



City of Hagerstown, Maryland Status & Information Report No. 48

December 12, 2008

To Mayor Bruchey and Members of the City Council:

UPCOMING MEETINGS

◆◆ DECEMBER 2008 ◆◆						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 4 pm Work Session	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 4 pm Work Session	10	11	12	13 Kids Day at City Market 10 am German Christmas @ Hager House
14 1 pm German Christmas @ Hager House	15	16 7 pm Regular Session	17	18 7 pm Utility Relief Concert @ The MD Theatre	19	20 Santa at City Market 10 am German Christmas @ Hager House
21 10 am German Christmas @ Hager House 6 pm Night of Lights on City of Hagerstown sidewalks	22	23 No Meeting	24	25 Holiday City Offices Closed	26 Holiday City Offices Closed	27 Happy New Year at City Market 10 am German Christmas at Hager House
28 1 pm German Christmas @ Hager House	29	30 No Meeting	31			

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

1. **DOWNTOWN HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE.** The Downtown Holiday Open House was held Thursday, December 4- Sunday December 7th. Lunch with Santa was a sold out event Saturday morning and 9 businesses participated in the Sunday Tea. Otterbein United Methodist Church handed out free popcorn in the square all 4 days.
2. **CITY PARK LIGHTING.** City Park was illuminated on Friday, December 5, 2008. Approximately 500 individuals came to the festivities. A large thank you goes to Paul Fulk, Michelle Higman and all the employees who helped with the luminaries. Also, thanks to all the groups including Hagerstown Children's Theatre and We Care Neighborhoods First for donating their time and the Neighborhoods First group for donating the goodies.
3. **BLUES FEST.** Staff submitted the grant for the 2010 Western Maryland Blues Fest to the Maryland State Arts Council.

4. **UTILITY RELIEF BENEFIT.** Sponsorships are coming in for the big event on Thursday, December 18th at 7 pm at the Maryland Theatre. There will be a silent auction for Utility Relief in March. Final Details are being done for the big event
5. **COMMUNICATIONS TO CITIZENS AND VISITORS**
 - Press releases written and distributed to the media: Utility Relief Benefit Concert press conference.
 - Airing on Hagerstown Government Network: Utility Relief Benefit Concert Press Conference with Councilmember Alesia Parson-McBean; Mayor Robert E. Bruchey II; President and CEO of the Hagerstown-Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Tom Riford; Finance Director, Al Martin; and Fleetwood-Design, Terri Fleetwood.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. **Neighborhoods 1st.** Night of Lights will be held on Sunday, December 21. Neighborhoods 1st Groups throughout the City are preparing to light up the night with luminaries from 6-8 PM to show the warmth of their neighborhoods.
2. **Arts & Entertainment.** One component of the City's effort to concentrate on future growth within the A & E District is meeting with the existing artisans and building a network of like minded individuals. Staff met with Wayne Sutphin, A.R.E. Gallery, and is happy to announce the onset of his comic book instructional series starting the beginning of 2009.
3. **We would like to thank** Lt. Margaret Kline and the Western Maryland Police Academy Cadets for the delivery of 23 bags of sand to the Neighborhoods 1st groups in support of the Night of Lights.

