

# OEM NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the NYC Office of Emergency Management



## Designed for Disaster: Housing Gets Competitive

### WHAT IF NEW YORK CITY IS HIT BY A CATEGORY 4 HURRICANE?

WHAT IF THE MOST DENSE CITY IN THE COUNTRY LOSES 695,000 UNITS OF HOUSING IN A FEW HOURS?

WHAT IF 1,600,000 PEOPLE ARE LEFT WITH NOWHERE TO LIVE, TO WORK, TO GO TO SCHOOL? WHAT IF SUBWAYS ARE FLOODED, STREETS ARE

CLOSED, AND WHOLE NEIGHBORHOODS LITTERED WITH THE WRECKAGE

WROUGHT BY 23 FEET OF SALTWATER AND 150 MILE PER HOUR WINDS?

WHAT IF NEW YORK DIDN'T HAVE A PLAN TO HOUSE ITS POPULATION DURING YEARS OF RECONSTRUCTION?

“What if New York City?” is the question that both haunts and drives all the projects here at the Office of Emergency Management, including the ambitious Housing Recovery Plan. This plan addresses how the City will restore housing to all the people who may lose their homes during any major disaster. For instance,

OEM projects that approximately 695,000 housing units could be lost to flooding and storm damage if New York City takes a direct hit from a powerful hurricane. The challenge is to provisionally house 1.6 million people quickly, in a limited amount of space, and for an indefinite length of time.

OEM is inviting crea-

tive minds from all over the world to take on this problem in an urban design competition conceived by Thaddeus Pawlowski and Jim McConnell from GIS and called “What if New York City?”

OEM has partnered with Architecture for Humanity, an international charitable organization that promotes design solutions to global, social, and humanitarian crisis, to increase the scope and publicity of the competition.

No one knows how long it will take to rebuild a complex city like New York in the wake of a major disaster. No practical plan exists to house displaced residents during the

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### NAME OUR NEWSLETTER

Will you name the OEM Newsletter? Will your name be chosen by your peers and heralded as brilliant, catchy, and insightful beyond compare? Do you have what it takes to win? The contest is on. Send your submissions to the Communications team ([cvarley@oem.nyc.gov](mailto:cvarley@oem.nyc.gov)). The prize is eternal glory and a free lifetime subscription to the OEM Newsletter!

## CERT Goes CoVERT

New York City’s CERT program is expanding into the private sector with the creation of a Corporate Volunteer Emergency Response Team, or CoVERT, at BNP Paribas. Almost 40 BNP Paribas employees jumped at the opportunity

to undertake the intense, 11-week CERT training in disaster preparedness and basic response skills. Upon completion of the course in May, they will become the city’s first private response team. The program has been well received. Almost

100 employees volunteered to fill the 50 available positions.

“[The team] will be trained by professionals to do things they wouldn’t normally have the opportunity to do,” explains Bob  
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### NEW CERTS

Manhattan D7 – Upper West Side

Brooklyn D6 – Carroll Gardens

Staten Island D1 – Stapleton

Queens D4 – Corona

Queens D2 – Woodside

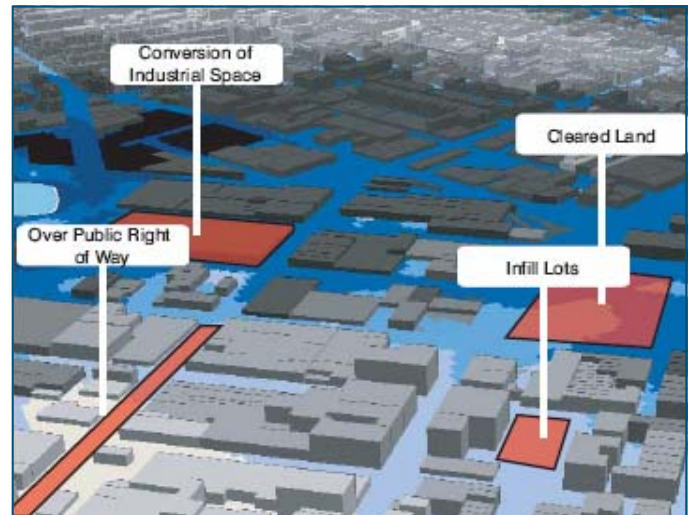
## Design

lengthy reconstruction and recovery period.

