



City of Hagerstown, Maryland Status & Information Report No. 19 for 2009

May 15, 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. **Grand Openings.** Announcements went out this week for Maia Modeling & Talent Agency and Sprout Finishing School located on the upper floor of 2 Public Square in Downtown Hagerstown. Maia & Sprout will celebrate their Grand Opening on Tuesday, May 19, 2009.
2. **Blues Fest.** The program for the Western Maryland Blues Fest was finalized this week and will go to print next week. Look for it in your *Herald Mail* the Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend.
3. **Augustoberfest.** Applications are being reviewed for Food and Non-Food Vendors for Augustoberfest. Approved vendors will be contacted in the next two weeks.
4. **Airing on Hagerstown Government Television.** Tours at the Jonathan Hager House & Museum, Blues Fest 2009 and Around the Town: The Western Maryland Blues Fest.

5. **Website:** Economic Development Business Newsletter is available at http://www.hagerstownmd.org/Econ_Dev/EconomicDevelopment_index.asp

ENGINEERING & CODE ADMINISTRATION

1. **Salem Avenue at Burhans Boulevard** We are assisting our traffic consultant with collection of data related to truck movements and expect the final report in the next week or so. We will use that plan to recommend changes to the intersection to help reduce congestion (especially the northbound movement).
2. **Bicycling in Hagerstown** Over the past few years, we have done several things to encourage the use of bicycles in Hagerstown. The Board of Traffic & Parking will begin discussions of how the City can improve bicycle access for recreation and commuting to work to make Hagerstown a more bicycle-friendly community. They will likely make recommendations to the Mayor & Council in a few months.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

1. **Brief Synopsis** - In mid February, Tim Gordon filed for a building permit to open a nightclub at 116 North Potomac. The permit was lacking several basic requirements and Fire Marshal Doug DeHaven met with the architect in mid-March and informed him of the additional items needed before he could move the permit forward. FM DeHaven waited for the information for over two weeks before finally denying the permit when nothing was submitted. It's our understanding several other City departments did not approve the permit.

Late last week FM DeHaven received a flyer inviting the public to a fundraiser for the Community Free Clinic at the above property. He immediately began to make inquiries and found that there had also been a liquor license approved. By Friday morning he had drafted a letter to Mr. Gordon informing him he couldn't have the event there because the building lacked basic life safety requirements including emergency lighting, exits, exit signs, fire alarm system, fire wall separations and a sprinkler system. On Friday morning Mr. Gordon spoke with FM DeHaven and Chief Hawbaker and was well aware we were going to prohibit use of the building.

The legal issue came down to Mr. Gordon saying he was holding the event as an individual, not as a business, so the regulations shouldn't apply to him. Judge Long ruled in favor of the City and the event was eventually moved to the Miller House.

This was not an easy issue because of it being a fundraiser for a worthy cause but what had to be done was easy because for HFD life safety must come first. FM DeHaven should be commended for not only initiating the action but how he handled the situation in a composed and professional manner and represented the City well.

2. **National Exposure** - It has long been known throughout the fire service community that HFD is a true leader in education and prevention efforts. Because of that, the National Fire Academy decided to produce a documentary that follows the progression of fire prevention activities in Hagerstown from 1980 to present. The video will supplement instruction to fire service leaders and ultimately find its way around the world.

This week a film crew from Dallas has been here shooting the needed footage. This is something not only HFD should be proud of but also our administration and the Mayor and Council who have funded and supported our efforts.

3. **Survey** – Our annual door to door life safety survey started this week with firefighters visiting residents, giving them fire safety information and checking and installing needed smoke alarms. We get to each City residence at least once every five years. This year we're also trying to target homes that have old working smoke alarms and replace them with new 10 year life detectors.

