

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

December 7, 2012

Parks & Recreation

Administration & Planning

I attended a meeting to discuss updates to the Emergency Operation Plan.

On Tuesday I met with Steve Wilson and Cenise Wright to discuss the Curtis smoke stack. We're moving forward to get a quote to have the fly ash removed and restart the demolition contract process.

I attended the final Pomeroy and Newark Rail Trail inspection and walk last Thursday. There are a few minor matters to deal with.

We met with Code Enforcement, Police and Public Works and Water Resource Department representatives to discuss water leak issues in the Police annex and develop a plan to deal with them.

I committed time this week writing articles for the next issue of the newsletter.

I prepared a letter of endorsement for Pennoni Associates. They are a contender for an Engineering Excellence Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies for their work on the Pomeroy and Newark Rail Trail project.

We completed a review of three (3) subdivision plans and forwarded comments.

Tom met with a representative from American Tennis Courts concerning repairs to the Kershaw Park tennis court surface.

Tom wrote a draft article covering the City's reforestation program.

Parks Maintenance

We continued leaf removal and mulching, cutting back grasses and perennials in several park and horticulture areas.

They hung additional lights and decorations on Christmas tree at Academy and Main Streets.

We committed time working on general maintenance work orders.

Recreation Services

Paula met with a prospective yoga instructor to take over classes for a departing instructor. She also continues to confirm a couple remaining activity details for winter/spring programs with instructors.

Paula sent out basketball schedules to the youth basketball league coaches and the officials association for the start of the season. She also completed a work schedule for staff and sent it to them.

The recreation staff completed data entry forms for winter/spring activities and reviewed the newsletter.

The community events staff have been preparing for three upcoming events. Winterfest, Snack With Santa, and Santa's Secret Shoppe will all be held this coming weekend, December 7th and 8th. We are expecting a large turnout for Winterfest this year with numbers for the Special Olympics Reindeer Run expected to top 1,500.

Joe and Sharon attended the potential Newark Arts Event meeting with the Planning and Development Department and the City Manager.

Joe worked on editing the E-Newsletter in preparation for its January 2 delivery.

Joe conducted a recreation supervisors' staff meeting.

Police

Ongoing graffiti investigations by the Newark Police Department Street Crimes Unit have led to the identification and arrest of Russell Murin of Elkton, Maryland for his role in graffiti vandalism throughout the City. The investigation resulted in a November 10th search warrant of Murin's vehicle and with the assistance of the Cecil County Sheriff's Office, a search warrant of his home in Elkton on the same date. As a result, Murin has been linked to graffiti vandalism in 11 locations throughout the City of Newark, resulting in over \$2,800 in damaged property. Murin was arrested on November 27th, 2012 for the below offenses and released on \$6,400 secured bail.

Defendant 1:

Russell Murin (DOB 03/29/93)
1003 Jackson Hall School Road
Elkton, MD 21921

Charges: 16 cts Graffiti
15 cts. Possession of Graffiti Implements
1 ct. Trespassing on Railroad Tracks
1 ct. Underage Possession of Alcohol
1 ct. Carrying a Concealed Deadly Weapon
1 ct. Unlawful Possession of a Switchblade

The arrest of Murin is the latest in the Newark Police Department's ongoing investigation into the identification and arrest of graffiti vandals. In the past two years NPD have arrested 31 such vandals.

The Newark Police Department are reminding business owners and home owners to promptly report graffiti vandalism to the police, and once it is documented, the graffiti should be removed.

Newark Police are investigating a strong arm robbery which occurred at approximately 5:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 1st on the west sidewalk of North College Avenue just north of the CSX rail crossing. During the incident a 28-year-old female from Elkton, Maryland was walking on the sidewalk when she was approached by two unknown white male suspects. The suspects proceeded to punch the victim knocking her to the ground. The suspects continued to punch and kick her before fleeing with her purse. The suspects were last seen fleeing eastbound across North College Avenue towards the railroad tracks.

NPD and UDPD officers responded to the scene along with a K9 team from NCCPD. The suspects, however, were not located. During the attack the victim, who was a University of Delaware graduate student, was knocked briefly unconscious. The victim was transported to Christiana Hospital by ambulance where she was admitted for severe trauma to her face including a broken orbital lobe and nose. Both suspects are described as white males 19 to 22 years of age. Suspect 1 is 5'8" to 5'10" tall, 160-180 lbs., wearing a light gray hooded sweatshirt, dark colored jeans and light colored sneakers. Suspect 2 is 5'9" to 5'11" tall, 170-180 lbs., wearing dark colored jeans and a maroon hooded sweatshirt with white writing on the front, covering an unknown ball cap.

Several crimes have recently been solved as a result of patrol officer collecting evidence at crime scenes.

As a result of fingerprint identification from the national database, the following cases were solved:

- Burglary at 10 Benny Street from June 2012, cleared by the arrest of Eric Skipski
- Burglary at residence on Wilbur Street, June 2012
- Burglary warrant obtained for Christopher Yarnall, currently incarcerated at Gander Hill
- Bank robbery at PNC Bank, June 2012. Suspect incarcerated
- Theft of motor vehicle currently being investigated by CPL Barnes

Planning & Development

Planning

On Wednesday afternoon, staff met with a potential tenant at the UD STAR Campus to discuss infrastructure and utilities.

