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[image003.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)



Bill de Blasio, Mayor  
Emily Lloyd, Commissioner

# WEEKLY PIPELINE EXTRA

May 21, 2014

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## DEP Employees of the Month for April 2014

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

The Employees of the Month for April, featured in this Weekly Pipeline Extra edition, were honored at a breakfast on May 21 with Chief Financial Officer Steve Lawitts, during which they received a certificate, and had their names added to the Employee of the Month Board on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> floors at Lefrak and at the Kingston Office. These men and women set a standard for all of us to emulate and appreciate.



### Police and Security - **Doug DiSciullo**

Officer Doug DiSciullo began his career with DEP in August 2001 and in July 2003 he was selected to be one of the first canine handlers in the newly established canine unit. Officer DiSciullo and his canine *Mycal* currently patrol the Ashokan Police Precinct area checking facilities and properties for explosives, polluters, terrorists and other criminals. They have been involved in numerous search and rescue missions and have helped other local agencies with sweeps of schools and businesses for explosives after threats have been made. In addition, they partake in a variety of demonstrations for local schools and clubs and both are well respected in the community. Officer DiSciullo is self-motivated and has a high work ethic and commitment to DEP's mission. He is very thorough in both his facility checks and the administrative aspects of his assignment. No matter the weather conditions, he and Mycal are proactive in protecting the watershed.



### Water and Sewer Operations - **Ava Green-Harris**

Ava began her career with DEP in September 1990 and serves in the Bureau's Correspondence Unit. In this role, Ava is in constant contact with the Field Operations' Borough Managers and personnel and ensures that information regarding work orders is updated and accurate in the Correspondence database.

Specifically, Ava is responsible for logging, assigning and closing all correspondences, addressing 311 complaints received via email, problem-solving and troubleshooting complaints, and handling FOIL requests. Ava is very reliable and is always available to lend a helping hand when needed.



### Engineering, Design and Construction and Wastewater Treatment Coney Island Project Team

The Bureau of Engineering Design and Construction's (BEDC) In-House Design Group was commissioned as the "Engineer of Record" for the Level 1 Biological Nitrogen Removal (BNR) Upgrade at the Coney Island Wastewater Treatment Plant. This is the first BNR upgrade design being undertaken in-house, as six of the fourteen treatment plants have undergone similar upgrades through consultant design.

In support of the process design, the BEDC project team developed and performed a wastewater characterization sampling program at the plant in March. The team started with solid planning, including numerous site visits, operator interviews, and historical data analysis. Given existing conditions and limitations at the plant, the team also had to be resourceful and creative in solving problems such as advance sampling to validate an alternative influent sample location. During the execution of the sampling program, each member of the team took turns taking grab samples, including nights and weekends, at one of the sampling locations where the use of an auto sampler was not feasible. Their can-do spirit and high level of commitment overcame every obstacle and allowed for the successful completion of the program. If sustained, this commitment will easily lead to a successful design completion.

This effort would not have been possible without the successful collaboration with a team from the Bureau of Wastewater Treatment (BWT). Several key pieces of sampling equipment were borrowed from other wastewater plants and the BWT team provided invaluable guidance and assistance throughout this process and helped set up the auto samplers. In addition, the Coney Island Plant process engineer took one-time samples in advance of the program to help confirm the best sampling locations. Finally, the Operations Support Division provided a crucial funding vehicle for sample analysis by the City College of New York.

This sampling effort was the first major stepping stone for the two teams who are motivated and committed to the project's success.

The Coney Island Project Team members include: BEDC - **Caitlin Hunt, Matthew Jessup, Alexander Lopez,** and **Natalia Perez**; and BWT - **Yu-Tung Chan, James Taiwo, Howard Robinson** and **Ojpal (Singh) Auluck**.



### Employee Suggestion Program - **Duncan Schmitt**

Duncan Schmitt, an Associate Project Manager II with the Bureau of Water Supply wrote to the Employee Suggestion Program with his idea to provide tick-protection for employees who perform field work in the watershed. Since ticks carry lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses, the suggestion was to purchase special gaiters to deter ticks from latching onto unsuspecting employees.

Robert Groppe and Charlene Graff researched the products available to provide this type of tick protection and ordered 185 pairs of Lymeex-brand tick gaiters. The new gaiters are now available at the Valhalla facility for employees who choose to wear them. Because of Duncan's suggestion, the bureau was able to help mitigate the risk of employee exposure to ticks and the related health risks.

## Commissioner's Awards:



### Take Our Children To Work Day Team

Last month DEP organized a Take Our Children to Work Day. This was an extraordinary event that took extensive planning and many volunteers to make it the success it was. It is being recognized today not only for the tremendously important impact that it had on the children who attended but also because it represents a model of excellence in teamwork, partnership and collaboration across DEP that ensured the program reached both field and office employees, and their children.

The event provided DEP employees the chance to showcase their work and share their experiences. The children were engaged in hands-on activities in an interactive environment which exposed them to the numerous career opportunities that are available to them at DEP. This year, more than 200 children, ranging in ages from 8 to 18, participated. In the end, parents were enthralled, children were in awe, participating bureaus were excited, and spectators were pleased.

