

'Street' Smarts Are Tested at BWSO Training Center

If you happen to walk down 180th Street in Jamaica next year, look across the street from DEP Queens Repair. Your eyes may deceive you: what looks like a street, sounds like a street and feels like a street is not actually a street.

No, it isn't a movie set—it's the new BWSO Training Center. This past June, construction began on a facility that will provide hands-on training to apprentices and continuing education to existing bureau field staff. In developing DEP's EHS program, bureau managers recognized the need for enhanced consistency in training practices. Currently, new BWSO employee training is contingent upon the mentors assigned to two-year apprentice workers. Additionally, current staff lacks a centralized resource for receiving additional training in new equipment and evolving means of efficiency. Led by Deputy Commissioner **James Roberts** and Assistant Commissioner **Persis Luke**, a full-scale model street was conceived based on facilities used by Con Edison and other utilities. "BWSO has an incredibly talented



workforce, but we recognized that EHS training could be made more consistent for field staff," said Deputy Commissioner Roberts. "We're always looking for ways to do better, and this new center will be a great resource both for new employees and for veteran workers looking to further their education."

During the early stages of planning and development of the Training Center, the Bureau designated EHS Program Manager **William Maggiulli** to serve as the training center's manager. From the onset, he has been instrumental in the de-

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Spotlight on Safety

'Make Safety the Shortcut'

Do you ever take shortcuts to improve productivity and efficiency?

While none of us actively seek to work around established procedures, disregard safety policies or remove protections, we sometimes do so inadvertently when we decide on our own to do a task differently in order to make it easier or faster.

All employees, supervisors and managers are encouraged to work smarter and to make suggestions for ways to improve work and find project efficiencies. This effort is important for DEP and its customers. Safety is an important part of any job and can actually

enhance efficiency if it is in from the beginning!

It's important to remember, before changing procedures or taking a "shortcut," that newly introduced safety risks are considered. If safety controls and measures are built in to the new process, this will actually improve efficiency and safety. If overlooked, the results can be unfortunate.

All DEP employees have a responsibility to say something if they observe any unsafe condition or practice. What looks like a shortcut now, may turn out to cost a lot more in the end.

Safety First!

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. 🐱

Commissioner's Corner

New York City's relationship with upstate communities dates back more than 150 years. In the mid-19th Century, it became clear to city planners that a permanent source of clean water was needed for New York City's growing population. Because of this, the city developed the Croton watershed with a series of storage reservoirs created by damming rivers or lakes in Westchester County and bringing that water through an aqueduct to a distribution reservoir—originally located at 42nd Street. By the early 20th Century, as the demand for water grew following multiple waves of immigration, the city looked to the Catskills as a new supplemental source of water to meet its emerging needs. As a result, we became inextricably linked with the communities that are home to our reservoirs and related infrastructure—a responsibility that continues to this day.

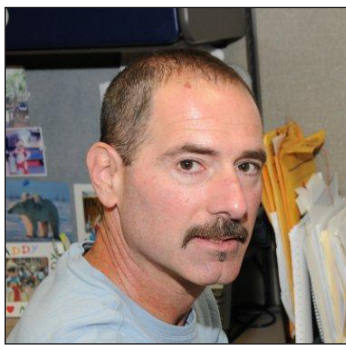
Part of that responsibility includes making sure that our infrastructure is safe and able to withstand natural events to protect the communities located near our reservoirs and dams. Recently, DEP finished \$96 million of work in the Croton watershed upgrading the Croton Falls (built in 1910), Croton Diverting (1911), Sodom (1893), and Bog Brook One and Two (1892) dams to extend the useful life of each for 50 to 100 years and to bring them into compliance with updated state and federal dam safety guidelines and standards. The work to install additional control systems, as well as upgraded mechanical and electrical equipment, will allow the dams to safely release water in the unlikely event of an emergency and to maintain conservation releases. And from an aesthetic standpoint, since these dams are historic in nature and quite beautiful, the rehabilitation preserved the original design characteristics for the community's continued enjoyment. "It's not very sexy to reinvest in dams and tunnels and other vital infrastructure that we usually don't think about, but it's critical if we want to be able to turn on our



taps and have clean, safe water," said **Eric Goldstein**, a senior attorney with the Natural Resources Defense Council in New York City" in a Westchester Journal news article on the effort. I want to thank BEDC team members **Jim Teevan**, **Paul Costa**, **Lisette Gomez**, **Paul Smith** and **Sean McAndrew** for overseeing these jobs. The rehabilitation of these five dams nearly completes the city's commitment to reconstruct all 14 Croton watershed dams, the last being the New Croton Dam, which is currently in the design stage. As for our West of Hudson dams, DEP is currently in the midst of a \$350 million upgrade of the Gilboa Dam.

In addition to safety, we also committed to increasing recreational opportunities in the watershed in Strategy 2011-2014, Initiative 31. Earlier this week, we announced that we would reclassify 126 city-owned acres in the town of Prattsville so that local residents no longer need access permits to use those parcels. Prattsville, located south of the Schoharie Reservoir, was hit particularly hard during Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee, and the community is focusing on rebuilding and increasing recreational opportunities to enhance the local quality of life. Rebuild Prattsville Steering Committee Chairman **Kevin Piccoli** called this step "a great asset to the Town as we rebuild." Actions like this, along with our efforts to reduce reservoir levels before the storm, deploy DEP resources to help search and rescue missions during the storm, and clear considerable debris after the storm, shows that our commitment to our partners upstate continues to be strong.

