

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

July 29, 2011

Police

On Thursday, July 21, 2011 at approximately 12:09 p.m., M/Cpl. Simpson responded to the Home Depot in Suburban Plaza for an attempted theft and fraudulent use of a credit card. Upon arrival the loss prevention manager stated that they had received a phone in order for hardwood flooring and a lawn tractor totaling \$6,083.00. A flag went off in Home Depot's computer system because this transaction was similar to numerous others in Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland. A hauling company arrived to Home Depot to pick up the items, which had been hired by the unknown suspect. The card used was deemed to be fraudulent and the items did not leave the store. This case has been turned over to detectives for additional investigation.

On Thursday, July 21, 2011, Cpl. Vernon responded to the first block of Thompson Circle for a report of a residential burglary which occurred during the daytime hours. The suspect broke into the residence through a rear window. Stolen from the house was a guitar, cash and prescription medications. Detectives responded to the scene to assist in the investigation. A suspect in the burglary has been developed and an arrest is pending additional investigation.

On Saturday, July 23, 2011, Officer Hodge responded to the first block of Westfield Drive for a report of a residential burglary that had just been discovered by the homeowner. Cpl. Jones and K9 Paco also responded to check the residence for the intruder, with negative results. The suspect broke into the residence during the evening hours and removed jewelry, cash, gaming systems, clothing and prescription medications. This case will be forwarded to detectives for additional investigation.

On Sunday, July 24, 2011 at approximately 12:48 a.m., Cpl. Vernon and additional officers from NPD and UDPD responded to the 100 block of E. Cleveland Avenue for a report a large fight involving up to 100 people. It took multiple officers from both agencies to clear the crowds. Officers then observed a group of people tending to someone on the ground. The 23-year-old male victim was located lying on the front lawn of a residence with blood covering his head and face. An ambulance was called and he was transported to Christiana Hospital. The victim suffered several lacerations to the face, an orbital fracture, a nasal fracture, and swelling of the brain. Witnesses reported that several fights broke out in the area and somehow the victim became involved in one after a male allegedly punched his girlfriend. It was described that approximately ten people were striking the victim and then one male struck the victim in the head with a glass bottle, knocking him to the ground, where others began to kick and stomp him. The suspect that struck the victim with the bottle is described as a white male in his 20's, 6'00" tall, 145 lbs., wearing a white tank top, blue jean shorts, very tan complexion, a chin-strap beard with "DC" shaved into right side of his head and multiple tattoos on his arms. Detectives are assisting in this investigation.

Planning & Development

Planning

The packet of materials for the upcoming August 2nd Planning Commission meeting was completed and forwarded to the Commission on Tuesday. Agenda items include:

- A. The review of a Zoning Code set of amendments regarding alcohol beverage service at downtown restaurant bars.
- B. The redevelopment of the Trader's Alley parking lot for an upper floor parking facility and 14 apartments.

On Thursday evening I attended the Board of Adjustment meeting.

We have received a notification from Cecil County that a 148 dwelling unit project is under review for a property in the County at the intersection of Valley and Barksdale Roads.

Economic Development

We received our annual notification from the National Trust for Historic Preservation that the City of Newark's Main Street Program once again qualifies as a "Main Street Community."

This morning the City Manager and I joined representatives of the New Castle County Chamber of Commerce at a meeting with University officials regarding follow-up to the Wadley-Donovan Economic Development Study.

Community Development

On Thursday, Planner Mike Fortner attended the WLMAPCO Technical Advisory Committee meeting.

Later on Thursday, Mike attended the Newark Bicycle Committee meeting.

Applications for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Revenue Sharing Programs were delivered to Advisory Committee members. The first meeting will be held on August 10th.

Parking

Parking Administrator Marvin Howard reports that he is working with Barnes and Noble to get the parking lot operational.

Resurfacing of Lot #5 is being done this week.

