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HARD WORK PAYS OFF

This Wisconsin couple loves getting up in the morning to sling restrooms and satisfy customers

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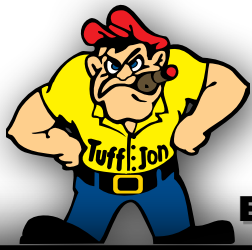
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ON LOCATION

A tiny Wisconsin town hosts a huge cranberry festival, and Cesspool Cleaner Company & Portable Toilet Rentals is there to lend a helping hand

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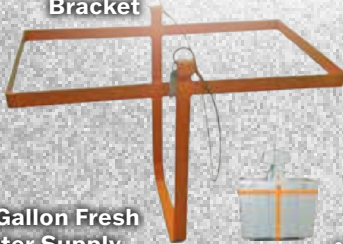
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By Jim Kneiszel

Pop-Up Potties Create a Buzz in New York City



A PRO provided free restrooms at the Brooklyn Bridge for a few days — until the city shut them down

It's not every day you see a new wrinkle in the world of portable sanitation. But a recent story at the *Gothamist* — a website covering the culture and news of New York City, produced by New York Public Radio — made me sit up and take notice. Restroom companies really do come up with new and novel approaches to offering much-needed relief.

This time it is Uncle John Portable Restrooms & Services, based in Brooklyn, New York, that offered a public service idea that — at the outset — restroom users love and the city government doesn't appear to know how to handle. A worker for the PRO set up two units at the Manhattan end of the Brooklyn Bridge and let anyone use it for free or a free-will donation. Uncle John didn't have a contract with the city to place the restrooms and didn't expect to turn a profit for the effort. The mission is to give back to the community and make sure New Yorkers and visitors have a place to use a restroom when they need it most, says Juda Hoffman, who handles logistics for the company.

GIVING BACK

"We're a company that is based on giving back to the community. We want to put bathrooms where there aren't any bathrooms. We found this location and tested it out," Hoffman explains. "Giving back is part of our DNA and it hits what we stand for in our company."

And the Brooklyn Bridge was a fitting place to start. According to the *Gothamist* article, some 30,000 pedestrians crossed the bridge daily, according to a 2018 study. The article explained there are only a few public restrooms in a several-block area near the bridge entrance. Also, it said New York is ranked 93 out of 100 major U.S. cities for providing public restrooms per capita. It explained that the problem was heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic and impacts local residents, tourists and the homeless.

Another story about the Uncle John restrooms from PIX-11 News said that the NYC Parks Department has 680 public restroom facilities serving a population of 8.5 million people. The city is looking for ways to add more public bathrooms, according to the story, but doesn't appear to have any kind of permit process to allow the free pop-up restroom service Uncle John employed.

Consequently, the city shut down project shortly after it started. According to the *Gothamist*, officials put a stop to it after a few days, right after its reporter called the parks department asking questions about Uncle John.

DO WHAT YOU DO BEST

Hoffman says all local businesses should find ways to help those in need. Just as a baker might provide bread for the needy, it makes sense for a restroom operator to offer relief in areas where there is an obvious need, he adds.

The timing of the free restrooms made sense from a logistics point of view, Hoffman says. These units were placed during the winter season when demand is lower. During summer months, the company's inventory is hired out elsewhere. It's just wise use of resources, he says.

"This is a new thing and we wanted to see what the feedback was. And the feedback was very overwhelming," he continues. There have been media interviews and praise from the public for providing the restrooms with an attendant to keep the units clean. All with no expectation of payment — the worker didn't push for donations, observers said.

"We want to put bathrooms where there aren't any bathrooms ... Giving back is part of our DNA and it hits what we stand for in our company."

—Juda Hoffman

Hoffman says he doesn't know if donations for the few days the units were offered will cover expenses. But if the offerings helped cover the cost of keeping the units up to the company's cleanliness standards, all the better.

Hoffman says the company is in uncharted territory offering free restrooms on the street and he doesn't know if they'll be allowed to continue.

"The truth is I don't know if there are any permits for portable restrooms. I don't think there are companies doing this idea, not this way. We're pioneers, as they say," Hoffman says. Will they succeed in securing permission in the future?

"That's the multimillion dollar question. There's a popular quote that 'It's not what you know, it's who you know.' I'm assuming there is some truth to that," he says. "We planted the seeds. We did our thing. If the permitting process gets more complicated, we'll see. Hopefully it will turn into a bigger thing."

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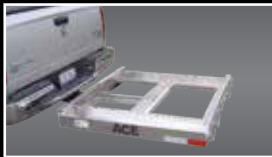
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THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX

When I called Hoffman, he was coy about sharing too many details about Uncle John, saying only that the company has been around for a few years and has “a couple” of employees. It just goes to show you don’t have to be big to pursue bold ideas. This experiment sure captured my attention and started me wondering if others will follow suit.

There may have been an element of “just shoot and ask questions later” by dropping the restrooms without notice. But I have to give credit to Uncle John for a unique idea and a desire to contribute to society in a meaningful way. If nothing else, this should bring continued attention to the lack of public restrooms in our urban centers.

Do you have a new and interesting idea for PROs to give back to their communities? Have you offered free pop-up restroom service to serve the

general public, nonprofit events or the homeless? We’d love to share your story to present these ideas to the entire portable sanitation industry. Drop me a line at editor@promonthly.com. ■



PROs are always on the lookout for new techniques or new ways to build revenue. What sort of nontraditional pumping work do you perform? Or tell us about a unique way you got a job done. Send me the details at editor@promonthly.com and I will share them with readers in a future issue.

