

## DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

**September 9, 2011**

### Police

On Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, K9 Paco retired after over five years of dedicated service to the Newark Police Department and the citizens of Newark, due to health issues. Paco will retire to the home of Cpl. Jones and his family. Cpl. Jones will be traveling to North Carolina during the month of September to meet and train with the newest addition to K9 Unit.

On Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, Cpl. Conover took a report of a theft from a vehicle which occurred on the first block of Cornwall Drive. An unknown suspect entered into a victim's unsecured vehicle, sometime between Friday, August 26<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, and stole loose change and medical equipment valued at \$3,000. There are currently no suspects in this incident.

On Saturday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, Cpl. Maurer responded to the first block of Shull Drive for a report of a burglary to the garage of a residence. It was discovered that during the overnight hours, an unknown suspect entered into the victim's garage and removed various lawn equipment and a bicycle. The total value of the missing property was \$1,325. There are currently no suspects in this incident. The case has been turned over to detectives for additional investigation.

On Saturday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, Cpl. Walker responded to the Shop Rite in Chestnut Hill Plaza for a report that the state police had just arrested two individuals for shoplifting. In the two defendants possession, was a shopping cart full of tagged merchandise which was determined to be from Kmart in College Square. Cpl. Walker viewed Kmart surveillance video and observed one of the defendants leaving the store with a cart full of items and never paying for them. The stolen property consisted of various electronic items totaling \$491.44. Both defendants were arrested for the Kmart shoplifting and both were committed to correctional facilities in lieu of bail. Arrested and charged with Shoplifting and Conspiracy were:

Jeffrey T. Vaughan DOB 3/31/61 (50 years old)  
920 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Wilmington, DE 19801

Deborah I. Johns DOB 6/21/61 (50 years old)  
141 Brookside Drive  
Newark, DE 19713

## Planning & Development

### Planning

At its meeting Tuesday evening the Planning Commission recommended unanimously in favor of the proposed amendments to the Zoning Code that will establish a new “STC (Science and Technology Campus)” district at the old Chrysler site.

Work has begun preparing materials for the upcoming October 4, 2011 Planning Commission meeting. Tentatively scheduled agenda items include:

- A. Amendments to the Zoning Code regarding apartment density downtown.
- B. The proposed redevelopment of the property at 132 E. Delaware Avenue for commercial and residential use.

### Economic Development

On Tuesday, Assistant Planning Director Maureen Feeney Roser and I joined with the Mayor and City Manager at the University of Delaware’s Barnes and Noble Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the new facility on E. Main Street.

Maureen met with a representative of the University of Delaware to discuss downtown advertising for UD sporting events this coming season.

This morning, Maureen met with the DNP Merchants’ Committee to review advertising and promotional activities for the fall.

Work continues on the survey of property owners regarding renaming Elkton Road to “South Main Street.”

### Community Development

Planner Mike Fortner performed two site visits for Home Improvement Program projects this week.

On Tuesday, Mike staffed the DNP’s Design Committee meeting where the Committee reviewed the South Main Street Plaza Project.

### Code Enforcement

A building permit has been issued for “Boardwalk Fries” at 59 E. Main Street.

Cleanup continues at the motel at 1120 S. College Avenue from hurricane Irene.

## Public Works

### Engineering/Planning and Inspection

- Contract 11-06 – 2011 Street Improvement Program:
  1. Sam's Construction completed curb replacement on Dallas Avenue and Chrysler Avenue, and began curb replacement on Alexandria Drive.
  2. Greggo & Ferrara completed the paving of Westfield Drive and O'Daniel Avenue. Crews also worked on patching of the street base on Connell Circle.
- Contract 11-02 – 2011 ADA Handicap Ramp Installation Program: Contractor worked on the following items along W. Park Place, Lehigh Road, and Chrysler Avenue:
  1. Poured 20.50 l.f. of integral curb and gutter.
  2. Poured 699.72 s.f. of 4" p.c.c. walks for ramps.
  3. Installed 60 s.f. of truncated domes.
  4. Saw cut 73.8 l.f. of concrete.
  5. Poured 31.6 l.f. of rolled curb.
  6. Adjusted one monument box.
- Astra Plaza: Met with Rick Romero from Stripe-A-Lot at sand filter. Contractor removed existing sand and was installing wrong type of sand. Work has not been completed.

### Survey Crew

- Completed Miss-Utility Mark-outs as needed.
- Continued meeting with residents in Phase 2.7 and 3.1 of the sidewalk repair program areas to discuss the nature of the violations and provide technical advice on how to conform to current code.
- Identified property lines at 48 Grays Avenue and 807 Rock Lane for the Parks Department.
- Shot grades at the intersection of Apple Road and W. Park Place for HDCP ramp placement for the Utility Inspector.
- Handed out overgrowth notices to 15 and 17 Green Meadow Court and 1100 Blair Court.
- Began inspections for Phase 3.2 of the sidewalk program.
- Investigated a complaint about "uneven" sidewalk blocks at the intersection of Aster Avenue and Rahway Drive.

