



# City of Hagerstown, Maryland Status & Information Report No. 20 for 2009

May 22, 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. **Hagerstown Advance.** The Director of Community Affairs and the Economic Development Director created an excel sheet for businesses for the video and folder of Hagerstown Advance.
2. **Press Releases.** Press releases distributed this week include: Memorial Day Wreath Laying; Memorial Day Holiday (Offices closed) and 3 were sent out for the Jonathan Hager House and Museum and the Railroad Museum in City Park including a Renaissance Fair Saturday, June 6, an Herb lecture on June 25 and Rail Road Heritage Days June 6 to 7.
3. **Blues Fest**
  - Blues Fest Sponsor tickets were delivered this week, volunteers' shirts were sorted and prepped for pick up and acquisition of final supplies was arranged for the Western Maryland Blues Fest which will take place Thursday, May 28 to Sunday, May 31.

- The Program for the Western Maryland Blues Fest went to print this week and will be delivered to homes by the Herald Mail this Sunday.
- 4. **Pool Brochures.** Potterfield Pool Brochures were delivered to the school district for distribution to area schools. They should be distributed to the students in the coming week.
- 5. **Market in the Square.** Market in the Square took place Thursday with 5 different vendors offering a variety of hot food, baked goods, crafts and lemonade. The next Market in the Square will be the first Thursday in June.
- 6. **Website**
  - The Hub City Bike Route is available online at [www.hagerstownmd.org/Parks\\_Rec/parksAndRec.asp](http://www.hagerstownmd.org/Parks_Rec/parksAndRec.asp)
  - Find out more about the 2009 CDBG Recovery Funds at [http://www.hagerstownmd.org/Comm\\_Dev/cgbd-recoveryFunds.asp](http://www.hagerstownmd.org/Comm_Dev/cgbd-recoveryFunds.asp)
  - Visit [www.blues-fest.org](http://www.blues-fest.org) and listen to the latest podcast with Derek Trucks.
- 7. **Channel 6.** Airing on Hagerstown Government Television Channel 6 include:
  - Preview of the Western Maryland Blues Fest, May 28-31, 2009 at Noon, 4pm, 6pm and 8pm.
  - Commercials for tours at the Jonathan Hager House & Museum, Around the Town with Lou Scally - Blues Fest.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

---

1. **Neighborhoods 1<sup>st</sup>.** Neighborhoods 1st group representatives met Monday evening for their monthly network meeting. Rodney Tissue and Tim Young were present to share information on recycling and traffic control issues. By having this base of knowledge the groups will be able to move forward with the development of projects that actively promote the increased use of recycling and safety issues throughout the City.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

---

1. **Event Venues Brochure.** The Department designed an Arts & Entertainment District Event Venues brochure. The Hagerstown Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau contributed by paying for the printing of this brochure. This brochure provides meeting facilities and restaurant information for anyone searching for an event venue.
2. **ReStore Grand Opening.** Habitat for Humanity Washington County has announced it's newest adventure – the opening of ReStore, the county's first home store to sell donated new and used building materials, tools, appliances, and many other household items. ReStore reduces the use of landfills and provides low cost products for homeowners. The proceeds from sales are used to build more homes for deserving families in Washington County. The grand opening event is scheduled for Saturday, June 6, from 10 a.m. to Noon at 100 Charles Street (the old Coca Cola Plant). For more information or to RSVP, you may contact [restorehagmd@att.net](mailto:restorehagmd@att.net) or 301.745.5457.

## ENGINEERING & CODE ADMINISTRATION

---

1. **Former Rocky's Pizza** Mike Heyser recently met with Mike Deming, owner of the former Rocky's Pizza in the Public Square. The topic of discussion was the need for immediate repairs/painting of the fire-damaged store front. Mr. Deming is scheduling a date for the work to begin.
2. **Snipe Signs** Signs placed in the City's rights-of-way are prohibited. The City concurs that sign litter can be detrimental to the community. However, the City has a responsibility to be fair and consistent in the application of our ordinances. As such, we generally consider portable off-premises signs as litter as opposed to a sign illegally placed. Staff met with representatives of several of the entities posting the signs. Notices of Violation are sent as required to gain compliance. Repeat offenders have been and will continue to be issued citations which charge fines against the entity posting the signs.
3. **Neighborhood First** We attended the Neighborhood Network meeting and presented information regarding Recycling, and discussed a few other issues the groups are interested in.
4. **Sidewalk Liability** Sherri Butler from LGIT and Caroline Twigg gave a presentation to staff regarding sidewalk issues.
5. **Bester School** Met with HPD, Public Works and the Bester School principal to discuss parking options for the parents, to resolve traffic issues.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

