

There's No Draggin' From These Dragons



The 23rd Annual Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival was held on August 10 and 11 at Flushing Meadows Corona Park and a team of DEP employees, called the Dragon Pipers, raced in the Municipal Cup division. This was the second year for the DEP Dragon Boat team and they raced against six teams of other government employees, including the FDNY, NYPD, and New York State Chinese Auxiliary Police Association. Teams are made up of paddlers seated in pairs in a long, narrow boat with a head and tail carved to look like a mythical dragon. A drummer sits at the head of the boat and sets a rhythm to help the paddlers stay in sync while another team member steers the

boat from the rear. Give them a pat on the back for their top 4 finish! This year's DEP team members included **Johnny Huy Hoang** and **Michael Shum**, OIT; Captain **David Lin**, Co-captain **Amanda Low**, **Ambica Parbattie Passant**, **Jairo Avila**, **Wanda Chang**, **Daniel Chou**, **Eric Johnson**, and **Helen Ann Markewich**, BWSO; **Yu-Tung Chan**, BWT; **Christopher Gallegos** and **Andrew Ng**, BEDC; **Raymond Palmares**, **Callie Siu**, and **Derick Tanning**, BEPA; **Mary Lam**, FMC; and **Horace Zhang**, **Cavy Chu**, and **Denise Pisani**, Mayor's Office. If you are interested in learning more about the team, please e-mail [David Lin](#). [Click here](#) to view additional photos of the team practicing and on race day.

Spotlight on Safety

Keep it clear!

Do you know where all the exits are in your work area? Knowing the exit routes could keep you safe during an emergency.

It is also essential that exit routes are kept clear. Faulty carpeting, material storage, and spills along an exit route can lead to slips, trips, and falls, and delays in egress during an emergency. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

requires that exit routes be free and unobstructed by materials, equipment, or locked doors. Exit points must also be at least 28 inches wide at all points and objects that project into the exit must not reduce its width.

Keep it clear! If you notice the exit route in your workspace has been obstructed, contact your bureau EHS Officer.

Click on [OSHA General Facts-Exits](#) for more information.

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

Paul Rush, Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Water Supply, is guest commentator this week.

After a relatively cool start to the month, New York City may see temperatures in the 90s again this week. In the Bureau of Water Supply (BWS), we pay close attention to the temperature because when it gets hot, New York City gets thirsty for more water. In July the city experienced a record-setting heat wave and the temperatures compelled noticeable changes here in the Bureau of Water Supply, including changes to the amount of water we supply to New Yorkers, releases into local water bodies, and precautions to ensure the safety of our workers.

The most noticeable effect went right to the heart of our mission: New Yorkers were consuming more water. Customers of the water supply generally demand about 1 billion gallons each day. During the heat wave, however, New Yorkers used more than 1.26 billion gallons. That's more than a 25 percent increase in demand for drinking water. To ensure there was enough water, BWS operations staff sent some 1.5 billion gallons to Hillview Reservoir on the hottest days.

High temperatures also affected New York City's water releases into the Delaware River. On July 16—the third day of the heat wave—the city and the four states along the Delaware River that comprise the decree parties agreed to make extra releases of cold water into the river. This temporary program released an additional 300 cubic feet per second from Cannonsville Reservoir for two days.

The releases were aimed at protecting the cold-water fishery, especially trout, by keeping water temperatures as low as possible in the upper main stem of the Delaware River. The Office of the Delaware River Master was directed to study the releases to see if they achieved their intended effect.



Because fish are sensitive to changes in water temperature, DEP staff also checked our reservoirs for fish kills – the term used to describe large groups of fish dying at the same time. This can happen when high temperatures lead to reduced oxygen levels or affect a fish's immunological response to fighting disease.

BWS natural resources staff checked the reservoirs during this recent period of heat, but no fish kills were observed. They suspect that record rainfall in June might have helped.

Heat safety was also a priority for BWS, and for all DEP employees, as temperatures stayed in the 90s. Our compliance directorate distributed additional safety information on both heat-related illnesses and working safely in the heat. They also helped to modify some work activities to focus on indoor work during the hottest parts of the day, while rescheduling non-critical outdoor work.

Outdoor work that was necessary included extra shade and water breaks. During the heat wave, zero heat-related injuries or illnesses were reported—another indication that BWS was successful in beating the heat.

As temperatures rise again this week, I want to remind everyone to be mindful of heat-related injuries and illness and to drink plenty of water. Here at BWS, we will make sure there is plenty to go around.

