

## DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

January 13, 2012

### Police

On January 3, 2012 Charles Hymer of Newark was arrested for a December 14<sup>th</sup> residential burglary in the unit block of Thompson Circle. Hymer was connected to this burglary after he was stopped by the Elkton Police Department on December 15, 2011 for an unrelated incident. During this stop, he was found in possession of stolen property linking him to the Thompson Circle burglary. Charles Hymer, DOB 02/01/86, of 43 Thompson Circle, Newark, DE 19711, was arrested and charged with Burglary 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree, Theft over \$1,500 and Criminal Mischief under \$1000. Hymer was committed to Howard R. Young Correctional in lieu of \$3,250 bail.

On January 3, 2012 John T. Steinbeiser of Newark was arrested following a lengthy Burglary investigation. Steinbeiser was connected to five residential daytime burglaries which occurred in the neighborhood of Ridgewood Glen between September and December 2011. John T. Steinbeiser, DOB 07/19/79, formerly of 53 Shenandoah Drive, Newark, DE 19711, was arrested and charged with 5 counts of Burglary 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree, 5 counts of Theft over \$1,500 and 3 counts Criminal Mischief under \$1,000. Steinbeiser was committed to Howard R. Young Correctional in lieu of \$7,800 bail.

On January 6, 2012 the Newark Police Department arrested Robert Groski and Anthony Gatta, both of Newark, for their involvement in two recent residential daytime burglaries in the Hunt at Louviers neighborhood. The first burglary occurred on September 8, 2011 and the second occurred on November 7, 2011. Groski and Gatta were previously apprehended by a New Castle County Police K9 team while fleeing from a daytime burglary on December 1, 2011. Following that apprehension the pair was arrested by NCCPD and NPD for several burglaries and was later linked to the two above incidents. Arrested were Robert Groski, DOB 05/22/92, of 13 Holt Road, Newark, DE 19711, and Anthony Gatta, DOB 07/08/93, of 192 Esmer Court, Newark, DE 19711. Both were charged with 2 Counts Burglary 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree, 3 Counts Theft over \$1,500, 2 Counts Conspiracy 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree, and 1 Count Criminal Mischief under \$1,000. Both were released on \$7,250 unsecured bond.

On January 8, 2012 at approximately 4:45 a.m. the night clerk at the Howard Johnson's Hotel was approached in the lobby by a female subject, wearing a mask partially concealing her face. The suspect was armed with a knife and demanded the clerk unlock the cash drawer. A struggle ensued, during which, the clerk was cut several times. The suspect then removed an undisclosed amount of currency from the cash drawer and fled the office. The clerk recognized the suspect as a guest at the hotel and responding officers were able to locate her and a second suspect in a room at the hotel. Evidence was located linking the pair to the crime and both were taken into custody without incident. The clerk, a 22-year old male from Newark, sustained a laceration to his hand and shoulder. He was transported to Christiana Hospital where he was treated for his injuries and released. Arrested was Samantha Townsend, DOB 11/12/92, of 849 Broadfield Drive Newark, DE 19713, and Barbara Filer-Epps, DOB 6/27/91, of 7 Blue Hen

Ridge Newark, DE 19711. Both were charged with Robbery 1<sup>st</sup> Degree, Possession of Deadly Weapon During The Commission of Felony, Assault 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree, Wearing a Disguise During Commission of Felony and Conspiracy 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree. Both were committed to Baylor Women's Correctional on \$65,500 secured bail.

On January 9, 2012 at approximately 8:30 a.m. a resident reported hearing a loud crashing sound in the 500 block of Cambridge Drive. The resident then observed a suspicious male subject hiding in the bushes in the rear of a neighboring residence. After reporting the incident to the police, the resident chased the subject who fled on foot and was last seen in the area of 115 Locust Drive. A second resident also contacted police reporting that a subject, known to the resident as Hooks, had just run through the rear yards of Cambridge Drive. Responding officers discovered that a sliding glass door in the rear of the residence, where Hooks had been seen hiding, had been broken out. Officers located Hooks at his residence and took him into custody. Arrested was Bradley M. Hooks, DOB 11/08/91, of 115 Locust Drive, Newark, DE 19711. He was charged with 1 Count Attempted Burglary 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree, 1 Count Criminal Mischief Under \$1,000, 1 Count Criminal Trespass, and 1 Count of Conspiracy. He was released on \$3,850 unsecured bail.

