

Small
Business
Award
Page 4



Exchange
Student
Page 6



Real time traffic on bridge.....	2
Walking Safety.....	2
Black History Month.....	3
Dredging up the past.....	8



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
New England District

Yankee Engineer

BUILDING STRONG®

Volume 44, No. 6

March 2010

New England District takes over Fox Point Hurricane Barrier in Providence

by Timothy Dugan
Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, has taken over the operations and maintenance of the Fox Point Hurricane Barrier in Providence, Rhode Island, as of Feb. 1. Day-to-day management of the Fox Point Hurricane Barrier now falls under the Corps of Engineers' Cape Cod Canal Field Office in Buzzards Bay, Mass.

Operation and maintenance responsibility remains with the city of Providence for the earth fill dikes with stone

slope protection that flank each side of the barrier and for the five vehicular street gates and the five sewer gates that comprise the rest of the project.

"The Fox Point Hurricane Barrier provides critical flood protection to the state capital and has prevented loss of life and property time and again since its construction in 1966," said Col. Philip T. Feir, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District.

A transition ceremony was held Feb. 19, at the hurricane barrier and Sen. Jack Reed and Providence Mayor David Cicilline marked the occasion of

formally turning over the project to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"The Corps of Engineers will now be able to address operations and maintenance requirements of the hurricane barrier," Feir said.

Repair work that needs to be done on the hurricane barrier includes replacement of the electro-mechanical control system, rehabilitation of one flood control pump, repair of a second floor control pump, rehabilitation of one canal cooling water gate, repair of tainter gates and service bridge associated with structure settlement, replacement of power and control wiring for the three river (tainter) gates, pump station roof repair, miscellaneous concrete repairs, painting of tainter gates and development of a maintenance management system.

The hurricane barrier provides protection against tidal flooding from hurricanes and other storms to approximately 280 acres of downtown Providence. The protected area includes the commercial and industrial center, transportation facilities, public utilities and many homes.

The city of Providence suffered extensive damage from the hurricane

Continued on page 3



Fox Point Hurricane Barrier in Providence, R.I.

Yankee Voices

Little Neck - South Beach, Martha's Vineyard
Time Critical Removal PDT



Real time traffic delay information on Sagamore Bridge work

Work Safe Traffic Control Industries, Inc. successfully deployed six "iCone" drums along Rte. 6 West on the Cape, March 15 and they are currently providing real time traffic delays off Cape to the MADOT Smart Message boards located along Rte. 6 West from Barnstable to Sandwich, Mass.

Web site for real time traffic delay on the Sagamore Bridge, please go to <http://www.iconetraffic.com/maps/icones.aspx>

Sympathy

... to the family of Operations retiree **Wilbur Dougherty**, who passed away Feb. 22. Mr. Dougherty retired from Hopkinton-Everett Lake. He was also a WWII Veteran who served in the U.S. Army Air Corps.

Words worth repeating

"You can avoid reality, but you cannot avoid the consequences of avoiding reality."

- *Ayn Rand*

Congratulations

...to **Scott Flanagan**, Engineering/Planning for his selection as the WE Committee Employee of the month for March. Flanagan, who is the team leader of the CAD group in Design Branch, E/P Division is recognized for his outstanding work in meeting several critical and time sensitive deadlines in preparing contract drawings to allow for completion of bid packages for a number of Stimulus Bill funded projects. Scott's commitment to excellence and customer-focused efforts shaved weeks off compressed schedules. Of special note is his continuing ability to keep pace with improvements and advances in preparation and presentation of drawings like the excellent 3-D products that were part of the Muddy River Flood Control/Environmental Restoration project.

Take a nice, safe walk

Walking is good exercise – unless you get hit by a car. The most common accidents between pedestrians and motor vehicles are caused by:

- Darting out in front of a vehicle in the middle of the block.
- Running – not walking – across intersections.
- Vehicles turning without seeing pedestrians in their way.
- Pedestrians crossing multi-lane streets.
- Vehicles backing up.

