

## **DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS**

**December 9, 2011**

### **Planning & Development**

#### **Planning**

On Friday morning, I joined with Electric Director Rick Vitelli and Finance Director Dennis McFarland at a meeting with University of Delaware and Delmarva officials to discuss the Bloom Energy project.

At its meeting Tuesday evening the Planning Commission recommended approval of proposed amendments to the BB zoning category concerning apartments and parking waivers.

#### **Economic Development**

Maureen continues to work on updating the welcome brochure for new downtown businesses.

On Friday, Maureen met with a perspective new business owner to discuss the advantages of opening a business in downtown Newark.

On Friday evening, Maureen attended the University of Delaware's 2011 Renaissance Award Dinner honoring Michael Waite for his service to the community. Proceeds from the dinner are used for a scholarship for a UD HRIM student who, in turn, volunteers to assist the DNP restaurant related downtown events.

On Tuesday, Planner Mike Fortner staffed the DNP Design Committee meeting.

On Wednesday, Mike staffed the DNP Merchants' Committee meeting

#### **Code Enforcement**

Six Certificates of Occupancy were applied for in the Twin Lakes townhouse community along with six new building permit applications.

### **Public Works**

#### **Engineering/Planning and Inspection**

- Contract 11-06 – 2011 Street Improvement Program:  
Greggo & Ferrara worked on Alexandria Drive completing the following:
  1. .8 c.y. of excavation (undercut).
  2. 7.0 s.y. of p.c.c. utility trench patch excavation.
  3. 18,171.9 s.y./in. of milling of the existing hot mix street.

4. 235.92 tons of base hot mix installation (incomplete).
  5. 3.87 tons of base hot mix patching.
- Sam's Construction worked on N. Country Club Drive, Stamford Drive, Gray's Avenue, Woodlawn Avenue, Poplar Avenue, and Orchard Avenue completing the following:
    1. 1.6 c.y. of excavation.
    2. 62.4 s.f. of 6" p.c.c. driveway apron replacement.
    3. 275.6 s.f. of 4" p.c.c. sidewalk installation for ramps.
    4. 24.0 s.f. of red truncated dome block installation at ramps.
    5. (2) single catch basin adjustments and bonnet pours.
    6. (2) double catch basin adjustments and bonnet pours.
    7. 24.49 tons of base hot mix patching.
    8. 1.50 tons of hot mix driveway patching.
    9. 659.4 l.f. of p.c.c. curb replacement.
    - 10.59.0 l.f. of sawcut for concrete removal.

\*Contractor used 49.5 c.y. of DeIDOT Class B concrete in above pours.
  - Gathered stormwater training information for 2009, 2010, and 2011 and sent it electronically to the Engineering Assistant for the Delegation renewal. Assisted the Engineering Assistant with electronic organization.
  - Completed a quarterly wet visual monitoring event as per our industrial stormwater permit for the Maintenance Yard.
  - Attended the EPA Watershed Academy webcast, "Nitrogen and Phosphorus Webinar Series: Tools for Developing State Nitrogen and Phosphorus Pollution Reduction Strategies".
  - Continued working on the 2011 NPDES Annual Report.
  - University of Delaware Gilbert Dorms:
    1. Performed perimeter erosion and sediment control inspection. Met with contractor to go over dewatering discharge into storm manhole.
    2. Discussed the matter of having a designated truck route to Skanska keeping loaded vehicles off residential roads.
  - Martin Honda: Performed erosion and sediment control inspection and contacted site contractor of deficiencies.
  - Verizon Fiber Optic Installation: Met with fiber optic cable installer for the Woods at Louviers concerning heaved section of roadway from boring done in roadway along Winterthur Lane.

### 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.
- Began annual location of the control monuments on the reservoir.

### Field Operations/Streets

- Street crews continued on the 8<sup>th</sup> week of the Fall Leaf Collection Program.
- Street crews worked on maintenance of both leaf piles and pushed up yard waste for the Refuse Department.

## **Parks & Recreation**

### **Administration/Planning**

Joe, Rich, Tom and I visited the Wilmington and Western Rail Road maintenance yard to discuss ideas for the placement rail road related items along the Pomeroy Trail.

On Tuesday, along with other City personnel, I attended a meeting with representatives of DelDOT to discuss procedures and regulations for closing roads for construction purposes and for conducting events.

Last Wednesday Tom and I met with a representative of the Delaware Trail Spinners and the Delaware Land and Water Conservation Trust Fund grant program to discuss progress on Phases III and V of the Redd Park Trail rehab project.

We conducted the first meeting with a small group of interested residents to discuss the Skate Spot project. This group will form a committee to work with us on design aspects of the skate spots and other project related tasks.

Last Thursday we met with a representative of the Newark American Little League for a brief and initial discussion about the idea of placing lights on the baseball field and the construction of a small concession stand at Leroy Hill Park.

On Friday I met with our consultant for the Pomeroy Trail project to discuss several items relating to trail amenities.

Tom conducted park inspections, had discussions with the developer at 189 South Chapel Street regarding tree protection during construction, coordinated pruning of the yew hedge along Elkton Road in lower Binns area and inspected completed tree work in Redd Park funded by a 2011 Tree Management grant from the State Forest Service. The contractor completed the removal of the last creek blockages resulting from Hurricane Irene.

