

## Kudos Corner



The Municipal Engineers of the City of New York recently honored **Erika Jozwiak**, Acting Sustainability Section Chief from the Bureau of Engineering Design and Construction (BEDC), with the Young Engineer of the Year Award. **Steven Lawitts** (second from left), Executive Vice President of the School Construction Authority and Former Acting Commissioner of DEP, presented Jozwiak with the honor in recognition of her outstanding work which has resulted in a measurable impact on the agency's contributions to OneNYC goals. Also among those in attendance from DEP were (from left to right) **Tasos Georgelis**, Deputy Commissioner BWSO, **Mark Klein**, Acting Director of the Program Management Office in BEDC, **Lindsay Degueldre**, Executive Program Manager for BEDC, and **Aris Georgelis**, director of the Office of Engineering Audits. The dinner-dance celebration was held last Friday at Terrace on the Park in Flushing Meadow Park. Congrats on this distinguished honor!

## Spotlight on Safety

### Have a Safe Thanksgiving Holiday

During Thanksgiving, or other holidays during the year, many people may overlook food safety when preparing a large meal. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the following steps to keep you and your family safe from foodborne illness:

- Clean/wash your hands, work surfaces, utensils and pots/pans before, during, and after preparing food.
- Separate raw meat, poultry, seafood, and eggs from ready-to-eat foods. Use separate cutting boards and keep raw meat away from other foods in your shopping cart and refrigerator.
- Cook food to the correct internal temperature to kill harmful bacteria. Use a food thermometer.
- Keep your refrigerator below 40°F. Refrigerate leftovers within two hours of cooking (or within one hour if food is exposed to a temperature above 90°F, like in a hot car).

For more information visit the [CDC website](#), and have a safe and healthy Thanksgiving!

## Commissioner's Corner



**Vincent Sapienza**  
Commissioner

DEP is a 24/7/365 operation and we got a good reminder of that on this past Sunday morning. Weather predictions for Sunday called for chilly temperatures and light rain, all good reasons to stay in bed and enjoy an extra hour of sleep or two. But shortly after 6am, the call came into the Emergency Communications Center of a possible water main break in the Sunset Park neighborhood of Brooklyn. A crew from the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations' (BWSO) was dispatched to the scene in order to investigate, but television news stations were already reporting video of a large amount of water bursting from the roadway at the intersection of 44<sup>th</sup> Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

As crews began to map out which valves needed to be located and closed in order to shut-off the water and stop the leak it became clear that there were several water mains running under 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, ranging in size from 48-inches to 12-inches. In order to stop the water leak, crews would need to shut several of the mains. Additional BWSO crews were called in to help with this task and after a few hours of concentrated work, around 11am the flow of water finally started to subside. Luckily, there were no injuries, relatively few reports of basement flooding and no impact to subway service on the nearby 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue lines.

Now that the water was off, crews immediately began to pump out the area of the break and conduct their investigation. Bottled water was made available to the public and Community Affairs staff went door to door to provide claim forms to anyone who may have had property damage. Work continued into the evening on Sunday and on a rolling basis we started to restore water service to the area. By 9:30am on Monday all homeowners and businesses had water service. Click [here](#) to see more of their work.

I'd like to thank all of BWSO for their hard work in tough conditions on Sunday. In particular I'd like to recognize the efforts of **Greg Tolwinski**, **Jason Seminara**, **Sham Hemraj**, **Ray Stevens**, **Tom Cozza**, **Joe Pando**, **Joe Sedita**, **Robert Gordon**, **Frank Bondi**, **Anthony Vitale**, **Joe Bellafiore**, **Gil Sanchez**, **Anthony Cammarata**, **John DiBartolo**, **Stefan Voglio**, **Henry Icaza**, **Alex Beckles**, **Dom Montelli**, **Steve Gerbino**, **Tom Delaney**, **Corbett Garret**, **Mustafa Emon**, **Vejay Budhu**, **Tadeusz Kuzmicki**, **Anthony Gorman**, **Mike Haynes**, **Allan Mohammed**, **Danny Loiacono**, **Tyrone Lee**, **Chris Gaw**, **Jerry Dowbrowski**, **Nick Zarcone**, **Anthony Gentilella**, **Natan Mandelbaum**, **Neil Bisciello**, **Adrian Allen**, **Dennis Delaney**, **Mike Sullivan**, **Anthony Marchese**, **Marc Greenberg**, **Fred Chyke-Okpuzor**, **Jerry Fragias**, **Mike Farnan** and **Tasos Georgelis**.