Stay safe wherever you wander by following these safety practices:

- Use the walkways. Stay on the sidewalk and cross at intersections with well-marked crosswalks.
- Stand Out. Wear bright, noticeable colors, especially at night.
- Follow the rules. Obey traffic signals. Be aware of stop signs at intersections without traffic lights.
- Watch out for blind spots. Big trucks with wide loads may not see you when turning or backing up. Smaller cars, too, can have significant blind spots. Don't assume the driver can see you just because you can see the vehicle.
- Give cars time to stop. Don't take chances with moving vehicles. If the driver doesn't see you right away, or if you stumble, he or she may not be able to stop in time to avoid hitting you.
- Be careful in parking lots. The traffic flow in a parking lot may not be obvious to either drivers or pedestrians, and visibility is more limited by the packed cars around you.
- Walk facing traffic. If for some reason you must walk along the side of a road without sidewalks, walk toward the traffic so you can see and avoid cars better – and vice versa.

(First Draft Magazine)



New England District takes over Fox Point Hurricane Barrier in Providence

Continued from page 1

of 1938 and Hurricane Carol in 1954 when, in each instance, water depths of up to eight feet were experienced in the city's commercial area. Damage from the 1938 hurricane amounted to \$16.3 million; and damage from Hurricane Carol amounted to \$25.1 million.

Construction of the hurricane barrier began in July 1961 and was completed in January 1966, at a cost of \$15 million. After construction was completed, the project was turned over to the city of Providence for operations and maintenance and the city has been providing that service until the recent legislation by Congress to turn the project over to the Corps of Engineers for operations and maintenance.

The hurricane barrier is a 700-foot-long concrete structure, 25 feet high, that extends westerly across the Providence River from Tockwotton Street, near Fox Point, to Globe Street, near the power plant.

The structure contains three tainter gate openings that prevent the entry of floodwaters from the bay when closed and permit passage of small vessels when open. Each gate is 40 feet high and 40 feet wide. Two 10- to 15-foot high earthfill dikes with stone slope protection, flank each side of the barrier. The eastern dike is 780 feet long and the western dike is 1,400 feet long.

A pumping station and cooling water canal are integral parts of the project. During a tidal/flood situation, the pumping station's five large pumps can discharge the floodwaters of the Providence River through the barrier into the bay. Two gated openings in the pumping station, each 10 feet high and 15 feet wide, admit water into the cooling water canal used by Dominion Energy, located immediately behind the barrier.

There are five vehicular gates located at Allens Avenue, South Main Street, India Street, South Water Street and at Dominion Energy and five sewer gates that prevent high tides from back up through the sewer lines.

Congress authorized responsibility of the operation and maintenance of the Fox Point Hurricane Barrier to the Secretary of the Army from the city of Providence, beginning in October 2008. This authorization was included in the FY2007 National Defense Authorization Act and required the city to convey real estate to the Secretary.

The city of Providence continued to operate and maintain the project until funding was appropriated and all legal and real estate issues were resolved, to allow the Corps of Engineers to make the transfer and begin operation and maintenance of the hurricane barrier. More information about the Corps' New England District is available on its website at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil>.

New England District celebrates Black History

"The History of Black Economic Empowerment," is the 2010 Theme for Black History Month. The New England District Black Employment Program and the Equal Employment Opportunity Office hosted a celebration in the Concord Park theater, March 9. Jarumi Crooks of the National Park Service's (NPS) Boston African American National Historical Site (NHS), served as the keynote speaker.

Col. Philip T. Feir, New England District Commander, delivered the opening remarks for the event. "Each February, Black History Month honors the struggles and triumphs of millions of American citizens over the most devastating obstacles – slavery, prejudice, poverty – as well as their contributions to the nation's cultural and political life," he said.

RuthAnn Brien introduced the keynote speaker. Using a Powerpoint presentation, Crooks gave an entertaining and educational discussion on the history of African Americans in the United States. Crooks has been a part of the National Park Service for 10 years. He began working with the NPS as a high school volunteer in 2000. In May of 2001, Crooks became an

NPS interpretive Park Ranger with Boston African American NHS, a title which he still holds today.

In his nine years as a Park Ranger, Crooks has worked diligently not only as a guide on the Black Heritage Trail tour and various talks, but also the site's Underground Railroad Trail.

After the presentation, Col. Feir thanked Crooks for his efforts and with the assistance of EEO Officer Jackie DiDomenico, presented him with a certificate of appreciation.

The Boston African American National Historic Site was created in 1980. This mission of the Boston African American National Historic Site, in partnership with the Museum of African American History, is to preserve and interpret, for the benefit, education, and inspiration of the people of the United States, the historic structures and properties in Boston associated with the creation and development of a free African American community on Beacon Hill that, in the face of tremendous opposition, mounted a resistance of the forces of slavery and segregation in the years leading up to and including the Civil War.

