



sanitation news

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THE RECORD-BREAKING BLIZZARD OF 2006



ONE FOR THE BOOKS ...

How we survived the snowstorm of 2006

By John J. Doherty, Commissioner



So much for a mild winter! Just as we were congratulating ourselves on our luck over a relatively snow-free winter, Mother Nature pummeled New York City with what turned out to be a snowstorm for the books... literally. From the time the first snowflake 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!

And once again, the dedicated men and women of Sanitation rallied to the challenge. Hours before the storm, like an army poised to do battle, Sanitation Workers and their equipment were ready to fight the storm.

Here's the story of the biggest snowstorm in the Big Apple in numbers.

- The snowstorm of 2006 dumped a record accumulation of 26.9 inches of snow in Central Park, beating out the old record of 26.4 inches from the Blizzard of 1947 – almost 60 years ago.
- At blizzard's peak, Sanitation had 2,500 workers operating snow-clearing equipment on 12-hour shifts. All days off were cancelled.

- 350 salt spreaders were salting highways and streets, and more than 2,000 plows were out 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 emergency snow laborers, helping to clear bus stops, corners and catch basins so melting snow could drain.
- As it does every time it snows, DSNY cleared 6,300 miles of streets and roads...equivalent to plowing from NYC to Los Angeles and back.
- Sanitation used its 20 snow melters around the city. Each melter (nicknamed 'hot tubs') costs \$200,000, melts 60 tons of snow per hour, screens out all impurities and discharges the clean melted snow into designated sewer lines, eliminating dumping snow into our waterways.
- Remarkably, by 7 a.m. the morning after the storm ended ... all streets were plowed and salted at least once. And Sanitation still has 119,000 tons of rock salt on hand.
- Three days after the snowstorm of the century ended, Sanitation resumed limited garbage and recycling collections.

An interesting fact: If New York City gets one-tenth of an inch more this season, we would break another long-standing Central Park record of four consecutive years of 40 inches or more of snow for a season. So far, we've had over 39 inches of snow.

Way to go, Sanitation!

2006 Accident Reduction Initiative

By Michael A. Bimonte
First Deputy Commissioner

Safe driving is an absolute MUST for an agency like Sanitation that is required to be out on the city's 6,300 miles of roads day and night during all types of inclement weather.

So when we look at the fact that in a given year DSNY vehicles are involved in an average 2,650 accidents, we know there is room for improvement.

That's why our Division of Safety & Training has launched its 2006 Accident Reduction Initiative. It's an all-out effort to bring down the number of accidents that the Department is involved in...from very minor fender benders inside garages to more serious collisions on city streets.

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 "New York's Safest," as well.



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 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.

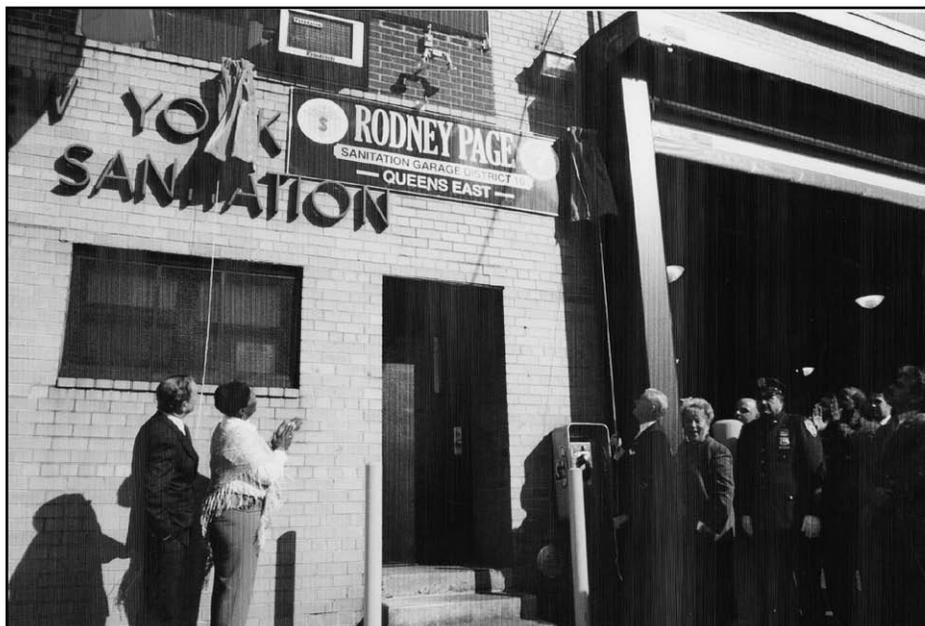
USS Austin Adopt-A-Ship Program

Iwould 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



From left to right: Queens Borough President Helen Marshall, Rodney Page's widow Ingrid, Mayor Bloomberg and Sanitation Commissioner Doherty unveiling the plaque.

