

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

March 4, 2011

Parks & Recreation

Administration – Charlie Emerson

I reviewed and provided comments on the landscaping aspects of the Porter Nissan development project on Cleveland Avenue.

Last Friday Tom and I met with two UD researchers whom we gave permission to utilize several of our forested park sites in addition to nearby State and County Park land and University woodlands to conduct research on soil make up and its relationship to food sources for song birds.

Recreation – Joe Spadafino

Paula, Sharon and Tyler met to review the summer camp schedule to ensure we had adequate availability of facilities as well as a variety of programs offered.

Paula and Joe went by the Church of the Nazarene to finalize details to use this location as a rain location for Rittenhouse Day Camp on Fridays only since the schools are closed on Fridays in the summer. West Park Elementary will be the rain location for Monday-Thursday. We also looked at the possibility to conduct a volleyball camp this summer at the church as well. Paula is waiting on the confirmation of dates from the instructor.

The recreation staff and I conducted a marketing meeting to discuss additional promotional ideas for our upcoming programs and the department in general.

Sharon has been preparing the 2012 Delaware Division of the Arts Grant which in the past has helped fund many community events, including the Spring Concert Series, Newark Nite, Liberty Day, Community Day and Winterfest.

Sharon has been evaluating past vendor participation and recommended a modification to fees for the 2011 vendor package.

Sharon created a map to be used for the Earth Hour Event for Carol Houck.

Tyler met with Joe and Charlie regarding GWC facility rental rules and regulations.

Joe continues researching skate spots and grants we may qualify for the project.

Joe is analyzing price quotations received for equipment and supplies for 2011 and awarded the portable toilet bid to Arrow Sanitary Services.

Parks & Horticulture – Tom Zaleski

We completed monthly fire extinguisher inspection and bi-weekly check of the grease traps at Wilson Center.

Rich and Sam continued working on the park maintenance tracking computer program and started to train Andee on entering data from completed work orders.

We completed the installation of interior plantings just outside of the Alderman's Court waiting area.

We continue cleaning up downed/broken/damaged branches and limbs from the past two snow events and high wind.

Electric

The line crews continued setting poles for a new primary service at the University's Chrysler site. The line crews are also installing additional lightning arrestors on the 34kV circuit that is currently off for construction of the Lovett Avenue Science Center.

The contractor upgrading the circuit for the Science Center is nearing completion. Some hardware and metering is being installed and the circuit will be energized in two weeks. The design for a back up circuit is being finalized and the start of construction is forthcoming.

The backyard tree trimming crew has started. They are currently in Devon trimming around the lines by the railroad tracks from Phillips Park to Gravenor Lane.

Engineering is working with technical support on issues with a relay that operated unexpectedly when using the SCADA system to control a breaker. Engineering compiled the monthly loads for the University billing and captured all the loads from substation transformers for trending analysis.

Engineering also started working with a new device that will identify all the phases of a circuit when in the field. Using this will allow the mapping programs to contain more information which will be useful for outage tracking and engineering studies.

Water & Wastewater

Work on Well 14 is underway. After several delays due to weather and equipment the new Well 14 at the South Well Field Treatment plant is being drilled.

The old well house for Well 14 located along South Chapel Street (RT 72) is to be torn down on March 3rd. This structure has a favorite for graffiti artists so we are glad to have it removed. When the new well is finished we will abandon the old well itself and restore the site to grass.

Andrea and I attended a meeting in Dover this week to discuss the state's proposed on line permit application process. We have been using a system that the Canal District developed. The DOT hopes to roll out a similar system state wide.

I met with a resident to address concerns about the new communication equipment being installed on the New London Road Water Tower. It was a good meeting. I will visit again once the equipment is operational so as to allay their concern regarding radio frequency emissions.

I met with a resident regarding our 16 inch water line across the White Clay Creek to coordinate the soil borings that we need to do to assess the ground conditions as we develop the plans and specifications.

I have been working with DeIDOT on several issues regarding the Elkton Road project. It seems to be going well at this point.

Police

A number of police calls this week were alcohol related.

