

Spotlight on Safety

New York City recognized Construction Safety Week earlier this spring and its Build Safe/Live Safe Conference showcased the Department of Building's (DOB) engineers, architects, and construction experts who discussed recent industry trends and presented a vision for the future of construction in the city.

For the second year, DEP had a booth at the conference that showcased the Bureau of Engineering, Design and Construction's (BEDC) Employee Health and Safety (EHS) Field Guide and Management System program, as well as Pipeline, EHS Matters, and DEP's new Sustainability newsletter. A running video also highlighted some of DEP's prominent projects, including the Catskill/Delaware Ultraviolet Disinfection Facility and the repair of the Delaware Aqueduct Rondout-West Branch Tunnel. It was a successful week, as the Occupational Safety & Health Administration, DOB, contractors, and consultants were able to familiarize themselves with DEP's extensive EHS program.

BEDC also distributed a daily newsletter that focused on different safety topics and held an internal contest where staff was tasked with identifying any non-compliant



EHS issues in construction photos. The two winners, **Brian Davitt** and **Moustapha Saylani**, were recognized by Deputy Commissioner **Kathryn Mallon**.

BEDC contractors also held events at DEP construction sites that focused on raising safety awareness and establishing a culture of compliance. The contractors continue to improve their safety programs and we are proud that they are embracing BEDC's new EHS Management System.

Although there is only one week during the year that recognizes construction safety, DEP is always looking for ways to improve safety performance in and around its construction sites.

Click here [for more information on construction safety.](#)

Above and Beyond



During the last month, the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations has recognized Field Operations personnel who displayed exceptional dedication before, during, and after Hurricane Sandy. These employees worked long shifts in

often difficult conditions to ensure that DEP's critical work got done and the department's exemplary response to the storm would not have been possible without their hard work. Click here to view additional photos [.](#)

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



Welcome back from what I hope was a relaxing three-day weekend. Memorial Day marks the beginning of the summer, and last Friday I joined **Mayor Bloomberg** at Coney Island to kick off the season by re-opening New York City beaches for the first time since Hurricane Sandy. More than 20 million people are expected to visit New York City beaches this summer and across city government, agencies did amazing work to ensure our beaches were open for the Memorial Day weekend. In total, the city invested more than \$270 million to repair the beaches and make them more resilient to storms, and an additional \$386 million has been committed to restore boardwalks and invest in shoreline protection measures.

Our Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations (BWSO) played an important role in this effort by connecting more than a dozen modular buildings at city beaches with water and sewer services that will give visitors access to clean drinking water and restrooms, and allow them to have a shower after a long day on the beach. BWSO crews are also working to upgrade water mains, catch basins, sewers, and natural wetlands in areas that were damaged by Hurricane Sandy. I'd like to thank Deputy Commissioner **Kathryn Garcia** and BWSO's **Sam Luksich** for their leadership on this initiative.

For the beach season to be a success it is important for our waterways to be safe for bathers. Thanks to the enormous investments we have made in wastewater treatment upgrades and improvements in managing stormwater, the health of our waterways continues to improve to levels not seen in more than a century. And, despite the extensive dam-

age Sandy caused to our treatment plants and pump stations, DEP was able to treat 99 percent of all wastewater within four days of the storm, and 100 percent of all wastewater within two weeks. Thanks to the hard work of the bureaus of Wastewater Treatment and Engineering, Design and Construction, beachgoers this summer will enjoy clean water to swim or cool off in.

For New Yorkers who prefer to spend their summer weekends boating or fishing, we recently announced some great additions to our recreational programs in the Watersheds. This year, two new initiatives will further expand boating opportunities as part of DEP's effort to make the reservoirs more accessible and encourage tourism in the Catskills. April 1 marked the beginning of a pilot program that, for the first time, permits the use of electric trolling motors for fishing on the Cannonsville Reservoir. DEP has also partnered with the Catskill Watershed Corporation to purchase 30 boat storage racks that will be installed at four reservoirs to allow businesses that rent recreational boats to store them onshore, making it easier for residents and vacationers to rent kayaks and canoes.

