



STORAGE CART — Hulbert Library Director, Annette Gernatt, left, accepts a storage cart from Ida Klahn, WVES Public Relations Coordinator, right.

Hulbert Library and West Valley Demonstration Project team up

The Hulbert Library of the Town of Concord, is home of the WVDP Public Reading Room, providing the public with the opportunity to view documents. At the request of the Library Director Annette Gernatt, WVDP funds were provided to purchase a cart to consolidate Project documents into one area for easy access by the public.

West Valley Environmental Services LLC (WVES) and the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) have also been busy this year with other community projects.

Al Konetzni, WVES project manager, presented a check to Mike Nowak, Pack Leader, West Valley Cub Scout Pack 615, for WVES sponsorship through 2009. Admiral Konetzni also serves on the Executive Board of the Allegany Highland Council, Boy Scouts of America.

WVES provided support for the Boys and Girls Club of Springville's Annual Snowshoe Tournament and Second Annual Girls Basketball Clinic. WVES employees support the Boys and Girls Club through volunteer work and serving on the Board of Directors.

Community involvement includes providing support to the Springville and West Valley Chambers of Commerce. The WVDP continues its educational outreach program by supporting the West Valley Central School Mentoring and Service Learning Program and providing speakers to schools, most recently a Career Day at Salamanca High School and West Valley Central School Youth United Day.

To learn more about the WVDP's outreach programs contact Ida Klahn at 716-942-4555 or ida.klahn@wves.org.

Springville Journal, Thursday, April 24, 2008

WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT Public Meeting Schedule

The WVDP will be hosting the following meetings. All are open to the public.

WVDP Public Meeting/Citizen Task Force April 23, 2008, 6:30 p.m.

WVDP Quarterly Public Meeting May 6, 2008, 6:30 p.m.

These meetings will be held at the Ashford Office Complex,
located at 9030 Route 219, West Valley, NY.

For more information, call WVDP Communications at (716) 942-4610.

Springville Journal, Thursday, May 1, 2008

West Valley Demonstration Project Public Meeting

Tuesday, May 6, 2008 - 6:30 p.m.

Ashford Office Complex, 9030 Route 219, West Valley, NY 14171

The next West Valley Demonstration Project Quarterly Public Meeting will be held Tuesday, May 6, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. If you're interested in the clean-up at the West Valley site, please join us. For further information, please contact **John Chamberlain** at John.Chamberlain@wvnsco.com or **(716)942-4610**.

WVDP source of light pollution

Editor:

The West Valley Demonstration Project is a very significant source of light pollution in this area. Light pollution is very much a quality of life issue for those of us in rural areas who would like to enjoy stary nights.

A simple and relatively inexpensive solution exists, installing light shields that direct light downward.

I would suggest that if the WVDP wants to be a good neighbor, it should install these shields.

Gary W. Waldman
West Valley

Business First of Buffalo - May 7, 2008

<http://www.bizjournals.com/triangle/othercities/buffalo/stories/2008/05/05/daily19.html>

TRIANGLE BUSINESS JOURNAL

Wednesday, May 7, 2008 - 11:07 AM EDT

DEC: West Valley cleanup short of goals

Business First of Buffalo

The New York State **Department of Environmental Conservation** says 21 years after agreeing to remove radioactive waste at the **Western New York Nuclear Service Center** in West Valley, the federal government has not met expectations.

The state agency released a report May 7, saying the **U.S. Department of Energy** has yet to reach the first regulatory milestone -- the completion of a final environmental impact statement at the facility, which has been closed since 1975.

The DEC said to date, only one major aspect of the remediation mandate has been met, that is, the "vitrification" of liquid high level radioactive waste, or solidifying the waste into glass-like logs. The report points out that the current federal funding provision necessary to accomplish this is woefully inadequate, covering just over half the price tag for making real improvements at the site.

West Valley is a 3,345-acre site located about 30 miles south of Buffalo. The site was formerly run by a private company, **Nuclear Fuel Services Inc.** An estimated 9,200 people live within six miles of the site in what is a largely agricultural area.

