

## DEP Aviation Aces Visit School



Co-pilot John Sweeney of the DEP Police Aviation Unit addresses an audience of Highland Middle School students.

**M**embers of the DEP Police Aviation Unit landed a helicopter on the athletic field behind Highland Middle School in Ulster County on May 18 to participate in a program that connects classroom learning with real-life work experiences. Co-pilots **Ralph Pineda** and **John Sweeney** gave students an up-close look at the aircraft and fielded inquiries from curious middle schoolers during a question-and-answer session. The DEP Police Officers shared specifics about the helicopter's capabilities and regaled students with tales of their adventures in the air. The visit coincided with a Highland Middle School technology class recently completing a unit focusing on aviation.

## Spring Fling Challenge



Congratulations to the DEP's Bureau of Wastewater Treatment (BWT) employees that competed in the New Jersey Water Environmental Association (NJWEA) Spring Fling Operations Challenge 2016, held during NJWEA's 101<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference and Exposition on May 16 - May 17 at Bally's Casino in Atlantic City. In addition to the **Jamaica Sludge Hustlers** and the **26th Ward Unflushables**, there was one team from Ontario, Canada; three from Virginia; two from Ohio; one from New Jersey; one from Long Island, and one from Rochester. Jamaica won 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall. They took 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Safety event and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Collections event. 26<sup>th</sup> Ward came in 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall. They took 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Pump event, 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Collections event and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Lab event. The competition served as a nice warm-up as the teams, which were the two highest-scoring teams at the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Operations Challenge, prepare to compete on June 6 and 7 at the New England & New York Water Environment Joint Conference in Mystic, Conn.

## Commissioner's Corner

This week's Commissioner's Corner was written by Acting Commissioner **Steven Lawitts**.

I am pleased to announce the appointment of **Pam Elardo, P.E.**, as our new Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Wastewater Treatment (BWT). Pam comes to us from Seattle. She is a certified Wastewater Treatment Operator and has spent 30 years in wastewater treatment and environmental management. Prior to joining DEP, Pam served as the Director of the Wastewater Treatment Division of the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, where she spent a total of 15 years. Before that, Pam worked for 15 years at the Washington State Department of Ecology, which performs a role in Washington State that is similar to the Department of Environmental Conservation in New York State. She brings to DEP a deep knowl-

edge of the field and its challenges, a sensitivity to the impact our decisions have on ratepayers, and a commitment to collaboration—within BWT, DEP and City government, and across NYC's diverse and active communities.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank **John Petito** for so ably fulfilling the role of Acting Deputy Commissioner for nearly 1½ years. I hope you will all join me in welcoming Pam to DEP.



## Spotlight On Safety

### June is "National Safety Month"

In the US, nearly 4 million people each year suffer non-fatal occupational injuries and illnesses, and in 2014 there were 4,821 work-related fatalities. National Safety Month (NSM) focuses on reducing leading causes of injury and death at work, on the roads, and in our homes and communities. NSM's theme for 2016 is staying "**Safe for Life**"—highlighting the steps we can take to live safe and healthy lives, both in the workplace and at home.

Each week in June will feature a different safety topic, and this year's topics include:

- **Week One:**  
Stand Ready to Respond
- **Week Two:**  
Be Healthy
- **Week Three:**  
Watch Out for Dangers
- **Week Four:**  
Share Roads Safely

The National Safety Council encourages organizations and its employees to participate in National Safety Month. To learn more, visit the [National Safety Council's website](#).

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.

## NYC Management Academy



The NYC Management Academy is designed specifically for the City's new and emerging leaders with the goal of exposing participants to exceptional management practices and offering them a fuller understanding of the formal and informal processes that drive City government. Through workshops and opportunities to apply new skills and knowledge, the Academy prepares its participants to meet the unique demands of managing in City government. Congratulations to DEP's most recent graduates of the Academy. Pictured from left to right are Deputy Commissioner **Diana Jones Ritter** (Bureau of Organizational Development & Human Resources), Deputy Commissioner **Nancy Cianflone**, **Vincent Mattarella** (Bureau of Customer Services), **Walid Harrouch**, **Dennis Stanford**, Deputy Commissioner **Vincent Sapienza** (Bureau of Engineering Design and Construction), and **Acting Commissioner Steven Lawitts**. Applications to participate in the next Academy class will be available in February 2017. Keep checking [The Source](#) for a first-hand look at the Academy from recent DEP graduates.

## Spring Blood Drive

# EMERGENCY BLOOD SHORTAGE

Please help by donating now.  
Call 800-933-2566

or visit [www.nybloodcenter.org/blood](http://www.nybloodcenter.org/blood)  
Thank you!

 **New York**  
Blood Center

The New York Blood Center is experiencing a serious shortage in blood supply due to a fall-off in donations. To help ensure that blood will be available to those who need it, DEP is hosting blood drives at the below location and times. Donors with an O-negative blood type, or "universal donors," are especially urged to give because their blood can be transferred to anyone.

**Lefrak:** 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Training Room, 6/7, 6/8 and 6/9, 7:45am to 1:45pm;  
**Grahamsville Region Area:** Grahamsville Fire House, 6/29, 9:00am to 3:00pm; **Downsville Region Area:** Downsville Fire Hall, 6/8, 9:00am to 2:00pm; **Kensico/Highland Regions - Sutton Park Area:** Sutton Park-2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Large Training Room, 6/16, 8:30am to 2:30pm;  
**Kingston/Catskill Area:** 51 Albany Avenue, 6/7 from 12:00 to 6pm, and 6/8 from 1:00pm to 6:00pm.

## Diversity Day 2016 – Teaser



Board of Water Supply, Manhattan Division, City Water Tunnel No. 1, Contract 67. Tunnel excavation was done by drill and blast method. Here the drills are turned away from the heading to drill the bench beneath the workers feet. Next, the drill holes will be filled with explosives to shoot out the rock. May 23, 1913

Each year the EEO Office and EEO Diversity Committee sponsor an agency-wide event that celebrates the achievements and diversity of our workforce. This coming fall, the committee will organize a gallery exhibit for DEP's 4<sup>th</sup> annual event. The exhibit will feature photographs depicting the agency's various projects and work duties since the 19th century, and the diverse employees who made it all possible.

Employees can view a sampling of what to expect this fall by visiting the long corridor connecting the High-Rise and Low-Rise LeFrak buildings. The EEO Office recently displayed six historical photographs which, in addition to exemplifying the employees' hard work and tremendous contributions, showcase the agency's diversity in terms of ethnicity, nationality, and skill sets. We encourage everyone to take a moment to view these captivating photographs and be on the lookout for upcoming announcements about this year's Diversity Celebration.

## Customer Service Awards

Kudos to the two DEP employees who were recognized at the 2015 Mayor's Customer Service Excellence Awards, held on May 10 at Surrogate's Court in Manhattan. **Kathyrine Garcia** of the Bureau of Customer Services was honored as an Agency Award Recipient for exemplifying the customer service values of respect, timeliness, and quality. **Sean Umland** of the Bureau of Fleet Services was presented with a Special Recognition: Vision Zero-Safe Driver award for his exemplary driving record and a commitment to safety that embodies the spirit of Vision Zero. The morning program included remarks from Mindy Tarlow, Director of the Mayor's Office of Operations; Anthony Shorris, First Deputy Mayor; Richard Buery, Deputy Mayor for Strategic Policy Initiatives, and Lisette Camilo, Commissioner of the Department of Citywide Administrative Services. [Click here](#) to see photos from the event

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