



**FINANCE
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DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
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REVE NEWS

FINANCE'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER • JUNE 2007 • VOLUME 4, NUMBER 6



2007 SPECIAL SUMMER EDITION



Divisional Corner – Commissioner's Special Summer Message

Martha E. Stark, Commissioner



Dear Colleagues:

As many of you know, summer is my favorite time of year. In addition to being warm, summer is when I get to do my favorite activities – sailing, sitting around the pool, beach walking and attending New York Liberty games. As you know, sailing is one of my passions. A few years ago, after my lightning experience, the leadership team even bought me a fancy lifejacket because sometimes my love of sailing and risk-taking has put me in some pretty dangerous situations.

Summer is also a time to go to the movies. Seeing the latest blockbuster has now become a summertime ritual for many. The film everyone is talking about this summer is Spider-Man 3, and recently the City even declared a Spider-Man Week. I haven't seen Spider-Man yet but I did see Pirates of the Caribbean and I hope to see Shrek. There's something about the number 3 this summer.

At Finance, we have had our own movies – the **SMART** films that are currently showing throughout the five boroughs. The series won't be screened at Cannes or Sundance, and there were no lines around the block, but I hope that these short films have left a more lasting impression than Spider-Man 3. We even provided popcorn and a discussion afterward.

The films were designed to help you understand and talk about key **SMART** concepts related to your everyday work. They are short comedies that explore common challenges faced by front-line employees and managers alike, such as how to correctly identify our customers, how to work effectively as a team, and how to cut through bureaucratic red tape. Ultimately, these films should help you and your teams achieve better results, which is what **SMART** is all about.

The first run ends later this month, but you still might be able to catch a show. See the **SMART** Film series schedule on **FinanceNet**.

Being part of team is a crucial element of our **SMART** transformation. And I don't just mean the team of employees in your particular unit. I'm talking about teams that cut across units and even divisions, sharing ideas and expertise in the pursuit of common goals.

We've seen this in many of the Results Teams that have been created. Most of the teams are focused on results that cannot be achieved solely within one unit or even one division. We're going to work closely with our consulting partners to make sure these teams are as effective as possible.

One of the great things about this kind of teamwork is that it gives everyone more of a chance to contribute and to lead. All of us can lead – it doesn't matter what your title is or where you work. All of us can lead by example and by believing that we can always do better. One way for employees to do this is by taking the initiative and being creative.

Summer is a time when many of us plan vacations and look forward to doing something interesting or new to make the most of our time away from work. It could mean traveling to an exotic location, but it could also mean eating at a restaurant you've never visited, or enjoying, for the first time, any of the wealth of activities that New York City has to offer visitors and residents.

You can take this same approach about how you think about your job. Innovative thinking and constant learning are big parts of leadership. In fact, everyone should be open to learning how to do things better. Most of you already are, and it's paying off. I'll bet each of you can think of three new things that you or your colleagues have tried recently in an effort to work **SMARTER**.

Not all of these ideas have to work. In fact, many will not work. But that's ok.

If we were afraid of doing something new, we wouldn't have mailed amended tax returns to 100,000 people whom we believed were eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit. No one had ever done this before. But when we looked at our mission – to help people pay the right amount on time – and the data at our fingertips, we realized that we had an opportunity to try something new.

Did we make mistakes? Absolutely. We mailed returns to people who weren't entitled because they don't have a social security number and to the wrong address despite our efforts. But we have helped more than 15,000 people get refunds totaling about \$20 million so far, so it's been worth it. And other places are asking us what we did so they can try it too. We're going to learn from our mistakes and do an even better job the next time, and we may wind up being a model for the rest of the country. All because we were willing to do something a little different.

This is what makes the job fun for me, despite all the challenges. I continue to figure out how we can improve something each and every day and minute. In this season of renewal and fun, I hope you will adopt this spirit of learning and experimenting so we can continue to improve how we help people pay the right amount on time.

I'll end by sharing a quote someone sent to me which succinctly underscores the importance of individual innovation and learning. Elbert Hubbard, a 19th century American writer, once said: "To avoid criticism, do nothing, say nothing, be nothing."

I urge you to say and do creative things, because we all have a lot to offer.

