

Going for the Best Drink on Tap

Yesterday, DEP launched the 2014 Water-On-the-Go Program. Since 2010, DEP has placed portable NYC Water drinking fountains at public plazas, busy pedestrian areas, and parks around the city during the summer months to promote the high quality of NYC Water and to offer it as a healthier and environmentally responsible alternative to bottled water and sugary beverages. The Water-On-the-Go season runs from the first day of summer through Labor

Day and last year nearly 600,000 people visited the fountains and consumed nearly 250,000 gallons of water. The fountains will be available seven days a week at Brooklyn Bridge Park's Pier 1 and Union Square, five days a week at City Hall, and will rotate amongst a number of other locations including Astoria Park, Battery Park, Bronx Borough Hall, Coney Island, Grand Army Plaza and Williamsburg. [Click here](#) for the full Water-On-the-Go schedule or to download the mobile app.



Spotlight on Safety


Bloodborne Pathogens (BBP)

Bloodborne pathogens (BBP) are infectious microorganisms present in blood and other human bodily fluids that can cause diseases such as, hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV), and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

DEP's Bloodborne Pathogen Policy establishes procedures to minimize employee occupational exposure to bloodborne diseases. Therefore, all employees are required to observe universal precautions to prevent contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials. All human blood and certain human body

fluids should be treated as if known to be infectious for HIV, HBV, and other bloodborne pathogens. It is not required of DEP employees to engage in post-accident clean up or "Good Samaritan" acts where blood or other potentially infectious bodily fluids are present. In the event of a spill of blood or other potentially infectious material (OPIM), DEP employees should immediately contact their facility coordinator, supervisor or safety officer/representative.

[Click here](#) to view DEP's Bloodborne Pathogen 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. 

Commissioner's Corner



Earlier today I joined Sanitation Commissioner **Kathryn Garcia** and officials from the US Environmental Protection Agency and the City's Departments of Parks and Recreation and Youth and Community Development to kick-off the 2014 "Clean Streets = Clean Beaches" initiative. The annual public information campaign and beach clean-up program aims to improve the cleanliness and aesthetics of New York City beaches by encouraging New Yorkers not to litter. Commissioner Garcia's background as DEP's Chief Operating Officer and my experience as a former Sanitation Commissioner make us particularly aware of the need for cooperation between the departments and how, with the support of our federal partners at EPA, we can accomplish shared goals.

When it rains, trash and debris discarded on city streets and sidewalks can wash down storm drains and end up in our waterways and on beaches. This summer, "Clean Streets = Clean Beaches" posters will be displayed at area beaches and on approximately 2,000 Sanitation vehicles, including 400 mechanical brooms that sweep litter from more than 6,000 miles of streets each day.

The "Clean Streets = Clean Beaches" campaign began in the early 1990s to highlight the link between litter on the streets and trash found on area beaches.

The program was launched today at MCU Park in Coney Island, home of the Brooklyn Cyclones. At the event, DEP staff distributed informational flyer toys to approximately 5,000 children attending the Cyclones game from area day camps and the City's Summer Youth Employment Program.

This week also marks the launch of the Summer 2014 Waterfront Clean-Up Program. DEP has partnered with the Department of Youth and Community Development's Summer Youth Employment Program to hire nearly 200 young New Yorkers who will spend approximately 25 hours a week removing litter and debris from waterfront properties across the five boroughs. The program helps to promote environmental stewardship and provides participants with valuable work experience.

In addition to the effort to reduce the amount of street litter that ends up in the sewer system, DEP will distribute thousands of reusable tote bags at city beaches throughout the summer, free of charge, to replace disposable plastic bags that often end up on the streets, and ultimately in our waterways.

For more information about "Clean Streets = Clean Beaches," [click here](#). To see photos from today's event, visit [DEP's Flickr page](#) or go [here](#).

Focus on the Field



People don't often think about it, but a thriving metropolis like New York City, with its 8.4 million residents and tens of millions of annual visitors, would not be possible without a comprehensive wastewater collection and treatment system. Over the last decade, DEP has invested more than \$10 billion in upgrades to its wastewater treatment plants and related efforts to protect our local waterways—and Senior Sewage Treatment Worker (SSTW) **Walter Wagers** has personally witnessed the steady progress the industry has made in improving its systems, and the environment. For Wagers, it's important to ensure that the next generation of New Yorkers enjoys an even healthier natural environment than we do.

Wagers was born and raised in the Rockaway neighborhood of Queens. He graduated from Beach Channel High School and, in an early sign of his interest in our natural resources, his studies concentrated on oceanography. Wagers first foray into the professional world was working for the West Long Beach Sewer District on Long Island. He spent four years there learning the ins and outs of wastewater treatment before joining DEP in 1998.

Wagers began his DEP career as a Sewage Treatment Worker at the Tallman Island Wastewater Treatment Plant and, in 2009, he was promoted to SSTW at the Bowery Bay Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Bowery Bay Plant has the capacity to receive, and treat to federal Clean Water Act

standards, up to 150 million gallons of wastewater each day from approximately 850,000 residents in northwest Queens. In addition, it is one of six DEP plants with dewatering facilities so it receives daily deliveries of sludge from other plants.

As part of a rotation of SSTWs at the plant, Wagers mans the Watch where he helps to supervise the daily operations and maintenance of the facility, as well as the Sewage Treatment Workers who ensure that the plant is properly treating wastewater around the clock. Daily inspections of the plant produce work tickets for maintenance needs, which include everything from repairing climbing screens and chlorine lines to repacking pumps, replacing chains in tanks, troubleshooting sump pumps, changing rollers in dewatering belt systems and working in thickening tanks.

"The staff at the Bowery Bay plant are really like an extended family to me," said Wagers. "They're all true professionals and we take great pride in the essential work we do to protect public health and the environment."

"Walter uses his significant experience to lead by example and mentor the new generation of sewage treatment workers," said **Elio Paradis**, Facility Manager for the Bowery Bay Wastewater Treatment Plant. "His positive attitude, concern for his colleagues and willingness to help with any task all contribute to the family atmosphere at the Bowery Bay Plant."

Wagers is married to his high school sweetheart and together they have four children, ranging in ages from 10 to 20 years old, the eldest serving in the U.S. Marine Corps. They also have dogs, cats and birds. The family owns property in Hancock, New York, and escapes to the country whenever time permits, where Wagers enjoys the great outdoors by hiking and fishing. See more photos of operations at the Bowery Bay Plant [here](#).

Sneak Peek



Workers have already blasted and excavated to a depth of roughly 210 feet at Shaft 6B in Dutchess County, which is an important component of the Delaware Aqueduct Bypass Tunnel. As they continue toward an ultimate goal of 700 feet below the surface at this shaft site, a surveyor, shown here, is establishing a center line for the shaft and making sure the right amount of bedrock is being removed from all sides. When it's finished in 2022, the 2.5-mile-long bypass tunnel will help eliminate two leaks from the Delaware Aqueduct, which currently supplies an average of 60 percent of New York City's daily drinking water.

Happy housewarming to us!

The Employee Store is preparing to move into our new home in the low-rise lobby at LeFrak. Stay tuned as we announce the date of our grand opening.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

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