

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

December 30, 2011

Electric

An outage occurred during the rainstorm on Tuesday afternoon at Old Chestnut Hill Road and South College Avenue. An insulator on a pole broke causing a wire to short against a pole mounted transformer. The line crews had to flag traffic while the transformer was changed because a traffic signal was out. After an hour and a half the power was restored to a few residences and the traffic signal.

The line crews are also setting a pole at 136 Elkton Road (formerly the Eagle Diner). The pole has to be dug by hand because of the underground utilities in the area.

The electricians have started running 1200 feet of conduit for new communication infrastructure at a substation. Older mechanical relays will be changed when new power circuits are brought to each substation transformer so that microprocessor based relays can be used and integrated into the SCADA system.

Another junior lineman successfully finished the class coursework from the Northwest Lineman School. The course is the class work and tests required of a four year apprenticeship. The field work and field tests are done as part of on- the- job training.

Water & Wastewater

Water quality testing on Kells and Wollaston Avenues indicates that the relining worked well. Tests were taken immediately after the lines were reinstated and again this week. The water quality of the first test showed a significant improvement from the previous tests. The quality of the second set of tests showed dramatic improvement in clarity and a significant reduction in the level of iron dissolved in the water. We will take another set of samples next week to insure that the results are stable.

We have been investigating alternative measures to reduce the incidence of debris clogging the back wash discharge pumps at the South Well Field Treatment Plant. Windblown tree debris has been an ongoing problem that we have been successful in reducing. We now have a better understanding of the problem and hope to be able to develop a more successful plan to eliminate the problem and respond in the event that problems reoccur.

We continue to have good success with the valve exerciser. The ability to repeatedly work valves up and down without injury is crucial to returning valves to operable status. Most valves will operate with marginal effort till the last two or three turns. Once that point is reached it may take multiple cycles advancing from one half to tenths of a turn per cycle until we are able to achieve the expected number of turns. We may need to cycle more than ten times to complete the last three turns.

Police

Detectives continue to aggressively investigate recent home and vehicle burglaries and thefts. To date, four suspects have been arrested for recent vehicle burglaries and eleven suspects have been arrested and charged with residential burglaries. Several other suspects are believed to be committing burglaries in the city.

On December 28th at midnight, Corporal Conover was conducting a property check at Suburban Plaza located on Elkton Road. He observed a vehicle parked near one of the stores. Upon approaching the vehicle, Cpl. Conover observed a large lump of clothing and what appeared to be someone hiding or sleeping in the rear of the vehicle. Cpl. Conover knocked on the window and announced himself as a police officer. A 39 year old female from Pennsylvania sat up and looked at the police officer. At first the female ignored questions from the police officer. She then proceeded to use profanity at the officer before returning to ignoring him. A backup officer arrived and officers asked the female several times to exit the vehicle. The female jumped into the front seat of the vehicle and after several attempts was able to start the car and drive off. The car was driven 100 feet and stopped. As officers approached on foot, the vehicle sped off into the parking lot. The car was driven around the lot at a high rate of speed. Corporal Conover drove his police vehicle over to the parking lot entrance/exit to block the exit. The suspect stopped her vehicle by the Applebee's and tried to flee on foot. The backup officer was forced to use his taser to bring the woman under control. The suspect was arrested and charged with two counts of resisting arrest, one count of disregarding a police officer, one count of reckless driving, and one count of criminal trespass.

Planning & Development

Planning

This week notice was provided that the January 3rd Planning Commission meeting was canceled at the sole applicant's (Trader's Alley) request to postpone consideration of their project until the February Planning Commission meeting.

This week the Planning and Development Department received development plans tentatively scheduled for review at the Planning Commission's February 7, 2012 meeting for a proposed rezoning and minor subdivision for a junior and senior high school educational facility and associated outdoor athletic fields for the Newark Charter School in the Newark Interstate Business Park off Elkton Road.

In addition, in anticipation of the February 7, 2012 Planning Commission meeting, this week departmental comments on the proposed Kate's Place/Choate Street Townhouses major subdivision, special use permit and parking waiver applications were prepared and sent to the developer.

The Planning and Development Department also received development plans tentatively scheduled for review at the Planning Commission's March 6, 2012 meeting. Plans include the following:

- A. The proposed "Rittenhouse Station II" rezoning, major subdivision and special use permit application to redevelop the self serve car wash site adjacent to the Rittenhouse Station development currently under construction into a three story building with a first floor containing 1,250 square feet of commercial retail space and 2,050 square feet of parking with second and third floors containing two apartments and another building with approximately 10,800 square feet of parking on the first floor and 24 apartment units on the second and third floors.