Approximately 200 acres of the site contain the remains of nuclear fuel reprocessing operations, which began in the 1960s. The 1987 agreement was signed by the federal government, the Coalition on West Valley Nuclear Wastes and the Radioactive Waste Campaign. Among other requirements, it mandated completion of a final environmental impact statement to help steer the cleanup. But, the DEC said, that step has yet to be reached.

The report is available at: www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/43501.html.

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DEC: More money needed for West Valley nuclear cleanup

By CAROLYN THOMPSON

Associated Press Writer

May 7, 2008

BUFFALO, N.Y.

State environmental officials say the federal government should commit at least \$95 million a year to the West Valley nuclear site to pick up the pace of cleanup.

A report by the state Department of Environmental Conservation released Wednesday cites "the federal government's historic failure to meet its funding responsibilities" as a reason the cleanup has gone on for 30 years.

The report said the western New York site has received a fraction of what hazardous waste sites elsewhere in the country have been given. The proposed \$57.6 million for the next fiscal year is a little over half what is needed, the report's authors found.

Federal funding to the cleanup has fallen sharply over the last several years. The site received \$99.1 million in 2004.

The state report said it will take \$95 million a year for roughly 10 years to make significant progress toward achieving goals set by a "core team" of federal and state officials that has been meeting since 2006.

"The Core Team's work has proven productive, leading to new agreement on many technical issues," the report found. "But on-the-ground progress is stymied by perennial funding shortfalls."

From 1966 to 1972, spent nuclear fuel from commercial nuclear power plants and U.S. Department of Energy sites was chopped, dissolved and its uranium and plutonium extracted at West Valley. The commercial operation shut down for upgrades in 1972 but remained closed after stricter regulatory requirements that were passed during the closure made the prospect of reopening too expensive.

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority now holds title to the 3,300-acre site, while the DOE leads the cleanup. The 1980 West Valley Demonstration Project Act passed by Congress directed DOE to use the site to demonstrate a method for solidifying high-level liquid waste, and to decontaminate and decommission facilities used in the effort. The law made the state responsible for 10 percent of the costs, and the DOE responsible for the rest.

Contributing to delays in progress has been the absence of a final Environmental Impact Statement to address contentious issues such as long-term stewardship of the site. A draft statement is expected by early fall.

DOE spokeswoman Joann Wardrip said the department is committed to the cleanup.

"We will make every effort to continue moving forward with interim and state activities at the West Valley Demonstration Project to achieve environmental restoration, protect human health and the environment," Wardrip said.

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Buffalo News, Thursday, May 8, 2008

WEST VALLEY

Report urges more funding for nuclear site cleanup

Updated: 05/08/08 6:31 AM

State environmental officials say the federal government should commit at least \$95 million a year to the West Valley nuclear site to pick up the pace of the cleanup.

A report by the state Department of Environmental Conservation released Wednesday says inadequate federal funding is the reason the cleanup has dragged on for 30 years.

The report says the \$57.6 million proposed for the next fiscal year is a little over half of what is needed.

Spent nuclear fuel was dissolved and its uranium and plutonium extracted at West Valley from 1966 to 1972.

The 1980 West Valley Demonstration Project Act made the federal and state governments partners in the cleanup.

Energy Communities Alliance, May 13, 2008

REPORT FINDS SCANT PROGRESS 21 YEARS AFTER FEDS SIGNED
US States News
May 7, 2008

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation issued the following news release:

In May 1987, the U.S. Department of Energy signed an agreement to begin the process of cleaning up radioactive waste at the Western New York Nuclear Service Center ("West Valley") in Cattaraugus and Erie counties. Exactly 21 years later, it has yet to reach the first regulatory milestone (the completion of a final environmental impact statement), according to a new report issued today by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

The report finds there is a pressing need to accelerate the long-running clean-up effort - the facility has been closed since 1975. To date, only one major aspect of the remediation mandate has been met. The report points out that the current federal funding provision necessary to accomplish this is woefully inadequate, covering just over half the price tag for making real improvements at the site.

