

Special Guest *Commissioner's Corner*



Joseph Murin, DEP's Chief Financial Officer, is a guest commentator this week.

Earlier today **Mayor de Blasio** presented the City's Fiscal Year 2018 Preliminary Budget. Included within the budget is DEP's \$17.7 billion Preliminary 10-Year Capital Strategy (FY18-27), the highlights of which I wanted to share with all of you.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND PROTECTION OF NEW YORK HARBOR

To improve the quality of the City's waterways and to comply with the mandates imposed by the Clean Water Act, the Preliminary 10-Year Capital Strategy provides roughly \$6.6 billion towards wastewater treatment programs. This includes \$3.6 billion for the reconstruction or replacement of components of the wastewater treatment plants and pumping stations. In addition, \$1.5 billion is budgeted for traditional sewer upgrades to help mitigate combined sewer over-

flows (CSO), with \$908 million planned for green infrastructure such as rain gardens and constructed wetlands.

DRINKING WATER SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION

We are proposing to invest an additional \$4 billion to improve the integrity of our upstate dams and the in-city distribution system. \$1.6 billion will go towards rehabilitating the New Croton and Olive Bridge Dams, the Dividing Weir Bridge and the Catskill Aqueduct. An additional \$1.6 billion will be dedicated towards maintaining and repairing the water main system that conveys potable water to all five boroughs. In addition, for the continuation of our current Filtration Avoidance Determination programs, our budget includes \$143 million, including \$94 million for land acquisition.

SEWERS

The budget projects \$4.3 billion of spending on sewers including \$1.4 billion to increase capacity of the existing system and \$350 million for Bluebelt systems.

CITY WATER TUNNEL NO.3

The Strategy includes \$600 million to complete the Brooklyn/Queens leg of City Tunnel No. 3. The tunnel and most of the infrastructure shafts that support it are complete—just two shafts remain



to be designed and constructed. Construction of the shafts will begin in 2020, one year earlier than previously projected, and we are working to ensuring that the tunnel is activation-ready by the end of 2017.

Each one of us plays an important role in protecting public health and the environment in New York City and I'd like to thank you all for your hard work and dedication to our critical mission. The full budget documents can be found [here](#).

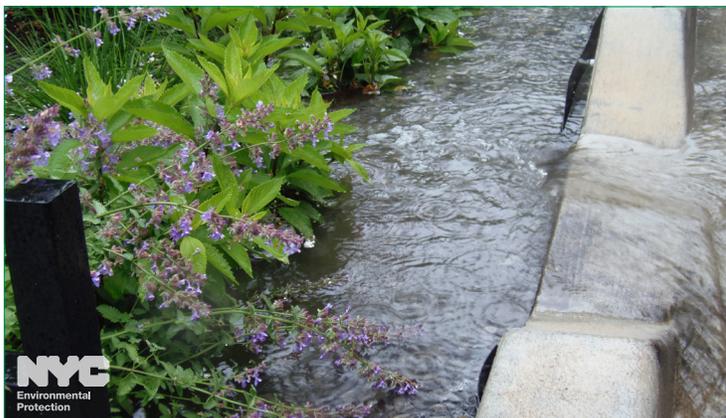
Spotlight on Safety

Safe Disposal of Broken Glass

Safely disposing of broken glass in the workplace helps protect your fellow employees, as well as those responsible for trash and recycling collection. Improper disposal of broken glass can pose a risk throughout the day to others in the office. For example, if a trash bin appears full, someone may attempt to push the trash down to make room. If broken glass is present in the trash bin unknowingly to others, this can create an injury hazard.

The Department of Sanitation (DSNY) has a list of "specially handled items" and how to

dispose of them on their [web-site](#). Broken glass or fragile items like light bulbs need to be double-bagged. Large glass items like windows and mirrors should be taped before being thrown away with other bulk garbage. To ensure that broken glass in the trash does not pose a hazard, place the items in a separate double bag and consider labeling it with "Caution: Broken Glass" to alert cleaning staff. If you have any questions about disposing of an item or need assistance disposing of broken glass, contact FMC or your Facility Coordinator.



