



## DEP Employees of the Month for February and March

**T**he Employee of the Month program recognizes DEP staff members that have exhibited outstanding personal effort, and have gone above and beyond the call of duty to serve the people of New York City.

DEP is a great agency that delivers services that millions of New Yorkers depend on daily. Making good on that promise requires the dedication and hard work of the nearly 6,000 employees at DEP. To nominate someone who has demonstrated uncommon dedication and excellence, fill out the nomination form with some basic information, such as the nominee's responsibilities, examples of extraordinary performance, and ways candidates set an example for others. The form is available on The Source, and you'll need to submit it by the tenth day of each month. For more information, email Herb Roth at [hroth@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:hroth@dep.nyc.gov).

The Employees of the Month for February and March, featured in this Weekly Pipeline Extra edition, were honored at a breakfast on April 29 with Commissioner Emily Lloyd, during which they received a certificate, and had their names added to the Employee of the Month Board on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> floors at Lefrak and at the Kingston Office. These men and women set a standard for all of us to emulate and appreciate.



### Office of Engineering Audits - Rafiq Shikder

Rafiq began working at DEP in July 2013 and currently serves as an Administrative Staff Analyst with the Office's Contract Auditing group. In his role, he understands the detailed workings of consultant cost reimbursable contracts, which have been the primary focus of his work at DEP. Rafiq consistently makes sound audit findings and is well respected by his colleagues.

When DEP took on the role of managing the Hurricane Sandy Rapid Repair Program (RRP), Rafiq was asked to audit records related to the general condition billings of four of these contracts. He accepted these additional responsibilities without hesitation, and quickly mastered the process. Over time, Rafiq has audited thousands of documents, including time and material records, payroll reports, timesheets, and more.

Although the work may have seemed tedious at times, Rafiq's diligence, dedication and effort contributed to roughly \$17 million in agreed deductions, a cost savings over 16% of what was originally billed. In addition, Rafiq performed these RRP audits, on top of his regular assignments, with promptness and accuracy. Thank you Rafiq, for applying your keen eye for detail to this important work.



### Bureau of Water & Sewer Operations - Ynaliz Then

Ynaliz joined DEP in June 2014 and serves as a Construction Project Manager Intern in the Bureau's Emergency Sewer Construction section. She currently handles multi-million dollar "time and material" contracts for the section.

In November 2014, Ynaliz took on an ambitious task while still a new employee, and handled an emergency sewer job on West 44th Street and 6th Avenue in Manhattan where a 15-inch combined sewer had experienced multiple collapses. More recently, she took the lead on an \$18 million change order for an emergency sewer contract. This included performing the thorough calculations necessary to justify the change order for the determined amount.

Ynaliz is always willing to stay late in order to complete important assignments and she goes out of her way to create a positive work environment. In addition, she is constantly looking for new challenges and ways in which she can improve her engineering skills. All of this makes her a motivating presence among her peers in the unit.

Thank you Ynaliz, for your continued hard work and dedication to achieving the highest quality results for DEP.



### **Bureau of Wastewater Treatment - North River Air Compliance Team**

DEP has taken significant steps to bring the North River Wastewater Treatment Plant into compliance with opacity reporting requirements under the Title V Air Permit.

The permit requires that we identify causes of each exceedance and report corrective actions in quarterly reports, along with timely notification to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

DEP's Legal Office worked together with the Bureau of Wastewater Treatment and specifically with Wayne Kuang, Toby Siegman, and Steve Askew to create and implement Hydrogen Sulfide and Opacity Exceedance Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for wastewater treatment personnel to follow when an exceedance occurs at any Monitoring Station. These new SOPs have been instrumental to meeting DEP's notification, investigation and reporting obligations.

With the help of his Deputy Plant Chiefs Sammy Andalib and Charles Youhan, retired North River Chief Steve Askew provided staff with a toolbox training session on procedures they must follow when an opacity or hydrogen sulfide exceedance occurs, including the steps to be taken before, after, and during an investigation.

Wayne Kuang, Toby Siegman, Ming Shen, and Jiye Zhang keep watch over the system from Lefrak, and notify the North River staff if any alarm goes unanswered or if any exceedance goes uninvestigated. Since the beginning of the third Quarter of 2014, the North River Stationary Engineer Electric team, the Deputy Plant Chiefs and Wayne's team have worked tirelessly to identify and investigate each opacity exceedance when it occurs.

