

Kudos Corner



Congratulations to **Kevin Clarke** of BEDC, **Patrick Hendricks** of BCS, and **Doreen J. Johann** of OEHS! They were among a select group of managers chosen from across city government to participate in the Department of City-Wide Administrative Services' Organizational and Executive

Development Programs. A ceremony was held to honor all graduates from the Programs last month at the Emigrant Bank Building in Manhattan and they are pictured here with Deputy Commissioner **Diana Jones Ritter** and DCAS Commissioner **Edna Wells Handy**.

Spotlight on Safety

DEP is Recognized for Safety Excellence



For the second time in the past three years, the American Water Works Association (AWWA) recognized the department with the Wendell R. LaDue Excellence in Safety Award. DEP's consistent, efficient, and comprehensive Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) Programs integrate safety awareness and practices into all aspects of the department's operations.

Congratulations to the nearly 6,000 employees who work to make DEP one of the safest public utilities in the nation. Pictured is Assistant Commissioner **Persis Luke** accepting the award on behalf of DEP at the annual AWWA Conference last month.

DEP employees, consultants, and contractors are encouraged to think about safety from the moment they arrive at work until the moment they leave for the day.

At DEP, everyone is responsible for safety. If you or anyone on your team is concerned about your working conditions, it's okay to ask your supervisor or your bureau's EHS liaison how they can help. If you've still got questions, you can call the EHS Employee Concerns Hotline. It's DEP's responsibility to acknowledge and fix unsafe situations, procedures, and practices. With your help, we'll not only get the job done, we'll make it safer for ourselves, our coworkers, our families, and our city.

CALL (800) 897-9677 OR SEND A MESSAGE THROUGH PIPELINE. HELP IS ON THE WAY.

Commissioner's Corner

The New York City Design Commission was established in 1998 to review permanent works of art, architecture, and landscaping on property owned by the City. In 1983, the Commission began recognizing outstanding public projects at its annual Awards for Excellence in Design ceremony. Last Wednesday, the Design Commission continued this tradition, honoring several winners selected from hundreds of submissions received throughout the year, and I am proud to say that three of our projects received awards.

The first DEP project recognized was the recently completed carbon addition facilities at the Wards Island, Jamaica Bay, and Bowery Bay wastewater treatment plants. The three facilities aid in the removal of nitrogen from wastewater and have helped improve water quality in the East River, Jamaica Bay, and Long Island Sound. The stainless steel storage tanks are set within a painted steel framework and wrapped with screens that double as racks for loose pipes. The tanks are flanked by a corrugated metal enclosure that houses pumps and an electrical room. In addition, at night, the structures are illuminated with distinctive blue LED lights. Congratulations to **Kathryn Mallon**, **Kevin Donnelly**, **Kenneth Moriarty**, **Matthew Osit**, **Sue Liu**, **Robert Cuevas**, **John Harrington**, **Chris Gallegos**, **Natalia Perez**, and **Howard Friedman** on the much deserved award.

DEP was also honored for our innovative green infrastructure designs. Last year, we established

a design standard for Right of Way Bioswales on City sidewalks, and by the end of the year hundreds of them will be installed around the city. Bioswales resemble standard street tree pits but they are significantly larger, have curb cuts that allow stormwater to enter and exit, and have been designed in a way that will allow each one to manage approximately 2,244 gallons of street and sidewalk runoff during a storm. The Green Infrastructure design team includes, **Angela Licata**, **Magdi Farag**, **Margot Walker**, **Mikelle Adgate**, **Kerry Lowe**, **Raymond Palmares**, **Tetyana Klymenko**, **Joshua Landecker**, **Kathryn Prybylski**, **Derick Tønning**, **Doralee Pellot**, **Josh Landecker** and **Chris Gallegos**.

Finally, DEP was recognized for our role in helping design a new sponge park that will be installed along the Gowanus Canal next year. The 1,800 square foot park will be located where 2nd Street dead ends on the west side of the Canal and will span the street from building line to building line. The park will be specially designed to capture and retain stormwater that flows down 2nd Street before it reaches the Canal. A special thanks to **John McLaughlin**, **Kevin Clarke**, **Stanley Joseph**, **Thasha Ramkissoon**, and **Howard Friedman** for their hard work.

