



CITY OF HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND STATUS & INFORMATION REPORT No. 39

September 26, 2008

To Mayor Bruchey and Members of the City Council:

UPCOMING MEETINGS

◆◆ SEPTEMBER 2008 ◆◆						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 No Meeting	3	4 8 am Market In The Square	5	6
7	8	9 4 pm Work Session	10	11 8:30 am Remembrance Ceremony @ Council Chamber	12	13 10 am Autumn Arts Festival @ City Park
14 10 am Autumn Arts Festival @ City Park	15	16 4 pm Work Session	17	18 8 am Market In The Square	19	20
21	22	23 7 pm Regular Session	24	25 7 pm Grim Reapings @ Hager House	26	27
28	29	30 No Meeting				

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

1. CITY FARMERS MARKET UPDATE AND EVENTS

- This Saturday, September 27 celebrate Fall with Fall craft day at the Market! Kids activities from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and vendors offer specials all day. Hours: 5 a.m. to 1 p.m. 25 West Church Street in Downtown Hagerstown. Remember the Market is indoors and open year-round!
- The next Market in the Square will be Thursday, October 2 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The rain date is Friday, October 3. Vendors from City Market sell their produce, foods, plants, crafts and more in Public Square Downtown Hagerstown.

2. SEMINAR. The Community Affairs Director attended a seminar with the Greater Hagerstown Committee on Economic Development and Higher Education.

3. COMMUNICATIONS TO CITIZENS AND VISITORS

- Airing on Channel 6: "Choose 2 Reuse" recycling show with City Engineer Rodney Tissue, Washington County Recycling Coordinator Harvey Hoch, and City residents Randy Schultz and David Gysberts.
- The Community Affairs Director and the TV Production and Web Coordinator met with members of CPWC to discuss how we televise Mayor and Council Meetings.
- The Community Affairs Office answered three public information requests this week.
- Press releases written and distributed to the media: Traffic Advisory (Eastern Boulevard)
- Find the latest Retail Office Rental (Lease) and Sale Properties at http://www.hagerstownmd.org/Assets/Eco_Dev/Available-Properties.pdf

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. **Neighborhoods 1st**

- Staff made a presentation to the residents of Gateway Crossing on behalf of Neighborhoods 1st. The group came together at Elgin Station to learn what they can do as a community to maintain the quality of their neighborhood and further improve it.
- Staff assisted the residents of Greenwich Park with an organizational meeting Thursday evening to allow them recognition as a newly formed Neighborhoods 1st Group. There were 35 residents in attendance.

2. **Arts & Entertainment**

- The Hagerstown Lions Club meeting featured a presentation by Cindy Blackstock sharing the current successes and forward movement of the City's Arts & Entertainment District. Members learned that more than just South Potomac Street sparkled within the District.
- Cindy Blackstock met with Marie Myers of the Discovery Station. Discussion centered on the future of the A & E District, museum future plans and signage.
- Cindy Blackstock met with a local Realtor to discuss the incentives provided by the Smart Growth initiative for the Arts & Entertainment District and marketing concepts. A Realtor's Seminar is planned for January 29, 2009 to share many of these ideas with a larger audience of Realtors.

3. **Curb & Sidewalk Loan**

- A curb & sidewalk loan was settled for the owner of 428 Mitchell Avenue, The Department worked closely with Dan Poffenberger of the City Engineering Department to assist the owner with completing these much needed repairs.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. **Charlotte, North Carolina Economic Development Meeting.** The Director of Economic Development and Director of Community Affairs accompanied Councilmember Parson-McBean on a trip to meet with elected officials and economic development staff in Charlotte, North Carolina. Attached you will find a Staff Report with information which was discussed during this business trip.
2. **The Trident Initiative: Third Annual Entrepreneurship Conference.** The 3rd Annual Entrepreneurship Conference was held at USMH in Downtown Hagerstown on Thursday, September 25 and Friday, September 26, 2008. The award for the "Young Entrepreneur" went to Allie and Nathan Buchman of The Potomac Bead Company.

ENGINEERING & CODE ADMINISTRATION

1. **Permit Activity - Calendar Year 2008**

<u>Type</u>	<u>(as of 9/23/08)</u>	<u>Projected 2008</u>	<u>Calendar 2007</u>
Building	484	672	758
Electrical	812	1,127	1,014
Plumbing	700	971	935
New Dwellings	240	333	133

2. **Code Administration**

High Weeds & Grass: The following properties have had high grasses and weeds abated in the past couple of weeks:

- 335 Yorkshire Drive, owned by Terry McCarney Sr., also fined \$200
- 12 A Downsville Road, owned by Michael Young but in foreclosure, so no fine issued.

