

Mayor and Council,

Below is the weekly report for the week ending today, August 18th, 2023. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Have a great weekend!

City Manager's Highlights

1. The 2024 budget process is in full swing. This week Finance Director Del Grande and I presented the initial budget presentation to Council. On August 28th the Administration, Parks and Recreation, and Planning and Development Departments will present their departmental presentations to Council. All information can be found (when available) on Budget Central. www.newarkde.gov/budget
2. The City's conversion to Tyler Enterprise Permitting and Licensing officially began this week with a three-day kickoff meeting series held by Tyler with all affected departments. This will be a 12-to-15-month long conversion that will take considerable staff time to complete. We are very excited for the improvements that it will provide, not only to internal processes but also the considerable public facing customer service improvements.
3. Off-campus student move-in has begun to ramp up this week and we anticipate a considerable push this weekend. UD's on-campus move in weekend is next weekend, the 25th through the 27th.

Items for Newsletters:

1. **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. **The first drawing will be held in early September, so get your surveys complete to be eligible!**
2. **Hillside Park:** Newark won the Water Resource Association of the Delaware River Basin's (WRADRB) "Parks and Places" Award for Hillside Park for exemplifying a resilient, community-based approach to overcoming the challenges of water quality and flooding by improving headwater conditions of Silver Brook, a tributary to the upper Christina River.

The award program recognizes leadership, innovation and excellence in the science and management of water resources within the Delaware Basin. Attached is the press release which lists this year's award recipients.

[WRADRB](#) is a nonprofit, non-partisan, advocacy and public information organization that promotes the science-based management of water resources within the Delaware River Basin to

protect water dependent uses and enhance the long-term sustainability and resiliency of the river system. WRADRB represents the water users and anyone dependent on, or interested in, the Basin's water resources. The association's territory covers 15 million people across 4 states, portions of 42 counties, and 868 municipalities, so Newark should be very proud to be recognized.

Public Works

1. Street Paving –
 - a. Madison and Dickey Park Parking Lot: Paving is underway in the College Park area and scheduled to be completed on or about August 25. Parking lot will be accessible for Park Dedication on 8/25.
 - b. Christiansted: Public Works and Water Resources will be handing out milling & paving notices to residents of Hidden Valley Drive & Haywood Court on 8/18/2023, with the intent to begin street resurfacing on Wednesday, 8/23/2023.
2. UD Student Move In: PWWR has been working with NPD and DelDOT to warn motorists and residents of the upcoming student move in August 25-27. Message boards will be placed on South College reminding residents to expect delays in the area during that time.

Police

1. Last week, Sgt. Darryl Saunders and Cpl. Andrew Pagnotti assisted with Newark Parks & Recreation events including the Bike Rodeo and Safe Kids Camp. Both events were well received.
2. On Friday, August 11, Cpl. Andrew Pagnotti, one of NPD's School Resource Officers, was recognized by the Friends of Fusion Foundation as their Officer of the Month. Cpl. Pagnotti was recognized for this award for his work as a School Resource Officer bridging the gap between law enforcement and school aged children. Cpl. Pagnotti is a strong mentor who dedicates countless hours attending school events, plays, musicals, and sporting and social events. In Cpl. Pagnotti's honor, the Friends of Fusion Foundation donated \$1,000 to the Delaware KIDS Fund, whose mission is to assist kids in distressed situations.
3. On Saturday, August 19th, NPD will assist with a back-to-school bookbag giveaway hosted by the New Heart Ministries. The event will be held at 280 East Main Street at 2pm.
4. This weekend, with the beginning of the fall semester for the University of Delaware, the Newark Police Department will initiate the fall crime suppression initiative placing officers in specific geographic areas in order to reduce incidents of criminal activity and violent crime.

Planning and Development

1. This week kicked off the Tyler Enterprise Permitting and Licensing (fka EnerGov) software implementation project. Staff from nearly all departments, including all three divisions of Planning and Development, spent three days with an onsite project manager from Tyler learning about the software and documenting the City's processes for programming. The project manager commented that he was impressed with the buy-in from staff and believed that would be helpful in speeding up implementation of the project. The project is scheduled to have 118 eight-hour working days over the next 12 to 15 months, so this is expected to take up significant staff bandwidth for the length of the project.
2. Land Use Division
 - a. Staff received all comments from the departments for the July 31 submission for a rezoning, major subdivision with site plan approval and street vacation for the Newark Housing Authority project located at 313 East Main Street. A comment letter is expected to be issued by the end of this week. This project was reviewed under the new expedited review process adopted by Council for affordable housing, resulting in a three-week turnaround instead of a two to three month review period.
 - b. Planning Commission met on August 15. At that meeting, they recommended approval 5-0 for the minor subdivision and three special use permits for 1105 Elkton Road and a code amendment regarding BB front and side yard setbacks. The Commission also had an initial presentation and discussion regarding inclusionary zoning, which is also on the Council agenda for August 21.
 - c. Board of Adjustment met on August 17. At that meeting, they approved the variance requests for 109 Timberline Drive and 301 Possum Park Road were approved 5-0. The variance for 39 Choate Street was denied 5-0.
3. Code Enforcement
 - a. The apartments at 96 East Main Street have been approved for temporary certificates of occupancy for all units with move in taking place on August 16 and 18.
 - b. 305 Ashley Road was condemned due to damage from a fire.
 - c. The tenant fit-out permit was issued for 145 East Main Street for the new Helen's Sausage House location.
4. Parking
 - a. Peak parking rates have gone back into effect as of August 16. Off-street parking is \$2.00 per hour and on-street parking is \$2.25 per hour. Staff spent extensive time working with Passport to update the app and programming the kiosks and placing signage informing customers of the rate increase.
 - b. Cameras were installed on Parking vehicles this week, which have already been used to review footage to handle a customer complaint.
 - c. Staff worked with the developer and surrounding property owners for the impending demolition of 132-138 East Main Street, including moving parking kiosks for safer access for the public and moving dumpsters to provide better access for trash pickup while fencing is in place.