For the third and fourth quarter reports of 2014, Wayne Kuang, Toby Siegman, Ming Shen, Jiye Zhang, Steve Askew, Sammy Andalib, Charles Youhan, David Prestigiacomio, Champakbha Patel, Mikhail Bronfman, Ajaykumar K. Patel, Jenson P. George, Frank Ferrantino, and John O'Donohue have identified each exceedance and in some cases were able to take remedial action.

Thank you all for your dedication and for your important contributions to DEP.



### **Bureau of Engineering, Planning and Analysis - Joseph Monical**

Joseph began his DEP career in August 2014 and serves as a City Research Scientist with the Bureau's Watershed Planning and Modeling group. His primary responsibilities are to provide support to various stormwater and water quality related initiatives including green infrastructure research and development, water quality and quantitative analyses, and development of MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) stormwater management projects. Joseph assists in developing request for proposals (RFPs) and consultant contracts, which includes developing cost estimates, selecting contractors, writing and reviewing contracts, and maintains ongoing contractor relationships.

In addition, Joseph coordinates extensively with other DEP bureaus and with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. He has played a key role in the development of construction and post-construction requirements for the MS4 permit, and assists Water and Sewer operations and Wastewater Treatment with collecting and verifying information from other agencies to support other major sections of the permit.

Joseph also worked on the preliminary analyses for Green Infrastructure in Southeast Queens, an area that has experienced decades of localized flooding. In an effort to examine interim solutions while the long term sewer build-out is being completed, he identified appropriate sites for green infrastructure installations on public properties.

Lastly, Joseph has taken on additional responsibilities in interviewing, supervising, and mentoring student interns throughout the school year. Congratulations Joseph and thank you for all of your important contributions to DEP.



### **Bureau of Wastewater Treatment - The Collections North / Wards Island Team**

Wastewater Treatment Collections staff are responsible for operating and maintaining pump stations, regulators, combined sewer overflow retention facilities, tide gates, force mains and interceptors.

While Senior Sewage Treatment Worker Irvin Moreno, and Sewage Treatment Workers Brian Valdez, Robert Ortiz, and William Albright, from Collections North at Wards Island, were performing their routine monthly inspections of regulators in the Bronx, they were approached by local homeowners complaining about flooding problems, specifically raw sewage leaching into their backyards and poor drainage.

After talking with the homeowners and performing a preliminary investigation, the team returned the next day with a vacator/flusher truck. First, the team had to identify access points to the clogged sewer line, many of which were located in homeowners backyards, which were covered in mud and raw sewage. Undeterred and spurred on by the homeowners' appeals, the team was able to trace the line and dye test it to confirm the layout. They eventually located a surcharged manhole and a blockage in the sewer line that was causing the overflows.

Although the flushing of the sewer line took several hours due to the severity of the blockage, the team's experience and dedication led them to successfully clear it without damaging the line. And, the homeowners were extremely appreciative of their efforts and of the end result.

Thank you to the entire team for working to provide such excellent and timely service to your fellow New Yorkers.



### **Bureau of Water Supply - Michael Spada and Matthew Sudol**

Michael began his DEP career in August 2012, and Matthew began in October 2011. Both serve as Scientists in the Bureau's Watershed Water Quality Operations field section, located in Kingston, NY. Their regular duties include water quality monitoring at reservoirs, streams, and robotic monitoring sites in the Catskill watersheds, as well as sampling for pathogens at sites along the Hudson River.

The Kingston Water Quality Operations team maintains a robotic monitoring station on the Esopus Creek in the Ashokan watershed that collects turbidity, conductivity, and temperature data using a YSI probe (an instrument used for environmental water quality monitoring and testing), so that data can be uploaded in near real time to the data management system. This winter, plumbing in the sampling hut froze due to electrical problems and cold weather, resulting in a loss of data.



Despite the deep snow pack and heavy ice in the creek, Michael and Matthew persevered and were able to deploy the probe directly in the creek. After persistent cold temperatures, the probe became encased in ice, and another solution was required to ensure uninterrupted data transmission. Before they redeployed the probe, Michael and Matt crafted a PVC sleeve to limit the buildup of ice on the sensors and protect it from ice flows, which could sever the data cable or otherwise damage the probe. Thanks to their dedication and innovative thinking, the probe has worked reliably since deployment, with no loss of water quality data.

