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Bill de Blasio, Mayor
Emily Lloyd, Commissioner

WEEKLY PIPELINE EXTRA

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DEP Employees of the Month for July 2014

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 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.

The Employees of the Month for July, featured in this Weekly Pipeline Extra edition, were honored at a breakfast on August 27 with First Deputy Commissioner Steve Lawitts, during which they 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 - **Daniel Wahl**

Daniel Wahl began his career with DEP in September 2011, and currently serves as an Environmental Police Officer at the Beerston Precinct. As an Environmental Police Officer he is responsible for safeguarding critical infrastructure and enforcing environmental laws throughout the watershed. Recently, Officer Wahl was patrolling the Cannonsville Reservoir when he heard a noise and a man calling for help. A female, riding a motorcycle, had crashed and suffered serious, life-threatening injuries. Officer Wahl, with help from a passing motorist, who happened to be a nurse, administered emergency first-aid. Officer Wahl also radioed 911 for EMS and enlisted the assistance of a nearby fisherman to slow traffic to prevent additional accidents. Officer Wahl's quick thinking and actions provided life-saving aid until EMS arrived to airlift the patient to a trauma center.



Wastewater Treatment - **Jeffrey Troshane**

Jeffrey Troshane began his career with DEP in March 1980, and currently serves as an Electrician at the Port Richmond Wastewater Treatment Plant. During a storm on July 15, one of the two high-voltage feeders that provide power to the treatment plant was damaged by water infiltration. Jeffrey quickly evaluated the situation and formulated a plan to restore power. With help from his team, and in coordination with Con Edison, repairs were made promptly, and with minimal impact to plant operations. Jeffrey's dedication and expertise protected the waterways of Upper New York Bay, which remained safe during the summer swimming season.



Engineering, Design and Construction - **Gregory Mayes**

Gregory Mayes began his career with DEP in January 2013, and currently serves as an Administrative Engineer, leading the design of the Rondout-West Branch Bypass Tunnel, an extremely complex project with challenging design schedules. Gregory was responsible for all aspects of the design of the two shaft sites that will facilitate construction of the bypass tunnel. He also oversaw the design and review for an adjacent property and an associated force main. To most effectively move ahead with the design and construction without, "reinventing the wheel," Gregory improved the bureau's Project Delivery System, Computer Assisted Design Standards, Design Quality Management Manual, and General Specifications. This streamlining of design standards for all disciplines will reduce the amount of time spent duplicating design efforts for items that are common to many projects, and will save costs in construction by reducing design errors.



Fleet Services - **Rebecca Bowen**

Rebecca began her career at DEP in September 2013, and currently serves as Director of Fleet Services. Rebecca has revolutionized the way fleet inquiries are handled and ensures they are replied to in a prompt and courteous fashion. She has also been an instrumental part of the successful Fleet Share program. Rebecca is an exemplary employee who has successfully completed initiatives as far ranging as long-term vehicle procurement planning, to managing DEP's snow removal program. She has championed the expansion of DEP's electric vehicle fleet and defensive driving classes to keep employees and residents safe.

Rebecca has done an excellent job coordinating with other City agencies to ensure that DEP's fleet is well maintained. She has also shown a willingness to take initiative and has made several key suggestions that have improved fleet coordination within the agency.



Water and Sewer Operations - **Tarlock Sahansra**

Tarlock Sahansra began his career with DEP in June 1993, and currently serves as an Administrative Engineer where he is responsible for all the mechanical items used in the water distribution system. Tarlock plays an important role in revising DEP Water Main Specifications, material inspections, and performing failure analyses of water main breaks, pumps and other mechanical equipment. Recently, on short notice, Tarlock was called upon to observe a week-long lab testing of a New York City water main in Washington, DC for the National Transportation Safety Board's investigation of the gas main explosion and Harlem Building collapses that occurred in March. He is often called upon to review equipment failures and has designed modifications to equipment that have saved significant amounts of time and money for the City. One such example was the revision of the design of the Catch Basin Cleaning Machine, which has resulted in a doubling of its life span. The New York Times once published a profile of Tarlock, calling him the "Sherlock Homes of Cast Iron Failure".



Employee Experience Site Tour Drawing

At today's ceremony, five 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: **Daniel Wahl/Kenneth Bauer**-Nominator, **Jeffrey Troshane/Daniel Conroy**-Nominator, **Tarlock Sahansra/Tasos Georgelis**-Nominator, **Gregory Mayes/Floren Poliseo**-Nominator, **Rebecca Bowen/Michael Nardiello** -Nominator, Commissioner Awardees: **Jason Seminara** and **Stephen Sforza**.

Commissioner's Award:



Water and Sewer Operations - Jason Seminara and Stephen Sforza

Jason Seminara and Stephen Sforza both work in BWSO's Field Operations Division. Stephen has worked in Field Operations since March 1985 and has more than 28 years of experience in both water and sewer operations. He has held positions of increasing responsibility and has served as BWSO's Staten Island Borough Manager since 2011. Jason has worked in Field Operations since March 1990. For many years he worked in Manhattan in both the repair section and in sewer maintenance. He is currently the District Supervisor for Staten Island sewer maintenance.



On June 23, 2014, a homeowner on Staten Island wrote a letter to Commissioner Lloyd commending Jason and Stephen for their work in repairing a catch basin in front of 92 Walters Avenue. According to the homeowner, the catch basin had been plagued with issues over the past five years. On Friday, June 13, he observed "a stream of water and debris which exited the basin resembling Niagara Falls." Jason and Stephen arrived promptly, and patiently listened to the homeowner express his frustrations about the issue. They diligently oversaw work on the catch basin over the next several days. The homeowner's letter explains, "The professionalism and service they displayed is rarely recognized and too often goes unnoticed. I wanted to express how pleased and satisfied I am with the actions that have already been taken and the optimism I now have that a long-term solution is on the horizon for this ongoing issue. I hope that this letter serves as an avenue for some sort of recognition for both of them, as they truly deserve it."

Stephen and Jason were also both instrumental in the bureau's response efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, going above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that water and sewer services were maintained for the residents of Staten Island. Stephen actually went out during the height of the storm to help rescue a Bureau of Wastewater Treatment crew that was stuck in their vehicle and surrounded by rising storm waters.