



City of Hagerstown, Maryland Status & Information Report No. 44

October 31, 2008

To Mayor Bruchey and Members of the City Council:

UPCOMING MEETINGS

◆◆ NOVEMBER 2008 ◆◆						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 5 am Fall Festival at City Market 6 pm Alsatia Mummers Parade
2 Daylight Savings Time	3	4 4 pm Work Session Election Day	5	6	7 7 pm Hagerstown Gridiron Championship Classic @ South High	8 5 am Fall Festival at City Market
9	10	11 No Meeting	12	13	14	15 10 am Fall Family Days at Jonathan Hager House & Museum
16 1 pm Fall Family Days at Jonathan Hager House & Museum	17	18 4 pm Work Session	19	20	21	22 5 am Fall Festival at City Market
23	24 5 pm Tree Lighting @ Public Square 7 pm Hollyfest @ MD Theatre	25 7 pm Regular Session	26	27 Thanksgiving Holiday - City Offices Closed	28 Thanksgiving Holiday - City Offices Closed	29
30						

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

1. **DOWNTOWN GHOST TOURS.** On Friday, October 24, 122 ghost seekers invaded the downtown area to take part in the Downtown Ghost Tours hayride and walking tours. Participants were treated to hot chocolate from the Gourmet Goat and cookies from Martins Grocery Stores, and haywagon riders got boxed lunches with their tours.

2. **HOLLYFEST/TREELIGHTING - MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24.** Lou Scally is on board as the Master of Ceremonies and many exciting local groups are looking forward to performing.

3. **DOWNTOWN HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE - SATURDAY , DECEMBER 6.** Preparations for Breakfast/Lunch with Santa are being finalized and billboards should be appearing around town very soon!
4. **COMMUNICATIONS TO CITIZENS AND VISITORS**
 - Press releases written and distributed to the media: Traffic Advisory - South Potomac Street Closure; Neighborhoods 1st Glow Bracelets; Gridiron Classic Press Conference
 - Airing on Channel 6: Alsatia Mummers Parade show with Alsatia Club Inc. President Jim McCleaf II.
5. **PUBLIC INFORMATION REQUESTS.** Staff received one public information request this week.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. **Neighborhoods 1st.** Neighborhoods 1st Groups throughout the City have distributed 2000 glow bracelets to Trick or Treaters on Halloween. Last year's pilot program was such a success that this has become an annual event for the groups. The increase of safety and visibility for our children will continue to grow as the number of participating groups grows City wide.

ENGINEERING & CODE ADMINISTRATION

1. **TRIP TEAM** The City Engineer attended the first meeting of the Joint City/County staff T.R.I.P (Transportation and Roadway Integrated Plan) team to study transportation issues in and around the City. The group, created as a directive from the Board of County Commissioners, will work over the next year at three objectives:
 - What roads need widened and by how much
 - What new roads need built for future growth
 - How do we prioritize our CIP funding

The results of this staff conducted study due in December 2008, will assist in dealing with developers and be a useful planning tool.

2. **Code Administration** This week in court:
 - Twila Ishler was found guilty of failure to install handrails/guardrails at 805 West Washington Street, and received a fine of \$400 plus court costs.
 - Joyce Sherwin was charged with failure to correct the protective treatment at 652 West Washington Street after receiving a notice to do so. She failed to appear in court, was found guilty, and fined \$500 plus court costs.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

1. **MUNIS PHASE 1A Implementation:** The stage is set to go into production on 11/3 with the new MUNIS General Ledger, Requisitions and Purchase Order modules. Training concluded on 10/30 with the Manager's, and we appreciate the staff that showed up to the open lab times to fine-tune their knowledge of the system. Work will continue in November with modifications to the current implementation, as well as continued discussions on the Budget module. We will also pick up Phase 1B work on the Inventory, Fixed Assets and Treasury Management modules. Finally, MUNIS staff will return in late November to go over their findings related to the Utility Billing / Accounts Receivable discussions held in September. Thanks to everyone for their support and work in getting the implementation to this point.
2. **GROUPWISE to OUTLOOK Migration:** Staff are now utilizing the new Microsoft Outlook / Exchange email system as of 10/27. IT staff handled 31 support tickets on Monday, and less than 10 on Tuesday related to the email system. Thanks to staff who utilized the Help Desk as it significantly increased our ability to deal with problems on a priority basis and maintain some sanity in the department. We will work on fully integrating the HPD on the system during the week of 11/3 which should fully implement the mail system. We will complete the project in November with all staff logging into the complete Microsoft environment and removing Novell totally from the mix. More on this in the coming week or two. We hope this process was not too painful, but are already seeing the increase in use staff are getting from the new system via mail and calendar support questions.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

