



## Queens Chapter

New York State Society of Professional Engineers

# The Drawingboard

January 2008

Volume 8, Number 1

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### President's Message

*By Brian E. Flynn, P.E.  
President*



Change is not always a bad thing. It is official, the Parks Department has taken possession of the Commandant's Headquarters at Fort Totten. Our society, under the auspices of the Professional Design Center of NY, Inc., will still have a presence in the building. We are allowed to continue to use it for our meetings and seminars. Of course, now it will be a Parks Department facility and as such, they will have personnel on hand to manage the building while we are there. I ask for your patience and indulgence while everyone adjusts to the new situation.

The PDC will continue in its role to act as a bridge between the engineering and architectural professions as well as between the professions and the public. On January 30th, the PDC lecture will welcome **Tim Lynch** PE, Principal Engineer of the DOB's Excavation Unit. Engineer Lynch will be introducing an excavation handbook to help professionals working on projects within the city to meet the DOB's requirements.

In February, we have two important events coming up. The first is MATHCOUNTS® competition in Queens which is once again organized by **Bob LoPinto** PE. MATHCOUNTS is a national math enrichment, coaching & competition program that promotes middle school mathematics achievement in every U.S. state & territory. This year is its 25th year of competition. The second is National Engineer's Week, which is from February 17th – 23rd. We are putting together another day long program to celebrate here in Queens. Both of these events were founded by the National Society of Professional Engineers and have grown since.

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In his message for National Engineer's Week, **President Bush** offered the following:

*By harnessing the power of technology and science, engineers help to transform and enhance the quality of life for people around the globe . . . I appreciate America's engineers for working to develop the technology that makes our lives better. Your efforts are helping to build a more helpful future for people everywhere.*

### PC Filing is Dead, Long Live PC Filing

Building upon the success of eFiling for electrical permits, the Building Department is expanding its online system to include construction permit application filings. Beginning February 19, 2008, applicants will be able to use eFiling and its electronic interview-style process to prepare the newly-revised PW-1 Form online for initial and subsequent filings.

This improvement will enable applicants to use an online interview-style process to prepare the newly-revised PW-1 Form, as well as Schedules A and B, for initial and subsequent filings. Upon completion of this process, the eFiling system will generate pre-populated forms marked as "eFiled". Once the applicant submits these documents to a Buildings Borough Office, with all other required plans and documentation and the filing is accepted, the data will then automatically be transferred into the Buildings Information System (BIS).

PC Filing is being discontinued because it was limited to Microsoft Windows-based machines and is based on older technology. Updating the existing PC Filing software is also difficult to distribute effectively to the public. With eFiling, any Internet-connected computer (with a compatible web browser) can access eFiling and the Department can implement system updates without requiring users to download a new version of filing software. In addition, since your application is saved on our server, you can access your work using virtually any Internet-connected computer anywhere in the world – not just the computer where your copy of PC Filing was installed.

The successful preparation of a PW-1 using eFiling does not constitute a filing with the Department until the hard-copy forms are printed from eFiling, signed and sealed appropriately, and this documentation is submitted in-person and accepted for filing along with all other filing requirements.

[\(continued next page\)](#)

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## Chapter Seeks Donations to PDC Library

The Queens Chapter is still seeking donations of books for the Professional Design Center Library

Queens Chapter President Brian Flynn would like all to know that the Professional Design Center Library is still in need of Books, Magazines and other materials. The Queens Chapter is asking all members to donate any reference material, such as textbooks, catalogs and product literature that they can.

## Construction Superintendent (Rule 48)

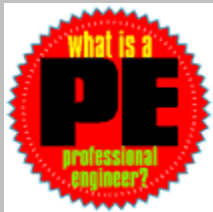
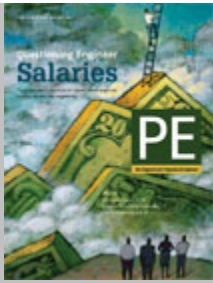
"Despite the fact that New York City is known for its skyscrapers, we have increasingly seen accidents at low-rise sites," said Commissioner Patricia J. Lancaster, FAIA. To ensure construction sites are supervised by qualified professionals, as of January 2, 2008 all applications for New Building and Demolition permits for buildings up to and including 14 stories will be required to have a registered Construction Superintendent named in section 9a of the PW-2. This requirement will also apply to all one, two and three-family homes as of July 5, 2008.

Qualifications vary depending upon title and experience. Individuals who register must meet one of the following qualifications:

- Be a licensed architect or engineer and within the past three years completed a seven-hour hour Site Safety Manager course or 10-hour OSHA course; OR
- Have been a Construction Superintendent for 5 of the past 10 years and within the past three years completed a seven-hour Site Safety Manager course and 10- hour OSHA course; OR
- Have been a carpenter, mason or building inspector for five of the past 10 years and within the past three years completed a 40-hour Site Safety Manager course and 10-hour OSHA course.