Deputy for Small Business of the Year D'Antuono takes Chief of Engineers top honor

One of New England's biggest small business advocates has received top honors from the Chief of Engineers for her tireless work in promoting small businesses and educating the companies in the Corps of Engineers Small Business Program.

Eva Marie D'Antuono, New England District's Deputy for Small Business, received the Chief of Engineers Deputy for Small Business of the Year Award. Mr. Lloyd Caldwell, P.E., Director of Programs for North Atlantic Division, and Col. Philip Feir, New England District Commander, accepted the award on Ms. D'Antuono's behalf during the Corps-wide annual Small

Business Conference in Dallas, Texas, in December 2009. Eva was unable to make the conference as she was awaiting the birth of her daughter, who arrived in January.

"Ms. D'Antuono is charged with administering the Small Business Program in the District," wrote Col. Feir in a recent memorandum that praised her work. "She has over the past eight

years successfully established an upward trend raising the bar that measures successful program execution."

Ms.

D'Antuono was responsible for the New England District exceeding all of the Corps of Engineers Small Business goals for Fiscal Year 2008.

In that year, the District awarded over 48 percent of its total contract awards to small businesses. "Ms. D'Antuono strives to make the best fit for the small business programs considering individual project requirements, past performance, and

best fit among the small business categories," said Col. Feir.

Small businesses don't necessarily work on just small projects. In fact some of the District's most recent, high profile projects have been awarded to small businesses. Some of them include upgrading the roads and sidewalks at the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center, Natick, Massachusetts, the Mill Pond and Mill River Restoration Project in Connecticut, and the Nashawannuck Environmental Restoration project in Massachusetts.

Getting contracts awarded to small businesses is only part of Eva's success. In order to get contracts with the Corps of Engineers, small businesses need to know that the contract bid opening exists as well as how to work for the federal government.

Ms. D'Antuono's outreach efforts to these companies have been extensive. A small example of her recent efforts include holding an industry day to improve Service-Disabled Veterans (SDV) participation in the program (the event drew over 50 firms); as Chair of the DoD Northeast Regional Council for Education and Advocacy leading the development of training modules which were presented to over 150 small businesses and over 50 business liaison officers; sponsoring round table discussions among SDV and Veteran-Owned (VO) small regional conferences which were both attended by more than 250 firms; and continuing her active involvement with the Small Business Committee of the Society of American Military Engineers' Boston Post.

"Eva has been a mentor and has



New England District's Eva Marie D'Antuono received the Deputy for Small Business of the Year Award.



The Emergency Streambank Protection of Partridge Brook, Westmoreland, N.H., is one of many contract awards that Eva Marie D'Antuono has handled. The contractor is a small business, Charter Environmental, Inc.

provided guidance to me personally and others within the Charter organization,” said Robert Delhome, President of Charter Environmental, Inc. “Her coaching and advocacy has resulted in tremendous growth of revenue and employees. Charter has grown from a three person firm with \$1.2 million in sales revenue with no federal contracts to a company that has more than 110 employees and greater than \$45 million in revenue with more than 40 percent of our contract volume coming from the federal government. The foundation of our success as a federal contractor has been Eva and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.”

Eva is involved, active and a staunch advocate for her small businesses. “She develops an initial fiscal year program strategy by meeting with

senior managers to discuss overall workload,” said William Scully, Deputy District Engineer for Programs/Project Management. “She participates in every acquisition strategy meeting to identify opportunities for possible small business involvement to include involving innovative approaches.”

Eva Marie D’Antuono joined the New England District in December 1992 following four years with the U.S. Army Materials Technology Laboratory in Watertown, Mass.

She began her federal career as an administrative assistant and has held progressively more responsible positions, including Purchasing Agent and Contract Specialist until her current position as the Deputy for Small Business.

Immediately after receiving the

Chief of Engineers Annual Small Business Award, Caldwell telephoned Ms. D’Antuono with the good news. Bill Scully, who was with her when she received the call, said she was genuinely surprised to hear she received the honor. She was the only one who was surprised – anyone who has worked closely with Eva, especially her small businesses, knew she and the award were a perfect fit.

