



City of Hagerstown, Maryland Status & Information Report No. 16 for 2012

April 20, 2012

To Mayor Bruchey and Members of the City Council:

UPCOMING MEETINGS

APRIL 2012						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 No Meeting	4	5 Suns Opening Day (Game at 7:05 pm)	6 HOLIDAY City Offices Closed	7 8am Spring into Easter at the Market 12pm Opening Day Ceremony – West End Little League (Hellane Park)
8	9	10 4 pm Work Session	11	12	13	14 10am Opening Day Ceremony - National Little League (Staley Park) 10am Opening Day Ceremony – American Little League (Hager Park)
15	16	17 3 pm Joint Meeting w/Delegation & County Commissioners 4pm Work Session	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 1pm Earth Day Celebration @ University Plaza 7pm Regular Session	25	26	27 10am Arbor Day Celebration @ Golf Course Club House	28 9am-2pm Faire on the Square
29	30					

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

BUSINESS & COMMUNITY RELATIONS DIVISION

1. **Grand Openings:** Our next grand opening will be the Hagerstown Children's Theater/Walking Performing Arts. We are currently scheduling a date.
2. **Events:** The Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area Organization had Community Affairs Manager give a presentation on organizing events and explain the activities planned for the First Call Weekend in Washington County for the 150th Commemoration in June. Individuals from Carroll County and Frederick County attended the presentation held in City Center Hagerstown at the Department of Community and Economic Development.

Upcoming April Events:
 - April 21st - Shepherd University Art Show in City Center - 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.
 - April 24th - Earth Celebration, 1 p.m., University Plaza
 - April 27th - Arbor Day, Hagerstown Greens Golf Course Club House
 - April 28th - Faire Off the Square, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Elizabeth Hager Center Lot.
 - April 27th at 7:30 p.m., April 28th at 7:30 p.m., April 29th at 2:30 p.m. - Barbara Ingram presents Beauty and the Beast at the Maryland Theatre
 - April 28th (evening) – The Barbara Ingram School Art Foundation - Sit down dinner fundraiser and auction at Leiters.
3. **Taste of the Arts:** Twelve sites are lined up for the Taste of the Arts Event which will be held on May 17 from 5-8 p.m. in City Center. Proceeds will benefit the Washington County Arts Council, the Barbara Ingram School for the Arts and the Maryland Theatre. Tickets to go on sale on April 26, 2012.
4. **July 4th:** The City of Hagerstown has contracted with The Nowhere Men to perform for the Event
5. **Volunteers:** Volunteers are signing up for the blues fest. We are gearing up for this large event.
6. **Fundraising:** A fundraising campaign for the 150th First Call Weekend being held at the City Park on June 16 and 17 has begun. We are looking for funds for a water tank and for the SS Hunley exhibit.
7. **City Market:**
 - A new vendor beginning in early to mid-May will be selling wood crafts and art. They will have a large space in Market Alley and are very excited to begin this new venture as they have strong following already and had been hoping for a new permanent location.
 - The Litton's Berries and More will be returning in early to mid-May for seasonal period. They sell a variety of fruits and fresh vegetables.
 - Events:
 - May 10th – MayMart – Public Square & Elizabeth Hager Center Lot – 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 - May 12th – Celebrating Mother's at the Market – more details to come
8. **Hagerstown City News:**
 - Watch the latest newsroom stories on air at the top of every hour on Hub City on 6 and online at www.hagerstownmd.org/citynewsroom.asp

- Latest Advisories and Releases are available online at www.hagerstownmd.org/Shared/cityNews.asp
- A listing of the latest events is available online at www.hagerstownmd.org/shared/calendarOfevents.asp
- City of Hagerstown job opportunities are posted online at www.hagerstownmd.org/Shared/JobOpenings.asp
- Subscribe to **City e-Newsletter** on city homepage.
- Some of this Week's Headlines and Media Releases:
 - One Dead, Three People in Apartment Injured in Fire
 - Faire Off the Square Coming to City Center
 - Shepherd Students Showcase Artwork in City Center
 - Traffic Advisory: Public Square

