

## **DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS**

**February 10, 2012**

### **Electric**

The line crews have finished the circuit upgrades along Main Street near the Newark Shopping Center. They have started working on Scholar Drive doing the same work of making new ties to 34kV circuits to enhance switching possibilities. The crews are also working on a new pole and primary service to Allison Hall on Academy Street. The university is gutting the building and installing a new electric transformer, service, and switchgear.

The electricians have continued working at the water treatment plant on a new sewer pump. They are also working at the same site to repair an excavator's dig up of power and control pipes to water pumps in an unrelated project.

Engineering has been working with the SCADA developer on improving and correcting the system and preparing for installation of new relays at the West Main Substation. In order to change the relays from the older mechanical types to new microprocessors, the fusing and curve coordination must be recalculated. Because the older relays do not use the same standard settings as today's modern relays, this process has become difficult.

### **Water & Wastewater**

Work on the Well 14 project started up again this week. The pump was pulled from the old well on Wednesday of this week. The old well will be plugged on Tuesday of next week. The date was selected to allow State personnel to be on site to witness the plugging operation. Development of the new Well 14 is underway.

We have received Office of Drinking Water approval for the meter vault to connect Well 14 into our raw water piping system that feeds the South Well Field Treatment Plant. We are incorporating their comments. We will be soliciting bids for the meter vault work shortly.

The contractor is progressing nicely on the pump/lift station at the Newark Water Treatment Plant. The lift station will replace the collapsed line that ran beneath the first settling lagoon. Repair of the gravity line is not possible prompting the need to install the small lift station.

Proposals will be received next week on the Northwest Booster Station Design Build Project.

## Police

On February 4<sup>th</sup> the Newark Police Department arrested 24-year-old Michael Early of Newark for a seven month crime spree, dating back to July of 2011, involving multiple shed and car break-ins and the unlawful use of several credit cards stolen from within one of the vehicles. The investigation culminated in the arrest of Early and the execution of search warrants by Newark PD and the University of Delaware Police. The searches occurred at Early's residence and a second home in Newark where Early was storing stolen property. During the search warrants investigators recovered stolen items linking Early to multiple break-ins along with additional recovered items which are believed to be stolen but which have not yet been linked to a crime. Those items, whose ownership is undetermined, include power tools, a child's bicycle, and multiple GPS units. The investigation is ongoing and additional charges are anticipated as Early has been linked to at least one vehicle break-in on University of Delaware property. Arrested was Michael Early (DOB: 10/15/1987) 204 N. Ruth Ellen Court, Newark, DE 19711. He was charged with: 1 Count Burglary 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1 Count Burglary 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1 Count Theft of a Motor Vehicle, 8 Counts Theft under \$1500, 2 Counts Theft under \$1,500 with victim over 62 years old, 9 Counts Unlawful Use of Credit Card with victim over 62 years old, and 1 Count Criminal Trespass. Early was released on \$37,000 unsecured bail.

On February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012 officers responded to an apartment on Lehigh Road in reference to a report of a stabbing. After a super bowl party had occurred at that apartment, a female neighbor and a male occupant of the apartment got into an argument. The male half walked away from the argument and went into a bedroom. The female went and retrieved a knife and began trying to forcibly enter the bedroom. The male half then opened the door, and the female was brandishing a knife. A struggle ensued and the male victim was cut on the hand by the knife as he was trying to disarm the female. Arrested was -EXPUNGED-. -EXPUNGED- was charged with Aggravated Menacing, Assault 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree, and Possession of a Deadly Weapon During the Commission of a Felony. -EXPUNGED- was released on \$30,500 unsecured bail.

## Planning & Development

### Planning

At its meeting Tuesday evening the Planning Commission recommended approval of the following to City Council:

- A. The rezoning and minor subdivision for the proposed Newark Charter Upper School at the Newark Interstate Business Park.
- B. The proposed Kate's Place and Choate Street Townhouses redevelopment plan.

Work has begun preparing materials for the upcoming March 6, 2012 Planning Commission meeting. The Commission will review a proposed redevelopment project at the Newark Car Wash site on Elkton Road that would, essentially, replicate the Rittenhouse Station under construction development at the car wash site.

## Economic Development

On Monday afternoon, Assistant Planning and Development Director Maureen Feeney Roser attended a meeting of DeIDOT's Elkton Road Working Group. The City of Newark's Calendar of Events was provided to DeIDOT at the meeting to help avoid scheduling conflicts.

Time was also spent this week on the Downtown Gift Card Program.

## Community Development

On Monday Planner Mike Fortner attended the Chesapeake Bay and Security Corridor Regional Rail meeting in Aberdeen, Maryland. There was some discussion on the ongoing issue of connecting rail service between Perryville, Maryland and Newark.

On Tuesday, Mike hosted the Design Committee meeting to review proposed updating of the Design Guidelines as well as bicycle parking downtown.

## Parking

This morning, Parking Administrator Marvin Howard and Maureen hosted the DNP Parking Committee meeting. Most of the conversation centered on the postponement of the More Park structure and strategies for the future.

## Code Enforcement

Certificates of Occupancy were issued for 20 apartments in the first building for the Rittenhouse Station facility.

Demolition of the old "Dirty Dog" business at 393 E. Cleveland Avenue has begun.

