

Below is the weekly report for the week ending today, October 6th, 2023.

Items for Newsletters:

1. **Annual Water Main Flushing Program**: Our water main flushing program officially kicked off on Monday, October 2, 2023. This week's flushing operations have been successful with minimal impacts to residents and customers. Water main flushing is necessary to test hydrant functionality and ensure adequate flow and pressure is available in our water distribution system. Flushing removes sediment from the pipes to help improve water clarity and quality. Flushing operations will continue Monday, October 9th at 10:00pm with an anticipated completion date of Thursday, October 12th.
2. **Free Water for a Year initiative**: We have our first winner! 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. **Congrats to our first winner, Amy from District 3!! Our next drawing will be held in early December, so get your surveys complete for a chance to win. A list of FAQs has been developed and added to our website and Social Media sites.**
3. **Academy Street Beer Garden**: This week's beer garden was unfortunately cancelled due to the weather forecast. The next Aetna HHL fundraiser beer garden is scheduled for October 5th on Academy Street with Hamilton's on Main as the restaurant partner. Below is a listing of dates and themes for the remaining 6 weeks of this event:

10/12 – Dog Costume Contest
10/19 – Wine Tasting
10/26 – Halloween Costume Contest
4. **George Wilson Center**: We are now taking 2024 rental requests for the George Wilson Center.
5. **Halloween Parade and Trick or Treat Main Street**: Registrations are being taken for the Halloween parade and Trick or Treat Main Street event that will be held on Main Street on Sunday, October 29. The parade steps onto the Main Street at 3:00 and Trick or Treat Main Street begins following the parade.

Public Works and Water Resources

1. **ADA Transition Plan**: Engineering staff held the pre-construction meeting for the ADA Transition Plan project this week. This year's contract includes the reconstruction of twenty-one (21) ADA curb ramps throughout the City. We intend to issue notice to proceed to the contractor on or about Monday, October 9th. The improvements will take just under two months and will be completed well before colder temperatures prevent installation of new concrete. All areas will be restored and stabilized following the work and the contractor will return in the spring to address any disturbed grass areas that do not germinate completely.

Electric

1. As part of our ongoing efforts to maintain and upgrade our infrastructure, we have undertaken a critical project to replace the aging oil circuit breaker at the Fremont Substation, which has been in service for the past 48 years. This replacement is necessary to ensure the safety and reliability of the substation. Additionally, we are upgrading the relay and communication equipment at the substation to improve its performance and capabilities. During this period of upgrades and replacements, there will be an outage at the Fremont Substation that is expected to last for approximately one and a half months. We understand this may cause some inconvenience, but we have taken all necessary measures to transfer the loads from the Fremont Substation to other circuits.

Police

1. On Wednesday, October 4th, NPD School Resource Officer's participated in the Downes Elementary Walk to School Day.
2. Throughout the week NPD officers and Command Staff visited a total of fifteen Newark Churches as part of the National Faith and Blue program. The goal of Faith and Blue is to bring faith-based organizations and their congregations together with police departments as one united community. On Sunday, October 8th, from 11am to 3pm NPD will host a Faith and Blue Barbeque at Dickey Park. The event is open to all members of the community, and we will be serving hamburgers, hotdogs, pizza, snacks, and drinks. UDairy Creamery will be present with ice cream. The event will include music, games, a bounce house, and the Newark Police Athletic League (PAL) Mobile trailer with video games. The New Castle County Police Department will also be in attendance with their Mounted Unit and the University of Delaware will have a dunk tank area. NPD K9's will be on hand to conduct a K9 demonstration.

Communications

1. The dedication ceremony for the Sharon Hughes pavilion is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 20 at 10am. Please RSVP to CCO Gravel Horsey no later than Wednesday, Oct. 18
2. Staff and dependent (council included) vaccine clinic is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 12 in council chamber from 8-11am.

Planning and Development

1. Land Use
 - a. Planning Commission met on October 3, where they recommended the proposed convenience store with gas pumps at 1115 South College Avenue (formerly Friendly's) be approved by Council, reviewed a presentation from The Newark Partnership, raised the

possibility of reviving the accessory dwelling units discussion with revisions at a future meeting and requesting outreach to New Castle County to have additional discussion regarding the proposed new library. The next Planning Commission meeting is a special meeting to review the 2024-2028 Capital Improvement Program on October 17.

- b. Staff received a second submission for the Comprehensive Plan amendment, rezoning, and major subdivision by site plan approval for [339, 341 and 349 East Main Street](#) on October 3.
 - c. Staff issued a Subdivision Advisory Committee comment letter for the Comprehensive Plan amendment, rezoning, and minor subdivision by site plan approval for [50 and 54 Corbit Street](#) on October 5.
 - d. The Community Development/Revenue Sharing Advisory Committee held its first meeting for the 2024 grant review cycle on October 5. The next meeting will be held on October 25.
 - e. Ucity officially sunset on September 29. All buses were retrieved from UD on October 2 and transferred to DART on October 3.
2. Code Enforcement
- a. The building permit for the reconstruction project at Fountainview Building 3000 was issued and picked up by the contractor on October 5. An update letter to the residents of Fountainview was sent on October 6 via mail and email.
 - b. 3001 Compass Way (Building #1 of The Compass at The Grove) has received permanent Certificates of Occupancy for all units and a permanent Certificate of Completion for the building.
 - c. Court summonses were filed under the nuisance property ordinance for the owners of 1 Holton Place and 232 Kells Avenue.
 - d. Certificates of occupancy have begun to be issued for units at Briarcreek North.
3. Parking
- a. The Division welcomed new part-time Parking Ambassador Julian Paul this week. Two additional new hires are slated to start on October 16.
 - b. Parking is reviewing the current online appeals policies since the City is approaching the one-year mark on the citation pricing changes. While the discounted fine time period is not being proposed for changes, staff is looking at the potential extension of the timeline for online appeals from 15 days to 30 days to make it easier for customers to appeal and to reduce the need for in person appeals at the Alderman's Court. This will be determined prior to the ordering of new citation rolls so any updates can be included.
 - c. Staff again are attempting to schedule the first meeting of the Parking Advisory Committee. There are currently two vacancies on the seven person committee and a quorum of four members is required for any meeting.

Parks and Recreation

1. Staff are preparing for the annual Delaware State License inspection for the before school and after school care program at West Park Elementary School.
2. The rehabilitation and repairs at the Lumbrook Park Basketball Court have been completed and the court is open.

3. Parks Staff have been spreading mulch and wood carpet, mowing, traffic island maintenance and tree work throughout the park system.