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The Road Ahead: Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti



Gutierrez-Scaccetti

With an incredibly hectic summer season now in the rear view mirror the cool breezes of fall are upon us. Autumn is my season. It provides an opportunity to take measure and reflect on our good fortunes, to celebrate our families and children, and to consider how we can continue to help those less fortunate.

The poet Khalil Gibran once wrote: "Generosity is giving more than you can, and pride is taking less than you need." This sentiment sums up how I feel about the importance of charity and community service, which are considered to be among the most altruistic of civic virtues.

The NJDOT family embodies the spirit of Gibran's quote. Just turn to page 6 in this edition and read about the TRAC & RIDES program, in which NJDOT staff volunteer to encourage careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) to school-age students, especially females and minorities.

This is also a good opportunity to thank everyone who donated to the Department's recent "Back to School Supply Drive." Through your generosity we

collected backpacks, notebooks, binders, pens, pencils, pads and other classroom necessities that are being donated to the United Way of Mercer County, which will distribute the supplies to schools in need.

Additional opportunities to give are upcoming throughout the fall. The annual New Jersey Employees Charitable Campaign is underway. Each year, the NJECC raises funds for numerous service agencies, charities and volunteer groups that support a variety of social causes. It is entirely voluntary and a decision each employee should make based on their own circumstances. Information about how you can support these organizations in your local community is forthcoming.

As we get closer to the holidays, NJDOT participates in a non-perishable foods drive. In past years, NJDOT employees have generously donated all types of food products that are counted, boxed and delivered to large food distribution organizations across the state that battle against hunger and homelessness. In the four years that the Department has taken part in the food drive it has equaled or surpassed each prior year in the number of items collected.

It is my hope that our NJDOT family continue our charitable traditions and I hope to find even more ways to help those in need.

Diane



Commissioner's Lunch Table Competition Winners shared their professional backgrounds, goals for the future and suggestions for the betterment of the Department with Deputy Commissioner Joseph Bertoni and other executive wing staffers as they enjoyed their pizza lunch.

L-R: Jim Berzok, Commissioner's staff; Scott Ackerman, attendee; Meg Frampton, attendee; Joseph Bertoni, Deputy Commissioner; Richard Rabinowitz, attendee; Angelina Okwego, attendee; Judy Drucker, editor.

TRANSPORTER

E-News



News for and about
NJ Department of Transportation
Employees and Retirees

Governor
Phil Murphy

Lt. Governor
Sheila Oliver

Commissioner
Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti

Published by the NJDOT
Communications Office

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Start of Route 495 lane closures draws major press coverage

Bridge project will replace the deck and make structural repairs

If you looked to the sky over North Bergen on Monday morning, August 20 you would have seen five news helicopters, a NJ State Police helicopter, and an NJDOT drone (if you have really good eyes and knew where to look). No, OJ Simpson wasn't back in his White Bronco 24 years after his infamous police chase, driving from the New Jersey Turnpike or Route 3 across Route 495 to the Lincoln Tunnel.

All the hype and media attention was related to the first morning commute after NJDOT closed one lane in each direction on the Route 495 bridge over Route 1&9 and Paterson Plank Road for the start of a project that will replace the deck and make repairs to structural steel. Reducing travel lanes on one of the busiest commuter corridors in the country was expected to create severe congestion and a traffic nightmare in the area. As of press time that hasn't happened.

The reason why traffic has continued to flow with minimal delays during the start of this phase of the \$90.3 million state-funded project is because of the extensive outreach NJDOT's project team did leading up to the lane closures and cooperation with NJ Transit.

For more than a year, regular meetings have been held with local officials, law enforcement, and emergency responders from the four neighboring municipalities – North Bergen, Secaucus, Union City, and Weehawken. There is a dedicated Community Outreach Team that has effectively utilized social media like Facebook, and geofencing alerts on smartphones, as well as traditional media, such as billboards and flyers and community meetings to get the word out.



Governor Phil Murphy joined Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti at the Route 495 rehabilitation press conference, held on August 17, announcing the beginning of the essential project. They were flanked by the NJDOT project team.

Two press conferences held the week before the closures took effect certainly helped get the message out with dozens of TV, radio, and print reporters in attendance. Commissioner **Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti** outlined alternatives for commuters to consider including using the George Washington Bridge or Holland Tunnel, taking public transportation like the Hudson-Bergen Light Rail, NJ Transit, private buses, ferries, or leaving earlier, or later, or telecommuting.

Gov. **Phil Murphy** toured the construction site and held another press conference to reiterate the alternatives, and commuters seem to have heard the message and taken heed.

The project began in September 2017 with local street improvements and is being accomplished in 12 stages. There are eight stages to the bridge deck portion of the project, which is expected to last two and a half years. The entire project is expected to be completed in the summer of 2021.

The exclusive bus lane (XBL), which uses a westbound lane between 6 a.m. and 10 a.m. on weekdays, will remain open throughout construction allowing more than 1,850 buses and 63,000 passengers to get through the Lincoln Tunnel to midtown Manhattan. 

National Wildlife Refuge Trail Opens on Cedar Bonnet Island

New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) officials in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) opened the first public access to the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge Environmental Trail on Cedar Bonnet Island.

"This project is a real example of how NJDOT adds to the quality of life here in the state in ways that are not necessarily intuitive," NJDOT Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti said. "Through a partnership between NJDOT, the Fish & Wildlife Service, the DEP, and the US Army Corps of Engineers, we were all able to reach an agreement on how the required environmental mitigation could be accomplished and satisfy the goals of all of the stakeholder agencies. A win for all parties involved."

