



City of Hagerstown, Maryland Status & Information Report No. 49

December 19, 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. **Utility Relief Benefit Concert** - The Second Annual Utility Relief Benefit Concert was held on Thursday, Dec. 18, 2008 at the Maryland Theatre to raise funds for City of Hagerstown residents who meet a criteria. The event featured William Clarence Marshall III, as well as, Dwight Julius Fulton, Abigail Nigh, Niki Perini, Michelle Rafter, Clear Spring Middle School Chorus, Smithsburg High School Jazz Ensemble, and Springfield Middle School Chorus.

2. **Utility Relief Application Fair** - The City of Hagerstown held an application fair for the Utility Relief Benefit Fund. With the help of a five volunteer committee and the Community Action Council, 130 applications were made. The group and CAC will then review the application for approval.

3. **Downtown Holiday Open House**

Business survey forms are being received from participating businesses. The prize basket will be given away Monday. An event binder was created detailing everything that went into the downtown holiday open house and an event review meeting was held with several participating businesses.

4. **City Farmer's Market**

Santa will visit the City Farmer's Market this Saturday from 9-11. The gifts for you free drawing will be held along with children's crafts from 9 am-12 noon.

5. **Communication to Citizens & Visitors**

Press releases written and distributed to the media:

- Christmas Tree Pick Up Schedule;
- Holiday Trash Schedule
- 2009 Trash and Recycling Calendars are now available online at <http://www.hagerstownmd.org/Engineering/trashAndRecycle.asp>
- 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.

ENGINEERING & CODE ADMINISTRATION

1. **US 40 at Edgewood Drive**

We received news regarding this project from the State Highway Administration. The bids were rejected on November 26, 2008. The new schedule is for an ad date of January 6, 2009; bid opening on February 12, 2009; and a Notice-to-Proceed date of April 20, 2009.

2. **Eastern Boulevard Extension**

Washington County Public Works staff indicated they are starting to develop construction plans and engineering documents for the widening of Eastern (YMCA to Jefferson Boulevard) and the extension of Eastern Boulevard from the YMCA to Marsh Pike. The project is scheduled to be bid in 2010.

3. **Code Administration**

The following court cases resulted in a guilty verdict for overgrown grass/weeds and were fined accordingly:

- Hajer Moustafa, of 1018 Oak Hill Avenue, fined \$200 plus court costs.
- Fulton Gordon III of 19-23 West Antietam Street, fined \$200 plus court costs.
- Wilbert Anderson of 134 Clarkson Avenue, fined \$200 plus court costs.
- Tracee E Jones of 232 North Locust Street, fined \$300 plus court costs
- Abdoul Tahirou of 212 Wakefield Road, fined \$200 plus court costs.
- Mid Atlantic Property Inv. LLC of 24-26 West Franklin Street, fined \$350 plus court costs.
- Barnhart PropertiesLLC of 701 Chestnut Street, fined \$200 plus court costs.
- Michael Leonard of 914 Salem Avenue, fined \$350 plus court costs
- Carlos Underwood of 457 Summit Avenue, fined \$350 plus court costs

4. **Violations Posted**

Notices of Violations were posted on 115 rental properties around the City on Monday, December 15th. A copy was also mailed to the property owner. These are to owners that have failed to register their property in the 2008-2009 rental licensing program, in spite of having received a number of past due notices over the past several months. Failure to register by January 5, 2009 will result in a \$500 citation per rental unit being issued

FIRE DEPARTMENT

1. **Arts and Entertainment District** - Wednesday evening around 11:00 P.M. an HPD patrol officer was flagged down in the unit block of South Potomac by a citizen who reported a fire at 13-15 South Potomac. HFD Engine 1 being a quarter of block away responded and arrived within seconds to find a fire in an alcove area near the buildings entrance. The fire was quickly suppressed before it extended into the building.

