

**From:** [Strickland Jr., Carter H.](#)  
**Subject:** Weekly Pipeline - Extra Edition - Employees of the Month for June  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 31, 2012 8:01:57 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)



Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor  
Carter Strickland, Commissioner

WEEKLY

# PIPELINE

EXTRA

July 31, 2012

Volume III • Issue 135A



## DEP Employees of the Month for June 2012

**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 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](mailto:hroth@dep.nyc.gov).

The Employees of the Month for June, featured in this Weekly Pipeline Extra edition, were honored at a breakfast on July 31 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 and Sewer Operations - **Moira Tittle**

Moira began her career with DEP in December 1984 and currently serves as the Section Chief of Correspondence. Tittle penned the agency's standard acknowledgement letter template and proposed that the Correspondence Unit could reduce response time by responding on behalf of the Borough Managers. Since then, by working closely with the Borough Managers, response time has indeed gone down. In 2011, Tittle and her support team were able to close out 90% of all correspondence that came into the bureau. Tittle continues to keep numbers low and motivates her staff to be diligent and inspired.



### Environmental Compliance - **Linda Barghasheh**

Linda Barghasheh began her career with DEP in September 1996, and during her tenure she has provided a high level of administrative support for a variety of units in the agency. In her current assignment in the Office of Green Infrastructure (OGI), she continues to excel. OGI was tasked with meeting critical deadlines for the construction of three demonstration projects specified in the combined sewer overflow Consent Order. She provided staff with the support and office tools required to keep these projects moving forward without delay. With Barghasheh's reliable support, OGI has met key deadlines and made major strides in meeting its PlanNYC goals.



#### Office of Engineering Audits - **Paul Marks**

Paul Marks began his career with DEP in October 1988 and currently serves as an Associate Project Manager in the Office of Engineering Audits. He is responsible for the audit of payments for capital construction projects and ensures that they are reviewed and processed in compliance with the NYC Comptroller's Directives and DEP Policies. He joined the office in 2001 and has vast experience, including geological studies of the City Water Tunnel No. 3 Project and remediation of the Pelham Bay, Pennsylvania, and Fountain Avenue Landfills.

Marks is self-motivated and conscientious about his work. While he is able to work independently, he also exercises good judgment in utilizing the expertise of others when reviewing capital construction payments, all while ensuring compliance with contract specifications. His outstanding efforts in monitoring payments have resulted in significant savings to DEP and the City of New York.

During a recent audit, Marks discovered an overpayment of \$425,000. Due to his diligence, the contractor acknowledged the error and refunded the overpayment.



#### Wastewater Treatment - **Frank Giovanniello**

Frank Giovanniello began his career with DEP in June 1994 and currently serves as a Stationary Engineer (Electric) SEE. As an SEE for Collections Facilities North at Tallman Island, he is responsible for the operations and maintenance of 31 pumping stations, 126 regulators, and two combined sewer overflow retention facilities. Giovanniello schedules and supervises the daily duties of sewage treatment workers and conducts their performance evaluations. He operates and maintains portable pumping equipment and emergency generators. He also responds to pumping station and regulator emergencies (call-outs) around the clock. One of the reasons for call-outs is to respond to dry weather bypasses from collection facilities for abatement.

On June 2, 2012, the Regulator Bowery Bay High Level 9 alarm notified BWT of a raw sewage bypass. Giovanniello and a crew responded to the site and confirmed the bypass. Upon discovering a crack in the wall that was causing a discharge into Flushing Bay, Giovanniello formulated a comprehensive plan and directed the crew to make the necessary repairs, which ended the bypass within two hours, preventing any impacts to area beaches.



#### Water Supply - **Mark Zion**

Mark Zion began his career with DEP in March 2008 and currently serves as a City Research Scientist in the bureau's Watershed Water Quality Science & Research Division. He is responsible for analyzing the impacts of the watershed protection programs for the filtration avoidance assessments. Zion is also responsible for analyzing data and running water quantity and quality models to assist in the operation of the water supply. In the aftermath of Hurricane Irene, he worked with modeling staff to ensure that model runs were completed quickly. This allowed BWS management to make timely decisions about the operation of the water supply and was critical in order for DEP to stop the use of alum for water treatment at Kensico Reservoir. Zion sets an excellent example through his serious, critical thinking about water quality issues for DEP. His dedication is illustrated by how well he is respected by his peers and supervisors.

## **Commissioner's Award:**



### **92nd Street Sewer Response Team**

On June 28, 2012 there was a sewer collapse at 92nd Street near 3rd Avenue in Brooklyn. On July 11, Bureau of Wastewater Treatment's (BWT) collections facility (CF) responded to a complaint from a resident and confirmed an active bypass at 17th Avenue and Gravesend Bay, in Brooklyn. The likely cause of the bypass was additional blockage in the sewer at 92nd Street near 3rd Avenue, which was a consequence of the sewer collapse. This resulted in a backup in the upstream system, causing sanitary sewage in a sewer on 17th Avenue to intermittently tip over a weir into the 4-barrel outfall. After approval from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, BWT began chlorination for disinfection and odor and performed temporary repairs to address the leak in the weir wall. At the same time, CF personnel contacted the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations (BWSO). To ensure the sewage would reach the wastewater treatment plant in both dry and wet weather, BWSO crews began a pump around at 92nd Street to divert flow around the sewer break. BWSO's Emergency Reconstruction Section and the Capacity Management Operation and Maintenance (CMOM) Section employees played a critical role in the reconstruction of the failed sewer tunnel. All employees involved displayed a collective calm through very difficult conditions that included a 24/7 operation, interaction with a concerned community, coordination of prime and specialized sub-contractors, interaction with various city agencies, and utility companies. From the initial response to the ongoing construction, these employees remained focused on their objectives and continually provided status updates to agency management. It is the dedication and hard work of these employees that has allowed a very large-scale, complex construction project to progress smoothly with minimum disruption to the immediate neighborhood and surrounding areas. Engineers from the Emergency Reconstruction Section oversaw construction details, coordinated construction activities, ensured a safe work environment, and maintained all required payment records. CMOM employees identified and monitored sewer manholes upstream and downstream of the break site and performed closed circuit television (CCTV) inspection of critical manholes. They identified manholes that were used as pump around locations and on an hourly basis performed elevation measurements at critical manholes to determine flow status.

#### **BWT**

Martin Bunce, Anthony Boccia, Mark Krasnopolski, Sergey Fedorov, Frank Soviero, Paul Kiskorna, Anthony Cantalino, Anthony Farella, Christopher Cerchio, Festus Williams, Dexter Douglas, David Cormier, Paul Gallart, Michael Miele, Joseph Goldstein, Leon Bacchus, Lawrence Merrill, Albert Romano, Jr., Mohammed Haque, Ajay Desai, Igor Yagudayev, Najib Farooqi, Brian Valdez and Christopher Laudando.

#### **BWSO**

Daniel Lefkowitz, Fathi Husein, Joo Seet, Derek Tai, Kachikwu Nwosu, Ana Calle, Gregory Tamarin, Eugenio Cadiz, Isfandyar Sayadiadam, Jorge Perez, Jean-Denis Lucien and Kamil Dyrda.