Public Works

Engineering/Planning and Inspection

- Laura's Glenn: Met with developer on site and discussed the following:
 1. E&SC non-compliance at Lot 4.
 2. SWM maintenance of temp. sediment trap/detention basin.
 3. Lot 7 – incomplete items holding up escrow release.
 4. Incomplete sidewalk installation along Trout Stream Drive.
 5. Lot 5 – Silt fence removal & restoration.
- Contract 11-06 – 2001 Street Program: Sam's Construction worked on Wilson Street and completed the following:
 1. 234.7 l.f. of 4" p.v.c. subsurface drain installation.
 2. 27.5 s.y. of p.c.c. utility trench patch removal.
- Erosion & Sediment Control Inspections: Performed weekly inspections at Laura's Glenn, Sutton Place, and Porter Nissan Dealership Expansion.
- Woods at Louviers: PM Construction worked on patching of hot mix for final punchlist. Contractor placed 37.85 s.y. of patching using 8 tons of Type C hot mix.
- Met with Chad Ingram, engineer representing Pulte Homes, and Pulte representative at detention basin #3. Went over sink hole forming in back of outlet structure and recommendations from engineer.
- Prettyman Property – E. Cleveland Avenue: Conducted pre-construction meeting and typed up meeting minutes. Performed an erosion and sediment control inspection.
- Contract 11-02 – 2011 ADA Handicap Ramp Installation Program: Met with superintendent to go over ramps that contractor will be starting with. Handed out notices to residents affected by construction.

Survey Crew

- Completed shooting grades on approximately 3,550 l.f. of curb on Alexandria Road and entered data into cut sheets.
- Measured, shot, and graded 148 l.f. of valley gutters on Dallas Avenue and 37 l.f. of valley gutter on Phelps Lane.
- Responded to an obstruction complaint on Minquil Drive and sent four sidewalk obstruction violation notices to 37, 40, and 42 Minquil Drive and 724 Brook Drive.

Field Operations/Streets

- Concrete crew formed and poured 15 l.f. of 4' sidewalk by the park at Winslow Road and Apple Road.
- Catch basin crew excavated old and installed new single catch basin at the intersection of Delgrove Avenue and W. Chestnut Hill Road and repaired the following basins: the corner of Amoroso Way and Walker Way, 217 Walker Way, 304 Walker Way, the corner of Anna Way & Giliberti Lane, across from 147 Haines Street, and 9 Briar Lane at Dallam Road.
- Hot mix crew excavated and applied 750 s.f. of hot mix at the Student Center and Academy Street, 950 s.f. of hot mix at Allison Hall and Academy Street, and 110 s.f. at 304 Walker Way.

- Street crew loaded and hauled 3 loads of previously stockpiled hot mix from the City yard to Batten for disposal and 3 loads of sweeper material from the City yard to the landfill.
- Street crew loaded and hauled old bicycles to Wilmington for the Police Department.
- Street crew assisted on 3-man packer, picked up heavy items, and delivered trash cans for the Refuse Department.

Parks & Recreation

Administration – Charlie Emerson

With Council awarding the Pomeroy Trail construction and construction management contracts, we will soon schedule the pre-construction meeting and plan to have shovels in the ground in short order.

We're putting the finishing touches on a Request For Quotations for a tree planting and watering project. I mentioned in a previous weekly report that we have been awarded grant funding thru the State Forest Service to enhance our Urban Tree Canopy. This will be the first of several phases of the program.

I spent time at Redd Park, the park open space below Wyncliff and west edge of the Reservoir site to consider possible trail alignment extensions.

Recreation – Joe Spadafino

Paula conducted the youth soccer league coaches meetings and reviewed the league rules and set up practice times. The skills days will be held in early August prior to practices starting. Coaches will receive rosters after the skills sessions.

Paula sent out program information letters to registrants in the Sports Squirts, Lacrosse, Field Hockey and Flag Football Camps starting next week. Over 50 children are signed up for the various sports camps. She also sent out first day letters for the last session of Rittenhouse and Hobbit Camps.

Paula completed the playoff schedules and informed team captains for the Monday BB volleyball league of their final placement. She also updated our summer adult sport league standings and schedules on the City website and for the local newspaper.

Paula sent out email blasts regarding the youth soccer leagues and remaining summer camps to previous participants.

