

St. Francis Prep Honors First Responders in Annual 5K

On October 22, St. Francis Prep in Fresh Meadows held its annual 5K Run and Walk honoring the 15 alumni members and first responders lost in the attacks on September 11, 2001. Friends, families, and classmates gathered for a breakfast following the race, awards, raffles, and a moment of silence.



Jack Niedermeyer and Denise Tracey, his sister, are both alumni of St. Francis Prep



Angela Niedermeyer and Police Officer Joseph Santoli

Honored this year was PAPD Officer **Alfonse Joseph Niedermeyer III**, father of **Angela Niedermeyer**, Marketing intern, and brother of **Jack Niedermeyer**, Director of Security Operations.

[The PAPD Alfonse J. Niedermeyer '79 Memorial Scholarship Fund](#) presented its scholarship winner and the first responder alumni chapter committee gifted Angela, who was born 8 months after the attacks, a sweater with her father's name on it. Police Officer **Joseph Santoli** helped escort the gift.



Posters hang honoring the 15 St. Francis Prep alumni who perished on 9/11

WTC Deputy GM Shares Recovery Story for Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month

September was very special for **John Farrell**, Deputy General Manager for the World Trade Center Department, as it was Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month. Farrell shares the story of his accident.

"Last year, I went in for cancer surgery and during the surgery, they had an accident, and they broke my neck," said Farrell. "I woke up a quadriplegic in recovery. I needed a second surgery less than 24 hours after my cancer surgery and I now have titanium rods and screws in my neck."

Farrell, with two lengths of titanium rods with 10 plates and 20 screws replacing his spine, couldn't walk or move. Thanks to his best advocate, his wife Patricia, he was admitted to the Burke Institute and was part of the [Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation Quality of Life Grant Program](#). Agency friends and colleagues came to



Dr. Shelly Hsieh, John Farrell, and Elizabeth Dominick in the Oculus.

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PAPD Bi-State Coalition Hosts Student Tour at LGA

The PAPD Bi-State Coalition recently welcomed a group of local students for an inside look at LaGuardia Airport, hosting the youngsters on a guided tour of the agency's operations at the facility.

The Bi-State Coalition's latest community outreach effort provided the students, who visited from P.S. 153 Helen Keller in the Bronx on October 17, with an in-depth understanding of the PA, its



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Civilians Get a Glimpse of How the PAPD Keeps the Region Safe

The Port Authority Police Department (PAPD) Citizens Police Academy recently gave a group of civilians an inside look at how it keeps the bistate region safe.

A group of 28 New York and New Jersey area residents this month attended a series of sessions where they learned all about what the PAPD does to keep our transportation infrastructure secure. This included presentations on the department's history, duties, and functions, which highlighted, de-escalation techniques, counterterrorism measures, emergency medical response, and much more. Participants even got behind the wheel of the PAPD's patrol vehicle driving simulator.

"Designed to enhance our relationship with people living in the communities we serve, the academy is another way to strengthen our partnership with the public and continue a direct communication line with them," said Police Superintendent **Edward Cetnar**. "We were delighted to have these folks."

"I learned invaluable and practical skills for real-life scenarios," said Samantha Perez-Gora, a liaison to the manager of Union County, NJ. "From self-defense to active shooter drills or first aid training, this course provided the tools to be better prepared for the unexpected. It is incredible how reactions can differ from what we imagine in high-stress moments, and this course helped us build the mental resilience needed to respond effectively."

Now in its second year, the PAPD Citizens Police Academy was created to enhance relations between the PAPD and the communities it serves, educating both PA civilian employees and residents from local neighborhoods on the operations and functions of the PAPD.



HRD's O&M Development Program Fosters Operational Excellence

The Human Resources Department is thrilled to announce the successful conclusion of the Junior Field Operations & Maintenance Supervisor Development Program.

Taking place from October 2 to 6, the weeklong program was organized by the Talent Strategies and Engagement team and emphasized the agency's commitment to fostering operational excellence, upholding core agency values, and enhancing staff performance. The program was designed to support the growth of field staff, who play a crucial role in delivering agency services, supervising staff, and overseeing contractors.

