

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

September 14, 2012

Water & Wastewater

Work was completed on the relining section of the sewer main relining project this week. The only site work remaining is restoration of Rahway Park.

The water crew had to disassemble and repair treatment unit #4 at the Newark Water Treatment Plant this week to address clarifier backwash problems.

The new alum transfer pump is installed and operational at the Newark Water Treatment Plant. This pump purchased and installed with repurposed money from the Honeywell energy contract that would have otherwise gone unused.

PMI has completed their water meter testing work; we are now waiting on accuracy results.

DNREC has approved the test results from the first round of pumping from the new Well 14. This allowed us to move into the second test which was run this week and involved 36 hours of pumping through the treatment plant and into the system. After 36 hours, samples of the finished water were taken and tested and Well 14 was taken back offline. We expect that there will be a faster turnaround on the results of this test

The originally selected design build team for the Northwest Booster station was unable to prepare a financially feasible solution so we have contacted the next highest rated team and are working with them to prepare a proposal. We expect to have a formal proposal this week that can be presented to DEMA for acceptance on Friday, September 14th.

Police

On Wednesday, September 5th, Newark Police arrested 18 year old Daquan Stevenson of Newark for a September 4th Burglary which occurred at a home in the 100 block of Madison Drive in Newark. On September 4th at approximately 10:00 p.m. Stevenson, who was an acquaintance of the 21-year-old male victim, entered into the victim's home through an unlocked door. The victim, who was on the second floor of the home at the time, heard someone in the home and went downstairs to investigate. The victim confronted the suspect and a struggle ensued which spilled onto the front porch of the residence. During the struggle, the suspect displayed what was believed to be a handgun and struck the victim in the head with the gun, briefly knocking the victim unconscious. The victim reported the incident to the police approximately one hour after the incident. The victim sustained abrasions to his face, back and leg but declined medical treatment. The investigation has confirmed that Stevenson targeted the victim and was searching for illegal drugs in the home. Detectives obtained warrants for Stevenson and located him on September 5th travelling in a vehicle in Suburban Plaza. He was taken into custody without incident and charged with the burglary incident. At the time of his arrest, Stevenson was already the suspect in an unrelated sexual assault which was reported in

late July. During that investigation, it was determined that Stevenson, on three occasions, had sexual contact in his home with a 14-year-old female whom he was involved in a relationship with. Stevenson was charged with Burglary 1st Degree, Assault 2nd, Possession of a Deadly Weapon During Commission of a Felony, Possession of a Firearm by a Person Prohibited, and 3 counts Rape 4th Degree. Stevenson was committed to Howard R. Young Correctional in lieu of \$40,000 cash bail for the burglary incident and \$30,000 secured bail for the sexual assault charges.

On Thursday, September 6th, Newark Police responded to the Cleveland Heights neighborhood off of East Cleveland Avenue. The property is currently vacant. It was reported that employees of a nearby business heard loud noises from the property. Officers arrived on scene and observed that 13 vacant residences had been broken into and scrap metal had been removed. While officers were on scene, they observed an empty vehicle that did not appear to belong in the area. As officers were at the other end of the property conducting the investigation, the vehicle sped away. Detectives were able to trace the vehicle back to a suspect named Timothy Hill. On September 9th, detectives arrested Timothy Hill of Philadelphia for 13 counts of Burglary 3rd degree, 13 counts of Theft and 13 counts of Criminal Mischief.

Planning & Development

Planning

Considerable time was spent preparing for exhibits for the Newark Bicycle Committee, the Planning and Development Department, and the DNP's Design Committee to display during Community Day to be held on Sunday, September 16th. The Community Day Planning Cluster is part of our public outreach strategy for the Comprehensive Plan update.

On Friday, Development Supervisor Mike Fortner gave a presentation on Newark as a "Bicycle Friendly Community" at the Delaware Bike Summit held in Dover.

On Monday, Mike, Planner Ricky Nietubicz and I attended the Pomeroy Newark Rail Trail Ribbon Cutting event. The Trail provides direct access to downtown Newark.

