

Special Guest *Commissioner's Corner*



Kevin McBride, DEP's Deputy Commissioner for the Bureau of Police and Security, is a guest commentator this week.

Last week, we announced the opening of the new permanent home of the DEP Police Academy, which trains roughly 30 new recruits each year to protect the

nation's largest unfiltered water supply. DEP announced the acquisition of the building during a ceremony last Thursday, at which we also rededicated the building in memory of the late Staff Sgt. Robert H. Dietz, a Kingston hero whose bravery and valor during World War II earned him the Medal of Honor.

Dietz, a Kingston native, was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military honor, in 1945 for his valor and heroism in World War II. Dietz ran through enemy fire and single handedly opened a road that led to the capture of the German town of Kirchhain, "and left with his comrades an inspiring example of gallantry in the face of formidable odds," his Medal of Honor citation



said. The full citation was read during Thursday's ceremony.

DEP acquired the former Army Reserve Center on Flatbush Avenue after a two-year application and vetting process. The 16,658-square-foot building is located on 4 acres of property less than a mile away from DEP's Kingston laboratory building on Smith Avenue.

The latest class of DEP police recruits began training in the new academy building in late March. The new building includes classroom space, offices for academy and police personnel, and a drill floor that can be used for physical training. DEP police recruits go through a rigorous program that comprises 1,275 hours of training over the span of seven months. Recruits who train at the DEP Police Academy learn law enforcement fundamentals such as criminal procedure law, vehicle and traffic law, penal law and defensive tactics. They also focus on special topics that prepare them to protect the reservoirs, lands and infrastructure that provide high-quality drinking

water to 9.4 million people every day—nearly half the population of the State of New York.

Upon graduation, new recruits and their colleagues in the DEP Police Division are charged with protecting 19 reservoirs, three controlled lakes, more than 165,000 acres of watershed land, roughly 300 miles of aqueducts, 29 water supply dams, 57 bridges, 7 wastewater treatment plants, and more than 280 shafts, chambers, laboratories and other facilities that help the water system function. These facilities and lands stretch across parts of eight counties and roughly 2,000 square miles of watershed.

The DEP Police Division, which was established more than 100 years ago, patrols the watershed by foot, bicycle, all-terrain vehicle, motorcycle, boat and helicopter. It also maintains specially trained units that include a detective bureau, emergency service unit, canine unit and aviation unit.

To see more photos from last week's ceremony [click here](#).

Spotlight on Safety

Slips, Trips, and Falls

In the United States, slips, trips, and falls constitute the majority of general industry accidents, leading to 15 percent of all accidental deaths. They are second only to motor vehicle accidents as a cause of fatalities.

Over the last nine months, DEP has seen a 20 percent increase in the total number of recordable injuries related to slips, trips and falls when compared to the same time-frame from a year earlier. To address this issue, DEP is reviewing operational area jobs where slips, trips and falls are a potential hazard.

Employees can, and should, take the necessary steps to safeguard themselves and their co-workers from these types

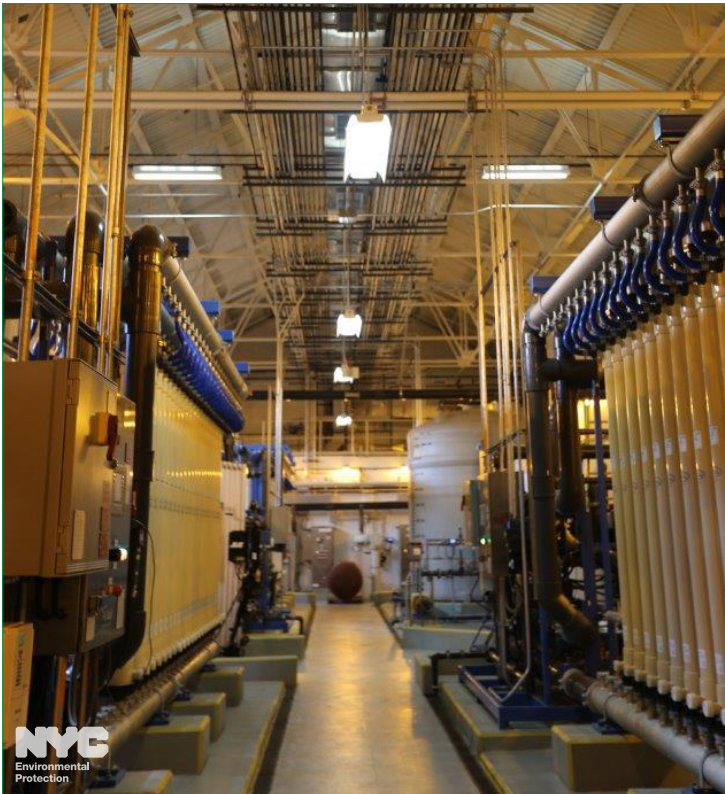
of accidents. Controlling slips, trips, and falls would seem to be a fairly obvious exercise, but the simple avoidance steps are often ignored by employees—such as keeping walkways and stairs free of debris, coiling up extension cords, lines and hoses when not in use, cleaning up after spills, and ensuring the work area has proper lighting. If you see a condition that you cannot personally address, promptly notify your supervisor and take steps to safeguard the area until the hazard can be addressed.

