

## **DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS**

**February 17, 2012**

### **Water & Wastewater**

Preliminary results from the ERI study along the White Clay Creek conducted as part of our alternative raw water source study look promising. We are awaiting the final report on the collected data and have begun to look at the next steps that we want to take to field verify the information that we gathered and begin to develop a plan to ultimately conduct a small test run to confirm the concept.

The small lift station at the Newark Water Treatment Plant is up and running. We still have the permanent electrical connections to make when the control panel arrives.

Work on Well 14 is progressing well. The contractor has been developing the new well and has plugged the old well with cement. Various tests will take place yet this week to document the work that was done on the new well. We have prepared and are reviewing the plans and specs for the well meter vault and pump controls.

We have been working with the Finance Department and the University to resolve several issues that we have regarding water meters.

Proposals were received this week for the Northwest Booster Station project.

We have been reviewing submittals for the Cooches Bridge Lift Station Project.

### **Police**

On Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup> the Newark Police responded to an Arbour Park address for a report of a victim of the grandparent scam. The unknown suspect claimed to be the victim's grandson who had been jailed in Mexico following a vehicle collision. The unknown suspect stated that several thousand dollars was needed to pay for damages and to get out of jail. The victim then sent several thousand dollars via a wire transfer to an unknown location in Mexico. This is an ongoing problem that has resurfaced in Delaware recently, where elderly citizens are being targeted. This is the second reported grandparent scam to Newark Police in recent weeks. Crime alerts warning and educating the public on the scam have been sent out via the press and the city's new InformMe notification system.

On Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup> the Newark Police responded to an address on Barksdale Road for a report of an attempted rental scam. An unknown suspect listed a house for rent on the internet that was not in fact for rent, but was for sale. The victim stated that they communicated via email with the alleged landlord. The victim was instructed to wire a \$1,900 deposit for the unit and did so. However, after speaking to others about the rental, the victim became suspicious and recalled the wire transfer and got the money

back. The ad that was placed on the internet had been removed prior to the officer's investigations.

On Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:52 a.m. the Newark Police Department responded to East Main Street and North Chapel Street for a report of a single vehicle crash which had taken out some utility poles. Upon arrival officers located the vehicle and identified the driver as a 17-year-old male from Newark, DE. Officers observed that the vehicle had knocked down a city light pole which contained two of the city's downtown surveillance cameras. Also damaged were a city parking meter and a DeIDOT traffic control box which controls the traffic light for that intersection. The damage estimates to city and state property is in excess of \$50,000. A search of the vehicle involved in the collision yielded a large amount of marijuana, suspected drug currency, a weapon and drug paraphernalia. The 17-year-old was arrested for Possession with Intent to Distribute Marijuana, DUI-drug related, Possession of a Deadly Weapon During the Commission of a Felony, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, and Carrying a Concealed Deadly Weapon. The 17-year-old was released after posting \$5,000 secured bond and will appear in Family Court for the charges.

## **Planning & Development**

### **Planning**

On Thursday, Assistant Planning and Development Director Maureen Feeney Roser and I met with the owners of the 136 Elkton Road project (now under construction) to discuss the possibility of adding units to the site.

At its meeting Monday evening City Council took action on the following Planning related items:

- A. Approved the rezoning, special use permit and major subdivision for the redevelopment of the property at 132 E. Delaware Ave. for 4500 sq. ft. of commercial space and 12 upper floor apartments.
- B. Approved a requested subdivision plan revision to add one unit to the 116 Amstel Avenue development.
- C. Approved a special use permit for the relocation of the Schilling-Douglas School of Hair Design to the Shoppes at Louviers on Paper Mill Road
- D. Approved a special use permit for the sale of alcoholic beverages at the proposed Greene Turtle Restaurant to be located in Rittenhouse Station.
- E. Tabled consideration of the proposed Zoning Code amendments regarding apartments in the BB zone.

Work continues 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 calls for a mixed use commercial and residential development at this site.

## Economic Development

On Thursday, Maureen and I joined with Asst. to the City Manager Carol Houck at a Greater Newark Economic Development Partnership meeting.

On Thursday evening, Maureen hosted a DNP table at a University of Delaware Women's Basketball game.

On Friday morning, Maureen attended a Regional Economic Spotlight event at the W.L. Gore facility in Newark.

## Community Development

Planner Mike Fortner continues to work with Pat Bartling of the Public Works Department regarding the placement of new bike racks downtown. Eleven (11) new racks are planned to be installed shortly.

On Monday, Mike completed the work for an emergency Home Improvement Project.

## Parking

On Tuesday morning, Maureen met with UD Parking Director Rich Rind to review parking related issues.

Also this week, Maureen met with Parks Department and UD facilities representatives to review snow removal requirements in Lot #6.

## **Public Works**

### Engineering/Planning and Inspection

- Proposed 2012 Ramps for the Handicapped Contract: Spent considerable time evaluating 27 proposed ramps and compiling quantities of curb, sidewalks, etc., necessary to install new ADA compliant ramps for the handicapped. Entered data gathered into estimate of costs spreadsheet.
- Road Survey Management System: Finished survey of the northeast section of the city and entered data in computer.
- Annual Stormwater Maintenance Inspections: Inspected six (6) stormwater management basins.
- Temple Beth El: Met with site contractor and superintendent for items that need addressed prior to C.O.

### Survey Crew

- Continued Phase 3.2 inspections and entered data into spreadsheet.
- Began identifying the property lines at the Phillips Mill open space for the Parks Department.

