



City of Hagerstown, Maryland Status & Information Report No. 21 for 2009

May 29, 2009

To Mayor Bruchey and Members of the City Council:

UPCOMING MEETINGS

❖❖ JUNE 2009 ❖❖						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 8pm Mayor & Council Oath of Office/Council Chamber	2 4pm Work Session	3	4 8 am Market In The Square 5 pm City Center Jazz Nights @ USMH Plaza	5	6 10 am Railroad Heritage Days @ Railroad Museum/City Park
7 1 pm Railroad Heritage Days @ Railroad Museum/City Park	8	9 4pm Work Session	10	11 5pm City Center Jazz Nights @ USMH Plaza	12	13 7 am Summer Yard Sale @ Fairgrounds Park Stables
14	15	16 4pm Work Session	17	18 8 am Market In The Square 5pm City Center Jazz Nights @ USMH Plaza	19	20 7 th Annual MIHI Fishin' Frenzy @ Pangborn Park
21	22	23 7 pm Regular Session	24	25 5pm City Center Jazz Nights @ USMH Plaza	26	27 8pm Miss MD Pageant @ MD Theatre
28 MML Conference in Ocean City	29 MML Conference in Ocean City	30 MML Conference in Ocean City				

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. **Weekly Capital Markets Update.** Attached for your information is the Weekly Capital Markets Update by Wye River Group, Inc.
2. **Market Overview.** Attached for your information is the 1st Quarter Market Overview for Washington County by McShea.
3. **Hagerstown's Population Growth Chart.** Attached for your information is a chart entitled Hagerstown's Population Growth.

ENGINEERING & CODE ADMINISTRATION

1. **Updated Language for Code Administration Notices** The Code Administration Division is continuing to seek balance between the need to require code compliance and the need to provide excellence in customer service. In our latest step, new language has been implemented to convey the legal requirements and to also make clear that the City's goal is compliance and not penalty. This change is being implemented and many forms have already been updated. Staff anticipates all forms will be updated with the new language within 90 days.
2. **Court Cases** Jose Duran, owner of 224 South Locust Street, was found guilty for failing to remove an untagged

vehicle from his property. The fine was waived and the City was given the right to abate.

3. **Railroad Crossing Upgrade** We contacted CSX to investigate repairs and maintenance that are needed at the railroad crossings at Virginia Avenue and Summit Avenue. CSX reported to us that the Virginia Avenue railroad crossing has been scheduled for repairs. The crossing at Summit Avenue will be inspected in the near future, and CSX stated they will repair when they can.
4. **Pavement Preservation Contract** This project is now advertised for bids. The project includes milling and paving, slurry seal, crackfilling and reclamation of Florida Avenue. To-date, two prospective bidders have obtained bid documents. We are currently preparing drawings and quantities of pavement markings required for this year.
5. **High Accident Intersections** We completed review of the 2008 accident report from SHA, and made recommendations for three of the eight intersections. One of these three intersections is Burhans Boulevard at Salem Avenue, where we have developed a concept plan to convert a southbound lane to be a northbound left-turn lane. This is a first step to resolving the congestion on Burhans Boulevard, Salem Avenue and Franklin Street. Once we see how effective this phase is, we may proceed with additional changes.
6. **Lions Club** Rodney made a presentation to the Lions Club on Tuesday. See their newsletter attached.

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. **Fairgrounds Park** – At Fairgrounds Park, we continue to scrape and paint the exterior of the Grandstand.
3. **Tree Maintenance** – Tree maintenance continues at City Park, removing several trees, elevating many and removing dead limbs.
4. **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.
5. **Pangborn Park** – Due to vandalism at Pangborn Park, we had to repair the door jamb and closers on the restrooms that were recently renovated. We are also making repairs and improvements to the wooden guardrail along Pangborn Blvd.
6. **Prep for Blues Fest** – Preparations include setting up stages, tents, tables and benches at University Plaza and City Park.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

