

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

September 30, 2011

Parks & Recreation

Administration/Planning

Tom met with several home owners about tree issues.

Park inspections were completed and resulting work orders prepared.

We continue to work with the Delaware Trail Spinners and the State Parks trail crew to relocate and construct trails in Redd Park. The project is moving along nicely.

I committed a significant amount of time writing grant proposals for upcoming park development project.

DNREC has approved the Remediation Plan (prepared by Pennoni our project consultant) for the Curtis Mill site. We will meet with DNREC soon to submit their Brown Field Remediation Fund Pre-Application.

Our tree contractor began removing trees and debris (blockages) from the Christina Creek following recent heavy rain events.

Park and Building Maintenance

In spite of frequent rain events we're managing to get some mowing done.

We completed several building maintenance tasks.

The crew continues to paint certain locations in the Police Building.

Much of the day last Monday was committed to putting away Community Day supplies and equipment and clean up at the U of D Green.

Students from the Networks Program (Christina School District) continue to rehab park picnic tables for us.

The crew transported rock and stone to Redd Park for the trails project.

Horticulture/Landscaping

The crew mowed several horticulture sites and assisted the parks mowing crew to help catch up on park mowing operations.

We began preparing the Courtyard at City Hall for new plantings.

We committed time at several horticulture sites completing routine landscape maintenance tasks.

Recreation Services

Our fall youth swim program got underway recently. Classes are held at the Newark Senior Center.

The Before and After School programs at Downes and West Park Elementary Schools got off to a very good start this year.

Sharon and CPL Mease presented the Compassionate Care Hospice Foundation with a donation from proceeds generated from the Nefosky 5K Walk/Run.

Event staff is working on organizing for the Community Clean-up scheduled for this Saturday. Volunteers will conduct litter sweeps of various common roadways and other selected sites throughout the City.

Electric

Final preparations are being made by the line crews and engineering to move a transformer from the Phillips Avenue Substation to the East Main Substation. A crane will be brought in to load the 80,000 lb. transformer on to a truck. Switching, removing and insulating wires is necessary for crane clearances around high voltage equipment.

The line crews and meter technician have been working on the services and metering at Rittenhouse Station, Twin Lakes Village, and the UD Computing Center on Chapel Street.

Engineering met with the University and switchgear personnel to go over the operation of the circuit breakers at the Lovett Avenue Science Center. Since two primary feeds are coming into the site which can switch automatically on loss of voltage, it was necessary to train University and City personnel on the operations.

The contractor building the lines to feed the Lovett Avenue Science Center has been working on poles on Main Street and installing underground pipes at the Kershaw Substation. The project is nearing completion and is on target to be finished by October 18.

Water & Wastewater

We are working with Wachs Water Services to have the water main on Kells Avenue inspected on Thursday, September 29th at 1:00 p.m. We expect that this will give more insight into what is causing the intermittent discoloration that has persisted in the weeks following the Hyperflush project.

The water crew has been working with the water operator's this week to break down and clean the five treatment units at the Newark Treatment Plant. Each unit takes around one

day to clean and on average they are cleaned every other year. The last time they were cleaned was November 2010 so this cycle was shorter than usual.

The new backhoe was delivered last Friday, September 23rd. A dealer representative came to the yard yesterday, September 27th and gave a full safety and operation presentation to all of the operators, Ray, Bill and Ed from the Garage, and myself. We are still waiting on documentation required to register and tag the backhoe, we expect to have everything necessary by Friday, September 30th.

On Monday, September 26th we had a pressure drop and dirty water incident on the northeast side of our service area, originating near Liberty Plaza around 9:00 a.m. and ending on Ruthar Drive around noon. Originally we expected it was due to a water main break but pressure rebounded quickly and the discoloration cleared up relatively quickly. There were two pressure drops, one around 7:00 a.m. and another around 11:00 a.m. We are still looking into what may have been the cause.

Police

On Sunday, September 25, Cpl. Vernon responded to a residence in the first block of North Chapel Street for a report of a residential burglary. The victims reported that sometime between 11:45 p.m. on September 24 and 2:00 a.m. September 25, an unknown suspect entered into the residence and stole electronics valued at \$1,150. It appeared that the suspect climbed a fire escape and entered the residence through a second floor window. During this time frame there was a large party at the next door residence, where numerous subjects were observed in the yard and house. An arrest for loud music was made at that party. Evidence was recovered from the scene and the case will be turned over to detectives.

On Monday, September 26, M/Cpl. Nelson responded to the 100 Block of South Chapel Street for a report of a trespassing in progress. Upon arrival to the address, contact was made with the victim who stated that she was awakened by a noise. The victim looked into her living room and observed an unknown male standing there. The victim then fled to the second floor of the residence and called 911. The suspect was described as a black male, 5'09" to 6'00" tall, with a heavy build, weighing approximately 250 lbs., with short hair, wearing a white zippered jacket with green sleeves and blue jeans. A K9 track and evidence work was performed at the scene. The investigation is continuing.

On Monday, September 26, M/Cpl. Gillespie responded to the 600 block of Lehigh Road for a report that a 2 year-old child had fallen out of a second floor window to the ground below. The investigation revealed that the child climbed onto a chair that was in front of a window. The window was open, but the screen was closed. The child then fell into the screen which broke loose and the child fell out the window approximately 16 feet to a grassy area below. The child was transported to the hospital by Aetna, Hose, Hook and Ladder for evaluation.