Condemnation:

- 433-435 Wood Street, owned by Daryl Tyler, was condemned on September 18, 2008 due to power being cut off as result of non-payment.

Citations:

- Duane Browning, owner of 116 South Locust Street, was charged with doing electrical and plumbing work without securing permits. The fines total \$400.

3. **Eastern Boulevard** Next week traffic will be shifted along the lanes adjacent the curbs and the center section removed. Movements at Opal Court and Diamond Drive will be limited during the work on the center section over the next month.
4. **Pavement Preservation** Cracksealing was completed on all of East Wilson Boulevard, Salem Avenue, North Potomac Street, Garland Groh Boulevard and large portions of Wesel Boulevard and North Burhans Boulevard. Paving was completed on portions of Mitchell Avenue and South Cannon Avenue.

PARKS DEPARTMENT

1. **Fairgrounds Park Entrance Building/Gatehouse** - To be funded by CDBG, work continues on replacing the siding on the east side of the Entrance Building/Gatehouse. This phase will take approximately 2-3 weeks to complete. We will then paint the entire building.
2. **Grounds Maintenance** - The recent weather has permitted us to continue planting new trees, shrubs and grass seed in all our parks and playgrounds.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

1. **Zoning Certificates Issued For New Businesses:**
 - 1034 West Washington Street - Import Auto Service - car repair.
 - 65 East Franklin Street - Janina Medranda and Jorge Rodriguez - internet lounge, photocopying and faxing service.
 - 583 Northern Avenue - Shape Up Shop - women's gym and fitness center.
2. **New Development Cases:**
 - East Side Fridinger Avenue - Peachtree Suites, LLC - final plat.
3. **Planning Commission:** The Planning Commission discussed the following matters on September 24:
 - Public Review Meeting for a rezoning from commercial to residential on the north side of Jefferson Street, east of the intersection of Fridinger Road and Jefferson Street - no opposition.
 - Recommended that Mayor and Council approve two annexations: S & H Partnership/Summit Ridge, LLC on Hump Road (IR zoning request); and Norfolk Southern on the north side of Oak Ridge Drive (IG zoning request). The proposed zoning districts for each application are appropriate.
 - Comprehensive Rezoning, Phase I - Concluded review and recommended that a public review meeting be scheduled for the end of October.
 - Discussion on Downtown Mixed-Use, Neighborhood Mixed-Use, and Industrial Mixed-Use districts - concluded review and recommended that a public review meeting be scheduled for the end of October.
 - Discussion about House Bill 1141 - review was concluded and recommended that amendments be distributed to the appropriate agencies for the required 60-day review period.

The commission will be discussing the following items at a workshop meeting on October 1:

- Valley Park Soil Remediation (CSX Minerals) on Wesel Boulevard - forest conservation plan.
 - Northeast Quadrant of Eastern Boulevard and Diamond Drive - Valley Car Wash - annexation request.
 - Alms House Landmark Designation.
4. **Preservation Commission:** The PDDC reviewed the following cases on September 25:
 - 715 Potomac Avenue - Victor Campbell - Replace Front Window (no action; applicant did not appear at meeting).
 - 38 South Potomac Street - Stephen Kemmet/Bulls and Bears - approved a projecting sign.
 - 28 West Franklin Street - Joseph Arias/The Broad Axe - approved an amended application for a traditional-style awning and a wooden replacement front door.
 - 815 Forest Drive - Michael and Jane Anderson - approved request to install vinyl siding on a nonvisible rear addition.
 - 269-271 South Prospect Street - Over The Top, Inc./Theodore Stoner - approved an amended application for an alteration to create a larger egress window.
 - 36 North Jonathan Street - Ingram's Mens Shop - approved a grant request for facade painting.
 - 125 and 149 West Washington Street - Juanita Gray - approved an amended application for three temporary banners.
 - 57½ West Franklin Street - Lanetta Bristol - approved a temporary banner.
 - Approved revisions to By-laws.

- Agreed to recommend approval of designating the Almshouse as a Landmark to the Planning Commission.
5. **Public Presentation:** The Planning Director gave a presentation on Hagerstown on September 24th to about 30 seniors from Germantown who were in town to visit the Schmankerl Stube.
 6. **Smart Growth Listening Session:** The Maryland Department of Planning hosted one of their regional listening sessions on state-wide Smart Growth issues in downtown Hagerstown on September 25th. The purpose of the listening session was to allow citizens of the Western Maryland region to provide input on growth issues that are affecting the state. Maryland Dept of Planning Secretary Richard Hall gave a presentation on the proposed Statewide Development Plan, Smart Growth issues, and projections in population, housing, and jobs through 2030. The public participation component of the session included responses to a questionnaire, public comment, and a segment allowing participants to show on a map of Maryland where they felt growth and preservation were most important.
 7. **Community Legacy:** The deadline for grant requests to the State's Community Legacy program is October 29th. We have been advised that we need to do a complete update to the Community Legacy Plan which we created in our first application in 2001. All proposed grant projects must be consistent with that plan. Staff plan to bring this topic for discussion with the Mayor and City Council in early October.

