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Albany County Serves and Strengthens the Quality of Our Communities

Daniel P. McCoy
Albany County Executive
Did you know that Albany County

General Government

1 Protects the health, safety and welfare of Albany County residents through the passage of local laws, resolutions and ordinances.
Established the Albany County Land Bank in 2014 to facilitate the process of acquiring, improving and redistributing vacant and abandoned properties to end blight in the county, with another $500,000 from the county in the 2016 Adopted Budget.

Prepared legislation, directed by County Executive McCoy, seeking to reform the state’s policy on indigent defense requiring the state, rather than counties, to pay for poor defendants’ 18b legal representation, ensuring that all New Yorkers receive the best representation possible.

Generates roughly $1.4 million in revenue and employs 490 part time and 28 full time employees at the county’s Times Union Convention Center. The TU hosts hockey and basketball games, concerts, and conventions.

Is the only county in New York that has a working partnership with a city for archives management, employing two full time Albany City staff at the County Hall of Records. This partnership has achieved many goals for records management along with the preservation of historical documents.

Fights for the health and safety of his residents. In 2014, Albany County Executive Daniel McCoy issued an order directing a moratorium on the increased operations of oil transportation at the Port of Albany. He also lobbied state and federal representatives for crude by rail reform across the nation.

Protects consumers against illegal or deceptive business practices, such as ensuring that one gallon of gas is actually one full gallon, through the department of Weights and Measures.

Recognizes outstanding members of the county who give back to their communities through the Citizen of the Month and Honor a Vet ceremonies.
CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

9 Works in collaboration with law enforcement agencies, the District Attorney’s office, and the court systems to develop programs and services that address the needs of commercially sexually exploited children.

10 Employs a co-located Behavioral Health Clinician that recognizes the needs and challenges that often beset children and families, improving the outcomes for the children and families in the county.

11 Is participating in a recruitment grant that will focus on developing foster homes for large sibling groups and hard to place children. DCYF has been awarded funding through Wendy’s Wonderful Kids, to utilize child-focused strategies to find permanency for higher needs children that remain longer in care.

12 Provides programs such as karate, flag football, ice hockey and lacrosse combined with education programs consisting of violence prevention, social media education, character education, tutoring, and mentoring programs through the Albany County Recreation Bureau.

13 Identifies a comprehensive model for the coordination of home visiting services for families with pregnant women or newborns with high risk medical needs through the Maternal and Infant Health Initiative.

14 Focuses on outreach with the Know How We Grow Coalition to ensure that all young children receive a developmental screening so they may be linked immediately to needed services. All referrals from hospitals, families and communities come to one centralize intake and are then matched to the service that will best meet that child and family’s need.

15 Is one of six counties chosen by the NYS Office of Children and Family Services to be the first of Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative sites to reduce unnecessary and inappropriate placement of youth in detention.

16 Offers programming for youth throughout the county, with opportunities to enjoy and learn about nature at Albany County’s Lawson’s Lake.
Provides employment and job opportunities for TANF eligible youth in foster care, working to the goal of economic independence and youth development.

Provides residents with a means for winter recreation at the county’s Hockey Facility, while generating about $400,000 in annual revenue.

Focuses on identifying, engaging and supporting resource families as a means of improving permanency outcomes for children in foster care with funding from the Diligent Recruitment Grant.

Created a mobile application, the H.O.P.E. app, that provides education and resources to increase awareness about suicide prevention, helping families and friends assist those loved ones in need.

Formed the Bullying Prevention Task Force to reduce bullying through awareness and education. The Task Force offers free programs and training to students, staff, coaches and caregivers.

Established The Children's Fund of the ACDCYF, a charitable, tax-deductible account in partnership with the Community Foundation of the Greater Capital Region to work for the well-being and betterment of children and families in Albany County.