As part of an environmental mitigation project for the NJDOT larger [\\$312 million federally-funded Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges project](#), the Department and USFWS created an environmental trail providing the first public access to the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge on Cedar Bonnet Island.

Route 72 traverses a portion of the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, known as the Cedar Bonnet Island Conservation Unit (CBI), a portion of which was a former Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) that accepted dredge materials from adjoining marina construction and channel maintenance dredging dating back to the 1950s. The property was acquired by the USFWS in the 1990s, but has not been open for public use. As part of the Refuge's Comprehensive Conservation Plan, CBI was identified as a priority



for wildlife habitat restoration and passive recreational use.

Public Access Improvements

Included in the public access improvements for the project is a one-mile walking path with pedestrian benches, two gazebo overlooks with picnic tables and interpretive signs located along the path. The path provides views of Atlantic City, the Manahawkin Bay Bridges, Long Beach Island and coastal marshes and Barnegat Bay, as well as opportunities to view shore-area wildlife.

Barnegat Bay watershed

The Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges project is also located within the Barnegat Bay

watershed, an area of significant ecological and recreational importance to the State. To help improve water quality within the Bay and comply with NJDEP Stormwater Management (SWM) Rules, NJDOT considered numerous traditional Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the Route 72 project that would have resulted in significant construction and maintenance cost, and constructability concerns.

The Peregrine Falcon

NJDOT also worked with USFWS, NJ Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Endangered and Nongame Species Program (ENSP) to design a permanent [Peregrine Falcon Eyrie \(nest\)](#) on a wooden tower next to the new Causeway to help give the falcons who attempt to nest there a decent shot at success in one of the most precarious of locations. These birds often make their homes under large bridges, utilizing tall structures in an urban setting to hunt.

About the Refuge

[The Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge](#) protects more than 47,000 acres of southern New Jersey coastal habitats which is actively managed for migratory birds. The refuge's location in one of the Atlantic Flyway's most active flight paths makes it an important link in seasonal bird migration. Its value for the protection of water birds and their habitat continues to increase as people develop the New Jersey shore for our own use.





NJ Urban Youth Corps program participants and NJDOT staff share a moment of fulfillment in front of their completed garden project. The program provides opportunities for economically or socially disadvantaged youth who have experienced barriers to employment. Participants receive on-the-job training while working on transportation-related community projects.

NJDOT Civil Rights Unit Supports the Personal Growth and Education of Young People across the State

Urban Youth Corps

The Murphy Administration awarded 12 Urban Youth Corps grants this summer to enable municipal and community organizations to provide employment opportunities to hundreds of young adults as they develop and carry out projects to improve the appearance of urban gateways along or near state highways.

NJDOT Civil Rights office is administering the program, with funding from the Federal Highway Administration, which began on June 21 at NJDOT headquarters. The recipients receive a \$32,000 grant to cover stipends, equipment and supplies to carry out their projects. Grant recipients focus on landscaping, litter abatement, installation of signage, graffiti removal and other aesthetic improvements.

The NJDOT program provides opportunities to youth and young adults between the ages of 16 and 25 who are economically or socially disadvantaged and who have experienced barriers to employment (e.g., the lack of a high school diploma, homelessness, teen parenting, being physically or mentally challenged, or an ex-offender). Participants receive on-the-job training and develop skills while working on transportation-related community projects.

The Project locations and grantees are:

Atlantic County

NJ Youth Corps
(Pleasantville)

Camden County

The Work Group
(Camden)

Essex County

East Orange Mayor's
Office of Employment
and Training (MOET)

Hudson County

Jersey City Department
of Public Works

Mercer County

Isles Youth Institute
(Trenton)

Middlesex County

NJ Youth Corps of

Middlesex County/
New Brunswick
Public Schools Adult
Learning Center (New
Brunswick)
Perth Amboy
Department of
Recreation

Passaic County

City of Clifton
Downtown Merchants
Corporation (Passaic)
NJ Youth Corps of
Paterson

Union County

City of Elizabeth

Warren County

NJ Youth Corps
of Phillipsburg
(Phillipsburg)

Continued on page 6

NJDOT Civil Rights Unit Continued from page 5

The Urban Youth Corps program is an important component of the Clean Up New Jersey campaign that was launched in the summer of 2010. Clean Up NJ has included dozens of concentrated highway cleanup efforts by nearly 600 NJDOT highway operations technicians; has bolstered litter pick-up and grass trimming by deploying Department of Corrections inmates; has revived the Adopt-A-Highway program; and has coordinated wildflower plantings.

For more on the Urban Youth Program, contact coordinator **Chrystal Section** (609) 530-2939.

TRAC & RIDES

NJDOT partnered with the NJ Chamber of Commerce Foundation and Department of Education on career awareness and educational outreach programs held throughout the state for 750 middle school students during the spring and summer of 2018.

NJDOT staff conducted presentations and experiments using materials from our Transportation and Civil Engineering (TRAC) and Roadways in Developing Elementary Students (RIDES) programs at



three events featured at Kean University, Stockton University, and The College of New Jersey.

On July 25, NJDOT introduced the TRAC and RIDES programs to more than 60 school principals during the Principal Learning Network Summer Institute at the College of New Jersey.

TRAC is geared toward middle and high school students. RIDES is focused on grades K-8. Both are designed to encourage female and minority students

to consider careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). NJDOT's Division of Civil Rights in connection with American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials implements the programs.

NJDOT volunteers include: **Jeevanjot Singh, Diana Villanueva, Aarti Gupta, Tyronn Walker, and Shivani Patel.** For more on TRAC and RIDES, contact coordinator **Chrystal Section** at (609) 530-2939, Chrystal.Section@dot.nj.gov 



Transportation needs of adults with autism being studied and addressed by Task Force on Mobility and Support Services

The Center for Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation (CAIT) at Rutgers has established the New Jersey Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder Mobility and Support Services Task Force to study and make recommendations to enhance access to transportation services for New Jersey adults with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) is proud to be on the 11-member task force.