9. **Hub City on 6 (Channel 6)**

- Rebroadcast of the *State of the City* address is scheduled to air Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.
- Watch the City Newsroom at the top of every hour. This week's news stories include:
 - Comptroller Throws Support Behind Multi-Use Facility Project
 - Shepherd University Students Showcase Art in City Center
 - Be Our Guest: Barbara Ingram School Presents Beauty and the Beast
 - SPIN Opens New Restaurant, Nightclub in City Center
 - First Property Certified Under Crime-Free Housing Program
 - St. Patrick's Day 5K Run for Your Luck
 - Get Involved! Spring Recreation Leagues
 - Speed Cameras Watching Out for Students
- In production:
 - Public Safety Snippets with Police and Fire Departments
 - Preview of the 17th Annual Western Maryland Blues Fest

10. **Websites:**

- The results of Ripken Design's Financial Feasibility Study are available on the City website, including an executive summary and a full report as well as the PowerPoint presentation that was made at the joint session on April 17th. The same links can also be found on the Hagerstown Advance site and supportdowntownhagerstown.com.
- Departments are finalizing content for the new City of Hagerstown website. New site is currently scheduled to go live on April 30th.
- Western Maryland Blues Fest website is updated with performer bios, videos and ticket information - www.blues-fest.org
- A community group has created a website to support downtown initiatives and a multi-use center. City staff will be contributing government information on related topics - www.supportdowntownhagerstown.com

1. **Zoning Certificates Issued For New Businesses:**
 - 545 Dual Highway - Supreme Buffet - restaurant
 - 58 East Franklin Street - Owens Oddessys - retail sales of tobacco and apparel
 - 890 Pennsylvania Avenue - Seher Enterprises, Inc., d/b/a United Car Deals - used car dealership (change in business ownership)
 - 890 Pennsylvania Avenue - Seher Enterprises, Inc., d/b/a United Gas Station and Convenience Store (change in business ownership)
 - 18043 Garland Groh Boulevard - General Nutrition Corporation - retail sales of vitamins and nutritional supplements

2. **Board of Zoning Appeals:** The Board of Zoning Appeals considered one case on April 18. Multiple variances were granted to Doy Clifford Sneckenberger for the purpose of re-subdividing the property at 906 Rose Hill Avenue.

3. **Planning Commission:** The Planning Commission held a special meeting on April 18th to begin review of the second draft of the comprehensive amendments to the Land Management Code. Review will be continued at the regular meeting on April 25, and a second special meeting is scheduled for May 2, if necessary. Staff hopes to take the draft to public hearing on May 30. The Commission is slated to review the following items at their regular meeting on April 25:
 - East First Street Rezoning - public review meeting
 - LMC Amendments

4. **Historic District Commission:** The HDC considered the following on April 12:
 - 239 North Locust Street (Alms House) - City of Hagerstown - proposed parking lot and landscape area with storm drain system
 - 922 The Terrace - Kathy and Joe Howell - fence

5. **EDC Infrastructure Committee:** The Committee met on April 18th to review the proposed template for promotion of economic development sites in the county. The template breaks the Hagerstown Urban Growth Area down into economic development target areas (e.g., Airport, Friendship, Mt. Aetna, Hopewell, etc.) and identifies available vacant properties in those areas with their "development ready" or "occupancy ready" characteristics. The City's data was previously provided to the Committee last fall. They would like us to modify our presentation into target areas within the city. They have also requested an analysis from the Utilities Departments on whether the county sites are "excellent, good, marginal, or critical" in terms of utility readiness. Staff will relay the info to the City's Utilities Department for a response.

6. **Heritage Tourism:** The Planning Director visited Charleston, Beaufort (SC), and Savannah this past week for pleasure and it was a real pleasure. All three cities have gorgeous historic districts and rely on tourism as a significant aspect of their economic health - for all three it is their historic districts that draw the crowds. Tour guides in Charleston and Savannah attributed historic preservation as the engines for the rebirth of these cities, both of which went through declines in the 20th century. In addition, Savannah's downtown benefited hugely from the Savannah College of Art and Design's activities adaptively reusing over 60 commercial buildings for school use. It also doesn't hurt when high profile movies are filmed in your city (Goodnight in the Garden of Good & Evil, Forest Gump, etc.). Savannah has a "hotel channel" on cable which runs continuous segments on all there is to see and experience in their community. In an example of 'its all in how you spin it,' a cable spot stated that "Savannah has more art galleries per capita than any other city on the east coast."