ENGINEERING & CODE ADMINISTRATION

1. **Eastern Boulevard** The base pavement for Eastern Boulevard is complete. However, due to insufficient air temperatures, surface paving will be completed in the spring. We completed the temporary striping of the roadway to be able to make full use of all lanes over the winter. The traffic signal at Opal Court has been placed in the "flash" position and plans are to have it fully operational on Monday, December 15th. The signal timing coordination plan will be implemented on Wednesday, December 17th.
2. **MD Storm Water Act of 2007** Jim Bender attended a public hearing in Baltimore regarding the proposed changes to MD Stormwater Regulations. The new regulations will require some significant changes not only in stormwater management design, but they will likely force a change in the City's approval process for development plans. The regulations put a greater burden on "redevelopment" sites and developers will have to do more to comply with the new regulations.
3. **Infested Building Cleaned** An inspection warrant was executed at 228 North Locust Street, a vacant multi-unit apartment building, to assess an infestation problem. Upon inspection, the structure was found to have large amounts of garbage, spoiled food, trash, debris and an infestation of mice. To protect public health and safety, Servtec was called on the same day to remove all the items attracting the rodents.
4. **Court Cases** The following court cases resulted in a guilty verdict for overgrown grass/weeds and were fined accordingly: Hajer Moustafa, 1042 The Terrace, fined \$200 plus court costs; Kabamusu Mundele, 12510 Capstone Drive, fined \$400 plus court costs; Michael Hurd, 802 West Washington Street., fined \$400 plus court costs; Joe Bentz, 311 West First Street, fined \$400 plus court costs; Bank Lesalle National Association, previous owner of 820 Chestnut Street was fined \$400 plus court costs.
5. **Recent Citations** Maha Abdullah of Laytonsville MD, owner of 213 North Mulberry Street, was issued a \$500 citation for operating that property as a rental without a license; William Smith IV of Mercersburg PA, owner of 1010 North Potomac Avenue, was issued a \$500 citation for operating that property as a rental without a license.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

1. **Maryland Metal** - Sunday morning at 10:31 A.M. the department was dispatched to a building fire at Maryland Metal. The first apparatus out of the station reported heavy smoke showing from that general area and when the shift commander arrived on the scene he reported heavy fire to the rear of the building and through the roof.

Firefighters quickly attacked a storage building that was totally engulfed in flames while other crews entered the main building and stopped the fire from spreading. With wind gusts reported to be almost 50 MPH totally suppressing the fire became challenging but flames that would do additional damage were confined within minutes of arrival.

Shortly after arriving on the scene the shift commander prohibited firefighters from going onto the roof and also withdrew them from the interior of the storage building because of the fear of collapse. This made for a little longer incident but didn't expose firefighters to unneeded risk. A volunteer firefighter did suffer an injury to his knee when another firefighter slipped from a ground ladder and fell on his shoulders. Tests this week revealed some ligament and cartilage damage to his knee.

The cause is listed as accidental and our fire marshals and the insurance company investigator agree it was electrical in nature.

PARKS DEPARTMENT

1. **Fairgrounds Park Soccer Irrigation** - To be funded by POS, a contractor is in the process of installing an irrigation system in all three soccer fields at Fairgrounds Park. To save costs, our crews dug a 1,500 foot ditch for the main line of the irrigation system. We are also installing a 4 ft. x 8 ft. concrete slab to house the backflow preventer.
2. **Christmas Trees** - We installed lights on the stationary Christmas tree in Pangborn Park Lake and assisted Public Works in placing a Christmas tree on City Park Lake.
3. **Hamilton Run Trail/Stream** - Along the trail between Fairgrounds Park and Pangborn Park, we are clearing out trash and debris as well as along the Hamilton Run stream that runs along the golf course.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