NJDOT’s External ADA/504 Coordinator **Chrystal Section** has been designated to work on the task force along with six other State Department representatives and four members of the public. Cecilia Feeley, Ph.D., CAIT Transportation Autism Project Manager, chairs the task force.

In September 2015, CAIT issued a report entitled “Detour to the Right Place: A Study with the Recommendations for Addressing the Transportation Needs and Barriers of Adults on the Autism Spectrum in New Jersey.” The report found several areas in which State policies and programs can be improved to help remove or lessen barriers, and enhance access to transportation services.

According to CAIT, very little had been known or written about transportation issues encountered by adults with ASD prior to CAIT’s report. The report makes 15 recommendations for action including:

1. Develop and provide continuing support for transportation-focused training programs in the educational setting, as part of students’ Independent Evaluation Plans (IEP).
2. Integrate the transportation needs of adults with ASD with current research being conducted by Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) experts.
3. Develop and implement targeted vehicle operator training and training for front line staff that come in contact with adults with ASD for fixed route transportation services (NJ TRANSIT, SEPTA), paratransit (NJ Transit Access Link, county and municipal services), private and volunteer services (NGOs), and emerging on-demand private services (Uber and Lyft).

Some duties of the task force include:

- Reviewing current State policies as they relate to transportation services and ASD related educational and employment services provided to adults with ASD,
- Consulting with and evaluating testimony from groups that care for adults with ASD on the State’s transportation infrastructure;
- Developing and issuing recommendations to lessen barriers and increase transportation access and availability to adults with ASD.



Cecilia Feeley, Ph.D., Chrystal Section and Jonathan Kratchman working together at the Autism Task Force to find solutions to transportation issues effecting adults on the autism spectrum.

Three public forums and one listening session will be held to gather information regarding barriers and obstacles ASD adults face in their use of the State’s transportation infrastructure and system and the need for ASD related educational and employment support services.

Monday, October 15, 2018 - 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Rutgers University, Center for Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation, 100 Brett Road, Piscataway, NJ Auditorium

Wednesday, October 17, 2018 - 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Burlington County Human Services Facility, 795 Woodlane Road, Mount Holly Lecture Hall A

TBD
North Jersey Location

Friday, October 19, 2018 - 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Special Listening Sessions for Attendees of the Autism NJ Conference

The task force will issue a comprehensive report to the Governor and to the Legislature on recommendations concerning mobility and support services needs of NJ’s adults with ADS by April 2019.

For more information contact Chrystal Section at Chrystal.Section@dot.nj.gov



Everyday should be child passenger safety day!

NJDOT and NJ Division of Highway Traffic Safety (NJDOTS) are spreading the word about child passenger safety in conjunction with **National Child Passenger Safety Week** from **September 23 – 29** and **National Seat Check Saturday** on September 29. A social media message #NationalSeatCheckSaturday #SafetyFirst will be promoted by both organizations.

During **National Child Passenger Safety Week** the Safe Passage message **KIDS IN CARS BELONG IN CAR SEATS** will be displayed on all NJ statewide digital message system.

NJDOTS will be promoting **FREE** child car seat checks by **Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians** at car seat events in **all 21 counties in New Jersey on Saturday, September 29.**

Follow this link to find a location nearest you. <https://www.nj.gov/oag/hts/childseats/childseatchecks.html>



Please note that some require advance registration so do not delay.

Governor Murphy is a strong advocate of child passenger safety. He delivered on his commitment and signed legislation requiring that certain school buses be equipped with lap and shoulder seat belts. "Every child and every educator and adult chaperone deserves our best effort to protect their safety and the best possible chance of emerging unharmed in the unfortunate event of a school bus accident," Governor Murphy said. 



First class of HOT 3 graduates celebrated

Operations Vision 2020 restructuring plan reaches milestone success

A ceremony commemorating the first class of NJDOT Highway Operations Technician 3 (HOT3) participants who have successfully completed the new training program, passed the civil service promotional exam, and received their professional certifications was held on July 20.

There were 44 graduates of the first HOT3 training program, each of whom advanced through the three-course curriculum of progressive difficulty, logging more than 180 hours of classroom training.

"I commend the first Highway Operations Technician 3 graduating class as they represent a significant step in achieving NJDOT's commitment to providing outstanding service to the public by broadening staff skills, increasing efficiency, improving response time and keeping our roadways safe and operational," Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti said.

HIGHWAY OPERATIONS TECHNICIAN TRAINING PROGRAM

The HOT3 title is a product of the newly reorganized Transportation Operation Systems and Support (TOS&S) Unit. TOS&S created an operational improvement Vision 2020 business plan that includes providing current staff internally designed training to fulfill departmental staff skill requirements. The graduation is a significant milestone in the progress of the Vision 2020 mission implementation and achieving department goals.

The NJDOT Operations Training Unit, formed in August 2015, has trained hundreds of NJDOT employees at various levels from Highway Technician Trainees to Supervisors. 

Employee Spotlight

NJDOT employee continues to fly high after serving in the United States Air Force

The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) mission is to improve lives by improving transportation. That goal requires planning, skill, and commitment to serve the motoring public traveling within and through the state 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days per year. **Thomas Honrychs**, Electrical Mechanic, is one of a legion of employees that epitomizes that dedication.

Thomas served his country for eight years in the United States Air Force as a fuel specialist, including a tour in United Arab Emirates during Desert Storm, and was honorably discharged in March 1997. He then attended trade and vocational schools earning an electrical journeyman certification.

