

## **DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS**

**January 20, 2012**

### **Planning & Development**

#### **Planning**

Work continued this week preparing materials for the upcoming Planning Commission meeting on February 7, 2012. Tentatively scheduled agenda items include the following:

- A. The proposed Newark Charter School expansion at the old Lear Seating facility in the Newark Interstate Business Park.
- B. The proposed Kate's Place/Choate Street Townhouses redevelopment plan at E. Main Street and Choate Street in the vicinity of Klondike Kate's.

The University has completed defining the land transfer boundaries with Bloom Energy with the result that we can now move forward with the proposed Science and Technology Campus new zoning district. This will be reviewed by City Council shortly.

#### **Community Development**

Planner Mike Fortner completed a loan signing this week for a recipient of a Home Improvement Program loan.

#### **Parking**

On Wednesday, Parking Administrator Marvin Howard and Assistant Planning Director Maureen Feeny Roser met with the DNP Parking Committee Chairwoman Sally Miller and corporate real estate managers for the M & T Bank to discuss lease arrangements for Parking Lot #3.

DeIDOT has approved the revised designs of downtown parking way finding signs which have since then been ordered.

### **Public Works**

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

- Rittenhouse Station – Building #1: Inspected site and processed C.O. departmental which includes a list of items that must be completed and a list of items that can be escrowed, prior to Public Works approval.
- Annual Stormwater Management Facilities Maintenance Inspections: Inspected 43 facilities, completed inspection reports, and entered data into the computer files (spreadsheets).
- Erosion & Sediment Control Inspections: Conducted inspections at Sutton Place and Laura's Glenn.

- Road Survey Management System: Finished road survey for northwest section of the city.
- McIntyre Drive: Set up meeting with White Reality for following week to meet on site and sent punchlist to Chuck White.
- University of Delaware East Campus Residence Halls: Met with University of Delaware representatives, contractor representatives, and Rich Lapointe to go over failing sections of East Park Place from South Chapel Street to South College Avenue.

### Survey Crew

- Continued Phase 3.2 sidewalk inspections and entering data into spreadsheet.
- Updated the handicap ramp totals and map.

### Field Operations/Streets

- Street crews worked on collection of Christmas trees.
- Street crew assisted Refuse Department on heavy item pick-ups.
- Street crew cleaned out the drainage ditch of debris on the Cherry Hill Manor service road.
- Sign truck repaired and replaced signs and poles as needed.

## Parks & Recreation

### Administration/Planning

Last Tuesday I attended a Subdivision Advisory Committee meeting to discuss the 163 Elkton Road project. That same day I attended the monthly progress meeting for the Pomeroy Trail and the January Conservation Advisory Commission (CAC) meeting. The CAC committed a good amount of time discussing its Anti-Idling public information effort.

Last Wednesday I gave a power point presentation on the Pomeroy Trail to the Governor's Council on Greenways and Trails.

I prepared a quarterly report on the Redd Park Trail Rehab project as required by the Delaware Land and Water Conservation Trust Fund grant program.

Tom and Rich continued gathering quotes for 2012 material and supply purchases, he attended a Christina River Clean Up committee meeting and began the coordinating effort for the Newark section, met with a volunteer group leader about doing some invasive species control in the area of Persimmon Creek, followed up on the Train Station Grant quotes for Public Works, attended the Newark Habitat meeting with Kelley Dinsmore, received a cost update for painting the footbridge at Rittenhouse Park and completed the two grant applications to remove the Bamboo along the Hall Trail and Academy Street water treatment station.

Rich is coordinating test pit auguring around Police Station to try to determine water ingress. He also committed time scheduling work assignments for Networks (Christina School District program).

## Field Operation

The crew started constructing games to be used at events and other recreation programs, removed water damaged interior walls in one of the lower level rooms at City Hall and moved office furniture for the Finance Department.

## Horticulture/Landscaping

Horticulture staff continued cleaning and/or mulching bed areas throughout park system and assisted parks staff with building and park maintenance work orders.

## Recreation Services

Paula attended the first night of Pint Size basketball classes at the new location, McVey Elementary School. She also sent out letters to the upcoming participants for the Soccerroos class.

Sharon attended the Newark Memorial Day Parade Committee meeting and has been accepting registrations for the event.

Sharon sent the facility requests for 2012 to the UD and has also been working on the 2012 events sponsorship package.

Tyler worked on promoting programs utilizing Delaware Online, emails to past participants and preparing flyers to be distributed to local schools.

I worked on skate spot fundraising brochure and a power point presentation.

## **Electric**

The line crews continued with the circuit upgrade along Park Place Avenue. Three phases of primary wire are being installed while the existing circuit being replaced stays energized. The line crews used a newly purchased pulling system which saved approximately ten men three days of labor. Working another similar job will effectively pay for the equipment in savings. The line crews also supported the bore contractor installing 2100' of underground primary along Lafayette Road in Nottingham Green to be used for reliability enhancement.

The meter technician, Dean Simpson, is retiring in two weeks after nearly 34 years of dedicated service to the City. He is currently training his replacement in all aspects of the job from meter installation to relay testing.

The electricians have repaired a 1200 amp substation breaker and after the line crews switch loads and remove the backup breaker, the repaired breaker will be tested for proper function.

Engineering has been forecasting loads and system planning for increases driven by the University's new Science Center and Chiller Plant and the potential arrival of Bloom Energy at the former Chrysler Plant.

## **Water & Wastewater**

The electronic resistivity study (ERI) has been postponed by the contractor until January 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

We had an overflow at the Arbor Park water tank this past weekend which we have determined was due to a problem with the pressure reducing valve which maintains the desired elevation within the tank. The valve is scheduled to be repaired and serviced on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

We started discussions with local gate and actuator companies this week to get information so we can prepare the RFP for new automatic gates at the Newark Water Treatment Plant and the South Wellfield. We have money available for the gates as part of a Homeland Security grant. If there is enough money remaining, we are going to look into installing an automatic gate at the reservoir.

We are currently reviewing a grant application being prepared by White Clay Wild and Scenic Program, the UD Water Resources Agency and the Delaware Nature Society who have asked for a letter of recommendation. Among other things, the grant would provide for detailed bacteria sampling at multiple locations along the White Clay Creek. This would allow for detailed sourcing of bacteria loads in the creek with the goal of improving water quality back to swimmable standards.

We have continued general maintenance and repairs at the Newark Water Treatment Plant and the reservoir.

## **Police**

Newark Police are investigating two strong arm robberies which occurred in the early morning hours of January 18<sup>th</sup>.

The first robbery occurred at approximately 1:40 a.m. at the intersection of Cleveland Avenue and Kershaw Street. A 21-year old female and 21-year old male were walking on the sidewalk when they were approached by three males. One of the suspects grabbed the female and forcibly removed her purse. A second suspect removed a wallet from the male victim's pocket. All three suspects then ran to a parked vehicle and fled the scene. Twenty minutes later, at approximately 2:00 a.m., a 21-year old female entered her apartment building on Scholar Drive, which is a controlled access building. The female heard a knock at the door and observed an unknown male standing outside. The female opened the door to allow the male access to the building. The suspect grabbed the female, forced her to the ground and ran off with her purse.

On January 18<sup>th</sup>, officers responded to an East Cleveland Avenue house on a first aid call. Officers found that the victim was upset after having an argument with his girlfriend. In order to attract his girlfriend's attention, the victim shot himself in the temple with a BB gun. The victim was transported to the hospital and released

KRS/mp