PARKS DEPARTMENT

1. **Municipal Stadium** – As a follow up to the fire on April 22, permits and inspections of the electric are now complete; we insulated and replaced the ceiling. Other maintenance projects include repairing the door closer on the souvenir stand and installation of shelving in the Suns' locker room.
2. **Vandalism at Fairgrounds Park** – Due to continuous vandalism of our mailbox, we constructed a stone enclosure and installed a lockable heavy duty mailbox.
3. **City Park** - A time consuming project, we continue to make repairs to the deteriorated stone wall around the lower lake. We also continue to paint the Mansion House.

4. **Hagerstown Greens** – At the golf course, we constructed a sand trap beside the new #5 green. Tree maintenance continues.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

1. **Zoning Certificates Issued For New Businesses:**
 - 844 West Washington Street - Brian and Christina Smith - convenience store.
2. **New Development Cases:**
 - Washington County Bus Transfer Station - 119-145 West Franklin Street.
3. **Planning Commission:** The Planning Commission discussed the following items on Wednesday, May 13:
 - New State Planning Legislation.
 - Wind and Solar Ordinance.
 - County Water and Sewer Plan Amendment.
 - Election of Officers - D. Wright, chair; J. Stone, vice-chair.
4. **Historic District Commission:** The HDC approved the following cases on May 14:
 - 66 West Franklin Street - Tim Fraker Signs for Razi, LLC - wall sign.
 - 14 South Potomac Street - Faith Chapel/William Sprague, II - replace rear door.
 - 34 East Washington Street - Bernard A. Paul/Uncle Louis G. - grant for an awning.
 - 116 North Potomac Street - Our Three Sons, LLC/Tim Gordon - rear deck.
5. **Heritage Area Meeting:** Staff attended the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area (HCWHA) Steering Committee meeting on May 14th in Westminster. The 150th anniversary of the John Brown activities are underway. Washington County events include a ceremony in Hagerstown on June 30th and an event at the Kennedy Farm in October. A listing of events can be found at www.johnbrownraid.org. The Steering Committee voted to accept the National Park Service's offer to allow the HCWHA to use the Newcomer House (on MD 34 adjacent to Antietam National Battlefield) as a Visitor Center for the three county heritage area. A letter of interest will be forwarded to NPS by the end of this month. By the fall of 2009, three roadside exhibits will be in place on each year of the Civil War. A gateway sign, co-branded with the Journey through Hallowed Ground (JTHG) national heritage area, will also be installed this fall at the Newcomer House. It is anticipated that we will have the interior exhibits created and installed for the visitor center's grand opening in September 2010. The JTHG committee is working on a management plan for this three State national heritage area (roughly follows RT 15 from Charlottesville, VA to Gettysburg, PA). Thanks to the HCWHA, Maryland is by far the most advanced area of the JTHG heritage area in terms of heritage planning. Dennis Frye's and Kathy Maher's memberships on the HCWHA Steering Committee were renewed for another three years.
6. **Comprehensive Rezoning:** The Planning Commission will resume review of the phase two comprehensive rezoning at their meeting on May 27th at 7:00 p.m. It is anticipated that phase two will be forwarded to the Mayor and City Council in late June or so. Staff began discussions this week on the phase three comprehensive rezonings, which will be brought to the Commission this summer following completion of their work on phase two.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service	CDS Arrests	Other Criminal Arrests (Including Warrants)	Parking Tickets	Moving Violations	DUI	Search Warrants Executed
1,071	3	29	291	72	1	0

1. **Armed Robbery (5/10):** At 4:23 p.m. officers responded to Rite Aid at 825 West Hillcrest Road for a robbery. Investigation revealed that two subjects entered the store and one subject jumped over the counter, stated he had a gun, and demanded medication from the pharmacy. Both suspects then fled the store. An unknown amount of medication was taken. The suspects are described as white males. One was wearing a black "hoodie" with a ski mask. The other suspect was wearing a brown "hoodie" with a black baseball cap.
2. **Burglary Arrest (5/13):** At 2:24 a.m. officers responded to a call for a burglary that just occurred at an apartment

