

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

August 12, 2011

Public Works

Engineering/Planning and Inspection

- Porter Nissan Dealership Expansion: Met with Minker Construction and Austin & Bednash Construction Inc. representatives to discuss need for handicap ramp at the Winner Boulevard entrance to the site.
- Mayer Subdivision – Elm Avenue & Woodlawn Avenue: David Roser Inc. (for City Wastewater Department) worked on street patches over sanitary sewer laterals and completed:
 1. 63.2 s.y. of 8" p.c.c. utility trench patches
 2. 9.3 tons of 2" top hot mix patching
- Contract 11-06; 2011 Street Improvement Program:
 1. Greggo & Ferrara completed street patches on W. Park Place by placing 78.03 tons of top hot mix.
 2. Sam's Construction worked on O'Daniel Avenue & Westfield Drive completing the following:
 - a. 1.2 c.y. of undercut excavation
 - b. 2.40 tons of crusher run placement
 - c. 22.4 l.f. of 4' wide p.c.c. valley gutter replacement
 - d. 11.09 tons of base hot mix patching (at curb)
 - e. 736.4 l.f. of p.c.c. rolled curb replacement
 - f. 54.7 l.f. of sawcut for concrete removal
- Erosion & Sediment Control Inspections: Performed weekly site inspections at Laura's Glenn, Sutton Place, and Porter Nissan Dealership Expansion.
- Contract 11-03 – Tree Pit Renovation: Barksdale Nursery removed three existing tree pits on the north side of E. Main Street, set frames, and poured concrete collars.
- Contract 11-02 – 2011 ADA Handicap Ramp Installation Program: Joseph T. Hardy completed the following:
 1. Removed and replaced 551 s.f. of 4" p.c.c. sidewalks for ramps along West Park Place
 2. Installed 40 s.f. of red truncated domes
 3. Replaced 3 s.f. of p.c.c. valley gutter
 4. Installed 14.7 s.y. of hot mix patching
- University of Delaware ECUP/ISEP Building: Corrado Construction replaced 104 s.f. of 4" p.c.c. sidewalk along Haines Street using 2.5 c.y. of 3500 psi concrete.

Survey Crew

- Responded to a complaint at McVey School about a tree and forwarded it to Christina School District.
- Followed-up on a complaint about an overgrown hedgerow at 8 E. Mill Station Drive and left a handwritten notice to trim the overgrowth on the front door.

Field Operations/Streets

- Hot mix crews excavated and applied 930 s.f. of hot mix on Academy Street.
- Catch basin crew repaired catch basins at the following locations: 9 Briar Lane at Dallam Road, 339 Stamford Drive, at the church on Church Road off Panorama Drive, at the entrance to Scotch Pine Road, 116 Red Pine Circle, and 33 Fremont Road.
- Street crew formed and poured 10 ft. of integral curb and bonnet at Delgrove Avenue and W. Chestnut Hill Road.
- Street crew repaired sink hole over storm sewer and poured 35 s.f. of concrete on Elm Avenue.
- Street crew saw cut Country Hills Drive and West Ridge Court for future curb and hot mix repairs.
- Sign truck repaired and replaced signs and poles as needed and removed damaged bike racks that were previously installed on Main Street.
- Backhoe crew cleaned debris and pushed up brush at Iron Glen Park for Refuse Department.
- Street crew assisted Refuse Department on 3-man packer, on knuckleboom for heavy item pick-up, and on delivery of trash cans.
- Street crew worked on bio-retention pond at 896 leaf pile.

Parks & Recreation

Administration – Charlie Emerson

Last Tuesday our consultant, the construction contractor and I met with the manager of the University Courtyard Apartments for introductions and to briefly review our time line for the construction of the Pomeroy Trail through that site. We also wanted to determine if there will be any sensitive periods of time, in terms of their operations, that we need to be aware of as we develop the construction schedule.

On Wednesday, August 3, we conducted the pre-construction meeting for the Pomeroy Trail. I'm working with Pennoni and Merit Construction Engineers to develop the construction schedule and to take the necessary steps to begin building the trail. A construction trailer/office will be mobilized at Olan Thomas near our storage building. I also submitted the required documentation (notice of commencing construction) to the Army Corps of Engineers relating to the conservation area.

