

Dragon Boat Festival



The 24th Annual Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival was held on August 9th and 10th at Flushing Meadows Corona Park and a team of DEP employees, called the Water Dragons, raced in the 50th World's Fair Anniversary division. This was the third year for the DEP Dragon Boat team and they raced against teams from the Queens Borough President's Office and the Society of Asian Federal Officers. Dragon Boat teams are made up of paddlers seated in pairs in a long, narrow boat with a head and tail carved to look like a mythical dragon. A drummer sits at the head of the boat and sets a rhythm to help the paddlers stay in sync while another team member steers the boat from the rear. This year's DEP team members included: **Raymond Palmares**, OGI; **David Lin**, BWSO; **Mary Lam**, FMC; **Tarnima Farhin**, BWSO; **David Montoya**, BWSO; **Kar Men Chong**, Intern; **Eric Fu**, Intern; **Maria Kalousi-Tatum**, Intern; **Michael Shum**, OIT; **Kelly Owusu-Asiamah**, BEDC; **Parbattie Bassant**, BWSO; **Yu-Tung Chan**, BWT; **Alice Jung**, BWT; **Antonio Jha**, BWSO; **Charles Kong**, OIT; **Geysa Gonzalez**, BWSO; **Nymbat Juram**, BWSO; **Tsun-Kuen Chan**, BWT. If you are interested in learning more about the team, please e-mail [David Lin](mailto:David.Lin@dep.state.ny.us). [Click here](#) to view additional photos of the team practicing and on race day.

Spotlight on Safety


Hierarchy of Controls

Controlling exposure to occupational hazards is the fundamental method of protecting workers and the best way to control a hazard is to eliminate it. However, if a hazard cannot be totally eliminated, there are other ways to limit worker exposure such as replacing hazardous chemicals with less toxic ones or using personal protective equipment. Following the below hierarchy of controls can lead to

the implementation of inherently safer systems:

- Elimination/Substitution (most effective, but can be difficult to implement)
- Engineering controls (placing a barrier between the worker and the hazard)
- Administrative controls (training and procedures)
- Personal Protective Equipment

Visit [CDC: Hierarchy of Controls](http://www.cdc.gov/epr/pdfs/2009/09-01-hierarchy-of-controls.pdf) for additional information.

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, I joined Deputy Commissioner **Paul Rush** and several staff members from the Bureau of Water Supply at the Delaware County Fair where our partners at the Watershed Agricultural Council (WAC) were showing off all the great local foods, wood products and other natural wares that are grown, crafted and cooked in the watershed—everything from maple syrup and gelato, to wooden kitchen utensils and fabrics.



In the afternoon, we toured two watershed farms—the Brian Allen farm, and Bear Farm,—to see some of the WAC projects that have been built using City funding to prevent farm waste from entering the streams, creeks and rivers that feed our reservoirs. DEP has invested more than \$1.7 billion in watershed protection programs—including partnering with organizations such as the Catskill Watershed Corporation and WAC—that support sustainable farming practices, environmentally sensitive economic development, and local economic opportunity.

Over the past two decades, whole farm plans have been designed for nearly 400 watershed farms to help improve production and protect water quality. These plans have included fertilizer management, erosion control, and field rotation initiatives. In total, DEP has funded more than 6,400 projects on these farms to protect storm runoff from the potential contaminants that can threaten drinking water quality.

In addition, DEP's other watershed protection programs have done a lot to reduce the amount of phosphorous, nitrogen and other

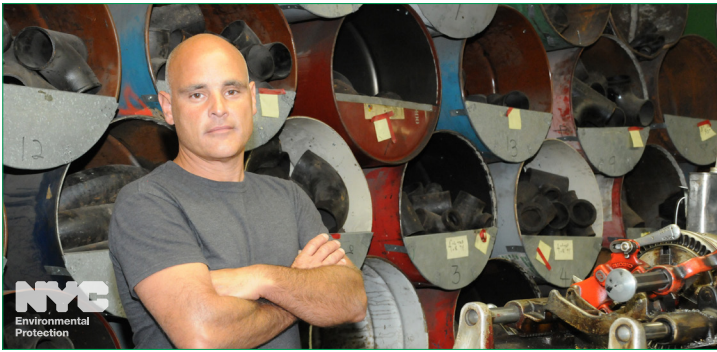
potentially harmful nutrients in stormwater runoff. They include: The replacement of roughly 4,500 failing septic systems throughout the watershed, the upgrading of dozens of municipal wastewater treatment plants in hamlets and villages, including the seven that are owned and operated by DEP, and protecting and improving more than 173,000 acres of forests that surround our reservoirs.