PUBLIC WORKS

1. **Stolen Property:** Times are definitely tougher for some than others. Recently, two urinal flush valves were stolen from the public restroom at the DLLR office located at 14 N. Potomac St. The valves are constructed of brass and each valve weighs around 2 to 3 pounds. There is not much money in scrap for these items, but apparently enough to risk getting caught stealing them.
2. **Sidewalk Work Continues:** Repairs to sidewalks continue on Mulberry St. and Magnolia Ave. Between contracts through the Engineering Dept. and the city's workforce, many damaged sidewalks due to street trees are being rebuilt or repaired.
3. **Minor Bridge Repairs:** The Engineering Department had a minor bridge inspection completed on the twenty stream structures around the city. Many of the repairs include the patching of spalled concrete. Staff has begun to make these repairs and will continue as long as the weather holds out.
4. **Snow Preparations:** Preparations continue for the winter weather season. Trucks have been repaired, snow plows are being rebuilt and the salt spreaders have been cleaned and painted for the season. Our salt supply is currently in good shape to begin operations.
5. **Trash Receptacles:** Several neighborhood groups and businesses have requested additional trash receptacles on the city streets. Our last supplier no longer handles the cans we currently use. A new supplier was found and one dozen new cans are on order. These cans will be placed on the street as soon as they arrive.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

1. **HAGER HOUSE AND STEAM ENGINE 202 UPDATE**
 - **Tours:** The historic sites are pleased that there appears to be an increase in scheduled tour groups. This Saturday the Hager House will welcome a group of missionaries sponsored by the Bridge of Life Church and a group of St. Mary's school students book a tour in October this week.
 - **Hager House Programs and Events:** Staff spent much time this week preparing for the Thursday night lecture "Grim Reapings". Staff drafted the 2009 calendar of events featuring 8 new programs and events including a family focused tour on the last Sunday of every month and Haunted Hager house tours the first Friday evening of every month for a total of 23 for 2009. Additional work was done on the Fall/Winter Newsletter and draft copies of procedure guidelines for program/special event set up.
 - **Railroad Museum at City Park:** Staff spent time this week preparing for the upcoming "End of Season Celebration" to be held on October 25th and 26th. Possible events and activities include coloring sheets for the kids, barrel cart rides, toy train and other prize raffles, indoor and outdoor model railroad displays, railroad themed displays and a possible railroad themed music act.
2. **FAIRGROUNDS PARK**
 - Hagerstown YMCA Black Achievers Annual Kick-Off, Sunday September 28th from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

- Hagerstown Area Pregnancy Center " Walk for Life" Saturday October 4th from 8 a.m. to 12 noon.
- Antietam Velo Club 2008 Breast Cancer Cyclocross Challenge, Saturday October 4th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society " Light the Night Walk" Saturday October 18th from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

ELECTRIC DIVISION

1. **Problem Areas.** Recent call-outs included:
- Thu. 9/18 - Various (reconnect for non-payment). Time Out: 17.8-18.3
 - Mon. 9/22 - Various (reconnect for non-payment). Time Out: 17.5-18.0
 - Rear 211 Bryan Place. Check low hanging wire; found Verizon wire hanging low, advised customer, Verizon informed of problem. Time Out: 18.0-18.3
 - Tue. 9/23 - Various (reconnect for non-payment). Time Out: 17.4-17.8
 - Street Light Patrol (various locations). Time Out: 19.4-22.0
 - Wed. 9/24 - Various (reconnect for non-payment). Time Out: 17.5-18.0
 - 308 Wakefield Road. Reconnect service after hours upon completion of tree removal. Time Out: 16.5-17.4

Lamps Replaced	New Fixtures Added	Changeouts	Fixtures Removed
52	2	7	0

3. **Engineering** Staff worked on the following projects:
- The Staff Engineer reviewed the recent distribution transformer bid. The order will replenish our inventory for new customers, service upgrades, transformer failures, etc.
 - Engineering staff is working with the Engineering and Parks Departments for the proposed fountain in the park circle. In order to install the fountain, a 30' pole with two lights that illuminate the perimeter of the circle will need to be removed. Lighting options are being reviewed.
 - Several new electric service designs, existing electric service relocations, and existing electric service upgrades have been completed.

