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Bill de Blasio, Mayor  
Emily Lloyd, Commissioner

# WEEKLY PIPELINE

## EXTRA

July 30, 2014

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## DEP Employees of the Month for June 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).

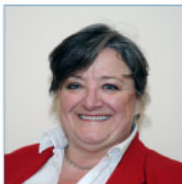
The Employees of the Month for June, featured in this Weekly Pipeline Extra edition, were honored at a breakfast on July 30 with Commissioner Emily Lloyd, during which they received a certificate, and had their names added to the Employee of the Month Board on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> floors at Lefrak and at the Kingston Office. These men and women set a standard for all of us to emulate and appreciate.



### Water & Sewer Operations - Maximillian Dosamantes

Maximillian (Max) began his career with DEP in October 2012 and currently works with the bureau's Personnel Administration Unit under Management Services. Max is a diligent, hard worker and he has developed a very positive working relationship with many of the bureau's employees. He has been extremely helpful in personnel related activities, including meeting with division directors to address staffing needs. Whether preparing a personnel package, posting a job opening in the automated personnel system, or submitting yearly evaluations by the due date, Max is always ready to provide assistance without hesitation. Specifically, Max collects, gathers and analyzes data, develops databases, charts and graphs to track and illustrate bureau personnel trends and activities, and creates various reports and metrics. He is also tasked with keeping the bureau's organizational charts current.

Max is a team player and has become the 'go to' person for the Unit. Most recently, when one of the Max's coworkers was out sick due to a broken shoulder, he stepped up and took on her work assignments without hesitation or having to be asked.



### Facilities Management and Construction - Vilhelmina Guthrie

Vilhelmina began her career with DEP in March 2001 and currently serves as an Architect. One of her primary responsibilities is to work with the Department of Buildings (DOB) opening and closing out building applications. Some of the applications dated back to 1992 and with little knowledge of DOB, she navigated the research and administrative challenges to bring the applications up to date. In addition, Vilhelmina also assisted the FMC Project Managers with new DOB applications for renovations at various DEP facilities (250 Livingston Street, 1250 Broadway, 58-52 Grand Avenue) and was instrumental in getting the applications filed, permits issued, and inspections completed. Getting this accomplished in a timely manner required her working with landlords, contractors and others.

Vilhelmina is a real asset to FMC and a true team player. She has acquired valuable knowledge of the DOB process, while building relationships with DOB personnel in all five borough offices. She has shifted the burden of DOB applications, permits and sign-offs from the FMC Project Managers which gives them more time to focus on managing their projects.





### Wastewater Treatment - **Alex Castro Clavarin** and **Sean Neafsey**

Alex began his career with DEP in June 2004 and currently serves as an Assistant Chemical Engineer in the bureau's Emergency Response Unit (ERU), within the Compliance Engineering Section. He is responsible for responding to complaints of toxic discharges of hazardous materials into New York City's sewer system. Such materials can jeopardize the operation of the City's wastewater treatment plants, possibly causing violations of State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits. More importantly, hazardous discharges could put the safety of the Agency's 1,000 sewage treatment workers, as well as the public, at risk.

Sean has been with DEP since June 2012 and currently serves as an Environmental Engineering Intern with the bureau's Industrial Inspections and Permitting Section, inspecting facilities to ensure that they are complying with the sewer use regulations and preventing the discharge of substances into the sewer system that violate industrial wastewater discharge permits.



In October 2013 the ERU received a complaint referral from DEP's Office of Green Infrastructure (OGI) regarding illegal discharges to a newly-installed bioswale in Brooklyn. During numerous inspections, DEP and Parks Department maintenance workers were never able to catch the perpetrators who were responsible. In June 2014, Alex and Sean performed a two day covert stakeout of the area to witness the actual discharge. During the stakeout they caught the perpetrators washing out trucks and allowing grease-laden wastewater to enter the bioswale and overflow into a catch basin. They were able to gather incriminating photos and videos and issued Notices of Violation as well as Commissioner's Orders to prevent further discharges.

Because of Alex and Sean's persistence and dedication, DEP was able to stop an ongoing illegal discharge that was damaging the bioswale and impacting New York City's sewage system.



### Environmental Planning and Assessment - **Frederick Toning**

Frederick began his career with DEP in November 2012 and is currently assigned to the Office of Green Infrastructure (OGI). The OGI is implementing the NYC Green Infrastructure Program by constructing thousands of Right-of-way Bioswales (ROWBs), hundreds of Stormwater Greenstreets (SGS) and onsite Green Infrastructure (GI) practices. Frederick has spearheaded the task of creating a Project Tracking & Asset Management System (PTAMS) to manage and maintain the vast GI assets. He also developed electronic applications to design different types of GI Practices. In addition, he is the Project Lead on eight area-wide GI Contracts totaling about \$35M.

