



sanitation news

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COMMISSIONER'S COLUMN

By John J. Doherty, Commissioner



The ranks of New York's Strongest were fortified at our Annual Awards Ceremony in June at Brooklyn College in what was a memorable and emotional event. Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and I were on hand to administer the Oaths of Office to 300 newly-hired Sanitation Workers and promoted scores more supervisory personnel to ensure Sanitation's place as an essential city agency.

The Department -- which began in 1929 but has a rich past dating back to its formation as the Department of Street Cleaning in 1881 -- made history again in promoting the first two female Deputy Chiefs in its history, Renee Bandison and Shari Pardini (see below photo.) And, Medals of Honor were awarded to several employees for acts of bravery.

I am extremely proud of Sanitation and the more than 75-years of tradition that have made it one of the City's most efficiently run agencies. Very often we are the eyes and ears of the communities we serve by responding to cries for help. We do a gritty but nonetheless important job, and at times we do it with both compassion and courage.

Several employees who demonstrated just how "strong" this agency is, received Medals of Honor for exemplary acts of heroism and bravery in the Gold, Silver and Bronze Medal categories. The following were Gold Medal recipients:

- On February 17, 2006 Sanitation Workers Ivan Silva and William Vorek, Brooklyn South 10, were collecting refuse in Brooklyn when they saw smoke coming from a nearby house. The Sanitation Workers began banging on the doors to alert residents to the fire and assisted them in leaving the house. But one resident told them that there was still an elderly man downstairs. Silva ran back into the burning building and led the man to safety while his partner used a resident's cell phone to call 911. Once everyone was safe and accounted for and the Fire Department had arrived, the Sanitation Workers left the area and completed their collection route.
- On May 15, 2006, Sanitation Police Officer Gerard Rotolo, Enforcement, responded to Sanitation supervisor's calls for help in Queens. The supervisor had been hit repeatedly on the head with his radio by an irate assailant, who the supervisor had just ticketed for illegal parking. When Rotolo reached the supervisor, he was bleeding profusely from the back of his head. As Rotolo attempted to stop the bleeding, EMS arrived on the scene. Rotolo and Lieutenant Hector Marrero, who was dispatched to the scene, interviewed witnesses and tracked down and apprehended the assailant who lived nearby. The missing radio was recovered in the suspect's house. Lieutenant Marrero, Enforcement, received a silver medal for his efforts.

Congratulations all!



Chief Mucci is new Director of Waste Disposal



The Department is proud to announce the promotion of four-star Chief Michael Mucci, who was officially installed as the Director of the Bureau of Waste Disposal at the recent Annual Awards Ceremony. Chief Mucci is a 25-year DSNY veteran who began his career as a Sanitation Worker in 1981 and has steadily risen through the ranks to various supervisory positions within the Bureau of Waste Disposal, serving as Deputy Director of the Fresh Kills Landfill, then Director, then Deputy Director of BWD before taking over as Director.

As the head of BWD, Chief Mucci is responsible for the operating policy, budget and management of the bureau, along with

monitoring operational and administrative procedures of the Bureau's Export Management Unit. He is also in charge of the Department's Bureau of Solid Waste Management Engineering, which handles the final closure plans of the Fresh Kills Landfill.

Among his many career achievements, Chief Mucci is credited with developing new water quality protocols at Fresh Kills, as required by the Woodbridge Consent Order, which included coordination of sweeping vessels to ensure water quality and adjustments to the engineering design plans. During his tenure as Deputy Director of Fresh Kills, Chief Mucci's responsibilities were broadened to ensure that environmental regulations pertaining to landfill operations were in compliance with all state and local agencies. He was also the Director of Fresh Kills Landfill during the 9/11 search and recovery operations. Chief Mucci also coordinated the Department's efforts with all law enforcement agencies during this trying period for the city. Chief Mucci was recognized as the Department's 'Supervisor of the Year' in 1988 and 'General Superintendent of the Year' in 1993.

