Sphere to Return Home

On July 21, the Board of Commissioners approved plans to relocate the Koenig Sphere – the iconic sculpture that stood at the base of the Twin Towers (as pictured) and survived the 9/11 terrorist attacks – from its temporary home in Battery Park to Liberty Park.

“The sphere is a symbol of strength and survival and reflects the Port Authority’s continuing commitment to remember those, including 84 agency employees, who were lost 15 years ago in the attacks.

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TBAs Complete Trial by Fire

On the morning of Saturday, July 16, the south tube of the Lincoln Tunnel was closed to traffic due to a series of intense car fires -- or, as the Port Authority's Tunnel & Bridge Agents may describe it, graduation.

To clarify, the LT wasn’t really the site of a five-alarm emergency; rather it was the final testing grounds for seven individuals who have completed the rigorous training to become TBAs: Zachary Andren, Mike Davis, Travis Horwath, Justin Gecik, Andres Smith, Shawn Sturdy, and Fortunato Zanet. They join a select group at the PA charged with responding to traffic accidents and other possibly life-threatening situations at the agency’s high-profile crossings.

For this “live burn” exercise, a tradition dating back to the 1970s, TBA and LT Fire Marshal Richard Cravello started controlled fires in three different vehicles -- a sports car, sedan, and minivan -- about a half-mile from the Manhattan exit. The TBAs Complete Trial by Fire

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EWR’s New USO Center Provides Hero’s Welcome

The Port Authority yet again demonstrated its commitment to the brave men and women of the United States military, partnering with the United Service Organizations to open a 2,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art center for them and their families in Newark Liberty International Airport’s Terminal B.

The EWR’s USO center, which opened on July 21, features a wide array of amenities and services specifically designed to provide a relaxing and welcoming space for service members and their families while they wait to travel through the airport.

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PA Completes Milestone Donation of 9/11 Artifacts

The Port Authority on July 19 donated the last massive pieces of the World Trade Center that were recovered after 9/11 and preserved in John F. Kennedy International Airport’s Hangar 17.

The pieces — a 40,000-pound section of the parking structure, 40,000-pound component of the north tower antenna, and 35,000-pound elevator motor — were given to the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation (T2T), which plans to display them in one of its exhibits.

T2T received the pieces at a ceremony outside Hangar 17. First responders from the PA Police, New York Police Department, New York Fire Department, and other agencies were on hand for this historic send-off.

PAPD Deputy Inspector John Roland spoke on behalf of the PAPD. His words paid tribute to the people whose memories will live on through the donated WTC fragments.

“Each of us holds a special memory of lives lost during that tragic day and, of course, memories of acts of valor and courage,” he said. “Our first responders continue to serve and protect our communities with undying devotion and dedication.”

Hangar 17 served as the sanctuary for more than 2,500 artifacts, most of which have been passed on to museums, fire stations, and other organizations worldwide. The PA plans to resume using the hangar for aviation purposes.

ARFF’s Always Ready

There was little media coverage of an aircraft engine fire that occurred at John F. Kennedy International Airport on June 24. But that’s because JFK’s Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) unit prevented any breaking news.

The aircraft in question — an Airbus 380 — was undergoing a post-flight inspection after arriving from Seoul, South Korea, when mechanics discovered the engine fire. Upon notification, ARFF responded to the scene, extinguished the fire with handlines, and cooled the engine so it could be inspected.

It’s believed a hydraulic fluid leak caused the fire. Nobody was injured. ARFF members who responded to the fire are ARFF Deputy Fire Chief Travis McNichols; Sergeants Barry Daskal and Josef Windisch; and Police Officers Ian Searing, William Boye, Russell Hanson, Antony Fabbri, Michael DiRaimondo, Rafael Ruiz, Mario Polito, Andrew Seidner, Kevin Wallace, Francis Pisano, Vincent Anzalone Jr., Michael Wittman, Robert McLaughlin, Qi Chen, and Steven Auerbach.
Inspire Someone: Be a Big Brother or Sister

The Port Authority’s Big Brothers and Sisters are looking for employees to join them in becoming a strong and positive force in the lives of young people.