Military service prepared Thomas for the total commitment that he now provides to the NJDOT and public in his role as a Traffic Operations South (TOS) region Electrical Mechanic.

Thomas is one of 14 people in that region who are required to take a bucket truck home each evening and be on-call, 24-hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. As surprising as that may sound, it is the expectation for all the people working in that job description.

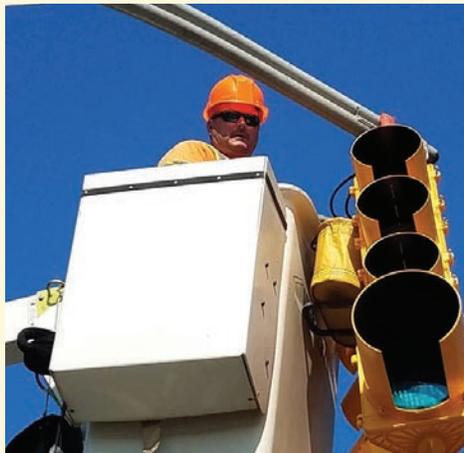
So what is a typical day like for this electrical mechanic?

A typical day begins and ends with the same mindset, he said, "It is my job to make sure that the public is safe by making sure that traffic is moving efficiently." Properly functioning traffic signals keep traffic moving safely, so at each shift, he receives an assignment that may include repairing a traffic signal that was knocked down because of a crash or bad-weather conditions.

He also receives "Flash Call"

assignments, triggered by police calls to NJDOT's Central Dispatch Unit, informing the NJDOT team that a traffic signal is flashing yellow or red on a state highway and red or yellow on its adjoining side street, indicating a non-functional light in the system.

There are five TOS crews and 29 total staff members that service 814 traffic signals and nearly 6,000 streetlights in the Southern region.



Thomas Honrychs is flying high as he serves the needs of New Jersey motorists.

"It's nail biting sometimes because you have to think fast and troubleshoot – you see a lot of people (drivers) get nervous and they don't know what to do and they can cause an accident. I try to work as fast and as efficiently as possible," Tom said. The area police departments are often called as back up to assist motorists with traffic management. The NJDOT maintenance teams also support the electrical road crews with cones and traffic signs, "they are a big help," Thomas said.

How did NJDOT become your career path?

When asked what enticed Thomas to work at NJDOT he said, "I wanted to try something new in my field and NJDOT offered excellent training and benefits. Over

the years, NJDOT has helped me by providing me with proper traffic safety, and electrical training. It's very important because the problems that can happen are extreme. They have classroom training – they just had a weeklong training for traffic safety – safety for setting up cones – keeping the public and the staff safe. The following week we had electrical training on how to build traffic signal fixtures. You think you know everything but then you learn something new every day. It's important to keep up with the technology and the controllers out there."

What was your most memorable project?

"My proudest moment was when all of the NJDOT electrical employees joined together and helped to repair the traffic signals effected by Hurricane Sandy. It was a blur because we worked so many hours – it seemed like it would never end. I learned a lot and if there is ever another emergency I have a lot of experience – we worked on this for months to get everything back on track," Tom shared.

How has his job changed over the years?

Thomas is a 15-year NJDOT veteran and he has seen many changes over the years. "The electrical technology has changed such as LED lighting, vehicle detection components such as cameras and new radar sensors that pick up the cars [to help identify traffic congestion]. They are state of the art now and are getting a lot better."

What advice do you have for prospective candidates in this field?

"The only advice I would give to them is to keep up with technology because there is always something new," Tom stated. 

A crumbling balustrade required immediate repair to insure public safety

A motor vehicle accident on Route 15 northbound in Wharton, Morris County, crumbled a cement balustrade and created a public hazard. The Region North Structural Concrete contract team were called in for the emergency repair. The entire balustrade was removed, new reinforcing bars were installed, a wood form was fabricated, concrete poured, and upon curing, the wood was removed and the concrete finished. This is just one of many concrete repair projects handled by NJDOT and its contractors. Work to be proud of! 



Retiring Employee Insights

Janice DeJohn

8th Annual David Lee Unity Award Winner

The New Jersey Department of Transportation recognizes the need to promote an inclusive work environment, which supports diversity and unity, where all employees are valued and respected.

The NJDOT Diversity Award was renamed the **David Lee** Unity Award in 2011 to honor **David Lee**, an employee who embodied all that the award represents.

Employee peers submit nominations for the yearly recognition, which are then reviewed by a selection committee. This year's honoree was **Janice DeJohn**. She is also the featured retiring employee. Her insights will outline some of the volunteer tasks she had worked on for the benefit of the organization and its staff. Congratulations to Janice and thank you for your service and dedication to the NJDOT.



NAME: Janice DeJohn

TITLE AT RETIREMENT: Executive Assistant 1

LIST POSITIONS

HELD AT THE NJDOT: Research Assistant	Bureau of Urban Planning
Senior Research Assistant	Bureau of Urban Planning
Executive Assistant 3	Bureau of Maintenance Support
Executive Assistant 2	Division of Transportation Systems Planning
	Office of Assistant Commissioner for Policy and Planning
	Office of Legislative Relations
	Commissioner's Correspondence Unit
	Customer Advocacy and Public Outreach
	Office of Assistant Commissioner for Administration
	Office of Assistant Commissioner for Administration
Executive Assistant 1	

DID YOU HAVE A MENTOR OR INFLUENCER AT NJDOT? IF SO, HOW DID HE OR SHE IMPACT YOUR CAREER AND/OR PERSONAL LIFE? Yes, Former Assistant Commissioner **Kate Immordino** was definitely a mentor to me. I admired the way that she supervised and managed the Administration Unit. Kate was kind to everyone and truly cared about the employees of the Department. She accomplished many things and was very well respected throughout not only NJDOT, but in other State agencies as well. It was under her administration that many things were created such as the Employee Advocate position, the Succession Planning Program, the Administratively Speaking newsletter, and the Administration Open Houses (to name a few). Kate is still a very good friend of mine.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO PURSUE A CAREER IN YOUR FIELD? My first job out of college was with the Mercer County Housing Office and once I started working there I realized that I enjoyed working in the public sector so I took an OC exam and ended up at NJDOT.