at 103 East Washington Street. The female resident told officers that her 12-year-old daughter was awakened by an unknown black male sitting next to her, touching her leg. When the girl ran to her mother's room, the suspect left, taking a 32" flat screen TV with him. As police began searching the area, a taxi driver approached an officer to report a suspicious male he had just transported. The taxi driver said he had picked up a black male who had retrieved a flat screen TV from behind a dumpster. He took the male to an apartment building on Security Road where he left the TV. The cab driver then drove the male back to the pickup point. The driver provided police with a description of the male, and the officers located him a short time later. They were able to recover the TV from the apartment where the suspect had taken it, and the burglary victims identified it as theirs. The suspect was identified as William Austin Cain of 1014C Security Road. He was charged with burglary, theft, assault, and other related offenses.

3. **Other News/Information:**

On Wednesday we held our annual Police Memorial and Awards Ceremony. The event was held in conjunction with National Police Week. During this time we remembered those officers who have died in the line of duty, and honored current and past officers. Several commendations were awarded to sworn and civilian personnel, and to citizens. The following is a summary of the awards presented.

- **Officer Clif Briggs: Certificate of Appreciation:** Officer Briggs had encountered an agitated man who was holding two knives after a neighborhood dispute. When the male refused to put them down, Officer Briggs deployed pepper spray which caused the man to drop the knives and enabled Officer Briggs to take him into custody.
- **Officer Todd Dunkle: Certificate of Appreciation.** After learning about the existence of two grant opportunities designed to provide funding for anti-gang activities, Officer Dunkle volunteered to write the grant applications. This was outside his regular duty assignment. As a result, HPD was awarded over \$35,000 in funding for youth gang prevention programs and anti-gang related equipment.
- **Officer Christopher Little: Certificate of Appreciation.** While responding to a report of an assault, Officer Little encountered a suspect armed with a knife. The suspect at first tried to flee, then stood holding knives in each hand. When the suspect refused to drop them, Officer Little deployed his Taser, causing the suspect to drop the knives and enabling him to take the suspect into custody.
- **Sgt. Johnny Murray, Detective Casey Yonkers, and Officers Brian Barnhart, Tom Kelley, and Clif Briggs: Certificate of Appreciation.** These officers responded to a report of an intoxicated female who had possibly become incapacitated somewhere in City Park. This particular event took place on a cold January night. After an extensive but unsuccessful search of the park, they re-interviewed witnesses and relayed their accounts to Parks Dept. employees who suggested areas to search. The officers found the partially wet, unconscious female in a secluded area, and summoned an ambulance. She was later treated and released from the hospital.
- **Mr. Gary Sturniolo: Civilian Certificate of Honor.** Mr. Sturniolo was watching a neighbor's home while the neighbor was away when he saw two people carrying things from the house. He called police, confronted one of the suspects to prevent them from taking anything, and provided police with suspect information which was valuable in the ensuing investigation.
- **Hagerstown Fire Police and Hagerstown Citizens on Patrol: Certificates of Appreciation.** These volunteer organizations provide a valuable service to the Hagerstown Police Department and the residents of the City. Their members volunteer their own time in assisting HPD with carrying out its mission.
- **State's Attorney's Officer Victim-Witness Unit: Certificate of Appreciation.** This group provides assistance to victims and witnesses after an arrest has been made in a case, and they help HPD members in dealing with and coordinating their court cases.
- **Officer Christopher Little: Award of Merit, First Degree.** Officer Little responded to a suicidal male who was trying to cut his wrist and neck with a knife. Officer Little eventually deployed the Taser which allowed him to stop the male and get him to the hospital for treatment.
- **Officers Tom Kelley and Jon Mollineaux: Life Saving Award.** On their second call involving the same

uncooperative assault victim, these officers found the man unconscious and bleeding from a fall. Shortly thereafter, he went into cardiac arrest. The officers performed CPR on the male until the ambulance arrived. The male was taken to the hospital where he was revived.