A construction superintendent shall have responsibilities including, but not limited to be available to the Department at all times, including emergencies; to advise the Department of contact information and changes thereto; to engage in sound construction practices; to act in a reasonable and responsible manner to maintain a safe construction site; and to report immediately to the Department any fatality, injury to persons resulting in hospitalization or injury to property occurring on or adjacent to the job site that arises from the construction work. Furthermore, to the extent that an architect or engineer is not responsible, to assure compliance with the applicable approved plans and the requirements of sections 27-132(b), 27-221, Subchapter 19 of Chapter 1 of Title 27 and all other provisions of the Administrative Code and rules and regulations as they relate to the duties of a person superintending work. All registered construction superintendents shall cooperate in any investigation by the Building Department, or other city or law enforcement agency, into the activities at any job site under their supervision and shall provide prompt, accurate and complete responses to reasonable inquiries by the Department and other agencies about the conduct of such business.

[\(continued next page\)](#)



## [Presidents Message Continued](#)

A construction superintendent may supervise up to ten projects at a time, or up to 1, 2 or 3 family house projects. See the Building Department website for more information and approved schools.

## Upcoming Meeting Information

### **Our Next Chapter Meeting**

**Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008 – 6:30 PM**

### **Location:**

**422 Weaver Ave., Fort Totten, New York**

## 2007 Chapter Meeting Schedule

### Mark Your Calendar

For your convenience the Queens County Chapter NYSSPE meeting schedule is provided below.

Directors' meetings and general meetings are held on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month except November and December meetings which will be held on the first and third Thursday of the month due to holidays. So mark your calendar. The schedule is as follows:

### **Directors' Meeting** **(6:30 PM)**

January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008

### **Membership Meeting** **(6:30PM)**

January 24, 2008  
February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
May 22<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008

### Hotline for Members

Are you an NSPE member with a question about engineering ethics, licensure, or law? If so, call 888-285-NSPE (6773) or e-mail [legal@nspe.org](mailto:legal@nspe.org). Please provide your 9-digit NSPE member number.

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## Chapter MATHCOUNTS Competition

*By Robert A LoPinto, P.E.  
Mathcounts Coordinator*



The Queens Chapter MATHCOUNTS Competition will be held on SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9th, at 9:00 AM, at Beard JHS 189 in Flushing, NY. This year, thirteen (13) schools in Queens have registered with NSPE to participate in MATHCOUNTS. The schools are practicing and preparing for our competition. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. It will take at least 10 Chapter members to run the Feb. 9th Competition. All members are invited to help this endeavor. Please arrive at JHS 189 at 8:30 AM to help with the setup and school registration process. If there are any questions, call Bob LoPinto, PE at (516) 791-2300.

Directions to JHS 189: Main entrance located on 147<sup>th</sup> Street, between Sanford Avenue and Barclay Avenue, in Flushing. This is north of the LIE, south of Northern Blvd, and east of Main Street. (147<sup>th</sup> is one way from Sanford to Barclay). There is a school yard on Sanford Ave, with a curb cut at the entrance gate. There is an entrance from the lot to the school.








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## Order Form

The Queens Chapter of the National Society of Professional Engineers will publish the chapter's 2007 Annual Membership Directory. Our members are found in key government agency positions, as well as senior and partner positions in private engineering firms, which design, specify and consult on Construction projects throughout the Metropolitan area. When they need to find a source for specific requirements they turn to their annual Queens NSPE Membership Directory. Now you and your firm can reach these key decision making individuals when they are looking for your services by placing an ad in the up coming 2006 Queens NSPE Membership directory.

Attached is an order form to place an advertisement in the 2007 Membership Directory.

In addition to our annual journal, the Queens Engineering Society Sponsors numerous events and seminars to further inform our members of the new developments in industry. We hope that you will help support our efforts. Please see the order form on the next page

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OF THE NEW YORK STATE SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS**

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American Institute of Architects

Queens Chapter

NYS Society of Professional Engineers

2008

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1-08

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Paul DiNatale, AIA/Robert LoPinto, PE

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Mr. Lynch, PE will discuss building excavation and what design professionals need to know. The discussion will include the preliminary review of plan audit, review of Landmarks sites, TPPN 10/88, support of Excavation : shallow foundations - less than 12' and the impact of excavations on adjacent buildings. Discussion of historic construction, monitoring campaigns for adjacent construction, underpinning techniques, sources of research for sites, NYC Building Code relevant code sections and enforcement will also be discussed.

Free to the public

Buffet dinner 6:15 pm-7:00pm included

Contact George Tavoulareas, PE at 347-387-1649 for further information

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