



DEP Employees of the Month for April

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 April, featured in this Weekly Pipeline Extra edition, were honored at a breakfast on May 27 with Commissioner Emily Lloyd, 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.



Bureau of Engineering Design & Construction - **Matthew Sorrell**

Matthew began his DEP career in October, 2010 and currently serves as a Civil Engineer in the Bureau of Engineering Design and Construction. Matthew has been the lead design liaison for the in-house design group, which supports construction work for Bypass Tunnel 1.

At the early stages of the project, Matthew led a team that performed concrete mix testing for the shaft's lining. Their work produced a concrete mix that could be pumped down the shaft, as well as placed in hoppers to allow for flexibility while maintaining the required strength for the shaft concrete lining.

Matthew designed, or directed the design, of many critical components of the shaft including the shaft/tunnel intersections, the sump and wet well, the access pipe, access chambers and the 3-D finite modeling of the shaft caps. He has always been ahead of the design schedule, producing drawings and specifications that were both accurate and on-time. Matthew has been an invaluable asset to the Bypass Tunnel project and his dedication towards solving issues in a timely manner, while also maintaining a high quality work product under tight construction schedules, shows a level of commitment that DEP strives for.



Bureau of Public Affairs - **Jessica Keating**

Jessica began her DEP career in April 2014 and currently serves as a Community Coordinator in the Bureau of Public Affairs. A little less than a year ago, Jessica expanded her duties to handle correspondence from elected officials and anyone from the general public who writes to the Commissioner. Jessica closed out over 250 open correspondences in just five months, reducing a significant backlog that had accumulated in the bureau. Currently, DEP is able to respond to correspondences in a much more timely and efficient manner. Jessica's efforts have helped to strengthen DEP's relationships with many of our elected officials by letting them know that our agency takes their constituents' concerns seriously.

One of the Bureau of Public Affairs' primary functions is to ensure that the public is heard and that serious community concerns are addressed and resolved promptly. The bureau could not be moving forward in such a positive direction without Jessica's proactive steps and leadership in addressing these concerns. Jessica is always willing to go above and beyond her normal scope of work, and is constantly coming up with new and innovative ways to solve problems. On behalf of the Bureau of Public Affairs, DEP thanks Jessica for her persistent hard work and determination.



Bureau of Police and Security - **Environmental Sampling Program Team Members**

Scott Drangel

Robert Kepich

Donald Eng

Jonathan Baldwin

Afrosa Amin

Theo Xavier, Jr.

The Environmental Sampling Program Team is a unit within the Bureau of Police and Security, Division of Emergency Response and Technical Assessment. The unit's six employees have over 90 years of combined experience working at DEP. The team has a number of responsibilities with the common goal of ensuring the safety and well-being of New York City residents.

One of their tasks is to install, program, and monitor sampling units that track a number of environmental and biochemical conditions including volatile organics, precursor chemicals, radioactivity levels, meteorological data and even the presence of weapons of mass destruction. The sampling units send real time data back to DEP as well as to the New York City Police Department.

DEP thanks the Environmental Sampling Program team for their exceptional service and valuable contributions to protect the safety of their fellow New Yorkers.



Bureau of Water & Sewer Operations - **Shamnarine Hemraj**

Shamnarine (Sham) began his DEP career in April 2001 and currently serves as an Administrative Engineer in the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations. Over the years he has worked in the Bureau's Quality Assurance Section and Distribution Engineering Section. He currently serves as the Distribution Engineer for Bronx and Manhattan.

Sham is responsible for operating the water distribution system and regularly responds to water main emergencies, such as breaks, fires or water quality issues. His primary mission is to ensure there is adequate water pressure and volume. Recently, Sham has worked countless hours preparing the Bronx and Manhattan distribution systems to accept water from the brand-new Croton Water Treatment Plant.

In preparation for this major operational change, Sham managed the implementation of several projects, including: Overseeing the disinfection of a 6 mile section of The New Croton Aqueduct, flushing several miles of 48-inch diameter trunk water mains, coordinating and adjusting pressure regulators and valves throughout the two boroughs, and directing the activation of a hydraulic pump station in the Bronx.