Topics covered included leadership, motivation, labor relations, business ethics, diversity, equity, and inclusion, career development, safety management, and effective communication. The program also included an applied problem-solving component, where participants worked collaboratively in teams to analyze real-



life scenarios, propose solutions, and receive valuable feedback from senior department managers.

HR commends the dedication and hard work of all program participants, as well as the exceptional guidance and support provided by trainers and senior department managers. The next and final cohort for this year will meet from November 13 to 17, with additional sessions taking place next spring.

The team is confident that the skills acquired during this program will contribute to its continued operational excellence and the achievement of agency objectives. The organization looks forward to witnessing the positive influence of its Junior Field Operations and Maintenance Supervisors as they apply what they have learned in their daily responsibilities.

NBE Carl Creque Book Scholarship Awarded to Students

Congratulations to this year's recipients of the Network of Black Employees' **Carl Creque** Book Scholarship, who were each awarded with a check for \$1,000 to help with their studies.

The promising students are all women of color pursuing degrees in STEM-related fields. They all have GPAs of 3.6 or better, are prominent members in their communities, and are active leaders of various organizations and other initiatives. Their letters of recommendation and personal essays spoke volumes about who they are as individuals and their achievements over the years.

2023 Carl Creque Book Scholarship Awardees

Alyssa King, *class of 2027 at Columbia University*
Eesha Nagpal, *class of 2025 at Carnegie Mellon University*
Ifrita Shajedeen, *class of 2027 at New York University*
Krysten Thompson, *class of 2027 at Drexel University*

Learn more about this year's Carl Creque scholarship recipients on [PA News](#).

The Carl Creque Book Scholarship was established to honor Carl, a 30-year employee and NBE chairperson at the time of his passing in October 2007. Carl started his three-decade career as a toll collector and worked his way up to become Aviation General Operations Supervisor. He was an advocate for field staff to have a voice and was known by his fellow employees for his courage in doing the right thing.

Thanks to everyone who generously contributed their time, talent, and resources to raise funds during NBE's bake sales throughout the year.



Ramona Turner-Davis, Audrey Dagnachew, and Minerva John-Stull during NBE's Black History Month bake sale on February 22

SIB Employees Host Successful Breast Cancer Fundraiser

In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Staten Island Bridges (SIB) employees came together to raise awareness and sell t-shirts to support a great cause.

In the span of just two weeks, staff at SIB raised \$1,100 for the American Cancer Society through a t-shirt sale from late September to early October. **Jacqueline Kerney**, Supervisor of Operations Programs, shares why the cause is close to the department.

"Multiple employees at SIB, as well as our loved ones, have been personally affected by breast cancer and other cancers as well," Jacqueline told PA News. "As a group we wanted to do something and make a difference. Our Maintenance Unit initiated the idea of the banner, floral tribute, and the t-shirts. The extra proceeds collected from the t-shirts, \$1,100, was donated to the American Cancer Society. Go Team Maintenance and thank you for all you do to support us, we appreciate you!"



WTC Deputy GM Shares Recovery Story

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visit him while he was in recovery, including Chief Medical Officer **Dr. Howard Fisher**.

"People didn't think I was going to make it," said Farrell. "Luckily, I think it was my stubbornness in everything in life that I wasn't going to quit."

For months, Farrell spent long days in the ICU and then in rehabilitation. After having no sensation in his hands, torso, and legs, Farrell learned how to rework his body. He now walks with a cane.

"They got me through all the craziness," said Farrell. "I can now hold my grandchildren in my hands and hold my wife's hand. I may not be able to feel everything, but the connection is still there."

For Spinal Cord Injury Awareness last month, Farrell gave a tour of the WTC Oculus and Command Center to Dr. Shelly Hsieh and Elizabeth Dominick from the Burke Institute, where Farrell was a patient. He shared that it was exciting to show them the space.

"I know now that every ADA (Americans With Disabilities Act) door is so important," said Farrell. "You don't realize how heavy a door is."

Throughout the WTC, Farrell made sure everything was ADA compliant from wheelchair access, elevators, escalators, and automatic doors. He discussed the importance of pairing up with the MTA for Access-A-Ride, a paratransit service which provides transportation for those with disabilities that cannot use public transit.

