

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

January 29, 2010

Public Works

Engineering/Planning and Inspection:

- Annual Stormwater Management Facilities Maintenance Inspections: Performed inspections at 34 facilities, produced inspection reports, and updated data on computer spreadsheets.
- Proposed 2010 ADA Handicapped Ramp Contract: Spent time looking at proposed ramp locations and making notes to aid in updating handicapped ramps location map.
- Erosion & Sediment Control Inspections: Performed site inspections at Laura's Glenn (2), Ivy Hall Apartments Addition, 2 Casho Mill Road, and Emily Bell Place.
- Road Survey Management System: Finished road survey for the northeast section of the City and entered data onto computer.
- Worked with DNREC to consolidate the NPDES industrial stormwater and No Exposure permittee lists in the City, as required by our MS4 permit.
- Sent Stroud Water Research Center program invitation letters/emails to 4 schools in Newark to coordinate bringing a water quality educational program to them.
- Completed the NPDES year end summary report and forwarded to Rich.
- Drainage complaints: Checked out some drainage complaints related to Monday's storm

Streets:

- Street crews worked on filling potholes with temporary patch citywide.
- Street crews cleaned culverts before the heavy rains.

Electric

The utility pole relocation for DeIDOT's Elkton Road project has been progressing. The contractor is currently setting poles across from City Hall at the Park 'n Shop while crews are pulling wires from the poles they've previously set starting at Gravenor Lane. The goal is to have all the circuits moved back before the end of April so DeIDOT can get the roadwork started.

On the aforementioned project, there is some temporary curbing installation required before poles can be installed in parking lots and in the bike lane of Elkton Road. This is a requirement of DeIDOT to protect the poles and the drivers. The contractor hired to install the curbing unfortunately started the job with unapproved curbing which DeIDOT inspectors nixed right away. The specifications called for 6" curbing instead of 8", which wasn't an issue in parking lots, but along the roadway DeIDOT insisted on

the smaller curb size. Fortunately, the contractor had the curb exchanged and restarted the work just in time to finish before holding up the utility line construction.

The line crews continued building a new circuit out of the Phillips Avenue substation along the tracks to the College Avenue bridge. They are setting new poles and rearranging existing hardware to make room for the new circuit. If all goes well they should be ready to pull wires in two weeks.

The electricians spent their time on various maintenance issues at City Hall. They also completed some additional work on the alarm annunciator at Kershaw substation that was reported as finished last week. Additional alarm bypass switches were designed into the circuitry to make the system safer and easier to work on in the future.

Parks & Recreation

Administration – Charlie Emerson:

I committed some time writing an article for the Delaware Recreation Park Society about our expanded Meadow Management program.

I had several discussions this week with representatives of DeIDOT's real estate section and Pennoni regarding the right of ways and the work to be done to secure the necessary Temporary Construction Easements for the Pomeroy Trail project. I also committed a significant amount of time completing my review of the Final Design plans and preparing comments to be submitted to Pennoni.

Recreation – Joe Spadafino:

People are being contacted about upcoming volunteer opportunities in the Parks and Recreation Department programs/events.

The Senior Center pool was unavailable for swim lessons this weekend due to the roof partially collapsing into the pool. Participants were contacted regarding the cancellation of the classes that were to have started this past weekend and will be updated during the week regarding the possibility of class for next weekend.

Gathered supplies for the soccer class and attended the first day of Socceros class with over 30 participants registered, updated standings for the winter volleyball and Junior Basketball leagues on the website, sent out letters to previous teams for the adult summer volleyball and softball programs regarding returning to the league and the upcoming coaches meetings.

I coordinated the use of the University of Delaware rock climbing wall at the Carpenter Sports Building again this year for Rittenhouse Camp participants and the use of the University of Delaware's outdoor pool for the camp as well. In previous years the camp would go to Killen's Pond State Water Park as part of the camp, but this year will try the local U of D pool as a change.

Continue working on a more aggressive marketing strategy that includes utilizing more delawareonline pop up ads.

I attended the Delaware Office of Volunteerism's Conference with the recreation staff. We attended some very interesting workshops about using social networking as a tool for marketing to volunteers and about public private partnerships.

We are working on the redesign of the Parks and Recreation web page with the goal of making it easier to locate the newsletter and our programs.

