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MAY 22, 2014

ISSUE 50

PARKS ROCKAWAY FLEET READIES FOR BEACH OPENING

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Memorial Day is upon us and that also means the opening of NYC’s public beaches including Rockaway in Queens, Orchard in the Bronx, Coney Island and Manhattan in Brooklyn, and South, Midland and Wolfe’s Pond in Staten Island.

Parks uses a variety of highly specialized equipment to maintain the City’s beaches. New Holland Tractors pull either Barber Surf Rakes or Rockland Beach Cleaners to sift and clean debris off the sand. Parks has a special design for its Ford 3-yard beach dump trucks which are used to empty waste baskets on the sand and endure difficult terrain, high heat, and salt exposure. Bulldozers and front end loaders help grade and prepare the beaches off-season, while a variety of 4x4 utility vehicles, gators, ATVs, and GEM electric carts are used by Park Enforcement Patrol and Lifeguards to monitor beach safety.

At Rockaway Beach in Queens, this will be the first full summer since the consolidation of Parks fleet repair with Sanitation at the District 14 DSNY garage. Parks will maintain a seasonal service worker to help expedite beach equipment repairs but the preventive maintenance and major equipment repairs will all be handled through the DSNY garage at the beach under the direction of DSNY Chief Tom Mugno. DSNY and Parks have used the off-season to prep the equipment and orient the DSNY mechanics to these very specialized pieces.



Rockaway continues to make its comeback from the severe damage of Hurricane Sandy. We hope this new partnership between Parks and Sanitation will support the cleaning and beach operations and help with a successful beach season.

FLEET SPOTLIGHT: DOE REFRIGERATED FOOD TRUCKS

MAHANATH S. JOISHY

The food truck phenomenon has taken New York by storm in recent years, with hundreds of vendors operating in the five boroughs and serving an enormous variety of food.

The most important food trucks however are closer to home. The Department of Education (DOE) operates four donated refrigerated box trucks through its SchoolFood Summer Meals program, which is funded by the US Department of Agriculture.

Each summer, SchoolFood serves thousands of City children 18 years and under with nutritious and free breakfast and lunch.

The food trucks deliver the meals to sites citywide including schools, parks, recreation centers, NYCHA complexes, and beaches. In 2013, SchoolFood supported 154,000 children on average each day of the summer with free and fresh meals. The meals are prepared and packaged each morning from DOE locations, loaded on to the trucks, and delivered.



These trucks are custom retrofitted 2006 or 2008 E450 Ford Step Vans. The units are among very few refrigeration units in the City fleet and are maintained by DSNY as part of our fleet consolidation. DCAS Mechanic Inspector Vincent Stephens helped DOE to inspect a recent donation so it could be brought into the fleet for this summer. Many thanks to the staff who operate these unique fleet assets and support NYC’s kids. “The trucks are great. We run them all summer, seven days a week,” says Carey Liebman, who oversees the trucks and their operators at DOE.