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Don't Neglect Safety When Conditions are Snowy and Icy

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OVERHEARD ONLINE

“ One of the best ways to prepare for surprise inspections is to make sure employees are regularly trained on how to assess, mitigate, and respond to hazards at the job site. ”

— Preparing for a Surprise OSHA Audit
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E-NEWS UPDATE

How to Craft an Employment Brochure

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THE BIG 4

Rely on the Basics to Launch a Portable Restroom Operation

Thinking about expanding your pumping or roll-off service business into portable sanitation? Read this article from writer Joan Koehne for a refresher in getting your business off the ground.

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By Jeff and Terri Wigley

This Checklist Gets You Ready for the Busy Season

March means it's time for spring cleaning. Take care of all those chores you may neglect the rest of the year.

In our portable sanitation company, particularly in the early days of operation, we were often blindsided by some issues we had failed to focus on. From paying attention to our facility to properly maintaining office equipment to preparing for our busy season, we seemed to be addressing these items in a reactive manner as opposed to being proactive.

Our solution was to designate the month of March for “spring cleaning.” During this month we addressed a variety of tasks that typically need to be done on an annual basis. This particular month made sense to us as this is the time of the year that the weather, the time change and the event season transitioned.

“Spring cleaning” targeted the following areas of our business:

- Building
- Office
- Yard
- Special event equipment and supplies
- Paperwork

Here were the tasks we addressed in each area:

BUILDING

- Annual fire extinguisher inspection and renewal. This is a health and safety concern, and inspections need to be scheduled with your local contacts.
- Heating and air conditioning inspections and air filter changes.
- Inspection of insulation above office ceilings while looking at the underside of the roof for any signs of light. Winter weather may have caused damage that cannot be seen from outside.
- Open outside water meter cover and inspect water shut off valve to the building. Rain throughout the year can sometimes allow for mud to cover the valve which is undetectable from above unless the meter cover is removed.
- Inspect areas under sinks in breakroom and restroom areas for any signs of leakage. Small leaks can eventually become major plumbing problems.

Given current supply chain problems in the worldwide economy, consider keeping your supply levels somewhat higher than in the past.

OFFICE

- Move stationary equipment (office server, office copier, desktop computers, refrigerator, microwave, coffee pot, other such items) and thoroughly clean these areas. Hidden dust can eventually impact the performance of some types of equipment.
- Defrost, clean and inspect refrigerator in the break room.
- Replace batteries in smoke detectors. This is a consistent method of ensuring the safety equipment is operational.
- Inspect office first aid kits. With longer hours and more people working during event season, first aid kits need to be stocked with current supplies.
- Review all posted material for validity and accuracy (business permits, health and safety inspection scores, Occupational Safety and Health Administration information). If a permit is close to expiration, notate this and schedule accordingly on the company calendar. Remember, between Feb. 1 to April 30, OSHA 300 Logs must be visibly posted.

YARD

- Walk the property boundaries. If there is a fence, is it in good repair? If privacy material covers the fence, are there any tears or areas that need to be replaced?
- Observe trees on the property. Are they healthy with no dead limbs hanging over any equipment or the building?
- Inspect power poles or light poles on the property. Are any lights out or dim? Are poles upright and secure?
- At the proper time of the year, open external water spigots that were winterized and make sure there are no leaks.
- Inspect storage sheds, covered areas or decks for damage due to winter weather. Do other proactive repairs need to be made?

SPECIAL EVENT EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

With the goal of having all event equipment ready for rental after the winter season, the tasks include the following:

- Inspect and clean all special event restroom units. Roofs, in particular, get dirty if stored outside. The tanks will need to be cleaned and pumped of any water, leaves, pine straw or other debris that accumulated throughout winter. Inspect all hardware to ensure it is in good working order.
- Clean and test foot pumps for ease of use, if sinks have been stored in a protected area. If the sinks have been exposed to the elements, the plugs should have been removed so water would not accumulate inside the unit. In this case, only more external cleaning will have to be done to these sinks.
- Restroom trailers will need to be “de-winterized” based on your geographic location and at the proper time. Antifreeze or other such liquids must be drained from the trailer. Remove protective skirting from the underside of the trailers. Connect to water and power to validate that lights, temperature controls, sinks and toilets are operational. Check the air pressure and condition of the tires after several months of inactivity.
- With the forthcoming event season, extra supplies and supplies for specific equipment must be ordered. Additional cases of toilet paper and cleaning supplies are obvious. Do not forget special supply items such as hand sanitizers and refills, soap dispensers and refills, and supplies for restroom trailers. Further, some PROs use deodorizer pods for event units as opposed to mixing the deodorizing liquid with water. Given current supply chain problems in the worldwide economy, consider keeping your supply levels somewhat higher than in the past.

PAPERWORK

Before the workdays became longer and busier, putting a special emphasis on paperwork during spring cleaning was beneficial throughout the rest of the year. Specifically, we concentrated on:

- Employee performance plans and reviews. Our policy was to conduct year-end reviews and to create new performance plans for the coming year. Was there a need for any follow-up reviews or changes in responsibilities with event season about to begin? If new hires were coming onboard for the event season, were their performance plans complete and ready to be presented?
- Are company policies current and relevant? Do any changes need to be made?
- Is the company contact information list for all employees current? This would also include emergency contact information.
- Dues and subscriptions. We reviewed our membership status in various organizations and subscription status with software programs, and applications. Future renewal dates were then put on the company calendar. On occasion, we would discover a subscription to a program or application we no longer needed and could cancel and enjoy the savings.