Finance

1. PUB was closed for the day on 8/16 so staff for professional development. PUB team is working on their customer service certification, which is fully sponsored by DEMEC.

2. The City experienced a brief network outage the morning of 8/12. IT was quickly able to repair the failed piece of hardware, restoring service. As part of our continuing efforts to improve our IT infrastructure, we are planning on a small outage in the near future.
3. The Council Chamber AV project is completed. System has been tested, and was used for a CAC meeting, Council meeting, and other internal meetings. System has worked very well, but will require a couple small refinements that we plan to make in the immediate future.
4. We have been working diligently on the 2024 proposed budget. City Manager Coleman and Director Del Grande presented the 2024 overview on 8/14. We are now preparing for Parks, Planning and Administration's budget presentations to Council on 8/21. All information can be found (when available) on Budget Central. www.newarkde.gov/budget

Electric

1. Our team has installed a new transformer for Office Building #800 in the Mill at White Clay development project. We also replaced a damaged 12kV bushing on the EM9 unit at the East Main substation, performed emergency tree trimming on Radcliffe to ensure the safety of the power lines, and replaced the damaged 35kV recloser.
2. Our electricians successfully repaired the flashing school lights on Delaware Ave and checked the other school lights in town to ensure they are working correctly and are ready for the upcoming school session.
3. The Engineering team attended the Grid Modernization Workgroup meeting with DEMEC. Furthermore, Engineering and IT have collaborated to develop reports using our AMI data to gather customer peak information per feeder. This report will be beneficial in studying the feeder loads.
4. Director Patel attended the DEMEC distribution managers committee meeting, where we discussed Under Frequency Load Shedding and reviewed the emergency spare transformer survey. We also talked about the emergency manual load dump process.



WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION OF THE DELAWARE RIVER BASIN

WRA Announces 2023 Water Resources Award Winners

For Immediate Release

August 10, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (PA, NJ, DE, NY) – The Water Resources Association of the Delaware River Basin (WRA) today announced the winners of the 2023 Water Resources Awards, recognizing leadership, innovation and excellence in the science and management of water resources within the Delaware Basin.

“These awardees provide inspiration, templates for future projects, and a suite of technical tools that can help us build resilience and promote sustainability in the Delaware River Basin and beyond,” said Jennifer Garigliano, WRA Board President.

Awards will be presented at [WRA’s 40th Annual Awards Gala](#) on September 21st at the beautiful Fairmount Water Works in Philadelphia.

2023 Awardees are:

SAMUEL S. BAXTER MEMORIAL AWARD: *Russell J. Furnari in recognition of his significant contributions advancing sustainability through his expertise, leadership, and remarkable ability to forge partnerships and promote collaborative solutions to challenges in the water and energy sectors in the Delaware River Basin.*

DR. RUTH PATRICK EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARD: *The Nurture Nature Center for outstanding leadership in engaging, educating and empowering communities to prepare for and mitigate climate related risks and promote resilience throughout the Delaware River Basin.*

PARKS AND PLACES AWARD: *City of Newark, Delaware – Hillside Park for exemplifying a resilient, community-based approach to overcoming the challenges of water quality and flooding by improving headwater conditions of Silver Brook, a tributary to the upper Christina River.*

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD: *The Academy of Natural Sciences for their continued contributions to the Delaware River Basin with an innovative environmental justice mapping*



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tool developed by scientists from the Academy's Patrick Center for Environmental Research (PCER) to prioritize green stormwater infrastructure investment within underserved Philadelphia neighborhoods.

GOVERNMENT AWARD: The Philadelphia Water Department *in recognition of PWD's highly innovative and forward-looking Climate Change Adaptation Program (CCAP) providing a roadmap for Philadelphia and others to develop an actionable risk-based approach to planning, design, operations, and management of drinking water, stormwater management, and wastewater treatment.*

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: Gary W. Snyder *for a career dedicated to improving water resources in the Greater Philadelphia area through technical expertise, leadership, mentoring and an unflinching commitment to finding solutions through collaboration across sectors, municipalities, and technical disciplines.*

INNOVATION AND COLLABORATION AWARD - Government Agency: The City of Camden, New Jersey, Camden County and the Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority *for their transformational commitment to clean, accessible and sustainable water resources while building an economically thriving and dynamic waterfront and nurturing a spirit of community to address ongoing water quality and water equity challenges.*

INNOVATION AND COLLABORATION AWARD - Research: Dr. Franco Montalto, Director of Drexel University's Sustainable Water Resource Engineering *for dedicated leadership to advance cutting edge science and innovative technologies to protect communities from climate related flood risk and to enable historically disadvantaged communities to proactively partner with Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority to improve their neighborhoods.*

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY AWARD: Vicinity Energy *for designing and implementing an innovative solution for a more sustainable water supply to critical components within the district energy system, providing a continuous, reliable, and low-carbon energy source and playing a significant role in fulfilling the City of Philadelphia's commitment to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.*



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Contact: Skelly Holmbeck, Executive Director, 561.707.3186, ed@wradrb.org

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WRADRB was established in 1959 by representatives from industry, public and private utilities and other organizations that had wide-ranging interests in water resources and sought to ensure public participation in the management of the Delaware River and its tributaries.

In 1961, the WRADRB successfully participated in the development of a federal-interstate compact and the creation of the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC). Since then, WRADRB has remained active in monitoring activities of the DRBC and other agencies of the four Basin states.



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