---

1. **Southview Fire** - Early Thursday evening three units in a six-unit townhouse were heavily damaged by fire. First arriving units found heavy fire in the front and upper floor of two of the units and the fire had already penetrated the roof. To make suppression even more difficult two gas meters were on fire adding a blow torch effect up the front of the building.

This is an automatic aid area meaning that Hagerstown and Funkstown both respond to all reported structure fires. Firefighters took attack lines into each of the three units while our ladder truck opened the roof in several places to let the heat and smoke escape and stop the progress of the fire. The fire was quickly knockdown and overhaul began.

We were able to shut off one of the gas meters but couldn't find the shut off for the other and it was allowed to burn until Colombia Gas arrived over one hour after they were called.

Considering the amount of fire when they first arrived firefighters did a fantastic job in limiting serious fire damage to only the three units. The other three units would be livable but repairs need to be made to the roof and the electric restored before they can return. Our Public Educator was also on the scene helping the families that were displaced.

Although this was a very destructive fire it could've caused twice as much damage if we had not had at least two firefighters per engine. The additional manpower approved over the past three years once again saved property, pets and made fighting the fire much safer.

Our Fire Marshal's stayed until midnight interviewing witnesses and at this time believes the fire was accidental and involves some type of gas leak. Colombia Gas is going to dig up the gas lines going into the townhouses this morning to check for a possible underground leak. Fire Marshals and the City Plumbing Inspector will be there to witness the testing.

## **PARKS DEPARTMENT**

---

1. **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.
2. **Hager Park** – We removed and replaced deteriorated lumber on the roof dormers of the Hager Park residence. We are also scraping and painting its exterior.
3. **Fairgrounds Park** – At Fairgrounds Park, we are scraping and painting the exterior of the Grandstand.
4. **Municipal Stadium** – When the Hagerstown Suns are out of town, we are making building repairs to their locker rooms.
5. **Tree Maintenance** – Throughout the week at City Park, we removed several trees, elevated many and continue to remove dead limbs.
6. **Grounds Maintenance** – Since the rain has stopped, we've been kept busy spreading topsoil and reseeding bare areas in Fairgrounds Park and City Park. Each of these two parks consists of more than 60 acres. We are also landscaping several of our parks and playgrounds with numerous flowers.

## **PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

---

1. **Zoning Certificates Issued For New Businesses:**
  - 812 Frederick Street - Wings & More - carry-out restaurant.
  - 32 East Washington Street - Combs and Clips - salon.
  - 12810 Shank Farm Way - Starbucks - retail/café coffee shop.
  - 1546 Wesel Boulevard - TNT Fireworks - temporary fireworks stand (until 7/6/2009).
  - 915 Corbett Street - Carolina Cigar Company of Hagerstown - off-site sales of cigars at car races, re-enactments, special events.
2. **Board of Zoning Appeals:** The BZA heard the following cases on Wednesday, May 20:
  - 325 Virginia Avenue - Loyal Order of Moose Lodge #2435, t/a Antietam Moose - granted a special exception for a social organization.
  - 915 Corbett Street - Ronald L. Benedict, t/a Carolina Cigar Company of Hagerstown - granted a special exception for a home occupation for a tobacco sales business, with the condition that there be no known tractor

trailer deliveries.

- 814 Oak Hill Avenue - Vickie Hrabal, t/a Oak Hill Interior Design - granted a special exception for a home occupation for an interior design office, with the condition that there be no regular customer visits at the residence.
- Lots 19, 24 and 25 on Fridinger Avenue - Peach Tree Suites, LLC - denied a rear yard variance for Lot 19 from 35 feet to 25 feet; granted a variance for Lot 19 to reduce the aggregate side yard setback from 15 feet to 10 feet; and granted a variance for Lots 19, 24 and 25 to reduce the front yard setback from 25 feet to 18 feet for the construction of single-family dwellings.

