



Committed to Service Excellence

Winter/Spring 2014 MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER



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City Council

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Americans with Disabilities Act

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) provides protection for disabled individuals with respect to employment, public accommodations, public service, and telecommunication. The City of Newark, Delaware is committed in both policy and practice to comply with all provisions of the Act. Through the provision of reasonable accommodations, accessible facilities, auxiliary aids, and telecommunications devices (TDD's), the City desires to make its facilities, programs and services accessible to individuals with disabilities. The City has established procedures to investigate any allegations of non-compliance by the City with the ADA.

Questions, comments and suggestions regarding the implementation of this Act by the City of Newark may be directed to the City Manager's Office, ADA Coordinator, 220 South Main Street, Newark, DE 19711, or by calling (302) 366-7026.

We're on the web at

www.cityofnewarkde.us

Check it out for information 24/7

CITY OF NEWARK MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER

Prepared by the City of Newark, 220 South Main Street, Newark, Delaware 19711 • (302) 366-7000

www.cityofnewarkde.us

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Activities: Joe Spadafino, Editor/Recreation Superintendent

The City of Newark Newsletter is e-mailed tri-annually to Newark residents to provide information on city services, activities and programs. If you have any comments or suggestions regarding the newsletter, please call (302) 366-7020. For additional information on recreation programs or registration, please call (302) 366-7060.

Municipal Newsletter

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January

- 1 CITY HOLIDAY - New Year's Day - Offices Closed
NO GREEN WEDNESDAY COLLECTION
- 2 Christmas Tree collection through January 31
- 7 Planning Commission meeting – 7 p.m. – Municipal Bldg. – Council Chamber (Wednesday)
- 8 Downtown Newark Partnership Board meeting – 6 p.m. – Municipal Bldg. – Second Floor
- 13 City Council meeting – 7 p.m. – Municipal Bldg. – Council Chamber
- 14 Board of Election Annual Meeting – 5 p.m. – Municipal Bldg. – Mayor's Conference Room
- 14 Conservation Advisory Commission meeting – 7 p.m. – Municipal Bldg. – Second Floor
- 16 Board of Adjustment Meeting – 7 p.m. – Municipal Bldg. Council Chamber
- 20 CITY HOLIDAY – Martin Luther King Day – Offices Closed
- 20 DOWNTOWN NEWARK RESTAURANT WEEK through January 26
- 21 Monday's trash will be collected on Tuesday**
- 21 Newark Traffic Committee meeting – 3:30 p.m. – Police Department Conference Room
- 22 Tuesday's trash will be collected on Wednesday**
NO GREEN WEDNESDAY COLLECTION
- 27 City Council meeting – 7 p.m. – Municipal Bldg. – Council Chamber

February

- 3 FILING DEADLINE FOR COUNCIL SEAT CANDIDATES – 5 p.m.
- 4 Planning Commission meeting – 7 p.m. – Municipal Bldg. – Council Chamber
- 10 City Council meeting – 7 p.m. – Municipal Bldg. – Council Chamber
- 11 Conservation Advisory Commission meeting – 7 p.m. – Municipal Bldg. – Second Floor
- 12 Downtown Newark Partnership Board meeting – 6 p.m. – Municipal Bldg. – Second Floor
- 17 CITY HOLIDAY – Presidents' Day – Offices Closed
- 18 Monday's trash will be collected on Tuesday**
- 18 Newark Traffic Committee meeting – 3:30 p.m. – Police Department Conference Room
- 19 Tuesday's trash will be collected on Wednesday**
NO GREEN WEDNESDAY COLLECTION
- 20 Board of Adjustment Meeting – 7 p.m. – Municipal Bldg. Council Chamber
- 24 City Council meeting – 7 p.m. – Municipal Bldg. – Council Chamber

March

- 4 Planning Commission meeting – 7 p.m. – Municipal Bldg. – Council Chamber
- 10 City tennis/multipurpose courts lights activated
- 10 City Council meeting – 7 p.m. – Municipal Bldg. – Council Chamber
- 11 Conservation Advisory Commission meeting – 7 p.m. – Municipal Bldg. – Second Floor
- 12 Downtown Newark Partnership Board meeting – 6 p.m. – Municipal Bldg. – Second Floor
- 17 Spring leaf collection begins and continues through April 4
- 17 LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR CITY ELECTION

- 18 Newark Traffic Committee meeting – 3:30 p.m. – Police Department Conference Room
- 20 Board of Adjustment Meeting – 7 p.m. – Municipal Bldg. Council Chamber
- 22 Community Clean Up – 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. – Municipal Bldg.
- 24 City Council meeting – 7 p.m. – Municipal Bldg. – Council Chamber
- 30 Water main flushing through April 4

April

- 1 Planning Commission meeting – 7 p.m. – Municipal Bldg. – Council Chamber
- 5 Newark's 10th Annual Wine and Dine Downtown – 4 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- 8 CITY ELECTION DAY – Polls open 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.**
- 8 Conservation Advisory Commission meeting – 7 p.m. – Municipal Bldg. – Second Floor
- 9 Downtown Newark Partnership Board meeting – 6 p.m. – Municipal Bldg. – Second Floor
- 11 Nefosky Memorial Walk & Run – 6:30 p.m. – Newark Reservoir
- 12 Egg Hunt – 10 a.m. – White Clay Creek State Park
- 14 City Council meeting – 7 p.m. – Municipal Bldg. – Council Chamber
- 15 Newark Traffic Committee meeting – 5 p.m. – Police Department Conference Room
- 16 Council Organizational meeting – 7 p.m. – Municipal Bldg. – Council Chamber
- 16 Thursday's recycling will be collected on Wednesday**
NO GREEN WEDNESDAY COLLECTION
- 17 Friday's recycling will be collected on Thursday**
- 17 Board of Adjustment Meeting – 7 p.m. – Municipal Bldg. Council Chamber
- 18 CITY HOLIDAY – Good Friday – Offices Closed
- 28 City Council meeting – 7 p.m. – Municipal Bldg. – Council Chamber