For additional information visit the [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#) and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).

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.



Let There Be Light...



Mayor de Blasio has set the ambitious target of an 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in New York City by 2050, using 2005 as the baseline. At DEP, electricity use makes up the bulk of our annual carbon emissions and, therefore, energy conservation and efficiency measures will play a large role in helping the department meet the carbon reduction goals.



A number of incentive programs have helped to support energy efficiency measures, including the Department of Citywide Administrative Services ExCEL program, which provides expense funding to implement operations and maintenance measures, support long-term energy planning, provide tools and equipment for energy reduction, and increase awareness through training and outreach initiatives. DEP has taken full advantage of this program and has received more than \$500,000 to install more than 9,676 LED lamps at nine wastewater treatment plants (both in the city and upstate), using our own electricians. These efforts will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 287 metric tons and save \$151,224 in electricity costs annually.

Numerous DEP employees have been part of the installation of the LED lamps, including electrical engineer **Dave Meckes**, pictured here at the Margaretville Wastewater Treatment Plant. For more information on how to implement energy and carbon reduction projects, please contact the [DEP Energy Office](#).

Press Box

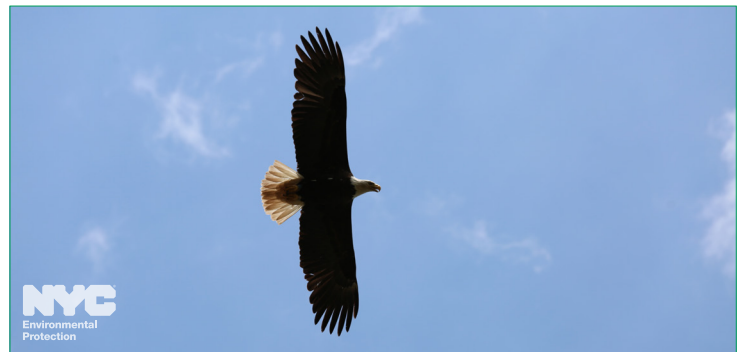


FOR SALE: AGING BOAT THAT HAD AN UNENVIABLE JOB

Kevin Byrnes stood on the bridge of the Newtown Creek, an aging, 300-foot-long tanker that has served New York City since 1967, and looked admiringly down its length. "It's got really nice lines; you can't get a nicer-looking ship of this kind than this," said Mr. Byrnes, chief of marine operations for the city's Department of Environmental Protection, the agency charged with the unenviable but essential task of disposing of the city's sewage... It may not be the most elegant end for the Newtown Creek, he noted, but "the city certainly got its money's worth out of this ship, and then some."

Read the entire New York Times article [here](#).

Did You Know?



Only one pair of eagles was known to nest in all of New York State in 1960, compared to 173 pairs counted in 2010. Recently, ABC 7 reported that the first pair of eagles to nest in New York City have settled on Staten Island. According to ABC 7, "The decision for them to stay and breed in New York City is a reminder that wildlife returns when ecosystems are healthy." To read the story [click here](#).

Going Deep, a Diving Experience

Join us this Monday, April 27, from noon to 1pm for another installment of the DEP Experience, the departments brown bag presentation series. This month, BEDC's **Michael Borsykowsky** and **Gerard Cox** will give a presentation on their experience training with atmospheric diving equipment. Their presentation will include an overview of The Exosuit, a prototype atmospheric diving suit, and the DeepWorker 2000, a single person submarine. The presentation will take place in the LeFrak 3rd floor cafeteria.

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