On Tuesday September 27, Officer Gruszecki and Cpl. Kendrick responded to the 200 block of East Main Street for a report of a vehicle fire. Officers observed that the tires and rims had been removed from the vehicle that was on fire. The fire then spread to a

second vehicle which was also damaged. Aetna Hose, Hook and Ladder responded to the scene and extinguished the fire. The State Fire Marshal's Office responded to the scene to assist in the investigation.

Planning & Development

Planning

On Monday evening, City Council approved the re-subdivision of the land located on the west side of Casho Mill Road for a development of 18 single family dwellings and 62 townhouses to be known as the Wilson Farm.

On Tuesday, the packet of materials for the upcoming October 4, 2011 Planning Commission meeting was completed and forwarded to the Commission. The Commission will be reviewing the rezoning, major subdivision, parking waiver and special use permit for the 132 E. Delaware Avenue properties for commercial space and 28 upper floor apartments.

Economic Development

Assistant Planning and Development Director Maureen Feeney Roser spent time this week helping with preparations of the Taste of Newark that was held on September 25th. The event, hosted by Mayor Funk was, again, an outstanding event and enjoyed by hundreds of people.

Community Development

On Tuesday, Mike staffed the DNP Design Committee meeting. The Committee reviewed the design proposal for 132 Delaware Avenue.

On Wednesday evening, Mike will staff the CDBG/Revenue Sharing Advisory Committee meeting.

Parking

This week, Parking Administrator Marvin Howard, Maureen and I met with Dr. Cox, Mr. Handloff, and the Mayer family concerning extending leases for Parking Lot #3 in preparation for installation of the More Park System.

Public Works

Engineering/Planning and Inspection

- Contract 11-06 – 2011 Street Improvement Program: Sam's Construction worked on Alexandria Drive completing:
 1. .7 c.y. of excavation of driveway apron for patching.
 2. 33.6 s.f. of 6" p.c.c. driveway apron replacement.

3. 4.86 tons of base hot mix patching at replaced curbs.
4. 1.43 tons of top hot mix driveway apron replacement.
5. 950.2 l.f. of p.c.c. rolled curb replacement.
6. 30.6 l.f. of saw cut for p.c.c. removal.

*Contractor used 52.5 c.y. of DeIDOT Class B concrete in above pours.

Sam's Construction also saw cut on Cheltenham Road and Briar Lane in preparation for curb removal in the near future.

- Porter Nissan Dealership Expansion: Inspected storm drainage system installed on site (during heavy rain).
- Reviewed the New Castle County/DeIDOT draft stormwater permit and highlighted changes we may see in our draft permit. Met with Jen Pyle at the University of Delaware to discuss the draft NCC/DeIDOT Stormwater Permit.
- Attended the Watershed Stewardship Committee meeting at the Delaware Nature Society.
- Attended the student volunteer fair at the Trabant Student Center.
- Set up and worked an NPDES stormwater quality booth at Community Day in conjunction with the University of Delaware.
- Participated in the Christina Basin BMP tour coordinated through the Brandywine Valley Association.
- Contract 11-02 – 2011 ADA Handicap Ramp Installation Program: Joseph T. Hardy worked on the following:
 1. Topsoiled and seeded disturbed areas.
 2. Saw cut and excavated curb and sidewalks on Chrysler Avenue.
- University of Delaware ECUP/ISEP – Haines Street:
 1. Castle Construction placed 200 s.y. of hot mix street patching on Haines Street using 17 tons of hot mix.
 2. Met with Whiting Turner superintendent and discussed what needs to be completed for C.O. of building and site.
- WSFS: Met with Emory Hill and site contractor to go over issues pertaining to C.O.

Survey Crew

- Continued Phase 3.2 inspections.
- Measured, offset, and graded 655 l.f. of curb on Bent Lane for replacement.
- Reviewed deed description and plan of the Woods at Louviers Phases 2.4.

Field Operations/Streets

- Concrete crew excavated, formed and poured 8'x 8'x 3' concrete pad for a transformer base for the Electric Department.
- Catch basin crew repaired catch basin on the corner of Shenandoah Drive and Old Paper Mill Road and at 316 Chickory Way.
- Street crew saw cut City Hall parking lot for future storm sewer repairs.
- Loader completed relocation of leaves at Iron Glen Park in preparation for the upcoming leaf collection.
- Storm sewer crew excavated sink hole at 2 Creek Bend Road, exposing the pipe to make temporary repairs, backfilled, and plated.

- Street crew loaded and hauled 2 loads of previously stockpiled construction material from City yard to Batten for disposal.
- Street crew picked up heavy items with knuckleboom, delivered trash cans, removed trash from brush and pushed up brush at Iron Glen Park for the Refuse Department.
- Street crew placed rip rap over previously installed pipe and sidewalk and installed 50 l.f. of post and rail fence over storm sewer right-of-way at new sidewalk and pipe on Casho Mill Road across from Blair Court.
- Street crew inspected flood prone areas such as bridges and culverts to ensure all were clear from all the rain we had.

KRS/mp