

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

November 21, 2012

Public Works & Water Resources

The street program accomplishments are as follows:

	<u>This week</u>		<u>Last Week</u>
26	Total streets	26	Total Streets
16	Completed streets	13	Completed streets
5	Curb work complete	4	Curb work complete
3	Curb underway	2	Curb underway
3	No work started	5	No work started

Once the curb work is complete the milling and overlay work will follow.

The survey staff has been working with the Code Enforcement Division to update the building floor plan in order to lay out emergency evacuation routes for the offices.

We have been doing our best to keep up with the leaf collection. Most of the trees have dropped now so we will be able to slowly get ahead of them as we move forward.

Water main breaks seem to be the thing this week. We have had two as of Tuesday and we are investigating one at Kirkwood and Harmony in the middle of the intersection.

We have a contract for approval on the upcoming agenda for the Flood Hazard Mitigation of the Northwest Booster Station. This project will remove the pumps, motors, and electrical controls from the flood plain and place them on the roof of the building in a self-contained enclosure.

Mike Sistek and his staff have been busy reviewing project proposals for storm water and construction runoff protection measures.

We are continuing with the sidewalk maintenance program.

Electric

The line crews installed a pole on Amstel Avenue for a service to the commercial project at the former site of the Shilling Douglas Beauty School. The line crews also installed the Christmas decorations on Main Street and are working with the electricians on the Christmas Tree at McDonald Circle.

The electricians are working on the UPS systems at City Hall and the meter technician wired the metering for the Green Turtle Restaurant on Elkton Road.

Engineering has been working on the smart metering project and also working with engineers designing a milk packaging plant at Markus Court on the transformer loads.

Parks & Recreation

Administration & Planning

I visited several locations with Tom to evaluate downed trees along the Christina Creek and Trail.

Mike Sitek and I walked the Pomeroy Trail with Pennoni last Wednesday to inspect and evaluate storm water facilities constructed as part of the project.

Tom and I met with a representative of the Trail Spinners and Tom Coleman to discuss improvements to the sewer service road (which also serves as part of the trail in Redd Park) that we'll include in Phase V of the trail project. We also discussed concepts for trail connections from the Hunt at Louviers and Woods at Louviers.

Tom and I committed a good amount of time reviewing and commenting on subdivision plans and construction Improvement Plans for certain new development projects.

We conducted a very successful Turkey Trot 10K and 5K Run and 5K Walk this past Saturday. More than 750 people participated. Many thanks to the Police, Public Works and Water Resources Department for their assistance during the event. The recreation staff and parks crew did a great job! Thanks to Applebee's for donating the fruit and Fusion Fitness for donating bottled water for this year's run. Some of the proceeds support the James F. Hall Scholarship fund which is used to supplement registration fees for recreation programs for those who do not have the ability to pay the full cost to participate.

We have completed a review of the Skate Spot RFP's, contacted references and owners of completed projects and will make a recommendation of award in the near future.

Tom conducted park and Christina Valley Stream inspections and prepared related maintenance work orders.

We organized for the second phase of our reforestation program. This phase will see 24 trees planted on the Reservoir property. The trees were planted last week.

We completed the placement of lights on the Main Street trees for the Holiday Season. The tree lights will be activated this Wednesday.

A large evergreen tree was secured for the Academy Building site and will be set in place on Tuesday this week. Thanks to the Electric Department for their assistance.

Tom arranged and attended a meeting with representatives from Lennape Properties (Shoppes at Louviers) and Trail Spinners to discuss a possible trail connection from trail system in Redd Park.

Parks Maintenance

We're continuing to spot mow certain turf areas and blow off leaves as needed in park and horticulture sites.

The crew committed a significant amount of time cutting up tree limbs and trunks from trails and creek banks along the Christina Creek.

We committed a good amount of time preparing materials and supplies for the Turkey Trot.

The horticulture crew started cutting back and cleaning up perennials and ornamental grasses throughout park system.

We were busy completing several general maintenance work orders in the parks and building.

Recreation Services

Joe completed a reference check on the Skate Spot firms who submitted proposals for the project.

Recreation staff committed time reviewing the winter/spring e-newsletter.

Joe and Sharon met with parks personnel in preparation for the Turkey Trot.

