



# City of Hagerstown, Maryland

## Status & Information Report No. 23 for 2009

June 12, 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 <sup>th</sup> 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				

## COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

1. **Fishin' Frenzy:** Preparations for the MIHI Fishing Frenzy took place this week. This year the Fishing Frenzy will be held Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at Pangborn Park from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Participation is free for disabled individuals as well as youth 12 and under and seniors 65 and over.
2. **City Center Jazz Night:** The second City Center Jazz Night was Thursday from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in University Plaza featuring Brian Lenaire. Even in the rain we had 83 people in University Plaza, and it was a wonderful concert. City Center Jazz Nights will continue every Thursday night through July 2nd.
3. **Communication with Citizens/Visitors:**
  - Press Releases: Seven press releases were sent out this week for the following: June Sunny Sundays, Herbs of Hagers Thyme, and July Freaky First Fridays all at the Hager House; the informational meeting on the SBA program; Flag Day; the June 18 City Center Jazz Night and the MIHI Fishing Frenzy.
  - Airing on Hagerstown Government Television. City Center Jazz Nights with host Karen Giffin, Director of Community Affairs; Carl Disque & Ty Fleetwood of the City Center Jazz Nights Committee.
  - Web: Information about the Community Development Block Grants - Recovery Funds are available at

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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1. **Informational Meeting Held for Launch of new SBA 100-Percent Guarantee ARC Loan Program to help Struggling Businesses.** More than 60 people attended the meeting in the Council Chambers on Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. to hear a representative from SBA discuss the new ARC Loan Program. The new program, designed to assist small businesses suffering from financial hardship as a result of the slow economy, will begin June 15, 2009. ARC loans will be disbursed within a period of up to six months and will provide funds to be used for payments of principal and interest for existing, qualifying small business debt including mortgages, term and revolving lines of credit, capital leases, credit card obligations and notes payable to vendors, suppliers and utilities.
2. **Washington County Employment Boost Program.** Staff attended a meeting to discuss the County Employment Boost Program this week. Attendance included the EDC staff and Commission, as well as Commissioners Kercheval and Aleshire. The EDC staff will be presenting the results to the County Commissioners on Tuesday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. in Open Session. The program is short-term and aimed at stimulating economic activity to generate short and long-term job growth, non-residential construction and capital investment in Washington County. The program is designed to encourage existing companies to begin expansion plans they may be considering and to help the EDC attract new businesses to locate in Hagerstown and Washington County. The program will only apply to for-profit projects that start no later than June 30, 2010. Information on the program will be available once the County Commissioners have reviewed and approved the criteria.

## ENGINEERING & CODE ADMINISTRATION

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1. **Next Day Permits.** The development of the NEXT Day Permitting Process is complete for the select type of projects. The soft opening for the program is June 17<sup>th</sup>. The program's official start date is July 1<sup>st</sup>. This new program managed by our Permit Office with assistance from the Light Department, Planning Department, and Water and Sewer Department will issue select permits within a day. The program is geared towards residential work.
2. **Burhans Boulevard Improvements.** Traffic consultant Sabra Wang has completed drawings and recommendations for improvements to Burhans Boulevard between Franklin Street and Mechanic Street to improve traffic flow. We have submitted this plan to SHA for any comments and are seeking funding to complete the project.
3. **Board of Traffic & Parking.** The Board of Traffic & Parking will meet this week to discuss: Flashing signals at the intersection of Reynolds Avenue and Summit Avenue; additional crosswalks at several intersections; a bike information update; and BZA cases.