FINAL THOUGHTS

“Spring cleaning” was a way for our company to examine and to control aspects of the business often overlooked during the busy times of the year. Unexpected issues still occurred, as they do for all of us, and often at the absolute busiest times; however, we feel that many other problems were avoided by having this dedicated time of the year to work on these issues. ■

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Hard WORK PAYS OFF

Right: The team at Ray's Sanitation includes, from left, Sam Kofnetka, Megan and Adam Wilson, and Casey LaMarche. (Photos by Mike Roemer)



"I told him I would really like the first right to purchase it. We had run it like it was ours. Once we agreed on a price, it went really fast."

MEGAN WILSON

This Wisconsin couple loves getting up in the morning to sling restrooms and satisfy customers

By Betty Dageforde



Ray's Sanitation Oshkosh, Wisconsin

Owners: Adam and Megan Wilson

Founded: 1986

Employees: 5

Services: Portable sanitation and pumping services

Service Area: 50-mile radius

Website: www.ayssanitation.com

Having grown up on a dairy farm, Megan Wilson is no stranger to hard work. While working as bookkeeper for the previous owner of her company, she convinced him to buy a second vacuum truck so she could also run a route — and then she added marketing to her job duties to make sure it paid for itself.

The venture was successful and when the owner was ready to sell the business, he was happy to work out a deal with Megan and her husband Adam, who had since come onboard. Adam came with his own set of helpful skills. He had been working for a property management company, handling everything from leasing and rent collections to maintenance and evictions.

Today the couple operates the business, Ray's Sanitation, out of their 14-acre property in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, with a satellite yard about 45 minutes away in Green Lake. They have help these

days — Casey LaMarche, part-timer Sam Kofnetka and Megan's son Jake Knigge, who works around his college schedule. But they are both still very hands on in the field. Adam runs routes, does deliveries and pickups, works in the shop and performs maintenance. Megan also does deliveries and pickups, runs the office, answers the phone and, other than taxes, handles the bookwork.

The company's main service line is portable restroom rentals but they also do miscellaneous pumpouts for boats, campers and hunting lodges. They operate in a 50-mile radius of Oshkosh and a 30-mile radius of Green Lake.

PASSING THE TORCH

The company is named after the original owner, Ray Hudzinski, who founded the business in Green Lake in 1986. He also did septic work but when he was ready to retire in 2009 he



split the company into two divisions and sold the portable restroom side to his childhood friend Pat Metcalf. Megan was doing landscaping and office work for Metcalf at the time at his landscaping business, so he asked her to take on the bookkeeping for his new business as well. The company had 130 units and one truck but when inquiries started to increase, Megan knew they were going to need more.

“I could see the demand coming,” she says. “The first thing I did when we got that second truck was I went to all the chambers (of commerce) in the area and became a member and started going to their events, just getting our name out there. And I did a lot of cold calling. It went crazy. I doubled the business in a year. I couldn’t believe it.”

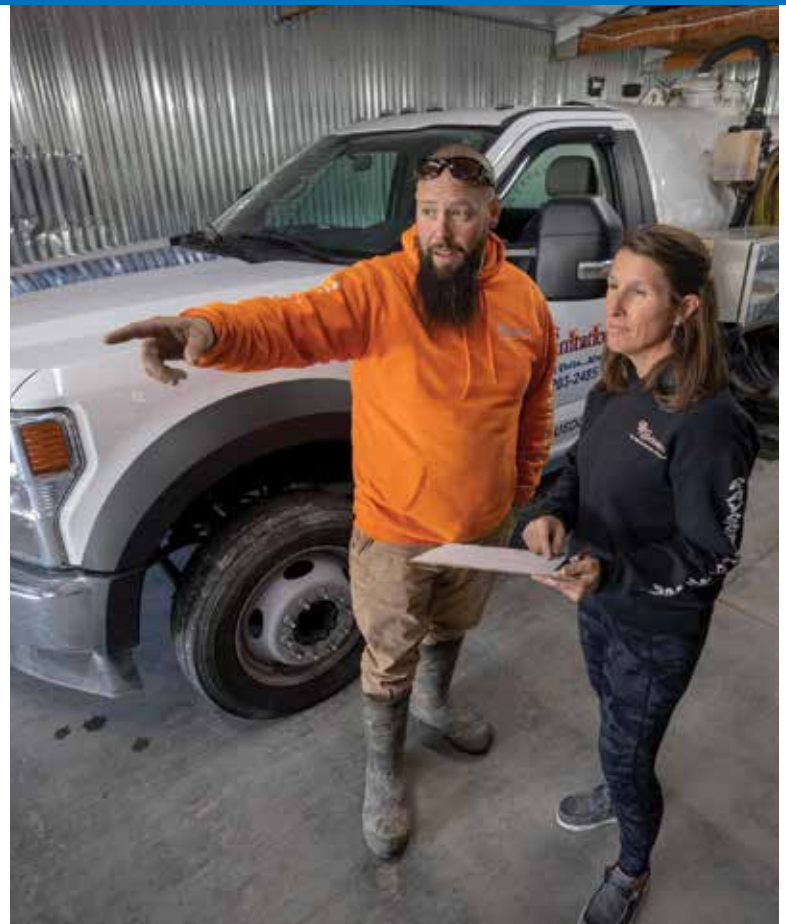
Adam got involved in 2014. He had often helped out but when Metcalf was ready to start



Above: With a beautiful garden in the foreground, Adam and Megan Wilson set up an ART Co. restroom trailer for a residential customer.

Right: Megan Wilson coordinates the next day's deliveries with Casey Kofnetka. The truck in the background is from Imperial Industries and carries a Masport pump.

