

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

April 13, 2012

Police

On Wednesday, April 4, 2012, the Newark Police Department arrested 23 year-old Christopher Kramer and 23 year-old Matthew Miller, both of Newark, following an armed robbery of the Walgreens Pharmacy located in Suburban Plaza Shopping Center.

At approximately 1:00 p.m. on April 4th, Newark Police officers responded to a report that the pharmacy had just been robbed by a man armed with a knife and wearing a scarf over his face. Responding officers learned that the suspect had jumped the pharmacy counter, displayed a knife and demanded prescription drugs from the pharmacist. After obtaining a quantity of prescription drugs the suspect fled on foot to the wooded area behind the shopping center. Responding officers located the suspect, later identified as Christopher Kramer, as he fled on foot through an adjacent apartment complex. Following a brief foot chase officers apprehended Kramer who was still in possession of the drugs. No one was injured during the robbery.

While investigating the robbery, officers were alerted that a shoplifting incident had occurred in the store shortly after the robbery. The suspect, identified as Matthew Miller, was observed concealing candy in a duffle bag and then exiting the store. He was taken into custody by officers after he entered into another store in the shopping center. Investigators determined that Miller had entered into the pharmacy with Kramer and was serving as a lookout while Kramer committed the robbery. Miller remained in the pharmacy posing as a customer when Kramer fled.

The Newark Police Department and the Delaware Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement continue to work on addressing recent assaults in and around establishments that serve alcohol.

Planning continues for Cinco de Mayo weekend with coordination and planning between the Newark Police Department, Delaware Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement and the University of Delaware Police. Additional Newark Police Officers will be working throughout the weekend.

Planning & Development

Planning

This week the Department's Capital Improvements Program applications were prepared and submitted to Finance.

Some time was spent on articles regarding planning and parking for the City's quarterly newsletter.

This week we continued to work on Kate's Place and Choate Street Townhomes development submittal for City Council review.

Also this week I am participating in the Capital Improvements Program submittal reviews.

Some time was spent this week working on updates for the Unicity Bus Schedule brochure. It should be ready for printing by the end of this week.

Economic Development

On Wednesday I participated in interviews of branding firms for the Greater Newark Economic Development Partnership initiative with representatives from New Castle County Chamber of Commerce and UD.

On Thursday afternoon Development Supervisor Mike Fortner and I met with representatives of Atlantic Realty Company to discuss the Newark Shopping Center.

Considerable time was spent this week on the update of the Downtown Newark Map & Guide. We hope to have it ready to go to print by the beginning of next week.

Some time was spent preparing for the upcoming Downtown Newark Partnership Board meeting scheduled for Thursday evening, April 12th.

Parking

On Thursday afternoon Parking Administrator Marvin Howard and I met with UD Director of Parking and Transportation Services, Richard Rind to talk about UD plans for pay by cell, and potential collaborative efforts for downtown parking improvements.

On Monday afternoon Marvin and I met with Joe Charma of Landmark Engineering to discuss potential layouts for the new entrance to Lot #3 from Center Street.

On Monday, Marvin and I attended the staff meeting regarding scofflaw booting and the cardinal ticketing system.

This morning, Marvin staffed the DNP Parking Committee meeting.

Code Enforcement

The Division continues to work on updates to the 2012 International Building and Fire Code amendments. Review by other departments should start later this week.

Grass complaints continue to come in, violation notices are being sent out as well as weed letters this week.

East Campus Housing dormitory construction is progressing, the buildings are starting to rise above the foundations

Public Works

Engineering/Planning and Inspection

- Proposed 2012 Ramps for the Handicapped Contract: Produced and labeled pictures of proposed ramps.
- Contract 11-06; 2011 Street Improvement Program:
 1. Sam's Construction worked on Baylor Drive and Amherst Drive completing the adjustment and/or replacement of (7) sanitary sewer manhole frames and covers.
 2. Greggo & Ferrara worked on Baylor Drive and Amherst Drive completing the following:
 - a. 11.5 c.y. of undercut excavation.
 - b. 23.00 tons of base hot mix patching in undercut excavations.
 - c. 197.58 tons of base hot mix installation.
 - d. 639.27 tons of top hot mix installation.
 - e. 15,994.4 s.y./in. of milling of existing hot mix pavement.
- Erosion & Sediment Control Inspections: Performed site inspections at Sutton Place and Laura's Glen.
- Annual Stormwater Management Inspections: Entered sand filter data from inspections into computer.
- 369 Delaware Circle: First Class Concrete worked on the following:
 1. Replaced 54 l.f. of integral curb and gutter for new curb cuts.
 2. Replaced 133 s.f. of 6" p.c.c. sidewalk and 41 s.f. of 4" p.c.c. sidewalk.
Contractor used a 5 c.y. load of Class B and a 5 c.y. load of 4000 psi concrete.
- University of Delaware – Allison Hall: Met with Bancroft CCR and superintendent to cover changes to the plans for erosion and sediment concerns.
- Contract 11-02; 2011 ADA Handicap Ramp Installation Program: Contractor worked and finished punch list items for contract.
- University of Delaware – East Campus Dorms: Conducted official pre-construction meeting for erosion and sediment control with Skanska, Duffield & Associates, University of Delaware, and Contractor.

SURVEY CREW

- Continued getting elevation shots for a topographic survey at Iron Glen yard waste facility.
- Began working on 2012 Street Improvement map for this year's contract.
- Continued entering sidewalk Phase 3.2 data.
- Began organizing and compiling storm sewer data into one sheet.

