

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

October 14, 2011

Water & Wastewater

The water situation on Kells continues to perplex us. We do know from incidents over the weekend (someone pinched off a hose) that shutting off the water coming from the hydrants adversely affects the water quality. I have been in touch with the contractor that did the cleaning and they are going to analyze debris removed from the pipe to see if they can more accurately diagnose what happened.

I am told that it takes in excess of 10,000 psi of pressure to achieve bare metal and less than 3,000 psi was used to clean our pipes. In spite of this we appear to have developed a situation that is causing sediment to form that is very easily stirred up.

We are waiting for the video from a recent televising of the active water line to see what that might show us.

Police

On Wednesday, September 28, 2011, Officer Andres responded to the 300 block of Marcus Court in the Sandy Brae Industrial Park for a report that over \$8,000 worth of metal and power tools that was stolen from a business during the overnight hours. The suspect's images were captured on video surveillance. A press release was issued to the media with the video and photos of the suspects attached. Numerous tips from the public poured in and identified the two suspects. They were charged with Felony Theft, Felony Conspiracy and Criminal Trespass. Arrested on October 4, 2011 were:

Defendant 1: Franklin E. Hanna DOB 01/16/1987
227 Carlton Lane, Dover, DE 19904

Defendant 2: Michael R. Quill DOB 02/07/1980
610 Liberty Blvd., New Castle, DE 19720

On Tuesday, October 4, 2011, at approximately 1:30 a.m., Officer Mullin responded to the 100 block of East Cleveland Avenue for a report of a robbery that had just occurred in a parking lot behind a residence. During the incident, three victims had just exited a vehicle and were immediately approached by a male suspect who displayed a handgun and demanded that all three victims turn over their property. After obtaining property from the three victims, including their cell phones and wallets, the suspect fled on foot through a driveway toward East Cleveland Avenue. The suspect is described as having an olive complexion, thick beard, 5'8" to 5'9" inches tall. He was wearing blue jeans, a red hooded sweatshirt and a red fitted baseball cap. No one was injured during the incident. Detectives were called to the scene and have taken over the investigation.

On Saturday, October 8, 2011, Cpl. Walker responded to the first block of Clear Spring Lane for a report of a burglary to a residence. The victim stated that sometime between mid-September and October 8th, an unknown suspect broke into the residence through the basement and removed several thousand dollars worth of cameras and jewelry. Evidence was processed at the scene and the case has been turned over to detective for additional investigation.

On Sunday, October 9, 2011, Officer Martin and other officers responded to the first block of East Cleveland Avenue for a report of a burglary in progress. It was reported that a 21 year-old resident arrived home and discovered a male coming down from the second floor of the home wearing a backpack which belonged to his roommate. The resident confronted the suspect and discovered that the backpack contained electronic equipment belonging to his roommates. The resident detained the suspect and contacted police, who responded to the scene and took the suspect into custody. The suspect was arrested for Burglary 2nd Degree and two counts of Theft Under \$1,500. Arrested was:

Defendant: Timothy J. Edling DOB 01/03/90
1200 Landsdale Avenue, Landsdale, PA 19446

Planning & Development

Planning

Work has begun preparing materials for the upcoming November 1, 2011 Planning Commission meeting. Agenda items include the following:

- A. The reconsideration of a redevelopment plan for the 132 E. Delaware Avenue property [tabled at the October 4th meeting].
- B. A minor subdivision for properties at 82 Kershaw Street and 98 E. Cleveland Avenue.

On Friday morning I attended the WILMAPCO “Kickoff” meeting as part of the Tiger II Newark Transportation Center Planning and Engineering Grant Project.

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

- A. Approved a Zoning Code amendment regarding the service of alcohol at bars downtown.
- B. Approved a Santa Fe Grill special use permit for a bar in a restaurant.
- C. Amended deed restrictions to allow restaurant bar service at the Courtyard by Marriott hotel.

On Tuesday morning, I met with area apartment developers regarding follow-up from the recent conversations at the Council workshop and Council meetings regarding density and related items concerning rental apartment development downtown.

On Tuesday afternoon, I attended a meeting regarding the Curtis Mill Park project.

On Tuesday evening, Assistant Planning and Development Director Maureen Feeney Roser and I made a presentation to the Newark Citizens Academy regarding Planning and Development Department activities and programs.

This morning, I met with representatives of the State Board of Elections and Council members Athey and Clifton to review plans for reapportionment of Councilmanic districts.

Economic Development

On Thursday, City Manager Kyle Sonnenberg and I attended the New Castle County Chamber of Commerce's annual "Blue Print for Growth" Conference. Assistant Planning and Development Director Maureen Feeney Roser made a presentation regarding activities in Newark at this event.

Maureen continues to work preparing for the DNP Annual Meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 17th.

Maureen continues to work on the downtown webpage as well as the "South Main Street" property owner's survey.

Community Development

This week the Community Development Block Grant/Revenue Sharing Advisory Committee completed its recommendation to City Council for the 38th Year CDBG Program and the 2012 Revenue Sharing Program. Council will be reviewing the recommendation in November.

Parking

The Division continues to work on parking way finder signs with representatives from the Department of Transportation.

Public Works

Engineering/Planning and Inspection

- Contract 11-06 – 2011 Street Improvement Program: Sam's Construction worked on Cheltenham Road, Briar Lane, and Bent Lane and completed the following:
 1. 4.0 c.y. of excavation for driveway apron patching.
 2. 8.18 tons of crusher run stone placement.
 3. 53.0 s.f. of 6" p.c.c. driveway apron replacement.
 4. (1) double catch basin adjustment and bonnet pour.
 5. 36.6 l.f. of 8' wide p.c.c. valley gutter replacement.
 6. 27.67 tons of hot mix (base) patching in front of replaced curbs.
 7. 5.77 tons of hot mix (top) patching at driveway aprons.
 8. 1,644 l.f. of p.c.c. rolled curb replacement.
 9. 6.0 l.f. of sawcut for p.c.c. removal.
- Attended Pennsylvania 2011 LID Symposium with Stormwater Program Coordinator.

