

Commissioner's Corner



For many employees who worked with or knew the victim of yesterday's tragic shooting at our Kingston office, the gravity of the event has already set in. For others, the grieving process will take much longer. We are committed to ensuring that every DEP employee receives the information and services they need as we all struggle to come to terms with the senseless act of violence that claimed the life of our colleague, **Aron Thomas**.

Earlier today, employees at the Kingston office, and others who were affected by yesterday's events, attended three information sessions. Dozens of you attended to share your emotions about the unimaginable incident and to learn about the services that are available to anyone who has been affected. Beginning today, a team of grief counselors and mental health professionals led by the Ulster County Sheriff's Critical

Incident Stress Management and the County's Mental Health Disaster Response Teams will be on hand at the Kingston office to meet with individuals and groups who are seeking services, support, or just want to discuss how the incident has affected them. These teams of professionals have committed to provide their services to our employees for as long as they are needed.

As the Kingston Police Department's investigation into this incident unfolds, we will continue to communicate with all of you about what we learn. As part of this process we will be evaluating all of the ongoing programs and policies that are designed to provide our employees with a safe and respectful work environment. For those of you who do not work in Kingston and would like to speak with someone about yesterday's events, you can call the New York City Employee Assistance Program, at (212) 306-7660, or visit their [website](#). If you ever feel unsafe at DEP, call the Employee Health and Safety Hotline at (800) 987-9677, available any day, any time.

Given the extraordinary circumstances, we are working hard to respect the wishes of both families involved in this incident. Additional information about the services for Aron Thomas and ways you can support each other and the families will be shared in the coming days.

Press Box

Letter to the Editor: DEP Fixed Water Main During Snowstorm

"I know, I know, the cynics out there are going to say, 'It's their job!' and you would be right, although I have to give it up to them for their work ethic and for getting the job done quickly and with professionalism. They were polite when they were interrupted from the work they were doing to answer questions from us. To the crew that fixed the water main break at North Gannon and Gower Street, thank you very much."

View the entire Staten Island Advance Letter to the Editor [here](#).

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. 🙌

NYWEA Week

New York City is hosting the New York Water Environment Association's (NYWEA) [86th Annual Meeting](#) this week at the Marriot Marquis in Times Square. This year's conference focus is on the paradigm shift that is transforming wastewater treatment plants into resource recovery facilities. DEP is at the forefront of this movement and many employees will be making presentations in their area of expertise. For those who would like to see the presentations, some will also be made at Lefrak headquarters next week. See a list of the presentations below and on the [Source](#).

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH
Watershed Modeling and Application for Alley Creek and Little Neck Bay: **Sri Rangarajan**

Go Beyond Conventional Hydraulic Profile: **Keith Mahoney** and **Pete Pianelli**

The Flow Must Go On:
Constructing the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant: **Ken Moriarty** and **Jim Pynn**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH
Commissioning the World's Largest UV Disinfection Facility
Jasmin Rivera and **George Schmitt**

Wastewater Disinfection and Biological Nutrient Removal:
Laura Grieco



Flood Hazard Mitigation in the Watershed: **Elizabeth Reichheld**

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH
Cogeneration Upgrades at North River Wastewater Treatment Plant:
Anthony Fiore

Restoration of the Pennsylvania and Fountain Avenue Landfills:
John McLaughlin

Green Infrastructure Performance and Monitoring: **John McLaughlin**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13
New York City's Pilot Project to Measure CSO Flows: **James Mueller**

Manhattan Pump Station:
Fortifying the Future: **Eric Lehan**

Newtown Creek Central Residuals: Total Project Management Gone Right: **Jim Pynn** and **Nat Federici**

Spotlight on Safety

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection has a policy and program in place to take steps to minimize and respond to incidents of workplace violence. The implementation of DEP's workplace violence policy includes annual and ongoing training and education which are designed to inform employees about DEP's workplace violence prevention program, and to provide resources on how we can all take steps to minimize the hazard of workplace violence at our offices.

