

Glance Ahead- Upcoming City and Community Wide Activities

Events listed below are either a city event or a special event permit was issued:

- **ArtWalk Live Musicians**: Friday February 9th-4 to 8 p.m.-Kress Mall
- **Special Olympics Polar Plunge**: Saturday, February 10th-8 a.m. to 4 p.m.- Jack's Island
- **Mardi Gras Celebrations and Parade**: Saturday, February 10th-8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Ghent neighborhood
- **Board of Alderman Meeting**: Tuesday, February 13th-6 p.m.
- **Redevelopment Commission Strategic Planning Session**: Thursday, February 15, 2024-6 p.m.
- **Black History Parade**: Saturday, February 17th-12:00 p.m. on 3rd and Cedar St.

City Wide

- The City of New Bern is partnering with the School of Government to conduct a Workplace Survey to give our employees an opportunity to let us know their thoughts about working for the City.
- The City of New Bern hosted a Tiger Dam demonstration this past Thursday at Union Point Park. City staff as well as representatives from several local governments across eastern North Carolina attended.



Comings, Goings, and Such

- A warm welcome to the following new employee:
Water Resources– Jennifer Patterson, Service Technician

Department Items

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Transportation Advisory Committee – MPO

During last week's TAC meeting, Members asked for a summary of two grant opportunities discussed – Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) and State Planning and Research (SP&R) Funding.

- **Carbon Reduction Program**
The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act authorized a new Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) to reduce transportation emissions. These funds can be used for any project that reduces emissions. Smaller communities such as ours have used funds to construct sidewalks or multi-use paths. Funding can be used on town, city, or state-owned roads and does require a 20% non-federal match. Applications can be submitted to NCDOT anytime, but they evaluate applications

on a quarterly basis. The MPO was working with NCDOT to use CRP funding to improve the intersection of Trent Blvd/Rhem Ave/Pollock Street/First Street by converting it to a roundabout. However, after discussion with TAC Members, they would like to focus on priorities such as installing sidewalks within the MPO planning area. Therefore, staff are no longer pursuing this option.

- **FY 2025 State Planning and Research (SP&R) Funding Program**

NCDOT grant opportunity to fund corridor studies, transit studies, roadway plans, bike/ped plans, intersection design plans, etc. It is a reimbursable grant requiring a 10% local match. Applications are due by February 29th. If selected, work could commence as early as July 2024.

Land Use

Three items were received for the February 5, submittal deadline:

- Rezoning for 624 Hancock & 413 Queen Street.
- Site Plan Review for 1125 Pinetree (Knights of Columbus)
- Special Use Permit at or near Washington Post Road for Multifamily Residence.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

- CDBG Subrecipient Applications for Public Service Programs are now available. Deadline to apply is Friday, March 1st.
- A CDBG Public Needs Hearing will be held on Monday, February 26th at 6 p.m at Development Services. We're asking the public to provide feedback on potential projects for the future.

HPC Design Review Meeting

The HPC held its Design Review Meeting Wednesday with 1 project on the agenda with the following action:

- 510 CRAVEN ST. – new, 1-story, rear addition – minor adjustments were suggested, and the application was moved forward for a hearing at the February 21 Regular Meeting.

ELECTRIC UTILITY:

- Red Bear EV Charging Site – Forty-seven (47) charging sessions in the past 7 days.
- The electric utility shared a social media post regarding seasonal fluctuations in utility bills and explains how heat strips work in the extreme cold, as well as recommendations for setting your thermostat correctly. They've shared info on how to make sure your thermostat is set correctly.

FINANCE

The Budget Workshop was held Tuesday, February 6th. Departments shared their FY24-25 goals and objectives and presented their respective budgetary needs. The Board was provided with a rating sheet for their feedback on the proposed staffing, capital outlay requests, suggested rates, and fee increases. The rating sheets are due to the Finance Department no later than Monday at 9:00 am.

