



# sanitation news

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Summer 2013

## COMMISSIONER'S MESSAGE

It was with great pleasure that I was able to stand by Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Deputy Mayor for Operations Cas Holloway earlier this year as we announced the largest expansion of the City's recycling program in the last 25 years. Now, all rigid plastics - those inflexible, fixed-shaped plastics used in toys, yogurt cups, food containers, hangers and plastic drink cups - can go right into your recycling bin.

Prior to this expansion, The Department could only collect certain types of plastics for recycling. It was confusing for some residents to figure out what types of plastic containers could go in to the recycle bin, and which ones were supposed to go in to the trash. With this expansion, we have taken all the worry and confusion away. And that means fewer contaminated recycling bags curbside. If it's a rigid, hard plastic, it gets set aside for recycling. End of story.

When we reduce the amount of garbage we have to ship out, we save money and help the environment. Right now, our export budget for trash is more than \$300 million a year. That is money that we can put to much better use and is precisely why all City residents must do their part and recycle what they no longer need.

This program expansion is part of the City's comprehensive 20-year Solid Waste Management Plan and will help us reach the goal Mayor Bloomberg has set to double the City's current recycling rate to 30 percent by 2017. I hope that by expanding our current recycling programs, adding new recycling programs such as food scrap, or organics collection, and providing more resident education, we can reach, if not exceed, this reasonable goal.



But a program announcement will not mean all that much unless all City residents do their part to make this a successful endeavor, and we know outreach to residents plays an important role. You and your neighbors may have already received a postcard in the mail clearly showing what types of recyclable materials we now collect on a weekly basis in our curbside mixed-stream recycling program. We hope this will help remind of neighbors that more plastics are now recyclable.

## DSNY MOURNS THE LOSS OF TWO IN OUR FAMILY

On Tuesday, May 14 DSNY lost two of our family members, with the passing of Sanitation Worker **Vincent Ferrara** (Bronx 5) and Sanitation Worker **Danny Nieves** (Brooklyn 4). Sanitation Worker Ferrara was 67-years-old, and died suddenly in the early morning while in the garage. He worked with the Department for 42 years. For many years, he worked beside his father, who was also a sanitation worker at Bronx 5 until 1991.



Sanitation Worker Ferrara was also a veteran of the military and served in the U.S. Army. Sanitation Worker Nieves, 32-years old, died from injuries suffered in an off-duty motorcycle accident. He had worked with the Department for seven years.

Our thoughts are with the family and friends of **Sanitation Worker Ferrara** and **Sanitation Worker Nieves**.



## UPCOMING HONORS FOR CHIEF MARSIGLIA AND ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER TERMINI

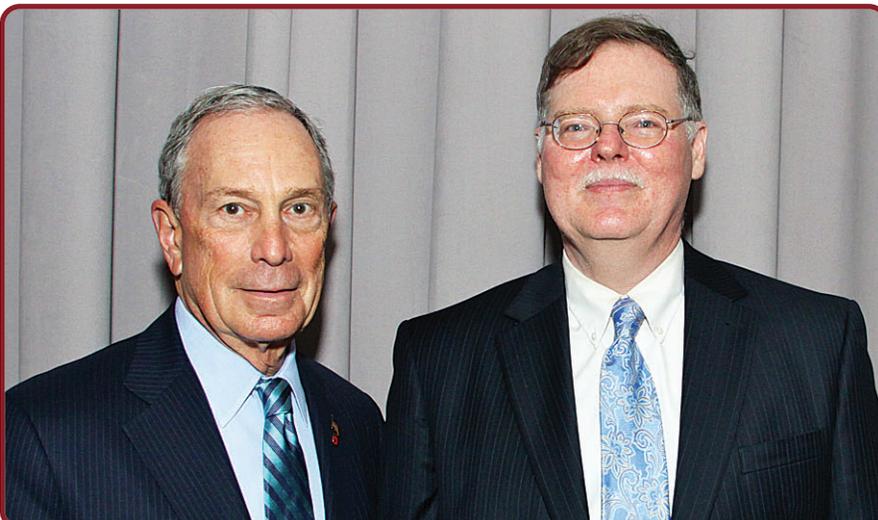


Three cheers for Chief of Cleaning Douglas Marsiglia! He was selected as the DSNY Columbia Association's 2013 Italian American of the Year! Chief Marsiglia will be bestowed this honor on Columbus Day Weekend at the group's Annual Dinner Dance.

In addition, the Columbia Association selected Maria Termini, Associate Commissioner of the Division of Customer Service and Governmental Relations as Honorary Marshal. She will lead the delegation at the 69th Annual Columbus Day Parade on Monday, October 14...the first female to do so in the Association's History. Congratulations to both!



## PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD FOR ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER GLEASON



**Phillip Gleason**, Assistant Commissioner of Waste Management Engineering, was recently honored as one of the 2013 Alfred P. Sloan Public Service Award winners. The awards are administered through the Fund for the City of New York and recognizes civil servants whose "work performance and commitment to the public transcend not merely the ordinary but the extraordinary." Commissioner Doherty said "Phil sees what needs to be done, and he sees eight steps ahead of anyone. We can't do without him." Congratulations to Phil on this well-deserved recognition!