7. Code Administration Weekly Activity Report: April 9–13, 2012

PERMITS								
<u>TYPE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF NEW APPLICATIONS</u>							<u>NUMBER ISSUED</u>
Building	8	Residential -	5	Commercial -	3	Other -	0	6
Electrical	14	Residential -	9	Commercial -	5	Other -	0	12
Plumbing	8	Residential -	7	Commercial -	1	Other -	0	8
Mechanical	9	Residential -	6	Commercial -	3	Other -	0	8
Engineering Dept.	5							7
TOTAL	44		27		12		0	41

<u>Estimated Value of Weekly Issued Building Permit Projects:</u>		<u>Fiscal Year-To-Date Totals:</u>
Residential	\$ 3,189.00	\$ 5,359,202.00
Commercial	\$ 195,000.00	\$ 17,428,688.00
Apartment	\$ 0.00	\$ 250,121.00
Sign	\$ 0.00	\$ 360,065.00
TOTAL	\$ 198,189.00	\$ 23,401,076.00

Building permit(s) of interest issued this week:
 Construct a 20' x 52' addition on existing funeral home for crematory at 415 East Wilson Boulevard - \$125,000
 Tenant fit-out for Securis Monitoring at 934 Sweeney Drive - \$70,000

RENTAL LICENSES		
<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>FACILITIES</u>	<u>UNITS</u>
Registrations Received	1	1
New Applications Issued	4	7
Total Registered Since 7/1/11	3133	8492
% of Those Invoiced	99.9	99.9

Notes: The 2011-2012 rental license renewals for 8355 units in 3053 facilities were mailed at the end of June 2011. This represents the percentage of those applications returned as of 4/13/12.

PAYMENT	
Total Payments Received	\$ 50
Adjustments	\$ 0

INSPECTIONS	
<u>TYPE</u>	<u>NUMBER CONDUCTED</u>
Building	38
Electrical	49
Plumbing	13
Mechanical	4
Safety	71
Neighborhood Vitality	94
Quality of Life	2
Preventive Maintenance	0

Notes: Please note that exterior inspections of properties registered in the rental licensing program are NOT included in this total. Exterior rental licensing inspections for this program year are completed.

INSPECTIONS KEY:	
Categories of Conditions	
Safety	Conditions which are or reasonably present a hazard to occupant or public. <u>Example:</u> No smoke alarms, improper wiring, handrails
Neighborhood Vitality	Conditions which cause or tend to cause diminution to property <u>Example:</u> Weeds, trash, debris, junk vehicles, deterioration of a structure.
Quality of Life	Conditions which negatively impact occupants. <u>Example:</u> Damaged surfaces, damages elements, missing screens
Preventive Maintenance	Conditions which are technical violations and need addressed to prevent deterioration. <u>Example:</u> Mortar deterioration, clogged gutters, minor rotting wood

POLICE DEPARTMENT

1. STATS

Calls for Service:	1,828	CDS Arrest:	0
Criminal Arrest/Warrants:	18	DUI Arrests:	5
Moving Violations:	37	Search Warrants Executed:	3
Safety Repair Orders:	6	Field Interviews:	30
Warnings:	35	Parking Tickets:	24

2. REPORTS

- 04/13/12: Officer C.A. Robinson responded to 1050 Benjamin Place for a report of a burglary in progress. Communications advised that the owner had come home and had seen a subject kneeling at her back door attempting to force his way into the residence. When he saw her he fled the area. The suspect is described as a white male with brown hair, possibly balding, wearing a green shirt. Washington County Sheriff's Department responded to the scene and his K-9 partner performed a track which led to the south of the residence towards the parking lot of the Rite Aid. The track continued across the railroad tracks and then was lost. Digital photographs were taken of the crime scene. No other evidence or suspects at this time.
- 04/14/12: Officer Bobetich responded to 34 High Street for a theft report. The victim stated that his Yamaha Blaster 4-wheeler had been stolen from his property. The 4-wheeler is gray and black with yellow wheels and a green cargo rack. The tracks in the yard indicate the 4-wheeler was pushed to the fence and then was lifted over the fence. No further details are available at this time.
- 04/16/12: Detectives responded to Hagerstown Police Department for the investigation of an armed robbery. The robbery occurred in the 1200 block of Potomac Avenue and there were three victims involved in the case. The victims stated they were walking toward the 7-11 and noticed three males walking in front of them. After leaving the 7-11 the victims noticed the same three males following them. One of the suspects pulled a handgun and stated, "Give me your bread". The suspects took a wallet, backpack, and a cell phone. The investigation is continuing.

