

## Winter Changes



With temperatures in the watersheds staying above freezing for much of the winter so far, some seasonal transitions have been happening later than usual. Last week, water quality scientists took the last of the robotic monitoring buoys off Ashokan Reservoir. The buoys are deployed on several reservoirs to provide near real-time water quality data, but they are also prone to damage from ice when it thickens and shifts. The buoy at Ashokan Reservoir will be replaced with a special “under-ice” buoy, which was successfully deployed for the first time last winter. Read more [here](#) and see more photos [here](#).

## Spotlight on Safety

### Recordkeeping Requirements

It's that time of year again – DEP is currently working on the Injury and Illness Report for 2015. The New York State Department of Labor requires all public employers to document and submit recordable injury and illness data annually. For an injury or illness to be recordable, it must generally result in any of the following:

- days away from work, restricted work or transfer to another job

- medical treatment beyond first aid
- loss of consciousness or death

The injuries or illnesses must be recorded on an incident report (SH900.2), within a log (SH900) and on an annual summary (SH 900.1). In addition, DEP is required to keep these records for at least five years and post the annual summary. For more information please see [DEP's Injury & Illness Investigation and Recordkeeping Policy](#).

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



**Eric Landau**, DEP's Acting Deputy Commissioner for the Bureau of Public Affairs and Communication, is a guest commentator this week.

Last week we launched the Department's annual *Water Resources Art and Poetry Contest*, marking the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of one of our most prominent educational programs. Since 1986, the contest has provided a unique venue for young New Yorkers to learn about the importance of protecting our environment while simultaneously developing their own means or artistic expression.

Last year, 1,350 New York City and watershed students from 75 schools submitted either original poems or artwork about New York's water resources. For this year's contest, second through twelfth grade students attending public, independent, charter or parochial schools and/or 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 our shared water resources. Students can submit poems and artwork including paintings, collages, three-dimensional models, photography, animation and videos of dance performances, public service announcements and songs based on five central themes: water, the drinking water system, wastewater treatment, harbor water quality, stewardship and climate change. Entries will be accepted online until March 4, 2016 and a celebration honoring all student participants will take place in May. To view the contest guidelines and resource materials, submit entries online,

see past winners, and learn more about New York City water, visit [nyc.gov/dep/artandpoetry](http://nyc.gov/dep/artandpoetry).

The 2016 contest will focus on five central themes that incorporate STEM disciplines:

- **Water, A Precious Resource:** To highlight the importance of the quality of our tap and harbor water.
- **The New York City Water Supply System:** To understand the history of the NYC drinking water system and watershed protection.
- **The New York City Wastewater Treatment System:** To examine how the City cleans nearly 1.3 billion gallons of wastewater every day.
- **Harbor Water Quality and Healthy Marine Ecosystems:** To explore NYC's surrounding waterways and how we can continue to protect and improve harbor water quality.
- **Water Stewardship and Climate Change:** To bring attention to the value of water and how we can help to protect our environment.

Entries will be judged based on creativity in interpreting one or more of the contest themes, accuracy of information, originality, and skill. An impartial panel of judges will review the entries and select art and poetry winners from each category (grades 2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, and 10-12). I would like to thank our education team, including **Kim Estes-Fradis**, **Robin Sanchez**, **Lakeisha Bradshaw** and **Helene Amato**, for all of their hard work that ensures the program's success. To read more [click here](#) and to see last year's winning entries [click here](#).

## Litter Control for Newtown Creek



In late 2015, DEP began work on a \$30 million project to construct four litter capture devices that will improve the health and aesthetics of Newtown Creek. Much of the trash and debris found in New York Harbor, and its connected waterways, originates as litter discarded on city streets that subsequently gets washed into a catch basin and eventually makes its way into the sewer system. To help keep litter from reaching Newtown Creek, the Bureau of Engineering, Design and Construction began the installation of below-ground capture devices at four key locations within the sewer system in the vicinity of the Creek.

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

The control devices include floating baffles and bending weirs to capture the litter and direct it to a wastewater treatment plant where it can be properly disposed of. Over the last three years, DEP has installed similar facilities along the Bronx River and the Gowanus Canal and they have captured more than 200 tons of litter and debris. Construction of the Newtown Creek facilities is expected to be completed, and the technology activated, in 2017. To read more [click here](#) and to see additional photos [click here](#).

## DEP Future Works



DEP staff is working with Youth Leadership Councils (YLCs) as part of a city-wide initiative established by NYC Service to develop future leaders. YLCs are groups of trained high school and college students that partner with City Agencies and Community Based Organizations to impact individuals and communities with a focus on youth. Through this initiative, DEP created the FutureWorks Program with the goal of working with high school and college students to develop marketing strategies to promote DEP employment opportunities to New York high school students attending vocational schools. Please join us in welcoming the 2016 Future Works Program participants and their mentors: **John Wilson** (BCS), **Briana Lomax-Day** (OD&HR), **Deepan Raju** (Queens Vocational & Technical High School), **Muhammad Usmani** (City College), **Marjan Bahth** (City College), **Raquel Castromante** (Aviation High School), **Antonio Rivoli** (Avenues High School), **Aimee Edwards** (OD&HR), **Stephanie Nan** (Empire State College), and **Aminah Asrafi** (Urban Assembly School For Global Commerce).

For more information about the NYC Youth Leadership Councils, [go here](#).

## Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday, 22 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from First Deputy Commissioner **Steve Lawitts**, and Deputy Director of Human Resources **Herb Roth**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

**Nadine Bryant** with BCS; **James Fensterer** and **Nicholas Mistretta** with BEDC; **Elissa Cushman** with BLA; **Asha Williams** with BWS; **Xiaowei Chen**, **Samuel Chu**, **Vasant Maharaj**, **Jesse Pau** and **Danuta Szweczyk** with BWSO; **Maureen Cauthen**, **Frances Derron**, **Duc Duong**, **Paul Fuentes**, **Mike Ham**, **Hassana Kwari**, **Nicholas Portela**, **Edward Sadikov**, **Jeffrey Santana**, and **Corey Sigur** with BWT; **Shane Dehnart** with Executive; and **Desiree Mercado** with Police & Security.

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