1. **Zoning Certificates Issued For New Businesses:**
 - 12814-G Shank Farm Way - R. Bruce Carson Ltd. - jewelry store.
 - 73 Eastern Boulevard, North - Luv 2 Dance, Curves for Women - fitness center.
 - 501 Maryland Avenue - Lem Richmond Plumbing - plumbing contractor for Culligan Water Conditioning.
2. **Planning Commission:** The Planning Commission considered the following items on Wednesday, May 27:
 - Approved a forest conservation waiver for Washington County Bus Transfer Station.
 - Continued review of testimony and recommendations on Phase 2, Comprehensive Rezoning. The commission has reached consensus on all but the Evergreen property and the Allstar Court request.
3. **Board of Zoning Appeals:** The BZA will hear the following cases on June 17:
 - 293 North Prospect Street - Serena L. Bell James - for a fence variance to reduce the front yard setback on North Prospect Street from 25 feet to 0 feet and from 25 feet to 0 feet along West North Avenue; and a variance for a fence over 3 feet in height within 25 feet of an intersection to 0 feet.
 - 37 North Mulberry Street - Chika Ofong, t/a Union Tires & Automotive Services - special exception for a used tire sales and installation business.
 - 5 Nottingham Road - Ruth Thompson, t/a West End Pub - variance to reduce the side yard setback from 10 feet to 2 feet to construct a roof over a smoking area.

- 61-61½ East Franklin Street - Pastor Damon Albert, Foundations Family Church - special exception for a religious organization.
 - 214 North Mulberry Street - Nicholas Lee Mowel - variance to allow a fence along Jefferson Street; and a variance to allow a 6-foot fence within 25 feet of an intersection.
 - 442 North Potomac Street - Elizabeth Hardinge, t/a Maidstone Interior Design Services - variance to reduce the number of required off-street parking spaces from 15 to 0 spaces.
 - 10-15-1025 West Washington Street - Hope Bridge Church of the Nazarene - special exception for a religious organization.
4. **Doub Annexation:** The property owners of the Doub Farm and some adjoining properties out to the Dual Highway submitted a second revised annexation petition on March 24, 2009 and requested that the City continue with the annexation process, even though the County refused to grant the zoning change for the property. The amended petition removes the site plan conditions, since there is no longer a developer or development plan for the property. The zoning request remains C4 and POM which is consistent with the land use recommendation in the 2008 Comprehensive Plan. Because the County refused to grant the zoning change, any development of the property would have to wait for five years or until the County grants the zoning change, whichever comes first. Staff will bring this matter back before the Mayor and City Council in the coming weeks.
 5. **New Haven Annexation:** The property owner of this annexed tract of land in the northwest corner of the city has been collecting sewer allocation for the approved concept plan for this residential development since July 2006. Staff will meet with the owner's representative on May 29th to discuss preliminary plat submittal requirements. This will be only the second preliminary subdivision plat submittal for a residential project in the city since late 2005. (Washington Knolls/Snook Annexation submitted a preliminary plat in July 2008, but it stalled with no recent action.)
 6. **Long Range Transportation Plan Public Meetings:** The Hagerstown/Eastern Panhandle Metropolitan Planning Organization will hold two public input meetings on June 1st to start the process to update the Long Range Transportation Plan for the MPO region. The MPO covers portions of Washington County, Berkeley County, and Jefferson County. The first meeting will be from 2-4 p.m. at the airport. The second meeting will be from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at USM.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Calls For Service:	1,033	CDS Arrests:	2
Moving Violations:	42	DUI:	2
Parking Tickets:	211	Search Warrants Executed:	1
Other Criminal Arrests (including warrants): 28			

