

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

October 28, 2011

Planning & Development

Planning

This week the Planning Commission's November 1, 2011 meeting packet was completed and distributed to Commission members. The Commission will be reconsidering the redevelopment of the property at 132 E. Delaware Avenue for a three story mixed use building including 14 upper floor apartments and 6,000 sq. ft. of first floor commercial space.

The Planning and Development Department has learned through WILMAPCO that our pre-application for a Tiger III Grant has been accepted by the United States Department of Transportation for the ongoing planning, engineering and design of the Newark Regional Transportation Station. This, of course, is exciting news.

Economic Development

Work continues preparing the DNP Annual Report.

We continue also to work on holiday ads and promotions.

Time has also been spent on downtown parking banners to assist in "way finding," for our parking facilities.

On Tuesday, Planner Mike Fortner met with members of the Design Committee on updating the Downtown Design Guidelines to include Elkton Road and Delaware Avenue.

Community Development

On Thursday, Mike attended the WILMAPCO Technical Advisory Committee meeting. The Committee recommended approval of the Newark Transportation Plan.

Also on Thursday, Mike attended the Newark Bicycle Committee meeting.

Parking

On Monday, Parking Administrator Marvin Howard met with Bruce Georgov to discuss compactors in Lot #4.

On Tuesday, Marv met with Krista Batchelor of Paragon Design. The locations for the installation of the downtown parking banners were picked. The banners will be installed shortly.

Code Enforcement

The Code Enforcement Division continues to have the outdoor stored construction equipment in the Howard Johnson's parking lot removed from the facility.

The developer of the new homes at 70-79 E. Cleveland Avenue will be hoping to get a temporary Certificate of Occupancy later this week.

Public Works

Engineering/Planning and Inspection

- Contract 11-06 – 2011 Street Improvement Program:
 1. Sam's Construction worked on Fiske Lane, Lafayette Road, Amherst Drive, and Baylor Drive completing the following:
 - a. 3.4 c.y. of excavation.
 - b. 5.80 tons of crusher run placement.
 - c. 2.3 l.f. of 4" pvc drain pipe installation.
 - d. 402.3 s.f. of 4" p.c.c. sidewalk installation for handicap ramps.
 - e. 32.0 s.f. of red detectable warning block installation.
 - f. 20.16 tons of base hot mix patching.
 - g. .92 tons of top hot mix patching.
 - h. 1,609.5 l.f. of p.c.c. rolled curb replacement.
 - i. 74.4 l.f. of sawcut for concrete removal.

*Contractor used 94 c.y. of DeIDOT Class B concrete in above pours.
 2. Greggo and Ferrara milled a total of 6,253.0 s.y./in. of existing street pavement.
- 813 Dallam Road – Sump Line: Inspected sump pump discharge tie-in to catch basin at 813 Dallam Road (corner of Lafayette Road).
- University of Delaware Animal Science Building:
 1. Held pre-construction meeting on site with owner, general contractor, and CCR. Wrote up meeting minutes and sent out to all attendees.
 2. Contractor installed all perimeter erosion and sediment control installations as per plan.
- Twin Lakes: Reworked bonding requirements for developer and separated bond into two phases.
- Temple Beth El: Met on site with contractor to go over incomplete stabilization issues left prior to issuance of C.O.
- Contract 11-02 – 2011 ADA Handicap Ramp Installation Program:
 1. Installed 442 s.f. of 4" p.c.c. sidewalks.
 2. Installed 40 s.f. of truncated domes.
 3. Installed 48.50 l.f. of rolled curb.
 4. Placed 16.9 s.y. of hot mix patching.

Field Operations/Streets

- Street crew excavated and installed 125 l.f. of 4" perforated pipe in the upper parking lot at City Hall.

- Hot mix crew excavated and applied 715 s.f. of hot mix at City Hall.
- Loader regraded area with milling material at Iron Glen Park to prepare area for dumping.
- Street crews continued on the 2nd week of the Fall Leaf Collection Program.
- Sign truck repaired and replaced signs and poles as needed and continued painting yellow curb at various fire hydrant locations, weather permitting.

Parks & Recreation

Administration/Planning

Pomeroy Trail Project:

- On Tuesday I met with our consultant and representatives of DelDOT to discuss shop drawing and material use approvals in an effort to streamline the process.
- On Wednesday I met with our consultant and U of D representatives to discuss drainage items relating to their General Services facility located next to the trail corridor between the Hall Trail and Wyoming Road. I also met with Rick Vitelli and the project consultant at Kershaw Street to discuss the completion of an electric project adjacent to the trail corridor.

We received the final reimbursement (Delaware Land and Water Conservation Trust Fund Grant) for the Elan Park basketball court rehab project.

