

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

October 23, 2009

Public Works

Engineering/Planning and Inspection:

- Contract 09-03; 2009 Street Improvement Program: Mumford & Miller Concrete, Inc. (and subcontractors) worked on Briar Lane, Julie Lane, Timberline Drive, and Hanover Place and completed the following.
 - 1) 1.8 c.y. of excavation of hot mix driveway patches
 - 2) 204.5 s.f. of 4" p.c.c. sidewalk for handicap ramps
 - 3) 16.0 s.f. of red truncated dome blocks at handicap ramps
 - 4) (2) single catch basin adjustments and bonnet pours
 - 5) (3) storm sewer manhole adjustments and collar pours
 - 6) 10,064.2 s.y./in. of milling of existing road surface
 - 7) 358.66 tons of base hot mix installation
 - 8) 162.95 tons of top hot mix installation
 - 9) 3.60 tons of top hot mix patching in driveways
 - 10) 157.2 s.f. of p.c.c. rolled curb replacement
 - 11) 202.4 l.f. of p.c.c. integral curb and gutter replacement
 - 12) 42.0 l.f. of saw cutting for concrete removal*Contractors used 43.0 c.y. of DeIDOT Class B concrete in above pours.
- White Clay Vista: Spoke to Five Rivers Group project manager about the status of the redesign of the S.W.M. emergency spillway on site. Proposed changes are in the works and site engineer will be submitting proposed changes for review in the near future.
- Contract 09-06 – Handicap Ramps: Paoli Services worked on excavation of curb and gutter and removal of 4" p.c.c. sidewalks on North Street and Ray Street.

Survey Crew

- Completed original letters for Phase 2.7 and began process of mailing letters to a small group of residents to "test" electronic return receipt.
- Continued the archiving of the Development Tracings into digital format.
- Measured and graded 54.2 l.f. of grades on Julie Lane for curb replacement.
- Hand delivered notices along Hanover Place alerting residents of re-paving for this year's street contract.

Miscellaneous Sidewalks:

- First Class Concrete replaced a total of 1004 s.f. of 4" p.c.c. sidewalks and 82 s.f. of 6" p.c.c. sidewalks along Hillside Road. Contractor used 17 c.y.'s of 3500 p.s.i. and 4000 p.s.i. concrete.

Field Operations/Streets:

- Crack sealing crews repaired cracks at the following locations: Apple Road, Yorkshire Woods, the intersection of Academy Street & Park Place, the intersection of Townsend Road and Winslow Road, and the city yard.
- Street crews backfilled, top soiled, and seeded previously poured curb at 321 Stamford Drive.
- Hot mix crews excavated and applied 700 s.f. of hot mix at 321 Stamford Drive.
- Catch basin crew rebuilt the catch basin at 1 S. Wynwyd Drive.
- Sign truck repaired and replaced signs and poles as needed and applied thermoplastic to the parking lot at Handloff Park for parking stalls for the Parks Department.
- Street crews continued priming and painting leaf boxes in prep work for leaf collection.
- Vac-all completed catch basin cleaning schedules and began working on leaf collection.
- Street crews began fall leaf collection this past Monday, 10/19/09.
- Street crews checked all bridges and culverts for blockages.

Water & Wastewater

I have been reviewing the lease agreement with Clear Wire for the placement of communication equipment on the Windy Hills tank. I will be finalizing the comments this week after discussions with the City Solicitor.

I have been working on the easement requirements for the sewer line repairs along the Christina Creek. I am coordinating the transfer of one piece of property over which the sewer line runs from the Arbour Park Civic Association to the City of Newark. The Civic Association would like to give us the property.

I have been preparing a Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit application for some sewer line repair work. A pipe has been exposed in a ditch that drains into the White Clay Creek. This work will recover and protect the pipe. Jerry Kauffman at the WRA has been helping me with this activity.

Electric

The line crews changed two danger poles found by our pole testing contractor. One was on Willa Road and the other was at Newark High School. Also, the linemen and engineering personnel switched circuits to de-energize and repair several hot spots

from the infrared scan – four on the 34kV system and two on 4kV at Phillips Avenue substation.

While switching the aforementioned 34kV circuits it was found that the signals relaying load information back to City Hall were not adding up properly. After troubleshooting the problem, the electricians are installing another totalizing board for rectification.

A primary cable failed at Pine Brook Apartments and a secondary failure at Studio Green occurred almost simultaneously yesterday. The primary was rerouted to restore power and a new cable is being pulled in. The secondary cable fault was located and repaired.

An interference complaint by Comcast personnel was investigated at The Woods at Louviers. A suspect lightning arrestor was changed, but did not alleviate the problem. With the help of a ham-radio operator and a sophisticated frequency analyzer, the problem location may have been pinpointed but because the crews were busy working on the cable failures, repair has been delayed. Future update pending.

Parks & Recreation

Administration – Charlie Emerson:

As part of an internal restructuring effort we have shifted the responsibilities for administering our Adopt-A-Park/Stream program to Recreation Supervisor Sharon Bruen.

I attended the monthly Newark Bicycle Committee meeting last Thursday. The committee will focus its energies in the near term on these areas: infrastructure, parking, education, encouragement and enforcement.

We are continuing to work with a lighting manufacturer and Pennoni to get the final data we need for preparing specifications for the Pomeroy Trail contract.

We received price quotes for the purchase of a new play unit for Dickey Park. The play unit, designed for children ages 2–5 years, is funded through the 35th Year Community Development Block Grant program. Installation will be done in-house and will be completed late this fall or during the winter months.

We completed an inspection of the Marrows Road Sports Complex for the purpose of releasing the landscape surety bond at the end of the two (2) year warranty period.