The federal government's current disaster housing solution, FEMA trailers, is not practical in New York City because of our lack of undeveloped space and high population density. The diverse jury of experts that will judge the competition is looking for a solution that is quickly deployable and fits within the City's long-term planning goals. Furthermore, the housing solution must maintain the relationships that make life in New York City unique — it must showcase a way to re-create entire communities where New Yorkers can study, work, and worship. The organizers believe the competition will inspire a number of different solutions that may be incorporated into the City's disaster recovery plan. They also plan to award the winners a stipend of \$10,000 for further study.

Architecture for Human-

As the world develops, more and more cities are beginning to resemble New York City in terms of both density and diversity. Unfortunately, most disaster recovery housing options do not reflect this trend.



Sample Scenario. Greenpoint after a coastal storm with potential sites for transitional settlements

ity has hosted similar competitions in war-torn countries to house refugee populations. When it launches the “What if New York City?” competition, New York will become the first city in the U.S. to look beyond national standards to develop city-specific options for its residents in the wake of a serious disaster. As the world develops, more and more cities are beginning to resemble New York City in terms of both density and

diversity. Unfortunately, most long-term disaster recovery housing options do not reflect this trend. With Architecture for Humanity's help, OEM hopes to focus the minds of the best and brightest in the fields of design, architecture, engineering, and building on this challenge and generate a catalogue of real post-disaster, urban housing solutions that can be used by major cities in the United States and the world.

## CoVert



Lauren Ginsberg and Commissioner Bruno meet Bob Fucito, Robert Coughlan, and CEO Everett Schenk from BNP Paribas.

Fucito, the director of BNP Management. Paribas Business Continuity CoVERT is more than

an unusual teambuilding exercise for BNP Paribas. It is also a community outreach program. “Not only can employees apply their new skills at home and in their communities,” explains CERT director Lauren Ginsberg, “but Paribas decided to sponsor a local CERT team in addition to covering the costs of their own training.” Ginsberg believes this program heralds a new style of corporate consciousness in

New York City — a way for people to do more.

Fucito believes that other private firms will follow his example. “It is crazy not to move forward with this. The initial benefit is to augment the capability of our crisis management committee and everything after that is a benefit for everybody else,” he says.

One thing is CERTain, the more teams New York City has, the better prepared we will be.



On January 23, foreign correspondents from dozens of countries toured our new office and made international stars out of Commissioner Bruno, Jake Cooper, Mark Clampet, Christina Farrell, and Mike Lee. International interest in New York City's emergency response capabilities is nothing new. This same group

came to visit us last year down at 11 Water Street. They appeared suitably impressed by the upgrade, but we lit the EOC up like a Christmas tree just to make sure. Watch the BBC footage at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/6295133.stm>.

In other news, both Channel 7 and NY1 Noticias ran television pieces on the rise of the CERT program in New York City. The feature corresponded to the recent graduation of five

new CERT teams and lauded the community responders for their efforts at both last summer's blackout and the Queens train tanker derailment in January.

CERT also made headlines for its prompt response to a six-alarm fire in Far Rockaway on February 3, 2007. The team used its training and local knowledge of the neighborhood to support professional responders and supply OEM with information from the scene.



## Employee Milestones

On Christmas Eve, 2006, wedding bells mixed with sleigh bells as **Michelle Mone** accepted a marriage proposal from her boyfriend Jerry Mazur. They plan to marry at the end of this summer.