Have a fun and safe summer.

CONGRATULATIONS FINANCE FAMILY GRADUATES

Finance would like to congratulate the following 2007 graduates for their accomplishments. We would also like to acknowledge their parents, guardians and relatives for supporting the intellectual growth of their children.

COLLEGE GRADUATES

Jason Andrews, son of Bertyl Andrews from the **Personal Income Tax Unit**, is graduating from SUNY Plattsburg with a Master's degree in Business.

Krystle Aleathia Barnes, daughter of Aleathia L. Barnes from the **Sheriff's Office**, graduated from Norfolk State University of Virginia with Academic Honors Cum Laude earning a Bachelor of Science in Business.

Elisa Irene Capers, aunt to Lezette Clark, from the **Employee Services**



Krystle Aleathia Barnes



Elisa Irene Capers

Division, graduates from Fordham University with a Master's in Education.

Dahime Gordon, daughter of Sandra Gordon-Grant from the **Employee Services Division**, graduates from Regent University in Virginia Beach with a Master's in Communication & the Arts – Cinema.

Monique Gore, daughter of Lurline Gore from the **Property Division**, graduated from Dowling College with a Master's in Business Administration.

Our very own **Jane R. Miranda** from the **Desk Audit Unit** graduates from Queens College with a Master of Arts.

John Joseph Kane, son of Drita Kane from the **Examiners Unit**, graduates from St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia with a Bachelor's degree in Marketing.

Robin S. Lee, daughter of Bobby and Irene Lee, from **Treasury Division**, earned a Bachelor of



John Joseph Kane

Science in Industrial Labor Relations from Cornell University School of Industrial Labor Relations.

Jeremy Linder, son of Lenny Linder from the **Property Division**, graduates with a Bachelor's degree from Queens College and the Macaulay Honors College at CUNY. Next year he will be at Columbia University pursuing a M.S. in Computer Science.

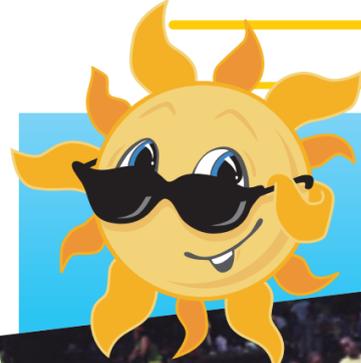
Vickie-Michele Richard, daughter of

(Continued at middle of page 4)

DID YOU KNOW?

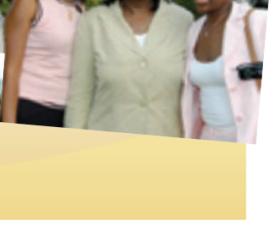
The **SMART** Film series is scheduled to end in June. If you work in customer service and deal with the public, don't miss the *Mummy Meets the Invisible Man* showing in the Queens LIC and the Staten Island Business Center on June 21st.

We've updated **FinanceNet** with new information and materials about **SMART**. Visit **FinanceNet** for all the **SMART** information you need.



Summer Fun at Finance

2007
Finance Family
Day Coming
In August



THE JOYS OF GARDENING

By Debra Targhi

The joys of gardening are innumerable and one of its many pleasures is watching the fruits of your labor grow and flourish right before your very eyes. If the gardening bug has not yet bitten you, why not give it a try?

Gardening provides a great creative outlet for individuals or an entire family. Visually, the garden will enhance an otherwise boring apartment ledge or home front. Each year, when the crocuses bloom and the daffodils and tulips pop up we associate it with the first sign of spring, and know that summer is just around the corner. Gardens are full of sensual delights with the different colors, smells and textures that various plants offer. However, just the pure satisfaction of knowing that you created this wonderful work of art is rewarding in itself.

You can choose from a variety of different plants and make this an annual project that everyone can participate in and enjoy. Everyone knows how children love to dig holes at the beach or in a sandbox. By digging small holes in the garden and planting seeds or small groups of flowers they will begin to learn how to care for the plant and be engaged in this project from beginning to end.

