

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

September 16, 2011

Planning & Development

Planning

Work continued preparing materials for the upcoming October 4, 2011 Planning Commission meeting. The Commission is tentatively scheduled to review a proposed redevelopment plan for the properties at 132 E. Delaware Avenue that would include first floor commercial space and 28 upper floor apartments.

At its September 12th meeting on Monday evening, City Council took action on the following planning related items:

- A. Approved the purchase of a Unicity bus.
- B. Approved the redevelopment of the properties at 70-74 Amstel Avenue.
- C. Approved the requested target funding for the 2012 Revenue Sharing budget.
- D. Approved the Capital Improvements Program for 2012-2016 including the proposed More Park System for Lot #3.
- E. Approved a special use permit for a professional office in a home at 203 Wilson Road.

Economic Development

On Wednesday afternoon Assistant Planning and Development Director Maureen Feeney Roser attended a Main Street Mile planning meeting.

Also on Wednesday afternoon Maureen met with representatives of the Courtyard by Marriott to discuss the DNP Annual Meeting.

On Thursday, Maureen attended the Newark Train Station meeting at the new Science and Technology Center regarding Tiger II and Tiger III funding.

On Monday afternoon Maureen met with representatives of Comcast Spotlight to talk about commercials for downtown.

Considerable time was spent this week arranging for meetings to discuss lease arrangements with owners of Municipal Lot #3.

Community Development

On Monday, Planner Mike Fortner met with Parking Administrator Marvin Howard downtown to review locations for "Parking Trailblazing" signs to municipal parking lots.

Mike also created a map showing locations of possible redevelopment in the central business district.

Parking

On Wednesday morning, Parking Administrator Marvin Howard staffed the DNP Parking Committee.

Code Enforcement

Code Enforcement Division Supervisor Steve Wilson reports that the footing and foundation permit has been issued for the International House expansion at 143 Courtney Street.

Also, the Division will be conducting fraternity and sorority life safety inspections that will take place from now until September 26th.

Public Works

Engineering/Planning and Inspection

- Rittenhouse Station – S.W.M.: Cirillo Bros. worked on the installation of storm tech field #3 on the north side of Building #1.
- Gateway Village – S.W.M.: Gateway Village H.O.A. completed maintenance in the (3) detention basins on site.
- Contract 11-06 – 2011 Street Improvement Program: Sam's Construction worked on Devon Drive and Alexandria Drive and completed replacement of 216.0 l.f. of p.c.c. rolled curb using 12 c.y. of DeIDOT Class B concrete.
- Erosion & Sediment Control Inspections: Conducted site inspection at Sutton Place.
- Prettyman Property: Performed weekly Erosion & Sediment Control Inspection. Contractor continuing work on stormwater management area.
- University of Delaware Bookstore: Met with Mike Johnson to go over as-built drawings and incomplete remaining items from punchlist.
- Completed several GIS updates.
- Performed quarterly Stream Adoption biological and chemical assessments at Rittenhouse Park, and forwarded the results to DNREC.
- Spot checked 12 stormwater management areas during a significant storm event.
- Investigated a corrugated metal pipe culvert washout area near Deer Run, and photo documented.
- Reviewed a draft "Newark Community Wildlife Habitat" poster drafted for Community Day and provided comment back to the partnership. This partnership has been formed for the purpose of certifying the City of Newark as a National Wildlife Federation Community Wildlife Habitat.

Survey Crew

- Responded to several complaints about obstructed sidewalks and sent notices to clear.
- Assisted inspector with grades at handicap ramps.

- Completed marking grades on the south side of Alexandria Drive for curb replacement.

