

If You Build It They Will Come! *The Visitor Center at Newtown Creek*



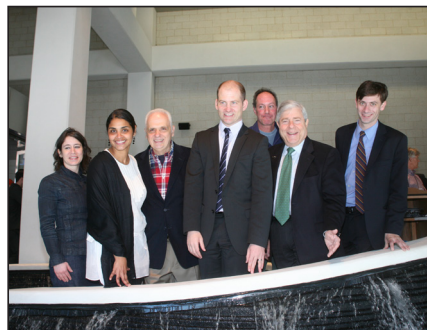
It's a real shame, but a lot of DEP's best work is hidden from the public. Although our Communications staff works hard to publicize the vital work that DEP employees are doing throughout the City, sometimes it can be difficult to express the full scope of our responsibilities. Think about it: 9 million people throughout the City and State rely everyday on DEP's 7,000 miles of aqueducts, tunnels and water mains, and 7,400 miles of sewers. Much of this infrastructure, and the people that dutifully maintain it, are hidden from view. Even our above-ground wastewater treatment plants are somewhat obscure places.

Out of sight, out of mind? Well, not any longer. This weekend, DEP opened the Visitor Center at the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. Please click here [G](#) for photos of the event. The Visitor Center—the very first of its kind—is designed to educate New Yorkers and visitors from around the world about the complex and ingenious system that brings more than a billion gallons of drinking water here every day and then treats the wastewater that is generated. On display at the Visitor Center are photographs, exhibits, and accounts from DEP personnel that describe how the system works—from our upstate watersheds, to our distribution network, to our fourteen in-city wastewater treatment plants—the Center illustrates what DEP does for New York.

The Visitor Center was built as part of the ongoing upgrade of the

(Continued on reverse side)

Commissioner's Corner



Mayor Bloomberg celebrated the 40th Earth Day last Thursday with a Times Square celebration that included the world premiere—on a giant screen above 42nd Street—of a new Public Service Announcement (PSA) by Blue Man Group explaining how litter impairs water quality and can damage our wastewater infrastructure. The PSA was filmed at the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant that you can watch here [G](#). As part of the festivities, our Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations set up 3 Water-on-the-Go Stations where the public could stop and fill-up on the high quality, refreshing, delicious tasting water we bring into 9 million New Yorker's homes every day. Special thanks to volunteers from NBC Universal who manned a station at 49th Street & Fifth Avenue in Rockefeller Center as part of their Green is Universal Earth Day activities, and everyone on our Communications team for their efforts.

On Friday, State DEC announced a much stricter review process will be required before any proposal to drill for natural gas in our 2,000 square-mile watershed can be approved. You can read about the State's decision here [G](#), as well as the Mayor's response [G](#). More work certainly remains to be done, but the State's decision is an important step forward in guaranteeing the long-term security of our most precious natural resource.

Our Earth Day festivities culminated on Saturday with the opening of the Visitor Center at Newtown Creek, where I was joined by Assemblyman **Joseph Lentol**, Brooklyn Borough President **Marty Markowitz**, Council Members

Stephen Levin and **Diana Reyna**, Sara Reisman, the Director for the Department of Cultural Affairs' Percent for Art Program, **Tim Hartung** from Polshek Partnerships, and **Paul Turci**, Co-chair of the Newtown Creek Monitoring Committee. The Visitor Center is going to be a great educational resource for City residents and visitors from around the world, and you can read more about it in this week's feature story. Director of Marketing and Partnerships **Connie Fitzgerald** has been a driving force in getting the Visitor Center open for Earth Week, and I hope you'll take the family for a visit in the near future.

On Sunday, BWSO proved yet again that DEP can handle the toughest operational challenges and keep our water flowing. Early Sunday morning, a 60-inch water main sprung a leak beneath Kings Highway at Foster Avenue in Brooklyn. Intuition might have suggested shutting down the main as soon as possible, but the response team led by Deputy Commissioner **James Roberts** quickly recognized that a shutdown would have impacted service throughout Brooklyn and Queens. It took all day and into the night, but BWSO got the job done without impacting service, and without damage to any homes or businesses. Thanks to everyone for a tremendous effort—we'll have more on this in next week's Pipeline.

Spotlight on Safety

World Day for Safety and Health

Each year, on **April 28**, the International Labor Organization celebrates **World Day for Safety and Health** to bring global attention to safety and health issues. The theme for this year is "Emerging risks and new patterns of prevention in a changing world of work", which highlights the emerging risks in the work place from new chemicals, nanotechnologies; pandemics etc, and how they affect areas of safety and health. Awareness of safety and health issues within

the **BHRA** are addressed through weekly meetings with responsible individuals. Yearly, the SH 900 logs and audit findings are reviewed to see what areas need improvement while the Bureau strives towards creating a more preventive culture for safety. **Remember** - safety and health is about preventing employees from being injured or ill through work. While DEP, as the employer, is responsible for the safety and health of its employees, employees must do their part too.