Focus on the Field



For 26 years, Stationery Engineer Electric **Charlie Tandoi** has worked to protect New York City's environment and public health. Tandoi joined DEP's Bureau of Wastewater Treatment as a Sewage Treatment Worker and seven years later was promoted to Senior Sewage Treatment Worker. In 2003, he was promoted to his current position.

Tandoi currently oversees operations, maintenance, and contracts for the dewatering facility at the Hunts Point Wastewater Treatment Plant in the Bronx. Dewatering is one of the final steps in the treatment process and it reduces the liquid volume of digested sludge by about 90 percent.

DEP operates dewatering facilities at six of its 14 treatment plants and, in addition to its own plant's sludge, Hunts Point also handles sludge from the Newtown Creek and North River plants, totaling two million gallons a day. To handle the volume, Tandoi and his team operate up to 10 centrifuges 24 hours a day.

Digested sludge enters the large centrifuges as a liquid and, like the spin cycle of a clothes washing machine, the centrifugal force separates most of the water from the solids and creates

a cake like substance known as a biosolid. The remaining liquid, or centrate, that is drawn from the spinning process is returned to the head of the plant for treatment.

Operating the large centrifuges and dewatering the sludge is a necessary step in the treatment process, but it also requires a great deal of energy. Recently, as part of the Operational Excellence initiative, Tandoi has been working with the plant's supervisors on finding efficiencies in the operation and maintenance of the dewatering facility. "It's been a real team effort to work through the challenges and identify even more efficient ways to protect our waterways," said Tandoi.

After a thorough analysis and trial period, one area where the team has found success is in removing additional water from the biosolids. By adjusting the hydraulic pressure during the operation of the centrifuges, an energy neutral maneuver, the team has produced a lighter and drier product, and thereby reduced removal costs.

"Charlie is a reliable and extremely competent dewatering engineer," said Hunts Point Plant Chief **William Schroder**. "He adapted quickly to all the challenges of the OpX initiatives and his dedication is a credit to the department and the City of New York."

Tandoi has called the Whitestone neighborhood of Queens his hometown for all his life and outside of work he pursues many interests including travelling, but he particularly enjoys spending time with friends and family.

NYC Water is Mmm Mmm Good!

Earlier this month, New York City's tap water was judged to be the best tasting in the region. The NYS State Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention sponsored a Regional Tap Water Taste Test competition at the American Museum of Natural History in Manhattan that pitted New York City's tap water against drinking water suppliers from Westchester, Nassau, and Suffolk counties. More than 80 museum visitors sampled tap

water from the four suppliers and ranked them by taste. New York City's tap water was judged to be the best tasting, followed by water from Mount Vernon in Westchester, West Hempstead in Nassau County, and tap water supplied by the Suffolk County Water Authority. After winning the Regional Taste Test competition, New York City tap water will next compete in a state-wide contest to be held in Syracuse, N.Y. on Aug. 29. See NY1's coverage of the story [here](#).

Hotel Challenge

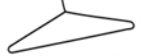


Last week, Commissioner **Carter Strickland** joined **George Fertitta**, CEO of NYC & Company, **Joseph E. Spinnato**, CEO of the Hotel Association of New York City, and **Stephen Caputo** from the Mayor's Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability to announce that eleven of the city's premier hotels have joined the New York City Hotel Water Conservation Challenge. As part of the challenge, each hotel will reduce their annual water consumption by 5 percent and thereby save a total of

approximately 13 million gallons of water each year. The hotels participating in the challenge include: The Waldorf-Astoria, The Ritz-Carlton Central Park, The Intercontinental Times Square, The Intercontinental Barclay New York, The Millennium Broadway, Tryp NYC, Sheraton TriBeca, New Yorker Hotel, Grand Hyatt New York, Holiday Inn Express, and the Carlton Hotel. [Click here](#) for a photo of Commissioner Strickland with the Bureau of Environmental Planning and Analysis' Demand Management Team.



Employee Store



The Employee Store is coming to you!

Stop by one of the selling events below to view the entire collection of affordable DEP merchandise and apparel. We don't accept cash so don't forget your checkbooks!

All employees are welcome to shop at any of these events. And don't worry if you can't make it—we will be visiting other DEP locations soon.

Thursday, August 22

Newtown Creek WWTP
2:00 - 4:00pm
2nd fl multimedia rm, support bldg

Tuesday, August 27

LeFrak
1:00 - 2:00pm
3rd fl cafeteria

Monday, August 26

Wards Island WWTP
2:00 - 4:00pm
Main lobby, new admin bldg

Wednesday, August 28

Sutton Park, Valhalla
12:00 - 2:00pm
3rd fl large conference rm

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