



City of Hagerstown, Maryland Status & Information Report No. 17 for 2009

May 1, 2009

To Mayor Bruchey and Members of the City Council:

UPCOMING MEETINGS

❖❖ MAY 2009 ❖❖						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 1 pm Aquafina Major League Baseball Pitch, Hit & Run @ American Little League Field - Mill Street
3	4	5 3:30 Park Circle Fountain & Garden Dedication 4:30 pm Work Session 7pm Budget Hearing	6	7 8 am Maymart	8	9
10	11	12 4 pm Work Session	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 No Meeting	20	21 8 am Market In The Square	22	23 Potterfield Pool Opens
24	25 Memorial Day Holiday City Offices Closed	26 7 pm Regular Session	27	28 5pm Western MD Blues Fest @ University Plaza	29 4 pm Western MD Blues Fest @ City Central Lot	30 11 am Western MD Blues Fest @ City Central Lot
31 Noon Western MD Blues Fest @ City Park						

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

1. **Fishin' Frenzy.** Staff of Community Affairs met with Mihi Representatives to start planning the Fishin' Frenzy on June 20.
2. **MSO.** Director of Community Affairs met with the Marketing Director of the Maryland Symphony Orchestra to plan an MSO Day later in the summer.
3. **City Farmer's Market.** This week, the City Farmer's Market will be having May day specials with planting demos and giveaways. Next week will feature a free flower for the first 100 moms and a special Mother's Day basket drawing.
4. **Western Maryland Blues Fest.** Entertainer packets for Blues Fest went out this week. Event staff shirts were ordered and sponsors continue to come in. The Blues Fest program is nearing completion.
5. **Hagerstown Government Television.** Currently airing: Western Maryland Blues Fest Preview with

Founder/Chair Carl Disque and Director of Community Affairs, Karen Giffin.

6. Website

- Blues Fest latest Blues Casts can be found at www.blues-fest.org
- Residential Application for Electric Service is now available in Spanish at <http://www.hagerstownmd.org/Assets/LightDept/espanol-appl.pdf>
- Information about Neighborhood 1st groups are available online at <http://www.hagerstownmd.org/Housing/neighborhoods1st.asp#groups>

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. **Keep Kids Alive Drive 25.** A proclamation was issued by Mayor and Council designating May 1st as Keep Kids Alive Drive 25 "May Day", a day which encourages safety on behalf of both drivers and pedestrians. Neighborhoods 1st has adopted this national program as their own to promote the decrease of speed in their neighborhoods and through out the City. The groups are planning to further promote awareness of this campaign by developing local projects to protect children at school crossings and during their summer vacations.

ENGINEERING & CODE ADMINISTRATION

1. **Cramer Alley Reconstruction** The alley widening project of Cramer Alley is set to begin on May 11, 2009. We plan to meet with all impacted property owners on Monday.
2. **Wakefield Roof Abatement** Replacement of the roof at 42 Wakefield Road began this week by Milton Stamper Builders, and is expected to take about a week or so. This is a court-ordered abatement since the water penetration was severe and affecting the neighboring townhouses.
3. **Street Trees** The 272 street trees for the current year have been planted. Aspen Tree furnished quality trees and planted all within a short time.
4. **Tis The Season** Complaints for high grass and weeds have begun, largely due to foreclosed homes.
5. **Court Cases** Federal National Mortgage Associates, owners of 54 West Bethel Street, were found guilty of high grass/weed nuisance and was charged \$300.00 plus court costs.

PARKS DEPARTMENT

1. **Fountains in Operation** – The fountains at Pangborn Park and University Plaza are now up and running. The new fountain and garden at Park Circle is ready but won't be put into operation until the May 5 dedication.
2. **Tree Removal** – We removed four large trees at City Park, three at Hagerstown Greens Golf Course and one at Fairgrounds Park near the BMX track.
3. **Vandalism at Fairgrounds Park** – When our weekend staff arrived at Fairgrounds Park on Saturday morning, they found that both the soccer and softball concession stands were vandalized. The aluminum roll-up windows were damaged and, although the repair was time consuming, the cost of materials was minimal. The only thing that appeared to be missing was soda. HPD was called and a report was filed.
4. **Municipal Stadium** – Painting the steel braces that support the block wall at Municipal Stadium continues. As a follow-up to the April 22 fire, repairs are being made to the storage building.
5. **City Park** – At City Park, painting the porch of the Mansion House continues. We are also repairing deteriorated areas of the stone wall that surrounds the lower lake.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

