



## DEP Employees of the Month for May

**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 May, featured in this Weekly Pipeline Extra edition, were honored at a breakfast on July 1 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.



### Bureau of Customer Services - **Dominick Pesce**

Dominick Pesce has worked at DEP for five years and currently serves as an Assistant Supervisor in the Bureau of Customer Services' Call Center. Some of Dominick's new responsibilities include providing training and mentoring to new customer service representatives, and serving as a technical expert for all other employees in the Call Center. Dominick's extensive knowledge of the bureau's operations, billing procedures and Water Board regulations make him a tremendous resource of information for new Call Center employees who must provide DEP customers with quick and accurate responses to questions.

His comprehensive training of new employees in the agency's policies and procedures has improved operations in the Call Center and reduced the need for additional training.

In addition to his professional expertise and successful training procedures, Dominick is well-respected by his peers and showcases an exceptional work ethic.



### Bureau of Environmental Compliance - **Richard Valdez**

Richard Valdez has been working at DEP for over 10 years and currently serves as an Associate Air Pollution Inspector with the Bureau of Environmental Compliance.

Richard regularly interacts with both respondents and complainants, while also coordinating efforts with senior staff and other field inspectors. His deep knowledge of the New York City noise code and his expertise in the use of sound level reading equipment is an important asset to the Bureau.

Over the past year, Richard has overseen and documented the efforts between DEP, the Mayor's Office, the West Side Tennis Club and the local community to ensure that outdoor concerts at the Forest Hills Stadium are in compliance with the City's Noise Code. Richard was tasked with the difficult job of taking in-depth sound level readings during these concerts to ensure that the volume, as well as the bass levels, fell within the acceptable ranges outlined in the NYC Noise Code. Richard studied each concert carefully, often taking multiple readings at various locations and at different times throughout the event.

Richard and his team managed to bring the music from these events into noise compliant range. The West Side Tennis Club has launched a new series of outdoor concerts for the summer season that guarantee a safe environment for attendees while also respecting the surrounding community members in Forest Hills.



### Bureau of Water Supply - **Cat-Del UV Trailer Fire Response Team**

Rich Ventura

Pete Satriale

Shane Adams

Senior Stationary Engineer Electric Rich Ventura, Stationary Engineer Electric Pete Satriale and Supervisor of Electricians Shane Adams were honored for their quick, brave and effective response in helping local emergency responders put out an electrical fire in an on-site trailer at the Catskill Delaware Ultra-Violet Disinfection facility on May 13<sup>th</sup>.

Several local fire departments, led by the Valhalla Fire Department (VFD), responded to the fire incident immediately. Once all DEP employees were safely evacuated from the site, the BWS team and local emergency responders worked together to confirm that electrical power was shut off to the affected trailer.

After the trailer was completely ventilated, Rich and Pete entered the site along with VFD fire officers and carefully powered down seven electrical sub-panels located inside the trailer units. Shane then joined the team and confirmed that all electrical power to the trailer was correctly shut down. This safety procedure was integral in guaranteeing that the fire did not spread to adjacent trailers.

The Valhalla Fire Department determined that the fire was caused by the exhaust fan in the trailer bathroom. Thanks to the quick and effective actions by Operations staff and local responders, all DEP staff and consultants were safely accounted for, and the fire was put out before it was able to spread. Operations in the UV plant were unaffected and minor repairs are already completed.



### Bureau of Water & Sewer Operations - **Emily Perrin and Nevin Pahlad**

Emily Perrin began her DEP career in November 2014 and currently serves as a Trainer and Curriculum Development Specialist in the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations' Environmental Health and Safety division. Nevin Pahlad joined the agency in August 2014 and also works in bureau's Environmental Health and Safety division as a Trainer.

Both employees have been working diligently to improve, implement and deliver critical training programs for BWSO staff. Emily and Nevin have taken the lead in administering New York State Department of Health's Water and Wastewater Operator Certification training. They recently trained more than 100 BWSO employees to ensure that the agency does not experience an unexpected shortage of certified operators.