Below: Megan Wilson arranges décor in a restroom trailer from ART Co.



cutting back he joined full time. “Pat would still help out and do small routes here and there but he said this is your baby now, you just run it,” Adam says. They did that for three years and then bought it in 2017.

“None of his kids wanted it,” Megan explains. “And I told him I would really like the first right to purchase it. We had run it like it was ours. Once we agreed on a price, it went really fast. There was no transition hiccup whatsoever.”

“I always joke about this but it’s absolutely true. As soon as we pull into a camp area with a vacuum truck, it’s literally like the ice cream truck that plays music. We have people running to us.”

ADAM WILSON

THE INVENTORY

The company now has 406 standard units (Tuff-Jon from The T.S.F. Company), 40 wheelchair-accessible and six flushable units (Satellite Industries), all with hand sanitizer dispensers. They also have 46 hand-wash stations (Tuff-Jon) and four 300-gallon holding tanks (Tuff-Jon and Liquid Waste Industries). Company colors are blue and orange so the Wilsons chose royal blue for their units, but also have hunter green for parks, golf courses and weddings to blend into the scenery.

In 2019, the company bought a restroom trailer from A Restroom Trailer (ART Co.) with two stalls on the men’s side, two on the women’s. It proved to be so popular for weddings and corporate events that in 2022 they purchased a second ART trailer, this one with three individual stalls.

For hauling equipment, the company uses a 2020 Ford F-350 with a lift-gate. It can carry three units and pull the transport trailers — a 20-foot from LWI, a 20-foot custom-built aluminum flatbed and two custom 14-footers.

THE FLEET

The company has three vacuum trucks, all with Masport pumps — a 2020 Ford F-550 with a 680-gallon waste/300-gallon freshwater steel tank from Imperial Industries, a 2022 Ford F-750 built out by Satellite with a 1,200-gallon waste/500-gallon freshwater stainless steel tank, and a 2022 Ford F-600 from Imperial with a 700-gallon waste/400-gallon freshwater steel tank that replaced an older unit with a smaller water capacity. “We’re always trying to find water while we’re out on routes, so gaining 100 gallons in water really helps,” Adam says.

The company uses J&J Chemical deodorant products, soap and hand sanitizer. They dispose of waste at treatment plants. In late fall trucks are winterized. “We take all the freshwater off, we don’t use the water hoses,” Adam says. “We actually use windshield washer fluid. We put our disinfectants in there and use that to do spray downs. And we mix a lot of brine solution to put in the units.” Salt is placed in the urinals for units out on long-term contracts.

A PAPER TRAIL

Megan manages the accounts and scheduling using QuickBooks and Excel. She gives the guys a printout of their jobs each day and they write down the time they got done with each — “Which has come in handy,” she says, “because there have been people who have accused us of not being there.”

The company has a number of contracts for parks and golf courses that run from April through October. Construction work goes year round and really exploded in 2022, Adam says. A couple of their large contracts included providing 25 units with twice-weekly cleaning for a two-year hospital project, and 11 units for a two-year project for Oshkosh Defense which builds military vehicles.

(continued)



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Above: Adam Wilson uses an Avant 420 articulated loader to store T.S.F. Company Tuff-Jon restrooms at Ray's Sanitation in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

▶ WHEN THE WINTERS GET ROUGH — GO TO JAMAICA

Business slows way down in the winters for Ray's Sanitation but they still run routes a couple days a week, provide units for ice fishing boat launches and catch up on shop work. Casey La-Marche holds down the fort with occasional help from part-timer Sam Kofnetka while owners Megan and Adam Wilson take the opportunity to do some traveling.

"Wisconsin is just not fun in January and February," Megan says. "In 2023 we're going back to a place in Mexico, we're going to Jamaica and we're going to an island called Roatán off the coast of Honduras. We went there three years ago and absolutely fell in love with it." Besides sightseeing and hanging out at the beach, the couple enjoys looking around for portable restrooms and talking to local contractors, comparing notes.

As remote as these locations sound, the couple is still life-lined to the business. "My phone goes everywhere with me," Megan says. "I have a travel plan for it so no matter where I am I answer the phone." And she likes it, Adam says. "It's usually our regular customers and she'll tell them where we are — it makes them jealous."

By late winter it's back to the office and business as usual. "Once February comes, my phone starts going crazy," Megan says. "And March is even worse."

MAINTAINING STANDARDS

About 40% of the company's work is for events. The Wilsons prefer to focus on the smaller ones, 10 or 20 units — races, weddings, local festivals.

"Adam and I always want to be out doing the servicing, meeting the customers, creating those relationships," Megan says. "That's why we don't do many large events. Plus, the larger the event the more people there are and the harder it is to keep the units clean. We are very picky and have a standard for how we want them to be."

Their larger events include the twice-a-year Hmong Festival requiring 70 units (the only event they do a night cleaning for as it's the only time they can gain access) and the Electric City Experience, a music festival in nearby Kaukauna, where they provide 55 units and a restroom trailer.

The biggest event for them (and the town) is the week-long EAA AirVenture Oshkosh, billed as the largest airshow in the world, attracting 650,000 visitors to the town of 67,000. All contractors in the area participate. The company generally provides about 40 units. Megan and Adam personally service them daily so their guys can work their regular routes. They also provide camper pumpout service. "I always joke about this but it's absolutely true," Adam says. "As soon as we pull into a camp area with a vacuum truck, it's literally like the ice cream truck that plays music. We have people running to us."