May

- 2 Spring Concert - 7 p.m. - Academy Lawn
- 6 Planning Commission meeting - 7 p.m. - Municipal Bldg. - Council Chamber
- 8 Spring Concert - 7 p.m. - Academy Lawn
- 12 City Council meeting - 7 p.m. - Municipal Bldg. - Council Chamber
- 13 Conservation Advisory Commission meeting - 7 p.m. - Municipal Bldg. - Second Floor
- 14 Downtown Newark Partnership Board meeting – 6 p.m. – Municipal Bldg. – Second Floor
- 15 Board of Adjustment Meeting – 7 p.m. – Municipal Bldg. Council Chamber
- 15 Spring Concert - 7 p.m. - Academy Lawn
- 18 Newark Memorial Day Parade - 1 p.m. - University of Delaware Green - Parade at 2 p.m.
- 20 Newark Traffic Committee meeting - 5 p.m. - Police Department Conference Room
- 22 Spring Concert - 7 p.m. - Academy Lawn
- 26 CITY HOLIDAY - Memorial Day - Offices Closed
- 27 Monday's refuse will be collected on Tuesday**
- 27 City Council meeting - 7 p.m. - Municipal Bldg. - Council Chamber (**TUESDAY**)
- 28 Tuesday's refuse will be collected on Wednesday**
NO GREEN WEDNESDAY COLLECTION
- 29 Spring Concert - 7 p.m. - Academy Lawn

City Manager's Message

In my preparations for the end of 2013, I had the occasion to consider the efforts and operations of our many departments that serve our community. While we attempt to regularly share the good work of our employees on your behalf, it is sometimes hard to effectively communicate all that your representatives have accomplished. To that end, I wanted to share some 2013 success stories, as I view them, so that you can better understand why I am so very proud of our departments and employees. As we all welcome a new year, we will certainly benefit from the momentum gained in of 2013!

All my best to you and yours this New Year!



Newark Police Department Achievements

During 2013 the Newark Police Department (NPD) continued to see a significant drop in crime. From the period of 2006 to 2013, Newark Police have seen an overall drop of 37.46% in Part 1 Crime. During the same time period, robberies are down by 66.67%, aggravated assaults are down by 68.08%, and burglaries are down by 53.55%.

On December 17, as part of the Toys for Tots program, Newark police officers and Santa Claus aboard a fire truck from the Aetna Hose Hook and Ladder Company, delivered gifts to deserving children at the Newark Housing Authority and White Chapel neighborhoods. NPD received donations from many individuals and businesses that, again, helped make the program successful.

M/Cpl. Paul Keld received the Knights of Columbus Officer of the Quarter Award for the 3rd Quarter of 2013 for his year-long investigation leading to the arrest of a hit and run driver responsible for killing an elderly pedestrian and for his actions in disarming a suicidal subject armed with a knife.

Sgt. Dennis Aniunas and Cpl. Michael Wolfrom responded to a report of a small child whose head had been stuck in the window of a passenger car. Upon arrival the officers found a two year old child who was unresponsive and without a pulse. The officers initiated CPR and continued their life saving efforts until the arrival of rescue personnel. While en route to the hospital, the child became responsive. Following several days at A.I. DuPont Children's Hospital, the child was released and was expected to make a full recovery. The Aetna Fire Chief credited the actions of the two officers with saving the child's life. Both officers received the NPD Life Saving Award.

The NDP launched its Police Trading Card Project. The project, spearheaded by Cpl. Greg Micolucci, Cpl. Adam Mease & Cpl. William Smith, raised over \$10,000 in private donations from area businesses and community leaders. In the end, the trading card project was extremely well received by the community and cost nothing for the City to implement. The department received countless thank you letters and comments from the community, all appreciative of the project and commending the professionalism of our employees and how important the positive contact was with their children. The program allowed us to showcase our agency and has strengthened our relationship with the community.

M/Cpl. Frank Gillespie, Cpl. Robert Vernon, Officer Kenneth Odom, and Officer William Anderson were recognized by the Aetna Fire Chief for their actions while responding to a house fire. The Chief commended the officers for their quick action that resulted in saving the home from significant structural damage. The officers received a letter of commendation for their efforts.

Cpl. Patrick Craig responded to multiple phone calls about two females trapped under the Paper Mill Road Bridge due to a flash flood following severe rainfall. Cpl. Craig arrived on scene within ninety seconds of being dispatched. He climbed down the embankment and assisted the first female out of the water. She told him that her friend was still in the water and unconscious. Cpl. Craig saw the second female's head go underneath the water. Putting his personal safety aside, he immediately entered the creek and successfully pulled the second female out of the water. Cpl. Craig was recognized with the NPD Citation for Bravery Award.

Lt. George Stanko, Lt. William Hargrove and Lt. Mark Farrall graduated from an intensive 14-week West Point Command and Leadership Academy developed by New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police. The course focused on leadership as a science concentrating on logical and critical thinking, decision making, communications and counseling, and conflict management. Lt. Feeney, Sgt. Dennis Aniunas and Sgt. Michael Van Campen will be

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participating in the course beginning in January 2014.

Sgt. Michael Van Campen received honorable mention at the National Association of Police Officers "Top Cops" award ceremony held in Washington, D.C. Sgt. VanCampen, as part of the DEA task force, was nominated for his investigative efforts into a drug trafficking organization responsible for bringing shipments of heroin and cocaine into Delaware for more than ten years. The investigation resulted in over 48 arrests and the seizure of large quantities of cocaine, heroin, crack cocaine, \$375,485 in U.S. currency, and twelve firearms as well as the closure of two homicides.

