

Solid Waste Management

1. Our Rapp Rd. waste management operations provided predictable, reasonably priced, and environmentally sound waste disposal to the capital region for over 342,000 tons of waste, generating over \$11.6 million dollar revenue stream to the City. **By way of comparison, waste inputs dropped by 14% and revenue increased by 3.7% over 2008.**
2. Our City curbside collection and clean up efforts resulted in the removal of over 50,000 tons of waste and debris, free of charge to City residents.
3. **The new landfill gas to energy project is underway. The project will double the capacity of the current plant. The new contract, without any additional power production, has yielded approximately \$350,000.00 compared to \$ 77,415.00 last year.**
4. **Our household hazardous waste collection program provided residents with 11 opportunities this year to participate. Over 1,450 households participated in the program and diverted over 45,000 gallons of liquid hazardous wastes from the landfill at cost of \$99,900 annually. This year for the first time the City expanded its household hazardous waste program to include electronic recycling. Over 26 tons of electronics was collected at these events**
5. The City of Albany, on behalf of the municipal members of the Capital Region Solid Waste Management Planning Unit, has been granted a permit to expand the Rapp Road Landfill. The permit was issued June 25, 2009 and construction on the new cell commenced July 20th. The expansion is segmented into two phases. The cell under construction in phase 1 is anticipated to be certified for use no later than, June of 2010. The entire project is expected to yield sufficient disposal capacity to the Capital Region for a minimum of 6 years. As part of this expansion, the City has embarked on what may be the most significant mitigation project in the state; the Pine Bush Restoration Project will create dunes and reforest over 160 acres on and around the landfill back to native habitat. In addition, the City has embarked on the development and implementation of a new 20 year solid waste management plan that is intended to provide reliable disposal options for the region.
6. **Early in the year we put out an RFP for tipping fees for the Landfill. We successfully received two responses from Allied Waste and County Waste. The tipping fee agreed upon for both was \$47.67 per ton. These contracts not only provide \$6.5 million in revenue to the City but also helps to stabilize the local waste disposal market allowing for predictable disposal options for the residential and commercial sectors of the Capital Region.**
7. During nine (9) scheduled household spring clean-up events, DGS collected and disposed of over 1,437.72 tons of waste.

Recycling

1. **DGS has initiated a new city wide office-recycling program. New recycling bins were purchased for all city office buildings to recycle paper, cardboard, glass,**

cans and plastic containers. Every desk was equipped with a paper only bin and several larger bins, placed in common areas, for their glass, cans and plastic containers. Each building has been set up on a pickup rotation to ensure these items are recycled properly.

2. DGS has increased its curbside-recycling program by offering an additional “GREEN” bin for paper and cardboard only. By providing this second bin residents will separate their glass, cans and plastic from their paper and cardboard which will allow them to recycle more of each item.
3. DGS continues to market recycled materials. Overall revenue received for glass, metal, plastic container and paper recycling was over \$107,478.06 with 2,252 tons of paper and 1,073 tons of glass/metal/plastic containers diverted for recycling.

4. Education

- Created a “**Close the Loop**” pamphlet to encourage buying recycled products.
- Updated City’s website with new recycling information in a grid format to help residents to better understand our residential program. Put a direct link from the main page to the recycling page.
- Created a new “**Commercial Recycling Guide**”, which outlines recycling requirements for commercial, industrial, multi residential and institutional properties in the city of Albany as well as provides information for them to start or improve upon their recycling program.
- Created a new “**Residential Recycling Flyer**” and advertised it in the TU on 4/26 & 5/7
- Created a “**Private Hauler Recycling Flyer**”, which outlines items that are recyclable and should never be sent to the landfill. The flyer was given to all private haulers, 38 in all, under contract with the landfill for distribution to their clients.
- Our recycling staff attended several neighborhood associations meeting to discuss the recycling program in the city and in addition hosted a recycling booth at Tulip Festival and the Taste of Madison.

5. Light Bulb Recycling (in city buildings)

- DGS created a light bulb recycling policy and held a training session for maintenance staff of all city owned buildings on the proper procedure and collection of light bulbs.
- Included in the education was the creation of an 11x17 poster to educate all maintenance employees as to what bulbs need to be recycled.
- Following the training all department heads were sent a memo to make them aware of and to help them carry out the details of this new policy and importance of the program.

