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Yankee Voices



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Celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is a United States federal holiday marking the birthday of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It is observed on the third Monday of January each year, around the time of King's birthday, January 15.

He is honored and remembered in hundreds of statues, parks, streets, squares, churches and public facilities around the world as a leader whose teachings are increasingly relevant to the progress of humankind.

The national recurring theme of this holiday is "Remember! Celebrate! Act! A Day On ... Not A Day Off." It calls upon American people to engage in public service and promote peaceful social change. Dr. King's unfinished movement toward equality can be achieved by our united, enduring efforts.

He is the only non-president to have a national holiday dedicated in his honor, and the only non-president memorialized on the National Mall in the Nation's Capital.



Winter at Tully Lake.

Be Prepared for New England weather

Winter in New England is here, and that usually means the occasional snow storm or Nor'easter. The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency has some tips to prepare for these events.

As a Storm Approaches.

- Prepare for power outages by charging cell phones and electronics and setting your refrigerator and freezer to their coldest settings. If you use electricity to get well water, fill your bathtub with water to use for flushing toilets.
- Secure or bring in outdoor objects (patio furniture, children's toys, trash cans, etc.) that could be swept away or damaged during strong winds or flooding.
- Unplug sensitive electronic equipment.

Prepare for Flooding Hazards.

Ensure that items stored in your basement are elevated to prevent damage. If you have a sump pump, check that it is working.

Prepare for Wind Hazards.

If damaging winds are expected during a tropical storm, hurricane, or coastal storm, cover all of your home's windows with either storm shutters or temporary plywood covers. Do not tape windows - it wastes preparation time, does not stop windows from breaking, and does not make cleanup easier. In fact, taping windows may create larger shards of glass that can cause serious injuries.

Prepare for Winter Weather & Extreme Cold.

Check that you have enough heating fuel and consider safe backup heating options like fireplaces or wood stoves in case you lose electricity.





The Hanscom Air Force Base Primary School is under construction.

Photo by Robert Leitch.

Construction on new Primary School on Hanscom Air Force Base in Bedford continues

A new primary school is currently under construction at the Hanscom Air Force Base in Bedford, Massachusetts under the terms of a \$36,957,000 contract issued by the New England District. J&J Contractors, Inc. of Billerica, Massachusetts is the contractor for this project. Preliminary site work began in May 2017 and will take approximately 30 months to complete. The contract was awarded on March 16, 2017.

The project consists of demolishing of the existing primary school, constructing a new primary school, and associated site work. The new primary school building will be constructed as an addition to the recently constructed Middle School building. The size of this multi-story structure will be approximately 80,000 square feet.

The project will use clear span or similar construction methods to allow easier reconfiguration to meet future educational needs. Near term flexibility and adaptability will be accommodated through the use of fully integrated acoustical-rated, operable wall partitions which contribute to the engineered acoustical performance of the building.

The project includes 21st Century school concepts such as learning neighborhoods, central hubs surrounded

by learning studios, flex labs, information center annex, food service area, supply areas, specialist rooms, art room, music room, common area for dining and social networking, therapy rooms, teacher work areas, counseling areas, storage, administrative offices and other required areas for a fully functioning facility. The project includes related infrastructure such as parking areas, mechanical rooms, delivery areas, playgrounds, and site improvements such as signage, fencing, paving, landscaping, exterior lighting and utilities. Phased construction is required to accommodate this project without interrupting school operations.

Temporary school facilities are part of this project, as well as deconstructing and restoring the temporary site after the Primary School construction is complete. The Corps is managing the project and all work will be accomplished under the supervision of a Corps' Quality Assurance Representative to assure compliance with contract requirements.

Construction on the new \$36 million Primary School at Hanscom continues on schedule. Concrete foundations and under-slab drains and utilities are completed and 90-percent of the site utilities are now installed. Structural steel and steel floor deck installation is ongoing.



New England District team members line up for judging in the Holiday Sweater Contest.

Photos by Brian Murphy

District celebrates holidays with 'Wacky Winter Festival'

New England District celebrated the holiday season with a “Wacky Winter Festival” December 16 at the Concord Park Headquarters. Planning Division took the lead and hosted this year’s event. About 180 District team members, their families and retirees attended. The festival began with a breakfast potluck in the Massachusetts and Connecticut Conference Rooms where dozens of donated breakfast treats lined the tables for team members to enjoy.

