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Flyway Gallery Exhibit

This month's Flyway Gallery exhibit spotlights the NJMC's Amateur Photo Contest. The contest ran from early October to early November and featured three categories: Meadowlands environment, community and economy. All entries are featured in the exhibit. The show runs through Dec. 31. The Flyway Gallery is located in the Meadowlands Environment Center and is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekends. For more information, call 201-460-8300 or visit njmeadowlands.gov

Greetings from Chairman Doria



The past month-and-a-half has been extremely busy at the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission. The Commission has launched several exciting initiatives while seeing the fruits of past efforts come to light.

The Commission realizes that sound energy policy is important not only for environmental purposes, but also for growing a green economy that will be key to the state's financial future. To that end, the NJMC has opened a Business Accelerator to help entrepreneurs and small businesses hit the ground running. The services offered by the Accelerator -- including affordable rent, free office equipment and invaluable mentoring programs -- are priceless tools for businesses looking to survive and prosper in today's economic climate.

The Commission has shown its own resourcefulness by seeking to lease space on a former landfill for what could be the state's largest solar installation. It's a win-win for the NJMC, and the company that will create the solar farm and profit from selling the electricity generated. And we all win when we use solar energy instead of greenhouse-gas-emitting fossil fuels to generate electricity.

Our solar initiative isn't the only way we use our landfills to produce energy. For more than 20 years the Commission has been siphoning methane gas from these sites and converting this harmful greenhouse gas into electricity to help power thousands of homes. The Associated Press recently stopped by for a visit and wrote a story about our methane recovery system. Apparently a lot of people are interested in the NJMC's good work: more than 700 news outlets, newspapers and Web sites as far away as India picked up the story.

We're also moving ahead with the Meadowlands Challenge. The NJMC is asking businesses to take a look at how they run their operations and how they can be

more energy efficient. From increasing recycling to using less electricity, the NJMC can help businesses set goals to reduce their carbon footprint. The competition is meant to be friendly and fun, but the savings that businesses can reap from increasing energy efficiency are quite serious. In addition, the Commission launched a shuttle bus service that will make taking the bus or train to work a lot easier for many District workers and residents.

Through all this activity, the Commission was also able to see some past hard work come to a successful conclusion when President Bush signed into law a bill sponsored by New Jersey's U.S. Senators, Frank Lautenberg and Robert Menendez, and Congressman Frank Pallone to protect against environmental, health and safety hazards associated with unregulated rail-side waste transfer stations. This legislation stemmed from a three-year, uphill legal battle that the NJMC and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection waged against a major railroad.

To top everything off, the Commission received word late last month that it had been honored by the Urban Land Institute-Northern New Jersey for its work in public policy. It's a great honor coming from one of the country's largest land-use organizations. Rest assured, we won't let it go to our heads. We're busy planning our next round of projects and programs so we can continue making the Meadowlands an even greater place to work, live and play.

Thank you.
Joseph V. Doria, Jr.
*Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
Chairman, New Jersey Meadowlands Commission*

Meadowlands Challenge Moves Forward

Last month we announced the Meadowlands Challenge, our new program to promote energy efficiency, increase recycling efforts and help combat the causes of global warming within the Meadowlands District. Businesses interested in joining this friendly and fun competition can register with the Meadowlands Regional Chamber of Commerce by calling 201-939-0707 or emailing office@meadowlands.org. Participating businesses will be asked to conduct their own energy audit and then to develop a list of goals and action items for increasing efficiency. They will then compete against one another to reach these goals; those who see the greatest percentage in energy reduction will be awarded prizes. Possible benchmarks include increasing the variety and amount of recyclables collected, turning off computers and printers, and promoting mass transportation. Commission staff will be available to assist companies in setting their parameters and goals, and techniques will be shared among the group to maximize the overall benefits. The NJMC is leading by example with its own energy audit. The Commission also is in the process of installing energy-efficient light bulbs throughout its DeKorte Park campus. Motion-sensitive light switches and an expanded recycling policy will soon follow. We invite everyone to follow in our green footsteps.



First Place Environment



First Place Community



First Place Economy



Accelerator Open for Business

The NJMC's Business Accelerator is open and ready to help eco-friendly entrepreneurs and small businesses succeed. The Accelerator, located in a modern office building in Lyndhurst, can accommodate up to 30 start-up companies. It features 12,000 square feet of affordable office space and includes conference rooms, shared business equipment, Internet access, phones and copiers. Most important, the Accelerator offers clients valuable assistance through one-on-one mentoring, coaching and networking help. Businesses that have been accepted into the Accelerator so far include an eco-friendly cabinetry and millwork company, a business that develops airborne-contamination detection systems, an alternative energy company and a water-wave-to-energy company. Businesses interested in joining the Accelerator can call 201-438-1245 or email Michel.Bitritto@njmeadowlands.gov.

