

## Commissioner's Corner



**Vincent Sapienza**  
Commissioner

DEP recently provided an update to the Schoharie County Board of Supervisors on the [\\$400 million program to upgrade water supply infrastructure at Schoharie Reservoir](#). The program includes a number of projects that have strengthened infrastructure and will improve operational flexibility at the Reservoir, which annually supplies about 15 percent of New York City's drinking water. Work on those projects began in 2005 and is expected to be finished in 2022.

The upgrades at Schoharie Reservoir include three central projects. The first major project, [a full-scale \\$138 million rehabilitation](#)

[of Gilboa Dam](#), was completed in 2014. Work included the addition of approximately 234 million pounds of concrete, molded and dyed to resemble the original bluestone face of the dam, along with more than 500 massive spillway slabs and upgrades to the abutment walls that support the dam. The work at Gilboa Dam was recognized with several state and national awards for engineering excellence.

DEP is currently working on the other two largest components of the program at Schoharie Reservoir. DEP has made substantial progress on the \$142 million project to build release works at Schoharie Reservoir. The release, also known as a low-level outlet, will give DEP the ability to release water downstream of the reservoir into Schoharie Creek to facilitate



dam maintenance, respond to potential emergencies, mitigate flood risk for downstream communities, and enhance downstream habitat for fish and wildlife. Last May, DEP [finished the land leg of the new release tunnel](#) and, in October, excavation began on the water leg of the tunnel.

DEP has also made considerable progress on the \$47 million rehabilitation of the Shandaken Tunnel Intake Chamber (STIC). That facility controls the flow of drinking water from Schoharie Reservoir into the Shandaken Tunnel, which travels 18 miles through the Catskills. The

tunnel discharges water into the Esopus Creek, in which the water travels another 11 miles to help refill Ashokan Reservoir throughout the year.

Once construction is completed on the three central projects, DEP will restore grass and trees to areas taken up by construction equipment and work trailers. DEP will also build a new public overlook on the eastern side of Gilboa Dam that will include benches, a decorative-stone wall with information displays about the New York City water supply, and several of the [380-million-year-old Gilboa fossils](#).



## Spotlight on Safety

### Portable Generator Safety

When extreme weather, such as snowstorms, leads to downed power lines and outages, portable generators can be useful to temporarily supply power to your household. However, because they are not frequently operated, generator misuse can lead to fires, carbon monoxide deaths, shocks and burns. Here are some ways you can ensure the safe use of portable generators:

- Never run a generator in an enclosed space or indoors.
- Generators should be operated in well-ventilated locations outdoors and positioned away from all doors, windows, vents

and other openings to prevent exhaust fumes from entering the home.

- Generators are for temporary use only.
- Install carbon monoxide alarms in your home and check periodically to see if they are working properly.
- Turn off generators and let them cool down before refueling.
- Store fuel for the generator outside of living areas in a container that is intended for the purpose and correctly label it as such.

For more information check out the [OSHA Fact Sheet](#) and [American Red Cross 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. HELP IS ON THE WAY.

## *\$15M Rehab for Jerome Park Reservoir*



DEP is undertaking a \$15 million project to rehabilitate gatehouses, install new, lower fencing, and upgrade security infrastructure at Jerome Park Reservoir in the Bronx. Work on the project began late in 2018, will continue through 2021, and will help to ensure the long-term reliability of the City's Croton water supply system. The Reservoir will remain in active service throughout the duration of the work. Much of the work during this project will focus on the gatehouses that control the flow of water into the reservoir, around the reservoir, and from the reservoir into the Croton Water Filtration Plant. Considerable work will also take place around the perimeter of Jerome Park Reservoir. A significant buildup of weeds and brush that obscured the public's view of the reservoir will be removed. A 10-foot-high chain link fence situated along the edge of the Reservoir will also be removed and replaced with a 4-foot-high fence. New guiderails will be installed along the roads that abut the reservoir. As part of continuing work to improve security throughout the entire water supply system, the project also includes the installation of new security cameras and traffic-control bollards at two of the gatehouses. Jerome Park Reservoir was built from 1894-1905 to help distribute water to the Bronx and provide an additional source of water storage within the city. The two-basin reservoir covers 94 acres and has a storage capacity of 770 million gallons.

## *Help with the HOPE Homeless Count*



The NYC Department of Homeless Services (DHS) will conduct its annual Homeless Outreach Population Estimate (HOPE) on Monday, Jan. 28, 2019. This citywide community volunteer effort aims to count every New Yorker sleeping on the street across the five boroughs during the coldest time of the year. For HOPE 2019 to be successful, we need thousands of volunteers, 18 and older, to give one night of their time to help us count New Yorkers sleeping on the street. The more volunteers we have, the more accurate the count. The more accurate the count, the better we can allocate our resources to those on the street. We are calling on DEP employees and our fellow New Yorkers to help canvass parks, subways, and other public spaces to estimate the number of people who find themselves living on the street. If you would like to register as a volunteer and help the homeless in NYC, please [register here](#).

## *Ribbon Cutting at Lt. Petrosino Park*



Last week, DEP joined NYC Parks Commissioner Mitchell Silver, State Senator **Andrew Gounardes**, State Assembly Member **Peter Abbate, Jr.**, City Council Member **Justin Brannan**, students and administrators from P.S. 112, and members of Community Board 11 for an official ribbon cutting ceremony at the newly renovated Lt. Joseph Petrosino Park, a Community Parks Initiative (CPI) site in south Brooklyn. DEP provided \$355,000 in funding for green infrastructure elements that will absorb 200,000 gallons of stormwater each year and help to improve the health of New York Harbor. This includes taking stormwater off of adjacent streets!

DEP has committed approximately \$50 million in funding for the construction of green infrastructure installations at CPI sites citywide. The green infrastructure will manage the precipitation that falls on the parks, and some of the surrounding streets, keeping it out of the combined sewer system and helping to reduce combined sewer overflows that sometimes occur during heavy rainfall. New York City has the most ambitious and aggressive green infrastructure program in the nation, with thousands of installations currently under construction across the city. In addition to managing stormwater, green infrastructure helps to improve air quality while also providing shade and lowering summertime temperatures.



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