

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

September 25, 2009

Electric

On the second day of the yearly infrared scan of our aerial lines, we found two hot spots which were hazardous enough to fix immediately. The line crews worked at College Square Shopping Center behind Pep Boys and at Casho Mill and Dallam Roads to prevent impending outages caused by overheating connections.

The line crews have finished the pole hardware and transformer changeouts at the UD Farm for the 4kV to 12kV voltage upgrade. A new primary metering point needs to be built and scheduling a 4 hour shut down for the tie-in are all that remains to transfer the load.

Engineering met with UD designers and contractors about the new chiller plant and engineering building to be built on Lovett Avenue. The City needs to supply 13MW of load for this project by completion and ground breaking will start late next year.

Enterwise, a DEMEC contractor, finished installing the kVAR pulses from Delmarva's metering at Kershaw substation. Two weeks ago, a new cable was run from our relay house to Delmarva's metering point by our electricians. Now the City's total loads and the power factor are visible online to engineering through DEMEC's website.

Parks & Recreation

Administration – Charlie Emerson:

Tom Zaleski, Park Superintendent, and I met with a representative of Delaware State Parks and the Delaware Trail Spinners to discuss phase II of our trail realignment project at Redd Park.

I spent some time this week preparing for a forum I'll take part in, along with Mike Fortner on October 7. The forum will focus on healthy living and active communities. We'll highlight on the successes of the Hall Trail, the planned Pomeroy Trail, potential economic benefits to the community and the connectivity of our trail system.

I reviewed the Construction Improvement Plan for the 108 East Main Street redevelopment project.

Recreation – Joe Spadafino:

We are working on initial planning of winter/spring activities in these areas: contacted instructors to check on availability, started collaboration with Recreation Specialists regarding upcoming programs and changeover and contacted new instructors regarding possible new programs.

Our fall swim lessons started Saturday. The program coordinator prepared lesson plans and met with the swim lesson instructors to ensure all was ready to go.

The 38th annual Community Day was held and a good crowd showed up to enjoy the day. Final preparations continued all week with confirming performers and assigning late registering vendors. With over 350 vendors in attendance, the great weather, the good crowd and the hard work of the staff, the day was a success.

Parks & Horticulture – Tom Zaleski:

We attended the semi-final walk through for the Redd Park Trail Rehab project late last week. The project is now complete. Many thanks to the Public Works Department for their technical assistance.

Parks personnel committed a great deal of time loading trucks preparing for Community Day and unloading and storing materials after the event.

We committed time this week painting the playing lines on certain outdoor basketball courts.

The Rittenhouse Park entrance gate has been repaired. Let's hope we can avoid vandals.

The Public Works Department paint crew painted the lines at certain park parking lots. Thanks for the assistance.

We constructed a vent hood at the police building in an attempt to prevent rain water from entering the building through the vent.

Police

The Fall Crime Initiative continues to run smoothly. To date, there have been no street robberies. On Friday, September 18th, a male was assaulted while attempting to break-up a fight at the East End Café. The suspect was arrested by Newark Police. On Sunday, September 20th, a male was assaulted by a suspect after both parties left Grottos Pizza. The suspect was arrested by Newark Police. In addition, the following arrests were made: 11 criminal arrests, 1 drug arrest, 15 noise violation arrests, 19 alcohol arrests and 1 arrest for Driving Under the Influence.

On Friday, September 18th, officers arrested a 19 year-old city resident for possession of marijuana and for cultivating and manufacturing marijuana.

On Monday, September 21st, City Manager Kyle Sonnenberg promoted Dennis Aniunas to the rank of Sergeant and Andrew Rubin to the rank of Master Corporal. The promotion ceremony was held in City Council Chamber. Mayor Funk

commended the officers for their achievement and thanked the families for attending. Councilmember Tuttle spoke to the officers and audience on behalf of City Council.

Planning & Development

Planning

This week, the Department hosted a Subdivision Advisory Committee meeting to review an application for a rezoning from BN (neighborhood commercial) to BB (central business district), major subdivision and special use permit for a .227 acre property located at 109-111 Elkton Road. Departmental comments are being forwarded to the developer.

The agenda for the October 6, 2009 Planning Commission meeting was advertised this week. Agenda items include:

1. Election of Planning Commission Officers
2. Amendments to the Zoning Code and the Subdivision and Development Regulations updating Newark's environmental and aesthetic standards, including wetlands and riparian protections and buffers; steep slope protections; landscaping and mature tree protection; and establishing a downtown above ground utility impact fee. [Tabled August 4, 2009]

On Thursday, Planner Mike Fortner attended a meeting of the Newark Bicycle Committee. The committee is working on an update to the City's 2002 Bicycle Plan.

Economic Development

Contract review and design options for the Downtown Newark Gift Card Program took considerable time again this week, but we are happy to report that all concerns have been addressed and a kick-off meeting for the new program is scheduled for this afternoon with the vendor. We hope to have the new gift card program up and running by this holiday shopping season.