A HELPING HAND

Adam likes to connect with their customers and the general public through social media. He says they get a lot of good feedback on it, especially their videos. But, in reality, they're both spread too thin to give it as much attention as he would like.

They're also too busy to attend many community events but Megan says they provide support in other ways. "We do a lot of reducing the bill for groups like the FFA or Breakfast on the Farm, places that are trying to educate people and help the world be a better place." They do the same for veterans' activities such as re-enactments, fundraisers and honor flights.

Their support extends to employees. Benefits include health insurance, a retirement plan and trips to the WWETT Show. "And we do a lot of things on the side," Megan says. "Just throw them extra cash here or there, give them gift cards to help pay for their work clothes. We paid for a weekend getaway for Casey and his wife and kids. We believe in treating the employees right because if we didn't have them we wouldn't have the business we have."

A SATISFYING CAREER

The Wilsons say 2022 was their busiest year yet and in 2023 they hope to add another tech and buy more hauling trailers. "We've grown so much that our routes were easily 12-hour days," Adam says. "It got to a point where you could see it in Casey and myself. We were just getting burned out." But Megan and Adam both say they love what they do.

"I like the uniqueness of it, the fact that there's not a lot of people doing this," Adam says. "We're not part of corporate America. As the master operator for the business I go to a lot of education courses and I get to see what our industry actually does around the world."

Megan concurs. "We're providing an important service for the world," she says. "And then there's the people you meet and the relationships that last for years, just being social with people. You have to be social in this business, you're always talking to people. And I like to work. It is very satisfying for me. I'm a very numbers-oriented person and I love being outside and this gives me the best of both worlds." ■

MORE INFO

A Restroom Trailer Co. (ART Co.)
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Imperial Industries, Inc.
800-558-2945
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Above: Working in the company yard, Sam Kofnetka washes a service truck from Imperial Industries and carrying a Masport pump.



Above: Wilson preps a row of T.S.F. Company hand-wash stations before delivery from Ray's Sanitation.

Below: The crew from Cesspool Cleaner Company & Portable Toilet Rentals includes (front row, from left) Missy Rowan, Christina Russell, Tricia and Troy Dresel, Nick Konwinski and Carol Burger, and (back row, from left) Greg Johnson, Randy Anderson, Jim Brenner, Brad Schroeder, Anna Moen and Mike Burger. (Photos by Casey Rice)



BERRY GOOD

➤ SERVICE

A tiny Wisconsin town hosts a huge cranberry festival, and Cesspool Cleaner Company & Portable Toilet Rentals is there to lend a helping hand **By Dee Goerge**

➤ ON LOCATION

- » **THE JOB:**
Warrens Cranberry Festival
- » **LOCATION:**
Warrens, Wisconsin
- » **THE PRO:**
Cesspool Cleaner Company & Portable Toilet Rentals, Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

THE TEAM

As one of the largest portable restroom operators in the area, it makes sense that Cesspool Cleaner Company & Portable Toilet Rentals, LLC, provides and services portable restrooms for one of Wisconsin's biggest festivals, the Warrens Cranberry Festival. Owner Troy Dresel grew up working at the event that his parents, Randy and Linda Dresel, provided portable restrooms for, starting 40-plus years ago. It was just one of many businesses the Dresels owned and operated.

In 1997, Troy Dresel bought out another portable restroom business before buying his parents business in 2001. Since then, he's bought and added several more restroom businesses and grown to 1,800 plus units, 7 restroom trailer units,

150-plus hand-wash stations, 16 trucks and 10 employees that serve the Chippewa Valley area around Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin.

THE MAIN EVENT

In 1973, residents of Warrens, located in the heart of Wisconsin's cranberry production, decided to host a festival celebrating the crop they are known for. There were 75 booths and 3,500 attendees.

Now the small town — population 543 — swells to more than 120,000 when the community hosts the world's largest cranberry festival the last full weekend of September. More than 1,700 food, arts and crafts, flea and antique and farm market



Left: Carol Burger and Missy Rowan are shown with a 15-stall restroom trailer from Ameri-Can Engineering that is used at the festival.

Below: Technician Nick Konwinski services a row of Satellite Industries restrooms at the Warrens Cranberry Festival.



vendors set up throughout the town and for 3 miles along the road from Warrens to the back entrance of Jellystone Park, a family campground. Residents welcome visitors to set up booths and camp out in their yards, and in return, profits benefit them, area schools and scholarships, the fire department and many local organizations.

In addition to the vendor booths, visitors can take cranberry bog tours, attend cooking classes and purchase food made with cranberries, and enter a variety of contests from photography to the biggest cranberry. Churches hold fundraisers and the whole town pitches in, Dresel says.

Sunday, the third and final day of the event, includes one of Wisconsin's largest parades, that features middle school, high school, and university band competitions. Other bands, such as the U.S. Army Band in 2022, and choirs also provide entertainment throughout the weekend.

BY THE NUMBERS

The event requires 200 standard and 14 ADA-compliant portable restrooms from Satellite Industries. Dresel takes all orange event units that can be easily spotted. All units have hand sanitizers, mirrors, coat hooks, corner shelves and the capacity to hold four jumbo rolls of toilet paper. Cesspool employees transport them on five 20-place Johnny Mover Trailers, that Dresel manufactures. The ADA units are hauled with a Ford F-450 flatbed truck pulling a 45-foot gooseneck trailer from Midsota Manufacturing.

Finally, a 2018 15-stall restroom trailer from Ameri-Can Engineering, hauled with a 2021 GMC 3500 dually pickup, is an important part of the fleet.

