

Special Guest *Commissioner's Corner*



Tasos Georgelis, Acting Deputy Commissioner for the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations, is a guest commentator this week.

As our city grows and ages, it is crucial that we maintain our vast network of critical infrastructure. For the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations (BWSO), that means keeping a vigilant

watch over almost 7,000 miles of in-city water mains, about 7,500 miles of sewers, and approximately 148,000 catch basins. When the system stops working properly, or concerns are brought to our attention, we set out to rectify the issue as quickly as possible by making the necessary adjustments, repairs, and improvements.

Along 148th Avenue, in Rosedale, Queens, ongoing chronic flooding was a hardship on the homeowners of this block who had difficulty accessing their homes during rainstorms. With the capital Southeast Queens program in sight, relief was coming. But due to the impact to residents along this block, a more immediate, interim remedy was sought, rather than



waiting for the traditional planning, design, and bidding processes to be completed before work could begin.

It was decided to utilize in-house crews from Queens Repairs for the installation of approximately 260 linear feet of a new 12-inch storm sewer extension pipe down the middle of 148th Avenue, beginning just east of 259th Street. The project also converted two existing seepage basins and connected them to the new storm sewer extension.

Overseeing the work were **Saurin Parikh**, Chief of Operations, Queens and Bronx; District Supervisors **Milton Velez**, **Vincent Borzacchiello**, and **Jose Ramirez**; and Supervisor **Sean Cochrane**. These men, along with laborers and apprentices, toiled three weeks digging the trench, laying the pipe, installing three manholes, repairing the two seepage basins, connecting the

sewers, and pouring the concrete road base. The New York City Department of Transportation paved the trench opening once work was completed.

This project complements the \$2.5 million investment DEP made earlier this summer installing new catch basins and storm sewer extensions throughout the southeast Queens neighborhoods of St. Albans, Jamaica, South Jamaica, and Laurelton, as well as other parts of Rosedale.

I'd like to commend the in-house crews that helped provide a speedier solution to this chronic flooding condition. These improvements have increased the capacity of the drainage system in this neighborhood, thereby reducing the problematic localized street flooding. I'm proud of the men and women in BWSO for completing this project, which will greatly improve the quality of life for residents living on this block.

Spotlight on Safety

DEP's 1st Safety Day: "Safety Starts With Us"

The Office of Environmental Health and Safety (OEHS) is hosting an agency-wide Safety Day event with the theme of "Safety Starts With Us." The event will be held in two locations:

- October 26th at Lefrak
- November 1st at Valhalla

Safety Day will include a keynote presentation from the Regional Administrator for OSHA Region 2 at Lefrak, and a presentation from the Compliance Assistance Specialist for the OSHA Tarrytown Area Office at Valhalla. Employees will also have the opportunity to meet with representatives from various organizations including FDNY, Con Ed, DC-37, Public Employees Safety and Health, Citywide Occupational Safety

and Health, the American Society of Safety Engineers and more. Employees can also sign up ahead of time for 'Escape Room' challenges, free hearing tests and a screening of "Deepwater Disaster: The Untold Story," which tells the story of the Deepwater Horizon oil blowout—America's worst environmental disaster.

Safety Day is open to all employees and aims to bring awareness to the importance of safety both in the workplace and at home. OEHS is excited to host the first Safety Day at DEP; it is sure to be both an enjoyable and informative event. OEHS hopes to hold annual week-long safety events in the future, and also expand to the various field locations within DEP. For more information, view the [Safety Day event flyer](#).

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



Nearly 700 DEP employees were honored last week at the 33rd Annual Employee Recognition Day. The celebration was held at the DC 37 Headquarters in lower Manhattan, and employees were recognized for their length of service to the City and for perfect attendance. Also honored were **Nancy Ehrhardt**, **Parwez Jamil**, and **Giovanni Napolitano** (pictured above with Commissioner **Vincent Sapienza**), each of whom received a Heroic Service Award. Congratulations to all! Click [here](#) to see more photos and [here](#) to see the program for the event.

Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday, 33 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Commissioner **Vincent Sapienza**, Deputy Commissioner for Human Resources and Administration **Zoe Ann Campbell** and HR Specialist **Grace Franco**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Edward W. Jamrozy, **Keanna S. Johnson**, **Eva M. King**, **Rick N. Marcello**, **Anthony Munoz** (not pictured), **Zoilangy Tejada**, **Evelyn T. Tomala** and **Aaron A. Williams** with BCS; **Matthew R. Gibney** and **Jeffrey M. Laban** with BEDC; **Daniel N. Lawrence** (not pictured), **Kevin Rielly** and **Jason A. Stasiak** with BWS; **Nirmal Acharya**, **Zeeshan Ahmad**, **Syed M. Amin**, **Mansoor Baig**, **Frantz J. Beliard**, **Vasean Boodram**, **Andrew H. Ganesh**, **MD Emdadu Haque**, **Fritz G. Luc**, **Kevin Michalkiewicz**, **Rieo A. Ramlall** and **David Silversmith** with BWSO; **Victor M. Alonzo Sanchez** and **Pavel Grigortsevich** with BWT; **Brenda Carty-Jones** and **Tanesia McRae** with CFO/FMC; **Maryana Edward**, **Mohibur Kashem** and **Julia Kolmakova** with Police & Security; and **Peter J. Corey** with Sustainability.

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

Open House NY Tours Digester Eggs



DEP helped Open House NY (OHNY) celebrate its 15th annual OHNY Weekend by once again opening up the iconic Digester Eggs at the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant for a public tour. Newtown Creek is one of hundreds of sites across the five boroughs that opens its doors during the weekend. The Oct. 14 tour began with a lecture at the Visitor Center by Deputy Plant Superintendent **Steve Cubero** to educate the participants about the agency and the importance of wastewater treatment, followed by a trip to the top of the Digester Eggs, where both Cubero and Deputy Plant Superintendent **Tommy Gwilym** answered questions from the public. Thank you to **Sara Pecker**, **Joe Sokolowski**, **Eileen Alter**, **Robin Sanchez**, **Helene Amato**, **Corinne Martin**, **Eva Lynch**, **Jaunita James**, **Kristin Molfetta**, **Alexa Aristozabal**, and **Akilah Lewis** from Lefrak, and Newtown Creek staffers for their hard work in organizing another successful Digester Egg tour!

Get Your Flu Shot



Flu season is just around the corner! Getting your flu shot is the best way to protect yourself and your family from the flu and its complications.

WorkWell NYC offers free flu shots for all City employees, dependents, and retirees. Worksite flu clinics provide employees with a quick, convenient and effective way

to protect themselves from this highly contagious disease. The WorkWell NYC Free Flu Vaccination Program is coming to DEP on these upcoming dates:

- **Lefrak**: Oct. 27, 8:30–11:30am in the 6th Floor Lecture and Training Rooms
- **Lefrak**: Nov. 1, 1:30–3:30pm in the 6th Floor Lecture and Training Rooms
- **Valhalla**: Oct. 26, 9am–3pm in the 2nd Floor Training Room
- **Wards Island WWTP**: Oct. 30, 8:30–10am in the New Admin. Building Training Rooms

To view clinics available to NYC employees, visit the [online scheduling tool](#) and enter the username “nyc” and the password “flushot.”

Download the consent form and complete it in advance of your appointment to save time. To schedule your worksite appointment over the phone, call 866-481-4391.