DID YOU PURSUE ADDITIONAL EDUCATION AND ADVANCED DEGREES TO ENHANCE YOUR CAREER? Yes, I have a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Temple University which I was pursuing prior to coming to work at DOT but completed while working here.

Retiring Employee Insights

WHAT WAS THE PROJECT THAT YOU WORKED ON FOR WHICH YOU ARE MOST PROUD AND WHY?

While they are not "projects" in the literal sense of the word, I have worked on many things that I am very proud of including: creating and being the Editor of Administratively Speaking for 16 years; coordinating the Department's Awards Program(s) for 11 years; helping to create the curriculum and being an instructor for the SECAP Training Program; being a member and Treasurer of the Employee Memorial Committee (EMC) almost since its inception and along with that coordinating or assisting with many EMC events like the Annual Appreciation Picnic, the Silent Auction, and the Scholarship Program; coordinating the Trenton Thunder game since its inception in 2000, helping to organize the Golf Outing since it began 19 years ago; coordinating Take Our Children to Work (TOCTW) Day for 15 years; coordinating Women's History Month Events for 15 years; being a member of the Operations Road-e-o Committee since the 1990s; and being a member of the Department's 50th Anniversary Committee in 2016.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE EXPERIENCE? It is not so much what I learned from the experience, but the connections and friends that I made. I have met so many great people that work at DOT from being involved in all of these activities – from my Trenton Thunder regulars, to the golfers (current and past employees) that come out every year, to my fellow EMC members, to everyone who puts in so much time and effort into making sure the kids have a great time and learn a lot on Take Our Children day. And the list goes on. It took a lot of my personal time to coordinate many of these activities but it was worth it just because I got to meet so many great people that I would not have otherwise met. Good times!

WHAT PROJECT WAS THE MOST CHALLENGING AND WHY? I would have to say of all of the things listed above, Take Our Children to Work Day was the most challenging. I don't think anyone has any idea how much coordination and effort goes into having a successful TOCTW program. **Sharon Simmons** from HR has been doing it the last couple of years and is doing a fantastic job.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE EXPERIENCE? I am normally a very organized person anyway, but coordinating activities like TOCTW Day, has taught me to be even more organized. You have to be. I also learned how to ask for help when necessary and that people are more than willing to help when asked.

WHAT WOULD YOU SHARE WITH A PERSON IN AN ENTRY LEVEL OR MID-LEVEL POSITION THAT MAY BE HELPFUL TO THEM IN NAVIGATING PROJECTS AND THEIR CAREER? Two things: **1) GET INVOLVED!** Just for the reasons mentioned above. It makes you feel like part of the organization and allows you to meet some great people. If an activity comes up that you would like to help with, ask around to see who is organizing it and reach out to them to offer your help. I guarantee they would welcome the offer of assistance.

2) Don't be afraid to move around the Department. I have worked in several areas of the Department and have not only learned a lot, but have worked with some great people. Just sitting in the same office/unit waiting for a promotion to come up is not productive and could be disappointing. Look around at the job postings and if you see something you qualify for, go for it!

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: I have truly enjoyed working at NJDOT for the past 31+ years. Thanks to everyone I have worked with and met during my time here for making it a great place to work.

DO YOU HAVE ANY RETIREMENT PLANS? HAVE YOU SET ANY GOALS?

I plan to take several trips over the next few months, including leaving for Italy on my last day of work, and then I will play it by ear. There are several things I am interested in pursuing, so it will be interesting to see where life takes me.

TID DOTS!

Tid Dots is a collection of employee awards, retirements, service anniversaries and other sharable and NJDOT pride-producing news.

Blue Bonnet is mourned Environmentalists remain hopeful

NJDOT contractors stopped traffic on the Causeway Bridge roadway in Manahawkin to retrieve the lifeless body of peregrine falcon fledgling Blue Bonnet. Her death was likely a result of a failed flight attempt, in July. The fledgling was five-weeks old at the time of her death. She is survived by her mother, Jo Durt of Surf City and father, Bridge Boy of Atlantic City.

The peregrine falcon family and their story has been a priority to NJDOT, environmentalists and the public during the Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges project. (See National Wildlife Refuge Trail article on page 4 for more information and links about the falcons).

When the NJDOT Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges Project began, one concern addressed was the location of a peregrine falcon nest under the bridge. The bridge is a popular nesting spot for birds, providing a good vantage point for hunting, but always proved deadly for fledglings born there. The air currents under the bridge make it nearly impossible for the fledglings to take flight before falling into the water or onto the roadway below.

NJDOT teamed up with the NJ Conserve Wildlife Foundation staff and volunteers and constructed a new nest platform located in the marsh to the south of the eastbound stretch of the Dorland J. Henderson Bridge, and placed an XL "Dogloo" nest box for the birds.



Blue Bonnet was one of three eggs laid in the new nest. She was banded at 4-weeks old and appeared healthy and well. Unfortunately, the adult's attraction to the bridge remained powerful, and Jo Durt and Bridge Boy took Blue Bonnet to the bridge, presumably to learn to fly. The lesson proved to be fatal.