"We worked very hard together to make sure that the World Trade Center is on the map," said Farrell. "So, if [you have a disability] and you want to come to the World Trade Center, you can take Access-A-Ride right to our front door."

PARA WANTS YOU

The Port Authority Retirees Association (PARA) invites active and retired Port Authority and PATH employees to join its almost 4,000 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 \$20 a year. Visit www.paranynj.org for more information and to sign up for PARA's email bulletins.

Coalition Hosts Student Tour

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dedicated police force, as well as its facilities, equipment, and other support systems.

The exciting and educational day gave the children an opportunity to see how the PA's police force, facilities, operations, equipment, and various other aspects come together to keep the region's transportation facilities and infrastructure running smoothly and safely.



Sgt. Monique Turner and Officer Joseph Pickering with a local student.

CALENDAR

Wanted: Future City Volunteers

Saturday, January 13 (NJ) and Saturday, January 20 (NYC). Future City is a national program that challenges middle school students to learn engineering principles the fun way. Help power the next generation of engineers as a volunteer, mentor, judge, for at-home work and on competition day. Also needed are volunteers to assist in the successful operation of the day's events: for the entire day, or just a portion if that is your availability. There are separate New Jersey and New York City events. [View the flyer here.](#) For more information, contact Scott Lubarsky at slubarsky@panynj.gov.

GOT NEWS FOR NEXT TIME?

Do you have news from your team, department or employee group to share in the next PA News? Send it to panews@panynj.gov by November 9 to be included in the November 17 issue.

PAHS Hosts Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration



The Port Authority Hispanic Society recently hosted employees from across the agency for its annual Hispanic Heritage Month celebration.

On the morning of October 12, agency leadership, employees, and guests came together for a celebratory breakfast, themed *Latinos: Driving Prosperity, Power, and Progress*. Executive Director **Rick Cotton** provided opening remarks. He was followed by guest speaker Kim Haas, host of PBS program *Afro-Latino Travels with Kim Haas* and **Catherine Valenzano**, Engineering Program Executive in the Engineering Department.

More than 140 employees and friends came together in person and virtually for PAHS' annual Hispanic Heritage Month breakfast, which was held at 4WTC. Attendees enjoyed a delicious breakfast catered by PATC's Operations Services cafeteria and were treated to a fabulous dance performance by the Latin Connection, a New York City-based dance company.

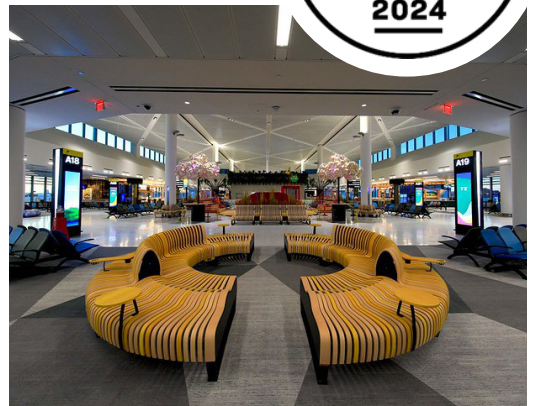
"PAHS is proud and thankful to have had the support of committee members to host a phenomenal breakfast celebration with delicious Dominican food and a very dynamic dancing performance to celebrate the Hispanic culture" said PAHS President and Aviation Department Executive Business Manager **Marilyn Feliz**. "It was difficult to focus on work after such an incredible engagement and wow, the food was so delicious! I'm appreciative of the Port Authority for supporting our celebration."



Vote for PA Airports as World's Best

The ongoing transformation of the PA's airports has continued to make a splash across the industry, and now our three metro-area airports are in the running for [Travel + Leisure's 2024 World's Best Awards](#) in the Airports category! [Voting is now live](#), so show your support with votes for John F. Kennedy International Airport, LaGuardia Airport, and Newark Liberty International Airport.

Voting will be **open through February 27, 2024**, and winners will be announced on T+L's site in July and published in the August 2024 print issue of Travel + Leisure. Feel free to [share the survey](#) with family and friends and let's show off the world-class transformation of our region's airports.



New Terminal A at EWR