Cpl. Michael Wolfrom and Officer Ronald Zappaterrini respond to an apartment building for a report of an odor of marijuana. The two officers developed the initial call into a major drug investigation resulting in the arrest of two subjects, the seizure of over \$18,000 in U.S. currency and a small amount of heroin. The officers were recognized by the Knights of Columbus Officer of the 1st Quarter Award.

Cpl. Andrew Pagnotti received the Citation of Merit for his actions while assisting U.S. Marshalls and Wilmington Police Department (WPD) SWAT while searching for the gunman responsible for shooting WPD Officer Justin Wilkers. While conducting surveillance Cpl. Pagnotti located and assisted with apprehension of the shooter.

Cpl. Greg Micolucci completed a two-year graffiti investigation with the identification of a graffiti vandal who had been plaguing the City of Newark and University of Delaware campus for several years resulting in thousands of dollars in damage. The investigation resulted in the arrest of the suspect on 162 charges. Cpl. Micolucci was recognized for his efforts with the NPD Citation for Merit.

Electric Department Achievements

We installed Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) over the course of several years and this past year the system reached a state in which its actual efficiencies were gained through the opportunity to complete substation tasks (close a breaker or turn off a recloser) from the office instead of sending crews out to the location.

The 2013 Smart Meter Project has already enabled the department to be more efficient and timely with meter reads. Changeovers are occurring as well since the system has already provided our engineers with data identifying voltage problems before a customer noticed an issue and reported concerns.

Our crews continued to upgrade areas to higher voltage, which translates to our customers seeing much less voltage deviations in their residences, specifically less flickering and dips. While these upgrades are engineered, the localized circuits are reworked to lessen the impact of outages.

Public Works and Water Resources Department Achievements

We have begun to fully realize the benefits of the unified Public Works and Water Resources Department. This year, we have been able to easily coordinate water main replacement with street resurfacing efforts, repair asphalt, curb and sidewalk removed for water and sewer main repairs in-house, and effectively share personnel and equipment across divisions.

The majority of the new smart water meters associated with the automated metering project have been installed. This will allow water bills to be more equitable as meters are now uniformly accurate (similar to a tax reassessment). This will also allow homeowners to have access to hourly consumption data, promoting conservation efforts, and will create flags for usage indicative of a leak at a home. We have already identified several leaky toilets that were wasting up to 900 gallons a day, saving the homeowner significant expense. This also opens up the possibility of district metering for leak detection within the water system.

We have created and implemented a sustainable management program for our yard waste facility at Iron Glen. With the new program, we expect to create high-quality compost material that can be used at City facilities and given away free to the public at our New London Road facility.

We have stopped using the City-owned and operated refuse transfer station. This eliminates expenses associated with capital improvements to the facility and elimination of the fleet of vehicles necessary for operation of the station. The change freed up personnel allowing for more efficient operation of refuse collection duties. This will also open up more collection opportunities such as same day trash and recycling pickup, which is currently under review.

We have developed a great working relationship with DeIDOT that has resulted in improved signal timing at traffic signals around town and generally improved coordination between our organizations.

Municipal Newsletter

We held the first ever triathlon at the Newark Reservoir in August with almost 400 registrants. The race was generally recognized as an excellent venue, highlighting parks facilities at the reservoir and Redd Park.

We installed sharrow bike markings on East and West Main Streets, New London Road and Cleveland Avenue. We also installed a bike lane on West Main Street between the railroad tracks and Cleveland Avenue.

We modified operations associated with residential refuse collection, bulk item collection, leaf collection and street sweeping that resulted in significant overtime savings. We were also able to finish leaf collection on-schedule with, excepting delays associated with the snowstorm, no pickups falling more than one day behind. This is a first ever accomplishment for the leaf collection effort, which is highly labor intensive.

We completed design and engineering of projects to install a new water main across the White Clay Creek, repair the roof of the concrete tank on Paper Mill Road, and repair and upgrade three filter units at the Newark Water Treatment Plant. We also installed over 2,000 linear feet of new water main on Brookhill Drive, rehabilitated two of our high production wells located in the South Well Field, and replaced the Northwest Booster Station with a new facility located above the 100-year floodplain.

We have begun installation of a SCADA system on the water and sewer system that allows for remote monitoring and control of facilities. This will allow for real-time monitoring while reducing time spent driving from location to location and overtime.

Parks and Recreation Department Achievements

We designed and constructed two skate spot facilities that are enjoying a great deal of usage by community members of all ages.

We completed, along with our consulting engineer Pennoni Associates, the design and engineering for the redevelopment of the Curtis Mill Park. Construction will begin in early 2014. Newark has received over \$500,000 of Brownfield remediation fund reimbursements for efforts at the site. We expect to fully recoup up to the allowable \$1 million by the time the project is completed.

Staff and volunteers (most notably the Trail Spinners) have continued to relocate and construct sustainable trails in Redd Park.

With the help of volunteers, 1,800 crocus' were planted at the top of the reservoir to add late winter/early spring color.

The Pomeroy and Newark Rail Trail was designated a National Recreation Trail by the U.S. Department of Interior.

We resurfaced the much used Kells Park multi-purpose/basketball court.

The department installed rain gardens at Phillips and Fairfield Crest Parks.

We celebrated the 40th anniversary running of the Turkey Trot 5K and 10K with hundreds of participants.

We worked with DelDOT and their contractor to complete landscaping in the traffic medians along South Main Street and Elkton Road as part of the road project. Additional improvements past the work area are planned for 2014, which will help to develop the stretch of roadway as an attractive gateway to our City.

Newark received a Tree City USA growth award from the National Arbor Day Foundation. 2013 marked Newark's 13th year as a Tree City USA community.

We completed the Main Street tree pit rehab project effectively eliminating a previous tripping hazard in one year versus spreading the project over multiple years.

We have gained operational efficiencies by making slight location changes to trash containers in various parks that allow our automated refuse trucks to empty trash containers.

