

## DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

February 3, 2012

### Parks & Recreation

#### Administration/Planning

I completed a review and provided comments on the most recent version of the subdivision plan for the One Sixty Three project.

Last Wednesday night Joe and I held the first Skate Spot Committee meeting. The focus of the first meeting was to discuss funding that is in place (\$160,000) and other funding opportunities, park/site options (Handloff, Fairfield, Kells, Phillips, Lumbrook and Folk), public outreach and design and construction method options.

Pomeroy Trail Update:

- We removed train tracks from Wyoming Avenue and applied a concrete road surface in its place.
- I met on site with our contractor and consultant to review the connection with the Laird Campus and bridge design in the north segment.
- We are excavating and applying the stone base in the trail section north of Creek Road.

Last Thursday I met with other staff members to discuss drainage and water leak matters in City Hall. We'll meet again soon to decide on a path forward on how to address each item.

Tom, Rich and I met to discuss finalizing a recommendation to replace two small pieces of equipment with one that will perform the functions of the units to be replaced plus several other important operations.

I began preparing the second reimbursement request for grant funding the Redd Park Trail rehab project.

Parks Superintendent worked on these items:

- Conducted park inspections.
- Attended DRPS membership meeting in Wilmington and continued to work on planning items for the upcoming DRPS Conference in February.
- Continued working on upcoming Christina Creek Clean Up which will occur on Saturday, April 21.
- With the assistance of the Public Works Special Projects Coordinator, I continued organizing the contract and technical aspects of the bollard replacement project on the Hall Trail.
- Continued working on 2011 Annual Report for the Parks and Horticulture Divisions.

- Attended a meeting with Parks Director, Merit Construction and Amtrak concerning storm water issues along the Hall Trail.
- Rich and I met in Redd Park to decide on a plan of action to temporarily repair a foot bridge until the new bridge is completed as part of the Phase III and IV trail rehab project.
- I reviewed two landscape plans for proposed developments and commented as needed.

Rich committed considerable time researching equipment for possible purchase, continued working with staff on data entry in Parks Maintenance Tracking Program, and coordinating with the Electric Department for the removal of the Christmas tree from the Academy Building lawn.

### Parks/Horticulture

- Completed several park/landscape/building maintenance work orders.
- Started cutting back the Lirope plantings in parks and at horticulture sites.
- Cleaned vehicles and salt box from snow/ice control operations.
- Removed debris from all catch basin tops and inlets in parks following the recent snow storm.

### Recreation Services

Paula attended youth basketball picture night and observed games. She also prepared participation certificates to send out to coaches for the end of the season, committed time working on the spring adult softball and volleyball programs and making contact with last year's Rittenhouse Day Camp counselors to determine who would like to return this summer.

Sharon has been working on marketing for upcoming programs and is finalizing the 2012 Events Sponsorship package.

The CATCH (Coordinated Approach to Children's Health) Kids Homework Club began on Monday, January 23 at Downes Elementary. We have 11 children participating in this session and once again the Newark Morning Rotary Club is providing volunteer tutors.

The recreation staff attended the Delaware Recreation and Parks Society meeting in Wilmington. The State of Delaware presented the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan to the attendees.

I am working on the Request For Quotations for portable toilets rentals and apparel purchases for 2012.

### Electric

The line crews have started circuit upgrades along Main Street. Currently, they are working between the Newark Shopping Center and Chapel Street. The line crews completed the service relocation at the corner of Casho Mill and Elkton Roads Saturday

morning. It took three crews about seven hours to relocate the underground primary cable. This was done for DelDOT's Elkton Road construction project.

The new substation transformer is ready to be shipped from New Jersey to its final destination at the Phillips Avenue Substation. Permitting and route selection are all that is left. The 20 MVA, 160 ton transformer will be shipped on a truck over 120' long and will be valuable when energized before the summer loads.

The electricians have completed most of the work needed to tie West Main Substation into the SCADA system. Fiber optic cable needs to be installed and the older mechanical relays need to be swapped for microprocessor type relays. The electricians also worked on various issues at City Hall and started a project at the water treatment plant where a new pump is being installed 60' from the building and an electric supply.

