

Special Guest *Commissioner's Corner*



Kevin McBride, DEP's Deputy Commissioner for the Bureau of Police and Security, is a guest commentator this week.

New Yorkers are fortunate to have a highly skilled, trained and dedicated Police Division to protect our water supply system and the lands that surround it. The DEP Police Division was established more than 100 years ago and it maintains specially trained units that include a detective bureau, emergency services unit, canine unit and aviation unit. Last week, we joined together at the Staff Sgt. Robert H. Dietz DEP Police Academy in Kingston, N.Y. to promote eight veteran Environmental Police Officers while also marking the retirement of 21-year veteran **Capt. Eugene Sass**.

The following lieutenant was promoted to captain:

Capt. Christian R. Gallagher was appointed to the DEP Police in July 2001, and began his career on patrol in the Neversink Precinct. He was selected for the Emergency Services Unit in 2003 where he served as a precision rifleman. He is currently the Grahamsville Precinct Commanding Officer.

The following sergeants were promoted to lieutenants:

Lt. Randall Hurlbert was appointed to the DEP Police in

December 2003. He began his career in the Patrol Division and in 2006 he was selected for the Special Operations Division, Aviation Unit.

Lt. Patrick Natale was appointed to the DEP Police in September 1999. He began his career in the Patrol Division and was promoted to Sergeant in January 2003.

Lt. David Wiswall was appointed to the DEP Police in August 1998, and began his career in the Patrol Division. In March 2001 he was promoted to Detective and in June 2004 he was promoted to Sergeant.

The following environmental police officers were promoted to sergeant:

Sgt. Corey Albert was appointed to the DEP Police in March 2007, and began his career in the Patrol Division reporting out of the Hillview Precinct.

Sgt. Brian Beilman was appointed to the DEP Police in December 2005, and began his career in the Patrol Division reporting out of Ashokan Precinct.

Sgt. Jesse Ryan was appointed to the DEP Police in September 2009, and began his career in the Patrol Division reporting out of the Eastview Precinct.

Sgt. Daniel Wahl was appointed to the DEP Police in September 2011, and began his career in the Patrol Division reporting out of the Beerston Precinct.

DEP also celebrated the retirement of Capt. Eugene Sass, who was first appointed to the DEP Police in August 1994. He began his career on patrol in the Ashokan Precinct. He was promoted to Sergeant in 1995, Lieutenant in 1999, and Captain in 2003. Currently the



commanding officer of the Special Operations Division, Capt. Sass previously served as the commanding officer of the West-of-Hudson Patrol Division and the Ashokan Precinct Commander. Prior to joining the DEP Police, Capt Sass served in the U.S. Navy for 21 years. The Captain was admired and respected by his colleagues, watershed residents and elected

leaders in communities around the water supply system.

I want to extend my sincere thanks to Capt. Eugene Sass for his long and distinguished career with the DEP Police, and my congratulations to the eight veteran officers who earned their promotions. To read more and see additional photos go [here](#).

Spotlight on Safety

Near Misses Matter

A "Near Miss" is an unplanned event that did not result in injury, illness, or damage—but had the potential to do so. Examples include:

- An employee trips over an extension cord that lies across the floor but avoids a fall by grabbing the corner of a desk.
- Re-energizing equipment being serviced, exposing personnel to the stored energy and narrowly avoiding injury.

Just because a disaster was narrowly avoided this time does not mean that everyone is safe. You can prevent accidents by paying

close attention to near misses and taking them seriously.

- Never dismiss a near miss as a lucky break and forget about it.
- Inform supervisors and bureau EHS staff of the occurrence in detail.
- Complete the [DEP Incident Investigation Reporting \(IIR\) form](#)

Cooperating with investigations of near misses offers a unique opportunity to address conditions or systems before a serious accident or injury occurs. See: [DEP Policy: Injury & Illness Investigation and Recordkeeping](#).

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.

Upgrades at Bowery Bay



Work is underway to install aluminum covers and odor control units on each of the four sludge tanks located at the Bowery Bay Wastewater Treatment Plant in Astoria, Queens. The \$3 million project will ensure that nuisance odors related to the wastewater treatment process are captured by the new aluminum covers and removed through an activated carbon filtration process. DEP has worked closely with City Council Member **Costa Constantinides** to ensure that these upgrades are completed by the summer of 2016. Read more [here](#).

Engineers Week



Together with the Metropolitan Engineering Societies Council (MESC), **Mayor de Blasio** has proclaimed February 21-27 as “Engineers Week” in New York City. Through its annual Engineers Week activities, MESC helps to generate interest in the field and encourages young New Yorkers to pursue this line of work, securing the city’s future as a capital of innovation. DEP currently employs 598 engineers and is pleased to join with all New Yorkers to celebrate this important profession. To find out more about Engineers Week 2016, visit the [MESC website](#). Pictured above is DEP’s **Mark Klein, P.E.**, with MESC officials **Wasył Kinach, P.E.**, and **Salvatore Galetta, P.E.**

Watershed Maple Syrup



The maple sap that makes delicious syrup has recently begun running, thanks to the relatively warm weather in the Catskills. **David Cammer** of Bearkill Road Maple Products, a producer in Conesville, is shown setting taps and harvesting sap from maple trees near the Schoharie Reservoir. The company taps 1,700 trees, including 150 trees on roughly 5 acres of watershed property owned by DEP. In total, six maple producers lease DEP property to tap maple trees, ensuring the City’s protected lands stay in production.

Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday, 23 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from First Deputy Commissioner **Steve Lawitts** and Deputy Commissioner for Organizational Development **Diana Jones Ritter**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Shawn Johnson, Tascar Prince, Joseph Sierra and **Shivone Smith** with BCS; **Bertie Nei** with BLA; **Kristen Cantwell, Jorge Verdin** and **Justin Zimmerman** with BWS; **Tadeusz Kuzmicki, Yvette O’Dell, Chrystal Pringle, Rupa Ramoutar** and **MD Ershadul Rokoni** with BWSO; **Lily Fung, Khemraj Orilall** and **Delroy White** with BWT; **Miriam Cuevas, Kevin Haghighi** and **Rebecca Lynch** with CDBG; **Colin Sullivan** with the Commissioner’s Office; **Naheed Afroz** and **Andre Nidhan** with FDC; and **Jess Isaacson** with Fleet.

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