

## **DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS**

**July 9, 2010**

### **Police**

During the month of June, there were several reports of thefts as the result of motor vehicles being left unlocked. Plain clothes and uniform officers conducted increased overnight surveillance in residential neighborhoods. During the course of the surveillance, two suspects were stopped on more than one occasion by patrol officers. Information was developed from these stops and shared with the detective bureau. Detectives were able to secure search warrants for the homes of the two suspects. Numerous stolen property items were recovered. One of the suspects was charged with 44 criminal charges. The other suspect was charged with 20 criminal charges. Even though the two suspects in the vehicle thefts have been apprehended, the Newark Police Department would like to remind residents not to leave valuables in their vehicles and to always lock doors upon exiting their vehicles.

Several motor vehicle stops have resulted in arrests. On Tuesday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, a vehicle stop resulted in an arrest for possession of crack cocaine. On Saturday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, two motorists were arrested for driving while under the influence. On Sunday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, a vehicle stop resulted in an arrest for possession of marijuana.

While the City of Newark has seen a significant decrease in 2009 crime, the first half of 2010 is even more impressive. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, part one crime (serious crime), year to date shows that 54 less crimes have occurred. In dealing with quality of life offenses, the Newark Police Department has increased the number of people arrested for alcohol offenses, drug possession, disorderly premises, disorderly conduct, and trespass, from 2009 year to date. The traffic bureau continues with aggressive education and enforcement and as a result, there has been a significant reduction in the number of motor vehicle accidents. In addition, the Newark Police Department has responded to 2,752 more calls for service in 2010, compared to this time last year.

The promotional process for the positions of Master/Corporal and Sergeant continues. The third and final day of oral board interviews will be conducted on Thursday, July 8<sup>th</sup>. The promotional board consists of the Chiefs of Police from Wilmington Police Department, Lewes Police Department and Charles Zusag. The final step in the process will be Chief Tiernan's evaluation score.

### **Planning & Development**

#### **Planning**

At its meeting Tuesday evening the Planning Commission unanimously recommended that City Council approve the proposed 2011-2015 Capital Improvements Program.

## Economic Development

Assistant Planning and Development Director Maureen Feeney Roser continues to work on our upcoming July 24<sup>th</sup> Food & Brew Fest.

Maureen also distributed a DNP E-News You Can Use newsletter this week.

Work also continues on updating the Starting a Business brochure for the DNP website.

## Community Development

Planner Mike Fortner completed a financial draw from New Castle County for the 35<sup>th</sup> Year of the CDBG Program.

Mike spent a considerable amount of time finishing the Grantee Performance Report for the 35<sup>th</sup> Year of the CDBG Program.

On Tuesday morning Mike staffed the DNP's Design Committee meeting.

## Code Enforcement

Work continues on finalizing the proposed amendments to the 2009 Building Code.

## **Public Works**

### Engineering/Planning and Inspection

- U of D – Frazier Field: Clark Companies continued with excavation of the field area.
- Contract 10-03; 2010 Street Improvement Program: Spent considerable time measuring streets and calculating milling quantities for upcoming contract work.
- Mayer Subdivision: Met with Elm Avenue LLC representative to discuss clearing of site. Clearing of trees will be the only work allowed on site until Construction Improvements Plans are approved.
- Erosion & Sediment Control Inspections: Performed weekly site inspections at Laura's Glen, 2 Old Casho Mill Road (2), Ivy Hall Apartments Addition, Mayer Subdivision (2), 108 and 129 E. Main Street, University of Delaware Lovett Avenue Advanced Utility Package, Penny Hall Steam Line Installation, and the cross walk on Delaware Avenue.
- 108 E. Main Street: Spent considerable time working on incomplete items for escrow for site work.
- University of Delaware Advanced Utility Package: Brandywine Construction continued installation of chilled water lines on Lovett Avenue. Duffield Associates monitored crusher run backfilling performing compaction tests and temporarily hot mixed intersection of Haines Street and Lovett Avenue from new water main installation.
- Worked with Andrew Homsey at UD WRA to get an NRCS soils map layer into the GIS to facilitate plan reviews by the Engineering Assistant.
- Investigated a grass dumping complaint at 525 Stamford Drive.

- Participated in an EPA Webcast, “EPA Draft NPDES Pesticides General Permit (PGP)”.
- Picked up a donated rain barrel from 5 Briar Lane. Plans are to raffle it off in the NPDES Stormwater booth at Community Day.
- Continued working on our 5-year NPDES stormwater permit renewal application.