On Thursday, February 24th, at 10:07 p.m., Corporal Sharpe and Officer Barnes responded to a rental home on East Cleveland Avenue. Upon arriving at the scene, the officers spoke with a 22 year-old female victim. The victim stated that she was in her bedroom when the suspect, an 18 year-old female, knocked on the bedroom door asking to speak with the victim. When the suspect entered the room she repeatedly punched the victim in the head and shoved her into furniture. A witness was able to separate the two, placing the suspect in another bedroom. The victim then went into that bedroom and instructed the suspect to leave the house. The suspect pointed a knife at the victim and said "Don't mess with me I'm drunk". The suspect was charged with aggravated assault, offensive touching, and underage consumption of alcohol. The suspect was released after posting \$2,100 bond.

On February 26th, at 12:14 a.m., Master Corporal Nelson responded to East Cleveland Avenue on a report of loud music. Upon arriving at the scene, the officer heard music coming from the basement. The officer looked through the basement window and observed a crowd of people. The crowd was dispersed and the renter was issued a summons for disturbing the peace.

On Saturday, February 26th, at 1:10 a.m., Corporal Vernon was conducting radar speed enforcement in the area of Newark High School. The officer observed a vehicle travelling 42 MPH in a 25 MPH zone. The vehicle was stopped in the College Square parking lot. When speaking with the driver of the vehicle, the officer detected the odor of an alcoholic beverage on the driver's breath. The driver stated he had just left Mojo's on East Main Street where he had consumed three beers. After a series of tests that determined he was under the influence of alcohol, the driver was arrested. A breath sample was taken at police headquarters which revealed the driver had a blood alcohol content of .143%. The driver was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol and speeding. He was released to his father.

On Saturday, February 26th, at 1:36 a.m., Corporal Sharpe responded to a motor vehicle accident on Library Avenue. The driver of one of the vehicles was wearing a wristband from Grotto's Restaurant. The driver stated he had consumed two 25 ounce beers at Grotto's prior to becoming involved in the accident. After a series of tests the driver was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. A breath sample taken at police headquarters revealed a blood alcohol content of .167%.

On Saturday, February 26th, at 2:12 a.m., Corporal Schwagel responded to a report of a fight in the area of East Main Street. Upon arriving at the scene, the officer did not observe a fight, however did observe approximately 20 people standing by one of the apartments being loud. The officer could also hear loud music coming from inside the apartment. The officer dispersed the group outside of the apartment, and then contacted the tenants. Both tenants of the apartment were issued a summons for disturbing the peace.

On Sunday, February 27th, at 12:17 a.m., officers responded to the area of West Park Place on a report of excessive noise. Upon arriving at the scene, officers observed a loud disorderly crowd leaving a residence. A car was parked on the front lawn of the property and several tables were set up in the driveway. The tables were covered with red cups containing alcohol. The tenant was issued a summons for disorderly premises and underage consumption of alcohol. As guests were leaving the party, a fight broke out on West Park Place and Orchard Road. Corporal Conover observed two males fighting on the ground and several more who ran off as police arrived. The two suspects were both charged with disorderly conduct.

On Monday, February 28th, at 11:42 p.m., Corporal Beighley responded to East Delaware Avenue on a report of a male exhibiting disorderly behavior and attempting to fight pedestrians. Officer Fountain arrived at the scene and observed the male shouting obscenities at people and telling them how he would harm them. The suspect was placed under arrest. When he was placed in the rear of the patrol car, the suspect began to head-butt the rear plastic prisoner barrier. The suspect was charged with disorderly conduct.

On Monday, February 28th, a suspect was arrested for the robbery of Blockbuster Video that occurred on Tuesday, February 15th. The suspect was committed to the Howard Young Correctional Facility.

On Tuesday, March 1st, at 10:40 p.m., Master Corporal Maiura responded to an apartment on Lehigh Road on a report of a person who had fallen and injured his head. Upon arriving at the apartment, the officer was informed by the reporting person that she and two others had been out drinking. Upon arriving back at the apartment, one of the victims fell getting out of the car and struck his head. The victim was able to get into the apartment where he vomited and again fell striking his head and falling unconscious. A second victim passed out on the couch and could not be awakened. Both victims were transported to the hospital by ambulance.