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. [G](#)

Focus on the Field



Jeff Hurley earned his whirlwind tour of the Croton Water Filtration Plant by coming up for a great name for our Valve Chamber conference room. Click [here](#) to see Jeff's write up and photos of the tour. We at Pipeline are really thrilled he had a great time, but we're also just as happy to have him back at his day job.

Jeff is the Section Chief of Environmental Health and Safety for the Bureau of Water Supply's Watershed Water Quality Operations Division (WWQO). Reporting to **Jim Broderick**, the WWQO Deputy Chief of Compliance, **Lori Emery**, Chief of WWQO, **Steve Schindler**, the Director of Water Quality, and **Paul Rush**, the Dep-

uty Commissioner for the Bureau of Water Supply, Jeff is tasked with facility inspections, field assessments, assuring safety compliance, and a host of other responsibilities related to water quality sampling and laboratory testing. Jeff and his staff protect the health and welfare of DEP employees, making sure that the Agency is compliant with all regulations, keeping BWS employees safe so they can help deliver one billion gallons of water to nine million people every day.

Jeff had previously served as the Laboratory Director for the Bureau's now closed Croton Laboratory, so the tour hit home with his earlier experience with the Croton Supply. Jeff joined DEP in May 1995.

In his spare time, Jeff likes to hike the Adirondacks, Catskills and Shawangunks Mountains; kayak, bike ride and play guitar. Just make sure you're setting a good example and staying safe when you climb, Jeff!

Did You Know

...that tomorrow, April 28, is the 15th annual International Noise Awareness Day and DEP is responsible for enforcing the City's noise code. DEP handles approximately 40,000 noise complaints annually, ranging from noisy bars and nightclubs to crowing backyard roosters. Noise pollution is a matter of personal health and safety and our inspectors work hard to ensure that "in the city that never sleeps" New Yorkers can find a little peace and quiet.

DEP: Then & Now

Then: This image is a water bottle from 1992 commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the opening of the Croton Reservoir in 1842. The water bottle contains the following text::

WATER FOR A THIRSTY CITY. New York City 150 years of pure drinking water. 1842-1992.

"The Health of a City depends more on its water than all the rest of the edibles and drinkables put together" **Dr. Joseph Browne**, 1798 Physician/Engineer.



Now: DEP Water Bottle, 2010.

The new 22-ounce reusable containers make it easy to fill up all around town. Besides looking good, the bottles are made of BPA-free plastic.

The bottles are available for purchase at CityStore, New York City's official shop [here](#).



Ask Cas

askcas@dep.nyc.gov

Q. I have been asked why manholes are usually round -- and I don't know the answer.

Scott Foster, Senior Photographer, BCIA

A. Scott, that is a really interesting question -- thanks for asking. A round manhole cover cannot fall through its circular opening, whereas a square or other shaped manhole cover may fall in if it were inserted diagonally in the hole.

Milestones

Congratulations to the following DEP employees for their years of service in DEP in May:

Henry Aurdahl, BWT, 49 years; **Stephen Greenwald**, BEDC, 40 years; **Mae Mack**, HR&A, 35 years; and **William Fuccillo**, BWT, **Stephen Gifford**, BWT, **Vladimir Goldenshteyn**, BWSO, **Stephen Kaufer**, BEDC, **Adedoyin Oduba**, BEC, and **Stella Rozelman**, BWT all with 30 years of service to DEP.

Best wishes to **Marilyn Shanahan**, BWS who retired in April after 25 years of city service.

(If You Build it They Will Come!... - continued)

Newtown Creek Plant. The space was designed by Polshek Partnerships, an award-winning architectural firm based in New York City. Designed by Acco-nci Studio—the curving water sculpture that runs both inside and outside of the exhibit space symbolizes the flow of water from the upstate watersheds. It also serves as a reminder of the relationship between the public and the infrastructure that serves them.

of the Newtown Creek Plant. The plant plays a critical role in protecting the health of all New Yorkers and is also becoming a stunning public work. Infrastructure investments such as Newtown Creek have been a major priority for Mayor Bloomberg towards his vision of having 90% of local waterways available for recreational use.

The Center is located on Greenpoint Avenue at the south end

We really think that the Visitor Center will do a great job telling DEP's story.

Take our Children to Work Day

Last Thursday, DEP participated in Take Our Children to Work Day. Children between the ages of 9 and 15 came in to watch mom and dad at work and find out what it is they do to help millions of New Yorkers every day. In addition to getting to see mom or dad at work, these junior staff members got to participate in educational experiments which were held in the cafeteria. There, bureaus set up all sorts of games and demonstrations, like the Environmental Police Officers who showed the children some of their work tools and explained their various responsibilities; a photo booth where the kids were photographed wearing personal protective equipment and a "Price is Right" showcase show-down to guess the cost of various goods. A big thank you to all the participants for coming in and learning a little bit about DEP and to the employees who spent a part of their day educating our children!

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