1. **Zoning Certificates Issued For New Businesses:**
 - 1337 Pennsylvania Avenue - Central Dawgma - pet grooming and retail sales of pet food and accessories.
 - 1302 Woodland Way - Abrakadoodle - office for children's art education program.
 - 901 Dual Highway - Hager Hall Conference and Event Center - catering business, including events such as concerts, meetings, etc.
 - 7 East Washington Street, #802 - jewelry craft business (craft fairs and consignment sales only).
 - 334 North Potomac Street - Marco T. Salguero - laundromat.
 - 12814-D Shank Farm Way - Studio 6 Health Club.
2. **New Development Cases:**
 - Washington County Board of Education - 701 Frederick Street - site plan for maintenance shed and mineral shed.
 - 345 East Antietam Street - New Century Properties (Sign Here) - site plan for a pole barn.
3. **Planning Commission Special Meeting:** The Hagerstown Planning Commission met on December 3 to discuss the Phase I Comprehensive Rezoning, specifically to discuss public comments received at a prior Public Review meeting held on October 22, 2008. The Commission spent approximately two hours discussing and reviewing the comments made at that meeting. A recommendation on the proposed rezonings will be forthcoming in the near future.
4. **Board of Zoning Appeals:** The BZA will hear the following cases on December 17:
 - 232 Willard Street - Maria Carvajal - variance to reduce the side yard setback from 10 feet to 7 feet and a variance to reduce the lot width from 37.5 feet to 32.6 feet for the conversion of a single-family dwelling to two, semi-detached dwellings by resubdivision of existing lots.
 - 15 High Street - Antietam Bible College - confirmation of a nonconforming use for a church facility on a property less than 2 acres in size and expansion of the use of the existing building for a Bible college.
5. **Planning Commission:** The Planning Commission considered the following on December 10:
 - Public review meeting on Comprehensive Plan text amendments necessitated by House Bill 1141 - no one was present to offer testimony.
 - Public review meeting on Zoning Ordinance text amendments pertaining to variances from lot area requirements - no one was present to offer testimony.
 - Light Business Park - Lots 1-4 - conditionally approved the final plat.
 - Recommended approval to the Mayor and City Council on three new mixed-use districts.
 - Recommended approval to the Mayor and City Council on Phase 1 of the comprehensive rezoning, with several modifications to the original proposal.
 - Discussion about Phase 2 of the comprehensive rezoning.
 - Woodland Way Elementary School - agreed to send a letter to Dr. Morgan encouraging re-use by the school

board of this former school.

6. **Historic District Commission:** The HDC considered the following cases on December 11:
 - 58 South Potomac Street - Charles Sekula - gas-operated patio heaters - approved with conditions.
 - 460 North Potomac Street - John Rasoulpour - dismissed application for a sign.
 - 15 West Washington Street - Bentley's Bagels - approved a sign and grant application.
 - Code Administration made a presentation on the efforts that they take to deal with properties in historic districts, the services they offer and how they can be of assistance to the HDC.
7. **Civil War Interpretive Plaques:** 11 of the 12 plaques from the first plaque project are being manufactured by G.S. Images. We have to finalize the location of the 12th plaque before it can be manufactured - if wall-mounted it will be a vertically oriented plaque; if ground-mounted it will be horizontally oriented. With Public Works' assistance, we hope to have the plaques installed in late January. We anticipate sending in the advertisement for bids for the second plaque project this week. We are still attempting to recapture the missing mock-ups of the plaques removed from City Hall in November.
8. **Doleman Black Heritage Museum Study:** This week, we sent the draft contract to the awarded consultant for this project. Given the approaching holiday season, we anticipate that this project will kick off in early January.
9. **Sewer Capacity Allocation Program:** We sent the draft 2009 SCAP to MDE this week for their review and comment. We made some changes in response to the current economic climate that shift some of the City's residential allocation to the set-aside for non-residential development in the city. We do not anticipate any objection from MDE to these changes in how we distribute the 120,000 gpd for new development. We'll bring the final draft to the Mayor and City Council for review and adoption in January.
10. **Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan:** The Planning Commission held a public hearing on December 10th on amendments to the 2008 Comprehensive Plan to bring the plan into compliance with H.B. 1141's growth element and water resources element. The Commission met with the County Planning Commission in November to gain their feedback on the growth element, as is required by H.B. 1141. In January, the Commission will review the comments received from the County and from the Maryland Department of Planning and discuss any possible modifications that may seem warranted in response to those comments. Staff from the MDP informed us that we did a very good job in meeting the requirements of H.B. 1141 and that they intend to use our Plan as a model for other municipalities around the state who are struggling with how to respond to the requirements of H.B. 1141. Once the County's study for the water resource element is completed, we will use their stormwater data for that last remaining requirement of H.B. 1141.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service	CDS Arrests	Other Criminal Arrests (Including Warrants)	Parking Tickets	Moving Violations	DUI	Search Warrants Executed
2,677	9	87	563	168	8	0