Engineering has been focusing on the new load that Bloom Energy will need and working on construction standards and loading calculation for poles.

### **Water & Wastewater**

The Electro Resistivity Investigation along the White Clay Creek (part of our study of water withdrawal options) has been completed. Initial observations of the information are encouraging.

We replaced an inoperable valve at the Academy Street water facility. We also repaired a water main break.

We are coordinating activities for Well 14 in accordance with the guidance we received from DNREC.

The Contractor doing the Cooches Bridge Lift Station work has verified their bypass pumping requirements and is ready to start work in a week or two.

### **Police**

On November 13, 2011 at approximately 9 p.m., the Newark Police Department investigated an attempted sexual assault which occurred in a field adjacent to the James F. Hall Trail in Phillips Park. As a result of the investigation by detectives, an arrest warrant was issued for the suspect, who was identified as Marvin Holmes (DOB 12/19/1969). On January 28, 2012, following a two and a half month search, Marvin Holmes was apprehended in Philadelphia by the United States Marshals Service Violent Offenders Task Force. Holmes was known to frequent the area of 10<sup>th</sup> and Locust Street in Philadelphia and was located inside a bar at that location. Holmes was taken into custody without incident, waived extradition, and was transported back to Newark where he was arrested on the outstanding charges. Holmes was charged with 1 Count of Attempted Rape 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree and 1 Count of Strangulation. Holmes was committed to Howard R. Young Correctional in lieu of \$110,000 cash bail.

On January 29, 2012 the Newark Police Department arrested 20-year-old John A. Nelson of Wilmington for the Attempted Murder and Rape of a 17-year-old female, while attending a party in unit block of Academy Street. On this date at approximately 1 a.m. officers responded to a large party at a residence across from the Aetna Fire Station and began to clear a large crowd leaving the party. Upon doing so, officers heard screams for help at the rear of the residence and located the 17-year-old female lying on the ground below a 2<sup>nd</sup> floor window, being aided by several individuals. Investigators learned that the victim had been alone in a locked second floor bedroom of the home when Nelson, who is an acquaintance of the victim, kicked in the door. The victim attempted to flee, however, Nelson prevented her from doing so. During the struggle, Nelson grabbed the victim by the throat and strangled her to the point of unconsciousness. Nelson then sexually assaulted the victim and following the assault threw her from the bedroom window. The victim was transported to Christiana Hospital where she underwent surgery for her injuries from the fall including a broken arm and punctured lung. Nelson was identified by the victim and officers were able to locate him at his residence in Wilmington. He was taken into custody without incident. John A. Nelson (DOB 12/28/1991) was charged with; Attempted Murder 1<sup>st</sup> Degree, Rape 1<sup>st</sup> Degree, Kidnapping 1<sup>st</sup> Degree, Burglary 1<sup>st</sup> Degree, Strangulation, Assault 3<sup>rd</sup> and Criminal Mischief. Nelson was committed to Howard R. Young Correctional in lieu of \$286,600 secured bail.

On January 9, 2012 the Newark Police investigated two separate commercial burglaries in the early morning hours. The first was at the Exxon gas station on S. College Avenue. During this incident the suspect used a cement bench to break out the front glass doors of the business and then damaged the cash register to remove money. About an hour later officers responded to the 896 Diner where the suspect broke out a window and entered the building. The suspect removed money from the establishment. On January 30, 2012, after an extensive investigation, detectives arrested David M. Ellis (DOB 02/19/1981) and charged him with 2 counts of Burglary 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree, 1 count of Theft over \$1,500, 1 count of Theft under \$1,500 and 3 counts of Criminal Mischief. Ellis was released on \$55,000 secured bail.

## **Planning & Development**

### **Planning**

The packets for the upcoming February 7, 2012 Planning Commission meeting were completed this week and distributed. Agenda items include the following:

- A. The review of the proposed new Newark "Upper School" Charter School off Elkton Road in the Newark Interstate Business Park.
- B. A proposed redevelopment plan at 144-150 E. Main Street and 21-27 Choate Street.