## PARKS DEPARTMENT

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1. **City Park**
  - **New Play Equipment:** Approved for State funding (Community Parks & Playgrounds), installation of play equipment at the City Park West Pavilion was completed by June 10 and is now ready for use. Staff will compile costs and submit a request for reimbursement from the State.
  - **New Information Board:** Requested and paid for by the Hagerstown Municipal Band, we installed an information board near the Band Shell.
  - **Building Upkeep:** Painting the exterior of the Mansion House has resumed.
2. **Pangborn Park** – Since we've seen an increase of bikers riding through Pangborn Park, a leg of one of the City's 10-mile bike route, we installed another bike rack.
3. **Fairgrounds Park** – Due to vandalism, we are replacing sections of chain link fence along the BMX track at Fairgrounds Park.
4. **Municipal Stadium** – We replaced the stone area to the rear of the Hagerstown Suns' offices and clubhouse with blacktop. We are also improving the drainage in that area.

## PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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1. **Zoning Certificates Issued For New Businesses:**

- 1123 Maryland Avenue - White Tiger Martial Arts Academy, Inc., t/a Mr. Jimmy's White Tiger Martial Arts.
- 98 West Washington Street - Moonlight Shisha Café - Italian restaurant, including hookah bar.
- 34 East Washington Street - Uncle Louis G - Italian ices and ice cream shop.
- 400 Mechanic Street - Momentum Autowerks - repair of automobile components and/or installation of equipment on automobiles; incidental retail sales of auto parts.
- 1740 Dual Highway - Liquor Locker - retail sales of liquor and cigars.
- 710 Dual Highway (former Richardson's Restaurant) - The Landing - restaurant and bar; on and off liquor sales.
- 2 South Potomac Street - By Grace - craft shop, including country crafts and primitive furniture.
- 814 Oak Hill Avenue - Oak Hill Interior Designs - home office for an interior design business.

2. **New Development Cases:**

- 915 South Burhans Boulevard - R. E. Michel - site plan for 70' x 70' addition.

3. **Planning Commission:** The Planning Commission reviewed the following matters on Wednesday, June 10:

- 1018 Noland Drive - Boys & Girls Club of Washington County - approved a site plan for new facility, contingent upon satisfaction of outstanding Water Department comments.
- 1100 South Potomac Street - South Hagerstown High School - granted permission to reduce the number of student parking spaces (by 10) in order to construct a temporary classroom building.
- Comprehensive Rezoning, Phase 2 (Areas 2 and 23) - discussion and recommendation to Mayor and Council.
- Commercial Districts Amendments - discussion and recommendation to Mayor and Council.

4. **Historic District Commission:** The HDC reviewed the following cases on Wednesday, June 11:

- 707-707 Oak Hill Avenue - John Rohrer and John Lestitian - approved a rear porch modification.
- 66 Broadway - Jeff Eckhardt - approved replacement of the front porch columns and decking.
- 215 West Washington Street - Hagerstown Driving School - approved a sign grant for a projecting sign.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Calls for Service	CDS Arrests	Other Criminal Arrests (Including Warrants)	Parking Tickets	Moving Violations	DUI	Search Warrants Executed
2,370	8	47	424	185	5	1

1. **1<sup>st</sup> Degree Assault (5/28):** At 10:43 p.m. officers responded to 213 South Mont Valla Avenue for an assault victim. The victim, an 81 year old female, and the suspect– her grandson Garrett Funk-- were both still there. The officers' investigation indicated Funk had been drinking and for some reason decided to start breaking up the house. When the victim told him to stop, he struck her in the side with an object, presumably a broken piece of furniture. She received a puncture wound to her side as a result, and had to be transported to WCH for treatment. The officers arrested Funk and charged him with 1<sup>st</sup> degree assault and related offenses.
  
2. **Drug Arrests (5/30):** The Street Crime Unit began investigating a complaint of drug dealing in the area of the 100 block of East Washington Street. Just after midnight, their investigation led them to 103 East Washington Street. There they found several persons, including Marc Steven Dorce and Austin Bell Crawford. The detectives found them in possession of distribution quantities of crack cocaine, as well as distribution paraphernalia. Dorce, of Brooklyn, NY, and Crawford, of 103 East Washington Street, were both charged with possession of crack with intent to distribute.
  