Field Operations/Streets

- Concrete crew excavated, formed, and poured 10 l.f. of 4' sidewalk at 7 Bridgeview Court and 17 l.f. of sidewalk at Leroy Hill Park & Casho Mill Road.
- Street crew excavated debris and trash and placed rip rap in the storm sewer ditch at Clear Springs Way in West Branch.
- Street crew excavated dirt and debris from Bellevue Road bridge culvert, added matting and stabilized bank.
- Picked up heavy items with the knuckleboom for Refuse Department.
- Pushed up brush at Iron Glen Park for Refuse Department.
- Catch basin crew rebuilt catch basin at 408 Arbour Drive.
- Sign truck repaired and replaced signs and poles as needed and are working on installing the first phase of sign replacement in the sign program.

Parks & Recreation

Administration – Charlie Emerson

We're continuing to work with the Delaware Trail Spinners on Phases III and IV of the Redd Park Trail rehab project - work is progressing well.

We completed our evaluation and inspection of the parks and open space areas following Hurricane Irene. We discovered a significant amount of tree damage and creek blockage in the Christina Creek corridor. We received a cost estimate to have the creek blockages removed. Parks personnel will clear downed trees that are blocking the trails.

I spent considerable time with Pennoni and Merit Construction on several items relating to the Pomeroy Trail. The area between Wyoming Road and the Hall Trail has been cleared.

Carol and I met with our consultant for the Curtis Mill/Old Paper Mill Road Park Master Plan project to discuss moving on to the next phase of the project.

Last Wednesday Carol and I were involved in a conference call with DNREC (Brownfields Section) to discuss the Remedial Action Feasibility Study completed by our consultant for the Curtis Mill site. We should get their reply to the study's findings very soon.

I'm working with Police Department personnel on graffiti related matters.

Parks personnel are working to repair a crack in the tennis court surface at Handloff Park. While we're completing the maintenance task, the courts will be shut down for short periods of time to do the work and to allow the patch to dry. The work should be completed by the end of this week.

Recreation – Joe Spadafino

Paula sent out email blasts to previous participants in fall preschool and youth programs and adult fitness classes.

Paula met with the lead soccer instructor regarding the start of the Tiny Tot and Little Kickers programs (60 registrants) and she met with the youth soccer league officials for a training/orientation session prior to the start of the season.

Paula and two after care staff members attended training by the Food Bank of Delaware. Both West Park and Downes Elementary After School programs will be receiving snacks provided by the Food Bank starting mid-September.

Tyler met with tennis instructors regarding upcoming lessons. The fall session of lessons started on Saturday, September 10.

Sharon and Debbie have been preparing for Community Day. They have sent out vendor information packets, scheduled performers and demonstrations, met with UD Grounds personnel, processed check requests, designed and ordered volunteer T-shirts, and have been confirming food vendor permits with the Department of Health.

Sharon went to the National Law Enforcement Officers' Museum Office to deliver a \$6,000 donation check from the Newark Police Memorial 5K Walk & Run in Honor of Chief Nefosky. Corporal Micolucci and Corporal Mease from the Newark Police Department also attended the presentation along with Chief Simpson from New Garden Township. Thank you to everyone that helped and contributed to the event.

Debbie met with the Newark Lions Club to present some of our upcoming volunteer opportunities to the group. She has also made contact with the local high schools and UD service groups about our volunteer opportunities for the school year.

I placed ribbons and flags at the Olan Thomas Park 9/11 Memorial Plaque and Trees in memory of those who lost their lives on that day and those who have lost their lives fighting for our freedom.

Parks and Horticulture – Tom Zaleski

Horticulture staff completed the following:

- Conducted front line maintenance on mowing equipment.
- Assisted with clean up of Parks Building.
- Assisted with various building maintenance items.
- Due to excessive rain we did very little mowing - playing catch up this week.
- Checked/cleaned pipe inlets/surface grates throughout the park system before and during heavy rain events.

Parks staff completed the following:

- Completed numerous building maintenance tasks.

- Assisted a student volunteer group (Networks) get set up to rehab park picnic tables. The students are reconditioning picnic tables which will be redistributed to park sites when done.