Emily was also tasked with the responsibility to develop and deliver FDNY Certificate of Fitness (COF) training for approximately 100 BWSO supervisors. Pressed for time, Emily developed customized training modules for ten separate COF exams. Her efforts have resulted in improved passing rates throughout the Bureau. Certificates of Fitness test a range of technical topics and skills-sets, and are mandatory to meet the City's fire code requirements.

Nevin has been integral in delivering effective hands-on training to BWSO's Construction Laborer crews. He has provided training to over 50 apprentice construction laborers, in which he simulates real field conditions and provides a comprehensive overview of the job tasks they will encounter. Nevin has shown the ability to quickly familiarize himself with the Bureau's numerous and varied Field Operations tasks and equipment.



## Bureau of Wastewater Treatment - **Andwele McCarthy**

Andwele McCarthy began his DEP career in September 2006 and currently serves as an Administrative Engineer in the Bureau of Wastewater Treatment. As the Section Chief of the Bureau's Biosolids and Building Maintenance section, Andwele oversees four contracts for the removal, transportation and disposal of 1,200 tons of biosolids per day throughout all 14 wastewater treatment plants.

Biosolids are solid organic matter recovered from the sewage treatment process that can be used as a nutrient-rich fertilizer, or disposed of in landfills. In mid-February 2015, BWT received an unexpected notification stating that one of DEP's main landfills in Pennsylvania would no longer accept our biosolids. This left BWT in a precarious situation because of the limited storage capacity of biosolids at the wastewater treatment plants.

Andwele took the lead in finding alternative locations and creative methods to transport the biosolids in order to continue sludge dewatering and keep up with the City's 24/7 wastewater treatment operations. Andwele readjusted schedules with the biosolids transporters and the wastewater treatment plant operators on an hourly basis to ensure continuity of operations.

Simultaneously, Andwele created an effective contingency plan to fix a leak that developed in a large sludge transfer pipe connecting Jamaica Wastewater Treatment Plant to the 26th Ward plant. The leak stopped sludge transfer operations from the Jamaica plant, which is not equipped with a dewatering facility and only has the capacity to hold three days' worth of sludge. During the three week repair period, Andwele arranged the digester cleaning contractor to bring mobile dewatering equipment to the Jamaica plant and immediately began dewatering on-site as to not interrupt normal plant operations.

Andwele's calm demeanor, quick thinking, and innovation enable him to react effectively to emergency situations. He is a tremendous asset to BWT and the agency at large.

## **Commissioner's Award for May:**



### **Mikael Amar**

Mikael Amar began working for DEP's Energy Office in September 2014. Though he has only been at the agency for a short while, he has already made quite an impact in implementing the Agency's strategic energy goals and developing tracking metrics for energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

One such tool is Dice 2.0, a Microsoft Excel application that integrates agency-wide energy data, and calculates carbon emissions. This system has streamlined the Energy Office's reporting processes, and has significantly reduced the time it takes to respond to data requests from facilities.

Mike has also created a new report that analyzes peak electric demand, highlighting the specific days and hours in which each of the fourteen Wastewater Treatment Plants use the most electricity. BWT facility managers use this information to make operational adjustments to reduce electricity use and to monitor the impact of energy demand initiatives developed by BWT and the OpX program. The peak electric demand report also provides valuable feedback for plant staff to show how their current energy performance compares to previous months.

Mike has also managed the successful installation of electric meters at thirteen wastewater treatment plants, as well as the Cat/Del Ultraviolet Disinfection Facility, allowing DEP to access real-time electric consumption data online.



### **Employee Experience Site Tour Drawing**

At today's ceremony, the following awardees and their nominators won passes to participate in one of the upcoming [DEP Employee Experience Site Tours](#).

EOM Awardees: **Richard Ventura** and **Peter Satriale** / **James Hanratty** – Nominator, **Nevin Pahlad** / **Nelson Leon** – Nominator, **Dominick Pesce** / **Jeremy Valarezo** – Nominator and **Richard Valdez** / **Joseph Scafidi** - Nominator

Commissioner Awardee: **Mikael Amar**