

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

March 8, 2013

Police

Newark Police have arrested 48-year-old, John H. Brierley, Jr. of Bear, DE for possession of a stolen firearm and related offenses after he was found in possession of a firearm reported missing from the Newark Police Department in 1987. On January 17, 2012, Brierley was contacted by the Delaware State Police during a traffic stop. During that stop, a Trooper located a .22 cal revolver in the vehicle. A computer check of the serial number revealed that it was reported stolen by the Newark Police Department in 1987.

Delaware State Police notified Newark Police of the incident and the weapon recovery. The investigation and firearm were turned over to Newark PD. An NPD investigation revealed that in 1987, following an internal audit of the NPD evidence storage facility, the gun was found to be missing. It was entered into the National Crime Computer as a stolen firearm. Following a lengthy investigation, Newark Police arrested Brierley on February 27, 2013 and charged him with the following criminal offenses:

Defendant: John H. Brierley, Jr. (DOB: 12/24/1964)
2584 Red Lion Road
Bear, DE 19701

Charges: 1ct. Receiving a Stolen Firearm
1ct. Carrying a Concealed Deadly Weapon
1 ct. Possession of a Firearm by a Person Prohibited

Brierley was arraigned through JP Court and released on \$15,000 unsecured bond.

Newark Police have arrested 18-year-old Ernest Kellam of Wilmington for a February 26th strong arm robbery which occurred at approximately 1:25 p.m. on Papermill Road in the vicinity of Creek View Road. During the incident, a 23-year-old female victim from Newark was walking on the sidewalk when she was approached by an unknown black male suspect. The suspect pushed the victim, demanded her property and grabbed her cell phone which was in her hand. The suspect then fled southbound on Papermill Road.

On February 28th, detectives located surveillance footage of the suspect boarding a DART bus at the bus hub located on East Delaware Avenue shortly after the robbery. Detectives disseminated still photos of the suspect to NPD officers. Within three hours, officers from the NPD Street Crimes Unit and NPD Special Operations Unit were in the area to search for the suspect. The suspect was located walking on South Chapel Street near Delaware Avenue. The suspect was wearing the same clothing as he was the day of the robbery. The suspect, who was later identified as Kellam, was taken into custody without incident and positively linked to the robbery.

On March 1st, NPD detectives executed a search warrant at Kellam's residence in Wilmington where they located property linking him to the crime. Kellam was arrested on one count of Robbery 2nd and arraigned through JP Court #11. He was released after posting \$5,000 cash bail.

The Newark Police Department Street Crime Unit continues to be busy. During the month of February, SCU officers made 41 drug arrests, 11 fugitive arrests, 51 order maintenance arrests, and 2 driving under the influence arrests. Member of the unit also conducted 29 crime prevention checks.

Final plans have been made for the Saint Patrick's Day weekend. Numerous additional officers will be working on grant funded overtime to ensure everyone has a safe holiday weekend.

City Manager's Office

Community Affairs Officer

This week I have again spent a considerable amount of time preparing for Wine and Dine. I followed up with restaurants to make sure they gave me their menus and wine selections in time to make it in the event program. I worked with ZZ House to design the program, which went to print March 6. I followed up with Delaware Designated Drivers about being available for the event. I had some difficulty getting a response over the past few weeks and finally was able to get the contract signed. Police officers have been scheduled for the event. I have arranged with Public Works and Water Resources to have the sidewalks swept before and after the event and to power wash around the trash cans prior to the event. Event posters and postcards were delivered to the participating restaurants for their use. The glasses have arrived as of Wednesday. The press release was sent out on Wednesday as well.

I spent a considerable amount of time preparing press releases, TV 22 updates, and website updates and news flashes regarding upcoming Public Works and Water Resource Department services that will be coming up: spring leaf collection, regular Green Wednesday yard waste collection commencing, water main flushing and Good Friday holiday recycling collection. I have scheduled the release of the information electronically so it goes out at the appropriate times of the month.

I updated the Comprehensive Development Plan public participation schedule to reflect the upcoming meeting and created a web graphic for the website home page as well as TV 22.

I prepared and sent out the March DNP events e-newsletter.

I have been organizing the process for getting all department heads photographed so I can add their photos to the landing page for their department on the city's website.

Planning & Development

Planning

On Tuesday evening, the Planning Commission recommended that Council approve the following planning related projects with conditions:

- The rezoning, major subdivision, special use permits and parking waiver at the Newark Shopping Center – 230 E. Main Street.
- A Comprehensive Development Plan amendment, rezoning, major subdivision and site plan approval for the Cottages at the Plaza surrounding Suburban Plaza.
- The major subdivision of 107-131 New London Road – Campus Walk.

