

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

September 2, 2011

Water & Wastewater

We worked this week cleaning up from the storm. We had several trees that fell across the raceway and we also had a significant quantity of silt and debris that accumulated at the reservoir pump station.

We were fortunate that we placed the large sand bags at the Northwest Booster Station. The bags slowed the flow of water enough that the pumps we were using were sufficient to keep up with the water that got around or through the sand bags.

The sanitary sewer lift stations all performed well. When the Cooches Bridge lift station is renovated we will no longer be as worried about flooding because all of the electric equipment will be in enclosures elevated above the water or located in buildings and the electric motors will be submersible.

Police

A substantial amount of preparation and planning went into the hurricane that passed through the region this past weekend. Captains Potts and Williams did a great job overseeing this effort. All police officers, Communication Supervisor Ted Ryser and dispatchers worked many long hours to coordinate with other city agencies during the emergency.

The Newark Parks & Recreation Department acknowledged Corporal Darryl Saunders participation in "Safety Town" this summer. Cpl. Sanders was commended for his "high visibility as a policeman while also being a friend and mentor to the campers..."

Corporal Micolucci arrested four suspects and charged them with painting graffiti. Areas that were vandalized include: Scholar Drive, East Main Street, New London Road, Madison Drive, County Club Drive, and South College Avenue.

Due to the hurricane, the University of Delaware student move in days was rescheduled for August 30th and 31st. On the evening of the August 30th, numerous arrests were made at various off campus party locations. Two suspects at 151 West Main Street were uncooperative with responding to police officers. Both were arrested and transported to police headquarters for arraignment. The judge issued an order that no more than 16 people were to be on the premise at one time and a zero tolerance order for noise.

On Wednesday, August 31st, members of the Newark Police Department, University of Delaware Police Department and the Delaware Division of Alcohol & Tobacco Enforcement met to finalize plans for alcohol enforcement on university property and the city.

Planning & Development

Planning

On Tuesday, the packet of materials for the upcoming September 6, 2011 Planning Commission meeting was completed and forwarded to the Commission. The Commission will be reviewing amendments to the Zoning Code to establish a Science and Technology Campus District.

Economic Development

On Thursday afternoon, I was interviewed by Ron Bernthal of NPR about the GAMSA Award and our historic preservation efforts. The program will air on Friday, September 9th at 11:00 a.m. Eastern time on WJFF/NPR.

Also on Thursday afternoon, I met with the Merchants Committee's Holiday Ad Campaign Working Group to craft the Downtown Newark 2011 Holiday Ad Campaign.

Some time was spent this week on the DNP Annual Meeting and Celebration scheduled for Wednesday evening, November 17th from 5-7 p.m.

Considerable time was spent this week preparing and distributing a survey to Elkton Road property owners and business tenants about the proposal to change the name of Elkton Road to "South Main Street."

Community Development

Mike completed monitoring of the Newark Senior Center's Senior Home Repair Program and Newark Energy Watch Program.

On Thursday, New Castle County audited the City's CDBG Program. There were no findings.

Parking

Some time was spent working on the Lot #1 garage information, Lot #3 expansion, and signage for Lots #6 and #7.

Parking Administrator Marvin Howard reports that the UD students returned on Tuesday for move-in and all the lots were at max capacity and the meters on Main Street were also full. Parking permits in Lot #5 are also completely sold out and we are directing people who are looking for long-term parking to our new Lot #7 at South College Bridge.

Code Enforcement

325 East Main Street's second and third floors have received their C/O. The fourth floor is pending.

Code Enforcement Supervisor Steve Wilson reports that damage assessment from Irene is complete. There is no major damage.

Public Works

Engineering/Planning and Inspection

- Contract 11-06 – 2011 Street Improvement Program:
 1. Sam's Construction worked on Connell Circle, Dallas Avenue, and Chrysler Avenue and completed:
 - a. 3.2 c.y. of undercut excavation.
 - b. 26.1 tons of crusher run placement.
 - c. (2) sanitary sewer manhole adjustments.
 - d. 71.9 l.f. of 8' wide p.c.c. valley gutter.
 - e. 586.5 l.f. of p.c.c. rolled curb replacement.
 - f. 32.3 l.f. of sawcut for concrete removal.
 2. Greggo & Ferrara worked on Connell Circle and Wilson Street and completed:
 - a. 48.6 c.y. of undercut excavation.
 - b. 10.9 s.y. of p.c.c. utility trench patch excavation.
 - c. 18.30 ton of crusher run stone placement.
 - d. 82.47 tons of top hot mix to complete Wilson Street.
 - e. 114.51 tons of base hot mix.
- Erosion & Sediment Control Inspections: Performed weekly inspections at Laura's Glenn, Sutton Place, and Porter Nissan Dealership Expansion.
- Responded to a pool discharge complaint on Shull Drive.
- Based on a DNREC request, produced a GIS location map for the Engineering Assistant to supplement a Statewide Activity Approval (SAA) permit application.
- Updated the GIS attribute table for Stormwater Management Areas to reflect several changes.
- Obtained bi-annual water quality samples during a storm event at the maintenance yard as per our industrial NPDES stormwater permit.
- Responded to a creek blockage complaint on Confluence Court.
- Continued researching the feasibility of an adopt-a-storm drain program.
- Woods at Louviers: Marone Construction finished repairing around outlet structure at detention basin 3 completing final punch list for the development.
- Contract 11-02 – 2011 ADA Handicap Ramp Installation Program: Contractor worked on the following ramps along W. Park Place and Lehigh Road:
 1. Poured 110 l.f. of integral curb and gutter.
 2. Poured 3.7 l.f. of valley gutter.
 3. Poured 199 s.f. of 4" p.c.c. walks for ramps.
 4. Installed 22 s.f. of truncated domes.
 5. Saw cut 18 l.f. of p.c.c. concrete.