3. **Armed Robbery (6/4):** Around 2:55 p.m. two unknown black males robbed Schindel's Pharmacy of an undetermined amount of cash and prescription drugs. The suspects entered the store thru the Oak Hill Avenue entrance and approached the counter. They demanded drugs and the cash from the register. No weapon was displayed. The suspects exited the same door and fled northbound on Oak Hill Avenue. The suspects were described as black males, possibly late teens/early 20's. Both wore jackets with hoods. One of the suspects wore a coat with fur lining the hood. The other wore a hooded sweatshirt with elaborate designs.

4. **1<sup>st</sup> Degree Assaults (6/10):** At 12:25 a.m. officers responded to a large fight with weapons in the 1700 block of Edgewood Hills Circle. Several participants were detained when police arrived. The reason for the fight is still being investigated, but officers learned that one person with a crowbar attacked another who had a knife. The person with the knife was struck in the head, and the person with the crowbar was cut in the hand. CID is continuing to investigate and charges are pending.

## **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

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1. **Recycled Electronics:** We recently received word from the Washington County Landfill that 18,840 pounds (almost 9 ½ tons!) of electronics were collected through the Spring Dumpster Program. This was mainly computers and televisions. Old console TVs, microwaves and stereos could not be accepted for recycling. The cost is too prohibitive to recover the metals and glass from the other plastic and wood components.
2. **Storm Drain Repairs:** Work continues on the repairs of storm drains throughout the city. Staff is currently on Summit Ave. near Hamilton Run reconstructing a drain. Typically, the brick used to construct the older drains loosen and fall away. The lids are generally removed and new brick laid or replaced by concrete depending upon the circumstances.
3. **Fleet Maintenance:** A Request for Proposal (RFP) is going out for a new vehicle scanning device. This tool allows mechanics to electronically determine what may be malfunctioning on a vehicle by "talking" to its onboard computer. The scanner improves the efficiency of the shop by taking less time to analyze what could be wrong with the vehicle. Cost of the new scanner is expected to be around \$6,000.

## **RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

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1. **HAGER HOUSE & RAILROAD MUSEUM**
  - Tours: Staff is very pleased to announce that once again the Hager House has been voted by the Readers of the Hagerstown Magazine as their 2nd most favorite place to visit in all of Washington County! The rate of tourism continues at a steady pace and staff has been pleased with the attendance at our planned special events and presentations. Scheduled group tours also seem to be on the rise with a number scheduled over the next two weeks.
  - Hager House Programs and Events: Staff this week spent time sending out press releases for the upcoming "Herbs of Hager's Thyme" "Sunny Sundays" and "Freaky First Friday" Events. Planning also continues for the presentations to be held on site the rest of the season. Staff is very pleased by the turn out of this past weekends "Middle Ages" Festival. Preliminary counts show nearly 1,000 people attended the event! This week staff also continued with grounds maintenance, data entry for a database of donations, and began research into the early establishment of "Elizabethtowne" to be presented as a presentation at a future date.
  - Hagerstown Railroad Museum at City Park: Staff is very excited by the great turn out for this past weeks Railroad Heritage Days Event held in conjunction with the Roundhouse Museum. Staff reported that 550 people visited the site over the festivals two days! Attendance is up at the Historic Site! This week time was spent in planning for the upcoming July 11<sup>th</sup> "Thomas the Tank Engine" Day and the August 15<sup>th</sup> Historical slide show presentation.
2. **MARKET.** Two new vendor applications mailed out this week.
3. **FAIRGROUNDS PARK**
  - Community Yard Sale Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup> from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.
  - Washington County League of Foster Families "Walk Me Home" walk Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup> from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
  - Hagerstown Area Youth Soccer League Antietam Cup Soccer Tournament, June 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