6. School Recycling

- We introduced recycling to all schools in the city of Albany; this includes all public, private, parochial and charter schools.
 - 1500 bins purchased
 - 35 schools participating
 - Approx \$30,000 invested
 - Introduced the Magic of Recycling, a fun innovative magic show that promotes recycling to kids k-4th, in all public elementary schools. Introduced a waste reduction & recycling curriculum package to all schools, including a poster to be displayed throughout the school.

7. Planning Unit

- We met on a monthly basis with representatives from all municipalities within the planning unit. (13 municipalities in all)
- We continue to work with them to assess their programs and make recommendations on program improvements. Provide to all planning unit representatives copies of brochures and pamphlets that deal with waste reduction and recycling.
- School waste reduction and recycling curriculum was shared with the planning unit to encourage them to introduce recycling at schools within their municipalities

8. Additional Items

- Throughout the year we conduct weekly landfill inspections to detect excessive recycling in the waste stream. We follow up on all failed inspections with the private hauler, generator and the municipality involved.
- We also conducted two one- weeklong intensive landfill inspections on November 16, 2009 & December 14, 2009 resulting in 462 inspections total.
- Recycling bins were put out to bid (household bins went from \$15 per bin to \$9.27 per bin) With an approximate savings of \$ 22,920.00

- An informational packet was mailed directly to all commercial, industrial, institutional and multi-residential property owners reminding them of the mandatory recycling laws. Included was a survey that needs to be completed and return to the city of Albany by the property owner.

Parks

1. DGS provides regular maintenance, upgrades, and daily operations to over 60 parks, traffic islands and open spaces in the City. The following are some examples of specific improvements completed this year.
 - a. Replaced 15 sections of curbing at Tri Centennial Park.
 - b. Replaced approximately 50 concrete panels with stamped concrete at Steamer #10 & Henry Johnson Blvd Islands.
 - c. Replaced the base for stairs at the Washington Park Lake House
 - d. Repaired a structural roofline with approximately 2,500 bricks at the Visitor's Center
 - e. Installed handicap ramps at the following locations:
 1. Academy Park
 2. Henry Johnson Blvd (2 locations)
 3. Engine I Island
 4. Hurst & Collins Place
 - f. Repaired dugout stairs at Bleeker Stadium
 - g. Approximately 30 fence posts were installed at Buckingham Pond.
 - h. Replaced 100 ft of chain link fence at Ten Broeck Mansion
 - i. Replaced 130ft of guardrail at New Loudon Rd & Van Rensselaer Blvd

Division of Engineering

1. Delaware Avenue Road Reconstruction Project

Successfully applied for and obtained the first Economic Stimulus transportation project in New York State. The \$14 million dollar project includes the reconstruction of 5 lane miles of Delaware Avenue. Completed the first year of construction. Received gold level certification of transportation and environmental sustainability from the NYSDOT for this project.

2. Central Avenue Road Rehabilitation Project

Completed the construction of the \$17 million Central Avenue Road Rehabilitation project from the West City Line to Ontario Street.

3. Route 5 Road Resurfacing Project

Provided detailed design assistance to the NYSDOT for the resurfacing of NYS Route 5 from Ontario Street to Hawk Street using 100% Economic Stimulus funding.

4. 2009 Contracted Street and Sidewalk Improvement Project

Completed the in-house design and construction administration for \$4.75 million dollars of improvements to City streets and sidewalks. The project was completed over 3 separate contracts and included 23 locations.

5. Washington Avenue Road Resurfacing Project

Successfully applied for and obtained over \$3 million dollars of Economic Stimulus funding to complete the resurfacing of 14 lane miles Washington Avenue.

6. Roadway GIS Development

Developed an interactive Geographical Information System (GIS) of the City's roadway infrastructure. The objectives of this project included producing a GIS system for record keeping purposes and to assist in making pertinent data readily accessible to aid in decision making.

7. Quackenbush Square Rehabilitation Project

Completed the design for the rehabilitation of Quackenbush Square including new streetscape amenities, new decorative sidewalks, landscaping, and street lights.

8. New Arbor Hill Pedestrian Bridge

Completed the design for a new pedestrian bridge over Manning Boulevard to provide access from Colonie Street to the Arbor Hill Elementary School area.