Finance Department Achievements

Our accounting group successfully implemented a software upgrade and met segregation of duties initiatives for the first time by eliminating lien billing from specific software and transitioning cash receipts processes to a central location. Resolutions for other segregation of duties issues were either identified for implementation early in 2014 or solved in 2013. This item has been an audit comment in past years.

City of Newark

Newark earned the Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting for the third year in row.

The department managed multiple rate changes and the transition from cubic feet to gallons within the billing system.

Newark's online move-in/outs exceeded 500 requests in 2013, which was a new record. This is currently a manual process, but it will migrate to Customer Connect in 2014 as a result of the Smart Meter Project.

Our new Welcome Center was opened in August. Finance and Administration developed a process to handle customers, parcels, and miscellaneous tasks while operating the booth. The Finance Department managed coverage for the booth.

Planning and Development Department Achievements

We celebrated 15th anniversary for the Downtown Newark Partnership.

We welcomed five new businesses downtown.

We began the Smart Parking Meter pilot program enabling visitors to pay for parking with credit cards at on-street parking meters.

Several projects added 48 parking spaces to the public parking inventory (+4%). We added loading zone parking, which allows parking in the loading zone after normal delivery hours. Several projects simply reconfigured several municipal parking lots thereby adding parking spaces.

Code Enforcement Division's City View 2 transition resulted in movement toward mobile applications for property maintenance, rental permit, and code enforcement.

Code Enforcement Division played a key role in helping keep Bloom Energy on track for their building completion. Code Enforcement Officer Jim Kiesel was named specifically at the grand opening in the fall of 2013 as a city employee who was invaluable to the process.

The Comprehensive Development Plan update process began in June 2012. At the completion of 2013, we had held 20 public meetings or workshops with 300 individuals participating in the process. This is an outstanding participation rate particularly when you consider that Dover had just 100 individual participants for their Comprehensive Development Plan update.

We had a busy year for land use:

- Rezoning – 14 Applications; 8 Approved; 1 withdrawn; 5 pending
- Annexation – 1 Application pending
- Subdivisions – 31 applications, 21 approved; 1 Withdrawn; and 9 Pending
- Special Use Permits – 15 Applications; 6 Approved; 1 denied; and 8 pending
- Parking Waivers – 3 Applications, 2 approved; 1 pending.
- Code Amendments: 5 offered; 4 approved; 1 pending

Organization-Wide Achievements

Newark's healthcare premium rate was set to increase by 9.1% in 2014 over that of 2013. However, with efforts to increase employee contributions and our active recruitment of employees to join the CDHP (High Deductible plan), the January 2014 premium is only 2.4% over that of December 2013. Decisions made late in the year resulted in the number of employees enrolled in the CDHP plan growing by 33% in 2014, and employee contributions increased 2.5% - both factors in the realized premium expense.

Our Welcome Center has overall been well received. This change to our operations has succeeded in monitoring visitors to our facility as well as streamlining some payment processes.

We completed our Alderman's Court security renovations by the end of the year fully addressing concerns raised by a Federal Marshall's evaluation.

A handicapped accessible chair lift was installed in the City Council Chamber.

Newark's fleet of vehicles (with the exception of the Police Department, which will be addressed with a statewide law enforcement effort) is now equipped with GPS providing the ability to effectively monitor usage, make more informed decisions, and improve efficiencies and deployment.

SOLICITATION OF CANDIDATES NOTICE

The City of Newark will hold its annual municipal election on Tuesday, April 8, 2014. The offices for which an election will be held are the office of Council Member for Districts 3, 5 and 6. Council Members serve two-year terms.

Any qualified voter of the city who, for a period of at least 15 years next preceding the election has not been convicted of a felony, as that crime is designated by the State of Delaware, and who has resided in the city for at least one year next preceding the election, shall be eligible to hold the office of Council Member and/or Mayor. A qualified voter, eligible to hold the office of Council Member, shall mean a person who is a registered voter at the time his/her nominating petition is filed and who resides in the district he/she seeks to represent.

All nominations for City Council shall be declared by petition which can be obtained in the City Secretary's Office, 220 South Main Street, Newark, DE, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Each nominating petition shall be signed by the candidate and, in addition, shall bear the signatures of 10 qualified voters residing in the district from which the candidate seeks election. Petitions with all requisite signatures must be filed with the City Secretary by **5:00 p.m., EDT, on Monday, February 3, 2014** in order to be eligible for candidacy in the April 8, 2014 election.

QUESTIONS should be directed to the City Secretary's Office, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at (302) 366-7070.

Flood Insurance —Do you need it?

You may want to consider obtaining flood insurance if you live in the 100-year floodplain along the main channels of the Christina and White Clay Creeks. Homes built before the adoption of City floodplain regulations may likely be at greater risk of flooding during a severe storm.

Be advised that most homeowners' policies specifically exclude damage caused by floodwaters from rising water, inadequate drainage and wind driven rain. Fortunately, the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) will provide this important insurance to Newark property owners that reside in a floodplain.

This protection has been made available to Newark and other communities that have taken steps to manage and reduce the chances for local residential flooding. Our rigorous floodplain regulations, rated a "Class 7" designation by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, allows Newark residents to take advantage of flood insurance premiums that are 15% lower than the national average. We are proud to acknowledge that our "Class 7" rating is the highest rating of any city in the State of Delaware.

The NFIP coverage is available to any Newark owner or renter of insurable property. To purchase NFIP flood insurance, contact any licensed property insurance agency or broker. If you are not sure if your property is located within the 100-year floodplain of the Christina or White Clay Creeks, please call the Planning and Development Department at (302) 366-7030. Floodplain maps and NFIP brochures are available at both the Planning and Development Department and the Newark Free Library.



Deposit unserviceable American flags in a drop box located at the entrance of the parking lot to V.F.W. Post 475 off of Veterans Lane just passed the City of Newark Municipal Building.

COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE IN FINAL STAGES

The Planning and Development Department is nearing the final stages of its 5-year update of the Comprehensive Development Plan. The process began on Newark Day 2012 and the Newark Planning Commission will review the first completed draft at its regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting on Tuesday, January 7, 2014 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chamber. Additional workshops will be held in January and February, with the Planning Commission forwarding a final recommendation to City Council in March 2014.

The intent of the planning process was to develop and integrate Newark's plan for land use, annexation, redevelopment, economic development, housing, transportation, infrastructure, natural and cultural resources, and intergovernmental coordination. The Newark Comprehensive Development Plan V will be a vision based, community driven plan. The vision, goals, and strategies were based on extensive Newark Planning Commission workshops with a variety of stakeholders and residents.

In setting the Plan V's vision, the Planning Commission has set three goals to guide future growth and development in the City:

1) **Healthy & Active Community:** A community that provides safe infrastructure and amenities to allow opportunities for a healthy and active lifestyle, to include aspirations such as:

- o Bicycle and pedestrian accessibility;
- o Complete streets;
- o Ample parks and open space;
- o Compact & mixed use development; and
- o Access to healthy foods.

2) **Sustainable Community:** A community that will be sustainable, both economically & environmentally, for generations to come, to include aspirations such as:

- o Promote transit and other alternative transportation modes for reduced dependence on fossil fuels;
- o Stream valley protection;
- o Energy conservation and recycling;
- o Air and water quality;
- o Diverse economic base; and
- o Preserving historical resources.

3) **Inclusive Community:** A community that embraces cultural diversity and lifestyles for all age groups, to include aspirations such as:

- o Access to transit and other alternative transportation modes for increased choice;
- o Range of housing choices and affordability levels;
- o Access to a variety of dining, shopping, entertainment, and employment options;
- o Parks and open space offering a range of activities; and
- o Support services such as day care, health care, and retro-fitting houses.



For more information, to view the schedule for upcoming public workshops, and view draft chapters of the update to the Comprehensive Development Plan, visit www.cityofnewarkde.us/CompPlanUpdate or contact Development Supervisor Michael Fortner at 302-366-7030.

SNOW RELATED REMINDERS

The city of Newark's crews work diligently during and after snow events to clear ice and snow from city-maintained roadways and sidewalks. Keeping sidewalks safe for pedestrians is a partnership between the city and our residents.

OUR PART

City crews have over ten miles of city-maintained sidewalk to clear during and after a snow event to clear the sidewalks as soon as possible. The Street Division of the city's Public Works & Water Resources Department performs snow removal on residential streets. The State Highway Department is responsible for plowing major routes such as portions of Routes 273, 896, and 4.

To assist crews in effectively removing snow from streets, residents should park their cars in their driveway. If a snow emergency is declared by the City Manager, please observe parking bans on designated snow emergency routes. (Snow emergencies are broadcast on WJBR, Channel 22, the website, and social media.)

YOUR PART

Residents are responsible for clearing sidewalks of snow or ice within 24 hours after snow fall. Pathways must be at least 3' wide in residential areas and 4' wide in commercial districts. Code Enforcement Officers can issue a violation to persons failing to comply with the snow removal ordinance. Additionally, the city may clear sidewalks and charge the resident for the removal cost. A minimum \$100 fee will be charged for city snow removal.

When shoveling, pile snow on the front lawn rather than the grassplot area between the curb and sidewalk. This allows extra storage space for snow pushed to the side by snowplows. Please keep catch basins and gutters clear of snow. To help locate hydrants in the event of a fire emergency, please keep fire hydrants visible and clear of snow. When shoveling your driveway, pile snow on the side of the driveway in the direction that will be cleared by snowplows. This will minimize the possibility that snowplows will redeposit snow back on your driveway.

2014 HOLIDAY REFUSE COLLECTION SCHEDULE CHANGES

This list provides you with dates that your regular trash and recycling collection schedule must be adjusted for City holidays. Our Green Wednesday program is performed on Wednesdays; however, they are also reserved for refuse or recycling collection when there is a holiday during the week. These schedule modifications are necessary to maintain collection of refuse twice every week. ***There is no Green Wednesday collection during weeks that contain a holiday.***

Holiday	Refuse Normally Collected On	Will Be Collected On
New Year's Day	No Green Wednesday Yard Collection	
Martin Luther King Day Monday, Jan. 20	Mon., Jan. 20 Tues., Jan. 21	Tues., Jan. 21 Wed., Jan. 22
Presidents' Day Monday, Feb. 17	Mon., Feb. 17 Tues., Feb. 18	Tues., Feb. 18 Wed., Feb. 19
Good Friday Friday, April 18	Thurs., April 17 Fri., April 18	Wed., April 16 Thurs., April 17
Memorial Day Monday, May 26	Mon., May 26 Tues., May 27	Tues., May 27 Wed., May 28
Independence Day Friday, July 4	Thurs., July 3 Fri., July 4	Wed., July 2 Thurs., July 3
Labor Day Monday, Sept. 1	Mon., Sept. 1 Tues., Sept. 2	Tues., Sept. 2 Wed., Sept. 3
Thanksgiving Day Thursday, Nov. 27	Thurs., Nov. 27 No changes to Fri. schedule	Wed., Nov. 26
Christmas Day Thursday, December 25	Thurs., Dec. 25 No changes to Fri. schedule	Wed., Dec. 24

Save a Life! Don't think twice!

On October 28, 2013, City Council voted to amend Chapter 19 of the city's ordinances. The amendment authorizes immunity for persons who report an alcohol overdose, drug overdose or other life threatening emergency.

Immunity is granted if the person seeking medical attention reports the emergency to law enforcement, the 911 system, a poison control center, to a medical provider (or is assisting someone reporting such an emergency). In order for the person not to be charged, the person must provide all relevant medical information as to the cause of the overdose or emergency to the responding authorities or medical providers.

This statute applies to the individual suffering the overdose, the person reporting the overdose, and anyone assisting either party.