Recreation – Joe Spadafino:

Recreation Supervisor of Athletics conducted four basketball skills session for our youth leagues with assistance from the department intern. Participants went through a series of drills while coaches from the leagues were present to observe.

Recreation Supervisor of Athletics and department intern continued to solicit teams for the Toys for Kids Charity Softball Tournament scheduled for this weekend. She also completed the shirt design, contacted the charities involved and completed a work order for field preparation.

The Community Events staff have been preparing for the Halloween Parade and Trick-or-Treat Main Street: accepting applications, assigning line up locations, recruiting volunteers and receiving prize donations. The event is scheduled for this Sunday beginning at 3 p.m. Parade staging will take place at George Read Park and Newark High School. At 3 p.m. the parade units will file onto Tyre Avenue to Main Street and proceed west on Main Street where it will disperse at North and South College Avenue.

The Recreation Superintendent met with the Community Affairs Officer regarding the upcoming Winter/Spring E-Newsletter as well as other ways to market our programs and activities in response to the elimination of the newsletter.

The Recreation Supervisor of Community Events and I met with the Director about the Adopt-A-Park program and several event ideas for 2010. We discussed a possible rain location for the Spring Concert Series as well as new vendor regulations for Newark Nite.

I conducted three more park inspections with the Parks Superintendent in preparation for taking over inspection responsibilities for these areas. I completed several work orders and park inspection forms. Overall the parks we inspected were in very good shape.

The George Wilson Center Coordinator is preparing for upcoming events: Children's Halloween Party on Thursday, October 29 and the Thanksgiving Day Breakfast on Thursday, November 26. Both events are long standing favorites and draw over one hundred participants.

Parks & Horticulture – Tom Zaleski:

We are working to complete a thorough inspection of the Old Train Station and prepare a list of maintenance and building repair items.

The Park Superintendent is working on these projects: preparations for the conversion of certain fine mowed areas within park and open space sites to meadows, items relating to our Tree City USA recertification and the installation of a rain garden at Rittenhouse Park. For the rain garden project we are researching grant opportunities to help fund the project.

We planted three (3) trees on the embankment between City Hall and Apple Road.

We are committing considerable time to certain fall landscaping tasks at traffic median and park sites.

Police

On Friday, October 16th, at 12:50 a.m., Officer Marsilli was dispatched to Kildare's Irish Pub for a report that two intoxicated females had stolen a purse. Upon arriving at the scene, Officer Marsilli determined that the two females had stolen the unattended purse. When the owner of the purse confronted the suspects they began to yell at her. Fearing for her safety, the victim ran behind a Kildare's bouncer. At one point, one of the suspects repeatedly slapped a bouncer. One suspect was released from the scene pending the issuance of a warrant. The second suspect was found to have outstanding warrants and was arrested at the scene. The suspect was charged with Theft, Conspiracy, Criminal Impersonation, Assault, and Offensive Touching.

On Saturday, October 17th, at 11:20 p.m., Cpl. Jones was dispatched to the area of East Mill Station Road for a suspicious vehicle report. Upon approaching the vehicle, Cpl. Jones observed a clear cellophane bag with what appeared to be marijuana on the floor by a passenger. K9 Paco alerted to the front passenger seat floor area, where two marijuana buds were found. Three juvenile suspects admitted to smoking marijuana. All three were charged with possession of marijuana and released to their parents.

On Tuesday, October 20th, at 3:15 p.m., Cpl. Micolucci was dispatched to North Chapel Street for a suspicious person report. Cpl. Micolucci identified the suspect and in the course of his investigation, recovered three generic Percocet pills and 12 packets of heroin. The suspect also had an outstanding warrant. The suspect was arrested and secured at the Howard Young Correctional Facility.

On Friday, October 23rd, Sgt. William Hargrove was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant, M/Cpl. Scott Rieger was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and Cpl. Michael Van Campen was promoted to the rank of Master Corporal.

Our Fall Crime Suppression plan continues to be a success, with no street robberies reported to date. The last street robbery to occur in the City of Newark was on August 1, 2009.

Planning is currently underway with various law enforcement agencies in preparation of the upcoming University of Delaware homecoming football game.

Planning & Development

Planning:

Work continued this week preparing materials for the upcoming November 3, 2009 Planning Commission meeting. Agenda items scheduled for review are:

- A. The redevelopment of the 109-111 (old Daffy Deli) Elkton Road property.
- B. A proposed increase in the residential component of the parking waiver fee.

Wednesday evening (November 14th) I attended a George Read Village/Tyre Avenue Community Meeting hosted by Councilman Clifton. Issues of concern to the neighborhood were reviewed.

On Monday, Codes Inspection Supervisor Steve Wilson and I met with CAC member Steve Dental to review possible Building Code amendments that would require LEED type energy conservation measures.

Economic Development:

Considerable time was spent this week preparing for Trick-or-Treat Main Street scheduled for this Sunday, October 25 immediately following the Halloween parade.

Considerable time was spent this week on implementation of the downtown Newark Gift Card Program. The target date for going live with the gift card is Black Friday, November 27, 2009. So far we are on schedule to make that date.

Considerable time was spent this week preparing for the DNP Annual Meeting and Celebration scheduled for Thursday, November 19, 2009 at the Washington House. Invitations should go out later this week.

Community Development:

On Thursday, Planner Mike Fortner attended the Newark Bicycle Committee meeting to further work on the development of the Newark Bicycle Plan update.

On Tuesday, Mike staffed the DNP Design Committee's meeting to review the design aspects of the proposed 109-111 Elkton Road development.

Parking:

The City will be repairing the drain at the entrance of Lot #3 between the Wilmington Trust Bank and Caffé Gelato. The repair should be completed by Thursday with the lane reopening each day for evening traffic.

KRS/mp