WATER DIVISION

Plant Flows - System Demand (MGD)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Willson</u>	<u>Breichner</u>	<u>Total</u>
09/18/08	10.74		10.74
09/19/08	10.62		10.62
09/20/08	10.47		10.47
09/21/08	10.45		10.45
09/22/08	10.81		10.81
09/23/08	10.71		10.71
09/24/08	10.84		10.84
Average			10.66

Water Distribution

- This past week crews worked throughout the system performing a variety of customer service duties. The main replacement on Tammany Manor Drive is going well and is about 75% complete. Also, we are working on the Jonathan St. main replacement and have installed approximately 75' of new 16" water line. The large meter testing and repair programs continue to go well and we are planning to install approximately 1,200 new radio read meters in the Cross Creek and South Pointe areas. Other areas of operations include overly, meter reading and new service installation.

Laboratory

- The EPA's perchlorate study testing has been completed as has the City's companion testing. The EPA will provide a report when all test results from various locations have been reported and analyzed.
- We have received back all 30 samples from residents for EPA's Lead and Copper regulation.

Engineering

Reviews:	City	County
<u>Water</u>		
Site Plan	1	2
Simplified Plat	2	
Final Plat	1	
Building Permits	13	1

- The 8" water line was shut down for about 2 hours Wednesday so that Earth Movers Contractors could install a new 6" RSGV on the new water line going to the new building at Homewood Retirement Center.

WASTEWATER DIVISION

Wastewater Treatment Plant at Frederick Street

Date	Flow (mgd)	Rainfall (inches)
Wednesday, September 17, 2008	5.77	0.00
Thursday, September 18, 2008	5.66	0.00
Friday, September 19, 2008	5.49	0.00
Saturday, September 20, 2008	5.45	0.00
Sunday, September 21, 2008	5.42	0.00
Monday, September 22, 2008	5.54	0.00
Tuesday, September 23, 2008	5.45	0.00
Weekly Average/Total	5.54	0.00
Monthly Average/Total	5.82	2.84
Yearly Average/Total	7.61	34.34

- The Wastewater Treatment Plant continues to operate efficiently; all parameters are within MDE compliance specifications.

Activity	Districts	Linear Feet of Main	Feet of Lateral	# of Later Inspections
Closed Circuit TV Inspections	3	1,161	238	17
Flushing	11	7,482		
Point Repairs		# of Repairs	Reason	Linear Feet of Repair
Main & Lateral	8	On Going	I & I	78

- Collection System crews have began working on the sewer pipe replacement of the Jonathan Street Project.

Customer Attention Request

- 1257 Dual Highway – investigated odor complaint
- 419 Linganore Avenue – investigated slow drain

- 400 Mitchell Avenue – investigated slow drain
- 324 Devonshire Road – investigated possible blockage
- Started inspection of all grinder pumps in the Woodland Run area

Laboratory

- Analytical Laboratory Services, the laboratory that was given the contract to perform the new NPDES permit bio monitoring and toxic chemical testing, has completed a draft Study Plan as per EPA and MDE requirements. Wastewater division staff is reviewing it before it is sent on to MDE.

Administration

- Staff prepared packets for two wastewater treatment plant construction projects, these projects are for the Headworks and ENR/UV Disinfection Improvements. The packets were forwarded to MDE for approval. Staff will be updated M&C at the October Consent Agenda review meeting.

<u>Reviews:</u>	City	County
Annexation		1
Simplified Plat	1	
Building Permits	9	

- **Sewer** inspections for construction sites included Newgate Boulevard, Light Business Park, Rosewood Village, Hopewell Road Pump Station and Jonathan Street.

QUOTES

QUOTES ON MONEY FROM GREAT-QUOTES.COM

MONDAY. Thought, not money, is the real business capital... - Harvey S. Firestone 1868-1938, American Industrialist

TUESDAY. No man's fortune can be an end worthy of his being. - Francis Bacon 1561-1626, British Philosopher, Essayist, Statesman

WEDNESDAY. The rich would have to eat money if the poor did not provide food. - Russian Proverb

THURSDAY. Bankruptcy is a legal proceeding in which you put your money in your pants pocket and give your coat to your creditors. - Joey Adams

FRIDAY. Money is something you got to make in case you don't die. - Max Asnas

SATURDAY. I don't care too much for money, money can't buy me love. - John Lennon 1940-1980, British Rock Musician

SUNDAY. Creativity comes from zeal to do something, generally it is to make some money. - B. J. Gupta

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

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce J. Zimmerman
City Administrator