Frederick has taken it upon himself to learn Access and advance his knowledge in Excel in order to create a temporary tracking system to readily pull information regarding the bioswales until PTAMS is up and running. He also has an important role in developing the OGI Standard Drawings. He has taken charge of drafting the revised OGI Standard Drawings by combining multiple AutoCad files into one file. This will help simplify future edits to the Standards and ensure consistency.

Frederick's administration of PTAMS has kept the project focused on the needs of DEP. In addition, he has also been instrumental in developing or refining the OGI Limited Geotech Procedure, OGI Limited Survey, OGI Siting Guidelines, and ROWB Stormwater Calculator. These are being used every day by other agencies and consultants to design and construct ROWBs.



### Water Supply - **Dennis Baccomo** and **Luis Echevarria**

Dennis began his career with DEP in May 2002 and Luis in July 1996. Both are supervisors at the bureau's Shaft 18 facility in Valhalla, in Westchester County, which is among the last stops for drinking water before it flows into distribution. Importantly, the facility at Shaft 18 is one of the places where New York City's drinking water is treated with chlorine to disinfect the water and inactivate pathogens that may pose a public health risk to consumers. On three occasions in June, a series of pumps failed to provide water to the chlorine injectors at the facility. Luis and Dennis quickly responded to alarms that indicated chlorination was interrupted. Within minutes, they assessed the problem, restarted the pumps and resumed chlorination. In addition, they immediately informed their colleagues in the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations and Water Quality to ensure the system met the treatment requirements to keep the drinking water safe for New Yorkers. They also conducted outreach to communities in Westchester County that purchase water from DEP so those communities could adjust their treatment accordingly. Because of the quick and professional response by Luis and Dennis, DEP was able to meet all its treatment requirements and deliver clean, safe water to New Yorkers without interruption.



### Employee Experience Site Tour Drawing

At today's ceremony, four 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 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: **Dennis Baccomo** and **Luis Echevarria/Edwin Bonelli**-Nominators, **Alex Castro Clavarin** and **Sean Neafy/Cosmo Zingaropoli** and **Dalkeith Wright**-Nominators. Commissioner Awardees: **Michael Giudice** and **Jeffrey Bernardo**.

## Commissioner's Award



### Sewage Treatment Worker (STW) Orientation Training Team

**Walter Dobkowski**  
**Jean Robert Alty**  
**Thomas Shannon**

**Matthew Berardi**  
**Joseph Lopiccolo**  
**Roger Alava**

**Michael Giudice**  
**Joseph Reddington**  
**Edward Wright**

**Jeffry Bernardo**

We are honoring the STW Orientation Training Team under the direction of Walter Dobkowski, the bureau's Chief of Training & Development, with the Commissioner's Award for their invaluable support of the recent STW orientation training that began on July 7.

The Bureau of Wastewater Treatment recently hired 48 new civil service STWs to fill various vacancies at wastewater treatment plants around New York City. STWs are required to take specific mechanical skills courses and operational and occupational health and safety training. This agenda must be completed prior to STWs performing work activities at the plants.

Specifically, the STW orientation training requires attending a comprehensive presentation and essential training modules. The blue collar skills training modules consisted of Burning and Torch Operations, Pipe Fitting and Repair, Pump Theory and Practical, Rigging Theory and Practical, Crane Theory and Practical, Confined Space Entry, and Aerial Lift and Forklift Operations. Specific skills training required that these modules be presented by individuals who have knowledge and expertise in these areas. The members of this training team were identified because of their specific skill sets and provide both theory and hands on instruction. Although training instruction is not a requirement of their positions, they collectively and enthusiastically stepped up to the plate and rearranged their schedules to support this very important training program. The STW Orientation Training Team made a five week commitment to work with the BWT Training and Development Section to provide this training. This team of trainers helped in the setup and arrangements of each class, arrived before their normal work schedule, before the new STWs arrived, and were well prepared to teach each and every day.

Statistically, new STWs are at risk of workplace accidents and injuries due to inexperience and a failure to recognize workplace hazards and they often hesitate to ask questions. The best training programs are accurate, credible, clear and practical. The specific hands-on technical training provided by those who routinely perform the tasks of an STW provides insight that would not normally be present. Although not part of their jobs, adding their knowledge and experience to the orientation enhanced the training program.

The STW Orientation Training Team has incredible knowledge, commitment, skills and expertise and provided a successful STW Orientation Class supporting one of the key Agency missions of collecting and treating wastewater to protect the quality of New York Harbor and providing a safe and healthful environment for all New Yorkers.

As a side note, this is the last STW Orientation Class that Walter Dobkowski will be a part of. After almost 30 years with the Agency, and 20 plus years training thousands of new STWs, Walter is retiring on August 8. His hard work, resourcefulness and dedication have ensured that the new bureau STWs are knowledgeable of the mechanical skills they need and know how to protect themselves from potential hazards in the work place. He is someone who—when assigned a task—got it done right and on time. He will be missed.