



WEEKLY PIPELINE

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EXTRA

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DEP Employees of the Month for April 2010

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

In recognition of June as National Safety Month, we will be dedicating the June Employee of the Month ceremony to recognizing employees who have made significant contributions to advancing Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) in their unit, Bureau or the Agency as a whole. The criteria for selection are:

- An employee who has consistently demonstrated through measurable EHS performance a sustained commitment to EHS Excellence in his/her workplace, division, bureau, or agency as a whole; and/or
- An employee who has contributed a specific idea or suggestion that has resulted in improving safety or environmental compliance in his/her workplace, division, bureau or agency as a whole.
- All DEP employees are eligible for this special award, including EHS employees.

From now until the tenth day following the end of the month, please nominate any DEP employee who you feel has met these criteria and distinguished themselves as a leader in EHS. Those winning entries who have contributed to DEP's safe working environment will be published in June's Employee of the Month issue of Pipeline.

For more information, please contact Herbert Roth at herbr@dep.nyc.gov or at (718) 595-3377.

Our six Employees of the Month attend a breakfast with the commissioner, receive a certificate, are featured here in Pipeline, and will have 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.



Steven De La Cruz - Water Supply

During this past month, Steve has been tasked not only with his routine microbiology assignments, but also with Water Supply's sample collection workload. In addition, under his own initiative, and under the direction of his supervisor, Steve developed a computer database to document his group's training status on Quality System documents. This database allows for quick and easy documentation of training on Water Supply's Quality System, and has been introduced as a pilot project in the laboratories. Once the system is fully functional, it could easily be implemented across the Bureau, saving time and valuable resources.

Because of Steve's enthusiasm and dedication to his work, he eagerly volunteered to be cross-trained in the sample collection tasks and has taken on this responsibility while continuing to complete his current workload in an outstanding manner. In addition, Steve's supervisor also needed to identify someone who could take on the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) responsibility. Again, without hesitation Steve volunteered to contribute to this effort and serves as the Division's LIMS liaison.



Gerald (Jerry) Mistretta - Wastewater Treatment

Since the start of 2010, Jerry has been responsible for the acceptance, startup, and continuous operation of millions of dollars of new construction and equipment at the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. One example is the new Support Building, a five story multi-purpose complex that consolidated the Process Control analyses for six wastewater treatment plants and 14 microbiology laboratories. Through great effort and skill, Jerry was able to manage an incredibly smooth transition and consolidation while keeping the operation functional ensuring that all mandates continued to be met.

In addition, Jerry was responsible for running various compliance-mandated tests on four new emergency turbines and the two black start engines over a two month period. This involved the running of various electrical loads in different turbine configurations. The tests required that the Plant's process air be reconfigured to meet the electrical needs of the test without disruption of treatment. Again, Jerry made what seemed like an impossible task look easy and ensured that operations were not negatively impacted.



Janet Amaro - Water and Sewer Operations

Janet has been working for months on an engineering application database for the bureau that was put into use this past April. Using her administrative, technical and organizational expertise, as well as her creativity and ingenuity, Janet developed and configured a database, which has greatly improved the bureau's water and sewer application and project tracking capabilities. She also singlehandedly trained engineering division staff at the local offices and here at Lefrak on how to use the database. The development of this database was a high priority for both Jim Roberts and Magdi Farag and Janet stepped up and performed tremendously. In addition to her work on the database, Janet is a key member of several working groups, which have been tasked to enhance bureau operations.

It is also worth noting that Janet is pursuing a Master's of Public Administration degree while working full-time. She also feels strongly about giving back to the community and volunteers with the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life Program and the Mayor's Alliance for New York City Animals.

Janet's dedication to her work, education and charities serves as an inspiration to us all.



Arne Fareth - EDC & Sustainability

Arne is BEDC's Executive Project Manager for the Croton Water Filtration Plant and associated projects. He's not only responsible for overseeing and managing this \$2.8 billion project but also supervises and mentors project managers, assistants, and interns in Upstate Water Supply Treatment and Facilities Division. Arne has been with DEP for about 18 years. In that time he has worked on projects ranging from City Water Tunnel #3 to Hillview Reservoir, including some work on the Hillview Cover Design, to his current role on the Croton Water Filtration Plant project.

Arne's dedication is evident in every aspect of his work. He is integral to the success of the projects under his direction and goes to great lengths to insure their successful completion. Additionally impressive is Arne's ability to mentor his staff and provide for their career growth and development. He is keenly aware of the individual abilities of his staff and works closely with each subordinate to encourage, teach and develop their skills.

In his role of Executive Project Manager, the demands on Arne's coordination skills are great. There are many different stakeholders involved in each his projects but none greater than that of the Croton Water Filtration Plant. Due to the attention that the Croton project receives, coordination is exceedingly difficult. Arne has taken on the role of "relationship" manager. He is accomplished at managing different personalities and promoting harmony among the many stakeholders, which is no easy task.



John Napolitano - Administration & Support Bureaus

John has been working for the Bureau of Customer Services since 1990 and is tasked with supervising Water Use Inspectors, interpreting and enforcing the rules of the administrative code and Chapter 20 regulations, and advising plumbers, engineers and contractors about DEP rules and regulations as they pertain to water metering.

John's technical skills combined with his trouble shooting capabilities make him unique. His expertise and knowledge have saved the day on many occasions. In addition, his proficiency with downloading data into the Hand Held computer device has made the work of his field inspectors a little easier.

John also sets a good example for his inspectors. He arrives early, fields calls at home, never shies away from a problem, and is never too busy to answer a question or to provide guidance and support.

Commissioner's Award:



BWSO District Supervisor Jose Charles Ramirez

Since Jose began his career with DEP in 1995, he's had perfect attendance. And it's a good thing that streak was at work on April 25, 2010, during the King's Highway water main break. After he was notified that the routine leak had intensified and became an emergency, he acted quickly and initiated the notification process, ensuring that everyone who had to know was in the know. Afterward, he helped establish a safe work zone with his supervisor and crew, set up the Emergency Command Post and organized the early stages of the response, including shutting the trunk main, relieving flooding conditions, and briefing arriving personnel of the situation. He played a vital role during the entire process by staffing the Command Post, tracking the responding personnel, maintaining communication and ensuring instructions were followed by the numerous crews that were working in various locations throughout Brooklyn and Queens. A supervisor since 2000, Jose's efforts helped ensure that despite the water main break, no DEP customers lost service during the incident.