- **Detectives Brian Hook and Mike Kovac, and Officer Nick Varner: Award of Merit, First Degree.** After Det. Hook's drug dog alerted on a stopped vehicle, the officers began to frisk the very nervous and suspicious driver. When the officers found he had a gun in his waistband, the suspect tried to escape. The officers had to struggle with him to get him into custody, after which they recovered a loaded pistol from him.
- **Officers Curtis Kelley and Detective John Lehman: Award of Merit, First Degree.** After a brief vehicle pursuit of a male suspected of a sexual assault with a knife, the suspect's vehicle crashed, overturned, and became entangled in sparking power lines. Officer Kelley and Detective Lehman pulled the now injured suspect out and moved him to a safe location.
- **Detective Jason Dietz: Combat Cross.** Detective Dietz was with other officers searching a residence for a wanted person. The person who lived there became irate at the officers and began to go into another area of the house. Det. Dietz followed and saw the man grab a handgun and begin to turn toward him. Det. Dietz grabbed the man and knocked the gun away. The man tried to pick it up but Det. Dietz was able to kick it away and restrain the man until other officers assisted him with getting the man into custody.

PUBLIC WORKS

1. **Cramer's Alley and the A&E Deck:** Staff has painted lines to indicate a temporary alley for drivers to use for access to the A&E Parking Deck from Washington Street. Construction has begun on the alley widening project with access to the deck still available. However, care should be given driving to the deck since it is near a construction zone. Parking for WHAG, Bridge of Life Church and others has been blocked due to this project. Alternative parking has been provided for these businesses.
2. **Storm Drain Repairs:** Work is continually being performed on the repair and maintenance of storm drains. Currently, a crew is at work in the 400 block of E. Franklin where the drain top broke free and fell into the drain. Besides the lid, staff is making repairs to the surrounding sidewalks to improve pedestrian safety.
3. **Potholes:** Potholes continue to be an issue throughout the city. Repairs are constantly being made by staff. Reports of potholes can be phoned in to (301)739-8577 ext. 178 or emailed to arueckerl@hagerstownmd.org.
4. **Traffic Signal Damage:** An underground loop wire was damaged at the intersection of S. Potomac St. and Wilson Blvd. during an emergency repair by Columbia Gas. It only affects one lane of traffic for now. The signals still operate but on a recall notice. The signal lights will change based on a timing program and not on need. The loop wire will not be repaired until the Columbia Gas has made final repairs.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

1. **Railroad Museum at City Park**
The staff is pleased to announce a fantastic attendance of 393 visitors taking 75 tours during the first full week of operations. Staff spent this week painting the stencils of the proper historic markings on the newly cosmetically restored Western Maryland and Chesapeake and Ohio cabooses. Much effort has also been spent this week preparing for the upcoming "Railroad Heritage Festival" to be held in conjunction with the Round House Museum.
2. **HAGER HOUSE PROGRAMS AND EVENTS:**
 - Tours: Both historic sites welcomed this week a group tour of 55 private school students and adults from Shippensburg, PA. Many more student tours are booked for the remainder of this week and the rest of May.
 - Hager House Programs and Events: Staff this week put the finishing touches on this weekend's "Colonial Bonnet Workshop" as well as our part in the annual National Pike Festival. We will be having Free Pony Rides on the Hager House grounds on Sat. 1:30 - 3:30 pm and the Wagon Train will stop adjacent to the Hager House at 2 pm. Staff also continued the preparations for the upcoming "Renaissance Festival" event to be held June 6th and the "Herbs of Hager's Thyme" presentation scheduled for June 25th.
 - Meetings: Staff will attend the annual Picnic meeting of the WCAMHS this week. This association of

museums, of which Hagerstown's historic sites are part, will be presenting at this meeting special presentations to invited local dignitaries and political figures to provide a bit more background on the economic impact and tourism importance our local Museums and historic sites bring to the county.

