

The 'Main' Thing Was a Successful Repair

At 8:25 am on June 17, Bronx distribution engineer **John Byrne** finished checking his voicemail and responded to the scene.

Moments earlier, a crew of city contractors working on the \$36 million rehabilitation of the Pelham Parkway had begun to install a fire hydrant along the grass median. The crew hit what they thought was a rock after only a few feet of digging. Suddenly, heavy amounts of water began shooting out around them. Everyone at the scene quickly realized that the "rock" was actually a 12" water main.

The contractors immediately alerted DEP, which assigned several specialized units to respond to the scene. These teams, which consisted of Field Operations and Distribution Operations personnel, were led by BWSO Bronx borough manager **Jon Annunziata** and John Byrne,



who assessed the damage and quickly developed a plan. As DEP crews began to arrive, **Paul Villella** of the emergency operations unit began to grapple with the consequences of what had just happened.

Everyone involved recognized the enormity of the situation. Hospitals, medical offices, day care facilities, and senior centers in the surrounding area would all be badly affected if the water main break was not quickly repaired. The nearby medical fa-

(Continued on reverse side)


Spotlight on Safety

Training Never Stops at DEP

DEP is committed to providing high quality training to all of its employees. The Office of Environmental Health & Safety (OEHS) is responsible for centralized training functions and runs an agency-wide training committee to ensure that strategic training goals are met and maintained.

Making use of current technology keeps DEP at the forefront of training excellence. One example of this is Computer Based Training (CBT), which refers to the process using technology better so that employees can participate from their desks or other remote locations. In this case, computers with

special software applications teach the student. The advantage of this system of learning is that the student can learn at his own speed. A student can learn anything from this kind of learning—agency policies, computer-related programs, customer support and project management, to name a few.

Be on the lookout for these upcoming topics using CBTs: Employee Concerns Procedure, EEO Training, Family Medical and Leave Act, Hazard Communication/Right to Know Refresher, and more. For more information, please contact OEHS at (718) 595-6715. To read the full article, please click here .

Commissioner's Corner

From the seed of an idea more than 15 years ago, and after a decade of fundraising, planning, and building, last week I attended the official opening of the Time and the Valleys Museum in Grahamsville—a space that tells the story of the building of the Rondout and Neversink reservoirs, and much more. Board of Trustees President **Richard Coombe** was the Master of Ceremonies, and opened the festivities in front of a massive diorama built by **Barbara Purcell** that depicts the Rondout and Neversink reservoirs, and significant landmarks in the vicinity—including the locations of the towns whose residents had to be relocated to make way for these two critical components of our water supply system. Neversink Reservoir—for which our biggest conference room is named—holds the highest quality water in the entire system, and is locally known as the "champagne" of the watershed.


The museum tells the story of the building of the reservoirs, through incredible photographs and plans taken right from the DEP archives. Thousands of people contributed to these engineering marvels, and three men who worked on the reservoirs—**Albert Kortright**, **Werner Gilles**, and **Lee Bridges**—gave the ultimate sacrifice, losing their lives during construction. We were honored to have direct descendants of all three men at the museum opening, and dozens of other people connected to the watershed and its history. In addition to two floors of exhibits that tell the story of the watershed, there is a public exhibition space on the third floor that will feature rotating exhibits. On display through much of the summer is one of the most complete collections of the beautiful paintings of **Manville Wakefield**.

DEP contributed some funding to the museum as part of the watershed agreement, and the rest was raised privately. As part of the ceremony, we dedicated the first floor to the memory of **Terry Forshay**, whose husband **David** contributed countless hours to building and furnishing the space. I highly recommend a visit to anyone interested in the history of the watershed. Special thanks to pianist **Sean Carmichael**, who warmed-up the crowd with some Chopin, and to six-year old **Gail McAndrew**, the daughter of BEDC's own **Sean McAndrew**,



who performed a stirring rendition of the national anthem during the ceremony.

On Thursday, I received on behalf of DEP, the 2011 Sound Guardian Award from the Clean Water/Jobs Coalition, which consists of Audubon New York, the Construction Industry Council of Westchester and Hudson Valley, and the New York State Laborers. The Sound Guardian award is given to public and private sector individuals and organizations who display a strong commitment to protecting, preserving and restoring the Long Island Sound. DEP was selected this year for our comprehensive program to improve the Long Island Sound (and all of New York Harbor) through our groundbreaking NYC Green Infrastructure Plan, as well as the nutrient removal technologies and other upgrades that **Mayor Bloomberg** is funding for the four wastewater treatment plants on the sound: Wards Island, Tallman Island, Bowery Bay and Hunts Point. The Long Island Sound not only creates recreational opportunities; it also contributes billions to the local and national economies and is an ecological treasure. DEP joins distinguished former winners including Governor **George Pataki** and Senators **Chuck Schumer** and **Hillary Clinton**; and we were honored along with **Matthew Driscoll**, former Mayor of Syracuse and now head of the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation, and **Carl Petrillo**, CEO of Yonkers Contracting, which has been doing construction work in New York for more than 40 years. Special thanks to **Charles Sturcken**, who is on the Stewardship Council for Audubon New York, for bringing DEP's latest efforts to the attention of the coalition.