3. **Planning Commission:** The Planning Commission will consider the following items on Wednesday, May 27:
  - Forest conservation waiver for Washington County Bus Transfer Station.
  - Phase 2, Comprehensive Rezoning.
4. **Historic District Commission:** The May 28 HDC meeting was canceled (no cases for review).
5. **Promoting Hagerstown's Heritage Area Grant Projects:** A promotional piece on the City of Hagerstown's heritage grant projects was created this week and distributed to the Western Maryland delegation, Mayor and City Council, new Council elects, the Maryland Heritage Area Authority, and *Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area* contacts. Since 2006, the City has been awarded \$86,500 in State heritage grants for several projects: S. Potomac Street sidewalk widening, downtown banners, downtown pedestrian directional signs, two Civil War interpretive plaques projects, and the Doleman Black Heritage Museum assessment project. These grants leveraged another \$396,000 in funds with \$229,843 coming from local sources and \$166,157 coming from another State source. We will post this promotional product on the City web site, too.
6. **Community Legacy Application for 2009:** We have been advised that a letter of intent on our 2009 application plan is due to the State by June 15<sup>th</sup>. Staff is discussing potential project ideas and will bring the item to the Mayor and City Council for discussion on June 9<sup>th</sup>.
7. **County Excise Tax Amendments:** On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, the County Commissioners will discuss amending the County excise tax ordinance to modify the eligible areas in the "redevelopment areas" exemption to reflect the City's impending repeal of the C3 zoning district and replacement with the Downtown Mixed-use district. This City zoning change becomes effective on June 26, 2009.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service	CDS Arrests	Other Criminal Arrests (Including Warrants)	Parking Tickets	Moving Violations	DUI	Search Warrants Executed
1,063	3	22	240	55	3	0

1. **Robbery (5/16):** Officers contacted a robbery victim at WCH at 2:44 a.m. The male reported he had been walking home and was near his residence on St. Clair Street when a heavy set, white male approached him and asked for a light. When the victim said he did not have one, the suspect told him he had a gun. The suspect then suddenly punched the victim in the face causing a severe laceration to the victim's nose. The suspect took the victim's wallet and left on foot. The nature of the injury suggests that the suspect used some type of object to strike the victim.
2. **Child Endangerment (5/16):** At 1:37 a.m. officers responded to 436 West Washington Street for a report of an intoxicated 11 year old. As they investigated, they found that an adult with whom he was visiting had provided him with liquor and encouraged him to drink it. The boy's blood-alcohol content according to a preliminary breath test was 0.14, twice the legal limit for a DWI charge. He was taken to WCH for treatment. Charges are pending for the adult male.
3. **Soda Machine Thefts (5/17):** Four soda machines were broken into overnight and the money taken at locations on Northern Avenue, Frederick Street, Commonwealth Avenue, and Eldridge Drive.
4. **Home Invasion /1<sup>st</sup> degree assault (5/18):** At 11:43 p.m. officers responded to 148 East Franklin Street for a reported armed robbery in progress. When officers arrived, they learned that the suspects had left before the call to

police was made. According to the victim, three armed subjects forced their way into his residence, bound him with duct tape and shot him with a pellet or BB gun. They were looking for a relative of the victim who was not there. When they realized this, the suspects left. The victim was unable to provide descriptions of the suspects.

- Burglary (5/19):** Around 1:25 p.m. officers responded to the area of Noland Village for a report of shots being fired in the area of Court #1. Witnesses reported two black males were in the woods to the rear of Court #1 with a rifle. Officers from HPD and deputies from the Washington County Sheriff's Office surrounded the area. Once on scene officers located the two males at the construction site at the end of Sweeney Drive. They saw one carrying a rifle. Both fled from officers on foot. One was captured at that location with the firearm, an AR-15 rifle. The other fled into the wooded area surrounding the construction site. He was eventually captured along the railroad tracks that run parallel to Burhans Boulevard hiding in the brush. Shortly after they were captured, HPD received a call from a resident at 954 Noland Drive reporting a burglary in which an AR-15 rifle was stolen. Officers found this to be the same rifle the suspects had. Officers located other items taken in the burglary were also found on the suspects. The suspects were a 16 year old and a 17 year old. The 17 year old was also wanted on a juvenile parole retake warrant. Both have been charged as delinquent juveniles by reason of burglary (felony), theft (felony), discharging a firearm in the city limits, and possession of a firearm/ammunition under the age of 21. The Department of Juvenile Services ordered that both be held.

