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Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
Carter Strickland, Commissioner

WEEKLY PIPELINE EXTRA

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DEP Employees of the Month for September & October 2013

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. 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. 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.

The Employees of the Month for September & October, featured in this Weekly Pipeline Extra edition, were honored at a breakfast on November 22 with Commissioner Strickland, during which they 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.



Wastewater Treatment - **Shanna Palmer**

Shanna began her career with DEP in September 2005 and currently serves as an Assistant Mechanical Engineer. On Friday evening, September 20th, Shanna was called at home to see if she would be willing to work over the weekend on a critical hazard mitigation grant submission for the Bureau's 26th Ward Wastewater Treatment Plant, which was incomplete and needed to be submitted the following Monday. Fortunately, Shanna agreed, even though she had no prior involvement with the assignment.

Over the weekend, Shanna reported to work and maintained contact with relevant personnel and consultants in order to gather the necessary information to supplement the grant submission. As a result of her endeavor, the Bureau was informed that a Hurricane Sandy relief effort grant in the amount of \$4,000,000 would be forthcoming. The grant will provide critical funding for the department and Shanna's contributions cannot be overstated.



Water Supply - **Eric Kight**

Eric began his DEP career in December 1998 and currently serves as a Project Manager in the Bureau's Lands Resource Protection group. Eric is instrumental in providing general administration for the entire Western Operations Division (WOD), including the Shokan, Grahamsville, and Downsville Regions. Specifically, he is responsible for keeping records of critical equipment, schedules, preventative maintenance, and work orders for all dams, dikes, aqueducts, shafts, roads, and bridges in WOD. He also generates lists, tables and reports regarding personnel, contacts, computers, and security, and serves as an interface with local town and county officials during emergencies or other unusual events. He also coordinates tours for the public and outside agencies, participates in inspections, oversees various Job Order Contracts, and serves as the Security Liaison between WOD and the Bureau of Police and Security.

Most recently, Eric mentored three Summer Interns who were working on dam safety and road regulations.



Environmental Planning and Analysis - **Alexander Wolk**

Alex began his DEP career in May 2011 and currently serves as an Administrative Staff Analyst in the Bureau's Ecosystem Services Division. Alex provides technical support for the negotiations that are underway with New York State concerning the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) permit, which authorizes stormwater discharges from large municipal separated storm sewer systems. He also provides support for the development of the stormwater management program that is required by the MS4 permit, oversees urban green infrastructure operations, performs research and development, including cost-benefit analysis, monitors flow capture efficiencies, and assists in the oversight of ecological restoration projects, stormwater management, and protection of natural resources affected by private development and public works projects. Alex is also involved with environmental research studies, which will guide future efforts. In addition, Alex assists in the review of long term urban green infrastructure studies.

Alex played a key role in completing all necessary technical analyses and coordinating with the Department of Buildings on the Green Roof Tax Abatement program, which recently passed the legislature and is currently being phased in at private buildings.



Police and Security - **David Hunt**

David began his DEP career in June 1993 and serves as an Environmental Police Officer-Sergeant assigned to the Gilboa Precinct. On August 22, Sergeant Hunt was patrolling a parcel of land on Churchill Mountain, in the Town of Stamford, when he discovered several illegal marijuana plants being grown and cultivated. Further investigation into this illegal activity led the police to a possible suspect. On September 18, twenty-four, two to four foot marijuana plants were seized into evidence. On October 23, the suspect was arrested and charged with trespass, criminal possession of marijuana, and unlawful growing of cannabis. Thanks to the efforts of Sergeant Hunt, this illegal activity was quickly stopped.



Water & Sewer Operations - **Howard Baierlein**

Howard began his DEP career in June 1984 and serves as a District Supervisor for the bureau. In October, Howard spearheaded the repair of a critical hydrant along the Harlem River Drive that was damaged by a private contractor who knocked the hydrant's top section off during construction. The repair was essential and needed to be completed immediately because the hydrant plays a vital role in operations associated with the Croton Aqueduct. With limited space for maneuvering trucks and equipment, Howard developed a plan to quickly repair the hydrant while keeping his team safe.

Howard has a strong work ethic and leads by example. He often works side by side with his unit instructing them on proper techniques and ensuring that health & safety protocols are followed. His excellent supervisory skills enable his unit to operate in a highly efficient and productive manner. Howard plans to retire at the end of this year and he will be missed. We wish him well!



