

Special Guest *Commissioner's Corner*



Diana Jones Ritter, Deputy Commissioner for Organizational Development, is a guest commentator this week.

DEP provides vital services to nearly 10 million New Yorkers every day, and to ensure that we can continue fulfilling our important mission for the decades ahead,

we must continually and successfully implement strategies to recruit, engage, develop and retain a talented and diverse workforce. One of the many ways we encourage talent that is emerging from college to learn about what we do and get excited about protecting public health and the environment is through our annual summer internship program.

This summer, we will offer more than 65 internship positions, both in the city and in the upstate watersheds, where college students can work alongside our engineers, planners, lawyers, scientists and other professionals. The vast majority of these positions are paid. Many of our past summer interns have gone on to have great careers at DEP, and at other organizations in our industry. In fact, Acting Commissioner **Vincent Sapienza**



got his start in DEP's summer internship program!

The intern positions available include summer work associated with New York City's drinking water distribution system, wastewater treatment facilities, construction and repair projects, community outreach, legal affairs, air quality permitting, sustainability projects, environmental health and safety compliance, graphic design, community outreach, and digitizing nearly two centuries worth of water system archives. While most of the internships are located at DEP headquarters in Queens, some are also located upstate at DEP's offices in Delaware, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester counties. Three of the positions will be located at the DEP Archives in Manhattan. For more information please contact OD&HR Director of Recruitment and Planning, **Grace Pigott** at gracep@dep.nyc.gov. Grace and her team have continuously made DEP's Summer Internship Program recognized as one of the best in the City!

Prospective interns are encouraged to carefully read the quali-

cations for each job to determine whether they meet the enrollment, GPA, coursework and other requirements. Candidates must submit applications by April 1. Information about these internships, including online applications, can be found on the DEP website by clicking [here](#).

A strong internship program is a summer tradition at DEP. Our efforts to recruit and retain the best, the most diverse and the brightest is among the many reasons we continue to be one of the top water utilities in the nation. As we face the fact that over 55 percent of DEP's current workforce will be eligible to retire over the next ten years, we must be aggressive in implementing a multitude of talent management strategies. Participation in these programs is a great opportunity to inspire future talent to consider a career in NYC government. I hope you all will share this information with your family, friends and colleagues to help ensure that we get another great class of summer interns. Photos of our past summer programs are available [here](#).

Spotlight on Safety

National Burn Awareness Week

Last week was National Burn Awareness Week, which is designed to focus attention on the importance of fire prevention and protecting human health. It's also a good time to remind employees to be mindful of work areas near steam pipes, electrical arc flashes, hot machine components, and chemicals.

According to the American Burn Association (ABA) in 2016 there were:

- 486,000 burn injuries that required medical attention
- 40,000 hospitalizations for burn injuries
- 3,275 deaths from fires and smoke inhalation

According to the ABA, the top causes of burns included fire/flame; scalding; hot object contact; electrical and chemical. The best protection against these types of burn injuries is awareness and employees should take extra time to become aware of what is around them when working, including ensuring that lock-out/tag-out procedures are in place and are followed. In situations where a hazard cannot be removed completely, employees must make sure that work tasks are assessed by EHS and they follow safe work practices, including the use of personal protective equipment when appropriate.

For more information visit the [ABA website](#).

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.



Bald Eagles in Record Numbers



A record 116 bald eagles were found nesting, foraging and otherwise flying around the City's upstate watersheds during a mid-winter survey recently conducted by BWS wildlife biologists, land management staff at Schoharie Reservoir, and waterfowl management contractors at Kensico Reservoir. The uptick is the largest number since experts began intensely surveying the watersheds in 2011. The survey reported 29 more bald eagles than last year, and nearly triple the number that were observed in 2011. The higher numbers may be another signal of the growing bald eagle population throughout the State of New York, but other factors also play a role in the year-by-year results, including winter conditions such as ice cover and available open water resources, and the weather on survey days.

Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday, 12 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from 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!

Angela Gonsalves with ACCO; **Martina Adams** with BCS; **Rhenita Cadogan** with BEDC; **Daniel Mulvihill** with BLA; **Latoya Anderson** with BPAC; **Caitlyn Korren** and **Nadia Kruchow** with BWS; **Monique Taparelli** and **Oren Tsachor** with BWSO; **Christopher Caraballo** with CDBG; and **Jignesh Shah** and **Brandon Thomas** with OIT.

Press Box



This photo of Indy, sitting on the couch at his home in North Salem, is from an episode of [Pets 101](#) on [Animal Planet](#) before he went missing.

DEP POLICE OFFICERS SPY MISSING WALLABY NEAR AMAWALK RESERVOIR

A wallaby missing from its upstate home since 2014 was recently spotted by two DEP police officers patrolling near the Amawalk Reservoir dam. The officers were driving just after 1 a.m. on Jan. 29 when they spied the small, meandering marsupial, which is native to Australia, as it hopped into the view of their vehicle's headlights. The officers used a thermal imaging camera to search for the animal, known as "Indy," after it disappeared in the woods. DEP Police called off the search after about an hour and contacted authorities in Yorktown and Westchester County to alert them to the sighting. DEP Police also informed Indy's owners, which expressed hope that their beloved pet might one day hop back home. The wandering wallaby broke free three years ago after it skittered under a fence at the family's house.

Read the entire story on [TAPinto.net](#).

Slide Mountain Snow Feeds Ashokan



Ashokan Reservoir can be seen in the distance of this breathtaking photo taken from the peak of Slide Mountain, the highest summit in the Catskills. The melting snow from these mountains, paired with spring rains, accounts for an average of 400 billion gallons of runoff into New York City's reservoir system each year.

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