

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

August 5, 2011

Planning & Development

Planning

At its meeting Tuesday evening, the Planning Commission took the following actions:

- A. Recommended amendments to the Zoning Code regarding alcoholic beverage service at downtown restaurants.
- B. Tabled consideration of the Trader's Alley redevelopment plan.

Economic Development

Assistant Planning and Development Director Maureen Feeney Roser spent time this week on the Downtown Newark Holiday Ad Campaign and Promotions.

This morning, Maureen hosted the DNP Merchants' Committee meeting. The Committee discussed August promotions, holiday advertising, Newark Nite and "South Main Street."

Community Development

On Thursday, Planner Mike Fortner attended a graduation event for JP Morgan Chase Interns and spoke about the benefits of living in Newark.

On Wednesday, Mike completed a Home Improvement Program loan signing.

Parking

On Friday morning, I joined with the City Manager and Finance Director at a meeting with the proposed developers of the Parking Lot #1 parking garage.

Parking Administrator Marvin Howard reports that Lot #6 (to the rear of the Barnes and Noble Bookstore) is fully operational.

The resurfacing of Lot #5 is complete and the lot is again open.

Code Enforcement

A Certificate of Occupancy has been issued for the Barnes and Noble Bookstore.

The single family home at 18 Shenandoah Drive has been condemned as a result of major structural issues at the home's foundation. The owner has been notified to have engineering performed so that repairs can be attempted as soon as possible.

Public Works

Engineering/Planning and Inspection

- Laura's Glenn: Reinspected Lot 7 for seeding and mulching. Began process for release of escrow.
- Contract 11-06 – 2011 Street Improvement Program:
 - 1) Greggo & Ferrara completed paving at Parking Lot #5. Stripe-A-Lot completed the painting of lines and numbers for parking stalls at Parking Lot #5.
 - 2) Greggo & Ferrara completed the milling of patches on W. Park Place between S. College Avenue and Orchard Road. Crew also completed the installation of geotextile fabric and base hot mix in patch areas.
 - 3) Sam's Construction completed concrete curb, sidewalk, and hot mix driveway patching on Wilson Street.
- Rt. 896 Leaf Compost Area Bio-Retention Facility: Applied for and received a 50% cost share grant from the New Castle Conservation District for the purchase and installation of plant material for the bio-retention facility. The plant material was purchased from North Creek Nurseries with City forces providing the in-kind labor for installing the plants.
- Stormwater Retrofits: Reviewed various citywide sites with Stormwater Program Coordinator with regard to possible grant opportunities.
- Citywide Street Assessment Survey: Generated RSMS reports based on this year's survey. Met with Kercher Engineering and supplied road condition survey and supplemental information for them to run and generate various reports for next year's Street Improvement Program using Agile Assets software.
- Yorkshire Ditch Sediment Deposition: Started working on Statewide Activity Approval (SAA) from DNREC for removal of sediment blocking a culvert along Yorkshire Ditch.
- Met with Jen Egan from the White Clay Wild and Scenic Program to narrow down retrofit locations for possible grant funding. Reviewed and provided comment on the draft Community Water Quality Improvement (CWQI) Grant application package.
- Started working on a narrative for our stormwater 2-year plan, as per a DNREC request.
- Contract 11-02 – 2011 ADA Handicap Ramp Installation Program: Joseph T. Hardy started work on the handicap ramp contract completing the following:
 - 1) Saw cut ramps along W. Park Place.
 - 2) Replaced 8.5 l.f. of 8" p.c.c. valley gutter.
 - 3) Replaced a total of 52.5 l.f. of integral curb and gutter.
- University of Delaware Barnes and Noble Bookstore: Compiled a list of incomplete items for contractor prior to C.O. of bookstore.

Survey Crew

- Handed out notices along O'Daniel Avenue, Westfield Drive, and Connell Circle notifying residents of upcoming curb work to be done in that area for this year's street program.
- Went over all locations for Sidewalk Contract for Phases 2.6 and 2.7 with Tim Beardsley of Tri-State Lawn Care. Tri-State Lawn Care completed the grinding portion of Phase 2.6 and 2.7 Sidewalk Contract at 15 locations citywide.

- Responded to a complaint at 1221 Janice Drive for a branch over the sidewalk and sent Sidewalk Obstruction Violation Notice.