Wastewater Treatment - **John Rivera**

John began his DEP career in June 2007 and currently serves as an Electrician's Helper. After the severe damage caused by Hurricane Sandy at the Rockaway Wastewater Treatment Plant, John implemented an idea he had for rewiring all of the final tank flights, and alarm circuits to the control room. He also developed a plan to retrofit lights in and around the plant to energy efficient E-Lamps. E-Lamps use much less energy than standard high pressure sodium light bulbs. In addition, E-Lamps require less maintenance which has helped reduce costs. John worked directly with the Plant Chief to develop his plans, researching vendors and ordering all necessary material including wire, switches and fittings, at the most affordable prices.

In another cost saving move, John suggested that rather than construct scaffolding, crews at the Rockaway Plant could borrow a battery-operated man-lift from the 26th Ward Wastewater Treatment Plant to make repairs. The battery-operated man-lift was placed in the basement of the final tank gallery and permitted staff to access electrical pull boxes on the ceiling to replace damaged wires. This allowed the necessary work to be completed more efficiently and more safely.



Water & Sewer Operations - **Stephane Riviere**

Stephane began his DEP career in November 1999 and currently serves as a Supervisor of Watershed Maintenance in the Bureau's Croton Operations division. He has over 14 years of operational and supervisory experience at several facilities and has obtained his NYS Department of Health Grades 1B and 2A Water System Operator Certifications. He has also earned the American Water Works Association's High Tech Operator Certification.

Stephane has been assigned to the Croton Water Filtration Plant since April 2010. In order to familiarize himself with the plant, Stephane studied design reports and engineering drawings and has been involved in the startup and testing of the plant equipment, as well as offsite operations associated with the conveyance of water. He has become skilled in the use of the Process Control and Monitoring System software which is used to control and monitor the various treatment processes. This software allows him to diagnose and trouble shoot equipment malfunctions. Additionally, he has become proficient in performing all process control lab analyses required to operate the plant. He plays a leading role in the development of the site specific operator training programs as well as mentoring the new Watershed Maintainers in preparation for their roles as future NYC certified Water Plant Operators. Stephane is clearly focused on DEP's mission to protect public health and the environment by supplying clean drinking water. He's a team player who leads by example and is always willing to share his knowledge and experience with colleagues.



Engineering Design and Construction - **Erica Spiritos**

Erica began her career with DEP in March 2013 and serves as a Civil Engineering Intern with the Bureau's Water Systems Capital Program. As soon as she started, Erica immediately became involved in the Croton Water Filtration Plant and Van Cortland Park Blubelt projects. Acclimating quickly to DEP, Erica became part of the Construction Support Team on the Blue Belt Program in Van Cortland Park, expediting the review of design documents and engaging with the Parks Department, the project's key external stakeholder. She is passionate about the restoration of the park. Erica stands out because of her enthusiasm and collaborative work ethic. At the Croton Water Filtration Plant project, she interacts with many of the future operators of the plant and reviews inspection observations.

A graduate of the Bronx High School of Science, Erica recently returned to the school to speak to Advanced Placement Environmental Science students about DEP programs, including the department's efforts to protect NYC's vital freshwater resources, and plans to augment the current water distribution system ahead of work to repair the Delaware Aqueduct. Specifically, she spoke to the students about the Croton Water Filtration Plant, land acquisition upstate, the Rondout-West Branch Bypass Tunnel, City Water Tunnel #3, and the Green Infrastructure Program.



Human Resources / Payroll - **Joseph Sokolowski**

Joseph began his career with DEP in August 2010 and currently serves as a Timekeeper in Payroll. He is responsible for processing approximately 350 employees' timesheets through CityTime in an efficient and timely manner. He maintains a positive relationship with the employees he supports by being patient and thoroughly answering questions about timesheets and leave requests, and other timekeeping issues. Joseph also assists with the auditing process for retirements, separations, and Family and Medical Leave Act requests. In addition to his timekeeping responsibilities, Joseph graciously assists with the Employee Store. His duties include marketing and promotion, organizing sales events, processing and delivering orders, customer communications, and inventory control. Joseph has skills in retail customer service and management, so he truly understands the importance of providing a seamless customer experience. He is always thinking of ways to improve the fulfillment process, from keeping customers informed to effectively handling out-of-stock issues and other order discrepancies. In addition to being dependable and resourceful, Joseph takes great pride in his work and is always eager to learn new things. Joseph's efforts with the Employee Store played a key role in the successful first season.