The WE Committee also opened up their store for a couple of hours so that team members could purchase some last minute gifts or a little something for themselves. Sally Rigione and Ruth Ladd helped last minute shoppers with their purchases.

Holiday movies played continuously throughout the day in the Concord Park Theater for those who wanted to soak in some additional holiday spirit.

The main part of the festival took place in the afternoon with an Italian lunch served by the District’s Senior Leaders. Games and a “make your own ornament” kit were on the tables

for team members to enjoy. A contest had nearly a dozen people lined up showing off their holiday sweaters for a prize. The WE Committee gave away two wreaths as door prizes and held a candy cane-counting contest for yet another prize.

The Holiday Silent Auction that took place during the Wacky Winter Festival is one of the WE Committee’s biggest fundraisers and one of the most popular

events they organize. Offices from all over the District donated 11 variously themed baskets for people to bid on for an extra gift under the tree. All proceeds from the auction go towards defraying the costs of the many WE Committee-sponsored events throughout the year.

A brief awards presentation took place during the Festival. Mike Riccio, Planning, took the microphone and thanked Planning Division for hosting



District Senior Leadership serve up an Italian lunch for festival participants.

the festival. He specifically thanked Adam Burnett for taking care of the potluck breakfast, Grace Moses for taking care of the decorations, Kirk Bargerhoff for doing all of the set up and clean up, Denise Kammerer-Cody for the ticket sales and Byron Rupp for arranging the Italian meal. He concluded his remarks by going over the activities and their times before introducing Col. William Conde, New England District Commander.

Col. Conde recognized several District teammates during a brief awards ceremony. Andrew Jordan and Erica Mark received awards for their participation in the Hurricane Harvey recovery efforts. "In recognition of your dedication and selfless service in support of the Galveston District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the state of Texas following the landfall of Hurricane Harvey signed Col. Lars Zetterstrom, Commander of the Galveston District."

The District Commander presented Commendation Medals to two team members for their efforts responding to Hurricane Maria recovery efforts in Puerto Rico. Capt. Steven Kraus and Mark Anderson distinguished themselves by exceptional meritorious achievements during the Hurricane Maria response and recovery efforts in San Juan, Puerto Rico from October 1 to 20. Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Buchanan, Commanding General, signed the citations. For his last presentation of the day, Col. Conde awarded retiree Ed O'Leary, formerly of Planning Division, with a Meritorious Service Medal for his many years of selfless service to the Corps of Engineers.

Col. Conde thanked everyone for the warm welcome he and his family received when they arrived at the New England District in July. "It's been about four months since you brought me and my family into your family so thanks," he



Col. William Conde addresses District team members during the awards portion on the festival.

said. "Also thanks for your patience to everybody who have spent hours with me trying to learn our family business."

The Colonel praised team members for their great work as the District closed out 2017 with thousands of actions, contract awards and project completions. "We did really well," he said. "As we roll into 2018 we're not letting off the gas. Every single program we have is getting larger and healthier. Whatever we did in recent years, we are going to have to do as well and if not better."

Col. Conde asked team members to keep up the pace with the same direction, dedication and focus they exhibited at the end of Fiscal Year 2017. "I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and I wish you and your family all the best throughout the season," he said. "As we roll full force into winter, I'll just remind everyone to be safe. If you are going to be on the road, give yourself extra time. And finally what I'll say is we have a few folks who are not at the district right now that are away from their families helping out, giving FEMA support and supporting operations

overseas so please keep them in your thoughts and prayers."

As they have done for so many years, New England District team members thought of children who may have a meager Christmas and donated generously to the annual Toys for Tots Drive. Headed by Jessica Rudd – who headed up Toys For Tots for her Unit when she served in the Marine Corps – the drive yielded 167 toys.

Retirees that were seen making merry with their former co-workers included Bob Batt, Ed O'Leary, Jerry Nunziato, Bill Scully, Stephen Kelly and Bob Meader.

In addition to the daytime holiday party, New England District revelers celebrated the holiday season during a night time event, December 7 at the Hanscom Tavern, Hanscom Air Force Base. According to Judy Antonellis, who headed the event for the WE Committee, 82 District team members munched on pizza and salad during the party. Retirees who made it to this event were Joe Bocchino, Greg Buteau, Mike Elliott and Jack Karalius. Greg Penta, Dara Gay and Grace Moses assisted Antonellis with party details.



