



# sanitation news

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Spring 2007

## COMMISSIONER'S MESSAGE

### A GREAT DAY FOR THE DEPARTMENT



elements once again showed the world that when it comes to fighting snow, sleet or freezing rain, nobody does it better than NYC Sanitation.

From the hilly streets of the northern Bronx, to busy commercial areas in Brooklyn and Queens, to winding ter-

**S**aturday, March 17th was not only a great St. Patrick's Day, but it was a great day for all of New York, as the dedicated men and women of the Department did their usual exemplary job in removing nearly six inches of frozen snow and sleet that was dumped on our city. The job done by the thousands of employees who battled the ele-

mentary roads on Staten Island, your professionalism was evident, and I have emails from New Yorkers to prove it!

At the same time on Manhattan's Fifth Avenue, where hundreds of thousands of people were to gather for the annual St. Patrick's Day parade, a squad of 85 workers used three snow melters, a variety of snow plows, salt spreaders and squeegee plows to eliminate the frozen mess left by the unprecedented 12-hour long sleet storm.

Television reporters praised the Department's quick work and Mayor Bloomberg added his personal gratitude as he marched up Fifth Avenue with the Department's Emerald Society and its fabulous Pipes and Drums later that day.

Once again, the city and the world were able to see why when it comes to Sanitation, the Department reigns supreme. I thank all of you for your hard work and dedication to our great city.



Snow plows along a cleared Fifth Avenue, as the faithful file into St. Patrick's Cathedral



## SANITATION JOB FAIR DRAWS HUNDREDS OF JOB SEEKERS

The Department held an enormously successful engineering job fair in May to fill many high-needs positions in Sanitation, such as engineers (civil, environmental, structural, mechanical and electrical), project managers, and architects. Salaries for available positions began at \$37,050 to \$90,000. The job fair drew several hundred applicants, all vying for a position with New York's Strongest. Good luck to all applicants and future employees. Shown, left to right, are Michael Massi, Director, Engineering Unit; Ted Nabavi, Director, Waste Management Engineering; Deputy Commissioner Lorenzo Cipollina, Financial Management and Administration; Chief Michael Mucci, Director, Bureau of Waste Disposal.

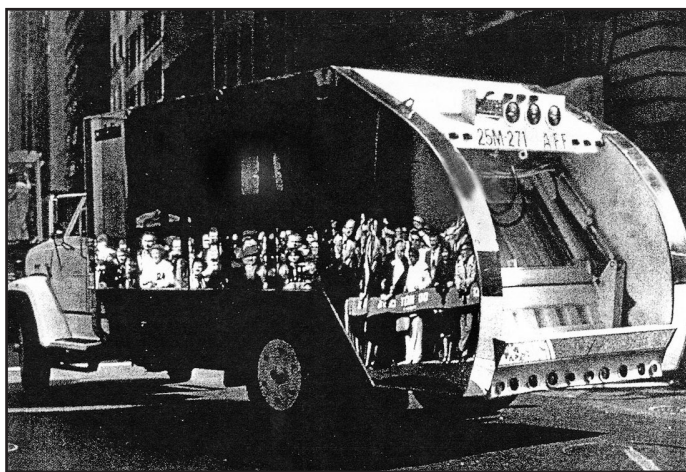
## SANITATION AND KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL LAUNCH KEEP NEW YORK CITY BEAUTIFUL AFFILIATE

On April 24th, the Department and Keep America Beautiful (KAB), a non-profit organization that leads cleanup and beautification efforts nationwide, launched Keep New York City Beautiful (KNYCB), an affiliate of the national organization that will bring KAB's mission to the city.

KNYCB is the fruit of a three-year-long collaboration between the Department and KAB on programs that improve the cleanliness and beauty of the city. KNYCB will be actively involved in neighborhood clean-ups, graffiti removal, urban greenspace initiatives, tree plantings and other improvement programs throughout the city.

"I'm proud to announce that New York is joining Keep America Beautiful as one of its affiliates. Today, New York is the cleanest it's been in over three decades, thanks to the hard-work and dedication of the men and women of the Sanitation Department. With the formation of KNYCB, it will also be the most beautiful," said Commissioner Doherty.

G. Raymond Empson, president of KAB said "Keep America Beautiful is proud to add Keep New York City Beautiful to our national network of over 1,000 affiliates and participating organizations. With America's largest city on board, our entire organization benefits."



