

## Reduce. Reuse. Recycle.



Last November, DEP launched a new recycling initiative on the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor of Lefrak's low-rise building to dramatically transform the way we dispose of trash and recyclable materials. Based on the success of the initial pilot, the DEP Recycling Committee will be expanding this initiative to the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor of the low-rise building and the 11<sup>th</sup> Floor of the high-rise building beginning April 8, 2013.

This new initiative was led by a subcommittee of the Panel for Sustainable Infrastructure, which includes **Patricia Turner, Sue Dennis, Sheranne Wickham,**

**Dorrit Blakeslee, Anthony Brown, Christopher Gallegos, Heather Goetsch, Benjamin Malnor, Emery Myers, Natalia Perez, and Floren Poliseo.**

As part of the pilot, the 250 individual black waste bins located in each cubicle on the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor of the low-rise were replaced with 17 centrally located recycling stations. Each recycling station contains a green bin for metals, glass, and plastic, a blue bin for paper, and a beige bin for trash, as well as a handy guide to help

(Continued on reverse side)

## Spotlight on Safety

### What's my Safety Attitude?

Do any of these thoughts sound familiar?

- I've been doing this job or task for 10, 15, or 25 years and never had an accident.
- I'll update that Chemical Hygiene plan before the auditor comes, I just don't have time to look at it now.

Let's be honest, we have all had these or similar thoughts. Maybe it's time we check our safety attitude, and think about this instead... Does it matter to me if someone else gets hurt? Am I tempted to

take shortcuts with safety or other procedures because I think it will save me time? Do I really understand the reality and potential hazards of an operation to which I am sending employees to work?

**Safety is a core value at DEP.** We all want to go home safe at the end of the day and wish that for our coworkers as well. It's a consciousness that goes above and beyond written programs, policies, and EHS trainings. How do you keep safety up front? We would love to hear from you and publish your ideas and practices in an upcoming issue of Pipeline. We encourage you to share them with us at: [ehs@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:ehs@dep.nyc.gov).

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

Supplying a billion gallons of drinking water every day requires infrastructure that is big, and durable, and where possible we strive to have our projects provide benefits to local communities. The Gilboa Dam meets all of these criteria, and earlier today, I joined Deputy Commissioner **Paul Rush, Tina Johnstone, Jeff Helmuth, Carl Davis, and Mark Suttmeier** from the Bureau of Water Supply (BWS) and **Sean McAndrew, Emory Chase, and Lisette Gomez** from the Bureau of Engineering, Design and Construction (BEDC), as well as a number of Schoharie County officials on a tour of the ongoing rehabilitation work there. The Dam was commissioned 85 years ago and impounds the Schoharie Reservoir, the northernmost reservoir in the water supply system. The \$400 million rehabilitation includes reinforcing the structure with 234 million pounds of concrete, reconstructing the spillway, and installing a new release tunnel around the Dam from the Schoharie Reservoir into Schoharie Creek. The Gilboa Dam reconstruction is the largest public works project in Schoharie County and has created nearly 125 local jobs. In addition, rehabilitation work is nearly two years ahead of schedule, and if the project continues on its current timeline and weather conditions remain favorable, construction is estimated to finish sometime in 2014.

To ensure the continued strength of the Dam, since 2006 DEP has installed more than 90 post-tensioned anchors which secure the

structure to the bedrock below. We have also made significant progress on rehabilitating the concrete face of the Dam, which has been damaged by years of freezing and thawing, causing some of the stone to weaken. The new concrete face is being carefully molded to look like stone.

Workers also recently completed the installation of the second of two temporary siphons that carry water out of the reservoir, over the dam, and into the creek below. The siphons are each capable of releasing up to 250 million gallons of water a day and are an important component of the reconstruction plan because they allow workers to lower water levels, providing crews with access to portions of the Dam that would otherwise be obstructed by water. I commend BWS and BEDC for their hard work restoring this critical and historic part of New York City's water supply.

