

# Yankee Engineer

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*Building Strong*®



District, Partners cut ribbon at  
Hanscom Middle School  
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# Yankee Voices

Bob Hanacek and Joe Fabretti



## Beat the heat

Summer heat can cause heat strokes, exhaustion and severe sunburn. What's more, according to the National Safety Council, skin cancers take the lives of almost 9,200 people every year. The council recommends these precautions:

- Avoid the midday sun (between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.)
- Wear sunscreen with a Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of at least 15. Apply 15 to 20 minutes before going out. Reapply every two hours and after swimming and sweating if the product is not labeled waterproof.
- Stay away from shiny surfaces (water, outdoor furniture, metal roofs, etc.) because they can reflect up to 85 percent of the sun's rays on the skin, increasing the risk of burning.
- Wear wide-brimmed hats, visors, sunglasses and tightly woven clothing to protect against the sun's rays.
- Drink plenty of fluids to prevent dehydration.

*(Ideas Unlimited Magazine)*

## Contract awarded to repair north jetty feature of Hampton Harbor Federal project

by Timothy Dugan  
Public Affairs

The north jetty feature of the Hampton Harbor Federal navigation project in Hampton, New Hampshire, will be repaired under the terms of a \$1,988,600 contract issued recently by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District. Work will be accomplished by Mohawk Northeast, Inc., of Plantsville, Connecticut. Construction is scheduled to start on or about Sept. 15 and take about 3 – 4 months to complete. The contract was awarded on May 9.

The project consists of repairing several sections of the north jetty feature of the Federal navigation project at Hampton Harbor. "The north jetty was damaged during Hurricane Sandy and subsequent storms," said Project Manager Bill Kavanaugh, of the Corps' New England District, Programs and Project Management Division. "Approximately 3,320 tons of armor stone will be required to make repairs to four identified work areas of the jetty."

The work involves removing, replacing and reworking existing armor stone as well as placing new armor and core stone along the jetty. The repaired areas will be properly interlocked and be within specified design tolerances. The stones will vary in size from 3-4 tons and 6-10 tons. Due to shallow water depths adjacent to the landward end of the jetty, work at this end may be performed from land; the remainder of the work requires a marine based plant. Protection of piping plovers and their habitat limits construction from Sept. 1 to March 31.

The project will be managed by the Corps under the supervision of a Corps' Quality Assurance Representative to assure compliance with contract requirements. For information on the Hampton Harbor federal navigation project visit the website at:

[www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/Navigation/NewHampshire/Hampton.aspx](http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/Navigation/NewHampshire/Hampton.aspx).







Mrs. Michelle Herlihy pins her husband's new insignia on his uniform during the ceremony. Photos by Brian Murphy



Col. Christopher Barron re-administers the Oath of Office to Lt. Col. Daniel Herlihy.

## Deputy Commander promoted to Lieutenant Colonel

New England District's Deputy Commander received a promotion from Major to Lieutenant Colonel during an intimate ceremony on May 31. The promotion ceremony, held at the Colonial Inn in Concord, Massachusetts, was witnessed by family members and representatives of the New England District Leadership.

Col. Christopher Barron, New England District Commander, presided over the ceremony to promote Lt. Col. Herlihy. He welcomed the audience and re-administered the oath of office to the new Lieutenant Colonel. His wife, Michelle Herlihy, pinned on his new rank and insignia. After the official part of the ceremony, the newly minted Lt. Col. and Mrs. Herlihy cut a promotion cake and served it to guests.

Lt. Col. Herlihy joined the New England District in July 2015. He was commissioned in 2001 as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers after graduating from the Tennessee Technological University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering. Upon completion of the Engineer Officer Basic Course, Lt. Col. Herlihy was assigned to the 37<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion (Combat) (Airborne) at Fort Bragg, North Carolina where he served as a Sapper Platoon Leader, Light Equipment Platoon Leader, and Company Executive Officer. Lt. Col. Herlihy deployed to Iraq in 2003 as part of the initial invasion with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After completing the Engineer Captain's Career Course, Lt. Col. Herlihy earned a Master's of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the Missouri University of Science and Technology before being assigned to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Georgia. While at Fort Stewart he served as the 92<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Combat Battalion (heavy) Civil Engineer

and deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. While deployed, he took command of Bravo Company, 92<sup>nd</sup> Engineers and provided construction and mobility support during the 2007 OIF troop surge.

