

## **DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS**

**September 4, 2009**

### **Planning & Development/Building**

#### *Planning*

At its meeting Tuesday evening the Planning Commission recommended that City Council approved the following:

- A. Wawa rezoning and special use permits at 601 Ogletown Road with a series of conditions;
- B. 911 Church Road annexation of an existing single family dwelling;
- C. Zoning Code amendment that would require "site postings," notifying the public of rezoning and annexation Planning Commission public hearings.

I have begun to receive positive responses from several proposed members of our Newark Transportation Plan Consultant Study Steering Committee. Once all the members have responded, we will convene a committee meeting with representatives from WILMAPCO and DelDOT.

On Thursday afternoon I met with representatives of Landmark Engineering and attorney Lisa Goodman to review requirements from the Planning Commission's public hearing on the proposed Candlewood Suites Hotel at S. College Avenue and Welsh Tract Road.

#### *Economic Development*

On Wednesday Assistant Planning Director Maureen Feeney Roser hosted an informational session regarding the new Downtown Newark Gift Card Program. The information was well received and work continued this week on contract review, additional merchant contacts and card design.

On Wednesday afternoon Maureen met with representatives of Grotto Pizza to continue planning for the first annual Grotto Pizza Run "Eat, Run for Dough" to benefit the Ronald McDonald House; this is scheduled for Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.

On Friday afternoon Maureen met with a local filmmaker to discuss a downtown Newark commercial promised to the City as part of the DNP sponsorship of the Newark Film Festival.

Maureen also spent a considerable amount of time on the DNP's application to the National Trust for the Great American Main Street Awards.

Work also continued this week for the upcoming Taste of Newark as well as the DNP's Annual Meeting and Celebration; the latter event is scheduled for November 19<sup>th</sup> at the Washington House.

### Community Development

On Monday evening Planner Mike Fortner staffed the Community Development/Revenue Sharing Committee meeting. The Committee continued its process of preparing recommendations to City Council for the upcoming grant year.

Also on Monday, Mike held a loan settlement for a POOH Program loan.

### Code Enforcement

The Division had their first meeting this week with University of Delaware representatives regarding the Interdisciplinary Sciences and Engineering Building and east campus utility plant proposed for the corner of Academy Street and Lovett Avenue. Construction is tentatively scheduled for early 2011.

## **Public Works**

### Planning & Inspection/Engineering:

- Kelley Dinsmore and Rich Lapointe attended a DEMA State Hazard Mitigation Council meeting, "Hazard Identification and Vulnerability Assessment of Environmental Hazards in New Castle County, DE".
- Kelley Dinsmore researched various stormwater utilities across the country for credit and maintenance guidance.
- Contract 09-03 – 09 Street Improvement Program:

Mumford & Miller Concrete Inc. worked on Bellevue Road and completed:

- 1) 149.69 tons of base hot mix on south shoulder
- 2) 150.86 tons of top hot mix on south shoulder
- 3) 130.04 tons of top hot mix as wedges to establish crown of road
- 4) 1,016.02 tons of top hot mix overlay of road

Mumford & Miller Concrete Inc. worked on Minquil Drive and Plymouth Drive and completed:

- 1) 88 c.y. of undercut excavation
- 2) 157.56 tons of base hot mix installation in undercut excavations

Wrangle Hill Enterprises worked on Devon Drive and completed:

- 1) 410.5 l.f. of p.c.c. rolled curb replacement
- 2) 35.1 s.f. of 6" p.c.c. driveway apron replacement
- 3) 15.9 l.f. of p.c.c. driveway apron saw cut

- Contract 09-06 - Handicap Ramps: Paoli Services completed the following:

- 1) Installed 144 s.f. of 4" p.c.c. sidewalk
- 2) Installed 83.7 l.f. of vertical curb
- 3) Installed 15 l.f. of integral curb and gutter
- 4) Installed 25.4 s.f. of white truncated domes and 16 s.f. of red domes  
Contractor used a 5.5 c.y. and a 6 c.y. load of Class B concrete.

#### Survey Crew:

- Delineated and graded approximately 1500 l.f. of the centerline of Bellevue Road for road repaving.
- Performed a topographic survey behind the maintenance garage for future installation of a wash rack.

#### Field Operations:

#### Refuse:

- Public Works began picking up refuse containers at parks with automated trucks.

#### Streets:

- Catch basin crews rebuilt the following catch basins: 33 Park Drive, 315 Arbour Drive, 407 Lark Drive, 1 N. Wynwyd Drive, and 1 N. Wynwyd Drive on Timberline Drive.
- Hot mix crews excavated and applied 270 s.f. of hot mix at E. Park Place and Academy Street, 600 s.f. of hot mix at 16 Westfield drive, and 400 s.f. of hot mix at 15 Westfield Drive.
- Street crews repaired sink hole along storm sewer line at 19 Shull Drive.
- Street crews cleared branches from roadway at the Creekbend Court cul-de-sac.
- Street crews excavated debris and trash from the Park Drive culvert and Cherry Hill Manor service road.
- Sign truck repaired and replaced signs and poles as needed and applied thermo tape to the roadway at the exit of the parking lot on Academy Street for the Parking Division.
- Street crews assisted Refuse Department on the 3-man packer.
- Street crews loaded, from the city yard, and dropped off catch basin frames and grates for the Street Program on Bradford Lane and Devon Drive.

### **Water & Wastewater**

Work on the Forest and Thompson Lane sewer repair was finished up this week. This work corrected a reverse grade situation that we discovered as well as the replacement of some badly deteriorated clay pipe. Pavement restoration will be completed next week.

