

## CWC Celebrates 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



Our partners at the Catskill Watershed Corporation are celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. New York City is fortunate to have world-class drinking water that's protected by hundreds of DEP employees and those working with our nonprofit partners. These partnership groups in the watershed protect land, improve wastewater systems, manage stormwater runoff, and administer other programs that protect the city's water while enhancing the economy in watershed communities. CWC has played a vital role in that effort for two decades. Learn more about its work in this [video](#).

## Spotlight on Safety

### BEDC EHS Forum

The Bureau of Engineering, Design and Construction (BEDC) EHS section hosted their very first EHS Forum at the Newtown Creek Visitor's Center on March 20. The event was attended by BEDC personnel, design consultants, construction management firms and contractors involved with BEDC's Capital Construction Program. The event kicked off with an overview of the bureau's EHS management system by BEDC EHS Director **Heather Belovin**, followed by DEP's Acting Commissioner **Vincent Sapienza**, who reminded everyone how important EHS is in every aspect of their daily work at DEP. Acting Deputy Commissioner **James Mueller** presented BEDC's new "Recognize-Improve-Intervene" or RI2 program, which uses project data from BEDC's Project Management Information System (ePMIS) to benchmark

overall project performance and guide BEDC's response to each project going forward.

Other topics of discussion included:

- evaluation of EHS performance and submittals during the contract bid and award process
- BEDC's 2016 to 2017 Construction Performance Metrics
- results of the BEDC EHS MS Phase III Audits and details on the upcoming Phase IV Audits scheduled to begin this month
- EHS performance on BEDC construction projects
- partnering and leadership

The event concluded with the presentation of several Excellence in EHS Awards to construction management firms, contractors and individual EHS personnel. The next BEDC EHS Forum will be held in the fall.

## Commissioner's Corner

DEP is in the midst of a \$31 million project to refurbish and upgrade a historic building on Flushing Avenue in Brooklyn that houses DEP water tunnel and shaft maintenance staff. The three-story building exhibits a Neo-Classical/Neo-Egyptian style of architecture with an exterior façade featuring walls made of masonry, stone, and brick. Although the building is not designated a New York City Landmark, its appearance and design elements are of landmark quality and, therefore, DEP and our partners at the Department of Design and Construction (DDC) are endeavoring to refurbish, upgrade and preserve the building. Funding for the project is being provided by DEP while DDC is managing the construction, which is anticipated to conclude in 2018.

Erected circa 1904, the building is roughly 105,000 square feet in size and occupies a full city block in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood, bordered by Flushing Avenue, Kent Avenue, Little Nassau Street and Taaffe Place. The structure was designed by Warren & Wetmore, an influential architectural firm active in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century that also designed Grand Central Terminal, among other city landmarks.

The restoration includes masonry façade repair; a new roof; structural rehabilitation, including new steel framework and concrete for the garage floors and ramps; and repairs to the parapets and lintels of all windows. Additional work includes a new woman's locker room and bathroom; the installation of handicap accessible ramps and lifts; new steel staircases, includ-

ing railings and security cages; and new hot water heaters. The building currently houses office space, a machine shop, locker rooms and storage space for DEP's water tunnel and shaft maintenance staff.

Originally, the facility was commissioned by the Street Cleaning Department, an early version of today's Department of Sanitation. It cost approximately \$300,000 to construct and included a blacksmith's workshop, wheel-wright works, and 250 horse stalls. In 1934, the Department of Water Supply, Gas & Electricity purchased the building, then known as "Brooklyn Department of Street Cleaning's Stable and Chateau," from the Department of Sanitation. The Department of Water Supply, Gas & Electricity was consolidating their repair facilities at the time, which were spread across the borough, and chose the building as their new headquarters. The agency obtained over \$400,000 in funding from the Works Progress Administration (part of then-President Franklin D. Roosevelt's historic New Deal program) to completely retrofit the building in 1936.

By investing \$31 million into the rehabilitation of this historic building, we will ensure that the staff that maintain the City's critical water tunnels and shafts will be able to complete their work in a safe and efficient manner. I'd like to thank the Bureau of Water & Sewer Operations for their efforts in this project, as well as our colleagues at DDC for helping us to preserve the unique character of the building and its place in City history.



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.



