



City of Hagerstown, Maryland Status & Information Report No. 1 for 2009

January 9, 2009

To Mayor Bruchey and Members of the City Council:

UPCOMING MEETINGS

❖❖ JANUARY 2009 ❖❖						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6 4 pm Work Session	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 4 pm Work Session	14	15	16	17
18	19 Holiday City Offices Closed	20 4 pm Work Session	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 4 pm Budget Retreat 7 pm Regular Session	28	29	30	31

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

- CITY FARMER'S MARKET**
 - This week the Market features Children's storytimes and giveaways as well as kids crafts.
 - Next week will be the "Beat the Winter Blues" basket giveaway and the beginning of the Market Piano playing competition signup.
- EVENTS**
 - The 2009 event calendar and entertainment schedules are being finalized.
- COMMUNICATION TO CITIZENS & VISITORS**
 - City of Hagerstown Website
 - Visit the Utility Department's new webpages at <http://www.hagerstownmd.org/Utilities/Utilities.html>
 - 2009 Election Information is now available on the City of Hagerstown homepage at <http://www.hagerstownmd.org>
 - Download the 2009 Trash & Recycling calendars at <http://www.hagerstownmd.org/Engineering/trashAndRecycle.asp>
 - Hagerstown Government Television
 - Watch the rebroadcasts of the current Mayor & Council meeting Thursday at 7:00pm and Saturday at 9:00am.
- Leadership Washington County** - Leadership Washington County held its local government day January 9, 2009. City Administrator Bruce Zimmerman, Planning Director Kathleen Maher, Fire Chief Gary Hawbaker and Community Affairs Director Karen Giffin met with the class to discuss City government.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. **Arts and Entertainment:** Staff is working with Cindy Blackstock and the management team for the Arts and Entertainment District to plan a "Meeting of Creative Minds". This meeting will call together artists, craftsman, dancers, designers, musicians, performance artists, patrons of the Arts, and friends/supporters of the Arts. The purpose of the meeting is to seek input from the community in order that the management team may help them better practice, develop or promote their craft in downtown Hagerstown.
2. **Rockys Pizza:** Vinnie now has a signed lease for the space previously occupied by Golden Crown on North Potomac Street. He is in the process of having renovation plans prepared and finalizing his business plan. A grand opening is planned for this spring.
3. **Long Meadow Shopping Center:** Representatives met with the Mayor and staff this week to discuss their plans for the Center. CVS will be located on an out-parcel fronting the Leitersburg Pike. The first floor of the vacant Sears building will be redeveloped, with the second floor being mothballed at this time. The theater area will be demolished for additional parking. Green space will be increased by 13% on site. Building space will be reduced by about 25,000 square feet.
4. **Odds and Ends:** A recent survey by the State of Maryland involving Main Street Communities indicates that most merchants reported that their 4th quarter was down. The one bright spot reported was that people are still dining out although spending less on alcohol. It appears that flat may be the new up for 2009.

ENGINEERING & CODE ADMINISTRATION

1. **Upcoming Bids** Our CIP project bidding schedule is as follows:

- Signal modifications at Mulberry & East Avenue	Jan 16 th
- Jonathan Street re-bid	Jan 16 th
- Reconstruction of Alley 4-22 & 2-134	Jan 23 rd
- Rt 58 Sidewalk	Jan 23 rd
- Cramers Alley Widening	Feb 6
- Rt 40 Sidewalk	Feb 13 th
- Reconstruction of Alleys 2-29 & 2-32. (CDBG)	Feb 20 th
- Roslyn Building Renovations	Mar 6 th
2. **Eastern Boulevard Signal Coordination** Last week Tim Young and Frank Nuice accompanied the consultant from Sabra Wang to implement the signal timing plan on Eastern Boulevard. Traffic on Eastern Boulevard is flowing very well, although we are still watching the intersection at Jefferson Street and may need to make some adjustments. The partial signal at Opal Court is reportedly working well.
3. **Recycling Tonnages** Our monthly total for December 2008 for Mixed Paper Recycling was the highest for the year. The Commingled Recycling tonnage was one of the highest for all of 2008. In the last five months, prices of these materials have dropped as follows:

- Plastic	-86%
- Paper	-100%
- Aluminum	-70%
- Cardboard	-70%

There will not be any rebates from Allied for us to enjoy anytime soon at these prices (see attached).

