthly parking for the proposed new South College Bridge Lot (under the bridge).

Public Works

Engineering/Planning and Inspection

- Christina Creek Inspection, Wedgewood Road to Nottingham Road: Performed creek inspection for blockages.
- Contract 11-06 – 2011 Street Improvement Program: Spent considerable time measuring streets to be milled on upcoming contract.
- Erosion & Sediment Control Inspections:
 1. Performed weekly site inspections at Laura's Glenn, Sutton Place, and Porter Nissan Dealership Expansion.
 2. Set up and held meeting at Rittenhouse Station with site CCR and site superintendent to discuss repeated non-compliance issues and infrequent CCR inspections. All attendees walked the perimeter of site and discussed needed repairs/items to achieve site compliance.
- Conducted 12 dry weather outfall inspections and associated paperwork.
- Investigated a pool drainage complaint on Bent Lane.
- Attended a DNREC Regulatory Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting regarding the proposed sediment and stormwater regulations.
- Investigated a grease complaint at Santa Fe Mexican Grille, and sent a certified letter to the owner.
- Participated in a Center for Watershed Protection Stormwater Retrofit Workshop in Millsboro.
- Road Survey Management System: Completed survey for west section of the City and entered data onto computer.

Survey Crew

- Continued updating storm water maps and data with missing and changed basins.
- Continued highlighting CMP's on storm sewer maps as a visual aid and future maintenance program.
- Measured, offset, and graded 364' of curb on Connell Circle for replacement on the street program.
- Measured, offset, and graded 2,561' of curb on Baylor Drive for replacement on the street program.
- Ran grades on 87' of curb at 807/809 North Country Club Drive for future replacement.

Field Operations/Streets

- Catch basin crew rebuilt the following catch basins: 305 Dove Drive, 101 Ritter Lane, and 17 Country Hills Drive.
- Concrete crew excavated and poured 250 s.f. of 7" concrete pad over previously repaired storm sewer at the intersection of E. Park Place and Academy Street.
- Street crew saw cut roadway for curb replacement at 5, 9, and 10 Timber Creek Lane for future curb repairs.
- Hot mix crew excavated and applied 324 s.f. of hot mix on Academy Street at E. Park Place intersection.

- Street crew loaded and hauled 4 loads of previously stockpiled hot mix and concrete from the City yard to Batten for disposal.
- Street crew working on flooding issues in front of City hall at various catch basins.
- Street crew assisted Refuse Department delivering trash cans.
- Sign crew placed temporary No Parking signs on New Street for the Electric Department to do maintenance work on utility poles.

Parks & Recreation

Administration – Charlie Emerson

I attended the Conservation Advisory Commission last Tuesday night.

Tom and I met with representatives of the Delaware Forest Service to further discuss grant funding they have available that would help us start our reforestation program. This effort will also improve Newark Urban Tree Canopy.

Tom, Joe and I met to discuss our efforts to work with the residents who live near Dickey Park to create recreation opportunities for the children in the area. We also discussed Community Development Block Grant project ideas for the 38th Year funding cycle.

On Thursday I met with our consultant (Penonni) to make final preparations for the final public workshop for the Curtis Mill/Old Paper Mill Road Park Master Plan. The workshop was conducted on Monday, June 20. The Plan will be presented to City Council on July 11.

Recreation – Joe Spadafino

Paula attended a “new center” orientation sponsored by the Office of Child Care Licensing regarding the addition of the West Park School Before and After Care program.

The recreation staff conducted the general camp orientation for Summer Camp counselors and then conducted an additional orientation for Rittenhouse/Hobbit Counselors, Camp G.W.C and Tot Lot the following day.

Paula worked on finalizing payments for camp and continued to place kids from the waiting list into open spots for the summer sessions.

Paula picked up the camp van for use during Rittenhouse Camp and delivered supplies and equipment to Rittenhouse Park for the start of camp.

The outdoor pools at Dickey and George Wilson Parks opened on Tuesday, June 14. The pools are scheduled to be open Tuesday-Saturday, 12:30-5:00 p.m. through August 20.

Tyler held a lifeguard training and orientation session on Monday, June 13.

CPR and First Aid training was held on Monday, June 13 and Tuesday, June 14 for summer recreation program staff.

Sharon is organizing the 4th of July Fireworks and Liberty Day by confirming performances, assigning vendors and organizing the pre-event meeting with the University of Delaware, Newark Police and the Fire Marshal.

I attended a grant workshop and fair conducted by the State of Delaware.

I met with Charlie about Skate Spots rules and regulations and potential maintenance costs.

I recorded a Comcast newsmaker segment that highlighted our summer Parks and Recreation programs. The segment will air in July and August.