Planning & Development

Planning

At its meeting Monday evening City Council approved a proposed amendment to the vending/peddling ordinance that had been prepared by the Planning and Development Department in conjunction with the City Secretary and the Police Department that will expand permitted vending (now restricted to downtown) to a small area on Amstel Avenue adjacent to the University of Delaware Campus.

At its meeting Tuesday evening the Planning Commission recommended approval of the following:

- A. The addition of eight garden apartment dwelling units to the University Garden Apartments on Beverly Road.
- B. The redevelopment of the properties on E. Delaware Avenue west of the TD Bank for a mixed use facility containing approximately 12,100 sq. ft. of first floor commercial space, an interior and exterior parking facility, and 39 apartments to be known as Campus Edge.

Economic Development

On Thursday morning Assistant Planning Director Maureen Feeney Roser met with the Catherine Rooney's Marketing Manager to discuss advertising and promotional options for downtown businesses.

Later on Thursday morning, Maureen and Community Affairs Officer Dana Johnston met with Delaware Today to talk about the June Downtown Newark supplement to the magazine.

Later on Thursday, Maureen met with a property owner to discuss potential parking improvements to Lot #3.

On Saturday, Maureen spoke to a Public Administration graduate student class on the Main Street approach to economic revitalization and how we have tailored that approach to meet Newark's needs. She also provided a guided tour of downtown.

Community Development

On Tuesday morning, Planner Mike Fortner hosted the DNP Design Committee meeting.

Code Enforcement

An additional Certificate of Occupancy will be issued to one of the townhouses at 106 Sutton Place.

A demolition permit for work at the Martin Honda Dealership at 298 E. Cleveland Avenue has been requested.

Work continues on preparing a full scale Code Enforcement Division procedures manual.

Public Works

Engineering/Planning and Inspection:

- Annual State Roads Maintenance Inspections: Completed compiling maintenance items on DeIDOT maintained roads within the City limits. Sent letters and maintenance lists to DeIDOT Maintenance and DeIDOT Traffic supervisors for their attention.
- Erosion & Sediment Control Inspections: Performed weekly site inspection at U of D Creamery and initial perimeter control inspection at Rittenhouse Station.
- Sutton Place: Performed C.O. inspection at 106 Sutton Place.
- Annual Stormwater Management Facilities Maintenance Inspections:
 - 1) Performed inspections at three facilities, produced inspection reports, and updated data in computer files. Made contact with two owners to explain maintenance needs at their facilities.
 - 2) Met with Bernard Management representative at Delaware Technology Park to review maintenance needs at both facilities on site.
 - 3) Met with Roger Bowman and Jen Pyle from the University of Delaware at Laird Campus to discuss maintenance needed at the facility.
 - 4) Worked on updating contact list for letters to be sent out for maintenance.
 - 5) Called Brickman Group to set up startup date to work on Embassy Suites maintenance.
- Porter Nissan Dealership Expansion: Spent time reviewing approved plans and compiling items to discuss at future preconstruction meeting.
- Signed up Maclary Elementary School for the Stroud Water Research Center Program, "From Classroom to Creek", after coordinating available dates/times with them.
- Attended the University of Delaware Environmental Health and Safety "in-service day" stormwater presentation, and answered various questions afterward about our MS4 permit and forthcoming regulatory changes.
- Reviewed the Summary Conclusion of the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary's recently completed pilot study on climate change and its impact on water resources. A survey was then completed on the anticipated municipal impacts.

Survey Crew

- Continued working on digital drawings showing City lines where they intersect various streets.

Field Operations/Streets:

- Sign crew repaired and replaced signs and poles as needed.
- Sidewalk sweeper continued with duties on Main Street.
- Street crews are working on putting temporary patch in various potholes citywide.
- Vac-all continued working on catch basin cleanings as per schedule.

- Street crew worked on catch basin repair.

KRS/mp