sanitation news online

June 2015

Commissioner's Column

Last week, our Bureau of Recycling and Sustainability's education and outreach efforts for 2014-2015 school year culminated in our annual Golden Apple Awards. Schools across the five boroughs competed – conceiving of and completing hands-on projects to promote recycling, waste prevention, composting and neighborhood beautification. I joined Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer to present PS 130 Hernando de Soto the award for *2015 Super Recyclers Citywide Winner in the Elementary Division*, along with a $10,000 prize. Through our programs in schools, we are making waste reduction and recycling part of students' everyday lives.

As we strive to improve our own practices and to protect our environment, it's invaluable to share best practices with other cities and private sector partners. We all face the same challenges. Earlier this month, nearly 20 experts from all parts of the Department participated in a daylong series of seminars for the Solid Waste Association of North America's New York State Chapter, giving an inside view of our expansive operations. By sharing our experiences with **SWANA**'s broad membership, we can celebrate our agency's many accomplishments and help our public and private partners better understand our priorities and work together. And last week, I attended the Circular Economy 100 Annual Summit, where I met with public servants and corporate citizens from across the globe who are committed to changing the way we think about waste.

This week, the City takes another step toward being cleaner and greener, as the City's ban on polystyrene foam products goes into effect. Removing this troublesome product from the waste stream will reduce the amount of litter in our streets and waterways and help contribute to our goal of sending zero waste to landfills by 2030. Businesses have a six-month grace period to comply with the law, and we have partnered with other city agencies and industry groups to spread the word about the ban.

Thank you for all that you do to serve New York City.

Kathryn Garcia

In the News: NY1 and Organics Collection

As we continue to expand our organics collection program, more and more reporters become interested in telling the story.

Recently, NY 1 News profiled a Queens chef who lives in a neighborhood joining the program. "Chef Wendy" is a longtime backyard composter, and excited to see the program expand. Watch the full story here.

We Need You to Represent the DSNY

To highlight the critical work that we do each day, the Bureau of Public Affairs will be visiting each borough, and photographing Sanitation employees in action to capture our focus, dedication and drive as we serve New Yorkers.

Participation is voluntary, and our photographer will also stage professional headshots of volunteers, who will receive a glossy print as a keepsake.

We may use these photos in various ways – including in our social media outreach and our upcoming our upcoming 2014 – 2015 Biennial Report.

Soon, superintendents and chiefs will brief you on the time and location of our photo shoots and will provide additional information for you to prepare.

Public Affairs will schedule further opportunities for employees, both uniformed and civilian, to take part in this exciting initiative.

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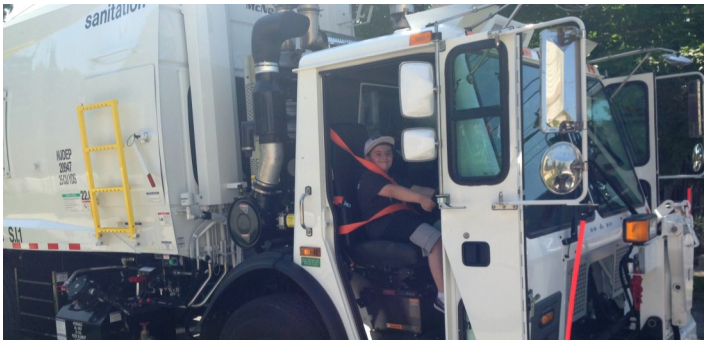
Touch - A - Truck



Recently, DSNY's Touch-A-Truck program stopped at The Seton Foundation for Learning on Staten Island. Students learned about the vehicles we use, and had a chance to get their photograph taken behind the wheel of a collection truck. To set up a visit at your child's school, email customerservice@dsny.nyc.gov

Dads Last Day

Many wishes for a happy retirement to Sanitation Workers **Marvin Monroe** (top), BK1, and **Frank Antonelli Sr**. (right), BK13. Both recently retired, and were joined on their last route by their sons, Sanitation Workers **Anthony Monroe**, and **Frank Antonelli, Jr**., respectively. All the best for a long retirement!

Flag Day in the City

In celebration of Flag Day, the DSNY Honor Guard and the DSNY Emerald Society Pipes and Drums performed at a parade in lower Manhattan.

Collector's Items / News & Notes

Chief Thomas Albano is retiring after 30 years of dedicated service. His retirement party will be held June 30 at 6 p.m. at Russo's on the Bay.

Congratulations to **Dan Starobin**, Director of DSNY's Enterprise Geospatial Program Management Office, one of two City employees awarded full academic scholarships to NYU's Center for Urban Science and Progress for the 2015-2016 academic year. Dan will be pursuing an M.S. in Applied Urban Science & Informatics.

Kisha Shrouder is our new Deputy Director of DSNY 's Bureau of Human Resources. Kisha comes to DSNY from the Department of Youth and Community Development where she was the Manager of Personnel Services and Recruitment. Kisha was also a staff analyst in HR from 2000 - 2001. Welcome back Kisha!

Great job **Robin Geller** on her recent presentation explaining the conversion of Fresh Kills Landfill to a park at a Montreal conference. She gave historical perspective on land reclamation and solid waste practices, talked about its transformation from 'open dump' to a highly regulated and well managed 'sanitary landfill', and the significance of DSNY's work that made it possible to conceive of reusing the site for public purpose.

Congrats to **Eric Stephens** on reaching 31 years of service. Eric was a member of the Emergency Response Division after 9/11, has operated heavy duty equipment during snow storms, and was among the first responders to help following Hurricane Sandy. Currently, Eric is assigned to Lot Cleaning. Thanks for your service!

Condolences to family and friends of retired Brooklyn South Borough Chief **George Caulfield** on his passing. His wake will be held July 9, and service July 10, at Chapey & Sons Funeral Home in Bethpage.

Last call to apply to the **DSNY Ceremonial Unit.** The Unit is a recognized ambassador for the DSNY and the City, and handles a variety of events including ceremonies, parades, and funerals. The Unit is also looking for civilian/uniform buglers or singers. Those interested should review DM2015-3110 and call **A/C Keith Mellis** at 646-885-5020.

The Solid Waste Association of North America has awarded DSNY with the SWANA Silver Excellence Award in the Special Waste category award recognizing our SAFE Disposal events! The award will be presented at SWANA's WASTECON in August. Congrats to all involved!

Have news to share for an upcoming issue? Contact Belinda Mager at bmager@dsny.nyc.gov or 646-885-5020.