Parks and Horticulture – Tom Zaleski

Horticulture staff completed the following:

- Continued on bed maintenance
- Mowing of horticulture areas as needed
- Watering of new plant materials as needed
- Completed planting new area aside steps to Veterans Lane parking lot at City Hall
- Maintenance on containerized nursery as needed at Parks Building
- Applied insecticide spray to plant material as needed for insect control
- Continued mulching planting areas in park system

Parks staff completed the following:

- Checked on pool pumps at both pool sites
- Repaired leaking pipe to outdoor shower at Wilson Center
- Mowing of park areas
- Continued on Building Maintenance items
- Removed two dead/declining Maples on Main Street
- Continued on work orders

Parks Superintendent and Supervisor completed the following:

- Met with State Urban Forester about "Reforestation Grant" for this year
- Attended Grant Workshop in Dover
- Started working on measurements for cracks on parking lot/court areas needing repair.

Electric

The line crews are installing transformers, primary and secondary cables, and pedestals for the underground distribution system for the next phase of The Village at Twin Lakes. They are installing aerial circuitry for the upgrade along New Street and finished installing all the distribution lightning arrestors to enhance system protection.

The line crews also changed a pole at the yard used to train the newer crew members on climbing. The old pole was climbed so much that there were too many holes from the climbing gaffs.

The contractor installing a backup circuit for the University's Lovett Avenue Science Center has installed all the new poles on Haines Street and pulled in the primary wires. They met with engineering from water, electric, and public works on the underground route needed to take from Main Street to tie into the aerial circuit.

Engineering and the electricians are installing power supplies, fiber optic cables, and network devices at a substation in preparation for the SCADA developer. The SCADA developer will be coming with communication devices to tie relays and other substation controls into a radio system that will send signals to a server at City Hall.

Water & Wastewater

We had another pump failure at the Cooches Bridge sanitary pump station on the 16th and were able to get the pump patched and back up and running. Both pumps in the station have now been patched. In addition to the pump failure, a small discharge of sewage occurred into the adjacent stream. We have notified DNREC and revised the piping to prevent this from reoccurring. This station was already in the process to be replaced and we are working to streamline the process and hopefully get the work complete before another failure.

On Monday the 20th we were notified by United Water that we had a leak along Old Cooches Bridge Road, in front of Well 17. We turned off the pump and the leak slowed significantly so it has been left off until we can fix the problem. We submitted a Miss Utility ticket on Tuesday the 21st and plan to dig down to determine the cause of the leak on Thursday the 23rd.

Our contractor was on site Monday and Tuesday of this week to replace sidewalks which have been damaged due to water operations.

On Wednesday the 22nd I attended a workshop at the Rural Water Association regarding the upcoming cross-connection regulations which are currently in development. At this time the regulations are going to mandate that public water system purveyors survey all customer properties for possible cross connections and create a database which will be used to ensure that the customers are maintaining and servicing their backflow preventers as necessary. The finer details of the regulations are still being worked out but we should develop an outline of how to remain in compliance so we are ready when they go into effect. This regulation could result in significant expense to the water utility.

The last curb stop on Kells Avenue should be replaced either Thursday or Friday of this week after which we will be moving forward with the hyperflush program on Kells and Wollaston.

Police

On Sunday, June 19th at 12:17 a.m., Corporal Larue observed a vehicle commit several motor vehicle violations. Cpl. Larue stopped the vehicle on Margaret Street. While speaking with the driver of the vehicle, Cpl. Larue detected a faint odor of marijuana from inside the vehicle. A Newark Police K-9 conducted a drug search of the vehicle. The K-9 alerted for drugs in a book bag behind the driver's seat. The bag was found to contain 9 bags of marijuana. The driver admitted that he sells the marijuana. The suspect was arrested and taken into custody.

On Tuesday, June 21st at 7:44 p.m., Corporal Dawson was alerted to be on the lookout for a male on the hood of a car being driven on Library Avenue. Shortly after the alert, Cpl. Dawson observed the vehicle with the male on the hood. Upon observing the police officer, the vehicle pulled to the side of the road and the man hopped off the hood. The vehicle then continued on Library Avenue and turned onto Wyoming Road. Cpl. Dawson told the male to stay where he was and continued after the vehicle. Cpl. Dawson stopped the vehicle and Officer Wolfrom brought the male to the scene of the stop. The male who was on the hood of the car, stated that he gave \$400.00 to one of the occupants of the car for illegal drugs. The suspect, upon receiving the \$400.00 entered the vehicle without handing over any drugs. As the vehicle left the scene, the male jumped on the hood of the car, demanding his money back. A K-9 search of the vehicle detected trace amounts of marijuana in a tea cup and 1 gram of marijuana on the seat. The occupants of the vehicle were charged with possession of marijuana. The male who jumped on the hood of the vehicle was charged with disorderly conduct and criminal mischief.

On Tuesday, June 21st, Chief Tiernan and Master Corporal Bryda met with approximately 20 residents of Kells Avenue, at the home of one of the resident's. Neighborhood concerns were discussed. Resident and police responses on Kells Avenue were reviewed.

KRS/mp