Without the concerned citizen and a fast response from the downtown Engine this would've been a major fire within another 5 to 10 minutes. This fire was intentionally set and our Fire Marshal Office is investigating.

While the fire department and FM were still at the above incident, a 911 call was received reporting that the fire alarm at 43 South Potomac/50 Rochester Place had activated. When firefighters arrived, they found that someone had opened the valve for the building's standpipe fire hose station causing water to flow from the connection. Once again an early notification and fast response by the downtown Engine prevented serious water damage.

This incident is also being investigated by the Fire Marshal Office.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

1. **Zoning Certificates Issued For New Businesses:**
 - 40 West Oak Ridge Drive - Antietam Academy.
2. **Board of Zoning Appeals:** The BZA heard the following cases on December 17:
 - 232 Willard Street - Maria Carvajal - granted variances to reduce the side yard setback from 10 feet to 7 feet and 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 - confirmed the existence of a nonconforming use for a church facility on a property less than 2 acres in size and granted a special exception for the expansion of the use of the existing building for a Bible college.
3. **2009 Grant Application to Maryland Heritage Area Program:** The deadline for this grant program is late February. If anyone has any ideas for public infrastructure enhancement or tourism-related capital projects in the downtown (a specifically prescribed target area) or heritage-related non-capital projects in the city, let us know. So far, we have received grants from this program for the sidewalk widening project on S. Potomac Street, the new downtown lightpole banners, the new downtown pedestrian orientation signs, Civil War interpretive plaques (not installed yet), and the Doleman Collection study.
4. **Holiday Party for Boards and Commissions:** Planning staff hosted a holiday party on December 17th for the Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, Historic District Commission, and Beautification Advisory Committee. As started last year, Planning staff brought in home made cookies and treats for the party.
5. **Fred Nugent Resigns from Planning Commission:** Long-time Planning Commission member Fred Nugent resigned from the Commission this week. Continued service on the Commission would conflict with Mr. Nugent's new job at the Washington County Planning Department. Mr. Nugent has participated in a number of significant planning projects and seen a significant transformation of the city with development activity in his 16 years of service to the city. To demonstrate how the city has changed since Mr. Nugent's appointment in 1992, Planning staff are putting together a map of a sampling of the areas of significant development which occurred in this time period. Mr. Nugent will be missed.

PUBLIC WORKS

1. **Market House Heat:** Bids for the replacement of the City Market's heating system will be accepted on January 6, 2009. The results will be brought to the Council for approval in January with work to proceed in February. The new system can be installed while the existing system continues to operate.
2. **Weather Woes:** Winter is here and Hagerstown has been spared most of the adverse weather so far. However, some salt operations have already occurred. The upcoming week indicates things may change including a slight chance of snow for Christmas.
3. **Winter Work:** Between the rain and the absence of employees, it has been quiet around the shop. Work does continue on some sidewalk reconstruction and shop work including the reconstruction of traffic barricades.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

1. **HAGER HOUSE PROGRAMS AND EVENTS**
 - Tours: This week the attendance to the special German Christmas presentation continues to be steady with a group of Boy Scouts scheduled to tour on Saturday.
 - Hager House Programs and Events: Staff compiled a list of possible projects to focus on attempting to

obtain grant funds. Staff also worked at reviewing the need to update the current presentation of artifacts in the Museum building. Time was spent reviewing and compiling a possible list of archival and exhibit supplies to be purchased to address this need.

- Railroad Museum at City Park: Although the Historic Site is closed for the season staff met with an author producing an article on the Locomotive 202 and reviewed some of the information in our files pertaining to the 202 and Western Maryland Locomotives in general. We look forward to the publication of this article and creating a partnership that could produce speakers and exhibits in the future.