**HEALTH**

Administers the Healthy Neighborhoods Program, which provides in home assessments, education and resources to reduce the burden of environmental health hazards such as lead, radon, fire, carbon monoxide, and asthma allergens. Through this program the county also offers in home evaluation for children with asthma from a qualified asthma nurse.

Provides needed dental services to children, with over 5,000 dental visits provided per year.

Conducts health and safety inspections and issues permits for food service businesses, public swimming pools, and summer camps.
26 Created the Squash Hunger Initiative to plan, plant and harvest a community garden to feed the hungry. Volunteers harvested over 600 pounds of vegetables, which was all donated to charitable organizations such as the City Mission.

27 Worked with the Albany Housing Alliance to institute a new smoke free policy in county public housing. Health education staff worked with community partners to visit housing sites and offer education and resources for smoking cessation.

28 Operates the Albany County Nursing Home, providing food, comfort and health services to over 200 residents.

29 Offers a Perinatal Hepatitis B Program which identifies positive moms and insures their infants receive the Hepatitis B Vaccine series.

30 Collaborates between the Departments of Health and Aging to lower the sodium content of meals in senior sites and hospitals to help control and prevent disease.

31 Conducts full-scale preparedness exercises, successfully testing the Health Department’s ability to provide medications to residents in the event of a public health emergency.

32 Runs the Maternal Child Health Program, staffed with dedicated public health nurses who conduct home visits to improve birth outcomes by reducing risk factors or high risk women of child-bearing age.

33 Manages the Community Health Worker program to provide home visits and supportive services including education, resources, and links to medical care to the underserved population.

34 Connects with HIV positive individuals, who appear to be out of touch with medical care, to re-engage patients in medical care, provide referrals for supportive services, provide risk reduction counseling, and notify and test/treat partners.
MENTAL HEALTH

35 Serves the unique portion of the prison population that is affected by mental health issues with mental health specialists. Counselors regularly visit with inmates and ensure that they have a plan and support network upon their release.

36 Oversees, manages, and plans for services for adults and children with mental illness, substance abuse disorders and/or developmental disabilities.

37 Runs a dual licensed clinic for both mental health and substance abuse issues, granting patients a higher level of care and easier access to services.

38 Partners with Catholic Charities to offer free monthly Naloxone training and kits to at risk individuals and their families. Naloxone is a life saving drug that temporarily stops an opioid drug overdose.

39 Funds providers that operate several residential and outpatient substance abuse facilities in addition to its own clinic.

40 Operates the Assertive Community Treatment program, the first of its kind in New York, serving high needs individuals with a comprehensive approach to treatment. A mobile team delivers treatment, rehabilitation, case management and support services with 24-hour crisis support.

SOCIAL SERVICES

41 Provides a trained Veteran Identifier stationed in the reception area of DSS to assist Veterans with case management and other support services; a service that is nationally recognized.

42 Created a triage to streamline the experience for clients by immediately identifying their needs and qualification status that day. The Triage Team facilitates comprehensive, timely services for applicants with emergency situations.

43 Offers the Return the Favor program to eligible veterans who can receive discounts on products and services at locally participating businesses.
Partnered with Soldier On to create a separate housing pod at the County Correctional Facility that addresses the specific needs of incarcerated veterans in an attempt to rehabilitate and successfully integrate them back into society.

Investigates not only abuse of social services funds by recipients, but also providers to ensure that they are not taking advantage of the county and its residents.

Offers free rabies clinics to residents, encouraging pet owners to make sure both their pets and the communities are safe and disease free.

Provides indigent funeral assistance for individuals with families who are unable to provide for a decent internment, including an allowance for burial and transportation.

Offers research services at the County Clerk’s Office to scour military discharges, municipal record minutes, census information and other public records.

Hired staff with Masters of Social Welfare to respond to the increased complexity of individual needs. These highly skilled staff assure high quality service is provided.

Ensures the safety of children through Child Protective Services. Caseworkers investigate, assess and protect children where there may be at risk of being abused, neglected or abandoned.