1. **Armed Robbery (12/8):** At 10:18 p.m. officers responded to the Dollar Tree on Eastern Boulevard for an armed robbery that just occurred. An unknown white male wearing all black clothing and a ski mask used a weapon to rob an employee of the Dollar Tree as the employee left the store. No one was injured in the incident. The amount of money taken and type of weapon used are not being disclosed. The suspect is believed to be in his 20's. He fled on foot towards the Manor Drive apartment complex. Officers checked the area and were unable to locate the suspect.
2. **Armed Robbery/Home Invasion (12/10):** At 7:19 p.m. officers were dispatched to 421 East Washington Street for a report of a armed home invasion. The victim reported three black males entered the residence, displayed handguns, and demanding money. Suspect# 1 was described as black male, 6'0", medium build, wearing a white thermal shirt, black jeans and black fitted ball cap. Suspect#2 was described as a black male, approximately 6'3", 240 lbs., wearing a black skull hat, gray sweatshirt, and black pants. Suspect #3 was described as a black male, thin build, approximately 6'3", 200 lbs., wearing a black skull cap with corn rows, and black clothing. The suspect vehicle was a black, newer Nissan Altima. All three suspects displayed handguns

and left with a undisclosed amount of cash. No one was injured during the incident. As a result of follow-up investigation, detectives identified Wilvon Eric Raleigh of 241 North Locust Street as one of the suspects. A warrant was obtained for his arrest, and Detectives and officers arrested him on December 11.

PUBLIC WORKS

1. **Christmas Decorations:** Staff continued to install Christmas decorations throughout the city which include pole wraps, tree lights at multiple tree locations and the silhouettes in City Park. The silhouettes were completed in time for the lighting ceremony on Friday Dec. 5th.
2. **Sidewalk Repairs:** Work was completed along Bryan Place for sidewalk repairs and work is finishing in the 700 Block of Church Street on other sidewalk repairs. Storm drains reconstruction and sidewalk rebuilds will continue based on weather conditions.
3. **Water Department Remodel:** Public Works is working in conjunction with the Water Division to remodel their office space. New paint, carpet and replacement of the ceiling tile are basically the extent of the remodel.
4. **Bulk Trash Collections:** For calendar year 2008, there have been 154 collections scheduled for bulk trash. Total revenues for this program are \$4,712.00 with \$1,736.50 being spent in landfill fees. Collections are scheduled for the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month. We are averaging 6.42 collections per collection date.
5. **Potholes:** Please contact us at (301) 739-8577 ext. 178 or at edeike@hagerstownmd.org to report any potholes. The moisture and cold weather will continue to create new potholes. Do not assume we know about the pothole you keep driving over so contact us with your information.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

1. **HAGER HOUSE PROGRAMS AND EVENTS:**
 - Tours: The staff is tremendously pleased with the visitor attendance for the first week of "German Christmas" tours. To date there have been 23 tours and 145 tourists viewing the presentation. This week like last has brought 4 more scheduled tours with two Westmar bus tour groups planning to visit on Friday and Saturday and two other groups scheduled to visit Thursday and early Friday.
 - Hager House Programs and Events:
 - Staff was very pleased with the results of last weeks "Park Tree Lighting" open house. Over the two hours of the event nearly 350 people toured the Hager House.
 - Staff listed and planned Winter projects both maintenance and research to be completed during the closed period additionally staff planned ahead for needs surrounding the expanded slate of programs planned for the 2009 season.
 - Also staff time was spent training our newly hired Recreation Assistant, Gaela Shoop, she is learning very quickly and we are confident she will be a great addition to our Historic Sites Team!
 - Hagerstown Railroad Museum at City Park: This facility is currently closed for the winter season however work continues to plan more events for next season. Additionally staff this week assisted in providing information regarding the Engine 202 to a prospective author writing and article about the Locomotive.

