



City of Hagerstown, Maryland Status & Information Report No. 46

November 14, 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. **Downtown Holiday Open House.** Invitations are being sent out to the special Tea on Sunday, December 7, 2008. Lunch with Santa has been finalized and reservations are starting to come in quickly.
2. **Utility Relief Benefit.** Sponsorship packets for the event were sent out early in the week. Invitations to the silent auction will be sent out this week. This is shaping up to be an exciting event.
3. **Winter Events Fliers.** Winter events fliers will hit the schools this Friday.

4. **Grand Opening of the Academy Theater.** Invitations and notices have gone out for the grand opening of the brand new Academy Theater Banquet and Conference Center on Tuesday, November 18th at Noon. Reservations are required.
5. **Communications to Citizens & Visitors.** Press releases written and distributed to the media: Veteran's Day City Holiday notice; Tree spraying schedule for birds; Grand Opening for Academy Theater

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. **Downtown Development Projects.** During the past month the City has seen the completion of two very significant private sector development projects downtown. Both Bulls & Bears and the Academy Theater will strengthen the City's goals for downtown. I have enjoyed working with both Bowman Development and Milton Stamper and Mike Guessford and watching them build their projects.
2. **Stone House Square.** We continue to see additional businesses open in Stone House Square. Friendly's Restaurant is scheduled to open this month.
3. **McShea Third Quarter Market Overview.** Attached for your information is a newsletter published by McShea regarding their market overview for Washington County.

ENGINEERING & CODE ADMINISTRATION

1. **Citations Issued This Week**
 - Wells Fargo Bank was issued a citation in the amount of \$500 for failure to provide utilities (electric & gas) at 259-261 South Potomac Street.
 - Mark Murphy was issued two citations, each in the amount of \$200, one for sanitation at 101-105 East Washington Street and one for conducting electrical work without permits at 212- 214 Summit Avenue.
2. **Secured Property** Code Inspectors responded to a call regarding an unsecured vacant property at 220 North Potomac Street. The property is in foreclosure, it was secured and the costs were placed on the property taxes.
3. **Board of Traffic & Parking** The main item for discussion this week is the delivery trucks to Krumpe's Donuts. Over the past 8-10 years an out of town delivery truck has hit the building of Crist Instrument located at 111 West First Street. That owner asked that no trucks be allowed in the alley, but we recognize that Krumpe's needs to have deliveries. We have several options to discuss with the Board in the presence of both business owners.

PARKS DEPARTMENT

1. **Fairgrounds Park Entrance Building/Gatehouse** - Painting the trim continues; this job is now 90% complete. We will soon paint the accent colors.
2. **Fairgrounds Park Aesthetic Improvement** - At the end of Valley Road, we cleaned out and removed the old drainage ditch and replaced with topsoil and grass seed. We also removed a large dead locust tree.
3. **Pangborn Park** - To be funded by POS, renovations of the restrooms have begun. Our crews have started the demolition work, removing the concrete floor to install plumbing.
4. **Hagerstown Greens** - We are removing trash and debris out of the Hamilton Run stream that runs the entire length of the golf course.
5. **Winter Maintenance** - We are hauling in picnic tables, benches and trash cans, to be repaired as needed and repainted over the winter months.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

1. **Zoning Certificates Issued For New Businesses:**
 - 65 West Franklin Street - retail sales of oriental rugs and antiques.
 - 66 East Franklin Street - Super 7 Seven Pizza - sales of pizza, cigarettes and lottery.
 - 121 East Baltimore Street - Star Grafx and 1st Choice Balloon Bouquets.
2. **New Development Cases:**
 - 373 Key Circle - Oliver - minor subdivision plat.

3. **Historic District Commission:** The HDC is scheduled to review the following cases on November 20:
 - 65 West Franklin Street - Reza-Azad - facade alteration/signage and grant approval.
 - 58 South Potomac Street - Charles Sekula - gas patio heaters.
 - 1-3 North Potomac Street - Demcore Development - remove signage for exploration purposes.
 - 101/109 South Prospect Street - St. John's Episcopal Church - signage.
 - 140-142 South Potomac Street - Frederick County Bank, c/o Roger Schlossberg, Receiver - demolition.

4. **Planning Commission:** The Planning Commission considered the following cases on November 12:
 - Scarlet Hills Apartments - revision to site plan.
 - Alms House Landmark Designation - recommended approval of landmark designation to Mayor and Council.
 - Proposed Land Management Code Amendment - variances for lot area requirements.
 - Joint Meeting with Washington County Planning Commission.

5. **Heart of Civil War Heritage Area:** The Advisory Board met on November 13th in Frederick. Planning for the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War (2009-2015) continues. A one day interpretive planning workshop for the Sesquicentennial will be held on January 23rd. John Howard at the Antietam National Battlefield has offered the use of a house for a visitor center for the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area and this proposal is under consideration by the Board. The Frederick County Tourism Council is organizing Familiarization Tours of the heritage area for lodging folks (spring) and tour operators (fall) in 2009. While current plans for the PATH line would avoid Washington County, the Board has concerns that the line is still shown coming within close proximity to Harpers Ferry and Monacacy Battlefield. The next meeting of the Advisory Board is January 22nd in Hagerstown - somewhere downtown.