In addition, Sham has been tasked with coordinating large water main shutdowns for the New York City Department of Design and Construction in Manhattan to facilitate the connection to City Tunnel Number 3, Stage 2, as well as the MTA's work on the Second Avenue subway line. These shut downs were effectively carried out without any adverse effects to the water supply.

Due in part to Sham's dedication and expertise, New York City residents received water from the Croton Filtration Plant for the first time earlier this month. On behalf of BWSO, DEP thanks Sham for his continued excellence and hard work.



Bureau of Wastewater Treatment - Salvatore Scapelito

Salvatore began his DEP career in August 2009 and currently serves as an Engineering Technician. After training with various process engineers at the 26th Ward, Tallman Island and Wards Island Wastewater Treatment Plants, Salvatore settled down at Brooklyn's 26th Ward and became the plant's process engineer. As Process Engineer, he is in charge of monitoring the daily process operations of the plant, maintaining compliance with the State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit, ensuring that the plant runs efficiently, and submitting weekly and monthly progress reports.

The 26th Ward Plant has been the focus of a long-term plan to reduce nitrogen discharges into Jamaica Bay. Under Salvatore's leadership, the plant has released the lowest total nitrogen effluent loads in over thirty years. Salvatore continues to improve the functionality of the plant by working on a project sponsored by the Water Environmental Research Foundation that aims to improve the BNR process at 26th Ward, reduce chemical usage, and lower total nitrogen discharge. With Salvatore's dedication and hard work, the plant has seen cost savings of \$1 million per year in chemical usage along with a 10% increase in nitrogen removals.

In his spare time, Salvatore competes in the New York City Operations Challenge. His teams have made it to the regional competition for several years. Thank you, Salvatore, for all of your important contributions to DEP.

Commissioner's Award for April:



Hardair Jimenez

Today, DEP recognized Hardair Jimenez a Registered Architect who has worked for the department's Facilities Management and Construction unit since 2012, and the bureau facility coordinators who assisted her in distributing over 4,600 task chairs and stools in all DEP facilities throughout the City and Upstate.

DEP employees are able to perform their daily tasks more comfortably and ergonomically due to the agency-wide procurement of brand-new task chairs, which are equipped with a number of adjustable settings and features. Most employees received reclining task chairs designed for office work, while employees in the science fields were equipped with stools specialized for laboratory functions. The Office of Environmental Health and Safety, and the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity were instrumental in providing professional expertise in assessing and selecting the appropriate chairs for the agency.

Hardair worked tirelessly with bureau coordinators to perform several inventories to guarantee that all employees were equipped with the appropriate task chair. Throughout this inventory process, the bureaus identified over 2,200 chairs that qualified for relinquishment due to wear and tear. The delivery and distribution process was seamless due to Hardair's meticulous planning and her frequent communications with Bureau Administrators.

All employees involved in the chair replacement project had to operate around tight delivery schedules, which meant that Hardair and her team worked overtime and on the weekends to distribute the 4,600 chairs.

Please join DEP in thanking Hardair Jimenez as well as the other FMC staff members and bureau facility coordinators, who have worked diligently to make DEP a safer, more efficient and more comfortable place to work.

With honorable mentions to the following bureau coordinators:

Jesus LaTorre	Oscar Gonzalez	Yocanda Baez	Shamalina Khan
Janet Singh	Gregory Horne	Diane Hammerman	Donna Hylton
Merander Layne	Esperanza Olivera	Lucia Pena	Scott Drangel
Giovanni Dolce	Debra Siegel	Frank Camardella	Sandrine Moore-Straw



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: **Jessica Keating / Corinne Martin** – Nominator, **Shamnarine Hemraj / Michael Farnan** – Nominator, **Scott Drangel, Theo Xavier, Jr., and Jonathan Baldwin / Narry Mayer** – Nominator

Commissioner Awardee: **Hardair Jimenez**