## Rain Barrel Giveaway in SE Queens



DEP joined with New York State Senator Leroy Comrie, Assembly Member Alicia Hyndman, and Council Member I. Daneek Miller this past Saturday at Roy Wilkins Park in Jamaica to distribute free rain barrels to approximately 200 homeowners from the St. Albans, Cambria Heights, Rosedale and Laurelton neighborhoods of Southeast Queens. The 60-gallon rain barrels easily connect to a property owner's downspout to capture the stormwater that falls on the rooftop. They also help to reduce the amount of stormwater that enters the City's sewer system, which helps to protect the health of local waterways, including Jamaica Bay. Last year, DEP distributed a record-setting 11,111 rain barrels to New York City homeowners.

## Celebrate Earth Week

A full slate of exciting events are scheduled for next week in recognition of Earth Week, including Brown Bag lunches focusing on recycling and geothermal applications; a Bike to Work networking event; a Composting Ride to Queens Botanical Gardens, and a Rockaway Beach Cleanup, among others. For participation in the Compost Ride and/or Rockaway Beach Cleanup, please email [Erika Jozwiak](mailto:Erika.Jozwiak@dep.nyc.gov) at [Erika.Jozwiak@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:Erika.Jozwiak@dep.nyc.gov). DEP employees are also encouraged to bring in their lunches in zero waste containers and to compost their organic waste. [Click here](#) for the full calendar of activities.

## Managerial Training Workshop



DEP staffers recently celebrated the completion of their participation in the latest Managing for Excellence (MFE) four-day workshop, which is offered to all managers. The workshop, which concluded on March 30, reinforces management strategies and techniques to help our leaders motivate and inspire, create accountability, and improve morale.

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

## National Work Zone Awareness Week

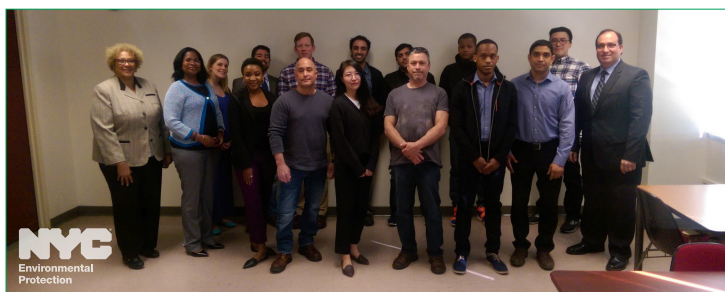


DEP and its partner city agencies, including the Department of Transportation and the Department of Design and Construction, recently celebrated National Work Zone Awareness week, which is observed each spring to bring national attention to motorist and worker safety in work zones. Nearly 700 work zone fatalities and more than 35,000 injuries occur nationally each year as a result of motor vehicle crashes in work zones. Through [Mayor de Blasio's Vision Zero Action Plan](#), New York City aims to end traffic deaths and injuries on our streets and safe driving tips for motorists can be found on the [DOT's webpage](#). Attending last week's kickoff event from DEP was **Fred Chyke-Okpuzor**, director of Environmental Health & Safety for the Bureau of Water & Sewer Operations. He was joined by colleagues **Nelson Leon**, **Kellis Huggins**, **Anthony Cameratta** and former DEP employee **Doreen Johann**.

## Mets Host DEP Family & Friends

Join your family, friends and coworkers on Sept. 24 at 1:10 pm at Citi Field to watch the Mets take on the Washington Nationals during the 4th Annual DEP MLB Day. Discounted seats are available for sale, however tickets are limited and will be sold on a first come, first served basis. Tickets can be purchased through this special [online offer](#). All fans in attendance will receive a 2018 Magnetic Schedule. For more information, or to purchase 15 tickets or more, please contact Barry Gorman at 718-565-4318 or [bgorman@nymets.com](mailto:bgorman@nymets.com).

## Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday, 13 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Acting Commissioner **Vincent Sapienza**, Deputy Commissioner for Organizational Development and Human Resources **Diana Jones Ritter** and Director of Planning and Recruitment **Grace Pigott**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

**Joseph Altieri** and **Crystal Ronci** with BWS; **Christopher Balk**, **Ian Greenidge**, **Mohammad Haris**, **Andrew Hastings**, **John Smith III** and **Edmund Wong** with BWSO; **Jagveer Sandher** with BWT; **Jorge Munoz** and **Asaf Siddique** with CDBG; **Xiaowen Zhou** with OD&HR; and **Kerri Grinnage** with Public Affairs.