

## Special Guest Commissioner's Corner



**Anastasios Georgelis**  
Acting Deputy Commissioner  
Water & Sewer Operations

On May 2, I toured the progress of our Southeast Queens program for flood relief. The tour took place the day after our initial charter meeting with City Hall officials, which outlined the program's management plan, visions for the program, annual reporting and performance milestones, and the portfolio of interrelated projects. DEP has also developed an [interactive map](#) which shows completed and ongoing construction.

Joining me on the tour were **Nick Barbaro**, **Evan Pilachowski** and **Frank Fontana** of BWSO, **Karen Ellis** of BPAC, and Construction Managers from the Department of Design and Construction (DDC)—Assistant Commissioner

**Donald Granger**, Director **Adwait Das**, and Deputy Director **Luis Caminaro**. The projects we visited are part of DEP's four-pronged approach to significantly improve drainage and reduce flooding throughout the community:

1. Construct quick fixes such as storm sewer extensions, targeted full-sized sewers, and green infrastructure to bring near-term flooding relief.
2. Build neighborhood sewer projects where there is existing available capacity in the sewer system.
3. Create future capacity for further neighborhood sewer projects by investing in large trunk sewers.
4. Evaluate opportunities to reduce groundwater flooding. (A feasibility study for a groundwater drainage project



is underway and is expected to wrap up in the next few months.)

119<sup>th</sup> Rd. This site is managed by DDC's EIC **Bahman Kiai**.

These projects are part of **Mayor de Blasio's** commitment of \$1.9 billion to address flooding in neighborhoods including Jamaica, Glen Oaks, Rosedale and Springfield Gardens. The bulk of this funding will go towards the construction of large trunk sewer spines that will add capacity to the sewer system and include crossings of the LIRR, Air Train, Belt Parkway, Van Wyck Expressway, and Nassau Expressway. The construction for the first of the trunk sewer projects has been registered, with construction planned to begin later this year. Dozens of smaller sewer projects are in the planning, design, or construction phases, with seven projects already completed.

First up was a \$56 million capital project on Braddock Avenue in Bellrose, which was initiated through BWSO's Program Capital Management unit. DDC's Engineer-in-Charge (EIC) **Mauro Devincenzi** manages the construction, which includes replacement of trunk and distribution water mains.

Second, we toured Murdock Ave.—one of many locations in our Southeast Queens 'When & Where' contract, aimed at bringing quick relief to flood prone locations by building new or extending existing storm sewers.

The third location was a \$10 million capital project consisting of storm and sanitary sewers, as well as water main replacement, along

The fourth stop was a \$12 million sewer project on Lakeview Blvd East, managed by DDC's EIC **Kanhai Shivsankar**. The project consists of new storm sewers, catch basins, sanitary sewers, and water main replacements, as well as roadway reconstruction, along Lakeview Blvd. East. This project also includes a new Bluebelt component at a new storm sewer outlet into Baisley Pond.

Next was a \$57 million capital project in Springfield Gardens, bounded by Guy Brewer Blvd., Baisley Blvd., and North Conduit Ave., which is managed by DDC's EIC **Ernest Fievre**. The project broke ground in March and includes the installation of storm and sanitary sewers, and water main replacement.

Lastly, we visited 144<sup>th</sup> Street between 123<sup>rd</sup> Ave. and Rockaway Blvd., which is another location under our 'When and Where' contract. Managed by DDC's Resident Engineers (RE) **Miguel Ramirez** and **Howard Liang**, work includes new larger storm sewers as well as a storm sewer extension.

The BWSO team has been, and continues to be, aggressive in tackling flooding issues in Southeast Queens. I want to thank my colleagues in BWSO as well as our partners at DDC and DOT for their assistance in bringing this critical infrastructure to neighborhoods most in need.

## Spotlight on Safety

### As the Weather Gets Warmer, Drive Safer!

Warmer weather means you will be sharing the road with more motorcycles, bicycles, teen drivers, and pedestrians. In fact, May is [Motorcycle Safety Month](#), [National Bike Month](#), and [Global Youth Traffic Safety Month](#).

Remember to follow these safe driving rules this summer, and all year round:

- obey the speed limit
- wear your seatbelt
- avoid distractions—keep your hands on the wheel and eyes on the road

- never use a cell phone and drive
- never drink and drive
- ensure your vehicle is in good working condition
- be aware of your surroundings
- if you have teen drivers, talk to them about driving safely

Pedestrians—and those on motorcycles and bikes—should also obey all traffic laws and be aware of their surroundings. Let's work together to keep each other safe this spring and summer. For more information on safe driving, visit the [National Safety Council's 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.



## SI Students Partake in Eel Count



Two dozen students from the Saint Clare School in Great Kills joined DEP last Wednesday for the [annual count of juvenile glass eels](#) at Staten Island's Richmond Creek Bluebelt in Richmondtown. The American eel is born at sea, floats to the coast on prevailing currents, and migrates to clean, healthy waterways along the east coast where they can live for up to 20 years. Eel populations are an important indicator of water quality and experts have seen a resurgence in the eel population in New York City following the investment of more than \$10 billion over the last decade to improve harbor water quality. Thus far in 2018, almost 740 glass eels have been counted in Richmond Creek.

## Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday, 15 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Deputy Director for Human Resources **Herb Roth**, Director of Planning and Recruitment **Grace Pigott** (not pictured), HR Specialist **Grace Franco** and HR Generalist **Conor Bulger**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

**Carlos Alzate**, **Ronald Becoate**, **Clint D. English**, **Sam Kambouris**, **Diane Valcarcel** and **Vincent A. Vitola** with BCS; **Edwin Yu** with BEDC/HD; **Gennaro A. Falco III** with BWS; **Safraz J. Ali**, **Michael A. Arjoon**, **Ibrahim A. Mamun**, and **MD Khalilur Rahman** with BWSO; **Gian Joseph** with CFO; **Shuxiao (Jack) Wang** with FDC/Budget; and **Xiaoliang (Leon) Zhao** with Sustainability.

## Cardinal Dolan Visits Construction Site



**Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan**, the archbishop of New York, visited workers at the Delaware Aqueduct Bypass Tunnel last Wednesday to provide a blessing and underscore the importance of workplace safety. [Dolan visited the construction site in Newburgh](#) where more than 100 men and women are working on a \$1 billion project to repair the 85-mile-long Delaware Aqueduct, the longest tunnel in the world. The aqueduct delivers about 50 percent of New York City's water each day from large reservoirs in the Catskill Mountains. The project, overseen by DEP is the largest repair effort in the 176-year history of New York City's water supply.

## Career Fairs Help Snag Recruits



Recent career fairs held by DEP in an effort to recruit talented recent or upcoming college graduates to the agency's workforce were a resounding success—with 94 candidates attending the April 5 event at Cooper Union, and 246 candidates partaking in the April 18 event at CUNY City College. Attendees learned firsthand about exciting projects within the agency from participating bureaus, including BWSO, BWT, BEDC, and Sustainability (BEPA, and BEC), and had an opportunity to sit for "on the spot" interviews. A total of 59 offers of employment were made on-site, and thus far the agency has received 47 acceptances—with interviews still ongoing! Congrats to all involved in this stellar recruitment effort.

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