



City of Hagerstown, Maryland Status & Information Report No. 45

November 7, 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 12 p.m. Boards & Commission Luncheon @ Academy Theatre	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. HOLIDAY EVENTS

- Hollyfest/Tree Lighting - Monday, November 24.
- Eleven acts have been confirmed for this year's Hollyfest. Everyone is excited and ready to go!
- Downtown Holiday Open- House Thursday-Sunday, December 4-7th
- Lunch with Santa has been finalized and spaces are expected to fill quickly. Two lunches & hayrides will be offered this year to more than 40 individuals.
- Look for the Winter Events Flier to be appearing in the coming weeks!

2. CITY MARKET PROMOTIONS

- The Promotions Committee met today to discuss the City Farmers Market Promotions for the year.

3. UTILITY RELIEF BENEFIT CONCERT

- Staff is working on a number of details for the Utility Relief Benefit Concert to be held on Thursday, December 18, 2008 at the Maryland Theatre at 7 p.m.

4. COMMUNICATIONS TO CITIZENS AND VISITORS

- Press releases written and distributed to the media: Yard Waste Collection Ends; Thanksgiving Holiday Trash Collection Schedule
- New to www.hagerstownmd.org
- Downtown Holiday Open House www.hagerstownmd.org/downtownholiday.html

5. AIRING ON HAGERSTOWN GOVERNMENT TV

- Hagerstown Gridiron Championship Classic with South Hagerstown High School: Principal Rick Akers, Coach Kellick and the Captains of the Rebels and North Hagerstown High School: Principal Valarie Novak, Coach Dan Cunningham and the Captains of the Hubs.
- Hagerstown Gridiron Championship Press Conference

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. **Single Family Rehabilitation.** A state rehab loan and lead paint grant were settled for the owner of 60 Wayside Avenue.
2. **Alms House.** The contractor has begun work on the exterior repairs. He is the process of removing and storing the windows.

ENGINEERING & CODE ADMINISTRATION

1. **Code Administration Surveys to Contractors/Developers** In an ongoing effort to improve our product, a survey to measure needs and expectations has been developed. The first rounds of surveys have been sent to area developers and contractors. The survey serves as the initial step. Recipients who return the surveys will be invited to meet with the CAD Management Team so that we may listen to concerns as we further develop revised processes. This process will likely take several months to complete.
2. **Railroad Crossings** Since we have a "Quiet Zone" ban on train horns, we are required by the Federal Government to inspect the crossings. We completed this inspection and numerous signs and pavement markings need added to meet current standards. Staff will develop the appropriate work orders for Public Works to address.
3. **Hellane Park Parking Lot** Hellane Park parking lot reconstruction is complete except for the expanded stone area west of the driveway to the Water Department. The contractor has painted the additional parking spaces on the street, so there are now 64 total spaces in the lot and on the street, plus about 25 more in the expanded stone area for as total of 89 spaces. This should be a big improvement for the Colt League and the West End Little League.
4. **Madison Avenue Parking Lot** Madison Avenue Parking lot renovation was completed this week and the lot was striped and landscaped. The sunken area turned out to be more involved than anticipated.
5. **Steve Long's Resignation** Steve Long has resigned and his last day is November 7th. Steve began with the City in October 2002 and in his six years at the City, he has led advancements in our Geographic Information System and databases. Steve leaves to go to Montgomery County Maryland Transportation Department (working under former City Engineer, Bruce Johnston). We wish Steve the very best.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

1. **Joint Effort for Seniors** - As you're well aware for the past 25 years, HFD has installed free smoke detectors on a daily basis. A few years ago Lowe's approached us concerning their Hero's Program that encourages employees to become involved in a worthy community project. In that adventure HFD and Hagerstown Lowe's won one of the top prize Hero awards for \$10,000.

This year Lowe's approached us again and with \$1,200 available for supplies we decided to assist the elderly community. We advertised that smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, handrails, grab bars and LED power failure lights would be available for no cost and they would be installed by HFD and Lowe's employees.