Joe finalized the changes to the agreement with Newark American Little League for their use of LeRoy Hill Park baseball field.

Tyler continues to work on preparations for the 26th Annual Thanksgiving Day Breakfast. This includes promoting the event, organizing supplies, contacting volunteers and securing sponsors. He contacted the ELI (English Language Institute) at UD and expects to have several international students join us for the breakfast.

The latest session of the CATCH (Coordinated Approach to Children's Health) Kids Homework Club at Downes ended on Wednesday, November 14. We had 13 children participate. The Newark Morning Rotary Club provided funding and volunteers for this program once again.

Sharon, Debbie and office personnel completed final preparations for the Turkey Trot.

Our next and final event for the year is Winterfest planned for Friday, December 7 at the Academy Building lawn. Special Olympics will join us once again to offer their Reindeer Run.

Paula delivered equipment and supplies to the Newark Charter School for the start of our Adult Winter Volleyball League. Sixteen teams are participating in two leagues.

Paula continues to place youth basketball registrants on teams and is working on the league schedules. The games are tentatively scheduled to begin on December 10.

Recreation staff worked on winter/sing program planning.

Police

New Castle County Police are currently investigating a homicide that occurred in the Studio Green West Apartment complex in Newark, DE. On Monday November 12th at 9:23 p.m., County Police, Paramedics and ambulance personnel from the Aetna Fire Company responded to the 200 block of Thorn Lane for a subject who had been shot. When emergency personnel arrived, they observed an unresponsive male subject who had an apparent gunshot wound to his upper body. The victim was tended to by Paramedics and then transported by ambulance personnel to the Christiana Hospital and later pronounced dead. Multiple units from multiple agencies responded to the scene and immediately set up a perimeter, and then began canvassing the surrounding area in an attempt to gather information and locate the possible suspects. A canine team also responded to assist, but they were unsuccessful in their efforts. The suspects are described as two black males, one of which was wearing a gray hooded sweatshirt and the other a black hooded sweatshirt. Sgt. VanCampen is continuing to assist the New Castle County Police with this investigation.

Wilmington Police detectives arrested a 16-year-old in connection with the September 26th reckless endangering incident that occurred in the 400 block of E. 9th Street in Wilmington. On that date Wilmington Police responded to a call for shots fired in the block. Officers located casings at the scene and obtained surveillance footage that clearly showed a suspect firing a handgun at another crowd of subjects. Two bystanders, a 65-year-old female and her juvenile granddaughter, were in the line of fire and were nearly struck by the bullets. This surveillance footage was released to the media in an effort to obtain public assistance in identifying the unknown suspect. This footage was aired on Action News and other local channels. On November 14th Corporal Darryl Saunders of the Newark Police Department contacted the lead investigator, Wilmington Detective Michael Gifford, regarding this case. Corporal Saunders, the School Resource Officer for Newark High School, had reviewed the surveillance footage on Action News and believed that one of his students was the suspect. Through investigative techniques Detective Gifford was able to confirm that Nazier Johnson was the suspect seen firing a handgun in the surveillance footage. Johnson was taken into custody on November 14th at Newark High at School and charged with two counts of Reckless Endangering 1st Degree, and Possession of a Firearm During the Commission of a Felony. Johnson was turned over to his parents after being released on a \$72,000 unsecured bond.

City Manager's Office

Community Affairs Officer

I am working with Joanna Wilson from DNREC for a media event regarding the launch of Conservation Advisory Commission's Anti-Idling campaign. It is tentatively scheduled for Monday, December 10 in the afternoon, time to be announced, at Newark High School.

I have received the final Anti-Idling video from the Conservation Advisory Commission and have posted it to TV 22 and will be adding it to the Anti-Idling webpage on the city's website.

I followed up with Katy Bowman of the Newark Post on making sure that notice of the transportation planning workshops for the Comprehensive Development Plan makes it into this issue's paper since the first meeting is on Tuesday, November 27. It was a short week for them with an earlier deadline than usual, so hopefully she will have space to include it in the printed edition.

I am continuing to work on preparing the Municipal Newsletter.

I am continuing to work on Restaurant Week. I have submitted all ads, their dimensions and specifications, and due dates to ZZ House. I am beginning to receive restaurant registrations.

