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Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
Carter Strickland, Commissioner

WEEKLY PIPELINE EXTRA

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DEP Employees of the Month for December 2011

The 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.

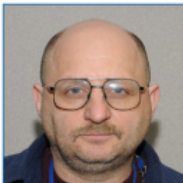
DEP is a great agency that delivers services that millions of New Yorkers depend on daily. Making good on that daily promise requires dedication and hard work of the nearly 6,000 employees of DEP. To nominate someone who has demonstrated uncommon dedication and excellence, fill out the nomination form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

The Employees of the Month for December, featured in this Weekly Pipeline Extra edition, were honored at a breakfast on January 24 with Commissioner Strickland, received a certificate, and had their names added to the Employee of the Month Board on the 3rd and 19th floors at Lefrak, and at the Kingston Office. These men and women set a standard for all of us to emulate and appreciate.



Water Supply - James Watkins

James began his career with DEP in 2003 and works for the West-of-Hudson Stormwater Group within Watershed Protection Programs. He is responsible for the technical review and oversight of regulated land development projects for compliance with DEP's Watershed Regulations. James constantly illustrates his diligence and attention to detail as a technical project reviewer. He provides recommendations to various regulatory agencies regarding the implications of proposed land-disturbing activities including potential impacts to streams and wetlands. One example of this was his direct involvement in the review, inspection, monitoring and enforcement of a land development project in the watershed that helped lead to the conviction of the site developer for failure to comply with DEP and State stormwater permitting requirements. This action against the developer started in May 2006. James' detailed and continual inspections, and plan reviews of the site developer over the past five years, culminated in a conviction of the developer that was announced by the State on December 9, 2011. This conviction resulted in \$135,000 in fines. James' effort exemplifies his passion for the quality of the city's water supply.



Water and Sewer Operations - Angelo Lorenzo

Angelo began his career with DEP in July 1987 in the Staten Island Construction Division working on the reconstruction of large diameter trunk mains. He then worked at the Department of Design and Construction and returned to DEP in 1999 to work in the bureau's Citywide Emergency Construction Division. Angelo has been assigned some of the bureau's highest priority and visible projects, including Yankee Stadium, Atlantic Yards in Brooklyn, and the Staten Island 72" siphon. Angelo manages a range of activities including the review of construction drawings and the supervision of construction work in the field. He also has played a central role in the Atlantic Yards project. The Atlantic Yards project is an important economic development initiative for the city and will feature a new sports arena, 6,400 housing units and retail/office space. For this project, Angelo helped to supervise the required relocation of approximately 2,000 linear feet of a 48" trunk main while accounting for numerous utility and subway interferences. The crucial timelines, water system operation allowances and location of this project required the construction to be conducted both on day and evening shifts. He has been involved with this project for the past three years, with the last 12 months being the most intensive. His dedication and cooperative approach has made him a model employee and true asset to the bureau.



Wastewater Treatment - **Francis Vocasek**

Francis began his career with DEP in December 1981 and currently serves as a Senior Stationary Engineer (Electric) at the Bowery Bay Wastewater Treatment Plant. Under an agreement with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to reduce discharges of nitrogen into the Upper East River, the ammonia-rich centrate from Bowery Bay's sludge dewatering process was being shipped off site by vessel. This costly operation was scheduled to continue until June 2012, when the plant's new biological nitrogen treatment system was completed. During December, Francis coordinated an effort among plant staff and the bureau's process engineering team to link some newly-installed systems to begin treating the centrate on-site. DEC agreed with this method, allowing DEP to end transshipment six months ahead of schedule. This effort, coupled with Francis' recent initiative to upgrade the plant's grease skimming system, has resulted in significant operational savings.



Information Technology - **Seshadri Aiyar and Lazar Mikhly**

Seshadri began his career at DEP in 1987 and currently serves as the Computer Application Development Quality Assurance Manager for the bureau. In this capacity he directs a team of analysts in designing and successfully implementing more than a thousand system enhancements to the Customer Information System (CIS), hundreds of programming modifications for browser based applications and for the development of the Interactive Voice Response System. In fulfillment of his responsibilities, he has directed the testing of applications that involve the lock box vendor who processes \$2 billion in payments yearly for water and wastewater charges, the mail vendor who is responsible for printing more than three million bills and thousands of delinquency notices annually, the mortgage service companies who pay \$100 million for frontage services on behalf of their customers, and with city agencies such as the Finance Department with whom Customer Services transfers data weekly and engages in lien sales that motivate customers to make payments of more than \$40 million annually and concludes in the sale of an additional few million.



Lazar began his career at DEP in 1994 and currently serves as the Application Manager for the Bureau. In this capacity he directs a team of programmers in the development of more than 1,000 enhancements to CIS, has collaborated on the development of browser applications that use data from CIS, and has provided guidance on the development of an interactive voice response system which provides information to customers on their last meter reading, their outstanding balance and on payments that were received. He has been instrumental in creating files that enable personnel to notify customers about outreach events and lien sales and to send letters to customers who are delinquent in the payment of their water bills. He has also been a valuable member of the on-call support teams evening and weekend staff who are contacted when a problem arises with the processing of meter readings, bills or payments. He has fulfilled this role extraordinarily well, and, as a result, processing is always completed on schedule.



Environmental Planning and Analysis - **Ashley Ryan**

Ashley began her career with DEP in August 2007. In 2008 Ashley was assigned to the Office of Ecological Services. Her primary responsibilities include the management and eventual construction oversight of the \$3.75M Bronx River, Flushing and Gowanus Watershed Green Infrastructure Grant Pilot Program. Information generated from these pilot programs will be helpful in advancing the NYC Green Infrastructure Plan and developing future strategies for green infrastructure implementation and the identification of maintenance needs. In addition, Ashley assists in the management of a Wildlife Hazard and Vegetation Management project at two recently remediated landfill sites. She also oversees the implementation, maintenance and monitoring requirements of several ecological restoration projects and the review of annual monitoring reports required by regulatory agencies.

Ashley has shown great initiative and knowledge in identifying potential issues before they occur and takes a proactive approach to problem solving. She is always willing to take on new tasks and is capable of addressing any issue that comes her way. She also keeps abreast of the latest research topics that are relevant to DEP that help promote core components of the agency's Strategic Plan.

Commissioner's Award:



Facilities Management and Construction

The Division of Facilities Management and Construction (FMC) is composed of the following units: Real Estate, Construction Services, Asbestos Task Force, Records Archives Management and Administration. FMC manages all maintenance, leasing and upgrading of DEP's facilities; manages in-house facilities construction/maintenance personnel; provides asbestos and lead abatement services and supervision; reviews critical operating components; provides construction survey and support for ADA/EEO and Environmental Health and Safety programs; and develops records retention, disposal and storage policies while preserving records with long-term and historical value.

Some of their major accomplishments include the completion of several bullpen renovations, including the original executive bullpen, using in-house inventory or recycled products; making major improvements at Lefrak and other DEP facilities; completing a critical Mayor's Office archival request; designing, developing and building a display for a more than 200-year-old wooden water main on the 3rd floor in Lefrak; and working with Pitney Bowes to pilot and develop a new method for posting first class mail and saving the agency more than \$15,000 per year with no DEP outlay.

FMC is working on several projects. These include replacing the agency's Records Retention Schedule through ongoing successful grant writing; researching archival services that support agency and non-agency users; processing the backlog of engineering records in DEP Archives' collections; and consolidating agency leased space to reduce DEP's rental expenses. In addition, the Asbestos Task Force will shortly be launching the lead abatement program to more fully respond to the needs of DEP's operating bureaus.