As the Spring turns to Summer, it is very rewarding to witness these small groups of delicate flowers beginning to thrive and spread out to create a beautiful flowerbed. Adults and children alike can learn new and creative ways to garden as they plant new flowers each year and discover how they grow together. Sometimes we need to make adjustments to the garden, because of the plants' growing capacity. Plants can be easily moved to another location if they need more space or different growing conditions. This is a great learning experience for all and a wonderful activity that anyone can do and improve on each year.

You can start out simply with a few plants that do not need expert care or attention, just some water and a watchful eye. Petunias and impatiens, for example, are two flowers that bloom beautifully, spread over a large area, and provide your garden with beautiful color all summer long. There are countless varieties of flowering plants; however, these are easy to plant and provide beautiful lasting color until the fall frost. These plants also grow very well in a planter on a windowsill for those of us who live in apartments.

These flowers are referred to as annual plants because they have to be planted each year. They only last for one season and when they have finished blooming, they die out and can be easily removed from the garden. These particular annuals start out small and delicate, but don't let that fool you because they spread very quickly to join the plants next to them. They should be planted about six to eight inches apart across your garden. One flat of annuals can provide a beautiful bed of flowering plants.

Perennial plants come up each year and usually get larger as the years go by. Some great perennials include the hosta with its beautiful striped or plain leaves, or lamb's ear with its fuzzy texture and low growing style. Ivy is very recognizable in gardens and so is packasandra with its beautiful green leaves. Both of these plants provide wonderful groundcover, and stay green throughout the winter months too.

This year instead of just smelling the roses, try planting some and you will enjoy them for years to come.



PUBLIC POOLS AND BEACHES

By John Mulligan

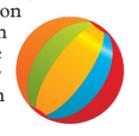
Few summer diversions are more popular than a trip to the pool or the beach. For many people, it is a great way to relax, unwind and pass time with family or friends. New Yorkers have the good fortune to choose from the many public pools and beaches that are open during the summer months. In 2006, more than 22 million people visited our city's public pools and beaches, operated by the Department of Parks and Recreation.

New York City's 52 public pools are scheduled to open on Friday, June 29, 2007 and will be open every day through Labor Day (Monday, September 3, 2007). The outdoor pools are free and scattered throughout the city, with several in every borough. The Parks Department provides free swimming lessons for children and also operates several indoor pools on a year-round basis at its recreation centers. Indoor pools are available in every borough except Staten Island. You must become a member of one of the recreation centers to use the indoor pools. The annual registration fee is \$75 for adults up to age 54, and \$10 for adults over age 55 (payable by check or credit

card). Registration for children 17 and under is free. However, in order to register, a parent or guardian must accompany the child. For more information and to find the location of a pool near you log on to: [NYC Parks](#).

New York City has approximately 14 miles of city-owned public beaches, located in every borough except Manhattan. These include: Orchard Beach and Promenade in the Bronx; Manhattan Beach, Brighton Beach and Coney Island in Brooklyn; Rockaway Beach in Queens; South and Midland Beaches, and Wolf's Pond Beach on Staten Island. Orchard Beach is on Long Island Sound. Manhattan Beach, Brighton Beach, Coney Island and Rockaway Beach are on the Atlantic Ocean. South and Midland Beaches are on Lower New York Bay and Wolf's Pond Beach is on Raritan Bay. Some city-owned beaches permit picnicking and barbecuing in designated areas. The city-owned beaches are open every day from Saturday, May 26, 2007 through Labor Day (Monday, September 3, 2007). For more information you can log on to: [NYC Parks](#).

In addition to the city-owned beaches, New York City is also home to Gateway National Recreation Area, located on Jamaica Bay and Staten Island. The U.S. National Park Service operates the area. (There is also a National Recreation Area located in Sandy Hook, New Jersey, across the water from Staten Island). Congress created Gateway National Recreation Area in 1972 to preserve certain beaches and other natural and urban resources and also to offer recreational opportunities in the New York City area. Gateway's Jamaica Bay location includes beaches facing the Atlantic Ocean on Queens' Rockaway Peninsula at Fort Tilden. Jacob Riis Park, part of Gateway's Jamaica location, is also adjacent to Fort Tilden, a former army post that is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. Jacob Riis Park has picnic tables and grills for barbecuing. Fort Tilden also allows picnicking with a permit. The Staten Island location has a beach on the Atlantic Ocean at Great Kills Park. For more information about Gateway National Recreation Area log on to: [National Park Service](#).



