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~Established 1902~

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PRESS RELEASE

PVSC PARTNERS WITH MARCAL PAPER IN EARLY EARTH DAY
CELEBRATION IN ELMWOOD PARK
PVSC Involved in Two Separate Events

ELMWOOD PARK, NJ – Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission’s (PVSC) Executive Director Wayne J. Forrest announced today that as part of a nationwide celebration of Earth Day taking place later this month, the PVSC partnered with the employees of Marcal Paper on a large scale Passaic River clean-up and an Environmental Education Awareness presentation at 16th Avenue School.

“PVSC understands the importance of partnering with local groups like the hundreds of volunteers from Marcal Paper so together we can work towards maintaining a cleaner environment,” said PVSC Executive Director Wayne J. Forrest. “The PVSC relies on the dedicated volunteers and responsible corporate partners to assist us with keeping our waterways clean and I applaud them on their efforts,” said Forrest.

The River Restoration Program of the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission provided assistance to the employees of Marcal Paper for the cleanup. PVSC personnel also had specialized equipment on site to remove larger debris that found its way in to the river.

Also, as part of the Earth Day commemoration the PVSC Environmental Educational Outreach Program visited the 16th Avenue School in Elmwood Park to provide an educational based presentation which introduced the students to actions they can take to help maintain a cleaner environment. “The PVSC is honored to not only come and talk to students about ways they can help us keep our waterways clean, but also to listen to the innovative ideas they can teach us,” explained PVSC Executive Director Forrest. “Especially around Earth Day, it is critical to teach our children the significance of engaging in the stewardship of our environment for future generations to come. PVSC developed a program that complements the classroom curriculum while presenting it in a way that is engaging to the students, which is particularly beneficial in a Passaic River town like Elmwood Park,” stated Forrest.

Forrest stated, “PVSC is proud to commemorate Earth Day and continue to assist in providing a cleaner and safer waterway for members of the community to enjoy and a healthier habitat for wildlife. Both the volunteer clean-up and the Environmental Education program will assist us in accomplishing our goal of having a cleaner river and a healthier environment,” said Forrest.

In order to protect and preserve local streams and rivers from water pollution, the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission operates one of the country's largest treatment plants for the wastewaters of northern New Jersey. With many expansions and recent upgrading to secondary treatment, the facility has been striving, since its creation in 1902 and its initial operation in 1924, to improve local water quality in accordance with federal and state water quality standards. Since the creation of the PVSC’s River Restoration Program in 1998, which is charged with preserving and protecting over 100 miles of area waterways, the PVSC has removed over 8,000 tons of debris from the Newark Bay, the Passaic River and its tributaries, and sponsored over 650 individual clean-ups along shorelines and in communities, along with educating over 180,000 students on how they can help protect the Passaic River and our environment.

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