



sanitation news

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THE RETURN OF THE RECYCLABLES!



JOHN J. DOHERTY
Commissioner

April 1st was a proud day for the Department as the return of full weekly recycling of glass, metal, plastic, paper, and cardboard kicked off a special "Earth Day 2004."

Since the resumption of full recycling, glass bottles and jars have been placed out for weekly collection in clear plastic bags or blue labeled containers along with aluminum foil, metal cans, plastic bottles and jugs, beverage cartons and juice boxes. Mixed paper and cardboard continues to be placed out for weekly collection in clear plastic bags or green labeled containers.

The Department placed ads and flyers in daily and weekly newspapers, mounted posters on collection trucks, mailed brochures to building managers, owners, and homeowners, launched a full-scale telephone outreach effort, and ran television and radio ads.

I am proud of the efforts of the Department for the swift and efficient

transition back to weekly recycling and the collection of glass. I am now confident that New York can enjoy an even stronger and more efficient recycling program.

One of the reasons is that recycling vendors finally came forward with more favorable processing fees. Two years ago, we faced onerous fees of more than \$100 per ton for metal, plastic and glass. Today, thanks to Mayor Bloomberg's leadership, these costs are down to about \$50 per ton... or half of what they would have been.

If New Yorkers have any questions about recycling, they should look at the informational brochure we mailed to every household, visit our web site (www.nyc.gov/sanitation), or simply call 311.

THE SANITATION CHIEFS ASSOCIATION RETIREMENT DINNER

The Sanitation Chiefs Association Retirement Dinner was held on May 11th at Russo's on the Bay in Queens. Congratulations to all of the well deserving retired Chiefs. Shown (*l to r*) are Chief John Francis, Manhattan Borough (Master of Ceremony); Chief Bennett Dickerson, PMD; Deputy Chief Earl Batts, Queens East; Chief Anthony Pappas, BCC; Russ Taormina, President of Chiefs Association; Chief Rocco Sabatella, Chief of Cleaning Operations; Deputy Chief Thomas DeNunzio, OMD; Deputy Chief James DeNunzio, BCC; Chief Benedict Cecere, Director BCC. Enjoy your retirement. We will always remember all of you.



“WE’RE BETTER THAN THEY THINK”

by Supervisor John Manley, BX 2

WHEN I TOOK THE JOB, BACK IN THE SPRING OF 1981,
IT WAS A LOT OF HARD WORK BUT ALSO HAD ITS FUN
AND WHEN THE “PRETTY GIRLS” AT THE GARBAGEMAN DID WINK,
I SOON REALIZED, WE’RE BETTER THAN THEY THINK

IN THOSE DAYS WE TOOK EVERYTHING THAT WAS LEFT OUT AT THE CURB,
AND AT NIGHT WE WERE TOLD TO BE QUIET,
AND THE SLEEPING PUBLIC NOT TO DISTURB,
AND AT THE END OF THE ROUTE, BOY DID I STINK,
BUT I WAS OKAY WITH ME, I’M BETTER THAN THEY THINK

MOST TIMES WE PICKED UP GARBAGE, BUT SOMETIMES WE SWEEPED THE STREETS,
JUST ARMED WITH A BROOM AND A SHOVEL, AND OUR OWN TWO HANDS AND FEET,
THE RAIN GOT YOU WET, THE SUN TURNED YOU PINK,
BUT IT WAS PART OF THE JOB, AND BESIDES WE’RE BETTER THAN THEY THINK

MOST TIMES WE’RE INVISIBLE TO THE PUBLIC, AND THEY PAY US NO MIND
BUT WHEN THE SNOW COMES, A BETTER DEPARTMENT ON EARTH YOU COULDN’T FIND,
WE WORK TOGETHER AS A TEAM, “ONE STRONG CHAIN WITH EVEN STRONGER LINKS,
‘DAMN’ WE’RE GOOD, EVEN BETTER THAN I THINK”

AND WHEN THE EVENTS OF 9-11 SHOCKED OUR MIGHTY TOWN,
THE DEPARTMENT WAS THERE TO CLEAN-UP, AND HELP OUT ALL AROUND
THE WORST CONDITIONS IMAGINABLE, AND LIKE A WELL OILED MACHINE WITHOUT A KINK,
EVEN THE MAYOR SAID, “THEY’RE BETTER THEN WE THINK”

PRIDE IS WHAT WE MUST HAVE AND YOU CAN TAKE IT FROM ME,
WE ARE NOT GARBAGEMEN AND GARBAGEWOMEN, BUT RATHER PEOPLE OF DEBRIS,
AND ALTHOUGH THE COPS AND FIREMEN IN THE NEWS PAPERS GET ALL THE INK,
IT DOESN’T MATTER, WE KNOW BETTER, “WE’RE BETTER THAN THEY THINK”

Sanitation to Honor Employees of the Year And Merit Award Winners

The Department will host its Annual Awards Ceremony honoring Employees of the Year and Merit Award recipients, on Tuesday, June 29, 2004 at the Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College. Mayor Bloomberg and Commissioner Doherty will recognize over 450 employees who consistently perform their duties in an outstanding manner.

