

Bill de Blasio, Mayor Vincent Sapienza, P.E., Commissioner

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### **DEP in Operations Challenge**



DEP held the 32nd annual Operations Challenge competition on April 30 at the Rockaway Wastewater Resource Recovery Facility, in Queens. Wastewater treatment plant operators competed to showcase the expertise and skills required to operate and maintain New York City's 14 Wastewater Resource Recovery Facilities. This year's four teams hailed from the Jamaica, Bowery Bay, 26th Ward, and Tallman Island Wastewater Resource Recovery Facilities. After competing in five events that represented a cross section of essential wastewater treatment operations the two highest scoring teams-the first place team from Jamaica and the second place team from Bowery Bay-will go on to compete in the statewide competition in June in Saratoga, NY. From there, winners of the statewide contest will participate in the national competition, to be held from Sept. 21-25 in Chicago. The morning-long event was sponsored by DEP and New York Water Environment Association.

# Spotlight on Safety

#### **Avoid Distraction! Be Visible!**

An estimated 6,227 pedestrians were killed in 2018, an increase of 250 from 2017, according to the Governors Highway Safety Association. In addition, pedestrian fatalities in the U.S. have increased 41 percent since 2008 and now account for 16 percent of all traffic fatalities. Some causes for the increase include pedestrians being hit by larger vehicles (SUV's), and smartphone distraction. Most fatalities occur during darkness (75%), in urban areas (76%), not at an intersection (72 %), and are alcohol related (34%).

Some Tips for Pedestrian Safety:

- stay alert and avoid distractions while walking such as smartphones and headphones
- · be visible, wear light colored or reflective clothing at night
- · follow all traffic rules, signs, and signals
- · cross the street in the crosswalk and walk in well-lit areas
- avoid alcohol and drugs when walking, it impairs judgement

For more information, please see Pedestrian Safety-10 Walking Safety Tips and Pedestrian Safety—AAA Exchange.

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 <u>Pipeline</u>. Help is on the way.

#### Commissioner's Corner



Vincent Sapienza

I am pleased to announce that DEP is partnering with the Departments of Transportation (DOT) and Design and Construction (DDC) on a project that will bring better drainage, new infrastructure, and wider and improved streets to more than 50 blocks in New Dorp Beach, Staten Island, that were severely affected by Superstorm Sandy. The \$77 million project, which is being managed by DDC for DEP and DOT, is projected to be completed in summer 2022.

To improve street drainage and reduce flooding, the project will install 9,500 feet of new storm sewers in the neighborhood, ranging from 12 inches in diameter all the way up to 8 feet wide by 5 feet high, and replace another 200 feet of existing storm sewers. There will be 152 new catch basins added to capture stormwater and direct it to the new sewer system. More than 16.500 feet of existing sanitary sewers will be replaced, and another 1,000 feet will be added, as will 17,000 feet of older water mains. The project will also add 28 new fire hydrants and replace 47 existing ones.

During the project, Cedar Grove Avenue will be widened by an average of seven feet between New Dorp Lane and Ebbitts Street. The neighborhood will also receive new street lighting and traffic signals, plus new street signage, pavement markings, and eight new reinforced concrete bus pads.

Overall the project will reconstruct 3.8 miles of roadways curb-tocurb, with a new concrete base and 51,300 square yards of new asphalt. About 140,000 square feet of new sidewalks will be added, with another 35,000 square feet being replaced. Over 26,000 feet of new curbs will be installed and 8,000 feet of old curb will be replaced.

This infrastructure investment will significantly improve the sewer system and water delivery services in a section of New Dorp Beach that was particularly hard hit by Superstorm Sandy. Additionally, this project will greatly increase the neighborhood's stormwater drainage capacity, making it more resilient to better manage future severe wet weather events. I want to thank BWSO's infrastructure planning team and our partners at DDC and DOT for working together to provide this community with some much-needed upgrades.



## Progress on \$145M Canarsie Project



Progress continues on the \$145 million infrastructure upgrade in the Canarsie and East New York neighborhoods of Brooklyn. The massive undertaking will reduce street flooding, improve the health of Fresh Creek and Jamaica Bay, ensure the reliability of the drinking water delivery system, and make neighborhood roadways safer for all users. The first phase of work, which is nearing completion, saw the replacement of nearly 4 miles of water mains, the construction of more than 2 miles of new, highlevel storm sewers and the full rehabilitation of the roadways. Phases II and III, totaling almost \$89 million, are now underway and will build upon the newly installed network of sewer infrastructure. Ongoing work on these segments of the upgrade will see the installation of more than 4.3 miles of new ductile iron distribution water mains and approximately 4.3 miles of high level storm sewers. The plans also call for the construction of 109 catch basins and 68 fire hydrants.

#### Bronx Students Release Classroom Trout



DEP recently joined Trout Unlimited, Bronx Children's Museum, 12th grade students from World View High School, and pre-K students from BronxWorks to release juvenile trout that the students have raised in their classrooms since October of last year. Nearly 125 fingerlings were released into the Cross River, which feeds into Cross River Reservoir, part of New York City's drinking water system.



This month, DEP is celebrating our value of transparency. If you know someone who embodies this value, please send an email by May 21 to <a href="mailto:values@dep.nyc.gov">values@dep.nyc.gov</a>, and include the name of who you are nominating, their bureau, and a brief description of how they embody this value.

#### Reservoir Cleanup Held in Watershed



Watershed DEP employees celebrated Earth Day on April 22 by cleaning shorelines and boat-launch areas at Lake Gleneida in Putnam County, and New Croton Reservoir in Westchester County. They were joined at Lake Gleneida by members of the Oasis Club, a sportsmen's club based in Putnam. The two cleanups yielded more than 400 pounds of trash that had been tossed from passing vehicles or left behind at fishing access points along the two bodies of water. The Earth Day effort complimented more than two tons of trash that were collected during DEP's annual reservoir cleanup day last October, and it underscored the need for local residents and outdoor enthusiasts to protect our natural resources by properly disposing of their trash and recyclables.

#### Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday, 12 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Commissioner **Vincent Sapienza**, Director for Human Resources **Herb Roth**, Director of Planning and Recruitment **Grace Pigott**, HR Specialist **Grace Franco**, and HR Generalist **Conor Bulger**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Floyd Boyce, Andrew Eng, and John Youssef (not pictured) with BWSO; Giorgiana Craus, St. Hope Haughton, Patrick Mclaulin, and Arta Xhaferri with BWT; Judy Gomez with BCS; Kiana Leung with BEC; Caitlin O'Leary with BLA; Daniel Orlowski and Mina Rafiee (not pictured) with BEDC.

We welcome your feedback! To submit an announcement or suggestion, please email us at: <a href="mailto:newsletter@dep.nyc.gov">newsletter@dep.nyc.gov</a>.