

Tunnel Vision



Last week, **Mayor Bloomberg**, **Deputy Mayor Holloway**, and **DEP Commissioner Carter Strickland** activated the final stage of City Water Tunnel No. 3 in Manhattan. The \$1.1 billion portion of the tunnel is 8.5 miles long and will help to ensure that

residents and businesses from Central Park to the Battery have a reliable supply of high quality water for decades to come. Until now, most of Manhattan relied entirely on City Water Tunnel No. 1, which has been

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Spotlight on Safety

Surge Protectors and Office Safety

Surge protectors are useful for protecting computers and other equipment from damage. However, if they are not used properly, surge protectors can become an electrical safety hazard. Employees should routinely check surge protectors for fraying and exposed wires and should never attempt to repair damaged surge protectors on their own. Instead, report damaged surge protectors to your bureau EHS or facility management representative.

Piles of paper and file folders in work areas, combined with electrical wires in surge protectors is a recipe for problems. In addition, water and

electricity should never be close to each other. Ensure that surge protectors are far away from places where water or coffee spills are likely to occur.

Filing cabinets and bookcases should never be pushed tightly against surge protectors, or bend the cord at the plug. Surge protector cords must not be placed through doorways where closed doors can damage the cord. They should also never be placed where they can present a slipping or tripping hazard.

Remember to do your part to keep office work areas neat and clean to prevent safety hazards.

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

Yesterday afternoon, I joined Council Members **James Oddo** and **Vincent Ignizio**, Assembly Member **Joseph Borelli**, and Former Assembly Member **Lou Tobacco** at a tree planting ceremony at the site of the former Brookfield Avenue Landfill, along Arthur Kill Road in Great Kills, Staten Island. The site is undergoing a \$241 million remediation and natural restoration that will transform the landfill into one of Staten Island's largest public parks. The new park will not officially open to the public until 2017, but the first phase of the remediation has already provided dramatic results. Thanks to the work we completed you can already see the new park taking shape.

The trees being planted at Brookfield are among the first of more than 17,000 planned for the 132 acre site, and will go a long way towards achieving the PlaNYC goal of planting one million new trees across the city by 2017. In addition to new trees, we are also planning to add approximately 76,000 wetland plantings to preserve the recently restored 7.7 acres of tidal wetlands and 9.3 acres of freshwater wetlands around the landfill.

The Brookfield Avenue Landfill site is a former New York City municipal solid waste facility that operated from 1966 until 1980. As part of the remediation to make the new park safe, an impermeable landfill cap and be-

low-ground barrier were installed to contain any pollutants from the site and eliminate exposure for future park users and aquatic life in the adjacent wetlands. More than 2 million tons of clean soil, up to four feet deep, was then spread across the impermeable barrier and the addition of prairie grass and native plantings will prevent erosion and attract birds and butterflies. In fact, a worker recently snapped a photo of a bald eagle at the site. This first phase of the remediation, closure of the landfill and restoration of the wetlands, was recently completed.

Since the start of the remediation project, community participation has been an important part of the project. I am pleased that a number of members of the Community Advisory Committee, including Committee Co-Chair **John Felicetti**, **Nick Dmytryszyn** from the Borough President's staff, and **Charlene Wagner**, District Manager of Community Board 8, joined us at the event.

Successful remediation and restoration of the Brookfield landfill required a great deal of engineering and ecological expertise from our Bureaus of Engineering, Design and Construction, and Environmental Planning and Analysis. A special thanks to **John McLaughlin**, **Roy Tysvaer**, and **Rafael Betemit**, and the many other DEP employees who have worked on the project over the years. Click [here](#) to see more photos of the work.



Focus on the Field



From the Oakwood Beach Wastewater Treatment Plant on Staten Island to the Gilboa Dam in Schoharie County, DEP has a skilled workforce at numerous facilities providing vital services to more than 9 million New Yorkers. Providing a safe and comfortable work space for employees is the job of the Facilities Management and Construction (FMC) Division and **Velita Jackson**, Deputy Director of Administrative Services, helps ensure that the division's workers have everything they need to do their job.

Born in Jamaica, Jackson came to the United States with her family when she was five years old and they settled in Queens. She attended Flushing High School and began working at DEP as a Coop student in October 1996. At first she was a part-time employee for the Agency Chief Contracting Officer (ACCO), and, in 1998, she came on board full-time and served as an office manager. After taking the civil service exam, in 2001 Jackson became a Procurement Analyst and was responsible for purchasing items, such as industrial supplies and chemicals, essential for all the bureaus to fulfill their varied missions.

In 2008, Jackson came to FMC where she handles procurement, capital and expense budgets, contract registrations, coordination of vehicles, and universal waste management. Her experience in the ACCO's office often comes in handy.

"When I worked in the ACCO's office I often reviewed procurement proposals from the bureaus," said Jackson. "Now that I'm submitting FMC procurement proposals to the ACCO, I know what information they need to see, which helps to expedite the approval process."

FMC does a lot of hands on physical maintenance at DEP facilities including brick-laying, carpentry, plumbing, electrical work, and painting, and Jackson ensures there is an adequate inventory of hand tools, tiles, cement, paint, and safety gear for the workforce.

"I really enjoy coming to work each day," said Jackson. "Everyone in FMC works well together, it's like a second family to me, and this helps us efficiently serve the needs of the DEP community."

"Velita's knowledge, skills, work ethic, and effervescent personality have made her a tremendous asset to FMC, and DEP as a whole," said **Terry Pupillo**, Director of Administrative Services. "We are quite fortunate to have her as a valued member of the FMC team."

Jackson now calls the Hollis neighborhood of Queens home and she spends much of her time outside of the office with her energetic two year old daughter.



DEP Alumni Tour



Last week, the Bureau of Water Supply was privileged to host eight members of the DEP Alumni Association for a watershed tour. The retired members held positions with DEP that ranged from senior engineers and managers, to former deputy commissioner of BWS. The tour included the headworks at Ashokan Reservoir, the Gilboa Dam reconstruction project, and the new Catskill/Delaware Ultraviolet Disinfection Facility. Those participating in the tour included **George McKenian, Robert Clancy, Raphael Hurwitz, Stanley Goldstein, Patrick Murphy, Joseph Beck, Sigvard Walfridson, and Carl Picha.**

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in continuous operation since 1917. The activation of the final stage of City Water Tunnel No. 3 in Manhattan marks the first time that a portion of the tunnel has been placed into service in more than 15 years, and will reduce dependence on City Water Tunnel No. 1, allowing it to be inspected and repaired for the first time in nearly a century. The Bloomberg administration has dedicated \$2.7 billion towards the construction of City Water Tunnel No. 3, more

than the five previous Mayoral Administrations combined. Since 1970, the City has invested \$4.7 billion towards the construction of City Water Tunnel No. 3. The Mayor made the announcement at a distribution site in Central Park and, later on, turned a valve to activate the newest portion of the tunnel at City Hall Park. Click [here](#) to read the press release, [here](#) to see more photos, and here to [listen](#) to the Mayor's October 20 radio address.

Open House New York



Recently, New York City Housing Authority management and residents who are participating in DEP's "Cease the

Grease" pilot project attended an Open House New York event at the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. The "Cease the Grease" project seeks to educate NYCHA residents and staff about proper grease management and the role that grease plays in clogging plumbing and sewers, and Open House New York provides rare access into the extraordinary architecture that defines New York City, and the people who make the city a vibrant and sustainable place to live, work, and play.

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