NJMC Honored By Urban Land Institute

The NJMC is proud to announce that it is the recipient of the Urban Land Institute-Northern New Jersey branch's Special Recognition Award for Public Policy. The Commission is being honored for its commitment to smart land use and planning initiatives that balance environmental sustainability with economic growth. The NJMC will receive the award on Dec. 19 at a ULI awards dinner. The NJMC has been a leader in pursuing sustainable development planning through its promotion of green building, renewable and alternative energy, and mass transportation. By promoting responsible development, the Commission has been able to preserve nearly 4,000 acres of wetlands and open space in the Meadowlands to date. The Commission also offers grants and technical expertise to the 14 Meadowlands District municipalities to foster their own sustainable planning.



Landfill to Host Solar Array

The NJMC plans to generate up to 5 megawatts of solar power on the Erie Landfill, creating what could be the largest solar array in the state. The Commission is seeking businesses interested in leasing space on the 42-acre landfill and to design, finance and operate the solar array. The company would then generate profit by selling the solar power it harnesses to Public Service Electric & Gas' energy grid and will have the option of collecting methane at the site, another revenue opportunity. The firm could also collect financial incentives offered by the state to businesses that produce renewable energy, including tax credits and Solar Renewable Energy Credits. The landfill-solar initiative is the NJMC's latest effort in promoting Governor Corzine's goals of increasing renewable energy and growing the state's green economy. By reducing reliance on fossil fuels for energy while creating a profit opportunity for business, the project is a perfect example of how economic growth and environmental protection are complementary -- not adversarial -- goals.

Methane Gas Recovery Article Attracts Widespread Interest

An Associated Press wire story about the NJMC recovering methane gas at its landfills and converting it to electricity was picked up by 700 publications across the country and around the world. Newspapers and Web sites as far away as India showed interest in how the NJMC traps methane -- a product of decomposing landfill garbage -- and transforms this dangerous greenhouse gas into an energy source that has helped to heat and power thousands of homes over the past 20 years. You can read the story for yourself at the following link: <http://climate.weather.com/articles/njgarbage103101.html>

All Aboard for Railroad Victory

Federal legislation signed into law in October that will protect people and the environment throughout the country from environmental, health and safety hazards associated with unregulated rail-transfer stations had its origin in the Meadowlands. The legislation, sponsored by U.S. Senators Frank Lautenberg and Robert Menendez (both D-NJ) and Congressman Frank Pallone (D-Long Branch), came about as the result of the NJMC and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's fight against rail-side waste transfer stations in North Bergen. The facilities had become open-air dumps with no environmental or safety protections. Because the transfer facilities operated on federally regulated railroad property, operators claimed they were exempt from local and state health, safety and environmental regulations. The NJMC and DEP persisted in holding the facilities accountable, which led to the railroad filing suit against both agencies. Eventually the NJMC and DEP's efforts helped secure a victory for public health and safety not only in North Bergen but in communities across the nation.

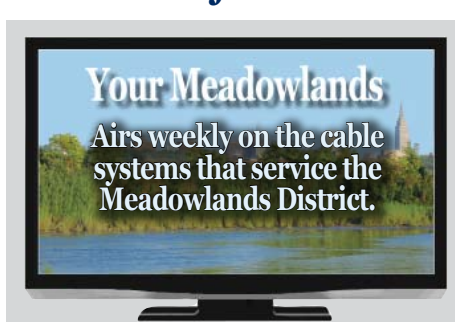
NJMC Sponsors Shuttle Service, Opens Doors to Mass Transit

The first of six planned shuttle bus routes in the Meadowlands began operating on Nov. 5 in Lyndhurst, creating a new mass transit opportunity for hundreds of District workers and residents while reducing pollution and congestion. The Lyndhurst shuttle service is expected to attract 150 to 300 riders daily, according to an NJMC transportation analysis. For every 1,500 new mass transit passengers who use the shuttle, gas consumption will be cut by 10,000 gallons per year. The Lyndhurst loop includes the Meadowlands Corporate Center, the Kingsland Train Station, the Route 3 corridor bus stop at Rutherford and Polito avenues, the AvalonBay apartments and the NJMC. Those interested in learning more about the shuttle service can call 866-208-1307.

Ring in a Happy Anniversary

In October the NJMC celebrated the one-year anniversary of the AMVETS Memorial Carillon, located near the entrance to Saw Mill Creek Trail in North Arlington. The NJMC provided the land and a donation toward the Carillon's construction. The Commission is proud to host such a beautiful and poignant memorial and, most important, to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of the freedoms and liberties that we enjoy today.

Tune in and join us as we bring "Your Meadowlands" to your television.



Time Warner	Channel 10	Mondays	7:00 pm
Comcast			
Union	Channel 190	Wednesdays	7:30 p.m.
Jersey City	Channel 190	Wednesdays	7:30 p.m.
Meadowlands	Channel 190	Wednesdays	7:30 p.m.
Cablevision			
Oakland	Channel 78	Thursdays	7:30 p.m.
Bergen	Channel 118	Thursdays	7:30 p.m.
Hudson	Channel 18	Thursdays	8:00 p.m.
Bayonne	Channel 18	Thursdays	8:00 p.m.