Planning & Development

Planning

On Wednesday, November 14th, Development Supervisor Mike Fortner attended the WILMAPCO "Our Town" meeting regarding regional rail service in New Castle and Cecil Counties. Information from the meeting will be useful for the update of the City's Comprehensive Development Plan.

On Thursday morning, I attended the staff meeting. Among other things, agenda items for the November 26th Council meeting were discussed.

On Thursday afternoon, I met with the owners of the Newark Park n Shop Shopping Center to talk about potential redevelopment ideas.

On Thursday, Mike attended the WILMAPCO Technical Advisory Committee meeting and the Newark Bicycle Committee meeting.

On Friday morning, Mike and I met with potential developers to discuss the Newark Shopping Center.

Considerable time was spent this week preparing for the December 4, 2012 Planning Commission meeting. Agenda items are:

1. Review and consideration of a rezoning of 7.75 acres from AC (adult community) to RM (Garden Apartments) and major resubdivision for the Village of Twin Lakes.
2. Discussion on the City's "Plan for Planning" regarding the update of the Comprehensive Development Plan.

Some time was spent on an Administrative Subdivision for the STAR campus.

Some time was spent working with the Newark Development Trust.

On Monday, Mike participated in mock interviews with graduate students preparing for internships from UD's School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy in Councilman Doug Tuttle's class.

Mike sent out the Comp Plan E-newsletter to over 130 Newark stakeholders promoting two upcoming workshops on the Comprehensive Plan. On **Tuesday, November 27th** from **6-8 p.m.** in the Council Chamber, there will be a workshop on Transit Planning in Newark and will include a presentation by DART. And, on **Thursday, December 6th** from **4-7 p.m.** in the Council Chamber, there will be a workshop on Bicycle Planning in Newark. A press release concerning these workshops was issued on November 15th. They are also being advertised on the City website, the City Calendar, the Comp Plan website page (www.cityofnewarkde.us/index.aspx?NID=815), and Channel 22.

Economic Development

On Wednesday, Planner Ricky Nietubicz hosted a planning meeting for Newark Twilight Criterium Bike Race to be held August 10, 2013. The meeting began the process of coordinating event staff needs and marketing opportunities in conjunction with the Greater Newark Economic Development Partnership, as well as their potential sponsorship of the event.

The new Holiday Season snowflakes have been installed! These new LED-lit decorations will bring the season to life in downtown! Plans call for expansion of the program on Main Street and down South Main Street as DNP funding allows.

Ricky hosted a meeting to begin planning an introductory event for South Main Street. The event will be held Friday, January 4th, 2013 at noon, further details will be available soon!

Ricky also finalized advertising arrangements and artwork for the Holiday Advertising Campaign and Gift Card Giveaway Program. As in past years, customers who collect receipts totaling \$250 from participating merchants can redeem their receipts in the Parking Office for a free \$25 Downtown Gift Card. In response to merchants' requests, redemption hours will be added on Saturdays (1-4 p.m.) in addition to the Monday-Friday (10a.m.-6p.m.) redemption hours in past years. The promotion runs from Black Friday (11/24) to Friday, January 11th, or until the supply of 250 \$25 gift cards is depleted.

Parking

Time has been spent this week clearing leaves from the lot and dumpster areas downtown.

Time was also spent monitoring the new loading zone area in front of Grotto Pizza and tracking its usage.

Free parking will be provided in municipal lots and at meters downtown for the Thanksgiving holiday and on Black Friday to encourage folks to patronize downtown Newark, as a kick-off to the holiday shopping and dining season!

Code Enforcement

Code Enforcement Supervisor Steve Wilson set up a meeting to be held next week on the removal of the ash and asbestos from the Curtis Paper Company. Officials from DNREC, Astec and the City will be in attendance.

Four civil citations were issued this past weekend. There will be no special weekend enforcement this weekend due to the holiday and UD being closed.

A C/O will be issued today or early tomorrow for the UD Life Science Building on Delaware Avenue.

We have removed 13 "Rudy the missing dog" signs from various locations around town.

Some time was spent working with the Finance Department on administrative procedures for the cutting power to faulty meters.

CSH/mp