## **Planning & Development**

### **Planning**

On Monday evening, City Council tabled consideration of the 132 E. Delaware Avenue redevelopment project.

Work continues on reports tentatively scheduled for review at the February 7, 2012 Planning Commission meeting. Agenda items include the following:

- A. The Trader's Alley redevelopment plan for 14 upper floor apartments.
- B. The rezoning and minor subdivision of a 20.63 acre portion of the Newark Interstate Business Park for the proposed Newark Charter High School.
- C. The redevelopment of the properties at 21-27 Choate Street and 144-150 E. Main Street for a mixed use commercial, upper floor apartments, and townhouse apartments project.

On Thursday, I attended a meeting in Washington, DC at the offices of the U.S. Department of Transportation with representatives of the Department along with officials from DeIDOT, the offices of Senators Carper and Coons and Representative Carney, and representatives from WILMAPCO to discuss our upcoming Tiger IV application for federal funding assistance for the Newark Regional Transportation Center.

On Tuesday, the Department hosted a Subdivision Advisory Committee meeting for the proposed development of the "163" Elkton Road properties off Elkton and Winslow Roads.

## Economic Development

Time was spent preparing for Restaurant Week, scheduled for January 23-29, 2012.

Some work was done this week for marketing Newark at the I-95 Welcome Center.

This week the DNP submitted its annual required Self-Assessment Report to the Delaware Economic Development Office. This Report is required for our participation in the Delaware Main Street Program and is part of the National Trust's accreditation process.

On Monday, Asst. Planning & Development Director Maureen Feeney Roser met with representatives of the Newark Film Festival and local music promoters to discuss adding a music element to the event.

## Community Development

On Wednesday, Planner Mike Fortner attended a meeting hosted by the Greater Wilmington Convention and Visitor's Bureau.

## Code Enforcement

Final CO inspections for 153 Courtney Street are scheduled for Friday.

## **Public Works**

### Engineering/Planning and Inspection

- Rittenhouse Station: Spent time compiling escrow amounts for incomplete work associated with building #1. Discussed these items with site superintendent. Also spoke with site CCR about E&SC issues, reports, and as-builts for the S.W.M. facility associated with building #1.
- Erosion & Sediment Control Inspections: Performed site inspections at Laura's Glenn and Sutton Place.
- Road Survey Management System: Started road survey for the northwest section of the city.
- McIntyre Drive: Met with Pusey Pemberton and Bruce from Greggo & Ferraro to go over areas of hot mix replacement on McIntyre Drive.
- 151 Courtney Street: Met with superintendent to go over issues with lot prior to C.O.
- Martin Honda: Met with superintendent to go over erosion issues the CCR has not picked up on since the last inspection.
- Spent time reviewing the EPA Urban Waters Small Grant Request for Proposals document to get familiar with the grant eligibility and project requirements.
- Composed a brief summary of the NPDES program and the industrial stormwater program, including impacts and potential concerns if we have to develop a new program in the future.

- Worked on a GIS map of easily accessible water quality monitoring sampling points for the main stem of the White Clay and Christina Creeks, as well as several tributaries of each.
- Worked on a storm drainage map of Fairfield Crest for the Delaware Nature Society. It will aid in their efforts to get the City of Newark certified as a National Backyard Wildlife Habitat City.
- Continued working on the 2011 NPDES Year End Summary Report.

### Survey Crew

- Continued Phase 3.2 sidewalk inspections and entering data into spreadsheet.
- Began updating storm sewer maps in digital format.

### Field Operations/Streets

- Street crews worked on collection of Christmas trees.
- Street crew assisted refuse department on bulk pick-ups.
- Street crew accepted delivery of 250 tons of salt that was stockpiled with the loader in the salt bin.
- Street crew responded to call-in for icy road conditions.

