

## \$9.3 Million Upgrade of Glen Oaks



Construction is underway on a \$9.3 million upgrade of the water and sewer infrastructure in the Glen Oaks neighborhood of Queens. The work will include the installation of nearly one mile of new storm sewers and 58 catch basins to drain stormwater from the roadways and mitigate the chronic flooding conditions that can occur during heavy rain. In addition, more than a mile of 60-year-old water pipes will be replaced with new ductile iron mains to improve water distribution and fire protection within the area. DEP is funding the project and DDC is managing the construction, which is expected to be completed in early 2018. More details about the project can be found [here](#).

## Spotlight On Safety

### Sharing the Road Safely

As *National Safety Month: Safe for Life* draws to a close, the final week focuses on sharing the road safely. The official start of summer means more motorcycles and bicycles will be sharing the road with motor vehicles. All motorists, motorcyclists and cyclists should obey traffic laws, avoid distractions, yield to pedestrians and never drive or ride while impaired. Ensure vehicles, motorcycle, and bikes are kept in safe working order at all times. Motorcyclists and bike riders should always wear a helmet and ensure that they are always visible to motorists.

#### Tips for Motorists:

- Be aware that motorcycles and bikes can easily disappear in your blind spot or be hidden behind objects

- Motorcycles and bikes may change lanes abruptly to avoid dangers, and may appear suddenly alongside you

#### Tips for Motorcyclists:

- SLOW DOWN! Speeding is the number one contributing factor in motorcycle crashes
- Wear a proper helmet that does not reduce visibility or impair hearing

#### Tips for Cyclists:

- Ride in the street, with traffic and in a straight line
- Use marked bike lanes or paths when available
- Watch out for open car doors

For more information, visit these resources: [SafeNY: Sharing the Road Safely](#), [CDC Motorcyclist Safety](#), and [NYC DOT Bike Smart](#).

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 Public Affairs and Communications **Eric Landau**.

With yesterday marking the official start of summer, I am pleased to announce that we have launched DEP's highly successful Water-On-the-Go Program for the 2016 summer season. Since 2010, DEP has placed portable NYC Water drinking fountains at public plazas, busy pedestrian areas, and parks around the city during the warmer months to promote the high quality of NYC Water and to offer it as an economical, healthy, and environmentally responsible alternative to bottled water and sugary beverages.

The Water-On-the-Go fountains will be available at various locations around the city through Labor Day and are easily spotted with their accompanying bright blue NYC Water tents. Strategically placed in busy areas around the city to help New Yorkers stay cool and beat the heat, this program provides a free, easy and healthy way to stay hydrated. Every day, DEP delivers to the city a billion gallons of drinking water, a delicious zero-calorie alternative to sports drinks and soda.

This year, in addition to operating flagship locations such as Brooklyn Bridge Park's Pier 1, Union Square and City Hall, DEP is coordinating with community groups and green markets to place fountains in other strategic locations in all five boroughs to expand the reach and accessibility of the program. A weekly schedule with detailed times and locations is available on the [DEP website](#).

Water-On-the-Go is again collaborating with GreenNYC to support the B.Y.O. campaign, which promotes the use of reusable mugs, bottles and bags rather than their disposable counterparts. Diminishing the consumption of single use plastic bottles by encouraging New Yorkers to refill reusable bottles with tap water supports Mayor de Blasio's OneNYC Plan, including goals to send zero waste to landfills and reduce waste disposal by 90 percent by 2030.

Drinking tap water is the environmentally responsible way to stay hydrated as the production of plastic water bottles for use in the United States consumes 1.5 million barrels of oil a year—enough to power 250,000 homes or 100,000 cars all year. At approximately one penny per gallon, tap water is about 1,000 times less expensive than bottled water. NYC Water is world renowned for its taste and high quality, collected in protected reservoirs up to 125 miles north of the city and tested more than 500,000 times annually to ensure it is safe. To learn more about NYC Water, read DEP's annual [Drinking Water Supply and Quality Report](#).

I'd like to personally recognize and thank the dedicated staff in the Bureaus of Public Affairs and Communications (BPAC) and Water and Sewer Operations (BWSO) for coordinating this program and ensuring that the fountains are operating properly. Additionally, I'd like to thank the 21 summer interns who staff the fountains and spread the message about the many benefits of NYC Water.



## Family and Friends Night at CitiField



The Mets are hosting a *DEP Employees, Family and Friends Night* on September 17 for the matchup against the Twins. The CitiField showdown begins at 7:10 p.m. and tickets are only \$25, on sale until August 26. The goal is to sell 1,000 tickets so that all 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. [Click here](#) to purchase tickets.