## THE DEPARTMENT'S 'MIRROR TRUCK' A SMASH AT THE ARMORY SHOW

The Department proudly displayed *The Social Mirror*, a 12-ton, 28-foot long collection truck reconfigured with glass panels, at the very successful Armory Show in February. This unique work of art was created by Mierle Laderman Ukeles, the Department's official artist-in-residence and the Percent for Art Artist of Fresh Kills Park. *The Social Mirror* was the highlight of the inaugural New York City Art Parade in 1983, and is a permanent, mobile public art work that the Department proudly displays in parades and various special events.



## SANITATION WORKER CLIMBS TO THE TOP OF MOUNT KILIMANJARO IN TANZANIA

While on a three-week trip to East Africa, Sanitation Worker Tommy Hart of Staten Island District 1, who is also a member of the Sanitation Running Team, climbed to the top of the legendary Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, the world's highest free-standing mountain at 15,000 ft. from its base to its summit. Sanitation Worker Hart also participated in the Kilimanjaro Marathon in Moshi, Tanzania. Pictured here is Sanitation Worker Hart on top of the highest point in Africa, Uhuru Peak, at 19,340 ft.



# SANITATION RECOGNIZES SAFEST DISTRICTS AT SEMI-ANNUAL ACCIDENT REDUCTION AWARDS

In March, the Department held its Accident Reduction Awards Ceremony to honor seven districts, the Enforcement Division, and the Queens East Borough Command for their commitment to safety and accident reduction in the workplace. The awards were presented for the period of January 2006 through June 2006 to commands that significantly reduced their number of accidents.

Commissioner Doherty said, "Sanitation Workers and other DSNY workers operate many specialized pieces of heavy-duty equipment, which must be operated with respect and awareness of the dangers they pose. The Department is proud of all the award recipients, who display the utmost safety and concern for fellow workers and New Yorkers alike."

The following commands received awards (in alphabetical order):

<u>Command</u>	<u>Reduction</u>
Bronx District 1 . . . . .	84.62%
Brooklyn North District 3 . . . . .	50%
Brooklyn South District 11 . . . . .	70.59%
Enforcement . . . . .	7.41%
Manhattan District 4/4A. . . . .	72.73%
Queens East Borough . . . . .	24%
Queens East District 10 . . . . .	53.57%
Queens West District 6. . . . .	53.33%
Staten Island District 3 . . . . .	52%



## SANITATION WORKER TOOK THE PLUNGE FOR CYSTIC FIBROSIS

In February, Sanitation Worker Danny Fox of Queens West District 2 jumped at the chance to participate in the 7th Annual 'Take the Plunge for Cystic Fibrosis' fundraising event in Belle Harbor, Queens. The annual event raises awareness for cystic fibrosis, an often fatal affliction, by having participants jump into the Atlantic Ocean at the Belle Harbor Yacht Club.

Sanitation Worker Fox, who sits on the Board of Directors of the Department's Emerald Society and is also a drummer in the organization's award-winning Pipes and Drums Band, decided to participate in the 'plunge' to help bring awareness to a disease that affects 30,000 people in the United States, and 30,000 in other parts of the world. According to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the disease causes the body to produce abnormally thick mucus, clogging the airways and often leads to life-threatening lung infections. Cystic Fibrosis also obstructs the pancreas, preventing the absorption and digestion of food. People afflicted with this disease normally don't live past their 30's.

For Sanitation Worker Fox, however, the fight against a life-threatening disease didn't begin with cystic fibrosis. His mother died of lupus nearly six months after he joined the Department. "My mother was like my best friend. If she could see me now, it would be a dream come true for her, and I plan to stay involved and make a difference," he said. He is also confident that his mother would be proud of not only his involvement in the 'plunge,' but also his work as a sanitation worker, a job Fox unabashedly called "the best job in the city — hands down."

Deputy Chief Thomas Doyle, president of the Department's Emerald Society, said that in the last 20 years they have raised over \$80,000 towards finding a cure for cystic fibrosis, mainly through their annual golf outing. This began when former second vice president and Department retiree Mike Ryan found out his niece suffered from the disease. Initially, the society was sending the money down south to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's South Carolina Chapter, as Ryan's niece was living there. After Ryan retired, the fraternal organization decided to give to the New York Chapter of the CFF.



## NEARLY 40,000 FILE FOR SANITATION WORKER EXAM

What a success! Nearly 40,000 people filed for the Sanitation Worker Written Exam that is scheduled for June 9th. The Department got the word out on how to join New York's Strongest via advertisements on radio stations and newspapers, with seven Sanitation Workers appearing in the ads. Pictured clockwise are Sanitation Workers Erica Glinski, Chris Corio, Peter Chin, Milton Eng, Danielle Caddy, Daphne Roman, and Kevin Talford. Good luck to all applicants.