### Survey Crew

- Completed Miss Utility Mark-outs as needed.
- Continued meeting with residents in Phase 2.7, and began meeting with residents who received notices of intent for Phase 2.6 of the sidewalk repair program areas to discuss the nature of the violations and provide technical advice on how to conform to current code.
- Acquired weekly gas boy log data at Municipal fueling station and completed the fuel inventory spread sheet for June 2010 and began a new one for July 2010.
- Sent out numerous sidewalk obstruction notices to property owners on Rockmoss Avenue, S. Chapel Street, S. College Avenue, and Timber Creek Lane.
- Provided new grades for 75’ curb being replaced at 300/302 Arbour Drive by the Street Department.

### Field Operations/Streets:

- Concrete crew excavated, formed, and poured 77 l.f. of integral curb at 300 Arbour Drive.
- Street crew repaired potholes city-wide, as needed.
- Loader crew completed work in preparation for the tub grinder at Iron Glen Park.
- Street crew delivered and exchanged refuse cans for the Refuse Department.
- Street crew cleaned off catch basin tops.

## **Parks & Recreation**

### Recreation – Joe Spadafino

Rittenhouse Camp went to the University of Delaware Outdoor Pool for the camp trip. All went well! Rock climbing was also on the schedule for the oldest groups for camp at the University of Delaware indoor rock climbing wall. The kids had a great time.

Paula rescheduled the outdoor adult summer volleyball matches that were cancelled due to inclement weather and informed the coaches. She also dealt with some player eligibility issues.

Paula updated the adult sports league standings for the website and newspaper. She also contacted instructors regarding upcoming programs and the number of registrants and sent out emails regarding the classes to previous participants.

The following camps were held at the George Wilson Center last week: Magical Storybook Theater, Funniest Video Drama Camp and Camp GWC.

Tyler met with other DRPS representatives to discuss the Trail Summit coming up in October.

Sharon spent significant time preparing for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks and festivities. The event went very well with approximately 30,000 people in the area for the display. The Newark Police Department and University of Delaware Police, once again, provided excellent security for the event. Thanks to all University of Delaware and City of Newark departments and personnel that assisted with the event.

The first session of Tot Lot has been completed. The heat was an issue for several days this session, but they were able to utilize the cafeteria at Downes Elementary school for activities during extremely hot days.

Joe and Sharon attended several fireworks meetings with the Newark Police, University Police and the Fire Marshal about crowd control, parking, security and safety of the fireworks, surrounding area and spectators.

#### Parks & Horticulture – Tom Zaleski

Tom met with an Eagle Scout candidate concerning a possible project.

Tom met with the Parking Division Administrator and Kerns Bros. Tree Service on several tree issues at Lot #4.

Tom met with Miller Tree Service to get quotes on three (3) removals and creek blockage.

Tom met with Pusey Pemberton about the prospect of installing a hard surface under shelters at Handloff Park and Wilson Center.

Tom completed research on possible funding sources for possible reforestation projects at several meadow/park sites.

Tom spent time this week with the contractor and the Code Enforcement Division concerning the tree pit at Klondike Kate's.

Parks staff began cutting back plant growth off the trail along the Christina Creek.

Parks staff set up for, worked and cleaned up after Liberty Day.

We committed a great deal of time doing tree work at Rittenhouse from last week's storm. We continued to assist with the window replacement project at City Hall.

The YBC completed the following:

- Trash pickup at various park/horticulture sites and started preparing trash can enclosures at Devon, Alley and Folk Parks.

- Pruned back plant growth off sign at Kershaw Park and assisted horticulture crew with mulching.

### **Electric**

Tuesday morning at 3:45am, Delmarva Power had a critical failure at their Harmony Road Substation. Half the City's load was dropped for 13 minutes as two out of three of the City's main transformers were on this line. Delmarva's system operators quickly assessed the issue and switched the City to a backup line.

After the assessment of the Fremont Road transformer last week, the unit was checked for proper operation. A malfunctioning breaker motor was found and terminals on the battery system were repaired. The unit is awaiting parts, but can still be used in an emergency, if manually turned on.

The metering for the City's loads stopped registering properly at City Hall. Although the metering was functioning properly, the communications between City Hall and Kershaw Substation was diagnosed and repaired.

The crews are still hard at work trimming the 34kV transmission loop and replacing transformers in Nottingham Green.

### **Water & Wastewater**

I am reviewing the final plans for the sanitary sewer crossings of the Christina Creek. I have scheduled a meeting with FEMA, DEMA and City staff for the 21<sup>st</sup> of July to go over the grant funding for this project.

I worked with Frank Mullen (our Senior Plant Operator) to fine tune the operation of the pressure reducing valve at the Newark Water Treatment Plant. This has made the treatment of reservoir water more effective than in the past.

Water levels are slowly falling in the creek. We expect to be using the reservoir next week.

I meet on Friday of this week with DNREC personnel to discuss weed removal from the raceway.

KRS/cw