## RECYCLING FOOD SCRAPS

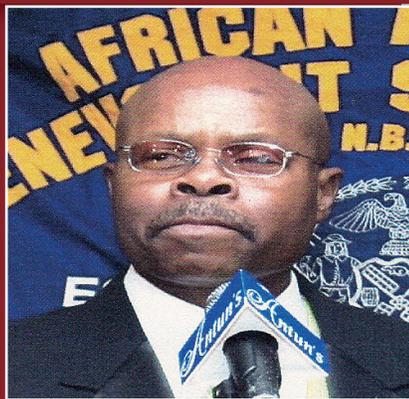
DSNY has begun to offer pilot residential organic recycling programs in the City in which residents are now able to send their organics for recycling directly from their homes. After collection, the food waste, coffee grounds and soiled paper are taken to a processing facility where it is turned in to compost and made available to the City and nonprofits for use in gardening, soil mitigation and habitat improvements. Following a successful pilot program, a residential high-rise building in Manhattan became the first in the City to offer organics recycling to all their tenants. In addition, families living in Westerleigh on Staten Island are currently taking part in a pilot curbside organics collection program. In the first month, 43 percent of households have participated in the program, contributing more than 54 tons of material. We hope to expand organics collection to more and more residents in years to come.



## WISHES FOR A HAPPY RETIREMENT

After 32 years with DSNY, St. Joseph Middleton will be retiring. In his more than three decades with the Department, he has also provided his expertise and leadership to Local 831 and the African American Benevolent Society.

Thank you for your many years of dedicated service to the Department. We wish you all the best in the years to come.



## SERVING...SANITATION WORKERS



Mierle Laderman Ukeles, DSNY Artist-in-Residence since 1977, staged her latest performance artwork in early June, **“SERVING...”** with DSNY Sanitation Workers as honored guests. As part of her Maintenance Art Works efforts, Mierle wanted her latest work to highlight the principle of “transfer and exchange,” where Sanitation Workers who work day-in and day-out to serve the public are themselves served in public. In speaking with the Sanitation Workers, Mierle noted **“Just as you always serve everyone, literally everyone in the City, we want to serve you!”** Mierle, along with curators from the Whitney Independent Study Program, served the Sanitation Workers lunch, and joined them in conversation at the table.

## LOOKING OUT FOR OLD GLORY

After finding American flags thrown away in the garbage, Sanitation Worker Ed Shevlin (QE-14) has committed himself to giving torn and tattered flags a proper sendoff. Working with Eagle Scouts and the military to ensure the flags are properly disposed, Sanitation Worker Shevlin collects the flags from all across the City. To date, he has saved about 550 flags from the garbage.



## CELEBRATING THE PUERTO RICAN DAY PARADE



Many DSNY employees and their families enjoyed the Puerto Rican Day Parade as they marched up 5th Avenue in celebration of the annual event.

## ROBIN NAGLE BOOK LAUNCH



Dr. Robin Nagle, DSNY anthropologist-in-residence and professor at New York University, recently signed copies of her new book “Picking Up: On the Streets and Behind the Trucks with the Sanitation Workers of New York City” at the City Store.

Dr. Nagle’s interest in trash followed a childhood camping trip where she saw an area of campers’ garbage piling up in otherwise pristine forest. Always top-of-mind through the years, Nagle was already working as an anthropologist when she applied for and passed the Sanitation Worker exam. She then joined DSNY as a uniformed sanitation worker, taking on collection routes and driving DSNY vehicles in an effort to learn more about the people responsible for hauling the City’s garbage. She published her observations and experiences in the book, giving readers an insider’s view of the world’s largest municipal sanitation force.

## COLLECTORS ITEMS

DSNY Night with the Brooklyn Cyclones is fast approaching. Your \$16 seat includes a Field Box seat, a Cyclones cap, and a hot dog, chips and a fountain drink. This year, the game is Saturday, August 10 at 6 p.m. To purchase tickets, look for the DSNY flyer, or contact Craig Coughlin at **718-382-2601** or [ccoughlin@brooklyncyclones.com](mailto:ccoughlin@brooklyncyclones.com).

Dr. Robin Nagle, our Anthropologist-in-Residence and author, hosts a panel discussion on August 13 at the Museum of the City of New York to discuss her work looking inside the world of New York City’s Sanitation Workers. Commissioner Doherty will join her for the 6:30 p.m. discussion. For more information, visit [www.mcny.org](http://www.mcny.org).

## HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?

If you would like to submit your news for possible publication in Sanitation News, please contact Belinda Mager in the Public Information Office at [bmager@dsny.nyc.gov](mailto:bmager@dsny.nyc.gov) or **646-885-5020**.

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**Vito A. Turso,**  
Deputy Commissioner

**Contributors (text and photos):**  
**Kathy Dawkins,**  
Director

**Keith W. Mellis,** Deputy Chief  
Executive Officer

**Belinda Mager,**  
Public Information Officer

**Michael Anton,**  
Photographer

Graphics Assistance by:  
**Vincent Provenzano, Yelena Lyutina, Wayne R. Carter**