4. **Board of Traffic & Parking** The Board discussed the following this month:
 - Church Street: Restrict large vehicles
 - Church Street at James Street: Prohibit parking for trash truck turn
 - 67 East Franklin Street: Request for load zone
 - Rick Ledford from Nestor will attend the March 12th Board meeting to discuss red light cameras in Hagerstown.
5. **Court Cases** The following cases were heard this past week:
 - Terry McCarney, 335 Yorkshire Drive, guilty of failure to abate weeds and high grass after receiving a notice to do so. Fined \$350 plus court costs.
 - Emma Nunez, 220-222 Frederick Street, guilty of failure to abate weeds and high grass after receiving a notice to do so. Fined \$350 plus court costs.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

1. **Flooding Conditions** – In late December the department responded to numerous flooding conditions in vacant properties. These were caused by pipes being frozen when the temperatures were in the teens and then thawing

out with the warm weather. These damaged water pipes resulted in water flowing into the houses. With so many homes vacant this will be a reoccurring problem this winter because most turn off the heat but not the water supply.

PARKS DEPARTMENT

1. **Pangborn Park** - To be funded by POS, renovations of the restrooms at Pangborn Park have begun. To date, we removed the old shingled roof, made minor repairs, and are presently installing a metal roof to match other existing park facilities. The plumber has completed the rough-in plumbing. We will soon concrete the floor and lay block for the interior walls.
2. **Tree Maintenance** - Due to heavy winds and ice during the past month, numerous tree limbs fell to the ground throughout our parks and playgrounds. We are picking up the debris, performing tree maintenance at the same time.
3. **Winter Maintenance** - Performed annually over the winter months, we are repairing and repainting our picnic tables and benches. Building maintenance includes repainting the interior of the restrooms in our various parks.
4. **Municipal Stadium** - Staff met with the new General Manager of the Hagerstown Suns, Bob Flannery. Items of discussion include maintenance performed by the City, the City's budget and the Suns' responsibility as it pertains to the Municipal Stadium.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

1. **Zoning Certificates Issued For New Businesses:**
 - 850 Pennsylvania Avenue - Absolute Autowerkz - auto repair.
 - 18007 Garland Groh Boulevard - Five Guys Burgers and Fries - restaurant.
 - 31 Eastern Boulevard, North, Suite 43B - Five Guys Burgers and Fries - restaurant.
 - 1727 Dual Highway - Dual Highway Dry Cleaners.
 - 20 Public Square - Potomac Bridals - retail sales of bridal and special occasion apparel.
2. **New Development Cases:**
 - 800 Commonwealth Avenue - Overland Contracting, Inc. - unmanned equipment shelter.
3. **Historic District Commission:** The Commission reviewed the following at their meeting on January 8th:
 - 12 North Prospect Street and 170 West Washington Street - Edward J. Tovornik, Jr. - approved installation of a temporary banner not to exceed 365 days.
 - 105 Broadway - Gary L. Marshall - approved application to replace a rear stairway in order to meet code requirements.
 - 460 North Potomac Street - John Rasoulpour - continued discussion on this sign application until the next meeting to give the applicant an opportunity to redesign his sign to be more compatible with the building.
 - Discussed draft guidelines for an exemption to Certificate of Appropriateness review process for real estate signs.
4. **Planning Commission:** The Commission will review the following at their meeting on January 14th:
 - Preliminary consultation with the Salvation Army to discuss its plan to enlarge its existing community/worship center on George Street at Wise Street.
 - Preliminary consultation with property owner of townhouses on Berkson Avenue to discuss possible subdivision of townhouses into individual lots.
 - House Bill 1141 Amendments to 2008 Comprehensive Plan - discussion about suggested revisions by staff to supplement proposed amendments in response to comments received by Washington County and the Maryland Department of Planning on House Bill 1141.
 - Begin discussions concerning Phase 2 of the Comprehensive Rezoning.
 - Wind generators.
5. **Board of Zoning Appeals:** The BZA will hear the following case on January 21, 2009:
 - 772 Morningside Avenue - Mark and Danielle Roncone - variance to reduce the rear yard from 35 feet to 28 feet to construct an addition to a single-family dwelling.