Field Operations/Streets

- Hot mix crew excavated and applied 250 s.f. of hot mix at Lovett Avenue and Academy Street.

- Street crew did prep work in anticipation of Hurricane Irene such as cleaning culverts, preparing chain saws and sand bags, putting lights on barrels, etc.
- Street crews responded to flooding and tree removal during Hurricane Irene.
- Back hoe and street crews cleaned Barksdale Road bridge, Church Road bridge, Old Cooches Bridge Road bridge, Yorkshire Road ditch, Bellevue Road ditch, Timberline Road culvert, Clear Springs Way storm sewer area, and opened the ditch at Saw Mill Court.
- Loader pushed up brush for Refuse Department at Iron Glen Park and put mulch outside 896 water tank.
- Street crews delivered trash cans and assisted Refuse Department picking up bulk pick-up items all week with the knuckleboom.
- Storm sewer crew repaired sink hole in back of 12 Shull Drive along storm sewer line.
- Sign truck repaired and replaced signs and poles as needed.
- Sidewalk sweeper continued with duties on Main Street.
- Catch basin crew continued on catch basin cleaning as per schedule and cleaned debris and silt from overflow at the cul-de-sac on Curtis Lane.

Parks & Recreation

Administration – Charlie Emerson

Last Wednesday I met with the Pomeroy Trail contractor to review certain construction items in preparation for construction to begin. Hurricane Irene pushed back the construction start date to later this week.

On Friday I met with Parks and Public Works personnel and the contractor who installed the new tree pits (Main Street) to discuss and evaluate the first phase of the project.

We are working with the Delaware Trail Spinners to ID trail construction materials storage sites in preparation for trail work at the north end of Redd Park.

On Friday we committed considerable time preparing for the hurricane.

We spent a significant amount of time early this week evaluating the damages from the hurricane and started working on them. There is tree damage throughout the park system and along the Christina Creek. Much of the work can be completed by in-house personnel, but some will have to be done by our tree contractors.

I committed time working with the Rittenhouse Station developer to finalize the landscaping Letter of Credit for the rear townhouse units.

During Saturday's storm Rich Gregg and Ron Martin worked in City Hall to oversee the building's sump pumps operating, with great success, to keep water out of the building. Good job gentlemen!

Recreation – Joe Spadafino

Paula met with the Before and After Program Administrator prior to staff orientation to cover topics of discussion. They met with a representative from Nemours regarding the new program that will be instituted at the program at Downes Elementary School this year which includes 15 minutes of scheduled CATCH activities each day along with the normal physical activities.

Paula sent letters to the 23 volunteers who worked with us at our Rittenhouse and Hobbit Camps from this summer thanking them for their time and confirming their hours of service.

Paula attended the Back to School Night for West Park Elementary School helping to promote the new Before and After School program.

Paula conducted the staff orientation along with the Site Administrator for the Before and After School staff. Orientation included training on the CATCH program (Coordinated Approach to Child Health). Supplies were taken to the schools (Downes and West Park) and the staff were shown around to familiarize themselves with the sites.

Paula sent letters out to the winter volleyball teams from last year inviting them back for the upcoming season.

Tyler completed CATCH training with the Before and After School staff. The CATCH program focuses on creating healthy children and healthy environments through fun physical activities and the promotion of healthy eating habits.

Andee updated the Channel 22 information with fall activities.

Parks and Horticulture – Tom Zaleski

Horticulture staff completed the following:

- Worked on various landscape maintenance items
- Cleaned up horticulture and park areas after the hurricane
- Mowing of horticulture sites
- Assisted with park work orders

Parks staff completed the following:

- Mowing of park areas
- Checked/cleaned all inlet pipes in park areas for incoming hurricane
- Readied all saws/generators for use during/after hurricane
- Continued painting Police Station
- Checked/cleaned all roof drains at City Hall, Police Station, Wilson Center and at the City Yard
- Completed park maintenance work orders
- Dragged/scarified all ball fields and raked out all horseshoe pits

- Touched up painted lines on soccer fields as needed

Parks Superintendent and Supervisor completed the following:

- Conducted park inspections and prepared related work orders
- Conducted prebid meeting for reforestation grant tree planting in meadow areas
- Attended a follow up meeting with contractor and Parks Director concerning tree pit project on Main Street
- Completed the landscape design for the courtyard at City Hall
- Talked with Conservation Service about funding for a back yard habitat planting for Delaware Nature Society

Electric

The Electric Department used 338 man hours during Hurricane Irene and more counting preparation and repairs the next day. Everyone was in during the storm. Twenty people, including engineering and helpers worked through the night. Because of the extensive tree trimming policy, the outages were limited. All outages were tree related, with the biggest being a tree on Tyre Avenue falling on two circuits, burning down wires and breaking pole hardware. This outage took three hours to restore. The crews came in at 9 p.m. Saturday and left after all power was restored by 2 p.m. on Sunday.

After using Monday after Irene to regroup, restock supplies, and fix any left over issues (mainly services ripped down from houses, but still with power), the line crews were back to business as usual. They have been working at the University Computing Center on Chapel Street preparing for a service change and they are installing a pole at the Park and Shop Plaza in order to serve a new customer and simultaneously improve the condition of the services to other customers.

The electricians have installed antennas on two substations for the SCADA system and are working on the service at the Bellevue Road Sewer Lift Station.

KRS/mp