- The Green at Twin Lakes: Met with owners, PW Inspector, and Public Works Director regarding bonding requirements for development. Met with owner, Cornell, Site Contractor, and Public Works Inspector on site regarding incomplete site work and discussed items that would need to be repaired or replaced prior to conditional acceptance.
- Met with owner of 813 Dallam Road regarding a sump pump discharge problem.
- Contract 11-02 – 2011 ADA Handicap Ramp Installation Program: Joseph T. Hardy worked on the following:
 1. Installed 52 l.f. of rolled curb on Chrysler Avenue.
 2. Installed 42 s.f. of 4" p.c.c. sidewalks.
 3. Installed 8 s.f. of truncated domes.

Field Operations/Streets

- Street crew excavated and installed 160 l.f. of 3" perforated pipe for drainage in the City Hall parking lot.
- Hot mix crews excavated and applied 786 s.f. of hot mix in 3 locations in the City Hall parking lot and 640 s.f. of hot mix at 735 Harvard Lane.
- Catch basin crew excavated 30' of slot drains at the loading dock area at City Hall.
- Street crew pushed up yard waste at Iron Glen Park and picked up heavy items with the knuckleboom for the Refuse Department.
- Street crew began moving leaves at the 896 water tank area in prep work for leaf collection.
- Street crew saw cut additional work areas at City Hall parking lot for future installation of additional perforated pipe at 2 more locations.
- Street crew installed and removed spreaders and plows to check for any repairs needed in prep work for snow removal on 5 dump trucks at the City yard.
- Sign truck repaired and replaced signs and poles as needed and continued painting yellow curb at fire hydrant locations.

Parks & Recreation

Administration/Planning

On Tuesday I attended the first monthly progress meeting for the Pomeroy Trail. The contractor is focusing on the section between Wyoming Road and the Hall Trail.

On Wednesday I attended a bi-annual meeting of parks and recreation directors representing the various public agencies in Delaware. The focus of the meetings are for each director to give an update on projects their departments are working on and to discuss pertinent local, regional and statewide issues and topics.

I completed and submitted two grant proposals to the Delaware Land and Water Conservation Trust Fund program for consideration. Funding requests were submitted for the Curtis Mill Park development project and the Skate Spot project.

On Friday, Carol and I, along with our Curtis Mill project consultant, met with DNREC personnel to continue discussions pertaining to site remediation and development plans.

We continue to make great progress at Redd Park relocating and building the trail network with the incredible assistance of the Delaware Trail Spinners, the State Parks trail crew and park staff. We are well into Phases III and IV of the project. In these two phases more than 2,600 volunteer hours have been committed to working on the project.

Tom conducted park inspections and prepared related maintenance work orders.

Our tree contractor continues to remove blockages in the Christina Creek left by Hurricane Irene.

Tom committed a great deal of time laying out the sites for the first phase of our park and open space forestation project. The tree plantings started this week and will be completed next week. The project is funded by a grant from the State Forest and a donation by the local Morning Rotary Club.

Tom is working with a local Boy Scout on a possible Eagle Scout project.

Field Operation

Park and Building Maintenance

We are still playing catch up on our mowing operations.

We committed a great deal of time on a variety of building maintenance projects/tasks.

We completed minor surface repairs to tennis courts at Handloff and Phillips Parks.

We started bush hogging meadow areas this week.

On Friday we delivered materials/supplies to the Wilson Center for the Flea Market.

The contractor completed the yearly inspection of the emergency call boxes on the Hall Trail, at the Reservoir, and Transit Hub.

We sprayed all infield areas for weed control and lined the soccer fields for league play.

Horticulture/Landscaping

The crew installed new plant material in the Courtyard at City Hall.

The crew is working on fall landscape bed maintenance.

Recreation Services

The recreation staff is working on winter/spring program development for the upcoming e-newsletter.

The Fall Flea Market was held at the George Wilson Center on Saturday, October 8. It was a nice event with perfect weather, 12 vendors participating with a nice flow of customers throughout the day.

The CATCH (Coordinated Approach to Children's Health) Afterschool Homework Club at Downes Elementary began on Monday, October 3. We have 13 children participating this fall and have volunteers from the Newark Morning Rotary Club and the UD Physical Therapy Department assisting us again.

Joe is finalizing materials and layout for the Pomeroy Trail information signs.

Electric

The line crews have almost finished tying- in the substation transformer moved two weeks ago. The transformer was tested to ensure nothing changed during the move. After the metering is finished, the transformer will be energized.

The line crews have completed installing all the hardware involved to make the underground cables bored into Westfield Court, Donna Drive, and Haslett Park usable. The primary cables installed were needed to ensure a backup feed to these areas in the event of a cable failure.

Engineering met with Delmarva, DEMEC, and other municipalities for Delmarva's annual update on the state of the electric system. Newark's power factor this year was well within acceptable limits to avoid any penalties. Engineering also met with DEMEC and other electric managers on substation security. Unlike some municipalities, Newark has had little problem with security, in part because cameras are already monitoring some locations.

Engineering has been working with the SCADA developer on the next substation to be implemented. Challenges have arisen because a new relay is being introduced to the system, but the contractor has completed the protocol interpretation that will make communication possible.

The contractor building a second circuit for UofD's Lovett Avenue Science Center is completing changeovers to businesses on Main Street. Early morning changeovers are necessary to get the businesses back on before the day starts. Pulling and testing underground cable is all that is left after these changeovers are complete

KRS/mp