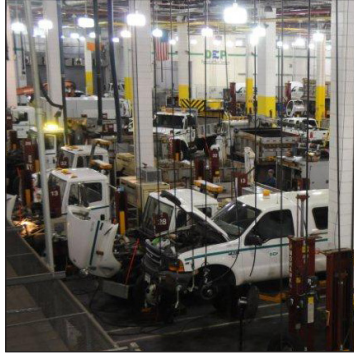


## It's Auto-matic: Fleet Team Keeps DEP Running

**R**unning an operation of DEP's size requires a large fleet of vehicles, including some 464 heavy-duty trucks, nearly 500 pick-ups, vans and SUVs, and a healthy amount of sedans. While it can rival the inventory of the most ardent car dealership, it actually describes a vital resource that DEP employs every day. With a staff of 77 workers covering two in-city garages and four watershed facilities, the Division of Fleet Services is certainly up to the daunting task of maintaining these vehicles and dispatching tow vehicles that are an integral part of DEP operations.



for each type of vehicle that are used to evaluate it when it reaches the end of its preventive maintenance cycle. That includes exhaustive review of engine and brake conditions well beyond what's typically done at your average auto repair shop. All of this falls under the leadership of Fleet Director **Lorenzo Marchesi**, who understands the complexity and importance of preventive maintenance in managing DEP's vehicle

(Continued on reverse side)

## Spotlight on Safety

### Always Remember: Think Safety!

As 2011 draws to a close, let's take a moment to remember "Think Safety." We hear those words a lot and sometimes they seem overused—but don't minimize their intent. To "Think Safety" is the number one reason that employees and organizations are able to minimize injuries and drive EHS improvement.

What does "Think Safety" really mean? It's embodied in DEP's EHS Strategy 2011-2014 goals, including:

- Measure EHS performance and demand success.
- Integrate EHS compliance into

every aspect of DEP operations and construction.

Transforming our safety culture involves moving beyond a compliance examination of the physical facilities and worksites; it requires an open evaluation of systems, policies, procedures, and work practices.

DEP has made significant progress in these areas over the past 12 months. We will examine some of these successes and challenges in this column. We are interested in getting your feedback about EHS, so feel free to send in a question or suggestion to [EHS@dep.nyc.org](mailto:EHS@dep.nyc.org). Read the full article here [👉](#).

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

A few weeks ago, we previewed our first-of-its-kind training facility for water and sewer operations street crews that will be located across the street from Queens Repair. Last week, I got a chance to see the ongoing construction work in person with several members of BWSO, including Deputy Commissioner **Jim Roberts**, Director **Anastasios Georgelis**, EH&S Director **Karen Marino**, and Program Manager **William Maggiulli**. All construction is being done using in-house staff at Queens Repair under the direction of Queens Borough Manager **Thomas Anello** and District Supervisor **Jose Charles-Ramirez**. Special thanks to the construction laborers: **Elvin Millan**, **Moses Sookoo**, **Jean Jeanty** and **Randolph Bacchus**. Ultimately, the training facility will help standardize our training protocol, allowing all employees to get operational and safety training for maintenance and repairs of water and sewer in a controlled environment. The facility will be used to provide training for newly hired apprentice laborers as well as continuing education training for all. As of last week, all water mains, sewer lines, and catch basins have been installed. Next, we will be curbing and grading the two new "streets"—look out for a Pipeline announcement in the next few weeks about naming the two streets, so that we can have the street names installed by the time training starts this spring!



and its impact on communities and what we plan to do to ensure as few disruptions as possible in the course of this massive, multi-year undertaking. The program has two main elements: repairing leaks in the Delaware Aqueduct and supplementing the city's water supply during tunnel construction work. The DEIS evaluates potential environmental impacts associated with the project and presents alternatives to the project. Other recent accomplishments for the project include the completion of 90% of the design for Shafts 5B in Newburgh and 6B in Wappinger and the completion of some deep and shallow soil and rock borings to determine subsurface conditions at sites between the two shafts. This information is used to design the shafts and bypass tunnel. A second assessment will focus on water supply augmentation projects during the period when the tunnel will be out of service.

Last week, our Water for the Future team released the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for its program, a \$2.1 billion initiative that will ensure clean, reliable, and safe drinking water for nine million New Yorkers for decades to come. You can read it in its entirety here [👉](#). This was an important step in this historic project, and the document lays out the scope of the project

With the holiday season upon us, DEP held its annual celebration last week and it was a major hit. Nearly 250 people attended and enjoyed food, music (supplied by DJ **Louie Rivera**) and prizes. Let's give a huge thanks to **Grace Pigott**, **Zoe Ann Campbell**, **Adrienne Blanford**—our three main organizers, as well as **James Cuggy**, **George Mayer**, **Virginia Tong**, **Sam Somerville**, **Shawn Jackson**, **Chris Barnes**, **Luis Trinidad**, **Michelle Bennett-Moore**, **Shamalina Khan**, **Eva Lynch**, **Andre Reid**, **Evelyn Wallace Lawrence**, **Sue Dennis**, **Carlos Arias**, **Robin Turner**, and **Al Jabbar** for their time and effort to make the event a success. As everyone knows, DEP is a team and it was wonderful seeing everyone come together and have fun.