We received 50 requests for help but because of our limited funds could only assist 25 of those. On Saturday morning three fire engines with firefighters, Lowe's employees and Habitat for Humanity volunteers visited those 25 residents. Firefighters install the smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and LED lights while Lowe's employees and the volunteers installed handrails and grab bars.

Needless to say our seniors were extremely happy to receive the safety equipment. One citizen told a firefighter that we (HFD) have been in her house more in the last two years than her son who lives a block away.

Since Saturday we've received more calls for assistance and are now making a list of those in need and working on plans for another joint effort.

PARKS DEPARTMENT

1. **End of Park Season** - We turned off the water and winterized the facilities at Municipal Stadium and the Potterfield Pool. Fairgrounds Park will be completed the last week of November, after the soccer season is over.
2. **Fairgrounds Park Entrance Building/Gatehouse** - Painting the trim continues; this job is now 80% complete.
3. **Hellane Park** - To prohibit cars from traveling on the pedestrian walkway, we installed two pipe bollards off the new parking lot.
4. **Municipal Stadium** - At the rear of the Stadium, an 8 ft. chain link fence has been installed around the dumpsters and transformers, complete with screen shading.
5. **Pangborn Park** - To be funded by POS, we have received quotes from our electrical and plumbing contractors to upgrade the restrooms at Pangborn Park. Our crews will do the demolition work and replace the metal roof, windows, doors and restroom partitions; our crews will also install new walkways, privacy screen and landscape.
6. **City Park 9/11 Memoriam** - Paid for with contributions received by the Citizen Corps Committee, we installed three 25 ft. flagpoles and one 30 ft. flagpole. The next step is to trench and install lights to shine on the flags. Our crews will do the trenching and Ellsworth Electric will donate labor and material for the electric.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

1. **Zoning Certificates Issued For New Businesses:**
 - 58 East Antietam Street - Bargain Mart - thrift shop, including sales of snacks and sodas.
2. **New Development Cases:**
 - 203 Summit Avenue - Hagerstown Bible Church - addition.
 - Mt. Aetna Road - Eastern Primary Elementary School - preliminary consultation.
 - 745 Frederick Street - Reichard Electrical Construction - pole building.
 - East Side Terps Boulevard - Collegiate Acres Apartments.
 - Light Business Park - Lots 1-4 - final plat.
3. **Historic District Commission:** The HDC reviewed the following cases on November 6:
 - 715 Potomac Avenue - Victor Campbell - replace front window (approved).
 - 1050 Hamilton Boulevard - William Schildt - fence (approved).
 - 125 West Washington Street - Kerry Silva - exterior lighting (approved with stipulations).
 - 457 North Potomac Street - Revest, LLC - new roof (approved).
4. **Planning Commission:** The Planning Commission will consider the following cases on November 12:
 - Hager's Crossing, Phase IV - Multiplexes - site plan.
 - Scarlet Hills Apartments - revision to site plan.
 - Alms House Landmark Designation - recommendation to Mayor and Council.
 - Proposed Land Management Code Amendment - variances for lot area requirements.
 - Joint Meeting with Washington County Planning Commission.
5. **Doleman Study:** The Committee selected Mary Beth Corrigan as recommended consultant for the collection assessment and feasibility study. Ms. Corrigan's price proposal was within budget. Half the project costs will be funded by a Maryland Heritage Area program grant. We will present this recommendation to the Mayor and City Council on November 18th for award of contract on November 25th.

6. **Doub Annexation:** The applicants are meeting on November 7th to determine what their next steps will be given the County decision not to approve the zoning request. We anticipate some type of presentation to the Mayor and City Council on November 18th.
7. **Heart of Civil War Heritage Area:** The Advisory Committee will hold their monthly meeting in Frederick on November 13th. We will update them on the status of our Doleman grant project and our interpretive plaque projects. The phase one interpretive plaque project for downtown is at the contractor's for design. We anticipate the project being completed by the end of this year. We will go out to bid for phase two this month.
8. **State Comprehensive Plan Development:** Another regional meeting will be held at the Frederick Central Library on November 13th from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Calls For Service	CDS Arrests	Other Criminal Arrests (Including Warrants)	Parking Tickets	Moving Violations	DUI	Search Warrants Issued
3,980	13	115	710	216	12	2