“Ms. D’Antuono has exemplified the role of Deputy for Small Business,” said Debra Heims, President of H&S Environmental. “She always finds the time to educate and counsel us on small business opportunities and show us the tools that are available, even beyond those in USACE. She is truly driven by the desire to see small businesses succeed.”

District employee adds to family by hosting exchange student

Robert Webb, Logistics, and his family welcomed a new addition to their brood the last week of August 2009. But instead of taking home a little bundle of joy from a hospital, they picked up a nearly fully grown 16 year old from Logan Airport.

The Webb family has been serving as hosts to Dmitriy Palev of Syktyvkar, Russia, as part of a Pacific International Exchange (PIE) program called the Future Leaders Exchange Program. As participants in the program they have opened their hearts as well as their home to their student. "He's a straight A student," brags proud host father Webb. "He's so smart, they put him in the senior class at the high school even though he's only 16."

Webb and his family decided to participate in the program after one of their neighbors decided to do it. Webb's wife, Joanne, had an excellent prior experience with an exchange student program which helped them push forth with their decision. "When my wife was a young girl her parents hosted a foreign exchange student," he said. "For us, it was an opportunity to help a child from another country experience life in the United States who may not have gotten the chance otherwise. Coming here was Dmitriy's lifelong goal and I'm so happy and proud that we could make that happen for him."

There were very strict requirements that Webb and his family had to meet to qualify as host parents. "Both parents have to be living at the address," said Webb. "An employee of the program came to our home to interview us and to make sure our family situation was stable and that our home was clean."

Other requirements mirrored the responsibility and obligations that most parents do for their own children: provide the child with his own bed, a quiet area for study, food and transportation to and from school activities and

of course being there for him when he needs someone to talk to or be comforted.

While in the program, Palev is required to hold at least a B average, speak English and to perform 50 hours of community service. "My wife is a nurse at Lowell General and Dmitriy goes in every other Saturday and volunteers at the front information desk," said Webb. "He also comes with me to help out at the local food bank in Chelmsford."

According to Webb, Palev has also done work helping the Boy Scouts by running a concession stand at Gillette Stadium during last year's football season. It was an assignment that was beneficial all around. "He was very impressed with Gillette Stadium," said

Webb.

While living in the United States, Palev has been enjoying the life of an all American teenage boy. In addition to his day-to-day life with the Webbs, he is involved in school sports. He played on the soccer team and on the swim team, which won the Merrimack Valley Championships. Palev received a varsity letter, jacket and sweater for his participation on the team during the annual banquet. He is also an avid ping pong player. He has made a lot of friends at school according to Webb, and is especially close to his teammates and other students in the PIE program. Webb talks about Palev as any proud father would about a son. "He's just an outstanding kid," said the father of three. "He's so curious about every-



Dmitriy Palev, Bob Webb and Col. Philip Feir during Palev's visit to New England District headquarters.

thing and he's got a wonderful sense of humor. He's always willing to help out anyone in the house who needs it. His mother did a great job of raising him."

Palev lives with his mother, Irina, in Russia. To help combat homesickness and to keep in touch, Palev speaks with his mother via videoconference every other Sunday morning with his mother. Webb and his wife also participate and have gotten to know Palev's mother very well during the conversations. "My wife and his mother are both nurses and mothers. There's a lot in common there," said Webb.

Once a month, the PIE program students and their host families meet and go on field trips. Past excursions included a whale watch out of Gloucester, Mass., a trip through a corn maze, meeting with Judith Cahill of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's staff, a Christmas party and a trip to the State house. "It was fun to watch the kids on the boat," recalled Webb of the whale watch. "Some of them had never been on a boat. We followed a whale and a calf and the kids would run from one side of the boat to the other to watch them."

Webb has scheduled field trips of his own, such as downhill skiing in Killington, Vermont, and a trip to the New England District headquarters and the Cape Cod Canal during February vacation. Palev met with Col. Philip Feir, New England District Commander, while he visited his host parent's place of business. "Col. Feir told Dmitriy that he spent time in Russia during his military career," said Webb. "The colonel spent about 20 minutes with him and they had a nice conversation."

At the canal, Palev got a tour of the canal and heard about its history. He especially liked the Marine Control Room. "His eyes really lit up," said Webb. "The Control Room was really impressive."

Palev is scheduled to return to Russia in May prior to senior graduation. "He was disappointed because he

wanted to see my son graduate," said Webb. "He would also like to go to the prom. If he can stay that long he wants to ask one of the girls from the PIE program. When he goes, there's going to be a lot of crying."