Field Operations/Streets

- Hot mix crew excavated and applied 1,200 s.f. of hot mix in front of the bookstore on Academy Street and 1,570 s.f. of hot mix at the crosswalk on Academy Street at the Student Center.
- Street crew delivered trash cans and picked up bulk items for the Refuse Department.
- Catch basin crew installed 3 catch basin inserts; 2 at the City yard and 1 at the recycling center.
- Street crew removed and hauled debris and trash from Yorkshire Road storm drainage ditch.
- Street crew loaded and hauled 3 loads of previously stockpiled excavated hot mix to Batten for disposal from the City yard and loaded and hauled 2 loads of sweeper material to the landfill from the City yard.
- Sign truck repaired and replaced signs and poles as needed, painted yellow fire lanes at the old train station under the S. College Bridge, and painted handicap parking stalls at City Hall and at the maintenance garage.

Parks & Recreation

Administration – Charlie Emerson

I continued to work with Pennoni to prepare for Monday's Curtis Mill/Old Paper Mill Road Park Master Plan power point presentation to Council.

On Thursday I met with our consultant and the firm selected to construct the Pomeroy Trail to begin planning for the start of construction. We plan to begin in late August or at the latest early September. There will be a pre-construction meeting on Wednesday, August 3.

I reviewed two (2) subdivision plans and provided comments to the Planning and Development Department.

On Monday this week the contractor we selected to install the new tree grates and trees started on this project. This first phase will include the rehabilitation of seven (7) tree pit with flush mounted grates, up lights and new trees.

In cooperation with Delaware State Parks we installed two (2) trail cameras on the Hall Trail this week to get a count of trail users prior to the construction of the Pomeroy Trail.

I spent some time working through trail alignment issues with the Delaware Trail Spinners and State Parks trail specialist relating to the Redd Park project.

Recreation – Joe Spadafino

Paula checked in on Rittenhouse and Hobbit Camps throughout the week replenishing needed supplies for activities. She rescheduled one of the planned trips to the U of D outdoor pool due to a power outage at the pool.

Paula stopped in throughout the week checking in on the new Field Hockey, Flag Football and Lacrosse camps for this year. We had over 50 kids registered between the three camps.

Information packets were mailed to the parents of children registered for Before and After School Care for both Downes and West Park Elementary Schools.

Paula completed the Volleyball League playoff schedule and informed team captains for the Wednesday league of their final placement. She attended the men's softball championship and handed out trophies. She also updated our summer sports adult league standings and schedules on the City website and for the local newspaper.

Camp GWC concluded for the summer, there were 133 participants for the six weeks of camp.

Curtains Up Theater Camp was held all week at GWC with 13 participants and a successful performance of Alice in Wonderland on Friday.

Tyler assisted in transporting equipment to GWC in preparation for Safety Town, which is scheduled August 1-12 at the Wilson Center and Park.

I continued with the organization of the e-newsletter including editing and creating a timeline for the marketing of the fall programs.

Liz sent out the Safety Town program information packets to the parents of participating children.

I worked on the Pomeroy and Newark Rail Trail kiosk information.

Sharon finalized some last minute Safety Town items in preparation for this week's program. Dozens of pre-school children will go through the two week safety education program.

Parks and Horticulture – Tom Zaleski

Horticulture staff completed the following:

- Mowing of sites as needed
- Continued on landscape bed maintenance
- Watering of nursery stock
- Sprayed weed control on all weed growth around all buildings at the City Yard and at Transfer Station

Parks staff completed the following:

- Opened up a clogged sanitary line in lower level ladies room at the Wilson Center
- Mowing of park areas
- Continued on general park work orders
- Painted several 55 gallon metal trash cans to be placed in the parks
- Washed all Safety Town cars and houses and delivered them to the Wilson Center
- Cleaned off and painted Safety Town lay out in the parking lot of Wilson Park
- Completed the placement wood carpet (safety surfacing) under play units throughout the park system

Parks Superintendent and Supervisor completed the following:

- Conducted park inspections and created necessary work orders
- Assisted with lay out for painting Safety Town
- Created a Request for Quotations for the purpose of receiving price quotes to plant trees at various park sites. Funding for the project was awarded from the Delaware Department of Agriculture's Forest Service Division.
- Started organizing for the start of the Main Street Tree Pit project on Monday
- Started organizing for a volunteer group (local church) to work next week painting at several sites
- Conducted an on-site meeting between City staff and the contractor awarded the Tree Pit contract

Electric

A tree limb fell on the wires in Silverbrook Monday afternoon, blowing a transformer's fuse. Several homes were without power for 40 minutes while a line crew removed the debris and re-fused.

The line crews have completed setting and framing 12 poles on Courtney Street. They will be pulling wires soon and eventually tying into the 12kV circuitry.