6. **Beautification Advisory Committee:** The Committee discussed the following at their meeting on January 7th:
 - Adopt-a-Planter: The Adopt-a-Planter Sub-Committee is working out the final details on the planter design, construction, and budget/funding. The Sub-Committee is exploring the use of "soft molds" that will be better able to mold the design of the planter.
 - Elizabeth Hager Center Mural Replacement: Staff will present to Mayor & Council on January 13 the Committee's proposal for a replacement to the existing mural.
 - New Business/Future Projects: Future projects discussed by the Committee included a tree seedling and planting project involving students from Washington County Public Schools, as well as starting a focus group that could get past Highlight Hagerstown Award winners to encourage their neighborhoods to beautify their properties through landscaping.

7. **Comprehensive Rezoning, Phase II:** The Planning Commission have wrapped their review of Phase I and so staff have begun preparing for Phase II. Staff have begun meeting with property owners of large scale vacant tracts of land which are recommended for rezoning in the City's 2008 Comprehensive Plan. Staff will discuss the rezoning recommendations and the results of these meetings with the Planning Commission on January 14th.

8. **Doleman Museum Bond Bill:** Senator Munson is putting in a \$100,000 bond bill request for the Doleman Museum project in this legislative session. Staff will meet with one of the Doleman Black Heritage Museum Board members on January 9th to review the bond form.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Numbers below are from 12/11/08 through 1/7/09:

<u>Calls For Service</u>	<u>CDS Arrests</u>	<u>Other Criminal Arrests (Including Warrants)</u>	<u>Parking Tickets</u>	<u>Moving Violations</u>	<u>DUI</u>	<u>Search Warrants Executed</u>
3,689	13	96	543	262	10	2

1. **Vehicle Pursuit & Apprehension (1/3):** At 2:46 a.m. troopers from the Pennsylvania State Police pursued a vehicle into Maryland on US Rt. 11 into the city of Hagerstown. The driver was wanted on felony and other traffic related charges. The vehicle entered Hagerstown, southbound on Pennsylvania Avenue to Jonathan Street where the vehicle struck three parked vehicles. The vehicle then continued southbound to the 300 block of Summit Avenue where it struck another parked vehicle. There the suspect was taken into custody with the assistance of the Washington County Sheriff's deputies and HPD officers. The driver, Kevin R. Reese, was transported to the Washington County Hospital for treatment of injuries sustained in the crashes. Reese will be charged with numerous traffic offenses in both Maryland and Pennsylvania as a result of this incident.

2. **Armed Robbery/Shooting (1/4):** Officers responded to the Washington County Hospital for a gunshot victim. The victim, who was treated and later released, reported that at approximately 1:15 a.m. he was in the area of the 500 block of George Street when he was confronted by three back males (no further description) who attempted to rob him. As the victim tried to run away, one of the suspect shot him once in the leg. The suspects then fled the scene without taking anything from the victim.

