

Commissioner's Corner



The agency continues to make progress with infrastructure upgrades in southeast Queens, and I am pleased to announce that we recently completed a \$25 million sewer project in Rosedale that will improve drainage and help to mitigate flooding. Prior to this project, most of the roadways in the area of Hook Creek Bou-

levard lacked adequate stormwater infrastructure, including catch basins and storm sewers, and heavy rain events contributed to local flooding.

As part of the project, new storm and combined sewers were constructed along portions of Hook Creek Boulevard, Brookville Bou-

levard, Merrick Boulevard, and the surrounding side streets from 128th Ave. to 133rd Ave. Approximately 12,000 linear feet of storm sewers, 8,700 linear feet of combined sewers and 121 catch basins were installed in the area. Additionally, while the roadway was opened to install the sewers, more than 4.5 miles of new ductile iron water mains were built to replace the older cast iron pipes. This will improve water distribution in the area and help to ensure a reliable supply of water for the future.

With this new and improved drainage system, stormwater collected in area sewers is now discharged through three new outfalls along Brookville Boulevard into new natural stilling basins adjacent to Twin Ponds. The basins slow the flow of stormwater and allow sediment to settle out before slowly draining into Twin Ponds.



This project is part of Mayor de Blasio's commitment of \$1.7 billion to address flooding in southeast Queens. The bulk of the funding will go towards the construction of large trunk sewer spines along 150th Street, Guy Brewer Boulevard, Farmers Boulevard, and Springfield Boulevard. This work will take place through approximately 14 separate projects, the first breaking ground as early as 2018. Dozens of smaller local sewer projects will con-

nect neighborhoods to the trunk sewer spines.

This completed upgrade has significantly improved the sewer infrastructure in Rosedale, bringing some much needed flooding relief to residents. The Mayor's historic commitment to reduce flooding and improve the quality of life in southeast Queens means we will be able to bring similar peace of mind to even more residents in the coming years.



Spotlight on Safety

Top 10 Most Cited Violations

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced its preliminary list of the Top 10 Most Cited Violations for Fiscal Year 2017. While the list only slightly changes from year to year, one noted change for 2017 is number nine, Fall Protection Training Requirements. This category has not been on the list for at least the last 5 years. With all of the statistics OSHA releases, the top 10 violations give workers a clear idea of potential violations to be aware of in their own workplace.

The Top 10 violations are:

1. Fall Protection

2. Hazard Communication
3. Scaffolding
4. Respiratory Protection
5. Lockout/Tagout
6. Ladders
7. Powered Industrial Trucks
8. Machine Guarding
9. Fall Protection: Training Requirements
10. Electrical: Wiring Methods

Let this list serve as a reminder of hazards we should avoid in our daily operations. For more information, go to the [Safety & Health Magazine](#) website.

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.

United Nations Visit



Mayor's Office for International Affairs Commissioner **Penny Abeywardena**, BWT Deputy Commissioner **Pam Elardo**, and about two dozen United Nations officials recently toured the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. The event was part of *City Hall in Your Borough: Brooklyn* and showcased NYC's leadership on the United Nation's [Global Goals](#) agenda for sustainable development. The tour provided attendees with an overview of the wastewater treatment process—an essential part of protecting public health and NYC's waterways. After, guests were treated to unobstructed views of the Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens skylines from the observation deck, a glass-enclosed walkway built atop DEP's state-of-the-art digester eggs.

Nets Game



DEP employees, family, and friends are invited to see the Brooklyn Nets take on the Atlanta Hawks on Dec. 2 at 3pm in the Barclays Center. A limited number of [discounted tickets](#) are available for purchase and will be sold on a first come-first served basis. Children can win the opportunity to play on the court during pregame or halftime. To enter the lottery, purchase your tickets and then submit an email with your kid's name and age to **Joe Grande** at jgrande@brooklynnets.com. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Joe Grande from the Brooklyn Nets or **Adrian Allen** from DEP at aallen@dep.nyc.gov.

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

Employee Assistance Program

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

Though it seemed like summer was looking to stick around for a while, it feels as if winter has finally arrived with cold and flu season in tow! We all know the importance of handwashing after touching the handrails in the subway or covering your mouth when you cough. We protect ourselves from germs in the outside world, but do we have as strong of a defense in our own space? When you think about it, many of us spend approximately 25% of our time in the workplace. This makes our work environment and those we work with very impactful on our lives, both emotionally and physically. Though NYC EAP is known for wanting to keep employees mentally and emotionally happy and healthy, we also want to promote healthy physical habits, especially during the high-risk winter months. Some easily adaptable standards for overall health and safety in the workplace include, but are not limited to:

- wash hands often in soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- disinfect door handles and other common surfaces

- keep your work area neat and clean
- keep food covered or sealed and properly stored
- cover sneezes and coughs with a tissue or sleeve; immediately dispose of tissues
- stay home from work or school when feeling ill

You should also notify your supervisor immediately if you have come in contact with anything that may be dangerous to your health or others, such as:

- poisonous or hazardous materials
- rodents or insects (such as bed bugs)
- what you believe may be a contagious condition

Consult with your medical doctor if you have health concerns. For further information on workplace safety and health you can contact the [Department of Health and Mental Hygiene](#) and/or [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#).

If you have any concerns, free and confidential guidance is always available to all employees and their family members by contacting NYC EAP at 212-306-7660 or eap@olr.nyc.gov.

Holiday Toy Drive



Help bring a smile to a child! Please take part in DEP's Holiday Toy Drive by donating new and unwrapped toys, sports equipment or accessories for young people from tots to teens. Please drop off toys with your [bureau coordinators](#). The final day to donate is Tuesday, Dec. 19. For more details, please contact **Joe Sokolowski** at ext. 6168 or **Sara Pecker** at ext. 5487. For information about watershed toy drive collections, please contact **Danielle McCutcheon** at 843-340-7263 or dmccutcheon@dep.nyc.gov.