Recreation personnel are finalizing plans for Sunday's 64th Annual Halloween Parade. The parade will kick off at 3 p.m. followed by Trick-or-Treat Main Street.

Tom coordinated the final tree planting effort, at the Reservoir, for Phase I of our Forestation project. On Saturday a local scout troop planted the trees. We planted more than 180 trees in this first phase.

Our tree contractor continues removing creek blockages in the Christina caused by Hurricane Irene.

Field Operation

Park crews continue mowing operations.

We continue to paint and do other building maintenance tasks at the Police annex to get ready for their upcoming certification review.

Park staff completed the monthly inspection of fire extinguishers in all City buildings.

Our mowing contractor completed the final grass cutting of the slopes at the Reservoir and City maintained storm water basins.

Horticulture/Landscaping

Horticulture staff removed brick edgings around four (4) tree pits along Main Street that do not have trees in them.

Department staff continued with mowing operations and landscape bed maintenance at park and horticulture areas.

Recreation Services

We conducted two (2) skills sessions for registrants to our Youth Basketball Program. Two more will be held followed by the player draft.

Sharon and Debbie are “ALL” Halloween Parade this week. Final preparation will include preparing the line-up and coordinating final logistics. They also committed time coordinating and collecting items for the Turkey Trot.

Electric

The line crews are reconfiguring aerial circuits on new poles on Main Street. They had to start extra early so that businesses that needed shutdowns would not be interrupted during regular work hours. The line crews have also been busy repairing hot spots from the infrared reports. Twenty six spots have been addressed with two left to attend to.

The electricians have been building a second metering point for the University's Lovett Avenue Science Center. The primary circuitry recently built will be ready to energize as soon as this metering is done and underground cables have been tested. Engineering met with University personnel about the dual services feeding the complex. Relay reclose settings and notification procedures in the event of a failure were discussed.

Engineering has calculated the relay settings for both the Science Center and the recently moved substation transformer. These settings are being set into the relays which will be tested for proper operation.

Engineering is also evaluating the cost and benefits of a uniform supplier. Presently, line personnel have a yearly allowance to buy flame retardant gear which they take care of. Some municipalities have uniform rentals which also includes regular cleaning.

Water & Wastewater

The new siphons across the Christina Creek have been put into service. The contractor has some odds and ends to clean up before buttoning up for the winter. We will restore the site in the spring and close out the contract at that time.

I attended the Water Supply Coordinating Council meeting this week. We are still in a La Nina condition (cooler ocean temps in the Pacific). The long term forecast indicates equal chances of the temperature being warmer or cooler and precipitation being higher or

lower than normal. We will have to wait and see how it turns out as we get farther into the season.

A contractor is completing the site restoration of the water main break that we experienced in Windy Hills. Another contractor is repairing a sewer line defect that we identified on Timberline Drive.

Last week we conducted the annual safety inspection of the reservoir. Nothing unusual was identified.

Police

On Tuesday, October 18, 2011 at approximately 5:15 p.m., a call came into the 911 center that a non-emergency vehicle was traveling on East Delaware Avenue and was using a siren as it was traveling down the road. M/Cpl. Nelson was able to locate the vehicle and conduct a traffic stop on Library Avenue. The driver had placed a working siren and microphone unit in the engine compartment of the vehicle. The driver, identified as Adnan Khan, was issued summonses for a noise violation, driving while suspended, no proof of insurance, illegal use of a siren in a vehicle and improper window tint.

On Friday, October 21, 2011 at approximately 9:18 p.m., Corporal Kendrick responded to a report of a strong arm robbery on North College Avenue near Ray Street. A 20 year-old female University of Delaware student was walking on North College Avenue when the incident occurred. The victim told police that while she was walking and talking on her cell phone, an unknown male came from behind and pulled her purse from her wrist and fled on foot towards Ray Street. The victim was not injured during this incident. A Newark Police K9 responded to the scene but was unable to locate the suspect. The suspect was described as a male of unknown race, wearing a black leather jacket, black pants and a black cap on his head. This case has been turned over to a detective for investigation.

On Tuesday, October 25, 2011 at approximately 4:37 a.m., Corporal Maurer and Officer Lawrence responded to the area of the 400 block of Casho Mill Drive for a report that suspects were walking around the area using baseball bats to damage property. As the officers were on this call, other reports came in that the suspects were in another neighborhood causing damage. Investigation revealed that numerous mailboxes, lamp posts, fences and sidewalk lighting had been damaged. The neighborhoods included Cherry Hill, Williamsburg Village and Abbottsford. Several victims heard the commotion and called police, describing three suspects carrying baseball bats doing the damage. Over \$2,600 in damage has been documented so far. Three suspects were taken into custody on the train tracks behind Thorn Lane carrying baseball bats. Charges for this case are pending the completion of the investigation and identification of additional victims.

KRS/mp