CITY PARKS FOUNDATION SPORTS PROGRAMS FOR KIDS: GOLF, TENNIS AND TRACK & FIELD

by John Mulligan

This summer the City Parks Foundation (City Parks) will offer great opportunities in the parks for children 5 to 16 interested in learning golf, tennis or track and field sports. Founded in 1989 to support New York City parks in need of private resources, City Parks offers arts, sports and educational programs, including free instructional programs for golf (City Parks Golf), tennis (City Parks Tennis), and the track and field sports (City Parks Track & Field).

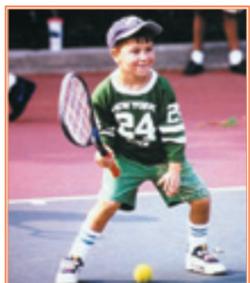
City Parks Golf is offered each summer in 15 parks and city golf courses throughout the five boroughs. The program features a series of eight sessions for kids at both the beginner and intermediate levels. Children who start out in one of the parks will ultimately get the opportunity to play on one of the city golf courses. The first series starts during the week of July 2, 2007. A second series begins later in the summer. City Parks will provide free use of golf clubs and other equipment. Kids who participate will have a chance to learn or improve their golf skills. The program also offers children the opportunity to try out for the *CityParks Junior Golf Academy*, a special, dedicated program for junior golfers.

City Parks Tennis offers instructional programs for kids, including beginner lessons and other special programs and tournaments in

parks throughout the city during the months of July and August. These programs are dedicated to those children who wish to learn tennis or improve their game in a relaxed and fun-filled setting.

City Parks Track & Field provides young people with the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of track and field sports in parks across the city during the summer months. Relay races and hurdles, as well as field events such as the long jump and the shot put are some of the sports they can participate in. At the end of each summer, City Parks holds an organized track meet at Icahn Stadium on Randall's Island where children can show off their skills.

Please note that actual start dates for all programs will vary according to location. For more information about these programs, including start dates, log on to [City Parks Foundation](#).



ENTER! SUMMER SONG CONTEST

How many summer songs do you know? Summer's here – you can tell by the smell of the air, the leaves on the trees, and the bloom of the flowers. Still, there's nothing like a good summer song to spark a memory. This summer contest is all about songs that make us think of summer and summer-like activities. After you've completed the quiz, fax your answers on a separate piece of paper to "Summer Song Contest" 212-232-1890. Please print clearly and include your name, work location, and work phone number. The first three correct answers will receive a prize. *Good luck!*

- 1) Name the Song Title and the Year it came out.** This song was a collaboration between a Beach Boy and Jan & Dean. A hit #1 song on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100 in the early '60s, the title is now the official nickname of a seaside city in southern California.
- 2) Name the Song Title and the Artist.** Joe Piscopo impersonated this artist, one of the most popular singers of the 20th century, using his 1966 song on *Saturday Night Live*. **MURMES NDWI**

- 3) Name the Song Title and the Artist.** This song, written by a Canadian rocker, has been popular ever since its release in the '80s. Being a song of summer love, some people question the origins of the title because at that time the writer would have only been 9-years-old.

- 4) Unscramble the Song Title and give the Year it came out.** Ladies, bring it to the beach if you dare. **SYIT SIYBT EITNEE IWEENE LEOLWY KOAPL-TDO IBINIK**

- 5) Name the Song Title.** "For three years straight we toured the nation, When we get through we needed a vacation, We wanted to party and get a little rest, So we packed our things and headed out west, We got our surfboards took the beach ball out, Jumped in a limousine ready to ..."

- 6) Name the Song Title.** Who could forget this song, made famous by a musical turned movie, devoted to summer lovers as they accidentally reunite for their last year in high school. Though the main actors were already famous prior to the movie, it certainly reconfirmed their

status as superstars as their connection to the film will never be forgotten.