1. **Multiple Vehicles Vandalized (5/23):** Eight vehicles damaged in the James Street area overnight. All had been written on with permanent marker.
2. **Weapons Arrests (5/24):** At 10:56 p.m. officers responded to a large fight in the 900 block of Security Road. While en route, they learned from dispatch that firearms had been discharged. When they arrived, the officers encountered several people who had been involved. Their investigation revealed a large group of individuals began arguing, then fighting in the parking lot area of the apartment complex there. At least one subject pulled a handgun and began firing. Another went inside an apartment and retrieved a shotgun. He chased other persons with it, but apparently did not fire. He then returned it to the apartment. SCU detectives obtained a search warrant for the apartment and recovered the shotgun, two handguns, and drugs. They later found that one of the handguns had been reported stolen. Arrested were Brandon Lee Sisler and Andrew Neshawn Burke for weapons violations, Stephon Javon Snowden and Brandon Lee Diggs for disorderly conduct, and Nikkisha Carsonel Snowden for CDS charges and possession of the stolen handgun.
3. **Indecent Exposure (5/24):** At 3:50 p.m., police responded to Potterfield Pool where seven juveniles had witnessed an indecent exposure. They reported a white male had been sitting on the sliding board eating food in the area behind the pool. He called them over and when they approached, they saw he had his pants down and genitals exposed. They ran to tell the pool manager, and the male fled on foot toward Commonwealth Ave. He was described as a white male, 5-8, heavy build, goatee/moustache (or other similar facial hair), wearing a white shirt with yellow lettering, blue shorts, a dark hat, sunglasses, and sandals.

4. **Stabbing (5/25):** At 1:41 a.m. officers responded to Diva's Lounge for a disturbance. There they determined two males had been in an argument in the parking lot when one stabbed the other multiple times in the head. The victim then went to the Washington County Hospital where he was admitted with non- life threatening injuries. Responding officers, acting on witness information, stopped a vehicle in which the suspect was riding and arrested Elijah Timothy Taylor of Fenway Rd. he was charged with attempted murder and several other related offenses.
5. **Large Fight at West End Pub (5/26):** At 1:20 a.m. officers patrolling in the area of Nottingham Road heard a large disturbance. They found the source was the West End Pub. As they arrived, a large group began to scatter, while others remained behind. The officers learned that a large fight broke out in the bar, then spilled to the outside patio area. The people involved in the fight fled and everyone else was uncooperative with officers who found it necessary to shut down the bar and have the remaining patrons leave.

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

ELECTRIC DIVISION

1. **Problem Areas.** Recent call outs included:
 - Fri. 5/22 - 543 Guilford Avenue. Lines down; refastened service wire (no charge). Time Out: 17.7-19.1
 - Sat. 5/23 - 531 North Mulberry Street. Partial outage; tightened loose connection. Time Out: 15.2-15.9
 - Mon. 5/25 - 335 North Potomac Street. Check wires hanging low in rear of building; found Verizon and ACTV wires very low. Both companies were informed of situation. Time Out: 14.5-15.5
 - 1310 Delaware Lane. Lights blinking; changed connectors, checked voltage and all connectors, no problem found. Time Out: 18.4-19.3
 - 312 West Side Avenue. Tree limbs arcing in primaries; cleared tree limbs from wires, more trimming will be done during regular work week. Time Out: 20.6-21.5
 - Tue. 5/26 - 38 North Cleveland Avenue (front). Customer reports loud buzzing noise nearby. Checked area, noise may be coming from capacitor; equipment checked, no problem found. Area will be inspected again during regular work day, May 27, 2009. Time Out: 21.1-22.5
2. **Distribution** Recent activity included:
 - The installation of poles, transformers, underground primaries, etc., continues in the Cramer's Alley area.
 - 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
12	0	0	0

3. **Engineering.** Staff worked on the following projects:
 - The Staff Engineer reviewed the bids for the street lights and associated materials to be installed on Jonathan Street for the streetscape project. The light fixtures and poles will be on the Mayor and Council Consent Agenda in June.
 - The Staff Engineer is reviewing streetlight pole specifications to find a more cost efficient alternative to the 30' double-arm steel poles.