DSNY AIDS DELAWARE COUNTY AFTER FLOODS HIT HARD

On July 1, with Mayor Bloomberg's approval, the Department mobilized an impressive amount of manpower and equipment and dispatched a mile-long convoy of workers and supplies to the flood ravaged area of Downsville, in the Delaware County section of Upstate New York. The volunteer team, commanded by Deputy Chief Nicholas Vero — who is also a Lt. Colonel in the U.S. Air National Guard — consisted of Sanitation Workers, supervisory personnel and civilian support workers who helped residents bounce back from the floods. The DSNY squad used 10 cut downs, five front-end loaders, two large tow trucks, two gas trucks, one street flusher and a variety of pieces of other vital equipment.

In the end it was the selflessness, compassion and dedication of Sanitation that came through. We should all take pride in the Department's performance. As upstater Melissa from Delancey, N.Y. wrote: "It warmed my heart seeing your crews up here in Delaware County helping us clean up after the flood. Thank you."



STUDENTS WIN CASH FOR THEIR SCHOOLS IN SANITATION'S 2006 "GOLDEN APPLE AWARDS"

The Department recently awarded cash prizes to winning schools in the 2006 *Golden Apple Awards* program. School projects focusing on recycling, waste prevention, and neighborhood beautification received honors and cash prizes.

The annual competition (open only to schools in New York City) consisted of three contests: *TrashMasters! Super Recyclers*, showcasing model NYC school recycling programs; *TrashMasters! Reduce and Reuse Challenge*, rewarding innovative waste prevention practices; and *TrashMasters! Team Up to Clean Up*, which for the past 28 years has encouraged students to clean up and beautify their schools and neighborhoods.

In each *Golden Apple Awards* contest, schools competed within their grade division (elementary, intermediate, or high school) for borough and citywide honors by conceiving and completing cross-curriculum projects that met standards established by the New York State Department of Education. Shown right, Commissioner Doherty with staff of P.S. 34, the Franklin Delano Roosevelt School in Manhattan, which was the winner in the elementary school category.

The Citywide Winner schools received \$6,000 each; Borough Winners, \$3,000; Runners-Up, \$1,500; and Honorable Mention, \$750.

The complete list of winning schools and descriptions of their projects is posted on the Department's waste prevention website, www.nyc.gov/nycwasteless/goldenapple.

The following poem was part of the winning high school's submission:

Importance of Quality of Life

From the wondrous moment of our birth,
We all become members of a family on earth.
As a member of this family we all must know,
That it is our responsibility to help it grow.
We must protect it and save it for members to come,
Because the planet is for all and not just for some.
Think of the things that you hold dear,
A park in the spring or an ocean that's near.
Now think of how sad it would be,
If these images were but a memory.
So be a family member and do your part,
And give to the future generations from your heart.

By: *Christina Genovese*,

St. Joseph Hill Academy H.S., Staten Island, Team Up to Clean Up



GOLDEN APPLE AWARDS PHOTOS



NAVY MOM RECEIVES COMMISSIONER'S CITATION



The Department's Annual Awards Ceremony in June was a wonderfully joyous event for everyone, but no one expected it to also be a tearjerker. The Department honored Gloria Coletti for her outstanding efforts in organizing the DSNY's Adopt-A-Ship Program, a fund-raiser that saw Sanitation employees collect and ship care packages to the USS Austin, a battle ready naval ship stationed in the North Arabian Gulf. Coletti, who is the Executive Assistant to the Director of the Fresh Kills landfill, suggested the Department adopt the USS Austin, on which her son, Ensign John Holzer, 700 Marines and 400 sailors were stationed over the holidays. The drive was an overwhelming success, and the USS Austin arrived home in Norfolk, VA, in May.

In recognition of her efforts, the Department awarded her the Commissioner's Citation, which was presented to her with help from two surprise guests: Commander Kevin P. Flanagan, commanding officer of the USS Austin, and Coletti's son, Ensign Holzer, who flew in. to attend the ceremony. Mayor Bloomberg also congratulated Coletti on her spirit and support for America and its courageous men and women in the Armed Services.