1. **Homicide (10/31):** Just before 7 a.m. officers found a deceased male to the rear of 526 West Church Street. The male was found lying to the rear of his truck which was parked in a private off alley parking area. The male appeared to have died as a result of a stabbing. The official cause of death will be determined by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiners in Baltimore after an autopsy is performed. The victim was identified as 47 year old Billy Lee Black. It is believed that the attacked occurred around 5:30 a.m. as he was leaving his house to go to work. There are no suspects at this time.
2. **1st Degree Assault (11/1):** At 2 a.m. officers responded to Harmon's Tavern on Salem Avenue for a disturbance. When they arrived they quickly learned that several persons had been involved in a fight outside the tavern. During the fight, one male pulled out a handgun that the officers subsequently recovered. Another male suffered lacerations to his face. No one has been charged, but the Investigation is continuing.
3. **Homicide Suspect Apprehended (11/4):** On November 4th, Kevin Valentino Franklin was taken into custody by authorities in Greensburg (Westmoreland County) Pennsylvania. Franklin was wanted for the October 24th murder of Larry Boyce in the 700 block of Summit Avenue. U.S. Marshals had tracked Franklin to Mount Union, PA and were in the area when he was captured in Greensburg. Franklin had apparently driven from Mount Union to Westmoreland County Prison to visit someone who is incarcerated there. As part of security measures at the prison he was contacted by authorities on the parking lot. When he gave the authorities a false name and three different dates of birth, he was taken into investigative custody and his fingerprints were sent off to the FBI. Prison personnel then learned his real identity and that he was wanted by HPD for murder. Franklin is being held in Westmoreland County pending his extradition back to Maryland. Franklin was not armed at the time of his capture. Investigators have not yet recovered the gun used in this case.
4. **Attempted Armed Robbery (11/4):** At 9:07 p.m. officers responded to the 100 block of East Baltimore Street for an attempted armed robbery. The victims reported they had been walking in the area when two black males approached them on foot. One was wearing a skull mask the other had a red bandana covering the lower part of his face. Both were wearing hooded sweatshirts with the hoods pulled up. They displayed a handgun and told the victims to give them money. The victims both ran without giving the suspects anything. The suspects got into a dark blue vehicle, possibly a Honda Civic, and drove away.
5. **Armed Robbery (11/4):** At 9:31 p.m. officers contacted a male reporting a robbery that had occurred about an hour earlier at the corner of Mitchell Avenue and Mechanic Street. The victim reported he was walking in the area when two black males approached him. One pointed a handgun at him and they proceeded to rob him of cash. They then left the area in a dark gray vehicle, possibly a Chevrolet Impala or Caprice. One of the suspects was wearing a white skeleton Halloween mask.

PUBLIC WORKS

1. **Mummers Parade:** Staff handled the cleanup of the Mummers Parade late Saturday night on November 1st. Three street sweepers made quick work of the trash and debris left behind by the participants and viewers.

2. **Mural Removal:** A contract has been signed with G & D Construction from Lanham, MD for the mural removal at the Elizabeth Hager Center. A pre-construction meeting is being arranged. We are still hoping to have it removed by the end of November or early December.
3. **Market House Heating System Update:** The design firm finally completed drawings for the new heating system at the Market House. It took several months to get answers from Columbia Gas regarding the existing gas lines on Church St. The Engineering Department is working on sending the documents out for bid the week of November 17th. The existing heating system will continue to operate until the new system is up and running.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

1. **MARKET**
 - We have three new holiday vendors starting this month selling a variety of holiday items.
 - Three vendor applications were mailed out this week.
2. **FAIRGROUNDS PARK**
 - The last day for the Skate Park season is Wednesday, November 12th.
3. **TOURS/CORRESPONDENCE**
 - The Hager House has booked tours coming up next week from Hagerstown Community College and coming up in December three booked German Christmas tours so far.
 - Monthly statistics were also compiled with 720 visitors touring the Hager House, a 27% increase from the 530 visitors report in October 2007.
4. **HAGER HOUSE PROGRAMS AND EVENTS**
 - The Hager House staff prepared publicity for the upcoming "Fall Family Days" to be held the weekend of November 15th and 16th and the Annual "German Christmas" presentation.
 - Staff is working to confirm the 2009 calendar of events.
5. **HAGERSTOWN RAILROAD MUSEUM AT CITY PARK**
 - This facility is now closed for the season, but planning continues for restoration projects to be performed during the off season. Efforts also will soon begin to locate and secure grant funds to assist with future restoration and building projects.

