

## Kudos Corner



The Municipal Engineers of the City of New York recently honored two DEP employees. **Tasos Georgelis**, Deputy Commissioner for the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations (BWSO), was named the Municipal Engineer of the Year and **Natalia Perez**, from the Bureau of Engineering Design and Construction (BEDC), was presented with the Young Engineer of the Year award. Georgelis is a New York State licensed Professional Engineer and holds a Bachelor of Engineering degree from the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art.

He has been with DEP for more than 26 years and oversees BWSO, which is responsible for the operation, maintenance and protection of New York City's drinking water distribution, as well as the management of stormwater and wastewater collection systems. This is accomplished through the Bureau's annual construction program of over \$1 billion in conjunction with the Bureau's operation and maintenance cost of over \$60 million. Perez has been with DEP for six years and is a project manager for BEDC. She obtained her Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Florida and has a Master's Degree in Environmental Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley. She is an Envision Sustainability Professional and a licensed Professional Engineer in New York and California. Congratulations on these well-deserved awards!

## Spotlight on Safety

### Enjoy a Safe Holiday Season

Follow these tips to help ensure a safe holiday season:

- do not stand on a chair to hang decorations—use a stepladder
- never hang decorations from overhead sprinklers
- inspect all lights, decorations, and extension cords for damage before using
- do not overload electrical outlets
- never connect extension cords with each other
- refrain from placing extension cords in high-traffic areas, or under rugs, carpets, or furniture
- never leave burning candles unattended
- never burn candles near trees, curtains, or flammable items
- turn off all indoor and outdoor electrical decorations when you are not home

For more tips, visit the National Safety Council's [Holiday Safety](#) page.

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.

## Commissioner's Corner



**Vincent Sapienza**  
Commissioner

I am pleased to share with all of you that the Delaware Aqueduct Bypass Tunnel [reached the halfway mark](#) almost three weeks ago, as workers 600 feet underground continued to drive eastward toward the Hudson River. The milestone underscores significant progress on the City's \$1 billion effort to repair two leaks in the Delaware Aqueduct. The project is the largest repair in the 176-year history of New York City's water supply system. As we mark the halfway point of tunneling, we are happy to see that the project is on schedule and on budget.

The massive \$30M tunnel boring machine is now located less than one-half mile from the western edge of the Hudson River, hundreds of feet below the surface in the Town of Newburgh. The tunnel boring machine has mined approximately 6,200 feet of the bypass tunnel thus far. According to data tracked by DEP, the machine excavated 85 linear feet on its most productive day, 319.9 feet during its best week, and 939.8 feet during its most productive



month. DEP began mining the tunnel in December 2017. Workers are currently on schedule to finish tunneling next winter.

As the tunnel boring machine pushes forward, it also lines the shale and limestone bedrock with precast rings of concrete. A total of 1,238 concrete rings have been installed by the machine thus far. Once mining is finished, the tunnel will also be lined with steel and a second layer of concrete. This "triple-pass" design will provide the bypass tunnel with structural stability and prevent leaks from occurring again in the future.

I want to thank all DEP staff and local laborers involved with this massive repair effort, which is critical for the long-term reliability of the water supply system that sustains 9.6 million New Yorkers every day. Keep up the good work!



This month, DEP is celebrating our value of support. If you know someone who embodies this value, please send an email by December 14 to [values@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:values@dep.nyc.gov) and include the name of who you are nominating, their bureau, and a brief description of how they embody this value.



## Updating Your ID Card



If your Employee ID card expires in 2019, please plan to have a new agency [photo ID card](#) issued by the Bureau of Police & Security. Be forewarned that all access privileges are shut off once your card expires. Employees can come in up to 30 days prior to their ID's expiration date to obtain their new ID, which can be issued at the following locations:

**Lefrak Low Rise:** Security Office at 96-05 Horace Harding Expressway, Flushing, NY; Mon-Fri 9am-noon and 2-5pm. No appointment is required.

Upstate employees must contact one of the email addresses listed below to set up a photo ID appointment. You will receive an email confirmation within 2-3 business days.

**East-of-Hudson:** Eastview Precinct, 2 Walker Rd, Valhalla, NY. Contact [id\\_cards\\_east@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:id_cards_east@dep.nyc.gov) for an appointment.

**West-of-Hudson:** Downsville Precinct, 40 NYC Hwy 30A, Downsville, NY. Contact [id\\_cards\\_west@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:id_cards_west@dep.nyc.gov) for an appointment.

## New Hydroelectric Plant for Upstate



DEP recently announced plans to build a [\\$34 million hydroelectric plant](#) at Cannonsville Reservoir. The 6-megawatt facility will generate enough renewable electricity to power more than 3,500 homes annually by harnessing the force of water that is continuously released downstream of the reservoir. DEP expects to complete the 4,400-square-foot hydroelectric facility by 2025. The proposed hydroelectric plant will include two 3-megawatt generators inside a 4,400-square-foot powerhouse adjacent to the West Delaware Release Chamber. The turbines will generate an estimated 32,000 megawatt hours of electricity each year—enough to power 3,547 homes, or the equivalent of taking 5,068 passenger vehicles off the road. The plant will avoid the emission of 23,666 metric tons of carbon dioxide per year. Electricity produced at the plant will be introduced into the grid through a new substation that will be constructed several hundred yards downstream of the dam. The project will create dozens of construction jobs, several full-time jobs to operate the finished plant, and it will generate hundreds of thousands of dollars in new property tax revenue for the Town of Deposit and the Deposit Central School District.

## DEP Police Promote Four Veterans



Four veteran environmental police officers were recently promoted during a ceremony at the Staff Sgt. Robert H. Dietz DEP Police Academy in Kingston, NY. Sergeant **Andreas Ortiz** was promoted to the rank of lieutenant, Detective **Michael Upshaw** was promoted to the rank of sergeant, and officers **James Dipietrantonio** and **Giuseppe Multari** were promoted to the rank of detective. The DEP Police Division was established more than 100 years ago. Its 220 members are charged with protecting 19 reservoirs, three controlled lakes, more than 185,000 acres of watershed land, roughly 300 miles of aqueducts, 29 water supply dams, 57 bridges, seven wastewater treatment plants, and more than 280 shafts, chambers, laboratories and treatment 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. DEP Police patrol the watershed by foot, bicycle, all-terrain vehicle, boat, and helicopter. They also maintain specially trained units, including a Detective Bureau, Emergency Service Unit, Canine Unit, and Aviation Unit.

## Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday, 15 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 Generalist **Conor Bulger**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

**Edward Banilover** with ACCO; **Donnie Thompson** with BCS; **Antwan L. Gibbs** with BEC; **Paige L. Eastwood** and **Desveroleth Q. Nesbeth** with BEDC; **Dana H. Taplin** with BEPA; **James T. Mangarillo** and **Marlene Ortiz** with BWS; **Matthew J. Daidone**, **Danlummy Francois** and **Kevin Jairam** with BWSO; **Dulce Lisle** with EH&S; **Michael J. Dawkins** with OD&HR; **Eric M. Schwartz** with OIT; and **Jean-Richard Beauharnais** 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).**