

Gilboa Gets A 'Dam' Good Cleaning



Bureau of Water Supply employees worked last week to clear driftwood from the crest of Gilboa Dam. The spillway sits at an elevation of 1,130 feet and this cleaning is done once a year in the summer. If the debris is not removed, it creates an obstruction to the water flow during a spilling event. Gilboa Dam is located about 77 miles from New York City in the Catskill Mountains and impounds the Schoharie Reservoir. Completed in 1927, it underwent a [\\$138 million reconstruction project](#) which was completed in 2014, two years ahead of schedule. The extensive rehabilitation was recently recognized with a [national award](#) for engineering excellence from the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC).

Spotlight On Safety

Does The Shoe Fit?

Did you know that not all safety shoes are created equal? You need the right shoe for the job. For example, if you are working in a hot work area, foundry shoes are used to protect from extreme heat and keep hot or molten metal from lodging into the shoe. Employees working in explosive and hazardous locations must wear electrically conductive shoes to reduce the risk of static electricity buildup on the body that could produce a spark and cause an explosion or fire. If you are working in an area with electrical hazards, nonconductive shoes can protect the body from electrical shocks.

Other examples of situations where workers should wear proper safety shoes include:

- Working with heavy objects such as barrels or tools that might roll or fall onto the employee's feet;
- Working with sharp objects such as nails or spikes that could pierce the soles or uppers of ordinary shoes;
- Working on or around wet or slippery surfaces

If you are not certain of a shoe's type of protection, check the product's labeling or consult the manufacturer to make sure the footwear will protect you from the specific hazards you face. Always inspect shoes for damage before use. For more information visit [DEP's Personal Protective Equipment Policy](#).

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



This week's Commissioner's Corner was written by Deputy Commissioner for the Bureau of Public Affairs and Communications **Eric Landau**.

I am pleased to announce that DEP outreach teams have knocked on the doors of 50,000 homes in southeast Queens to spread the "[Cease the Grease](#)" message that improperly disposing of grease down kitchen drains can clog pipes and lead to sewer backups. The door-to-door campaign began last September and covered Community Boards 12 and 13, where there were more than 4,800 reports of sewer back-ups during the past five years. Investigations by DEP crews found that most of the back-ups were caused by grease blockages in the sewers.

With help from interns with the Summer Youth Employment Program, the campaign has now reached 50,000 households and more than 1,000 food service establishments with grease education kits and compliance information. In addition, partnerships have been established

with local schools, community boards, elected officials, business groups, and religious and neighborhood organizations to encourage New Yorkers to properly dispose of grease. Grease should never be poured down kitchen sinks or toilets, but should instead be placed in sealed non-recyclable containers and discarded with regular garbage.

Additionally, educational programs have been developed for the schools in the area, including P.S. 176, P.S./I.S. 148 and I.S. 59, with interactive and multidisciplinary STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) lessons. The curriculum introduces students and educators to New York City's drinking water and wastewater systems. In addition, information and grease education kits will continue to be made available at as many community events and meetings as possible, and on-site visits will continue to be made to commercial food establishments. The campaign also includes workshops at New York City Housing Authority developments, which include approximately 2,500 households within the two Community Boards.

I'd like to applaud BPAC's outreach teams that have tirelessly walked the neighborhoods of southeast Queens to recruit residents in our "Cease the Grease" awareness campaign. In addition, the program would not be possible without the support of the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations. This program has been a great success thanks to these diligent efforts.



Have a Nice Day at Work

A note from Kaitlyn Maceira, LMHC, CASAC, with the NYC Employee Assistance Program (NYC EAP)

Working in a high-pressure, cut-throat work environment that leaves an employee's self-esteem and workplace morale low is all too commonly found here in New York City. According to a *Harvard Business Review* article, "While a cut-throat environment and a culture of fear can ensure engagement (and sometimes even excitement) for some time, research suggests that the inevitable stress it creates will likely lead to disengagement over the long term. Engagement in work—which is associated with feeling valued, secure, supported, and respected—is generally negatively associated with a high-stress, cut-throat culture." The culture of a workplace is molded by many different aspects—we, as employees, shape it. The engagement, behaviors and attitudes of employees contribute greatly to negative cultures throughout work environments of all kinds, and just as we can create it, we can change it.