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.

Out of the Archives



The large panoramic photo pictured above, featuring a breathtaking view of Ashokan Reservoir under construction, belongs to the family of BWS employee **Mark DuBois**, who works as a watershed maintainer in Shokan. Dubois' family has deep roots in the Esopus Valley where Ashokan Reservoir was built from 1907-1915. His great-grandfather lived in Brown's Station, a hamlet that was removed to make way for

the reservoir. His grandfather, Lemuel DuBois, was a surveyor whose work informed the construction of the Catskill System, including Ashokan. The panoramic photo, along with three more, had belonged to him and were later passed down to Mark Dubois' uncle, who donated them to an upstate library before his death. The photos provide wide-angle views of Ashokan's construction that are unique among the other

archived images of the project. Additionally, it's possible they are some of the first panoramic images of their kind. The "flexible film" needed to take photos this large was not invented until the 1890s, and cameras that used the film were not widely marketed until the early 1900s. An inscription on one of the photos shows that it was taken on Aug. 18, 1911 by W.W. Thompson of Poughkeepsie, New York. Online records note

Thompson in a book documenting the activities of the New York State Historical Association in 1912. At the group's mid-winter meeting in Albany that year, the historical association approved a payment of \$1 to "W.W. Thompson, Photographer." The historical association's journal from that year included conventional photos of the work on Olivebridge Dam and Ashokan Reservoir. [Click here](#) to see all four historical images.

New Year, Same You, So Accept It!

A note from Kaitlyn Maceira, LMHC, CASAC, with the NYC Employee Assistance Program (NYC EAP)

Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) is a type of cognitive-behavioral therapy which focuses on one's ability to identify their own strengths as well as being more in-tune to their thoughts, beliefs and reactions. One topic DBT focuses on is the principle of radical acceptance which is all about letting go of fighting reality. The term "radical" means to imply that the acceptance has to come from deep within and it has to be complete. One skill taught in accepting reality is called Turning the Mind. This is when one chooses to accept. It's helpful here to actually picture turning one's mind in the direction of acceptance. It's like coming to a fork in the road. You have to turn your mind toward the acceptance road and away from the "rejecting reality" road. Committing to acceptance does not equal acceptance, it just turns you toward the path. But that's the first step, isn't it? Willingness Over Willfulness is another skill learned in DBT. Willingness is accepting what is, together with responding to what is, in an effective or appropriate way. It's doing what works. Willfulness is

imposing one's will on reality—trying to fix everything, refusing to make changes that are needed or refusing to tolerate the moment. In accepting reality, one wants to replace willfulness with willingness. Life is like a game of cards. It makes no difference to a good card player what cards they get, the object is to play whatever hand one gets as well as possible. The idea is to be mindful of the current hand, play it as skillfully as you can and then let go and focus on the next hand of cards. Radical acceptance is about accepting absolutely everything about ourselves and our lives without controlling, judging or pulling away. Accept what it is, and do what is best for you in that situation. By no means does radical acceptance insinuate that one should put up with harmful behavior, whether it is our own or another's. Rather, it's accepting that that harmful behavior is happening and choosing to make a change to better yourself and your life. Accept you, choose you, do you, be you. If you or a loved one is in need of support or information, free and confidential problem-solving services are available at NYC EAP. Contact us by phone at (212) 306-7660 or email at eap@olr.nyc.gov.

Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday, 11 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Acting Commissioner **Vincent Sapienza**, Deputy Commissioner for Organizational Development **Diana Jones Ritter** and Director of Planning and Recruitment **Grace Pigott**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

William Baptista and **Stanley Yin** with BEC; **Sara Paniccia** and **Anthony Thompson** with BEDC; **Yuksel Erdagi** and **Brian Lowe** with BWS; **Vincent Borzacchiello** and **Anna Theodoropoulos** with BWSO; **Kathleen Esposito** with BWT; **Mina Abdelmasih** with CDBG; and **Sheila Garvey** with BLR.

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