On Friday I met with representatives of the Delaware Trail Spinners and Delaware State Parks for an update on the Redd Park trails rehab project. Phase III is moving along well. We've had to adjust the route in certain areas to stay clear of private property and to accommodate the topographic challenges.

Recreation – Joe Spadafino

Paula conducted the soccer skills night for our fall youth leagues. A make up skills session will be held and then player selections will take place prior to practices starting on August 15th.

Paula completed the Monday "A" Adult Volleyball League playoff schedule and informed team captains of their final placement. She also updated the standings and schedules on the City website and for the local newspaper for all the adult leagues.

Paula submitted the licensing package to the Office of Child Care Licensing for West Park School. She coordinated with several city and state agencies to ensure proper paperwork was included.

Camps held at GWC this week included Safety Town, Rittenhouse Before and After Camp Care and an Art Camp.

Tyler completed and sent out the dance program information letter to last year's participants informing them about this year's classes.

Sharon conducted the first week of Safety Town with 74 children registered in the two sessions for the two week program.

Liz and I are working on reformatting the Pomeroy and Newark Rail Trail kiosk and adding some new photos that we discovered on the Hagley Museum web site.

Parks and Horticulture – Tom Zaleski

Horticulture staff completed the following:

- The extreme heat and dry weather has caused us to commit considerable time watering plant material throughout park system.
- Tree/shrub pruning at several horticulture and park sites
- Sprayed as needed for insect control at park and horticulture sites
- Assisted with park maintenance work orders

Parks staff completed the following:

- Mowing of park areas
- Painted gas pump area at the City Yard
- Assembled two new cars for Safety Town
- Started painting basketball court lines as needed
- Performed equipment maintenance on mowers
- With the assistance from volunteers we painted a play unit at Dickey Park
- Continued working on maintenance work orders

Parks Superintendent and Supervisor completed the following:

- Conducted park inspections
- Continued working on the following:
 1. Reforestation Grant
 2. Started working on the Urban Tree Management Grant
- Monitored tree pit and grate installation on Main Street
- Power washed the tennis court surface at Lumbrook Park

- Met with homeowner and Trail Spinners about trail location in Redd Park
- Met with homeowner about weed growth and fence maintenance at the Curtis Mill site
- Met with homeowner about a tree matter in Yorkshire Woods

Electric

The line crews have been completing the 12kV Ashley Road extension. After setting the twelve poles last week, they have been pulling primary conductors and now need to tie in the conductors to the existing circuit and transfer all the secondary cables and services.

The electricians have been working on communications wiring and infrared scans of transformers. After finding a couple of abnormally heated cable connections, the line crews completed scheduled maintenance outages in order to fix the issues.

Engineering met with DEMEC and Converge on the Demand Response Program offered by the PJM Interconnection. Large customers willing to shed load in times of need when asked by PJM can make significant money in this program.

Engineering also met with the Pomeroy Trail contractor about electric needs and has been working with the SCADA developer on the interface and communication with the substation devices.

Water & Wastewater

The Environmental and Historic Preservation Review for the installation of security gates at the South Well Field treatment plant has been returned with a finding of no significant effect on the environment. We can now begin work on this grant funded project. I expect the results from a similar review of the Newark Treatment Plant gate project shortly.

We notified the residents on Wollaston and Kells, between South College and Academy of the water line cleaning that we will be doing on Monday the 15th and Tuesday the 16th of next week. We expect that this work will resolve issues we have been having with dirty and stale water associated with the accumulation of rust and sediment in the pipes.

Work on the sanitary sewer crossings on the Christina Creek has stopped pending delivery of the concrete vaults. As soon as they arrive work will resume.

The first phase of sanitary sewer cleaning and inspection has been completed on the sewers that run along the Christina Creek above the CSX Railroad.

The new motor for the back wash pump has been installed at the Newark Water Treatment plant. The old motor will be refurbished and stored at the warehouse for future use. The old pump will also be refurbished and stored so that we have the ability to quickly replace the pump and motor assembly in the event of a pump or motor failure in the future.

Well 15 has been rebuilt using a submersible pump and motor (the shaft broke on two occasions on the old assembly due to misalignment in the well) that have been connected to a flexible column pipe assembly. We had also been experiencing premature corrosion of the metal components in this well so we are using a heavily reinforced flexible vinyl pipe to see if we can eliminate the corrosion problem.