"Some people won't use the portables, so the trailer is lined up 20 people deep all the time," Dresel says. He has two attendants who stay with trailer making sure it is cleaned and supplied for the duration of the event.

To efficiently service the rest of the units, 10 Cesspool employees team

"Our crew looks forward to going down there. My wife and I cook for our crew. We take care of them to show our appreciation."

TROY DRESEL

up to run five service trucks through the weekend. Four trucks are Ford F-550s and an F-650 (2004-2022) with aluminum and stainless steel tanks ranging from 500-gallon wastewater/300-gallon freshwater to 1,500-gallon wastewater/250-gallon freshwater. They were built by Prime Industrial Tank, PortaLogix and Satellite Industries. The fifth truck is a 2022 Dodge Ram 5500 with a 500-gallon waste/150-gallon freshwater stainless steel tank built by Imperial Industries.

In case of a breakdown, Dresel also added a sixth truck, a 2019 F-350 with 450-gallon wastewater/150-gallon freshwater aluminum tank from Imperial Industries. All service trucks include 80-gallon freshwater side saddle tanks to run 3,000 PSI Honda pressure washers and all have Masport HXL4V vacuum pumps.

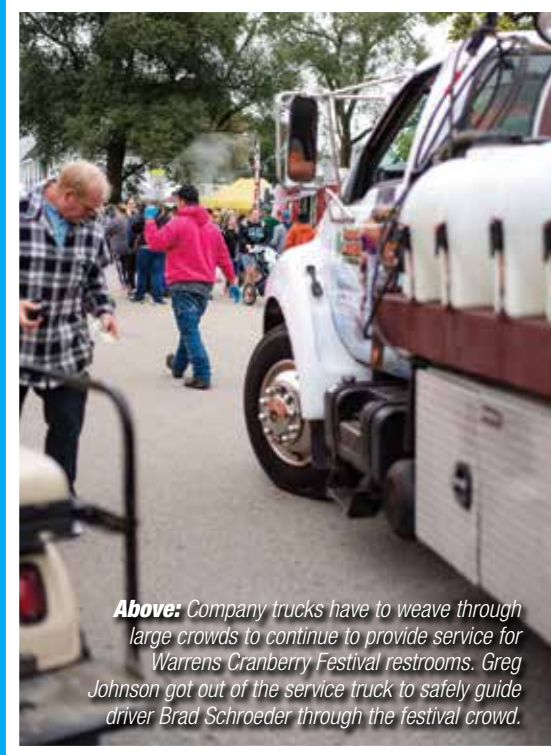
After servicing the restrooms, the trucks pump their loads into a 2011 Sterling Quad axle truck with a 6,500-gallon aluminum tank from Advance Pump & Equipment.

A 2015 F-550 box truck and a 2009 Ford E-450 cube van tool truck hauled paper, chemicals, supplies and parts.

In addition to the equipment needed to service the event, the crew require two campers and a five-stall shower trailer built by Cesspool, to use while staying throughout the festival. Dresel and his wife, Tricia, also stay on site.



Above: Space can be tight when servicing a major event in a very small town like Warrens, Wisconsin.



Above: Company trucks have to weave through large crowds to continue to provide service for Warrens Cranberry Festival restrooms. Greg Johnson got out of the service truck to safely guide driver Brad Schroeder through the festival crowd.

MORE INFO

Advance Pump & Equipment
563-557-0957
www.advancepump.com

Ameri-Can Engineering
574-892-5151
www.ameri-can.com

Imperial Industries, Inc.
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See ad, page 39

The Johnny Mover Trailers
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Masport
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Portalogix
585-484-7009
www.portalogix.com
See ad, page 17

Satellite Industries
800-833-1123
www.satelliteindustries.com
See ad, page 5

LET'S ROLL

With many huge tents and because of extremely tight quarters, the Cesspool team is the first in and out of the event.

"We set up the weekend before the big event and haul in two trips," Dresel says. The first 90-minute trip from Chippewa Falls is the biggest with 12 trucks hauling restrooms, restroom trailer, and campers that the crew requires. Restrooms were set up in 15 banks, including the trailer located close to main street activities. Though the event doesn't officially start until Friday, booths open on Thursday so one service is scheduled that evening. During the rest of the weekend, the five teams do two rounds of service daily, working for three or four hours due to large crowds, starting around 10 a.m. and after 7 p.m. when the booths close down. In years past, servicing started about 11 a.m., but with bigger crowds gathering at 6 a.m. this year, toilet paper ran low and restrooms needed earlier servicing.

"It's like a funnel; our trucks just creep along. As they go down the street people open and close the gaps," he says. Workers work on half of the units in the group at a time so people can continue to use the other half of group of restrooms. The night service is less congested.

"This year during record crowds we went out between pumps with golf carts to add toilet paper around 2:30 p.m.," he adds.

Service truck tanks are pumped into the 6,500-gallon quad axle, which is unloaded daily at a waste facility 25 minutes away.

WRAPPING IT UP

By Sunday evening most vendors have packed up and left Warrens. The Cesspool team avoids the traffic and waits until Monday morning. After pumping and pressure washing the units, they are loaded on the trailers and taken back in two trips to the Cesspool lot in Chippewa Falls, where most are stored for the winter as the festival is the last big event of the year.

Servicing the 2022 festival went well, Dresel says. The only issue they had was that some vendors dumped used cooking oil into the restrooms at night because no barrels were available to them as had been in past years. He will work with organizers to resolve that issue next year. Also, another 20-plus restrooms will be added to accommodate the growing crowd.

Despite the crowds and extra hours, the festival is a good way to end a busy season.

