

CITY OF HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND STATUS & INFORMATION REPORT NO. 34 FOR 2020



August 28, 2020

To Mayor Bruchey and Members of the City Council:

UPCOMING MEETINGS

To obtain City Department or City Boards and Commissions meeting information, please visit <https://www.hagerstownmd.org/27/Government>. We encourage you visit our website at <https://www.hagerstownmd.org> for all City-related updates. Other inquiries may be made by visiting the City Resident 311 page at <https://www.hagerstownmd.org/841/Services>.

<h3 style="margin: 0;">SEPTEMBER 2020</h3> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: small;">For additional information and a complete list of City events, please visit our Calendar of Events on the City's website at http://www.hagerstownmd.org/calendar.aspx</p>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 3pm Executive Session 4:30pm Work Session	2	3 4pm Hagerstown Youth Advisory Council Meeting	4	5
6	7 HOLIDAY City Offices Closed	8 No M&C Meeting	9 4pm Hagerstown Planning Commission Meeting	10 4pm Board of Traffic & Parking Meeting 4:30pm Hagerstown Historic District Commission Meeting	11	12
13	14	15 4pm Work Session	16 7pm Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting	17	18	19
20	21	22 4pm Work Session	23	24 4:30pm Hagerstown Historic District Commission Meeting	25	26
27	28	29 7pm Regular Session	30 7pm Hagerstown Planning Commission Meeting			

COMMUNICATIONS

This Week's Headlines & Media Releases:

- City Mulls Granting Saylor House Landmark Status
- Hagerstown City Council Considers Altering Fees at Vehicle Charging Stations
- Hagerstown to Close South Potomac Street for Weekend Outdoor Dining
- Hagerstown Mayor and Council Hear Budget Update
- City to Give No Tax Phase-In for Valley Mall Annexation
- Local Coffee Shop Hosts Panel on Race, Equity & Other Uncomfortable Topics
- 12 Arrests Made in Sex Trafficking Prostitution Operation
- 911 Texting Now Active in Maryland
- Dental Practice Moves Into Renovated Middlekauff Motors Building
- Hagerstown Approves Annexation in Halfway; Taxes Due in July
- County Election Board OKs Voting Sites to Forward to State

- Corderman Nominated to Replace Serafini in Maryland Senate
- Press Release: Imagine Hagerstown August 28

This Week's Video Projects

- Mayor & City Council Regular Session
- City Park Train Hub Educational Video Post Production

Channel 25 Hub City Now Programming:

- Mayor & City Council Meeting
- "Washington County Heroes" Face Covering Campaign Videos
- "Together We Rise - Washington County" Video
- Featured Artist on Hagerstown Cultural Trail: Eric B. Ricks
- Washington Goes Purple: Act Now :30 Promos
- "Hub Bub" Video Podcast
- PCAD Rental Interior Webinar Series Program
- Symptoms of COVID-19 Informational Video
- Stormwater Program Informational Video
- MTA Commuter Connection

City Website:

- www.hagerstownmd.org attracted 12,209 user visits for the week of August 17-23, 2020.
- The most popular top entrances (the first page users accessed on the website):
 - Home Page 2,225
 - Utility Billing Page 1,029
 - Civic Alerts Page 893
 - Fire Page 319
 - Police Page 294
 - Potterfield Pool Page 271
 - Bids Page 147
 - Jobs Page 145
 - Parks & Recreation Page 142
 - Outdoor Movies at City Park Page 136
- Top Searches:
 - "True"
 - "Jobs"
 - "Pay my bill"
 - "Fire department"
 - "Monthly newsletter email list"

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HYAC: Seven students were sworn in as part of the 2020-2021 Hagerstown Youth Advisory Council. The Council in comprised of nine voting members, three alternates, and one individual between the age of 18-21 years old who is a non-voting member.



Business Development Update:

- Outdoor Dining: Outdoor Dining continues this Sunday, August 30th from 11:30 am to 3 pm. The schedule of 1st and 2nd Saturdays and 3rd and 4th Sundays will resume through the end of October. Support downtown restaurants by dining in the street or use the curbside zones to grab carryout.

- The Economic Development team has participated in the following this week:
 - Congressman David Trone – virtual meeting with MD-06 Business Community stakeholders
 - Cascades Open House (273 East Memorial Boulevard) – toured Cascades building that will be up for auction in September and met with prospects
 - CNS property tours

Imagine Hagerstown: XACE and Josh Morningstar will perform for **Fourth Friday** this week at University Plaza from 5–8 p.m. Enjoy dinner or takeout from a downtown restaurant and bring your own drinks in non-breakable containers!

FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE DEPARTMENT CALLS FOR ASSISTANCE			
Cooking Fires	1	Community Risk Reduction	7
Building Fires	2	Public Service	7
Medical Assistance	30	Personal Injury Collision	9
Assist other Fire Departments	8	Fuel/Hazard Spills	1
Automatic Fire Alarms	5	Gas Leaks	1
Downed Power Lines	3	Investigation: Carbon Monoxide Incident	1
Vehicle Fires	1	Dumpster/Outside Fires	2

PARKS & ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

ENGINEERING DIVISION

1. **Professional Boulevard.** Construction continues on Phase I bridge and the piers and abutments are nearing completion. The structural steel will arrive in October and the work on the deck will continue as weather allows, and will be complete next summer. The County Engineering staff are targeting this fall to advertise the Phase II portion that includes widening the City’s portion with construction of Phase II from Summer 2021 to completion summer 2022.



2. **Tourism Signs.** The State is installing tourism signs around the community and removing the old faded ones. This has been a topic on the Mayor & Council's priority list with the State Highway leaders for several years.



3. **Triannual Stormwater Facility Inspections.** In the City there are approximately 203 properties/sites that have stormwater management facilities. As required by our stormwater permit from Maryland Department of the Environment, staff inspected all of them this year. Forty-two (42) properties had facilities that failed the inspection and letters were sent to them notifying them of the deficiencies. To-date, 23 owners have responded, 12 facilities have been repaired and 11 are in the process of making the repairs or securing a contractor to do the work.
4. **Pavement Markings.** The contractor has been in town this week doing thermoplastic stop bars, crosswalks and parking spaces.
5. **Electronic Bidding.** We are developing a policy to allow electronic bidding on contracts.
6. **Engineering Statistics**

Traffic issues		
Description	Week of 8/23/20	Calendar Year 2020 TOTALS
Traffic complaints received	6	82
Work Orders completed	1	51
Traffic counts completed	2	21
Construction Projects		
Description	Week of 8/23/20	Calendar Year 2020 TOTALS
Projects advertised for bids	0	11
RFP's Advertised	0	4
Projects under construction	5	6
Projects completed	0	2

PARKS DIVISION

1. **Community Parks & Playgrounds.** Parks staff submitted a grant request of \$190,000 to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources for play equipment ("grass" mounds, expression swings, web climbers and spinners) and park amenities (picnic tables, benches, and trash cans).

2. **Golf/Pool Stats**

Golf Course	8/20/19–8/26/19	8/20/20- 8/26/20
# of Golfers	407	580
Total Revenue	\$7,882	\$11,210

Pool	8/20/19–8/26/19	8/20/20–8/26/20
Admission total	674*	627
Admissions Fees	\$1,452	\$2,007

3. **Park Maintenance.**

- Tree Maintenance - 23 parks keep us busy with tree maintenance.
- Pangborn Lake Reconstruction – Began to drain the lake. Staff blocked the inflow and opened the drain valve.
- City Park – We completed installation of the fence around the Vietnam Veterans Memorial located along Walnut Lane.
- Saylor House – Located at Kiwanis Park, we are in the process of applying stone for the walkway leading to the Saylor House. Work continues preparing the walkways for paving by Craig Paving.

4. **City Park Fall Fest.** The City Park Fall Fest Committee has decided to cancel the annual City Park Fall Fest. This decision was made in the interest of the health and safety of the community, as the festival draws large crowds to City Park. However, in order to keep the community spirit alive, we are planning virtual and socially distant group activities that inspire the exploration of our park and facilities on Saturday, September 19th. All activities are FREE and some require pre-registration. More information is available at www.hagerstownmd.org/fallfest

5. **Potterfield Pool.** Last splash of the summer! Open through Sunday, August 30th, for normal operating hours. Closed the week of August 31st – September 4th. Open Labor Day weekend September 5th, 6th & 7th (normal operating hours). Pooch Plunge is September 8th.

PLANNING & CODE ADMINISTRATION

New Development Cases:

- Linwood Hollow – final plat for resubdivision to consolidate lots.

Planning Commission: The August 26 meeting was canceled because there was no quorum. Staff is looking into scheduling a special meeting next week.