Thank you, Michael and Matthew, for your ingenuity and dedication to maintaining the robotic monitoring station, and for ensuring that valuable data on water quality in the Ashokan Reservoir could be monitored without interruption.



### Office of Information Technology - **Cheri Tse**

Cheri began her DEP career in May 1984 and serves as a Computer Specialist. She is responsible for maintaining the day-to-day operations of the Customer Information System (CIS) and developing new applications and products. In 2008, financial auditors of the water and sewer system's financial statements found a material weakness in the financial reporting capabilities of the CIS. DEP staff responded by developing and implementing a solution in-house to address the auditors' concerns. Cheri played an important role in this DEP-sourced solution. She was the lead developer and implemented a number of new application programs to report the reliable aging of accounts receivables.

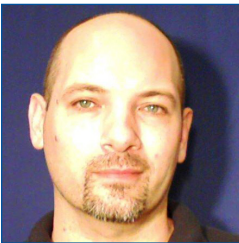
The auditors noted these solutions in their annual management letter, which was reviewed by the joint Audit Committee of the Water Board, Municipal Water Finance Authority and by the City Audit Committee. Thank you, Cheri, for your hard work and for playing such a valuable role in keeping our systems reliable and accurate.



### Bureau of Environmental Compliance - **Nazim Hodzic**

Nazim began his DEP career in February 2010 and serves as an Industrial Hygienist responding to 311 complaints related to Asbestos disturbances. He thoroughly investigates complaints during site visits and writes detailed inspection reports.

Nazim constantly maintains communication with the NYC Department of Buildings in requesting, maintaining, and lifting construction permit stop work orders. He is consistently dedicated to his work, and has earned the distinction and honor of completing the most inspections in 2014 as part of the Enhanced Audit Program. Thank you, Nazim, for all your important contributions to DEP.



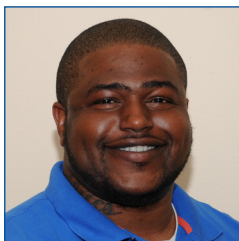
### Bureau of Water Supply - **Scott Papaelias**

Scott joined DEP in February 1998 and serves as an Associate Project Manager in the Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) Directorate in Kingston, NY. Scott's duties include managing the Bureau's waste removal and fire emergency contracts, which currently service more than 269 facilities within the watershed.

The processes that govern fire suppression services and the proper removal of regulated waste are routine and steeped in regulatory requirements. Scott has gone to great lengths not only to ensure that this work is performed with a high level of confidence, but he has also made great strides to improve the quality of service and embrace opportunities for increased efficiencies. His diligence and attention to detail have helped to ensure that all regulations are adhered to, that costs remain under budget, and flexibility exists to allow for adjustments to meet the ever evolving procurement needs as they arise.

Scott has identified and corrected numerous issues with waste characterizations, manifest reporting, and fire suppression maintenance protocols that could have potentially resulted in non-compliance. He is currently reviewing the Bureau's U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Waste Generator identification number submittals to improve the accuracy of reporting waste removals and ensure that we maintain compliance with EPA site and facility requirements.

Thank you, Scott, for your efforts to support our critical services and facilities.



### Bureau of Water & Sewer Operations - **George Markovics and Brian Pierre**

George began his DEP career in August 1990 and serves as a Construction Laborer. Brian began his DEP career in December 2014 and serves as an Apprentice Construction Laborer. Both work in the Bureau's Division of Field Operations, Brooklyn South Sewer Maintenance, and are members of the Flusher Crew. On the afternoon of April 13th, 2015, at approximately 2:30pm, George and Brian completed a job in Coney Island and were returning to their Field Operations Facility at the Brooklyn South Sewer Maintenance yard. While traveling eastbound on the Belt Parkway, they observed a Toyota with two elderly passengers pulling onto the center median with smoke coming from the inside of their vehicle.

George and Brian quickly pulled onto the median to assist the passengers and immediately got them out of the smoking vehicle. Within minutes of them doing so, the vehicle caught fire. George and Brian promptly responded by turning on the flusher, containing 500 gallons of water, and swiftly extinguished the blaze while ensuring the passengers were at a safe distance from harm's way.