Helps people who are confronted with heat-related emergencies, such as a lack of fuel, a utility shut-off, or inoperable/unsafe heating equipment with the Home Energy Assistance Program.

Strives to ensure the provision of quality and affordable health care to all eligible residents of Albany County with medical assistance (Medicaid).

Grants financial assistance under the Child Care Subsidy Program to eligible low-income Albany County residents to help with the cost of child care.

Created Tweet My Jobs, a social media platform to provide instant access to over 18,000 job postings in the region, assisting residents and businesses with employment.
Encourages healthy eating and local business by offering individuals eligible for sustenance assistance and Seniors on Medicare Farmer Market coupons for use at local markets.

**AGING**

Provides seniors with healthy, balanced meals at a readily available location through Meals-On-Wheels and several congregate meal sites around the county.

Coordinates with CTDA to provide eligible seniors with transportation to medical appointments, congregate meal sites, adult day programs and grocery stores free of charge.

Organized an Aging Summit in September 2015 for the public with multiple state and county departments as well as providers as a means to inform the senior population of the services available to them and to receive feedback from seniors in an open forum setting.

Allows eligible seniors who need assistance with activities of daily living to participate in a cost sharing program to assist with cleaning, laundry, meal preparation, bathing and shopping.

Employs a Registered Dietician to oversee many nutritional services, including helping seniors with health meal planning, personalized nutrition assessment and nutrition education.

**INFRASTRUCTURE**

Repairs and maintains over 594 miles of county highways, 78 bridges, and thousands of culverts, road signs and markings. In the winter, an additional 136 of State owned highways are plowed to remove snow.
Created a stormwater management program for the urbanized portions of Albany County to prevent erosion and manage green infrastructure.

Created the Albany County Rail Trail, stretching over nine miles from the Port of Albany through Voorheesville. The rail trail promotes preservation of open space, community linkages, opportunities for physical fitness and to enjoy the outdoors and increased property values for surrounding communities.

Worked with the Town of Berne, the Open Space Institute and the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy to purchase and preserve a 350 acre Buddhist retreat and the beauty of its natural resources.

Safeguards against unwarranted urban and suburban sprawl by expanding the Agricultural Districts Program to include over 71,000 acres of land in the county that have special protections to ensure that resident’s right to farm is protected.

Received the EPA’s Energy Star certification for the Harold L. Joyce Albany County Office Building at 112 State Street, performing in the top 25% of buildings nationwide for energy conservation in 2015.

Monitors water safety throughout the whole county. The population size affects the frequency of testing. For higher populated areas like Albany the water is tested 30 times a month.

Ensures that only non-toxic methods of pest eradication are used in county buildings, ensuring a healthy environment for all county employees and visitors with oversight from the Integrated Pest Management Board.

Converts sewage sludge into renewable energy, to cut annual electricity demands by nearly 70 percent and reduces the Sewer District’s heating bills by nearly a third, saving roughly $480,000.

Embarked on a 5 year plan to improve the safety and security of the 1,200 acre Albany International Airport with the aid of state and federal grants.

Encourages its employees to take part in green initiatives such as solar energy workshops and solar group purchasing to help both the environment and their wallets.
Is a forerunner in the industry of waste disposal with the use of anaerobic digesters which significantly lowers the amount of waste sent to landfills by processing wastewater sludge and organic waste, which is essentially recycling.

**EDUCATION**

**73** Partnered with Schenectady County Community College (SCCC) in 2013 to create a satellite campus in downtown Albany, creating local education opportunities to residents.

**74** Paid over $10 million between 2013 and 2014 in tuition reimbursement to adjacent community colleges to provide its residents with educational advancement.

**75** Offers educational research at the Cornell Cooperative Extension on invasive species and works to find sound, environmentally safe and economical ways of dealing with pests.

