

## Central Park Reservoir Upgrades



The facilities at Central Park Reservoir will be upgraded this spring, which will require lowering the water level by approximately 8 feet, as well as a temporary closure of a short portion of the jogging path along the northwest side of the Reservoir. Crews have already begun slowly lowering the water level to prepare for the infrastructure upgrades, which are expected to commence at the beginning of April. It is anticipated that work will continue through July and water levels in the Reservoir will return to normal in August. Central Park Reservoir is not part of the City's potable water supply system.

## Spotlight on Safety

### What do they mean?: 'NIOSH,' 'OSHA' and 'PESH'

The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 created both the National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety (NIOSH) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

NIOSH was established to help assure safe and healthful working conditions for employees by providing scientific research, information, education, and training, as well as developing guidance and authoritative recommendations, and responding to requests for workplace health hazard evaluations.

OSHA is the primary federal agency charged with the enforcement of safety and health legislation, and compliance with OSHA's standards is mandatory. These include requirements to provide fall protection; prevent trenching cave-ins;

ensure that workers safely enter confined spaces, prevent exposure to harmful substances such as asbestos; install guards on machines; provide respirators or other safety equipment; and provide training for certain dangerous jobs.

New York State has a separate enforcement agency for public employees called Public Employees Safety and Health (PESH), which conducts unannounced inspections of workplaces and will issue a "Notice of Violation and Order to Comply" for any safety and health hazards they find.

OEHS has incorporated OSHA/PESH requirements and many recommendations of NIOSH in its EHS Policies and Procedures. You can view all EHS policies, metrics and EHS Matters by clicking [here](#).

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



**Pamela Elardo**, DEP's Deputy Commissioner for Wastewater Treatment, is a guest commentator this week.

At DEP, we all continue to work to improve the health of the city's waterways, which are the cleanest they've been in more than 100 years. This work not only covers water quality in terms of chemicals and bacteria, but also the trash that makes its way into our waterways. To address this problem, DEP has recently completed a \$42 million project to build four subsurface litter capture devices designed to improve the health and aesthetics of Newtown Creek. The in-sewer control devices include fixed baffles and bending weirs to capture floating litter and direct it to a wastewater treatment plant where it can be screened out and sent to landfill. DEP has installed similar facilities along the Bronx River and the Gowanus Canal over the last several years, and they have captured more than 500 tons of litter and debris.

Much of the trash and debris found in New York Harbor, and its con-

nected waterways, originates as litter discarded on city streets that subsequently gets washed into catch basins and eventually makes its way into the sewer system. Litter is a wide-ranging problem that requires action, not just on capture devices but also on changing human behavior. Nonetheless, we have invested in big projects to help keep litter from reaching Newtown Creek. In late 2015 DEP began the installation of the below-ground capture devices at four key locations within the sewer system that can discharge to the Creek or its tributaries.

The new litter capture devices were constructed at:

- 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> Streets
- Rust Street and 56<sup>th</sup> Drive
- Troutman Street and Saint Nicholas Avenue
- 455 Johnson Avenue

In addition, the fight against litter is aided by the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations and their 144,000 catch basins, which trap litter before it can make its way into the sewer lines, and the Bureau of Wastewater Treatment's skimmer boats, which patrol New York harbor capturing floating debris, including wood, plastic, metal, rubber, and glass.

Cleaning up Newtown Creek is one of our agency's priorities, and this \$42 million investment is one way to help capture trash and debris and ensure that it does not foul the waterway.



## DEP Offers Watershed Internships



DEP is encouraging college students to apply for one of 17 summer internships at its offices in the Hudson Valley and Catskill Mountains. These paid internships are in fields related to science and engineering. Those accepted into the summer internship program will have the chance to work alongside DEP scientists, engineers, planners and other professionals who operate, maintain and protect the largest municipal water supply in the United States. The intern positions available include summer work associated with upstate water quality laboratories, water system modeling and research, natural resources management, wastewater collection and treatment, infrastructure planning, and reservoir operations. The internships are located at DEP's offices in Delaware, Greene, Putnam, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester counties. Information about these watershed internships, including online applications, can be found on the [DEP website](#).

## Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday, 13 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from **Commissioner Vincent Sapienza**, Deputy Commissioner for Human Resources and Administration **Zoe Ann Campbell**, HR Specialist **Grace Franco**, and HR Generalist **Conor Bulger**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

**D.S. Dennis** with BPAC; **Nathan Bramley**, **Dhane D. Johnson**, **Colleen Kearns**, **Hetaben Mulani**, **James T. O'Connor**, and **Vishak T. Thomas** with BWS; **Deepak Goel** and **Michael F. McGroarty Jr.** with BWSO; **Tomasz Babulal** with BWT; **Jyotish Shah** with CDBG; **Darlene A. Martinez** with Exec. Office/EEO; and **Dylan M. Hammond** 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).**

## Falcons Released at Neversink Dam



Three New York State endangered peregrine falcons on Monday were released back into the wild at Neversink Dam. The birds of prey had been injured and underwent rehabilitation at The Raptor Trust, a wildlife rehabilitation facility in Millington, NJ, under permission from the NYS DEC. Two of the birds had previously been banded by DEP research scientist **Christopher Nadareski**, Section Chief of Wildlife Studies for the Bureau of Water Supply, who conducted the release. One bird was banded 17 years ago atop the Bayonne Bridge on Staten Island and the other had been banded 5 years ago at the Throgs Neck Bridge in the Bronx. A third bird was found in Manhattan in 2017 and was banded by Nadareski prior to the release. All three birds are associated with the DEP Peregrine Falcon Management Program in cooperation with the NYS DEC. DEP, in partnership with MTA Bridges and Tunnels, has placed nesting boxes on several New York City spans, and some buildings, to provide the birds a safe place to hatch chicks away from human disturbance. The goal of the program is to one day be able to remove the peregrine falcon from the state's endangered species list.

## Longtime DERTA Employee Retires



Congratulations to DEP employee **Elie Saint-Jean**, who is retiring from the agency after 30 years of city service. He started working at DEP as an asbestos inspector for the Bureau of Environmental Compliance and spent the last 22 years as a hazardous materials investigator with the Division of Emergency Response and Technical Assessment (DERTA). DERTA, which operates within the Bureau of Police and Security (BPS), responds to hazardous material emergencies within the city to evaluate the characteristics of the materials involved and make technical decisions concerning containment, abatement and disposal. Saint-Jean was recently feted with a luncheon attended by his DERTA colleagues and BPS Deputy Commissioner **Kevin McBride**.