Focus on the Field





to maintain a DOH Operators License. Bill also gives tool box talks to field personnel as well as excavation and trenching training. Hel is enthusiastic about sharing his expertise and likes the fact that “the training I’m involved with will somehow have a positive effect on the field personnel, and help them work safer and more efficiently. Trainees benefit from EHS policies, procedures, and guidelines because at the end of the day we all want to go home to our families healthy, and in one piece.”

During the 27-year period that **William Maggiulli** has been with DEP, safety has been of paramount importance. Bill started working for DEP in 1984 as a construction laborer in water and sewer repairs, has worked in several supervisory positions for water and sewer maintenance, and is now a program manager/emergency manager.

Bill is a trainer and collaborates with environmental, health, and safety staff and co-teaches with **Walley Richards** on operating vehicles such as catch basin machines, flusher trucks and forklifts, as well as classes for staff

A lifelong New Yorker, Bill likes to spend time with his family, including his two daughters. He is active playing golf and softball, and skiing and snowboarding in cold weather. He also plays the guitar and notes “I am lucky to have the opportunity since 2004 to be involved with *The Drips*, a band of DEP staffers that included **Mickey Sasko, John Lento, Cecil McMaster** and **Steve Musso**—some of the most talented musicians and songwriters I have ever worked with. All of our original songs were about water, DEP and the environment.”

DEP Blood Drive: Lefrak, 6th floor training room: 12/6-12/8, 7:45am to 1:30pm; Sutton Park, 2nd floor: 12/15, 8:30am to 2:30pm; Downsville Fire Department: 12/21, 9:00am to 2:00pm; Kingston, 51 Albany Avenue: 12/8, 1:00pm to 6:00pm; Grahamsville Parking Lot: 12/29, 10am to 3pm. Please click here  to see the email from the Commissioner, and here  for the list of blood captains.



100 and Going Strong! Every week, the Weekly Pipeline team works together to come up with what we hope is an informative, interesting and entertaining newsletter. It is no easy task and our centennial edition is a great opportunity to give thanks to everyone who has been involved since the beginning for their written words, creative ideas and proofreading eyes. And we would be remiss if we didn't also thank the bureau liaisons who fact check and edit our work to ensure that our newsletter is as accurate as possible. But the success of Weekly Pipeline is also because of you, our avid and knowledgeable readers! So don't forget to submit your ideas, photos or milestones to newsletter@dep.nyc.gov.

Milestones

Congratulations to the following employees who mark their 35th year with the city in the month of November: **Equilla Blair** and **Allan Bialstock**.

(‘Street’ Smarts Are Tested at BWSO Training Center... continued)

velopment and refinement of the training center’s technical training curriculum.

New apprentice staff will begin their DEP careers at the center, receiving operational and safety training on equipment used by BWSO crews covering all four phases of the apprenticeship program: water repair, sewer repair, sewer maintenance and water maintenance. For example, trainees will learn how to operate a gate valve to perform a shutdown during water main breaks. After the shutdown is complete, the compromised pipe can be isolated for repair. Repair and replacement of fire hydrants, operation of truck hoists and compressors, jackhammers, and pipe saws will also be taught. Additionally, apprentices will receive hands-on training in forklift use, and learn proper on-site preparations for emergency work zones.

The Training Center will be fully equipped with all of the features of a real city street: mock sewers, catch basins, hydrants, and all of the accompanying hoods, hangers and valves. This will give apprentices hands-on instruction in specific maintenance and repair tasks performed by DEP crews in the field. Under the Direction of Queens Borough Man-



ager **Thomas Anello** and the supervision of District Supervisor **Jose Charles-Ramirez**—the project’s construction crew has installed 143 feet of ductile iron pipe thus far, with six valves and three hydrants. During construction, the crew pressure-tested the water connection by opening a valve to allow a stream to flow through the main—a task involving an eight-inch hole being cut into the 16-inch main. The next phase of construction will see the addition of sewer pipes, after which crews will add sidewalks, catch basins, and manhole covers.

Before the new Training Center project commenced, BWSO EHS was geared heavily toward regulatory compliance. “As we rethought EHS, we saw the need for more hands-on field training,” said BWSO EHS Director **Karen Marino**. The new experience provided to apprentices will be complemented by classroom sessions on applicable EHS courses. Karen added: “We’re coordinating with our field operations to make sure this center provides field training that’s formalized and consistent.” A full-scale street built to improve staff training—in more ways than one, DEP continues to be a model agency for the city.

Kudos Corner



On the night of November 19, the DEP Police were called to assist in locating a distraught individual who had left her home on foot in an unknown direction. Environmental Police Officers **Shaun Adams** and **Brian Einsfeld** of the DEP Police 5th Precinct responded to the call and used a handheld thermal imaging unit (pictured) to scan the heavily wooded area in freezing temperatures. The officers identified an object giving off a faint heat signature, indicating a possible target. Tracking the source through the cold wooded area, the officers followed the heat signature and found a semi-conscious person lying in the woods. The officers immediately treated the individual for hypothermia and provided comfort until the arrival of emergency medical personnel. Because of the officers’ quick and thorough actions, the woman is now recovering from the incident and a tragic ending was avoided.

DEP Holiday Toy Drive: Please take part in DEP’s Holiday Toy Drive by donating new and unwrapped toys, sports equipment or accessories for young people from tots to teens. Please click on the links for in-city  and watershed  coordinators and donation locations. Final day for collections is December 12. If you have any questions, please contact your bureau coordinators. Thank you.

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