



# sanitation news

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Summer 2007

## All Fun and Games at 3rd Annual DSNY Family Day



**S**anitation held its hugely successful 3rd Annual Family Day Event at Floyd Bennett Field on Sunday, August 19th. It was a day where Sanitation employees, both uniformed and civilian, were able to enjoy a day out with their family. With over 6,000 people attending the festivities, assisted by Family Day staff and volunteers from all facets of DSNY, the block-party atmosphere of the event

made it not only a day to chow down on street fare, but also a day for Sanitation employees to share the pride and dedication they have in this storied agency with their families.

Mothers and fathers watched proudly as their sons and daughters climbed into the parked collection trucks, street sweepers and salt spreaders to get a look and feel for what their mom, dad, aunt, uncle or even grandparent operates on a daily basis to keep our city clean and safe. Across from DSNY's modern equipment was a restored vintage ash cart and portable water barrel from Sanitation's beginnings as the Department of Street Cleaning.

In addition, Sanitation families got to enjoy amusements, music, games and contests courtesy of the New York Knicks and Rangers, face painting, arts and crafts and costumed characters for children, and a dunk tank that featured our own Commissioner Doherty taunting every one to dunk him with three tries of a fastball! *See inside Feature.*

## DSNY Heroes Honored; Others Saluted

Mayor Bloomberg and Sanitation Commissioner Doherty presented Gold, Silver, and Bronze Medals of Honor for acts of bravery performed by members of the Department at the annual awards ceremony at Queens College. Oaths of office also were given to 533 new Sanitation Workers and 370 promotees in various ranks, including Chief.

"This awards day is a great tradition of a proud agency, which happens to be the best Sanitation Department in any city in the nation," said Mayor Bloomberg. "The dedicated men and women of the Department of Sanitation – New York's Strongest – not only have made our city the cleanest it has been in over 30 years by performing their duties with diligence and determination, but they have even gone above and beyond the call of duty to save lives."

Commissioner Doherty said; "The men and women of the Department carry on a tradition of vital city service that sometimes does not garner the recognition it should. On a day meant to honor New York's Strongest, I am proud of all our Sanitation Workers, supervisors of all levels, and civilian personnel who have made this great Department successful."

### Medals of Honor Winners:

**Gold** – Sanitation Workers Michael Abatatuno and Anthony DiMasso, Queens East Borough Office

**Silver** – Sanitation Workers Kyle Bluth and Michael Casagrande, Manhattan 6 Garage

**Bronze** – Supervisor Frank Perrone, Lot Cleaning Division



Unit Citation given to the DSNY's Delaware County Flood Relief Unit, who last summer traveled to upstate's Delaware County to help remove debris, assisted in road repair and cleaned streets after disastrous floods hit the area.

# COMMISSIONER

I would like to thank all of you who supported us in coming out and enjoying this great event at our Florida Sanitation Center on August 19th. Because of your attendance, this was a very special day for the entire Sanitation family with enough food, cool drinks, and a mild, but beautiful summer day. A very special 'thank you' to Commissioner John Bimonte, his staff, and all who volunteered their time for this huge success. The Department is looking forward to next year's event.



# ER'S MESSAGE

...d the 3rd Annual Sanitation Family Day by com-  
...Floyd Bennett Field Training facility on Sunday,  
...is year's event was a rousing success. With over  
...present, it was a wonderful gathering of the  
...s, children's rides and entertainment for all on a  
...thank you' to First Deputy Commissioner Michael  
...time, effort and goodwill to make Family Day a  
...rd to continuing this tradition next year.



## Collector's Items . . .

First Deputy Commissioner Michael A. Bimonte will be honored as 'Man of the Year' by the St. Rosalia-Regina Pacis Neighborhood Improvement Association at its 9th Annual Community Recognition Awards Dinner in Brooklyn on October 4th.

## Congratulations . . .

The New York City Art Commission's 25th Annual Awards for Excellence in Design awarded Michael Friedlander, Field Facility Director for DSNY's Bureau of Engineering, its Special Recognition Award for the quality of design that he brings to the Department's capital projects.

## 'Everybody Loves Sanitation'



Deputy Chief Nicholas Vero of Bronx Borough was working at the 2007 Bronx Walk of Fame ceremony in June when he happened to meet one of the inductees, actress Doris Roberts, a native Bronxite who played Marie Barone on the hit comedy series, 'Everybody Loves Raymond.'