## PUBLIC WORKS

---

- Dumpster Program:** The final numbers are in for the 2009 Spring Dumpster Program. They are as follows:

Labor:	\$34,280.56
Equipment:	\$13,225.00
Allied Waste:	\$18,133.50
Landfill Fees:	\$19,316.80
Scrap Revenue	(\$2,182.50)
<b>TOTAL COST:</b>	<b>\$82,773.36</b>

The budget for this program is \$90,000. Scrap metal revenues dropped by 73% from last year. Plenty of metal was collected, but the price for metal has dropped dramatically.

- Church Street Parking Lot:** Staff is currently working on negotiations on rental of the parking spaces in the Church Street Parking Lot. The lot is owned by the city with most of the spaces leased to Potomac Building, LLC for the employees at the Department of Social Services on North Potomac Street. The lease will expire on June 30, 2010, and Potomac Building, LLC is looking to lock in a lease for future parking. Staff will be bringing the new lease to the Mayor and Council for review at a later date.
- Grass Mowing:** Mowing of the public right-of-ways has gotten a little behind due to the abundance of rain lately. The mowing contractor and staff should be able to get caught up on the mowing with the drier weather forecast for this week.

## RECREATION DEPARTMENT

---

- Potterfield Pool Opens.** Pool hours this weekend are Saturday 12:30-5:30 p.m., Sunday 1-5:30 p.m., and Monday 12:30-5:30 p.m..
- Hager House Programs and Events:** Last week's bonnet making event went well and received a nice write up in the Herald-Mail. Also the pony rides on the grounds garnered 60 more visitors and the wagon train stop across the street looks as if there were at least 200 people congregated to view it. Upcoming events include: a Middle Ages Festival on the grounds (June 6) and "Herbs of Hager's Thyme" presentation (June 25).
- Western Maryland Consortium:** The staff is excited to once again to partner with the Consortium to give a Washington County youth valuable work experience. We are glad that Charles McClure is part of the historic sites team, as he is doing well and is a real asset.
- The Hagerstown Railroad Museum at City Park:** Over the last two weeks the staff has conducted 120 tours to 630 visitors.

## UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

---

**ELECTRIC DIVISION**

1. **Problem Areas.** Recent call outs included:
  - Sat. 5/16 - 137 North Locust Street. Lines down; triplex in tree, wires damaged. Triplex repaired temporarily, cleared trees from problem area. More work will be done in the area during regular work day (5/18/09) Time Out: 23.7-0.9
  - Sun. 5/17 - 1031 Spruce Street. Total outage; squirrel caused transformer fuse and line fuse to blow. Replaced (1) 10T and (1) 20T fuse, installed squirrel guard and covers. Time Out: 9.5-10.4
  - Tue. 5/19 - 209 Nottingham Road. Check overhead power lines damaged by Columbia Gas. Removed 6 ft. slack in wires; more work will be done during regular work day (5/20/09). Time Out: 16.7-17.8
2. **Distribution** Recent activity included:
  - The installation of poles, transformers, underground primaries, etc., continues in the Cramer's Alley area.
  - Transformer and underground replaced in the 1300 block of Outer Drive.
  - South Cannon Avenue pole replacement is underway.
  - Inspection and repair of Feeders #1 and #2 at Fairground Substation continues.
  - Metering Department received two high bill complaints this week. Upon testing, found both meters met all Public Service Commission requirements.
  - Line maintenance work continues in various areas.
  - Line crews continue trimming trees in various residential locations.

