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Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor  
Carter Strickland, Commissioner

WEEKLY

# PIPELINE

EXTRA

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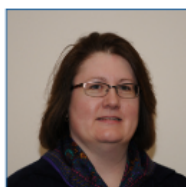


## DEP Employees of the Month for January 2013

**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 January, featured in this Weekly Pipeline Extra edition, were honored at a breakfast on February 27 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.



### Police and Security - **Barbara Davis**

Barbara began her career with DEP in May 1993 and currently provides support to the Bureau's Chief of Operations Office as a Principle Administrative Associate. Specifically, Barbara works in the Beerston Precinct and is tasked with supervising timekeeping, compiling daily statistics, generating reports, and handling a multitude of issues that arise on a daily basis. She has a positive attitude, is always willing to assist coworkers, and her advanced computer skills make her a valuable resource. Barbara's dedication extends to her willingness to come in early and/or stay late to get important projects completed. Recently, Barbara's loyalty was again made apparent when she was caring for a family member that was hospitalized yet she voluntarily continued to work and provide assistance for the two weeks she was not physically in the office. Barbara sets a daily example to her co-workers with her cheerful disposition and "can do" approach.



### Office of Information Technology - **Romel Osbourne**

Romel began his DEP career in May 2005 and currently serves as a Certified Wide Area Network Administrator. He is responsible for resolving telecommunications and network issues and also supervises a staff engaged in the planning, design, configuration, installation, testing, and troubleshooting of network equipment. Romel is well-versed in his field and has a proven track record for successfully completing projects. Most recently, while supporting the installation of a new server in the Kingston building, different areas of the office had noticeably slower network access for the geographic information system (GIS) application and Romel was instrumental in resolving the issue. Romel has also helped connect the Bureau of Water Supply's various facilities to Hillview Reservoir while also supporting the implementation of the supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) program. Both GIS and SCADA are mission critical applications and infrastructure essential to the department's overall operations.



### Water and Sewer Operations - **Richard Mazzella**

Richard began his career with DEP in December 1981 as a Construction Laborer and he currently serves as a District Supervisor at the bureau's Manhattan Sewer Maintenance facility. Richard supervises all day-to-day activities at the facility including balancing personnel assignments and ensuring compliance with environmental, health, and safety guidelines. Recently, the bureau's Division of Field Operations requested assistance to investigate a claim of illegal dumping into the catch basin adjacent to a construction site. The investigation revealed the potential for hydrogen sulfide, at which point Richard immediately halted activities at the catch basin and contacted the bureau's Division of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) for support. Upon analysis by bureau EHS, it was verified that hydrogen sulfide was present in the catch basin and at elevated levels. Richard's quick identification of the potential hazard and decision to halt work at the catch basin prevented a potentially serious health risk to the crew and members of the public who were nearby.



### Engineering, Design and Construction - **Philip Simmons**

Philip began his career with DEP in June, 2010. He currently serves as Senior Program Manager for the bureau's Permit Resource Division. Phil's recent focus has been on the Water for the Future Program where he is working on the first of two contracts for work that will repair the leaking Rondout-West Branch section of the Delaware Aqueduct. The in-house design team did a tremendous job in completing the plans and specifications that will ensure that the work begins this year. There was also a very complex, behind the scenes, permitting effort that went into getting this project launched on time. Phil led this effort with outstanding support from the Bureau of Environmental Planning and Analysis. Phil's ability to work cooperatively with regulators such as the New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation, Health, and State, U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers, as well as other local authorities, allowed DEP to gain the necessary approvals in an expeditious manner. Phil's writing and communications skills helped the bureau receive all permit approvals on time and avoid delays to the start of the contract. Thanks to Phil's outstanding efforts, BEDC was able to begin work in January on this important component of the Water for the Future Program.



### Wastewater Treatment - **Jigsaa Gutema and Harold Barrios**

Jigsaa began his career with DEP in November 2003 and currently serves as an Assistant Electrical Engineer. Harold began his career with DEP in September 2006 and currently serves as an Associate Project Manager. Hurricane Sandy's record storm surge severely damaged numerous pumping stations in southern Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island. In order to protect public health and the city's waterways, emergency generators and temporary pumping systems were immediately activated and the bureau's Engineering Division was tasked with restoring seven flooded pump stations to their pre-Sandy conditions as quickly as possible. Jigsaa, who works in the Electrical Engineering Section, and Harold, who works in the Mechanical Engineering Section, took the lead in assessing the damage, evaluating options, and coordinating with Collections staff to oversee repairs made by contractors. This included providing equipment cut sheets, reviewing design drawings, and preparing specifications. Their dedication and ability to precisely communicate what was needed in a timely fashion enabled these seven pump stations to be operational on utility power while necessary work was completed.

## **Commissioner's Award:**



### **Water Sewer Operations - John Byrne and Rohan Ramsammy**

On February 1, 2013, a water leak was reported at Broadway, 5th Avenue and 24th Street in Manhattan. This is a densely populated area with high traffic volume and multiple water conduits located underground, including 12, 36, and 48 inch water mains. In addition, a shaft from City Water Tunnel No. 1 is nearby as well as many subway lines. All of these factors complicated matters and raised concerns for potential flooding. John Byrne, the Borough Distribution Engineer and his staff monitored flow and pressure out of the nearby shaft location and provided engineering direction to the Field Operation's crew who were on site investigating the leak. At approximately 9:30 am, conditions worsened and the leak became a major water main break, which caused flooding, the suspension of subway service, and widespread reports of low water pressure. Fortunately, John and his staff were quickly able to determine that it was the 36 inch main that had failed and immediately directed the Field Operation's crew to shut it down. With the 36 inch main out of service, the flooding subsided but the ability to feed water out of the nearby City Water Tunnel No. 1 remained a concern. Under the direction of John Byrne and the supervision of Rohan Ramsammy, the crew from the Trunk Water Main Maintenance Section worked long hours over the weekend making adjustments to the water distribution system to compensate for the failed main. It was of paramount importance that water pressure be restored to the area before the start of the work week on Monday morning. John, Rohan and their staffs are being honored for their hard work and dedication, which ensured that water pressure was quickly restored to this vital area of the city.