"Our crew looks forward to going down there. My wife and I cook for our crew. We take care of them to show our appreciation," Dresel says.

They 2023 festival may be even more special, as it celebrates its 50th anniversary. ■



Above: Shop dog Jax accompanies Megan and Troy Dresel to the festival. A large tanker built by Advance Pump & Equipment is used to haul large waste loads away from the festival.



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The **National Vacuum Equipment B250 Max Pak** is designed for the portable restroom market, using a hybrid tri-lobe blower with an integral four-way motor for vacuum/pressure use and inlet filter to provide protection. It is oil-free, and its airflow is 270

cfm. It is capable of running continuously at 15 inches Hg. It comes ready to mount and includes an exhaust silencer. The 1-to-1.5 ratio gearbox makes it easy to provide optimum revolutions per minute to the blower, while keeping truck revolutions per minute in check. While designed to fit on a Ford F-550 and Ram 5500, it can mount on any truck with ample ground clearance. It is also available in hydraulic drive to accommodate four-wheel-drive. **800-253-5500; www.natvac.com**

WESTMOOR CONDE POWERPAKS

Conde PowerPak units from **Westmoor** are suitable for slide-in tank sizes from 50 to 2,000 gallons. They are compact and available in either belt- or direct-drive configurations.



Direct-drive units incorporate a centrifugal clutch that allows throttling down the engine and disengaging the vacuum pump. Throttle up and the pump is in action. Specify either vacuum and pressure, or vacuum-only pump choice. Diesel-powered units are also available for applications where non-sparking engines are required. **800-367-0972; www.westmoorltd.com**

VACUUM TRUCKS

CRESCENT TANK VACUUM TANK

The **Crescent Tank** vacuum tank is flat inside and out. It can carry up to 10 portable restrooms, and the weight capacity is the same as a flatbed truck. It has no baffles, allowing it to be emptied completely to avoid internal



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corrosion. With the included pump at specified cfm, unnecessary structural fatigue is eliminated. It is fabricated from 1/4-inch steel for structural strength. Its workstation is designed for the portable restroom industry. The liftgate rail width allows units to fit, and multiple liftgate decks and rail options are available. Fresh water is held inside the external 1/2-inch-thick poly tank. It can be installed on any chassis within the specifications required for each model based on axle ratings and maximum load capacity. **585-657-4104; www.crescenttank.com**

FMI TRUCK SALES & SERVICE WORKMATE



The WorkMate service truck from FMI Truck Sales & Service is designed with efficiency and operator comfort in mind, according to the maker. The ergonomically designed workstation can be operated from the driver's side of the vehicle. It more than 60 cubic feet of storage space for supplies. The unit can be modified to carry up to six restrooms without a trailer. The unit pairs well with Isuzu's maneuverable and fuel efficient N-Series chassis as well as Hino, Ford, Ram, GM or International chassis. The modular design allows for easy replacement of components if repair is needed. **800-927-8750; www.fmitrucks.com**



IMPERIAL INDUSTRIES FLATVAC

The 1,000-gallon stainless steel Flatvac from Imperial Industries can carry up to six portable restrooms. The baffled, internally divided tank carries 700 gallons of waste and 300 gallons of freshwater. The unit offers dual-side bucket fill, dual

Hannay hose reels with 50 feet of hose, a Pumptec X-5 washdown pump, Masport HXL4 plug-and-play vacuum pump system, Thieman liftgate, and a 3-inch stainless steel boom with 30 feet of 2-inch intake hose and a suction nozzle. **800-558-2945; www.imperialind.com**

KEEVAC INDUSTRIES KV999



The KV999 from KeeVac Industries carries a 999-gallon vacuum tank for operators who want to stay under the U.S. Department of Transportation tanker endorsement requirement. It is available in steel, stainless steel and aluminum, with single- or dual-side service, holds 699 gallons of waste and 300 gallons of freshwater, and includes a two-unit fold-down restroom carrier with trailer hitch. The tank can be mounted on a variety of chassis and with a variety of pumps. Each unit comes with an upgraded DC-10 washdown pump and hose reel from Hannay Reels. Exterior controls and dual cabinets are designed for operator safety and convenience. An arctic package and safety lighting are available. **866-789-9440; www.keevac.com**



PIK RITE FLATBED RESTROOM HAULER

The Flatbed Restroom Hauler from Pik Rite has a 400-gallon waste compartment and internal 250-gallon freshwater compartment for even weight distribution, flatbed and liftgate. The truck has a National Vacuum Equipment 304 vacuum pump, dual 2-inch fill hoses, 20 gpm washdown system, dual-spring return freshwater hose reels and dual 2-inch bucket fills. A 20-inch top manway, 5-inch sight eyes and clear-hose sight tube are included. The truck is equipped with a 98-by-102-inch aluminum flatbed and Thieman TVL liftgate. Two diamond plate toolboxes are mounted on the passenger side. The truck has an LED running light kit with a durable, fully molded wiring harness. **800-326-9763; www.pikrite.com**

PORTALOGIX SERVICE TRUCK



The mid-size PortaLogix service truck accommodates waste, water and the ability to carry up to six units. It utilizes a transverse waste tank and freshwater tank that doubles as the truck bed. It can carry 800 gallons of wastewater, 350 gallons of freshwater while transporting standard size restrooms. They feature dual-side service allowing operators to access water drop points on all four corners of the bed. They are available in two- and four-wheel drive. The service trucks can be driven without a CDL. **585-484-7009; www.portalogix.com**



