

Bill de Blasio, Mayor Vincent Sapienza, P.E., Commissioner

# WEEKLY

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### Special Guest Commissioner's Corner



Michael DeLoach Public Affairs & Communications

I am excited to announce that entries for the 33rd annual Water Resources Art Poetry Contest are now being accepted. Second through

twelfth grade students attending public, independent, charter or parochial schools, and those who are home-schooled, in New York City and in the East and West of Hudson watersheds. are invited to create original art and compose poetry that reflects an appreciation for New York's shared water resources.



# Spotlight on Safety

#### **Winter Driving Reminders**

Winter weather can create dangerous roadway conditions that even experienced motorists can have trouble driving through. In fact, snow and ice-related accidents cause more than 1,300 deaths and more than 116,800 injuries each year, according to the U.S Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration).

The leading cause of winter accidents are the following:

- · driving too fast for the weather.
- · windows or mirrors obscured with snow, ice, or fog

- · being in a rush
- · following vehicles too closely
- stopping in a travel lane
- · not knowing your brakes
  - · ABS-steady hard pressure
  - · Non-ABS-pump brakes slowly
- fast acceleration

Make sure you are familiar with the equipment and contact your supervisor or Bureau EHS if you have questions or concerns. For more information on safe winter driving check out AAA's "How to Go on Ice and Snow."

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. HELP IS ON THE WAY.

Entries will be accepted online until March 1, 2019. Last year, about 1,300 New York City and watershed students (grades 2-12) representing 75 schools submitted either original poems or artwork about New York's water resources. Click here to see a gallery of various winning entries from 2018. Students can submit poems and artwork including paintings, collages, threedimensional models, photography, animation, and videos of dance performances, public announcements, and songs based on five central themes: water, the drinking water system, wastewater treatment, harbor water quality, and stewardship/climate change.

DEP's Water Resources Art and Poetry program helps raise awareness about the importance of clean, high-quality drinking water, and what it takes to maintain New York City's water supply and wastewater treatment systems. I'd like to thank BPAC Director of Education Kim Estes-Fradis and her teamfor once again putting together this successful contest, which will certainly inspire the next generation of environmental stewards. I encourage all young New Yorkers to use their artistic abilities to learn about and express the importance of protecting our environment and water resources.





#### \$31M Upgrade for Washington Heights



DEP and DDC are undertaking a \$31 million infrastructure project to upgrade water mains on 50 blocks in Washington Heights, near Highbridge and Harlem River parks. DEP provided the funding for the water main replacement and DDC is managing the project, which is scheduled to be completed in 2021. As part of the project, 12,000 feet of gas mains, which are currently located in the street above the local water mains, are being removed and new gas mains are being installed in a separate part of the street. The water mains underneath, including some that are more than 100 years old, will then be replaced with 12,000 feet of new pipes made of concrete-lined ductile iron, which are more resilient and less prone to breakage than the cast iron pipes typically used decades ago. The project is funded by DEP and Con Edison under the "joint bidding" method of contracting that DDC is promoting to improve the efficiency of infrastructure projects.

### Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday, 26 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Deputy Director for Human Resources **Herb Roth**, Director of Planning and Recruitment **Grace Pigott** (not pictured), HR Specialist **Grace Franco** and HR Specialist **Conor Bulger**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Gustavo M. Pardo-Jimenez and Irmali B. Rivera-Bazan with ACCO; Joan Clark, Brittany D. Hall, Peter Hernandez, Yu Qian, Danielle E. Reyes, Benoni Smith and Jithim A. Thomas with BCS; Selisha Y. Dyal with BEC; Donald Mercado with BEDC; Carleen G. McLaughlin with BPAC; Daniel I. Bendahan, Jonathan T. Denny, Sing Yee Harte, Robert B. Valgean, and Erika J. Villamarin with BWSO; Brian A. Adams and Oronic O. Jin with BWT; David Jhee with CFO/FMC; Ken A. Primo, Thomas Raju, and Mohammad H. Rashid with CFO/OIT; Shelandra C. Doyle with EHS; Delano K. Blagrove with FMC; and Leyshack F. Pol with PS.

## Kick-Off of Right-To-Know Workshops



Businesses and institutions that store hazardous materials have to file their inventories annually with DEP under the City's Right-To- Know law. The Division of Emergency Response and Technical Assessment (DERTA) assists businesses by holding workshops around the city to train them on filing requirements and proper storage of materials to minimize any potential impact and exposure on surrounding communities. Pictured here is DERTA Deputy Director **Joanne Nurse** conducting a workshop that included representatives from hospitals, government agencies, dry cleaners, automotive businesses, and chemical laboratories. DEP will hold six workshops around the city this year.

#### Knicks Host Game for DEP





This month, DEP is celebrating our value of diversity. If you know someone who embodies this value, please send an email by January 22 to <a href="mailto:values@dep.nyc.gov">values@dep.nyc.gov</a>, and include the name of who you are nominating, their bureau, and a brief description of how they embody this value.

We welcome your feedback! To submit an announcement or suggestion, please email us at: <a href="mailto:newsletter@dep.nyc.gov">newsletter@dep.nyc.gov</a>.