3. **Armed Robbery (1/7):** At 8:15 p.m. officers were dispatched to Save-A-Lot grocery store at 1161 Maryland Avenue for a reported robbery that had just occurred. They learned that the three suspects, who had already fled the store by the time the officers arrived, forced their way into the store as employees were closing. One was armed with a baseball bat and one with a tire iron. All three were wearing ski masks. The suspects then forced the employees into an office and proceeded to steal an undetermined amount of cash from the registers. The males then left the store in an unknown direction.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

1. **A & E Parking Deck and New Year's Eve:** Many of the restaurants along South Potomac Street were booked for New Year's Eve. Concerns had been raised in the past regarding the A&E parking deck operations with the deck meeting capacity (188 spaces) and possible traffic problems inside the deck. Two staff members were placed at the deck that evening to monitor the spaces in preparation to close the deck when all the spaces had

been filled. Additionally staff could assist patrons to find other parking as well as keep the area clean and orderly. The deck reached a capacity of approximately 150 spaces.

2. **Birds Roosting:** Birds have been roosting in the trees in the Square. All the trees in all four quadrants were pruned to discourage the birds from roosting. However, the birds continue to congregate in this area. Staff is now chasing the birds out, using noise makers, and will continue as necessary.
3. **Winter Weather:** The area has experienced several near misses of snow and ice. A drop in temperature in the early morning hours of December 24, 2008, caused black ice to form on the streets throughout the city. While a small crew had been in early that night, the icy road conditions certainly caught many off guard. We monitor every storm and prepare as best we can based on forecasts, temperatures leading up to the event, and forecasted temperatures after the event. We try hard to address every storm event in an appropriate manner

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

1. **MARKET.** Two new vendor applications mailed out this week.
2. **FAIRGROUNDS PARK.** The Recreation Department will host four yard sales for the 2009 season. The dates are April 11th, June 13th, August 8th, and October 10th.
3. **HAGER HOUSE PROGRAMS AND EVENTS:**
 - **Tours:** The last two weeks were quite busy ones at the City's Historic Sites. The staff finished the final week of "German Christmas" tours and we are quite pleased with the turnout. Over 900 hundred visitors viewed the presentation over the month of December with 96 tours. Six of these tours were large bus tour groups. The Hager House team is now transitioning from the open visitation schedule to the winter season with its new maintenance and research goals.
 - **Railroad Museum at City Park:** This historic site is closed for the season but projects for 2009 continue to be planned and staff also supplied information this week for a soon to be published article on the Locomotive 202 and her sister engines.
 - **Hager House Programs and Events:** The Hager House is now closed to the public but of course the staff is busy with a multitude of winter projects! We are pleased with the attendance of the 2008 season and are happy to report that 12,371 people visited in 2008 an increase of 6.0 % over the 11,667 reported in 2007. This is a good increase in these harder economic times! Also staff spent time compiling the year end report as well as a list of preservation items to purchase to update the Hager Museum presentation. Time was also devoted to preparing ad copy to be sent to the Homeschooler magazine for publication in the 2009 issue plus searching out supplies for a cosmetic update to some of the rooms of the office building in order to make it more conducive to hosting meetings and events. Additionally work continues on seeking out topics for future research and presentation.

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

ELECTRIC DIVISION

1. **Problem Areas.** Recent call outs included:
 - Thu. 1/1
 - 300 block Linganore Avenue. Total outage; replaced (1) 25T fuse and installed extra squirrel guard, squirrel caused outage. Time Out: 9.0-9.8
 - 610 North Prospect Street. Total outage; replaced (1) 10T fuse and extra squirrel guard, squirrel caused outage. Time Out: 15.5-16.5
 - West Wilson Boulevard & Spruce Street. Check damage to pole; informed Allegheny Energy of problem. Light Department crew reattached duplex while on scene. Time Out: 17.6-19.3.
 - Wed. 1/7
 - 1300 block Salem Avenue. Total outage/wires down; reattached service lines, trimmed trees around problem area, service restored. Time Out: 4.1-6.2.
 - 1153 Beechwood Drive. Miss Utility locate; area cleared for Water Department personnel. Time Out: 21.6-22.2.
2. **Distribution.** Recent activity included:
 - Christmas trees have been removed and recycled.

- Jones Substation maintenance and feeder inspection is underway.
- Tree trimming continues in various residential areas.
- No high bill complaints were received this week.
- Line maintenance work continues in various locations.

