

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

WEEKLY PIPELINE EXTRA

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DEP Employees of the Month for September 2012

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 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.

The Employees of the Month for September, featured in this Weekly Pipeline Extra edition, were honored at a breakfast on November 28 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.



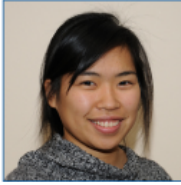
Water Supply - Alice Carey

Alice began her career with DEP in March 2006 and serves as a Closing Project Manager in the Bureau of Water Supply's Land Acquisition Program. In this capacity, she is responsible for reviewing purchase contracts, title reports, and coordinating real estate closings. Alice stands out as a DEP employee who is especially efficient, thorough, and an expert in her field. This was illustrated recently when she negotiated and entered purchase agreement contracts on three properties necessary to access the shaft for the Rondout-West Branch Tunnel Bypass Project, as part of the Water for the Future Program. These three properties contained numerous buildings and hazardous waste debris. Generally, the program purchases vacant land. Alice's efforts led to the title searches, contract work, site preparation and purchases being completed in an amazing three months. Normally, this process can take upwards of one year. This work was successfully completed in addition to her normal workload.



Wastewater Treatment - Steven Vallone

Steven began his career with DEP in November 1992 and currently serves as a Senior Sewage Treatment Worker for the bureau's Collection Facilities North Unit. During a rainstorm on Saturday, September 8, Steven responded with his crew to a telemetry alarm from the Glendale Pumping Station. He found that a contractor doing street work on Cooper Avenue had placed a steel plate and construction materials on top of catch basins, restricting storm runoff from flowing into the pumping station, resulting in serious street flooding that made the underpass completely impassible. Steven and his crew responded quickly to remove the construction blockage, which allowed the floodwaters to quickly recede.



Water and Sewer Operations - **Amanda Low**

Amanda began her career with DEP in September 2011 and currently serves as a Civil Engineer Intern in the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operation's Capital Drainage Section. This section helps to solve localized flooding and other related issues by building out the sewer system in areas that lack infrastructure and/or require upgrades to the system. Amanda's role is to design and review the city's drainage plans to meet current design criteria. She has used modeling techniques on the existing infrastructure at Cropsey Avenue/Bay 23rd Street in Brooklyn; 90th Avenue and 183rd Street in Queens; and Utopia Parkway and 67th Avenue in Queens to address flooding concerns in these areas. Amanda is a quick learner and has gained quite a bit of knowledge about the city's infrastructure during her relatively short tenure with DEP. She has responded well to her assigned tasks and has promoted the use of modeling in the Capital Drainage Section as an essential tool to evaluate complex engineering problems quicker and more efficiently. Previously, hand calculations were used to perform these types of evaluations. Amanda has helped her colleagues become more comfortable using modeling tools and techniques, which has increased the section's productivity.



Office of Information Technology - **Wanda Phillips**

Wanda began her career with DEP in April 2007 and currently serves as the Supervisor for the Customer Information System (CIS) Production Batch Processing Unit. In this capacity she directs a team of analysts that validates and processes approximately five to seven million dollars of revenue received from lock box vendors and NYCSEV for water charges each night. She also ensures that bills are generated and sent to the mail vendor that prints the more than three million bills and thousands of delinquency notices that are generated annually. She was instrumental in the replacement of a legacy scheduling system to a more robust and efficient scheduling architecture that has increased productivity and decreased the job failure rate by tenfold. In addition, Wanda also oversees all production control related activities for the CIS Modernization Project. This includes building/modifying job streams, scheduling backup, and loading and unloading of production environments during business and off peak hours to support this project. She also coordinates the execution of the Annual Frontage Billing processes that brings in approximately \$1 billion dollars in revenue each year. Wanda continually performs above and beyond. As a result of her tremendous efforts, the Batch Processing Unit was able to achieve a success rate of more than 99% out of 357,039 jobs that were submitted to date this year.



Environmental Planning and Analysis - **Vlada Kenniff**

Vlada began her career with DEP in May 2005 as a Summer Graduate Intern while completing her Master's Degree at Pratt Institute. Her graduate thesis focused on brownfield remediation, so it was fitting that she began her work with the Bureau of Environmental Planning and Analysis in the Site Assessment Unit, where she managed projects that focused on the Gowanus Canal and surrounding areas' clean-up and remediation. Her attention to detail and ability to process and evaluate large volumes of data was quickly noted, and she was asked to take on a technical role to develop a water consumption model and demand projections. Currently, she leads the Demand Management and Water Conservation program and is responsible for its implementation.

Demand Management is a tool that enables DEP to strengthen its water supply profile, lower energy use and hedge against future droughts. Vlada has established partnerships with city agencies for the Municipal Water Efficiency Program, developed a Toilet Replacement Program, drafted new regulatory rules and updated the Drought Rule. One of the key projects that Vlada led, in collaboration with the Department of Parks and Recreation, included the installation of timers on spray showers at city playgrounds to reduce water consumption by ensuring the showers are activated only when in use. The program calls for the retrofit of 400 parks citywide. Vlada is also working with the Department of Education to retrofit two high-schools in Queens with low-flow toilets.

Vlada is extremely innovative and worked with the Department of Transportation to have them reuse the thousands of old toilets that will be replaced over the next few years as material in sidewalk construction projects.

Vlada deeply understands the importance of providing water to NYC and upstate communities and running our operation sustainably.

Commissioner's Award:



Project Management Information System (PMIS) Team

The Project Management Information System—known as PMIS—is a web-based information portal for visualizing and accessing capital project data. The portal provides access to project information such as schedules, costs and performance objectives. During Phase II deployment in August 2012, an additional seven electronic forms and workflows were introduced to automate nine business processes including 1) Project Setup, 2) Project Information, 3) Preliminary Project Approval, 4) Project Baseline Approval, 5) Project Re-baseline Approval, 6) Engineer's Estimate, 7) Scope Change, Approval, 8) Monthly Progress Report and 9) Issues and Actions. The new workflows aim to standardize business processes, eliminate data duplication and streamline the approval process.

The team of employees involved in this project includes:

Office of Information Technology

Shinique Edwards
Alexander Koren
Bernadette McCallion
Emil Pulicicchio
Christopher Smith

Engineering, Design & Construction

Vijaya Alagiriraj
Chun-Yuan (Byron) Chen
Steven Levinsky
Jacob Varkey