Hanscom Dormitory was weather tight before the winter set in.

Work on Hanscom dormitory is ongoing

Construction of the new \$12.6 million Airman dormitory on Hanscom Air Force Base continues. “Implementing a Fast Track approach, subsurface work and concrete foundation placement were completed while the final design was reviewed and accepted by the U.S. Government,” said Project Manager Mike Tuttle. “Final design complete was achieved in August 2017. Erection of the metal frame and roofing system during the favorable fall weather allowed the structure to be weather-tight before winter.”

According to Tuttle, the contractor is currently installing interior framing, plumbing and mechanical systems. Construction on the new dormitory is expected to be completed in August 2018.

Work for the new dormitory calls for the design and construction award of a three-story, 2,376-square-meter dormitory. The new dormitory is being

constructed near the two existing, 62-year old dormitories on Hanscom. The dormitory will consist of two 2-bed units, two 3-bed units and 14, 4-bed units. Each unit will contain a shared com-

mon area, kitchen, laundry area and bulk storage. Each bedroom unit will have its own full bathroom and closet. Once the dormitory is complete, the two existing dormitories will be torn down.



Interior construction of the Hanscom dormitory.

Corps of Engineers, Connecticut partners hold meeting on status of New Haven Harbor Navigation Improvement Study

A public information meeting on the status of the New Haven Harbor Navigation Improvement Feasibility Study and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) took place Jan. 10 in New Haven, Connecticut.

“The purpose of this meeting is to inform the public of our progress on the feasibility study, to provide the public an opportunity to ask questions about the project, to solicit public input to the Feasibility Study and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (or EIS), and to inform the public of opportunities to provide comment on the project to the Corps,” said Mark Habel, New England District’s Chief of the Navigation and Environmental Studies Section.

Habel served as moderator for the meeting. He told the audience that after the presentations, the public would have an opportunity to ask questions.

According to Habel the goals of the National Environmental Policy Act is to encourage public participation in the preparation of feasibility and environmental impact studies. “This

public information meeting continues your opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback to the Corps and other agencies undertaking and cooperating in this study,” he said. “We believe it is crucial to this public participation process that your voice is heard and we thank-you for your contribution.”

Presenters at the meeting included Judi Sheiffele, Executive Director of the New Haven Port Authority; Joe Salvatore, Dredging Project Coordinator, Connecticut Port Authority and New England District’s Barbara Blumeris and Todd Randall, Planning Division. Blumeris provided an overview of the Corps’ study effort and the specifics of the New Haven Harbor navigation project and Randall briefed on the status of field investigations for the New Haven Harbor study and the dredged material placement options under consideration.

The New Haven Harbor Navigation Improvement study is considering navigation improvements, including deepening and widening the federal navigation project. Inadequate channel

depths result in navigation inefficiencies in transporting goods into and out of the harbor. To reach the terminals, larger ships must lighter outside the breakwaters and/or experience delays while waiting for favorable tide conditions, or both. Deeper and wider navigation features (main channel, maneuvering area, and turning basin) are needed to increase the navigation efficiency and safety of New Haven Harbor.

The feasibility study will identify, evaluate, and recommend to decision-makers an appropriate, coordinated and workable solution to the navigation inefficiencies at New Haven Harbor. Alternatives will include analyzing various incremental channel depths and widths based upon net economic benefits and design requirements for deeper draft vessels. In addition, the study will evaluate various dredged material disposal alternatives such as beneficial use (e.g., oyster habitat and marsh creation, beach nourishment, historic disposal mound capping, nearshore placement), open water placement, and upland placement.

In response to a resolution of the Senate Committee on the Environment and Public Works dated July 31, 2007, the Corps of Engineers, New England District is conducting a feasibility study and Environmental Impact Statement to examine navigation improvements to the existing New Haven Harbor Federal Navigation Project. The non-Federal sponsor for the study is the New Haven Port Authority in partnership with the Connecticut State Port Authority.

More information on the New Haven Harbor Improvement Study is available on the Corps website at: <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Projects-Topics/New-Haven-Harbor/>.



New Haven Harbor in New Haven, Connecticut.

Photo by Barbara Blumeris

Dredging up the past



Dave Goodrich, Greg Penta and Distinguished Civilian Gallery member Bobby Byrne look over holiday trivia questions during the District's Holiday party in this December 2007 photo.

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