Municipal Newsletter

Spring Leaf Collection

We recycle your leaves each fall and spring and provide the mulch created from them to you for use in your yards and gardens. The mulch pile is located at the City water tower on Route 896.

The 2014 Spring Leaf Collection begins on Monday, March 17 and will continue through Friday, April 4, 2014. Spring Leaf Collection will occur in your neighborhood as follows:

Monday	Center City from South Main Street Elkton Road to Marrows Road and from Main Street to northern boundary of Tuesday's route. (Including White Chapel)
Tuesday	Northern portion of the City, north of Main Street, and east of West Main Street/Nottingham Road (excluding West Branch and Christianstead), Fairfield, Fairfield Crest, Cleveland Avenue, Lumbrook, Creek Bend, Ridgewood Glen, Paper Mill Farms, Evergreen, Northgate Commons, Stafford, Parkview, The Hunt at Louviers, The Woods at Louviers, Middle Run Meadow, Jenney's Run, and Wyncliff.
Wednesday	Area west of Bent Lane and Radcliffe Drive, Nottingham Green, Pheasant Run, Cherry Hill, Cherry Hill Manor, Elan, Barksdale Estates, Country Hills, Country Place, Abbotsford, and Briar Creek.
Thursday	Oaklands, Nottingham Manor, College Park, Westfield, West Branch, Christianstead, Timber Creek, Woodmere, Valley Stream and Stone Spring.
Friday	Southern area of the City including Devon, Binns, Arbour Park, Silverbrook, Yorkshire, Yorkshire Woods, Cobblefield and Cannon's Gate.

How to Prepare for Leaf Collection

- Rake and pile leaves in the grassplot area between the curb and sidewalk. Do not rake leaves onto the street or curbs.
- To help minimize storm drainage system clogging, please clear or remove any leaves that have accumulated on the top of the storm drain or catch basins near your home.
- Avoid mixing rocks and sticks with leaves. They may damage our collection equipment.
- Do not place brush in leaf piles, as it may clog machinery.
- Please park cars in your driveway on collection day to help increase the efficiency of the program.
- Warn children not to play in leaf piles on streets or near curbs to protect them from vehicular injury by unsuspecting motorists.

Call the Public Works & Water Resources Department at (302) 366-7040/7045 with any questions.

Turn over a new leaf!

Why rake the leaves when you can mulch them in place? Leaf waste provides a valuable soil amendment. Instead of raking leaves off the lawn, simply use your lawn mower with the discharge closed to mulch them in place.

Whether you are able to mow every week or only every other week, after all the leaves have fallen and you make one last pass, you will wonder where they all went. Check out the internet for a variety of other resources.

Dumping Anything Down A Storm Drain, Gutter, Or Into The Street Is Illegal

Remember: What Goes Into a Storm Drain Goes Directly Into a Creek or Tributary.

TO REPORT A SPILL

During regular business hours (8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday – Friday) call City of Newark Police Chief Paul Tiernan at (302) 366-7100.

After business hours call Newark Police at (302) 366-7111, 911, or the DNREC Emergency Response Hotline at (800) 662-8802.

For information on Newark's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater program, visit www.cityofnewarkde.us/NPDESstormwaterprogram or call (302) 366-7040.

CURTIS MILL PARK CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN

In 1999, Newark purchased the former Curtis Paper Mill property with the idea of preserving the site, which lies along the White Clay Creek and to one day develop it for public use. After considering various options and obtaining considerable public input, it was determined that the property would be developed as a passive park. In 2011, Newark completed a master plan for the Curtis Mill property and the open space site located just south of the Newark Reservoir on Old Paper Mill Road.

In August of the same year, the Parks and Recreation Department presented the master plan to City Council and was given direction to move ahead with the development of the site. With the assistance of Pennoni Associates (project consultant), Newark created a design and completed the engineering for the project earlier this year resulting in the selection of Reybold Construction to build the park.

The 7.3 acre site will feature a plaza recognizing the history of the former paper mill. The plaza will include the use of some of the bricks we were able to salvage from the smoke stack that once stood on the property. The project will also include a small parking lot, the creation of a meadow area, information signs about the paper mill's historic operations and the White Clay Creek's value as water and natural resource, bike racks, benches, picnic tables, landscaping, and a traffic signal with road improvements on Paper Mill Road.

Construction should begin in January or February and be completed in the fall of 2014.

Main Street Tree Pit Renovation Project

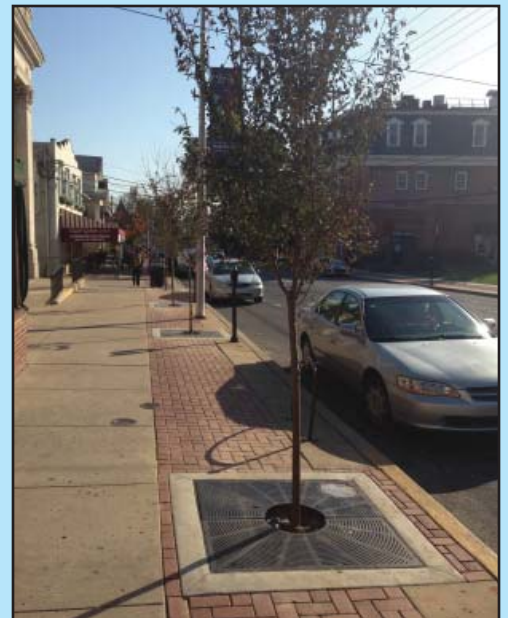
Starting late this past summer, This past fall the City completed the final phase of the Main Street Tree Pit renovation project. was begun. A total of 44 tree pits were retrofitted during the phased renovation project. This third phase involved the remaining 31 tree pits. along Main Street on both the north and south sides. The contract was awarded to Cleaver Cable Construction from Glenolden, Pennsylvania after a competitive bidding process at a cost of \$114,587.00.

