



DEP Employees of the Month for December and January

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 December and January, featured in this Weekly Pipeline Extra edition, were honored at a breakfast on February 25 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.

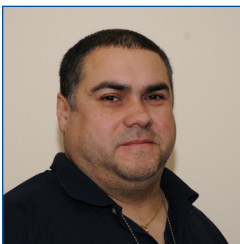


Police & Security - **Gregory Hoag**

In January 2009, as a result of a mutual agreement between DEP and the New York City Police Department (NYPD), Greg Hoag was selected to serve as the Executive Directive of the Division of Emergency Response and Technical Assessment (DERTA). Greg was selected not only because of his managerial qualifications, but also due to his expertise in HazMat issues.

Greg came to DERTA during a time when there was a critical need for his skillset and leadership, and he has truly excelled during his time here. He has led a number of important initiatives within the Division, including streamlining the Right to Know process, improving HazMat responses, expanding the BioWatch Program, and coordinating activities with other Emergency Response Agencies.

Greg is now leaving DERTA and returning to the NYPD where there is a need for his special qualifications. We wish him the best of luck and sincerely thank him for his years of service to DERTA and DEP.



Fleet Services - **Humberto Galban**

Humberto Galban began his DEP career in February 1987 and currently serves as a City Laborer in Fleet Services. Two of Humberto's primary responsibilities are to assist in maintaining the Fast Fleet or Fleet Share program which includes more than 150 vehicles, and to coordinate service visits for more than 600 DEP passenger vehicles.

In 2012, DEP moved its Fleet Services division to DEP Headquarters, which involved significant changes in day to day operations. Humberto demonstrated his leadership abilities by adapting to the changes required to continue a high level of service for all DEP fleet users.

He regularly provides both parking lot and roadside assistance to DEP employees—and does so with knowledge, patience, and a smile. Humberto has a tremendous amount of institutional knowledge about vehicles and fleet operations, and is always willing to share his expertise with his co-workers. Thanks to Humberto for all his efforts to support his colleagues.



Customer Services - **Brooklyn Associate Water Use Inspector Team**

With many years of experience as Water Use Inspectors and now Supervisors, Mariano D'Angelo, Willesley Alexander, Neal Holley and Edmund David have a wealth of knowledge that they share each day with Water Use Inspectors in the Bureau of Customer Services' Brooklyn office.

Thanks to their efforts over the past year, the Brooklyn Office has been able to increase the number of customer appointments that inspectors have successfully responded to—an accomplishment that has instilled a great sense of pride in the important work that the staff regularly performs.

This team has also worked hard to develop a strong focus on safety when conducting inspections, something that is critical for both the inspectors and DEP. These supervisors have encouraged and supported DEP inspectors by making sure assignments are completed correctly, and when necessary, ensuring that supervisors are readily available to assist on difficult assignments.

Their careful cultivation of teamwork and a support network has resulted in a real sense that supervisors are invested in and care about the staff. Thank you Mariano, Willesley, Neal, and Edmund for your hard work to promote a safe, effective, and supportive environment at DEP.



Water Supply - **Betty Paul and Mary Letohic**

Betty Paul and Mary Letohic both began their DEP careers in June 2010, and currently serve as part-time Custodians in the Bureau's Western Operations Division, Grahamsville Region.

Their regular duties include cleaning three facilities totaling over 30,000 square feet and removing the trash. And, after one of their crew members unexpectedly resigned, they developed new and more efficient ways of maintaining the cleanliness of the work spaces.

All three buildings are highly trafficked areas and they have been maintained to an outstanding level of cleanliness, including the laboratory which is certified under the Environmental Laboratory Approval Program, Water Supply Control Center, offices, break rooms, and corridors.

Betty and Mary have gone above and beyond the call of duty, and they continue to provide Grahamsville staff and visitors with a hygienic and safe workplace, despite the temporary reduction in staff. Thank you, Betty and Mary, for all of your efforts to keep DEP's workspaces safe and clean.



Water & Sewer Operations - Helen Markewich

Helen Markewich began her DEP career in April 2012 and currently serves as a City Research Scientist. She earned her PhD from Cornell University and her experience working in a laboratory environment, her thorough attention to detail and technical skills have proven to be a great asset to the Bureau.

In September 2014, as part of a programming modification at the UV Filtration Plant, the Design Joint Venture issued a field memo to detail the scope of program modifications. Helen performed a comprehensive review of the memo and discovered several omissions and ambiguities that needed to be addressed. These omissions were critically related to mandatory information reporting on off-spec conditions, which must be included in monthly operating reports.

Helen currently works out of the Croton Filtration Plant where her primary role has been to ensure that the finished water leaving the treatment plant meets all New York City drinking water standards. In order to do this, she established a process control laboratory within the plant that monitors chemical dose rates and water quality.

Helen is energetic, highly intelligent and is always willing to share her knowledge and skills with her colleagues. In addition, she has a pleasant demeanor, excellent work ethic and positive attitude. Needless to say, she is an invaluable member of the Croton Operations team.

