

Albany should stop using the Rapp Road landfill as a money-making entity with garbage from afar

To the Editor:

And the stink goes on!

I remembered reading an article in *The Altamont Enterprise* in December 2006 about the smells from the Rapp Road landfill that bothered people living in McKownville. Now the city of Albany is planning another expansion of the landfill, its fourth expansion, (when there were supposed to have been no expansions after it was first built 20 years ago).

I am aware that residents in Colonie smell the foul odors, and I was appalled when I first drove past the landfill, when entering Albany from the Thruway at how strong the odor was. Last, summer I noticed this stink when I was in my garden in Westmere.

I live off the south side of Western Avenue three blocks in. I asked other neighbors in the area and have discovered that homes three blocks further south from my home could also smell it.

I am worried that if the state's Department of Environmental Conservation gives planning permission (they are considering it right now) that the homes in this area, plus McKownville and also further away, will be affected by the smell more than they are right now. The expansion is to be 13 acres and reach to a height of 475 feet.

The value of our homes would certainly depreciate. All this, so that the City of Albany can continue taking in garbage from Albany and much further afield in order to balance their budget for the next 6.5 years – which is the length of time that the expansion will last. They will still have to make other plans for what to do with the garbage when the 6.5 years is up, which they should have been planning after the first landfill was built and was not to be expanded!

The most obvious option is, to

stop using the landfill as a money making entity, and to only take in trash from the city of Albany (which is only 9 percent of what currently is deposited there) and start a rigorous campaign of reduce, reuse, and recycling, to make the amount extremely small that has to be taken to another landfill.

If you agree that the landfill should not be expanded, please come to a Public Forum on the subject at the Colonie Recreation Center on Thunder Road on April 22 at 7 p.m. and voice your opinion or just hear what other people are saying. For more details about this problem, call me at 456-5869 or e-mail me at sbgardn@gmail.com, or contact Lynne Jackson, Save the Pine Bush, at Lynnejackson@mac.com.

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Editor's note: Sally Cummings is a member of Save the Pine Bush.