

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

July 8, 2011

Parks & Recreation

Administration – Charlie Emerson

We completed a Plan Review and forwarded comments on the 143 Courtney Street project.

We continue to work with DeIDOT and Pennoni to complete necessary items relating to the award of the Pomeroy and Newark Rail Trail construction contract.

I spent time reviewing 38th Year CDBG project proposals prepared by Joe and Tom.

We have been awarded a \$14,333 grant by the Delaware Department of Agriculture's Forest Service Division and its Urban and Community Forestry Program. The funds will be used to plant trees in the initial phase of a reforestation plan we created for various park sites and to complete a Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The goal of the Urban and Community Forestry Program is to enhance a community's urban tree canopy and to develop a plan to assess hazardous fuels in the wild land urban interface.

I'm continuing to work with the Delaware Trail Spinners and Delaware State Parks on the Redd Park trail rehab and building project. We are well into Phase 3 of the project.

Recreation – Joe Spadafino

Sharon and Debbie prepared for and held the annual Fireworks and Liberty Day Celebration at the University of Delaware Athletics Complex which was sponsored by M&T Bank. The event went very well with an estimated 50,000 people in the area for the event. Sharon and Debbie met with key City and University officials as well as Aetna and DeIDOT personnel to review safety, traffic, and overall event logistics and set up.

Sharon and Debbie have been preparing for this year's Safety Town. They have been revising the schedule, setting up guest presentations, interviewing volunteers, ordering supplies, etc.

We conducted a Tennis Camp this week at Fairfield Park.

Camps held at GWC this week included Before and After Camp Care, Camp GWC and Funniest Video Drama Camp.

I attended the fireworks meeting with the events staff and personnel from the University, City of Newark, Aetna Hook and Ladder and DeIDOT.

Parks and Horticulture – Tom Zaleski

Horticulture staff completed the following:

- Mowing of horticulture areas
- Tree/shrub pruning at City Hall as needed
- Continued mulching landscaped areas
- Spent time with nursery stock maintenance
- Planted Red Bananas at the Reservoir and Apple and Winslow Road landscaped sites for summer and early fall
- Liquid feeding of potted plant material at City Hall and Wilson Center

Parks staff completed the following:

- Mowing park areas
- Maintenance on mowing equipment
- Repaired leaking urinal at City Hall on second floor
- Completed tree work at several park sites
- Continued assisting volunteer group installing woodcarpet safety surfacing under play units in park system
- Started cutting back plant growth in swale along Barksdale Road
- Cut back shrubs from ROW off Minquill Drive to Rittenhouse Park
- Checked on pools during the week
- Loading and set up for Liberty Day event

Parks Superintendent and Supervisor completed the following:

- Completed park inspections
- Started gathering quotes for power washing four tennis court areas with algae issues
- Continued gathering quotes for crack sealing on multipurpose court areas
- Inspected landscape installation for C of O for townhouses at Rittenhouse Station
- Checked on sump pumps at the City Hall loading dock dealing with drainage issue
- Coordinated with volunteer group from Gore doing trail maintenance along the Christina Creek trail
- Attended meeting concerning the retaining wall and landscaping at Rittenhouse Station behind homes on Madison Drive

Electric

The contractor building a backup circuit for UD's Lovett Avenue Science Center has finished upgrading conductors and transferring transformers along Haines Street. Presently, they are setting poles on Center Street and repairing sidewalks on Chapel Street where new taller poles were installed.

The line crews reworked all the facilities behind the bowling alley at the Newark Shopping Center. This is part of the voltage upgrade reported on last week to change all the lines and equipment behind the shopping center from 4kV to 12kV. The line crews also continued working with the developer to quickly supply power to new homes at The Village of Twin Lakes.

The standby crew was called out Tuesday night to change a failed transformer on Vassar Drive affecting five homes.

The line crews and engineering worked on solving voltage problems at a concentrator point for the City Police's camera system. After recordings showed voltage issues, the connections along the lines were checked and remade and new grounding connections were made. Subsequent recordings show minimal voltage distortion.

A failed relay was discovered during a routine check of the city's main substation. Another relay was reprogrammed and installed, while the original has been sent back to the factory for repairs.

Water & Wastewater

Last week a series of holes were found in the reservoir piping which supplies the sand filter. The holes appear to have been a result of vandalism, most likely someone hitting the pipe with rocks. In order to repair the pipe we drained the perimeter channel and observed fairly severe corrosion on the underside of the pipe which may require a few lengths of pipe to be replaced. We currently have a few spare pipes that were left over from the reservoir construction which we plan to use where possible. In addition to the holes, over the weekend someone removed a metal vent cover and threw it into the perimeter channel. We were able to retrieve and reinstall the cover.

We are looking into installing a section of fence to keep residents from walking up the side of the embankment at the reservoir near the parking lot. Despite signs which have been posted at each location, people continue to walk up the same paths and are killing the grass. These paths can increase erosion of the embankment.

We started drawing water off of the reservoir on Wednesday the 6th due to low flow in the White Clay Creek.

Greggo hit a water main in Elkton Road yesterday afternoon causing a temporary shutdown in order to make repairs. Phil worked with Greggo to resolve the situation and we expect to have more information tomorrow.

We received preliminary drawings and specifications for the Cooches Bridge pump station from Pennoni last week. We reviewed the plans and went over the design with the operators to get their input. The marked up plans were returned to Pennoni last Friday.

We are moving forward with plans for installing a sanitary sewer grinder pump at the Newark treatment plant which will address the broken sewer lateral and allow use of the bathroom to resume. We expect to meet with contractors to solicit bids in the next week.