## Field Operations

### Refuse

- Met with Pat Michini on Main Street with reference to installation of bike racks.
- Met with Dee Dee Cataldi at United Methodist Church on Main Street to discuss recycling containers and locations.
- Met with Bob Standarowski with R.D. Arnold at the Newark Train Station to discuss window installation.
- Went to the DMV to get a title for the new Unicity bus.

### Streets

- Installed 12 bike racks on the north and south side of Main Street at various locations on the sidewalk.
- Repaired potholes with cold patch at various locations.
- Pushed up brush at Iron Glen Park for the Refuse Department.
- Responded to storm for ice removal.
- Cleaned city yard at various locations.

## **Parks & Recreation**

### Administration/Planning

Last Tuesday I attended the monthly progress meeting for the Pomeroy Trail project. Representatives of DeIDOT, Pennoni and Merit Construction were in attendance.

Tom and I visited one Christina Creek blockage and other potential future areas of concern to determine a path forward.

On Wednesday I met with a DART representative about placing a new bike rack on their property, next to Main Street, as part of the Pomeroy Trail project. They gave their approval.

Last Wednesday night Joe and I met with the Skate Spot committee. A representative of American Ramp Company (Skate Park designer and builder) attended to speak about their product and answer questions from the committee members. We're planning to conduct a public meeting in March to present the why's and how's of the project and discuss site options which, at this point, include Handloff, Lumbrook, Kells, Phillips and Fairfield Parks. We have funding in place to construct two, perhaps three Skate Spots.

On Thursday I met with the Rittenhouse II subdivision developer to discuss items relating to the project.

Last Friday State Parks Director Charles Salkin joined me for a visit to our Pomeroy Rail Trail and Redd Park Trail projects.

Also on Friday I met with the Pomeroy Trail contractor (Merit) and our consultant to review and discuss slope clearing in the area between the Olan Thomas Park storage building and Creek Road. This week we're focusing on the installation of a catch basin and drain pipe in the trail corridor adjacent to the Kershaw Park tennis courts and the placement of railroad tracks (static display) at the kiosk locations at Main Street and Olan Thomas Park. Bike racks were installed at each of these locations as well.

I committed time working with the developer of the Wawa store on matters relating to site landscaping.

Tom and Rich worked on the following:

- Continued working on preparing a contract for the purchase of a multi-functional unit to replace Ball Field Conditioner and small Bobcat.
- Conducted building maintenance, park and Christina Valley Stream inspections and prepared related maintenance work orders.
- Continued working on the contract for bollard replacement along the Hall Trail.
- Continued working on 2011 Annual Report for the Parks and Horticulture Divisions.
- Attended the Christina River Clean Up meeting and a meeting with an arborist to solicit their volunteer involvement (tree work) as part of the Clean Up.
- Met with a homeowner concerning a tree matter near Fairfield Park.
- Planned and scheduled crew work assignments daily.
- Met with Public Works Director concerning the drainage matter at Hill Park.

### Parks/Horticulture

Horticulture Crew:

- Cut back the Glossy Abelia in the islands in the City Hall parking lot.
- They also conducted litter sweeps on all landscaped traffic medians and assisted the parks crew with various maintenance work orders.

Park staff completed the following:

- Conducted trash removal throughout the park system.
- Picked up the donated train wheels from the Wilmington and Western Railroad for use along the Pomeroy Trail.
- Completed several building maintenance work orders at the City Yard, City Hall, and the Police Station.
- Repaired metal cabinet door on storage cabinet at West Park School for Recreation Division.
- Completed temporary repairs to existing footbridge in Redd Park.
- Completed tree work at the transfer station.
- Repaired paint gun on paint machine.
- Painted over graffiti on the ball wall at Handloff Park.

Networks (volunteer group from Christina School District) completed the following:

- Completed sanding, sealing and painting of small black trailer (trailer #1422).
- Sanded and painted two metal trash can enclosures.

### Recreation Services

Paula completed the Elementary Basketball Mini Tournament schedule and completed the playoff schedule for the Wednesday night Adult Volleyball League and ordered trophies for upcoming championships.

Tyler met with the Asian Culture Center to setup regular rentals twice a month at the George Wilson Center.

The George Wilson Center continues to be busy with weekend rentals and inquiries, all Saturday evenings have been booked through the end of June.

Sharon attended the February Memorial Day Parade committee meeting and has been working on items for the parade, including dignitary invitations and posters.

Sharon gave a presentation on Newark Parks and Recreation volunteer opportunities to the Newark Lion's Club on Tuesday evening.

U of D student Theresa Mitchell began her 360 hour internship with us last week. She will get a chance to work with everyone in the office to get a broad experience in the field of Parks and Recreation.

The Wilmington Western Railroad donated a set of train wheels and axel that will be made into a bench by garage and parks staff. The bench will be used along the Pomeroy and Newark Rail Trail.

### Electric

The line crews were called out at 3 a.m. on Saturday morning on Main Street to remove a pole, streetlight, and police cameras that were knocked down and damaged during an automobile accident. Monday, crews installed another pole and the salvaged LED streetlight, but the cameras will need to be replaced.

The line crews finished the 34kV tie ins on Scholar Drive and have started changing poles on South College near Townsend Hall for a similar project. The poles there will be an extra 5' taller for future circuit possibilities concerning the Bloom Energy Plant off of the Christiana Parkway.

Delmarva Power feeds a city well off of Creek Road. When a smart meter was installed, the service caught fire and was destroyed. Delmarva has hired a contractor to reinstall the service and our electricians are involved in supporting the restoration of the service.

The electricians have continued working at the water treatment plant on broken underground pipes and cables.

KRS/mp