Since 2007, the PA has partnered with Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City on the Workplace Mentoring Program, which matches 11th and 12th grade students (“Littles”) from an under-resourced school with staffers (“Bigs”) who serve as mentors during the school year to help the students reach their full career potential. The program also includes field trips to places like the One World Observatory.

The program meets at least once a month at 4 World Trade Center, usually Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. If you’re interested in this fulfilling opportunity, email Alex Nin at anin@panynj.gov.

JFK’s T5 Accelerates Customer Service

JFK’s T5 Accelerates Customer Service

A viation Director Thomas Bosco on July 14 helped JetBlue Executive Vice President for Customer Experience Joanna Geraghty cut the ribbon on a new lobby area designed to expedite the departure process in John F. Kennedy International Airport’s Terminal 5.

The lobby features several amenities that are expected to reduce wait times, including more than 70 interactive self-service kiosks and 12 bag-drop locations.

This T5 enhancement supports the Port Authority’s overarching Customer Care Program, which has added dozens of amenities throughout the airport system, including new suites for nursing mothers, and expanded use of Automated Passport Control and Mobile Passport Control kiosks to improve the experience for international passengers.

At the ribbon-cutting event, Mr. Bosco stressed that the PA “is committed to enhancing the overall customer experience and investing in creative solutions to address the growing volumes of trade and travel.”

PA Welcomes New Leadership Fellows, First-Ever Operations Fellows

It was a day of exciting introductions on July 18, as the Port Authority welcomed its newest class of Leadership Fellows and its first-ever class of Operations Fellows.

Over two years, the Leadership Fellows will rotate through several departmental assignments that will prepare them for future leadership roles in the organization. The Operations Fellows will each complete an accelerated two-year rotational development program within a line department, gaining the experience and skills to eventually fulfill a key operations role in that business area.

The Leadership Fellows are Kirsten Jones, assigned to Planning & Regional Development; Sarah Glose, assigned to Operations Programs in the Office of the Chief Operating Officer, Ai Yamanaka, assigned to Aviation at John F. Kennedy International Airport; Jeffrey Griffin, assigned to Transportation Planning in Tunnels, Bridges & Terminals; and Zachary Bloom, assigned to the Office of Continuous Improvement.

The Operations Fellows are Ibrahim Thiam and Madeline Garant, both assigned to Aviation; Samuel Orlan and Siobhan Buchta, both assigned to TB&T; and Sean Kazmark, assigned to Port Commerce.

Candidates Wanted for Snow Season Jobs

Human Resources is seeking referrals from employees and retirees for the Building Construction/General Maintainer and Electrician titles. Direct interested candidates to www.jointheportauthority.com to view job descriptions and apply online. You can send your referrals, complete with résumé, to HRD’s Serina Evans at srevans@panynj.gov.
TBAs Complete Trial by Fire

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trainees were then challenged to successfully respond to these vehicular infernos. And they all did.

The trainees drove in with a "tunnel wrecker" truck through the smoke-filled LT, navigating to the scene using state-of-the-art infrared scanners, and extinguished the fire with Purple-K (a dry-chemical fire suppression agent), AFF-AR foam, and water from the LT’s standpipe system.

The exercise was administered by Human Resources’ Technical Training Academy Manager John Baum, Senior Technical Trainers Keith Badler and Michael Miller, STBAs Mark Kulick and Cesar Carvajal, and the LT Tour Manager Eric Dejarnette.

The live burn concludes the new TBAs’ comprehensive training program, which consisted of in-class instruction and hands-on exercises in firefighting, extrication, vehicle removal, and training in emergency medical response and hazardous materials.

PAPD Brings A-Game for Families Of Fallen Heroes

The Port Authority Police on July 14 left it all on the field in the PA Police Benevolent Association’s 9/11 15th Anniversary Charity Softball Game.

About 20 PAPD officers faced WFAN personalities Boomer Esiason and Craig Carton’s All-Stars, which featured several sports legends, at Cochrane Stadium in Jersey City. The game raised money for families of the 37 PAPD officers lost on 9/11 and five officers killed in the Dallas police shooting on July 7.