WATER DIVISION

Plant Flows - System Demand (MGD)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Willson</u>	<u>Breichner</u>	<u>Total</u>
05/20/09	11.57		11.57
05/21/09	11.48		11.48
05/22/09	11.82		11.82
05/23/09	11.42		11.42
05/24/09	10.96		10.96
05/25/09	10.06		10.06
05/26/09	10.88		10.88
05/27/09	10.84		10.84
Average			11.13

Water Production at RC Willson

- Willson continues to operate well; water temperature is currently 74 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 fine tuning of set points for the high service, and wash water PRV valve.
- The maintenance crew has been completing routine maintenance. Maintenance and operations crews cleaned out existing tanks and renovated the chlorine room and installed a new Sodium Hypo tank at Station 6.

Water Production at Breichner

- The Edgemont Reservoir is currently at -7.4", the bypass and the hydrant are both shut. The Breichner Plant was not operated last week.

Water Distribution

- Crews are continuing to perform customer service related duties throughout the system which include meter settings, meter reading and meter exchanges. The Jonathan St. main replacement project is going well and the Water Department has installed water main up to the intersection of North and Jonathan St. The main has passed the chlorine and pressure tests and should pass the bac-t test on Thursday. If all goes well, we should be transferring services over to the new main on Monday.

Laboratory

- Consumer Confidence Reports have been distributed to our wholesale systems - Williamsport, Smithsburg, and Funkstown.
- A new line installation on Jonathan Street at North Avenue was tested and cleared for use.
- The contract lab, Underwriters Laboratories, notified us that no matrix spike sample results were submitted when they reported our UCMR2 one year quarterly testing results. They are working on correcting the problem. Hopefully we are not required to retest.

Engineering

Reviews:

Building Permits 1

- Staff provided inspector pre-upgrade training.
- Staff attended a demo/operational check of a main auto flush unit.
- Staff met with a building contractor on final documentation for a water main extension.

WATER DIVISION

Wastewater Treatment Plant at Frederick Street

<u>Date</u>	<u>Flow (mgd)</u>	<u>Rainfall (inches)</u>
Wednesday, May 20, 2009	7.54	0.00
Thursday, May 21, 2009	7.39	0.00
Friday, May 22, 2009	7.28	0.00
Saturday, May 23, 2009	7.05	0.00
Sunday, May 24, 2009	6.80	0.00
Monday, May 25, 2009	6.89	0.30
Tuesday, May 26, 2009	7.23	0.32
Weekly Average/Total	7.17	0.62
Monthly Average/Total	9.07	4.62
Yearly Average/Total	6.54	11.11

- 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 installing new brushes on Final # 5, replacing DLC on Caustic pump # 5, and installing new motor on hot water heater recirculation pump in operations building. Maintenance crews were called in Saturday evening to repair a broken instrument air line, unable to locate the broken line; they ran temporary lines and will come up with a plan for long term solution.

Wastewater Collection

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Districts</u>	<u>Linear Feet of Main</u>	<u>Feet of Lateral</u>	<u># of Lateral Inspections</u>
Closed Circuit TV Inspections	1,5	12,225	313	26
Flushing	1,5,21,36	10,960		

<u>Point Repairs</u>	<u>Districts</u>	<u># of Repairs</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>LF of Repairs</u>
Main & Lateral	5	1	Roots	39

Customer Service Calls & Maintenance Repairs

- Blockage Call. Monroe Muffler on Pennsylvania Avenue. Blockage was just before the main, crews will CCTV.

Laboratory

- The lab has begun performance sample testing for the annual DMRQA. We will continue testing the various parameters required over the next couple weeks.
- We will begin collecting samples for the permit required WET testing June 8th. Last quarter required chemical toxicity testing and bio-monitoring; this quarter only requires bio-monitoring.
- The lab collected samples from Hagerstown Bookbinding & Printing as part of the City/County industrial discharge monitoring program.

Administration

- We are working with MDE to get Collection System Rehabilitation projects out to bid.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce J. Zimmerman
City Administrator