PLAY BALL . . . SOFTBALL, THAT IS

With warm weather just around the corner, the DSNY Softball League is looking to “come out swinging” and sign up players. The league consists of different DSNY district teams throughout the city, and currently has 15 teams signed up, almost twice the number from last year. The league’s director, Joseph Gangi, would like the league to play against other city agencies, like the FDNY and NYPD. Games will start around April 17th. Anyone interested in joining should call (917) 217-5921 or (646) 885-4868.

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.

Condolences

Our Condolences...To the families of the Honorable Robert Theodore Groh, former Commissioner of Sanitation during the mid-1970s; Audrey Mellis, mother of Keith Mellis, General Superintendent I, assigned to the Bureau of Public Information and Community Affairs; to retired Chief Charles Leal on the passing of his wife, Pat; Anthony Milito, retired Sanitation Worker, formerly of Staten Island 2; Isreal Espada, father of Rafael Espada, Sanitation Worker, Brooklyn North 4; Joseph Santiago, retired Sanitation Worker formerly of Bronx 9; Felicita Acevedo, mother of Michael Acevedo, Sanitation Worker, Brooklyn North 1; Miguel Acevedo, father-in-law of Phil Rodriguez, Supervisor, Brooklyn North 4; Marianne Giordano, mother-in-law of Peter DelDebbio, Supervisor, Bronx 10; Rose Sala, mother of Anthony Sala, Supervisor to Bronx lots; Mary DeTrano, mother of Ella DeTrano, Research Assistant, Bureau Operations Office; Lance Sage, US Army, son of Calvin "Teddy" Sage, retired Supervisor, Brooklyn North 1; George Johnson, father-in-law of McArthur Peoples, Supervisor Bronx 3; Salvatore Marino, Sanitation Worker, Brooklyn South 11, grandfather of Mike Perotta, Brooklyn South 11 and Richard Perotta, Manhattan 2; Fortunio "Fred" Barba, Retired Supervisor to Bureau of Waste Disposal at Fresh Kills, father of Fred Barba, Supervisor Bureau Operations, and the father-in-law to Cinda Barba, the Post Closure Care Unit at Fresh Kills; Mathew G. Kennedy, father of Peter J. Loughlin (Buzz), retired District Superintendent, Bureau of Waste Disposal at Fresh Kills; George Swain, father of Steven Swain, Sanitation Worker Bronx 1; Marie Dawson, mother of Joseph Dawson, Supervisor, Brooklyn South 15; James Treacy, Supervisor, Queens West 2; James F. Sweeney, father-in-law of Kevin Elmsworth, Deputy Chief, Brooklyn North and Thomas Murchie, Sanitation Worker, Queens West 9; Frank Tuozzo, retired Supervisor, Queens East 11; Carmine Delgardo, father of Nicholas Delgardo, Supervisor, Sick Leave Unit; Robert Napiello, father-in-law of Joseph Veca, Sanitation Worker, Bronx; Carmelo Semeraro, retired Welder for BME and father of Steven Semeraro, Construction Laborer, BBM; Anthony Mondella, brother of Arthur Mondella, Supervisor, Fresh Kills, Donna Njagu, sister of Corrine Agnone, Enforcement Agent, Brooklyn South; Gloria Martinez Beliz, mother of Minnie Montanez, Sanitation Worker, Bronx 1; Robert C. Gazzola Sr., father of Robert Gazzola Jr., Supervisor, Bronx 4; Pansy Green, sister of Clarence Blue, Associate Staff Analyst, Safety and Training, and to the family of Marie Garrett, mother of Calvin Garrett, Sanitation Worker, Brooklyn 9; Victor Torres, father of Victor Torres, Supervisor, Brooklyn South 9.

Collector's Items:

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". **Well Done . . .** Neil Gallagher, Director, BBM and our partnership with the New York Power Authority's Encore Program in making \$ 4 million worth of energy improvements and maintenance corrections. **Cheers...**to the DSNY's 'Donna's Beacon of Hope' Drive, named for Donna Murphy, the late wife of Manhattan Borough Deputy Chief Mike Murphy, who raised over \$14,000 towards finding a cure for diabetes; **Merger . . .** the Uniformed Females in Sanitation and the Committee on Women's Concerns held a meeting in January to join forces in uniting women throughout the Department. **Remembering...**the official celebration of New York City's Immigrant History Week on April 17th.

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

Mommies and Daddies 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 am
I will bring you home safe when it's night

Written with deep gratitude to our SNOW MEN, SAN MEN

— Sandy McCaffrey

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