



DEP Employees of the Month for November 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 November, featured in this Weekly Pipeline Extra edition, were honored at a breakfast on December 19 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.



Water Supply - Jason Garritt

Jason began his DEP career in October 2011 and currently serves as a Scientist in the Bureau's Watershed Water Quality Operations field section group. In addition to his regular duties, Jason is responsible for managing and maintaining the Kensico stream flow monitoring network and is a member of the Kensico reservoir robotic monitoring network team. The data gathered through these programs helps to guide critical water supply operational decisions.

During the late summer and early fall of this year, Jason was also tasked with upgrading all flow monitoring stations with new hardware. He took the initiative to study and become familiar with the new data logger programming language and recognized that with the new equipment, a sonic range finder would provide even more accurate readings. He also wrote a computer program to run the new equipment and created a side-by-side study showing the improved data stream. Based on this work, two flow monitoring stations are now using the more accurate sonic range finder. This has improved the overall quality of data DEP receives, has increased the efficiency of field maintenance and there are plans to further expand its use in the future.

Jason's initiative and unique ability to identify areas for improvement will serve DEP well into the future.



Environmental Health and Safety - Kimberly Cusumano

Kimberly began her DEP career in August 2006 and she currently serves as a Clerical Associate in the Office of Environmental Health and Safety. She is responsible for the creative development and production of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) related communications, including "Spotlight on Safety," the "EHS Forum," "EHS Matters" case studies and the upcoming "Respect in the Workplace Campaign."

Kimberly regularly engages in creative problem solving and has elevated OEHS's professionalism in communications. She always provides excellent and professional customer service to her stakeholders within OEHS and throughout the agency, and always meets her deadlines. She is truly a team player and rarely seeks recognition for her own work.

Kimberly excels in the areas of graphic design and the development of professional presentations. She welcomes a challenge, always has valuable suggestions about how to improve work processes and products, and excels when working independently or as part of a team.



Wastewater Treatment - Newtown Creek Alternative Technology Research Team

Assistant Electrical Engineer **Adam Schenk**, Electrician **Charles Vann**, Electrician **Hameshwai Wazid**, Machinist **Stacy Kruckenberg**, Machinist **Deven Shah**, and Sewage Treatment Workers **Martin Jagsaran** and **Melvin Ramcharan**.

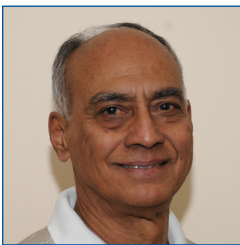
In order to reduce demand for electricity as well as the frequency of required maintenance of some critical technologies at DEP's wastewater treatment facilities, the Bureau has been conducting research into viable alternatives. The effort was spearheaded by Assistant Electrical Engineer Adam Schenk and Newtown Creek staff including Electricians Charles Vann and Hameshwai Wazid, Machinists Stacy Kruckenberg and Deven Shah, and plant staff including Sewage Treatment Workers Martin Jagsaran and Melvin Ramcharan.

One technology that was successfully pilot-tested was an Eddy Current speed control drive. This maintenance-friendly electro-mechanical device allows for the more efficient changing of equipment speed to meet demand fluctuations, thereby consuming less power while enhancing system reliability.

Although the project could have been outsourced to a contractor to implement, all DEP staff involved were dedicated to completing the project with in-house resources from the start.

Schenk worked with the manufacturers and coordinated the required labor with the Newtown Creek staff who installed the system with meticulous craftsmanship. The entire project demonstrated the robustness of DEP staff skill sets and their dedication to the protection of New York City's environment in the most efficient manner possible.

It is also an example of how the Bureau's in-house talent actively innovates and develops new ideas. The results from this test will allow the Bureau to make informed and innovative design decisions that incorporate a technology that is expected to prove both energy-efficient and sustainable.



Water & Sewer Operations - Cyril Rodricks

Cyril began his DEP career in September 2002 and he currently serves as an Associate Quality Assurance Specialist within the Bureau. He holds a Certified Welding Inspector license issued by the American Welding Society (AWS) which authorizes him to approve welding procedures and welder qualifications. Cyril's completion of the AWS course in Radiographic Interpretation qualifies him to evaluate and interpret X-ray testing of welds. In addition, he is also experienced in other metal testing methods, including Ultrasonic, Magnetic Particle, and Dye Penetrant.