PUBLIC WORKS

- 1. **UST Certification:** Al Cool and Eric Deike both received their certification in UST (Underground Storage Tank) management. The two day course explained the implicit dangers, proper maintenance and appropriate responses to operating fueling stations that use USTs as required by the Maryland Department of the Environment. Additional maintenance and inventory control will be incorporated over the coming weeks.

2. **Army Reserve Update:** As of April 17th, the U.S. Army officially abandoned the property located at 21 Willard Street. Staff has already begun mowing the grass on the property. Engineering is utilizing the large paved areas to assemble recycling bins and will store the extras bins in the storage building. Public Works will utilize the maintenance shop for the storage of equipment in the winter months. Finally, HPD is utilizing the main building for the training of their K-9 units by hiding drugs in the facility. A broader, long term use of the facility is still to be determined.
3. **Saving Money:** Ladder Truck #4 experienced a failure with a sensor in the outrigger arm of the truck. The outriggers extend from the truck and stabilize the vehicle so the ladder can be utilized. Without the outriggers, the ladder will not operate. Our mechanics checked with our vendor and found the price to be \$630 for this one device. Believing this to be quite high, they checked with a national supply company and found the sensor at a price of \$345. They checked a little further hoping to find this unique device on Ebay. Unbelievably, our mechanic, Paul Yeager, found the sensor on Ebay for \$45! This saved the City \$585! Ebay had three sensors at the \$45 price so all three were purchased. The additional two sensors were placed into stock for future use.

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

ELECTRIC DIVISION

1. **Problem Areas.** Recent call-outs included:
 - Wed. 4/11 - Various locations- (reconnections for non-payment). Time Out: 16.7-17.0
 - Thur. 4/12 - 600 South Cannon Avenue (Plant Substation) – lineman re-energized a transformer following the completion of oil processing. Time Out: 18.0-19.0
 - Various locations- (reconnections for non-payment). Time Out: 16.5-17.1
 - Fri. 4/13 - 236 Rock Willow Avenue- total outage; squirrel caused a line fuse to operate, (1) 10T fuse was replaced to restore power. Time Out: 18.3-19.1
 - Sun. 4/15 - 958 Mount Aetna Road- lines down; line was found to belong to Verizon. Time Out: 17.0-18.5
2. **Distribution** Recent activity included:
 - Metering Staff received one high bill complaint this week; upon testing, meter was found to have met all Public Service Commission requirements.
 - Line crews continue annual feeder inspections for Wesel Substation.
 - Line crews continue trimming trees in various residential locations.
 - Line crews performed various service upgrades and meter installations.
 - Continued with pole inspections and re-tagging throughout the City.

Lamps Replaced	New Fixtures Added	Changeouts	Fixtures Removed
14	0	1	0

3. **Engineering** Staff worked on the following projects:
 - The Staff Engineer continued work on the Utilities' portions of the City's new website design.
 - The Staff Engineer drafted a bid for distribution transformers with assistance from the Finance Dept. These units are required for new homes and businesses being located in HLD's service territory.
 - Engineering staff attended a safety seminar related to underground utility locating hosted by Miss Utility and area contractors.

- The Substation Technician retrieved oil samples from recently reclaimed oil within our substation power transformers for testing.
- Engineering staff created and placed door hangers at customers' homes notifying them of upcoming electrical work in their respective neighborhoods.
- Engineering staff reviewed multiple jobs and proposals from firms doing electrical work within the City.
- Staff performed additions and corrections in HLD's electric GIS model.

4. **Administration:**

- Staff coordinated multiple vehicle repairs with the Central Maintenance Garage. An increase of vehicle issues is being realized due to an aging fleet.
- Public Works and Utility Department staff are in the process of drafting a formal bid specification to upgrade our two-way radio system. The present VHF system operates on a bandwidth of 25 kHz and the FCC mandated all VHF systems operate on a 12.5 kHz bandwidth system by January 1, 2013.

WASTEWATER DIVISION

Wastewater Treatment Plant at Frederick Street

Date	Flow (mgd)	Rainfall (inches)
Wednesday, April 11, 2011	6.36	0.08
Thursday, April 12, 2011	6.24	0.00
Friday, April 13, 2011	6.08	0.00
Saturday, April 14, 2011	6.11	0.02
Sunday, April 15, 2012	6.28	0.04
Monday, April 16, 2012	6.21	0.00
Tuesday, April 17, 2012	6.04	0.00
Weekly Average/Total	6.18	0.14
Monthly Average/Total	6.34	0.31
Yearly Average/Total	7.52	6.18

Wastewater Treatment Plant

- The WWTP continues to operate within its permitted parameters.
- The maintenance crew drained UV channel #2 to check out the influent gate and found no obvious defects.
- Maintenance crew removed the pressure switch, gauge, diaphragm seal assembly and sipped it out to be repaired and recalibrated.