1. **Zoning Certificates Issued For New Businesses:**
 - 12814-A Shank Farm Way - Friendly's Restaurant.
2. **Historic District Commission:** The HDC will review the following cases on November 6:
 - 65 West Franklin Street - Reza-Azad - facade alterations and signage (grant request).
 - 715 Potomac Avenue - Victor Campbell - replace front window.

- 1050 Hamilton Boulevard - William Schildt - fence.
 - 125 West Washington Street - Kerry Silva - exterior lighting.
 - 457 North Potomac Street - Revest, LLC - new roof.
3. **Board of Zoning Appeals:** The BZA will hear the following cases on November 19:
- 1400 Salem Avenue - Harold C. Burgess - variance to reduce the front yard from 25 feet to 5 feet to construct a deck.
 - 154-156 South Potomac Street - 154-156 South Potomac Street LLC - administrative appeal issued by the Zoning Administrator, citing the appellant with violating the Zoning Ordinance by eliminating existing on-site parking spaces.
 - 842 Guilford Avenue - Andrew J. Simonse (t/a A.J. Simonse Electrical Co.) - special exception for a home occupation for an electrical contracting business.
 - 1050 Hamilton Boulevard - William M. Schildt - variance to construct an 8-foot fence.
 - 300 Radcliffe Avenue - Rodney Lynn Price - variance to reduce the front yard from 25 feet to 0 feet to construct an addition to an existing porch along Tracy's Lane.
 - 430 Liberty Street - Justin Robert Gossard - special exception for a home occupation for an internet sales business of automotive parts.
 - 101-A East Washington Street - Inner Court Family Worship Center - a special exception for a religious organization and a variance to reduce the required parking from 2 spaces to 0 spaces.
 - 745 Frederick Street - Steven Robert Reichard - variance to reduce the east side yard from 25 feet to 17 feet and the west side yard from 25 feet to 13 feet to construct a 30'x100' pole building.
 - 40 West Oak Ridge Drive - Washington County Public Schools - special exception for a high school.
4. **Community Legacy Application:** We submitted the application on Monday to beat the October 29th deadline.
5. **Planning Inspector:** We offered the position to Clayton Zug, a recent graduate of West Chester University with a degree in planning and geography. His first day of work is November 10th. Clayton will be relocating to Hagerstown for the job. Please help us welcome Clayton to the City of Hagerstown.
6. **Doleman Study Proposals:** The review team will meet the morning of October 31st to review the three proposals we received in response to our RFP. The director of the Washington County Historical Society and three to four members of the Doleman Board will assist with the review.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service	CDS Arrests	Other Criminal Arrests (Including Warrants)	Parking Tickets	Moving Violations	DUI	Search Warrants Executed
<i>Numbers for the month of October, 2008</i>						
3,980	13	115	710	216	12	2

1. **Homicide (10/24):** Around 6:45 a.m. on Friday, October 24th the suspect, identified as Kevin Franklin, fatally shot the victim, identified as Larry Boyce, outside near his apartment. Boyce was later found by responding officers in the driveway to 738 Summit Avenue. Franklin then broke into Boyce's apartment where he shot his ex-girlfriend, Amanda Turner. He then forcibly removed her from the apartment and forced her into her car. Franklin then sped away from the scene. While fleeing the scene he struck a child pedestrian. The child did not suffer any injuries requiring medical treatment. Franklin then drove Turner to the hospital before fleeing again. Turner's injuries were deemed to be non-life threatening. She was treated at the hospital for her injuries. Officers attempted to locate Franklin but were unsuccessful. An officer later found the car abandoned on Sycamore Street. A check of Franklin's apartment showed he was not there. Several other residences were checked without success. Investigators have learned Franklin has ties to the Frederick and Cumberland areas. An arrest warrant has been issued charging him with murder.
2. **Armed Robbery (10/25):** At 6:41 p.m. officers responded to Freddie's Subs on Park Lane for a report of an armed robbery. Investigation revealed that a suspect entered the store, displayed a handgun, and demanded money. The suspect then fled the store with an undisclosed amount of currency. No one in the store was injured during the incident. The suspect was described as a white male in his 20's, approximately 6' tall with light blue eyes, wearing a black hooded sweatshirt and a gray bandana.