Commissioner Doherty will also administer the Oaths of Office to General Superintendent III Patrick Collins and General Superintendent II Raymond Haywood as well as 410 new Sanitation Workers. Six Gold Medals of Honor will be presented to employees who risked their own physical safety to come to the aid of others. The Gold Medal Awardees are Sanitation Workers James McFarland and Steven Mincelli, Queens West 5; Sanitation Workers Charles Judge and William Ruocco, Queens West 6; and Sanitation Workers Steven Urcinoli and William Whalen, Staten Island 1. Additionally, Silver Medals of Honor, Bronze Medals of Honor, and Distinguished Service Certificates will be awarded to employees for outstanding acts of heroism.

Congratulations to all employees being honored. You exemplify the dedication and hard work that upholds the excellence of our Department.

Cooley’s Anemia Defense

The DSNY football team, New York’s Strongest, dedicated its annual homecoming game to the Queens Chapter of Cooley’s Anemia Foundation, a non-profit foundation committed to finding a cure for Cooley’s Anemia, a rare inherited blood disorder found in children and young adults. All proceeds were raised in an effort to increase public awareness, education, fellowships, and to elevate research funds.

Neighbors, friends, families, and football fans came to watch New York’s Strongest play the Phoenix Thunder, the Phoenix Police and Fire Departments. Each supporter paid \$10 to enter which included a chance for a raffle to win a 36-inch flat screen television. Queens Public Access Television filmed the game and will be airing it this summer.



CYCLING FOR A CURE

In September, Dorothy LaPre, wife of Personnel Management Division’s Eddie LaPre, will be participating in a 275 mile bike-a-thon, “Braking the Cycle,” to benefit the HIV/AIDS services of the Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center in New York. The center provides support and advocacy to people living with HIV/AIDS. Since the center was founded, thousands have attended the annual World AIDS Day vigils, educational forums, and leadership trainings in HIV prevention.

From September 10-12, Mrs. LaPre will be riding her bike for this noble cause. She has committed to raising over \$3,500 and is actively seeking sponsors to support her ride, which ultimately supports the Center. To make a donation, log onto www.brakingthecycle.org. You can pull down a list of participants and make your pledge under Dorothy LaPre’s name. Good Luck, Dorothy.

Desperately Seeking . . . A Sani-maritan!

A grateful, Brenda Aylward, recently submitted a ‘Voice of the People’ letter to the editor of the Daily News seeking a Sanitation worker, whom she called a “Sani-maritan,” who came to her rescue while a busload of Pfizer employees became lost trying to locate the funeral for co-worker Marie McSweeney, a woman who was tragically killed while driving when a rock thrown from an overpass by an unknown assailant caused an accident. The Sani-maritan, Timothy O’ Sullivan’s, domestic partner answered the News Voicers’ plea by stating, “That sanit-man is my significant other. Thank you on behalf of both of us. It’s nice to know that there is still kindness in this unkind world.” The Department is proud to have people like Timothy O’ Sullivan as part of our team.

SANITATION'S HEROS

Acts of heroism seem to be as frequent as daily garbage collection for some of New York's Strongest. On April 26th Sanitation Workers William Whalen, S11, and Steven Urcinoli, S11, noticed fire and black smoke coming from a building. Without hesitation, they ran to the front door and kicked it in alerting all of the residents to get out. They also rescued a woman, her two young children, as well as a pet bird from the burning building.

The Department applauds your heroics and is truly thankful to have you as members of our dynamic team. Job well done!



DSNY PRAISED FOR DIESEL POLLUTION REDUCTION EFFORTS

Jane M. Kenny, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regional Administrator, has applauded the Department for reducing diesel pollution by placing special pollution controls on trucks and sweepers, using ultra-low sulfur fuel and purchasing alternate fuel vehicles for its fleet.

Ms. Kenny said, "The NYC Department of Sanitation is leading the way in attacking diesel pollution. Every clean truck or sweeper brings us closer to our goal of making that black puff of smoke from dirty diesels a thing of the past."

The Department uses ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel throughout the boroughs of Manhattan and the Bronx, and plans to expand all facilities this year. Currently, there are over 150 collection vehicles and nearly 350 street sweepers operating with special pollution control devices citywide. DSNY is the first city department to implement the use of ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel.

Kudos to Assistant Commissioner Rocco DiRico and his Support Services staff on this achievement.

