

Mayor and Council,

Below is this week's weekly report. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Have a great weekend!

Highlights

1. HB1 and HB2, the marijuana legalization and regulation bills, passed into law this week without the Governor's signature. We are now in a place where possession of a personal use amount is legal but there are no legal methods to come into possession. Staff are working to update our personnel policies in accordance with guidance from our labor law attorneys. We are also still working to finalize a draft zoning ordinance to regulate the location of new dispensaries and identifying needed updates to our criminal codes. In the meantime, the police department, as described below, has issued guidance to our officers on how to handle possession in accordance with state law.
2. We have two Newark line workers that have agreed to participate in the Light up Navajo project through DEMEC. This is the second year we have participated in the program which brings electric service to members of the Navajo Nation who have never had electricity before. The Navajo Tribal Utility Authority is a fellow public power agency and Light up Navajo is a volunteer mutual aid program. DEMEC coordinates with our membership to identify a crew of four line workers each year to participate in the program. Information on Light up Navajo can be found here: <https://www.ntua.com/light-up-navajo.html>. You can also follow the project on DEMEC's Facebook page here: <https://www.facebook.com/DEMECINC>.
3. This Wednesday we recognized Administrative Professional's Day. Thank you to all of Newark's administrative professionals who help keep the City moving, we couldn't do it without you!
4. This Thursday was Bring Your Child to Work Day. We hosted 19 children this year and had a great time showing them what we do as part of our day to day duties.

Electric

1. The electric department held several training sessions for staff this week. We held OSHA training this week for line workers and forklift training this week for all electric employees.
2. We completed ground-hand interviews and have selected two candidates.

Purchasing and Facilities

1. CPPO Jeff Martindale received confirmation that Energize Delaware has accepted the City's first reimbursement request for the EV grant. This first draw is worth \$234,872.58 of the total \$490,000.00 received (48% of total grant).

2. Our Fleet Maintenance Division will soon pick up the Volkswagen ID.4 for our Electric Department discussed at Monday's Council meeting. The vehicle came in several days earlier than expected. We now have 4 of the 6 vehicles funded through the grant.
3. Jeff will also submit the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) pre-award documentation on Friday, 4/28, which will make Newark eligible for \$76,000 in federal grant funding later this year. Staff initially intends to focus on greenhouse gas inventory measurement project items with AECOM.
4. Jeff sat on a panel at a sustainability conference in Baltimore, MD on Thursday along with the Chief of the Energy and Climate Section with the Montgomery County Dept. of Environmental Protection and the Director of Energy Policy with Baltimore Gas & Electric (BG&E). The conversation focused on how vendors can assist clients find new federal funding to meet organizational conservation goals. It is noteworthy to see that Newark is considered a leader in the realm of sustainability along with much larger public and private agencies.

Public Works

1. The Freemont Road culvert replacement project is now substantially complete, several weeks ahead of schedule, and the road is again open to traffic. Thank you to City staff who worked on this project along side our contractor, ADEL, for their great work!
2. Briarcreek North: Site work is progressing well and utility improvements in Valley Road and Briarcreek Ct are substantially complete. Valley Road is scheduled to be open to traffic again by the end of business this Friday, 4/28.
3. Robscott Manor Park and Stream Restoration: PWWR attended the pre-con meeting for the Robscott Manor stream restoration project on Tuesday. The project includes restoration of approximately 1,600 linear feet of streambank in the Robscott neighborhood with a small segment of the project located in the Yorkshire Woods subdivision. The project is scheduled to start in mid-May with a contract duration of 308 calendar days. Estimated completion is March 2024. Residents immediately adjacent to the work area will be notified by DelDOT's contract in the next two weeks and PWWR will work with DelDOT and the Communications team to get notice out on social media regarding the project.
4. Arusha Village: Director Filasky attended the community meeting held last Sunday along with Mayor Markham to gather information and hear public feedback regarding a planned development outside of, but adjacent to the City. The development could affect our south well field, therefore, we are following along and will provide input as it relates to our well field.
5. Attended a meeting regarding phasing and detours for the I-95/896 interchange project which will be shared on DelDOT's project webpage: <https://95896improvements.com/>. There will be a formal groundbreaking for the 896/195 interchange project on Monday morning.
6. Upgrades to the water booster station serving the Evergreen community began early this week. Preliminary work is underway, and residents will be notified of any disruptions or traffic changes due to construction vehicles while this work progresses. The project is expected to take 3-4 months to complete.

Police

1. Last Saturday, April 22nd, NPD hosted the annual Prescription Drug Takeback. The event resulted in the recovery of 350 pounds of medication for destruction.
2. On Tuesday, April 25th, Chief Farrall and Lt. D'Elia attended an awards ceremony, hosted by the Knights of Columbus for M/Cpl. Carter McKennon and Cpl. Matt Coughlin who were recognized by the Knights of Columbus as the 3rd and 4th quarter, 2021 Officer of the Quarter recipients. This was the Knights first award meeting since COVID. They will host the 2022 awards later this year.
3. The police department has provided updated guidance, with respect to marijuana, to all sworn personnel with the implementation of HB1 – Legalization of Marijuana. The department will continue to work with the courts and Attorney General's office on the challenges presented with this new legislation.
4. On Wednesday, April 26th, Captain Van Campen and Lieutenant Nelson joined Victim Services Coordinator Melissa Penacchi at the Governor's proclamation signing, recognizing this week as Victim's Rights Week.
5. On Wednesday, April 26th, as part of ongoing outreach with community leaders, Chief Farrall met with Rabbi Vogel from the UD Chabad Center to discuss community events, safety, and security.
6. On Thursday, April 27th, Cpl. Rob Vernon was recognized by the Fusion Foundation as their April Officer of the Month. Cpl. Vernon selected the Supporting Kidds organization as the recipient of a \$1,000 donation on behalf of the Fusion Foundation and a check was presented to the organization at their facility.
7. On Friday, April 28th, Chief Farrall, along with Lieutenants Nelson, Rieger, Rubin and D'Elia will travel to Legislative Hall to represent Newark PD at the Delaware State Police 100th anniversary celebration. Newark PD congratulates DSP and recognizes our longstanding partnership with the agency.

Parks and Recreation

1. Fish stocking at Hillside Park was completed on 4/26 through a partnership with the Division of Fish and Wildlife. The pond was stocked with 40 bass and 150 blue gill, which will join the fish that currently exist within the pond. Fishing will be posted as Catch and release only, and a Delaware fishing license is required similarly to fishing elsewhere in the State.
2. The summer activity guide is out and registrations are being taken now.
3. The Parks Department is currently looking for camp counselors (must be at least 16 years old), summer maintenance workers (must be at least 18 years old), and a full-time horticulturalist (must be at least 18 years old).
4. We held an Arbor Day tree planting event at Downes Elementary School this Friday at noon.
5. This year's Community Clean Up was very successful. In total 140 bags were collected which had a total weight of 1320 lbs.

Finance

1. Accounting staff is currently preparing required reporting for the Treasury Department with regard to ARPA spending through April.