

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

January 27, 2012

Public Works

Engineering/Planning and Inspection

- Proposed 2012 Handicap Ramp Contract: Began reviewing proposed locations in West Branch, Ridgewood Glen, Creekbend, and Evergreen.
- Annual Stormwater Management Facilities Maintenance Inspections: Inspected 26 stormwater management facilities, completed maintenance/inspection reports, entered data into computer files, and contacted responsible parties for maintenance needed at 17 locations.
- Attended the DNREC Regulatory Advisory Committee meeting in Dover.
- Received an award letter for the DNREC Community Water Quality Improvement Grant in the amount of \$75,000 for retrofitting 3 stormwater basins.
- Attended a certified Wildlife Habitat Community coordination meeting.
- Coordinated with the Planning & Development Department on getting "Environmental Justice" information for the EPA Urban Waters Small Grant. Also worked with the Finance Department to obtain tax information for the same.
- GPS located 15 new stormwater management facilities and documented with associated pictures.
- Finished the 2011 NPDES Year End Summary Report and forwarded to the Public Works Director.
- Road Survey Management System: Entered data from northwest section of the city into the computer and began survey for the southeast section of the city.
- McIntyre Drive: Spent considerable amount of time with Pusey marking out curb and hot mix replacement on road for conditional acceptance.

Survey Crew

- Completed Miss Utility Mark-outs as needed.
- Obtained weekly Gas Boy numbers at the Municipal Fueling Station and updated the fuel inventory spreadsheets.
- Continued Phase 3.2 inspections and entering data into spreadsheet.
- Revised storm maps and converted to digital format.

Field Operations/Streets

- Street crews responded to the snow storm over the weekend.
- Street crews finished the annual Christmas tree collection and loaded and hauled tree mulch from the city yard to Iron Glen Park.
- Street crews assisted Refuse Department on the 3-man packer.

Parks & Recreation

Administration/Planning

Last Wednesday I reviewed and prepared comments on the Rittenhouse Station II subdivision plan.

On Thursday I met with Tom and Andee to review the status of the traffic island beautification sponsor program. We're currently receiving 2012 sponsor payments and evaluating open locations to then solicit new sponsors.

I attended the Newark Bicycle Committee meeting last Thursday.

Last Friday Joe and I met to prepare an agenda for our Skate Spot Committee meeting planned for Wednesday, January 25.

The Pomeroy Trail contractor removed the old train rails from Wyoming Road this week. Temporary signage and traffic control measures are in place.

Parks personnel and I have completed the process of evaluating various pieces of equipment to replace the ball field conditioner and the small bob cat. The unit we will recommend for purchase will replace each of these units and have additional operational capabilities (attachments) that will improve our ability to complete these and other park maintenance tasks: preparing skinned infields for game play; snow removal; loading mulch, wood carpet, soil, etc.; tree stump removal; blower for cleaning trails and gathering leaves; brush mowing and aerating turf athletic fields and lawn areas. Other very useful attachments are available for future consideration.

Tom worked on these items:

- Obtained a revised cost estimate to paint the metal footbridge (over the Christina Creek) in Rittenhouse Park for 2013 capital budget.
- Met with our arborist contractors regarding several blockages in the Christina Creek in addition to tree pruning issues in Phillips Park.
- Attended a meeting with Rich Lapointe and DeIDOT representatives pertaining to the grant we received to do some rehab work to the Old Train Station.
- Committed time to these projects as well: the Christina River Clean Up, conducted park inspections, and obtaining cost estimates for crack sealing the multipurpose court areas.

Parks/Horticulture

- The crew finished constructing games that will be used at various events and recreation programs.

- They completed the removal of the wood and plaster over top of the poured concrete walls in the Board of Elections room located on the lower level of City Hall. The walls were water damaged. We will locate the water source and correct the problem.
- The crew completed a variety of building maintenance park work orders which included tree pruning, leaf removal on court areas and trash removal in all park areas.
- We conducted snow/ice removal over the weekend.

Recreation Services

Paula worked with the instructors to develop program objectives for the start of volleyball and Soccerroos classes.

Paula continues to review and update staff and child participant files for the upcoming inspection for West Park Elementary School Before and After Care program by the State Office of Child Care Licensing.

Tyler conducted a CATCH (Coordinated Approach to Children's Health) training session with After School Care staff on Wednesday, January 18. A new session of the CATCH Homework Club at Downes is starting on January 23; this is our second year for the program.

Sharon has been working on the 2012 events sponsorship package as well as marketing for upcoming winter spring art programs.

I am organizing information for the upcoming Skate Spot committee meeting and researching skate spot construction methods and contract options.

Electric

The line crews are finishing with the circuit upgrade along Park Place Avenue. They will move to Main Street next to install switches and wires in order to create multiple circuit back up options for 34kV circuits.

A scheduled outage to the businesses at the corner of Casho Mill Road and Elkton Road had to be delayed because of the snow and sleet storm predicted on Saturday. Because of the forecast, it was decided on Friday to reschedule moving a pole and underground service. The work is needed for DeIDOT and will be done early next Saturday so as not to inconvenience the businesses.