The Webbs plan to visit Palev in Russia and to keep in contact with him. "We'll plan a family vacation in a year

or so from now," he said. "A lot of host families keep in contact with their students."

The experience for Webb and his family was so positive, they are already talking about sponsoring another child. "They learn from us, and we learn from them. I'd recommend the program to anyone who is thinking about it."

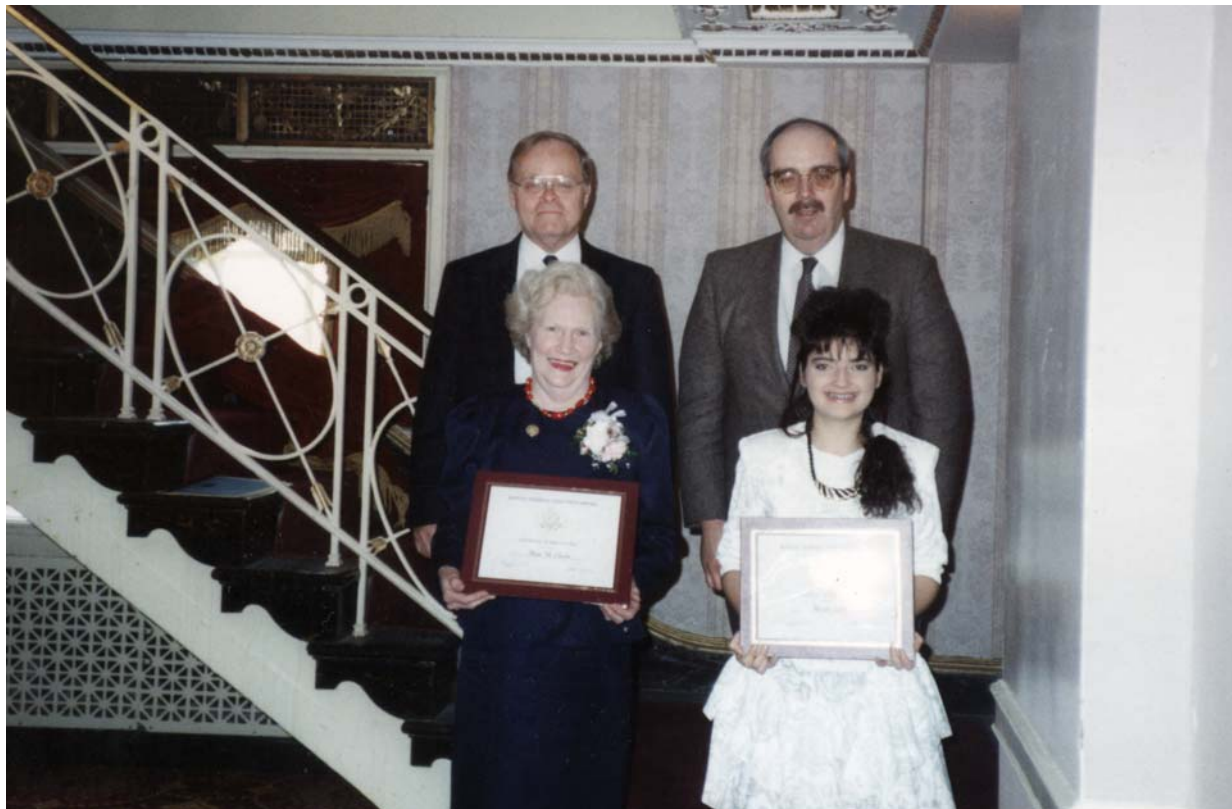


(Inset) Park Ranger Roger Hagan (center) gave Bob Webb and Dmitriy Palev a tour of the Cape Cod Canal and talked about its history to include the Railroad Bridge (above).



The Webb family: Bob Jr., Francesca, Joseph and Dmitriy Palev.

Dredging up the past . . .



Anne Clark (left) and Rhonda (Caira) Donovan proudly show off the awards they received during the 1990 Greater Boston Federal Executive Board awards ceremony held in Boston, Mass. Clark was secretary to Bob Harrington (standing behind) and Donovan was secretary to Dick Carlson (standing behind).

Public Affairs Office
New England District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751
Meter Code 40

First Class
U.S. Postage
Paid
Concord, MA
Permit No. 494