The Excellence in Design awards are a great honor and demonstrate the innovative thinking and hard work of the talented staff here at DEP. Congratulations to everyone who worked on our winning projects.



Focus on the Field



Laurie Machung was calf-deep in water, surrounded by tall grasses and cattails, when the temperature rose above 90 degrees last week. She had ventured out to this wetland along Route 28A, within sight of the Ashokan Reservoir, to monitor the health of plants living in the swampy environment.

“From a water supply perspective, these wetlands offer a lot of benefits,” Machung said as she held a Ziploc bag of plant clippings.

Machung, who has worked at DEP since 1998, supervises wetland programs in the watershed. Wetlands are sometimes called “nature’s sponge.” They are swampy swaths of land, generally populated by tall grasses and plants, that offer many environmental benefits.

They help control flood waters, trap sediments, and absorb some of the naturally occurring nutrients that can affect the taste and smell of drinking water. Wetlands comprise roughly 6 percent of the 15,000 acre Croton Watershed. They make up nearly 9,500 acres, or almost 2 percent, of the Catskill and Delaware watersheds.

Machung’s work with those wetlands is diverse. Her team has mapped and studied wet-

lands over the years to measure how development affects these sensitive ecosystems. Some of that work has been used in arguments before the U.S. Supreme Court in cases that focus on the government’s ability to regulate wetlands.

Machung also oversees projects—done by the City and private land owners—that might infringe on wetlands. The wetland she analyzed last week, for instance, was built after the City finished a project to realign the roadway that encircles the Ashokan Reservoir. Construction of the road overtook some existing wetlands, and DEP was required to replace them with new wetlands. Similar wetlands were built after the construction of the Catskill/Delaware Ultraviolet Disinfection Facility in Westchester County.

Such manmade wetlands are monitored regularly to ensure their flora and fauna are thriving.

“Wetlands are an important component of water quality protection, and much of Laurie’s work involves wetland research,” said **Paul Lenz**, deputy chief of the natural resources division. “Laurie and her team have been performing wetland delineations and initial bog turtle surveys for DEP’s forest management projects and she was critical in helping to develop the conservation practices for the forestry program.”

Machung, originally from Maryland, earned her bachelor’s degree from Salisbury State and her master’s degree from Penn State. Before joining DEP, she worked at the Illinois Natural History Survey. She lives in Ulster County with her family.

The HEAT is On!



Last week, during the height of the heat wave, Commissioner **Carter Strickland** joined a Hydrant Education Action Team (HEAT) on the Grand Concourse in the Bronx to help spread the message about the dangers of illegally opened fire hydrants. Through the HEAT initiative, teams of local teens distribute literature, posters, and other informational materials about fire hydrant safety at community events, parades, greenmarkets, and churches in neighborhoods that have historically seen high rates of unauthorized fire hydrant use. Now in its seventh year, the HEAT program has been highly successful. In fact, reports of open hydrants this summer are down 50 percent from the same time period last year. [Click here](#) for some historical information on DEP’s efforts to reduce the illegal opening of fire hydrants.

Welcome Aboard



Yesterday, 14 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Commissioner **Carter Strickland** and Deputy Commissioner **Diana Jones Ritter**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Scott Blom, Chureshma A. Dean, Minah Lee, Andy Lu, Benjamin Mei, Richard Ryan, and Adam Vorwald with BWSO; **Jesse Fadis** and **Adao Matonse** with BWS; **Alexander J. Lopez** and **Devon Smith** with BEDC; **Maria Corporan** with BEPA; **Guy A. Gioia** with BWT; and **Rafiq Shikder** with Engineering Audits.



Yoga @ DEP

The first installment of Yoga at DEP was very popular and all employees are invited to take part this Friday, July 26th, from 12:10 to 12:50 in the Lefrak 3rd Floor Cafeteria. Just arrive a few minutes early and bring a yoga mat and towel. [Click here](#) for more details.

We welcome your feedback! To submit an announcement or suggestion, please email us at: newsletter@dep.nyc.gov.