The raw water line on Route 72 that broke over the weekend was repaired on Monday of this week. We are waiting for the soil around the repair to completely dry out so that we can get back in and have the road restored. We are coordinating with the State to insure that this work is done to their satisfaction.

I have arranged to have the phase one archaeological investigation completed at the Christina Creek Sewer Crossing project site. The report on this work should be available later this month. The Corps of Engineers is going to be on site after Labor Day to walk the site as part of their review of our permit application. When these two activities are complete we will be able to finalize our design to address any concerns and proceed after that to advertisement.

### **Electric**

The line crews have been raising underground pedestals on Townview Lane in order to facilitate the service changeovers being done there. They have also been busy applying weed killer around poles that have climbing vines and they facilitated a service change at Ali Baba on Main Street.

Engineering has been busy getting the material bids out for the Elkton Road DeIDOT project where two miles of pole line will be reworked and moved. Also the University monthly metering has been compiled for billing.

The electricians have replaced defective time clocks for the flashers at Downes School and the Wilson Center court lights. They've worked on the upgrades to the 911 center and finished piping the communication conduits for the newest substation at Wyoming Road.

### **Parks & Recreation**

#### **Administration – Charlie Emerson:**

We began reviewing the redevelopment plan for the former Daffy Deli site located on Elkton Road.

The contractor is making good progress with the trail rehabilitation project at Redd Park.

We met with the engineering firm working with DeIDOT on the Elkton Road street and traffic median improvement project to discuss the landscaping component.

Carol Houck and I met with representatives of Pennoni for a brainstorming session to discuss the Curtis Paper Mill and Old Paper Mill Road Park sites to consider possible options for moving forward with the Master Plan project.

I had discussions with Pennoni and others regarding design issues where the Pomeroy Trail crosses under the CSX bridge at North Chapel Street.

### Recreation – Joe Spadafino:

The Recreation Supervisor of Athletics worked on youth soccer league schedules. She added two teams to the Elementary Soccer League from the Greater Newark Boys and Girls Club, which didn't have enough players to form a league.

Letters were mailed to previous year's youth basketball league coaches inviting them back to coach for the upcoming season and registrant rosters were sent to instructors for upcoming programs.

NFL Pepsi Punt, Pass and Kick competition was conducted on Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup> with 13 participants. Age group winners will move on to a sectional competition and have a chance at winning a spot to compete during halftime of a Philadelphia Eagles game.

Considerable time has been spent on Community Day: reviewing, sorting and assigning vendors. We also have been reviewing and assigning performers and demonstrations for the event.

We are actively researching options for providing sign language interpretation for a deaf participant in our programs.

Staff has been busy finalizing summer statistics and organizing fall programs as they prepare to begin.

The first week of registration has just completed; registration numbers are down slightly compared to last year. We are hoping for a boost in this week's registration as area children go back to school and we send marketing materials to the schools.

Before School and After School Care begin this week with 60 participants; it has been a busy week in preparation for the start of the program. Staff orientation was conducted along with making sure all of the required paper work and files were organized.

We have been working on new registration procedures and policies due to the elimination of Saturday resident registration and the newsletter. To coincide with this is the development of a new web based marketing plan.

Calls and emails were made to various art organizations and individuals looking for artists of the month for 2010. Program information continues to be inputted on Delaware Online, Newark Post event calendars and Delaware Online Moms Like Me websites.

### Parks & Horticulture – Tom Zaleski:

We completed aerating certain athletic fields this week. In addition we added crumb rubber to the goal mouths at the Kells Park soccer field.

We designed and built a display case/message box to be placed at each tennis court site where we offer instructional classes to inform the public when the courts will be in use for such purposes.

Tom Zaleski met with a representative of the New Castle Conservation District to discuss ideas for improving the canoe launch ramp site used by campers who attend our summer camp at Rittenhouse Park.

We are researching bush hog mowers to replace our old unit.

### **Police**

Following the third week of the Fall Crime Initiative, which began on August 14<sup>th</sup>, there have been no incidents of street robbery or aggravated assault. The following arrests made just last week in the initiative zone are as follows: 14 criminal arrests, 4 drug arrests, 23 alcohol arrests, and 2 Driving Under the Influence arrests.

On Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, Newark Police Detective Nick Sansone and members of the Delaware State Police have arrested two suspects in the recent Rite Aid robberies. Both suspects were committed to Gander Hill.

On Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, the Newark Police Mobile Command Post was stationed on Main Street for freshmen move-in day. Chief Tiernan, Captain Williams and Lt. Stanko staffed the command post. City of Newark informational brochures, city maps and maps of Downtown Newark businesses were distributed. In addition, two police officers patrolled Main Street on foot. Many parents expressed their appreciation of police presence and assistance.

Cpl. Jeff Schwagel arrested a suspect that painted the tag "KARP" and charged him with 23 graffiti related charges. The suspect was released to his mother pending a Family Court hearing. Cpl. Schwagel also arrested a second suspect for painting the tag "RAD" in the city. The suspect was released on \$4,000 bail pending arraignment.

On Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, Cpl. Marty LaRue arrested three suspects after they broke into a car on O'Daniel Avenue, removed a stereo and entered the Christina Mill apartment complex. Cpl. LaRue stopped the suspects as they were driving through the apartment complex, arrested them and recovered the stolen property.

The number of traffic summonses issued continues to decline as Traffic Officers have temporarily been assigned to the Fall Crime Initiative and then will be assigned to patrol in order to fill vacant officer positions.

KRS/mp