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Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
Carter Strickland, Commissioner

WEEKLY PIPELINE EXTRA

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DEP Employees of the Month for August 2012

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 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 Pipeline, 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 August, featured in this Weekly Pipeline Extra edition, were honored at a breakfast on September 25 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 - Karl Brueckner

Karl began his career with DEP in June, 1993, and currently serves as a Watershed Maintainer in the Shokan Region within the Western Operations Division. Karl is responsible for the maintenance and repair of all regional buildings and the upkeep of the grounds around the Ashokan Headworks. His recent efforts in the Town of Prattsville truly demonstrate his professional pride, attention to detail, and remarkable woodworking skills. He designed and built two kiosks and picnic tables for the community to use while enjoying the newly opened Devasego Park. These were on display recently when the Town held the 1st Annual Mudfest, where the community came together at Devasego Park to celebrate their rebuilding efforts since Hurricane Irene. Karl's efforts not only supported the rebuilding of the Town of Prattsville, but also the area's civic spirit.



Wastewater Treatment - Eric Klee

Eric began his career with DEP in November, 1986, and currently serves as a Sr. Stationary Engineer (Electric) at the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. DEP and the Department of Sanitation (DSNY) have been exploring ways to beneficially process food waste in a sustainable way, rather than continuing to dump the material in landfills. Eric and his team came up with an innovative and low-cost way to macerate food waste and have it injected directly into the egg-shaped digesters at the Newtown Creek plant so that extra methane gas can be biologically extracted. The system that Eric and his team devised was put into action when DSNY recently began delivering wastes from local green markets.



Water and Sewer Operations - **Yocanda Baez**

Yocanda began her career with DEP in July, 1997, as a Summer College Intern and currently serves as Section Chief, Administrative Projects and Enforcement Unit for the Management Services Division. She is responsible for enforcement of the Cross Connections program for the bureau, coordinates the agency's bureau-wide EEO training program, all bureau training needs, analyzes the bureau's part time needs and prepares staffing proposals. In an effort to eliminate the time consuming task of handwriting the multi-part Notices of Violations (NOV) for the Cross Connection program, Yocanda worked with the staff and developed a computerized form that is directly linked to the Cross Connection database. As a result of these efforts, the unit is now able to generate and print the NOVs electronically. This has eliminated the need for researching the appropriate information and then transcribing it by hand onto the multi-carbon form, as well as the problem of illegible NOVs and errors. The agency attorneys that handle the ECB hearings for the agency have not only approved of the new system but would like to roll it out to all other bureau's with a similar process.



Communications and Intergovernmental Affairs - **Eleftheria (Effie) Ardizzone**

Effie began her career with DEP in November, 2004, and currently serves as the Deputy Director in the Office of Community Partnerships where she supervises the day to day operations of the staff. Effie is a highly effective problem solver who is able to handle large workloads in an efficient and timely manner. She has built strong working relationships with key personnel across numerous DEP bureaus and divisions which has enabled her to expedite responses to constituent inquiries.

Over the past two years, Effie has been working closely with her DEP colleagues and the staff of the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) in an effort to address a longstanding flooding condition on adjacent roadways (Southern Boulevard and Allerton Avenue) in the Bronx. Over that time, she has responded to NYBG calls at all hours (days, nights and weekends) and has worked diligently as a liaison between NYBG and DEP staff who evaluated the various options to keep the roadway free of ponding water. Effie was instrumental in expediting DEP's request for the appropriate Department of Transportation permits in order to implement the long-term solution developed by BWSO. On March 6, 2012, Commissioner Strickland received a letter of appreciation from the NYBG for DEP's efforts in addressing this problem and creating a permanent stormwater management feature at the Garden.



Environmental Compliance - **Linda Gamble**

Linda began her career with DEP in September, 1989, and serves as a Clerical Associate. As one of the bureau's main customer service representatives she educates the public on the new Clean Air Tracking System (CATS) for boiler registrations which was launched in May, 2012. CATS, an online program for building owners, expedites the registration and tracking of applications, and enables online payments. Linda also answers questions regarding DEP's recently amended air regulations which require building owners to convert from #6 to #4 fuel oil or an alternate cleaner fuel.

Working with applicants to explain the changing needs of the air permitting process and helping them decipher their status requires in-depth knowledge of the group's workflow and patience with building owners and others. In this capacity, Linda represents the agency extremely well.

Commissioner's Award:



Office of Information Technology - Emergency Support Team

On Monday, August 13, at about 6:15 am, the Lefrak complex experienced an internal power outage which left floors one through 11 without any electrical power. The power outage also impacted the Office of Information Technology's (OIT) data center located on the 10th floor. As a result, all of the agency's mission critical systems (such as SCADA and Hansen) and the communication platforms (email, voicemail, phones and computer network) were forced to shut down.

The OIT emergency support team was quickly assembled and began collaborating with DEP Facilities, Lefrak building management, and all of the operating bureaus (Water and Sewer Operations, Wastewater Treatment, Environmental, Health and Safety, and Human Resources). The OIT emergency support team also opened the emergency command center and began organizing and facilitating restoration efforts.

The team enabled Lefrak building management to establish a temporary power connection and was able to restore the DEP data center later that evening at about 11:00 pm. They continued to monitor the power load for the data center, which was operating from a temporary connection throughout the week, and developed a comprehensive plan to replace the electrical switch that was burned on August 13.

The OIT emergency support team continued to coordinate with the various bureaus and external agencies, including the Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications, over that weekend (beginning at 3:30 am Saturday morning and continuing until 10:00 pm on Saturday night) and successfully managed to completely restore all functionality to the data center and the thousands of DEP employees who depend on our computer systems to accomplish their missions.

From OIT:

Michael Shum, Farhan Abdullah, Romel Osbourne, Alex Koren, Ian Alexander, Jean-Claude (JP) Jean-Philippe, Chuck Thompson, Jose Torres, Kishor Mehta, David Philip, Colin Abrams, David Xu, Anthony Valero, Denise Kerr, Mohammad Zakir, Song Hong, Chris Smith, Francis Akerele, Inna Gurvits, Rameliza Ratio, Wanda Phillips, Veronica Thompson, Step Barclay.