Thank you, Helen, for your important contributions to DEP.



Water & Sewer Operations - Gary Vece

Gary began his DEP career in December 1995 as an Apprentice Construction Laborer and he now serves as a Supervisor of Water and Sewer Systems for the Manhattan Sewer Maintenance yard. Gary often takes the lead in investigating and troubleshooting both routine and unique conditions that occur throughout Manhattan. Importantly, he has the ability to clearly communicate highly complex and technical issues with co-workers, supervisors and the general public.

In January of this year, Gary was one of the first responders among many New York City departments to investigate a dangerous roadway condition on 35th Street, just off of the FDR Drive. He played a key role in determining the cause of the rapidly deteriorating roadway, which turned out to be related to a major construction project in the vicinity. The investigation included a thorough analysis of the sewers in the area, while also coordinating with the Bureau of Wastewater Treatment to evaluate a nearby interceptor sewer.

Gary is well respected within the Bureau's Field Operations Unit and is regularly complimented by peers, supervisors, and the public for his professionalism and work ethic. He is energetic and always willing to share his knowledge with co-workers.

Thank you, Gary, for all of your hard work.



Wastewater Treatment - Erina Clay

Erina Clay began her DEP career in September 1985 and currently serves as an Instrumentation Specialist. When BWT reorganized, the fourteen wastewater treatment plants were divided into seven regions and Erina became the lead Instrumentation Specialist for Region 2, which includes the Tallman Island and Wards Island Wastewater Treatment Plants.

Erina manages the maintenance and repair of instrumentation at these two facilities, including the dewatering equipment, grit chambers, and the nitrogen-removal Sharon process at Wards Island. While she continues to oversee the maintenance and repair of instrumentation for Region 2, Erina also manages the timely and fair distribution of instrumentation parts and materials to all seven regions, to ultimately ensure that all 14 plants have the necessary resources. In addition, Erina has been responsible for training a new instrumentation specialist.

Thank you, Erina, for your dedication to DEP and for all your important efforts to keep our equipment in a state of good repair.



Engineering Design & Construction - **Vasyl Kravchyk**

Vasyl Kravchyk began his DEP career in July 2006 and currently holds the title of Associate Project Manager. Vasyl oversees several capital design projects and has a proven track record of producing high quality work, on-time and on budget. He recently oversaw work to visually inspect the inside of the Delaware Aqueduct for leaks using submersible camera equipment. Vasyl worked around the clock to ensure that the project was run in a safe manner. This is not the first project related to the Delaware Aqueduct repair Vasyl has managed. He also oversaw the Rondout Leak Stabilization project, which concluded in 2014, ahead of schedule and on budget, and helped DEP determine the best course of action for repairing the leaking Aqueduct.

Vasyl also manages the design work for DEP's chlorination program and his proactive management style has moved the project along ahead of schedule. With the broader design team, he has also helped reduced costs by using existing structures to house proposed facilities, rather than constructing new buildings.

Aside from being an effective manager, Vasyl has also done a great job representing DEP at Town Planning Boards and other public meetings, describing project goals and addressing stakeholder issues. Thanks to Vasyl for your dedication to achieving the highest quality results in an efficient and cost-effective way.



Wastewater Treatment - **Dean Morace**

Dean began his DEP career in July 2014 as an Administrative Storekeeper tasked with leading the Materials Management Section for the Bureau. The Section is responsible for the multi-million dollar spare parts and commodity inventory and operates and maintains a 75,000 square foot central warehouse located at the North River Wastewater Treatment Plant. Dean also reviews all aspects of the Bureau's inventory control, central warehouse operations, and recycling.

Since Dean came on-board, he has worked with the Environmental Health and Safety team to remove all excess hazardous chemicals and waste stored at the warehouse, and reduced e-Waste on-site by 90 percent. In addition, all commodities have been cycle-counted and over 38,000 electrical parts have been inventoried. Dean also created a dedicated storage area for materials to be relinquished and he and his staff work with the Department of Citywide Administrative Services to maximize the sales price on these items. This improved inventory control has resulted in over \$100,000 in savings for the Bureau.

Dean, together with the Bureau's Training staff, is now developing a program to train new stock workers on proper procedures for warehouse operations. Thank you, Dean, for your continued innovation and excellent work.



Environmental Planning and Analysis - **Benjamin Huff**

Benjamin Huff began his DEP career in December 2013 and currently serves as a City Planner in the Bureau's Office of Demand Management and Resiliency. Two of Ben's primary responsibilities are to perform geographic information system (GIS) analyses and to oversee the Municipal Water Efficiency Program—part of the city's broader plan to reduce daily water demand by 50 million gallons by 2018.

Through the Municipal Water Efficiency Program, DEP has worked with other municipal agencies and partners, including the Department of Education, the Department of Parks and Recreation, Fire Department, and City University of New York, to install more efficient fixtures and pursue water conservation efforts in City-owned facilities.