- 7) Unscramble and name the Song Title and give the Year it came out.** There's plenty of sand and lovers here which make it a nostalgic reason to visit Coney Island. **RDNUE HET DRAKOWLBA**

- 8) Name the Song Title and the Artist.** This song was written by a rock singer/songwriter known for his theatrical brand of rock music, which came to be known as "shock rock." After a little over 30 years, this song remains a staple of classic rock radio and, for some, marks the beginning of summer.

- 9) Unscramble and name the Song Title and name the Artist.** This hip hop artist and twice Oscar-nominated actor is from Philly. **ERIMTUEMSM**

- 10) Name the Song Title.** This song, written by *The Gong Show* host Chuck Barris, includes the name of one of New Jersey's national natural landmarks.





HAVE A PICNIC THIS SUMMER

By Debra Targhi and Carolyn Russell

Having a summer picnic is a wonderful way to visit with family and friends while enjoying the summer season. The perfect picnic for you may be a romantic picnic for two, a picnic for a crowd (like a family reunion), or a picnic in the park complete with grilling equipment.

According to the Fabulous Foods website the word picnic actually comes from the French *pique-nique*, meaning a "fashionable social entertainment" in which each guest brings a contribution to the feast. In other words, the fancy French word "*pique-nique*" actually meant potluck. This tradition lives on today, with the term picnic taking on a much broader term to mean any type of portable meal.

Picnics are very simple to plan because all you really need are a few accessories to make your day very enjoyable. Bring along some plastic cups, paper plates, plastic utensils, napkins, and of course your favorite checkered tablecloth to serve as your blanket. If you picnic regularly, there are baskets available with everything you need to go at a moment's notice.

Homecooking.com can provide you with great recipes that will aid you in your picnic preparation.

To learn more about planning a picnic or the different types of picnic themes log on to the link for **Fabulousfoods.com**.

Additionally, we have provided some quick recipes for delicious foods that you can make and enjoy on your picnic. See **FinanceNet** for picnic recipes.

While enjoying your picnic, please remember to store hot and cold foods appropriately. This means a little forethought and preparation on the part of the cook, including safe food preparation, smart transportation of foods to your destination, and properly storing leftovers. These small reminders are invaluable and will ensure that you stay safe and, most importantly, enjoy your picnic!

SEE FINANCENET FOR:

"A VACATION NIGHTMARE"

by Carolyn Russell

"ENJOY THE SUN AND AVOID THE BURN"

by Debra Targhi

"SHERIFF DEPUTIES COMMEMORATED AT SERVICE"

by Peter Sammarco

FAMOUS MOM'S CONTEST WINNERS

We want to thank everyone who took the time to enter our, very well received Mother's Day Contest. And the winners are:

Lisa Loren, Employee Services,
Fanella Ramsami, Collections, and
Cassandra Stevens, FIT.

The correct answers to the contest are:

- Q1. 8. Abiah Folger
- Q2. 4. Julia Ward Howe
- Q3. 7. Coretta Scott King
- Q4. 9. Rose Kennedy
- Q5. 2. Hillary Rodham Clinton
- Q6. 1. Mother Teresa
- Q7. 10. Mother Jones (Mary Harris)
- Q8. 5. Princess Diana
- Q9. 3. Madonna
- Q10. 6. Elizabeth Montgomery

SUMMER TIPS FOR PARENTS

By Denise McIntosh

Summer brings a change of routine, and that's enough to make some children anxious. The girl who begged to go to soccer camp might have second thoughts about going to a new place where she doesn't know anyone. The boy who's going away to sleepaway camp may be nervous about leaving home for the first time. Here's what you can do to ease the transition:

1. Involve your child in planning and preparing.

Narrow the list of options to those that meet your child's needs as well as your needs and budget. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends giving your child a role in planning the summer, and some control over the way he'll spend his time, to prevent homesickness. If you can't let him choose the camp itself, perhaps he can help choose the specific program, days or hours he'll attend.

As the time for camp nears, involve him in packing his bag for sleepaway camp and make sure all of his clothes are labeled with his name. After your child leaves home, whether it's for the day or the week, be sure he knows who is going to pick him up and when.

If you have a summer filled with different camps, vacations and caregivers, help your

child make a wall-size calendar that shows the family's plans between the end of the school year and the beginning of the next one. Younger children have trouble understanding the passage of time, so give a child, who's going away to camp or to an extended stay with relatives, a small calendar so he can mark off the days.