## Donate Your Work Gloves To Art



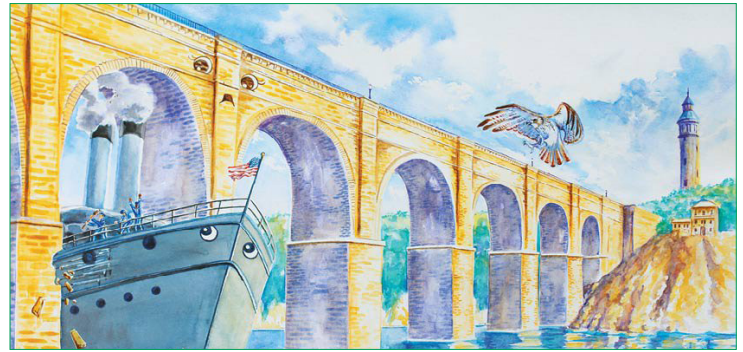
Our colleagues at the NYC Department of Sanitation have invited us to join them in promoting an exciting project with their Artist-in-Residence, **Mierle Laderman Ukeles**. Her renowned artwork, “Ceremonial Arch Honoring Service Workers,” will be shown for the fourth time in a museum-wide retrospective exhibition of her work at the Queens Museum in September 2016. The sculpture, a 15-foot tall arch formed from several thousand worn-out gloves from service workers, will

honor all service workers, creators, and maintainers of our City. To donate lightly or heavily-worn autographed gloves, contact **Adrian Allen** at (718) 595-4383 or [AAllen@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:AAllen@dep.nyc.gov), or email [orgdev@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:orgdev@dep.nyc.gov). More information on this unique work of art can be found [here](#).

## Mental Health First Aid

Crazy! Nuts! Psycho! Unhinged! Scary! Dangerous! Violent! While these are all common words used to describe people with mental illness, these aggressive adjectives need to be replaced with kinder, gentler terms, and Mental Health First Aid is taking steps to ensure this happens. Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) is a public education program that introduces people to risk factors and warning signs of mental illness. By building an understanding of their impact, raising awareness and increasing knowledge of common supports, MHFA better equips New Yorkers, and people throughout the world to help others. The program not only helps those in need, but also helps to destigmatize the way our world views mental illness. MHFA was introduced to the United States, by way of Australia, in 2008 with programs currently in more than 20 countries. **Mayor de Blasio's** ThriveNYC initiative is rooted in changing the culture of how we view mental illness and utilizes MHFA by working to train 250,000 New Yorkers to assess, listen, reassure and encourage people experiencing a mental health issue to seek appropriate professional help. At the end of the day, MHFA is another tool we can use to help our colleagues in need and reminds us to be kinder than necessary, for aren't we all fighting some kind of battle? For more information on Mental Health First Aid you can visit their website at [MentalHealthFirstAid.org](http://MentalHealthFirstAid.org). If you or a loved one is seeking help, information and/or support, NYC EAP can be reached by phone at (212) 306-7660 or by email at [eap@olr.nyc.gov](mailto:eap@olr.nyc.gov).

## DEP Teams Up With Sesame Street



Staff from DEP's Education Office joined Sesame Street actress **Sonia Manzano** last Wednesday as she read a copy of her book, *The Lowdown on the High Bridge*, to a group of approximately 75 Washington Heights 1<sup>st</sup> graders at P.S. 173. The book was published by Bronx Children's Museum with assistance from DEP's Education Office and tells the story of how the High Bridge was originally built as an aqueduct to bring fresh water to Manhattan. DEP recently purchased copies of the book to distribute to 2,000 children who live in the neighborhoods surrounding the bridge, which reopened almost one year ago as a pedestrian walkway. The books were distributed this spring to pre-K and kindergarten children at five schools in the Highbridge section of the Bronx, and to pre-K to 5<sup>th</sup> grade students at 20 schools in the Washington Heights area. For more information on the book, [click here](#).

## Work Begins to Replace Two Bridges



DEP has begun construction on a \$7 million project to replace two small bridges at the headwaters of Rondout Reservoir in upstate Sullivan County. The project includes work to replace the Sugarloaf Bridge and the Lows Corners Bridge, which were constructed more than 60 years ago, at the same time as the reservoir. The 50-foot-long Sugarloaf Bridge carries Sundown Road over the Sugarloaf Brook, while the 150-foot-long Lows Corners Bridge carries

Route 55A over Rondout Creek at the head of Rondout Reservoir. Work to replace both bridges is expected to be complete by the end of 2016. DEP owns, operates, and maintains 57 bridges and 99 miles of roads throughout its upstate water supply system. For more information on this project, [click here](#).

## Spring Blood Drive

The New York Blood Center is experiencing a serious shortage in blood supply due to a fall-off in donations. To help ensure that blood will be available to those who need it, DEP is hosting a blood drive at the below location and time. Donors with an O-negative blood type, or “universal donors,” are especially urged to give because their blood can be transferred to anyone. **Grahamsville Region Area:** Grahamsville Fire House, 6/29, 9:00am to 3:00pm.

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