Board of Zoning Appeals: Two cases have been filed for the September 16 hearing:

- 1115 Wesel Boulevard – Jeremy Michael: Variance to reduce the number of required parking spaces from 706 to 536.
- 376 and 382 South Cleveland Avenue – Gideon Properties: Special exception for a day-care in a residential district and a variance to reduce the minimum lot area for a special exception use from 20,000 square feet to 19,648 square feet.

Weekly Activity Report: August 17 – August 21, 2021

PERMITS								
TYPE	NUMBER OF NEW APPLICATIONS							NUMBER ISSUED
Building	16	Residential -	11	Commercial -	4	Other -	1	10
Electric	34	Residential -	25	Commercial -	6	Other -	3	29
Plumbing	5	Residential -	2	Commercial -	3	Other -	0	4
Mechanical	8	Residential -	7	Commercial -	1	Other -	0	10
Engineering Dept.	8							7
TOTAL	71		45		14		4	60

Est. Value of Issued Building Permit Projects:		FY21 Fiscal Year Totals:
Residential	\$ 360,300.00	\$ 1,664,234.00
Commercial	\$ 147,549.00	\$ 20,798,584.00
Apartment	\$ 33,800.00	\$ 228,300.00
Sign	\$ 0.00	\$ 10,950.00
TOTAL	\$ 541,649.00	\$ 22,702,368.00

Projects of Interest

- Interior renovations of existing McDonalds at 316 East Washington Street - \$141,549
- Construct three single-family homes on Fitzhugh Court in Hager's Crossing - \$315,000

RENTAL LICENSING PROGRAM YEAR: JULY 1, 2020 – JUNE 30, 2021

	PROPERTIES	UNITS
Registrations received week of Aug 17 – Aug 21	92	475
New applications issued week of Aug 17 – Aug 21	2	2
Total 2020-2021 registered (includes additions and subtractions since 6/8/20)	3,176	8,209
Percentage of rental license renewals that have registered for the 2020-2021 license year	82.0%	84.4%

Notes: The 2020-2021 rental license renewals for 9,722 units in 3,872 properties were mailed on June 9, 2020.

PAYMENT

Weekly payment received	\$ 36,000
Weekly adjustment/credits	\$ 150

INSPECTIONS

TYPE	NUMBER CONDUCTED
Building	81
Electrical	32
Plumbing	32
Mechanical	10
Safety	12
Neighborhood Vitality	149
Quality of Life	1
Preventive Maintenance	24
Planning & Zoning	3

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
Planning & Zoning	Conditions which violate Land Management Code requirements (zoning, forest conservation, floodplain, historic district and other requirements) and progress inspections of development projects for site plan compliance.
	<u>Examples:</u> Uses not permitted in property's zone, construction of new facilities, follow up inspections on open violations.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

STATS

Calls for Service:	1,632	Field Interviews:	11
Arrests/Warrants Served:	35	Moving Violations:	43
Domestic Violence Calls:	26	Safety Repair Orders:	2
DUI Arrests:	3	Warnings:	42
Reports Filed:	155		

REPORTS

08/20/20: Officer Culp responded to the area of City Hall located at 1 East Franklin Street for a report of chalk writings on the sidewalk. Lt. Renner was patrolling the area and reported this to Officer Culp and Public Works Director Eric Deike. Lt Renner requested to have the writings washed off as soon as possible. The writings were not negative in nature but included names of council members and the mayor. The writings were photographed and attached to the report. It is unknown at this time who may have written on the sidewalk. It appears to be no permanent damage to the sidewalk. There is no further information at this time.

08/21/20: Officer Kittoe was dispatched to the 7-11 Convenience Store on Salem Avenue for an assault in progress involving a black male and female. Dispatch advised the female was in the store and the male was leaving the scene. The officer observed a male matching the description given by Dispatch and gave a verbal command to the male to stop, but he kept walking. Officer Kittoe was able to gain control of the situation and detained the male in handcuffs. The officer reviewed the City video surveillance cameras in the area and the assault of the male against the female was captured. The male was arrested and transported to Central Booking. The male was verbally and physically abusive to the officers while at Central Booking. No further details are available at this time.

08/23/20: Officer Williamson responded to McComas Street for a reported burglary. The victim stated that she was away from her home for several days and when she returned home it appeared that someone had tampered with the front door. The officer noticed the door to have a crack below the locking mechanism which the victim stated the crack was not there when she left her residence. The victim stated at this time she did not believe that anything was missing from the residence. No City camera was available for McComas Street. No further details are available at this time.