**76** Operates the Agricultural Environmental Management Program, providing farmers with a means to address environmental issues related to agriculture. Staff determine which issues need to be addressed and then apply for grant funding for implementing practices with environmental benefits.

**77** Serves developmentally delayed and physically handicapped children from birth to age five through speech, occupational, physical therapy, nutrition and social work.

**FISCAL**

**78** Ensures that the school district or local government is made whole in instances where a homeowner or business does not pay their taxes.

**79** Guarantees that local governments receive their fair share of taxes by receiving and distributing sales tax to municipalities.
Provides access on the county’s website to See Through Albany County for information about the expenditure of tax dollars, including county budgets, financial reports, local legislation and more.

Partnered with SUNY New Paltz and local leaders to create a Government Efficiency Plan that projects over $15 million in annual savings in 2017, 2018 and 2019 through sharing services and working together with local municipalities.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Monitors DWI offenders at the Department of Probation through the use of restricted licensing and ignition interlock systems to reduce the occurrence of DWI offenses.

Provides free training at the Crime Victim and Sexual Violence Center to civic, education and business groups, volunteer programs, a 24-hour hotline, and many other resources for those in need.

Has educated the community of the dangers of impaired driving and funded organizations engaged in reducing alcohol related incidents since 1981 with the Albany County STOP-DWI Program.

Elects coroners to investigate deaths which occur in a non-medical setting or are suspicious in nature.

Passed an animal abuser registry law in 2011 to monitor individuals for 10 years following their first offense and for life upon any subsequent offenses with a penalty of 1 year in prison or $1,000 if they fail to register.

Operates the Juvenile Community Accountability Program developed by the Albany County Probation Department that is acknowledged as a model practice throughout New York State.

Ensures that a group of professional and community volunteers, the Albany County Medical Reserve Corps, are ready to assist the County in response to a public health emergency.
Offers the Offender Workforce Development Program to probationers, a multi-week course that focuses on job skill development and job retention strategies. Probationers are also afforded computer usage to search for jobs online at the Probation Department.

Encourages all employees to take part in Naloxone training in case of the event that an employee encounters an opioid overdose victim in the line of duty.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT**

Operates a 25' Pro-Line Cruiser and a 17' Boston Whaler, utilized on lakes in the hilltowns of Albany County and the Hudson River. The Sheriff’s Office partners with the State of New York in a grant program wherein 75% of the expenditures of the Marine Patrol are reimbursed.

Manages the E/911 Communications Center to provide services for several state and local law enforcement agencies, as well as the Public Works and Probation Departments.

Prepares for and responds to all county hazards at the Emergency Management Office. The goal of emergency management is to save lives, prevent injuries, and protect property in an emergency situation.


Is in charge of one of the largest correctional facilities in the State of New York. The Albany Correctional Facility has a maximum of 1,043 beds, providing custody for local, state and federal prisoners with a current staff of 420. In 2015, over 7,000 inmates were admitted to with the average daily population around 800.
Has four K-9 units for bomb detection and narcotics enforcement, Turner, Mo, Sarge and Jack.

Coordinated and recorded over 18,000 hours annually of firearm handling and essential skilled training for municipal police departments.

Prosecutes all felony and misdemeanor crimes in county courts.

Provides legal representation at criminal courts, family court trials, and appellate court levels for indigent parties through the Public Defender.

Works with prosecution and law enforcement to divert defendants from incarceration with alternative sentencing programs.

Provides an Alternate Public Defender, ensuring all county residents receive quality legal defense in cases where there are multiple indigent defendants needing separate representation due to a conflict of interest.
From the Helderbergs to the shores of the mighty Hudson, Albany County is a unique blend of urban excitement and rural relations. It is the ideal place to live, work and raise a family. A trip through our 19 municipalities will impress you. Our villages, towns and cities are beautiful and they play host to the finest in food, lodging, shopping and entertainment. Whether you hike our trails, bike on our paths, visit our parks and museums or fish our streams and brooks, you will find it all here.