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Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
Cas Holloway, Commissioner

WEEKLY PIPELINE EXTRA

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DEP Employees of the Month for March 2010

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 dai-

ly. Making good on that daily promise requires dedication and hard work of the nearly 6,000 employees of 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 that they have set an example for others. The form is available online, and you'll need to submit it by the tenth day following the end of the month. For more information, contact Herbert Roth or visit the program's website ([here](#)) .

The six Employees of the Month for April, featured in

this Weekly Pipeline Extra edition, were honored at a breakfast on April 21, with Commissioner Holloway, 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.



Milagros Soriano - Wastewater Treatment

Milagros Soriano is an Environmental Engineer working at the Hunts Point Wastewater Treatment Plant. She started as an engineering intern and then moved to a field position working as the process control engineer at the Rockaway and Coney Island plants. Millie could have taken the easy road and remained at the Coney Island plant, where she knew the equipment and had a very short daily commute. But when she heard that the Hunts Point process control engineer was retiring after 36 years of service, Millie volunteered to tackle the much larger and more complex Bronx plant. (Millie even has to pay an \$11/day bridge toll to get to work now!) Millie rolled up her sleeves and jumped right in to the dewatering operations, construction issues, and the new biological nitrogen removal systems.



Christopher Smith - Office of Information Technology

Christopher Smith serves as a Business Liaison within OIT. Chris gladly accepted the opportunity and challenge to take on the daunting task of launching and managing the agency's Microsoft SharePoint portal as an enterprise-wide collaboration tool. Under his expert guidance, SharePoint has been an agency success story. In less than three years, over 200 sites have been developed, providing everything from document repositories to workflow-based applications and dashboards. Working closely with EDC, DEP's largest SharePoint installation to date, Chris was able to apply SharePoint-based technological solutions to solve bureau needs surrounding communication, document collaboration and human resources management. In addition, Chris has also provided Project Management services outside of the realm of SharePoint with the successful completion of the 2009 T3: Technology Day event. His commitment to professionalism has quickly elevated him within the ranks of OIT.



Bruce Macdonald - Environmental Compliance

Bruce Macdonald directs the DEP's Environmental Economic Development Unit and serves as liaison to the regulated business community in assisting them with environmental compliance. Bruce performs outreach presentations for various Bureaus to educate and train industries in pollution prevention methods. Bruce has been extremely successful in achieving his main objective, which is to arm businesses with compliance information before they get caught up in costly enforcement problems. Recently, he completed administering an aggressive pollution prevention program, which gave monetary grants to auto body shops in Queens to purchase environmentally sound dust-free sanding systems. The systems helped capture up to 90 percent of harmful emissions, that would otherwise be released into the workplace thus avoiding a host of other problems.



Lovely Desir - Water and Sewer Operations

Lovely Desir is a Field Safety Officer who has been instrumental in developing a guidance document to help prevent employees from getting poison ivy, and she played an active role in helping to avert potentially serious motor vehicle accidents at Brooklyn Repairs due to a blind spot on the East 92nd street exit (caused by ongoing facility construction). She worked with the facility, Bureau EHS and DDC to remedy the hazard. In addition, Lovely has provided expert guidance to help Brooklyn Repairs maintain an excellent EHS compliance profile during a very difficult period of construction; and performed several job hazard assessments and recommended personal protective equipment improvements which were subsequently introduced.



Peter Dispensa - Police & Security

Peter Dispensa is an Associate Project Manager who is responsible for the planning, coordination and implementation of physical security measures for the water supply system. He is tasked with the difficult job of finding innovative solutions to critical security issues. Most recently, the watercraft interdiction system – commonly referred to as the tuffboom – located on the Kensico Reservoir became dislodged from both sides of the reservoir. The tuffboom is a crash rated barrier that stretches across from one side of the reservoir to the other. It protects one of DEP's most critical pieces of infrastructure. The tuffboom is vital to our counterterrorism efforts and cannot be out of service for any extended period of time. In an effort to repair the dislodged tuffboom, contractors were called and provided repair estimates in the range of \$25,000. In addition, they indicated that the tuffboom would be out of service for months. This was not acceptable and Pete came up with an innovative and cost effective solution to the problem. With \$500, great ingenuity and the aid of other employees, the damaged tuffboom was repaired within a week. Thanks to this tremendous effort, \$24,500 was saved and a critical piece of infrastructure was back in service in short order.

Commissioner's Award:



Vincenzo Mattarella works in Customer Services and has shown exemplary and excellent leadership skills at every managerial assignment he has been given.

As a result, Vincenzo was appointed as the Director of Program Implementation. In this capacity, he is tasked with the difficult assignment of supporting the Bureau's new billing system, ensuring the smooth integration of the old billing system into the new billing system. In addition, he continues to retain his responsibilities as the Bureau's Special Projects Manager overseeing the Con Edison and Hard-to-Access Meter Reading contracts.

In addition, Vincenzo serves as the Bureau's SharePoint liaison between Customer Services and the Office of Information Technology, overseeing BCS site content and improving document retention efforts through the enhanced Customer Services Document Center. Vincenzo is also the point person for the creation and distribution of the Bureau's Citywide Council Metrics for the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and City Council. He was also responsible for implementing, and currently oversees, the Bureau's OMBUDS Safety Net Referral Program, an effort through which special needs customers are referred to partnering city agencies for assistance and through which the post termination enforcement process is monitored.

In March 2010, the Bureau initiated a new program, "The Water Debt Assistance Program" (WDAP). This program assists DEP customers facing foreclosure who are in an owner occupied single family home facing service termination or in an owner occupied two and three family home and are lien sale eligible candidates. Eligible customers have their water and sewer arrears placed in suspense and are allowed to focus only on new charges, as long as they remain current.

Vincenzo's daily commitment to excellence and professionalism is confirmed by the success of the programs under his purview.