08/24/20: Officer Fuqua was dispatched to View Street for an abandoned vehicle. The Washington County Emergency Communications Center advised a purple Dodge Durango had been parked on the street for over a month and had an expired registration. The vehicle was marked for a parking complaint on August 10, 2020. Both driver's side tires were flat and the body had extensive rust and dents. The owner of the vehicle could not be reached. The vehicle was towed and a hold was placed on the vehicle for current registration. No further details are available.

PRESS RELEASES

Twelve Arrests Made in Sex Trafficking/Prostitution Detail: It is the mission of the Hagerstown Police Department to stop all sex trafficking especially involving underage children and vulnerable adults. It is also our mission to reduce prostitution, along with the demand for prostitution, within our jurisdiction. HPD has received numerous anonymous tips that prostitution is thriving not only on the street, but in many local motels. On Thursday, August 20, 2020, HPD in conjunction with the Washington County Sheriff's Office, Maryland State Police, and FBI, conducted a sex trafficking/prostitution detail that targeted both street level prostitution and internet vice operations. Twelve people were arrested on August 20, 2020, and we are proud of our efforts to combat this problem. Names of those involved will be released at a later date when all charges have been filed and any follow up investigations are completed.

Grant funding for this operation was provided by the Maryland Criminal Intelligence Network. The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services provides grant funding and strategic support to MCIN member sites to identify, disrupt, and dismantle criminal organizations through interagency collaboration and data sharing to make Maryland safer.

OTHER NEWS/INFORMATION

Congratulations to Officer Tyler Nichols: Effective Monday, August 24, 2020, Officer Tyler Nichols completed his Field Training and is certified for solo patrol. Officer Nichols will remain on Charlie Platoon under the command of Sergeant Doug Hay.

We wish Officer Nichols much success as he begins his solo patrol with the Hagerstown Police Department.



Officer Tyler Nichols

PUBLIC WORKS

CHART NO. 1 – GENERAL PARKING SYSTEM DATA

		Current Week	Previous Week
Number of Permit Holders	A & E Deck	141	142
	University District Deck	260	231
Number of Student Permits	Central, Market, Rochester Lots	16	16
Number of Patrons Using Decks	A & E Deck	729	667
	University District Deck	960	922
Number of Citations Issued	(Includes Warnings)	356	348
Late Payment Notifications		NA	NA
Peak Occupancy (%)	A & E Deck	33% Fri @ 2 PM	35% Thu @ 2 PM
	University District Deck	38% Wed @ 2 PM	39% Wed @ 10 AM