Blue Bonnet's passing is extremely sad but her birth remains as a sign of progress in the reinvigoration of the peregrine falcon population in the area. NJ Conserve Wildlife Foundation staff remain hopeful that the new nesting location and time will result in new generations of raptors in the area. 



L-R: Mike Moran, Manager, Statewide Incident Management, SFC Dan Suhr, NJSP's Statewide Incident Management Program, Rudy Manz, Training Technician 2, Statewide Incident Management Program are seen in front of the National Fire Academy located in Emmitsburg, Maryland where they attended a National Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Training Program and Leadership Symposium. The group identified the latest best practices, discussed effective ways to implement and sustain programs and develop action items to maximize leadership support and create future TIMS training programs. President Jimmy Carter dedicated the rock that they are standing behind in 1979.

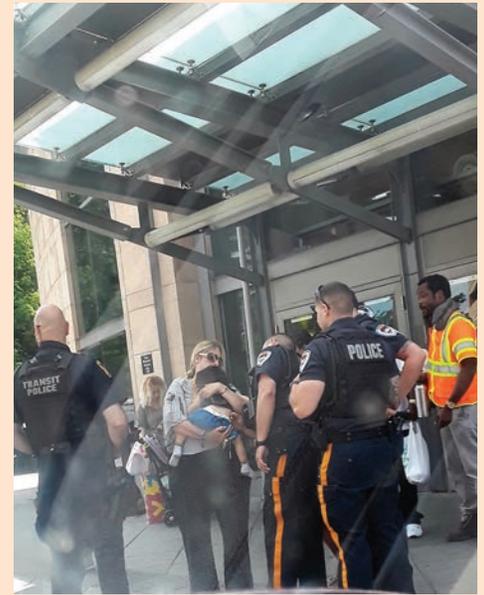
One good deed created a life-saving moment for a baby in distress

NJDOT employee **Donna Deveney** found herself witness to a young mother, frantically screaming for help, while her baby was lying on the ground in front of the Trenton Train Station.

Donna immediately jumped out of her car and grabbed the child who was having a seizure, was blue in color due to lack of oxygen to the brain and unresponsive. She rolled the baby on its side, cleared his airway, allowing him to breathe on his own again, saving his life. She remained on-site until the Emergency Management Team arrived to take over.

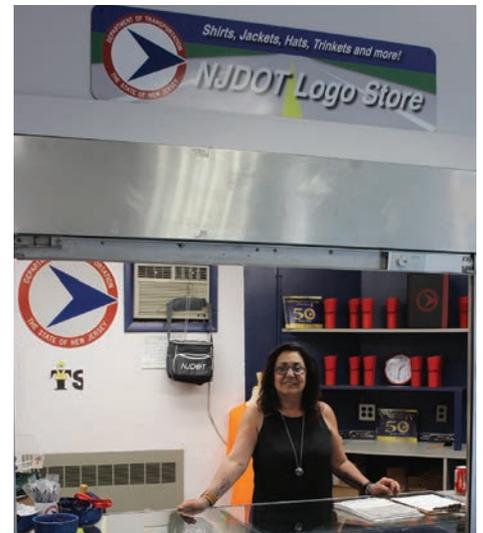
"I encourage everyone to receive CPR and basic first aid training," Donna said. She credits her NJDOT Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training for her quick and controlled response.

Co-worker **Miriam Greene-James** witnessed and reported this incident. Donna was driving Miriam to the train station in response to her own family emergency. Apparently, Donna drove to the wrong train station as they were supposed to be going to the River Line. Was it a mistake or perhaps fate? Either way, special kudos to Donna Deveney for her compassion and training. 



NJDOT employees attended the Regional Operations Leadership Forum this summer in Hanover, Maryland at Maryland DOT's Traffic Operations Center. FHWA and AASHTO sponsored the Forum providing attendees the opportunity to work with their peers from around the country. Participants joined in discussions and hands-on exercises to develop leadership action plans for Transportation Systems Management and Operations concepts.

L-R: Charles Ononiwu, Principal Engineer, Mobility & Systems Engineering; Bindesh Patel, Principal Engineer, Mobility and Systems Engineering; Andrew Tunnard, Assistant Commissioner, Transportation Operations Systems and Support (TOSS); Wayne Patterson, Assistant Division Director, Traffic Operations South; and Jonathan Martinez, Principal Engineer, Transportation Mobility.



Show your NJDOT pride with custom branded items available at the logo store. Located across from the Multipurpose Room in the MOB, the store is open every Thursday from 11:30 am until 1:30 pm. Volunteers are pleased to assist you.

September Retirees

Marie Collins, Regional Operations South, 30 years; **Kevin Conover**, Multimodal Services 31 years; **Michael Debonis**, Operations Support and Engineering, 33 years; **Janice DeJohn**, Administration, 31 years; **Margaret Fisher**, Support Services, 15 years; **Cathy Frank**, Right of Way and Access Management, 14 years; **Kimberly Giddens**, Multimodal Services, 33 years; **Cindy**

Laarz, Right of Way and Access Management, 30 years; **Guy Matthews**, Regional Operations Central, 37 years; **Raleigh Murray**, Support Services, 40 years; **Ahmad Qureshi**, Project Management, 30 years; **Edmund Skwara**, Highway and Traffic Design, 34 years; **Ronald Sperrazza**, Safety and Data Development, 33 years

NJDOT's 18th Annual Remembrance Ceremony

The 18th Annual NJDOT Remembrance ceremony (17th 911 remembrance), was held on Tuesday, September 11, with solemn grey, rainy skies apparent through the cafeteria's picture windows. A row of flags representing our country, state, POW, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard, were placed by NJDOT active and retired military personnel, creating a ceremonial venue.

