

## 'City of Water' on Governor's Island



**D**EP's Education Team participated this past Saturday in the annual City of Water Day on Governor's Island. The agency sponsored a performance of Arm-of-the-Sea Theater's *The Rejuvenary River Circus*, a wonderful story that follows Malakai, a water carrier, as he travels between mountains and the sea, meeting various animals. Gorgeous masks and puppet characters, live music, and a beautiful set engaged young viewers as they learned about watersheds and river ecosystems. At the DEP booth, youngsters used watercolor paints to create beautiful water-themed pictures detailing the imaginative ways they plan to conserve this precious resource.

## Spotlight on Safety

### Preventing Falls in the Office

Falls are the most common source of injury in an office, although workers can also be injured by objects and may suffer from strains. The National Safety Council says employees are 2.5 times more likely to suffer a disabling fall in an office setting than anywhere else. However, these falls are preventable and the hazards can be minimized by being aware of your surroundings and applying the following changes within your office space:

- ensure electrical and phone cords are secured away from high-traffic areas, such as hallways and in front of employees' desks
- always keep cabinets and drawers closed when not in use

- wear proper footwear
- clean up spills as soon as they occur, and post warning signs when necessary
- avoid walking distracted
- don't carry large loads that obstruct your view

If you see a safety concern in your work environment report it to your supervisor or safety representative immediately.

For a listing of your bureau safety officer [click this link](#). Read this [National Safety Council](#) article for additional information on preventing falls in the office and minimizing other safety hazards.

## Commissioner's Corner



In New York City we know that every drop of water counts, but we also know that every dollar counts. That's why DEP was honored to partner with Mayor de Blasio last Friday and announce that more than 53,000 low-income homeowners are receiving an automatic \$115 credit on their water and sewer bill. In addition, the New York City Water Board has authorized the extension of the credit to approximately 12,000 additional senior citizens in FY18. The Water Board has also approved a new \$250 per residential unit credit, to begin next year, for multi-family buildings that meet certain affordability, conservation and performance criteria. The new Multifamily Affordable Housing Credit will provide a total of \$10 million of assistance to properties, serving as many as 40,000 units, while helping to incentivize affordability.

In 2015, the Home Water Assistance Program provided the first annual credit to 12,500 low-income homeowners who qualify for the federal Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP). In 2016, the program was expanded to also include low-income senior and disabled homeowners who receive a Department of Finance (DOF) property tax exemption. Beginning in FY18, the program will reach senior citizens with a combined annual

income of less than \$50,000. DEP partners with Human Resources Administration (HRA) to identify qualified residents that receive a HEAP benefit, with DOF to identify customers with property tax exemptions, as well as Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) and Housing Development Corporation (HDC) to identify eligible multi-family buildings that conserve water and enter into an agreement to keep rents affordable.

The \$115 credit will appear on the next water and sewer bill for the following customers:

- **Bronx:** 4,717
- **Brooklyn:** 16,659
- **Manhattan:** 101
- **Queens:** 23,149
- **Staten Island:** 8,451

Over the last few years, tens of thousands of low-income residents have benefitted from the Home Water Assistance Program and we are thrilled to now expand it to even more of our senior customers, while still keeping water and sewer rates affordable for all New Yorkers. I'd like to thank Deputy Commissioner **Nancy Cianflone** and her team at the Bureau of Customer Services for applying these credits to the bills of eligible customers.

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.

## ReLeaf Conference Focuses on Trees



Acting Commissioner Vincent Sapienza spoke with NYC Parks First Deputy Commissioner Liam Kavanaugh and Jennifer Greenfeld, Assistant Commissioner for Forestry, Horticulture, and Natural Resources, before the conference commenced.

Acting Commissioner **Vincent Sapienza** explained how green infrastructure helps manage stormwater during welcoming remarks he gave on Friday at the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual New York ReLeaf Conference, held at St. John's University, Jamaica, Queens. **Kim Estes-Fradis**, Director of Education, BPAC, served on the ReLeaf conference planning committee and **Zachary Youngerman**, Project Manager for Green Infrastructure Planning & Partnerships, BEPA, conducted a Friday afternoon bus tour of various green infrastructure installations. **Maria Corporan**, BWSO, gave a brief presentation at one of the rain gardens planted near the Rego Park Center mall. Also, on Saturday morning, **Robin Sanchez**, Deputy Director of Education, BPAC, led an education and stewardship workshop at the Visitor Center at Newtown Creek. [New York ReLeaf](#) promotes the importance of trees and participants in the event included NYC Parks, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, NYS Urban Forestry Council, USDA Forest Service, and the Arbor Day Foundation.

## Looking for Career Advice?

OD&HR is pleased to announce the launch of DEP's 2017/2018 Mentoring Program! All DEP employees are encouraged to consider applying for this important mentorship, whether it be in the capacity of a Mentee or Mentor. Being a Mentee can be an incredibly rewarding experience as participants will gain valuable insight into how to shape successful careers at DEP; becoming a Mentor can be a great way to give back and grow future leaders of DEP while ensuring that your own legacy continues long after you retire. Visit [DEP Mentoring Experience](#) to hear what colleagues are saying about their experiences. To apply, click on the [Mentoring Program Application](#). Program options include **Traditional One-One Mentoring or Project-based/Functional Mentoring**. The application deadline is Aug. 18, selection notification is Sept. 1, and the program launch will be Sept. 27. For additional information, please check out EmployeesFirst and DEPTv or email [workforcedevtrng@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:workforcedevtrng@dep.nyc.gov).

## DEP Marches in Disability Pride Parade



A number of DEP employees, friends, and family members marched in the third annual NYC Disability Pride Parade on July 9 in Manhattan. The event also featured ADA-compliant Water-on-The-Go fountains at two locations to help participants stay hydrated. The parade is a component of "Disability Pride Month", which coincides with the 27<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the [Americans with Disabilities Act](#) (ADA). This statute, signed into law July 26<sup>th</sup>, 1990, grants wide-spread civil rights protection for all Americans regardless of their disability status. DEP proudly welcomes employees with disabilities, and embraces their invaluable contributions that help us fulfill our mission. Feel free to contact the EEO office at 718-595-3400 or email at [EEOOffice@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:EEOOffice@dep.nyc.gov) to learn more about the policies and procedures that guarantee diversity, inclusion, and equal opportunity at DEP.

## GI Funding Now Available Citywide



Funding provided through New York City's Green Infrastructure Grant Program is now [available citywide](#). Green infrastructure, such as rain gardens, porous pavement and green roofs, softens the city's built environment, allowing stormwater to be naturally absorbed into the ground where it falls. Reducing the amount of stormwater that drains into the City's sewer system is a cost-effective way to reduce pollution in local waterways. The Green Infrastructure Grant Program provides funding for green infrastructure projects on private property, and for the first time this resource will be available to property owners on Staten Island, in eastern Queens and in the immediate vicinity of Newtown Creek. Since 2011, DEP has committed over \$15 million to fund 34 different green infrastructure projects with private property owners. More information and the application can be found on the [DEP website](#).

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