

Commissioner's Corner



Last Friday, I was joined by federal, state and local representatives, honored guests, dozens of construction workers and DEP employees to mark the next phase of the Delaware Aqueduct Bypass Tunnel program—the largest repair project in the 175-year history of New York City's drinking water supply. The \$1 billion project will repair two areas of leakage within the 85-mile Delaware Aqueduct, the longest tunnel

in the world. The primary leak will be eliminated through the construction of a 2.5-mile bypass tunnel, which will be drilled 600 feet below the Hudson River from Newburgh to Wappinger.

The tunnel will be driven by one of the world's most advanced tunnel boring machines. The machine—which measures more than 470 feet long and weights upwards of

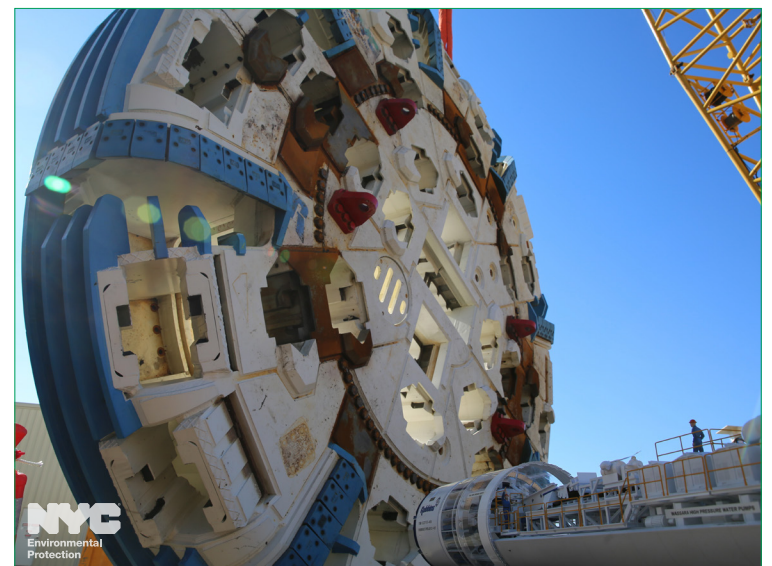


2.7 million pounds—was also dedicated in honor of **Nora Stanton Blatch Deforest Barney**, a noted suffragist and the first woman in the United States to earn a college degree in civil engineering. Partaking in the dedication ceremony were Nora's descendants, including granddaughter **Coline Jenkins**, who observed that both the machine and its namesake were “ground breakers, here to overcome obstacles and create a stronger society for millions of citizens.”

The next phase of construction for the bypass tunnel begins this week as construction workers in Newburgh begin to lower the \$30 million tunnel boring machine (TBM) into a subsurface chamber that is located 845 feet below the ground. The machine is currently being stored in 22 pieces. It will take workers ap-

proximately 4 months to assemble the TBM.

The start of tunneling to repair the Delaware Aqueduct is a major milestone in the history of New York City's water supply system. While the City has added new facilities to its water supply over the past century, repairs approaching this magnitude have been few and far between. I want to thank BEDC, BWS and the dedicated team of project managers and construction workers for all their efforts on this massive project as work continues to progress. I'd also like to once again acknowledge **Sarah Acheson** of the DEP Archives for submitting the very befitting name “Nora” for the TBM. The effort to fix the Delaware Aqueduct is by far the most complex DEP has undertaken, and it highlights the absolute need to keep our public works in a state of good repair.



Spotlight on Safety

Workplace Violence Prevention

Did you know that 40% of workplace shootings are carried out by persons that gained access to a worksite that should not have? This includes former employees and/or contractors as well as former partners.

Being polite is great. However, not when it comes to workplace security! Keep yourself and your co-workers safe. Please refrain from allowing piggybacking and tailgating through access control points.

- piggybacking is when someone enters a controlled access point with your implicit permission.
- tailgating is when someone follows you in quickly without

your permission and you do not see them.

What can you do? Be aware of who is around you. Politely explain that it is DEP's security policy that everyone must either swipe in/sign in or be processed through security. Encourage co-workers not to allow piggybacking or tailgating. Report persons that have gained access without swiping or signing in. Do not allow doors associated with controlled access points to be left open. We can all do our part to keep our workplaces safe. For more information visit DEP's [WPV Source page](#).