CHART NO. 2 – A&E PARKING DECK WEEKLY OCCUPANCY

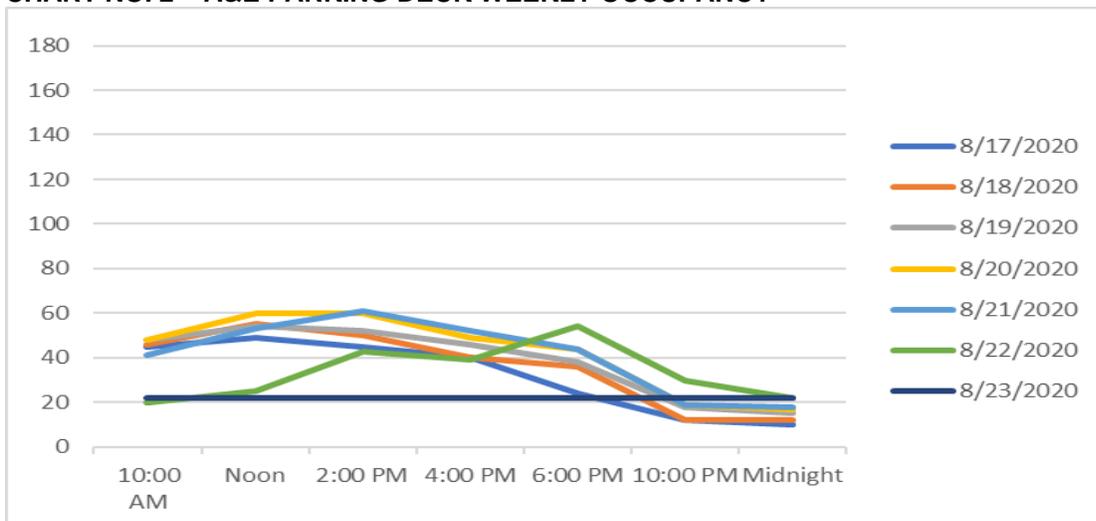
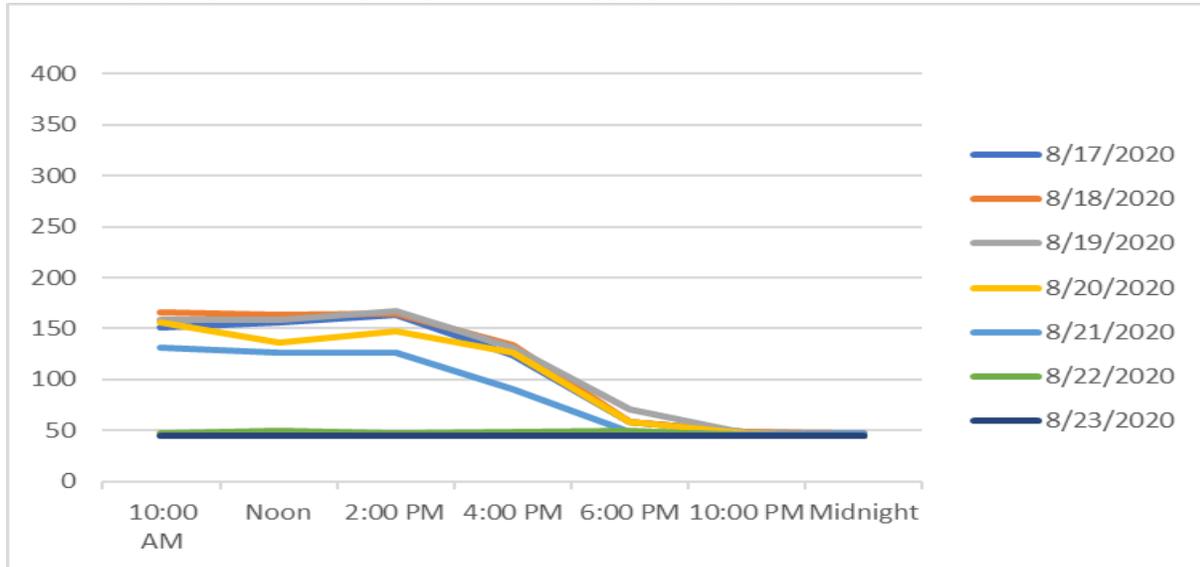


CHART NO. 3 – UD PARKING DECK WEEKLY OCCUPANCY



CENTRAL MAINTENANCE GARAGE REPAIR DATA

	Current Week	Previous Week
DCED	0	0
Fire	0	3
Human Resources	0	0
Light	4	1
Parks & Engineering	4	1
Police	9	3
Public Works	5	8
Wastewater	0	2
Water	8	7
Weekly Totals	30	25
Yearly Total	781	

AFTER HOUR CALL BACKS. There were no after hour call backs during this time.

CHESTER HADLEY RETIRES WITH 32 YEARS OF SERVICE. After 32 years of serving the citizens of Hagerstown, Chester Hadley will be retiring on Monday, August 31st. Chester has been the electrician/lineman/signal technician helping to keep the traffic signals operating correctly, supported many a special event including Blues Fest and Augustoberfest and worked on every City Hall remodeling project that had an electrical need. He also drove hundreds of miles plowing snow while operating a plow truck for the city in the winter season. Chester is a gun enthusiast and loves to ride motorcycles and will continue to ride in his retirement. We wish him all the best and we thank him for his service.

PARKING PROMOTION PayByPhone. On Tuesday, September 8th representatives from PayByPhone will be in Hagerstown to heavily promote the new payment option for parking. PayByPhone is a method to remotely pay for parking at any parking meter through a smart phone or other mobile device. The system is already up and running with a soft rollout of the program. Adoption of this contactless (no coins, no touch!) phone application is already very promising. The PayByPhone representatives will be downtown speaking with people and businesses encouraging use of this very easy to use phone app. Be on the lookout for these very energetic PayByPhone representatives on September 8th!

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

ELECTRIC DIVISION

Service Calls

- Wed. 08/19 - 122 Fairground Avenue: Tree limb on service. Line worker removed limb. Timeout 1630-1715.
- Sun. 08/23 - 324 Avon Road: Line worker responded to a wire down call. Wire was a Verizon service drop: Timeout 1640-1730
- Mon. 08/24 - 911 Call. Corner West Washington Street and Walnut Lane: Smoke coming out of underground conduit. The underground streetlight circuit was burning. Timeout 2326-0015

Distribution

- HLD crews completed six service upgrades this week.
- HLD crews continue to perform feeder inspections on Plant feeder #3 and Bulldog feeders #1 & #2.
- HLD crews completed the transfer of our facilities to the new pole in the 300 block of West Franklin Street.

