

## Kudos Corner



**T**he Gilboa Dam rehabilitation project earned a top award last month from the American Council of Engineering Companies of New York (pictured is DEP's **Emory Chase**, on the left). The project, which was substantially completed in 2014, was recognized with the council's Diamond Award for Water Resources. DEP was recognized along with project consultants from Gannett Fleming, and Hazen and Sawyer. More information, along with a full list of award recipients, can be found [here](#). The \$138 million reconstruction of Gilboa Dam included the addition of approximately 234 million pounds of concrete, 500 massive spillway slabs, and upgrades to the abutment walls that support the dam. Rehabilitation work on the now 89-year-old dam was completed two years ahead of schedule.

## Spotlight On Safety

### Zika Virus Update

Mosquito season in New York City has started, and the City is continuing to expand upon current mosquito control activities used to prevent West Nile Virus. The City's Health Department (DOHMH) is working closely with the Centers for Disease Control, the state, and other experts to actively monitor the situation. DOHMH is also working with health care providers to test those at risk for the virus and provide public education.

While Zika virus is primarily spread through the bite of an infected mosquito, updated information

says that while it is rare, it is possible for Zika to spread from one person to another through sexual contact and blood. The virus cannot be transmitted through casual contact. According to DOHMH, most people infected with Zika do not get sick and for those that do, most recover on their own. However, Zika does cause birth defects. To date, all reported cases in New York City contracted the virus while visiting other countries. For more information on what is being done to prevent the spread of this virus, [click here](#).

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

With warmer weather upon us, the Bureau of Public Affairs & Communications has been partnering with elected officials in communities across the city to provide free rain barrels to homeowners. Thus far in 2016, we have already held 12 events and delivered more than 2,000 rain barrels to homeowners. The 60-gallon rain barrels are easy to install and connect directly to a property owner's downspout to capture and store the stormwater that falls on the rooftop. The water collected in the rain barrel can then be used to water lawns and gardens, or for other outdoor chores. Rain barrels can help reduce a homeowner's water bill as watering lawns and gardens can account for up to 40 percent of an average household's water use during the summer months. They also help to reduce the amount of stormwater that enters the City's sewer system, which helps to protect the health of local waterways.

Each homeowner who received a rain barrel was provided with an



**Eric Landau**, DEP's Acting Deputy Commissioner for the Bureau of Public Affairs & Communications, is a guest commentator this week.

installation kit and instructions. It's important to note that rain barrels should only be used for non-potable purposes, such as gardening, and must be disconnected from the downspout during the winter months to avoid freezing. I'd like to thank our Community Affairs staff, who have already worked numerous weekends on this important initiative, as well as our partners in the Bureau of Wastewater Treatment. [Click here](#) to see more photos.

## What Elected Officials are Saying

"I'd like to thank Commissioner Lloyd and the DEP staff for working collaboratively with my office to provide this important, practical resource to southeast Queens," said **State Senator Leroy Comrie**.

"I would like to commend DEP for partnering with me to offer the Rain

Barrel Giveaway Program in southwest Brooklyn," said **State Senator Martin Golden**.

"I'm proud to partner with DEP to provide upwards of 250 rain barrels for the community, a win-win

(Continued on reverse side)



(What Electeds are Saying... continued)

for homeowners and the environment," said **City Council Member James Vacca**.

"As summer approaches, DEP's rain barrel program continues to be a popular event for residents in Southeast Queens," said **Council Member I. Daneek Miller**.

"I want to thank DEP for partnering with me on this rain barrel giveaway event," said **State Senator Jeffrey Klein**. "This program is good for homeowners and good for our city."

"I'm proud to be a part of this rain barrel giveaway event which helps connect New Yorkers with the tools they need to ensure the future of one of our state's most valuable natural resources—our water supply," said **Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie**. "Initiatives like this truly have a huge impact on both our communities and the environment."

"This is the second year my office has partnered with DEP to distribute over 200 rain barrels to homeowners and it's been a tremendous success," said **Council Member Annabel Palma**.

"The free rain barrels from the great team at NYC DEP will allow neighbors to keep their blocks looking fine without spiking their water bills," said **Council Member Robert Cornegy**. "It's a win-win proposition, which explains why there's been such an enthusiastic response!"