In other pairings, **Herman Schaffer** and his life's calling made it official when he earned his Masters in Social Work from Hunter College on January 18, 2007. He drew on his exten-

sive work with Citizen Corps to frame his thesis and earn his degree. He'd like to thank **Lauren Ginsberg** for serving as his academic supervisor and his friend.

Congratulations also to **Julie Pugal, Joan Thomas, and Mariana Caravalo**, who recently earned their Masters of Emergency Management from Metropolitan College of New York. In a class of only

20 students, these women formed a close relationship. They are excited to continue working together and OEM is lucky to have such highly qualified employees.

Finally, hurray for **Corey Acri** who was licensed and admitted to practice law in the State of New York on Valentine's Day. He received the special news on both a diploma and a conversation heart from the State of New York.



Submit your professional stories and your personal milestones to the newsletter and relish in the laudations of your peers.

Email them to [cvarley@oem.nyc.gov](mailto:cvarley@oem.nyc.gov)

## Baby Boom



**Zuhair Khan Sabih**  
Boy, 7 lbs 7 oz, 20" tall  
Born 12/27/06 to Raheel Sabih & Uzma Mahmoodand



**Sasha Grace Bauer**  
Girl, 7 lbs 6 oz, 21" tall  
Born 1/15/07 to Stacy Rosenfeld & Lawrence Bauer



**Talia Ellis Dickinson**  
Girl, 7lbs 7 oz, 19.5" tall  
Born 1/7/07 to Rachel and Jonathan Dickinson



# Personnels: New from the Admin Department

## Civil Service Exam

Are you thinking about a career in the civil service? By passing the exam you can ensure yourself employment and benefits for the remainder of your professional life.

Applications can be obtained in person from the Department of Citywide Administrative Services during the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. beginning on the first day of the filing period, unless otherwise noted. You can also download applications from our application forms page or have an application sent to you by mail.

You must submit your properly completed application forms by mail to DCAS Application Section, 1 Centre Street, 14th Floor, New York, New York 10007. They must be post-marked no later than the last date of the application filing period.

Applications: <http://nyc.gov/html/dcas/html/employment/examforms.shtml>

## And Now... NYCAPS

OEM has now adopted New York City's Automated Personnel System (NYCAPS). The draining, repetitive, hand-written personal information update forms are a thing of the past. Now you can update your information whenever you need to, without the aid of any intermediaries. Just log on to the CityShare website.

Employees can also view their annual salary, compensation per period, and instances of variable compensation through the **Online Employee Payroll Information** service. A Pay Summary feature even allows you to view your pay stubs for various periods. The database is searchable to help you locate either payment details or deduction details by dates, amounts, and hours.

CityShare: <http://cityshare.nycnet/portal/site/cityshare>

## OEM's January and February Draft Picks

With all of this incoming employee talent, we are going to have a great season! Welcome to our newest OEM colleagues.

Mariana Carvahlo	Coastal Storm Logistics Coordinator	Planning & Preparedness
Michael Casagrande	WTC Logistics Coordinator	Operations
Kiran Dhanji	CIMS Coordinator	Trainings & Exercises
Terrence Forsythe	Records Officer	Legal Division
Michael Foy	WTC Logistics Specialist	Operations
George Grabon	WTC Responder	Operations
Jenna Howell	Receptionist	Administration
George Kline	Emergency Preparedness Specialist	Planning & Preparedness
Michael Liflander	WTC Logistics Coordinator	Operations
Reynaldo Lugo	Ready NY Assistant Coordinator	External Affairs
Christopher Mazzey	GIS Coordinator	GIS
Johnnie Pacheco	CERT Coordinator	External Affairs
Mario Penzi	WTC Planning Section Chief	Operations
Thomas Pollman	GIS Specialist	GIS
William Rohl	Citywide Interagency Coordinator	Operations
Frederick Sachs	WTC Responder	Operations
Lynn Seirup	Project Manager, GIS Data Developer	GIS
Margaret Tullai	Consultant	Administration
Richard Wide	Citywide Interagency Coordinator	Operations