6. **State Comprehensive Planning Meeting:** The Maryland chapter of the American Planning Association held a "table talk discussion" session on planning in Maryland on November 13th in Frederick. The "clicker" preference survey had the usual technical difficulties. It is unclear what MD-APA was hoping to accomplish with this meeting. What is certain is that a number of organizations in the state are cogitating on the issue of stronger comprehensive planning laws in Maryland, including more regulatory oversight by the Maryland Department of Planning.

7. **Planning Conference:** Alex, Stuart, Steve and Kathy will be expanding their brains at the Maryland-Delaware chapters of the American Planning Association's conference in Annapolis on November 19-21. In addition to providing an excellent learning and networking opportunity, this conference will provide Stuart, Steve and Kathy necessary training credits to maintain their American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) status. AICP is a program of the American Planning Association to demonstrate professional achievement and knowledge. In order to receive AICP status, an individual must have a certain number of years experience in the profession and must pass a three-hour exam on planning principles, theory, and practices. In order to maintain that status, an individual must earn a certain number of training credits per year at APA certified training programs.

PUBLIC WORKS

1. **City Hall Clock Tower Lighting:** Simple lighting fixtures were recently put in place on the clock tower of City Hall. Pink and blue lights lit up the tower on the evening of November 12th to help the March of Dimes. It occurred to staff that the lights could easily be changed to promote holidays or other occasions as determined by the Mayor and Council. For now, we plan on bathing the clock tower in red and green lights during the Christmas holiday season. The tower will go back to white lights in January.

2. **Sidewalk Repairs:** Staff continues to repair sidewalks. Work has been recently completed on Guilford, Spruce, Westwood, East Washington and East Baltimore. Repairs are currently being completed in the 700 block of West Church Street.

3. **Seasonal Assistance:** The seasonal staff has been a tremendous help this year. Their last day of work will be Friday November 14th.

4. **Leaf Sweeping:** Street sweepers have been working hard to keep the leaves swept clear throughout the city, but especially in neighborhoods with a large quantity of trees. Please remember, residents are not to be blowing their leaves into the street. We are simply trying to collect those that have fallen into the street and not placed there intentionally.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

1. **TOURS/CORRESPONDENCE:** Visitation is steady at the Hager House with 105 visitors touring the first week of November. Tours scheduled this week include a large group from HCC visiting Friday afternoon.
2. **HAGER HOUSE PROGRAMS AND EVENTS:**
 - The staff spent much time this week putting the final touches on this weekend's Fall Family Days event.
 - Advertisements were placed for next months' German Christmas tour to be held December 2-28.
 - Finalization of the 2009 Calendar of Events will be completed by weeks end with numerous new events and programs being planned for the new season.
 - Research continues to locate grant funding sources and new topics for future programs and events.
3. **RAILROAD MUSEUM AT CITY PARK:** This facility is currently closed for the winter, but we look forward to opening the first weekend of May with exciting new improvements to the facility and its programs.
4. **MEETINGS:** This week the Historic Sites Facilitator attended the monthly meeting of the WCAMHS group.

UTILITIES DIVISION

LIGHT DIVISION

1. **Problem Areas.** Recent call outs included:
 - Fri. 11/7 - Various (reconnect for non-payment). Time Out: 17.7-18.2
 - Sat. 11/8 - 1302 Pennsylvania Avenue (scheduled overtime). Assisting Metering Department with equipment upgrade. Time Out: 7.0-9.0
 - Valley Road, Jonathan Street, Jefferson Street area. Total outages reported; found squirrel in regulators. Switched load from one substation to another to restore power to customers. Regulators will be brought into plant and repaired. Time Out: 9.7-10.7.
 - Tues. 11/11 - 417 Michigan Avenue. Total outage; replaced (1) 10T fuse, squirrel caused outage. Time Out: 7.9-8.5
 - 100 block Pangborn Boulevard. Check black box stapled to pole; found traffic counter box attached to pole. Time Out: 16.8-17.1

2. **Distribution:** Recent activity included:
 - Jones Substation regulators, damaged during outage this past weekend, are being repaired in-house.
 - Tree trimming continues in various residential areas.
 - New fixtures for the lighting project at Noland Village will be installed upon arrival from manufacturer.

Lamps Replaced : 21
 New Fixtures Added: 0
 Changeouts: 5
 Fixtures Removed: 0

3. **Engineering** Staff worked on the following projects:
 - On Saturday, November 8, a squirrel caused damage to substation equipment and caused a power outage in the North East area of the City. The staff engineer has been working with Cooper Power to order spare parts for the damaged equipment.
 - The Electrical Engineer has completed the design for the electrical relocation in Cramer's Alley and has sent the drawings up to the Engineering Department. The new facilities will be located underground where possible and lighting will be added.