9. Mohawk Hudson Bike Hike Trail Rehabilitation

Completed the design and construction of the Mohawk Hudson Bike Hike Trail in the Corning Preserve using a combination of grant and City funding. The rehabilitation of the 1.6 mile segment included the widening and resurfacing of the trail, drainage improvements, new signage, and new pedestrian facilities.

10. Euclid Avenue Sidewalk Spot Improvement Project

Designed and constructed a sidewalk extension project on Euclid Avenue using a federal spot improvement grant.

11. 2010 TIP Solicitation

Prepared several project justification packages for the year 2010 TIP update and submitted to CDTC for review and approval.

12. Normans Kill Boat Launch

Coordinated with the NYSDEC Bureau of Fisheries on the construction of a boat slide / launch at the Normans Kill.

13. Window Improvement Study

Completed a report that evaluated and recommended the best approach to improve the windows at 5 City-owned buildings. The evaluation and recommendations took into consideration the historical significance of the buildings as well as energy conservation. Applied for a grant to assist with funding the improvements. The results of the study will be utilized in the design of the window improvements.

14. Jail Facility Renovation Project

Completed the design for major renovations to the jail facility at the South Police Station.

15. Mechanical Improvement Project

Completed the construction of mechanical and electrical improvements to existing heating, ventilating, and air conditioning systems at various City-owned buildings. Capital projects included control systems to optimize energy efficiency.

16. New Emergency Back-up Generator Project

Furnished and installed 2 new gas fueled emergency generators for the Justice Building and the South Police Station.

17. Roof Improvements to Various City-owned Buildings

Completed the design and bid phase for roof improvements to several City-owned buildings.

18. Underground Petroleum Bulk Storage Tank Closure

Designed and completed the environmental closure of a 6,000 gallon fuel tank at the Justice Building.

19. Asbestos Abatement Project at the Center Police Station

Designed and completed the asbestos abatement of mechanical piping in the crawl space under the Center Police Station. Once exposed, heating pipes were inspected and repaired and/or replaced. Reinsulated the pipes with high efficiency fiberglass insulation.

20. Elevator Improvement Project at Justice Building

Completed the construction of modernization improvements to the 2 elevators at the Justice Building.

21. City-owned Building Maintenance Contracts

Designed and advertised 5 maintenance contracts to City-owned buildings. Completed 1-year extensions to 9 maintenance contracts.

22. Elevator Maintenance

Coordinated monthly maintenance inspections and repairs to City-owned elevators. Coordinated semi-annual elevator inspections by independent elevator contractor.

23. Fire Alarm, Fire Suppression, and Sprinkler Systems

Coordinated maintenance inspections and repairs to City-owned buildings.

24. HVAC and Temperature Control Repairs

Coordinated quarterly inspections and maintenance of systems in City-owned buildings. Performed repairs to City Hall boiler and Albany Visitor's Center cooling tower.

25. Emergency Generator Maintenance Contract

Coordinated the inspection and servicing of all City-owned generators.

26. On-going Permits and Approvals

Issued numerous grading permits, performed street and sidewalk opening reviews, curb cut reviews, minor property consolidation approvals, minor property subdivision approvals, café permit reviews.

Daily Operations \ Quality of Life

1. Removed 1,901 locations of graffiti with our graffiti buster's response van.
2. Posted 1,146 5-day" notice and orders to respond to problems with unkempt properties, trash, vacant lots, & litter. The postings resulted in 543 properties cleaned by the owner and DGS performing the clean ups for 605 locations and billing the property owners a total of \$126,453.00 dollars. We also fined these property owners a total of \$98,000.00
3. "Illegal trash" was collected (trash put out the wrong day, left at the curb) at 1,214 locations, generating \$97,709.00 in bills and \$199,000.00 in fines to the offending parties.
4. Performed over 241 board ups of vacant buildings, with a total billing to the property owners of over \$101,048.96
5. DGS collected \$201,631.71 in revenue for the following yard waste bags, salt, compost sales, and street opening permits.
6. Provided fleet maintenance services to over 326 DGS vehicles
7. Provided snow and ice removal operations for over 250 miles of city streets with approximately 119 DGS vehicles used for winter street operations.
8. Consumed 9,564 tons of blacktop used to pave 39 city streets, spot repairs and potholes.
9. 875 sidewalk panels were replaced. 350 yards of concrete used.
10. 3,755 Bricks replaced on City of Albany sidewalk right of ways.
11. Re-Bid 18 maintenance and/or service contracts and extended 13 current contracts for the Department of General Service operations.
12. On December 12, 2008 the City of Albany was hit with a severe winter ice storm, which caused downed trees, limbs, power lines, & blocked roadways. The city became eligible for Federal & State reimbursement of material & labor for damages & debris removal in the amount of \$296,666.16.
13. Go Clean Go Green