2. Talk to your child about the changes.

Discuss what will be familiar, as well as what will be new. Is she going to day camp with a good friend from school? Is the camp at a familiar location, like the neighborhood YMCA? Are there any familiar faces on the staff? Reassuring her that it's OK to have mixed feelings will help her learn to manage new situations.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that parents talk to their children about homesickness while staying positive about the adventures ahead. The academy's guidelines say parents should avoid making an agreement to pick up the child if they become homesick because it might undermine their confidence and their ability to be independent.

Visit **FinanceNet** for more Summer Tips For Parents.

CONGRATULATIONS FINANCE FAMILY GRADUATES

(Continued from page 1) Marie-José Richard of the **Queens Payment Center**, graduated from CW Post Long Island University with a Master's degree in Social Work.

Colette McCain from the **Queens City Register**, is graduating from the University of Phoenix with a Master's in Education.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Gregory Cochran, son of Karen Cochran, from the Property Division, is graduating from Boys and Girls High School.

Lawrence Anthony Dewer, son of Lawrence and Patricia Dewer from the **Audit Division**, graduates from Long Island Lutheran High School.

Juliette Eisner, daughter of Andrew Eisner from **Legal Affairs**, is preparing to go to college from The Chapin School.

Melinda Grier, daughter of Carmina Grier from **Legal Affairs**, is graduating from Hillcrest High School.

Annam Malik, daughter of Rahila Malik from the **Queens Real Property Assessment Bureau**, graduates from Benjamin Cardozo High School on June 26, 2007.

James Olszewski, great-nephew of Barbara Yelverton, from the **Information Technology Division**, graduates from

Monsignor McClancy Memorial High School and will prepare to become an Episcopalian priest by studying at Stony Brook University in Long Island.



James Olszewski

Kyle Sierra, son of Teresa Lewis from the **City Register Division**, graduates from Paul Roberson High School.

Charnele Sutton, daughter of Felisa Sutton from the **Audit Unincorporated Business Tax unit**, graduates from Midwood High School.

Tiffany Dacosta, daughter of Jacqueline Williams, from the **Queens City Register**, is graduating from Queens Academy High School.

MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADUATES

Timothy Tang, son of Lai Tang from **Conciliation Bureau**, graduates from Marble Memorial Middle School.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GRADUATES

Amber McIntosh, daughter of Denise McIntosh from the **Correspondence Unit**, moves on to junior high school from Community School 21 as a member of the Gold Honor Roll.

FATHER'S DAY IDEAS FOR THINGS TO DO IN NYC

Let's not forget that very special day when we spend time with our dads and show our appreciation for their love and support. In case you're looking for something fun and new to do, take a look below:

All that is sports in NYC

Golfing in and around the city

Fishing in and around the city

(deep sea fishing)

Hikes: Wild Earth Adventures, Day Hiker

Bicycling: Bicycle Information, Transportation Alternatives, Five Borough Bicycle Club

Rowing (Central Park)

Baseball game (Mets, Yankees, Brooklyn Cyclones/ Staten Island Yankees):

New York Mets

New York Yankees

Minor League Baseball

Natural History Museum

Helicopter Ride of NYC:

Sight Seeing World

Liberty Helicopters

Cruises around NYC:

Long - Sight Seeing World

Long - NY Tours

Short - NY Tours

REVENews THANKS AD HOC COMMITTEE...

This current issue of ReVeNEWS marks the one-year plus one-month (or 13th month) anniversary of the newsletter becoming a monthly publication. We would like to thank the Ad Hoc Committee for their hard work in helping to publish our special summer and winter issues. Their contributions are greatly appreciated. The results of which can be seen in this special issue. Kudos to: *Alima A. Jones*, City Register, *Denise McIntosh*, Correspondence, *John Mulligan*, Legal Affairs, *Mary Rose O'Connell*, Legal Affairs, *Carolyn Russell*, Legal Affairs, and *Debra Targhi*, Correspondence. A Special thank you to Andrew Fontana and Flo Miller/FIT for their help with Intranet postings.