- **Maintenance:** The Hager House vegetable garden has now been planted, with special thanks to Julia Brugh who has volunteered her effort and seeds to making the garden resemble one of the 18th century.

2. **City Farmer's Market**

- One new vendor added to Market, Cynthia Wright she will be selling Fabric coiled bowls/baskets, pine needle baskets, hand strung beaded jewelry and hand milled soap.
- Two new vendor applications mailed out this week.
- Mother's Day weekend was a definite success for the Market and all of the mothers who visited. This weekend is an individually motivated selling opportunity; no set gimmick or theme, a time for vendors to promote themselves and what they are selling. All of our produce vendors have returned so the Market is indeed in full swing.

3. **FAIRGROUNDS PARK**

- Reach Inc. "Walk - A - Mile" fundraising walk, Saturday May 16th from 8 am to 1 pm.
- Young Life 4 on 4 Soccer Tournament, Saturday May 23rd from 8 am to 4 pm.

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

ELECTRIC DIVISION

1. **Problem Areas.** Recent call outs included:

- Fri. 5/8 - 103 East Washington Street (2W). Partial outage; found bad main breaker, informed landlord an electrician would have to correct hazardous condition. Time Out: 18.7-19.7
- 309 South Cannon Avenue. Lights dimming; changed connectors and installed (2) 2-2 crimp sleeves
- 908 Summit Avenue. Wires arcing; replaced two #4 crimp sleeves. Time Out: 19.9-22.1
- Sat. 5/9 - 309 South Cannon Avenue. Lights blinking; cut off service heard to get better ground. Customer informed an electrician would have to make equipment repairs. Time Out: 15.9-17.1
- Mon. 5/11 - Rear 824 The Terrace. Tree on power lines; trimmed tree away from service wires, work more will be done in this area during regular work day 5/12/09. Time Out: 18.5-19.3.

2. **Distribution** Recent activity included:

- The installation of poles, transformers, underground primaries, etc. continues in the Cramer's Alley area.
- In the 100 block of Maryland Avenue, four 30 ft. aluminum poles and four fixtures were installed for the Engineering Department.
- Primaries were relocated to the east side of four specific poles in the 400 block of North Jonathan Street for blasting contractor (clearance issues). Upon completion of work, primaries will be relocated back to original position.
- Metering Department received two high bill complaints this week. Upon testing, found both meters met all Public Service Commission requirements.
- 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
29	4	1	0

3. **Engineering.** Staff worked on the following projects:
- The Staff Engineer met with representative from Beta LED to review new LED lighting products for street lighting, parking deck lighting, and lighting in the home or office.
 - The Electrical Engineer is designing new construction standards that will cut down on installation costs and will be easier for the line crews to work with. Brian has detailed these standards into CAD for construction reference.
 - Staff continues to review the PSC Model Utility Supplier Diversity MOU.

WATER DIVISION

Plant Flows - System Demand (MGD)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Willson</u>	<u>Breichner</u>	<u>Total</u>
05/07/09	11.29		11.29
05/08/09	10.97		10.97
05/09/09	10.95		10.95
05/10/09	11.20		11.20
05/11/09	10.92		10.92
05/12/09	11.10		11.10
Average			11.07

Water Production at RC Willson

- Willson continues to operate well; water temperature is currently 63 degrees. The installation of the new control valves, actuators and check valves on the west and east transmission mains is complete.
- 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 are now concentrating on the installation of new valve actuators on the low service pumps.
- The maintenance crew has been cleaning the high service area after completion of the recent project. They have also been repairing the old wooden steps leading to the river intake.

Water Production at Breichner

- The Edgemont Reservoir is currently at -.2", the bypass and the hydrant are fully open. The Breichner Plant was not operated last week.

Water Distribution

- This past week crews worked on Stuart Drive installing the new 6" water lines. The 6" main is complete and all services and tie-ins are done. Crews continue to perform customer service related duties throughout the system and work on meter settings, meter reading and meter exchanges. The Jonathan St. main replacement is progressing; the Water Department has installed water main up to the intersection of North and Jonathan. We are now waiting for Brake Construction to install a manhole so we can continue.