1. **Zoning Certificates Issued For New Businesses:**
 - 1001-1003 West Washington Street - Summit Liquors - liquor store.
 - 36 South Potomac Street, Third Floor - Creative Options - interior design business and retail sales of art.
 - 43 Eastern Boulevard, North - Five Guys Burgers and Fries - restaurant.
2. **Planning Commission:** A special meeting was scheduled for May 6 to review the draft FY 2010-2014 Capital Improvements Program.
3. **Big City Forum:** Staff will attend MML's Big City Forum on April 30th in Frederick. The agenda involves discourse

on various topics amongst representatives from the 12 largest cities in Maryland. Apparently, the idea for this workshop came out of a session at the recent convention.

4. **Central Chemical Meetings:** The EPA held their meetings with the Community Liaison Panel and the General Public on April 28th. Nine members of the Community Liaison Panel attended the 5:00 p.m. meeting, along with all the usual folks representing the EPA, MDE, and the "responsible parties" (the companies paying for the environmental work). Five additional members of the public attended the 7:00 public hearing: a resident from Brighton Manor, a resident from West Irvin Heights, a resident from Northgate, a Planning Commission member, and another member of the Community Liaison Panel. The EPA's proposed action plan that involves treatment of the waste on site is preferred because it minimizes disruption to the community, minimizes dump truck traffic from the site, and minimizes dust and fumes being released from the contaminants. It was revealed that the public comment period has been extended until midnight on June 15, 2009. Following receipt of comments from the public and the responsible parties, EPA will finalize the Action Plan for clean-up and they hope to produce the EPA's Record of Decision by late August or September this year. By the end of the year, EPA hopes to have the Consent Decree worked out between the EPA and the responsible parties on the clean-up. The tentative schedule is to design the clean-up method in 2010-2011 and to undertake the clean-up work in 2011-2012. The plan is to make the site safe for public health and the environment and to make the site ready for redevelopment for industrial or commercial activity. The analysis of the groundwater contamination is still on-going and the EPA will be back with a plan of action to address that situation at a future date.
5. **Water Resource Element Study:** The County has made public the RFP for this H.B. 1141 study. A pre-proposal meeting is scheduled for May 7th at 2:00 p.m. at the W. Baltimore Street offices. The City is participating financially on this study so that we may gain the stormwater data required for our Comprehensive Plan.
6. **Appalachian Regional Commission Grants:** The deadline for this year's grant request to the County came upon us quickly and we decided to resubmit the three infrastructure projects the Mayor and City Council authorized for our 2008 application: Professional Court bridge, Inflow and Infiltration Rehabilitation (sewer), and the Northwest Connector bridge. Notification on the outcome of Tri-County Council's review of these preliminary application requests will be made by the end of the year. We learned recently that our 2008 request for the Clarkson Avenue Redevelopment was green-lighted for submittal of the long form application to ARC. The deadline for the long form is June 1, 2009.

PUBLIC WORKS

1. **Dumpster Program:** The dumpster program earlier in April was a success. In an effort to be green, two large dumpsters were used exclusively to collect electronics for recycling. Both dumpsters were able to be filled with televisions and computer parts. Scrap metal was also separated from the debris and taken for recycling. The final costs of the program will be published in the near future.
2. **City College:** Staff participated in the city college on Monday, April 20th. We presented our program along with Parks, Recreation and Community Affairs in the PAL building at Fairgrounds Park.
3. **North Potomac Street Parking Deck:** The gate system at the North Potomac Street Deck is failing and cannot be repaired. The rear entrance has been closed and the main card reader at the Potomac Street entrance has failed. The current time frame for the replacement of the gate system is September or October 2009 depending upon when the purchase of new equipment is approved.
4. **Blues Fest 2009:** Staff is already under way in preparation for the 2009 Blues Fest. The venues remain the same as last year. Thursday evening will be in University Plaza, Friday and Saturday's events will be held in the Central Lot and Sunday will be in the beautiful City Park. Be watching for notices on parking during the set up for this event.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