Following company command, Lt. Col. Herlihy served as an Engineer Squadron Executive Officer and Squadron Commander in the United States Army Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg. While there, Lt. Col. Herlihy deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan and other locations supporting special operations forces. As a special operations engineer he provided tactical, construction and facilities engineering support to special operations missions and facilities worldwide.

Congratulations to Lt. Col. Herlihy and his family on his promotion.



Lt. Col. Daniel Herlihy and family celebrate his promotion at the Colonial Inn.



Donna Vondle addresses the audience during her retirement lunch.

Photos by Brian Murphy

## Vondle retires with more than a quarter century of service

*Editor's Note: Donna Vondle, Park Ranger at Townshend Lake in Townshend, Vermont decided to retire after 27 years of faithful service. Family, friends and coworkers gathered at the project underneath one of the picnic shelters on May 24 to celebrate her career and wish her well.*

*Over 60 people attended the catered barbecue lunch. Retirees who attended were: Mike Curran; Joe Faloretti; Bob Hanacek; Ray Ballantine; Jim Ward; Delia Vogel; Jim Lewis; Dave Shepardson; Tim Flynn; Merle Bassett and Phil Morrison. Family members were Donna's brother Pat Vondle; twin sister Debra Hayes; sister Renee Vondle; sister Sheila Bailey and her husband Stan. Alex Cote, Park Ranger, Ball Mountain/Townshend Lakes served as Master of Ceremonies. Guest speakers at Vondle's lunch were Karl*

*Hakala, UCRB Operations Manager; Dale Berkness, Project Manager of Ball Mountain Lake and Townshend Lake; Ray Ballantine, retired Project Manager of Townshend Lake; Jim Ward, retired Basin Manager of Merrimack River Basin; her brother Pat Vondle; her sister Renee Vondle; and her twin sister Debi Hayes.*

*There were also many presentations and gifts given in her honor. Those included her retirement certificate and pin, presented by Eric Pedersen, Deputy Chief, Operations Division; a Commander's Award for Civilian Service signed by Col. Christopher Barron, New England District Commander. Donna was very specially honored with a "3-Star Note" of congratulations from Lt. General Todd Semonite, U.S. Army 54th Chief of Engineers. He and Vondle have known each other since childhood, they both grew up in Bellows Falls, Vermont.*

*Before she retired, Barb Ingalls sat down with Vondle for an interview. Below is the result:*

*Donna, who is one of six children, was born in Randolph, Vermont and grew up in Bellows Falls. She graduated from Bellows Falls Union High School in 1973. She was always busy in sports, especially the summer swim team. Donna coached the swim team as a swimmer coach when she was 18, and liked it so much she coached a few more years after that. In high school she played basketball, softball, did track and field, cross-country skiing, and was on the alpine ski team.*

*Her dad Francis sold real estate and insurance. At the local middle school he was also the head maintenance guy.*



Donna Vondle receives her retirement certificate and pin from Eric Pedersen during her retirement lunch.



Her mom Ailene came from Canada when she was 3 years old with her large family. She was a hairdresser.

Donna is a free spirit. In addition to sports, she had a paper route and sold worms and night crawlers. She put her sign up under her father's real estate insurance sign. He was not too happy until the fishermen started asking about land and camps for sale. She and her sisters were involved in Brownies, and Girl Scouts, and loved 4-H.

Her first paying job was playground leader at Rockingham Recreation, which was when she started to fall in love with recreation. She had wonderful mentors, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Brock. They ran the swim team for 10 years, and also ran the rope tow as volunteers. Donna attended Keene State to major in Physical Education, but left to find work. She worked eight years in TPE Sylvania (GE) in Manchester, New Hampshire, in a factory.

When her dad was ill she went home to help her mom take care of him. She stayed with her mom for about 6 months after he passed. She went back to college, attending Plymouth State in New Hampshire and studied outdoor recreation. Donna got a job in the Corps of Engineers, when she found out they employed Park Rangers. She interviewed with Jim Ward, who needed someone in the Franklin Falls Dam office. She worked 20 hours/week when she was in school, then 40 hours/week whenever on vacation, for 2 ½ years. She worked three part time jobs at the same time while attending college. The day she graduated she found out she'd gotten the job at Hopkinton-Everett Lakes. She went right from college into the Corps. Her career with USACE has never seemed like a job. When you love what you do, it's not hard to get up and go.

She had promised her dad she'd take care of her mom, so she returned to Vermont when there was an opening at Ball Mountain/Townshend Lakes and went to work for Phil Morrison.

When the District's Emergency Operations Center sent out a call for help, she volunteered for several missions to include Super Typhoon in Guam, Puerto Rico, and to the



Donna Vondle listens to a presentation during her retirement lunch.



