

**From:** [Strickland Jr., Carter H.](#)  
**Subject:** Weekly Pipeline - Extra Edition - Employees of the Month for April  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 29, 2013 6:50:16 PM  
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Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor  
Carter Strickland, Commissioner

WEEKLY

# PIPELINE

EXTRA

May 29, 2013

Volume IV • Issue 177A

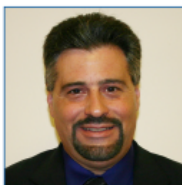


## DEP Employees of the Month for April 2013

**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 Pipeline, 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 April, featured in this Weekly Pipeline Extra edition, were honored at a breakfast on May 29 with Commissioner Strickland, 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.



### Wastewater Treatment - **Peter Pianelli**

Peter began his career with DEP in October 1990 and he currently serves as the Facility Manager for the Hunts Point and Bowery Bay Wastewater Treatment Plants. He possesses a NYS Grade 4A Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator license and has also served as an instructor for several wastewater treatment courses.

In order to improve facility performance and operations, while reducing operating costs and environmental impacts, Peter has recently worked with the OpX team on three systems: aeration, froth management, and dewatering. The remapping of the aeration program included the lowering of dissolved oxygen levels, diffuser pressure differential monitoring, cleaning of diffusers through the pumping of additional air, and adding new dissolved oxygen sensors in the separation centrate tank. These efforts resulted in lower energy consumption and a smaller carbon footprint, all done while maintaining proper treatment levels.

Peter has also worked to develop improved froth removal performance through the modification of spray nozzles to break up the foam, and testing chemicals to aid in froth suppression. These advancements helped to reduce the foam while maintaining peak biological performance in the aeration tanks.

In the dewatering facility, Peter has worked with the plant operators to maximize performance through the use of centrifuges, which were operated at uniform loading rates while chemical conditioners were added in refined doses. This resulted in less dewatered sludge being produced, a smaller amount of chemicals being used, fewer trucks trips needed to haul the sludge away, and significantly lower operating costs.

Peter's leadership and technical expertise were instrumental in ensuring the successful implementation of these important initiatives.



### Human Resources - **Swayne Mardenborough**

Swayne began his career with DEP in September 1989 and has worked in the Bureau of Human Resources for more than 20 years. He is currently the Deputy Director of Wage Administration and Records Management and is responsible for implementing contractual wage agreements and Equity Panel awards. When the New York City Automated Personnel System was first introduced as a citywide application for all human resource and payroll departments, Swayne wholeheartedly undertook the task of learning everything he could about the system. This enables him to ensure that his group, as well as other Bureau Administrators and Divisions of Human Resources and Payroll, are accurate with any new changes and are following proper procedures and protocols. He also troubleshoots any problems that arise and instructs and trains staff on new developments and deployments.

Over the years, Swayne has also trained and mentored new staff members, many of whom have developed and moved on professionally within the agency due in large part to his guidance and support. Swayne loves his job and goes above and beyond the call of duty to provide exceptional service at all times. He is professional, intelligent, analytical, eager, and most of all, dedicated. He is always willing to help a co-worker who needs assistance and does his job without seeking the recognition he so justly deserves.



### Engineering, Design and Construction - **Linda Kendall**

Linda began her career with DEP in July 2007 and serves as an Assistant Environmental Engineer. She has most recently been involved with the project to install nitrogen removal technology at the Tallman Island Wastewater Treatment Plant. Nitrogen is a naturally occurring element that is found in food and other organic materials and is present in wastewater when it enters treatment plants. Because nitrogen is not a pathogen and poses no threat to human health, the wastewater treatment plants were not originally designed to remove it from the treated water before it is discharged into the receiving water body. However, high levels of nitrogen can degrade the overall ecology of a waterway by reducing levels of dissolved oxygen and promoting excessive algae growth, especially in warm weather months. The new technology at the Tallman Island Plant will cut the amount of nitrogen released in the effluent and help improve the ecological health of the Upper East River and Long Island Sound.

Through her work on this project Linda has proven adept at the identification and mitigation of project risks, and has kept the work on schedule while quickly addressing any environmental, health and safety issues. Some of the major work at the Tallman Island Plant includes retrofitting the aeration tanks with new bubble diffusers, mixers, baffles, air headers, process air piping, and the construction of a new building to house the new process air blowers. Linda also provides timely and effective direction to the design consultant and is always professional in her dealings with construction managers, designers, contractors and the operating bureau.



### Police and Security - **Mahmoud Asad**

Mahmoud began his career with DEP in March 2011 and currently serves as an Associate Chemist in the bureau's Division of Emergency Response and Technical Assessment (DERTA), Right-to-Know Unit. His job responsibilities include processing Tier II annual submissions for approximately 8,000 facilities and assisting customers who have questions or registration issues. DERTA assists facility owners with these filings and Mahmoud has dedicated a great deal of time and has worked diligently with these customers to help them understand the chemical descriptions that are necessary to accurately complete the filing.

Mahmoud has even volunteered to stay after hours to assist customers over the phone who cannot make it to DEP headquarters during regular business hours. Mahmoud performs his job with great care and attention to detail. He also contributes suggestions on how the Unit can improve the efficiency of their daily administrative tasks. No task is too small or big for Mahmoud to volunteer to assist with and his sense of humor and willingness to help others promotes a positive attitude throughout the Unit.



### Water & Sewer Operations - **Margaret McCrossan**

Margaret began her career with DEP in August 1996 and currently works within the bureau's Personnel Unit as the head of the Timekeeping Section. Margaret is a dedicated and hardworking employee who is always there to help her coworkers. On numerous occasions, managers have been confronted with timekeeping issues that can be time consuming to address and Margaret has graciously stepped in to provide assistance. She is also extremely knowledgeable and pays close attention to detail. During the transition to CityTime, Margaret provided invaluable guidance to many employees, which resulted in less disruption to bureau operations. And, with CityTime now firmly in place, Margaret remains diligent in her efforts to minimize disruptions, while maintaining proper workflows and efficient processing.

### **Commissioner's Award:**



### Water & Sewer Operations - **Patrick Tingo and Michael Broadhurst**

Last month, Water and Sewer Operations' Groundwater Plumbers Patrick Tingo and Michael Broadhurst were driving to Groundwater Station 38 when they noticed a DEP vehicle travelling at an excessive rate of speed in the opposite direction. Soon thereafter, Patrick and Michael came upon a DEP employee waving his arms at the intersection of Farmers Boulevard and 99<sup>th</sup> Avenue. It turned out that the speeding DEP vehicle, and a smartphone, had just been stolen from this employee. Thinking quickly, Michael utilized the location application on his phone to pinpoint the stolen phone to a location in Hollis. The police and a DEP supervisor were immediately notified, and soon thereafter, the police surrounded a home and arrested two individuals.

Patrick and Michael are relatively new employees, having been hired within the past year, but they saw a fellow employee in distress and did not hesitate to render assistance. They are being recognized for their quick thinking and selfless actions.