The contractor installing a high voltage circuit for the UofD Lovett Avenue Science Center finally got a schedule from CSX Railroad as to when they can bore underneath. They will start boring pipes under Cleveland Avenue and the railroad bed by the UofD athletic fields in mid-September. Early October is the estimated completion for this circuit.

Engineering worked with the SCADA developer to fix bugs, enhance the interface, and install remote support capabilities. Engineering also compiled the monthly substation loads and compiled the University's loads for billing purposes.

The meter technician replaced most of the UofD primary meters with remote self-read types. This will enable the City's meters to be easily compared with the University's meters.

The electricians worked with the contractor hired to install tree pit lighting on Main Street and worked on electrical issues for the Water Department.

Water & Wastewater

Shut downs on Elkton Road were problematic this week. We were not able to get a good shut down at Delaware Avenue and Elkton Road. We are working with DeIDOT to see if there is another option. In the mean time we are going to work the valves again to see if we can get a better seal.

We have been collecting the lead and copper water samples. We are required to sample every three years to demonstrate that we are in compliance with the water quality standards.

The sewage siphons for both crossings have been installed beneath the Christina Creek and have been successfully pressure tested.

I attended a meeting this week with Bill Zimmerman to learn of upcoming changes to the state drinking water regulations. Back Flow Prevention will be the next regulatory requirement that we will need to comply with. There will be inspection and testing requirements that we will need to incorporate into our work plan.

The new submersible pump for Well 15 is scheduled to be reinstalled on Friday of this week. We are using a flexible non-metallic "column pipe" to address the curve in the well casing that we believe was causing the shafts to break on the line shaft pump assembly that we used to have.

We have begun to use field portable turbidimeter and chlorine analyzer that we were able to purchase using grant funding. We are using these devices when we receive dirty water complaints to make certain that we have cleaned the water to the maximum extent possible. Previously we relied on visual observation.

We are investigating the purchase of some tools (impact wrench and accessories) to assist in the disassembly of fire hydrants. Hand tools require as many as four people, cheater bars, standing in pickup truck beds, and too many chances for back and shoulder injuries. The alternative to disassembly and repair is replacement of the hydrant. The tools should cost approximately the same as installing one new hydrant.

We are using the reservoir regularly for the last week and are refilling whenever we get a chance. We have used about 5 feet and are in good shape for this time of year.

Police

The Newark Police Department has arrested two defendants following an early morning assault on Sunday, July 31st. The incident began when Victim 1, a 26-year old male from Newark, and Victim 2, a 21-year old female from Middletown were looking for a parking space in the parking lot of the Deer Park Tavern located at 108 West Main Street. Victim 1 and three males (including Defendant 1 and Defendant 2) exchanged words for an unknown reason which prompted a verbal argument in the parking lot. The two groups parted and both went into the establishment. Throughout the evening the two groups continued to exchange words inside the establishment.

Shortly after 1 a.m. both groups exited the establishment and a fight ensued in the parking lot between Victim 1 and the three subjects. During the fight, Victim 1 punched one of the subjects, a 31-year old white male from Newark, and knocked him unconscious. The fight then broke up and the two groups parted ways. Victim 1 began to leave the area in a vehicle with Victim 1 driving and Victim 2 in the front passenger seat. As Victim 1 was leaving the area, Defendant 1 and Defendant 2 went to a vehicle where they both retrieved large knives from the trunk. They then confronted Victim 1 who was seated in the driver's seat. Both Defendants then began swinging their knives at Victim 1 causing several severe lacerations to both arms and hands. Victim 2, who was seated in the passenger seat, was also struck by the swinging knives causing a laceration to her left arm.

Victim 1 then fled the attack in the vehicle and was later stopped by a UDPD officer who observed the vehicle driving erratically on East Delaware Avenue. Both victims were then transported via ambulance to Christiana Hospital. Victim 1 sustained severe lacerations to both arms and had two fingers severed off of his left hand. Victim 2 sustained a minor laceration to her left arm. Two suspects were arrested and charged with the assault.

On Tuesday, August 2nd, Chief Tiernan, Captain Williams, and Lt. Henry met with the newly appointed director of the Delaware Division of Alcohol & Tobacco Enforcement, John Yeomans. Director Yeomans committed to assisting the Newark Police Department with alcohol enforcement as part of our fall crime suppression initiative.

Lt. Henry met with UDPD Lt. Simpson, to discuss joint partnerships for the fall crime initiative. UDPD will assign four officers to work with the NPD Street Crime Unit. The joint unit will work to suppress crime on city streets and the university campus.

KRS/mp