## **Parks & Recreation**

### Administration/Planning

Last Tuesday I met with Councilman Markham at Redd Park regarding the trail rehab and relocation project.

I conducted an inspection of the Christina Creek and adjacent trail in the area between the Christina Parkway and Barksdale Road. I forwarded maintenance items to the Park Superintendent for review and scheduling.

I committed considerable time reviewing and preparing comments on the One Sixty Three/South Main Street Plaza subdivision plan.

I spent a good amount of time on the Pomeroy Trail project meeting with the construction contractor and our consultant on various items. This week most of our focus for construction was in the area of Olan Thomas and Kershaw Parks clearing the trail corridor, excavating and applying the trail base. In addition, Joe and I continue to work with our consultant to finalize the trail maps/kiosks.

With Sharon's assistance I prepared a power point presentation of Pomeroy Trail construction from start to present. I'll give the presentation on Wednesday to the Governor's Council on Greenways and Trails.

Tom conducted park inspections and prepared related maintenance work orders, worked on an Invasive Species Grant proposal, through State Forest Service the New Castle

Conservation District, for the removal of a stand of bamboo in the area of Lewis Park, conducted a follow up on landscape installation at 143 Courtney Street and consulted with the Public Works Superintendent on the preparation of RFQ's for rehab work at the Old Train Station.

Rich completed his research and recommendations for the replacement of one maintenance truck and the purchase of a multifunctional unit which will replace two other units. Funding is available in the CIP. He also assisted Tom in researching vendors and costs for 2012 materials and supplies.

### Field Operation

Parks staff conducted snow removal/control as needed at all City buildings, parking lots. They also worked on or completed these park and building maintenance tasks: repairing the door between the Police radio room and the copier room, made repairs to the side exterior door in the atrium area, removed wreaths from City Hall and placed in storage, removed graffiti at several spots along the Hall Trail, added stone dust to vacant tree pits along Main Street and cleared leaves from the Kershaw and Fairfield Park tennis courts.

### Horticulture/Landscaping

Most of their time was spent conducting winter season landscape bed clean up at park sites and on traffic medians.

### Recreation Services

Paula provided the necessary paperwork to the Department of Education for new Before and After Care staff at the Downes and West Park Elementary School programs.

Paula email blasted information to previous participants about upcoming fitness, yoga, preschool and youth programs.

Tyler worked on contacting and finalizing staff for upcoming programs.

Sharon has been working on 2011 event reports and planning 2012 events. She mailed Memorial Day Parade applications out and is working on marketing for this year's events. She has also been working on special projects for Charlie and Joe.

The recreation staff is generally busy preparing for upcoming winter/spring programs.

## **Electric**

The line crews are upgrading a circuit along Park Place Avenue installing new conductors, hardware, and a new pole where the distance between poles was too great.

Engineering has been working on the backup system to communicate with substations. The SCADA system will be the primary communication channel when completed, however the network currently in place will be used as a backup. As the older

communication devices break, newer or different model devices must necessarily replace them, creating communication issues which can be difficult to troubleshoot and fix.

Simultaneously, engineering has been working with the SCADA developer to fix issues with the interface when a new substation was added at the end of last year along with a software upgrade to the system.

The electricians have taken down Christmas decorations, fixed issues for the Water Department, worked on City Hall's exit signs, and continued work at the West Main substation for the SCADA system.

### **Water & Wastewater**

Maintenance crews spent time this week working on several projects at the water treatment plants making arrangements for and installing new equipment.

The project for the replacement of the Northwest Booster station was advertised this week. We will be using a design build approach for this project. The City received a 75% Federal matching grant for this project.

We have been in contact with the contractor who was awarded the project to renovate the Cooches Bridge sanitary sewer lift station. I expect the work will be in the next couple of weeks.

Cleaning and inspection of the sanitary sewer line along the White Clay Creek is set to begin next week. This work is a continuation of the work that we started in the Christina sanitary sewer basin cleaning and inspecting the sewer lines to identify potential problems.

KRS/mp