

Special Guest *Commissioner's Corner*



James Roberts, DEP's Deputy Commissioner for the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations, is a guest commentator this week.

Last week, DEP announced the completion of two water and sewer infrastructure upgrades in the Staten Island neighborhoods of Arden Heights and Annadale. Prior to these projects, most of the roadways in these areas were not equipped with catch basins or storm sewers and they often flooded during heavy rain storms. As part of the upgrade,

more than a mile and a half of storm sewers and 100 catch basins were installed to help drain precipitation from the roadways. The stormwater will be diverted to a new bluebelt area where it will be stored and naturally filtered before it empties into the Arthur Kill. The projects also included the installation of more than a mile and a half of sanitary sewers that will allow 114 homes to connect to the City's sewer system and discontinue the use of septic tanks. In addition, work included the installation of new water mains, the reconstruction of the roadways and sidewalks, and the addition of more than 100 street lights, 31 traffic signals and nearly 300 street trees.

In Arden Heights, work included the installation of approximately 4,000 feet of distribution water mains. By replacing the old cast iron water mains with new ductile iron mains, the project will help ensure a reliable supply of high quality drinking water for area residents



and businesses. The construction of 3,800 feet of sanitary sewers allows nine homes to connect to the City sewer system and discontinue the use of septic tanks. These new sanitary sewer lines will also serve as an outlet for other south shore communities to connect to in the future. In addition, the installation of 1,530 feet of storm sewers and 23 catch basins will divert precipitation from the roadways into a new Bluebelt wetland. The constructed wetland, located on State preserved property, also provides new habitat for wildlife including turtles, herons, and ducks. This work included the removal of invasive plants and the addition of diverse, native trees, shrubs and wildflowers to help protect water quality.

The Annadale neighborhood saw the addition of 4,475 feet of distribution water mains, over 5,000 feet of sanitary sewer lines, nearly 7,000 feet of new storm sewers and 76 catch basins. The new sanitary service will allow 105 homeowners to connect to the City's sewer system.

Thanks to this \$23 million investment in the neighborhoods of Arden Heights and Annadale, the streets are now less susceptible to flooding and an additional 114 homeowners can discontinue the use of septic systems. These infrastructure upgrades will protect public health and the environment, but just as importantly they will improve the quality of life for residents.

Spotlight on Safety

Winter Safety Guidance

Working in cold winter conditions presents a unique set of safety hazards that can result in slips and falls, frostbite, hypothermia, and vehicular accidents. In order to stay safe, always be prepared and follow these simple winter weather safety guidelines:

- Check weather forecasts and wear proper clothing for the forecasted conditions
- Avoid slips and falls by wearing proper footwear with visible treads
- Learn the signs of cold-induced illnesses and what to do to help a fellow employee.
- Inspect your vehicle before every use to ensure all equipment is working and operate the vehicle safely

For more information, visit [DEP's Exposure to Extreme Heat and Cold Guidance](#).

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.



In Memory of K9 Rocco



DEP Bureau of Police and Security K9s **Kille, Maximus, Ecco, Bingham, Kadan** and **Mycal** were outfitted recently with new bullet and stab-protective vests thanks to a nationwide Groupon campaign that raised over \$350,000. DEP's K9s faithfully protect their human partners and patrol the watershed and sensitive facilities. Across the country, the campaign provided more than 350 law enforcement dogs with the protective body armor in memory of K9 Rocco of the Pittsburgh Police Department who sacrificed his life in the line of duty in January of 2014. See more photos [here](#).

Welcome Aboard



Yesterday, 19 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Deputy Commissioner for Organizational Development **Diana Jones Ritter** and Deputy Director of Human Resources **Herb Roth**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Thomas H. Beals, Janette Cruz, MD M Islam, Ying X. Li and **Djabirisam Sododji** with BWT; **Daniel Corchado, Joseph D. Gonzalez, Andy Guzman, Peter M. Homsey** and **Nicholas J. Nigro** with BEC; **Harinthon Chanilal, Richard McGinnis** and **Francisco Tangherlini** with BEDC; **Brittany Smith** and **Tiffany J. Zananski** with BWS; **Jessica Barino** with FMC; **Jennifer Collado** with Executive; **Rosangela Sicignano** with Legal; and **Gregory Wilkerson** with BWSO.

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

Did You Know?



That DEP opened nearly 5,000 acres of City-owned property throughout the watershed for low-impact recreation last year? The newly opened properties include 2,626 acres in Delaware County, 1,248 acres in Greene County, 444 acres in Putnam County, 200 acres in Schoharie County, and 302 acres in Ulster County. In total, there are now more than 125,000 acres of lands and reservoirs open for fishing, hiking, hunting and other forms of recreation. DEP will continue to work with our partners in the region to improve the access and programs that help support the tourism and outdoor recreation economies that are so important to communities in the watershed.

Winter Driving Tips



- Inspect your vehicle before every use to ensure that the tires, lights, wipers and other equipment are in good working order and that there is sufficient window washing fluid
- Make sure that you brush/scrape snow and ice off all windows, mirrors and lights on your vehicle prior to driving
- Report defective vehicles to your supervisor immediately
- Make sure you can see and be seen
- To properly use antilock braking systems, "Stomp, stay, and steer"
- If you hit a slick patch, don't overcompensate by trying to steer out of it. Take your foot off the gas and allow the steering system to right itself, and then slowly steer out of the situation
- Don't be fooled by all-wheel drive or electronic stability control
- Adjust speed for road conditions and maintain a safe distance from other vehicles