

Kudos Corner



Charmaine Berry was recently promoted to Chief Inspector of the Bronx Borough Office, and is the first-ever woman to hold that title in the Bureau of Customer Services. Ms. Berry has been with BCS for 20+ years and possesses extensive knowledge relating to field inspections, Environmental Health & Safety, and meter policies and procedures. She has trained many of the water-use inspectors currently serving in the bureau. Ms. Berry assists in supervising,

scheduling and assigning work for field personnel, ensuring that all tasks are performed in an efficient and timely manner. In her new role as Chief Inspector, Ms. Berry will supervise and direct all facets of the borough-wide inspection division; plan, direct and coordinate in-house and field training programs to improve efficiency and productivity; develop and monitor tracking reports to evaluate productivity and backlogs, as well as analyze and evaluate data processing on AMR uploads and downloads. Ms. Berry is a motivated, hard-working, resourceful employee who is a key member of DEP, and we wish her luck in her new role.

Spotlight on Safety

May is National Physical Fitness and Sports Month

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, physical fitness is general health conditioning and strength achieved through balanced exercise and nutrition. Regular physical activity is good for everyone's health and can help prevent certain types of diseases, such as type 2 diabetes and heart disease. A busy schedule should never be an excuse for lack of exercise, as there are lots of options to stay physically active. Even just 2 hours and 30 minutes each week of moderate-intensity physical activity, such as brisk walking, can provide substantial health benefits. If you work

in an office, try not to sit for an extended period of time. Take alternate work breaks that require getting up, standing, and walking around.

Regular physical activity can allow you to function efficiently and effectively in work and leisure activities. So, get out there and exercise, and also encourage your friends and family to get moving. To stay active at work, be aware and take advantage of options such as DEP's free yoga sessions and Weight Watchers Meetings. For more information visit [National Physical Fitness and Sports Month](#).

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.

Special Guest Commissioner's Corner



Diana Jones Ritter, DEP's Deputy Commissioner for Organizational Development and Human Resources, is a guest commentator this week.

More than 460 children, ranging in ages from 8 to 18, came to work at DEP with their parents last Thursday as the agency proudly participated in "[Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day](#)." There were 325 downstate participants and 140 children who partook upstate. At the kickoff breakfast, held at Lefrak, welcoming remarks were given by Acting Commissioner **Vincent Sapienza** and myself, sharing the story of The Legend Lives, about alligators in the sewers.

This year's "Count on Me!" theme fostered career development by showing students the connection between school, work, and possible professional paths. Planned activities incorporated DEP's mission statement and centered on teamwork, collaboration, problem solving and logistics. There was also an "Escape Room Challenge" where Bureaus outfitted a room with props and clues central to their 'mission' and the children had to solve a series of puzzles within a set timeframe. It was a day filled with excitement, fun, and learning for DEP employees, parents and children.

DEP has long embraced and supported activities that allow young

people of all ages to learn firsthand what we do. Through the Water Resources Art & Poetry Contest, facility tours, Career Day, internships, tree plantings, beach clean-ups, and many other engaging events, DEP continuously seeks to foster a sense of appreciation for New York City's water supply and treatment systems among the next crop of environmental stewards. We know that the protection and sustainability of the environment, and its many ecosystems, lays in the hands of current and future generations. By having children understand the importance of these symbiotic relationships early on, we hope to inspire them to become engineers, scientists, technicians, administrators, or environmental officers.

Thanks to **Grace Pigott**, Director of Planning and Recruitment, for coordinating this event along with **Nefertiti Griffith**, **Emily Nunez**, **Andrea Shivcharran**, **Robin Turner**, and **Vladimir Vilsaint**, OD&HR; **Sandrine Moore-Straw** and **Madeline Ramos**, Executive Administration; Bureau Coordinators; volunteers; and **Christine Sam** and the Bureau of Customer Services for their generous contributions. Next on the talent recruitment horizon is onboarding another source of our future talent pipeline—summer interns! Stay-tuned!



30 Years of Industrial Pretreatment



On January 26, 1987, EPA granted control authority to NYC to implement an Industrial Pretreatment Program (IPP). This program is under the jurisdiction of BWT's Division of Pollution Control and Monitoring (DPCM) and is supervised by Division Chief **Leslie Lipton**, who has been around for the entire 30-year run of this program. The hard work and dedication of this group has resulted in remarkable improvements to the environment. Over that period, discharges of toxic metals from regulated industry into city sewers have decreased by more than 99 percent, helping our biosolids meet land-application standards; grease blockages caused by restaurants have declined significantly; and IPP engineers have responded to thousands of complaints and incidents of spills and dumping of corrosive, explosive and flammable chemicals to the sewer system. Additionally, DPCM, through its shoreline survey staff, has abated illegal connections to storm sewers, which once contributed more than four million gallons a day of untreated sewage to local waterways. Congratulations to all on achieving this significant milestone.

'Cease the Grease' Outreach Teams Train



Staff from the Bureau of Public Affairs and Communications recently trained [Green City Force](#) (GCF) members for the "Cease The Grease" outreach program at Newtown Creek WWTP. GCF teams will be deployed to NYCHA developments around the city to replicate DEP's program and engage residents on the proper disposal of household grease, fats and oils. Plant staff also gave the members a tour of the facility.

Family Fishing Day at Lake Gleneida



Nearly 100 people attended Family Fishing Day at Lake Gleneida this past Saturday. The event in Carmel attracted families from Putnam County, Westchester County and parts of New York City. It was hosted by DEP and co-sponsored by the state Department of Environmental Conservation. Experts were on hand to teach kids how to fish, and the state encouraged families to enjoy the great outdoors by waiving its fishing license requirements for the day. Photos from the event and a list of future family fishing days can be found on DEP's watershed Facebook page at facebook.com/nycwatershed.

DEP Honored for Engineering Excellence



Five DEP projects were honored at the 2017 ACEC New York Engineering Excellence Awards gala, the "Academy Awards of the consulting engineering industry." The projects recognized include the Interim Upgrade of Newtown Creek WWTP (Diamond Award), the Croton Water Filtration Plant (Diamond Award), the Water-Energy Nexus Study (Platinum Award), the Bowery Bay WWTP Emergency Pump-Around System (Platinum Award), and the Springfield Gardens Area D Project (Silver Award). Accepting recognition for their projects on behalf of DEP were **Mikael Amar** (top left), **Michael Borsykowsky** (bottom left), and **Nat Federici** (right).

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