Laboratory

- The Consumer Confidence Report has been given to the printers. They will work up a proof for our approval.
- SOC, VOC, and this quarter's THM/HAA testing are being collected today.

Engineering

<u>Reviews:</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>County</u>
Site Plan	3	1
Building Permits	13	

- Staff met with a commercial owner's attorney to discuss water service availability outside the Medium Range Growth Area (MRGA).
- Water and Wastewater Division staff met with our utility line locating contractor on performance issues.
- Division managers met for discussion of the department's projects and current issues.

WASTEWATER DIVISION

Wastewater Treatment Plant at Frederick Street

Date	Flow (mgd)	Rainfall (inches)
Wednesday, May 6, 2009	12.70	0.84
Thursday, May 7, 2009	16.06	0.03
Friday, May 8, 2009	13.17	0.00
Saturday, May 9, 2009	11.65	0.02
Sunday, May 10, 2009	10.44	0.00
Monday, May 11, 2009	10.14	0.08
Tuesday, May 12, 2009	9.69	0.00
Weekly Average/Total	11.98	0.97
Monthly Average/Total	10.55	3.44
Yearly Average/Total	6.41	9.93

- Heavy rains continue to fall during the first week of May over 3.5 inches have fell during the first twelve days of the month. Plant flows have increased to 16.06 million gallons on May 7, which has been our highest daily flow since May 12, 2008 nearly one year exactly. Ground water tables have risen 11 feet since first part of April.
- Maintenance staff continues completing preventative and corrective work orders, some of these task included schedule maintenance of the oxygen compressors, rotation of ozone generators and the installation of new weir brushes on Final # 6.

WASTEWATER COLLECTION

Activity	Districts	Linear Feet of Main	Feet of Lateral	# of Lateral Inspections
Closed Circuit TV Inspections	4,8,11	1,663		
Flushing	8,17,21	3,078		
Point Repairs		# of Repairs	Reason	LF of Repairs
Lateral Only	3	1	Roots	24
Main & Lateral	11	1	Roots	31

Customer Service Calls & Maintenance Repairs

- 20102 Cherry Hill Drive – Grinder Pump – replaced core
- 20314 Parkwood Drive – Grinder Pump – replaced core
- 533/535 Ridge Avenue – Blockage – the blockage was determined to be on the residents property, they have be notified and they will be contacting a plumber to clean or replace the building sewer.
- Manhole 15104 – replaced broken lid and riser
- Odor complaint near Pump Station # 12 (Citicorp) – chlorinated station
- 108 East Franklin – Otterbein United Methodist Church – investigated down spout connection to sanitary sewer at the request of the inspection department; down spouts are not connected to the sanitary sewer.
- Weed control application applied at PS # 2, 4, 5 & 25.

Laboratory

- Our sampler set in the Synagro building has stopped working. High temps and considerable dust has taken its toll on the unit. Our spare control head will replace it and another head will be purchased.
- Quarterly plant effluent metals samples were collected and sent out to be analyzed.
- Another EPA method for testing ammonia using the Lachat analyzer has been tested and found to produce satisfactory results. It will be used from this point on.

Administration

- Reimbursement Request prepared for WWTP Projects, for mailing to MDE. Just over \$800,000 is being requested this month.
- Staff met with the Water and Wastewater Divisions utility location contractor on performance issues.
- Division managers met with the Utility Director to discuss all projects and current issues.
- Collections and Engineering staff surveyed Brightwood Acres East low pressure sewer system in advance of the preparation of a notice to all residents regarding emergency and operational issues

Reviews:

	City	County
<u>Sewer</u>		
Site Plan	1	1
Building Permits	12	1
Sewer Permits		1

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

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce J. Zimmerman
City Administrator