This week an administrative subdivision to create lease lines in the Administration Building at the UD STAR campus was approved.

Some time was spent preparing for the upcoming Planning Commission meeting (October 2nd).

This morning Mike and I met with Kevin Mayhew and Rick Longo to discuss a potential development project.

Some time was spent on the Code Enforcement Division webpage updates.

Economic Development

On Tuesday afternoon, Ricky and I attended a brand implementation meeting with the Steering Committee of the Greater Newark Economic Development Partnership.

Some time was spent on the Battle of the Chefs competition and admissions strategies for the Taste of Newark.

Today, Ricky is attending the Delaware Main Street Program Idea Exchange being held in Dover.

Community Development

On Thursday, Ricky staffed the Community Development Block Grant/Revenue Sharing Advisory Committee meeting. Proposals for the 38th Year CDBG Program and 2013 Revenue Sharing Program were discussed.

Parking

The Parking Division has received its new computer for Lot #1's automated pay stations allowing the department to do high speed credit card transactions which will reduce the time for credit card payments. The change to high speed transactions should be implemented by the end of next week.

Some time was spent on the Center Street entrance project.

Code Enforcement

This week Code Enforcement Supervisor Steve Wilson met with asbestos contractors for the Paper Mill Smoke Stack removal.

Steve also met with Skate Spot representatives and parks staff to review submittals for skate spots.

ISEB building sprinkler system hydro testing is completed.

Public Works

Engineering/Planning and Inspection

- Contract 12-04 – 2012 Street Improvement Program: Diamond Materials worked on Woodlawn Avenue, Elm Avenue, Wrangler Road, and Ranch Court completing the following:
 1. 8.00 tons of base hot mix patching in front of curbs.
 2. 183.9 l.f. of p.c.c. rolled curb replacement.
 3. 22.7 l.f. of p.c.c. sawcutting.
 4. 1.0 each water valve box adjustment.*Contractor used 10.0 c.y. of DeIDOT Class B concrete.

- Erosion & Sediment Control Inspections: Conducted site inspection at Sutton Place and Newark Jeep Chrysler.
- University of Delaware – ECUP/ISEP: Met with Whiting Turner superintendents to go over grade issues at church entrance off of Lovett Avenue and concerns over steep grade with walkway behind curb on Lovett Avenue.
- Contract 12-05 – 2012 ADA Handicap Ramp Installation Program: Diamond Hill continued work on sidewalk and ramp installation in Evergreen.
- University of Delaware Materials Management: Performed initial perimeter erosion and sediment control inspection with CCR and UD representative.

Survey Crew

- Obtained weekly Gas Boy numbers at the Municipal Fueling Station and updated the fuel inventory spreadsheet ending the month of August and beginning the month of September.
- Continued with Phase 3.2 Sidewalk Program support and follow-up.
- Responded to a complaint about sidewalk obstructions and sent notices to 5 addresses on Cannons Way.
- Measured and offset curbs and a valley gutter on Beverly Road.

Field Operations

Refuse:

- Went to DMV for titles for new city vehicles.
- Transported vehicles to McGrillis Auctions.

Streets:

- Saw cut Marvin Drive for future curb and hot mix repairs.
- Excavated, formed, and poured 40 ft. of integral curb on Marvin Drive.
- Excavated and applied base hot mix on Academy Street in front of the Student Center.
- Swaploader cleaned off catch basin tops as needed citywide.
- Loader was serviced by the operator.
- Placed mulch outside of gate at 896 water tank.
- Assisted Refuse Department on the 3-man truck and picked up heavy items with the knuckleboom.
- Vac-all crew continued cleaning catch basins as per schedule.
- Sign truck repaired and replaced signs and poles as needed and applied white thermoplastic for stop bars and yellow thermoplastic traffic lines on newly paved Tyre Avenue.

Parks & Recreation

Administration & Planning

Last Tuesday we met to prepare for the pre-bid meeting for the Curtis Mill Park Smoke Stack Demolition. The pre-bid meeting was held on Wednesday, September 5. Eleven (11) firms attended.