FIRE-RESCUE

Incidents (38)	Child Passenger Safety Seat Installs (1)
Investigations (2)	Fire & Life Safety Events (2)
Inspections (36)	Mutual Aid Calls (1)
Home Safety Visits (5)	CO Detector Installs (1)
Education (878 people)	Smoke Detector Installs (2)
Detector Battery Installs (19)	Training (242)

HUMAN RESOURCES:

- The Director of Human Resources spoke to two 8th Grade AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) classes at HJ MacDonald Middle School on February 9, 2024. The mission of AVID is to close the opportunity gap by preparing all students for college, career readiness, and success in a global society. The purpose of AVID at the middle school level is to provide students with the skills needed to be college and career ready.

IT (No report)

PARKS & RECREATION:

Stanley White Recreation Center Construction

- 113 of 118 precast panels have been installed.
- Wiring conduit and structural steel are being installed.

Henderson Park Redevelopment

- Staff met with our consultant to discuss resiliency and hazard mitigation design for storm water improvements at Henderson Park.

Lawson Creek Park

- A New Gate and Signage have been installed at the choke point. This gate will be locked daily at sunset and open each morning at sunrise. The gate has been installed to address certain safety issues.

Special Event Applications – 4 this week.

Burials – 0 this week.

POLICE

- Police personnel and Chess Club members will travel to Virginia Beach, VA and participate in the New Bern Noble Knights vs Virginia Beach Blue Knights Chess Tournament on Saturday February 10, 2024.
- Police personnel will host Chess Club on Monday February 12, 2024, at the West New Bern Recreation Center from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Personnel will be lending their assistance with the Abundant Life Food Drive on Tuesday, February 13th.

Tip 411 Reports: **Last 7 Days: 1 Tip** **Last 30 Days: 7 Tips** **Tips**
Received This Year: 12 Tips

- NBPD continues their campaign against scams. In February & March they are regularly posting information on social media about how to protect yourself and your loved ones. The info includes what to do if your personal information is compromised and assists parents with teaching their kids about internet safety. A YouTube video produced in-house was also posted on social media that introduces viewers to the most common types of scams – via the internet and over the telephone - and what to do if you're on the receiving end.
- NBPD is also inviting the public to participate in two free seminars on Tuesday, March 12 concerning financial scams & internet safety.

PUBLIC WORKS:

- Asphalt Crew continues loose-leaf collection services throughout the City of New Bern. Loose-leaf season ends as of February 29, 2024.
- Heavy Equipment Crew performed street sweeper operations along curbed streets throughout the City of New Bern.
- Public Building Crew performed many tasks for maintenance/repairs to City buildings, equipment, and/or grounds (Mall PD., West New Bern Rec/ballfields, 911 Windhill Ct., PW Street Lot; Signage has been ordered for Fort Totten UBO
- Solid Waste Litter Crew continues to monitor/remove litter along City rights-of-ways throughout City of New Bern and continues to remove litter along US Highway 70 Bypass between Pembroke & South Glenburnie Road exits, within city limits, as part of the City's participation in the NCDOT's Adopt-A-Highway Program. The next Duffyfield Community Cleanup Event is planned for May 4, 2024. Met with Capt. Brown with PD regarding working together on illegal dumping and littering.
- Stormwater Crew continues to perform normal maintenance with cleaning/clearing of city-maintained inlets, outlets, and outfalls throughout the City of New Bern.
- Street Sweeper is down for repair and awaiting parts. A replacement sweeper is scheduled for delivery in the next 4 weeks.
- NCDOT completed traffic signal timing evaluation from Hwy. 70/Pembroke overpass to 1st street/Neuse Blvd. intersection and made changes to timing of

signal sequences to improve traffic flow.

- A new traffic roundabout is now open in James City. The New Bern Area Metropolitan Planning Organization published the information, and the City shared it to keep travelers and motorists aware of changes associated with the US 70/Future I-42 project by NCDOT.
- Craven County informed us of the need to close the 400 block of Craven Street so they could move in vehicles & equipment associated with the construction and renovations going on at the county courthouse. We generated closing information and shared it on social media. Residents who live along the 400 block were assisted to their properties by flagmen stationed along the closure area.



REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION:

- Appraisals on the Walt Bellamy Housing Project came back at more than \$160,000 for each home. The RDC is currently working on a plan for marketing the sale of these houses.

