

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

November 12, 2010

Police

The majority of the Police Department worked University of Delaware homecoming activities on Saturday, November 6th. There were dozens of arrests made for underage drinking, open alcohol containers, and disorderly premise. As of November 10th, we are still counting the exact number of arrests made.

The automatic license plate recognition system that was purchased through a state grant has been installed in one of the new police vehicles. Three video cameras that were also purchased through a state grant are being installed in other police vehicles.

Chief Tiernan, Lt. Henry, and Mr. Zusag have begun conducting interviews with police officer applicants. The interviews will conclude on Wednesday, November 17th. The next step in the police hiring process will be the physical agility test.

The outstanding success of the Newark Police Department Traffic Bureau's education and enforcement continues. The total number of motor vehicle accidents has been reduced by 133 from this date last year.

After 23 years of dedicated service to the Police Department and citizens of Newark, Lt. Gerald Simpson has announced his retirement. Lt. Simpson has accepted a Chief of Police position with the New Garden Township in Pennsylvania. Lt. Simpson's last day of work with the Newark Police Department will be December 10th.

Planning & Development

Planning

At its meeting Monday evening, City Council approved a special use permit for the property at 22 Minquil Drive for a customary home occupation.

Economic Development

On Thursday evening, Assistant Planning and Development Director Maureen Feeney Roser and the Department staff organized and hosted the DNP Annual Meeting and Silent Auction. Once again this was a successful event.

Maureen also continues to work on downtown Newark holiday promotions and related advertising as well as a welcome package for new downtown businesses.

Community Development

On Friday morning, Code Enforcement Supervisor Steve Wilson and Planner Mike Fortner visited a home under the Home Improvement Program.

Mike is also working on the final report to Council with the recommendations from the Community Development/Revenue Sharing Advisory Committee which will be reviewed at Council's November 22nd meeting.

Parking

This morning, Parking Administrator Marvin Howard and Maureen hosted a meeting of the DNP's Parking Committee meeting.

Code Enforcement

At its meeting Monday evening, City Council approved amendments to the City's Building Code requiring a series of energy conservation specifications based on the United States Green Building Council's LEED Energy Conservation Program.

Footing and foundation inspections have started for the Bob Carpenter Center expansion project at the University's south campus.

The University's ISEB building permit will be issued this week. We continue to watch several rental properties for overcrowding and property maintenance at various locations around the City.

The permit for the first group of townhouses in the single family attached portion of Twin Lakes will be issued this week.

Public Works

Engineering/Planning and Inspection:

- Contract 10-03 – 2010 Street & Parking Lot Improvement Program: Harmony Construction placed 24.00 tons of Type C hot mix at Elan Park's Basketball Court.
- 2011 Handicapped Ramps – Proposed Contract: Visited proposed locations in preparation for finalizing locations with the Public Works Director.
- University of Delaware East Campus Utility Project: The concrete contractor for Whiting Turner has started de-watering for footers. Met with Whiting Turner foreman to go over 12" pipe tie-in at storm drain on Academy Street for the de-watering of the new science building.

Survey Crew

- Created map for proposed handicap ramp locations to be replaced or repaired in 2011.

Field Operations/Streets:

- Street crews continued with the Fall Leaf Collection.
- Core drilled 2 holes at City Hall for new railing installation for the Parks Department.
- Began laying blocks at dug out locations at Leroy Hill Park for the Parks Department.

Parks & Recreation

Administration – Charlie Emerson

I spent some time this week preparing Project Status Reports for projects that have been awarded Delaware Land and Water Conservation Trust Fund grant money this year. Those projects are: Leroy Hill Park Baseball Field Fence and Backstop Replacement, Curtis Paper Mill/Old Paper Mill Road Park Master Plan, Spiral Slide replacements at four (4) park sites and Elan Park Basketball Court resurfacing.

The contractor completed the asphalt overlay of the basketball court at Elan Park last week. They will be back soon to paint on the playing lines at which point the project will be finished. Many thanks to the Public Works Department for their assistance.

I met with Tom and Rich G. to review and sample certain graffiti removing products. While doing so one of our employees who worked for DART before coming to the City suggested a product they used to remove graffiti from their bus fleet. We tried it on a test item and were very pleased with the results. It is less costly than what we were using and is far more effective in removing the graffiti.

I met with Joe to review the content of the kiosks we're planning for the Pomeroy Trail. There will be three (3) with each featuring a different aspect of the history of the Pomeroy and Newark Railroad and its impact on Newark.

