sanitation news online

March 2015

Commissioner's Column

In the past several weeks, we have fought a steady stream of snow and ice storms. Across the Department, I have been impressed again and again by the continued dedication of our employees. As I have said before, we are the front lines in the fight against winter storms, and I am so proud of the great work we have done this winter.

But that is not the only work happening at the Department; today we opened the first Marine Transfer Station (MTS) at North Shore. The first load was dumped by S/W **Michael Vella** early in the morning. This $200 million state-of-the-art facility will manage more than 1,750 tons of residential waste per day from eastern Queens. North Shore MTS is one of the cornerstones of the City's comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP), and it is the first of four converted marine transfer stations that will open over the next three years. Like at the Staten Island Transfer Station, DSNY employees will load waste into sealed shipping containers, which will be transported by barge and rail by our contractor, Covanta, for final disposal at energy-from-waste facilities in Pennsylvania and Upstate New York. I would like to thank Deputy Director of Solid Waste Management Operations **Thomas Killeen**, Director of the Bureau of Building Maintenance **Neil Gallaher**, and all of the Department staff who worked tirelessly over the past several months to prepare the facility for opening day. DSNY continues to construct the other three MTSs at East 91st Street, Hamilton Avenue and Southwest Brooklyn, which together with the construction of rail access at the Review Avenue Transfer Station will complete the implementation of the SWMP. The Department, along with the Department of Design and Construction, also recently began the design process for the Gansevoort MTS, which will accept recyclable material for transport to Sims and Pratt.

Also this month, the rules enforcing the State electronic waste disposal ban and illegal clothing bin law take effect, allowing the Department to begin enforcing both rules and issue violations. The City Council passed the clothing bin bill last November, and the law authorizes the Department to immediately

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Spotted on Television

Al Roker, weatherman on NBC's Today Show, admired Mayor de Blasio's DSNY jacket so much a few weeks ago, we had one made especially for him. He has worn it on the Today Show twice, and thanked the Mayor. He forecasts warmer weather is just around the corner.

Collector's Notes

- Chief **Stephen Harbin**, DSNY Safety Director, was profiled in a recent issue of the NYC Fleet Newsletter. Read it here.
- The Office of Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) has changed its name to the **Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion**. They are at 137 Centre Street, Room 505, and may be reached at 212-437-4214.
- The next DSNY **Columbia Association** general meeting will be March 26, at 6 p.m. Details to be released shortly.
- The **AABS' Spring Dance** will be held Saturday, May 23, at Occasions Banquet Hall. More information will follow.

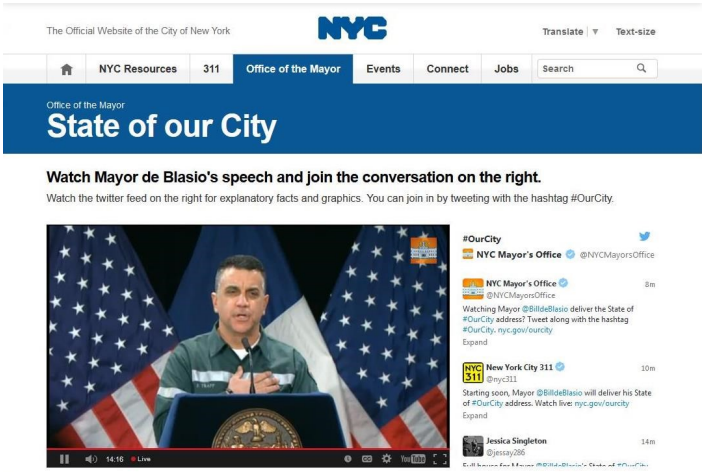
Skid Steers in Snow

This snow season, the Department has started to use skid steers. The equipment is in all five boroughs and is being used to help clear out cross walks.

Out of Town to Boston

DSNY along with representatives from OEM and DOT sent a team of officers, Sanitation Workers and mechanics to Beantown to help Boston dig out from the 100 inches of snow they have received. Thanks to all involved for your hard work and lending a hand to a city in need. New York Strongest helped Boston Strong—Good Job!

S/W Trapp at State of City



Thank you to Sanitation Worker **Frederick Trapp** for representing DSNY and leading the Pledge of Allegiance at the State of City speech in February.

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remove any clothing collection bins illegally placed on public property. Since the law passed, the number of unsightly clothing bins on public property has plummeted, from 135 in November to just 12 today.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate **Jason Chen** and **Juan Saldana** of the Bureau of Public Affairs for being awarded 2015 Excellence in Customer Service Awards by the Mayor's Office. Our community outreach and customer service teams answer questions from our over 8 million customers on topics ranging from garbage collection to snow operations to how to properly recycle or dispose of a variety of materials. Both Jason and Juan have displayed commitment and professionalism that brings great honor to the Department.

Kathryn Garcia

Autism Speaks—April 2, 2015

The New York City Department of Sanitation is proud to continue our support of **Autism Speaks**. Starting later this month, department collection trucks and mechanical brooms will feature this special Autism Speaks poster. In addition, a special kick-off event is scheduled for early April.

Tunes for the St. Patrick's Day Season

The **DSNY Emerald Society's Pipes and Drums** are getting ready for a busy March. Be sure to catch them at an upcoming parade appearance.

- March 7th — Rockaway Parade
- March 14th — Scranton, PA
- March 15th — Eastchester, NY
- March 17th — 5th Avenue, New York City
- March 21st — Yonkers, NY
- March 22nd — Bay Ridge, Brooklyn
- March 22nd — Mamaroneck, NY

Dedicated to Customer Service

Congratulations to **Jason Chen** (left) and **Juan Saldana** (right) of the Bureau of Public Affairs for being awarded 2015 Excellence in Customer Service Awards by the Mayor's Office.