

Not Your Average Beat



DEP's Police Division includes 200 sworn members who are charged with protecting the water supply system that more than 9 million New Yorkers rely on, including 19 reservoirs and three controlled lakes, more than 2,000 square miles of watershed land across nine counties and hundreds of miles of tunnels and aqueducts. The police patrol the watershed by foot, bicycle, all-terrain vehicle, motorcycle, boat and aircraft. Here, **Officer Ken Macumber** is checking access permits on Pepacton Reservoir.

Spotlight on Safety

Ultraviolet Rays

Ultraviolet (UV) rays are a part of sunlight and are an invisible form of radiation. They can penetrate and change the structure of skin cells and can cause sunburn and increase the risk of skin cancer. Employees who spend time in the field are at an increased risk of exposure, especially during the summer months between 10:00am and 4:00pm. However, UV rays are also present during cloudy conditions. Employees should remember the following tips to help protect themselves:

- Use sunscreen with a minimum of SPF 15, applying liberally at least 20 minutes before sun exposure
- Pay special attention to covering the ears, scalp, lips, neck, and the back of hands
- Reapply sunscreen every 2 hours, or after heavy perspiration
- Wear dark colored clothing with a tight weave
- Wear a wide-brimmed hat and/or UV protective eyewear

To learn more about UV protection visit the [CDC's Workplace Safety & Health Topics: UV Radiation](#).

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

Between 1917 and 1925, two water mains were built approximately 50 feet beneath New York Harbor to connect Staten Island to Brooklyn, and the City's upstate water supply. As Staten Island's population and its demand for water grew, in 1970 the 10-foot diameter Richmond Tunnel was built deep in the bedrock beneath New York harbor and became the primary conduit to convey water to the Island. The original siphons have been kept in service as a back-up connection to ensure a reliable supply of drinking water for the nearly 500,000 residents on Staten Island who consume about 50 million gallons of water each day.

Last week, DEP joined the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and the New York City Economic Development Corporation to announce that construction of the new \$250 million Staten Island siphon has resumed and made significant progress after a nearly 18 month delay caused by Hurricane Sandy. The project involves excavating a new, deeper siphon under New York harbor to bring drinking water from Brooklyn to Staten Island. The new, 72-inch siphon is being excavated at a depth of 100 feet and will convey approximately 5 million gallons of water each day. If needed, it has the capacity to carry up to 150 million gallons per day.

In addition to building the tunnel, the project includes the installation of water control equipment and other related infrastructure improvements to connect the new tunnel to the existing water distribution networks in both boroughs, including 6,545 feet of new water mains on Staten



Island and 1,710 feet of new water mains in Brooklyn. The project will also include the restoration of street landscaping, tree protection and a new pavement walkway around Shore Road Park. Once completed, the two nearly century old water mains will be decommissioned and the Port Authority's work to dredge and deepen the Anchorage Channel can be completed.

The Port of New York and New Jersey is the largest on the East Coast, handling nearly 33 percent of the East Coast shipping trade, and is the third-largest port in the country. The harbor deepening initiative is critical to accommodating the new generation of larger, more environmentally friendly cargo vessels in New York Harbor and retaining the nearly 300,000 jobs and \$12 billion in annual wages that the Port of New York and New Jersey provides to the region.

The tunneling project for the new siphon is expected to be finished this fall, and dredging is expected to be completed in 2015. To see more photos of the tunneling project click [here](#), or to follow the progress of the 300 foot-long, 110 ton tunnel boring machine, click [here](#).



Focus on the Field



Having worked as a construction laborer in the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations (BWSO) for more than a decade, and having been assigned to water and sewer maintenance yards in three boroughs, **Dennis Peacock** has an extensive knowledge of the infrastructure that delivers the city's drinking water and collects the wastewater. He was recently promoted to a Supervisor position and now oversees the work of crews that do everything from executing scheduled water main shutdowns, to investigating street leaks, and installing wet connections and fire hydrants.

Peacock began his DEP career as an Apprentice Laborer in February, 2001 and spent his first year working at yards in Manhattan and the Bronx. After successfully completing his apprenticeship, he was assigned to a Manhattan repair yard where he worked until 2008. Seeking to learn new skills, he transferred to the Brooklyn North Sewer Maintenance Yard in 2008 and worked there until his promotion in May of this year. "It was an opportunity to broaden my own knowledge of the system and contribute to an equally important part of DEP's mission," said Peacock. "As part of a sewer maintenance crew, I learned how to safely operate the equipment that clears catch basins as well as identify any other problems with the drainage system."

As a Supervisor, Peacock is now assigned to the Brooklyn North Water Maintenance Yard, in Williamsburg, which is responsible for maintaining the water infrastructure for the entire borough of Brooklyn. One of his primary responsibilities is to ensure that the work assigned to his crews is done correctly,

completed on schedule, and that all of the necessary paperwork is in order. He also directs work in the field, such as deciding which valves need to be operated to safely shut down a water main, and troubleshooting any complications that come up to assist his crews in getting their job done.

In addition to day-to-day maintenance work, BWSO Laborers and Supervisors regularly respond to emergencies. "Any time there is a two-alarm fire or greater, we report to the command post to ensure that the Fire Department has the water pressure they need to fight the fire," said Peacock. BWSO crews are also among the first on the scene of any reported street leaks or water main breaks, are called upon to close illegally opened fire hydrants, and they have even been pressed into service upstate, helping pump flood waters in the aftermath of Hurricane Irene.

"For more than a decade, Dennis has dedicated himself to learning all that he can about the operation and maintenance of DEP's water and wastewater systems," said BWSO's Chief of Maintenance and Repair **Dennis Delaney**. "In his new role as a supervisor, we are confident that he will share that notable commitment with all the crews that he works with."

Peacock grew up in the Maspeth neighborhood of Queens and now lives in Middle Village with his wife and three year old son. They recently took their son on his first trip to Disney World in Orlando, Florida and they enjoyed it so much that they are considering another trip in October. Peacock also squeezes in time to play on several different softball teams each summer.

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

Go Take a Hike



Last weekend, DEP hosted a community hiking excursion on a recently preserved 240-acre parcel of land in the Delaware County town of Bovina. One of DEP's land preservation experts, **Dave Tobias** (pictured on the far right,) led the hike to Round Top peak, and discussed ongoing efforts to protect land throughout the watershed. This particular parcel is located within the watershed that feeds the Cannonsville Reservoir.

Water Resources Public Art



Working with partners at the Greenpoint Chamber of Commerce and Groundswell, as well as volunteer painters and artists, including **Assembly Member Joe Lentol**, DEP's Education team has begun work to create a mural about the importance of our water resources and stewardship on a wall at John Ericsson Middle School, adjacent to McCarren Park. Work will continue over the course of the next month and there will be a dedication ceremony in early September. Click [here](#) to see more photos.

'Watershed' Agreement



Last week, **Commissioner Lloyd** and **US Army Corps of Engineers Colonel Paul A. Owen** signed a watershed level permit agreement for the construction of Staten Island's mid-island bluebelt system. Later this year, DEP will begin the construction of new storm sewers and the first of what will be approximately 20 bluebelts on the mid-island's east shore and this agreement will help to speed the permitting process and bring faster flooding relief to the residents of Staten Island.