

Special Guest Commissioner's Corner



Angela Licata, DEP's Deputy Commissioner of Sustainability, is a guest commentator this week.

I am thrilled to announce that **DEP has launched *Don't Trash Our Waters***, a public awareness campaign aimed at reducing litter and improving the health of New York City's waterbodies. Trash discarded on city streets and sidewalks can wash down catch basins and

end up in our surrounding waterbodies—threatening marine wildlife, putting human health at risk, negatively impacting recreational activities such as swimming, fishing and boating, and costing New York City taxpayers millions of dollars to clean up. To combat this issue, and in partnership with the New York Aquarium, The New York City Department of Sanitation, and NYC Parks, informational posters imploring New Yorkers to properly dispose of their garbage are being displayed this summer at various locations in Brooklyn's iconic Coney Island, which will serve as a pilot site for the program.

Bright, eye-catching illustrations—featuring a dolphin, a seal, a turtle, a whale and an oyster—have been placed at the New York Aquarium, along the boardwalk, at comfort stations, on bus shelters, in subway



stations, and on Sanitation garbage trucks and street sweepers around the city. These posters carry a simple message, reminding New Yorkers to do their part and properly dispose of their garbage. To help spread the message, DEP gave away free tickets to the first 1,000 people who visited the New York Aquarium this past Saturday.

Trash that ends up in the water can have a wide range of negative impacts—from the injury or death of marine wildlife that accidentally ingest garbage or become entangled in litter, to humans being exposed to pathogens and toxins when trash floats by where they boat, swim or fish. For more information about this campaign, please visit nyc.gov/trashfreewaters.

New York City is launching this campaign in connection with its **MS4 Program**, which aims to manage urban sources of stormwater runoff to protect and improve water quality. When it rains, stormwater that flows over streets and other impervious surfaces, can sweep up pollutants such as oils, chemicals, pathogens and sediments. For areas of the City served by the MS4 (municipal separate storm sewer system), the pollution carried by stormwater runoff is discharged directly into the City's waterways, which can have a negative impact on water quality and recreational uses. To address this, the City is currently developing a

comprehensive plan to prevent multiple types of pollution from entering our waterways.

By making sure litter lands in the appropriate trash receptacle, and is not carelessly discarded on the street, New Yorkers can help our marine ecosystem thrive and keep our waterways clean and healthy for future generations to enjoy. I would like to thank the remarkable dedication and support of the inter-bureau team comprised of Assistant Commissioner **Pinar Balci**, **Sara Lupson**, **Mikelle Adgate**, **Leah McWilliams**, and **Tara Deighan** for their efforts in designing and launching *Don't Trash Our Waters*.



Spotlight on Safety

Summer Seasonal Safety Reminders

When working outdoors, the nicer weather can also mean the return of seasonal hazards such as insects and poisonous plants.

Insects can pose various types of health risks. Mosquitos can carry vector borne diseases such as West Nile and Zika virus, tick bites can lead to the bacterial infection Lyme disease, and stings from bees, wasps and hornets can be painful and particularly dangerous to those who are allergic. Contact with "urushiol" sap from poisonous plants can cause painful rashes, either by direct contact with the plant or by contact with contaminated objects, such as clothing or tools.

Protect yourself from summer hazards by following these tips:

- prevent breeding of mosquitos by removing and reporting any standing water at your facility to your supervisor, facilities coordinator or EHS Officer; for public areas contact 311
- protect yourself from insects and poisonous plants by wearing long pants, socks, long-sleeved shirts, and tuck in pant legs
- use insect repellents that contain DEET or Picaridin
- use barrier creams on exposed skin to protect from poisonous plants
- learn to identify poison ivy, oak, and sumac plants

For more information visit the CDC's 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 OR SEND A MESSAGE THROUGH PIPELINE. HELP IS ON THE WAY.