Police

On Friday, July 1st, Corporal Beighley and Corporal LaRue responded to Madison Drive in reference to a fight that had just occurred. Two female roommates had been at a party and had been drinking for six hours. One of the females became jealous that her roommate was talking to another woman. The two roommates exchanged words and then one roommate punched the other and a fight ensued. Both women were issued a summons for Assault 3rd and released.

On Saturday, July 2nd, at 12:56 p.m., Officer Mease responded to Longwood Lane on a report of an argument. Upon arriving at the scene, Officer Mease learned that earlier, the homeowner heard her garage door open. When she went to investigate the noise her neighbor told her he saw a male run from the garage. The homeowner observed her son's friend in the area. The son contacted the suspect who then returned to the scene. The suspect gave a confession and was charged with Burglary and Attempted Theft.

On Monday, July 4th, approximately 50,000 people attended the fireworks display. Officers did a great job with traffic and crowd control and no incidents were reported.

On Tuesday, July 5th, officers responded to 136 Elkton Road, on a report of a collapsed building overhang. The Building and Electric Departments responded to inspect the building. No injuries occurred and the building owner cleared away the debris.

Within the past few years, crime has been declining in Newark. As of June 25, 2011, Part I (serious crime) is down 15.2% year to date, Part II (less serious crime) is down 16.2% year to date, and aggravated assault has seen the most dramatic decline of 57.1% year to date.

Planning & Development

Planning

At its meeting Tuesday evening, the Planning Commission recommended to City Council in favor of the following:

- A. The 2012-2016 Capital Improvement Program.
- B. The redevelopment of the properties at 70-74 Amstel Avenue for 1,100 square feet of commercial space and 16 townhouse apartments.
- C. The rezoning and redevelopment plan for the Wilson Farm property on Casho Mill Road for 18 single family dwellings and 63 townhomes.

Economic Development

On Thursday morning, Assistant Planning and Development Director Maureen Feeney Roser met with Louviers Federal Credit Union representatives to discuss business training needs and marketing.

On Thursday afternoon, Maureen and Community Affairs Officer Dana Johnston met with a Paragon Design representative to discuss the Downtown Webpage Project.

An E-News You Can Use newsletter was developed and distributed this week.

On Wednesday morning, Maureen hosted a meeting of the DNP Merchants' Committee.

Community Development

On Tuesday, Mike provided the staff for the DNP's Design Committee meeting. The Committee is working on architectural review of several downtown projects on Elkton Road and on Main Street. The Committee has also begun plans to begin construction on its alleyway project between Home Grown and Mizu Sushi Restaurant.

Mike also completed the sixth Financial Draw for the 36th Year Community Development Block Grant Program.

The first CDBG/Revenue Sharing Advisory Committee meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, August 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the City Manager's Conference Room.

Public Works

Engineering/Planning and Inspection

- Twin Lakes
 1. Nichols Construction graded and test rolled subbase on the back of South Twin Lakes Boulevard. Contractor started to install crusher run on the road and performed test roll and grade check on portion of South Twin Lakes Boulevard for hot mix base.
 2. Cirillo Brothers installed tack coat curb line and placed 303 tons of hot mix base course on a portion of South Twin Lakes Boulevard at the entrance.
 3. First Choice Concrete installed 832 s.f. of 6" sidewalks and 300 s.f. of 4" p.c.c. sidewalk from Lots #60 through Lots #53. Contractor used 25 c.y. of Class B concrete.
- University of Delaware ECUP/ICEP Building: Corrado Construction installed pre-cast manhole in Haines Street and tied into existing storm sewer. Also installed 32 l.f. of 24" RCP concrete pipe heading toward new manhole on University property.
- Woods at Louviers Final Punchlist: Marone Construction replaced 95 l.f. of integral curb and gutter using a 6 c.y. load of Class B concrete. Also worked on patching chips of curbs throughout the development.
- Contract 09-06 – Handicap Ramp Contract: Paoli Services completed all remaining punchlist items for contract.
- Stormwater Management Maintenance: Brogan Landscaping started cleanup and maintenance of stormwater management areas on McIntyre Drive.

Survey Crew

- Set up a baseline and shot elevations on Bellevue Road for future paving on this year's street contract.
- Merged and mailed reminder letters for Phase 3.1 Sidewalk Program.
- Identified property lines on Center Street for concrete replacement.

Field Operations/Streets

- Catch basin crew rebuilt catch basin on the corner of N. College Avenue and Main Street.
- Concrete crew formed and poured 16 l.f. of 4' sidewalk in the cul-de-sac on Blair Court and 44 l.f. of sidewalk at the corner of Casho Mill Road and Barksdale Road at Handloff Park.
- Concrete crew excavated, formed, and poured 30 l.f. of integral curb at 14 Country Hills Drive and 28 l.f. of integral curb at 32 Country Hills Drive.
- Sign truck repaired and replaced signs and poles as needed, trimmed trees and branches at various locations for obstruction problems, and applied thermoplastic at the intersection of Academy Street & E. Park Place.
- Hot mix crew excavated and applied 420 s.f. of hot mix at 32 Country Hills Drive and 198 s.f. of hot mix at 14 Country Hills Drive.
- Loader cleaned up brush and debris that was dumped outside of 896 leaf pile, placed mulch outside of gate, and pushed up brush for Refuse Department at Iron Glen Park.
- Street crew, with assistance from the Water Department truck 243, worked on a blocked storm sewer line outlet at the corner of Park Drive and Brook Drive.

KRS/mp