Considerable time was also spent on the other development proposals tentatively scheduled for the April Planning Commission:

- 63 W. Cleveland Avenue
- 65-67 E. Cleveland Avenue
- Kershaw Commons
- A Parking Waiver for 46 E. Main Street

Some time was also spent on two special use permit applications.

This afternoon Development Supervisor Mike Fortner and I met with Dave Gula of WILMAPCO to talk about the Newark Regional Transportation Center project.

Economic Development

Tuesday morning, Mike and DNP Administrator Ricky Nietubicz staffed the Design Committee. Items discussed were:

- CSX Park Proposals and Bridge/ Community Art
- Street signage regulations
- Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
- Update on the City of Newark Comprehensive Plan

This morning, Ricky staffed the Merchants Committee. The members of the committee are very interested in increasing the engagement of business owners who do not currently participate in the committee, and settled on an “open forum” for downtown businesses to be held in June, with the goal of increasing the awareness among merchants of the DNP and its activities. The importance of the Block Captain system was discussed, and the block captains were given packets of information for downtown merchants. The committee discussed the social media promotions that were conducted during February and was happy with the results, and pleased that the “fanbase” of the DNP has increased (+93). The committee briefly discussed upcoming events (Wine & Dine, NCAA Women’s Basketball Tournament, Newark Criterium bike race), and promotional opportunities, particularly the idea of adding a spring sidewalk sale to next year’s event calendar. Merchant signup information for Newark Day was distributed to

the committee members and will be distributed downtown via the E-Newsletter and Block Captain system.

This week Mike prepared the map highlighting participating restaurants, shuttle route and parking areas to be used by those attending the Wine & Dine event to be held on March 23rd.

Parking

In response to the recognized need for additional parking downtown, particularly with the construction of Kate's Place and the impact on Lot 4, Ricky worked with Parking Administrator Marvin Howard to identify placements for up to 28 additional parking meters downtown. Meters are being ordered at present – some of which will be designated as no parking/loading zones until 4 p.m., and metered parking after 4 p.m. Monday - Friday and on weekends, following the successful pilot project in the loading zone in front of the Galleria building, but the majority of the meters will be standard parking meters with regular hours. The Department thanks Mayor Funk for his generous donation to help with the immediate purchase of these meters and his efforts to help the City increase parking inventory downtown.

Today Marvin and Deputy City Manager Andrew Haines met with Richard N. Best Associates to discuss service contracts for City of Newark parking equipment.

Code Enforcement

This week Code Enforcement Supervisor Steve Wilson attended a demolition meeting for the Curtis Paper Smoke Stack. The demolition is complete.

Steve attended a security meeting with finance staff.

Steve also set up a meeting to discuss handicap chair lift installation for Council Chamber.

Steve set up a meeting for installation of HVAC system for the police evidence room next week.

Kate's Place demolition is complete.

Washington House was issued its last C/O this week.

Considerable time was spent this week preparing the 2012 IPMC with amendments for Council review (again!). If all goes well, a new bill will be introduced for 1st Reading on March 25th.

Public Works & Water Resources

We have completed the evaluation of the engineering firms and will be forwarding a recommendation to the Council at the last meeting in March.

We have scheduled a preconstruction conference for the lagoon dredging project at the Newark Water Treatment Plant. Merit Construction will be working on that project for us.

I continue to work with Mike Clark on the sidewalk inspection program. I intend to make it easier for the property owner to have the work accomplished with the City's sidewalk contractor versus arranging for it themselves. They may, of course, do or have the sidewalk repair work done themselves but I want to make the offer and provide what I hope will be an easier and faster method to "just get it done."

I met with City and UD staff to discuss operation of the transfer station and repairs to Academy Street. We are evaluating the transfer station operation and how best we might operate in the future. We have several interesting opportunities that we are investigating. On Academy Street we are looking at how we can improve the condition of the road and take into account that there will be several more years of construction that may cause more damage. I have a plan that we are working through.

I met with City staff, the Mayor, UD staff, State Representative Baumbach, and community representatives regarding using an existing easement to create a connection between Fairfield Crest and Creek Road. A plan was discussed and is being pursued.

We met this week with representatives from Honeywell to discuss the meter installation process. We all have several tasks to complete before the next meeting. I am pleased with the progress we are making and the planning that is going into this process.

Electric

The line crews and engineering were called out Tuesday at 3 a.m. to find the cause of an outage. A distribution circuit tripped and could not be reclosed because a cable under Chestnut Hill Road failed. Unfortunately, this affected the industrial customers along Bellevue Road. It took several hours to discover where the fault was in order to isolate and switch circuits, restoring all customers.

The line crews have received training on the installation of the wide area network components for the smart meter project. The line crews have started installing the first of these 220 radio devices which are needed before automatic reading of electric and water meters can commence.

The electricians worked on installing lighting at the new utility shed at the yard and changed all the AC filters at City Hall and the meter technician worked with engineering on a customer's high bill.