Condolences:

To the Families of . . . Francis and Steven Landano, Supervisor BK 15; Ann Regina Colapietro, the mother of Father Peter Colapietro, DSNY Chaplain; Helen Propfe, mother of Christopher Wanser, Sanitation Worker, QE 11 and wife of Robert Propfe retired Sanitation Worker, formerly of QE 7; Gloria Cutrone, mother of Frederick Cutrone, Sanitation Worker, QW 6; Katie Marie Cherry, mother-in-law of Charles J. Harris, Sanitation Worker, BKS 9; Anne Fusco, wife of Salvatore Fusco, Sanitation Worker, BKS 13; Ralph Massa, brother-in-law of Richard Pietro, Supervisor, Operations Assistance Unit; Carmine Rea, Sanitation Worker, QE 14; Elsie Guyer, mother of Garry Guyer, Deputy Chief, Brooklyn North; Joel Pacheco, brother of Vinny Hidalgo, Sanitation Worker, Manhattan Lots and Honor Guard; Thomas Teehan, Sanitation Worker, BKS 14; Dennis Hyde Sr., father of Dennis Hyde Jr., District Superintendent, QE 12; Phyllis Burdick, mother of Edward Burdick, retired Supervisor, formerly of QE 11; Dorris Hinson, grandmother of Jeff Hinson, Sanitation Worker, Bronx 6; Nina Swiney, mother of Chris Swiney, Sanitation Worker, QE Borough Office; Lydia Lorenzo, mother of Francisco Lorenzo Jr., Sanitation Worker, Manhattan 9, and grandmother of Paul Lorenzo, Manhattan 9; Edward Bulva, father of Diane Epple, Associate Staff Analyst, BWD Export; Eleanor Mooney, mother of Janice Mooney, Supervisor, Cleaning Operations; Luisa Ramos, mother of Angel Ramos, Sanitation Worker, Manhattan 11; Thomas O'Connell, father-in-law of Robert Cole, Supervisor QW 9; Bridget McInerney, mother of John McInerney, Supervisor, Bronx 12; Rosa Martinez, mother of Nicholas Felix, Sanitation Worker, Bronx 3; and Michael Cala, father of John Cala, Deputy Chief, Brooklyn North.

Collector's Items:

Congratulations to . . . the first female Deputy Chiefs Renee Bandison, wife of Hans Bandison, District Superintendent, QE 9 and to Shari Pardini, former drummer in the DSNY Emerald Society Pipe and Drum band. Congratulations also to Dennis Diggins, BWD, promoted to General Superintendent Level IV; Richard Beverly, Cleaning, and Ralph DaMario, BWD Export, promoted to General Superintendent Level III; Steven Sokolowski, QE 11, Rosario Romano, BK South, Fred Grimaldi, BK North, promoted to General Superintendent Level II.

Our thoughts go out to . . . Carl Novelli, who is receiving treatment for a "Leukemia" type cancer.

Cheers to . . . Alfred Ferguson, OMD, on the birth of his twin sons, Ryan Connor and Sean Alexander; James McFarlane, QW 5, who won the triple crown of Sanitation: 1st Place Rockaway Beach 5K, 1st Place Kenney Dolan Memorial 5K and Michael Hanly 5K, and Pauline Perry, Sanitation Worker, who was 1st Sanitation female at Kenny Dolan, Michael Hanly and Police Commissioner's 1 mile; Philip Marino, Borough Chief, Bronx, and board member of the DSNY's Columbia Association, on being selected Grand Marshall of Honor for the Gran Parade Dominicana de el Bronx; Marie Lesfloris, Community Affairs, who won \$470 in the United Women of Sanitation Association's first 50/50 raffle and Roger Smith, Sanitation Worker, Manhattan 2, who won the \$50 prize.

Thank you . . . for the tremendous turnout for the DSNY Blood Drive in all five boroughs. We collected 425 pints of blood!

Attention athletes . . . registration is underway for DSNY basketball team, which will play other city agencies. If interested, please contact your local district.

Discounts . . . Modell's Sporting Goods Stores are offering a 10% Discount on all purchases made by Sanitation employees. Already hundreds of Sanitation customers have taken advantage of Modell's generous offer. All you need to do is show your DSNY ID card.

Fore . . . WNYW/Ch.5's Linda Schmidt played in the fifth annual benefit golf tournament staged by workers at Manhattan 8 to benefit the Ronald McDonald House.

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