On Monday I met with Bob Bennett of the Mason Dixon Trail Committee to discuss the concept of extending the Hall Trail to eventually connect with Elkton Road and the Mason Dixon Trail which crosses Elkton Road at the Christina Creek.

Recreation – Joe Spadafino

Basketball practices began for the three youth leagues at various Newark schools. Paula continues to place registrants on teams as they sign up.

The recreation staff worked on inputting information for the winter/spring brochure. Paula started on the contracts for the organizations and instructors for the upcoming programs.

Paula worked with the instructor for the Kids Rock Climbing class that was held with 12 participants. She also emailed Stay Fit participants regarding the new session.

Paula, Sharon and I assisted in working at the Newark High School Volunteer Fair providing information regarding volunteer opportunities to interested students.

Tyler worked on planning for the Thanksgiving Day Breakfast, this included contacting volunteers and ordering supplies.

The CATCH Afterschool Program is running successfully at Downes Elementary School. The program is held Mondays and Wednesdays from 3-5 p.m. and continues through November 17.

The George Wilson Center was once again utilized as a polling place on Election Day – Tuesday, November 2.

Sharon has been preparing items for the upcoming Turkey Trot 10K and 5K Run and Walk. To date, there are 200+ runners/walkers registered for the event, which will be held on Saturday, November 20. This year's race will be chip timed, which will give runners faster and more accurate results.

Sharon met with Ann Grunert from Special Olympics about Winterfest and the Reindeer Run. There are no major changes that will affect Winterfest this year.

I continue working on skate spot cost information and researching different manufactures of skate spot products.

I worked on the organization of the Winter/Spring Newsletter and meeting with recreation staff about programs for the newsletter.

Parks & Horticulture – Tom Zaleski

We continued on the door and window frame repair/renovation project at Building #4 at City Yard.

Parks staff removed the roofs on both player dugout areas at Hill Park.

Parks staff started on cleaning/priming/painting a round storage cylinder to be placed at Dickey Park by next Friday.

All staff assisted Building Maintenance at City Hall by continuing to make repairs to walls around new windows installed earlier this year and completing painting other areas within City Hall.

Rich and Sam continued working on park maintenance tracking computer program.

We began organizing for placing lights on Main Street trees for the Christmas holiday and beyond. We'll begin installing the lights next week and they will be activated the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

Horticulture staff potted up spring bulbs for placement at the Atrium, Wilson Center, and City Hall bus shelter in spring 2011. They also started cutting back perennials throughout the park system and began working on bed/leaf clean ups.

Tom reviewed landscape installations at Louviers Credit Union site and held discussions with owner and landscape contractor about completing the landscape installation at Ivy Hall Apartments.

Electric

The line crews trenched in cable for two new streetlights in West Branch by Hidden Valley Park. The lights will be installed shortly. The line crews have also been changing older transformers in Nottingham Green.

The Nottingham upgrade project has been temporarily halted. The directional bore contractor broke a rod while pulling in cable along Radcliffe Drive. The cable had to be pulled out and the rod was dug up. Because of the rocks being hit, the contractor has decided to use a different machine with brand new rods. The project will have to wait a few days for the machine's availability.

A shorted out LED indicator lamp caused the tap changer circuitry on an East Main substation transformer to burn up. The electricians spent several days rewiring and replacing parts to correct the mishap.

Engineering has been meeting with two different telephone companies about installing services to separate cell towers to be installed on the water tank on New London Road. A pole and an aerial circuit will need to be installed by the City and then the phone companies will bring underground conductors to the pole.

Water & Wastewater

I have been reviewing plans and specifications for the replacement of the Sanitary Sewer Line Crossings on the Christina Creek and the replacement of the Bellevue Road Sanitary Sewer Lift Station.

I have also been working with consultants on the water line project on Brook Hill Road and the 16 inch water line that will cross the White Clay Creek.

I am investigating sewer camera technology that will allow us to more accurately assess our sewer system as well as investigate the condition of sewer laterals from the sewer main. I will be making a request for the purchase of this equipment in the next Capital Program Budget submission. This equipment will also allow us to televise all of the pipes in our system. We are currently limited to viewing pipes smaller than 10 inches.

My preliminary analysis of the road repair program and my water line repair program indicates that I will need to focus my efforts on the roads that will be receiving the most extensive repair and rehabilitation. I do not have the funds nor do I believe that it is practical to replace or renew water lines in every street that will be worked on.

KRS/mp