Jordan Luks and Alex Cote present Donna Vondle with some mementos during the event.

North Ridge Earthquake in California in 1994. She went to the Katrina Recovery Efforts in New Orleans and stayed when Hurricane Wilma hit. Here at home, when Tropical Storm Irene hit they were down two people, just the three Park Rangers for two dams, according to Donna. They lost a culvert at the end of the dam road in Townshend. After the crisis passed, Donna said she could safely pack up her cot and pillow and bring them home. Donna said that Hurricane Irene was a sad day for our state.

Donna has mentored a lot of summer hires over the years and some went on to become permanent employees like Matt Underwood, John Asseng and Jason Tremblay. She's always tried to be as helpful as she could and is happy that they have succeeded in their careers.

Donna is a very eclectic collector. She has a collection of art and statues and a rifle that a soldier from WWII over in Europe wrapped up in paper and mailed home. A couple of years ago she learned to fly fish and loves to do that in her kayak. She loves to camp and travel, meet new people and experience different cultures. When asked "If you could go anywhere next week, where would you go?", Donna replied to the Grand Canyon. She has flown over it and wants to put her feet on the ground there.

She loves animals and has had a couple of wonderful rescue dogs. For her retirement plans, she wants to enjoy the 1<sup>st</sup> summer in 27 years to herself. She will probably be off on an adventure and do some travelling. She loves being an aunt and plans to spoil her great-nieces and nephews and do some fly fishing and kayaking. She may go camping in New England this summer and may even go golfing with her brother-in-law to give it a try.

Donna said that the last 27 years has flown by and that it isn't work when it's doing what you love to do. Throughout her career, Donna has embodied the Army values of loyalty, integrity, honor, selfless service, respect and courage.



A Hanscom Middle School student addresses the audience during the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Photo by Brian Murphy

## District, partners cut ribbon on new middle school at Hanscom

Lt. Col. Daniel Herlihy, Deputy District Commander, joined local and state representatives at a ribbon cutting ceremony for a new, state-of-the-art Middle School on April 26 at the new facility located on Hanscom Air Force Base in Bedford, Massachusetts. The New England District and their contractor J&J Construction recently completed the 85,000 square foot school that can hold 312 students.

Erich Ledebuhr, Hanscom Middle School Principal, served as Master of Ceremonies. He introduced the dignitaries both on stage and in the audience. He also thanked the community and educational partners, students, friends and co-workers who attended the ceremony. "The design and development of the school was six years in the making," he said. "The Department of Defense Education Activity (DODEA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, a team of personnel from the 66<sup>th</sup> Air Base Group and the Lincoln Public Schools have worked diligently to provide a state-of-the-art facility to educate the children of Hanscom."

Ledebuhr said that the building is environmentally friendly and features integrated systems such as rainwater harvesting and solar hot water. Col. David Dunklee, Installation Commander, 66<sup>th</sup> Air Base Group, said that the new facility is, "really some building. It's quite amazing."

The Commander said that he got to witness the development of the school when it was just a piece of paper and a couple of sketches. He watched as foundation and infrastructure were built and when some of the dry wall was going up. "That's when the term 'awe inspiring' came to mind," he said. "Everywhere you look there is technology."

Col. Dunklee said building a school like this as complicated as it is was no easy effort. "Putting together something this intricate is no easy task," he said. "Putting it together on a tight time line is almost impossible. I've seen many Civil Engineering projects whose time lines continue to get pushed to the right, but the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

and J&J Construction really did something amazing here."

According to Col. Dunklee, the New England District had a hard deadline moving in children at the end of spring break and that 99 percent of the building was ready go to. "After that they'll start working on the elementary school," he said.

Otherspeakers included U.S. Congresswoman Katherine Clark and Lincoln Superintendent of Schools Dr. Rebecca McFall. Several of the Middle School students said a few words about their new school, indicating that they loved the standing desks and open spaces. Some talked about the new rock climbing wall and the music and art rooms.

After the Hanscom Middle School Select Choir sang, Ledebuhr, Col. Dunklee, Lt. Col. Herlihy, District Deputy Commander, Jonathan Braley, J&J Contractors president, Jennifer Glass, Lincoln Public School Committee chair and McFall all cut the ribbon marking the completion of the Middle School. After the ribbon cutting, tours were available to dignitaries that attended the event.