The report is available at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/43501.html>.

The report notes that a number of contamination issues remain outstanding and makes several recommendations, such as hastening the design and planning aspects so that work can begin as soon as possible. Other recommendations included decontaminating the "main process" building on site, shipping off site as much waste as allowable, emptying and drying underground waste tanks, and containing an underground plume of radioactive material with new technology. The underground plume now stretches approximately one-third of a mile and continues to slowly expand.

The lone major piece of the clean up that has been achieved is the "vitrification" of liquid high level radioactive waste (solidifying the waste into glass-like logs). But even this is a qualified success. A final decontamination of the main process building.

With a minimum commitment of \$95 million per year for a decade, significant cleanup progress would be achievable, the report found. That's a pittance compared to the federal budget's \$2 billion allocation for the nuclear waste site in Hanford, Wash., and \$1.4 billion for the Savannah River (S.C.) site. Yet the 2008 federal budget allocates just \$57.6 million for West Valley.

West Valley is a 3,345-acre site located about 30 miles south of Buffalo and 20 miles upstream from the Cattaraugus Reservation of the Seneca Nation. The site was formerly run by a private company called Nuclear Fuel Services Inc. An estimated 9,200 people live within six miles of the site in what is a largely agricultural area.

Approximately 200 acres of the site contain the remains of nuclear fuel reprocessing operations, which began in the 1960s. The 1987 agreement was signed by the federal government, the Coalition on West Valley Nuclear Wastes and the Radioactive Waste Campaign. Among other requirements, it mandated completion of a final environmental impact statement to help steer the clean-up. That step has yet to be reached.

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Paint the Town: Raleigh Spinks Retrospective by Judy Einach



Raleigh Spinks retrospective at Art Dialogue Gallery

I am not an art critic. But I knew Raleigh Spinks (1926-2005), at least through his final years, and I know when I'm seeing art I like, even love. Entering Art Dialogue, flowers jumped off the walls, or perhaps I just wanted to jump into this garden of delights. Technically each watercolor is a still life, but their separate and collective appeal drew visitors toward them like bees, creating a roomful of vibrancy. My eyes would never tire of any one of these paintings.

Across the room were what I learned are architectural images. At first I didn't understand what skilled artists meant when they referred to Raleigh's architectural work. I could only think of buildings. What I saw in the gallery were scenes of Buffalo's waterfront—familiar, obvious, yet Raleigh's expression makes Buffalo the most magical city in the world. Where I may see gray and blue, Raleigh saw the full spectrum of light and color.

By training and trade Raleigh was an urban planner who worked for the cities of Philadelphia and Chicago and for Erie County. One of the visitors at the exhibit on opening night, an artist himself, described Raleigh's work as "loose." The structure of things is clear to the eye but defined by only a line here and there. The rest is color. Raleigh used color to define what we see. Color, not line, gives structure to his work. I can only imagine what our living space would be like if a "loose" artist planned our urban environment.

These images of our waterfront must be preserved as a collection. I can see them hanging in the informal galleries of our established businesses, in firms whose executives collect art that pays tribute to our city and to those of us with talent. I imagine that working in a place where I could see Raleigh's vision everyday would make my workday environment uplifting and more productive. Who wouldn't want to give their all to the most magical city in the world?



Painting of the Conneticut St. Armory

Two small watercolors hung on a narrow wall are so typically Raleigh, taking us from the sublime to the amusing. They



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are images of Buffalo Auto Wrecking. They show cars, no longer running, all a-jumble, yet described by Raleigh as full of color and form. Raleigh found celebration where others see something to overlook.

Raleigh loved the working man. In this exhibit are images of Buffalo's grain scoopers, airmail pilots, and card players. He loved the human form. Included in the exhibit are nudes of both women and men. The nudes of women are studies of various poses, composed in such a way that the figures seem to dance all over the page. These are not images of women who act as hangers for fashion. These are women with muscle and flesh who look comfortable to the touch. It appears that the models were having as much fun as the artist.