George and Brian's speedy and brave response prevented potential injuries to the elderly passengers, as well as to any motorists passing by. Thank you for your remarkable efforts to keep others safe from harm.

## Commissioner's Award for February:



### The Metro-North Rescue Team

We recognize this group for their valiant response to the Metro-North derailment in Valhalla, New York, on February 3. Environmental Police Officers Robert Burke and James Dipietrantonio were among the first responders to the scene. After entering the train, they conducted rescue operations to help victims make a safe exit. Sergeant Frank Lynch quickly took charge at the scene by escorting hundreds of wounded victims from the train, and with the help of Environmental Police Officer Dipietrantonio, began to treat passengers using resources from the patrol car.

Sergeant Jeremy Tompkins and Environmental Police Officers Burke and Dipietrantonio used the utility terrain vehicle to shuttle the injured to a staging area, and to bring fire department personnel and equipment to the scene. Sergeant Lynch also coordinated an inspection of the Kensico Blowoff, the part of the water supply system in the immediate area of the accident.

Lieutenant William Flynn comforted the scared and injured passengers and directed them to the triage area for treatment and assessment. He also blocked the road to prevent further injuries, and served as liaison between the Incident Command Center and personnel in the field.

Officer Burke worked closely with the Fire Department, while Sergeant Timothy Paul supervised the communications room at the Eastview Precinct. In addition, he deciphered raw information from the field units and relayed it to the Police Division command staff. At the Eastview Precinct communications center, Environmental Police Officer Callamari skillfully handled incident communications while fulfilling his regular communication duties.

All the officers were so focused on helping the victims that they ignored their own discomfort in the midst of extreme cold temperatures. Thank you all for your heroic actions that night, and for so courageously assisting your fellow New Yorkers in need.

Lieutenant William Flynn

Sergeant Frank Lynch

Sergeant Timothy Paul

Sergeant Jeremy Tompkins

EPO Robert Burke

EPO James Dipietrantonio

EPO Richard Callamari

## Commissioner's Award for March:



### The Jamaica Main Sewage Pump Machinists Team

The March Commissioner's Award celebrates the achievements of the Jamaica Main Sewage Pump Machinists Team. One of the Machinists' responsibilities is to maintain and overhaul main sewage pumps. An overhaul consists of disassembling a 6,000 pound pump, replacing bearings and impellers, fabricating parts when needed, machining the pump housing, and recording dimensions using precision tools.

While performing their annual inspections of the five main sewage pumps at the Jamaica wastewater treatment plant, the Machinists noticed excessive wear on the impellers and cracks on all five main sewage pumps. The team knew that a damaged impeller can lead to catastrophic failure, and immediately developed a plan to expedite the overhaul of all five main sewage pumps. To successfully and quickly complete this complex job, the Machinists designed tools to remove the impellers using a new procedure to reduce downtime. They also fabricated a pulling device to remove the bearings and the pump couplings.

Without these tools, removing the bearings would have been virtually impossible. To accomplish this major overhaul quickly, the team made a full commitment to the project, working extended hours when needed and rescheduling vacations and personal time to accommodate the overhaul schedule.

Thanks to their experience, creative problem solving, and specialized skills, the team was able to complete each overhaul in less than three weeks, rather than the customary two to three months. Their great efforts prevented any unexpected failures or disruption to plant operations, which could have taken a pump out of service for several months. Thank you all for your exemplary work, innovation, and dedication to keeping our equipment in the best shape possible.

Richard Hubert

Grigoriy Roytberg

Sankarathil Thomas

John Morrell



### Employee Experience Site Tour Drawing

At today's ceremony, the following awardees and their nominators won passes to participate in one of the upcoming [DEP Employee Experience Site Tours](#).

EOM Awardees: **Ajaykumar Patel** and **Toby Siegman** / **Christy Bitet** – Nominator, **Irvin Moreno** / **Denish Prashaud** – Nominator, **George Markovics** / **Alfred Young** – Nominator and **Cheri Tse** / **Cecil McMaster** - Nominator

Commissioner Awardees: **James Dipietrantonio**, **Richard Hubert**, **Grigoriy Roytberg**, **Frank Lynch** and **Richard Callamari**