We've seen the importance of this kind of watershed protection recently. The toxic algal bloom in Lake Erie that shut down the water supply for nearly half a million residents in Toledo, Ohio for several days earlier this month was attributed to nutrient loading from fertilizers, manure from cattle farms, leaky wastewater systems, and more dense development around the lake.

DEP is a worldwide leader in watershed protection—and the news coming from Lake Erie demonstrates why the investments we are making in our protection programs are critically important for the 9.4 million people who depend on the clean, safe water from our system every day.



Focus on the Field



DEP's nearly 6,000 employees work around the clock to ensure a reliable supply of high quality tap water to more than 9 million New Yorkers and to collect and clean the 1.3 billion gallons of wastewater produced in the city each day. Ensuring that more than 600 DEP facilities, ranging from Westchester County to Richmond County, are providing the services needed to support the thousands of DEP employees is the responsibility of the Facilities Management and Construction (FMC) group. Many of the carpenters, electricians, painters, masons and laborers that are part of FMC work out of the Grand Avenue facility in the Maspeth neighborhood of Queens, including Supervisor of Plumbers **Joe Mazzarelli**.

With nearly 30 years of experience, Mazzarelli leads a small team of plumbers that do maintenance and repair work at all in-house DEP facilities, both in the city and upstate, including yards, reservoir facilities and office buildings. From running toilets to boiler repairs, the work runs the gamut and it's not uncommon for plumbers to be working in all five boroughs on any given day. Winter tends to be the busiest time of year when there can be loss of heating service and frozen or ruptured pipes. But throughout the year, the plumbers are charged with maintenance and testing of all fire protection systems and they work with the Bureau of Water Supply to maintain the network of nearly 1,000 in-city drinking water sampling stations. Often times, the work can require multiple tradesmen from FMC, including boiler

work, where the electricians and plumbers coordinate to troubleshoot and make repairs.

"FMC is like a small family," said Mazzarelli. "We all get along well, enjoy the work and take great pride in providing support to the employees that ensure the critical water and environmental services that all New Yorkers rely on."

Mazzarelli was born and raised in Brooklyn and he attended Thomas Edison High School, in Queens. He spent 10 years working as a plumber for the Department of Education, where he was responsible for more than 100 schools in southern Brooklyn, and then joined DEP in 2004. After nearly a decade on the job, he was promoted to supervisor earlier this year.

"Joe joined DEP with significant plumbing experience, but for the last 10 years he has become acquainted with many of DEP's facilities and has proven himself to be a true professional," said FMC Director **Ken Carchietta**. "As the new supervisor of plumbers, he steps into big shoes and we have every confidence that he will continue to do terrific work in his new role."

Mazzarelli is married, has two grown children and now calls the Rockaway Park neighborhood home. They were hit hard by Hurricane Sandy and he credits the support that DEP provided in the days following the storm to help them get back on their feet. His house is a century old so he spends much of his free time making repairs and upgrades but, when time permits, he also enjoys a round of golf with his FMC colleagues.

Graduation Day



Last week, 48 sewage treatment worker graduates joined DEP's Bureau of Wastewater Treatment. They completed a mandatory five-week orientation program on a wide variety of topics including worker safety, wastewater treatment plant operations, and maintenance. To see photos of all the graduates [click here](#).

Watershed Classroom



Dr. Karen Moore, a research scientist in the Bureau of Water Supply, recently visited Mahopac High School in Putnam County to meet with students participating in a summer program studying the health of Seac Creek, which runs in front of their school. The students took water samples from the Creek and conducted water quality analyses in a lab at the school. They also participated in activities to improve the health of the waterway, such as removing invasive plants.

Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday, 19 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Deputy Commissioner of Organizational Development **Diana Jones Ritter** and Deputy Director of Human Resources **Herb Roth**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Mario Almeida, Charles Cooper, Caitlin O'Connell, Nevin Pahlad, Ksenia Shikhmacheva and **Thomas Wynne** with BWSO; **Danielle O. Bentley, Melody J. Bolt, Sandra Ho, June V. Prince** and **Zachary L. Williams** with BPS; **Christina Adelson, Michael A. Callwood** and **Prince K. Flowers** with BWT; **Cristin-Andrea Gimenez, Rudolph Giuliani** and **David Louis** with BEDC; **Evgeni Eremeev** with BEC; and **Heather Lember** with Archives.

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