

ANTHONY J. LUNA  
*Chairman*

CARL S. CZAPLICKI, JR.  
*Vice Chairman*

FRANK J. CALANDRIELLO  
WILLIAM F. FLYNN  
KENNETH J. LUCIANIN  
ANGELINA M. PASERCHIA  
THOMAS J. POWELL  
*Commissioners*



*~Established 1902~*

600 Wilson Avenue, Newark, New Jersey 07105  
[www.pvsc.com](http://www.pvsc.com)

WAYNE J. FORREST  
*Executive Director*

JAMES M. PIRO  
*General Counsel*

ANTHONY W. ARDIS  
*Clerk*

**September 4, 2010  
News Release**

## **PVSC Co-sponsors Third Annual Mayor's Cup Canoe Race**

**Paterson, NJ** – The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners' (PVSC) Chairman Tony Luna announced today that the PVSC partnered with the City of Paterson this morning in hosting the Third Annual Mayor's Cup Canoe Race on the Passaic River.

Elected officials representing communities along the Passaic River converged on the waterway to claim the title of champion of the third annual event and to also kick off the Great Falls Festival, a weekend-long celebration of the historic site. Paddlers assembled at Pennington Park in Paterson at 8:00am to receive their canoes and safety equipment, and then proceeded to paddle the 1-mile course to the finish line located behind Libby's Restaurant, also in Paterson. The Paterson Fire Department deployed their safety boat to provide on-water support while the Paterson Police Department provided additional safety. The PVSC River Restoration personnel were on hand to transport the canoe trailers and to assist in the deployment of the boats. The PVSC staff also assisted in organizing the event. Canoes were provided by the Essex County Parks Department.

"The Passaic River is not only an important resource to the Paterson community, but also a significant piece of our Nation's history," explained PVSC Executive Director Wayne J. Forrest. "As local residents begin to use this precious natural resource recreationally, we find they are compelled to assist in protecting it and continue to foster its stewardship."

Paddlers participating in the race included Paterson Mayor Jeffery Jones, Hawthorne Mayor Richard S. Goldberg, Woodland Park Mayor Pat Lepore, Fair Lawn Mayor Joseph Tedeschi and representatives from Congressman Bill Pascrell's office. Passaic Mayor Alex D. Blanco was also in attendance to support the paddlers. The purpose of the event is to provide an opportunity for local elected officials to rediscover the Passaic River and to set the precedent for their communities to do the same. 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. The Mayor's Cup is one of a series of four similar races the PVSC hosts annually to provide both new recreational opportunities on the Passaic River as well as opportunities for them to assist in its protection.

"Reconnecting communities back to the Passaic River through events like the Annual Mayor's Cup is one part of the PVSC's larger initiative to protect and preserve the lower Passaic River and its tributaries," said PVSC Chairman Tony Luna. "The PVSC encourages community members to enjoy the Passaic River, learn about its rich history and join us in restoring it back to its natural beauty by volunteering at local service projects."

"The City of Paterson remains committed to providing a healthy and vibrant waterfront for the people in our community to enjoy," said Paterson Mayor Jones. "By investing residents in recreational activities like this we are ensuring the long-term sustainability of the overall protection of the Passaic River. The continued cooperation between the Paterson community and the PVSC is critical in helping to protect this beautiful natural resource"

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.

**Contact: Tom Pietrykoski; Cell: (973) 985-3216, Office: (973) 817-5735**

#####