

Mayor and Council,

Below is the weekly report for the week ending today, July 21st, 2023. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Have a great weekend!

City Manager's Highlights

1. Items for Newsletters:

- a. Free Water for a Year initiative:** Newark Water customers are encouraged to complete the online survey at this link: <https://newarkde.gov/lead> to enter a sweepstakes for free water for a year, up to \$1000 value! The data collected will help complete a required inventory of service lines and reduce operating costs for the water utility. Please share with your newsletters and mailing lists.
- b. Upcoming City paving schedule (dependent on the weather):**
 - i. Caldwell Place and Lumbrook Park parking lot on Monday the 24th through Wednesday the 26th.
 - ii. East Park Place on Wednesday July 26. This work is expected to take approximately one week to complete. The contractor intends to detour one lane at a time, leaving the other lane open for travel with flaggers to direct traffic. Delays should be expected in the area.
- c. Library Ave and Route 273 Intersection:** The contractor is scheduled to complete all the major work in the intersection by July 24 (weather permitting). Minor items such as signal loops and striping requiring some lane closures will continue but mostly in the overnight hours.

Electric

1. Director Patel and Distribution Engineer Biedler gave a presentation on Solar Power 101 for the children at Camp Real.
2. Engineering met with UD this week to discuss the proposed power line easement across the farm that will serve STAR Campus. UD is working with the railroad to finalize property information for the substation that will be located on STAR campus as well.
3. Field crews responded to a vehicle accident on Academy Street this past Monday where a private refuse hauler hit a power line when dumping a dumpster. The accident resulted in two broken poles, required closure of the road, and took nearly the entire day to repair. The refuse company will be responsible to pay for the repair work.

Public Works

1. A contractor has recently treated the Hillside Park pond area for both algae and invasive vegetation. Some browning can be expected in the meadow area as these plants die and allow the native, beneficial plants to thrive.
2. Engineering staff met with New Castle County's Public Works Department this week along with the City Manager to discuss a successor agreement for the existing sewer interconnection contract which 40+ years old.
3. Engineering staff met with representatives from State Parks to discuss a potential easement for the proposed water booster station proposed to address low pressure in the higher elevation areas of Roseville Park.
4. Engineering met this week to review and discuss the proposed Safe Streets for All comprehensive safety action plan that is being prepared for all of New Castle County and a requirement for us to receive future grant funding from the program. Comments are due Wednesday the 26th.

Police

1. On Friday, July 21st, at 6pm, members of the Newark Police Department, in partnership with Parks & Rec will participate in the Fishing with First Responders Event at Hillside Park.
2. The department is also finalizing plans for National Night Out which will take place on Tuesday, August 1st at 6pm on Academy Street between East Main Street and Delaware Avenue. The event is a community favorite with participants including Newark PD, Aetna Hose, Hook & Ladder, UDPD, UD Emergency Care Unit, NCC Paramedics, Probation and Parole, the Delaware Air National Guard, DNREC, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The event will include free food and drinks, live music, and a variety of demonstrations from first responders.
3. On Monday, July 24th, police recruit Everett Brown will begin employment with Newark PD. Recruit Brown will begin the police academy with Recruit Riva in September. Additional police applicants are moving through the application process.

Facilities and Purchasing

1. Management has been working with Homeland Security on the grant for fencing and gates at the Police Station. The grant timeline may require the fence and gates be installed after the lot is paved so we will coordinate to have any underground infrastructure installed before paving. The pre-construction meeting for the City Hall parking lot project next week.
2. Facilities has scheduled a meeting with the Newark Historical Society next week to discuss their existing lease for the historic train station and the Bond Bill financing received for repairs.

Parks and Recreation

1. Fishing with First Responders is being held this Friday, July 21 from 6 – 8 p.m. at Hillside Park with representatives from Newark Police Department. There are currently 44 people registered for it and we have received donations from Eastern Marine.
2. Christmas in July is being held this Saturday, July 22 at the George Wilson Center from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
3. Parks & Recreation staff are helping Newark Police Department with set up for National Night Out scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 1
4. Parks staff continue to respond to reports of trees and limbs down from recent severe weather.

Planning and Development

1. Staff held their initial meeting with Tyler Enterprise Permitting and Licensing, previously known as EnerGov, this week and we have an official date for our three-day kick-off meeting and orientation: August 15th through 17th. This project is expected to take approximately 12 months to implement and will require a considerable amount of staff time.
2. Staff continues to spend time on the issues at Fountainview. We met with Councilwoman Ford and Representative Osienski this week to discuss the situation. Representative Osienski put us in contact with the Insurance Commissioner's office which was a helpful contact.
3. Staff met this week to discuss Council direction from this Monday night's meeting with regard to the rental permit process. We currently plan to bring back to council a draft plan with actual permit fees for a final discussion prior to formalizing an ordinance.
4. We are reviewing our internal processes and procedures to help streamline the review process for building permits to improve our turnaround time and prevent instances where a permit is delayed.
5. Our application for a supplemental census to address the 2020 census undercount due to COVID is nearly complete and will be submitted shortly.

Finance

1. The Finance Department was closed the morning of July 21st for training. They reopened to the public at noon.
2. The council chamber AV project is currently scheduled for August 1st through the 4th.
3. Staff continue to prepare the initial budget estimates. This week we met with Public Works which is always the most complicated budget to finalize. We have now met with all departments and will begin the process to roll up full figures for the first council discussion in August.