

# Weekly Pipeline

**Vinny**, thank you for **more than 40 years of distinguished service** to the City of New York!

April 24, 2024



# Guest Commissioner's Corner



Kim  
Cipriano

Today, DEP says goodbye to **Vincent Sapienza** as it will be his official last day of service to DEP. Vinny's illustrious career spanned more than four decades at DEP, rising from the ranks as an engineering intern to **Commissioner and Chief Operating Officer**.



**T**hroughout the years, Vinny developed a reputation as a thoughtful, compassionate leader who was never too busy or important to talk to someone about their job or how he could improve the services we provide more than nine million New Yorkers every day. Nearly every employee that has interacted with Vinny can share a moment where they too experienced his impeccable character.

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Through fires, epidemics, and floods, Vinny's calm demeanor and "we'll figure it out" attitude guided this organization through tough times and reaffirmed our position as a premier water utility. Not many can say they slept in their car for a week following an emergency or willingly met with hundreds of upset New Yorkers whose basements had flooded after a sewer collapse—but these

are just two of countless examples of his selflessness and commitment to this agency.

Vinny mentored scores of staff throughout his tenure, building a cadre of strong, civic minded leaders that will carry on his legacy for years to come. As someone who had the immense privilege of working beside Vinny for nearly a decade, I can barely imagine this agency without him, but am so excited to see what the next phase of his life brings him. Congrats, Vinny.



## In the News



NY1 reporter **John Davitt** recently interviewed Deputy Commissioner for Sustainability **Angela Licata** and T Mina Supply Company owner **Tom Mina** at Mina's business in Flushing, Queens, to [learn more about permeable pavement](#) and see firsthand how it works. DEP contributed \$931,000 to the construction of a [new underground storage system](#) on Mina's property that will capture 1.26 million gallons of stormwater annually along College Point

Boulevard and help to reduce flooding in the area. By easing pressure on the area's sewers, the new storage system also helps to improve the health of nearby Flushing Creek. DEP has partnered with global design and consultancy firm Arcadis to identify and provide funding for projects that improve stormwater management on large private properties across the city in order to complement the work already taking place on public property.

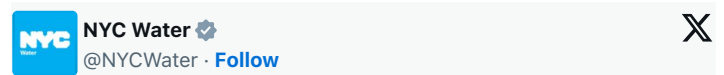
## New Green Playgrounds



DEP and the Trust for Public Land have begun construction on [five new Green Infrastructure playgrounds](#) at schools in Queens, Manhattan, Brooklyn, and the Bronx. Once completed later this year, the new playgrounds will absorb more than 3.5 million gallons of stormwater annually, eliminating runoff that can flood nearby

streets, overwhelm neighborhood sewer systems, and allow untreated water to pollute the East River. Over the last decade DEP has built the nation's largest [Green Infrastructure Program](#), including upgrading the drainage at schoolyards. Thus far more than 100 have either been constructed, are in construction, or are in design.

## Social Media Highlight



Staying fit takes lots of work & dedication.

The same goes for protecting our water.

This [#EarthDay](#), we salute the team here at DEP that ensures the water out of our taps is delicious & that our waterways are the cleanest they've been in over 150 years.

Now that's a workout!



Be sure to like us on [Facebook](#), or follow us on [X](#), formerly known as Twitter, and [Instagram](#).

## Welcome Aboard!



On Monday, six new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the agency from HR Generalist **Harold Kim**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

**Nazanin Ghanbari** and **Shahinur Rahime**, BWSO; **Jacet Williams**, SUST/EC; **Michael Cartelli**, BWS; **Josephine Lam**, BWT, and **Lisiane Nemlin**, COMM.

## Counting Eels on Staten Island



DEP recently hosted two dozen students from the Saint Clare School in Great Kills for the [annual count of juvenile glass eels](#) at Staten Island's Richmond Creek Bluebelt in Richmondtown. The annual eel count is a terrific opportunity for young New Yorkers to learn about this complex ecosystem that sustains various species, and the role we can play by maintaining clean and healthy waterways. Volunteers and students use a ten-foot cone-shaped net specifically designed to catch the eels and then count and release them back into the water. Eel populations are an important indicator of water quality and experts have seen a resurgence in the eel population in New York Harbor as testing shows the water is cleaner and healthier than it has been since the Civil War. Thus far in 2024, close to 8,300 glass eels have been counted in Richmond Creek. Staten Island is one of 16 sites, ranging from New York City to Albany, where counts are taken as part of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's [Hudson River Eel Project](#).

## Out of the Archives



This was not your average grouting job. 111 years ago our crews filled in gaps between rugged rock to build the Catskill Aqueduct, which brings NYC our clean, delicious water every day from reservoirs 92 miles away. April 18, 1913.

## Work Safe in the Streets



DEP joined last week with the Departments of Transportation (DOT), and Design and Construction (DDC), the New York State Department of Transportation, the General Contractors Association of New York, National Grid, and other entities working on City streets and highways to promote [National Work Zone Awareness Week](#). Observed this year from April 15-19, National Work Zone Awareness Week serves to call on all motorists to slow down and protect the safety of road crews as the annual construction season gets under way. This year's event was held at the site of a roadway resurfacing operation in a residential section of Bushwick, Brooklyn. Throughout the year, NYC and DEP maintains its commitment to protect workers through comprehensive work zone training, use of physical safety barriers, ongoing safety assessments of job sites and improvements to fleet equipment such as back-up cameras and retro-reflective markings.