"Rain barrels can be costly, but thanks to DEP, hundreds of District 11 residents were able to receive a free 60-gallon barrel this past weekend," said **Council Member Andrew Cohen**. "Thank you for ensuring that my neighbors have every opportunity to keep their homes and neighborhoods environmentally friendly."

## Dating Violence in Teens

A note from **Kaitlyn Maceira**, LMHC, CASAC, with the NYC Employee Assistance Program

Teenage violence is often defined by bullying and physical fighting, however studies have shown that instances of teenage dating violence far exceeds the rates of other types of youth violence. As cited by [loveisrespect.org](http://loveisrespect.org), nearly 1.5 million high school students experience physical abuse from a dating partner in a single year, one in three adolescents in the U.S. is a victim of abuse from a dating partner, and one in 10 high school students has been purposefully physically hurt by a boyfriend or girlfriend. Dating violence can be categorized by physical, sexual, verbal, emotional and digital abuse. Living in a digital age, information can be transmitted to the masses in an instant. Digital abuse is not just isolated to cyber bullying with mean Facebook posts, but also includes the demanding of passwords, checking cell phones, sexting, excessive or threatening text messages or stalking on social media sites.

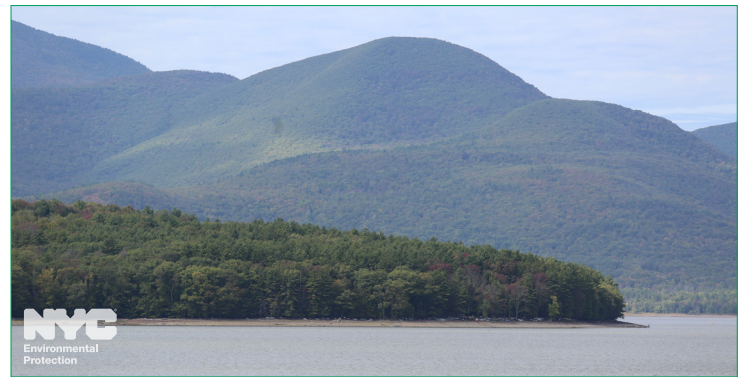
A pattern can usually be found when looking at any problematic

behaviors, and dating violence is no different. From the first instance of the violent behavior, a pattern begins and the abusive behaviors continue and escalate over time.

Just like domestic violence between adults, dating violence in teens does not usually take place in public. So how can an outsider tell it is happening? What can we look for? Some common signs of abusive behaviors are: constantly putting one's partner down, extreme jealousy or insecurity, explosive temper, isolating one's partner from family or friends, and exhibiting possessiveness and controlling behavior.

Dating violence can happen to anyone. It does not discriminate. It can happen to you, it can happen to me and it can happen to the adolescents and young adults in our lives. If you or a loved one is in a violent relationship, please get help. Contact the NYC Employee Assistance Program at (212) 306-7660 to sit down with a counselor in a safe environment and be heard, or visit [loveisrespect.org](http://loveisrespect.org) for more information and added support.

## News from the Watershed



Last week, DEP announced that it will begin using a natural weed control for roadside maintenance in the watershed. The move toward an all-natural herbicide comes after a 2015 pilot test that examined the effectiveness of two natural products for controlling weed growth along roadway shoulders, especially where guiderails are located. That test, performed by water quality research scientists and water supply operations staff, found that one of the natural herbicides effectively eliminated 98 percent of weeds. [Learn more here.](#)

DEP also partnered with the Village of Ossining to announce the completion of a conservation plan that will help the village reduce its water use, provide local residents with an incentive to replace outdated fixtures, and help preserve the City's water supply. Ossining's demand management plan is the first of at least eight for upstate communities that purchase water in bulk from the City's supply system. The demand management plans will likely include system-wide water audits, analyses of water use, and evaluating conservation opportunities such as replacing old fixtures with more efficient ones. Read more [here](#).

## Information Technology Advisory



Effective immediately, please do not purchase or use DEP branded USB flash drives. The Office of Information and Technology was recently alerted to malware on some recently purchased DEP branded USB flash drives.

DEP branded USB flash drives pose significant cyber security risks, and potential liability issues for the department as the flash drive can be reused to store documents, which may contain malicious software such as viruses or Trojans. DEP branded USB flash drives should not be used, especially for giveaways or by any DEP employee/consultants as the flash drives can be easily misplaced or reused.

**We welcome your feedback! To submit an announcement or suggestion, please email us at: [newsletter@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:newsletter@dep.nyc.gov).**