3. **Attempted Armed Robbery Arrest (10/27):** At 4:27 p.m officers contacted a male in the 1st block of South Cannon Avenue who was reporting that another male just tried to rob him. He reported that as he was walking toward Sheetz and the suspect, who was walking in the other direction, suddenly grabbed him and held a knife to his throat demanding money. The victim refused to comply and the suspect quickly left the area on foot. Officers searching for the suspect found a male who matched the description. The victim was able to identify that male as the person who robbed him. The suspect, Robert Wayne Legg of 244 South Locust Street, was charged with 1st degree assault, attempted armed robbery, and related offenses.

4. **1st Degree Assault w/handgun (10/29):** At 7:13 p.m. officers contacted a male and female at McDowell Avenue and Salem Avenue. They were reporting that a black male in another car had shot at them. The investigation revealed the victims had been driving east on West Irvin Avenue from Wayne Avenue when the suspect vehicle began tailgating them. The suspect then passed them and stopped at the intersection of West Irvin Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue waiting for traffic to clear. The male victim exited and verbally confronted the suspect driver. The suspect driver sped away, south on Pennsylvania Avenue, passing vehicles on the double yellow line. The victims chased after the suspect in an attempt to get a tag number. The suspect turned onto Mitchell Avenue, drove under the railroad underpass, and stopped to wait for the victim. As the victims drove under the underpass they stopped a short distance from the suspect vehicle. The suspect then fired two shots at the victims' car. One went through the door and back seat, narrowly missing the female's 17 month old child who was in a child safety seat in the back seat area. The suspect then drove away with the victims again pursuing him. The victims followed the car to the area of Bryan Place where they lost it. Officers canvassed the area and were unable to locate it. No one was injured in the incident. The suspect vehicle was described as a black, newer model sedan style car with round taillights and fog lights in the front. The only other description provided was the vehicle also had a chrome strip across the trunk and possibly Maryland tags. The driver was described as being a black male, unknown further description.

PUBLIC WORKS

1. **EHC Mural Removal:** Three bids were received for the removal of the mural on the Elizabeth Hager Center. The prices varied immensely due to the proposed methods of removal. The bids were as follows:
 - Standard Restoration & Waterproofing \$42,500 ("sand" blasting using glass particles)
 - Milton Stamper Builders \$16,037 (chemical peel)
 - G & D Construction, LLC \$4,300
 Staff requested references from G & D for similar type projects. All three references checked out giving nothing but praise for the workmanship and competence of G & D. Contracts and other paperwork details are being worked out. The work will hopefully take place in November.

2. **Traffic Signal Fine Tuning:** Staff had received multiple calls with regard to the traffic signals at S. Potomac St. and Wilson Blvd. Some minor adjustments were made to improve traffic flow. So far, those changes seem to be working. Traffic flow has increased through that intersection due to the bridge work in Funkstown.

UTILITIES DIVISION

LIGHT DIVISION

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

Sat. 10/25	-	151 Holburn Alley (rear). Disconnect service for Hagerstown Fire Department personnel; new service will be installed upon completion of repair work on Monday, October 27, 2008. Time Out: 3.6-6.0.
	-	331 Jefferson Street (rear). Lines down; found secondary neutral burnt down, replaced wire and copper sleeve, service restored. Time Out: 11.7-13.4
	-	20 Richmond Street. Total outage; replaced (1) 25T fuse and (1) 40T fuse, found squirrel to be cause of outage. Time Out: 17.7-18.8
Sun. 10/26	-	526 North Mulberry Street. Check pole smoking; inspected pole and equipment, no problem found. Time Out: 9.7-11.3
	-	439 Carr Street. Partial outage; service repaired temporarily, more repairs will be made and trees trimmed on Monday, October 27, 2008. Time Out: 12.3-13.7.
Mon. 10/27	-	Various (reconnect for non-payment). Time Out: 17.8-18.1