Some time was spent this week assisting Mayor Funk with preparations for the 6th Annual Taste of Newark scheduled for this Sunday, September 27th from 12 – 3 PM on Old College Lawn. Forty six (46) restaurants are participating this year in what is the biggest fundraising event of the year for the Downtown Newark Partnership.

Community Development

On Sunday, Planner Mike Fortner manned the Downtown Newark Partnership's booths at Community Day, with the assistance of many volunteers. The event itself, and the DNP booths, were very successful.

Parking

On Monday morning Codes Inspection Supervisor Steve Wilson, Parking Administrator Marvin Howard and I met with Lang Development Group to discuss the lay-down and parking needs for the redevelopment project at 108 E. Main Street, which is located directly on municipal lot #3.

This week the new insertion signs for the parking meters were received. The new sign plates, which are light-reflective and clearly state the hours of meter operation in font size large enough to read, are currently being installed. We anticipate that all meters citywide will have the new signage by Friday.

Public Works

Engineering

- Contract 09-03 – 2009 Street Improvement Program: Mumford & Miller Concrete Inc. (along with curb subcontractors) worked on Devon Drive, Briar Lane, and Hanover Place and completed the following:

- 1) 70.5 s.f. of 6" p.c.c. driveway apron replacement
- 2) 146.1 s.f. of 4" p.c.c. sidewalk replacement at handicap ramps
- 3) 16.0 s.f. of red truncated dome block installation at ramps
- 4) (3) single catch basin adjustments and p.c.c. bonnet pours
- 5) 50.5 l.f. of saw cut for curb, sidewalk, or apron removal
- 6) 1,039.1 l.f. of p.c.c. rolled curb replacement

*Contractors used 65 c.y. of DelDOT Class B concrete in above pours.

Mumford & Miller Concrete Inc. worked on road patches on Darwin Drive and (2) locations on Kirkwood Highway and completed the following.

- 1) 299.6 s.y./in. of milling
- 2) 6.05 tons of base hot mix installation
- 3) 17.30 tons of top hot mix installation

- Contract 09-06 – Handicap Ramps: Paoli Services completed the following on Kells Avenue:

- 1) Installed 462 sq. ft. of 4" p.c.c. sidewalks for handicap ramps.
- 2) Installed 44.6 sq. ft. of red truncated domes
- 3) Installed 58.6 l.f. of 6" vertical curb
- 4) Installed 2.5 l.f. of integral curb and gutter
- 5) Hot mix patched 25.6 s.y.'s on Benny Street and Continental Avenue.

Survey Crew

- Marked-out 2,100 l.f. +/- of street lines on Bellevue Road for stripe painting.

Field Operations/Streets

- Concrete crews excavated, formed, and poured 60 ft. of rolled curb at 738 Art Lane and also poured new bonnet around catch basin at the entrance to Sandy Brae Industrial Park.
- Street crews repaired brick pavers on Main Street in front of the following businesses: Café Napoli, Iron Hill Brewery, and Formal Affairs.
- Street crews removed blockage of debris from the bridge on Bellevue Road.
- Hot mix crews applied base hot mix from previously poured new curb at 734 Art Lane.
- Sign truck repaired and replaced signs and poles as needed and applied white thermoplastic for parking spaces at the following parks: Kells Park, Phillips Park, and Fairfield Park.
- Street crews painted yellow curb on Margaret Street for the Parking Division.
- Street crews implemented detours and road closures, and assisted the Parks Department with Community Day festivities.

Water & Wastewater

I have received the archaeological report from the State regarding the survey done at the sewer crossing site. I will be forwarding this information to the Corps of Engineers for them to use in their permit review process. As I indicated previously, the report indicates that nothing of significance was found except for three old nails.

Last week I attended the annual meeting of all the Delaware River Basin partners to discuss progress to date and activities related to efforts to clean up the rivers in the Delaware river watershed. A central part of the discussion was the establishment of a sustainable funding mechanism such as storm water utility so that restoration efforts are not limited by the grants that might be available at a given time. We would hope that we could eventually have a source of funds such as the Chesapeake Bay clean up initiative.

I attended the monthly business and directors meeting of the One Call Utility Locate for the Delmarva area. I am a candidate for a director position for the coming term. Involvement being what it is I should be a shoe in for election.

City Manager's Office

Personnel/Labor Relations – Charlie Zusag:

Supplies for the annual United Way fund-raising drive were received this week.

The labor-management health and dental insurance committee has reviewed the rate renewal proposals from Blue Cross. Representatives from each employee group are now polling their members on several proposed changes to the design of the health insurance plans. These changes would increase employee co-insurance payments

for items such as doctor visits, emergency room visits, hospital admissions, and prescription drugs. The employee groups are also deliberating on the issue of domestic partner benefits. If these changes are not adopted, the City's health insurance premium rates will increase in 2010 by 12.9% (\$380,000). Approval of these design changes will reduce that increase to 4.3% (\$127,000). The committee directed the City's consultant to seek rate proposals from other dental insurance carriers after the City's current carrier proposed a 24.9% premium increase for 2010. The committee will meet again on Wednesday, October 7th to take formal action on these proposals.

KRS/mp