The angled seating arrangement pointed the many attendees towards the podium but it was the poignant remarks from **Commissioner Gutierrez-Scaccetti** and **B. Sue Fulton**, Chair and Chief Administrator, Motor Vehicle Commission that kept all eyes, many damp with emotion, riveted to it. The speeches made it clear as to why these women are leading organizations with thousands of employees. They both exuded leadership, compassion and commitment to serving the public through their messages, instilling confidence and pride in their staff.

Commissioner Gutierrez-



Scaccetti recalled looking out her office window and witnessing the towers go down on September 11, 2001. The lives of those who perished and the lives of those who survived "will never be the same and they will never forget," Commissioner said. "...the one's that survived need to be remembered - maybe more so [than those who perished]."

"I want you to work on remembering - that we *all* require compassion, human love," and the need for us to remember every day, she said. "We don't always know what is going on in the personal lives of our co-workers - they could be facing challenges. Just spread kindness, say hello, offer a kind word, because we have to be good to one another."



She asked the audience to remember our military, "Don't *not* forget them - *purposely* remember them." She continued, "First responders- what would we do without them?... First responders are some of the greatest, most courageous, selfless people that we have in this world." She thanked NJ firefighters and police for keeping us all safe each day and asked that we remember our road crews also. "Storms come in all shapes and sizes ... always treat each other like there is an emergency."

Commissioner Gutierrez-Scaccetti gave tribute to the recently deceased NJDOT Commissioner Louis J. Gambaccini, for his service to NJDOT, and state transportation industry leader and founding father of NJ Transit.

Commissioner Gutierrez-Scaccetti extolled about the groundbreaking personal and professional accomplishments of keynote speaker **B. Sue Fulton**, including being in the first class of women graduates from the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Continued on page 16

Remembrance Ceremony Continued from page 15



Fulton shared a story of an esteemed young service woman who lost her life at the age of 23 while serving in Iraq. At a ceremony honoring the soldier, her mother, a Baptist preacher, shared her daughter's personal motto, which was from the Old Testament Book of Isaiah. "Then I heard the voice of the lord say, whom shall I send, who will go for us. Then I said, here am I. Send me, send me."

Fulton continued that the motto is one that all service people share whether they are military, fire, police, emergency responders or public servants, when they decide to take on those jobs. Public servants in these capacities, while doing extraordinary things, in their minds, are "just doing their jobs."

The powerfully emotional ceremony continued with the reciting of the names of NJDOT staff who served in the military, law enforcement, emergency responders and search and rescue operations.

The names of 36 NJDOT employees who gave their lives in service were named and honored along with the eight employees who have passed away since September 2017 as bag piper **Jeff DeGroff** played softly in the background.

The Trenton Detachment 207, Marine Corps League Firing Detail, honored the fallen with a 21-gun salute and a bugler played taps.

Special thanks to **Meg**



Frampton and the **Employee Memorial Committee** for organizing this beautiful tribute; **John Spedding**, Master of ceremonies; **Pastor Thomas Johnson**, invocation; **Lee Steiner**, Pledge of Allegiance; **Stephanie Green-Keniebrew**, vocal performance. Participants **Joseph Sweger**, **Linda Cardell-Murphy**, **Andrew Tunnard**, **Michele Shapiro**. **Jim Berzok**, closing poem; **John Maida**, photographer.

We will never forget... 



NJDOT employees are appreciated



Now that fall is upon us, we can savor the memory of the aroma of sizzling burgers on the grill, eyes squinting from a sunlit day, and a day filled with comradery at the **Employee Memorial Committee** sponsored **Annual Employee Appreciation Picnic** that was held on June 21. The Employee Memorial Committee has many initiatives - get involved, make friends, and make a difference in the lives of others. For more information: DOT.Memorial@dot.nj.gov



NJDOT Employees enjoy a night of baseball



Sam Schwartz (NJDOT Elaine Schwartz's son) had the honors of throwing the first pitch at the Trenton Thunder game.