It is critical that all new pipes, as well as any repairs, conform to DEP specifications and regulatory codes and Cyril conducts inspections and approves the fabrication of carbon and stainless steel pipes and appurtenances by manufacturers. This is precisely the type of behind the scenes work that allows the Bureau to provide a reliable supply of high quality drinking water to the 8.4 million residents of New York City.



Environmental Compliance - August Buffa

August Buffa began his DEP career in July 1992 and he currently serves as an Associate Water Use Inspector in the Bureau of Environmental Compliance. He recently took charge of the Manhattan based #6 fuel oil project that will result in the elimination of #6 fuel burners in New York City next year. Augie has overseen approximately 1,500 physical boiler inspections and had to master a web based, hand held program to facilitate the task. As a result of his efforts, the Bureau is closing in on 80 percent of #6 fuel burners being eliminated, with 6 months left to complete the multi-year project.

Commissioner's Award:



The Bureau of Wastewater Treatment's Ebola Disinfection Response Team

Chief **Paul Kiskorna**, Deputy Chief **William LeClair**, Stationary Engineer Electric **Danny Pastore**, **Edward Costa**, **Denish Prashaud**, **Ian Herrera**, **Frank Giovanniello** and **Darnel Harris**, Senior Sewage Treatment Workers **Nicholas Giacia**, **Joseph Licari**, **Colvin Stephen**, **Gordon Mahon**, **Festus Williams**, **Victor Basdeo**, **Jean Alty** and **Irvin Moreno**, and Sewage Treatment Workers **Lloyd George**, **Jose Acevedo**, **Rafeek Rahaman**, **Louis Gregorios**, **Stephen Asante**, **Reno Colalillo**, **Jorge Mardones**, **William Albright**, **Antonio George**, **Michael Giudice**, **Vincent Manich**, **Kevin Maguire**, **Peter Lynch**, **Brian Valdez**, **Robert Ortiz**, **Antonio Corona**, **Albert Romano** and **Mark Husbands**.

On Thursday, October 23, a New York City health care worker tested positive for Ebola at Bellevue Hospital in Manhattan and began treatment under quarantine. With that announcement, Collections Facilities North staff was mobilized to chlorinate the discharge sewer from Bellevue as a precaution against the transmission of Ebola to DEP staff whose work has them in the sewers or otherwise dealing with sewage. The chlorination effort involved using totes of sodium hypochlorite and monitoring the discharge at a manhole on the public sidewalk. The work continued around the clock until the patient was declared Ebola-free and was discharged from Bellevue on November 11.

Guided and organized by Chief Paul Kiskorna and Deputy Chief William LeClair, each crew was headed by a Stationary Engineer Electric (SEE) and consisted of one Senior Sewage Treatment worker (SSTW) and two sewage treatment workers (STW). Leading the way for the SEEs was Danny Pastore and Ed Costa, with Darnel Harris, Ian Herrera, Frank Giovanniello and Denish Prashaud also covering. The SSTWs included Nicholas Giacia, Joseph Licari, Colvin Stephen, Gordon Mahon, Festus Williams, with Victor Basdeo, Jean Alty and Irvin Moreno also covering. Coverage for the STWs included Lloyd George, Jose Acevedo, Rafeek Rahaman, Louis Gregorios, Stephen Asante, Reno Colalillo, Jorge Mardones, William Albright, Antonio George, Michael Giudice, Vincent Manich, Kevin Maguire, Peter Lynch, Brian Valdez, Robert Ortiz, and Antonio Corona. In addition, two STWs from Collections South also assisted. Albert Romano and Mark Husbands brought a truck with a full tote of hypo and the necessary flow-adjusting valves on that first, hectic night.



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: **Charles Vann** and **Stacy Kruckenberg/Yuklong Ma** - Nominator, **Kimberly Cusumano/Carice Craffey** - Nominator.

Commissioner Awardees: **William LeClair** and **Edward Costa**.