

Extra, Extra!



Over the last decade, DEP has invested more than \$10 billion on infrastructure projects to reduce sewer overflows into local waterways and improve the cleanliness of New York City harbor water. Click the photo to see a video about the work DEP does to test and monitor the health of the harbor.

For those wishing to view the video outside of the office, you can watch it on our [YouTube channel](#).

Spotlight on Safety

Ladder Safety

Falls from portable ladders are one of the leading causes of worker injuries and fatalities, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration has issued regulations and several publications on how to safely use ladders. Following the guidelines below can help you stay safe while using a ladder:

- Use a ladder only on a stable and level surface, unless it has been secured to prevent displacement.
- Always maintain a 3-point (two hands and a foot, or two feet and a hand) contact on the ladder when climbing.

- Do not exceed the maximum load rating of a ladder.
- Do not place a ladder on boxes, barrels or other unstable bases to obtain additional height.
- Do not use the top step of a ladder unless it was designed for that purpose.
- Always inspect a ladder before use. Portable ladders with faulty components must be immediately marked as defective and withdrawn from service until repaired.

For more information, visit the following link: [OSHA Quick Card: Portable Ladder Safety](#).

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. 🙋

Commissioner's Corner

Earlier today, DEP's Bureau of Engineering, Design and Construction oversaw the removal and replacement of a century-old guard valve at a shaft site located near the Jerome Park Reservoir. The 13-foot tall valve, which was cast in 1914, is made of manganese bronze and weighs more than 20,000 pounds. It is the second valve of its kind to be replaced at the shaft site and it marks an important milestone as crews work to complete the final connections that are needed to push water from the Croton Water Filtration Plant into distribution.

After serving the City for 100 years, the valves are in remarkably good shape. In fact, rather than retiring them completely, the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations will save the valves and certain components may even be used in other parts of the water supply system. The condition of the valves is a real testament to the quality of the work done by the engineers and laborers who designed and constructed our water infrastructure.

The vintage valves were manually operated and a 4-foot solid bronze disc was raised or lowered to control the flow of water. The new stainless steel butterfly valves replacing the custom bronze valves are slightly different. Instead of having a disc that is raised into a large bonnet that sits on top of the valve, the disc in the new valves pivots and water flows around the disc when it is in the open position.

The design of the new valves makes them easier and safer to operate, and they have a number of other



benefits as well. Because they are not custom built, the stainless steel valves are less expensive, can be manufactured more quickly, and, like the older bronze valves, they are built to last for several decades.

Throughout the history of the New York City water supply, each generation has planned and invested in infrastructure so that the next generation has the drinking water it needs. As we mark this important step towards activating the Croton Water Filtration Plant, and once again begin using water from the oldest watershed in our water supply system, I am reminded that the work we do each day serves not only the more than 9 million New Yorkers who currently rely on DEP for drinking water—it will allow New York City to continue to grow and prosper. I extend my thanks to the men and women at DEP who are diligent stewards of the amazing water supply systems built over the last two centuries, and whose hard work will ensure New Yorkers continue to have a healthy supply of drinking water for generations to come. [Click here](#) to see a similar valve photographed circa 1915.



Focus on the Field



The 8.4 million people, and counting—that call the five boroughs home—provide the vitality, diversity and excitement that make New York City such a desirable place to live. This population density also means we breathe the same air, often share common walls, and reside in close proximity to everything that makes the city work, such as refuse removal, nightlife and construction projects. As the department responsible for New York City's environment, DEP regulates air quality and critical quality of life issues, including noise—and the Bureau of Environmental Compliance's (BEC) **Rosanna Valdez** plays an important role in ensuring that each and every citizen complaint is investigated.

On any given day, roughly 100 complaints of unreasonable levels of noise, smoke, dust or odors from all corners of the city can be registered through the 311 system, including incessant dog barking, loud ice cream trucks, idling vehicles and dust from construction. These complaints are automatically uploaded into DEP's Hansen system where Valdez assigns them to a senior BEC inspector in their respective boroughs. As each inspection is conducted, Valdez often provides remote support to the personnel in the field by checking to see if there are valid and up to date permits on file for anything from building demolitions to boiler conversions and vehicle painting. Once the inspection

is completed, any appropriate action has been taken and the supervising inspector has signed off, Valdez will scan the report into the system and close out the complaint in Hansen.

"Concerns about unreasonable levels of noise and air pollution are important quality of life issues for New Yorkers, especially those raising a family," said Valdez. "We work hard and take great pride in handling each and every complaint in a timely manner."

"Beyond conducting inspections and taking appropriate action, providing accurate information to the complainant and the public is imperative," said BEC's Director of Enforcement **Gerry Kelpin**. "Rosanna has been an integral part of the team that ensures that every complaint is addressed and properly recorded in Hansen."

Valdez was born in Queens and raised in the Corona neighborhood. She attended John Bowne High School and earned a degree in police science from John Jay College of Criminal Justice. She worked as an undercover inspector for the Department of Consumer Affairs before joining DEP in 1998. Currently residing in Queens Village, Valdez enjoys spending time with her family and attending church. With the start of the school year around the corner she has also recently been spending time back to school shopping with her 14 year-old daughter, who will begin high school this fall.

We welcome your feedback! To submit an announcement or suggestion, please email us at: newsletter@dep.nyc.gov.

Press Box



CATSKILLS OFFER WATER YOU CAN DRINK AND PADDLE: "One way to spend a summer weekend—paddling through the City's public water supply." — View Valarie D'Elia's New York 1 report [here](#)

Kudos Corner



DEP's Water-On-the-Go program provides a valuable service in helping keep residents and visitors to New York City hydrated during the summer months. To date, this year's team members—who normally work 35 hours each week out in the field—have served nearly half a million people at the various fountain locations around the city and are well on their way to surpassing last year's record of 600,000 visitors for the season. [Click here](#) for a full list of team members and to see a nice thank you note the team at Brooklyn Bridge Park received from a local summer camp.

Welcome Aboard



Yesterday, 20 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Chief Financial Officer **Steve Lawitts** and Deputy Director of Human Resources **Herb Roth**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Kevin Farrell, Joseph Guida, Janaka Jayasingha, Oleg Khomich, Andrey Malkov, Andrey A. Mladov, Dean Morace and Christopher Tang with BWT; **Roni Ahmed, Nathalia Mendez-Wilson, Chintan Patel, Domenick Recine, Jafar Rizvi and Victoria Rubino** with BWSO; **Jody Gozza and David K. Johnson** with BEDC; **Terance Haynes** (not pictured) and **Kevin Scipio** with BCS; **Magesh Alagiriraj** with BEC; and **Philip George** with ACCO.