Engineering and key smart meter personnel talked with a utility in Massachusetts about deployment and systems integration and also met with the smart meter outside project manager to fine tune the process for meter replacement. Engineering also worked on changing a relay configuration that was found to be misreading the power factor on a distribution circuit.

Parks & Recreation

Administration & Planning

The Skate Spot Committee met last week to discuss the March 13 public workshop and supplemental fund raising opportunities for the project.

I continue to review the Preliminary Design Plans for the Curtis Park project. The smoke stack was taken down last week.

Debbie Keese, Recreation Specialist, who works with Sharon to coordinate our community events, had open heart surgery last week. All indications are that the procedure was a success and she is home resting and recovering.

Several staff members attended the Delaware Recreation and Park Society Conference last Wednesday and Thursday.

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

I met with the PWWR Special Projects Coordinator to discuss details for the planned rehab of the multi-purpose court at Kells Park.

On Monday I attended a meeting to discuss the concept of making improvements to a maintenance road/bike and pedestrian trail which extends from Fremont Road (Fairfield Crest) to Creek Road near the north end of the Pomeroy and Newark Rail Trail.

Tom met with representatives from the Department of Corrections concerning female inmates committing time working with us on several park maintenance projects.

Tom conducted the pre-bid meeting for the contract to install concrete pads under the shelters at Wilson and Dickey Parks. The project is funded through the 38th Year CDBG program.

Rich committed a lot of time working with IT on computer issues at the Parks Maintenance facility.

We received notice last week from the American Council of Engineering Companies that the Pomeroy and Newark Rail Trail has earned a "National Recognition Award" in their Engineering Excellence Awards competition – the "Academy Awards of the engineering industries." The National Recognition Award is a prestigious distinction honoring projects that demonstrate exceptional achievements in engineering. Both Newark and Pennoni will be recognized.

Parks Maintenance

We installed wire cable cover in polygraph room at Police Station, repaired a filing cabinet in Alderman's Court, moved furniture in the customer service area for construction of the new customer service station, and other minor building maintenance tasks.

The crew placed signs in Redd Park and along the Christina Creek trail.

We removed a tree from across a trail in Coverdale Park completing several other park maintenance work orders.

Recreation Services

Paula contacted individuals on the waiting list for the Basic Introduction to Archery class regarding adding another class. She is still working on finalizing payments and number of participants.

Paula is working with several parents regarding payments due for the Before and After Care programs. She has also requested an increase in capacity size for the West Park After Care program from the Office of Child Care Licensing. Capacity of 35 was reached on March 1 and we have had inquiries from more children interested in attending the program.

Paula is preparing for the upcoming annual inspection for the Downes Before and After Care programs. She is working with staff to complete their training hours and forward all of the information for their personnel files.

The recreation staff attended the Delaware Recreation and Parks Society annual conference at the Atlantic Sands in Rehoboth Beach. Sharon was honored as the Outstanding Member Award. Additionally, the Newark Police Department received the Friend of Recreation Award for their event support and work on the Nefosky Memorial Walk & 5K Run, the Newark Rotary was awarded the Friend of Recreation Award for their support in our C.A.T.C.H After School Program at Downes Elementary and Carol Protack and the 100 Archers Club received the Friend of Recreation Award for their involvement in our archery program.

Sharon prepared and submitted the 2014 Delaware Division of the Arts grant application.

Sharon also ordered the needed supplies for this year's Egg Hunt that will be held on Saturday, March 23.

Tyler is working on finalizing tennis instructors for upcoming lessons scheduled to start the week of March 17.

Joe led a Skate Spot Committee meeting to discuss the March 13 public meeting and our marketing campaign for financial and in-kind donations.

Joe attended the pre-construction meeting for the demolition of the Curtis Paper Mill smoke stack.

Joe organized the March e-newsletter with Liz. The e-newsletter was distributed to our mailing list of over 5,000.

Finance

We are getting closer to the start of the financial statements audit fieldwork. The accounting department is continuously working on final year-end journal entries and adjustments. We are still receiving trailing receipts and invoices for 2012. Will be working on audit schedules, confirmations, fund financial statements, government-wide financial statements, notes to financial statements, management discussion & analysis, and schedule of federal awards, statistical reports before and during the audit fieldwork.

Payroll was processed and completed on Tuesday, in anticipation of a winter storm that may cause some travel delays or cancellations.

Working on final insurance renewal requirements with Willis, should receive renewal quotes early next week. Scheduled a risk control site visit with Travelers and some department directors for Monday, March 11. Also reviewing driver's license audit requirements with a potential service provider.

Alderman's Court

This past week we held three Court sessions. This resulted in 76 Arraignments and 60 Trials processed. We also had 8 Case reviews, along with 4 prisoners transported for the Department of Corrections for sentencing, bail reviews, etc.

CSH/mp