## **Public Works**

### Engineering/Planning and Inspection

- Annual Stormwater Management Facilities Maintenance Inspections: Performed 32 maintenance inspections, completed inspection reports, entered data into computer files, and contacted responsible parties for maintenance needed at 6 facilities. Also entered data into the S.W.M. Maintenance Tracking Spreadsheet which lists facilities needing maintenance, contact/responsible party information, etc.
- Erosion & Sediment Control Inspections: Conducted site inspections at Laura's Glenn and Sutton Place.
- Rittenhouse Station: Reviewed work completed on storm drainage system and SWM system associated with Building #1.
- Proposed 2012 Ramps for the Handicapped Contract: Worked with the Survey Department on the production of a map of proposed ramp locations and compiled a list of proposed ramp locations. Began constructing field book for quantifying items needed for ramp construction.

- Christina Creek Inspection – Wedgewood Road to Nottingham Road: Performed creek inspection for blockages and none were found. Notified Parks Superintendent of two potential problems (with photos), that do not appear to have worsened.
- Road Survey Management System: Started survey for the northeast section of the city.
- Met with Newark Country Club Superintendent about washout area off rear of outlet pipe from detention basin at Rite Aid.
- Wyncliff: Met with Mike Sistek to check storm sewer system prior to final acceptance.
- Fountainview: Pusey and Jim marked out curb and hot mix repairs throughout development.

### Survey Crew

- Continued Phase 3.2 inspections and entered data onto spreadsheet.
- Began identifying the property lines at the Phillips Mill open space for the Parks Department.
- Responded to a concern about an undermined sidewalk at 284 Curtis Lane and prepared a letter to the owner of the property to repair.
- Performed an elevation survey on 205 l.f. of curb line on Dallam Road for future replacement.

### Field Operations

#### Refuse

- Attended Downtown Newark Partnership Design Committee meeting.
- Meeting with Mike Fortner to discuss placement of bike racks.
- Meeting with Mike Fortner and contractor to discuss new bike racks and streetscape furniture.
- Meeting at Newark Train Station with contractors to discuss painting and window replacement.

#### Streets

- Excavated test holes for future storm sewer installation in the parking lot behind Porter's Chevrolet.
- Repaired pot holes with temporary patch material.
- Assisted the Refuse Department with knuckleboom and 3-man packer.
- Repaired pot holes with base hot mix at the transfer station.
- Loader and operator pushed up brush at Iron Glen Park for the Refuse Department and placed mulch outside of gate at 896 water tank.
- Cleaned off catch basin tops and debris and leaves out of curb line.

## Parks & Recreation

### Administration/Planning

Last Tuesday I met with Joe and Sharon to review our 2012 Community Events Sponsor Package. Each year we distribute these sponsor materials to solicit funding, in-kind and volunteer assistance for the City's community events.

We met with Public Works personnel (at the City Yard) to view and evaluate the salt storage structure to determine a path forward on maintenance needs.

Last Thursday we met with various staff members to discuss water leak issues in the Municipal Building and decided on a path forward.

Also on Thursday, I gave a tour of the Pomeroy Trail project to a U of D Public Administration master program student. He actually assisted us with one aspect of the project during the early planning period.

Pomeroy Trail Update: Last week we focused our efforts on making the connection to the U of D Laird Campus. The utility mark-outs were done, grubbing and clearing completed and the trail path was excavated. The electric contractor continued installing the light pole bases and running conduit and wiring.

I met with Tom and Rich, at Redd Park, to discuss repairs to a trail footbridge.

Tom and Rich worked on these items:

- Conducted park inspections.
- Continued working on contract and technical aspects of the bollard replacement project for the Hall Trail.
- Met with a developer concerning landscape requirements and tree preservation matters at a proposed development site.
- Attended a meeting at the City Yard concerning damage/rusting of salt storage shed.
- Met with new Adopt-A-Park sponsor to show him the two park areas which he will be adopting for monthly clean ups.
- Visited trail head entry points along the trail system in Redd Park to see if signage is posted stating "Park Closed At Night". Where it is not posted, signs will be installed.

### Parks/Horticulture

The Horticulture crew continued cutting back the Lirope plantings at park and horticulture areas and maintaining interior planting bed areas at Alderman's Court area.

Park staff completed the following:

- Restocked paper at City Hall.
- Conducted trash removal throughout the park system.

- Completed park maintenance work orders at Lewis, Ridgewood Glen, Fairfield, Tyre Avenue, George Read, Stafford Parks, and the Anna Way open space site.
- Completed building maintenance work orders at the Police Station, City Hall, Wilson Center, and in the Alderman's Court.
- With assistance from Electric Department, removed the Christmas Tree from the Academy Building lawn and stored away all lights and decorations.
- Networks (student group from Christina School District).
- Started refurbishing two trash can enclosures.
- Completed a general clean-up at Lumbrook Park.

### Recreation Services

The State Office of Child Care Licensing completed a six (6) month review and inspection of the West Park Before and After Care program. The review and inspection went well.

The recreation staff met regarding summer programming and also met with Dana Johnston regarding possible changes with the upcoming summer newsletter and web site.

Sharon has also been working on the summer camp guide for 2012. The guide is being reformatted and will be used to potentially establish a template for future activity guides.

Joe is researching the National Joint Powers Alliance skate park contract and getting references from its users. He is also looking at different concrete skate park construction methods (poured-in-place and pre-cast) to determine durability and longevity.

The design and layout of the Pomeroy Trail kiosks/maps are nearly completed. They will soon go to production.

KRS/mp