About 100 fans attended the event, organized by PO Troy Moravek. The All-Stars included New York Jets linebacker Bart Scott.

The All-Stars won 12-7, but both teams were in high spirits having supported a great cause.

Board Authorizes

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"Today's board action exemplifies the Port Authority's commitment to our passengers by continuing our efforts to modernize our transportation facilities and create world-class airports," said Chairman John Degnan.

"Nearly a year ago, Governor Cuomo unveiled his vision for a 21st century, unified LaGuardia Airport," said Vice Chairman Steven Cohen.

"With nearly 80 percent of the $8 billion project funded through private finance and existing passenger fees, the new LaGuardia Airport is a model of the private sector and government working together to deliver critical transportation projects for the region."

Read more in the press release.

Retirements

Law’s Paul Gembara is retiring in style after 31 years of service. You can wish him well at 10 a.m. on August 4 at 4 WTC, 25th floor, Conference Room 25-05-06. See the bulletin for more information.

The Office of the Chief Security Officer’s Jo-Ann Dalessio is clocking out. Be sure to wish her well on August 25 from 5 to 9 p.m. at Cadillac Cantina in Hoboken, NJ. See the bulletin for more details.

 PARA Wants You

The Port Authority Retirees Association invites active and retired PA and PATH employees to join its 4,200 members. PARA allows you to stay current with news about the agency, its employees and retirees, and with state and federal issues of importance to retirees, such as benefit, pension, and Social Security updates.

The membership fee is $10 a year. Visit www.paranynj.org for more information and to sign up for PARA’s email bulletins.
CSO, CTO Cybersecurity Tip #7: Hone Your Browsing Techniques

It’s extremely important to use caution when browsing the internet at work and home, as there are many cybersecurity risks. Here are tips on how to safely browse the internet:

1. Ensure that website addresses are accurate before visiting them. Review website addresses for misspellings, extra words, characters, numbers, or a completely different name from what you would expect the website to have.

2. When clicking on a link in a website, email, or document, hover over the link to reveal its true destination. If the website destination is not what you expect from the link, don’t click on it.

3. Sites that use HTTPS in the website address are encrypted and should be used whenever possible (e.g., https://login.microsoftonline.com).

4. Be aware that information can be collected when you visit a website, such as your IP address, computer name, software details, and passwords. Some websites install “cookies” on your PC so they can keep track of your movements within the site.

EWR’s New USO Center Provides Hero’s Welcome

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of amenities, including internet and telephone access, plenty of food and beverages, and dedicated volunteers to provide assistance and maintain the facility.

“The Port Authority is honored to support all members of the U.S. armed forces and their families by being able to provide a home for this new USO center at Newark Liberty International Airport,” said Aviation Director Thomas Bosco, a U.S. Army veteran who served in Operation Desert Shield/Storm, received the Bronze Star for meritorious service in the combat zone, and retired with the rank of Colonel.

The center was developed through contributions from the PA and organizations such as Prudential Financial, Johnson & Johnson, and Turner Construction Company.

EmployeeNet at Home

All employees who have Port Authority Outlook accounts can access EmployeeNet from home or any other outside location with Internet access. Just type paenet.panynj.gov and enter your Windows ID and password. The site is for use only by authorized individuals and will not work from your office computer.

Sphere to Return Home

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ago and those who survived the terrible attacks at the World Trade Center site,” said Chairman John Degnan.

“Returning the iconic Koenig Sphere to its rightful home at the World Trade Center site symbolizes our resilience in the wake of unspeakable horror and that we will never forget those who were lost on that fateful day in September,” said Vice Chairman Steven Cohen.

Read the press release to learn more about the sphere.

Achievements

Perfection at EWR, TEB

Ninety-seven staffers from Newark Liberty International and Teterboro airports were recently honored for achieving perfect attendance in 2015. New Jersey Airports General Manager Diane Papaiani (second from left) and Deputy GM Doug Stearns were on hand to recognize these employees, including (from left) Jeff Spruill (29 years of perfect attendance), Fred Longermecker (14 years), and Al Kosakowski (33 years).

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