ROBINSON VACUUM TANKS PR1200A

The PR1200A truck from Robinson Vacuum Tanks carries a 900-gallon waste/300-gallon freshwater aluminum portable restroom service tank. This model has standard dual-side service including tool box, suction hose and bucket fill. The unit comes with a bumper capable of towing a trailer, and it has a folding platform to haul two portable restrooms. Chassis options include choice of manufacturer, two- or four-wheel drive, and gas or diesel. There are also multiple options for vacuum and water pumps. **814-933-0927; www.robinsontanks.com**

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The Satellite Vacuum Trucks Cabover Line comes on Isuzu chassis that have a tight turning radius, making the trucks suitable for maneuvering in tight spots like urban areas, and for quickly positioning trailers. Available in gas and diesel, the chassis can be upfitted in several operator- and route-friendly configurations. With increased workspace in the hose tray area, the vacuum and washdown systems are a custom fit for specific service functions. The tank comes in aluminum, steel or stainless steel. **800-883-1123; www.satelliteindustries.com**

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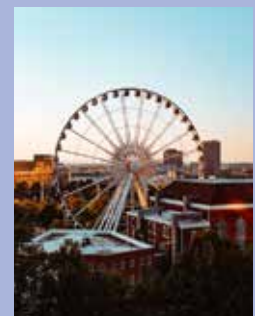
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A Cold Wind Blows Over These Restrooms

PORTABLE RESTROOMS ARE STRATEGICALLY PLACED AT THIS LOCATION AFTER PERMANENT BATHROOM FACILITIES ARE SHUT DOWN NEAR THE END OF THE SUMMER SEASON

Jim Kneiszel



The landmark you see to the left of the photo was dedicated in 1939 by Norway's Crown Prince Olav and Crown Princess Martha, then rededicated 72 years later by the royal couple's son and wife, King Harald V and Queen Sonja. However, the 80-foot bluestone tower is located about 4,000 miles from Norway. That's a mystery!

One thing this location shares with Norway is a cold climate. This city of roughly 82,000 inhabitants was once called "the zenith city of the unsalted seas." This town is also known for being the larger of two twin cities sharing a port opening into one huge, cold and unforgiving body of water. What you see in the background is an 80-foot bluestone tower on top of a hill that takes visitors 531 feet above the shoreline below. The public is welcome to climb the tower, but don't bother to visit in the harsh winter months, as it is closed. These Satellite Industries restrooms are placed in this expansive park in the fall months after permanent bathroom facilities are closed for the season.

Here are a few more clues to pinpoint the location:

Follow these clues to figure out the location of these expertly set restrooms:

- This site used to be called Grand Mountain before it was officially named after the person who donated the land for a park.

- According to this midsized city's website, there are 162 parks here with 9,168 acres of public land and 353 miles of trails.

- "Christmas city, wonderful city. Up on the hilltop, pick on an icicle. Chew it while you slide to fun below."

- The benefactor who donated the hilltop park and funds to build the tower made his fortune selling furniture.

- This relatively isolated city is located about 150 miles from the 16th largest U.S. metropolitan statistical area with about 3.6 million residents.

- Birthplace of one of the most influential musical voices of the 20th century.

To win the contest, name the landmark and the city where it is located. The winner will be recognized as a geographical whiz on the *PRO* Facebook page. Send your responses to editor@promonthly.com. ■

SEND YOUR MYSTERY PHOTOS! Do you have an interesting spot where you've been dropping and servicing restrooms? Send photos to editor@promonthly.com. We will credit you for submitting to *Where's the Restroom?*



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PRODUCT NEWS



PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

Restroom service trucks customized to user needs

By Tim Dobbins

Progress Tank has long relied on experience and input from professionals in the field to build a range of portable sanitation vacuum trucks. According to Mohammed El Hadi, sales manager for Progress Tank, the company combines its experience with new technologies to design vehicles built to handle portable restrooms, restroom trailers and grease collection.

"While Progress offers both stainless steel and aluminum tank options, the majority of Progress Tanks are made of aluminum," El Hadi says. "They withstand the harsh working conditions and also keep the weight of the truck to a minimum."

Tank capacities range from 800 to 2,500 gallons, and all portable restroom trucks are set up for dual service with two-compartment tanks for fresh and wastewater. "The tanks are upfitted with two 3-inch inlet pipes and two 2-inch stainless steel gravity discharge pipes," says El Hadi. Users will also find two 5-inch sight glasses to track capacity.

Progress offers a wide range of options. Stock units are available for quick turnaround, but customers are welcome to customize vehicles to their unique needs.

Popular options PROs choose when designing their truck are reels to store suction hoses, jetter systems, winterizing kits for water pumps, heated inlet valves and extra toolboxes.

"We utilize three tank-production facilities across the U.S. to ensure tanks are available when you need them," El Hadi says. "We also carry a full line of stock tanks and high-performance parts to help keep your vehicles in operation day after day."

Progress PRT trucks include a bumper/carrier to allow the user to carry two porta potties on the back of the truck. They also come standard with a trailer hitch receiver for trailing more restrooms. "We also install our tanks on non-CDL chassis to make it easier on PROs to find drivers," El Hadi says.

El Hadi says customers appreciate the thought put into each vehicle design and that trucks come standard with all safety equipment like backup cameras, strobe lights and work lights. **800-467-5600; www.progresstank.com** ■

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Andy Pridgeon

FMC welcomes Andy Pridgeon as new VP

FMC Advisors welcomes Andy Pridgeon as vice president of business development. Pridgeon brings skills in process development and implementation, in addition to experience in sales and operation planning. He has built systems and processes around customer support and acquisition, scaling and management of organizational growth, and forecasting and customer success programs. ■



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