

From: [Strickland Jr., Carter H.](#)
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Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
Carter Strickland, Commissioner

WEEKLY PIPELINE

EXTRA

November 29, 2011

Volume II • Issue 100A



DEP Employees of the Month for October 2011

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.

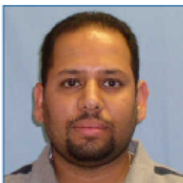
DEP is a great agency that delivers services that millions of New Yorkers depend on daily. Making good on that daily promise requires dedication and hard work of the nearly 6,000 employees of DEP. To nominate someone who has demonstrated uncommon dedication and excellence, fill out the nomination form with some basic information, such as the nominee's responsibilities, examples of extraordinary performance, and ways that they have set an example for others. The form is available on Pipeline, and you'll need to submit it by the tenth day following the end of the month. For more information, email Herb Roth at hroth@dep.nyc.gov.

The Employees of the Month for October, featured in this Weekly Pipeline Extra edition, were honored at a breakfast on November 29 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 & Security - Joanne Nurse

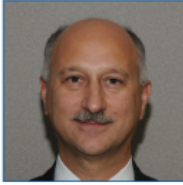
Joanne began her career with DEP in September 1986 and currently serves as the Administrative Manager in the Bureau of Police and Security's Division of Emergency Response and Technical Assessment (DERTA). In addition to overseeing the administrative functions of the division's Right-to-Know (RTK) program, Hazardous Material Response unit and grants, Joanne is the DERTA Team Leader for the RTK Tier II Online Payment Program. Her work as Team Leader includes coordinating meetings with the project team, consolidating feedback and updating managers of project progress, coordinating the collection and review of data for the Tier II project and making sure that the project deadlines are met. The online payment program is an integral part of the agency's strategic goals 20 and 94. Through Joanne's stewardship of the team, the agency will roll out the online payment system in January, making it easier for all Tier II filers to make payments.



Water and Sewer Operations - Hasan (Bobby) Musliwala

Hasan, known to his co-workers as Bobby, began his career with DEP in 1999 and serves as the Safety Officer for Hillview Operations. He is responsible for managing hazardous waste and hazardous waste inspections for Reservoir Operations. He also handles Environmental, Health and Safety policy distribution and training, ensures critical Chemical Bulk Storage (CBS), safety equipment, and emergency equipment inspections are completed, and is a long standing member of the Risk Management Committee.

Bobby's dedication is evident in all the work that he does as an important member of the Hillview Reservoir team. Recently, Bobby provided technical support to the Bureau of Engineering, Design and Construction's contractors for the implementation of new Toxgard meters and emergency chlorine scrubbers at Hillview and Jerome Park Reservoir. Bobby tested the new meters and emergency chlorine scrubbers at both Hillview and Jerome Park, and provided invaluable support to the project delivery team in assisting the safe startup of emergency chlorine scrubbers at both facilities.



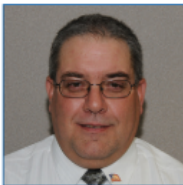
Wastewater Treatment - **Robert LaGrotta**

Robert began his DEP career in June 1983 and currently serves as the bureau's Director of Collections and Residuals. Three of the bureau's wastewater pumping stations are located in the Riverdale section of the Bronx and are powered by overhead Consolidated Edison wires that run through a wooded area. Periodically during storms, these pumping stations lose electrical power, which results in the discharge of sewage into the Hudson River. To alleviate this problem, Robert recently devised a system that automatically starts up diesel-hydraulic pumps at these stations, which prevents sewage discharges when the electrical power fails. During the recent October snowstorm, the pumping stations lost electricity for many hours due to downed power lines. Consolidated Edison had trouble accessing the locations because of fallen trees. If not for Robert's ingenuity, millions of gallons of sewage would have been released into the Hudson River.



Legal - **Aaron Feinstein**

Aaron began his DEP career in May 2008 and currently serves as Assistant Counsel focusing on the area of labor relations. In addition to the high degree of responsibility and dedication that Aaron demonstrates daily in his role as labor relations counsel, he has also suggested a series of reforms to minimize future grievances and to improve their handling and resolution. Most recently, Aaron devised a new grievance response and tracking system for Step I of the grievance process. He also did a terrific job advising Commissioner Strickland on pending labor relations issues as he transitioned into his new role. Aaron is playing a central role in the revision of the Employee Handbook to more clearly and comprehensively reflect DEP's current contractual agreements and practices.



Engineering Design and Construction - **Emory Chase**

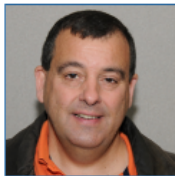
Emory began his DEP career in August 1998 and currently serves as an Accountable Manager, managing the construction of multiple critical infrastructure projects. He has managed the construction of the Tannersville and Grand Gorge Wastewater Treatment facilities and has also managed the process and safety improvements of several other upstate wastewater facilities. He recently completed the replacement of four needle valves that deliver water from the Ashokan Reservoir to the Catskill Aqueduct.

Commissioner's Award:

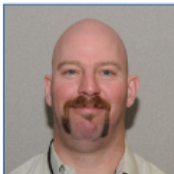


BWS HazMat Team - **Theodore Pollack, Richard Barrett, Bernard Antal, Michael Cassar, Robert Harrison and Edward Walters**

In preparation for Hurricane Irene, the Bureau of Water Supply's (BWS) Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Team, began to work on assembling all available equipment necessary for dealing with the storm. This included readying generators, boats, pumps, and spill response equipment, as well as staging other equipment in strategic locations to effectively respond to BWS locations, as needed.



Immediately after the hurricane, the HazMat Team was deployed to the Rondout, Ashokan and Schoharie Reservoirs to inspect the major flooded areas for potential impact to NYC's water supply. Upon inspection, it was found that various materials had been washed into the reservoirs as a result of the severe flooding in these areas. The HazMat team was deployed and began removing hazardous items. Throughout the next few weeks, they worked tirelessly, sifting through the debris in the reservoirs, removing oil (from drums, storage tanks, tankers, etc.), propane tanks, gasoline containers, kerosene containers, paints, aerosols, pesticides, fertilizers, and detergents. Throughout the course of retrieving these materials, all items were segregated, characterized, and disposed of in accordance with state and federal regulations.



In addition, every effort was made to separate and return "real property" found on city land around the Schoharie Reservoir back to the people of Prattsville and surrounding communities. The exceptional service and dedication of the HazMat team is recognized with the awarding of the Commissioner's Award.