- On April 18, 2009 a campaign was introduced to encourage city residents, businesses and visitor’s alike to reduce their impact on the environment by increased recycling, waste prevention awareness, using more environmentally friendly products and to participate in the overall cleanliness of the City.
- In addition the city has already taken steps toward making Albany greener by setting the following goals and objectives:
 - a. To improve the energy efficiency of City-owned buildings, using green environmentally friendly products.
 - b. Incorporate sustainability as a key design element in all capital improvement projects
 - c. Minimize environmental impacts of construction activities within the City.
 - d. Incorporate technology to optimize system controls to reduce energy consumption.
 - e. Invest in alternative fuel vehicles to help reduce the amount of emissions as well as improve fuel consumption.
- The First Annual “Clean Albany Day” on April 18, 2009 was the first of many Go Clean Go Green events involving 16 neighborhood associations. Approximately 250 volunteers from these associations cleaned sidewalks, streets, parks, and vacant lots in their own neighborhoods. The City assisted by supplying tools, equipment, manpower, materials and timely removal of the trash after the event.
 - The Russell Sage Project took place on October 19, 2009 involving approximately 100 students from the college cleaning up Washington Park. The students raked large areas of the park and painted the handball courts, 25 picnic tables and over 40 park benches. The City supplied tools, equipment, manpower, materials and removal of the leaves collected after the event.
 - Participated in and supplied tools and materials for approximately 25 miscellaneous neighborhood cleanups.

Office of Special Events

1. The Office of Special Events and Volunteer Services has continued to expand and improve City Events with the following FREE events:

- * Production of city events:
 - Schermerhorn Ride Re-enactment
 - Tulip Festival
 - Alive at Five –11-week series
 - The Father’s Day Pops Concert
 - September in the City Art Fair
 - Jazz Festival
 - Half Moon Arrival Ceremony

Hudson 400 Commemoration
Volunteer Appreciation Party
City Hall Tree Lighting
WinterFest

* Assistance on production of 9 co-sponsored events

Lark BID Champagne in the Park
Pride Festival
Juneteenth
Senior Sundays
African American Family Day (NYS)
Latin Fest
Lark Fest
Columbus Parade and Italian Festival
Mayor's Fall Drop Off – part of Make A Difference Day

* Provide staff support on numerous other city sponsored events including press conferences, special ceremonies and other smaller events.

Revenue / Sponsorship

- Total revenue including cash sponsorship for the 6 special events produced events TO DATE (Tulip Festival, Alive at Five, Father's Day Pops Concert, September in the City Art Fair, Jazz Festival, Hudson 400) is **\$ 767,160** (this does not include Winterfest)
- Total surplus on the 6 special events produced events TO DATE (Tulip Festival, Alive at Five, Father's Day Pops Concert, September in the City Art Fair, Jazz Festival Hudson 400) is **\$183,438** (this does not include Winterfest)
- New sponsor relationship developed with Wal-Mart, CDPHP,

Event Attendance

(* Includes only events fully produced by OSE – co-sponsored events not included)

Total estimated event attendance TO DATE for 2009:

- Tulip Festival: 90,000
- Alive at Five Concerts (7): 90,000
- Father's Day Pops Concert with the Albany Symphony: 4,000
- September in the City Art Fair (4 weeks – 1 week cancelled due to weather): 3,800
- Jazz Festival: 10,000
- Hudson 400: 8,000

Other Event /office accomplishments:

- Tulip Festival, Alive at Five, Pops Concert, Jazz and Hudson 400 each resulted in a surplus