Kudos Corner



Congratulations to Chief Operator of the Croton Water Filtration Plant **Tim Daly** for being honored by the New York State American Water Works Association (NYSAWWA) as *Operator of the Year*. Daly led the test operation, commissioning and startup phases of the Croton Water Filtration Plant as it transitioned from construction to operation in 2014-2015. He is currently responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Bronx plant, which has the capacity to filter as much as 290 million gallons each day from the New York City's Croton System. Additionally, the Croton Water Filtration Plant was recognized as *Project of the Year* by NYSAWWA and is also the recipient of the American Council of Engineering Companies of New York's (ACEC) *2017 New York Diamond Award*. The \$3.2 billion Croton Water Filtration Plant was honored with the associations' top awards earlier this year. ACEC honors outstanding achievements in engineering through its annual *Diamond Award*, while NYSAWWA's *Project of the Year* award was established to promote excellence in the management and administration of projects within the water industry.

Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday, 21 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Acting Commissioner **Vincent Sapienza**, Deputy Director for Human Resources Management **Herb Roth** and HR Specialist **Grace Franco**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Fatmir Gashil, Jeffrey K. Graff, Odell Lowery, Daniel McCarthy and Haimraj Sewnaraine with BWS; **Allen Cao, Brandon Hanson, and Derek Hawkes** with BWSO; **Eldi Lico, Brian Motley, Edward Ryan and MD Abdul Wadud** with BWT; **Vanessa E. Eggers** (not pictured), **Jason Swinson** (not pictured), **Orande Tennant** (not pictured), **Carlos Torres Jr.** and **Maggie Yan** with CDBG; **Giacomo Cascio Rizzo** and **Carlos Rivera** with CFO; **Ryan E. Hughes** with OIT; and **Austin V. Newell** with OGI Parks.

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

2017 'Water-On-the-Go' Season Begins



DEP has launched the [2017 Water-On-the-Go Program](#). Since 2010, DEP has placed portable NYC Water drinking fountains at public plazas, busy pedestrian areas, and parks around the city during the summer months to promote the high quality of NYC Water and to offer it as an economical, healthy, and environmentally responsible alternative to bottled water and sugary beverages. The Water-On-the-Go fountains will be available at various locations around the city through Labor Day and are easily spotted with their accompanying bright blue NYC Water tents. A weekly schedule with detailed times and locations is available on the [DEP website](#). NYC Water is world renowned for its taste and high quality, collected in protected reservoirs up to 125 miles north of the city and tested more than 630,000 times annually to ensure it is safe. In addition to operating fountains at flagship locations such as Brooklyn Bridge Park's Pier 1, Union Square and City Hall, Water-On-the-Go was recently featured at *Solstice in Times Square, Mind Over Madness Yoga*, an all-day yoga festival held last Wednesday in Times Square, and the *NYC Pride March*, held this past Sunday in Manhattan. Also new this year, a giant map, "[New York City's Water Story: From Mountain Top to Tap](#)," which details the path of the New York City Water Supply System, will be featured on canvas backdrops affixed to each bright blue NYC Water tent.

Staten Island Has a New Bluebelt



DEP recently completed a [new Bluebelt](#) in the South Shore's Pleasant Plains neighborhood. Prior to construction, very few streets in the area were equipped with catch basins or storm sewers and roadway flooding often occurred during heavy rainstorms. The \$15 million infrastructure upgrade included the installation of 2,350 linear feet of new storm sewers and 19 catch basins to better manage the precipitation that falls in the area and reduce localized flooding. In addition, 4,116 linear feet of new sanitary sewers allow 86 homes to now connect to the City's sewer system and discontinue the use of septic tanks. Additionally, the project included the enhancement of existing waterways on property owned by both the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Complementing the landscape design of this completed Bluebelt are various plantings, including 7,765 wildflowers and native plants, 400 native shrubs, 151 tree whips and 128 large caliper trees. The project, which began in 2014, was funded by DEP and the construction was managed by DDC.