- Tue. 10/28 - 823-825 Lanvale Street. Tree on power lines/lines down; trimmed tree away from problem area and refastened service.
- 308-310 South Locust Street. Lines down; trimmed tree away from problem area and refastened.
- 950 Lanvale Street. Wires down; trimmed tree and installed new screw-bracket.
- North Potomac Street & South Potomac Street (Alsatia Mummer's Parade). Site lights for parade route. Time Out (4-calls): 16.7-21.1
- 321-331 South Mont Valla Avenue. Total outage; replaced (1) 10T fuse, service restored. Time Out: 21.2-21.6

- Wed. 10/29 - Various (reconnect for non-payment). Time Out: 17.7-18.1

2. **Distribution** (Recent activity included):
- The upgrade of street lighting in Noland Village area is underway.
 - Metering Department received no high bill complaints this week.

Lamps Replaced	New Fixtures Added	Changeouts	Fixtures Removed
39	1	9	0

3. **Engineering** Staff worked on the following projects:
- The Staff Engineer and the Substation Technician began the upgrade at Mitchell Substation on Feeder Number 1. The upgrade will improve the reliability for the area and provide faster communication with our SCADA in the upcoming years.
4. **Administrative**
- Staff is working with Easton Utilities and Maryland Electric Cooperatives to address the MDPSC requirement to implement a MBE purchasing program.

WATER DIVISION

Plant Flows - System Demand (MGD)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Willson</u>	<u>Breichner</u>	<u>Total</u>
10/23/08	10.66		10.66
10/24/08	10.36		10.36
10/25/08	10.07		10.07
10/26/08	10.42		10.42
10/27/08	10.50		10.50
10/28/08	10.67		10.67
10/29/08	10.34		10.34
Average			10.43

Water Production at RC Willson

- The Willson Plant continues to operate efficiently; water temperature is 52 degrees.
- The instrumentation crew has completed the installation of a new graphic chart recorder and flow meter at Pump Station #2.

Water Production at Breichner

- The Edgemont Reservoir is currently at -6.6', the bypass and hydrant are closed. We have started preparing the Breichner Plant to operate.

Water Distribution

- This past week crews worked throughout the system performing a variety of customer service duties. The large meter testing and repair programs continue to go well. We are continuing the installation of the 1200 new radio read meters in the Cross Creek and South Pointe areas. We continue to work on meter reading and new service installations.
- The water main installation is complete on Tammany Manor Drive and all the services are changed over. We will have Huntzberry Brothers start the patch work shortly. Pipe has been installed for the Jonathan Street main replacement project up to Bethel St. Testing on this new section of main should take place next week.

Laboratory

- Samplers were set at Review and Herald and Hagerstown Bookbinding as part of the City/County industrial discharge monitoring program.
- We are still working diligently to implement the additional testing requirements the MDE has imposed on the Lab.

Administration

- Staff is preparing for MUNIS conversion, for invoices and PO requisitions.
- Staff met with Steve Long on the continuance of GIS implementation through task distribution and formation of a GIS Implementation Committee.
- Staff attended management training at Hagerstown Community College.

Reviews:	City	County
Sewer:		
Fence Permit	1	
Building Permits	13	

QUOTES

SPOOKY HALLOWEEN QUOTES FROM GREAT-INSPIRATIONAL-QUOTES.COM

MONDAY

At first cock-crow the ghosts must go
Back to their quiet graves below.
-- Theodosia Garrison

TUESDAY. A grandmother pretends she doesn't know who you are on Halloween. -- Erma Bombeck

WEDNESDAY. Everyone is a moon and has a dark side which he never shows to anybody. -- Mark Twain

THURSDAY. Hold on, man. We don't go anywhere with 'scary', 'spooky', 'haunted', or 'forbidden' in the title. -- Matthew Lillard as Shaggy in Scooby-Doo

FRIDAY. I bet living in a nudist colony takes all the fun out of Halloween. -- Author Unknown

SATURDAY. Nothing on Earth (is) so beautiful as the final haul on Halloween night. -- Steve Almond

SUNDAY. On Halloween, the parents sent their kids out looking like me. -- Rodney Dangerfield

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

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce J. Zimmerman
City Administrator