Parks Superintendent and Supervisor completed the following:

- Conducted park inspections.
- Met with contractor to review creek blockages/tree removals from the Christina Creek.
- Continued working on purchase orders and planning for fall tree plantings relating to the Delaware Forest Service grant we were awarded.

Electric

In an effort to be proactive, the line crews have been busy replacing thirty year old terminations that are starting to deteriorate. Reworking these important ends of the cables coming from the City's main transformers is complex because the new terminations are not the same size as the old ones.

The line crews also worked on a service for a new showroom at a Cleveland Avenue car dealership and are working with public works to improve the foundation of a transformer that was washed away during Irene.

The electricians have been preparing for Community Day coming up on Sunday, September 18th. They need to survey the power requirements of the vendors and the facilities available at the University beforehand and manage the large cables that are rolled out prior to the event.

Engineering and the electricians are working troubleshooting safety circuits and equipment on one of the City's main transformers. The equipment and circuits have malfunctioned in the past and replacement circuit boards have not solved the problem.

Engineering has met with several contractors necessary in the coordinated effort to move a substation transformer across town and install a new transformer in its place. Excavators, crane operations, concrete fabricators, and fencing contractors have been scheduled and consulted with to determine what lines have to be removed, covered, or switched off and other details.

Water & Wastewater

We completed the training for the new Bellevue Road Lift Station. The maintenance staff were excited to see the new facility. This facility presents no confined space issues. All maintenance activities are performed from the surface or in a shallow utility vault. The pumps are also controlled such that they will automatically clean the wet well of accumulated debris on a schedule that we establish.

We are expecting the vaults for the sewer line project at any time. Once the vaults are set the work will progress quickly towards completion.

We located a valve on Apple road that has been closed for so long that no one could remember ever having operated it. No amount of manpower could get the valve to budge. We were able this week using the valve exerciser to get the valve moving and operable again. The opening of this valve will allow water from the 12 inch line on Apple Road to supplement the water supply on the other side of the tracks. We chased a little discolored water that evening and expect that this change will provide additional pressure and flow during periods of increased water usage.

I attended a meeting of the Citizens Technical Advisory Committee to the Source Water Assessment and Protection Program. There were some interesting presentations on the development of a well geophysical log data base that the Delaware Geological Service is putting together. Water reuse and pesticide contamination monitoring was also discussed. Jerry Kauffman, from the University of Delaware Water Resource Agency, made a presentation on the value of water in the state of Delaware. Delaware is doing a good job of managing the water resources of the state.

Police

On Thursday, September 8th, Cpl. Walker responded to the Kmart in College Square for a report that two suspects bought electronic items with what was later determined to be fraudulent checks. The suspects would then go to other area Kmart stores and return the items. The suspects got away with over \$1,600 in merchandise from this store before the checks were discovered to be fraudulent. The investigation into the identity of the suspect is ongoing.

On Thursday, September 8th, Officer Fountain responded to the 300 block of Amoroso Way for a report of a burglary to the residence. It was reported that sometime during the daytime hours of September 8th, an unknown suspect broke into the victim's residence via a basement window. It was determined that over \$40,000 worth of jewelry and electronics was stolen. The Evidence Detection Unit responded to the scene to collect potential evidence. The case has been turned over to detectives for additional investigation.

On Saturday, September 10th, Officer Fountain responded to the Howard Johnsons Hotel for a report of a burglary to a room. The victim reported that the room was left locked and unoccupied for approximately two hours. Upon return to the room, the victim noticed that the door had been forced open as there was damage to the door. It was reported that \$9,250 worth of jewelry and money was taken from the room. Evidence was collected and the investigation is ongoing.

On Sunday, September 11th, Officer Martin responded to the 200 block of Madison Drive for a report of a confrontation which turned violent. It was reported that during a verbal confrontation, one suspect displayed a handgun and the other suspect displayed a knife towards the two victims. Suspects have been identified in this case and charges are pending additional investigation.

KRS/mp