DEP employees have the right—and are encouraged—to report incidents or concerns about workplace violence without fear of

retaliation. Employees are directed to report these incidents to their EHS representative, the DEP workplace violence coordinator or their immediate supervisor. The Workplace Violence Prevention Program includes additional information on workplace violence controls and the procedure for reporting incidents and concerns. In the aftermath of Monday's incident in Kingston, DEP has pledged to examine its approach to mitigating and preventing workplace violence, encourage input from our co-workers, and understand whether more can be done to minimize the risk of incidents like this in the future.

Focus on the Field



Over the span of just four years, **Vincent Crodelle** has risen from a DEP intern who collected samples from reservoirs across the Croton System, to a full-time employee overseeing advanced testing equipment at one of the City's most important reservoirs.

Crodelle, a water ecology scientist, has worked at DEP for three years. Before that, he worked as a summer intern at DEP while earning his bachelor's degree in environmental studies from Binghamton University. He is now the point person for maintenance of storm monitoring equipment at Kensico Reservoir. The equipment takes continuous water samples from two streams that run into Kensico Reservoir—Malcolm Brook and a stream known only as "N5." When large rainstorms hit, the stations also take 1 liter samples every 30 minutes to measure the effects of increased runoff at Kensico Reservoir.

"There have been three or four big storms over the past few years that have caused us to send samples to the lab, and they've come back with interesting results," Crodelle said.

The monitoring equipment has shown that increased storm water runoff can cause an uptick in unwanted bacteria in the streams that drain into Kensico Reservoir. This has largely been traced back to deer and other wildlife in that part of Westchester County.

Crodelle and his colleagues have taken the data one step further.

By matching the temperature of the streams to the temperature at different depths of Kensico Reservoir, water quality experts can determine the depth at which the unwanted bacteria are located. That, in turn, allows operators to take drinking water from other depths of the reservoir.

The combination of chlorine and ultraviolet light treatment ensures that the water supply remains safe.

Crodelle will present some of the findings this June at the American Water Works Association's Annual Conference and Exhibition, which recognizes work by young professionals.

"The work that Vin performs is critical to understanding the potential impacts of storm events on reservoir water quality," Water Quality Director **Steve Schindler** said.

The maintenance of such sensitive instrumentation is important—but it's not easy. The three sampling stations at each stream are sensitive to weather and pests, such as mice and bees. Each works off solar power, which also requires Crodelle to maintain batteries and electrical components.

The job is a dream for Crodelle, who grew up in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., and spent much of his youth fishing in the Hudson River with his father. "I knew I wanted to do something with water, outside, hopefully with fishing or water science," he said. "So I got lucky."

Taking the Plunge!



DEP water quality experts and police officers braved the frigid waters of Ashokan and New Croton Reservoirs to train for potential ice rescues—including using ice picks to pull themselves out of the water and being pulled out by a colleague using a tow rope. Involved in the training from the Bureau of Police and Security were **Lt. Shane Turck**, **Sgt. Thomas Reis**, **Det. Joe Colby**, **Det. Ron Hewlett**, **Det. Gregg Marinelli**, **Det. Jose Rivera**, **Det. Mike Upshaw**, **EPO Edwin Laryea**, and **EPO Justin Romer**. Bureau of Water Supply employees who received the training included **Allison Bennett**, **Lori Froehlich**, **Francis Huber**, **Emily Kinne**, **Michael Spada**, **Paul Brown**, **Serena Matt**, **Joseph Miller**, **Chris Morgans**, **Kim Nezelek**, **George Cavallero**, **Vincent Crodelle**, **Kurt Gabel**, **Jason Garritt**, **Pamela Greengarten**, **Rick Kowalczyk**, **Jared Lopes**, **Meredith Mathewson**, **Andrew Payne**, **Sharon Satterly**, **Leonid Tsvitman**, and **Ryan Van Buren**. Click [here](#) to see more photos

Protecting Wildlife



DEP's **Chris Nadareski** has been working with partner agencies to band and release snowy owls upstate. The owls are rather docile when handled and Nadareski gives them a general health inspection before banding and releasing them back into the wild. The small aluminum bands are provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and they fit around the owl's leg and help to identify their migratory movements and health in the future. Click [here](#) to see more photos and [here](#) to read a recent New York Times article on Snowy Owls.