- Events continued to be produced without tax dollars
- Assist Tulip Queen and Court with Mayor Jennings Literacy Campaign -
 - 2008 Court established the Tulip Fund at the Community Foundation in April 2009
 - 2009 Court establishing literacy programs with Girls Inc, and assisting with Salvation Army Literacy initiatives
 - Developed quarterly Tulip Newsletter written by current queen and court
 - Established a monthly meeting with Court, SE liaison, tulip chair and tulip court mentors
- Website www.albanytulipqueen.com, sponsored by WSG, includes a monthly blog by the Queen and Court members.
- Almost all Tulip Queen nominations are now received on line (paperless) through www.albanytulipqueen.com
- Increased number of tulip queen nominations to 111 (34% increase over 2008)
- Tulip Festival expanded the Wellness garden, the CDTA Shuttle service and introduced a “Bike to the Fest”
- Organized the City Hall Team for the Corporate challenge
- Juneteenth now co-produced by OSE
- Successfully relocated the Father’s Day Pops concert to the Palace due to rain
- Increased number of active volunteers by 25
- Successful TIPS trained ALL beverage service volunteers
- Recycling efforts increased at Alive at Five via all food vendors using NO #6 products, and beverage cups changed to recyclable material (#1 or #2 plastic)
- The Last Run 5K sold out 1 week prior to event – the first time for a sell out BEFORE event day
- Web site www.albanyevents.org, sponsored by Spiral Design, is fully functional with an added feature for Winterfest event scheduler

Event Changes:

Alive at Five has added one show – total concerts = 11

New events:

- Hudson 400– September 26 - Created and produced a new one time commemorative event for NYS Quadricentennial including the successful incorporation of the descendents original tribe of Mohican Indians who live in Albany 400 years ago, and installation of temporary dockage for the Half Moon ship.

Additional Information

- Alive at Five, celebrates 20 years of success in 2009.
- All services & event related items (technical, port a potties, tee shirts, table-chair-tent rentals, fireworks, beverage sponsor) are acquired through the RFP process

The City of Albany Office of Special Events continues to strive to present high quality, free events to the public, as well as generating income to the city.

Forestry

1. The severe ice storm of December 12 2008 resulted in many park trees being damaged. Especially hard hit was Frank Waterson Park (Westland Hills) some thirty trees were removed from that location alone.
2. In the early months of the year a large project was undertaken due to requirements set by The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. Dead trees, stumps, & brush were removed from the Tivoli Lake dam and spillway. By removing the trees and stumps it has helped with the prevention of erosion and/or failure of the dam and enhanced the overall view and cleanliness.
3. The forestry unit completed the following assignments during 2009:

Tree Removals	366
Tree Pruning / trimming:	802
Stump removal:	297
Tree planting (in-house, parks)	105
Responded to Emergency/ Hazard calls:	237

(plus 7 storm occasions with multiple calls citywide)
4. Additional projects included a planting of trees and shrubs at the New Scotland Avenue Elementary School with the PTA and school district; transplanting trees from the Delaware Ave. reconstruction project to Lincoln Park; restoration plantings in Washington Park, Swinburne Park and Bleeker Stadium. In preparation for work at the Albany visitor center at Quakenbush Square, shrubs were dug for transplant, 2 trees were removed and trees in the courtyard were trimmed.
5. Contracted forestry services accounted for an additional; 25 tree and stump removals; 15 large tree prunings, 9 emergency service calls; and disease treatment of trees in Washington Park.
6. The shared cost Street Tree Planting Program received 127 resident orders in the spring and fall plantings. Additional street trees were planted through the street / sidewalk reconstruction programs administered by the Engineering Department.
7. On April 24 **Mayor Gerald Jennings celebrated Arbor Day** with the children of the Free School at Philip Street Park with a tree planting. Neighborhood residents and teachers and children participated in replacing the loss of a favorite tree in the playground.
8. The City of Albany was again awarded with **Tree City USA** distinction for its continued efforts in urban forestry and was given the **“Growth Award”** from the Arbor Day Foundation.

Gardening

1. Planted \$200,000 dollars worth of flowers at over 450 locations throughout the City

2. A power point presentation was created on Albany's Tulips; The City Gardner has presented the presentation to:
 - National Federation of Garden Clubs
 - New York in Bloom
 - Tours for Albany County Convention & Visitors Center
3. Continued to support the operation of 18 community gardens for the benefit of hundreds of City residents who enjoy vegetables and flower gardening at these locations.
4. The City Gardening Program also includes community education efforts. The city Gardner is tasked with spreading the green thumb to over 80 neighborhood groups, not for profit agencies, business improvement districts, city public and private schools and other community organizations.
5. This year the gardening crew planted the following:

○ Tulips	263,000
○ Summer Flowers	230,000
○ Hanging Baskets	690
○ Garden Beds	451
○ Autumn Mums	500
○ Winter Greens (pots)	33