Commissioner's Award for September:



Community Affairs Team

The Community Affairs (CA) Team is being recognized today for their hard work coordinating and facilitating the 2013 Summer Waterfront Clean-up campaign.

As you may recall reading in the Pipeline newsletter, from July 8 through August 16, DEP conducted a Waterfront Clean-Up campaign to help remove litter and debris from properties affected by Hurricane Sandy. Partnering with the Department of Youth and Community Development's Summer Youth Employment Program, DEP hired more than 70 young New Yorkers who spent approximately 25 hours a week removing litter and debris from waterfront properties.

This campaign was a unique endeavor for DEP, and different from the one-day volunteer clean-ups at beaches and Bluebelts that had been conducted in the past. While past one-day events did require advance planning and staffing, the Summer 2013 campaign was more complicated in that it required an increased level of interagency coordination, ran every day for 6 weeks, and required the CA Team to balance their everyday duties with those of this campaign.

Advance Planning for the campaign started in late May and required the CA Team to develop an operations plan, including scouting locations, procuring clean-up supplies, and developing a communications protocol for the 4 Community Based Organizations that were involved. In addition, the CA Team had to facilitate interagency coordination with NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, NYC Parks Department and the NYC Department of Sanitation (DSNY), so that the groups involved had permission to enter certain waterfront locations and to ensure that garbage bags would be collected at the end of every shift.

At the outset of the campaign, the CA Team provided training to the on-site supervisors and participants. While the CA Team did not supervise the participants, they did have to manage the day to day operations. This included ensuring that the groups reported for work, garbage collection locations were identified, and DSNY notified for the pick-ups. The CA Team also had to track clean-up supplies and restock the groups with bags and gloves every few days, while logging the total number of garbage bags collected each day.

Due to this joint collaboration, under the direction of the CA Team, the campaign was a resounding success with accolades received from elected officials, Community Boards and the general public, who all appreciated the effort.

Community Affairs Team

Effie Ardizzone
Frank Fontana
Karen Ellis
Denise Hubbard
Humberto Galarza

Commissioner's Award for October:



City Water Tunnel No. 3 Team

City Water Tunnel No. 3, Stage 2 in Manhattan is a 10-foot diameter, concrete lined tunnel that runs 8.5 miles south from Central Park down the west side of the island. In midtown it splits into two legs—an eastern leg that runs across central Manhattan and a downtown leg that serves lower Manhattan. Tunneling for Stage 2 of the Manhattan section began in October 2003, and was substantially completed in May 2010. Since then, DEP has been building shafts from the tunnel to the surface distribution system. Installation of mechanical and electrical equipment in the 10 distribution chambers was completed this past May, which allowed staff to begin the process of activating the final stage of the tunnel in Manhattan.

Activation of the tunnel required a multi-phase process to ensure the tunnel was ready to deliver millions of gallons of high quality drinking water, including:

- Filling the tunnel to design pressure and fixing any leaks in the distribution pipes within the shafts;
- Draining the tunnel and flushing each of the three legs to remove any solid particles;
- Re-filling the tunnel with chlorinated water for disinfection and then flushing the chlorinated water to bring the chlorine residual and pH into normal range for distribution, and
- Bacteriological sampling and analysis prior to placing the tunnel in service.

Water began flowing into the tunnel on June 1, 2013 and all systems were declared ready to begin distribution on October 3rd.

Work during this three month period required close coordination between the Bureaus of Engineering, Design and Construction, Water and Sewer Operations, Water Supply, and Wastewater Treatment, as well as the construction contractors and engineering support consultants. Staff from the respective bureaus worked together to detail each step of the activation process, implement work plans, monitor progress, and interpret data. They worked around the clock to ensure that systems allowing water to flow into and out of the tunnel were functioning correctly, that required samples were taken for analysis, and that the ten distribution chambers were operational.