WATER RESOURCES:

- This week operations staff worked to install new connections, renew several old water and sewer services, and repair damaged services at various locations throughout the City, including Lucerne Way, Windy Trail, Clark Avenue, Penn Street, Preakness Place, Howell Road, Robertson Lane, Trent Road, and Aycok Avenue.

Significant Ward Related Items

Ward 1

- Asphalt Crew is currently assisting Piedmont Natural Gas with gas main repair on Trent Road between 3rd Street & Queen Anne Lane and has closed a short section of the west bound lane to traffic on Trent Road. Traffic is being routed into the center lane until repair can be completed by the end of next week. Asphalt Crew repaired water/sewer cuts at 413 Forbes Alley, 225 Fleet St., 1022 Walt Bellamy Dr.
- Concrete Crew repaired water/sewer cut at South Front Street & Eden Street. Driveway Inspection at 1815 Park Avenue.

- Heavy Equipment Crew trimmed trees along the rights-of-way 300 block of George St. and National Avenue. Cut and clear RDC at 710 West A. Street in preparation for demolition. Did street light maintenance and banner arm repair.
- Public Buildings Crew removed Cedar Grove Cemetery Sign for refinishing.
- The Project Coordinator worked with Piedmont Gas during gas main removal on Trent Rd/Queen Anne Lane.
- Solid Waste Litter Crew continues to monitor/remove trash near downtown consolidated trash dumpsters.
- Stormwater crew started repair to eroded area adjacent Council Bluffs river walk. Excavated and replaced driveway culvert at 1813 Park Avenue; replaced missing bricks in manhole after PNG completed relocation of gas main on Trent Road; Cleaned and reinforced roadside to lay down yard at Leaf & Limb site.

Ward 2

- Asphalt Crew repaired water/sewer cuts at 2411 Trent Road and 1315 Hunters Rd., 1404 McArthur Ave., 1607 Queen Anne Lane.
- Heavy Equipment Crew did right-a-way maintenance on Grace Ave.
- Public Buildings Crew inspected electrical issues at the West New Bern Recreation ball fields with multiple issues found to be addressed. Work has begun on these electrical repairs but still waiting on some parts; Cleaned out the inside of Concession stand and cleaned graffiti from exterior and wall repainted.

Ward 3

- Concrete Crew completed driveway inspection at 1000 & 1003 Tuppy Lane.

Ward 4:

- This past week, the City's tank maintenance contractor completed the exterior recoating of the elevated water storage tank located on Racetrack Road.
- The contractor has begun concrete driveway saw cuts and relocation of mailboxes in preparation for improvements on Racetrack Road.
- Public Buildings Crew replaced old rotten bench boards on benches along Elizabeth Avenue.

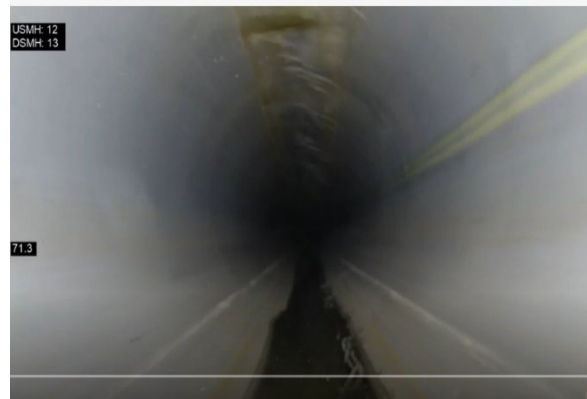
Ward 5

- This week the contractor working at Northwest Interceptor Rehabilitation project completed curing the 36" CIPP lining and began work on the manhole rehabilitation.

Before Lining



After Lining



- Asphalt Crew repaired water/sewer cuts at 1104 Goldsboro St., 1004 S. Glenburnie Road.
- Concrete Crew repaired the 25mph speed limit sign Windy Trail.
- Heavy Equipment Crew removed broken tree-top along right-of-way in Duffyfield.
- Stormwater Crew did cleaning and maintenance at pump station at Jack Smith Creek Wetlands.

Ward 6

- Stormwater Crew re-visited double culverts at the lake in Greenbriar to seal more leaks.