Lamps Replaced	New Fixtures Added	Changeouts	Fixtures Removed
11	0	3	0

3. **Engineering.** Staff worked on the following projects:
  - The Electrical Engineer completed specifications for spare materials to be ordered. We do not have a few pieces of equipment stocked that are currently in service. We plan to order spares so that these units can be replaced in the event of damage.
  - The Staff Engineer completed the specifications for substation breakers. New units will be ordered to replace some of the aging units we have in service.
  - Several service upgrade designs have been completed.

**WATER DIVISION**

**Plant Flows - System Demand (MGD)**

Date	Willson	Breichner	Total
05/14/09	11.05		11.05
05/15/09	10.91		10.91
05/16/09	10.84		10.84
05/17/09	10.38		10.38
05/18/09	11.23		11.23
05/19/09	10.95		10.95
Average			10.89

**Water Production at RC Willson**

- Willson continues to operate well; water temperature is currently 69 degrees.
- 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 completing routine maintenance. There is a small leak in a terracotta/cast wastewater pipe at Willson. We are assisting Distribution with fixing it.

**Water Production at Breichner**

- The Edgemont Reservoir is currently at -4.8", the bypass and the hydrant are fully open. The Breichner Plant was not

operated last week.

**Water Distribution**

- Crews are continuing to perform customer service related duties throughout the system which includes meter settings, meter reading and meter exchanges. The Jonathan St. main replacement is going well and the Water Dept. has installed water main up to the intersection of North & Jonathan. We will be chlorine testing Thursday, pressure testing and bac-t testing on Tuesday and doing service changeovers after that.

**Laboratory**

- The Consumer Confidence Report has been printed and was dropped off to billing to be sent out with customer bills.
- The lab had its triennial inspection by MDE's lab administrator Linda Ames. She found the lab to be in compliance and remarked as to the quality of our QC and general record keeping. She stated when she inspects other labs she usually has to ask "What does this mean...what does that mean?" She found our records to be very precise and understandable...kudos to Paul Eberhart for his record keeping.

**Engineering**

Reviews:

Site Plan            1  
 Building Permits    5

**WASTEWATER DIVISION**

**Wastewater Treatment Plant at Frederick Street**

Date	Flow (mgd)	Rainfall (inches)
Wednesday, May 13, 2009	9.09	0.00
Thursday, May 14, 2009	9.00	0.32
Friday, May 15, 2009	8.62	0.00
Saturday, May 16, 2009	8.25	0.14
Sunday, May 17, 2009	8.32	0.10
Monday, May 18, 2009	7.97	0.00
Tuesday, May 19, 2009	7.77	0.00
Weekly Average/Total	8.43	0.56
Monthly Average/Total	9.77	4.00
Yearly Average/Total	6.51	10.49

- Plant flows are returning to more normal levels since the rainfall has lessened during the last week. The Wastewater Treatment Plant continues to operate efficiently; all parameters are within MDE compliance specifications. Maintenance crews continue corrective and preventative work orders; some of these work orders have included repairing broken City water pipe (loss was nearly 5,000 gph) and Ferric Chloride feed pipe used for phosphorous control.

**WASTEWATER COLLECTION**

Activity	Districts	Linear Feet of Main	Feet of Lateral	# of Lateral Inspections
Closed Circuit TV Inspections	4,5,17	1,521	352	26
Flushing	4,5,17,21	6,973		
<b>Point Repairs</b>		<b># of Repairs</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>LF of Repairs</b>
Lateral Only	5	1	Roots	4
Main & Lateral	11	1	Roots	31

**Customer Service Calls & Maintenance Repairs**

- Grinder Pump call outs at 20111 Cherry Hill Drive and 11013 Parkwood Drive.
- 280 South Potomac – Blockage complaint – Main was not blocked, problem on homeowners property

**Laboratory  
WASTEWATER**

Performance testing samples were received for the annual EPA required DMRQA laboratory testing. They will be analyzed in the next coming weeks and the results submitted to MDE and our PT provider for evaluation.

**Administration**

- Monthly construction progress meetings held for ENR-UV and Headworks projects.

Reviews:                      City              County

**Sewer**

Site Plan                      2  
 Building Permits            4

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

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce J. Zimmerman  
 City Administrator