## **UTILITIES DEPARTMENT**

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<b>ELECTRIC DIVISION</b>
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1. **Problem Areas.** Recent call outs included:
- Thu. 6/4 - Various. Reconnect services for non-payment. Time Out: 17.6-18.3
  - Various. Reconnect services for non-payment. Time Out: 19.7-19.9
  - Various. Reconnect services for non-payment. Time Out: 20.3-20.5
  
  - Fri. 6/5 - Various. Reconnect services for non-payment. Time Out: 17.5-18.2
  
  - Sat. 6/6 - Various. Reconnect services for non-payment. Time Out: 11.2-11.8
  
  - Sun. 6/7 - 1101 Woodland Way. Total outage; replaced (1) 10T fuse, found squirrel to have caused outage. Time Out: 7.3-7.8
  - 9 West Wilson Boulevard. Lines down; replaced (1) screw bracket and (1) wire-holder. (Charge). Time Out: 21.0-21.5
  
  - Tue. 6/9 - Various - North Section (storm trouble). Total outages; transformer arcing, tree on power lines, service wires pulled loose, etc. Replaced transformer fuse, line fuse, trimmed trees and refastened services. Time Out: 15.3-18.1
  
  - Wed. 6/10 - Various - reconnect services for non-payment.
  - 657 Pennsylvania Avenue (rear). Check report of arcing at transformer; inspected connections at reported site and surrounding area, no problem found. Time Out: 16.5-17.4
  - Various. Reconnect services for non-payment. Time Out: 17.3-18.6
  - Various. Reconnect services for non-payment. Time Out: 18.8-19.1
  - Various. Reconnect services for non-payment. Time Out: 20.6-21.0

2. **Distribution** Recent activity included:
- The Line Department assisted Commercial Billing with disconnects and reconnects this week.
  - The installation of poles, transformers, underground primaries, etc., continues in the Cramer's Alley area.
  - Inspection and repair of Feeders #1 and #2 at Fairground Substation continues.
  - Metering Department received no high bill complaints this week.
  - Line maintenance work continues in various areas.
  - Line crews continue trimming trees in various residential locations.

Lamps Replaced	New Fixtures Added	Changeouts	Fixtures Removed
23	1	1	0

3. **Engineering** Staff worked on the following projects:
- The Engineers and Administrative Staff visited the HADCO pole manufacturing plant in Littlestown, PA, this week. HADCO manufactures the Hagerstown downtown fixtures and poles throughout the downtown area.
  - The Staff Engineer and the Electrical Engineer attended the GIS kick-off meeting with the City's GIS consultant and the GIS user group to nail down a time line and understand the events that will take place between now and completion of the strategic plan. The Engineers, along with Administration, were interviewed by the GIS consultant, to provide them with information for the Light Department's GIS needs.
  - The RGGI Rate Credit has been implemented for residential customers. Beginning with the June 2009 bills an item labeled RGGI Rate Credit will appear on all residential customers' bills. The RGGI Rate Credit is provided through the auction of Carbon Dioxide (CO2) emission allowances through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and provided to the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund and is mandated by the MDPSC. The credit is a direct pass through from the State to residential customers for ratepayer relief and will adjust quarterly based on the latest auction. For June and July 2009 the credit is \$1.50.
  
  - The HLD received the recently purchased Altec Digger/Derrick truck. The new truck will be able to lift larger sized transformers and features joy stick operation for easier operation.
  - Bill Fockler received the HIP award for implementing energy savings at the HLD offices. His direct efforts

in installing programmable thermostats, installing window vapor barriers, and retrofitting the boiler fan controls resulted in significant energy reductions and savings while increasing the comfort level of the occupants. When compared to last year, the HLD facility used 3,167 gallons less of fuel oil, a savings of \$5,067. In addition, electric consumption by HLD's facility was reduced by 35,000kWh or 22% which resulted in a savings of \$3,600.

- Eight employees were honored for their years of service to the HLD. The employees' tenure ranged from 20 to 40 years with a combined total of 235 years of experience and dedicated service to the HLD. In addition, one employee who retired after 30 years received a retirement gift of an engraved clock.

