

This Unit Is Aces When it Comes to Spaces



When DEP crews found 200-year old wooden water pipes with meticulous joint work below Beekman Place in Lower Manhattan, the Facilities team worked to make sure that this artifact would be around for another 200 years to teach New Yorkers about their ingenious water delivery system. And when BWSO engineers and staff need to reference old maps and plans, they call the Archives to help them find and access plans that date back to 1837.

Led by Director of FMC, **Sue Dennis**, the 70 people in the Facilities, Management, and Construction Services unit include trained architects, skilled carpenters, master plumbers, electricians, archivists, and industrial hygienists who handle asbestos; their responsibilities are as varied as their skill sets and training. One section of the team is the real estate group led by Deputy Director **Pat Turner**, which manages DEP's leased

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Spotlight on Safety

2010 EHS Employee Survey: The results are in!

As you know, DEP conducted its first ever EHS Employee Survey in 2010 and, overall, the results are very positive!

- We had an excellent response rate of 33%.
- Eighty-six percent of DEP employees feel safe at their jobs and close to 90% believe that both their colleagues and supervisors have a good understanding of EHS policies and procedures.
- BWT, BWS, BWSO and BEDC respondents were very positive with a few indicated gaps related to equipment, EHS suggestion response, supervi-

sory support, and perceptions about retaliation.

- Support bureaus indicate positive regard for DEP's EHS program, but results indicate a need to explore program communication and integration within BPS and BCS.

An electronic copy will be sent to DEP employees and a hard copy will be posted and available at all manned facilities. To see complete survey results, click here [🔗](#).

There will be a second EHS questionnaire coming your way in the summer, so let your voice be heard.

Click here [🔗](#) to read the full article.

Commissioner's Corner

Paerdegat Basin is a 1.25 mile channel in Canarsie, Brooklyn that leads into Jamaica Bay. Located at the head of the channel is one of the city's largest combined sewer outfalls that, until last week, discharged approximately 1.8 billion gallons of storm-



water mixed with raw sewage each year when it rained. Those days are over. Last week, I was joined by Natural Resources Defense Council Senior Attorney **Larry Levine**, and Jamaica Bay Ecowatchers President **Dan Mundy Sr.** and Vice President **Dan Mundy Jr.** to officially activate the \$404 million Paerdegat Basin Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Facility. Four holding tanks and in-line storage together have the capacity to hold 50 million gallons of combined sewer overflow that would otherwise be discharged into the basin when there is a significant rainfall—like we've had the past two days. In addition, newly-installed screening devices will substantially reduce floatables like plastic bottles from entering the basin, and odor control technologies will minimize any impact on the local community. This project has been a massive, multi-year team effort, and something the entire agency can take pride in completing. Special thanks go to **Roy Tysvaer**, **Ray Meshkati** and **Nayan Shah**, from BEDC, and **Frank Soviero**, **Chris Laudando**, and **Jerry Volgende**, from BWT, who are now responsible for running the facility. Read coverage of the announcement here [🔗](#). The activation of the Paerdegat Basin CSO facility is the latest in a string of good news for Jamaica Bay, one of the city's and the nation's ecological treasures: last year, the city, the state and a number of environmental stakeholders reached a historic agreement to reduce nitrogen discharges into the bay; we unveiled the NYC Green Infrastructure Plan; and we have piloted a number of cutting-edge environmental restoration projects, like planting oysters and mussels to restore natural filtration to the bay.

Last Wednesday, Assistant Commissioner **Mark Lanaghan** and I

travelled to Albany to discuss DEP priorities with key legislators. First, Deputy Commissioner **Paul Rush** and I briefed State Senator **John Bonacic** and Ulster County Executive **Mike Hein** on some local county issues, including the status of our plan to address leaks in the Delaware Aqueduct, and the recent turbidity in the lower Esopus Creek. I separately briefed Assemblyman **Robert Sweeney**, and the new Chair of the Senate Committee on Environmental Conservation, Senator **Mark Grisanti**, on the status of our negotiations with State DEC on the NYC Green Infrastructure Plan, the cornerstone of our efforts to reduce unfunded state and federal mandates, while at the same time addressing remaining threats to water quality in New York Harbor. In the afternoon, Deputy Commissioner Rush and Senior Advisor **Sergej Mahnovski** joined me in meetings with Assembly members **Kevin Cahill** and **James Brennan** to brief them on DEP's energy strategy and our efforts to ensure that the city's energy supply is reliable, affordable, and clean.