The bore contractor finished with the Nottingham Green project installing underground cable along Lafayette Road. They will be moving to Radcliffe Drive to install more underground cable for system reliability.

The electricians installed receptacles in City Hall and outside lighting at the water plant. They also continued with the SCADA infrastructure needed at West Main Substations. The pipe work is complete and equipment and circuits have to be installed and mounted.

Water & Wastewater

We have received a response from DNREC Regarding Well 14. We have been taking the necessary steps to comply with the requirements so that we can finish the well drilling project.

We have worked on several water main breaks in the last week.

The subsurface exploration of the area along the White Clay Creek was completed this week. The information that we gather will help us determine the best method to withdraw water from the White Clay Creek for our treatment plant.

The pre-bid meeting for the Northwest Booster Station Design Build project was held this week. Nineteen (19) people were in attendance. The proposals are due February 7th.

Police

On January 20th the Newark Police Department arrested 40-year-old John M. Krok of Claymont for one count of Indecent Exposure after he exposed himself on East Main Street to a 21-year-old female University of Delaware student. On this date at approximately 5:45 p.m. the suspect pulled his vehicle, a Black Mercedes Benz, over onto the shoulder of East Main Street at Academy Street. The suspect then asked the victim, who was walking on the sidewalk, for directions. When the victim looked into the vehicle she observed that the suspect was exposing his genitalia. The victim then walked away from the vehicle which pulled away westbound on East Main Street. The victim then reported the incident to Newark Police. Several hours later, at 8:00 p.m. an officer on patrol observed the suspect vehicle, again travelling on East Main Street and initiated a traffic stop. The driver was taken into custody for questioning and was positively identified by the victim. Arrested was John M. Krok, DOB 12/27/1971, of 128 S. Shelley Drive, Claymont, DE 19703. He was charged with 1 Count Indecent Exposure 2nd Degree and released on \$250 unsecured bond.

On January 21st the Newark Police were called to investigate 12 weekend incidents of theft from unsecured vehicles, sheds and yards in the community of Nottingham Green. In all instances, entry was gained through unsecured shed or vehicle doors. After gaining entry, the suspect(s) removed items including a power generator, snow blower, gasoline, hunting equipment, several wallets, a digital camera, CD's and loose change. In total over \$6,000 in property was stolen. The thefts occurred in the overnight hours from Friday, January 20, 2012 into Saturday, January 21, 2012. Locations of occurrences were: Bent Lane, Colgate Lane, Radcliffe Drive, and Harvard Lane. There are no known suspects at this time.

On January 24th at approximately 11:09 p.m., Officer Mullin responded to a report of a hit and run driver that was followed into the Suburban Plaza Shopping Center by the operator of the vehicle that had been struck. The operator observed the suspect enter into the Acme. The operator was on the phone with the Newark 911 center as the suspect exited the Acme and returned to the vehicle. As the suspect was driving through the parking lot, Officer Mullin arrived and was directed to the suspect vehicle by the other party. Officer

Mullin activated his overhead lights and attempted to stop the vehicle in the parking lot; however, the suspect refused to stop and continued to drive around the parking lot at a speed of approximately 20 mph. Other officers arrived to the main entrance of the shopping center, as the suspect vehicle re-entered Suburban Plaza. The suspect then stopped his vehicle and was taken into custody. The defendant was identified as Leonard K. Baylis, DOB 9/5/1950, of 186 North Dupont Highway, New Castle, DE 19720. Baylis was found to be driving a stolen vehicle and was DUI. He was charged with the following: Receiving Stolen Property, Disregarding a Police Officer Signal, Resisting Arrest, 4th offense DUI – Alcohol, Driving While Suspended, Display Fictitious Registration, Leave the Scene of a Collision and Fail to Follow Turn Lane.

Planning & Development

Planning

Work continues preparing materials for the upcoming February 7, 2012 Planning Commission meeting. The Planning Commission will consider the following:

- A. The rezoning and minor subdivision for the proposed Newark Charter High School at the Interstate Business Park; and,
- B. The redevelopment of the properties at 144-150 E. Main Street and 21-27 Choate Street for a mixed use 22 apartment facility at the E. Main Street location and five townhouse apartments at Choate Street.

On Tuesday morning, the Planning and Development Department hosted the Subdivision Advisory Committee meeting for the proposed Rittenhouse II mixed use development project on Elkton Road just west of the Rittenhouse Station project now nearing completion.

Economic Development

This week Assistant Planning and Development Director Maureen Feeney Roser met with representatives of local downtown businesses to discuss the upcoming Main Street Mile event.

On Tuesday, Maureen met with our partners in the Greater Newark Economic Development Partnership to outline the approach to developing a Greater Newark Economic Development “Brand.”

On Wednesday morning, Planner Mike Fortner attended the Downtown Delaware Idea Exchange in Odessa to present how Newark is using its downtown branding.

KRS/mp