The project involved replacing the beveled pavers, trees and grate system with new trees, grates and electric service to accommodate up-lights and electric outlets used for community events. Each pit now has a surface mounted grate systems which meet ADA guidelines, eliminate the trip hazard the beveled pavers posed and will provide a bit more space for pedestrian traffic flow.

Of the 31 tree pits within this phase, 29 had up lighting installed as part of the contract, surface mounted tree grates which meet ADA guidelines, and Seven (7) different tree species (Golden Rain, Linden, Willow Oak, Okame Cherry Shadblow, Hedge Maple and Japanese Tree Lilac) which were selected and planted on a site by site basis giving consideration to for height restrictions, leaf color, flowering and fruiting effect, heat and road salt tolerance, as well as and winter interest. Due to in-ground space limitations we were only able to plant one to one and one half inch caliper trees.

As the new trees grow, the up lighting effect on the undersides of the leaves and branches will also create additional year round interest. A metal halide lamp lighting system was selected for the lighting system for it's color and lighting output. Also, all up The lights were put on are controlled by photo cells so that they will come on at dark and turn off in the morning.the lights would not stay during the daylight hours. All lights have surface mounted polycarbonate clear lens within each tree grate for maximum light output and effect.

You can expect to see something along Main Street will be in bloom from April thru through late June/early July, depending on tree species. These seven tree species were selected were Goldenrain Tree, Linden, Willow Oak, Okame Cherry, Shadblow, Hedge Maple, and Japanese Tree Lilac. Fall colors will range from reds and purples to bright yellows and browns.



Utilizing Rain Gardens in Newark's Parks

The Parks and Recreation Department installed its fifth rain garden in a city park this past November. The most recent project was completed at Phillips Park near the newly constructed skate board facility. The site was a small area of the park which remained wet for long periods of time following rain events. The other four rain gardens are in Devon, Handloff, and Rittenhouse Parks and at the Parks Facility at the City Maintenance Yard. All were installed for similar reasons.

The rain gardens at Devon and Handloff Parks were funded, designed and installed as Eagle Scout projects. The Rittenhouse Park site was installed with the assistance of federal funding associated with the Delaware Bay Watershed. The Phillips Park and City Yard sites were installed with in-house funding and staff.

Rain gardens have many benefits. In addition to reducing the city's mowing operations, they help absorb nitrates and phosphates improving water quality, control runoff and greatly reduce standing water, which helps minimize mosquito breeding, creates habitats for birds, butterflies and other small animals, and they add year-round visual appeal to landscapes.

The plantings at each site were selected for their ability to thrive in wet areas, seasonal flowering, leaf texture shape and color, as well as height differences. Something will be in bloom from June through October each year in addition to season-long leaf color. The plantings will range from three to six feet in height creating depth and varying shadow patterns.

The Parks and Recreation Department continues to identify appropriate sites in city parks to install additional rain gardens.



Parks crews planting the newest rain garden

Hunt at Louviers Stormwater Retrofit Wins Landscaping Award

Delaware Nursery and Landscape Association's landscape awards program named the Hunt at Louviers stormwater retrofit winner of the commercial landscape category. North Creek Nurseries submitted the project for consideration. Judging was based on overall design and installation – how well the landscape suits the site, use of structures and paving, use and selection of plant material, and overall maintenance including neatness, proper pruning, health of the plants, and a clear design intent. The award will be presented at the Delaware Horticulture Industry Expo on January 22 in Dover.

Newark received a Community Water Quality Improvement grant from DNREC to retrofit all three stormwater management areas in the Hunt at Louviers. The basins were originally designed for stormwater quantity management, not water quality, and the intent was to improve upon the existing design by providing a water quality benefit. The improvements included re-grading, removal of invasive plant species, and native habitat restoration. Approximately 100 volunteers helped plant deep rooted native plugs, which will help water better infiltrate into the ground and uptake common stormwater pollutants such as excess nutrients. This helps improve water quality in Jenney's Run, a tributary of the Wild and Scenic White Clay Creek.



TREES – PART THREE OF THREE ON THEIR BEAUTY, USE, & MAINTENANCE

By Tom Zaleski, City of Newark Park Superintendent

This third, and final, article about trees addresses plant health care. Plant health care programs seek to improve and maintain not only trees, but all plantings within a landscape. Plant health care involves using “Integrated Pest Management” techniques for insect control and identification, disease and fungus control, fertilization and watering, as well as herbicide/weed control methods. Each one of these plays a key part in an overall plant health care program.

While trees are the largest and most prominent feature in a landscape, they share the area with smaller trees and shrubs, perennial and annual plants, as well as turfgrass. Roots of all these plants intermingle, grow, and compete for water and nutrients. Every type of soil treatment, chemical treatment, or watering affects every plant within that landscape. So when a tree is fertilized or pruned to thin out the crown of the tree and/or remove dead wood allowing for better air circulation and light penetration, these things have an effect on the other plantings and turf areas as well. In short, what is done to each plant or turf area within a landscape effects the health of every other plant in that landscape.

Monitoring all trees, shrubs, and all other plantings within a landscape allows for early detection of any insect, disease, or fertilization issue before it gets out of hand. These inspections can be as frequent as bi-weekly, monthly, or quarterly depending on the issues and budget. Should an issue be found, an approach to eliminate the problem is developed and put into action. Solutions range from reducing or increasing watering to applications of a pesticide/herbicide/fungicide to pruning out diseased or infested wood. Sometimes the best approach is to do nothing at all and let the natural insect predators control an insect or scale issue or, in the case of Powdery Mildew (the white mold covering leaves of some plants at this time of year), just let the mildew go as the plants have already taken in enough stored food for next year’s growth.

Trees and shrubs can quickly develop problems, and routine plant monitoring and treatments as recommended by a certified arborist will protect the investment in your landscape. By having routine monitoring done, you may also reduce your cost to control a plant health issue. When identified early you not only keep your landscape attractive but also safe resulting in an increased value to your home.

