

Mayor and Council,

Below is the weekly report for the week ending today, August 25, 2023.

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. **Academy Street Beer Garden:** We are excited to announce that we will be partnering with Hamilton's on Main again this fall for a series of beer gardens to benefit Aetna Hose Hook and Ladder. Stay tuned to our social media for the schedule and more information on specific themed events!

Public Works

1. **Street Paving – Madison and Dickey Park Parking Lot:** Paving at Madison Drive, Madison Drive Extension, Quincy Drive & Dickey Park is complete. The contractor has since mobilized to Christianstead to begin street resurfacing at Hidden Valley Drive & Haywood Court. Milling and paving operations in Christianstead is ongoing and is anticipated to be completed by Tuesday, 8/29. Following the completion of Christianstead, the contractor will be mobilizing to Ridgewood Glen to begin work at Shenandoah Drive & Woodsong Circle.
2. **UD Student Move In:**
 - a. PWWR has been working with NPD, DelDOT and UD on traffic plans for move-in weekend. Immediately following move-in weekend, Academy Street is scheduled to be closed on Monday for the University's Fall Involvement Fair. Academy Street will be closed between Lovett Avenue and Courtney Street beginning Monday, 8/28 from 6am – 6pm. Motorist should expect delays and follow the posted detour in this area.
 - b. PWWR staff will be out during student move-in weekend to hand out educational flyers to returning students regarding refuse and recycling operations and schedules. This has proven to be an effective messaging strategy in past years to reduce the number of refuse violations and minimize nuisance trash issues following initial move-in.
3. **Evergreen Booster Station Upgrades:** We will begin the first phase of improvements at the Evergreen booster station next week. The booster station will be outfitted with new pumps that maintain system pressure and provide fire flow in the Evergreen development exclusively. The existing building will be updated with a new roof, electrical components including instrumentation to monitor and control the station remotely, and other security improvements. The first phase of this project will begin next Monday. Residents of Evergreen have been notified

about the project and what to expect in the way of service disruptions, temporary drops in pressure, and planned boil water advisory necessary to complete the work. Additional notices will be sent to residents as necessary.

Facilities and Purchasing

1. Parking Lot Reconstruction: we are nearing completion of the permit review process for this project and currently estimate work to begin on Tuesday, September 5th. CPPO Jeff Martindale will work with NPD, municipal services staff, and Communications to make sure staff and residents are aware of temporary parking closures of the Municipal Center lot for the construction work.
2. Council Chamber renovations: we are nearing the end of the design phase of the ADA/security upgrades for the Council Chamber. CPPO Martindale will discuss this item with Council prior to putting the project out to bid to make sure all stakeholders agree with the project items before we proceed.
3. George Wilson Center/Train Station Restoration: CPPO Martindale will work with one of our engineering consultants to put bid plans together for these improvements. Tentative construction timelines are Fall 2024 for the train station and Spring 2025 for the GWC.

Police

1. We have hired two more police officer candidates whose first day will be this coming Monday, August 28th. They will enter the State Police Academy beginning September 11th.
2. We have three police officers graduating from the current State Police Academy. The graduation ceremony is next week, August 31st.

Parks and Recreation

1. We held the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Dickey Park Community Garden on Friday the 25th. Thank you to everyone who came out for the event and to all of those involved in the creation of the garden.
2. This weekend will be the final days before we close the City's pools for the season.
3. A local boy scout troop will install catfish spawning boxes in the pond at Hillside Park this Saturday, August 16th. City staff will be on-hand to supervise the installation.

Finance

1. Accounting staff has been working with the departments individual budget hearings. On 8/28 Parks and Recreation, Administration and Planning and Development will be presenting their

recommendations to Council. Link to the presentations can be found on Budget Central:
www.newarkde.gov/budget

2. Staff has been working with the departments to help secure revised delivery dates for the 38 pieces of equipment included in the 2023 Master Lease Agreement. To date, only 7 pieces of equipment have been received. Four refuse trucks are now projected to arrive in early 2024. Equipment delays are resulting in higher maintenance costs, as one refuse truck to be replaced just received a new transmission. The fifteen Durango Pursuit vehicles, expect to arrive in July, still have an underdetermined delivery date. We have been waiting almost two years for some pieces of equipment.
3. Director Del Grande, Deputy Director Hollander, and the City's external audit firm (CLA) presented the results of the 2022 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report to Council. CLA reported a successful engagement with the City receiving the highest opinion (unmodified). In addition, Deputy Hollander and her team implemented GASB87, which included the incorporation of the City's leases into our statements to improve transparency. Deputy Hollander and her team are to be commended for another successful audit, while still managing the day-to-day business of the Accounting office. 2022 ACFR can be found here: 4A (newarkde.gov)