

## Commissioner's Corner



In observance of Veterans Day, last week DEP joined with elected officials from Delaware County, local historians and veterans to mark the completed restoration of Pepacton Cemetery. Several hundred gravestones were cleaned, repaired and reset

over the past two years as part of a project to rehabilitate the decades-old cemetery. In the 1950s and 1960s, more than 400 deceased were removed from local burial grounds and reinterred at Pepacton Cemetery to allow for the construction of Pepacton and Cannonsville reservoirs. The city-owned cemetery was rededicated in their memory on Thursday during a flag-raising ceremony.

Workers began to rehabilitate the cemetery in early 2016, and the final improvements were completed this fall. A total of 305 headstones, footstones and monuments were cleaned, repaired and/or reset.

Special attention was also paid to the gravesites of military veterans. It was previously known that 16 military veterans were



buried at Pepacton Cemetery, because their gravestones noted their military service. During the course of the restoration project, local historians discovered through genealogical research that an additional 12 veterans were buried in the cemetery. The 28 veterans identified in the cemetery include those who fought in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, served as Union soldiers in the Civil War, or fought in the Spanish-American War. Each of the veteran gravesites was adorned with a solid bronze flag holder and an emblem to denote the war in which each person fought. The cemetery is also the final resting place for the original settlers of some towns, including Cannonsville and Trout Creek. A total

of 426 deceased are buried at Pepacton Cemetery.

The Delaware County ancestors that are buried in Pepacton Cemetery deserve a final resting place that is dignified and well maintained. I want to thank the workers who refurbished the memorial stones at the cemetery, and the DEP employees who take pride in the day-to-day upkeep of the cemetery grounds and first called our attention to the improvements that were needed. The City assumed responsibility for this cemetery more than six decades ago, and it is important that we invest resources in its upkeep just as we do with our water supply infrastructure.

More information and photos are available [here](#).



## Spotlight on Safety

### OEHS Recently Revised Environmental Policies

The Office of Environmental, Health and Safety has revised the following three (3) Agency environmental policies. These policies became effective on October 28, 2017.

- Petroleum Bulk Storage Tank & Container Management Policy
- Chemical Bulk Storage Tank & Container Management Policy
- Used Oil Management Policy

Chemical Bulk Storage (CBS) and Petroleum Bulk Storage (PBS) tanks are used to store hazardous and petroleum substances. The policy is applicable to Above Ground Storage Tanks, Underground Storage Tanks and non-stationary tanks and containers.

Used oil includes any oil refined from crude oil or any synthetic oil that has been used. The policy defines how DEP personnel will manage used oil generated at all DEP facilities and projects, including construction, in accordance with the New York State Used Oil regulations.

The revised policies ensure compliance with NYS DEC regulatory changes. Bureaus must train those employees who are directly affected by these policies and record them in the DEP Training Tracking and Reporting System. For more information, visit the [Chemical Bulk Storage Tank and Container Management](#), [Petroleum Bulk Storage Tank and Container Management](#) and [Used Oil Management Policies](#).

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.

## Kudos Corner



The 20<sup>th</sup> annual New York City Technology forum was held on Nov. 1 and two employees from the Office of Information Technology were honored: **Helen Li**, for Excellence in IT Support and Service - Manager, and **Juan Formoso**, for Excellence in IT Support and Service - Staff.

## In Memoriam



BPAC is sorry to inform readers that **Michael Saucier**, 46, a former DEP Press Secretary and Weekly Pipeline team member, died on Nov. 1 after a brief and valiant battle against pancreatic cancer. For those interested in making a donation in Mike's memory, a Go Fund Me page, the [Mike Saucier College Fund for Flora](#), has been created by Mike's wife Fernanda, for their daughter Flora. All contributions

to this account will be transferred to a 529 college savings plan set up in Flora's name. Our deepest condolences to his family and friends.

## Escape Room Challenge Winners



Congratulations to the [winners of our Lefrak and Valhalla Safety Day Escape Room challenges](#). Employees had 30 minutes to solve several puzzles and find the key to "unlock" the room. The challenge was to locate a missing DEP employee who had left work without telling anyone his whereabouts, but several clues left behind in his office helped to solve the mystery. The activity encouraged employees to work together as a team to solve a problem, while teaching an important workplace safety lesson about accountability in case of emergency.

## Elected Officials Tour New Bluebelt



Commissioner **Vincent Sapienza**, staff from BWSO, and officials from the Department of Design and Construction (DDC) recently joined with Borough President James Oddo and Council Minority Leader Steven Matteo to tour the nearly completed \$25 million first phase of the [New Creek Bluebelt](#) on Staten Island. Located in the Midland Beach neighborhood, where roadway flooding often occurs during heavy rainstorms, the project includes the first two, of what will eventually be 19, Bluebelt wetlands that will receive and naturally filter the stormwater that falls in the area. The project was jointly funded by DEP and an \$11 million U.S. Department of Agriculture grant secured by Senator Charles Schumer. DDC managed the construction of the Bluebelt, which is anticipated to be completed on time, by the end of the year.

## Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday, 45 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Deputy Commissioner for Organizational Development and Human Resources **Diana Jones Ritter** and HR Specialist **Grace Franco**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

**Alisa Balraj, Edwin Cruz, Donny D. Dicatoria, Bert A. Griffith, Anthony M. Mascolo, Stephen A. McKenzie, Kavita Naidu, Edelyn Y. Payamps Marte, Cortney D. Pollins, Matthew J. Porto, Junior A. Roberts, Joseph B. Rondinelli, Edward Sferrazza and Brian M. Shornick** with BEC; **Vincent M. Competello, Clay V. Morrissey** with BEDC; **Bartholomew C. Caterino, Thomas P. Foulkrod, and Vincent Maye** with BWS; **Saddam Alfaaz Bacchus, Alexandra R. Berns, Neil B. Bisciello, Louis P. Cazzetta, Brian W. Depradine, Charles A. DiMaria, Yara Y. Elborolosy, Scott M. Handel, Robert M. Harte, Milko J. Huayta, Arif I. Kemraj, Aundre V. Kendall, Wayne Kennerly, Tyrone E. Lee, Dexter R. Lopez, Matthew D. Marrero, Gzim Muja, Jonathan Quinlan, Anthony R. Rivera, Louis Russo and Steven Valdez** with BWSO; **Natalia Fekula** with Legal; **Yane Oljirra** with Police & Security; **Randol George Benedict, Julie C. Epstein and Jennifer Robertson** with Sustainability.

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