



## Environmental Protection

Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor  
Carter Strickland, Commissioner

WEEKLY

# PIPELINE

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## Work Hard, Play Hard



The DEP employee outing to Citi Field for a Mets game on June 28 was enjoyed by all and helped foster a sense of camaraderie amongst co-workers. DEP, and its predecessor agencies, have a long history of enjoying social activities together, ranging from barbershop quartets to bowling leagues. For more than a century, we have worked hard and played hard together.

Baseball and softball have long been a part of DEP history and employees in the watershed have

competed against each other throughout the past century. In the early twentieth century, the Board of Water Supply (BWS) and the Department of Water, Gas and Electricity baseball teams competed against city agencies and each other for the Municipal League Champion title and results of the games were published in the BWS newsletter, the Catskill Water System News. In fact, Paul T. Treutler, a pitcher who helped the team win

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## Spotlight on Safety

### Fall Prevention Campaign

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), on average, falls at construction sites result in up to 200 worker fatalities every year, and more than 100,000 injuries. In New York State alone, there were 26 fatal falls last year, and 15 in the first five months of 2013. To help reduce injuries and fatalities, OSHA and the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health Administration developed the annual "Falls in Construction" Stand-Down campaign.

DEP has one of the largest capital construction programs in the re-

gion and, in support of the safety campaign, the Bureau of Engineering, Design and Construction has requested that all site contractors conduct a 30-minute safety stand-down to discuss the importance of fall-protection for workers. The stand-down was part of regularly scheduled tool-box talks where workers and supervisors are encouraged to openly discuss safety concerns. Information was also sent to Accountable Managers, Responsible Managers, Construction Managers, and contractors.

For more information visit [OSHA's Fall Prevention Campaign](#).

## Commissioner's Corner

Earlier today I joined Sanitation Commissioner **John Doherty** and representatives from the Parks Department, Department of Youth and Community Development, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at MCU Park in Coney Island to launch this year's "Clean Streets = Clean Beaches" public education campaign. For the past two years the Brooklyn Cyclones have helped us launch this important annual initiative aimed at reducing litter on the streets and our beaches. In addition to hosting our kick-off event, the Cyclones invited us on the field to toss out the first pitch of the game.

The "Clean Streets = Clean Beaches" program began in the 1990s to educate New Yorkers about the connection between litter on the streets and the health of our waterways. DEP inspects, cleans, and repairs approximately 148,000 catch basins around the city which are designed to trap litter before it makes its way into a sewer. However, some of the litter and debris still enters the sewers and can end up in the city's waterways and on our beaches. This summer, "Clean Streets = Clean Beaches" posters will be displayed at area beaches and on approximately 2,000 Sanitation vehicles citywide. DEP will also be giving away thousands of reusable tote bags at city beaches throughout the summer that people can use instead of disposable plastic bags. At today's event staff also distributed "Clean Streets = Clean Beaches" flyer toys to the 5,000 young New Yorkers attending the Cyclones game from area day camps and the City's Summer Youth Employment Program.

We were also joined today by about 25 of the 100 teens who are participating in our Summer 2013 Waterfront Clean-Up program. This Summer, DEP is partnering with the Department of Youth and Community Development's Summer Youth Employment Program to hire nearly 100 young New Yorkers who will spend approximately 25 hours a week removing litter and debris from waterfront properties. The program



will help promote environmental stewardship and provide valuable work experience.

Educating the next generation of New Yorkers about protecting our natural resources will help ensure our waterways and parks continue to improve. Two weeks ago we joined the Bronx River Alliance and nearly a dozen teens from the Bronx River Arts Center Summer Program to demonstrate just how much discarded litter ends up in our sewer system. DEP recently completed the installation of three innovative litter control devices along the Bronx River that use hydraulic bar screens and nylon netting systems to capture litter within sewer outfalls before it can reach the river. We visited one of these facilities on the west bank of the Bronx River and watched as staff replaced the nylon nets. Seeing the street litter in the nets really drove home the point and many of the kids were surprised to learn that in just 18 months the netting systems have trapped more than 10 tons of debris that would have otherwise ended up in the Bronx River.

Keeping litter off our streets is the best way to ensure it doesn't end up on our beaches. I personally make a point to pick up at least one piece of litter each day and put it where it belongs—in a garbage can. In the spirit of "Clean Streets = Clean Beaches" I encourage all of you to do the same and to educate your families and friends about the connection between litter free streets and clean beaches.

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.

## Focus on the Field



Assistant Field Supervisor **Steve Odomirot** is part of a team that ensures the nearly one billion gallons of water DEP delivers to New York City every day is of the highest quality. The Division of Distribution Water Quality Operations (DWQO) in the Bureau of Water Supply collects and analyzes drinking water taken from more than 1,000 sampling stations around the five boroughs. Last year, DEP field scientists collected more than 30,000 samples and more than 355,000 tests were performed on water taken from within the distribution system. That is in addition to more than 234,000 tests performed in the watershed before it reaches the city.