Christmas Tree Disposal

NEW COLLECTION SCHEDULE

There is a new tree collection method this year. The city will collect trees on the same schedule as the leaf collection neighborhood schedule. Place your tree at the curb on your neighborhood’s assigned day beginning Wednesday, January 2, 2014 through Friday, January 31, 2014.

The Christmas trees are "recycled" into mulch for use by the Parks and Recreation Department.



Neighborhood Schedule

Monday	Center City, from Elkton Road to Marrows Road from Main Street to the northern boundary of Tuesday’s route (including White Chapel).
Tuesday	Northern portion of the city, north of Main Street and east of West Main Street/Nottingham Road (excluding West Branch and Christianstead). Includes Fairfield, Fairfield Crest, Cleveland Avenue, Lumbrook, Creek Bend, Ridgewood Glen, Paper Mill Farms, Evergreen, Northgate Commons, Stafford, Parkview, The Hunt at Louviers, The Woods at Louviers, Middle Run Meadow, Laura’s Glen, Wynclyff, and Jenney’s Run.
Wednesday	Area west of Bent Lane and Radcliffe Drive, including Nottingham Green, Pheasant Run, Cherry Hill, Elan, Cherry Hill Manor, Barksdale Estates, Country Hills, Country Place, Abbotsford, and Briarcreek.
Thursday	Oaklands, Nottingham Manor, College Park, Westfield, West Branch, Christianstead, Timber Creek, Woodmere, and Stone Spring.
Friday	Southern area of the City, including Devon, Binns, Arbour Park, Silverbrook, Yorkshire, Yorkshire Woods, Cobblefield, and Cannon’s Gate.

HANDLOFF AND PHILLIPS PARKS SKATE SPOTS



The City of Newark officially opened its much anticipated skate board facilities at Handloff Park (August) and Phillips Park (October) of this year. They are a big hit!

The Handloff Park skate spot is a 2,800 square feet facility featuring two quarter pipes and a hubba ledge. It is constructed of poured in place concrete and is open from dawn to dusk. The Phillips Park skate spot is 2,600 square feet and features a bowled quarter pipe, quarter pipe, stairs, hand rail and a grind rail made from a section of rail from the Pomeroy and Newark rail road dating back to 1925. It is also constructed of poured in place concrete and lighted for use from dawn to 10 p.m.

The Parks and Recreation Department would like to thank Newark residents Tyler Jacobson, Jamie Magee, Lauren Gloss and Jennifer Egan for serving on its Skate Spot committee as well as the many local skate boarders who participated in creating the design for each facility.

The cost to construct the two skate facilities was \$176,432. The project was funded in Newark's Capital Improvement Budget (\$40,000), Delaware Land and Water Conservation Trust Fund grant program (\$85,000), and private donations totaling \$60,994. Grindline Skateparks Design and Construction was awarded the design-build contract for the project.

For more information about our skate spots, visit www.cityofnewarkde.us/parksrecreation or call the Parks and Recreation Department at (302) 366-7060.

Water Main Flushing

There is a new water main flushing schedule for 2014. Water main flushing will begin on Monday, March 30, 2014 and run through Friday, April 4 in all areas of the city. The city will no longer have designated days of the week for each neighborhood. This allows us to achieve better flushing results in each neighborhood.

**NEW
SCHEDULE**

For more information, call the Public works and Water Resources Department at (302) 366-7055. Please check the notice in your water bills, www.cityofnewarkde.us, social media, Newark TV 22, and read local papers for possible schedule changes.

Tips for Residents

- As flushing of water mains is conducted, you may experience fluctuations in water pressure and changes in water clarity. These changes are temporary.
- Residents are advised to postpone laundering, dish washing and showering between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. each day during this week to avoid discolored water and possible water pressure fluctuations.
- If your laundry becomes stained, keep the clothes wet and rewash with "Rust Rover" powder. Rust Rover packets are available from the Public Works and Water Resources Department located on the second floor of the Municipal Building.

InformMe provides you with the opportunity to select the city information you want to receive and the delivery method(s) through which you want to receive it. You automatically receive emergency alerts and may also choose to receive community alerts, which include service reminders, utility alerts, crime alerts, traffic alerts, etc. To sign up, go to

www.cityofnewarkde.us/InformMe





DOWNTOWN NEWARK

Save the Date

Downtown Newark's
New Nighttime Festival
Saturday, June 21, 2014
3 p.m. - 9 p.m.



Saturday, April 5

2 p.m. - 8 p.m.

No tickets required. Pay as you go.

Event takes place in Downtown Newark's restaurants

Must be 21 years of age with valid photo I.D. to
participate in wine tastings

Protect Yourself From Sewage Back Ups

The City of Newark maintains more than 100 miles of sanitary sewer mains located along road rights of way and utility easements. In spite of our best efforts, blockages of the mains do occur which can cause sewage to back up into homes and businesses.

The City is generally not responsible or liable for costs associated with the clean up and repair of damage caused by such an event.

Residents and business owners can take steps to protect themselves from these situations:

1. Standard property insurance typically excludes coverage for damage caused by water backing up into the structure. However, riders can be purchased that will cover some or all of the damages caused by sewage backing up into the home.
2. There are also circumstances where it may be prudent to install a back flow device to prevent water from backing up into the home or business. A plumber can help you determine if this would be a good choice.
3. Do not put fats, oils, grease, rags, cloth or disposable diapers, sanitary napkins, or paper products, other than toilet paper, down the drain. These items frequently cause problems in the mains and laterals that cause sewage to back up.

In the event that you experience a back up please call the Water and Wastewater Department at (302) 366-7055 (24 hours a day) and we will send a crew out as quickly as possible to determine where the blockage is located and clear the blockage if it is found to be in the sewer main. If the blockage is in the lateral, it is the responsibility of the property owner to make the necessary arrangements to have the line cleaned.

If you have questions regarding this information, please call the Water and Wastewater Department at (302) 366-7055 during normal business hours and we will do what we can to assist you.