On Thursday morning, I attended the staff meeting.

On Thursday evening, I attended the DART Advisory Committee meeting.

Some time was spent preparing for the December 10, 2012 Council meeting. Adoption of the 2012 ICC Code Housing and Property Maintenance with amendments is one of the agenda items.

On Monday afternoon, Mike and I met with staff and Pennoni Associates to discuss the Curtis Mill Park project and grading in the floodplain.

Some work was performed this week in support of the Newark Development Trust.

Considerable time was spent preparing for the December 4th Planning Commission meeting. At the meeting last night, the Commission approved the rezoning from AC to RM and resubdivision of a portion of the Village of Twin Lakes.

Also on Tuesday, Development Supervisor Mike Fortner gave the Planning Commission an update on the Comprehensive Development Plan and public participation opportunities. The Planning Commission has set three Neighborhood Workshops for the update of the Comprehensive Development Plan. The meeting dates, location and time follow:

- **Neighborhood Workshop North** will be on **Thursday, January 17th from 4-7 p.m.** at the **George Wilson Center**. The Workshop will include Planning Sections A, B, and K, or all parts of Newark north of West Main/Nottingham Road and north of the CSX railroad parallel to Cleveland Avenue. These include, or make up a part of, Council Districts 2, 5, & 6.
- **Neighborhood Workshop South** will be held on **Tuesday, January 22nd from 4-7 p.m.** at the **Newark Senior Center**. The workshop will include Planning Sections E, F, G, and H, or all parts of Newark south of the Amtrak Railroad. They include, or a part of, Council Districts 2 and 3.
- **Neighborhood Workshop Central** will be held on **Tuesday, January 23rd from 4-7 p.m.** at the Newark Free Library. The workshop will include Planning Sections C, D, and J, or all parts of Newark south of West Main Street/Nottingham Road and the CSX Railroad and North of the Amtrak Railroad. They include all, or parts of, Council Districts 1, 3, and 4.

Planning Sections map attached.

Community Development

Considerable time was spent creating agreement documents for CDBG recipients for the 38th year CDBG Program.

Economic Development

On Friday morning, I accompanied Carol Houck and DNP Administrator Ricky Nietubicz to a meeting with the Greater Wilmington Convention and Visitors Bureau (GWCVB) to discuss a potential summer event.

On Monday evening, I represented the department at the GWCVB Holiday Open House.

On Tuesday, December 4th, Mike and Ricky staffed the Design Committee meeting of the Downtown Newark Partnership.

This morning, Ricky staffed the Merchants' Committee meeting. The Committee is looking forward to the Holiday Storefront Decorating Contest (judging 12/8) and the presentation of the new Holiday Storefront Decorating Trophy to the winner on 12/16. The merchants briefly discussed the increase in the DNP fee from \$25 to \$35 and agreed that they would be open to further increases if necessary, as the DNP provides a very high value for their fee amount.

Ricky invited the Merchants' Committee members to attend the upcoming Comprehensive Development Plan Workshops and expressed the importance of becoming involved in the update process.

Parking

The demolition permit was issued this week for 17 Center Street. The contractor has tentatively schedule the demolition for Saturday, December 8th. Adjacent property owners have been notified.

On Wednesday morning, Parking Administrator Marvin Howard and I attended a preconstruction meeting concerning the Kate's Place subdivision in preparation for a portion of Municipal Lot #4 being disrupted during construction.

Code Enforcement

Two citations were issued this past weekend.

A C/O was issued for 308 Markus Court.

C/Os were issued for units #409, #416 and #418 in the Washington House.

C/Os were issued for units #107 and #209 in Fountainview.

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
17	Completed streets	16	Completed streets
6	Curb work complete	5	Curb work complete
1	Curb underway	2	Curb underway
3	No work started	3	No work started

The new ADA compliant curb ramps have had all of the concrete curbing finished so that we can replace the pavement that was removed to construct the ramps. The paving work should be done next week weather permitting. There is still some concrete work on the ramps themselves that is yet to be done but that should also be completed in the next week or two weather permitting.

We held a prebid meeting for the sediment removal from the ponds at the Newark Water Treatment Plant. There were more than 10 contractors in attendance.

An addendum is being prepared in response to the questions that were asked at the prebid meeting for the Old Newark Train station window replacement project.

We have been busy reviewing multiple projects for erosion and sediment control, storm water runoff, and utility infrastructure improvements. These have taken up a considerable amount of time.

Electric

.The line crews installed a switched capacitor bank on Wyoming Road, finished installing a 34kV gang operated switch, started a pole change out near Phillips Substation to reconfigure distribution circuits, and started installing banners on the Pomeroy Trail.

The electricians have been working on substation communications, adding refinements to the SCADA systems, and working on future SCADA infrastructure in preparation for next year's deployments.

Engineering continued work on the Star Campus, smart metering, and University electric rates. Engineering also had to redesign the temporary service for the Bloom Energy construction trailers after new trailers were added to the load.

CSH/mp

PLANNING SECTIONS

