

## Special Guest *Commissioner's Corner*



**Zoe Ann Campbell**

Deputy Commissioner  
Organizational Development &  
Human Resources

I was so pleased to preside over DEP's 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Employee Recognition Day last Wednesday, honoring 760 employees separately for longevity of service ranging from 15–53 years and perfect attendance—24 of whom were recognized in both categories.

This year's honorees embody what it means to serve and I challenge all of our talented DEP staff to continue striving for excellence. Investing in yourself is also an investment in the future of DEP, and the vital work that we do to ensure a more



sustainable, resilient City for generations to come. On behalf of **Commissioner Sapienza**, our labor partners and DEP management, congratulations to all of this year's honorees.

## *Spotlight on Safety*

### October is National Protect Your Hearing Month

The National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders recognizes October as [National Protect Your Hearing Month](#). The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) estimates 22 million workers are exposed to hazardous noise levels every year. There is no cure for permanent noise induced hearing loss, therefore, prevention is key.

You can help prevent hearing loss by:

- wearing ear plugs or ear-muffs when exposure to high levels of noise is likely
- having regular hearing tests

DEP has a [Hearing Conservation Policy](#). All employees who are exposed to noise levels of 85 decibels averaged over 8 working hours or higher are included in this program. Annual hearing tests and training are provided in accordance with the Hearing Conservation Program. NIOSH also has a free [Sound Level Meter App](#) that can be a useful tool in the event noise measuring equipment is not available.

Remember, life is worth listening to, so it is important to protect your hearing both at work and at home. For more information on preventing hearing loss, visit the [NIOSH website](#).

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. HELP IS ON THE WAY.





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## DEP Educator Conference

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BPAC's **Robin Sanchez** recently joined Trout Unlimited to host a conference for educators participating in the Trout in the Classroom program. More than 200 educators, representing 32,000 students from New York City and our upstate watersheds, participated in the professional development training at the Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home in Hyde Park. Teachers took part in workshops and were provided with teaching resources and networking opportunities. At the end of the day, teachers returned to their schools with jars filled with brown trout eggs, provided by NYS DEC, for release into classroom tanks. Through the program, the trout are raised in classrooms and then released into watershed streams by students in the spring.

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## Holiday Food Drive

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The 2018 Holiday Food Drive has begun! Items donated at Lefrak will go to the Food Bank for New York City. Collection boxes will be set up in the Flocculator Enclave on the 19<sup>th</sup> floor until December 5. Please call **Joe Sokolowski** at 718-595-6168 for more information. As a reminder, no glass containers or expired food items will be accepted. Donations collected upstate in Kingston and Shokan will be given to Ulster County Community Action, which provides needy families with ready-to-prepare Thanksgiving food baskets. Donated items can be brought to boxes located in the front lobby (Kingston), and in the Ben Nesin lunch room (Shokan), until November 9. Please call **Danielle McCutcheon** at 845-340-7263 if you have any questions. Food items donated in Grahamsville will be accepted through November 16 and presented to the Grahamsville and Ulster Heights United Methodist churches, which both operate very active food pantries throughout the year. Please call **Jona Hamilton** or **Pam Zanetti** at 845-334-7107 for more details. Many thanks to Joe, Danielle, Jona, and Pam for coordinating this year's food drive and helping us to feed those in need!

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## Reservoir Cleanup Day a Success

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Hundreds of volunteers from across the Catskills and Hudson Valley collected an estimated 4,650 pounds of trash and recyclables during this year's Reservoir Cleanup Day, making it the largest haul since DEP began the annual event five years ago. A total of 410 volunteers participated in this year's cleanup. The effort to remove debris, litter, and recyclables from the shorelines at nine reservoirs was led by school groups, environmental advocates, business leaders, local nonprofits and watershed citizens.

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## Croton History Tour

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Staffers from BWS and BPAC toured sections of the new and old Croton Aqueduct system on Friday, led by BPAC's **Adam Bosch** and BWS's **Mike Risinit**. Stops on the tour included the New Croton Dam and the Old Croton Aqueduct weir chamber in Ossining, the Keeper's House in Dobb's Ferry, and the High Bridge, which connects the Washington Heights and Highbridge neighborhoods of Manhattan and the Bronx. The 41-mile aqueduct and dam system began construction in 1837 under the expertise of John Bloomfield Jervis in order to run fresh water from the Croton River to New York City. Approximately 3,500 workers completed the tunnel boring and brick masonry in just five years at a cost of roughly \$13 million. Despite this modern marvel's capability of delivering 100 million gallons of water per day, New York City's population boom in the mid-1800s necessitated the construction of a New Croton Aqueduct, which was completed in 1890. Although no longer the sole supplier of fresh water, the Old Croton Aqueduct continued to provide water to New York City until 1955.

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**We welcome your feedback! To submit an announcement or suggestion, please email us at: [newsletter@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:newsletter@dep.nyc.gov).**