## DSNY Hears the Train A Comin'

The city has taken two enormous steps forward in enacting Mayor Bloomberg's overwhelmingly approved comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) by having all Bronx and Staten Island residential and municipal waste exported to final disposal by rail, ending the practice of trucking waste out of the city from these boroughs, thereby reducing traffic congestion and improving air quality.

In May, Staten Island became the first borough to have household waste exported by train rather than truck after the Mayor reactivated the Staten Island Railroad. Staten Island exports 950 tons per day using the new rail link. On August 10<sup>th</sup>, the Department signed a 20-year contract with Waste Management to export the Bronx's waste by rail. The Bronx generates 2,100 tons of municipal waste per day. All of it is now collected and brought to the Harlem River Yard where it is containerized, placed on waiting rail cars, and shipped out-of-state.

"Getting truck traffic off of city streets is a hallmark of our Solid Waste Management Plan and residents across the Bronx will benefit from this important change," said Mayor Bloomberg. "With the addition of Marine Transfer Stations and additional contracts to transport waste over rail, soon the entire city will join the Bronx and Staten Island by disposing of waste in an environmentally-friendly and sustainable way."

Commissioner Doherty said: "This latest contract represents an important step forward as the city continues to implement the SWMP and responsibly manages its household refuse. Exporting the Bronx's 2,100 tons per day of refuse by rail will significantly reduce the amount of truck traffic through Bronx streets and will improve the borough's air quality."

## DSNY Biker Goes Cross-Country for Charity

Sanitation Worker Ed "Shevy" Shevlin of Queens East District 14 drove his Harley Davidson motorcycle cross-country and back this summer from Rockaway Beach, New York, to Rockaway Beach, Oregon, to help raise awareness for cystic fibrosis, an often fatal disease. 'Shevy's Ride for Breath,' on behalf of the Cystic Fibrosis



Foundation (CFF), was estimated to cover 8,000 to 9,000 miles roundtrip.

Sanitation Worker Shevlin, a longtime member of the Department's Emerald Society and a former member of the organization's award-winning Pipes and Drum Band, rode in the name of Anthony Smith, born to

U.S. Army Sergeant First Class (SFC) Eric Smith and Claire-Cawthorne Smith of Savannah, Georgia. Little Anthony was born with cystic fibrosis and is the grandson of retired Sanitation Worker Bob Cawthorne, who worked in Queens East District 14 on the Rockaway peninsula. Sanitation Worker Shevlin was joined by his friend, Mike Gallagher, a Sergeant with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's Triboro Bridge and Tunnel Authority on the cross-country adventure that coincided with SFC Smith's second tour of duty in Iraq.

Sanitation Worker Shevlin is not new to motorcycle runs on behalf of life-threatening diseases. He has motored for breast cancer awareness with fellow members of the New York City Chapter of the Harley Owners Group (HOG). "I wanted to turn this [motorcycle run] into something positive, and after contacting the CFF, it took on a life of its own." Sanitation Worker Shevlin's efforts raised nearly \$15,000 on behalf of baby Anthony. An additional \$400 was raised by various Sanitation personnel.

Cystic fibrosis is a disease that affects 30,000 people in the United States. According to the CFF, the disease causes the body to produce abnormally thick mucus, clogging their airways and often leads to life-threatening lung infections. Cystic fibrosis also obstructs the pancreas, preventing the absorption and digestion of food. People afflicted with this disease normally don't live past their 30's.

Deputy Chief Thomas Doyle, president of the Department's Emerald Society, said the organization has raised over \$80,000 in the last 20 years toward finding a cure for cystic fibrosis, mainly through their annual golf outing which will be held on September 27 at the Dyker Beach Golf Course.

## Bronx Borough Office Flies American Flag Flown in 'Operation Iraqi Freedom'

The Bronx Borough office received a special gift from the United States Navy - an American Flag that was flown from a Helicopter Combat Support Special Squadron Five (HCS-5) during a combat mission in Iraq in support of 'Operation Iraqi Freedom.'

The flag, which flew in honor of the men of the women of Sanitation's Bronx Borough, was presented by Sanitation Worker Richard Torrens of Bronx 11, who was on active duty from March to October 2006 as a Petty Officer in the Naval Expeditionary Logistics Support Forward Headquarters Delta. Torrens helped to load and unload ammunition, cargo and supplies for deployed units in Iraq.

## sanitation news

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