After five public hearings in each borough and a City Council hearing, the Water Board voted unanimously last Friday to accept DEP's water rate proposal for Fiscal Year 2012. Created in the wake of the 1970s fiscal crisis, the board is responsible for setting water rates that adequately fund the city's water and wastewater operations and capital program. Voting for a rate increase is not easy or popular, and I want to thank each of the board members—Chair **Alan Moss**, **Don Capoccia**, **Marcia Bystryn**, **Mehul Patel**, **Benjamin Tisdell**, **Arlene Payne**, and **Alfonso Carney**—for attending the public hearings and setting next year's rate at the level needed to meet the system's obligations.

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. [🔗](#)

Focus on the Field



As Director of DEP's Construction Services unit, **Ken Carchietta** is responsible for overseeing a myriad of internal construction projects ranging from pumping station equipment upgrades to the 19th floor renovations in Lefrak City. While these projects may lack the excitement and glamor of a major capital construction project like City Water Tunnel No. 3, they are necessary to ensuring that DEP can successfully carry out its mission each and every day. Ken has been in the Director's position since 1996, where he coordinates the repair and upkeep of agency infrastructure in order to maintain a safe, healthy, and secure work environment. With a staff of more than 30 tradesmen, including carpenters, bricklayers, plumbers, painters, laborers and electricians, Ken manages a variety of behind-the-scenes construc-

tion and renovation work for DEP-owned facilities.

Ken joined DEP in 1990 and started working as a purchasing agent before moving over to Facilities Management and Construction. He finds his work with the Construction Services unit to be particularly rewarding because it allows him to interact with all of DEP's bureaus and get a high level overview of the agency. In addition to construction and renovation work, Ken's team also maintains a variety of critical DEP equipment, including boiler facility work, and sprinkler system maintenance and pressure testing to make sure they comply with FDNY regulations. Whether doing construction work or building equipment maintenance, Ken always aims to work efficiently and unobtrusively. He notes that "our goal is to perform high quality work in the shortest amount of time possible with minimal impact on surrounding employees."

Prior to working at DEP, Ken was a facilities manager for Eagle Clothes. A native New Yorker, Ken attended Tottenville High School in Staten Island and later went on to Wagner College. When not at work, Ken enjoys flying model airplanes and spending time with his wife and two teenage daughters.

Kodak Moment



CLEAN SCENE: This newly completed facility in Canarsie, Brooklyn will eliminate 1.2 billion gallons per year of sewer overflows from being discharged into Paerdegat Basin and Jamaica Bay.

Kudos Corner



GOOD THINKING: DEP's **Mike Shum** and the Mayor's Office's **Maritza Gatón** submitted the winning idea for the Idea Market IT Challenge and got the opportunity to tour City Hall and discuss their idea with Deputy Mayor **Stephen Goldsmith**. Their idea is to increase the use of videoconferencing and virtual meetings.

Two new challenges are up on the re-designed Idea Market site, including DEP's question: how do we get New Yorkers to put down the bottled water and turn on the tap? Please go to www.nyc.gov/ideamarket to submit your winning ideas!

(This Unit Is Aces When it Comes to Spaces... continued)


properties and maintains strong relationships with the landlord for each. Another is the Administrative Services unit, led by **Terry Pupillo**, which manages the print shop and mail room. At the Lefrak headquarters alone, DEP receives an average of 70,000 pieces of mail each month and sends 30,000 more, excluding periodic mass mailings. And Archives Director **Samar Qandil** and her staff tend to more than a century's worth of documents that tell the story of the construction and maintenance of water supply and distribution infrastructure, including those that predate DEP as it exists as a city agency today.

The Facilities team is currently playing a major role in helping DEP meet its goals for several citywide initiatives. For example, they are reviewing all use of rental spaces to comply with the Mayor's space consolida-

tion initiative and have already identified \$500,000 per year in savings by moving construction services so that they share space with Fleet Services—and this is in addition to new flexibility to share staff and vehicles. The Department of Sanitation also recently adopted the guidelines and policies on universal waste that Health and Safety Specialist **Sheranne Wickham** drafted as a model for other city agencies.

Beyond identifying ways to improve the way it carries out their essential daily duties, the Facilities team is also committed to doing good: keep your eyes open for an upcoming program that will turn recycling into a donation to the Mayor's Fund. As Sue says, "Not only does this show that we have the skills to do our jobs well, but that this staff is thoughtful about ways to improve the community too."

Event Calendar

May 19 – 6:00-7:30 pm; In partnership with GrowNYC, DEP will be screening *The Green Apple: Recycling* followed by a recycling workshop. For more information, click [here](#) .

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