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.

Far Rockaway Redevelopment



Acting Commissioner **Vincent Sapienza** joined last week with de Blasio Administration officials and Council Member **Donovan Richards** to announce that the [Downtown Far Rockaway Redevelopment Project](#) has been approved by the New York City Council, the final necessary vote of the City's Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) process. The interagency project will revitalize Downtown Far Rockaway with the neighborhood's first rezoning since 1961 and \$288 million of investments to bring new commercial space and small business support, affordable housing options, open space, new connectivity to transit, improved infrastructure, and community facilities to the area. This comprehensive plan involves efforts from a range of City agencies, including the New York City Economic Development Corporation; Department of Housing Preservation and Development; Department of Transportation; Department of Small Business Services; Department of City Planning; Department of Parks and Recreation; Department of Cultural Affairs; and DEP, which will work to upgrade sewer infrastructure. "DEP is proud to support Council Member Richards and the redevelopment of Downtown Far Rockaway," said Commissioner Sapienza. "We will work to improve the infrastructure that will support so many other important quality of life improvements for the neighborhood."

Upcoming Blood Drive

In remembrance of 9/11, DEP is partnering with the New York Blood Centers to help provide the gift of life and maintain the community's blood supply. Donors with an O-negative blood type, or "universal donors," are especially urged to give because their blood can be transferred to anyone. Remember to eat and hydrate before you donate. Blood drives will be taking place at the below locations and times. **Lefrak**: 6th Floor Training Room, 9/13 and 9/14, 7:45am to 1:45pm; **Grahamsville Region Area**: Grahamsville Fire House, 10/20, 9am to 3pm; **Downsville Region Area**: Downsville Fire Hall, 9/13, 9am to 2:30pm. Earlier this month, events were held in the **Kensico/Highland Regions-Sutton Park Area** at Sutton Park and in the **Kings-ton/Catskill Area** at 51 Albany Avenue.

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

DEP Mourns Passing of Beloved K-9



DEP lost one of its own this summer with the death of police K-9 **Mycal**, who was found to have an inoperable tumor. Many watershed residents had the pleasure of meeting Mycal, as he had visited dozens of schools and community events during his five years with DEP. Mycal was also a favorite part of BWS internship orientation sessions and he met many children during upstate Take Our Children to Work Day events.

Mycal, a German shepherd from the Czech Republic, was based at the Ashokan Precinct. Mycal was 1 year old when he joined his partner, Det. **Doug DiSciullo**, in 2012. He was certified as a patrol/explosive detection dog. In addition, the pair achieved several national certifications in their respective specialties. Mycal was honorably named after Sgt. **Mycal Prince**, who served with the Army National Guard out of Oklahoma and lost his life while deployed in Afghanistan. Prince was also a K-9 officer in Minco, OK.

Mycal brought security, comfort and joy to the people he interacted with. He will truly be missed. Our thoughts go out to the Bureau of Police & Security, and especially to Detective DiSciullo and his family.

Continuing Education Opportunities

For over nine years, the Department of City-wide Administrative Services (DCAS) and CUNY's Murphy Institute have partnered with participating unions to provide City employees with the [CUNY/DCAS Public Administration program](#)—a program offered on both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Whether you are interested in advancing your career, debating new ideas, or preparing to become a leader in a city agency, the Murphy Institute is an exciting place to be. The Murphy Institute offers working adults an opportunity to study with dynamic and supportive faculty, who are both renowned scholars and practitioners in the field. At Murphy, students deepen their knowledge of the challenges and opportunities faced by our cities, communities, and workplaces by pursuing study in either Urban or Labor Studies. Join us at one of these information sessions to learn more about the Murphy Institute's program offerings:

- Tuesday, September 26
- Thursday, October 19
- Tuesday, November 14

All sessions will take place at the Citywide Training Center (CTC), 1 Centre St., 24th floor south side, 5pm–6pm or 5:30pm–6:30pm. Seating is limited! To reserve your seat at the Information Session, contact J. Valentine at CUNY@dcas.nyc.gov. Please include first and last name, agency, phone number, email address and date you wish to attend in the email. For more information call the Murphy Institute at 212-827-0200.