## **Collector's Items:**

**Congratulations to...** Paul Hoffman, District Superintendent of Manhattan 1, on his public service award from the Downtown Alliance; William Knox, son of Diana Knox, Legal Affairs, for his graduation from Virginia Union University; Doug Luback, Supervisor of Mechanics II, Support Services, and his family, being honored by the United Veterans and Fraternal Organizations of Maspeth, for their contribution to war veterans; Levada Rice, Clerical Associate, recipient of the 2006 Isaac Liberman Public Service Award, who also received \$1,000 from The Hundred Year Association of New York, for her untiring efforts coordinating the Department's blood drive; Danielle Marie Turner, daughter of Sanitation Worker John Turner, Staten Island 3, for winning CBS television's "The Amazing Race All Stars"; Nicole Turso, daughter of Deputy Commissioner Vito A. Turso, Public Information & Community Affairs, for being awarded the top graduating 2007 Journalism Student at St. John's University, Queens Campus; and to all who participated in "Take Our Children To Work Day."

**Moving on...** Hans L. Bandison, District Superintendent of Queens West 9, has stepped down as President of the DSNY African-American Benevolent Society. His shoes are being filled by Supervisor Vincent Murdock, Brooklyn North 3, on an interim basis.

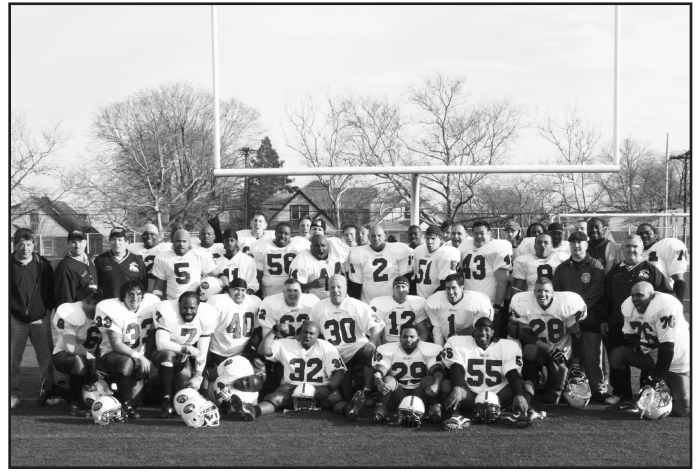
**Thank You...** Chief Thomas Zarcone, Director, Personnel Management Division, Deputy Chief Mike Bonacorsa, PMD, and Joseph DiPiazza, Director, Human Resources, for their volunteer efforts as coordinators for the United Way's 2006 Combined Municipal Campaign; Sanitation Worker Eric Stephens, Manhattan Lot Cleaning, for volunteering in the "Miracle on 138<sup>th</sup> Street", in December, an event that helped provide more than 355 tons of food and personal care items to 10,000 families.

**Discounts...** Modell's Sporting Goods Stores are continuing to offer a 10% discount on all purchases made by Sanitation employees. All you need to do is show your DSNY ID card.

## **HEALTH BENEFITS TO FAMILIES OF LINE OF DUTY DEATHS**

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, Mayor Bloomberg signed into legislation Local Law No. 22 of 2007, which provides health benefits to the surviving family members of Sanitation Department uniformed employees who die in the line of duty while in active service. This new law now puts Sanitation uniformed ranks on par with city police officers and firefighters. In the past, families of Sanitation Workers or other DSNY uniformed members who asked for health benefits were handled on a case-by-case basis.

"No words can properly express the loss that we all feel when a dedicated City employee loses their life in the line of duty. This historic law will eliminate the need for separate legislation each time the Department loses a member of its uniformed force, a practice that has become necessary too many times over the past couple of years," said Commissioner Doherty.



## **DSNY FOOTBALL DEFEATS WASHINGTON D.C. GENERALS IN OVERTIME**

What a way to start the season! On April 14<sup>th</sup>, the Department's official football team, New York's Strongest, beat the Washington D.C. Fire and Police Department's Generals in a thrilling 14-8 overtime victory at Bayside High School Field, Queens. The winning score was a spectacular running touchdown by Daryl 'The Animal' Paulk of Queens West District 1.

New York's Strongest was cheered on by a large and enthusiastic crowd of DSNY faithful, and the halftime show was masterfully performed by the Department's own Emerald Society Pipes and Drums. The Department looks forward to an exciting season. Congratulations to coach Patty McCutchen and his coaching squad.

Go Team!

## **sanitation news**

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