We, here at the EAP, are asking people to consider saying 'hello,' 'good morning' and 'have a nice day' to their coworkers. Simple

gestures like these can transform the way colleagues interact with one another to positively impact the way we work together and complete tasks; and let's be honest—it also just feels better not to be ignored or passive aggressively addressed.

The previously cited *Harvard Business Review* states that a positive work environment can be broken down into six simple, but essential, characteristics:

1. show interest in your colleagues;
2. provide support and offer kindness;
3. avoid blame and forgive mistakes;
4. inspire one another;
5. emphasize the meaningfulness of the work; and
6. treat one another with integrity.

At the end of the day, being kind doesn't cost anything, and it doesn't hurt to be kinder than necessary.

If you feel your work or life stress is becoming overwhelming, help, information and/or support is available to you. NYC EAP can be reached by phone at (212) 306-7660 or by email at eap@olr.nyc.gov.

Chance to Snag a Free Hat at Citi Field

The Mets are hosting a *DEP Employees, Family and Friends Night* on September 17 for the matchup against the Twins, and the first 15,000 fans in attendance will receive a Jacob deGrom Hair Hat when entering the ballpark. The first pitch at Citi Field is at 7:10 p.m. and tickets are only \$25, on sale until Friday, August 26. The goal is to sell 1,000 tickets so that all agency employees in attendance wearing a DEP shirt can be recognized on the field during the National Anthem. [Tickets](#) are limited and will be sold on a first come, first served basis.

Kudos Corner

Several Bureau of Customer Services (BCS) staffers were praised last week by satisfied New Yorkers for the exceptional level of customer service they provided. The employees receiving positive testimonials include **Richard Schack**, **Nubia Morales**, **Andinia Colon**, and **Jimmy Solero**. The Bureau of Customer Services strives to meet or exceed customer expectations in every aspect of its business interactions with rate-payers, and these employees did just that. Congratulations and keep up the good work!

Delaware County Fair



The Bureau of Water Supply staffed a booth at last week's [Delaware County Fair](#), where DEP employees provided local residents with information about watershed recreation, protection programs, and the working lands that are used to cultivate local food and timber products. Some of the unique items showcased by vendors at the fair, which was celebrating its 130th year, included natural wares crafted and produced in the watershed, such as maple syrup, gelato, wooden kitchen utensils, and fabrics. DEP has invested more than \$1.7 billion in watershed protection programs—including partnership organizations such as the Catskill Watershed Corporation and the Watershed Agricultural Council—that support sustainable farming practices, environmentally sensitive economic development, and local economic opportunity.

Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday, 25 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from **Acting Commissioner Vincent Sapienza**, Deputy Commissioner for Organizational Development **Diana Jones Ritter** and Director of Planning and Recruitment **Grace Pigott**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Sandra Edmond with ACCO; **Janice Dolan-Boccadifuoco** and **Cherelle Douglas** with BCS; **Jacky Chen** and **Stavros Fanourakis** with BPS; **Thomas Davidock** with BWS; **Dwayne Barr**, **Anthony Campanella**, **Philip Chan**, **Troy Duncan**, **Tierney Grate**, **Marek Ingot**, **Mario Innella**, **Benjamin Kenny**, **Mubasher Malik**, **Allen Mohamed**, **Louis Peduto**, **Anton Powell**, **Matthew Stern** and **Ernesto Vazquez** with BWSO; **Bilal Hossain**, **Julkernine Khondoker** and **Lucky Lawani** with BWT; **ShaRae Abass** and **Jamey Van Epps** with CDBG.

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