Parks & Horticulture – Tom Zaleski:

We started making repairs to a broken water line in the area of the Wilson Park pool.

Most of our efforts this week focused on completing indoor building maintenance work orders.

Police

On Friday, January 22nd, officers from the Newark Police Department observed suspicious activity at a hotel located in the city. Officers applied for a search warrant and arrested five people on various charges such as, Trafficking in Cocaine, Possession with Intent to Distribute Cocaine, Maintaining a Dwelling for Keeping Controlled Substances, Possession of Marijuana and Drug paraphernalia. Two of the suspects' also had outstanding capiases. All were transferred to the Department of Corrections.

The Newark Police Department's third annual warrant sweep was conducted from January 25th through January 27th. At the time of this report, approximately 70 people have been arrested on outstanding warrants.

On January 26th at 4:30 p.m., two males in a pick-up truck committed a strong-arm robbery by forcibly snatching a purse from a female victim near the Pep Boys in the College Square Shopping Center on Library Avenue. A witness was able to provide a description of the truck and the registration number.

Around 5:05 p.m. the pick-up was located in the parking lot of the Boston Market at 1050 South College Avenue. A Newark Police officer arrived and was walking behind the building when the pick-up drove toward him. The officer attempted to move from the vehicle's path, but the truck veered toward the officer, who was now directly against a curb and flowerbed. Fearing for his safety, the officer fired one shot from his handgun toward the driver.

The pick-up continued driving out of the parking lot and traveled west on Welch Tract Road. Other responding units took up pursuit of the pick-up as it traveled into Maryland via Elkton Road. After making several turns on back roads in Maryland, the officers briefly lost sight of the truck. Shortly up the road, the truck was found crashed

into a tree. The suspect was not in the vehicle when officers arrived at the crash scene. It is not known if the suspect was struck by the officer's bullet.

A search was conducted by officers on foot, a helicopter, and a K-9. The suspect has been arrested.

The second suspect was located by officers inside the Boston Market and was taken into custody without incident.

Planning & Development

Planning:

Work was completed this week preparing materials for the February 2, 2010 Planning Commission meeting. The Commission will consider a rezoning and resubdivision at the Villages at Twin Lakes to convert part of the site from adult community condominiums to fee simple townhomes.

At its meeting on Monday evening City Council took action on the following Planning related items:

- A. Directed the Planning and Development Department staff to prepare ordinances and related materials regarding an "overlay" zoning district for the Center, New, Linden and Choate Streets neighborhood.
- B. Directed City staff to examine potential alternatives to the proposed underground utility fee for downtown.
- C. Appointed Patricia Brill from District 1 to fill out the unexpired term of former Commissioner Rob Osborne.

Economic Development:

On Friday Assistant Planning and Development Director Maureen Feeney Roser and I met with an Iron Hill Restaurant owner to discuss the Restaurant's renewed commitment to downtown and related parking issues.

Restaurant Week was, once again, quite successful. This has clearly become one of the events that Newarkers look forward to each winter.

On Tuesday Maureen attended a Downtown Delaware Workshop on "Squeezing Organizational Dollars out of Events," presented by the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Main Street Program.

Today I will be joining with Councilman Paul Pomeroy and City Manager Kyle Sonnenberg at a meeting of the Greater Newark Network.

Community Development:

On Thursday Planner Mike Fortner attended a Newark Bicycle Committee meeting held at WILMAPCO.

Mike is also working on preparing materials for an upcoming DNP Design Committee meeting. The Committee will review initial façade proposals for the Barnes and Noble bookstore at 83 E. Main Street and improvements to the Klondike Kate's E. Main Street deck.

Parking:

Work continued on completing and updating several of our parking lot leases.

Code Enforcement:

We have confirmed that the recently revised building permit and related fee structure still results in costs lower than those charged in New Castle County and other nearby jurisdictions.

We have had a structural engineer evaluate the 212 W. Main Street house regarding its structural integrity. The engineers indicated the house is structurally sound and can remain standing. Once we have received a final report, we will meet with the owner and move aggressively with required repairs.

At 101 Apple Road the property has been cleaned up and the pool filled in for safety requirements, by the City. A lien will be placed on the property for all costs.

KRS/mp