The nudes of men are different. They too have muscle, tone, and strength, but they are painted as full-body portraits, not as studies. They are striking and gorgeous.

There is one seemingly but not really dark watercolor, in far more muted tones, browns and grays. The title is *Death at West Valley*. Originally Raleigh titled it *Death Arrested*. Just as the West Valley nuclear site stands in stark contrast to the rural landscape around it, this painting is in sharp contrast with the rest of the exhibit. It isn't pretty, but it is hopeful. The Grim Reaper is in chains being taken away by another man, perhaps a federal marshal. Would that one day the federal government agrees to take away the nuclear wastes in our Western New York environment, freeing us from this death threat.

This exhibit includes an array of Raleigh's interests and styles. Besides Buffalo's waterfront there are an amazing portrayal of the Shoreline Apartments, rural landscapes in several seasons, images from the perspective of being on the Erie Canal and passing through Lock 29, and the Pittsford coal tower on the canal in Monroe County. There are everyday scenes in the towns of Aurora and Hamburg.

Raleigh Spinks died at the age of 79. He painted almost to his end. He was a quiet man who won many awards for his artwork but who didn't seek fame. If we allow him to be forgotten, we will have missed one of the greats in our community. This is not an exhibit to be missed. Whether you go to lift your spirits or to lift your spirits and invest, you'll be better for having gone. The exhibit runs through June 6, 2008. Art Dialogue Galley is open Tuesday through Friday 11-5, Saturdays 11-3. It is located in Buffalo at One Linwood Avenue at North.

—judy einach

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By **MITCHELL LAW**
Journal Reporter

Two uncontested races for WVCS Board of Education

Voters of the West Valley Central School District will choose two school board members as well as vote on the school budget on Tuesday, May 20.

One incumbent board member, Stephen Kowalski was disappointed to hear that he was running unopposed.

Another spot on the board will be filled by newcomer Teaseleman McCarty.

Tish McCarty

Teaseleman McCarty grew up in West Valley and is a graduate of WVCS. Some may know her as Tish Jackson, Hakeem, Stanley or Maryama's mom.

Teaseleman works at Cornell Cooperative Extension and has been a Community Educator there for 15 years.

"I have always been involved with the West Valley school and community," she said.

Her daughters, sisters, brothers, nieces and nephews and cousins all attend or have attended WVCS.

Teaseleman's previous experience with the school includes serving as a parent representative of the Shared Decision Making (SDM) Team and an active member of the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO).

Her children have been very active in the school community, participating in sports, special education and academics.

One of the challenges she feels the school faces is a level of fairness and opening the lines of communication between the school and the parents. She stresses accountability.

"I believe in fairness, teamwork and open communication between the parents, students and staff," Tish added.

Teaseleman has also served as chairperson on the policy council of Head Start for seven years. Head Start consists of parents and

community educators.

"This is our community and our school and I would like all of us to be proud of our children and ourselves on how we work together," she tells voters.

Steve Kowalski

Incumbent Steve Kowalski has been a resident of West Valley for 24 years.

Kowalski is a member of the West Valley Citizen's Task Force.

He grew up in East Otto before moving with his family to West Valley.

He is running for his second term on the board.

"I think we made some real positive strides and I'd like to see that continue," Kowalski said.

One of West Valley's changes this coming fall will be a new district superintendent.

Other challenges that Kowalski sees are finances and declining student enrollment. He did note, however, that the district is up nine kids in the past couple months.

"The typical things, the financial state mandates, the unfunded state mandates are just killing the different municipalities, especially the school districts," the incumbent added.

His goals for the school are to "continue on the right track, doing what they are doing."

"To me the track record over the past five years pretty much speaks for itself," Kowalski said.

The number one goal being the survival of WVCS.

"Our number one mission is to educate the kids," he added.

Kowalski has two children in the West Valley Central School district.

One child is in 10th grade and the other is in seventh grade.

"We could live anywhere, but the reason we live here in the town of Ashford is the WVCS district," said Kowalski.

The school board election as well as the annual school budget vote for West Valley is May 20 from 12 to 9 p.m.