UTILITIES DIVISION

LIGHT DIVISION

1. **Problem Areas.** Recent call outs included:
 - Thu. 10/30 - Various (reconnect for non-payment). Time Out: 18.1-18.9
 - Fri. 10/31 - Various (reconnect for non-payment). Time Out: 17.8-18.3
 - Sat. 11/1
 - 864 North Mulberry Street. Total outage; replaced (1) 10T fuse, power restored, bird was the cause of the outage. Time Out: 8.5-9.3
 - 330 Liganore Avenue. Total outage; found 1/0 triplex burned down, sleeved triplex back together and power reconnected. Time Out: 9.8-11.0
 - Sun. 11/2
 - 448 West Washington Street. Total outage; squirrel caused transformer fuse to blow, replaced (1) 6T fuse and power restored. Time Out: 10.0-10.8
 - West Antietam Street & South Potomac Street. Check damage to utility pole; found 10 ft. green light pole broken in half. Cleared area of debris, cones placed around area; pole will be replaced November 3, 2008, during regular work day. (HPD call-in) Time Out: 12.2-12.9
 - 1104 Glenwood Avenue. Total outage; squirrel caused transformer fuse to blow, replaced (1) 6T fuse, power restored. More work will be done in area on Monday, November 3, 2008. Time Out: 16.6-17.3
 - Tue. 11/4
 - Street Light Patrol (various location). Time Out: 17.4-20.0
 - Various (reconnect for non-payment). Time Out: 17.5-17.8
2. **Distribution:** Recent activity included:

- Continuing the upgrade of street lighting in the Noland Village area.
- Metering Department received no high bill complaints this week.
- Line maintenance work continues in various locations.
- Tree trimming continues in various residential areas.

Lamps Replaced	New Fixtures Added	Changeouts	Fixtures Removed
42	0	5	0

3. **Engineering** Staff worked on the following projects:
- The Electrical Engineer designed the proposed electric relocation along Cramer's Alley for the proposed project from the Engineering Department from the rear of the Alexander House to the rear of Duffy's. The existing overhead facilities will be relocated underground and downtown lighting will be added.

<u>WATER DIVISION</u>

Water Production at RC Willson

Plant Flows - System Demand (MGD)

Date	<u>Willson</u>	<u>Breichner</u>	<u>Total</u>
10/30/08	10.48		10.48
10/31/08	10.23		10.23
11/1/08	10.21		10.21
11/2/08	10.55		10.55
11/3/08	11.61		11.61
11/4/08	11.99		11.99
11/5/08	11.05		11.05
Average			10.87

- Willson continues to operate well; water temperature is currently 53 degrees. There have been a few reports of taste and odor this week. We are very proactive in our efforts to maintain the highest quality and most esthetically pleasing water possible. This year has dealt us a very dry fall with no river events since last spring; this tends to lead to a massive die off of blue-green algae when the water starts to get cold. This, combined with leaf litter, creates a musty odor in the water. We are currently feeding 2.8mg/l Potassium Permanganate and 4mg/l of Powdered Activated Carbon.
- Production also has been involved with the filling of the new West End Tank and we have tested our system pressure to 157 psi for six hours. During those six hours we achieved a max flow of 14mgd, and there were no indications that the system was compromised with this test.
- The operations and maintenance crews are working on Pump Station #6 and at Willson, and they continue to work on their preventative maintenance assignments.

Distribution

- This past week crews worked throughout the system performing a variety of customer service duties. The Water Department is working on Jonathan St. main replacement and has the main installed to Bethel St. The main has passed the pressure test and we are waiting on the bac-t test, after which we can start the service changeovers. The large meter testing and repair programs continue to go well and we are

Laboratory

- Water division staff will be having a meeting today in Baltimore to discuss locations to sample for the EPA Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts rule. Last quarter extensive sampling was done in order to find THM/HAA "hot spots." Our next round of sampling will be a follow up to what the results showed.