Dignitaries that attended the event included Ken Christopher from U.S. Congresswoman Nikki Tsongas' office, Massachusetts State Senator Michael Barry, Massachusetts State Representative Thomas Stanley, Lincoln Town Selectman Peter Braun, and DODEA Brenda Gregorich. New England District team members were: Bill Scully, Scott Acone, Gary Morin, Gary Lacroix, Jessica Kidd, Sean Dolan, Steve Chase, Robert Leitch, Jim Conway, JoAnne Burnham, Mickey Clinard and Paul Paris. Team members who worked on the project were: Robert Leitch, Jack Perry, Jeanine Cline, Angela Frisino, Patty Bolton, Jason Paolino, Mark Godfrey, Matt Tessier, Tom Marcotte, Scott Flanagan, Sheila Harvey, Kirk Bargerhuff, Kate Atwood, Mark Desouza, Coral Siligato, Stephen Lehmann, Mark Lawrence, George Clafin, Loredana Caruso, Jessica Kidd, Steve Chase, Jim Conway, JoAnne Burnham, Mickey Clinard, Paul Paris, Dennis McEleney.



## Asian American/Pacific Islander Month celebrated at the District

Dr. David Chang, member of the Chinese Historical Society of New England, served as keynote speaker for the New England District's Asian American/Pacific Islander Observance, May 26 in the theatre. The event was sponsored by the Equal Employment Opportunity Office.

Dr. Chang's presentation was titled, "Boston's Chinatown: Beyond Stereotypes, Food and Boundaries."

"I regard myself as a Chinatown Boy in that my values and identity have been shaped by Chinatown since I was seven years old and newly arrived," he said.

Dr. Chang said that despite attempts to drive it out, Chinatown has thrived as a community. "It has grown to become a vital and valued part of Boston and New England," he said.

The purpose of his talk was to give a better understanding of Chinatown as a community. Some of the topics he touched on were tourism, food, services and necessities. Dr. Chang also discussed the China trade and its connection to Boston and New England. "The profits from the China Trade provides the capital for the industrialization of the region," he said. "Americans traded furs, timber, ice and opium for tea, porcelains, silks and other items."

The keynote speaker said that in the early years, Chinese were viewed as exotics and servants. He also touched on other historical events such as the Opium Wars, the European Expansion, The Gold Rush and the laying down of railroad



Dr. David Chang discusses the history of Boston's Chinatown during his presentation.

tracks for the nationwide railroad system. "Thousands of Chinese were recruited to build from West to East and to join the Irish workers at Promontory Summit in Utah," he said.

After helping build the railroad system, people shunned the Chinese and wanted them out of their communities. Anti-Chinese violence erupted in towns and people were killed as a result. Laws were introduced and passed such as the Chinese Exclusion Act that banned most Chinese from entering the country. "The Chinese were now excluded from all manufacturing and other jobs," said Dr. Chang. "Most became laundrymen, an occupation for which there were no bosses and little compensation."

In 1902, Boston's Chinatown had 500 Chinese living there with their numbers quickly expanded, according to Dr. Chang. He described the early trials and tribulations of the new community. He discussed the forming of community organizations to include the Quincy Community School, South Cove Health Center, the Golden Age Center, the Chinese Economic Development Corporation and the Chinese American Civic Association.

Dr. Chang concluded by discussing the future of Chinatown and how it is expanding to communities such as Quincy and Malden, making them more diverse and culturally rich.

Lt. Col. Daniel Herlihy presented Dr. Chang with a Bunker Hill plaque in appreciation for his discussion. Kate Atwood, Asian American/Pacific Islander Program Manager, welcomed the audience and introduced the speaker.



Photos by Brian Murphy

Lt. Col. Daniel Herlihy presents Dr. David Chang with a certificate of appreciation for his discussion on Chinatown.

# Dredging up the past



Construction Division on June 19, 1993. Top Row: Fran Donovan, Chris Turek, Jim Doucakis, Jim Morocco, Scott Leonard, Steve Umbrell, Paul Battista, Jack Karalius. Second Row: Lenny Fitzgerald, John McDowell, Bill Haynes, John Winnill, Joe Ferrari, Wendy Panto, Bob Gilchrest. Third Row: Ross Huntington, Pat Giugno, Joan Gardner, Sean Dolan, Tina Thomasen, Chris Johnson, Dave O'Connor, Fran Keefe, Ruth Tanner, Chris Zevitas, Frank Fedele. Bottom Row: Maurice Beaudoin, Fred Moehler, Rick Casano, Connie Morin, Neil Beliveau, Dick Carlson, Rhonda Caira, Flavio Leonin.

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