DEP Police Academy recruits trained last week on the Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC) in Kingston. EVOC is a 40-hour class and recruits are instructed in the legal aspects of law enforcement driving, non-emergency response driving, emergency response driving, and pursuit driving. During the EVOC course, recruits are required to complete practical exercises such as a timed-skill course, skid control methods, collision avoidance methods, and serpentine steering, as well as demonstrate vehicle dynamics and minimizing potential loss of vehicle control. There are currently 20 recruits in the 7-month academy and graduation will be held on Jan. 6, 2017.

Lightning Safety

Did you know that if you can hear thunder, or see an oncoming storm, this means that lightning is close enough to strike? Recently our area has experienced rain storms with lightning strikes. Often overlooked as an occupational hazard, lightning strikes can be a serious risk to those who work outdoors or near tall objects, with or near metal scaffolding, and with metal equipment or machinery, utility lines, water, water pipes, and plumbing.

It is important to stay aware of daily forecasts to ensure workers will not be outside during a storm. If you see high winds, dark clouds, or distant thunder or lightning, you should take shelter in a building or a hard-topped vehicle with the windows up. Do not return outside until 30 minutes after the thunder has stopped. If you are caught outside in a storm and cannot get inside, retreat to an area that is at a lower elevation than the surrounding. ings. Keep clear of tall, isolated objects such as trees or flagpoles and stay away from bodies of water.

Remember, lightning victims DO NOT carry an electrical charge and are safe to touch. If a coworker is struck by lightning, they need urgent medical attention and you should call 911 immediately.

For more information, visit the OSHA and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Lightning Safety When Working Outdoors Fact Sheet.
We welcome your feedback! To submit an announcement or suggestion, please email us at: newsletter@dep.nyc.gov.

Deputy Commissioner for Wastewater Treatment Pam Elardo hosted a celebratory luncheon last Wednesday for the two DEP teams that are advancing to the national Operators Challenge competition. Members of the 26th Ward Unflushables and the Jamaica Sludge Hustlers will test their strengths and skills from September 24-28 at the Water Environment Federation’s Annual Technical Exhibition and Conference in New Orleans. Those in the front row include: Ellis Watson, Dave Taylor, Robert Gaeta, Sal Scapelito, and Mike Leone.

Welcome Aboard!

Yesterday 16 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Deputy Commissioner for Organizational Development Diana Jones Ritter and Director of Planning and Recruitment Grace Pigott. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Anasthasia Chery, Abraham Coen, Trevis Foster, Kion Job, and Subramonie Lachmenar with BCS; Julie Coyoc with BPS; Anna Hsu, Christopher Isaacs and Nitika Pandey with BWSD; Peter McCalla, Randy Montgomery, Daniel Perkert, Cezar Sebastian Prescurie and Rajendra Rajkumar with BWT; Atiq Rehman with CDBG; and Melodie Heath with FDC/FMC.

Operators Challenge Luncheon

Operators Challenge Luncheon

On July 20th, DEP employees joined members of the North Brooklyn Boat Club, The Newtown Creek Alliance, The Newtown Creek Community Advisory Group, and Queens Community Board 2 on a canoe ride in Newtown Creek. Led by the North Brooklyn Boat Club, the team traveled up the creek with stops in Dutch Kills and Whale Creek. DEP has numerous projects both underway, and being planned and designed, to help improve the health of Newtown Creek. This includes a $30 million project to build four litter control devices within the sewers in the vicinity of the Creek and the construction of hundreds of curbside rain gardens. This year DEP will kick off a Long Term Control Plan for Newtown Creek which includes robust public participation. The tour was a terrific opportunity for DEP to hear directly from those who are on the Creek on a daily basis and to begin a dialogue that we hope will encourage even more public participation in the planning process. If you’d like to receive updates on public meetings related to DEP email ltcp@dep.nyc.gov.

Canoe Tour of Newtown Creek

New Boat Launch on the Pepacton

Since it opened on May 27th, the new boat launch site at Miller Hollow, along Pepacton Reservoir, has been a big hit with visitors coming from Downsville, Roscoe and other points to the south and west of the reservoir. DEP’s recreational boating program led to 1,463 visits in 2015, an all-time record and the largest year-over-year increase in participation since it began in 2012. That increase was largely driven by the success of the rental program, which allows visitors to rent pre-cleaned and registered kayaks and canoes from 10 launch sites along the reservoirs. More information about the 2016 Recreational Boating Season can be found here. Please click here to learn about Padding the Catskills’ Reservoirs.

Brown Bag Lunch Series

Come to Thursday’s brown bag lunch event to hear from Danielle Barrett and Kadian Outar, from the NYC Department of Citywide Administrative Services, and Walei Sabry, from the Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities, as they celebrate the 26th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Explore the life of differently abled people and learn how they navigate through everyday challenges. The event will be from 12:30 to 1:30 pm in the Rego Center Community Room, located off Horace Harding Expressway, on 97th Street, near ALDI. To RSVP, email Gloria Rodriguez at Grodriguez@dep.nyc.gov.

Welcome Aboard!

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