Engineering

<u>Reviews:</u>	City	County
Building Permits	11	1

- Staff met with representatives of the Washington County Department of Water Quality on existing water and sewer facilities in the vicinity of 5 possible school sites.

- Staff met with representatives of a local developer on requirements for commercial water metering.
- Staff attended GIS training at the Engineering Department.

WASTEWATER DIVISION

Wastewater Treatment Plant at Frederick Street

Date	Flow (mgd)	Rainfall (inches)
Wednesday, October 29, 2008	5.09	0.00
Thursday, October 30, 2008	5.02	0.00
Friday, October 31, 2008	4.96	0.00
Saturday, November 1, 2008	4.86	0.00
Sunday, November 2, 2008	5.18	0.00
Monday, November 3, 2008	5.04	0.00
Tuesday, November 4, 2008	5.05	0.02
Weekly Average/Total	5.03	0.02
Monthly Average/Total	5.03	0.00
Yearly Average/Total	7.27	36.29

- The Wastewater Treatment Plant continues to operate efficiently; all parameters are within MDE compliance specifications. Maintenance crews completed 48 preventative and 66 corrective work orders during the month of October.

Wastewater Collection

Activity	Districts	Linear Feet of Main	Feet of Lateral	# of Later Inspections
Closed Circuit TV Inspections	5,21,25	1,264	610	36
Flushing	10,12,25	15,198		
Point Repairs		# of Repairs	Reason	Linear Feet of Repair
Main & Lateral	8	Jonathan Street	I&I	184 ft.
Manholes	8	1-Jonathan Street	I&I	12.25 VF

- Collection System crews continue working on the sewer pipe replacement of the Jonathan Street Project. We will be shutting down the project for the winter months during the next two weeks.

Other

- 13017 Pennsylvania Avenue – Odor Complaint - crews are still investigating
- 1502 Kensington – Grinder Pump Replacement
- 423 Summit Avenue – Blockage Complaint – investigated and discovered the problem was on the owners property
- 1603 & 1605 Woodlands – Grinder Pump Replaced

- 452 Linksvew Drive – Blockage Complaint – cleaned main

Laboratory

- We are still working diligently to implement the additional testing requirements the MDE has imposed on the Lab. Lab staff visited the County’s Lab to see an automated method they use for analyzing ammonia.

Administration

- Monthly report completed and mailed to MDE and EPA, there were no permit violations during the month of October.
- We mailed Conditions of Financial Assistance Award application to MDE for the \$800,000 grant for the Collection System Rehabilitation project.
- We also mailed the Preliminary Environmental Screening Checklist to MDE for both Salem Avenue and Hagerstown Collection System Rehabilitation projects.
- Staff met with representatives of the County Department of Water Quality on existing water and sewer facilities in the vicinity of five possible school sites.
- Staff met with representative of the Hospital and consultants on changes proposed for the Conrad Court Pump Station.
- Staff attended GIS training at Engineering Department.

Reviews:	City	County
Sewer		
Simplified Plat	1	
Building Permits	11	

QUOTES

MORE QUOTES ON CHANGE FROM CREATINGMINDS.ORG

MONDAY. To exist is to change, to change is to mature, to mature is to go on creating oneself endlessly. --- Henri Bergson

TUESDAY. Those who have changed the universe have never done it by changing officials, but always by inspiring the people. --- Napoleon Bonaparte

WEDNESDAY. Weep not that the world changes -- did it keep A stable, changeless state, it were cause indeed to weep. --- William Bryant"

THURSDAY Do not cherish the unworthy desire that the changeable might become the unchanging. --- Gautama Buddha

FRIDAY. It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change. --- Charles Darwin

SATURDAY. When you’re finished changing, you’re finished. --- Benjamin Franklin

SUNDAY. Life belongs to the living, and he who lives must be prepared for changes. --- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

<p>City of Hagerstown Strategic Plan - Focus on the Quality of Life in Hagerstown</p>
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Respectfully submitted,

Bruce J. Zimmerman, City Administrator