Wastewater Collection System

Activity	Districts	L. F. main	Feet of lateral	# Inspected
CCTV Inspection	4,19,30	211	21	5
Flushing	4,29	12,575		
Point Repairs		# of Repairs	Reason	L.F. of Repairs
Main Line Only	50	1	Broken Force Main	4
Lateral Only	6	1	Fractured Pipe	5
Main & Lateral	6	1	Offset Joint	5
Manholes	12	1	I&I Elevation	Grout/8" Grade Ring

Collection System Maintenance Task

Pump Station

- Changed oil and filters in generators at pump stations 3, 4, 6 and 7
- Switched the soft start at station 8.
- Started trimming access lane at station #3.

Grinder Pump

- Repaired force main outside the canister at 20110 Mount Aetna Road and backfilled and replanted flowers top soiled and mulched around canister.
- Replaced the grinder pump core at 20310 Cottonwood.

CCTV

- Inspected two runs in District 30 with steerable transporter to confirm operational after repairs.
- Inspected another eight inch lined segment with same results of the camera sticking, we will try six a six inch wheel base next time.

Miscellaneous

- Bio-bags through the infrastructure to control FOG.
- Exercised all emergency Generators.
- Downloaded flow data a Newgate and Meritus.

Administration

Wastewater Division – Customer Call Log Summary 2012							
Type	Blockages	Grinder Pumps	Odor Complaints	Flushing	WW Pump Station	Other	Totals
Weekly	1	1	0	0	0	1	3
YTD	18	18	7	2	2	26	73

* Other - consist of calls that maybe directed to other City Departments or the County Department of Water Quality

Engineering

- Staff attended a development review meeting at the County Planning Office.
- Staff attended an interview with the Wastewater Operations Manager at the Barn Conference room.
- Staff met with a representative of the contractor and pipe supplier for the Parkway II main extension.

Wastewater Laboratory

- The lab is continuing to perform testing on DMRQA samples required annually by our permit. Once the analyses are completed the results will be sent to the provider.
- The lab analyzed a sample of a suspected septic leak in the collection system. The sample was found to be not septic.
- Regulatory and process sampling and testing was routine for the week

WATER DIVISION

Plant Flows - System Demand (MGD)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Willson</u>	<u>Breichner</u>	<u>Total</u>
4/12/12	11.52		11.52
4/13/12	11.78		11.78
4/14/12	11.71		11.71
4/15/12	11.43		11.43
4/16/12	12.08		12.08
4/17/12	11.89		11.89
4/18/12	11.67		11.67
Average			11.72

Water Production at RC Willson

- Operations
 - Completing routine PMs
 - Mowing

- Maintenance
 - R C Willson - Performing routine PMs
 - R C Willson - Making repairs to the mowers

- Instrumentation
 - R. C. Willson - Installing new conduit to the remote SCADA cabinets
 - Pump Stations - Running new signals to the storage tanks
 - Pump Stations - Assisted AR&E with repairs to pump #3 at P.S. #6
 - Pump Stations - Assisted Fidelity Power with repairs (warranty) to the generator at P.S. #4

Water Production at Breichner

- The Edgemont Reservoir is currently at -4.6'; the bypass is open and the hydrant is closed.

Water Distribution

- Distribution crews are working throughout the system performing customer service duties and working on meter testing & repair. We are still working on Waltz Rd. and have installed about 400' of 1½" water line. Work also continues on Marsh Pike for the County.

Laboratory

- MDE sent results from testing they have performed on City water. The lab, combining the State results with our own, is working on preparing the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) from last year's (2011) data. The report is in draft stage at this time.

Engineering

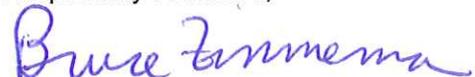
<u>Reviews:</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>County</u>
Building Permit	11	1

- Staff attended a development review meeting at the County Planning Office.

- Staff met with Water Division staff regarding State Highway Administration costs related to the Edgewood/Dual Highway Intersection Improvements project.

- Staff met with a consultant for a commercial property owner for final site plan approval of an expansion project.

Respectfully submitted,



Bruce Zimmerman
City Administrator