Commissioner Emily Lloyd kicked off the day talking to the children about the mission of DEP and how they could one day be a part of the department if they continue with their education. There were a wide array of activities such as water meter construction, bioswale demonstration, water cycle processes, water testing, police equipment and K-9 crew, mobile lab, wildlife expo, virtual fire demonstration, digital photo booth, and a surprising hit – DEP magnets craft. Each child was presented with a DEP bag, water bottle and a light snack. In addition, tours were scheduled upstate in Kingston and in the city at the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Today we honor the following employees in recognition of their contributions towards making DEP's Take Our Children to Work Day a successful event!

Event Coordinator: Grace Pigott

Bureau Coordinators/Assistants: **ACCO** – Krystal Peartree, Jesus LaTorre and Rosanna Pullara; **BCS** – Merander Layne, Michelle Bennette-More, Christine Sam and Tresa Ritch; **EA** – Phyllis Kam and Janet Singh; **BEDC** – Reginald Askew, Yanina Panchishina and Padmini Naidu; **EHS** – Shamalina Khan; **FMC** – Velita Jackson, Bibi Hussain and Charlotte Abo-Comitini; **HR** – Donna Ascione, Lalita Conyers, Herb Roth, Jacques Winn and Adrienne Blanford; **OIT** – Shaquanna Balfour; **Police** - Lt. Michael Reda, Officer Charles Chapman, Det. Andrew Rice, Sgt. Andreas Ortiz, Officer Edwin Laryea, Officer Greg Marinelli, Officer Frank Emmett, Officer Daniel Szeto, Officer Doug DiSciullo, Det. Ron Hewlett, Det. William Rosario, Sgt. Thomas Reis and Det. Mike Wilkins and K-9's Mycal and Kadan; **DERTA** – Velveth Morales, Afrosa Amin, Nancy Barsoum, Timothy Fraczak, Moses Guluzian, Robert Kepich, Romane Soliman and Scott Drangel; **Sustainability** – Jessica Dennis, Callie Siu and Jeffrey Martin; **BWS** – Danielle Cantwell, Susan Mathys, Joe Borchetta, John Canning, Margaret Chambliss, Steve Dzubak, Ed Hughes, Chris Jastrzembki, Jason LeGault, Deborah Keesler, Samantha Kubel, Paul LaFiandra, Denise Lamboy, Terence Lennon, Godwin Lowe, Nur Muhammad, Victor Silvestri, Joseph Spagnuolo, Robert Spaulding and Frank Tempestilli; **BWSO** – Yocanda Baez, Suleyma Arroyo, Lucie Ibrahim and Diana Ricaurte; **BWT** - Rosie DeJesus, Kathryn Harrington-Critchlow, Menzy Jean-Baptiste and Toby Siegman.

Committee Members: **HR** - Zoe Ann Campbell, **Executive** - Kim Seiler

Career Panelists: **ACCO** - Michael Smilowitz; **BEDC** - Ashley Barker, Antonio Ho, Caitlin Hun, Alex Lopez and Bobby Kuriakose; **BWSO** - Sarah Hiester and Katie Mockler; **BWT** Salvatore Scapellito, **OIG** - Jeffrey Martin; **OIT** - Michael Taylor, Jr.



### Green Infrastructure Team

The Office of Green Infrastructure (OGI) was created in January 2011 with a small staff of five tasked with the mission to implement the NYC Green Infrastructure Plan, a \$1.5 billion dollar program to design and construct the green infrastructure necessary to meet the 2012 Amended Consent Order obligations. Today, the OGI has 19 staff and continues to expand to meet the needs of the department.

OGI is proud of its many accomplishments, including establishing Right-of-way Bioswale standard designs and specifications, which are utilized by multiple city agencies, the imminent construction of several thousand right-of-way green infrastructure projects this year, the successful grant program for private property owners, the development of a project tracking and asset management program, and the important work of the green infrastructure maintenance program.

Additionally, OGI has met all Consent Order milestones on time and is charging ahead toward the next milestones, which come up later this year and in 2015. With little precedent for implementing a program of this type and scale anywhere in the country, OGI has grown tremendously in a few short years. With strong leadership provided by Angela Licata and Magdi Farag, and the close collaboration of the staff, OGI has developed into the multi-faceted and talented team that they are today. Angela and Magdi have provided positive feedback about each employee's contributions while also being available to assist when questions and concerns come up. This approach has created a positive and nurturing work environment and a formidable team that is producing results that meet and exceed the strategic goals and mission of the bureau. In addition, OGI was the first Office in the department to complete 100 percent of their 2013 performance evaluations!

The following OGI employees contributed to the success of the team: **Linda Barghasheh, Magdi Farag, Tetyana Klymenko, Angela Licata, Raymond Palmares, Virginia Smyth, Gayna Samuel, and Margot Walker.**



### Employee Experience Site Tour Drawing

At today's ceremony, three lucky awardees and their nominators, and four 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 DEP's vast network of operations. On the 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 DEP's exciting green infrastructure projects. These tours are guaranteed to inspire even more excitement about the contributions that employees make every day to the DEP mission. And, as word gets around, the chance to win a tour should encourage even more employees to submit worthy EOM nominations.

EOM Awardees: **Ava Green-Harris/Moira Tittle-Nominator, Howard Robinson/Kevin Clarke and Pat O'Connor-Nominators, Doug DiSciullo/Tavan Novi-Nominator.** Commissioner Awardees: **Sarah Hiester, Linda Barghasheh, Michael Reda and Alexander Lopez.**