1. **CITY PARK/HAGER HOUSE**
 - **Tours:** The season is now in full swing with booked tours visiting weekly, this week the Hager House welcomed a group of 38 students from Grace Academy and we are glad to announce 172 visitors took 18 tours last week.
 - **Hager House Program and Events:** Staff spent much time this past week preparing for the upcoming Museum Ramble Event to be held this weekend. Also effort was put in to make final preparations for the May 16th National Pike festival activities. Work also continued on the yearly inventory of the collection as well as ordering items for the Children's area to be installed in the Hager Museum.

- **Railroad Museum at City Park:** Final touches were put on this week for the cosmetic restoration of the cabooses in the collection. Also staff and volunteers polished and reattached the brass fixtures on the engine 202 and completed the last preparations for this weekends Grand Opening and Ramble Events.

2. **CITY FARMERS MARKET**

- This weekend Market is getting in touch with it's historic side; it's Museum Ramble time! Aiming for display of pictures and bits of history that date back to when the Market was first running. First attempt at this type of display but will eventually expand on to it!

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

ELECTRIC DIVISION

1. **Problem Areas.** Recent call outs included:
- Tue. 4/28 - 112 East Baltimore Street. Total outage; replaced (1) 10T fuse. Outage caused by bird in transformer. Time Out: 18.3-19.5
 - Various (Street Light Patrol). Found lights either out or cycling in the South and West sections of the City. Lights will be repaired/replaced during regular work day Wednesday, April 29, 2009. Time Out: 20.0-22.5
 - Wed. 4/29 - 555 Papa Court. Total outage; customer applied for service at billing office earlier in week, but service was not connected. After checking customer's information, service was restored (no charge). Time Out: 18.3-19.7

2. **Distribution.** Recent activity included:
- Metering Department received one high bill complaint this week. Upon testing, found meter met all Public Service Commission requirements.
 - Replacement of underground primary continues at the Potomac Center on Marshall Street.
 - Jones Substation maintenance and feeder inspection continues.
 - Line crews continue trimming trees in various residential locations.
 - Line maintenance work continues in various areas.

Lamps Replaced	New Fixtures Added	Changeouts	Fixtures Removed
4	0	1	0

3. **Engineering.** Staff worked on the following projects:
- The Electrical Engineer attended the Western Maryland GIS Users' Group meeting to educate themselves with improvements to the GIS software.
 - Sample materials have been delivered to the Engineers for evaluation. These materials are all-in-one, which will be easier for the distribution crew to work with, cut down on installation and outage times, and one new stock item should replace multiple stock items.
 - Bids were opened for the installation of fiber optic cable to the substations for the SCADA system.

WATER DIVISION

Plant Flows - System Demand (MGD)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Willson</u>	<u>Breichner</u>	<u>Total</u>
04/23/09	10.90		10.90
04/24/09	10.97		10.97
04/25/09	11.17		11.17
04/26/09	11.01		11.01
04/27/09	11.73		11.76
04/28/09	11.56		11.56
04/29/09	11.27		11.27
Average			11.23

- The flows for this week are estimated due to a faulty flow meter on the west transmission main (scheduled for replacement next week). This has been delayed while waiting on parts.

Water Production at RC Willson

- Willson continues to operate well; water temperature is currently 70 degrees. Treatment is good; the recent rainfall has helped flush the river.

- The instrumentation crew continues working on renovation of the enunciation panel at Willson; this is a large project that will be ongoing for the next few weeks. They also installed a new flow meter at Pump Station #4.
- The maintenance crew assisted with the installation of new double doors at Pump Station #6. This larger door will allow us to install a new doubled wall sodium hypo tank which will be much safer than the old poly tank.
- The instrumentation and maintenance crews installed a new stainless steel shaft and shaft guides on the east raw water 30" influent valve.

Water Production at Breichner

- The Edgemont Reservoir is currently at -6.5', the bypass is partially open, and the hydrant is closed. The Breichner Plant was not operated this week.