For more information on diesel pollution and EPA's reduction efforts, visit www.epa.gov/cleandiesel. For more information about DSNY's involvement, visit <http://www.nyc.gov/html/dos>.

Time is Running Out!

The World Trade Center Health Registry is a project determined to trace the long-term physical and mental health effects of the 9/11 attack and its aftermath on New Yorkers, especially those who worked on the rescue and recovery effort. The Registry will end as of **August 2004**, therefore we are urging everyone to enroll in the Registry if:

- You were in a building, on the street, or on the subway south of Chambers Street on 9/11/01.
- You were a worker involved in the rescue, recovery, clean up, or other activities at the WTC site and/or WTC Recovery Operations on Staten Island any time between 9/11/01 and 6/30/02.
- If you were a student enrolled in or a staff member at a school (pre-K-12) or a day care center south of Canal Street on 9/11/01.
- If you were living south of Canal Street on 9/11/01.

Those who enroll will be asked to participate in a 30-minute telephone interview. Questions asked will include:

- "Where were you on 9/11?"
- "How long were you in areas with smoke and fumes?"
- "Have you had any health problems since 9/11?"

Those persons eligible can enroll by calling **1-866-NYC-WTCR**, or you can call **311** for general information about the Registry. You can also visit the website wtcregistry.org. If you are uncertain of your eligibility, please call or visit the website as soon as you can; we do not want to exclude any of you who might be eligible to join the Registry.

More than 1,200 DSNY employees already have joined the registry. We hope that you will see the importance of this Registry and enroll before times runs out!

Collector's Items

Our Condolences . . . To Supervisor Louis Seeley, Print Shop, for the loss of his mother Dorothy and to Supervisor Harshad Shah, BBM, for the loss of his son. The DSNY expresses its deepest sympathy. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. **Congratulations . . .** To Chief Al Ferguson, OMD, and wife, Sharon, on the birth of their daughter, Lauren, on February 5, 2004. Also, to Sanitation Worker Anthony Sorrentino and wife Patricia, Public Information, on the birth of their first grandchild, Alyssa, born April 2, 2004. We wish you all happy days to come! **Well Done . . .** To Chief Pat Collins, 23-year veteran of the Department, upon his graduation from John Jay College. Chief Collins received a Bachelors degree in Public Administration. Great work! **FYI . . .** The DSNY Softball league is open to all boroughs. Any district interested in entering a team in the league should contact the following individuals: Supervisor Vincent Romano, BKS 11, (718) 714-2708; Supervisor Vincent Buccheri, PMD Operations, (646) 885-8344; Sanitation Worker James Gioia, BKS 14, (917) 470-8344. **Proud Parent . . .** Congratulations Superintendent Jerry Robson, BK North, for your son Matthew Robson's accomplishment on being accepted to Harvard Law School. We wish Matthew much success in the future! **Kudos . . .** To Rosa Rizzo, First Deputy Commissioner's Office, for receiving The National Council of Columbia Associations Achievement Award for 2004. Rosa also serves on the Board of Directors for the Association. Job well done! **The Strongest and the Brave . . .** Bravo to Sanitation Worker Desmond McNamee, M2, for assisting two individuals who were mugged, by chasing, tack-



ling, and restraining the assailant until police arrived. Great Work! **Nice One . . .** The Mets honored New York's Strongest at the Mets/Pittsburgh Pirates game with the "Spirit Award" presented by Mets player/captain John Franco, whose father was a Sanitation Worker. They thanked the men and women of the Department for their hard work and continuous contribution to the Big Apple! (See Photo)

NEW DEPARTMENT UNIFORM PROVISIONS



The Department has implemented a newly designed **Sanitation Worker** button down uniform shirt in both long and short sleeve. The new shirts have a combination yellow and silver reflective stripe across the back and silver reflective striping on the front. The striping on the front of the shirt is horizontal across both the breast area and the bicep area.

The new shirt was made mandatory for all new Sanitation Workers hired on or after March 22, 2004. For all other Sanitation Workers, the shirt will become mandatory by June 23, 2005. **ALL SANITATION WORKERS MUST** purchase the new style shirt prior to that date.

In addition, all Sanitation Workers hired on or after March 22, 2004, shall have their first initial and last name embroidered on their outer garments. For all other Sanitation Workers, their name must be embroidered on their outer garments by June 23, 2005.

The Department has also approved additional optional articles of clothing that may be worn as part of the official uniform. Those items are:

- Hooded sweat shirt with a zipper
- 1/4 zip sweat shirt with a collar
- Long sleeve t-shirt

These three optional articles shall have the same reflective Department logo and striping that is currently being used on the T-shirt and the sweatshirts.

All new **Supervisors** promoted on or after April 5, 2004, shall be required to purchase the officer's black raincoat/overcoat. All other officers shall be required to purchase this raincoat/overcoat as part of their official uniform by January 1, 2005.



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