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

LIGHT DIVISION

1. **Problem Areas.** Recent call outs included:
Fri. 11/28 - 916 South Potomac Street. Total outage; replaced (1) 10% fuse and installed squirrel guard. Time Out: 7.9-9.0

- Wed. 12/3 - 711 South Potomac Street. Partial outage; found meter socket in need of replacement. Service was disconnected and electrician was informed of socket condition; service was reconnected upon completion of work. Time Out: 19.0-19.9
- Sat. 12/6 - 112 Randolph Avenue. Total outage; replaced (1) 10T fuse. Outage caused by squirrel in equipment.
- 112 West Howard Street. Partial outage; informed customer an electrician would have to make corrections in panel, etc. (charge)
- 1100 Salem Avenue. Total outage; service was reconnected per the Billing Office. Time Out: 15.0-17.0 (three calls).
- 816 Virginia Avenue. Lines down; found Verizon lines down, taped up temporarily, Verizon informed of situation. Time Out: 22.9-23.3
- Sun. 12/7 - Mitchell Avenue (Maryland Metals). Fire and Rescue requested service be disconnected due to fire. Service disconnected by pulling bank doors. Time Out: 10.6-11.7.
- 240 North Mulberry Street. Lines sparking; separated secondaries and installed (1) #2 CU sleeve. Time Out: 13.0-13.6.
- Mon. 12/8 - Various (reconnect for non-payment). Time Out: 18.0-18.6
- Tue. 12/9 - West Franklin Street & Alexander Street. Miss Utility locate; area cleared for Water Department personnel. Time Out: 20.6-21.2

2. **Distribution** (Recent activity included):

- The Lighting Project at Noland Village is complete.
- Protective covering was received and is now in place at all substations. Material was installed to prevent future outages caused by various types of wildlife.

Lamps Replaced	New Fixtures Added	Changeouts	Fixtures Removed
55	0	35	0

3. **Engineering** Staff worked on the following projects:

- The Staff Engineer completed the voltage regulator specifications for the Mitchell Substation expansion. The new regulators are just one set of devices needed for the expansion project.
- The Electrical Engineer has been working on the design for the fiber optic route between our substations. The line will give us better communication and more capabilities using our SCADA system, and will give us the capacity to communicate with devices for future projects.
- Several new electric service designs, existing electric service relocations, and existing electric service upgrades have been completed.

4. **Facilities - Energy Conservation**

- Facilities maintenance personnel have been diligently working to reduce the energy consumption, electricity and fuel oil, for the HLD office. In November, electric kWh monthly consumption was the lowest for the entire year and was 45% less than in 2007.

WATER DIVISION

Plant Flows - System Demand (MGD)

Date	Willson	Breichner	Total
12/04/08	10.36		10.36
12/05/08	10.56		10.56
12/06/08	10.17		10.17
12/07/08	10.39		10.39
12/08/08	10.07		10.07
12/09/08	9.56		9.56
12/10/08	9.51		9.51

Average 10.08

Laboratory

- Samples for the annual IOC metals, arsenic, and fluoride in potable water were collected.
- All of the samples collected from the new West End Reservoir tank showed the tank is ready to be put in service. No bacteria or VOCs were detected.
- Collected a sample of our laboratory pure water to have it tested by a specialty lab for what is known as "suitability" for microbiological testing.

Engineering

Reviews:	City	County
<u>Water</u>		
Site Plan	3	
Building Permits	8	

- Staff met with a consultant for a commercial developer regarding water allocation for lots near Pennsylvania Ave.
- Staff attended a quarterly Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting at the County office building.
- Staff attended a preliminary consultation at County Planning for the truck service and sales facility proposed for a parcel on Volvo Lane.
- Staff met in combination meetings on finalizing the consolidation/revisions of the Water and Wastewater Standards and Specifications.

WASTEWATER DIVISION

Wastewater Treatment Plant at Frederick Street

Date	Flow (mgd)	Rainfall (inches)
Wednesday, December 3, 2008	5.33	0.00
Thursday, December 4, 2008	5.28	0.07
Friday, December 5, 2008	5.15	0.00
Saturday, December 6, 2008	5.07	0.00
Sunday, December 7, 2008	5.17	0.00
Monday, December 8, 2008	5.13	0.00
Tuesday, December 9, 2008	5.21	0.00
Weekly Average/Total	5.19	0.01
Monthly Average/Total	5.26	0.10
Yearly Average/Total	7.07	38.33

- The Wastewater Treatment Plant continues to operate efficiently; all parameters are within MDE compliance specifications. The November Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) and the Facilities Process Report was mailed to MDE and EPA. Plant flows averaged 5.16 mgd for the month and are averaging 7.12 mgd through November 30, 2008.
- Maintenance crews completed 32 preventive and 42 corrective work orders during the month of November.