Engineering

- Multiple permit reviews, underground locates, and service upgrade requests have been reviewed and/or completed by engineering staff.
- The Staff Engineer began coordination of multiple substation repairs and replacements to take place in the coming weeks.
- The Engineering Designer submitted multiple jobs to the Distribution Dept. for construction.
- The Staff Engineer and Distribution Dept. employees performed troubleshooting activities on a failed recloser.

WASTEWATER DIVISION

Wastewater Treatment Plant at Frederick Street

Date	Flow (mgd)	Rainfall (inches)
Wednesday, August 19, 2020	4.70	0.00
Thursday, August 20, 2020	4.84	0.00
Friday, August 21, 2020	4.70	0.00
Saturday, August 22, 2020	4.50	0.00
Sunday, August 23, 2020	4.70	0.08
Monday, August 24, 2020	4.55	0.00
Tuesday, August 25, 2020	4.59	0.00
Weekly – Avg. Flow / Total Rainfall	4.65	0.08
Aug – Avg. Flow/Total Rainfall	4.82	1.66

Miscellaneous

- Troubleshooting of intermittent PLC communication loss.
- Replaced defective street lights.
- Installing new MagOx equipment.
- Replaced flow switch on sample pump.
- Replaced defective Pelco transmitter on plant entrance gate.
- Routine MVP Plant Work orders & Corrective Work orders.

sWastewater Collection

SSES Weekly Progress

Activity	Districts	L. F. main	Feet of lateral	# inspected
CCTV Inspections	#2	658'	178'	6
Flushing	#7	7,888'		

Collection System Maintenance Tasks

- Sewer Backup, 122 North Colonial Drive, sucked out lateral, cleaned main line, will CCTV next week.
- CCTV work for Columbia Gas to confirm no conflicts, will be invoiced.
- Pump Station #7, prepared for installation of new power transfer switch.
- Pump Station #19, replaced Ultrasonic with a pressure transducer, as testing has revealed the Ultrasonics are not as reliable/durable as pressure transducers.
- Ran emergency generators and exercised pumps in the yard at the shop.
- General pump shop repair work.
- Replaced 56' of 8" main in reach 02055 - 02056, due to multiple root balls, replaced lateral at 1+47 from MH # 02055 on Belview Avenue.
- Excavated and replaced lateral at 127 Belview for roots.
- Routine maintenance on Units #525 and #526.

Administration

Wastewater Division – Customer Call Log Summary 2020							
Type	Blockages	Grinder Pumps	Odor Complaints	Flushing	WW Pump Station	Other	Totals
Weekly	1	3	0	0	0	4	8
YTD 2020	31	61	11	0	1	92	196

Engineering

- Review of Site Plan Drawings
- Gathering Information regarding inquires for sewer services
- Generating permit applications for sewer services

WATER DIVISION

Plant Flows – System Demand (MGD)

Date	Willson	Breichner	Total
08/20/20	11.78		11.78
08/21/20	11.38		11.38
08/22/20	11.17		11.17
08/23/20	11.01		11.01
08/24/20	11.23		11.23
08/25/20	11.32		11.32
08/26/20	11.31		11.31
Average			11.31

Water Production at R. C. Willson

- R.C. Willson and Pump Stations – Staff worked on facility maintenance and routine preventative maintenance.

Water Production at Breichner / Edgemont Reservoir. The Edgemont Reservoir pool elevation is currently at 1.74 feet. Site evaluation continues per the contract with Hazen and Triad. City staff and Hazen and Sawyer continue to work with MDE Dam Safety on the final Dam Evaluation Report, design criteria and project schedule. Emergency Action Plans have been completed.

Water Distribution

- Distribution crews are working throughout the system performing customer service work and new meter installations as needed.
- Crews continue to replace residential meters throughout the water service area.
- Crews completed work on Iroquois Avenue.
- Crews are continuing work in the airport area performing tank and system maintenance

Laboratory

- Process and regulatory testing were routine for the week.

Engineering

<u>Reviews:</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>County</u>
Site Plans	1	2
Preliminary Plats	-	-
Final Plats	-	-
Replat	-	-
Grading Plan	-	-
Development Plan	-	-
Building Permits	16	2

- Site Development Plan Reviews
- Construction Inspection of ongoing projects, reviewing Contractor requested changes
- Gathering information regarding inquiries about water service and fire flow data



Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott A. Nicewarner".

Scott A. Nicewarner
City Administrator