Ben oversees various aspects of the program, which includes estimating future work costs, aiding in the execution of agreements, closing out projects, and maintaining ongoing relationships. Last year, Ben helped complete retrofits at 27 schools, as part of an ongoing effort with the Department of Education to replace inefficient fixtures in 500 schools by 2018. He has also coordinated spray shower retrofits at various parks, and oversees conservation work at DEP Wastewater Treatment Plants. Ben also plays a key role in supporting the Commissioner's Water Challenges by providing operators with the data and tools they need to reduce water demand.

In addition, Ben has played a role in GIS analyses for green infrastructure projects, for the Bureau of Customer Service, and for special agency projects. Thank you, Ben, for your important contributions to DEP and to water efficiency efforts throughout the city.

Commissioner's Award for December:



Flu Vaccine Team

Working collaboratively with the Office of Labor Relations and labor representatives, the project team worked to offer flu shot vaccines to the DEP workforce. Employees from across the agency, including those in the Budget Office, Customer Services, Facilities Management and Construction, Labor Relations and Discipline, Organizational Development & Human Resources, Police and Security, Water Supply, Water and Sewer Operations, and Wastewater Treatment were integral to the success of the initiative.

As one of the first Mayoral agencies to enthusiastically participate in the Office of Labor Relations' 2014 pilot Flu Vaccine Campaign, the DEP team initiated a pilot program within a very short timeframe. Between November 14 and 25, the team provided free flu shots to a total of 425 employees at seven different in-city and upstate watershed locations. Thank you to all involved for your excellent work and for your dedication to the safety and support of your fellow employees at DEP.

Novlett Munroe	Aaron Feinstein	Diana Jones Ritter	Kathryn Critch-Low
Lenora Smith	Marcia Jones	Herb Roth	Roody Milord
Wilfred Thomas	Margie Adams	Indra Seepersaud	Chendrakant Sing
Tyrone Castillo	Renee Alfieri	Malini Strickland	Teleisha Stevens
Armondo Cerbone	Bibi Baksh	Frank Munari	Kimberly Vann
Albert Colon	Michael Bartlett	Thomas Murphy	Alice Jung
Giuseppe La Russa	Zoe Ann Campbell	Ava Green-Harris	
Vincent Pulsonetti	Diana Chernov	Rosie DeJesus	
Patricia Turner	James Cuggy	Harrington-Critchlow	



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: **Betty Paul** and **Mary Letohic** / **Eugene Nicolato** – Nominator, **Gregory Hoag** / **Kevin McBride** – Nominator, **Edmund David** / **John Bil** – Nominator, **Dean Morace** / **Robert LaGrotta** – Nominator and **Helen Markewich** / **Thomas Tipa** - Nominator.

Commissioner Awardees: **Rajappan Radhakrishnan**, **Kimberly Vann**, **Charles Kong**, **Chandrakant Patel** and **Indra Seepersaud**.

Commissioner's Award for January:



The Clean Air Tracking (CAT) Team

BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Clean Air Tracking System, or CATS, is a web-based interface that allows for electronic filings of boiler registrations, boiler work permits, and Certificates to Operate. Customers can pay online, track their filed application through their CATS account, receive email notifications on any action or progress on their filings, and enjoy a quick turn-around time, leading to increased customer satisfaction. The system allows online payments by credit cards, debit cards, or e-checks, and customers can file forms anywhere and at any time, which saves them multiple trips to DEP offices.

As a result of CATS, DEP has seen improved compliance and enforcement efforts, dramatic reductions in permit application turn-around time, and reductions in paper handling and storage. During this year's annual NYC Technology Forum's Best of NYC Awards, CATS was honored as one of the Best External Applications in 2014. Thank you to the entire team who worked hard to make this Tracking System possible.

Chandrakant Patel	Rajappan Radhakrishnan	Arthur Heard, Jr.	Jeffrey Mendez
Charles Kong	Yuan-Ching Chen	Eddie Wan	Jose Garcia
Kit Liang	Alberto Hurtado	Harish Patel	Robert Delahoz



Employee Suggestion Program - John Bil, Customer Services

The December Employee Suggestion Program Certification of Appreciation Award goes to John Bil, Chief Inspector for the Bureau of Customer Services.

John wrote to the Employee Suggestion Program with an idea to provide kneeling pads for Water Use Inspectors as a protection against potential injuries. Inspectors repeatedly kneel on hard surfaces every day, which over time could cause an injury to the knees.

Kneeling pads offer improved support by taking excess strain off the knee, and can effectively prevent injuries. John's suggestion has led to the distribution of 150 kneeling pads for his fellow workers.

We would like to thank John and the other DEP employees who assisted in implementing his suggestion, including Persis Luke, Office of Environmental Health and Safety, and Michael Roach, Bureau of Customer Services. The implementation of preventative measures can potentially reduce employee injuries and consequent time missed from work.