<b>WATER DIVISION</b>
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**Plant Flows - System Demand (MGD)**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Willson</u>	<u>Breichner</u>	<u>Total</u>
06/04/09	10.58		10.58
06/05/09	10.86		10.86
06/06/09	10.83		10.83
06/07/09	11.06		11.06
06/08/09	11.48		11.48
06/09/09	11.50		11.50
06/10/09	10.94		10.94
Average			11.03

**Water Production at RC Willson**

- Willson continues to operate well; water temperature is currently 69 degrees.
- The instrumentation crew has completed the renovations of the enunciation panel. They also completed the installation of new valve actuators on the low service pumps. Additionally, they made repairs to a valve actuator on the Trac-Vac system and replaced a motor on a flocculator drive.
- The maintenance crew has been completing routine maintenance. They also installed a new hatch plate on an access point on the screen chamber.

**Water Production at Breichner**

- The Edgemont Reservoir is currently at -7.2', the bypass is open two turns and the hydrant is shut. 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 past the intersection of North and Jonathan St. We also have crews working on the street overlay project making sure valves are accessible.

**Laboratory**

- Samples were collected from Willson and Breichner WTPs for the EPA required annual monitoring of nitrate/nitrite.
- The lab began the season testing of the Edgemont Reservoir for manganese levels. At present, it is at a low level.

**Engineering**

<u>Reviews:</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>County</u>
Site Plan	1	2
Building Permits	6	

- Staff met with a Maugansville developer's consultant regarding water service provision for a duplex lot.
- Staff met to review the draft request for proposal for the utility line locator contract.

<b>WASTEWATER DIVISION</b>
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**Wastewater Treatment Plant at Frederick Street**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Flow (mgd)</b>	<b>Rainfall (inches)</b>
Wednesday, June 3, 2009	6.91	0.45
Thursday, June 4, 2009	7.52	0.37
Friday, June 5, 2009	10.39	0.86
Saturday, June 6, 2009	8.66	0.00
Sunday, June 7, 2009	7.89	0.00
Monday, June 8, 2009	7.76	0.00
Tuesday, June 9, 2009	8.38	0.50
Weekly Average/Total	8.22	2.18
Monthly Average/Total	7.82	2.31
Yearly Average/Total	6.61	13.73

- The Wastewater Treatment Plant continues to operate efficiently; all parameters are within MDE compliance specifications. Several days of constant rain has increased the plant flows during this week. Maintenance crews continue working on corrective and preventative maintenance work orders including items such as; rotation of oxygen and ozone equipment, investigating options for replacing instrument air lines to the OAB (Oxygen Aeration Basin) deck, and replacing several of the LEL (Lower Explosive Limit) sensors on the OAB deck.

**Wastewater Collection**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Districts</b>	<b>Linear Feet of Main</b>	<b>Feet of Lateral</b>	<b># of Lateral Inspections</b>
Flushing	21	5,536		

**Customer Service Calls & Maintenance Repairs**

- 807-809 replaced lateral – blocked by roots
- Assisted County with operating our root cutter at the Allegheny Power building, approximately 600 feet.
- 950 Guilford Avenue – roots in service connection and building sewer
- 1078 Virginia Avenue – located lateral
- 454-458 Jonathan Street – blockage caused by blasting associated with Jonathan Street project. Set up temporary pumping on Saturday, Brake excavated site on Monday, temporary pipe installed at this time.

**Wastewater Laboratory**

- The lab is continuing performance sample testing for the annual DMRQA. We will continue testing the various parameters required over the next week.
- The lab began collecting the second quarter permit required set of WET Testing samples. These samples will only be used for bio-monitoring and not chemical toxicity analysis this quarter.

**Administration**

- Meeting schedule with County Purchasing Department for June 15 to establish Salem Avenue bid dates.
- Staff met for review of the draft request for proposal for the utility line locator contract.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce J. Zimmerman  
City Administrator