FIELD OPERATIONS

Streets:

- Street crew completed the spring leaf collection.
- Concrete crew excavated, formed, and poured 30 l.f. of integral curb at 36 Country Hills Drive, 26 l.f. of integral curb at 9 West Ridge Court, 12 l.f. of 4' sidewalk at 17 Country Hills Drive, 11 l.f. of 4' sidewalk at 25 E. Mill Station Drive, and 14 l.f. of sidewalk at 63 E. Mill Station Drive.
- Delivered trash cans for the Refuse Department.
- Cleaned cul-de-sac on Heather Court, loaded and hauled away old parking bumpers.
- Street crews backfilled with topsoil previously poured curb and sidewalk at various locations.
- Loader pushed up yard waste at Iron Glen Park for Refuse Department and placed mulch outside of gate at 896 water tank.

Parks & Recreation

Parks/Horticulture

Parks Superintendent conducted park inspections, assisted with tree lay out with the Water Department Director and representative from Merit Construction at water crossing site along the Christina. Tom started gathering quotes for purchase of perennials for planting at several horticulture/park sites, completed gathering quotes for summer rental of pickup truck for 2012 YBC crew and submitted PR request.

Parks Superintendent attended meeting with Recreation Superintendent and Wilson Center Coordinator to look at several types of chair lifts for installation at our two pool sites as per new DOJ and ADA rulings. Tom ordered recycled plastic boards for bench construction along Pomeroy Trail, and met with Recreation Superintendent and Sports Coordinator concerning base hub installation on the ball fields.

Parks Superintendent reviewed bollard installation quotations and made recommendation for award of contract to install collapsible bollards along the Hall Trail.

Parks Supervisor coordinated stone delivery at Rittenhouse Park, did daily scheduling of field staff and assisted with change over from snow removal to mowing on the Kubota's.

Parks Staff continued working on the Rittenhouse Day Camp list for opening, did trash removal in all park areas, repaired toilet in Police Station as well as other building maintenance/repair items, and started/completed work orders in park areas.

Both Park and Horticulture staff conducted mowing operations throughout the park system.

Horticulture staff continues herbicide applications throughout park system and interior planting bed maintenance in Alderman's Court area.

Recreation Services

The inspection of the Before and After Care program at Downes Elementary School by the Office of Child Care Licensing was completed and successfully passed. Our license is valid through April 2013.

Paula continues to interview candidates for summer counselor positions for Rittenhouse and Hobbit Camps and organize volunteers for Rittenhouse Camp.

Paula is working with our intern, Theresa Mitchell, on creating schedules for the adult softball league and 3 summer volleyball leagues.

Tyler met with Honeywell staff at GWC in preparation for upcoming work on energy efficiency improvements.

Tyler worked on preparations and staff scheduling for Spring Break Camp scheduled April 9-13 at GWC.

Tyler, Joe and Tom visited the University of Delaware outdoor pool to research their ADA handicap accessible pool lift. We will be ordering similar lifts for our outdoor pools.

Tyler prepared materials for the bus trip to Washington DC on Saturday, April 7; it was a successful trip with 30 participants.

The Community Events staff has been working on items for upcoming events including the Nefosky Police Memorial Run (4/13/12), Community Clean Up (4/14/12), the Spring Concert Series, Memorial Day Parade, and Newark Day. They have been reviewing performer demos and information, taking registrations, and recruiting volunteers.

Sharon and Joe, attended the DNP Merchants Committee Meeting to discuss some of the upcoming events and vendor information was handed out.

Joe and Liz, have been working on formatting the Summer e-newsletter that will be delivered electronically on Monday, April 30.

Joe and Paula, did a softball field inspection to evaluate the new base hub locations and field layouts.

Joe, is gathering the skate spot evaluation forms and speaking with a number of residents about the project.

Electric

The line crews are working on South College Avenue changing out poles near the athletic arenas. Since the poles all have to be hand dug and because the ground is very hard due to drought, progress is slow and difficult. The line crews also set several poles and anchors for a new service across the street to the old Chrysler guard shack. Renovations to the office building are beginning and the guard shack will serve as interim offices.

Two out of three of the City's main transformers have been switched off for Delmarva to make changes to their transmission system. Their work will keep the transformers off for one week. While the transformers are off the electricians are cleaning the insulating oil of the oldest unit.

Engineering has been working on the SCADA system on issues. Certain communication equipment is locking up periodically and the developers are working on implementing a self-reboot after detecting a lockup as a temporary solution.

Water & Wastewater

The new pumps at The Cooches Bridge Sewage Lift Station were put into operation this week.

One of the new pumps will move more water than both of the old pumps. The new pumps also have a cleaning feature like we installed at the Bellevue Sewage Lift Station. Once a day the automatic control system will draw the wet well level down until the pump breaks suction. This pumping action will remove a significant amount of floating debris from the wet well eliminating the long term debris accumulation that required a contractor to remove. The function, reliability, capacity, and maintenance characteristics of the lift station have been improved dramatically.

The work we have been doing at the reservoir is proving to have a very positive affect on the system operation. The sand filter is allowing the water to pass through without backing up. The accumulation of algae and organic material on the sand that we recently broke up was a much needed operation. Now we are removing the rocks that have slipped into the wetlands bench over time. These rocks restrict the flow of water as it moves towards the sand filter. In the section where we have removed the rocks the water is flowing much better. We will be working to complete the rock removal (we are placing the rocks back around the pipe) along the entire length of the wet lands bench. The water clarity is improving nicely.

The dry weather we have been having is causing the creek level to run well below historical levels. Because of this we are already making preparations for the summer to be certain that we can take full advantage of the reservoir and the water that is holds. Last year we started watching creek levels in June. Long term prospects for rain make me believe that this could be an interesting summer.