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So much for a mild winter!  Just as we were congratulating ourselves on our luck over a relatively snow-free winter, Mother Nature punished New York City with what turned out to be a snowstorm for the books...literally.  From the time the first snowflakes fell to the ground on Saturday, February 11 to the next day when the storm ended, 26.9 inches of snow had fallen on the ground...the highest accumulation since record-keeping began in 1869!  

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Amazing...Danielle Turner, daughter of John Turner, Sanitation Worker, Staten Island 3, is appearing in this season’s hit CBS show “The Amazing Race.”  Congratulations...to Thomas Zarcone on his promotion to General Superintendent Level IV; Charles Herbst on his promotion to General Superintendent Level III; and Myron Priester who is being promoted to General Superintendent Level II.  Thanks...to the many Sanitation employees both uniformed and civilian - who either donated toys or made a contribution to the 2005 “Billy Fund—New York’s Strongest Toy Drive.”  

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Golden Apple Awards

Once again the Department is looking for imaginative city students to participate in the 2006 Golden Apple Awards. The Golden Apple Awards consist of three contests: TrashMasters! Team Up to Clean Up, which since 1978 has encouraged students to clean up and beautify their schools and neighborhoods; TrashMasters! Reduce and Reuse Challenge, which rewards innovative waste-prevention practices and TrashMasters! Super Recyclers, which recognizes model school recycling programs.

Schools must submit completed contest entries by no later than April 10th.

Commissioner Doherty said: “Sanitation’s Golden Apple Awards challenge schools to incorporate multi-discipline projects focusing on neighborhood beautification, waste prevention, reuse, recycling, and community service into their school year. Hands-on learning has proven to be the most effective way to teach, whether students are in Kindergarten or high school. The innovative projects these teachers and students develop are a great way for our youngest citizens to learn about their civic responsibilities.”

The theme of the program is “Reducing Accidents Starts with You.” And that is the truth.

Reducing accidents throughout the Department will occur when everyone uses extra care and caution behind the wheel. Obey all traffic signals, be patient, keep on the lookout for pedestrians crossing the streets, keep both hands on the wheel, etc. As a way of showing our appreciation to those districts and individuals who help to reduce accidents we will be carefully monitoring performance and rewarding those commands that achieve the greatest accident reduction. Look for more details at your work location.

New Yorkers count on us to be their “Strongest.” I’m counting on you to be the “New York’s Safest,” as well.

USS Austin Adopt-A-Ship Program

I would like to thank the many Sanitation employees—uniformed and civilian—who donated items or cash to the Department’s Adopt-A-Ship Program of the United States Naval ship the USS Austin. For our service men and women stationed overseas, being away from home can be difficult. They selflessly protect the liberties and freedoms we cherish.

Because of your generosity, I am proud to announce that you did phenomenally well. Everyone aboard the USS Austin—from the captain to the newest Ensign to the Marines being transported—received a holiday package from the men and women of this Department. And the USS Austin is proudly flying the Department’s flag as a sign of their appreciation for your overwhelming kindness. And they should head back home soon. Godspeed Austin.

Rodney Page Garage Dedication

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and Sanitation Commissioner John J. Doherty presided over the renaming of the Department’s Queens East District 10 Garage in South Ozone Park in honor of Sanitation Worker Rodney Page, who died in the line of duty in 2005. Led by the DSNY Emerald Society Pipe and Drum Band and full Sanitation Honor Guard, Mayor Bloomberg, Commissioner Doherty, and the Page family unveiled a plaque renaming Queens East 10 Garage, the “Rodney Page Garage.”

“Our Sanitation Workers labor tirelessly every day to keep New York City clean,” said Mayor Bloomberg. “Often their job is not only physically taxing, but also dangerous. Yet, these brave men and women keep our 6,300 miles of streets clean and free of snow in the toughest conditions. Rodney Page was serving the City he loved when he tragically died a year ago. His name on Queens East 10 Garage will remind all of his colleagues of his sacrifice and his commitment to our City. We will not forget him.”

“By naming this garage after Rodney, we remember one of New York’s Strongest who lost his life serving this great city,” said Commissioner Doherty. “Sanitation Worker Page made a significant impact on his colleagues, many of whom remember his love of life and music. With this dedication we are reminded how dangerous sanitation work is. We thank the Page family for allowing us to honor their loved one for all that he gave us.”

Sanitation Worker Page, 37, a Flushing, Queens resident, joined the Department in July 2000, and was assigned to the Queens East District 10 Garage. He was beloved by his colleagues for his quick wit and love of music. On February 7, 2005, he died when the truck he was driving collided with the rear of a flatbed trailer truck on the western spur of the New Jersey Turnpike. He is survived by his wife Ingrid and his daughter Isolo, age 13.
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The New York Restoration Project (NYRP), a non-profit organization founded by actress/singer/environmentalist Bette Midler, also supports the Golden Apple Awards with their annual Rose Award that recognizes a school’s beautification efforts, from among Team Up to Clean Up contestants.

For more information visit the DSNY website at www.nyc.gov/sanitation or call 3-1-1.

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SNOW MAN—SAN MAN

The neighborhood sleeps in this early morning drama of white Each flake falling as an individual, in the morning light
The patterns on my windshield, all so different, reflective from the night
Proceeding in the hush, I drop my plow My job is important, especially now As children awake and see the snow I must ready the block so they can go
Mommys and Daddys must go off in their cars and back home to the children they love— I pray as I plow that I will bring some relief from this white blanket being sent from above
I am the Snow Man, I am, I am I kept you safe in the light I am the San Man, I am I will bring you home safe when it’s night
Written with deep gratitude to our SNOW MEN, SAN MEN—Sandy McCaffrey

ONE FOR THE BOOKS…

How we survived the snowstorm of 2006

By John J. Doherty, Commissioner

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• At Blizzard’s peak, Sanitation had 2,500 workers operating snow-cleaning equipment on 12-hour shifts. All days off were cancelled.

• 350 salt spreaders were salting highways and streets, and more than 2,000 trucks were clearing snow from streets in all five boroughs. DOT had 76 plows helping with the clean-up effort.

• Sanitation also hired 2,012 people who earned $10 an hour as Sanitation Workers.

• In the hush, I drop my plow. My job is important, especially now.

• As children awake and see the snow, I must ready the block so they can go.

• Mommys and Daddys must go off in their cars and back home to the children they love.

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Sandy McCaffrey