Economic Development

On Wednesday afternoon, Planner Mike Fortner joined Mayor Funk in awarding the storefront decorating contest awards. And the winners were:

1. Gecko Fashions
2. Flip Flop Shops
3. Mizu Sushi

Considerable time was spent this week on holiday promotions and the popular Downtown Newark Gift Card Give Away Program. This year we have already surpassed the total number of Gift Cards distributed last year through the program (133) and transactions continue to be brisk. Gift cards will be distributed on a first come first served basis for purchases through 12/31/11 until 1/9/12 or until the total number of gift cards allocated for the program (250) have been distributed.

Parking

Parking fees, suspended for the holiday, were once more put into effect on Tuesday, December 27th. The transition went smoothly. Free parking will also be provided from 3 AM on New Year's Day until 5 AM on Tuesday, January 3rd to correspond to the City holiday.

Public Works

Engineering/Planning and Inspection

- Contract 11-06; 2011 Street Improvement Program:
Sam's Construction worked on Bent Lane, Timberline Drive, White Chapel Drive, Dunsmore Road, Turnbridge Road, and Whitherspoon Lane, completing the following:
 - a. 9.0 c.y. of excavation.
 - b. 230.4 s.f. of 4" p.c.c. sidewalk for handicap ramps.
 - c. 40.0 s.f. of red detectable warning block installation at ramps.
 - d. 23.21 tons of base hot mix patching in front of replaced curbs.
 - e. 51.4 l.f. of replacement p.c.c. integral curb and gutter installation.
 - f. 13.1 l.f. of sawcutting for curb and sidewalk removal.
 - g. 126.4 s.f. of 6" p.c.c. sidewalk.
 - h. 1 water valve adjustment in sidewalk.
 - i. 1 sanitary sewer manhole adjustment in sidewalk.*Contractor used 16 c.y. of DeIDOT Class B concrete in above pours.

- 116 Amstel Avenue: Held pre-construction meeting and wrote up minutes and sent to all attendees.
- 165 West Park Place: Met with Cathy Spence over concerns about stabilization issues from gas utility installation along Apple Road.
- Twin Lakes: Performed C.O.'s for lots 41-46. Escrow money for incomplete sidewalks and grading issues on side of lot 46 was received. Cornell Builders stabilized areas of concern on site and replaced damaged silt fence.

Survey Crew

- Identified property lines at Ivy Hall Apartments for Parks Department.
- Continued processing the data from the reservoir control monuments.

Field Operations/Streets

- Street crew repaired pot holes on the access road to the transfer station and various locations in the City.
- Street crew installed salt spreaders on the dump trucks.
- Street crew checked culverts in preparation for heavy rains.
- Street crew assisted Refuse Department on the 3-man packer.

Parks & Recreation

Administration/Planning

Last Wednesday I met with a representative of Merit and Pennoni to discuss these topics relative to the Pomeroy Trail project: clearing and grubbing in the area between the Cleveland Avenue intersection and Creek Road, storm water drain systems at two different locations and trail marker design and construction detail. This past week we focused on completing excavation and application of the stone base in the area between Main Street and New Street, cross-trail drain pipe and rip-wrap out fall installation on the south end of the University Courtyard Apartments segment and clearing and grubbing in the segment adjacent to Olan Thomas and Kershaw Parks.

Last Wednesday I attended an equipment demonstration session for a unit we are looking to purchase which has several operational functions that would take the place of two pieces of equipment we plan to replace in 2012.

Tom met with the State Urban Forester and Assistant Director of the Water Department about possible grant funding to remove a large stand of Bamboo in the area of Lewis Park and the Academy Street treatment sites through the State Forest Service invasive species grant program. We are investigating other possible grant sources as well.

Tom completed park inspections, met with Parks Director, Pennoni, and Merit Construction at the Pomeroy trail section along Olan Thomas Park concerning tree issues, attended the demo of an articulating unit for possible purchase by the Parks

Department, started working on the next phase of the Main Street tree pit replacement project, and continued working on the DRPS conference.

Rich arranged the equipment demonstration of an articulating unit which was taken to several sites using a rough cut mowing unit and a hollow tine core aerator.

Field Operation

Parks staff continued on work on assigned work orders, assisting horticulture staff with mulching, building maintenance, and checking the lights on Main Street trees (replaced 1 missing extension cord), and leaf clean up.

Horticulture/Landscaping

Horticulture staff continued on leaf clean up and mulching throughout park system.

Recreation Services

I met with Pennoni Associates staff about the Pomeroy and Newark Rail Trail kiosk designs.

KRS/cw