Work has also begun preparing materials for the upcoming March 6, 2012 Planning Commission meeting. Tentatively scheduled agenda items include the following:

- A. A rezoning and redevelopment plan for the .83 acre Newark Self-Serve Car Wash facility at Elkton Road to accommodate a proposed mixed use facility consisting of 1,250 sq. ft. of commercial retail space and 26 upper floor apartments (Rittenhouse Station II).
- B. The major subdivision of the 3.945 acre property at 163 Elkton Road extending to Wilson Road for a proposed townhouse apartment development at this site that will ultimately add 20 units to the property.

### Economic Development

On Wednesday, Planner Mike Fortner attended the Downtown Delaware Idea Exchange in Odessa. Mike presented the results of last year's "branding process" for downtown Newark to the attendees.

### Community Development

Mike completed the Third Financial Draw to New Castle County for the City's current Community Development Block Grant.

This week Mike also sent out the Revenue Sharing agreements to recipients of the 2012 Revenue Sharing Program.

## **Public Works**

### Engineering/Planning and Inspection

- Annual S.W.M. Facilities Maintenance Inspections: Performed 50 maintenance inspections, completed inspection reports, entered data into computer files, and contacted responsible parties for maintenance needed at 15 facilities.
- Proposed 2012 Handicap Ramp Contract: Toured Creekbend, Ridgewood Glen, West Branch, and Evergreen with the Public Works Director to review proposed locations of ramps.
- Proposed DNREC Sediment and Stormwater Regulations and Construction Guidelines: Reviewed drafts and compiled comments for the Engineering Assistant.
- Reviewed and revised request for quotation to replace bollards on the Hall Trail for the Parks Department.
- Investigated a drainage complaint at 106 Delrem Drive concerning runoff from the golf course.
- Road Survey Management System: Finished survey of the south east section of the city and entered data onto computer.
- McIntyre Drive: Met with Greggo & Ferraro to go over curb and hot mix mark-outs on McIntyre Drive.
- Wawa: Met with CDA Engineering on-site to look at underground storage sump areas in the stormtech system.
- University of Delaware Bob Carpenter Center: Met with CDA Engineering at site to go over erosion and sediment control issues.

- Gathered EPA Urban Waters Small Grant application information and forwarded to a consultant filing for the grant on our behalf. The application was filed on the due date at EPA Region III headquarters.
- Rechecked a complaint at Pinebrook Apartments and was able to close it out.
- Coordinated with Jen Pyle at the University of Delaware concerning Public Education language in our annual reports.
- Sent email invitations to four local elementary schools to solicit participation in the Stroud Water Research Program, "From Classroom to Creek".
- Continued working on gathering information and putting together the 2011 NPDES Annual Report for DNREC.

### Survey Crew

- Continued Phase 3.2 inspections and entered data into spreadsheet.
- Revised handicap ramp totals and updated map.
- Continued working on converting hand drawn City line map drawings into digital format.

### Field Operations

#### Refuse

- Meetings with Bob Standarowski from RD Arnold Construction and Wesley from 18<sup>th</sup> Century Restoration Incorporated to discuss window replacement and painting at the train station.
- Meeting with Rich Lapointe, Rich Gregg, and Tom Zaleski at the maintenance yard to discuss repairs to be made to the salt bin.

#### Streets

- Cleaned out blockages of debris at the Church Road Bridge, Barksdale Road Bridge and Bellevue Road Bridge.
- Pushed up brush at Iron Glen Park and re-graded roadway at entrance to park with millings.
- Backhoe and operator assisted the Electric Department.
- Repaired broken storm sewer line at the western area drainage ditch at Ritter Lane and Beverly Road.
- Street crew is working on cleaning the area where concrete material is stored under the shed at the maintenance yard.
- Assisted the Refuse Department on the knuckleboom.
- Repaired the grass strip at 201 Meriden Drive that was damaged during snow removal.
- Repaired various potholes with cold patch material citywide.
- Sign truck repaired and replaced signs and poles as needed.
- Sidewalk sweeper continued with duties on Main Street.

CSH/mp