Swim lessons were held Monday - Friday at the GWC pool. We had 26 total participants over 4 levels - Parent/Tot, Beginner, Adv. Beginner and Intermediate.

Tyler held mid-season lifeguard in-service training on Monday, July 18. Topics covered included a review of our rules and daily operating procedures, reminders about proper patron surveillance and practicing rescue techniques in the pool.

Camps held at GWC this week included Before and After Camp Care, Camp GWC, Footworks Dance Camp and Pottery Camps.

Parks and Horticulture – Tom Zaleski

Horticulture staff completed the following:

- Continued on landscape bed maintenance
- Watering of plant material throughout park system
- Watering nursery stock
- Assisted with park maintenance work orders
- Tree/shrub/bamboo cut backs as needed in park system
- Conducted IPM inspections throughout park system

Parks staff completed the following:

- Mowing of park areas
- Painting the Safety Town area at Wilson Center
- Completed repairs to the west end of warehouse at City Yard
- Replaced a faucet in the Rittenhouse Park camp building
- Prepared ball fields for playoffs as needed
- A volunteer group continued placing safety surfacing under play units
- Started painting certain rooms in the Police annex in preparation for their upcoming recertification inspection

Parks Superintendent and Supervisor completed the following:

- Conducted park inspections
- Gathered quotes to clean tennis courts to remove algae growth
- Continued working on items pertaining to the Reforestation Grant and Request for Quotations
- I have been in communication with the contractor awarded Main Street Tree Pit Rehab Contract - work is scheduled to begin on Monday, August 1.

Electric

Delmarva's metering equipment on one of the main transformers feeding the City failed last week. Engineering and the standby crew were called out to transfer the load to another transformer. The line crews are reworking the metering equipment and will switch the loads back soon.

Klondike Kate's had another incident with their electric service this week. A connector owned by them was failing when the line crews were called. There was a short outage as the crews replaced all the connectors where their parallel conductors were coupled together. Management from Klondike's and engineering are working together in order to upgrade the service properly. This is the second call in two weeks.

The standby crew was called out in the early morning to the University's Ice Arena, where a University owned cable failed. Switches were opened and University personnel were notified. They have hired a contractor for cable replacement.

The line crews have been working on a 12kV circuit extension on Center Street, installing cable at Twin Lakes, and preemptively fixing any hot spots found by the electricians doing infrared scans of transformers.

Engineering has been busy checking approval drawings for the new substation class transformer to be delivered later this year. Also, the engineering technician has been using a phase analysis tool in the field to update the distribution prints.

Water & Wastewater

We are coordinating several water outages related to the Elkton Road Project. In one instance we are working with the University to provide temporary water to a chilled water utility plant so that they are able to provide cooling throughout the duration of the water system work. In light of this work I have suggested to the UD and they are pursuing some modification to the new ECUP project so we do not have a similar problem in the future. I have also suggested a similar utility connection for the new animal science lab on Delaware Avenue.

We are making the final arrangements for the water line cleaning on Kells and Wollaston Avenues. We have been able to get all of the access hydrants disassembled and reassembled so that they will be easily prepared when the cleaning is performed.

I have submitted progress reports and payment request to DEMA for the sanitary sewer crossing project. I was able to get almost all of the design work covered as an eligible expense for purposes of grant reimbursement. Work on the project is going well. The contractor is finishing the last half of the creek crossings. They will be setting the vaults next.

We have developed with the City Attorney a waiver for residents to sign when we need to operate water valves or system appurtenances off the right of way. Recently we investigated a problem and in doing so caused a leak to develop (the pipe would have leaked if anyone had touched it we just happened to be the last one to do so) on the resident's service line. We are in the process of working with the resident to fix the line. Moving forward we will use the waiver to establish the fact that we are not responsible for problems that may develop from our normal operation of the valve or device.

At the reservoir we have been having some problems with goose poop. Public works is going to run the street sweeper to keep the problem under control.

We have finalized plans and have identified a contractor to install a grinder pump at the Newark Treatment Plant so that we can collect the sanitary sewage from the treatment plant and facilities and pump it around the settling pond. The existing sewer lateral that runs under the pond has collapsed and is not useable or repairable.

KRS/mp