Without the legions of engineers who have dreamt, designed, and delivered our infrastructure projects DEP would be unable to meet our critical mission. On Sunday, April 7, I invite you to attend "Engineering Expo 2013," which is sponsored by the New York State Professional Engineering Society and introduces middle and high school students to the field of engineering. The event will be held at White Plains High School from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. You can find more information on this event at [beanengineer.org](http://beanengineer.org). Admission is free and there will be door prizes for students.



## Focus on the Field



If you see a determined lady walking around Lefrak with floor plans, it's quite possible that it's **Patricia Turner**. She serves in the dual roles of Director of Real Estate and Deputy Director of Facilities Management and Construction. At a glance, she's the direct liaison between DEP and Lefrak building management, but in reality, she wears many hats. From responding to maintenance emergencies to revising the agency's recycling procedures, Turner is the first to admit that she'll never complain of boredom. "People think that all we do is facility maintenance, but it's a lot more than that. I'm also involved with lease administration, financial analysis, site inspections, and design."

"Pat's a real professional who brings a lot of focus and depth to her position because of her broad experience,"

says **Sue Dennis**, Director of Facilities Management and Construction. "Pat is always calm and logical, she also has a wicked sense of humor, a definite plus."

Turner's latest challenge is to implement a directive from the Mayor's office to consolidate underutilized space at Lefrak Headquarters in order to make two floors worth of room for the NYPD. "As staff retire or leave the department and new employees take their place, consolidation of office space is a continually moving target," she said.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, Turner started her career with the City at DCAS and joined DEP nearly 18 years ago. She has a degree from Adelphi University in Personnel, as well as a Certificate in Real Estate Studies and a Designation in Real Property Management from NYU. She and her husband of 27 years, **Trent**, have date night every Tuesday, when they're often spotted enjoying their mutual penchant for horror flicks. They also have two grown daughters, **Tenecia** and **Tiffany**. In her spare time, Turner is part of a sorority and mentors teenage girls through a program called "Roses in Bloom." When she needs a break from the city, she likes to visit her mother in Virginia Beach and hopes to retire there one day.

## Sneak Peek



In February, the M/V Hunts Point left dry dock in Louisiana and took to the water for the first time. It is the first of three new sludge vessels that DEP has commissioned from a shipyard in Louisiana. Once construction and testing are complete the M/V Hunts Point will travel to New York City where it will be commissioned this summer. It will replace the 1967-vintage M/V Newtown Creek.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:** This past Saturday's Volunteer Day Bluebelt cleanup event was another success—an additional 70 cubic yards (four large dump trucks full) of debris was collected—and there is still more work to be done. Volunteers are needed for the April 6 Bluebelt cleanup. If you are able to participate, please RSVP to [DEPVolunteerDay@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:DEPVolunteerDay@dep.nyc.gov) by 5:00 pm Thursday, 4/4.

## Stream Team



Last week, eight teenagers from high schools in the Bronx and Ulster County spent time with BWS employees to learn about water quality, watershed protection, flooding, and other environmental issues. The students included five from the Bronx Lab School and three from Oteora High School in Boiceville, N.Y. The teens are participants in a program called "Stream Teams," which seeks to educate young people about environmental issues and careers in the New York City watershed.

### (Reduce. Reuse. Recycle.)

employees determine in which bin their items should be placed.

Preliminary results from this pilot indicate that recycling rates have increased significantly on the floor. In addition, because the cleaning staff is only required to empty the bins at the recycling stations, they

have been able to increase the frequency of other cleaning tasks, including vacuuming and dusting.

If you would like to join the recycling committee, or have ideas about implementation for your floor, please email [Recycling@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:Recycling@dep.nyc.gov).

## Mycal Visit



Last month, Environmental Police Officer (EPO) **Douglas DiSciullo** and **Mycal**, a two year old German Shepard, represented DEP at John G. Borden Middle School's Career Day in Wallkill, New York. DiSciullo spoke to approximately 500 students in grades 6-8 about the New York City Water Supply system and the critical role that the DEP Police play in protecting the water that over 9 million New Yorkers rely on. DiSciullo has been an EPO for 11 years and has been with the Canine Unit for the last nine. Mycal is trained to patrol the watershed and to detect explosives. These events are valuable opportunities to spread the message about the critical work DEP does, interact with community members, and in this case, socialize the dogs.

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