Odomirot got his start at DEP as an intern in 2001, and was brought on full-time when he completed his master's degree at Long Island University. Today he assists with the supervision of a team of 14 field scientists who collect and analyze our drinking water. Because his section operates seven days a week, being organized is key. With the support of his supervisor **Arthur Tringali** and Field Manager

**Virginia Murray**, Odomirot ensures that field scientists have the meters, chemicals, vehicles, and other equipment they need to get the job done. He also happens to be DWQO's district limnology expert.

Limnology, also called Freshwater Science, is the study of inland water bodies. It covers the biological, chemical, physical, geological, and other attributes of lakes and reservoirs. Odomirot's expertise has come in handy during survey work at Hillview and Jerome Park Reservoirs. By sampling the water at different depths, Odomirot is able to determine what factors are playing a role in the quality of the water and that treatment is optimal.

Odomirot has been praised by his supervisors for his troubleshooting and organizational skills. "Steve started with Water Quality as a college intern and we knew from the start that he was worth holding on to. Once he finished his master's degree we were lucky enough to be able to hire him fulltime" said BWS Chief **Salome Freud**.

Odomirot also took it upon himself to create a database that has improved the section's management of their inventory. "He automated the process so now we can be sure we have chemicals we need on hand, we know when to reorder supplies, and we don't use expired materials," Freud explained.

Brooklyn born and bred, Odomirot is very active in his neighborhood. In addition to hiking and enjoying the outdoors, he likes the challenge of working on cars.

## Welcome Aboard



Yesterday, 15 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Commissioner **Carter Strickland**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

**Esther Brunner**, **Stacy Kruckenberg**, **Robert Marfitt**, **Clarence W. Matthews**, **John Morrell**, **Paul Nittoli**, **Daniel Ortenberg**, and **Toby R. Siegman** with BWT; **Ashley Barker**, **Matthew M. Garigliano**, and **Peter F. Marsh** with BEDC; **Jake Ozyman**, **Ricardo Ramjohn**, and **Sam M. Varghese** with BWSO; and **Kristi Jacques** with BLA.

(Work Hard, Play Hard... continued)

the 1911 Municipal championship, was reported to have joined the major leagues.

Bowling was popular as well and an annual Inter-Departmental Tournament was held in the early part of the 20th century, with the various regional divisions competing against each other. In 1912, the Northern Aqueduct League won the tournament with an average score of 160.10. The bowlers pitched in to cover expenses, and the winners received silver trophies. In the following decades, BWS employees practiced on Tuesday nights at Capital Lanes on 52nd Street and Broadway and competed with other city agencies in the Municipal Leagues.

Many female employees played in the Girls' Ping Pong Club in the first half of the twentieth century and, in 1941, players formed a Table Tennis Association to compete in city-wide ping pong tournaments. Employees have also participated in basketball teams, biking clubs, and a variety of other sports.

Clambakes, a traditional Northeastern celebration that involves cooking clams outdoors in large pits, were a longstanding BWS tradition. The clambakes began as part of BWS field day events, where races and athletic competitions were followed by a group meal. In June of 1912, the field day committee proposed a number of events, including a 100-yard dash, 220-yard dash, 880-yard run, 12-pound shot, 16-pound hammer, high jump, and broad jump. In the 1930s, the BWS Watershed Department began hosting annual employee clambakes and, in 1941, the event included a softball game,

horseshoe pitching, music by the Ellenville Band, and friendly wrestling matches.

BWS employees consumed enormous amounts of food at these picnics. In 1949, 31,000 clams, 750 pounds of chicken, 850 ears of sweet corn, and 90 pounds of butter were washed down by New York City tap water and 15 cases of soda pop. The Delaware Water Supply News lauded this particular event as a "morale builder" for employees that fostered a "feeling of partnership." During the ensuing decades, the Western Department and the Downsville Division hosted clambakes as well, continuing the tradition into its sixth decade.

BWS employees also joined together to showcase their performing arts talents. In 1913 there was a vaudeville act, a silent film of the BWS Police on horseback, and musical numbers. The shows were an annual tradition for a brief time. BWS also produced pocket-sized songbooks with lyrics that celebrated the natural beauty of the watersheds, praised officers and engineers, and told stories of the daily life of the laborers, all set to popular tunes of the day. Most likely, these books were passed out at social events and celebrations, where employees joined together to sing. BWS employees also competed in a barbershop quartet competition in Walton, New York in 1951, again showcasing their many talents.

Throughout its long history, DEP and its predecessor agencies have found ways to play, sing, relax, and share a meal together. Continuing this legacy today helps "foster a feeling of partnership," just as our predecessors did.



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