On Wednesday I met with a local developer to discuss concept plans for a project. We discussed open space and landscape matters.

On Thursday we met with the Skate Spot Committee to distribute the Design/Build proposals received (3). The committee will review and rank each proposal.

Pomeroy and Newark Rail Trail Update:

- We met on Thursday to finalize plans for the trail opening.
- DelDOT's subcontractor installed the signal control box at Cleveland Avenue and Paper Mill Road. Now that this task is completed we can complete the trail construction in Olan Thomas Park.
- The fence contractor installed the fence posts for the fencing that will enclose the Olan Thomas Park storage building.
- We installed the Switch Plate and Rails (static display) at the Hall Trail junction.
- The stone work was completed on the second bridge in the north segment.
- The banner arms were installed on several light poles, and we placed banners to promote fall events.
- The trail is significantly complete from the Hall Trail to Cleveland Avenue. Our focus over the next couple of weeks will be to complete the trail surface construction in the north segment
- We held a very successful and well attended Trail opening ceremony this Monday. There are far too many people for me to list here to say thanks.

I committed time working with the developer at 136 Elkton Road on items relating to required landscaping and landscape surety documents.

Rich Gregg has been away from work for a few weeks due to shoulder surgery. He returned to work this Monday. Tom was MORE than busy managing the crews as well as keeping up with his normal work load. Good job Tom and welcome back Rich!

Tom attended and assisted with Curtis Mill smoke stack pre-bid meeting

We organized a clean up along the Christina Parkway with volunteers from UD and all went well.

We went out to 257 East Main Street to review landscape installation for release of escrow.

A revised design was completed for the possible expansion of the parking lot at Phillips Park in anticipation of the need for additional parking when the skate spot is constructed.

Parks/Horticulture Operations

- Grass is growing and the mowers are busy!
- We replaced sections of post and rail fence at the end of South Chapel Street and the Hall Trail.
- The crew prepared all soccer fields and dragged/scarified all ball fields.
- With help from the Electric Department we placed banners on banner arms on the Hall and Pomeroy Trails.
- We did tree and shrub pruning at several park and horticulture sites.
- We completed weekly trash pick-up throughout park system.

The crew completed several general park maintenance tasks during the week.

Recreation Services

Paula sent a letter to the youth basketball coaches from last year inquiring if they were interested in returning to coach this year. She also continued to send out first day letters to the Tiny Tot and Little Kickers Soccer registrants prior to the start of the classes.

Paula and the two (2) After School Program site supervisors attended the Food Bank of Delaware training program. Snacks will be provided at both After School Care sites beginning September 10.

Paula conducted a meeting with the soccer referees and lead soccer instructor regarding the start of the programs. She delivered equipment for the start of the games and instructional program at the sites. She also attended the soccer league pictures session and the first day for both activities.

The community events staff has been working on items associated with Community Day and assisting as needed with items for the Pomeroy and Newark Trail opening. Community Day is scheduled for this coming Sunday on the U of D Green from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Rain date is September 23.

Tyler is preparing for upcoming programs including recruiting staff for the CATCH afterschool kids club at Downes School, dance, tennis and swim lessons.

Joe helped organize the Trail opening and attended several meetings regarding the event.

Joe conducted the skate spot bid proposal meeting with the review committee to discuss the rating process and hand out the rating sheets.

Joe attended the Curtis Paper Mill smoke stack demolition pre-bid meeting.

Electric

The line crews replaced old cable terminations on one of the 34kV transformers that feed the City and terminated cables at the Bob Carpenter Sports complex for a service change due to expansion. They also were busy repairing underground primary cable in Timber Creek and underground secondary bus in West Branch.

The electricians worked on water plant issues, took oil samples from tap changers and transformers, and are checking power connections and cables for Community Day. The meter technician has been checking the location and functionality of specialty meters that will need replacement and worked on solutions for a Main Street business service change due to a possible expansion.

Engineering and the field supervisor interviewed and tested candidates for two new apprentice line workers. Engineering also finished a fault study for Bloom Energy and started another for Dow Chemical.

CSH/mp