Rich continued researching options for the replacement of the old ball field conditioner, coordinated for stringing Christmas lights on the tree at the Academy Building Lawn and continued working with Networks on selected projects throughout the park system.

### **Field Operation**

Park staff completed stringing Christmas lights and hanging ornaments on the tree at Academy Building Lawn, worked on several building maintenance items and park work orders, assisted the horticulture crew with cut backs of grasses and perennials throughout park system, committed a good amount of time cleaning up the rail road switching mechanism to be used in a display on the Pomeroy Trail, spent time repairing or replacing vandalized string lights on the Main Street trees, assisted recreation staff with Winterfest set up, take down and clean up and delivered materials/supplies to the Wilson Center for Snack with Santa and Santa's Secret Shop.

## Horticulture/Landscaping

We continue on bed maintenance and cut backs throughout park system and assisted with Winterfest logistics.

## Recreation Services

Tyler completed the Thanksgiving Day Breakfast wrap-up which included returning borrowed items to local businesses and sending out thank you letters to our great volunteers and event contributors.

Sharon and Debbie had a busy week preparing for and holding three holiday themed events. Winterfest was held on Friday night with approximately 2,500 people in attendance. It featured entertainment, Santa's visit, ice carving and the Christmas Tree lighting at the Academy Building Lawn. In conjunction with our event, the Delaware Special Olympics sponsored a very successful 5K run/walk.

Santa's Secret Shoppe and Snack With Santa were both held at the George Wilson Center on Saturday. There were 189 people in attendance and approximately 100 children shopped for their loved ones at Santa's Secret Shoppe.

## **Electric**

The line crews completed an early morning changeover to businesses at the Newark Shopping Center. Dual ratio transformers and new pole line hardware had been previously installed in preparation for the voltage upgrade, so the crews worked from 4 to 7 a.m. in the rain, switching the transformers and moving conductors to a new circuit. The businesses had been notified in advance and there were no complaints from the service disruptions.

The line crews also worked with the developer at Twin Lakes off of Elkton Road preparing the underground distribution for the next phase of construction. Conduits and cables are being installed for the next six units.

Engineering is working with the SCADA developer in preparation for a system upgrade and installation of hardware for a new substation to go online next week. Engineering also worked with line crews on the Lovett Avenue Science Center metering. Two 34kV metering points were installed and one was not functioning properly, but without load was difficult to troubleshoot. After creating loads on the meter by switching circuits, the problem was fixed and the services are ready for operation.

## **Water & Wastewater**

The contractor is moving along well on the relining of the water line on Kells and Wollaston Avenues. They have installed the temporary water line and have received satisfactory bacteria analysis. Next week they will be opening up the water line to begin the relining process.

We have been working on developing specs for the replacement of truck 202. We have been looking at options to replace the large truck with two smaller vehicles so that we can better utilize our work force. We expect to be able to do this with minimal or no additional expense.

We met this week with residents of Kells and Wollaston Avenues to discuss the relining project. The meeting went well and we were able to answer a multitude of questions.

I completed a pre-final inspection (we will complete the re-vegetation in the spring) of the sanitary sewer crossings of the Christina Creek. The work looks very good.

### Police

The Newark Police are investigating the report of an attempted luring of a 14 year-old female which occurred shortly before 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 30, 2011 at the intersection of Dallas Avenue and Apple Road. The 14 year-old was walking on Dallas Avenue when she was approached by a black male in a white van. The male asked her if she needed a ride and when she refused, he told her to "get in." The female then fled the area on foot. The van was last seen leaving the area westbound on Dallas Avenue towards Elkton Road. The van is described as an older style white work van with no rear or side windows. The van is further described as having dirty tires with a rusted dent on the lower rear passenger side. The driver is described as a black male, 30-50 years old with little hair on his head, a thin scruffy beard, and multiple tattoos on his neck. He is further described as wearing heavy cologne and was smoking a cigar. Detectives are investigating this case and a composite sketch has been released to the public.

On Saturday, December 3, 2011 at approximately 5:30 p.m., officers responded to 260 Elkton Road for a report of an armed robbery that had just occurred. A delivery driver had just made a food delivery and was walking back to his vehicle when he was approached by a black male who displayed a handgun and demanded his cash. When the victim produced his cash, two additional black male suspects grabbed the cash while the suspect with the handgun removed the victim's wallet from his pants. After taking the victim's wallet and cash the three suspects then fled on foot toward the area of Madison Drive. A K9 track was conducted; however, the suspects were not located. The victim was not injured during the incident. All three suspects are described as high school aged black males wearing black clothing. Suspect 1 was armed with a black handgun and was wearing a black leather jacket.

On Saturday, December 3, 2011 at approximately 11:15 p.m., Cpl. Micolucci of NPD and Officer Ramone of UDPD were on patrol as part of the NPD Street Crimes Task Force. They pulled into an apartment complex parking lot located in the 200 block of E. Main Street. They noticed a vehicle parked in a strange manner that was running. The officers approached the vehicle for investigation and made contact with the sole occupant. This subject was found to be intoxicated and could not explain whose vehicle it was. The male subject was arrested for DUI and the officers investigated further. It was then learned that the owner of the vehicle had just had their apartment burglarized. Among the missing items were the keys to the victim's vehicle. Other evidence from the burglary was also recovered.

Robert Ndirangu was additionally charged with Burglary 2<sup>nd</sup> degree, Theft of a Motor Vehicle and Theft under \$1,500.

KRS/mp