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

WATER DIVISION

Plant Flows - System Demand (MGD)

Date	Willson	Breichner	Total
12/11/08	10.45		10.45
12/12/08	10.64		10.64
12/13/08	10.51		10.51
12/14/08	10.45		10.45
12/15/08	10.76		10.76
12/16/08	10.61		10.61
12/17/08	10.50		10.50
Average			10.56

Water Production at RC Willson

- The Willson Plant continues to operate efficiently; water temperature is 39 degrees.
- The instrumentation and maintenance crews installed a pump control valve at Pump Station #2, installed new heaters at Pump Station #3, continue working on a problem with the air compressors to the Trac-Vac System at Willson. They have also been working on temporary chlorine feed systems and data signals at Pump Station #4 (in relationship with the new Rockwillow Tank).

Water Production at Breichner

- The Edgemont Reservoir is currently at -4.9', the bypass and hydrant are fully open. The Breichner Plant was not operated last week.

Water Distribution

- This past week crews worked throughout the system performing a variety of customer service duties. The large meter testing program is finished due to cold temps but the repair programs continue to go well and we are installing new radio read meters in Division 54.
- We repaired several leaks in the past week including a 4" on W. Franklin St., an 8" on Bluebird Ave., a 6" on Downsville Pike, and several service leaks.

Laboratory

- Results for the annual IOC metals, arsenic, and fluoride in potable water were completed. They were normal for our water, well below USEPA Maximum Levels.
- Quarterly results for USEPA UCMR 2 testing found all of the parameters tested to be Non-detects.

Engineering

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Water		
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- Staff conducted a hydrant flow test on Transportation Circle.
- Staff attended a preconstruction meeting on street tree planting.

WASTEWATER DIVISION

Wastewater Treatment Plant at Frederick Street

Date	Flow (mgd)	Rainfall (inches)
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Wednesday, December 10, 2008	5.53	0.32
Thursday, December 11, 2008	8.26	1.88
Friday, December 12, 2008	8.85	0.04
Saturday, December 13, 2008	7.14	0.02
Sunday, December 14, 2008	6.79	0.00
Monday, December 15, 2008	6.71	0.03
Tuesday, December 16, 2008	6.90	0.59
Weekly Average/Total	7.17	2.88
Monthly Average/Total	6.24	3.00
Yearly Average/Total	7.08	41.23

- The Wastewater Treatment Plant continues to operate efficiently; all parameters are within MDE compliance specifications despite the heavy rains that we experienced over the last week. The area received nearly 3 inches of rain and the ground water tables rose over seven feet in four days. Plant flows peaked at hourly rates near 19.5 mgd. There were no blending events or overflows associated with the rain event.

ENR-UV Project

- Conewago has began demolition of the drying beds, this is the location for the new de-nitrification filters.

Activity	Districts	Linear Feet of Main	Feet of Lateral	# of Later Inspections
Closed Circuit TV Inspections	2,4,5	312	1245	8
Flushing	14,15	6,948		

Customer Service Calls

- 519 Park Lane – replaced public lateral – roots blockage
- 209 Mealy Parkway – installed wye & lateral
- 20209 Mahogany Drive – replaced grinder core & valve handle
- 20121 Cherry Hill Drive – replaced grinder pump core
- 214 Calvert Terrace – lateral inspection for plumber, collapsed pipe on owner

Laboratory

- The controller head went out on the raw sampler. It was replaced.
- Metals testing on the lab's laboratory pure water showed no metals detected. We are still waiting on the suitability results.

Administration

- Staff met with Hospital to review bid drawings and specifications related to the pump station, gravity and force main piping. Bids are expected to go out in the early part of January 2009.
- Collection System Rehabilitation front end contract documents have been forwarded to MDE, the City attorney and Washington County Purchasing for review and comments. The 90% design review meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2009.
- Staff met with a consultant on alternatives for extending the sewer main at the Centre at Hagerstown beyond Broadfording Road.
- Staff attended a preconstruction meeting on street tree planting.

Reviews

Site Plan

City
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County

Building Permits 9

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

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce J. Zimmerman
City Administrator