

## Tallman Island's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



On April 22, **Commissioner Sapienza** and Deputy Commissioner **Pam Elardo** joined BWT staff to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mayor LaGuardia's commissioning of the 'Tallman Island Sewage Treatment Works.' Over the decades, the plant has doubled in size, incorporated technology to remove pollutants like nitrogen, and been modernized into a wastewater resource recovery facility. The one constant has been the dedication of employees over three generations who have valiantly operated the plant. Each of them deserves recognition for the significant improvements in harbor water quality since 1939.

## Spotlight on Safety

### EHS Insights



**Persis Luke**

Assistant Commissioner  
Environmental Health  
and Safety

May 6–10, 2019 is the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) [National Fall Prevention Stand Down](#) week. OSHA and the National Safety Council, among others, are designating this week to focus on fall protection in the construction industry. Although most DEP employees do not work at traditional construction sites, many are engaged in construction or maintenance tasks that require working from heights, as are bureau and

BEDC contractors. BEDC is also recognizing this important initiative throughout its sites this week.

Falls are the leading cause of fatalities in the construction industry; 366 workers died last year from falls. Even falls from a few feet can be incapacitating or life threatening! OSHA anticipates thousands of work sites and millions of workers to observe the stand down worldwide in 2019.

Want to learn more? Please see any of the links below for more information: [OSHA fall prevention page](#); [Fall safety videos](#); [Fall Prevention Training Guide](#); [Ladder fact sheet](#), and [Scaffolding fact sheet](#).

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.

## Special Guest *Commissioner's Corner*



**Elisa Velazquez**

Assistant Commissioner  
Agency Chief Contracting Officer

Turbidity. It is the cloudiness and haziness in drinking water that reduces its quality and clarity. Nobody likes drinking cloudy water. It's suspect. You wonder what could be wrong with it. Improving the clarity of water is something to strive for every day. Sand filtration, settling tanks, clarifiers, and even curtains can ensure that drinking water is clear and the clean.

By eliminating turbidity, you can increase clarity and create transparency, and transparency is one of DEP's eight core values that drive the agency to meet its mission of enriching the environment and protecting public health for all New Yorkers.

At DEP, we understand that maintaining clear and coherent lines of communication, both within and between agency staff and bureaus, and with our external stakeholders, including regulators—and, most importantly, the public—is critical to the agency's long-term success. With DEP assets spanning the entire state, DEP is one of New York City's largest capital agencies and the country's largest public water utility. Everything DEP builds, operates, owns, and maintains is paid for by New York City ratepayers. People work hard for their money and have a right to know where it goes. It is, therefore, DEP's re-

sponsibility to provide data and information in a direct, available, and usable way so that the public can hold the agency accountable and have an opportunity to engage in meaningful oversight. This is the cornerstone of good government.

Equally as important is the sharing and exchange of ideas, concepts, strategies, plans, business cases, existing conditions, studies, new technologies, challenges, and lessons learned amongst ourselves—the employees at DEP that create this massive and magical human machine at the heart of everything we do. Transparency between and among us is the key ingredient that moves us forward in all aspects of our work, whether it is operating a plant, managing a project, hiring a contractor, or paying the bills. When we communicate openly, we encourage cooperation and understanding across our varied functions, helping us make better decisions, identify synergies, and avoid costly mistakes. And, communicating about what hasn't worked—while it can be uncomfortable—only helps us all grow and deliver better service to the millions of New Yorkers we serve. Working diligently every day to better the flow of information and data between us, no matter where you work in the agency, will continue to help DEP grow as an organization and a government leader.

So, DEP, let's keep working hard to improve transparency!



This month, DEP is celebrating our value of transparency. If you know someone who embodies this value, please send an email by May 21 to [values@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:values@dep.nyc.gov), and include the name of who you are nominating, their bureau, and a brief description of how they embody this value.

## DEP Police Heroes Honored



During the DEP Police Promotion and Award Ceremony held on April 8, three members of the DEP Police were honored for acts of bravery. On the morning of Sept. 28, at approximately 5 a.m., DEP Environmental Police Officers **Zachary Petrowsky** and **Megan Whelan** aided Sgt. **Shaun Adams** in the search and pursuit of an armed man who was wanted for a shooting that occurred at the Ellenville Regional Hospital. The suspect was apprehended several days later in Brooklyn after an intense manhunt. Officers Petrowsky and Whelan were each awarded the Combat Cross for their selfless service and courageous actions that morning. Sgt. Adams was cited for Excellent Police Duty for the bravery he displayed during the dangerous encounter. Also commended during the ceremony were members of the DEP Emergency Services Unit for their extraordinary work during many extremely difficult and challenging incidents over the past year, including the manhunt in Napanoch, a search for a suicidal person in Westchester County, a plane crash in Delaware County, and a fuel spill in Westchester County.

## 75 Years of Delaware System Water



Shortly before noon on April 5, 1944, **Mayor LaGuardia** opened the gates of a temporary emergency tunnel and channeled the waters of Rondout Creek directly into the Delaware Aqueduct. This marked both the first time that the entire 85 miles of the Delaware Aqueduct—the longest continuous tunnel in the world—was in operation, as well as the first delivery of water from the Delaware System into the city. [Visit our Medium](#) to read more about this historic event, which celebrated its 75th anniversary on April 5.

## Kudos Corner



Pictured, from left to right, is **Michael Shum**, BIT Chief of Staff, **Bassem Charaoui**, and **Michael Weinberg**, Director of Enterprise Services.

At this year's New York City Public Sector CIO Academy, held on April 9 and 10 at the New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge, **Bassem Charaoui**, from the Bureau of Business Information Technology, was awarded the Rising Star award. The Rising Star award honors emerging leaders in government IT, who bring amazing energy and creativity to their work and organization.

## Welcome Aboard!



On April 24, 44 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Director of Planning and Recruitment **Grace Pigott**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

**Milton M. Acosta, William R. Arroyo, John E. Avallone, George Avila, Wendell Baptiste, David R. Barto, William A. Biesecker, John Bovasso, Franklin B. Brown, Donald Clark, Kelson Davis, Carlo G. Diminico, Adrian Dnita, Jack Grosso, Lakram Jainabi, Roopchan Jainabi, Sergii Kyrlyiuk, Salvatore V. Mannino, AKM Quamrul Mazumder, Sean P. McDonald, Thomas P. McDonough, George A. Omeste, Alex Oommen, Adrian Perumalu, Robert T. Potts, Charles Prevete, Socrates Raoul, Nazeem H. Rhiman, Carlos E. Rodriguez, John F. Roesch, Gregory A. Salfelder, Vincent J. Scaduto, Jason Serano, Spiros Skendros, Brian J. Smilardi, Sean P. Smith, Roger J. Stewart, David J. Sweeney, Thomas J. Tolino, Judson Tsu, Michael J. Van Houten, Robert T. Vantassel, Igor Zavoiski and Pawel Zawadzki** with BWT.

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