## Focus on the Field



A mechanic with DEP for more than 24 years, **Stanley Kowalski** came to the agency after working at the repair facilities of the U.S. Marines, Mack Truck, and Avis. Stanley works at DEP's Central Repair Shop, located in Long Island City, not too far from where he was born and raised. Stanley and his colleagues maintain and repair a wide range of DEP vehicles from forklift trucks and sewer maintenance vehicles to Vactor trucks.

Stanley's work is varied and he notes "one day I could be welding or replacing a hinge, and the next day I could be in one of our flatbeds towing a truck back to the shop." However, the bulk of the work is preventive maintenance. The repair shop stores the most commonly used parts and materials required for maintenance including filters, brakes, belts and hoses. This means

that vehicle downtime is not increased due to a lack of a part, which improves the reliability and safety of DEP's fleet.

Stanley is involved with agency vehicles throughout their lifespan. New ones are first prepped for service including getting motor vehicle registrations, as well as designing and installing DEP logos, stripes, decals and lettering and adding specialized equipment such as radios and lights.

Aside from his work at the repair shop, he particularly enjoys the supportive environment and collaboration with his fellow mechanics. In his spare time, when he is not helping friends to restore vintage cars, Stanley enjoys fresh water fishing year-round, especially bass and trout. In the winter, he likes ice fishing.

## Did You Know



... that NYC water helps "spruce" up the world's most famous Christmas tree—up to 90 gallons a day at Rockefeller Center!?

### 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual New York Cares Coat Drive

Now is the time to clean out your closets and help our fellow New Yorkers stay warm during the severe winter months. The drop-off location for the coats is by the vending machines on the third floor of the high-rise building at Lefrak. Donations of gently used winter coats for men, women and children may be made up until December 31.

**DEP Blood Drive:** Grams-ville 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.

## Kudos Corner

Thanks to generous donations from DEP staffers, 1,137 toys were collected and distributed to children in the watershed, helping to make the holidays a littler happier for those communities still recovering from the effects of the recent severe weather. A note from the Windham-Ashland-Jewett Central School District says it best: "Thank you so much for your very generous toy donations for our students. We were completely overwhelmed at the amount of toys you were able to collect! This is going to be a very special holiday for so many of our students." Thanks also to the Bronx Chamber of Commerce for their donation of 100 toys that were part of this effort.

### (It's Auto-matic: Fleet Team Keeps DEP Running... continued)

fleet. "This isn't a Jiffy Lube, where you go in to get your oil changed and you're out in 15 minutes," Lorenzo said. "Every day, preventive maintenance is the first thing on our minds."

More than 600 of DEP's fleet vehicles are used by BWSO in emergency first response operations such as water main breaks and sewer backups, the latter of which are often cleared by a particular make of heavy-duty truck known as a jet flusher vehicle. Whether a commercial sewer line or a single-family home, jet-flusher vehicles are exactly what you'd envision: pumping pressurized water into a clogged sewer line to flush out debris and obstructions. For these sewer cleaning vehicles, Fleet Services has to check their electrical systems and plumbing and hydraulic lines for leaks, cracks and broken or frayed wiring. Additionally, the pumps are checked for adequate pressure and the flusher hose itself is checked for cracks and tears in the outer coating. If defects are found, either the hose is replaced or repaired. Nearly 500 vehicles are used throughout the watershed by the Bureaus of Water Supply and Police and Security to maintain the integrity and security of

the city's water supply at DEP's most critical facilities. The division takes pride in making sure that these emergency response vehicles are maintained in top operating condition.

One important element of maintaining such an expansive vehicle fleet is making sure that accurate fuel and mileage reports are being recorded for each vehicle. Early next year, the Department of City-wide Administrative Services will unveil an automated system to account for the fuel and mileage uses of every fleet vehicle, identifying efficiencies and producing savings for every fleet agency. In addition to this management tool, Fleet Services can already boast that nearly 100% of its non-emergency sedans are hybrid vehicles—a model of fuel efficiency that's tough to match. Facilitating and expanding the use of fuel efficient vehicle fleets is one of the key initiatives of *PlaNYC*, **Mayor Bloomberg's** groundbreaking blueprint for a greener, greater New York.

As New Yorkers go about their daily routines, there's a host of vehicles making sure they have access to some of the cleanest, freshest water in the world—quite a fleet feat.

## Press Box

**BREATHING EASIER:** EPA's recently released standards for mercury and air toxins will mean a healthier environment for everyone. The new standards are in alignment with the city's move away from burning Nos. 4 and 6 fuel oils, and towards cleaner burning No. 2 oil or natural gas, as well as the upcoming revisions to the air code. **Mayor Bloomberg** said, "The new EPA mercury standards will save countless lives and improve the quality of life for millions." The standards will "stimulate investment and economic activity long into the future." Read the NY Times coverage [here](#)

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