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



When a water main near Pelham Parkway in the Bronx broke last week, construction laborer **Steven Gonzalez** and his partner **Peter Ruffino** were near the scene and responded in less than 15 minutes. Ready with their knowledge of water distribution infrastructure, the duo helped the East Bronx team shut down the main and make all necessary repairs so that they could restore full service within the day to the New Yorkers who rely on the city's water supply for health, safety, and daily use.

On an average day, though, Steven spends his time repairing

hydrants, maintaining valves, and making sure that the system is in good working order. This puts Steven in regular contact with the public, and so he has also learned excellent communications skills. "When you have to shut down a water main it can interrupt people and you have to apologize," he said. Along with his coworkers, he also keeps perspective on the situation by remembering that even during an emergency their job is to help people.

Steven studied forensic science in college while working as a security guard at a DEP facility eight years ago, where he learned about the job opportunities at DEP in the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations. Based on his remarkable work last week and his positive attitude, he has clearly learned a tremendous amount. Or as he says, "It's good to go above and beyond and take that extra step, but really we're all just doing our jobs."

Kodak Moment



Attendees at the opening of the Time and the Valleys Museum were treated to a rendition of the national anthem by six-year old **Gail McAndrew**, the daughter of BEDC portfolio manager **Sean McAndrew**.

Event Calendar

OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS – SUIT DRIVE: DEP will be participating in the "Suit Drive for Veterans" that the Mayor's Office of Veteran Affairs is launching, which will run from July 5 through July 22. Please click here [🔗](#) for further details on collection times and locations.

Blood Drive Results – Thank You! DEP employees donated a total of 476 pints of blood during the June drive. Thanks to Director of Employee Benefits **Arlene Siegel-Fishman**, Supervisor of Workers' Compensation **Malini Strickland**, Human Resources Analyst Danielle Cantwell, the blood captains, the Facilities Management staff that made sure the rooms were cleaned and set up before and after the drive, and, most of all, the donors.

Kudos Corner



HOORAY FOR SAFETY: DEP won the 2011 American Water Works Association's (AWWA) Wendell LaDue Utility Safety Award for the Class IV utility section. This award recognizes distinguished safety programs by water utilities. Of all the competing utilities with more than 500 employees, DEP's safety program

was given national recognition. On June 14, Deputy Commissioner **Paul Rush** accepted the award in Washington, DC at the AWWA awards ceremony.

MOST APPRECIATED: BCIA Community Partnerships' Brooklyn Coordinator **Denise Hubbard** received a Certificate of Appreciation from Brooklyn Community Board 14 at a dinner on June 23 honoring the excellence of public servants in the Flatbush and Midwood communities.



DUCK AND 'RECOVER': BWSO Staten Island sewer maintenance supervisor **Joseph Gentile** and construction laborers **Billy McDermott**, **Raul Campbell** and **Nicky Votto** rescued seven ducklings from a catch basin located at Clove Lakes Park off of Clove Road in Staten Island on June 12. The rescued ducklings were happily reunited with their mother.

(The 'Main' Thing Was a Successful Repair... continued)

ilities were of the greatest concern. They would be forced to postpone all non-essential operations in the event of a lengthy repair; therefore Jon immediately established and maintained contact with the complexes' facility management.

Fortunately the contractors on the site were already trained and equipped to repair the broken water main. At 11:00 am DEP crews shut off the water and began supervising the repair work. The contractors used an excavator already located onsite to dig out 6 feet on each side of the broken main. The broken section was cut out and replaced with a straight section of 12" ductile iron water main with rubber gaskets and megalug retainer glands.

In just over an hour, the repair was complete. By 12:10 pm, DEP crews had turned the water back on to the affected area and opened nearby fire hydrants to flush out any remain-

ing discolored water within the system. It was at that moment that everyone involved realized that a dangerous situation had been avoided.

Thanks to the quick response and careful planning, major supply disruptions were limited to the Hutchinson Metro Center which sat across the street from the broken water main. Distribution engineers, BCIA, and members of the emergency operations unit provided the surrounding buildings, OEM, and FDNY with information and periodic updates on the situation until hours after the repair was made.

BWSO emergency operations unit manager Paul Villella summed it up best: "It was a team effort; everyone involved did a great job and averted a situation that could have severely impacted a large amount of people for a considerable period of time."

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