Planning & Development

Planning

On Friday morning, Assistant Planning and Development Director Maureen Feeney Roser and I met with representatives of the Trader's Alley development to discuss follow-up from the recent tabling of their project at the August 2, 2011 Planning Commission meeting.

At its meeting Monday evening, City Council approved the 116 Amstel Avenue redevelopment plan for the Newark Baptist Association facility and six townhouse apartments.

On Tuesday morning, Code Enforcement Supervisor Steve Wilson and I met with representatives of the University and Grassroots on Main Street to discuss the submittal requirements for the proposed new access way from Grassroots retail store to the new plaza now nearing completion at the University's Barnes & Noble site.

Economic Development

Work continued this week on the Downtown Newark Holiday Ad Campaign.

Work also continued on the Gift Card Program as well as the distribution of downtown's August promotional materials.

Last Wednesday, Maureen met with Scott Mason of the Chapel Street Players Board of Directors to talk about issues regarding their facility.

Work also continued this week on new utility pole banners for downtown.

Community Development

This evening Planner Mike Fortner will provide staff for the first meeting of the Community Development/Revenue Sharing Advisory Committee to begin reviewing proposals for the 38th Year of the CDBG Program as well as the 2012 Revenue Sharing budget.

Parking

This week we entered into a contract to update the 2006 Parking Supply and Demand Study with Desman Associates as part of our Parking Lot #1 garage planning activities.

At Monday night's Council meeting Maureen made a presentation regarding the proposed "More Park" facility for Parking Lot #3 which is currently included in the 2012 Capital Improvements Budget to be reviewed by Council in September.

KRS/mp

WEEKLY REPORT
07/31-08/06/11

On Monday, August 1st at approximately 11:49 p.m., PFC Mease was on routine patrol in the area of Creek View Road and Paper Mill Road. PFC Mease observed a vehicle parked suspiciously on city property across from Creek View Road. PFC Mease approached the vehicle and found a male and a female sleeping in the vehicle. After speaking with the subjects, it became apparent that the female was not giving proper identification. A check of the vehicle registration then showed that the vehicle was stolen out of Missouri and that the female was in fact a 15 year old runaway. The male was identified as 25 year old David Plummer of Golden City, MO. Plummer was arrested for Receiving Stolen Property, Carrying a Concealed Deadly Weapon and Endangering the Welfare of a Child. The 15 year old runaway was charged with Criminal Impersonation. The 15 year old was remanded to the New Castle County Detention Center until her parents could arrive from Missouri. Plummer was sent to Howard Young Correctional Institute in lieu of \$20,000 cash bail.

On Thursday, August 4th, at approximately 3:03 a.m., Cpl. Sharpe and Cpl. Schwagel responded to Porter Ford on Ogetown Road for a report that the night security officer had caught two males stealing used tires from the rear of the building. Sang Nguyen of Elkton, MD and Jonathan Dommert of Newark, DE were arrested for Theft and Conspiracy. The tires are piled under a large sign which reads: No Trespassing, No Tire Removal. The tires are valued at \$100 and are sold by the dealership to playground mulch companies.

On Friday, August 5th, Cpl. Marconi made contact with representatives from Wells Fargo Bank on S. College Avenue. A mistake had been made when one subject came in to the branch and deposited a \$25,000 check. The deposit was put into the wrong account. Wells Fargo conducted an investigation and learned which account the deposit went into. After their research, the owner of the account where the check was mistakenly deposited into, that person spent or withdrew all of the money. A suspect has been identified and the case has been turned over to Detective for additional investigation and arrest action.

On Sunday, August 7th, PFC Barnes responded to the Calvary Baptist Church on E. Delaware Avenue for a report of a theft. The victim reported that she had momentarily left her purse unattended in a room in the church. As the victim was walking to another area of the church, a subject came into the church to inquire about monetary assistance. The victim directed the female subject to two other church members. The victim then returned to the room where the purse was, about five minutes had passed, and noticed that the wallet was missing from the purse. The unknown female was also not in the church any longer. The female suspect was described as a unknown race female, 25 to 35 years old, 5'05 to 5'08" tall, 150 to 170 lbs., blonde hair, wearing jeans and an inside out t-shirt. This case is continuing to be investigated.