NJDOT Service Awards

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

SEPTEMBER

Tom E. Azzolino, Road Maintenance

Philip R. Kern, Road Maintenance

OCTOBER

Victor Gallo, Highway Operations Asst. Crew Foreman

NOVEMBER

John Bentz, Road Maintenance

Joseph Dicola, Road Maintenance

John J. Dimino, Highway Operations

Thomas Lauerman, Road Maintenance

Angelo Nucci, Support Services

David Peters, Road Maintenance

Jeffrey T. Wills, Road Maintenance

Charles Wolverton III, Road Maintenance

30 YEARS OF SERVICE

SEPTEMBER

Nayan B. Brahmbhatt, Design Services

Etoria L. Highsmith, Procurement

Crystal B. Mercer, Government & Community Relations

Donald O. Perry, Multimodal Services

Vittal Sitaram, Design Services

OCTOBER

Zakrollah Asadpour, Capital Program Support

William E. Bozarth, Environmental Resources

Anupkumar I. Gandhi, Project Management

Robert S. McNeil, Procurement

Denis W. Sanders, Operations Permit, Electrical & Claims

Ericha R. Sinkfield, Human Resources

NOVEMBER

Lisa M. Auletta, Statewide Traffic Operations

Babulal M. Dhulesia, Project Management

Dawn M. Kasa, Construction Services and Materials

John Nettleton, Access Management CPM

Vimal M. Patel, Design Services

Lenora M. Yenchik, Capital Program Management

35 YEARS OF SERVICE

SEPTEMBER

Christian Beckman, Design Services

Dennis Caltagirone, Statewide Traffic Operations

Michael M. Mulvenna, Construction Services and Materials

James R. Sweet, Environmental Resources

OCTOBER

S.J. Dill-Wendrzycki, Capital Program Support

James K. Henry, Support Services

Joseph F. Langer, Design Services

Arpad A. Molnar, Operations North Region

Luis E. Rivera, Road Maintenance

Michael Russo, Local Aid and Economic Development

Thomas C. Saylor, Project Management

Terance A. Smith, Design Services

Janice D. Stevenson, Information Technology

Michael Swedo, Office of the Inspector General

Paul R. Thomas, Multimodal Services

William H. Young, Construction Services and Materials

NOVEMBER

Ronald T. Rosato, Operations Permit, Electrical & Claims

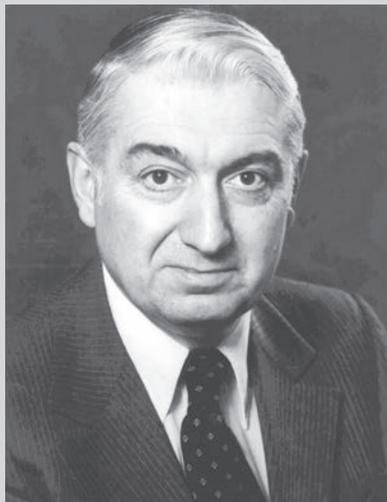
Rajni C. Shah, Capital Program Support

40 YEARS OF SERVICE

OCTOBER

Robert A. Parke, Operations North Region

Obituaries



Gambaccini

Louis J. Gambaccini

served as Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Transportation from 1978 until 1981. He was also instrumental in the founding of NJ Transit in 1979, the state's first public transit agency where he served as its first chairman of the Board of Directors.

Commissioner Gambaccini helped shape transportation policy and initiated innovative solutions for transit issues during a career that lasted more than five decades.

NJDOT was saddened to learn of the passing of employee **Vincent J. Mattaliano** on Wednesday, August 22, 2018. He was 56 years old.

At the time of his passing, Vince was working as a Senior Communications Operator in our Central Dispatch Unit, which is part of NJDOT's Division of Transportation Operations Systems and Support, Transportation Mobility. He began his career at the Department in January 2004 as a Communications Operator.

Vince will be deeply missed by his CDU and Transportation Mobility coworkers, as

His long and distinguished service included tenure in senior management positions at key regional transportation agencies. He spent 30 years at the Port Authority of NY & NJ, in progressively responsible positions, including Vice President and General Manager of the PATH rail system and as Assistant Executive Director.

He later served eight years as the General Manager of SEPTA (Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority). He ended his long career as Senior Fellow Emeritus at the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers University's Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy.

Born in New Haven, Commissioner Gambaccini graduated from the University of Connecticut in 1952. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and served in Korea where he earned a Bronze Star and the Combat Infantryman Badge. He went on to receive a Master's Degree in Public Administration (MPA) from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse

University. His time at the Maxwell School set the course of his professional life throughout his career in public service.

To honor his legacy in civic service, Commissioner Gambaccini's family, friends and colleagues established "The Louis J. Gambaccini Civic Engagement Lecture Series" at the Eagleton Institute for Politics at Rutgers University. The series is designed to promote civic engagement through an annual discussion of important issues with the objective of generating meaningful civil discourse and action.

Commissioner Gambaccini's visionary leadership, highest standards of professional and personal integrity, tireless work ethic, and reputation for inspiring others to excellence and success, are all a part of his legacy that continues to thrive through the many lives he touched both personally and professionally throughout his life.

well as all of his NJDOT colleagues who have had the opportunity to work with him over the years. He was very dependable, and was a quiet and respectful gentleman who did everything that was asked of him without question and always with a smile. He was an avid Eagles and Phillies fan. In his spare time, he enjoyed trips to Disney and to his mountain getaway in the Poconos.

Vince is survived by his wife, Sharon Lynn Mattaliano; his daughter, Alicia Lynn; his sister, Linda Seiferman; his aunt, Jean Scarlata; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and other family members.

Obituaries



Zoltanski

NJDOT is saddened by the passing of **John Zoltanski** on Thursday, July 19, 2018. He was 60 years old.

John started with the Department in July of 2000 as a Maintenance Worker 1 in what was called a "Corridor Crew" in Hamilton.

Once that program ended, he moved to a construction crew out of Lawrenceville. In February of 2003, John was promoted to the title of Landscape Technician working out of the Washington Yard.

In April of 2004, John became an Assistant Crew Supervisor Highway Marking in the Sign Shop located in Ewing. He then became a Crew Supervisor Highway Marking in December of 2011 and was responsible for the Flemington Sign Crew and then the Overhead Sign Crew. In August of 2015, John became an Operations Training and Quality Assurance Specialist in the Training Unit.

John's nickname was "Santa". He loved his family and always talked about his grandkids. John always started his mornings with Fig Newtons, tea, cow tails, and pork rinds. John enjoyed helping people by giving them knowledge to make their jobs a little easier on the roadways no matter what their position was. He wanted to help them get ahead in the Department by mentoring them in their career choices within the DOT. The one thing he felt was most important to him was that everyone he worked with had a good understanding of the safety factor that is involved with working at NJDOT. He stated that our loved ones travel these roads so do your jobs accordingly and take pride in everything you do no matter what it is! John was a pleasure to work with and was very happy and welcoming to new employees and staff. He did whatever was asked of him with a smile on his face. He will be missed.

John is survived by his wife Eileen Zoltanski; his daughters, Christie Doppler and her husband Justin and Patricia Wood and her companion, Jeff Davidson; seven brothers and sisters and their spouses; six grandchildren; as well as numerous in-laws, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

"I love my job"
John Zoltanski
1957 – 2018