For those more interested in hiking, jogging or cycling, last Friday DEP reopened the path atop the Cross River Dam for the first time since 1996. The dirt path, located in the Town of Bedford, is roughly one-quarter mile long, and connects approximately eight to 10 miles of trails that are often used by local residents and visitors for outdoor recreation.

The summer months are a great time to enjoy New York's natural resources and, thanks to the hard work and dedication of our nearly 6,000 employees, there are now more opportunities than ever.

Focus on the Field



The Bureau of Customer Services' Bronx Borough Manager **Jamilla Rosa** started her career at DEP as a cooperative education student more than 25 years ago. A Bronx native, Rosa's first assignment was in her home borough and she has spent most of her time with DEP there. After graduating from school, she began as an office aide and then was promoted several times, holding the positions of clerical associate, chief clerk, and now, borough manager.

Managing one of DEP's borough offices keeps Rosa busy and helping customers resolve complicated issues is particularly rewarding to her. The office handles a variety of issues including water and sewer billing, inspections, repairs, detailed information on incentives and payment options, permitting for water and sewer hook-ups, and hydrant permits for construction activity and community green thumb sites. Rosa sees to it that both the inspections and

clerical staff are ready to serve the public. Visitors to the office include homeowners, licensed plumbers, engineers, and contractors.

She notes that the introduction of new programs, such as payment plans with no money down and Automated Meter Reading (AMR) technology, have improved the customer service experience for both customers and her staff. "AMR's have significantly reduced the number of estimated bills and have made it easier for both customers and staff to have up-to-the-minute information on water use," said Rosa. "By notifying customers of possible leaks on their property, the technology has helped save them money." Rosa strives to ensure that every customer is ultimately satisfied when they walk out the door. "I enjoy being able to help people and my goal is to make sure our customers have a full understanding of how we arrive at their bill," she said.

"Jamilla is an extremely knowledgeable and dedicated manager who embraces challenges as opportunities to grow," notes **Owen Marshall**, Director of Field Operations. "I don't think there's a single task performed by anyone on her staff that she couldn't perform herself if called upon to do so."

In her spare time, Rosa enjoys spending time at home with her family and friends. She's also an avid reader and New York Knicks fan.

Welcome Aboard



Earlier this morning, nine new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Deputy Commissioners **Steve Lawitts** and **Diana Jones Ritter**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Kenneth DeRose, **Jason Ishari**, **Natasha Smith**, and **Kaliaeja Taylor** with BWS; **Mary Bambino** and **Rita Chang** with BEDC; **Wesley I. Colvin III** with BEPA; **Julieann D. Lee** with ACCO; and **Fanny Tang** with BPS.

Protecting the Water Supply



A turbidity curtain, designed to trap runoff and allow sediment to settle, was recently installed along the northern section of the Kensico Reservoir, known as Pleasantville Cove. This was among several areas around the reservoir that suffered extensive tree damage during Hurricane Sandy. Upwards of 70 percent of the evergreens that were originally planted when the reservoir was built roughly a century ago were either felled or damaged, and work is underway to remove the trees and sell much of the timber. Read an earlier Pipeline article [here](#). The turbidity curtain will remain in place until the new plantings are complete and the soil is stable.

Time and the Valleys Museum



Last week, **Commissioner Strickland** joined **Richard Coombe**, President of the Time and the Valleys Museum in Grahamsville, to celebrate the opening of a new exhibit called "Tunnels, Toil & Trouble: New York City's Quest for Water and the Rondout-Neversink Story."

Special contributions to the exhibit came from the family of **Charlie Laing**, senior property manager who works for BWS out of the Kingston office, as well as **Dave Warne** and **Kim Estes-Fradis**. **Sean McAndrew's** daughter **Gail** sang the national anthem at the opening ceremony. Also in attendance were two former DEP commissioners, **Al Appleton** and **Marilyn Gelber**, as well as **Alan Rosa** from the Catskill Watershed Corporation. **Robert F. Kennedy Jr.**, an environmental attorney, was the keynote speaker.

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