This was a tremendous effort by a large and dedicated group, and is a great example of bureaus working together to achieve a common goal. Activation of City Water Tunnel No. 3, Stage 2, is a significant milestone for one of the largest infrastructure projects in city history and marks the first time in 15 years that a segment of new water tunnel has been brought on-line. Stage 2 in Manhattan is the newest part of the world-class system that supplies one billion gallons of high-quality drinking water to more than eight million New York City residents and millions of tourists and commuters every day. Today, we can all be proud that, like the generations before us, we are building the infrastructure necessary to support a growing city.

City Water Tunnel No. 3 Team

Shaft Maintenance LeFrak (WSO)

Andrew Kuchynsky
Ameer Faragalla
Jinu Chandu
Jorge Pineda
Kediss Girgis
Mohammed Mahmuduzzaman
Winston Ebanks
Shaft Maintenance
Headquarters(WSO)
Andres Jusino
Attilio Agostino
Baldemiro Leon
Dean Salli
Dennis McDermott, Jr.
Dyalon Daley
Jaime Berkeley
John Caccavale
John Smiley
Johnathan Botelho
Kenneth Spooner
Kevin McGarrigle
Louis Grosso
Marcus Evans
Mario Cinquemani
Mario Genece
Mayo Boardman
Michael Wong
Nicholas Paci
Nicole Blake
Paul Sheane
Peter Mangal
Rajpaul Satdeo
Ramchand Ramkishun

Ricardo Ramjohn
Robert Morena
Robert Semansky
Sergey Vedernikov
Thakoord Rambrich
Wayne Francis

Distribution Operations (WSO)

Diogenes Mata
Dushyant Patel
Ignacio Morgades
John Byrne
Louis Dimiglio
Peter Spies
Rohan Ramsammy
Russel Reinhartsen
Shafraz Bacchus
Shamnarine Hemraj
Weislaw Koziorzewski
Zdzislaw Solinski

Engineering, Design & Construction (EDC)

Ahmed Amin
Akimu Garuba
Alina Rivera
Anthony Giuliani
Bobby Kuriakose
Caitlin Hunt
Charles Straceski
Chuck Hui
Daniela Tolov
Demetri Poulis
Fitzroy Sam

Fotna Hanna
Harold Torres
Irina Mosina
Joel Hull
John McCluskey
Justin Rivellino
Lee Roy Ellis
Manoj Das
Matthew Sorrell
Mikhail Slutskiy
Mohanlal Patel
Neal Bierman
Ovidiu Pena
Paolo Brion
Razzaq Manley
Robert Santora
Steven Chao
Tarindra Narine
Wilkins Santana
William Leong

Water Supply (WS)

Raffaele Riccardi
Salome Freud
Virginia Murray

Wastewater Treatment (WT)

Frances Leung
Frank Kulcsar
Leslie Lipton
Sean Hulbert
Stella Rozelman



Employee Experience Site Tour Drawing

At today's ceremony three lucky awardees and their nominators, and two Commissioner Awardees, won passes which they will use to participate in one of the upcoming DEP Employee Experience Site Tours! These tours will be scheduled quarterly and the winners will receive one pass each to be used within the next year.

These tours are an additional bonus to EOM recipients in recognition of their outstanding achievements and we want to offer them and their nominators excused time from their day-to-day work to venture out and experience one of the many other vital workplaces in our vast network of operations. On our tour list might be a visit to the Gilboa dam, to Newtown Creek's digester eggs, to the new \$1.6 billion UV plant, or to one of our exciting green infrastructure projects. We guarantee that these tours will inspire even more excitement about the contributions that employees make every day to the DEP mission. And, as word gets around, we hope the chance to win a tour will encourage even more employees to submit worthy EOM nominations.

EOM Awardees: **Eric Kight / Jeffrey Helmuth, Shanna Palmer / Ian Anderson, Joseph Sokolowski / Diana Chernov, Kerry Ann Russell / Frank Camardella, Erica Spiritos / Arnie Fareth.** Commissioner Awardees: **Denise Hubbard, Karen Ellis, Baldemiro Leon, Louis Dimiglio, Peter Mangal, Zdzislaw Solinski, Virginia Murray, Robert Santora, Shamnarine Hemraj, Marcus Evans, Sean Hulbert, Paul Sheane, Mario Cinquemani, Dennis McDermott, Jr., Steven Chao, Raffaele Riccardi, Winston Ebanks, Razzaq Manley, Mohanlal Patel, Thakoord Rambrich, Ramchand Ramkishun, and Russel Reinhartsen.**