And I'd like to wish the entire DEP family a safe, restful and Happy Holiday!



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 [EHS EMPLOYEE CONCERNS](#). HELP IS ON THE WAY.

## More Watershed Recreation



DEP has opened access this year to 2,956 additional acres of water supply land where outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy low-impact recreation. The expanded access includes 1,168 acres on nine new parcels of recreation land, and 1,788 acres that were added to existing recreation areas throughout the Catskills and Hudson Valley. With the state's regular hunting season underway, watershed residents and visitors are encouraged to utilize the approximately 98,000 acres of water supply land managed by DEP that are open for hunting. That includes more than 71,000 acres known as "public access areas" that are open for hiking, hunting,

and trapping without the need for a DEP Access Permit. Parcels open for hunting are spread across nearly 400 recreation areas in Delaware, Dutchess, Greene, Putnam, Schoharie, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester counties. More information about each of these recreation units—including directions, printable maps and more—can be found by visiting DEP's interactive RecMapper at [nyc.gov/dep/recmap](https://nyc.gov/dep/recmap). Additional information about recreation on water supply lands can be found at [nyc.gov/dep/recreation](https://nyc.gov/dep/recreation). Hunters who are unclear about what activities are allowed in each unit may also call (800) 575-LAND during regular business hours.

## Rain Gardens in Cambria Heights



Work is under way to add approximately 200 specially designed curbside rain gardens to the southeast Queens neighborhoods of Cambria Heights and Queens Village in order to reduce roadway flooding and improve the health of Jamaica Bay. Each rain garden has the capacity to collect and absorb up to 2,500 gallons of stormwater each time it rains, thereby reducing the volume of stormwater runoff draining to Jamaica Bay. It is estimated that the 200 rain gardens will capture over 20 million gallons of stormwater annually. Construction began earlier this year and it is anticipated that work will be completed in 2021. Over the last several years more than 4,000 rain gardens have been built across the city.

## Chinatown Gets a Green Playground



DEP's Deputy Commissioner for Sustainability **Angela Licata** joined Monday with City Council Member **Margaret Chin**, the Trust for Public Land, students and teachers to cut the ribbon on a new, student-designed green playground at P.S. 184M in Manhattan's Chinatown. The playground, which will help increase resiliency, reduce flooding and improve the environment, was built in partnership with the Mayor's Office of Resiliency. DEP provided \$615,000 for the installation of green infrastructure design elements that will annually capture 1.3 million gallons of stormwater runoff and help improve the health of the East River. The \$1.7 million playground will also provide 26,496 Chinatown residents with green space within a 10-minute walk of home.

## Welcome Aboard!



On Monday, 23 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Director of Planning and Recruitment **Grace Pigott** and HR Generalist **Harold Kim**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

**Tawuana Bean, Norell Black, Jeaneal Griffith-Cox, Matthew Hindle, Chenelle Russell, Nicole Vaiana and Camille Watkins**, BWSO; **Trishelle Brown, Gurdeep Singh and Wynette Tomlinson**, BWS; **Eunice Castro, Sachia Elam, Rachel Joseph and Dominic Vazzana**, BCS; **Fiona Cummings, Jasmin Sabbs and Jjon Watson**, BWT; **Susan Goldbaum** with BLA; **David Jonathas** with BEPA; **Aleksandra Kravtsova and Fausto Moraes**, BEDC; **Michelle Sarro** with OER, and **Jean Schwarzwald** with BPAC.

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