Lamps Replaced	New Fixtures Added	Changeouts	Fixtures Removed
16	0	1	0

WATER DIVISION

Plant Flows – System Demand (MGD)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Willson</u>	<u>Breichner</u>	<u>Total</u>
12/23/08	10.75		10.75
12/24/08	10.73		10.73
12/25/08	10.21		10.21
12/26/08	10.04		10.04
12/27/08	10.52		10.52
12/28/08	10.8		10.8
12/29/08	10.84		10.84
Average			10.55

Water Production at RC Willson

- Willson continues to operate efficiently; water temperature is currently 39 degrees.
- The operations and maintenance crew have been completing scheduled work orders.
- Instrumentation has fixed a vibration problem that was occurring with our lime machines.

Water Production at Breichner

- The Edgemont Reservoir is currently at -9', the bypass and hydrant are closed.
- The Clear well was turned over last week.

Water Distribution

- New radio read meters are being installed in Division 54.
- Two leaks to report this week:
 Sunday, Jan. 4th at 3:15am - 11022 Hickory School Rd.
 Wednesday, Jan. 7th at 9:00pm - 1153 Beechwood Dr.

Laboratory

Water: Year end USEPA regulatory monitoring results are being gathered to be sent to the MDE. We are still waiting on the second lab results for our 4th quarter THM/HAA testing. Analytical Labs was contacted and they are due to be emailed to me today.

WASTEWATER DIVISION

Wastewater Treatment Plant at Frederick Street

Date	Flow (mgd)	Rainfall (inches)
Wednesday, December 31, 2008	6.80	0.01

Thursday, January 1, 2009	6.46	0.00
Friday, January 2, 2009	6.55	0.00
Saturday, January 3, 2009	6.43	0.00
Sunday, January 4, 2009	6.37	0.00
Monday, January 5, 2009	6.37	0.00
Tuesday, January 6, 2009	6.32	0.30
Weekly Average/Total	6.47	0.31
Monthly Average/Total	6.81	0.95
Yearly Average/Total	6.81	0.95

- The Wastewater Treatment Plant continues to operate efficiently; all parameters are within MDE compliance specifications. Maintenance crews completed 39 preventative and 31 corrective work orders during the month of December 2008.

Wastewater Collection

Administration

- Consent Order - Quarterly Report mailed to MDE and posted on the City website.
- Monthly NPDES Report mailed to MDE and EPA, there were no violations for the month of December 2008.
- Staff attended several meetings associated with, Cost of Service Study, Jonathan Street project, Street Trees in the public right of way and Hospital wastewater and water services.
- Staff met with property owners in Brightwood Acres East regarding tree root damage to the City low pressure sewer grinder pump serving their dwelling.
- Staff met with the City Attorney, LGIT Representative, City Administrator and other City staff on sidewalk, curb and sanitary sewer damage by street trees/roots.
- Staff met with Hospital representatives and consultants regarding the estimated cost of the offsite wastewater infrastructure.

Reviews:	<u>City</u>	<u>County</u>
Building Permits	6	
Sewer Permits		

QUOTES

QUOTES ON TIME FROM COOLQUOTES.COM

Monday. You may delay, but time will not. - Benjamin Franklin

Tuesday. The surest way to be late is to have plenty of time. - Leo Kennedy

Wednesday. The time you enjoy wasting is not wasted time. - Bertrand Russell

Thursday. Everyone has his day and some days last longer than others. - Winston Churchill

Friday. Take time to deliberate; but when the time for action arrives, stop thinking and go in. - Andrew Jackson

Saturday. There is never enough time, unless you're serving it. - Malcolm Forbes

Sunday. Half our life is spent trying to find something to do with the time we have rushed through life trying to save. - Will Rogers

**City of Hagerstown Strategic Plan -
Focus on the Quality of Life in Hagerstown**

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce J. Zimmerman
City Administrator