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**August 10, 2010**  
**News Release**

## **PVSC Co-sponsors Second Annual Canoe Race**

**Kearny, NJ** – The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners' (PVSC) Chairman Tony Luna announced today that the PVSC partnered with the Town of Kearny this past Saturday, August 7, in hosting the Second Annual Kearny Canoe Race on the Passaic River.

Under clear skies and a welcome break in the humidity, twenty-two Kearny residents converged on the Passaic River to claim the title of champion of the second annual event. Paddlers assembled at the Kearny Crew House at 9:00am to receive their canoes and safety equipment, and then proceeded to paddle the 1.65-mile course to the finish line at Frank Vincent Marina, also in Kearny. The Kearny Police Department deployed their safety boat to provide on-water support, and the Kearny Fire Department was on hand to provide additional safety. Kearny Mayor Alberto Santos along with Council Members Susan McCurrie and Michael Landy each competed in Saturday's race.

"The Passaic River is an underappreciated asset and the Kearny Canoe Race is one way to increase water recreation right here in our own community," explained Mayor Alberto Santos upon exiting his canoe.

The PVSC River Restoration personnel were on hand for Saturday's event to transport the canoe trailers and to assist in the deployment of the boats. Crews from the River Restoration Department also patrolled the river with their skimmer vessel in the days leading up to the race to remove any debris that could potentially pose a safety concern to participants. The PVSC staff also assisted in organizing the event. Canoes were provided by the Essex County Parks Department.

"Events like the Kearny Canoe Race provide much more than just a new recreational opportunity on an underutilized natural resource," explained PVSC Executive Director Wayne J. Forrest. "The PVSC believes that events like this also provide opportunities for community members to become actively engaged in the stewardship of the Passaic River."

The second annual event is part of the PVSC's larger initiative to create the Passaic River Blueway, a nearly 80-mile long canoe and kayak trail extending from the river's headwaters in Basking Ridge down to Kearny Point. Saturday's race is one of a series of four similar races the PVSC hosts annually to reconnect communities back to the Passaic River.

"The PVSC understands the importance of partnering with municipalities to encourage residents to rediscover all the Passaic River has to offer," said PVSC Chairman Tony Luna. "The time has come for us to turn the page on the old way of looking at the Passaic River, and by reintroducing recreational use of the river we can begin to envision a brighter future."

Claire Ewing and Joe Ewing clinched a first place finish with a time of 18 minutes and 39 seconds while Christian Lazo and Carlos Ferraz finished in a close second place with a time of 18 minutes and 54 seconds. Luiz DaSilva and Pedro DaSilva rounded out the top three teams with a time of 19 Minutes and 16 seconds.

In order to protect and preserve local streams and rivers from water pollution, the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners operate 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 initial operation in 1924, to improve local water quality in accordance with federal and state water quality legislation. Since its inception in 1998, PVSC's River Restoration Program has removed over 8,000 tons of debris from the Passaic River and Newark Bay and sponsored over 650 individual clean ups, along with educating over 150,000 students on how they can help protect the Passaic River.

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