Activity	Districts	Linear Feet of Main	Feet of Lateral	# of Later Inspections
Closed Circuit TV Inspections	5,30	865	208	15
Flushing	2,14,15	5,222		

Customer Service Calls.

- 519 Park Lane – Blockage – roots in lateral, will schedule replacement of public side of lateral
- 220 East Franklin Street – Blockage – Crews cleaned Main – owner instructed to contact a plumber
- 524 Rhode Island –Blockage –blockage was caused by a blockage at manhole 15096. The blockage was cleared but, there was some damage to the residence property, insurance officer was contacted and she recorded damages, GLS was utilized for cleanup.
- 11203 Parkwood Drive - grinder pump - replaced core.
- 1509 Woodlands - grinder pump light on - pump operated properly, ask the owner to monitor
- 225 Belivew - flushed lateral, sludge and solids visible in clean out.
- 900 Block Pope Avenue - flushed main - problem exist on owners property.
- 327 & 329 Wood Point Avenue - odor complaint - chlorinated PS #2

Laboratory

- Collected a sample of our laboratory pure water to have it tested by a specialty lab for what is known as “suitability” for microbiological testing

Consent Judgment

- The Capacity, Management, Operations and Maintenance Program Report was forwarded to MDE for their review. This plan was required to be completed by December 31, 2008 per the consent judgment.
- The Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) is progressing nicely and is nearly complete. This project is located on the north side of Fair Grounds Park, between the Little League Field and the MELP Substation.
- With these two projects completed 8 of the 10 corrective actions that were required by the consent judgment will be completed. The remaining corrective action items are the Headworks and UV construction, their project statuses are listed below.

ENR-UV Project

- Pre-Construction meeting held on November 24, 2008. Conewago has started mobilizing and will begin the demolition of the drying beds during the next few days.
- Construction contracts have been signed and forwarded to MDE.
- This construction schedule is 24 months, with substantial completion by November 2010.

Headworks Project

- Pre-Construction meeting scheduled for December 11, 2008.

Collection System Rehabilitation

- Kick-off meeting was held between City staff and Black & Veatch for the design and engineering of the Collection System Rehabilitation projects. The next meeting is scheduled for December 22, 2008.

Administration Building

- Carson Roofing - has began installing the gutters and down spouts, the roof project should be completed within the next week.
- Trophy Painting will begin staining the exterior of the building during the second week of December if the weather permits.
- New carpet has been installed in the office that was damaged during the roof construction due to a heavy rain storm.
- Several windows of the front of the building are to be replaced within the next two weeks – weather permitting.
- Decals have been ordered for the new glass doors, the decals will include hours of operation and departmental phone numbers.

Reviews:

	City	County
Preliminary Consultation		2
Final Plat	1	
Sewer Applications	2	
Building Permits	10	

QUOTES

QUOTES ON TRYING FROM THINKEXIST.COM

MONDAY. The reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world

to himself. Therefore all progress depends on the unreasonable man. --- George Bernard Shaw

TUESDAY. Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all. --- Dale Carnegie

WEDNESDAY. I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody. --- Bill Cosby

THURSDAY. Pessimism is an excuse for not trying and a guarantee to a personal failure. --- Bill Clinton

FRIDAY. Anyone who doesn't make mistakes isn't trying hard enough. --- Anonymous

SATURDAY. Most people are so busy knocking themselves out trying to do everything they think they should do, they never get around to what they want to do. --- Anonymous

SUNDAY. Just let me go, we have to be able to criticize what we love, to say what we have to say 'cause if you're not trying to make something better, then as far as I can tell, you are just in the way. --- Ani Difranto

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

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce J. Zimmerman
City Administrator