Water Distribution

- This past week crews worked on Stuart Dr. installing the new 6" water lines. The 6" main passed pressure test and should pass bac-t this week and be ready for the tie-in and service changeovers next week. Crews continue to perform customer service related duties throughout the system and work on meter settings, meter reading, meter exchanges and large meter testing and repair. The Jonathan St. main replacement has started and the Water Department is working with Brake Construction to get the new water main installed.

Laboratory

- We are waiting on the MDE's approval before we have HBP begin printing this year's Consumer Confidence Report.
- We have ordered sampling materials for this year's SOC, VOC, and this quarter's THM/HAA testing. An extra 6 THM/HAA samples will be collected for potential Stage 2 regulated site determination.

Engineering

Reviews:

Building Permits 5

- Staff met with a representative of the owner of the Hopewell Apartments on provision of additional water service for possible expansion.

Administration

- Water Division Administrative personnel will be proceeding with the established Watershed Hunting Policy for the upcoming hunting season. A Herald Mail advertisement will be placed during the month of June, applications will be accepted from July 1 to August 14, and notification to the successful applicants will occur by September 15.

WASTEWATER DIVISION

Wastewater Treatment Plant at Frederick Street

Date	Flow (mgd)	Rainfall (inches)
Wednesday, April 22, 2009	7.59	0.03
Thursday, April 23, 2009	7.22	0.00
Friday, April 24, 2009	6.88	0.00
Saturday, April 25, 2009	6.66	0.00
Sunday, April 26, 2009	6.53	0.00
Monday, April 27, 2009	6.58	0.00
Tuesday, April 28, 2009	6.50	0.00
Weekly Average/Total	6.85	0.03
Monthly Average/Total	6.28	3.27
Yearly Average/Total	5.99	6.46

- The Wastewater Treatment Plant continues to operate efficiently; all parameters are within MDE compliance specifications. Maintenance crews continue working on corrective and preventative work orders.

Project updates

- ENR-UV Disinfection – Construction is approximately 7% complete through the 03/31/09 payment application. There have been some delays with the sub-structure micro piles installation, this delay could require an extension of the contract time line, we will have a better idea of the additional time next month. Otherwise the project is progressing on schedule.
- Headworks – Construction is approximately 13.5% complete through the 03/31/09 payment application. There has been change to an electrical transformer that will require an additional thirty day extension of the contract. This time extension is not an issue since the project was being completed approximately six months prior to the Consent Agreement requirement

Activity	Districts	Linear Feet of Main	Feet of Lateral	# of Lateral Inspections
Closed Circuit TV Inspections	3,4,7	1,483	619	25
Flushing	2,3,7,17,18	12,174		
Point Repairs		# of Repairs	Reason	LF of Repairs
Lateral Only	3	1	Roots, broken pipe	32
Main & Lateral	3	1	Roots	7

Customer Service Calls & Maintenance Repairs

- 1527 Kensington – replaced grinder pump core
- 12918 The Terrace – replaced lateral - Roots

Laboratory

- We have been doing a comparative study on methods for testing ammonia. We will eventually be switching.
- A leak sprung up in one of the lab sinks. Maintenance has been working on fixing it.
- Maintenance was performed on the sampler pump used in sampling Synagro’s discharge line.

Administration

- Staff attended MDE review session associated with Stimulus Funded projects. Projects Final Plan and Specifications must be submitted to MDE by July 30, 2009. Bids must be opened by September 30, 2009 and Notice to Proceed to construction must be issued by December 31, 2009. We should be ready to submit the Collection System Rehabilitation project to MDE by mid to late May, should put us in good shape to meet all of the milestone dates. Stimulus funding portion of the project is approximately 1.45 million.
- The MDE State Revolving Loan was closed for the Headworks and UV projects last week; this will allow us to be reimbursed for the construction that has completed. We have prepared two loan reimbursement requests in the amount of \$607,000 for these projects.
- Staff met with representative and consultants of the Hospital to review questions relative to the bids for off site wastewater infrastructure construction.

Reviews: City County

Sewer

Site Plan 1
 Building Permits 13

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

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce J. Zimmerman
 City Administrator