### Field Operations

#### Streets

- Street crew continued working on storm clean-up and flooding concerns.
- Street crew removed old storm sewer pipe and installed new 20' storm sewer pipe at Leroy Park sidewalk.
- Street crew repaired sink holes along storm sewer line behind 916 and 918 Quail Lane.
- Street crew cleared debris at the outflow of storm sewer line behind 20 Woodsman.

- Vac-all, with assistance from Truck 243 opened up blocked storm sewer line on Wyoming Road at S. Chapel Street.
- Street crew assisted Refuse Department daily for heavy pick-up with the knuckleboom.
- Street crew assisted Electric Department with road closures and tree removal from Cambridge Drive.
- Catch basin crew repaired catch basin at 268 Whitherspoon Lane, across from 185 W. Chestnut Hill Road, and across from 513 Woodlawn Avenue.
- Loaded and hauled 2 loads of sweeper material from city yard to landfill and 4 loads of previously stockpiled construction debris to Batten for disposal.

## **Parks & Recreation**

### **Administration – Charlie Emerson**

On Wednesday, I met with representatives of Delaware State Parks, Pennoni and Merit to review certain construction aspects of the Pomeroy Trail on State Park property.

I met with Mike Fortner to answer questions about CDBG project requests the Parks Department submitted for 38<sup>th</sup> Year program consideration.

### **Recreation – Joe Spadafino**

Paula completed preparation for the start of the Before and After Care programs at the Downes and West Park Elementary Schools. She checked on them throughout the week and secured additional supplies as needed.

Paula sent out letters for the Little Kickers and Tiny Tot Soccer programs that will start this Saturday, September 10.

Tyler prepared materials and met with the trip leader for the bus trip to the Delaware vs. Navy football game in Annapolis, MD. It was a successful trip with 33 participants.

Sharon has been working on items associated with Community Day; reviewing applications, transferring data from the registration program and assigning vendor locations. Applications continue to come in for the event. Currently, there are just over 200 vendors registered for the event.

I completed park inspections for Redd Park, Leroy Hill Park, Coverdale Park, Karpinski Park and Kershaw Park to assess storm damage from Hurricane Irene.

### **Parks and Horticulture – Tom Zaleski**

Horticulture staff completed the following:

- Cleaned up horticulture and park areas from hurricane and flooding.
- Mowing of horticulture sites.

Parks staff completed the following:

- Clean up from hurricane and flooding.
- Mowing of park areas.
- Started closing down pool sites for season.
- Completed some park maintenance work orders.
- Assisted with trash can removal at several park sites as well as removal of items from Rittenhouse Park building following the summer camp program.

Parks Superintendent and Supervisor completed the following:

- Reviewed quotes for reforestation grant and made recommendation to Parks Director.
- Started organizing for turf work to be done at Kells Park soccer field.

### **Electric**

A large tree came down on the power lines on Wilshire Lane in Fairfield on Tuesday morning breaking wires and three poles. Because of the long delay with Miss Utility mark outs, the poles could not be replaced quickly. Consequently, ten homes were without power for ten hours.

The line crews and electricians replaced a pole and service to the Bellevue Road Sewer Lift Station and crews worked with a homeowner's tree contractor to remove a large tree on the house and electric lines in Silverbrook which fell during Irene. The line crews also removed a damaged light pole on the basketball court at Handloff Park, sent it out for repairs, and energized the new apartments on Cleveland Avenue.

Engineering is evaluating the Energy Audit performed on the City's buildings and facilities, evaluating options for a new line truck, and preparing work schedules for moving a substation transformer in order to make room for a new transformer coming by year's end.

### **Water & Wastewater**

The bids for the Cooches Bridge Lift Station have been opened. A recommendation has been prepared which will be presented at the Council meeting on September 12. Blooming Glenn Contractors is the apparent low bidder. The project will replace the existing "dry well" configuration with submersible pumps located in a wet well. When the project is completed all maintenance will be performed from the surface versus in the dry well which is subject to flooding. All of the motor control equipment will be located above grade in the garage building that houses the backup generator.

The flooding caused water from the creek to flow back into the raceway at one of our overflow structures. This "reverse flow" caused some erosion in the raceway which we have fixed.

The rains this week have not caused us any problems with the operation of our facilities.

We continue to experience discolored water complaints on Wollaston and Kells Avenues associated with the pipe cleaning that we performed in mid-August. I believe that the problem we are experiencing is related to the formation, or lack thereof, a protective coating on the interior of the pipe. We have increased the concentration of the corrosion inhibitor which we use on a regular basis to help speed the development of the protective coating. We are also in discussion with the supplier to see what insight they might have.

We have completed the last of the major water system work on the Elkton Road project. We are now able to focus our construction inspection efforts back towards our internal projects and priorities.

KRS/mp