WATER DIVISION

Water Production at RC Willson
Plant Flows - System Demand (MGD)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Willson</u>	<u>Breichner</u>	<u>Total</u>
11/06/08	10.99		10.99
11/07/08	11.08		11.08
11/08/08	10.18		10.18
11/09/08	10.38		10.38

11/10/08	10.68	10.68
11/11/08	10.95	10.95
11/12/08	11.02	11.02
Average		10.75

Water Production at RC Willson

- The Willson Plant continues to operate efficiently; water temperature is 52 degrees. The new West End Tank is in the process of being filled this week.
- The instrumentation crew has been working on the traveling screens at Willson. They have also repaired a faulty turbidimeter on the sedimentation basin at Willson.

Water Production at Breichner

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

Water Distribution

- The newly installed main on Jonathan Street passed the pressure and bac-t tests and we have started service changeovers. The large meter testing and repair programs continue to go well and work continues on the installation of approximately 1200 radio read meters in the Cross Creek and South Pointe areas. Work continues on overlay and new service installations. Crews repaired several main and service breaks this week including main repair on Longmeadow Road, repair of services that were damaged by contractors at 1020 South Potomac Street and 1075 Virginia Avenue, and a service line leak on Summit Avenue.

Laboratory

- Manganese levels in the Edgemont supply have dropped, 0.22mg/l. The hydrogen sulfide odor (rotten egg) is no longer present.
- The lab tested a newly installed water line on Jonathan St. It was approved for use.
- Quarterly USEPA Stage 1 & 2 Disinfection Byproducts rule sampling was completed. Also completed was UCMR2 quarterly sampling.

Engineering

<u>Reviews:</u>	City	County
Site Plan	2	1
Preliminary Consultation	1	
Final Plat	1	
Building Permits	3	

- David H. Martin has installed 558 ft of new 12" water line on Salem Ave. from Rt. 58 west to the new Direct Buy building.
Staff is reviewing the final draft of the water & sewer standards & specifications.
- Staff met with Planning Director on policy language addition for increased water consumption for an existing customer in the Priority 3 area.
- Staff attended the West End Tanks Phase 1 A & B progress meeting.

Administration

- Work is progressing on schedule on Phase I of the West End Tank project. The tank is currently being painted and everything should be completed by the end of the calendar year.

Wastewater Division

Wastewater Treatment Plant at Frederick Street

<u>Date</u>	<u>Flow (mgd)</u>	<u>Rainfall (inches)</u>
November 5, 2008	5.00	0.00
November 6, 2008	4.99	0.00
November 7, 2008	4.88	0.00
November 8, 2008	4.87	0.00
November 9, 2008	4.87	0.00
November 10, 2008	4.98	0.00
November 11, 2008	4.99	0.00

Weekly Average/Total	4.94	0.03
Monthly Average/Total	4.97	0.05
Yearly Average/Total	7.23	36.32

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

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	5	331	93	11
Flushing	10	4,544		

<u>Point Repairs</u>	<u>Districts</u>	<u># of Repairs</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Linear Feet of Repair</u>
Main & Lateral	8	Jonathan St.	I&I	41 ft.

- 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.

Laboratory

- Materials were purchased to begin using a new method for testing aqueous ammonia. Modifications were made in QC programs of the existing methods.

Administration

- Monthly Reports have been completed and mailed to MDE and EPA; there were no violations for the month of October. Plant flows averaged 5.09 mgd.
- Pfeiffer Hearing was held on November 12, 2008. The judge ruled in favor of the City for summary judgment. This hearing goes back to June 27, 2006 and was associated with an overflow due to the heavy rains at the end of that month. There was over 8.56 inches of rain that fell during a three day period of time.
- Staff met with the Hospital's consultant on design details for the wastewater force main.
- Staff met with Hospital representatives, their construction manager and consultants on the contract documents for the proposed off-site wastewater infrastructure facilities.

Reviews:	City	County
<u>Sewer</u>		
Site Plan	2	
Concept Plan	1	
Final Plat	1	
Building Permits	3	

QUOTES

QUOTES BY VOLTAIRE (FRENCH PHILOSOPHER AND WRITER. 1694-1778) FROM THINKEXIST.COM

MONDAY. Judge a man by his questions rather than by his answers

TUESDAY. It is dangerous to be right in matters on which the established authorities are wrong

WEDNESDAY. Prejudices are what fools use for reason.

THURSDAY. Life is thickly sown with thorns, and I know no other remedy than to pass quickly through them. The longer we dwell on our misfortunes, the greater is their power to harm us.

FRIDAY. Every man is guilty of all the good he didn't do.

SATURDAY. No snowflake in an avalanche ever feels responsible.

SUNDAY. Our wretched species is so made that those who walk on the well-trodden path always throw stones at those who are showing a new road.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce J. Zimmerman
City Administrator